

HARMONICS

THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
OCTOBER 2006 -Issue 246

Oct. Calendar

- 7 . . . Rock Hill SC hamfest
- 7-8 . . . ARRL Simulated
Emergency Test
- 9 . . . **RARS Meeting**
- 14 . . . Forsyth ARC Pfaff-
town Swapfest
- 21 . . . Rowan Emergency
Drill
- 21-22 . . . Jamboree On The Air
- 28 . . . North Carolina SET
- 29 . . . Daylight Saving Ends
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Minutes: Sept 11

President Gary, **W1WBT**,
Was unable to attend because of
over working, Therefore, at
19:10 VP Grey, **KI4CKR**,

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opened the meeting by calling on
Treasurer Ralph, **WB4AQK**, to
give his report for September.
The bottom lines were: there is
\$4590.11 in the bank now of
which \$4029.98 is in the McGin-
nis account.

Luther McIntyre, **KB4AE**,
turned in a nicely typed
membership application, along
with a check for the dues and
was promptly voted into mem-
bership. Luther is an Extra class
ham who originally was licensed
as a "Conditional" in Japan
while serving in the USMC. He
is fond of CW! He says he is just
getting started AGN after being
inactive for 10 years. He'll be a
great addition to the team at FD.

A list was sent around for
anyone to sign who would like to
operate during Kannapolis' 100
year celebration.

There was some discussion
of the 150 MS ride to Myrtle
Beach.

New EC Bob, **KG4WAD**,
has been doing some research on
hams in "the area." He came up
with about 285! He had printed
out names and ADRs and asked
members to note on the list any
SKs or any that were no longer
here. The idea is to send the ac-

tive ones a letter inviting them to
join the newly formed ARES group.
Bob is to investigate a bulk mailing
expense.

There was a discussion of incor-
poration - the difference between C3
and C7. Tim Slay, **N4IB**, is to be
contacted about a program and info
about this subject.

Net control for the Thursday
night 73 informal net went to Nona,
KA4NHL.

There was a reminder that the
first ARES meeting would be held
the next night at the Red Cross of-
fice at about 6:00. FEMA classes are
to be discussed then.

There were 17 members present
when the meeting adjourned at
20:29.

Those present were: Ralph,
WB4AQK; Buddy, **N4FCC**; Butch,
W4WEE; John, **N4QVM**; Nelson,
W4FQV; Luther, **KB4AE**; Jim,
KA4MPP; Nona, **KA4NHL**; Ralph,
KU4PT; Derwood, **K4PXU**; Bob,
K4REO; Grey, **KI4CKR**; Janet,
KI4CKS; Frank, **AF4D**; Larry,
N4QY; Bob, **KG4WAD**.

There were just 16 present. Jim,
KA4MPP, was on my list twice. Af-
ter all he calls himself Mighty
Plump Possum.

From the Section Manager

Our Section Traffic Manager is responsible for the National Traffic System nets in our section, making sure thousands of NTS messages are routed into, out of, and through our section efficiently. After almost four years of outstanding service Bob Lukaszewski, K4HA, has asked to be relieved in order to focus on family and work commitments.

North Carolina has one of the most active NTS organizations in the country thanks to the efforts of Bob and his predecessors. On behalf of our section's 4,000 members, I want to thank Bob for his dedication and support!

Congratulations and thanks also to David Roy, W4DNA, for agreeing to take the helm from Bob. I look forward to working with you Dave!

2006 SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST

The ARRL Simulated Emergency Test is a nationwide exercise in emergency communications, administered by the ARRL field organization. The SET weekend gives communicators the opportunity to focus on the emergency-communications capability within your community while interacting with NTS nets. This year's North Carolina Section SET will be held on October 28 from 8 am to 12 noon.

The test scenario will be announced later by our Section Emergency Coordinator, Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK. Your local area may choose to hold an SET anytime during the fall season, just make sure

your report reaches ARRL headquarters by January 31, 2007.

WITHER PUBLIC SERVICE?

During a bike ride a few weeks ago I talked with an MS Society volunteer who asked why ham radio was needed on the route when Nextel coverage was so good.

The question got me thinking about my younger days when spring and summer weekends were booked solid with walk-a-thons, bike rides and other special events. Today, our local club works only a handful of public service events each year. It's the inevitable result of the proliferation of cell phones. Served agencies just don't need us as much anymore. Considering that there are fewer of us around to work these events, it's probably a good thing. Small events in urban areas can be managed quite well with cell phones and none of us want to show up for an event and have nothing to do. But there are still many events when our services are valuable and a few where hams are so critical that the event couldn't safely proceed without us. How do we best match our capability to the agency's needs? Here are some of my thoughts on our unique capabilities:

Coverage: Commercial carriers can't afford to build out cellular coverage in sparsely populated areas. Remember the MS volunteer with his Nextel? He missed numerous calls that weekend when his Nextel coverage WASN'T "so good";

Ham radio provides coverage everywhere, and during a disaster

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

2006 Officers

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

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

Secretary - Patti Stevens,
KI4GUN, 704-202-1465
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

we can do it without any fixed infrastructure.

Dispatch Radio: I work for an electric utility and whenever there's a major outage the first step in our recovery plans is to open a telephone conference bridge. We then appoint a moderator who manages the agenda. Having key personnel gathered in a virtual “meeting”; allows everyone to hear the same information at the same time and the moderator makes sure the meeting proceeds in an orderly fashion. Sounds like a ham radio net doesn't it?

