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The President's Corner: David WD4NC

Can you believe it is May already and we are moving right along. It has been a good year so far for the club. We are filling up the meeting house and the club is growing. We finally got a Club picture taken and thanks again to Jim H and Jim B for the help getting it done and on the cover of the web site. It now sits as the header for the FB page as well.

Thanks to Rod KQ4FNO for heading up the STEM training at FSU and Ft Bragg. Thanks to the crew that helped him out too, on site and at home to answer the call from the young future hams. Our Youth is something we as a club need to invest time in. They are our future. We are working at one event a month and yes we could use some more help.

Last month we had Amanda from the EOC stop by and give us a brief about what is going on there and we are moving forward and looking toward having the Ham Shack set up there soon. We also had Marty W4MY stop by and handed out the club awards for First in the Bonus Stations and First in the Low single (FT8/FT4). I was Honored to receive the Chairman's Award as well and that was a huge surprise to me. This month China from the EOC to talk to us about Hurricane Awareness. Vicki Carnes AD3I will talk to us about Hurricane Helene and her part in helping on Ham radio. She will be talking about nets she hosts. The Youth net on Thursday nights, the 40 meter net and 80 meter after that. I hope you all can make it to hear from them and see where the Club is heading as the weather season is on us.

Field Day is coming up fast. We will be at the SFA Camp again and looking forward to another fun event. Our station chiefs are busy making plans and we will be hearing from them in our June meeting. We will be having a meeting like we did last year as well to plan this out and be sure we are ready to go and have everything tested before the event. Once again, this club moves on Volunteers. We need all your help to make this happen. All the roles are important, and we can't move forward without you. Please read over the Field Day rules and be sure you know the band plan. The Station Chiefs are going to have more of a role in Field Day this year. I'm looking forward to their leadership. They will also have sign-up sheets at the meeting so you can pick what time of day you want to be on the radio.

I am proud of our CW team and the hard work they put in to working our club events. They do a great job and put up some good numbers. I've been pushing myself to learn the code so I can help. It isn't easy. It takes time. If you stick to it, you can become part of that great crew as well. You must put the time in. It will help you get some more POTA contacts.

**From The Vice President
Rod KQ4FNO**

Well, just in case you have slept through the last couple of months or weeks, it is now May. The temperatures are up, the mosquitos and 'no-see-ums' are out and about, looking for POTA operators especially! We had a great turnout for the photo meeting, I was amazed by the number of faces I didn't recognize. Thank you all for coming, and we need to do this on an annual basis, so we can visually see who is here and who is new.

We had a STEM display out on April 29 at the Charles A. Lyons Science Building. Not too much interest in radio, but there were a lot of things going on at the same time, including the planetarium, so not too surprising. I want to thank Mike, KC4ABE for coming out and helping me with this one. On the other end of the repeater, I had Don, WO4SFA, Larry, N4USB, and Jim, K4BUC, who was the lucky one to talk to the only kid willing to use the microphone! Thank you, Jim! Nina, KN4KUL, and Tyler, K4TTN, came out toward the end and spent some time with us.

This brings up the subject of trying to improve the club membership and our help to the community. We do ENCOMM rather well now, but our participation in school-related activities is poor. We would like to get more participation from the rest of the club, and we do have some who are at the end of the repeater, but we also need some to be at the event too. It has fallen to a few folks to carry the burden. Let us know at the next meeting what you think.

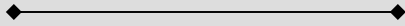
May is busy! 2 May 2025, a Friday, we have a display at Kimberly Hampton Elementary School, with 500 kids, probably the same number of parents and a whole bunch of teachers. Not to mention massive static displays of military equipment, the 82nd jumping in and an array of other organizations taking part. On the 13th May David, WD4NC and I will attend a class in Kinston for Amateur radio support to emergency services. On the 19th May we have our next meeting, and we should have another great program, which I will let the President tell you about. Then Memorial Day on the 26th May (Monday). I am looking forward to heading out to Carvers Creek and bringing hot dogs. Let me know if you are going to come to that. Next up will be 7th June, Museum Ships on the Air. We will need to know who wants to go in plenty of time, as we have to let the Azalea Club have a roster ahead of time. (NOTE: You have to pay to get on the ship, \$12.00 for Veterans as I recall.)

