

HPARC NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY MEETING

The program for the HPARC February meeting will be given by David Macchiarolo. The program will be "The Raspberry Pi: A \$35 Computer." The Raspberry Pi is a cheap computer which some of our members have recently been experi-

menting with. Remember our new meeting location is J & S Cafe in Archdale.

At the January meeting we discussed committees and what we plan to accomplish this coming year. Of course, Field Day is on that list along with other

activities.

John Starrett joined us at the January meeting as an associate member. Welcome John.

The HPARC has been growing and picking up steam. Come join us in the fun. See you at the meeting.

FCC TO HOLD HEARINGS IN WAKE OF HURRICANE SANDY

In the wake of Superstorm Sandy, Federal Communications Chairman Julius Genachowski announced plans to convene a series of field hearings. These to examine challenges to the nation's communications networks during natural disasters and in other times of crisis.

The FCC says that these first hearings will facilitate a wider national dialogue about the resiliency of communications networks by focusing on the impact of hurricane Sandy. It will also help form recommenda-

tions and actions to strengthen wired and wireless networks in the face of such large-scale emergencies.

The first of these hearings are slated for February 5th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Eastern time at the Alexander Hamilton U.S. Customs House in New York City. This will be followed by an afternoon session from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Stevens Institute of Technology located in Hoboken, New Jersey.

The FCC adds that it will attempt to accommodate as

many attendees as possible; however, admittance will be limited to seating availability. The Commission will provide audio or video coverage of the meeting over the Internet from the FCC's Web page at www.fcc.gov/live.

As this report is being prepaid its unknown if representatives of any of the numerous Ham Radio groups involved in providing emergency communications during and after hurricane Sandy plan to attend.

—Amateur Radio Newslines, Report 1849, Jan. 18, 2013

POSTAGE RATES INCREASED

Beginning January 27, the cost went up to mail first class letters, postcards and packages within the US. The cost to mail a first class letter is now 46 cents, while the cost to mail a postcard is 33 cents, an increase of 1 cent

for each; this is the third increase for postcard postage in less than two years. The cost to mail flat-rate Priority Mail packages and letters also increased.

—The ARRL Letter for January 24, 2013

HPARC Meeting February 4, 2013

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

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

HPARC COMMITTEES ANNOUNCED

At the January 2013 HPARC meeting, Warren Gallemore announced some of the committees he has established for 2013:

Education: David Macchiarolo (chairman), Sam Hall, Warren Gallemore

Repeater Committee: Lon Cecil (chairman),

Bob Erdin, Mark McMahan

Special Activities Committee (combined with House Committee): David Montgomery (chairman), Jerry Yarborough, Mark McMahan

Other committees were not announced at this time, but will be forthcoming.

NEW MEMBER – JOHN STARRETT

John Starrett joined the HPARC at the January 2013 meeting. John does not currently have a license but is studying to become a Ham. He

is also looking for someone to help mentor him.

John lives in Archdale with his wife, Kay.

An updated roster was sent

after the meeting in January with John's address and phone number. Those needing a paper copy, see the secretary at the meeting.

A BELATED HAPPY 65 TO THE TRANSISTOR

A belated happy birthday to an electronic device whose invention revolutionized telecommunications and made possible the technology that we have today. Of course we are talking about the transistor.

On December 16, 1947, Bell Labs researchers William Shockley, John Bardeen and Walter Brattain created an amplifier from a germanium crystal that boosted the level of an input signal by 100 times. Various researchers had tried to develop a solid-state alternative to the vacuum tubes during World War II but none had suc-

ceeded. The Bell Labs Trio demonstrated it for lab officials a week later on December 23 where Shockley deemed it a magnificent Christmas present.

Bell Labs announced the invention of the transistor six months later. The device went on to become one of the signature scientific achievements of the 20th century, ranking up with splitting the atom, manned flight, and the discovery of DNA. One could argue, in fact, that the transistor was the most important breakthrough of the 20th century because subsequent advances in those

other fields relied on the computing power made possible through integrated circuits and semiconductors. In essence, information has become a science itself.

As a result of their achievement Electronics Magazine put a photo of the three men on its cover. The three went on to share the Nobel Prize for physics in 1956. John Bardeen became a laureate a second time in 1972 for his work on superconductivity.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1847, January 4, 2013

GOOD NEWS FOR SCOUTS INVOLVED IN RADIO

The national Boy Scouts of America is now recognizing any youth or adult who has an Amateur Radio license with a special patch that can be displayed on the uniform.

