

MAY 2015

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point Amateur Radio Club



MAY MEETING

The May meeting is an important meeting for the HPARC. We will be voting on proposed changes to the HPARC Constitution and By-Laws. We need two-thirds of the membership present or represented by proxy to effect changes. If you are not able to attend, please remember to return your proxy to the HPARC Secretary two days before the meeting.

The May meeting may also be important for those

Hams whose licenses are due to expire this year. There are a few HPARC members who have or will have to renew this year, and you can do it yourself without cost. David Macchiarolo will present a program on how to renew your license yourself online.

Field Day is just around the corner, June 27 and 28, and we need to start our planning now. We will briefly go over plans at the May meeting.

At the April meeting, the

By-Laws and Constitution committee went over the proposed changes to these documents which will be voted on at the May meeting.

It is with much sadness that I announce the passing of Ben Rogers, KA4NHD, past HPARC president and active club member for years. We will miss him.

There is a lot going on, and we need your participation. Please plan on attending the HPARC meeting.

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE REPORT

The rescue and recovery work is continuing after the devastating 7.8 on the Richter scale earthquake that claimed

at least 3,200 lives, with many missing, and widespread damage in Nepal.

The Nepal Amateur Radio

Society is providing emergency communications. Satish Krishna Kharel, 9N1AA,

Earthquake continued inside...

BEN ROGERS, KA4NHD, SK

On April 25, 2015, Ben Rogers, KA4NHD, passed away at Hospice Home of High Point following a year of declining health.

Ben was very active in the HPARC serving as Vice-President in 1981, President in 1983 and 1984, and Membership chairman from 1993 to 1998 and again from 2003 to 2004. He was selected January Ham of the month for 1996 and held the Hamfest

Stage position operating the sound system at the HPARC Hamfest for many years. In 2007, Ben took over the HPARC Christmas Day Roll Call as net control and operated in that position until 2012.

On April 22, 2015, the HPARC Board voted to make Ben Rogers an HPARC Honorary Member. A certificate was presented to Ben and the official plaque was presented to him on April 24.

Ben was a great friend and mentor and did a lot for the High Point Amateur Radio Club, and we will miss him greatly. 73's ol' pal.

**HPARC Meeting
May 4, 2015**

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

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

TEN-TEC AND ALPHA PURCHASED FROM RF CONCEPTS

Not even a year after TEN-TEC and Alpha Amplifiers merged under the RF Concepts banner, the companies have once again changed ownership. This as RKR Designs LLC of Longmont, Colorado, announced on April 2 that it has acquired the two brands.

RKR Designs leadership includes Ken Long, N0QO, Richard Gall, and Rich

Danielson. Long has over 20 years in the electronics and Amateur Radio industries. He will serve as President and CEO of the new company.

Gall and Danielson of QSC Systems in Longmont have been a successful contract manufacturer for over two decades. That company has been building Alpha amplifiers for more than 5 years and boards for TEN-

TEC gear since RF Concepts bought the company last year.

RKR Designs LLC is a privately-held company and the terms of the acquisition of the assets of RF Concepts was not disclosed. A media release says that RKR plans to expand the product lines while continuing to service their customers.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1960, April 10, 2015

SWITCHING POWER SUPPLIES A MORE COMMON NOISE SOURCE THAN POWER LINES

ARRL Laboratory Manager and EMI Expert Ed Hare, W1RFI, told the HamRadioNow webcast recently that switching-mode power supplies are a more common noise source for Radio Amateurs than electrical power lines. HamRadioNow host Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, interviewed Hare on April 4 at the Raleigh, North Carolina, RARSfest, where Hare also presented a forum, “Tall Tales from the ARRL Lab.” Hare told Pearce that switching-mode power supplies are in – or provide power for – many home electronics these days.

“The old days of those iron

transformers are gone,” Hare said. “Every single one of these is a switcher. We’re also seeing noise from pulse-width control motors.” Hare said the big culprits are “little wall warts,” not switching supplies designed to power Amateur Radio gear. “Every TV you own has a built-in switcher, almost every device has a wall wart, and a lot of these are imported, not necessarily meeting the FCC rules, so we’re seeing more reports involving those,” he said.

Hare also told HamRadioNow that a few LED-type lightbulbs that are becoming more common also can be noise-genera-

tors, as are “grow lights” used for cultivating plants indoors. He said that the ARRL Lab can work with manufacturers to correct these problems, but the Lab needs model numbers and “specific information about the problems Amateurs are having, so that we can put some of our resources toward helping.”

Hams experiencing RF interference problems can contact the ARRL Laboratory by contacting Ed Hare or ARRL Lab EMC Specialist Mike Gruber, W1MG.

—The ARRL Letter,
April 16, 2015
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

APRIL 1ST HAM TOWER COLLAPSE IN VIRGINIA

A mother and her two children were trapped in their car on March 31st in rural Virginia. This after an 80 foot Amateur Radio tower fell onto their vehicle on April 1st.

