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**The President's Corner: Rod KQ4FNO**

From the President

Once more the month is gone and there is no letting up! We did well in Winter Field Day, although the weather decisions played havoc with our planning. Thanks to good communication it worked out. First in N, so far, and we lost a position (to 7<sup>th</sup>) overall because of a late log entry, but whichever way you look at it, the Club did exceptionally well! Pat yourselves on the back.

Looking down the barrel, we see the NC QSO Party, starting tomorrow as I write this. Two towers up, 80 M loop up for SSB, along with a 10-40M EFHW. A hex-beam will be up tomorrow. Digital (FT8/FT4) will be operating in the Weak Signal Showcase again, we won last year and are hoping to repeat that again this year. Mike, KC4ABE s heading that up. Looking forward to seeing folks tomorrow, hope they come to operate and have fun.

What is coming up? We have had some ideas, and we have talked about them on a Discord meeting. We are looking for Club Members to join a new committee, the Youth Involvement Committee. This committee will manage the interaction between schools and the Club. We are hoping to host demonstrations, provide instruction and to encourage youth to become amateur radio operators. We have two members of this committee already, Jon, KO4OXE and Jared, KR4EKG. These are two new members that are willing to step up and showcase the club to various schools. We need some instructors in radio related areas, and we will need help from Club members when we give demonstrations using radio equipment – i.e. to be there on the radio for us.

Many things are in the pipeline for the next few months, but don't forget that the ARRL Field Day is close. We will mention that in March, discuss in April and finalize in June. Again, we will need help from all Club members.

Please join the various nets, PT net in the morning, 2M net each night and there are other nets available you can check in with. First, by using our repeaters you will keep them active, you are also providing a link for others to listen to a good net and hopefully join in. We are looking for folks to call the net as well. The PT net is early in the morning, but you can volunteer to take the early hour or the late hour. Talk to Alan, KQ4QEM, if you would like to help. The evening nets are at 1900hrs,

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(7:00PM). They are not difficult to run, and they provide a great way to hear other operators and improve your comfort zone in talking on the radio. Again, plenty of opportunities to take a net, just be a standby, as we all have to be sick or take a vacation!

Whatever you do, have fun with radio. POTA, SOTA, BOTA are always there, rag-chew nets are to be found everywhere and there is always DX to be hunted. CW, SSB or digital, you have a great choice of activities!

Be radioactive! 73.

Rod KQ4FNO

### **From The Vice President Paul NC4PB**

Well, as the month of February comes to an end, the main point of focus is the North Carolina QSO party that is being held on March 1<sup>st</sup>. A lot of preparation has gone into this one and hopefully we will see a good turnout and do well in the contest.

Other club or area events that are coming up in the next couple of months are:

#### **March:**

Charlotte Hamfest – March 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>.

CFARS Club Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup>

VE Testing – 21<sup>st</sup>

#### **April:**

RARSFEST – 4<sup>th</sup>

Club POTA Event – 11<sup>th</sup>

Rookie Roundup – 19<sup>th</sup>

CFARS Club Meeting – 20<sup>th</sup>

Fox Hunt – 25<sup>th</sup>

Of course, the next big event that is on the horizon is Field Day which is coming up the last weekend in June. There will be more POTA events in May and early June to allow new operators to get some valuable hands on experience in a contest-like environment prior to the Field Day event.

We have a ton of stuff in the planning and development stages right now that we will be announcing soon. Gotta run for now, we're heading off load the trailer and go set up antennas for the NC QSO party. Hopefully I will see you there! 😊

73,

Paul Bridgeman NC4PB



**CFARS Nets**

Net	Day (s)	Time Local	Band / Freq
Evening Net	Daily	1900	146.910 Repeater
Possum Trot	M - F	0500 - 0700	146.910 Repeater
ADY Net	M - F	0810	SSB 3.855
CW Fix Net	Tues / Thurs	0730	CW 3.555
DMR Net	Sunday	2000	TGIF 910 Talkgroup

*Upcoming Hamfests*

**March 6-7, 2026**  
 Charlotte Hamfest  
 Concord, North Carolina  
[charlottehamfest.org](http://charlottehamfest.org)

**March 14, 2026**  
 AB4OZ Hamfest  
 Ridge Rd Baptist Church  
 2011 Ridge Rd.  
 Raleigh, North Carolina

**April 4, 2026**  
 RARSFEST  
 Raleigh, North Carolina  
[rarsfest.org](http://rarsfest.org)

**CFARS VE Testing**

The 2026 VE exams will take place at

Peace Presbyterian Church  
 3203 Ramsey Street  
 Fayetteville, NC 28301

**Dates:**

March 14, 2026 - Peace Presbyterian Church  
 August 8, 2026 - 7046 Ramsey St. - Cumberland County Shrine  
 October 10, 2026 - Peace Presbyterian Church





### February 2026 Club Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society was held at 7:00 pm, Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> 2026, in the Fellowship Hall of Peace Presbyterian Church, 3202 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, NC.

