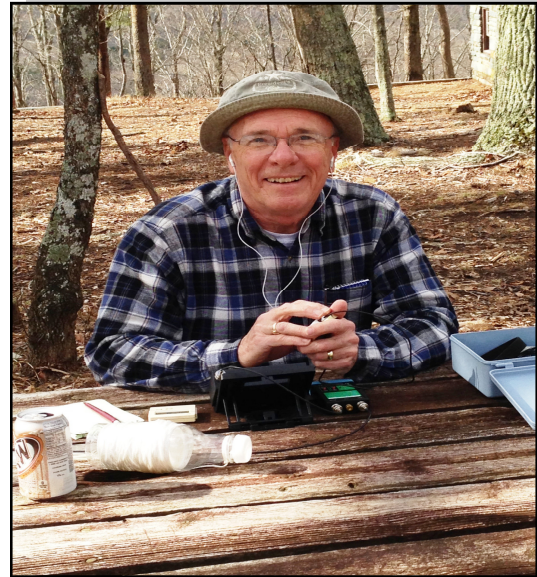




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The President's Corner:

Van N4ERM

I ran across this article in the January 2015 issue of *Ten-Ten International News*. Since some of you may not subscribe, I thought I'd reproduce it here:

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

By **Paul M. Segal W9EEA** (1928)

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE – never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL – offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE – with knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station, and operation beyond reproach.

FRIENDLY – with slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED – Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC – with station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

My *new hero* is **Jim K14YRH**. Here's the story: **Mark, WB4UHI**, needed Hoke County en route to his "Worked All Counties" award. **Mark** contacted **Dick WB7OND**, for help. **Dick** put out the word that **Mark** needed Hoke and **Jim** came to the rescue. **Mark** got **Jim** for Hoke on Sunday, 22 February 2015. WAYTAGO!

North Carolina QSO Party 2015

A few stalwarts from CFARS braved the elements to participate in the 2015 NCQP. Those who participated include: **Travis NLY**, **Dale AK4YS**, **Bill KU4W**, **Chuck KJ4RV**, **Bill KJ4OFD**, **Bob WA4WHV**, **Ferguson KK4MCY** and **Irv K3IRV**. We are especially thankful for our spotters: **Chuck AE4FZ** and **Dan KW4BG**, who spotted all six of the bonus stations which we worked for an additional 500 bonus points. The FT-897 worked flawlessly throughout. There were some issues with the LDG auto tuner, but this was solved when **Bob WA4WHV**, brought his remote tuner to the operating position. **Dale AK4YS** and **Bill KJ4OFD** are my new heroes. During a two-hour romp on 40 Meter phone, the racked up 80-plus QSOs per hour. That's way better than we've ever done in the past. We were especially honored to have **Karl Bowman W4CHX**, ARRL North Carolina Section Manager, and his YL, **Gale K4GGB**, visit our club station during the operation. What a pleasure to have them aboard!

73 de Van N4ERM

CFARS Officers

President Van, N4ERM n4erm@arrl.net
Vice Pres.....Dale, AK4YS dale.mohr@yahoo.com
Sec./Treas..... Chuck, KJ4RV kj4rv@arrl.net
Recorder.....Bill, KJ4OFD kj4ofd@arrl.net
Newsletter Editor...Mike KN4XP kn4xp@yahoo.com



Coordinators

Membership.....David, KR4OE kr4oe@nc.rr.com
Net Manager.....Chuck, KJ4RV kj4rv@arrl.net
EmergencyVACANT
Information.....Kelly, N4EWG n4ewg@nc.rr.com
Repeaters.....Bill, KU4W kc4swy@embarqmail.com
Sky Warn.....Jim, KI4YRH ki4yrh@aol.com
Field Day.....Dale, AK4YS dale.mohr@yahoo.com
Health & Welfare...Mya, mya@embarqmail.com
VEC..Pat, N4UGH n4ughpat@aol.com
SwapfestDavid, KR4OE kr4oe@nc.rr.com
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 newsletter is part of your club membership. The right to vote on issues for the club also comes with membership.



The **CFARS NEWS** is published monthly by the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society, PO Box 36106, Fayetteville, NC 28303

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!



February 2015 Club Meeting Minutes

On February 16th 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. **Van N4ERM** led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. **David KR4OE** led the invocation. **Van N4ERM** led the introductions in the normal CFARS style.



A motion was made by **Kelly N4EWG**, seconded by **Bill KU4W**, to approve the minutes of the January meeting. By vote the motion carried. The following changes were discussed: **Steve KK4EYN** is out of the area and should be removed as the Emergency Coordinator. A new Emergency Coordinator will be announced. **Reggie KK4NJC**, webmaster, has a new call sign that should be listed in the Officers and Coordinators sidebar. CFARS patches are now available from **Chuck KJ4RV**.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Repeater: **Bill KU4W** told the club the repeaters were operational albeit noisy at times. The tower and equipment are needing maintenance, specifically spot painting the tower and tightening the guy wires. This will be taken on by various members of the club in the March and April time frame.

