

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point
Amateur Radio
Club



MAY MEETING

Tom Evans, N4AU, assures me he will give his program on “Tom’s Software Defined Radios (SDR)” that was originally scheduled for the April meeting.

Last month David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, presented a program on Lightning Detection and Lightning Detectors.

At the April meeting, David announced the High Point VE

session will start April 28th at Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Fellowship Building. The HPARC voted to support the High Point VE session.

I asked in the last newsletter if anyone was interested in receiving the minutes of the meeting if they were absent. Hearing no comment from anyone, I assume no one is interested in receiving the minutes via email.

I hear from Cliff that we have at least 4 new Hams to vote in as members at our next meeting. Now if we can get that one member who votes against all new members to not show up that night. Nahh, won’t happen.

The HPARC seems to be very active and Field Day is just around the corner. You can’t afford to miss a meeting. Hope to see you there.

MORE THAN 30,000 NEW HAM LICENSEES AND 7,000 AMATEUR EXAM SESSIONS IN 2017

For the fourth year in a row, more than 30,000 new licensees joined the Amateur Radio ranks, and ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VEC) conducted more than 7,000 Amateur Radio exam sessions, serving some 35,350 candidates for a new or upgraded license. At the end of December 2017, the US Amateur Radio population stood at 748,136.

At nearly 378,000, Technician licensees represented the largest segment, with General (174,206), Amateur Extra (145,034), Advanced (41,938), and Novice (9,056) trailing. Licensee numbers showed continued growth across all classes except Advanced and Novice,

which the FCC no longer issues; those numbers continue to drop.

“I’m hopeful that the number of new licensees will be more than 30,000 at the end of this year,” ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said. “I would love to see this trend continue!”

New Licenses (2008 – 2017)	
2008 – 28,066	2013 – 28,886
2009 – 30,144	2014 – 33,241
2010 – 27,528	2015 – 32,077
2011 – 24,072	2016 – 32,552
2012 – 27,082	2017 – 32,196
Upgraded Licenses (2008 – 2017)	
2008 – 15,501	2013 – 9,325
2009 – 10,796	2014 – 10,556
2010 – 10,726	2015 – 11,224
2011 – 10,337	2016 – 10,617
2012 – 10,283	2017 – 9,576

Despite the optimistic influx of 32,196 newcomers last year, the net growth of 5,349 — about 0.72% over December 2016 — reflects some 27,000 expired or cancelled licenses in the FCC database over the past year. In making the case for changes to the entry-level license, the ARRL

New Ham continued inside...

HPARC Meeting May 7, 2018

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

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



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

HPARC MAY CALENDAR

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 — National Teacher's Day | 26 — DurHamFest, Durham, NC |
| 3 — National Day of Prayer | 27 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline |
| 5 — Cinco de Mayo | 28 — MEMORIAL DAY |
| 7 — HPARC Club Meeting | 29 — John F. Kennedy's Birthday |
| 8 — VE Day
(Germany surrenders WWII 1945) | |
| 12 — Rockingham County Swapfest | |
| 13 — MOTHER'S DAY | |
| 18-20 — Dayton, OH Hamvention | |
| 19 — ARMED FORCES DAY | |

BIRTHDAYS

Lynn Flyer — May 29

2018 HPARC OFFICERS

Dan Bly, KB8TLF — President — 336-259-1203 — kb8tlf@gmail.com
 Matt Flyer, KM4WON — Vice-President — 336-491-3448 — matt@noway2.net
 David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF — Secretary — 336-869-2894 — aj4tf@arrl.net
 Warren Gallemore, KA4LOQ — Treasurer — 336-883-4944 — warreng960@mac.com
 Newsletter Editor — Mark McMahan — 336-887-3039 — kb4mfp@arrl.net
 HPARC Web page: <http://www.w4ua.org> — email: w4ua@arrl.net

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

HPARC CLUB HISTORY: FIELD DAY TENTS

This article was to be about how old the HPARC is, but with Field Day around the corner, I thought I would divert to a topic that comes up every year about this time: leaky tents at Field Day. The history of Field Day itself will have to be covered in a later article.

When I became involved with the HPARC in the early 80's, Field Day was a single day event. It wasn't until 1988 that the HPARC held Field Day for the entire 24 hours at Hillsville Civitan Park.

As this was a baseball field, there was very little shelter. That first year Monroe Kennedy, WB4VKK, donated tarps and tent poles to use as shelters. We

looked like a bunch of traveling nomads.

For the next two years, Lomer McMahan, WA4RIS, arranged for us to use one large "big top" type tent from the National Guard armory. It was made of heavy canvas, hard to put up, hot and smelled like a wet dog. Plus it put all our stations too close together for comfort.

Enter the tents we use today. If you are doing the math, that means some of the tents have been used for the last few years 25 years. Different individuals bought screen tents to use at Field Day. Screen tents keep out the bugs (for the most part) and let visitors see the activity inside the tent. They do a poor job at

keep the rain out, however.

Over time the tents provided by different individuals disappeared. The member became a silent key or the tent was lost. I bought another tent every other year or so to get us to the point we are now: I own all of the "leaky" tents with some individuals bringing their own tents in recent years. When we started bringing our own tents to Field Day, club funds were very low. The club did not have the funds to spend extra at Field Day.

