

NOVEMBER 2008



## NOVEMBER MEETING

Nomination of officers for 2009 will take place at the November meeting.

Dave Davenport was our

speaker for the October meeting. He spoke on his experiences while stationed at the Aleutian Islands as a

radio operator during World War II.

Hope to see everyone at the November meeting.

## HAMS CAN HELP SCIENTISTS STUDY SHRIKES

For the second year, scientists are asking Ham Radio operators and VHF monitoring enthusiasts to assist in scientific studies of Eastern Loggerhead Shrikes. If you live in an eastern state and can tune away from the Ham bands for a few minutes a day, you could help scientists study this endangered bird species.

Every year, these birds leave their captive breeding program in Ontario, Canada, but fewer and fewer are returning in the spring. Researchers at the University of Guelph in

Ontario have placed radio tags on 20 young shrikes.

Although the primary purpose of the tags is to determine dispersal patterns — the movements the birds make immediately after leaving their nests — scientists also hope that more may be learned about the birds' fall migration journey. Scientists think the birds will fly south to Florida, but they might also overwinter in Tennessee, North Carolina and states just south of there.

You can help by tuning in regularly to the tag frequen-

cies, which are between 172-173 MHz. The complete frequency list is published here <<http://www.homingin.com/>>, along with articles to help you distinguish the pulsed tags from other signals you may hear. Please listen now, as migration is under way; the radio tag batteries will only function until the end of November.

—Joe Moell, K0OV, ARRL  
ARDF Coordinator  
The ARRL Letter Online  
Volume 27, Number 41,  
October 17, 2008

## CHINA TO LAUNCH HAMSAT

China is planning to launch its first-ever Ham Radio satellite. Michael Chen, BD5RV portable 4 reports that he recently received an update from BA1DU, on the progress of the Ham Radio bird.

First off, this satellite was originally named CAS-1 but it is now known as XW-1. And XW-1 will carry a beacon and three cross band transponders

into space. One is for FM, another is linear, and the last is designed for digital operation.

Plans call for it to be launched into a sun synchronous orbit in June 2009. This, by a CZ-2C rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in North China.

More on this upcoming Hamsat launch as information

becomes available.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1626, Oct. 10, 2008

### HPARC Meeting November 3, 2008

Rosa Mae's Cafe,  
1322 National Hwy,  
Thomasville

Meal at 6:30 pm  
Business meeting at 7:30 pm

# MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER MEETING

At 7:42 pm Sam Hall, in absence of president, opened the meeting of the HPARC. There were 6 members and 3 visitors in attendance.

There was a mention of those sick.

Secretary's minutes and Treasurer's report were handed out. Motion to accept both reports as written, with

correction to Natural Science Center in minutes, by Mark McMahan, seconded by Mike Cumbo. Motion passed.

There was no old business.

New business: It was mentioned that SERA dues are going up. Mark has forms for anyone interested in paying SERA dues before the increase.

Dave Davenport gave the program. He spoke about his experiences in WWII while stationed in the Aleutian Islands.

Reminder to tip waitress.

Motion to adjourn by Mike Cumbo. Seconded by Roland Wright. Motion passed.

—Respectfully submitted

Mark McMahan, KB4MFP,  
HPARC Secretary

## TRIAL OF ACCUSED KILLER OF HAM RADIO COUPLE BEGINS

The trial of the man accused of plotting the murders at sea of a pair of Ham Radio operators has begun with jury selection on Monday, September 22nd. The trial of Skylar Deleon, accused of masterminding the 2004 murder of an Arizona Ham Radio couple is now underway. The former child actor along with four other defendants, are charged with the 2004 special circumstances murder of Thomas and Jackie Hawks, KD7VWJ and KD7VWK on their boat offshore at Newport Beach,

California.

Deleon's trial is being held at the Orange County California Courthouse. Prosecutors are asking the death penalty against Deleon and co-defendant John Fitzgerald Kennedy. Deleon and Kennedy are being tried separately.

Prosecutors claim that Deleon approached the couple with an offer to buy their 55-foot yacht called *Well Deserved*. The state alleges that Deleon and accomplices then killed the couple on November 15, 2004, when they took him and two

other men out for a test run. Prosecutors say that that the couple was handcuffed, tied to an anchor and dumped alive into the ocean after being forced to sign paperwork transferring the boat's title to Deleon. Their bodies have never been found.

News reports say that jury selection could see up to 1,000 local residents questioned to determine their suitability to serve on a death penalty case. The trial itself is expected to last as long as 14 weeks

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1624, Sept. 26, 2008

## CONGRESS WANTS DIGITAL RADIO BILL

Some in Congress feel it's time to make every radio sold in the United States HD ready. Massachusetts Congressional Representative Edward Markey says that he supports mandating HD Radio in any receiver that can tune in AM/FM analog and satellite radio signals.

