

HARMONICS



THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

November 2017 - Issue 374



50 YEARS!!!!

In celebration here are the earliest record I could find on the origin of the present Rowan Amateur Radio Society. (Copied as exactly as possible)

Oct. 9, 1967

Members present

KD4CDZ	W4BNU
K4PXU	K4GHR
K4DFI	K4YYJ
WA4ADB	K4SHU
K4SNF	

A Name was decided on for new club
It will be Rowan Amateur Radio Society

Meeting place SALISBURY City HALL

A committee called on to draw up bylaws
Bill Overman chairman J. C. & Derwood to serve

It was thought that a 75 meter and a 2 meter
Rig would be needed

Bill Paris made motion to buy a HW12 and
make monthly payments from donations from
members

Motion passed to buy HW12 and \$30.00 was
collected

Bill Hill offered money for Rig to be paid
back as money was collected

K4SHU was to order Overman to build power
supply Torrence to build Rig

*From Editor: There was no indication of the note
taker and I know the use always of the capital "A"
and sometimes the "L" stands out in this typed ver-
sion. The original is very clearly printed and after a
secretary was elected things were different. Most of
the time it was all capitals. Maybe K4DFI, K4CDZ,
presently W4HG, or K4PXU may remember.*

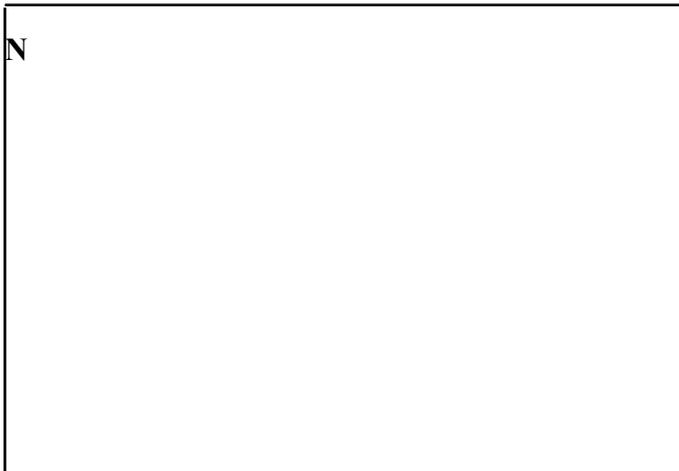
*Now that I think back, when I was taught the
code, along with it was training on using all caps.*

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From the President

Thanks to Mark, WG8Y, our President and
Leader, I usually have something "Radio Active to
report each month. This one is no different. He sent
me a report on some operating he did recently.

Contents



Peanut Powered Sprint

Hi all, Mark, WG8Y here. I recently worked a QRP sprint called the Peanut Powered Sprint and thought some of the gang might be interested in hearing about it. First off it's only 2 hours long. Which is good. It went from 4 PM till 6 PM local time or 2000 to 2200 Zulu on a Sunday afternoon.

There are 2 basic categories. One for portable ops. And one for those that want to stay in the shack and operate. The in shack guys could run more than 5 watts if they wanted but the portable stations were to run 5 watts or down to 1 watt. I was in the 5 watt class.

Since setting up on my back patio was considered Portable, as long as you use a temporary antenna, that's what I decided to do.

Well since I had to use a temporary antenna I decided to build one. We were allowed to use 15,20,& 40 meter bands for the Sprint so I needed something that would cover those bands. I decided a light weight 10 thru 40 meter OCFD, **O**ff **C**enter **F**ed **D**ipole, would cover those bands and be handy for other qrp outings.

I built a low power dual core 4-1 current balun. Used a couple T-106 cores and some wire out of the junk box. A little solder and it checked out great. One problem. No suitable container for the balun. Looking around I spotted a lid off of, of all things a Peanut Butter Jar on the workbench. I use them as pieces & parts holders. I held it next to the balun and said Why not! It was a Peanut Powered Sprint. After drilling a few holes, some wire ties and an old piece of RG-58 it was done. I used Wireman no. 26 wire for the antenna. Not very pretty but hey, after a little tweaking the SWR was great on 20 &

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 Rowan Rescue Squad's building at 1140 Julian Road

2017 Officers

President - Mark Kelner, WG8Y, 704-209-1369
markwg8y@yahoo.com

Vice President - Doug Spriggs, W4DCS, 704-762-0192
d.spriggs@carolina.rr.com

Secretary - Mike Vogle, NT4N, 336-149-6427
nt4n@msn.com

Treasurer - Frank Waring, AF4D, 704-857-9792
AF4D@arrl.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, rkbrown5902@bellsouth.net

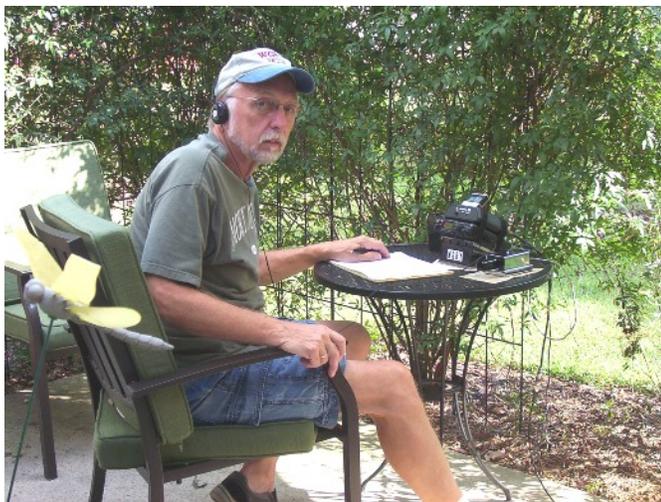
On the web

www.RowanARS.org

40 and a bit over 2 -1 on 15 M. Tuner could take care of that. Turns out I didn't have to worry about 15 meters.



