



mAY  
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

May 4th @ 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

## FCC Approves Limited Emergency Use of 70 cm Band by AST SpaceMobile Satellites Outside the US

Source: ARRL Letter, April 30, 2026

On April 21, 2026, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) granted AST SpaceMobile limited authorization when not over the United States to use five 50-kHz channels in the 430–440 MHz secondary amateur band for emergency Telemetry, Tracking, and Control (TT&C) operations for its planned satellite constellation ([DA-26-391 Docket No. 25-201](#)). The authorization applies only for communication with five specified earth stations, each located well outside of the United States and for which the foreign administration with jurisdiction also must separately authorize the communications.



More than 2,500 comments were filed during the proceeding including filings from [ARRL](#) and other member societies of the International Amateur Radio Union ([IARU](#)), AMSAT, and individual radio amateurs worldwide.

After considering the filed comments, the FCC narrowed the requested authorization to emergency TT&C only and further provided that:

- Use of these frequencies is permitted only in emergencies when no other spectrum is available
- Each emergency event is limited to no more than 24 hours
- Transmissions are restricted to five specific center frequencies (430.5, 432.3, 434.1, 435.9, and 439.5 MHz), each with no more than 50 kHz bandwidth

In an April 29, 2026 [statement](#), the IARU expressed concern with the FCC's use of Article 4.4 of the ITU Radio Regulations, which allows administrations to authorize non-standard frequency use under certain conditions. The IARU stated that other frequency bands allocated for satellite TT&C should have been used instead of amateur spectrum and encouraged amateurs to report any interference to their national regulators.



ARRL filed comments (see [ARRL News](#)) in July ([PDF](#)) and August 2025 ([PDF](#)) opposing the

application, arguing that:

- The request represented an unprecedented use of secondary amateur spectrum for an unallocated use by a large commercial satellite constellation
- Such operations could cause harmful interference, particularly to amateur satellites in the 435–438 MHz subband
- The FCC should avoid authorizing non-allocated uses that could impact primary allocations for amateur services in other countries

While the FCC ultimately granted the authorization, it imposed the above significant limitations in response to these concerns that reduce the likelihood of interference.

In the US, reports of suspected interference to amateur spectrum can be shared with the ARRL Regulatory Information Manager, email [reginfo@arrl.org](mailto:reginfo@arrl.org).

ARRL will oppose any similar unallocated uses of spectrum used by amateurs that might cause harmful interference to amateur services and in particular will monitor this situation.

## Volunteers Needed

By: Peter Kapetanakis, KN4OCX

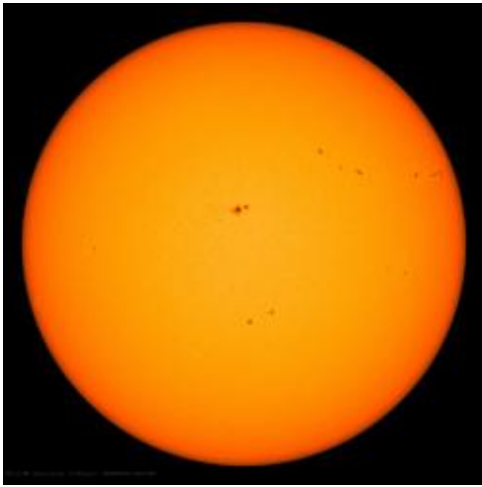
Hello readers,

As many of you have heard in our club meetings, the HPARC has been working with the Nido & Mariana Qubein Children's Museum to educate our younger population and their accompanying adults about the world of radio and morse code. Richard Weinbaum, KK4RR has been spearheading this partnership for some time and we have dates on the calendar for us to have an exposition and share our knowledge. To volunteer you must go through the museums volunteer process. To get started, or to learn more, please contact Richard Weinbaum, KK4RR at 336-687-8001 or [KK4RR@mac.com](mailto:KK4RR@mac.com).



## ARRL Solar Report for April 30, 2026

Source: ARRL Letter, April 30, 2026



Solar disk image courtesy of NASA/SDO, April 30, 2026

Solar activity has been at low levels with frequent C-class flaring observed primarily from Regions 4420 and 4425.

