

JULY 2008

# HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point Amateur Radio Club



## JULY MEETING

The program for July will be a planning meeting for the rest of the year's events.

We discussed plans for Field Day at the June meeting.

I believe that everyone who attended Field Day had a great time. Not a lot of on-the-air contacts, but I saw a lot of fellowship and fun. That is what

makes Field Day.

Hope everyone recovered from Field Day and the hot weather. Look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

## KENWOOD AND JVC TO MERGE BY OCTOBER

According to a joint news release the two Japanese electronics giants will combine to form JVC Kenwood Holdings. The new model business will focus on car

electronics, home electronics, and professional wireless systems, and will also explore new product segments.

In an earlier statement by Kenwood it was stated that

the merger would have no impact on the company's continuing support of the Amateur Radio marketplace.

—Amateur Radio Newline, Report 1609, June 13, 2008

## FIELD DAY 2008 RECAP

We managed to have another good Field Day. No injuries, good food, good fellowship and the severe weather missed us.

Chris Horne and Sarah Spagnola were featured in an excellent article in the Sunday edition of the High Point Enterprise. Jamestown News also is planning to have an article in this week's edition.

Forgive me, but I have to quote a member on their experience at Field Day. "All in all I got bewildered, over heated, hot, tired, hungry, thirsty and exhausted and in short had fun." I think that sums up just about every Field Day I have attended but especially the Field Day the HPARC held in Hillsville several years ago.

I got hooked on 20-meters

that year. I started at the bottom of the band and worked my way up getting contacts as I went. When I got to the top of the band, I dialed all the way back down and started back up again. Amazingly, I got all new contacts as I started back up the band.

I was having so much fun, I left the radio thinking I was being selfish and that someone else might want to use the radio. When no one took over, I got back on and continued operating. That is until the radio went dead.

I was on someone else's radio, so I panicked. What had I done? I looked around. Did I hit the wrong button? Had I done something I wasn't supposed to do? Then I saw some-

one rolling up the extension cord. I had been pulled off the air. But the bait had been set, and I was hooked on Field Day.

If you haven't been to a Field Day in the past, you owe it to yourself to try it at least once. It's hot. It's tiring. It's way too much work. It may take me a week to recover. Why do we do it? To quote another member, "It's fun." How much longer to next year's Field Day?

**HPARC Meeting  
July 7, 2008  
at Rosa Mae's Cafe,  
1322 National Hwy,  
Thomasville**

# THE WORLD IS LISTENING

As he gets ready to leave his position as FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio enforcement, Riley Hollingsworth has a few words of wisdom that we all need to take to heart. They were part of his address at the recent Dayton Hamvention, and they really are a must listen for every United States Radio Amateur:

Hollingsworth: "The overall compliance is outstanding in the

Amateur Radio Service, but never let the Commission get by again with handing you 10 to 12 years of neglect.

"You have to stay vigilant. Even though the bands may sound better you have to stay vigilant to protect your service and to be part of the solution, not the problem.

"And operate as if the whole world was listening, because

generally it is."

Hollingsworth adds that the last thing that Ham Radio needs is any sort of in-fighting. He indicates it's very important that all of us stick together and work out our differences as mature individuals for the betterment of all licensees. We at Amateur Radio Newsline, totally agree.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1608, June 6, 2008

## SHELBY HAMFEST COMMITS TO FIVE YEARS

The Shelby Hamfest is holding onto its name, but for at least five years the amateur radio event will have a new home at Biggerstaff Park in Gaston County, North Carolina.

The Shelby Amateur Radio Club had already booked Biggerstaff Park, off U.S. 321 for the event this August. This, after failing to reach an agreement with those who run its longtime home Cleveland County

Fairgrounds in Shelby.

Now, the club approved a commitment with Gaston County to hold Hamfest there for five years. Not only that, but Hamfest organizer Robbie Hamrick said Gaston County could become a permanent home for the event.

In a statement, Hamrick said that the hamfest will be there at least five years and probably longer. He says that Biggerstaff

Park is a beautiful place that has room for the hamfest to grow.

The Shelby Hamfest has been a Cleveland County tradition for the past 50 years, but an un-reconcilable dispute between the local fairgrounds commission and the Shelby club lead to what will likely be a permanent move several miles to a new location in a different county.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1608, June 6, 2008

## CANADA & MEXICO NOT SWITCHING TO ALL-DTV FOR YEARS

The United States may have next February cast in concrete for the final switchover from analog to digital television broadcasting, but it's going to be a while before our neighbors to the North and to the South join us.

