

JULY 2009

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point Amateur Radio Club



NO JULY MEETING

The HPARC will not be meeting for July. The club decided to forego meetings that would force us to meet the second Monday of the month because of the holiday schedule. Our next meeting will be August 3, 2009. Please mark

your calendar and be with us.

**No HPARC meeting
for July 2009**

Although we discussed Field Day at the June meeting, it was decided just before Field

Day to postpone this year's activities. Some club members had other commitments and the number that were available to help did not justify the work on the few attendees. It was a difficult decision, and we hope everyone will understand.

NEW SUNSPOT GROUP EMERGES

Some possible good news on the propagation and maybe the DX front as well. Thomas Giella, NZ4O, reports that on Monday, June 22nd, a new solar cycle 24 sunspot group emerged in the South-West quadrant of the Sun. Also that NOAA was expected to assign it the designation 11023 with a beta magnetic signature.

Tom, who lives in Lakeland, Florida, notes that sun watchers have seen four solar cycle 24 sunspot groups this month and six in the past 30 days. He adds that it appears as if solar cycle 24 has finally come alive.

And in what may be related news, word on the VHF Reflector that the 6 meter band has been open in various parts

of the world with skip contacts of several hundred to more than a thousand miles. These reports seem to coincide with the emergence of the new sunspot group being reported by NZ4O, but whether or not there is any direct connection between the two events is unknown.

—Amateur Radio Newline,
Report 1663, June 26 2009

6 METER NOISE FLOOR DROPS AS DTV REPLACES ANALOG

A present to the United States VHF and UHF ham community. This from both the broadcasters and the FCC as many of the nations VHF television stations vacate many of the low VHF channels, go digital and lower the overall noise floor on 6 meters.

The big digital television change out began at 00:01 EST on Friday, June 12th. Stations

across the nation chose their own time to turn off their analog transmitters and move their operations to their permanent digital channels. Many of the low-band stations opted to move to the UHF band. A lot of them operated on Channel 2 just above the 6 meter ham band. And when those analog channel 2 transmitters went QRT, the noise level on 6 meters dropped

in many locations. Places like

6 Meter continued inside...

**HPARC Meeting
August 3, 2009**

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

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

THE NUMBERS ARE UP

The overall number of United States amateur radio operators appears to have increased by 12,877 from June 15 2008 to June 15th, 2009. This according to George Mc Couch, K3UD, who notes that the Technician class had the largest large increase. It showed an overall gain of 9,092 with the General adding 4,427 to its license rolls.

On the downslide was the Novice that declined by 1,703 and Advanced by 2,029. This is due to attrition and upgrading away from both of these classes which are no longer offered by the FCC.

Looking at license class popularity, K3UD's numbers indicate that the Technician license is still the most sought after by newcomers and it has continued to make good gains over the last 12 months. But there is still a trend of Technicians upgrading to General begun some years ago that is ongoing. Also being seen is significant movement to Extra. It has shown an increases of 3,090 hams earning the top of the line ticket.

As to actual numbers, on May 16th of this year there were only 17,497 Novice class while Technician growth makes

that class the largest with 327,793 holders. Generals number 147,644, Advanced sit at 61,204 and Extra rounds out the service with 117,387. That adds up to 671,525 licensed by the United States FCC.

K3UD points out that his figures are a comparison of two snapshots of the numbers taken at two different times and are a snapshot comparison of two dates a year apart. As such, the numbers do not show the changes taking place every day which sometimes are up and other times downward.

—Amateur Radio Newline,
Report 1662, June 19, 2009

PRESIDENT OBAMA MAKES HIS MARK ON FCC

Just barely five months into his first term as President of the United States, Barack Obama has put his personal stamp on the Federal Communications Commission: On June 25, the US Senate confirmed Julius Genachowski as FCC Chairman and reconfirmed current FCC Commissioner Robert McDowell for his first full term as Commissioner. Earlier the same day, he nominated South Carolina Democrat Mignon Clyburn and Republican Meredith Attwell Baker for the two vacant Commissioner seats. If confirmed by the Senate, Clyburn and Baker would bring the FCC to its full complement of five Commissioners.

According to Senate insiders,

there were senators who reportedly had some remaining issues over answers the nominees had provided to written questions submitted after their confirmation hearing; a single senator can put a hold on a nominee and prevent a vote. Reid had been working since last week to get those holds lifted and the President's FCC nominees in place as quickly as possible, said a Reid spokesperson.

