

JUNE 2015

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point Amateur Radio Club



JUNE MEETING

The program for June is Field Day. Plan on attending as we discuss plans for this year's Field Day. Invite your friends and other Hams to attend our Field Day on June 27 and 28. The HPARC welcomes all to come join with us

in our activities.

At the May meeting the HPARC voted on proposed changes to the HPARC Constitution and By-Laws. I want to thank the members for attending in such good numbers to make our quorum for

these changes. The proposed changes did pass.

Our next steps for obtaining tax-exempt status is gathering of the changes just made and sending them to the State Attorney to update our records

June continued inside...

FIELD DAY 2015

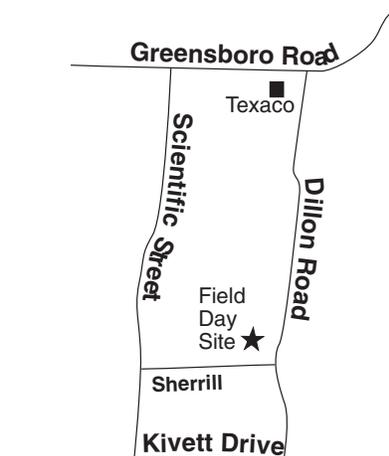
Field Day will be at the Moore Farm in Jamestown where we have had Field Day for several years now.

The dates for this year's Field Day will be June 27 and 28. We will be meeting for breakfast at Biscuitville at 8:00 a.m., and after a short breakfast, will start setting up at the Moores for Field Day after 8:30 a.m. The official start for Field Day is 2:00 p.m.

We will have our club picnic around 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. Spouses, family members and friends are welcome to join us. Hot dogs are normally the main fare, so prepare accordingly if you prefer something else. We plan to pass around a list at the meeting for members to sign up for food items to bring.

For the past couple of years, we have used laptops, provided by Warren Gallemore, to

log our contacts. We have been using the program SQUIRL for logging contacts. You could download this program on your home computer if you want to work with it before Field Day



Directions to Field Day: from Kivett Drive, turn onto Scientific Street. Go about .2 of a mile to Sherrill Road and turn right. Moore's farm is on the left just before the stop sign. Coming from Jamestown, turn onto Dillon Road. Come

about a mile, and turn right onto Sherrill Road. Moore's farm will be the first driveway on your right. Using one of the Internet map programs, use 3139 Dillon Road as your ending destination. Hope everyone can make it.

Remember to bring your radios, extension cords, chairs and anything else you can think of that we may need.

If you have any questions, call or email Mark McMahan or one of the HPARC officers (see back of newsletter). Please attend the July meeting.

HPARC Meeting June 1, 2015

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

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

FCC ELIMINATES AMATEUR RADIO VANITY CALL SIGN REGULATORY FEE

The FCC is eliminating the regulatory fee to apply for an Amateur Radio vanity call sign. The change will not go into effect, however, until required congressional notice has been given. This will take at least 90 days. As the Commission explained in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, and Order (MD Docket 14-92 and others), released May 21, it's a matter of simple economics.

"The Commission spends more resources on processing the regulatory fees and issuing refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment," the FCC said. "As our costs now exceed the regulatory fee, we are eliminating this regulatory fee category." The current vanity call sign regulatory fee is \$21.40, the highest in several years. The FCC reported there were 11,500 "payment units" in FY 2014 and estimated that it would collect nearly \$246,100.

In its 2014 Notice of Proposed Rule Making

(NPRM) regarding the assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY 2014, the FCC had sought comment on eliminating several smaller regulatory fee categories, such as those for vanity call signs and GMRS. It concluded in the subsequent Report and Order (R&O) last summer, however, that it did not have "adequate support to determine whether the cost of recovery and burden on small entities outweighed the collected revenue or whether eliminating the fee would adversely affect the licensing process."

The FCC said it has since had an opportunity to obtain and analyze support concerning the collection of the regulatory fees for Amateur Vanity and GMRS, which the FCC said comprise, on average, more than 20,000 licenses that are newly obtained or renewed, every 10 and 5 years, respectively.

"The Commission often receives multiple applications for the same vanity call sign, but only one applicant

can be issued that call sign," the FCC explained. "In such cases, the Commission issues refunds for all the remaining applicants. In addition to staff and computer time to process payments and issue refunds, there is an additional expense to issue checks for the applicants who cannot be refunded electronically."

