

# HARMONICS



THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

November 2009 -Issue 282



## October 12, 2009 Minutes

The RARS met Monday, October 12, 2009 at 7:00 PM at Rufty- Homes Senior Center. Present: Tommy Wood, **N4YZ**, President; Ralph Brown, **WB4AQK**, Treasurer; Ralph Mowery, **KU4PT**; Frank Waring, **AF4D**; Wayne Ashworth, **W4HG**; Nona Morris, **KA4NHL**, Secretary; Jim Morris, **KA4MPP**; Gary H. Lang, **K4GHL**; Larry Wright, **N4QY**; Nelson Large, **W4FQV**.

Wayne Ashworth, **W4HG**, made the motion, with Frank Waring, **AF4D** making the second, to accept the minutes as are in the Harmonic. The motion passed.

Old Business: First thing – Our home brew project for Christmas- Committee has not made a decision yet, will have time before next month. Just Basic General rules are all we need.

Tommie Wood, **N4YZ** talked to Debbie Suggs about catering our Christmas Party, 2 meats, 3 vegetables, desert and tea will be \$10.00 per person. \$10 a head if paid before the meeting night and \$12 the night of the meeting. Also DUES are due for 2010 which are \$5 per person. Ralph Brown **WB4AQK**, will try to telephone people who don't have email. There are about 8 who do not get email. Tommie Wood, **N4YZ** brought the certificate he received for working the Route 66 Contest where they have 19 stations on Route 66 for us to see.

New Business: Need volunteers for a nominating committee for officers for the next year. Tommie Wood, **N4YZ** appointed himself, Ralph Brown, **WB4AQK** and Wayne Ashworth; **W4HG**. Tommie said they would try to get together before the next meeting to come up with a slate of volunteers for the jobs. The next meeting will be Monday, November 9, 2009. Frank Waring, **KU4PT** reminded us it is the first meeting after Day Light Savings time, November 1st .

## Contents

October minutes . . . . .	1
Financial report . . . . .	3
Section Mgr. Rpt . . . . .	3
Sweepstakes . . . . .	4
Antenna deaths . . . . .	4
New OSCAR . . . . .	4

Gary Lang **K4GHL**, talked to Gary Hattaway, **KQ1E** about using KQ1E repeater for ARES net on Wednesday night at 8:30 PM. This is 145.410 repeater and tone 136.5, China Grove repeater. Gary Lang has been reading about ARES roots around North Carolina and they are sponsored by the local Radio clubs, with no idea what that means other than the club does what it can to assist ARES. Ralph Brown said the Club has always been a sponsor of ARES because we are an ARRL affiliated club. Gary Lang has checked since our last meeting that the Club does not have to have ICS 100, 200, 700, 800 to work in the Rowan Emergency Center. They prefer you have it so you would know what's going on. Wayne Thompson said if we had no one who does have it, he would do it. They want to have ap-

plications on file for everyone in case of an emergency. Tommie Wood is going to do some research on Winlink system (?). Ralph Brown, **WB4AQK** made a motion, Larry Wright, **N4QY** made the second, that we support ARES net on Wednesday night. The motion passed. Tommie is going to contact the web master and have him put the application on line for Rowan Co. and you can fill it out and send it to Gary Lang, **K4GHL@ARRL.net**.

Wayne Ashworth, **W4HG**, has the program tonight, DVD on "Daytona's Ham Convention", the new Amateur Radio Coordinator with the FCC first big public appearance. The program was the popular FCC Forum, held annually at the Dayton Hamvention. Laura Smith is the new Sheriff in town...replacing Riley Hollingsworth, **K4ZDH**, at the Commission's Special Council for Amateur Radio Enforcement. Though not an amateur as was Riley, Laura explained she was getting up to speed very quickly and that she came from the background of a father who was a police officer and an uncle who was a ham. Both she and William Cross, **W3TN**, from the FCC Mobility Division, answered questions on a number of subjects from amateurs in the room. She added that she does intend to become a ham, but not until she can successfully learn and practice CW.

Laura spoke of trying to get a handle on the backlog of questions, complaints, and suggestions that she inherited when she came on board in January and how she is working through the pile.

The FCC Forum has become a very popular part of the Hamvention and is looked forward to anxiously by many who try to get a feel for what the Commission may have in mind. (Thanks to Wayne for his help on this).

Tommie Wood, **N4YZ**, made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Nona Morris, **KA4NHL**. The motion passed.

Nona Morris, **KA4NHL**, Secretary  
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**Note AGN! Dues for 2010 are due in November.**

**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.

**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**

**November Meeting - Monday 9th.**

**The program will be a surprise, as I've not communicated with Wayne. He's been active on 17 meters , or so I've been told by a newly activated ham. I suspect he will bring some more info about Dayton.**

**We will also be voting on "Operator of the Year." There also should be a report on any changes in the "home-brew - kit building contest for this year.**

# Financial Report

October 1 - October 31

**Brought forward . . . . . \$3948.49**

**Income:**

Refresh. Donations . . . . . 13.50

'09 dues . . . . . 10.00

**Total . . . . . \$3971.99**

**Expenses:**

Meeting Refresh. . . . . 6.99

PO Box rent . . . . . 40.00

**Total . . . . . \$46.99**

**Balance: . . . . . \$3925.00**

**McGinnis Fund: . . . . . \$3778.76**

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## OCTOBER NC SECTION NEWS

### STATE ARES MEETING NOTES

We had a big turnout at the state ARES meeting in Morganton on October 17.

