



## NO JANUARY MEETING

The HPARC will not be meeting for January. The club decided to forego meetings that would force us to meet the second Monday of the month. Our next meeting will be February 2, 2009. Please mark your calendar and be with us.

### **No HPARC meeting for January 2009**

The December meeting was, as usual, our annual Christmas party/Bingo meeting. We had a good turnout, and everyone

had a good time.

Here's wishing all of our club members and others who receive our newsletter a happy new year. May God bless us all and may He make this year better even than last year. See you all in the new year.

## FOX HUNT ON JANUARY 31

Just a reminder that Chris Horne will officiate the HPARC Fox Hunt for Saturday, January 31st at 2

pm. Those interested will meet in the North State parking lot downtown at 2 pm.

The winner of the Fox Hunt

will receive a prize in the amount of \$50. Please register by sending an email to w4ckh@yahoo.com.

## CHRISTMAS DAY ROLL CALL 2008

Ben Rogers was our net control for the HPARC 2008 Christmas Day Roll Call. Roll Call is a HPARC tradition of

calling the list of club members on Christmas Day starting at 8:00 am. This was our 27th year for this tradition.

There were 11 members for the roll call this year. Thanks, Ben, for the great job as control operator this year.

## 2009 OFFICERS ELECTED

At the December meeting, new officers for the year 2009 were elected. They are:

Chris Horne, W4CKH, President;

Sam Hall, K4AME, Vice-

president;

Mark McMahan, KB4MFP, Secretary/Treasurer.

## DESECHEO TO BE ON IN FEBRUARY

The Desecheo Island DXpedition is now officially on for early next year. This as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service notifies the team that February 12th to the 26th 2009, will be the dates allocated for the radio operation.

Only fifteen operators will be

allowed on the island at any given time. A total of 6 to 8 stations will be operational on the High Frequency bands including 160 and 6 meters.

Desecheo Island is #2 on the worlds Most Wanted DX List.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1633, N o v. 28, 2008

### **HPARC Meeting February 2, 2009**

**Rosa Mae's Cafe,  
1322 National Hwy,  
Thomasville**

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

# MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING

At 7:20 pm Chris Horne opened the meeting of the HPARC. There were 12 members and 4 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 was given by Ben Rogers; seconded by Mike Walker. Motion passed.

There was no old business.

New business:

Mark presented the officers for 2009 (officers to stay the same as last year). Motion to accept by Mark McMahan; seconded by Warren Gallemore. Motion passed by majority.

Chris Horne gave an update on the repeaters.

Christmas Day Roll Call: Ben Rogers will be our net control.

There will be a fox hunt on

January 31 at 2:00 pm. Fox hunt will be on the repeater frequency. Those interested meet at North State Communications parking lot.

The program was the annual Christmas Bingo party.

Reminder to tip waitress.

Motion to adjourn by Mark McMahan. Seconded by Roland Wright. Motion passed.

—Respectfully submitted

Mark McMahan, KB4MFP,  
HPARC Secretary

## INTRODUCTION TO CRYSTAL RADIO SETS

Crystal radios are important for at least two reasons: One, they are the building block for Ham radios; and two, young folk can become interested in radio by building a crystal set which is very easy to build with the help of a mentor or grandparent.

A crystal radio is the purest of all radios. It has very few parts, it needs no batteries or other power source, and it can be built in a short time out of things you can find around the house.

The reason a crystal radio does not need any batteries is

the amazing design of the human ear. The ear is extremely sensitive to very weak sounds. The crystal radio uses only the energy of the radio waves sent by radio transmitters. These radio transmitters send out a large amount of energy (tens of thousands of watts). However, because they are usually far away, and we have at most a few hundred feet of wire for an antenna, the amount of energy we receive with the crystal radio is measured in micro-watts (0.000001 Watts). The human ear can

detect sounds that are less than a millionth of a micro-watt.

In next month's issue we will present a simple working radio using parts that we buy at stores like Radio Shack or through mail order. We will try to use common household objects when we can, but our emphasis will be to quickly put together a radio that works.

In the meantime, consider working with some youngster to build a crystal set. It's a lot more fun to build that a cell phone. Happy New Year.

—Chris Horne, W4CKH

## THE NEW SUNSPOTS ARE HERE

Improved band [conditions] may soon be on their way. Scientists say that after more than two years of few sunspots, even fewer solar flares, the sun is finally showing signs of life.