Come Sunday afternoon, in true spirit of the rules, being portable, I didn't put the antenna up till an hour before the Sprint. Got my magic rock out and caught a branch app 20 ft up in a tree near the patio. Pulled up the antenna, got ends up app. 10 ft. Then ran another chunk of RG-58 over to the patio. Hooked up the FT-817 and it was about time to play some Low power fun.



Right at the start on 40m I worked K1RF in Ct. with a nice signal. Then nothing. Went to 20M and the fun really started. Remember, everyone is running 5 watts or less. Every

couple minutes I worked a new state. Worked Alabama, Mississippi, Minnesota, Idaho, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Georgia, Missouri, Virginia, Alabama, Kentucky another Minnesota,. By now I had switched back to 40M and had a pipeline into Georgia! I worked 9 more GA Stations with Pennsylvania, South Carolina and my Brother in Ohio, N8DPD, sneaking in there to wind up a fun 2 hours. Never heard a peep on 15 meters.

I didn't set the world on fire with my Peanut Powered setup but it was a fun, relaxing 2 hours spent playing Radio. I worked 29 contacts in 17 States and had a blast.

Anyone for a little low powered CW fun ?
73 Mark WG8Y

Now doesn't that just make you want to get out and try something new? Editor

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Ham Happenings

From: ARRL Contest Update, Nov. 1

Don't forget that the North American SSB Sprint has been rescheduled to November 12, 0000-0359 UTC. This four-hour contest can be a real blast. Check the website for more information and helpful hints.

There are many places in the developing world that don't have accurate weather monitoring for rainfall. Many of these locations do have cellular phone infrastructure, normally consisting of towers connected to one another via radio links. It turns out that rainfall causes variation in the signal strength of the links between the towers, which can be used to estimate rainfall.

Jim, K9YC, writes: "Three Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) members, KU6F, WW6D, and WX6B, lost their homes in the first hours of the Tubbs fire (northern part of Santa Rosa). All are

safe, and both WX6B and KU6F were able to escape with their animals. A few days ago, KE1B and W6NN had to evacuate when the Bear fire threatened their home (in Santa Cruz County, about 15 miles NE of me), but are now back home after fire-fighters contained the fire in their direction."

Also destroyed in the Tubbs fire were historical archives related to the early days of the Hewlett Packard company.

There may have been a Solar Eclipse fish propagation effect. Stephen, W9SK, writing about a solar eclipse side effect: "My next-door neighbor was on a salmon fishing expedition boat at the mouth of the Columbia River during the eclipse. When the shadow swept over them they started catching fish left and right, including in his case a 30 lb King. Nothing before and nothing after. They theorized the baitfish went to the surface as it darkened and followed it. Okay, nothing to do with ham radio, sorry, back to propagation effects." (Stephen, W9SK)

The General Availability release of WSJT-X Version 1.8.0 is ready! Check the WSJT-X downloads page for the version appropriate for your computer.

Free Online Morse Training for Young Hams

The CW Operator's Club (CW OPS) is expanding its very successful CW Academy Program to include a special opportunity for hams between age 11 and 19 to learn Morse Code in free online classes with hams their own age. Students will be grouped into classes with other hams in their age range (11-13, 14-16, 17-19) and in their time zone for online CW training over SKYPE.

In addition to training in Morse Code, CW OPS will provide volunteers in the student's area to help him/her with antenna and radio station installation when possible. Additionally, a program to provide free loaner HF stations to students in the program is also being developed.

Hams in the US or Canada aged 11 to 19 who are interested in this opportunity should register via e-mail to K6RB58@gmail.com with the subject line YOUTH CWA between 15 November and 15 December 2017. Classes will begin in January 2018. The e-mail should include:

- First & Last Name

- Callsign and current license class
- Age
- Time Zone
- E-mail address
- Telephone Number

CW Ops will continue to offer its free three stage online CW Academy to hams over age 19 without change to that established program. Full details can be found on www.cwops.org

Tardy Explanation

By Ralph, WB4AQK

Because of "computer Problems" (I couldn't get it to come on), This issue was about half written the weekend of last weekend ... so I couldn't finish it and get it sent to members around the middle of the week.

I finally solved the problem and decided to send it out as is.

One item from the meeting I'm adding because it is important.

The RARS Christmas Party will be held at the next meeting and Tommie, N4YZ will need a number to give to the caterer. So if you plan to come, be sure to let him know how many of you there will be. Phone 704 637 0024, email: n4yz@carolinas.rr.com

The cost is \$10 per person, paid at the door, (unless you want to get it to Frank, AF4D by some other means). The time will be 6:00 instead of 8:00.