The chairman of the House

Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet introduced the "Radio All Digital Channel Receiver Act." If passed, H.R. 7157 would require that radios used in the satellite digital radio service be capable of receiving terrestrial digital radio signals.

Markey said the recent satel-

lite radio merger between Sirius and XM underscored the importance of ensuring consumer access to a diversity of sources for digital radio content — in particular content originating in their local communities.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1628, Oct. 24, 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. Student membership is also available for \$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.

# HIKING HAM RESCUED BY QRP RADIO AND MORSE CODE

Knowing Morse code helped an injured Ham summon help. This, after being hurt in an accident high in the Cascade mountains of Washington State.

Over the weekend of September 20th, Glenn Russell Ruby Jr, W7AU, of Corvallis, Oregon, was hiking in the Cascades when he slipped and suffered a broken his leg. He made it back to his

camp site where he used his Elecraft K-1 portable QRP station to send out a call for help on 40 meter CW. He was able to contact Bob Williams, N7ODM, of Bozeman, Montana. Ruby asked Williams to notify the Snohomish County Search and Rescue in Washington State.

Williams did. He then tried to keep in contact with Ruby. Signals faded out at about 8

p.m. local time but contact was resumed the next morning around 9 a.m. on 7.051 MHz. After that the two Hams kept in communications until Ruby was evacuated on horseback from the site by Search and Rescue on Monday, September 22nd. Bad weather in the area had prevented a helicopter rescue.

—Amateur Radio Newslines, Report 1624, Sept. 26, 2008

## AMERICAN HAMS TO LEAD 2009 DXPEDITION TO DESECHEO ISLAND

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has selected a group of Hams led by veteran DXpeditioners Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, to lead a DXpedition to Desecheo Island, KP5 (IOTA NA-095), in early 2009. Desecheo currently sits at number 7 on DX Magazine's Most Wanted list.

Desecheo is a small uninhabited island in the Mona Passage, 14 miles off the western coast of Puerto Rico. It is part of the FWS's national wildlife refuge system administered by the Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

Johnson told the ARRL that about eight years ago, a group of DXers wanting to activate Navassa and Desecheo Islands formed an organization, the KP1-5 Project. According to its Web site, "The purpose of the KP1-5 Project is to work toward a solution to the closure of Desecheo and Navassa Islands to Amateur Radio operators by achieving lawful, periodic access to these islands pursuant to US

Fish and Wildlife Service authorization. While operating from these islands is a worthwhile goal, the KP1-5 Project is dedicated to a long term partnership that jointly benefits the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Amateur Radio operators worldwide."

USFWS has not announced the actual dates of the operation yet, but the DXpedition is expected to take place between January 15 and March 30, 2009. A Special Use Permit will be issued as per USFWS regulations. Allphin said he expects that the DXpedition team and DXers worldwide will have a minimum of 30 days' notice prior to the start of the trip to Desecheo.

According to ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager and experienced DXpeditioner Dave Patton, NN1N, both Desecheo and Navassa Islands (currently third on DX Magazine's Most Wanted list) saw frequent operations in the late 1970s through late '80s, but operations from

the islands have been very limited since then. With the islands under the control of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, combined with decaying "infrastructure" on Navassa, there are more issues that must be dealt with than there were 25 years ago.

Various groups have made their way to Desecheo since the first trip in 1979, but other than a brief operation in December 2005, there has been no activity from the island since 1994.

According to DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, the lack of activity is due to the FWS not issuing the needed Special Use permits. "The FWS has always claimed safety concerns as a reason to not issue the permits," he said. "Since the island was used as a bombing range, there is the possibility that unexploded, live munitions are still on the island. It is always a good thing when an entity that had activation difficulties in the past gets on the air again."

—The ARRL Letter Online, Volume 27, Number 40, October 10, 2008



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

## HPARC NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1-3 — ARRL November Sweepstakes, CW                           | 16 — Benson, NC Hamfest          |
| 2 — Daylight Savings Time ends (move<br>clocks back one hour) | 27 — THANKSGIVING                |
| 3 — HPARC Club Meeting  | 29-30 — CQ Worldwide Contest, CW |
| 4 — Election Day  |                                  |
| 10 — Marine Corps Day   |                                  |
| 11 — VETERAN'S DAY  |                                  |
| 15-17 — ARRL November Sweepstakes,<br>phone                   |                                  |

### BIRTHDAYS

Tony Davis — November 5

### 2008 HPARC OFFICERS

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 Sam Hall, K4AME — Vice-president — 431-8940 — [k4ame@arrl.net](mailto:k4ame@arrl.net)  
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**Breakfast  
 every Saturday**  
 —  
**8:00 am**  
 —  
**Mrs. Winner's,  
 South Main St.**