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**The President's Corner: David KI4W**

We have another successful North Carolina QSO Party effort behind us. Now we wait for the scores to be tallied. It sure was great seeing those out there Sunday during the time I was able to come out and play on Sunday. The bands were pretty dreadful but that did not dampen the fun and fellowship. There were a lot of positive comments about our efforts and I think all who participated learned a little something that you did not know before about our great hobby. There is always something new to be learned in the many facets of amateur radio. Now we start counting the days until Field Day in June. For the new hams who have recently come aboard if you think the NC QSO Party was fun just wait until Field Day.

We have had a long history with Methodist University that dates back to mid seventies. As the years go by one thing you can count on is that thing called change. Over the years Methodist University has gone through massive change with many new buildings, a major increase in enrollment, and even a name change from Methodist College to Methodist University. The priority for the university is academics and we must respect that as we are their guests. I am asking you when you come out for the meeting please respect those students who are using the building where we meet. Our meeting starts at 7:30pm but many start to gather around 7:00. I am asking that once you enter the building to keep your voices down as they are having study sessions, testing, and classes. If you want to socialize before the meeting please do so but either do it outside or very, very quietly once you enter the building. After the meeting concludes I ask that unless you are assisting in breaking down any equipment from a presentation to exit the building. There is a meeting after the meeting at Chick Fil A so if you are so inclined please feel free to continue to socialize there.

As a reminder the Charlotte Hamfest is March 13-14. The club has tables reserved so if you have an item or two you are welcome to bring them to Charlotte. On March 21 we have a test session scheduled at Methodist University. Good luck to all who plan to test. Also please get your 2020 CFARS dues in to our club treasurer if you have not already done so. If you are reading this and are not a member we cordially invite you to come out and join us. If you would like any information about CFARS please feel free to contact me.

On a personal note after many failed attempts to obtain either a 1x2 or 2x1 Extra Class call sign over the years I finally succeeded. My new call is KI4W. Now my elmer and good friend, Bill KU4W, have call signs that are only one letter different. When I saw that KI4W was going to be available I marked my calendar the day it was to become available. Bill, AJ W4EK(sk), and I spent many a Sunday afternoon on the Possum Trot CW Net. We sure had some good times with a lot of good natured kidding and ribbing with each other. Yes you can carry on and joke on cw just like you do on voice. If AJ were here we sure could have gave him a fit with our call signs being so similar. He would have enjoyed every minute of it. I sure miss him and the others we have lost. I look forward to seeing you all at the March meeting. See you on the radio.

73 de ki4w ... \_.\_

CFARS Officers

President .....David KR4OE kr4oe@nc.rr.com  
 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  
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 Information.....  
 Repeaters.....Ben KM4ODT bassettbw@aol.com  
 Sky Warn.....Jim KI4YRH ki4yrh@aol.com  
 Field Day.....George KM4ODS km4ods@gmail.com  
 Health & Welfare... Carl K4CFB carlbeene@gmail.com  
 VEC.. .....Pat N4UGH n4ughpat@aol.com  
 Swapfest .....David KR4OE kr4oe@nc.rr.com  
 Public Info... Marty W4MLW carolinapretzel@embarqmail.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 right to vote on issues for the club comes with club membership. PO Box 36106, Fayetteville, NC 28303



CFARS Club Patches are available for purchase. Contact **Chuck KJ4RV** for your patch today!

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 Friday 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.



### February 2020 Club Meeting Minutes

The February monthly meeting of the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society was held Monday evening, February 17, 2020 in Room 119 of Allison Hall at Methodist University at 7:30 pm. President David KR4OE opened the meeting, welcomed all for coming and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country. Paul K4PGM gave the invocation, and David led the introductions in the usual CFARS fashion. The Recorder having done his usual outstanding job, Van N4ERM and Jim KI4YRH moved to accept the minutes and the minutes were approved.



#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Treasurer:** Chuck KJ4RV gave the Treasurer's Report as of 31 January 2020. We had some money, we made some money, we spent some money. We have a little less money than we started with.

