

SEPTEMBER 2009



## NO SEPTEMBER MEETING

The HPARC will not be meeting for September due to. The HPARC voted not to meet during the month of Labor Day holiday. Everyone please be safe during your holiday travel.

### **No HPARC meeting for September 2009**

Our own Dr. Rick Weinbaum, KK4RR, gave the August pro-

gram. Rick spoke on feet as he is a podiatrist and opened his presentation with a question and answer session.

Hope to see everyone at the October meeting.

## TWO ASTRONOMERS PREDICT SUNSPOTS WILL SOON COMPLETELY DISAPPEAR

Are sunspots disappearing for good? Two solar researchers say this is the case. Most Hams know that there is a direct correlation between sunspots and high frequency propagation conditions. In general, the more sunspots there are, the more DX you will be able to work. This usually happens in 11 year cycles with the last solar maximum having taken place in 2000.

The current Solar Cycle which is Cycle 24 should peak in roughly next year in 2010. Only one problem. There have been few sunspots this year and very little easy to work DX. And now there may be an answer as to why.

Spaceweather.com reports that astronomers Bill Livingston and Matt Penn of the National Solar Observatory in Tucson, Arizona, have found that sunspot magnetic fields are definitely waning. Not only

that. They say that sunspots could completely disappear within decades.

Livingston and Penn have been measuring solar magnetism since 1992. Their technique is based on a complex system called the Zeeman splitting of infrared spectral lines emitted by iron atoms in the vicinity of sunspots. They reached their conclusion by extrapolating their already collected data into the future.

But Spaceweather also says not to count out sunspots just yet. It notes that while the data of Livingston and Penn is widely thought to be correct, that any far reaching extrapolations may be premature. It says that this type of measurement is relatively new, and the data reaches back less than 17 years. In the end it appears as if the giant solar disk we call the sun is the only one who holds the answers to the future

of its spots and how good DX will be in the coming years.

And a bit of an astro physics lesson before we leave this story. For those not aware, sunspots are made of magnetism. In other words a sunspot is not matter but rather a strong magnetic field that appears dark because it blocks the upward flow of heat from the sun's fiery depths. Spaceweather says that without magnetism, there would be no sunspots.

—Amateur Radio Newslines,  
Report 1672, Aug. 28 2009

### **HPARC Meeting October 5, 2009**

**Rosa Mae's Cafe,  
1322 National Hwy,  
Thomasville**

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

# MINUTES OF THE AUGUST MEETING

At 7:37 pm Chris Horne opened the meeting of the HPARC. There were 9 members and 6 visitors in attendance.

Secretary's minutes and Treasurer's report were handed out. Motion to accept as written by Sam Hall; seconded by Ben Rogers. Motion passed.

There was no old business.

New business: Mark McMahan told the last three newsletters have been printed

on a printer from his house instead of using a copy center. Mark proposed that he be reimbursed for printer costs for newsletter at 25 cents per newsletter mailed (postage to still be paid by club). Motion by Rick Weinbaum to accept proposal. Seconded by Sam Hall. Motion passed by majority.

Chris gave a recap of Tour de Furniture in which he and Andrea participated. Mike Walker also helped with communications.

Chris reminded all that some of the club members meet on 3.818 MHz at 8:30 pm on Sunday nights.

Program: Rick Weinbaum talked to the club about being a podiatrist and answered questions from club members.

Reminder to tip waitress.

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

—Respectfully submitted

Mark McMahan, KB4MFP,  
HPARC Secretary

## CONGRESS MAY ALLOW CELLPHONE JAMMING IN PRISONS

States may soon seek permission to legally jam wireless cell phones in prisons to stop inmates from organizing crimes from behind bars. This, under a measure recently approved by a Senate committee.

The bipartisan measure is being sponsored by Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas and Maryland's Senator Barbara Mikulski as its Democratic co-sponsor. The Senate Commerce,

Science, and Transportation Committee has endorsed the measure and has now sent it to the full Senate for consideration.

Law enforcement officials nationwide have long called for a change in the current law, which doesn't allow states to interfere with cell phone transmissions. The new legislation would require the FCC to consider all available technologies that could be used to block unauthorized

wireless communications in correctional facilities.

If signed into law, the legislation would allow states to petition the FCC for permission to use wireless cell phone jamming technology. However critics contend that cell phone jamming could interfere with emergency response and legitimate cell phone use near prisons.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1672, Aug. 28 2009

## RADIO SHACK TO BE KNOWN AS THE SHACK

According to Chief Marketing Officer Lee Applbaum, customers, associates and even the investment community have long referred to Radio Shack as "The Shack". So says Applbaum the company has decided to embrace that fact and – in his words not ours – to share it with the

world.

