



January  
2026

# HPARC NEWSLETTER

High Point  
Amateur Radio  
Club



W4UA

W4UA repeater 147.165 MHz +Offset 67 Hz tone  
FM • Digital • APRS • Wires-X

## HPARC Meeting

January 5 @ 6:30 pm  
Mario's Pizza  
2645 N. Main St. – High Point

Contact Keith Thomas, KA4JAH for Zoom info.

## Single Sideband Activity Nights

2 Meter SSB: Thursdays @ 9pm ET 144.200 MHz  
6 Meter SSB: Sundays @ 8:30pm ET 50.155 MHz

[www.W4UA.org](http://www.W4UA.org)

## Happy New Year!!!

Peter Kapetanakis, KN4OCX

The December HPARC meeting/Christmas party was held on Saturday, December 6, 2025. 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 was held. By unanimous vote, the following will be our board members for the 2026 calendar year:

### President:

Keith Thomas, KA4JAH

### Vice President:

David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF

### Secretary:

Terence Crandall, N4TLC

### Treasurer:

Andrew Talbert, KX4AT

Our next meeting will be held January 5, 2026 @ 6:30pm at our typical 2024 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 2025. We ask that you please consider volunteering. Please contact any of the board members to let them know if you are interested.

## Ham Radio Classes

By: Peter Kapetanakis, KN4OCX

The Tri-County ARC, High Point ARC, and Forsyth ARC 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 6 class sessions. Each class session is held via Zoom on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 – 9:00pm ET and is free of charge.

The Technician & General classes are

held in an alternating sequence. The next course is the **Technician** Course scheduled to begin **January 6th**. 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](mailto:KK4RR@mac.com) to register.

The starting dates for each course in 2025 are as follows:

Course Start Dates listed below

### Technician Course:

January 6  
March 31  
June 23  
September 22

### General Course:

February 17  
May 12  
August 4

## Amateur Extra Class

By: Rol Anders, K3RA

If you or anyone you know is interested in attending an Amateur Extra Class licensing course, please pass along the following information, and feel free to publicize it with your radio club or any group you feel would benefit.

A free, weekly, live, Amateur Radio Extra

Class Licensing course on Zoom will begin on Thursday, January 15, 2026, and will run through Thursday, March 26. There will be 11 sessions. The three-hour sessions will start at 6:30 PM Eastern Time and will also be recorded. These are the classes that we have been holding for years sponsored by the Amateur Radio Club of the National Electronics Museum.

Note: Attendees should hold (or be studying for) the General Class Amateur Radio License.

Please publicize this with anyone that you think would be interested. Those wishing to sign up should email [roland.anders@comcast.net](mailto:roland.anders@comcast.net).

We have overlapping mailing lists, so if you received a duplicate of this message, thank you for your understanding.

# New Technician Class Question Pool Released -- Effective July 1, 2026

Source: ARRL Letter, December 18, 2025

On December 18, 2025, the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) released the revised [2026-2030 Technician Class \(Element 2\) question pool](#). It will be required for all exam sessions beginning July 1, 2026. The new pool includes 409 questions (27 new, 30 removed, and about 155 modified), compared to 412 in the prior pool. The pool also includes three diagrams used for some of the questions.

This updated question pool incorporates

significant changes compared to the prior pool. The questions were checked for technical accuracy and relevance to current amateur radio practices, as well as for grammar, syntax, format, clarity, and for redundancy within and between the pools.

VECs and Volunteer Examiners must use test designs based on the new pool starting on July 1, 2026. Current ARRL VEC Technician Class exam booklets (2022 series) and computer-generated Technician Class exams created from the 2022 question pool are valid until June 30. After that, old versions should be destroyed.

ARRL will have new editions of Technician Class study materials, including *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual*, *Gordon West Technician Class License Prep* book, and *ARRL's Tech Q&A*, by May 2026.

View all question pools on the [NCVEC website](#).



## HPARC Dues Collection Changes

Source: Peter Kapetanakis, KN4OCX

The HPARC Board has been in discussions on ways to simplify the collections of HPARC Dues. The primary impact will be to the due date of your HPARC dues. The Board is working to change the due date so that all dues will be

payable at the first of every year. This is different than the current set up which is based on when the member joins the club. Our new treasurer is also working on ways to make it easier for you to pay your dues.

Please stay tuned as there will be more information forthcoming on this topic.

Information will come in the format of direct communication from our Treasurer, Andrew Talbert, KX4AT, and with an update in our next newsletter.

Please note, there is no discussion on changing the dues amounts, this is only a when and how item at this time.

## 2026 is ARRL's Year of the Club -- A Celebration of Amateur Radio Clubs

Source: ARRL Letter December 31, 2025



As we turn the calendar to a new year, ARRL is launching a year-long celebration that puts the spotlight squarely where it belongs — on radio clubs. Beginning January 1, 2026, ARRL officially recognizes the [Year of the Club](#), an initiative designated by the ARRL Board of Directors to honor the vital role clubs play in sustaining, growing, and energizing amateur radio.

