

FEBRUARY 2018

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point
Amateur Radio
Club



FEBRUARY MEETING

Tom Evans, NA4U, gave the program for the January meeting. Tom gave an informative program on the two new bands available to the Ham community: 630 meters and 2200 meters.

David Macchiarolo will give the program for the February

meeting. At this point, I do not know what program is.

Since there was a complaint at one of the Saturday breakfasts about the newsletter always being late each month, I can guarantee the next newsletter will be on time. How can I guarantee that? Because

David Macchiarolo has graciously volunteered to publish the next newsletter. Thanks, David and good luck.

So plan on being active with the HPARC this year. Start with the February meeting. Attend and bring a friend. See you there.

ARRL CEO, TOM GALLAGHER, NY2FR TO RETIRE

ARRL's chief executive officer for the past 2 years, Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, announced his retirement as CEO, as the ARRL Board of Directors prepares to meet January 19-20. He will step down on March 2. Gallagher, who had earlier advised ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, of his intention to resign, expressed his gratitude to President Roderick and the ARRL Board for giving him the opportunity to help guide the organization.

"It has been my great privilege to serve in this capacity for 2 years, and I am deeply grateful to the Board and President Rick Roderick, K5UR, for their support and encouragement," Gallagher said.

President Roderick expressed appreciation for Gallagher's contributions to ARRL. "ARRL is in a transition to a new generation for

Amateur Radio. Change doesn't come easy," Roderick said. "Tom helped us in taking that step forward, and for that we are very grateful for his service to the League and to Amateur Radio," he said.

Gallagher, 69, cited recent changes included in the new federal tax law that made it unattractive for him to continue working in Connecticut, where ARRL is headquartered.

Among Gallagher's chief accomplishments during his tenure as CEO were creating an enhanced level of professionalism and efficiency in the organization that represents more than 150,000 US Amateur Radio operators. Gallagher also oversaw a significant turnaround in the organization's financial performance.

Licensed in Pennsylvania in 1966 as WA3GRF (later

N4GRF in North Carolina), Gallagher is a member of the West Palm Beach Amateur Radio Group. Amateur Radio led to an early career in broadcasting.

Gallagher joined ARRL following 3 decades as an international investment banker and financial services executive, succeeding long-time CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ.

—*The ARRL Letter*,
January 18, 2018,
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME,
Editor

HPARC Meeting February 5, 2018

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

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

2018 HPARC COMMITTEES

At the January meeting, Dan Bly, HPARC President, announced committee heads he has appointed for 2018. Those committee heads are:

- Education - David Macchiarolo
- Finance – Warren Gallemore

- Membership – Clifton Scronce
- House – Denny Wojnar
- Program – Tom Evans
- Public Relations – Matt Flyer
- Repeater – Lon Cecil
- Special Activities – Mark McMahan

MODE USAGE EVALUATION: 2017 WAS “THE YEAR WHEN DIGITAL MODES CHANGED FOREVER”

Club Log author and UK radio Amateur Michael Wells, G7VJR, has reported that data compiled from 8,000 Club Log users indicates the proportion of FT8 usage relative to other modes has risen dramatically since FT8’s introduction last year. Every few years, Wells has posted charts depicting mode usage on the Amateur bands, based on log data uploaded to Club Log.

“2017 was, of course, the year when digital modes changed forever with the advent of FT8,” said Wells. “It is a remarkable technical achieve-

ment, which has breathed life and enthusiasm into DXing for a whole new audience.”

Among FT8’s biggest advantages is a shorter transmit-receive cycle, with contacts four times faster than with JT65 or JT9; an entire FT8 contact can take place in about a minute.

Wells reported that 8,000 Club Log users uploaded FT8 contacts last year, logging 46,000 discrete call signs in that mode. “For reference, in 2017 the total number of QSOs uploaded to Club Log (all modes) was 32 million,” Wells said. “Of that total, the number of QSOs made with FT8

was 4.8 million.” That works out to 15% of all contacts posted to Club Log.

Wells’ graph for 2017 shows a dramatic increase in mid-2017 in the percentage of FT8 contact relative to other modes, by year’s end overtaking CW and SSB usage, already trending downward except for a significant bump in CW usage toward the end of the year. RTTY and PSK31 usage remained comparatively stable over the course of 2017.

—*The ARRL Letter*,
January 25, 2018,
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

VIDEO REVEALS UNSEEN SIDE OF HARA ARENA

A recently posted YouTube video that takes a deep dive into the innards of former Hamvention® venue Hara Arena has been attracting notice within the Amateur Radio community. The narrated video probe was posted by Once Occupied, an urban exploration group. The IRS put the Hara Arena complex itself on the auction block last August to satisfy a tax lien, but there were no successful bidders.

