



Di-Dah-Dit

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

Ham radio 'Field Day' sends clear signal about importance of communication in a crisis

Madeline Scarborough



PARKERSBURG - In today's world of technology, reaching people is rarely an issue, as long as one has cell service. But would you know how to obtain help if you were stranded without cell service?

While the Mid-Ohio Valley is protected from many natural disasters, earthquakes, tornadoes and other events could hit the area.

If ever there is an emergency in the Mid-Ohio Valley that despite the Internet, cell phones, email and modern communications, the whole region finds themselves in the dark, Amateur Radio radio could still be used to alert other places to send aid.

These radio operators, often called "hams," provide backup communications for everything from the American Red Cross to FEMA and even for the International Space Station.

Over the past year, the news has been full of reports of ham radio operators providing critical communications during unexpected emergencies in towns across America including wildfires, winter storms, tornadoes and other events worldwide. When trouble is brewing, Amateur Radio operators are often the first to provide rescuers with critical information and communications.

On Saturday and Sunday, community members were able to meet up with local Amateur Radio operators to ask questions and see live demonstrations.

The annual event called "Field Day" is the climax of the week-long Amateur Radio Week sponsored by the American Radio Relay League, the national association for Amateur Radio.

Using emergency power supplies, local ham operators constructed emergency stations in parks, shopping malls, schools and backyards around the country.

Their slogan, "When All Else Fails, Ham Radio Works" are more than just words to the hams as they prove they can send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, Internet or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis.

"The fastest way to turn a crisis into a total disaster is to lose communications," said Allen Pitts of ARRL.

"From earthquakes, tsunami and tornadoes, ham radio provides the most reliable communication networks in the first critical hours of the events. Because ham radios are not dependent on the Internet, cell towers or other infrastructure, they work when nothing else is available."

According to Jerry Wharton, a local ham operator and member of the member of the Amateur Radio Klub, who was set up at Fort Boreman for the event, they had contacted over 200 people by lunch on Sunday.

"We have talked to people as far as California, Washington and even Canada," he said.

Wharton said the yearly event is important, so that operators can use trial and error to see what works, that way in an emergency they can efficiently set up and reach out to people.

Whartons' group powered their equipment using a generator and were able to shunt the flagpole, turning it into an antenna. Wharton explained that this does not harm the flagpole in any way.

"We were able to reach Eastern Washington in 20 watts or less," said Earl Hulse, another member of the Amateur Radio Klub.

To learn more about Amateur Radio, go to arrl.org/what-is-ham-radio.

Madeline Scarborough can be reached at mscarborough@newsandsentinel.com

This is the Field Day score submitted to the ARRL. I think we did pretty well. Thanks to all that helped out!!

Entry received at: 2021-07-05 17:30:39

Call Used: W8PAR GOTA Station Call: (NONE) ARRL/RAC Section: WV Class: 4A

Participants: 34 Club/Group Name: Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub

Power Source(s): Generator

Power Multiplier: 2X

Preliminary Total Score: 2,258

Bonus Points:

100% emergency power	400
Public location	100
Public information table	100 - Documented by info table.JPG
W1AW Field Day message	100 - Documented by fd bulliten.jpg
Site visit by invited elected official	100
Site visit by invited served agency	100
Safety officer	100 - File [safety rept..jpg] previously uploaded
Entry submitted via web	50
Total bonus points	1,050

Score Summary: (File [W8PAR.dup] previously uploaded)

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total
Total QSOs	90	57	310	604

Total Points 180 114 310 604 Claimed Score = (QSO points x power mult) = 1,208

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

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)
160m						
80m	2	100	26	100	32	100
40m	63	100	0	100	258	100
20m	14	100	28	100	20	100
15m	9	100	3	100	0	100
10m	2	100	0	100	0	100
TOT.	90		57		310	



Minutes April 2021

Call to order at 6:30 PM introductions were ahead by 23 members and guests.

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

minutes of the last meeting read by Mary Wharton, were approved as read

Treasures report were 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 Connard for the three antennas we purchased for the Internet links.

