

MAY 2017

# HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point  
Amateur Radio  
Club



## MAY MEETING

At the time I write this, I am not aware of what the May program may be.

Last month's presentation on CPR by Dr. Gallemore was put on hold as his office had a power failure. Warren could not stay for the meeting as he had to catch up on patient reports. David Macchiarolo showed possible sites for Field Day if we are unable to get the

Moore property site this year.

The 147.165 repeater now requires a 67 hz tone on transmit. This means you will need to program 67 hz into your radio in order to transmit on the repeater. If you need help with this, please contact a member of the repeater committee or an HPARC officer.

The 147.165 repeater also boasts a new voice IDer to take

place of the CW IDer. This was graciously donated by our newest member, Rafael Cruz. Please get on the air and use our repeater.

We are still meeting at Rancho's, and we are still expecting to see your face walk through the door. Bring a friend with you. Introduce them to Ham Radio. Plan on seeing you there.

## HAM RADIO OUTLET (HRO) CLOSES SILICON VALLEY STORE

On March 22, Ham Radio Outlet (HRO) closed its Sunnyvale, California, store — one of its first — which served the Amateur Radio community in the heart of Silicon Valley for more than a quarter of a century. One of five California HRO stores, the Sunnyvale store has been consolidated as a cost-saving measure with HRO's Oakland operation.

"We needed to make some changes in our Northern California locations," HRO National Sales Manager Steve Gilmore, W4SHG, said in a statement. "Some of the costs associated with operating in the Sunnyvale location have absolutely skyrocketed,

and the traffic and parking availability in our current Sunnyvale location has become seriously problematic." Employees in the Sunnyvale store were offered positions in the Oakland shop, about 1 hour away to the north along San Francisco Bay.

Store manager Jon Kelley, K6WV, told The Mercury News that the region's rising minimum wage was also a factor. He said the Oakland shop had become a gathering place for regular customers from the area. One of those regulars, Gregg Lane, KF6FNA, president of the Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association, told the newspaper, "This is

depressing. It's like the end of an era. It's like your best friend moving away."

For the closing, another regular, Steve Stearns, K6OIK, organized a flash mob — his first — and a final celebration by local hams of the store and its staff. "More than 60 hams descended on HRO Sunnyvale on its last day of business for

*HRO continued inside...*

**HPARC Meeting  
May 1, 2017**

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

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

# ARRL ENTRY-LEVEL LICENSE COMMITTEE DIGS IN TO STUDY SURVEY RESULTS

The ARRL Board of Directors' Entry Level License Committee is preparing for a deep dive into what turned out to be an overwhelming response. Committee Chair and New England Division Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, said the survey's 8,000 responses, when perhaps 1,500 were anticipated, reflects the high degree of interest in the overall topic. Established by the Board in 2016, the Committee has been gathering input from the Amateur Radio community with an eye toward recommending either a makeover of the Technician license or an altogether new entry-level Amateur Radio license class.

"I think it's our job to come up with the two best proposals," said Frenaye, conceding that the committee's work is fraught with details that include reaching a consensus both within the Amateur Radio community and at the FCC, which pays little attention to Amateur Radio generally. For his part, Frenaye started out thinking that a new entry-level license would be the answer, but now he's leaning more toward changing up the Technician license, in part because he thinks the FCC may be reluctant to create a fourth license class after whittling the number to three in 1999.

It's not just about numbers, but Amateur Radio's future. Amateur Radio growth, at approximately 1% a year, is "pretty good," Frenaye conceded, and in tune with US population growth, but he thinks it could be better, and a big step in that direction is to take a hard look at Ham Radio's entry gate. He suggested a new pool of prospective Radio Amateurs might be more drawn to the hobby from the Maker movement, for example, or from among those who tinker with computer technology or experiment with electronics — areas with high appeal to some young people.

Frenaye said a lot of young newcomers don't seem to find the current license manual very enticing, possibly due to the Amateur Radio terminology and the manual's 12th-grade reading level, which he believes should be lower. One interesting statistic plucked from the survey: Just 23% of recently licensed Technicians went through a club, while 65% studied on their own.

The current Technician license is mainly a VHF/UHF license, Frenaye pointed out, with limited privileges on HF, where he believes a lot of newcomers would prefer to operate. "Either the test covers material that's not needed for a newcomer, or the privi-

leges don't match well enough with what a newcomer needs to see in Ham Radio in order to decide whether to continue," he said. Technician licensees have only CW privileges on HF below 10 meters, "and CW isn't even a requirement anymore," Frenaye pointed out. He suggested some HF digital privileges may provide one incentive.

Frenaye is not afraid to respond to critics who say the entry-level license effort and such initiatives as reaching out the Maker Movement are just ARRL ploys to boost the Amateur Radio population and, in turn, League membership.

