



Di-Dah-Dit

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

"Amateur Radio Parity Act" Campaign Will Resume in New Congress

Largely as the result of a grassroots campaign, "The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014" (H.R. 4969) attracted the support of 69 members of the US House of Representatives in addition to that of its sponsor, Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL). While the just-adjourned 113th Congress did not enact the bill, the effort to gain passage of the legislation will begin anew when the 114th Congress convenes in January. Introduced with bipartisan support last June, H.R. 4969 called on the FCC to apply the "reasonable accommodation" three-part test of the PRB-1 federal pre-emption policy to private land-use restrictions regarding antennas. The limited PRB-1 pre-emption currently applies only to state and municipal land-use ordinances.

The FCC has indicated its reluctance to provide the same legal protections from private land-use agreements -- often called covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs) -- without direction from Congress. ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, stressed this week that the fight is not over.

"While we are disappointed that the bill did not make it through the process during the session, the effort

was extremely energized by the efforts of thousands of ARRL members who participated in our grassroots lobbying effort," Henderson said. "In just 6 short months we gained tremendous traction for the Amateur Radio Parity Act."

Henderson explained that sometime after the new Congress is called into session in January, a new "Amateur Radio Parity Act" bill with a new number will be introduced into the US House. "Once this happens, the ARRL will gear up for a fresh effort to push this legislation forward," he added.

In a note to ARRL Section Managers this week, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, thanked Section leaders and Field Organization volunteers on behalf of the ARRL Board of Directors and Headquarters staff for their help in garnering legislative support for H.R. 4969. "We had hoped to gain 30 co-sponsors for the bill and ultimately ended up with 69, plus the sponsor," Sumner noted. "The overwhelming majority of these 70 supporters are returning in January, which gives us a good base on which to grow additional support."

Sumner said the objective for 2015 is to continue the momentum, gathering enough support to move the

bill through the Energy and Commerce Committee. "We have received expressions of interest from the Senate side and are hoping to have the bill introduced there as well," he added.

Henderson said the bill would not have attained its current level of support in the US House without the thousands of letters and phone calls made by ARRL members to their congressional representatives. "The success of this crucial issue relies on the efforts of all radio amateurs and ARRL members," he said. "We know you will step forward in the new year, when we renew our efforts on Capitol Hill."

The ARRL H.R. 4969 web page provides additional information.



Hamvention Chair: "The Show Will Go on" at Aging Hara Arena

Despite financial struggles dogging the owners of Hara Arena, site of the Dayton Hamvention® since the 1960s, the 2015 Hamvention General Chairman Jim Tiderman, N8IDS, has told ARRL that he expects the world's largest Amateur Radio show to continue there — this May and in the years ahead. Tiderman was reacting to recent media accounts detailing the fiscal woes of the aging Hara complex in Trotwood, Ohio. He said Hamvention's sponsoring Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) and Hamvention officials have been in conversation with Hara's owners, the Wampler family, regarding the future of the 165,000 square foot, six-building complex.



"Both Hamvention and DARA have absolute confidence in [the Wampler family's] guiding their corporation through the steps in the plans in place to keep Hara operating for years to come," Tiderman said. "Given the time frame they are working with right now, we simply stand by them and repeat, 'The show will go on.'" Last year, Dayton Hamvention attracted nearly 25,000 visitors.

Dayton TV station WDTN-TV reported last month that the 50-year-

old Hara Arena was facing financial problems and had cut back on its full-time staff to save money. Karen Wampler, Hara's Director of Marketing, has told the media that it's become difficult for Hara Arena to compete with other Miami Valley venues, such as the Nutter Center at Wright State University and the downtown Dayton Convention Center. The Hara complex needs money for renovations and deferred maintenance, she said, and "the ownership model needs to be changed." Wampler told the Dayton Daily News in December that while the family cares about the facility, it is limited in what it can afford. In addition to flagging revenues, the Dayton Daily News reported, some \$395,000 in back property taxes are owed on the two land parcels that make up the Hara Arena complex.



Wampler said the arena has been working with VenuWorks, which specializes in restoring event venues, and that she hoped to have some good news to report this year. Dayton Hamvention takes place May 15-17.

