

# HARMONICS



THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

March 2010 -Issue 286



## Minutes Feb. 8

Rowan Amateur Society N4UH – W4EXU

The RARS met Monday, February 8, 2010 at 7:00 PM at Rufty- Homes Senior Center. Present: Ralph Brown, **WB4AQK**, Vice President; Frank Waring, **AF4D**, Treasurer; Nona Morris, **KA4NHL**, Secretary; Jim Morris, **KA4MPP**; Gary H. Lang, **K4GHL**; Larry Wright, **N4QY**; Bud Bost, **K4AGO**; Derwood Puckett, **K4PXU**; Rick Jessee, **K4WZT**; Butch Edge, **W4WEE**; Ralph Mowery, **KU4PT**; Rick Beck, **KG4BAV**; H.C Ledbetter, **WB4IDQ**; Wayne Ashworth, **W4HG**; New members and visitors: James (Skip) Staton, **KB0ZNS**; Randy J Cress; K. D., **KG4YVL**; Ken Smith, **KJ4RNK**; Jeremy Hughes; Jim Winters, **KC2JXS**; Tim Foster; Glenn Stebe; TJ Brown; and Shirley Bignell.

Ralph Brown, **WB4AQK** read the minutes (Secretary did not get them in the Harmonics). The motion was made to approved the minutes by Wayne

Ashworth, **W4HG** and seconded by Larry Wright, **N4QY**. The motion passed.

Frank Waring **AF4D**, Treasurer, gave our Treasurers report: In January we started with \$3699.90, Income of 40.00 (Dues \$25 + refreshment \$15), Expenses of \$31 (Refreshment \$6. and Memorial of \$25 for Jack Barnhart, **W8ZRI** to Faithful Friends Animal Sanctuary, for Jack loved cats. Having a total of \$3708.90. Broken down to \$3378.95 in the Fred McGinnis Fund and the club \$329.95. Ralph Brown, **WB4AQK** explained about the Fred McGinnis account. The McGinnis money is used for seed money for the Hamfest, materials for the library, materials for classes and etc.

We have received a thank you from the Faithful Friends Animal Sanctuary; also from Jack Barnhart's family

New Business: Ralph Brown **WB4AQK**, said we have secured the our site for Field Day. Frank Waring has written the check to Sloan Park, for "Mt. Ulla Lions" site (which is the one on top of the hill to the left when you go into Sloan Park). Field Day will be the last full week end in June. Ralph Brown then explained to all our new members just what Field Day is. An exercise in emergency communications. A club will go out and set up a station and make as many contacts as possible any where and to any country and then all of this is sent in to the ARRL who prints out and put in their magazine and etc. Tommie Wood, **N4YZ**, is our leader in this, this year. We have supper on Saturday night and a pancake breakfast by Ralph Brown on Sunday morning.

Ralph Brown, **WB4AQK**, in another piece of new business, another activity the club has is a Ham-

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fest which is always the Saturday after July 4<sup>th</sup> or the Saturday before July 4<sup>th</sup> depending upon the year. Usually Ralph is in charge of organizing it and he needs any body here to give him input on the Flyers that we may or may not send out this year. Input is due anytime with in 2 weeks by phone or e-mail.

Ralph Brown, **WB4AQK**, announced he thought we had some people here tonight that wanted to join our club. The dues are \$5 a year which has been just \$5 for a lot of years. Ken Smith, **KJ4RNK**; KD, **KG4YVL**; Jeremy Hugh; Tim Foster; Jim Winters, **KC2JXS**; Skip Staton, **KB0ZNS**; Randy Cress, passed exam but does not have call sign yet. All were in favor of the new members to join. The motion was made for them to join. The motion passed.

Ralph Brown, **WB4AQK**, introduced the program tonight, a video, calling it "The Silent Key Ham Shacks". The ham shacks shown were: Fred McGinnis, **WD4KJZ**; Charley Welch, **W4ZBY**; Hobert Wise, **KE4S**; Barney Dodd, **W4BNU**; Curtis Crane, **K4CRP**; David Wray, **KB4HJQ**; Roland Gibbs, **KA4GMS**; Ed Murphy, **N4N0I**; and all are silent keys except Dan Kirk, **WB4RGS** and David Wray, **KB4HJQ**.

