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**The President’s Corner: Van N4ERM**

**North Carolina State QSO Party**

Our state QSO Party has come and gone. It was a great success if you count highest total score ever achieved by CFARS, most CFARS participants in an NCQP, nobody was injured and this year the bathhouse was available! Our NCQP leader, Irv K3IRV, had some trying moments, but survived the challenge. Many, many thanks to all who participated either on site or as spotters from home. Thanks to Chuck AE4FZ and Dan KW4BG for spotting the bonus stations. We worked them all. Thanks also to all who worked our Club station, K4MN, from home. Your points helped big time. Thanks also to the “Dream Team” and their leader, Chuck KJ4RV, for their CW efforts. Also aiding in effort were Bob WA4WHV (builds great antennas and rocket launchers), Leighton KN4ZZ (who really showed us how to run the table), Tim K4SHF (if you need someone to log, Tim’s your man), Joe W3OJO, Travis KM4JJJ, Bill KJ4OFD, and Ben KM4ODT. Special thanks go to George KM4ODS (Gofer #1) and Ferguson KK4MCY (Gofer #2) who were there from start to finish and everything in between.

**Upcoming Hamfests**

CFARS has purchased two tables and some chairs for both the Charlotte and Raleigh Hamfests. The Charlotte Hamfest is Friday afternoon and Saturday, 11&12 March at the Cabarrus County Arena where it has been for the past several years. Details at <https://www.charlottehamfest.org/>. The RARSFest is on Saturday, 2 April in the Jim Graham Building on the State Fairgrounds, Again same place it has been for the last several years. Details at <http://www.rars.org/rarsfest/>. Bring some of that extra stuff you’ve had laying around, put it on the table and sell it so you can get money to buy more stuff! Or just come to visit and hang out.

**UPCOMING STUFF**

- 11-12 March – Charlotte Hamfest
- 19 March – CFARS VE Testing, Room 219 Hendricks Science Complex, Methodist University
- 21 March –CFARS Monthly Meeting, Room 219 Hendricks Science Complex, Methodist University
- 2 April – Raleigh Hamfest
- 17 April – Sandhills MS Walk

**All about DMR**

Our program for the March CFARS Meeting will be a presentation by our own technical advisor, Dick WB7OND. In addition to explaining DMR and PMR, He’ll compare and contrast some of the other digital modes such as D-star, Wires-X, System Fusion, etc. It’s guaranteed to inform. Be there!

**See you there!**

**73 de Van N4ERM**

CFARS Officers

President ..... Van, N4ERM n4erm@arrl.net  
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 Field Day.....Bon, WA4WHV wa4whv@aol.com  
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 ARRL Bulletins....Irv, K3IRV irv47mc@gmail.com  
 Webmaster.....Reggie KK4NJC, info@neondawg.com

**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.



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Cfars\_newsletter@yahoo.com

**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!



## February 2016 Club Meeting Minutes

On February 15th 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. **Van N4ERM** led the invocation. **Van N4ERM** led the introductions in the normal CFARS style.

A motion was made by **Kelly N4EWG**, seconded by **Chuck KJ4RV**, to approve the minutes of the January 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 2 meter and 6 meter repeaters were working. **Jerry KA4ULH** has the 40 repeater and is trying to coax it into submission.

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

**Audit:** **Bob WA4WHV** submitted the annual audit report and everything balances. The membership acknowledged the superb performance of our Secretary/Treasurer **Chuck KJ4RV**. Thanks **Bob** for the excellent audit report.

**Membership:** **David KR4OE** reminded all who haven't paid their 2016 dues to do so ASAP, as the membership rolls are purged after 31 March. Lets get them dues to **Chuck KJ4RV**. Bring a friend and have them join CFARS!

**Newsletter:** No report.

**Field Day:** No report.

**Health & Welfare:** **Mya** sent word that Pat KC4TBS may still be in rehab. She has returned home.

**Swapfest:** No Report.

**VE Testing:** No report.

**PT Net:** **Kelly N4EWG** is looking for net controllers for the PT net and the evening nets.

**Public Relations:** No report.

**Old Business:** **Bill KJ4OFD** has been allocated \$1500 to refurbish the tower trailer. It is being dismantled prior to painting. No money has been spent yet. **Van N4ERM** said the push-up pole and hex beam had been assembled and raised but not yet tested. **Jerry KA4ULH** reported his progress on the 440 repeater repairs.

