

JUNE 2006

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point
Amateur Radio
Club



JUNE MEETING

The June Program will be on Field Day. Field Day has always been one of the most rewarding club activities. The HPARC will be operating as W4UA from Mr. Willard

Moore's farm off Dillon Road June 24-25. Please plan on being present at the June meeting so we can discuss details of this year's Field Day. The program for the May

meeting was "Spread Spectrum Communications for HF Applications" given by our own Chris Horne.

Hope to see everyone at the club meeting.

NASA TO FLY SHUTTLE IN JULY

NASA has decided to fly the space shuttle Discovery in July without making all potential modifications to its exter-

nal fuel tank that might reduce damaging foam debris.

NASA wants to fly the shuttle three times before the end

of the year to get back on schedule.

—Amateur Radio Newline, Report 1501, May 19, 2006

FIELD DAY 2006

Field Day will be June 24 and 25. We plan to go back to Willard Moore's this year on 3139 Dillon Road (the same location as Yesteryear in Motion-see map). We have had Field Day there in the past. Mr. Moore has been good to the club in the past, and we wanted to return to his place for this year's Field Day.

Set-up for Field Day will start very shortly after breakfast on Saturday (probably just after 8:30 am).

We will have a club picnic around 6:00 pm for club members and family at the Field Day site. There will be a sign up sheet at the club meeting so you can tell us what you will be bringing.

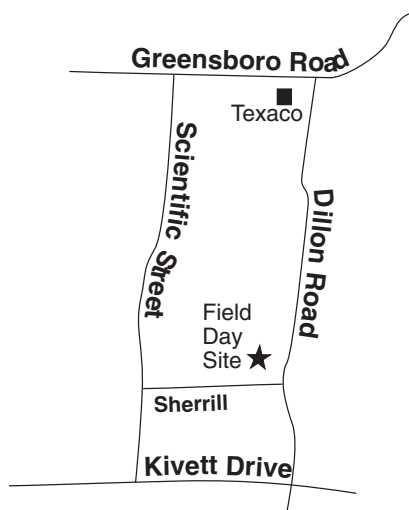
Remember to bring your

radios, extension cords, chairs and anything else you can think of that we may need.

If you have any questions, call Rogers Albertson, Special Activities chairman, at 431-7371. Don't forget to also tell us what goodies you will

be bringing for the picnic.

Directions to Field Day: from Kivett Drive, turn onto Scientific Street. Go about .2 of a mile to Sherrill Road and turn right. Willard Moore's is on the left just before the stop sign. Coming from Jamestown, turn onto Dillon Road. Come about a mile, and turn right onto Sherrill Road. Mr. Moore's will be the first driveway on your right.



**HPARC Meeting
June 5, 2006
at Golden Corral,
Hartley Drive,
Oak Hollow Mall**

BE WARY OF LOOK ALIKE ANTENNAS

Look-a-like antennas - what will they think of next?

We're all too familiar with replicas of a wide range of products from expensive fashion items through to automobile spare parts that are being offered at prices, a mere fraction of the genuine product.

The unethical manufacturing practice is to re-engineer or copy a highly successful brand

name product, and cash in by selling it to sometimes gullible consumers or others aware it's a fake and don't care.

Now we have word that there are fake diamonds being sold to VK Radio Amateurs. No, not the precious stone that adorns an engagement ring, but look-a-like Diamond brand antennas.

A very carefully worded statement has been issued by

one retailer of Diamond Antennas warning that fakes of the product have reached down under and presumably also other countries.

They look the same, have similar packaging, sell at very attractive prices but according to the retailer are a decidedly inferior product.

—Amateur Radio Newline, Report 1499, May 5, 2006

NON-DELIVERABLE CARD REMAINS IN "QSL LIMBO" FOR 50 YEARS

George Hitz, W1DA, of Sudbury, Massachusetts, can finally account for one of his QSL cards—one he sent in 1956. While a newly licensed teenager living in DeLand, Florida, Hitz, then KN4DPI, fired up his Johnson Viking Adventurer transmitter and made contact with Dave, KN6MSI, on 40 meters. Like a good operator, Hitz sent off a QSL card, addressed only to "Amateur Radio—KN6NMI, Chief Op Dave, Address Unknown, Riverdale, Calif." This turned out to be David Leaven, later WI6J, who became a Silent Key in 2003.

"I was 14, and like me, Dave was a new Ham, and he wasn't in the call book," Hitz told ARRL. "I hoped there would be someone at the Riverdale post office that would know who Dave was, and it would get to him." But Hitz made

one mistake: he addressed the card to Riverdale instead of to Dave's actual QTH, Riverside. That simple error left the card sitting in QSL limbo from 1956 until now.