Larry Wright, **N4QY**, made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Gary Lang, **K4GHL**. The motion passed.

Nona Morris, **KA4NHL**, Secretary

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## Financial Report

February 2010

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| Balance 1 Feb          | \$ 3708.90 |
| Income                 |            |
| Dues                   | 50.00      |
| Refreshments donations | 16.64      |
| Expenses               |            |
| Refreshments           | 14.53      |
| Sloan Park             | 56.00      |
| Balance 28 Feb         | \$3705.01  |

Frank AF4D

**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  
 woodt@earthlink.net  
 Vice-Pres. - Ralph Brown, **WB4AQK**, 704-636-5902  
 rkbrown5902@bellsouth.net  
 Secretary - Nona Morris, **KA4NHL**, 704-278-4960  
 morrisnona@aol.com  
 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

## MARCH PROGRAM

**This should be an interesting one, especially for anyone still limited to VHF&UHF by what ever the means.**

**Treasurer Frank Waring will regale us with an explanation of the theory and construction of the "Lindenblad Antenna." Especially useful for working satellites.**

## Operating Events

### Rookie Roundup

The ARRL Rookie Roundup is designed to help newly licensed amateurs build their operating skills on HF. It is a contest specifically for those new to Amateur Radio, similar to the ARRL Novice Roundup that ran from 1952 until 1995. The Rookie Roundup brings the fun and Elmering of the old Novice Roundup into the 21st century. Three Rookie Roundups will be held each calendar year: SSB in April, RTTY in August and CW in December. Read more here

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/02/18/11349/?nc=1>

### Operating event

Wisconsin QSO Party--Phone,CW,Digital, from Mar 14, 1800Z to Mar 15, 0100Z. Bands (MHz): 3.5-28, 50+, Frequencies: CW 3.550, 7.050, 14.050; Phone 3.890, 7.230, 14.290, 21.350, 28.400. Exchange: WI county or S/P/C. Logs due: Apr 14. Rules at <http://www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm> Computer logs at <http://www.n3fjp.com/stateqso.htm>

### New ARRL digital schedule

Beginning Monday, March 15, W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, will alternate the digital modes used for its digital bulletin transmissions. While Baudot, PSK31 and MFSK16 still make up the digital mode complement, W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, says that the schedule will be altered to give more exposure to PSK31 and MFSK16. "Because of time constraints and the varying lengths of digital bulletins, there were many instances where only Baudot was used," he said. "With the new schedule, amateurs preferring either PSK31 or MFSK16 will no longer find these modes secondary." Read more here, <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2010/02/16/11343/?nc=1>.

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## How many operated NC QSO Party?

## Section Mgr report

### NEW NC PIC APPOINTED

As part of our plan to transition section leadership over to Bill Morine, **N2COP**, Bill has resigned as Section Public Information Coordinator. Bill has served as our PIC since 2003 and done an outstanding job. Bill will be a hard act to follow, but he has a worthy successor in Woody Woodward, **K3VSA**. Woody has served as our Public Information Officer in Orange County since 2005 and has also been president and vice president of the Orange County Radio Amateurs. Woody is secretary/treasurer of the Triangle ATV Association and a founding member of a new club dedicated to photonic communication called the "Carolina Flashers Photonics Group". Woody served in the Air Force and is retired from IBM.

We're fortunate to have Woody and a great team of Public Information Officers in the North Carolina section and I encourage you to take advantage of their offer to help publicize the activities of your clubs and ARES groups. PIOs are involved in the publicizing of amateur activities through local news media plus community activities; school programs; presentations to service clubs and community organizations; exhibits and demonstrations; and other efforts which create a positive public image for Amateur Radio. Good PR can help us recruit potential hams and improve public awareness of amateurs' service to their communities.

