

HARMONICS



THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

March 2009 -Issue 274



Financial Report

February 1 - March 1

Brought Forward\$3637.47

Income:

Dues 5.00

Donations-Refreshment 9.60

Total\$3652.07

Expenses:

Refreshments \$ 9.59

Donation - Rufty 100.00

Total:109.59

Balance \$3542.48

.....

From the President

Most of you know that I have been participating in a race with the Great Outdoor Radio Club called

Contents

Financial Report	1
Presidents note	1
NC Section news	1
Happenings	2
March program	2
Roster corrections	3
February Minutes	3
Time change	5

the IDITAROD. The contest started on October 1, 2008 and ends on March 31, 2009. So far I am the only one to finish.

I finished the race today with a RTTY contact with Greenland. Looks like I finished in 1st place. I may not have the highest score but I did get there first. All contacts were made portable with 100 watts or less and a G5RV on the back of my motor home. Check it out at <http://wa3wsj.org/GORC.html>.

See ya'll about the middle of March
Tommie - N4YZ

.....

JANUARY NC SECTION NEWS

AMATEUR RADIO EXEMPTION ADDED TO CELL PHONE BAN BILL

Gary Pearce KN4AQ, ARRL Public Information Officer

The North Carolina Senate Commerce Committee has added language to Senate Bill S12 that would specifically exempt Amateur Radio operation from a proposed ban on cell phone use while driving in the state. The amendment was added by NC Senator William Purcell, at the request of Bob Conder K4RLC, ARRL NC Section State Government Liaison. The amendment was accepted without debate at the start of the committee meeting on February 17. After other aspects of the bill were discussed and amendments unrelated to Amateur Radio were adopted, the bill was tabled until a future date.

North Carolina Evening Net

The North Carolina Evening Net was moved to 5:30 PM a couple months ago to deal with the propagation challenges we've been facing on 75m. On Sunday, March 8 daylight savings time returns and we will also return the net to 6:30 PM. The NCEN is part of the ARRL National Traffic System and meets daily on 3.923 MHz.

.....

Happenings

Get World Radio Online

You can join the notification list at <http://www.cq-amateurradio.com/WorldRadio.html>; just click on the red box

where it says "sign up now."

Then when you are notified, you just download it with the Adobe reader.

Equipment. for sale

I noticed the New Bern club newsletter this month has a large number of items for sale by members. Looks like some pretty good bargains. If you are interested, go to <http://www.nbarc.org/> and click on current newsletter.

BSA Radio Merit Badge

The boy scouts have updated the Radio Merit Badge pamphlet with updated charts pictures and the requirements needed to earn the badge. The pamphlet has lots of new information that reflects the changes in the Amateur Radio Service since 2002. After getting the badge, there are just a few items needed for a Tech license.

(If members of our club could locate a local Boy Scout Troop to give permission to teach the merit badge and give a really good class, this would be a good way to educate others about ham radio ... and maybe get some new enthusiastic members. Editor)

Roanoke Division Service award

I am pleased to inform you that Charlie Miller, AE4UX, Trenton SC, has been awarded the Roanoke Division ARRL Service Award for 2008. This award

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 Ruffy-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. - Wayne Ashworth, W4HG, 704-633-9330
w4hg@arrl.net

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

March Program

Frank, AF4D, has notified me that the program on March 9, beginning at 7:00 PM will be on Satellite Tracking and Receiving, along with Weather satellite tracking and receiving.

Also In advanced Wayne, W4HG, tells me that he will have the April program and will lecture on Logbook of the World, usually indicated by LoTW

was instituted in 1968 by Roanoke Division Director, Vic Clark, W4KFC.

Charlie was first licensed as KD4QDV in 1992. He took a class in order to obtain his Civil Air Patrol Radio Operator's License in 1989, and became interested in becoming an Amateur Radio Operator. His first interest was to assist with public service and emergency response communications. Charlie has been an extra class licensee with call sign AE4UX since 1996.

This award will be presented to Charlie at the Roanoke Division Convention in Concord, NC on Saturday March 14, 2009 in Concord, NC.

"Hashafisti Scratchi" a Silent Key

(This is late because I didn't have room earlier. Decided to make it this issue. We probably have a few older members who remember Hashsfisti. Editor)

The man who wrote "Scratchi" for CQ magazine is a Silent Key. George H. Floyd, Jr., WA4DGA (ex-W2RYT), of Lynchburg, Virginia, entertained thousands of his fellow hams for more than two decades -- between 1947 and 1971 -- writing as a politically-incorrect (by today's standards) Japanese- American ham with fractured English and contorted spelling.

