

MAY 2021

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point Amateur Radio Club



MAY MEETING

Lon Cecil, AA4LC, has been working on a new project and plans to give us a program on his progress at the May meeting.

David Macchiarolo gave us a program on Field Day at the April meeting.

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 (email under Officers in this newsletter. My monthly plug for J&S

Cafeteria: J&S has recently expanded its operating hours by staying open to 7:30 pm. I encourage our members to

HPARC Meeting

6:00 p.m.

Meal: 5:00 p.m.

May 3, 2021

J&S Cafeteria

**5835 Samet Drive, HP
& on the Zoom app**

frequent J&S between meetings. This has been a good place for the HPARC to meet, and we need to help them by giving them our business.

Hopefully most of you realized the article last month about the reinstatement of the Morse code requirement was an April Fool's joke (see the date in the byline). So you can put away your burning torches and pitchforks (and I can come out of hiding).

We have been getting a lot of new members recently. Because I am late getting out the newsletter this month, new members announcements will have to wait until a later time. A new roster will be sent soon.

Hope to see everyone at the May meeting. Take care.

FCC AUTO-REGISTRATION FEATURE FOR EXAM APPLICANTS TO BE DISCONTINUED

Auto-registration in the FCC Commission Registration System (CORES) Amateur Radio exam for candidates using a Social Security number will be discontinued on May 20, 2021. Applicants must use an FCC Registration Number (FRN) for all license transactions with the FCC. Examinees must register in CORES and receive an FRN before exam day. Starting on May 20, electronic batch filed applications that do not include a candi-

date's FRN will be rejected. The Social Security/Licensee ID Field will be disabled.

The CORES website can be accessed at:

<https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>

An instructional video provides step-by-step instructions on how to establish a CORES account, which is necessary for licensees to make administrative updates and download electronic license authorizations.

The instructional video can

be found at, <https://www.fcc.gov/rofrn>.

After June 29, all filers must provide an email address on all applications. When an

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**HPARC/Zoom Meeting
May 3, 2021**

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

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

FCC ISSUES ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY

On April 20, the FCC's Enforcement Bureau issued a new Enforcement Advisory, repeating the admonishments contained in a January Advisory that no licensee or user of the Amateur or Personal Radio Services may use any radio equipment in connection with unlawful activities of any nature. The Commission specifically cautioned that individuals found

to have used radios in connection with any illegal activity are "subject to severe penalties, including significant fines, seizure of the offending equipment, and in some cases, criminal prosecution."

In addition, licensees should be aware that illegal operation in any service or band, including completely outside the Amateur allocations, could potentially disqualify a

person from holding any FCC license in any service, not just the Amateur Radio Service.

Any Amateur observing suspicious activity that might be of an illegal or criminal nature should report it to their local law enforcement office or the FBI.

—*The ARRL Letter*,

April 22, 2021

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME,
Editor

RADIO AMATEUR HELPS RESCUERS TO LOCATE HIKER

The keen and practiced eye of ARRL member Ben Kuo, AI6YR, helped to guide rescuers to a hiker stranded on a mountainside on April 12. Hiker Rene Compean, 45, had spent the night in a remote region of the Angeles National Forest after getting in a tough spot. After a concerned friend reported Compean missing on Monday, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department dispatched search-and-rescue (SAR) teams. Although Amateur Radio played no direct role in the rescue, Kuo cited his enthusiasm for technology and Ham Radio satellites and for Summits on the Air (SOTA) for helping him to develop the skills he needed to guide searchers to the most appropriate area.

"This is actually very applicable to being a SOTA activator — map, navigation skills," Kuo told ARRL. "Also, understanding RF propagation was key to this. The SAR teams were search-

ing the other side of the mountain, where there is no cell signal." Kuo knew that from having hiked there before. As Kuo described it, Compean was found between four SOTA peaks.

SAR teams were deployed in the Mount Waterman area of the San Gabriel Mountains to find the hiker. According to the LA Sheriff's Department, a low-flying helicopter team spotted him Tuesday afternoon between Triplet Rocks and the east bump of Twin Peaks in the San Gabriel Mountains, and he was airlifted to safety with no serious injuries. Kuo pointed the rescuers to the likely search area by matching satellite images Compean had transmitted over Twitter.

Kuo told the Los Angeles Times that he has an odd hobby of looking at photos and determining where they had been taken. He was able to employ his skill to determine the hiker's likely location using a

tiny photo the hiker posted on Twitter that shows his legs and the valley below. As the newspaper reported on April 15, "When [Kuo] saw the photo posted by the Sheriff's Department, he set to work pulling publicly available satellite images and matching them to the vegetation and terrain below the hiker's legs."

Kuo's eye was good. He sent authorities the GPS coordinates of the most likely area, and the rescue team found Compean less than a mile from that location.

