



# Di-Dah-Dit

Official Newsletter of the Parkersburg Radio Klub  
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## HB9DRV Sells Rights to Ham Radio Deluxe

Simon Brown, HB9DRV, has sold the rights to his popular Ham Radio Deluxe software package to a group consisting of Mike Carper, WA9PIE, Randy Gawtry, K0CBH and Rick Ruhl, W4PC. All three principals have more than 25 years of experience with radio data communications. Rick Ruhl is the president of W4PC Software, Inc whose products include the PakRatt, PK-Term and Radio Operations Center software suites. Randy Gawtry is the president of Timewave Technology Inc whose products include the PK and DSP families of data controllers and other commercial data products. Mike Carper is an experienced Fortune 500 technology executive, educator and featured speaker in the areas of wireless technologies and IT Service Management.

“Simon has done a fantastic job with this software,” Carper said. “His vision for integrating rig control, rotor control, logging, digital modes, and satellite operations into a single integrated feature-rich software suite has captivated the ham radio community. We’d like to see this product continue in a way that respects the hard work put into this package by Simon and others, maintaining that vision, while delivering timely fixes and feature enhancements in the future, will be the number one priority.”

“After many years writing the Ham Radio Deluxe software it’s necessary to take a break and hand the whole project over to another team,” said Simon Brown, HB9DRV. “The support effort required has become more than I can realistically manage, with many thousands of users, new radios and other hardware appearing all the time and unexpected changes to the infrastructure used by Ham Radio Deluxe such as QRZ.com, I no longer have any time at all for other projects. As some of you will know, I have formed a company called SDR-RADIO.com GmbH and I am now working in the Software Defined Radio arena with RFspace. This is the technology of the future; a future I want a part of. In 2012 I plan to return to England and get back on the air, something I haven’t done much during the last 25 years.”



The new owners are in the process of building a development environment for Ham Radio Deluxe and

they plan to begin by addressing some of the bugs in the existing “To Do List” for an upcoming version 5.1 release. The 5.1 release will be made available at no charge to registered users when completed.

### Hays Affinity Group Provides ARRL Members with Equipment Protection, Club Liability Insurance Plans

On May 1, 2011, the ARRL began a new partnership with Hays Affinity Group to provide its ARRL-sponsored Equipment Insurance and Club Liability Insurance plans. Hays -- who took over from Marsh Affinity Group Services -- serves as the program administrator to provide equipment insurance to ARRL members who choose to elect coverage. In addition, Hays will also provide club liability insurance to ARRL Affiliated Clubs for those clubs that wish to take advantage of that program. Hays has introduced new policies for both plans, underwritten by the Hanover Insurance Company.



## FCC News

### FCC Upholds \$17,000 Forfeiture Order to Tennessee Ham

In March 2009, the FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) in the amount of \$17,000 to David Edward Perka, KA3PRB, of Lewisburg, Tennessee. The FCC alleges that Perka "willfully and repeatedly violat[ed] section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, by operating without a license in the Maritime Radio Service and willfully violat[ed] Section 333 of the Act by maliciously interfering with the United States Coast Guard on the International Distress, Safety and Calling Channel in Annapolis, Maryland." Perka, who admitted to the findings, requested a reduction in the forfeiture amount, based on his inability to pay, but in a Forfeiture Order released by the FCC on September 21, 2011, the Commission refused to lower the amount.



### Ham cited for causing interference on 17 Meter band

In an unrelated enforcement action, **Donald F. Melcher, W6CZ**, (Extra Class) of San Leandro, California, was issued a *Notice of Violation* (NOV) by the FCC's San Francisco District Office on September 29, 2011.

In response to a complaint, on July 19, 2011, agents from the Enforcement Bureau's San Francisco District Office, used mobile direction finding techniques to locate W6CZ and the interfering signal near Mariposa, California. Inspection of W6CZ revealed that Melcher's station was continuously radiating a signal.

He was cited for violating Section §97.119(a) transmitting unidentified communications or signals and Section §97.103(a) improper operation of a station in accordance with FCC Rules.

At the time of inspection, agents determined that an inappropriately stored telegraph speed key was causing W6CZ to transmit a continuous "dotter" (A1A) signal that interfered with amateur radio stations attempting to operate on 18.0856 MHz.

Melcher must submit a written statement to the FCC within 20 days fully explaining the violations and corrective action taken. His reply will be used to determine what, if any, enforcement action is required. (VIA W5YI News)



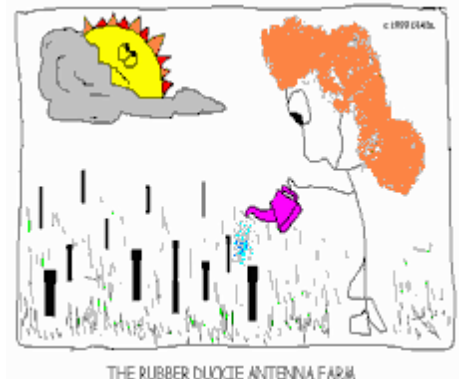
### FCC targets twenty online illegal jamming device retailers

The FCC's Enforcement Bureau has issued 20 enforcement actions against online retailers in 12 states for illegally marketing more than 200 models of cell phone jammers, GPS jammers, Wi-Fi jammers, and similar signal jamming devices.

