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The President's Corner: Rod KQ4FNO

We had a good turnout for our January Meeting, 41 people present. The discussions on WFD unfortunately were superseded by Winter Storm Fern! Thank you to all that came to participate, we appreciate your presence, and your comments. Thank you to Paul, NC4PB, my Vice President, for the excellent Silent Key remembrance for Fergie, KK4MCY/SK. It was a moving experience for many. On the other hand, it was good to see Nina, KN4KUL, back from Germany. Looking forward to seeing her more often at meetings and nets.

Winter Field Day provided us with a lot of innovations! First, we had our first large Discord meeting, with 24(+) attendees, and it went well. Then we had the Club Meeting on the 19th of January, and we discussed further the points for WFD. The weather then raised concerns, and with discussion with the Officers and advisors I decided to go with an alternative plan for WFD. We would operate from Home, using K4MN callsign, but with only one operator online at a time, thus we would be a 1Indoor station. Secondly, Paul, NC4PB, came up with a spreadsheet idea and had Ken, KQ4VFM, put it into action and publish it. This was an interactive spreadsheet (way above my capability) that operators could select slots, then change them if needed. All slots were filled by the end of the event, and we operated the whole time! We need to look at this for NC QSO and Field Day. I know the SSB Station has tried to have spreadsheets to program operators, but it has never been too successful. Maybe an online, interactive one will work in the future? Overall, the vent went well, and the only major glitch was an error on my part, but it didn't affect the result. I posted the initial results on Face Book and Discord but here they are again:

WFD 026 Initial Results

We had 11 operators (KT5H Hector, KQ4VFM Ken, KR4I Chris, KL7NL Bob, N1GNF Rick, KQ4RCC Parker, KB4D Jeremy, KF4VGI Aaron, WD4NC David, K4TTN Tyler, KQ4FNO Rod) make a total of 927 contacts, 748 SSB, 28 DIG, 151 CW. We had 20 multipliers. These were: Alt Pwr(1), InstallAnt (1), Send/RcvWinlink(1), Copy Bulletin(1), Op 6 Bnd(6), Op 12 Bnd(6), Use Mult Mode(2), Op 6 Contin hrs(2), Total 20.

According to my math that is 1146 points x 20 Multiplier = 22,920.

According to the Submission receipt we had 23,226 (they show 21 multipliers – I know math doesn't work!)

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Submitted Wednesday prior to 1200hrs! Thanks to all for their patience and willingness to work with me while I tried to put this together, Rick has learnt a couple of new tricks! Paul, NC4PB provided some well needed help too. Overall I think we did quite well, initial results have us placed quite well! But now – NC QSO Party is in sight, let's get to it!

So now onto NC QSO Party. This will be the main topic at the February meeting. In other news, Congratulations to Amanda for her promotion in the County EOC. We will hear from her in February too. I encourage all Club Members to attend our meetings, participate in the evening nets, and follow our FB and Discord pages. There is a lot of information put out, and these are the places it can be found. The meetings should not be the first time you learn of an event or what we are doing for it. Communications between people have been changing over the years, and now we no longer rely on letters or newspaper, but instead have emails and apps. We are no different and must learn all this new way of communicating. You need an email. You should have access to FB and Discord, you don't have to write anything on them, but watch what happens there. Make sure your email is current! (Oops! That is redundant, if your email is not current you will not read this!).

Looking forward to hearing from you on the nets and at the meeting, stay warm and "radioactive"!

Rod KQ4FNO



**From The Vice President
Paul NC4PB**

Well, January is in the books—and frankly, I'm glad. It was an eventful month, featuring Winter Field Day along with *Ice-mageddon 2026* and *Snow-mageddon 2026*. If those weather events proved one thing, it's that our club knows how to adapt and respond under pressure.

The regularly scheduled Winter Field Day event was called off in its original form due to potentially dangerous weather conditions—and that was absolutely the right decision. So how did the club respond? Members regrouped and held Winter Field Day from their home stations and from local parks. Multiple operators signed up to cover time slots around the clock for the duration of the event.

With the exception of one small hiccup, there was only one club member representing K4MN on the air at any given time throughout the entire event. While there were a few kinks to work out, the club overcame them and performed outstandingly. As of this writing, the club holds the number one position in our class for the contest. Great job to everyone who participated—well done!

Next up on our radar is the North Carolina QSO Party, a 10-hour event being held on Sunday, March 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST. This will be a great opportunity for Technician-class license holders to get some hands-on experience operating on the HF bands while being mentored by seasoned operators. Come experience the rush of contesting—and don't be surprised if you get hooked!

As the club's event coordinator this year, I'm filling the calendar with not only club-sponsored events, but also activities you can participate in individually—from your home shack or even from a park. I'll be posting this calendar on Facebook and Discord soon, and I'll also share it at our next club meeting. Be sure to attend so you can see what we have planned for the year.

