

JUNE 2009



JUNE MEETING

Field Day will be the topic of discussion for the June meeting. While we have other business, Field Day will occupy most of our meeting time.

Dr. Gallemore, KA4LOQ, gave his usual great program

despite being our meeting room being given away. His program was a "quiz" on health topics with the winner, Mike Cumbo winning a blood pressure monitor. Thanks, Warren.

Again, I ask everyone to

check your club dues. Your newsletter label has the date your dues are paid through on the upper right corner.

We have a lot to discuss at the June meeting. I hope to see everyone there.

SCIENTISTS PREDICT SOLAR CYCLE 24 TO PEAK IN 2013

At the annual Space Weather Workshop held in Boulder, Colorado last month, an international panel of experts led by NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center

(SWPC) predicted that Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with 90 sunspots per day on average. If the prediction proves true, Solar Cycle 24 will be the weakest cycle since

Solar Cycle 16, which peaked with 78 daily sunspots in 1928, and ninth weakest since the 1750s, when numbered cycles began.

Cycle 24 continued inside...

FIELD DAY 2009

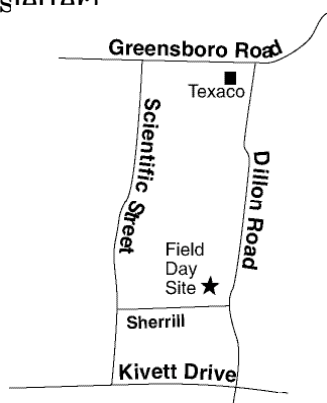
The HPARC will have Field Day at Willard Moore's farm on June 27 and 28. Set-up for Field Day will start after breakfast on Saturday just after 8:30 am.

Club member's picnic will be around 6:00 pm. Hot dogs will be the main dish, so prepare accordingly if you prefer other. There will be a sign up sheet at the club meeting so you can tell us what you will be bringing.

Remember to bring your radios, extension cords, chairs and anything else you can think of that we may need.

This year, Chris has decided that the club will give a Scout Regen Receiver kit to the first young person to operate a radio.

If you have any questions, call Chris Horne or Mark McMahan (phone numbers on back of newsletter)



Directions to Field Day: from Kivett Drive, turn onto Scientific Street. Go about .2 of a mile to Sherrill Road and turn right. Willard Moore's is on the left

just before the stop sign. Coming from Jamestown, turn onto Dillon Road. Come about a mile, and turn right onto Sherrill Road. Mr. Moore's will be the first driveway on your right. Using one of the Internet map programs, use 3139 Dillon Road as your ending destination. Hope everyone can make it.

**HPARC Meeting
June 1, 2009**

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

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

MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING

At 7:30 PM Chris Horne opened the meeting of the HPARC.

Due to our room not being reserved by the restaurant,

club business was postponed.

Dr. Warren Gallemore gave the program as a health quiz.

Thomas John Willis, KQ4RR, was presented for

membership in the HPARC. Motion passed by majority.

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Welcome new member, Thomas John Willis, who was voted in as our newest member. Thomas, KQ4BR, lives in

Pleasant Garden with his wife, Diane.

I don't believe Thomas has made it to a meeting, yet, but

has been to a couple of the Saturday morning breakfasts.

If you see Thomas, please welcome him to the club.

3.8 MILLION STILL NOT READY FOR PRIME TIME

Not everyone is ready for the upcoming United States transition to all digital television and Ham Radio's assistance is still needed in the public awareness campaign. According to the A.C. Nielsen Company, some 3.8 million, or 3.4% of all United States households are still unprepared for the digital television transition slated to take place on June 12th.

Geographically, Albuquerque, New Mexico, is the least prepared, with 9.4%

having no over-the-air digital reception capability. It's followed by the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex and Houston, Texas, each with 6.3% of the citizenry not ready for the transition.

On the other side of the equation, the most digital ready cities appear to be New Haven and Hartford, Connecticut and the Providence to New Bedford region of Rhode Island. Each of these have less than one percent of their citizens unpre-

pared for the digital TV change.

As previously reported, several months ago the FCC requested, through the ARRL, that Ham Radio operators assist their communities in preparing for the digital television rollout. Many radio clubs across the U.S. have reportedly become involved as advisors in this ongoing public service effort, nationwide.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1655, May 1 2009

NEILSEN SAYS TWITTER HAS MORE QUITTERS THAN JOINERS

Ham Radio has nothing to fear from the Twitter instant messaging social network. The Chicago Tribune on May 1st reported on a recent Nielsen Online survey that found the number of people leaving Twitter after just one month outnumber the new arrivals by a margin of 3 to 2.

