



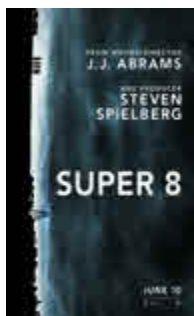
Di-Dah-Dit

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

Stuff From All Over

Super 8

The summer of 2011 is replete with big movies, ranging from action-adventure flicks to comedies to coming-of-age dramas. And already this summer, Amateur Radio has played a part in not one, but two movies. In Mr Popper's Penguins, ham radio was featured, albeit incorrectly, on the big screen. And now Super 8 -- a film set just outside Dayton, Ohio in 1979 -- uses Amateur Radio in a crucial scene. Super 8 revolves around a group of six middle-schoolers who witnesses a mysterious train crash in the fictional town of Lillian. Soon after the crash, the Air Force arrives and strange things start happening in the small town. The kids, a group of young film makers (hence the title of the movie) begin to investigate the creepy phenomena.



PS. This was filmed in Weirton, WV and most of the buildings and streets were not changed for the movie

Space Weather Prediction Center to Continue Broadcasts on WWV and WWVH



In April 2011, the Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) informed the public that as of September 6, 2011, it would no longer broadcast its geophysical alert message on WWV and WWVH. The ARRL has now learned that the SWPC will keep broadcasting these messages that inform listeners of the solar flux, the mid-latitude A and K indices and space weather storms, both current and predicted. Due to listener feedback, the SWPC is considering updating the broadcast; in addition to providing the current daily solar flux at 2800 MHz, the SWPC is considering adding more frequent observations at 2695 MHz. According to the SWPC website, other improvements to the message content will also be evaluated

In the Shack: RadioShack Looking for Suggestions for DIY Parts

Back in the day, RadioShack was the first place many of us looked for parts. QST construction projects routinely referenced RS part numbers, and the Shack even sold 10 and 2 meter transceivers. What goes around comes around, and RadioShack is now looking for input from us, as members of the larger DIY community, on parts we'd like to see them carry. There's a video explaining what they're looking for, and a place to add comments.



RadioShack®

FCC News

+ FCC News: FCC Issues Citation to Illinois Company for Illegal Marketing of Unauthorized Radio Frequency Devices

On June 2, the FCC issued a Citation to Gary L. Stanford -- doing business as Spark Gap CB Shop in Lincoln, Illinois -- for "marketing in the United States unauthorized radio frequency devices and external radio frequency power amplifiers." This is in violation of section 302(b) of the Communications Act, and Sections 2.803(a)(1) (marketing of radio frequency devices prior to equipment authorization) and 2.815(b) (external radio frequency power amplifiers) of the Commission's rules.

On November 1, 2010, an agent from the FCC's Enforcement Bureau office in Chicago visited the Spark Gap CB shop in Lincoln. According to the Citation, the agent asked the clerk if the store had any amplifiers for sale. The clerk showed the agent a display case with external radio frequency power amplifiers for sale from several different manufacturers. The clerk also suggested that the agent consider purchasing a 10 meter Amateur Radio that is modified to operate on frequencies in the 11 meter Citizen's Band. The clerk also showed the agent a 10 meter Amateur Radio that was on display and operating on a Citizen's Band frequency.

+ FCC News: FCC Takes Strong Stance Against Radio Jamming, Issues \$24,000 Fine to California Man

On June 6, the FCC issued a Forfeiture Order in the amount of \$24,000 against Kevin W. Bondy of Encino, California, for engaging in unlicensed radio operation and intentional interference to licensed radio operations and for refusing to allow an inspection of his radio equipment by FCC personnel. Bondy -- licensee of General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) Station WQGX752 -- is accused of repeatedly and intentionally jamming four land mobile frequencies assigned to The Oaks Shopping Center in Thousand Oaks, California.

In assessing the \$24,000 fine, the FCC noted that it was responsible for making and enforcing regulations to prevent interference and to maintain control over the use of the radio spectrum in a manner that promotes the public interest and convenience. "Bondy's acts cut at the heart of the Commission's responsibilities to protect the nation's airwaves and regulate use of the spectrum," the Order said. "Bondy operated a radio without a license on the specific frequencies assigned and licensed by the Commission to The Oaks, for the explicit and expressed purpose of prohibiting The Oaks's use of its licensed frequencies. This type of conduct inhibits the Commission's ability to effectively regulate and maintain control over the use of the spectrum and will not be tolerated." Bondy has until July 6 to pay the fine.