By the way, if you haven't joined our Discord server yet, you don't know what you're missing! There's a wealth of great information being shared, and it's also a fantastic place to hang out with fellow hams and friends. If you'd like to join, send me an email at nc4pb@proton.me, or contact one of our Discord moderators: Jon jonswiat@gmail.com or Ken kq4vfm@gmail.com. We'll be happy to send you an invitation link.

That's enough from me for now—hope to hear you on the air!

73,

Paul Bridgeman NC4PB

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Webmaster.....Jim K4BUC jbuccieri@twc.com

(PL 100 Hz)

	K4MN
2 m	146.910/146.310
70 cm	444.400/449.400

6 m **K4MN**
53.810/52.810

2 m WA4FLR 147.330/147.930

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



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***March 6-7, 2026**

Charlotte Hamfest
Concord, North Carolina
charlottehamfest.org

March 14, 2026

AB4OZ Hamfest
Ridge Rd Baptist Church
2011 Ridge Rd.
Raleigh, North Carolina

April 4, 2026

RARSFEST
Raleigh, North Carolina
rarsfest.org

CFARS VE Testing

The 2026 VE exams will take place at

Peace Presbyterian Church
3203 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, NC 28301

Dates:

March 14, 2026 - Peace Presbyterian Church
August 8, 2026 - 7046 Ramsey St. - Cumberland County Shrine
October 10, 2026 - Peace Presbyterian Church





January 2026 Club Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society was held at 7:00 pm, Monday, January 19th 2026, in the Fellowship Hall of Peace Presbyterian Church, 3202 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, NC.

President Rod Mclean KQ4FNO called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country. Bill KE4DER gave the invocation. Rod KQ4FNO led the introductions in the usual CFARS fashion. There were 41 members and guests present.



Dale AK4YS made a motion to approve December's minutes, Don WO4SFA seconded, the club voted, and the motion carried.

Paul presented some slides in remembrance of George Ferguson (Fergie) KK4MCY who became silent key December 31st 2025. Several club members spoke in remembrance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurer: Mike KC4ABE gave the financial report.

Net Manager: Larry N4USB gave the December net report: XX Check ins for December.

Health & Welfare: Travis N4BEL noted a tree was planted on behalf of Fergie. Please let him or Bill KJ4OFD know if there is anything going on with our members.

Repeaters: No report.

Field Day: No report.

Membership: David KI4W presented one ham for membership - Paul Burns KR4IWO. Dale AK4YS made a motion to vote him into the club, Rick N1GNF seconded, the club voted and the motion carried.

Contesting: Hector KT5H, announced several upcoming contests, check contestcalender.com for additional info on radio contesting.

VE Coordinator: Jim K4BUC, 7 people tested during the last test session on the 10th and 6 passed their exams. The next testing session will be at Peace Presbyterian Church on March 14th 2026 check in starts at 9am. Make sure you bring a copy of your license and if you are not licensed bring a copy of your FRN or you will be turned away.

Swapfest: No report.

Public Relations: Hector KT5H, continue posting ham radio and club activity on the CFARS Facebook page.

Emergency Coordinator: Jeremiah N0NV let the club know, every 2nd Tuesday night is Skywarn night.

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.

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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: David K4FXC is still working with the ARRL.

Possum Trot Net: Alan KQ4QEM, PT net continues Weekdays from 5:00am to 7:00am. If you would like to sign up to run a PT net, please contact Alan KQ4QEM. Alan provided a report on the possum trot check in numbers. We have had some increases in the last month.

Skywarn: No report.

Event Coordinator: Rod KQ4FNO unfortunately Winter Field Day had to be cancelled due to a major ice storm. The NC QSO Party (NCQP), and Summer Field Day are not too far in the distant future. Please read the rules to help the club be compliant. There are changes that you need to be aware. WFD is January 24th and 25th. NC QSO Party is the end of February.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Certificates of appreciation were handed out to some hams that did not make it out to the Christmas Party which included David K4FXC, Travis N4BEL and Nina KN4KUL. Winter Field Day is next weekend January 24th and 25th 2026. We discussed meals, setup, and timelines. We also discussed power and other site logistics to include a public greeter. The club will be three transmitters and Mobile. Since most of our stations will be in trailers, and according to the rules we would be considered mobile for this WFD. David K4FXC will setup WIFI along with the logging computers and the SSID will be CFARS and the password cfars2026. Winter field day was subsequently cancelled due to a major ice storm. Rod asked the club for a budget of \$550 for the cost of Winter Field Day. Jeremy KB4D moved to approve the budget, Tracy AI4TS seconded, the club voted and the motion passed. Chris KR4I will be holding an antenna building workshop tentative scheduled for sometime in April. There will be two types of antennas built, an End Fed Half Wave (EFHW) 80 meter to 10 meter and secondly a 40 to 10 meter. The cost will be approximately \$60 to \$70 for the 40 to 10 and \$80 to \$90 for the 80 to 10. If you are interested please get with Chris or e-mail KR4I@arrl.net to get your name on the list. David WD4NC announced that he will host the rookie round up and other POTA events. Get with him if you want to get involved.

Program: None.

Announcements: None.

