

JANUARY 2005

HPARC NEWSLETTER

*High Point
Amateur Radio
Club*



JANUARY MEETING

This month we will have Larry Frye, WA4EKD, with us for the December meeting. Larry Frye is with the City of Greensboro and is a radio technician, an avid pilot and part-time minister. Larry

retired with 20 years of service in the National Guard.

Last month we had our annual Christmas party. We played a little Bingo and had a good time. Wish more of you could have been with us.

Hope everyone fared well through Christmas and the New Year's celebrations. Maybe we will see you at the January meeting and brag (or complain) about the goodies we received. See you there.

HOUSE AND SENATE SET DIGITAL TV CHANGEOVER DATE

The House of Representatives has backed a plan to require TV broadcasters to switch to all-digital transmissions by Dec. 31, 2008, three months earlier than they would have to under provisions of a Senate bill. House

lawmakers have also voted to set aside \$830 million to help millions of Americans with older, analog TV sets pay for converter boxes so they'll continue to get service in the digital era.

About 21 million households

rely on free, over-the-air TV and will need the converter to keep receiving their TV service after the switch to all-digital. Cable and satellite customers would not be affected.

—Amateur Radio Newline,
Report 1479, Dec. 16, 2005

CHRISTMAS DAY ROLL CALL 2005

Rogers Albertson, WA4BPL, was net control for the HPARC 24th Christmas Day Roll Call. The Christmas Day Roll Call is a tradition started by Fred Browning some years ago. Club member's names are

called out on the HPARC 2-meter repeater starting at 8:00 am on Christmas morning with other Hams invited to join in afterwards.

This year they were about fifteen check-ins counting

some pretty late check-ins. (You know, 8:00 is early on Christmas Day.) That was an increase of one over last year.

Thanks to all who checked in this year. Hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas.

2006 OFFICERS ELECTED

At the December meeting, new officers for the year 2006 were elected. They are:

Chris Horne, W4CKH, President;
Sam Hall, K4AME, Vice-president;
Mark McMahan, KB4MFP, Secretary/Treasurer.

As always, be willing to give your support to these officers by accepting a chairmanship, helping in a club project or offering your ideas and suggestions to further our club.

**HPARC Meeting
January 2, 2006
at Golden Corral,
Hartley Drive,
Oak Hollow Mall**

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING

At 7:17 pm Chris Horne, W4CKH, opened the High Point Amateur Radio Club meeting at the Golden Corral Steak House. There were 8 members and 2 visitors in attendance.

There was a roll call of members.

There was a mention of those sick.

Minutes of the last meeting were read by Mark McMahan. Approved as read.

Mark gave the Treasurer's

report for November showing an ending balance of \$373.55. Report was accepted as read.

Old business: There was a discussion of activity on the repeater.

New business: Election of officers: Chris Horne-president, Sam Hall-vice president, Mark McMahan-secretary/treasurer. Elected by majority.

Christmas Day Roll Call will be Christmas Day at 8:00 am.

It was mentioned that

Monroe Kennedy passed away, and there was a discussion of his Ham Radio activities.

Program was turned over to Mark McMahan for the Bingo game.

There was a reminder to tip the waitress.

Motion to adjourn by Yancey Cecil. Seconded by David Montgomery.

—Respectfully submitted

Mark McMahan, KB4MFP,
HPARC Secretary

KIDS DAY IS JANUARY 8, 2006

Kids Day happens twice a year. These are two days each year that Hams across the nation are urged to open their hearts, homes and Ham stations to young people in your local area. Invite them over, set them in front of your radio and have them talk with others their age while exposing them to the magic that is Ham Radio.

Kids day is not a contest. It is truly an operating event created by Tree Tyree, N6TR, and

Oregon's Boring Amateur Radio Club to open up Ham Radio to the young. Several years ago it came under sponsorship of the American Radio Relay League which has expanded Kids Day into a pair of premiere operations held in January and June of each year.

The Kids Day rules are simple. From 1800 to 2400 UTC on January 8th and again on June 17th, you welcome some local kids to your QTH or go out to where they are with your portable gear. Then you call CQ Kids Day and make contact with whomever responds. And here's the important part: You then let the youngsters at both ends of the QSO talk with one another while you keep legal control

over your station.

A suggested contact exchange is each child's name, age, location and favorite color, but there is no hard or fast rule. In recent years many kids we have listened in on have brought up their favorite music group or a movie that they have seen. Its really up to them.

Some frequencies to look for Kids Day contacts are on 14.275 to 14.300 megahertz on 20 meters, 21.380 to 21.400 on 15 and 28.350 to 28.400 on 10 meters if 10 is open. And since Kids Day lends itself well to local contacts where the young folks might eventually meet one another in person, two meter repeaters make an ideal operating environment as long as the system owner does not mind.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1479, Dec. 16, 2005

Let us so live
that when we come
to die
even the undertaker
will be sorry.

—Mark Twain

The HPARC Newsletter is published monthly by the High Point Amateur Radio Club (HPARC) for its members. The HPARC Newsletter serves as a source of information about Club activities, and general news items of interest to Amateur Radio. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the HPARC or its officers. Material in this newsletter may be reproduced provided the HPARC is properly credited.