Among the more fascinat-

ing revelations was how much equipment, event paraphernalia, and just plain debris remain inside the 165,000-square foot Hara complex, which included an apartment.

“This is creepy and surreal, but I couldn’t turn it off and had to watch the whole thing,” allowed Pete Varounis, NL7XM, the QCWA’s official call sign historian, “It looks like raw footage from Chernobyl after the Russian nuclear disaster.”

Hara Arena’s future remains in limbo. An IRS staff member who was involved in the 2017 auction told ARRL that the agency will not put Hara Arena up for auction again but said there is “a lot of interest in the property.”

—*The ARRL Letter*,
January 4, 2018,
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 6:30 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.

ARRL FACING CHALLENGES OVER POLICIES, CODES, LOBBYING

The ARRL is facing some major public challenges from the U.S. Amateur community regarding its actions, bylaws and policies. A group known as myARRLvoice is advocating change in the ARRL Code of Conduct and lobbying efforts as well through its steering committee that comprises some of the ARRL's own past vice directors, Life Members and Maxim Society members.

The group launched a website on Monday, Jan. 8, urging them to press the ARRL for more transparency at its next board meeting on Jan. 19. ARRL leadership first became embattled in an escalating war of words with a vocal coalition in California over the league's Code of Conduct. The Northern California Contest Club, an ARRL affiliate, claimed the Code stifled communications in

league matters and prompted the controversial public censure of a division director in November.

The ARRL will not publicly discuss the specifics of the censure. However, its leadership continues to stand by the Code as well as its more recent actions.

—*Amateur Radio Newslines*,
Report 2098,
January 12, 2018

MESSAGE FROM ARRL PRESIDENT RICK RODERICK, K5UR

In the last few weeks, the ARRL's Board of Directors has been the subject of an organized misinformation campaign. It is being orchestrated by a group of Hams, some of whom are well-intentioned but have been misled. This effort, which consists of a series of mis-characterizations, initially dealt with (1) the ARRL Board's censure of an ARRL Director, and (2) some proposed revisions to ARRL's Articles of Association and Bylaws that are likely to be considered at the upcoming ARRL Board meeting and which were circulated by a member of the Board. More recently, other false statements have been made that ARRL operates under some "cloak of secrecy." The criticism is unfair and undeserved.

ARRL's representative system of governance, which has worked exceptionally well in the advocacy and promotion of Amateur Radio and the interests of ARRL members for more than 100 years, is unchanged. And the legislative and other advocacy positions currently being pursued are critical to the long-term survivability of

the Amateur Radio Service.

The ARRL Board does seek thoughtful, informed input on policy issues concerning Amateur Radio from its roughly 150,000 members. ARRL's governance structure provides that regionally elected, volunteer Directors will represent the interests of the members in their respective Divisions, working collectively and collegially within our Board to make policy and to advocate their constituents' interests.

As is the case with most large, national nonprofit associations, ARRL Board meetings are not open to the public. It has always been that way, as a matter of necessity. That is because, at all such meetings, confidential issues are candidly discussed.

Unfortunately, it was necessary for the Board to take the highly unusual action of publicly censuring one of its members recently. The Board heard the allegations made by an ARRL member of what transpired at an Amateur Radio event; it heard reports from other Amateurs who were there, and it heard

all the information that the Director involved chose to present. Everyone had a chance to speak and to evaluate the presentations. The Board, in an 11 to 3 vote with one abstention, took action to protect the organization's integrity based on the information presented.

To those who try to suggest that the Board has abandoned its obligation to the members in favor of the organization — you draw a distinction that doesn't exist. The Board absolutely understands that the members are the organization. The members of ARRL are always best served by an informed Board that works together to make policy that is in the best interests of the organization. The divisive tactics that are being used now, commenced through disinformation and a lack of candor, are harmful not only to the organization, but to Amateur Radio operators everywhere, the good work of the ARRL staff, and the Service that we love so much.

—*The ARRL Letter*,
January 18, 2018,
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.
[Ed: heavily edited to fit within
the space of this newsletter.]



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

HPARC FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- 2 — GROUNDHOG DAY**
- 3 — Richmond, VA Frostfest
- 4 — Super Bowl Sunday
- 5 — HPARC Club Meeting**
- 12 — Lincoln's Birthday
- 12-16 — School Club Roundup
- 14 — VALENTINE'S DAY**
- 17-18 — ARRL International DX Contest, CW
- 19 — PRESIDENT'S DAY**

- 22 — Washington's Birthday
- 25 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline

BIRTHDAYS

Mark McMahan — February 7

2018 HPARC OFFICERS

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