



# *Di-Dah-Dit*

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

## MISLEADING AND INCORRECT RUMORS SURROUND IARU REGION 2 BAND PLAN

Misleading and incorrect rumors are surrounding the recently revised band plan of IARU Region 2 <<http://www.iaru-r2.org/band-plan/>>, adopted at its triennial conference in Brazil in September. The following statement was authorized by ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN.

During the conference, held September 10-14 in Brasilia, representatives from IARU Region 2 societies met in committees prior to a final plenary session and adopted recommendations concerning a number of items important to Amateur Radio in the region. These included plans to improve emergency communication, enhance education and reduce interference to national emergency nets, as well as revising the Region 2 HF band plan.

The revised Region 2 band plan for 160-10 meters takes effect January 1, 2008. The band plan is based on the band plan adopted by IARU Region 1 <<http://www.iaru-r1.org/Spectrumbp.htm>> at its conference in Davos, Switzerland in September 2005.

IARU regional band plans have been in existence for many years. They are developed, reviewed and approved at regional conferences of the IARU Member-Societies. The band plans provide voluntary guidelines and recommendations for good operating practice that are intended to assist amateurs in making the most effective use of our limited frequency allocations. They are not restrictions and carry no regulatory authority.

Unlike the US, where the FCC's Part 97 rules regulate the frequencies allocated to the Amateur Radio Service by emission designator, many countries do not have government-regulated sub-bands within their amateur allocation. Because of this, the national Amateur Radio societies in these countries look to a band plan to provide guidance for the location of operating preferences. In such cases, these countries are urged to promote incorporation or recognition of a band plan into their regulations. In the United States, however, ARRL's band plans will continue to provide guidance for recommended operating preferences including the 160 meter band <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/bandplan.html#160m>> plan that was revised in 2001 on the basis of membership input.

One virtue of voluntary band plans is that they are more flexible and can be amended more easily than the FCC rules; writing them into the rules would be counterproductive. As voluntary guidelines, the band plan cannot by definition be "more severe" than regulations; however, if the band plan did not suggest an operating pattern that is a subset of the regulations, it would serve no purpose.

There is also a mistaken assumption that the new IARU Region 2 band plan is an ARRL initiative seeking regulation by bandwidth. It is not, nor is it in any way a vehicle to achieve regulation by bandwidth.

It happens that the ARRL's "regulation by bandwidth" petition, the now-withdrawn RM-11306, also drew on the Region 1 band plan. This is acknowledged

on page 10 of the petition <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/rm-11306/RM-11306-asFiled.pdf>>. The similarities between RM-11306 and the Region 2 band plan are the result of having some common roots, but the two are not otherwise related.

While a number of Amateur Radio organizations and publishers support and agree with the ARRL on the concept of regulation by bandwidth as an essential element to the orderly introduction of new digital modes into the HF bands, ARRL will not be pursuing a rulemaking until some degree of consensus can be achieved in the amateur community.

ARRL has conducted an open process of soliciting input regarding matters of importance to the Amateur Radio Service. That will continue prior to the submission of any proposals for future regulatory changes to improve the Amateur Radio Service.

As one of the 39 Member-Societies of IARU Region 2, the ARRL will, as always, continue to openly work to improve the Region 2 band planning process prior to the next conference and give its members ample opportunity to offer comments and suggestions. Members may provide input to their elected representative (identified on page 15 of QST), or to our Ad-hoc Band Plan Committee and e-mail address that was established in 2006 at <[bandplan@arrl.org](mailto:bandplan@arrl.org)>.

**The club January meeting will be held at Mary's Plane View Restaurant in the big room.**

## UPCOMING OPERATING EVENTS

Are you getting a new rig this holiday season? Maybe you are perfectly happy with the one you have now. Does it really matter as long as you get on the air? Put your rig to good use and join in these operating events and contests that are coming up the first week of 2008.

The ARRL Straight Key Night fast approaching! Dust off that old J-38 and enjoy CW as it used to be. This on-air operating event is designed to encourage all Amateur Radio operators to enjoy sending Morse code the old-fashioned way. While the event is called Straight Key Night for a reason, the main point is to encourage the use of CW in a relaxed, no-pressure atmosphere. Bugs and iambic paddles are allowed, but we encourage all participants to use a straight key if possible. Enjoy a good ragchew and cast your vote for the "best fist" you hear. Be sure to tell us about your most memorable contact. The ARRL Straight Key Night is from 0000 UTC-2400 UTC on January 1, 2008. You can find complete details on page 98 of the December 2007 QST.

