



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

HPARC APRIL CALENDAR

- 1 — April Fool's Day
- 5 — Kinston, NC Hamfest
- 6 — HPARC Club Meeting
- 12 — EASTER
- 11 — Raleigh Hamfest
- 18 — Morganton, NC Hamfest
- 22 — EARTH DAY
- 22 — Administrative Professionals' Day
- 24 — National Arbor Day
- 25-30 — HP Furniture Market
- 26 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline

BIRTHDAYS

Sam Hall — April 21

2009 HPARC OFFICERS

Chris Horne, W4CKH — President — 869-1295 — chorne@nscom.com
 Sam Hall, K4AME — Vice-president — 431-8940 — k4ame@arrl.net
 Mark McMahan, KB4MFP — Secretary — 887-3039 — kb4mfp@arrl.net
 Mark McMahan, KB4MFP — Treasurer — 887-3039 — kb4mfp@arrl.net
 Newsletter Editor — Mark McMahan — 887-3039 — kb4mfp@arrl.net
 Webmaster — Jason Cox — webmaster@w4ua.org
 HPARC Web page: <http://www.w4ua.org> • w4ua@qsl.net

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

APRIL 2009

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point Amateur Radio Club



APRIL MEETING

Larry Frye, WA4EKD, delivered our program for the March meeting. Larry demon-

strated a portable communication system in use by emergency and sheriff services in

Greensboro that allows radio communications inside of buildings.

FCC CLARIFIES WHAT CONSTITUTES AN AMATEUR RADIO REPEATER

In December 2007, Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, President of the Northern California Packet Association (NCPA), filed a Petition with the FCC, asking for the Commission to clarify the definition of a repeater. According to Part 97, Section 3(a)(39), a repeater in the Amateur service is “[a]n Amateur station that simultaneously retransmits the transmission of another Amateur station on a different channel or channels.”

Mitchell sought clarification on the word “simultaneously,” asking if it referred to the signal information being retransmitted, or to the fact that the receiver and transmitter must both be active at the same time while acting on the same signal information. On March 23, 2009, the Commission clarified that even if there is a slight delay between what is received and what it transmits (as in the case of D-STAR and other digital repeaters), it is considered simultaneous if the receiver and transmitter are both active at the

same time.

Mitchell pointed out in his petition that while the Commission’s Rules specify on which bands Amateur repeaters may operate, “some Amateur repeaters are operating on bands other than set forth in Section 97.205(b) with systems that are essentially voice repeater stations, but that digitize and retransmit the user’s voice, on the theory that because there is a small delay in retransmitting the signal of another Amateur station, the signal is not ‘simultaneously’ retransmitted and, therefore, the system is not a repeater.”

In its reply, the Commission pointed out that prior to 1994, a repeater was defined as “[a]n Amateur station that automatically retransmits the signals of other stations.” This, the Commission told Mitchell, was revised to clarify “that certain accommodations for message forwarding systems do not apply to other operating activities such as repeaters and auxiliary stations.”

The Commission proposed to define a repeater as “[a]n Amateur station that instantaneously retransmits the transmission of another Amateur station on a different channel or channels,” but ultimately replaced “instantaneously” with “simultaneously” because commenters noted that there is always a small propagation delay through a repeater. As one commenter explained, “The word ‘simultaneously’ in this case means that the repeater is receiving and transmitting concurrently, whereas each signal might be slightly displaced in time between receive and transmit.”

Repeater continued inside...

**HPARC Meeting
April 6, 2009**

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

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

MISSING SUNSPOTS MAY HAVE BEEN EMBEZZLED

It now appears that convicted swindler Bernard Madoff not only made off with the 65 billion dollars of investors' money, but with the cycle 24 sunspots as well. A little-known corner of the financial marketplace actually more of a back alley is the sunspot futures market, where traders buy and sell based on predicted sunspot values for a given date.

Our investigation has revealed that when the stock market was trading at ionospheric levels, Madoff accepted millions of dollars that he

promised to invest in future sunspots, but instead simply deposited in an offshore account in the Serrano Bank on the fabled Ponzi Island IOTA NA-0401 for those who wonder. When the time came to actually purchase the sunspots for cycle 24, the accounts set up for that purpose were empty. As a result, the sun has declared bankruptcy and the universe has begun foreclosure proceedings.

Attorneys for the sun are trying to negotiate a bailout package but are not opti-

mistic that they can meet the April 1st deadline.

From the somewhat darkened beaches of Ponzi Island, this is Pierre Pullinmyleg reporting for Newsline.

Pierre says that he will be back in about 12 months to bring you up to date on further developments in the solar foreclosure proceedings. And just in case he did not mention it earlier, Pierre says to have a very happy April 1st. (Roving reporter Pierre Pullinmyleg via shortwave)

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1650, Mar. 27, 2009

I'M NOT DEAD YET I'M JUST RESTING

From the "whoops they made a mistake" file comes word that the FCC wants to do some callsign swapping. This, after it learned that a Ham the agency thought was dead, was, to use a Monty Python metaphor, just resting. The story goes this way.

