



Di-Dah-Dit

Official Newsletter of the Parkersburg Radio Klub
820 23 rd. St. Vienna, WV 26104

FCC News: FCC Issues *Report and Order* on Vanity and Club Station Call Signs

In November 2009, the FCC issued a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* -- WT Docket No. 09-209 -- seeking to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules to clarify and codify existing procedures governing the vanity call sign system. The *NPRM* also sought to revise certain rules applicable to club stations.



The ARRL submitted its comments to the FCC on March 26. On Monday, November 8, 2010, the FCC issued a *Report and Order* with its decisions. These new rules will take effect 60 days after publication in the *Federal Register*.

In the *Report and Order*, the FCC amended and clarified its rules with respect to Amateur Service vanity call signs "in order to promote processes that are more equitable and administratively efficient." T

he FCC has amended its vanity call sign rules to clarify the date on

which the call sign associated with a license that is canceled due to the licensee's death becomes available for reassignment. The *R&O* also clarifies the exceptions to the general rule that a call sign is unavailable to the vanity call sign system for two years after the license terminates. As for club stations, the FCC has placed limits on who can file applications on behalf of a club, how many vanity call signs a club can hold and how many clubs can have the same license trustee. Read more [here](#).

MARS: US Air Force MARS Gets New Leadership

Richard Jensen -- a Program Manager at the Air Force Network Integration Center at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois -- has been selected as the new Chief of Air Force MARS (USAF MARS). Jensen replaces Technical Sergeant Jason E. Sandifer, who served as Interim Chief since May when USAF MARS Chief Allen Eiermann, K3LSR, retired.



"I am honored to have been selected to lead this organization of dedi-

cated volunteer radio communicators and am enthusiastic about my new responsibilities," Jensen said. "The members of Air Force MARS can be rightly proud of their service to the nation, and I am eager to work with all of them as we enhance our ability to serve those who serve us." Read more [here](#).

ARRL Field Day: 2010 Results Are Now Online



If you can't wait to get your December issue of [QST](#) in the mail to see how you did in the 2010 ARRL Field Day, don't worry! The results -- including a [copy of the QST article](#) (with line scores) and a [results database](#) -- are now available on the ARRL Web site. Be sure to also check out the 193 comments in the [Field Day Soapbox](#). It's not too soon to start making plans for next year -- the 2011 ARRL Field Day is scheduled for June 25-26, 2011.

The Doctor Is IN: Pacemakers and RF

Schley Cox, W4AMW, of Owensboro, Kentucky, told the Doctor that he's headed to see the cardiologist next week about a pacemaker. He's already started researching their use around RF and says he is happy to go all low power (QRP), if that's what's called for. Schley mentioned that he might also be able to operate his rig remotely -- perhaps 20 feet away, but he needs to know how to measure stray RF in the shack itself.



Here's what the Doctor had to say:

I haven't received actual reports of any pacemaker problems and that seems to go along with the [info on the ARRL Web site](#). Note that there are no power levels (or field strength) limits noted there, nor have I found any on manufacturers' Web sites. Thus knowing the actual field strength level in the station may not help. If it were me, I would start by talking to my physician. She won't be able to give you power limits, but perhaps could indicate symptoms to watch for while on the air so you could take appropriate action quickly if called for.

I would start with a careful RF safety evaluation, as required by the FCC anyway. While the FCC guidelines were not based on pacemaker interference, they should result in a reasonably safe environment. If your station is properly set up -- without common mode feed line current, for example -- most radiation should surround the antenna and

there should not be much RF within the shack.

Calibrated RF field strength meters are available, but are quite expensive. Relative measurement is pretty easy -- look at any recent *ARRL Handbook*. If you had a simple field strength meter running at all times in the station (I'm thinking the diode and microammeter type that doesn't require power), you could see if anything changed, and diagnose and repair as needed.

Thanks Doctor! Do you have a question or a problem? Send your questions via [e-mail](#) or to "The Doctor," ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 (no phone calls, please). Look for "The Doctor Is IN" every month in [QST](#), the official journal of the ARRL.

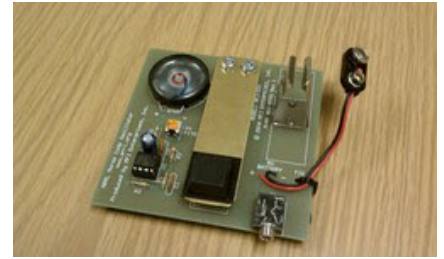
On the Air: No "Maybes" About It -- ARRL Sweepstakes is Fun!

