

HARMONICS



THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

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Uncle Henry, N4UH

Thanks to Wayne, W4HG for the picture

Silent Key

Henry Elwell Jr., N4UH, Became our second silent key of the summer on August 4, 2007. He was born on April 20, 1919. He got his first license from the FRC in 1936.

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Henry served as club Secretary/Treasurer for 11 years, helping to steer the club through many moves from his election in January of 1980 to February 1991.

There will be a memorial service on September 17 at 1:00 o'clock at the New Salem United Methodist Church in Statesville, NC

Since we ran a biography of Henry a couple of issues ago, I'm using the following as a memorial and an example of the kind of person Henry was.

From Al Parker, W8UT

You ask if anyone remembers him, I sure do.

W8UT arrived in Salisbury in about 1986, N4UH, Uncle Henry, was at the first club meeting I attended. I sort of recognized his call, and the discussion with him came around to antennas.

I asked if it was he who had written the Ham Radio mag articles, particularly the one 10 or so yrs earlier about the "tunable" rhombic.

Sure enough, he was the one. I'm sure that article sparked the envy in many ham's hearts, a big, tower supported rhombic that could be adjusted remotely for optimum DX performance on more than one band.

I shared Uncle Henry's interest in antennas, tho' I was very limited in available space, living on a relatively small lot inside the Salisbury city limits. I visited him a number of times out on his hill. He loaned me his HF impedance measuring eqpt at least once for my small projects, which usually were more for information than actual installation.

I can't remember the eqpt model, an L&N or Boonton impedance bridge, which required an external signal source, and maybe an external indicator. He loaned me a small transmitter as the source, maybe it was a Knight Kit, but I don't think they had a VFO, so probably something else. I had very little test eqpt of my own at that time. I did find and purchase a similar impedance bridge at Shelby during the time I lived in Salisbury (about 8 yrs), and have since upgraded in that area a bit, tho' still have a vintage Boonton Impedance meter that is sell-contained.

I'll remember Henry for many more years.

73,
Al Parker, W8UT
New Bern, NC

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Silent Key also

I'm sure all of our members have already heard that we also lost Ed Murphy, N4NOI, this summer. You've probably read the extensive write ups on his civic activities and work experiences in the local paper.

I'm sorry that we didn't get to do a bio sketch on Ed .

The following is from my memory only. I could find little about Ed in the copies of "Harmonics " that I have.

Ed was 94. He got his first license as a teen some years before the FCC came into being. I think his call was W1BAT at some time for on 11/21/82 he showed some pictures of his 30's station by that call at a RARS club meeting. I did find him mentioned as KA4RTJ in April of 1981. In that issue he is named as returning to W4EXU and being a charter member of the original Piedmont Radio Club (that first got the W4EXU call) and how he had jumped back into service in the club.

He served as chairman of the planning committee for the 50th anniversary celebration of the club and as the master of ceremonies for that occasion.

I'm sure that most members know that as he became more unable to operate and was doing less in radio, he gave much of his equipment to newer hams and especially to the club.

Unfortunately, the tape made at the 50th anniversary dinner was stolen on a break-in of then club

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
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Vice-Pres. - Bob Yarbrough,
KG4WAD, 704-645-8320
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Secretary - Patti Sibert,
KI4GUN, 704-209-5249
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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
On the web
www.RowanARS.org

president, Jim Morris', **KA4MPP**, house. We really need back ups.

In all the pictures I have of ham activities, I could not find one of Ed.

If anyone has other info on Ed that you consider the members should know about send me an e-mail or note and I'll include it in the next issue.

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Editors note

Three items come to mind here.

1. There must be a lot of history and artifacts concerning RARS lying around that would be or should be gathered or copied and stored at some central place. Much will be lost as we loose members. For instance, Jim's break-in. Another example is that at the 50th party, Jim Torrence, **N4BJ/K4YYJ** and Clarence Beaver, **K4SHU**, presented a slid show of early club members and activities. Does this still exist?

Does anyone have any ideas along this line?

2. As Treasurer, I have sent the usual club donation of \$25 in memory of these two Silent Keys.

3. I'm in the process of collecting the names and calls of all the Club's silent keys and sending them to Herb, **KF4TVI**, our webmaster, along with any pictures of them for a page on the local site. Check that site in a week or so and let Herb know if we've missed any. Also, if he

doesn't have a picture of an SK and you have one, how about trying to get him a copy so that can be placed on that page also.