Radio clubs are the backbone of ARRL and of the Amateur Radio Service itself. For countless hams, a club is the first welcoming doorway into the hobby — a place to learn, to operate, to build, and to belong. Clubs create opportunities for mentoring, public service, technical exploration, and lifelong friendships. Simply put, when clubs thrive, amateur radio thrives.

Throughout 2026, all ARRL Affiliated Clubs are invited to participate in special programs, operating events, and recognition opportunities designed to celebrate club accomplishments and inspire new ideas. ARRL will be rolling out initiatives focused on

supporting club growth, strengthening activities, and recognizing clubs that help expand ARRL membership or reach significant milestones, including 100 years of ARRL Affiliation.

### New Ways to Celebrate and Compete

Two exciting contests are already under way to kick off the Year of the Club, highlighting how clubs connect with members and the broader community. Details for entering the [ARRL Club Newsletter Contest](#) and [ARRL Club Website Contest](#) are available now, with a shared submission deadline of **January 30, 2026, at 4 PM Eastern Time**.

The [ARRL Club Newsletter Contest](#) recognizes that newsletters are often the heartbeat of a club — sharing news, and keeping members connected and involved.

Does your radio club have a great website that supports club members but also attracts attention for your club? Consider entering the [ARRL Club Website Contest](#). Club websites play

an increasingly important role in outreach, public service visibility, and attracting new members to amateur radio.

Winners will be notified in May 2026, honored at the ARRL National Convention being hosted by the [Huntsville Hamfest](#) in August, and featured in *QST*.

### A New Home for Clubs Online

In preparation for the Year of the Club, ARRL has launched a [new Clubs website](#), offering a modernized, accessible hub for Affiliated Clubs, prospective clubs, and individual hams looking to get involved with a club. The site brings together information about club benefits, locations, resources, and ARRL Affiliation — all in one place.

A standout new feature is the Club Map search tool, which lets users locate radio clubs by ZIP code and displays both an interactive map and a list of nearby clubs. Try it at [clubs.arrl.org/map](#).

A new, streamlined, [online application](#) also simplifies the process for becoming a new ARRL Affiliated Club. And all clubs can use the new [Member Verification](#) tool as they set a club goal to increase ARRL membership among club members. The result is faster service, easier updates, and better support for the Affiliated Clubs. Everyone is encouraged to explore the new site and pages at [clubs.arrl.org](#) and [affiliatedclubs.arrl.org](#).



Members of the Bella Vista Radio Club (BVRC) of Arkansas provided public service communications for the Candy Cane Race in December. It was a chilly day, but the BVRC Community Outreach Team braved the

## See Your Radio Club in QST

During 2026, every issue of *QST* will include [club photos](#), showcasing the people behind amateur radio's local success stories. Clubs are encouraged to gather members for photos, wear club or ARRL apparel, pose with banners or signs, and submit high-resolution photos along with names, call signs, and club information. It's a simple way to highlight your club's pride and presence on the national stage. See the photo submission guidelines at [www.arrl.org/club-photos](http://www.arrl.org/club-photos).

## Inspiration, Innovation, and the Year Ahead

In his editorial in the January 2026 issue of *QST*, ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Minster, NA2AA, noted that clubs have shaped his amateur radio journey — from school clubs and Field Days to lifelong friendships built through shared activities. During the Year of the Club, he encourages members to recognize and thank the volunteer leaders who make these experiences possible, while also looking ahead to new opportunities.

ARRL will promote innovative ideas and best practices throughout the year, including content inspired by the [MARCONI program](#) — Motivating Amateur Radio Clubs to Open New Initiatives. Clubs are also encouraged to explore creative projects — from kit-building nights and technical workshops to hilltopping, antenna expeditions, and new operating challenges.

The Year of the Club also coincides with our nation's commemoration and celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. ARRL will mark the semiquincentennial with special America250 [Worked All States](#) awards, including WAS and WAS Triple Play, and clubs will have opportunities to participate through W1AW/portable activations across the country — echoing the excitement of ARRL's Centennial in 2014. The first state activations begin on January 7. See details at [www.arrl.org/america250-was](http://www.arrl.org/america250-was).

## Be Radio Active in 2026

The message for 2026 is clear: Celebrate

what your radio club already does well, try something new, and be radio active. Whether



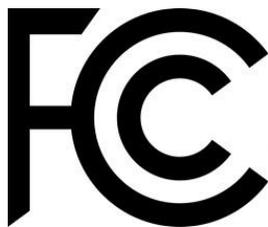
This club photo appears at the top of the December newsletter of the Wellesley Amateur Radio Society of Massachusetts. It was the last issue of the Spark Gap edited by Leandra MacLennan. AF1R.

your club is small or large, new or nearing a century as an ARRL Affiliated Club, the Year of the Club is an invitation to connect, innovate, and share your story.

Follow all Year of the Club programming at [clubs.arrl.org/year-of-the-club](http://clubs.arrl.org/year-of-the-club) and make 2026 a year to remember — for your club, for ARRL, and for amateur radio.

## Obsolete Part 97 Rules to be Deleted February 10, 2026

By: ARRL Letter, December 18, 2025



The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in October 2025 adopted a Report and Order to delete almost 400 obsolete rules pertaining to its wireless services. As [previously reported by ARRL](#), among the deletions were four in Part 97 that govern the Amateur Radio Service.

