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The President's Corner: David WD4NC

We made it to Oct, and the club has got a lot done this year and we are still moving forward. There has been contesting, POTA, Meet and greets, Swap Fest and VE testing. We have added repeaters and rebuild repeaters as well. The officers' crew have been busy as ever working to make the club better than ever and with the club supporting us, I think we are getting there. The club meetings were a ton of fun, and I really enjoyed seeing you all there. The fellowship is what I like best. There are so many of you enjoying what this hobby has to offer, and the club meeting is a great place to talk about it. Every third Monday at 7PM we meet to talk about events and what is happening on Ham radio. Do your best to come out and enjoy your club.

Discord: If you want to get on the Discord app with the rest of us. Send an Email to NC4PB and he will approve you and send you a link to the club page. This is where the club is moving to chat and put out information on the clubs' activities. There are no adds and FB is taking away chats and other platforms that we have been using. Yes, it is free.

The DMR repeater is up and running and ready for use. A lot of you were asking for this to happen and it is working well up at 1000'. Give it a try. WA4FLR is another 2m club repeater that has been down for a while and with a lot of work from the repeater team, it is back up and running well. It still needs a little cleaning up, but it is ready for you to use. 147.330. This is a new repeater, antenna and coax. The repeater is still being tuned and we are looking at a few issues on it. But it is way better than it was, and it should have around a 40 mile reach.

The GMRS club repeater is up and working well. This repeater is 450' up in the air and for paid club members only and their families.

We just got back from Singletary Lake State Park, and it was a great day of ham radio. The noise level was only around a 3 all day and it made working DX easy. I could hear stations that I could not hear at the house and worked Japan three times. We had a full house and a big thunderstorm on Friday night. Saturday was nice with just a short sprinkle of rain. A big thanks to Don, (WO4SFA) he bought in Mission B-QUE for all to enjoy. That was a nice lunch for all. If you like working DX or POTA or maybe just want to learn more about ham radio, this was the place to be.

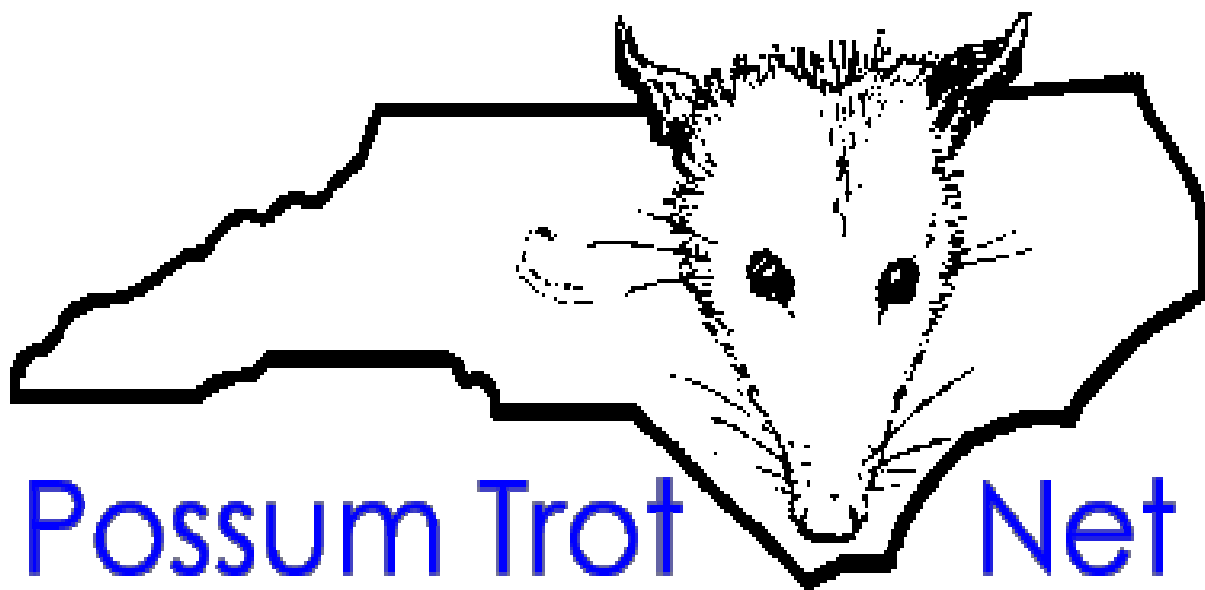
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For our members that have their Tech license, do not forget the repeaters the club has to offer and the nets. PT net is from 5 AM to 7 AM each morning. Get a PT number by checking in 5 days in a row or by checking in a total of 10 times. Also, the club's 444.40, this repeater is set up to listen and talk all around the world. I use it on my ride home from work about every day on the East coast reflector. I have a regular rag chew with New Zealand and England each day.

