



February  
2024

# HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point  
Amateur Radio  
Club



## Ham Radio Classes

By: Peter Kapetanakis, KN4OCX

The Tri-County ARC, High Point ARC, and GARA (Greensboro Amateur Radio Association) have formed a partnership to provided online (Zoom) classes for those seeking to acquire their Technician Class operator's license, or to upgrade to a General Class license.

Each course is comprised of 6 class sessions. Each class session is held via Zoom on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 –

9:00pm ET and is free of charge.

The Technician & General classes are held in an alternating sequence. The next course is the General Course scheduled to begin February 20<sup>th</sup>. Please note, that the courses are meant to prepare you for the FCC license exam, but do not include the license exam itself.

Pre-registration is required for each course. Please contact Richard Weinbaum, KK4RR at 336-687-8001 or

[KK4RR@mac.com](mailto:KK4RR@mac.com) to register.

The starting dates for each course in 2024 are as follows:

**Technician Course:**

January 9, April 2, July 9, October 8

**General Course:**

February 20, May 14, August 20

## ARRL Foundation Accepting Grant Applications in February

Source: ARRL Letter February 1, 2024

The ARRL Foundation is now accepting grant applications from amateur radio organizations for eligible amateur radio-related projects and initiatives, particularly those focused on educating, licensing, and supporting amateur radio activities, to grow amateur radio's future, youth-based projects and initiatives are especially encouraged.

The ARRL Foundation grants program accepts proposals on a cyclical model



three times a year: in February, June, and October. Proposals for the February grant period are accepted through February 29. Awardees will be notified approximately 1 month after the closing of each cycle.

The Foundation, which celebrated 50

years of service last year, carefully manages a portfolio of endowments where donors have provided specific goals for their gifts, and that portfolio is invested and managed in a way that it can continue to support those goals for many years to come.

Additional information and a link to the grant application can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-grants>

### HPARC Meeting

#### Mario's Pizza & Zoom

2645 N. Main St.  
High Point, NC27265

February 5, 2024  
6:30 p.m.

# ARRL Responds to FCC Proposals

Source: ARRL Letter January 11, 2024

ARRL responded (PDF) to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) request for comments on removing the symbol (baud) rate restrictions that apply to data communications on the LF bands and the VHF and UHF bands below 450 MHz. The FCC also requested comments on the bandwidth limits applicable to those bands.

The FCC's action follows their 2023

decision to remove the symbol (baud) rate limits on the 160- to 10-meter amateur bands. Those limits were replaced with a 2.8 kHz bandwidth limit, a move ARRL had long advocated for.

The FCC's Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking sought comments on updating the other amateur bands on which its symbol (baud) rate limits continue to throttle faster data rates. The subject bands are the LF bands (2200 and 630 meters)

and the VHF and UHF bands below 450 MHz. In its comments, ARRL strongly agreed with the FCC's proposal to remove the symbol (baud) rate limits on the remaining bands.

Read more about ARRL's comments on ARRL News.

The public period for reply comments remains open until January 22, 2024. An ARRL guide to filing comments is at: <https://www.arrl.org/arrl-guide-to-filing-comments-with-fcc>

## ARRL is New Publisher of Gordon West, WB6NOA

Source: ARRL Letter January 18, 2024

[ARRL](#) is the new publisher of the Amateur Radio License Preparation books and related resources authored by Gordon West, WB6NOA.

Gordon West's popular books, classes, and audio courses have been a mainstay of amateur radio licensing

for over 40 years. Generations of hams have learned from 'Gordo', and now the impact of his knowledge and experience will continue with the reach and resources of ARRL.

Current editions of Gordon West's popular license prep books will be available from ARRL and ARRL [publication dealers](#) soon. Look for the category "Gordon West License Prep" in the ARRL [e-store](#).

The books, including future editions, will continue to be authored by Gordon West with Technical Editor Eric P. Nichols, KL7AJ. Nichols is a regular contributor to ARRL publications and has written several ARRL books. He has collaborated on the Gordon West books since 2013.