It has been suggested that the club invest in new tents. No problem here. I like the screen tents for seeing the activity but realize the concern of some members. Time for a change?

"THE WIREMAN" PRESSLEY W. "PRESS" JONES, SK

"The Wireman" Pressley W. "Press" Jones, N8UG, of Landrum, South Carolina, died on April 10. He was 89.

The "original" Wireman and his crew have been staples of many Hamfests and conventions across the U.S. for

more than 45 years, supplying attendees with coaxial cable, wire, insulators, balanced feed line, and more.

"He was a great teacher and speaker with his one-of-a-kind approach to communications, and a down-to-earth men-

tor," said a statement on The Wireman website. An ARRL member, he was a technical advisor from 1994 through 2014.

—*The ARRL Letter*,

April 19, 2018

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Editor

NEW 630-METER BAND REPORTED "VERY BUSY"

Amateur Radio got two new bands last year, and Amateurs are beginning to use them. Ralph Wallio, W0RPK, of Greenville, North Carolina, and others who took part in ARRL's WD2XSH Part 5 Experimental operation in the 630-meter band (472 - 479 kHz), say activity is picking up.

Wallio maintains an informal database that tracks the activity of

stations on a state-by-state basis, as well as how many states each station has worked. Topping the list is Eric Tichansky, N03M, in Pennsylvania, with 36 states worked on 630 meters, and 35 confirmed, including Hawaii and Alaska.

Wallio said modes frequently used for 630-meter contacts include CW, JT9, WSQ (weak-signal QSO), and FT8, with occasional addi-

tional digital mode experiments and SSB. Numerous US stations are also participating in WSPR beacon transmission, reception, and reporting on 472 kHz.

Transatlantic and transpacific contacts on the new band also have been reported.

—*The ARRL Letter*,

April 19, 2018

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 6:30 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.

...*New Ham continued from cover*
Board's Entry-Level License Committee referred to "the large number of Baby Boomers (roughly born 1945 - 65) [who]

will soon be aging off the licensee rolls." The committee predicted the likelihood of "a significant decline in the number of Hams, unless we take

steps to reverse it."

—*The ARRL Letter*,
April 5, 2018
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME,
Editor

SHOPPING FOR SOME QSOS?

If you're shopping for a bargain in QSOs, try Walmart – not the stores but the parking lots. Some satellite operators, who often go to lines between grid squares so that contacts will count for both grids, noticed that many of these gridlines across the country run through Walmart parking lots. Suddenly, the idea sparked to host an operating event among some members of the satellite community on Twitter, so they ran with it. They've decided that the weekend of April 28 and 29th will be a special Walmart Parking Lots on the Air weekend.

Adam Witney, K0FFY tells us how the parking lots became popular.

ADAM: "The other thing about Walmart parking lots is they make actually a pretty decent portable operating location. I think the other thing

that's kinda nice about the location ... you park in the parking lot even long term ... I know the stores are known to be friendly with that. I think Walmart shoppers are kind of a diverse group, and there's kinda been some jokes on, you know, people aren't going to look twice if you're in a Walmart parking lot if you're in any sort of strange, unconventional dress or if you have accessories like you're strapping radios on yourself or waving a purple antenna at they sky... for some reason at Walmart you're just not going to be seen as conspicuous."

There's a scoring system, with certificates as well as special WMPLOTA QSL cards. But don't forget to mark your QSL card with a highlighter before it checks out. Chasers will be referred to as shoppers, and bonus point categories may include the "People of Walmart"

award, for tweeting a picture of your operation; the "Ol Roy" award for tweeting pictures of your dog at your operation; and the Sam Walton Award for the most activity. Shoppers can work up to the level of "greeter" or "district manager" and for making a late night QSO, you can shelve away the "overnight stocker" bonus.

If you're hearing this report after the fact, have no fear! The next WMPLOTA weekend is scheduled for July 2 ... the birthday of Walmart and World UFO Day. Remember that when you're working satellites, running too much power can actually be bad for the satellite itself. So when you're operating WMPLOTA, be sure to ROLL BACK the power. ALWAYS.

—*Amateur Radio Newslines*,
Report 2113,
April 27, 2018

ART BELL, W60BB, SK

Former "Coast to Coast AM" and "Dreamland" radio host Art Bell, W60BB, of Pahrump, Nevada, died on Friday, April 13, at his home. He was 72. Bell's family was with him when he died.

Bell's long-running radio show trafficked in conspiracy theories, the paranormal, and "dark matter." Ham Radio came up too, from time to time. In early 2004, Bell aired an extensive live interview with then-ARRL President Jim Haynie,

W5JBP (SK).

"Coast to Coast AM" was syndicated nationwide in the early morning hours and, at its peak, was said to have reached 50 million listeners. Bell produced the show from his own studio in the High Desert of Nevada. Often, after his show was over, he would get together on 75 meters with a group of friends.

Bell retired from "Coast to Coast AM" in the early 2000s, although he had served as a guest host as recently as 2010.

He briefly returned to the air with "Art Bell's Dark Matter," which lasted several weeks on the SiriusXM satellite network, but he subsequently got involved with another radio program, "Midnight in the Desert," streamed via the Internet. He quit that show in 2015, however, citing "security concerns" at his home.

—*The ARRL Letter*,
April 27, 2018
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME,
Editor