



January  
2024

# HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point  
Amateur Radio  
Club



W4UA

## Happy New Year!!!

By: Peter Kapetanakis, KN4OCX

The December HPARC meeting/Christmas party was held on Saturday, December 2, 2023. A good time was had by all who were able to attend. It was good to see each of you.

Our annual election for board members and as indicated by the slate presented in recent months, the 2023 board members will each continue their service in their current role for the 2024 calendar year. The board members are as follows:

**President:**

David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF

**Vice President:**

Terence Crandall, N4TLC

**Secretary:**

Keith Thomas, KA4JAH

**Treasurer:**

Peter Kapetanakis, KN4OCX

The board has discussed the matter and has decided to CANCEL the January Meeting as it would have been scheduled for New Year's Day. Our next meeting will be held February 5,

2024 @ 6:30pm at our typical 2023 meeting place of Mario's Pizza on N. Main Street in High Point.

The board would also like to thank all that served on the various committees this past year. The board will be looking for volunteers to serve on committees in 2024. We ask that you please consider volunteering. Please any of the board members know if you are interested.

### HPARC Meeting

#### In-Person & Zoom

February 5, 2024 - 6:30 pm - Mario's Pizza - 2645 N. Main St., High Point, NC 27265

## Dues & By-Laws Reminder

By: Peter Kapetanakis, KN4OCX

As we are entering the beginning of a new year, this is a good time to remind members of club dues, when and how to pay, and the by-laws revolving around club dues.

Annual dues for HPARC membership are as follows:

Individual Membership: \$24 /year

Associate Membership: \$12 /year

Family Membership (spousal Hams): \$36 /year

Please note: Associate membership is for non licensed radio operators and do not have voting privileges. Furthermore, the Associate and family memberships may include those who

are under the age of 16.

Membership dues may be paid by check, cash, or by electronic Zelle payment. Payments by check or cash may be made in person at a club meeting, or mailed directly to the Treasurer at:

HPARC, 3424 Mill Run Ln, Pfafftown, NC 27040.

Zelle payments may be made through the Zelle app on any smartphone by sending the payment to [Treasurer@w4ua.org](mailto:Treasurer@w4ua.org).

Each month (usually somewhere around the middle of the month) I will send an email reminder to those individuals whose membership is

coming due. If you are unsure when your membership is due, please contact me at [Treasurer@w4ua.org](mailto:Treasurer@w4ua.org).

Note, that per the HPARC by-laws, any member whose dues become 90 days late shall have their membership terminated. So please be sure to stay current.

If you are not a current member and would like to join the High Point Amateur Radio Club, please complete a membership application. The application can be found on the club website at [W4UA.org](http://W4UA.org) or by clicking here [W4UA application.pdf](#).

# ARRL RF Safety Committee Develops New Guidelines to Communicate RF Safety

Source: ARRL Letter November 30, 2023

Radio amateurs now have a new tool from ARRL to help answer questions about their stations. Neighbors of amateur radio operators are sometimes concerned about transmissions and radio frequency exposure from amateur stations.

The [ARRL RF Safety Committee](#), with their international counterparts at the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), the Irish Radio Transmitters Society (IRTS), and the Swedish Society of Radio Amateurs (SSA), has developed a new set of guidelines to

help amateurs interact with and talk to their neighbors about RF exposure.

Chairman of the ARRL RF Safety Committee Greg Lapin, N9GL, said the new informational PDF found on the ARRL RF Exposure page, [Helping Amateurs Interact with Neighbors Asking About Radio Transmissions](#), was developed after a year of discussions about RF safety.

"Neighbors may be alarmed by some of the misinformation about RF safety that is available from a variety of sources. By following the exposure regulations from the Federal

Communications Commission, we can be confident that our families and neighbors are safe," Lapin said.

Lapin added that RF exposure regulations are based on decades of trustworthy research. He also encouraged all amateur radio operators to perform exposure assessments for their stations to make sure they meet those regulations.



## ARDC and ARRL Announce \$2.1 Million for the Next Generation of Amateur Radio

Source: ARRL Letter December 7, 2023

[Amateur Radio Digital Communications \(ARDC\)](#) and [The ARRL Foundation](#) announced a three-year commitment with over \$2.1 million in combined funding to support scholarships for radio amateurs, radio technology for classroom teachers, and amateur radio club grants. This commitment reinforces a strong shared vision between ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio and ARDC to invest in the future of amateur radio through programs supporting the next generation of radio amateurs.

"ARRL and ARDC share a common vision for the future of Amateur Radio," says The ARRL Foundation President David Norris, K5UZ. "The Foundation exists to support the next generation of radio amateurs, and we are so proud to collaborate with ARDC to make these programs possible."

