

HARMONICS



THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
November 2007 -Issue 259



Meeting Change:

Due to the Rufty Center being closed on November 12, our meeting night is changed to Tuesday November 13. The meeting time is the same.

The room will be changed also. We will be in the large room behind the exercise area. Just go from the main entrance through the glassed area directly in front of the front door.

October Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 19:25 local

Old business

Camp Barnhart JOTA report: Antennas will be put up Friday evening (10/19) Tommie, **N4YZ** and Billy, **WA4PVI**, plan to be there about 7:30 Saturday morning. They will use 146.52 to direct anyone coming to the site.

Bradley Parker got the call **N4B** to use. CW will be available.

Foxhunt:

Not much discussion. Ralph had contacted **KI4RVI**, Sam Jones and he said he would check on ability to be fox when date set. No date was set.

Concerning nominations committee and Christmas party... Grey will need to appoint.

Larry, **N4QY**, reminded club of the building contest held each year.

Hugh, **N3MJC**, brought up Echo Link and there were a number of questions answered. Hugh reported on some of the contacts he had made. A problem many have had who have tried this form of radio apparently concerns the computers sound card.

Thursday night net:
Derwood, **K4PXU**, raised the question of should we con-

tinue it since almost no one checks in. After discussion he moved that it be discontinued until after December and election of officers. Then if club wishes it can be looked at again. Clarence, **K4SHU**, seconded and the motion passed.

There was some discussion on the progress of incorporation.

Larry reported that the Rock Hill HF moved this year and it was about the same size as ours.

In discussion it was noted that Shelby increased prices and there seemed to be lot Less participation. On the other hand the Ten Tec HF is growing. The reason seems to be lots of free stuff and reduced prices.

There were 11 members present. They were: Ralph, **WB4AQK**; Tommie, **N4YZ**; Jim, **KA4MPP**; Hugh, **N3MJC**; Rick, **K4PM**; Luther, **KB4AE**; Larry, **N4QY**; Frank, **AF4D**; Ken, **KJ4HF**; Derwood, **K4PXU**; and Clarence, **K4SHU**.

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SEPTEMBER NORTH CAROLINA SECTION NEWS

NC STATEWIDE SET

Our statewide Simulated Emergency Test will be Saturday, November 3 from 8 AM to 12 noon. The Tarheel Emergency Net will be operating on 3927 kHz. Our SET results in 2006 ranked North Carolina 4th in the nation. Let's try for 1st this year! Local SET's can be scheduled to run concurrently with the statewide exercise, or you can schedule your local SET anytime this fall.

Results need to be in to ARRL headquarters by January 31, 2008.

NEW AFFILIATED CLUBS

Congratulations to the following clubs who have recently received their ARRL affiliation: Brunswick Shores Amateur Radio Club, Oak Island and the Bladen Amateur Radio Society, Elizabethtown. These clubs join 55 others in North Carolina with active ARRL affiliation. Be sure to update your club information once a year at www.arrl.org.

A PERSPECTIVE ON ICS TRAINING - Bob DeWitt Jr, K4RLD

For some time now, I have been stressing to ARES members in our county the importance of completing the FEMA Incident Command System courses (IS-100, IS-200, IS-700). On October 4, Union County ARES had an opportunity to put what we learned in those courses to use. CSX Railroad hosted a four hour tabletop exercise in Monroe, with participation from about fifty

people including ARES, Police, Fire, EMS, as well as government and business leaders. Everyone who attended was assigned to a specific group (not necessarily in your area of expertise). The exercise was held in two different rooms. In the first room were tables for Operations, Logistics, Intelligence, Control, CSX Rep., and Research. In the second room (out of hearing from what was happening in the first room) was the Incident Commander, his staff, and the Planning table. The only way that the Incident Commander and his staff knew what was happening was through telephone and/or radio communications.

Elmo, KB5WY, was assigned to Operations, while I was assigned to Logistics. Each table had telephones, and a radio for fire, one for police, one for EMS, and one for communications with CSX. In addition to the radio chatter and telephones ringing, there were alarms and announcements being made over the PA system in the background. It was as realistic as it could have possibly been and very hectic.

