



# Di-Dah-Dit

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

## Celebrate World Amateur Radio Day 2021 on April 18

Sunday, April 18, is World Amateur Radio Day (WARD), with this year marking the 96th anniversary of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), which was founded at the 1925 International Radiotelegraph Conference in Paris. ARRL co-founder and first president Hiram Percy Maxim, 1AW, was there, and today ARRL is the International Secretariat of the IARU. ARRL has resources members can use to celebrate World Amateur Radio Day, including graphics for social media posts and radio club websites, as well as a printable flyer.

IARU has chosen "Amateur Radio: Home but Never Alone" as the theme for World Amateur Radio Day 2021. The theme acknowledges

ARRL member Anne Frank, KD9LRB, of Deer Park, Wisconsin, is featured on ARRL's World Amateur Radio Day poster.

that during our physical distancing to reduce the spread of COVID-19, amateur radio stands out as a welcome respite for its variety of activities and opportunities.

Amateur radio experimenters were the first to discover that the HF spectrum was not the wasteland experts of the time considered it to be, but a resource that could support worldwide communication. In the rush to use these shorter wavelengths, amateur radio was "in grave danger of being pushed aside,"

IARU history has noted, prompting the founding of the IARU. At the 1927 International Radiotelegraph Conference, amateur radio gained allocations still recognized today -- 160, 80, 40, 20, and 10 meters. Over the years, the IARU has worked to defend those allocations and to give all radio amateurs new bands at 136 kHz, 472 kHz, 5 MHz, 10 MHz, 18 MHz, 24 MHz, and 50 MHz.

The 25 countries that formed the IARU in 1925 have grown to include more than 160 member societies in three regions. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has recognized the IARU as representing the interests of amateur radio.

On World Amateur Radio Day, all radio amateurs are invited to take to the airwaves to share global goodwill with other amateurs. ARRL encourages members to promote the value of amateur radio to family and friends, and in their communities. Many volunteer ARRL Public Information Officers and Public Information Coordinators throughout the US use the run-up to WARD as an opportunity to reach out to the media to share information about amateur radio.

"The amateur radio community has a great story to tell on the occasion of World Amateur Radio Day," ARRL Product Development Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, said. "While the pandemic has kept many

of us at home, radio amateurs have still been able to get on the air."

"Over the last year, many ARRL-affiliated radio clubs and in-person ham radio events have moved their group activities online. This has helped to keep radio amateurs active and involved in the common pursuit of skill, service, and discovery in radio communication and radio technology," Inderbitzen added.



Coincidentally, the SSB running of the ARRL Rookie Roundup falls on World Amateur Radio Day (1800 - 2359 UTC). The event is aimed at hams licensed for 3 years or less. Take the opportunity to wish participants "Happy World Amateur Radio Day 2021" on the air. Read an expanded version.

## FT8 Accounts for Nearly Two-Thirds of HF Activity

Since zooming to prominence after its debut in mid-2017, the popular FT8 digital protocol has become the mode of choice for some 60% of HF operators, according to Club Log's latest activity report compiled by Michael Wells, G7VJR. FT8 is one of the protocols in the WSJT-X suite of free programs. Wells says FT8 activity level sits at nearly 85% on 6 meters. The dramatic FT8 upswing has come at the expense of phone, CW, RTTY, PSK, and other modes. Over the same period, the number of FT8 contacts logged each year per active call sign has continued to climb to about 60% between 2015 and 2021, with the most dramatic increase being nearly 29% in the past year. The use of all other modes has continued to flutter downward since the advent of FT8, which occupies vastly less spectrum than the more traditional ham radio operating modes. (Click for larger image.)

Between 2015 and 2020, the number of contacts logged per day by Club Log users has trended steadily upward, regardless of mode. The report draws on data of more than 84,000 logs uploaded to the Club Log site -- some 730 million contacts in all.

Wells reported that in 2025, the "typical call sign" logged 620 CW contacts, 558 SSB contacts, and 372 data (digital) contacts. Five years later, the statistics were 500, 300, and 1,700, respectively.

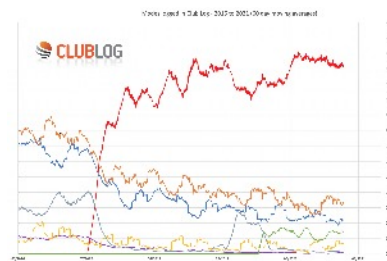
ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) does not typically report this level of detail as far as mode usage is concerned, but the statistics available certainly confirm FT8's

increasing popularity. The rocketing usage of FT8 over the past few years may be demonstrated most dramatically by a comparison in contacts-by-mode statistics between March 2017 and March 2018, when FT8 contact numbers in the hundreds shot to some 2.6 million contacts by the following year -- an increase of nearly 1 million percent.

