



Di-Dah-Dit

Official Newsletter of the Parkersburg Radio Klub
1722 20th. St. Parkersburg, WV 26101

Hurricane Watch Net Seeks New Members for Net Control Stations

With the 2013 hurricane season approaching, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami and the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) are gearing up for what could be a very active storm season. In preparation for the upcoming season, the HWN is currently seeking new members who can serve as net control stations.

The HWN provides on-the-ground, real-time weather data from Amateur Radio operators who volunteer their time to monitor their calibrated home weather stations. The stations report that data to the HWN, who in turn reports it to WX4NHC, the Amateur Radio station at the NHC. "The Hurricane Watch Net relies on volunteer operators -- our members -- who serve as our net control stations," HWN Net Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, told the ARRL. "HWN members are hams who have above-average stations, are capable of effectively conducting HF net operations and are willing to commit their time to operating in support of the HWN's mission during net activations. The net sessions can be long and, at times, very stressful."

The HWN primarily operates on 14.325 MHz, but Graves said that given the current solar activity, the HWN is looking for new members

who can help with net control station duties on the low end of the 40 meter phone band. "If 20 meters goes away, we lose the ability to effectively communicate with our reporting stations or the NHC," he said. "By expanding our operation to 40 meters, we can easily change over when propagation changes."

Graves told the ARRL that the HWN is especially looking for new members with stations that can effectively communicate with Central America and the Caribbean, Mexico, the Gulf Coast, the East Coast and South Texas. "As we head into the 2013 hurricane season, we're looking for qualified amateurs who are located anywhere within North America or the Caribbean," he said. "We are also looking for bilingual hams. We recognize that some Latin American operators hesitate to check in and send reports to us if they aren't fluent in English, so we're also interested in hearing from hams who are fluent in both Spanish and English. When we're working storms that are either affecting or threatening areas where Spanish is the language of choice, we always try to have one or more bilingual HWN members on hand to help with reporting."

While HWN membership is required to serve as a net control sta-

tion, radio amateurs do not need to be an HWN member in order to participate as an HWN reporting station that provides observed or measured weather reports, or relay assistance as required by HWN net control. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Hurricane Watch Net, please visit the Membership Information page on the HWN website.

The Hurricane Watch Net is activated either at the request of the National Hurricane Center and/or when an Atlantic basin hurricane is within 300 miles of landfall. Although hurricanes can happen any time of the year, hurricane season for the Atlantic and Caribbean runs from June 1-November 30, and usually peaks anywhere from late August through September. The Pacific hurricane season runs from May 15-November 30.



LoTW: ARRL Announces New Version of LoTW Software

After much testing, the ARRL will release a new version of Trusted QSL, the open-source development project responsible for developing and maintaining the three Logbook of the World (LoTW) client-side applications: TQSL, TQSLCert and the TrustedQSL library. After six weeks of public beta testing, version 1.14 is ready for official release and will be available for download from the ARRL website beginning Monday, May 20.

In December 2012, Dave Bernstein, AA6YQ, and Rick Murphy, K1MU, recruited a group of volunteer software developers to contribute to this project. After considering input from ARRL management and the ARRL's LoTW user support group in the League's Membership and Volunteer Services Department, as well as the ARRL-LoTW e-mail discussion group on Yahoo! Groups, the volunteer development group put forward a set of priorities that would be addressed by a sequence of incremental software releases.

A small group of testers began exercising version 1.14 in March 2013; this testing exposed several defects, all of which have been corrected. Testing then progressed to an open beta test period that allowed interested parties to download, install and try out this newest version of Trusted QSL.

The initial release in this sequence -- version 1.14 -- includes these new features:

Log files can be signed and uploaded over the internet to LoTW in one operation.

Errors in Station Locations are reported (for example, incorrect CQ and ITU zones).

QSOs that need not be re-submitted ("duplicates") are brought to the user's attention.

Error reporting has been improved. Installation on Windows has been improved.

Users are notified when a new version becomes available.

Documentation has been improved. Upgrading to version 1.14 is not mandatory, but is encouraged. Users who choose not to upgrade will not be able to access the new features in version 1.14, but they will still be able to upload logs into the LoTW system.



