

# HPARC NEWSLETTER



## NOVEMBER MEETING

Larry Kirby, KI4LHX, will have the program for the November meeting. Larry's program will be on digital voltmeter.

Larry Kirby also had the

meeting for the October meeting. Larry gave an interesting hands-on program on robotics.

Early notice: the December meeting will be on December 6th, Saturday at Hickory

Chapel Wesleyan Fellowship Hall. This will be our club meeting and Christmas party. Please make plans now to attend.

Hope to see everyone at the club meeting.

## OFFICER NOMINATIONS FOR 2015

The Nominating Committee has met and made their recommendations for officers for 2015. Those recommendations are: Mark McMahan, KB4MFP, for President; Dan Bly, KB8TLF, for Vice-president; Larry Kirby,

KI4LHX, for Secretary; and Warren Gallemore, KA4LOQ, for Treasurer.

Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the November meeting. Elections will be held at the December meeting, and, as stated in the

HPARC bylaws, no further nominations may be made at the December meeting.

This Nominating Committee for 2014 consists of: Dan Bly, David Macchiarolo, Larry Kirby, Bob Erdin, and Dwight Sledge.

## ARRL BOARD MAY SEEK MEMBER INPUT ON 15 METER NOVICE/TECH DIGITAL PRIVILEGES

A proposal aired at the July ARRL Board of Directors meeting endorsing additional HF digital privileges for Technicians and referred to the ARRL Executive Committee for study came in for considerable discussion when the Executive Committee met on October 4 in Memphis. The original motion by ARRL Southeastern Division Director Doug Rehman, K4AC, called for a Petition for Rule Making to the FCC seeking digital privileges for Techs on narrow segments of 80, 40, and 15 meters. Rehman's motion had noted

that Technicians already enjoy digital privileges on 10 meters, a band with highly variable propagation that will diminish as the sunspot cycle declines.

After discussing the proposal's pros and cons, the Executive Committee put the ball back into the Board's court in a modified form: The Executive Committee recommended that the Board consider soliciting input from the membership on adding Novice/Technician data privileges within their existing 15 meter subband. In his original proposal, Rehman had pointed

out that text messaging, a medium preferred by today's youth, bears "great similarity with amateur digital communications."

"This is not a proposal that the Board adopt data privileges

*Member Input continued inside...*

**HPARC Meeting  
November 3, 2014**

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

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

## UNDER \$13 UHF HT BEING SOLD INTO THE UK

The price of a bare bones entry level 70 centimeter hand held has fallen to a new low. At least it has over in the United Kingdom where you can now get one for about 8 Pounds which equates to around \$13 in United States currency.

The radio in question is the Baofeng/Pofung model BF-888S that covers 400 to 470 MHz that

is being sold on eBay by one retailer for just a few pennies under the \$13 mark and shipped to the purchaser from Singapore. Unlike the slightly more expensive UV-3R dual band series, the BF888S is limited to only 16 programmable channels within the 70 centimeter frequency range. However it does come with a 1500 milliamp hour battery, a

battery saver function, an emergency alarm, VOX function, a built-in flashlight and is computer programmable.

So as to ask a rhetorical question: Who ever thought we Hams would be around to see what amounts to a throw away when it breaks, HT.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1939, Oct. 10, 2014

## ENDANGERED TREE SNAILS STOP BROADCASTS

Hawaii Public Radio says its signal to parts of Kauai and Oahu will be out until further notice because of endangered tree snails. According to the broadcaster, recent storms knocked out power lines to the radio station's relay facility at the summit of Mount Ka'ala relay transmitters beam signals to the east and south sides of Kauai as well as to Oahu's North Shore. A separate

microwave relay also sends signals to KIPL 89.9 in Lihue.

Station generators carried the signal for several days, but ran out of fuel on Sept. 30th. Normally the power company would have been able to fix the electrical line with little delay, but not this time. That's because the location where the required repair is needed has been identified as the habitat of endangered species of tree snails that

are currently in mating season.

For now, listeners on Kauai and the North Shore are asked to tune in via live Internet streaming using Hawaii Public Radio free mobile app or to cable broadcasts.

At airtime there is no word when the snails mating season will end and the power line can be repaired.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1940, Oct. 17, 2014

## COLLECTING COSMIC RAYS ON A SMARTPHONE

Scientists at two campuses of University of California are looking to get voluntary public support in their efforts to measure and track what they term as the unimaginable number of cosmic ray particles that bombard the Earth every second of the day. And all anyone needs to participate in this research is a smart-phone with a camera and the researchers' new Cosmic Rays Found in Smartphones or CRAYFIS app.

According to a news release, the app works by recording and

tracking every time one of these particles hits a smart-phone camera's sensor. This effectively turns the device into a pocket based detector, computer and data recorder. By creating the app and making it available to the general public, the scientists believe that they can remotely gather data and build a larger database than they could ever possibly compile on their own.

