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The President's Corner: David WD4NC

Hello Club,

I had a chance to sit down and send some questions to Bill Morine, (N2COP) the Section Manager for North Carolina for the ARRL from 2010-2014 and Vice Director. It was nice of him to answer back, and it is a good read. I hope you enjoy.

What would you ask the ARRL?

How will you encourage the next generation of Hams? The average age of ARRL members is 74, and our best guess for all Hams in the U.S. is age 56. Ham Radio needs to be exciting to young people. For example, there is a group at ARRL looking at using Amateur Radio to mimic a video game. We also need to convince policymakers and regulators that Amateur Radio is a national resource as it was once viewed by the public and government officials.

What got you into Ham radio?

My 14-year-old neighbor who was two years older than me had a daily sked on 20 meters with his father who was in the merchant marine. I was fascinated that we could talk with someone at sea for free. From there I got into AM DXing, CB and finally got my Novice ticket.

Follow on, what lead you to being the ARRL Rep?

I have enjoyed the hobby so much for the past 54 years that I felt an obligation to give back. I climbed the ranks of ARRL by being appointed in 1993 as an ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator for New Hanover County (Wilmington, NC), a position I still hold, then onto being a Public Information Officer (PIO), Public Information Coordinator (PIC) for the North Carolina section, and then Section Manager for North Carolina from 2010 to 2014

What is your favorite part of Ham radio?

Almost everything. The award I treasure most is ARRL's Triple Play Award – all 50 states each on CW, Phone and Digital, all confirmed on LOTW – 150 confirmed contacts altogether. This was much harder than earning DXCC. I've come to enjoy FT8 and FT4 very much – amazing what you can do with low wattage and a simple antenna. And let's not forget QRP. I've owned a Yaesu 817 since

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2000. Although I haven't done a lot of POTA, I enjoyed QRP QSOs. And, yes, I own an amp, mostly for 75-meter nets.

How many miles have you traveled this year for the ARRL?

By the end of 2024 I will log about 2,500 miles on behalf of ARRL. I drove 924 miles for Field Day this year visiting seven sites in Virginia. In my role as Vice Director, I am expected to attend every hamfest designated a convention by ARRL. That's two (State and Section) in each state in the division, plus the one designated Division Convention each year. That's a total of 9 minimum Hamfests I attend, but I also attend non-convention Hamfests such as the Cape Fear Swapfest. Plus, I drive to club meetings.

Could QST go out again as a hard copy once a quarter?

This is unlikely to happen. Only 22% of members have opted to remain with the print edition. The Finance Committee looked at publishing, print and postal costs, and the League is losing money on the \$24. subscription fee for print editions. Most members have transitioned to digital and enjoy getting access to all four magazines as part of membership – QST, On The Air, National Contest Journal (NCJ) and QEX. Members paid to keep getting the QST Mag and have not received it yet. It has been since Jan and they did pay extra for it, calls to the ARRL were of no help. Give me the names and callsigns of those members impacted and I will troubleshoot with headquarters. Please keep in mind that the May 13 cyberattack on ARRL disrupted many, many systems. Staff are struggling to restore many systems and it will likely be 2025 before everything is back together. I can ask staff to investigate individual situations to see if we can get the problems resolved.

What are your thoughts on how to increase interest in Ham radio?

I have an unusual answer – be open minded and accept that younger people not only have different interests but also participate in Amateur Radio differently. For example, younger Hams tell me they don't want to go to Saturday morning breakfasts or a monthly meeting. Many typically jump on continual video and social media chat groups to socialize on demand at all hours of the day. One of the largest growth areas which attracts Technicians is drone control. Just because you don't see younger people doesn't mean they're not there – they are but do Ham Radio in ways different from senior Hams.

Where do you see Ham radio in 10 years?

I see a rapidly changing and very different landscape. I expect fewer numbers of traditional modes and customs such as HF ragchew nets and voice only repeaters. Many traditionalists will have to accept that digital modes via the internet have at least one wireless hop, and that hop is technically Amateur Radio, even though QSOs may not be point-to-point. Video transmission will become common place, and the lines between the internet and Amateur Radio will blur into one seamless path in terms of delivery, but those of us licensed will still be responsible for the Amateur Radio segment of transmission. And expect an explosion of highly efficient digital modes to appear – modes which can compress large amounts of information into limited bandwidth. The January 2024 symbol rate restriction removal by the FCC cleared the way for development of a new generation of digital modes.

What can we all do to make Ham radio better for everyone?

