

MARCH 2007

# HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point  
Amateur Radio  
Club



## MARCH MEETING

Richard Worden will be with us March 5th. He will be speaking on the "mission" of Big Brothers-Big Sisters of High Point.

There was no program for February.

The HPARC will meet at

Rosa Mae's Cafe for the March meeting. Rosa Mae's is located at 1322 National Highway.

In the "is our face red" department, I announced that the Elkin Hamfest is "on again." My apologies to all who were misled by this arti-

cle. I didn't have a current source for Elkin's date, and my search for Elkin Hamfest brought up an old article from the Internet. Sorry.

Remember our new meeting place and bring a friend. Hope to see everyone

## TRANSITION TO NEW AMATEUR SERVICE RULES

A new Amateur Radio Service regime now is in place. The requirement to demonstrate Morse code proficiency to gain HF privileges officially disappeared from the FCC's Part 97 rules February 23 at one minute past midnight Eastern Time. At the same time, some 200,000 Technician licensees without Morse code exam credit acquired HF privileges equivalent to those available to Novice licensees. ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, points to the still-growing number of ARRL VEC test sessions now on the schedule across the US as evidence that the rule changes will provide a shot in the arm to Amateur Radio.

"ARRL VEC has been extremely busy scheduling new exam sessions," Kramer said. "We normally coordinate about 5500 sessions per year,

but we've already scheduled close to 5000 sessions and it's only the end of February."

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, reports some 175 ARRL VEC test sessions are on the schedule through the February 23-25 period, "and these are just the ones that have registered with us," she added. Two dozen applicants showed up at League Headquarters, either to sit for an exam or apply for license upgrades.

"I was surprised at the number of people who wanted to take the test at 12:01 AM," Somma remarked. All but two test applicants took their exams under the new rules.

Somma says her department now is bracing for an anticipated application avalanche as paperwork from initial sessions shows up. She and Kramer predict test

demand will surge even further in the days and weeks ahead. Not only has the number of test sessions increased dramatically, Kramer pointed out, the number of applicants at each session is up as well.

"The FCC's decision to eliminate the Morse code examination as a licensing requirement opens the door to HF for all Amateur licensees," Sumner points out in his remarks.

—The ARRL Letter Online, Volume 26, Number 8, February 23, 2007

**HPARC Meeting  
March 5, 2007  
at Golden Corral,  
Hartley Drive,  
Oak Hollow Mall**

# STUDY: GROUP THINKING CLOUDS CLEAR DECISION-MAKING

People have a harder time coming up with alternative solutions to a problem when they are part of a group, new research suggests.

Scientists exposed study participants to one brand of soft drink, then asked them to think of alternative brands.

Alone, they came up with significantly more products than when they were grouped with two others.

The finding could be good news for advertisers who buy spots during big events like the Super Bowl, since consumers often view those commercials with others.

The clouded thinking might also extend into corporate

boardrooms.

“When a group gets together, they can miss out on good options,” study team member H. Shanker Krishnan told LiveScience.

This could mean ordering from a pizza place advertised on television even if there’s a better option, or making a poor decision in the boardroom. “Whether it’s with family or a group of co-workers, we could very quickly fixate on things and all come up with the same options.”

The researchers speculate that when a group of people receives information, the inclination is to discuss it. The more times one option is said

aloud, the harder it is for individuals to recall other options, explained Krishnan, associate professor of marketing at Indiana University.

Another contributing factor is variation in learning and memory styles. People store and retrieve information in myriad ways, so in a group situation, the conversation could cause individuals to think about the cues differently than they would if they were alone.

Krishnan said individuals, whether students, executives or football fans, should take time to consider the facts on their own before coming to a consensus.

—Foxnews.com

## NEW ENGLAND’S “HOSSTRADERS” HAMFEST CALLS IT QUILTS

Sponsors of the Hosstraders Tailgate Swapfest — a New England Tradition for more than 30 years — have announced that last October’s event was the last. “After careful consideration, we have decided to discontinue hosting the event,” said a statement on the Hosstraders’ Web site.

“A combination of factors have led to this difficult decision. We want to take things out on a high note, while we can still be proud of our efforts.”

