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**The President's Corner: Van N4ERM**

**CFARS Monthly Meetings**

I got so many comments after last month's monthly meeting about how good the film was and about the meetings in general. Not sure what it is, but attendance seems to be improving at our monthly meetings. But hey, these are YOUR MEETINGS. Let someone know what you'd like to hear at these meetings. Here are some ideas:

- Dick WB7OND on *Digital Mobile Radio for Hams*
  - Chuck KJ4RV on *QRP Field Operations*
  - Van N4ERM on *Building Simple Antennas*
  - Bob WA4WHV on *"Show and Tell" What Have You Built Lately?*
  - David K4KMI and Gene N1SOB on *Mobile Radio Installations*
  - Bonne KF4LVF on *the "Magic" Band – Six Meters*
- Let us know what you can "Show and Tell" us about!

**Ten-Ten**

Ten-Ten International (sometimes referred to as Ten-X) is dedicated to furthering amateur radio activity on ten meters (28,000 to 29,700MHz). The idea is that if we don't use it, we'll surely lose it! The radio spectrum is expensive stuff. In 2008, the FCC auctioned off the 700MHz band for a little over \$19,600,000,000.00! Some years earlier, the FCC took 2MHz out of the Amateur 1.25 Meter (222 MHz, formerly 220 MHz) band and gave it to FedEx! Under the superb guidance of our current Ten-Ten Possum Trot Chapter leader, Bill KU4W, the Possum Trotters have won more Ten-Ten contests than any other chapter, and won by a wide margin. Get your Ten-Ten number now, build a simple 10-meter dipole, and help us continue to *"Be Number One!"*

**NAQCC**

Another club you might be interested in is the **North American QRP CW Club**. Their purpose is to encourage the use of CW, especially in QRP operations. There are no dues and no fees to join or participate. Their monthly Sprint is a great affair. It only lasts two hours, using straight key CW at YOUR speed, simple wire antennas, and encourages QRP operations but QRO is OK as well. Just Google NAQCC, get your membership number and start having CW fun.

**North Carolina State QSO Party**

Our state QSO Party is at the end of February. Irv K3IRV has volunteered to head up our effort. The rules have changed (again), but with your help we'll win the Club category for the fourth year running. Watch for more details.

See you there!

**73 de Van N4ERM**

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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 \$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 newsletter is part of your club membership. The right to vote on issues for the club also comes with membership.



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**THE CFARS NEWS IS NOW PUBLISHED AS A PDF DOCUMENT OBTAINABLE ON THE CLUB'S WEB SITE AT [WWW.CFARSN.C.ORG/NEWS.PHP](http://WWW.CFARSN.C.ORG/NEWS.PHP)**

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



### January 2016 Club Meeting Minutes

On January 18th the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by **Van N4ERM**. The meeting was held in Room 219 of the Science Building at Methodist University. **Van N4ERM** led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Elton W4GWV** led the invocation. **Van N4ERM** led the introductions in the normal CFARS style.

**Van N4ERM** asked all if they had read the minutes of the last meeting. A motion was made by **Jim KI4YRH**, seconded by **Jackie KJ4XK**, to approve the minutes of the December meeting. By vote the motion carried.



#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Treasurer:** **Chuck KJ4RV** gave the treasurer's report. The club is still solvent.

**Repeater:** **Bill KU4W** said the repeaters were working. **Jerry KA4ULH** has been working on them to get them fixed. New cables were purchased and installed, but there are still some anomalies. Bill then reported on the 10-10 contests of late. **Van N4ERM** was #2 in the QSO contest, **Chuck KJ4RV** was #4 and **Bill N3GTY** was #7 in the *Fall CW contest*. Congrats guys.

**Net Manager:** **Chuck KJ4RV** gave the Net Manager's report the numbers are up, as the temperature goes down.

**Membership:** **David KR4OE** spoke briefly on membership. He reminded us that if you haven't paid your dues yet, you aren't a member, and you will be dropped from the list in March. Lets get them dues to **Chuck KJ4RV**.

**Newsletter:** **Mike KN4XP** told us to let him know if you are not getting the newsletter. There was some discussion regarding the website, we will look at how to make the information more timely.

