

SEPTEMBER 2013

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point
Amateur Radio
Club



SEPTEMBER MEETING

We will be meeting this month at Rancho's on September 2. There had been some concern as we were not sure if the restaurant would be open for Labor Day. They will be open, and we will be there.

David Macchiarolo will give the program for the September meeting. The program will be "Radio Propagation – What You Should Know."

For our August meeting,

Warren Gallemore gave a program on "Human Physiological Response to Environmental Electrical Interaction" (or your mother told you not to stick your finger in the outlet).

For those of you receiving the paper edition of the HPARC Newsletter, my apologies. I found out from Sam Hall the newsletter had been coming with postage due despite have a forever stamp on it. Turns out

the way I fold our newsletter, the Postal Service requires four stickers to close the letter not just one as I have been doing. This regulation has been in place for some time, but they only recently started enforcing it. In the future, please contact me if you have any problems with your newsletter. If not for Sam, I would not have been aware of the problem.

See you at the meeting.

FCC SETS HIGHER VANITY CALL SIGN FEE THAN FIRST PROPOSED

A new FCC regulatory fee of \$16.10 to apply for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will become effective sometime in mid-September, when the new fee schedule appears in the Federal Register. (ARRL will report the exact date as soon as it becomes available.) Earlier this year, the FCC had proposed upping the vanity call sign fee from its current \$15 to \$15.20. The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 17 years of the current program – from high of \$50 when the program debuted in 1996 to a low of \$11.70 in 2007.

In a Report and Order in MD Docket 13-140, released August 12, the FCC ordered a

broad schedule of new fees for all services and waived the usual 30-day waiting period following Federal Register publication,

Because there would not be time for new fees to become effective before the start of the new federal fiscal year on October 1, 2013. The FCC says it expects \$230,230 in revenue to cover the costs of administering the vanity call sign program. It anticipates 14,300 vanity call sign applications.

Applicants must pay the regulatory fee not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also when renewing a vanity call sign (those holding "heritage" vanity call signs

issued prior to 1993 are exempt).

The ARRL VEC will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less.

—The ARRL Letter for August 15, 2013

**HPARC Meeting
September 2, 2013**

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

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

SPECIAL EVENTS AROUND THE STATE

SPECIAL EVENT STATION AT NC MOUNTAIN FAIR – In addition to the State Fair in Raleigh, there is the NC Mountain State Fair held September 6th to the 15th at the Western North Carolina Agricultural Center in Fletcher. The fair's website is www.mountainfair.org Several western NC radio clubs will be hosting special event station N4F at the fairgrounds and will be demonstrating voice, CW, D-Star, PSK-31, Packet, PACTOR-Winlink, digital voice and satellite. If you can help out, please contact "The Road Show" Amateur Radio Club President Bill Van Nuys, N4OOC, at n4ooc@arrl.net.

SPECIAL EVENT STATION

AT SPIVEY'S CORNER HOLLERIN' CONTEST – Every September in Sampson County is the National Hollerin' Contest held at Spivey's Corner on Rte. 421. The contest goes back to the days before radio and telephones when lung power was the best form of DX. The Sampson County Amateur Radio Service will be on the air September 14th from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM local time as N4C on 7.264 MHz and 14.264 MHz. With the background being hollerin', SSB makes more sense for authenticity than CW. Information on this fun event at <http://www.nationalhollerincontest.com>

OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS

IN NC – September 21-22, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM both days, Carousel Festival, Burlington, to celebrate the city's restored circa 1910 Dentzel carousel, or Merry-Go-Round, which has 46 riding positions over three concentric rows. Alamance Radio Club, K4EG. www.k4eg.com; September 28, 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM, Everybody's Day, Thomasville. NC4AR, Tri-County Amateur radio Club. Details: www.nc4ar.net You can find special event stations listed at www.arrl.org/special-event-stations

—North Carolina Section News, August 2013, William C. Morine, N2COP, ARRL NC Section Manager

ARRL INTRODUCES CENTENNIAL MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE

ARRL membership certificates commemorating the League's 100th anniversary in 2014 now are available. Members logged onto the League's website can generate their own certificates or cards online for printing. "We want

each ARRL member to know that he or she is a part of next year's big ARRL Centennial," says Membership Manager Diane Petrilli, KB1RNF. The certificate maker also produces a replacement membership card. The ARRL thanks past McGan

Award winner Angel Luis Santana, WP3GW, for suggesting the 2014 ARRL Centennial Membership Certificate, which was designed by ARRL Graphic Artist Diane Szlachetka.

—The ARRL Letter for August 8, 2013

A PEN FROM GERMANY THAT CORRECTS YOU

The New India Express has reported on the invention of a new pen which will vibrate if it senses that the writer is making a spelling mistake or his or her handwriting is messy.

