

# HARMONICS

THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY  
JANUARY 2005 -Issue 228

## December 13: Party

The annual Christmas meeting/party began at ABT 18:16 local. When President Bobby Lewis, **WD4IJX**, told everyone to go get in line and get their food.

The food was scrumptious! ... Chicken, Roast Beef, Sweet Potatoes, and all the other vegetables, desert, and drinks.

A short business meeting was started as a few finished their second or third trip to the serving tables.

The first business was the vote on new officers for 2005:

## Contents

Christmas Party . . . . .	1
2005 Officers pictures . .	2
Out of the Past . . . . .	2
From WB4AQK . . . . .	3
Attendance . . . . .	4
From the SM . . . . .	4
Jokes . . . . .	5

President Bobby Lewis, **WD4IJX**; Vice President Bob Yarbrough, **KG4WAD**; and Secretary/Treasurer John Cundiff, **N1JAC** were presented as nominees and duly voted into office.

Following this the award for “The Operator of the Year” was presented to Bob Yarbrough, **KG4WAD**, By President Lewis.

Then President Lewis gave a surprise award to former Secretary/Treasurer Ralph Brown, **WB4AQK**. The Plaque says “For Years of Loyal Service”. (In an aside President Lewis told Brown that the number of years could not be engraved because no one knew how long he had been Sec/Treas. and to ask would have ruined the surprise. I’m just glad he didn’t say “No one was here when you started!”)

There was a short discussion of the 13/73 repeater status. Derwood Puckett, **K4PXU**, was appointed to set up a meeting with J. C. Ludwig, **K4DFI** to be attended by the new officers and Brown.

After Bobby thanked the caterers from C.W.s Catering Service for the great meal, those in

attendance gave them a rousing applause and Grey Smith, **KI4CKR**, took over the meeting for the program.

Grey explained the rules for “A Chinese Christmas” (with help? from Janet, **KI4CKS**, and many others present) and gifts started being chosen from under the tree.

Christine Smith, **KI4FFT**, helped give out the gifts. This volunteer effort on her part was soon shown to be based on self-interest. It became obvious that she had her eye on a particular present.

The suspense of seeing how far she would go to keep anyone else from picking that gift kept everyone on the edge of their seat and her on her toes.

All of the 25 members and guests present had a great time!



**KG4WAD** gets his Operator of the Year Plaque from **WD4IJX**



2005 President, **WD4IJX**, and his XYL.



The only member to enter the project contest, so **KG4GZR**, becomes the winner of the \$100



2005 VP, **KG4WAD**, presenting award to surprised **WB4AQK**



**KI4CKS**, and **KI4FFT**, having a good time. Yes Christina did get the gift she wanted . . . I think.



Club's newest XYL member, **KI4GBH**, and husband, 2005 Sec/Treas. **N1JAC**. By the way, is there something short for "husband", like XYM?

**I want to thank Bobby for the pictures. There were many more but in the interest of time and space I had to make a choice.**

There were 11 members present. There were no minutes for the December or November meetings. H.Elwell, **N4UH**, read the minutes for the first meeting in January 1979, which were the first he had taken as the new Secretary-Treasurer. He served from that date to this (January 1992) , these being the last minutes he took officially.

Treasurer Elwell reported a bank balance of \$421.76.

Hovert Wise, **KE4S**, suggested having a breakfast meeting one day a week. They will be on

**The Rowan Amateur Radio Society  
P. O. Box 593  
Salisbury, NC 28145**

The Rowan amateur Radio Society exists to secure for its members the pleasures and benefits of associating with persons commonly interested in amateur radio in any and all its facets. Its purpose is to facilitate the exchange of information, radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency among members. Society programs and activities are intended to advance the general interest and welfare of amateur radio in the general community.

The Society is a nonprofit organization and seeks no payment for services it provides the community's agencies.

**Membership**

Membership in the Society is open to all applicants who express a willingness to abide by the Society's Constitution and By-laws. Persons may apply at regular meetings and are considered elected when approved by two-thirds of those members present

**Meetings**

Regular meetings are held on the second Monday night of the month at 7:00 PM at the Ruffy-Holmes senior Center at 1120 S. Boundary Street

**2004 Officers**

President - Bobby Lewis,  
**WD4IJX**, 704-857-1403  
rlewisr2000@yahoo.com

Vice-Pres. - Bob Yarbrough,  
**KG4WAD**, 704-645-8320  
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Sec/Treas - John Cundiff,  
**N1JAC**, 704-633-0740  
N1jac@bellsouth.net

**Harmonics**, the club newsletter is published monthly, mostly. Submit articles, complaints, corrections, or comments to the club Secretary. Material may be reprinted provided proper credit is given.

