

HARMONICS



THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
September 2019 - Issue 395



Meeting Attendance Monday August 12, 2019

W4JNG	Neal Goodman
W4CZJ	Michael Culbreth
K4PM	Rick Wallace
W4YF	Jim Winters
KK4ZPG	Arnold Moss
KN4WAU	Joe Shore <-- New Callsign
W4HG	Wayne Ashworth
KM4STA	Aaron Cameron
KN4EKG	Lloyd Nickerson
W4PID	Dick Hattaway
WW4TED	Ted McCachren
KU4PT	Ralph Mowery
N4YZ	Tommie Wood
K4MV	Mark Scott
KB0ZNS	Skip Staton
WG8Y	Mark Kelner
KA2NRW	Larry Zieglmeier

Contents

1. Meeting Minutes and Attendance
2. Volunteer Examiner (VE) Information
3. Uncle Henry N4UH
4. Presidents Corner
5. DX Operations
6. Request for Scouting Help , ARRL Listed Hamfests & Contests

Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2019

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.
2. July 2019 meeting minutes were not reviewed or approved because they were not available. (The July meeting was our BBQ social at Rufty-Holmes.)
3. Treasurers report was approved.
4. The Firecracker Hamfest resulted in a positive gain to the club general fund.
5. The club Christmas Party needs a volunteer to coordinate the event.
6. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to authorize Aaron Cameron to lease two helium tanks at a cost of ~\$100 per year, along with the cost to fill the tanks when needed, in order to support club balloon launch activities.
7. The club roster will be "cleaned up" to remove names of those who have not paid dues, however, names will remain on the email list for the Harmonics club newsletter. There was some discussion about whether the grace period for paying dues should be the end of March or the Firecracker Hamfest. The board will discuss and make a decision.
8. In addition to the normal email distribution of Harmonics, a copy will be made available on our website minus any personal information.
9. Dick Hattaway solicited the group to determine the level of interest in a club project to build a code practice tutor. While the cost is not yet known, it is expected to be ~\$40. Six members expressed interest so Dick will get more data for next month's meeting.

- 10. There were two program topics covered during the meeting, both presented by Mark Scott: 1) Amateur Radio Podcasts; and, 2) RARS survey results.
- 11. Dick Hattaway will contact Doug Spriggs about presenting "Building a 'Class E' transmitter" as our September program. If he is unable to do so, Dick Hattaway will present "Amateur Radio Beacons". Meeting closed at 8:28 pm.

Minutes Supplied by Mark Scott K4MV

The Rowan Amateur Radio Society
P. O. Box 1112
Granite Quarry, NC 28072

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

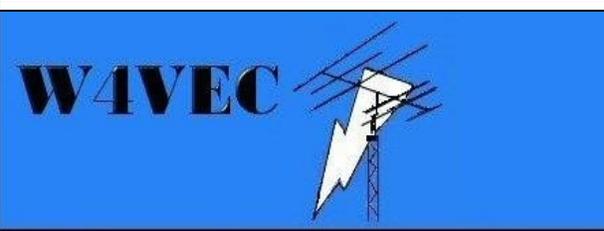
Regular meetings are held on the second Monday night of the month at 7:00 PM at the Rowan Rescue Squad's building at 1140 Julian Road, Salisbury, NC 28146

2019 Officers

President - Mark Scott, K4M
Vice President - Dick Hattaway, W4PID
Secretary - Andy Kaufman, KB2AZG
Treasurer - Neal Goodman, W4JNG

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 - Jim Winters
On the web: www.RowanARS.org



Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

The next Testing Session will be:
Saturday September 14, 2019 at 9:30am

Location:
Bostian Heights Fire Department
Community Room
8211 Old Concord Road
Salisbury, NC 28146

To upgrade please bring a copy of your existing license for us to file with your application, the original license, a photo ID, and \$12 testing fee. People looking to get a license for the first time please bring 2 forms of ID (1 should be a photo ID) and the \$12 testing fee.

