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The President’s Corner: Rod KQ4FNO

As soon as one month is over it appears that the next one is about to end as well! Earlier in the last month Chris, KR4I, held another antenna build workshop. The information he put out was great and was extremely useful. I believe another three antennas were built, tested and tuned. In addition, there were about three more that came back to tune their antennas. This was a great project, and we need to do more like this again. If you can hold a class like this please let me know.

The meeting was held on 18th May. For the first time the Club is going to change our status for the ARRL Field Day. Instead of a 2A class we will do a 5A class. This will allow some of the other operators to try different modes without disrupting the contest group. I believe that it is a good choice and am looking forward to the end of June to put it in place. In order to help do that we are hosting a Discord meeting on Jun 1st June at 6:30PM, (1830HRS), and again on 22nd June at the same time. Two “walkthrough” visits to the SF Compound will be held at 6:30 PM, (1830hrs), on June 9th and June 23rd. The second visit may not be required – to be announced later. This will give us the opportunity to look at the space and make fine tune adjustments.

Also, Field Day related - Food! Please let Don, WO4SFA, know what you will bring to the table in the way of food. Please do not be discouraged if he says that we have enough beans! Consider bringing something else. Don will be managing the food so that we have a good choice and little duplication. There is nothing worse than everyone bringing beans and only one person bringing a pack of hotdogs!

Dom, NC4XL, is still out there doing the POTA thing, and getting many people hunting him. He has done well for the few years he has been into it. If you have the opportunity to go with him to a park I guarantee he will teach you many things to remember about POTA! Kolt, KF6GRG, has just finished giving a presentation to the AUXCOMM group about digital communications. If you want to know about JS8Call, he is your man. We have many experts in the club at different things, and most of us are willing to help others to learn new ways, modes or techniques to accomplish our hobby, look for them at the meetings and ask! One of the interesting things I have seen develop over the last two and a half years is the amount of club members gathering before the meeting to talk and

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then hanging out after the meeting to continue talking. When I first joined the Club, as soon as the meeting was over people began to leave and very few stayed behind, now the opposite is happening.

Field Day is on us, and I am looking forward to the Club coming together, as we always do, and do great things. I will be getting some fliers from ARRL that I will distribute around the Club for members to hand out to interested parties. These were "free" from ARRL, but don't ask about the shipping! One month to go!

Rod KQ4FNO

TEN on TEN at 10

Well, that was catchy, but in reality, more than 10 ham radio operators gathered 10 meters at 09:30 am EST.

April-What did we achieve?

The organized participation of 10 CFARS teammates and one invite on 10 meters. We had a signals, from Fayetteville, Hope Mills, Raeford, Pinehurst and Clayton, NC, to name a few. Some got the opportunity to act as relays, others called CQ. Don Talbot- WO4SFA managed to change antennas, until he found which one was suitable for the day. Travis Bell-N4BEL and Paul Melvin K4PGM took the opportunity to check in and out, as they had other personal endeavors in their agenda. The rest stayed in and exchanged signal reports, and some Ten-Ten International numbers.

How do we start ?

You wanted an active place to get united as a club and here we are.

Where are we going?

Hopefully, and with your vote we can officialize it and soon become part as a Ten Ten International chapter, with the intent to grow, and develop by experimenting, and learning more about propagation, and our equipment capabilities.



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

July 11, 2026

Firecracker Hamfest
Salisbury, North Carolina
rowanars.net

July 18, 2026

53rd Annual Cary Mid-Summer Swapfest
Cary, North Carolina
wcars-cub.org

August 8, 2026

26th Annual CFARS Swapfest
Fayetteville, North Carolina
cfarsnc.org



CFARS VE Testing

The 2026 VE exams will take place at

Peace Presbyterian Church
3203 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, NC 28301

Dates:

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





May 2026 Club Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society was held at 7:00 pm, Monday, May 18, 2026, in the Fellowship Hall of Peace Presbyterian Church, 3202 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, NC.

President Rod MacLean KQ4FNO called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country. Bill KE4DER gave the invocation. Rod led the introductions in the usual CFARS fashion. There were 37 members and guests present. Jeremy KB4D made a motion to approve January's meeting

minutes David WD4NC seconded, the club voted, and the motion carried.



COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurer: Mike KC4ABE gave the financial report.

Net Manager: Larry N4USB - Net report for April: 695 check ins, Average of 23.2 check-ins with 940 minutes on the air for an average net time 31.3 minutes with 34 pieces of traffic.

