



August  
2024

# HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point  
Amateur Radio  
Club



W4UA

W4UA repeater 147.165 MHz +Offset 67 Hz tone

## Robinson Crusoe Island DXpedition QSL cards

By: Robert Pantazes, W2ARP

Now that the Robinson Crusoe Island DXpedition is QRT, there is one more function that is needed. Filling the request for a QSL card. This mission was handled by the South Jersey Dx Association of Tuckerton, NJ. Club President Bob, N2OO and his wife Beth, KF2BQ received the QSL cards and also the ClubLog request for a card.

The DXpedition had 3 calls, CBOZA, CBOZEW and CBOZW. We wanted to insert the cards to the recipient in one envelope, to save on postage. Beth, a

retired teacher came up with the best way to accomplish this task. First all of the QSL cards were checked in the log and then a label was printed for the QSOs. Then the labels were sorted on the the recipients call in three batches one for each of the CBO calls.

Now how to accomplish inserting up to 3 cards into one envelope. We had three assembly lines consisting of 3 club member volunteers in each line. The first person had the most labels and would apply the label to a card, pass it to the

next person who would check the labels for the second call to see if the person worked the DXpedition a second time. If so a label would be put on the correct QSL card and pasted to the third person to do the same with the last call. Then all the QSLs would be sent to the next room where the team stuffed the mailing envelopes with cards, sponsor's inserts, weighted and applied proper postage.

We printed over 10,000 labels for the initial part of this QSL project.

## 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 **August 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~~

### HPARC Meeting

August 5, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m.

Mario's Pizza & Zoom  
2645 N. Main St.  
High Point, NC27265

### Single Sideband Activity Nights

2 Meter SSB: Thursdays @ 9pm ET on 144.200 MHz

6 Meter SSB: Sundays @8:30pm ET on 50.155 MHz

# Ham Radio During Hurricane Season

Source: ARRL Letter – July 25, 2024  
by Sierra Harrop, W5DX

[ARRL National Association for Amateur Radio®](#) encourages amateur stations to prepare for what the [National Hurricane Center](#) (NHC) has predicted will be a [busy hurricane season](#). In addition to readying equipment to function during and after a storm's impact, local [Amateur Radio Emergency Service®](#) (ARES®) nets are encouraged to participate in hurricane reporting and relief nets.



Stations do not need to be in a coastal zone to participate. Propagation often shifts well inland, meaning ham radio operators throughout the continent can serve in times of need. "Monitoring and relaying traffic is a way to help with the nets and get real time information to the NHC, where it can be shared with the National Weather Service, FEMA, and other emergency response organizations to aid in a more rapid response and recovery," said ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV.

Amateur radio plays a critical role in the warning and recovery process of hurricanes. From providing surface observations which give forecasters at the National Hurricane Center ground truth, to providing communications when infrastructure is damaged, ham radio is as vital as ever.

## The Nets

There is a robust ecosystem of communications networks that all work in tandem to provide coverage anytime a named storm is within a few hundred miles of land. These separate, but partner, volunteer organizations

serve much of the Western Hemisphere on many different bands and modes.

Much of the focus is to get information to and from the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida. [Hurricane specialists rely on having an amateur radio station at the center.](#) [WX4NHC](#) Julio Ripoll, WD4R, is the Amateur Radio Assistant Coordinator for the station. "These surface reports can be weather data or eyewitness reports (or heard on local VHF/UHF) and are very valuable to the hurricane specialists at NHC, as they fill in gaps of data that they may not have from other means, such as government weather stations, satellites, Hurricane Hunter aircraft, etc.," explained Ripoll.

The NHC would like more hams to provide information if they are in an affected area. There are many ways to do it. The simplest is over high frequency (HF) amateur radio bands. There, you'll find a dedicated team running the [Hurricane Watch Net](#). The net, which uses 14.325 MHz and 7.268 MHz, depending on propagation, is usually active any time a hurricane is within 300 statute miles of a populated landmass, or at the request of NHC.



