

HARMONICS

THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

September 2005 -Issue 236

Program: Sept. 12

Demonstration: Satellite Communication

Minutes: August 8, 2005

Vice President Bob Yarbrough, **KG4WAD**, called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

He made the following announcements: (1) Next meeting September 12, will have a demonstration and program on Satellite communications. (2) There

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is an emergency drill to be held in mid November involving the Red Cross, hams and maybe CERTS.

There was an announcement and discussion of the FCC proposal to eliminate code in testing for ham licenses. Bob asked if the club wanted to reply. No one expressed an interest in doing so.

After a discussion of the net and net control for the next month, Ralph, **WB4AQK** volunteered, assuming work schedules allowed him.

Bob gave the web site for a free magazine concerning radio and public safety. It is www.macmag.com.

Lee, **AG4NG**, announced and passed around a letter concerning the formation of a ham club in Davie County. The emphasis was to be on ARES.

J. C., **K4DFI**, Gary, **W1WBT**, and Butch, **W4WEE**, announced plans to get together on August 20 to start work on the 73 repeater antenna.

The meeting adjourned at ABT 8:30 PM.

Members present were; Bob, **KG4WAD**; Wayne Ashworth, **W4HG**(paid dues to renew membership); Nelson, **W4FQV**; Ralph Mowery(forgot his new call); Lee, **AG4NG**; Charlie Oster (non ham visitor); Gary, **W1WBT**; J. C. **K4DFI**; Ralph, **WB4AQK**; and Butch, **W4WEE**.

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Ham Happenings

==>HIGHER VANITY CALL SIGN APPLICATION FEE NOW IN EFFECT

The application fee for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign rose to \$21.90 effective for applications received by the FCC on or after Tuesday, August 23. The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau released a new Fee Filing Guide http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-260618A1.pdf this week, and WTB personnel have confirmed that the new vanity fee is in effect.

The fee applies to applications for new vanity call signs as well as to license renewals for current vanity call sign holders. Vanity call sign licenses issued in 1996 when the FCC resurrected its vanity program will be coming up for renewal start-

ing in mid-2006. Under current rules, Amateur Radio licensees may only file renewal applications within 90 days of their license expiration date.

More information on vanity call signs is available on the ARRL Web site
<<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vanity.html>>.

From ARRL Letter Vol 24 No. 33

==>AMATEUR RADIO AWARENESS DAY TO FEATURE EMERGENCY POWER OPERATING EVENT

What makes Amateur Radio unique is its ability to communicate with one another anywhere in the world--and even in orbit--without having to rely on any outside infrastructure whatsoever. Hams can even do this without being plugged into the wall socket. Experienced radio amateurs take this capability for granted, but the general public is far less aware of it. So, an Emergency Power Operating Event (EPOE) on Amateur Radio Awareness Day, Saturday, September 17, will highlight Amateur Radio's ability to communicate worldwide without commercial mains, the Internet or a cellular telephone system.

Amateur Radio Awareness Day activities typically focus on increasing public awareness. Past events have included public demonstrations, talks to community groups and getting local media coverage. According to DHS, National Preparedness Month is aimed at encouraging Americans to prepare for emergencies and to raise public

awareness about the importance of being prepared.

This Amateur Radio Awareness Day, September 17, the ARRL will sponsor a 15-hour Emergency Power Operating Event for stations operating off the grid. "It is not a contest," Sumner stresses. "It is simply a demonstration of what we amateurs can do without having to rely on the commercial mains, and what we will do whenever the need arises."

The event kicks off at 1300 UTC on Saturday, September 17, and wraps up at 0400 UTC on September 18. The ARRL is inviting home stations to operate from generator or battery power. Mobiles and portable stations also are welcome to participate, although unlike Field Day, the emphasis is not on setting up a temporary station, but rather on operating your regular station on emergency power.

There is no set exchange; contacts may be casual, but operators are encouraged to share information on their emergency power sources in addition to the traditional signal report, name and location.

The League is encouraging participating radio amateurs or groups to invite local Citizen Corps leaders to see Amateur Radio installations in emergency power mode.

"The two events offer great opportunities for Amateur Radio to showcase its valued service to

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

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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, WB4AQQ

the nation," said outgoing ARRL Field and Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, K1STO. She urged ARRL-affiliated clubs and Field Organization volunteers to take advantage of the occasion to set up public demonstrations of Amateur Radio and to present or even demonstrate--under the banner of National Preparedness Month--the free services Amateur Radio provides to the community.

From The ARRL Letter vol.24 no.33

==>FCC MORSE CODE DECISION WOULD NOT AFFECT CW SUBBANDS, PRIVILEGES

Any FCC decision to eliminate the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for HF access would have no impact on either the current HF CW subbands or on the CW privileges of Amateur Radio licensees.

John Hennessee, N1KB, of the ARRL Regulatory Information Branch emphasizes that the proceeding does not put forward or recommend any changes in CW allocations or privileges.

The FCC is currently accepting comments on its Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235, released July 19, which proposes to do away with the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for all license classes.