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

Health & Welfare: **Van N4ERM** mentioned **Don KI4ZL** is still in rehab. He would appreciate visitors. **Becky, XYL of Chuck KJ4RV**, is home and doing well. **Doris, XYL of AE4FZ**, is doing well at home.

Old Business: **Van N4ERM** reminded the club the NC QSO Party is coming up on the 1st of March. He has secured cabins at Smith Lake Recreation Center. We will setup on Saturday morning after breakfast. **Irv K3IRV** made a motion, seconded by **Dan KW4BG**, to reimburse **Van N4ERM** \$180.00 for the cabin rental. By vote the motion carried. There was discussion of the contest and scoring. Members that are not operating at Smith Lake were asked to listen to their radios and assist in spotting for the several bonus stations so we can maximize our bonus points. **Van N4ERM** indicated the new budget. He asked we set aside money for two (2) tables and four (4) chairs at each of the local Hamfests: Shelby, Raleigh, Benson and Charlotte. **Kelly N4EWG** made a motion, seconded by **Irv K3IRV**, to reimburse **Van N4ERM** \$84.00 for securing the tables. By vote the motion carried. **Irv K3IRV** spoke of the Cumberland County Preparedness Expo on April 11th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to spotlight Ham Radio's place in disaster preparedness. The cost for a booth at the expo is \$100.00 and a door prize. **Irv K3IRV**, made a motion, seconded by **Bill KU4W**, to secure a booth. By vote the motion carried.

New Business: **Van N4ERM** mentioned the budget. He mentioned several of the clubs in the area had received grants from various entities (Homeland Security among others). Funds were still available. **Van KG6HGY** suggested the tower, antennas cable will need replacing at sometime. **Van KG6HGY** volunteered to make an itemized list of necessary equipment (Tower, antenna, LMR-400, radios, repeaters, crane services, ect) and total the expenses. He will report back to the club at a later date.

(Continued on Page 4)

(Continued from Page 3)

Irv, K3IRV spoke about the possibility of requesting two (2) or three (3) “go kits” including radios, batteries, generators and other items as needed as part of the request. **Irv K3IRV** agreed to investigate the concept further by providing an itemized listing of the recommended equipment and associated price for each “go kit.”

Program: Dan KW4BG, gave an interesting presentation on microcontrollers and PIC programming, especially as it pertains to Arduino microprocessors.

Door Prize Drawing: David KR4OE conducted the door prize drawing. **Bonnie KF4LVF** won a MFJ external speaker. **Ferguson KK4MCY** won a multi-meter. **Bill KU4W** donated the MFJ external speaker. **Van N4ERM** donated the multi-meter.

A motion was made by **Kelly N4EWG**, seconded by **Bill KU4W**, to adjourn the meeting. By vote the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Build is Better than Buy “el Cheapo,” N4ERM

BX-184 Voice Keyer Kit

Most amateur radio operators do not have an internal voice memory for transmitting. If you want such a convenience feature you can buy an add-on such as the Kenwood VGS-1, build one such as the greeting card voice keyer, April 1995 QST, pp 28-29 (el Cheapo’s favorite), use any of several computer-to-radio voice keyers, or buy a kit such as the BX-184. I bought the complete kit, including handset from the German amateur Radio Club (DARC) at http://www.box73.de/download/bausaetze/BX-184_en.pdf. There’s an order form at the bottom of the page. Cost of the complete kit including circuit board, microphone, shipping, etc. was \$69.00. I paid via PayPal.

The keyer features Pre-assembled replacement board for the original PCB of the Yaesu microphones MH-31, either the A8J or B8 models. It is a plug-in substitute for many Yaesu transceivers (FT-450, 817, 857, 897, 900, 950, 2000). Can also work with some modification with Icom (706xx, 7000), Kenwood and some others. Record and playback of a voice message of up to 60 seconds in length. Single playback or repeated playbacks with interrupts of 3, 6 or 10 seconds selectable. Playbacks can be cancelled by pushing the microphone PTT switch.

Although the kit is mostly preassembled, some components must be soldered to the PCB. VERY detailed instructions (with pictures) are on the web page above. One SMD capacitor needs to be soldered across the electret microphone. A second SMD capacitor is recommended for ICOM transceivers. The capacitor is small as a grain of rice and care must be taken to get it right!

I’m pleased with the way the mic works. Just a press of the microphone and it sends a voice CQ until you stop it. It’s easy to set up and use. Lots of voice-saving in the works.

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		

2015 NC QSO PARTY

The North Carolina QSO Party will be held from 1500 UTC on 03/01/2015 – 0059 UTC on 03/02/2015. Stations may operate the entire contest period. The goal of the qso party is to activate as many North Carolina counties as possible. North Carolina stations may work other North Carolina stations and other states. Stations outside of North Carolina can only work North Carolina stations during the qso party.

