

The
FARC

QSO

A PUBLICATION OF THE FLORENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

146.850-, 146.970-, 444.000+



The February 6th meeting of the Florence Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by our President, KK4MQN, Russell Wilson. All present identified themselves.

Treasurer's Report

KK4ZMK, Dean Lisenby, said we have \$3,395.92 in the Checking Account and \$7,502.54 in the Repeater Fund for a total of \$10,898.46. This is before paying for the insurance and the telephone for '97 but includes \$180 deposit for dues. 2018 Dues are due.

Repeaters

All Repeaters are working well. K4AVR, Mac, redid the 444. Interference would open the squelch and kept it open until the repeater timed out. He reset and tightened the squelch. The coverage was made a bit smaller but it is not tying up.

Old Business

Field Day -- Dean attended the January 18 meeting of the Florence County Recreation Department.

February Attendance

- K4AVR – Mac Cullom
- KG4YVJ – Suzie Cullom
- KK4MQN – Russell Wilson
- KG4HIE – Scott Thompson
- N4AAK – Bill Cheney
- KM4ZMW – Art McCutchan
- KM4NYV – Bryan Foxworth
- KK4ZMK – Dean Lisenby
- NG4S – Tommy Walker
- KM4RCP – Doug Brian
- K7DVB – Bob Austin
- No Call – Jan Austin
- AD4JH – Jason Horton
- KJ4CMN – Jim Grant
- Guest – Dennis James

March Birthdays

- 7 Mac Cullom, K4AVR
- 21 Bob Austin, K7DVB
- 30 Jack Kolesar, N3AJU



FARC Meeting
March 6, 2018
Shoney's

They approved our use of Ebenezer Park for our Field Day, June 23 & 24. Our time is blocked out in their calendar so we should be good to go.

Swamp Fox Contesting Group – KK4ZMK, Dean, attended a meeting of this group last Sunday. They gave awards to exceptional operators. To become a member, you have to participate in at least 3 contests per year and the dues are \$10. Dean plans to join.

New Business

Red Cross – We had a guest speaker this evening, Dennis James, of the Florence Red Cross. He thanked us for checking out the equipment and antenna at the building and they are working to implement the suggestions. He also mentioned that the Red Cross had a group of 10 or 12 students who are interested in Ham Radio. Training them might be a good way to get some young members.

Emergency Management -- Jim Grant, KJ4CMN, also came to speak with us. Jim is the Regional representative of the South Carolina Emergency Management Division. He covers 11 counties and he is trying to meet with each club in his area. He would like us to build connections with our Florence EMS coordinator, Dusty in Effingham.

There was a Winter Field Day held in January at the Red Cross EOC in Conway and they had 20 people. They found that although they have 4 repeaters in the Grand Strand, there was a dead zone in the middle of Myrtle Beach. They were given access to a good location and have set up a new UHF repeater to cover that area, 441.775 with a PL tone of 85.4. This helps in downtown Myrtle Beach with all of the high-rise buildings.

In October there was a nationwide exercise called Grid X which simulated a long duration power outage. The South Carolina Ham participation was spotty at best. This exercise works every two years. Jim hopes that we will respond better next time.

The Grand Strand Club will again be working on the Myrtle Beach Marathon on March 3rd. This will be the 21st annual Marathon. Last year the operation was outsourced to a new company and there were several problems. The same

company will be doing it this year and hopes to have all these things settled. The Hams provide communications for the medical stations and the 3 supply vans which bring needed supplies to the water stops and medical stations as well as picking up any injured or exhausted runner. More information is available at www.w4gs.org. The event starts and ends at the Pelican's Baseball Stadium at 21st and Grissom Parkway. The new repeater will be needed for this run.

Sandblast Rally – Also on March 3rd, the annual Sandblast Rally will be held in Chesterfield County. Radio operators are needed to report times for the cars and motorcycle participating. Information about signing up is available at www.sandblastrally.com. They will be using the PALS Repeaters including Pageland, Lucknow and Cheraw. They may need to use Florence and the Hub. If you cannot help, remember to contact their Net Control if you have need to use the PALS system that day.

SERA—KG4HIE, Scott, said that the SERA Journal has not had articles about what is happening in South Carolina. There was a long discussion about SERA which is the coordinating association required by the FCC. All repeaters in NC, SC, GA, TN, MS and WV are listed in the SERA Journal. Any repeater coordinated by SERA protects that repeater from someone else setting up a repeater on the protected frequency within a designated geographic area. They do a good job considering that they are all volunteers.

