

HARMONICS



THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
November 2019 - Issue 397



RARS ATTENDANCE 10/14/2019

- | | | |
|-----|--------|---------------------|
| 1. | W4JNG | Neal Goodman |
| 2. | W4YF | Jim Winters |
| 3. | AK4AN | Arnold Moss |
| 4. | KN4WAU | Joe Shore |
| 5. | WA4PVI | Billy Stewart |
| 6. | KJ4BKJ | Len Denton |
| 7. | KN4EKG | Lloyd Nickerson |
| 8. | W4HG | Wayne Ashworth |
| 9. | W4CZJ | Mike Culbreth |
| 10. | KU4PT | Ralph Mowery |
| 11. | K4MV | Mark Scott |
| 12. | KA4NRW | Larry Zieglmeier |
| 13. | KK4ZPI | Don Shupe |
| 14. | W4PID | Dick Hattaway |
| 15. | AF4D | Frank Waring |
| 16. | KN4VVQ | Jeremy T. Brown Sr. |
| 17. | KB0ZNS | J."Skip" Staton |
| 18. | KQ1E | Gary Hattaway |

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[Archive Pictures scattered throughout publication](#)

RARS MEETING MINUTES

- Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.
- September 2019 meeting minutes, that had been included in the previous Harmonics, were approved.
- Treasurers report was reviewed and approved.
- It was reported that Glenn Stebe, KK4APG, unexpectedly passed away two days before the meeting. Funeral arrangements were shared.
- The club Christmas Party still needs a volunteer to coordinate the event. If a volunteer is not found by the November meeting the Christmas party will be cancelled.
- A request was made for volunteers to make up a nominating committee for next year's club officers. This committee would solicit existing club officers for those who may be willing to continue serving next year, as well as identify other members who may be willing to serve. Since some existing club officers do not intend to run next year, it makes the work of a nominating committee particularly important. Per club bylaws, the nomination and election of the 2020 officers is scheduled for our December meeting. There were no volunteers for the nominating committee.
- Wayne Ashworth, W4HG, shared his thoughts about the importance of broad membership involvement beyond just attending meetings and the necessity to share the load in order for the club to stay healthy and continue to be an organization in which Hams want to be a part.
- There was interest expressed by several attendees about being able to attend other Amateur Radio Clubs in the area whose meetings also occur on the

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- the second Monday of the month. There was then discussion about moving the meeting to another day of the month and which would be best. It narrowed down to the fourth Monday or the month or any Tuesday of the month. Neal Goodman volunteered to check with the Rescue Squad to see what might be available.
- As part of the meeting program, each attendee introduced themselves and shared Amateur Radio activities they have participated in since the last meeting. Dick Hattaway then made a presentation on the NCDXF/IARU Beacon system.
- Meeting closed at 8:10 pm

Minutes Courtesy of Mark Scott K4MV

Passing of Glenn Stebe - KK4ZPG



Hiker dies on trail Oct 15, 2019

A 62-year-old experienced hiker took his last breaths on the Uwharrie Trail on Saturday. The man, Glenn Stebe, of Salisbury, was with other people at the time, one of whom was reportedly an EMT, who began CPR immediately according to reports.

The call for help came in shortly before 9 a.m., and Montgomery County Rescue Squad was dispatched immediately. Squad members train on the trails of the Uwharrie National Forest frequently and many of their members are very familiar with the trails, including trail runner Barry Wright. Wright assisted in getting the EMS crews to Stebe, who was about halfway up a steep portion of the Uwharrie Trail. One of the hikers with Stebe said he turned around and Stebe was on his knees and then suddenly collapsed. The group of seven to eight hikers had been on the trail for a couple of hours.

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

2019 Officers

President - Mark Scott, K4MV,
Vice President - Dick Hattaway, W4PID,
Secretary - Andy Kaufman, KB2AZG,
Treasurer - Neal Goodman, W4JNG,

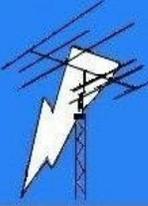
Harmonics, the club newsletter, is published mostly monthly. Submit articles, complaints, corrections, or comments to the club Editor. Material may be reprinted provided proper credit is given.