ARRL reports that the notice of the Report and Order has now been published in the [Federal Register](#). Unless an objection is raised by January 2 that the Commission finds to deserve its consideration, the following four Part 97 provisions will be deleted as of February 10, 2026:

1. **§ 97.27**. This provision is duplicative of a statutory provision related to the FCC's right to modify station licenses.
2. **§ 97.29**. This provision specified an obsolete procedure to replace paper licenses.

ARRL proposed deleting this section in comments filed earlier this year.

3. **§ 97.315 (b)(2)**. This obsolete provision grandfathered HF amplifiers purchased before April 28, 1978 by an amateur radio operator for use at that operator's station, and grandfathered those manufactured before April 28, 1978, for which a marketing waiver was issued.

4. **§ 97.521(b) and Appendix 2**. This rule and appendix relate to obsolete VEC regions.

## FCC Allocates 60-Meter World-Wide Amateur Band Approved at WRC-15; Continues Amateur Use of Four Additional 60-Meter Channels, and Updates 420 MHz Coordination Information

Source: ARRL Letter, December 11, 2025



The FCC on December 9, 2025, released a long-awaited [Report and Order](#) adopting a new amateur radio spectrum allocation in the 60-meter band that was approved for world-wide use on a secondary basis in the WRC-15 (World Radiocommunication Conference 2015) [Final Acts](#). The Commission also agreed with the ARRL petition to continue to allow amateur operations on four existing 60-meter channels outside the international allocation with a full 100 watts. **The new rules will go into effect 30 days after publication in the Federal Register,**

**when amateurs may then begin using the allocation.**

Specifically, the Commission allocated 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz (60 meters) to the amateur service **on a secondary basis with a permitted power of 9.15 watts ERP**. The Commission also authorized amateurs to continue using four existing channels outside of the 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz band, centered on 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz, on a secondary basis with a permitted power of 100 watts ERP. There are no antenna restrictions, but antenna gain must be used to calculate ERP.

The 60-meter allocation is available to amateurs holding a General Class or above license. The maximum permissible signal

bandwidth is 2.8 kHz.

Amateurs are cautioned that this allocation is strictly on a secondary basis, and amateurs must avoid interfering with non-amateur stations using this spectrum. This obligation includes the responsibility to monitor for such stations using appropriate receiver bandwidths. The FCC emphasized that "allowing amateur operations in this band while fully protecting incumbent primary Federal operations is our priority, and even intermittent interference in this band could jeopardize important Federal operations."

[Continue reading this story on ARRL News](#)



# Volunteers Needed

By: Peter Kapetanakis, KN4OCX

Hello readers,

As many of you have heard in our club meetings, the HPARC has been working with the Nido & Mariana Qubein Children's Museum to education our younger population and their radio and morse code. Richard Weinbaum, partnership for some time and we have exposition and share our knowledge. To museums volunteer process. To get started, Weinbaum, KK4RR at 336-687-8001 or [KK4RR@mac.com](mailto:KK4RR@mac.com).



accompanying adults about the world of KK4RR has been spearheading this dates on the calendar for us to have an volunteer you must go through the or to learn more, please contact Richard

## HPARC Buttons

By: Peter Kapetanakis, KN4OCX

For anyone interested I have HPARC Buttons for sale. There are two options as seen in the photos below. The Yellow button is larger with a 2.25" diameter and the white button is smaller with a 1.25" diameter. Profits from the sale will be donated to the HAPRC club. Suggested pricing is \$2 for the yellow button and \$1 for the white. You can purchase in person at club meetings, or if you wish to contact me direct, I can send to you through the mail. Postage may be applied depending on cost. Just contact me at [W4UA.Newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:W4UA.Newsletter@gmail.com)



## January

### HPARC CALENDAR

- 1 — New Year's Day
- 5 — **HPARC Meeting**
- 10 — W4VEC Greensboro VE Session  
(Hinshaw United Methodist Church)
- 18 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline
- 19 — Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 31 — W4VEC High Point VE Session  
(Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church)

Breakfast every  
Saturday  
—  
8:00 a.m.  
—  
Biscuitville,  
2709 S. Main St.

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

### 2025 HPARC OFFICERS

|                          |                       |              |  |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--|
| Keith Thomas, KA4JAH     | President             | 336-906-2469 | <a href="mailto:President@W4UA.org">President@W4UA.org</a>         |
| David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF | Vice-President        | 336-420-9424 | <a href="mailto:VicePresident@W4UA.org">VicePresident@W4UA.org</a> |
| Terence Crandall, N4TLC  | Secretary             | 743-444-5213 | <a href="mailto:Secretary@W4UA.org">Secretary@W4UA.org</a>         |
| Andrew Talbert, KX4AT    | Treasurer             | 336-549-8096 | <a href="mailto:Treasurer@W4UA.org">Treasurer@W4UA.org</a>         |
| Peter Kapetanakis KN4OCX | — Newsletter Editor — |              | <a href="mailto:Newsletter@W4UA.org">Newsletter@W4UA.org</a>       |

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.