



### **The President's Corner: David WD4NC**

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Last month has come and went fast. It could have been because the club was so busy. There is so much to do and have fun doing it. Add in the growth of the club and it just gets that much better.

So, what did we get done last month? ECOMS Drill with 25 hams helping. Great turn out for that training. The club worked the ARRL 10 meter contest. Our RAW score looks good, but we are still waiting for the final score. We have been working on the STEAM events with the school system and have another event for that this month. Of course, the NC QSO PARTY. We have been busy.

This was the first time we have been a bonus station for the NC QSO PARTY. We had a great turnout for this event and really good food. To me it was the most fun I had at an event. We got a good score as well. This was different than we normally do this event. This one moved to trying new things and setups. Different antennas and operators. We put a lot of new Hams on the radio on the SSB station and a ton of young adults. I have to say that they did a great job, and we had more QSO's than we did last year. I have to say I am very proud of this club! Great job all around.

Hector KB4LOA was the section Chief and mentor for the SSB station and along with KB4D, KN4KUL and others. Thank you for all you are doing for the club and taking the time to put new hams and kids on the radio. This is how we grow the club. I can not leave out WO4SFA /Don for helping setup and getting us the SF Camp to use for the events. He is a club Hero for sure.

Looking at the WFD RAW scores, we did great in that event as well. Right now, we are 1st in Indoor. 1st in NC and 2nd overall. Keep in mind those are RAW scores and could change. But they would have to change a lot. This is because of the teamwork the club brings to the events. Thanks to ED, Rick and Chris for helping in setting up the towers and leadership in getting that done. David for setting up the PC's and tuning up the radios that were off a little. David KI4W for working the CW station in all the events we have been doing. Bob KL7NL, KI4R, Pete, NC4GK and the rest for running neck and neck with the SSB station. I could sit here and list the whole club. Everyone of you have helped put the club to where it is at.

This month we will be doing some in-house contests and relax just a little bit. May get into some POTA and a cookout. Right now, we need to breath just a little bit and start making plans for Rookie Round Up and Field Day.

David Winfree, WD4NC

**From The Vice President  
Rod KQ4NFO**

Well, another month flown by, although to be honest it is a little shorter than most months! We had a great meeting last month, over 40 people attended and it was good to see that most hung around after the program to talk and socialize. I know David, WD4NC, tries to keep within the timelines for the meeting, but the fact that many hang around afterwards indicates a healthy Club!

So, North Carolina QSO Party is officially in the books as far as activity is concerned. We will have to wait for the official results, but I believe we did well. To begin with, the folks that showed up on Saturday to help start preparations showed the Club spirit and made us feel good! A fair amount of work was accomplished and on Sunday we arrived ready to install Rick's, N1GIN, tower. It didn't take long, and we were able to get on the air on all stations well before the start time.

What else happened? Once again a great showing by the Club, helping out, operating and supporting the operators. We had a slew of kids that took over the SSB station and worked it well! We had a visit from City View staff, Trey Nemec (reporter) and Shari Wells (photographer) and they toured the site, spoke to many and learnt a lot from us. I believe Shari is interested in getting her license too! Their story will be out later for us to read.

Of course, it would not be right to forget that there was food for the multitude! Don, WO4SFA, provided the BBQ from Mission BBQ and he prepared beans to go with it. A Mexican Lasagna was also available, and it was received well! The Club provided Buns and water. Overall not a bad day having Radio Active Fun and socializing. As a first time Bonus Station I think we can be proud of our service to the hams of North Carolina and beyond. We will have to wait for any notification from the NC QSO management to hear their comments.

Now what? Well we still have plenty to do. There is maintenance to be done on the Tower and 80 Meter Loops. There are things needed for Field Day and we have to prepare for them. The location is currently going to be at the same place, 1/18<sup>th</sup> SF Compound at Zinnia Place. It will give us a sheltered area for operations, (no bugs!) an area to eat out, with tables available and hopefully no rain! The location should be confirmed shortly.

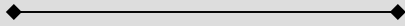
Any one with a comment on past operations or about upcoming operations or something we should look at are cordially invited to email me. Please use constructive criticism, rather than just listing faults, so we can look at them and improve our operation. If you have a suggestion, please add comments on how we could do those. One of the first things I would do is to ask you "are you going to help with this?" If you are not, then show how it could be done and suggest folks that may be interested in it. This way we can get good ideas and possibly implement them.

