

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point Amateur Radio Club



MAY MEETING

David Macchiarolo will be presenting a video of a guy making vacuum tubes by hand for our May meeting.

At the April meeting, David gave a presentation on JT65, a

low-power mode used on the HF bands similar to PSK31.

Field Day is getting closer, so we should probably start discussing our plans.

We missed you last month!

Where were you? Attendance was a little low last month. Hopefully everyone is doing well. Plan on being at the May meeting and bring a friend. See you there.

HAM RADIO RESPONDS TO BOSTON MARATHON TERRORIST ATTACK

Some 250 Ham Radio operators were providing communications for the Boston Marathon on Monday, April 15th, when a pair of bombs believed planted by a terrorist went off killing three onlookers and sending scores to local hospitals. Some with very serious and life threatening injuries.

It is a day Paul Topolski, W1SEX, will never forget.

Topolski tells Newsline he was working with radio operators close to the finish line of the Boston Marathon and things were going well. And then, there was the first blast..

"I was in the net control trailer about 400 feet from where the blast was," he recalls. "Things were going pretty smooth and we had and were commenting all of the operations that we had were up and running and no real issues.

"And, within a couple of minutes my assistant and I just happened to be looking at each other out of the corner of our eye and then that blast hit and shook the trailer and we knew it wasn't good."

Topolski says then the second blast went off and they knew things were going to be brought to a halt. He says their big concern, operators at the medical tents at each mile along the route.

"Net control immediately started doing a roll call and finding out where all our people were – exact locations and their condition, making sure that they were okay. And, as it turns out everyone was just fine and continuing operations."

Just before that roll call began, Topolski told his counterpart overseeing net-control on the course to reach out to

him on a secure line.

Steve Schwarm, W3EVE, who also spoke with Newsline about the events of that day, was on the receiving end of that call and was a bit surprised.

"He calls me on the radio and says, 'Call me on my cell phone.' And, I know something's got to be wrong because he'll only talk to me on the cell phone when it's something he doesn't want anybody else to hear," Schwarm says.

"So, I called him on the cell phone and that's when he told

Boston continued inside...

**HPARC Meeting
May 6, 2013**

**J & S Cafe,
10210 North Main St,
Archdale, NC**

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

2000 KM USING 10 MILLIWATTS FROM A RASPBERRY PI

Eddie Bennett, G3ZJO, of Northampton in the United Kingdom is not making any claims. Even so he may now hold a QRP distance record for a micro power transmission using a Raspberry Pi micro-computer as a transmitter.

Bennett reportedly used the 10 milliwatts of RF that can be generated from the Raspberry Pi computer board to be heard at over 2000 km

on the 7 MHz band. The Raspberry Pi board can be made to operate as a WSPR mode transmitter covering Low, High and VHF frequencies up to 250 MHz. G3ZJO connected the board via a low pass filter to a dipole for the 7 and 14 MHz bands.

Among the stations who received his WSPR signal on 40 meters was LA9JO in grid square JP99 at a distance of

2124 km. On 20 meters he was heard by LY2BOS in grid KO24 at a distance of 1736km.

If you want to give micro power Raspberry Pi DXing a try, the PE1NNZ code and binary to turn the mini computer into a super QRP signal emitter is available at tinyurl.com/raspberry-pi-transmitter.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1860, April 5, 2013

DAYTON HAMVENTION AWARDS COMMITTEE WITHDRAWS 2013 AMATEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Dayton Hamvention Awards Committee announced on April 7 that it would be withdrawing its Amateur of the Year Award for 2013. According to Dayton Hamvention General Chairman Charles Kaiser, KD8JZR, the committee had received “conflicting information from credible sources regarding the accuracy of the winning nomination.” After

verifying these reports, Kaiser made the decision to withdraw the award for 2013. “Unfortunately, this changes the way we score for the Amateur of the Year Award,” Kaiser said in a statement on the Hamvention website. “Since the competition was close with other nominees, the outcome would have been different.” Kaiser then made the

decision to not award the Amateur of the Year Award for 2013 to any of the other nominees. The other awards for 2013 – the Technical Excellence Award, the Special Achievement Award and the Club of the Year Award – are not affected by Kaiser’s decision.

—The ARRL Letter for August 11, 2012

RETIREMENT PROPERTIES INSTALLS HAM RADIO SHACKS

The Marshalltown, Iowa, Times-Republican newspaper reports that 81-year-old Tom Morgan, W4UTK, has use of three operating Ham Radio stations complete with a 500-watt amplifier in a comfortable Ham shack at the Embers Retirement Community.

The location and equipment were all made possible by Brad Lee, W0VFT, of Phoenix,

Arizona. Lee is identified as the CEO of Trilogy-Embers. That’s the company that owns Embers and a number of other retirement centers in the United States.

