

AUGUST 2007

HPARC NEWSLETTER

*High Point
Amateur Radio
Club*



AUGUST MEETING

No idea if we will have a program for the August meeting, but don't let that stop you from coming to the meeting. We had a good number in attendance last month. Hope to see you at the meeting.

This extreme heat reminds me of the Field Day we had at the ballpark in Glenola some years ago. On Sunday when we were breaking down, several people almost got sick from the heat. With the weather we are

having, please take care of yourself and remember to drink lots of water. We wouldn't want anything to happen to anyone.

Bring a friend to the meeting. See you there.

ROMANIA: THE NEW PRO - CW - CLUB

From Romania comes word of the newly formed Pro CW Club. The creation of YO6EX, the organization is dedicated to the preservation and

encouragement the art of CW communications world-wide. There are two categories of membership. These are full and associate. Dues is 10

Euros. Applications go to YO6EX, P.O.Box 168, SIBIU-1, RO-550450, Romania.

—Amateur Radio Newsline
Report 1562, July 20, 2007

N.C. ENACTS HAM RADIO ANTENNA PROTECTION LAW

North Carolina is the latest state to adopt legislation that guarantees most Hams can erect and use antennas.

On Friday, June 29th, North Carolina Governor Mike Easley signed HB1340, also known the "Amateur Radio Antenna bill" into law. The measure which is crafted to follow the guidelines set forth in the FCC's Federal Preemption Order PRB-1. It permits antennas up to 90 feet in height in areas regulated solely by municipal ordinances.

However like in other states, the North Carolina

measure does not override those Conditions, Covenants and Restrictions, which might preclude antennas or even the ownership or use of radio transmitting gear by those who have signed deeds with those restrictions built in. Such CCR's are still deemed to be personal contracts between a buyer and a seller. As such, they remain outside the realm of federal or state regulation. They were also specifically excluded when PRB-1 was enacted.

The North Carolina bill was introduced in February. It passed unanimously in both

the House and the Senate and takes effect October 1st. With this action, North Carolina becomes the 25th state to enact laws that guarantee the rights of its Ham Radio operators to have the antennas they need to go on the air.

—Amateur Radio Newsline
Report 1560, July 6, 2007

**HPARC Meeting
August 6, 2007
at Rosa Mae's Cafe,
1322 National Hwy,
Thomasville**

LEAGUE CITES NO-CODE AS REASON FOR MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

The ARRL Letter says that its membership in the League is up and the trend is toward continued growth. With now close to 152,000 members, Customer Service Manager Amy Hurtado, KB1NXO, says the League 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. She says that since more people are upgrading their licenses as a result of there being no Morse code requirement, the League is now successfully able to show them the benefits of being an ARRL member.

THE BEST CONTEST EVER

Which contest was the best one ever? Why, it's obvious – the best one was the one that ran the year before “you” started contesting! I can't tell you how many times I've seen grown men misting up over the famed 1959 sunspot peak or the 1960-something ARRL DX or the 1970-something CQ WW. Always prior to “my” start on the bands in 1972. This past week, the VHF+ reflector has been full of reminiscing about the famed 1987 June QSO Party with the big openings on all bands, for example. Of course, I can't claim not to have been guilty of the very same thing!

Having just put the final coat of paint on this year's ARRL DX Phone results and put in some time during the IARU HF Championship, my sensitivity to the ho-hum (some might use stronger language) conditions on the HF bands is acute. For those of us that have been around through the peak conditions such as 2002's exciting weekends, it's hard to get excited about the lower scores and

sparser activity.

Well, so what? I believe we could perhaps recalibrate a bit and not be so negative about conditions. After all, they're bad all over and not just at our location. There is no point in getting all sentimental over weekends of contesting that will literally never return. Certainly enjoy the good memories, but don't be such a wet blanket about the fun that can be had right now.

Try to adopt the attitude of the newcomer to contesting. When that starting bell goes off and the stampede begins, it's the same excitement every time! I can recall being tremendously excited to operate in a big DX contest back in the mid-1970's when I was just getting started. I had no idea conditions at the solar minimum were stink-o, I just got on and operated. Every station that went in the log was an exciting QSO. Wow, Africa!

After a couple of years, things started getting better. Higher bands opened and lower bands opened earlier and longer. I learned more about where to

tune and when. One snowed-in Thanksgiving CQ WW CW as N1EUZ and I got a taste of a deep, over-the-pole run of stations from Central Asia, it was as if the heavens had parted! Little did I know how much better things could be and I didn't care. Luckily, I didn't have some old grouch telling me how rotten conditions were.