From the FCC:
The Federal Communications Commission will be changing the way new amateur radio applicants register for a FCC Registration Number (FRN). New applicants, without a FRN, are encourage to first create a FCC User ID and FRN, before taking their examination. Providing the FRN, with your examination application will allow the Volunteer Exam Coordinators or Commercial Operator License Examination Manager to submit your application, with this information. You will be able to use your FRN to use ULS to search the status of your application, with the FCC. To aid in this process, below is a step-by-step video guide that will walk through the steps of creating a FCC User ID and FRN. This is the address to see a tutorial on the process. <http://fcc.gov/rofrn>

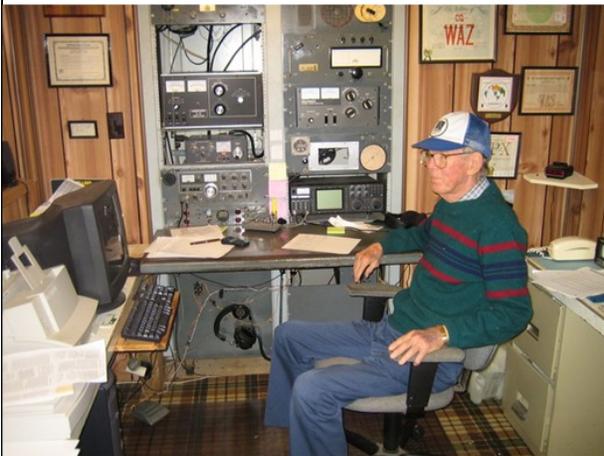
Next Months Program

Doug Spriggs presenting a program on
Building a 'Class E' transmitter

Uncle Henry N4UH

For many of our new members I thought it might be informative to give you some background on Henry Elwell, the outstanding amateur who left us far too soon, but will long be remembered by his call, N4UH, which the club was fortunate to obtain in his memory. I'm much indebted to his daughter Barb and to Ralph, WA4AQK, for much of the information. Henry wrote a lot of his own biography for the former Tri-State Amateur Radio Club newsletter and it was repeated in an earlier issue (May 2007) of the *Harmonics*. The Tri-State club no longer exists, but fortunately the words do.

Like many of a certain age Henry got the radio bug early in life. Growing up in New Jersey in the 1920s he and a friend built a two tube receiver and were fascinated with signals that came to them from across the Atlantic. That fascination led to getting his first license (W2JKH) in February



1936 after a visit to the Federal Radio Commission (the predecessor of the FCC) office in New York City. Henry quickly developed a love for CW and rapidly became quite proficient in the mode. He kept that fascination for the rest of his career, although other modes were enjoyed as well.

Armed with a BS in EE Henry worked for the Weston Electrical Instrument Company until WWII came and all amateur operations ceased following Pearl Harbor. Henry joined the Navy in March 1942 as an Ensign, studied radar, and was first posted to Navy Patrol Squadrons operating out of Midway Island with an area covering Hawaii to near New Guinea. After the war, Henry was reassigned to the Bureau of Aeronautics in Washington. His military career ended with a promotion to Lieutenant.

During the war a storybook correspondence with

Millicent Livingstone blossomed and they were married in the fall of 1946. The soon-to-be Mrs. Elwell was first a friend of Henry's younger sister, who suggested a correspondence with Henry whilst he was stationed far away from home. Obviously that worked out perfectly.

Meanwhile after the war the FCC, in 1965, offered Extra Class amateurs an opportunity for a 1X2 call and Henry applied for and received W2MB. Millicent after they moved to Rowan became KA4ECM, saying getting her own licence provided a bit of peace around the house.

The N4UH amateur career was well-rounded as Henry wrote articles for *CQ* magazine, *73*, *Ham Radio*, and *Communications Quarterly*.



On the operating side, Henry had a keen interest in DXing and contesting, winning a number of awards including 5BDXCC

and first place in the state as a single operator in the IARU HF World Championship in 2007. His early equipment was almost entirely home built for many years, including a 4-1000 linear in the sixties, until the advent of SSB and commercial equipment became more generally available.

We were the beneficiaries of Henry's expertise after he moved to Cleveland NC where he retired to a 22 acre antenna farm which also contained a retirement QTH that Millicent designed.

She got the house...he got the (antenna) farm, and quite a farm it was with everything from rhombics to beams. Among the accolades were 132 confirmed entities on 160m and 354 on all bands. This photo at the top is from a visit in October 2006 about 10 months before Henry became a SK.

Henry and I shared our love of the TenTec Orion transceiver and he many times showed me things this great rig could do that I was unaware of. Always a mentor, he was willing to share his vast knowledge with all of our club members. I chuckle at a time when Frank, AF4D, and I went out to help put one of his wire antennas back up after it came down in a storm. We had great success until Frank turned up a snake and the party ended pretty quickly.



