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The President's Corner: Van N4ERM

CFARS WINS NCQP AGAIN!

Well you've done it again, CFARS. You've won the North Carolina QSO party for the fifth year in a row. Details are here: <http://www.rars.org/ncqsoparty/data/uploads/results/2017-results.pdf>
 A sample of the results below begs the question: "The Greensboro folks had more QSOs and more county multipliers, so how could CFARS get a higher score to beat them?" Simple. CW and Digital QSOs are worth 3 points each. Phone QSOs are worth 2 points. We won with more CW and digital QSOs!

CLUBS- INSTATE- MIXED- LOW POWER

<u>CALL</u>	<u>QTH</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCORE</u>	<u>QSO</u>	<u>COUNTIES</u>
K4MN	CUM	Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society	190250	689	63
W4GSO	GUI	Greensboro Amateur Radio Assn	185720	703	70

IMPORTANCE OF CW –

It should be obvious; if we want to continue winning these contests (Field Day, NC QSO Party, Ten-Ten, etc.), we need to continue our proficiency with the digital modes; especially CW (a CW QSO takes much less time than PSK-31 for example). Learning CW is relatively easy. There are on-line aids such as <http://www.learnmorsecode.com/> or <http://www.learnmorsecode.com/>. There's even a Morse code game <http://boyslife.org/games/online-games/575/morse-code-machine/>! Then, once you get the basics down, here are some great programs to load on your computer to practice with: RufzXP - Tancredi <http://www.rufzxp.net/> and Morse Runner by Afreet <http://www.dxatlas.com/MorseRunner/>. You can join Bob WA4WHV on his twice weekly practice Tuesdays and Thursdays at 0730 on 3.333MHz and Bill KU4W Sundays at 1700 for the Possum Trotters on Ten-Ten Net on 28.150MHz. Do yourself a favor and learn Morse code. You'll be glad

FIELD DAY NEXT MONTH... ALREADY?

Yep! It's that time again. As the ARRL web site says: "Always the last full weekend in June from 1800 GMT to 2100 GMT." We'll set up right after breakfast on Saturday, 24 June and operate the full 24 hours of the contest from 1400 hours Saturday until 1400 hours on Sunday. ATTENTION! We need folks to operate our Get On The Air (GOTA) Station. Our friend Paul K4PGM has agreed to run the operation, but he needs operators. If you've received your ham license within the past year, please send me a note or contact Paul directly.

UPCOMING STUFF

May

- 15 Monthly Meeting - Program: "SDR (Software Defined Radio) for Dummies" - Ben KM4ODT
- 18 - 21 Four Days in May
- 19 - 21 Dayton HamVention

See you there! **73 de Van N4ERM**

CFARS Officers

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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 cfars_newsletter@yahoo.com. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces. The submission deadline for each month's Exciter 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.

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.



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



April 2017 Club Meeting Minutes

On April 17th the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by **Van N4ERM**. The meeting was held in Room 219 of the Science Building at Methodist University, Fayetteville, North Carolina. **Van N4ERM** led the *Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag*. **Pete K4QFK** led the invocation. The introductions were made in the normal CFARS manner.

A motion was made by **Ben KM4ODT**, seconded by **Bill N4WTL**, to approve the minutes of the April meeting. By vote the motion carried.



COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurer: **Chuck KJ4RV** gave the treasurer's report. We collected some money and we are still solvent.

Repeater: **Bill KU4W** reported the repeaters are up and krowing well. He mentioned the 10-10 Spring Digital contest at the end of the month.

Net Manager: **Chuck KJ4RV** reported check-ins are down slightly for the month of March. Remember, these are our repeaters, if we don't use them somebody else might.

Membership: **Mike K4JWY** and **Bobbi N4KAY** were presented as new members. **Bonnie KF4LVF** moved they be accepted. They were voted in as our newest members.

Newsletter: **Mike KN4XP** our newsletter editor, is looking for articles from the club to put into the newsletter. Send your articles to him at cfars_newsletter@yahoo.com

Health & Welfare: No report.

Swapfest: No report.

VE Testing: No report.

Public Relations: No report.

Old Business: We still need someone to step up to honcho Field Day. **Bob WA4WHV** and **Chuck KJ4RV** are finalizing the audit and inventory for the year. The Digital Repeater Committee had no report. **Irv K3IRV** is still trying to contact repeater coordinator for Southern Pines to have him come speak about a DMR repeater for the club to replace the 440 repeater. **Pete K4QFK** still needs help taking down his antenna and tower. **Kelly N4EWG** thanked everyone who participated and thanked them all for a great job.

