



March 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

March 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 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

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

6 Meter SSB: Sundays @ 8:30pm ET 50.155 MHz

## Winter 2026 Section Manager Election Results

Source: ARRL Letter, February 26, 2026

Two ARRL Section Manager elections that were conducted this winter came to conclusion on Tuesday, February 24, when ballots from North Carolina and Virginia were counted at ARRL Headquarters.

In North Carolina, ARRL members re-elected Marvin Hoffman, WA4NC, to a new term of office when he received 708 votes. David Nicholson, N2AWE, of Clemmons, received 274 votes. Hoffman, of Boone, has been the Section Manager of North Carolina since April of 2000. His new term of office starts on April 1, 2026, and extends through June 30, 2028.

In Virginia, Mike Aimone, WA8AHZ, has been elected by the ARRL members as he received 725 votes. Terry Buzzard, KA8TNF, of Virginia Beach, received 377 votes.

Aimone, of Fairfax, has been the Virginia Section's Affiliated Club Coordinator since 2022 and is the current Board Chair for the Vienna Wireless Association. His term of office begins April 1, and it runs through June 30, 2028.

Jack Smith, KE4LWT, the current Virginia Section Manager, will be concluding his term of office on March 31, 2026. Smith, of Ruckersville, has led the Virginia Field Organization since April of 2022.

The following incumbent ARRL Section

Managers did not face opposition and were declared elected for their upcoming new terms of office beginning April 1, 2026, that extend through June 30, 2028: John Fritze, K2QY (Eastern New York), Houston Polson, N5YS (Louisiana), Bruce Kripton, AG6X (San Diego), Christian Stallkamp, KIØD (South Dakota).



Nominations for Section Managers in Eastern Pennsylvania and Pacific Sections will be re-solicited in the April 2026, issue of QST since no nominating petitions were received by the receipt deadline in early December of 2025.

Bob Wilson, W3BIG, who served as ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager since 2023, decided not to run for a new term of office. In the ARRL Pacific Section, Alan Maenchen, AD6E, has decided not to run for a new term of office as Section Manager after serving since 2023.

### Newly Appointed Section Managers

ARRL has appointed Heather Flewelling, AH7RF, of Honolulu, to be the ARRL Pacific Section Manager starting April 1, 2026. She has been the Assistant Section Manager since 2023. Wess Tester, K2AHU, was appointed in early January to be the ARRL Section Manager of the Virgin Islands. Tester, of Christiansted, who has been an Assistant Section Manager since 2018, succeeds Fred Kleber, K9VV, who is moving out of the section. Kleber served as the Section Manager for thirteen and half years.

Darrell Davis, KT4WX, has been appointed as ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager as of February 1, 2026, to fulfill the current term of office after Jimmy Russ, AB4KA, needed to step aside as Section Manager, a position that he held since July 2025. Davis, of Fort Meade, previously served as Section Manager from 2015 through 2020.

### HPARC Newsletter Publisher Comment:

The High Point Amateur Radio Club would like to send our congratulations to Mr. Marvin Hoffman, WA4NC on his successful re-election to the Section Manager role. Mr. Hoffman has been a long time supported of the HPARC and we look forward to his continued support.

## NCVEC Question Pool Committee Removes Three Questions from Use

Source: ARRL Letter, February 5, 2026

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has removed two questions from the General Class question pool and one question from the Extra Class pool from use.

Due to recently published FCC rule changes affecting the 60-meter band (see previous



ARRL News story), General Class questions G1A04 and G1C09 are no longer valid and must be removed from use on examinations. Extra Class question E4D05 must also be removed because it contains more than one correct

answer. All affected questions should be removed from examinations as soon as possible.

Updated General Class question pool files, including the errata and new information, have been posted to the NCVEC General Class question pool web page at [www.ncvec.org/index.php/2023-2027-](http://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2023-2027-)



[general-question-pool-release](#). The current Element 3 General question pool became effective on July 1, 2023, and it is valid through June 30, 2027.

