



Di-Dah-Dit

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

ONE MODE DOWN, TWO TO GO!

With the advent of the ARRL's Triple Play Award <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/12/05/10490/>, on-air participation has reached a level of excitement not seen in recent years. This new, exciting award is available to all amateurs who confirm contacts with each of the 50 states using three modes for each state: CW, phone and RTTY/digital. All 150 contacts must be made on or after the January 1, 2009 and must be confirmed via Logbook of The World (LoTW) <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>. All bands -- with the exception of 60 meters -- may be used in pursuit of the Triple Play Award.

The ARRL RTTY Round Up, held January 3-4, was one of the first organized events eligible for the award. "If the amount of activity in the 2009 ARRL RTTY Round Up is any indicator, the Triple Play is off to a fantastic start," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X.

"The RTTY Roundup was the first contest to take place since the award's inception. It ended only a few days ago, and we already have received almost 1100 logs. There's been a lot of chatter on the RTTY e-mail reflectors about getting the Triple Play completed, and I personally have seen numerous stations calling 'CQ Triple Play' on PSK31 since the first of the year. People already have their 'needed list' programmed into their PSK31 macros. There is no question that the new Triple Play award is causing a lot of buzz in the digital community. I'm happy that we have been able to come up with a new award that so many people are interested in right off the bat."

According to Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, Assistant Manager for the Membership and Vol-

unteer Programs Department, hundreds of new LoTW certificates have been processed each day since the first of the year. "We are excited to see such an upswing in LoTW participation," he said. "I know what a thrill it can be to upload my logs to LoTW right after a contest and see the QSOs appear almost instantaneously. That's the magic of Logbook of The World."

Those who participated in the RTTY Round Up were ecstatic over how easy it was to use LoTW. Jose Castillo, N1BAA, of Amherst, Massachusetts, said, "Just amazing! Just under 24 hours since I uploaded my ARRL RTTY Round Up log and now I have Worked All States confirmed via LoTW [from just the RTTY Round Up]. Gotta love LoTW!" Bob Garceau, W1EQ, of Putnam, Connecticut agreed: "I'm impressed with the response to my uploaded log to LoTW. I uploaded 728 QSOs and 50 hours after the contest closed, I have 336 QSLs. That's a 46 percent response. Impressive! I think that someone will get #1 Triple Play by the end of January."

Don't be too upset if you wanted to work one of the digital modes and didn't participate in the RTTY Round Up -- other digital modes, such as PSK31 and Hellschreiber are also eligible for the digital portion of the award. The first ever 24 hour Hellschreiber sprint takes place January 17. According to the Feld Hell Club's Web site, all modes of Hell on any band (with the exception of 17, 30 and 60 meters) are allowed in the Sprint <http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests>. If you like operating digital modes and you missed the RTTY Round Up, why not give the Feld Hell sprint a try? According to QST Editor and digital guru Steve Ford, WB8IMY, free sound card software for Hellschreiber, such

as Fldigi <http://www.w1hkj.com/Fldigi.html>, MultiPSK (for PCs) http://f6cte.free.fr/index_anglais.htm and cocoaModem (for Macintosh) <http://homepage.mac.com/chen/w7ay/cocoaModem/> can be found online.

or SSB and CW aficionados, the North American QSO Parties (NAQP) start January 10: The CW portion is 1800 UTC January 10-0600 UTC January 11, and the phone portion is 1800 UTC January 17-0600 UTC January 18 (the NAQP RTTY Contest is 1800 UTC February 28-0600 UTC March 1). Of course, you don't have to participate in a contest to chase the Triple Play Award. As long as you submit your logs to Logbook of The World, you're good! LoTW is set up to calculate your Triple Play QSOs separately from your other QSOs.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, warned that it can be "addictive" once you begin making your contacts for the Triple Play Award, and that "there are many possible variations on the theme. You can try to be the first (or at least the first on your block) or you can set your own pace. Think it's too easy? Limit yourself to QRP while operating your favorite mode (or all three). Maybe you prefer to be the quarry; it will quickly emerge which states are the most difficult to find, offering opportunities to earn the gratitude of your mates by activating the ones you can get to with your portable or mobile rig."

So get on the air, make contacts and submit them via Logbook of The World. Before you know it, you'll have something new to hang up on your shack wall.