Vice President Paul NC4PB called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country. Don KO4IHM gave the invocation. Paul NC4PB led the introductions in the usual CFARS fashion. There were 45 members and guests present.



Dale AK4YS made a motion to approve January's meeting minutes, Tracy AI4TS, seconded, the club voted and the motion carried.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Treasurer:** Mike KC4ABE gave the financial report. Ed N4ESA moved to accept the financial report, David WD4NC seconded, the club voted and the report was approved.

**Net Manager:** Larry N4USB, December net report: Stay tuned to the local 2 meter net for January's net report.

**Health & Welfare:** Travis N4BEL provided a report of the health and welfare of our members.

**Repeaters:** David K4FXC, not present / no report. Some discussion was devoted to the need to upgrade the 910 repeater to one that would support echo link. We would need to bring this to David.

**Field Day:** No report.

**Membership:** David KI4W presented one prospective ham for membership Seven - KR4IVL. Rick N1GNF made a motion, seconded by Travis N4BEL, to vote him into the club. By voted the motion carried.

**Contesting:** Hector noted March 7<sup>th</sup> is ARRL international DX contest. Hector KT5H, announced several upcoming contests, check [contestcalender.com](http://contestcalender.com) for additional info on radio contesting.

**VE Coordinator:** Jim K4BUC. The next testing session will be at Peace Presbyterian Church on March 21, 2026 check in starts at 9am. Make sure you bring a copy of your license and if you are not licensed bring a copy of your FRN or you will be turned away.

**Swapfest:** No report.

**Public Relations:** Hector KT5H, continue posting ham radio and club activity on the CFARS Facebook page.

**Emergency Coordinator:** David WD4NC talked about an event with several hams on the air this past 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Jeremiah N0NV is the deputy and Colt is the backup if you need to contact anyone regarding AUXCOMM.

**Newsletter:** Any submissions please send to Mike KN4XP by end of month, ideally in Microsoft Word format. [cfarsnews@gmail.com](mailto:cfarsnews@gmail.com). Emails and .pdf files are difficult to format for the newsletter.

**Deadline for submissions is the last day of the month.**

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**Web Site:** Any submissions please send to Jim K4BUC. Jim asked that anyone having pictures to put on the website send them to him. [jbuccieri@twc.com](mailto:jbuccieri@twc.com)

**ARRL Liaison:** David K4FXC is still working with the ARRL.

**Possum Trot Net:** Alan KQ4QEM, PT net continues Weekdays from 5:00am to 7:00am. If you would like to sign up to run a PT net, please contact Alan KQ4QEM.

**Skywarn:** David WD4NC would like anyone interested in calling the Skywarn NET to please let him know, It's only once a month on the 910 K4MN and the 045 WB4TQD repeaters.

**Event Coordinator:** Paul NC4PB mentioned several ham fests are coming up including RARS and Charlotte. There are several POTA events coming that the club will be participating, we encourage new hams to attend. There are plans for a Fox Hunt in April and another in October. Museum Ships on the air is scheduled for June 6 to 8. There are plans for CFARS to participate at the USS NC in Wilmington. David WD4NC mentioned the rookie roundup would be hosted at his house this April 19th and he would encourage anyone interested to contact him.

**Old Business:** Winter field days results are in, CFARS got 1<sup>st</sup> in NC and in other areas. Check out the Winter Field Day website results page to see the results.

**New Business:** NC QSO Party is coming March 1<sup>st</sup>. Hector KT5H has a signup sheet for the SSB station, Chris KR4I noted that anyone that wants to operate CW for this event to let him know. Mike KC4ABE is running the Weak Signal Showcase. If you want to operate the digital station, get with Mike KC4ABE. Paul NC4PB reviewed the rules with the club and highlighted our operating modes and stations. Points for each mode were reviewed along with the bonus points for the 10 rarest NC counties. For working at least 5 of the 10 rarest NC counties there is a 500 point bonus. We need to be on the lookout for these counties on the spot pages. The budget needed for the NCQP is about \$500. Aaron AI4KC made a motion to approve the budget and Travis N4BEL seconded, the club voted and the motion carried. David WD4NC brought up Fayetteville State University is looking for radio donations to help setup a club station at FSU. David WD4NC suggested putting a digital Gateway in the same building as the current club K4MN 2 meter repeater. Jeremy KB4D has one at his home that works well out toward his area. David will work on a budget and continue looking into this. There is also some planning to get the 910 repeater capable of echolink. This will need to be upgraded to make this work. David K4FXC does have a repeater for this and will change it out soon, he was not able to make it to the meeting for personal reasons. We may need to do some fundraising to fund this upgrade. Chris KR4I noted that the antenna building workshop is setup for sometime in April. Date TBD. If you are interested building a an End Fed Half Wave HF wire antenna please get with Chris [KR4I@arrl.net](mailto:KR4I@arrl.net). Paul NC4PB opened it up to the club to have any comments or suggestions from the club members for what they want to see the club doing. Jarrod KR4EKK, asked if there was anything he could do to get his son involved with Ham radio. David WD4NC mentioned there is a STEM event coming soon. Mike KC4ABE mentioned bringing the younger more introverted kids to the digital station, they could operate the computer and make some contacts.

