

SEPTEMBER 2006

# HPARC NEWSLETTER

*High Point  
Amateur Radio  
Club*



## SEPTEMBER MEETING

Join us this month for our September meeting.

Last month we had Wes Jones, of WIST 98.3 FM, with us. Wes updated us on the format change of WIST as well as how maintaining radio stations has changed. Sorry for the

QRM in the next room, Wes. Enjoyed your program anyway.

Jackie Rogers has had another stroke but is recovering. Rogers Albertson is making it back to breakfast after his run in with a bad case of pneumonia. I only mention members

here because I believe they would appreciate your thoughts and prayers. Remember these as well as other members who could use a prayer or two.

We continue to have a fairly good crowd for the meetings. Hope to see you there.

## U.S. VANITY CALL SIGN FEE TO DROP SEPTEMBER 6

The ARRL Letters says that the regulatory fee to obtain or renew a United States Amateur Radio vanity call sign will drop slightly. This, starting with applications received by the FCC on or after Wednesday, September 6th.

According to the FCC's

Wireless Telecommunications Bureau the new fee will be \$20.80 for the 10-year license term. And the next 12 months promises to be a big one for vanity call sign renewals, since the initial round of vanity grants under the current system occurred

in 1996.

License holders who want to retain vanity call signs that were issued under the current, post 1995 system must pay the regulatory fee when renewing.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1513,  
August 11, 2006

## NASA SEARCHING FOR APOLLO 11 MOON TAPES

A search is on to locate the original footage of man's first steps on the Moon. The tapes and motion picture film are believed to be stored somewhere in the archive at Nasa's Goddard Space Flight Center, MD. But as many of those involved in the archiving have moved on, retired or passed away the location has been lost.

The pictures taken by the Apollo 11 crew are very famous. The footage has been by people around for over 37 years. Yet it has also been compared to a photocopy of a photocopy, accord-

ing to the London Daily Telegraph newspaper. This is because the motion picture transfers used a technique called kinescope that used a film camera that had been pointed at a black-and-white monitor.

The astronauts actually radioed higher-quality slow-scan footage back to Earth as data. It was seen by a small number of people at NASA's three tracking stations. Now almost four decades later, nobody is quite sure just how much longer the original slow-scan television tapes will last. The footage of

the Apollo 11 crew's landing on the Moon is considered to be one of 20th Century's most important artifacts.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1514, Aug. 18, 2006

**HPARC Meeting  
September 4, 2006  
at Golden Corral,  
Hartley Drive,  
Oak Hollow Mall**

# TWO RADIO AMATEURS DIE DURING MOBILE HIDDEN TRANSMITTER HUNT

Two ARRL members from California are dead after the vehicle in which they were riding during a mobile hidden transmitter hunt May 27 went over a cliff in rugged terrain near Lake Isabella in Kern County. They were identified as Michael G. Obermeier, K6SNE, of Anaheim, and David A. Gordon-Ross, N6IDF, of Yucaipa. Obermeier, an ARRL Official Observer in Orange County, was 46. Gordon-Ross was 35.

According to media accounts, a Kern County Sheriff's

Department search-and-rescue team located the victims early Monday, May 29. Obermeier was driving the 1991 4-wheel-drive Jeep Cherokee that apparently went out of control on Cook Peak Road while the pair was proceeding to the next hidden transmitter site. After caroming off a rock wall, the vehicle crossed the road and plunged down a 900-foot cliff. They were reported missing after failing to check in with T-hunt organizers.

Obermeier had suffered a sports-related spinal cord injury that left him a paraplegic.

Despite his physical limitations, Obermeier also enjoyed foxhunting from his wheel chair.

Gordon-Ross had been a proficient mobile T-hunter for many years. He took a brief hiatus after his first child was born in April 2005, but he recently became active again.

The 147.435 Amateur Radio Repeater System is collecting donations to help Melanie Gordon-Ross, a stay-at-home mom.

—The ARRL Letter Online, Volume 25, Number 22, June 2, 2006

Checking into our section nets and handling traffic is fun and helps prepare you for the next emergency. In addition to the many local VHF/UHF nets, there are seven HF nets to choose from and all welcome newcomers:

- 7:45am, 3.926MHz: Carolina Morning Net (SSB)
- 6:30pm, 3.923MHz: North Carolina Evening Net (SSB)
- 7:00pm, 3.573MHz: Carolinas Net - Early

## TRAFFIC NETS

- (CW — 20-22wpm)
- 7:00pm, 3.908MHz: Coastal Carolina Net (SSB)
  - 7:30pm, 3.923MHz: Tarheel Emergency Net (ARES Net — SSB)
  - 8:00pm, 3.695MHz: Carolinas Slow Net (CW, 8-10wpm)
  - 10:00pm, 3.573MHz: Carolinas Net — Late (CW, 15-18wpm)

With all those choices why not try at least one? With little or no traffic handling experience

you can still partake in the excitement and learn how to take and pass traffic from some of the best in the state. There are no tests, just check in and listen, or just listen for a few nights and check in when you feel comfortable. I would also like to thank all the net regulars that are there every day and night passing traffic on one of the many state nets.