Updated question pool files have also been posted to the NCVEC Extra Class question pool web page at [www.ncvec.org/index.php/2024-2028-extra-class-question-pool-release](http://www.ncvec.org/index.php/2024-2028-extra-class-question-pool-release). The current Element 4 Extra question pool became effective on July 1, 2024, and it is valid through June 30, 2028.

The [ARRL VEC](#) advises the amateur radio community, and particularly Volunteer Examiners (VEs), to regularly check the NCVEC website at [www.ncvec.org](http://www.ncvec.org) for updates to the question pools, which may include errata and withdrawn questions.

## POTA SOTA BOTA

Source: ARRL Letter, February 19, 2026

You have probably heard about POTA - Parks on the Air®, and SOTA - Summits on the Air. Well, now there's BOTA, Bunkers on the Air!!

Officially known as WWBOTA — Worldwide Bunkers on the Air — it is an amateur radio activity open to amateur radio operators and shortwave listeners everywhere. Similar to its counterparts, radio amateurs 'activate' historic bunker locations around the world with portable and mobile operations. Bunkers are fortified shelters, usually underground, used for protection against attacks and for storage

of military goods. Hunters and chasers can have QSOs with those activating stations and can collect special 'bunker reference' numbers. Awards for activating and hunting bunkers are available but you can get involved by just making a QSO or shortwave listening.

There are 20 member countries in the BOTA program so far, with two new countries added in February as membership continues to grow. [USBOTA](#) joined WWBOTA on January 7, 2026.

Most bunker operations center on 40- and 20-meter SSB, but other bands are increasingly popular, including the higher HF bands, VHF, and above. CW, FT8 and other modes are also

popular, including SSB, FT4, RTTY, PSK, and SSTV.

"CQ Bunkers on the Air" is the official calling signal and USBOTA offers three awards:

- Activator - Lifetime Award
- Activator's Lifetime Bunker-to-Bunker Award (all bands)

• Activator - Annual Reference Award  
There will be USBOTA National Awards coming in March 2026.

A lot of history is involved with BOTA activations from inside, outside and nearby.

For more information, visit [WWBOTA – Worldwide Bunkers on the Air](#).

## FCC Requires That FRN Contact Information Be Updated Within Ten Days of a Change

Source: ARRL Letter, February 19, 2026

ARRL reports that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted changes to its rules to require that every holder of an FCC Registration Number (FRN) update their contact information in the [CORES](#) system (email and postal addresses) within ten business days of a change.

Because every FCC licensee—including amateur radio operators—must have an FRN to file applications, this requirement applies to all licensed amateurs. FRN contact information is handled separately and apart from contact information related to a license in the [License Manager System](#). Both records must be kept up-to-date, and each requires a separate update.

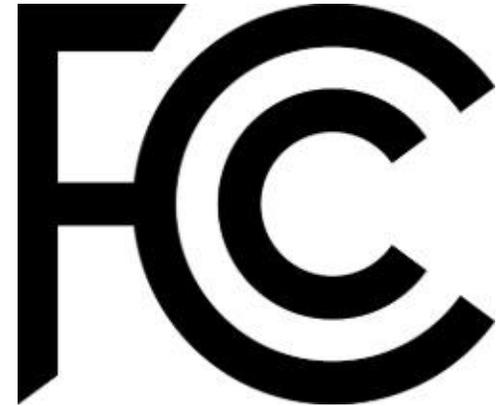
Until now, no specific deadline existed for updating FRN or license contact information. Instead, the amateur rules at sections 97.21 and 97.23 provide that a license may be suspended or revoked "if FCC correspondence is returned as undeliverable because of an incorrect address/email." These provisions remain in effect as well as the 10-day deadline applicable to FRN information.

If your FRN information is current and has

not changed, no immediate action is required, but you must adhere to the 10-day rule for future changes. It is recommended to periodically check both the [CORES](#) and [License Manager Systems](#) to ensure contact information is accurate, even if no changes have occurred.