Health & Welfare: Travis N4BEL provided a report on the health and welfare of our members.

Repeaters: David K4FXC no report.

Field Day: See New Business

Membership: David KI4W - One new member was presented to the club for membership - John Lawson – KQ4VRJ. Ed N4ESA made a motion to approve the membership Jeremy KB4D seconded, the club voted and the motion was carried.

Contesting: Hector KT5H - check contestcalendar.com for contests and events.

VE Coordinator: Jim K4BUC - The next testing session will be at the Cumberland County Shrine Club on August 8th, 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: David WD4NC - nothing additional to 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: David K4FXC is still working with the ARRL.

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Possum Trot Net: Alan KQ4QEM, PT net continues Weekdays from 5:00am to 7:00am. Alan provided a report: 8 new PT Memberships since January 2026. If you would like to sign up to run a PT net, please contact Alan KQ4QEM.

Skywarn: No report.

Event Coordinator: ARRL Field day is June 27th and 28th. The next scheduled VE testing session is August 8th at the Swapfest, go to the CFARS website for times, dates, and locations as they are subject to change. May 23rd at Nicholson Creek POTA event hosted by Paul NC4PB. June 6th and 7th Museum Ships on the Air please go to the Facebook page and click on I'm going to get yourself on the list. Also contact Rod or David WD4NC to sign up.

AUXCOMM - David WD4NC - nothing additional to report.

Old Business: Three 10-80Meter EFHW antennas ordered from Chris Hostetter. Rod spoke to him and these are expected to be delivered in about two weeks.

New Business: Rod KQ4FNO brought up the fact that the club must maintain ARRL membership of at least 50% to continue to be affiliated as an ARRL club. Latest data show we still meet that requirement but just barely. ARRL Field Day 2026 Start time 1400 EST Saturday 27th June. Ending at 1659 EST 28th June. Rod KQ4FNO opened discussions for operating 2A versus 3A or even 5A, the club members discussed the pros and cons of operating in another category and the fact that we had plenty of operators for a larger category. It was recommended by Rick N2GNF that we should look at entering Field Day as an EOC next year. Chris KR4I made a motion to operate field day as 2A, Jeremy KB4D seconded and a vote was taken. 5 members voted in favor. Rod KQ4FNO asked who was in favor of operating 5A? Chris KR4I amended his motion to operate Field Day in the 5A category. Jeremy KB4D seconded and the club voted and 13 members voted in favor of operating 5A and the motion was carried. Rod next covered the field day staff that we will need the following: Field Day Marshal. Travis N4BEL volunteered for this duty. Safety Officer. Stephen, KR4IVL has requested this duty. Food Director. Don WO4SFA volunteered to be the food director. Front office/ Reception. TBD. Station Chiefs. CW. Chris Ray, KR4I for station #1 SSB, Hector KT5H and Tyler K4TTN volunteered for station #2, GOTA. Tyler, K4TTN Free, Digital, FT8/FT4 Mike/Walter, KC4ABE/ KG4JOK #3, VHF. (collocated with Digital FT8) Free, Digital RTTY/MSK/PSK31/JS8Call etc Corey K9BTR #4, SSB Secondary. Rick N1GNF #5. Rod will provide all "cheat sheets" as he did last year. Rod next presented the bonus points available based on the rules and reviewed what they were and how we might achieve them. Rod discussed some of the other rules. Outside stations – i.e. those that do not join in at the SF Compound, can add their scores to the Club score for an aggregate total. This includes bonus points. We looked at that and most stations could get a total of 700 bonus points. The biggest drawback would be submitting by website for results and logs. We can help with that. Logs must be turned in by July 28th (A Tuesday). Those operators cannot operate at the SF Compound. Start time. If we start at 1800 UTC/1400EST then we can operate 27 hours. That means we start putting up antennas and operating immediately. If we come early, 0700 EST and put up antennas and all equipment to operate if we start at 1400 EST then we must have a 3 hour break at night so we only operate 24 hours. Alternative is to start operating at 1700hrs EST and operate continually until 1700 hrs EST Sunday. Best if we stop at night. Three Club radios, CW, GOTA, SSB (Main) we have two other radios available, but they may not do Digital modes without additional equipment. Members may have to bring additional radios to make 5A. Regarding a

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budget Jeremy KB4D brought that we need to vote on a budget. Chris made a motion to make the budget \$275 for food, K4TTN seconded the club voted and the motion carried.

Program: None.

Announcements: None.