**Net Manager:** Chuck KJ4RV gave the net manager's report. We had 590 checkins in December, 712 in January. We talked 920 minutes in December, and 1143 minutes in January. Let's keep the repeaters busy, the repeater crew has been doing a great job keeping them up.

**Health & Welfare:** Carl K4CFB had no reports for Health and Welfare.

**Repeater:** Ben KM4ODT reports the 2m and 440 repeaters are good, and the 6m repeater is still a work in progress.

**Membership:** David KR4OE tried to introduce our new members. Unfortunately, none of them were present. Chuck KJ4RV still has membership packages available for KN4JUY KK4TKU KA4RLO and KN4WNF to list a few. Get up with Chuck and pick up your membership package. On the same note, if you have not paid your dues for 2020, I feel confident that Chuck would be happy to exchange your \$15 for another year of your membership for the Club. Not sure if you have paid? See <https://cfarsnc.org/current-members> and check the list and find out if you're naughty or nice...

**Swapfest:** CFARS Swapfest this year is August 8 at the Cumberland County Shrine Club.

**Emergency Coordinator:** Emergency Coordinator Mike K4JWX is working with surrounding counties concerning emergency preparedness. Spring Lake shelters are still in flux.

**VE Testing:** VE Testing dates are March 31 and June 16. Keep studying and get your upgrade or your new license.

**Field Day:** Field Day this year is June 27-28. Methodist University outside Allison Hall

**Public Relations:** Marty M4MLW has nothing to say for Public Relations. He has reserved tables at the Charlotte Hamfest and for the Raleigh Hamfest. He has requested some assistance to help with the hamfests.

**Possum Trot Net:** Ron K4FET, our Possum Trot coordinator, is reporting that 50 checkins is the new 40. George KM4ODS even had 70 checkins... 5:00 to 7:00 am. Monday - Friday. Only takes seconds to check in. If you don't have a Possum Trot number of your very own, you can get it on the air. Just check in 5 mornings in a row, or 10 mornings scattered. Beware of caterwauling.

**Old Business:** The NC QSO party is March 1<sup>st</sup>. Van N4ERM has rented 3 cabins at the Smith Lake Army Recreation Area for the weekend. Bring the kids, bring the dogs, bring someone interested in ham radio.

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**NEW BUSINESS:** David KR4OE read a thank you card from Judy Strother. David KR4OE reports our contract with Methodist University is good thru June. Methodist University has had some problems with other groups in the past and asks that we leave the classrooms in the same condition as we received them.

**MONKEY BUSINESS:** Pete K4QFK is helping Gene N4ANV set his station back up and they will be needing some help with antennas in the near future. Need of tower climbing for antenna placement.

**Program:** Dale AK4YS presents: **NC QSO Party.**

Things to know: **March 1 at Smith Lake Recreation Area**

**Cabins A B C** have been rented for our use and enjoyment

Stations will be **CW/DIGITAL/SSB**

Software for logging with be **NC QSO Party Logger** by N3FJP

Things we need: **Operators.** No need for a license, just an ability to speak into a microphone. Looking at 2 hour stints.

**Loggers.** To assist operators. Familiarity with the N3FJP software appreciated but not necessary.

**Mentors / Elmers**

**Adult Supervision**

Really folks, most of us have done this in the past. If you think we might have a use for it, bring it along. We will **start setting up Saturday morning** after Breakfast at K&W. Once everything is up we will test and maybe play in the SC QSO party.

**Door Prize Drawing:** Ryan KN4WNH has donated a refurbished computer along with the fixins like monitor, keyboard, mice, Jorge KN4PTL won it.

Fred N4ZCG and Jim KI4YRH said let go to Chick-Fil-A and David KR4OE sent us packing at 8:30 pm.

Submitted:

Bill KJ4OFD, Recorder

## *Upcoming Hamfests*

**April 11, 2020**

Raleigh Hamfest  
Raleigh, North Carolina  
rarsfest.com

## *VE Testing*

CFARS will be conducting VE Testing again in 2020.  
Testing is held at Methodist University.

