

APRIL 2014

# HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point  
Amateur Radio  
Club



## APRIL MEETING

In case you haven't gotten the memo yet, Spring has been cancelled for this year. Hopefully we have seen the last of bad weather.

Since we didn't have our

March meeting due to bad weather, our newest member, Larry Kirby, is again prepared to give the program for this month. Larry will be talking about the

North Carolina Aviation Museum in Asheboro where he volunteers.

Fingers crossed, we hope to see everyone at the April meeting.

## AMATEUR RADIO CREDITED IN RESCUE OF WAYWARD HIKERS

Authorities in Kern County, California, say Amateur Radio was responsible for the rescue of five adult hikers, who became lost in San Emigdio Canyon. The group had left Pine Mountain Club on the morning of Saturday, March 22, hiking to a vehicle parked near Highway 166 when they went astray.

"They had hand-held radios with them and called an Amateur Radio operator in Pine Mountain Club to report [they were] lost," a Kern County Sheriff's Department summary said. "Air-1 quickly located the lost hikers in a dry creek bed, approximately 12 miles south of Highway 166, and a ground unit transported them to their vehicle." The sheriff's office said the hikers, who had plenty of food and water, "were extremely exhausted, but did not require medical aid."

In the hiking party were Cliff Brunk, K8BUW, and his wife Judith, KG6BXM. According to Don Quick, KW6PMC, who knows the couple, Cliff Brunk – who was carrying a hand-held transceiver – fell and struck his head. While not seriously injured, he was in pain. At that point, the group decided to return home, but then realized they were lost and outside of cell phone range. Using his radio, Brunk was able to reach Bill Hopper, AB6CF, via the Pine Mountain repeater, Quick said. The injured Ham reported the hiking party's predicament but couldn't provide details regarding their location. Another member of the party was able to pass along the group's location, however, and Hopper called 911.

The Kern County Sheriff's Department dispatched a helicopter, which was able to

locate the hiking party, but the nearest landing site was too far away for the rescue party to communicate with the hikers. A sheriff's deputy drove into the canyon near the spot where the hikers were stranded, and they walked to his patrol car. The weary hikers got back to their homes late that evening – thanks to Donald Quick, KW6PMC, and the Kern County Sheriff's Department.

—The ARRL Letter,  
March 27, 2014  
Rick Lindquist,  
WW1ME, Editor

**HPARC Meeting  
April 7, 2014**

**Rancho's,  
10463 North Main St,  
Archdale, NC**

Meal at 6:30 pm  
Business meeting at 7:00 pm

## FREEGATE 2014

Can't make it to Dayton this year? Well, if you are in the area, we are having a free tailgate Hamfest in Greensboro, NC on May 17th from 8:00 a.m. until noon. We will be in the rear parking lot at the RFMD Headquarters building at 7628 Thorndike Road in Greensboro, approximately 1/2 mile south of the I-40/NC-68 interchange.

Bring your own tables and

chairs, and enjoy a morning of tailgating. We plan on having local Amateur Radio dealers on hand for those items that just can't be found in any car trunk!

Did I mention that this is Free? Yes, this is our third year of a free Hamfest. No cost, no long lines, and plenty of free parking. We have vending machines and an on-site ATM as well as indoor restrooms.

We will not be offering food or beverages; there are plenty of restaurants in the area, so grab your coffee and biscuit before you arrive!

We will have a talk-in on the W4GG repeater (Thanks once again Guilford Amateur Society!) on 145.25 (-600 offset, 88.5 Hz tone), and if you need more information, you may wish to visit [kd4rf.org](http://kd4rf.org).

—Rick, NM3G

## PHOTOS OF MARLON BRANDO'S HAMSHACK IS ONLINE

Fernando Casanova, EC1AME, has posted that back in the 1980s while he was reading the Spanish magazine HOLA [he] found a very interesting article about Marlon Brando's private island in the Pacific. Among the pictures he spotted two Ham Radio related [pictures] and later posted them to the EA1URO internet

discussion site.

As some of you may know, Marlon Brando was licensed as KE6ZPH here in the USA and FO5GJ while in Tahiti. According to Wikipedia.com, Brando was listed in the Federal Communications Commission records as Martin Brandeaux to preserve his privacy, and he used that name

while on the air.

His private island was to become a luxury resort in 2013, so EC1AME says that it's a perfect moment to remember how it looked in the 80's. You can see those photos on the web at [tinyurl.com/marlon-brando-station](http://tinyurl.com/marlon-brando-station) (EC1AME)

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1911, Mar. 28, 2014

## UK REPEATERS REDUCE HOURS ON THE AIR DUE TO LACK OF USERS

Due to the falling membership, the Leicestershire Repeater Group has taken the decision to limit the hours of operation of the repeaters GB3CF, GB3GV, GB3LE and GB3UM to conserve funds. As a result, the repeaters are now switched off overnight between 22.00 and 05.00 UTC. The groups beacons GB3LEX and GB3LES continue to operate 24

hours a day. For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jeremy Boot, G4NJH, in Nottingham in the heart of the U.K..

