

JULY 2020

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point
Amateur Radio
Club



JULY MEETING

With Phase II of our governor's plan being extended, we will once again have to have our HPARC meeting via Zoom. David Macchiarolo serves as the host for the Zoom meetings, and he sends out invitations to those meetings. If you would like to join us for the July meeting, please contact David via email (listed under officers in this newsletter). Members will automatically be sent an invitation.

For July, David will recap the events of the weekend for our "non-contest contest" that some

people call Field Day. Since it is not a contest, we won't be sending in scores will we David?

Of course last month we also discussed preparations for Field Day. We had about 20 in our Zoom meeting.

If you are having trouble getting into our meetings using Zoom, please reach out to David or one of the officers so we can help you join us in the meetings.

If you operated from your home this year using the exchange to give the HPARC credit, please let David Macchiarolo know so that

he can direct you on how to fill in your report to the ARRL. This is so your score will be included in the aggregate score this year under the HPARC.

Mark Pegram, KX4PZ, has graciously made call sign badges for each of the HPARC members. Thanks, Mark

Just a reminder again: if you plan to send dues to the club, please send them directly to our treasurer.

Hope to have a face-to-face meeting in August. We will see what happens and let you know.

WELCOMING SOLAR CYCLE 25 - AT LAST

After nearly a decade of waiting for astronaut launches to return to American soil, SpaceX successfully launched astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley into orbit on the 30th of May 2020. The flight which lasted 19 hours in the newly christened Dragon Ship Endeavor before it docked with the International Space Station has quickly become known as the moment we ushered in a new era of human spaceflight. Not since 1969 have we seen a rocket launch this anticipated.

But the astronauts were not the only ones making history. Just a day prior our sun decided it was time to wake up from

its long slumber and remind humanity to always check the weather before flying - the space weather, that is.

With almost no warning, it launched the first two big solar flares of the new solar cycle on May 29th, 2020 less than one day before the launch.

Welcome to Solar Cycle 25. Luckily for the astronauts the sun's solar flare radio bursts only lasted for a few hours and then as if in anticipation, the sun quieted down for the final countdown. The rest, as they say, is history.

Of course most will remember this week as the moment we returned the power of human

spaceflight to American soil. But Amateur Radio operators, with a nod and a wink, will always know that our sun celebrated right along with us in its own unique way.

—*Amateur Radio Newsline*,
Report 2224,
June 12, 2020

HPARC Meeting

July 6, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Meeting to be held on Zoom.

Contact David Macchiarolo
for invitation email.

FIELD DAY 2020

First Field Day in quite a while that we didn't have to run for cover because of the rain. We did get a little sprinkle on Sunday morning, but nothing to worry about. The weather was almost perfect. Just a little hot and humid.

Attendance was very good for the circumstances. We had plenty of operators, which is always a good thing. We had a fair number show up for the cookout. And we had at least one station manned by Mike Cumbo

and Derek Brown that stayed on CW for most of the event (double points don't you know.) With the bonus points we worked on, our score may top last year.

But as we all know, Field Day is not a contest. So we won't be sending in our scores will we David? (You bet your shoe laces we will be sending in our score.)

If you operated from home with credit being given to the High Point Amateur Radio Club as was outlined in an earlier email, please reach out to David to make

sure the club gets proper credit when you send in your scores. Aggregate scores will be listed in QST in the December issue.

A special thanks goes out to the Moore family for allowing us to use their property once again this year. This site could not be more perfect for Field Day. And thanks to everyone who showed up and helped before, during and after the event. Field Day is a lot of work, and we cannot do it without the help of the members. Thanks everyone.

HAM EXAMS STARTING UP AGAIN

David Macchiarolo, AF4TF, is starting Amateur Radio exams again on a limited basis. All candidates who are interested in testing should contact David first before planning to attend <aj4tf@arrl.net>.

The next test session will

be July 11, 2020 at Hinshaw United Methodist Church in Greensboro. The High Point session is scheduled for July 25, 2020 at Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church.

The first VE exam to be given since February was recently

held in Greensboro on June 13. Seven candidates showed up. Everyone was required to wear a mask and social distancing was in order. The exams were moved outside to a shelter. All seven passed their initial exams with one passing an additional exam.

2-METER AND 6-METER SSB

Keith Thomas, KA4JAH, is hosting a 2-meter single side-band (SSB) activity. They are meeting on Thursday nights

at 9:00 p.m. on 144.200 MHz (2-meters) and on Sunday nights at 8:30 p.m. on 50.155 MHz (6-meters).

Those Hams who have 2-meter and 6-meter side-band capabilities are welcome to join.