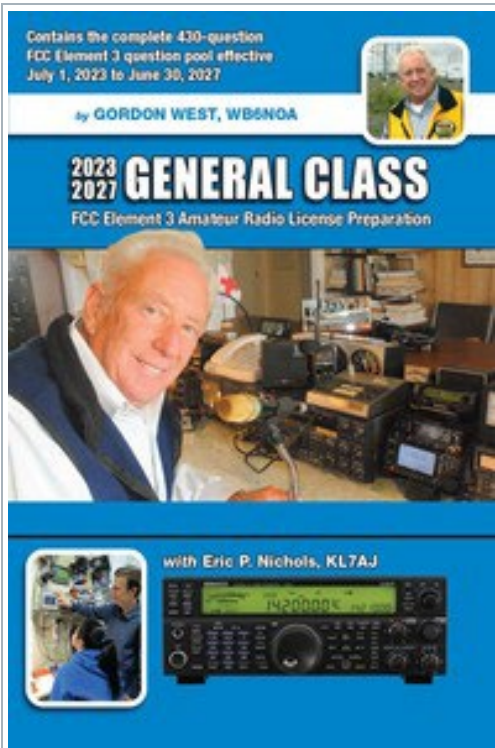
### Gordon West Named ARRL National Instructor

ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, has also announced that Gordon West has been named ARRL National Instructor.

Goodgame leads ARRL programs that benefit amateur radio [volunteer instructors](#) and [professional educators](#). "Gordon West will serve as the ambassador for the new ARRL National Instructor Program," said Goodgame. "The program will place

greater emphasis on connecting prospective hams with opportunities to find [ARRL Affiliated Radio Clubs, classes](#), and [exams](#). The National Instructor Program will also support ARRL volunteer instructors with new resources for teaching amateur radio courses and for developing licensees."

Read more about this exciting collaboration on [ARRL News](#). [Download the press release here](#) (PDF) and visit [www.arrl.org/gordon-west](http://www.arrl.org/gordon-west) for more information.



General Class FCC Element 3 Amateur Radio License Preparation, 11th Edition 2023-2027, by Gordon West, WB6NOA, will be available soon from ARRL and ARRL publication dealers.



Gordon West, WB6NOA.

## Amateur Radio Club Donation Helps Mississippi Library

Source: ARRL Letter January 18, 2024

[The Jackson Amateur Radio Club](#) (JARC) has donated two complete sets of ARRL books and posters on the information in amateur radio, valued at \$2,000, to the Madison County Library System (MCLS) in Canton, Mississippi.



"These book titles represent the brain trust of what we know about amateur radio today. We hope they will plant the seed and sow the future for radio-based technology in Madison County," said Frank Howell, K4FMH, an Assistant Director for the ARRL Delta Division. "The books, published by ARRL, include topics on basic electronics, antenna building, [and] rules and regulations, and [include] amateur radio license study guides."

MCLS Director Tammie Terry was excited about the donation. "The Jackson Amateur Radio Club and ARRL have been highly supportive of helping



From left to right: JARC President Jim Armstrong, AK5J; MCLS Assistant Director/System Administrator Ray Myers; MCLS Technology Training Specialist Tamra Bates; MCLS Director Tammie Terry, and ARRL Delta Division Assistant Director Frank Howell, K4FMH. [Photo courtesy of Frank Howell, K4FMH]

us with our science and technology emphasis throughout our library system," she said. "This large donation will help us get these reading materials to the patrons who will most certainly benefit from them for a long time."

JARC President Jim Armstrong, AK5J, said they hope to continue

making donations. "We have worked out a formal partnership between our club and the Madison County Library System. With assistance from ARRL, we are making our first donation of material, equipment, and STEM-oriented programming to the Madison County's libraries. Our intent is to make this support an ongoing [club project]."

JARC will also be holding periodic events at various Madison County library locations this year. With the slogan, Saturday Morning Amateur Radio Time (SMART), the club is offering a public program at the Rebecca Baine Rigby Library entitled, "Amateur Radio: Do They Still Do That?" on March 2, 2024. A follow-up SMART event with a live on-air operation is planned for May.

ARRL Delta Division Director David Norris, K5UZ, has promoted the Plant-the-Seed Initiative. "We have been very enthusiastic about the concept and program that our Assistant Director, Frank Howell, has created. This partnership concept is being promoted nationwide." Norris added, "The MCLS is the national leader now in using community resources, like area ham radio clubs, to extend their technology-based outreach and leverage the public dollars invested in the local library system."

## Georgia State Parks on the Air 2024

Source: ARRL Letter January 18, 2024

The second annual [Georgia State Parks on the Air](#) will be held April 6 - 7, 2024. ARRL member and event coordinator Claude Ray, AC4SH, said that the first event was a success and that participants insisted on having another one.

"For both activators and hunters, the event went far beyond our expectations. Of the 50 listed parks, 48 were activated, with 109 activators making nearly 20,000 contacts with over 4,000 hunters," said Ray. He

added that the 2024 event promises to be even better, with the addition of two new Georgia parks and, based on feedback from participants, the rules have been tweaked to add new opportunities receiving awards.

