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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  
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Web Page - Lloyd Mitchell, KO4L  
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ARES - Jim Lavia, KI4ORA

Annual Dues at \$36, plus \$14 repeater fund,  
payable on January 1 of each year.

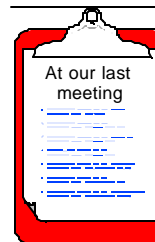
FARC nets meet each week on  
Monday 8:30 pm on 146.850- and  
Wednesday at 8:30 pm on or about 28.330

The  
FARC

# QSO

A PUBLICATION OF THE FLORENCE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

28.330, 146.850-, 146.970-, 444.000+



The May FARC meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by our President, N4MXP, Mark Davis. We had 25 members present with 6 guests.

KA3JAL, John

Germain, presented the Treasurer's Report.

Began April with	\$2,691.89
Transfer to Repeater	- 679.00
USPS Forever Stamps	- 41.00
97 Phone, 2nd Qtr.	- 32.88
Paid 85 Phone	- 36.62

Ended March with \$1,902.39

The repeater fund now stands at \$3,264.69 plus interest.

Our ARRL Assistant Section Manager, N4JJ, Jack Jackson, reminded us that there is proposed legislation at the statehouse concerning cellular phone use which might impact use of amateur radios while driving. He will keep us advised and had nothing as the PIO.

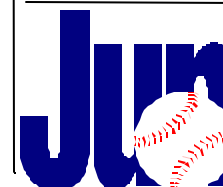
Our new EC, KI4ORA, Jim Lavia, reported that there will be an all day training session for new Hams recently licensed for hospital and HEART operations which will be held on May 30. Any local Hams willing to help would be welcome.

All three of our repeaters were reported in good working order.

MayFly will be held on May 24 and

25. All members wanting to participate should sign up because we may be given a box lunch and we need to have the number of participants to give to the MayFly committee. Bobby Collins, KG4BZK is the club contact.

N4DOU, John Schumacher and KI4ORA, Jim Lavia met with Linda Boone-Smith of the Red Cross trying to come to agreement about how FARC could help. She indicated there are many changes coming in the Red Cross. Due to many factors, Red Cross is losing money and personnel and there will be a new disaster coordinator named soon. She spoke highly of Donna Dedonis, N4FJF, and her professional operations during a prior activity. We were told to coordinate through the Florence County Emergency Operating Center. Since the Memo of Understanding between the Red Cross and the ARRL has been cancelled, our participation is yet to be determined. The problem of background checks possibly including financial checks being necessary to help Red Cross is still unaddressed. So, we will have to wait and see what the new disaster coordinator will decide.



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

KG4BZK, Bobby Collins and KD4BUF, Fletcher Townsend are working the T-shirts. The club voted for Dark Green shirts with gold lettering at about \$12.50 each. Please e-mail Fletcher with your size by Saturday, May 10 so that the order can be placed.

N4MXP also announced that he had arranged with Mirage Promotions to digitize the FARC Logo. He displayed a sample at the meeting. Any member can now go to Mirage and order whatever shirt, jacket or other item with the club logo. The club voted to repay Mark the \$100 cost to digitize.

N3ZL, Greg Davis reported that they had received 500 QSL cards to be distributed to the stations that participated in the N4B Special Event station. He wanted to thank KO4L, Lloyd Mitchell, for the idea and for arranging the special event.

KM4D, Dave Jones reminded us that Field Day will again be held at Lake Darpo this year. We will have more information and a sign-up sheet at the next meeting.

On May 17, FARC will hold an Elmer Class at the Forrestry Office next to FDTC on Highway 52 starting at 9:00 AM. We will cover all those subjects that a new Ham needs to know that is not covered in the handbooks. We hope for a good turnout and will answer questions on other subjects should they arise.

KA3JAL requested a moment of silence to honor Bobby Wallace, WB4VYA, who became a Silent Key on Saturday, May 3. He was one of the founders of this club and will be sorely missed. We voted to make a donation to the Susan Johnson Memorial Nursing Scholarship Fund c/o Darlington Presbyterian Church in the amount of \$50 in his memory.

KG4KIE, Scott Thompson, inquired whether the club still needed to keep



AutoPatch capability on both of our VHF Repeaters. The 146.850 Repeater has a phone bill of almost \$450 per year. It was originally used as a control link but we have since installed a UHF control link for that purpose. Since the AutoPatch feature on the '85 has been used on very few occasions this year and since we have the AutoPatch feature on our '97 repeater. the club voted to discontinue the phone line to the '85. The telephone bill for the '97 repeater is significantly lower and its AutoPatch ability will remain.

We considered the membership application of Tim Kaylor, KJ4DGU. Tim was licensed as a Technician at our last VE session in April. Tim was unanimously accepted and we welcome him to the club.

This month N4JJ did not have an item for the drawing so we had a Dutch Auction. Each member put \$1 in the pot. The winner of the drawing was our President, N4MXP, who received half of the pot with the remainder being put into the club account.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

## Upcoming Events

June 28-29 Field Day at  
Lake Darpo

## June Birthdays

7 Jim Starling, W4GEY  
28 Tom Hall, KF4KFE

## Elmer Day

On Saturday, May 17, we held our Elmer Day at S.C. Forestry. Thanks you Lloyd, KO4L, for providing such a nice facility. We were very pleased to have 23 attendees.

The meeting started just after 9:00 am WD4CHS, Tim Webber and KM4D, Dave Jones and N4JJ, Jack Jackson, were unable to present their topics, but the following presentations were made:

Nets & Repeaters - K4AVR, Mac Cullom  
Auto Patch on 97 - KG4YVJ, Suzie Cullom  
Volunteer Testing - KFHJS, John Kirkland  
Contesting - N3ZL, Greg Davis

Antennas&Cable - K4NOC, Stormy Bishop  
Station Grounding - K7DVB, Bob Austin  
APRS & Digital - KO4L, Lloyd Mitchell

There were lots of good questions and there was some time for hands-on cable, connector and antenna work at the end of the session.

There was a great deal of information passed in a short period of time. Maybe we could have more of these sessions in the future but with only one topic per session. Let us know what

## Member of the Month Doug Macdonald - KI4TTS

Doug was born and raised in Sumter then graduated as a Mechanical Engineer from Clemson. While serving in the USAF he earned his Masters in Operations Management. He retired in

2004 after years of teaching Engineering Technology at Florence Darlington Tech. He is an active volunteer and church worker which introduced him to Amateur Radio.

Doug had an interest in Ham radio in his teens but did not become licensed. After Hurricane Katrina, he spent seven weeks managing a volunteer work village for the Presbyterian Church (USA). This led to to work with the Presbyterian New Harmony and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance National Response Team.

To support his disaster work, Doug was licensed as a Technician in February, 2007, he joined FARC and became active on several local nets to get on the air and get to know local hams. He believes that his greatest achievement so far was in August, 2007, when he called his first Greater Pee Dee 2-Meter Net on the Dillon repeater. He upgraded to General in February, 2008, and called his first PALS Net in March of 2008. He now calls at least one net a week as well as regularly checking into the SC SSB Traffic Net. We are very happy to report that he just passed his Extra in May.

Doug believes that the code requirement was the biggest deterrent to his becoming licensed years ago and wonders if the same fear still make potential hams hesitate today. Most Hams are "Mature" and Doug believes we need to advertise. To that end, he is willing to talk to most any group with the purpose of recruiting new operators but he would appreciate the company of a more experienced Ham to answer the hard questions.