

MARCH 2013

# HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point  
Amateur Radio  
Club



## MARCH MEETING

For the March meeting, Warren Gallemore will show a video of the conversion of Ham gear into military grade equipment for WWII.

David Macchiarolo presented a program on the Raspberry Pi at the February

meeting. Dwight Sledge also showed his Raspberry Pi telling how he uses his Raspberry Pi.

Roland Wright is back home. Roland had been first in the hospital and then Shannon Gray, but is happy to be home

after a car accident.

Very good meeting this last month. We saw 21 in attendance with a couple of visitors. We are still missing some because of sickness and weather. Hope everyone gets to the March meeting. See ya.

## HAM RADIO RESPONDS TO NORTH-EAST BLIZZARD NEMO

Amateur Radio operators in the North-East were kept busy as a gigantic midwinter storm nick-named Nemo buried the Northeast in snow on Saturday, February 9th. The storm left behind a geographic region digging out of heavy white drifts and reeling from gale-force winds. And Ham Radio severe weather spotters were on the job as well.

The Taunton Skywarn Amateur Radio Club's emergency activation network in Massachusetts passed along snow levels to the National Weather Service while the mega storm continued on its Northward trek. During the storm WX1BOX was also tweeting flooding information down on the coast and reported that Martha's Vineyard had suffered some

storm related damage.

In all, more than three feet of snow fell on parts of Connecticut, and more than two feet accumulated on New York's Long Island. The storm also caused coastal flooding that forced evacuations of some Massachusetts low-lying communities. This as waves off the south shore of Boston and parts of Cape Cod measured as high as 20 feet.

According to news reports, hundreds of thousands of people were without power as wind gusts of up to 80 miles per hour cut power lines and toppled trees. More than 400,000 customers were reported without power in Massachusetts and at least another 180,000 in Rhode Island. Also lost in some areas was both wireline and cellular

telephone service. For some it was several days before utilities were restored.

Meantime, Hams involved in Skywarn and other severe weather spotting services did their best to keep the National Weather Service and through it the public informed on the very latest in information regarding this bitterly cold Nor-Easter as it played havoc with those in its path.

—Amateur Radio Newslite,  
Report 1853,  
February 15, 2013

### HPARC Meeting March 4, 2013

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

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

## NEW INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPON INTRODUCED

The new Doha model IRC will be available for purchase on July 1, 2013; it is valid until December 31, 2017. Although the US Postal Service no longer sells IRCs, they are still available in other countries and post offices in the US are mandated to redeem them.

The Universal Postal Union has introduced the newest model of the International Reply Coupon (IRC): The Doha model -- so named for the 25th Universal Postal Congress that took

place in Doha, Qatar in October 2012 -- will replace the current model, known as the Nairobi model. Although the US Postal Service no longer sells IRCs, they are still available in other countries and post offices in the US are mandated to redeem them. The Doha model IRC will be available for purchase on July 1, 2013. It is valid for exchange until the end of 2017. The Nairobi model remains valid until December 31, 2013.

—The ARRL Letter for February 7, 2013

## LOW COST CHINESE MADE ALL MODE HF TRANSCEIVER FROM CHINA INTRODUCED

A new all mode low priced High Frequency transceiver from China is on the way. Called the Feitong model FT-808 the new radio is being billed primarily as a Marine Band transceiver but its published specifications read more like a mid-range piece of Ham Radio gear. For instance the FT-808 has a receive range of 500 Khz to 29.9 Mhz and a transmitter that covers 1.6 to 29.9 Mhz. In other words, it covers all the Ham Radio bands from 160 through 10 and lots more.

The receiver is a double con-

version superhetrodyne with both it and the transmitter capable of operating Upper and lower sideband, CW and AM with 100 memory channels. Tuning appears to be by up and down push buttons with a claimed receiving sensitivity of 12 db SINAD and a squelch sensitivity threshold on SSB, CW, and RTTY of less than 5.6uV.

One thing of note. While transmitter power appears to be in the 100 watt or slightly higher range but according to the public spec sheet there appears to be no provision to

lock out transmission on 11 meters. This will likely keep it from gaining FCC acceptance for legalized sales in the United States. At least not in its current non locked out 11 meter configuration.

That said, the Feitong FT-808 carries a delivered list price of only \$410 U-S dollars. Its complete specifications and a video of an Italian Ham Radio operation using it on 40 meters is on-line at [tinyurl.com/feitong-808-hf](http://tinyurl.com/feitong-808-hf).

