

# HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point Amateur Radio Club



## JANUARY MEETING

Can you believe we are entering 2018? Time slows down for no one.

I hope everyone at the December HPARC Membership/Christmas party had as much fun as I did. We had lots of fun, and I believe everyone in attendance enjoyed themselves. Missed those of you who did not attend.

With the new Board to take over in January, I haven't

heard from anyone what program may be on the drawing board for the January meeting. David and Tom have done a wonderful job of keeping us

**HPARC meeting on  
2nd Monday,  
January 8, 2018**

with interesting programs this past year. I expect they will continue to do so.

Did you get up in time to check in to the HPARC Christmas Day Roll Call? Matt Flyer, KM4WON, was again our net control for this event and did an excellent job.

Our meetings are still going strong with good attendance each month. But we still need you to continue being strong. Make plans to be with club members this year. Hope to see you at the January meeting.

## AMATEUR RADIO VOLUNTEERS SUPPORT EVACUATION SHELTERS IN FIRE THAT REFUSES TO DIE

Since its start on December 4, the massive and only partially contained Thomas Fire in southern California by mid-week had consumed nearly 240,000 acres, destroyed more than 700 single-family residences and threatens thousands more, and caused residents in fire-threatened areas to evacuate. Amateur Radio volunteers have been supporting communication for American Red Cross shelter sites in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, passing traffic between evacuation centers.

One of several fires that have broken out across Southern California, the Thomas Fire is far and away the largest. The Ventura County Auxiliary

Communication Service (ACS)/ Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Net activated on December 5, "as smoke filled the air, and the fire grew to catastrophic proportions," said Ray Smith, KI6VED, who volunteered with his wife Jade, KI6VFQ. Their home was included in an evacuation order.

"The worst night for the crew at Nordhoff came Wednesday, December 6, when the fire surrounded the Town of Ojai on three sides," Smith explained. "The incident commander decided to shelter in place, instead of trying to move 250 refugees out on the only open exit, which was sometimes closed."

Smith told ARRL that several fire vehicles dispatched to Nordhoff High School — a shelter site — taking up positions around the campus, and firefighters stood guard by classrooms, opened to accommodate evacuees sleeping in their cars, some with their pets. "They were warned that if the trucks

*Fire continued inside...*

**HPARC Meeting  
January 8, 2018**

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

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

## 2018 HPARC OFFICERS

Officers were voted in at the December HPARC meeting. Those voted in as officers were: Dan Bly (KB8TLF), President; Matt Flyer (KM4WON), Vice-

President; David Macchiarolo (AJ4TF), Secretary; and Warren Gallemore (KA4LOQ), Treasurer.

Support these officers by

accepting chairmanship of a committee when asked (or volunteer for a committee position) and by attending club meetings.

## CHRISTMAS DAY ROLL CALL 2017

Fourteen Hams checked into the HPARC Christmas Day Roll Call. That is the same number as last year.

Matt Flyer, KM4WON was again our net control for the Roll

Call. Thanks, Matt, for doing such an excellent job for the club. Matt did take a moment to remember those Hams who are no longer with us.

It is good to hear from

our club members and other Hams on Christmas morning. We need to reach out to those we haven't heard from in a while. That is the fellowship of Amateur Radio.

## HPARC CHRISTMAS PARTY/MEETING

The HPARC held its Christmas Party/Meeting on December 2, 2017, Saturday at the Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Fellowship Building. After we conducted a little club business, we broke for the party section of the meeting.

There was lots of fellowship

and lots of food. Did I mention there was lots of food? I won't mention all the food items for fear that I might offend someone by forgetting to name the dish they brought. Suffice it to say, we had everything from main dishes to dessert. And we have some pretty good cooks in

the crowd.

I hope everyone enjoyed themselves as much as I did. From the comments I received, I believe everyone did have a good time.

If you missed it, please make plans for next December. We would love to have you.

## MORE ROOM FOR HAMVENTION

Hamvention® reports that the Greene County Commissioners and the Greene County Fair Board have approved the construction of a new building at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center, the new Hamvention venue in Xenia, Ohio.

"Greene County officials have decided to move forward with construction of a new building, as it will continue to expand their presence in the region as a world-class Exposition Center," Hamvention Spokesperson

Michael Kalter, W8CI, said in a news release. "Hamvention certainly benefits from the decision to expand the Expo Center footprint. Construction is planned to be complete ahead of Hamvention 2018, and [the new building] will be used for the event."

In addition to the new structure, another building on the property, previously known as Fairgrounds Furniture, is being vacated and will be available for use by Hamvention in May 2018. Additional details are forthcoming.

Kalter said Hamvention has been told that the additional floor space will cover an area larger than the tents Hamvention used for some activities in 2017.

