

JANUARY 2016

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point
Amateur Radio
Club



JANUARY MEETING

Hope everyone had a very merry Christmas.

The attendance for the HPARC December meeting/Christmas party was slightly off, but there was still plenty of food and good times to spread around. I hope everyone had a good time and thanks to everyone who helped set up and clean up for the meeting.

So, I am not too disappointed, I didn't get everything I wanted for Christmas, but I received one of my Christmas wishes. The Yaesu repeater the HPARC ordered (through David Macchiarolo) arrived just before Christmas. David Macchiarolo has been checking the repeater. Read the article inside this newsletter.

The club is still conducting a food drive. Bring non-perishable food items to the meeting. Warren Gallemore and John Starrett have been in charge of the donations.

Happy New Year's to everyone. I wish only the best for all and hope to see you at a club meeting very soon. Until then, be safe. 73's

SILENT KEY: HAM RADIO OUTLET FOUNDER ROBERT FERRERO, W6RJ

The Amateur Radio community has lost a businessman, a friend and a devoted advocate and DXpeditioner:

Robert Ferrero, W6RJ, the founder of the national Ham Radio Outlet chain, became a Silent Key on

December 4, 2015.

—*Amateur Radio Newslines*,
Report 1989,
December 11, 2015

CHRISTMAS DAY ROLL CALL 2015

David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, did a wonderful job this year as our Net Control for the HPARC Christmas Day Roll Call. Too bad more members didn't show up for the roll call.

Seven members and one visitor checked in for the roll call. This is two more than last year.

Fred Browning started this tradition many years ago call-

ing the HPARC roster at 8:00 a.m. on Christmas morning.

Hopefully we will get more participation at next year's Roll Call. Plan on it.

2016 HPARC OFFICERS

The 2016 HPARC Officers look a lot like the 2015 Officers. The current slate of officers were voted to continue as officers for 2016.

Those officers are: Mark McMahan, President; Dan

Bly, Vice-President, Larry Kirby, Secretary; and Warren Gallemore, Treasurer.

I was told I was re-elected as President to "get it right." The club may live to regret this decision. It's going to be a long year.

**HPARC Meeting
January 4, 2016**

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

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

HPARC TO CONTINUE COLLECTING FOOD

At the August meeting, the HPARC collected canned and packaged food to be distributed among a couple of members who are associated with

food pantries and food kitchens. It was decided by the club to continue this activity.

If you wish to participate, please bring non-perishable

food items to the club. It doesn't have to be canned food – just non-perishable such as boxed or packaged food items.

We appreciate your help.

YAESU FUSION DR-1X REPEATER IS HERE!

An early Christmas present, the Yaesu Fusion DR-1X arrived on December 21. David Macchiarolo has plugged the repeater into a dummy load and tested it out. David reports that everything seems to work fine.

Inside the repeater, David reports the antenna connection to the receive radio was loose.

A date for installing the new repeater has yet to be decided on. We are probably looking at mid to late January for an installation date.

Thanks to everyone who participated and donated in order to make this possible. I am sure a more detailed report is forthcoming from the Repeater committee.

PLANNING MEETING JANUARY 16

Each year, I seem to have done things differently. 2016 will continue this. I would like, as HPARC President, call a special meeting in January. The purpose of this meeting is to select our committee heads and talking about events the HPARC participates in as well as membership recruitment.

We could probably do this at the regular HPARC meeting on January 4 at Rancho's Restaurant, but I think a quieter setting devoted to just the above topics without the other

business we normally conduct would be better.

So I am calling a special meeting on January 16, 2016 to select committees and talk about club events as well as club planning. Pizzas and sodas will be provided. If you have a special need, please bring what you need for eating/drinking.

The meeting will be in Dr. Warren Gallemore's break room at his office, Emerywood Medical Specialties, at our usual time of 6:30 p.m. This will be an informal meeting (we will

dispense with the usual business procedures and will eat and talk—two of our favorite things to do). I would prefer to hear more talking from our club members and less from me (don't you all).

Emerywood Medical Specialties is located at 810 Lindsay Street. Come around to the back of the building to the parking lot that faces the hospital. Entrance to the break room faces the hospital. If you need better directions, let us know, and we will help you out.

