

# HARMONICS



THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY  
OCTOBER 2009 -Issue 281



## SET Postponed

*Some of you probably got a copy of this earlier.  
I'm including it just in case.*

After some thinking, some advise, and a whole lot of reading, I am going to postpone the SET test for Saturday 3 Oct 09 until sometime later in the month.

As long as the test is done between now and December, we can get credit for it, and I am hoping to accomplish a few more things when we do it than just serving one agency.

While the scenario I have planned is good in thought, It will take a few more folks as well as a working repeater that I hope to hook up to emergency power so that we can get as many points for this as possible.

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Thank you for your patience while things get worked out, I will keep you all informed as things develop.

Respectfully,

--  
Gary H. Lang  
K4GHL (@) ARRL.NET  
Rowan County ARES EC

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## September Minutes

Rowan Amateur Society N4UH – W4EXU  
September 14, 2009

The RARS met Monday, September 14, 2009 at 7:00 PM at Rufty- Homes Senior Center. Present: Tommy Wood, **N4YZ**, President; Ralph Brown, **WB4AQK**, Treasurer; Bud Bost, **K4AGO**; Ralph Mowery, **KU4PT**; Frank Waring, **AF4D**; Wayne Ashworth, **W4HG**; Nona Morris, **KA4NHL**, Secretary; Billy Stewart, **WA4PVI**; Carolyn Stewart, **WA4LPN**; Derwood Puckett, **K4PXU**; Clarence Beaver, **K4SHU**; Dick Smith, **KI4HNX**; Gary H. Lang, **K4GML**; Don Grubb, **WA4BZO**; John Dwiggins, **N4QVM**.

Ralph Brown, **WB4AQK**, gave the financial report that is in the Harmonic. Started August with \$4,088.14, bottom line we wound up with \$4063.40 at the end of the month. We normally give \$25 to the fund when one of our members obit and Ralph remembered we had not done it for Bill Overman, **N4SNF**, and Ralph will do that tonight. Also after the hamfest, we make a \$100 donation to the Rufty-Homes Senior Center. We usually make a \$200. do-

nation for the year. Ralph Brown WB4AQK, made the motion to give a donation of \$100 to Rufty-Homes Senior Center and Wayne Ashworth, W4HG, made the second. The motion passed.

Report on the Skywarn classes. Had 31 people to show up, guessing at it, it was 45% amateur, 45% Red Cross, 10% fire service, had a great turn out. We are hoping to have another one Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> of November.

Tommie Wood, N4YZ, gave a some information on the Iditarod Race Tommie won. There is a club called "Great Outdoor Radio Club". It is for people Camping, Hiking, His portable is sitting in his camper in his front yard with a G5RV on a pole strapped behind my mobile home. 9 countries you could only contact each country in order starting in US, Canada, Alaska, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, & Greenland. This is the last time they are going to do it. Tommie got over 8000 points.

New Business – Tommie Wood said if there is anyone interest you can look it up on Route 66 on the air contest, there are 19 stations that are on the old Route 66, 18 are stationary stations and 1 is a mobile station. It runs Sept 12<sup>th</sup> thru the 20<sup>th</sup>. All are using One by One call.

There is now a new 440 repeater on the air 443.15 tone 136.5. Tower on Young's Mt. at Cleveland. Can get it good on walkie talkies, talk to Tommie or Wayne.

We need to start talking about our Christmas Party for December. Tommie Wood is going to speak to Debbie Suggs to cater again this year. Up coming December 14 at 6 PM for our Christmas Party. Bud Bost will be our entertainment with his Magic show.

Ralph Brown suggested a Fox Hunt after Saturday, 9-26-09 breakfast at the Checker Flag Restaurant. Which was great until everyone thought about the date and a few are not going to be in town. Tommie Wood is making a fox hunt transmitter, and hopes to have it finished in time for the fox hunt the next month.

**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

**October Meeting**

From Vice-president Wayne, W4HG, comes the following:

**Program subject:**  
**DVD of the FCC forum at the**  
**2009 Dayton Hamvention (one**  
**hour).**

Homebrew- Tommie Wood appointed Derwood Puckett and Larry Wright to make some Rules for the homebrew contest which will be held later this year.

Alison (Al) Siler, W4ZPA, passed away this month.