The North Carolina QSO Party will have the following categories of operation: single-op, mobile, mobile “lone ranger”, expedition and club stations and digital.

Awards will be given for CW, Phone, Mixed Modes, QRP, Mobile and Mixed Mobile, Club and Expedition stations from North Carolina. An Award will be given for the station that works the most North Carolina Counties. Awards will also be given to stations outside of North Carolina.

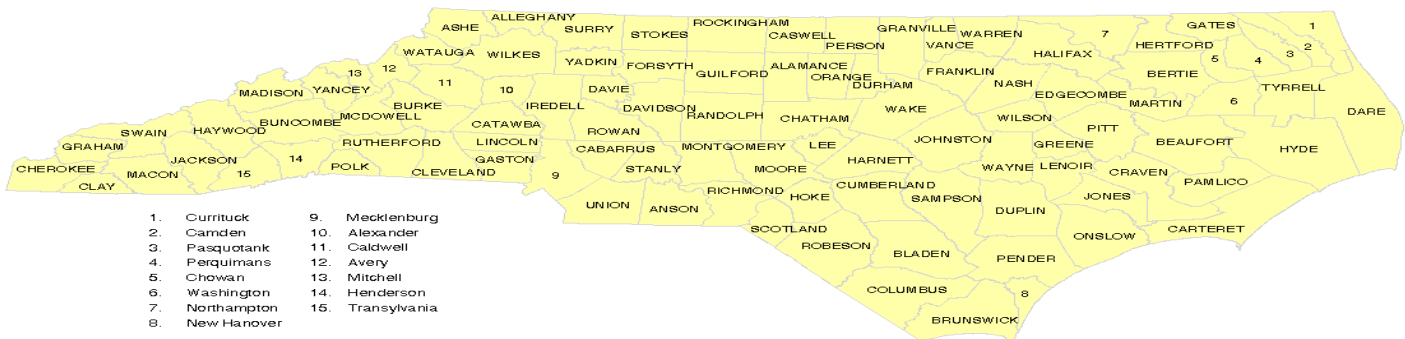
No cross-band, repeater, satellite or internet transponders may be used for contacts during the QSO Party. North Carolina stations may work any other station. The following bands are allowed in the QSO Party: 80/75, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 meters. WARC bands are not valid contacts for this qso party. Contest exchange is Call Sign and North Carolina County.

Scoring contacts will be as follows: SSB are worth 2 points per each QSO, CW are worth 3 points per each QSO and Digital are worth 3 points per each QSO. The same station can be worked on different modes. Log entries should include date, time, mode, call sign, state and county, and/or Canadian Province or DX location.

There will be fifty (50) bonus points available to include NI4BK (Battleship NC), W4DW (RARS Club Station) Bill McDowell K4CIA, any station in Person (PER) county, any station in Surry (SUR) county and NC4QP. If all six of the bonus stations are worked, a sweep, then two hundred (200) bonus points are available. Mobile and expeditions gain one hundred (100) bonus points for each county activated with at least one (1) QSO. To determine your final score, multiply the total QSO points times the total multiplier value. Add bonus points after the multiplication.

Logs should be submitted in Cabrillo format. Logs must be received by March 22, 2015. Logs may be submitted electronically to www.ncqsoparty.org. You can email your log to logs@ncqsoparty.org. If you want to send in a paper log then mail it to NCQSO Party, c/o Marc Sullivan W4MPS, 322 Windham Way, Clayton, North Carolina 27527.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA County Index Map



NORTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION & ANALYSIS

August 1997

40 0 40 80 Miles





Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society

P.O. Box 36106, Fayetteville, N.C. 28303



24 February 2015

Methodist University
c/o Mr. Timothy S. Richardson
Chairman, 2015 Loyalty Day
5400 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, NC 28311

Dear Mr. Richardson:

On behalf of the members of the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society (CFARS) I am honored to present the enclosed check for \$350.00 to you for the Methodist University Loyalty Day Fund. With this check CFARS continues our long affiliation with Methodist University, its students, alumni and administration.

Our affiliation with Methodist University extends back forty-plus years. Our members include students, faculty, and even a past president of Methodist University, Dr. M. Elton Hendricks, W4VGW.

We value the continued relationship with Methodist University.

Sincerely,

Burt A. VanderClute, II N4ERM
President

The Charlotte Hamfest will be held March 13 - 14, 2015 at the Cabarrus Arena & Events Center. It is located at 4551 Old Airport Road, Hwy 49 North, Concord, North Carolina.



CFARS has two (2) tables and four (4) chairs reserved for the hamfest. Our tables are located at space 285 and 298 on a corner. If you have something to sell this is a great place to give it a try. All that you have to do is pull your share of minding the CFARS tables.

The hamfest will be open on Friday from 3pm - 7pm and on Saturday from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Admission is \$10 at the door. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Parking is free! Concord Mills Shopping Mall is located a few minutes ride from the hamfest.

For more information - www.charlottehamfest.org

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!!!