+ Amateur Radio in Space: ISS Survives Near Miss of Space Junk

On Monday, June 27, the ISS narrowly missed getting slammed by space junk.

Just after 8 AM (EDT) on Tuesday, June 29, the six residents of the International Space Station (ISS) climbed into two Soyuz space capsules as an unidentified object hurtled past them at a speed of 29,000 miles per hour, missing the space station by only 1100 feet. This was only the second time in the 10 year history of people living on the space station that the crew needed to take such precautions. If the station had been hit, the crew could have quickly undocked from the ISS and returned to Earth via the space capsules. Currently, there are four hams on board the ISS: Ron Garan, KF5GPO (NASA), Mike Fossum, KF5AQG (NASA), Sergei Volkov, RU3DIS (RKA), and Satoshi Furukawa, KE5DAW (JAXA). The other two cosmonauts -- Andrey Borisenko and Alexander Samokutyaev -- are not licensed. [Read more here.](#)



On the Air: New Russian Prefix System in Use

If you have been on the HF bands lately, you may have noticed that a number of new prefixes are in use by stations in the Russian Federation. Here is a summary of the changes recently adopted by the Russian telecommunication authorities. Thanks to SRR President Roman Thomas, R5AA (ex-RZ3AA) for the information.



Russian prefixes with the numeral 2 are no longer limited to Kaliningradsk. Stations with RA2 and UA2-UI2 (with F and K as the first letter in the suffix) are in Kaliningradsk; otherwise, these prefixes will be used in European Russia.

Stations with the following prefixes are in European Russia: R1, RA1-RZ1 (except RI1 as noted below), R2, RB2-RZ2, R3-R7, RA3-RZ7, UA1 and UA3-UI7. Also, stations with the prefixes R8, R9, RA8-RZ9 and UA8-UI9 (with F, S, T, W or X as the first letter in the suffix) are in European Russia.

Except for those listed above, all stations with 8, 9 and 0 as the numeral are in Asiatic Russia.

Russian Antarctic stations use temporary call signs in the series RI1ANA-RI1ANZ and RI00ANT to RI99ANT.

Franz Jozef Land stations use temporary call signs RI1F, RI1FJ and RI1FJA-RI1FJZ. Mal'j Visotskij island stations use temporary call signs RI1M, RI1MV and RI1MVA-RI1MVZ.

Amateur Radio Direction Finding

The Annual USA Championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) will take place in forests near Albuquerque, New Mexico from September 14-18, 2011. USA's national championships are being combined with the IARU Region 2 Championships. According to ARRL ARDF Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, they are open to anyone of any age who can safely navigate in the woods with handheld radio gear for several kilometers. Medals will be awarded for the top three finishers on each band in 10 age categories, six for males and four for females. A two day training camp will precede the formal competitions.

Organizers of the 2011 championships are members of the Albuquerque Amateur Radio Club and the New Mexico Orienteers, led by Jerry Boyd, WB8WFK, and Mike Pendley, K5ATM. Registration is now open -- Moell said that it is important for competitors to register early. The organizers need an accurate head count and assurances that there will be sufficient attendees. Read more [here](#).



Forecasters Calling for "Above-Average" Hurricane Season



In 2005, Hurricane Katrina strengthened into a powerful Category 5 hurricane with sustained winds of 160 miles per hour. The boost came just hours after Katrina reached Category 4, with winds of 145 miles per hour, as it gathered energy from the warm water in the Gulf of Mexico. In this photo from NASA, Katrina is shown on its path toward the coastlines of Louisiana and Mississippi.

Forecasters with the National Hurricane Center are calling for an "above-average" Atlantic hurricane season for 2011. In its initial outlook for the 2011 Atlantic hurricane season -- which runs from June 1-November 30 -- the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is calling for a 65 percent probability of an above-normal season, a 25 percent probability of a near-normal season and a 10 percent probability of a below-normal season.

CPC Forecasters say that there is a 70 percent chance of having 12-18 named storms, of which six to 10 could become hurricanes, including three to six major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5). Tropical systems acquire a name -- the first for 2011 will be Arlene -- upon reaching tropical storm strength with sustained winds of at least 39 miles per hour. Tropical storms become hurricanes when winds reach 74 miles per hour and become major hurricanes when winds increase to 111 miles per hour. An average season has 11 named storms, including six hurricanes with two becoming major hurricanes.

PARK Minutes **March 14, 2011**

In the absence of president Libby Auville KA8FUA, the meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Connie Hamilton N8IO. Introductions were made by 14 members and guests.

