

HARMONICS

THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
JUNE 2005 -Issue 233

June 13 Meeting

The June meeting is one of the most IMPORTANT one of the whole year.

After that meeting there are only two weeks left before the main operating event of the year, Field Day, and our Club's most important event of the year, The Firecracker Hamfest.

Final planning for these two events will take place at this meeting.

If you ever supported the Club and plan to keep supporting it you WILL be at this

Contents

June Meeting	1
May Meeting Minutes . . .	1
CW vs text messengers . . .	2
From the SM	3
Blonde Jokes	3
CAP and ARRL	3
BPL AGN	4
Wisdom (from the internet) . . .	4

meeting. (How's that for piling coals on the head? Sending you on a little guilt trip!)

Seriously, we need everyone for these two efforts.

.....

Minutes, May 9, 2005

Meeting opened at 7:00 PM local with Frank Thomason speaking to the group about county emergency operations. He discussed county plans for emergency operations, the progress of the new EOC center, CERT training, Amateur involvement as a secondary and backup communication provider, etc. Provided contact information for those interested in CERT training to contact Marshall at (704) 638-5351, and more information is also available by going to www.fema.gov, and searching for NIMS - there are several on-line courses and CERT information available there. Also, if anyone would like to schedule a tour of the Rowan County 911 center, they can contact Rob Robinson at (704) 638-3121.

Bob talked to Herb, **KF4TVI**, and discussed making a new membership kit for new club members. Providing a small

packet with the club constitution, by-laws, roster, etc. Also, providing some of this information to new hams in the area might be beneficial to bringing new hams into the club as well. Discussion also ensued about perhaps someone monitoring the FCC database and sending a letter to new licensees informing them of the club. Grey is going to get a list of new licenses in the last 12 months for possible generation of letters to send to these hams.

Bob, **KG4WAD**, mentioned that John, **N1JAC** still needs to contact Sam Liz about space at the hamfest. Also, Ralph got an e-mail from Bob Austin with DBJ Radio & Electronics, and they want to be at our hamfest as well. They are the new Alinco dealer for the state of NC. Their web site is www.dbjre.com if anyone is interested in visiting their web site.

Bob contacted two of the references for the guy we are considering to do our tower work. Both references highly recommended him for the job.

Bob discussed that we need to spend some additional funds to use a jumper between the hard line and the duplexer for the repeater, as well as a grounding kit. Discussion ensued, and Derwood, **K4PXU**, made a motion to go ahead and spend the

extra money so we can go ahead and do the job right the first time. Bobby, **WD4IJX**, the Pres., seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Derwood brought up the Thursday night net. A motion was made by Derwood to move the net from 9:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Bobby seconded. Vote was unanimous. Bob will finish out May as net control operator.

Ralph, **WB4AQK**, mentioned he will not need to work Saturday, and will be going to the first ever Rockingham County Hamfest on May 14, and if anyone would like to go with him he will be more than happy to give them a ride. Information on the hamfest can be found on the Internet at www.rcarc.com/hamfest2005.html.

Bob mentioned there is a Red Cross radio training tomorrow night.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM local time.

Attendees:

Bobby, **WD4IJX**; Bob, **KG4WAD**; John, **N1JAC**; Ralph, **WB4AQK**; Grey, **KI4CKR**; Janet, **KI4CKS**; Derwood, **K4PXU**; Nelson, **W4FQV**; Lee, **AG4NG**; Butch, **W4WEE**; Jack, **W8ZRI**; Jim, **KA4MPP**; Nona, **KA4NHL**; Christina, **KI4FFT**; Eric, **KI4JBH**; Dick, **KI4HNX**; Frank, **AF4D**.

Visitors:

Frank Thomason, Rowan County EC

73,
John N1JAC

.....

CW OPS BEAT TEEN TEXT MES- SENGERS

Friday 13th wasn't unlucky for **K7JA**, and **K6CTW**. They are contest ops who appeared on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno and showed that good old fashioned Morse code could pass a message more rapidly than a pair of teen-aged text messengers equipped with modern cell phones.

This victory duplicated a similar challenge that took place recently in Australia has provided immense encouragement to CW operators, says the ARRL.

The text messaging team was headed by world text messaging champ Ben Cook. The CW team were sending at 29 WPM.

What viewers didn't know was that the CW team had, as Miller said, "smoked them" on three tries of program rehearsals. Also the CW team are accomplished contesters who have been using CW for 38 years.

In the Australia contest a 93 year old former post office telegrapher and his 83 year old receiver took 90 seconds to send their message, 18 seconds faster than the 13 year old text messenger.

(Doesn't this just make you want to get on the key and bring up your speed? Editor)

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
rlewiser2000@yahoo.com

Vice-Pres. - Bob Yarbrough
KG4WAD, 704-645-8320
rtoplus@yahoo.com

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**

From the SM, John, W4CC

Field Day is a good opportunity to do several things:

1. Practice skills needed to deploy a station under emergency power.
2. Practice your operating skills.
3. Learn about new modes, techniques and equipment.
4. Introduce newcomers to all of the above.
5. Promote Amateur Radio to the general public.
6. Get together with your ham friends and have FUN.

Make sure your Field Day station sends an NTS-formatted radiogram to the Section Manager (that's me). My contact information is on page 16 of QST each month. The incentive of 100 points is not offered just to boost your score, but to make sure someone in your group takes the time to learn how to create a radiogram and send it properly over the air. The messages does not have to be transmitted directly to me, just another station who will relay it. Since I travel that weekend, I usually get most of the messages on Monday when I have returned. And no, I can't accept hand delivery if I show up at your Field Day site, the whole purpose is to get some practice sending messages over the air! I appreciate the 25 or so of these I get every year, and hope I get even more this time.