From mid-2019 to mid-2020, FT8 usage appears to have slumped slightly to 50% before climbing back to 60%. FT8 usage peaked at just over 65% in late 2020 and has held steady at 60 - 65% since.

The same period saw SSB usage dip by 15%, CW activity by 10%, and RTTY by 29%. Introduced later, FT4, the contest mode of FT8, also showed an initial fast upward trajectory, before steadying at 5 - 8%.

Named after its developers, Steven Franke, K9AN, and Joe Taylor, K1JT, FT8 indicates the mode's eight-frequency shift-keying format. Tones are spaced at 6.25 Hz, and an FT8 signal occupies just 50 Hz.



### \*\*\*\*\* MARS is a Not Always an Obvious Resource in Emergencies

The Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) is a US Department of Defense adjunct comprised of radio amateurs that's not always the first resource that comes to mind in an emergency, even within the mili-

tary. In a recent article in SIGNAL, US Marine Corps Major Brian Kerg exhorts the brass to more fully exploit amateur radio in general, and MARS in particular, for use in times of distress.

"As future threats continue to evolve, day-to-day communications architectures will become more unreliable in times of crisis," Kerg concludes. "It is imperative that joint communications planners turn to amateurs to remain experts. By building awareness of how to employ MARS and training military radio operators in ham radio technique, leaders will ensure their planners are proactively leveraging the organic amateur communications networks that abound across the globe."



In his article, Kerg -- who does not appear to be a radio amateur -- attempts to raise the amateur radio consciousness level of military planners who are deciding how to address an emergency. He characterizes ham radio as a robust and readily available communications resource when things go south.

"And they are often every bit the expert as professional military communicators and signalmen. The term 'amateur' refers not to their technical acumen but to the private, nonbusiness use of allocated radio bands by those possessing amateur

radio licenses," Kerg points out. He notes that while voice communication may be the most common ham radio mode, operators are skilled at sending and receiving text, images, and data.

With MARS, the Defense Department has a mechanism employing amateur radio operators who can actively support military operations. "Notably, military aircrews remain capable of using MARS phone patches through high-frequency radios when satellite communications are unavailable," he writes.

Kerg says the downside is that the use of MARS "remains a largely unknown or niche capability, one that is usually stumbled upon by planners in the moment of crisis and then poorly implemented." He said awareness of MARS was not helped when the Navy and Marine Corps MARS were shuttered in 2015, leaving only Army and Air Force MARS.

Military planners should focus on raising awareness of MARS and of amateur radio by making it available through training and other activities, Kerg said. Contesting could be a component. "The wide variety of annual amateur radio competitions can further incentivize military operators to improve their amateur radio skills while inevitably improving proficiency in their mission-essential tasks," he wrote.

Kerg currently serves as the fleet amphibious communications officer, US Fleet Forces Command.  
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## IARU and European Commission Meet on Wireless Power Transfer for Electric Vehicles

International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 (IARU-R1) President Don Beattie, G3BJ, has reported a meeting between the IARU and the European Commission that discussed potential RF interference from wireless power transfer for electric vehicles (WPT-EV) systems. At the request of the European Commission, IARU met on March 25 with representatives of the automotive industry, standards bodies, and the European Commission to review the current position on the development of an emission standard for WPT-EV.



There was a frank exchange of views, during which IARU made clear the technical basis for its concerns about unwanted emissions from WPT-EV. WPT-EV developers presented their case, based on the tests they had undertaken. After exploring the issues, the European Commission determined that further joint tests should be arranged and asked the European Committee for Standardization/European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CEN/CENELEC) to facilitate these. IARU confirmed it was content to participate and welcomed the initiative, stressing that

the tests needed to be conducted in an electrically quiet environment.

Another meeting will take place once the relevant tests have been completed, with a view to making progress toward an emission standard.

In attending the meeting, IARU was clear that it viewed the discussions as being without prejudice to the ongoing work in the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), Comit   International Sp  cial des Perturbations Radio  lectriques (CISPR), and International Telecommunications Union (ITU) on the same topic. -- Thanks to IARU Region 1

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## ARRL Learning Network Webinars Visit the ARRL Learning Network

(a members-only benefit) to register, check upcoming webinars, and to view previously recorded sessions.

The Art and Science of Operating Ultra-Portable -- Mike Molina, KN6EZE, on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 8 PM EDT (0000 UTC on Wednesday, April 7)

Ultra-portable operation is quickly growing in popularity. Whether for SOTA, POTA, backcountry survival, or just spending time in nature, learning how to operate ultra-portable is a fun and rewarding experience. In this presentation, Mike, KN6EZE, covers the basics for new and experienced ham radio operators.