He wrote from "Feenix, Ariz.," began each column with "Deer Hon. Ed.," and regularly skewered the pomposity and poor operating practices he encountered on the air. He passed away November 22,2008 at the age of 91.

In real life, George Floyd was an engineer and executive with General Electric, working in Schenectady and Syracuse, New

York, before moving to Lynchburg, Virginia in the late 1950's GE alumni will also remember George -- pseudonymously as well -- as "Lighthouse Larry" in GE employee publications.

Scratchi first appeared in CQ in June, 1947. The column became a regular feature between 1948 and 1960, then returned from 1966 to 1971. For many CQ readers in that time period, Scratchi was the first item they read when the magazine arrived each month. CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, writing in the magazine's 50th anniversary issue in January,

1995, said: "For many years the name Hashafisti Scratchi has been almost synonymous with confusion and consternation in amateur radio. It seems, too, that whenever the unusual or impossible is happening, Scratchi is there helping it happen."

Upon receiving news of George's passing, Ross noted, "As saddened as I am to learn of George's death, the mere mention of his name brings a smile to my face, knowing how his good humor and wonderfully creative imagination entertained so many of us for so many years."



Roster Corrections

The following errors were noted in the last Roster published..

Gary listed as W1WBT should be **KQ1E**.

Rick, **K4PM** dues should be 2009.

Following Rick, Terence should have only one "R".

Rick and Terence both have error in address. It should be BUD not BUB Lane.

Nelson, **W4FQV**, e-mail is large446@bellsouth.net

Bud, **K4AGO**, e-mail should be budngaye@windstream.net



February Minutes

The RARS met February 9, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the Ruffy-Holmes Senior Center. Present: Tommie Wood, **N4YZ**; Ralph Brown, **WB4AQK**; Wayne Ashworth, **W4HG**; Nona Morris, **KA4NHL**; Jim Morris, **KA4MPP**; Frank Waring, **AF4D**; Larry Wright, **N4QY**; Holland (Bud) Bost, **K4AGO**; Ralph Mowery, **KU4PT**; Derwood Puckett, **K4PXU**; Butch Edge, **W4WEE**; H. C. Ledbetter, **WB4IDQ** and Guest Glenn Stebe, glenn.t.stebe@US.Army.mil.

Ralph Brown, WB4AQK made the motion to accept the minutes as in the February Harmonic. Tommie Wood, N4YZ seconded and the motion passed.

January's Treasurers' report was in the February Harmonics. Ralph Brown, WB4AQK said we need to make our bi-yearly donation to Rufty Homes Center. Wayne Ashworth, W4HG, made the motion that we donate \$100. to Rufty Homes Center (\$200. a year) Frank Waring, AF4D seconded. Everyone approved.

Old Business – The incorporation papers for Rowan Amateur Radio Society have been mailed to Raleigh. We are officially incorporated. We just have to get the tax number and etc. Wayne Ashworth is looking in to it.

The Annual Presidents Day Luncheon is Wednesday, February 18th at 11:30 AM at Rufty Holmes. Tommie Wood will be in Florida and he needs two people to attend. Tommie Wood will make the reservations. Wayne Ashworth and Ralph Brown plan to attend.

We are going to start meeting two Saturdays after our monthly meeting at Checkered Flags Bar B Q on South Main St. for breakfast at 8:00 AM.

Triple Play Award

The Triple Play Award was created by the ARRL primarily to stimulate use of the Logbook of the World (LoTW) program. LoTW is the league's giant database of the logs of thousands of stations and for those seeking WAS or DXCC awards that log can be used in lieu of having to send in your QSLs to have the contacts verified. To win the Triple Play Award (TPA) you must have confirmations from each state on each of three modes; CW, Phone, and Digital. In addition, the confirmations MUST be via LoTW. No paper QSLs allowed for this award. The only other requirement is that the contacts must have taken place after 01.Jan.09.

Each LoTW user must have an account established by ARRL. You can get full details on getting this free account at <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/getStartedGuide.pdf>. All

logs must be uploaded in the ADIF format. All of the popular logging programs now have the ability to export files in this format. Even the excellent free logging programs like Ham Radio Deluxe < www.ham-radio-deluxe.com> or Logger 32 < www.logger32.net> can accomplish this task. It is not hard once you get the setup done.

Logbook of the World will be the topic for a club program at the 13th April meeting.

Motion made by Wayne, seconded by ? that the club try for a Triple Play LoTW award using N4UH. If there is anyone who would like to participate, particularly a HF SSB op, they should get in touch with Tommie regarding use of the N4UH call and how to get logs to him for submission.

Permission to use N4UH is granted automatically with this motion but Wayne needs to know ahead of time so that two(2) members are not using the same call on the same mode at the same time?? If that makes sense.