Door Prize Drawing: Hector KT5H won a mobile Radio and a HT radio and a book, Don WO4SFA won an ammo can and Mic holder, Don WO4IHM won a wireless router, Bill KE4DER won a Speaker, Jeremy KB4D won a straight key, Pete K4QFK won a mobile antenna, Tracy AI4TS won a Stright Key, Paul NC4PB won a Rotomatic, Rod KO4FNO won a roll of electrical tape and Ben W3GER won a makeup mirror.

50/50 DRAWING: \$178 was collected, 6683234 was the winning ticket held by Mike KN4UHI who won \$89.

Adjournment: David WD4NC made a motion to adjourn and Rick N1GNF seconded, the club voted and the meeting was adjourned at 8:28PM.

Submitted: Chris KR4I
CFARS Recorder

The New Normal HF Propagation

As a ham operator exploring the HF bands you have so many options available to you. From which band to operate on too many different modes you can choose. Just a few months ago they turned on the radio and activity was easily found on the bands. Lately a change has taken place, the bands are alive with activity in the morning, around lunchtime the bands are not active, and near the end of the day the bands come back to life. Is this the new normal? Or is my radio in need of repair or replacement?

As a new solar cycle starts, we are near the bottom of the sun spot activity. As time progresses, we see sun spot activity increasing along with the band activity. As the solar cycle gets towards the end the activity decreases again. We never really know when the next solar cycle will bring. We can only hope to see great amateur radio activity.

Solar Cycle 25 produces strong propagation that can be unpredictable. High solar flux numbers help out the upper HF bands. During the middle of the day, the D-layer strengthens from sunlight. As the D-layer strengthens the radio signals are absorbed instead of reflected.

One thing to keep in mind is gray line propagation. Gray line happens during sunrise and sunset. Part of the earth is in daylight and part is in darkness. During gray line radio signals travel extremely well because the D-layer fades quickly. So, watch the gray line, get active and see what you can put in the log. You may be surprised with some rare DX!

Hams, who have been licensed for many years, have seen various solar cycles, some good and some not so good. We really never know what the sun has in store for us. You might even keep a watch on 6 meters. When 6 meters opens it may not be for long. Keep your qso's short. I remember being on a POTA activation with a dedicated 6 meter rig. While we were operating 6 meters came to life. A ham in Houston, TX was loud. A quick contact and he was gone.

The good news is that HF radio offers many opportunities. The bands may not be what we would like them to be or what we remember them as in the past. Be patient, watch the solar indices and adjust your operating to the conditions you get. Keep a notebook of band conditions to see if they change over time.

The more you understand propagation, the more enjoyable and successful HF operating becomes. We learn something new each day. Keep the rig on and your ears may be surprised!

73 de Mike KN4XP

AUXCOMM - Antenna Installation

The group got together on a short notice and worked at installing the Frames for the antenna mounts and the poles to hold the antennas up. We had 13 members show up to help and I am thankful for the turnout. Great group and they got right to work.



We broke up into three groups, each working on a stand and the center pole. Rod (KQ4FNO) went and got us a pulley that was needed and a little more cordage. Ed (N4ESA) had a couple of pulleys that he bought and gave to the project. While all this was happening, Amanda went to the store and came back with 24 blocks. The stands, blocks and poles all had to be pulled by rope up to the roof top and then carried to the place they were going to be installed. Don (WO4SFA) and Tyler (K4TTN) worked as the ground team to tie everything up so we could work the lifting part. That was a ton of work to get done on an 88-degree day! WO4SFA, AB4KC and son, NC4PB, KQ4QEM, N4ESA, KQ4FNO, AI4PB, KC4ABE, K4TTN, WD4NC, Amanda and Larry.

We also put the antennas together and pulled the Doublet dipole out to get the length that the frames must be. The antennas were installed to include a Comet GP6 for VHF/UHF. We still need some antennas on the roof and coax, and we will get back to that soon.