David Martin is Nielsen's vice president of primary research. He says that if Twitter's user retention rates don't do better than the current 40 percent, the service simply won't be able to

grow into the Internet social networking giants such as MySpace and Facebook.

According to Nielsen, in March, Facebook saw 69.2 million unique users, representing 41 percent of the U.S. Web audience. MySpace had 55.9 million, or 33 percent. But despite its initial rapid growth Twitter, lagged far behind, at 13.9 million users and 8.2 percent.

No reason was given to explain the massive defection from Twitter but Nielsen's

Martin says that if 60 percent continue to quit from one month to the next, the inability to replace defectors suggests a natural limit to growth with Twitter. He expects for it to max out at about 10 percent of the U.S. Internet audience.

As to Ham Radio, while nobody does regular research on the retention rate in the hobby, it appears to be well above 85 to 90 percent, month to month.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1656, May 8 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.

...Cycle 24 continued from cover

The panel predicted that the lowest sunspot number between cycles — the solar minimum — occurred in December 2008, marking the end of Solar Cycle 23 and the start of Solar Cycle 24. If December's prediction holds up, at 12 years and seven

months Solar Cycle 23 will be the longest since 1823 and the third longest since 1755. Solar cycles span 11 years on average, from minimum to minimum.

An unusually long, deep lull in sunspots led the panel to revise its 2007 prediction that the next cycle of solar storms

would start in March 2008 and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012. The persistence of a quiet sun also led the panel to a consensus that Solar Cycle 24 will be what they called "moderately weak."

—The ARRL Letter Online, Volume 28, Number 19, May 15, 2009

ARRL SEEKS SUPPORT FOR HR2160

After the North Carolina PRB-1 Antenna Bill passed in 2007, I heard from many of you who were concerned that the state bill did not address deed restrictions and covenants. Such restrictions are private contracts between individual citizens and it's unlikely we could convince our state legislature to interfere. So while our state PRB-1 bill does require city and county governments to make reasonable accommodations for our antennas, those of us who live in restricted neighborhoods are still at the mercy of "architectural review committees."

But the "Amateur Radio

Emergency Communications Act of 2009" offers hope for addressing this issue. If passed by both houses of the US congress and signed by the President, this bill would require the Secretary of Homeland Security to "undertake a study on the uses and capability of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief." The study would require DHS to "make recommendation whether [the Telecommunications Act of 1996] should be modified to prevent unreasonable private land use restrictions that impair the ability of an Amateur Radio operator [to

install] effective outdoor antennas and support structures at reasonable heights and dimensions for the purpose in residential areas." This bill offers the hope of extending PRB-1 type protection to radio Amateurs living in restricted subdivisions.

I encourage you to contact your congressional representative and ask them to support this bill. Special arrangements have been made by ARRL for delivery of letters to congress, so check out the information on how to do this on www.arrl.org.

—Timothy B. Slay, N4IB, ARRL North Carolina Section Manager

HAMS PREPARE FOR THE SWINE FLU PANDEMIC

Ham Radio operators involved in emergency communications are making ready in case they are needed if the Swine Flu hits their area. We have more in this report:

During the past year, the Health Department in Nevada has discovered the power of Amateur Radio. This, according to Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, who says that Nevada Hams involved in emergency communications have worked two major, statewide drills for pandemic point of dispensing of emergency supplies.

The Hams passed traffic on how many citizens could be vaccinated over a given period of time. They also supplied information on how much vaccine was available.

Don says that officials were quite impressed with what Hams did for them. Especially after their Satellite Phones failed and were unreliable. Simply said, Ham Radio had the ability to continue communications when the conventional methods of communicating shut down.

During the drills, the point of dispensing, better known by

the acronym POD's were real, and open to the public, giving free flu shots.

Don says that it was quite amazing how the Nevada Ham community did this only last year. Now, the real deal seems to be knocking on our door.

Carlson says that Nevada Hams have already been asked to be on standby in case their services are needed should there be a major Swine Flu outbreak. He tells Newsline that they are well trained and prepared.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1655, May 1 2009



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

HPARC JUNE CALENDAR

- 1 — HPARC Club Meeting
- 6 — D-Day (WWII Invasion of Normandy)
- 13 — Winston Salem Hamfest
- 13-14 — ARRL June VHF QSO Party
- 14 — FLAG DAY
- 21 — FATHER'S DAY
- 21 — First day of Summer
- 27-28 — ARRL Field Day
- 28 — HPARC Newsletter deadline

BIRTHDAYS

- Luke Pope — June 8
- Richard Skinner — June 17

REMEMBER: There will be NO meeting for the month of July.

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