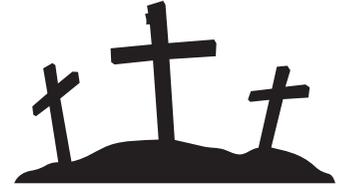


APRIL 2017

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point
Amateur Radio
Club



APRIL MEETING

At the April meeting, Dr. Gallemore will give a brief presentation on CPR. David Macchiarolo will also give a brief overview of the upcoming Field Day.

Last month, David gave a program on HF Digital Modes.

The membership committee

presented Rafael Cruz, WP3TQ, for membership. Rafael has also donated to the club a voice module to go on the 2-meter repeater.

Speaking of the repeater, this month the Repeater Committee will put the 67 hz tone on the repeater. This means you will

need to program 67 hz into your radios in order to transmit on the repeater. If you need help with this, please contact a member of the repeater committee or an HPARC officer.

Hope this newsletter finds everyone well. I hope to see you at the meeting.

AMATEUR RADIO GAINS A CHAMPION IN FAA TOWER SAFETY RULES CONTROVERSY

The owners of certain Amateur Radio towers have a friend in FCC Commissioner Michael O’Rielly, who feels that tower-marking provisions required under the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016, now Public Law 114-190, “could use tweaks.” In a March 10 blog post, O’Rielly expressed his belief that thousands of tower owners in the US could face expensive, unnecessary retrofits resulting from the law’s unintended consequences. The new FAA law would impose additional marking requirements for a small number of Amateur Radio towers, however. O’Rielly said §2110 — the section of the new law that requires improved physical markings and/or lighting on towers of between 50 and 200

feet — is too broad.

O’Rielly said that §2110 appears intended to address dangers to small, low-flying aircraft, such as crop dusters, from temporary meteorological testing towers (METs), among others, but that if implemented literally, “the provision will force expensive retrofits to potentially 50,000 existing towers,” including cell and broadcast station towers and all new towers meeting the law’s broad definition, “all with little gain to air safety,” he said.

The law instructs the FAA to enact rules similar to state-level statutes now in place that are aimed at improving aircraft safety in the vicinity of METs set up in rural areas. In the wake of fatal crop dusting aircraft collisions with METs,

often erected on short notice, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) recommended in 2013 that states enact laws — sometimes called “crop duster” statutes — requiring marking and registration of METs.

“Mandating new marking and/or lighting burdens for certain temporary aerial towers to aid agricultural pilots is a laudable goal,” O’Rielly commented. “However, the new statutory provision may have

Tower continued inside...

HPARC Meeting April 3, 2017

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

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

INTERNATIONAL CRYSTAL MANUFACTURING GOING OUT OF BUSINESS

International Crystal Manufacturing (ICM) of Oklahoma City has announced that it will be going out of business, probably at the end of May. Royden Freeland Jr., son of the company's founder, posted a letter this week on the ICM website.

"We will be honoring all orders that we have already taken and will be able to fill a limited amount of new orders, dependent upon raw materials available," Freeland said. "We would like to thank you for your past business. The success of ICM over the previous 66 years has been largely due to

its amazing customer base." International Crystal produces RF control devices — quartz crystals, oscillators, QCM crystals, filters, TCXOs/VCTCXOs, and precision crystals.

Royden R. Freeland Sr. founded International Crystal in 1950, at first operating out of his garage. One of his first contracts was to produce crystals for Collins Radio. The elder Freeland and his wife died in a 1978 air crash, and his son took over the company, which expanded into the production of other electronics in the 1980s.

In the 1990s, though, it sold off some of its equipment and

distribution business to concentrate on its core enterprise — the manufacture of crystal and oscillator products.

The announcement caught some manufacturers off guard, and they are seeking to source the products they had been buying from ICM, one of the remaining US-based manufacturers of crystal products. Radio Amateurs requiring crystals for projects or as replacement parts for older equipment also will have to look elsewhere.

—*The ARRL Letter*,

March 16, 2017

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME,
Editor

WWV: THE DAY TIME STOOD STILL

Daylight Saving Time, which started Sunday, March 12, confuses lots of people - at least temporarily. But radio station WWV had another issues recently with [time] keeping.

Radio Station WWV, operated by the United States National Institute of Standards and Technology, continually transmits the current time on several frequencies from just outside Fort Collins, Colorado. If you tuned into WWV recently, and it seems they disappeared... well, it wasn't another David Copperfield TV special. WWV was off the air recently for installation of a 250 kVA backup generator.