VE Testing: Next testing is Oct 11th. We will meet up at Peace Presbyterian Church at 9AM. Be sure you have a FRN number before you get there and a copy of your license if you are updating your license. VE's we need you there as well to help with the test and thank you for all you have been doing to keep making this happen.

As I have stated, the club is busy and moving forward. We are now gearing up for contest season and just got done with the NA QSO Party. We did well.



**From The Vice President
Rod KQ4FNO**

Well, once again we blinked, and another month has gone by. First, I would like to thank everyone that came to the meeting on 15th September. We had 39 members and guests. We also inducted two more new members into the club, Sean Brost, KR4FRG, and Joe James. Welcome to both of you, and I think you have joined a great club!

The WA4FLR, Ft. Bragg repeater, was replaced and put into operation, and although there are some minor problems that need to be addressed, generally it was a successful operation. Thank you to all that came out and assisted in this: WD4NC, David, K4FXC, David, K9BTR, Corey (the “main man”), three of his coworkers that accompanied him, NC4PB, Paul (antenna man), KF6GRG, Kolt and myself (water boy). (I think I got everyone) Great views from the top of the building and even better from the roof, where I did not venture! Any way it was installed and has already had some tweaking done but needs a little more and we will have a great repeater for the club.

Three club members took a little trip to the coast to try some ‘maritime POTA’ and discovered the truth to the rule “you cannot plan for every eventuality”! Great day to be on the water, calm seas, sun and only a slight swell. Dolphins were eager to give us a show and then we headed to Bald Head Island to POTA. We made some contacts, but were not happy with the number, although we made the require 10+. Tried to start the engine.....and it didn’t. Finally got it going so headed to the launch and took it out, better safe than sorry. Headed to Ft Anderson and had a good activation and then home. The other problem? Well, we did not study the maps too well and found we were not in the “Park boundary” as we thought we were. Make sure you check the boundaries of the park you are trying to activate so you can be successful. The little yellow spot on the POTA map is NOT the only spot you can set up in. Most “Trail” sites cover many miles, so you can choose where to go. Anyway, for POTA activators, just be aware of where you are!

We also had our annual Singletary Lake POTA outing at the Family Cabin. Friday night was LOUD! Thunder and lightning stopped our operation after a short while. Saturday, it had dried out and many folks came out and played radio with us and hung around and discussed all the subjects we need to know about! Don, WO4SFA, brought out enough BBQ and beans to feed all of us without having to cook burgers and hot dogs. Nobody went hungry! Don also had his first “activation” on POTA, and he was excited to do that having hunted many parks and operators. KK4TNO, Chaz, and KR4DIS, Keith, also had their first taste of POTA and activating a ‘twofer’. Great to see club members taking a step in a new direction for them. Overall, this was another good meeting of amateur radio operators having fun.

Don’t forget the upcoming AUXCOM Exercise on 11th October. Watch the Face Book Page, Discord Channel, and listen in on the evening net to make sure you get all the details. It will be published, so no excuse not to see/hear it.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting, 20th October 2025. Let’s have even more there than last month. Until then Radio on, check nets, POTA, SOTA, DX and have fun playing radio.

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.



October 2025 Club Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society was held at 7:00 pm, Monday, September 15th 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. There were 39 members and guests

present. Don WO4SFA made a motion to approve August minutes, Jeremy KB4D seconded, the club voted, and the motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurer: Mike KC4ABE gave the financial report.

Net Manager: No report.

Health & Welfare: Travis N4BEL - Nina will be stepping down from health and welfare. Anyone that can help with please reach out to Travis.

Repeaters: David K4FXC No report.

Field Day: No report.

Membership: Jim K4BUC had 2 new members to vote in Sean Brost – KR4FGZ and Joe James. Chris KR4I made a motion to approve these new members David WD4NC seconded, the club voted in favor and the motion was carried.

Contesting: Juan NK2MC no report. Juan is stepping down and we need to find a replacement. If you are interested in taking over as contest coordinator, please let us know.

VE Coordinator: Jim K4BUC, the next testing session will be at Peace Presbyterian Church fellowship hall October 11th 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. It's much too cumbersome to get the license or FRN after the testing session is completed, so it must be brought with you on test day if you plan on testing for an upgrade or a new license.

Swapfest: No report.