Editor - Jim Winters, W4YF
On the web: www.RowanARS.org

Next Months Program

Will be a video presentation from DX Engineering

W4VEC



Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

The next Testing
Session will be:

Saturday November 16, 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>



Clarence Beaver K4SHU—1968



Presidents Corner

A question that most organizations like ours deals with periodically is "how do we stay healthy as a club people want to be a part of?" I read somewhere that *"successful radio clubs are a joy to experience. Easy to spot, they are usually populated by enthusiastic, gung-ho members who are involved with a full agenda of interesting things. They are generally at the center of most Amateur Radio activities in town."* This makes a lot of sense to me and causes me to ask the question, "is the Rowan Amateur Radio Society a successful radio club" and, if not, what needs to happen in order to make it a successful radio club? As you think about this, I would suggest you consider the following potential attributes for a healthy and successful radio club:

- Members should be having fun. Are you having fun? Do you look forward to the club meeting and other club activities? If not, what needs to change to make club activities something that you look forward to and want to be a part of?
- Good clubs have good programs. This is arguably the most important part of club meetings. I think we have made progress in our club programs but could always be better. How could they be better?
- Publish a good newsletter. Jim is doing a great job with a newsletter that helps remind us when the next meeting is scheduled, since it comes out the week before, and serves as a way to pass information and give credit where credit is due.
- Radio clubs are cooperatives. We don't have a paid staff so everything must be done by us, the members. We are the brains and brawn behind every club activity. If there is one sad theme heard again and again at radio clubs, and RARS is no different, it is this: "We don't have enough volunteers. The same few people do all the work."
- Good clubs offer members a variety of activities. The club meeting is not a good substitute for fun things like Field Day, fox hunts, emergency drills, social nights, antenna parties, and picnics. The list could go on and on. Active clubs give their members many opportunities to participate in interesting things. With the exception of Field Day and the Firecracker Hamfest, our club meeting is the focus of our club activities. Our survey showed interest in other "non-meeting" activities but with only a small cadre of volunteers, there is not enough capacity to make them happen.

- Promote fellowship. Radio clubs do a wonderful service by helping individual hams meet others and promote mutual help. The tradition of Elmers (mentors) helping newcomers is a great opportunity to demonstrate fellowship. Could we do better promoting fellowship among our members?
- Recruit new members. Clubs must recruit new members to insure their survival. Members leave for various reasons, and without a plan to replace them, clubs will stagnate. Keeping the club name before the public and other hams should be a continuing effort. The Firecracker Hamfest is one way of doing this. What else should we be doing?
- I would argue that our most significant gap is a lack of volunteers to help with the various things that need to be done in our club to keep it healthy and make it successful. Volunteers, big and small, experienced or with little amateur radio experience, is what will enable our club to have good programs, a great newsletter, a variety of fun activities, mentoring and learning among our members, and continuing to grow our club as it becomes something people in our community want to be a part of because we are having fun. We each have something to contribute to make our club successful, some in small ways that may be behind the scenes, and others by leading larger activities. It doesn't really matter. All that matters is that you are involved in helping make the club successful and something you want to be a part of.
- Mark K4MV

The emotional support dog after I get done telling it my problems.



DX Operations for November, 2019

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/>

Well, my review of the DXpetition site I visited will have to wait for next month. I have been really busy on the radio when I have a chance, and have been involved in lots of grandkids soccer games, old high school reunions, and such. No time to write a column. This month has been a ball with VP6R, D68CCC, and 5K0K for starters. These teams provided a pile of fun for tens of thousands of hams around the world. When you ask for your QSL card on OQRS, don't forget to throw in a coupla bux for a donation. This is what makes these exotic places available to the ham radio fraternity.

Ascension Island has been very active, thanks to Steve, WB4GHY. The call is ZD8SC and if you hurry up, you can still catch him on after you receive this newsletter, as he will be active until November 11. He has a good signal on many bands.

YJ0RRC will be active from Vanuatu from the first of November till mid month. They should have a good signal on the bands.

Also, 5H3UA will be on from Tanzania with a multi op operation Nov 16-28. This will be an expedition comparable to the VP6R group, with tons of equipment and all bands including EME.