In honor of Henry and Millicent, a plaque was erected in his antenna farm with thanks from the club and in appreciation for all he had done for amateur radio in Salisbury since moving here in 1977.

N4UH has a special meaning for the club as it reminds us of a great amateur and a fine gentleman.

-Wayne, W4HG-

Presidents Corner

At our August meeting I reviewed the results of the survey the club conducted earlier in the year. Among other things, one of my interpretations of the survey is the desire to have more help for new and less experienced Hams. As I've mentioned previously, 93% of our survey respondents said they had a General license or above. So, from a license class standpoint, one might think we have experienced club members, and we do, however, 61% said the club should focus on activities aimed at new or inexperienced Hams. The ARRL, our national organization, has recognized the importance of this, as well. Earlier this year the ARRL Board approved a Lifelong Learning Initiative. While this program will be designed for everyone with an interest in learning more about Amateur Radio, the initiative will initially focus on creating online learning opportunities for new Hams, a segment of the Amateur Radio community they believe is "desperately searching for educational and instructional resources". This is important enough to the ARRL Board that they have authorized funding and appointed a Lifelong Learning Manager, along with other staff members to support the program. I mention this because I believe the ARRL is

on the right path with this program and deserve our support. More information about their new program can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/lifelong-learning>.

For those of you that have been around Amateur Radio for many years, I'm sure you have noticed that activity on repeaters is down significantly from what it used to be, at least I certainly have. Like the upper HF bands during the depths of the solar cycle, the repeater seems dead. But, like the upper HF bands, they only seem dead because no one is talking, they are only listening. I know people are listening (but not using) our repeaters because I hear a "ker-chunk" of the repeater every once in a while. I also know people are listening because on the rare occasions someone announces that they are "listening" it's not that unusual for someone to respond. There are generally accepted practices for using repeaters, and this may be a topic some may find helpful as a club meeting presentation. Short of that, for your consideration, making your first transmission on a repeater is as simple as signing your call. For example, if the repeater is quiet, just say "K4MV", or more typically, "K4MV listening", to attract someone's attention. Someone interested in talking to you will call you after your initial transmission. Calling CQ on a repeater is not a generally accepted practice. To join a conversation in progress, transmit your call sign during a break between transmissions. The station that transmits next will usually acknowledge you. Don't use the word "break" to join a conversation -- unless you want to use the repeater to help in an emergency. If you want to call someone, and the repeater is not in use, just use both calls. For example, "W4PID, this is K4MV". And finally, while the use of Q-codes (e.g., QTH) is not unusual, in general "plain language" should be used on the repeater. Now that I've said all this, I would encourage those of you with VHF/UHF FM equipment to get on our repeaters more often, particularly the 145.410 machine. I know I've been part of the problem and have committed to get on more often when I'm in my car. As a reminder, we have two club repeaters; 145.410 with PL tone of 136.5 and 443.250 with PL tone 136.5. <https://www.rowanars.org/repeaters>

Mark
K4MV

DX Operations for August, 2019 By Dick Hattaway W4PID

Although I'd love to write a DX column for the newsletter, it turns out that the news is basically very stale by the time you get it. The DX world of today is a very rapidly changing beast, and impossible to track with a monthly NL. The following links will take you to multiple sources of information concerning DX activities.

<https://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

<https://dxheat.com/dxc/>

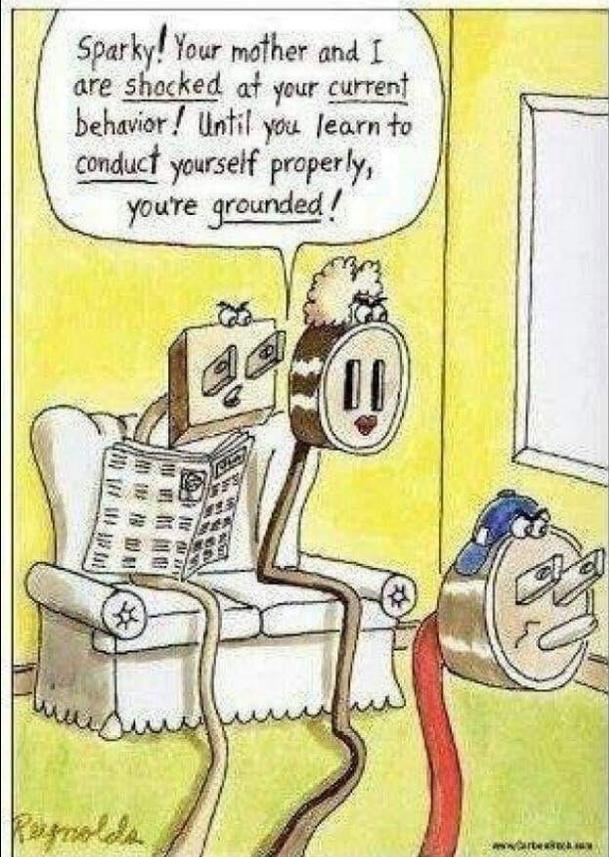
Upcoming DX opportunities include one to a rare IOTA, NA-112. This one is by Cezar Trifu, VE3LYC, who we plan on having as a guest for a club program in the fairly near future. It's not a big DXCC outing, since it counts as USA for that particular award, but its destination is a very difficult and rare island from the IOTA standpoint. Please see <http://K7TRI.weebly.com> for information on this trip. It's a short one, September 6 to 9.. and he should have a good signal on most all of the bands. Watch DXHeat and see if you can work him. His call will be K7TRI, and a neat picture is in his QRZ listing.

