

# HARMONICS



THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

May 2007 - Issue 253



## April 9 Minutes

The April meeting was a fox hunt. The following were there at the start.

Patti , **KI4GUN**; Butch , **W4WEE**; Larry **N4QY**, (WINNER); Rick, **K4PM**; Ralph, **WB4AQK**, (the FOX); Chris, **KI4PAP**; Stacy, **KI4QCM**; Derwood, **K4PXU**; Frank Wearing, **AF4D**; and Grey, **KI4CKR**.

Ralph didn't do a real bang up job of hiding. It only took Larry about 35 minutes to find him, and people were asking for power reduction in 15 minutes. You know they are close when that happens.

But then this wasn't supposed to be a tricky hunt. The whole thing was over in about an hour and everyone adjourned to the nearby pizza store to continue the eyeball QSO and compare notes. I'm sure that at the next one when Larry is fox he will make it a little more difficult and I know from comments over pizza that many have ideas for more, or improved technology at the next hunt.

Just out of curiosity, how many are planning one of those quad antennas we saw in the DVD?

Club members who helped Luke Hamaty, **KK4LH**, move his tower. Wade **KC4NBW**, Butch **W4WEE**

Kent Miller, **K4MK**, from over near Lexington, will be presenting this program by Power Point and you won't be disappointed. There is some business dealing with the Firecracker and Field Day to conclude also, so we will let Kent do his thing and leave, if he wishes, before the business.

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## PRB-1 Bill Passes House

House Bill 1340, the "Amateur Radio Antenna Bill" passed the NC House unanimously, 115-0, at 5:09 PM Tuesday. The bill has been referred to the NC Senate where we hope to have a companion bill soon. Thanks to all of you who contacted your state representative. None of us imagined this would happen so quickly! We will need you to make the same great effort to build support with your state senator as soon as a number is assigned for the companion bill. I'll send more info on the Senate bill as soon as it's available.

A special thanks to the bill's sponsor Rep. Danny McComas (R - New Hanover) and to former Wilmington mayor Hamilton "Ham" Hicks, **KB4BR**, for shep-

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## May 14 Program

Question: What do you do with an 80 meter beam? Answer: Put it up at 130 feet!

How?

The answer to this last question will be given at the start of the meeting on May 14, so be there at 1900 local to get all the info.

herding the bill through the House with overwhelming success. Ham asks that each of you consider sending your state representative a "thank you" note for their vote of support. Too often this is neglected and it can mean a lot to your representative.

Very 73,

Tim Slay, N4IB

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## SK Equipment

A few weeks ago I received a call from the XYL of Paul Dziezyc, KB4OEN, concerning his equipment. She was concerned about an antenna that had fallen during a wind storm. She indicated she wanted me to take the equipment and I gave her as many options as I could think of as to how she could dispose of it. She finally told me to take it and do what I thought best. I told her I'd take it to the club and let the club keep it or sell it and give the proceeds to the WD4KJZ fund or let members use what they could, especially new young members.

At any rate I now have available to members the following: a Kenwood TS-520SE transceiver, a Kenwood TR-2400 2m FM HT, a Drake MN-4 Matching Network, an Astatic D 104 mike w/stand, a channel Master TV rotator, a Simpson Handiscope, a CW key, a coil of RG 8U coax,(about 100 feet) wo/ plugs, a 40 meter dipole, a Ringo Ranger antenna, and a Butternut HF4B "Butterfly" 20-15-12-10 meter beam.

Wade, KC4NBW, has expressed interest in trying the beam and we've agreed. I've had an inquiry about the Ringo from Kenneth Dixon, (KD) KG4YVL, for his daughter who is attempting to start an elementary school radio club. If these follow through, that takes care of the antennas.

By the way I have manuals for the rigs, beam, and matching network. Probably need a battery for the HT. I didn't get a charger.

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## Know Our Members

*The following autobiographical sketch was written for the old NC Tri -State Amateur Radio Club newsletter back about the start of 1997 by Uncle Henry aka Henry Elwell, N4UH, I feel I can use it without permission because that paper is now out of print and the editor is a SK. I would like to do a series of this type if only you readers would (could?) write. WB4AQK*

I was born on Easter Sunday, April 20, 1919 in a caring family, which included a five year old sister, and a second sister was to follow five years later. We lived in Roselle, NJ. While in 10th grade, I discovered short wave radio and with a buddy, built a two tube SW receiver with plug in coils, and listened to VE9GW in Canada, GSB London Calling, and DJD the Voice of Berlin, and others around the world.

### The Rowan Amateur Radio Society P. O. Box 593 Salisbury, NC 28145 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

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.

### 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,  
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Editor - Ralph Brown, WB4AQK  
On the web [www.RowanARS.org](http://www.RowanARS.org)

Then we discovered the Amateur Radio Bands.

That was for us, so Bill and I studied the 10 wpm code requirements and the examination questions and took our examination at the FRC in New York City. In February 1936 I was issued W2JKH, and was off and running, working mostly CW on 80m, 40m, and 20m, using Zepp antennas and up to 100w of power. Forty meters in those day was exclusively CW. Later I built a modulator and spent most of the time on 160m phone with the other area kids.