So enjoy the good weather, prepare for Hurricane Season, and get out and POTA! Whatever your particular area of operation is, just enjoy yourself operating Amateur Radio and stay safe!

Rod MacLean, KQ4FNO

CFARS Officers

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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 \$20.00. CFARS offers a lifetime membership option for \$200.00. 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. PO Box 36106, Fayetteville, NC 28303



The Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society News is the official newsletter of the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society. It is published monthly as a PDF. The newsletter is emailed monthly when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Newsletter Editor. The CFARS News welcomes articles and other contributions. **Please email submissions to the newsletter to cfarsnews@gmail.com.** The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces. **The submission deadline for each month's News is the last day of the preceding month.** The views expressed in the CFARS News are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or CFARS.



April 2025 Club Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society was held at 7:30 pm, Monday, April 21st, 2025, in the Fellowship Hall of Peace Presbyterian Church, 3202 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, NC.

President David Winfree WD4NC called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country. Don KO4IHM gave the invocation. David WD4NC led the introductions in the usual CFARS fashion. Tim KO4VEC moved March's minutes be approved, Tim W4HDF seconded, and the

members voted and the motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurer: Mike KC4ABE gave the financial report.

Net Manager: Larry N4USB reported 718 check ins for an average of 23.6. With 1011 minutes for an average of 32.6. 29 pieces of traffic.

Health & Welfare: Nina KN4KUL gave the welfare report.

Repeaters: No report.

Field Day: No report.

Membership: No report.

Contesting: No report.

VE Coordinator: Jim K4BUC next VE test session, check the CFARS website for details on the next testing session.

Swapfest: David KI4W CFARS 25TH anniversary SwapFest will be August 9th this year.

Public Relations: Hector KB4LOA continue posting ham radio and club activity on the CFARS Facebook page.

Emergency Coordinator: No report.

Newsletter: Any submissions please send to Mike KN4XP by end of month, ideally in Microsoft Word format. cfarsnews@gmail.com. Emails and .pdf files are difficult to format for the newsletter.

Deadline for submissions is the last day of the month.

Web Site: Any submissions please send to Jim K4BUC. Jim asked that anyone having pictures to put on the website send them to him. jbuccieri@twc.com

ARRL Liaison: No report.

Possum Trot Net: Greg NC4GK the PT net continues 5:00 am to 7:00 am.

Skywarn: No report.

Event Coordinator: Rod KQ4FNO reported the FSU STEAM in April. 26th 1 to 4, David and Joe. Working with C 1-18th SFA, David / Done just need to move the trailer.

Emergency Coordinator: Jeremiah, Greg NC4GK, every 2nd Tuesday night is Skywarn night.



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Old Business: Rod asked if everyone read the newsletter regarding the benefits of the 501(c)(3) asked if the club wanted to change from 501 (c)(7) in favor of 501(c)(3), Don WO4SFA made a motion to approve the change and Paul NC4PB and Tracy AI4TS seconded, the members voted and the motion was carried. Rod will begin to work on this change with the IRS.

New Business: None.

Program: Marty W4MY was at the meeting to present the club with the winning plaque for the North Carolina QSO party. The club received the top score for the Club Weak signal category and the Bonus Station category. Juan NK2MC received the award on behalf of the club for weak signal category event. Rod KO4FNO received the award on behalf of the club for the bonus station for 1st place. Marty also gave out a special Chairman's Award to David WD4NC for the outstanding ham for this year's NCQP.

Amanda Scheck provided a brief on behalf of the Cumberland County EOC. They have procured some new ham equipment that needed to be setup and tested. She also mentioned that we may be invited to man a fire station or shelter during an activation. She has two new opportunities: at the eastern branch EOC, an amateur radio open house in Kinston NC May 13th. This is an opportunity to see how their region works and meet with our counterparts in Emergency Management. Cumberland County is hosting a communications training event Oct 14 through 17th. You must have ICS 1, 2, 7 and 8 and be a licensed Armature Operator to attend the communications training.

Chris Hofstetter KO4FSZ was present to brief antennas and briefed some information on wire antennas that he builds. Club members looked at antennas and antenna building.

Announcements: None.

