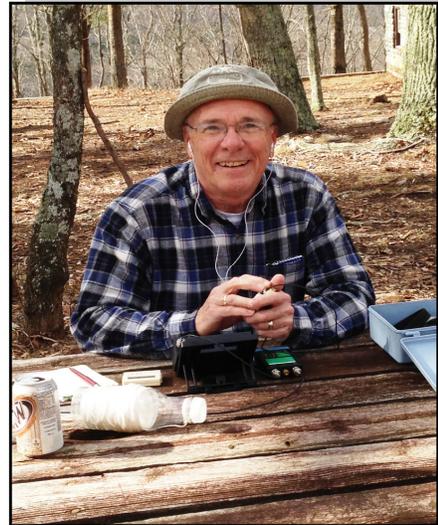




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The President's Corner:

Van N4ERM

Some of our members are avid QRPers. They think there's just nothing better than toting a radio to a park or a mountain top, throwing a simple antenna up into a tree and getting on the air. It never ceases to amaze me at how many contacts (even DX QSO's) can be made this way.

Time to re-read an article in an old CQ Magazine. The discussion went like this: Think of the decibel scale and the S-meter on your transceiver. Most modern S-meters require 6 dB to move one S unit. Double your power equals 3dB or 1/2 S unit. By doubling your power you won't event gain 1 S unit. If you increase your power ten times, you've increased your signal at the receiving end by less than 2 S units. Now look at it the other way around...The way a QRPer sees it. If you're operating at 100 watts and you receive an S9+10dB signal report, you can reduce your transmitter power output to 10 watts and still have an S9 report!. It might be worth re-reading that. Reduce your power to 1 watt and now your signal report is still S7. No wonder those QRP folks get such good reports!

The North Carolina QSO Party takes place 1 March 2015 from 10am to 8pm. CFARS has taken first place in the club category for the past two years. Let's make this year number three and continue the winning streak. We've already reserved two cabins at Smith Lake for the QSO Party weekend. **Dale AK4YS, Dan KW4BG and Van KG6HYJ** have been working on identifying and fielding a CFARS Club HF "GO" Radio for use in this sort of activity, for Field Day and any potential CFARS deployment. The current "GO" radio includes auto antenna tuning, voice keying and power supply. We seem to have good success with out "endless" long wire antennas. Maybe this year we'll add a counterpoise under it. We'll set up after breakfast at the K&W on Saturday, 28 Feb, participate in the contest on Sunday and tear down the operation on Monday. It's especially important to have good support and spotter from those who can't make it to Smith Lake. Our transmitter stays on the same frequency in order to attract the maximum number of contesters. But **we must contact all of the bonus stations to claim the available 500 bonus points. PLEASE make a special effort to work our contest station. Every contact counts!** Help us find those bonus stations listed in the NCQP web page. **The bonus stations are NI4BK aboard the Battleship USS North Carolina, RARS club station W4DW, Bill McDowell K4CIA, any station in Person (PER) county, any station in Surry (SUR) county and NCQP Special Station NC4QP.** 200 additional points area added if a sweep of all six (6) bonus stations above are worked! When you spot a bonus station, either on CW or SSB, call us on the repeater and let us know. If you have difficulty with the repeater, call my cell at 910-494-0001. Let's make it three in a row!!!!

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 Kelly N4EWG for you patch today!



January 2015 Club Meeting Minutes

On January 18th the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by **Dale AK4YS**. The meeting was held in the Auditorium of the Science Building at Methodist University. **Dale AK4YS** led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Elton W4VGW** led the invocation. **Dale AK4YS** led the introductions in the normal CFARS style.

A motion was made by **Kelly N4EWG**, seconded by **Bonnie KF4LVF**, to approve the minutes of the December meeting. By vote the motion carried. The newsletter was sent out on Sunday prior to the meeting.



COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurer: **Chuck KJ4RV** gave the treasurer's report. We are still solvent. **Bob WA4WHV** completed the audit for 2014 and all was in order.

Repeater: **Bill KU4W** told the club the repeaters were operational. **Chuck KJ4RV** mentioned that he was driving west of town on Ft. Bragg and noticed there were several instances of interference. He was going to utilize some friends to track down the source of the interference. **Bill KU4W** discussed the 10-10 SSB contest that was February 7 - 8th, the NC QSO Party would be the first weekend in March. CFARS will be operating from Smith Lake at cabins C and D. The NAQCC Sprint will be January 21st.

Net Manager: **Chuck, KJ4RV** gave the net report. He reminded us these were our repeaters and encouraged all to join in the various nets.

Membership: **David KR4OE** gave a report on club membership. At the end of 2014 we had 98 members. 2015 club dues are due. He reminded all the CFARS Swapfest would be held on August 8th at the Cumberland County Shrine Club. We hope that moving the date back to the original date would eliminate conflicts with the Shelby Hamfest,

VE Testing: **Dale AK4YS** reported on the testing session held last month. We had one (1) new Technician after the testing. He reminded the membership we offer a free one (1) year membership to CFARS to any newly licensed ham.

