

APRIL 2019

# HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point  
Amateur Radio  
Club



## MARCH MEETING

Last month's program was the History of Ham Radio Part 1. Lacey Armistead, our new program chairman, gave the program with a promise to continue with Part 2 sometime in the near future.

For April, the program will be presented by Bob McClellan on "Homebrewing: Engineering

for Ham Radio Operator.:

**Meeting Location:**  
**Rancho's**  
**10463 North Main Road**  
**Archdale, NC**

We will once again be meeting at Rancho's in Archdale for the April meeting. Hopefully

things will work out, and we can continue meeting at this location.

Welcome our newest HPARC members: Peter Kapetanakis who joined in January, Brian Simpson who joined in February, and Luis Vazquez who joined in March. Make these Hams feel right at home.

## TWO "ENTRY-LEVEL" PETITIONS ARE VERY DIFFERENT

The FCC recently invited public comment on ARRL's 2018 Technician Enhancement Petition for Rule Making (RM-11828). It asks the FCC to expand HF privileges for Technician licensees to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. It does not seek to create a new Amateur Radio license class.

Specifically, ARRL proposes to provide present and future Technicians with phone privileges at 3.900 to 4.000 MHz, 7.225 to 7.300 MHz, and 21.350 to 21.450 MHz, and with RTTY and digital privileges in current Technician allocations on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters.

The FCC has also invited public comment on an entirely

unrelated Petition for Rule Making (RM-11829), filed in 2017 by ARRL member Gary A. Hampton, AD0WU, of Longmont, Colorado. Hampton has asked the FCC to create a new "Tyro" entry-level license class, which would require a minimal online examination as well as mentoring by an Amateur Radio licensee of Technician class or higher. Tyro licensees would have to be at least 11 years old and would earn operating privileges on 99 channels in a 70-centimeter segment that Hampton calls a "TyroSubBand." It would offer no HF privileges.

These are not competing petitions. Members of the Amateur Radio community should evaluate both proposals on their own merits and

comment if they desire. ARRL has provided a summary of the Technician Enhancement proposals and explained their advantages.

Interested parties have 30 days to comment on both proposals. For information on how to file comments, visit "How to Comment on FCC Proceedings."

—*The ARRL Letter*,

March 21, 2019

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

**HPARC Meeting**  
**April 1, 2018**

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

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

# HPARC HISTORY – VOTING ON NEW MEMBERS

Why is it when anybody applies for membership in the HPARC there is at least one “no” vote on membership?

Years ago, Lomer McMahan, WA4RIS, was membership chairman. Lomer was a bit of a character, you might say. He had a dry humor. He would bring a prospective member application to the club at a meeting. Then when it came time for a vote, he would vote against that person (always with that smirky smile).

Lomer became a Silent Key in May of 1993. He was very active in the HPARC.

At the first meeting after Lomer’s passing where we had someone apply for membership, three members voted against membership. (One of these days I am going to look to see if we have on record who that unfortunate soul was).

As Lomer’s son, I have carried on that tradition. Although not the membership chairman, I have voted

against every member who has joined in the last 30 years. Oh, except for that brief time a few years ago when they made me President of the HPARC. A more than 30 year old tradition was broken when we actually voted on a member with no one objecting. (Still haven’t forgotten that.)

So, don’t be offended if your application for membership is voted against by one (or more) members in the HPARC. It is just tradition.

## RILEY HOLLINGSWORTH TO OVERSEE VOLUNTEER MONITORS DEVELOPMENT

Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, will oversee the development and implementation phases of ARRL’s new Volunteer Monitors (VM) program, which will replace the Official Observers (OO) program. Hollingsworth, who once handled Amateur Radio enforcement for the FCC, has stepped down as ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest. The development phase of the program is already under way.

Approved by the ARRL Board of Directors last July, the Volunteer Monitors will work in cooperation with the FCC. Volunteers trained and vetted by ARRL will monitor the Amateur bands for possible instances of misconduct or to recognize exemplary on-air

operation. Cases of flagrant violations or noncompliance will be directed to the FCC for action, in accordance with FCC guidelines. The program, which aims to re-energize Amateur Radio enforcement efforts, was proposed by the FCC following the closure of several FCC regional offices and reductions in field staff.

Hollingsworth has identified three phases to the program – development, solicitation and training, and implementation. The development phase will include drafting a mission statement, clearly defining ARRL’s and the FCC’s requirements and needs as part of the program, drafting a Volunteer Manager job description, and developing a training manual for volunteers.