ARRL Sweepstakes has been part of Amateur Radio in the US and Canada for more than 75 years. In 2010, the tradition continues with the 77th running of the best domestic contest in all of Amateur Radio: CW will be the weekend of November 6, while the Phone portion of the contest runs the weekend of November 20. The 2010 ARRL November CW Sweepstakes runs from 2100 UTC Saturday, November 6 through 0300 UTC Monday, November 8. The SSB portion of Sweepstakes runs from 2100 UTC Saturday, November 20 through 0300 UTC Monday, November 22. Why not make plans now to join thousands of other radio amateurs across the continent and get in on this year's fun in the ARRL November Sweepstakes! Read more [here](#).

(Note - I will be traveling and not able to work this contest, Drat. KA8NJW)

In the Shack: Two New ARRL Kits Coming Soon

Two new ARRL kits are in the final throes of production. The first is a Morse code oscillator, produced for ARRL by MFJ Enterprises.



The project is a good "beginners" electronics kit. We expect the kit will be popular with members, particularly newcomers, and with clubs, instructors and teachers seeking a classroom kit-building experience. A supplementary resource guide for students and educators will be made available by the ARRL Education and Technology Program. The guide helps cover the fundamentals of the working circuit and its components.

The [ARRL Morse code oscillator kit](#) -- produced by MFJ -- is a great way to introduce kit building and CW skills to hams.

A second kit is a PIC programming lab and project, produced for ARRL by Cana Kit (Canada). This more substantial kit is intended to be used with [ARRL's PIC Programming for Beginners](#) book (revised first edition). The kit includes all the necessary components, parts and boards, and follows the book's step-by-step exercises and tutorial. The kit also includes all the necessary parts to build a microprocessor-controlled CW keyer, which is the book's culminating project.

"We're excited about these new projects, which help emphasize kit construction, basic electronics, and the extraordinary potential of microcontrollers," said ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. "There's no better way to advance the radio art than by introducing more hams to project building and homebrewing." Order your [ARRL Morse Code Oscillator](#) and [ARRL PIC Programming Kit](#) today in the [ARRL Online Store](#).

Minutes August 9, 2010

There were 16 members and guests present at Mary's Plane View Restaurant for the August meeting of the Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub.

President Connie Hamilton N8IO called the meeting to order at 7:01PM.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given by the treasurer, Carol KC8TUD.

The 50/50 drawing of \$8 was won by Connie N8IO.

Unfinished business: Dave N8NWV reported that the 146.970 site had been mowed by someone but the lane going in still needs trimming. No date was set to do that.

Jim K8BOT gave a report on the work to be done on the 147.970 repeater. Guy wires to be replaced, a concrete base to be poured and perhaps a new section of tower on top. A work party is set for Saturday August 14 at 8:30AM.

New business: Election of officers will be held next month. Next month's meeting will be a picnic at Fort Boreman Park. The club will furnish 36 pieces of chicken from Kroger's, sodas and bread. Members should bring a covered dish.

Carol KC8TUD gave a report on visiting a field day site at Charleston SC. As soon as they came aboard the ship, a contact was made with WV.

Earl KB8HRG stated that he and Dave WD8CYV have some 440 equipment that could be used to set up a control link for the 147.390 repeater and he is willing to donate his if it is wanted.

Jane N8MOW has two more chemo treatments and Matt KD8GWP is to have shoulder surgery Thursday. Jerry Hamilton N8GRH finally has his foot healed after 2 1/2 years.

Curt K8UC reported on some DX contacts he made on 20 meters.

Jim K8BOT moved and Blaine WA8IOE seconded to adjourn at 7:38 PM.

Minutes September 13, 2010

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at Fort Boreman Park for the annual picnic. There were 23 members and guests present.

After the meal, president Connie Hamilton called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. There was no treasurer's report.

Unfinished business: Jim K8BOT reported that mowing was done at the 146.970 site. Blaine WA8IOE

and Earl KB8HRG did most of the work before the others arrived. The others were Dave N8NWV, Jep K8BOT and Ray N8TWV. Also 3 from Suddenlink were there doing some maintenance work on the power line.

He also reported on the 147.390 site work. The concrete base was poured using forms made by Dave N8NWV and a wheelbarrow from Blaine WA8IOE. Earl KB8HRG made several trips up the tower to replace the guy wires. And the tower was straightened.

New business: Officers for the new year were nominated and elected. Tom N6RLN nominated Connie N8IO and Curt nominated Libby KA8FUA for president. Libby was elected. Dave nominated Jim K8BOT, Curt K8UC nominated Dave N8NWV and Mark KR5N nominated Dan WV8X for the 3 vice president positions. Since there was no opposition, they were declared elected. Blaine WA8IOE nominated Ray N8TWV for secretary and Ray KC8RUJ and Carol KC8TUD were nominated for treasurers. These were declared elected as there was no opposition.

Jim K8BOT moved to adjourn at 7:15 PM.

by Ray N8TWV, secretary

See you at the Christmas Party/Dinner on December 18, 2010 at 6:00 pm. at the Washington Bottom Community Building. (usual place and time)

WHAT BLEW THE FUSE?

