

New Meeting Location

We will be meeting at the Shoney's at US52 & I95



Our president, KI4ORA, Jim Lavia, opened the February meeting and after everyone in the room identified themselves,

KA3JAL, John Germain gave the following Treasurer's Report:

Began February with \$3,507.69
First Qtr 97 Phone - 32.88
Ended February with \$3,474.81

The Repeater Fund stands at \$3,924.86. Transfer of funds from the membership dues to the repeater fund will be made after March 31. There were a total of 28 at the February meeting with 25 members and 3 guests. John also circulated a form for members to sign-up to participate in the McLeod Run/Walk and the Clemson Rural Heritage Festival.

Repeater reports: All repeaters are operating normally.

New Business: After discussion, most members preferred to stay at the I-95

Shoney's location for our meeting because the buffet bar was much better. We voted to remain at the I-95 location.

N4DOU, John Schumacher, informed us that he has taken a new position at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, GA. and will leave by March 15. He expressed his appreciation for all of the good times with the club and will miss FARC. He will keep his e-mail address if you would like to contact him.

Roche Carolina will donate a 60ft. 3 section tower to FARC. W4GEY, Jim Starling, offered the use of his trailer to move it. We decided to accept the tower and will discuss this again at the next meeting.

We were informed that K3IBO, Bill



*Meeting at
Shoney's'
7:30 PM on
the 6th.*

Biagioli, has been in the hospital for three weeks but is now at home.

WA4BOU, Tom Morgan, of Bishopville, requested to become a member. All members present voted to accept him. We are pleased to have him.

KF2X, Craig England, informed us of pending SC legislation which would forbid the use of hand-held communications devices while driving. As is it written, it would not allow Ham operators to use their radios in motion. Craig urged all members to contact their Senator and Representatives to urge that the laws be adjusted to allow Hams as well as other emergency organizations such as police, fire and EMS to be excluded from this prohibition. N4JJ will e-mail all members with links so that members can voice their opinion before these bills come to the floor.

KJ4NKS, Chris Taylor, asked that members think about helping in October with Jamboree On The Air with the Boy Scouts. More about this at future meetings.

We discussed Red Cross and what we need to do to get the radios currently at their facility back on the air. For HF transmission, we need a new long-wire antenna and for UHF/VHF operation we need a dual band antenna and a diplexor. We really feel that the UHF/VHF capability will be most useful to Red Cross with the SCHEART system.



We discussed Field Day which will come in June. We need to get some press releases out early and to invite our local politicians to attend. We will discuss it again next month.

N4JJ, Jack Jackson, then made a wonderful presentation about QRP. He displayed three units which he built over the years. His first was a 20 watt, 40 Meter crystal controlled unit with a keyer. It was in a box about 6" x 4" x 2". The next was a 1 watt unit set on 14060 which was mounted in a Sucrets can. The third was a 1/4 watt, 80 Meter unit set at 3579 in a very small box. Jack has been able to contact about 40 states and 17 countries using this rig. The only additional equipment needed is a battery, a keyer, a headset and an antenna. Jack showed us his long wire wrapped around a piece of cardboard which fits in his pocket. Of course, all of these units are for CW operations. We were all very impressed.

We had four items for our drawing. The first was for a QRP kit which was won by N2CFN, Ann England. Next, KJ4DGU, Tim Kaylor won an Attenuator. KJ4LIF, Bekki Medsker, supplied two packages of home made Oatmeal Raisin Cookies which were won by KF2X, Craig England and by Jan (No Call) Austin.

Next month K7DVB, Bob Austin will have a program about early telegraph operations.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15.

April Birthdays

21 Mark Davis, N4MXP

Upcoming Events

April 17 - Clemson Rural Heritage Festival

June 5 & 6 - PeeDee Airshow & Festival

June 26 & 27 - Field Day

"Mayfly" Renamed

On March 10, our Vice President, KI4TTS, Doug Macdonald, represented FARC at a meeting at the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce to discuss the upcoming airshow. Doug agreed that FARC would participate.

The name has been changed due to the date change. It will now be known as the **PeeDee Airshow and Festival** to be held on June 5 & 6 at the Florence Regional Airport.

The committee has asked FARC to essentially do what we have done in

the past for Mayfly. We will man two gates, our headquarters site, lost and found at our headquarters, and EMS. We will not man the trams. We can handle what is needed with 5 people but 10 per shift would be better to allow for breaks, varying jobs and marketing Ham Radio. We will park inside the gate at the CAP building. Family (several people) can enter free with the Ham family member. The hours will be: Saturday from 8 am to 6 pm and Sunday from 9 am to 6 pm.

We should try to encourage as many non-member Hams as possible to help with this activity. Free entry to the airshow for a few hours work is a good deal. This will be a topic of discussion at both the April and May FARC meetings.

McLeod Run Walk

On Saturday, March 20, eight FARC members helped with the Annual McLeod 5K and 10K Challenge Run/Walk with the following divisions: Fun Walk/Run Mile, 5K Walk, 5K Run, 10K Run, 5K Wheelchair, 10K Wheelchair and 1 Mile Pet Walk. About 250 runners and walkers turned out. Pre-registered runners varied in age from 6-81 but Mullins dentist Dr. Franklin Mason, 85, a veteran runner, was the oldest runner in the event. He ran with a brace on one knee and although he was the last to finish he was proud to complete the 10K course.

Remember

Our meetings will now be at Shoney's at US 52 & I-95.

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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.

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ARES - Open

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