According to Applbaum customers see more of a focus on mobility and wireless products in the new advertising. He says that the company is contemporizing the way it wants people to think of the brand, rather than actually changing the official name of the company.

The word contemporizing does not seem to appear in any dictionary but we did find the words contemporize. It means to give a modern or contemporary character or setting or to update. It also means to place in or regard as belonging to the

—Amateur Radio Newsline,  
Report 1670, Aug. 14 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.

## 911 COMMEMORATION

Mike, W0YR, will once again (as for the past several years) be active as W0YR/911 on September 11th, to honor/commemorate those lives lost in a terrorist attack at the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, and the plane that crashed into a field near Shanksville, PA.

He plans to operate as much of the day as possible.

Mike states, "I just wanted to do it to remind those I work on the air of what this country endured because of hatred — and also remind those who want to minimize it or forget it, that this WAS an Act of Terror and, even though they would like to revise history, the memory of those (among them, two of my friends) who perished on September 11th, 2001, will NEVER be forgotten or sullied."

Mike will be operating CW/RTTY and SSB 10M - 80M on the following frequencies (+/- QRM):

CW: 3519.5, 7019.5, 14019.5, 21019.5, 28085

RTTY: 3985, 7038, 14085, 21085

SSB: 3890, 7128, 14185, 21385, 28385

A special QSL will be issued. QSL via his home callsign.

—from the Internet

## HPM/140 BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION EVENT COMING NEXT MONTH

The Hiram Percy Maxim Birthday celebration is back! This year, the ARRL is honoring the 140th anniversary of the birth of the League's first president and co-founder. Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, was born September 2, 1869 and died February 17, 1936, in a Colorado hospital of complications stemming from a throat infection; his widow died just nine days later.

The operating event is open to all Amateurs, and the goal is straightforward: Find the stations adding /140 to their call signs, and contact as many as possible during the event period, September 2-9. Who is eligible to sign /140? ARRL members who hold ARRL

appointments, ARRL elected volunteers (such as ARRL Directors and Section Managers), ARRL Life Members, ARRL Headquarters staff and VEs, AECs, QSL bureau workers and awards managers (who are ARRL members). The complete list of eligible positions can be found on page 20 of the September 2009 issue of QST.

The Time Period will be 0000 UTC September 2 until 2400 UTC September 9. Please see your QST or the ARRL web site for all rules and regulations.

If you work at least 25 /140 stations, an attractive certificate can be yours! The certificate can be endorsed in incre-

ments of 25 QSOs, up to 100. To receive the award, send in a log extract with the date, time, band, call sign worked and exchange for each /140 contact. Include your name, call sign and address, and tell us how many /140 stations you worked. Mail everything to HPM/140 Celebration, c/o W1AW, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111-1494. You can also send in your entry on a disk or CD in regular text format. All entries must be accompanied by a check or money order for \$5 (US) payable to ARRL. Please make sure your entry is post-marked by October 9, 2009.

—The ARRL Letter Online, Volume 28, Number 33, August 21, 2009

## VANITY CALL SIGN FEES TO INCREASE

On August 11, the FCC announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase \$1.10, from \$12.30 to \$13.40. Now that notice of the increase has been published in the "Federal Register", the increase will take effect in 30 days,

September 10, 2009. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new van-

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

For more information, see the recent ARRLWeb article on the ARRL's web site.

—The ARRL Letter Online, Volume 28, Number 32, August 14, 2009



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



## HPARC SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 5-6 — Shelby Hamfest, Dallas, NC   | 25-26 — Ten-Tec Hamfest                    |
| 7 — LABOR DAY  | 26 — YesterYear In Motion (please confirm) |
| 11 — PATRIOT DAY (in honor of those who<br>lost their lives on Sept. 11, 2001) | 27 — Newsletter deadline                   |
| 12 — Bush Hill Heritage Festival, Archdale                                     | 26 — Everybody's Day, Thomasville, NC      |
| 12-13 — ARRL Sept VHF QSO Party  |  |
| 12-13 — Virginia Beach, VA Hamfest   |  |
| 13 — Grandparent's Day   |  |
| 19 — Day In The Park, High Point, NC   |  |
| 19-20 — ARRL 10-GHz Cumulative Contest   |  |
| 22 — First Day of Fall   |  |

**October HPARC Meeting will be  
October 5, 2009!**

### BIRTHDAYS

Jo Young — September 1  
 Jackie Rogers — September 7

**REMEMBER: There will be NO meeting for the month of September.**

### 2009 HPARC OFFICERS

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