The patch, in the form of a strip, has the words: "Amateur Radio Operator" on it and will soon be, if it's not there already,

available at local Scout shops or through regional Scouting supply operations.

Jim Wilson, K5ND, is the BSA's director of communications services, but known in the Ham community as chairman of the national Radio Scouting Committee and national Jamboree on the Air organizer.

"You can put this strip on your uniform and then that way be recognized for your ability to help in communication around events or around emergencies or just as a recognition that you've got this license," Wilson says.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1850, Jan. 25, 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. Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$12.00 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 (except for January, July, and September) 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.

2012 MARKS ALL-TIME HIGH FOR AMATEUR RADIO LICENSES

As 2012 came to a close, ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, had a good reason to cheer: The number of Radio Amateurs in the US reached an all-time high of almost 710,000. "2012 was definitely a banner year for the number of Amateur Radio operators here in the US," she said. "It is amazing to see these new numbers and to know that Amateur Radio is experiencing such a healthy trend."

The number of US licensees has increased by 7 percent since 2008.

In looking at new and

upgraded licenses, as well as licensees per ARRL Division, Somma also crunched the numbers looking for growth within each license class — and all of Amateur Radio — over the last 40 years. "This is an all-time high for Technician, General and Amateur Extra class licensees," she said. "When looking at the three current license classes, the number of Technicians, Generals and Amateur Extras peaked in December at 345,369, 163,370 and 130,736, respectively."

Somma explained that the total number of US Amateurs

in the FCC database also continues to grow each year: "As of December 31, 2012, the number of licensees reached an all-time high of 709,575; year-end totals were 702,056 for 2011 and 696,041 for 2010. The number of licensees increased at an average rate of 21 per day, while the number of US licensees has increased by 7 percent since 2008!" More than 3000 new licenses were issued in 2012 than in 2011, while upgraded license activity remained steady in 2012.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1850, Jan. 25, 2013

SHELBY HAMFEST RETURNS TO CLEVELAND COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

The Shelby Hamfest is headed back to its former home at North Carolina's Cleveland County Fairgrounds. This after spending the last five years in Dallas, North Carolina.

The Shelby Hamfest moved to Dallas in 2008 after contract disagreements between the

Shelby Amateur Radio Club and the Cleveland County Fair Association. That situation has now been resolved and will bring the famed hamfest back to the Fair Grounds on Labor Day weekend which this year is August 31st and September 1st.

For more information keep

an eye on the events website. You will find it in cyberspace at www.shelbyhamfest.org. You can also follow the event Facebook at www.facebook.com/ShelbyHamfest.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1850, January 25, 2013

ROD NEWKIRK, W9BRD (SK)

Rod Newkirk, W9BRD/VA3ZBB, of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada — who penned the QST column "How's DX?" from 1947-1978 — passed away on Monday, November 19 after a long illness. Newkirk was credited with coining the term "Elmer," as well as for his humorous take on DX in his column, especially with limericks in his DX Hoggery and Poetry Depreciation Society and the accompanying cartoons of Jeeves by Phil "Gil" Gildersleeve, W1CJD (SK).

The term "Elmer" — meaning someone who provides personal guidance and assistance to would-be Hams — first appeared in QST in Newkirk's March 1971 "How's DX?" column, where he wrote that "too frequently one hears a sad story in this little nutshell: 'Oh, I almost got a ticket, too, but Elmer, W9XYZ, moved away and I kind of lost interest.' Sure, the guy could have burned through on his own, maybe, but he, like others, wound up an almost-Ham. No

more Elmer. We need those Elmers. All the Elmers, including the Ham who took the most time and trouble to give you a push toward your license, are the birds who keep this great game young and fresh." Newkirk was probably not trying to coin a term at the time, but the name stuck, becoming a general term for the mentors Newkirk called "the unsung fathers of Ham Radio."

—ARRL Special Bulletin, November 21, 2012



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

HPARC FEBRUARY CALENDAR

2 — GROUNDHOG DAY
 2 — Richmond, VA Frostfest
 3 — Super Bowl Sunday
4 — HPARC Club Meeting
 9-10 — CQ Worldwide RTTY WPX Contest
 11-15 — School Club Roundup
 12 — Lincoln's Birthday
14 — VALENTINE'S DAY
 16-17 — ARRL International DX
 Contest, CW
18 — PRESIDENT'S DAY

22 — Washington's Birthday
 24 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline

BIRTHDAYS

Mark McMahan — February 7
 Kenneth Lee — February 13
 David Montgomery — February 27

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.