

# Di-Dah-Dit

Official Newsletter of the Parkersburg Radio Klub  
1733 Gihon Rd. Parkersburg, WV 26101

## ARRL ENCOURAGED BY NEW MOTOROLA BPL TECHNOLOGY

The ARRL this week said it was encouraged to learn of Motorola's just-announced Powerline LV system--a BPL system that takes radio interference concerns into consideration from the outset. The Powerline LV system avoids using medium-voltage power lines and introduces broadband signals only on the low-voltage side of the power transformer, greatly reducing the system's radio interference potential.

"We know that medium-voltage power lines are no place for broadband energy, since there is overwhelming technical evidence that radio interference from BPL is unavoidable if MV lines are used," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. "By confining their Access BPL system to low-voltage lines and by adding hardware notch filters for additional protection to Amateur Radio frequency allocations, Motorola has addressed our interference concerns."

Sumner explained this week that until Motorola Powerline LV came along, opposing BPL and opposing BPL interference were essentially one and the same. During product development, Motorola invited ARRL's suggestions and welcomed its input. Sumner said he hopes other BPL system providers

now will see the benefit of cooperating with the ARRL that Motorola is now enjoying. "However, we can and should remain critical of the FCC's Report and Order, which makes no effort to distinguish between good and bad ways of pursuing BPL," he added.

Sumner says the League is looking forward to seeing the first Powerline LV system in operation. The ARRL will continue to work with Motorola "to ensure that their new product is indeed the first BPL system that is a solution, not a problem," he said.

There's more information about Motorola's Powerline LV system on the company's Web site <[http://www.motorola.com/mediacenter/news/detailpf/0,,5519\\_5509\\_23,00.html](http://www.motorola.com/mediacenter/news/detailpf/0,,5519_5509_23,00.html)>.

### FCC LAUNCHES NEW SERVICE TO DELIVER CUSTOMIZED E-NEWS

The FCC Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau (CGB) is launching the Consumer Information Registry, an expanded and improved e-mail service that will deliver customized information about the FCC's actions and related developments in tele-

communications and other communications services.

"The Registry is an Internet database that can be customized to deliver information on whatever topics the subscriber chooses," the FCC said in a news release this week. Among the many choices are "Amateur Radio and Related Interests" and "Ham Radio." The topic checklist also includes Broadcast TV and Cable TV, but subscribers can also specify topics not on the list.

Acting CGB Chief Monica Desai says the FCC is "delighted to be able to offer this valuable tool to everyone interested in communications issues." She says FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin has expressed an interest in ensuring that consumers continue to enjoy the benefits of the best communications system in the world. "I believe the Consumer Information Registry has the potential to play an important role in achieving that goal," she added.

The sign-up information is on the FCC CGB Web site <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/contacts/>>. Subscribers will be asked to indicate the subjects on which they wish to receive information. The service is free, and subscribers may unsubscribe at any time.--FCC

## CW OPS WHIP WHIPPER- SNAPPER TEXT MESSENGERS ON NATIONAL TV

It may have been Friday the Thirteenth, but it was a lucky day for Morse code--and particularly for veteran CW contest ops Chip Margelli, K7JA, and Ken Miller, K6CTW. During a May 13 appearance on NBC's *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno, the pair was able to pass a message using good old fashioned Morse code more rapidly than a pair of teenaged text messengers equipped with modern cell phones. The victory, which replicated a similar challenge that took place recently in Australia, has provided immense encouragement to Amateur Radio's community of CW operators, who been ballyhooed the achievement all over the Internet. The text messaging team consisted of world text-messaging champ Ben Cook of Utah and his friend Jason. Miller said afterward in a reflector posting that the CW team won fairly handily.

"Ben was just getting ready to start entering the last two words when I was done," he said on the Elecraft reflector in response to various questions he's received following the TV appearance. "I already knew that 28-30 WPM would easily keep us in front of even the current world [text messaging] record holder, and also it is the fastest speed that I can make nice readable copy on paper with a 'stick' [pencil]." Miller said it was decided he'd be on the receiving end because he wasn't distracted by the noise in the studio.

Margelli recalls that he was sending at 29 WPM. "I believe the goods were suitably delivered," he told ARRL. "CW and old guys rule!"

