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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.

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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+



Our new President, N4DOU, John Schumacher, opened our January meeting promptly at 7:30 P.M. All members and guests identified themselves.

Treasurer: KA3JAL, John Germain gave the following report:

Started December with \$1,300.82
Paid 2 Yrs. Go Daddy - 130.36
Annual PO Box Rental - 42.00
Deposited 2009 Dues + 1,005.00
Ended November with \$2,133.46

The repeater fund stands at \$3,270.33 plus interest. Club membership stands at 58 with 4 lifetime and 54 dues paying. We had 35 at the December meeting with 31 members and 4 guests.

ARRL SECTION & PIO: In the absence of N4JJ, Jack Jackson, there was no Section or PIO report however, KO4L, Lloyd Mitchell reported that KC4YI, John Crockett, had been assigned by SERA to handle eastern South Carolina and will be contacting all repeater owners to verify information.

Emergency Communications: In the absence of K14ORA, Jim Lavia, N4DOU reported that he had received the proposed the Red Cross Memo of Understanding but he had not had the chance to study

the document. At a quick glance it seems that the Red Cross will not require the contentious financial background checks for those volunteers who would work on a project for less than seven days and would not wear Red Cross insignia. He will have a full report at the next meeting.

Moment of Silence: N4DOU requested a moment of silence to honor those members and local hams who became Silent Keys during the past year including WB4VYA, Bobby Wallace, KA4SLQ, Ernie Snavley, W4NPR, Forest Ramsey and WD4FJP, Edward Hendrix.

Repeater Reports:

85: Everything OK

97: Everything OK

440: This repeater still ID's at about 100 wpm.

VE Team: W4ORW, Wayne Howell, reported that the WCARS VE Team would hold the next exam session on Saturday, February 14th at 9am at Methodist Manor with N4MXP, Mark Davis in charge. Additional sessions are planned for

Feb

Meeting at
Shoney's'
7:30 PM on
the 3rd.

April, October and December.

KI4LJT, Gerard Jebaily reminded the club that we had voted to participate in the Clemson World Heritage Festival to be held on April 25 at the Clemson Extension site. We will need a number of operators to facilitate the health and safety of the public. More information will be available next month.

KO4L reminded us that last year in March we had sponsored a Special Event Station to commemorate the "Bombing of Mars Bluff." Since we had not contacted ARRL in a timely fashion, we would not be able to repeat this year. The club decided that maybe we could hold such a commemoration every five years.

KA3JAL remarked that the McLeod Health and Fitness Center would be sponsoring some races this coming weekend and asked if any members had been contacted. We will see if this is an annual event and whether we would like to offer the services of the club.

KG4YVJ, Suzie Cullom reported that N2TMC, George Cronk of Cheraw, is scheduled to be at McLeod Hospital for serious abdominal surgery on January 15, and will probably be there for at least a week. We hope he will be able to have a 2 Meter radio and be able to talk to us. His XYL, KI4NQN, Debbie will be staying in Florence for the duration.

W4PFZ, Mac McDaniels, reported that there had been a significant amount of "kerchunking" on the 85 repeater but none on the 97 which has a PL tone. Other members reported that the same situation is happening on other repeaters including Lumberton, Dillon and PALS. There



was a lively discussion about this problem. N4DOU noted that there are actually two issues - the interference itself and adding PL tones. All members are asked to log any incidents of such interference in the hopes of finding its source and taking whatever efforts necessary to solve the problem.

W8IXZ, Harry Paxton, requested help erecting a 10 Meter antenna at his apartment in the Carolinian. Several members set up a schedule to help him on Saturday morning. He would like to be able to check into the Wednesday evening net. Thanks to N4MXP, KJ4BVM, KI4DGT and KJ4DGU for offering help.

KG4HIE, Scott Thompson, asked all members to consider helping with this year's Sandblast Rally to be held on Saturday, February 7 in the Cheraw area. Anyone interested should contact KD4VIF, John Eskridge of the Chesterfield club. You can reach him at KD4VIF@yahoo.com or volunteer at www.sandblastrally.com.

N4MXP, Mark Davis, our outgoing president, was given a round of applause for his services last year. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05.

February Birthdays

17 Steve Rath, W4JM
19 Scott Thompson, KG4HIE
22 Glen Greene, KE4GV
28 Dave Jones, K4DLJ

Upcoming Events

Feb 7 - Charleston Hamfest
Feb 7 - Sandblast Rally at Cheraw
Feb 14 - VE Session at Methodist Manor
Feb. 14 - Myrtle Beach Marathon
March 14 & 15 - Charlotte Hamfest at Concord NC this year.

SERA

The States of Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and the majority of Virginia and West Virginia, are coordinated by the South Eastern Repeater Association, Inc.(SERA). SERA is a non-profit all volunteer organization which was founded in 1971 by a group of North Carolina repeater owners. Each district or state has a director, a vice director, and assistant directors. One or more of the directors are the frequency coordinators for their respective states. They are hams who love ham radio and have volunteered to serve the amateurs of their area by performing the duties of SERA.

In addition to repeaters, the frequency coordinator also coordinates other operations associated with repeaters, such as links between a repeater's remote receivers and the main site, etc. In addition, they can also assist in your understanding of the many interrelated frequency rules that apply to repeaters, remote-bases, links, remote control, auto-patches, cross-band operation, and so forth.

Participation in a frequency coordination program is strictly voluntary. No Amateur Radio frequency coordinator has any "authority" to tell a repeater sponsor what he

or she can, or cannot do. However, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the amateur community has recognized that participation in a frequency coordination program by repeater sponsors is in the best interests of all Amateurs. Therefore, FCC rules (Part 97.205c) have been adopted which state that the sponsor of an uncoordinated repeater bears the primary responsibility for curing any interference between his or her repeater and another repeater which is coordinated. Frequency coordination information is available at www.sera.org

To communicate information to all members, SERA published a quarterly magazine, The SERA Repeater Journal, which has news and feature articles, news reports from each state, a total index of coordinated repeaters, a list of upcoming Hamfests and Amateur related advertising. SERA maintains two levels of membership. Any club or individual owning a properly coordinated and operating repeater will have two Full Voting Memberships, one for the owner and one for the Trustee, with eligibility to hold elective office for a yearly fee of \$30. Any Amateur radio operator, especially repeater users, are invited to join as Associate Members, who may hold appointive but not elective office for a yearly fee of \$15.

Recently, John Crockett, KC4YI, from Columbia has been appointed the SERA Assistant Director for South Carolina. John will be responsible for D-Star frequency coordination in the State. We know John best as the Manager of Transmitter Operations for SC ETV and as a moving force behind the statewide SC-HEART repeater system. We know he will do his usual excellent job. You can get more information at www.sera.org.

2009 Dues

Don't forget to pay your 2009 dues. If you paid in January, the dues were \$50 but if you waited until February you must add \$5 and in March you must add \$10.