The Commission said that after it provides the required congressional notification, Amateur Radio vanity program applicants "will no longer be financially burdened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments. The revenue that the Commission would otherwise collect from these regulatory fee categories will be proportionally assessed on other wireless fee categories."

The FCC said it would not issue refunds to licensees who paid the regulatory fee prior to its official elimination.

—from ARRL.org,
May 22, 2015

GRAPHENE BASED LIGHT BULB TO GO ON SALE

The BBC reports that a graphene bulb is set to go on sale this year. United Kingdom developers said their graphene bulb will be the first commercially viable consumer product using the super-strong carbon.

The dimmable bulb has a filament-shaped LED coated in graphene. Because of its conductivity the bulb can last longer and is said to cut energy use by 10 percent. It is also expected to be priced lower

than some LED bulbs.

The bulb is being manufactured by a Canadian financed company called Graphene Lighting. (BBC)

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1963, May 1, 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.

...June continued from cover

in Raleigh. In the near future, we will be meeting with a tax consultant to help us fill out the form to send the IRS.

We also had an excellent program at the May meeting by David Macchiarolo on how to renew your license yourself

online. Although we have not publicized it, the HPARC has been keeping track of our club member's expiration date for their Ham Radio license. We will inform you before your license expires. If you need help updating your license, please contact David or one of

our club officers to help you.

It was really good to see the good number attending the May meeting including those we haven't seen in a while. Hopefully we can count on you continuing to support the HPARC. Don't forget Field Day. See you at the meeting.

US NAVY-MARINE CORPS MARS PROGRAM TO END

The US Department of Defense is phasing out the US Navy-Marine Corps Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) program. Its operational mission will transition to the other MARS service branches by the end of September. MARS volunteers are Amateur Radio operators who provide auxiliary or emergency communications to local, national, and international emergency and safety organizations, as an adjunct to normal communications.

"The intent of the transition is to best align the program to support national mission requirements," the announcement said. Chris Jensen of Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Atlantic (NCTAMS LANT) told ARRL that the Navy no longer has

any service-specific requirements for Navy-Marine Corps MARS and is working within DoD to transition the program into Army and Air Force MARS by September 30.

The announcement encouraged current Navy-Marine Corps MARS members and clubs to submit applications to the US Army MARS or US Air Force MARS programs as soon as possible.

"The US Navy greatly appreciates the thousands of MARS volunteers, past and present, who have been integral to the success of MARS," the announcement concluded.

An individual very familiar with the MARS program said the change was not unexpected and came to a head as the US Strategic Command embraced Army MARS as the lead branch for contingency

communication and Air Force MARS began partnering with the US Army program on the operations side.

"The Army and Air Force MARS branches have an obvious role in providing contingency communications for the 50 states," said the individual, who preferred not to be identified by name. "Members are everywhere 'on the ground,' and experience in Afghanistan and Iraq has proven the tactical usefulness of HF on land. There was no similar role for the landlocked membership of Navy-Marine Corps MARS."

He said the MARS program can use all the volunteers it can attract.

—The ARRL Letter,
May 14, 2015,
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME,
Editor

OREGON HAMS PREPARE FOR THE MEGAQUAKE

Oregon Public Broadcasting recently reported on the vital role radio amateurs could play when an earthquake strikes.

To prepare for the disaster, on Saturday April 25th the Oregon Office of Emergency Management supported the largest statewide emergency communications exercise Oregon has ever had. About

200 amateur radio operators participated.

Cory Grogan is a public information officer at the Oregon Office of Emergency Management. He says that these amateur radio operators could serve a vital role in affected areas when, not if such an earthquake were to happen.

In the last 100 years, there have only been five magnitude 9.0 or higher "megaquakes" worldwide. The pressure currently building in the Cascadia Subduction Zone that runs along the California, Oregon, and Washington coasts could unleash a sixth.

—Amateur Radio Newslines,
Report 1963, May 1, 2015



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

HPARC JUNE CALENDAR

- 1 — HPARC Club Meeting**
- 6 — D-Day (WWII Invasion of Normandy)
- 13 — Winston-Salem Classic Hamfest
- 14 — FLAG DAY**
- 13-15 — ARRL June VHF QSO Party
- 21 — FATHER'S DAY**
- 21 — First day of Summer
- 21 — ARRL Kid's Day
- 27-28 — ARRL Field Day**
- 28 — HPARC Newsletter deadline

BIRTHDAYS

- Luke Pope — June 8
- Richard Skinner — June 17
- Dale Waterson — June 17
- Jerry Yarborough — June 17

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