

HARMONICS



THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

August 2008 -Issue 267



Firecracker Finals

Income:

Tables/tickets	\$1916.00
Kitchen	397.15
Refunds	
Chili	18.36
Damage	100.00
Shirts	131.20
Surplus food sale	27.00
Total	\$2589.71

Expenses

Rent	\$ 500.00
Flyers	425.22
Postage	278.25
Ads	196.00

Shirts	\$ 611.78
Change	350.00
Dealer's Dinner	110.78
Prizes	50.00
Supplies (food, etc.)	308.08

Total \$2830.11

Net - \$240.40

Possible further income.

Extra (or not picked up) shirts for sale @ \$13.00 each. (3 L and 4 XL)

Not income, but saving for the club - extra coffee, drinks, etc. left over to be used at meetings refreshments, or was used for the hotdog supper at the July meeting.

NOTES:

I calculated from ticket receipts that there were 257 tickets sold.

The kitchen broke even. Its food and supplies came to \$234.70 and had \$150 in change to start to equal \$394.70, making a profit of \$2.45.

Compared with last year:
Calculated ticket sales; 399
Food cost; \$188.50

Contents

Firecracker report	1
FD Report	2
NC Section News	3
Phishing E-Mail	4
Fred's Back	4
Fred & Morning signals	5
The OM's Key	6

<p align="center">Meeting : Aug. 11</p> <p>Important business : Evaluating various items on the Hamfest Plus other business or financial items concerns.</p> <p>Possible other program also.</p>

FD REPORT

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

If you've looked on the web page, www.RowanARS.org, you've seen a very thorough report of how we did in this years FD. You've probably seen a lot of good pictures, thanks to **W4HG**, Wayne.

In addition to Wayne and the web master Herb, **KF4TVI**, for their work, I want to thank our President Tommie, **N4YZ**, for the super work organizing FD enabling us to do so well.

There were 18 People at the site at one time or another.

We collected 750 bonus points for Emergency power, media publicity, being in a public place, a showing of amateur radio information, visits by official of govt. or other agencies, and submitting the report by the web. All this gave us 750 points to start.

We made 500 CW, 104 Digital, and 312 Phone contacts for 1516 points that were doubled because we didn't use power, giving a claimed score of 3032 points. If I remember correctly, the 750 is then added so we had a total of 3782 points.

For those interested in the band by band break down it follows.

	CW	Digital	Phone
80m	52	2	101
40m	219	42	63
20m	124	49	87
15m	43	9	61
10m	62		

Personal comments:

1. Wayne needs more help with CW. Someone needs to begin practicing CW for next year.

2. We could use more operators at all stations. How many of the 18 people operated an hour or more?

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](mailto:morrisnona@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

July Minutes

In case anyone has not heard, **KA4NHL**, Nona's mother had a stroke and is now in a nursing home, making progress at last report. Because of the understandable stress and time involvement, Nona hasn't had time to get me the minutes for July.

She assures me we will have them at the meeting next Monday night.

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JUNE NORTH CAROLINA SECTION NEWS

FIELD DAY A BIG HIT!

The 2008 Field Day event was a big success in the North Carolina section! The state of North Carolina ranked seventh in the nation for the number of registered operations, with 51 Field Day sites in the ARRL database. Many of you took advantage of the PR potential for Field Day and we received great media coverage. Congratulations on all your hard work! One interesting statistic I noticed in the Field Day reports I received was that most Field Day participants aren't ARES members. The biggest reason we have Field Day is to keep ourselves prepared for a disaster. Why not expand your interest in disaster preparedness by contacting your local EC and joining the 1,800 ARES members in North Carolina? You can find your EC's contact info at www.ncarrl.org/ares.