Finding and Fixing RFI -- Paul Cianciolo, W1VLF, RFI Engineer,



ARRL Laboratory on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 1 PM EDT (1700 UTC)

Radio frequency interference (RFI) -- from natural and manmade sources -- has been a problem for hams and shortwave listeners since the radio hobby began. Things have changed in the last 20 years with the advent of widespread solar power, LED lighting, grow lights, and computers. Learn all about finding and fixing RFI in today's world.

HF Noise Mitigation -- ARRL Northwestern Division Director Mike Ritz, W7VO, on Thursday April 22, 2021 at 3:30 PM EDT (1930 UTC)

An educational seminar to help new and experienced amateurs who are on HF and finding themselves plagued with noise. We'll learn what "noise" is, talk about the various noise sources, and discuss how to mitigate those noises using a variety of techniques.

These Learning Network presentations are sponsored by

The ARRL Learning Network schedule is subject to change.  
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### **PARK Minutes January 11, 2021**

In consideration of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, the Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met on the N8NBL repeater (146.97) for the January meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by president Mike Richards WD8BTI.  
Check-ins were made by 9 operators.

Minutes of the December 14 meeting were read by Secretary John W8IDW - approved as read.

Treasurers report was delivered by Jane N8MOW and approved as offered.  
No 50-50 drawing was conducted.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

The Klub T-shirt order has been delivered in total per Earl KB8HRG. Jane N8MOW sent fruit baskets to the following members: Jerry Yancy; Fred Nulter; Jennia Dooley; Mike / Darlene Lenhart and Sophia Davy family.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

John W8IDW reported that the 146.97 repeater coordination paperwork and fee has been submitted for 2021.

Mesh network comments by Conard KE8HLU.

John commented on the two locations that Klub contact info appears on the web: ARRL club information page and WVSARC ([https://www.qsl.net/wvsarc/wv\\_clubs.html](https://www.qsl.net/wvsarc/wv_clubs.html))  
Earl KB8HRG commented that any Klub member can acquire an W8PAR email.

### **MISC:**

Ken WA8LLM is scheduled as net control for 1/12/2021.  
The motion was made by Bob KB8EFB to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 pm.  
Minutes by John W8IDW, secretary  
List of attendees recorded

## **Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub Minutes February 8, 2021**

Meeting called to order at 6:30 by Mike Richards WD8BTI.  
Introductions were made by 17 members in attendance.

Minutes of January (over the air) meeting were read by Mary

Wharton, They were approved and excepted as read.

Treasures report was given by Jane, N8MOW approved and excepted  
50-50 drawing is won by Debbie \$16.

Unfinished Business nothing to discuss

### **New business**

Two new members John (Greg) Brandon KJ4YHF and Allen Fleming KE8QOW we're both accepted as new members.

Jerry reported that two or three people have contacted him by email concerning being tested and those referrals were forwarded to Ken Harris WALLM.

Mike reminded everybody that Field Day was coming up in June 26 and 27th to be exact and he passed around a picture of the new shelter at Fort Boreman Hill. Notes were made to rent the cabin must be secured and the shelter rented for field day.

Jerry KAHNJW mentioned that he had been contacted about using PayPal to pay our dues. After some discussion it was felt that at this time we did not have enough business to warrant getting involved with PayPal. a motion was made to table the subject for the time being and that was passed.

It was moved to adjourn by Bob and seconded by Jim. Meeting adjourned at around 7 o'clock minutes by Mary Wharton.

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## Minutes March 8, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:29 by Earl Hulce KB8HRG

Introductions were had by 17 members and guests.

The 50-50 drawing was won by Mary Wharton in the amount of \$11

Jane N8MOW gave the treasures report showing a balance of \$6739 with dues paid in February of \$229

Old business:

Earl has been researching price for a replacement repeater for the 97 machine. It looks like the price would be around \$3000. The one we have is currently working but it's getting old, no decision has been made at this time.

Conard KC8HLU has set up a mail server for club members at <https://w8par.org>. Your email would consist of your call plus the website for example eMail is [ka8njw@w8par.org](mailto:ka8njw@w8par.org).

Two new members were voted into the Klub:  
Constantine KC8JXA  
Kathy Casey KC8ZHR

Welcome to the Klub.

Earl did a presentation on the mesh network in the area. He discussed purchasing three transmitters and antenna systems for use by the club. Some of these will be connected to the repeaters some not. It was moved and seconded that he purchase three systems, not exceeding a price of \$500 for all three.