ARRL E-mail System Continuing to Experience Delays

The ARRL's e-mail service provider is continuing to experience technical issues that are affecting timely delivery of e-mail messages sent via the arrl.net forwarding service, as well as e-mail sent to addresses in the arrl.org domain. This issue remains intermittent, but may result in delaying the delivery of some messages sent to both arrl.net and arrl.org addresses by hours. The ARRL's e-mail provider is working to resolve the issue as quickly as possible. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Solar Update

The Sun, as seen on Thursday, May 16, 2013 from NASA's SOHO Extreme Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope. This MDI (Michelson Doppler Im-

ager) 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.

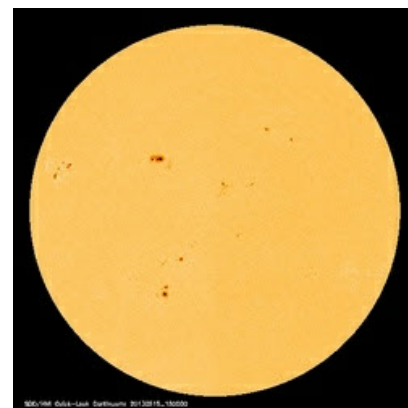
Tad Cook, K7RA, reports: Since we are now at (or close to) the peak of Solar Cycle 24, it is no surprise that the solar indices are up.

The latest forecast predicts Solar Cycle 24 to peak in this fall, but that will be determined after the fact, and it will be based on a long running average of sunspot numbers.

This past week, the average daily sunspot numbers increased by more than 34 points, rising to 156.1, while the average daily solar flux was up by nearly 3 points to 140.1.

On May 15, the daily sunspot number was 186 -- the highest number since January 6-7, when the sunspot number was 186 and 196, respectively.

The predicted solar flux for the near term is 145 on May 16-18, 140 on May 19, 135 on May 20-21, then 125, 140, 155, 160 and 170 on May 22-26, 160 on May 27-28, 155 on May 29-30, 150 and 155 on May 31-June 1, and rising to 160 on June 2-3.



March 11, 2013

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant for the February meeting. Introductions were made by 34 members and guests. The 50/50 drawing of \$22 was won by Darrell Fouse W8DLF.

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, Jane N8MOW.

There was no unfinished business.

New business: Membership applications were submitted for Frank Stevison KA8BJA and Dennis Snedden AC8MW. Harold N8KO moved and Dave N8NWV seconded to accept them. The motion carried.

Flowers were sent to the Bill Arnott W8WHA (SK) funeral.

Jerry KA8NJW said the club is now affiliated with the ARRL for contesting. He gave instructions on how to submit logs to show club participation.

The Charleston hamfest is this Saturday March 16.

The secretary read a letter from "Ham Radio Operator WN8F" about a malware threat being on the programming CD for the cheap Chinese HD's. At this time it is unknown how large a threat this is.

Curt K8UC talked about his Yaesu radio that he thought was made in Japan but had a label "made in China".

Jep K8BOT moved and Earl KB8HRG seconded to adjourn at 7:22 P.M.

April 8, 2013

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant for the April meeting. Introductions were made by 25 members and guests. The 50/50 drawing of \$14 was won by Curt Fouse.

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Blaine Auville in the absence of the President.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved with one correction. The treasurer's report was given by Jane McGuffey. The balance at the end of March is \$3361.76

Blaine reminded the members that the dues for 2013 are due. The roster is being updated, and anyone that is 2 years in arrears will be taken off the list.

Old Business: There wasn't any unfinished business.

New Business:

Repeater Update: Earl reported on the repeater update. He has the two new Kenwood replacement repeaters for the 146.390, and they have been aligned and put on frequency. The only thing left is to interface them with the present controller at the site.

He is planning on installing the hard line for the 146.970 when they go to cut the grass at the site.

He also mentioned that there would be a 440 input to the 146.970 repeater after the changes are made.

Field Day: Field Day will be held at Fort Boreman on June 23 and 24. Jerry Wharton will be the coordinator for field day. The park has been reserved, and the activities will be held at the cabin. Blaine will be grilling hamburgers and sausages. The club will furnish drinks. Each person will be asked to bring a covered dish. A discussion was held on the fact that you can operate from your house. More discussion will be held on this at the next meeting.

Jim Palmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Ray Johnson seconded it. The meeting was adjourned.

Show and tell: A digital receiver was demonstrated that belongs to Herb Whitlatch.

