

OCTOBER 2020

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point
Amateur Radio
Club



OCTOBER MEETING

What is the saying about best laid plans of mice and men? We got the rug pulled out from under us last month when J&S closed early. Our combination meeting became a Zoom only meeting. We are hoping to have the combination meeting for the month of October. Stay tuned to this channel for any last minute changes.

Please note: there is a time change. Because J&S is closing early, the club meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. Come at 5:00 - 5:30 p.m. for the meal. Please tell the cashier that you are with the radio club so that we get credit for those attending at J&S.

David Macchiarolo was unable to give his program for August and September, so he will be giving the program he

had planned for the August (or was that September?) meeting. The program will be on Antenna Modeling. (Third time is the charm. One more strike and you're out, David.)

**HPARC Meeting
October 5, 2020
J&S Cafeteria
5835 Samet Drive, HP
& on the Zoom app**

Again I would remind everyone, if you plan to mail dues to the club, please send them directly to Warren Gallemore, HPARC Treasurer at 1505 Trafalgar Court, High Point, 27262.

David Macchiarolo is in charge of sending out Zoom email invitations to the club

meeting. If you are planning to attend the meeting via Zoom and have not gotten an invitation, please contact David and let him know.

The Board met via Zoom to select a Nominating Committee. Those selected for the committee are: David Macchiarolo, Mike Cumbo, George McCormick, Tom Bertolino, Camille Taylor and Mark Peagram. The nominating committee will meet before the November meeting to select officers for 2021.

This has been quite a year. I long for us to go back to normal. I miss seeing everyone at the meetings. Some of you are not even making the Zoom meeting. I hope all is well with everyone. Hope to see you soon.

FCC PROPOSES TO INSTITUTE AMATEUR RADIO APPLICATION FEES

Amateur Radio licensees would pay a \$50 fee for each Amateur Radio license application if the FCC adopts rules it proposed last week. Included in the FCC's fee proposal are applications for new licenses, renewal and upgrades to existing licenses, and vanity call sign requests. Excluded are applications for administrative updates, such as changes of address, and

annual regulatory fees.

The FCC proposal is contained in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in MD Docket 20-270, which was adopted to implement portions of the "Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act" of 2018 — the so-called "Ray Baum's Act."

The Act requires that the FCC switch from a Congressionally-

mandated fee structure to a

FCC Proposes continued inside...

**HPARC/Zoom Meeting
October 5, 2020**

**J&S Cafeteria,
5835 Samet Drive, HP
& on Zoom**

Meal at 5:30 p.m.
Business meeting at 6:00 p.m.

ANALYSIS DETERMINES WE ARE IN SOLAR CYCLE 25

It's now official. The solar minimum between Solar Cycles 24 and 25 — the period when the sun is least active — occurred in December 2019, when the 13-month smoothed sunspot number fell to 1.8. This is according to the Solar Cycle 25 Prediction Panel, co-chaired by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). We are now in Solar Cycle 25, with peak sunspot activity expected in 2025, the panel said. The panel expressed high confidence that Solar Cycle 25 will break the trend of weakening solar activity seen over the past four cycles.

For the past 8 months, activity on the sun has steadily increased, indicating that we

have transitioned to Solar Cycle 25, forecast to be a fairly weak cycle — about the same as Solar Cycle 24. Solar Cycle 25 is expected to peak in July 2025, with a predicted 115 sunspots.

“How quickly solar activity rises is an indicator on how strong the solar cycle will be,” said Doug Biesecker, the NOAA-NASA panel co-chair and a solar physicist at NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC). “Although we've seen a steady increase in sunspot activity this year, it is slow.”

“While we are not predicting a particularly active Solar Cycle 25, violent eruptions from the sun can occur at any time,” Biesecker added.

Before Solar Cycle 25 peaks in 2024, NOAA is slated to launch a new spacecraft dedicated to

operational space weather forecasting. The Space Weather Follow-On L-1 observatory (SWFO-L1) will be equipped with instruments that sample the solar wind, provide imagery of coronal mass ejections, and monitor other extreme activity from the sun in finer detail than before. NOAA's next Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES-U) is also scheduled to launch in 2024. GOES-U will carry three solar monitoring instruments, including the first compact coronagraph, which will help detect coronal mass ejections. Enhanced observations of the sun from these satellites will help improve space weather forecasting.

—*The ARRL Letter*,
September 17, 2020
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

DEMOLITION SET FOR HARA ARENA

It's the end of an era with the planned demolition of a Dayton, Ohio building that since 1964, symbolized one of Amateur Radio's biggest international gatherings.

Hara Arena, already deteri-

orating by the time it was left damaged by tornadoes in May of 2019, had been home to Dayton Hamvention until 2017 when it was moved to the Greene County Fairgrounds in nearby Xenia, Ohio. The arena property will

also be rezoned to allow for manufacturing and distribution use once the legendary building has been taken down.

