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The President's Corner: Ron K4FET

Wow, it has been quite a month. Exhilarating, busy, frustrating, happy and disappointing, but in the end, I guess it was great. I would hope every month could hit the range of emotions that this one managed to. Did you notice the word boring was nowhere to be found in that description? That is a good thing.

One of the highlights was the TenTen contest which elicited a wide range of those emotions, but ultimately turned out great. One of the lessons we can put in our rucksack for future use is to be thoroughly familiar with the rules. Unfortunately, there is no universal set of rules when it comes to contesting. And yes our rucksacks "should" tend to get heavier as we go through this hobby called Ham Radio. In the end, CFARS excelled in the Ten Ten contest, congratulations to all who participated.

After a tour of the Shriner's club, the consensus was that while it could serve the requirements of the club for the NC QSO party it was far from ideal for a multitude of reasons. The decision was made to conduct the NC QSO party from each participant's homes. One would think that would be a no brainer, but in comes that pesky word RULES. An exhaustive study of the existing rules and written guidance by George, KM4ODS and others, allowed us to forge ahead in a highly creative, but very legal approach to how we organized for the execution of the QSO party this year. Life is a series of challenges and tests. It appears that our numbers for this year well exceeded those which we attained last year. The bands were doing their own thing. That, while confusing, hopefully it is heralding in of what Solar Cycle 25 has in store for us.

On another front, due to a lack of volunteers, questioning, and overall lack of interest I have decided to abandon the idea of volunteering the club to support the dog sled races in Fort Kent, Maine. I will take the hit on that. Thinking it through, most of the people one would expect to want to do this have families and jobs, neither of which are conducive to a three + week absence. Sorry, my wanderlust clouded my judgment. However, I have not ruled out going up there myself; I just need to see about provisions for Zorro.

I want to thank everyone for their support, believe me it makes a difference. I never realized how much work was constantly going on in the background by a wide range of our members to pull this train along the track. Not too bad going downhill, but every hill has two sides, and we manage to handle both.

One of the downsides happened this week. I went to Larry W4RHY Schwarz's residence to check on

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CFARS Officers

PresidentRon K4FET mcgoo1138@yahoo.com
 Vice Pres..... Dale AK4YS dale.mohr@yahoo.com
 Sec./Treas..... Chuck KJ4RV kj4rv@arrl.net
 Recorder.....Bill KJ4OFD kj4ofd@arrl.net
 Newsletter Editor...Mike KN4XP kn4xp@yahoo.com



Coordinators

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 Net Manager.....Chuck KJ4RV kj4rv@arrl.net
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 ARRL Coordinator..Irv K3IRV irv47mc@gmail.com
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 Sky Warn.....Jim KI4YRH ki4yrh@aol.com
 Field Day.....George KM4ODS km4ods@gmail.com
 Health & Welfare...Carl K4CFB carlbeene@gmail.com
 VEC..Pat N4UGH n4ughpat@aol.com
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The Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society News is the official newsletter of the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society. It is published monthly as a PDF. The newsletter is emailed monthly when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Newsletter Editor. The CFARS News welcomes articles and other contributions. **Please email submissions to the newsletter to cfarsnews@gmail.com.** The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces. The submission deadline for each month's News is the last Friday of the preceding month. The views expressed in the CFARS News are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or CFARS.

Club Repeaters

(PL 100 Hz)

K4MN
 2 m 146.910/146.310
 70 cm 444.400/449.400

K4MN
 6 m 53.810/52.810

WA4FLR
 2 m 147.330/147.930

Club Membership

Dues

CFARS club membership dues are due and payable in January each year. CFARS does offer you the option to pay your dues no later than March. Yearly dues are \$15.00. CFARS offers a lifetime membership option for \$150.00. If your dues are not paid by March you will not be a voting member of the club. The right to vote on issues for the club comes with club membership. PO Box 36106, Fayetteville, NC 28303



CFARS Club Patches are available for purchase. Contact **Chuck KJ4RV** for your patch today!