The brainchild of two German entrepreneurs, Learnshift which means learning pen in German is a regular

pen with real ink but it has a special motion sensor inside and a small battery operated Linux operated computer with a WiFi chip which allows the pen to recognize specific movements, letter shapes and a wide assortment of words. It vibrates if the user is not careful with letters or writes intelligently.

Arguably, it will be able to correct those whose dependence on spell checks and typing has played havoc with their spelling and handwriting, but it is doubtful that how many of we adults use a pen these days; even a fancy one that vibrates.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1877, Aug. 2, 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.

THE SUN IS ABOUT TO FLIP

Scientists predict that the sun's magnetic field is about to flip, according to a NASA Science article. The celestial event may mark the midpoint of the current solar cycle 24.

"It looks like we're no more than 3 to 4 months away from a complete field reversal," the article quotes solar physicist Todd Hoeksema, the director of Stanford University's Wilcox Solar Observatory. "This change will have ripple effects throughout the solar system." As the article explains, the sun's magnetic field switches polarity approximately every 11 years at the peak of each solar cycle. The pending rever-

sal means we're halfway through the current cycle.

Solar physicist Phil Scherrer, also of Stanford, explains it this way: The sun's polar magnetic fields "weaken, go to zero, and then emerge again with the opposite polarity. This is a regular part of the solar cycle." The effect of the change in the heliosphere are felt all the way out to the edges of interstellar space. The flip also affects cosmic rays, which pose a danger to astronauts and space probes, and, according to some researchers, may affect Earth's cloud cover and climate.

"The sun's north pole has

already changed sign, while the south pole is racing to catch up," says Scherrer. "Soon, however, both poles will be reversed, and the second half of solar max will be underway."

A ScienceCasts video, "Solar Max Double Peaked," linked from the article, quotes Dean Pesnell of the Goddard Space Flight Center as predicting a double peak to cycle 24. Pesnell believes that cycle 24, which saw peak sunspot numbers in 2011 followed by a dip in 2012, could rebound later this year and into 2014 – possibly 2015.

—The ARRL Letter for
August 15, 2013

FCC ORDERS CALIFORNIA COMPANY TO STOP SELLING COMBO 10 AND 11 METER AMPS

The FCC has issued a Citation and Order to a Fremont, California company known as DNJ Radio. This for its alleged violation of the agency's rules by marketing non-certified amplifiers and kits via its website.

DNJ Radio was offering R M Italy brand linear amplifiers and amplifier kits that were capable of operation on both 11

and 10 meters that had not been certified for sale in the United States. It also said that a disclaimer posted on DNJ Radio's website that the devices were only for industrial, scientific, medical, or export use was not acceptable because using them on 11 meters would violate FCC rules.

The FCC ordered DNJ Radio to immediately discontinue

marketing these unauthorized devices and gave the company 30 days to provide a list of amplifiers imported or marketed under the name RM Italy. It also told DNJ Radio that any future violations could result in sanctions of up to \$16,000 for each future violation.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1880,
August 23, 2013

GPS JAMMING BRINGS BIG PROPOSED FINE

A New Jersey man faces a \$32,000 fine after regulators say he interfered with a satellite guidance system at one of the nation's busiest airports.

The FCC claims that Gary Bojczak installed a GPS jamming device in his company owned pickup truck in an apparent attempt to keep his employer from knowing his whereabouts. But what Bojczak was not aware of was

that the jammer was interfering with a new GPS assisted navigation system used to aid aircraft approaching and departing Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey.

Federal agents eventually tracked the jamming signal to Bojczak's vehicle. Bojczak reportedly surrendered the jamming device after his truck was stopped at the airport in

August 2012.

At the time of the incident the system was undergoing testing and was not put into full service until September of last year.

Bojczak was given the customary 30 days from the issue date of the NAL to pay or to file an appeal.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1879,
August 16, 2013



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

HPARC SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Aug 31-Sept 1 — Shelby Hamfest
2 — LABOR DAY
2 — HPARC Membership Meeting
 8 — Grandparent's Day
11 — PATRIOT DAY (in honor of those
 who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001)
 14 — Bush Hill Heritage Festival, Archdale
 14-16 — ARRL Sept VHF QSO Party
 14 — Virginia Beach, VA Hamfest
 21-22 — ARRL 10-GHz Cumulative Contest
 21 — Day In The Park, High Point, NC
22 — First Day of Fall

27-28 — Ten-Tec Hamfest, Sevierville, TN
 28-29 — EME Contest — 2.3 GHz & Up
 28 — Everybody's Day, Thomasville, NC
 29 — Newsletter deadline

BIRTHDAYS

Jo Young — September 1
 Jackie Rogers — September 7
 Dwight Sledge — September 7
 Robert Kirchhoefer — September 27

2013 HPARC OFFICERS

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