ARISS FINALIZES PLANS FOR SILVER ANNIVERSARY OF AMATEUR RADIO FROM SPACE

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm>> team is currently celebrating the silver anniversary -- 25 years -- of Amateur Radio operations from space. According to ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, the crew on the International Space Station (ISS) has configured the radio to support cross-band repeater operations. They have also supported some SSTV downlinks and participated in a special test of 9600 baud packet radio operations on the simplex frequency of 145.825 MHz. After December 19, Bauer said he expects the ISS ham radio system to be on the 145.825 MHz frequency supporting 1200 baud packet. If PCSAT is configured during the week, he said double hop APRS is possible.

"During the week of December 21-26, we plan to support the cross-band repeater mode with a twist," Bauer said. "Our intent is to configure the radio for 145.99 MHz uplink -- including CTCSS tone of 67.0 and 437.80 MHz down. This will be performed in low power mode. We should also note that an extra-vehicular activity (EVA) is planned for that week -- Expedition 18 Commander Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, and Flight Engineer Yury Lonchakov, RA3DT, plan to perform a spacewalk on December 22. As

per standard procedure, the ISS ham radio system will be turned off for the EVA."

Bauer said that from December 28-January 3, the cross-band repeater will be reconfigured for what he called "a special experiment. This will be a test of our L-Band uplink capability, which, to date, has not been proven out. Plan for an uplink of 1269.65 MHz and a downlink on the standard frequency of 145.80 MHz, using low power," he said. "Given the substantial cable losses of the L-band system, we hope some 'big guns' are able to penetrate through, keep up with Doppler and make the connection."

A special certificate is being developed for those who communicate with the ISS from November 30, 2008 to January 15, 2009. This certificate will be awarded to those who have had two-way communications with the ISS on voice, packet (APRS) or through the voice repeater. Those who hear the ISS from space in any of the ARISS operations modes -- voice, SSTV, school contact, voice repeater or digital - will also be eligible to receive a certificate.

To receive the certificate, Bauer said to note the ARISS mode of operation (such as SSTV, voice or school) on your QSL and whether the contact was one-way

(receive only) or two-way. "You should send your self-addressed, stamped envelope to the normal ARISS QSL volunteer distributor in your area of the world," he explained. "On the outside of the QSL envelope, please include the words '25th Anniversary Certificate.' Make sure your envelope is big enough to accept an 8.5 x 11 inch certificate and includes the proper postage." If you do not know where to send your QSL, check the ARISS Web site <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm#ARISS_Update--25th_Anniversary_of_Ham_Radio_in_Space> to find the one that serves your part of the world.

"We will be sending your certificate to the volunteer distributors in bulk after the event is over," Bauer said. "This saves workload and money. So do not expect to see it until 1-2 months after the event closes on January 15."

Bauer reminded hams that due to ISS flight requirements related to spacewalks and vehicle activity, the radio onboard the ISS may be off for some portion of this schedule. School contacts and general QSO opportunities by the crew will also preempt this schedule for short periods of time. "But remember that if you hear these," he said, "you still qualify for a commemorative certificate. Enjoy the ARISS ops on ISS!"

The Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.



Washington, DC

AMATEUR RADIO NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

THE FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer forty-eight (48) scholarships for the academic year 2009 – 2010 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds two of these scholarships. **The remaining forty-six (46) are administered by the foundation without cost to the various donors.**

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$5,000 to \$500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Non-USA residents are eligible to apply for some of the scholarships. Clubs, especially those in **California, Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin** (areas of preferred residence for some of the scholarships), are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their world wide web home pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to March 30, 2009 from:

FAR Scholarships
Post Office Box 831
Riverdale, MD 20738

Applications are also available for download from the foundation's web site
<http://www.farweb.org/>.

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

Minutes January 12, 2009

There were 25 members and guests present at Mary's Plane View Restaurant for the January meeting of the PARK club.

President Blaine Auville WA8IOE called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

The 50/50 drawing of \$11.00 was won by Jim Palmer K8BOT.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved with a correction of Lynn Palmer N8IIM winning the 50/50 drawing instead of Jim K8BOT. The treasurer's report was given by Carol Johnson KC8TUD. The balance on hand is \$2,401.78.

Connie announced that Chris Peters KB8HHM and Phil Newhart KB8GBE licenses are about to expire.

A new membership application was submitted from Lloyd L. Marcum KD8AGK. Connie N8IO moved and Jep K8BOT seconded that he be accepted. The motion passed.

Blaine WA8IOE gave information on a scholarship application and also announced hamfests at Nelsonville OH on January 18, Mansfield OH and Orlando FL on February 15, and Charleston WV on March 14. Blaine also reported on our field day standing with 2260 points and placing in the upper half of the category.