**Program:** None.

**Announcements:** Amanda the Cumberland County Emergency Planner thanked the club for sending in information from the last two winter weather events. The Ham shack is under

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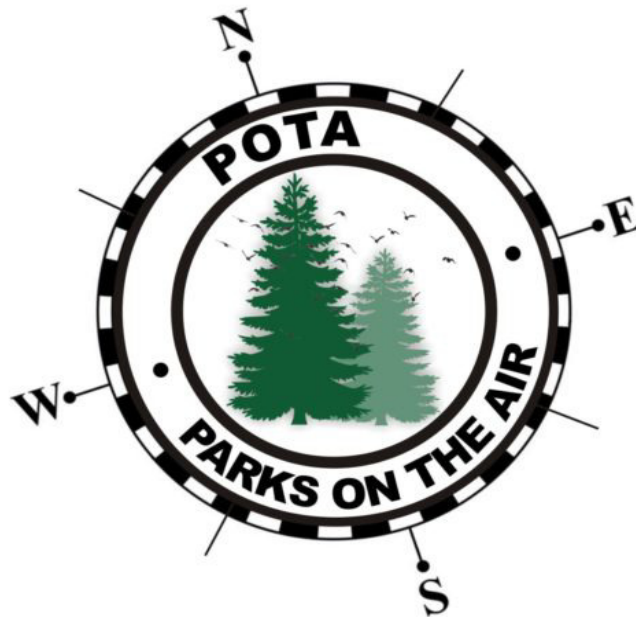
construction at the EOC is expected to be completed by June.

**Door Prize Drawing:** AI4PB won an ammo can and a speaker, Don KO4IHM won a Emergency Radio, Don won a fanny pack, Lannie KQ4BVV won a back pack, Jim won a flood light, Ed N4ESA won a flood light, Luis NE2L won a flood light, Pete won a canvas bag and Ron K4FET won a sticker.

**50/50 Drawing:** There was no 50/50 drawing at this month's meeting.

**Adjournment:** Cory K9BTR made a motion to adjourn, Tyler K4TTN seconded, the club voted and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM.

Submitted: Chris KR4I  
CFARS Recorder



**AUXCOMM**

Hello everyone;

It has been another busy month. Last month we had a nice snow storm that really did not cause a lot of issues for us. It slowed us down a little bit but it gave us a chance to enjoy something we do not get often. 4.5" of snow.

During this storm the AUXCOMM and SkyWarn team was busy saving the day! Well, we were doing our job and had some fun doing it. We had 14 Hams on the air and they were monitoring 11 repeaters and 3 simplex channels on Saturday. On Sunday we had 18 hams on the air and did a great job. We took 268 messages and were in contact with the EOC sending forward what we were seeing. The team work was great and I was glad we put in the training we have been doing.

We did learn a lot and the IT team did a great job of keeping the ICS forms moving and we all were learning from this real world event. Thank you all that helped out and it was good to see the team work.

Our next event was the Fire Chiefs Association meeting. This was a good gathering of elected offices, The Cumberland County Sheriff, Fayetteville PD, Forestry, Fire Chiefs and not last, AUXCOMM and CFARS President Rod.

There was a lot of information pushed out and it also opened the doors for the CFARS AUXCOMM team to give a talk about what we can offer the County and City. I did have one ask in the talk and the Fire Stations we asked to purchase Antenna and Coax said they would do it. I am going to do a site visit and be sure we are getting the right product for the station.

So far AUXCOMM and SKyWarn team are doing great. We have some more training to do and we will be getting to that soon. I still would like for the AUXCOMM team members to step up and call the Skywarn net on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Pretty much I am just asking you to call one net a year. I think you can handle that and so far Aaron AB4KS has stepped up to call the one on the 91 in April. Let me know when you would like to call one. You can also step up and call the one on the same night at 8PM on the 045.

I want to thank Gary and Amanda as well as Chini for all the guidance and help in getting us started and opening the doors of the EOC to give us the training that we need. The EOC Ham shack should be ready for use by Field Day and I hope to get in there and get the gear set up and test it. The Club is doing well and I thank the Officers of the club for all the help they are giving as we learn to do new things.

