

HARMONICS



THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
An ARRL Affiliate

January 2007 -Issue 249



Happy New Year!

Apologies are in order ...
Again!

As you may remember, your editor notified most of you that he would be taking some time off at the end of the year, 2006 that is, and consequently "stuff" piled up.

The cruise, 50th wedding anniversary, Christmas, and 76th birthday were all celebrated.

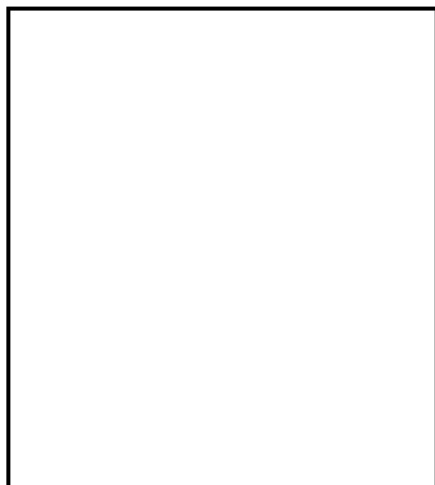
Some family members might even say "celebrated wildly". If you are interested, I'll show you some of the 300 or so pictures sometime.

Anyway I've been snowed under with things to do since getting back and doing the *Harmonics* wasn't one of the most pressing. You will note the lack of a financial report in what there is of this issue. Hopefully I'll have it by the meeting date, which by the way, is next Monday, January 8.

Hear that? **January 8 is meeting night!** Don't know if Bob, **KG4WAD**, has a program yet or not, but I know Grey, **KI4CKR** will have a bunch of committees appointed. Be sure to be there to see which you are on this year.

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Contents



Speaking of meetings

You missed a good one on December 11, 2006 if you weren't at the Senior Center between 1800 and 2030 local on that night.

I don't think that any notes were made of it so this report will rely on my memory.

A feast for \$7.50! Accolades to the committee that set that up! The names Janet, **KI4CKS**, Patti, **KI4GUN**, and Nona, **KA4NHL** come to mind, but as I said I'm relying on memory, so if I named some one incorrectly or left anyone out you know why. I can't recite the menu now. I just remember it was delicious and if my memory isn't too dysfunctional a few of our esteemed went back for seconds.

I forgot my camera and Bob didn't record all the festivities, such as the new officers in a group, or the winners in the projects contest or even the Operator of the Year getting the plaque with the last nameplate inscribed. But my memory isn't so bad that I can't give you a word picture of these people.

Officers first:

The big guy on the left (your left, my right) with some hair on his face is the President, namely Grey Smith, **KI4CKR**, the thinner one on Grey's left, is his right hand man or Vice-president. Meet Bob Yarbrough, **KG4WAD**. (I'll bet some smart Tech will ask what he was doing on Grey's left if he is the right hand man. If they do, they will be program chairman next year, I'll bet.) The better looking one of the group, standing next to Bob is the Secretary. If Patti Stephens,

KI4GUN, hadn't been so busy getting donations for the Angel Child she would have made notes and e-mailed them to me so I'd not have to do this from memory. The impersonator of Monty Wooley to Patti's left is the Treasurer for next year. (I'm not going to tell you. You young whippersnappers can find out who Monty Wooly was your self. Hint: Stay up late and watch some old movies on TCM.) He, the Treasurer, is Ralph Brown, **WB4AQK**.

I know, that's three fourths of a good team, but in any election you are likely to get an over-the-hill guy. They are dumb enough to just keep on keeping on.

Hey now! Look at this. These two pictured here are the **real amateurs**. They are the winners of the project contest. There aren't three for first, second, and third place because we others were too lazy or busy.

The one with the \$100 check and a small black brick in his hand is the first place winner. Yeah the shorter, somewhat chubby one wearing the hiking boots. That is Larry Wright, **N4QY**, and the little black brick is the transceiver (CW naturally) he assembled for his back packing trips. The log probably weighs more than the rig. The taller, thinner, better looking (to teenage girls) is the second place winner, Jonathan Garrison, **KG4GZR**. That is a check for \$50 in his hand along with his little rig. I can't remember the names and details of these rigs but I'm hoping to get them to write a couple of articles about them soon. Then I won't have to work so hard getting filler for this rag.

Now for the glamour shot. The "piece de resistance" as the French would never say. See the female type ham standing at the front with someone, not her husband, handing her the Operator of the Year plaque.

Yes, That is the one who worked so hard trying to get and explain the features of incorporation for us dummies. Who got the FD site with her own money. (I did reimburse her, but I'm not sure she me the total cost.) Who worked so hard during FD to get the Salisbury Post reporter to make a contact with the DX station on the GOTA rig, Who was the most dedicated net control on Thursday night. The envelop please ... The winner was (drum roll and trumpet please) Janet Smith, **KI4CKS**. Did I say she was instrumental in getting that fine food we had to start the meeting, at just \$7.50 per person?

