

HARRINGTONS



THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY January 2007 - Issue 249



Minutes: January 8

Minutes of December meeting were read and approved

New licensed hams were announced:

- Linda Gibbs **KI4SVE**
- Fran Ibarra **KI4SVF**
- Don Kellis **KI4SVG**
- Joe Laughlin **KI4SVH**
- Brad Pruitt **KI4SVI**

AARP tax aid will be available at Rufty Holmes Center and will give free tax return preparation by qualified tax aide volunteers. Feb 6 - April 10

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704-216-7714 for appointment

Rufty Holmes Senior Center will be holding an open meeting January 25 at 1pm at the senior center. They would like a representative from our club to attend. Jim Morris will attend.

They also want us to take a survey for them. However they did not give us a survey and the did not have one available.

We revisited the storage building situation. ?? Is going to get prices on new doors..

Finalized discussion on incorporation of RARS. Vote to go ahead with work that needs to be done to get Non-profit status.

Discussed and got volunteers for possible Winter Fest Race.

Discussion on getting approval to go up to Dunn's Mountain with automobiles to check out for a special station.

Discussion of the new "no code" rules

Discussion of possible 10 meter net.

Patti and Wade Sibert got married

Ralph Brown 76th Birthday and 50 wedding anniversary

ARES Red Cross Tabletop scheduled for January 24 - 26

DAT meeting January 9th

ARES simplex frequencies need to be programmed in to all radios.

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February 12 meeting

The Program will be on Fox Hunting. It is a CD made by a club exclusive for Fox Hunting showing various antennas and techniques used in of hunting. The program concludes with the filming of an actual hunt from the hiding of the fox to the last hunter comes in. It is, of course, time compressed since the program lasts about 30 minutes but the hunt is two hours long.

It will be of interest to any 2 meter using ham.

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Disaster Practice

On January 25 Bob, **KG4WAD**, Ralph, **WB4AQK**, Dick, **KI4HNX**,

attended the "Tabletop Exercise" at the Red Cross office.

A table top exercise is a test where all parties sit around tables and "examiners" give them problems that would be associated with a disaster of some kind. As the incidences are called out the participants must respond as they would in such an emergency, using "resources" they have. Everything is done "on paper" and times are kept as the incidences are reported. The time span of the exercise might cover a number of days. At the end of the exercise the "Examiners" Critique the actions and participants suggest changing organization and resources to cover places where the group did not do so well.

The exercise started at 8:00 AM and the critique started some time after 2:30 PM. Dick was the only one of the three who was able to stay for the critique. Maybe he will be able to give a fuller report at the February meeting.

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Elkin Hamfest

The Elkin Hamfest will be Sunday February 22, 2004 8:00 a.m. It will be held at the Elkin recreation center gym located on NC Hwy 268 west going out of Elkin toward Wilkesboro just before Henderson & Wood Chevy Dodge dealership.

\$5.00 admission. \$5.00 for a selling table. All proceeds go to The Foothills Food Pantry of Surry County.

A VE team is already in a place for testing.

Talk in is 145.370- (94.8 HzPL Tone)

Some contacts are:

Drew Poindexter AD4T,
ad4t@triad.rr.net
Larry Macemore K4LJM,
k4ljm@earthlink.net
Mike Finney W4YDK,
w4ydk@wmconnect.com

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SM Report

DECEMBER NC SECTION NEWS

SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY ACTIVITIES

Thanks to all of you who participated in the Skywarn Recognition Day activities on December 2. Both the Raleigh and the Greer, SC national weather service offices were on the air. Thanks to Central Carolina SKYWARN EC Virginia Eznor, NC4VA, for her leadership of the Raleigh effort.

A HAM RADIO WEDDING!

Congratulations to Mooresville's Buck McDaniel, N4PGW and Cat Hage, WB4CAT who were married on the Dallas, NC 145.35MHz repeater on December 30! The Rev. David Roberts, KI4JSQ of Lenoir led the service and they had 63 check-ins.

Thanks to Buck and Cat for sharing this special time with the amateur radio community!

PACKET RADIO STUDY GROUP

Although many areas have effective local packet networks, effective statewide communications

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
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Secretary - Patti Sibert,
KI4GUN, 704-202-5249
ki4gun@carolina.rr.com

Treasurer - Ralph Brown,
WB4AQK, 704-636-5902
rkbrown5902@bellsouth.net

Harmonics, the club newsletter is published mostly monthly. Submit articles, complaints, corrections, or comments to the club Editor. Material may be reprinted provided proper credit is given.

Editor - Ralph Brown, WB4AQK

is more of a challenge. Section Emergency Coordinator, Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, is leading a study team on the use of packet radio for emergency communications in North Carolina. The study will analyze the current state of packet networks in the section, identify gaps, and develop a plan for the future. If you have input you'd like to offer, contact me at n4ib@arrl.org or Bernie at wa4mok@arrl.net.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

February 22 Elkin

March 10-11: North Carolina Section Convention/Charlotte Hamfest

March 25: Down East Hamfest, Kinston, NC

April 1: North Carolina State Convention/Raleigh Hamfest

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2007 NC QSO Party

From February FARC newsletter

The 2007 NC QSO Party will take place February 25 17:00 UTC until February 26 03:00 UTC (10 hours).

