



## *Di-Dah-Dit*

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

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# Executive Order Poses No Threat to the Amateur Radio Service

On July 6, 2012, the White House released an Executive Order that addresses National Security and Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) communications functions of the federal government. Contrary to some concerns raised in a few Amateur Radio circles, the Order does not appear to contain any threat to the Amateur Service or its ability to continue support communications during times of emergency or disaster. It also poses no threat to amateur spectrum.

"The purpose of the new entity, which would be created by this Order within the Executive Branch, appears to be to plan for future NS/EP communications and to ensure survivability, hardness and interoperability, as well as to develop a long-term strategic plan for NS/EP communications," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "Based on the Amateur Service's ongoing, positive working relationship with officials at the Depart-

ment of Homeland Security's Office of Emergency Communications, it is hard to envision that any new management plan would not include Amateur Radio. Nothing in this Order directly affects Amateur Radio's daily operations." A good summary of the content of the Order can be found here:  
<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/519/2933910/Obama-assigns-new-responsibilities-for-keeping-government-connected-in-case-of-emergency>

## FCC News

### California Ham Cited \$17,000 for Operating Unlicensed Radio Station

On July 2, the FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture and Order (NAL) in the amount of \$17,000, accusing Brian R. Ragan, KF6EGI, of Susan City, California, of “apparently willfully and repeatedly violating” the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by operating an unlicensed radio transmitter on frequency 104.9 MHz and failing to allow an inspection of his station by FCC personnel. The Commission said that Ragan, “as a licensed Amateur Radio operator for at least six years, should be aware that any radio equipment at his station must be made available for inspection at any time when requested by the FCC, and also should be aware of the proper operation of his amateur station in accordance with the Rules.”

In February 2012, an FCC agent used direction-find-

ing techniques to locate the source of radio frequency transmissions on 104.9 MHz. The agent traced the source of the transmission to Ragan’s residence.

About two weeks later, agents again used direction-finding techniques to locate the source of the same frequency after hearing the unlicensed station identifying itself over the air as “KBRS.” The agents determined that the signals on frequency 104.9 MHz exceeded the limits for operation under Part 15 of the Commission’s rules and, as such, required a license.

Commission records showed no authorization issued to Ragan or to anyone else for operation of a broadcast station on frequency 104.9 MHz in Susan City, California. The agents heard the station operating in the garage and attempted to inspect Ragan’s station, but he did not answer their knock at his door. The agents posted a Notice of Unlicensed Operation (NOUO) at

Ragan’s front door for operating an unlicensed FM broadcast station.

Two days after the agents posted the NOUO, Ragan contacted the FCC concerning the NOUO. “During his conversation with the agent, Ragan admitted to operating the broadcast station on frequency 104.9 MHz for six months,” the NAL stated. “Ragan also stated that he was present at the time when the agents were knocking at his door, but was afraid to answer the door because he heard the agents say that they were with the FCC. Because Ragan, by his own admission, consciously operated the station and did so on more than one day, the apparent violations of the Act were both willful and repeated.”

Besides being ordered to pay the \$17,000 fine (the base forfeiture amount for operation without an instrument of authorization is \$10,000, and the base forfeiture amount for failure to permit inspection is \$7000) by July 31, 2012, Ragan must also submit a written statement by that date “pursuant to Section 1.16 of the Rules, signed under

penalty of perjury by Mr. Ragan, stating that he is in full compliance with Section 301 [of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended] and is no longer engaged in the unauthorized operation on frequency 104.9 MHz or any other frequency for which he has no license, and will make his authorized amateur station available for inspection as required by the Rules.” While Ragan may request a reduction or cancellation of the \$17,000 forfeiture, he must still provide the written statement.

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## **FCC Downgrades Hawaiian Ham’s License**

On June 18, the FCC issued an Order of Modification, modifying the license class of Todd Wilson, WH6DWF, of Honolulu, Hawaii, from General to Technician. This stems from an Order Proposing Modification released in March 2012 where the FCC stated that granting General class Amateur Radio operator privileges to Wilson was “improper.”