The first weekend of 2008 provides an opportunity to enjoy some healthy competition. The ARRL RTTY Roundup has quickly become one of the best contests using the digital modes. RTTY, PSK31, and several other digital modes are used to communicate with other amateurs all around the world. If you've wanted to try your hand at digital operat-

ing, this contest is an exciting way to get your feet wet. The ARRL RTTY Roundup is from 0000 January 5, 2008-2400 UTC January 6, 2008. Complete rules can be found on page 97 of the December QST.

Are you looking for a fun way to share Amateur Radio with your kids? Kids Day, created by the Boring Amateur Radio Club of Oregon, takes place on Sunday, January 6, 2008. Kids get behind the microphone and make actual on-the-air contacts with other kids across the United States and Canada. Kids exchange their name, age, location and their favorite color in a contest-style event. Custom certificates are available for free download for each child that participates! Kids Day is a great way to show your family just how much fun you can have with Amateur Radio. You can find more information on page 39 of the December 2007 QST.

Make it your New Year's resolution to get on the air more. Be it CW, digital modes such as RTTY or PSK31, SSTV or simply using your microphone, there is something magical about radio. Make 2008 the year you rediscover what the magic is all about.

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### ARRL's Logbook of the World Counts More Than 150 Million Contacts:

ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW) -- a repository of log records submitted by users from around the world -- passed its latest milestone Wednesday, Decem-

ber 19 as the QSO counter clicked past 150 million contacts entered into the system, with more added since. When both participants in a contact submit matching QSO records to LoTW, the result is a QSL that can be used for ARRL award credit, such as DXCC.

ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, said, "These 150 million QSOs represent a doubling of the total since July 2005 when ARRL Contributing Editor H. Ward Silver, N0AX, wrote an article for QST, 'Logbook of the World -- 75 Million QSOs Can't Be Wrong!' <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw/silver.pdf>>. Thanks for using LoTW. We are planning to improve usability and add support for new awards in 2008." Check out Logbook of the World at

<<http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>>.

ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains

open through Sunday, January 6, 2008 for these online courses beginning on Friday, January 18, 2008: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2 (EC-002); Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 3 (EC-003R2); Antenna Modeling (EC-004); HF Digital Communications (EC-005); VHF/UHF -- Life Beyond the Repeater (EC-008), and Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011). To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page

<<http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html>> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <[cce@arrl.org](mailto:cce@arrl.org)>.

**2008 DUES are due Jan. 1st.**  
**\$16.00 for single members**  
**\$24.00 for Family membership**

## HAMS AND THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE: WORKING TOGETHER FOR SKYWARN

The Ninth Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day recognizes Amateur Radio operators for their commitment to help keep communities safe. Co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service (NWS), the event is scheduled for Saturday, December 1. During this 24 hour special event, Amateur Radio operators, working together with their local NWS offices, will activate Amateur Radio stations and work as a team to contact other hams across the world.

"This is a fun event," said ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP. "For 364 days of the year, hams aid in providing the NWS offices with real-time information on severe weather when people and property are at risk. But this one day is for fun, friendship and recognition of the critical services given to communities by the hams."

Scott Mentzer, N0QE, organizer of the event and Meteorologist-In-Charge at the NWS office in Goodland, Kansas, concurred. "Radio amateurs are a tremendous resource for the National Weather Service. These folks are dedicated, and the assistance they provide throughout the year is invaluable. SKYWARN Recognition Day is our way of saying thank you."

In 2006, 90 NWS offices across the country participated and logged more than 16,000 radio contacts, according to Goodland's Warning Coordination Meteorologist David Floyd, N5DBZ. In typical SKY-

WARN operations during severe weather, direct communication between mobile spotters and local NWS offices provides critical "ground truth" information for forecasters. In summer, spotter reports of hail size, wind damage and storm rotation in real time greatly assist the radar warning operator, since that information can be correlated with Doppler radar displays. In winter, snow nets are held, where reports of snow totals, ice accumulations and whiteout conditions in blowing snow help NWS forecasters assess the extent and severity of winter storms. In recent years during wildfire situations, Amateur Radio operators have reported the precise locations of thick smoke and zero visibility, allowing forecasters to provide crucial weather updates to fire fighters.