How many times have you had to work in a piece of electronic equipment that has quit working, only to find that it is, or was, a blown fuse? The piece of equipment seems to work after you replace the fuse, but do you ever ask yourself, what caused the fuse to blow in the first place? It's possible the fuse may have just been getting old, with a lot of heavier than normal current flow through it over the years and the link inside may have just deteriorated over a that period of time. On the other hand the fuse may have blown due to a sudden high spike of current, such as from a lightning strike, and done it's job to protect the electronic equipment and prevent a possible fire. Before you just replace the blown fuse with a good one, look over the piece of equipment for any obvious evidence as to why the fuse may have blown. If there is no obvious problems try a new fuse. If the new fuse blows again, then there's a bigger problem that may take a while to fix. If the new fuse does not blow, then you may have been lucky. But just because the new fuse didn't blow right away doesn't mean that you have fixed the problem. The new fuse may not blow for some time, indicating there is a growing problem in the piece of equipment that will have to be found before it causes major damage to the equipment, and cause it to fail right when you need it the most VIA the -

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0.38 DATE: September 19, 2010

Amateur Radio Operators Provide Communications Support During Chilean Mine Rescue



Chilean president Sebastian Piñera (right) hugs Luis Urzua, the last miner out of the rescue hole at the San Jose mine near Copiapo, Chile on October 13, 2010. [Photo courtesy of Hugo Infante/ Government of Chile]

As the last of the 33 miners who were trapped 2300 feet deep inside the San Jos  Mine -- located about 27 miles from the Chilean town of Copiap  in the Atacama Desert -- rose to the surface at 0055 UTC on October 14, the world cheered in unison. The miners, who were underground for 69 days -- the longest time ever for miners to be trapped and survive -- all emerged relatively healthy. Amateurs with the Radio Club Copiap , CE1CPI, provided communication support between the authorities and emergency equipment operators inside the San Jose Mine complex, as well as with family of the trapped miners in the complex and authorities in Copiap . Read more [here](#).

Indian State to Use Amateur Radio to Assist in Local Elections

Members of Idukki Ham Radio Emergency Communication Society will provide help during elections in remote tribal grama panchayat of Edamalakudy in Kerala's Idukki district. [Photo courtesy of The Hindu]



In one of the remotest parts of India, there are virtually no communication sources -- no cell phone towers, no landlines, no Internet access. But in democracies, elections are the key, even in the most isolated parts of the world. The Indian state of Kerala -- located on the western side of India's southern coast near the tip of the subcontinent -- will be holding its local elections -- called panchayat -- in October. The tribal hamlet of Idamalakkudi is located in Idukki, one of Kerala's 14 districts. It is to this village where upwards of 1400 people will gather to cast their votes for their local leadership for the Idamalakkudi tribal Grama Panchayat. And as isolated as the village is, members of the Emergency Communication Society and Idukki Ham Radio Club will be on hand to assist. Read more [here](#)

ZCZC AG25
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 25 ARLB025
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT November 8, 2010
To all radio amateurs

DIGITAL: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095
28.095 147.555

VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390
28.590 147.555

Notes:

SB QST ARL ARLB025
ARLB025 W1AW 2010/2011 Winter Operating
Schedule

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13
and 15 WPM
CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20,
15, 13 and 10 WPM
CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

Morning Schedule:

Time Mode Days

1400 UTC (9 AM EST) CWs Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST) CWf Tue, Thu

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying
Runs and CW bulletins.

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

DIGITAL = BAUDOT (45.45 baud), BPSK31 and
MFSK16 in a revolving schedule.

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)
1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of
each practice is given at the beginning of each prac-
tice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM
EST))

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM
EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satel-
lites are sent on the regular digital frequencies.

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 " " CWs Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST) CWb Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST) DIGITAL Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST) CWs Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 " " CWf Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST) CWb Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST) DIGITAL Daily
0245 " (9:45 PM EST) VOICE Daily
0300 " (10 PM EST) CWf Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 " " CWs Tue, Thu
0400 " (11 PM EST) CWb Daily

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular
bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays
and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW
for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour,
Digital at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the
half hour.

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8025 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975
21.0675 28.0675 147.555

All licensed amateurs may operate the station from
1500 UTC to 1700 UTC (10 AM to 12 PM EST),
and then from 1800 UTC to 2045 UTC (1 PM to
3:45 PM EST) Monday through Friday. Be sure to
bring your
current FCC amateur radio license or a photocopy.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found
on page 102 in the October 2010 issue of QST or on
the web at, [http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-
schedule](http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule) .
NNNN /EX

Pictures for the September picnic!



See you at the Christmas Party/Dinner on December 18, 2010 at 6:00 pm. at the Washington Bottom Community Building. (usual place and time)

