

HARMONICS



THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
October 2008 - Issue 269



Financial Report

October 8, 2008

Brought forward \$3930.13

Income:*

Club shirts 26.00

Donations, Refreshment 23.50

Total \$3979.63

Expenses:

Postage \$ 42.00

Refreshments 10.65

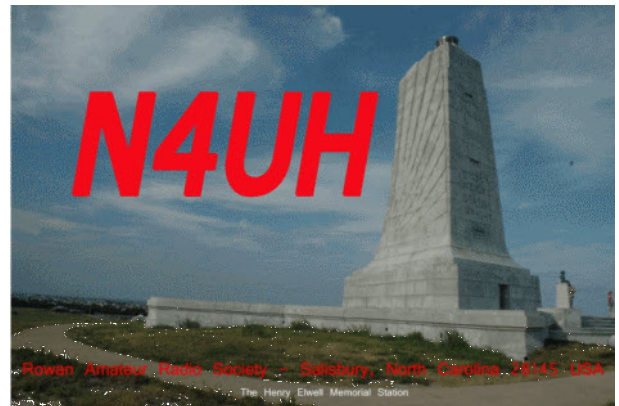
P O Box rent 38.00

Total \$ 90.65

Balance \$3888.98

WD4KJZ FUND \$3535.21

* Overlaps some of last month's report



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GRID:EM95
CQ ZONE:5
ITU ZONE:8

USA

In memory of our friend (Uncle Henry) Henry G. Elwell, Jr

N4UH

QSO WITH	CONFIRMING QSO						
	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	UTC	MHz	RTT	2 WAY

Above are the suggested QSL cards suggested by Wayne, W4HG, and Tommie, N4YZ . This would be used by permission by club members during special occasions. (See September minutes). To my knowledge this is the only sugges-

tion so far. Contact info would be on the reverse side.

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

The following is something I've been holding for a number of months. It'll probably alienate some.

Johnston calls dropping code snake oil

One of the nation's most respected Hams says that the new code free licensing system is a failure. Writing in the January issue of Worldradio Magazine, former FCC rules man, John B. Johnston, W3BE, says that it's looking as if the wonder cure to the so-called CW barrier was just old fashioned medicine show snake oil and about as effective.

Johnston is currently President of the QCWA and won the Radio Amateur of the Year award for his plain language rewrite of the Part 97 rules while employed at the FCC. He quotes two reports made at last summer's conference between the nation's Volunteer Examination Coordinators and the FCC that shows almost no growth that can be directly attributed to dropping Morse testing. He says that the month to month influx of newcomers has remained relatively constant. He also says that the factual result is internal to the hobby where there has been an upgrade movement by Technician class Hams to General and Extra now that the Morse test has gone away. Johnston offers no cure for the slow growth trend in today's Ham Radio. He just notes that dropping Morse has not had any significant impact on drawing newcomers in. His complete article begins on page 18 of the January issue of Worldradio Magazine. —Amateur Radio Newline, Report 1587, Jan. 11, 2008

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The following is the next-to-last installment of the Fred series.

Fred and Second Thoughts

Bob Brown, NM7M

My troubled friend, Fred is still on my mind. As you know, I've essentially devised a way of dealing with his problem and it's most ably administered by Ralph, my W7-friend. At this point, his delusion of

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 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave S.

2008 Officers

President - Tommie Wood, N4YZ, 704-637-0024
woodt@earthlink.net
Vice-Pres. -

Secretary - Nona Morris, KA4NHL, 704-278-4960
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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

October 13 meeting

Program is uncertain.

Be sure to bring your ideas for the N4UH special QSL card to be used by the club members.

an ionospheric conspiracy almost seems to be history. But we don't ease up in our concern for him as reversals do happen, sometimes almost instantly.

Ralph has checked in with Fred's latest, a mixed bag of stories from the repeater, land-line and eyeball QSO. The sum and substance of it all is that in spite of the 6146's arriving on time, he seemed to be moving ahead but with all sorts of difficulties. For example, Fred wasn't satisfied with using the "tired" 6146's at low power to get SWR curves for his vertical. Nothing would do but he had to put in the new ones and go through the neutralization procedure.

But Fred's dummy load was so old that its bottom had corroded, leaking its oil. That was the case as the dummy load was stored on the damp floor, close to the sump pump in the basement. When his XYL's washing machine flooded the area some years ago, his oil probably went out too. So, he had to get a new gallon can, install the non-inductive resistor and put a SO-239 on it. That was easy; getting oil was not.

Fred knew enough not to think of using "transformer oil"; that's bad news, no doubt about it. So he settled on mineral oil and went to the neighborhood drug store. He didn't see any available in bulk, say enough to fill his dummy load, so he gathered up all the small bottles they had and went to the counter. At that, the druggist chuckled, "You really must have a PROBLEM!" Fred didn't think that was so funny but let it pass, paid for the stuff and left.

"Wise guy!" he thought; "next time, I'll go to the grain and feed store."

On the way home, he went by the County Library to return the books on worms he'd taken out for his talk at the garden club. On entering the den of silence, he quietly put the books in a tray and started to leave. But out of the corner of his eye, he caught a glimpse of the Reserved Book Room where they kept all the rare, "exotic" books. You couldn't take them out, just read them there.

Thinking he had some spare time, he walked over there, nodded to the Assistant Librarian who guards the door and went to the card file. In looking at the oak file cabinet, he thought it'd be a pity to replace that fine piece of furniture with a computer. That's now the price of progress but it hadn't reached the Reserved Book room yet.