On October 6, 2006, the FCC granted the call sign K4ZL as a vanity callsign to the Amateur Radio Station of Peter Birk. Based on information subsequently received by the Commission, it appears that the call sign K4ZL was made available under the vanity call sign system as a result of a defective cancellation of the license originally held by Elmer B. Jackson, Jr.

Jackson had received the K4ZL call prior to 1978 and it was due to expire on June 11, 2008. On October 3, 2006, the Commission received information indicating that Jackson had become a Silent Key on February 14, 2004. Based on this information, the license was canceled as of February 14, 2004. Birk then filed the above-captioned application, requesting that his license for Amateur Radio Station WB2DCG be modified to show the call sign K4ZL. This application was granted on October 21, 2006.

In June 2008, the FCC got a surprise. That's when Jackson contacted the Commission to report that he was not deceased and that he

wished to renew his license and K4ZL callsign. Further review determined that the information submitted to the Commission in 2006 pertained to a different person with the same name.

Anyhow, to correct this error, the FCC is proposing to modify Birk's Amateur Radio license to show the call sign WB2DCG. That was the call sign assigned to Birk's Amateur station prior to the grant of the K4ZL vanity call application. It also wants to modify Jackson's license from his present AJ4JT call back to K4ZL. It will do that shortly unless Birk decides to file an appeal.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1650, Mar. 27, 2009

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.

...Repeater continued from cover

To be able to repeat another station's transmission, the Commission said that a repeater "must be able to receive a transmission from another station and retransmit it. Because the word 'simultane-

ously' in the definition is used to modify 'retransmit,' we believe it refers to a repeater station's transmitter being active when retransmitting the signal received by the repeater station's receiver from another Amateur station. We conclude,

therefore, that 'simultaneously' as used in the definition of a repeater refers to the receiver and transmitter both being active at the same time."

—The ARRL Letter Online,
Volume 28, Number 12,
March 27, 2009

FCC SAYS NO TO QUESTION POOL SIZE INCREASE

The FCC has denied a petition to increase the size of the question pools used to create Amateur Radio exams. Back in April of 2008, Michael Mancuso, KI4NGN, of Raleigh, North Carolina, had filed a petition with the FCC, seeking to increase the size of the question pools from 10 times the number of questions on an exam to 50 times more questions.

Now, almost a year later the FCC has told Mancuso that it is denying his request. The regula-

tory agency says that in its view, Mancuso did not present grounds for the Commission to amend its rules. It also noted that the purpose of the examinations is not to demonstrate an applicant's comprehension of certain material, but rather to determine whether he or she can properly operate an Amateur station.

In his rules change request Mancuso had claimed that the current question pool is too easy to memorize and that there has

been a significant increase in the number of Amateur Radio operators receiving their licenses over at least the last decade or more who do not appear to possess the knowledge indicated by the class of license that they have received. But the FCC said it does not see it that way. In fact, the regulatory agency says that this claim on Mancuso's part is not supported by any data or facts.

—Amateur Radio Newslines,
Report 1650, Mar. 27, 2009

HAMS TO ACTIVATE MIDWAY ATOLL AS K4M

Earlier this year, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced that they would open Midway Atoll to Amateur Radio operations for two weeks only, from October 5-19, 2009. Tom Harrell, N4XP, of Monroe, Georgia, and Dave Johnson, WB4JTT, of Aitkin, Minnesota, have put together a team of 19 operators from all over the

world to activate Midway Atoll for a 10 day period as K4M. This the first time that USFWS has allowed Amateurs to operate from the wildlife refuge since 2002.

"Midway ranks as Number 24 worldwide and Number 13 in Europe on DX Magazine's Most Wanted List," Harrell and Johnson said. "Activity

will be on 6-160 meters with 5 to 6 stations. At least one station will be active on 20 meters around the clock for those who need it for a new country. The team has posted a list of planned frequencies on their Web site.

—The ARRL Letter Online,
Volume 28, Number 10,
March 13, 2009

YOU DO NOT NEED TO SHOW THE PAPER ON THE WALL

The FCC has denied a request from Thomas Baldwin, KA6ZPY, of Anaheim, California, who wanted a rule that would force all radio Amateurs to post their original license document at the operating position for the licensee's station. In denying his petition, the FCC noted that this was a requirement until 1994. It was eliminated when the Part 97 rules were amended to autho-

rize operation of an Amateur station on the basis of the licensee data appearing in the Amateur service licensee database.

The FCC says that the change was made in order to eliminate the delay between the time a license is granted and the time that the licensee may begin to operate. Another reason for the rule change was that it is no

longer necessary to require the license document to be immediately available because a licensee's authorization now can be confirmed by the information in the licensing database. The FCC did note that there is no rule that prevents licensees from posting their license should they so desire.

—Amateur Radio Newslines,
Report 1650, Mar. 27, 2009