

MARCH 2005

HPARC NEWSLETTER

*High Point
Amateur Radio
Club*



MARCH MEETING

We are told that Antarctica is a fascinating place; not the place for the shy of heart or tropic-lovers. This month the program will be presented by David McDonald, N5WNB, who works for The City of High Point. David will be speaking on his experience as communications operator with the US Navy at McMurdo Station on the continent of Antarctica.

David spent 4 years providing military and amateur operations at various stations on the South Pole and Antarctica. David will share a talk and some photos of this

very interesting time in a land that is far away. I doubt any of us have been here, so come and see first hand David's stories of trials and successes of life on an ice cap.

Last month we had Dr. Paul Kwon, DDS with us for the February meeting. Dr. Kwon is a local dentist and a partner in the practice of Harris, Kwon and Garretson located on Elm Street in High Point. Dr. Kwon talked to us about periodontal diseases and flossing.

Jimmy Montgomery has changed his call sign. He is now K4CEW.

To give credit where credit is due, Chris Horne, our President and Program Chairman, has been writing the intro for this article on our speakers each month. Thanks, Chris. Chris also deserves a pat on the back for providing us a program each month. I am sure it is a hard, thankless job, so show him your appreciation at the next club meeting.

Our numbers were a little down last time with some club members out sick. Remember these folks in your thoughts and prayers. Hope to see more of you at the next meeting.

3Y0X DXPEDITION LOGS MORE THAN 87,000 CONTACTS

This month's 3Y0X DXpedition to Peter I Island managed to put 87,034 contacts into its logbook during two weeks of operation before it shut down February 19 at 1813 UTC. The lucky last contact was with K8LTG. The 3Y0X DXpedition surpassed the 82,000 QSOs achieved by A52A (Bhutan), but it fell a bit short of the 96,000 contacts logged by K1B (Baker Island). The 22-member 3Y0X team, headed by led by Ralph Fedor,

K0IR, and Bob Allphin, K4UEE, now is safely aboard its ship, the DAP Mares and plans a stop in the South Shetlands on the way home. Because of its remote location in the Bellinghausen Sea near Antarctica and the severe weather conditions, Peter I has been activated but rarely and remains one of the most-wanted DXCC entities. For additional information, visit the Peter I DXpedition Web site:

<<http://www.peterone.com/>>.

—The ARRL Letter Online,
Volume 25, Number 8,
February 24, 2006

**HPARC Meeting
March 6, 2006
at Golden Corral,
Hartley Drive,
Oak Hollow Mall**

TELEGRAMS ARE NO MORE

After 145 years, Western Union has quietly stopped sending telegrams.

If you visit the company's web site and click on "Telegrams" in the left-side navigation bar, you're taken to a page that says it all. The message reads and we quote: "Effective January 27, 2006, Western Union will discontinue all Telegram and Commercial Messaging services. We regret any inconvenience this may cause you, and we thank you for your loyal patronage. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a customer service representative."

According to an article by LifeSciences dot com, Western Union goes back to 1851 as the Mississippi Valley Printing Telegraph Company. In 1856 it

became the Western Union Telegraph Company after acquisition of competing telegraph systems. By 1861, during the Civil War, it had created a coast-to-coast network of lines.

So, why has the Telegram gone the way of hieroglyphics, smoke signals and other early means of messaging? Blame it on phones and the Internet. The decline of telegram use goes back at least to the 1980s. That's when long-distance telephone service became cheap enough to offer a viable alternative in many if not most cases. Faxes didn't help. E-mail was the final nail in the Telegram's coffin.

But the company behind the telegram is still with us. LifeSciences says that years ago, Western Union refocused its main

business to money transfers for consumers and businesses. Revenues are now \$3 billion annually. It's now called Western Union Financial Services, Inc. and is a subsidiary of First Data Corp.

The world's first telegram was sent on May 24, 1844 by inventor Samuel F.B. Morse. The message, "What hath God wrought," was transmitted from Washington to Baltimore.

And, in a crude way, the telegraph was a precursor to the Internet in that it allowed rapid communication, for the first time, across great distances. Now the Telegram is a relic of a by-gone past and it looks as if the Morse code may not be too far behind.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1487, Feb. 10, 2006

GREAT BRITAIN INSTITUTES LIFETIME LICENSES

Telecommunications regulator Ofcom has unveiled plans to reform Amateur Radio licensing in Great Britain. The main change is that Amateur Radio licenses will be issued for life, although licensees will have to confirm their license details every five years. The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) says it welcomes the Amateur

Radio licensing reforms.

