

HARMONICS

THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

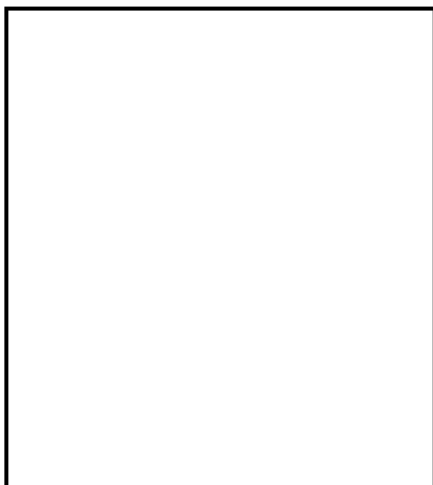
March 2006 -Issue 240

Minutes January 9, 2006

In attendance:

Gary Hattaway, **W1WBT**;
Deborah Hattaway; Patti Stephens, **KI4GUN**; Dick Smith, **KI4HNX**; Wayne Ashworth, **W4HG**; Grey Smith, **KI4CKR**;
Janet Smith, **KI4CKS**; Robert Lewis, **WD4IJX**; Bob Yarbrough, **KG4WAD**; Ralph Brown, **WB4AQK**; William Edge, **W4WEE**; Ralph Mowery, **KU4PT**; Tom Neill **KG4UQU**; Jim Morris, **KA4MPP**; Frank Waring, **AF4D**; Larry Wright, **N4QY**; Nona Morris, **KA4NHL**; Jack Barnhart, **W8ZRI**; John Cundiff, **NIJAC**

Contents



President Gary Hattaway called meeting to order: 7:05

Two announcements were made by Gary about things that had happened since the last meeting.

KA4ECM, Millicent Elwell, became a silent key. She was an active member for quite some time and will be missed by all.

K4TXR Jim Wise upgraded to Extra! Congratulations Jim!

KC4NBW, Wade and KI4GUN, Patti, lost their home and all of their belongings to a fire on December 22, 2005. They both wish to thank everyone for all the love and support. Most all their immediate needs have been taken care of and the RARS really jumped in and took care of their own.

We all welcome our newest member Deborah Hattaway. Bob Lewis made a motion that her application be accepted and it was seconded by Patti Stephens with a unanimous vote that she be accepted. Welcome Deborah! We are so happy to have you!!

The next VE Session will be the 1st Saturday in March,

March 4, 2006 at 9:30 am at the Rowan Public Library.

A discussion about carrying insurance with ARRL to cover club equipment was discussed. Janet Smith to check on that.

Gary said there was a possibility of storing club files at the Public Library. He is going to check on that and bring to next meeting.

There are 2 keys to the mail box. John has one and will bring to Patti at the next meeting and Ralph has the other. John turned over information to Ralph/treasurer and Patti/Secretary and will bring more boxes of records to the next meeting.

We need to set a date to change the banking account signatures. We will leave that up to last years officers and Gary and Ralph.

Janet Smith gave an update on how the non-profit paperwork was coming along and quoted some prices of fees that will have to be paid when they are filled. She is continuing to work on the forms.

There was no treasurers report since the papers had not all been turned over to new officers.

NEW BUSINESS

The 2006 HAMFEST will be held on July 8th. A committee was formed of Butch, Wayne, Jim and Ralph for this years HAMFEST. Bob gave a copy of the HAMFEST flyer from last year. The location has been secured and the possibility of including other area clubs was discussed. Questions of how we would split up proceeds were asked. Possibility of offering area county free tables or discount or a free ticket with so many pre-tickets sold. Davie County is a new club and may be interested. Bob made a motion to ask any adjoining county to attend and have one free table plus buy pre-ticket, Butch 2nd the motion. And it was accepted by the members. Butch suggested going to some of their meetings and Gary said he would call surrounding county club presidents and extend the invitation. Should we offer discounts? We didn't do very much in advanced sales last year. \$4 Advanced tickets \$5 at the door. Sell 10 get one free? Should we offer package deal?