Canadian telecommunications regulators say that it will be at least another three years before any digital switchover takes place in that nation. And this only after Canada's broad-

casting authority ruled that television stations would be forced to switch to ATSC digital broadcasting by August 31 2011. And then there are a number of minor exceptions to this date. This for broadcast operations in remote areas where analogue transmissions will not cause interference to the new digital services.

As to Mexico? Don't even think digital for another quarter of a century. As of this writing,

Mexico has no plans to switch to digital television until sometime in 2022 at the very earliest, and that's just for a start-up date. It could take many more years before that nations digital transition is completed.

By the way, Luxembourg was the first country to complete the move to all digital broadcasting almost two years ago on September 1, 2006.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1609, June 13, 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.

# PHILADELPHIA AREA HAMS NAIL ROGUE RADIO SIGNALS

When residents of a Philadelphia suburb complained to an area television station about how their remote car door entry devices wouldn't work in the parking lot of a local department store, an investigative reporter for NBC-10 (WCAU) called everyone she could to help her discover why. No one knew anything — until she called on some local Ham Radio operators.

“Many people lock and unlock a car by remote and don't even give it a second thought unless it doesn't work,” said NBC10 reporter Lu Ann Cahn. “The mystery problem repeatedly occurs outside the Kohl's store in Royersford. When I went into Kohl's [to ask about this], they told me they had no idea [about this].”

Cahn said that shoppers told her that this has been going on for more than a year, and that some shoppers don't realize they might have to manually lock their doors: “One woman reported her laptop was stolen from her car after she thought she had locked it.”

Shoppers theorized that it was the local power plant causing the interference, but Cahn said that officials at the plant said it wasn't them. Others thought that cellular telephone towers might be the culprit, but there are no cell towers in the area. “Police tell us that they can't figure it out either,” Cahn said.

So after calling numerous places to help her out with this mystery, Cahn happened upon Reggie Leister, N3KAS, and Bob Rex, K3DBD, of the

Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club (PAARC); Rex is Vice President of the club and Leister is the club's Public Information Officer (PIO). And as Hams do, they were quick to volunteer to help out.

Leister and Rex accompanied Cahn to the parking lot in question. Rex built an antenna out of aluminum tubing and hooked it up to a spectrum analyzer. “Somewhere in the vicinity of this parking lot,” Leister said, “there is a big source of radiation, some sort of signal.” When Leister aimed the antenna in the direction of the Kohl's store, he hit pay dirt. “There are actually two signals there. It looks like [they're] coming from the building,” Rex said when he read the analyzer.

Leister and Rex moved in closer to the building and pinpointed that one signal was coming from one set of doors, while the other signal emitted from another set of doors. Rex, an engineer, said that the thing that bothers him about this is that the signals “are running constantly.” When Cahn approached Kohl's management with their findings, she was told that “they will look into it.”

“The FCC licenses radio signals and these Ham Radio operators say the fact that some signal is interfering with remote locks isn't good,” Cahn said in her report. Rex concurred, saying, “The FCC rules are pretty clear on that. It might be something that's broken.” Leister and Rex agreed that the store security sensors located at each set of doors

might be the culprit.

Three days after Leister and Rex located the source of the interference, remote car door lockers worked again. “Kohl's will only say that they're working on it,” Cahn said. “The FCC says it does sound like something malfunctioned and they have had reports of similar incidents in New York City and Tampa, Florida.”

A few days after they found the signals, Leister explained that he and Rex did not think the anti-shoplifting detectors were the problem: “What we are guessing here is that they are probably connected to some kind of device that triggers a security camera to come on if there is a breach.

Cahn was quick to give credit to the local Hams who stepped up to the plate and helped crack this mystery: “We here at NBC10 were so curious as to why these remote car locks would just stop working, so we thought we should really try to solve this mystery. I have to give kudos to Reggie Leister and Bob Rex with the Pottstown Area Amateur Radio Club. They were so great and so excited. You don't know how many people we called — police, Triple A, car dealerships — we called so many people trying to figure this out and nobody knew anything until we talked to these Ham Radio operators. They were so wonderful and they knew all about radio signals. They created their own gadgets to help us figure this out. We really want to thank them for their help with this.”

—ARRL.Net



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

## HPARC JULY CALENDAR

- 4 — INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 7 — HPARC Club Meeting
- 12 — Salisbury Firecracker Hamfest
- 12-13 — IARU HF World Championship
- 19 — Cary Swapfest
- 26 — Waynesville Hamfest
- 27 — PARENTS' DAY
- 27 — HPARC Newsletter deadline

### BIRTHDAYS

- Richard Bivins — July 10
- James Montgomery — July 12
- Tom Mills — July 26

### 2008 HPARC OFFICERS

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