—*Amateur Radio Newslines*,
Report 2239,
September 25, 2020

MAINE RADIO AMATEUR FALLS FROM TOWER

James Larner, N1ATO, of Bangor, Maine, died on Wednesday, September 2, after apparently falling a reported 80 feet from an Amateur Radio tower in the rural Knox County town of Union. Said to have been a tower professional who had done a lot of work for many

Maine broadcasters, Larner, an ARRL member, was 74.

According to news accounts, Larner was disassembling an antenna on a tower. The deceased was equipped with a harness and carabiner.

Larner worked part-time as an engineer at News Center

Maine's outlet in Bangor.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration was contacted and will conduct a follow-up investigation along with the Maine Medical Examiner's office.

—*The ARRL Letter*,
September 10, 2020
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 6:00 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.

...FCC Proposes continued from cover cost-based system of assessment. In its NPRM, the FCC proposed application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS), including the Amateur Radio Service that had been excluded by an earlier statute. The new statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual regulatory fees, but not from application fees.

"[A]pplications for personal licenses are mostly automated and do not have individualized staff costs for data input or review," the FCC said in its NPRM. "For these automated processes — new/major modifications, renewal, and minor modifications — we propose a nominal application fee of \$50 due to automating the processes, routine ULS maintenance, and limited instances where staff input is required."

The same \$50 fee would apply to all Amateur Service applications, including those for van-

ity call signs. "Although there is currently no fee for vanity call signs in the Amateur Radio Service, we find that such applications impose similar costs in aggregate on Commission resources as new applications and therefore propose a \$50 fee," the FCC said.

The FCC is not proposing to charge for administrative updates such as mailing address changes, and Amateur Radio will remain exempt from annual regulatory fees. "For administrative updates [and] modifications, which also are highly automated, we find that it is in the public interest to encourage licensees to update their [own] information without a charge," the FCC said.

The FCC also proposes to assess a \$50 fee for individuals who want a printed copy of their license. "The Commission has proposed to eliminate these services — but to the extent the Commission does not do so, we propose a fee of \$50 to cover

the costs of these services," the FCC said.

The FCC dropped assessment of fees for vanity call signs several years ago, but the Ray Baum's Act does not exempt filing fees in the Amateur Radio Service.

ARRL is reviewing the matter and intends to file comments in opposition.

Deadlines for comments and reply comments will be determined once the NPRM appears in the Federal Register. File comments by using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), posting to MD Docket No. 20-270 <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings/express>. [Type in "20-270" in the Proceedings field to ensure you are commenting on the proper document.] This docket is already open for accepting comments, even though deadlines have not yet been set.

—*The ARRL Letter*,
September 3, 2020
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME,
Editor

K1USN RADIO CLUB ANNOUNCES NEW WEEKLY SLOW-SPEED CW CONTEST

The K1USN Radio Club in Massachusetts is launching a new weekly, hour-long, slow-speed contest, the K1USN SST. The inaugural session will be on Monday, September 14, from 0000 – 0100 UTC (Sunday, September 13, in North American time zones). K1USN trustee Pi Pugh, K1RV, said the decision to embark on sponsorship of a new operating event involved surveying some 2,000 Radio Amateurs to gauge their enthusiasm for such an event. Pugh said the club worked with a group of CWops members within the club, with the blessing of the CWops CW Academy

Advisor Group. CWops is not involved in sponsoring the K1USN SST.

The 800 who responded indicated an overwhelming need for some sort of slow-speed activity as a follow-up to CW Academy, Pugh told ARRL. "It was a lot of work, but we hope this will prove to be a valuable tool within the CW community," Pugh said.

Although predicated on the desires of the CW Academy community, Pugh stressed that the weekly activity will be open to all looking to improve their CW skills. It can also provide a more comfortable entry point

for those just getting started in CW contesting.

"The weekly 20 WPM or slower SSTs can build confidence to find open frequencies and begin calling CQ," Pugh suggested. Participants are advised to be patient, supportive, and willing to slow down as necessary.

Suggested frequencies are 3.532 – 3.539 on 80 meters; 7.032 – 7.039 MHz on 40 meters, and 14.032 – 14.039 MHz on 20 meters. Stations exchange name and state/province/country.

—*The ARRL Letter*,
September 10, 2020
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.



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

HPARC OCTOBER CALENDAR

- 5 — HPARC Club Meeting**
- 10 — Greensboro VE Session, Hinshaw
United Methodist Church
- 10-11 — EME – 50 to 1296 MHz
- 12 — COLUMBUS DAY**
- 13 — Navy Day
- 13-21 — High Point Furniture Market
- 16 — National Boss Day
- 19-23 — School Club Roundup
- 31 — W4VEC High Point session (Hickory
Chapel Wesleyan Church, Fellowship Bldg)

- 25 — HPARC Newsletter deadline
- 31 — HALLOWEEN**

BIRTHDAYS

- Phillip Mansfield — October 13
- Gordon Sanders — October 23
- Lon Cecil — October 30
- Lacey Armistead — October 31

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

2020 HPARC OFFICERS

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**Saturday
 Breakfast**
 —
8:00 a.m.
 —
**Mrs Winners,
 2713 S. Main St.**