

DECEMBER 2016

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point
Amateur Radio
Club



DECEMBER MEETING

As in years past, there will be no formal program for the December meeting. Please note the December meeting will be on Saturday, December 3, 2016. We will try to meet earlier at 6:30 p.m. so that we can begin eating at 7:00 p.m. The evening will be a time to eat and socialize with each other. We will try to keep the business short to allow more time to enjoy each other's company.

This year, the meal is being catered by Snyder Farms. If you have not done so, please inform John Starrett of your intention to attend. There is a \$10.25 cost to each meal

Please make arrangements with Warren Gallemore.

Last month, David Macchiarolo talked about what programs the membership might like to see and hear this

**HPARC meeting on
Saturday,
December 3, 2016**

coming year. If you have not done so already, please take a moment to send David an email or call to tell him what programs interest you the most.

David Macchiarolo reports that Field Day results are in and that W4UA was #5 in the USA in our category (3AC). The

club ranked #604 out of 2697 entries (in the top 77%). Well done!

There has been previous talk of moving the club meeting night. As there is a conflict with another group where we currently meet, there was no action taken. We will continue to meet on the first Monday of the month for the time being.

Remember the Christmas Day Roll Call on Christmas morning. Roll Call will start at 8:00 a.m. Please make an effort to participate.

And again, our Christmas Party/Meeting will be December 3, 2016, Saturday. Hope to see everyone there.

CHRISTMAS DAY ROLL CALL 2016

A long standing tradition, the HPARC will conduct Christmas Day Roll Call on the club's 2-meter repeater, 147.165, on Christmas morning. The Christmas Day Roll Call was started by Fred Browning (now a silent key) 35 years ago.

This year, Matt Flyer, KM4WON, one of our newest members, volunteered to be net control. On Christmas morning, our net control operator will call out all HPARC mem-

ber's names over our 2-meter repeater, 147.165, starting at 8:00 a.m. Each member present will answer and is welcome to give a brief Christmas greeting to their fellow Hams. After going through the list of HPARC members, the net control opens the net for late and other check-ins. Non-members are welcome to join in as well. After the net, a few Hams hang around to ragchew and brag (or complain) about what Santa brought them.

Please support Matt and plan to be with us early Christmas morning for the HPARC Christmas Day Roll Call. Hope to hear you on the repeater.

**HPARC Meeting
December 3, 2015**
Hickory Chapel Wesleyan
Church Fellowship Building,
301 Hickory Chapel Road,
High Point

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

HPARC CHRISTMAS PARTY/MEETING

The HPARC Christmas Party/Meeting will be on December 3, 2016, Saturday at the Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Fellowship Building. The address is 301 Hickory Chapel Road.

This year, the club voted to try something different. We are going to have the party catered. We have arranged

for Snyder Farms to cater our party/meeting.

The menu will be fried chicken, country style steak, green beans, mashed potatoes, mac and cheese, and banana pudding. Tea will be included, and the club will provide coffee.

If you want to fix an extra

dish or dessert, you still can do that in addition to the menu.

The cost will be \$10.25 per person.

Please let John Starrett or one of the officers know if you plan to attend (if you have not already done so) and if you are bringing someone with you. Thank you.

OFFICER ELECTIONS FOR 2017

The Nominating Committee has made their recommendations for officers for 2017. They are: Dan Bly, KB8TLF, for President; Mark McMahan, KB4MFP, for Vice-president; David

Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, for Secretary; and Warren Gallemore, KA4LOQ, for Treasurer.

This year's Nominating Committee was: Art Johnson, N8FNX; Dan Bly, KB8TLF;

Warren Gallemore, KA4LOQ; Tom Evans, NA4U; and David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF.

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

RULE MAKING PETITION TO FCC CALLS FOR VANITY CALL SIGN RULE CHANGES

The FCC is inviting comments on a Petition for Rule Making (RM-1775) from a Nevada Radio Amateur that seeks changes to the rules governing the Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Program. Christopher LaRue, W4ADL, of North Las Vegas, is proposing that any licensee obtaining a vanity call sign be required to keep it for the full license term. LaRue contends in his petition that excessive and frequent vanity call sign filings are hampering the ability of other qualified licensees to obtain vanity call signs in one of the more desirable 1 x 2 or 2 x 1 formats. LaRue said that

since the FCC dropped the fee to file for a vanity call sign, some applicants are taking advantage by regularly obtaining new call signs, thereby keeping them out of circulation.

"Some are changing call signs almost monthly, just to keep the newer code-free Extra class operators from obtaining a shorter call sign," he said in his petition. "I even saw an older operator that said he does it all the time and has not even owned a radio in over 6 years. When I looked him up, he has had 16 different [call signs] in 18 months."

LaRue said his proposed

minor rule change would require any licensee applying for and obtaining an Amateur Radio vanity call sign "be required to keep it for the duration of the license, which is currently 10 years."