NC Section PIOs include Dewey Cook, **KJ4BYU**; Glenn Cox, **KE4BMY**; Melissa Hall, **W4RXG**; James Johnson, **KI4TAT**; Russell Nixon, **KF4WXD**; Gary Pearce, **KN4AQ**; Paul Robinette, **KD4OZI**; Randy Ross, **KI4ZJI**; Tom Swing, **KG4ZOI**; and Dave Wentzel, **KD4ITI**

### STATE ARES MEETING -- APRIL 24

The preliminary date for our next state ARES meeting is April 24 in Raleigh. Our Section Emergency Coordinator, Bernie Nobles, **WA4MOK**, and his staff are working on an interesting and informative agenda, so mark your calendar!

## NEW ARRL VOLUNTEER COUNSEL

Thanks to Clay County's Larry Ford, **KG4GPJ**, for offering to serve as an ARRL Volunteer Counsel. Larry is active in ARES activities and you'll often hear him as NCS for the Tarheel Emergency Net. Larry is a graduate of the University Of North Carolina School Of Law and was admitted to the North Carolina State Bar in 1976. Larry has practiced in Hendersonville and Charlotte and now lives in Hayesville.

The ARRL's Volunteer Counsel (VC) Program has several goals. It was developed to provide a better means of tracking and, when necessary, opposing local ordinances and statutes that might have a detrimental effect on the Amateur Radio Service and League members. The second goal is to compile and maintain an up-to-date list of attorneys capable of representing amateurs involved in antenna or RFI disputes. Amateurs who need the services of an attorney in their area to deal with local opposition to their radio activities frequently call Headquarters. The League does not expect a VC to represent an amateur free of charge. When HQ makes referrals, the point is made that VCs make their living practicing law and amateurs should not expect free or reduced cost legal representation unless it is at the discretion of the VC. Volunteer Counsels are asked, however, to provide an initial consultation gratis so that the amateur may knowledgeably decide what further steps to take.

## PREVIEW -- ROANOKE DIVISION CONVENTION

This year the Charlotte Hamfest is hosting the ARRL Roanoke Division Convention. The convention will be held March 13 and 14 at the Cabarrus Arena and Events Center, 4751 Hwy 49, Concord. The doors are open from 8:30 am to 5:00pm on Saturday and 9:00am to 1:00pm on Sunday. VE exams will begin at 12:30pm on Saturday. Pre-registration tickets are \$7 and admission at the door is \$10. The ARRL forum will be held on Saturday and feature ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, as keynote speaker. Your ARRL section and division leaders will also be on hand in the ARRL booth, so stop by for an eyeball QSO!

## Repeater Etiquette

*This is an article given me by an astute new ham who has been listening on the VHF and UHF frequencies and commented that maybe some of the people using repeaters around here needed to learn some good operating methods. We all probably can profit from review. Editor*

### Starting a QSO via a directed call.

There are two main ways by which a QSO can begin, one is via a directed call and one is via monitoring. A directed call is where one amateur calls another amateur individually, such as "N3XYZ from K3ABC". In such a case, K3ABC is looking for one particular individual, N3XYZ. It generally is not an invitation for anyone other than N3XYZ to return the call. If N3XYZ doesn't answer the call, K3ABC may just clear off by saying "K3ABC clear", or may clear and listen for other calls by saying "K3ABC clear and listening". The "and listening" or "and monitoring" implies they are interested in hanging around to QSO with anyone else who might be listening at that time. "Listening" and "monitoring" don't mean you are listening to somebody else's conversation, they mean you are listening for other people who may want to call you to start a new QSO. Likewise, just saying your call by itself with nothing following it is meaningless. If you were to say "N3XYZ", people listening wouldn't know if that means you were monitoring for calls, whether you were testing, or whether they missed the callsign of a party you were calling. Be concise, but be complete.

### Starting a QSO via a monitoring call.

If the repeater is not in use, simply stating your callsign followed by "listening" or "monitoring" implies that you are listening to the repeater and are interested in having a QSO with anyone else. Calling CQ on a repeater is generally not common, a simple "N3XYZ listening" will suffice. There is no need to repeat the "listening" message over and over again as you might do when calling CQ on HF. Once every few minutes should be more than sufficient, and if someone hasn't answered after a few tries, it probably means there is nobody around. If someone is listening and wants to QSO, they will answer back. Avoid things like "is anybody out there" or "is there anybody around on frequency"; it sounds like a bad sci-fi movie. *To be continued*