

JANUARY 2007

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point
Amateur Radio
Club



JANUARY MEETING

The January program has not been decided yet.

Our December program was our annual Christmas get-together and Bingo party. As always, those in attendance had a great time. Missed the rest.

MORSE CODE TESTING

Call it an early Christmas present from the FCC. This, as the FCC announces that it is going to phase out Morse proficiency testing to get a Ham license.

The FCC made this happen by revising the examination requirements for obtaining a General Class or Amateur Extra Class Amateur Radio operator license and revising the operating privileges for Technician Class licensees. In its release, the FCC said that prior to this action and in accordance with international radio regulations, it required applicants for General Class and Amateur Extra Class operator licenses to pass a five words-per-minute Morse code examination.

Now, that requirement is being eliminated. The FCC says that doing so reflects revisions to international radio regulations made at the International

Hope to see you in the new year.

Welcome to our newest member, Lewis Denny. Lewis has been attending quite a few meetings lately, so you probably already know a little about him. Welcome Lewis and his XYL,

Telecommunication Union's 2003 World Radio Conference. It was at that gathering of nations that each country was authorized to determine whether to require that individuals demonstrate Morse code proficiency in order to qualify for an Amateur Radio license with transmitting privileges on frequencies below 30 MHz.

Why is the United States going the no-code route? The FCC says that this change eliminates what it sees as an unnecessary regulatory burden. One that may discourage current Amateur Radio operators from advancing their skills and participating more fully in the benefits of the service.

The same Order also revises the operating privileges for Technician Class licensees. This, by eliminating a disparity in the operating privileges between the Technician Class and Technician Plus Class

Martha, the next time you see them at the meeting.

It's a new year. Let's hope for good things to come. And thank God for those things we received this year. Hope to see everyone at the meeting.

— R.I.P.

licensees.

Technician Class licensees are authorized operating privileges on all Amateur frequencies above 30 MHz. The Technician Plus Class is an operator license class that existed prior the FCC's simplification of the amateur license structure in 1999. It was grandfathered after that time, authorized operating privileges on all Amateur frequencies above 30 MHz, as well as frequency segments in four HF bands below 30 MHz after the successful completion of a Morse code examination.

But with the elimination of

Morse Code continued inside...

**HPARC Meeting
January 1, 2007
at Golden Corral,
Hartley Drive,
Oak Hollow Mall**

CHRISTMAS DAY ROLL CALL 2006

Rogers Albertson, WA4BPL, had twelve check-ins for this year's HPARC 25th Christmas Day Roll Call. Rogers, net control for the Roll Call, reports that they had a grand time after the check-in as well.

The number of check-ins was off from last year. Hope everyone is OK and just slept in on Christmas Day.

Thanks to Fred Browning who started this HPARC tradition and was the net control

for many years.

Thanks to all who checked in this year. Thank you, Rogers, as well for being net control. Here's wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

2007 OFFICERS ELECTED

At the December meeting, new officers for the year 2007 were elected. They are:

Chris Horne, W4CKH, President;

Sam Hall, K4AME, Vice-president;

Mark McMahan, KB4MFP, Secretary/Treasurer.

As always, be willing to give

your support to these officers by accepting a chairmanship, helping in a club project or offering your ideas and suggestions to further our club.

ARRL KIDS' DAY SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

The next chance to provide youngsters with a fun, hands-on radio experience is Sunday, January 7, when the first ARRL Kids' Day of the new year takes place. ARRL Education and Technology Program Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, offers some Kids Day 2007 thoughts and suggestions on page 45 of

the December QST. Kids' Day begins at 1800 UTC and continues until 2400 UTC.

There's no limit on operating time. Suggested exchanges are first name, age, location and favorite color. Suggested frequencies are 14.270 to 14.300 MHz, 21.380 to 21.400 MHz and 28.350 to 28.400 MHz, plus

local VHF repeaters with the sponsor's permission. Licensees should observe third-party traffic restrictions when making DX contacts. These apply when unlicensed individuals communicate via Ham Radio.

—The ARRL Letter Online, Volume 25, Number 50, December 22, 2006

STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT, JANUARY 1

ARRL once again will sponsor Straight Key Night (SKN) starting at 0000 UTC January 1 (New Year's Eve in US time zones) and continuing for the next 24 hours.

Straight Key Night is NOT a contest. It's an opportunity for CW enthusiasts — veterans or novices — to dust off their straight keys and enjoy socializing and "rag chewing" on the air. Some 350 participants posted entries for SKN 2006.

SKN 2007 entries must be received by January 31, 2007.

"Best Fist" and "Most Interesting QSO" votes will appear in April 2007 QST.

During the same time period, AMSAT invites Radio Amateurs worldwide to participate in Straight Key Night on OSCAR 2007. The AMSAT event is dedicated to the memory of Cliff Buttschardt, K7RR, an enthusiastic and longtime SKN participant on both

OSCAR and HF.

