

HARMONICS



THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
May 2008 - issue 264



Minutes: April 8

Minutes were read and corrected, Tommie Wood, N4YZ was present and Wayne Ashworth, W4HG, call sign was corrected.

The RARS met at 7:00 PM at the Rufty-Homes Senior Center

The meeting started around 7:30 PM. Present were: Tommie Wood, N4YZ; Frank Waring, AF4D; Derwood Puckett, K4PXU; Ralph Mowery, KU4PT; Hugh Deadwyler, N3MJC; Wayne Ashworth, W4HG; Ralph Brown, WB4AQK; Clarence Beaver, K4SHU; Gary Hattaway, KQ1E; and Nona Morris, KA4NHL.

On the business of incorporation, Tommy Wood, N4YZ, talked to a Lawyer but does not have the Answers so far. Tommy talked with Gray Smith, and Gray Smith was told, "It wasn't worth the trouble". It is still being work on.

Ralph Brown, WB4AQK, reported on the Firecracker Hamfest to be Saturday, July 12, 2008 – Not a lot to do until the day before the hamfest. Ralph is going to ask some people to help in certain jobs, like the Kitchen, tickets and etc. Ralph modified the flyer and took it to Diversified Graphics had them to print 3000 flyers and mail 1300 flyers to ARRL members mostly with in a 50 to 75 mile radius. Anyone going to a hamfest need to take some fliers with them to give out. There is Morganton, NC Saturday April 19, 2008, Reidsville NC, Saturday, May 10, 2008, and Winston Salem, NC, June 14. ARRL Roanoke Division has approved the Hamfest. The Repeater Journal Magazine will have a full page Ad. Gary Hattaway, KQ1E, suggested a Set up to test equipment. Need 12 volt supply, Dummy load, Watt meter, 7 Service monitor. Gary Hattaway will set up and look after it at the hamfest.

Contents

April Minutes	1
Ham Happenings	2
More Fred	3

Derwood Puckett, K4PXU; looked into Dunn Mt. Park as a place to hold Field Day. They said we could have our Field Day there free of charge and could otherwise to take a couple of vehicles up. The restroom facility is a 5 minute walk so we need to rent

a port a john \$60. No open fires, we can bring grills to use. Request us to have insurance (like \$1 mil liability). A motion was made by Gary Hattaway, KQ1E to give the authority to the officers for Tommie Wood N4YZ and Derwood Puckett, K4PXU to go ahead and check on the insurance. The motion was second by Tommie Wood, N4YZ. The motion passed. Hugh Deadwyler, N3MJC, writes for the Salisbury Post and is going to do an article to give the field day some notoriety and bring in some spectators.

Things for the Field Day:

- Amplifiers, CW, Digital (PSK31, RTTY), Sideband (Omni 6) – 3 stations
- Antennas- rotor – 75 meter antenna – 160 meter dipole
- Voted unanimously to run the radios barefoot (less equipment to bring).
- Suggested shooting up parachute cords on Friday ready to pull up antennas.
- Need Lap tops – Log each mode – Tommy Wood will program each

Tommie Wood will get with Gary Hattaway the first part of June to finalize plans before Tommie leaves for Alaska for 2 weeks.

The motion was made by Gary Hattaway KQ1E to adjourn the meeting. Motion was second by Frank Waring, AF4D. The motion passed.

Nona Morris, KA4NHL, Secretary
2006 operators ... Join the fun in 2008



**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 each month at 7:00 PM at the Rufty-Holmes Senior Center at 1120 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. S.

2008 Officers

**President - Tommie Wood, N4YZ, 704-637-0024
wood@earthlink.net**

Vice-President -

**Secretary - Nona Morris, KA4NHL, 704-278-4960
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**Treasurer - Ralph Brown, WB4AQK, 704-636-5902
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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

Ham Happenings

Shelby Changes Sites

The Shelby Amateur radio Club will move its ham-fest to Biggerstaff Park, also called Gaston County Park.

The Cleveland County fair Assn. made contract changes the radio club considered unacceptable. So they moved. The date will remain the same as in the past.

Japanese Amateurs Receive More Privileges on 75/80 Meters

Japanese Amateurs Receive More Privileges on 75/80 Meters:

Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) announced that Japan's Table of Frequency Allocations and the Japanese Amateur Band plan has been amended, giving amateurs in that country more privileges on certain frequency blocks in the 75/80 meter band. As of April 28, 2008, Japanese amateurs will have privileges on the following frequencies in the 75/80 meter band: 3.500-3.520 MHz (CW only), 3.520-3.525 MHz (Digital Mode and CW), 3.525-3.575 MHz (CW and Phone), 3.599-3.612 MHz (CW and Phone), 3.680-3.687 MHz (CW and Phone), 3.702-3.716 MHz (CW and Phone), 3.745-3.770 MHz (CW and Phone) and 3.791-3.805 MHz (CW and Phone). "This makes it a bit easier for US amateurs to make contacts with Japanese amateurs, especially in contests, since Japan does not have phone privileges on the 160 meter band," said ARRL Membership Services Manager Dave Patton, NN1N. "These new privileges will also make it easier for DXpeditions to work Japan." -- Information provided by JARL

Section Managers Report April

Congratulations to members of the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club for orchestrating a successful amateur radio contact between the battleship USS North Carolina and her namesake, docked in Wilmington for a commissioning ceremony this weekend. The director of the museum ship and the Captain of the new attack submarine USS North Carolina made a 2 meter contact yesterday. The event was covered by WWAY TV and video can be seen at the link below:

http://www.wwaytv3.com/video/sub_battleship_share_historic_radio_call/04

This is the first known conveyance of radio greetings between two namesake military vessels since the cold war era. This weekend the ACARC will be operating a special event station from the radio room of the battleship North Carolina to celebrate the commissioning of the new submarine.