Motion was made by Patti to let the HAMFEST Committee decide on all of this. 2nd by Bob with unanimous decision.

FIELD DAY COMMITTEE

Bob Yarbrough brought up the possibility of holding a future Field Day at the NC Transportation Museum. This could be used as a special events station. We believe that Sloan Park has already been reserved for this year, but there is a question about weather or not the club has paid for the site and if it is still reserved. Ralph will check and see if a check was issued and report back at the next meeting. A Field Day Committee was elected. Gray, Butch, and Larry Wright. They will

elect a chairman and report back at the next meeting.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

A question was brought up as to the advantages of the club being seen more by the public. More demonstrations, possible at schools and the NC Transportation Museum of just what amateur radio is and what we do.

-parades

-festivals (Lord Salisbury, and Rowan County Fair)

It was decided that a committee to look into these activities would be formed. Public Relations committee volunteers are Larry Wright, Patti Stephens, Deborah Hattaway and Janet Smith.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Club radio equipment is scattered here and there. A committee was formed to inventory, service and store all club gear. We need to find out what gear we do have, where it is located and make sure it works. Bob Yarbrough was asked about a storage building. Nominated for the technical committee were Gary Hattaway, Ralph Mowery and Bob Lewis.

Bobby Lewis will call the Thursday night net for the month of January

Dick Smith explained the process of an emergency drill that was held recently. Check in to the net and the responsibility to call at least one other person. It was suggested that it would be a good idea to have this list put on the web site.

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 Rufty-Holmes senior Center at 1120 S. Boundary Street

2005 Officers

President-Gary Hattaway
W1WBT, 704-647-9823
Ghattaway@msn.com

Vice-Pres. - Grey Smith
KI4CKR, 704-857-2570
ki4ckr@ags2.com

Secretary - Patty Stevens
KI4GUN, 704-636-1912
ki4gun@carolina.rr.com

Treasurer - Ralph Brown
WB4AQK, 704-636-5902
rkbrown5902@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

There was a call for any more business and with no response the meeting was adjourned.

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The above is to catch up for the "Harmonics " that was cut last month because of computer problems

Unfortunately those same problems caused me to lose the minutes for February. I think Patti sent them to me. I'll try to get them in next month.

QRP

I guess that everyone knows that Larry, N4QY, won the first prize in last year's project contest. I asked him to give me an article about its making and operation. His letter follows.

Hi Ralph,

When I was backpacking on the Appalachian Trail last spring near Hot Springs, NC, I met a ham who had a complete QRP station with him. He had a AT-S3 QRP transceiver, an antenna tuner, antenna, batteries, ear buds, and key. The whole package weighed less than two lbs. The AT-S3 is a vfo rig that covers 40, 30, and 20 meters (cw only) with a power output of about 3 watts. His antenna was a 51' wire thrown up into the trees with a 18' ground wire, or counterpoise, laying on the ground. He worked some friends on 20 meters that evening.

Seeing this little rig got me to thinking about doing something similar, so I started looking for a suitable rig. The AT-S3 is a very sophisticated state of the art rig using SMT (Surface Mount Technology) parts. If you think 1/8 watt resistors are small, SMT parts are quite a bit smaller and require special techniques to handle. High lighting levels, magnifying glasses, and tweezers, at a minimum are required. So I decided not to try building a AT-S3 Small Wonder Labs has a line of excellent QRP transceivers, but delivery time would not permit me to build in time for the club building contest for 2005.

Wilderness Radio has kits for their top of the line Sierra, the Norcal 40A, and the SST (Simple Superhet Transceiver) series. The Sierra uses band modules and can cover all bands including the WARC bands. The SST is a single band rig and is available in 80m, 40m, 30, and 20 versions.

