

# The FARC

# QSO

A PUBLICATION OF THE FLORENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

28.330 USB, 146.850-, 146.970-, 444.000+



The August meeting was called to order at 7:30 by our President, N4DOU, John Shumacher and all members and guests identified themselves. We recognized a guest, KJ4NUW, Jamie Ogburn of Darlington, who was licensed only last week.

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

Started July with	\$ 2,274.08
Lamination Pouches	- 38.80
Ended July with	\$2,265.28

The repeater fund stands at \$3,921.89. Club membership stands at 51 with 4 lifetime and 47 dues paying. We had 24 at the June meeting with 20 members and 4 guests.

There were no reports for ARRL/PIO nor for Emergency Communications since neither N4JJ nor KI4ORA were in attendance.

**Repeaters:** All repeaters are healthy, however, W4YLX, Rudolph, reported that there had been a problem with the '85 during a net but when he checked, it seemed to have resolved itself.

N4DOU discussed the SC-HEART System including the 440 frequencies and tones. KA3JAL mentioned that the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs has a yearly event that uses the SCHEART System. Any member wishing more information should go to the website [www.scheart.us](http://www.scheart.us).

N4DOU read the letter which we have written to Florence Darlington Tech expressing concerns and asking questions about our Scholarship Fund.

Shelby Hamfest fliers were passed around showing the new location. Let's hope this year is as good or better than last year.

N4DOU discussed two handouts designed for prospective HAMS and New Hams and the postcard sized sheet given out at testing sessions and asked that they be updated soon. KG4YVJ, Suzie Cullom, who created them and the FARC Brochure was not in

**Sept**

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

attendance and will be asked to make revisions.

KI4MVA, Jim King, heard a public service announcement for the ARRL on an AM Radio Station and wondered if they had a PSA that we could use for FARC.

We need to put together a list of Elmer volunteers that prospective and new HAMS can contact. KA3JAL mentioned that he had received inquiries about starting in Ham Radio and N4DOU said he will try to contact them and answer questions. He also suggested that KO4L, Lloyd, add this information to our website.

The yearly liability insurance is due and the members voted funds to pay this bill.

N4DOU then presented a Power Point slideshow about our 2009 Field Day activities. It was very well done and all present enjoyed it. Thanks to all who contributed.

The meeting adjourned at about 8:10 pm.

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### September Birthdays

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- 2 Johnny King, WA4UGD
- 2 James McColl, KA4PVT
- 3 Jim Lavia, KI4ORA
- 4 Fletcher Townsend, KD4BUF
- 9 Bekki Medsker, KJ4LIF
- 15 Wayne Howell, W4ORW
- 27 Stormy Bishop K4NOC



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### Upcoming Events

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- Sept 5&6 - Shelby Hamfest  
Dallas, NC
- Sept. 27 - PALS Picnic  
at Cheraw State Park
- Oct. 10 - VE Session  
at Methodist Manor
- Oct. 24 - Myrtle Beach Hamfest  
in Surfside Beach

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### ELMER DAY

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Due to personnel changes at SC Forestry, we do not know the date for our planned event. Hopefully, we will be able to do this in September. The date and time will be announced as soon as possible.

KO4L, Lloyd, has asked that any member who would be willing to make a presentation of about 10 minutes duration on a subject of their choice should contact him as soon as possible.

This would be a wonderful time to invite new and prospective HAMS for both information and fellowship so let's make sure that we get the word out.

## Member of the Month

W4YLX - Rudolph Hatcher

Although he sits quietly at our meetings, W4YLX, Rudolph Hatcher is truly a Jack-Of-All-Trades. He was born and raised in Seneca, SC, where his father was a Baptist Minister. When his father came to Southside Baptist Church here in Florence, Rudolph moved with his family at age 19.

As a teenager he worked in a cotton mill and encountered Amateur Radio through another employee, a loom fixer, who had an impressive Ham Shack. Rudolph did not graduate from high school but was determined enough to receive that degree by correspondence and later took courses in Radio/TV at National Radio Institute (NRI) and at the same time studied for his Ham license which he got in 1952. He also received his First Class Radiotelephone Operator's License from the FCC.

Rudolph has a jinx. It seems that he can't be without a job for long because someone will always offer him something. When he arrived in Florence, he started working for Tommy Ayers, W4SZU, (See Note Below) in his Radio/TV shop. He branched out from there into radio and TV broadcasting and was the Station Engineer for several stations including WJMX radio and WBTW-TV. He also worked with Pee Dee Communications, a GE Two-Way Radio shop and for years he worked as a Professional Wedding Photographer.

Rudolph did not serve in the active military, however, he did serve in both the Army and Air National Guard. He attained the level of NCOIC in Communications before he retired after 26 years of service.

Rudolph learned to fly and took his solo flight on Christmas Day 1955. He became a member of Civil Air Patrol and was a pilot with the Florence Squadron for over 30 years. Although his license is still good, he does not have a current medical so he is no longer flying.

Rudolph loves building radios and started with HeathKits. When GE Mobile Radio came to Florence, he started working there as a technician so he could do what he loved and get paid for it. When Mobile left Florence, he transferred to GE Medical until he retired after 23 years in 1997.

After he retired, he took a truck driving course at Tri-County Tech in Anderson to get his Class A CDL driver's license. Over the years, he has driven both trucks and tour buses. He still keeps his hand in by driving school groups and teams to various events.

He remains an active member at the Florence Baptist Temple and has made five Mission Trips to Russia, Costa Rica and Peru. He has had a busy and varied life. He has lots of good stories to tell to anyone who will take the time to listen.

### A little historical note

N4JJ, Jack Jackson remembered W4SZU, Tommy Ayers.

He was the Electronics Instructor at McClenaghan High School here in Florence during the fifties and sixties. A good many local teenagers received their calls through his class: WA4FTY, WA4FSM, WA4FHA, WA4GPU, etc. The class had an old Heathkit DX100 transmitter and military surplus receiver with dipole antennas on the roof. They used his personal call back then. He ran the TV shop on the side.

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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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FARC nets meet each week on  
Monday 8:30 pm on 146.850- and  
Wednesday at 8:30 pm on 28.330 USB