



Di-Dah-Dit

Official Newsletter of the Parkersburg Radio Klub
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Will we lose 144-46 like we did 220?

IARU President Offers Assurances Regarding French 144 – 146 MHz Allocation Proposal

07/10/2019

International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, said his organization empathizes with the concerns of radio amateurs worldwide regarding a French proposal to allocate 144 – 146 MHz to the Aeronautical Service on a primary basis, essentially sharing it with Amateur Radio. The band is currently allocated to Amateur Radio on a primary basis around the world. Ellam this week offered assurances that the IARU is on top of the matter, which is still a regional issue, and is already working to keep the band in the hands of radio amateurs. While the issue could end up on the agenda of World Radio-communication Conference 2023 (WRC-23), a lot would have to happen first.

“There is a lot of misinformation circulating as to what the proposal is seeking and how IARU is responding to it,” Ellam told ARRL. “While the proposal is a concern, petitions and the like, while well intended, are going to have very limited value and, in fact, may harm the steps being taken in the regulatory environment.”

The French proposal, submitted last month to a pre-WRC-19 European Conference of Telecommunications and Postal Administrations (CEPT) meeting, included 144 – 146 MHz within a range of frequencies to be studied for future airborne, non safety applications in the Aeronautical Service. Germany opposed the move, and IARU “objected strongly,” Ellam said. “Nonetheless, the proposal was carried forward to the next meeting of the CEPT Conference Preparatory Group in late August.” IARU anticipates that other countries attending the August meeting will oppose the inclusion of 144 – 146 MHz as a frequency range to be considered for the WRC-23 agenda, Ellam said.

Since the June meeting, IARU Region 1 (Europe, Africa, and the Middle East) has asked its member-societies to contact their national administrations (i.e., governments) to explain the importance of the 144 – 146 MHz primary allocation, Ellam recounted. “IARU is also taking other actions to make its views known to those involved in the proposal,” he said.

According to Ellam, the French proposal provides no rationale for including the amateur band in the proposed spectrum study, and that

IARU believes sharing with airborne systems would be extremely challenging and lead to constraints on the development of the Amateur and Amateur Satellite services. IARU has pointed out that suitable alternative spectrum exists in the VHF range.

“If accepted as a WRC-23 Agenda Item, this proposal would require 4 years of studies by administrations,” Ellam stressed. “Considering the challenges of sharing spectrum with aeronautical systems, it seems inevitable that the conclusion of such studies would be that sharing with a widely used part of the amateur spectrum presents too many problems to be viable.”



Ellam encouraged individual radio amateurs who want to help to

become members of their IARU member-society — ARRL in the US. “The work they do is not as well-known as it should be and receives very little recognition,” Ellam said. “Support from all radio amateurs to the work of IARU is vital to meet threats to the amateur spectrum.”

Ellam attributed Amateur Radio's success at previous WRCs in defending against spectrum threats and gaining new bands to "the support for IARU from its member-societies and the dedicated work of IARU representatives — all of whom are volunteers."

"If anything," Ellam concluded, "this recent news about a potential risk to 144 – 146 MHz should serve as a timely reminder that defense of the amateur spectrum does not just happen. Your member-societies and the IARU constantly work at defending the amateur allocations."

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Major WSJT-X Upgrade Boosts FT4 into "a Finished Protocol for HF Contesting"

The WSJT Development Group has announced the "general availability" release of WSJT-X version 2.1.0. This major upgrade formally introduces FT4 as a finished protocol for HF contesting. WSJT-X version 2.1.0 supplants any "release candidate" (beta) versions, and users should discontinue using any beta versions of the software. The latest edition of the popular digital software suite also includes improvements and bug fixes in several areas, including FT8. The list includes:

FT8 waveform generated with GMSK, and fully backward compatible

User options for waterfall and spectrum display

Contest logging

Rig control

User interface

UDP messaging for inter-program communication

Accessibility

The WSJT-X Development Group is providing a separate WSJT-X version 2.1.0 installation package for 64-bit Windows that offers significant improvements in decoding speed.

A detailed list of program changes since WSJT-X version 2.0.1 is included in the cumulative Release Notes. Upgrading from earlier versions of WSJT-X should be seamless, with no need to uninstall a previous version or to move any files.



Installation packages for Windows, Linux, and Macintosh are available.