In Logistics we were charged with determining what supplies, people, equipment, and resources were needed. We then had to obtain those supplies and locate them at a staging area. I know that everyone was a little dazed by the demands on each area. And, I know that I would have been completely without a clue had I not completed the courses I mentioned above. I now see more clearly why it is important to have knowledge of the Incident Command Structure BEFORE becoming involved in an emergency. If you report as a volunteer at an actual

The Rowan Amateur Radio Society
P. O. Box 593
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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,
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Vice-Pres. -
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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

emergency, you could be assigned to any area, not just communications. You WILL be lost if you do not understand the Incident Command Structure.

Time is critical in an emergency you won't have time to learn this stuff while an event is in progress. Please take the time to go to the FEMA web site and look for the courses mentioned above. They are free and can be completed on line in very little time. Remember also that when you complete a course, forward a copy of the notice you receive for successful completion to your local EC.

RECOGNITION FROM ARRL FOR HAM HICKS, KB4BR

At the October meeting of the Wilmington VHF Society, our Section Public Information Coordinator, Bill Morine, N2COP, presented Ham Hicks, KB4BR, with a plaque from ARRL recognizing his momentous efforts on the North Carolina PRB-1 bill, H1340. Ham also received a QCWA Roll of Honor plaque from the Piedmont Chapter of QCWA. Congratulations to Ham on this well deserved recognition!

DUKE ENERGY "MOVING AWAY FROM BPL PROJECTS"

In an article in the Sept 17 issue of "Electric Utility Week" Matt Smith, Duke's director of technology development, stated Duke Energy is "shifting away from BPL" to focus on other technologies to enhance utility

grid operations. Duke currently has a BPL deployment in south Charlotte. The article stated that Duke at one point planned to provide broadband service to as many as 15,000 customers in its Charlotte BPL pilot, but it never reached that many, and even where it does have BPL equipment on its wires customers do not have broadband access any longer. The equipment is being used by the utility but it will be used in concert with wireless communications systems Duke will install over time as it makes other grid investments. Another Duke spokesman stated "We're investing a lot of money in advanced meters and moving to wireless technology is a better fit for us" than BPL. The article stated that Duke will keep the existing BPL equipment in place and supplement it with wireless communication devices to be installed on certain equipment. Smith stated that "Duke did not do a side-by-side comparison of the costs of BPL and wireless but because wireless technology has been around longer the cost probably is lower and the equipment is more "robust" and less likely to experience failures."

Why Are We Called Hams

Have You Ever Had Someone Ask You That Question, Now You Can Give Them An Answer

Have you ever wondered why we radio amateurs are called "HAMS"? Well, according to the Northern Ohio Radio Society, it goes like this: the word ham was applied in 1908 and was the call letters of one of the first Amateur wireless stations operated by some members of the HARVARD RADIO CLUB. There were Albert S. Hyman, Bob Almy and Peggie Murray. At first, they called their station Hyman-Almy-Murry. Tapping out such a long name in code soon called for a revision and they changed it to HY-AL-MU, using the first two letters of each name.

Early in 1909, some confusion resulted between signals from Amateur wireless HYALMU and a Mexican ship named HYALMO, so they decided to use only the first letter of each name and the call became HAM.

In the early pioneer unregulated days of radio, Amateur operators picked their own frequency and call letters. Then, as now, some Amateurs had better signals than some commercial stations. The resulting interference finally came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and they gave much time to proposed legislation designed to critically limit Amateur activity.

In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the controversial Wireless Regulation Bill as the topic for his thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator David I. Walsh, a member of one of the committees hearing the bill. The Senator was so impressed, he sent for Hyman to appear before the committee. He was put on the stand and described how the little Amateur station was built. He almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the bill went through, they

would have to close up the station because they could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements that were set up in the bill. The debate started and the little station HAM became a symbol of all the little Amateur stations in the country crying out to be saved from menace and greed of the big commercial stations who did not want them around. Finally, the bill got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the poor little station "HAM."

That's how it all started. You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record. Nationwide publicity associated station HAM with Amateurs. From that day to this, and probably to the end of time, in radio, an Amateur is a HAM.

Thanks to Derwood , K4PXU for giving me this.

JOTA

Saturday October 20 was a day that many nine and ten year old boys will remember.

I hope you saw the write up in the Post . We got good exposure there.

Thanks to Billy, Tommie, and Derwood for the effort they put in to show a bunch of Cub Scouts how radio can work.

Hopefully , some of them will become hams.

If you missed it, you can see the pictures and the article in the Post's archives on line for October 21.

