



Di-Dah-Dit

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

Amateur Radio Parity Act Bill Unable to Overcome Florida Senator's Objections

The Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R. 1301, suffered an unbefitting demise on December 9 as the 114th Congress drew to a close. After passing the House of Representatives on a unanimous vote earlier this fall, the bill stalled in the Senate due to the intervention of only one member, Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL). The measure would have directed the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land-use restrictions, such as covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs) imposed by homeowners associations.



"

[During 2016] Nelson received thousands of e-mails, letters, and phone calls from concerned constituents asking for his support of H.R. 1301. Numerous meetings were held with his senior staff in an effort to move the legislation forward,"

ARRL said in a news release. "Negotiations, which led to an agreement with the Community Associations Institute (CAI), the national association of homeowner's associations and publicly supported by CAI and ARRL, were brushed aside by Sen. Nelson as irrelevant."

In a final meeting with Nelson's staff as the 114th Congress neared adjournment, it became clear that no matter what was said or done, the Senator would oppose the bill and refuse to allow it to move forward. Because the measure had not been put on the floor schedule, the only way it could have passed the Senate would have been through a process called "unanimous consent." A Senate member may request unanimous consent on the floor to set aside rules and expedite proceedings. If any single Senator objects, though, the request is rejected.

The unhappy ending followed nearly 2 years of intense effort on the part of ARRL and thousands of its members, who contacted their Congressional representatives to urge their support of the measure on Capitol Hill. The ARRL Board of Directors is expected to discuss the future of the initiative at its January meeting.

The Doctor Will See You Now!

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Minutes June 2016

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant for the June meeting. Before the meeting a video entitled "Voice of Victory" about Halli-crafters engineering and manufacturing radios for World War II was shown.

The meeting was called to order by vice president Earl Hulce KB8HRG at 6:55 PM. Introductions were made by 22 members and guests. The 50/50 drawing of \$16.50 was won by Blaine WA8IOE.

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

Unfinished business: Earl KB8HRG explained what the tone on the 146.97 repeater does and does not do. Mike WD8BTI will be the coordinator for field day this year. There was some discussion about what can be done to earn extra points. Blaine WA8IOE discussed the Field Day Saturday evening picnic details, and breakfast will be supplied for those staying overnight. There will be a planning meeting at the site Monday the 20th at 6 PM.

New business: Earl mentioned a new membership list will be published with those in dues arrears to be placed on the inactive list.

Steve Ayers KA8DFV went to the Athens hamfest and obtained several merchants catalogs from a 6 meter group. He handed them out to anyone wanting them.

Mike WD8BTI will be net control Monday night.

Bob KB8EFB moved and several seconded to adjourn at 7:30 PM.

Minutes July 2016

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant for the July meeting. Before the meeting a video "The World of Amateur Radio" was shown.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by vice president Earl Hulce KB8HRG. Introductions were made by 20 members and guests. The 50/50 drawing of \$11.50 was won by Dan WV8X.

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

Unfinished business: Mike WD8BTI gave a field day report. Earl KB8HRG reported that the 147.39 repeater may have been hit by lightning and he made the necessary repairs to get it back on the air. Also the floor of the repeater enclosure is rotting and needs repairs or replacement.

New business: For at least 10 years Blaine WA8IOE has stored an old club generator that would need some work to make it run. It is not needed by the club and possibly could be sold to a club member or to the public. Dan WV8X moved and Bob KB8EFB seconded to have Jerry KA8NJW list it on Facebook or Craig's List or EBay. The motion carried.

Darlene announced that the Marietta club, W8HH now has a Wednesday 9 PM round table net. It is on 146.88 with a PL of 91.5.

PARK net control on July 12th will be Earl KB8HRG and the 19th Darlene W8PAN.

Bob KB8EFB moved and Dan WV8X seconded to adjourn at 7:40PM.

August 8, 2016

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant for the August meeting. Before the meeting a video on how to make a one to one balun was shown.

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 PM by president Jerry Wharton KA8NJW. Introductions were made by 23 members and guests. The 50/50 drawing of \$15.00 was won by Bob KB8EFB.