What the viewing public didn't know was that Margelli and Miller had, in Miller's words, "smoked 'em every time" during three pre-program rehearsals. Even so, during the real thing, when Miller raised his hand to signal he'd copied the CW message successfully, Jason's jaw dropped. None of the players had any idea of the text they'd be sending, Miller noted. The message? "I just saved a bunch of money on my car insurance."

As with many *Tonight Show* bits, this one involved a member of the audience, a young woman named Jennifer who predicted--incorrectly as it turned out--that text messaging definitely would top 170-year-old Morse code. She walked away with a gift of restaurant tickets anyway.

Margelli says the CW team used Yaesu FT-817 transceivers--one of his own and another owned by Dan Dankert, N6PEQ. Backup units--not needed--were provided by HRO; Margelli's wife Janet, KL7MF, manages an HRO store. They ended up using 432.200 MHz as an operating frequency in order to avoid RFI from the plethora of TV equipment in the studio and to avoid interfering with NBC's gear. They ran the little transceivers at their lowest power level and with the antennas disconnected--although they were mounted on the back of each unit--no problem given the close proximity involved. Margelli sent with a Bencher paddle.

To add a little atmosphere to the affair, NBC producers attired Margelli and Miller to look like 19th-century-era Western Union or railroad Morse telegraphers. The costumes came complete with green visors, white shirts, sleeve garters,

vests and bow ties. The teenaged SMSers wore T-shirts and jeans.

Cook told Leno that he'd managed to send a 160-letter message to his friend using his cell phone's short message system (SMS)--the formal term for text messaging--in 57 seconds.

A member of the Morse Telegraph Club and a QRP enthusiast, Miller said he'd been using CW for 38 years. Margelli told Leno he'd been using Morse "for 43 years in ham radio," a phrase Leno echoed. That was the only plug Amateur Radio got during the appearance on the show's "Dinner for 4" segment. Miller says that during rehearsal, the pair had come up with a few lines to promote ham radio and telegraphy, but they were cut during the final dress rehearsal in the interest of making the segment fit its allotted time slot.

During the Australian competition in April, a Morse team consisting of 93-year-old former post office telegrapher Gordon Hill--the sender--and 82-year-old Jack Gibson--the receiver--topped 13-year-old SMSer Brittany Devlin. In that event, Hill spelled out the message in full, while Devlin used text-messaging shorthand. In that competition, held at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, Hill took 90 seconds to send the message, 18 seconds faster than Devlin's message took to reach her friend's cell phone.

Miller encouraged all who enjoyed the CW-vs-text messaging segment on NBC to contact *The Tonight Show* to let the producers know about it--with an eye toward having the network schedule a more elaborate segment "next time."

## PARKERSBURG AMATEUR RADIO KLUB

April 11, 2005

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub held their monthly meeting at Shoney's, Route 50 with President Blaine Auville (WA8IOE) presiding.

There was an introduction of 32 members and guests.

Jenna Dooley (N8JMD) won the 50/50 drawing of \$20.50.

The Secretary's minutes were read and approved for the March meeting.

The Treasurer's report was given by Ray Johnson (KC8RUJ) current balance of \$4627.27.

John Dobson (W8WEJ) reported that mowing at the repeater site would be April 14 at 9:30am and thereafter the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 9:30am.

Concerning the newsletter, if any e-mail addresses have changed please advise Jerry Wharton (KA8NJW).

It was decided that for the time being to continue the monthly meeting at Shoney's, with the exception of the Sept. meeting which will be at the City Park, Shelter #9. The Christmas Party will be Dec. 17, 6:00p.m. at the Washington Bottom Community Building.

Field Day – Dan Betts (N8OG) suggested that we try to have 2 or 3 stations with no set schedule. Anyone who would like to operate or observe could drop by.

It was announced that the Marietta Club Meeting would be April 12 at 7:00p.m.

Curt Fouse (K8UC) reported that the Tuesday night net is going fine but that anyone interested would be more than welcome to take a turn as net control.

Art Ellis (W8PBO) presented 2 awards to John Dobson (W8WEJ). The first was for 50 years of service as an amateur radio operator, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> for 50 years of continuous Amateur Radio License.

Ham fests –  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH – April 17  
Athens, OH - April 24  
Ripley, WV - May 1  
Dayton, OH - May 20-21-22  
Butler, PA - June 5

John Dobson (W8WEJ) made a motion that we donate \$25 to the Relay for Life; motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Harold Dooley (N8KO).

