

OCTOBER 2009



OCTOBER MEETING

Since we didn't have a meeting for September, it seems like ages since we last got together. Hopefully we didn't lose anyone and will see you all at the October meeting.

At this point, I am not sure what our program for October may be.

It is getting time to start thinking about officers again. We should have a nominating

committee chosen by the October meeting. Please help us if you are asked to serve on the committee. Thanks.

Don't forget to put the meeting on your calendar. See you.

2009 SCOUTING JAMBOREE ON THE AIR

The Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is an annual event in which Scouts all over the world speak to each other via Amateur Radio. Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared, via the radio waves.

Since 1958 when the first Jamboree-On-The-Air was held, thousands of Scouts have "met" each other through this event. Not only is it fun to talk to Scouts from other parts of the world but it provides also a

chance to find out about other countries and about Scouting elsewhere. Many contacts made during the JOTA have resulted in penpals and links between scout troops that have lasted for many years. It's also one of our best opportunities to share our great hobby with enthusiastic young people.

This year's JOTA will be held October 17 and 18. Each station can choose its own operating hours within this period, so you may have time

to also attend the state ARES meeting on Saturday morning! You can help both Boy and Girl Scouts earn their radio merit badges during the event and we might get a few new Hams too! Your club can contact a local Girl or Boy Scout troop and offer to setup an operating event in the field, or invite a group to your home station.

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

GLORIOSO ISLAND IS ON THE AIR

Some breaking news in the world of DX. This, with word that the Glorioso Island FT5GA DXpedition team is now active. Operation is reported on all of the high frequency bands using CW, SSB and RTTY but most stateside stations report that signals are very weak.

The team reportedly had

some antenna problems at first due to windy weather conditions and later a faulty contact on a WARC band Spiderbeam. That was repaired and indications are that all three stations are now on the air.

Operations will last until October 5th per the FT5GA web page. Its in cyberspace at <http://glorieuses2008.free.fr>.

—Amateur Radio Newline,
Report 1676, Sept. 25 2009

**HPARC Meeting
October 5, 2009**

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

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

SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST

The ARRL Simulated Emergency Test is a nationwide exercise in emergency communications, which gives communicators the opportunity to focus on the emergency-communications capability within their communities while interacting with NTS and other section nets.

The July issue of QST included the results of the 2008 SET. Out of 71 ARRL sections, North Carolina was 6th in total SET points and second in section/local net participation! Cleveland County ARES had the highest point total among local ARES groups in our state. Congratulations and thanks to all of you for your participation!

Now it's time to get ready for

the 2009 SET, with the national exercise set for October 3-4. The state ARES drill will occur on October 3 and the drill scenario will be announced on the Tarheel Emergency Net at 7:30pm on Friday, October 2. The Tarheel Emergency Net will be active on or around 3.923MHz on October 3 from 8 a.m. to 12 noon to support local SET exercises scheduled on the ARRL's national SET weekend.

Our regular National Traffic System (NTS) nets will be operating during the weekend on their regular schedule to provide additional support. You don't have to schedule your SET event on October 3. SET-type activities held at anytime during the fall can be counted

towards our section SET score. I know fall is a busy time for public service events and one NC club plans to combine their SET with a scheduled public service event - a great idea!

You may download a copy of the 2009 SET reporting forms and read the SET Guidelines on the ARRL Web Page. See <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/setguide.html> for appropriate links. The reporting forms (Forms A, B, and C) are found at this specific address in Adobe PDF and Word formats: http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms/#ec_set.

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

September NC Section News

IARU SAYS TO MORSE INTRUDERS ON 40 METERS AWAY

A new way to fight intruders on 40 meters. Jam them with CW.

The International Amateur Radio Union is encouraging Amateurs to get on the air and

use CW on the 7 MHz band. This is because Portuguese fishermen are abusing 7,000.4 kHz using USB every morning between 07.00 and 09.00 UTC and later.

The fishermen are located off

the North of Portugal. The IARU says that Hams should use this frequency for CW traffic as much as they can.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1674, Sept. 11, 2009

PIGEON BEATS INTERNET IN AFRICA

A South African information technology company claims that it has proven it was faster for them to transmit data with a carrier pigeon than to send it using the country's leading internet service provider Telkom.

The local news agency SAPA reported the 11-month-old pigeon named Winston took one hour

and eight minutes to fly the 50 miles from Unlimited IT's offices to the coastal city of Durban with a data card was strapped to his leg. Including downloading, the transfer took two hours, six minutes and 57 seconds. That's the same time it took for only four percent of the data to be transferred using a Telkom line.

