

JULY 2007

# HPARC NEWSLETTER

*High Point  
Amateur Radio  
Club*



## JULY MEETING

Another Field Day is in the history books, and the weather was kind to us. We had a good turn out at Mr. Moore's farm, and everyone enjoyed themselves. There was plenty of food, fun and fellowship. And we made quite a number of contacts. We will report some-time later on scores.

Rosa Mae's Cafe will be closed the first Monday in July for Independence Day. We will meet instead the second Monday on July 9. Please keep this in mind as you make your plans to attend and remind others of the change.

Are you happy with the recent change in restaurants?

Yes or no, we would like to hear from you. If you have recommendations for the Board, please share them with us. It is difficult for a club of our size to keep a place for a meeting site. Let us know what you think.

Recovered from Field Day? Hope to see everyone at the club meeting.

## ARRL MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS ON THE RISE

With now close to 152,000 members, the ARRL is going, and growing, strong. ARRL Customer Service Manager Amy Hurtado, KB1NXO, says the "ARRL is a viable, up-to-date organization that every Ham should be a part of."

Hurtado credits the rise in membership in part to the FCC rule changes earlier this year that eliminated Morse code testing for the General and Amateur Extra license classes. "Since more people were upgrading their licenses as a result of there being no Morse code requirement, we were successfully able to show them the benefits of being an ARRL member," she said.

One of the many benefits

of ARRL membership, Hurtado said, is the monthly subscription to QST, the official journal of the ARRL. Other benefits of ARRL membership include a QST/QEX/NCJ index search on the ARRL Web site; operating awards; outgoing QSL service; access to the Technical Information Service; available Ham Radio equipment insurance program and more. Members can also get an arrl.net e-mail address through the ARRL e-mail forwarding service.

Hurtado went on to say that new, renewing and lapsed members can join the ARRL in many ways. "About 40-50 percent of membership enrollment is online. We also have people

join after taking a licensing exam, by calling us on the phone, by answering a direct mail package or by joining up at their local hamfest."

If you are interested in joining the ARRL or renewing your present membership, please see the ARRL Web site.

—The ARRL Letter Online,  
Volume 26, Number 25,  
June 22, 2007

**HPARC Meeting  
July 9, 2007  
at Rosa Mae's Cafe,  
1322 National Hwy,  
Thomasville**

## MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING

At 7:30 pm Sam Hall opened the meeting of the HPARC. There were 10 members and 2 visitors in attendance.

There was a mention of those sick.

Minutes and Treasurer's

reports were handed out. Motion by Mike Cumbo to accept reports as written. Seconded by Mike Walker. Motion passed.

There was no old business.

There was no new business.

The program was discussion

of Field Day plans.

Motion to adjourn by Mike Cumbo. Seconded by Rogers Albertson.

—Respectfully submitted

Mark McMahan, KB4MFP,  
HPARC Secretary

## FCC CHAIRMAN AGAIN SAYS YES TO CABLE A LA CARTE

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Kevin Martin has renewed a long simmering debate over "a la carte" programming at a recent cable industry gathering in Las Vegas, Nevada. According to news reports, Martin told the audience at

the annual "Cable Show" that consumers should be able to purchase what they want without being forced to buy what they don't.

Martin has supported implementing "a la carte" service, where consumers could choose and pay for individual chan-

nels, rather than purchase them in bundles from their cable companies. He said the issue was increasingly important since the price for "expanded basic" cable has doubled since 1996.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1558, June 22, 2007

## ME AND MY BABY - MONITOR

An elementary school science teacher in this Chicago suburb didn't have to turn on the news for an update on the now concluded STS 117 space shuttle mission. This was because her baby monitor decided to become a shuttle mission video delivery service of its very own.

Beginning on Sunday, June 10th, one of the two channels on Natalie Meilinger's baby monitor began picking up video from inside the space shuttle Atlantis. Summer Infant Products which manu-

factured the remote monitoring system said that it is investigating what could be causing the video to appear on Meilingers unit but is so far baffled. Company Communications Director Cindy Barlow said that she never heard of anything similar happening.

Meantime, NASA had its say as well. Spokesperson Brandi Dean issued a statement denying that the signal Meilinger was seeing was not coming directly from the shuttle. She noted that the live video is available on NASA's

Web site, so it's possible the monitor was picking up a signal from some localized rebroadcast.

