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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 or before 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 or about 28.330

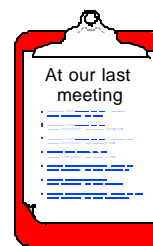
Florence ARES Net meets
the Second Tuesday each month at
8:30 pm on 146.850-

The
FARC

QSO

A PUBLICATION OF THE FLORENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

28.330, 146.850-, 146.970-, 444.000+



Our President, Bob Austin, K7DVB, opened the March meeting and as usual each person introduced themselves. The first order of business was the Treasurer's report by KA3JAL, John Germain as follows:

Began February:	\$2,178.04
Dues Refund	- 5.00
Stamps	- 39.00
Deposits	+ 255.00
End February:	\$2,389.04

Repeater Savings at \$1,914.48
There were 23 members and 2 guests at the February meeting. As of February 28, we had a total of 64 members of which 3 are Life Members and 61 are dues paying. The twelve members who have not yet renewed, will be dropped from membership if dues of \$60 are not paid by March 31.

Our ASMPIO, N4JJ, Jack Jackson reported that the section will be emphasizing PIO with a lot of action from the State and National ARRL anticipating higher than normal interest due to both the end of the code requirement and the new SC HEART medical project.

KG4BZK, Bobby Collins, reported that the Red Cross is updating it's local disaster planning and inventorying all radio assets.

Mayfly will be held on Memorial Day Weekend this year and we have not yet had contact to know what the club will be asked to contribute. We will have a better feel at the next meeting.

Under old business, KG4YVJ, Suzie Cullom reported that she had compiled information to hand out to prospective Hams and a shortened version for those licensed Hams who would like to join our club. The following members have consented to act as mentors for Hams wanting to learn about specific specialties.

N4JJ and N4AAK - Antennas
N4JJ and KF4HJS - CW
K7DVB and KG4BZK - PSK31
KD4VH - DX and Contesting
KG4BZK - HF Mobile
KO4L - APRS & Echolink
K4AVR - Repeaters, General Electronics, Traffic Handling and Nets.

Under New Business, KA3JAL reported that Daniel Barlow from McLeod Health had contacted us about helping again this year with the McLeod Run/Walk scheduled for March 24. We will use the '85 Repeater and need



Meeting at
7:30 PM on
the 3rd. at
Shoney's

about 8 mobile or handheld operators to man the water stops, the medical vehicles and the sweep vehicles. Operators will be needed starting at 7:00 AM for several hours. There will be a 10K, a 5K, a Fun Walk and a Pet Walk. Let's make this a success again this year.

W4ORW, Wayne Howell reported that there would be a VE meeting immediately following this meeting.

K7DVB and KA3JAL discussed the additional fee with membership earmarked for the Repeater Fund. When the funds are transferred for this year we will have in excess of \$2,500 in the kitty. Please think about whether you believe we should continue this assessment in future years. If so, how much and for how long? We would like input from all members next month.

N4JJ reported that N4TJ, Tommy Johnson, one of the founding members of FARC is in very bad health. Tommy was responsible for obtaining the W4ULH callsign for the club and gave generously of his time and money. Now that he has limited health and funds, Jack proposed that we make Tommy a Life Member. The members in attendance unanimously voted to return Tommy to membership. Welcome back N4TJ.

In the final item of business, we had a visitor who wished to become a member. N4AAK, Bill Cheney from Florence, is a General, a former member of the club, a 30+ year Life Member of ARRL and is interested in all aspects of Amateur operation. He was voted into membership and welcomed.



VE Team Meeting

Immediately following the regular meeting, all the Volunteer Examiners present met to decide when and where to hold testing for the rest of the year. The schedule will be:

Saturday, April 28 at Methodist Manor at 9:00 AM.

Sunday, September 30 at Cheraw State Park during the 2-Meter Picnic at 1:30 PM.

Wednesday, November 7 at the Red Cross Building on Lucas St. at 7:00 PM.

Saturday, February 9, 2008 at Methodist Manor at 9:00 AM.

— Other sessions will be considered if the need arises.

Upcoming Events

Mar. 24 McLeod Run/Walk
 April 1 Raleigh Hamfest
 April 20 & 23 HEART
 Technician Training
 April 28 VE Testing at 9AM
 Methodist Manor



Don't forget to make a donation to our scholarship fund at F-D Tech.

April Birthdays

22 Mark Davis, N4MXP
 29 Ed Hendrix, WD4FJP

SC HEART Schedules Technician Training

The University of South Carolina Department of Public Health Preparedness in association with South Carolina Educational Television will be holding a two day course to license medical personnel as Amateur Radio Technicians on April 20 and 23. The training will be over the ETV network to selected satellite reception locations to allow medical personnel across the state to be trained to handle 2 Meter radios at the start of an emergency situation and to pass information on the Hearts System until non-hospital personnel can arrive. This concentrated two day course will end with a test session.

Techs on 10 Meters

The new FCC regulations that went into effect on February 23 gave Technicians a lot of new frequency opportunities. The new Band Plan shows that Techs now have all of the privileges that were previously afforded to Tech Plus, opening up CW areas of the 80, 40 and 15 Meter bands. The down side is the restriction to CW and most Techs are not fluent. The good news is that Techs are now allowed to operate phone on 10 Meters between 28,300 and 28,500. This means that all of our Tech operators are now legal to join in the Wednesday 10 Meter Net on 28,330 USB at 8:30 P.M. local time. We hope that you will join us soon.

Member of the Month

John Schumacher N4DOU

When John was 14 or 15 years old, his parents gave him a Short Wave radio with a 2 Meter receiver built in. That was the start of a life long interest in Amateur Radio.

John grew up in Augusta, GA where he attended the Academy of Richmond County, Augusta College and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. John got his Extra Class License in 1986 when the requirements included 20 wpm code. He is a former Vice President and President of the Augusta Amateur Radio Club and as VP he coordinated the Augusta Hamfest. He is currently an ARRL Volunteer Examiner, serves as Assistant EC of Florence County, and is helping to certify FARC members in the Emergency Communications Level 1 course. John had his "15 Minutes of Fame" when he made the TV news by helping another Ham to contact the space shuttle. He turned the beam!

John serves as the Chaplain at McLeod Regional Medical Center. He is working toward the goal of making Amateur Radio a backup communications method for McLeod in case of emergency. John is also involved with the SC HEART 2-Meter system planned to link most hospitals in the state. John is a valued member of the VE team. In his spare time, John likes to read Star Trek novels, listen to Classic Rock, build computers and hopes to put up an improved antenna system for his shack. FARC is lucky to have such a well rounded and talented member.