

OCTOBER 2014



## OCTOBER MEETING

After a hot summer, the cooler weather is so welcome. Time to wind down and start planning your winter activities.

Larry Kirby, KI4LHX, will give a program on robotics for the October meeting.

David Macchiarolo gave a

program for September on Kit Building featuring his building the Elecraft K2 from a kit.

Are you behind in your club dues? Please check with our treasurer, Warren Gallemore and help the club in this matter.

The nominating committee

should be decided and announced at the October meeting. If you would like to be considered for an office, please notify one of the committee members.

Hope to see everyone at the club meeting.

## LIST OF "AMATEUR RADIO PARITY ACT OF 2014" CO-SPONSORS SWELLS BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL RECESS

An intense effort during the few days in September that Congress was in session has resulted in 47 co-sponsors for the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014 (H.R. 4969). Another half-dozen or so US House Members have indicated that they will sign on when Congress returns, something they can do only while Congress is in session. Congress went into recess on September 19. ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, Central Division Director Dick Isely, W9GIG, and ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, visited dozens of congressional offices. Elsewhere, other ARRL elected and appointed officials and members from across the U.S. met with members of Congress and with their staffers, wrote letters, and made phone

calls to urge co-sponsorship.

The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014, introduced in the US House of Representatives with bipartisan support in late June, calls on the FCC to apply the "reasonable accommodation" three-part test of the PRB-1 federal pre-emption policy to private land-use restrictions regarding antennas. The limited PRB-1 pre-emption currently applies only to state and municipal land-use ordinances. The FCC has indicated its reluctance to provide the same legal protections from private land-use agreements — often called covenants, conditions, and restrictions or CC&Rs — without direction from Congress.

President Craigie stressed this week that H.R. 4969 is still very much alive, and she urged League members to keep working to convince their representa-

tives to co-sponsor the bill. "These efforts will not be in vain, whether or not the legislator eventually decides to sign onto the bill," she said. "Realistically, we won't get support for H.R. 4969 from every member of Congress who is contacted by Amateurs," she said. At the same time, members of Congress who were contacted now know that Amateur Radio exists in their districts and that Hams have interests that deserve notice.

*Radio Parity continued inside...*

**HPARC Meeting  
October 6, 2014**

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

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

# NO EASY ANSWERS FOR RADIO SHACK'S SLOW, DOWNWARD SLIDE

Back in the day, Radio Shack employees would answer the phone by saying, "You've got questions, we've got answers." But Radio Shack now seems stumped, and the "B" word is looming ever larger as the retailer -- once the go-to place for electronic components and, at one point, even some Amateur Radio gear and short-wave receivers -- casts about for a white knight. Last March, in the wake of a substantial drop in holiday sales and a big fourth-quarter loss, the Fort Worth, Texas-based Radio Shack announced plans to close 1100 of its outlets, leaving the chain with 4000 stores, including more than 900 dealer franchises. The company's second-quarter 2014 report has been deemed "dismal" by investment advisors.

According to CNN Money, though, the retailer has been able to shutter only 200 of

those shops -- because it costs a lot of money even to close locations, and Radio Shack has none to spare. It's already bleeding cash -- some \$149 million just this year -- in its struggle to board up unprofitable locations and keep its head above the rising waters, and, as CNN Money reported, credit rating agency Moody's expects the company's bank account to run dry within another 12 months. One Wall Street analyst already has warned of impending bankruptcy, and Forbes.com reported last week that the retailer itself has confirmed the likelihood of a Chapter 7 or Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing, if it cannot find a buyer or restructure its debt.

Radio Shack CEO Joseph Magnacca said in a statement on September 11 that while the company was making progress in its turn-around efforts, "we are actively explor-

ing options for overhauling our balance sheet and are in advanced discussions with a number of parties."

A filing the retailer submitted to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) this week was far more blunt. In short, it said that if Radio Shack cannot sell the firm, partner with another company, or restructure its debt, "we may not have enough cash and working capital to fund our operations beyond the very near term, which raises substantial doubt about our ability to continue as a going concern." And if Plan A does not work out, the retailer told the SEC, "we would likely be required to liquidate under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code."

—The ARRL Letter,  
September 18, 2014,  
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME,  
Editor

## NEW \$21.50 VANITY CALL SIGN FEE

The new Amateur Service vanity call sign regulatory fee of \$21.40 became effective on September 11. The FCC released a Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (R&O) on August 29, in which it recalculated the fee to \$21.40 for the 10-year license term. The \$5.30 increase represents the largest vanity fee hike in many years. In the past,

new vanity fees did not become effective until 30 days after their publication in The Federal Register, which occurred on September 11.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable when applying for a new vanity call sign or when renewing any vanity call sign designated as "HV" in the FCC's ULS database.

As of October 1, 2013, the

Commission no longer accepts checks -- including cashier's checks -- for the payment of regulatory fees. All payments must now be made by online ACH payment, online credit card, or via wire transfer. Any other form of payment will be rejected and returned to the applicant.

—The ARRL Letter,  
September 18, 2014,  
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

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.