"NWS offices utilize the real-time reporting of weather events to assist in warning operations, but certainly hurricanes Katrina and Rita have shown us that ham radio operators are equally important during the recovery phase of large-scale natural disasters," Floyd pointed out. He also cited the example of the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN). He notes that the HWN, organized in 1965 during Hurricane Betsy, started out as an informal group of amateurs but has since developed a formal relationship with the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami via its Amateur Radio station WX4NHC. Ham radio operators and volunteers at Miami work together when hurricanes threaten to provide real-time weather data

and damage reports to the Hurricane Center's forecasters.

For more information on SKYWARN Recognition Day, including a list of participating NWS offices, QSL card and certificate information, please see the NWS Web site <<http://www.crh.noaa.gov/hamradio/index.php>>.

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### FCC Clears Florida Ham:

On Monday, November 26, the FCC released a letter clearing Raymond W. Czyzewski Jr, WA2SEI, of Interlachen, Florida, of allegations he had caused interference and had sent threatening communication. On September 14, the FCC's Enforcement Bureau notified Czyzewski of a complaint alleging he "interfere[d] on the Six Meter Amateur band on June 19, 2007. The complaint also enclosed a threatening communication apparently from you to the complainant subsequent to the incident." Czyzewski was given 20 days to respond and was directed to "support your response with a signed and dated affidavit or declaration under penalty of perjury, verifying the truth and accuracy of the information submitted in your response." Czyzewski replied on September 24, according to the FCC, "and fully explained the operation on the date cited in the complaint." The Commission accepted Czyzewski's response and found "that no enforcement action is appropriate."

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# ICE STORMS MOVE ACROSS MIDWESTERN UNITED STATES

Ice storms swept across the Plains states earlier this week, and as of Wednesday, nearly 1 million homes and business were without power. In Oklahoma alone, there were approximately 600,000 without power, with 250,000 households and businesses in Tulsa alone without power. Officials in Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma had declared states of emergency. President Bush declared a federal emergency in Oklahoma on Tuesday, ordering government aid to supplement state and local efforts. Authorities said Tulsa and Oklahoma City each had more than 100 reports of fires since the storm began, mostly from tree limbs crashing into live power lines.

According to ARRL Oklahoma District Emergency Coordinator Mark Conklin, N7XYO, "Starting early Monday morning, Oklahoma ARES was activated to support local area hospitals, as only five of the area hospitals had power from the grid. As of Wednesday, all hospitals had power. ARES volunteers are providing communications for one hospital at this time, but the Oklahoma State University Medical Center and Tulsa Spine Hospital also requested assistance. ARES is also working with the local Medical Emergency Response Center and the Tulsa Area Emergency Management Agency."

Tim Hoss, Safety Officer at the Oklahoma State University Medical Center, said, "I want to person-

ally thank each and every one of the volunteers that came to our facility and kept us in constant communication with the Medical Emergency Response Center. I hope you and all your fellow hams know how greatly respected you are in the eyes of the emergency planners for Tulsa. Your organization is the one that will get through and perform flawlessly when no one else can."

More than 30 shelters were opened across the area. More than 1500 people have stayed at least one night in one of the shelters.

Ice ranging from a quarter-inch to an inch thick has glazed roads in much of the central Plains and Midwest. At least 24 deaths -- mostly traffic accidents -- have been blamed on the storm since it developed last weekend: 15 in Oklahoma, four in Kansas, three in Missouri and one each in Nebraska and Michigan.

The power outage was the worst ever in Oklahoma, with more than 618,000 homes and businesses without electricity as of late Tuesday. Officials said it could be a week to 10 days before power is fully restored. Elsewhere, nearly 350,000 people were affected by outages in Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Illinois.

