



HPARC NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY MEETING

The speaker for Feb 2 meeting will be J.B. Archinard ("Arch"), KT4AT. He will be speaking on advanced repeater techniques. His presentation will focus on Digital modes

especially "D-Star".

There was no meeting for January.

If this newsletter reaches you in time, remember the fox hunt on January 31. The fox

hunt starts from North State Communication parking lot at 2:00 pm.

February will be our first meeting of the year. Hope to see everyone there!

DTV CONVERSION COUPON PROGRAM OUT OF MONEY

The government's funding program to help people prepare for the transition to digital television has run out of money. This potentially leaves up to 8 million viewers without discount coupons to buy converter boxes they need to keep their analog TV sets working after the switch to digital.

As of January 4th, consumers who request a \$40 coupon to help offset the cost of a converter box are being placed on a

waiting list. They may not receive the coupons before February 17th unless they are willing to pay full price for a converter that costs between \$80 to \$250 depending on a given box's features and what a retailer has priced them at.

Members of Congress are now scrambling to find ways to allocate more money to the program. The big problem is that the nation is facing a monumental deficit, so there may be

political opposition to expanding the converter box subsidy program.

—Amateur Radio Newline, Report 1639, Jan. 9, 2009

(ed. note: As of this writing, Congress is looking to pass a bill to extend the February 17 deadline to June 12. This is because too many people who rely on over the air broadcast have yet to get a converter and many store have run out of converter boxes.)

LAURA L. SMITH TO REPLACE RILEY

Laura L. Smith of Pennsylvania has been named by the FCC to fill the vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired in 2008 as Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. Hollingsworth served in that position for more than 10 years as the FCC's enforcement watchdog over the Amateur Radio Service.

Upon learning of Smith's move to the Amateur Radio enforcement role, Harrison remarked that he was "very pleased to see the Commission move forward with the hiring of a new Special Counsel responsible for enforcement of the Amateur Radio Service rules," said Harrison. "The Commission has continually reassured us that this is an important matter for them, and Ms Smith's hiring

confirms that."

—ARRL Bulletin 8, January 26, 2009

HPARC Meeting February 2, 2009

Rosa Mae's Cafe,
1322 National Hwy,
Thomasville

Meal at 6:30 pm
Business meeting at 7:30 pm

NO CELL JAMMING DEMO AT DC PRISON

CellAntenna Corporation was supposed to demonstrate its cellular telephone jamming technology on Thursday, January 8. While setting up its equipment, a representative from District of Columbia Prisons notified the company that the presentation was being cancelled.

The FCC had earlier provided the District of Columbia Prisons written authorization for the test, allowing CellAntenna to perform

the demonstration of jamming of cell phones. But at the last minute the Cellular Telephone Industry Association filed a lengthy 85-page challenge to the test that was supposed to be heard in Federal Court at 4 PM on January 7th. Most believe that the CTIA court filing may have swayed the prison authority into its decision to call off the demonstration.

CellAntenna says that it was

disappointed that the prison authority had, in the company's view, obviously buckled under the pressure of the Cellular Telephone Industry Association demand that the test be cancelled. It also claims that cellular service providers are still selling services to inmates despite the fact that it is illegal for them to use a cellular telephone behind prison bars.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1641, Jan. 23 2009

INTRODUCTION TO CRYSTAL RADIO SETS – PART 2

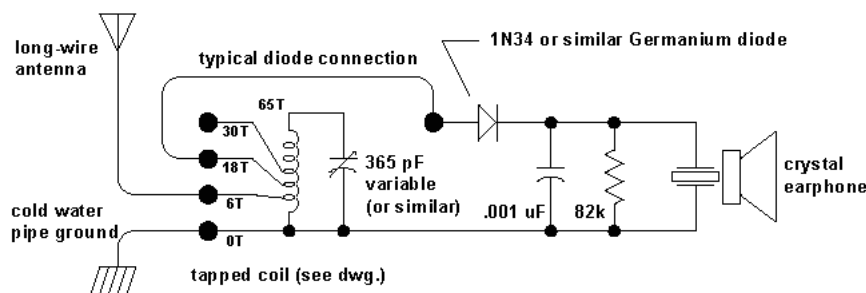
(This is the second article in a three part series on Crystal Radios presented by Chris Horne, W4CKH. Part one was in last month's newsletter.)

Please refer to the image. If you want to purchase a good crystal radio set, please consider

<http://www.peeblesoriginals.com/>. Model Crystal Radio Set -002 is a good choice for the beginner <http://www.peeblesoriginals.com/project-pics/Set-002-Kit.jpg>.

You should consider building this kit with your grandson or

granddaughter. This crystal radio set uses the 28 gauge mag-



net wire for the loading coil and air variable capacitor. The detector is a 1N34A germanium diode. Germanium is used rather than silicon because the “turn-on” voltage is lower for Ge. Another way to say this is sil-

icon diodes are not a good choice because their much higher barrier potential requires larger signals for efficient rectification. The 1N34A germanium diode is the modern substitute for

galena and most other germanium small-signal diodes will also work well.