Paper licenses are going away too, for all intents and purposes, and Ofcom instead will provide an on-line service to issue electronic licenses. Hard-copy licenses will remain available for those lacking Internet access, but there will be an administrative charge. Starting October

1, Ofcom will take over from the Royal Mail the role of issuing, renewing and amending Amateur Radio licenses.

Ofcom said its new approach to Amateur Radio licensing will "reduce unnecessary bureaucracy."

—The ARRL Letter Online,
Volume 25, Number 8,
February 24, 2006

TOWER CLIMBING IS A DANGEROUS BUSINESS

TV Technology magazine reports that climbing towers for a living can be hazardous to your health.

According to the latest national

census of fatal occupational injuries from the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, tower workers have the most dangerous job in America. The report

showed 115.2 deaths per 100,000 tower workers, versus only 27.6 deaths per 100,000 drivers.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1488, Feb. 17, 2006

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).

PUBLIC RELATIONS NEVER STOPS FOR HAM RADIO

Those of us involved in public service communications don't do it for publicity, we do it because it's the right thing to do. We show up, do our job, and go home, knowing we have done our part to help in our community.

Likewise, most of us operate our radios at home and try not to bother our neighbors with it. As a result of our being such good neighbors, most people have NO impression of Amateur Radio whatsoever, or believe that it is an activity that people did 50 years ago but not today. While that's better than having a bad impression of us, it fosters the idea that there are very few of us left and we don't need to be accommodated any longer.

The goal of public relations is to create a favorable impression with the public. Specifically, we want the public to know that Amateur Radio is a worthwhile activity, both enjoyable and a benefit to the community. This impression is important for the very survival of Amateur Radio, because we need the support of the public so we can have two components critical to getting on the air: spectrum and antennas. Our spectrum is a resource that is scarce and highly desirable to others, and we must show constantly that we are worthy of keeping our frequencies. Antennas are an undesirable resource in the eyes of many; but the willingness of our neighbors to tolerate them is greatly improved if we can show our value to the community.

How can we improve our

relations with the public? There are several ways to approach this.

First, keep in mind that we are ALL ambassadors for Amateur Radio. Even if all you do is have an Amateur Radio license plate, you are letting the public know you are a Ham. If people identify you as being a Ham, then their first impression of Amateur Radio will be based in large part on their impression of you. If you're a good neighbor, or a bad driver, then chances are their impression of Amateur Radio will be influenced by that.

Group activities such as Field Day, JOTA and public service events offer excellent opportunities to tell the public about what we do, and the ability to reach many more people. However, this is harder in some respects than being a good neighbor, because your window of opportunity is very short. As a result, a well-considered plan to reach the public is essential.

For direct contact with the public at such an event, having an official greeter and some literature will help. Remember, the goal is to develop a favorable impression, not necessarily recruit new Hams (it takes the former to do the latter anyway). Dealing with the news media is more complicated, but offers a chance to reach the largest audience. In both cases, having a short, easy to understand explanation of why someone would want to be a Ham is needed to take advantage of the opportunity.

I saw a TV news report of a Field Day visit a number of years ago where the reporter

asked several people why someone would want to be a Ham, and nobody gave a very convincing answer (plenty of "how" and "what," but no "why"). It was a slow news weekend with lots of airtime, but an opportunity was missed. Since then, I came up with a short "sound bite" answer that works for me:

"Amateur Radio is an enjoyable activity that allows you to explore science and technology, make worldwide friendships, and be of service to your community." (and if they are still listening) "For most people who try it, It becomes a lifelong activity."

Come up with your own sound bite to tell anyone why you are a Ham, and you will use it more often than you might expect. Field Day is just over four months away, and it is not too early to start thinking about how you will approach public relations. The ARRL Public Information Officer program has many resources available to help. For more information, contact Bill Morine, N2COP, ARRL NC PIC or visit this web site: <http://www.arrl.org/pio>.

Finally, public relations must be an ongoing activity - it never stops. There will never be a point where you can say you've done all that needs to be done, because the public's memory of good deeds fades quickly. However, if you develop a habit of being a good ambassador for Amateur Radio, then it gets a little easier and you become more effective at it.

—John Covington, W4CC,
ARRL NC Section Manager



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

HPARC MARCH CALENDAR

- 4-5 — ARRL International DX Contest,
phone
- 6 — HPARC Club Meeting
- 11-12 — Charlotte Hamfest
- 17 — St. Patrick's Day
- 17 — NC Arbor Day
- 26 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline

BIRTHDAYS

- Jim Mason — March 19
- Fred Blackman — March 31

2006 HPARC OFFICERS

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**Breakfast
 every Saturday**

8:00 am

**Mrs. Winner's,
 South Main St.**