



April
2023

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point
Amateur Radio
Club



With our Deepest Sympathy...

By: Peter Kapetanakis, KN4OCX

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Michael Lester Walker, KE4MOY.

His obituary as published by Wright Funeral Cremations is as follows:



Michael Lester Walker, 76, of High Point, passed away Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at his home.

Born August 14, 1946, in Guilford County, he was a son of the late Lester Walker and the late Sadie Pegram Walker. Michael was a US Air Force

veteran and worked in the shipping department for the hosiery industry.

He is survived by his son, Robert Lester Walker and wife Clair of High Point; daughter, Michelle Walker of High Point; sister, Beverly Weavil of Kernersville; and four grandchildren.

Graveside services will be conducted at 2:00 PM Wednesday, March 22, 2023, at Floral Garden Park Cemetery with Chris Cecil officiating.

The family will visit with friends from 1:00 PM until 1:45 PM at Wright Funerals-Cremations, High Point prior to the service.

Wright Funerals-Cremations, High Point is in charge of arrangements.

HPARC Meeting
April 3, 2023
6:30 p.m.
Mario's Pizza
2645 N. Main St.
High Point, NC 27265
& Zoom

New Chief Named for Air Force Military Auxiliary Radio System

Source: ARRL Letter March 23, 2023

David L. Antry, Jr., WD9HBA, has been named Chief of the Air Force Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS).

MARS is a Field Operating Agency of the US Air Force's Air Combat Command (ACC) and HQ Cyberspace Capabilities Center (CCC).

Prior to his new assignment, Antry served as a Logistics Manager in the 635th Supply Chain Operations Wing War Reserve Materiel Program Integration Office.

He enlisted in the US Air Force in January of 1985 and worked in Avionics. He received a Palace Chase assignment in 1989 and spent the rest of his uniformed career working in Avionics and Supply for the Air National Guard. Antry retired from the 126th Air Refueling Wing at the Scott Air Force

Base in October 2011 with the rank of E-7, Master Sergeant. In addition to his daily Air Force duties, Antry has voluntarily served with Air Force MARS since November 2012 as a member of the amateur radio community, operating both Very High Frequency (VHF) and High Frequency (HF) radio equipment.

Prior to being named Chief of MARS, he served as Operations Officer for the 51st Air Force MARS Communications Group.

Reid Snider, N4SPY, Public Information Officer of US Air Force MARS, said Antry brings with him a broad skill set for MARS operations. "Chief Antry has the understanding, knowledge, ability, and respect to help Air Force MARS plan and position its programs for communications of [the] future," said Snider.

Today, US Air Force MARS is an organization of about 800 licensed

amateur radio operators who volunteer their time and radio equipment to assist

government agencies in the event that normal

communications channels are disrupted, either by natural calamity or deliberate hostile action.

MARS members are trained to meet the requirements of any communications emergency. In recent years, greater interoperability between the Air Force and the Army has



David L. Antry, Jr., WD9HBA, Chief, Air Force Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS).

facilitated accomplishment of this objective. Individual civilian MARS stations operate throughout the continental US alongside civil agencies

and military MARS stations in the US and overseas.

Antry will be stationed at the Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. He has been a

licensed amateur radio operator since 1977.

For more information about [Air Force MARS](#), visit their website.

Amateur Radio Included in FEMA Guide for National Emergency Preparedness

Source: ARRL Letter March 23, 2023

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released a final version (March 2023) of the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Functional Guidance. The guidance, which provides a framework for communications resources within incident management, officially includes support from amateur radio operators. The expanded Communications Unit (COMU) structure now includes the Auxiliary Communicator (AUXC) role, which

covers personnel from services that provide communications support to emergency management, public safety, and other government agencies. This includes amateur radio. NIMS guides government, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to work together to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and other emergencies.



"This is a major step in the recognition of the need and usefulness of amateur radio and other communications services in our national preparedness," said Josh Johnston, KE5MHV, Director of Emergency Management for [ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio](#). "It also gives official guidance to pave the way for future training and education of volunteers in ARRL's [Amateur Radio Emergency Service](#)® (ARES®)," Johnston added.

The NIMS ICT guide (PDF) is available at https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_ict-functional-guidance.pdf.

State Proclamations Recognize Amateur Radio

Source: ARRL Letter March 23, 2023

State Proclamations Recognize Amateur Radio

Several states, counties, and communities across the US have officially recognized the public contributions of amateur radio in advance of [World Amateur Radio Day](#) (WARD) on April 18.

Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont has released an official statement designating April 16 - 22, 2023, as Amateur Radio Recognition Week. Members of the [Meriden Amateur Radio Club](#) (MARC) in Connecticut pursued the proclamation with the Governor's office. "We want the public to know that many of their friends and neighbors are amateur radio operators," said MARC President Ed Snyder, W1YSM. "Amateur radio is a worldwide community of volunteers who use their knowledge and skills to serve our communities," added Snyder.