**Field Day:** **Bob WA4WHV** passed on Field Day until next month.

**Health & Welfare:** No report.

**Swapfest:** No Report.

**VE Testing:** VE Testing – **Van N4ERM** told us there were 5 new Hams and upgrades from the last testing session. Well done all!

**PT Net:** **Kelly N4EWG** is looking for net controllers for the PT net, and has several PT certificates. Take a look at your South wall. If there ain't a Possum Trot certificate, one of the ones he has might be yours.

**Public Relations:** No report.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** **Irv K3IRV** told us about the upcoming NC QSO Party. The folks in Raleigh, tired of having their backsides handed to them by us as badly as they have the past several years, have decided to change the rules for the contest. Now, instead of a single station transmitting at less than 100W, we are now able to use as many transmitters as possible and unlimited power. The QSO party will be Feb 28 at Smith Lake Recreation Center. We will be using two stations, 1 CW and 1 SSB. **Gene N4ANV** has purchased a hex beam antenna for the SSB station and **Bill N3GTY** has donated a new laptop for the SSB station logger. There were also 2 new G4RV antennas tossed into the mix. We need volunteers to man the stations.

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Know folks in your circle who aren't hams? Bring them out, show them how much fun we have. This is a great opportunity to get your feet wet and hit the ground running. The club has many trophies and certificates looking for a home. If you have space, and would like to adopt one of several of them, let **Van N4ERM**, know. **Bob WA4WHV** said he will make a shelf suitable for displaying them. Kudos to **Gene N4ANV**. He was in the local paper recently (last Sunday) for having had breakfast with famous non-ham personage. **Sandy N3LDY** is taking orders for T-Shirts. Price will be \$15 each, or 2 for \$25.

**Program:** **Gene N4ANV** showed a presentation made by the K1N DXpedition in 2015 to Navassa Island.

**Door Prize:** **David KR4OE** held the Door Prize Drawing. An ARRL coffee mug was won by **John N4RDU**, a \$10 gift certificate was won by **Steve KA4CZL** and **Ferguson KK4MCY** won a multi-meter. Thanks to **Elton W4WHV** for donating the coffee mug.

**Door Prize:** **David KR4OE** held the Door Prize Drawing. A Craftsman toolset was won by **Duke KJ4VZR**, a book National Interoperability Field Operations Guide by Dept of Homeland Security was won by **Bob WA4WHV**. Thanks to **Jerry KA4ULH** for donating the toolset and **Ben KM4MOT** for donating the Field Operations guide.

A motion was made by **Kelly N4EWG**, seconded by **William KD4DCR**, to adjourn the meeting. By vote the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. We had 26 members and 1 visitor present.

*Upcoming Hamfests*

02/06/2016 South Carolina State Convention  
Charleston, South Carolina  
wa4usn.org/

03/11/2016 Charlotte Hamfest  
Concord, North Carolina  
charlottehamfest.org

04/02/2016 Rarsfest  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
Rars.org/rarsfest

CFARS will have two (2) tables and chairs at the Charlotte hamfest on March 11th and 12th. CFARS will have two (2) tables and chairs at the Rarsfest on April 2nd in Raleigh. Bring your stuff to either hamfest. Sell your old stuff so you can buy new stuff. Hope to see you there!



*NC QSO Party*

Don't forget the NC QSO Party is coming up this month. The QSO Party will be held on February 28, 2016 - 1000 EST to 2000 EST. CFARS will set up at the Smith Lake Recreation area on Ft. Bragg. The object of the QSO Party is for NC stations to work as many NC Counties and States as possible during the contest. NC has one hundred (100) counties. We will have a SSB and CW station setup. For assistance in getting to the site just ask on the CFARS repeater. Come on out and help CFARS be first in North Carolina once again.