Complimentary issues of the HPARC Newsletter are available by writing to the HPARC Newsletter at PO Box 4941, High Point, NC 27263. Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$8.00 a year. An email version of the HPARC Newsletter is also available. Contributions and letters to the editor are welcome.

Membership is open in the HPARC to all licensed Amateur Radio operators. Membership is \$24.00 a year. Associate membership is also available to those who are interested in Amateur Radio but who do not currently hold a license. Associate membership is \$12.00 a year.

The High Point Amateur Radio Club meets the first Monday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Golden Corral on Hartley Drive, High Point (beside Oak Hollow Mall). The business meeting starts at 7:30 pm followed by a short program of interest. Family and visitors are welcome to attend. For more information, please call or email one of the HPARC officers (listed in this newsletter).

REFLECTION ON YOUR HAM RADIO PRIVILEGES

Once we become Hams, it usually sticks with us forever. Our activity level may wax and wane depending on what else is happening in our lives, but for most of us, Amateur Radio becomes a lifelong interest once we get started. As for those few who drop out because they say there's nothing interesting to do, they just don't know where to look.

Each year I like to reflect on what I've done with my privileges and think about what I can do in the next year to both enjoy them more and make them more enjoyable for others (since it does take at least 2 to QSO, after all). This month I am going to offer some thoughts on how you can do the same.

1. Help someone get started. Be an "elmer" to someone - almost everyone who takes on a new activity wants to learn to do things the right way, and they learn by example, both good and bad. Make sure a newcomer has a good example to learn from.

2. Improve your operating skills. Listening before you transmit is the first rule of good technique (and as it turns out, of courtesy also). Good skills on the air will help you work more DX, pass more traffic, and make more friends. One of our nets had the slogan "it's fun to be efficient and it's fun to belong to an efficient net." Try to be better at whatever

you like to do as a Ham.

3. Be courteous on the air. The character of Amateur Radio starts with YOU. Make people feel welcome in your activities, and respect the favorite activities of others, even if you don't understand why it would be interesting to them. If you must correct someone on the air, civility works better than ridicule. Remember that most interference is unintentional, don't assume the worst at first! Nobody (including nets) has an exclusive right to use a frequency, but if you do have a conflict, use common sense to resolve it. A friend of mine once said "instead of just asking them to move, we should invite them to check into our net!" He was right. Even if they don't stay they will respect the courtesy you showed.

4. Learn something new. Learn about a new mode or activity that you have never done before. Build something. Upgrade your license. In October an NC Ham originally licensed in 1935 upgraded to Amateur Extra - it's never too late to learn something new! You will find that learning about something new will make you learn something interesting about what you already know.

5. Be of service to others. I was reminded at a recent club meeting that it's called the Amateur Radio Service, not the Amateur Radio Hobby. It has some aspects

of both, so we have something unique - we can make worldwide friendships, explore science and technology, and be of service to our community (sometimes all at once). Find something you can do to help your club or community and just do it. You don't have to put in long hours or have advanced technical skills to be of service - there are many small but essential ways to help too. For example, during disasters we need both people who can put up antennas and we need people who can make coffee. Being a friendly greeter at a club meeting requires only a good attitude. Being a net control is something you can do from home. A little expertise can help someone who needs it to get back on the air.

6. Be a leader. This is not limited to holding office. The person who organizes the club picnic is a leader too. Disparaging an organization will never change it, but being a leader will.

7. Share your experiences with others. Demonstrate your favorite mode. Give a talk at a club meeting or write an article for a newsletter (or QST). Do the same with non-hams too.

If you do just some of these things in 2006, you will enjoy Amateur Radio more, and make it more enjoyable for others.

—John Covington, W4CC,
ARRL NC Section Manager

NFL GRANTED WAIVER OF THE CALL SIGN ID RULE

A radio system that is used exclusively within football stadiums for communications between coaches on the sideline and their quarterback during professional football games has been given dispensation from the FCC's identification rules. This, follow-

ing complaints that the transmission of the station identification can be distracting to quarterbacks and disrupt the game.

On November 18, 2004, the National Football League filed waiver requests and applications to modify its licenses for

Industrial Business Pool Stations KNNF411 and KNNF412. It took almost a year, but a waiver of the ID rules has now been granted by the FCC.

—Amateur Radio Newline,
Report 1477,
December 2, 2005



High Point Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 4941
High Point, NC 27263

HPARC JANUARY CALENDAR

- 1 — NEW YEAR'S DAY
- 1 — ARRL Straight Key Night
- 2 — HPARC Club Meeting
- 7-8 — ARRL RTTY Roundup
- 8 — Kid's Day
- 7 — Winston Salem Hamfest
- 16 — MARTIN L. KING JR BIRTHDAY
(observed)
- 21-23 — ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes
- 29 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline

BIRTHDAYS
 Ric Marshall — January 12

2006 HPARC OFFICERS

Chris Horne, W4CKH — President — 869-1295 — brkeaton@juno.com
 Sam Hall, K4AME — Vice-president — 431-8940 — k4ame@arrl.net
 Mark McMahan, KB4MFP — Secretary — 887-3039 — kb4mfp@arrl.net
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HPARC Web page: <http://www.qsl.net/w4ua> • w4ua@qsl.net

Breakfast
every Saturday

—
8:00 am

—
Mrs. Winner's,
South Main St.