That's "Doctor Bob" to You:



That's "Doctor Bob" to You: Well-known Amateur Radio audio products manufacturer Bob Heil, K9EID, will receive an honorary doctorate on December 20 from the University of Missouri-St Louis. The school will grant Heil, the founder of Heil Sound Ltd, an honorary Doctor of Music and Technology degree for his contributions to the world of broadcast, live, and studio sound and to the Amateur Radio industry. Heil will also speak at the school's winter commencement ceremony. -- Thanks to SoundForums.net and Southgate Amateur Radio News

SCARF Hamfest
01/19/2014

**Location: Tri-County
Adult Career Center
15676 State Route 691
Nelsonville, OH 45764**

Website:
<http://www.scarfarc.com>
Talk-In: 147.150

KLUB MINUTES

August 11, 2014

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant for the August meeting. Introductions were made by 26 members and guests.

President Jerry Wharton KA8NJW called the meeting to order at 7 PM. The 50/50 drawing of \$19.50 was won by Bob Combs KD8YZF. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given by Jane McGuffey N8MOW.

Unfinished business: The restaurant manager said we would have to share half the room this month but from now on we would have the whole room.

The Christmas party will be at the restaurant. Darlene W8PAN will decorate the tables and we will check to see if entertainment is allowed.

Earl KB8HRG reported on the 146.970 repeater site. The emergency batteries need water. Dave WD8CYV repaired the entrance gate.

Earl KB8HRG reported for the nominating committee. Anyone desiring to run for an office needs to contact the committee before the next meeting.

New business: Dave WD8CYV and Glen K8PSK gave a report on the Huntington hamfest. There were around 5 attending from this area. David McDonald KD8YVC upgraded to General.

Glen K8PSK showed his one tube cake pan radio. He is needing a crystal for it.

The September meeting will be a covered dish picnic at Fort Boreman Park at 6 PM.

Jane N8MOW announced that she and Earl KB8HRG are getting married at the gazebo at Point Park on October 4th at 1 PM and all are invited.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 7:36 PM.

September 8, 2014

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at Fort Boreman Park for the annual picnic meeting. Introductions were made by 20 members and guests.

After the meal, the meeting was called to order at 6:52 PM by vice president Earl Hulce KB8HRG.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. No treasurer's report was given, however it was announced that the records were audited and were found to be in order.

Unfinished business: John W8IDW gave a nominating committee report that all current officers agreed to run again and there were no nominations from the floor. John W8IDW moved and Dave N8NWV seconded that the present slate of officers be declared elected. The motion carried.

There was some discussion on Jane's N8MOW and Earl's KB8HRG wedding plans on October 4.

Restaurant permission was given to have entertainment at the Christmas party to be held at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant.

New business: The WCEC hamfest will be held at the Wood County 4-H campgrounds on October 11. Blaine WA8IOE announced that he still has lots of Art's W8PBO ham equipment for give away (not to be sold).

A question was raised as to do we want to have a picnic next year? It was a unanimous yes.

Dave N8NWV will be net control tomorrow night and Sam W8SPM will do it the following week from Spruce Knob if able. Darlene W8PAN will be backup for Sam. Earl KB8HRG and Randy Kinsolving WB8OHX will tweak the 146.97 repeater whenever they are able to find time together.

Thanks to Blaine WA8IOE for grilling the hamburgers and hot dogs.

Jim K8BOT moved and Tom N6RLN seconded to adjourn at 7:16 PM.

October 13, 2014

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant for the October meeting. Introductions were made by 24 members and guests.

The 50/50 drawing of \$21.00 was won by Jim Palmer K8BOT.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by president Jerry Wharton KA8NJW. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved and the treasurer's report was given by Jane N8MOW.

Unfinished business: The Christmas party was discussed. Jane N8MOW will get someone to sing.

New Business: Earl KB8HRG discussed antennas. Curt K8UC asked if anyone had Art W8PBO's new phone number since he moved. No one present knew it.

There being no further business, Jim K8BOT moved and Dave N8NWV seconded to adjourn at 7:20 PM.

November 10, 2014

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

Darrell Fouse W8DLF won the 50/50 drawing of \$10.50.

The meeting was called to order by president Jerry Wharton KA8NJW. The treasurer's report was given by Jane N8MOW.

The Christmas meeting was discussed. It will be at the regular time in December at the Western Sizzlin. Darlene W8PAN will do the table decorations.

Jerry Wharton KA8NJW talked about contesting.

Connie N8IO moved and Mike WD8MIQ seconded to adjourn. There were 12 in attendance.

December 8, 2014

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 PM by president Jerry Wharton KA8NJW.