The new deadline [section 1.8002(b)(2) of the Commission's Rules] became effective on February 5 as part of a proceeding that was limited to further constraining robocalls. Although the proceeding focused on robocall issues, the 10-day update requirement applies broadly to all FRN holders. On February 6 the FCC confirmed in a Public Notice that the new deadline applies to all FRN holders. The amendment replaces language adopted in 2001 that required FRN holders to keep their contact information up-to-date but had not imposed a deadline for doing so.

Numerous requests for clarification from non-robocaller interests led the FCC to issue a [Public Notice on February 6](#) (see also [PDF](#)) clarifying that fines imposed on those subject to the robocall rules for not keeping contact information up-to-date do NOT apply to licensees such as radio amateurs, but that the



10-day deadline does apply to all FRN holders.

See the following resources for updating FRN and license information.

FCC Tutorial on updating FRN information: [https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/html/UpdateFRN\\_Information.htm](https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/html/UpdateFRN_Information.htm)

ARRL information on how to update license information:

<https://www.arrl.org/call-sign-renewals-or-changes>

For assistance, call the FCC FRN Help Desk: (877) 480-3201 (available 8 AM to 6 PM ET).

## FCC Recruiting 7 Field Agents – Electronics Engineers

Source: ARRL Letter, February 26, 2026

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is looking for qualified applicants for Field Agents in seven Enforcement Bureau (EB) offices across the United States: Atlanta, GA; Boston, MA; Chicago, IL; Dallas, TX; New

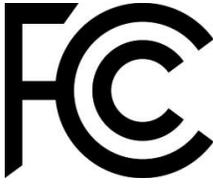
Orleans, LA; New York, NY, and Portland, OR. Incumbents will resolve Radio Frequency (RF) interference, educate users, and enforce regulations. The GS levels for this position have been expanded to GS 7, opening the opportunity for new college graduates. One

year of work experience is not required for this position. Closing date is March 13, 2026.

From the FCC posting:  
Performs and directs fieldwork in matters of importance to communications involving safety of life and property. Serves as a point of

contact for FCC licensees including the US Government in matters of fixed and mobile radio direction-finding and interference resolution. Participates in unique enforcement and engineering projects that have regional or national applications.

Operates and understands all technical equipment typically used in the Field including RF spectrum analyzers, field strength meters, RF Field survey meters, and radio receivers. Maintains contacts with and assists other Federal agencies, foreign counterparts, and local law enforcement



organizations concerning interaction and utilization of the radio spectrum for both authorized and unauthorized activities.

Initiates Official Notices of Violation, Warnings, Notices of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture, and other orders to radio operators and licensees, to bring unsatisfactory or violative conditions to their attention as a result of monitoring, investigations and inspections. Independently initiates correspondence or other communications with complainants and radio users concerning the enforcement functions of the office and region.

Participates in regional emergency planning meetings, serves as the local expert in emergency communications restoration,

participates in FEMA conducted training exercises and is able to serve on ESF-2 task force and deployments as necessary. Participates and assists in planning of Bureau enforcement and compliance workshops for persons associated with the various industries and radio services the Commission regulates.

The Salary is \$57,736 to \$158,322 per year per year depending on qualifications and experience.

See the official, complete announcement for GS-855-7/9/11/12/13 Electronics Engineer (Field Agent) on USAJobs.gov at [www.usajobs.gov/job/857694500](http://www.usajobs.gov/job/857694500).

## ARRL Joins America250 as a Supporting Partner for the Nation's 250th Anniversary

Source: ARRL Letter, February 5, 2026

ARRL announced today that it is a Supporting Partner of America250, joining the nationwide celebration of the 250th anniversary of our country in 2026.

America250 is the national, nonpartisan organization charged by Congress to lead the commemoration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, a milestone that marks America's Semiquincentennial. Through education, engagement, and service, America250 seeks to bring Americans together to reflect on the nation's history and renew commitment to the ideals that unite us.

contributions reflect why amateur radio continues to serve the public interest as a uniquely resilient and volunteer-driven national resource."