We have a bunch of new HF operators headed down the bands to try their hand at operating below 30 MHz. They are excited to make contacts way beyond their usual radio horizons and having a good time. It's our job to show them how to find the open bands, taking advantage of the shorter, weaker openings characteristics of low sunspot numbers. Educate them as to history and expectations, of course, but try to show a little enthusiasm, would ya? After all, for many of those new folks, this is, in fact, the best contest ever!

—73, Ward N0AX, ARRL
Contest Rate Sheet,
July 25, 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).

ME AND MY BABY MONITOR – MYSTERY SOLVED

Ham Radio is responsible for the NASA video seen over an Illinois mother's baby monitor during the recently concluded STS 117 space shuttle flight.

A radio club in Schaumburg, Illinois says it is likely responsible for the NASA spaceflight video over baby monitor. But it turns out that the signal seen only by suburban Chicago teacher Natalie Meilinger was not on 2.4 GHz as originally thought.

It happened this way. The club was re-transmitting STS 117 mission video on its 910.25 MHz amateur television repeater. The system runs 100 watts out into a pair of horizontal yagis. These antennas are at 70 feet with one pointed north and the other to the west.

And it turns out that not all

baby monitors operate on 2.4 GHz as everyone first thought. Some are in the 900 Mhz spectrum while others are dual band units. If you do the math it means that a more than receivable signal could easily reach the Meilinger home and be displayed on the monitor receiver.

So why was no ID noted by the Meilinger family? During the mission the transmitter had the call sign K9MOT displayed in the lower right corner of active video every 10 minutes - per FCC identification regulations. Any properly aligned video monitor like those used in Amateur Television stations would have displayed it because the ID fell inside what broadcast engineers call the video safe zone. That's the screen area you are

supposed to see in off air television viewing.

But a baby monitor is not a broadcast quality monitor. In reality, most are low-end consumer products that tend to overscan the picture tube face. That's fine for watching the kids at play but not for trying to see the whole picture. And that was likely the case with Natalie Meilinger's baby monitor as well.

The K9MOT identifier was there, but the baby monitor had too much picture width. That put it out of the picture area her unit could display so she and anyone else looking at the monitor screen couldn't see it.

Mystery solved thanks to some good sleuthing on the part of some Illinois Hams.

—Amateur Radio Newsline
Report 1560, July 6, 2007

MORE WITH THE FCC'S RILEY HOLLINGSWORTH

Some words of wisdom to live by. Especially if you plan to operate on a frequency known for its problems. Think of the Ham bands as a street and you are the driver of a car passing through. There are many streets you can drive and FCC chief rules enforcer Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, says that those who come back to a bad frequency time and time again are like a driver looking for an accident:

Hollingsworth: "You have to look at it this way. Every city has a bad neighborhood. Its an area that will take time and more resources to clean up.

There are economical and sociological problems and other things. Mental problems like on the Ham bands (audience laughter)."

"But if you had three alternative streets you could take to work and one was through a bad neighborhood. And every time you drove that street, someone hit your windshield with a rock. Wouldn't you take another street after say — five or six windshields? (Audience laughter)"

"So whose the bigger idiot? the person throwing the rock or the person who drives down that street every day when

they don't have to do it. Why don't you take the same approach to the Amateur Bands?"

Hollingsworth made this remark at the recent Dayton Hamvention where it was captured for posterity by the Radio Amateur Information Network. And on this weeks RAIN Report you can hear part 2 of Hollingsworth's remarks by simply taking your web browser to www.therain-report.com or by dialing area code 773-249-0720. (RAIN, ARNewsline)

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1555, June 1, 2007



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

HPARC AUGUST CALENDAR

- 4 — Roanoke, VA Hamfest
- 4-5 — ARRL UHF Contest
- 6 — HPARC Club Meeting
- 11 — CFARS Swapfest, Fayetteville, NC
- 14 — VJ Day (WWII Surrender of Japan 1945)
- 18-19 — ARRL 10-GHz Cumulative Contest
- 26 — HPARC Newsletter deadline
- 31-Sept 2 — Shelby Hamfest

BIRTHDAYS

- Fred Browning — August 11
- Mike Walker — August 14
- Mike Cumbo — August 23
- Warren Newton — August 26
- Warren Gallemore — August 27
- Scott Carmichael — August 28

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**Breakfast
 every Saturday**

8:00 am

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