February 2021 Club Meeting Minutes

The February Monthly Meeting of the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society was held on the air on the 2m repeater, Monday Evening, February 15, 2021 at 7:00 pm. President Ron K4FET took check-ins and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag of our county.

Ron K4FET asked if all had the opportunity to read the minutes. Marty W4MLW moved to accept the minutes of our last meeting, second by Steve KA4CZL and the motion carried.



COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurer: Chuck KJ4RV gave the Treasurer's report. We had money, we made money, we spent money for the storage building rental and for equipment insurance, we have money left.

Net Manager: Chuck KJ4RV gave the Net Manager report for Dec/Jan 750/924 check-ins, 30/32 pieces of traffic, 1089 (35 min/net)/1272 (41 min/net). Lets keep them there repeaters busy.

Health & Welfare: Carl K4CFB had no report for Health and Welfare.

Repeater: Repeater trustees were notably unavailable, the repeaters are up, the 6m repeater is still a work-in-progress.

Membership: Repeater trustees were notably unavailable, the repeaters are up, the 6m repeater is still a work-in-progress.

Field Day: George KM4ODS reminded all that Winter Field Day logs are to be in by March 1. Send them to George. There were 12 logs turned in, a drawing was held for those who qualified. Dale AK4YS won a new in the box DMR radio, and Steve KI4EZL won a \$50.00 ARRL gift certificate.

Swapfest: David KI4W reminded all that HOPEFULLY we will have our Swapfest on August 14 at the Cumberland County Shrine Club. Call him for table reservations.

Emergency Coordinator: No report.

Public Relations: Marty W4MLW said he put up the Dr. Pepper (10/2/4) announcements on the repeater reminding all of us about tonight's meeting.

VE Testing: No report.

Newsletter: No report.

Website: No report.

Possum Trot Net: Ron K4FET said we were averaging 40+ check-ins for the Possum Trot Net in the morning. Lets get them donkeys out of the stall and on to the radio and get the numbers back to the 100's...

Contesting: George KM4ODS our friendly neighborhood contest coordinator sent email to the group with tips and tricks for logging, also available on the website and on facebook. We have had 21 entries for the 10-10 Winter SSB contest. RSVP for a place at the radio for the NC QSO party by Wednesday.

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CFARS Reoccurring Nets

Net	Day (s)	Time Local	Band / Frequency
Evening Net	Daily	1900	146.910 Repeater
Possum Trot	M-F	0500-0700	146.910 Repeater
ADY Net	M-F	0810	SSB 3.852
CW Fix Net	Tues/Thurs	0730	CW 3.555
PTN 10-10	Tues	2000	CW 28.150
PTN 10-10	Wed	2000	SSB 28.345
DMR Net	Sunday	2000	TGIF 910 Talk-group

CFARS VE Testing

The CFARS VE team will offer VE Testing in 2021.

Testing will be held at the following location:

Cumberland County Shrine Club
 7040 Ramsey Street (US Hwy 401 N)
 Fayetteville, NC 28311-9322

Testing Dates

March 20th August 14th
 June 12th October 9th

Please note that if anyone wants to test, they will need to get a FRN number first.

REMINDER: Exam Candidates are REQUIRED to register in the FCC CORES system and receive a Federal Registration Number (FRN) before exam day. Direct candidates to the FCC CORES User Account and Registration page: <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/user>

President's Message

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him, as he hasn't been checking in on the PT net lately, and he has been a venerable stalwart on checking in. For most of the time I have been calling the PT net, Larry was usually the first person to check in. I had to make two trips over there on different days, but finally someone answered the door and informed me that Larry had passed away on the first of February. Ironically, Larry hasn't been a member of CFARS for many years, but he still checked into the net on a regular basis. RIP Larry. Let this be a lesson to all of us, make arrangements to have someone notify the club when you pass away.

Again, I want to thank everyone for what you do to contribute to the club and the multitude of directions in which we are going most of the time.

