



# Di-Dah-Dit

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

## Amateur Radio Parity Act Gets Favorable Subcommittee Report

On a February 11 voice vote, the US House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology sent the Amateur Radio Parity Act, H.R. 1301, to the full House Energy and Commerce Committee with a favorable report for further consideration. The measure was among three bills the Subcommittee considered during a February 11 "markup" session. The Subcommittee is chaired by Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR).

Kinzinger (R-IL) made impassioned statements in favor of the legislation. Kinzinger said that while he can appreciate some of the concerns expressed by those who do not agree with his bill, he believes that the time has come to adopt a "reasonable accommodation standard" with respect to the erection of outdoor antennas in neighborhoods governed by private land-use restrictions.

H.R. 1301 would direct the FCC to extend its rules relating to reasonable accommodation of Amateur Service communications to private land-use restrictions, such as deed covenants, conditions, and restrictions. The bill has attracted 120 cosponsors from both sides of the aisle. An identical US Senate measure, S. 1685, has attracted three cosponsors. It cleared the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation last November.

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### FCC Seeks Comments on Petition to Grant Lifetime Amateur Radio Licenses

(H.R. 1301 sponsor Rep Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) at the February 11 subcommittee hearing.)

"I'm optimistic that we can put the finishing touches on these bills in the weeks ahead and once again produce important, bipartisan legislation that protects consumers, small businesses, and access to the latest communications services," Walden said after the hearing.

During the markup session, Walden and the bill's sponsor, Rep Adam

Walden agreed. "You don't necessarily need to have a giant tower blocking everybody's view," he pointed out to the Subcommittee. He suggested that more modest antenna systems often are sufficient. He and Kinzinger noted that there is common ground between proponents and opponents of the measure and that "it's important to get this done." Rep Anna Eshoo (D-CA) also spoke to recognize the work all parties have been doing to ensure the bill's passage in the House.

The FCC is seeking comments on a Petition for Rule Making (RM 11760) that asks the FCC to grant lifetime Amateur Radio licenses. Mark F. Krotz, N7MK, of Mesa, Arizona, filed his request with the FCC last November. He wants the FCC to revise § 97.25 of its rules to indicate that Amateur Radio licenses are granted for the holder's lifetime, instead of for the current 10-year term. Krotz noted that the General Radiotelephone Operator License (GROL) already is issued on a lifetime basis, and he maintained that not having to renew licenses would lighten the FCC's workload.

"It would be mutually beneficial for the FCC and Amateur Radio operators to update Part 97 to grant operator licenses for lifetime," Krotz said in his filing. "The FCC would benefit by reducing administrative costs."



In 2014, the FCC granted lifetime credit for examination elements 3 and 4, but applicants seeking relicensing under that provision still must pass examination element 2.

Individuals may submit comments via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS)

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### **New Amateur Extra Question Pool Puts Greater Emphasis on Digital, SDRs, Propagation**

02/17/2016

The new Amateur Extra class license examination question pool, effective from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2020, now is available at the National Conference of Volunteer Coordinators (NCVEC) website. The latest revision contains a few minor corrections that had been released in a February 5 errata of the initial January 8 release. NCVEC Question Pool Committee Chair Rol Anders, K3RA, said the new pool represents a fairly significant change relative to the current question pool, which expires on June 30.

"The primary change is modernization of the pool to place more emphasis on digital communications, digital test equipment, software defined radios, and propagation/space weather," he said. "Also, a number

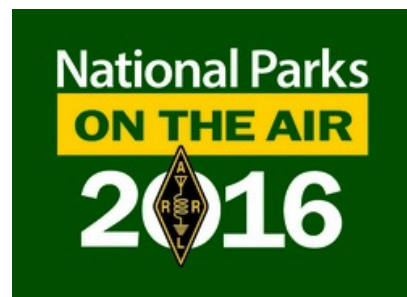
of other topics were added, including questions on some additional antenna types commonly used by radio amateurs." Anders said that room to cover the new topics was made in the question pool by dropping some questions that had been in the expiring pool.

"Many of the questions removed were on topics which were felt to be of less importance to the current amateur population," he said.

"However, there was also some 'evening out' of difficulty in the removal of a number of questions felt to be inappropriately easy or difficult relative to the rest of the pool." As a result, he said, the net number of questions grew from 700 to 712 questions.

All questions in the expiring pool were re-evaluated for possible clarification or improvement, and approximately 60 questions were slightly modified.

"All in all, the Question Pool Committee has worked to keep the Amateur Extra class exam up to date, to provide a high-quality examination, and to ensure that the incoming Extra class amateurs are well-qualified to be leaders in the hobby," Anders said.