So far it does not look as if any local Hams or Ham Radio retransmission of NASA video is responsible. More likely it's a neighbor with one of those in home television rebroadcast units used to send cable or satellite delivered television to other rooms. (Published reports)

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1558,  
June 22, 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).

# RILEY REITERATES RECOMMENDATION TO “LIGHTEN UP” ON HAM BANDS

FCC Special Counsel in the Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth's main message at the Dayton Hamvention 2007 FCC Forum may not have been a new one. But it's certainly one he believes bears repeating -- at least until it starts cutting through the QRM and QRN that pervade more communication channels than our Amateur Radio bands.

“Well, you could have gone to the flea market, but you came to church instead,” Hollingsworth quipped to his Dayton forum audience. “I've got you now.”

Hollingsworth repeated what for many Riley Watchers has become a familiar refrain: That the Amateur Radio community needs to “lighten up” on the air. Acknowledging that he was repeating himself, Hollingsworth urged his audience to take his message more to heart. “All of you can learn from each other,” he said, “and you need to work together more and show a little more respect for your diverse interests and for the Amateur Service as a whole. It isn't about you. It isn't about enforcement. It's about Amateur Radio.”

As Radio Amateurs take to the airwaves, he continued, they need to decide what's most important -- the best interests of Ham Radio or their ego, pride or perceived “rights.”

“I realize I may be preaching to the choir here, but on the air you need to be more cooperative and less argumentative -- and I need you to take this message with you when you go home,” he

continued.

As a “homework assignment,” Hollingsworth encouraged his listeners to read the “It Seems to Us . . .” editorial, “Most Effective Use”, by ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, in May 2007 QST. In his commentary, Sumner stressed that interference occurring as a side effect of legitimate Amateur Radio activities in crowded bands “is simply a fact of life” and that it's “unfair to your fellow Amateurs to assume that every instance of interference you may encounter is a hostile act.”

Hollingsworth offered good news and bad news. “The good news: Nothing is wrong with Amateur Radio,” he allowed. “It is a good service that is showing its value to the public on a daily basis.”

The bad news, he asserted, making a comparison to “road rage,” is “that there is an element of Amateur Radio that too often reflects present society generally.”

Hollingsworth urged all Radio Amateurs to cooperate more and depend less on the FCC to solve their operating issues.

“We live in a rude, discourteous, profane, hotheaded society that loves its rights, prefers not to hear about its responsibilities, and that spills over into the Ham bands,” he said.

Hollingsworth's bottom line: Be flexible in your frequency selection and make regular use of the “big knob” on the front of your transceiver to shift to any of the “thousands of frequencies and hundreds usable at any

given time of day or year” as necessary to avoid problems. “The world is ugly enough -- don't add to it,” Hollingsworth advised.

“We can enforce our rules, but we can't enforce kindness and courtesy or common sense,” Hollingsworth concluded. “And a very wise person, who happens to be standing to my left [FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staffer Bill Cross, W3TN -- Ed] once told me: ‘You can't regulate stupid.’ If we could, we'd be working for the United Nations instead of the FCC.”

In his comments, Cross singled out the controversy that erupted recently over fears that automatically controlled digital stations would overwhelm the Amateur bands, eclipsing most other modes. Cross cited §97.7 of the rules, which requires each Amateur station to have a control operator and, in essence, to employ a “listen-before-transmit” protocol. When a station is under automatic control, regardless of the transmission mode, Cross explained, the control operator need not be at the control point, but must employ station control devices and procedures while transmitting that ensure compliance with the FCC rules and does not cause harmful interference to ongoing communications of other stations.

The operational rule, Cross said, is: “Your call sign, your responsibility.”

—The ARRL Letter Online,  
Volume 26, Number 22,  
June 1, 2007



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

## HPARC JULY CALENDAR

- 4 — INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 9 — HPARC Club Meeting  
(NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)
- 7 — Salisbury Firecracker Hamfest
- 14-15 — IARU HF World Championship
- 21 — Cary Swapfest
- 22 — PARENTS' DAY
- 28 — Waynesville Hamfest
- 29 — HPARC Newsletter deadline

### BIRTHDAYS

- Richard Bivins — July 10
- Tom Mills — July 26

### 2007 HPARC OFFICERS

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**Breakfast  
 every Saturday**

**8:00 am**

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