One last parting thought, NEW HAMS! I question how vibrant our ELMER program in the club really is. There are a lot of younger new hams coming in, and in some cases older people, who are newly licensed that need guidance and assistance, as their knowledge is likely extremely limited. I sort of sensed that when I joined, but I went out and solicited guidance and assistance from members. That is who I am; most people are reluctant to be that outgoing. Just a thought to ponder. In a perfect world, new hams coming into a club should be adopted by an Elmer to show him/her the ropes and lend assistance whenever possible. I know that's a good thought but...

ATTITUDE

LOYALTY

Just a couple of points to ponder. We all have them to varying degrees, we need to try to put a positive spin on each of them.

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10-10 Net: George KM4ODS announced nets are held Tuesday and Wednesday evening. We need more participation.

ARRL: No report.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Program: None.

Announcements: There was one announcement, a mea culpa by our fearless president Ron K4FET regarding complaints about the 10-10 net.

Door Prize Drawing: None.

Ron K4FET turned loose of the microphone for a brief pause and Chuck KJ4RV moved to adjourn the meeting, Larry N4USB seconded. Ron K4FET closed the meeting at 7:30 pm and continued to the net, already in progress.

We had 23 members and 3 visitors on the net for the meeting.

Submitted:

Bill KJ4OFD

CFARS Recorder



Meet your ARRL Officials

Marv Hoffman, WA4NC, North Carolina Section Manager



This will be the first in a series of articles on our elected ARRL officials. The first one and the official we deal with most is North Carolina Section Manager Marv Hoffman WA4NC, who undertook the responsibilities in April 2020.

Marv is a resident of Boone, NC and Past President and Life Member of the Watauga Amateur Radio Club. He owns and maintains uhf Mototrbo DMR repeaters on Rich Mountain (Boone) and Sugartop (near Banner Elk) that are part of the PRN system, and several others in the area.

Public safety activities have been a big part of his life, having been a volunteer fireman and fire chief. Marv serves as the Watauga County ARES/Auxcomm EC and the Assistant DEC for Area 12 in Northwestern NC. He is a Type III AHIMT COML, COMT and Liaison Officer with the Western Branch EM Office. He is credentialed as an instructor for the AUXCOMM course

through Homeland Security.

Typically we will see Marv at hamfests and operating events such as Field Day and the North Carolina QSO Party in the near future, covid permitting. He is our 'goto' guy with ARRL.

The Section Manager is our first line contact with the ARRL and has a very extensive list of responsibilities and duties, far too many to list here. But the one I think that affects us most is: Conducts correspondence and other communications with ARRL members and affiliated clubs in the Section; makes personal visits to clubs, hamfests, and conventions; responds to members' questions and concerns or refers them to an appropriate person or office in the League organization; maintains liaison with representative frequency coordinator(s) having jurisdiction in the Section.

Marv can be contacted at:

Phone: (828) 964-6626

Email: wa4nc@arrl.org

Items for Sale

<p>Tower for Sale</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 65 foot Rhon 25 tower for sale. \$200.00 <p>Contact Marty W4MLW</p>	<p>TYT MD-UV380 DMR VHF/ UHF Handheld</p> <p>60.00</p> <p>Micro-Node Nano-Spot D-Star, C4FM, DMR Hotspot</p> <p>250.00</p>
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Contact Fred N4ZCG

CONTEST CORNER

Well, the 2021 contest year has started off with a bang. We had a pretty good turn-out for the Winter Field Day and are still awaiting the results. That was followed by the 10-10 Winter Phone Contest in which had the highest participation of a 10-10 contest that I have seen in the past 5 years. Fifteen current 10-10 and CFARS members participated which helped the Possum Trot Chapter blast into another First Place finish.



Thanks to Ron (K4FET) and Irv (K3IRV) for the idea of placing participant callsigns on the Chapter certificates. This will become common practice with each "player" receiving a copy.

