

FEBRUARY 2019

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point
Amateur Radio
Club



FEBRUARY MEETING

The HPARC will meet again at the Moose Cafe at the Piedmont Farmers' Market for the February meeting. We didn't make a decision in January whether to make this our new meeting place. We would like your input.

I haven't heard if we will have a program at the February meeting. Dan Bly is appointing chairmen, and I don't know if someone has

been picked for this committee as yet.

**New Meeting Location:
Moose Cafe
2914 Sandy Ridge Road
Colfax, NC**

If you haven't been getting your newsletter, I would like to hear from you. It is a strange request if you are reading this, but some of you download the

newsletter from the web if you don't receive it via email. Some members have been missing the email edition lately probably due to the way I email the newsletter. I really would like to get this straight, and please accept my apologies if you have been missed recently.

The HPARC is slowly adding new members. We would like to see you all at the meeting. Hope you can make it.

AMATEUR RADIO APPLICATIONS PILED UP AS PARTIAL SHUTDOWN CONTINUED

[Editor's note: as of January 28, 2019, according to the FCC's web page the FCC has resumed all operations since the partial funding lapse has ended.]

The FCC closed most operations on January 3, when available funding ran out due to the government shutdown. According to the FCC public notice, aside from a few emergency and auction-filing systems, all other Commission electronic filing systems were unavailable to the public until normal agency operations resumed.

In the meantime, Volunteer Examiner Coordinators across the US were continuing to receive and file paperwork from Amateur Radio exam

sessions held during the partial government shutdown. Approximately 1,600 applications and 125 exam sessions were sent and were waiting to be processed as of January 24 according to the ARRL Letter. This number undoubtedly increased over the weekend with exam sessions around the nation being held.

Although the government has temporarily reopened and the FCC is back at work, it goes without saying that they have a lot of catching up to do. FCC Amateur Radio licensees who have successfully upgraded and hold a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination

(CSCE) may operate temporarily using the privileges of their new license class, until their new licenses are granted. New licensees will have to wait until the FCC issues a new license.

—Information obtained from *The ARRL Letter*, January 24, 2019
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

**HPARC Meeting
February 4, 2019**

**Moose Cafe,
2914 Sandy Ridge Road,
Colfax, NC**

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

HPARC HISTORY – NEWSLETTER

In researching the history of the HPARC, I have discovered something about the HPARC Newsletter. Actually, about myself. I been editor of the HPARC Newsletter since 1989. That means this year marks my 30th year as newsletter editor (do the math). Wow! I don't know if I should be sorry for myself or for you the reader.

Strangely enough, the newsletter editor is not mentioned in our Constitution or By-Laws (maybe it should be). Newsletter is not an office nor a committee. It is not mentioned as a responsibility of any officer or committee chair. The closest the newsletter comes to being mentioned in our By-Laws is stating that the selections of the Nominating Committee are to be posted in the "bulletin" prior to the meeting in November and December.

At one time the HPARC President took on the function of sending out a newsletter

each month. Mostly the newsletter was a single sheet of paper. In 1987 Becky Davis, KB4VGF, took on the role of the newsletter editor for two years. After Becky stepped down as editor, I decided to give it a try. The rest, as they say, is history.

My first edition of the HPARC Newsletter was composed on a Commodore 64 and printed on a dot matrix printer (anyone remember these?). Articles were printed individually and cut out to strip onto a full sheet of 8-1/2 x 11 paper. These would be then taken to the copy store, taped together to make a 11 x 17 copy, cut line removed with white-out (do they still make this?) to make the "master copy" and the newsletter would be printed from this. The Newsletter was no longer sent as a single sheet in an envelope.

In December 1992, everything migrated to a Macintosh computer. There have been

"tweaks" over the years to make what you see now. Eventually I bought a large format printer and did away with the copy store. No longer did I have to tape letter size sheets together to make a "master." The Newsletter was printed to tabloid size paper.

In January 2005, the Newsletter was sent as text via email. It would change to a PDF attachment in an email in February 2005. Currently, we email 10 times as many HPARC Newsletters as we mail via the Post Office (which saves the club money).

Is it time for me to step down as Newsletter Editor? After all, 30 years is a long time. (Side note: I started as editor when I was 10 years old, LOL.) I always scare members when I threaten to resign as newsletter editor. But some day, someone will want to put their spin on the HPARC Newsletter. Maybe you?

HORROR FILMS AND HTs, THEY GO TOGETHER

Amateur Radio may not necessarily get top billing in every movie by Peter Vekinis (Vuh-KINNIS) but it certainly finds its way into the supporting cast. Peter, whose call signs are KH6VP and LX1QF, is executive producer of the psychological horror film "Infernum" which will be released sometime this year. Hams in the audience will be pleased to see scenes featur-

ing the Icom D5100 mobile radio and the Icom D51 HT, especially as the heroine, a young sculptor named Camille, makes use of radio to call for help. Icom donated the rigs.