President Obama nominated Genachowski to lead the Commission on March 3, 2009 and renominated McDowell on June 2. Both nominees received bipartisan support from the Senate's Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee before their names

were moved to the full Senate for confirmation. Genachowski is a Democratic nominee, while McDowell is a Republican. Only three Commissioners at a time may be members of the same political party.

The President of the Senate will send notice of Genachowski's and McDowell's confirmations to the White House. It is up to the White House to decide on a date for their swearing-in. At press time, no word has been received as to when Baker and Clyburn will face their confirmation hearings.

—The ARRL Letter Online,
Volume 28, Number 25,
June 26, 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.

...6 Meter continued from cover

Chicago, where Keith Morehouse, W9RM, reported over the VHF Reflector that this is a big plus in Chicago where the long known Channel 2 audio spur is gone. That spur used to trash the WSJT meteor scatter calling frequency 50.260 MHz.

In Milwaukee Ray Greiner, K9KHW, reports on the analog shutdown on VHF channels 4, 6 and 12. He reports that he found most of the VHF and UHF ham bands so quiet that he actually checked and see if his antennas were connected. He says that on 6 meters where

the normal noise level was S-3 to S-4, its now zero.

But 6 meters is not the only band seeing a noise floor improvement. Steve Rutledge, N4JQQ, is in Memphis Tennessee/ He says that when VHF channel 3 went to UHF and channels 5 and 13 went digital on their current assignments, that the noise he heard on the 222 MHz ham band when pointing his beam East is now completely gone. He says that in the past, that the noise level was so high that it wiped out any signal from the east, even with a bandpass filter before his tower

mounted preamp.

Even some of those living North of the United States and Canadian border are happy about the change. Jordan Arndt, VE6ZT, in Calgary, Ontario says that he can hear the difference up in Grid Square DO-21. This is especially true when the band is open.

Its going to take a few weeks to really assess the impact that the digital television conversion will have on most of the VHF and UHF ham bands, but so far the results seem very good indeed.

—Amateur Radio Newline,
Report 1662, June 19, 2009

RILEY HOLLINGSWORTH JOINS QRZ

QRZ is pleased to welcome our newest volunteer staff member, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH to our team. Hollingsworth will serve as a guest columnist and advisor to the QRZ staff.

Riley retired from the FCC

last year where he had a distinguished career as a Special Council in the Enforcement Bureau. He was responsible for the FCC's Amateur Radio Enforcement Program and as a ham himself, has proven himself as great asset to our hobby.

We're very fortunate to have the benefit of his wisdom on our staff and look forward to working together with him to continue our service to radio Amateurs around the globe.

—Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ
Publisher, QRZ.COM

THE SAGA OF THE FISHY CELLPHONE

Finally, the story of United Kingdom resident Andrew Cheatle and his cellphone which the June issue of Popular Communications Magazine may own the most reliable phone in the world.

In a recent interview with a United Kingdom newspaper, Cheatle explained that he was messing playing with his dog near the seashore when his cellphone phone must have fallen and got swept away. Cheatle said that he kept calling it in hope someone may have found it. Nobody answered so he gave up after a couple of days.

Fast forward a week. Cheatle is out with his girlfriend shopping for a new cellphone when

her phone rang. She told him that his mobile number was calling hers. The person on the other end identified himself as Glen Kerley. Kerley, a fisherman by trade told Cheatle that he was gutting a large codfish that morning and found Cheatle's Nokia 1600 phone inside.

Kerley tried using the phone, but it didn't work. So he removed its SIM card, put it in his own handset, and started calling numbers from the SIM's phonebook to find the owner.

At first Cheatle didn't believe the story but went to meet him. What he found was his phone that was a bit smelly and battered. Now heres the best part. By the time he got to

Kerley's place the phone had dried out and incredibly it came back to life.

Kerley says that Cod are greedy fish—they'll eat anything. He's found plastic cups, stones, teaspoons, batteries, and everything else under the sun in them. He says that he's even heard of someone finding false teeth in one.

And one last word on this story: It's rumored that Cheatle apparently still uses the fishy phone. Word is that there's a long line of hungry looking cats following him wherever he goes.

Well not really, but it's sure a fun sentence with which to end this week's newscast.

—Amateur Radio Newline,
Report 1662, June 19, 2009



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

HPARC JULY CALENDAR

- 4 — INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 11 — Salisbury Firecracker Hamfest
- 11-12 — IARU HF World Championship
- 18 — Cary Swapfest
- 25 — Waynesville Hamfest
- 26 — PARENTS' DAY
- 26 — HPARC Newsletter deadline

BIRTHDAYS

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

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

2009 HPARC OFFICERS

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