ARRL North Carolina Section
Section Manager: Timothy B. Slay, N4IB

Fred's Counter Conspiracy

By Bob Brown, NM7M

You will recall that my correspondent, Fred, suffers the delusion of an ionospheric conspiracy, those precious electrons swept up by all the spacecraft that have been launched and the authorities covering up the disaster. But now we're trying to turn Fred's thinking around by getting him to at least listen on the bands. If that proves DX is to be heard, maybe Fred will warm up to the idea of even trying to work some

But at the moment, Fred's engaged in a conspiracy of his own. My friend Ralph tells me that Fred plans to use **worms** in some crazy fashion to get a set of radials in his lawn. Then he'll disguise a trapped vertical as a flagpole and start listening. See what I mean about a conspiracy?

But back to the worms; let me tell you what Ralph got from Fred over one of the repeaters. Fred, according to Ralph, felt "put down" by his XYL and was under the ever-watchful scrutiny of his neighbors. You already know of Fred's fiascos around the house; maybe some others overflowed into the neighborhood. In any event, he felt the need to undertake a covert operation in placing his radials.

So, as the story goes, Fred spent about a week sizing up the lawn, front and back. He was actually trying to figure out the best place to put the vertical but his cover story was on of "concern" about the condition of the lawn, say how dense the grass was and its color. Fred even remarked that the robins seemed to spurn his lawn. "No worms" ... No wonder it looks so scruffy!"

By that time, he'd decided to put his vertical in the front lawn, close to his shack in the front part of the basement. Besides, by his flying the flag in front of everybody, he should improve his standing with the neighbors, maybe even the family's position in the community. And then he started talking, ever so casually, about worms.

So he was heard to talk about worms with anyone who passed by. "Those guys up at Ag school say there's direct relationship between the color of ones' lawn and the worm population underneath; the more worms, the better the color!" Then he'd remark about how rare it was to see a robin on his lawn or how few worms appeared on his sidewalk, even after a heavy rain.

Having laid the groundwork, he started on the deception, pointing out how crab grass was invading his lawn. "Almost as bad as when I lived in California; but I'll get rid of it, for sure!" With that he'd be seen working with an edging tool, getting the crab grass out of the margins of his lawn. One neighbor praised Fred for his dedication, implying that he was keeping the crab grass from spreading. That did it; Fred's cover was in place.

So Fred moved now from the perimeter of the lawn to its center, using the edging tool to cut deep slots in the grass, perfect to lay a radial in. Seeing that, his next door neighbor inquired what he was doing and Fred remarked about his discovery the the edging tool would be perfect to open up the lawn so moisture could get closer to the worms. And then he floated the punch--line: "I'm going to put some wires in too and try to stimulate the worms with a weak electrical current, just like they do at the Ag school. Should be good.!"

Since this was in rich farming country, that sort of statement would draw no challenge and Fred knew it. So his conspiracy was launched, cover and all. All that remained was the physical labor of laying the radials, putting a foundation in for the "flagpole" and having incoming signals induce current in the ground for worms.

Ralph said the radials went in with no problems and with suitable expressions of curiosity, even good wishes, from the neighbors. But the big construction phase, the flagpole, was a bit harder than Fred antici-

pated. It seems he didn't check the diameter of the traps nor notice that now days verticals look more like linearly-phased trombones than anything else. In fact, he had to get on the repeater to scrounge up a vertical with old-fashioned cylindrical traps. But he did it!

The foundation for the vertical went in nicely, a neighborhood affair for mixing the concrete, a borrowed wheel barrow for the pouring and even the gift of an American flag from the local vets group. Fred should work for the CIA as all the time this was going on, the vertical sat on saw horses in his basement. It was all ready to go but Fred felt even the curing of the concrete should be observed to the fullest.

Anyway, it would take a bit of time to get the pulleys and line arranged to handle the flag. He wanted it to go up in a jiffy, early in the morning with no chance for anyone to see him connect the coax to it and the radials. Then he could raise the flag just before the kids boarded the school bus, gaining further approbation for his efforts

I can't believe Ralph got all that on the 2-meter repeater; there must have been a land-line connection somewhere in this. But that's the story of Fred's conspiracy, Of course, I feel like an agent's "handler" in that I'm busy direction Ralph to encourage and help Fred succeed with his shenanigans, thus providing me with a counter-measure for his paranoia about the space program. See what I mean?

The end game in all this is to get Fred to at least listen with his Collins receiver. He'll probably just connect the vertical to the input and let it go at that, no impedance matching to "flatten the line" as they used to say. All I can hope is that Fred followed the recipe in setting up the traps and that the effect of the dielectric in the flagpole is minimal. Otherwise, there might be some furtive lowering the flag and flagpole at the end of the day, followed by repositioning of traps overnight. That'd be boring, even discouraging. We don't need that. So I've gotta tell Ralph to get Fred some new finals so he can pump a wee bit of RF into the vertical, just enough to get a SWR curve before he goes to the trouble of lowering the flagpole. That'll avoid any "By guess and by golly" with relocating the traps. Stay tuned for more. And for Fred's sake, think positively!!