

MAY 2006

# HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point  
Amateur Radio  
Club



## MAY MEETING

The program for the May meeting will be entitled "Spread Spectrum Communications for HF Applications". The speaker will be Chris Horne who manages Wireless operations at North State Communications. Spread Spectrum communications is a digital technique that encodes an analog voice signal

and transmits it digitally as an encrypted transmission.

Field Day is just around the corner. Hopefully you are making plans now to attend and make this our best Field Day yet. Have you thought about your quick answer to "Why Ham Radio" if asked by the media? It is a good idea to have

your answer ready for anyone who might ask you. Ham Radio is a hobby that deserves to be shared.

Where was everyone last meeting? I know some were on the road for the holiday. Hope everyone made it back safe and is planning to make it to the May meeting.

## ARRL VEC ANNOUNCES VANITY CALL SIGN LICENSE RENEWAL PROGRAM

The ARRL VEC now can process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and non-members, although League members will pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be processed at no cost for ARRL members. In addition, ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, points out that trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the Universal Licensing System (ULS) or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

"2006 is an appropriate year for the ARRL VEC to implement this service, since the licenses of the many Radio

Amateurs who obtained their vanity call signs as a result of the FCC program that went into effect in 1996 will expire this year," Somma said. The first of those licenses are due to expire in June.

"As the FCC has already noted, licensees who want to keep their vanity call signs must pay the regulatory fee, currently \$21.90 for the 10-year license term, when renewing their licenses," Somma noted. "Licensees who don't want to pay the mandatory regulatory fee to retain a vanity call sign may request a sequentially issued call sign at the time of renewal."

The FCC has proposed to reduce the vanity call sign regulatory fee to \$20.10 for the

10-year license term. The new fee, if adopted, would go into effect in August or September.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN

*see Vanity continued inside...*

**HPARC Meeting  
May 1, 2006  
at Golden Corral,  
Hartley Drive,  
Oak Hollow Mall**

# NEW RADIOTELESCOPE WILL LOOK BACK 13 MILLION YEARS

The United States and Mexico are partnering on a new project to advance the exploration of space. This, with word that the two nations will join forces to build a new radio-telescope atop the Sierra Negra vol-

cano in central Mexico.

The new instrument will use a 165 foot dish antenna supplied by the United States Department of Defense. When completed and in operation, the scope will allow astronomers to

gaze back as far as thirteen billion years in their search for secrets about the creation of the universe. (Space & Science)

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1496,  
April 14, 2006

## AIRBORNE CELLPHONES

According to a new study, talking on cellphones or using laptop computers on an airplane could disrupt cockpit operations. This, especially now that global positioning devices that are increasingly being used to help land planes safely,

These days, airline passengers are instructed to turn off all their portable electronic devices during a plane's landing and takeoff. Only after a plane has reached a specified altitude airlines generally allow passengers to use laptops or game devices. The FAA

bans cellphone use during any part of a flight.

In this study researchers monitored flights in the crowded U-S north-east flight corridor using an FAA approved broadband receiver that was attached to a portable spectrum analyzer in a piece of carry-on luggage. They found that passengers disobey crew orders and that typically several calls are made during takeoff or final approach. These are the two critical flight stages when accidents could occur.

The researchers at Carnegie Mellon have recommended that the FAA and FCC work together to investigate in-flight use of cellphones. Also, the researchers recommended on-board radio emissions be monitored regularly by flight data recorders.

The FCC has commissioned a private, independent firm to study in-flight use of cellphones. The results of the study are due by the end of the year.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1497, April 21, 2006

## NHK TO BUILD WORLDS TALLEST BROADCAST TOWER

A broadcast consortium in Japan has announced plans to put up the world's tallest television broadcast tower.

The project team includes the NHK network and five major Tokyo commercial broadcasters who plan to build a 1,968 foot high tower in the Sumida-Taito area of Tokyo for transmitting digital television.

The edifice has been dubbed the second Tokyo Tower. If constructed as planned it will become the world's tallest telecommunications tower, surpassing the CN Tower in Toronto, which it

lists its overall height at 1,814.3 feet.

In addition to in-home digital television Japan's Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper says that transmitting antennas will also supply digital broadcasting direct to cell phones and other types of portable receivers. The personal mobile video market is expected to become one of the hottest in the history of broadcast entertainment over the next decade. Especially in Japan.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1495,  
April 7, 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).