The ARDC Scholarship at The ARRL Foundation has supported nearly 100 amateur radio operators in pursuit of their educational goals since its inception in 2020. The renewed commitment will result in over 200 total scholarships, awarded over the next three years, for radio amateurs pursuing higher education, with scholarships ranging from \$5,000 to

\$25,000. This competitive scholarship program is run through The ARRL



Foundation Scholarship Program, and recipients who demonstrate academic excellence and financial need can use this funding for tuition, room & board, books, and other fees essential to advance their education. More information on eligibility and application deadlines may be found online at The ARRL Foundation website at [www.arrl.org/scholarship-program](http://www.arrl.org/scholarship-program).

The ARRL Club Grants program was introduced in 2022 with initial funding from ARDC. Thanks to this next round of collaboration, the ARRL Club Grants Program will continue in 2024. Beginning with significant funding from ARDC in 2022, the ARRL Club Grants program is administered by The ARRL Foundation, together with the ARRL Field Organization. These club grants are critical to the future of amateur radio because of the importance of mentoring and helping licensee become active in Amateur Radio. ARRL encourages clubs to

revitalize this critical aspect of their role by applying for funding to support programs in one of the available categories, including ham skills development, STEAM learning and education, or club station improvement, among others. This



transformational program will launch in the Spring of 2024. More details will be provided through upcoming informational sessions and on The ARRL Foundation website at [www.arrl.org/club-grant-program](http://www.arrl.org/club-grant-program).

Additional funding from ARDC will extend the effectiveness of ARRL outreach programs to teachers and schools, including the ARRL Teachers Institute for Wireless Technology. Monies will be used to purchase equipment to allow students to get hands-on STEM experiences through radio communications and radio technology.

Read more about the exciting announcement on [ARRL News](#).

# Bandwidth Limits Replace Symbol Rates on the HF Bands, Other Bands Open for Comment

Source: ARRL Letter December 7, 2023

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) [published new rules](#) adopted last month that replace the symbol rate restrictions on the HF bands with a bandwidth limit of 2.8 kHz. The new rules go into effect January 8, 2024.

The bands and band segments affected by the rules change are those authorized for data transmission between 160 and 10 meters, exclusive of 60 meters (where no change was made).

In adopting a bandwidth limit in place of the baud rate limit the FCC agreed with ARRL that some limitation is necessary because "without a baud rate or bandwidth limit, data stations using a large amount of spectrum for a single emission could do so to the detriment of simultaneous use by other stations using narrowband emission modes."

ARRL has advocated for this change for a long time. The move opens amateur data communications to faster and more modern modes and restores the incentive for amateurs to

experiment with and develop faster and more efficient data methods. Previously, ARRL obtained waivers to the symbol rate rules on a case-by-case basis to facilitate communications during situations like hurricane responses. These delays will now be removed, permitting drills to be conducted with the faster modes and more timely responses when needed.

The FCC also requested comment on removing similar symbol rate restrictions in the rules governing 135.7 - 137.8 kHz (2200-meter band), 472 - 479 kHz (630-meter band), and the very high-frequency (VHF) and ultra-high frequency (UHF) bands.

The VHF bands with baud rates are the 6-meter band, 2-meter band, and the 1.25-meter band. The single UHF band with a baud rate is the 70-centimeter band (420 - 450 MHz). The [Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making](#) (FNPRM) proposes to maintain the existing bandwidth limits in the Commission's rules for these VHF and UHF bands but seeks comment on whether they should be kept, and if so, whether the bandwidths should be changed. The Commission also sought

comment on whether bandwidth limits should be adopted for application to the 2200 and 630-meter bands, and if so, what an appropriate bandwidth limit would be.

Public comments on these additional issues are sought in the FNPRM. The comment period is open until January 8, 2024. Replies to comments are due no later than January 22, 2024. If changes are later adopted, the rules will go into effect in the same manner as they did for the other bands -- after notice and publication in the *Federal Register*.



## WRC-23 Reaches Acceptable Conclusion on 23-centimeter Issue

Source: ARRL Letter December 14, 2023

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Radiocommunication



Conference 2023 (WRC-23) continues through December 15, 2023, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU)'s primary effort focused on Agenda Item 9.1 topic b to address amateur use of the 23-centimeter band and co-frequency use by several radionavigation satellite service

(RNSS) systems in the 1240 - 1300 MHz band.

IARU's work that began 4 years ago with a preparatory study in the ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) to address this agenda item has finally come to a close. Our concerted engagement in the ITU-R working parties, study groups, and WRC preparatory meetings ensured that the amateur services were properly represented during the development of two published ITU-R reports: M.2513 and M.2532. An ITU-R Recommendation, M.2164, followed these, which formed the basis for the discussions at WRC-23.

During the WRC-23 deliberations, strong positions were expressed by all parties involved.



IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, offers thanks to Barry Lewis, G4SJH, for his success in leading IARU's work on Agenda Item 9.1 topic b. From left to right: WRC-23 SWG4B7 Chair Dale Hughes, VK1DSH; IARU Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR; Tim Ellam, VE6SH; Barry Lewis, G4SJH, and IARU Secretary Joel Harrison, W5ZN.