"I guess the answer to that is, 'Yes, what's wrong with that?'" he said. "The more trained Ham Radio operators we have, the more likely we are to actually be able to keep our bands and maybe get new ones."

The committee has only looked at the first "several thousand" survey responses, Frenaye said. The hard work lies ahead. "It's going to take a little time to sort through it all," Frenaye allowed, adding that the committee hopes to have a report to the Board of Directors in July.

—*The ARRL Letter*,  
April 6, 2017

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME,  
Editor

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.

...HRO continued from cover

cake and champagne,” Stearns said. “It was a surprise party for the staff and customers alike.”

Shuttering the Sunnyvale

store leaves HRO with 13 retail outlets around the US. Last year, HRO took over the former Amateur Electronic Supply (AES) store in

Milwaukee after AES went out of business.

—*The ARRL Letter*,  
March 30, 2017

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

## CENTENNIAL OF AMATEUR RADIO BLACKOUT FOR WORLD WAR I ON APRIL 6

World War I commenced in Europe in August 1914, and the U.S., under President Woodrow Wilson, was determined to remain neutral. As the fighting and the enemy’s resolve intensified, and Germany began sinking ships attempting to evade a naval blockade of England as well as non-military vessels — including the Lusitania with a loss of nearly 1,200 lives — it became inevitable that the U.S. would enter the fray. Leaders of the newly formed American Radio Relay League encouraged the organization’s 3,000 members to be prepared.

The U.S. officially declared war on Germany and Austria-Hungary on April 6, 1917, and the U.S. government immediately ordered most private radio stations in the U.S. either to shut

down or be taken over by the government. For the duration of WWI, it was against the law for private citizens to even own an operational radio transmitter or receiver, so Amateur transmitting and receiving stations had to be disassembled. Amateur Radio operating privileges were not restored until November 1919 (QST resumed publication a few months earlier).

Once the US declared war, QST editorials urged qualified Amateurs to volunteer their desperately needed skills to the military. Enlistees were particularly directed to the Navy, the nation’s principal service user of wireless.

A specific program was developed to induct volunteer Amateurs into the Naval Reserve for the duration — the

Class 4 Naval Reserve. The requirements included citizenship, the ability to pass a physical examination, and skill in sending and receiving Morse code at 10 WPM. Many volunteering Radio Amateurs chose to join this reserve, ARRL’s first Communications Manager Fred H. Schnell, 1MO, among them. He went to sea as a chief radioman.

ARRL co-founder Clarence D. Tuska received a commission as a lieutenant in the US Army Signal Corps, and he established a radio training school at Ellington Airfield near Houston, Texas.

QST suspended publication for the duration of the war.

—*The ARRL Letter*,  
March 30, 2017

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

## HUGE FINE ON NY POLICE RADIO JAMMER

The FCC has proposed imposing a fine of more than \$400,000 on a Queens, New York, man who has admitted making unauthorized transmissions on New York City Police Department (NYPD) radio frequencies, maliciously interfering with NYPD officers’ communications. Jay Peralta, 20, is alleged to have transmitted false bomb threats, false claims of criminal activities involving firearms, false distress calls from purported NYPD officers, and threats against individual NYPD officers. The unauthorized transmissions began a year

ago, according to the FCC.

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said that with the Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL), issued on April 14, the FCC is making it “abundantly clear that it will not tolerate unauthorized and illegal use of the radio spectrum.” The entire Commission now must sign off on such proposed fines, and Pai said he was grateful to his fellow FCC members for “agreeing to act swiftly and strongly” in the matter. “This may not be a typical pirate radio case in which an unauthorized operator inflicts damage on a radio

broadcaster that is operating with a valid FCC license,” Pai said, “but it does involve unauthorized interference to critical public safety communications systems.”

Peralta was arrested last fall, along with two other men suspected of committing several robberies. According to news accounts, police found a cache of scanners and radios in one of the suspects’ homes.

—*The ARRL Letter*,  
April 20, 2017

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME,  
Editor



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

## HPARC MAY CALENDAR

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>1 — HPARC Club Meeting</b>                | 27 — DurHamFest, Durham, NC     |
| 2 — National Teacher's Day                   | 28 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline  |
| 5 — Cinco de Mayo                            | 29 — John F. Kennedy's Birthday |
| <b>4 — National Day of Prayer</b>            | <b>29 — MEMORIAL DAY</b>        |
| 8 — VE Day<br>(Germany surrenders WWII 1945) |                                 |
| <b>14 — MOTHER'S DAY</b>                     |                                 |
| 13 — Rockingham County Swapfest              |                                 |
| 19-21 — Dayton, OH Hamvention                |                                 |
| <b>20 — ARMED FORCES DAY</b>                 |                                 |

### 2017 HPARC OFFICERS

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