

MARCH 2015

HPARC NEWSLETTER

*High Point
Amateur Radio
Club*



MARCH MEETING

David Macchiarolo will have the program for March on antenna modeling.

Dwight Sledge, W4EIO, presented some things that can be done with Arduinos at the February meeting.

I again remind you that

some of our members are needing your prayers as they cope with health problems. Please remember these.

Tom Mills, AF4NC, a former HPARC, is the net manager of the EPAEPTN (3917 kHz 6:00 p.m. nightly) and the new

Eastern Pennsylvania Section Assistant Section Manager. Congratulations, Tom.

Can you believe Alaska has been warmer than here? I don't know about you, but I am ready for summer. Hope to see you guys at the meeting.

FCC "PAPERLESS" AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE POLICY NOW IN EFFECT

Effective February 17, the FCC no longer routinely issues paper license documents to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one, but what arrives in the mail now will be printed on plain white recycled paper, instead of the more distinctive stock the FCC had been using until recently. All of this is part of the FCC's efforts to streamline procedures and save money.

"We find this electronic process will improve efficiency by simplifying access to official authorizations in ULS, shortening the time period between grant of an application and access to the official authorization, and reducing regula-

tory costs," the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) said. According to the WTB, the new procedures will save more than \$300,000 a year, including staff expenses.

The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic Universal Licensing System (ULS) record, although the FCC had routinely continued to print and mail hard copy licenses until this week.

In mid-December, the FCC adopted final procedures to provide access to official electronic authorizations, as it had proposed in WT Docket 14-161 as part of its "process reform" initiatives. Under the new procedures, licensees will access their current official authorization ("Active" status only)

via the ULS License Manager.

Licensees can also print an official license authorization -- as well as an unofficial "reference copy" -- from the ULS License Manager.

The ULS License Manager now permits licensees to change the default setting, so that the Bureau will print and mail a license document.

—The ARRL Letter,
February 19, 2015
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME,
Editor

HPARC Meeting March 2, 2015

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

Meal at 6:30 p.m.
Business meeting at 7:00 p.m.

RASPBERRY PI 2 LAUNCHES WITH 6X FASTER PROCESSOR

The Raspberry Pi Foundation has revealed the official second edition of its Raspberry Pi SOC or “system on a chip” computer.

This latest version announced on February 2nd promises speed increases of up to six times, and compatibility with upcoming ARM builds of Windows 10.

The Raspberry Pi 2 Model B consists of a quad-core ARMv7 Broadcom BCM2836 processor running at 900MHz. It is supported by 1gigabyte of RAM, four USB 2.0 ports, a full-size HDMI out visual display port, micro-USB power source and a micro-SD port for storing data

and loading an operating system.

Eban Upton is the founder of the Raspberry Pi Foundation. He says that because the chip is built on the ARMv7 architecture rather than the ARMv6 as in previous models, it broadens the range of operating systems available for the machine. This includes Canonical’s popular Ubuntu Linux operating system, which, said Upton, a lot of people had wanted since the first day. Upton also said that the new Raspberry Pi 2 should also run Microsoft’s Windows 10 which of course means that it will only run the ARM-friendly “RT” build of

Windows 10 – the exact capabilities of which has yet to be announced.

Since the Raspberry Pi system on a chip was introduced, its become a mainstay around which many Ham Radio projects have been designed and built. The introduction of the Raspberry Pi 2 Model B will more than likely expand that aspect of the hobby in new directions that only a few years ago were impossible to imagine. The new Raspberry Pi 2 was announced at about \$35 U.S.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1951,
February 6, 2015

NEW RASPBERRY PI 2 CAN REBOOT IF EPOSED TO XENON CAMERA FLASH

It appears that the latest version of Raspberry Pi’s mini computer appears to be camera shy. At least the Raspberry Pi 2 does not like the spurt of high intensity light from Xenon camera flashes and may reboot itself when exposed to it.