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1854, February 22, 2013

## SDR TOUCH TURNS TABLET OR PHONE INTO SDR RECEIVER

Ham Radio Science reports on an interesting new app called SDR Touch. This is software that allows you to use your Android tablet or cell-phone along with a RTL2832U USB plug in thumb drive as a Software Defined Radio.

All you need do is to plug the relatively inexpensive drive into your Android 4.0 devices USB port and load the SDR Touch app. The combination is reported to allow you to tune and decode the audio from it. Simple, easy and if we may

add, cheap.

More about the device itself is on-line at [www.realtek.com.tw](http://www.realtek.com.tw). A video showing it in action is at [tinyurl.com/sdr-tablet](http://tinyurl.com/sdr-tablet).

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1853, February 15, 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.

## BATTLE OF GUILFORD COURTHOUSE SPECIAL EVENT

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association (GARA) Special Event Amateur Radio Station will be operating using the special radio call sign N4G (Nathanael Greene) during the 2013 Commemoration of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. The special event will be held at Guilford Courthouse National Military Park (GCNMP), Greensboro, North Carolina on March 16th -

March 17th 2013.

Times of operation will be as follows:

March 16, 2013 1300 UTC to March 17, 2013 2000 UTC

Frequencies:

15 meters (21.322)

20 meters (14.322)

40 meters (7.232)

75 meters (3.900)

2 meters (W4GSO, 145.15 -, 100 Hz PL)

D-Star (Reflector 054C)

The Battle of Guilford Courthouse pitted General Greene against the British commander, Lord Cornwallis. Although technically a defeat to the Americans, the battle weakened the British army so that they could not pursue the retreating American army. Lord Cornwallis would meet final defeat at Yorktown just seven months later.

—<http://n4g-gch.org/>

## FIRST FCC HEARINGS HELD ON HURRICANE SANDY

In the first of several field hearings to discuss the aftermath of superstorm Sandy, several communications industry experts said access to fuel before, during and after a crisis was of utmost importance.

While there was not much that affected Ham Radio, right off the top it was noted that none of the broadcast stations in the areas affected by hurricane Sandy went off the air. In the case of Clear Channel Communications which owns a number of broadcast properties in the region most impacted by the super-storm the company had pre-staged generator fuel well ahead of time. Clear Channel Chairman John Hogan noted that some employees even camped out for days, making sure the groups facili-

ties stayed on the air.

Dave Davis is the president and general manager of WABC television in New York City. He agreed disaster planning is essential. Anticipating power outages due to the storm, Davis asked asked ESPN to feed content to the company's two sister radio stations in the affected market. Those stations also remained on the air.

The manager of social media for the New York Fire Department described how she kept in contact with residents who had no phone service using Twitter. She then passed along their information to 911 authorities. As a result, the panelists discussed how to better incorporate more social media into emergency alerting. However WABC's Davis noted that while

social media can be a great tool, that the public needs accurate information, especially to disprove Internet rumors.

Finally, in his commentary Clear Channel Chairman Hogan said the FCC might want to encourage wireless carriers to include or activate FM chips in their cellphones. This he said would make radio available to more people in an emergency even if other forms of communications are not.

In her comments, FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai cited Arbitron ratings service information that estimated about one million people were listening to radio the day Sandy hit the East coast.

—Amateur Radio Newline, Report 1852, February 8, 2013

## HARBACH ELECTRONICS TO DISCONTINUE PRODUCING DAHL TRANSFORMERS

Effective February 14, Harbach Electronics will discontinue producing and selling the Peter W. Dahl line of transformers. In 2007 after more than 40 years in business,

Peter Dahl, K0BIT, retired and sold his company – the Peter W. Dahl Company – to Harbach Electronics. According to an announcement on the Harbach Electronics website, the com-

pany is in negotiations with other manufacturers to take over the Dahl product line of transformers and magnetics.

—The ARRL Letter for February 14, 2013



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

## HPARC MARCH CALENDAR

2-3 — ARRL International DX Contest,  
 phone

4 — **HPARC Club Meeting**

8-9 — Charlotte Hamfest  
 (Cabarrus Arena)

10 — **Daylight Savings Time begins**

16 — NC Arbor Day

16 — NC Arbor Day

17 — **St. Patrick's Day**

20 — First day of Spring

24 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline

### BIRTHDAYS

Harold Sappenfield — March 2

### 2013 HPARC OFFICERS

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**Breakfast  
 every Saturday**

**8:00 am**

**Mrs. Winner's,  
 South Main St.**