The result is a well-supported compromise for a footnote in the Radio

Regulations regarding amateur and amateur satellite service operation in the 1240 -1300 MHz range. The footnote reminds administrations and amateurs of the need to protect the primary RNSS from interference, and it provides guidance for administrations to allow both services to continue to operate in this portion of the spectrum.

Administrations are the bodies that govern amateur radio in their respective countries, such as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the United States.

The Conference Plenary compromise was formally adopted on December 8 and is not subject to further consideration during the final week of WRC-23. The IARU team continues its work on other WRC issues, including developing agendas for future conferences.

IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, noted, "This is a very good result for the amateur services. The decision reached at WRC-23 on this agenda item makes no change to the table of allocations nor incorporates by reference M.2164 into the Radio

Regulations. The addition of a footnote that provides guidance to administrations in the event of interference to the RNSS is a good regulatory outcome for amateurs and the primary users of this band."

The WRC also agreed to suppress Resolution 774, which closes the issue and satisfies the agenda item. [Read more in ARRL News](#)



[WRC-23 began on November 20, 2023.](#) The IARU team includes: ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA; Paul Cloverdale, VE3ICV, for Radio Amateurs of Canada; Barry Lewis, G4SJH (IARU AI 9.1b Lead), Flavio Archangelo, PY2ZX, for Liga de Amadores Brasileiros de Rádio Emissão / IARU Region 2; Bernd Mischlewski, DF2ZC, for Deutscher Amateur Radio Club; IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH; Murray Niman, G6JYB, for the Radio Society of Great Britain; IARU Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR; IARU Secretary Joel Harrison, W5ZN; Wahyudi Hasbi, YB1PR, for Organisasi Amatir Radio Indonesia; Peter Pokorny, VK2EMR, for the Wireless Institute of Australia; Dale Hughes, VK1DSH, for the Wireless Institute of Australia (SWG4B7 Chair), Roland Turner, 9V1RT, for Singapore Amateur Radio Transmitting Society (IARU), and Ken Yamamoto, JA1CJP, for the Japan Amateur Radio League.

## 2024 ARRL National Convention to be at Hamvention

Source: ARRL Letter December 14, 2023

ARRL and Hamvention® have announced that Hamvention will host the 2024 ARRL National Convention, May 17, 18, and 19 at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia,



Ohio. Hamvention is the world's largest annual gathering of radio amateurs and has been sponsored by

the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) since 1952.

"We are pleased to unveil our 2024 logo and theme," announced 2024 Hamvention General Chair Jim Storms, AB8YK, and the Hamvention team. "The theme is 'Expanding our Community'. This is in support of the growth of amateur radio worldwide."

Hamvention Awards Chair Michael Kalter, W8CI, also shared a reminder that the nomination period is open to submit nominations for 2024 Hamvention Awards, including the Amateur of the Year, Technical Achievement, Special Achievement, and Club of the Year awards. More information about the awards can

found on the Hamvention website, and nominations will close on February 15, 2024.

ARRL is building a program for its National Convention that will include presentations and forums, more than a dozen exhibits, and activities for young hams. Once finalized, the National Convention program will be published at [www.arrl.org/expo](http://www.arrl.org/expo).

Hamvention urged "everyone to purchase their tickets and make their room reservations early to avoid the rush." Visit the Hamvention website for more information and to order tickets at [www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org).

# ARRL Straight Key Night 2024

Source: ARRL Letter December 21, 2023

The moment VOTA: Badges on the Air ends, another popular event gets started:

ARRL Straight Key Night (SKN) is held on January 1, 2024, from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC.

Many hams look forward to SKN as one of the highlights of their operating year.

Operators participate using Morse code (CW). All you need is your favorite straight key or bug. Many participants dust off vintage radios



ARRL Straight Key Night (SKN) is January 1, 2024, from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC.

and keys and put them back into service each year just for this event.

SKN is not a contest, so there's no

need for quick exchanges. However, all hand keys, regardless of age, are welcome. The number of contacts you make is not important. The reward is meeting new friends as you get together on the air.

Send a list of stations contacted, SKN stories and photos, and your votes for Best Fist and Most Interesting QSO to [straightkey@arrl.org](mailto:straightkey@arrl.org) by January 31, 2024.

More information is available at [www.arrl.org/straight-key-night](http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night).

## HPARC JANUARY CALENDAR

- 1 — **HPARC Meeting -CANCELED**
- 1 — New Year's Day
- 13 — W4VEC Greensboro VE Session  
(Hinshaw United Methodist Church)
- 15 — MLK Jr Day
- 21 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline
- 25 — W4VEC High Point VE Session  
(Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, Fellowship Bldg)

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Larry Frye, WA4EKD - 15
- Robert Erdin, N4ADQ - 16

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](mailto: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.