



October
2024

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point
Amateur Radio
Club



W4UA

W4UA repeater 147.165 MHz +Offset 67 Hz tone

Hurricane Helene

By: Peter J Kapetanakis, KN4OCX

On September 26th Hurricane Helene made landfall in Florida and quickly made a path northward impacting North Carolina. Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, and many other states on Friday the 27th and continuing for several days to follow. The devastation to the Western NC region and all up and down the mountain region has been historic and even biblical in some places. Helene's fury brought an enormous amount of rain in a very short period to an area that had been receiving rain constantly for the prior week. The earth could not possibly absorb all of that water and pandemonium ensued. Towns such as Chimney Rock are completely wiped out. Historic areas of Asheville also unrecognizable. Areas such as Boone in Watauga County, Jefferson, and West Jefferson in Ashe County all have equal devastation.

As power and communications were knocked out throughout the western third of our state, it was ham radio operators that were first able to establish communications to assist local authorities with getting information to help those in need. And that is exactly what ham radio operators do. Sure, we have our contests to get contacts from all over the country and the world; and we have fun doing it. But ham radio truly is an auxiliary service and can activate

in just these types of situations to help those in need. I mean really, isn't that what Field Day is all about, practicing setting up emergency stations for communication? The following is a great news clip from CBS 17 WNCN-TV that not just shown on air but is posted to their YouTube channel. <https://youtu.be/Yk2FLaetmY8?si=coCb-mjx4-kud00J>

Traffic

Another devastating blow by Helene was the flooding, which washed out an enormous number of roads and bridges both public and private. Overhead highway marquee signs in the triad read "Western NC Closed" and "I-40 closed past I-77 Emergency Traffic Only". For a short-time all roads in and out of Asheville were blocked leaving Asheville essentially as an island. Some roads have opened up allowing emergency services into the area, but I-40 west of Asheville and I-26 north of Asheville have both been washed out cutting access to TN. The NCDOT has stated dates of March 2025 for I-26 and September 2025 for I-40, but the NCDOT has also stated that these dates are merely placeholders. In this author's opinion, those dates will eventually change.

Support

For the people who live in the impacted areas, this disaster has taken

everything. There are way too many people in need. If you feel compelled to make donations, and are not sure where to go, the following is a list of organizations that are actively serving to help these communities impacted by Hurricane Helene. Some of these organizations are also taking volunteer applications/sign ups should you have the desire and ability to donate your time.

- [Samaritan's Purse](#)– International headquarters are in Boone, NC; responding in five locations over four states
- [Hearts with Hands](#)– Asheville organization that provides "boxes of hope"
- [Manna FoodBank](#) – Asheville non-profit working to end food insecurity in Western NC
- [Hope Mill Inc.](#) – Helicopter relief helping rescue and make supply drops
- [United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County](#) – Supports residents' immediate and long-term needs
- [Operation Airdrop](#) – Delivers essential supplies, hot meals and other support
- [JAARS, Inc.](#) – Christian organization that flies into remote/hard to access areas
- [Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina](#) – Emergency food boxes to assist neighboring food banks

HPARC Meeting

October 7, 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

ARRL Utah Section Expanding Emergency Communication Capabilities

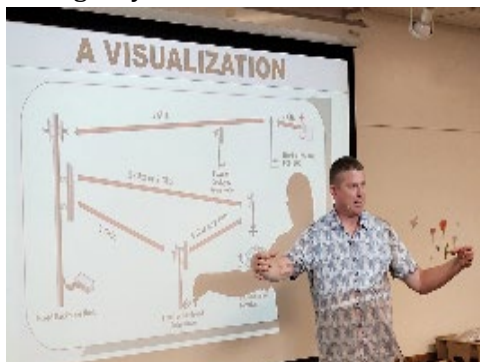
Source: ARRL Letter –September 5, 2024

A new and faster way to communicate during emergencies is being planned by the Utah Section of the ARRL ARES® group, which serves Salt Lake County, the most populous area in Utah.

ARRL Utah Section Public Information Coordinator Scott Rosenbush, K7HSR, said that discussion and planning for mesh networks using [AREDN](#) (Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network) technology is on the drawing board.

A recent meeting and presentation by Brett Pruitt, K7BDP, Utah Section Emergency Coordinator, was attended by a large group of ARES amateur radio operators. More than a dozen Salt Lake County hams have already invested in AREDN technology with an interest in helping to create and support an emergency mesh network in the county. Southern Utah ARES groups have already created a five-county

mesh network that can be used for emergency communications.



Brett Pruitt, K7BDP,
Utah Section Emergency Coordinator

“We hope to ultimately connect to [STARLINK](#) and run the mesh network over that,” said Pruitt. “On November 2, we will have an exercise with hospitals in the northern and southern Utah ARES groups using the regular internet. After that, if STARLINK is more readily available, we will run the drill again without the internet to fully test the new

technology.” Pruitt said the goal is to have everything working by early 2025.

“The needs of participating agencies have evolved to require more than analog voice and low-speed data modes,” said Rosenbush. High-speed mesh networks using AREDN software will allow amateur radio to play a larger role in supporting these agencies in emergencies.”