The solicitation and train-

ing phase will involve identifying the geographical locations where volunteer monitors will be most needed, soliciting applications, and screening applicants. Current Official Observers will be invited to apply for appointment as Volunteer Monitors (VMs).

Implementation will involve having the volunteers provide field reports, and ARRL staff offering guidance to volunteers to ensure that the information gathered meets FCC requirements. Continuing education will be provided to the volunteers as part of the program.

ARRL officials estimate that it will take 9 - 12 months before the first Volunteer Monitors begin filing reports.

—*The ARRL Letter*,  
February 14, 2019

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

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.

# NEW ARRL PODCAST GEARED TOWARD NEWCOMERS TO AMATEUR RADIO DEBUTS

A new ARRL podcast aimed newcomers to Amateur Radio will launch on Thursday, March 7. Called, "So Now What?," the podcast will alternate new-episode weeks with the "ARRL The Doctor is In" podcast. "So Now What?" will focus on answering questions and providing support and encouragement for new licensees to get the most out of the hobby. Co-hosting "So Now What?" will be ARRL Communications Content Producer Michelle Patnode, W3MVP, and W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q. The podcast will explore questions that newer Hams may have and the issues that keep

newcomers from remaining active.

"No other podcast is really aimed at this segment of the Amateur Radio community... that is being underserved, that is not getting the answers to the many questions they have," said ARRL Communications Manager David Isgur, N1RSN, who will serve as the podcast's executive producer.

"So Now What?" will be sponsored by LDG Electronics.

Topics to be discussed in the first several episodes include getting started, operating modes available to Technician licensees, VEC

and licensing issues, sunspots and propagation, mobile operating, contesting, Amateur Radio in pop culture, and perceptions of Technician license holders.

As with "ARRL The Doctor is In," listeners will be able to find "So Now What?" on Apple iTunes, Blubrry, or Stitcher (free registration required, or browse the site as a guest) and through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle, or Android devices...or wherever you get your podcasts. Episodes will also be archived on the ARRL website.

—*The ARRL Letter*,

March 7, 2019

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

## "LAST MAN STANDING" HAS ONE MORE HAM

Congratulations to Jet Jurgensmeyer of the American TV sitcom "Last Man Standing" who recently passed his license exam. The

teenager plays the grandson of the show's lead character Mike Baxter who has the imaginary call sign KA0XTT. Actor Tim Allen, who plays Mike, has the

real-life call sign KK6OTD. Jet is awaiting word of his.

—*Amateur Radio Newsline*,

Report 2159,

March 15, 2019

## GPS NETWORK MAY EXPERIENCE ERRORS IN "WEEK NUMBER" ROLLBACK

The GPS network will encounter a small millennium bug of its own in April when the network's "week number" rolls back to zero. This known issue especially could affect those who use GPS to obtain accurate Coordinated Universal Time (i.e., UTC). In the GPS network, the number of the current week is encoded into the message the GPS receives using a 10-bit field. This allows for weeks ranging from zero to 1023. The cur-

rent period began on August 1, 1999. On April 6, 2019, the week number rolls over to zero and starts counting back up to 1023.

This should not affect later-model GPS receivers that conform to IS-GPS-200 and provide UTC, but testing carried out by the US Department for Homeland Security (DHS) raised the possibility that some units may misinterpret the roll-over, shifting the date back to January 6, 1980, or possibly

to another incorrect date. An affected GPS not only may report the incorrect date, but time accuracy that is critical to precise location data could be compromised. A nanosecond error in GPS time can equate to 1 foot of position (ranging) error, according to DHS-published guidelines that explain the issue and suggest how to address it.

—*The ARRL Letter*,

March 7, 2019

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME,  
Editor



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

## HPARC APRIL CALENDAR

- 1 — **April Fool's Day**
- 1 — **HPARC Club Meeting**
- 6-10 — HP Furniture Market
- 6 — Kinston, NC Hamfest
- 14 — ARRL Rookie Roundup – Phone
- 20 — Raleigh Hamfest
- 21 — **EASTER**
- 27 — Catawba Valley Hamfest,  
Morganton, NC
- 22 — **EARTH DAY**
- 24 — Administrative Professionals' Day

- 26 — National Arbor Day
- 27 — W4VEC High Point session (Hickory  
Chapel Wesleyan Church, Fellowship Bldg)
- 28 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline

### BIRTHDAYS

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

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

### 2019 HPARC OFFICERS

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**Breakfast  
every Saturday**

—  
**8:00 a.m.**

—  
**Biscuitville,  
2709 S. Main St.**