

MARCH 2017

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point
Amateur Radio
Club



MARCH MEETING

For the March meeting, David Macchiarolo will give the program. It will be on HF Digital Modes. This seemed to be on several of the surveys that were turned in by club members.

Tom Evans, NA4U, gave a program for the February meeting on HF communications. By the way, Tom was using our club's new projector (purchased by David Macchiarolo).

We have had a bout of sickness in our club. Bob Erdin's mother as well as Mike

Cumbo's mother have passed in the past month. We have had some members who have come down with the crud. Please remember these in your thoughts and prayers.

Committee heads were announced at the last meeting. Committees and chairman will be published in a later edition of the HPARC Newsletter when the committees are complete. If called upon to serve, please don't turn them down.

Yours truly was given a plaque for being President for 2014-2016 at the February meet-

ing. Still waiting for my bonus check.

Our informal, casual get-together on Saturdays fluctuates up and down on attendance sometimes coming close to matching a monthly membership meeting. There is no agenda, except to fellowship with one another. And possibly eat a biscuit (or muffin). Come check it out.

We are continuing to have a good attendance at our meetings. Have you made the meeting this year yet? Plan on being with us, bring a friend or neighbor. Hope to see you at the meeting.

NEW AMATEUR RADIO ON THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

The International Space Station is expecting a special delivery. It's a new radio that's been very much needed for several months now.

The newest Amateur Radio aboard the International Space Station is on its way: It's an Ericsson 2 meter VHF radio and it took off from Launch Pad 39A at the Kennedy Space Center with the launch of a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket on Sunday, February 19th. Its mission? To replace the Ericsson radio that failed aboard the space station several months ago. The

Ericsson will be used for contact with educational groups and schools and for Amateur packet radio in the Columbus module.

Frank Bauer KA3HDO, ARISS' International Chairman, reports that the Ericsson will be installed in the Columbus module and will take the place of the UHF radio that has been used in the meantime for some school contacts and APRS packet. Frank announced in a statement that he believed ARISS was making "great progress on the development of the new interoperable radio system that we hope

to use to replace our aging radio infrastructure in the Columbus module and the Service module."

—*Amateur Radio Newslite*,
Report 2052,
February 24, 2017

**HPARC Meeting
March 6, 2017**

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

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

UPDATE: STATUS OF ALPHA RF SYSTEMS AND TEN-TEC

Dear OM and YL's

Last night Mike Dishop gave me an update on the current status of the two companies and asked me to pass it on wherever I can. Here is the status, followed by a personal message from me:

BOTH COMPANIES ARE ALIVE AND WELL AND DEFINITELY STILL IN BUSINESS!

It is sad to read the recent email posts on several forums, questioning whether these two companies are out of business or still in business. Both companies are very much alive and slowly progressing.

Recently Dishtronix completed its two new web pages for these companies, migrated all of the data from its old RKR website to the two individual new web sites, and closed down the old site. This is great progress.

UNFORTUNATELY the closing of the old site was seen as an omen of bad news when indeed it is a breath of fresh air!

The new sites are now up and running.

Here are the two new web sites:

ALPHA:

<http://www.alpharfsystems.com>

TEN-TEC:

<http://www.tentec.com>

Here is the current status of both companies:

ALPHA: Alpha is currently

producing 9500 and 8410 amplifiers. Both amplifiers will be back in stock in March (2017) and sitting on the shelves. All back orders have already been filled. Alpha repair service has always been operating and continues to deliver first class service to its customers.

TEN-TEC: Ten-Tec has moved to its new, larger facility and has continuously repaired radios at its Sevierville TN site. It has been getting repaired radios out the door on a daily basis (except for the few days where they were moving shop). There is still no telephone service. Email-only. Service requests should be sent to service@tentec.com.

"Robert" is answering emails, but only works on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. If you email on Friday, you need to be patient because he isn't going to read it until Tuesday. The repair technicians are working five days a week fixing radios.

TEN-TEC production: The current plan is to do a small run of Eagle transceivers. The projected price (stripped) is \$1600 to \$1700. It is obvious that Ten-Tec cannot compete on price alone with the subsidized engineering in Japan and slave (like) labor in China. If you love Ten-Tec and want a Ten-Tec radio, then you will have to pay

what it costs to build a Ten-Tec in USA.

[End of official Message]

Privately I wish to say thank you to Mike Dishop for all of his efforts to rescue these two traditional American companies. He is fighting an uphill battle and rather than coaching him on, it seems some people would rather re-send false and fake news about his efforts – as if they hope he will fail. Disgusting!

At the end of the day it is up to us to decide whether we want Alpha RF Systems and Ten-Tec to survive, or go the route of Collins, Drake, Hammerlund, Heathkit, and others.