Then December 7, 1942 came along, and we were shut down. I had received my BS in EE at the Newark College of Engineering (now NJIT) in 1940, and worked in the Weston Electrical Instrument Corp. after graduation. So in March 1942 I applied for and received a commission as a Navy Ensign, and spent three months at MIT in Boston studying all about radar. I was shipped to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and for two years, I was assigned as the Radar Officer for two different Patrol Bombing Squadrons flying PV1 aircraft, a two engine land based high performance bomber. We flew from Midway island, through Hawaii, and down into the south Pacific to the Admiralty island, north of New Guinea.

Returning to the States, and sent to refresher courses in Corpus Christi, Texas and San Diego California, I asked for and was assigned duty in

arated by 1 kHz, the next by 10 kHz, and the next by 100 kHz. The crystals were selected by three banks of push buttons, enabling me to punch in the operating frequency that I wanted. Our friend , Wayne Green, W2NSD, was editor at that time. Other articles mainly concerning antennas were published in *73, Ham Radio*, and *Communication Quarterly* in later years.

I was ways interested in DXing and contesting, and still am. I won a number of Sweepstakes, and ARRL contests while in NJ. I also picked up my WAS, 5BDXCC, and other awards during that periods. I built all my receivers and transmitters, the biggest task being a 4-1000 tube linear in 1965. From 1936 until that time, I never used more than 100w, but I found it is much easier in the pile-ups with higher power. With the advent of SSB, I finally gave up home-brew, and put together a Heath SB100, followed by a Kenwood TS-520, a Yaesu FT102, and currently a Kenwood TS850 with a Heath SB1000 linear amplifier.

Upon retirement in 1977, I moved to Cleveland NC and asked for and received my present call, N4 Uncle Henry. My purpose in retirement was to have a rhombic antenna, and room for other antennas. So with my wife's permission, I selected the land; it's 22 acres. Her reward was to pick out the plans for the house we would build. The rhombic was designed and installed two years after we arrived,

and it is a world beater into Europe on all bands from 80m through 10m. Other antennas are a TH7 at 60 feet, a TH6 at 45 feet, a sloper for 80m suspended from the 60 foot tower, a ? wave vertical for 40m, and a Lazy U for 160m. One of my achievements was to get verification for 122 countries on the 160m band, and currently stand at 354 for the all band count.

Life has been good with two sons, and two daughters, all married, but technology is starting to eclipse my current ability to stay up with it. Although I am into computers, packet, and now e-mail, I find I no longer am able to fully comprehend how they work. Do you feel that way at times?

From the Editor: Every time I read this I sink a little lower and the effort of putting up a G5RV twice in two weeks because of the wind breaking an old rope really seems small. How many of you knew of the giant among us? I probably should have built up to this as the last in the series. Who's next? Tell me your story.

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## Ham Happenings

### Code AGN?

Two amateurs have petitioned the FCC to reconsider the action eliminating the morse code requirement.

One says the method to gather comments on that proposal was corrupted "because the FCC deleted e-mail responses.

The other recites the need for morse code ability in case of emergencies.

Neither gave any way to handle the Extra licenses issued since the Report and Order in Docket 05-235 eliminated morse code exams.

The FCC has invited opposition comments on these two petitions.

**More on PRB-1**

PRB-1 bills have apparently died in Arizona, Maryland, and Oklahoma for various reasons.

Politics in AZ killed the bill after it was approved in committee. Maryland hams had theirs withdrawn when it did not pass committee in their Senate.

Politics may have come into play in Oklahoma where the bill left committee with a "do pass", but was never put on the House calendar for a vote.

**Vanity calls cost less**

The FCC proposes to cut vanity calls from \$20.80 to \$11.70 in a NPRM issued on April 18

**Red cross and background checks.**

In March the American Red Cross officials in a meeting with ARRL representatives said that ARES members would not have to submit to the Red Cross background check unless their services extended beyond seven days. The Red Cross has said it will not conduct credit or mode-of-living checks, which had been the concern of the ARRL who still recommend members carefully review any consent document permitting a private

organization to conduct background checks on the member .

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**Financial report**

As of 4/30/2007

Brought forward  
\$4366.22

Expenses:

SK Memorial  
25.00

HF flyer postage  
284.00

HF Flyers & tickets  
763.81

Total  
\$1072.81

Income:

Dues  
5.00

HF tickets  
13.00

Total  
18.00

Balance  
\$3311.41

WD4KJZ Fund \$2803.84

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**W4EXU Net reports**

Apr 12, 4 check-ins counting net control; Apr 19, 12 check-Ins( a record); Apr 26 , 5 check-Ins; May 33, 4 check-Ins; May 10 (called by K4PXU) 1 check-in.

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**Old Jokes**

Gleaned from the October 1992 issue of ARNS Bulletin

Do you know the difference between government bonds and CB operators?

Government bonds mature.

The doctor suggested that I get a hearing aid, but I doubt it's necessary. At my age I've heard it all -- on 75 meters.

Read the warranty when you buy a new rig, and remember; the bold print giveth; the fine print taketh away.

Mare-time mobile: The OM was riding a horse and his YF was walking. When a passer-by asked why she wasn't riding too, the OM answered, "She doesn't have a horse."

Social Security: When you have the only linear on the net.

When two egotist meet on 75 meters, it's an I for an I.

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I STILL HAVE SOME SPACE SO I'LL REMIND YOU OF THE GREAT PROGRAM ON May 14. Be sure to come early!