

The
FARC

QSO

A PUBLICATION OF THE FLORENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 146.850-, 146.970-, 444.000+



The March 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. We were a little out of order.

Old Business

97 Phone Bill: KK4ZMK, Dean, spoke with Kevin Yokim at the County Complex. He knew we had not paid in a long time, but decided that we would only have to pay since the beginning of the physical year (July 1, 2017). The charge will be \$27.50 per month or a total of \$331.50 per year. We are \$221.20 in arrears. Dean will pay that amount this week.

New Business

97 Repeater: W4GEY, James Starling, reported that the '97 Repeater needs to be taken down and cleaned. In order to install a UHF Control Link to replace the phone line required to turn off the repeater in times of emergency, we would need to install a new controller at a cost of about \$477. James would like to train several members as control operators to learn the new Control Link.

March Attendance

- K4AVR – Mac Cullom
- KG4YVJ – Suzie Cullom
- KK4MQN – Russell Wilson
- N4AAK – Bill Cheney
- KM4ZMW – Art McCutchan
- KM4NYV – Bryan Foxworth
- KK4ZMK – Dean Lisenby
- NG4S – Tommy Walker
- KM4RCP – Doug Brian
- AD4JH – Jason Horton
- W4GEY – James Starling
- K4TGK – Tim Kaylor
- KB4RRC – Donald Bryant
- WD4HEM – Rusty George
- KN4AXY – Ray Schaffer
- Guest – Vickie Schaffer

April Birthdays

- 5 Jay Hopkins NO8X
- 9 Tom Morgan, WA4BUO



FARC Meeting
April 3, 2018
Shoney's

K4AVR, Mac, reported that we have 5 options. 1) Just disconnect the phone but this would violate FCC requirements. 2) Get rid of the '97 Repeater but this is not an option. '97 was the original FARC repeater. 3) Use the spare SCOM controller, like the '85 controller but this would take lots of work at the '97 site which is very cramped. 4) Modify the existing controller which does not have the capability to add the UHF link directly. 5) Buy a replacement controller. This would have the link radio, a rack and software for about \$477. This would have an 18 month payback but would not have AutoPatch capability. There would be no need for additional rewiring – just set levels which can be done off-line and the ground wire may need to be moved. A Diplexer would allow the use of the existing antenna for both the Repeater and the Link Radio.

N4AAK moved that we authorize \$500 to purchase a new controller and it was seconded by K4TGK. The members voted to accept the motion.

Both K4AVR and W4GEY both asked to get somebody who would be willing to work on the '97. KB4RRC, Donald, is not allowed in the complex with his test equipment. The current '97 repeater is a commercial Repeater donated to us by Bell South when they removed all Ham equipment from their building. It was built up by Godwin Communications and is now obsolete. It works fine at the moment but be advised that it may not be able to be repaired in the future. KB4RRC asked for photos of the equipment. He may have the manuals.

Mac reported that the controller for the '85 Repeater runs on a computer program using macros. Dean has the book including the original and four upgrades of the software. The controller on the 444 repeater is the simplest with the '97 next and the '85 as the most complicated. We really need someone to learn how to clean and maintain all of this equipment as both GEY and AVR are getting older.

N4AAK, Bill, made a motion to increase the authorization for a new controller to \$550. This was accepted by the members.

DMR Learning Class: The South Carolina Communications Working Group will be sponsoring a training program on DMR (Digital Mobile Radio). This will explain the lingo and delve into the programming and different systems in the SC and NC area. They have a PowerPoint program which explains a lot. The

class will be held on Saturday, March 17 at the Red Cross building on Lucas Street in Florence from 10AM till 12 Noon. There will be lots of information and there will be some equipment so that you can hear what it sounds like.

Treasurer's Report KK4ZMK, Dean Lisenby, said we have \$3,395.92 in the Checking Account and \$7,502.91 (which includes the \$.18 interest) in the Repeater Fund for a total of \$10,898.46. Dean has renewed the P.O. Box and will pay the County for the '97 Phone line to date later this week.

Dean has set up a PayPal account for the club so that dues can be paid online. The information will be on the website. The address is PayPal.me/W4ULH.

VE Report – The next VE session will be held on April 14th at Carolinas Hospital. We have three new VE's. AD4JH, Jason Horton, and NG4S, Tommy Walker, have gotten their WCARS credentials and did sit in on our February session to observe. KA5JPS, John Thames, has been working to get his ARRL VE credential then will get his WCARS. We are so happy to have additional VE's.

McLeod Run Walk: This event will be held on March 17. We were not contacted this year. They probably tried to connect with KA3JAL who is now a Silent Key. The route has been changed and moved behind the McLeod Fitness Center, probably along the Rail Trail. Since we have another event the same day, we would have had a problem supporting them this year. The Dillon McLeod Run/Walk has been cancelled.

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.

K7DVB, Bob hasn't felt well and is taking meds for erosion of a disc in his neck which is causing lots of pain in his arms and hands. He just celebrated his 85th birthday with family. Jan Austin has had some sinus problems but is back on her feet.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM.

'97 Control Link Radio Update: K4AVR has found a way to add a DTMF Decoder to the '97 Control Link Radio for \$38.60 that utilizes the existing

controller. This change saves the club a little over \$500 of the \$550 authorized for the new controller. This change has already been installed and is fully operational. The total costs incurred by K4AVR to install the Control Link Radio were \$112.87 which includes the radio, diplexer, coax, DTMF decoder and cabling.

Upcoming Events

Saturday Breakfast at BoJangles
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.

Suzie Cullom, KG4YVJ, editor
1907 Effie's Lane,
Florence, SC 29505
smcullom@att.net

Florence Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 5062, Florence SC 29502
Website: www.w4ulh.net

President: Russell Wilson, KK4MQN
Vice Pres: Scott Thompson, KG4HIE
Sec/Treas: Dean Lisenby, KK4ZMK
Web Page: Tim Kaylor, K4TGK

Annual club dues are \$36,

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