The point-to-point nature of most cell phone calls makes it difficult for an event director to use cell phones to get an overall picture of how the event is progressing. And when that director is talking a call on their cell phone from one person, they miss calls from others. The chaos is manageable for a small walk-a-thon, but not when you've got 2,000 cyclists and 1,000 volunteers spread over 100 miles of Carolina countryside. Public safety agencies, power companies and other critical infrastructure entities still rely on 2-way dispatch radio systems as the primary communications method for their critical functions. Our served agencies can't afford to provide these networks for themselves, so they rely on ham radio.

Technology: Ham radio can offer a served agency not just voice dispatch radio, but also vehicle location services (APRS), mobile data services

So what do we get out of it?: The FCC allows us to use vast portions of the radio spectrum and it's mostly because of our ability to provide service to the public in times of need or distress. Public service events help justify our existence with the FCC and other government entities. These events promote our image and visibility with the public. They serve as a great training exercise for the next disaster. Public service events are also a lot of fun! Contact your local club for the events in your area. Also, check out www.hampublicservice.org. Thanks to Bill Cole, KG4CXY and Eric Christensen, KF4OTN for their excellent work on this website.

UPCOMING PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

- September 30: Diabetes Walk, RTP. See www.hampublicservice.org .
- October 7 & 8: 2006 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test
- October 21 & 22: Scouting Jamboree On-The-Air
- October 22: Inside-Out 10k, Cary. See www.hampublicservice.org.
- October 28: North Carolina Section Simulated Emergency Test

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

- October 8: Maysville
- October 14: Pfafftown Swapfest, www.w4nc.org
- November 19: JARSFEST, Benson, www.jars.net

From Tim Slay, N4IB



Roster addition

KB4AE Luther B McIntyre Jr.
 Extra 611 woodland Creek Dr.
 Salisbury, NC 28147 Yes 2006 704-633-2648 GLPub@msn.com



Ham Happenings

FCC CITES ALLEGED UNLICENSED HAM BAND USERS

The FCC has notified several entities -- including two trucking companies regarding the alleged use of Amateur Radio frequencies by unlicensed individuals. Special Counsel in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth advised all of the parties that unlicensed use of radio equipment not only can interfere with licensed users but violates federal law and could lead to fines of up to \$10,000.

The Commission also contacted two trucking firms regarding alleged unlicensed transmissions from tractor-trailer rigs on 10 meters earlier this year. Hollingsworth sent a Warning Notice to **Cardinal Express of Concord, North Carolina**, on August 28, and Melton Truck Lines of Tulsa, Oklahoma, on August 30. The FCC cited information indicating that a Cardinal Express rig on Interstate 85 in North Carolina was the source of radio transmissions on 28.085 MHz on August 2. Hollingsworth told Melton Truck Lines that the FCC had information that one of its rigs, also on Interstate 85 in North Carolina, transmitted on 28.085 MHz on June 11.

He indicated this week that both trucking firms and their drivers have

contacted him in response to the warning notices and are cooperating with the FCC.

More NC RFI

On August 18, the FCC wrote Neva Poovey of Newton, North Carolina, citing information indicating that she or someone in her residence had been operating radio equipment that caused interference on 10 and 12 meters.

Hollingsworth noted that FCC records did not indicate a license authorizing transmissions on those bands had been granted to anyone at Poovey's address. Poovey's husband Michael responded to tell Hollingsworth he was testing "a huge mobile linear" with another individual in his driveway. A nearby radio amateur complained to the Commission after hearing the transmissions on the two amateur bands.

From ARRL Letter Vol. 25, No. 38

Radio jammer Jack Gerritsen gets seven years, fines

It was a day a lot of radio amateurs in Southern California had been anticipating for a long time. On September 18, US Judge R. Gary Klausner sentenced convicted radio jammer Jack Gerritsen, now 70, to seven years imprisonment and imposed \$15,225 in fines on six counts -- one a felony -- that included transmitting without a license and willful and malicious interference with radio transmissions. Before sentencing, Gerritsen apologized to the federal government, the FCC and the local Amateur Radio community, which had endured the brunt of Gerritsen's on-air tirades and out-

right jamming. "I'm sorry, and I apologize to everyone here," Gerritsen told those in the courtroom.

Gerritsen's contrition did nothing to convince Klausner toward leniency. The judge berated Gerritsen as a repeat offender and said he believed Gerritsen would continue to commit similar offenses. The sentence even exceeded US District Attorney Lamar Baker's recommended 46 months incarceration.

In addition to the prison time, Klausner fined Gerritsen \$225, payable immediately, and an additional \$15,000 to be paid through the Probation Department. Klausner tacked on two years' supervised probation and recommended Gerritsen remain in custody in Southern California during that period.

Klausner further ordered Gerritsen to participate in a substance abuse program at his own expense. He told Gerritsen he could not use any identification, including his previous Amateur Radio call sign KG6IRO, other than his real name when identifying himself, and he told Gerritsen he could not own, possess or use any radio transmitting equipment.

The FCC had been investigating complaints of illegal radio transmissions linked to Gerritsen for four years. According to court documents, the FCC investigation revealed that Gerritsen transmitted both prerecorded messages and real-time harassment and profanity for hours at a

time, often targeting local Amateur Radio repeater systems and precluding their use by licensed operators.

Following trial last December, Gerritsen was found guilty of causing malicious interference with a communications system operated by the United States -- a felony. The court also found him guilty of two misdemeanor counts of willful or malicious interference with radio communications and three misdemeanor counts of transmitting radio signals without a license. Gerritsen has been in custody since his conviction.

The FCC has already levied \$52,000 in fines on Gerritsen for violating its rules and the Communications Act.

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Financial report

As if September 30

Opening Balance	\$4550.38
Expenses	5.77
Income	19.20
Balance	\$4563.81

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Don't forget...

**October meeting
Monday Oct. 9, at
7:00 PM.**