

SEPTEMBER 2015

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point
Amateur Radio
Club



SEPTEMBER MEETING

Here we go again. We will NOT be meeting on September 7 (the first Monday of the month) but rather on September 14 (the second Monday of the month). Rancho's will be closed for Labor Day forcing us to reschedule our club meeting. Please adjust your schedules and calendars, and we hope to see you at the September meeting on the 14th.

Larry Kirby will give the program for the September meeting. Larry's program will be on a temperature reader on the Parallax platform that gives the temperature in Morse code.

Larry says to "brush up on your code."

Larry Frye, WA4EKD, gave a very interesting program at the August meeting. Larry touched on the history

**September HPARC meeting
will be September 14, 2015**

of the High Point Amateur Radio Club as well as telling how Ham Radio more or less shaped his career path. For those interested, there is a recording of most of Larry's talk. Email Mark McMahan if you are interested in the recording.

Thank you to everyone who brought canned and non-perishable food to the last club meeting. Warren Gallemore's church and John Starrett's church support programs to help feed those in need. The club thought this to be such a worthwhile cause, it was voted on to continue at each meeting. Any non-perishable food will be accepted, not just canned food. Your donation will be greatly appreciated.

Enjoy your Labor Day holiday and don't forget our meeting date change. Bring a friend (or two), and we will see you at the meeting.

FCC UNIVERSAL LICENSING SYSTEM, OTHER APPLICATIONS DOWN FOR MAINTENANCE

FCC website maintenance in early September will make the Universal Licensing System (ULS), the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), the Electronic Document Management System (EDOCS), and other public applications unavailable for more than 5 days. The FCC said the outage will begin at 2200 UTC on Wednesday, September 2,

and continue through the Labor Day weekend. The maintenance work should be completed by 1200 UTC on Tuesday, September 8. During the ULS outage, it will not be possible to file any Amateur Radio applications.

"[M]ost Commission resources normally accessible through the Commission's website, including access to all electronic filing systems

and electronic dockets, will be inaccessible for the same period, with the exception of the Network Outage

ULS continued inside...

**HPARC Meeting
September 14, 2015**

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

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

HPARC TO CONTINUE COLLECTING FOOD

At the August meeting, the HPARC collected canned and packaged food to be distributed among a couple of members who are associated with

food pantries and food kitchens. It was decided by the club to continue this activity.

If you wish to participate, please bring non-perishable

food items to the club. It doesn't have to be canned food – just non-perishable such as boxed or packaged food items.

We appreciate your help.

FILTERED OUT FOREVER

For many Radio Amateurs, it's the end of an era: Rockwell Collins, which designed and manufactured mechanical filters for more than two generations of Hams, has discontinued the filters production.

The company posted on its website: "Over the past several

years, we have seen a dramatic reduction in demand for narrowband analog filters. Due to this and other economic reasons, Filter Products will be discontinuing its mechanical filter products in the near future."

The company acknowledged that the filters have since been

eclipsed by digital signal processing, and this was a significant factor in its decision.

Rockwell Collins has not yet announced a date for the final production run.

—*Amateur Radio Newslines*,
Report 1973,
August 21 2015

HRO CORPORATE OFFICES RELOCATE

Effective August 3, Ham Radio Outlet (HRO) has moved its corporate offices and has new telephone num-

bers. The new address is HRO Inc, 110 Tampico, Suite 110, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. Telephone (925) 933-1771; Fax

(925) 933-1774.

—*The ARRL Letter*,
August 4, 2015,
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

156 YEARS AGO, A GEOMAGNETIC MEGA-STORM

On September 2nd, a billion-ton coronal mass ejection (CME) slammed into Earth's magnetic field. Campers in the Rocky Mountains woke up in the middle of the night, thinking that the glow they saw was sunrise. No, it was the Northern Lights. People in Cuba read their morning paper by the red illumination of aurora borealis. Earth was peppered by particles so energetic, they altered the chemistry of polar ice.

Hard to believe? It really happened—exactly 156 years ago.

As the day unfolded, the gathering storm electri-

fied telegraph lines, shocking technicians and setting their telegraph papers on fire. The "Victorian Internet" was knocked offline. Magnetometers around the world recorded strong disturbances in the planetary magnetic field for more than a week.

The cause of all this was an extraordinary solar flare witnessed the day before by British astronomer Richard Carrington. His sighting marked the discovery of solar flares and foreshadowed a new field of study: space weather. According to the National Academy of Sciences,

if a similar storm occurred today, it would cause a trillion dollars in damage to society's high-tech infrastructure and require four to ten years for complete recovery.