Last but not least (especially if you are a fan of CW) the CQ WW DX contest will be running this month. I am not a contester, but I do like to pick up new countries in band slots that need filling. This is an ideal time to do some cool DXing. Just study the rules, then prepare a signal report and work some new ones. The NG3K link above has a tab for contests, and you will find all the info you need for the CQ WW DX test there.

As I sit here typing this, I am hoping for one last shot at VP6R on 10 meters. It's a long shot, especially for a guy with 100 watts, a 40 M dipole, and a 45 year old

antenna tuner. But I did find a cute trick while I messed with this goal. I have the computer set up on FT8, and am watching for them on their announced frequency. I have to reconfigure a bunch of stuff to go to CW, and sometimes might miss something. BUT, I learned that if I put 28023 (VP6R's announced CW frequency) in my FT8 setup, I can monitor for CW pileups as well. To determine if they are active on CW, all I have to do is click on 023 and I will see the pileup as yellow dots, some with red centers, spread out up the band on the WSJT-X Wide Graph, as the guys line up to work them. No reconfiguration necessary, all I have to do is click on the CW frequency. If there is not a swarm of yellow dots, I click on the 091 frequency and go back to monitoring FT8, hoping beyond hope that I might get to work them before they leave tomorrow.

Oh, and yes, I did get 7P8AO on 20 M. I never got them the first time they were in Lesotho. Now get up off the couch and go work a new one. Good DX to you.

73 DE W4PID

Be honest, if people heard what you are thinking half of the time, you would either be in jail or a mental hospital.

I was visiting my DAUGHTER last night when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper.

"This is the 21st century" she said. "We don't waste money on newspapers. Here, use my iPad."

I can tell you this... that fly never knew what hit him...

How to get “plugged in” to the amateur radio community

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

This morning, I found this email in my inbox:

Thank you for your website and great content. I passed the Tech and General tests on Saturday, and I will be taking the Extra exam in November. Your “No Nonsense” guides were very helpful.

I do have a question, though. How do I stay current on what’s happening in the ham world? For example the CQ WW SSB contest was this weekend. How do newbies know this kind of thing? How do we find local or regional hamfests and other events?

This is a great question. Like any special interest, it can seem daunting to get plugged in (pun intended) to the community. Here are a few of my suggestions:

Join the ARRL (<http://arrl.org/>). The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) is really the place to start for information related to amateur radio. *QST*, the ARRL’s monthly magazine, includes news about upcoming contests and ARRL-sanctioned hamfests. It also reviews new amateur radio products and provides a wealth of technical information.

In addition to *QST*, the ARRL publishes many email newsletters that members can subscribe to. For example, *Contest Update* is a biweekly newsletter that not only lists upcoming contests, but also includes tips on operating contests. The *ARES E-Letter* is a monthly public service and emergency communications newsletters. There are also email newsletters for ham radio instructors, those interested in DX, legislative matters, and satellite operation.

Join your local club. While the ARRL will help you keep abreast of amateur radio news and events nationally and internationally, if you want to know what going on in amateur radio in your area, you should join your local club. To find clubs near you, go to <http://www.arrl.org/find-a-club>.

Visit the WA7BNM Contest Calendar (<https://www.contestcalendar.com/>). This contest calendar has become my go-to resource for any and all contest information. This site provides detailed information about amateur radio contests throughout the world, including their scheduled dates/times, rules summaries, log submission information and links to the official rules as published by the contest sponsors. Its features include an 8-Day calendar, a 12-Month calendar, and separate calendars for state QSO parties, CW contests, and QRP contests. You can also get a weekly e-mail of contests taking place in an 8-day period (Monday through Mon-

day), as well as a list of contests scheduled for the next week and a list of log submission information for recent contests.

Ham radio blogs. Blogs are also a good way to keep up with what’s going on in amateur radio. I like to think that I do a good job of covering what’s going on in amateur radio, but, of course, I can’t do it all. That being the case, you might also want read other blogs. Other amateur radio blogs that you might want to check out include:

- The K0NR Radio Site (<http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/>)
 - QRP—When you care to send the very least (<https://w2lj.blogspot.com/>)
- Everything Ham Radio (<https://www.everythinghamradio.com/>)

There are a bunch of other good ones out there. Find the ones you like and subscribe to them, so that you get a notification when new items are posted.