Snyder said that his radio club participates in many outreach activities to help introduce ham radio to the

public. Club members support demonstrations for schools, student groups, and scouts. The club also provides communications support for the National Weather Service storm spotting program, SKYWARN®, and an annual cycling event that benefits the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. An annual scholarship is awarded to a deserving, local high school senior.

Snyder also cited the club's involvement with training members to provide emergency communications when disasters or other incidents damage or disrupt critical communications infrastructure, including cell towers. MARC is closely linked with the Wallingford Fire Department and the town's Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), and holds its monthly meetings at the Wallingford Emergency Operations Center.

"There are over 40 radio clubs in Connecticut. We're grateful for the Governor's recognition of our amateur radio community," noted Section Manager of the ARRL Connecticut Section Bud Kozloff, W1NSK.

A similar resolution was made by the Maine State Legislature, recognizing April 18, 2023, as World Amateur Radio Day, and acknowledging "the



accomplishments and public service provided by amateur radio operators." The resolution was advanced by ARRL Maine Section Manager Phil Duggan, N1EP. Duggan said he pursued the resolution on behalf of all radio amateurs in the state of Maine.

The March issue of [ARRL Club News](#) encourages radio clubs to seek local



Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont has designated April 16 - 22, 2023, as Amateur Radio Recognition Week.

government proclamations to build relationships and foster recognition for club events, and amateur radio in general. Proclamations are typically sought leading up to World Amateur Radio Day and ARRL Field Day. Radio clubs and other amateur radio groups are encouraged to share a copy of their proclamations with ARRL via pr@arrl.org. ARRL will often share

the proclamations to advance legislative efforts, creating additional support of awareness for amateur radio among lawmakers.

Read the full text of the proclamations at [ARRL News](#).

ARRL members can subscribe to the free monthly Club News e-newsletter by visiting their account on the ARRL [website](#) (requires log in).

Tornado Season and Amateur Radio

Source: ARRL Letter March 16, 2023

Tornado season is fast approaching, and amateur radio operators will again play a key role in helping the National Weather Service (NWS) issue accurate and timely warnings. In fact, March through May is considered the most active period for tornadoes to develop.

The NWS reports there have already been 255 preliminary filtered reported tornadoes and 213 confirmed tornadoes in the United States in 2023. Worldwide, nine tornado-related deaths have been confirmed, all of them in the United States.

January saw the third-highest number of tornado watches and confirmed tornadoes of any January on record in the United States. Additionally, the first two months of the year saw the fourth-highest number of confirmed tornadoes for the first 59 days of any year on record.

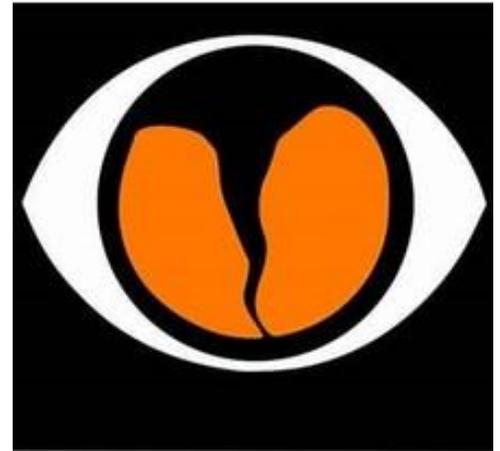
[The SKYWARN® \(weather.gov\)](#) Storm Spotter Program is available to anyone interested in helping the NWS track and report potentially dangerous weather. Anyone can become a SKYWARN weather spotter, and the information is available at the SKYWARN website. Most states have amateur radio networks that are activated during

severe weather. Trained volunteers use their radios to report rapidly changing activity and share the information with local weather offices. A list of the states that have scheduled special weather awareness activities can be found at the [NWS Awareness and Preparedness Calendar \(weather.gov\)](#).

The NWS Forecast office in Norman, Oklahoma, uses amateur radio as one method of communicating with spotter groups and emergency management organizations. For decades, amateur radio operators have provided invaluable service in support of the SKYWARN storm spotter program by using their unique communications capabilities to share critical information between the NWS, the local emergency management officials, and storm spotter networks.

In 1999, the NWS, along with ARRL, founded SKYWARN Recognition Day to honor the voluntary contributions of thousands of amateur radio operators who play a critical role in keeping the public safe and informed about severe weather conditions. The day is celebrated on the first Saturday in December, and amateur radio spotters can earn awards for participating.

The 2022 NWS Spotter of the Year



SKYWARN

Award was given to Bryan Loper, WX5CSS, of Atlanta, Texas. The award noted that Loper is very active with the amateur radio network and weather community within the Arkansas/Louisiana/Texas region, and is always reliably providing weather reports. Loper is an ARRL member.

To learn more about amateur radio licensing and SKYWARN visit [ARRL.org](#).

Amateur Radio Digital Communications Awards \$420,000 to the FreeDV Project

Source: ARRL Letter March 9, 2023

Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) has awarded a \$420,000 grant, one of the first for 2023, to develop and document FreeDV, an

open-source amateur radio technology. The grant will be used to help advance the state of the art in HF digital voice and promote its use.

