

APRIL 2018

# HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point  
Amateur Radio  
Club



## APRIL MEETING

Tom Evans, N4AU, has a commitment club meeting night, and as such, will not be able to present the program previously planned. Instead, David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, will present a program on Lightning Detection.

Last month David Macchiarolo finished the program on Grounding and Noise Reduction that he started in February. Tom Evans hopes to

be able to present his program "Tom's Software Defined Radios (SDR)" in May.

At the February meeting, the club voted to make Mark McMahan, KB4MFP, trustee for the club's repeaters as well as change the station license address to our club PO Box. David Macchiarolo reports that the changes were filed with W4VEC and the FCC has updated the club's station

license information.

Would you like to be better informed on club activities when you miss a meeting? I have been toying around with the idea of sending club minutes to those who miss our monthly meetings. If you would like to be included on this emailing, please let me know, and I will send you the HPARC minutes each month.

Please be with us for the April HPARC meeting.

## WHY ARRL IS RECOMMENDING ENHANCED HF PRIVILEGES FOR TECHNICIANS

ARRL has asked the FCC to expand HF privileges for the entry-level Technician license to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, and 15 meters, where Technicians already have CW privileges. ARRL believes the additional digital privileges will attract younger people to Amateur Radio.

The proposed additional HF phone privileges are 3.900 to 4.000 MHz, 7.225 to 7.300 MHz, and 21.350 to 21.450 MHz. Technicians already have HF privileges on parts of 10 meters.

Some in the Amateur

Radio community have questioned the need for expanded Technician privileges or to express other perspectives. ARRL has responded to point out some of the key advantages of its petition, which recognizes the tremendous technological advances and changes in Amateur Radio. Some key points:

- A thorough review of operating privileges available to the entry-level license has not taken place since the late 1970s, when the Novice-class license — the entry-level license at that time, and no longer issued — was modified to allow Novices access to a limited portion of 10 meters.

This included the first HF phone privileges for Novices.

- The 2-year process that led to the development of ARRL's petition includes significant input from the Amateur Radio community. The two surveys that the ARRL board's Entry-Level License (ELL) Committee conducted on this issue drew

*Technicians continued inside...*

**HPARC Meeting  
April 2, 2018**

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

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

# HPARC CLUB HISTORY: AN INTRODUCTION

For some time now, I have been thinking about writing some articles on the history of the HPARC.

What qualifies me to tell the history of the HPARC? Well, I am not an original member of the HPARC nor would I consider myself an old-timer. When I joined the club, I was almost immediately voted in as Treasurer. When I went to pick up the old records from the previous Treasurer, he handed me a box with the past two years

all neatly organized. Then he reached behind the door and handed me a shopping bag of mixed-up papers. "Here's what was given me when I became Treasurer. Someone probably ought to throw these away."

Anyone who knows me knows I throw very little away. Over time, I also became President (two different times), Treasurer (again), and a combination of Secretary/Treasurer when the club had trouble filling officer positions.

Each time I gained another

office, I collected more paperwork. I have talked to some of the older members, some of who are now Silent Keys. I may not know the complete history of the HPARC, but I think I know enough to make a good story.

So like my Dad, I will attempt to tell a story. It may not be entirely accurate, but it will be the story as I think I know it.

Next time: just how old is the HPARC? And did you know there were two High Point Amateur Radio Clubs?

## GERMAN AMATEUR'S CALL FOR HELP GOES GLOBAL

Erding Radio Club member, Lothar Fröhlich, whose call signs are DK8LRF and HK3JCL, was on the air from his QTH in Colombia, South America recently talking to friends in New York and Germany, when he heard a voice call out repeatedly.

At first he thought it was someone was trying to break into the QSO but then he realized it was a Ham in distress. He recognized the voice – this was an Amateur in

Dingden on the German-Dutch border, a Ham with whom he enjoys ragchews often. The Ham, who is disabled and relies on a wheelchair, had fallen and was home alone. His radio was on, fortunately with the transmitter in "VOX" mode so his cries activated the microphone. Lothar called for any German Hams who could copy him, asking them to please notify local police. Then, using EchoLink, he reached a repeater in Isen, east of Munich.

A Ham in Eichstätt in Bavaria responded and also called police who responded immediately. Ham Radio had made distance vanish. The Ham in distress was 5 metres from the microphone but his call went through anyway — and those who assisted astounded the police by the fact that the call was started by a Ham in Colombia on the other side of the world.

—*Amateur Radio Newslines*,  
Report 2108,  
March 23, 2018

## MORSE CODE'S A SHOE-IN

Never mind having a good fist to send CW; sometimes what's really needed is a great set of toes. Yes, toes.

