

JULY 2014

# HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point Amateur Radio Club



## JULY MEETING

Did you make it to Field Day? It is always too hot, too cold, a lot of work but somewhat fun to do. Go figure.

At our June meeting, we discussed our upcoming participation in Field Day. At the July meeting, we will have a recap of Field Day activities. To repeat what I have already emailed to members, I have

asked everyone who participated to think about all the good, the bad and downright ugly parts of Field Day, and be prepared to come to the July meeting with suggestions on what we did right, and what could be improved on for next year. We have been doing this for so long, it almost seems like it is on auto-pilot, but as

they say, there is always room for improvement.

Hope everyone has recovered from Field Day and is able to make it to our July meeting. Those who skipped Field Day altogether will be nominated at the July meeting to be officers for next year (that'll teach ya). Hope to see everyone at the meeting.

## FIELD DAY RECAP

**Field Day** - *definition* - [noun]

A 24-hour event sponsored by the ARRL on the fourth weekend of June where Ham Radio operators try to contact other Ham Radio operators with little to no sleep surviving on nothing but hot dogs, chips and sodas under extreme weather conditions (high temperatures during daylight hours, low temperature during evening hours and threats of thunderstorms) with attacks from mosquitoes and other biting insects in a remote location without the comforts from home all in an attempt to have what they call "fun."

I was sure we were going to get a soaking Saturday morning, but the weather cleared off, and we had good weather all weekend although somewhat hot. It is summer after all. It also didn't hurt that Mrs.

Moore said she prayed for us to have good weather.

We had a good turn out of both members and visitors. There was some good food (did you get any of the homemade peach cobbler or homemade brownies? You really missed a treat if not) and good company.

I think everyone had a good time although I know a lot, like me, were extremely tired after all the activities. Hope everyone has recovered.

I hate to discuss scores as we are still working on the numbers, but I know you want to know how well we did. Looking back to last year, our score was 1576 including bonus points. This year, it looks like our score might be 1879. This number may change, so please don't hold me to that.

If you participated in Field

Day in any way, I would like to express my gratitude. This includes the spouses who prepared food and anyone else even if you did nothing but visit the Field Day site. Thank you. It is a lot of hard work, but everyone pitching in makes it worthwhile.

[Disclaimer: The author of this article is not responsible for the content therein due to a mental condition inflicted by close proximity to RF energy over a prolonged period otherwise known as Field Day. Any resemblance to actual facts is purely coincidental and cannot be held against the author in a court of law.]

**HPARC Meeting  
July 7, 2014**

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

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

## HERE COMES THE SUN – THERE GOES THE SUN – PART 2

In a follow-up to a report earlier this year, solar researchers are now dubbing the sun's recent activity as a mini-max. This is because the maximum period of activity so far has been shorter than usual.

Researchers note that sunspots are now showing up and lower-density areas are appearing in the sun's corona. As such this current situation demonstrates how hard it is to accurately forecast a solar cycle.

They note that this cycle's strange peak appears to have its roots in 2008 and 2009 when

sunspot numbers were far lower than scientists expected. Solar flares, which are associated with sunspot numbers and the sun's magnetic activity, were also relatively quiet in that same time frame.

The average for a solar cycle from minimum to maximum and back to minimum is in theory 11 years, however it can actually take between 9 and 14 years. The current solar cycle is expected to start fading in 2015 but it will likely go out with some increased activity.

The researchers note that historically speaking, there are

usually strong flares leading to numerous auroras on Earth at the end of the solar peak. This is because particles from the sun strike our planet's magnetic lines and excite gases in the upper atmosphere.

Ron Turner of Analytic Services Inc. is a senior science advisor for NASA's Innovative Advanced Concepts program. He summed it up by saying that the current Cycle 24 is one of the weakest in the 24 cycles since 1755.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1924,  
June 27, 2014

## FLYING UNMANNED AIRCRAFT TO BE PROHIBITED IN NATIONAL PARKS

If you are into flying radio remote controlled aircraft then listen up. National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis has signed a policy memorandum that directs his superintendents nationwide to prohibit launching, landing, or operating unmanned aircraft including drones on lands and waters administered by the National

Park Service.

Unmanned aircraft have already been prohibited at several national parks. These bans were put in place after noise and nuisance complaints from park visitors and a least one incident in which park wildlife was harassed.

The memorandum does not affect the primary jurisdiction of

the FAA over the National Airspace System. Also, the National Park Service itself can continue to use unmanned aircraft for administrative purposes such as search and rescue, fire operations and scientific study.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1924,  
June 27, 2014

## A GOODBYE TO ALASKA'S HAARP RESEARCH FACILITY

An interesting article on the demise of the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program, or HAARP facility in Alaska appeared in the June 4th edition of the Anchorage Press newspaper.