Hurricane season starts June 1st. Last year we had six storms that affected our state, showing that no part of our state is immune to the effects of hurricanes. However, it only takes ONE to cause major problems for us. In 1992, only one hurricane made landfall in the United States - Hurricane Andrew, the most destructive United States hurricane of record. So, don't let predictions about the number of storms for the coming season make you complacent.

Make sure you are prepared to deal with whatever kind of disaster might happen in your area. I have a document that I wrote a while back that discusses both personal disaster pre-

paredness as well as Amateur Radio Disaster Preparedness that you might find interesting to read. It includes some links to some other disaster preparedness resources and is located at: <http://www.ncarrl.org/ares/prepare.html>

.....

* * * * *

Blonde Jokes

Two blondes living in Oklahoma were sitting on a bench talking...and one blonde says to the other: "Which do you think is farther away....Florida or the moon?"

The other blonde turns and says, "Hellooooooooooooo,can you see Florida...?????"

A girl was visiting her blonde friend, who had acquired two new dogs, and asked her what their names were. The blonde responded by saying that one was named Rolex and one was named Timex.

Her friend said, "Whoever heard of someone naming dogs like that?"

"Helllllllllooo," answered the blonde, "They're watch dogs!"

Swap, Sell, etc.

Several years ago I replaced a Tri-Bander with a new one and stored the old one in the garage. If anyone would like to have it is **FREE!!**

I am trying to get rid of some or my gear while I am still able to see that it goes to the right people.

73,

Bill, K4SNF

Here is another source of good stuff I left out of last months issue. Lots of good stuff, but you will have to go to the web to see it. Check it out at <http://www.baldeaglejournal.com/HAMSALE.htm>. If you are interested in SSTV or PC controlled radio you can find links from here also. This is from Charlie, W3OHV

* * * * *

CAP plus ARRL

ARRL SIGNING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CIVIL AIR PATROL

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) and ARRL will sign a Memorandum of Agreement during Dayton Hamvention, May 20-22, where CAP plans to field a major presence. The agreement will spell out guidelines for CAP--the US Air Force Auxiliary, and ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, to better use and integrate their resources during communication exercises and emergencies.

"Civil Air Patrol has one of the largest unified communications networks in the nation," said CAP Lt Col Maurice Thomas, N3ADV. "Federal, state and local agencies call on CAP members every day for communication support in search-and-rescue missions and disaster relief." Thomas says CAP, which has been in existence for more than 60 years, needs "implementers" for its communication technology, and highly skilled ham radio operators are "a natural resource."

ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, points out that volunteerism is an

Amateur Radio tradition. "We look forward to educating our members about CAP, and CAP members about ARRL," he said. "From Morse code to high-speed digital, a wire up in a tree to satellite communications, hams love to make it happen."

Pitts says the ham radio slogan "When all else fails . . ." is more than mere words. "They know ham radio communication works again and again when other systems fail," he said. "One way or another, hams get the message through."

Radio communication plays a major role in all of CAP's operations too--including homeland security, damage assessment, search and rescue, and disaster relief. It was key in CAP's impact assessment missions during last year's hurricanes in Florida, ice storms in Arkansas and New York, and floods in Missouri.

Pitts notes that during the course of many emergency response situations, Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), and other Amateur Radio emergency groups find themselves working side by side with CAP members.

"This formal agreement between our two organizations will acknowledge that in a disaster, we all work for the common good," he said.

During Hamvention, CAP members hope to educate radio amateurs about the opportunities available to civilian volunteers through Civil Air Patrol. CAP's Wisconsin Wing will display its new 35-foot state-of-the-art Mobile Command Center. The unit was custom-built for CAP by Winnebago Corporation thanks to a

US Department of Homeland Security grant.

National Headquarters Chief of Communications Malcolm Kyser, KG4G, says CAP maintains a dedicated nationwide HF and VHF network on federal government frequencies. "We operate over 550 VHF repeaters spread across the country as well as HF, tactical VHF/UHF, data and commercial satellite applications," he explains. "The CAP network is a 24/7 emergency services resource, which we rely upon to support an almost unlimited variety of missions."

A nonprofit organization with some 60,000 members, the Civil Air Patrol performs the vast majority of continental US inland search-and-rescue missions under the direction of the US Air Force Rescue Coordination Center. CAP volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and anti-drug trafficking missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies.

from ARRL Letter vol. 24, No. 20

(Locally, we need to contact the CAP and if nothing else get a good program for after the Hamfest. Editor)

* * * * *

BPL AGN

Hams encouraged by new reports

Newington, Conn., May 23, 2005 --ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio, announced today that "The ARRL is pleased to hear Motorola's an-

nouncement of its Powerline LV system. This is the first Access Broadband over Power Line (BPL) system that has been designed from the start with radio interference concerns in mind."

Motorola's Powerline LV system avoids using the medium-voltage (MV) power lines and introduces broadband signals only on the low-voltage (LV) side of the power transformer. This greatly reduces the potential for interference to and from radio users, especially radio amateurs.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner commented, "We know that medium-voltage (MV) power lines are no place for broadband energy, since there is overwhelming technical evidence that radio interference from BPL is unavoidable if MV lines are used. By confining their Access BPL system to LV lines and by adding hardware notch filters for additional protection to amateur radio frequency allocations, Motorola has addressed our interference concerns."

from ARRL website, for more info: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/05/23/1/?nc=1>

WISDOM (from the Internet)

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

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?