

SEPTEMBER 2008



## SEPTEMBER MEETING

Please note that our September meeting will be on

**HPARC meeting —  
September 8, 2008**

the SECOND Monday of the month due to Rosa Mae's being

closed for Labor Day. Chris is trying to get Dave Davenport to come and tell us about his experience with radios in World War II.

We had Charles Layno, W4CL, give us a program on Digital TV for the August

meeting. We also got a bonus in a time lapse presentation of the WGHP tower being assembled.

Please remember our meeting being delayed one week due to the Labor Day holiday. Make a plan, and we hope to see everyone at the meeting.

## AMATEUR STATION AT SMITHSONIAN QRT AFTER 32 YEARS

After more than 30 years on the air from the nation's capital, NN3SI, the Amateur Radio station at the National Museum of American History, part of the Smithsonian Institution, became silent on Thursday, July 31. Originally located in the Nation of Nations exhibit, the station first went on-the-air in 1976 in celebration of the US Bicentennial. The FCC caught the patriotic spirit, giving the station a temporary call sign, NN3SI, standing for Nation of Nations, Smithsonian Institution. The Commission later made the call sign allocation permanent.

NN3SI has been situated in several different exhibitions in the Museum; it was most recently housed in the former Information Age exhibit. This exhibit chronicled the birth and

growth of the electronic information age — from Samuel Morse's invention of a practical telegraph in the 1830s through the development of the telephone, radio, television and computer. The Museum has been closed since 2006 while undergoing a major renovation and is scheduled to reopen to the public this fall.

The station participated in many special events throughout its history. During the dedication of the World War II Memorial on the National Mall, station operators made many contacts and taught children visiting the Museum how to spell their names in Morse code. Over the years, operators at NN3SI — who hailed from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia (and the occasional guest operators from various

parts of the globe) — have logged contacts with Amateurs in all parts of the world and with astronauts and cosmonauts in orbit. By operating the station, NN3SI ops promoted Amateur Radio as a national resource for emergency communications, trained operators, technicians and engineers — as well as an outstanding hobby — to the more than 4 million people who visit the Museum each year.

—The ARRL Letter Online,  
Volume 27, Number 30,  
August 1, 2008

**HPARC Meeting  
September 8, 2008  
at Rosa Mae's Cafe,  
1322 National Hwy,  
Thomasville**

# MINUTES OF THE AUGUST MEETING

At 7:28 pm Chris Horne opened the meeting of the HPARC. There were 11 members and 5 visitors in attendance.

There was a roll call of members.

There was a mention of those sick.

Secretary's minutes and Treasurer's report for the months of May and June were handed out. Motion to accept Secretary's minutes as written by Mark McMahan, seconded by Roland Wright. Motion passed. Motion to accept Treasurer's report as written

by Mike Cumbo, seconded by Roland Wright. Motion passed.

Old business: Chris read the Amateur's Cod of Ethics. Field Day activities were recapped by Chris.

There was no new business.

Announcements: Chris Horne rode in the Tour de Tanglewood. Jason Cox helped with radio communications.

Sarah Spagnola wrote an excellent article about Field Day in the High Point Enterprise.

Chris discussed possible future activities in the HPARC as well as the building of a field mill.

Sam Hall gave a Tech Minute on his experience building field mills to detect lightning strikes when he worked for NASA.

Charles Layno, W4CL, with WGHP TV gave the program on digital TV. Charles also showed us a time lapse video on the erection of the tower for the new digital TV antenna at WGHP's site in Randleman.

Reminder to tip waitress.

Motion to adjourn by Mike Cumbo. Seconded by Roland Wright. Motion passed.

—Respectfully submitted

Mark McMahan, KB4MFP,  
HPARC Secretary

## ELECTRIC FIELD MILLS

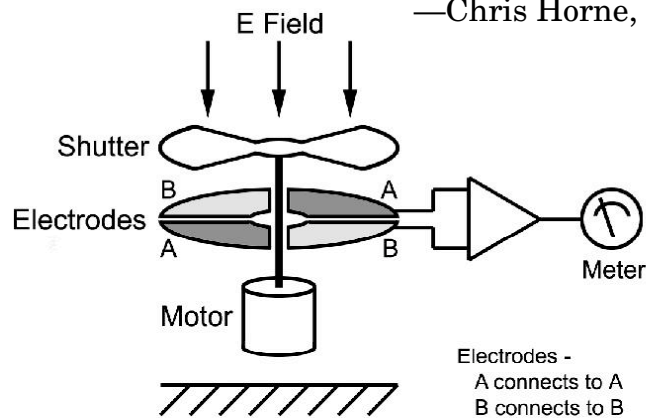
An Electric Field Mill is an electro-mechanical device which measures the strength of a static electric field. One or more electrodes are alternately exposed to and then shielded from the field to be measured. The electric current which flows to and from the electrodes is proportional to the strength of the electric field.

Most modern electric field mills use a rotating slotted disk to alternately expose and shield the electrodes. This generally results in a beam

like coverage above the electrodes. A less used design employs electrodes mounted on opposite sides of a rotating

shaft. This arrangement provides an arc-like (circular) coverage which is perpendicular to the length of the shaft.