The largest flare of the period was a C5.1/Sf on April 29 from Region 4420. Region

4420 showed some slight decline in a real extent with flux submergence noted in the trailing spots, though rotation and consolidation in the leading spots persist and the region retains its delta configuration. Region 4425 showed some movement in the trailer spots with overall simplification, including loss of a delta spot. Slight growth was observed in Regions 4423 and 4424 with new flux emergence noted in both. Region 4428 exhibited growth with separation of the bipoles. Region 4427 remained an unremarkable unipolar spot in decay.

No Earth-directed coronal mass ejections (CMEs) were observed in available coronagraph imagery.

Solar activity is likely to reach moderate levels (R1-R2, minor-moderate) April 30 – May 2 with a slight chance for X-class flares (R3-strong or greater) due primarily to the flare potential of regions 4420 and 4425. Solar wind parameters were at near background levels throughout the period. Solar wind speeds steadily declined from around 355 km/s early in the period to near

310 km/s, with slight recovery to around 320 km/s by end of period.

Solar wind parameters are expected to remain at near nominal levels into April 30. The onset of a coronal hole high speed stream (CH HSS) was anticipated by midday April 30. Enhanced conditions are expected to persist through May 1, though confidence is moderate given the relatively small source coronal hole. A return to near nominal levels is expected by May 2.

The 10.7-centimeter flux: April 30 – May 1, 152; May 2, 148; May 3, 142; May 4 – 5, 140; May 6 - 8, 135.

Predicted sunspot numbers: April 30, 109; May 1, 109; May 2, 104; May 3, 116; May 4, 101; May 5, 119; May 6, 95.

For more information concerning radio propagation, [visit](#) the ARRL Technical Information Service, read [A Quick Guide to HF Propagation Using Solar Indices](#), and check out the [Propagation Page of Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA](#).

For customizable propagation charts, visit the [VOACAP Online for Ham Radio website](#).

## Helping NASA Track Artemis II's Orion Spacecraft

Source: ARRL Letter, April 16, 2026

The University of Pittsburgh's [Panther Amateur Radio Club](#) (PARC) had a unique opportunity last week...helping NASA track Artemis II's Orion spacecraft on its mission to the moon and back!



From left to right, Panther Amateur Radio Club hardware expert Jake Wendt, KC3NBE, and software expert Sawyer Mervis (no call yet) on the roof with the equipment to track Artemis II's Orion spacecraft. [Photo courtesy of Jaun Manfredi, NA0ØB]

Faculty advisor Juan Manfredi, NA0ØB, said the club responded to a request from NASA to submit a proposal. "We submitted our proposal in September 2025 and were notified in November that our proposal was accepted," said Manfredi. "But the real challenge was just beginning and we needed to gather the equipment, test it, and make sure we could make contact."

For their part, the club's members needed to find and track a carrier signal from the spacecraft. Usually, a 9-meter dish antenna would be needed, but with help from the university's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), they were able to purchase a 1.2-meter dish and a software-defined radio (SDR).

Manfredi said there were two final challenges. "Because of our location, we needed to be on the roof of our building

between 4 and 6 AM every day. And, because we are located in the Northern Hemisphere, we only had about a 20-degree window to acquire the signal."

In all, five club members took turns and were able to acquire the spacecraft signal on the second and fourth days of the mission. The information was recorded and is still being analyzed.

For the club members, what was their reaction to this opportunity? "Fantastic!" said Manfredi. "Twenty years from now, they may not remember who taught them calculus but will remember cold nights and mornings at 4:00 AM on the roof tracking a spacecraft."

The PARC is 111 years old and received its first experimental license, 8YI, in 1915. It is an ARRL Affiliated Club.

## Ham Radio Classes

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 **General Course** scheduled to begin **May 12th**. 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:** June 23, September 22  
**General Course:** **May 12**, August 4

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.