Door Prize Drawing: Paul NC4PB won a power pole distribution box, Bill KE4EDR won an American Flag, Don KO4IHM won a set of cables, Travis N4BEL won a flask, Paul KR4IWO won an air fryer, Lanie KQ4BVV won an American Flag and Norman won an American Flag.

50/50 Drawing: \$150 was collected, 3054 was the winning ticket held by Don WO4SFA who won \$75.

Adjournment: Bob KL7NL motion to adjourn and David WD4NC seconded, the club voted and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM.

Submitted: Chris KR4I
CFARS Recorder

AUXCOMM

Last month we had an AUXCOMM/SKYWARN drill. Winter Field Day 2026.

Plans are great until you get hit in the face. I am sure you have heard that before. We had to drop all the way to plan C to make this happen. It was a group effort; Ken put up a spreadsheet to get our members to sign up to be on the air. We had Generator power, Battery power and the solar power was a no go in all the sleet and rain. Some were on Shore power.

That is the whole point of the AUXCOMM/SKYWARN group. You find a way to get on the air and make the drill work as we train for the real thing. Great job by the club members and the Club leaders to make a hard decision to keep the team safe. That was the most important part of the drill. Safety.

In saying that, safety should be the first goal we want to get right. There was no need for someone driving into some Black Ice and messing up their Car or getting hurt themselves. They could have slipped on ice and fell and got hurt. The safety was the first thought of the Officers and advisers. This was the right call. Good job!

Now let's look at the positives that came out of the drill. We had some go to parks and put up antennas and radios and get on the Air with the POTA program and run battery power. Some were indoors away from home and ran Generators. Some were at home and had Generator, Shore or battery power. We tested our skill sets and took turns making QSOs. We stayed on the air for 24 hours making contacts.

We tested our back up systems, go boxes, back up radios. We sent in Win Link Vara HF, ICS 213 forms, Telnet was used as well, we got the message from the WFD crew. I am glad we were doing digital as well and send messages that were sent and received. It was hard to hear them on 20 meters. Digital was the source that copied the message sent from the WFD crew. We found a way to work as a team and make this event a success.

At the same time, I was listening to the local Ham's talking on the 910 and 045 talking about the weather conditions. I was looking at what the EOC was pushing out as well as the Salvation Army. This information was sent out to the AUXCOMM team and posted on our social media as well. Another win for the team. Messages were sent out over the net to get a go bag together in case we had a call out. Information was sent out on what we should have at the house to get ready for the coming storm. I sent out a lot of Win Link messages this past month as well to test my skill sets and let you test yours by sending one back. There was a handful of you that I heard nothing from. If you need help with Win link, let us know and we can do some more training. The big part of this was we had 90% of the group on the air and online doing their job.

If you would like to be a part of the AUXCOMM / SKYWARN team, get up with me or the officers and we can get you started.

David Winfree WD4NC

Emergency Management

January was an active and meaningful month for Emergency Management, and we want to take a moment to specifically recognize our CFARS partners for your continued engagement and willingness to support county operations. Earlier this month, Emergency Management hosted the first WebEOC exercise of 2026, focused on a communications failure scenario. I was genuinely glad to see CFARS members log in to observe the exercise and check it out. That participation matters. The feedback generated through this exercise has already provided valuable insight for our After-Action Review, particularly around how our community identifies the need for amateur radio operators when traditional communications are disrupted.

This exercise reinforced two important takeaways that we will be building on moving forward. First, it highlighted the need to continue educating responders on the importance of having communications equipment, especially amateur radio capabilities, pre-staged/installed and readily available at their departments. Second, it served as a powerful reminder of why we value our partnership with CFARS. Your role is not an afterthought or a backup plan; it is a critical component of resilience when systems fail and redundancy becomes essential.

Later in the month, Emergency Management activated the Emergency Operations Center in response to winter weather conditions. While impacts were limited, we are incredibly thankful for CFARS members who were willing to remain on standby should ice or power outages have affected communications capabilities across the county. Your readiness to assist, underscores the importance of preparation and reinforces why we continue to train and exercise together.

Both the communications failure exercise and the winter weather activation highlight why we conduct drills and exercises both with and without WebEOC. Technology is a powerful tool, but it is not infallible. Practicing alternate communications pathways, especially those that rely on people, planning, and partnerships, ensures we are prepared for a wide range of scenarios.

On the planning side, I am still working through updates to the AuxCOMM Plan that we reviewed together in December. Thank you for your patience as these revisions are finalized, I will share the updated plan with the team as soon as it is ready. We have also received final approval from our Public Information Office on the CFARS logo, and I will be working next on getting CFARS identification badges created and distributed. As a reminder, in order to receive a badge, Emergency Management must have a completed CFARS Interest Form and all required training certificates on file.

Looking ahead, our next WebEOC exercise will take place on March 17 and will focus on a mass transportation incident. We look forward to continued CFARS engagement as we strengthen coordination, refine processes, and build on the trusted partnership that supports Cumberland County during both exercises and real-world events.

Thank you for what you do, and for being an essential part of our emergency communications capability.

Amanda Scheck

Emergency Management Coordinator