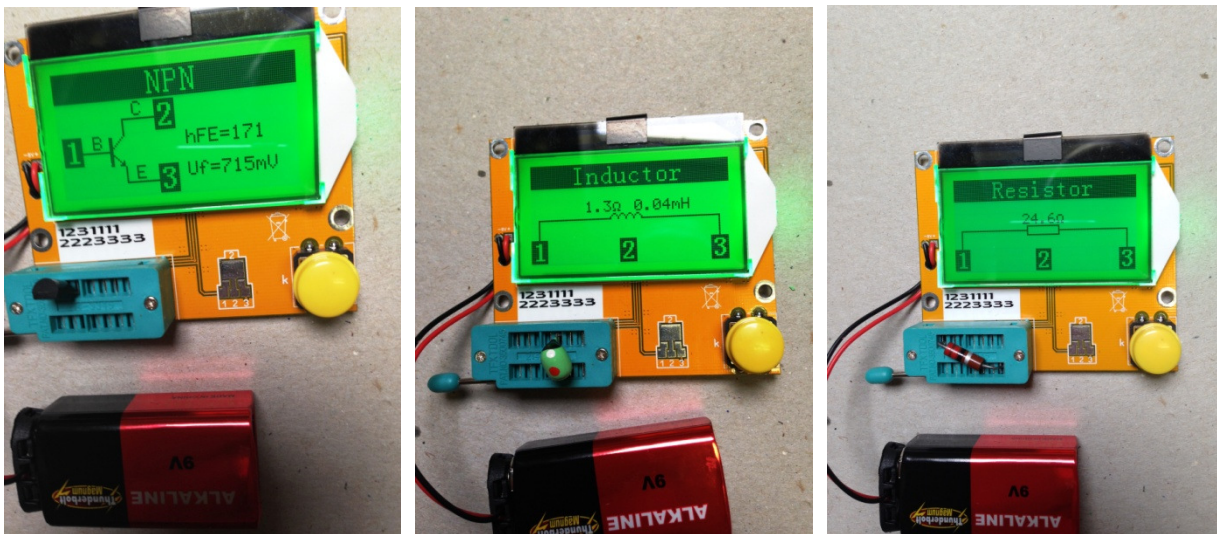
## Build is Better than Buy Radiated by "El Cheapo," N4ERM

### Best \$12.00 I Ever Spent!

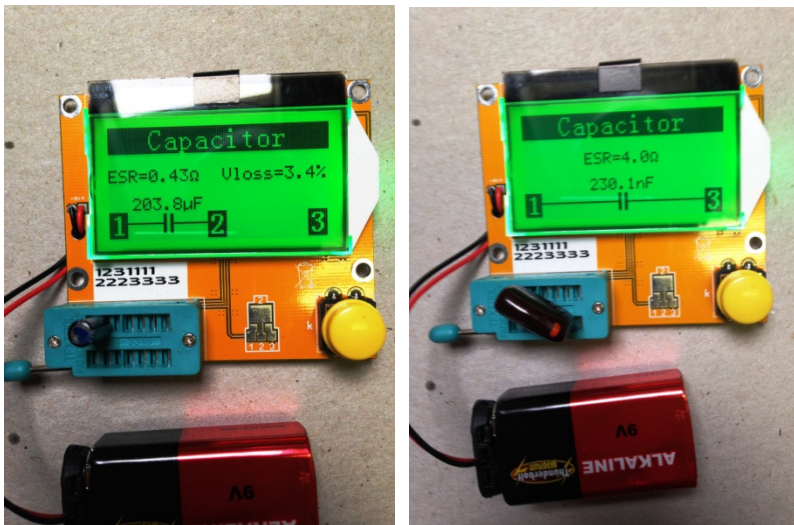
How is it that so often the whole is worth less than the sum of its parts? Probably your car is like that; costs \$600.00 to replace, but the whole car is only worth \$2,000.00! Mine is!!

The LCR-T4 Transistor Tester is something like that. At ~\$12.00, including shipping from China, the tester is a bargain.\*\*

My junque box consists mostly of parts cannibalized from other donated electronics. But sometimes it's difficult to tell what some parts are: Is this resistor PNP or NPN? Is this a resistor or inductor? This little gadget lets you know.



It also lets you know the value of capacitors; disc, electrolytic, whatever. Just make sure the electrolytic are discharged before measuring them. Even shows you which pins are connected. I added the little white label over the compression holder to indicate the pins.



\*\* I got mine from banggood.com, but they're now available via buyincoins.com and eBay as well. Some even come with a case (more money). But "El Cheapo" don't need no stinkin' case!