

MARCH 2020

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point
Amateur Radio
Club



MARCH MEETING

We had close to 30 people at the February meeting. It is great to see so many come out to the meeting. Tom Bertolino, KB1P, HPARC Vice President, was the moderator for the February meeting and did an excellent job. Tom is putting together the PowerPoint presentations for the business meetings. Thanks, Tom.

At the March meeting, Derek Brown, WF4I, will give a presentation on QRP, low power operation.

For February, David gave an update on FT8 digital mode.

Two more members joined the HPARC at the February meet-

ing. They are Keith Thomas, KA4JAH of Kernersville and Phil Mansfield, KN4VQE of Greensboro. Please make these Hams feel welcome.

Bryan Simpson, W4RIP, upgraded to Extra Class at the Greensboro VEC testing session on February 8. Congratulations, Bryan.

Tom Evans, Education Chairman, asked the club to think about what programs/educational activities they would like to see. The Education committee will work with the Program committee to bring these activities to the meetings.

Please contact Tom with your ideas or email a HPARC officer, and we will forward your ideas to Tom. Thank you.

Just a reminder: when you go through the line at J&S Cafeteria for the club meeting, please tell the cashier that you are with the radio club. This helps club towards keeping the room. Thanks.

Our new meeting location is great. It is quiet, and our presentations are displayed on a large screen TV. If you haven't done so yet, make a point to attend the meeting. Look forward to seeing you there.

UNDERSEA EXPEDITION PLANNED TO RETRIEVE TITANIC'S RADIO GEAR

The company with sole rights to salvage artifacts from the RMS Titanic has gone to court to gain permission to carry out a "surgical removal and retrieval" of the Marconi radio equipment on the ship, a Washington Post article reports. The Titanic sank in 1912 on its maiden voyage after striking an iceberg in the North Atlantic. As the radio room filled with water, radio operator Jack Phillips transmitted, "Come at once. We have struck a berg. It's a CQD, old man," and other frantic messages for help, using the spark

transmitter on board. CQD was ultimately replaced with SOS — which Phillips also used — as the universal distress call. The passenger liner RMS Carpathia responded and rescued 705 of the passengers.

As might be expected, the deteriorating Marconi equipment is in poor shape after more than a century under water. The undersea retrieval would mark the first time an artifact was collected from within the Titanic, which many believe should remain undisturbed as the final resting place of some

1,500 victims of the maritime disaster, including Phillips. The wreck sits on the ocean floor some 2 1/2 miles beneath the surface, remaining undiscovered until 1985.

Titanic continued inside...

HPARC Meeting March 2, 2020

J&S Cafeteria,
5835 Samet Drive,
High Point, NC

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

NEW AMATEUR EXTRA CLASS QUESTION POOL RELEASED

The new Amateur Extra-class license examination question pool, effective from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2024, has been released and is available at the National Conference of Volunteer Coordinators (NCVEC) website.

The 2020 – 2024 Extra-class pool incorporates significant changes compared to the current 2016 – 2020 question pool,

which expires on June 30. The number of questions in the pool was reduced from 712 to 622. The result was 239 modified questions, 49 new questions, and 139 questions removed due to changes in what was felt to be an abundance of outdated questions, while areas of new technology and subjects were added.

In addition, an effort was made to balance the difficulty

level, removing or replacing some questions deemed too easy or too difficult compared to the rest of the pool.

The 2020 pool has 10 diagrams, which have been renumbered because the new question pool has two fewer than the 2016 question pool.

—*The ARRL Letter*,
January 30, 2020

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

MOTOROLA WINS \$765 MILLION IN LAWSUIT AGAINST HYTERA

A jury in Chicago has awarded Motorola \$765 million in the company's lawsuit against Hytera Communications Corporation. The award, announced on Friday February 14th, is the full amount the company had been seeking and includes \$345.8 million in compensatory damages and \$418.8 million in punitive damages. Motorola claimed the Chinese company stole its trade secrets along with its copyrighted source code for the manufacture of its digital two-way radios. Its

original complaint was filed in March 2017.

Hytera attorneys said they plan to appeal. The Chinese company filed an anti-trust lawsuit against Motorola in December 2017, accusing Motorola in driving out the competition in the DMR marketplace. Hytera, a former distributor of Motorola radios, has acknowledged hiring engineers who formerly worked there. Hytera has said however it developed its radios independently.

Meanwhile, Motorola's attor-

neys have vowed to seek an order halting sale of Hytera radios in the United States. The company is also planning to ask for a worldwide injunction preventing Hytera from further copyright infringement and use of stolen trade secrets.

Motorola Solutions also has a patent-infringement case pending against Hytera. That trial is expected to commence later this year or early next year.

—*Amateur Radio Newsline*,
Report 2208,
February 21, 2020

2020 HPARC COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

List of HPARC Committees along with the members of that committee (chairmen listed first).