# Below-Average Hurricane Season Predicted for 2026

Source: ARRL Letter, April 16, 2026

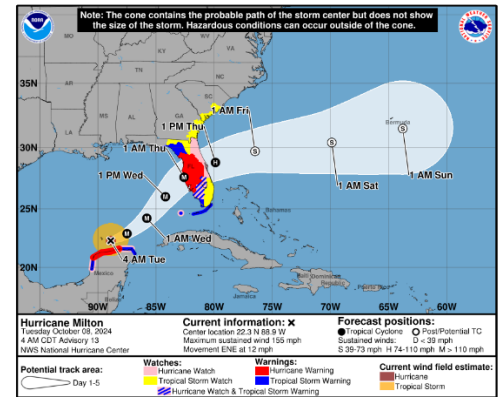
An initial prediction for the 2026 Atlantic hurricane season suggests slightly fewer storms than average, due to the anticipated development of El Niño conditions in the coming months. The forecast from Colorado State University predicts 13 named storms — just below the average of 14.4 — of which six are expected to gain hurricane strength and two are likely to become major hurricanes (Category 3 or higher). According to the researchers, El Niño is a climate pattern in which warmer-than-normal water temperatures in the eastern and central Pacific increase westerly winds into the Caribbean and eastern Atlantic. This results in greater wind shear that inhibits hurricane formation and strengthening. The forecast also predicts a 20% chance of a major hurricane making landfall along the US Gulf coast this year, along with a 15% chance of a major hurricane hitting the Atlantic coast. Accuweather has its own early forecast,

similar but less specific, predicting 11-16 named storms, including 4-7 hurricanes and 2-4 major hurricanes.

The National Hurricane Center (NHC) is expected to release its initial predictions for the 2026 Atlantic hurricane season in mid-May. Assessing tropical storm-related hazards inland will be easier this year with enhancements to NHC's frequently-used "cone" maps, which will now show watches and warnings inland as well as along the coasts. Many tropical storms and hurricanes cause significant damage after coming ashore.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) groups in all hurricane-prone areas are advised to remain vigilant regardless of the forecasts. ARRL Emergency Communications and Field Services Director Josh Johnston, KESMHV, noted that the watchword at the recent National Hurricane Conference (at which he was a presenter) was, "It only takes one bad storm to be a bad year." ARRL has

memoranda of understanding to work cooperatively with a variety of governmental and non-governmental agencies that are active in response to hurricanes and other disasters.



An example of the 2026 version of the cone graphic for Hurricane Milton (2024) that shows inland watches and warnings. [Image courtesy NOAA National Hurricane Center]

## Elecraft Donates Station to W1AW

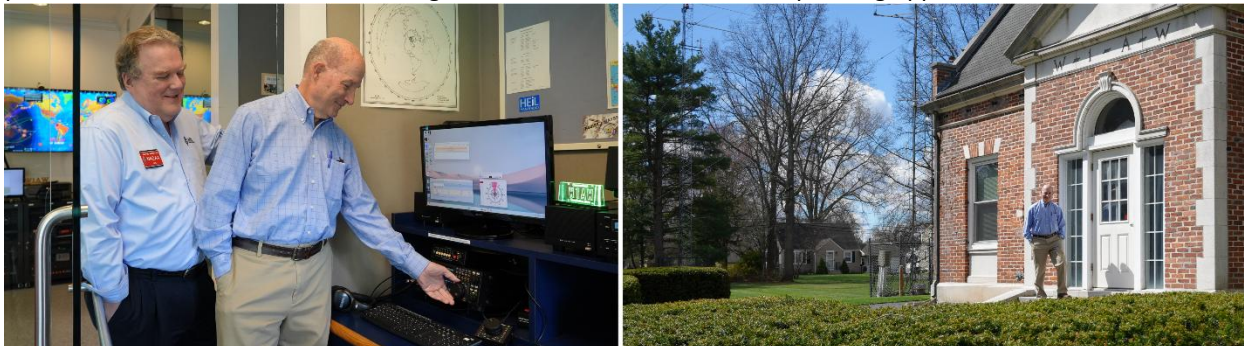
Source: ARRL Letter, April 9, 2026

Visitors to Studio 3 at W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station at ARRL Headquarters, can now operate a new [Elecraft](#) station equipped with a K4D transceiver and a KPA1500 amplifier.



W1AW visitors can now operate the new Elecraft station which includes the K4D transceiver, KPA1500 amplifier, and accessories.

Elecraft Co-founder Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ, visited ARRL Headquarters on April 7, 2026, to present the station. CEO David Minster, NA2AA, expressed appreciation to Swartz and Elecraft, noting that the new station enhances operating opportunities for visitors to W1AW.



