

FEBRUARY 2008

# HPARC NEWSLETTER

*High Point  
Amateur Radio  
Club*



## FEBRUARY MEETING

The program for the February meeting will be on Public Safety Radio and the National Guard given by Larry Frye, WA4EKD. Larry is a long time Ham in the High Point area and was a member of the High Point Amateur Radio Club during its inception back in the 1970s. Larry works for

the City of Greensboro and is a part-time minister.

There was no program last month, but we had a few visitors: Barry and Mary Ann Garner (technically visitors even though they are former members) and Darlene Davenport and her dad, Dave Davenport, W4GCJ. Welcome!

Rosters were passed out at the last club meeting. Corrected rosters are available, however the only change is Richard Weinbaum's call sign is KK4RR as well as a change in his email address.

A good number is showing up at the club meetings. Hope to see you at the next one. CU.

## HARRISON RE-ELECTED ARRL PRESIDENT

At the ARRL Annual January meeting January 18-19 in Houston, Texas, all ARRL officers were re-elected to another two-year term without

opposition: Joel Harrison, W5ZN, ARRL President; Kay Craigie, N3KN, First Vice President; Rick Roderick, K5UR, Vice President; Rod

Stafford, W6ROD, International Affairs Vice President; David Sumner, K1ZZ, Secretary, and James McCobb Jr, K1LU, Treasurer.

## HIRAM PERCY MAXIM II PASSES AWAY AT 72

The grandson of ARRL co-founder Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, died at home in Lyme, Connecticut January 12 after a lengthy battle with prostate cancer. Hiram Percy Maxim II — called HPM just like his grandfather — was 72.

Not a Ham, Maxim told the Newington Amateur Radio League at an October 2002 meeting that he doesn't feel he shares the inventive talents of his grandfather and great-grandfather, who held many patents between them; Maxim's great-grandfather invented the machine gun. He

told the club audience that his grandfather took on radio and film making as diversions from inventing — an endeavor he considered extremely hard work. He also thought of Amateur Radio as a means to "bring together" individuals from distant locations and believed that communication was a key to better understanding other people and cultures.

His son, Merritt Maxim, told the ARRL, "Even though he didn't have an Amateur Radio license, he was aware of the importance of his family's role

in founding the League. Through his father, my grandfather — an active engineer — he continued to maintain an interest in all things mechanical."

—The ARRL Letter Online, Volume 27, Number 2, January 18, 2008

**HPARC Meeting  
February 4, 2008  
at Rosa Mae's Cafe,  
1322 National Hwy,  
Thomasville**

# MINUTES OF THE JANUARY MEETING

At 7:30 pm Sam Hall (in Chris Horne's absence) opened the meeting of the HPARC. There were 10 members and 7 visitors in attendance.

There was a roll call of members.

There was a mention of those sick.

Written minutes and Treasurer's reports were handed out. Motion to accept as written by Mark McMahan. Seconded by Mike Cumbo.

Motion passed.

New business:

Mark McMahan presented Richard Weinbaum, KK4RR, as a new member. Motioned by Mike Cumbo. Seconded by Ben Rogers. Motion passed.

HPARC rosters were handed out.

Jason Cox gave an update on the HPARC Web page. There was a discussion on the silent key memorial on the web site.

The Hammarlund HQ-170A

was sold by Mike Cumbo. Funds will go into the HPARC treasury.

It was mentioned that Mae Van and Jim Hiatt has sent a donation to the HPARC in memory of Rogers Albertson.

There was no program.

Reminder to tip waitress.

Motion to adjourn by Ben Rogers. Seconded by Warren Gallemore.

—Respectfully submitted

Mark McMahan, KB4MFP,  
HPARC Secretary

## 2008 NC QSO PARTY

The 2008 NC QSO party will start at noon local time on Sunday, February 24 and run until 10pm. Sponsored by the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, W4NC, the event is one of the most exciting state QSO parties and can be especially fun if you're new to contesting.

The power limit is 100W, so

you don't need a big amp to compete. The object of the contest is for out of state stations to work as many NC stations in as many NC counties as possible.

Stations within NC try to work as many NC counties, other states, Canadian provinces and DXCC countries as possible.

We need as many counties as

are able to get on the air to give folks contest multipliers! Why not make this a special club event? How about working the contest mobile to get more counties on the air? For more information check out [www.w4nc.org](http://www.w4nc.org).

—Monthly North Carolina  
Section News Summary,  
January 2008

## RENEW YOUR ARRL MEMBERSHIP THROUGH THE HIGH POINT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Club commissions for membership renewals are back! Responding to the wishes of many ARRL-affiliated clubs, the League has reinstated the Club Commission Membership Recruitment Program, which benefits affiliated clubs by helping them to bolster the bottom line. For the past couple of years, ARRL-Affiliated clubs have earned \$15 commissions for each new or lapsed (over two

years) membership they submit. Effective immediately, affiliated clubs now will also earn \$2 for each ARRL membership renewal they send in.

This program applies to regular and senior membership dues. (Commissions do not apply to family, blind or 21-and-under discounted memberships.) The program is just one of the many benefits of ARRL club affiliation.