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

Unfinished business: The old generator that was listed on Craig's List was sold for \$150. Dan WV8X has sent in the field report. Jerry KA8NJW gave a report on the Columbus hamfest. Several hams from the area went.

New business: A nominating committee has been appointed to select officer candidates for the next year. Members are Darlene W8PAN and Mary Wharton. An auditing committee has been appointed consisting of Libby KA8FUA and Jeannia N8JMD.

Darlene gave a report on Connie N8IO. She will be moving into an assisted living home soon.

Curt K8UC said Sam W8SPM will be net control tomorrow night. Also that Sam was scammed trying to buy a radio on the Internet.

Harold N8KO has talked to Art W8PBO and Millie N8GLB and they are doing well in Michigan.

Leslie Maull KB8ZSI is now SK.

Bob KB8EFB moved and Harold N8KO seconded to adjourn at 7:43 PM.

September 12, 2016

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by President Jerry Wharton KA8NJW. Introductions were made by 20 members and guests.

There was no 50/50 drawing. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved and in the absence of Jane N8MOW, the treasurer's report was given by Mary Wharton.

Unfinished business: Mary Wharton gave a report for the nominating committee. Recommended were President: Jerry Wharton KA8NJW
1st vice president: Earl Hulce KB8HRG
2nd vice president: Jim Palmer K8BOT
3rd vice president: Dave Wright N8NWV
Secretary: Libby Auville KA8FUA
Treasurer: Jane Hulce N8MOW
Dave N8NWV moved and Mike WD8BTI to elect the slate as submitted. Motion carried.

It was noted that the 1st vice president would take over the roster for assigning net control operators.

The auditing committee reported the books are in good order.

New business: Jerry KA8NJW read a card from Connecticut requesting donations of used radio equipment.

The Wood County Emergency Communications hamfest will be October 8th at Butcher Bend.

Darlene W8PAN mentioned that plans should be started for our Christmas meeting. Jane N8MOW will be asked to find entertainment.

Bob KB8EFB moved and Dave N8NWV seconded to adjourn at 7:14 PM.

October 10, 2016

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Jerry Wharton KA8NJW. Introductions were made by 20 members and guests.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report of \$6,255.58 was given by Jane N8MOW.

Blame WA8IOE won the 50/50 drawing and returned \$13.50 to the club. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Earl KB8HRG reported on the set up of the Net Control list. Anyone who cannot work their assigned night for net controller should contact another on the list or enlist someone to take over or call Earl KB8HRG.

Curt reported on the WCEC Hamfest at Butcher Bend. John W8IOW and Earl KB8HRG both did great.

Darlene W8PAN questioned what to do about the club tip when the treasurer was not present. It was suggested that one person pay the \$10 and be compensated by the treasurer.

For the Christmas meeting, Jane N8MOW will get the entertainment, Darlene will do the table decorations, and outside entertainers will be given a \$25 donation.

NEW BUSINESS

Glenn K8PSK requested his name be removed from the Net Control List and the Membership List.

Dave WD8CYV renewed the repeater allocation of the 3 9 machine.

Blame moved and Libby KA8FUA seconded "When a member of the club dies, have the treasurer and secretary send a donation to the ARRL Education & Technology Program in memory of the deceased." After discussion the motion was amended to read "When a member of the club dies, have the treasurer and secretary send a donation to the ARRL Education & Technology Program in memory of the deceased and also send a floral arrangement of equal value to the family of the deceased." Motion carried.

Bob KB8EFB and Dave N8TWV seconded to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Libby KAS-FUA, secretary

November 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6.55pm. by President Jerry Wharton

There were 20 members in attendance who introduced themselves.

The Treasurer's report was read: balance was \$6255.58 plus \$17.00 from the raffle for a total of 6272.58

Unfinished business

Thee Christmas dinner will be Dec. 12th. At Western sizzeln at 6:00pm. Jane has arranged for a barbershop quartet to provide entertainment. It was moved by Bob L and seconded by Debbie that we give them \$50.00. Motion passed

We will give them \$50.00 to help say thanks for coming.