Right now what's being called the CRAYFIS group is letting people sign up for beta versions

of the app that's available for both Android and iOS platforms in an attempt to gather a sufficient number of volunteers. They say that the challenge is to create a willing user base within a dense enough area to gather all the required data.

The complete proposal which includes graphical representations of the research is available at the Cornell University Library in several formats at [www.arxiv.org/abs/1410.2895](http://www.arxiv.org/abs/1410.2895)

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1941, Oct. 24, 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.

...*Member Input continued from cover* for Techs and Novices on 15 meters as an objective, and it is most definitely not an ARRL proposal to the FCC,” stressed

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, a non-voting member of the Executive Committee. “That would come later, if at all, after the Board has had an

opportunity to weigh membership input.”

—The ARRL Letter, October 23, 2014, Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

## ACTOR TIM ALLEN GETS HIS HAM TICKET FOR REAL

Actor and comedian Tim Allen now not only plays an Amateur Radio operator on television, he is one! Allen got his Technician ticket on September 4, but did not release the news until this week. In his weekly ABC comedy TV show “Last Man Standing,” Allen plays Mike Baxter, KA0XTT, and the show, which starts its new season October 3, has featured Ham Radio in some episodes (Allen’s TV wife Mandy Baxter is KFOXIE). “Last Man Standing” producer John Amodeo, NN6JA, told ARRL that the agreement with Allen was that “we would not publicize his license until he approved it.” Allen subsequently revealed to

Tom Medlin, W5KUB, for one of Medlin’s webcasts that he had passed his Technician license test but, per Allen’s request, did not mention his call sign, Amodeo said. The call sign has since been disclosed elsewhere.

“The Amateur Radio operators on the crew of ‘Last Man Standing’ are delighted that Tim has taken and passed his Technician exam and received his own, real call sign,” Amodeo said. “It took more than 3 years to make it happen, and it started with Tim’s personal interest in radio technology and his request to make the Mike Baxter character an Amateur Radio operator.” The Ham shack on the show is a working station.

More than 2 dozen members of the “Last Man Standing” crew -- and now Allen, its star -- have been inspired by the show’s Amateur Radio component to get licensed.

Amodeo expressed gratitude to the ARRL for its “continued support,” in the creation of the KA0XTT call sign and the more recent assistance of ARRL VEC staffers Maria Somma, AB1FM, and Amanda Grimaldi, KB1VUV.

“We hope Tim will find Amateur Radio to be an enjoyable and useful hobby for many years to come,” he added.

—The ARRL Letter, October 2, 2014, Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Editor

## MORSE CODE KEY FOR APPLE IOS8

If you have a device running Apple’s new iOS 8 operating system, you can now add an app that will permit sending Morse code from that unit.

Morse Code Telegraph Keyboard plugs directly into your iPhone’s keyboard and lets

you send dots and dashes from right within iMessage or your favorite e-mail.

The most interesting feature of the keyboard app is its relative lack of keys. It only includes the bare essentials of a J-38 looking key and a handy

Morse Code alphabet and numbers guide.

If you want to give it a try, “Morse Code Telegraph Keyboard” is available for only 99 cents at the App Store.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1940, Oct. 17, 2014

## MORE GADGETS THAN PEOPLE

For the first time ever there are more gadgets in the world than there are people, including a growing number that only communicate with other machines, according to data from digital analysts at GSMA Intelligence.com.

The number of active mobile devices and human beings crossed over somewhere

around the 7.19 billion mark.

GSMA’s real-time tracker put the number of mobile devices at 7.22 billion whilst the US Census Bureau says the number of people is still somewhere between 7.19 and 7.2 billion.

Gadgets like tablets, smartphones and not-so-smart phones are multiplying five

times faster than we are, with our population growing at a rate of about two people per second, or 1.2% annually.

Can’t help but wonder if this might not be author George Orwell’s novel 1984 on the verge of coming to pass here in 2014.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1940, Oct. 17, 2014



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



## HPARC NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 1-3 — ARRL November Sweepstakes, CW
- 2 — Daylight Savings Time ends  
(move clocks back one hour)
- 3 — HPARC Club Meeting**
- 4 — Election Day
- 10 — Marine Corps Day
- 11 — VETERAN'S DAY**
- 15-17 — ARRL November Sweepstakes,  
phone
- 16 — Jarsfest Benson, NC
- 23 — HPARC Newsletter deadline
- 27 — THANKSGIVING**
- 29-30 — CQ Worldwide Contest, CW

**Dec 6 — HPARC Club Meeting/  
 Christmas party**

### BIRTHDAYS

Duane Brantley — November 13  
 Lewis Denny — November 26

### 2014 HPARC OFFICERS

Mark McMahan, KB4MFP — President — 887-3039 — kb4mfp@arrl.net  
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**Breakfast  
 every Saturday**  
 —  
**8:00 am**  
 —  
**Biscuitville,  
 2709 S. Main St.**