At the recent Mobile World Congress showcase in Barcelona, Sierra Wireless unveiled safety boots that are also two-way communications devices. They allow industrial workers who wear them

to transmit distress calls by tapping out Morse-like Codes with their feet.

The footwear, which is outfitted with a SIM card and a wireless module, can also receive messages or reminders sent by the boss. These so-called "smart shoes" emit 80 decibels of sound – and while they're not the latest in fashion, they're

definitely the latest in technology. What that means to their safety-minded wearer is that they do have to gain some fluency in their dots and dashes to make it work. After that, operation is entirely hands-free – except, of course, for putting them on and lacing them up.

—*Amateur Radio Newslines*,  
Report 2106, March 9, 2018

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.

...Technicians continued from cover more than 8,000 responses from ARRL members.

- The 378,000 Technician licensees comprise more than half of the US Amateur Radio population, yet the Technician-class license no longer serves its original purpose from 18 years ago. Many Technicians do not participate actively, pursue on-air and public service opportunities, renew their licenses, or upgrade. An uncomfortably large attrition rate exists among Technician licensees. Technician licenses are not upgrading, because they don't find their operating privileges interesting enough to keep them in the hobby.

- The proposed addition of 275 kilohertz of HF phone privileges, spread across 80,

40, and 15 meters, would allow Technicians the opportunity to develop and expand their understanding of HF propagation. In addition, this proposed change would allow Technician licensees to participate in public service-oriented, emergency, and Section traffic nets on 75 meters, from 3900 to 4000 kHz, where primary state/Section-wide public service activities often take place.

- Additional operating privileges for Technicians will not limit their incentive to upgrade. ARRL points out that Technicians now have access to 850 kilohertz of spectrum in four HF bands. ARRL proposes an additional 275 kilohertz on three of those bands, so the total under this proposal is 1,125 kilohertz on four bands

— 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters.

Compare that to current General-class HF privileges: 3150 kilohertz across nine HF bands — 160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters. In addition, Generals have access to the five 60-meter channels and to the two newest bands, 2200 and 630 meters. The incentive to upgrade from Technician to General is a tripling of the available HF spectrum; upgrading to General allows access to eight additional bands, including the prime daytime bands of 20 and 17 meters. Also, Technicians upgrading to General or higher are permitted the maximum Amateur power level of 1500 W PEP.

—*The ARRL Letter*,

March 15, 2018

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

## AT 8, SHE'S LICENSED TO LOVE RADIO

Seeing a pony-tailed second grader holding a directional antenna towards the sky is not exactly what you'd expect. But then Lacy Beckett W4LCY is not what you'd expect in a Ham, either. This eight year old resident of Blacksburg, Virginia was shown demonstrating satellite-antenna-technique in an article in the Radford Virginia News Journal shortly after she acquired her Technician license this past January.

But if you think that's an accomplishment—wait! Lacy just upgraded to General two weeks ago. Her aunt and uncle drove her to Charleston, West Virginia—a 2-1/2 hour ride—for the VE test session.

Lacy told how her uncle Malcolm NB3T, and Aunt Jessica KW4GH, both Extra

Class operators, helped her get interested in Ham Radio.

“We were going out and we were working the satellites and I wanted to do it by myself, so I decided that I wanted to go and get my license and I just wanted to use my own call sign and do it myself. I wanted to go on the ISS when I grow up and I thought it would be cool to talk to the ISS now.”

“And why did you decide to upgrade to General so quickly?”

“If I got my General, I could just be on the big radio!”

“I understand you're now studying Morse Code?”

“Morse Code is really fun. It's just pressing buttons. I probably shouldn't be pressing buttons, but who cares!”

“So Lacy, how would you

explain Ham Radio to someone?”

“The way I would explain it is you have hard work at first but then after you pass the test, you get your license and then you can talk on the radio. It's just like that!”

“So are you going to upgrade to Extra soon?”

“I might do it later.”

“But not next month?”

“Probably not!”

“And what's your favorite part of Ham Radio?”

“Field Day. That's what's my favorite part of the summer. Well, maybe the pool is!”

“We can tell you, Lacy—pool or not—you've made a big splash in Ham Radio!”

—*Amateur Radio Newslines*,

Report 2107,

March 16, 2018,

Jim Damron, N8TMW



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

## HPARC APRIL CALENDAR

**March 31** — Raleigh Hamfest  
**1** — **EASTER**  
**1** — **April Fool's Day**  
**2** — **HPARC Club Meeting**  
14-18 — HP Furniture Market  
15 — ARRL Rookie Roundup – Phone  
21 — Catawba Valley Hamfest,  
Morganton, NC  
22 — **EARTH DAY**  
25 — Administrative Professionals' Day

27 — National Arbor Day  
28 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline

### BIRTHDAYS

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

### 2018 HPARC OFFICERS

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