Motion made by Jerry Wharton (KA8NJW) to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Harold Dooley (N8KO).

Minutes by Secretaries – Mike Davis (KC8SIP) & Pam Davis (KC8VPN)

---

## PARKERSBURG AMATEUR RADIO KLUB (PARK)

May 9, 2005

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub held their monthly meeting at Shoney's, Route 50, with President Blaine Auville (WA8IOE) presiding.

There were self-introductions by the 29 members and guests.

Libby Auville (KA8FUA) won the 50-50 drawing, which was \$16.00. A second drawing was held to win tickets to the "Breezeshooters" hamfest and computer show being held 6/5/05 in Butler, Pennsylvania. The winning ticket again fell to the Auvilles, who promptly declined. Blaine (W8IOE) asked if anyone wanted the ticket, and it was given to Mark Komperda (KB9LQN).

Both Mike (KC8SIP) and Pam (KC8VPN) Davis were absent due to illness. Carol Johnson (KC8TUD) read the Secretary's minutes, which were then approved for the April meeting.

Ray Johnson (KC8RUJ) gave the Treasurer's report. The Klub's checking account currently holds \$4,236.82.

### OLD BUSINESS

John Dobson (W8WEJ) spoke of the mowing at the repeater site. He mentioned that with the number of people

helping, the job is much more manageable. The next mowing is this Thursday, 5/12/05, at 9:30am.

Blaine Auville (WA8IOE) brought up the subject of Field Day. The event is 6/25/05 and 6/26/05, which leaves only one more Klub meeting before it begins. The site has been secured near Ohio Valley College, as before. Lloyd Boston (AB8KS) will have one or two push-up towers. Blaine Auville ((WA8IOE) will have a generator, and can once more borrow from Belpre Homecoming the same tent that was used last year. Georgia Milhoan and Irene Fouse (N8KYP) will take charge of the picnic. Ray Bodie (N8TWV) will download the "full Field Day rules and information packet", and completely handle the paperwork documenting our performance. It was reported that we still need radios and operators for the weekend. The main thing is to have some fun and be able to gain experience.

Connie Hamilton (N8IO) mentioned the coming hamfest being held at Dayton, Ohio on 5/20-22/05.

Gene Gildow (N8GP) alerted the group that the Marietta Amateur Radio Club meeting is being held Tuesday, 5/10/05, at 7:30pm. They hope that Ralph Matheny (K8RYU) will be the guest speaker. Connie Hamilton (N8IO) added that she will be bringing oscillator kits to show at the meeting.

Jim Palmer (K8BOT) talked about working on the pre-amp for the 146.97 repeater. He received, installed and tested the equipment -- only to burn it up! He'll figure out what the problem is and reinstall new equipment.

Jim Palmer (K8BOT) also gave a progress report on George Bonnett's health (K8VAH).

### NEW BUSINESS

Connie Hamilton (N8IO) brought in a picture of an airplane. Not just any airplane -- this one has on its tail the call letters "N8IO"!!!

Dave Wright (KC8ZZX) went to the Shirt Factory and inquired about tee shirts for the Klub. He was modeling a blue shirt with his call sign, and said we could get them for \$9.00 or \$10.00. Ray Bodie (N8TWV) will collect shirt sizes and call signs for anyone that is interested in purchasing the shirts.

Ray Johnson (KC8RUJ) reminded everyone that the net was Tuesday night, 5/10/05, at 9:00pm. Blaine Auville (WA8IOE) will be the Net Control.

Everyone was reminded to notify Ray Johnson (KC8RUJ) if any changes are needed on street addresses, email addresses, phone numbers, etc. for the roster. The best way to send the correct information is by emailing Ray at [kc8ruj@yahoo.com](mailto:kc8ruj@yahoo.com), or the information can be brought to the next meeting, which will again be at Shoney's on Monday, 6/13/05.

The next Artsbridge for disabled children will be on Tuesday, 5/24/05, at West Virginia University of Parkersburg (WVUP). Anyone interested in helping can call Kenny Harris (WA8LLM) to sign up and provide tee shirt sizes.