Mailing lists. Mailing lists are kind of old school, but if you have a special interest, chances are that there is a mailing list for it. For example, I own an Elecraft KX-3, so I subscribe to the Elecraft KX User Group mailing list (<https://groups.io/g/Elecraft-KX/>). Many amateur radio mailing lists are migrating to the Groups.io. To find a list, just click on the “Find or Create a Group” link at the top of the page. I just did a search for “amateur radio” and found 910 different amateur radio mailing lists.

Podcasts and videocasts. Podcasts are also another great way to stay up with amateur radio. I’m partial to the ICQPodcast (<http://icqpodcast.com/>) because I am on the panel once a month. The podcast not only includes a discussion of what’s new in amateur radio, but also a feature, which digs a little deeper into a particular topic. Other great podcasts are Ham Radio Workbench (<https://www.hamradioworkbench.com/>), and Linux in the Ham Shack (<https://lhspodcast.info/>). Internet video shows that are worth checking out are Ham Radio 2.0 (<https://www.livefromthehamshack.tv/>), Ham Radio Now (<https://www.hamradionow.tv/home>), and Ham Nation (<https://twit.tv/shows/ham-nation>).

This is by no means an exhaustive list. If you have an amateur radio information resource that you find particular helpful, please let me know.

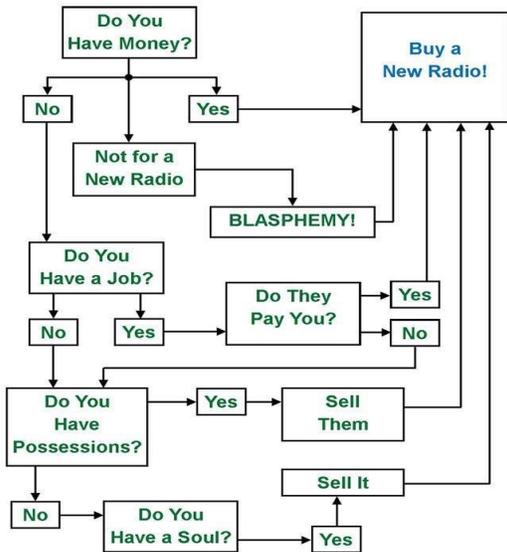
Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the “No Nonsense” amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he’s not trying to keep up with ham radio, he likes to build stuff and operate CW on the HF bands.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

November 17: JARSFEST, sponsored by Johnston Amateur Radio Society, American Legion Complex, 605 N. Wall Street, Benson, NC 27504. <http://jars.net> Talk-in: 147.27 MHz (+600), 146.97 MHz (-600). Public contact: Michael Callam KD4MC, via phone at 919-934-9623 or email at jarsmember@yahoo.com

January 11, 2020: W4NC First-Fest, sponsored by Forsyth Amateur Radio-Club, Robinhood Road Baptist Church, 5422 Robin Hood Road, Winston-Salem, NC. <http://W4NC.com> Talk-In: 145.47 MHz (PL 100), Public Contact: David Shoaf KC4X, via phone at 336-930-9462 or email at info@w4nc.com.

March 13-14, 2020: Charlotte Ham-fest / ARRL North Carolina Section-Convention 2020, sponsored by Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Cabarrus Arena and Events Center, 4751 NC Highway 49 North, Concord, NC 28025. <http://www.charlottehamfest.org> Talk-In: 146.655 MHz (-600, no tone). Public Contact: Tim Slay N4IB, via phone at 704-948-7373 or email at info@charlottehamfest.org



ARRL CONTEST CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- *November Sweepstakes - CW:* First full weekend in November, 2100 UTC Saturday through 0259 UTC Monday.
- *November Sweepstakes - Phone:* Third full weekend in November, 2100 UTC Saturday through 0259 UTC Monday.

DECEMBER

- *ARRL 160 Meter Contest:* First full weekend in December, 2200 UTC Friday through 1559 UTC Sunday.
- *ARRL 10 Meter Contest:* Second full weekend in December, 0000 UTC Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday.
- *Rookie Roundup:* Third Sunday, 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC.

**Items listed on this page must be Amateur Radio related and offered by a club member.
*** no commercial ads *****