Fred said he saw one file drawer marked "Science:" and with the subtitle below "Aeronomy to

Zoology". There weren't all that many cards in it but it was worth looking through it as there might be something interesting, at least more so than those books on worms. So he pulled out the file drawer, took it to a table and went to the beginning. The first subject was aurora. "Bingo!", Fred thought, "This'll be fun!" Fred found the book, "Majestic Lights" by Professor Robert Eather of Boston College. It was big, beautifully done and a joy to behold. The subtitle was "The Aurora in Science, History and the Arts", about enough on aurora for every interest. Fred leafed through it, admiring what flashed by until he found the FB chapter on the IGY (International Geophysical Year). That was Cycle 19; Fred thought "Home, at last!"

Time went by quickly for Fred and to his surprise, his reading almost made him miss dinner. When he got home, he told the XYL that he'd found a wonderful book in the Reserve Book Room. She looked at him in a stern way and said "I hope it wasn't one of those "exotic" items they keep under lock and key!" "No, no" Fred protested; "It's all about the aurora, the lights we used to see in the sky; remember?" "That's fine; you can tell me about it later" and dinner was served.

The next day Fred found some excuse to get out of the house and headed straight for the library. It was more than he could resist, like an iron filing in the presence of a magnet. (It's my guess that Fred's squeamish and doesn't like to think in terms of moths and their fatal attraction to candles. Ed.) He went directly to the Reserve Book Room and got "Majestic Lights". "Oh, aurora!", he thought.

At first, his reading was desultory, going from photographs of contemporary displays to drawings of those back in history and then to biographies of the observers involved. In that regard, Fred was of a mind to associate himself with the observers, more precisely what are termed "Eminent Observers". He'd "been there", on the radio, too.

Fred's XYL wasn't sure of what he was doing but figured it might have been a small card game down at the Legion Hall. No problem. So Fred kept going to the library, finally starting to read "Majestic Light" from beginning to end. But when he got to page 50, reading about "The Maunder Minimum", he flipped out! All the work that Ralph and I had done was apparently lost with a few minutes of reading.

It seems that reading about an extended period almost completely devoid of solar activity (sunspots)

from 1645 to 1715, with very few auroral sightings in Europe, was enough to bring Fred back to thinking about the ionosphere and its "diminished capacity" at present. It was just another burden for Fred, thinking "What if it's happening again?" But as he thought more about it, other ideas came to him, "Maybe the sunspot numbers are faked now, maybe the electrons aren't gobbled up by those spacecraft after all?" Fred's head was in a whirl. He closed the book, shoved it away from him and sat there for a few minutes, just taking deep breaths and trying to get back to equilibrium.

Fred went home, begged off dinner claiming a headache from reading too much and went down to the shack, He sat there in the dark, leaning back and reviewing his thoughts. He was troubled, more so than before and he knew it. But what to do? "What can I do?", he thought.

Maybe I'd better talk to Ralph", and that in mind, he reached for the 2-meter rig. He squeezed the mic key and nothing happened, not even a "kerchunk".

"Now what? Oh well, there's always the land line!"



Minutes

September 8, 2008

The RARS met at 7:00 PM at the Rufty-Homes Senior Center. Present: Tommie Wood, N4YZ; Ralph Mowery, KU4PT; Ralph Brown, WB4AQK; Clarence Beaver, K4SHU; Wayne Ashworth, W4HG; Nona Morris, KA4NHL; Jim Morris, KA4MPP; Frank Waring, AF4D; Butch Edge, W4WEE; Richard Beck, KQ4BAV; Nelson Large, W4FRV; Richard Wallace, K4PM; Terence Wallace, Assoc.

Minutes of July 14, and August 11, 2008 were in September's Harmonics and with no ones objecting to anything. Minutes were approved

Old Business –

Discussion for QSL cards we can think of for the N4UH call, and W4EXU. Tommie Wood has a QSL card we could use as a pattern. A nicer card for the N4UH since it will be used more and an economy card for the W4EXU. Tommie is going to check with who he does work with in Canada. We are going to let the cards go another 30 days and Wayne

Ashworth, W4HG, and Tommie Wood, N4YZ, is going to get things together and Ralph is going to publish them in the news letter so everyone can see. Bring your ideas to the next meeting. Make decision next month.

Frank Waring brought us copies of the N4UH License that was issued, effective 8-12-2008.

Treasurers report given by Ralph Brown -

Brought forward \$3942.87

Donation 9.00

Shirts 26.00

Total 35.00

Stamps 42.00

Expenses 12.74

Less -54.74

\$3923.13 With WB4KJZ

fund \$3573.21

Ralph has shirts left. Come on everyone get a nice shirt at a good price.

KN4X died Bob Leonard, 84 years old.

Has any one checked into the Tar Hill emergency net. Ralph said he got a letter from them to check in during the hurricane. In October there is going to be a State wide Emergency Net.

Gary Hattaway, KQ1E, said if no one else considered taking the EC, He would consider taking it after the first to the year.

New Business -

Wayne Ashworth made the motion we send a letter of appreciation to Henry Elwell's children for letting us use Uncle Henry's call sign N4UH. The motion was second by Frank Waring, AF4D. The motion passed. Wayne Ashworth has volunteered to compose and send the letter. Everyone agreed. When we get the cards done send them a copy of that.

Discussed thanking Herb Goodman for all work he has done on the Web site. Would like to have him come to the club to be able to thank him in person. He sees something that needs to be done and fixes it with out any trouble.

Our program for this meeting is on VHF/UHF mode D-Star Digital Voice (data and voice at the same time).

Tommie Wood said with no further business, the meeting was dismissed.

Nona Morris, KA4NHL, Secretary