

John F. Germain, KA3JAL Treas.
2731 Ascot Drive
Florence, South Carolina 29501
Telephone: (843) 667-9702

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The FARC QSO

FARC QSO is published monthly by the Florence Amateur Radio Club to provide information to its club members, to all persons interested in wireless communication, and to encourage the promotion of amateur radio in the Pee Dee area of South Carolina.

The editorial staff reserves the right to edit and rewrite for content and space. Deadline for all articles is the 15th of the month.

The editor welcomes your suggestions and comments about this or future publications.

Suzanne Cullom, KG4YVJ, Editor
1907 Effie's Lane, Florence, SC 29505
(843) 662-0421
e-mail: fbullom@worldnet.att.net

Florence Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 5062, Florence, SC 29502
Web site: www.w4ulh.org

President - Mark Davis N4MXP
Vice President - John Schumacher N4DOU
Sect/Treas - John Germain KA3JAL
Web Page - Lloyd Mitchell, KO4L
Publicity - Jack Jackson, N4JJ
Proof Reader - John Germain KA3JAL
ARES - Jim Lavia, K14ORA

Annual Dues at \$36, plus \$14 repeater fund,
payable on January 1 of each year.

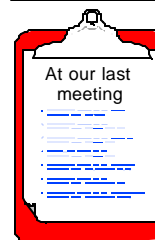
FARC nets meet each week on
Monday 8:30 pm on 146.850- and
Wednesday at 8:30 pm on 28.330 USB

The
FARC

QSO

A PUBLICATION OF THE FLORENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

28.330 USB, 146.850-, 146.970-, 444.000+



The August Meeting was opened by our President N4MXP, Mark Davis just after 7:30 PM and all members and guests identified themselves.

Our Treasurer KA3JAL, John Germain gave the following report:

Started July with	\$1,740.15
ARRL for K14LLU	- 24.00
97 Phone, 3rd. Qtr.	- 32.88
Copies for QSO	- 9.57
Ended July with	\$1,673.70

The repeater fund stands at \$3,270.33 plus interest. Club membership stands at 58 with 4 lifetime and 54 dues paying. We had 22 at the July meeting with 20 members and 2 guests.

ARRL SECTION & PIO: N4JJ, Jack Jackson, reported that both the Shelby and Charlotte Hamfests will be at new locations. This year Shelby will be held at Dallas, NC, and next year Charlotte will be held in Concord, NC. More info to come.

E M E R G E N C Y COMMUNICATIONS: No Report.

REPEATER REPORTS:

85: Everything OK
97: W4PFZ, Mac McDaniel and W4GEY, Jim Starling, reported that

the antenna on the City/County complex is now properly grounded and the mount has been tightened but we need to do something about the new roof which now covers our bolts.

440: This repeater checks out well.

SCHEART: KO4L, Lloyd Mitchell, reported that the two Florence SC-HEART repeaters are now operational. (See related article)

N4NH, Norm Harrill, and his wife Betty, attended our meeting. Norm is the President of WCARS VEC, Inc. and is taking over the South Carolina area from ND4N, John Chism, who recently retired and moved to Indiana. WCARS is the #3 VEC in the country with teams as far west as Salmon, ID, and often handles the VE duties at large Hamfests. In all cases, the local club handles the Hamfest itself and WCARS controls the VE Session. Norm handles Shelby and Charlotte in North Carolina and Memphis and Nashville in Tennessee.

Norm gave an interesting history of VE's in SC and then described the



Meeting at
Shoney's'
7:30 PM on
the 2nd.

VE process including the requirements to become a certified VE. He noted that there are both amateur and professional VEC's but the volunteers get faster results because they work evenings and weekends.

Norm retired as a station engineer for WLOS-TV in Asheville and has many stories to tell. He is also President of the Southern Appalachian Radio Museum in Asheville and invited us to visit and to see all of the old Ham equipment on display.

OLD BUSINESS: We had a discussion about Field Day and KJ4BVO, Barney Weatherford's offer of a trailer with a freezer installed.