In November 2011, the ARRL VEC sent an electronic data file to the FCC, requesting that the FCC issue a Wilson a new General class license. Based on this application, the FCC granted Wilson a General class license on November 29, 2011. In January 2012, the ARRL VEC notified the FCC that Wilson’s information was incorrect and he did not qualify for a General class license; the ARRL VEC asked the FCC to modify Wilson’s license to show him to hold a Technician class license.

The FCC said that Section 316(a)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended “provides the appropriate vehicle for resolving this matter. Section 316(a) permits the Commission to modify a station license if the action will promote the public interest, convenience, and necessity. We believe that modification of the license for amateur station WH6DWF to replace General class operator privileges with Technician class operator privileges is appropriate.”

In accordance with Section 1.87(a) of the FCC’s Rules, the FCC noted that it would not issue a Modification Order until Wilson has received notice and has had an opportunity to file a protest. He was given until April 14 -- 30 days -- to protest the modification to his license by submitting a written statement “with sufficient evidence to show that the modification would not be in the public interest.” When Wilson did not respond within the 30 day timeframe, the FCC said that Wilson is “deemed to have consented to the proposed modification. Based on the record before us, we conclude that it is in the public interest to modify the license for Amateur Radio Service Station WH6DWF by changing the authorized operating privileges from General class to Technician class.”



# Klub Minutes

## May 14, 2012

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at Mary's Plane View Restaurant for the May meeting. Introductions were made by 14 members.

The meeting was called to order by Blaine Auville WA8IOE. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given by phone by Carol KC8TUD. There was no 50/50 drawing.

Unfinished business: The Civil War cabin porch roof repair was further discussed. Blaine WA8IOE has the necessary wood. Galvanized metal roofing and nails are needed. Curt K8UC moved and Jep K8BOT seconded to purchase the necessary roofing materials. Motion passed.

Dave N8NWV, Earl KB8HRG, Jep K8BOT and Ray N8TWV mowed the 146.97 repeater site on April 18.

Jerry KA8NJW and Earl KB8HRG checked with Suddenlink about placing a mower shelter on the site. No definite answer was received.

New business: None

Field day plans: Setup time will be June 23 at 11 AM. Jerry KA8NJW says we have enough radios, we just need operators, both CW and phone. He will have a sign up sheet. The logging computers will be linked either wired or wireless. The field day site is listed on the ARRL locator website. We will probably have Curt's K8UC trailer. We will use the same antennas as last year. Jerry KA8NJW and Blaine WA8IOE have launchers.

All QST magazines are now on the ARRL website. The Dayton Hamvention is next weekend.

President Connie Hamilton N8IO was unable to make the meeting due to having car repairs done.

Jep K8BOT moved and Jerry KA8NJW seconded to adjourn at 7:30 PM.

## June 11, 2012

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at Mary's Plane View Restaurant for the June meeting. Introductions were made by 21 members and guests. The 50/50 drawing of \$10 was won by Connie N8IO.

President Connie Hamilton N8IO called the meeting to order at 7 PM. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given by Carol KC8TUD.

Unfinished business: Earl KB8HRG and Jerry KA8NJW reported on the meeting with Suddenlink. They don't care if we put a mower storage building on the site but they will not be responsible for it or the contents and it must be out of the way and not a fire trap.

Jerry gave a report on field day preparations.

Libby KA8FUA, Jane N8MOW and Lynn N8IIM were named to the food committee for the field day picnic.

Connie N8IO is still on restrictions due to her recent surgery.

New business: Jane N8MOW moved and Herb W8HAW seconded for the club to purchase the meat, bread and drinks. Motion carried.

Curt K8UC asked for suggestions as to why his Kenwood 2000 has a chirp on CW. He did not get any suggestions.

Jerry KA8NJW moved and Earl KB8HRG seconded to adjourn at 7:22 PM.

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## July 9, 2012

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at Mary's Plane View Restaurant for the July meeting. Introductions were

made by 21 members and guests. The 50/50 drawing of \$12 was won by John Parsons (no call).

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by the president Connie Hamilton N8IO. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given by the treasurer, Carol KC8TUD.

Unfinished business: Jerry KA8NJW gave a report on field day. He did not have the figures with him but stated we made around 1300 to 1400 points. The stations operated most of the 24 hours. Those participating had a good time.

The 146.97 repeater site was mowed and the roof was installed on the Civil War cabin at Fort Boreman Park.