The Enforcement Bureau's actions are intended to warn retailers and potential purchasers that marketing, selling, or using signal jamming devices in the U.S. is illegal and that the FCC will vigorously prosecute these violations. The FCC said "Jamming devices pose significant risks to public safety and can have unintended and sometimes dangerous consequences for consumers and first responders."

Signal jamming devices work by indiscriminately interrupting or interfering with communications. The use of a jamming device in a classroom, theater, church, restaurant, or other public place could prevent someone in the vicinity of the jammer from making an emergency call to 9-1-1, the police, a fire department, or a family member in trouble.

The Bureau also ordered the online retailers to provide information about their signal jammer suppliers, distribution channels, and sales -- including the manufacturer of each illegal signal jamming device, the websites that the online retailer has used to market the devices, and the corrective action the online retailer has taken -- or will take -- to comply with federal law prohibiting the marketing and sale of jamming devices. (VIA W5YI News)



# KLUB Minutes

August 8, 2011

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at Mary's Plane View Restaurant for the August 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 \$11 was won by Eloise Webb KB8EQO.

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

Committee reports: Dan WV8X reported on field day. Total contact and bonus points were 2,592. The 146.97 site has not been mowed for a month and should be due now. Jep K8BOT is working on a new antenna for the 146.97 repeater. The bracket is at Earl's KB8HRG house.

Unfinished business: Next month's meeting will be a picnic at Fort Boreman Park, Enoch shelter. The meat will be hamburgers and hot dogs and furnished by the club. Attendees should bring a covered dish of vegetables, salads or deserts. Election of officers will be at the September meeting.

The sponsors list was sent to Jackson's Mill for the annual convention program. Ken WA8LLM can still use help for the half marathon.

New Business: Blaine WA8IOE read a list of items for sale from Doris Childers, widow of SK Bill WA8GXD.

Connie announced several Ohio ham fests later this month.

There was no show and tell this evening.

Jep K8BOT moved and Dan WV8X seconded to adjourn at 7:14 PM.

## September 12, 2011

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at Fort Boreman Park for their annual picnic. Introductions were made by 24 members and guests.

The meeting was called to order at 6:45

PM by president Libby Auville KA8FUA. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. There was no treasurer's report and no 50/50 drawing.

A membership application was submitted for Joe Wigal W8JTW. Jep K8BOT moved and Earl KB8HRG seconded to accept it. Motion carried.

Committee reports: Dave N8NWV reported that he and Ray N8TWV mowed the 146.970 repeater site while Jep K8BOT, Earl KB8HRG and Blaine WA8IOE worked at installing another antenna on the tower.

Jep K8BOT reported that Bob KU8C donated to the club a Motorola repeater he received from CSX. New crystals were ordered and are in and it is presently with Joe W8JTW for more modifications and testing. New cavities have been built and are about ready to be installed. They should outperform commercial ones. Curt K8UC machined some parts, Dave N8NWV made a base and Earl calibrated them. Jep K8BOT assembled them. Mark KR5N reported on the club web site; some items were lost before uploading them.

Election of officers: Connie N8IO was nominated for president, vice president nominations were Jep K8BOT, Dan WV8X and Dave N8NWV, Ray N8TWV was nominated for secretary and Ray KC8RUJ and Carol KC8TUD were nominated for treasurers. There being no opposition, they all were declared elected by acclamation.

New business: Discussion was held about ham classes for next year. Connie N8IO suggested there should be more interest and we could table this until the December meeting.

Libby KA8FUA outgoing president expressed her thanks for everyone's cooperation and participation during the year.

The WC8EC hamfest will be held at Butchers Bend on October 8. The top door prize will be an 800 watt generator.

For show and tell, Ken WA8LLM showed a radio that was donated to WCEC by the Bureau of Public Debt. It is capable of 5 or

25 watts and is all mode. He also received 2 cell phone repeaters which he plans to use in emergencies and is working on getting meeting rooms at Gil Rob Wilson Field (Wood County Airport). Art W8PBO showed a picture of a new radio Elecraft is bringing out in January.

Jep K8BOT moved and Dave N8NWV seconded to adjourn at 7:21 PM.

## October 10, 2011

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at Mary's Plane View Restaurant for the October meeting. Introductions were made by 26 members and guests.

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by president Connie Hamilton N8IO. Due to a traffic accident, the dinner hour started late and ran into the business time.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. There was no treasurer's report and no 50/50 drawing. Unfinished business: the Baptist Temple site has been secured for upcoming ham classes.

New business: Connie N8IO announced upcoming hamfests.

