

NOVEMBER 2006

HPARC NEWSLETTER

*High Point
Amateur Radio
Club*



NOVEMBER MEETING

Our own Dr. Warren Gallemore will give the program for November. He will speak on health and nutrition. This should be an informative program. Plan to attend and bring your questions for Dr. Gallemore.

There was no program last month.

This month we present nominations for HPARC officers for

2007. We present nominations from the nominating committee, as per bylaws. Those nominations are: Chris Horne, president; Sam Hall, vice-president; and Mark McMahan, secretary/treasurer. If you have any other nominations, please be present at the club meeting to present them.

We are sad to report the passing of Yancey Cecil this past

month. Yancey loved the club and tried to be with us for the September meeting. He was so weak he was not able to stay for the meeting. Yancey touched the lives of all that he met, and he will be missed by all.

Bring a friend with you this month to the meeting. We need the attendance, they would enjoy the program, and we will all have a good time. See ya.

YANCEY STONE CECIL, KD4WG, SK

Mr. Yancey Stone Cecil, KD4WG, 86, died October 23, 2006, at his home.

Yancey was an interesting man to meet. As most Hams do, he loved to talk and had some interesting stories to tell. He loved the radio club as was evidenced by trying to come to the meeting two months ago after being released from the hospital only days earlier. Yancey will be dearly missed.

He was born December 23, 1919, in Davidson County to Wade Wilson and Dosia Stone Cecil. He had been a resident of High Point most of his life. He was a veteran of World War II serving with the Army Air Corps in the European theatre. As a member of the 137th Army Airways

Communications System (AACS), he served in Greenland for two years. He received his radio engineering license in 1946 and was chief engineer at radio station WHPE. He was also chief engineer at radio station WNOS when it was first put on the air. He was a licensed Amateur Radio operator (KD4WG), a member of the American Radio Relay League, a member and former treasurer of the High Point Amateur Radio Club, and was awarded membership in Amateur Radio's DX Century Club. He was in the retail furniture business for over fifty years. His family founded Paramount Furniture Company from which he retired as President in 2002.

He was married on June 22,

1946 to Katherine Cranford Cecil who preceded him in death in 2002.

Surviving are his daughter, Julie Cecil Monroe and husband Dan of Burlington; granddaughter, Meg Monroe, of Chapel Hill and grandson, Tripp Monroe and wife, Carmalita of New York City, NY.

Memorials may be directed to the Music Department at First Untied Methodist Church.

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

THUNDERSTORMS IN SPACE

A U.S. researcher says that thunderstorms on Earth can lead to storms in the outer reaches of the atmosphere. This can cause disruption to radio transmissions and other electronic communications.

Using data from NASA satellites, University of California at Berkeley scientist Thomas Immel has discovered that thunderstorms over South America, Africa and Southeast Asia can create turbulence in two bands of electrical gas. These are belts of vapor that hover some 250 miles above the equator in part

of the upper atmosphere known to Hams as the ionosphere.

These plasma bands are far too thin to be directly affected by wind from thunderstorms. However, the researchers have found that the wind can shape the plasma bands by generating electricity in the layer of atmosphere below them.

Three of the densest sections of plasma were located as being directly above areas with frequent thunderstorms. This includes the Amazon Basin in South America, the Congo Basin in Africa, and Indonesia.

But researchers also found another dense section of plasma above the Pacific Ocean. This is far from thunderstorm zones and which has lead them to conclude this as evidence that tropical thunderstorms have a global influence.

Researcher Immel says that this discovery could lead to more reliable global-positioning satellite navigation and short-wave radio transmissions. This, by improving forecasts of high-altitude disturbances that can disrupt them.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1520, Sept. 29, 2006

MORSE CODE AIDS STRANDED UK FISHERMAN

Morse code helped to save a stranded fisherman on Friday, October 20th. This, when he ran his boat aground near Hayling Island after it began taking on water.

The incident took place at night. The unidentified boater had no modern safety aids, no radio and no cellular telephone.

What he did have was a flashlight that he used to send the three letters S-O-S in CW.

His call for help was seen by UK Coast Guard rescue officer Steve Mann. Mann arranged for the stricken fisherman to be picked up by a Coast Guard inshore lifeboat.

The stranded mariner was

luckier than he might have thought. Mann told the press that he has only been with the Coast Guard for the past two years and had never formally been schooled in CW. He says that he just picked up bits of Morse along the way.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1524, Oct. 27, 2006

A MYSTERIOUS AND UNSETTLING TELEPHONE CALL

Are the enemies of the United States targeting our communications infrastructure? This is likely what some are wondering after a radio station in Los Angeles reportedly received a call from a man claiming to be with the FCC and asking for a fax number at the station. The caller claimed the number needed to be monitored 24 hours-a-day so that it could be used by the Department of Homeland Security to disseminate

emergency information.