WSJT-X is licensed under the terms of Version 3 of the GNU General Public License (GPL). "Development of this software is a cooperative project to which many Amateur

Radio operators have contributed," said Joe Taylor, K1JT, for the WSJT Development Group. "If you use our code, please have the courtesy to let us know about it. If you find bugs or make improvements to the code, please report them to us in a timely fashion."

Some users have reported a low audio level to the transmitter when using the 64-bit Windows version, which required greatly increasing the sound card Playback device used to feed audio to the transmitter.

Visit the FT8/FT4/JT9: WSJT 2-Way Narrow Modes for Amateur Radio Facebook page for additional information.

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The K7RA Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, reports: Very low solar activity continues; there were no sunspots. Over the past week, average daily solar flux changed insignificantly, from 67.1 to 67. Average daily planetary A index changed from 8.4 to 5.9, while mid-latitude A index changed from 8.6 to 6.7. Conditions remain quiet. Predicted solar flux is 68 for July 18 - 24, and 67 for July 25 - August 31.

The predicted planetary A index is 5 on July 18 - 22; 8 on July 23; 5 on July 24 - 27; 8 on July 28; 5 on July 29 - August 3; 8, 15, 15, and 8 on August 4 - 7; 5 on August 8 - 10; 10, 12, and 8 on August 11 - 13; 5 on August 14 - 23; 8 on August 24; 5 on August 25 - 30, and 8 on August 31.

On July 17, Spaceweather.com reported a coronal hole spewing a stream of solar wind, with arrival expected to cause minor geomagnetic upset in the July 19 - 20 time frame. Spaceweather also reported that, so far this calendar year, 64% of all days were without sunspots. Last year the total percentage of spotless days was 61%, 28% in 2017, 9% in 2016, and nearly 0% in 2011 - 2015.

Centenarian Radio Amateur's Efforts Helped Pave the Way to the Moon

Centenarian Radio Amateur's Efforts Helped Pave the Way to the Moon

The Nashville Tennessean newspaper recently featured the story of a 104-year-old ARRL member who contributed to NASA's effort to put the first humans on the moon 50 years ago this month. Cary Nettles, W5SRR, of Columbia, Tennessee -- who calls himself the nation's oldest rocket scientist still alive -- was a NASA project manager and research engineer on rocket propulsion systems in the 1950s and 1960s.



While working on the Centaur second-stage rocket program, Nettles determined that the rocket engine failures NASA was experiencing were a result of misdirected exhaust destroying the vehicles' engines. Nettles told the Tennessean he came up with an "exhaust pipe" that solved the problem. In May 1966, an Atlas-Centaur launcher propelled the first Surveyor lander toward the moon. That year, NASA awarded Nettles and colleague Ed Jonash with its Distinguished Service Med-

al for "their superhuman effort in turning the troubled rocket into a reliable upper stage," according to a 2004 NASA publication, "Taming Liquid Hydrogen -- The Centaur Upper Stage Rocket 1958 - 2002."

On July 16, 1969, a Saturn V rocket with a liquid hydrogen-fueled second stage carried astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins to their rendezvous with the moon. Nettles retired from NASA the following year.

Nettles got his Amateur Radio license in 1945 and remains active on 40 meters as well as on VHF and UHF repeaters. He is a member of the Maury Amateur Radio Club. In addition to sustaining his interest in ham radio over the decades, Nettles is an enthusiast of "large-scale" steam trains, which he works on in his basement. Look for him Tuesdays at 1400 UTC on 7.215 MHz on the Steam Railroad Net.

In 2015, the year he turned 100, the ARRL Tennessee Section presented Nettles with its Elder Statesman Award.-

+++++ **ARRL Announces "Happy 150!" Hiram Percy Maxim Birthday Celebration**

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of ARRL's first president and cofounder Hiram Percy Maxim (HPM), W1AW, born on September 2, 1869. ARRL will hold an operating event to celebrate HPM's legacy, getting under way at 0000 UTC on August 31, and con-

tinuing until 2359 UTC on September 8. The event is open to all radio amateurs.

The goal is straightforward: Contact as many participating stations as possible. W1AW and all ARRL members will append "/150" to their call signs during this event (DX operators who are ARRL members may identify as <call sign>/150, if permitted by their country of license.) Participating stations will exchange signal report and ARRL/RAC Section. DX stations will send signal report and "DX." Those taking part may use all Amateur Radio bands, excluding 60, 30, 17, and 12 meters. Permitted modes: CW, phone (any voice modes), and digital. Submit Cabrillo log or ADI files. ARRL will calculate all final scores based on participants' uploads to the ARRL event web app (link not yet active).



The 84 available multipliers only count once. These include the 83 ARRL/RAC Sections (RAC Sections include the Canadian Northern Territories, encompassing VE8, VY1, and VY0) and DX. The W1AW operating schedule during this period may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate on-air celebration operating activities. Contacts with W1AW/150 will earn

3 points each. Contacts with any ARRL member will earn 2 points each. These stations will also identify as <call sign>/150. Contacts with nonmembers will earn 1 point each.

Participants can earn 150 bonus points by:

Contacting W1AW/150 on each band and mode.

Uploading entries (ARRL members only).

Using social media to publicize this event and/or participation before, during, and/or after the event.

Operating with 5 W PEP output or less throughout the event.

Making at least 20 contacts while operating portable.

Completing at least 150 contacts.

Online certificates will be awarded, and are available via download online. Updates and results will be publicized.

There are no power or operator categories. Participating ARRL members who use Logbook of The World (LoTW) are encouraged to create a separate LoTW certificate for uploading <call sign>/150 contacts. Members then should upload logs for this event using their /150 certificates. Submissions must be via the online web app.

No email or paper submissions will be accepted.

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Park Minutes March 11, 2019

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Vice President Earl Hulce KB8HRG.

Introductions were made by 28 members and guests.

The minutes of the February meeting were read and accepted.

Treasurers report was read by Jane N8MOW.

The 50/50 drawing of \$25.00 was won by Banes KD4WDH.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

'Gin' pole for antenna tower work update given by Earl KB8HRG.

146.97repeater has a potential receiver problem. Trouble shooting to be conducted.

Earl showed the Klub roster workbook with tabs detailing dues status, net control calendar, etc.

NEW BUSINESS:

Earl has a 13.8 v DC power supply for sale - \$10.

Membership applications were given to Ryan Wolfe KE8LLU and Tim Dooley N8WO. Vote will be taken at the April Klub meeting.

Bob KB8EFB made a motion with second by Jane N8MOW to adjourn at 7:20 pm.

April 8, 2019

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

Prior to the meeting start video's were shown to the group; operating FT-8 mode and vinyl phonograph record formats. Single panel cartoons were also shown.

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by President Jerry Wharton KA8NJW. Introductions were made by 24 members and guests.

The minutes of the March meeting were read and accepted.

Treasurers report was delivered by Jane N8MOW.

The 50/50 drawing of \$16.00 was won by Brenda.

Conard KE8HLU and Ginny Caplinger N8IJA each won one dozen fresh eggs donated by Darlene W8PAN.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

New members Ryan Wolfe KE8LLU and Tim Dooley N8WO were voted into the Klub.

146.97repeater has a control receiver problem. Trouble shooting continues.

Two silent keys were added to the Klub roster workbook.

NEW BUSINESS:

A special Auxiliary Communications class (AUXCOMM) specifically for West Virginia to be held on April 13th and 14th at the 1st Floor Conference Room in the Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department building located at 211 Sixth Street, Parkersburg, WV. The course will

assist amateurs / groups interested in emergency communications in understanding the communication roles that are needed in today's Incident Command System. Online pre-course(s) completion is required.

Athens (OH) hamfest will be held on Sunday April 28.

Field day for 2019 will be held on June 22-23. Mike Richards WD8BTI has agreed to lead the Klub activities. Earl KB8HRG to check on availability of the cabin at Ft. Boreman. Some interference was noted with the new generators last year – review of operating location of power source to be Conducted.

Discussion of need to purchase a chest harness for tower work safety. Mike WD8BTI has a harness which he would sell – price to be determined. Final decision at next meeting.

Bob KB8EFB made a motion with second by Blaine WA8IOE to adjourn at 7:37 pm.
Minutes recorded by John W8IDW, secretary

May 13, 2019

The Parkersburg Amateur radio Klub met at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant for the May meeting. A pre-meeting video was shown that featured 15 things you didn't know what they were used for, Like the pom-pom on top of a beanie or toboggan.

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

There were 27 members and guests present.

Jerry read the April Minutes in lei of John's W8IDW absence.

Treasurers report was delivered by Jane N8MOW.

The 50-50 drawing was won by Dave Wright, N8NWV in the sum of \$22.00.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Earl KB8HRG gave a report about the 97 repeater and it's interference problems. It is an ongoing project. He suggested turning your PL tone on to help.

The next item of discussion was the safety harness for climbing towers. We had discussed at the last meeting of buying one off Mike Richards WD8BTI. He said he would research and give us a good price. Mike then spoke up and said he had decided to donate the harness to the club as long as we kept the mice away from it.
THANKS Mike.

Kenny Harris WA8LLM filled us in on the communications class that was held in April. They had 13 participate In the training. They had a good class. More may be available in the future if there is enough interest. He also filled us in on the upcoming Fun Run for Chick-fil-A. The race is in early June. He also mentioned the half marathon that occurs every August.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jerry, KA8NJW, reported that the Volcano Days special event station had been registered with the

ARRL. The special event station will operate on Saturday, September 28 from 10 AM until 6 PM on 20 and 40 mtrs. Jerry will be providing the radio and Earl KB8HRG will be providing the antenna. We need workers to man the radio and log.

Field Day - We had a discussion about the upcoming field day on June 7-8. There will be a station at the top of the hill for HF. It looks like The CW station will be in the cabin. Conard, KB8HLU is planning on doing digital but it has not been decided where yet.

Earl KB8HRG has made arrangements to obtain the key to the cabin.

The motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Bob KB8EFB at approx 7:30 pm.

Minutes supplied by Jerry due to John's W8IDW, secretary absence

June 10, 2019

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at Western Sizzlin for it June meeting.

Prior to the meeting two videos were shown. The first was about recording media for vinyl discs and digital recordings. The second was about transatlantic cable and fiber optic communication cables.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Jerry Wharton, KA8NJW.

Introductions were made by 24 members.

The minutes of the May meeting were read and accepted with one correction.

The treasurer's report was given by Jane N8MOW.

The 50/50 drawing of \$18.50 was won by Amelia Auville.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

The club thanked Mike Richards WD8BTI for the donation of the climbing harness.

Earl Hulce KB8HRG tried out the new gin pole in putting up Jerry Wharton's antenna.

Harold (N8KO) and Tim Dooley and Bill Robinson KU8C helped with the project. The pigeons like the new antenna.

There was a discussion about Field Day. It will be June 22-23rd. Earl discussed the antennas . A Field Day meeting will be held Wednesday at 6:00PM at Fort Boreman. Earl encouraged everyone to bring the radio they were going to work since they are familiar with it.

The picnic will be at 6:00PM on Saturday. The club will furnish the meat, bread, and drinks. Ev-

everyone is asked to bring a covered dish of a vegetable, salad, or dessert.

Bob, KB8EFB made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 pm.

Recorded by Jane N8MOW

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Next you will find a summary of the Field Day for 2019. A recap of the last 10 years scores and some pictures. Jerry

Last 10 year's Field Day scores:

2010	2A	1526
2011	3A	2592
2012	3A	3640
2013	3A	3044
2014	3A	3072
2015	3A	2588
2016	3A	1772
2017	3A	2404
2018	3A	1442
2019	4A	3708 claimed

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Photos





Summary:

Entry received at: 2019-06-26 21:45:23

Call Used: W8PAR ARRL/RAC Section: WV Class: 4A

Participants: 45 Club/Group Name: Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub

Power Source(s): Generator, Battery

Power Multiplier: 2X

Preliminary Total Score: 3,708

Bonus Points:

100% emergency power 400

Media Publicity 100 -

Public location 100

Public information table 100 -

Formal message to ARRL SM/SEC 100 -

W1AW Field Day message 100 -

Formal messages handled (2 x 10, max of 100) 100 -

Entry submitted via web 50

Total bonus points 970

Score Summary: (Cabrillo log/dupe sheet file: W8PAR.dup)

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total
Total QSOs	514	113	115	
Total Points	1028	226	115	1369

Claimed Score = (QSO points x power mult) = 2,738

Submitted by: Jerry Wharton, KA8NJW j_wharton@suddenlink.net

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW QSOs	Digital QSOs	Phone QSOs
160m	0	0	0
80m	170	28	36
40m	129	15	69
20m	168	69	9
15m	39	0	1
10m	8	0	0
6m	0	0	0
2m	0	1	0
222	0	0	0
432	0	0	0

Other

Satellite

TOTAL 514 113 115

