

JUNE 2020

# HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point  
Amateur Radio  
Club



## JUNE MEETING

**HPARC meeting**  
**June 1, 2020 7:00 p.m.**  
**Zoom meeting**  
**Email invitations**

Even though restrictions are being lifted, we believe we should have our June HPARC Meeting using Zoom, as we did last month. There will be no meeting on the repeater as I previously reported because of the difficulties conducting the Zoom meeting and transmitting over the repeater.

David Macchiarolo will again be the host for the Zoom meeting. He will be sending all HPARC members instructions on how to

connect with Zoom. If you do not receive an email invitation from David the day before the meeting, email him or w4ua@arrl.net so we can get you on the list.

I am crossing fingers and hoping we will once again be meeting at J&S Cafeteria for the July meeting. Hoping to once again see you all. 73.

## FIELD DAY 2020

The HPARC is still planning on holding Field Day at the Moore Farm in Jamestown this year. We are hoping restrictions will be lifted somewhat by then. We will keep you posted.

Plans are to meet at the Moore's on Friday, June 26 at 10:00 a.m. to put up dipoles. Contact David Macchiarolo if you can help.

Field Day will be June 27 and 28. Not sure if we will have breakfast at Biscuitville on Saturday as in the past, but we will start setting up for Field Day early Saturday morning. The official start for Field Day is 2:00 p.m.

Club picnic in the past has been around 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. This too is currently up in the air. We will try to hold to this as we follow guidelines issued by the state.

The HPARC uses the program SQUIRL to log our Field Day con-

tacts.

Directions to Field Day: from MLK Dr. (formerly Kivett Drive), turn onto Scientific Street. Go about .2 of a mile to Sherrill Road and turn right.



Moore's farm is on the left just before the stop sign. Coming from Jamestown, turn onto Dillon Road. Come about a mile, and turn right onto Sherrill Road. Moore's farm will be the first driveway on your right. Using one of the Internet map

programs, use 3035 Sherrill Road as your ending destination.

Remember to bring your radios, extension cords, chairs and anything else you can think of that we may need.

If you have any questions, call or email David Macchiarolo or one of the HPARC officers (see back of newsletter).

As I am sure you understand, this is difficult to write about this far out with restrictions being placed on social distancing. We will do our best to keep you informed as to any changes.

### HPARC Meeting

**June 1, 2020**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Meeting to be held on Zoom.**

**Contact David Macchiarolo  
for invitation email.**

## LOCAL HAM EXAM SCHEDULE

David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, as the local Volunteer Examiner Coordinator, has announced there will be no exam given on May 30th which would be the next scheduled High Point exam session.

“I know there’s a lot of local interest in taking exams, but I think we will all be safer to give this another few weeks”, says David.

“Our next exam opportunity will be June 13th, at Hinshaw

United Methodist Church in Greensboro. The next scheduled sessions after June will be July 11th in Greensboro, and the next High Point session will be July 25th (no High Point session in June due to Field Day).”

## NEW AMATEUR EXTRA QUESTION POOL

*[Editor’s note: although this article was released in January, I thought it might help those who have been studying for their Extra Class and have been delayed in taking their tests due to exam cancellations.]*

The new Amateur Extra-class license examination question pool, effective from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2024, has been released and is available at the National Conference of Volunteer Coordinators (NCVEC) website.

The 2020 – 2024 Extra-class pool incorporates significant changes compared to the current 2016 – 2020 question pool, which expires on June 30. The number of questions in the pool was reduced from 712 to 622. The result was 239 modified questions, 49 new questions, and 139 questions removed due to changes in what was felt to be an abundance of outdated questions, while areas of new technology and subjects were added.

In addition, an effort was made to balance the difficulty level, removing or replacing some questions deemed too easy or too difficult compared to the rest of the pool. The 2020 pool has 10 diagrams, which have been renumbered because the new question pool has two fewer than the 2016 question pool.

—[www.arrl.org/news/view/new-amateur-extra-question-pool-released](http://www.arrl.org/news/view/new-amateur-extra-question-pool-released)  
January 27, 2020

## FEDERAL JUDGE OKAYS RETRIEVAL OF TITANIC MARCONI WIRELESS EQUIPMENT

A US federal judge in Virginia has given permission to retrieve the ill-fated R.M.S. Titanic’s Marconi wireless gear, which transmitted distress calls from the sinking ocean liner during its maiden voyage. The Titanic sank in 1912 some 370 miles off the coast of Newfoundland after striking an iceberg.

“The Marconi device has significant historical, educational, scientific, and cultural value as the device used to make distress calls while the Titanic was sinking,” Judge Rebecca Beach Smith wrote in her ruling. She said the company would be per-

mitted “minimally to cut into the wreck” to access the radio room.

R.M.S Titanic has said the radio transmitter could unlock some of the secrets about a missed warning message and distress calls sent from the ship.

“It tells an important story,” Concannon said. “It tells of the heroism of the operators that saved the lives of 705 people. They worked until water was lapping at their feet.”