Door Prize Drawing: Tim N9OUS won a piece of coax, Nina KN4KUL won a cable stripper, Chris KO4FSZ won a piece of coax, Paul NC4PB won a piece of coax, Bob KL7NL won a piece of coax and Rob KR4CLP won a Monitor

50/50 Drawing: \$66 collected, Tyler drew ticket number 2466, Don WO4SFA had the winning ticket of for \$33.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8PM. There were 57 members and guests present.

Submitted: Chris KR4I
Recorder

CFARS Nets

Net	Day (s)	Time Local	Band / Freq
Evening Net	Daily	1900	146.910 Repeater
Possum Trot	M - F	0500 - 0700	146.910 Repeater
ADY Net	M - F	0810	SSB 3.855
CW Fix Net	Tues / Thurs	0730	CW 3.555
DMR Net	Sunday	2000	TGIF 910 Talkgroup

Upcoming Hamfests

May 3, 2025

Unfest
 Goldsboro, North Carolina
 k4cyp.com

July 12, 2025

Firecracker Hamfest
 Salisbury, North Carolina

August 9, 2025

25th Annual CFARS Swapfest
 Fayetteville, North Carolina
 cfarsnc.com

August 30 - 31

Shelby Hamfest
 Shelby, North Carolina
 shelbyhamfest.com

CFARS VE Testing

The 2025 VE exams will take place at one of these two locations - as noted.



Peace Presbyterian Church
 3203 Ramsey Street
 Fayetteville, NC 28301

Cumberland County Shrine Club
 7040 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville NC 28311

Dates:

August 9, 2025 - Cumberland County Shrine Club
 October 11, 2025 - Peace Presbyterian Church

My CW Journey Part 2

Hello CFARs members,

I wanted to follow up on my last article about CW (Continuous Wave) and Morse code by addressing some questions I received. One of the most common inquiries is: **Where do you start to learn Morse code?**

Fortunately, there are many excellent resources available, both free and paid. Personally, I've tried various methods over the years, from cassette tapes (back when I first learned in 1999) to several apps on my iPhone. If you missed my previous article, I initially learned CW for my General license but didn't use it afterward, which led me to forget most of it.

To begin learning Morse code, it's essential to familiarize yourself with the individual letters and numbers. A useful free app for this purpose is **Morse Machine**, which is available on the iPhone. Additionally, I extensively used **Learn CW Online (LCWO)**, a free web-based platform that requires just a simple account sign-up.

I also became a member of the **Long Island CW Club**, which offers Zoom classes. Although I didn't utilize their resources as much as I could have, it's a fantastic club. They provide classes for all skill levels, from complete beginners to those looking to master 20+ words per minute. The annual membership fee is \$30, which is well worth it given the numerous classes available each week. You can check out their offerings at longislandcwclub.org.

Now, let's discuss the best way to learn Morse code. There really isn't a one-size-fits-all approach. You need to discover what works best for you, and the only way to do that is by diving in. I recommend starting with a simple app on your phone or using LCWO, which feels more like a game than a traditional class.

Here are a couple of suggestions I wish I had followed:

Use Farnsworth spacing — Practice listening at a letter speed of 20 WPM while spacing the letters much slower, around 5 WPM. This ensures that you recognize the sound of the letter rather than hearing the dots and dashes. Trying to memorize the dots and dashes for each character will only slow you down later when you try to speed up. You must learn the sound of the character.

Dedicate time each day — I suggest setting aside at least 15 to 20 minutes each day for copying code. I didn't do this initially, which made it take much longer to learn the letters, numbers, and punctuation than it should have. Consistent daily practice is crucial; it certainly was for me. Don't go too long either. A one-hour marathon session will not be as productive as four 15-minute sessions. But again, whatever works best for you.

Happy learning, and I hope you find these tips helpful on your Morse code journey!

73 Chris KR4I

25th Anniversary Edition

CFARS SwapFest

Sponsored by the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society

www.cfarsnc.org

Fayetteville, North Carolina

Saturday August 9, 2025

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

Information and Table Reservations:

David KI4W davidki4w@gmail.com

910-624-1394

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

ARRL VE Testing: Jim K4BUC jbuccieri@twc.com

910-309-5218

Set-up begins at 6:30am. Only vendors inside before 8:00am. If you need tables please call or email in advance. On the morning of the Swapfest see David KI4W for tables.

Table Reservations recommended.

Tail Gating available - - also FREE!!!

An ARRL Sanctioned Event