New Members – We voted in two new members:

AD4JH, Jason Horton from Sumter, is an Extra Class operator. He got his General at our VE session the day that Matthew hit. He is active on HF and 2-Meters. He calls nets weekly on both Dillon and PALS and sometimes comes in on the 85.

KN4IPM, Paul Ingram, is a Technician who is a nurse here in Florence. He often comes to Saturday breakfast at BoJangles and is interested in learning all he can.

Hands On Learning – KN4ZNW, Art McCutchan, has requested that we set up a time and place to learn about different things such as how to solder including a time to practice, how to build antennas such as a roll-up ladder line J-pole. Both KM4ZMK and KK4MQN expressed interest in learning about things like Arduino and Raspberry Pi. There are a lot of different electronic projects. We really need

to train the next generation. Kids today don't know about tools. We need to get them interested. NG4S, Tommy Walker, has just moved to Florence from Marion and he has lots of stuff to play with. We hope this will get some ideas started. The Red Cross might be a good place.

Red Cross Packet – The Red Cross needs communications from Florence to the Beach. There is no direct packet shot. KK4KSZ, Ben Brotherton, who works for WPDE has no problems with putting up a packet repeater and doesn't believe it would interfere with what is already in place. The SCHEART and SCHEART DMR are dedicated to other agencies. Red Cross really needs a dedicated stand-alone system. Since Billy Huggins is both the Station Manager at WPDE and on the board of the Horry County Red Cross, we may be able to get access to the W4PDE tower to set up such a system.

DMR Clinic – This clinic will be held on March 17. It is not tied to any club but the FARC have been invited. Anyone interested in learning about DMR is welcome. More information will be available at the next meeting.

VE Report – There will be a VE session this coming Saturday, February 10 at Carolinas Hospital. The last session was in December. We had one applicant who had let his license lapse many years ago. The FCC now allows someone whose license expired more than 2 years to regain their old license class by taking the Technician test which makes sure the applicant knows the current FCC rules. Former holders of General & Advanced licenses will grandfather to General and Extra will get their Extra back. One former Ham who held a Conditional License wanted to recover his former privileges. That required a special letter to the FCC since the FCC did not include Conditionals in that grandfather system. K4AVR, Mac, and the head of WCAR VE were able to complete this process.

Programs for our Meetings – N4AAK would like to have a discussion period during our meetings to explain such things as AM, Sideband, FM, Phase Modulation and Repeaters. We need to have some volunteers and to set up a schedule.

Infirmiry Report.

N4TJ, Tommy Johnson is still at Sunny Acres in Fork, S. C. He is unable to stand on his own. Unless something changes, he will probably be unable to walk again.

No Call, Jan Austin is back on her feet. It was good to see her here tonight

K4TGK, Tim Kaylor, has been experiencing back pain. We hope that he will get relief soon. He has been released by his doctor and hopes to be at the March meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

VE Session – Our last VE Session was on February 10. We only had one person to test. Timothy Smith of Irmo became KN4JPE. He passed both Technician and General but bombed the Extra. He had previously held a Technician License but it had lapsed many years ago. We had two prospective VE's , AD4JH, Jason from Sumter, and KA5JPS, John from Johnsonville. Also NG4S, Tommy Walker, who had been a VE a number of years ago, wanted to sit in on the session to review. K4AVR, Mac, officiated and had N4MXP, Mark Davis; K7DVB, Bob Austin; KG4HIE, Scott Thompson; KG4YVJ, Suzie Cullom and KC4WZL, Russell Washburn. It really worked out well as a new VE training session.

Dues -- 2018 dues are now due and payable. All money should go to KK4ZMK, Dean Lisenby, our Treasurer. You can pay at a club meeting, at BoJangles breakfast or send Dean a check to our Post Box or to his home address, 3102 Wainwright Court, Florence, SC, 29501. If you wait until March, we add a \$10 penalty. If you wait until April, you will be removed from the roster. So hurry up and pay up. We want you to stay with us.

Upcoming Events

Saturday Breakfast at BoJangles
Mar. 3, 2018 – Sandblast Rally
Mar. 3, 2018 – Myrtle Beach Marathon
Mar. 9, 2018 – Charlotte Hamfest
Mar. 17, 2018 – DMR Clinic
April 14, 2018 – VE Session



The 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. The editor welcomes your comments about this or future publications.

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Annual club dues are \$36,

The FARC rag chew net meets each
Monday night at 8:30PM on 146.85