The article by Mary Lochner not only tells some of the history

of the multi-megawatt transmitting station but also explains in easy to understand terminology just how the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program actually functioned. It also goes into some of the unsuccessful efforts undertaken by supporters of the research

facility to keep it from being shuttered and torn down.

Titled HAARP Plays One Last Song, you can read the very fascinating story on-line at [tinyurl.com/haarp-swansong](http://tinyurl.com/haarp-swansong).

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1922,  
June 13, 2014

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](mailto: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.

## 13 COLONIES SPECIAL EVENT

The 13 Colonies Special Event Set for July 1-6: The 13 Colonies Special Event for 2014 will take place July 1-6, with special 1?1 calls K2A, K2B, K2C, K2D, K2E, K2F, K2G, K2H, K2I, K2J, K2K, K2L, and K2M to be active.

The theme for 2014 will be

“Revolutionary War Era Colonial Currency.” Stations working at least one state will be eligible for a certificate. A “Clean Sweep” sticker will be added for those lucky enough to contact all 13 colonies.

A special endorsement will be attached for stations con-

tacting sister operation WM3PEN, in Philadelphia.

In 2013 more than 81,000 contacts were logged in the 13 Colonies Special Event.

—The ARRL Letter,  
June 12, 2014

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME,  
Editor

## BAOFENG REBRANDS TO POFUNG

Chinese radio manufacturer BAOFENG is rebranding its products under the “Pofung” label in international markets. The company said BAOFENG – a literal Pinyin translation of the company’s Chinese character name – “may be difficult for a

hobbyist across the ocean to pronounce.” The company said the new name, Pofung, is easier to pronounce and more customer-friendly, while maintaining the brand’s phonetic symbolism.

Products for the domestic market in China will retain

their current brand name and identity, and [www.baofengradio.com](http://www.baofengradio.com), the company’s web domain, will remain unchanged.

—The ARRL Letter,  
June 19, 2014

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

## POT GROWERS LIGHTS VS THE ELECTRO-MAGNETIC SPECTRUM

Marijuana growing operations using what are called indoor grow lights are making life miserable for Hams and SWL’s. That’s because many of these units emit wide-band interference all across the High Frequency radio spectrum. Some can even wreck havoc on the bands from 6 meters and above.

A recent story picked up by USA TODAY and the Associated Press from the pages of The Coloradan newspaper reports on this new source of interference for Amateur Radio operators.

The story tracks the problems faced by Thomas Thompson, W0IVJ, of Boulder, Colorado, who discovered RF interference which he traced to the ballasts of the grow lights being used by some of his neighbors. Thompson reported his findings to the ARRL and also posted a page

about the problem on the web.

He notes the interference problem is significant on 40 meters.

Thompson, a retired electrical engineer, was able to find the source of the interference with direction-finding equipment, according to the news stories. He then decided that the best way to address the problem was to build filters for his neighbors to take care of the interference.

The ARRL, according to the Coloradan, filed a complaint with the FCC about the grow lamps.

The Coloradan says the FCC told its reporter that agency is aware of the interference, but didn’t say what it was going to do about it.

The ARRL has produced information about the problem at a link on its website. You can find it at [www.arrl.org/grow-light-rfi](http://www.arrl.org/grow-light-rfi).

It recommends filters and choke to alleviate the problem, if you know the neighbor where you’ve identified the source.

One word of caution to any Ham thinking of confronting a suspected Marijuana grower, especially if it’s someone you do not know. In three words: “don’t do it.” While there may be some people out there who are growing these plants for medical use, you could easily run into a large scale cultivating operation being run by members of the underworld who are armed and dangerous. Instead, if you T-Hunt down such a location just file a report of the interference and where you believe it’s coming from with your closest FCC office and let the professionals handle it from there.

—Amateur Radio Newslines,  
Report 1922,  
June 13, 2014



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

## HPARC JULY CALENDAR

- 4 — INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 7 — **HPARC Club Meeting**
- 12 — Salisbury Firecracker Hamfest
- 12-13 — IARU HF World Championship
- 19 — Cary Swapfest
- 26 — Waynesville Hamfest
- 27 — PARENTS' DAY
- 27 — HPARC Newsletter deadline

### BIRTHDAYS

- Grady Stone — July 16
- Tom Mills — July 26

### 2014 HPARC OFFICERS

Mark McMahan, KB4MFP — President — 887-3039 — kb4mfp@arrl.net  
 Dwight Sledge, W4EIO — Vice-President — 841-6089 — KK4ERE@gmail.com  
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**Breakfast**  
**every Saturday**  
 —  
**8:00 am**  
 —  
**Biscuitville,**  
**2709 S. Main St.**