Public Relations: Hector KB4LOA 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. Next Simulated Emergency Net event Oct 11th and 13th. Monitor the NC PERMS site for additional information and other upcoming events. We are also reaching out to surrounding counties to coordinate emergency training events.

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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.

Possum Trot Net: Greg NC4GK, PT net continues Weekdays from 5:00am to 7:00am. If you would like to sign up to run a PT net, please contact Greg NC4GK. Greg is stepping down from his position as PT net coordinator. If anyone is interested in taking over this position, please let David WD4NC know. Prior to the end of the meeting Alen KQ4QEM volunteered to take over as PT Net coordinator. He will work with Greg to transition the duties.

Skywarn: No report.

Event Coordinator: Some CFARS club reps went down to Sampson County to see their AUXCOMM operations. The club appeared to be doing well with their county representatives. They had also taken donations from the local community to build 7 go boxes with radios and other items to use for emergency communications. Singletary Lake POTA event will occur September 27th, 8am to 5pm let us know if you are coming. E-mail David WD4NC or Rod KQ4FNO.

Old Business: Repeaters, GMRS is on air info has been sent out about this. DMR repeater located on the same tower as the 147.045 W4LBT repeater and it can be used. The owner is inviting anyone and everyone to. Fort Bragg WA4FLR update. The repeater is being replaced and will go down for about a week while repairs and replacements are made. The new repeater will be a Motorola commercial grade repeater. Cory Simon briefed the replacement plan. Other than the repeater the feedline and antenna will be replaced. This repeater will be dual mixed mode analog and P25. The voice recording of the WA4FLR unfortunately cannot be saved. Club members will be on site to do some of the work on the 22nd of September. Club members want to help must be able to get on Fort Bragg and be at the loading dock at the soldier support center by 0800.

Good news! The club is now a 501 (c) (3) and is recognized by the IRS as a charitable organization. We are just awaiting the letter from the IRS. We must now ensure we fill out and file a tax report each year.

New Business: Rod KO4FNO nominated himself as Club President, Paul NC4PB nominated himself as Club Vice President, Mike KC4ABE nominated himself as Secretary/Treasurer and Chris KR4I nominated himself as Recorder. If there are any additional nominations, please bring them to a club officer or David WD4NC before the October meeting. The club will vote on new officers for 2026 at the October meeting so be sure to attend if you want to have your vote counted.

Nina can no longer support the Health and Welfare role with the club. Travis N4BEL has been standing in and will continue to support the Health and Welfare but his time is limited. David WD4NC asked if there were any volunteers to help, it would be appreciated and to please let Travis know.

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Program: DMR and Discord: Paul NC4PB briefed Digital Mobile Radio and provided a short brief on Discord. He noted that the K4BLA, DMR repeater, is on the air and has a lot of coverage in our area. Paul briefed the new CFARS Discord server that has been set up for the club. Send email to Paul NC4PB if you are interested in being added to the CFARS Discord server.

Announcements: None.

Door Prize Drawing: Mike KC4ABE won a CFARS sign, Jeremy won KB4DanCFARS sign and an antenna, Don KO4IHM won a Coax Switch and a tool bag, Larry N4USB won a pelican case, Ken KQ4VFM won a CFARS patch and a book, Tim Sanders N9OUS won a CFARS sign, Ed N4ESA won a Pelican case, Paul NC4PB won a speaker and a book, Rod KQ4FNO won a coax switch, Linnie KQ4BEV won a CFARS Patch, John KO4OXC won a CFARS Patch and Don WO4SFA won an ammo can.

50/50 Drawing: \$158 was collected, 2677 was the winning ticket held by Bill KE4DER won who \$79.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM. There were 39 members and guests present. Tyler K4TTN motioned to adjourn, Larry N4USB seconded, and the club voted, and the motion was carried.

Submitted: Chris KR4I
CFARS Recorder



Emergency and Skywarn

I have often been out-of-town for krow recently, but I am excited about developments with our AUXCOMM team as I reengage with the club. Our training at the EOC has been going very well. And this article will focus on the emerging news about a DMR repeater, where I see a motion passed to acquire a club DMR repeater either through purchase or donation.

What is the significance of DMR to AUXCOMM specifically?

Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) technology has become increasingly relevant among the narrow FM bandwidth digital voice modes. DMR offers some degree of compatibility with other modes, for example Yaesu's System Fusion/C4FM option and Icom's D-Star option, via a personally owned hotspot. Emergency training exercises often include a DMR task on the Brandmeister or TGIF networks. North Carolina's VIPER network and other trunked radio platforms used by emergency services have a similar look-and-feel at the handset or mobile radio level as DMR. By learning DMR, amateur operators gain familiarity with the same principles—talk groups, time slots, and networked repeaters—that underpin public safety communications. This makes DMR not only a hobby but also an opportunity to build skills that mirror real-world emergency service operations.

