

HARMONICS



THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

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From the Editor

Apologies for being so late and brief. Personal problems contributed to my innate ability to procrastinate when interest in another something grows (i.e. A new, for me, radio).

I did dig into the RARS archives, conveniently stored at my QTH, and came up with a program I call "From Out of the Past ... Shacks from Yesteryear."

I figured that this might interest the "Younger" members and that with their memory problems the "Old" members would also be interested. I'm gradually getting programs lined up. As a preview, for March, we have Frank, **AF4D**, to tell us all about "the Lindenblad Antenna", and for May Tommie, **N4YZ**, will be expounding on "How to use HRD (Ham Radio Deluxe)." And of course the June meeting will be all about Field Day and The Firecracker Hamfest. I'm still looking for volunteer(s) for April and later. How ABT you?

Contents



So be at the Senior center at 1900 o'clock local on this coming Monday for the usual coffee, donuts, and camaraderie.

Rick Jesse, **K4WZT**, (note new call), who by the way is burning up the airways with his (new to him) Icom 718, says he has guest coming with him.

You may know some of them so be sure to give them the "glad to have you hand."

We will hear minutes from January and the financial report then also.

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New Section Manager

The following Sec. Mgr. Report is N4IB, Tim Slay's last report as ARRL Section Manager. I've edited it somewhat. Editor

On December 10, Bill Morine, **N2COP**, our current Section Public Information Coordinator was declared the next NC Section Manager, running unopposed in the election. Bill's term begins April 1.

Bill was first licensed in 1970 as **WN1NOP** and got his General and his current call of **N2COP** in 1981 while living in New Jersey. Bill became an Extra in 2001. Bill is a life member of ARRL and QCWA. He and **XYL Pam** have two sons: Reid, **W4RSM**, and Grant, **W4GHM**, who was named Young Ham Of The Year in 2007.

Bill became an ARRL Public Information Officer (PIO) in 2000, was named

section Public Information Coordinator (PIC) in 2004, and became a member of ARRL's national Public Relations Committee in 2005. Bill has served

as chairman of the national PR committee since 2008. He is an Assistant EC in New Hanover County (Wilmington) and is also an ARRL and W4VEC Volunteer Examiner. Bill has worked extensively with Boy Scouts, and served on the staff of K2BSA at the 2001 and 2005 National Jamborees. He has helped over 1,800 Boy Scouts earn the Radio Merit badge, and has helped over 300 Scouts and Scout leaders nationally and in North Carolina get licensed. He served as the first chairman of CARES, the Carolinas Amateur Radio Emergency Services, from 2001 to 2006, implementing a 220 MHz network in southeastern North Carolina dedicated to public health traffic in disasters. Since 2008, he has served as head of communications for the Beach 2 Battleship triathlon, the only full iron distance (140.6 miles over 17 hours) triathlon in the Roanoke Division. Bill and his wife run an independent financial planning practice in Wilmington.

The North Carolina Section is fortunate to have so many strong leaders like Bill and I know you will join me in supporting him as he assumes his new and challenging responsibilities.

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS, CW WORKS!

Running our section SSB nets has been a big challenge since we returned to standard time. The 75m band frequently goes long soon after sunset and while Midwest stations boom in, it's hard to hear others in North Carolina. There have been several Tarheel nets with NO check-ins because of poor band conditions. So I've been occasionally checking into our section CW nets to get my "net fix" and polish my rusty fist. I've been amazed at how often I've listened to a struggling SSB net only to move to the CW frequencies to find a full net with perfectly readable stations from all over the state. It's a reminder of the effectiveness of CW even in poor conditions.

Joel Hallas, W1ZR, wrote an interesting article about CW for the May, 2007 QST. According to Joel, CW has major advantages over voice and other modes. CW has much lower bandwidth than SSB. How well we can receive a signal is specified by its signal to noise ratio (SNR). If we change our receive filter from 2.5kHz for voice to 250Hz for CW we reduce the received noise power by a factor of 10. That's equivalent to 2 S-units improvement in SNR. To gain the same SNR improvement with SSB we

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.

2010 Officers

President - Tommie Wood, N4YZ, 704-637-0024
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Vice-Pres. - Ralph Brown, WB4AQK, 704-636-5902
rkbrown5902@bellsouth.net

Secretary - Nona Morris, KA4NHL, 704-278-4960
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Treasurer - Frank Waring, AF4D, 704-857-9792
fwaring@ctc.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

would need to increase the transmit power from 100w to 1000w! With a higher SNR for CW, it's much easier to detect a weak CW signal than a weak voice signal. A good CW operator can copy code at or below the noise level. To copy voice it takes a minimum of 3-5 dB SNR. Because of the narrower bandwidth, five or more CW stations can fit into the space one SSB signal can fit and it's much easier to filter-out interference.

But what's this all mean? It means your CW signal can usually get through when your voice signal cannot. Your 100w CW transmitter can get to places that your neighbor's 1500w voice transmitter can't! So try one of our CW nets some night when you're struggling to copy the net control for an SSB net. A great place to start is with the Carolina Slow Net

(CSN), which meets nightly at PM on 3.571MHz. Helpful info on the net can be found at http://bellsouthpwp2.net/r/rg_burns/index.htm.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN NC

March 13-14: Charlotte Hamfest, Concord
April 3: NC State Convention, Raleigh Hamfest

(Thanks Tim, for a job well done! Editor)

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For DXers and others who like a Joke

Here is a site that almost anyone who knows a little radio vocabulary will enjoy.

Have you seen this site?

<http://fi-ni-report.blogspot.com/>

Or heard of the "Lost Island DX Society?"(LIDS) or the writer, Big Gun DXer.

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Did You Know?

Mention the Outer Banks and Inventors and of whom do you think? Of course, the Wright brothers!

But there was another inventor and innovator who came to the outer banks in the same year, 1900.

His name was Reginald Fessenden "the father of radio broadcasting".

The Canadian born Fessenden set up shop in Manteo to conduct radio radio experiments for the U. S. Weather Service. His experiments would eventually pave the way for broadcasting weather reports to ships at sea, helping them avoid coastal storms along the "graveyard of the Atlantic".

Marconi's 1896 wireless broadcast had sent telegraph signals only in short bursts. Fessenden was the first to develop a way to broadcast a continuous radio wave at a constant frequency. This allowed not just signals, but actual voices to be broadcast. He called his method "amplitude modulation" (AM). It allowed for transmitters and receivers to be "tuned" to precise signals and led to the birth of radio broadcasting.

Fessenden's experiments involved building 50-foot radio masts with transmitters and receivers in makeshift station houses at Manteo, Buxton and Cape Henry. The first signal was broadcast from Roanoke Island to Cape Henry, a distance of 110 miles. His Outer Banks work concluded in 1902 and helped lead to the first scheduled radio broadcast, from Brant Rock, Mass., on Christmas Day 1906. While Marconi is generally credited with inventing radio, Reginald Fessenden made it a commercial reality.

From the children's corner of the March 23, 2004 Charlotte Observer

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Computer Truth

I bought a new computer.

It came completely loaded—

Guaranteed for 90 days,

In 30 'twas outmoded.