There are now separate classes for rovers and single-park activators, as well as a new category for QRP activators. There are also new bonuses available, not only for past winners but also for first-time activators and those who contact the two newly added locations. A new hike-in bonus has

been added for operators who carry their gear more than a mile into the park and activate from there. Ray said the basic purpose of the event remains the same. "The objective is to encourage ham radio operators to visit Georgia state parks and experience the fun of Parks on the Air activations. This is a fun contest only. The rules are minimal, the scoring is





simple, and the main award is simply the fun of getting on the air."

The contest period begins at 8:00 AM EDT on April 6, and ends at 7:59 PM EDT on April 7. Operating hours

are subject to park rules and times. Every station participating in the event and registering will, upon request, receive a certificate of participation. The top finishers in each category will

also receive an award certificate.

Further information and event rules are available at <https://gaparks.org>.

## Dr. Philip Erickson, W1PJE, New Director of MIT Haystack Observatory

Source: ARRL Letter January 25, 2024

ARRL Member and active radio amateur Dr. Philip Erickson, W1PJE, is the new director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Haystack Observatory.



Dr. Philip Erickson, W1PJE, is the new director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Haystack Observatory. [Joy LeDuc, photo]

The prestigious scientific appointment is the continuation of a radio interest that began in his youth. "I started as a shortwave listener in the mid-1970's as a middle school student. So, in some sense, I was always fooling with antennas in the back yard and trying to understand why signals got to me at different times -- why were they different in the day and at night? What

was the farthest place I could hear, or the closest place?"

That early interest led him to an electrical engineering degree and ultimately, a doctorate in space plasma physics from Cornell University that he earned in 1998. Erickson was first licensed as a ham only about 10 years ago, but he says the professional hardware he worked with daily scratched the itch until he could gain amateur privileges. Erickson enjoys homebrewing gear, learning from the foundations of vintage equipment, and using amateur radio in the scientific space. "An intense interest to me that crosses the boundary of what I do professionally and what I do as a radio amateur is what's happening with the HamSCI Collective... Can you use the observations that are already being made in the process of conducting the hobby and extract information from them? It turns out you can -- there's a lot of ionospheric information buried in there," he said.

The mission of the Haystack Observatory is to develop technology for radio science applications, to study the structure of our galaxy and the larger universe, to advance scientific knowledge of our planet and its space environment, and to contribute to the education of future scientists and engineers [according to MIT](#). The facility is home to research projects that span spectrum from VLF to 388 GHz.

"We are almost a completely radio and radar observatory... We have a geospace group, which is most-closely associated with ARRL type ideas: the dynamics of the ionosphere and neutral part of the atmosphere, all the way out into near-Earth space. We are an observational group, so we use a bunch of different tools -- radars, radios, sometimes data from satellites, and mostly data from ground-based observations."

Erickson enjoys explaining to the uninitiated that amateur radio is not only still an active hobby, but that it is an important space for discovery. "You learn a lot about many different aspects of technical and science work [in ham radio]," he said.

While his day job keeps him on the edge of radio technology, Erickson is glad to see amateur radio is keeping pace. He says the coding of WSJT-X digital weak-signal modes such as FT8 and WSPR created by Dr. Joe Taylor, K1JT, are more advanced than most hams realize.

"If you were to go to an electrical engineering class, that's what you would see as the edge of how to pack information into a very small bandwidth. I enjoy pointing that out to people and getting them to understand that this other modulation mode is just one of the other palettes that are available."



The MIT Haystack Observatory in Westford, Massachusetts. [Mark Derome, photo].

## HPARC FEBRUARY CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 — Groundhog Day -
- 5 — **HPARC Meeting**
- 10 — W4VEC Greensboro VE Session  
(Hinshaw United Methodist Church)
- 14 — Valentine's Day
- 14 — Ash Wednesday
- 18 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline
- 19 — President's Day
- 24 — W4VEC High Point VE Session  
(Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, Fellowship Bldg)

Andrew Talbert, K4XAT - 1  
Mark McMahon, KB4MFP - 7

For W4VEC Test information, call or email Keith Thomas, KA4JAH, (336) 906-2469, KA4JAH@Aol.com

### 2023 HPARC OFFICERS

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

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. Material in this Newsletter 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@arrrl.net. Membership in the HPARC is open 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.

The High Point Amateur Radio Club meets the first Monday of each month (except for holidays) at a local restaurant announced in the newsletter. Come early to enjoy dinner. The business meeting starts at 6:30 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. Contributions and letters/emails to the editor are welcome.