As the LA Times reported, the area where Compean was located on steep slopes and very difficult to access, requiring advanced climbing skills. The Sheriff's Department credited Kuo with saving them hours of fruitless searching. Kuo said this was the first time he'd been involved in a rescue like this one.

—*The ARRL Letter*,

April 22, 2021

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 5:00 p.m. at a local restaurant announced in the newsletter. The business meeting starts at 6:00 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.

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email is provided, applicants will receive an official electronic copy of their licenses once granted (allow incoming email from authorizations@fcc.gov). If no email is provided when filing on or after June 29, applications will be rejected. ARRL

VEC suggests that those without access to email to use the email address of a family member or friend.

Further information about providing an email address can be found at, <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-to-require-email-address-on-applications-start>

ing-on-june-29-2021 .

Licensees need to log in to the Universal Licensing System (ULS) to download their authorizations. The FCC no longer issues paper copies.

—ARRL W1AW Bulletin 14

ARLB014

April 27, 2021

FT8 ACCOUNTS FOR NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF HF ACTIVITY

Since zooming to prominence after its debut in mid-2017, the popular FT8 digital protocol has become the mode of choice for some 60% of HF operators, according to Club Log's latest activity report compiled by Michael Wells, G7VJR. FT8 is one of the protocols in the WSJT-X suite of free programs. Wells says FT8 activity level sits at nearly 85% on 6 meters. The dramatic FT8 upswing has come at the expense of phone, CW, RTTY, PSK, and other modes. Over the same period, the number of FT8 contacts logged each year per active call sign has continued to climb to about 60% between 2015 and 2021, with the most dramatic increase being nearly 29% in the past year. The use of all other modes has continued to flutter downward since the advent of FT8, which occupies vastly less spectrum than the more traditional Ham Radio operating modes.

Between 2015 and 2020, the number of contacts logged per day by Club Log users has trended steadily upward, regardless of mode. The report draws on data of more than 84,000 logs uploaded to the Club Log site — some 730 million contacts in all.

Wells reported that in 2020, the “typical call sign” logged 620 CW contacts, 558 SSB contacts, and 372 data (digital) contacts. Five years later, the statistics were 500, 300, and 1,700, respectively.

ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) does not typically report this level of detail as far as mode usage is concerned, but the statistics available certainly confirm FT8's increasing popularity. The rocketing usage of FT8 over the past few years may be demonstrated most dramatically by a comparison in contacts-by-mode statistics between March 2017 and March 2018, when FT8 contact numbers in

the hundreds shot to some 2.6 million contacts by the following year — an increase of nearly 1 million percent.

From mid-2019 to mid-2020, FT8 usage appears to have slumped slightly to 50% before climbing back to 60%. FT8 usage peaked at just over 65% in late 2020 and has held steady at 60 – 65% since.

The same period saw SSB usage dip by 15%, CW activity by 10%, and RTTY by 29%. Introduced later, FT4, the contest mode of FT8, also showed an initial fast upward trajectory, before steadying at 5 – 8%.

Named after its developers, Steven Franke, K9AN, and Joe Taylor, K1JT, FT8 indicates the mode's eight-frequency shift-keying format. Tones are spaced at 6.25 Hz, and an FT8 signal occupies just 50 Hz.

—*The ARRL Letter*,

April 1, 2021

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

'LAST MAN STANDING' TRIBUTE WRAPS UP ACTIVATION

Congratulations to the activators of the “Last Man Standing” special event which went QRT on Wednesday March 30th. Starting on March 24th, the team logged more than 85,000 QSOs, contacting 1,850 counties in 50 states and 138 countries. There were 134 contacts using moonbounce —and yes, there were pileups. The multi-mode effort was also a

multi-media one, featuring live-streaming of operators as they navigated pileups. Coordinated by Lou Maggio NO2C and Salli Rosato K2RYD of the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club and the show's executive producer John Amodeo AA6JA, it was an experience many of the dozens of operators in both the US and Canada said will remain

with them even as the studio goes dark after the show's final day of production. “Last Man Standing” featured Tim Allen KK6OTD as Mike Baxter KA0XTT, and was celebrated for putting Amateur Radio in a positive light in the public eye.

—*Amateur Radio Newsline*,

Report 2266,

April 2, 2021



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

HPARC MAY CALENDAR

- 3 — HPARC Club Meeting**
- 4 — National Teacher's Day
- 5 — Cinco de Mayo
- 6 — National Day of Prayer**
- 8 — VE Day
(Germany surrenders WWII 1945)
- 9 — MOTHER'S DAY**
- 16 — ARMED FORCES DAY**
- 30 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline
- 31 — MEMORIAL DAY**

BIRTHDAYS

- Richard Weinbaum — May 18
- Robyn Pegram — May 21
- Lynn Flyer — May 29

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

2021 HPARC OFFICERS

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