The glitch is a result of the photoelectric effect phenomenon. Raspberry Pi creator Eben Upton admitted to the BBC that he had not been aware that the Raspberry Pi 2 would be sensitive to camera flashes, but that he was not too upset about it. Rather,

he termed it an unintentional educational bonus and an interesting demonstration of the photoelectric effect.

According to the Southgate News, it was Essex Radio Amateur Peter Onion, G0DZB, who discovered the Raspberry Pi 2 reboots when photographed using a Xenon flash. The reason seems to be that a chip on the board is not light-resistant. The simple fix appears to be covering the offending integrated circuit with something like Blu Tak. Blu Tak is a reusable pressure-sensitive putty-like adhe-

sive commonly used to attach lightweight objects such as posters or sheets of paper to walls or other dry surfaces; but it also seems to have the ability to block out a flash of Xenon light. For Newsline, I’m Heather Embee KB3Tzd in Warwick, Pennsylvania.

The company that created the Raspberry Pi2 says that it has received in excess of 300,000 orders for the new \$35 device since its launch two weeks ago.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1952,
February 13, 2015

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.

2015 N4G BATTLE OF GUILFORD COURTHOUSE SPECIAL EVENT

The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association (GARA) Special Event Amateur Radio Station is holding a special event commemorating the 234rd anniversary of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. They will be operating using the special radio call sign N4G (Nathaniel Greene) on March 14th - March 15th 2015. The event will take place at the Guilford Courthouse National Military Park (GCNMP).

Times of operation will be as follows:

14 March 2015 1300 UTC to

15 March 2015 1900 UTC

Frequencies: (+/- QRM)

15 meters (21.324)

20 meters (14.324)

40 meters (7.234)

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.

David Macchiarolo is heading up this event through the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association (GARA), and I see in their newsletter that he is requesting operators to help in this event. They will be working through the night, so it might be a good "warm-up" for Field Day. If you would like to help, contact David at aj4tf@arrl.net.

—<http://n4g-gch.org/>

RADIO SHACK FILES FOR CHAPTER 11 BANKRUPTCY

Radio Shack Corporation has announced that it has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in a deal to shut down the almost century old retail chain. One that would also sell about half its store leases to telecommunications giant Sprint and close the rest.

In a press release dated Thursday, March 5th, the company announced that it had signed an asset purchase agreement with General Wireless Inc. to acquire between 1,500 and 2,400 of Radio Shack's U.S. Company-owned stores. To make this happen, this transaction

and an orderly sale of the Company's remaining assets, Radio Shack and certain of its U.S. subsidiaries have filed voluntary petitions for relief under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware. The sale agreement is subject to court approval and other conditions. RadioShack's foreign subsidiaries and its franchisee-owned stores are not included in the filing.

Also as part of this action, Radio Shack has filed a motion with the Court to proceed with the closure of the remain-

ing company owned stores under an agreement with Hilco Merchant Resources. A list of the stores slated for closure will be posted in the near future on the restructuring information section of the company's web site at www.radioshackcorporation.com. Stores that are closing are expected to sell remaining inventory. Discussions are underway with interested parties to sell all of the company's remaining assets. (Radio Shack release)

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1951, February 6, 2015

NEW PHONE PROCESSOR CHIP ANNOUNCED

Chip designer ARM Holdings PLC, has unveiled new technology for mobile devices that it says will be much faster while using less energy. The company, whose designs are built into more than 95% of smartphones, says more than

10 companies have licensed its new Cortex A-72 processor design. The new technology is expected to be used by 2016.

ARM says the new processor design is 3.5 times as fast as the ARM technology used in most smartphones sold in

2014. The company expects most chips based on the design to be manufactured using an advanced production process from the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1952, Feb. 13, 2015



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

HPARC MARCH CALENDAR

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|---|--------------------------------|
| 2 — HPARC Club Meeting | 17 — St. Patrick's Day |
| 8 — Daylight Savings Time begins | 20 — First Day of Spring |
| 13-14 — Charlotte Hamfest
(Cabarrus Arena) | 29 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline |
| 7-8 — ARRL International DX Contest,
phone | |

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