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Know Your Members

Billy Stewart, WA4PVI

This is the first in a series of profiles of members of the Rowan Amateur Radio Society. Many times we see each other and speak but do not know a bit of history about fellow club members.

Billy Stewart was literally born into amateur radio. He is the son of **K4QOX**, first getting the bug by listening to his father talking to other hams and listening to his first personal receiver, a crystal set which hung on the bed post with a pair of headphones...poised to awaken him in Greenville, South Carolina, to the sound of Moe the Mynah Bird as the local station signed on.

First licensed as a novice, **WN4PVI** in 1976 in Statesville, Billy's "Elmer" was Pat Link, **WB4CCV**, who was...of course...his first contact. Like many amateurs, Billy developed a respect and love for CW which he keeps to this day as he advanced to General, to Advanced, and then to Extra in January 1989. He still has that first rig, a Johnson Adventurer (cost: \$20), but the companion National NC-190 (cost: \$40) has long since gone. He has no plans to change calls to a 1X2 or 2X1, being quite

attached to the call he has had since day one.

He recalls one night not being able to sleep so at 0200 he goes to the shack and calls CQ. He is answered by a New Zealand ham who needs a Rowan County confirmation and brought along more than a dozen more ZLs to do the same fete. Likewise notable is his WAS on 80 meters

In the Stewart shack at the home he shares with XYL Carolyn, **WA4LPN** (yep, she's a Licensed Practical Nurse), there is now a Yaesu FT-1000MP with an Ameritron AL-80 Amp if needed to go with the TH6-DXX tribander on the 65 foot tower in the back yard. He's able to put out a BIG signal and stay right in with the big boys.

Many of us know of Billy from his long time activities as a amateur licensing coordinator with the **W4VEC** group. He regularly is testing new prospective hams and watching those broad smiles when he can tell them, "you passed." It's a part of the hobby that gives him a lot of satisfaction. With other members of the VEC team, they are often in another room giving exams while a hamfest or other get-together is going on.

The resident radio engineer with the State Highway Patrol Troop E Headquarters here in Salisbury, Billy first went to work for the Patrol in Asheville in 1988, coming here a year later. He also is the control operator for the 440 repeater on Young Mountain near Cleveland. It is difficult to know how many hams

in the area today are enjoying amateur radio because of Billy's efforts.

(Editor's note: Would have liked to print Billy's picture here also but couldn't find one.)

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ARRL's take on Background Checks

A major concern at this Board meeting was the topic of served agencies and background investigations. The Ad Hoc Background Investigation Committee agreed that pursuing federally recognized credentialing for Amateur Radio volunteers was critical for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) to function. The Committee chairman, ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, proposed that the Board adopt a policy with regard to Memoranda of Understanding with the various served-agencies.

The Board adopted a policy that "communications volunteers participating in ARRL-sponsored programs should not be required by served agencies to undergo background investigations of any kind," but notes that criminal background checks--performed by law enforcement agencies--are "generally acceptable." The policy continues, "It is not reasonable for a served agency to require these volunteers to consent to credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports. In negotiating or re-negotiating Memoranda of Understanding that commit the League to provide volunteer emergency communications support, the League must be assured that these volunteers will not be required by

the partner organization to consent to credit checks, mode of living investigations or investigative consumer reports."

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Financial Reports

Hamfest Totals

Income \$2879.52
Expenses 2416.52
\$ 463.00

The McGinnis fund now stands at \$4696.67

Bank Effective 7/31/2007

Balance 6/30 . . . \$2844.63
Deposits HF, dues 2747.52
Total \$5592.15
Expenses HF . . . \$ 894.56
Balance 7/31 . . . \$4697.59

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Hamfest Homebrew winners



First Place: David Millican, **AG4PJ**, 40 m QRP XCVR plus KEYER



Second Place: Bill Fisher, **W4GRW**. 2 m loop antenna



Third Place: Camarah Moser, **Duck Buster** 40 m Antenna



Just to show that **W4CLM**, Carol was doing business and that Larry, **N4QY** was busy watching the club table!