

The FARC

QSO

A PUBLICATION OF THE FLORENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

28.330 USB, 146.850-, 146.970-, 444.000+



Before our regular May meeting, W4PFZ, Olin "Mac" McDaniel, brought his camera equipment and took photos of all the members wishing to have the new FARC ID badge. Mac had to leave early since his XYL, Eunice, is just out of the hospital after a fall.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by our President, N4DOU, John Schumacher. John distributed copies of the battery handout from last month and recognized our newest HAM, Bekki Medsker, who jumped right into the hobby and worked on the Clemson Rural Heritage function only five days after her license was granted.

Treasurer: KA3JAL, John Germain gave the following report:

Started April with	\$ 3,038.37
Paid 97 2nd Qtr Phone	- 32.88
Check to Repeater Fund	- 644.00
<u>Deposit check for tee shirt +</u>	<u>10.00</u>
Ended April with	\$2,371.49

The repeater fund stands at \$3,920.49 which includes the 2009 deposit of \$644.00 and interest. Club membership stands at 52 with 4 lifetime and 48 dues paying. We had 26 at the March meeting with 24 members and 2 guests.

ARRL SECTION & PIO: N4JJ, Jack Jackson reported that the ARRL is considering health measures in the event of an outbreak of Swine Flu at the upcoming Dayton Hamvention and mentioned that again this year one Ham would have his webcam on his helmet. You could google Ham Webcam at Dayton to observe the festivities.

KG4YVJ, Suzie Cullom, mentioned that the SCSSB Net had collected funds at the Spartanburg Hamfest to buy a Brick in the Diamond Terrace at ARRL Hq. in Connecticut in memory of KA4LRM, Emmie Patience, who became a Silent Key last September.

Emergency Communications:

KI4ORA, Jim Lavia reported that he would be making up the ID Badges now that the photos had been taken. He also remarked that KA3JAL, John and KI4LJT, Gerard, had shared Amateur Radio with a Boy Scout Troop at St. Anthony's Church last weekend. KJ4BVM, Earl, expressed interest in working with other other Boy Scout groups.



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

We were also advised that KC4UTX, RK Harmon had been in McLeod Hospital for several days complaining of pain. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Repeaters: All three repeaters are working correctly at this time and the speed of the CW ID on the 440 has been slowed.

Old Business:

N4JJ, Jack, reported that the malicious interference is still happening on many local frequencies including 85. Jack asked all operators to monitor the input frequency and to swing beams to try to triangulate the interference. All verifiable reports should be e-mailed to him and he will keep a log.

N4MXP, Mark, reported that he and N3ZL, Greg, had recently received a packet of cards about the N4B Special Events Station from the Bureau.

Field Day: Things are still on target for Lake Darpo on June 27 & 28th. We will try to get donations of food from several local restaurants but the club voted to spend up to \$200 for food and supplies if needed. We should have use of the FT100D from McLeod Hospital and we plan to put up the Yagi and the MFJ 6-Meter antennas. We will need fans and ice. We also discussed using FRS radios for communications between stations.

New Business:

H.R. 2160: 111th Congress

2009-2010 Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 was sponsored by Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee [D-TX] on April 29 with the following purpose:



To promote and encourage the valuable public service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a volunteer basis by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service, by undertaking a study of the uses of amateur radio for emergency and disaster relief communications, by identifying unnecessary or unreasonable impediments to the deployment of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications, and by making recommendations for relief of such unreasonable restrictions so as to expand the uses of amateur radio communications in Homeland Security planning and response.

This bill will probably never get out of committee but it is nice to see that someone in Washington values our services.

SC HEART will be holding another Technician Training session at McLeod Hospital in July. More information at the next meeting.

McLeod Repeaters N4DOU reported that the repeaters to be installed at McLeod Hospital are now in Newberry and will be installed very soon. The first will be installed on the Florence campus followed by Darlington and Dillon.

ELMER CLASS KJ4BVM, Earl, asked that we consider having another "Elmer Class" like the one we did last summer. The club agreed and KO4L, Lloyd will look into setting up the time and place, probably in early Fall.

We had a spirited discussion of Ham humor including "No Lids, No Kids, No Space Cadets, Google's celebration of Samuel FB Morse's Birthday and the belief that Ham Radio is obsolete.

KJ4LIF, Bekki Medsker, applied for membership in the club and was accepted. We welcomed Bekki and NM4R jokingly remarked that we should welcome all new members with a hug.

There was a short discussion about starting an XYL Net on 85. Let's discuss that again.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10.

June Birthdays

7 Jim Starling, W4GEY
28 Tom Hall, KF4KFE

Upcoming Events

June 27 & 28 - Field Day
at Lake Darpo
July 18 - Midsummer Swapfest
Cary, NC
August 8 - CFARS Swapfest
Fayetteville, NC

Member of the Month

Donald Bryant - KB4RRC

Donald is a local boy. He has lived over 3/4 of his life in Lake City. In 1979 he was in one of the first gradu-

ating classes at Florence Christian School and went on to get an ASEE from Florence Darlington Technical College.

Donald grew up in a broadcasting/two-way radio environment. His dad was a contract engineer for several stations and the communications manager for a large telephone coop. His mom and uncle were also involved with broadcasting. He grew up learning the technology of pre-cellular telephones from the '60's to the early '90's. His Amateur experience started in 1986 when someone was willing to give him his novice test. Donald enjoys building VHF and UHF repeaters. The one he built in Beaufort is still on the air today. His proudest Ham accomplishment is taking an unorganized group of Hams and building an organized group within two years. The Beaufort County ARES still operates and provides public service expertise which is respected by the local officials. He served as EC of Beaufort County from 1993 to 1996. His experience from 1991-1992 as Asst. EC in Cherokee County proved helpful.

For the last ten years, Donald has been one of three communications managers for the South Carolina Forestry Commission. The work he does is very similar to Ham radio installation and setup. The MFJ-259B SWR Analyzer is a prime example of Ham gear with a commercial use. He is able to use upper end test equipment that is not accessible to most Hams, and he believes that his Ham background allows him to improvise in case of emergency.

Donald and Sandy have been married for 22 years. His son, Patrick, is a freshman at North Greenville University and daughter, Kristin, is in the 8th Grade at Florence Christian School where both her father and brother graduated and her mother is Elementary Principal. Two cats and a dog round out the family. Donald is a great technical asset to our club.

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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