That's about all the memory I have except that I know Patti reported that we had something in the neighbor hood of \$140 for the Angel Child that went to her in the form of toys, clothes and a card for groceries for the family.

A great party. There were about 28, maybe 27 people there and I'm not going to try to name them all.

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NC Section news

NOVEMBER NORTH CAROLINA SECTION NEWS

FCC ELIMINATES MORSE CODE REQUIREMENT!

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

2007 Officers

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

Vice-Pres. - Bob Yarbrough,
KG4WAD, 704-645-8320
Rtplus@dialpoint.net

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 Editor. Material may be reprinted provided proper credit is given.

Editor - Ralph Brown, WB4AQK

On Friday, December 15 the FCC announced that the US would join many other countries in eliminating the Morse code requirement for all license classes. This action has been under consideration at the FCC since July of 2005 and comments posted to the FCC web site were 4 to 1 in favor of the change. The ARRL had requested that the Morse requirement be maintained for Extra class licenses, but the FCC chose to eliminate the requirement for all classes. No date has been announced on when these changes will take effect, but before long I hope we'll be hearing lots of new voices on the HF bands!

HAM RADIO AND HOMELAND SECURITY

North Carolina has established an Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAAC) through the assistance of U.S. Department of Homeland Security Grant Funds. ISAAC allows for the exchange of critical information among local and state law enforcement, fire, EMS, and others responsible for the health, safety and security of North Carolina. I was invited to meet with Dirk German and Durb Turner, KC4MID, with the State Bureau of Investigation to discuss the potential for a new role for amateur radio in homeland security. A few years ago an airplane was confiscated from a group of drug smugglers and the SBI found a 2m radio inside the plane. The smugglers were using 2m to coordinate with their teams on the ground. We talk on the radio, but most of us spend a lot more time listening. Our Official Observer corps is

especially involved in monitoring our bands for inappropriate and unlicensed activity. Many of us are also scanner enthusiasts and short wave listeners. So if you ever hear anything that might seem terrorist, drug or gang related the ISAAC center wants to know! ISAAC can be reached at 1-888-NCISAAC (1-888-624-7222). I've invited Dirk and Durb to attend the state ARES meeting in April to discuss other areas of cooperation between ham radio and our state's law enforcement.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

- January 6: Winston-Salem Firstfest
- March 10-11: North Carolina Section Convention/Charlotte Hamfest
- April 1: North Carolina State Convention/Raleigh Hamfest

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Editorial

I was reading "Editor's Log" in the January *World Radio* (you don't really eat all the time on those ships, it just seems that way) and the author started off talking about New Year resolutions.

In the past I've suggested, for readers, some of the same things he mentioned such as try a new mode, be an Elmer, finish a project you've started, (Boy, that really hits home.) and others you've probably heard. He mentioned many of these and then went on to another idea that was interesting to me.

He says that if we (hams) are going to keep the tradition of respect and pride that our radio service deserves, we are going to have to make a resolution of a different type.

As someone involved in the public aspect of Amateur Radio for a number of years, he says that he has always seen hams as being proud to be hams. That they had a sense of accomplishment. They had earned the right to be a licensed ham by studying and learning by doing, experimenting with antennas, or homebrewing, and proving their worth by passing meaningful exams.

He continues with his feeling that lately there are two types of new hams. First there are those that tell him that though they have the Extra license they don't feel like an Extra. Something is missing. Its a hollow victory. The other type is not bothered at all that they went all the way to Extra with hardly any effort. They view the use of all the frequencies as their right.

He says he worries about those who have a feeling of entitlement for it is human nature to think something is worth what you paid for it. He sees an attitude of "Being an Extra ... so what." To him being an Extra meant years of working your way up the ladder of passing exams that "actually required you to know radio fundamentals and do 20 wpm Morse code."

He is concerned that amateur Radio won't be special any more. But he has the answer in a resolution for the Extras who "don't feel Extra." They should resolve to prove, if only to themselves, that their interest "goes beyond just having that piece of paper and being able to have a

Ham Radio license plate on their vehicle.” He says they do this by resolving to set aside time to read the handbook, listen to 10 minutes of code course on a consistent basis, hone their operating skills. I suppose he could have added things like I mentioned at the beginning or maybe taking an active part in a club, providing programs on radio, reporting on what they were doing on the air, maybe even being sure to check into the local net.

He says that the “something-for-nothing” crowd will fall by the wayside.

What do you think? What is your experience? Can I get some feed back on these ideas? Write me a letter ... Send me an e-mail!

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Surfing the Net

Some what in the same light of the preceding, I found an interesting looking site and don't remember how I came upon it.

Anyway I'll pass it on to anyone who might be interested in code. I think I was reading something form the ARRL and saw mention of a group called the Straight Key Century Club. I found their web site at www.skccgroup.com.

From here there are all kinds of interesting links.

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I had planned to try to include some of the pictures that Bob, **KG4WAD**, sent, but when I looked at them everyone was feeding their face. He obviously took all his pic-

tures at the start of the December meeting.

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Sorry, Don't even have joke fillers this time. Just white space