



DECEMBER MEETING AT HICKORY CHAPEL WILL BE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

Please note that our December meeting WILL NOT be on the first Monday of December. The HPARC has moved our meeting/Christmas party to Saturday, December 7 in hopes that more of our members can attend.

There will be a short business meeting where we will railroad elect our new officers for 2014.

The meeting/party will be a covered dish supper. Bring a fin-

ger food or dessert. Please contact David Montgomery (if you have not done so yet) to tell him what you are bringing. If you need directions, please contact one of the club officers.

David Macchiarolo presented a program "Are you smarter than the examiners giving the Ham Radio exams?" for the November meeting. Some of us did quite well while some of us (names concealed to protect the

innocent) need help to pass the test we got our license by.

On Christmas Day at 8:00 a.m., the HPARC will have its Christmas Day Roll Call. Remember to check in Christmas morning for the HPARC Roll Call.

I hope you all are planning to be at our next meeting to socialize and have a good time with friends. And may you all have a very merry Christmas.

CHRISTMAS DAY ROLL CALL 2013

Christmas Day Roll Call marks 32 years as long standing HPARC tradition when club members gather on the club's repeater, 147.165, on Christmas morning to answer to a roll call.

On Christmas Day, our net control operator will call out all

club member's names over our 2-meter repeater, 147.165, starting at 8:00 a.m. Each member answers and is welcome to give a brief Christmas greeting to their fellow Hams. After going through the list of HPARC members, the net control opens the net for late and

other check-ins. Non-members are welcome to join in as well. After the net, a few Hams hang around to ragchew and brag (or complain) about what Santa brought them.

Please be with us early Christmas morning for our Christmas Day Roll Call.

OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 2014

The Nominating Committee has made their recommendations for officers for 2014. Those recommendations are: Mark McMahan, KB4MFP, for president; Dwight Sledge, W4EIO, for vice-president; and Warren Gallemore, KA4LOQ, for secretary/ treasurer.

As stated in the HPARC bylaws, no further nomina-

tions may be made at the December meeting.

Thanks to the Nominating Committee for their work. This year's nominating committee included Warren Gallemore, Roland Wright, David Montgomery, Dwight Sledge and Mark McMahan.

Please attend the December meeting and cast your vote.

**HPARC Meeting
December 7, 2013**

**Hickory Chapel Wesleyan
Church Fellowship Building,
301 Hickory Chapel Road,
High Point**

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

COMET ISON UPDATE

Looking skyward, the latest photo of comet ISON taken by NASA's Hubble Space Telescope shows it to still be intact. Given the fact that ISON's closest approach to the sun is not until November 28th its really not known if ISON will survive this solar encounter or if its nucleus might disintegrate.

According to NASA, ISON's solid nucleus is uncertain in

its latest image because it is still fairly small. The space agency says that if the nucleus were to disintegrate, the space telescope would probably detect evidence of multiple fragments.

In the Hubble photo, the comet's coma currently looks greenish-blue because of gas, while the tail is reddish because of dust flowing off the nucleus. NASA explains that

the tail develops as dust particles are forced away from the nucleus by the pressure of sunlight.

ISON is also known as the "Christmas Comet" because it will make its closest approach to Earth on December 28th. On that day, ISON will travel within 39.9 million miles of planet Earth.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1892, Nov. 15, 2013

FCC SAYS FLUORESCENT LIGHTING JAMMING CELLPHONE SITE

It doesn't happen very often but the FCC has issued an official Citation and Order for violation of Section 15.5(b) of the Commission's regulations governing what are called Incidental Radiators. In this case the recipient is Ronald Bethany doing business as Perfect Cuts Salon in San Antonio, Texas, who is being cited for operating incidental radiators and causing harmful interference to a cellular telephone system.

This past July 24th the FCC's Houston Office used direction finding techniques to locate the source of an unknown transmissions on 705 MHz to the Perfect Cuts Salon. The agent confirmed that the interfering signal was coming from the overhead fluorescent lighting in the salon.

The agent then interviewed Bethany who is the owner of

the salon. He reportedly stated that representatives of AT&T had conducted on and off testing of the lighting in the salon and confirmed that the interior fluorescent fixtures were the source of interference to a cell site located next door. Bethany further stated that he had unsuccessfully asked General Electric, the manufacturer of the fluorescent lighting, to replace the lighting.

The FCC says that Bethany would not cooperate, so the agent from the Houston Office was unable to conduct his own on/off testing of the lighting in the salon. The agent verbally warned Bethany that he must repair or replace the lighting fixtures to resolve the interference.

