

FEBRUARY 2016

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point
Amateur Radio
Club



FEBRUARY MEETING

Everyone was in surprise when Dan Bly stood in for Mark as Moderator for the January meeting. Dan did a wonderful job. There was no formal program. Future President in training?

The Yaesu DR-1X repeater is on the air. See article.

A special election was held for HPARC Secretary. David Macchiarolo was elected in

his absence. Shows why you should attempt to attend every meeting. You can't defend yourself if you aren't present.

The HPARC had a special planning meeting on January 16. A lot was discussed and will come before the regular club meeting in the next couple of months. I personally believe it was a very productive meeting.

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.

I am encouraged by the conversations we had at our planning meeting that this will be a busy year. I am glad to see it. Hope you will join us for the journey. See you at the meeting.

REDESIGNED FCC WEBSITE MAKES IT EASY FOR HAMS TO FILE INTERFERENCE COMPLAINTS

The FCC has made it easier for Hams to file RF interference and other complaints, thanks to a new feature of the FCC's recently redesigned website. The addition was made at ARRL's request. Hams have always been able to file such complaints, but when a new complaint system geared largely to consumers came online a year ago, they lost the ability to do so via e-mail to a dedicated address. The change made it less clear how Amateurs should file such complaints and what, if anything, would result.

Once on the FCC site, click "File a Consumer Complaint" on the right side of the screen. The next page lists several categories. Under "Radio," click

on "File Complaint." This will take you to a web form that you can fill out. The form includes a drop-down menu for the "Radio Issues" field. Pick one, such as "Interference." This will bring down another menu. The "Your Radio Method" field includes another drop-down menu. Select "Amateur Radio." Complete the rest of the form. It is possible to add attachments. Click on "Submit" to file your complaint.

The FCC e-mail addresses for submitting complaints have been discontinued; they had been rendered ineffective by spam.

Each complaint is assigned a ticket number, and complainants receive an e-mail acknowledgment and, if appropriate, a

follow-up report on what was done to address the complaint. Many complaints are simply acknowledged, however, and the complainant is told that it will be used for statistical analysis. A complainant can update a complaint with additional information.

—*The ARRL Letter*,
January 7, 2016
Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

HPARC Meeting February 1, 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 ON THE AIR!

Our new Yaesu Fusion repeater is on the air. Lon Cecil, David Macchiarolo and Mark McMahan helped install the

new repeater on January 15.

There is no courtesy beep which will take some getting used to. Lon and David should

have a complete report for us at the meeting.

Get on 147.165 and give our new repeater a spin.

ARRL AGAIN COMPLAINS ABOUT BALLASTS

The ARRL has again complained to the FCC to allege illegal marketing of electronic RF lighting ballasts, operating under Part 18 of the Commission's rules, on the part of two major retailers. Letters went out in late December to the FCC Enforcement Bureau and its Office of Engineering and Technology, claiming Part 18 marketing regulations violations by Lowe's and by Walmart stores. At issue is the sale of non-consumer RF lighting ballasts to consumers who, in several instances, were told by store personnel that it was okay to install these in a residential setting. In addition, non-consumer and residential-class ballasts are being intermixed in store displays with inadequate signage to direct consumers to the correct choice. Both letters asked the FCC to investigate and commence enforcement proceedings with respect to the two stores' marketing and retail sale of RF lighting devices in

the US.

"ARRL purports to show that the [retailer] is...marketing and selling to consumers (by retail sale) non-consumer Part 18 RF lighting devices which are not intended for residential deployment, to consumers who have specifically noted their intention to deploy the devices in residential applications," ARRL Chief Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said in similar complaint letters to the Commission. Part 18 emissions limits for consumer devices are far lower than those allowed for non-consumer devices.

"ARRL has received numerous complaints from Amateur Radio operators of significant noise in the medium (MF) and high frequency (HF) bands between 1.8 MHz and 30 MHz from 'grow lights' and other Part 15 and part 18 RF lighting devices," Imlay continued. "These devices are easily capable of emitting RF noise sufficient to preclude Amateur Radio MF and HF communica-

tions (and, as well, AM broadcast station reception) throughout entire communities."

Supporting both complaints were extensive and detailed reports by ARRL Laboratory EMC Specialist Mike Gruber, W1MG. The reports recount incidents of actual purchases of Part 18 RF lighting devices intended for commercial use to consumers who made clear to store personnel that they intended to use the devices at home. Gruber's reports include multiple photographs depicting in-store displays of the products in question and showing signage that does not adequately explain which devices may be sold to whom.

The ARRL has asked that stores remove all non-consumer devices from retail sale and marketing and to track and recall non-consumer devices already sold to consumers.

—*The ARRL Letter*,
January 7, 2016,
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 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.