The swapfest, an outgrowth

of the 75-meter “Hosstraders Net,” debuted in 1973 in Seabrook, New Hampshire. It subsequently took up residence in Deerfield, Kingston, Rochester and Hopkinton, New Hampshire. Joe Demaso,

K1RQG, Norm Blake, W1ITT (ex-WA1IVB) and Bob Tiffany, W1GWU, have been the Hosstraders’ prime movers from the outset, and the event, held spring and fall, became as much a social gathering as a place to buy, swap and sell Ham Radio gear. Over the years, Hosstraders donated

some \$1.3 million to the Shriners’ hospitals.

Demaso, Blake and Tiffany cited problems with site logistics, competition from Internet auction/sales sites and the change in the direction of Amateur Radio coupled with “the fact that we have done it for a third of a century and we are getting old and tuckered out,” as reasons for throwing in the towel. They say they plan to “relax and play radio” now.

—The ARRL Letter Online, Volume 26, Number 7, February 16, 2007

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).

# HAM HISTORY: THE Q-CODES

Most Hams use Q codes in their day to day operation, but have you ever given any thought to where they came from?

Q-codes, we use them on air particularly the HF bands, they're universally understood abbreviations and part of the regulatory or operational knowledge needed to obtain a Ham ticket.

But where and how did they begin? The original Q Codes were created in about 1909 by the British government as a list of abbreviations for use by British ships and coastal stations.

They quickly proved their worth in facilitating communication between maritime operators including those from non-English speaking countries.

A total of 45 Q-codes were adopted by the International Radiotelegraph Convention in July 1912.

There are actually three sets of Q-codes — QAA-QNZ for aeronautical use, QOA-QOZ for maritime use, and QRA-QUZ for general use and part of this set is used by Radio Amateurs.

Some Q-codes previously listed for Ham use in various publications seem to have fallen by the wayside.

For example QRA — What is the name of your station? This can easily be substituted with QRZ?

QUM — Normal operation of an Amateur station can resume. This is a throw back to the early spark-gap wireless telegraphy era when Amateur stations could be

told to stop sending due to interference with maritime stations.

Among others that seem to have fallen into disuse are: QRH — Does my frequency vary? and QRL — Are you busy?

There are also a few unofficial or humorous Q-codes used occasionally too. Notably QLF — sending with your left foot or QLK for left-footed keyboard operation. The point of those codes is to highlight poor sending via a Morse key or qwerty keyboard.

Now going QRT, I'm Jim Linton VK3PC.

And we QSL that report, loud and clear. (GB2RS)

—Amateur Radio Newline, Report 1536, January 19, 2007

## WORLDS WORST COMMUNICATIONS PREDICTIONS

Here some interesting communications and technology predictions that could not have been more wrong. Get ready to smile.

"Theoretically, television may be feasible, but I consider it an impossibility—a development which we should waste little time dreaming about." Lee de Forest in 1926, inventor of the cathode ray tube.

"I think there is a world market for maybe five com-

puters." Thomas J. Watson in 1943, Chairman of the Board of IBM.

"This 'telephone' has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to us." Western Union internal memo in 1876.

"Who the h--- wants to hear actors talk?" H. M. Warner of Warner Brothers in 1927.

And one which is a classic. "640 Kilobytes ought to be

enough (memory) for anybody." Bill Gates in 1981.

Then there's the thoughts of the perennial early 1920's Radio Amateurs whose names have long ago been forgotten but his words live on:

"All a Ham needs to work DX is a good rotary spark gap, a lively piece of Galena crystal for a receiver, some wire on the roof and a lot of luck."

—Amateur Radio Newline, Report 1526, Nov. 10, 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 Newline, Report 1520, September 29, 2006



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

## HPARC MARCH CALENDAR

- 3-4 — ARRL International DX Contest,  
phone
- 5 — HPARC Club Meeting (new location)
- 10-11 — Charlotte Hamfest
- 11 — Daylight Savings Time begins
- 16 — NC Arbor Day
- 17 — St. Patrick's Day
- 25 — Kinston, NC Hamfest

- 25 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline
- 26-April 1 — High Point International  
Home Furnishings Market

### BIRTHDAYS

- Jim Mason — March 19
- Fred Blackman — March 31

### 2007 HPARC OFFICERS

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**Breakfast**  
**every Saturday**  
 —  
**8:00 am**  
 —  
**Mrs. Winner's,**  
**South Main St.**