

AUGUST 2009

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point
Amateur Radio
Club



AUGUST MEETING

Rick Weinbaum will give the program for the August meeting. Please plan to attend.

We did not meet last month

because of the July 4th holiday. We will not meet next month due to Labor Day. So if you want to see our shining faces

anytime soon, you better plan on making the August meeting. Would be a tragedy if we don't see you. See you at the meeting.

WALTER CRONKITE, KB2GSD (SK)

Legendary CBS newsman Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, who held the title of "Most Trusted Man in America," passed away Friday, July 17 after a long illness. He was 92. The avuncular Cronkite anchored the CBS Evening News for 19 years until 1981 when he retired. During that time, he reported on such subjects as the Kennedy assassinations, the Civil Rights movement, the Apollo 11 lunar landing, Vietnam and the Vietnam-era protests, the Arab-Israeli Six Day War, Watergate and the Begin-Sadat peace accords.

Cronkite, an ARRL member, narrated the 6 minute video "Amateur Radio Today". Produced by the ARRL in 2003, the video tells Amateur Radio's public service story to non-Hams, focusing on Ham Radio's part in helping various agencies respond to wildfires in the Western US during 2002, Ham Radio in space and the role Amateur Radio plays in emergency communications. "Dozens of Radio Amateurs helped the

police and fire departments and other emergency services maintain communications in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC," narrator Cronkite intoned in reference to Ham Radio's response on September 11, 2001. "Their country asked, and they responded without reservation."

In 1963, it was Cronkite who broke into the soap opera "As the World Turns" to announce that the president had been shot — and later to declare that he had been killed. CBS called it a "defining moment for Cronkite, and for the country. His presence — in shirtsleeves, slowly removing his glasses to check the time and blink back tears — captured both the sense of shock, and the struggle for composure, that would consume America and the world over the next four days."

Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, was Cronkite's radio engineer at CBS for many years. "I had many chances to discuss my favorite hobby, ham radio, with

'the world's most trusted anchor man,'" he told the ARRL. "Gradually, his interest increased, but on finding that he had to pass a Morse code test, he balked, saying it was too hard for him; however, he told me he had purchased a receiver and listened to the Novice bands every night for a few minutes. At the CBS Radio Network, Walter would arrive 10 minutes before we went on the air to read his script aloud, make corrections for his style of grammar and just 'get in the mood' to do the show. In those days Rich Moseson, W2VU, was the producer of a show called "In the News," a 3 minute television

Cronkite 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

HR 2160 GAINS MORE SUPPORT IN CONGRESS

This week, four more Congressmen — John Boozman (R-AR), Bob Filner (D-CA), Dennis Moore (D-KS) and David Wu (D-OR) — pledged their support for HR 2160, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009. This brings the total number of cosponsors to 18.

Introduced by Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX-18) in April, if passed, HR 2160 would “promote and encourage the valuable public service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a volunteer basis by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service, by undertaking a study of the uses of Amateur

Radio for emergency and disaster relief communications, by identifying unnecessary or unreasonable impediments to the deployment of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications, and by making recommendations for relief of such unreasonable restrictions so as to expand the uses of Amateur Radio communications in Homeland Security planning and response.” The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

If enacted into law, HR 2160, would instruct the Secretary of Homeland Security to undertake a study and report its findings to Congress within 180

days. The study would spell out uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief.

“HR 2160 presents the Amateur Radio Service with a unique opportunity — but also carries with it the important responsibility of making your voice heard,” said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. “HR 2160 stands as the first step in trying to address the long standing problem of extending the protections afforded Amateur Radio operators under PRB-1 to deed restrictions and covenants.”

—The ARRL Letter Online, Volume 28, Number 28, July 17, 2009

1.5 MILLION NOT WATCHING TV

You might find this one hard to believe, but more than a month after the nationwide switch to all digital television, the AC Nielsen company says that some 1.5 million United States households with TV receivers in them remain

unready for DTV. The good news is that’s down 200,000 households from the 1.7 million households that weren’t ready two weeks before the June 12th changeover took place.

It was Nielsen’s statistic last January that 5 million homes

not prepared for DTV that lead Congress to delay the DTV move to June. Put another way, about 1.5 million people who used to watch TV in the USA are not doing so right now.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1667, July 24 2009

THE STORY OF THE TEXTING TEEN

Communications can be hazardous to your health. Especially when one is not watching where they are walking because they are text messaging and wind up falling down a manhole.

According to news reports that’s exactly what happened

to a New York City teenager while she was sending a text message on her cell phone. On June 12th Alexa Longueira was about to send a text to a friend when she fell down the open manhole on Staten Island. The girl suffered only mild cuts and bruises.