In fact, a similar flare did occur just a few years ago. On July 23, 2012, a CME of rare power rocketed away from the sun. The storm was in all respects at least as strong as the 1859 Carrington event. The only difference is, it missed. No harm done. The July 2012 event serves as a reminder, however, that extreme space weather is not a thing of the past.

—www.spaceweather.com

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.

...ULS continued from cover

Reporting System (NORS), the Consumer Help Center (CHC), and the Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS), which will remain available,” an FCC Public Notice said on August 20. “The Commission’s website will remain available, but with reduced content and limited search capabilities.” According to the Public Notice, the FCC will follow

its normal schedule of operation during the maintenance period, but voicemail will be offline, and most Commission staffers will not have access to e-mail. Static content webpages on the fcc.gov domain, such as the FCC consumer guides, should remain available during the outage.

Although the regulatory fee for Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications will officially disappear on September

3, prospective applicants will have to wait until September 8 (1200 UTC) – or until after the ULS is back online – to file without paying the fee. The FCC has told ARRL that the approximately 18-day waiting period for a vanity call sign to be granted will remain in place “for now.”

—*The ARRL Letter*,
August 27, 2015,
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME,
Editor

FCC TO FINE OHIO RADIO AMATEUR

The FCC has proposed levying an \$8000 fine on a Cincinnati, Ohio, radio Amateur, Daniel R. Hicks, KB8UYZ, who at one point had volunteered to track down the interference he was causing on a number of primarily VHF repeaters. In a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) released on August 20, the FCC Enforcement Bureau asserted that Hicks intentionally interfered with other Amateur Radio operators’ communications and failed to identify properly. According to the NAL, an agent from the Bureau’s Detroit office first responded to multiple complaints of interference on various repeaters in April 2014.

“The agent, working with a local Amateur group which included Mr Hicks, was unable to locate the source of the transmission,” recounted the NAL, signed by FCC District Director James Bridgewater. Nearly a year later, in response to continued interference complaints, an agent from the Bureau’s Detroit office returned to

the Cincinnati area to take another crack at finding the source of the transmissions.

“This time, the agent did not advise the local Amateur Radio group that he was in the area,” the NAL stated. “The agent used mobile direction-finding techniques to locate the source of the transmissions to...the address of record for Mr Hicks’ Amateur station, KB8UYZ.”

ARRL Great Lakes Division Vice Director Tom Delaney, W8WTD, in his role as a spokesperson for the Greater Cincinnati Local Interference Committee, said at first the interference, which began in early 2014, was a nuisance, but later it turned obscene and racist. He said his group was able to track the signals to a particular neighborhood, but group members were surprised to learn who was behind the interference.

“We did not know, until the FCC actually caught him, who it was,” Delaney told ARRL. “We had our suspicions. We were very close to finding the source but were not quite there, but that helped the

FCC.” He said Hicks employed a “sophisticated” synthesized voice and very short transmissions across several repeaters to make him difficult to pin down.

According to the NAL, the agent monitored transmissions emanating from Hicks’ station for about an hour and heard the station transmit several recorded messages. “These transmissions prevented other Amateur licensees from communicating over the frequency,” the NAL said. “During the monitoring period, the agent did not hear Mr Hicks transmit his assigned call sign. The transmissions used the call sign of another licensee.” Delaney said the holder of that call sign had no idea why Hicks used it.

The FCC said it has determined that the evidence in the case was sufficient to establish that Hicks caused willful and malicious interference and failed to identify using his assigned call sign.

—*The ARRL Letter*,
August 27, 2015,
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.



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

HPARC SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| 5-6 — Shelby Hamfest | 19 — Day In The Park, High Point, NC |
| 7 — LABOR DAY | 23 — First Day of Fall |
| 11 — PATRIOT DAY (in honor of those
who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001) | 26 — Everybody's Day, Thomasville, NC |
| 12 — Virginia Beach, VA Hamfest | 27 — Newsletter deadline |
| 12 — Bush Hill Heritage Festival, Archdale | |
| 13 — Grandparent's Day | |
| 14 — HPARC Membership Meeting | |
| 12-14 — ARRL Sept VHF QSO Party | |
| 17 — Constitution Day/Citizenship Day | |
| 19-20 — ARRL 10-GHz Cumulative Contest | |

BIRTHDAYS

Dwight Sledge — September 7

2015 HPARC OFFICERS

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