New Business: **Pat N4UGH** still needs help setting up her new station and we will get folks together when she has time. **Gene N4ANV** will follow up when Pat has time. The Club has received a letter from the Special Forces Amateur Radio Brotherhood requesting our help for their on-air program from 12-17 June, including our trailer/hexbeam, any equipment and anyone wishing to operate with them. **George KM4ODS** will honcho the effort. Special event station KC1SF will be on the air for the event. **Kelly N4EWG** presented **Bobbi N4KAY** and **Bill N4WTL** certificates for being new Possum Trotters.

Program: **Van N4ERM** gave a presentation and slide show of the NC National Parks trips he has made in the last year or so.

A motion was made by **Fred N4ZCG**, seconded by **Bill KU4W**, to adjourn the meeting. By vote the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm. We had thirty members and one guest at the club meeting.

Submitted by **Bill KJ4OFD**
CFARS Recorder



NC QSO Party Low Power Mixed Mode

The winner for the Club In-State Low Power category this year is The Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society K4MN operating in Cumberland County. CFARS came out ahead of the pack to keep their title as the top LP club entry for the third year. K4MN ended up with a score of 190250 points and worked a total of 63 counties. Coming in second place for the In-State LP Club category is the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association W4GSO in Guilford County. GARA had a total score

of 185720 points and worked 70 counties in NCQP this year.

CFARS Helps a Ham Get on the Air

I have read and heard of various Ham Radio Clubs having difficulty with their members and organizations for various reasons. This is a gathering of thoughts that I would like to share with you. This is a synopsis of an earlier event within the CFARS club. I was using an IC-706 with a Mobile Outbacker Perth Plus antenna and was using it as an indoor antenna due to covenants within the neighborhood where I live. Having “**clear contact**” with the CFARS Net was difficult because of my conditions. I then decided to put up 2 outdoor antennas one for VHF/UHF and the other for HF. I solicited information from members of the Club during the K&W Saturday morning breakfasts as to what antennas to look into, and received some valuable information before purchasing. **Chuck KJ4RV** paid me a visit; saw the rig that I have and initially thought about what type of antennas to review, assess and where to place them. Although I have a General License, my theoretical knowledge surpasses my mechanical aptitude and my respiratory condition was also a problem area. Talking to **Van N4ERM**, he asked for help from members of the Club to help (him and I) to rectify the situation. **Bob WA4WHV**, **Chuck KJ4RV** and **Van N4ERM** arranged to meet at my house to evaluate what needed to be done including the materials needed. After some time had passed, the materials were on site and they came back; ran coax (2 cables) from my IC-9100 to the closet, up through the ceiling, through the attic, through the vent in the attic and to the antennas. Van had built the ZS6BKW HF antenna (written up in the Feb 2017 Newsletter) and they did the installation for me. I could have not expended the effort nor the expertise these gentlemen performed. I have to finish redressing the coax outside to make it cosmetically pleasing. I now am able to communicate with the CFARS Net with **CLEAR** contact and for once, able to listen to HF stations on 80, 40, and 20 meters, so far. I am now trying to connect to 2 different IRLP sites (UHF) however, not successful yet. My sincere gratitude to Van, Chuck, Bob and to CFARS for their assistance and expertise that now allows me to communicate and thoroughly enjoy my “Rig” and be an active member in the Cape Fear Amateur Radio Club. The next day, I drove to Smith Lake Camp Grounds and watched the “setting up” of the Club’s activity in preparation of the next day’s QSO Part; as being a newbie, I never did anything like this before. It appears to me that CFARS takes care of their own and helps others when needed.

73 de Tony Steen N3RWO



“PLAYTIME”

Transistor check – wet finger test (For bipolar transistors)

This simple test can be done with an analogue multimeter on the highest resistance range if the internal battery is 9V or greater. Otherwise use an analogue multimeter on a low voltage range and use a 9V battery with the following circuit. The series resistor (VR1) is adjusted so that full scale deflection is achieved with the test probes shorted. Then connect a transistor as shown and apply a damp finger between collector and base. A good deflection will indicate a likely good transistor. Playtime footnote.

"Wet finger" test of transistor

Notes:
 Sketch shows connections for a silicon npn transistor being tested.
 For pnp changover the probe polarities.
 VR1 adjusted for FSD on voltmeter with probes shorted. Perhaps full 100k as a start. Depends on the ohms/volt of the voltmeter.
 Fit small alligator clips on the probes.

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Regarding the playtime series, it may be noted that minimum information is provided on components. This is done on purpose as it is expected that anyone who plays with the various circuits presented will use whatever is available in the “junk box” that would be similar to what has been suggested in an article.

The leads/pin numbers of components such transistors and ICs are not provided as these can be obtained from internet sources or catalogues that may be available. Resistor ratings will generally need not be greater than ¼ watt. You should be familiar with resistor colour codes! Electrolytic capacitors of course need to be selected to suit the voltage of the circuit and often the value is not critical for the Playtime series of articles.

It is hoped that anybody new to the hobby will gain some experience and enjoy the challenge of perhaps making some of the useful circuits.

Eric VK3EAC