

HARMONICS

THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

April 2006 -Issue 241

Financial report

January 01 - March 31, '06
Opening Balance. \$3970.63
Deposits 381.71

Total\$4352.34

Expenses:

Home brew prize . . .
\$100.00
HF Ads 72.00
HF Reimbursement . .560.81
Meeting refreshments . . 5.55

Total \$738.36

Closing Balance . \$3613.98

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McGinnis Account (WD4KJZ)

Opening balance . \$3832.63

Income:

Donation VEs
\$100.00
Donation, Rowan
Runners
50.00

Total \$3982.63

Expenses:

Home brew prize . . \$100.00
SERA Ads 244.00
PO Box & postage. . . 63.00
HF fliers 300.81
Memorial 25.00

Total\$732.81

Closing Balance . . \$3099.82

WD4KJZ Fund Origin

At the March meeting I promised to look up and pass on the details of this fund in the treasury. So here goes.

On December 12, 1995, RARS member Fred McGinnis,

WD4KJZ, became an SK. In his will he left all his radio equipment to the Rowan Amateur Radio Society to use, or dispose of, as the organization saw fit and use the money to benefit the club.

The January Club meeting was snowed out on January 8, 1996 and rescheduled for January 11.

At this meeting the club, after much discussion, decided to sell the equipment with club members having the first chance to bid on pieces. Bids were submitted in sealed envelopes. Any equipment not sold to club members in this way would be handled later.

A time and place was set where the equipment could be displayed. And because there were items not obtained and displayed early in the time period the bidding on those items was held over until March. Bids on the other items were opened at the February meeting. The sale of the equipment, all to club members, brought \$2257.97.

Discussions on how to use the money extended through the May meeting when a committee was appointed to explore and recommend ways to handle and use this gift.

The committee reported a set of guide lines at the August meeting. Discussion had to be stopped because of time and was continued to the September meeting where the revised recommendations were adopted by the organization.

The following are the adopted recommendations.

1. The monies be kept in the the same bank account as other society funds;

2. The treasurer is to keep, **in his books**, the monies as a separate fund and report it separately when reporting finances to the club.

3. All interest on the Societies bank account is to be put into the fund.

4. Any use of the funds must advance the stature of Amateur radio in Rowan county through such avenues as publicity, teaching, training, and purchase of materials for these activities.

5. A standing committee of three members in good standing is to be appointed yearly, charged with actively seeking ways to use the fund and receive suggestions for use from other members. The committee is to make reports at any scheduled meeting for spending whatever they determine a need.

6. All spending must be approved by a majority of members in attendance at the regularly scheduled meeting.

Since this time the appointment of the standing committee has slowly fallen by the wayside. The fund has been used to purchase and present sets of ARRL publications on Amateur Radio to the Rowan Library, ham magazines for the library, obtain video tapes and other materials for teaching various amateur licensing classes, provide prizes for building activities in the club, antenna and items to improve the 156.13/156.73 repeater, provide for club awards to members.

It became known at the July 13, 1998 meeting that Walt Bastow, N4KVF was no longer going to host the Firecracker Hamfest. Discussion started on whether or not the club

would sponsor it. After discussion through three meetings, the decision to become the sponsor for the 'fest was made at the October 12, 1998 meeting. From the beginning of the discussions the McGinnis fund was seen as being seed money to support the hamfest with all receipts going back into the fund.

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Hamfest Calendar

The following is a listing of the hamfest/swapfests that come before the Firecracker.

We need to get fliers to each of these that are within a reasonable travel distance (100 miles?).

Also, if anyone will have a table and would be willing, they could sell advanced tickets.

Some listed may be more than 100 miles

April 15 - CatawbaValley Hamfest, Morganton, NC

April 23 -RARSHamfest, RaleighNC

April 28 - 29 - SE VHF Society Conference, Greenville,SC

May 6 - Upstate SC Hamfest, Spartanburg, SC

May 13 - Johnson County ARC, Mountain City TN

May 13 - Rockingham Co. Hamfest, Eden,NC

May 13-14 East Carolina Antique Radio Club, Greenville,NC

May 19-21 - Dayton Hamfest, Dayton,OH

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,
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ki4gun@carolina.rr.com

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

May 20 - Roanoke ARS Swap Fest, Williamston, NC

May 27 - Durham Hamfest, Durham, NC

June 3 - Pig Pickin'/Tailgate, Franklin, VA

June 10 - Winston-Salem Classic Hamfest, Winston-Salem, NC

July 8 - Firecracker Hamfest, Salisbury, NC

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Out of the Past

What was important in the Society 10, 15, 20, years ago? Who was here then?

June 1986: Frank, **AF4D**, reported 1460 QSO points in FD. Wayne Wallis, **KJ4TI**, was most prolific with 266 QSOs. Second was Larry, **N4QY**, with 82.

Through the efforts of Ken Clifton, **KJ4HF**, Yaesu has donated a Model YH-55 headset to the club and as a way to increase meeting attendance members will get a ticket each meeting they attend for the next two months. They all go into a hat and the winner is drawn at the last meeting. The club has two meetings a month so perfect attendance gives you 4 chances to win.