"Although this decision was made to expand opportunities at the Expo Center, Hamvention is grateful for the support Greene County, Xenia Township, and the city of Xenia," Kalter added.

—*The ARRL Letter*,

December 21, 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.

...*Fire continued from cover*

sounded their air horns, they were to pick up the [pet] cages and run for shelter on campus immediately,” Smith said. “The flames moved east to west along Nordhoff Ridge, with an army of firefighters retreating before them. For a time, the radio operators, like everyone else, did not know what would happen to us,” Smith said the fire passed within 2 miles of the shelter location.

Radio Amateurs also deployed to the Ventura County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). ARRL Ventura County District Emergency Coordinator Rob Hanson, W6RH, said the

ACS/ARES volunteers staffed four evacuation centers, in addition to the EOC.

Santa Barbara Section Manager Jim Fortney, K6IYK, told ARRL that an Amateur Radio digital network (ARDN) MESH video network live-streamed video from several sites. “Loss of primary power has required using the solar power backup capabilities, but, unfortunately, the heavy smoke has made that backup less than fully reliable,” he said. In addition to power loss to repeater sites, solar panels charging off-grid batteries have been affected by the huge plumes of smoke block-

ing the sun.

As of mid-week, FEMA reported, evacuation orders remained in effect for more than 93,000 residents, although shelter occupancy was down to about 300. A boil water advisory has been issued for Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

Smith said that as of mid-week, Amateur Radio volunteers remain on duty in Santa Barbara County, “as the Thomas Fire has refused to die.”

—*The ARRL Letter*,

December 14, 2017,

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME,  
Editor

## RADIO ANNIVERSARIES ABOUND IN DECEMBER

December is the month in which three notable events in radio history occurred — the first radio transmission heard across the Atlantic Ocean in 1901, the first broadcast of the human voice and music in 1906, and the first successful transatlantic Amateur Radio HF transmissions in 1921.

On December 12, 1901, Italian wireless pioneer Guglielmo Marconi succeeded in receiving the first transatlantic radio signal, transmitted from Poldhu, in Cornwall, England, to St. John’s, Newfoundland, Canada. Marconi’s team in Cornwall transmitted the letter “S” in Morse code, and this was heard by Marconi and his assistant George Kemp at a facility set up in Cabot Tower on Signal Hill in St. John’s. On the Cornwall side, Marconi had erected a powerful spark-gap transmitter feeding a massive antenna. The receiving team used a kite antenna. The experiment proved that radio

signals could be transmitted beyond the line of sight, opening the door to global wireless communication.

On Christmas Eve 1906, experimenter Reginald Fessenden made what may have been the first radio broadcast to include speech and music. The transmission originated at Brant Rock, Massachusetts, about 30 miles from Boston.

In 1921, ARRL sponsored two series of transatlantic tests to see if signals from previously qualified Amateur Radio stations could be heard at a receiving station in Ardrossan, Scotland. The second series succeeded, with several Ham stations heard on the receiving end, using equipment far superior to what had been available to Marconi just 20 years earlier. “The Story of the Transatlantics” chronicled the events in the February 1922 issue of QST, to great fanfare. As Mike Marinaro, WN1M, recounted in “The

Transatlantic Tests,” in the May 2014 issue of QST, the first signal “unofficially” heard in Scotland was actually that of a pirate, identifying as 1AW and not using the prearranged transmission format.

The “rough listening post” in Scotland, staffed by receiver designer Paul Godley, 2ZE, and D.E. Pearson of the Marconi Company, was equipped with a superheterodyne and regenerative receiver connected to a 1,300-foot Beverage antenna, 12 feet above ground.

On December 10, the CW signals of official entry 1BCG, owned by Minton Cronkhite, “were solidly heard on 230 to 235 meters,” Marinaro wrote in 2014. “This signal derived from the specially designed and constructed station of the Radio Club of America at Greenwich, Connecticut — the only station heard that morning.”

—*The ARRL Letter*,

December 14, 2017,

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME,  
Editor



**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
- 6 — ARRL Kid's Day
- 6-7 — ARRL RTTY Roundup
- 6 — Winston Salem Firstfest
- 8 — HPARC Club Meeting**
- 15 — MARTIN L. KING JR BIRTHDAY**
- 20-21 — ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes
- 28 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline

### BIRTHDAYS

Larry Frye — January 15  
 Robert Erdin — January 16

### 2017 HPARC OFFICERS

Dan Bly, KB8TLF — President — 336-259-1203 — kb8tlf@gmail.com  
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**Breakfast**  
**every Saturday**  
 —  
**8:00 a.m.**  
 —  
**Biscuitville,**  
**2709 S. Main St.**