SAPA said Unlimited IT performed the stunt after becoming frustrated with slow internet transmission times. Internet speed and connectivity in Africa is poor because of a bandwidth shortage and also expensive for what service does exist.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1676, Sept. 25 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.

NEW CYCLE 24 SPOT ON THE FACE OF THE SUN

Some good news from the big circular disk in the daytime sky. Spaceweather reports that Sunspot 1026 emerged on Sunday, September 20th U-T-C to break a string of 19 consecutive spotless days.

Sunspot 1026 is described as being about as wide as the diameter of the Earth. This makes it an easy target for backyard solar telescopes. The Solar and Heliospheric Observatory has measured the spot's magnetic polarity and

identified it as a member of new Solar Cycle 24.

Could this be a harbinger of more to come? Spaceweather says its apparently is. So stay tuned and keep your radio tuned in.

—Amateur Radio Newslines,

SEARCHING FOR WALDO THE ROBOT

Scientists along Florida's Gulf Coast are trying to find a radio controlled underwater robot that has mysteriously vanished.

Scientists at Mote Marine Laboratory have lost a bright yellow submersible research robot somewhere in the Gulf waters off Venice, Florida.

The sea going remote control research device from laboratory in Sarasota has been missing since Monday, August 31st.

Scientists aren't sure what happened to the robot, which is nicknamed Waldo. Some think that it might have sprung a leak or suffered a malfunction and sunk. Others believe that It also could be on the surface, but its communication beacon or E-L-T has malfunctioned and that it cannot signal its location.

Waldo the sea going robot is 6-foot-long, weighs about 115 pounds, has short wings midway

up its cylindrical body and cost about \$100,000. He was also equipped with a detector to find a toxic algae bloom called red tide that was valued at another \$30,000.

If you live along the Gulf Coast and see something bright yellow strange floating off shore, that could be the missing robot.

—Amateur Radio Newslines,

Report 1674,

September 11, 2009

SAVE A HAM, MAKE A FRIEND

It seems that there is an often discussed topic in the Ham Community, I speak of the apparent shrinking of the Ham population. Some say the numbers are dropping while others argue that it is growing albeit at a very slow pace and still others believe that it's pretty stable as a percentage of the US population.

There are many ways to look at the statistics and validate one's opinion one way or the other. However, I have come across a way for each of us to actually DO something about preventing some of the shrinkage and, perhaps, make a new friend or two along the way.

There is a resource on the Internet by which one can look up the Hams in by location, in this case by city. It is a terrific resource, with so much information about a city that, in fact, the

Ham section is almost an afterthought with a link very close to the bottom of the page. Here is the link, <http://www.city-data.com/>

What makes this resource so very valuable is that, one, actual FCC data has been used and, two, part of that information is the expiration date of an individual's license.

Here is how I used it: First, I went to my own state and city, Buffalo Grove, Illinois, then I found my call and verified that the information offered there was correct as well as to familiarize myself with the layout of the data. Then I looked at each call to see if anyone's license was about to expire, or worse HAD expired but was still within the two year grace period. These "grace period" licensees CAN be saved.

I then attempted to contact each Ham who's license was in jeopardy and tried to alert them of the situation. For those who I could not directly speak with, I left a note hoping that they would read it.

Some of the Hams I contacted had gone inactive while others had simply forgotten to renew. Almost all were grateful for the contact and I even made a few new friends as a side benefit.

There is an old adage is sales which states that keeping an existing customer is ten times easier than finding a new one. While many of us are actively encouraging more people to become Hams, why not the rest of us at least try to do something to not letting the one's we already have slip away. Just a thought.

—KE9PP (from the Internet)



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

HPARC OCTOBER CALENDAR

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 3 — Rock Hill, SC Hamfest | 24 — Lexington, NC BBQ Festival |
| 3-4 — ARRL Simulated Emergency Test | 24-25 — CQ World-Wide Contest, Phone |
| 5 — HPARC Club Meeting | 25 — Mother-In-Law's Day |
| 10 — Pfafftown, NC Hamfest | 25 — HPARC Newsletter deadline |
| 11 — Maysville, NC Hamfest | 31 — HALLOWEEN |
| 11 — National Children's Day | |
| 12 — COLUMBUS DAY | |
| 13 — Navy Day | |
| 15-25 — NC State Fair | |
| 16 — National Boss Day | |
| 17-18 — Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) | |
| 19-25 — High Point Furniture Market | |

BIRTHDAYS

Coy Hennis — October 4

2009 HPARC OFFICERS

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