Embers Executive Director is Vicki Bogner. She is quoted as saying that Brad Lee picked up interest in short-wave from his father whom his QRZ dot com page as the late C. W. “Lee”, and the first

holder of the W0VFT callsign.

She went on to say that Brad Lee began by installing Ham shacks for residents in his Phoenix area properties. This after he learned some had been Ham operators in their own homes but had given up the hobby after moving in to one of the Embers properties.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1861, April 12, 2013

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. 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.

...Boston continued from cover

me that two bombs had gone off in downtown and said I don't know what's going to happen next, but thought you'd like to know, and I said thanks.

"So, I stopped all the activity in my net control and announced it to everybody there, and I said that we don't know what's going to happen next, but I'm quite sure the race is probably over."

Topolski, who was at the medical tent close to the finish line, says once it was established all those close to the bomb locations were okay, there was general agreement among the operators to stay at their posts and assist.

"It was a kind of a mindset, 'Okay, we did have a problem and let's continue to do our jobs,' and everybody did just that until we were finally sent on our way by the Boston Police Department and the Massachusetts State Police because we were literally right in the "ground zero" area," Topolski says. "We were in the crime scene so we had to bug out."

But, before they were sent out, Topolski says the operators were busy helping medical personnel.

"Instead of taking care of runners, we were no working with the medical people who were serving casualties from the incident itself," Topolski says. "We had medical coverage, or coverage in the medical tents and we started receiving reports of those injuries and the types of things that were going on and then we were relaying that information to the public safety people via WebEOC

and other means."

Topolski estimates those closest to the blast zones were there for about 35 minutes afterward until they got sent out because of concerns among authorities about other possible devices.

Back to Schwarm at course net control, who in the minutes after the blasts was now working with operators still out on the course.

"Police were ordering people to stop," Schwarm says. "So runners tended to congregate at the first aid stations and the water-fluid stations along the course. And all of them had Ham Radio operators.

"So, as soon as that happened, we told everybody on the frequency what was going on. The event had stopped and they would start to organize those people. And, then we started to use some of our medical sweep buses to take the runners to some predetermined shelters.

"The original thought was that if we had something like a thunderstorm come through and had lightning and things like that we wouldn't want all these people on the course. So, that was the original intended use for the shelters but they found out that they could be used for this as well."

Schwarm says for the operators close to the blast zones, it was a hectic time.

"They supplied communications for the medical tents and that was where a lot of the initial triage of the runners occurred and a lot of lives were probably saved because they had basically a first-class emergency room right there," Schwarm says.

But the day was far from over for Topolski and his operators who were evacuated from the developing crime scene, Schwarm says.

"The roles actually got reversed because they were concerned about having another device in the area so they had a lot of people evacuated," Schwarm says. "Paul and his team evacuated and several of his operators came up to help me in case we were going to be doing an extended operation.

"It wasn't clear how long it was going to take for us to get this thing cleaned up and they came up to help in case we needed some backup. I was very concerned about some of my net control operators getting exhausted, needing some backup. So I knew he had some good people and they came up to help out."

Topolski has been involved in the marathon Amateur Radio coverage for 20 years. For Schwarm, this was his 13th year and he says it won't be his last.

"I think what you'll find is that next year we're going to have a bigger and better Boston Marathon and we're going to go on," Schwarm says. "I mean we went through a lot of planning and soul searching for these kinds of things after 9-11 and this was probably a wake-up call to re-think some of those."

Our hearts go out to the families of those who lost loved ones and to those injured in this unprovoked and uncivilized attack against humanity.

—Amateur Radio Newslines,
Report 1862, April 19, 2013



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

HPARC MAY CALENDAR

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|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2 — National Day of Prayer | 26 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline |
| 5 — Cinco de Mayo | 29 — John F. Kennedy's Birthday |
| 6 — HPARC Club Meeting | 27 — MEMORIAL DAY |
| 7 — National Teacher's Day | |
| 8 — VE Day | |
| (Germany surrenders WWII 1945) | |
| 11 — Rockingham County ARC Hamfest | |
| 12 — MOTHER'S DAY | |
| 17-19 — Dayton, OH Hamvention | |
| 16 — ARMED FORCES DAY | |
| 25 — Durham, NC Hamfest | |

BIRTHDAYS

Richard Weinbaum — May 18
 Ben Rogers — May 21

2013 HPARC OFFICERS

Warren Gallemore, KA4LOQ — President — 883-4944 — warreng960@aol.com
 Bob Erdin, N4ADQ — Vice-President — 889-8692 — rerdin@northstate.net
 Mark McMahan, KB4MFP — Secretary/Treasurer — 887-3039 — kb4mfp@arrl.net
 Newsletter Editor — Mark McMahan — 887-3039 — kb4mfp@arrl.net
 HPARC Web page: <http://w4ua.net> • w4ua@arrl.net

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