According to the CGC Communicator, the man would not provide a telephone number and asked instead to be faxed back with any information. The fax number he provided was in New York but an initial investigation found that it did not belong to the FCC.

According to the engineer alerting CGC to this story, the request appeared to be bogus to

him. He speculated that the bad guys may be probing for a way to cause panic in the populace by simply sending a phony fax and thereby bypassing all checks and security.

CGC says we should all be on the lookout for similar phone calls. CGC advises to immediately report any such incidents to the FCC.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1520, Sept. 29, 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).

LOOKING AT THE NEW U.S. PHONE BANDS

The FCC's recent Report and Order in WT Docket 04-140 seems to offer something for just about every sector of the Amateur Radio community, but not without shortcomings. Most appear to be unintended consequences stemming from the FCC's very generous allocation of 75 meter phone spectrum to Amateur Extra class licensees.

The FCC indicated it was only doing what the Ham Radio community said it wanted in its Report and Order in WT Docket 04-140. And once the new rules go into effect, the 75 meter phone band will span 3.8 to 4.0 MHz for Generals, 3.7 to 4.0 MHz for Advanced class licensees and 3.6 to 4.0 MHz for Amateur Extras. Far more modest phone expansions were the rule for 40 and 15 meters, the other affected bands.

But the extended 75 meter Amateur Extra class phone allocation not only effectively reduces the amount of 80-meter spectrum available for CW, RTTY and data. It actually eliminates Advanced and General class access on any mode to certain segments where they now have privileges. Here are some of the numbers as provided by the ARRL.

Generals lose 150 kHz of CW and data spectrum on 80 meters but gain 50 kHz of phone spectrum on 75. They

also lose 25 kHz of CW and data spectrum on 40 meters but gain 50 kHz of phone privileges on that band. Factoring in another 25 kHz of phone spectrum on 15 meters that's an overall gain of 125 kHz of phone spectrum. But that's offset by an overall loss of 175 kHz of CW and data spectrum, or a net loss of 50 kHz in spectrum privileges.

Advanced licensees also lose 150 kHz of CW and data spectrum on 80 meters but gain 75 kHz of phone spectrum on 75. They also lose 25 kHz of CW and data spectrum on 40 meters but gain 25 kHz of phone spectrum there. That's an overall loss of 175 kHz of CW/data spectrum offset by an overall gain of 100 kHz of phone spectrum. The net loss in Advanced privileges works out to 75 kHz.

The new rules are nothing but net gain for Novice and Technician Plus licensees. They wind up with an additional 250 kHz of additional CW and data spectrum on 10 meters.

Still, a number of Tech's are crying foul. As posted on websites and blogs devoted to this license class, it appears as if some Tech Plus operators had expected to be handed some additional phone privileges on all of the high frequency bands from 160 through 10 meters. Most postings indicate that

they want to talk using a microphone rather than a keyboard or Morse key.

Meantime, back at the ARRL Letter the League points out that the Report and Order also contains several apparent mistakes. The FCC will hopefully fix the minor errors when the official Report and Order text appears in the Federal Register later this fall.

Other corrections may prove more troublesome. For example, creating the new expanded 75 meter phone band for Extras effectively, but apparently inadvertently, deleted the only 80 meter segment where automatically controlled digital stations may operate. The new rules no longer permit RTTY and data from 3.620 to 3.635 MHz..

In addition, the FCC accommodated the inclusion of images in data transmissions by defining a range of image emission types as "data" and limiting them to 500 Hz bandwidth in the RTTY/data sub bands. Unfortunately, it did so in a way that also limits J2D emissions — data sent by modulating an SSB transmitter — to 500 Hz bandwidth as well.

The new rules take effect 30 days after they are published in the Federal Register. That should happen in the fairly near future.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1524, Oct. 27, 2006

A PLASTIC BATTERY

Turning to the technology pages, word that Brown University engineers have created a new battery that uses plastic, not metal, to conduct electrical current. The hybrid

device marries the power of a capacitor with the storage capacity of a battery. The National Science Foundation funded the work. A description of the prototype is to be pub-

lished in a journal called *Advanced Materials*. (Materials Technology)

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1520,
September 29, 2006



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

HPARC NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 4-6 — ARRL November Sweepstakes, CW
- 6 — HPARC Club Meeting
- 7 — Election Day
- 11 — VETERAN'S DAY
- 18-20 — ARRL November Sweepstakes,
phone
- 19 — Benson, NC Hamfest
- 23 — THANKSGIVING
- 25-26 — CQ Worldwide Contest, CW
- 26 — HPARC Newsletter deadline

BIRTHDAYS

- Tony Davis — November 5
- Bobbie Bell — November 18

2006 HPARC OFFICERS

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**Breakfast
 every Saturday**

8:00 am

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