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

**CFARS SwapFest**

The CFARS 2015 Swapfest was a roaring success. Our hard-working event leader **David, KR4OE** put together another super show. Our goal, as always, was to swap some equipment and stories, have a good time, and maybe break even in the expenses column. This year through the efforts of a whole bunch of folks, we made some money! Not sure how much money we made, but I was assured that there was some left over after expenses. Woohoo! Thanks to all who participated in the set up and clean up. Special thanks go to **Dale, AK4YS** and **Bill, KJ4OFD** for their tireless efforts in the kitchen. And let's not forget that **Pat, N4UGH** and her talented team of VEs conducted testing during the affair.

**CFARS Alumnus Will Roberts, AA4NC** gave an excellent presentation at the August meeting. After acknowledging his ham radio origins with CFARS and a long list of CFARS mentors, Will focused on contesting, DXing and DXpeditions. Obviously Will is an expert in each of these areas. He stayed long after the regular meeting to answer questions. Thanks, Will, for a great presentation.



**Shelby Hamfest**

Overall attendance was down at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds this year. The normal CFARS contingent was down as well. Noticeably absent this year were **Bill and Linda, Dick and Sandy, Kelly** and many many others. CFARS was represented by **Harold, KF4IUUV** and **Bonne, KF4LVF; Chuck, KJ4RV** and **Becky; Leighton, KN4ZZ; Lee, KM4GQ; Don, N4DOS** and son; and **Duke, KJ4VZU. Irv, K3IRV** kindly agreed to ride with me and help with the sales boxes and tables. When you get the chance, ask Duke and Bonne about their new radios. Irv won a Toshiba tablet computer in a raffle.

**Improving Weather**

As the hot weather starts to turn cooler, thoughts turn to new antennas and such. Let's get out there and build something. If you're interested, a group of us tries to operate from any and all of North Carolina's 41 State parks. Others participate in Summits on the Air (SOTA) operations. Ask around if there's anything you'd like to do.

In October, CFARS will again assist with the Boy Scouts Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). Please ask how you can help with this very worthwhile activity.

**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  
 Emergency .....VACANT  
 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  
 Swapfest .....David, 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.



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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!



## August 2015 Club Meeting Minutes

On August 17th 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. **Gene N4ANV** led the invocation. **Van N4ERM** led the introductions in the normal CFARS style.

A motion was made by **Bonnie KF4LVF**, seconded by **Chuck AE4FZ**, to approve the minutes of the last meeting be accepted with changes. By vote the motion carried.



### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

**Repeater:** **Bill KU4W** told the club the repeaters were operational. Possum Trot Chapter of 10-10 International had come in 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Spring Digital Contest. A certificate was presented to the club. **Chuck KJ4RV** placed #2 in the world. The next 10-10 contest will be held in August.

**Net Manager:** **Chuck KJ4RV** gave the Net Manager's report. He reminded all that these were our repeaters and everyone should use them.

**Membership:** **David KR4OE** gave a report on membership. He pointed out that there are several folks who check in with us regularly and are not current, or are not members, and we should encourage them to join.

**Health & Welfare:** **Pat N4UGH's** house was hit by lightning and there was extensive damage to the ceiling and water damage to most of the house. She hopes to be back in the house in December.

**Swapfest:** **David KR4OE** spoke of the Swapfest, there were members of the club who had never been to one of our Swapfest, and encouraged them to come and support the club.

**VE Testing:** The exam materials **Pat N4UGH** had were damaged, but she was able to get new materials from ARRL in time for the examination. **Gene N4ANV** said we should do better in getting out the word for our folks who need our help. Even with the difficulties, **Pat N4UGH** gave the examinations and that we now have 4 new general licensees.

**Public Relations:** **Van N4ERM** and **Irv K3IRV** attended the Area 4 ARES meeting. **Van N4ERM** pointed out we still don't have a volunteer coordinator. If you are interested in volunteering see **Van N4ERM** or **Irv K3IRV**. There had been some modifications to the Law Enforcement Center and the radios and antennas need to be checked. **Irv K3IRV** pointed out that **Jim KI4YRH** had put up many pictures on the website.