Looking forward to the rest of the year and to Field Day especially. Have fun, POTA and DX as much as possible!

Rod MacLean, KQ4FNO

## CFARS Officers

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## 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 \$20.00. CFARS offers a lifetime membership option for \$200.00. 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



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 day 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.



### **February 2025 Club Meeting Minutes**

The monthly meeting of the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society was held at 7:00 pm, Monday, February 17th, 2025, in the Fellowship Hall of Peace Presbyterian Church, 3202 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, NC.



President David Winfree WD4NC called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country. Don KO4IHM gave the invocation. David WD4NC led the introductions in the usual CFARS fashion. Ed N4ESA moved January's

minutes be approved, Tim KO4VEC seconded, and the motion was carried.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Treasurer:** Mike KC4ABE provided a detailed financial report to the club members for the entire year of 2024. David WD4NC provided a response to a questions about how we got into the black. We had added several fund raisers like a 50/50 drawing, raffles, and club member donations to make additional dollars for the club.

**Net Manager:** No report.

**Health & Welfare:** Nina KN4KUL, Ron K4FET had surgery, he is not doing too good. Pam KO4EHI had also had a fall but is now doing fine.

**Repeaters:** No report.

**Field Day:** No report.

**Membership:** David KI4W1 member presented to the club, Tim Sanders, KR4BAE, Retired military lives in Lillington, Jerry KY4JS made a motion to approve Jerry's membership and was seconded by Don WO4SFA, the motion was put up for a vote and passed by a majority.

**Contesting:** No report.

**VE Coordinator:** Jim K4BUC, next VE test March 15<sup>th</sup> at Peace Presbyterian Church where the club usually conducts our monthly meetings. Please bring an FRN number.

**Swapfest:** David KI4W the next CFARS Swapfest will be Saturday, August 9, 2025 at the Cumberland County Shrine Club. This will be our 25th Swapfest.

**Public Relations:** Hector KB4LOA continue posting ham radio and club activity on the CFARS Facebook page.

**Emergency Coordinator:** No report.

**Newsletter:** Any submissions please send to Mike KN4XP by end of month, ideally in Microsoft Word format. [cfarsnews@gmail.com](mailto:cfarsnews@gmail.com). **Deadline for submissions is the last day of the month.**

**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)

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**ARRL Liaison:** No report.

**Possum Trot Net:** Greg NC4GK, PT net continues 5:00am to 7:00am.

**Skywarn:** No report.

**Event Coordinator:** Rod KQ4NFO Sunday Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> 10am to 8pm, K4MN is a club bonus station NC QSO Party and FT 8/4 special operating mode. Rod went over the contesters code of ethics and a summary of the NC QP rules. The event details are on Facebook CFARS event page. Show time for setup will be 07:30am at the Special Forces Association compound at 1650 Zinnia Ct Fayetteville, NC 28306.

**Emergency Coordinator:** David WD4NC will have an Emergency drill at EOC, Feb 8th 10:00 hours. The goal will be to check and then operate from the EOC via repeater and simplex. If you would like to come assist please let David know otherwise you can help from home by checking in on the club 910 repeater or on simplex.

**Old Business:** WFD David WD4NC reported that the club's score was 3345 base point multiplied by 18 for a total score of 60,210. The scores were derived from the following QSO by mode: SSB 1771, CW 799, DIG 2. Some club members attended a STEM event on Jan 30<sup>th</sup> at Gray's Creek Middle school at 6:00 PM where they demonstrated ham radio to students and parents. EOC Drill – Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 10 AM, David WD4NC recognized the personnel that participated in the event.

**New Business:** Mike KC4ABE provided a detailed financial report to the club members for the entire year of 2024. David WD4NC provided a response to a question about how we got into the black. We had many fund raisers, added a 50/50, and other fundraisers to make additional dollars for the club. Move to accept the financial report by Jeremy KB4D, seconded by Norman K4MGZ. Discussion was held for a location to put the Club tower EOC, Mike's, or Shrine Club. The issue was discussed, and Norman made the offer to put the tower for the Salvation Army emergency vehicle area. The club could not come up with a decision and David WD4NC tabled the issue to gather more information regarding the storage at the EOC and options to store it at the Salvation Army and decide at the next meeting. Motion to table made by Jerry KY4JS and seconded by Don WO4SFA, the motion was tabled. Upcoming event, School Club Kelly Baker, Home School STEAM with Cumberland County headquarters Library in March FSU STEAM event is coming up in April. More details will be provided in the coming months.