Curt Fouse (K8UC) seconded the motion, and then Jim Palmer (K8BOT) made the motion to adjourn the evening's meeting at 7:40pm.

Minutes by Carol Johnson (KC8TUD) \*  
Thanks for your Help

---

## HAMSAT IS NOW VO-52

The latest Amateur Radio satellite now has an OSCAR designation. Acting at the request of AMSAT-India's Nagesh Upadhayaya, VU2NUD, AMSAT-NA's Bill Tynan, W3XO, has announced that HAMSAT (or VUusat) is VUusat-52 or VO-52 for short.

"Congratulation on the successful launch of HAMSAT," Tynan told VU2NUD. "I know that you and a number of VU amateurs have worked hard to make this hap-

pen. I am sure that the international amateur community is grateful to all the amateurs in India who labored on this project." VO-52 is India's first Amateur Radio satellite. Its transponders were turned on shortly after its May 5 launch, and AMSAT-India Secretary "Pop" Kumar, VU2POP, has invited the global amateur community to use the satellite and e-mail any comments <[reports@amsat.in](mailto:reports@amsat.in)>.

Ground controllers have activated one of the two linear transponders aboard VO-52, which operates in Mode U/V, with passband center frequencies of 435.25 MHz for the uplink and 145.90 Mhz for the downlink. Passbands are 50 kHz wide. For SSB, uplink in LSB and downlink in USB.

AMSAT-India says VO-52 has been monitored by radio amateurs around the world, and it has already received a few reports from users and listeners <<http://www.amsat.in/hamsatreports.htm>>.

AMSAT Contests and Awards Director Bruce Paige, KK5DO, says the new satellite has generated a lot of excitement in the amateur community. "QSOs are made in sideband or CW," he said. "Even though the satellite is capable of FM operation, it is much more useful in sideband mode as multiple QSOs can be completed at the same time, as everyone slides up or down in the passband." Paige reminds users to correct for Doppler shift.

Conferring an OSCAR designation is not a requirement for an Amateur Radio satellite to be recognized and used in the Amateur Service, but it is a tradition that has continued since the launch of OSCAR 1 in December of 1961.

There's more information on HAMSAT VO-52 on the AMSAT-India Web site <<http://www.amsat.in/>>.

---

## FCC adopts digital broadcasting standard:

The FCC has adopted the DigitalRadio Mondiale (DRM) standard for US HF Broadcasting Service (HFBC) digital transmission. DRM is capable of providing near-FM quality sound within current AM emission bandwidths. Adoption of the DRM standard was among several actions the FCC took in a wide-ranging Report and Order (R&O) in response to World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03)--ET Docket 04-139.

The FCC authorized both digital audio broadcasting and data-casting. It said channels using digitally modulated emissions may share the same spectrum or be interleaved with analog emissions in the same HFBC band, provided the protection afforded to the analog emissions is at least as great as that currently in place for analog-to-analog protection. The Commission authorized double-sideband (DSB), single-sideband (SSB), and digital transmissions in HF bands between 5900 and 26,100 kHz, and it set minimum HFBC power levels of 50 kW PEP for SSB. In the same proceeding the FCC also reallocated the 7100-7200 kHz band to the Amateur Service on a co-primary basis and reallocated the 7350-7400 kHz band to the HFBC Service on a co-primary basis with the fixed service until March 29, 2009, after which it will be allocated exclusively for broadcasting.

## Japan to relax Morse code licensing requirements:

The Japan Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) took action May 24 to relax Morse code requirements for Amateur Radio licensing, but it did not eliminate them altogether. Effective October 1, 2005, the MIC will reduce the requirements for First and Second class licenses to 5 WPM--solid copy for two minutes. The previous code requirements for these licenses were 12 and 9 WPM respectively. The MIC will drop the Morse requirement, now 5 WPM, for the Third class license.--submitted by Joe Speroni, AH0A

## Hurricane Watch Net

Hurricane Watch Net, WX4NHC activate for early-season storm: The Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) on 14.325 MHz and Amateur Radio Station WX4NHC at the National Hurricane Center activated May 19 as Tropical Storm Adrian approached the Pacific Coast of Central America. Eventually gaining hurricane strength, Adrian raked El Salvador before crossing over the isthmus into the Caribbean.