DISHTRONIX PURCHASES TEN-TEC ASSETS

Dishtronix, an electronics design and manufacturing company, has purchased the assets of TEN-TEC from RKR Designs. Headquartered in Bellefontaine, Ohio, Dishtronix manufactures and markets the "Prometheus" solid-state Amateur Radio amplifier, among other products. No formal announcement has been made by either company, and details of the purchase are still being finalized. RKR Designs announced last April 2 that it had acquired the assets of TEN-TEC and Alpha Amplifiers from RF Concepts, less than 1 year after the two lines had merged under the RF Concepts brand in an asset sale. Dishtronix owner Steven M. "Mike" Dishop, N8WFF, told ARRL that, while TEN-TEC has had different owners over the years, he is in it for the long haul.

"Dishtronix has been continuously operating for 17 years,

is financially stable and will continue managing in a manner that promotes and maintains financial stability. My vision is strictly long term," he said. TEN-TEC production will remain in Sevierville, Tennessee.

Dishtronix said that it "seriously committed" in September 2001 to enter the Amateur Radio market with high-power, solid-state amplifiers and accessories. Dishop said Dishtronix has other new products under development, including a new legal-limit, solid-state amp that he expects to debut at Dayton Hamvention® in May.

"When I have capacity, the next step is to run the first batch of Omni VII+ [transceivers], which is the Omni VII with some minor cosmetic changes and improvements, such as a flat metal front for improved shielding," he added. He also expects to post some

firmware updates as soon as possible, once the new TEN-TEC website is up.

Dishop told ARRL that he's had to make "some tough decisions" to ensure the company's long-term viability. He confirmed a recent TEN-TEC reflector web post by former TEN-TEC Engineering Manager John Henry, KI4JPL, whom Dishop has retained on a contract basis, that indicated a new service policy is now in place, with a \$140 minimum charge just to look at a radio, even if it is not repaired. This includes items already sent to RKR for repair.

Dishop asked the Amateur Radio community to be patient during the transition. "I am fully committed to bring TEN-TEC back to a sustainable state," he said in his earlier web post. "This will take some time."

—*The ARRL Letter*,

January 7, 2016,

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

WEATHERING A NEW SOUND

If you've been using NOAA Weather Radio to monitor the changing forecast, get ready for a new voice to deliver the meteorological message to you.

Starting January 11, NOAA Weather Radio [will] deploy its first upgrade in 15 years of the

system that produces its broadcast programs. And that upgrade will change the voice listeners hear delivering observations, warnings, watches and forecasts.

NOAA hopes the new voice, generated by a new computer system, weathers the flood of

feedback it expects during this period, which is likely to last several months. If all goes well, the new system will have a nationwide rollout later in the year on all transmitters.

—*Amateur Radio Newslines*,

Report 1993, January 8, 2016

2016 HPARC COMMITTEES

- Repeater:** Lon Cecil, co-chairman; David Macchiarolo, co-chairman; Mark McMahan
House: John Starrett, chairman; Roland Wright, Dan Bly
Special Activities: Mark McMahan, chairman; David Macchiarolo, Dale Waterson
Education: Sam Hall, chairman; Dwight Sledge; David Macchiarolo
Membership: Warren Gallemore, chairman; Roland Wright; Lon Cecil; Mark McMahan
Finance: Warren Gallemore, chairman; David Macchiarolo; Dan Bly
Publicity: Lon Cecil, chairman; David Macchiarolo; Warren Gallemore; Jerry Yarborough
Program: David Macchiarolo, chairman; Warren Gallemore; Dwight Sledge; Larry Kirby



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

HPARC FEBRUARY CALENDAR

1 — HPARC Club Meeting

2 — GROUNDHOG DAY

6 — Richmond, VA Frostfest

7 — Super Bowl Sunday

8-12 — School Club Roundup

12 — Lincoln's Birthday

14 — VALENTINE'S DAY

15 — PRESIDENT'S DAY

20-21 — ARRL International DX
 Contest, CW

22 — Washington's Birthday

28 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline

BIRTHDAYS

Mark McMahan — February 7
 David Montgomery — February 27

2016 HPARC OFFICERS

Mark McMahan, KB4MFP — President — 887-3039 — kb4mfp@arrl.net

Dan Bly, KB8TLF — Vice-President — 259-1203 — kb8tlf@gmail.com

David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF — Secretary — 869-2894 — aj4tf@arrl.net

Warren Gallemore, KA4LOQ — Treasurer — 883-4944 — warreng960@mac.com

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HPARC Web page: <http://www.w4ua.org> — email: w4ua@arrl.net

**Breakfast
 every Saturday**

—
8:00 a.m.

—
**Biscuitville,
 2709 S. Main St.**