As of week's end, more than 1700 comments had already been filed. The FCC has not yet established a closing date for

comments in this proceeding, and it's not likely to release a Report and Order in WT Docket 05-235 until early next year.

Hennessee further notes that the FCC also has not proposed to extend HF privileges to current Technician licensees who have not passed a Morse code examination. The Commission's NPRM&O suggests that in a no-Morse-requirement regime, such Technician licensees would be able to gain HF access by taking the Element 3 General class written examination.

In a separate--and unrelated--Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 04-140, the FCC agreed with an ARRL proposal to reallocate the current Novice/Tech Plus CW subbands to create additional room on certain 'phone subbands. If the FCC goes ahead with that proposal, Novice and Tech Plus licensees would have CW privileges in the current General class CW bands.

From The ARRL Letter vol 24 no 32

==>ITALY JOINS NO-CODE RANKS

Italy is reported to be the latest country added to the list of those that no longer require Amateur Radio applicants to have passed a Morse code examination to gain HF access. Current IW-prefix "no-code" VHF/UHF licensees in Italy now will be allowed operate on HF. Canada eliminated Morse as the "sole additional requirement" for HF access in late July. To date, more than two dozen countries around

the world--including such major players as the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia and New Zealand--no longer require Amateur Radio applicants to pass a Morse code examination to operate below 30 MHz. If the FCC's past observations on the subject are any clue, the US may join the no-code-required club in the future.

From The ARRL Letter vol 24 no 31

Addendum: At the end of August Japan was reported to have greatly reduced its requirements for code in licensing to about what the US presently has.

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From The SM

The following is excerpts from the monthly letter from John Covington, W4CC

There are several opportunities for public service activity in the coming months; in particular: Simulated Emergency Test, Jamboree On The Air and Amateur Radio Public Awareness Day.

I am pleased with the Simulated Emergency Test results from last year. North Carolina came in 2nd in the nation. We have been 1st in the nation for a number of years, but other sections are catching on that the SET is another good way to practice our skills. I like the SET because it can be a very realistic simulation of how we will actually serve. SET will be upon us again very soon. Contact your local EC and find out how you can be involved.

We do well in the SET because we have great participation, and we do a good job of reporting our results.

The annual Boy Scout Jamboree On-The-Air (JOTA) is held every third full weekend in October, this year being October 15-16. That's less than two months away, so start making plans to participate if you haven't already. JOTA is a great way to introduce ham radio to a group of motivated youngsters. In the past we have had some involvement with Girl Scout groups too.

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Licensing Results

The VE Team is still working as the following results from MT Pleasant on 7/15/05 show.

Hi Everyone,

Congratulations on the New License and upgrades. The info is listed

below and thank you for testing with the W4VEC Rowan/Cabarrus VE Team

Megan Griggs: call sign **KI4LAG**

Ken Sells Call sign **KI4LAF**

Jack Bost, **KI4CMC** upgrade to Extra

Eric Schenk, **KI4JBH** upgrade to General

73 !!

Billy **WA4PVI**

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Storage Batteries

The following (which will be continued in next month's edition) is an interesting item that started out as a short program for a meeting of the New Bern Amateur Radio Club and became an expanded article in the NBARC Newsletter. My thanks to Al Parker, **W8UT**, the editor and Ed Valentine, **W2YPM**, the author.

Storage Battery Advancements

There have been some recent advancements in the care and feeding of many types of batteries. Great quantities of batteries are used in portable computers, camcorders, cameras, cell phones Ipods and the like. If we could extend the useful life of them it would help the environment saving resources and your cost of maintaining the equipment.

The lead acid liquid electrolyte deep cycle batteries used on boats and also at home for emergency Ham Radio Transmitting stations are my subject for this month.

Most batteries are discarded when they won't take a charge, even though they are perfectly good mechanically. The problem is due to lack of use being in standby mode or not maintained with proper care and left in a discharged condition. The plates have a sulfate coating insulating them from the electrolyte liquid and they are useless in that condition.

A pulse generator was developed that will remove the sulfate crystals and return the battery to service. Reports have been reported that examination of the

plates with a microscope showed them to be whisker clean after years of service using the pulse device.

That tempted me to investigate this and build a device to try it out. So far it seems to work. I had a standby storage battery 6 years old that would only take a one amp charge. After three weeks it accepts ten amps the limit of my charger.

To find more information on this subject and how to construct a unit look up these sites and references.

<http://www.kalepa@shaka.com>

<http://www.pulsetech.com>

<http://www.vdcelectronics.com/desulphation.htm>

<http://members.shaw.ca/pferlow/desulfator.htm>

To be continued with details on the lead-acid batteries and the pulse generator along with info on other types of batteries.

Jokes

1. Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.

2. A jumper cable walks into a bar. The bartender says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."

3. Two peanuts walk into a bar, and one was a salted.

4.. Two cows are standing next to each other in a field. Daisy says to Dolly, "I was artificially inseminated this morning." "I don't believe you," says Dolly. "It's true, no bull!" exclaims Daisy.