Editor - Ralph Brown, **WB4AQK**

**Out of the Past**

**January 14, 1991**

RARS met at the Agricultural Building . President Frank Waring, **AF4D**, opened the meeting at 7;40 PM.

Saturday morning at 8:00 AM at the Big Pig, located at the corner of Jake Alexander Blvd. And Lincolnton Road.

Nathan Bolinger, **KB4CWR**, played a tape of a program from HCTB, Quito, Ecuador, which mentioned a propagation prediction by **N4UH** that was published in *Ham Radio* in 1987. That station broadcasts a program "Ham Radio Today" at 0050 Z 15.155 MHz.

A discussion ensued about increasing interest and membership. President Waring asked Ralph Brown to look into what interests are required to get and keep members. A future move would be to get names of all hams in the area and express a desire to have them join with us and tell us their interests.

Bill Overman, **K4SNF**, will give a talk next meeting on Satellites. Tom Wale, **WB4Y**, is scheduled to give a talk on Packett "from the time UPS delivered his Kam to date at the March meeting

President Waring suggested a ladies meeting for May which was accepted.

Ralph Brown volunteered the Sec/Treas jobs and was unanimously voted in. The meeting was then adjourned.

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## From WB4AQK

I'm sure you have guessed why this "Out of the Past" was selected. It fits, being exactly 15 years ago. But you know that it is that last line

that causes it to be in this particular issue of "*Harmonics*".

Yes, this is my farewell . . .  
As Secretary /Treasurer.

I never thought anyone would serve longer than "Uncle Henry" and I have. I guess when you are having fun, time just passes faster. Notice I said "longer", not better. You don't get better than Henry. I'm sorry the newer members haven't had a chance to get to know him.

And I've had fun. And I'm going to continue to have fun in the Rowan Amateur Radio Society. Maybe it will be more fun now that I won't be "a leader". I'll be a follower.

I was reading the other day someone's thoughts about clubs in general like Civitan, Kiwanis, etc. They were saying that all civic, fraternal, and so on, groups today are all facing declines in membership and difficulties in holding their members. This has been true for RARS. There is a hint of that in those minutes out of the past.

I believe though that RARS will endure. At least I hope it will. I'll confess that at times in the past I became somewhat discouraged, but looking back now I can see that something or someone always came "up to the bar" and a new spurt of energy came from the leadership.

We've had many excellent leaders in the past and looking around the club now, I see

people with get up and go who will take us to "new heights".

But we can't just lay back and let "the leaders" do all the work. Each and every one of us will have to sweat a little for the club and put in our two cents worth. My wife says that energy makes energy. That is to get me off the couch and into something like cleaning the yard, my ham shack etc. And you know, she is right! I have two incomplete projects that I can have ready next December. There is no reason I can't check into more nets, maybe even complete a Worked All States certificate or some such. I can learn how to get on packet. Learn and work PSK 31, or even get my Extra ticket.

This almost sound like New Year's resolutions doesn't it? But it's not meant to be. It's purpose is to start you thinking about some of the things you can do in Amateur Radio and RARS. Each and every one of our members have experiences that would be the basis for a program or two for a club meeting. Why not pass your experiences on to others? Would you sign up to do a program? Why not? "No programs" has been mentioned as a weak point for our club. I'm not talking to just the "old" hands or the Extras. You "young whipper-snappers" could do just as good a "show and tell" as any QCWA member ... if you would only do something, even if it has been done before. Last December I was as intrigued by **KC4GAP**, Ken's description of how he made his beam as I was with Carol's fancy radio. I was intrigued with that too, but I un-

derstood the simpler beam better.

OK, I've rambled on for too long. You are going to say that I can't turn loose. You may even be correct. RARS has many traditions that to me are almost sacred because I was born into Amateur Radio by this club and have grown up (as much as I have grown) in it. Some of those traditions may not last. Change happens! Who would have thought in 1972 that you could be General class with only 5 WPM CW, or even an Extra?

Here is the baton. I'm passing it to you. Show me your stuff!  
Yours expectantly, Ralph,  
**WB4AQK**

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## Attendance this year

This is the break down on member's attendance this year . . . Without names. Where do you fit? Keep in mind that many are new and have only been members for a few meetings.