There are over 700,000 licensed Amateur Radio operators in the U.S., but we estimate about half are inactive or will let their licenses lapse. Only 38% of Hams get on the air after passing their first

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exam. Surveys show they need mentoring. Later I will suggest a way of reaching out to new and returning Hams with a “coffee shop” technique, which is a regularly scheduled weekly get together in a neutral setting on a weekend afternoon. Successful clubs recommend weekend afternoons, like 3-5 PM, because many families are tied up on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

What would you like to tell the club in general?

ARRL examined what made clubs successful during and after the pandemic. The #1 contributor to club growth was making monthly meetings available both in-person but also at the same time via videoconferencing, mostly through Zoom. Members who live far away, those who are incapacitated and those who no longer drive at night can join the meetings and feel connected. Even non-members curious in learning more about Ham Radio can join a video meeting. Secondly, consider having a time and place for people – both members and non-members – to consult with experienced Hams for troubleshooting and the most frequent request: programming their HT. Some clubs sponsor such a time one hour before the regular meeting time, but other clubs schedule one-to-two-hour sessions every Saturday from 3-5 PM at a local coffee shop. The term “Elmer”, while still sacred to older Hams, is viewed by many as old-fashioned so many clubs refer to “mentoring” or “troubleshooting and Q&A session”. Two of the most common complaints I hear from new and returning Hams is that their calls on club repeaters go unanswered, and members don’t wear badges, so they don’t know who they’re talking to. For Hams licensed in the 1990s returning to the hobby after a 30-year absence, their FM analog HTs still work, so they buy a fresh battery and expect the local repeaters to be as active as they were years ago. Please try to monitor the club’s repeater as much as possible to engage these newcomers and established Hams coming back after many years. Also, many Hams have gotten away from wearing badges to meetings and functions. As one Ham without a badge said to me at a club breakfast, “We know everyone so why wear a badge?” Well, I didn’t know him, and neither did other visitors that morning. Wearing a badge shows pride in our hobby. Many clubs have temporary adhesive badges and a sharpie from an office supply store at club meetings, so visitors feel they become part of the club and part of a larger community.

Finally, CFARS is facing the same challenges most clubs are also encountering – how to get and retain active members. According to QRZ.com, there are 893 licensed Hams in Cumberland County, and the size of the club is 132 members according to the ARRL database. That’s 15% of all Hams in the immediate area who are CFARS members, and that 15% falls in line with most clubs. To make Amateur Radio more appealing to all, I encourage members to be outgoing, encouraging and open minded with all who show an interest in Amateur Radio. Talk to neighbors, friends and family about what you do, how Ham Radio is exciting to you, and is a community asset in times of trouble.

CFARS is a shining example of what makes a good club. Please keep up the good work, and I hope to C U DN the log SN.

Thank you for your time, Sir.

David Winfree
WD4NC (President)

From the Vice President:

Well we have almost made it through July already! How time flies when we are “radio active”! The submission of Field Day has been made and we now await the final answer, and did we do as well as last year, did others have as much trouble with propagation as we did? Hopefully we will know soon. Also completed this month was 13 Colonies. Many of the Club participated in this event this year. For the first time I requested the QSO cards from each station and currently have seven so far and two bonus stations (waiting on France – but I think they are busy with the Olympics!). Also waiting on the Certificate. Hope you all enjoyed this event. For those that may not have known, our own NC4XL operated as K2J (North Carolina) for the event – made it just that more special!

We will be providing a small display for the Church of Later Day Saints at their Rockfish Road Church on August 17th. It would be appreciated if there were some Club members that would monitor the repeater for us, and that way we can show two-way communications. We may also set up to hunt POTA.

The next date set in stone is the USS North Carolina Battleship event on 7th December. David, WD4NC, will be putting out a notice closer to time to get numbers and arrange shifts. Always a good trip to see the Battleship!

On another note. ARRL had indicated that they are reinvigorating the Club Grant Program, with grants up to \$25,000.00! As David, WD4NC, had just received a note of interest from a Fayetteville University professor in regard to teaching and mentoring amateur radio on campus, it was deemed fortuitous and we thought we should submit a request for the Club. The request has been sent and received. We are now waiting to see if the Club will be a recipient this year. I will note that this is the first attempt to submit for a grant, and I think we will probably start to look around and see if there are any other areas that are offering grants in radio. If you know of such a grant, please let us know.

Stay safe, don't raise antennas close to wires, stay hydrated, summer is still here and temperatures are rising, and have fun! Go POTA, or hunt those that do. Contest or hunt DX. There is plenty to do out there.

De KQ4FNO, Rod MacLean

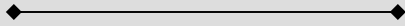
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Club Repeaters

(PL 100 Hz)

K4MN

2 m	146.910/146.310
70 cm	444.400/449.400

K4MN

6 m	53.810/52.810
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WA4FLR

2 m	147.330/147.930
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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.