NO SECRECY OVER NATIONAL PARKS EVENT

During World War II, the kind of activations that took place inside government facilities in Hanford, Washington; Los Alamos, New Mexico and Oak Ridge, Tennessee were of the scientific sort, top secret components of the Manhattan Project, which developed America's first atomic weapon. Those sites are

about to be activated again—this time for Amateur Radio. The U.S. Departments of Energy and the Interior have declared the locations National Historic Sites, making them eligible for next year's National Parks on the Air event, marking the National Park Service's 100th anniversary.

So when the event kicks off

next year, it's likely the kind of radio activity this time around won't have the same mission as that during the second World War. But it's bound to create a powerful reaction, nonetheless—this time, on the HF bands.

—*Amateur Radio Newslines*,
Report 1986,
November 20, 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 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.

FIRST AMATEUR RADIO IN GEOSYNCHRONOUS ORBIT

Researchers at the Ted and Karyn Hume Center for National Security and Technology are preparing to send an Amateur Radio transponder into a geosynchronous orbit in 2017.

“Seven days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, a new Ham band will be available for the Americas,” said Robert McGwier, a research professor in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Hume Center’s director of research. “It will allow rapid deployment to disaster areas and support long-haul communications for first responders.”

This would be the first Amateur or “Ham” radio payload in a geosynchronous orbit, and would significantly enhance communications capabilities for Amateur Radio operators, in particular following natural disasters or other emergency situations.

Currently, most Amateur Radio operators communicate by bouncing their signals off the ionosphere. Solar flares,

geomagnetic storms, and other events that change the condition of the ionosphere can affect the efficiency of radio signal propagation, making it unpredictable.

Sending radio signals to a satellite, instead, would be much more dependable, allowing radio operators to help emergency personnel reliably access supplies, logistical support, and medical assistance. They key is to ensure that the satellite would always be accessible to the radio operators—which is why the geosynchronous orbit is critical.

A geosynchronous orbit has the same period as the Earth’s rotation—just under 24 hours. A satellite in such an orbit is easy to locate and access. In this case, the satellite will always be within a band of longitudes over the Americas, continually accessible to any Amateur Radio operator there, including the students and researchers at the Virginia Tech Ground Station.

The satellite itself will be operated by Millennium Space

Systems on behalf of the United States Air Force; the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation, also known as AMSAT, will operate the radio, which will be designed and built by Virginia Tech students—making this project a unique collaboration among the university, nonprofit organizations, private companies, and the federal government.

The Hume Center team is also engineering a ground terminal that emergency personnel could use to relay their own existing communications channels through the satellite. This setup could be deployed through the American Radio Relay League and the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation as a key part of a robust national emergency response system, allowing trained operators to reliably mobilize to disaster areas in the first critical hours after a devastating event.

—<http://phys.org/news/2015-12-amateur-radio-geosynchronous-orbit-aid.html>
December 22, 2015

KID’S DAY IS SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

The next Kids Day will be Sunday, January 3, 2016, from 1800 to 2400 UTC. The twice-yearly event, sponsored by the ARRL and The Boring (Oregon) Amateur Radio Club, is an excellent opportunity to showcase Amateur Radio and Amateur Radio satellites to youngsters and even to hand over the keys so they can get some hands-on experience. Share the excitement with your own children or grandkids or youngsters in the neighborhood!

For youngsters, their positive Ham Radio experience may foster an interest that leads them to get licensed one day. For veteran Radio Amateurs, it’s a chance to share their stations and affection for Amateur Radio with the next generation.

To solicit contacts call “CQ Kids Day.” The suggested exchange is name, age, location, and favorite color. There is no limit on operating time, and stations may work each other more than once if the operator

has changed. Repeater contacts (with permission of the repeater’s sponsor) are okay too, and satellite contacts may provide a real thrill. Observe third-party traffic restrictions when making DX contacts.

All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate. Send a 9 × 12 SASE to Kids Day Certificate Request, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

—*The ARRL Letter*,
December 24, 2015
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.



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

HPARC JANUARY CALENDAR

- 1 — NEW YEAR'S DAY**
- 1 — ARRL Straight Key Night
- 2-3 — ARRL RTTY Roundup
- 3 — ARRL Kid's Day
- 9 — Winston Salem Firstfest
- 18 — MARTIN L. KING JR BIRTHDAY**
(observed)
- 24 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline
- 30-1 — ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

BIRTHDAYS

Larry Frye — January 15
 Robert Erdin — January 16

2016 HPARC OFFICERS

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