New business: Membership applications were received from Justin Elliott AC8LZ, James Hutzler KD8MCE and John Parsons. They were approved by a unanimous vote.

The September meeting will be a covered dish picnic at Fort Boreman Park. We will also be electing officers for another year.

Pictures of field day are on the N8NBL website.

Jep K8BOT moved and Jerry KA8NJW seconded to adjourn at 7:18 PM.

After the meeting several remained to share stories. Jim KD8MCE bought an old Heathkit SP101 and restored it and the power supply. During the storm power outage, he removed the battery from his car and operated his ham rig.

Herb W8HAW brought Curt K8UC a TR 7, or 3 or 4 to be repaired. Curt passed it on to Mike W8MKH who passed on to others who finally decided that it was not worth fixing.

One day after storing the club generator, Blaine lost power due to the storm. He was able to "test" the generator for about 3 days until the power was restored.

## Solar Update



*he Sun, as seen on Thursday, July 12, 2012 from NASA's SOHO Extreme Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope. This MDI (Michelson Doppler Imager) image was taken in the continuum near the Ni I 6768 Angstrom line. The most prominent features are the sunspots. This is very much how the Sun looks in the visible range of the spectrum.*

Tad "Don't let the Sun catch you crying" Cook, K7RA, reports: Solar activity rose moderately this week: the average daily sunspot numbers were up nearly 3 points to 120.9, while the average daily solar flux rose more than 28 points to 166.8. There was quite a bit of geomagnetic activity -- the most happening on July 9 -- when the mid-latitude A index reached 29, planetary A index was 30 and Alaska's college A index was 60. The latest prediction shows quiet geomagnetic conditions with the planetary A index at 5 on July 12-26, then 20 on July 27-29, 10 on July 30-31, 15 on August 1-2, 10 on August 3-4, and 8 on August 5. The predicted solar flux is 160 on July 12-13, 155, 145, 140, 130, 120, and 115 on July 14-19, 105 on July 20-21, then rising to 165 on July 28-August 2. Look for more on the ARRL website on Friday, July 13. For more information concerning radio propagation,

visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page. This week's "Tad Cookism" is brought to you by Gerry and the Pacemakers' Don't Let the Sun Catch You Crying.

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## Three Hams Scheduled to Head to ISS This Weekend



NASA will televise the launch and docking of the next mission to the International Space Station (ISS), scheduled for 8:40 PM (CDT) Saturday, July 14 (0140 UTC, Sunday, July 15). NASA Flight Engineer Sunita Williams, KD5PLB, along with Russian cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko, RK3DUP, and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Akihiko Hoshide, KE5DNI, are completing preparations as they undergo their final Soyuz spacecraft fit. Live NASA TV coverage of the Soyuz TMA-05M spacecraft launch from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan begins at 8:30 PM CDT on Saturday, July 14 (0130 UTC July 15).

The trio will arrive at the station on July 16, joining NASA Flight Engineer Joe Acaba, KE5DAR, and two Russian cosmonauts: Expedition 32 Commander Gennady Padalka, RN3DT, and Flight Engineer Sergei Revin, RN3BS. Acaba, Padalka and Revin have been aboard the ISS since mid-May. Williams, Malenchenko and Hoshide -- who also will be part of the Expedition 33 crew starting in September -- will return to Earth in mid-November.

## Getting Licensed: New Amateur Extra Class Question Pool Effective July 1

The new Amateur Extra class (Element 4) question pool -- released by the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) in January 2012 -- becomes effective on Sunday, July 1. The current Amateur Extra class pool expires on June 30, 2012 and cannot be used after that date. This new question pool -- including graphics and diagrams -- will remain valid until June 30, 2016. The new Amateur Extra pool contains 702 questions, from which 50 are selected for an Element 4 examination. As of June 13, three questions -- E1D09, E2A14 and E6E10 -- have been removed from the new pool. The current Technician class question pool that became effective July 1, 2010 is valid through June 30, 2014. The current General class pool that became effective July 1, 2011 is valid until June 30, 2015.





Field Day was a great success this year and I would like to thank all that helped. Here are some pictures of what went on,

Then we put up a new roof on the cabin porch!!