The 50/50 drawing of \$9 was won by Randy Sims KB8WHL.

The treasurer's report was given by Ray Johnson KC8RUJ.

Several hamfest dates and locations were announced.

Unfinished business: The ham classes are not being held, so the testing supplies tentatively scheduled for April 25 will be canceled.

Field day chairman Jerry Wharton KA8NJW was not present, so no plans were discussed.

New business: Hams need to send letters to U. S. representatives asking them to oppose HR 607 in it's present form. It would do away with part of our 70 cm band. Connie N8IO has an address to send them so they can be delivered promptly.

Linda Daugherty KB8YPC sent a card thanking the club and all those involved in donating and installing equipment to get her on the air again.

The Mountwood bike race will be April 10 and operators are needed.

Al KE8UN asked club permission to use the club call in checking into the 3905 Century Club net. He moved and Dave N8NWV seconded to grant that permission. Motion carried.

Dave N8NWV moved for adjournment and Carol KC8TUD seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.

PARK Minutes **May 9, 2011**

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at Mary's Plane View Restaurant for the May meeting. Introductions were made by 25 members and guests. The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by president Libby Auville KA8FUA. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given by Ray KC8RUJ. The 50/50 drawing of \$11 was won by Jep K8BOT.

Committee reports: Dave N8NWV announced a mowing party for Thursday at 9:30, weather permitting.

Earl KB8HRG reported that the GE radios are not easily converted to repeaters but there should soon be repeaters available when the new FCC regulations go into effect.

Hamfests: Jackson County May 15, Dayton May 20 – 22.

Unfinished business: Field day – Blaine WA8IOE, Jep K8BOT and Earl KB8HRG will meet some evening with Jim Miracle about operating at the cabin. The Saturday picnic will be covered dish with the club furnishing meat, drinks and condiments. Jerry KA8NJW needs to know who will be operating. There will be a meeting about a week before field day. Mark KR5N has up to date information on our web site at www.qsl.net/n8nbl.

New business: Jep K8BOT told how Roy's N8YYS HF tower was destroyed and his house was damaged by an auto accident.

Earl showed the balun he made for 160 and 80 meters. It was constructed from PVC pipe wound with coax. The number of turns of the coax determines the frequency.

Connie asked for suggestions for her problem with her 80 meter dipole. She can hear nothing but noise, but other stations can hear her. It was suggested that it could be local interference and she could first try shutting down any nearby computers when operating.

Jep K8BOT moved and Connie N8IO seconded to adjourn at 7:30 PM.

PARK Minutes **June 13, 2011**

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at Mary's Plane View Restaurant for the June meeting. Introductions were made by 19 members and guests.

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by president Libby Auville KA8FUA. The 50/50 drawing of \$8 was won by Mark KR5N. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given by Carol KC8TUD.

Committee reports: The 146.97 repeater site was mowed on May 12 by Dave N8NWV, Dave WD8CYV, Earl KB8HRG, Mark KR5N, Jep K8BOT and Ray N8TWV. The site is needed to be mowed again. A definite date was not set.

Old business: The field day committee met with Jim Miracle for use of the cabin. The cabin is empty and dry. Curt will bring his trailer for the CW operation. The voice station will be set up inside the cabin. The club canopy will be over the picnic food. Dan will set up the wired network. Curt still needs a net control coordinator.

New business: Ken WA8LLM needs operators for the half marathon in August. You need to contact him before July 21 to give him your shirt size and the location you desire.

Milford OH hamfest will be Saturday June 18. WV state convention at Jackson's Mill on August 20.

The VHF contest last weekend was wide open on 6 meters.

Earl KB8HRG reported that because of the solar flare, 10 meters was wide open for 2 days.

Jerry KA8NJW heard that the 11 year cycle is expected to go 2 more years before reaching maximum.

Jep K8BOT moved and Jerry KA8NJW seconded to adjourn at 7:24 PM.



Well, Field Day is history. I want to thank everyone who helped make this year's a success. We had four stations running. Jep set up the uhf/vhf station on tip of the hill, Earl set up a digital station in the Cabin. I set up the Phone station in the cabin, and Curt set up the CW station in his trusty trailer.

We met Saturday morning and after a bit of antenna trouble we got everything running. I want to thank everyone who helped make this day a success. The fellowship and food were both excellent.

I do not know what our score is yet but it looks to be pretty good. We had several bonus points for publicity and such. Plus the stations worked a lot. Here are a few pictures. KA8NJW

