

DECEMBER 2006



DECEMBER MEETING

BINGO! Our December meeting will be our annual Bingo Fest. We have scoured the corners of the earth for Bingo prizes from Le Dollar Generale to Wally World (bargain aisle of course). Come join us in the

fun.

Dr. Warren Gallemore gave an excellent program for November. He gave us an update on medical health and some sobering facts on what to do to live longer. (Buckle up,

put out the smokes, and throw out the cheese fries.) Thanks, Warren, for the program.

It is not politically correct, but I'm not a politician. Have a Merry Christmas. He is the reason for the season, you know.

HENSLEY IS NEW ROANOKE VICE DIRECTOR

Patricia Hensley, N4ROS, was elected as Vice Director of the Roanoke Division. She defeated incumbent Rev Les Shattuck, K4NK, 2280 to 996.

Hensley ran on a platform wanting to make the term

“Amateur Radio operator” a highly respected title. She said she feels, “an Amateur Radio license no longer fosters respect from community and national leaders.” She went on to acknowledge that ARRL mem-

bership is declining, and leadership positions are “filled by default because few want to serve.” Her term begins Jan. 1.

—The ARRL Letter Online, Volume 25, Number 46, November 17, 2006

CHRISTMAS DAY ROLL CALL 2006

A tradition leading back to when Fred Browning, W1HLP, started and operated net control, this year's HPARC Christmas Day Roll Call marks its 25th year. Our net control operator will call out all club member's names over our

2-meter repeater, 147.165, on Christmas day starting at 8:00 am. After going through the list of HPARC members, the net control opens the net for late and other check-ins. Non-members are welcome to join in as well. After the net, a few hang

around to ragchew with friends. Last year's net control was Rogers Albertson, WA4BPL, and I assume he will take the controls again this year.

Plan to turn the radio on early Christmas morning and check-in with us.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 2006

Ever get the feeling of déjà vu? The Nominating Committee's recommendations for 2006 officers were accepted at the November meeting. Those nominations were: Chris Horne—president; Sam Hall—vice-president; and Mark

McMahan—secretary/ treasurer.

As per bylaws, no further nominations may be made at the December meeting.

Please attend the December meeting to show your support for these officers.

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

WORK MARS AND GET A TROPHY

Are you a true, blue DX operator? If so, have you thought of trying to win the ARRL's Elser-Mathes Cup. Never heard of it, you say?

The Cup is carved of a dark tropical hardwood. It shows four stylized human figures, two standing, two seated. The standing figures are using one hand each to support a wooden bowl (the cup part) and the other hand rests on the head of the rather-dejected looking seated figures. It was carved in the Philippines and taken back to the USA by Elser and Mathes, who gave it to the folks at ARRL Headquarters. It's been waiting to be won for more than 80 years.

To understand the Cup, you must understand its times. From the earliest days of radio, DX had always been hard-won. The professionals had spanned the globe, BUT compared to the small power of we Amateurs they could use

tens of kilowatts to gigantic skyhooks using waves thousands of meters long.

Even the most well equipped Amateurs could not match the big commercial stations. And even after the 1912 restrictions, that gave Amateurs one kilowatt input and wavelengths no longer than 200 meters, the DX situation looked hopeless.

By 1920, a well equipped 200 meter amateur station might reach 1000 miles. 1500 miles was exceptional. Bridging the Atlantic seemed a dream.

Then, in late 1923, three Amateurs tried a shorter wavelength — 110 meters — and the Transatlantic barrier was broken. Others soon followed, and overnight the old records were dust.

No sooner would a record be set than it would be smashed by a new one. It was in those days that Elser and Mathes decided to create the Cup,

hoping that its requirements would take more than a few weeks or months to achieve. They succeeded — the Cup arrived at ARRL in the mid-1920s, and still waits to be awarded.

But heres the kicker to this story. The Elser Mathes Cup will be awarded to the first two-way radio contact between Amateurs on Earth and the planet Mars.

Elser and Mathes thought the Moon to be too easy a target, and this in the roaring twenties!

So. will the advent of the AMSAT-DL P3 mission to Mars make winning the Cup a reality? Only time will tell. And if per chance H. G. Wells type robots are discovered on Mars, the full set of rules for taking out the Elser Mathes Cup states: "QSO'S with robots don't count!"