Attended:	
12 meetings . . . . .	2
11 meetings . . . . .	2
10 meetings . . . . .	3
9 meetings . . . . .	2
8 meetings . . . . .	2
7 meetings . . . . .	3
6 meetings . . . . .	4
5 meetings . . . . .	2
4 meetings . . . . .	0
3 meetings . . . . .	1
2 meetings . . . . .	5
1 meeting . . . . .	5
0 meetings . . . . .	20

An explanation on the 0 number. We have many members who are

homebound for various reasons. We also have members who are living at some distance, like Arizona, and we have some older members who don't drive at night.

I only counted members with paid up dues for 2004 or after that year.

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## From the SM

The following is part of a n e-mail sent to all NC clubs by John Covington, **N4CC**, our ARRL Section Manager.

There are three main reasons people join organizations: to socialize, to learn from others, and to be of service to others. Each person's dominant reason will change over time, and family, career and medical matters will affect their ability to participate also. So, members will naturally come and go, but our clubs will remain viable if they can meet those three reasons for most of their members.

As for things you can do now to improve interest in your club, there are

several things that I discussed at a hamfest forum a few years ago which I have included here below. It's not comprehensive, and it won't work for all clubs, but I offer it here as "food for thought." I hope you find something helpful. Many of these suggestions can apply to ARES groups, too.

### Top Ten Things A Good Club Should Have:

10. Interesting meetings. If you only have boring business

meetings, then people will stop coming to your meetings. Make sure that you have an interesting program as a part of most meetings. If you must discuss a lot of business during certain meetings, consider playing a short 10-15 minute videotape program, such as those from the ARRL Video collection

9. Welcoming committee. Make sure that any guests are made to feel welcome. This could be as simple as having someone look for newcomers and making an effort to shake hands and talk to them. Introduce guests during your meetings so everyone will know who to greet after the meeting.

8. Social Activities. A club should have some activities where the whole point is for the members to get to know each other better. If your members become friends, then it is more likely they will continue to come to your meetings and volunteer for the club. If there is no opportunity for members of your club to socialize, then your club will be filled with strangers who won't feel a bond to the club, and probably won't participate in your activities or run for club office.

7. Operating Events (both Public Service and Amateur-only events). Clubs should provide a variety of opportunities for members to get on the air. This will enrich the Amateur experience of your members, and make your club an asset to your community.

6. Personal Contact with its Members. Make sure that you

make some personal contact with all of your members, especially if they do not attend meetings regularly. Newsletters are important, but there is nothing that will motivate your membership more than personal contact. If you haven't seen a member lately, call them on the phone and see how they're doing!

5. Informative, Timely Newsletter. Although not as effective as personal contact, a newsletter is still the most important way that information about your club and its activities is communicated to its members. Most clubs are lucky to have 1/3 of their paid membership at each meeting, so you must keep the other 2/3 informed, or they will drop out. Make sure it comes out on time, so people won't hear about events after they happen. E-mail newsletters make this fairly easy to do.

4. Educational Activities. Whether working their way up the licensing ladder, or just learning about new techniques, most club members want to learn something new about ham radio. Make sure you have educational meeting programs for your members and license classes for newcomers and upgrades (these newcomers are also potential members; make sure you invite them to the club meetings while they are studying!).

3. Family Involvement. Make sure that families are involved in your club. Social events are great ways for families to see what the club is all about. Besides, family members can be prospective hams!

2. Good Public Relations. Each club should have a good public relations program. Make sure the public knows the good things you are doing. This will make it easier to recruit new hams, and will help if you need to challenge or avoid antenna ordinances. It will also help you fill license classes and get new members.

1. DON'T FORGET TO HAVE FUN! Ham radio is both a service and a hobby. It is easy to get bogged down in the details of running a club, but don't forget that people want to have fun too. If they don't, you won't have much of a club.

\* \* \* \* \*

### WISDOM

People who live in glass houses should make love in the basement.

Never read the fine print. There ain't no way you're gonna like it.

If you let a smile be your umbrella, then your butt will get soaking wet.

The only two things we do with greater frequency in middle age are urinate and attend funerals.

The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.

Do you realize that in about 40 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos?

Money can't buy happiness -- but it can buy the kinda misery I like....

Drinking makes some husbands see double and feel single.

Living in a nudist colony takes all the fun out of Halloween.

After a certain age, if you don't wake up aching in every joint, you are probably dead.

As usual, if you don't forward this to 10 of your friends within the next 5 minutes, your belly button will fall off--Really... it's true! Have I ever lied to You??

## January meeting

The January 10 meeting will have an interesting report and the need for decisions by the club concerning the 13/73 repeater. Don't miss it.



Chow Hounds



Oldies but Goodies