**New Business:** **Irv K3IRV** reported progress in working with EOC/ARES last Thursday. This was at a Cumberland County Hurricane Exercise. **Chuck KJ4RV** was also there with **Irv**. There will be an Area 4 meeting in Trenton on Saturday. He talked about their desire to use FLDIGI and FLMessage. He discussed the upcoming NC QSO party. We have rented the same cabins at Smith Lake Rec Center. Setup will be at 9am on Saturday morning. The new rules and other things related were discussed. **Van N4ERM** paid for the cabins. **Irv K3IRV** made a motion, seconded by **Chuck KJ4RV**, to reimburse **Van N4ERM** \$180 he spent on the cabin rentals. By vote the motion carried. We need the folks who can't make it to the site to monitor the bands for the bonus stations and spot us. **David KR4OE** introduced **George KM4ODS** as a new member. Welcome to CFARS **George**.

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**Program:** Van N4ERM gave a very interesting presentation on the construction of several simple and easy antennas. Several antennas were given to participants in the audience.

**Door Prize:** David KR4OE held the Door Prize Drawing. Tim K4SHF won a Homeland Security book that was donated by Ben KD4ODT. Joe W3NSU won a 2m/440 antenna donated by Bill KU4W.

A motion was made by Irv K3IRV, seconded by Leighton KN4ZZ, to adjourn the meeting. By vote the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. We had 18 members present.

### CFARS Tee Shirts!!!!

We'd like to complete taking your orders for the fabulous CFARS Tee Shirts so that we can order them from the manufacturer. The deadline for ordering (and paying for) the tees will be immediately following the monthly meeting on Monday, 21 March.

Sandy N3LDY has kindly offered to coordinate our CFARS Tee Shirt sales. Yes, Sandy is Irv's YL. Give her a call (910) 814-0475, or drop her a line ([sandymcw@gmail.com](mailto:sandymcw@gmail.com)), for your tee shirt order (you'll want more than one of these beauties!).

Don't miss out. Order yours now!!

### *Upcoming Hamfests*

04/02/2016	Rarsfest Raleigh, North Carolina <a href="http://rars.org/rarsfest">rars.org/rarsfest</a>	05/07/2016	SC Section Convention Spartanburg, South Carolina <a href="http://brars.org">brars.org</a>
04/16/2016	Catawba Valley Hamfest Morganton, North Carolina <a href="http://cvhamfest.com">cvhamfest.com</a>	05/14/2016	12th Annual Rockingham County Swapfest Reidsville, North Carolina <a href="http://n4iv.org">n4iv.org</a>
04/23/2016	26th Annual Down East Hamfest Kinston, North Carolina <a href="http://downeasthamfest.org">downeasthamfest.org</a>	05/28/2016	Durhamfest Durham, North Carolina <a href="http://dfma.org">dfma.org</a>

### *Ten-Ten Contests*

Ten-Ten International will be holding both a digital and CW contest. The digital contest will be held April 23 - 24 and runs thru the weekend. The CW contest will be held the weekend of May 7 - 8.

Let's try to be number one in both of the contests. CFARS has always had a great showing of participation in these contests.

CU on Ten!!!

### *Items for Sale*

- Cushcraft A4S triband antenna with 40 meter add-on
- Ham IV rotar with controller unit
- 60 foot Rohn 25 tower with tapered top section

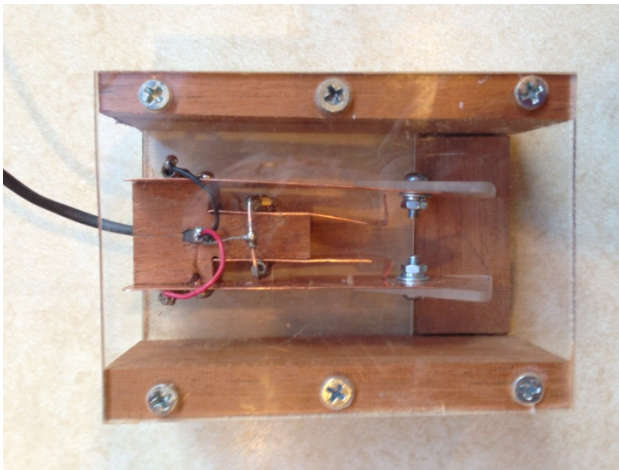
Everything has been housed and is in pristine condition. Asking \$1,000.00 for the package deal.