Introductions were made by 31 members and guests. The 50/50 drawing of \$27.50 was won by Randy Sims KB8WHL. Randy donated the winning back to the club.

The minutes of the October and November meetings were read and approved. There was no treasurer's report.

Mary Malson (no call) helped Darlene W8PAN with setting up and decorating the tables. Thanks to all who helped in any way.

There was no business conducted, so Jep K8BOT moved and Dave N8NWV seconded to adjourn.

Gwynn Miles (no call) did an excellent job in leading us in singing Christmas carols and also entertaining and singing for us.

Jerry KA8NJW and Darlene W8PAN drew for door prizes.

January 12, 2015

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 PM by president Jerry Wharton KA8NJW. Introductions were made by 22 members and guests. The 50/50 drawing of \$10.50 was won by Lynn N8IIM.

A video had been planned to be shown, but the connector to the computer had been painted over and was not workable. Will try to show it next month.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given by Jane N8MOW.

There was no unfinished business. New Business: The 147.39 repeater has locked up possibly due to the cold weather and the power has been shut off until a service call can be made by Earl KB8HRG.

The 146.97 repeater is working well but could use a little tweeking.

Bob Lyons KB8EFB is moving and could use help this Saturday and Sunday.

The Nelsonville hamfest is this Sunday.

There being no further business, Jep K8BOT moved and Dave N8NWV seconded to adjourn at 7:17 PM.

High Peak Repeater Tower December 10th, 2013



Nuts and Volts Magazine Launches New Ham Radio Column by Ward Silver, N0AX

Well-known ARRL Contributing Editor Ward Silver, N0AX, has debuted a new column for Nuts and Volts magazine -- "The Ham's Wireless Workbench." Nuts and Volts is written for "the hands-on hobbyist, design engineer, technician, and experimenter," which describes a lot of radio amateurs.



Ward Silver, N0AX.

"The general idea is to open the door to ham radio for electronically inclined folks who either may not be aware of the hobby or who may find some of our technology interesting and/or useful," Silver said. "This is an excellent opportunity to provide outreach to the active and growing electronic 'maker' -- or do-it-yourselfer -- audience."

Every other month, Silver will cover a topic that showcases some aspect of Amateur Radio technology that is not typically covered by non-ham media. Such topics, he said,

would include such things as antennas, transmission lines, connectors, propagation, transmitters, and modulation -- areas not often discussed outside of QST and other ham radio publications. His first column in the January 2015 issue is an introduction to antennas -- specifically how to make a VHF/UHF ground plane for listening to NOAA weather stations. First, though, Silver acquainted his readers with ham radio and pointed out that several Nuts and Volts editorial staffers -- including the print and digital publication's editor, Bryan Bergeron, NU1N -- as well as contributors and many readers are radio amateurs.

Silver pointed to a new Amateur Radio Technology Portal he developed for the ARRL website that offers links to some of the technical facets of Amateur Radio, without requiring visitors to be familiar with ham radio terminology or jargon. He said he's already received several e-mails through the site.

+++++ Preparations Under Way for January DXpedition to Iran

Preparations continue on the part of the Rockall DX Group to make Iran -- #33 on ClubLog's DXCC Most Wanted List -- available through a DXpedition to Kish Island (IOTA AS-166). Look for EP6T beginning on January 16. While the emphasis will be on 160 meters, the DXpedition will operate on all bands, 160 through 10 meters. EP6T plans to remain active until January 26. Organizers say the theme of the expedition will be "friendship and cultural tolerance."

"We hope to make a lot of people happy," team member Luc Kerkhofs, ON4IA, said.

A dedicated 160 meter station will be on the air starting at local sunrise and sunset for the first two nights, in order to work as many Europeans as possible and to check when signals peak to North America. The planned transmitting antenna is a 26-meter (85.3 feet) vertical with 50 quarter-wave radials. Kerkhofs said the operators will attempt to be fair in giving all continents a crack at working Iran on 160. After that, the operators will concentrate on listening for North American stations, although they concede that paths to North America on Top Band will be dicey and of short duration.

Since word first spread of the planned DXpedition, many groups and individuals have offered support, including the Northern California DX Foundation. The organizers say that preparations are "progressing smoothly and according to plan." M0URX will be the QSL manager. The EP6T log will be uploaded to Logbook of The World (LoTW) once the DXpedition has concluded. \\\



Christmas photos from N8TYV