You will also need to use a low impedance earplug (headphone) like the ones Radio Shack sells.

A TRANSMITTER FROM A CFL

‘Low energy’ light bulbs are renowned for causing radio interference but they can be put to good use. A website describes how to turn one into a transmitter for the Amateur Radio 80m band.

Michael Rainey, AA1TJA's website describes how to convert

a compact fluorescent lamp — in this case a TriMax Electronic Fluorescent Lamp — into a 1.5 Watt QRP CW transmitter for 3.5 MHz. Indeed, Michael goes on to say “a perfectly serviceable transmitter may be constructed!

The only additional compo-

nents required were the quartz crystal, and four of the five components needed for the output low-pass filter. The resulting transmitter produces up to 1.5 Watts on 80m.

—Amateur Radio Newsline, Report 1639, Jan. 9, 2009

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.

NEW SUPPLIER OF HEATHKIT MANUALS AND EVEN SOME PARTS

If you are old enough to remember when Heathkits reigned supreme among electronic builders then you will be happy to know that there is a new source of manuals and even some parts to keep them alive and well today. And we are not just talking Ham Radio gear either.

Data Professionals of Pleasanton, California, has purchased the copyrights and existing inventory of all legacy Heathkit product documentation from Heath Company of Benton Harbor Michigan. Data Professionals is a new company headed up by Don Peterson. He tells Newsline that last year Heathkit contacted him and indicated that it wanted to stop supporting the manual requests that they were still receiving. Its preference was for him to take it over since he had already shown an interest in supporting Heathkit products.

After agreeing on a price Peterson says that he paid the cost to have 2.5 tons of docu-

ments shipped from Michigan to his office in California. He says that the new company will make high quality copies of the original legacy manuals available to the marketplace via its web site and through eBay and PayPal.

So what will Peterson be doing with the manuals? Obviously selling copies, but at prices below that of others on the web. As Don Peterson says, what he will charge will cover the cost of duplication plus a little margin to keep the doors open. He also says that he and W7FG have agreed to a royalty deal so he can continue to sell the Heathkit manuals as well. He does, however, say that he will continue to try and shut down any site that is providing free copies of entire manuals or is selling electronic copies on eBay on CD ROM's.

As to any profits from the sale of manuals? Peterson says that will be used to continue development of new upgrades and after-market modules so as

to continue to support the entire Heathkit product line. His company has already designed some replacement temperature sensor modules for the weather stations and a replacement board for the old Mostek CPU for the ID-4001 Weather Station. He is currently in development of a replacement CPU board in the GC-1000 'Most Accurate Clock' that is still very popular and in service a lot of places these days. He tells Newsline that this module will be a 'plug-in' replacement board that will plug into the socket of the Mostek CPU. Peterson says that without the cash flow from the manuals, this would not be possible.

Complete information on obtaining manuals for Heath gear along with the updated modules and other parts is on line at Don Peterson's website. It's in cyberspace at www.d8apro.com.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1641, Jan. 23 2009

NSC WANTS TOTAL BAN ON MOBILE CELLPHONE USE

The National Safety Council is calling for a total nationwide driver ban on the use of cell phones including hands-free devices. In an announcement on Monday, January 12th, the National Safety Council not only issued a plea directly to motorists to stop using the devices, but also urged businesses to enact policies limiting the use of cell phones by their employees. The Congressionally-chartered agency also called on states to

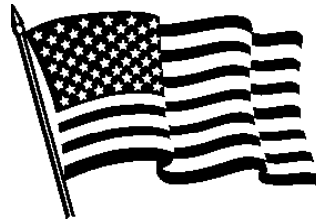
pass more laws banning the use of wireless communications devices while driving.

The National Safety Council news release does not mention Ham radio, CB radio or any other two-way radio based application other than cell phones and text messaging. However in mustering support for its campaign, the organization cites numerous studies including one by the Harvard Center of Risk Analysis. That one found that driver use of

cell phones contributes to 636,000 crashes each year. This it says leads to 12,000 serious injuries and 2,600 annual deaths.

Needless to say, all two way mobile radio users, including Hams, will have to watch carefully for any state or federal laws that might develop out of the National Safety Council total cellphone ban request.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1640, Jan. 16, 2009



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

HPARC FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 2 — GROUNDHOG DAY
- 7 — Richmond, VA Frostfest
- 1 — Super Bowl Sunday
- 2 — HPARC Club Meeting
- 14-15 — CQ Worldwide RTTY WPX Contest
- 12 — Lincoln's Birthday
- 14 — VALENTINE'S DAY
- 21-22 — ARRL International DX Contest, CW
- 16 — PRESIDENT'S DAY

- 22 — Washington's Birthday
- 22 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline

BIRTHDAYS

- Robert Williams — February 2
- Mark McMahan — February 7
- Kenneth Lee — February 13
- David Montgomery — February 27

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 —
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