As might be expected, the deteriorating Marconi equipment is in poor shape after more than a century under water. The undersea retrieval would mark

the first time an artifact was collected from within the Titanic, which many believe should remain undisturbed as the final resting place of some 1,500 victims of the maritime disaster. The wreck sits on the ocean floor some 2 1/2 miles beneath the surface, and remained undiscovered until 1985. R.M.S. Titanic said it plans to use a manned submarine to reach the wreck and then deploy a remotely controlled sub to retrieve the radio equipment.

—*The ARRL Letter*,  
May 21, 2020  
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](mailto: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 6:00 p.m. at a local restaurant announced in the newsletter. The business meeting starts at 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.

# AMATEUR RADIO GEARING UP FOR PREDICTED “ABOVE AVERAGE” ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON

Long-range forecasts for the 2020 Atlantic Basin hurricane season, which begins on June 1 and extends until November 30, anticipate above-normal activity. The National Hurricane Center (NHC) 2020 outlook calls for a season about 140% more active than average, with four Category 3 to Category 5 hurricanes. The 2019 season saw three major hurricanes (out of six).

“The above-average prediction is largely due to the hot Atlantic and Caribbean waters and lack of a substantial El Niño in the Pacific,” the NHC explained, noting that the combination of a busy hurricane season and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic could create a nightmare scenario for affected areas. FEMA and local emergency management agencies are already issuing COVID-19 guidelines for hurricane shelters, which include

face masks and social distancing.

The NHC Annual Station Test — to check readiness of Amateur Radio stations and operators — takes place on Saturday, May 30, 1300 – 2100 UTC. The NHC’s WX4NHC will be on the air, marking its 40th year of public service at the NHC. Julio Ripoll, WD4R, the Assistant Amateur Radio Coordinator at the NHC, said the event offers an opportunity for radio Amateurs worldwide to exercise the sorts of communications available during severe weather. “We will be making brief contacts on many frequencies and modes, exchanging signal reports and basic weather data — sunny, rain, temperature, etc.) with any station in any location,” Ripoll said.

Operation will be on HF, VHF, UHF, APRS, and Winlink. WX4NHC will center its activ-

ity on the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) frequencies of 14.325 MHz and 7.268 MHz, depending on propagation, but will operate elsewhere as conditions dictate. WX4NHC will also operate on the VoIP Hurricane Net from 2000 until 2100 UTC.

“Since 2014, the Hurricane Watch Net has been very busy,” Graves told ARRL. “We’ve had 20 net activations for 19 hurricanes and one tropical storm. Since 2015, we’ve worked nine major land-falling hurricanes, including four land-falling Category 5 storms.”

Graves pointed out that the past six hurricane seasons not only were busy and historic but very deadly, and he’s hoping the 2020 hurricane season will not turn in a repeat performance.

—*The ARRL Letter*,  
May 21, 2020

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.

# AMATEUR RADIO GAINS SIGNIFICANT BOOST IN UK BY CONNECTING PEOPLE DURING LOCKDOWN

A recent BBC news feature has outlined how Ham Radio has gotten a significant boost by connecting people during the COVID-19 lockdown in the UK. The article, by Vanessa Pearce, quotes the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) as saying that many former Hams are now returning to the hobby. Mark Rider, G3VHJ — a retired engineer who lives alone in North Warwickshire — said that after the lockdown restricted his occasional trips to the pub, rehearsing with musician friends, and visiting his wife in a nursing home, he decided to dust off his Ham Radio equipment “to seek out some other social interaction.” Rider said that ragchewing has

become one of the highlights of his day. “Just speaking to somebody else in the same situation is very rewarding,” he said. The 67-year-old told BBC News that keeping in touch with others has been more important since his wife suffered a stroke.

RSGB General Manager Steve Thomas, M1ACB, said the society has experienced a three-fold increase in license examination applications since social distancing rules were put into place. The UK has about 75,000 Amateur licensees.

The RSGB recently instituted its “Get on the Air to Care” (#GOTA2C) campaign in conjunction with the National Health

Service and its GB1NHS Amateur station to promote Amateur Radio use during the pandemic lockdown. Some stations have been adding /NHS to their call signs to support the effort, which aim to support the emotional health and wellbeing of the Amateur Radio community.

The RSGB introduced remote administration of entry-level Foundation-class Amateur Radio exams in mid-April. Pete Sipple, M0PSX, told BBC News that he’s seen a “massive” surge in demand for training courses and exam session and has had to up the number of course offerings.

—*The ARRL Letter*,  
May 14, 2020

Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, Ed.



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

## HPARC JUNE CALENDAR

- 1 — HPARC Club Meeting (To be held on Zoom - email AJ4TF for email invitation)**
- 6 — D-Day (WWII Invasion of Normandy)
- 13-15 — ARRL June VHF QSO Party
- 14 — FLAG DAY**
- 20 — ARRL Kid's Day
- 20 — First day of Summer
- 21 — FATHER'S DAY**
- 27-28 — ARRL Field Day**
- 28 — HPARC Newsletter deadline

### BIRTHDAYS

- Rafael Cruz — June 8
- Dale Waterson — June 17
- Jerry Yarborough — June 17
- Camille Taylor — June 18

**W4VEC has officially canceled all scheduled Ham Radio exams through July 1, 2020.**

### 2020 HPARC OFFICERS

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**Saturday  
 Breakfast  
 get-togethers  
 postponed  
 until further  
 notice**