Spotsylvania County Deputy Fire Chief Joseph Sposa noted

that the tower also fell partially onto a home causing some minor damage to the roof.

No one in the home or the vehicle was injured. County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management crews were able to stabilize

and remove the debris to free the trapped passengers.

Officials believe high winds in the area caused the tower to collapse.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1960,
April 10, 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 p.m. at a local restaurant announced in the newsletter. The business meeting starts around 7:00 p.m. 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.

...*Earthquake continued from cover* reports that with help from VU2 in India and others work is continuing. This includes the use of four wheel drive vehicles.

Satish said information has already been provided on the status of about 80 loved ones of foreign Radio Amateurs and others. He was using solar power in coordination with the Nepal police in Kathmandu. Also sharing the emcomm work is Suresh Upreti, 9N1HA.

The earthquake on April 25 caused landslides on Mount Everest during the climbing

season, where some lives of mountaineers and others were lost.

The capital of Kathmandu was among the areas hit. An emergency net on 20 meters on 14.205 and/or 14.215 MHz, has Jayu Bhide, VU2JAU/AT150ITU, the Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI) National Coordinator for Disaster Communication, as net controller.

Other VUs are involved. Activity has also been reported on 7.100, 18.160 and 21.360 MHz. Nepal's first Amateur Radio

repeater, set up in 2012 by the National Society for Earthquake Technology, had a dozen Hams who previously engaged in simulated emergency tests.

The 9N1KS repeater 434.500 MHz in and 145.000 MHz out, is on the outskirts of Kathmandu with coverage into the Kathmandu Valley. There is no cross-border movement so far of radio equipment and Radio Amateurs.

—Jim Linton, VK3PC

Chairman IARU Region 3
Disaster Communications
Committee (from QRZ.com)

ARRL, US HOUSE MEMBERS COMING THROUGH TO SUPPORT H.R. 1301

Many ARRL members have answered the call to urge their US House member to co-sponsor The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 – H.R. 1301 – helping to raise the list of co-sponsors to 39. But ARRL Regulatory Affairs Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, said the campaign continues, and more voices are needed to join the chorus.

“We have had a good initial response from our members in support of our grassroots efforts, but we have a long way to go,” Henderson said. “Our Washington team has met with

dozens of members of Congress and congressional staffers over the past month.”

Henderson said the ARRL has forwarded another 426 letters from ARRL members to Washington for delivery to House members representing 132 Congressional districts in 34 states. “These letters are a key piece in the puzzle of pushing HR 1301 forward,” he said. “We encourage all ARRL members to get involved.”

If approved by Congress and signed by President Obama, The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 would direct the FCC

to extend to private land-use agreements its PRB-1 policy rules requiring reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications. Those private agreements are better known as deed covenants, conditions, and restrictions, or CC&Rs. At present, PRB-1 only applies to state and local zoning laws and ordinances. The FCC has been reluctant to extend the same legal protections to private land-use agreements without direction from Congress.

—The ARRL Letter,
April 16, 2015

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

NEW ALUMINUM BENDABLE BATTERY

Scientists have built a flexible aluminum battery which they say could be a cheap, fast-charging and safe alternative to current designs.

The prototype consists of a soft pouch, containing aluminum for one electrode and graphite foam for the other and all surrounded by a special liq-

uid salt. It can recharge in less than a minute and is very safe and durable compared to lithium-ion batteries.

The only drawback is that the new design currently only delivers about half the voltage but work is ongoing to improve this. On the plus side and unlike other designs, this

battery will not catch fire even if accidentally punctured or drilled through.

The work appears in the journal Nature. You can find it at tinyurl.com/aluminum-salt-battery.

—Amateur Radio Newline,
Report 1962,
April 24, 2015



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

HPARC MAY CALENDAR

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|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 4 — HPARC Club Meeting | 24 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline |
| 5 — Cinco de Mayo | 25 — MEMORIAL DAY |
| 5 — National Teacher's Day | 29 — John F. Kennedy's Birthday |
| 7 — National Day of Prayer | |
| 8 — VE Day | |
| (Germany surrenders WWII 1945) | |
| 9 — Rockingham County Swapfest | |
| 10 — MOTHER'S DAY | |
| 16 — Freegate 2014, Greensboro, NC | |
| 15-17 — Dayton, OH Hamvention | |
| 16 — ARMED FORCES DAY | |

BIRTHDAYS

Larry Kirby — May 6
 Ben Rogers — May 21

2015 HPARC OFFICERS

Mark McMahan, KB4MFP — President — 887-3039 — kb4mfp@arrl.net
 Dan Bly, KB8TLF — Vice-President — 259-1203 — kb8tlf@gmail.com
 Larry Kirby, KI4LHX — Secretary — 442-0421 — LarryCFII@EarthLink.net
 Warren Gallemore, KA4LOQ — Treasurer — 883-4944 — warreng960@mac.com
 Newsletter Editor — Mark McMahan — 887-3039 — kb4mfp@arrl.net
 HPARC Web page: <http://www.w4ua.org> — email: w4ua@arrl.net

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