The Christmas party/dinner will be at the Washington Bottom community building tentatively on December 17. The club will furnish the meat, bread and drinks. Members are to bring a covered dish. Jep K8BOT reported on the progress on the new repeater. It has been moved from Joe W8JTW's house to Earl KB8HRG's house and is being further tweaked. The other antenna installed on the 146.970 tower is now in use. Earl KB8HRG showed a cavity and explained how it works.

Mentioned was a new Chinese dual band handheld radio that sells for \$50. It also has FM radio and a flashlight built in. Also discussed was a possible new meeting room at the old FAA building. It is being remodeled by the WCEC. No action was taken.

Jep K8BOT moved and Dave N8NWV seconded to adjourn at 7:27 PM.

## Amateur radio operators/stations in the U.S.

The ARRL recently did a piece on how Amateur Radio is growing here in the United States entitled "US Amateurs Now 700,000 Strong!." The story said "In the past 40 years, the number of Amateur Radio operators in the US has grown at a remarkable rate." Adding that "For the first time, there are more than 700,000 radio amateurs in the US. ...an all-time high."

"The numbers of the three current license classes -- Technician, General and Amateur Extra -- are impressive," the League said. "The number of Technicians peaked in March 2011 at 342,572, while in September 2011, we saw both Generals and Extras peak at 159,861 and 125,661...These high numbers mean that hams are upgrading and renewing in larger numbers and staying interested in the hobby."

The ARRL said their VEC program has increased from 55 exam sessions administered back in the 1980's to approximately 150 exam sessions each week today. Calling the statistics "compelling" the League added "In the past 40 years, the number of Amateur Radio operators in the US has grown at a remarkable rate." From a year-end total of 285,000 in 1971, to 433,000 in 1981, 494,000 in 1991, 683,000 in 2001 and 700,221 as of September 2011." The figures are accurate.

Even though a ham license expires after ten years, the FCC considers an amateur to have an active call sign for twelve years. The extra two years includes the "grace period" during which a license may be renewed without penalty.

There are about 743,000 "active" call signs. One half of all these call signs are held by a Technician Class licensee. Roughly 25% are General Class call signs, 8% Advanced and 17% are Extra Class. The same percentages apply to the 700,000 unexpired ham tickets.

Twenty years ago (prior to 1991's No-Code Technician license) approximately 60% of all amateurs held a General, Advanced or Amateur Extra Class ticket. So the trend seems to be towards VHF/UHF operation and away from HF.

Approximately six percent (about 43,000) of all active call signs have expired. What is not known is how many people with a call sign are actually on the amateur airwaves and there are all sorts of estimates. The League said "A recent survey of ARRL members indicates that more than 80 percent of those responding are active." Since ARRL members (who pay a membership fee) are more likely to be active on the ham bands, we believe the figure is closer to 50%.

As far as whether the Amateur Radio Service is growing or not: the answer is "Yes." But at about a very slow less than 3% rate over the past decade. The bad news is that the U.S. population has [grown at an annual rate of 9.7%](#) over the past ten years. (VIA W5YI News)

## Heathkit's Amateur Radio Plans Taking Shape



the end of 2011. Back in August, Heathkit [announced](#) its return to the kit business and actively solicited suggestions. The response from Amateur Radio operators convinced Heathkit to develop several Amateur Radio products.

Ernie Wake, director, Marketing/Sales, told the ARRL: "When we made the announcement on our web page about a month ago we had no intention of entering the Amateur Radio kit market. The response was really overwhelming, exciting and scary. The scary part is that the brand name has so much loyalty that we don't want to disappoint the people who have such fond memories.

"We are working on developing a few Amateur Radio kits. Initially, the kit line will include a few 'accessories' like kits for a Dual Watt Meter, Antenna Tuners and the Antenna. Once we are a little more

'settled' I think we will develop a QRP receiver. We won't rush to market just to get there. We want to develop a line of kits in the tradition of Heathkit. I'm hoping to have one-two kits by the end-of-the-year."



## Tad Cook, K7RA, reports: The high solar activity

- relative to the past few years -- continues. The average daily sun-spot number rose more than 66 percent this week (October 13-19) over last week, to 158.6, while the average daily solar flux for the same period rose more than 15 percent to 144.2. With the geomagnetic indices this week below the previous week, radio amateurs have frequently worked stations on other continents as late as midnight on 10 meters. The bands are alive.



The latest forecast from USAF/NOAA shows solar flux from October 20-23 at 145, 150, 150 and

140, then 135 on October 24-28, and then 130 on October 29-November 3. The planetary A index is predicted at 5 on October 20-27, 8 on October 28-30 and 5 on October 31-November 2. Geophysical Institute Prague shows quiet conditions October 21-13, quiet to unsettled October 24 and quiet again October 25-27. Look for more information on the ARRL website on Friday, October 21. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information



We recently, Mostly earl and Jep did some repeater repair antenna work on the 97 machine. I want to thank all who helped with the job!