To participate in this pro-

gram, make your check for your ARRL dues payable to the HPARC and give to the treasurer. Be sure to also have a copy of your ARRL renewal notice or your ARRL membership number and your correct mailing address. The HPARC will make a check payable to the ARRL for your dues minus the commission. It is another way for you to help fund HPARC activities.

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.

## JOHNSTON CALLS DROPPING MORSE SNAKE OIL

One of the nation's most respected Hams says that the new code free licensing system is a failure. Writing in the January issue of Worldradio Magazine, former FCC rules man, John B. Johnston, W3BE, says that it's looking as if the wonder cure to the so-called CW barrier was just old fashioned medicine show snake oil and about as effective.

Johnston is currently President of the QCWA and won the Radio Amateur of the Year award for his plain language

rewrite of the Part 97 rules while employed at the FCC. He quotes two reports made at last summer's conference between the nation's Volunteer Examination Coordinators and the FCC that shows almost no growth that can be directly attributed to dropping Morse testing. He says that the month to month influx of newcomers has remained relatively constant. He also says that the factual result is internal to the hobby where there has been an

upgrade movement by Technician class Hams to General and Extra now that the Morse test has gone away.

Johnston offers no cure for the slow growth trend in today's Ham Radio. He just notes that dropping Morse has not had any significant impact on drawing newcomers in. His complete article begins on page 18 of the January issue of Worldradio Magazine.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1587, Jan. 11, 2008

## NOAA CONFIRMS START OF SOLAR CYCLE 24

Better late than never, the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has conformed what the rest of the world's solar scientists reported a week earlier. That being the first sunspot of a new 11-year cycle has appeared in the sun's northern hemisphere.

Last April an international panel of solar experts forecast that Solar Cycle 24 would start in March 2008, plus or minus six months. The frequency of sunspots rises and falls during

these cycles, and the start of a new cycle indicates they are likely to begin increasing. The panel was split between those

predicting it would be a strong or weak cycle.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1588, Jan. 18, 2008

## GOVERNMENT DTV CONVERTER SUBSIDY BEGINS

The federal government has taken a major step toward pushing consumers to make the long-awaited conversion to digital television. Millions of \$40 government coupons have become available to help analog television owners buy converter boxes for older TVs that will not work after the switch to digital broadcasting on February 17th, 2009.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1588, Jan. 18, 2008

## JET PROPULSION LAB'S AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MARKS 50 YEARS IN SPACE

Launch of the "Explorer 1" satellite on January 31, 1958 marked the dawn of the Space Age for the United States, as well as the beginning of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's exploration of space. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of this momentous event the JPL Amateur Radio Club (W6VIO) will be operating from 1600 UTC January 28th (Monday) thru 0400 UTC February 4th (Monday) using the following frequencies and modes:

- 80 meters: – 3535 (CW)
- 40 meters: – 7035 (CW), 7185 (Phone)
- 20 meters: – 14035 (CW), 14240 (Phone)

- 15 meters: – 21035 (CW), 21285 (Phone)
- 2 meters: – 147.150 (+) PL-103.5
- 1.25 meters: – 224.080 (–) PL-156.7, 224.700 (–) PL-114.8
- 70 cm: – 445.200 (–) PL-103.5

For each QSO, the JPL Amateur Radio Club plans to send out a commemorative Explorer I QSL card. QSL to W6VIO CBA to receive your commemorative QSL. For more information see <https://pitfall.org/jplarc/Station/ExplorerIAnniversary>

—from the Internet, via Chris Horne, W4CKH



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

## HPARC FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 2 — GROUNDHOG DAY
- 2 — Richmond, VA Frostfest
- 3 — Super Bowl Sunday
- 4 — HPARC Club Meeting
- 9-10 — CQ Worldwide RTTY WPX Contest
- 12 — Lincoln's Birthday
- 14 — VALENTINE'S DAY
- 16-17 — ARRL International DX Contest, CW
- 18 — PRESIDENT'S DAY
- 22 — Washington's Birthday
- 24 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline
- 24-25 — NC QSO Party

### BIRTHDAYS

- Robert Williams — February 2
- Mark McMahan — February 7
- Kenneth Lee — February 13
- David Montgomery — February 27

### 2008 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)  
 Mark McMahan, KB4MFP — Secretary — 887-3039 — [kb4mfp@arrl.net](mailto:kb4mfp@arrl.net)  
 Mark McMahan, KB4MFP — Treasurer — 887-3039 — [kb4mfp@arrl.net](mailto:kb4mfp@arrl.net)  
 Newsletter Editor — Mark McMahan — 887-3039 — [kb4mfp@arrl.net](mailto:kb4mfp@arrl.net)  
 Webmaster — Jason Cox — 821-4646 — [webmaster@hparc.org](mailto:webmaster@hparc.org)  
 HPARC Web page: <http://www.w4ua.org> • [w4ua@qsl.net](mailto:w4ua@qsl.net)

**Breakfast  
 every Saturday**

**8:00 am**

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