Here in the United States many repeaters are also seeing a falling number of users. This as the cost of site rental, insurance and electrical power continue to rise. As such, we cannot help but wonder if limiting the hours that relatively

underused repeaters operate could become a phenomena that could spread to this side of the Atlantic as well.

More about the United Kingdom group, its repeaters and beacons is on the web at [www.leicestershirerepeater-group.org.uk](http://www.leicestershirerepeater-group.org.uk). (GB2RS)

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1911, March 28, 2014

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 or emailing your request to [w4ua@arrl.net](mailto:w4ua@arrl.net). Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$12.00 a year. Contributions and letters/emails 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 a local restaurant announced in the newsletter. The business meeting starts around 7:00 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.

# PIERRE ON APRIL 1ST: REMOTE OPERATING IN 2014 AND BEYOND

And finally this week, one of the hot topics in Ham Radio today, especially among contesters and DX'ers, is remote operating. Our intrepid once yearly roving reporter, Pierre Pullinmyleg, has been looking into the phenomenon and files this report. Remotely, of course:

Zee magazines and zee internets, zey are always talking about ziss "remote operating" and it haz been something of a mystery to me. But I love a good mystery!

Some people say remote operating will change zee face of DXing and contesting. That is the first mystery to me.

When I listen to some Ham operators trying to contact a DXpedition or a rare DX station in a contest, zee face is

not zee first part of the body that comes to mind.

The next thing I tried to figure out is whether my so-called univerzal remote would let me operate my station remotely while watching TV. I tried all sorts of combinations of button-pushing. I found zee organic gardening channel, turned zee coffeemaker on and off, and started zee car three times. But zee Ham rig stayed on the same frequency and I could not key zee mic. So much for a "universal" remote.

Then I realized that perhaps I had it all backwards and that I have been doing Ham Radio remote operation for many years. I switched on my linear and keyed my mic.

Every time I spoke, I remotely opened and closed

garage doors up and down my street; I remotely rotated the neighbors' satellite dishes, and I remotely set off four car alarms.

Zee appeal of all this is still a mystery to me.

Oh, there's za doorbell...a mystery visitor...zee plot thickens...

From the FCC's until now secret prison outside Gettysburg, this is Pierre Pullinmyleg reporting for Newsline.

Government officials assure us that Pierre will be released by next spring in time for his April 1st 2015 report. (The Pierre Pullinmyleg International Support Group)

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1911,  
March 28, 2014

## OSCAR-11 / UOSAT-2 CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

UOSAT-OSCAR-11 has now been in orbit for 30 years and remarkably its signal on 145.826 MHz FM is still being received. UOSAT-2, was designed and built by a team of engineers at the University of Surrey in Guildford, Surrey, UK as the successor to UOSAT-1. It was placed into orbit on board a Delta rocket

from the United States Western Test Range at Vandenberg Air Base, in California on March 1, 1984.

OSCAR-11 was the most rapidly designed Ham Radio satellite going from inception to launch in only five months. It was also the first amateur satellite to carry a digital communications package into

Earth orbit, and the first to be controlled by a Central Processing Unit running software written in the high-level programming language "Forth". The bird originally carried three beacons but only the 2 meter unit is currently operational. (AMSAT-UK)

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1910, Mar. 21, 2014

## INTERNATIONAL MARCONI DAY – APRIL 26

Saturday April 26th is when stations around the world will be on the air to celebrate International Marconi Day. This is a once a year opportunity to make contact with historic Marconi locations around the world and to celebrate the birth of Guglielmo Marconi on

the April 25th 1874.

At airtime, over 20 Marconi related sites have confirmed that they will be on board this year's celebration. These include the historic GB4IMD at Poldhu in Cornwall, England along with VO1AA on Signal Hill in St. Johns,

Newfoundland, and W2MRC at Monmouth Junction in New Jersey.

All stations planning to participate are urged to register in advance. Full details are at [www.gb4imd.com](http://www.gb4imd.com).

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1911, Mar. 28, 2014



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

## HPARC APRIL CALENDAR

- 1 — **April Fool's Day**
- 7 — **HPARC Club Meeting**
- 5-10 — HP Furniture Market
- 19 — Raleigh Hamfest
- 19 — Catawba Valley Hamfest,  
Morganton, NC
- 20 — ARRL Rookie Roundup – Phone
- 22 — **EARTH DAY**
- 23 — Administrative Professionals' Day
- 25 — National Arbor Day
- 27 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline

### BIRTHDAYS

- Sam Hall — April 21
- David Macchiarolo — April 25
- Dan Bly — April 27

### 2014 HPARC OFFICERS

Mark McMahan, KB4MFP — President — 887-3039 — kb4mfp@arrl.net  
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**Breakfast  
 every Saturday**  
 —  
**8:00 am**  
 —  
**Biscuitville,  
 2709 S. Main St.**