"As we approach America's 250th anniversary, it's important to recognize the organizations and volunteers who have connected and served communities for generations," said Jen Condon, Executive Vice President of America250. "Amateur radio reflects the spirit of service, innovation, and civic engagement at the heart of our nation's story, and we're proud to welcome ARRL as a Supporting Partner in this historic commemoration."



2026 is the ARRL Year of the Club, highlighting the important contributions radio clubs make to their communities. Pictured are members of the Clemson Amateur Radio Club at Clemson University in South Carolina.



As a Supporting Partner, ARRL will contribute to America250's mission by highlighting the historic and ongoing role of amateur radio in connecting people, supporting public service, and strengthening civic engagement across the United States. Since its founding in 1914, ARRL and its members have played a vital role in technical innovation, emergency communications, and volunteer service in communities.

"Amateur radio has been part of the American story since the earliest days of wireless communication," said ARRL President Rick



ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR.

Roderick, K5UR. "For more than a century, the Amateur Radio Service has advanced the nation's communications capabilities by fostering technical innovation, developing a pool of trained and skilled operators, strengthening emergency and public service communications, and promoting international goodwill. These enduring



These educators from New York City completed the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology, where all participants earned their amateur radio licenses and prepared to bring hands-on STEM learning into their classrooms.

ARRL is also strengthening STEM education by bringing amateur radio into American classrooms through hands-on, project-based curricula and teacher training. By connecting youth with real-world experiences, these programs bridge educational gaps, boost student achievement, and open pathways to higher education and careers in wireless communications and related technical fields.

As part of its alignment with the US Semiquincentennial, ARRL is advancing several major initiatives throughout the year:

**ARRL Year of the Club.** As previously announced to members, the ARRL Board of Directors has designated 2026 as the Year of the Club, recognizing the essential role that local amateur radio clubs play in building community, mentoring new operators, and

delivering public service at the grassroots level. This nationwide focus celebrates clubs as engines of civic engagement and local connection. [Icom America](#) is the Official Sponsor of the ARRL Year of the Club. [\[More information.\]](#)

**America250 Worked All States Operating Event.** ARRL has already launched the America250 Worked All States (WAS) year-long event, calling on amateur radio operators worldwide to make contact with all 50 US states in honor of America's 250th anniversary. ARRL will produce an achievement award for radio amateurs who meet the challenge. [\[More information.\]](#)

**2026 ARRL Field Day is June 27 - 28.** ARRL announces that the theme of 2026 ARRL Field Day will be "Amateur Radio: A National Resource." Field Day is an annual amateur radio activity organized since 1933, and the largest on-the-air operating event in North America. Field Day showcases amateur radio's readiness to provide resilient communications in times of need while engaging the public through hands-on demonstrations and community outreach. [\[More information.\]](#)

ARRL's partnership with America250 reflects a shared commitment to honoring America's past while investing in the civic, technical, and volunteer spirit that will carry the nation forward.

See the complete ARRL [Press Release](#).

# 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 **March 31st**. 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

## QSL Cards Received by HPARC

By: Peter J Kapetanakis, KN4OCX

The club has recently received several QSL cards from contacts made during HPARC events such as Field Day or POTA. These QSL cards were received electronically by way of QSL World (QSLWorld.com). Displayed here are the QSL Cards recently received.



## 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)



# February

## HPARC CALENDAR

- 2 — **HPARC Meeting**
- 8 — Daylight Savings Time (Spring Forward those clocks)
- 17 — St. Patrick's Day
- 14 — W4VEC Greensboro VE Session  
(Hinshaw United Methodist Church)
- 15 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline
- 20 — First Day of Spring
- 28 — 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**

### 2026 HPARC OFFICERS

Keith Thomas, KA4JAH	President	336-906-2469	President@W4UA.org
David Macchiarolo, AJ4TF	Vice-President	336-420-9424	VicePresident@W4UA.org
Terence Crandall, N4TLC	Secretary	743-444-5213	Secretary@W4UA.org
Andrew Talbert, K4XAT	Treasurer	336-549-8096	Treasurer@W4UA.org
Peter Kapetanakis KN4OCX	— Newsletter Editor —		Newsletter@W4UA.org

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.