No rules, no scoring and no logs, AMSAT says. Just operate CW through any OSCAR between 0000 and 2400 UTC on 1 January 2007 using a straight key.

SKN on OSCAR 2007 participants also may nominate a "Best Fist" from among stations worked.

—The ARRL Letter Online, Volume 25, Number 50, December 22, 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).

...Alberto continued from cover

the Morse code exam requirements, the FCC has concluded that the disparity between the operating privileges of Technician Class licensees and Technician Plus Class licensees should not be retained.

Therefore, the FCC has now afforded Technician and Technician Plus licensees identical operating privileges.

The rules change dropping Morse testing is effective 30 days after it is published in the Federal Register. We will let you

know when that will be. We will also have an editorial comment on the decision to drop Morse testing at the end of this weeks newscast.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1532, December 22nd, 2006

FCC ANNOUNCEMENT

It was announced today that Kellogg's and the Federal Communications Commission have signed a pact to issue Amateur Radio Licenses on specially marked boxes of Corn Flakes. In this unprecedented move the FCC believes this will not hurt Amateur Radio but allow all individuals to receive an Amateur Radio license without having to demonstrate any skills with the exception of being able to use a pair of scissors to cut out their operating permit from the breakfast cereal box.

Kellogg's spokesperson commented that they were proud to have been selected by the government to be the issuer of licenses for Amateur Radio in the US and hope to soon make an agreement with other cereal

loving countries. They also expect that will be issuing certificates of achievement for DXCF for confirmed contacts with 100 corn flakers.

Following the announcement that new Amateur Radio licensees will be able to operate in the HF spectrum without knowledge of Morse Code, the 2-meter handi-talki manufacturers have responded to what they view as a threat to their business. Said Hiram Bumble, CEO of whatawaste.com, the number one HT maker in the world, "We are not pleased at all about the new FCC rule. Our business has depended upon the rapid entry of no-code technicians who buy an HT, use it a couple of times, and then quit the hobby. Now, with the prospect of HF operation, a lot

of these techies will forego their HTs."

The HT manufacturers have decided to imitate Kodak's defense against electronic photography. They will begin making cardboard HTs that cost only \$19.99. Once the battery is depleted, they are meant to be tossed away. It is hoped that the low price tag will make these disposable HTs a more compelling purchase than the more costly HF gear. The HT manufacturers all also lobbying the Federal government to adopt national CC&Rs which will prevent most people from erecting any sort of antenna that is more than one meter in length.

—from the Internet
(You know if it is from the Internet, it has to be true!)

REVISED BAND PLANS FOR 80/75, 40 AND 15

The ARRL Executive Committee approved revised band plans for 80/75, 40, and 15 meters developed and recommended by the League's Band Planning Committee.

Rick Roderick, K5UR, says his panel considered members' input in developing the changes. They received nearly 900 comments.

The charts below reflect the old band plan as well as the changes that went into effect December 15.

75/80 METERS	OLD BAND PLAN	NEW BAND PLAN
3.590	.....RTTY DX	.....RTTY/Data DX
3.580-3.620	....RTTY	.....3.570-3.600: RTTY/Data
3.620-3.635	....Packet	.....Delete
3.790-3.800	....DX Window	.....No change

3.845	.....SSTV	.....No change
3.885	.....AM calling frequency	..No change

40 METERS	..OLD BAND PLAN	NEW BAND PLAN
7.040	.....RTTY DX	.....RTTY/Data DX
7.080-7.100	....RTTY	.....7.080-7.125: RTTY/Data
7.171	.....SSTV	.....No change
7.290	.....AM calling frequency	No change

15 METERS	..OLD BAND PLAN	NEW BAND PLAN
21.070-21.100	..RTTY	.....21.070-21.110: RTTY/Data
21.100-21.110	..Packet	.....21.070-21.110: RTTY/Data
21.340	.....SSTV	.....No change

—The ARRL Letter Online, Volume 25, Number 49, December 15, 2006



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

HPARC JANUARY CALENDAR

- 1 — NEW YEAR'S DAY
- 1 — ARRL Straight Key Night
- 1 — HPARC Club Meeting
- 6-7 — ARRL RTTY Roundup
- 7 — Kid's Day
- 6 — Winston Salem Hamfest
- 15 — MARTIN L. KING JR BIRTHDAY
(observed)
- 20-22 — ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes
- 28 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline

BIRTHDAYS
 Ric Marshall — January 12

2007 HPARC OFFICERS

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HPARC Web page: <http://www.qsl.net/w4ua> • w4ua@qsl.net

Breakfast
 every Saturday

—
 8:00 am

—
 Mrs. Winner's,
 South Main St.