Matt Deutch, N0RGT is the

chief engineer at WWV says "We've had the same diesel generator to back up WWV since 1967, 68 something like that, and it worked wonderfully for us, but over the years it has slowly started to accumulate its problems. And the reliability was in question. It was having trouble starting sometimes especially when we needed it, and so the division scraped together some money and said let's get a new generator. So we've installed a new generator. The testing isn't done quite yet. We have a new automatic transfer switch, and we're hoping to do a load test and transfer it onto the building and make sure everything works okay."

"We did have one outage that was unscheduled. We need the generator about once every five years. And, we did have a snow storm last week, and one of our outages was unplanned. We didn't have a backup generator, and sure enough we lost power. We were off the air for about two hours without a backup generator."

The generator will be fully functional soon, and WWV will be back to being all time, all the time. And it sure was fun to call WWV and ask, "What time is it?" But alas, it's happened many times before.

—*Amateur Radio Newsline*,

Report 2054,

March 10, 2017

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.

...Tower continued from cover

been drafted broader than intended and, as a result, it unnecessarily captures permanent communications towers that have little overall impact on agricultural air safety.”

While some state crop duster laws have exempted Amateur Radio towers, the federal legis-

lation does not. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, has said, however, that the list of exemptions in the federal legislation restricts the application of the new rules to a very small subset of Amateur Radio towers. ARRL hopes to meet with FAA officials to discuss the issue.

Although O’Rielly did not mention Amateur Radio towers as a concern, he did allow that a small legislative fix to exempt certain towers or to require the FAA administrator to do so “would be appropriate.”

—*The ARRL Letter*,

March 23, 2017

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS SUES HYTERA COMMUNICATIONS, ALLEGING PATENT, TRADE SECRETS THEFT

Motorola Solutions has filed complaints in federal court (US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois), alleging that Hytera Communications’ digital mobile radio (DMR) products employ techniques and systems that infringe on Motorola Solutions’ patents and trade secrets. Already known for its Land Mobile Radio Service products, Hytera entered the Amateur Radio DMR market last year. Motorola alleges that proprietary and patented information was taken illegally by three former company engineers who now work for Hytera, as “part of a deliberate scheme to steal and copy” its technology.

“Motorola Solutions believes that Hytera is intentionally infringing its intellectual prop-

erty and misappropriating its trade secrets, which has enabled Hytera to compete unfairly by bypassing investment in innovation,” Motorola said in a March 14 news release. Motorola Solutions General Counsel and Chief Administrative Officer Mark Hacker characterized the copying as brazen, blatant, and willful.

The three former Motorola engineers all signed non-disclosure agreements, agreeing to treat all Motorola trade secrets as confidential, when they left the company to assume similar positions with Hytera. According to the lawsuit, none of the three disclosed beforehand that they intended to go to work for Hytera.

Motorola contends that its digital radio products were

rendering Hytera’s analog systems obsolete, and rather than develop its own digital products, Hytera stole Motorola’s ideas, its attorneys allege. Motorola said technology features it developed started showing up in Hytera products soon after Hytera began hiring engineers who had left Motorola in 2008, according to the lawsuit.

In a statement, Hytera, headquartered in Shenzhen, China, said it adheres to high ethical standards and complies with “the laws and regulations in markets where we operate,” and “firmly believes that its business practices and operations will be fully vindicated.”

—*The ARRL Letter*,

March 23, 2017

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

RADIO SHACK AGAIN FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY

Once the go-to store for Radio Amateurs, electronics tinkerers, and shortwave listeners, RadioShack has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy for the second time in 2 years, placing the future of its remaining stores in jeopardy. The 1,743 retail outlets that survived RadioShack’s 2015 bankruptcy were acquired by General Wireless Inc., an affiliate of Standard General

LP. Now down to 1,500 stores, RadioShack once boasted more than 5,000 stores nationwide.

The Company is closing approximately 200 stores and evaluating options on the remaining 1,300. RadioShack has slashed operating expenses by more than 20%, but it wasn’t enough. The company cited “surprisingly poor” mobile phone sales as a factor. Chapter 11 gives RadioShack

another opportunity to restructure and stay in business.

“RadioShack did more to spread the early technology culture in the US than any other commercial institution,” ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, observed. “Its catalog was the Boys’ Life of electronics.”

—*The ARRL Letter*,

March 9, 2017

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Editor



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

HPARC APRIL CALENDAR

- 1 — April Fool's Day**
- 3 — HPARC Club Meeting**
- 5 — Catawba Valley Hamfest,
Morganton, NC
- 15 — Raleigh Hamfest**
- 16 — EASTER**
- 16 — ARRL Rookie Roundup – Phone
- 22 — EARTH DAY
- 22-26 — HP Furniture Market
- 28 — National Arbor Day
- 23 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline
- 26 — Administrative Professionals' Day

BIRTHDAYS

- Sam Hall — April 21
- David Macchiarolo — April 25
- Dan Bly — April 27

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