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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 regular February meeting was called to order at 7:30 by our President, N4DOU, John Schumacher. In a departure from the regular format, We recognized a guest, KJ4IWA, Marshall Cooley, of Laurinburg, N.C. Marshall is a new Ham active in ARES and is seeking a scholarship sponsor from QCWA and 10-10 International to help defray costs while attending Western Carolina University studying Electrical Engineering in the fall. Since N4DOU is a member of both organizations, with the support of the club, he signed the proper papers and Marshall stayed for the whole meeting. All members and guests then identified themselves.

Treasurer: KA3JAL, John Germain gave the following report:
Started January with \$ 2,537.20
Memorial for Ed Hendrix - 50.00
ARRL Renewal for K7DVB- 37.00
Dues correction - 27.50
Deposited 2009 Dues + 275.00
Ended January with \$2,936.70

The repeater fund stands at \$3,275.33. Funds for 2009 will not be transferred until after April 1st. Club membership stands at 56 with 4 lifetime and 52 dues paying. There have been two resignations and we are waiting for dues to be paid

by 6 current members. As of March 1, dues are \$60.00. We had 24 at the February meeting with 22 members and 2 guests.

KA3JAL has been contacted by the McLeod Sports Medicine Run/Walk organization who asked for our help with their event on March 21. There was discussion and a sign-up sheet was circulated and we will help. John also circulated a sign-up sheet to help with the Clemson Rural Heritage Celebration to be held on April 25 from 8a.m. until 4p.m. We will have on set of volunteers in the morning and another set in the afternoon.

ARRL SECTION & PIO: N4JJ, Jack Jackson was unable to attend so we continued with **Emergency Communications:** KI4ORA, Jim Lavia had the Memo of Understanding between the club and the Red Cross. With the confirmation of the assembled members, N4DOU signed the agreement. John also reported that McLeod had received 18 Yaesu VX-7R handheld transceivers and has 3 repeaters on order to be installed at each of the



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

three campuses, Florence, Darlington and Dillon. Once in place, there repeaters will be open for use to all Hams. McLeod personnel hope to check into the SCHEART net on Thursday.

Repeaters:

'85 is OK but still some kerchunking.
'97 is working.
'440 still identifies itself.

Old Business: We again discussed the need for badges for our members to identify us when we need to help other organizations. Both KI4ORA and N4DOU agreed that we need photographs on such cards.

We discussed the local interference. There is little enforcement from the FCC so we need to monitor ourselves. There is an Official Observer Course available which requires passing a test. Currently N4NUM, Robert Pepper, is the state OOC.

K4NOC, Stormy Bishop, observed that although the new FCC enforcement officer was not an Amateur, she has had very good training from K4ZDH, Riley Hollingsworth, who retired last year. He also reported that our interference seems to be off to the side of our frequencies and therefore possibly something mechanical.

Field Day: Things are still on target for Lake Darpo and KJ4DGU, Tim Kaylor plans to try working PSK31.

New Business: Brag Time!

N4DOU was pleased to have worked K5D on 80M with a TS-2000 at 100 watts. K7DVB worked him on four bands and noted that K5D had over 100,000 contacts including 10,000 on the first day.



KJ4DGT, Rob Belinski reported his most distant contact so far is the Falkland Islands on greyline. He has also worked the ISS crossband repeat and worked Estonia on 20M. Finally, K4NOC noted that he had made quite a number of contacts on 6M last summer but the cards have just come in.

KA3JAL reported that he had 9 members signed up for the McLeod Run/Walk and for the Clemson Rural Heritage event he had 6 in the morning and 5 in the afternoon. Please wear your FARC shirts.

KJ4BVM, Earl Parnell, proposed that the club declare an "Operator of the Year" possibly to be presented at the December meeting. A committee consisting of KJ4BVM, N4DOU and K4NOC will look into the feasibility of such an award.

Since W8IXZ, Harry Paxton, is having such debilitating back trouble, all members were asked to phone or visit him.

The club voted to accept the membership application of WA4OPF, Horace Beasley. Welcome Horace.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

April Birthdays

22 Mark Davis, N4MXP

Upcoming Events

- April 11 - Raleigh Hamfest
April 18 - VE Session at St. Luke's Lutheran Church
April 25 - Rural Heritage Festival
May 2 - Upstate Hamfest Spartanburg

McLeod Annual Run/Walk, March 21.

On a chilly, windy Saturday morning, thirteen FARC members and two McLeod Hospital Amateurs participated in the McLeod Sports Medicine Annual 10K/5K Run/Walk held at Briggs School.

Using a motorhome as Net Control, we stationed radio operators at five stationary locations and had two operators in the sweep vehicle following the last runner.

This year there were a record 255 runners including our own KJ4BVN, Sheila Parnell, who walked the 5K course pushing Mikey (White Noise) in his stroller. Shiela was extremely pleased that she did not come in dead last.



Member of the Month

Stormy Bishop - K4NOC

French "Stormy" Bishop was born in Tennessee but moved to St. Petersburg, FL, at age three. He grew up and got his Ham license there in 1960. Ham friends got him started while attending St. Petersburg Junior College at age 19. Learning electronics by hands-on experience was the motivation.

Stormy earned both Novice and Technician licenses in 1960, upgraded to Advanced in 1971 and on to Extra in 1994. He loves CW operation, construction projects and antenna design. In 1973 he had an antenna article published in "73" Magazine. He just loves Field Days.

Stormy feels that his greatest achievement is helping over 48 operators obtain Ham licenses. He is able to simplify complex ideas into smaller easy to digest segments. His greatest ability is passing along his passion for CW. He has been an Elmer to many Hams and has a knack for getting them over the speed hurdles. It is pure pleasure watching him pass along his passion. Personally his next goal is to raise his speed over 35 WPM.

Over the years, Stormy has had many jobs. From 1965 to 1977 he designed artificial kidney systems. He was a Sr. Electrical Engineer at the H.B. Robinson Nuclear Generating Plant from 1977 until 1996 when he retired from CP&L. He now works for S.C.D.O.T. in radio communications. He believes that all of his radio knowledge was learned through Amateur Radio. Stormy has forgotten more than most of us know about radio.