



December
2023

HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point
Amateur Radio
Club



W4UA

HPARC December Meeting and Holiday Party

Peter Kapetanakis, KN4OCX

The December HPARC meeting/Christmas party will be held on SATURDAY, December 2, 2023. Please mark your calendar! We will have a brief business meeting at 6:30 p.m. which will then be followed by the holiday party. As part of the business meeting a vote will occur for the installation of club officers for the 2024 term. The program will be eating

and festivities! This is a time for club members to just enjoy each other's company.

The meal will be potluck from the club members. Email Keith Thomas if you have not done so yet, to tell him what dish you may be bringing. Please send your club dues directly to Peter Kapetanakis, HPARC Treasurer. His email address is listed in this newsletter if you need to contact him. Hope to see everyone there!

**HPARC Meeting
& Holiday Party**

**Hickory Chapel Wesleyan
Church Fellowship Building**

**301 Hickory Chapel Rd.
High Point, NC**

**December 2, 2023
6:30 p.m.**

No Zoom

Florida Hams Make Contact 100 Miles Apart via 10-Meter Repeater ... in Switzerland.

Source: ARRL Letter November 22, 2023

When 10 meters is open, amazing things can happen. Lu Romero, W4LT, knows that well. He said, "When 10 is open, I often venture up into the top of the band to see if there is any FM activity. I've always liked to use 10 FM, especially when conditions are marginal to observe the Faraday phase distortion on signals. Before FT8, 10 FM was always a good way to discover where the band was propagating to in addition to the beacons. If you hear FM (especially repeaters) operating, then the propagation is really good!"

At around 1500z on October 23, 2023, the band was open. Romero stated that he went to the top of the band and "found multiple signals in both simplex and via repeaters."

"Usually, I receive a repeater in New York City, KQ2H, one of the strongest signals I can get down here in Florida when 10 is open, but today there was another strong signal [of] 10 kHz



Tower 1 of the Tampa Amateur Radio Club, with the Force 12 C31XR antenna, second from the top. [Lu Romero, W4LT, photo.]

above it," he said.

Using a FLEX-6400 at 75 W and the C32XR beam at 108 feet that he maintains for the [Tampa Amateur Radio Club](#), he heard an ID through the splatter from the KQ2H repeater. "It was [HB9HD in Switzerland!](#) I set up for split and reduced power to 75 W on the Flex and gave the repeater a kerchunk." Romero was able to contact a Swiss ham, Rene, HB3XVR, on the repeater's 70-centimeter link.

Then, on October 31, again around 1500z, Romero tried the repeater once more. "I found the repeater full quieting, even stronger than it was on October 23, and with no QRM from KQ2H, so it was clean and easy to copy!



A Google Maps display of the nearly 5,000-mile distance each leg of the QSO traveled.

For the heck of it, I called CQ several times on the repeater. I received no callers, but finally, I received a signal that was fading up and down. I called again and that signal stopped fading for a while, and I was able to work David, WA3LXD, over the HB9HD repeater. After a little while, his signal settled down, and David asked me what my QTH was, and I told him I was in Tampa. He laughed and said we worked each other 'the hard

way,' because he was in Ocala, about 100 miles to my north," said Romero.

As Solar Cycle 25 continues to rise toward its peak, amateurs can expect to encounter more exciting propagation, especially on the 10- and 6-meter bands. In this case, the signals traveled roughly 9,800 miles round trip. Your mileage may vary.

SKYWARN Recognition Day Is Ready to Go

Source: ARRL Letter November 16, 2023

The 2023 SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) is December 2 from 0000z to 2400z.



The event honors all SKYWARN storm spotters and amateur radio operators for their contributions to the National Weather Service (NWS) during severe weather. Amateur radio operators also provide vital

communication to the NWS and emergency management when normal communications fail.

The [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#) website is now updated with the SKYWARN registration form, mapping form, and rules and information you'll need to check in for this year's event.

It's important to review the following event resources on the NOAA website:

- Operating procedures
- Participant registration lists
- SRD 2023 contact log sheet
- SRD 2023 NWS office contact log sheet
- SRD 2023 NWS operational details

- Social media planning document

SRD was developed in 1999 by the NWS and ARRL. Amateur stations exchange contact information with as many NWS stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, and 6 meters, plus the 2-meter and 70-centimeter bands. Contacts are also permitted using repeaters. Non-amateur radio spotters can exchange information with NWS offices using social media.

To learn how to become a trained NOAA storm spotter visit [Spotter Training \(weather.gov\)](#).

In 2022, more than 5,000 spotters participated in SKYWARN Recognition Day.

ARRL Hails FCC Action to Remove Symbol Rate Restrictions

Source: ARRL Letter November 16, 2023

ARRL reports that Monday, November 13, 2023, the FCC Commissioners unanimously voted to amend the Amateur Radio Service rules to replace the baud rate limit on the amateur HF bands with a 2.8 kHz bandwidth limit to permit greater flexibility in data communications.



"The Federal Communications Commission today [adopted](#) to incentivize innovation and experimentation in the amateur radio bands by removing outdated restrictions and providing licensees

with the flexibility to use modern digital emissions," [announced](#) the FCC.

