

HARMONICS



THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
March 2008 -Issue 262



Minutes February 11, 2008

The RARS met at 7:00 PM at the Ruffy Home.

Present: Nona Morris, KA4NHL; Jim Morris, KA4MPP; Ralph Brown, WB4AQK; Tommie Wood, N4YZ; Frank Waring, AF4D; Ralph Mowery, KU4PT; Butch Edge, W4WEE; Larry Wright, N4QY; H. C. Ledbetter, WB4IDQ; Nelson Large, W4FQV; and Ken Clifton; KJ4HF. H. C. (Homer) Ledbetter, WB4IDQ, is a new member as of tonight.

OLD BUSINESS

We have not found someone to take the Presidents position. Ralph Brown made a motion for

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Tommie Wood (our present Vice President) to take the President's position which he agreed to do. The motion was seconded by Larry Wright. The motion passed.

An oral report on finances was made by Ralph Brown and was discussed. We have \$4,245.66 in both accounts, the WD4KJZ account is \$4,224.35 leaving \$ 21.31 in the regular account.

A discussion was had on the ARRL listing for the July 12, 2008 Firecracker Ham Fest. Ralph Brown is going to check with the Section Director about the listing.

Larry Wright is to check with Sloan Park for the sight for Field Day June 28-29. And Ralph Brown is to call Derwood Puckett to check on Dunn's Mt. Park.

A QSO Party is scheduled for February 24 if any one is interesting in participating.

Butch Edge brought up the question about RARS having a central place to store all the club radio equipment. There was a discussion but no answers.

Nona Morris, KA4NHL, Secretary

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Financial Report

January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007

Income

Brought Forward.....	\$ 4482.75
Dues	150.00

Refreshment Donations.....	60.12
Hamfest tables/tickets	2396.00
Hamfest kitchen	383.52
Hamfest Damage refund	100.00
Christmas Dinners	212.50
Un cashed hamfest check	10.00
Club patches	10.50
Total.....	\$7805.39

Expenses

Rufty Holmes Donation	\$ 100.00
Club refreshments	60.61
Postage	92.00
FD site & food	108.28
Memorials	100.00
Hamfest flier postage	284.00
Hamfest fliers/tickets	763.81
Hamfest Ads	248.00
Hamfest Rent	487.50
Hamfest change	350.00
Hamfest Kitchen supplies	188.50
Hamfest prizes	50.00
Dealer's dinner	120.21
Christmas caterer	362.10
Operator of year plaque	144.72
Project prize	100.00
Total	\$3559.73

Balance \$4245.66

* **Note** This was the bank statement balance at the end of December. The **checkbook** balance was \$10.00 less because of the outstanding (un cashed) check which I put back in this report as income.

I handled it this way because the cost of stopping payment was more than the check.

McGinnis Memorial (WD4KJZ)

January 1, 2007 - December 31, 2007

Income

Brought forward	\$3837.65
Hamfest tables & tickets	2396.00
Hamfest kitchen	383.52
Damage refund	100.00
Christmas dinners	212.50
Un cashed check	10.00

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

2008 Officers

- President - Tommie Wood, N4YZ, 704-637-0024
wood@earthlink.net
- Vice-Pres. -
- Secretary - Nona Morris, KA4NHL, 704-278-4960
morrisonona@aol.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

On the web

www.RowanARS.org

Equipment opportunity

Bill Voss, WD4LMK, says he is not going to be operating any more and talked to me about giving his equipment to the club. I suggested that he first see if anyone would like to buy any of it.

He has a Kenwood TS 520S,w/mike, a Ten-Tec Argosy(power pack is faulty) and a Butter-nut beam (I'm not sure which one.)

If anyone is interested contact him.

Total\$6939.67

Expenses

Fliers Mail\$ 284.00
 Fliers & tickets 763.81
 Ads 248.00
 Hamfest Rent 487.50
 Hamfest change 350.00
 Hamfest kitchen supplies 188.50
 Hamfest prizes 50.00
 Dealer dinner 120.21
 Caterer 362.10
 Oper. of yr. Plaque 144.72
 Home brew Project 100.00
Total**\$3098.84**

Balance**\$3840.83**

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**Financial Report
 Jan 01, 2008 to Feb 29, 2008**

Income

Brought forward\$4245.66
 Dues45.00
 Refreshment donations14.40
Total**\$4305.06**

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SERA and Digital Voice

Acting on a motion presented by Mississippi Director Steve Grantham, AA5SG, the giant SouthEastern Repeater Association has adopted provisions to allow for the introduction of digital voice technology systems. This includes such entities as P 25 and D-Star repeaters. To make this happen association President Roger Gregory, W4RWG, appointed a working committee to implement the needed changes on the groups web site. While the web presentation is described as a work-in-progress there are already links to the newly posted 144 to 148 MHz and 420 to 450 MHz Frequency Utilization Plans.

And it appears as if the SouthEastern Repeater Association has taken the position that the introduction of digital voice technology must have minimal impact on all existing analog operations in both the repeater and non repeater portions of any band.

A quick glance shows that on both bands the coordinating body has chosen to keep most, though not all, digital voice operation within current repeater subbands. It uses interleaving between existing FM repeaters to accomplish this.

But the committee has a lot more work ahead of it to make this all happen smoothly. This includes modifying any association documents or forms requiring change. It's also tasked with assisting district coordinators in matters pertaining to the introduction of such digital repeaters. The committee will also continue to study and bring forth new information as needed to facilitate ongoing effective digital repeater coordination efforts.

Whether or not the SouthEastern Repeater Association plan will be adopted nationally is not known, but it opens the door to a coordinated effort to introduce digital voice repeaters while protecting all other spectrum users. And that's definitely a step in the right direction.