Just examples of needs:

PROCOMM PT99 1/2 WAVE PROTRON CB RADIO FIBERGLASS BASE ANTENNA 18.5FT 2000W PEP

MA06 VHF Marine Antenna, 3.5Dbi Fiberglass Waterproof Boat Antenna, 23 Ft/7 M RG END FED 1/2 Wave 200 watt

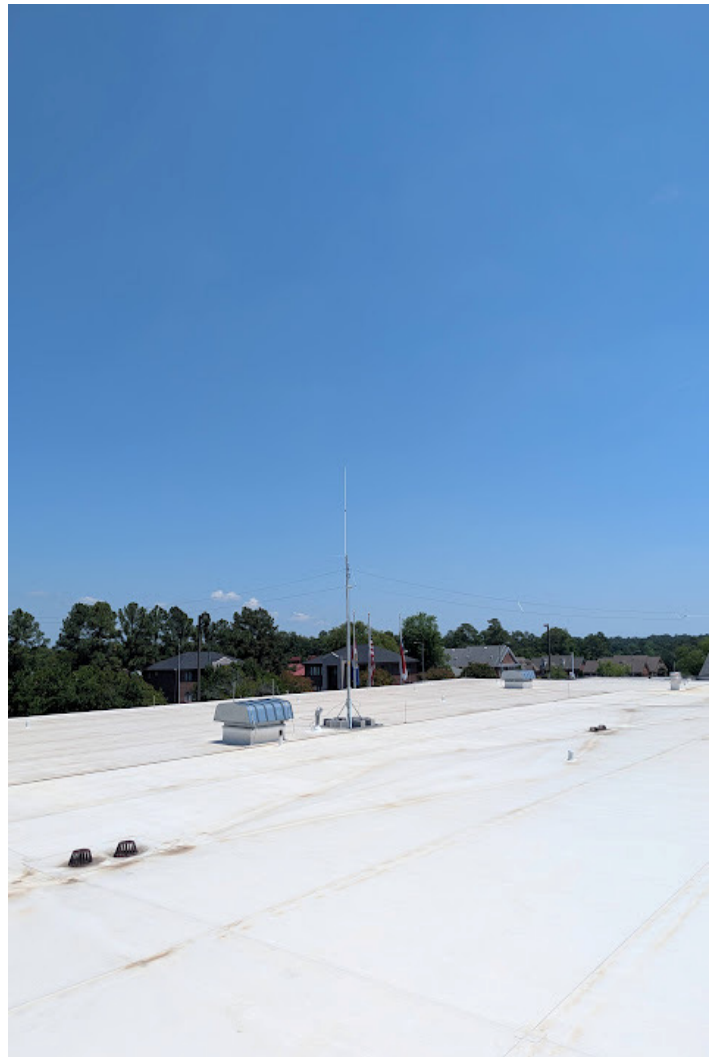
Those are just examples of what we could use to get the listening station up and running. If you would like to donate one of these to the group, that would be great. We could also use some LMR 400 (50 feet each) to go with them. It just may be funding raising time.

Thank you to everyone that came out and helped. I hope we have the station up and running before field day so we can test it and have it on the air!

David WD4NC



Emergency Operations Center Antenna Installation



EOC Happenings

As we head into June and the start of hurricane season, I wanted to take a moment to recognize and thank our AuxComm team for their assistance with setting up the antenna sleds and antennas.

It was great to see everyone come together around a common goal and jump in wherever needed. The teamwork, problem solving, and willingness to lend a hand made what could have been a long process move quickly and efficiently. I'd say "many hands make light work"... but those cinder blocks were definitely still heavy! It's always encouraging to see the dedication and camaraderie that make this group such an asset.

With hurricane season officially beginning this month, I also want to encourage everyone to take some time to prepare, not just professionally, but personally. Take a few minutes to review your plans and make sure you, your families, homes, workplaces, and even your vehicles are ready for the season ahead. Preparedness doesn't have to happen all at once, but small actions now can make a big difference later.

As we often remind our community: it only takes one storm to make it a bad season.

That said, I remain confident in this team and our collective ability to stand united, stay prepared, and support one another when it matters most.

Thank you again for all you do and for continuing to strengthen our communications capabilities and readiness.

Stay safe and stay ready.

Amanda Scheck
Emergency Management Coordinator

Upcoming Ham Radio Events

Put the following activities in your calendar! Keep your Amateur Radio Career Alive and Well!!!

Museum Ships On The Air-June 6-7, 2026.

A major annual ham radio event, will take place June 6–7, 2026, organized by the Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Club. It features stations operating from historic ships to promote maritime history.

International Museums Weekends (June 20–21, 27–28) and Mills On The Air (May 9–10)

Field Day- Last weekend of June.

13 Colonies SES- the entire 1st week of July.

WRTC 2026- World Radiosport Team Championship will take place in the UK between 7th and 13th July 2026. It will take place in an area known as East Anglia. The 50 operating sites will be on the air.

IARU HF Championships (24 hrs) July 11-12

26th Annual

CFARS SwapFest

Sponsored by the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society

www.cfarsnc.org

Fayetteville, North Carolina

Saturday August 8, 2026

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