

APRIL 2015

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point
Amateur Radio
Club



APRIL MEETING

At the April meeting the Constitution and By-laws committee will give their report on the changes they are recommending for the HPARC. This is an important step for the club to pursue tax exempt status. The committee will go over the changes at the April meeting. At the May meeting, there will be a vote on the changes.

In order to make changes to the Constitution, the HPARC needs two-thirds of the membership to vote in person or by proxy. To change the By-laws,

we need one-half of the membership to vote in person or by proxy.

Those members not able to attend the April meeting will receive a written copy of the proposed changes. If you know or feel that you will not be able to attend the May meeting to vote, we need you to ask for a proxy. Please we need your help on this matter. The tax exempt status is a project the HPARC has been discussing for some time. For us to accomplish this, we need the membership's participation. Please

help us in this endeavor.

At the March meeting, David Macchiarolo gave a program on antenna modeling.

I am conflicted with telling you about some of our club member's health and privacy concerns. So I will simply say Dwight is home, Ben has been transferred, Sam is recovering and Roland is having a procedure. For more information, read your emails or call me.

Well there is a lot going on and we need you in the mix. Plan on being with us for the meeting. See you there.

NUMBER OF US AMATEUR RADIO LICENSEES AT ALL-TIME HIGH

The US Amateur Radio population continues to soar. At the end of 2014, the total number of US Amateurs in the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS) database reached an all-time high of 726,275 — and the trend has continued in the first 2 months of 2015, which saw the total rise to slightly more than 727,000. The figures exclude expired licenses that are within the 2-year grace period, and club station licenses. Outside of a little

dithering last fall, growth in the Amateur Radio Service in 2014 was steady, according to figures compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A, on his FCC Amateur Radio Statistics web pages. Over the past decade, the number of Amateur Radio licenses in the ULS database grew by some 8.1 percent. But 2014 was also a banner year for the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC).

At the end of 2014, there were 136,405 Amateur Extra, 169,524 General, and 357,236

Technician class licensees — all record numbers, says ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. While the number of Amateur Extra licensees grew in each month of 2014,

Number continued inside...

**HPARC Meeting
April 6, 2015**

**Rancho's,
10463 North Main St,
Archdale, NC**

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

HOW TO RESEARCH OLD HAM CALL SIGNS

A web article, "How to Find Old Amateur Radio Call Signs" provides useful tips on how to research old Amateur Radio call signs. It includes access to old Call Book Magazine editions dating back to 1913 as well as privately compiled list-

ings and valuable information on considerable online resources and how to search for call signs using the sometimes imperfect Google scans of old Radio Amateur Call Book editions. Other resources mentioned include the ARRL

Periodicals Archive and Search page and the National Silent Key Archive, which includes both US and Canadian listings.

—The ARRL Letter,
March 26, 2015
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME,
Editor

WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY 2015

Mark down April 18th as the day that Radio Amateurs worldwide take to the airwaves in celebration of World Amateur Radio Day. It was on that day in 1925 that the International Amateur Radio Union or IARU was formed in Paris, France .

Since its founding, the IARU

has worked tirelessly to defend and expand the frequency allocations for Amateur Radio. Thanks to the support of enlightened administrations in every part of the globe, Radio Amateurs are now able to experiment and communicate in frequency bands strategically located throughout

the radio spectrum.

World Amateur Radio Day is the day when IARU Member-Societies can show our capabilities to the public and enjoy global friendship with other Amateurs worldwide.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1957,
March 20, 2015

VIBROPLEX PURCHASES BENCHER PRODUCT LINE

Bencher Inc has announced the sale of its Amateur Radio product line to Vibroplex LLC of Knoxville, Tennessee, owned by Scott Robbins, W4PA. "This sale ends Bencher's presence in the Amateur Radio field, thus allowing the principals, Jere Benedict, President, and Bob Locher, W9KNI, to move towards retirement," the announcement said.

Product lines included in the

sale include the Bencher BY series of iambic paddles as well as the ST series of single-lever paddles, the Bencher Hex Paddle, the N2DAN Mercury Paddle, and the Bencher RJ series hand keys. The sale also includes the HK-1 Universal Hook-up kit and the YA-1 Low Pass Filter. Vibroplex has agreed to honor the manufacturer's warranties and to provide parts and support, and it

will continue offering Bencher products through existing marketing channels. Benedict and Locher expressed "gratitude to the Amateur Radio community for its interest and support since the sale of the first Bencher Amateur Radio products in the early 1970s."