The National Weather Service said that all ice storm warnings for the storm have come to an end. Freezing rain and winter weather advisories over Northern Missouri

and Western Illinois expired Wednesday morning. Other winter weather advisories across the Midwest, including Northeast Oklahoma, also expired Wednesday morning. Collinsville, Oklahoma experienced 1.5 inches of freezing rain; Davenport, Iowa had .4 inches of freezing rain; Manhattan, Kansas had .75 inches of freezing rain; Poplar Grove, Illinois had more than one inch of sleet and freezing rain. Iowa is expected to get another five inches of snow, and Nebraska up to 10 inches.

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## PARK Minutes November 12, 2007

There were 26 members and guests in attendance.

The 50 - 50 drawing of \$21.00 was won by Hank Arnold.

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by the president Blaine Auville, WA8IOE.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved as read. The treasurer's report was given by Ray KC8RUJ.

Jep K8BOT gave a report on the 147.39 repeater. He has it on the bench and can not make it lock up. He has also received two Motorola radios to be evaluated. There is a need for an isolation transformer for the 146.97 repeater. Voltage spikes are causing the amplifier to shut down. Blaine WA8IOE instructed Jep K8BOT to order another controller for the 147.39 repeater if he determines that is the cause of the problem.

The next meeting will be a covered dish Christmas dinner at the Washington Bottom Community Building on

December 15 at 6 PM. Georgia will get the meat and rolls. Jane N8MOW will be asked to plan the entertainment. Tom N8RLN will bring a CD player.

The club January meeting will be held at Mary's Plane View Restaurant in the big room.

More discussion was held on the ham classes. A sign up sheet was started around and three names were received already.

Connie supplied some names of hams whose licenses were about to expire.

An ARRL class on message handling will be held on November 17, by Ken WA8LLM.

The Charleston hamfest and computer show will be held on March 15, 2008.

The Mansfield OH hamfest will be held in February.

Mike Goff has Cal Nay's W8WWF radio equipment for sale.

ARRL membership can be renewed through the Affiliated Club representative for a small discount.

Jep K8BOT moved and Bill W8WHA seconded that we adjourn.

Present were: Ron Hinton KC8IQS, Barbi Hinton, Blaine Auville WABIOE, Tom Malson N6RLN, Mary Malson, Holly Maynard, John Maynard KD8EDK, Tyler Arnold KD8GWN, Hank Arnold, Connie Hamilton N8I0, Mark Leatham KR5N, Dave Wright NBN-WV, Harold Dooley NBKO, Bill Amon W8WHA, Ray Johnson KC8RUJ, Carol Johnson KC8TUD, Vern Snell KC8HPO, Georgia Milhoan, Irene Fouse N8KYP, Curt Fouse K8UC, Dick Wilson N8KNA, Peggy Wilson, Jim Palmer K8BOT, Lynn Palmer N8IIM, Emily Bodie KB8YPB, Ray Bodie N8TWV

minutes by Ray N8TWV, secretary

## THE DOCTOR IS IN

This week, ARRL Letter readers are in luck! The ARRL's very own Doctor, author of the popular QST column "The Doctor Is IN," answers a question from his mailbag:

Question: Bob, W0FES, asks: Can you settle a discussion from our radio club meeting last night regarding the FCC requirement for control of our 2 meter repeater? One position was that, as the result of a change in regulations, our repeater control requirement may be exercised on its input frequency. The other position was that the repeater control requirement must be via

either land line or by RF above 222 MHz. Which side is correct?

The Doctor Answers -- For this question we sought the expert opinion of Regulatory Affairs Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. Dan says neither side has it quite right. While some of the rules changed, the rules still require that you have to be able to control the repeater some way other than via its input frequency. An example of why this is a requirement is that the control operator is responsible to ensure that the repeater is being operated legally and shut it down if it isn't. If someone is violating the rules and has captured the input with their 1500 W signal, you won't be able to shut

the repeater down by issuing commands on the input frequency.

The rules change allowed auxiliary stations to operate on the 2 meter band rather than the previous requirement to operate above 222.15 MHz. The rules did not change as far as the ability to properly control the remote station -- in this case, the repeater. The control operator of the repeater must still be able to exercise control of the repeater. All that changed was the ability to use an auxiliary control link on a different frequency band.

Look for "The Doctor Is IN" every month in QST, the official journal of the ARRL.

**I was not able to make it to the Klub Christmas party this year. My Daughter Estelle, kb8hgh was getting married the same day!**

**I did get one picture via Ray.**

**73's Jerry KA8NJW**



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