I challenge all of you to join me in applauding Mike Dishop for his efforts to keep these two companies alive, but Mike is beginning to feel like nobody cares anymore, based on the ongoing flow of negative emails.

If you approve of his efforts, PLEASE EXPRESS IT IN AN EMAIL – (he reads our email posts).

You don't have to send money, just tell Mike you appreciate his efforts.

The ball is in YOUR court. Come on guys, LET'S DO IT.

—73 Rick, DJ0IP K4TAX,

rick@dj0ip.de,

February 19, 2017,

QRZ Forums

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 (except for holidays) 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.

OUTSTANDING YEAR FOR AMATEUR RADIO LICENSING!

Last year — 2016 — was another outstanding one for Amateur Radio licensing, says ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM.

“New Amateur Radio licenses issued were up by 1% over 2015, and this is the third year in a row that the total number of new licenses has exceeded 30,000,” Somma reported. She said 32,552 were granted in 2016, 32,077 in 2015, and 33,241 in 2014.

Somma said that while 2014 was a record-setting year for new licenses issued, ARRL VEC “continues to see an elevated interest in obtaining an Amateur Radio license.”

The overall trend contin-

OLDEST, LONGEST-LICENSED U.S. HAM, W2RP, SK

Charles “Charlie” Hellman, W2RP, of Hastings on Hudson, New York, died on January 25. He was 106 and may have not only been the oldest surviving Radio Amateur in the US but, at 92 years, also may have been the longest licensed. Hellman outlived by 8 days Harry Wolf, W6NKT, of Morro Bay, California, who had been considered the oldest US Ham when he died on January 17, just a couple of weeks shy of his 108th birthday.

In 2015, the Quarter Century

A VERY MERRY “CHRISTMAS HAM”

Cliff Tindall, VK9VKL, may not be the ONLY Ham on an Indian Ocean island but he might just be its newest. He’s calling himself the Christmas Ham even though it’s already February. He says he’s the newest Ham on Christmas Island — even if he can’t get on

ues to be up, up, up! The total number of US Amateur Radio licensees has continued to grow each year since the FCC eliminated the Morse code exam requirement in 2007. Over the past decade, the net number of Amateur Radio licensees has risen by nearly 87,000, according to statistics compiled by ARRL Pacific Section Manager Joe Speroni, AH0A. As of December 31, 2016, the total number of licensees in the FCC database was 742,787, topping the 2015 total of 735,405, but down just slightly from the all-time high of 743,003 reached last November.

Somma said license upgrades were down by 5% compared to 2015 — 10,617 versus 11,224. “A

Wireless Association (QCWA) honored Hellman with a “90 Year Continuous Licensed Certificate Award” (No 1). No formal records are kept regarding the oldest or youngest US Hams. Hellman had been regularly active on the air until a few years before his death, when his backyard tower fell victim to Hurricane Sandy.

Licensed as W2AMK in 1925 when he was 15, Hellman, who had been an ARRL member, went on to become an educator. After working his way through

the air just yet.

Christmas is coming soon enough for Cliff, however, because his rig, antenna and other equipment are on their way to his remote location in the Indian Ocean, 870 miles northwest of Australia.

Meanwhile, he’s puzzling

new Amateur Extra class [question] pool took effect on July 1, 2016, which may have impacted upgrade totals in the second half of the year,” she speculated.

As of December 31, according to figures compiled by Speroni, there were 143,337 Amateur Extra licensees, 45,071 Advanced licensees, 172,807 General licensees, 371,560 Technician licensees, and 10,012 Novice licensees. The FCC no longer issues Advanced and Novice class licenses. The General and Technician licensee totals at the end of last year were all-time highs, and the Amateur Extra total was nearly so.

—*The ARRL Letter*,

February 2, 2017

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

the City College of New York by repairing radios, he taught high school physics. During World War II, Hellman was tapped by the Department of War to write a textbook for training radio operators, *Elements of Radio*. Two of Hellman’s siblings also held Ham tickets. His brother Robert, now deceased, was W2JAN. His brother Benjamin, 96, is W2VB.

—*The ARRL Letter*,

February 9, 2017

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME,
Editor

out the slow and costly process of sending those eventual QSL cards out. For their eventual recipients, they’re bound to become Christmas cards of a very different sort.

—*Amateur Radio Newslines*,

Report 2051,

February 17th, 2017



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

HPARC MARCH CALENDAR

6 — HPARC Club Meeting

4-5 — ARRL International DX Contest,
 phone

12 — Daylight Savings Time begins

10-11 — Charlotte Hamfest
 (Cabarrus Arena)

17 — St. Patrick's Day

20 — First Day of Spring

26 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline

BIRTHDAYS

Art Johnson — March 27

2017 HPARC OFFICERS

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**Breakfast
 every Saturday**

—
8:00 a.m.

—
**Biscuitville,
 2709 S. Main St.**