Having no further business, the program on ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) was given by Gary Lang, K4GML. Gary is the EC, Emergency Coordinator for Rowan County. ARES is a group of Amateurs to help where no other help is available. FEMA can be obtained on line (Training.FEMA.Gov) for self-study and training and when completed a PDF file will be sent to you. Rowan County is in Section 11 of the ARES hierarchy. There are 15 Red Cross Shelters in Rowan County.

Oct 3, 2009 is a SET Drill.

Bud Bost, K4AGO, made the motion to adjourn, second by Billy Stewart, WA4PVI. The motion passed.

Nona Morris, KA4NHL, Secretary

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### Financial Report

September 1 through September 30

**Brought forward** ..... \$ **4063.40**

**Income:**

Refresh. Donations ..... 13.07  
Dues ..... 10.00

**Total:** ..... \$**4086.47**

**Expenses:**

Refreshments ..... 12.98  
Memorial (**K4SNF**) ..... 25.00  
Contribution (Sr Ctr.) . . . . 100.00

**Total:** ..... \$**137.98**

**Balance:** ..... \$**3948.49**

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## Local Ham Honored

How many of you caught the article in the Oct. 5 Salisbury Post about Richard Jones (AKA Dick, **KB4QE**), being honored with "special recognition for years of dedication to bluegrass and old-time music.

Dick, hasn't been to faithful recently to club meetings but at least until this year was always paid up in dues, even when he was spending time in the west and Alaska.

I'm sure many of you will remember his entertaining with his music and stories of "The Yukon Rat" at a club Christmas dinner a few years ago.

Next time you are out at some historical event at The Old Stone House, or any where else around the county and hear good banjo, guitar, and mouth harp music being played, look around for Dick. He'll probably be in the band.

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## Changes in November Sweepstakes reporting

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest Manager Ken Adams, K5KA, said he and the ARRL Contest Branch intend to "dramatically reduce the timeframe for producing results that are available to all ARRL Sweepstakes participants." Currently, Sweepstakes results are published six months after the contest has taken place.

"We would like to make the 2009 ARRL Sweepstakes final results available on the Web in 60 days in the form of a PDF file," he said. This PDF would simply be the scores in each category -- full write-ups and detailed analysis of the Sweepstakes contest would still appear in QST and on the Web at a later time."

To meet this aggressive schedule, Adams said that the log submission deadline will be reduced from 30 days to 15 days. For the 2009 Sweepstakes, the deadline for CW Sweepstakes logs will be 0300

UTC on Monday, November 23, 2009. The deadline for the Phone Sweepstakes will be 0300 UTC on Monday, December 7, 2009.

In 2008, the ARRL Contest Branch received more than 300 paper logs for the Sweepstakes contests. These paper logs were converted to Cabrillo format by a dedicated, yet small, group of volunteers. This took several hundred person-hours of time."

"I am asking that every club have a special project and meeting this year to insure that 100 percent of their members submit Cabrillo logs for Sweepstakes. If you have club members who don't have computers, please form your own volunteer teams to convert their logs after the contest. This would be a great excuse for a big post-Sweepstakes club pizza party, combining data entry with club camaraderie."

"Numerous software contest loggers exist for Windows and DOS, including the free packages CT <<http://www.k1ea.com/>> and N1MM <<http://pages.ctime.net/n1mm/>>," he said. Entrants are also able to manually convert their own paper logs to a Cabrillo log at the WA7BNM Cabrillo Web site" <[http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/arrlsscw\\_cab.php](http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/arrlsscw_cab.php)>.

"With every contesters help, we can achieve this goal of dramatically reducing the time between contest and results. Thank you for your continued participation and help with the ARRL November Sweepstakes, the greatest domestic contest out there."

*Editor's note: The club used to have a pretty good turn out in a club contesting in the Sweepstakes. If we got all those who worked at FD this year to enter and use their contacts for the club score, we ought to do pretty good. Shall we try?*



## South African Satellite

After SumbandilaSat is fully commissioned, the repeater will be activated with an uplink at 145.880 MHz and a downlink at 435.350 MHz; there will also be a voice beacon at 435.300 MHz. The transpon-

der mode will be controlled by a CTCSS tone on the uplink frequency. The CTCSS tone frequencies have yet to be announced.



