

MAY 2007

# HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point Amateur Radio Club



## MAY MEETING

George Crooker, Executive Director of the Hartley Drive Family YMCA, and one other staff member will present the May program.

For those who have not attended in a while, remember that the HPARC has changed its meeting location to Rosa Mae's Cafe. We would love to

have you attend a meeting.

You don't have to be a member to visit us. Bring the family and/or a friend and come on out. See you there.

## FCC PROPOSES TO LOWER THE VANITY CALL FEE

Some good news about license fees courtesy of the ARRL. It reports that the FCC has proposed reducing the regulatory fee to obtain or retain an Amateur Radio vanity call sign by more than 40 percent starting later this year.

In a Notice of Proposed Rule

Making released April 18th, the Commission is proposing to cut the fee from its current \$20.80 to \$11.70. If ultimately adopted, that would mark the lowest fee in the history of the current vanity call sign program.

The actual designation of the proposal is titled

"Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2007." In it, the FCC proposes to collect a total nearly \$290.3 million in Fiscal Year 2007 from all of its combined regulatory fees.

—Amateur Radio Newslines, Report 1550, April 27, 2007

## HOSTAGE SAILORS USE CW TO KEEP IN TOUCH

One of the British seamen held hostage in Iran has told how they used Morse code to stay in touch with one another while imprisoned.

Able Seaman Simon Massey revealed they developed a system of 'knocking in and knocking out' during their first week of solitary confinement.

He said: "It was like keep-

ing a mental register – checking off the voices of comrades whenever one of them asked for a toilet break or a cigarette."

"Leading Seaman Chris Coe was next door to my cell. We would just sit here tapping out code. We'd check up on each other, say goodnight, and if we went out of the cell, we would give a little knock

when we got back to let each other know we were OK.

"Just knocking with knuck-  
*Sailors continued inside...*

**HPARC Meeting**  
**May 7, 2007**  
**at Rosa Mae's Cafe,**  
**1322 National Hwy,**  
**Thomasville**

# MINUTES OF THE APRIL MEETING

At 7:31 pm in Chris Horne's absence, Sam Hall opened the High Point Amateur Radio Club meeting at Rosa Mae's Cafe. There were 10 members and 3 visitors in attendance.

Minutes and Treasurer's reports were handed out. Motion by Mike Walker to accept reports as written. Seconded by

Roland Wright. Motion passed.

Old business: Chris Horne has talked with Mr. Moore about using his place for Field Day.

New business: Field Day was discussed. It was recommended that the decision to use Mr. Moore's or Rogers Albertson's place because of rain to be decided by the Board the week

before Field Day. Tower trailer needs a pulley. Will have hotdog supper that evening as usual.

There was no program.

Motion to adjourn by Mike Walker. Seconded by Mike Cumbo.

—Respectfully submitted

Mark McMahan, KB4MFP,  
HPARC Secretary

## L-ION BATTERIES FOR YOUR CAR

Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries hopes to start mass production of lithium ion batteries for automotive use in 2010. These rechargeable batteries would be sold to auto makers for use in electric and gas-electric hybrid vehicles.

Sanyo Electric which sup-

plies nickel metal hydride batteries to Honda and Ford is also developing the technology. Also getting into the act are electronics conglomerate Hitachi, car battery manufacturer Yuasa Corp and electronic parts maker Murata Manufacturing.

Lithium ion batteries are

more compact than nickel metal hydride batteries, contributing to fuel efficiency. But safety concerns such as overheating remain and the technology is still considered too expensive by many.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1549, April 20, 2007

## PAY PHONES – AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

The old pay telephone on your corner could soon be a remnant of an era gone by. This as rising cell phone use along with vandalism and neglect taking their toll.

According to an estimate by the American Public

Communications Council, nationwide, the number of pay phones has dropped by half to approximately 1 million over the last nine years. This worries consumer activists and advocates for the poor. Both groups have protested the

drop in numbers saying that public pay phones are necessary in emergencies and represent a lifeline for those who can't afford a cell phone or even a landline.

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

## PEOPLE KNOW MORE BASIC SCIENCE TODAY

New research shows that Americans know more about basic science today than they did two decades ago.

The topic was discussed at the recent annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science held in San Francisco. A study found that the percentage of Americans who know enough

about science to understand reports of major importance in major newspapers rose from 10 percent in 1988 to 28 percent in 2005. The improvement is attributed to the requirement that all college students have at least some science courses.