I chose the SST for the 40m band. It has about 90 parts, and everything mounts on the pc board, so wiring is quite minimal. The receiver is a superhet with a crystal filter. It uses 3 discrete crystals to give fairly sharp selectivity, and is sensitive enough to pick up signals less than 1 uv. The transmitter puts out about 3 watts. Both the receiver and transmitter are tuned with a VXO (Variable Crystal Oscillator). The VXO uses a 7045 KHz crystal and is tuned with a varactor diode to give a turning range of about 10 KHz. During construction, I added a SPDT switch so that I can switch in another varactor diode that increases the Tun-

was the FYBO (Freeze your Butt Off) event where many stations set up outside in cold locations. Somehow they use cold temps as a multiplier in the score. Many of them build their own gear. New kits are constantly being designed and made available.

If you have an interest in QRP, go to www.njqrp.org. The links available there are quite extensive.

73

Larry

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Those not at the Christmas party can see pictures on the next page.

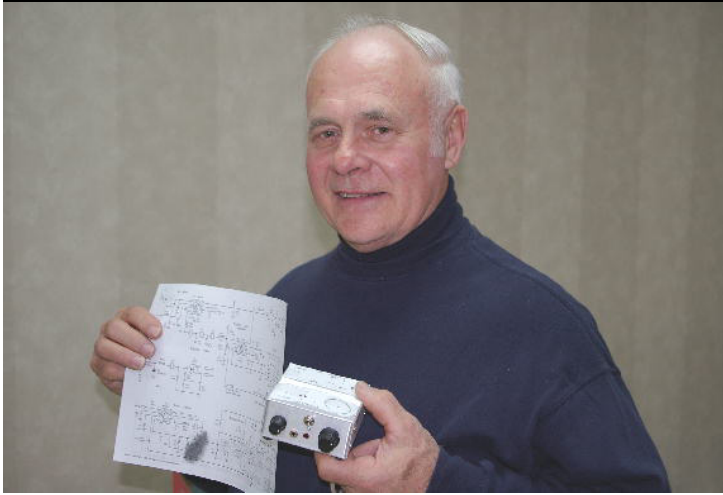
Hope you get this in time to be reminded of the meeting on Monday March 13

VE tests 3/04/06

There were two upgrades. Congratulations go to: Rodney Efrid, **KC4DJD**, of Concord and Jason Gearhart, **KI4KPF**, of Salisbury. We need to get him into the club.