CHARLOTTE HAMFEST MOVES IN 2009

The Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society has announced that the Charlotte Hamfest is moving. The 2009 event will be held at the Cabarrus Arena off Highway 49, just north of Harrisburg, NC. It's just minutes away from North Carolina's most visited tourist destination, Concord Mills Mall (believe it or not!). The MARS club says that everyone will enjoy the excellent facilities. Cabarrus Arena is only six years old and very well maintained. Since the weather in March is so iffy - it can be cold, wet, warm, or even snowy - so the Charlotte Hamfest will continue to be an indoor show. MARS says feedback from attendees and vendors indicated that the high cost of parking and food were the biggest concerns about their old location. Concessions at the new facility

should be improved, but the biggest change will be free parking! The 2009 Charlotte Hamfest will be held March 14-15 and will be the ARRL's Roanoke Division Convention.

The Charlotte Hamfest joins the Shelby Hamfest in moves to new facilities. The Shelby Amateur Radio Club announced earlier this year that they had signed a five year contract at Biggerstaff Park near Dallas, NC in Gaston

County. The 2008 Shelby Hamfest is coming up soon on held August 30-31.

NEW OFFICIAL RELAY STATIONS

Participants who completed Mark Rappaport, W2EAG's on-air traffic handling course are encouraged to submit applications to become ARRL Official Relay Stations. More info and an application are available online at www.arrl.org.

Also, keep your new skills sharp by participating in one of the North Carolina section traffic nets. The SSB nets include the North Carolina Morning Net (NCMN) on 3927 kHz at 0745L and the North Carolina Evening Net (NCEN) on 3923 kHz at 1830L. Our CW nets are the Carolinas Slow Net on 3571kHz at 2000L, the Carolinas Net (Early) on 3573kHz at 1900L and the Carolinas Net (Late) on 3573kHz at 2200L. From there you can take traffic to your local areas for delivery or liaison to your local (VHF/UHF) traffic nets, as the need may be. Another option would be to participate with your local nets: The Eastern North Carolina Traffic Net (ENCTN), the South Eastern North Carolina Traffic Net (SENCTN), the Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net (PCTN)

or the Central North Carolina Traffic Net (CNCTN).

NEW ARRL APPOINTEES

Congratulations and thanks to the following who have this year been appointed to ARRL volunteer positions in the North Carolina section. Thanks to these folks and all 218 ARRL appointees in our section for your willingness to fill for these important positions

Larry Sloop, WB4UYY: EC, Wilkes County; John Sprouse, N4VJJ: EC, Beaufort County; James Craig, KI4OCC: EC, Gaston County; James

Wright, KS4O: EC, Craven County; Phillip Whisnant, K4PDW: EC Rutherford County; Robert Rodgers, KC4TVO: EC Mitchell County; James Johnson, KI4TAT: PIO; Dewey Cook, KJ4BYU: PIO; Cliff Fox, KU4GW: EC, Alexander County; Mark Bradshaw, KJ4WY: ORS; James Stevens, WB4JFX: EC, Lee County; George Walden, ORS.

ARRL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS GRADUATES

105 amateurs in North Carolina have completed at least one of the ARRL's Emergency Communications courses. The following have completed all three courses and I wanted to recognize them for their commitment:

KE5ABB, W4VU, WK4P, W4JEE, W4OH, WD4MKU, W1FAI, AF1E, K4ZNX, K4VHO, NW4O, N4QVM, KG4OQA, N4UBH, KG4FCD, NA4P, W4CC, WA1WHD, KG4HOM, AD2H, WI1L, W4DK, N9JZX, N2TU, W0CJV, W1HO, K8YC, WX4ES, N1KFC, KF4CQS, KV4CN, W3GYK, W4YQY, K3RXK, WA4UFS, KB5WY, WA4NID, KJ4AST, AI4RT, W4DNA,

ARES RECOGNIZED BY CITY OF KINGS MOUNTAIN

The mayor of Kings Mountain, NC issued a proclamation on June 24 naming ARES the "Outstanding Volunteer Group" for the 9th Annual Over the Mountain Triathlon. An article on the recognition appeared in the Shelby Star. ARES members from Cleveland and Gaston counties furnished communications for the event. "It kept things safe," said Ellis Noel, Special Events Director for the city. "I'm usually pretty nervous at these things and having ARES really had me calmer."