"We are strategically dispersed across North America, throughout the Caribbean Islands, Central America, and the northern coast of South America, so that we can provide a continuous path of communications from storm-affected areas," said Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, Hurricane Watch Net Manager. The net has members who

speak many of the languages in the hurricane zones, including English and Spanish.

## Information to and From

The HWN is a two-way street of information, while the reports coming in are critical to forecasters – information from the NHC is even more important to people in the path of the storm. Weather information is relayed in real time from the NHC throughout the network, as well.

In addition to the weather information and reporting, the HWN assists the Salvation Army's SATERN Net with outgoing health and welfare traffic from the affected areas – messages sent via ham radio from those being impacted by the storm.

WX4NHC also receives reports via Winlink email over amateur radio via the address [wx4nhc@winlink.org](mailto:wx4nhc@winlink.org). The email subject line must start with //WL2K. There is a webform on the WX4NHC web site to provide information as well.

## Voice over Internet Protocol and Digital Voice Modes

For those without HF capabilities, or who may have their antennas unavailable during the storms, the [VoIP Hurricane Net](#) provides a parallel capability using modern digital technologies. VoIP Hurricane Net manager Rob Macedo, KD1CY, says the scope of this net gives a big picture look at what's happening. "Our net gathers reports from amateur radio nets and amateur radio operators at the local, state and regional level that connect directly or liaison to our net on \*WX\_TALK\* Echolink conference node: 7203/IRLP 9219 reflector. The connections to our net can include other VoIP modes such as Fusion, All-Star, Hamshack Hotline, certain types of DMR among other VoIP modes via the KC5FM, AUXCOMM and Sunflower systems," he said. The VoIP Hurricane Net also provides observations from social media monitoring.

## More Participation Needed

With the robust systems in place to handle traffic, organizers encourage

radio amateurs in the path of these storms to participate in the nets. "We encourage all who are in the path of a landfalling hurricane to join us and share your local observed weather information. No matter how insignificant you may feel your data may be, it is very important to the forecasters at the National Hurricane Center," said Graves.

"Sometimes, ham radio reports are the only reports received from the islands or sparsely populated areas," said Ripoll. Michael Brennan, Director of the National Hurricane Center, added, "The NHC ham radio network has played a crucial role for more than 40 years in providing real-time information during tropical storms and hurricanes. The information

provided by ham radio is incredibly helpful to NHC's hurricane specialists as it provides on-the-ground data during an event and offers a valuable option to maintain communications in situations where traditional communication methods can fail or become unavailable."

## Volunteers Needed

By: Peter Kapetanakis, KN4OCX

Hello readers,

As many of you have heard in our club meetings, the HPARC has been working with the Nido & Mariana Qubein Children's Museum to educate our younger population and their accompanying adults about the world of radio and morse code. Richard Weinbaum, KK4RR has been spearheading this partnership for some time and we have dates on the calendar for us to have an exposition and share our knowledge. To volunteer you must go through the museum's volunteer process. To get started, or to learn more, please contact Richard Weinbaum, KK4RR at 336-687-8001 or [KK4RR@mac.com](mailto:KK4RR@mac.com).



### HPARC AUGUST CALENDAR

- 5 — **HPARC Meeting**
- 10 — W4VEC Greensboro VE Session  
(Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Fellowship Bldg)
- 18 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline
- 31 — W4VEC High Point VE Session  
(Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church)

### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Bondy, Craig M	N8STA
Brown, Derek	WF4I
Crandall, Terence	N4TLC
Cumbo, Mike	ND4S
Gallemore, Warren	KA4LOQ
Kapetanakis, Peter	KN4OCX
Penn, Nicole	KQ4BPC
Riewe, Chris	AE4TI
Sexton, Jimmie	KO4BEG
Witt, Bob	KN4LMH

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

### 2024 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@arrl.net](mailto:w4ua@arrl.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.