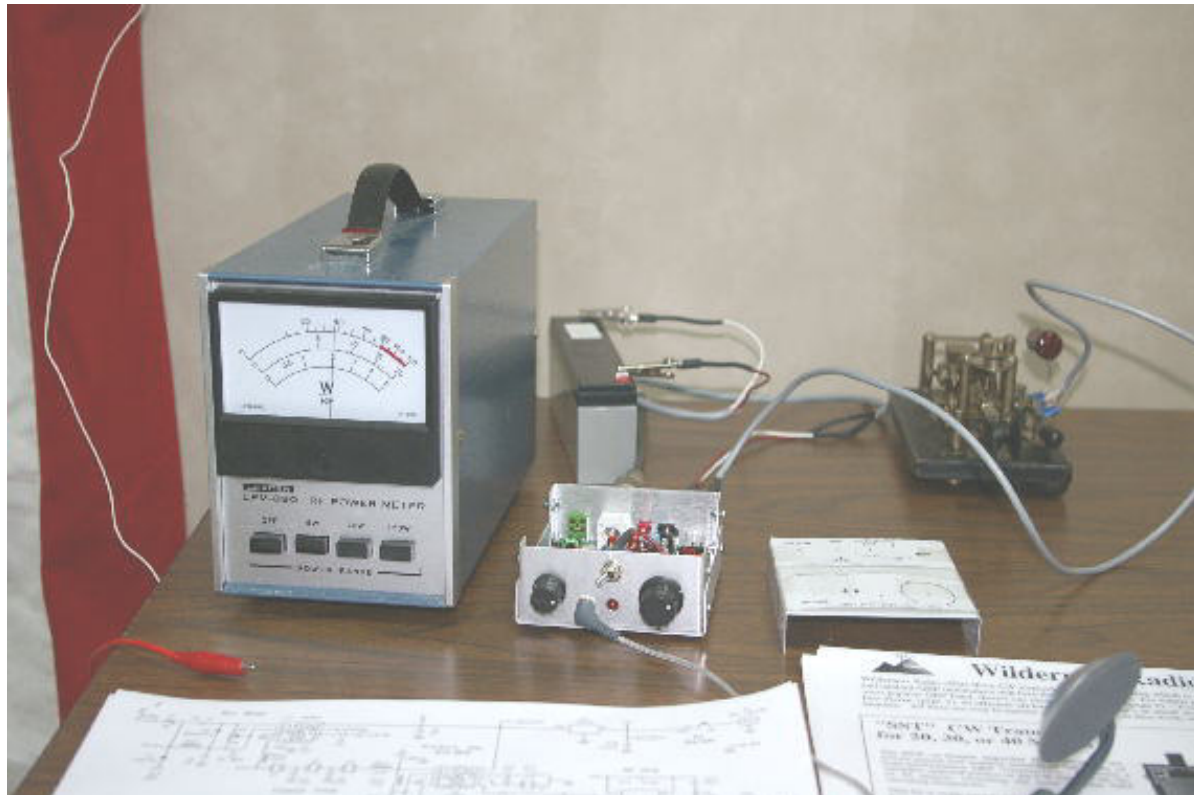
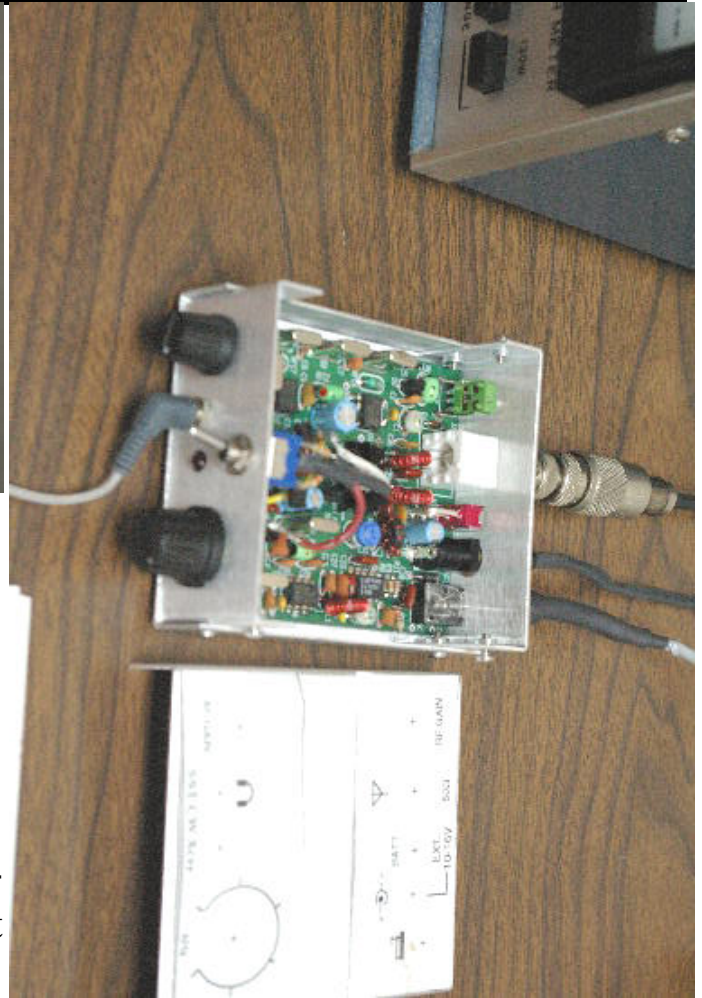
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See you Monday night



N4QY and his SST

The kit. (this is looking at it from the side
Rotate the page counter-clockwise to see it
as the camera did



The setup
to show
that it really
worked