RADIO AMATEUR CALL FOR HELP ACROSS ATLANTIC

A Radio Amateur's call for help was relayed from across the Atlantic. When Richard Tashner, N2EO, of Massapequa, New York, suffered a medical emergency on May 18, his DMR portable was closer than his phone. His call for help was answered by Maxis Johnston, GM0MRJ, who put out a call for "anyone in the States." Kent County Amateur Radio Club

member Ken Dix, KB2KBD, in Delaware heard the call on the local 146.91 MHz repeater, which was linked to the North American talk group. Dix called authorities in Tashner's vicinity, and help was dispatched. Dix said the dispatcher in New York was able to hear part of the call and was amazed at how an Amateur Radio communication had gone from New York

to Scotland to Delaware and then back to New York. The dispatcher expressed surprise at how quickly the information had been relayed across the Atlantic. — Thanks to the ARES E-Letter via Jerry Palmer, N3KRX

—*The ARRL Letter*,

June 25, 2020

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME,
Editor

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.

RESCUED RADIO AMATEUR SAYS, “HAM RADIO SAVED MY LIFE”

Alden Sumner Jones IV, KC1JWR, of Bennington, Vermont, is thankful for Amateur Radio, after he suffered a medical incident and lost consciousness on June 15 while hiking with others along a remote section of the Long Trail, not far from his home. An EMT from Appalachian Mountain Rescue (AMR), who was hiking nearby, saw Jones pass out, but was unable to connect with 911 via his cell phone. Jones, 41, regained consciousness and was successful in contacting Ron Wonderlick, AG1W, via the Northern Berkshire Amateur Radio Club's K1FFK repeater on Mount Greylock. Wonderlick initiated what turned into an 8-hour effort to get Jones off the trail and to a medical facility, acting as a relay among Jones, emergency crews, and other agencies involved. As the Bennington Post reported,

“The Vermont State Police also received assistance from several licensed Amateur Radio operators who helped facilitate communications, greatly assisting in the rescue.”

Matthew Sacco, KC1JPU, headed to a staging area where rescue crews were gathering. When he could not make it into the repeater, he employed some Ham Radio ingenuity to fashion a J-pole antenna from some window line he had on hand, casting it into a tree using a fishing pole. That did the trick. An individual on site was able to obtain an accurate location for Jones using the GPS on his cell phone.

After it was determined that rescuers could not reach Jones using an all-terrain vehicle, arrangements were made to have a search-and-rescue crew from New York retrieve Jones by helicopter. Amateur radio participants were able to relay

critical information, including an accurate location, as preparations continued.

Jones, meanwhile, took advantage of his time with the EMT and other rescuers to talk up Amateur Radio and explain how to get licensed. According to one account, rescuers were having trouble making contact with the helicopter, so Jones loaned them a better antenna he happened to have.

Jones was eventually flown to a hospital in Albany, New York, again taking advantage of the occasion to promote Amateur Radio to the helicopter pilot and crew. Jones is said to be recovering.

“Ham radio saved my life last night, and I am very thankful for how everyone helped me,” Jones said afterward.

—*The ARRL Letter*,

June 25, 2020

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

CONTEMPT RULING AGAINST TN RADIO AMATEUR

A Tennessee Court of Appeals has affirmed a Radio Amateur's liability for a 30-day jail sentence for violating a court directive to refrain from contacting another Radio Amateur who had filed a temporary order of protection. The appeals court's June 11 determination upheld a lower trial court ruling that found Michael J. Mgrdichian, ex-N2FUV, of Kodak, in criminal contempt for violating the order by contacting Jamie Faucon, N3FA (ex-AA3JF) of Knoxville via Ham Radio on three separate occasions. Mgrdichian appealed, primarily asserting that the lower court lacked jurisdiction over the case, because Amateur

Radio is regulated by the FCC, a federal agency.

Faucon claimed that Mgrdichian had “stalked, threatened, and harassed” her on multiple occasions between 2016 and 2019, claiming that the threats were made via Ham Radio after Faucon had asked Mgrdichian to cease his actions. Faucon claimed that problems between her and Mgrdichian began after she complained to the FCC, alleging that Mgrdichian was using racially abusive language on the air.

Mgrdichian attempted to have the lower court case dismissed by arguing that state courts do not have jurisdiction over any communication involving Amateur

Radio. The trial court maintained, however, that it did have jurisdiction based on an alleged violation of the temporary protection order.

The appeals court determined that the trial court had jurisdiction to find Mgrdichian in criminal contempt of court when he violated the temporary restraining order by contacting Faucon via Amateur Radio.

The appeals court upheld findings that Mgrdichian was in contempt of the trial court's order on three occasions, each calling for 10 days in jail and a fine.

—*The ARRL Letter*,

June 18, 2020

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.



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

HPARC JULY CALENDAR

- 4 — INDEPENDENCE DAY**
- 6 — HPARC Club Meeting (To be held on Zoom - visitors email AJ4TF for email invitation)**
- 11-12 — IARU HF World Championship**
- 11 — Greensboro VE Session, Hinshaw United Methodist Church
- 25 — High Point VE Session, Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church
- 26 — HPARC Newsletter deadline
- 26 — PARENTS' DAY

BIRTHDAYS

- Luis Valquez — July 3
- Linda Worland — July 5
- Grady Stone — July 16
- Tom Mills — July 26
- Tommie Lauer — July 26
- Cindy Davis — July 28

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

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**Saturday
 Breakfast
 get-togethers
 postponed
 until further
 notice**