FreeDV is a graphical user interface application for Windows, Linux, and macOS that allows any SSB radio to be used for low-bit-rate digital voice.

Speech is compressed down to 1600 bits/second, then modulated onto a 1.25 kHz wide 16 QPSK signal, which is sent to the microphone input of an SSB radio. The technology was initially developed by David Rowe, VK5DGR. Now, an international team of radio amateurs are working together on the project.

Among the many opportunities for FreeDV, the ARDC grant will also allow:

- Experienced digital signal processing developers to work with the volunteer staff to improve speech quality and low signal-to-noise ratio operation, making FreeDV performance superior to SSB over poor HF channels.
- Commercial HF radio companies to embed FreeDV into at least two

commercial radios, greatly reducing set up effort and latency.

- Widespread adoption of a truly open-source, next-generation digital voice system for HF radio.
- A mature, open-source low-bit-rate codec that's useful for a variety of amateur radio and commercial applications.
- A suite of high-performance, HF data modems for open-source data applications, usable by any radio amateur.

To learn more about the technical specifications of FreeDV, go to <https://www.freedv.org>.

[ARDC](#) is a California-based foundation with roots in amateur radio and the technology of internet



communication.

AMSAT Recruiting Engineering Volunteers

Source: ARRL Letter March 2, 2023

AMSAT is looking for an electrical engineer with RF experience to join its FOX-PLUS team. The team will be a collaboration of up to 10 electrical,



mechanical, software, and systems engineer volunteers.

There will also be an

opportunity to design and build the RF communications subsystems for a series of low-Earth orbit 1U - 3U CubeSats to support AMSAT's educational and engineering objectives.

Candidates should have working knowledge of analog and digital communications protocols (e.g., FM, PSK, and FSK) to provide digitally

synthesized audio for FM modulated VHF/UHF/SHF voice and telemetry channels. Development opportunities can begin with modification of previous FOX designs and/or with an original design.

Mechanical engineers are also needed to join AMSAT's FOX and GOLF CubeSat teams. There will be a collaboration with an all-volunteer team of up to 12 electrical, mechanical, software, and systems engineers. The positions entail an opportunity to use structural design and analysis skills to develop a series of low-Earth orbit and highly elliptical orbit 1U - 3U CubeSats.

Contributions may include:

- The development of the space frame and deployable solar panel subsystem
- The analysis of the thermal characteristics of the CubeSat and the

design of the thermal management system

- Preparation and oversight of the environmental testing procedure
- Management of documentation of the CubeSat's adherence to the launch provider's and space vehicle owner's specifications

AMSAT volunteers typically spend 5 hours per week on their projects and attend a weekly meeting online. An amateur radio license and CubeSat experience are helpful, but not necessary. US citizenship or proof of permanent residency is required.

Interested persons should send an email with their resume/curriculum vitae to volunteer@amsat.org.

- Thanks to AMSAT Assistant VP, Engineering Jonathan Brandenburg, KF5IDY, for the above information.

FCC To Reinstate Morse Code Test

APRIL 1, 2023

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. Happy April Fool's

Ham Radio Classes

By: Peter Kapetanakis, KN4OCX

The Tri-County ARC, High Point ARC, and GARA (Greensboro Amateur Radio Association) have formed a partnership to provide online (Zoom) classes for those seeking to acquire their Technician Class operator's license, or to upgrade to a General Class license.

Each course is comprised of 4 class sessions. Each class session is held via Zoom on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 –

9:30pm ET and is free of charge.

The Technician & General classes are held in alternating months. The next course is the General Course scheduled to begin April 5th. Please note, that the courses are meant to prepare you for the FCC license exam, but do not include the license exam itself.

Pre-registration is required for each course. Please contact Richard Weinbaum, KK4RR at 336-687-8001 or

KK4RR@mac.com to register.

The starting dates for each course in 2023 are as follows:

Technician Course:

~~January 4, March 1~~, May 3, July 12
September 6

General Course:

~~February 1~~, April 5, June 7, August 9,
October 4

HPARC APRIL CALENDAR

- 3 — **HPARC Meeting**
- 7 — Good Friday
- 9 — Easter
- 16 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline
- 29 — W4VEC High Point VE session
(Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, Fellowship Bldg)

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- Dan Loggins, KO4ZBL – 2
- Keith Thomas, KA4JAH – 11
- Phil Simmons, KU4GP – 14
- Douglas Bateman, N4DUH – 17
- David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF – 25
- Daniel Bly, WX4VFR – 27

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

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**Breakfast every
Saturday**

—
8:00 a.m.

—
**Biscuitville,
2709 S. Main St.**

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. Material in this Newsletter 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. Membership in the HPARC is open 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.

The High Point Amateur Radio Club meets the first Monday of each month (except for holidays) at a local restaurant announced in the newsletter. Come early to enjoy dinner. 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. Contributions and letters/emails to the editor are welcome.