May 13, 2013

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant for the May meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by the president, Connie Hamilton. Introductions were made by 20 members and guests. The 50/50 drawing was won by Darlene Leonhart. She donated the money back to the club. The total for the raffle was \$28.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved with a correction on the repeater number to 147.390 and the date of Field Day to June 22nd and 23rd. The treasurer's report was given by Jane McGuffey. The balance at the end of March is \$3351.73.

Old Business: There wasn't any unfinished business.

New Business:

Repeater Update: A discussion has been held on getting a building to put at the repeater site to store the grass trimmer. Dave Wright has checked at Lowes on a Rubbermaid building. Jane McGuffey made a motion to appoint Dave Wright, Earl Hulce, and Jim Palmer to a committee to purchase a building up to \$500 to install at the site. The motion was seconded by Dan Betts. It was approved by the group.

Dave Thompson has mowed the grass at the repeater site. It still needs to be trimmed.

Field Day: Field Day will be held at Fort Boreman on June 22 and 23. The club will be furnishing meat, bread, and drinks. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish.

Curt Fouse announced that a lady in Bel-pre has equipment for sale if anyone is interested.

Dan Betts is going to Dayton to the Hamfest and is willing to take equipment from any member to see if he can sell it.

Jim Palmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Earl Hulce seconded it. The meeting was adjourned.

Jim Palmer talked to the group about a solar flare that happened on Mother's Day.

FCC Fines Pennsylvania Man \$18,000 for Failing to Allow Inspection of CB Station

The FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture and Order (NAL) on May 14 in the amount of \$18,000 to Nathaniel Johnson of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for failing to make his Citizens Band (CB) station available for inspection by the FCC and for failing to comply with the restricted hours of CB station operation.

The FCC first received complaints in January 2012 concerning interference to telephone and television reception due to Johnson's CB operation. In February 2012, agents from the FCC's Philadelphia office went to Johnson's house to conduct a station inspection, but no one answered the door. The next month, FCC agents sent Johnson a Warning Letter by both First Class and certified mail, directing him to contact the FCC within 10 days in order to schedule an inspection. According to the NAL, the Warning Letter also specified "that if the harmful interference continued, and arrangements were not made with the [FCC's] Philadelphia Office to schedule an inspection, the Commission might impose restricted hours of operation for the CB station. Mr. Johnson did not contact the Philadelphia Office to schedule an inspection as directed."

The FCC continued to receive complaints from Johnson's neighbors regarding interference coming from Johnson's residence. The FCC issued Johnson another Warning Letter in June 2012, "directing him, his family, and any guests visiting him, not to operate any base or mobile CB radio transmitter from his residence or adjacent roadways between the hours of 8 AM and 11:30 PM (hereinafter referred to as 'Quiet Hours') until he contacted the FCC to make arrangements for an inspection of his CB radio facility and an inspection was completed. Mr. Johnson was warned that a violation of the restriction could result in the imposition of a forfeiture." Johnson did not respond to the Warning Letter.

After more interference complaints, the FCC issued yet another Warning Letter in June 2012, informing Johnson of the numerous complaints "and reminded him that the Quiet Hours restriction imposed in the May 14, 2012, letter remained in effect until he contacted the Philadelphia Office to schedule an inspection and an inspection is completed." The letter commanded that Johnson contact the FCC within 10 calendar days to schedule an inspection "or face potential enforcement action, including the imposition of a forfei-

ture." Again, Johnson did not respond to the Warning Letter.

FCC agents went to Johnson's home in October 2012 to conduct an on-site station inspection "to confirm the source of interference to televisions and telephones in Mr. Johnson's neighborhood." That morning (during the Quiet Hours period), agents were able to monitor multiple radio transmissions on the frequencies 27.025, 27.055 and 27.015 MHz. By using radio direction finding techniques, the FCC agents were able to confirm that transmissions were coming from a CB station at Johnson's residence. The agents attempted to contact Johnson, knocking multiple times on the front door, but no one answered; however, transmissions on those frequencies stopped, "suggesting that Mr. Johnson (or someone he designated) turned off the CB station while the agents were outside the residence. The agents left copies of the June 12 Warning Letter (on Mr. Johnson's front door, back door and in his mailbox) to remind him of the operational restrictions and the directive to immediately contact the [FCC's] Philadelphia office to schedule an inspection." As of the May 14, Johnson still has not contacted the FCC, and the Philadelphia office continues to receive interference complaints concerning his CB station.