OBJECT: Out of State stations work as many NC stations as you can. You may work stations once per each band/mode combination for QSO points. Work NC mobiles again as they change counties for QSO points. NC fixed stations work as many NC counties, States, Canadian provinces and DXCC countries as you can. NC mobile stations work from as many NC counties to as many NC counties, States,

Canadian provinces and DXCC countries as possible.

EXCHANGE: Callsign, QTH (NC county, State, Canadian province or DXCC country)—Be sure to stick to the official county abbreviations.

LOGGING: Logs must be kept showing Sent UTC, Band, Mode, Sent County/QTH, Call worked, Received County/QTH, Points and New Multiplier #.

AWARD CATEGORIES: Plaques will be given for first place in nine categories. Certificates will be issued to state/regional winners, and 2nd/3rd place.

LOGS: Logs and summary sheets must be postmarked by April 1, 2007 to NC QSO PARTY c/o Henry Heidtmann W2DZO, 8812 Merry Hill Court, Clemmons, NC 27012. Results will be posted on the FARC website by May 15. For more information, visit the Forsyth ARC at www.w4nc.com.

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MORSE REQUIREMENT ENDS

Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules. Effective that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to

demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination. Federal Register publication January 24 of the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, started a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective.

"The overall effect of this action is to further the public interest by encouraging individuals who are interested in communications technology or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become Amateur Radio operators; and eliminating a requirement that is now unnecessary and may discourage Amateur Service licensees from advancing their skills in the communications and technical phases of Amateur Radio," the FCC remarked in the Federal Register version of the "Morse code" R&O. The League had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants, but the Commission held to its decision to eliminate the requirement across the board. The rules that appeared in the Federal Register constitute their official version

The new rules also mean that starting February 23 all Technician licensees, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination, will have CW privileges on 80, 40 and 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters. Once the new rules go into effect Technicians may begin using their new privileges without any further action.

An applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) credit may redeem it for an

upgrade at a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) exam session. A CSCE is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, no exceptions.

For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid CSCE for Element 3 credit would have to apply at a VEC test session and pay the application fee, which most VECs charge, in order to receive an instant upgrade to General.

ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, cautions that a license upgrade is ***not* automatic** for those holding valid CSCEs for element credit. **"You must apply for the upgrade at a VEC test session, and you may not operate as /AG or /AE until you have upgraded and have been issued a CSCE marked for upgrade,"** he stresses. "A valid CSCE for element credit only does not confer any operating privileges."

Henderson also advises all radio amateurs to know and fully understand their operating privileges before taking to the airwaves. Some Technician licensees reportedly started showing up on 75 meters December 15 in the **mistaken belief** that they had gained **phone privileges** there.

The ARRL has posted all relevant information on these important Part 97 rule revisions on its "FCC's Morse Code Report and Order WT Docket 05-235" Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>>.

ARRL Letter Vol 26 No 04

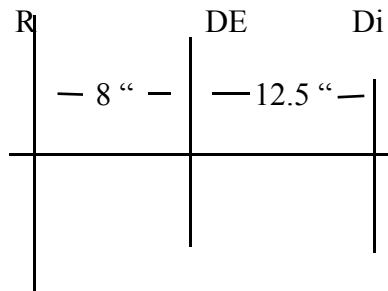
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Antenna Corner

I mentioned this in an issue last year. I intended to publish an abbreviated report. This seems like a good time.

Full details can be found at http://home.att.net/~jleggio/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm

TAPE MEASURE BEAM



Dimensions:
Reflector : 41 3/8 In. Driven Element: 35 1/2 in. Director: 35 1/8 in
1/2 in Schedule 40 PVC crosses and 1/2 in Schedule 40 Tee;
1 1/2 in stainless steel hose clamps

My brother, **AD5DX**, built this and is pretty hot on its use for fox hunts. He sent me some notes and measurements he had made as to SWR and it looks good in the 146 segments.

It was designed to give a good front to back ratio especially for fox hunting. It seems to have a fairly good null. Another design thought, maybe the primary one was that it had to be easy to get in and out of the car when fox hunting. This fits that requirement in that the elements easily bend without breaking or getting out of alignment.

The diagram above doesn't show the matching network to keep the SWR low. The original used a "hairpin match" which consisted of a 5 inch length of 18 gauge enamel insulated wire connected across the feed points of the driven element. It was found that about any thing will do ... 22 gauge hookup wire, house wire, or what ever, either solid or stranded, anything seems to work well once you have adjusted the distance between the halves of the driven element for minimum SWR. (1 inch on the original.)

In cutting the tape use care for the steel ends will cut you. Smooth them and round the extreme ends then cover the ends with electrical tape. Cut the DE as two 17 3/4 in pieces. A good connection requires the ends of the DE be cleaned of all paintcoating on the tape.

The author suggests tinning the ends of the DE before mounting to prevent melting the PVC. My brother had trouble soldering so used a small nut and bolt through the tape for connection. Self tapping screws could be used instead of hose clamps to secure the elements, but these methods prevent adjusting the DE for frequency. Form the hairpin match into a "U" shape with its legs about 3/4 in apart. The boom is made of one 11 1/2 in, and one 7 in PVC pipe.

RG58 coax feedline is connected directly to the DE.. Some users have added a sort of "pistol grip" to the R end of the boom. **Note this in the Program for February 12.**