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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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Florence Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 5062, Florence, SC 29502  
Web site: [www.w4ulh.net](http://www.w4ulh.net)

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ARES - Jim Lavia, K14ORA

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 regular February meeting was called to order at 7:30 by our President, N4DOU, John Schumacher. All members and guests identified themselves, and we welcomed WA4OPL, Horace Beasley of Bishopville.

**Treasurer:** KA3JAL, John Germain gave the following report:

Started January with	\$ 2,133.46
Digitizing Club Logo	- 100.00
N4B Certificates	- 25.88
First Qtr. Phone for 97	- 32.88
Deposited 2009 Dues	+ 562.50
Ended January with	\$2,537.20

The repeater fund stands at \$3,275.33 as of 12/31/08. Interest in 2008 was \$10.54. Club membership stands at 58 with 4 lifetime and 54 dues paying. As of 1/31/09 39 members have paid their dues and we are waiting on 15. We had 28 at the January meeting with 22 members and 6 guests.

**ARRL SECTION & PIO:** In the absence of N4JJ, KO4L, LLOYD MITCHELL reported that our own SC Emergency Coordinator, AE4UX, Charlie Miller has been awarded the 2008 Roanoke Division ARRL Service Award beating out five other candidates. Congratulations Charlie!

The ARRL has made an agreement with the FCC to allow groups within our organization to *volunteer* to help educate the public about the now delayed change to DTV. Interested groups or individuals should contact Pin Tech Corp who has contracted with the FCC to operate a help center in SC. For educational materials look at [www.dtv.gov/outreach.html](http://www.dtv.gov/outreach.html). Please contact our Section Manager, N2ZZ, Dr. Jim Boehner at [n2zz@arrl.org](mailto:n2zz@arrl.org) if you are interested in helping.

SC Representative Ken Kennedy has introduced H3289 which pre-empts local zoning laws which do not make reasonable accommodation for Amateur Radio antennas. This new statute is similar to the PRB-1 law in NC and has been referred to the Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee. Members of that committee and the status of the bill can be found by searching [www.scstatehouse.gov](http://www.scstatehouse.gov). Our former member K14AOQ, Ralph Thompson got this bill rolling.

Two bills, S0024 in the Senate and H3083 in the House, have been



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

introduced to restrict wireless communications by drivers of moving vehicles. These bills have the undesired effect of restricting the use of amateur radios in a moving vehicle which could seriously hamper our emergency communications abilities. Please contact your representative and senator to request an exemption for Amateur Radio and encourage your friends and relatives to do the same.

Lastly, the FCC has appointed Laura L. Smith of Pennsylvania as the Special Counsel for Spectrum Enforcement. She is an attorney but not an amateur. We will sorely miss K4ZDH, Reilly Hollingsworth, who retired last year.

**Emergency Communications:** KI4ORA, Jim Lavia, reported that he and Stacy Jones, the Red Cross Disaster Coordinator for the PeeDee have come to the following agreement:

"A representative of Florence Amateur Radio Club, who responds as a member of that organization (i.e. does not use Red Cross identification or clothing) will remain independent of the Red Cross in their support of the relief operations."

This means that FARC members would not have to submit to a financial background check. The club voted to have our President, N4DOU sign that agreement as soon as possible. There was a discussion about devising an identification card or badge for our members to use in lieu of Red Cross insignia in the case of an emergency. We may set up a committee at the next meeting to address this problem.



**Repeater Reports:**

**85:** Everything OK

**97:** Everything OK

**440:** This repeater still ID's at about 100 wpm.

**VE Team:** The next test session will be at Methodist Manor at 9:00 AM on Saturday, February 14.

**New Business:** KA3JAL plans to attend a meeting this month to find what assistance we will be asked to provide to the Rural Heritage Festival at the Clemson Extension grounds on April 25. He will have a report next month.

McLeod Hospital is creating a Radio Club to help train the new amateurs working at the hospital about emergency communications. N4DOU will be a member but not an officer of that club.

We have not been approached by McLeod Health and Fitness about the annual run/walk and therefore will not be participating this year.

The Charlotte Hamfest has been moved and will be located at the Cabarrus Arena and Event Center in Concord, NC.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

## March Birthdays

- 4 Rudolph Hatcher, W4YLY
- 7 Mac Cullom, K4AVR
- 7 Olin "Mac" McDaniel, W4PFZ
- 8 Morris Jones, NM4R
- 15 Donna Dedonis, N4FJF
- 16 Jim King, KI4MVA
- 21 Bob Austin, K7DVB

## Upcoming Events

March 14 & 15 - Charlotte Hamfest at Concord NC this year.

April 18 - VE Session at St. Luke's Lutheran Church

April 25 - Rural Heritage Festival

May 2 - Upstate Hamfest Spartanburg

## 2009 Dues

If you have not already done so, please submit your dues to KA3JAL at your earliest convenience. A late fee of \$10 will be added to any dues paid in March and any member who has not renewed by March 31 will be dropped from membership.

## Successful VE Session

On February 14, the WCARS VE Team hosted a test session. There were four applicants and all were successful.

Reynolds Watson of Green Sea became a new Technician, Jimmy Williams, KI4CSA, of Effingham became a General and Richard Norris, KI4IDK of Hope Mills, NC, and Albert Withrow, KJ4IYV of Elloree, SC, both upgraded to Extra. Congratulations!

## Member of the Month

Rob Belinski -  
KJ4DGT

If you ever have a conversation with Rob on the subject of antennas, out will pop a piece of paper and it will soon be covered with equations involving lots of fractions and Greek letters. You see, Rob thinks in those terms.

Rob was a military brat and moved around during his early years but spent more time in Washington, DC, and Cincinnati, OH. He attended the University of Ohio where he earned a BS, an MS and a PhD in Mechanical Engineering. He worked in many places including at the Newport News Shipyard where he met his wife, Bliss.

Rob works for General Electric. As a summer service project for the GE Foundation, he helped teach a summer program in electronics at Wilson High School. He started making loop antennas for the class and became interested in learning more about electronics. He became a Ham in May of 2008 and has upgraded all the way to Extra by October. He is also our newest VE team member. Nice work Rob!

Rob and his wife, Bliss Webb, who is the Lead Physician at the Florence Veterans Administration, have three children, two daughters and an infant son. They both lead very busy lives but Rob manages to put a great deal of thought and lots of time on his Amateur Hobby.