Thanks to Paul, KD4OZI and Michelle, KD4YTU for hosting the event. There was extensive discussion on the topic of training requirements for ARES members.

The federal government established the "National Incident Management System" in 2001 and local agencies are required to be compliant with NIMS in order to secure federal funding. Radio amateurs and other volunteers who work with emergency management need to be familiar with NIMS and FEMA has developed an online training program. An email poll of other section managers conducted by N4IB indicated that only a couple of sections have made NIMS training mandatory for ARES membership. Some sections have instituted two levels of members in ARES - "active" and "reserve" or other similar terms - to differentiate between trained and untrained members. Most sections still have no training requirements, although everyone is encouraged to complete NIMS training.

The consensus of the group at our meeting was to establish two levels of ARES membership. One tier would be for amateurs who had completed the NIMS training required by state emergency management. These "trained" members would be the first deployed and in most cases the only amateurs we could send to EOC's, shelters and other served agency locations. They would also be the only members eligible for a field assignment outside their local jurisdiction. ARES "untrained" members would be used for support assignments, such as serving as liaison stations, and we would encourage these ARES members to become fully trained as soon as possible. A key component of this plan is a section-wide ARES database that would include contact information for each member and allow us to track their training certifications.

Our Section Emergency Coordinator, Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, is working with the rest of your section ARES leadership on the details of this proposal, including the list of training requirements. All required training will be available online at no cost.

Former Section Manager John Covington, W4CC, presented a draft of his study on Packet Radio and North Carolina ARES. After further revision, his paper will be posted at [www.ncarrl.org](http://www.ncarrl.org). As you might expect, Winlink is already playing a key role in our section. Assistant SEC Tom Brown, N4TAB, discussed the Winlink system installed at the branch EOC's and the big success we had using Winlink during the earthquake drill in western North Carolina in June, as well as the SET earlier this month.

The state ARES meeting included discussion on the ICS-213 message form and how it should be used in ARES. We're still looking for leadership from ARRL on how to incorporate the ICS-213 form into NTS, but its use is required by state emergency management. We're using a modified ICS-213 form for handling messages on the Tarheel Emergency Net. An "operator's notes" section can be added to include information such as message number, precedence, check, and station of origin.

### ARRL

In September the ARRL board of directors approved a documented entitled "Commercialization of Amateur Radio: The Rules, The Risks, The Issues."

There has been a lot of discussion on this topic and I encourage everyone to review this document at:

http://www.arrl.org/news/files/ARRL\_AppropriateUseGuidelines.pdf. The bottom line is that employees of any organization cannot operate on the amateur frequencies on behalf of their employer, even if they are technically "off the clock". This includes hospital employees and paid emergency workers. The only exception is for teachers who use Amateur Radio in the classroom. This is not a change in the rules, but the FCC's Laura Smith reminded the amateur community of this long-standing regulation at the Dayton Hamfest this year. Our communities must continue to rely on volunteer radio amateurs to support their disaster communications needs.

**MEDIA HITS**

Look for pictures from the 2009 North Carolina Simulated Emergency Test in the December issue of CQ Magazine. Richard Fisher, KI6SN, is the public service editor for CQ and commented that he is "learning that North Carolina is one of the marquee areas for public service dedication. My congratulations to you all."

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

November 15: JARSFest, Benson, NC

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**Sweepstakes begins**

The longest-running domestic contest, the 76th ARRL November Sweepstakes begins this weekend.

Since 1930, this tradition in Amateur Radio has brought out all kinds of amateurs -- from seasoned contest veterans to neophytes, from long-time traffic handlers to operators new to HF.

The CW running of Sweepstakes takes place November 7-9, while the SSB weekend is November 21-23. Each event runs from 2100 UTC Saturday until 0300 UTC Monday. All entrants may operate 24 out of the 30 hours.

ARRL Letter Oct. 29, '09

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**Antenna deaths**

At approximately 8:40 PM on October 12, a man, woman and their 15 year old son were killed while trying to erect a 50 foot vertical antenna at the home of the man's mother, Barbara Tenn, KJ4KFF, in Palm Bay, Florida.

The deceased were not licensed amateurs. According to police reports, Melville Braham, 55, Anna Braham, 49, and their 15 year old son Anthony were putting up an antenna -- Tenn's second -- at night when they lost control of the antenna and it crashed into nearby overhead power lines. The impact sent 13,000 volts of electricity through the pole that the three were holding. A family friend, a 17 year old boy, was on the roof at the time of the accident. He and the couple's daughter, who was in the house at the time, were not injured.

ARRL Letter 10/15/09

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**SumbandilaSat Now OSCAR 67**

The South African Amateur Radio satellite SumbandilaSat has been officially designated SumbandilaSat-OSCAR 67, or simply OSCAR 67. Last weekend, the satellite was successfully activated and tested with a number of contacts made through its transponder, but it is not yet open for routine use. The satellite was launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on September 17. The main payload is a multi-spectral imager, but the satellite also carries an Amateur Radio component consisting of a 2 meter/70 cm FM repeater. 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 transponder mode will be controlled by a CTCSS tone on the uplink frequency. SumbandilaSat was sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology and was built at SunSpace in cooperation with the Stellenbosch University. In addition to the SA-AMSAT amateur module, the satellite carries Stellenbosch University's radiation experiment and software defined radio (SDR) project, an experiment from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and a VLF radio module from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.