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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 December meeting was called to order by our President, N4DOU, John Schumacher at 7:35 pm. Since our Secretary/Treasurer, KA3JAL, was absent, his report was read by KG4YVJ, Suzie Cullom, as follows:

Began November with \$1,880.56  
No Expenses  
No Income  
Ended November with \$1,880.56

We had a total of 22 at the November meeting with 21 members and 1 guest. The total membership stands at 54.

N4DOU read the proposed slate of officers and asked for additional nominations. There being no other nominations, the club voted to elect the following officers for 2010:

*President - KI4ORA, Jim Lavia*  
*Vice-President - KI4TTS, Doug Macdonald*  
*Secretary/Treasurer - KA3JAL, John Germain.*

N4DOU accepted Dues from all who took advantage of the \$5 early payment discount and will pass it all along to KA3JAL.

Normally at our Christmas

meeting, KM4D, Dave Jones, distributes certificates to all those who helped at our Field Day in June. Dave was not able to attend because he had a commercial radio transmitter off the air. He will mail the certificates instead.

At this time we had the normal introductions of all present. We were pleased to have KJ4QPL, J. B. Mazingo of Sumter, Billy Biagiloli, formerly K3IBO, who intends to take his Technician Test soon, and Cookie Harper, the sister of K4AVR, Mac Cullom.

W4ORW, Wayne Howell, asked that all VE's remain after the meeting to plan the schedule for the 2010 VE testing sessions.

KO4L, Lloyd Mitchell discussed the upcoming Elmer Session planned for Saturday, December 12, at 1:30 pm. at the GE plant across from Magnolia Mall. We will have talk-in on the '85 repeater. Lloyd has put this in-



*Meeting at  
Shoney's'  
7:30 PM on  
the 5th.*

formation on the W4ULH website and on e-Ham. He would like to have it advertised on all local nets to increase attendance. At this time there are 5 different presenters with at least 8 topics.

N4DOU reported that all the McLeod UHF Repeaters are in place but only the Florence 444.850 is operational. The Darlington 444.600 and the Dillon 444.950 will be operational very soon. All three repeaters have a PL of 162.2 and are open to all Amateur Operators.

W4PFZ, Mac McDaniel, reported that he is sure that the '97 works on Emergency Power. Several days ago Progress Energy turned off the power to the whole City County Complex to repair and replace old electrical transmission cables. Our '97 repeater continued to operate normally during the whole process. Mac was pleased with that outcome.

N4DOU made a resolution that the club officially recognize N4JJ for all of his contributions in the past, primarily his hosting of the Annual Christmas Party for about 20 years. This resolution was passed by acclamation.

KF2X, Craig England, our Assistant Section Manager, announced that the ARRL has announced that our own N2ZZ, Dr. Jim Bohner, has been elected as the Vice Director for the Roanoke Division. We are all proud and happy with



that outcome. Dr. Jim has a replacement in mind to assume the post as SC Section Manager until the next election. We will know before the end of the year.

KJ4NKS, Chris Taylor, had a number of 12 Volt closed Gel Cell batteries and gave them to several members. He hopes to have more next month.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10.

### January Birthdays

- 12 Chris Taylor, KJ4NKS
- 16 Ruth Wallace, WD4UXN
- 22 John Ratliff, K4KSX
- 24 Tommy Walker, NG4S
- 28 T. C. Taylor, WA4QMZ
- 30 David McGlothlin, W4EPD

### ECHOLINK

KB4RRC, Donald Bryant, has a repeater operating on 444.800 with a PL of 91.5 which is equipped to handle Echolink. It is open to all operators who would like to try that mode.

## RENEW EARLY AND SAVE

Renewals in January will be the designated \$36 plus \$14 to the Repeater Fund. Renewals in February will cost an extra \$5 and in March an extra \$10. Any member not renewing before April 1 would be dropped from membership. Save yourself some money and give KA3JAL a break by paying early, maybe at the January meeting!

### Successful VE Session

On Saturday morning, December 12, the Florence VE team held a test session at Carolinas Hospital. We were very pleased that there were ten applicants and seven of the ten were successful.

We now have two new Technicians, four new Generals and one new Extra. Gary Blaskowski, KJ4REH, and James Griffith, KJ4RGV, are our newest Technicians. KJ4REJ, Robert Slater, who will be deploying with the military very soon and KJ4REI, Billy Biagioli took both Tech and General and were successful. Chris Taylor, KJ4NKS and KJ4FNT, Larry Goad of Chesterfield are now General operators. KJ4ORX, William Vartorella of Camden upgraded to Extra. Congratulations to all.

The next VE session will be on February 13 at Methodist Manor.

## ELMER CLASS

Saturday, December 12, was a busy day. In the afternoon we sponsored an Elmer Class at the GE Medical building. We were disappointed with the turnout but those who attended learned about several facets of radio.

KG4YVJ, Suzie Cullom, gave a quick review about using the Phone Patch on the 97 repeater. K4AVR, Mac Cullom, followed with discussions of Nets, the National Traffic System, formal messages and handling, Net Etiquette and the finer points of repeaters and linked repeater systems.

KJ4DGT, Rob Belinski, gave a very informative talk about the antennas he has been building. He was able to explain how he designs his units and how to use a Smith Chart. He demonstrated a wonderful computer program that takes a schematic and creates a Smith chart which can be adjusted by changing the values of the components. Using this program and an antenna analyzer, he has successfully designed and built several antennas.

KO4L, Lloyd Mitchell, rounded out the program by explaining how APRS evolved from packet radio and he used several different computer programs to demonstrate.

We had so much fun that we spent over two and a half hours. Sorry you missed it!