

MARCH 2008

HPARC NEWSLETTER

*High Point
Amateur Radio
Club*



MARCH MEETING

Mr. Burt Vanderclute, N4ERM, will be the guest speaker for the March meeting. Burt is a project Manager for Wireless Facilities International and is involved with

E911 implementation of wireless networks. Burt is an avid Morse code operator (CW) and enjoys mobile Ham Radio.

Larry Frye gave our program for the February meeting.

Larry spoke to us on Public Safety Radio telling us what his typical day might include.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

MOTOROLA MAY OPT OUT OF THE CELLPHONE BUSINESS

Motorola says that it is considering separating its loss-making mobile phone unit. The world's third-largest mobile phone maker has been losing market share to market leaders Nokia and Samsung. It now says that it is looking at a structural and strategic realignment to help it recapture market share and enhance shareholder value. Options include spinning

off or selling the phone division, which accounts for about half of revenue.

Motorola is best known for its commercial two-way land mobile radio equipment. The company recently completed a deal to acquire control of Vertex Standard Corporation which manufactures its own line of two-way land mobile equipment and Yaesu brand Amateur

Radio gear.

Contrary to the rumors being circulated by uninformed Internet bloggers and web rumor mongers, any sale of Motorola's mobile phone business is not expected to in any way impact on the manufacture and sales of Yaesu brand Ham Radio gear.

—Amateur Radio Newslines,
Report 1593, Feb. 22, 2008

CEPT SAYS NO TO U.S. TECH AND GENERAL

The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations which administers the CEPT licensing scheme feels that the United States Technician and General class licenses no longer meet the requirements to permit reciprocal operating CEPT agreement nations.

The CEPT's Radio Regulatory Working Group re-evaluated current United States license standards and apparently found the recently revised US licensing standards for

Technician and General no longer have any equivalent in the European community of nations.

This change does not mean that United States Technician and General class license holders cannot operate from Europe. It does however require that a US Tech or General may have to apply for a reciprocal operating permit in that nation.

One last note. The decision by the United States to drop all Morse testing had nothing to do with the CEPT decision. Most

CEPT signatories dropped Morse testing long before we did here in the USA.

—Amateur Radio Newslines,
Report 1591, Feb. 8, 2008

**HPARC Meeting
March 3, 2008
at Rosa Mae's Cafe,
1322 National Hwy,
Thomasville**

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING

At 7:20 pm Sam Hall (in Chris Horne's absence) opened the meeting of the HPARC. There were 10 members and 3 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.

There was no old business.

New business:

Mike Cumbo has the extra Post Office key that Rogers Albertson had.

Mike Cumbo still has some equipment from Rogers Albertson's estate if anyone is interested.

Larry Frye gave the program on Public Safety Radio explaining to us his typical work day with the City of Greensboro.

Reminder to tip waitress.

Motion to adjourn by Mike Cumbo. Seconded by Mark McMahan.

—Respectfully submitted

Mark McMahan, KB4MFP,
HPARC Secretary

SERA ANNOUNCES DIGITAL VOICE BANDPLANS

Acting on a motion presented by Mississippi Director Steve Grantham, AA5SG, the giant SouthEastern Repeater Association has adopted provisions to allow for the introduction of digital voice technology systems. This includes such entities as P 25 and D-Star repeaters.

To make this happen association President Roger Gregory, W4RWG, appointed a working committee to implement the needed changes on the groups web site. While the web presentation is described as a work-in-progress there are already links to the newly posted 144 to 148 MHz and 420 to 450 MHz Frequency Utilization Plans.

And it appears as if the

SouthEastern Repeater Association has taken the positron that the introduction of digital voice technology must have minimal impact on all existing analog operations in both the repeater and non repeater portions of any band. A quick glance shows that on both bands the coordinating body has chosen to keep most, though not all, digital voice operation within current repeater subbands. It uses interleaving between existing FM repeaters to accomplish this.

But the committee has a lot more work ahead of it to make this all happen smoothly. This includes modifying any association documents or forms

requiring change. It's also tasked with assisting district coordinators in matters pertaining to the introduction of such digital repeaters. The committee will also continue to study and bring forth new information as needed to facilitate ongoing effective digital repeater coordination efforts.

Whether or not the SouthEastern Repeater Association plan will be adopted nationally is not known, but it opens the door to a coordinated effort to introduce digital voice repeaters while protecting all other spectrum users. And that's definitely a step in the right direction.