—The ARRL Letter,
March 19, 2015
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME,
Editor

THE CW GEEKS GUIDE TO HAVING FUN WITH MORSE CODE

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, has announced the publication of his new book titled "The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code."

Dan's new book is all about helping Hams learn Morse,

assisting in finding a key that's right for them, and showing them how to get on the air. It also teaches Hams how to use abbreviations, Q-signals and prosigns properly.

The "CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code" is available in several different formats.

—Amateur Radio Newsline,
Report 1958,
March 27, 2015

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 at 6:30 pm at a local restaurant announced in the newsletter. The business meeting starts around 7:00 pm 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.

...Number continued from cover

the number of Technicians and Generals — and of licensees overall — faltered a bit last July and September. Last

year's overall upward trend quickly recovered, however, during the final quarter of 2014. The General population also dipped briefly in May

2014, before rebounding.

—The ARRL Letter,
March 5, 2015
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME,
Editor

FCC FIELD OFFICE DOWNSIZING CONFIRMED

The Federal Communications Commission is considering the downsizing its Enforcement Bureau and Field Office operations.

In a very governmental sounding reply, an FCC spokesperson responded to an inquiry from the on-line publication Radio Ink regarding the rumor of downsizing in the field operations.

To quote the response: “The Commission recently completed a thorough, data-driven review of our field programs with an eye toward improving efficiency while meeting our responsibilities both today and in the future. The commissioners are considering a proposal that meets these goals.”

In its report, the ARRL

went further. According to an internal March 10th FCC Enforcement Bureau memorandum obtained by the League, the Bureau plans to ask the full Commission to cut two-thirds of its field offices and eliminate nearly one-half of its field agents.

Under its “Phase I” field modernization scheme, the Bureau will recommend to the full Commission that it adjust the primary focus of its reduced field office complement to RF spectrum enforcement. It will also recommend “adjusting” the number of field agents from 63 to 33. At the same time, the Bureau would develop a so-called “Tiger Team” of field agents as a flexible strike force it could deploy as needed.

The ARRL's Dave Sumner noted that the League is concerned that there is already no sense of urgency in the FCC's enforcement activities targeting spectrum polluters, such as utilities with noisy power lines, or the few violators in our own ranks.

According to the on-line magazine, actions against AM/FM and shortwave pirate stations last year were at their lowest level since 2000. In 2014 there were fewer than 200 actions were taken against these stations including those in New York, New Jersey, Florida and Boston which are still hot spots for pirate broadcast activity.

—Amateur Radio Newline,
Report 1957,
March 20, 2015

APRIL 1ST ITEM: PIERRE PULLINMYLEG WITH THE LATEST ON FCC ENFORCEMENT DOWNSIZING

As we reported last week the FCC is planning to cut its Enforcement Bureau staff in half and close three-quarters of its field offices, replacing them with so-called “Tiger Team” strike forces. But Newline's April 1st roving correspondent Pierre Pullinmyleg reports that that is only the tip of the iceberg:

[Pierre] Vee have learned from our confused sources that zee FCC's proposed enforcement “Tiger Teams” will be only part of a menagerie of planned strike forcez, including lion, leopard, cheetah and

chimpanzee teams. Each of zeese will be devoted to enforcing FCC rules in a particular radio service, representing in total a titanic new response to lawlessness upon the airwavez.

Beginning next April 1st, enforcement in zee Amateur Service will be the responsibility of the FCC Chimpanzee Team strike force. Zeee special agents will leap into action whenever a rules violation is detected on zee Ham bands, going bananas and swinging from tower to tower until the violator is brought to justice.

Zee ultimate goal, according to newly-named team chief Sam Simian, is to make it coconut clear to the Amateur Radio community zat zee FCC means business and zat Hams who monkey around with zee rules will eventually slip up and be brought down.

From the primate pavilion at zee Bronx Zoo, this is Pierre Pullinmyleg reporting for Newline.

(The Pierre Pullinmyleg April 1st Report)

—Amateur Radio Newline,
Report 1958,
March 27, 2015



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

HPARC APRIL CALENDAR

- 1 — April Fool's Day**
- 4 — Raleigh Hamfest
- 5 — EASTER**
- 6 — HPARC Club Meeting**
- 18-23 — HP Furniture Market
- 18 — Catawba Valley Hamfest,
Morganton, NC
- 19 — ARRL Rookie Roundup – Phone
- 22 — EARTH DAY
- 24 — National Arbor Day
- 26 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline
- 29 — Administrative Professionals' Day

BIRTHDAYS

- Sam Hall — April 21
- David Macchiarolo — April 25
- Dan Bly — April 27

2015 HPARC OFFICERS

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