...Radio Parity continued from cover

“A lot of politics is based on relationships. Contacts made with members of Congress about H.R. 4969 contribute to establishing relationships that can be maintained and enhanced in the future,” President Craigie said. “Does your Congressman know how Amateur Radio makes your district a safer place to live if disasters occur? Does your Congressman know how radio

Amateurs in your district introduce young people to hands-on wireless communication, laying the foundation for careers? What we certainly can do is to build relationships that will serve our interests -- and the public interest — if not right now, then in the future.”

President Craigie encouraged League members whose representatives have become co-sponsors to thank their lawmakers,

on the phone or in writing. “It’s good manners and a good relationship-building strategy,” she pointed out. “Members can also seek out opportunities during the current congressional recess to make a case for the bill at their representatives’ district offices and at events. In short: Keep on!”

—The ARRL Letter,  
September 25, 2014,  
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

## FOUR REASONS WHY WE NEED MORE HAMS

Yeah, I know, smaller pileups on the DX station I’ve been trying to work all weekend, and fewer people calling CQ right on top of my on-going QSO with a QRP station would be easily accomplished if there were fewer folks on the bands. But seeing a coworker’s 3rd grade son recently get his ticket, and his excitement at working W1AW as his first contact, got me thinking that maybe we need MORE Hams...and maybe it even behooves us ALL to be constantly recruiting those new Hams for 4 good reasons:

1) Innovation. I can appreciate the nostalgia of a Hallicrafters HT-44 or a matching Collins set, but the real beauty in most of those vintage radios is the innovation they embodied for that era and the innovation they inspired in future generations of Hams who continue to do new things within the hobby. If you don’t know what I’m talking about, checkout AmateurLogic.TV and you’ll see how computer programming, basic electronics, HF, VHF, UHF, analog, digital, photography, video editing and astronomy all come together in many different ways to make for a pretty fulfilling hobby for

George, Tommy, Peter and their growing audience. More new Hams bring in more inspiration and more innovation to make for a pretty exciting hobby.

2) Spectrum. Much of the bands afforded us by the FCC are underutilized and if we don’t use them, we’ll lose them. It’s that simple.

3) Fellowship, fun and continuity. Yeah, those all add up to just one reason why lucky Hams like me live in an area with an active local Ham club, a thriving Ham store, a ton of repeaters with awesome coverage, and new ideas constantly evolving the local Ham scene (not to mention the best Hamfest in the world!). Unfortunately, I talk to too many Hams across the US whose local club meets monthly now instead of weekly; whose town’s backup ARES repeater hasn’t been operational since the last storm because the guy who used to maintain it moved away last year; and whose local Ham store closed after 50+ years of business when the owner retired because there wasn’t enough local support to make it a business worth anything to a new owner. The difference between these two sce-

narios is simple: fresh blood...new Hams! To me, Ham Radio is as much fun OFF the air as it is ON the air, and that wouldn’t be the case if we didn’t have a constant influx of new Hams.

4) Vanity. I’ll admit this may be a bit selfish, but I would appreciate all the help I can get from the Southeast portion of the country in creating 243,255 new Hams as soon as possible. At that point, we will have exhausted new 2x3 call signs starting with “K” and I can suggest to the appropriate governing bodies that we move promptly into a 1x4 format. “W4CARL” has a nice ring to it, don’t you think?

Seriously, though, next time an opportunity presents itself to share the hobby with someone new, don’t pass it up. Whether it’s showing some Scouts how to work satellite stations from an HT and an Arrow Antenna, or taking a friend along to a club meeting, let’s all do our part to share the hobby.

If you have examples or ideas of how to introduce new people to the hobby, especially younger people, I’d love to hear them!

—KJ4RYP,  
www.forums.qrz.com



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

## HPARC OCTOBER CALENDAR

- |                                      |                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 4 — Rock Hill, SC Hamfest            | 26 — Mother-In-Law's Day       |
| <b>6 — HPARC Club Meeting</b>        | 26 — HPARC Newsletter deadline |
| 11-12 — EME - 2.3 GHz & Up           | <b>31 — HALLOWEEN</b>          |
| 13 — Navy Day                        |                                |
| 12 — Maysville, NC Hamfest           |                                |
| <b>13 — COLUMBUS DAY</b>             |                                |
| 16 — National Boss Day               |                                |
| 16-26 — NC State Fair                |                                |
| 18-23 — High Point Furniture Market  |                                |
| 20-24 — School Club Roundup          |                                |
| 25 — Lexington, NC BBQ Festival      |                                |
| 25-26 — CQ World-Wide Contest, Phone |                                |

### BIRTHDAYS

Lon Cecil — October 30

### 2014 HPARC OFFICERS

Mark McMahan, KB4MFP — President — 887-3039 — kb4mfp@arrl.net  
 Dwight Sledge, W4EIO — Vice-President — 841-6089 — KK4ERE@gmail.com  
 Warren Gallemore, KA4LOQ — Secretary/Treasurer — 883-4944 — warreng960@mac.com  
 Newsletter Editor — Mark McMahan — 887-3039 — kb4mfp@arrl.net  
 HPARC Web page: <http://w4ua.org> • w4ua@arrl.net

**Breakfast**  
**every Saturday**  
 —  
**8:00 am**  
 —  
**Biscuitville,**  
**2709 S. Main St.**