The FCC noted that there is enough evidence to establish that Johnson violated Section 95.423 of the FCC's rules: "If the FCC informs a CB operator that his or her station is causing interference for technical reasons, the operator must follow all instructions in the official FCC notice, including any request to make technical adjustments to equipment." This section also requires that operators must comply with any restricted hours of CB station operation provided in the FCC's official notice. Even after receiving notification from the FCC prohibiting CB operations during Quiet Hours, Johnson continued to operate and the FCC continued to receive interference complaints regarding interference from Johnson's CB operations.

The FCC also found that Johnson repeatedly violated Section 303(n) of the Communications Act and Section 95.426(a) of the FCC's rules. Section 303(n) states that the FCC has the "authority to inspect all radio installations associated with stations required to be licensed by any Act, or which the Commission by rule has authorized to operate without a license under [S]ection 307(e)(1)." This section specifically includes the Citizens Band

Radio Service. Section 95.426(a) of the FCC's rules states: "If an authorized FCC representative requests to inspect your CB station, you must make your CB station and records available for inspection."

Pursuant to the FCC's Forfeiture Policy Statement and Section 1.80 of its rules, the base forfeiture amount for failure to allow inspection of radio equipment -- including a CB station -- is \$7000. "Although there is no base forfeiture amount in Section 1.80 of the [FCC's] rules for failure to comply with a Commission directive prohibiting CB operations during specific hours, we find that the nature of the violation in this case is similar to a failure to respond to a Commission communication, which carries a base forfeiture amount of \$4000," the NAL stated. "In this case, we find that Mr. Johnson's failure to permit a lawful inspection of his CB station, after multiple notices directing him to do so, justifies a \$7000 upward adjustment of the base amount for this violation. Applying the Forfeiture Policy Statement, Section 1.80 of the [FCC's] rules, and the statutory factors to the instant case, we conclude that Mr. Johnson is apparently liable for a total forfeiture in the amount of \$18,000."

The FCC noted that misconduct such as Johnson's "is serious, exhibits contempt for the Commission's authority, and threatens to compromise the Commission's ability to fully investigate violations of its rules. As such, we caution Mr. Johnson that a failure to schedule an inspection as directed in this NAL may result in the imposition of additional (and potentially higher) forfeitures, as well as other enforcement actions, as appropriate, including the seizure of his equipment."

Johnson has until June 13 to pay the full amount of the proposed forfeiture or file a written statement seeking reduction or cancellation of the proposed forfeiture. He was also ordered to submit a written statement, signed under penalty of perjury, confirming compliance with the Quiet Hours restriction. The statement, due no later than June 28, must also specify an appropriate date and time when FCC agents can inspect his CB station.



Changes to FCC Radiotelegraph Operator Certificates Coming May 20

Effective May 20, 2013, the FCC will no longer accept applications for First (T1), Second (T2) or Third Class (T3) Radiotelegraph Operator Certificates. In addition, the FCC has consolidated the T1 and T2 Radiotelegraph Operator Certificates into a new license class called the Radiotelegraph Operator License (T). According to the FCC, this change takes effect upon renewal: T1s and T2s that are renewed on or after May 20, 2013 will be renewed as Ts, but existing T1s and T2s will retain their current license class for the duration of the current license term. The Commission also consolidated the T3 with Marine Radio Operator Permits (MP); T3s renewed on or after May 20, 2013 will be renewed as MPs, but existing T3s will retain their current license class for the duration of the current license term. These new rules were first announced in a Report and Order (WT Docket No. 10-177), issued January 8, 2013.



Amateur Radio Shortcut Cards

The following cards were sent the the PARK repeater Klub. I thought you could use them. They are business card size, that I scanned in.

www.allspectrum.com

Binary	Decimal	Hex
0000	0	0
0001	1	1
0010	2	2
0011	3	3
0100	4	4
0101	5	5
0110	6	6
0111	7	7
1000	8	8
1001	9	9
1010	10	A
1011	11	B
1100	12	C
1101	13	D
1110	14	E
1111	15	F

order more free cards at
www.allspectrum.com/cards