—*Amateur Radio Newsline,*
Report 1593, Feb. 22, 2008

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Events Calendar

March

- 8 & 9 Charlotte Hamfest
- 9 Daylight Saving time begins
- 15 Ham Tests -Salisbury

April

- 6 Down east Hamfest - Kinston
- 12 Raleigh Hamfest
- 19 Catawba Valley Hamfest - Morganton

May

- 3 Ham tests - Concord
- 10 Rockingham County Hamfest - Reidsville
- 24 DurHAMfest - Durham



More Fred adventures

(I think that Uncle Henry, N4UH, gave Bob Brown, NM7M info about some of the local hams for his stories of Fred, the ham who didn't quite understand propagation.)

A Fred-sighting?

I just rcvd a NTS message from Ralph, a migratory W7, and he thinks he may have located Fred, my doubting correspondent. Fred, you recall, is of a mind that thinks the ionosphere suffered irreparable damage from all the space debris soaking up the free electrons and there's an on-going conspiracy to cover up the disaster. Anyway, let me tell you what Ralph said about the encounter.

Ralph is a "full-timer" when it comes to RVing and there was never a swap-meet or flea market that Ralph could pass by. In short, he thrives on them and is constantly listening to 2-meter chatter for news of another one.

Anyway, he went to this one south of here and was just leaving the remnants of somebody's "iron works", when he spotted this fellow standing off to one side, hands on his hips and admiring a Johnson Matchbox in mint condition.

Ralph didn't think of Fred at the moment and joined the fellow saying a few kind words about the tuner. The other fellow didn't turn directly toward Ralph, just tilted his head back a bit then added a few of his own words in praise of the tuner, especially how it could handle a 80 meter dipole on all bands when fed with ladder line.

Ralph, thinking of my earlier note in this newsletter, perked up a bit at that and introduced himself, call and all. The fellow, perhaps a bit embarrassed for not doing the same earlier, just carried on as though they were old friends and no need for further introductions. Ralph looked for a call sign or ID pinned on his jacket but found nothing, just a large American Legion symbol on the back.

Talk turned to DXing and Ralph said he knew right then and there he was dealing with an old-timer DXer, someone who spoke of old prefixes long removed for the present DXCC list, say 9S4 and VS4 to mention a few. That was the right era as far as Fred is concerned. But what about the ionosphere? What was the vintage of his knowledge there? More recent than 30 years ago when \$1.50 would get you a years worth of charts for predicting MUFs three

months in advance? Maybe he recalled the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory? Ralph probed on.

At that point, Ralph said the conversation about the ionosphere took an unproductive turn, the fellow not really saying much that could be used one way or the other to pin down his knowledge. Of course, he knew of computers and even had an old Apple for genealogy purposes but no mention of logging, duping or propagation programs. That pretty well ruled out any contest side to his companion in conversation but some probing about conditions in days gone-by might stir up some sort of comment that would provide further insight.

For example, Ralph knew that there were humongous solar proton events during Cycle 19, wiping out the bands time and again. Did he know of them? "Yes indeed: May and July in '59!" came the answer. That was one step closer to Fred. What about aurora? "There were times when the sky was ablaze, flashing wildly overhead!", he said. Another step closer to Fred! But still nothing in the way of sinister thoughts or anything about propagation being stifled by some sort of conspiracy. Ralph pressed ahead, being jovial but listening carefully for clues. Ralph tried talking about DXpeditions nowadays and the need for the "New Ones", off the usual "trade routes" that signals follow. The recent Peter I island affair was a case in point and he asked the fellow how things went when he was active. At that point, there was some mention of Gus Browning, the legendary DXer, but nothing about Jim Smith, VK9NS, or Ron Wright, ZL1AMO. Peter I island didn't ring any bells so it looked like Ralph was striking out.

In desperation, Ralph asked how he followed propagation conditions when it came to DXing, say reports of solar conditions on WWV? That brought a nostalgic look and a reply that Ralph found a bit curious. Yes, he did follow propagation but that was long time ago, back during the IGY when CRPL put out those multi-colored charts every week that showed all the features on the solar disk. That had to be in the days before color printers and Ralph tried to think of the term that would apply to that ancient form of duplicating. Not important

But then the loud speaker blared forth, "Come to the podium now for the Prize Drawings!" Ralph turned toward the speaker and listened intently for details; he was really eager for that call as this time something more than a HT or rubber ducky was involved. But when he turned back to ask his friend to

join him, he was not to be seen. Damn! Where'd he go?

Looking around, Ralph could only conclude he'd slipped into the crowd. His stature not being distinctive in any regard, Ralph thought that the American Legion symbol on back might be the thing to look for. But no luck,. The mob swayed and swirled during the drawing packed so close to the podium that little more than a mass of balding, graying heads could be seen. Ralph had to leave it there.

But being a sucker for any and all flea markets, he wondered if our hero might also be of the same turn of mind. So Ralph said he kept monitoring 2-meters, listening for the details of the next one, due shortly across the county line. Then, one day he swore he heard the same voice form the flea market encounter. Bingo!

But the kindness was drained out of it and replaced by the tone of a strident harangue. Something, someone had agitated the fellow and he really gave himself away, complaining bitterly about all those Shuttle flights and how they'd burned a hole in the ionosphere. That was Fred! The "convincer" was when he cited, or misquoted, one of my articles. What he said was true but in his paranoia, he apparently never finished the article as I said things returned to normal after a few hours. So now what am I going to do? We've gotta find him! "Ralph this is Bob, NM7M, y'there?" Kerchunk!

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Editor's note:

I know that this story is probably directed toward DXers and maybe even those don't care for it.

There are about three more episodes.

Am I wasting my time ? Let me know. E-mail is good.