With the restrictions that CV19 placed on us, it was decided to not have a Club activity for the NC QSO Party. There is no Club category anymore but we still managed to win first place last year in the Multi-Op Mixed mode. Not being able to do that this year and in order to keep the legendary K4MN call sign in the forefront, we opted to enter in three single operator categories. Fred (N4ZCG) operated Digital, David (KI4W) operated CW and I (KM4ODS)

operated SSB. We all entered separate scores for each in the Single-Operator Low Power category for each individual mode. I believe we submitted some very respectable scores and we'll just have to wait and see how each played out in the overall standings.

At the time of this writing I'm still collecting logs from the NCQSOP so the inner-club contest results haven't been determined. We'll announce those winners in the next newsletter.

Next up - the 10-10 Spring Digital (24-25 April). So get ready to get those Digi-modes revved up and get ready to come out and play.

Until next month.

Happy Contesting,
73, George KM4ODS

Just a note to try to put the rumor mill in neutral for a while. Suffice to say there are highly active discussions going on between CFARS, RARS, and the NC QSO Party Committee. They made some decisions which we are taking a very strong position on and when the smoke clears, we will put out the decisions made and the rationale behind them. No decisions have been reached that we are comfortable with, and the debate goes on. Anything you hear through scuttlebutt you need to take with a grain of salt. Nothing is final until the fat lady sings. When we know, you will know.

73
Ronald Dahle K4FET
President CFARS

Winter Field Day 2021 A New Experience By K4PGM



Everything is different now that COVID 19 is lurking around. The enjoyment of spending some time with other HAM operators and setting up a remote station seems to be an ancient memory. Realizing that the usual routine for winter field day was not destined to happen this year I tried to plan a way to make my participation get me into a unique area. It was too cold and wet for this old man to venture outside for 24 hours so there had to be another way. Where could I set up my station in a warm dry place and still have the joy of deploying antennas and operating away from home? Then I thought about the local fire station and how some of the fire fighters had shown an interest in amateur radio. That was the answer and

all I had to do was ask. I was given approval to setup at the station and encouraged to also setup during storms to provide communications should "all else fail".

A tour of the property helped me to determine a location for the G5RV that I had in the workshop. It would cover most bands and that would be the easiest to install. A water (beer) barrel Setup was there for hose training. It consists of two wooden poles with a steel cable strung between them and a barrel attached that slides along the cable. The firefighters compete by moving the barrel with the stream from a fire hose. It was an easy task for a young firefighter to throw my rope over the cable and I attached a pulley for the antenna to be



raised. The ends were tied off to a fence on each side and the coax ran to the ladder line. Latter after testing the HF antenna I installed a dual band J-pole on the patio cover to be able to connect to the repeater.

I removed the ic7100 from my truck and set it up inside the station by the door leading out to the patio. The Wi-Fi router was located just a few feet away and plenty of outlets for power. It took very little time to setup the table and equipment. I did encounter a problem with a PL259 and installed a



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Winter Field Day 2021 A New Experience By K4PGM

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new one on the coax. All was done and just had to wait for the time to start. Bands were good and the antenna worked well so the fun began. My main objective was to demonstrate the operation to the interested first responders and that worked well between calls. This is one of the busiest departments in the county and they do not sit still long.



I made contacts, got points for the club, demonstrated "HAM" radio and had the time of my life. Looking forward to another opportunity to work from the firehouse again and would like to have someone from the club join me for a fun experience. If I ever save up enough for my ic705 that will be my first place to work from. Maybe I can start "FDOTA". Fire Departments On The Air"

73

CFARS Club Dues

Just as a reminder, CFARS Club dues are due no later than the end of March each year. If you wish to remain an active club member please submit your dues. If you don't submit your dues, and your membership expires, you will no longer be a voting member of the club nor will you get the club newsletter. The database for club newsletters and general information mailings will be reset at the end of March. Dues are \$15 per year for renewing members, \$20 for new members and \$150 for a life membership.

Your club dues can be sent to the following address:

Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society
PO Box 36106
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28303