



Our President, KI4TTS, Doug Macdonald, opened the regular February meeting of the FARC at 7:30 pm. All members and guests introduced themselves. We had 24 people present, 22 members and 2 guests.

**Treasurer's Report:** Our Secretary/Treasurer, KA3JAL, John Germain gave the following report:

Started January with	\$2,734.78
Dues Collected	+ 1,710.00
Sale of donated tower	+ 75.00
P.O. Box Rent	- 44.00
Ended January with	\$4,475.78

The Repeater Fund remains at \$4,603.14. No funds have been transferred from the main account.

At the beginning of January we had 60 members, 56 dues paying and 4 Lifetime members. Two members have since resigned. Of the 54 dues paying members, 41 have renewed which is 76%. Thirteen memberships are still outstanding.

There were 24 attending this meeting, 22 members and 2 guests.

**ARRL:** In the absence of KF2X, Craig England, there was no ARRL Section Report

**PIO:** N4JJ, Jack Jackson had no special report but reminded everyone of the Charleston Hamfest this coming weekend.

**Emergency Communications:** Our former Florence County EC, KG4BZK, Bobby Collins, has a new job and may be able to help in the future once he is settled into his new position.

**Our Wounded Warriors:** They could all use your thoughts, prayers, a phone call or a card.

**W4ID,** Wayne Cooke, has had abdominal surgery. He will be staying with his daughter in Marion while he recovers.

**W4JUB,** Jubby Phipps, our former member, has been released from the hospital but must undergo several dialysis procedures each week.

**N4TJ,** Tommy Johnson, is back at home after hospitalization for kid-



*Meeting at  
Shoney's'  
7:30 PM on  
the 1st.*

ney stones. He has been on the air but very infrequently.

**KI4SIW**, Phil Schoonover, of the PALS Net has been hospitalized for over 10 weeks with Meningitis and has now suffered a stroke. He is currently recovering at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, GA.

**Repeaters:** All repeaters are in good working condition. The 85 was reported as "Rocking Along", the 97 was reported as "Holding Together" and the 440 just works.

**Field Day Committee Formed:** Our President has assigned K4TGG, Tim Kaylor, to form a committee to assess the FARC goals for Field Day and to decide whether to remain at Lake Darpo or whether another place would better suit our needs. Please give Tim your thoughts as he will be reporting back at the next meeting.

**Hamfests:** The Charleston Hamfest will be February 5, the Charlotte Hamfest will be March 12 & 13.

**Newsletter:** Since the editor will be making a multi month trip to the west coast this summer, we need a new editor for the QSO. Training is available.

**Elmering & Training:** KJ4LIF, Bekki Medsker, reported that the Elmer session on January 29th. was well attended. We had a total of twenty people including four operators from the Technician Class held last May. Bekki was the instigator of the event and



WA4BUO, Tom Morgan, and K4AVR, Mac Cullom, provided information concerning Nets, Traffic Handling and Repeater Operation. There were a lot of very good questions asked and answered and plenty of 1 on 1 advice shared.

**Dept. of Disabilities & Special Needs:** On January 6th, K4AVR, Mac Cullom, KA3JAL, John Germain, KG4YVJ, Suzie Cullom, and KJ4RGV, Jim Griffith, met with the newly licensed members of DDSN and answered lots of questions. We are pleased that Jack Kolesar, of the PeeDee Center, has gotten his Technician license, has requested his father's old callsign and plans to take his General test in February.

**Program Ideas:** KI4TTS would like to have a short program lasting about 10 minutes at our meeting starting in March. Please give Doug your ideas about things you are interested in learning or sharing with the group.

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**McLeod Run/Walk:** KA3JAL will be getting the information about this yearly event. We believe it will be held on Saturday, March 19. We will need operators to help out. More at the March meeting.

**VE Testing Session:** The next VE session will be held at Methodist Manor on February 12.

**Drawings:** KJ4LIF, Bekki, brought some fabulous Chocolate Cookies. The lucky recipients were: KA3JAL, KG4BZK, W4YLX, Linda Thompson (KG4HIE's XYL), KC4UTX and W4ORW.

The meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.

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### **March Birthdays**

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- 3 Ann England, N2CFN
  - 4 Rudolph Hatcher, W4YLX
  - 7 Mac Cullom, K4AVR
  - 7 Olin "Mac" McDaniel, W4PFZ
  - 8 Morris Jones, NM4R
  - 15 Donna Dedonis, N4FJF
  - 21 Bob Austin, K7DVB
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### **Upcoming Events**

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- Mar. 12 & 13 - Charlotte Hamfest
  - Mar. 19 - McLeod Run/Walk
  - April 9 - VE Testing at Carolinas Hospital
  - April 16 - Clemson Heritage Festival
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### **Two New Generals**

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The February VE Session at Methodist Manor on February 12 was very successful. Both KJ4ZMY now N3AJU, Jack Kolesar and KJ4NTT, Wayne Bramble passed their General exams.

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### **W8IXZ on 20-Meters**

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The Florence Antenna Monkeys descended on The Carolinian shortly after the VE session and installed a 20 Meter antenna for Harry. N4JJ constructed the wire and KA3JAL and K4AVR helped with the stealth installation. You can imagine Harry's smile when his first contact was with a station in Bulgaria. Way to go, Harry!

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### **Websites of the Month**

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[www.sciway.net/org/radio.html](http://www.sciway.net/org/radio.html) is a great site to find the websites for most of the Ham Radio organizations in South Carolina.

**SV2AGW.com** is a site by a Greek Ham with a significant number of downloadable programs for Packet and APRS. There are three levels of programs:

Hamware which is free for use by Hams.

Shareware which allows you to try a program before purchase.

Freeware which is free to anyone.

This collection includes Packet Engines, Multitasking Terminal Programs, Digipeters, and Tracker Programs which interface with mapping programs. The tracking and terminal programs are also available for mobile devices.

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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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ARES - Open

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