Contact Steve KA4CZL - 910-980-0062

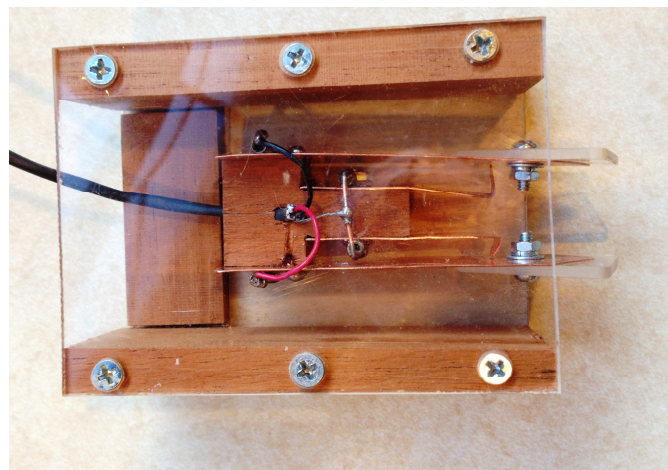
## Build is Better than Buy By “El Cheapo” N4ERM

Our friend **Bob WA4WHV** is an awesome builder. He is most at home working in wood and plastic where he has a complete shop in his basement. Here are some views of his most recent creation: a lovely set of portable paddles for CW during our “QRP outings in the park.”

The key is housed in a lexan and wood box. Insert the key into the box in one direction and it's protected for travel (paddles over the wooden block); insert in the other and it's ready to operate (front of key against block).



Here's the key travel-stowed (block of wood behind key).



Here's the key ready for use (wood now in front of key)

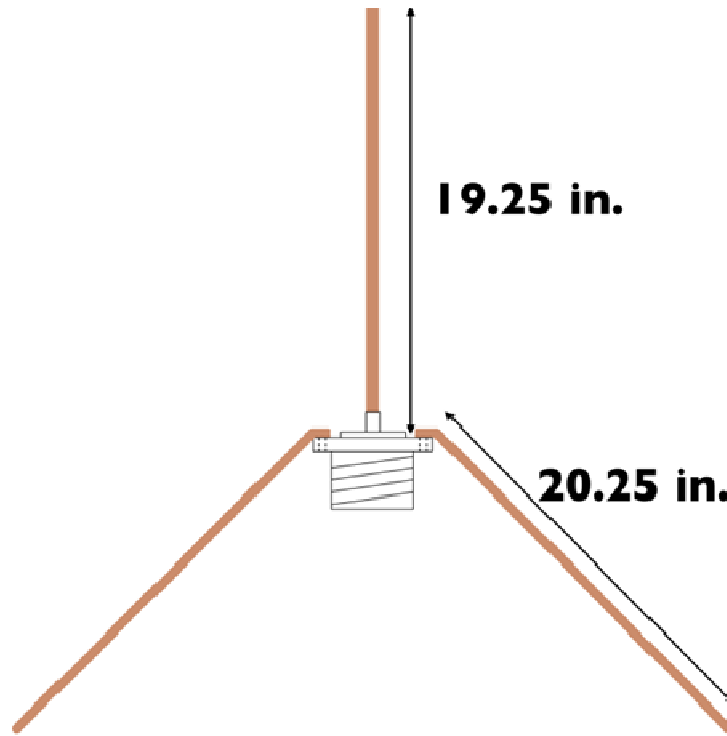
Here's a close-up of the works out of the box. The basis for the key is the wooden “T” that Bob cut. He mounted pieces of copper sheeting to both the horizontal and vertical portions of the “T” to make the paddles and contacts; paddles outside the horizontal, contacts with points in the middle on the vertical. A shielded 2-wire cable was connected one wire to each paddle and the braid ground to the contacts on each side. The paddles were finished with lexan tabs and the whole thing mounted (glued) on a lexan base.