Adrian was the first named storm of the 2005 hurricane season, which does not officially begin until June 1. HWN Manager Mike Pilgrim, K5MP, said the net stood down after 15 hours of operation. "Many thanks to all of you who helped to route interested parties to our net frequency and otherwise provided your silent support while we performed our duties," he added. The HWN and WX4NHC work hand-in-hand to gather and

disseminate ground-level observed and/or measured weather data from radio amateurs and weather watchers within a storm's path. The information collected helps National Hurricane Center forecasters to better predict a given storm's behavior. The storm left two people dead in a mudslide in Guatemala. Flooding and additional mudslides prompted by heavy rains were considered continuing dangers in Adrian's wake. Adrian made landfall early May 20 in El Salvador where more than 20,000 evacuees reportedly took refuge in emergency shelters. There was some wind damage in the capital city of San Salvador as well as in other localities.

## CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY OFFICIALS SEE ADVANTAGES OF SSTV IN DRILL

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers in California made slow-scan TV part of the communication mix when they participated in a voluntary wildfire evacuation drill April 30. The exercise involved residents of nearly 400 homes in a high fire hazard area of Santa Barbara County, and ARES' use of SSTV definitely caught the eye of emergency officials.

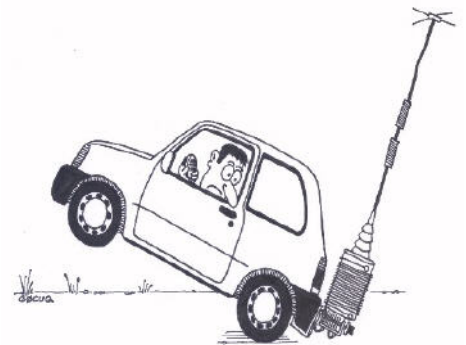
"ARES provided us with the only continuous, real-time information on traffic flow and conditions in the incident area," said Jay McAmis of the county's Office of Emergency Services. "It was great!"

Santa Barbara South County ARES Emergency Coordinator Lou Dartanner, N6ZKJ, says communicators with SSTV gear deployed at three locations along a narrow, winding road out of the canyon and in two

locations along the evacuation route to a reception center some five miles away. Three additional ARES members provided voice reports on traffic flow, while four other team volunteers supported the field activity at the command post and reception center.

Since the county's inaugural test of its new "reverse 911" system failed to reach everyone, many residents were alerted instead by sheriff's units using public address systems and by search-and-rescue team members going door to door. "As a result, instead of the traffic jam with fender-benders and finger-wagging, an orderly trickle of vehicles moved out of the area," Dartanner reports. "An SSTV station was set up at the reception center, and a crowd of about three dozen jostled around the monitor all morning, watching the near-continuous stream of pictures coming in from the field. A second, portable system was set up in back of a car at the Command Post, and the Incident Commander was able to see exactly what was--or was not--occurring in the incident area."

More than 200 residents participated, as did personnel from 21 agencies and organizations. "Local fire officials are excited about using SSTV capability in the future," Dartanner says, "and ARES will continue to play an important role in their activities."



## Gerald Musser WD8EOR SK

Gerald Guy Musser, 69, of Parkersburg died May 12, 2005, at St. Joseph's Hospital. He was born in Parkersburg a son of the late Guy and Clea Musser. He was a member of the DAV, a Ham operator, a U.S. Navy veteran of the Korean War and was a Baptist by faith.

Survivors include a daughter, Julia M. Anderson and her husband, Stephen, of Parkersburg; a grandson, Chris Anderson and his wife, Angie, of Belleville; a great-granddaughter, Paxton Anderson; two sisters, Elberta George and her husband, Jack, of Parkersburg and Annamarget Malone of Belpre; several nieces and nephews; special friends, Ron and Sue Watson of Greensboro, N.C., Roger and Janet Phillips and "little" Roger of Columbus, Ohio, Crystal and Trish, Cyndee Thomas of Myrtle Beach, S.C., and Cliff, and Janice and Hugh McCaffery of Parkersburg; and his special pet dog, "Dixie." In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Marjorie Sue Musser. Services will be 2 p.m. Monday at Lambert-Tatman Funeral Home.

Green Street, Parkersburg, with the Rev. Tim Underwood officiating. Burial will be in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, with military rites by American Legion Post 15. Friends may call from noon until service time on Monday.