**Program:** None.

**Door Prize Drawing:** Jeremy KB4D won a cup holder mount and SMA connectors, Don KO4IHM won an MFJ window connector panel, Tim W4HDF won 2 coax cables and a Tabasco bottle and some cable tags, Paul NC4PB won 2 coax cable jumpers, Jerry KY4JS won 2 NMO antenna mounts and a piece of coax, Lani KK4BVV won a CFARS Sign and Rod KQ4FNO won a coax jumper.

**50/50 Drawing:** Pam KO4EHI collected \$102 – David WD4NC had the winning ticket 2325 for \$51 which he donated back to the club.

**Announcements:** David gave a letter of appreciation to Ed N4ESA for assisting with the yearly audit of the CFARS Finances. David stated the bylaws require that we have a yearly audit, and it had not been done in several years.

**Adjournment:** Norman K4MGZ made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jerry KY4JS seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 PM. There were 41 members and 5 guests present.

Submitted: Chris KR4I

**CFARS Nets***Upcoming Hamfests*

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

**March 7 - 8, 2025**  
Charlotte Hamfest  
Concord, North Carolina  
[charlottehamfest.org](http://charlottehamfest.org)

**April 5, 2025**  
Rarsfest  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
[rarsfest.org](http://rarsfest.org)

**CFARS VE Testing**

The 2025 VE exams will take place at one of these two locations - as noted.



Peace Presbyterian Church  
3203 Ramsey Street  
Fayetteville, NC 28301

Cumberland County Shrine Club  
7040 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville NC 28311

**Dates:**

March 15, 2025 - Peace Presbyterian Church  
August 9, 2025 - Cumberland County Shrine Club  
October 11, 2025 - Peace Presbyterian Church

Jim K4BUC

## **ECOMS and Sky Warn**

The club has been very busy working on our ECOMS and Sky Warn skills. We have been doing events each quarter and having a great turnout. Our last drill was on Feb 8<sup>th</sup> and we had 25 hams helping. Once again, we hit County FD and made contacts back to the EOC on the 910 Repeater. Once we had that part done, we did the same thing on Simplex and had the aid of our Base Stations to relay in weak signals. Once that part of the drill was done, we sent WIN-Link messages to the Raleigh group and received them back as well. The last part of the drill was to make a call out to the team in Raleigh on 2m – 210 repeaters. All of this worked as planned with no issues.

Thank you, Amanda Scheck and Chini Gault, for inviting us into the EOC and working right along with us in copying the reports as they came in. They have been a pleasure to work with and are also working toward getting their Ham License!

The question has come up as to what is needed to get in with the ECOMS group. It is pretty simple. To work in the field, you need to take the 100 and 200 courses online and it is free. There is a test as well. But it's not hard. If you want to work in the EOC you will need to take 100, 200, 700, 800 and the 288A. Once we have 10 that have done this. We can do the in person 300 and 400. If you want to learn more, send me a note and I can send you links.

So far, the club has WD4NC, KQ4FNO, KC4ABE, K4TTN, N4CDJ and NC4PB that have finished up all of the above courses and will be taking the 300 and 400 soon. Thank you for putting in the work to get this done. If you have your FEMA certifications and they are not over 5 years old. Send me a list of what you have, and I will add you to the list.

The next drill will be on June the 14<sup>th</sup>. I will put up an event page and post in the newsletter as well as the CFARS Web site as we get closer to this date. Thanks for being a part of this group as we are putting the ECOMS in the group. Keep in mind we host a Sky Warn net on every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month on the 7PM CFARS net.

David / WD4NC March 2025

## **My CW Journey**

I was licensed as a tech in 1999 and at the time still needed 5 WPM CW to attain the General Class license. I studied and was able to pass the written test and the CW code test about a year later. I did not continue with CW and quickly forgot it and so did the FCC, less than a year later they dropped the code requirement altogether. I was mostly out of the hobby for about 15 years and picked it back up in 2019 when a buddy of mine got his license which prompted me to get back into ham radio. I learned about POTA and all these new digital modes that didn't exist when I was first licensed, so there were a lot of new things to try. CW came back to light again for me when I got into POTA and I could see all those parks that I could not work because I didn't know Morse code. I worked on relearning the code which took me a while, but it was well worth it. I am now able to hunt parks and activate in CW mode. It is very rewarding to be able to properly copy and put them in the log using CW. This has also allowed me to be a much-needed asset to CFARS by applying my CW skills to summer field day, Winter Field Day, NC QSO party, and other events.