Education: Tom Evans, NA4U; David Macchiarolo; Mike Cumbo

Finance: Warren Gallemore, KA4LOQ; Lacey Armistead; Art Johnson

Membership: Cliff Scronce, KC4ANQ; Lon Cecil; Mike Cumbo; Art Johnson

House: Bob Witt, KN4LMH; Lacey Armistead;

George McCormick

Program: David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF; Derek Brown; Gordon Saunders

Publicity: George McCormick, KN4JPB; Bob Witt; Lacey Armistead

Repeater: Lon Cecil, AA4LC; David Macchiarolo; Mark McMahan

Special Activities: David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF; Mark Pegram; Camille Taylor

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 6:00 p.m. at a local restaurant announced in the newsletter. The business meeting starts at 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.

...*Titanic continued from cover*

A just-signed treaty between the UK and the US grants both countries authority to allow or deny access to the wreck and to remove items found outside the vessel. "This momentous agreement with the United States to preserve the wreck means it will be treated with the sensitivity and respect owed to the

final resting place of more than 1,500 lives," British Transport and Maritime Minister Nusrat Ghani said in a statement.

The request to enter the rapidly disintegrating wreck was filed in US District Court in Eastern Virginia by RMS Titanic, Inc. of Atlanta, Georgia, which said that it hopes to restore the Titanic radio trans-

mitter to operating condition, if it is allowed to go forward.

The company plans to use a manned submarine to reach the wreck and then deploy a remotely controlled sub that would perforate the hull and retrieve the radio equipment.

—*The ARRL Letter*,

February 6, 2020

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

AMSAT'S OSCAR 85 REACHES END OF ITS MISSION

While satellite optimists still believe its life may not be over completely, AMSAT reports that it believes AO-85's batteries have deteriorated and can no longer power

its transmitter. According to Drew Glasbrenner KO4MA, AMSAT's vice president for operations, the first AMSAT cubesat is officially at the end of its mission. He noted:

"Should some future event cause a cell to open, it is possible the satellite may be heard again."

—*Amateur Radio Newsline*,

Report 2208, Feb. 21, 2020

FREE PUBLIC SKYWARN WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING

High Point 911 will be hosting a free public SKYWARN Weather Spotter certification course on Friday (March 20th) at 6:30 PM EST. The class will be free of charge and open to the public. It will be presented by the National

Weather Service and should last approximately 2.5 to 3 hours in total.

The class will be held at City Hall (211 S. Hamilton St) in the council chambers and will start promptly at 6:30 PM EST so that we can get through the

program as scheduled. If you are interested in attending this course, please send an email to Tyler Hilton who is with our departments Community Engagement Unit at Tyler.Hilton@HighPointNC.gov.

—High Point 911 Facebook page

US MARINES SPONSOR HAM RADIO LICENSING COURSE

US Marines with Information Group II Marine Expeditionary Force (II MIG) participated in an Amateur Radio General licensing course. The course was conducted on base January 27 – 31 as part of the group's High Frequency Auxiliary Initiative.

Members of the Brightleaf Amateur Radio Club of Greenville, North Carolina, helped the Marines in the class learn the principles of HF radio operations as a contingency against a peer-to-peer adversary in real-world operations. During

the course, Marines learned Ham Radio theory, band allocations, conventional and field-expedient antenna theory, and general Ham Radio operation and control.

II MIG Commanding Officer Colonel Jordan Walzer created the High Frequency Auxiliary Initiative after recognizing the need for additional options in combat environments. "Right now, our adversaries are aggressively pursuing counter-space weapons to target our satellites and ground stations," Walzer is quoted in the article. "If our

satellites get knocked out, what do we do then? [High frequency] radio has been around for well over a century and is still used today. Why? Because it's a reliable, low-cost alternative to satellite communications.

"With the right training and education, a Marine with a radio and some slash wire can communicate over-the-horizon for long distances, even between continents."

—*The ARRL Letter*,

February 13, 2020

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.



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

HPARC MARCH CALENDAR

- 3 — HPARC Club Meeting**
- 7-8 — ARRL International DX Contest,
phone
- 8 — Daylight Savings Time begins**
- 13-14 — Charlotte Hamfest
(Cabarrus Arena)
- 17 — St. Patrick's Day**
- 19 — First Day of Spring
- 28 — W4VEC High Point session (Hickory
Chapel Wesleyan Church, Fellowship Bldg)
- 29 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline

BIRTHDAYS

Art Johnson — March 27

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

2020 HPARC OFFICERS

Mark McMahan — President — 336-887-3039 — kb4mfp@arrl.net
 Tom Bertolino — Vice-President — 781-608-6186 — kb1p@arrl.net
 David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF — Secretary — 336-869-2894 — aj4tf@arrl.net
 Warren Gallemore, KA4LOQ — Treasurer — 336-883-4944 — warreng960@mac.com
 Newsletter Editor — Mark McMahan — 336-887-3039 — kb4mfp@arrl.net
 HPARC — www.w4ua.org — w4ua@arrl.net — 147.165 (67 Hz Tone) — 443.900

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