



April 2022

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point Amateur Radio Club



HPARC Special Service Club

Every two years, we certify with the ARRL that we meet the definition of a Special Service Club - a club that exists to go above and beyond for their communities and for Amateur Radio; leaders in their Amateur Radio communities who provide active training classes, publicity programs and actively pursue technical projects and operating

activities. Given our history and future in operating activities (Field Day, POTA), our successful



publicity programs, regular technical programs at club meetings, and our past and upcoming training events, we are once again recognized as a Special Service Club. Thank you to all who make HPARC one of the best clubs around!

73, David AJ4TF

New FCC Fees Go Into Effect

As promised, the FCC will now begin charging a \$35 fee for new licenses, upgrades, and license renewals, starting April 19th. The applicant must pay the fee directly to the FCC, the Volunteer Examiners will not collect it.

73, David AJ4TF

Basis for Application Fees in the Amateur Radio Service:

On December 29, 2020, the Commission amended its application fees pursuant to the RAY BAUM'S Act of 2018(FCC 20-184, MD Docket No. 20-270). As part of the RAY BAUM'S Act of 2018, Congress specifically required that the Commission adopt a schedule of application fees to recover costs to

process applications. Accordingly, Amateur Radio Service applications are now subject to application fees as required by the application fee schedule for Personal and Amateur Radio Services found in 47 C.F.R. Section 1.1102.

Amateur Fee Table:

Application Type	Application Fee	Fee Code
New License	\$35	PRAM
License Renewal	\$35	PRAN
New Vanity Call Sign	\$35	WAVM
Rule Waiver	\$35	PDWN
Administrative Updates (AU)	No Fee	

Payment instructions (<https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/html/ULS Pay Fees.htm>):

HPARC Meeting 6:30 p.m.

March 7, 2022

**Mario's Pizza
2645 N.Main St.
High Point, NC 27265**

& Zoom

New FCC Application Fee Will Not Apply To Amateur Radio License Upgrades

Source: ARRL News

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) staff has clarified in response to an ARRL request that the new \$35 application fee will not apply to most license modifications, including those to upgrade an Amateur Radio Licensee's operator class and changes to club station trustees. The FCC staff explained that the new fees will apply only to applications for a new license, renewal, rule waiver, or a new vanity call sign. As previously announced, the new fees take effect on April 19, 2022.

"We are pleased that the FCC will not charge licensees the FCC application fee for license upgrade applications," said ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM. "While applicants for a new license



will need to pay the \$35 FCC application fee, there will be no FCC charge for future upgrades and administrative updates such as a change of mailing or email address. Most current licensees therefore will not be charged the new FCC application fee until they renew their license or apply for a new vanity call sign."

ARRL previously reported that the new \$35 application fee for Amateur Radio licenses will become effective on April 19, 2022. Further information and instructions about the FCC Application Fee are available from the ARRL VEC.

FCC To Reinstate Morse Code Test

APRIL 1, 2022

Washington, D.C. – April 1, 2022 – Today, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) approved Report and Order 14-987af which reinstates the Morse Code test for General Class and Amateur Extra Class licensees. "It was a big mistake eliminating the Morse Code test," admits Dotty Dasher, the FCC's director of examinations. "We now realize that being able to send and receive Morse Code is an essential skill for radio Amateurs. As they say, it really does get through when other modes can't."

Not only will new applicants have to take the test, but General Class licensees who have never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 5-wpm code test. Similarly, Amateur

Extra class licensees that never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 13-wpm test. Those Amateurs that fail to pass the test will face revocation of their operating privileges. Materials for administering the examinations will be distributed to Volunteer Examiner Coordinators by the end of April, so that they can begin the testing on May 1, 2022.

"This isn't going to be one of those silly multiple-choice type tests," noted Dasher. "We're going to be sending five-character random code groups, just like we did in the old days. And, applicants will have to prove that they can send, too, using a poorly adjusted straight key."

Technician Class licensees will not be required to take a Morse Code test, nor will a test be required for new

applicants. "We discussed it," said Dasher, "but decided that since most Techs can't even figure out how to program their HTs, requiring them to learn Morse Code seemed like cruel and unusual punishment."

When asked what other actions we might see from the FCC, Dasher hinted that in the future applicants taking the written exam may be required to draw circuit diagrams, such as Colpitts oscillators and diode ring mixers, once again. "We're beginning to think that if an applicant passes an Amateur Radio license exam it should mean that he or she actually knows something," she said.

For further information, contact James X. Shorts, Assistant Liaison to the Deputy Chief of Public Relations for the FCC at (202) 555-1212.