### **National Parks on the Air Update**

Since the creation of the Manhattan Project National Historic Site by the National Park Service (NPS) in mid-November 2015, activating one of the three sites comprising this unit has been impossible, in large part because gaining access to active Department of Energy sites is exceptionally difficult. The only site of the three with any hope of regular public access is Oak Ridge, Tennessee. On February 24, NPOTA administrators decided that any location within the boundaries of the Oak Ridge Reservation, as outlined on the NPS Manhattan Project website, will count for NPOTA credit. Activators must be sure not to transmit from private property without prior approval.

There are 35 activations on the NPOTA Activations Calendar between February 25 and March 2, including Petroglyph National Monument in New Mexico, and Moore's Creek National Battlefield in North Carolina -- as part of the 240th anniversary celebration of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge during the Revolutionary War.

Details about these and other upcoming activations can be found on the NPOTA Activations calendar.

Keep up with the latest NPOTA news on Facebook. Follow NPOTA on Twitter (@ARRL\_NPOTA).

## PARK Minutes

### October 12, 2015

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

Before the meeting, a video was shown of the history of radio broadcasting.

President Jerry Wharton KA8NJW called to meeting to order at 7 PM. Introductions were made by 20 members and guests.

The 50/50 drawing of \$13 was won by Darrell W8DLF.

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

Unfinished business: The books have been audited and everything is in order. Most of the items donated from the K8EL estate were sold at the WCEC hamfest, bringing a total of \$184. The two Halli-crafters radios will be taken to Universal Radio in Columbus for evaluation and sale.

New business: The 147.390 repeater went off the air and Earl KB8HRG replaced it with the spare radio. He has not had time to investigate the problem and make repairs yet.

Jane N8MOW will get the entertainment for the Christmas meeting. Curt K8UC moved and Jeff N8WQO seconded to pay \$25 to the entertainer. The motion carried.

Jep K8BOT moved and Dave N8NWV seconded to adjourn at 7:18 PM.

### November 9, 2015

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

Before the meeting, videos were shown on "How to Attach a PL259 Connector" and "How to Work Split".

President Jerry Wharton KA8NJW opened the meeting at 7 PM. Introductions were made by 21 members and guests.

The 50/50 drawing of \$13 was won by Brenda Beverlin (no call).

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

Unfinished business: The Hallicrafters radios were sold to Universal Radio for \$600

making a total of \$784 from the K8EL estate donation.

Mary Wharton (no call) wrote a thank you letter and Jerry KA8NJW sent it to (SK) Eugene Lee's (K8EL) widow.

Earl KB8HRG reported that he has not yet diagnosed or repaired the 147.390 repeater. It is working okay with the back up radio.

The annual Christmas party will be on December 14 at Western Sizzlin. Darlene W8PAN will do the table decorations. Jane N8MOW has not yet found a singer for entertainment.

New business: John W8IDW will be net control tomorrow evening. There was some discussion on working split. Jep K8BOT moved and Dave N8NWV seconded to adjourn at 7:18 PM.

### December 14, 2015

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant for the annual Christmas party.

April MacIver entertained us by singing and leading us in singing Christmas carols.

President Jerry Wharton KA8NJW opened the meeting at 7:22 PM. Introductions were made by 24 members and guests.

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

There was no 50/50 drawing and no business conducted.

Thanks to Darlene W8PAN for decorating the tables and the many door prizes. And others who helped in any way.

The meeting/party concluded at 7:46 PM.

### January 11, 2016

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

Before the meeting Dave WD8CYV discussed and showed a video of "Near Vertical Incident Skywave".

The meeting was opened at 7:14 PM by president Jerry Wharton KA8NJW. Introductions were made by 21 members and guests.

The 50/50 drawing of \$12 was won by Brenda (no call).

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

Unfinished business: Earl KB8HRG has been working on the 147.390 repeater but has not found the problem yet.

New business: Jerry KA8NJW and Earl KB8HRG will help a New Matamoras OH widow put a value on her deceased husband's ham equipment.

Needed – someone to head up field day activities this year, and ideas for February, March and April programs.

Jerry KA8NJW helped Dave WD8CYV put up a military surplus antenna mast.

Ernie W8RWS showed an emergency flare for vehicles. It has a magnetic mount and operates in several different modes.

Jep K8BOT made a motion to adjourn at 7:31 PM.

### February 8, 2016

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at the Western

Sizzlin Restaurant for the February meeting.

Before the meeting, several YouTube ham radio videos were shown and also some pictures of old Parkersburg.

President Jerry Wharton KA8NJW opened the meeting at 7:18 PM. Introductions were made by 17 members and guests. The 50/50 drawing of \$7.50 was won by John W8IDW.

