

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

First Class Postage

Address Changes requested

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.

Suzanne Cullom, KG4YVJ, Editor
1907 Effie's Lane, Florence, SC 29505
(843) 662-0421
e-mail: kg4yvj@arrl.net

Florence Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 5062, Florence, SC 29502
Web site: www.w4ulh.net

President - John Schumacher, N4DOU
Vice President - Jim Lavia, K14ORA
Sect/Treas - John Germain KA3JAL
Web Page - Lloyd Mitchell, KO4L
Publicity - Jack Jackson, N4JJ
Proof Reader - John Germain KA3JAL
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 March meeting was called to order at 7:30 by our President, N4DOU, John Schumacher. All members and guests then identified themselves.

Treasurer: KA3JAL, John Germain gave the following report:

Started March with	\$ 2,936.70
Dues correction	- 8.33
Deposited 2009 Dues	+ 110.00
Ended March with	\$3,038.30

The repeater fund stands at \$3,275.33. Funds for 2009 will not be transferred until after April 1st. Club membership stands at 52 with 4 lifetime and 48 dues paying. We had 21 at the March meeting with 18 members and 3 guests.

KA3JAL will attend the meeting on April 9 as our representative to the Clemson Rural Heritage Celebration to be held on April 25 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. We have 6 volunteers for the morning and 5 signed up for the afternoon.

ARRL SECTION & PIO: N4JJ, Jack Jackson reported that donations to the ARRL are down due to the economy. For anyone having a desire to contribute, this is the time.

Emergency Communications: K14ORA, Jim Lavia displayed a pro-

posed ID badge for Emergency Communications and suggested that all members should have such a badge for use under emergency conditions. W4PFZ, Olin McDaniel will bring his camera to the next meeting and take photos. Both KO4L, Lloyd Mitchell and N4AAK, Bill Cheny have access to laminating equipment when the design is finalized.

There was a discussion about the FEMA Emergency courses. Anyone interested in being certified to work in FEMA Mission Control should look at the website www.fema.gov for more information including which levels are required for the different operational positions.

Repeaters: All three repeaters are working correctly at this time.

Old Business:

Field Day: Things are still on target for Lake Darpo on June 27 & 28th. More details will be discussed at the May meeting.

The idea of a FARC Ham of the Year has not moved forward at this time.



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

New Business:

The Dayton Hamvention has announced that K4ITL, Danny Hampton of Raleigh, N.C. is this year's Hamvention Ham Of The Year.

N4DOU, John, distributed a two page handout which describes the different types of batteries with the advantages and disadvantages of each. You can find more information about batteries at the following websites: www.buchmann.ca, www.cadex.com and www.batteryuniversity.com

N4DOU also presented our former President N4MXP, Mark Davis, with an ARRL 2009 Calendar in recognition of his service and his ability to convince John to serve this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10.

May Birthdays

23 John Schumacher, N4DOU
27 Doug MacDonald, KI4TTS

Upcoming Events

May 2 - Upstate Hamfest
Spartanburg
June 27 & 28 - Field Day
at Lake Darpo

Successful VE Session

The Florence WCARS VE team held a successful session on April 18, at the St. Luke Lutheran Church on Cherokee Rd.

There were only two candidates but both were successful. We have two new Technicians -- Eleanor "Bekki" Medsker, KJ4LIF, from Florence and Bessie Tyner, KJ4LIG, from Dillon. Congratulations to both of you.



Dayton Hamvention Amateur of the Year Danny Hampton, K4ITL

Wade D. "Danny" Hampton, Jr., K4ITL, of Raleigh, North Carolina is the architect of the Piedmont Coastal Repeater Network, established in the early 1970's, which today sports more than 40 machines in North Carolina. The system is heavily used for public service work. Hampton has enhanced the network's utility with custom audio processing boards and RF components. The North Carolina Office of Emergency Management and SKYWARN have recognized the network's vital role in emergency communication. Recently, Hampton helped coordinate the development of a local hospital based Amateur Radio emergency repeater system that ties 10 facilities together.

A ham since 1958, Hampton is South-eastern Repeater Association (SERA) technical committee chairman as well as ARRL North Carolina Section Technical Coordinator. "Danny's extensive knowledge of the two-way and

broadcast radio industries in this state has enabled him to assist many repeater owners," said former North Carolina SM John Covington, W4CC. "His advice in resolving RFI problems between repeater and commercial services and other technical matters, has been extremely valuable to the Section."

Of local interest, Danny is the owner of the Dillon Repeater which can be connected to the PCRN network in an emergency. Amazingly, Danny has done all of this despite the fact that he is blind and has been fighting both Leukemia and Heart Disease for the past several years. We are truly pleased that his significant accomplishments are being recognized.

Clemson Rural Heritage Celebration

On Saturday, April 25, the Clemson PeeDee Research and Education Center on Pocket Road sponsored its second annual "Celebrating Rural Heritage Celebration" which features the products and services available in South Carolina. This year the crowd was at least double the number of last year.

The Outdoor Education Trail was lined with exhibitors and vendors who displayed Blacksmithing, Bee-Keeping, Fishing, Gullah Crafts, Native American Culture and a large display of ancient arrowheads and spearpoints. There were displays showing cane syrup and corn milling,

cotton, kudzu, soybeans, tobacco, tea, rice and windpower. There were two separate nature walks lead by Dr. Richard Porcher, Jr., a renowned botanist, pointing out native medicinal plants, a talk by water specialist Ann Stoeckmann about how to judge the quality of water in our lakes and streams and the Bluebirds Bluegrass Gospel Band.

Mr. Stephen Schabel of The Center for Birds of Prey located in Awendaw brought some live feathered friends for an up-close encounter with the visitors including a demonstration of their flight habits. There was also a equine demonstration featuring the Carolina Marsh Tacky Horse which is one of South Carolinas earliest breeds.

There was a Press Conference to announce an exciting new market crop for South Carolina. Switchgrass is being introduced as a bioenergy crop which has an increasing market in Europe and should help farmers along the I-95 corridor.

We had 11 Hams working this event to ensure the safety of the attendees. Some Hams helped the organizers maintain control and some

helped ensure the public safety along the venue and on the transportation trams. We were joined by our newest Ham, Bekki Medsker, KJ4LIF, who received her callsign at the beginning of the week.

Although it was a very long day, things went very well and we received sincere thanks from the Clemson Staff for making this year run more smoothly.



KJ4LIF, Bekki