New Business

Discussion was held about a new proposed repeater in the area with an input at 146.355 – which is close to us at 146.370. Our repeater in coordinated in Ohio, This one would be in WV. Jerry W. said he would look into it and get back to the group.

Net control this Tuesday will be Darlene.

It was moved to Adjourn by Bob L. and seconded by Earl H. at 7.25pm.



Commemorative Special Event Reenacts 1921 Amateur Radio Transatlantic Reception

Radio amateurs in the US and in Scotland have reenacted the first successful transatlantic reception of a shortwave Amateur Radio signal nearly a century earlier. Special event station N1BCG in Greenwich, Connecticut, and GB2ZE in Ardrossan, Scotland, completed contacts on SSB and on CW during the December 11 event. ARRL, the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), and the Radio Club of America (RCA) partnered to support the activity, organized by ARRL CEO Tom Gallagher, NY2RF, and Clark Burgard, N1BCG, who loaned his history-rich call sign for the occasion. On December 11, 1921, in Ardrossan, Scotland, reception of a radio signal transmitted from an RCA test station — located in a small shack on the Greenwich, Connecticut, property of Minton Cronkhite, 1BCG — helped to usher in the age of global communication. In Scotland, American Paul Godley, 2ZE, clearly heard the signal using a receiver of his own design.

“These events are fun, because they’re timely, cause us to focus on the history and on the people who made history,” Gallagher said. “We were very pleased with the tenor of it and with the media coverage, and we were happy to make the connection with GB2ZE, although we would have preferred to have made it on 160 meters, where it would have been closer to the frequency used in 1921.” The 1921 transatlantic test, on CW, was conducted on a wavelength of 230 to 235 meters (about 1.3 MHz). The transatlantic tests proved the value of the shorter wavelengths — long considered worthless to long-distance communication.

Burgard spoke on 20-meter SSB with GB2ZE, operated by Jason

O’Neill, GM7VSB, in Ardrossan. A bit later, ARRL Field Services Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, chatted with GB2ZE on CW. “After working GB2ZE on 20 meters, I was reminded of how much of a challenge the RCA ops had using 200 meters,” Patton said. “Hearing signals in Europe from across the Atlantic had to be a tremendous thrill for Godley and the others listening.”

The first message sent by Burgard from Greenwich to Ardrossan on Sunday morning repeated the original 1921 text: “252 AM No. 1 de 1BCG w-12, New York Date 11/12-21 [GMT] To Paul Godley, Ardrossan Scotland, Hearty congratulations Burghard Inman Grianan Armstrong Amy Cronkhite.” Patton repeated the message 30 minutes later on CW.

Describing the special event as “a rewarding experience,” Patton said the entire team worked together to build a Field Day-style station in wintry weather. He said the complement of equipment included a few “fully-armed vintage AM stations,” as well as such modern radios as a FlexRadio 6500 and an Icom 7700. Among the older pieces was a 1950s-era transmitter owned by rocker Joe Walsh, WB6ACU, of The Eagles. The antennas were simple dipoles.

“In about 9 hours of operating, we logged nearly 525 QSOs, with 106 on AM on 40 and 75 meters through conditions that were only fair,” Patton recounted.

About a dozen operators sat down to operate the Special Event station, set up near the site of the 1921 1BCG transmitting station. The special event drew the attention of news media, especially on the Scot-

tish end of things, with BBC-Scotland producing reports on the Amateur Radio event.

To highlight the historical nature of the occasion, Godley's grandchildren Bruce Godley Littlefield and his sister, Janice Taylor, visited the special event, and Littlefield brought his grandfather's complete log books of the experiment, as well as numerous photos and letters from ARRL.

"We enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect the Godley history with that of ARRL and the Radio Club of America," Littlefield said afterward.

