

# HARMONICS



THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

April 2009 -Issue 275



## Developments in “Invisible” Antennas

One thing that makes Amateur Radio so interesting is the many branches and modes of operation. No longer are amateurs restricted to just CW, AM, and SSB. Now there are all kinds of digital transmissions, (i.e. PSK 31, D-Star, Echolink) and a plethora computer assisted radio work.

I’ve always been interested in antenna work , as friends know, because of an inability to keep a dipole up for more than three or four consecutive months. Also, certain family members have expressed a feeling that towers wouldn’t look good in the back yard. I’ve always felt for those hams living in housing developments where deeds constrained them from having antennas or towers.

But now there is relief for me and those hams! I found it in the April 2009 issue of *CQ Magazine*.<sup>1</sup>

After reading the article by Professor Emil Heisluft, who I understand is presently consulting with Duke University( also known as Dook, by the intelligentsia from the “Southern Part of Heaven”). Dook - er- Duke is working on artificially structured “metamaterials for use in cloaking research.

Anyway, after reading the article and also researching an earlier April 1981 article on the deposition of two thin, transparent, films of differing indices of refraction such that they cause destructive interference of visible wavelengths of light, I’ve managed to erect a 75 foot, crank-up Rohn with a 7 band Stepper. ( See Pictures below

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This was made immediately after the last snow and as you can see, the dipole is still up but untreated.

Unfortunately, I treated the tower, antenna, and coax before cranking it up and have been unable to find the end of the coax to bring it into the shack!

1. CQ Vol. 65 No. 4, page 30

## Minutes March 9

The RARS met March 9, 2009 at 7:00 PM at Rufty-Homes Senior Center. Present: Ralph Brown, WB4AQK; Clarence Beaver, K4SHU; Jim Morris, KA4MPP; Nona Morris, KA4NHL; Gary Hattaway, KQ1E; Paul Jones, KG4ODV; Jim Earnhardt, K4JME; Ralph Mowery, KU4PT; Frank Waring, AF4D; Bud Bost, K4AGO; Rick Beck, KG4BAV; Wayne Ashworth, W4HG; Luke Hamaty, KK4LH.

Ralph Brown, WB4AQK, made the motion to accept the February 9, 2009 minutes in the March Harmonics. Gary Hattaway, KQ1E seconded. The motion passed.

Ralph Brown gave the Financial Report that was in the February Harmonics.

The Triple Play Award was discussed. Tommie Wood and Wayne Ashworth are still looking for some one to do phone.

Ralph Brown attended the breakfast, Saturday February 21st at the Checkered Flag Bar B Q. Next Breakfast meeting is 8 AM, March 21, 2009. Wayne Ashworth made it to the Annual Presidents Day Luncheon Wednesday, February 18, 2009.

Tommie Wood is still working on getting the Tax ID number.

Still need a County Emergency Coordinator. Gary Hattaway is thinking about it.

Wayne Ashworth made the motion to find the Amateurs in Rowan Co. and mail an invitation to join RARS along with Fire Cracker Ham Fest Program. Clarence Beaver seconded. The motion passed.

Frank Waring had a very informative program on Satellite Tracking. Sputnik 1957, - There are tracking programs free. Check at AMSAT. Com and click on tools. LogSat and SatPC32 are two good tracking programs. For tracking weather google **WXSAT and WXTOLMG.**

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 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave S.

### 2009 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

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

## April meeting

Even though the 13th is Easter Monday, the Rufty-Holmes Center will be open and that is our regular meeting day.

Wayne, **W4HG**, assured us that he will be back from **CT** and **ZB1** land and will have the program on Log Book of the World or as it is usually written, **LoTW**. Don't miss it.

May program is still under development by **WB4AQK**.

Wayne Ashworth made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Gary Hattaway seconded. The motion Passed.

Nona Morris, KA4NHL, Secretary

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## Financial Report

March 1 to April 1, 2009

**Brought Forward . . . . . \$3542.48**

**Income:**

Dues . . . . . 10.00

Refresh. Donations . . . . . 15.30

**Total . . . . . \$3567.78**

**Expenses:**

Refreshments . . . . . 7.46

**Balance: . . . . . \$3560.32**

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## MARCH NC SECTION NEWS

### CHARLOTTE HOSTS SOUTHEASTERN VHF SOCIETY CONFERENCE

The Southeastern VHF Society, SVHFS, will hold their 13th annual conference for 2009 in Charlotte, NC on April 24th and 25th, sponsored by the Carolina DX Association. This event is attended by those who operate or just have an interested in learning about VHF, UHF and microwave weak signal operating and contesting. The average attendance is 100+ and often includes hams from distant countries. The two day event officially starts on Friday with testing of antenna gain and preamp noise figure measurements. These test are performed with state of the art laboratory quality test equipment. Friday also includes an optional lunch with guest speaker and the start of the technical presentations. Technical presentations start again on Saturday morning and run throughout the day with a late afternoon flea market and auction. On Saturday night there will be an optional banquet with awards, prize drawings and guest speaker. For more information and hotel accommo-

dations please see:  
[http://www.w4dex.com/svhfs\\_2009.htm](http://www.w4dex.com/svhfs_2009.htm) and  
[http://www.svhfs.org/conf\\_2009.htm](http://www.svhfs.org/conf_2009.htm).