David Hathaway is a sunspot forecaster of the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center in

Huntsville Alabama. In his opinion the solar minimum is behind us. He said that in October scientists counted five sunspot groups. Hathaway says that this may not sound like much, but in a year with record-low numbers of sunspots and long stretches of spotlessness,

five is significant.

Hathaway adds that this is a good sign that the new cycle is taking off. This will be welcome news to the ears of hams who have waited a long time to work some new and possibly rare DX.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1633, Nov. 28, 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.

# FCC ASKS HAMS TO ASSIST IN FEBRUARY 2009 DTV CONVERSION

Hams across the United States are being asked by the FCC to assist in the upcoming conversion of all television broadcasting to digital operation. According to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, Amateur Radio clubs across the country are being asked to develop and implement plans to provide information throughout January and February about the Digital Television conversion in their geographic areas. The FCC is leaving it up to the clubs to decide how to do this because they believe that local

groups understand the communities in ways that the FCC does not.

Pitts said that in early January the FCC will ask ARRL Section Managers for the names and contact information of the volunteering groups. The FCC staff will then make contact with the groups, learn their plans and provide them with the media, brochures or other materials that groups and clubs may need in this effort. FCC regional staff members may even visit with larger organizations to aid in implementation of the group's plans.

Pitts stressed that hams should not make "house calls," sell any equipment or do actual installations. The request is only to distribute technical information and FCC materials only. In other words you are not to do anything other than hand out literature and answer questions. Nor can you charge anyone for your time or effort as this is a volunteer undertaking.

Interested groups should contact their ARRL Section Manager.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1635,  
December 12, 2008

## HIGH POWER AUDIO TO THWART PIRATES AT SEA

A British firm is spearheading use of a high-tech "sonic laser" to beat bandits on the high seas. About the size of a domestic satellite dish, the long range acoustic device blasts the target with a precise beam of sound. This could include warning messages, noise or sirens

that can be tuned to excruciatingly painful levels should an attacker get too close.

The sound source for the unit is any standard off the shelf MP3 player. The device has shown to be very effective at up to 1,000 meters and excruciating if you get within 100 or 200

meters. At full power it would result in permanent hearing damage.

According to reports, the device has been tested in an actual attack and the pirates were driven off.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1637, Dec. 26, 2008

## THOSE GOOD VIBRATIONS GET THROUGH

With today's cars and light trucks designed to lock out road and traffic noise, how does an emergency vehicle signal a driver to pull over and let him pass. Maybe some good vibrations are the answer. No, we are not talking about the 1960's Beach Boys tune.

Just image driving along the road and your car starts to vibrate? Is it an earthquake you think, a service overdue or are the wheels about to fall off?

No, it will be a blast from the latest low frequency howler

being fitted to ambulances to augment their traditional lights and sirens. These send pulses of low frequency tones every eight seconds vibrate cars and other things including pedestrians within range of an ambulance on an emergency dash. This will hopefully alert motorists who may be not concentrating on the driving task, perhaps with their car stereo's turned up too loud, or dare we say ... they're on the mobile phone.

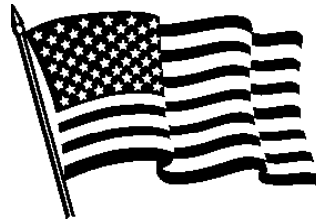
The Emergency Medical Services Authority in Oklahoma

is among the first to be installing them in ambulances. If they prove successful in reducing delays and intersection accident collision rates of ambulances then we can expect others to fit this latest technology.

I just can't wait to experience the good vibrations.

This is just one of many ideas that engineers are looking at as a way to clear the roads to make way for emergency vehicles when the situation arises.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1634, Dec. 5, 2008



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

## HPARC JANUARY CALENDAR

- 1 — NEW YEAR'S DAY
- 1 — ARRL Straight Key Night
- 3-4 — ARRL RTTY Roundup
- 3 — ARRL Kid's Day
- 10 — Winston Salem Firstfest
- 17-19 — ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes
- 19 — MARTIN L. KING JR BIRTHDAY  
(observed)
- 25 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline

### BIRTHDAYS

Ric Marshall — January 12

**NO HPARC MEETING THIS MONTH!!**

### 2009 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 — [webmaster@w4ua.org](mailto:webmaster@w4ua.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.**