Peter told Newsline that his previous movie, "The Dark Hand," is even more infused with Amateur elements. In this dark thriller, HTs and HF radios figure prominently as a

brother searching for his long-lost sibling discovers a conspiracy of people involved in depleting the earth of its oxygen. They use – what else? – Amateur Radio to communicate.

"Infernum," which was shot in Nevada, is due for release sometime this year.

—*Amateur Radio Newsline*,
Report 2151,
January 18 2019

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@arrrl.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.

NEW ARRL CEO WANTS TO “START A CONVERSATION”

In his first appearance at a Ham Radio event, ARRL CEO Howard Michel, WB2ITX, told Ham Radio University 2019 attendees on January 5 that he was there to initiate a dialogue on what will make ARRL more successful in its missions amid a changing Amateur Radio environment. Michel became ARRL CEO about 3 months ago.

“What I’m here for is to start a conversation,” Michel told his audience at New York’s Long Island University. “I’m starting conversations everywhere I go to find out, by talking to people, what’s really important.”

In his view, Michel said, ARRL is a membership organization, a business, and a 501(c)(3) public charity that exists for the public good. “All three of those must exist in balance,” he said, adding that the balance has been lost. He said changes need to be made in how ARRL is organized and how it operates, and he made

clear during the post-presentation Q&A that he sees himself as an agent of change.

In terms of a membership organization, Michel said ARRL’s some 157,000 members, local clubs, and Headquarters staffers should form a three-way partnership, but, he conceded, that the links among those components “are shaky at times,” due to a lack of understanding and differing expectations.

ARRL membership is falling behind in terms of a percentage of licensees. “We need to turn that around,” Michel said.

In terms of numbers, out of some 30,000 new licensees each year, some 17 - 18% join ARRL, and after 1 year, 61% remain. “Why are we not getting 100% of those new Hams?” Michel said. Michel said their lack of interest in joining ARRL suggests “something is wrong in the value proposition.”

Active Radio Amateurs are

33% more likely to join ARRL, Michel pointed out. He said a significant majority of non-member Technician licensees have indicated they would like training and support for newcomers, courses for licensing and practical radio operating, training for public service and disaster communication volunteers, and continuing education on technical topics and “online live help” to learn more about ARRL and Ham Radio.

“We’ve got them through the test to get their license, and then we’ve dropped them,” Michel said. “We’ve got to fix that.”

“Let’s think about an average person with some kinds of traits and how you market material to them,” Michel proposed. “I’m trying to start a conversation with everybody about how to start something new.”

—*The ARRL Letter*,
January 24, 2019

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

QSL CARD IS IN THE MAIL – EVENTUALLY

It pays to send those QSL cards, even if it takes a while. Even if it takes 24 years – the time that elapsed between the New Year’s Day QSO in 1995 between Doug Grant K1DG and John Fulton N9NJX on 20 meters – and the New Years arrival this year of Doug’s card.

John had worked Doug’s station during a 50-year anniversary celebration for CQ Magazine. As the author of a now-out-of-print almanac for CQ, Doug had been part of the coveted group of “CQ Family” operators being chased and he had been using the call sign K1DG/50.”

Doug told Newsline recently that the event was “fun with some nice pileups.” Not long after the event, however, another pileup appeared — the QSL cards that went unanswered after the special event ended and Doug ran out of cards.

N9NJX’s card went into a shoebox with others earmarked as “cards to be answered” someday. Doug said however that “Someday never came,” despite his practice of always answering cards as an active contester.

The shoebox eventually surfaced after Doug and his wife moved. He said “I felt guilty

about having not answered them so I worked my way through the pile.”

John, who recently returned to Ham Radio after taking a break, posted his New Year’s treasure on Facebook saying its arrival initially baffled him because he hasn’t yet put an antenna back up. Doug, meanwhile, told Newsline: “My conscience is clear.” His schedule unfortunately is not: Doug’s next project is following up on QSLs for DXCC band-entities, including for QSOs from the 90s or before.

—*Amateur Radio Newsline*,
Report 2150, Jan. 11, 2019



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

HPARC FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 — Straight Key Night | 22 — Washington's Birthday |
| 2 — GROUNDHOG DAY | 23 — W4VEC High Point session (Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, Fellowship Bldg) |
| 2 — Richmond, VA Frostfest | 24 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline |
| 3 — Super Bowl Sunday | |
| 4 — HPARC Club Meeting | |
| 5 — ARRL Kid's Day | |
| 5-6 — ARRL RTTY Roundup | |
| 12 — Lincoln's Birthday | |
| 14 — VALENTINE'S DAY | |
| 18 — PRESIDENT'S DAY | |
| 19-21 — ARRL January VHF | |

BIRTHDAYS

Mark McMahan — February 7

For W4VEC Test information, call or email David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, (336) 420-9424, aj4tf@arrl.net

2019 HPARC OFFICERS

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Breakfast
every Saturday
 —
8:00 a.m.
 —
Biscuitville,
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