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***August 30, 2024**68th Annual Shelby Hamfest
Shelby, North Carolina
shelbyhamfest.org**CFARS VE Testing****2024 VE Testing Schedule**

August 10 th 2024	Cumberland County Shrine Club 7040 Ramsey St. Fayetteville, NC 28311	9:00AM
October 12 th 2024	Peace Presbyterian Church 3203 Ramsey St. Fayetteville, NC 28301	9:00AM

REMINDER: Exam candidates are **REQUIRED** to register in the FCC CORES system and receive a Federal Registration Number (FRN) before exam day. <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/user>.





July 2024 Club Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society was held at 7:30 pm, Monday, June 15, 2024, 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. Bill KE4DER gave the invocation. David WD4NC led the introductions in the usual CFARS fashion. There were 43 members and 3 guests

present. Rod KQ4FNO moved June's minutes be approved, Tyler K4TTN seconded, and the motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurer: Mike KC4ABE gave the financial report.

Net Manager: Larry N4USB gave the net manager's report via Jeremy KN4JUY.

Health & Welfare: KN4KUL, please keep Marty W4MLW and Larry N4USB in your prayers.

Repeaters: No report.

Field Day: No report.

Membership: David KI4W presented Blake KF5BNN for membership. Ed N4ESA motioned, Leighton KN4ZZ seconded, and the motion carried.

Contesting: Juan NK2MC gave a list of upcoming contests. Check out www.contestcalendar.com for a list of contests and links to the contest rules.

VE Coordinator: Jim K4BUC, next VE test session will be August 10th at the Cumberland County Shrine Club. Bring an FRN number.

Swapfest: David KI4W, Swapfest for this year is cancelled due to scheduling conflict with the venue. Greg NC4GK moved to cancel, Tim KQ4HDF seconded and the motion carried.

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

Newsletter: Any submissions please send to Mike KN4XP by end of month, ideally in Microsoft Word format. cfarsnews@gmail.com

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 working with ARRL.

Possum Trot Net: Possum Trot net: Greg NC4GK, Net will remain 5:00am to 7:00am.

Skywarn: No report.

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Event Coordinator: Rod KQ4FNO, CFARS has been invited Battleship USS North Carolina for Pearl Harbor Day to operate with Azalea Amateur radio club. Please contact David WD4NC for details.

Emergency Coordinator: Jeremiah KO4VRM, Greg NC4GK, every 2nd Tuesday night is Skywarn night.

Old Business: Insurance still tabled. It has been recommended that we do not insure the repeaters as the cost will be too high.

New Business: David WD4NC presented the idea of naming our ham of the year award the "Chuck Ward Ham of the Year Award." Rod KQ4FNO motioned, Tyler K4TTN seconded and the motion carried.

Program: Field Day 2024 after action report.

Door Prizes: Gary KQ4OCU won a TV, Samuel WP4PRX won a Baofeng handheld, Jacob won a Baofeng handheld, Lani KQ4BVV won a pelican case, Travis N4BEL won drink coasters, Don KO4IHM won a 6m whip antenna, Don WO4SFA won a 10m whip antenna, Chris N4CDJ win a pack of cable straps, Hector KB4LOA won safety glasses, Gary KQ4OCU a pack of cable straps, Jeremy KN4JUY won a pack of cable straps, Everett won a cord winder, Jacob won a microphone clip and Travis N4BEL won a coffee cup

50/50 Drawing: \$107 collected, Pam KO4EHI had the winning ticket of \$53.50 and donated it back to the club.

Announcements: 44 tickets sold on the FT-60 handheld. Certificates of recognition were presented to Don Talbot WO4SFA VFH section chief, Lani Owens KQ4BVV setting up welcome tent, Rick Shanks N1GNF GOTA station chief, Jeremy Gilchrist KN4JUY SSB station chief, David Cowart KI4W CW station chief, Laird Kelly WA2COU Welcome center and Ed Allison N4ESA Club tower setup for their work at 2024 Field Day. David WD4NC presented the idea of getting involved with the local schools, whether public, private, or university level to teach and work with STEM programs, and that the ARRL has grants in place for this. The attending members were asked and there was not a sustainable level of interest. KQ4FNO- CFARS has been invited to do a ham radio demonstration booth at the Hope Mills Old Mill Days in October. Date and location TBD.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM. There were 36 members and 3 guests present. Norman K4MGZ motioned to adjourn.

Submitted: Jeremy Gilchrist KN4JUY
Recorder