On July 31, the agent spoke by telephone with Bethany, who stated that the lighting was not causing him any prob-

lems and that he saw no reason to repair or replace them unless he was paid to do so. The agent reiterated to Bethany that he must resolve the interference or be in violation of the FCC's rules. As of the October 25th release date of the Citation AT&T continues to report receiving interference at its cell site next door to Mr. Bethany's salon.

Now, based on the evidence it has on hand the FCC has found that Ronald Bethany is in violation Of Section 15.5(b) of its Rules by operating incidental radiators and causing harmful interference. It has directed him to cease operation of the incidental radiators immediately. Or in simpler terms, it basically told him to turn off the lights until the interference can be resolved.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1891, Nov. 8, 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.

HPM'S "OLD BETSY" IS RETURNED TO OPERATING ORDER

Back in the day – prior to 1989, to be more specific – ARRL tours were treated to a demonstration of League Co-Founder Hiram Percy Maxim's rotary spark-gap transmitter, "Old Betsy." The vintage transmitter, on display in the lobby of the Maxim Memorial Station W1AW, sustained some damage, however, and she has remained silent for nearly 24 years. Until now.

"It's always been my intention to get Old Betsy working again," W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, explained. "Seeing that next year is our Centennial, I made her functionality one of my priorities."

For Amateur Radio newcomers, a spark-gap transmitter is pretty much as it sounds. A very high voltage is applied to two electrodes sufficient to cause the electrons to bridge – or spark across – the gap between them. Various circuits, and the

antenna, are used to tune this broad-spectrum energy – essentially a radio signal (think power line noise or interference from a vacuum cleaner) – to a particular radio wavelength. An improvement on this basic concept was the rotary spark-gap transmitter, where a motor rapidly turns a number of electrodes (Old Betsy has four) past stationary electrodes. This helps to generate a semblance of a "note" on the Morse transmissions in that era before receivers had circuitry to make CW sound as it does today. Old Betsy is considered a non-synchronous rotary spark gap, Carcia points out, and the belt-driven rotor spins at approximately 2500 RPM. The rotating and stationary electrodes are housed within a hand-crafted wooden box with an open top.

In the olden days of Amateur Radio – the 1920s –

Maxim, known as "HPM," had Old Betsy installed in the basement of his Hartford, Connecticut, home and keyed it from his operating position on the first floor above. A spark-gap transmitter can generate a lot of noise – both ambient and throughout the radio spectrum – so keeping "Old Betsy" and the operator on separate floors made good sense. The transmitter is equipped with an RF ammeter to measure the RF current flowing into the antenna, although one is no longer connected.

Carcia says Betsy once again is ready for prime time. "I've repaired Old Betsy – and placed a protective polycarbonate shield around her as well," he says. "Old Betsy is now functional." But it will only be run without an antenna. The FCC banned spark transmitters in the 1930s.

—The ARRL Letter,
November 14, 2013

LAST MAN STANDING NOW BOASTS 17 HAMS ON ITS CREW

The hit ABC situation comedy Last Man Standing can now say that it has 17 licensed radio amateurs as a part of its production crew. On Saturday, November 9th the show added 8 new Technician Class operators and had its first General class upgrade.

According to the shows producer John Amodeo, NN6JA, that brings the shows total to 14 Technicians, 1 General and 2 Extra class operators.

Norm Goodkin, K6YXH,

Naomi Goodkin, WB6OHW and Rob Antontonacci, AA6RA, of the Greater Los Angeles Amateur Radio Group VEC administered the exam session.

NN6JA also notes that the Thanksgiving episode, which airs on Friday, November 22nd features Tim Allen as Mike Baxter, KA0XTT, again on his amateur radio station as a part of the scripts plotline. You will also hear the voices of approximately one hundred

real hams that sent in audio clips for use in that very special holiday show.

Last Man Standing airs on the ABC Television Network on Fridays at 8:00 P.M. Eastern and Pacific and 7:00 P.M. Central time. Please consult local listings for the station broadcasting Last Man Standing in your geographic area.

—Amateur Radio Newslines,
Report 1892,
November 15, 2013



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

HPARC DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 6-8 — ARRL 160-Meter Contest
- 7 — HPARC Club Meeting**
- 7 — Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 14-15 — ARRL 10-Meter Contest
- 17 — Wright Brother's Day
- 21 — First Day of Winter
- 25 — CHRISTMAS**
 (Don't forget the HPARC
 Christmas Day Roll Call)
- 29 — Newsletter deadline
- 31 — NEW YEAR'S EVE**

BIRTHDAYS

- Roland Wright — December 9
- Chris Horne — December 12

2013 HPARC OFFICERS

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