At the same time, researchers caution that improvement is tempered by growth in the

belief in pseudo-sciences. Pseudo-science is any body of knowledge, methodology, belief, or practice that claims to be scientific but does not follow the scientific methods of research. These include such things as astrology and visits by extraterrestrial aliens to name only two.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1543, March 9, 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 Rosa Mae's Cafe, 1322 National Highway, Thomasville. 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).

...*Sailors continued from cover*  
les. Little things like that got us through.”

The use of Morse code by prisoners was made famous in

the 1962 classic film *Birdman Of Alcatraz*. It was also used by POWs in Vietnam.

The 14 men and one woman sailor were seized by Iranian

warships on March 23rd. It took 13 days to secure their release.

—Amateur Radio Newslines, Report 1549, April 20, 2007

## THE TIME IS NOW

A couple of years ago (in the 19 May 2004 issue to be exact) I published a short essay on reaching out, the biggest challenge to Amateur Radio and Amateurs. With Morse code having been removed as a licensing requirement and the subsequent inrush of new and upgrading Hams, it is even more important to meet the challenge of outreach. Not only for contesting, but for Amateur Radio in general.

What is it that will turn a casually interested new Ham into a five-year, ten-year, lifetime Ham? What is it that about Amateur Radio that will hold the Technician's interest and get them excited about finding out what lies around each of Ham Radio's many corners and curves? What is it that takes Ham Radio from a means to an end to being an end in itself? Where that crackly hiss from the speaker becomes an invitation instead of something to be muted?

There are so many paths from that first taste through the mysteries to discovering the magic that waits behind every power switch. And there are so many new call signs popping up on the bands! How will they find a good path, a true path? How will they gain the confidence to take on those mysteries,

just as we did, and make it through to the other side?

Every reader of this newsletter can be a guide, a mentor, a teacher, a friend. These eager new faces are standing on the sidelines waiting to be invited to a club meeting, the Saturday breakfast, a hamfest, a multi-op contest. You can find them in the FCC database with brand-new calls. Many of them regularly log on to the ARRL Web, QRZ.com, or eham.net. In fact, I'll bet a lot of new Hams check your club's Web site to see what's there.

Take a look at that club Web site. If a new Ham found your club using the ARRL Club Search page, what would they find? Would there be a "Welcome, New Hams" button or link? Would a recent upgrade to General feel comfortable attending an upcoming meeting? Could they even **find** the meeting?

Once a new face works up the nerve to attend a meeting or informal gathering, would they be welcomed into the group or would they be left standing around on the periphery? Too many groups let newcomers just fend for themselves. Is it any wonder a second visit just doesn't happen?

Here's some suggestions to every club and group:

- Make sure a visitor will see a welcoming message

- Offer help and information in your group's specialty – At gatherings, seek out and welcome new members

- Help new members break the ice with the cliques

None of this costs a nickel – just the expenditure of a little goodwill and Ham spirit.

In the past thirty days, there are nearly 6000 new Hams and more than 11,000 upgrades. The Amateur Service has reversed its population trend and is growing again. This is good for contesting and good for Amateur Radio. Some are worried that this will change Ham Radio and no doubt, it will! Yet, if certain practices and attitudes are important to Ham Radio, how will these newcomers find out about them? It is fairly unreasonable to expect that information to be magically absorbed from the ether.

It's up to us, not some nebulous 'them', to help this wave of new Hams and make them part of what Ham Radio is and should be. After all, Ham Radio is you and me! Take a moment to do your part and help your organization do its part. There is no better time – the time is now.

73, Ward N0AX

—The ARRL Contest Rate Sheet, April 18, 2007



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

## HPARC MAY CALENDAR

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 3 — National Day of Prayer                   | 26 — Durham, NC Hamfest        |
| 5 — Cinco de Mayo                            | 27 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline |
| 7 — HPARC Club Meeting                       | 28 — MEMORIAL DAY              |
| 8 — National Teacher's Day                   |                                |
| 8 — VE Day<br>(Germany surrenders WWII 1945) |                                |
| 12 — Rockingham County ARC Hamfest           |                                |
| 13 — MOTHER'S DAY                            |                                |
| 18-20 — Dayton, OH Hamvention                |                                |
| 19 — ARMED FORCES DAY                        |                                |

### BIRTHDAYS

Ben Rogers — May 21

### 2007 HPARC OFFICERS

Chris Horne, W4CKH — President — 869-1295 — [chorne@nscom.com](mailto:chorne@nscom.com)  
 Sam Hall, K4AME — Vice-president — 431-8940 — [k4ame@arrl.net](mailto:k4ame@arrl.net)  
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**Breakfast  
 every Saturday**

**8:00 am**

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