Bob beveled both sides of the base and countersunk a groove in the wooden box so that the key slid into the box and rested on a wooden stop at one end of the box. Inserted with the paddles over the wooden stop and the key was ready for travel. When inserted other way around and it was ready to operate.

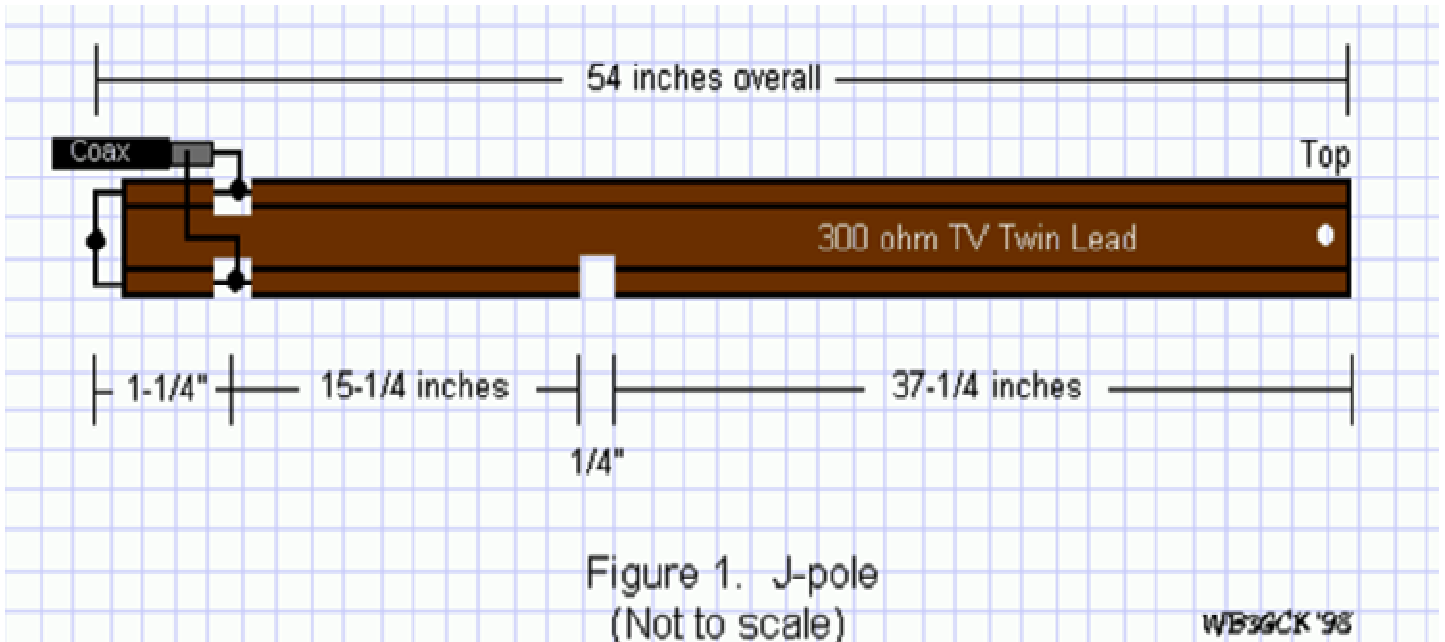
Great work, Bob!

Let us know when you're ready to go into mass production to sell these as a kit. Put the name Bigali or Kent on them and they'll sell for \$\$ hundreds!

Simple 2-Meter Quarter Wave Ground Plane



Simple 2-meter Tape J-Pole





## NC QSO Party

The 2016 NC QSO Party is in the books for another year. CFARS took part in the QSO Party again this year. Over the past several years CFARS has won the QSO Party. Now all we can do is wait until the results are posted to see how we did this year. Is another win in the log for CFARS?

### 2016 CFARS Numbers

SSB	
QSO's	397
Q Pts	794
Multipliers	105
Total	83,370

CW	
QSO's	340
Q Pts	1020
Multipliers	69
Total	70,380

### 2016 Combined Scores

QSO's	737
Q Pts	1814
Multipliers	114
Total	206,796

2015 Totals	-	79,878
2014 Totals	-	85,170
2013 Totals	-	107,110