NEW BUSINESS: KA3JAL announced that we had received the bill for \$320 for the liability insurance for our club and the members voted to pay for the coming year.

We discussed the distribution of the QSO which currently goes only to members in good standing and a few other Ham organizations around the state. Former members and other interested folks do not receive copies. There was a lively discussion about putting the QSO on our W4ULH.com website where it would be available for anyone. The club voted to put the current issue as well as at least three month's back issues on the website.

We also discussed adding an Associate Membership status. This would be a non-voting position for those who use the repeater but do not make the meetings. We formed a committee to review the need, parameters and dues assessments which includes N4JJ, Jack Jackson, KA3JAL, John Germain, KI4TTS, Doug Macdonald,



KI4MVA, Jim King and KI4HIE, Scott Thompson.

KO4L, Lloyd Mitchell has changed the look of the website and asked for comments. Several members were very enthusiastic.

K4NOC, Stormy Bishop reported that the first DXCC on 440 has been issued to DL9KR, Jan Brunier, after 30 years of effort.

N3ZL, Greg Davis, will be leaving to start his studies at Clemson later this month and KI4LJT will head to UNC Charlotte. The club wishes them well.

N4JJ supplied a miniband shortwave radio for our drawing and it was won by KI4HEI, Scott Thompson.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

September Birthdays

- 2 Johnny King, WA4UGD
- 2 James McColl, KA4PVT
- 3 Jim Lavia, KI4ORA
- 4 Fletcher Townsend, KD4BUF
- 11 Oliver Webber, WD4CHR
- 15 Wayne Howell, W4ORW
- 27 Stormy Bishop, K4NOC

SCHEART Now in Florence

On June 17, the new SCHEART repeaters on 146.685 and 441.575 came on the air in Florence. Each repeater has a PL tone of 91.5. This system will allow Amateurs to talk all around the state on a linked 2-Meter and 440 system.

The Health Emergency Amateur Radio Team (HEART) has been established to create an amateur radio system within hospitals in South Carolina. To support this system, a network of repeaters which can be linked together to form a statewide emergency communications network (SCHEART). These repeaters will reach a majority of the sixty plus hospitals participating under the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP). These repeaters are owned, operated and maintained by SCETV and linked together using the ETV microwave network as a communications backbone for the benefit of SCHEART.

The SCHEART system is the result of the cooperation of the Amateur Radio Emergency System (ARES), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency System (RACES), Carolina Amateur Radio Emergency Services (CARES), the City of Charleston, Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), National Weather Service (NWS), SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), SC Department of Mental Health, SC Educational Television (SCETV), SC Emergency Management Division, the SC Hospital

FARC Disabled List: KF4HJS, Dr. John Kirkland has had a heart attack and faces surgery. WA4UGD, Johnny King has had another knee replaced. We hope that both of them heal quickly.

Association, SC National Guard, SC State Guard, USC Center for Public Health Preparedness (CPHC), York Technical College and other state and local agencies.

To support SCHEART, CPHC conducts Ham radio training classes and recruits Radio Response Team (RRT) members from hospital personnel and coordinates the participation of Hams in state and local exercises. FARC and it's members could be very helpful by welcoming these new hams to the hobby, being Elmers and participating in any nets set up to train them. Our VE Team can help get these RRT members licensed after their training. This could potentially be a source for new FARC members.

The current net schedule includes a statewide ARES net called each Sunday evening at 8:00PM, the statewide Charleston Skywarn Net called each Tuesday at 9:00PM.

For more information go to their website, www.scheart.us.

Upcoming Events

August 30 & 31	Shelby Hamfest at Dallas, N.C.
Sept. 28	PALS Picnic at Santee State Park
Oct. 4	Rock Hill Hamfest
Oct. 25	Sumter Hamfest
Nov 15	Beachfest 2008 Surfside Beach

Editor's Note: I would like to thank KJ4BVN, Sheila Parnell for taking such good notes at the last meeting in my absence.