Workers had left the manhole uncovered and unattended for only seconds while they went to get cones from their truck.

The girl’s family said they are planning to file a lawsuit against the city.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1667, July 24 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.

...Cronkite continued from cover

show for children voiced by CBS Correspondent Christopher Glenn. On this day, Rich was at the Broadcast Center to record Chris' voice for his show and had dropped by my control room to discuss some upcoming ARRL issues." At the time, Mendelsohn was the ARRL Hudson Division Director.

"When Walter walked into the studio, I started to set the show up at the behest of our director, Dick Muller, WA2DOS," Mendelsohn recalled. "In setting up the tape recorders, I had to send tone to them and make sure they were all at proper level. Having some time, I grabbed "The New York Times" and started sending code with the tone key on the audio console. For 10 minutes I sent code and noticed Walter had turned his script over and was copying it. We went to air, as we did every day, at 4:50 PM and after we were off, Walter brought his script into the control room. Neatly printed on the back was the text I had sent with the tone key. Rich and I looked at the copy, he nodded, and I told Walter that he had just passed the code test. He laughed and asked when the formal test was, but I reminded

him that it took two General class licensees to validate the test and he had just passed the code. Several weeks later he passed the written test and the FCC issued him KB2GSD."

Mendelsohn helped Cronkite make his first Amateur Radio contact: "Having passed the licensing test, Walter was now ready to get on the air. His first QSO was on 10 meters about 28.390 MHz. He was nervous and I called him on the phone to talk him through his first experience. As we talked on the air, a Ham from the Midwest come on and called me. Acknowledging him, I asked the usual questions about where he was from, wanting to give Walter a bit of flavor of what the hobby was about. I turned it over to Walter, and following his introduction, the gentleman in the Midwest said, 'That's the worst Walter Cronkite imitation I've ever heard!' I suggested that maybe it was Walter and the man replied, 'Walter Cronkite is not even a Ham, and if he was, he certainly wouldn't be here on 10 meters.' Walter and I laughed for weeks at that one."

In 2007, ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, presented Cronkite with the ARRL President's Award.

This award, created in 2003 by the ARRL Board of Directors, recognizes an ARRL member or members who "have shown long-term dedication to the goals and objectives of ARRL and Amateur Radio" and who have gone the extra mile to support individual League programs and goals. Cronkite was selected to receive the award in April 2005 in recognition of his outstanding support of the ARRL and Amateur Radio by narrating the videos "Amateur Radio Today" and "The ARRL Goes to Washington".

A private memorial service was held July 23 in New York City. Cronkite will be cremated and his remains buried in Missouri next to his wife Betsy, who passed away in 2005. A public memorial service will be held within the next month at Avery Fisher Hall at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to the Walter and Betsy Cronkite Foundation through the Austin Community Foundation, which will distribute contributions to various charities the couple supported.

—The ARRL Letter Online,
Volume 28, Number 29,
July 24, 2009

DAYTON OR FRIEDRICHSHAFEN – WHICH IS BIGGER?

Is the Ham Radio convention in Friedrichshafen, Germany, about to match or even replace Dayton as the world's most attended Amateur Radio show? According to several sources this year's Ham Radio had an official gate of 17,400 visitors. That's up by 300 from 2008. Also, some 195 exhibitors and radio associations from 30 nations represented at the show.

So far, Dayton has not made public its official attendance figure, but many who regularly attend the Hamvention have speculated that 2009 saw about the same number of attendees as 2008 or maybe a few more. If that's the case then it would likely put Dayton and Friedrichshafen at least neck to neck. We will have to await the folks in Dayton making public their attendance

figures to know for sure.

Meantime, you can make a note of the dates of the 35th Ham Radio will be from June 25th to the 27th in 2010 in Friedrichshafen, Germany. Hamvention 2010 will take place May 14th to the 16th 2010 at its usual home at the Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio.

—Amateur Radio Newslines,
Report 1665, July 10 2009



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

HPARC AUGUST CALENDAR

- 1 — Air Force Day
- 4 — Coast Guard Day
- 1-2 — ARRL UHF Contest
- 3 — HPARC Club Meeting
- 8 — CFARS Swapfest, Fayetteville, NC
- 14 — VJ Day (WWII Surrender of Japan 1945)
- 15-16 — ARRL 10-GHz Cumulative Contest
- 30 — HPARC Newsletter deadline

BIRTHDAYS

- Mike Walker — August 14
- Clyde Young — August 16
- Mike Cumbo — August 23
- Warren Newton — August 26
- Warren Gallemore — August 27
- Scott Carmichael — August 28

**There will be NO September
 HPARC Meeting**

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.**