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 9: Cape Fear Swapfest, Fayetteville
August 30-31: Shelby Hamfest, Dallas
October 11: Pfafftown Hamfest
October 12: Maysville Hamfest
October 18: State ARES Meeting, Morganton



Phishing e-mail

The ARRL has received several reports from ARRL members with arrl.net e-mail accounts who have recently been contacted via e-mail asking for personal information, such as user names and passwords. Please be assured that these e-mails are fraudulent attempts at "phishing" and did not originate from ARRL.

According to ARRL Information Technology Manager Don Durand, "This is a very crude attempt at phishing, using an easily determined spoof of the originating/return address. There is never a time when we would ask via mass email for user names and passwords of arrl.net users. There is simply no need to ever do so." If you receive an email asking for personal information and it looks like it originated from ARRL, please do not respond, just delete it.

—The ARRL Letter
Volume 27, No. 28



Fred's Back

There are two more "Fred" episodes so I'll put one in here.

When first published there was a lapse of about a year between this episode and the previous one so there was a rather lengthy synopsis of the previous chapters. I'll do a shorter one now.

You will remember that the writer, Bob Brown, NM7M, Henry's propagation expert friend from California who at that time was writing the propagation column in World radio magazine received a letter from Fred.

Fred is a ham convinced that there is a cover up by the government of damage done to the ionosphere by the space program. This damage, he claims, results in there being no DX in ham radio. (It happens to be at the bottom of the solar cycle, as we are now.)

Bob has no way to connect with Fred since he didn't put a return address on his letter. Bob discretely puts out word to his buddies about the disgruntled ham and he is spotted at a hamfest by Ralph, a full time Rver.

Ralph gets to know Fred and gets him interested in trying to get his old Collins S/line gear back on the air.

But Fred lives in a restricted development and after ruining his wife's flower bed trying to use the rain gutters for a "skywire" he decides on putting up a trapped vertical disguised inside a flag pole. In order to put in radials, Fred comes up with his own conspiracy. He tells neighbors that he is putting wire in the ground so he can use a small electric current to excite worms and thereby improve the lawn's grass.

As we will see, this causes Fred a little trouble.

Fred and Morning signals

Fred, the paranoid "albatross" that hangs around my neck and haunts my waking moments is still out there.

And my W7-friend, Ralph, continues to deal with him, good Samaritan that he is, and reports to me about his progress.

So far, there's been movement toward getting his old receiver going and no further mention of the conspiracy he imagines, spacecraft swallowing up all our ionospheric electrons.

Ralph reported yesterday on the twisted pair, saying that Fred actually turned the receiver on, at least briefly. It was the first time for Fred in years and the impression it left on him did nothing to relieve his anxiety.

Ralph said that was the case as Fred turned it on just before breakfast and didn't hear any signals.

That disturbed him enough for him to call Ralph, for sympathy or something. Anyway Ralph asked him what band he was listening to.

To that Fred replied "Band? I didn't look; It was where I left it years ago."

Ralph told me his thoughts, "Here we go, another hand to be held." But before Ralph had a chance to respond, Fred chimed in that it was still on the ten meters band.

Ralph had to let him down gently and explained in a clam manner that "ten" was not exactly wide open that early in the day but north-south paths could be open later, say noon or afterwards.

Fred responded, "I'll give it a try later and get back to you."

But Ralph no sooner finished breakfast than the phone rang; it was Fred, talking in an excited fashion

Ralph thought "Now what? Probably an old electrolytic popped in his power supply." Not so!

Fred shouted, "On 20 meters I heard that 5W1 you mentioned a while back, a BV and a bunch of JA's You weren't kidding me, were you?" In a droll tone, Ralph said "Would I kid an old-timer like you? Never!"

And he let Fred go on in a happy voice, praised him for hanging there and then threw out the "punch line"; "When are you going to get new 6146's and really get back on the air, working those guys?" Fred's reply was almost instantaneous, "Right now. Just give me an 800 number to call to get some new ones. And do they still sell matched pairs?"

Ralph had to say, "I dunno, I use a solid state rig now; check the ads in QST or CQ."