April 1991: Henry, **N4UH** passes the editorship of Harmonics to Ralph, **WB4AQK**, and he yells HELP!

Frank, **AF4D** is President and draws the 50-50 ticket of new member Tommy Wood, **KN4OR**. Tommy gets \$5.50 and the club gets the same. The club will provide communications for the March of Dimes walk on Saturday, April 20. Tom Wales, **WB4Y**, presented the program *Trials and Tribulations of Getting on Packett*.

May 1996: President is Luke, **KQ4OQ**. It was reported that FD will have to be somewhere other than Sloan Park because the desired shelter was not available. Most discussion was on the use of the money from the McGinnis fund. Harvey Adams, **W1YJ**, presented a program on an Antique Wireless Association 1929 type, transmitter. A tuned plate, tuned grid, self excited CW oscillator. He used a modern power supply for stability.

April 2001: President Buddy, **N4FCC**, introduced Ms. Evelyn McMahon, Executive Secretary of the local Red Cross for the program. It was reported that Bobby Lewis, **WD4IJX**, has been nominated to become the new emergency Coordinator for Rowan County. Discussion on how to increase attendance at meetings decided that good programs was the answer. FD will be at Ellis Park again this year. March of Dimes walk will be held on April 21.

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Net Report

This month I was able to get three of the four nights I said I'd call the W4EXU ragchew on

Thursday nights. Thanks to Janet, **KI4CKS**, it was called the night I was missing.

Net activity wasn't too active! Check-ins went like this: March 16 - 6; March 23 - 4; March 30 - 3; and April 3 - 5.

On two of the nights we had "outsiders" check in. That is people not in the club who just happened to hear us. They added a lot to the night. We did get some info out one night that enabled Grey, **KI4CKR**, to get him a new 2 Meter rig. I'm sure he will tell us about it at the meeting next week.

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From the SM

At the first of April, John Covington, **W4CC**, passes the office of Section Manager on to Tim Slay, **N4IB**, of Mocksville.

Here are excerpts from his last letter to NC hams.

I've always believed that studying for your first ham license should be the beginning of the learning process, not the end of it. Even if you have passed the Amateur Extra exam, there's plenty left to learn. Continuing education will improve your enjoyment of being a ham; you will learn new things you can have fun doing! Whatever your individual interest areas are in Amateur Radio, I encourage you to learn what you can about it and share it with others.

Public service communications requires this continuing education more than almost any other area of Amateur Radio. That's due primarily to changing expectations of our served agencies, brought on by an increased ability to communicate instantly in our day-to-day lives, but

also due to a greater awareness of the impact of technological (i.e. man-made) disasters.

Most agencies using volunteers require them to undergo training. Whether you are an American Red Cross volunteer, a volunteer firefighter or a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, there is some level of training required, and in many cases, you have to repeat this training once in a while so you understand the latest procedures and techniques.

Career professionals are sometimes wary of volunteers. Sometimes this is due to a bad first impression with a volunteer leader; sometimes they are concerned volunteers will cause them more problems than they solve. This is especially true of spontaneous volunteers - people who just show up in the aftermath of a disaster offering to help, but have never been trained or even involved before. These volunteers present management challenges that most agencies simply do not have the time to deal with during a disaster.

Those of us who work with Emergency Management will need some additional training in the near future. The Department of Homeland Security is requiring all first responders, including volunteers, to complete training in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) by 2007. There was some question about whether this requirement also applies to radio operators, and Ron Breitwisch, KC0OX, a DEC in Iowa recently contacted FEMA to ask for a clarification. Here is the response, also from the ARES E-Letter:

"Thank you for contacting the NIMS Integration Center. The short answer

is:
Yes. In a response scenario that extends beyond local government, there needs to be common terminology and doctrine that everyone can follow so that personnel and resources are feathered in a seamless manner. This is especially true for radio communications. Radio operators need to understand what is being said and asked of them during an incident so that they can convey this information effectively and efficiently. Please let me know if I can provide further assistance. Regards, Paul F. Ganem, NIMS Integration Center"

The specific courses recommended for entry-level volunteers are IS-100, Incident Command System; and IS-700, National Incident Management System. Both are available free of charge at the FEMA Emergency Management Institute Independent Study web site. There are also instructor's materials available for download, so if you wanted to conduct an in-person course for members of your ARES group, they have done a lot of the work for you! There are lots of other courses that you may find helpful also. The home page for the Independent Study Program is:
<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/>

While there is value in independent study, it's also important to train with your local ARES group and practice regularly so you will know what is expected locally. You will be better at what you do, and there's great

satisfaction - and fun - in belonging to a group that works well together.

And as most of you already know, I am stepping down at the end of March after 6 years as Section Manager. Serving has been a great honor, and I want to thank you for the confidence you have shown in me by allowing me to serve three terms. I am humbled by the many kind things that have been said to me as I leave office.

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April Program

Grey has set up a program that I'm sure will be interesting and enlightening to all.

He is going to have Barry Baines, WD4ASW, from Concord speak to us. I'm sure satellites will enter the picture - along with communications to and from them.

Can we hope for 40% attendance?