"Specifically, we remove limitations on the symbol rate (also known as baud rate) -- the rate at which the carrier waveform amplitude, frequency, and/or phase is varied to transmit information -- applicable to data emissions in certain amateur bands," concluded the FCC [Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) (DA/FCC # FCC-23-93; WT Docket No. 16-239) adopted November 13, 2023. "The amateur radio community can play a vital role in emergency response communications, but is often unnecessarily hindered by the baud

rate limitations in the rules."

Consistent with ARRL's request, the amended rules will replace the current HF restrictions with a 2.8 kHz bandwidth limit. "We agree with ARRL that a 2.8 kilohertz bandwidth limitation will allow for additional emissions currently prohibited under the baud rate limitations while providing sufficient protections in the shared RTTY/data subbands," concluded the FCC Report and Order.

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, hailed the FCC's action to remove the symbol rate restrictions. Roderick stated that "this action will measurably facilitate the public service communications that

amateurs step up to provide, especially at times of natural disasters and other emergencies such as during the hurricane season. Digital technology continues to evolve, and removing the outmoded data restrictions restores the incentive for radio amateurs to continue to experiment and develop more spectrum-efficient protocols and methods while the 2.8 kHz bandwidth limit will help protect the shared nature of our bands. We thank Congresswoman [Debbie] Lesko (AZ-08) for her efforts on behalf of all amateurs to get these restrictions removed."

In a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM), the FCC

proposes to eliminate similar restrictions where they apply in other bands. "We propose to remove the baud rate limitation in the 2200-meter band and 630-meter band... and in the very-high frequency (VHF) bands and the ultra-high frequency (UHF) bands. Additionally, we seek comment on the appropriate bandwidth limitation for the 2200-meter band, the 630-meter band, and the VHF/UHF bands." ARRL has previously expressed its support for eliminating the symbol rate limits in favor of bandwidth limits where they apply on the VHF and UHF bands but suggested that the bandwidth limits themselves be reviewed in light of today's technology and tomorrow's



possibilities. Similarly, when eliminating the baud limits on the 2200- and 630-meter bands, consideration should be given to what, if any, bandwidth limits are appropriate.

The new rules will become effective 30 days after being published in the [Federal Register](#). The FCC will announce a period for public comment on the additional proposed changes based upon publication of the FNPRM in the *Federal Register*. No date has been set for publication.

The First Worked All States Certificate Awarded for the 33-Centimeter Band

Source: ARRL Letter November 9, 2023

On November 4, 2023, Al Ward's, W5LUA, 38-year quest to contact all 50 states on the 33-centimeter band ended when he received the first-ever Worked All States (WAS) certificate for (902 - 928 MHz). Ward started collecting states on the band shortly after it was opened in 1985.

"I am extremely grateful to Peter Van Horne, KA6U, for his EME [Earth-moon-Earth] efforts. I was able to work Wisconsin for my last state [on] the 33-centimeter band on October 21. At the end of September, I was sitting at 32 states confirmed with cards and/or the Logbook of The World (LoTW), when Van Horne went on a 25-state expedition providing my last 18 states," said Ward. In recent expeditions, Brian McCarthy, NX9O, and Jason Baack, N1AV, also provided several states that were needed.

Ward's station consists of a 5-meter



Al Ward, W5LUA, holds his WAS certificate in front of his 5-meter dish. [Photo courtesy of W5LUA]

dish with 400 W of power obtained from two 300 W Motorola amplifiers in parallel. His feed is a dual polarity patch feed.

ARRL Radiosport and Regulatory Information Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, was one of the first people to congratulate Ward on his accomplishment.

Jahnke stated, "Hearty

congratulations! It's my privilege to confirm the ARRL Awards Department has received your WAS application, plus Card Checker document, and we have issued the 33-centimeter (902 - 928 MHz) Worked All States Award number 1 to you in culmination of your 38-year quest to contact all 50 states on the 33-centimeter band."

Other stations on the hunt for the 33-centimeter WAS certificate that are nearing completion include ACORA, KODAS, and N1AV.

In 1985, the Federal Communications Commission allocated the frequency band between 902 and 928 MHz to Part 18 industrial, scientific, and medical (ISM) equipment. In that proceeding, the band was also allocated to the Amateur Radio Service on a secondary basis, meaning amateurs could use the band if they accepted interference from and did not cause interference to primary users.



HPARC DECEMBER CALENDAR

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 — **HPARC Meeting / Holiday Party**
- 3 — Advent Begins
- 7 — Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- 7 — Hanukkah Begins
- 9 — W4VEC Greensboro VE Session
(Hinshaw United Methodist Church)
- 17 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline
- 25 — Christmas

- Dean Wilson, N4DH — 1
- George McCormick, KN4JPB — 6
- Ken Worland, KW4UC — 11
- Mark Pegram, KX4PZ — 18
- Cliff Scronce, NC4ANQ — 19
- Ray Cline, KQ4ATM — 25
- Brady Honeycutt, KO4ZBK — 28

For W4VEC Test information, call or email Keith Thomas, KA4JAH, (336) 906-2469, KA4JAH@Aol.com

2023 HPARC OFFICERS

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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.