Our web site was discussed. It has not been updated since Mike KC8SIP became a SK about a year ago. Mark KR5N volunteered to work on a new one. Dan WV8X moved and Connie N8IO seconded to authorize Mark KR5N to spend

\$10 to \$15 to register our own domain. The motion passed.

Ken WA8LLM had ARES membership applications for anyone interested in enrolling or renewing.

Jep K8BOT could not make contact with Rodney to do the tower work. Rodney is now in Afghanistan serving in the military.

Jerry KA8NJW gave out the do not call number for cell phones. You must call 888-382-1222 from the phone you want registered.

Jep K8BOT moved and Dave N8NWV seconded to adjourn at 7:30.

ARES E-Letter Gets New Look:

The ARRL ARES E-Letter <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/ares-el/about.html>>, published on the third Wednesday of each month, makes the move from a plain text formatted newsletter to an HTML format this month. The second of the ARRL e-letters to update its look (the ARRL Contest Update switched over to an HTML format in May 2008), the ARES E-Letter has a circulation of 33,000 ARRL members.

The ARES E-Letter is a digest available via e-mail full of news and information of interest to active members of the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and to

hams concerned with public service and emergency communications. E-mail newsletters, such as the ARES E-Letter, the Contest Update and The ARRL Letter, are just some of the many benefits available at no charge to ARRL members. To sign up for any of the League's newsletters, go to the Member Data page on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html>>.

The January/February NCJ Hits the Streets: The current issue of NCJ is loaded with everything today's contester needs. After you check out a solution for a vertical array for your next DXpeditions, take a peek inside the files of the N3HBHX antenna case in Maryland. Discover why nylon rope can be a contester's best friend and how an inexpensive gain antenna can help. We're all getting older -- how is your age affecting your score? When will propagation allow US amateurs to get to Europe on 10 meters? All this and more in the January/February issue of NCJ. NCJ is published by the ARRL and is a bi-monthly publication; it is edited by Al Dewey, K0AD. Subscribe at <<http://www.arrl.org/ncj/>>.

Christmas Dinner Pictures 2008



FREQUENCY CHANGE FOR CANADIAN TIME TRANSMISSION STATION CHU

After 70 years of broadcasting Canada's official time, the National Research Council's shortwave station CHU <http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/time_services/shortwave_broadcasts_e.html> will move the transmission frequency for the 7335 kHz transmitter to 7850 kHz. The change goes into effect at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2009.

Broadcasting 24 hours a day, CHU is a part of NRC's system for disseminating official time throughout Canada. Listeners hear tones to mark the seconds, a voice to announce the time in French and English and digital data to set computers. The atomic clocks at CHU are part of the ensemble of clocks in the time and frequency research laboratories at the National Research Council Canada in Ottawa. The NRC clocks are used in conjunction with clocks in the time

laboratories of other countries to construct the internationally accepted scale of time, UTC (Coordinated Universal Time). Time transmissions on 3330 and 14670 kHz are not affected and will continue as before.

In April 2007, the ITU reallocated the 7300-7350 kHz band from the fixed service to the broadcasting service. Since then, the NRC said there has been a lot of interference on the 7335 kHz frequency from many information broadcasters around the world. "CHU listeners in Canada and around the world who have for so long considered the 7335 kHz frequency exclusively for time signals, are very vocal about this interference," said Raymond Pelletier, Technical Officer at the NRC-Institute for National Measurement Standards, who oversees the CHU facility. "We have

heard from Amateur Radio operators, watchmakers, astronomers and navigators who use the tones and voice signals. We also received comments from those who use the carrier as a calibration source at a distance for their equipment."

Pelletier noted that a leap second <http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/faq_time_e.html> will be added at the end of December 2008; this will be indicated in the digital code until the time of the leap second. DUT1 will go from -0.6 to +0.4 seconds and will be indicated by double tones near the start of the minute and in the broadcast code <http://inms-ienm.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/time_services/chu_e.html>.

S.C.A.R.F.

SUNDAY CREEK AMATEUR RADIO FEDERATION

scarfarc.com

13th ANNUAL

HAMFEST

ARRL SANCTIONED HAMFEST

Sunday January 18th, 2009

Tri-County Career Center

From Rt. 33 at stop light take RT. 691 go about ¾'s of a mile on the left.

Nelsonville, Ohio

7:00 A.M. Setup

8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. HAMFEST

\$6.00 ADMISSION

\$7.00 per TABLE

VE TESTS at 12:00 NOON

CONTACT PERSONS

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