Published in HPARC Tradition

A New World Distance Record at 134 GHz

Source: ARRL Letter 3/24/2022

On March 2, 2022, Michael Kuhne, DB6NT, and his son Matthias, DK5NJ, established a new world distance record at 134 GHz by making contact using CW over 157 kilometers (98 miles) between the summits of two mountains in Germany. The portable microwave stations were located on Schneekopf mountain in the Thuringian Forest and atop Fichtelberg mountain near



Oberwiesenthal. Check out the video (<http://youtu.be/nsIsIzIrwfw>) of the record-breaking contact.

Photo: Michael Kuhne's, DB6NT, portable station at the top of Fichtelberg mountain. [Michael Kuhne, DB6NT, photo]

HAARP On The Air

Source: ARRL Letter 3/24/2022

The **High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program** (HAARP) will be supporting the NASA **Sounding Rockets Program Office** (SRPO) Ion-Neutral during Active Aurora (INCAA) mission by providing an additional non-co-located ground-based sensor. HAARP will

concurrently be conducting an HF ocean scatter experiment. Actual transmit days and times are highly variable based on real-time ionospheric conditions and the Poker Flat Research Range launch window. The following schedule is subject to change, and all transmissions will take place on 6.8 MHz.



The High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) facility in Alaska.

SOTA Activators Complete their Summit Sweep in Wales

Source: ARRL Letter 3/17/2022

In May 2021, father-and-son Summits on the Air (**SOTA**) activators Tom Read, M1EYP, and Jimmy Read, M0HGY, (the SOTA Association Manager), completed activating every SOTA summit in Wales -- or so they thought. Detailed surveying work later that year, however, revealed the existence of a new "Marilyn" summit in Wales -- Rhinog Fach. "Marilyn" is the nickname given to

British and Irish hills with a topographical prominence of 150 meters and is also the qualification criteria for a summit to be included in SOTA in the UK. The new entity was designated the SOTA reference GW/NW-078. Simon Melhuish, G4TJC, was the first to operate from this particular Marilyn in October 2021. The Reads set out to activate the summit on December 21, 2021. The walk was a long

one and included a steep final ascent, but the pair were able to complete most of the route in the short daylight hours. Jimmy made 12 contacts, all on 2-meter FM, while Tom completed 19, mainly on 20, 30, and 40 meters on CW. Jimmy and Tom Read can once again claim to have activated every SOTA summit in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man, Jersey, and Guernsey.

Military Exercise Will Use 50 MHz Band.

Source: ARRL Letter 3/17/2022

Belgium's communications regulator BIPT has said 50.200 MHz and 51.075 MHz will be used from May 30 to June 18 during a military exercise. A translation of the post by Belgium's national amateur radio society UBA said, "BIPT informs us that in the period

from May 30 to June 18, 2022, a military exercise will be held in Elsenborn in which two frequencies in the 6-meter band will be used -- 50.200 MHz and 51.075 MHz. The amateur radio service has a secondary status in this band; the military services a primary status." Radio amateurs

are called upon to pay particular attention to this during this period, to avoid the use of these frequencies if possible, and certainly to listen carefully to whether the frequency is in use if they still wish to use the frequencies concerned. -- *Thanks to Southgate Amateur Radio News*

The HPARC Newsletter is published monthly by the High Point Amateur Radio Club Membership is open in the HPARC to all licensed Amateur Radio operators. (HPARC) for its members. The HPARC Newsletter serves as a source of information about Membership is \$24.00 a year. Associate membership is also available to those who are Club activities, and general news items of interest to Amateur Radio. Opinions expressed interested in Amateur Radio but who do not currently hold a license. Associate member- herein are not necessarily those of the HPARC or its officers. Material in this newsletter ship is \$12.00 a year. Student membership is also available for \$12.00 a year.

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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.

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 at 6:30 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.



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

HPARC APRIL CALENDAR

- 1 — April Fools Day
- 4 — **HPARC Club Meeting**
- 9 — Greensboro VE Session, Hinshaw
 United Methodist Church
- 15 — Good Friday
- 17 — Easter
- 18 — Tax Day
- 30 — W4VEC High Point session (Hickory
 Chapel Wesleyan Church, Fellowship Bldg)
- 30 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline

BIRTHDAYS

- Dan Loggins – April 2
- Eli Huneycutt – April 9
- Keith Thomas – April 11
- Phil Simmons – April 14
- David Macchiarolo – April 25

For W4VEC Test information, call or email David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF, (336) 420-9424, aj4tf@arrl.net

2022 HPARC OFFICERS

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Breakfast every
 Saturday

—
 8:00 a.m.

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 Biscuitville,
 2709 S. Main St.