The NC QSO party is this Sunday as I write this and should be a ton of fun and another training event for the AUXCOMM team. Set up is part of it as well.

David Winfree WD4NC  
AUXCOMM Lead Cumberland

## *Have You Heard About This POTA Stuff???*

Hello to all my Parks on the Air family and to my other ham radio friends. This is for all the new hunters and activators joining Parks on the Air or anyone who may have not been enjoying ham radio. As my journey begins, I found POTA. I began to have fun and enjoy amateur radio once again. POTA has grown more than anyone could have imagined. There are currently over 60,000 parks across the globe. Currently there are over 80,000 active members!

Ham radio just was not fun anymore. I was looking for something to put the spark back into ham radio for me. After being off the air for about ten years, I started hunting POTA in November 2020. I heard about POTA and decided to give it a try. So I listened to it. I thought it sounded quite interesting. So as time passed and I listened more and more, I started to become addicted. POTA sounded like it was going to be FUN! Just what I was looking for to put the fun back into the hobby!

I started learning about propagation again. Many things happened with antennas and new modes of operations. I started listening for qrp operators. I did not realize how many people were operating qrp. So over the next period of time, I decided to jump in and give POTA a try. What did I have to lose?

In POTA there are hunters and activators. But me an activator. Surely I did not think so. Well...maybe let's give it a try. On April 21, 2021 I went to K-6954 (now US-6954) Suggs Mill Pond State Game Land. Which is a two-fer with the Mountain to Sea Trail. I worked Cindy KD9OLB as my first Park to Park contact. I was just trying to knock off the rust before I worked up the nerve to put out a CQ. I was using a wolf river coil sb1000 vertical antenna. Well here goes. I decided to start the activation and N8KYX was my first contact. Here we go...addiction starts. It has been a blast!

Steve KO4TXN and I went to Bentonville Battle Grounds (US-6833) and did our 200th activation for each of us! We set a goal of 200 contacts. We worked the park and had no idea of the contact totals, as we logged on paper, but when all was said and done we had 209 contacts! Success! I was blessed to get to activate with Mike KN4XP, as we were previously county hunters together, over a 24 year period. Now we are enjoying activations together. One particular activation at Turnbull Creek Educational Forest, Mike had a new antenna to try. He said Do nothing, say nothing until we are done. If we don't like the antenna no problem. Well this was the first experience we had with an end fed half wave antenna. We loved the results. The next day I went out and bought one for myself. Now to figure out how to get it up in the air? I almost gave up and sold the antenna but decided to try a fishing pole for antenna launching. It works! With a little practice, getting the antenna up is easy! We have helped others work on their antennas on the phone. Always willing to help another ham. I have purchased another efhw antenna. As the saying goes, two is one and one is none.

I have purchased several antennas from Chris KO4FSZ. His antennas have over 600 activations so far. More to come. I currently have over 950 activations. My goal is 1000 activations. Come be part of the party, enjoy the fun and get radio active again!

There are many different types of activators. Each has their own way of operating. I love to rack up large activation numbers. I'd love to have you in my log! Come work me and let's all enjoy POTA!

Dom NC4XL

## Emergency Management

### March 2026 | Communications Readiness for Severe Weather Season

It was great seeing everyone at the February CFARS meeting. The continued engagement and professionalism of this group never goes unnoticed.

One of the highlights shared was the construction work about to be underway at the EOC to run permanent coax lines. That project is more than a facilities upgrade, it's a visible sign of the collaboration between Cumberland County Emergency Management and CFARS. Strengthening our physical communications infrastructure directly supports AuxCOMM capability and ensures we are better positioned for sustained operations during incidents.

As we move into spring, we also move into one of North Carolina's more active severe weather periods. Thunderstorms, flooding, and tornadoes can quickly impact commercial power, cellular networks, and internet service. When that happens, amateur radio operators often provide the redundancy that keeps situational awareness intact.

### Focus Areas for the Season Ahead

#### AuxCOMM Integration

Continued coordination on EOC activation protocols

#### Equipment Readiness

Station checks and antenna inspections

Go-kit refresh (batteries, programming updates, documentation)

#### Operational Coordination

Supporting situational reporting during severe weather

The work being done now, infrastructure improvements, equipment checks, and regular coordination, builds capability before we need it. That preparation is what allows communications to remain stable when other systems are stressed.

Cumberland County Emergency Management values the partnership with CFARS and the depth of technical expertise within this group. The progress at the EOC is just one example of what strong collaboration looks like in practice.

As we head into spring, thank you for your continued commitment to readiness, resilience, and service to our community.

#### Amanda Scheck

Emergency Management Coordinator