Beyond its technical applications, DMR is also simply fun. Unlike traditional analog radios, DMR enables global contacts on equipment that would otherwise be limited to local, line-of-sight conversations. Through the use of repeaters and internet-linked talk groups, operators can make unique QSOs. Reference the USS Midway on the Air events at <https://papasys.com/uss-midway-on-the-air-january-11/> for a regularly occurring special event station that can earn a QSL card.

Finally, DMR can be accessible. The cost of equipment has decreased significantly, with capable handholds and mobile units available at reasonable prices. My first DMR contact was on DroidStar at https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.dudetronics.droidstar&hl=en_US before I even purchased a multi-mode radio handset. CFARS has a strong community of mentors to provide guidance, codeplugs, and support to help newcomers get on the air. This means anyone with interest can begin exploring the technology. Check in to the CFARS Sunday evening DMR Net at 20:00 EST on TGIF Network talk group 910.

In conclusion, operating a public safety radio – either a handset or base station built into our console at the EOC – is a task in the AUXC course and Position Task Book, if those are avenues you want to approach. Operating a DMR radio is the closest you can get on personal equipment, and it is also pleasurable for ham communication.

Jeremiah N0NV

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

October 12, 2025
Maysville Hamfest
Maysville, North Carolina
maysvillehamfest.org

November 16, 2025
Jarsfest
Benson, North Carolina
jars.net

March 6-7, 2026
Charlotte Hamfest
Concord, North Carolina
charlottehamfest.org

CFARS VE Testing

The 2025 VE exams will take place at

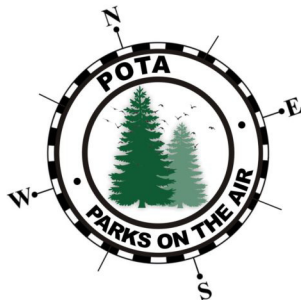
Peace Presbyterian Church
3203 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, NC 28301

Dates:

October 11, 2025 - Peace Presbyterian Church



Autumn Support Your Parks Weekend



October 18 and 19 is the scheduled dates for the POTA Autumn Support Your Parks event. The event will start at 0000z on the 18th (Friday night at 8pm local) and run until 2400z (Saturday night 8pm local) on the 19th. Awards are available for both hunters and activators. This will be a busy weekend so get your rig ready to activate or hunt many parks. An activator can go to the park and just hunt park to parks. Get your 10 contacts minimum and you will earn both awards! The bands will be a hopping with many

parks...will you get out and activate or hunt? A good time is awaiting! Don't miss out! Hope to work you on the air.

AUXCOMM / EOC

Hello team, first off thank you all for the work you have put in to get this program moving inside the club and the help you all have been in getting this moving. As of now we have 25 hams in the club that are good to go on their certification and ready to move.

Our next drill is a big step forward for us. This time we are going to be working with the surrounding Counties that are ready to jump in and work together. We have set up a PACE plan and that is what we will be using for this Drill. We will be putting the club tower up at the EOC and mounting a 2meter antenna and an End Fed antenna to it. We will put out a call at 10 AM on Oct 11th and start the drill.

I will start on the 910 repeater and call for surrounding Counties to check in. I will also have Win link open and watching it for reports as well. This will work just like a net to see what repeaters are hitting what areas. I have a map laid out and pretty sure what repeater is going to hit what area. Our big hitters are going to be the 045 and the 105.

I will start at 910 and then move down the PACE plan and call a net on each repeater. We are also going to use three 2m simplex as well. This is where I am going to need relay stations to relay to the EOC from the surrounding counties. You may hear a station checking in that we do not hear. Please take the time to follow along and help on this drill. If you have any questions, send me a note and I will do my best to get a good answer. Keep in mind this is the first time we have done this, and I know it is going to be rough. But this is how we get better. I hope to reach out to 11 counties in our surrounding area.

Why? This drill will help us see what we can do and what repeater to use to hit the other counties in our area to handle communications if needed in their area or them to help us. It can also be used to send information on coming weather as an early warning with eyes on the storms and what is coming our way, and we can do the same for them. Setting up a system of communications is going to help all of us. I know we have the Carolina 440, and it will play a big part in making this happen. But this test is what if. By testing the local repeaters, we will know what we can use as a work around if the repeater relay systems as in the 440 were to go down. I hope you all will take the time to help.

David WD4NC