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

Earl KB8HRG, Jane N8MOW and Jep K8BOT went to New Matamoras OH to look at and value the ham equipment of SK John Knowles. They used average prices from eBay.

Curt asked Mike WD8BTI to be net control Tuesday.

Jep K8BOT moved and Dave N8NWV seconded to adjourn at 7:33 PM.

Attendance was low due to a snow storm.

## ARRL 2016 Field Day Packet Now Available, New Bonus Point Categories Announced

It's not too early to be thinking about Field Day 2016 and planning your club's strategy for a bigger score and greater participation than last year. Field Day is June 25-26 -- always the 4th full weekend in June -- and the 2016 ARRL Field Day Packet now is available to download as a PDF file. This year's Field Day introduces two new ways to score bonus points -- Social Media and Safety Officer.

Rule 7.3.16 Social Media offers 100 bonus points for promoting your Field Day activation to the general public via an active, recognized, and utilized social media platform, such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram. This bonus is available to bona fide Amateur Radio clubs and Field Day groups that welcome visitors to their operations. These bonus points are not available to individual participants, and club websites do not qualify as social media for this bonus. The bonus points are available to all Field Day entry classes meeting the criteria.

Rule 7.3.17 Safety Officer offers 100 bonus points by designating someone to serve as a Safety Officer for groups setting up Class A stations. This person must verify that all safety concerns on the Safety Check List -- found in the ARRL Field Day Packet -- have been adequately met. This is an active bonus. Simply designating someone as Safety Officer does not automatically earn the bonus points. In order to claim this bonus, participants must include a statement verifying the completion of the Safety Check List in the supporting documentation sent to ARRL Headquarters.

Last year, 2720 stations submitted ARRL Field Day entries. Nearly 1.3 million contacts were logged during FD 2015 -- an increase of just over 1 percent. Nearly 35,400 individuals took part in Field Day last year.



The 2016 ARRL Field Day logo makes a connection to the League's year-long National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) operating event. NPOTA celebrates the centennial of the National Park Service (NPS).

The design's featured hiking boot footprint anticipates that many 2016 Field Day groups and individual operators may want to combine FD and NPOTA, setting up at national parks, historic sites, or at any of the hundreds of official National Park Service units throughout the US. Pick your park, get the okay from park officials, get out and get on the air, and leave nothing but footprints!

Follow Field Day on Facebook and Twitter (hashtag #ARRLFD). Share your plans, tips, and tricks for a successful Field Day!

For more information about Field Day 2016, contact ARRL Headquarters.

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## ARRL Signs New Memorandum of Understanding with the American Red Cross

The document, signed in January, succeeds one agreed to in 2010; it will remain in place for the next 5 years. The MoU spells out how League Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) volunteers will interface with the Red Cross in the event that ARES teams are asked by the Red Cross to assist in a disaster or emergency response.



"Whenever there is a disaster requiring the use of Amateur Radio communications resources and/or facilities, the local Red Cross region or chapter may request the assistance of the local ARES organization responsible for the jurisdiction of the scene of the disaster,"

the *MoU* provides. Such assistance would include mobilization of ARES personnel in accordance with a prearranged plan, and the establishment of communication as necessary during a disaster or emergency. "Both ARRL volunteers and American Red Cross workers will work cooperatively at the scene of a disaster and in the disaster recovery, within the scope of their respective roles and duties" within the scope of the *MoU*, the agreement says.



Generally, the *MoU* sets the parameters of the partnership between the ARRL ities affected by disasters. It calls upon both organizations to encourage and maintain open lines of communication at the state and local levels, sharing current data regarding disasters, situational and operational reports, changes in policy or personnel, and any information pertaining to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

For its part, the League will encourage ARES units to engage in discussions with local Red Cross entities to develop plans for local response or disaster relief operations. The Red Cross will encourage its field units to engage in discussions with the ARRL Field Organization to develop plans for local response or disaster relief.

Facilitating this is a *Statement of Cooperation* to provide methods of cooperation between the two organizations on the local level in providing services to communities during or after a disaster event, "as well as other services for which cooperation may be mutually beneficial." The ARRL signatory is either the appropriate ARRL Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator.

The new *MoU* also clarifies that ARES volunteers assisting the Red Cross but not registered as Red Cross volunteers do not have to undergo a prior background check. Radio amateurs who register as Red Cross volunteers, though, must abide by the Red Cross's background check requirement.

Then-ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, signed the *MoU* on behalf of the League on January 7, while ARC Senior Vice President-Disaster Cycle Services Richard Reed,

signed for the American Red Cross on January 22.