June 13, 2020  
October 10, 2020

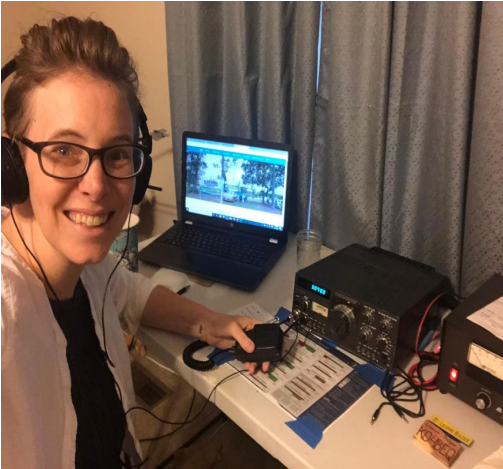
Check in begins at 9:00 am  
Testing begins at 9:30 am

If you have any questions, please contact Pat by email at [n4ughpat@aol.com](mailto:n4ughpat@aol.com) or phone 425-8994.

## *Items For Sale*

- Yaesu FT-857d with optional 500hz cw filter \$550.00
- Yaesu FT-817nd with optional 500hz cw filter \$475.00
- Kenwood TS-140s hf radio with optional 500hz cw filter \$300.00
- TYT MD-380 440 DMR handheld \$50.00
- MFJ shortened hamsticks for 20 and 40 meters with mag mount \$35.00
- Yaesu FT50r dual band handheld-needs battery and Yaesu VX-5r tri-band handheld 6,2, and 70 centimeters-comes with alkaline battery case, speaker mic, and cigarette lighter adapter-has touchy power button-the accessories are interchangeable \$75.00 for all

David KI4W



### If you give a mouse a cookie...

I thought I was getting licensed so I could use good, cost effective radio communication while backpacking and hiking alone with my 3 kids. I didn't look one step farther into the hobby.

On January 11, 2020 I shook hands with another testee, Kevin (KO4BEP), passed my Tech, upgraded to General, and had a small crew of enthusiastic VEs convince me that I needed to explore the hobby a little more. "Your kids will really love it" they said.

Kevin and I became quick friends. He has dabbled in radio and electronics for years, so he was all in once he passed his exam. It doesn't take much to convince me to meet new people and be excited with them, so I was more than happy to dive all in too. On January 18 he came over and helped me drill a hole in the roof of my car for an NMO antenna, and run the coax through so beautifully that my husband still has no idea how the wire got from my roof to my handheld. On January 20 we went to the CFARS meeting and Burt handed both of us a business card and said he could get us a radio for our houses and to contact him. January 21 the FCC issued Kevin and me call signs, and we were on the local repeater immediately.

The next week Burt, Ed, and Bob came to my house. I assumed they were going to drop off a radio and let me know what kind of antenna to start working toward getting. Boy was I in for a surprise. By the end of a really lovely afternoon, I had the CFARS club Kenwood TS 130S, a power supply and a dipole antenna strung across two trees in my yard. The next day I went to see Burt's ham shack, and my oldest son walked away with a small soldering kit. He made a joule thief, and has been proudly bringing it **everywhere**. Our next project is going to be a small CW light in a mint tin.

So far I've worked a handful of states on HF, found two YL nets on Echolink, made time to get on the CFARS 7pm net most nights, talked to hams all the way up I-95 (and incidentally managed to meet one of CFARS' former presidents), worked Italy, and heard people from all over the world. My husband heard the radio once, and within 24 hours got me noise cancelling headphones



so that the radio wouldn't interrupt his shows... err... so that I could hear better... that's what it was...

I have no background in electronics or radios, so the two major things I want to do for now are to keep listening, and to build. Antennas, maybe radios, small projects, anything I can build to try to help myself understand the systems a little better.

I got my amateur radio license because I thought it was absurd to spend \$350 on a satellite communication device. Joke's on me, huh?



2020 NC QSO Party CFARS Style



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