Fred said "Okay." and went QRT, probably still smiling

It seemed like a week went by before Ralph heard from Fred again. Ralph said that didn't surprise him much as he did a mental calculation as to how long it would take a supplier to package those 6146's and get them out the door, plus the UPS travel and delivery time to Fred's QTH.

So when Fred did call a day or so later, Ralph asked about the finals.

Fred brushed him aside on that one, saying "I have a big, big problem." "Now what?" was Ralph's thought. "Tell me about it."

Slowly but surely, it came out that Fred was overwhelmed by his "success". It seems his lawn came to life, looking lush and green, after the radials were put in and impressed the neighbors as no other lawn in the area did the same. His fame as the "worm guy" spread.

He admitted he really hadn't noticed it, being more engrossed in the first signals he heard on the old S/line receiver. As a matter of fact, in celebration of that event, he took his XYL out to lunch at a nice restaurant near the shopping mall. He even wore a tie.

So what happens? Fred told Ralph their meal was interrupted by some little old lady (LOL) coming up to their table, introducing herself and waxing poetic about Fred's lawn.

She said "It has become the talk of the garden club on this side of town and we'd like to invite you to our meeting next week to tell us just how you did it."

Apparently Fred smiled weakly through all his dark thoughts, took the LOL's phone number and

said he'd get back to her. She thanked him profusely, saying they were really looking forward to his visit.

As soon as the LOL departed, Fred said he tried to change the the subject and finally succeeded, but only with difficulty. His XYL's last remark on the subject was "Now you won't disappoint them, will you? Some of them are my friends!" "Not to worry!" was the reply.

As Fred told it to Ralph, as soon as he and the XYL got home, he went downstairs and holed up in his shack, holding his head in his hands, thinking "Now what do I do?" But as we all know, a bit of solitude clears the mind and Fred came up with a brilliant strategy, based partly in truth and stretching another part just a wee bit.

But first he would have to do his "homework", learning about aeration of soil and its effect on lawns. Then, he'd have to do something about worms.

But he wasn't going to do anything about tracking down a reference, the Ag Extension "ploy" being good enough.

After some time at the Public Library reading about worms as well as buying a book on lawns from a nursery in the next county, he was ready.

He went to the meeting of the garden club, using the XYL's car and leaving his, with the ham license plates, at home.

"No point in stirring this pot any further!", he thought.

So Fred held forth on what can be accomplished by aeration and various means of distributing water across a lawn.

In his case, he cited a crown to his lawn, necessitating the slight downhill, radial trenching to distribute rain water across the lawn. (That was an inspiration!) Others would have to inspect their lawns carefully, deciding how best to do their trenching.

And he cited the various trenching tools available. "Proper aeration is 95% of the game, worms the rest. The cost in time and money (for radials) to stimulate them must be weighed against the benefits." (He hoped the ration of 95% to 5% would be enough to deflect them. But he'd have to be careful about appearing in public lest all those OM's, soon to be out there trenching their hearts out for their XYL's, get on his case. He could be a hated man!)

Fred's XYL was pleased as the next Saturday she could see OM's of the garden club members out

there, eye-balling their lawns like they were putting greens. Trenching was sure to follow, she said, thanks to Fred.

He couldn't care less; his 6146's arrived the day before!

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**HIRAM PERCY MAXIM'S
TELEGRAPH KEY RETURNS
TO ARRL HQ**

At the ARRL Board of Director's meeting this past weekend, the telegraph key that once belonged to Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, was returned to ARRL Headquarters. According to ARRL First Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, the key had been in the collection of the Antique Wireless Association's Electronic Communication Museum near Rochester, New York for more than 20 years.

Craigie said that the AWA decided to return Maxim's key to the organization he co-founded almost 100 years ago. At the ARRL Atlantic Division Convention in May 2008, the museum's former curator, Ed Gable, K2MP, presented the key to Craigie and Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR. Craigie and Edgar then presented the key to ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, and ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, on Friday, July 18.

"The key will find a prominent place in the League's collection of historical artifacts," Craigie said. "The Old Man's key has come home".

FD 08 - The President's quarters AC included