Ken, LA7GIA is set to go to Somalia during the last two weeks of September. His call will be 6O7O, and you can expect a very good signal from him. This is assuming his armored car gets him from the airport to his hotel, his personal armed guards do their job, and the guards that are hired to watch the antennas don't decide to take them for scrap value. See <https://www.la7gia.com/where-next/> Ken is a very adventuresome guy.

Since the bands have been horrible this summer, I have enjoyed playing around with DX on FT8, FT4, and JT9 'digital' modes. There are tons of stations that are 20 dB under the noise floor, it just takes a computer to dig out the calls. I am using an IC7300 and two dipole antennas. No amplifier, no tower, no huge yagi, and no beverage antennas for receive. The entire operation can be done with a \$35 Raspberry Pi computer running 'headless' (no monitor), any hand held pad that runs IOS or Android operating systems, and a free remote software package off the web. I am using an Ipad and RealVNC .. <https://www.realvnc.com> ..

And no, I have not forsaken CW for this mode. I still have had some really cool CW contacts, but it's been fun to experiment with software driven ham radio a bit. I have an article in the works that maybe encompasses a new viewpoint on the 'digital' ham world.

So get out your radios, get off the couch, and get ready for winter, because 40 and 80 (and probably 160) meters will become very popular in about a month. The lightning static will go away, and you can sit and chat with your buddies all over the globe on the 'longwave' bands.



Scouting Events In October

All;

There are a few BSA events that are coming up in October that we have a chance to promote Amateur Radio.

October 18-19 Cub scout Goldrush (JOTA weekend) Camp Barnhardt. Goldrush is a cub scout event on the same weekend as JOTA were it is expected over 1000+ Cub Scouts and parents at Camp Barnhardt. His will be a Saturday only event unless there are folks that would like to camp out on Saturday night.

October 25-26 Council Camporee, Camp Barnhardt, is expected to be a fairly elaborate event with involvement from SBI, National Guard, local Police and Fire departments, EMS and a number of various weapon demonstrations and shoots plus other various demonstrations. This event may be as large or larger than the Goldrush event. This event could have a special call sign assigned we will need to look into this.

It would be nice that we could cover all the events, but it may be too much for just one club, so I'm appealing to Cabarrus, Stanley and Rowan to see if anyone can commit to come out and show the scouts amateur radio at its best.

If anyone has contacts with UCARS (Union Co.) I would like to see if they would also like to assist also.

Please let me know if anyone can help out with any of the events so that I can forward the information on the event coordinators.

Thanks,

Jeff Parker

WA1WXL

ARRL Listed Hamfests

Rock Hill Hamfest

Date: 10/05/2019
Location: New Kirk Baptist Church
175 Museum Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730
Website: <http://www.ycars.org>
Sponsor: York County Amateur Radio
Society Club
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 147.030

W4NC Fall-Fest

Date: 10/12/2019
Location: Robinhood Road Baptist
Church
5422 Robin Hood Road
Winston-Salem, NC
Website: <http://W4NC.com>
Sponsor: Forsyth Amateur Radio
Club
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 145.47 (PL 100)

ARRL Listed Contests

September 2019
14-16 September VHF
21-22 10 GHz & Up - Round 2
21-22 EME - 2.3 GHz & Up

November 2019
2-4 Nov. Sweepstakes - CW
16-18 Nov. Sweepstakes - Phone
16-17 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz