



Di-Dah-Dit

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

Amateur Radio Applications in Limbo as Partial Shutdown Continues

The FCC is not processing any Amateur Radio applications as the partial government shutdown approaches its fourth week. The FCC suspended "most operations" at mid-day on Thursday, January 3, although an appearance of activity continues. For radio amateurs, the shutdown means that, while the Universal Licensing System (ULS) continues to accept applications for all valid purposes, the FCC will not review or act upon them until the funding stalemate is resolved. This includes Volunteer Examiner Coordinator test session batch files as well as modification, renewal, and vanity call sign applications filed by individual licensees. Amateur Radio newcomers who have passed the required examinations will have to wait until the shutdown concludes to receive a call sign and authorization to operate. License upgrades are also on hold.



"Due to a lapse in funding, the operations of the Federal Communications Commission will be limited with no system support. We regret any inconvenience," the FCC says on the ULS home page. This means very limited human intervention while the shutdown continues, and if a system breaks down, it will not be repaired until after employees are back on the payroll. At this point, 262 of 1,437 FCC employ-

ees (excepting contractors) remain on the job, as are FCC Commissioners. The Antideficiency Act prohibits FCC and other federal employees from working until funds are available to pay them; they may not even volunteer, check their email, or attend meetings. While the law doesn't directly affect FCC automated filing databases, some of these cannot operate without regular human intervention.

The Commission has emphasized that it will undertake any activities necessary for the protection of life and property during the funding lapse. That includes the High Frequency Direction Finding (HFDF) Center in Maryland, considered essential.

The FCC website remains up, and the FCC Daily Digest of its activity continues to be posted, but the website is not being updated, and the only items it contains are those related to spectrum auctions, activity that is funded through auction proceeds, not government funds. The Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) will also accept posts, but filings will not be reviewed or processed until after normal operations return.

The FCC spelled out the overall impact of the funding lapse in a January 2 Public Notice. Using available funds, the agency was able to maintain a business-as-usual posture until that date. The FCC released an updated Plan for Orderly Shutdown Due to Lapse of Congressional Appropriations on January 9. The resumption of normal opera-

tions will also be announced on the FCC's website.

The Doctor Will See You Now!

"Log Periodic Antennas" is the topic of the current (January 3) episode of the "ARRL The Doctor is In" podcast. Listen...and learn!

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Historic Schooner that Carried Ham Radio on Arctic Expeditions Undergoing Additional Restoration

The nearly century-old schooner Bowdoin, built in 1921 and relaunched nearly 3 years ago, after some extensive renovation and refitting, is once again in dry dock to restore its hull. During explorer Donald B. MacMillan's Arctic Expedition of 1923 and on the MacMillan-McDonald-Byrd Expedition of 1925, the sailing vessel relied on Amateur Radio operators for communication. Built in East Boothbay, Maine, the Bowdoin has made more than two dozen visits to the Arctic under MacMillan's command. It was named after MacMillan's alma mater, Bowdoin College, and has become the official vessel of the state of Maine, a national historic landmark, and the flagship of the Maine Maritime Academy (MMA) Vessel Operations and Technology Program. Work on the vessel is currently under way at Boothbay Harbor.



At Wiscasset, Maine, with the schooner Bowdoin, ARRL sponsors check out the receiver furnished by Zenith for the 1923 Arctic Expedition. From left to right: F.H. Schnell, IMO, Traffic Manager; K.B. Warner, 9JT, Secretary-Manager, and Hiram Percy Maxim, 1AW, ARRL President.

"Our goal is to maintain the boat to the highest standard, to go above and beyond in order to preserve this living piece of history," MMA Marine Operations Manager Dana Willis

said in a December media release. One such preservation update has been supplementing Bowdoin's sails with a diesel engine.

In 1923, MacMillan had turned to ARRL for help in outfitting his expedition with better wireless gear, and, as Michael Marinaro, WN1M, explained in his June 2014 QST article, "Polar Exploration," that help "was enthusiastically provided." ARRL Co-Founder Hiram Percy Maxim and the ARRL Board agreed to furnish support and recruited Donald H. Mix, 1TS, of Bristol, Connecticut, to serve as the shipboard operator. Board member M.B. West custom-designed the equipment, which was built by radio amateurs at his firm, Zenith Electronics. The transmitter operated on medium-wave frequencies with a power of 100 W and used the call sign WNP -- for "Wireless North Pole."



The Bowdoin is launched from Wiscasset, Maine, for the 1923 MacMillan Arctic Expedition.

As Marinaro explained in his article, "WNP transmitted weekly 500-word press releases and listings of stations worked and heard. Once received by amateur stations, these reports were delivered to local affiliated newspapers of the North American Newspaper Alliance;

from there, they were distributed syndicate-wide by telegraph."

In 1925, the Bowdoin headed to Greenland. "The outstanding accomplishment of the expedition was in the sphere of radio," Marinaro wrote. "Utilizing shortwaves, the expedition was in consistent contact with the outside world throughout the journey, to the delight of the amateurs who were able to work them. The phenomenal success proved to the Navy that shortwaves were definitely superior to the long and ultra-long waves on which the fleets had been relying."

The Bowdoin is expected to be seaworthy again for the summer sailing season, when it will serve once again in MMA sail training courses. -- Thanks to Maine Maritime Academy

The latest General-class Question Pool,

The latest General-class Question Pool, effective July 1, has been released. The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee has released the 2019 - 2023 FCC Element 3 General Class Question Pool into the public domain.



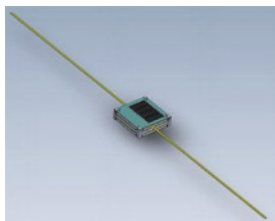
The 2019 - 2023 General Class (Element 3) Question Pool is available in Word, ASCII text, and PDF versions. The new Question Pool is effective for Element 3 exams

administered on or after July 1, 2019. On January 6, the Question Pool Committee also released a revised diagram Figure G7-1 (PDF) (JPG), as part of the new Element 3 Question Pool. -- Thanks to NCVEC Question Pool Committee

FCC Reaches \$900,000 Settlement in Unauthorized Satellite Launch Case

The FCC has settled an investigation into an alleged unauthorized launch and operation of small satellites by Swarm Technologies. The company agreed to a Consent Decree that included a \$900,000 penalty, an extended period of FCC oversight, and a requirement of pre-launch notices to the FCC, among other stipulations.

"We will aggressively enforce the FCC's requirements that companies seek FCC authorization prior to deploying and operating communications satellites and earth stations," FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief Rosemary Harold said. "These important obligations protect other operators against radio interference and collisions, making space a safer place to operate."



In April 2017, Swarm applied for an Experimental license to deploy and operate two

Earth stations and four tiny 0.25 U CubeSats called SpaceBEEs. The FCC denied Swarm's application in December 2017 over concerns about the ability to track the satellites. Swarm nevertheless launched the satellites on January 12, 2018, on a vehicle that also carried an Amateur Radio satellite into space. After reports of the unauthorized SpaceBEEs launch surfaced, the FCC launched an investigation last March.

The FCC determined that Swarm had launched the four SpaceBEEs from India and had unlawfully

transmitted signals between Earth stations in Georgia and the satellites for more than a week. In addition, the FCC discovered that Swarm had also performed unauthorized weather balloon-to-ground station tests and other unauthorized equipment tests prior to the launch. All these activities required FCC authorization.



The December resolution requires Swarm to pay a penalty of \$900,000 to the US Treasury and to submit pre-launch reports to the FCC for the next 3 years. The FCC said Swarm has committed to a strict compliance plan to prevent future FCC rule violations.

The FCC issued an Enforcement Advisory last April to remind satellite operators that they must obtain FCC authorization for space station and Earth station operations. The advisory cautioned satellite operators and launch companies against proceeding with launch arrangements following a license denial or prior to receiving an FCC authorization. -- FCC Media Release

FEMA NEWS

FEMA Region 10 will conduct monthly communications exercises (COMMEX) on the third Wednesday of each month, starting on January 16, 1730 - 1900 UTC. Amateur Radio operators are invit-

ed to take part. The intent of these exercises is to test and exercise interoperable communication (federal/state/local/tribal/Amateur Radio) during a major disaster in which the communication infrastructure is significantly damaged or destroyed.



FEMA Region 10 will use the call sign WGY910. Other stations associated with agencies and organizations that provide response support in accordance with the National Response Framework are encouraged to participate. The COMMEX will use these "dial" or "window" frequencies on 60 meters -- including 5,330.5 kHz, 5,346.5 kHz, 5,357.0 kHz, 5,371.5 kHz, and 5,403.5 kHz -- as part of the exercise. The area of operation is the continental US.



Cartoon via QRZ NOW, Thanks

Minutes September 10, 2018

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 pm by President Jerry Wharton KA8NJW.

Introductions were made by 29 members and guests.

The 50/50 drawing of \$22.50 was won by Joanna Malson (nocall).

The minutes of the August meeting were read and accepted. No treasurers report was given due to absence of treasurer Jane Hulce N8MOW. Jerry reported no transactions of funds had occurred since the previous report – prior balance carry's over.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Jerry presented re-written language for section 4 of the Klub bylaws to permit deference of dues until the next dues period. Revision passed by voice vote of members present.

NEW BUSINESS:

A list of donated radio equipment by Wayne Biss W8DEU, was discussed. List with pics has been uploaded to Klub web page and is available by email. Any items not purchased by Klub members will be listed for sale on EBay by Jerry KA8NJW. Jerry proposed that Kenwood TS-140s multi band / mode HF transceiver, part of the donated equipment, be retained by the Klub for loan to a newly licensed Klub member. Motion by Harold N8KO, second by Libby KA8FUA approved by voice vote. The slate of current Klub officers was proposed to continue for the next serving period. In the absence of any voice nominations, membership present approved by voice vote.

Volcano days special event operation will be conducted on Saturday, September 29 from 10 am > 6 pm

on 20 / 40 m. QST published an incorrect date.

The curtain divider in the meeting room has been removed. This prevented our meeting from being separated from a birthday party which was taking place in the rear half of the room.

Jerry reported that asst manager believes prices are being gathered for possible replacement installation. If not replaced, the Klub will make a decision regarding a new location for our monthly meeting.

Bob KB8EFB made a motion with Jeff N8WQO second to adjourn at 7:22 pm.

Minutes recorded by John W8IDW, secretary.

Minutes October 8, 2018

The Parkersburg Amateur radio Klub met at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant for the October Meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by President Jerry Wharton KA8NJW.

Introductions were made by 29 members and guests.

The 50/50 drawing of \$20.00 was won by Tom N6RLN.

The minutes of the September meeting were read and accepted with correction of previous 50/50 winner.

Treasurers report was given by Jane N8MOW. \$50 church donation was made and proceeds from sale of donated equipment were collected.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A meeting of the 'executive board' was held to discuss disposition of the donated Kenwood TS-140s.

September meeting decision for the Klub to retain this radio for loan to a new member as a starter radio was rescinded due to potential issues with return of equipment.

Radio was sold to Conard KE8HLU which will enable him to begin HF operation.

An email inquiry from Guam, was received after seeing the list of donated equipment on the Klub web page.

Item in question was retained by the Klub for use.

Volcano Days special event operation was conducted – 84 contacts were completed on 40 meters only due to band conditions. Requests for QSL confirmation are currently incoming. Klub anticipates operating again in 2019.

Relocation of meeting site due to removal of room divider was discussed. Tabled further action after wait staff informed Klub that dividers were on order.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Harold N8KO, second by Mike WD8BTI for the Klub to purchase a "Jin Pole" to be used when elevated tower work is being done. Some research will be done on equipment and cost for report at November meeting.

Kurt K8UC asked about Christmas Party plans for this year.

December meeting date is 12/10.

Darlene agreed to decorate, Jane agreed to locate entertainment.

N8NBL license renewal reminder was received from ARRL for 1/6/2019 due date. Trustee John W8IDW will determine on-line renewal procedure for club licensing.

Bob KB8EFB made a motion with Earl KB8HRG second to adjourn at 7:32 pm.

Minutes recorded by John W8IDW, secretary

List of attendees recorded

PARK Minutes November 12, 2018

Meeting was called to order by President Jerry Wharton KA8NJW at 7 PM

Members and guest present were 18

No 50/50 drawing this month.. Minutes were read and approved from the October meeting.

Treasures report was read by Jerry Wharton and approved. Opening = \$5,986 closing = \$6,154 (Dues, Raffle, equipment sale)

Unfinished business
Genpole was still being researched.

The Christmas party dinner will be December 10 at the Western Sizzlin. Darlene will be doing the table decorations. She asks that you not come in until the room is finished being decorated

Volcano days was a success 18 responses for QSL cards.

