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The President's Corner: Van N4ERM

Into the "Dog Days" of Summer

As if I needed a reminder, my friend **Chuck, KJ4RV**, observed yesterday how hot the weather was. We were working with **Dick, WB7OND**, on sorting out **Don's, KI4ZL (SK)** estate at **Jackie's, KJ4XK**. Chuck picked up a push-up pole and let out a yelp, having received a third degree burn from bare-handing the pole. It was HOT! I hope everyone has found some aspect of our hobby that can keep them out of the sun and in the cool.

CFARS SwapFest

Our Editor is working hard to get this **NEWS** published prior to the 17th Annual Ole Fashioned CFARS SwapFest on Saturday, 8 August. I hope you will attend and see all of the bargains available. Contact **David, KR4OE** (phone number on attached flyer), if you need a table to display your wares. We'll need a big turnout to help set up the tables and chairs on Friday evening and to help bring in equipment on Saturday at 0630. Please help. And let's not forget that **Pat, N4UGH** (phone also on flyer), and her talented team of Volunteer Examiners, will be conducting VE testing during the SwapFest.

Mark Your Calendar

This year is the 40th anniversary of the Charter of the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society. In celebration of the event we've invited one of our most famous alumni, **Will Roberts, AA4NC**, to address our August meeting. Will grew up in Roseboro and joined CFARS as a teenager. He continued his interest in electronics by completing an Electrical Engineering degree from NCSU. A renowned amateur radio operator, Will has been on several DXpeditions, is an avid Contester both individually or as part of a major contesting team. You'll want to attend the August meeting to hear Will's presentation. Monday, August 17th, in room 219 (new room assignment) of the Hendricks Science Complex at Methodist University.

Share Your Ideas

You'll notice this month's **NEWS** has an article by **Bonne, KF4LVF**, on solving a problem she ran into with her computer-transceiver interface. What a great article! Thanks for sharing, Bonne. Know that many of you run into issues with your equipment/antennas etc. and manage to overcome them. Please share your thoughts and ideas with the rest of CFARS by sending an article to **Mike, KN4XP**, your Editor. We'll be glad you did!

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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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

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



June 2015 Club Meeting Minutes

On June 15th the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by **Van N4ERM**. The meeting was held in the Auditorium of the Science Building at Methodist University. **Chuck KJ4RV** led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Elton W4VGW** led the invocation. **Van N4ERM** led the introductions in the normal CFARS style.

Van N4ERM talked about the newsletter. A motion was made by **Bonnie KF4LVF**, seconded by **Jim KI4YRH**, to approve the newsletter as published. By vote the motion carried.



COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurer: **Chuck KJ4RV** gave the treasurer's report. We are still solvent.

Repeater: **Bill KU4W** told the club the repeaters were operational. A new filter has been added to the 440 repeater. The next 10-10 SSB contest will be held in August.

Net Manager: **Chuck KJ4RV** reminded us these are our repeaters. He encouraged all to take part in the nets and use the repeater.

Membership: No report.

Health & Welfare: No report.

Swapfest: **Van N4ERM** reminded the membership the Swapfest will be held on August 8th at the Cumberland County Shrine Club. If you need tables, give **David KR4OE** a call. Setup will be Friday evening and Saturday morning. Bring folks out and help build the club. VE Testing will be held in the basement of the Shrine Club. Bring a copy of your license and two (2) photo ID's. any CSCS's and \$15 for the test session!

Announcements: **Van N4ERM** told the membership this will be our last meeting in the Auditorium for the year. The next meeting will be held in the Science Building in Room 219. **Van N4ERM** passed out a list of items available from the estate of **Don KI4ZL**. These will be available exclusively to the club members until next week, then to the public with the remainder available at the Swapfest.

Old Business: **Kelly N4EWG** is looking for someone to replace **Don KI4ZL (SK)** for the *Tuesday morning Possum Trot Net*. Step up and enjoy ham radio. **Dale AK4YS** gave a briefing about this past field day. He discussed what went well and what could be improved, the weather and a listing of points submitted for our score. Kudos went to **Kelly N4EWG** and **Bob WA4WHV** for the education table, **Harold KF4IUV** and **Bonnie KF4LVF** who lost a shelter in the rain and **Van KG6HYJ** who let them use his tent for field day.

New Business: **Van N4ERM** read a letter thanking the club for their effort at this years Cape Fear MS Walk. **Keith Wilkins WA4ACS** was introduced and elected into CFARS as a new member. Welcome **Keith WA4ACS!!**

Door Prize Drawing: **David KR4OE** conducted the door prize drawing. **Van KG6HYJ** won a toaster. **Joe W3NSU** won a solar battery charger.

A motion was made by **Kelly N4EWG**, seconded by **Dale AK4YS**, to adjourn the meeting. By vote the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. There were twenty-two (22) members and one (1) guest present at the meeting.

MISO Saves the Day!!!
by
Bonnie Williamson KF4LVF

After many unsuccessful attempts to get on the air with PSK, I finally resorted to buying a Rig Blaster Plug-N-Play digital modem from West Mountain Radio — not only for its simplicity of use, but also for its smaller size and portability. It worked quite well on my older HP laptop computer. I recently had to replace the computer because it finally just quit working completely. The newer laptop I bought, however, was only configured with a single port to attach a speaker. No port for a speaker and another port for a microphone. And that, friends presented a serious problem. Whether you run PSK using any of the Rig Blaster modems, or any other digital devices, the device itself needs to connect to your computer through both a mic AND a speaker port.

Searching various ham related websites, I finally found a nifty little device that solves the problem altogether. The place to look is (BuxComm.com). The device is the MISO (Mic In / Speaker Out), a USB sound card device that's a bit smaller than a computer flash drive, and it's sole purpose for being is to provide you with both mic and speaker connections. (Note: once you open the enclosed attachment of the actual BuxComm webpage, click on the little blue MISO device in the banner for full details and further information).

Before connecting your digital modem to your radio, simply plug the MISO into an existing USB port on your computer, connect the mic plug of your digital modem to the mic port / connect the speaker plug of your digital modem to the speaker port. The MISO will work on any laptop computer= and with all computer operating systems when you need to have the dual connections for both mic and speaker.

At a cost of \$9.95 + \$6.00 shipping and handling, it's by far, the best \$15.95 I ever spent! What's more, EUREKA, IT WORKS!!! PSK is, FINALLY, up and running the way it was MEANT to!!! I'm a Happy Camper!! Problem SOLVED!!!



Mic In / Speaker Out

17th Annual Ole Fashioned

CFARS SwapFest

Sponsored by the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society
Fayetteville, North Carolina

Saturday

August 8, 2015

8:00am to 12:00 noon

**Cumberland County Shrine Club
7040 Ramsey St (US Hwy 401 N)**

**No Admission!! No Fee for Tables!!!
Please help us keep this event free
by placing a monetary contribution in
the donation box so we can cover the rent
on the building!!!**

Talk-in: K4MN Repeater 146.910 (-) CTCSS 100Hz

VE Test Session Walk-ins Only Registration 9:00am Testing 9:30am

**Information and Table Reservations: David KR4OE kr4oe@nc.rr.com
(910)624-1394**

**ARRL VE Testing: Pat N4UGH n4ughpat@aol.com
(910)425-8003**

Set-up begins at 6:30am. If you need tables please call or email in advance. On the morning of the Swapfest see David KR4OE for tables.

Table Reservations highly recommended. All tables used last year.

Tail Gating available - - also FREE!!!