*...Vanity continued from cover*

by going to the ULS <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>> and clicking on the “New Users Register” link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

Those holding specifically requested call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from the vanity call sign regulatory fee. That’s because Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such heritage call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the ULS Amateur Radio database.

Somma says the ARRL’s new license renewal/modification Web pages contain complete information on license-filing procedures, including step-by-step instructions on

how to renew or update a license using the FCC’s ULS site and a schedule of fees.

League members should visit the “ARRL Member Instructions for License Renewals or Changes” page <<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/memberlicenseinstructions.html>>. The “Instructions for License Renewals or Changes” page <[\[instructions.html\]\(http://www.arrl.org/fcc/licenseinstructions.html\)> covers general renewal procedures for non-members. There’s additional information on the ARRL VEC’s “FCC License Renewals and ARRL License Expiration Notices” page <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/renewals.html>>.](http://www.arrl.org/fcc/license</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

—The ARRL Letter Online, Volume 25, Number 15, April 14, 2006

## NEW RULES FOR DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME START IN 2007

Beginning in 2007, daylight saving time will start on the second Sunday of March and will end on the first Sunday of November.

Intended to promote energy conservation by starting day-

light saving three weeks earlier and ending it one week later, the change is part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1495, April 7, 2006

## DX STILL KING FOR 90-YEAR-OLD RADIO AMATEUR

Veteran DXer and contester John Thompson, W1BIH, has been largely out of the game since disposing of his tower, antennas and linear and moving into a retirement community in Massachusetts last year. But the DXCC Honor Roll member held onto his transceiver and his desire to work the few rare ones he lacked.

When the 3Y0X Peter I DXpedition got under way in February, Don Greenbaum, N1DG, did his older friend a good turn by taking Thompson to his station February 9 for a crack at 3Y0X. During the last two Peter I Island DXpeditions, Thompson was at his winter home, PJ9JT, so Peter I has been among his most wanted.

It only took about 30 minutes for W1BIH to make himself heard through the fray on 15-meter SSB and exchange reports. “We got him!” Thompson exclaimed seconds after the quick QSO. Greenbaum captured the occasion on video.

Once confirmed and submitted to DXCC, the 3Y0X QSO will elevate W1BIH into a tie for second place in the DXCC standings at 390 entities—including deleted entities—or 335 current entities. W1BIH subsequently worked 3Y0X from his retirement community station on 20-meter CW while running 100 W into a G5RV strung from his window some 20 feet above ground.

—The ARRL Letter Online, Volume 25, Number 10, March 10, 2006

## AMATEUR RADIO MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY IN MAY

Emery McClendon, KB9IBW, sends along a reminder that Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day will be held on May 27th. That’s the day that Hams and their clubs will give our troops, veterans, and retired military members thanks and appreciation on the Ham Radio bands. More

information on Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day is on the web at [www.amrad.net](http://www.amrad.net). And listen for KB9IBW discussing the event on the May 7th edition of Talking With Heroes on the Stardust Radio Network.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1495, April 7, 2006



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

## HPARC MAY CALENDAR

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 — HPARC Club Meeting                       | 21 — ARMED FORCES DAY          |
| 3 — National Teacher's Day                   | 27 — Durham, NC Hamfest        |
| 4 — National Day of Prayer                   | 28 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline |
| 5 — Cinco de Mayo                            | 29 — MEMORIAL DAY              |
| 8 — VE Day<br>(Germany surrenders WWII 1945) |                                |
| 13 — Rockingham County ARC Hamfest           |                                |
| 14 — MOTHER'S DAY                            |                                |
| 19-21 — Dayton, OH Hamvention                |                                |

### BIRTHDAYS

Ben Rogers — May 21

### 2006 HPARC OFFICERS

Chris Horne, W4CKH — President — 869-1295 — [chorne@nscom.com](mailto:chorne@nscom.com)  
 Sam Hall, K4AME — Vice-president — 431-8940 — [k4ame@arrl.net](mailto:k4ame@arrl.net)  
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HPARC Web page: <http://www.qsl.net/w4ua> • [w4ua@qsl.net](mailto:w4ua@qsl.net)

**Breakfast  
 every Saturday**

**8:00 am**

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