New business:
Net controller for this week is Ray Johnson, Connor will do it if Ray cannot.

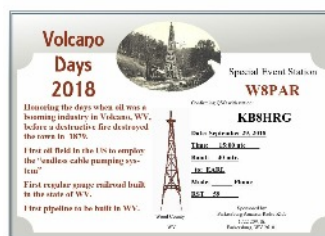
Announcements
Steve Bodge will be at Shoney's This Thursday at 10:30 with the presentation on fraud affecting seniors. This is a retired school employees function but everyone is welcome.

Bob KB8EFB moved and Debbie KA8ZLB seconded adjournment at 7:25 PM

PARK December Minutes

No Minutes were taken due to the Christmas Dinner/Party.

Thanks to all who helped make it a success!



Some Volcano Days pics.



ARRL Petitions FCC to Incorporate Parity Act Provisions into its Amateur Radio Rules

The ARRL has filed a Petition for Rulemaking (PRM) asking the FCC to amend its Part 97 Amateur Service rules to incorporate the provisions of the Amateur Radio Parity Act. The Petition has not yet been assigned a rule making (RM) number and is not yet open for public comment. In the past, the FCC has said that it would not take such action without guidance from the US Congress, but, as ARRL's Petition notes, the Congress "has overwhelmingly and consistently" offered bipartisan support for the Amateur Radio Parity Act.



"Private land use regulations which either prohibit or which do not accommodate the installation

and maintenance of an effective outdoor antenna in residences of Amateur Service licensees are unquestionably the most significant and damaging impediments to Amateur Radio Service communications that exist now," ARRL said in its Petition. "They are already precluding opportunities for young people to become active in the avocation and to conduct technical self-training and participate in STEM [science, technology, engineering, and mathematics] learning activities inherent in an active, experiential learning environment. Without the relief in this Petition, the future of Amateur Radio is bleak indeed." The proposed amendments would have no effect on the FCC's limited preemption policy in §97.15(b), which pertains to state and municipal governing bodies, ARRL said.

Specifically, ARRL is proposing that the FCC amend Part 97 by adding a new subsection under §97.15, that prohibits and ceases the enforcement

of, "Any private land use restriction, including restrictive covenants and regulations imposed by a community association," that either fails to permit a licensee to install and maintain an effective outdoor antenna capable of operation on all Amateur Radio frequency bands, on property under the exclusive use or control of the licensee; precludes or fails to permit Amateur Service communications, or which does not constitute the minimum practicable restriction on such communications to accomplish the lawful purposes specifically articulated in the declaration of covenants of a community association seeking to enforce such restriction. ARRL's proposed rule would not affect any existing antenna approved or installed before the effective date of a Report and Order resulting from ARRL's petition.

The proposed provisions reflect the accommodation reached in the ultimate version of the Parity Act bill at the urging of federal lawmakers between ARRL and the Community Associations Institute (CAI), the only organization representing homeowners' associations. "That legislation was passed unanimously by the House of Representatives four separate times and has the support of the Senate Commerce Committee and the current Administration," ARRL stressed.

"Private land use regulations are not 'contracts' in the sense that there is any meeting of the minds between the buyer and seller of land," ARRL said. "Rather, they are simply restrictions on the use of owned land, im-

posed by the developer of a subdivision by recordation in the land records of the jurisdiction when it is first created. They bind all lots in the subdivision. If an Amateur Radio licensee wants to buy a home in a subdivision burdened by deed restrictions, that licensee has precisely two options: Buy the residence subject to the restrictions, or do not buy the residence. There is no negotiation possible because the restrictions are already in place and cannot be waived by a seller in favor of a buyer."

ARRL noted in its Petition that an increasing number of homes available for purchase today are already subject to restrictive covenants prohibiting outdoor antennas, and that the Community Associations Institute data show that 90% of new housing starts in the US are subject to deed restrictions and other limitation that make installation of outdoor Amateur Radio antennas ineffective or impossible.

Also, ARRL pointed out that the Telecommunications Act of 1996 gives the FCC jurisdiction "to preempt private land use regulations that conflict with federal policy and that private land use regulations are entitled to less deference than municipal regulations, because the former are premised solely on aesthetic considerations rather than safety issues, whereas municipal regulations are concerned with both."

"It is now time for actual and functional parity in the Commissions regulations in order to protect the strong federal interest in Amateur Radio communications," ARRL said.

