

HARMONICS



THE VOICE OF THE ROWAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
December 2019 - Issue 398



RARS ATTENDANCE

No Attendance or Minutes received before publication. Will be added to next months edition.

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Archive Pictures scattered throughout publication

Presidents Corner

I find it hard to believe that it is December of 2019 already. The older I get the faster time seems to move. Like many people, this is one of my two favorite times of the year. It's not because the weather is getting cooler, as my wife and I moved south to escape the cold and miserable weather of the north, but rather because of the holiday season. For me, it is Christmas that makes this my favorite time of year (along with Easter). Of course, over the years our culture has turned this season into something more about the secular, material things rather than its original meaning, which I find more than a bit disappointing. However, I must admit that I am a weak human being and look forward to receiving some of those material things that someone may chose to send my way, sometimes after significant hints provided by me. Of course, among my most favorite gifts to give and to receive are amateur radio related and there are several I am looking forward to receiving later this month. Speaking of later this month, I am also looking forward to seeing many of you at our annual Christmas party, an event that, for me, has always been a good time. I would again like to express my appreciation to Aaron Cameron, KM4STA, for taking the lead to get the Christmas party organized and making it happen.

I'd like to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May you and your families have health and happiness, and may all your Amateur Radio wishes come true.

Mark K4MV

Don't Miss It: SKYWARN Recognition Day December 7

SKYWARN Recognition Day ([SRD](#)) will mark its 20th anniversary on December 7, 0000 to 2400 UTC. ARES, SKYWARN and other amateurs will operate from National Weather Service (NWS) forecast offices across the country in a nod to the long relationship between the Amateur Radio community and the NWS SKYWARN program. Developed by NWS and ARRL staff in 1999, SRD is cosponsored by the organizations.

Participants exchange contact information with as many NWS stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meters, plus 70 centimeters. Contacts via repeaters are permitted. Stations should exchange call signs, signal reports, and locations, plus a quick description of the weather at your location (e.g., sunny, partly cloudy, windy, rainy, etc.). EchoLink and IRLP nodes, including Voice over Internet Protocol Weather Net ([VoIP-WX](#)), are expected to be active as well.

[WX4NHC](#) at the National Hurricane Center will also be on the air for SRD, 1300 - 1700 UTC. Event certificates are electronic and printable from the main website at the conclusion of SRD. Please see the [SKY-WARN Recognition Day website](#).



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,
On the web: www.RowanARS.org

Next Months Program

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Operator of the Year Award

MONDAY DECEMBER 9th at 6:00PM
Rowan Rescue Building

W4VEC



Volunteer Examiner Coordinator

Below are the New callsigns and upgrades for the W4VEC Test Session on 11/16/19.

Congratulations and You are in the FCC database and can get on the air with your new calls and Extra class privileges.

Thank You for testing with the W4VEC Rowan-Cabarrus VE Team !!

J. PHILIP MURPH JR	EXTRA CLASS	KN4ROK
CHARLES MACKALINE	TECHNICIAN	KO4ABU
CHARLES GOBBLE JR	TECHNICIAN	KO4ABT

Next Testing Session is January 18th, 2020 - 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>

DX Operations for December, 2019

My review of the DXpetion site I visited continues to be put on the back burner. Sorry for that, but the holiday season takes its toll on newsletter content. It will come. In general, the DX activity takes a back seat to holiday activities. The number of expeditions goes way down, the activity level of the more exotic stations seems to decrease, and it is a good time to put that soft key circuit board in your amplifier since you need it for that new solid state radio.

The latest excitement for me is the appearance of 8R1 on the bands. Guyana is a country I have never heard on in my 60+ years of ham radio. Now I took a few years (25) off , but 8R1/AG6UT took me by surprise. This station appears to be completely dedicated to FT8 and maybe SSB. I have not heard them on CW at all. The information out there does not say how long they will be active, so I just hope they are still on when you read this.

TR8CR continues to make Gabon available to the modest station. He will be active up until mid December so take advantage of this for a new country if you've never worked it.

Saba & St. Eustatius has been active thru the efforts of SP6EQZ and SP6IXF. They have a great signal on multiple bands and modes.

In the Pacific, A35JP has been very active, and will continue for some time to come. Tonga is not the rarest radio location in the world, but the QSL cards that come from there are often works of beauty, so for that reason alone you should take a listen around for them. Although it's old news, the CQ CW Worldwide contest was a ball. This should be on your calendar if you want some exotic cards on your wall (or in your shoebox) ... I am positive it's possible to achieve DXCC in one weekend. The number of very rare places on the air was amazing.

When you work one of these rare stations or expeditions and 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. Think of it in terms of postage alone... they work 30,000 folks and the postage is, at a minimum \$15,000 for QSL cards alone.. and that assumes they are all to folks in the USA from a USA address. It's double or triple that from one foreign country to another. That can only be supported by crowd funding. This also goes for some of the web sites that provide invaluable information for the DX ham. My favorite is Club Log, <https://clublog.org/> . I have include them in the list of URL's at the bottom of the page (I moved it from the top of the column) This group is totally free to use, and are subsidized by ham donations and a grant or two from larger DX foundations.

DX Operations for December, 2019

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I might also add that signing up for LOTW, if you have not already done so, is a good thing to do if you are an active DX enthusiast. It's part of the ARRL, but you do not have to be an ARRL member to use it, nor does it cost anything. It's a double blind confirmation process that is good for ARRL awards if you are interested in that kind of thing, plus it gives confirmations to folks who need them from your contact to meet whatever goals they have set for their station.

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://clublog.org/>

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

73 DE W4PID

Bill Overman, K4SNF (SK), at the time Rockwell Postmaster and WWII Marine veteran of Iwo Jima. One of the earliest promoters and users of VHF back in the day. Photo is from 1968.



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UPCOMING HAMFESTS

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.



We are officially kicking off Frostfest 2020! The largest hamfest in the Mid-Atlantic will be held on Saturday, February 1st, 2020 at the Richmond Raceway Complex.

www.frostfest.com is the place to find all the information about this great hamfest! Sales are open!

Many of your favorite vendors are already committed, and there will be more to come. Get a table or two and sell your excess equipment.

Check out all the details at www.frostfest.com

Discounted Group Rate: DoubleTree - Richmond Airport, \$99/night. [Hotel Reservation Link](#) Pre-Show "Meet & Greet" will be held in the hotel restaurant/lobby, Friday @ 7:30pm. - Details to follow on Facebook

March 13-14, 2020: Charlotte Hamfest / 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

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 For Sale or Trade

Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS), Model 1500 by Minuteman, Commercial Series 900 Watts, six outlets, Multimount, Operation Manual and pair of 75AH AGM batteries in holding cart. Clean... \$350
Contact KA2NRW, Larry,

Items listed on this page must be Amateur Radio related and offered by a club member.

***** no commercial ads *****