(Left photo) ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA, (left) looks on as Elecraft Co-founder Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ, tunes the newly donated K4D/KPA1500 station in Studio 3 at W1AW. (Right photo) Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ, stands beneath the iconic W1AW pediment at the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station. [Gregory Sullia, KC1YNI, photos]

The station includes Elecraft's [K4D transceiver](#) with built-in KAT4 automatic antenna tuner, [KPA1500 1500+ watt solid-state amplifier](#), along with accessories including the K-Pod control panel, KPAK3AUX cable interface, MH4 hand microphone, and SP4 speakers.

"We're pleased to support ARRL and W1AW with this station," said Swartz. "We're glad members and other visitors will have the opportunity to get on the air using Elecraft gear."

During his visit, Swartz also met with ARRL Senior Lab Engineer Rick Ciervo, W1CIE, and Digital RF Engineer John McAuliffe, W1DRF. Swartz is a key member of the ARRL Clean Signal Initiative (CSI) Working Group, which is developing technical standards to improve transmitter and amplifier signal purity. CSI is a program of the ARRL Technical Standards Committee.

Read the [complete story](#) on ARRL News.

## "Football/Futbol on the Air" Amateur Special Event

Source: ARRL Letter, April 9, 2026

Amateur radio will be carrying the ball this year for soccer — known in the rest of the world as football or futbol — to coincide with the FIFA World Cup 2026™. The tournament and unaffiliated ham radio event will run June 11 to July 19, 2026.

As players from around the world compete in the stadiums, amateur radio operators will be looking for contacts during this "Football/Futbol on the Air" special event. Teams of hams will be on the air calling CQ from some 16 World Cup host cities where the matches will be played throughout North America, starting with the first match in Mexico City on June 11, and ending with the final match in New York/New Jersey on July 19.

The host cities, like the teams, are truly international: three are in Mexico, two are in Canada, and the remaining eleven are in the United States. With a roster of 48 football teams, this is the largest international tournament to date.

Many of the amateur stations will be using 1x1 call signs such as W5C, operating CW, SSB, and the digital modes on HF and VHF as band conditions allow. Others will have longer special-event call



signs that can be found on the [website](#), along with a full-color display of the various QSL cards that are available. Each of these QSL cards is collectible and available upon request after a successful contact. There will also be a wildcard "bonus" station using the call sign WCSWC.

A downloadable multi-city certificate will be available with endorsements at various levels. Host city stations are planning to be on the air on the day of their cities' matches, but many will also operate at different times during the tournament.

If your ham radio station is near one of the North American host cities, consider joining one of the teams. Visit the [special-event website](#) and fill out the form under the "VOLUNTEER" tab at the top of the screen.

Organizing the amateur radio special event had its beginnings in a very local moment. Earlier this year, the [Lake Whitney Amateur Radio Society](#) in central Texas was faced with scaling back its big plans for Winter Field Day after a major ice storm struck the region. Ron Franklin, AA5HK, who is the soccer event coordinator, said that after that greatly downsized Winter Field Day, a number of club members were still primed for a big-scale activation. With the World Cup matches coming to Dallas, the opportunity presented itself. Members secured support from the group president, Robert Tear, N9KGL. The outreach then began to hams in other host cities, including those in Canada and Mexico.

Football/Futbol on the Air begins at 0000 UTC on June 11, and ends at 2359 on July 19. For more details, visit [www.wc2026ses.org](http://www.wc2026ses.org) or email [info@wc2026ses.org](mailto:info@wc2026ses.org).

Thanks to ARRL Member Caryn Eve Murray, KD2GUT, for the information in this story.

## 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 HPARC 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)



### HPARC CALENDAR

- 1 — May Day
- 4 — **HPARC Meeting**
- 4 — Star Wars Day
- 5 — Cinco De Mayo
- 9 — W4VEC Greensboro VE Session  
(Hinshaw United Methodist Church)
- 10 — Mother's Day
- 17 — HPARC Newsletter Deadline
- 25 — Memorial Day
- 30 — W4VEC High Point VE Session  
(Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church)

## May

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
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Peter Kapetanakis KN4OCX	— Newsletter Editor —		Newsletter@W4UA.org

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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.