Field day 2021:

It was discussed that we feel they would probably be happening this year on Fort Boreman Hill. We still have time to check into using the cabin and the shelter they just constructed behind the cabin. I think we will be required to rent the shelter for \$100 for a day.

It was discussed that we may be using some solar panels and battery backups this year.

Jerry, KA8NJW showed the club the new member packets that were assembled to help to introduce people to ham radio. They were passed around the room and discussed.

It was discussed maybe also including an On The Air magazine from a ARRL. Jerry In will be checking into bulk purchasing them. Also A big thanks to Bob KB8EFB for donating the paper used for this project.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bob and approved at 7:14 PM.

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## PARK minutes April 12, 2021

Call to order at 6:30 PM

Introductions were ahead by 23 members and guests.

50-50 raffle just won by Connor he got \$14.

minutes of the last (March) meeting read by Mary Wharton's and Lou of John's absence.

Minutes were approved as read. Treasures report was given by Jane N8MOW. Balance is \$7053.29 that includes \$88 in dues collected in March, the balance will go down about \$500 to repay Conard for the three antennas we purchased for the Internet MASH links.

Unfinished business:

Earl KB8HRG told the club that we have been given a 440Mhz repeater and we just had to decide what to do with it. It could be used it as a link or digital mode or remote receiver or a repeater but it only has an output of 5 Watts, so if we use it as a repeater we would need to add an amp. Nothing was decided yet. Earl will look into the possibilities.

He also stated that Conard had given him the three antennas and two of them had been given to Kenny WA8LLM. As replacements for nodes already installed.

Jerry KA8NJW, reported that the shelter would be available at Fort Boreman Hill for use by the club for Field Day and no rent would be required this year. It was discussed that we would need to get a hold of Mr. Miracle to get the key for the cabin. it was also discussed that Jerry would arrange for a porta-potty to be used at field day. Blane would be in charge of acquiring the meat and cooking them using the grill.

During the field day discussion Earl requested that anybody who wanted to operate bring their own equipment so that they would know how to run it. We will provide antennas and portable power. We need to know who will operate and what modes. If there is lack of interest we can operate from home like we did last year, due to COVID.

Blane volunteered to be safety officer for this year's field day.

new business: we had two visitors Rob and Beth Wade they are new technicians and I've decided to join the club. Yay

It was motioned to adjourn at 7:05 by Bob KBADFB.

Minutes were taken by Mary Wharton in the absence of John

## Tiny Philips SK



Alton Eugene "Tiny" Phillips, 90 of Parkersburg, passed away March 30, 2021,

at Eagle Pointe Nursing Facility in Parkersburg. He was born Sept. 13, 1930, in Belleville, WV, a son of the late Alton and Edith Hofmann Phillips.

Mr. Phillips retired from DuPont as an Electrician with 29 years of service. He was a member of the Lubeck Church of Christ and most recently attended the Camden Avenue Church of Christ. Tiny was a Ham Radio enthusiast (KB8TDK), an auto mechanic, a TV repairman and all-around Mr. Fixit of just about anything. He faithfully served his country in the U. S. Army during the Korean War.

Surviving is his wife Peggy Metz Carney Phillips, two daughters: Kim Ledsome of Parkersburg and Debbie Westfall (Butch) of Belpre, son Michael Phillips of Powell, OH, three grandchildren: Brooke Schireman, Jason Phillips (Leah) and Ashley Chickerella (Vince), four step-daughters: Teresa Carney, Cindy Deem, Sandra Graham and Melissa Mayo (Ryan), grandchildren: Amy Chaves, Jackie Nay,

Taylor Nay, Lakyn Mayo, Chase Mayo and Audra Casto (Luke) along with great grandchildren: Jackson, Bethany, Carson and Isla.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife Charlotte Mullins, brother Charles Phillips, sister Sue Robbins, daughter-in-law Kimberly Phillips and son-in-law Duane Deem.

Funeral services will be Friday 1 p.m. at the Leavitt Funeral Home, Parkersburg with Evangelists Mark Tonkery and Steve Fuchs officiating. Interment will follow at Mount Olivet Cemetery. Visitation will be Thursday 5-8 p.m. and one hour prior to services.

The family would like to thank Housecalls-Hospice and the staff at Eagle Pointe for the great care given to Gene and his family in his final days.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Camden Avenue Church of Christ, 2900 Camden Avenue, Parkersburg, WV 26101 or Housecalls-Hospice 417 Grand Park Drive, Parkersburg, WV 26105.

Online guests may send condolences to the family by visiting [www.LeavittFuneralHome.com](http://www.LeavittFuneralHome.com).