**Old Business:** **Bill KU4W** reminded all today is the last day to submit your logs for the 10-10 voice contest.

**New Business:** **David KR4OE** has been trying out new stuff. A friend sent him new handheld radio using DMR and that from it he could talk locally, to NC/SC/VA/DC and nationally. He continued that the technology is something the club might want to look into, and to see if **Dick WB7OND** could do something with it. NCPRN has information on their website. **Kelly N4EWG** had *Possum Trot* certificates for several folks: **KG4RPZ** PT 3515, **KK4TBH** PT 3518, **Cody McNeil** PT 33521, **Mark Davis** PT 3525, **KG4JOK** PT 3528, **KE6KCS** PT 3529, **AK4KV** PT 3530 and **KM4JYR** PT 3531. Contact **Kelly N4EWG** to get your certificate and fancy up (or patch holes) on your south wall.

**PROGRAM:** **Will Roberts AA4NC** returned to CFARS and spoke of how the folks in the club helped and encouraged him to become an amateur radio operator. His presentation was on DXpeditions. He had been part of many DXpeditions in the past, and was planning several for the near future and

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Will Roberts AA4NC

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**Door Prize Drawing: David KR4OE** conducted the door prize drawing. **Bonnie KF4LVF** won Repeater Directory donated by **Carl K4CHX**. **George KE4HW** won a multi-meter donated by **Van N4ERM**.

A motion was made by **Joe W3OJO**, seconded by **Irv K3IRV**, to adjourn the meeting. By vote the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. Our next meeting will be at the same place next month.



### Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)

Each year the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts host a Jamboree on the Air. This is a great time to introduce scouts of all ages to Amateur Radio. CFARS works with the Scouts to make Amateur Radio fun during this event. More information will follow in next months newsletter.

#### Upcoming Club Meetings

- September 21st
- October 19th
- November 16th

#### K4MN and Occoneechee Council

This was our third JOTA event in our district and once again all participants had the opportunity to contact Scouts from other areas and have a lot of fun. The weather was perfect and Scouts (Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturing Crew) were able to do the Radio Merit Badge, Belt Loops, assemble solar panels, and chat on the radio and via Internet.

An important note that I would like to share is that, during the event, I noticed that a Cub Scout and his mother were talking against a wall in the hallway and you could see frustration from both of them. I decided to approach them to ask if everything was okay. Mom was very apologetic and said to me that her son has a disability and didn't take his medicine, and that most likely they would be going home. I asked Mom for five more minutes and I went down to my knees and asked the Cub Scout that if he doesn't mind, I would like to show him something really cool for a minute.

I took him to one of the radio stations and asked the operator to show the Cub Scout and his mom why ham radio is so cool for him, then I left. I came back later and it was hard to hold back my tears when I saw that the Cub Scout was talking on the radio, and Mom was smiling and thanking me so much for this JOTA event. The best medicine her son could have that day was talking on the radio with other Scouts and listening to his new Scout friends. That was a priceless moment that I will never forget. Indeed, he stayed and completed all his Belt Loops as well!

*– Aixa Downing, Scout Leader*

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

PORTABLE POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Take a look at these photos:



I used to recommend that every ham carry a portable power supply like the big yellow one on the left. In addition to providing enough power to start a car, it was good for emergency or portable field operations. The power supply (really a sealed lead acid battery or SLA) came with its own AC charger (pictured), jumper cables, a power indicator, a light, and two vehicle power adapters (cigarette lighter plugs) that provided 12 VDC. It also had an air compressor. It weighed in at 17 pounds. You may have seen the power supply connected to a solar cell and QRP radio at any of the last several Field Days.

Now I carry the InstaBoost Pilot, as shown in the black pouch on the right in the photos. It is really a Lithium Polymer battery (LiPo). It too comes with its own AC and DC charger, jumper cables, power indicator, a light that can glow steady or signal SOS in emergency, a vehicle power adapter that provides 12 VDC at 10 Amps and a USB port that provides 5 VDC at 2 amps. Unlike the yellow power supply, it has no air compressor. All of that and it weighs in at less than 1/10<sup>th</sup> the size and weight of the yellow beast. The battery itself fits easily into your back pocket.

I got mine at Lowes. They've reduced the price from \$99.00 to \$69.00. I justified the purchase based on the savings in size and weight.

2015 CFARS Swapfest



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