We had a few operators visit the WFD CW station that mentioned they were getting back into it (CW) and I would highly encourage anyone that is interested to please pick up and learn the code. You will not regret it, and you'll make CFARS a much more capable club. We only have about 4 or 5 members with CW skills that come out to the club events and it's sometimes less if those members have other commitments. I encourage and implore all of you to find your motivation to learn or re-learn the code and help CFARS!

73 Chris KR4I

## SKYWARN

The recent net conducted from the Cumberland County EOC to receive weather reports and exercise supply requests went very well, with great participation from the CFARS membership and positive reception from the Emergency Management Planners. We are set up for success for the next iteration to be conducted from the shelter sites.



One topic I would propose reviewing prior to that net is familiarity and application of the library of ICS forms. These standard forms are discussed in the basic FEMA courses I outlined in the previous newsletter, but anyone who's filled out any type of commercial or government form can mostly intuit their way through an ICS form. They are designed to make things easy for filler and especially easy for the recipient to collect reports en masse. <https://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/icsresource/icsforms/> is the official library, and you cannot go wrong using its version. "ICS Form 213, General Message" is versatile. "ICS Form 214, Activity Log" is typically used at incidents and exercises, and, for example, it was an appropriate choice for logging our net check ins. "ICS Form 205, Incident Radio Communications Plan" can be employed as living document and planning tool, and is a good way to annotate repeater information, for example. I notice that this official library is not exhaustive - I have seen other forms in practice. And delivering information as free text is preferred to no report, if "the right" form is unavailable. But savvy

selection of an ICS form adds polish to our communication, assists interoperability, and helps continuity in our procedures.

Winlink is another approach to standardized forms.

The Winlink software regularly syncs itself to the current version of ICS forms, as well as catalogs of other specific agency and department forms. Even if you never send a message over-the-air radio, the Winlink client software is useful as a forms library. I keep my 4 available "favorite messages" tab loaded with - ICS 213, ICS 214A (an individual variant of the team 214), a routine WX (weather) report, and a storm WX report. With a few mouse clicks, I can fill out a WX report for delivery as Winlink email or read aloud.

<https://qsl.net/w/w7owo/YCARES%20Winlink%20Training%20Documents/YCARES%20Winlink%20Net%20Local%20Weather%20Conditions%20Form%20Instructions.pdf>

gives a detailed explanation of filling out the form. We can always abridge the fields down. In fact, I have never sent a complete report with all the info fields complete. But the form is a cheat sheet for which parameters to collect, and the order and format to report in.

73,  
Jeremiah N0NV



## Hamcation 2025

Hello CFARS Club member,



I thought I would take a moment to share an adventure because of my participation within Parks On th Air.

We had the opportunity this year to attend Hamcation in Orlando Florida. Yes there was the normal array of many types of antennas in the area and campers galore. The aroma of fresh food cooked outside.

The best part was the camaraderie. It was the fellowship of other POTA members. It was the friendships that were or have been developed over the years with one little facet of amateur radio. Talk about that in a moment.

Many of the vendors were there offering their objects of amateur radio equipment for you to try. There were many out tailgating having a great time in offering their goods also to leave their vehicles and not make it way back home.

This year I was invited to go and participate in my very first Hamcation. If you wish to call it that. It was awesome. It was fun taking the time to meet one on one all of the folks that we have come to know on the air. It's almost like going to a club meeting and seeing somebody for the first time that you have heard on the repeater and checked into their net or talk with them on a regular basis but really didn't know what they look like. Many surprises were seen when the voice I expected to see a sort of body to fit the voice and when you put the two together it's not what I was thinking.

Have fun in Amateur Radio. You'll never know when you'll get a chance to meet those folks over time that you have come to talk with on a daily basis.

By the way this year we had the opportunity to be amongst the top three Parks On The Air Activators in the single side band section of what we do. And that's a wonderful place to be. Wonderful people to be around as we are all mentors and can teach one another.

God bless until the next event that I should attend. I will keep doing the Parks On The Air.

Dom NC4XL





NC QSO Party  
CFARS Style

# TASK FORCE CFARS





**2025 NC QSO Party  
CFARS Style**