He said this would "alleviate a lot of the stress on the ULS system and manpower requirements" at the FCC. "It will also keep inactive Amateurs from changing call signs regularly, thereby tying up call signs for 2 years after dismissal of said call."

—*The ARRL Letter*,
November 3, 2016
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME,
Editor

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 (except for holidays) 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.

DO YOU HAVE A PLAN TO BECOME A SILENT KEY?

No one wants to think about death but it will happen to all of us and most won't know it's coming until it's at the door. You should make it as easy on your family and loved ones as you can by being ready for it.

In the HAM community we call that going Silent Key. All that HAM gear you have, does your spouse or family know anything about it? How do they get rid of it? How much is it worth and who to sell it to? Who will disconnect all that gear and who will take down your antennas? Help them answer those questions now. If your family is anything like my family, they don't even know how to turn the equipment on or off.

You might be surprised at how much radio gear you have. From cables, to connectors to the big items like radios, amplifiers, turners, SWR meters, antennas, keys and on and on. My stuff is scattered in two closets and two chests.

What to do? If you are lucky and have a good friend that is a HAM then I would recommend you make a deal with that HAM. Whomever goes last

will help the friend's family with the with the HAM gear. Now that doesn't mean to just let them handle it. Help you friend and write down all the equipment with model numbers, serial numbers, and what a fair value is. Update that list annually and share it with your friend and your family. Your family should now that your friend has promised to take care of it and they should contact him/her when they are ready to move forward with the sale or disposal. On that list put the name and phone number of the person that will help with the HAM gear so your family knows whom to call when the time comes. Also give your friend the name and number of the person in the family to contact.

If you don't have that friend then maybe ask at a local club if someone handles Silent Key equipment for the club members. I have handled two and one was planned and the other was not. The one that was planned wasn't easy, but at least the wife knew who I was and was expecting me to handle it.

If you are a member of a HAM Club, ARRL Member, QST Magazine, or other magazines, you should make sure either your family or that friend knows to cancel your memberships, magazine subscriptions and reporting your SK. You don't want your family getting that renewal notice in the mail or that monthly magazine. Every time they get those it will remind them of you. That may be good or bad.

What about Social media accounts? {Remember to write down passwords to accounts.}

All of this can result in a significant amount of money to your family or loved ones at a time where they may need that extra income. Luckily in my example above the spouse was well taken care of and was not in need of that money but we made more than \$3000 dollars on his items.

Your family will be dealing with a lot during this time and you should make the process of disposing of your Ham gear as easy as possible.

—condensed from

QRZ.com

KH6OWL, Oct 30, 2016

A COMIC STRIP TRIBUTE TO CODE

We close this week's newscast with this story of a classic comic strip with a surprise element: Morse Code. Now, Samuel Morse isn't exactly the kind of character you'd find in the pages of any comic strip, much less the classic strip, "The Phantom." The Phantom, an avenger with a sense of justice, was created in the 1930s, long after Samuel Morse devised his system of dots and

dashes in the 19th Century. In the strip's earliest days, The Phantom was already using Amateur Radio to send important messages. It seems that in the intervening years, he hasn't forgotten Ham Radio's reliability -- nor has he forgotten his CW.

Now he is an older, wiser Phantom - and the father of two, including a son attending college at a remote Himalayan

location. He is seen in the comic's current story thread keeping tabs on his son by communicating with one of his teachers via code. His wife, of course, asks her crime-fighting husband "isn't that obsolete?" The Phantom replies: "Not at all."

Right you are, Phantom. That's what makes you OUR hero too!

—*Amateur Radio Newslines*,
Report 2036, Nov. 4 2016



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

HPARC DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 2-4 — ARRL 160-Meter Contest
- 3 — HPARC Club Meeting (Saturday)**
- 7 — Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 10-11 — ARRL 10-Meter Contest
- 17 — Wright Brother's Day
- 21 — First Day of Winter
- 18 — ARRL Rookie Roundup—CW
- 25 — CHRISTMAS**
 (Don't forget the HPARC
 Christmas Day Roll Call)
- 25 — Newsletter deadline
- 31 — NEW YEAR'S EVE**

BIRTHDAYS

- Roland Wright — December 9
- Chris Horne — December 12

2016 HPARC OFFICERS

Mark McMahan, KB4MFP — President — 336-887-3039 — kb4mfp@arrl.net
 Dan Bly, KB8TLF — Vice-President — 336-259-1203 — kb8tlf@gmail.com
 David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF — Secretary — 336-869-2894 — aj4tf@arrl.net
 Warren Gallemore, KA4LOQ — Treasurer — 336-883-4944 — warreng960@mac.com
 Newsletter Editor — Mark McMahan — 336-887-3039 — 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.**