—Amateur Radio Newline,
Report 1593, Feb. 22, 2008

DXCC OPERATIONS APPROVED FOR CREDIT

From the DXCC Desk: ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that the following operations have been approved for DXCC credit: the 2008 J5C DXpedition to

Guinea-Bissau; the 2007 VK9WWI DXpedition to Willis Island, and the current YI9PT operations in Iraq. "If you had cards rejected for this operation, please send an e-mail

<dxcc@arrl.org>; to the ARRL DXCC Desk to have your DXCC record updated," Moore said.

—The ARRL Letter Online,
Volume 27, Number 6,
February 15, 2008

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.

IT WAS ALWAYS THERE

At a recent Arctic Amateur Radio Club board meeting, during a rare lull in the oft-heated discussions about how best to increase our membership, I threw out a simple question. “How did you get into Ham Radio?”

The responses were revealing, to say the least. One by one, our board members, some young, some old, told the story of how they got into this hobby of all hobbies. One gentleman had a father who was a Ham, and more or less forced him into the hobby, for which he was unspeakably grateful...years later, of course. One XYL saw a shortwave radio at a friend’s house, started twiddling knobs, and got frustrated that she could only listen. For her, the rest was history. A couple of others were exposed to Amateur Radio in high school, one in Boy Scouts. Another credited me with getting him into Ham Radio, much to my gratification. One other confessed that he didn’t really know; it just seemed to him that Ham Radio was “always around.”

Interestingly enough, not one of the Hams entered the hobby because of a concentrated recruitment program. Although occasional public relations “Blitzkriegs” have their place in Amateur Radio, I’m not sure they produce lasting Hams. Like many other clubs, we manage to get a lot of Hams licensed, but the dropout rate is appalling. The vast majority of our newly licensed Hams never get on the air.

I don’t think our message is flawed; I think it’s our delivery.

Of all the board members I mentioned above, I believe the last fellow, the one who said Ham Radio was “always around” had the key. We need to get back to the place where Amateur Radio is a continual, if quiet, presence. People who get lured into the hobby, stick with the hobby. People who get coerced and cajoled into the hobby leave as soon as we aren’t looking.

The fact is, most new Hams never see a working Ham shack, about all they see is a handheld, which isn’t all that fascinating. When a young person sees a Ham shack equipped to cover everything from DC to daylight, they take notice...it doesn’t matter whether they’re a geek or not. I’ve never seen anyone who wasn’t impressed by a Moon bounce (Earth-Moon-Earth contact) array swinging around on its rotators...whether they had a clue what it was or not!

People don’t know about Ham Radio because they don’t see Ham Radio...except, perhaps at Field Day. The best place to cultivate that “always around” feeling is in the schools. We need to infiltrate the middle and high schools again.

Notice, I said, again. There was a time, not too long ago, when it was difficult to find a high school without a club station. Field Day should be a three hundred and sixty five day a year event, and that is easier to achieve in the schools than anywhere else.

There is no better way to teach science than with Ham Radio. We need to remind our

public (and private) school teachers and administrators of that. We need to let our students get their hands grubby making things happen, rather than merely watching things happen. We need to get some real hardware into the schools. We have wonderful new allocations now, and the technology to use them is cheaper and easier than ever. When I was in high school in the late 60s, it was everything one could do, and then some, to do Moon bounce. It was only because we had a lunatic (no pun intended) electronics teacher, that we were able to pull off such a stunt. Now, Moon bounce is practically within reach of any determined high school club station.

Wouldn’t it be great if Moon bounce stations proliferated at our high schools the way H.F. stations once did?

Of course, I only use Moon bounce as one radical example. We have exciting things happening down at 500 kHz, as well. What better way to learn weak signal, digital signal processing techniques than with our newly allocated MF experimental spectrum?

This all may be rocket science, but it doesn’t take rocket science to get it into the schools! Our teachers want to see us excel in the sciences. Let’s give them the tools to do so.

Fifty years from now, someone may be asked how they got into Ham Radio. It would be nice if they could answer, “I don’t know...I guess it was always there.”

—Eric P. Nichols, KL7AJ,
President, Arctic ARC,
ARRL January Club News



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

HPARC MARCH CALENDAR

- 1-2 — ARRL International DX Contest,
phone
- 3 — HPARC Club Meeting
- 8-9 — Charlotte Hamfest
- 9 — Daylight Savings Time begins
- 17 — St. Patrick's Day
- 20 — First day of Spring
- 21 — NC Arbor Day
- 23 — EASTER
- 30 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline

BIRTHDAYS

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

2008 HPARC OFFICERS

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