Wayne Ashworth and Tommie Wood have started working the ARRL Triple Play Award for the Club using N4UH. Wayne Ashworth is using CW and Tommie Wood is doing some digital and they both will do a little side-band along the way. Most log in programs we do need so he needs to know who is using the club call. We do need a ADIF file and respond to any cards that they may want. If you keep a manual log Tommie will show you how to enter it in the correct log. To get the certificate, the club will have to work all states, 50 contacts on CW, 50 on Phone and 50 on Digital. They all have to be confirmed by LOTW (Logbook of the World). We would like to find some one to do phone. They have 123 contacts already. 17 States confirmed and 11 countries confirmed. Wayne Ashworth will help anyone who would like to get with it.

NC QSO party is coming up - first of March If anyone would like to participate in the NC QSO and use the club call notify Wayne because Tommie Wood will be in Fla.

Frank Waring will be doing the program next month - will be a surprise!

Program tonight, by Tommie Wood, was short program on PSK 31 to try and tell you what it is. He had a station set up and it was working. He had a power point program PSK 31/PSK63. PSK 31 is 31 Hz and PSK 63 that is twice as fast and thus takes twice the bandwidth. Very similar to RTTY but is more favorable during marginal conditions. 15 watt contact with VK3AMA, Melbourne, Australia. Why operate digital modes? Phase Shift Keying, Real-world performance of PSK -31, Connecting your Radio to your Computer, Ham Radio Deluxe/DM780 can monitor up to 40 QSO's at the same time, need to keep your power levels under 150 watts.

Where to operate PSK31. The predominant USA HF Digital Frequencies Are: 10 Meter Band; 28.120 MHz; 12 Meter Band; 24.920 MHz;

15 Meter Band: 21.080 MHz; 17 Meter Band: 18.100 MHz; (500 Hz spacing above 18.100 beacons; 20 Meter Band: 14.070 MHz; 30 Meter Band: 10.140 MHz; 40 Meter Band: 7.070 MHz (US) 7.035 MHz (DX); 80 Meter Band: 3.580 MHz; 160 Meter Band: 1.838 MHz

Most of the software for PSK 51 you can get free. All the free stuff works really well. You can download from the internet – (Ham Radio Deluxe, Digipan does basically the same thing, and one call Ham scope). Your computer sound card does all your processing for you. An older sound card works fine but the better the sound card the better you will be able to see. The hardware to interface with the radio you can go very inexpensive. I am using MFJ. Tommie Wood thinks a good interface is about a \$100. 31.25 bit per second you would have to type 50 words a minute if you wanted to type. PSK 63 is 100 words per minute. Basically you have a sound card in and a sound card out. All Digital modes you need to be in upper side-band.

Tommie Wood made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Second by Larry Wright. Motion passed

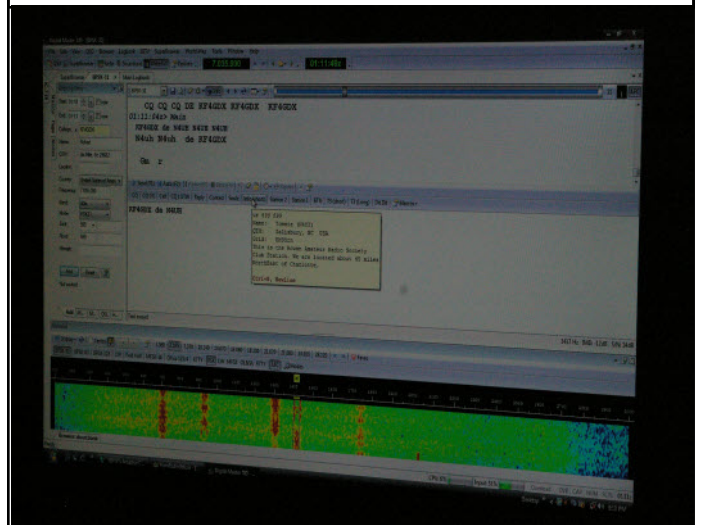
Nona Morris, KA4NHL, Secretary

Editor: If you missed this meeting you missed a fascinating program!!

In the next column are some pictures made by Wayne, W4HG and myself. Wish I had more space.



For Tommie's XYL: He's holding the donut for someone else



I tried to get a shot of the contact screen showing the "waterfall" (in the green strip at the bottom) and the contact info on the upper part of the screen. It shows up real good in 8 x 10 size.

Don't forget to **SPRING FORWARD on the 8th of March.**

If you forget to reset your clocks at 02:00 h on March 8 2009, you will miss half of Frank's program on Satellite tracking!!