—Bob Lukashzewski, K4HA, NC Section Traffic Manager

## LIBYA TO ALLOW NOVEMBER OPERATION

Following years of silence, an international team of operators will activate Libya from November 14th to the 28th. The goals of this DXpedition are to support the development of ham radio in Libya

while bringing a rare country onto the airwaves. Activity will be on all bands running CW, SSB, FM, RTTY, SSTV and PSK. The operators hope to provide more than 50,000 QSOs during the 14 day opera-

tion using the callsign will be 5A7A. They also plan to take part in CQWW DX CW Contest as a Multi/Multi entry.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1512, Aug. 4, 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).

# LONG-SILENT SUITSAT-1 KEEPS GOING AND GOING

When SuitSat-1 — the novel satellite built in a surplus Russian Orlan spacesuit — was launched during a spacewalk from the International Space Station last February 3, those familiar with orbital mechanics predicted it would stay in orbit for 120 days at best. As of August 25, some 203 days (nearly seven months) later — largely forgotten and its Ham Radio voice long since silent — SuitSat-1 has defied the odds and remains in orbit some 155 miles above Earth.

A project of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program, SuitSat-1, identifying as RS0RS, transmitted its voice greetings on 2 meters plus an SSTV picture thousands of times. Although its signal was far weaker than it was supposed to be for reasons never determined with any certainty, SuitSat-1 remained operational for more than two weeks.

ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, had credited ARISS-Russia's Sergei Samburov, RV3DR, and his colleagues with coming up with the SuitSat concept, called

Radioskaf or Radio Sputnik in Russian.

The SuitSat-1 mission proved to be an Amateur Radio public relations bonanza. In addition to prompting dozens of news items on Web sites and in journals around the world, Reader's Digest judged SuitSat-1 "Best Empty Suit" in its "America's 100 Best: The 2006 List" Popular Science ran an article about SuitSat-1 in its June issue called "Tossed in Space."

To keep the SuitSat-1 momentum going a bit longer ARISS and AMSAT in May announced a "Chicken Little Contest" in which participants pick the date on which they believe SuitSat-1 will drop out of orbit and burn up in Earth's atmosphere. Entrants are only allowed one guess, and the winner will be the individual who picks the date closest to SuitSat-1's actual demise. Those who have not already entered may do so by filling out the online entry form on the AMSAT Web site. The odds could be in their favor.

Certificates will go to winners in each of three age groups. Winners not only earn

bragging rights, but the fame and notoriety associated with successful satellite re-entry prognostication.

Even before SuitSat-1 went silent, ARISS and AMSAT already were discussing the possibility of a SuitSat-2 with contacts in Russia, although plans remain tentative at this stage. ARRL ARISS Liaison Rosalie White, K1STO, is among those named to the SuitSat-2 team, which will meet prior to the ARISS International Meeting/AMSAT Space Symposium October 5-10. Among other things, the team will look into the possibility of equipping SuitSat-2 with solar panels instead of just batteries, to extend its usable life. No formal announcements about SuitSat-2 are expected until around mid-October.

Meanwhile, the time grows nigh when Suit-Sat-1 will pick up enough additional drag from Earth's atmosphere that friction-generated heat will cause it to burn up and vaporize. Just when that will happen is still anyone's guess.

—The ARRL Letter Online,  
Volume 25, Number 34,  
August 25, 2006

## OLD VS. NEW IRC'S

If you use International Reply Coupons — better known as IRC's - to defray the cost of return QSL cards — then listen up. According to United States Postal Bulletin 22184 dated July 6th 2006 not all the IRC's in your possession may be usable.

According to that bulletin, effective July 1, 2006, the Postal Service will no longer redeem

international reply coupons issued prior to 2002. The non-redeemable IRCs are approximately 2.5 inches by 4 inches and do not have a barcode on the back.

The bulletin then goes on to request that retail associates advise customers possessing pre 2002 IRCs to return them to their correspondents in the

country of issue. This, for redemption through the selling post office.

The Postal Service describes the current redeemable IRCs as being approximately 3.75 inches by 5 inches and can be distinguished by the presence of a barcode on the back.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1511, July 28, 2006



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

## HPARC SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 2-3 — Shelby Hamfest  | 19-20 — ARRL 10-GHz Cumulative Contest |
| 4 — LABOR DAY   | 23 — First Day of Autumn               |
| 4 — HPARC Club Meeting  | 23 — YesterYear In Motion              |
| 9 — Bush Hill Heritage Festival, Archdale                                   | 24 — Newsletter deadline               |
| 9-11 — ARRL Sept VHF QSO Party  | 30 — Everybody's Day, Thomasville, NC  |
| 10 — Grandparent's Day  |  |
| 11 — Patriot Day (in honor of those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001) |  |
| 16-17 — Virginia Beach, VA Hamfest  |  |
| 16 — Day In The Park, High Point, NC  |  |

### BIRTHDAYS

Jo Young — September 1  
 Jackie Rogers — September 7

### 2006 HPARC OFFICERS

Chris Horne, W4CKH — President — 869-1295 — [chorne@nscm.com](mailto:chorne@nscm.com)  
 Sam Hall, K4AME — Vice-president — 431-8940 — [k4ame@arrl.net](mailto:k4ame@arrl.net)  
 Mark McMahan, KB4MFP — Secretary — 887-3039 — [kb4mfp@arrl.net](mailto:kb4mfp@arrl.net)  
 Mark McMahan, KB4MFP — Treasurer — 887-3039 — [kb4mfp@arrl.net](mailto:kb4mfp@arrl.net)

Newsletter Editor — Mark McMahan — 887-3039  
 (e-mail — [kb4mfp@arrl.net](mailto:kb4mfp@arrl.net))

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.**