—Chris Horne, W4CKH



## FCC TO RAISE VANITY CALL SIGN FEES

On August 11, the FCC announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 60 cents, from \$11.70 to \$12.30. The fee will increase 30 days after notice of

the increase is published in the Federal Register; no date has yet been set for publication. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call

sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term.

—The ARRL Letter Online,  
Volume 27, Number 32,  
August 15, 2008

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. Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$8.00 a year. An email version of the HPARC Newsletter is also available. Contributions and letters 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 pm at Rosa Mae's Cafe, 1322 National Highway, Thomasville. The business meeting starts at 7:30 pm 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.

# PENN TOWNSHIP RESCINDS ANTENNA PERMIT TO PITTSBURG AREA HAM

A tower case with a twist. This after a Pennsylvania zoning hearing board sides with neighbors who want the Ham's tower totally screened from view or taken down. But the battle over the 53-foot tower could end up in federal court because the tower had already been granted a permit and has been up for some time.

Chuck Mills W3YNI, lives in the town of Irwin, Pennsylvania, about 30 miles east of Pittsburgh. Mills, an assistant Emergency Coordinator for Westmoreland County's ARES group, had been using a Cushcraft A-3 tribander on a roof-mounted tower on his property for about nine years.

Last fall, Mills says he acquired a tilt-over, crank-up tower on which he planned to put an antenna array.

But Mills says he never got the chance because he got a visit from the township zoning officer who had been summoned by neighbors who didn't like the idea of a tower going up in their development.

Mills says he applied for a permit as instructed by the zoning officer and then was told he'd have to put up trees or something else to screen the tower.

He says his neighbors never bothered to directly express their concerns.

"They didn't talk to me first," Mills says. "They simply called the township and demanded that it be taken down." The township, of course, really can't take sides.

They have to interpret and enforce the law. In their mind, they were more or less saying that he does have a right to do what he wants on his property within reason. And this would be within reason.

After months of wrangling, the township finally granted Mills the permit and said two trees he had planted would be sufficient to meet the screening requirements.

But that didn't sit well with the neighbors, who appealed to the zoning hearing board.

"They really would not accept any kind of compromise because the township tried to mediate the situation," Mills says. "The only thing that they would accept is that the tower would be taken down."

On July 10, the zoning board ruled the township shouldn't have granted Mills the permit for his tower in the first place saying it didn't follow through on site plan and proper screening of the structure.

Mills predicts the decision won't stand.

"In order to deny me the permit, they have to have a legally valid reason," Mills says. "They can't just deny it because somebody doesn't like it or they don't like it. That goes against PRB 1. That's pretty clear.

"The reason my permit, they ruled against me, was a technicality in the permitting process that the township improperly granted the permit."

Mills says there's also an

ironic part to this whole saga so far.

"At the present time, I have no antenna on top of it," Mills says. "These proceedings have kind of retarded the process of getting an antenna on top of it because I seem to spend a lot of time speaking to my attorney."

Mills is being represented by Michael Lazaroff, K3AIR, a volunteer legal counsel for the American Radio Relay League.

"I can assure you that we're either going to appeal this to the next higher court or we're going to try to remedy it through the township to get a permit that will be able to stand," Mills says.

And, Mills says, he's gratified by the support he's been getting from Hams in his community and across the country via message boards on the internet and email.

Mills says he was also surprised by the groundswell of support from an unexpected corner.

"Surprisingly, support from the community at large has been - even non-Hams - has been very, very strong," Mills says. "Because, you know there's a lot of people who don't see this as about a tower issue and my hobby issue but see it as a property rights issue.

"And, a surprising number of people feel that you know this is a case of being told what to do on your own land which a lot of people see as appropriate."

—Amateur Radio Newslines, Report 1614, July 18, 2008



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

## HPARC SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Aug. 30-31 — Shelby Hamfest, Dallas, NC  
 (Note new location!)

- 1 — LABOR DAY
- 13 — Bush Hill Heritage Festival, Archdale
- 13-15 — ARRL Sept VHF QSO Party
- 7 — Grandparent's Day
- 8 — HPARC Club Meeting
- 11 — Patriot Day (in honor of those who lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001)
- 20-21 — Virginia Beach, VA Hamfest
- 20 — Day In The Park, High Point, NC
- 20-21 — ARRL 10-GHz Cumulative Contest
- 22 — First Day of Fall

- 27 — YesterYear In Motion
- 28 — Newsletter deadline
- 26-27 — Ten-Tec Hamfest
- 20-21 — ARRL International EME Competition
- 27 — Everybody's Day, Thomasville, NC

**September HPARC Meeting will be September 8, 2008!**

### BIRTHDAYS

- Jo Young — September 1
- Jackie Rogers — September 7

### 2008 HPARC OFFICERS

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**Breakfast every Saturday**  
 —  
**8:00 am**  
 —  
**Mrs. Winner's, South Main St.**