

# The FARC

# QSO

A PUBLICATION OF THE FLORENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

28.330, 146.850-, 146.970-, 444.000+



The July 1 Meeting was opened by our President N4MXP, Mark Davis just after 7:30 PM and all members and guests identified themselves.

Our Treasurer KA3JAL, John Germain gave the following report:

Started June with	\$1,653.90
Dues and shirts	+ 91.69
Shirt Check to KD4BUF	- 25.00
Credit Final 85 phone bill	+ 19.56
Ended June with	\$1,740.15

The repeater fund stands at \$3,264.69 plus interest. Club membership stands at 58 with 4 lifetime and 54 dues paying. We had 29 members at the June meeting with 21 members and 8 guests, 3 of which became members that night.

**ARRL SECTION:** N4JJ, Jack Jackson was unable to attend but KM4D, Dave Jones reported that nothing much was happening with the ARRL. KO4L, Lloyd Mitchell, who travels all around the country for SC Forestry, noted that the ARRL VEC has been extremely slow with licenses and upgrades and we should be very happy that we have become affiliated with WCARS.

**PIO:** KA3JAL reported that he had been able to get an article in the

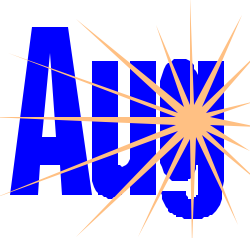
News Journal before Field Day and arranged for a news crew from WBTW-TV to visit Lake Darpo and film our event.

## **E M E R G E N C Y COMMUNICATIONS:**

Hospital Emergency Amateur Radio Team (HEART) has completed two training sessions for 14 hospitals in the DHEC Region 4, which covers most of the local area. This training brought hospital personnel and Amateur Operators together to plan for mutual aid in case of a disaster. Very few of the hospital employees have been licensed so the majority will have to be trained and licensed. One major concern is the development of a system of identification that will allow Amateurs to pass through police and hospital security to man hospital stations. The meetings ended with a simulated traffic net. The Florence HEART VHF and UHF repeaters are not operational but will come on line soon. (These stations went on the air on 7/17/08)

## **REPEATER REPORTS:**

**85:** Someone has been sitting on



Meeting at  
Shoney's'  
7:30 PM on  
the 5th.

a microphone recently. W4PFZ, Mac McDaniels, reports that a signal holds the repeater up until it times out. It seems to be mechanical and is very-precise with a low level signal near '85 and is most prevalent between 8AM and Noon on certain days. K4AVR, Mac Cullom, noted that on the GE MASTR III, the tone board should be external to the unit. A TS-64 board is available for under \$60 should the club decide to add tone.

**97:** We were told that due to overloading, the 97 repeater would be removed from the existing emergency generator. That never came to pass and not only is a new generator now on-line, but the grounding system will be upgraded and connected to the building ground. Remember, the original antenna was installed in 1973 and has been replaced twice.

**440:** This repeater checks out well.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Field Day:** (See Related Article) KM4D gave us a good report of our Field Day Activity. We discussed several ideas to improve next year. We need to remember to copy the bulletin sent by ARRL and also to invite some elected officials to visit our operation. We need to improve our pre-Field Day publicity possibly adding the Public Access TV Channel and SCNOW.com. We also need to have better signs on US 52 to attract the public.

**SHIRTS:** Anyone wishing to get a shirt with the FARC Logo should contact N4MXP to discuss the possibilities including style, color, size.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

KJ4BVO, Barney Weatherford, has a



cooler/freezer mounted on a trailer and including a generator. It needs restoration but Barney is willing to do the work if the club is interested. The assembled members voted to accept the donation which would be useful at MayFly, Field Day and in emergencies. Thank You Barney!

W4PFZ distributed photos he took at Field Day and urged members to take copies. Thank You Mac!

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

## **August Birthdays**

- 4 Suzie Cullom, KG4YVJ
- 8 Bennie McWhite, N8KWD
- 9 Jim Dedonis, KD4VH
- 12 Tommy Johnson, N4TJ
- 19 Jack Jackson, N4JJ
- 30 Laurie Sansbury, Sr., K4OVV

## **Upcoming Events**

- August 30 & 31 Shelby Hamfest at Dallas, N.C.
- Sept. 28 PALS Picnic at Santee State Park

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## Field Day 2008 Twice as good as 2007

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When all the antennas had been taken down, the rigs stowed and the K-P duty finished, KM4D tallied up the points. The 5692 points this year is almost twice the 2007.

Having a GOTA (Get On The Air) station manned at all times by new Hams (KJ4BVM and KJ4DGT) and supervised by seasoned Hams, provided an extra 1600 points. GOTA only made 20 contacts but the station was on solar power and low transmitter power which added to the point value.

We had 744 CW contacts and 138 phone contacts on 5 frequency bands with 4 rigs. There were a total of 23 people on the log.

The club allotted \$250 to be used for food but our expenses were minimal thanks to the many donations of ice and beverages by members. We wish to specifically thank Chic-Fil-A of Florence for providing us with lunch on Saturday, Subway of Darlington for providing dinner on Saturday and Hardee's of Hartsville for providing breakfast on Sunday.

Our members also provided delicious salads and deserts. We understand from an unnamed source that there was a shortage of brownies on Sunday, especially the ones with the coconut!. We will have to solve that problem next year. Thanks to all who helped and we hope everyone had a good time.

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## Member of the Month Scott Thompson KI4HIE

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Scott was born and raised in the Easton, Pennsylvania area. He attended Easton Area High School, Lehigh University and the University of the State of New York. He holds a degree in Electrical Engineering specializing in Electrical Power Distribution. After 31 years of service, he retired from Cooper Hand Tools, Weller Soldering Plant.

He became interested in Amateur Radio through co-workers Tommy Hyatt, KD4ZMR, and Rusty George, WD4HEM. Scott was originally licensed in April of 2000. He upgraded to Extra earlier this year which is his greatest amateur achievement so far. He is currently setting up an HF station.

Scott has participated in the annual MS Breakaway-To-The-Beach bicycle event. This event formerly went through Marlboro County however it now runs a course only in the Myrtle Beach area. He is a former President of the Chesterfield County Amateur Radio Society and currently owns the tower site holding their repeater, K4CCC. He also owns two UHF repeaters in Marlboro County. The first repeater has been on the air since late last year. It has limited coverage so he is looking for a better location. The second repeater is on the same tower as the K4KCC repeater on the hill in Wallace

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For Sale: WA4UGD, Johnny King would like to sell his Aluma tower, rotor, cables and antenna. \$1,500 for the lot. Call him at 332-4695

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John F. Germain, KA3JAL Treas.  
2731 Ascot Drive  
Florence, South Carolina 29501  
Telephone: (843) 667-9702

**First Class Postage**

**Address Changes requested**

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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 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