"In 1956, I was just a Novice operator with a primitive station and even more primitive operating skills," Hitz explained. "Back then, with my radio built from a kit and my BC-348 World War II Army Air Corps surplus receiver and a 60-foot long wire antenna that was 15 feet high, California, was like a whole other country. And I needed that California QSL!"

Hitz had put a return address on his card, but for reasons perhaps best known to the US Postal Service, it finally was returned to his former Florida address in early April. It turned up in the mailbox of Mack McCormick, a

nonHam now living in Hitz's childhood home.

"The card apparently has been in the 'Twilight Zone' for 50 years," McCormick said. "It's not wrinkled or anything."

McCormick offered to return the card to Hitz, but Hitz declined. "What would I do with it?" he said. "I understand the guy who found it is going to frame it and place it on his coffee table!"

The story of the long-lost QSL card received worldwide attention. "The press has run wild with this," Hitz said. "I heard this story has been in newspapers in India, Iceland, Ireland—all over the world, over 100 countries! It's almost like I could have DXCC from all the countries that have reported it."

—The ARRL Letter Online, Volume 25, Number 17, April 28, 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).

FCC WON'T SAY PUBLICLY WHEN IT WILL ACT ON MORSE CODE ISSUE

All bets appear to be off as to when the FCC might make a final decision on deleting the Morse code requirement. Last July, an FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235 proposed to eliminate the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse code requirement for all license classes. Most observers expected the Commission to release a Report and Order (R&O) to that effect by the end of this year, but even that timetable could prove optimistic, based on what the Commission will say publicly. Before tackling the Morse proceeding, the FCC wants to wrap up another important Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, the so-called "omnibus" or "phone band expansion" proceeding. Responding to an ARRL inquiry, FCC personnel would not go on the record and declined even to hazard a ballpark guess on when the FCC

might act on either Amateur Radio proceeding.

The FCC staffers attempted to assure ARRL that the WTB has not been sitting on its hands. "It takes a while to plow through 4000 comments," one said, referring to the huge volume of opinions filed in the Morse docket. "It's not being neglected." The staff member did allow that WTB staff had completed its comment review in the Morse proceeding but wouldn't say when it might see the light of day. "I'd hesitate to say," one staff member demurred. Neither would even say whether the WTB expected to conclude either proceeding by the end of 2006.

"They should probably start learning code," one staffer advised those waiting for the FCC to drop the Morse requirement before upgrading, noting that a Certificate of Successful Completion of Exam (CSCE) for a written exam element is only good for a year. Even after the FCC

goes public with its decision on Morse code, still more time is likely to pass before any new rules go into effect, the staff member pointed out.

When the FCC does act, no one's expecting any major surprises: The Commission appears poised to simply drop the Morse requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes as it proposed last summer. Beyond that, the FCC turned away several other petitions, including proposals to create a new entry-level license class.

Any FCC decision to eliminate the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for HF access would have no impact on either the current HF CW-only subbands or on the CW privileges of Amateur Radio licensees. Current Technician licensees who have not passed Element 1 will not gain HF access if the FCC drops the Morse requirement.

—The ARRL Letter Online,
Volume 25, Number 20,
May 19, 2006

MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND EVENT

It's time to start planning for this year's Museum Ships Weekend. The new date will be 0000Z June 3 through 2359Z June 4, 2006.

All stations that work at least

15 of the participating ships and will receive a certificate if they send a copy of their log entries showing these contacts.

All certificate requests must be received by Oct 31, 2006.

Send certificate requests to: Margaret Burgess, KB2BRR, 150 Schooner Ave, Barnegat, NJ 08005

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1500, May 12, 2006

SUIT-SAT STILL BEING HEARD

Suit-Sat is still on-orbit. At least for now.

Tossed into orbit more than three months ago from the International Space Station, SuitSat-1 continues to orbit Earth even though its batteries are long since dead. Even so,

VK2XDW says that Suit Sat is still sending out a signal which can be picked up when it passes over his area. And Spaceweather.com has reported that sky-watcher Kevin Fetter videotaped SuitSat-1 as it passed over his Canadian home.

Eventually, SuitSat-1 will sink into Earth's atmosphere and disintegrate in a flash of fire. Another surplus Orlan suit remains aboard the ISS, and it could become Suit-Sat 2.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1500, May 12, 2006



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

HPARC JUNE CALENDAR

- 5 — HPARC Club Meeting
- 6 — D-Day (WWII Invasion of Normandy)
- 10 — Winston Salem Hamfest
- 10-12 — ARRL June VHF QSO Party
- 14 — FLAG DAY
- 18 — FATHER'S DAY
- 18 — HPARC Newsletter deadline
- 21 — First day of Summer
- 24-25 — Field Day

BIRTHDAYS

Luke Pope — June 8

2006 HPARC OFFICERS

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**Breakfast
 every Saturday**

—
8:00 am

—
**Mrs. Winner's,
 South Main St.**