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ARISS Celebrates 20th Anniversary, Plans for Future of Amateur Radio in Human Spaceflight

ARISS-International delegates met November 15-18 at the International Space Center Conference Facility in Houston, Texas, to celebrate 20 years of Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) and to continue planning for the years ahead. More than 50 delegates and guests from Russia, Japan, Italy, Germany, the UK, and North America took part, and teleconferencing let individuals unable to attend in person to join the proceedings. Special guests at the conference included Astronauts Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, and Ken Cameron, KB5AWP, and Cosmonaut Aleksandr Poleshchuk, RV3DP. An international group interested in installing and operating an Amateur Radio station on the ISS first met in November 1996 at Johnson Space Center, and ARISS was born as a result of that gathering.

"The international partners celebrated the dedication and contributions of volunteers who have sustained it over the challenges of the past 20 years," said ARRL Education Services Manager Debra Johnson,

K1DMJ, who attended on behalf of ARRL. "It was clear that the vision to make the excitement of space exploration accessible to students and the challenge of participating in space activities through Amateur Radio is still very much alive." Rosalie White, K1STO, also represented ARRL at the gathering.

The meeting agenda was divided into three categories — Hardware Development, Education, and Sustainability and Funding, with concurrent sessions in two categories. Plenary sessions attended by the entire ARISS team offered opportunities to discuss broader topics. Hardware sessions discussed finalizing designs for the Kenwood TM-D710GA dual-band radio and interoperable radio system, which includes a new power supply for the ISS.



Participants also heard a review of educational outcomes, with reports from each ARISS region. As part of the US report, Ronny Risinger, KC5EES — a government teacher at Language Arts and Sciences Academy in Austin, Texas — discussed classroom integration of ham radio and outcomes among students. Delegates also saw a demonstration of a standardized HamTV ground receiver constructed by Ciaran Morgan, M0XTD, of the ARISS-UK team. Ten units will soon be available for sale. Morgan

also discussed a concept for an ARISS Raspberry Pi computer, which would be used to create new educational applications for students utilizing radio. Attendees also heard a review by aerospace engineering company JAMSS America Inc., outlining opportunities to collaborate on a new antenna for the ISS Columbus module. The current ARISS antenna on the ISS Columbus module will be removed in late 2017 or early 2018, necessitated by an update of the Automatic Identification System (AIS) antenna.

ARRIS benefactors, such as the Space Communications and Navigation Office at NASA-JSC; the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS), represented by Dan Barstow, KA1ARD; and JVC Kenwood, represented by Phil Parton, N4DRO, and engineer, Shin Aota, JL1IBD, also participated in meetings in person and online. Parton announced plans to include a donation offer that would benefit ARISS program with an ad in QST for its new HT.

"A vision of Amateur Radio in space exploration beyond the ISS was also discussed and action taken to develop a position statement about the program's intention to be involved in future journeys into space," Johnson recounted. "This position statement will be used as a basis for discussions with key industry leaders involved in projects in development for the next journeys to the Moon and to Mars."

ARRL-designed certificates were presented to 20-year volunteers, including ARISS founders — many still on the team — as well as 15- and 10-year volunteers.

More information and photos from the ARISS-International meeting are on the ARISS Facebook page.

The next ARISS-International Face-to-Face Meeting is set for September 2017.

Contributions to ARISS also are welcome via the ARISS website (click on the "Donate to the ARISS Annual Fund" button) or via the AMSAT website (click on the "ARRIS Donate" button). — Thanks to ARISS via AMSAT News Service for some information

Ring in the New Year with Straight Key Night:

Every day is a good day to operate on CW, but set some time aside on New Year's Eve and Day to enjoy Straight Key Night (SKN). The annual event begins at 0000 UTC on January 1, 2017 (New Year's Eve in US time zones). The 24-hour event is not a contest, but a day dedicated to celebrating Amateur Radio's CW heritage. Participants are encouraged to get on the air and simply enjoy conversational CW contacts, preferably using a straight (hand) key or a semi-automatic key (bug). Activity traditionally centers on CW segments in the HF bands. There are no points or obligatory exchange. The only requirement is to have fun! Send a SKN list of stations worked and your vote for "Best Fist" and "Most Interesting QSO" by January 31.