### UPDATE FROM THE ROANOKE DIVISION CONVENTION

Congratulations to the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society for hosting an outstanding hamfest at the Cabarras Arena on March 14 and 15! The new facility was excellent and drew a big crowd. Our Roanoke Division Director Dennis Bodson, W4PWF and ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND led the ARRL forum during the hamfest. Here's my notes from their update: There are no more than 200 million contacts in Logbook of the World and ARRL will soon be making VUCC and perhaps some CQ awards available through LOTW. The "Triple Play" Award has been very popular with more than 200 hams earning WAS on cw, phone and digital and confirming their contacts through LOTW. There's been a long backlog for DXCC awards over the past year, but the wait has been reduced to 4-5 weeks. Look for the debut of a new ARRL web site by the end of this year. The new site will be easier to navigate and allow us to enter activity reports online. Dan has been impressed by the FCC's new special counsel for enforcement, Laura Smith. Ms. Smith spent two days at HQ in early March and like her predecessor, Riley

Holingsworth, she is committed to making the amateur community better. Otherwise, Dan doesn't expect much focus on Amateur Radio from the FCC until after the DTV transition which occurs on or before June 12. South Carolina SEC Charlie Miller, AE4UX was presented with the 2009 Roanoke Division Service Award.

### RALEIGH SCHOOL MAKES ARISS CONTACT

On November 17 the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society facilitated a successful contact between Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, aboard the International Space Station and students at Enloe Magnet High School in Raleigh. Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO, and Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, said Raleigh Amateur Radio Society members who mentored the Raleigh school gave talks to the students about how ham radio and the ARISS system worked; they also explained how satellite and ISS Amateur Radio contacts work regard-

ing orbital passes. "We focused on the ham radio fact that this was a line-of-sight radio contact, and from 200 miles up, the International Space Station was line-of-sight to the Earth station for less than 10 minutes," Pearce said. The contact went off without a hitch, with students asking many interesting questions. A video of the contact is available from KN4AQ at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6d3D66DbB>  
Eo. My apologies for failing to note this significant event in my December newsletter.

### CLEVELAND COUNTY ARES ACTIVATED DURING WINTER STORM

The winter storm that occurred on March 1 & 2 caused traffic accidents and stranded many motorists on I-85 near Kings Mountain and Grover. Cleveland County Emergency Management and Red Cross opened a shelter which eventually housed 70 people. Cleveland County ARES members provided communications between the shelter, EOC, Red Cross Headquarters and also helped provide 4WD transportation.

### STATE ARES MEETING SCHEDULE FOR MAY 2

The first state ARES meeting of the year is scheduled for May 2 at the state EOC in Raleigh. An agenda will be included in next month's newsletter, but mark your calendars! Another statewide ARES meeting will be held in the western part of the state in the fall.

Tim Slay, N4IB was on public radio station WNCW discussing Amateur Radio and the Charlotte Hamfest.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 11: NC State Convention, Raleigh
- April 18: Catawba Valley Hamfest, Morganton
- April 18: Azalea Coast ARC Swapfest, Hampstead
- April 24-25: Southeast VHF Society Conference, Charlotte
- May 2: State ARES Meeting, Raleigh
- May 9: Rockingham County Swapfest, Reidsville
- May 23: DurHAMfest, Bahama

## VEC Report

Up grades and new hams March 21, 2009

DAVID E BOST KE4LCA Extra

VENUS B BAITY KJ4KIT General

ERIC S GARRETT KJ4KOO Tech

DAVID M STEELE KJ4KOP Tech

WESLEY N WILSON KJ4KOQ Tech

Thanks to Billy Stewart, WA4PVI for this report and his work .

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## Roster Changes/Additions

James Earnhardt, K4JME, email [k4jme@carolina.rr.com](mailto:k4jme@carolina.rr.com)

Luke Hamity, KK4LH, dues 2009

Larry Wright, N4QY, email [n4qy@att.net](mailto:n4qy@att.net)

Jonathan Garrison, KG4JZR, email [kg4jzr@yahoo.net](mailto:kg4jzr@yahoo.net)

Terence wallace, email [tcwallace6@yahoo.net](mailto:tcwallace6@yahoo.net)

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"Harold!!! What are you doing wasting money on more USELESS radio equipment!!!"