## Section Manager's Rpt.

The fall state ARES meeting will be held on Saturday, October 17 from 9:30am to 12:30pm in the Health Sciences Building at Western Piedmont Community College, 1001 Burkemont Ave., Morganton. The college is off exit 103 on I-40. Parking is available in Parking Lot 1, near the Sam Ervin Library. Talk-in will be on the 147.150MHz repeater. Section EC Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, will be providing an update on section ARES activities and Western Branch Assistant Section EC Paul Robinette, KD4OZI, will talk about work in the Western Branch. Central Branch Assistant Section EC Tom Brown, N4TAB, will cover NC Emergency Management's new Winlink system. Former NC Section

Manager John Covington, W4CC, will present some preliminary results from the state digital study. Section Manager Tim Slay, N4IB, will provide an update from ARRL HQ and offer suggestions on the effective management of volunteers.

We will also have an open discussion on ARES membership training requirements. Lunch is planned afterwards at a pizza buffet restaurant across from the college. There's plenty of room so bring a friend or two and join us!

### SET 2009

You don't have to schedule your SET event on October 3.

SET-type activities held at anytime during the fall can be counted towards our section SET score. I know fall is a busy time for public service events and one NC club plans to combine their SET with a scheduled public service event - a great idea! You may download a copy of the 2009 SET reporting forms and read the SET Guidelines on the ARRL Web Page. See

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/setguide.html> for appropriate links. The reporting forms (Forms A, B, and C) are found at this specific address in Adobe PDF and Word formats:

[http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms/#ec\\_set](http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms/#ec_set).

## NC OFFICIAL OBSERVER EMAIL GROUP

North Carolina is fortunate to have a dedicated group of Official Observers, led by Section OO Coordinator Rick LaMonica, W4ZRA. The Official Observer program has been sponsored by the League for more than 50 years to help amateurs help each other. Official Observer appointees have assisted thousands of amateurs to maintain their transmitting equipment and operating procedures in compliance with the regulations.

The object of the OO program is to notify amateurs by mail of operating/technical irregularities before they come to the attention of the FCC. The OO is also the backbone of the Amateur Auxiliary to the FCC.

OOs are certified in the Auxiliary by passing a mandatory written examination. The OO performs his function by listening rather than transmitting, keeping an ear out for such things as frequency instability, harmonics, hum, key clicks, broad signals, distorted audio, over deviation, out-of-band operation, etc. The OO completes his task once the notification card is sent. In hard-core rules violations cases, OOs refer problems to higher echelons of the Amateur Auxiliary, and may be requested to gather evidence for possible FCC enforcement actions.

Official Observers in North Carolina now have access to a Yahoo discussion group that can be used to share information about OO activities in our section. If you are an Official Observer and you have not yet joined this group, contact the moderator, Cliff Fox, KU4GW, at cliffku4gw@gmail.com. If you're interested in becoming an Official Observer, contact Section OO Coordinator Rick, W4ZRA at w4zra@arrl.net.

## 2009 SCOUTING JAMBOREE ON THE AIR

The Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is an annual event in which Scouts all over the world speak to each other via amateur radio. Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared, via the radio waves.

Since 1958 when the first jamboree-on-the-Air was held, thousands of Scouts have "met" each other through this event. Not only is it fun to talk to Scouts from other parts of the world but it provides also a chance to find out about other countries and about Scouting elsewhere. Many contacts made during the

JOTA have resulted in penpals and links between scout troops that have lasted for many years. It's also one of our best opportunities to share our great hobby with enthusiastic young people.

This year's JOTA will be held October 17 and 18. Each station can choose its own operating hours within this period, so you may have time to also attend the state ARES meeting on Saturday morning! You can help both boy and girl scouts earn their radio merit badges during the event and we might get a few new hams too! Your club can contact a local girl or boy scout troop and offer to setup an operating event in the field, or invite a group to your home station. North Carolina also has a yahoo group for NCJOTA if anyone wishes to join: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NCJOTA/> and it's a good clearing house for those active with JOTA. More information is also available at <http://www.scout.org/jota>.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct 17: Scouting Jamboree on the Air
- Oct 17: State ARES meeting, Morganton

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## Feed back

### I need feed back!!

Various items of this newsletter are picked up from other sources, i.e. ARRL Letter, other club newsletters, , and various other online publications.

Let me know If what I'm sending out is something your regularly get yourself on line or anything like that.

Send me an email of your answers. Then I'll know if I'm wasting time and space with something you already know.

Thanks for your input.

Editor, WB4AQK