

KINGS POINT AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

More Than 25 Years of Voluntary Emergency Communications Service to Our Community
ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB

Officers

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Antenna Managers

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Jim Malanowski, W3SKI

Weather Station Manager

Alan Blackwell, K9YI

Program Chairman

Mike Burks, KG4TGP
Alan Blackwell, K9YI

KPARC Repeaters

2 Meter

147.090 PL 162.2

70 CM

442.450 PL 162.2

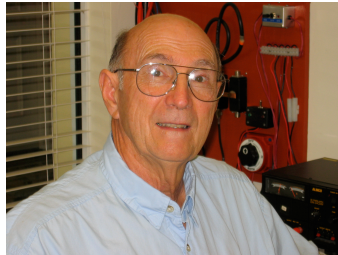
Echo Link Node

311633

Meetings

Second Monday of every
month in the main
clubhouse craft room at
2:00 p.m.

www.kparc.org



Dick Bishop, W4NWD

From The President

Hurricane season 2011 is half over with no major storms hitting the USA. But the most intense months of September and October are still ahead. We, in Sun City Center, have an emergency plan, a few of you may know what is in it, and even fewer really have a plan of what they would do in a real emergency. I recently read the 9-page report of the Joplin, Missouri Medical response to the May 22 tornado. **Everyone** should Google this report and get a feel of reality in such an emergency. Here are a few facts, but the overriding conclusion was that having a plan is minimum. It is the practice (rehearsals) of the plan that will save lives and avoids making a bad situation worse. We do not do enough of this in Hillsborough County.

The Joplin medical facilities had a twenty-four minute warning before the tornado struck. It was an EF-5 (200+ MPH) tornado. The Mercy St. Johns hospital took a direct hit with duration of 45 seconds. There were 160 deaths, 8000 structures and 18,000 vehicles destroyed in the community. Cars were deposited 8 deep in the parking lot. Patients were moved to the hallways, IV stands became missiles and IV were ripped from patients arms. All glass was blown out of outside windows. All written copies of the emergency plan were lost or destroyed; electronic copies were inaccessible due to water damage and lack of power. Emergency power did not come on, but on reassessment it was better not to have power on because ripped out electrical devices, exposed wiring and 4-6" of standing water in the hallways. The report is primarily centered on the medical facility observations and conclusions. It is an eye opener. Project the Joplin situation onto a retirement community such as ours; it makes you want to shake up our emergency preparedness authorities.

Read the report for your own safety and planning, there may be a Q and A at our September meeting. Keep an eye on the weather.

Our KPARC club tracks members using APRS. There are so many ways to report your position available to us that most of our members could be taking advantage of the APRS system. Most of us have: 2 meter radios, iPods, iPhones, cell phones, D-star HT and mobiles Icom, Yeasu and Kenwood HT's, and laptop PC's, all have reporting capability. Think about it and get on board.

Dick, W4NWD



SCC CERT makes Hurricane Preparedness TV Spot

Hurricane preparedness was the topic of a TV interview given by Bill Barron (W1WAB) as part of SCC CERT's continuing community outreach program. Barron reviewed some of the basic steps in preparing your personal emergency plan and actions that you should take to stay safe after a disaster. The interview was conducted by Nicole Sabbatni of the Kings Point Communication staff on August 8.

You can see the TV interview on Channel 96 at Kings Point or via i9nternet streaming video at:

<http://kingspointsuncitycenter.com/communitychannel.html>

The program is the 4th on the list under channel 96

In Memorium

Thomas E Parsons, N8QEW
September 14, 1942
August 18, 2011



Member of Kings Point Amateur Radio Club

**Survived by his wife Barbara and two sons
 Jeffrey & Jonathan**

PLEASE REMOVE THE BATTERIES BEFORE YOU SHIP ANYTHING THAT TICKS

It seems that postal workers noticed a ticking noise coming from a package around 5:30 a.m. Fearing the worst, Portage Police along with the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety's bomb squad were called in to investigate and the Post Office was evacuated.

In this case, authorities were able to get in contact with the owner of the package, who told police that there was nothing more than an electronic metronome inside. Even so, prior to employees being allowed back inside the building, the bomb squad went in and removed the package.

Upon investigation, bomb squad personnel did find nothing more than an electronic metronome inside the package. Postal workers were allowed back into the Post Office just before 8 a.m..

And all this comes with a few words of advice. If you plan to mail a metronome, a clock or anything that makes a ticking noise, take out the batteries before you ship it.

HEATHKIT SAYS IT IS RETURNING TO THE KIT SUPPLY MARKETPLACE

Heathkit says it is re-entering the kit business that it abandoned almost two decades ago. In an announcement posted to its www dot heathkit dot com website, Heathkit Educational Systems which is the current name for the company states that in late August the company will debut its new line of do-it-yourself kits for common around-the-house items.

Don't look for ham radio gear to be a top priority even though the word on the street is that kits for the amateur radio market may be down the pike. Right now the company is starting off with more general interest kits with their first entry being a Garage Parking Assistant or G-P-A for short. The Garage Parking assistant kit lets someone build their own system that uses ultrasonic sound to locate a car as it enters the garage. The system signals to the driver using LED lights mounted on the wall when the car is detected and in the perfect spot for parking. Next on the market will be a Wireless Swimming Pool Monitor kit followed by many more novel items.

For those of you too young to remember, it was on March 30, 1992, that the then managers of Heathkit announced that after some 45 years the company was closing out its kits and leaving the business. In its hey-day, Heathkits were products of the Heath Company of Benton Harbor, Michigan.

Their build it yourself product line included everything from electronic test equipment to high fidelity home audio equipment, television receivers, and of course amateur radio gear. It was the emergence and subsequent domination of the world electronic marketplace by Pacific Rim manufacturers who could produce and market completely assembled equipment at prices far less than Heathkit or anyone else could supply a do it yourself version that led to the demise of names like Eico, Paco, and of course Heathkit.

So why has Heathkit decided to re-enter the kit market? To hazard a guess you have to remember that the current incarnation of Heathkit is an educational materials supplier. As such it has likely taken notice of the burgeoning maker and hacker community. This is an ever expanding group of technology hobbyist's world wide that in recent years has grown into a multi-million dollar business opportunity for those smart enough to recognize it and are ready to fill the void. These are also the people that many believe will be the next generation of technology leaders and radio amateurs.

The Heathkit announcement says nothing about the business rationale for going back into the kit supply business but it does state that the company wants to bring to its customers interesting and unique products. As such it is interested in learning what types of products that kit builders would like to see brought to the marketplace. Anyone interested can submit their suggestions by mail addressed to 2024 Hawthorne Avenue St. Joseph, Michigan, 49085



**Next KPARC Meeting
September 10, 2011
at 2:00 p.m.
Main Clubhouse
Craft Room**