—Amateur Radio Newslines,
Report 1528,
November 24, 2006

LAST LIVING LINK TO ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL DIES

The last living link to telephone inventor Alexander Graham Bell has passed away. This with word that Bell's granddaughter Mabel Grosvenor, died late last month in Nova Scotia at the age of 101.

Mabel Grosvenor, was the daughter of Elsie Bell

Grosvenor, the inventor's eldest child, and Gilbert Hovey Grosvenor, the first president and longtime editor of National Geographic magazine.

Although some say Bell hated the telephone, Maxell Grosvenor once told reporters that wasn't true. Rather, he

hated being interrupted by it.

She also remembered her famous grandfather insisted that a ringing telephone be answered with "Hoy, hoy." That a simple "Hello" was considered to be very undignified.

—Amateur Radio Newslines,
Report 1528,
November 24, 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).

AMERICAN RED CROSS WANTING PERSONAL INFO ON HAM RADIO VOLUNTEERS

More fallout from the recent ARRL warning to all radio amateurs regarding information that they supply when volunteering to the American Red Cross. The American Red Cross does not appear to be backing off its requirement that ALL volunteers and employees - including Ham Radio operators - undergo a background check which could include a credit check and other information if they wish to work with the organization.

The checks, being performed by mybackgroundcheck.com, have sparked privacy concerns among Amateur operators who volunteer in an Amateur Radio Emergency Services capacity for their local Red Cross chapters.

In response to the American Radio Relay League's concerns about the background checks, the American Red Cross' director of disaster public affairs, Laura Howe, released a two-page statement to the League. Howe spoke with Amateur Radio Newslines, but would only quote from the statement.

"The consent form, which is a standard form based on federal and state fair reporting credit acts, contains standard legal language that's used by both nonprofit and for-profit organizations for their background checks. By signing the consent form, it's true that the person does agree that the Red Cross has the right to conduct a credit check or other investigation into an individual's

background," she says, reading from the statement.

"However, it's only in a rare applicable circumstance that the Red Cross will actually run a credit check. Instances when a credit check may be warranted include, but aren't limited to, when a unit is hiring someone to work with finances or fundraising or when an individual is suspected of a theft, fraud or other crime related to his or her activities with the Red Cross," she continues.

"While the Red Cross will never run a credit check on the vast majority of its employees and volunteers, it is important that this standard legal language is included in the consent form to protect our clients, volunteers and employees."

Howe insists the credit check approval - sought by mybackgroundcheck.com - doesn't apply for most volunteers and employees.

"Now, the Red Cross does realize that some volunteers may have concerns about authorizing a credit check. And, those concerns are understandable. But please rest assured that the credit checks are only run in rare instances and are not a part of the routine minimum basic check that the Red Cross performs on its employees or volunteers," Howe says, reading from the statement.

What are those checks?

"The standard minimum

check only includes only a Social Security number verification and a search of the National Criminal File for the the past seven years (from the date of release from prison or probation, or whichever occurs later.)," she says, reading from the statement.

"If a volunteer has questions about whether their chapter would need to conduct an additional check besides the standard, those questions should be directed to that particular chapter administrator."

Allen Pitts, ARRL's media and public relations manager, says the League and the Red Cross are two separate organizations that have a relationship through a Statement of Understanding.

"The decision of the Red Cross to initiate the background checks is a Red Cross decision and the ARES members are free to choose their own comfort level as to what types of information they will give to any outside organization without detriment or consequence to their ARES membership," Pitts says.

Pitts and the Red Cross' Howe confirmed the dialogue is ongoing. Only Pitts would put it on the record.

"At this time there is continuing conversations going on between the ARRL and the American Red Cross and we hope to have further clarification in the future," Pitts says.

—Amateur Radio Newslines,
Report 1527, Nov. 17, 2006



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

HPARC DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 1-3 — ARRL 160-Meter Contest
- 4 — HPARC Club Meeting
- 7 — Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 9-10 — ARRL 10-Meter Contest
- 17 — Wright Brother's Day
- 22 — First Day of Winter
- 25 — CHRISTMAS
 (Don't forget the HPARC
 Christmas Day Roll Call)
- 24 — Newsletter deadline
- 31 — NEW YEAR'S EVE

BIRTHDAYS

- Roland Wright — December 9
- Chris Horne — December 12
- Yancey Cecil — December 23
- James Phipps — December 28

2006 HPARC OFFICERS

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**Breakfast
 every Saturday**

8:00 am

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