The Utah Section is working to extend this technology, said Rosenbush. “Our hope is to bring this technology to other parts of the state to increase the communications capability and value of amateur radio to partner agencies.”



National Preparedness Month: Have a Go Kit

Source: ARRL Letter –September 5, 2024

September is National Preparedness Month, and ARRL is working to help radio amateurs have a plan for family resilience. Many hams enjoy public service as part of their operating. Being ready to activate for a served agency through the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®) involves not only being licensed and trained, but also prepared and equipped.

ARRL Director of Emergency Management Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, suggests that hams and their families have a “go-bag”. He says there are a few things to consider: “You need to be able to

function while activated, so that means you need a kit for your needs

and a kit for your radio needs. If your family is impacted by the situation, they also need to have some gear at the ready.”

On the ARRL website, there’s an [Emergency Prep Kit Checklist](#). It lists the common items such as food and water for several days, a first aid kit, medications, chargers for your devices and other useful items.

Having a kit for your radio is useful as well. “Go kits will vary based on function and need for the field,” said Johnston. “Most kits should include a dual band HT and/or mobile radio with antenna, a power supply and all necessary cables and connectors. Every kit should include note pad or paper of some type as well as pens or

pencils. You should have a power source and power cables. If you are working HF then you will need an HF radio and antenna, and if you want digital capabilities, then a computer with software preloaded will be desired.”

Other things you may want will include tape and tools, spare batteries, headphones, flashlights of some sort, cell phone chargers, and a multimeter. Other items that won’t fit in a bag but may be needed include a generator, a working surface like a small folding table, a chair, and some type of shelter.

Need a bag for your go kit? Consider the [ARRL Gray Canvas Backpack](#). \$30.00 in the ARRL Store.

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 education 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 museums volunteer process. To get started, or to learn more, please contact Richard Weinbaum, KK4RR at 336-687-8001 or KK4RR@mac.com.

National Preparedness Month: Ensuring Family Safety

Source: ARRL Letter –September 12, 2024

September is [National Preparedness Month](#). In coordination with our partners at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the [ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service® \(ARES®\)](#) is producing a series of weekly articles to help radio amateurs and their families stay safe.

See previous stories:

<https://www.arrl.org/news/resilience-through-amateur-radio-for-national-preparedness-month>

<https://www.arrl.org/news/national-preparedness-month-have-a-go-kit>

For a ham or any other public safety responder, whether paid or volunteer, it is not uncommon to be called out to provide assistance during disasters. We often do not know when we will be called or exactly what the call will involve. We also do not know how long we may be deployed. In the last edition,

we focused on our go kit and the tools we should have to deploy as an amateur radio volunteer. But have we made sure our family is prepared for these times, whether we are deployed or will be staying home?

As the theme of this month suggests, ARRL Director of Emergency Management



Josh Johnston, K5MHV, says it comes down to being prepared. "Make a plan with your family and ensure basic

supplies are available including water, food and first aid capabilities. Do you have a generator or alternate power capabilities and do your family members know how to use it? Have a communications plan, including backup communications, with family members and friends," he said.

Johnston says to ensure your family knows where to go if they must evacuate

for some reason. Always remember your family and your health and safety should always come first.

"Remember that there may be a time that you are the victim. There may be a time that you must turn down a request for assistance because you must take care of your family first. Ask if you can be put in a slot later down the roster to allow time to get your family to safety or have everything settled to ensure your family is cared for before deployment," said Johnston.

ARRL recognizes the tremendous work ham radio volunteers put into serving their communities. "If your mind is not on the mission, you may be putting yourself and others at risk. Therefore, you should ensure your family's wellbeing before, during and after a major event," Johnston continued.

Learn about how to become an ARES Volunteer on the ARRL website at www.arrl.org/ares.

Learn more about how to keep your family safe at www.ready.gov.

OCTOBER

HPARC CALENDAR

- 7 — **HPARC Meeting**
- 12 — W4VEC Greensboro VE Session
(Hinshaw United Methodist Church, Fellowship Bldg)
- 14 — Columbus Day
- 20 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline
- 26 — W4VEC High Point VE Session
(Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church – Fellowship Hall)
- 31 — Halloween
(Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church)

BIRTHDAYS

Armistead, Lacey	KN4JOX
Cecil, Lon	AA4LC
Mansfield, Phillip	KN4VQE

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

2024 HPARC OFFICERS

David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF — President — 336-420-9424 — President@W4UA.org.
Terence Crandall, N4TLC — Vice-President — 336-413-9589 — VicePresident@W4UA.org
Keith Thomas, KA4JAH — Secretary — 336-906-2469 — Secretary@W4UA.org
Peter Kapetanakis, KN4OCX — Treasurer — 336-978-2337 — Treasurer@W4UA.org

Newsletter Editor — Peter Kapetanakis KN4OCX — 336 978 2337 — Kn4ocx@arrl.net
HPARC – www.w4ua.org – w4ua@arrl.net – 147.165 (67 Hz Tone) – 443.900

**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. 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.