Old Business: **Dale AK4YS** reminded the club of the NC QSO Party that was being held at the Smith Lake Recreation Area. CFARS has reserved cabins C and D for the QSO Party. He had a radio available to anyone wishing to familiarize themselves with the operation and use prior to the QSO Party.

Announcements: **Dale AK4YS** introduced several of our visitors and welcomed them to Amateur Radio and CFARS. He invited them to introduce themselves and tell why they were interested in the hobby. Dale AK4YS updated the membership on several members in distress. **Chuck KJ4RV** gave an update on **Becky's** surgery. She is home recovering. **Murray K4MHM**, RARS President, told the club RARS is offering technician classes in the Raleigh area. Cost for the class is \$10 and the ARRL Technician book. The classes will be held on February 21st and 28th and March 7th and 14th. VE testing will be offered on March 14th after the class is concluded and cost \$14. He offered to coordinate JOTA efforts this year.

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Program: Karl Bowman W4CHX, the NC Section Manager, was introduced. He gave an interesting presentation including ARRL updates and NC Section changes. He presented statistics of the number and break down of hams in the state. More information is available at www.ah0a.org or www.arrl.org. He mentioned a section newsletter is available by subscription at www.ncarrl.org and www.arrl.org. **Karl W4CHX** presented information on **ARES, RACES, MARS**, and how to become involved in the **National Traffic System**. He spoke of one way to have more people to become involved in the hobby would be for us to go to them. Several instances were with Scouting and the Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) and involvement with public service projects within the community. Thanks **Karl W4CHX** for the

informative presentation!

Door Prize Drawing: David KR4OE drew for the door prizes. **Elton W4GVW** won a repeater directory, **John W4RDU** won a \$25 Starbucks gift certificate. The door prizes were contributed to the club by **Dan KW4BG** and **Dale AK4YS**.

A motion was made by **Chuck KJ4RV**, seconded by **George KE4HW**, to adjourn the meeting. By vote the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

The meeting was attended by twenty (20) members and six (6) visitors. Present at the meeting were the following: AK4YS, W4RDU, KR4OE, KJ4OFD, KW4BG, KU4W, KE4HW, KK4NJC, N2GAC, N4EWG, W4VGW, KI4YRH, KF4LVF, KF4IUUV, K3IRV, N2OYY, KK4MCI, KD4RYP and WA4WHV. Guest hams in attendance were K4MHM and W4CHX. We had four (4) non-licensed visitors present.

Upcoming Hamfests

March 13	Charlotte Hamfest	April 18	Catawba Valley Hamfest Morganton, NC
March 21	Charleston, SC Hamfest	May 2	Blue Ridge ARS Hamfest Spartanburg, SC
March 28	25th Annual Down East Hamfest Kinston, NC	June 13	Winston Salem Hamfest Winston Salem, NC
April 4	Rarsfest Raleigh, North Carolina		

Build is Better than Buy!
Radiated by "El Cheapo" N4ERM

The Great (and Cheap) Windom

Loren Window W8GZ is credited with doing the research into this type of off-center fed doublet and so this antenna bears his name. This particular version of the Windom was written up by Robert Grove WA4PYQ in the September issue of 73 Magazine. I first built the antenna in 1982 and have used the same antenna in Fayetteville, Kansas and Germany. The same antenna is currently my only antenna. In other words, this antenna has been up and down more trees than most squirrels.

I found some very special wire to build the horizontal 44 and 90 foot elements out of. Bill Kelchner KU4W tells me the wire (which looks like ordinary zip cord) is actually old telephone drop cord. At any rate, if you can find some get it. It is rubber-coated copper-clad steel and it is tough as nails. I kept the tow wires together and cut one wire a foot shorter than the other. In essence, I have a 45 and 44 foot leg and a 91 and 90 foot leg. I thought it might help. Maybe it did. I can't tell.

I made the 4:1 balun myself (of course!) from an Amidon kit and housed it inside two PVC pipe end caps. You might want to build the balun or buy one of the W2AU types. For the 300 Ohm twin lead, you can get some ladder line at the next hamfest or use some heavy duty TV twin lead like I did. I used RG-59/U but you might want to consider RG-6/U if you are going to use any power.

Here's what the antenna looks like along with some claimed any my actual SWR data. I still run tube finals in my rig and I never run more than 50% power. So SER below 3:1 doesn't bother me. Those of you with solid state rigs might want to use a tuner with the antenna

Freq (MHz)	Claimed SWR	N4ERM SWR
3.5	1.3	1.3
3.6	1.4	1.1
3.7	1.3	1.1
3.8	1.3	1.3
3.9	1.4	1.4
4.0	1.3	1.5
7.0	1.5	2.3
7.1	1.3	2.8
7.2	1.1	1.7
7.3	1.1	1.4
14.0	2.7	1.1
14.25	2.5	1.1
14.35	2.0	1.1
21.0	3.5	3.4
21.25	1.8	3.0
21.45	1.2	2.8
28.0	3.0	1.7
28.5	1.8	2.0
29.0	2.5	3.0
29.5	1.9	2.8