Unfinished business:

Earl KB8HRG told the club that we have been given a 440 repeater and we just had to decide what to do with it to use it as a link or digital mode or remote receiver or a repeater. It only has an output of five watts so if we use it as a repeater we would need to add an amp. Nothing was decided yet. 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.

Jerry KAHNJW 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. Blaine 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.

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 motion to adjourn at 7:05 by Bob KBADFB

Minutes were taken by Mary Wharton.

Minutes May 10, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 by Earl KB8HRG

Introductions were made by 13 members and guests.

The 50-50 drawing was won by Bob KB8EFB in the amount of \$6.

John W8IDW gave the minutes to the April meeting. No corrections or additions.

Jane N8MOW gave the treasures report.

Unfinished business:

Field day 2021:

Klub Field Day operations will be conducted at Fort Boreman Hill. Cabin and the shelter behind the cabin will be used.

No charge will be made for the shelter this year.

Discussion about operations covered operations, operators, stations and antennas and picnic.

Meat and some drinks will be provided by Klub (Blaine) members can bring a veg, salad or Desert.

Klub will arrange for portable restroom at the operating site.

New Business:

One new member was returned to Klub membership the Klub:

Rick Dawson - KB8KSB. WELCOME BACK.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bob and approved at 7:08 PM.

Minutes June 14, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:326 by Mike WD8BTI.

Introductions were made by 22 members and guests.

The 50-50 drawing was won by Rob KE8RSF in the amount of \$16.

John W8IDW gave the minutes of the May meeting.

Jane N8MOW gave the treasures report.

Unfinished business:

Field day 2021: Portable restroom scheduled; all night-time occupancy approved by Wood County Commission.

Friday evening expect to 'shoot' strings into trees for antennas. Assuming 4 stations will operate.

General discussion covered various topics such as ways to gain bonus points ie solar power. Conard KE8HLU will assist with network connection of logging computers and 'mesh' system internet assess.

Field day picnic to start around 6 pm Saturday evening.

Jerry KA8NJW will contact PKB News and WTAP.

Arrangements for an elected official visit to the site will be set up.

Replacement repeater for the 146.97 machine was reviewed. That equipment is mid 1960's vintage. Need to investigate possible Covid-19 relief funds to help with cost.

New Business:

Some information about the PARK Klub's history will be posted on the W8PAR web page.

Birthday wishes were given to Curt K8UC. Cupcakes were enjoyed by the members.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jerry (in Bob's absence) second by Conard and approved at 7:23 PM.

History of the Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub

This is a short history of the Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub. At the very beginning it was known as the Blennerhassett Amateur Radio Klub.

This is the narrative provided by one of the first members of the club, Mark Schauwecker.

The reason I remember all of this is because I was there. Also, it's now easier for me to remember things that happened a long way back than it is to remember what I had for breakfast. You youngsters will recognize that one day.

My dad's name was Ernie W8BWT. He received his license in January 1948. It took him three tries to pass the 13 words per minute test. Boy was he proud! In June of that year, Dupy Hefner W9MIT invited dad and me to go to the eastern panhandle and participate in field day with his son Bill, now WA4SPG.

We went to the eastern panhandle because the club that Dupey had been in before was located there. I remember the food was excellent, however, the thunder, hail and windstorm were not. The camaraderie was unforgettable and so were the radio contacts.

That was the catalyst. All my dad could talk about on the way home was forming a club so that we could have our own field day. Maybe we could have it on Fort Boreman Hill etc. etc. etc.

(Note Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub is having Field Day at Fort Boreman Hill this year also.)

Anyway, the club idea was kicked around with Dupy, Ray Smith, W8HUG, Gene Grow, W8BVQ and sometimes others in the game room of our house. The by-laws were being hammered out and names would be decided upon.

Our bylaws, I remember, were quite specific- you had to be a licensed amateur to be a member. What a bummer! I was probably as well prepared as my dad was at that time because I had helped him study for his ticket for at least a year. At that time my major interest were cars and girls, (do I have that in the right order?) I don't know but back to the subject.

Blennerhassett was chosen as the name because it was felt that everybody would feel at home. It was felt that

using a city name would be too local, and some people would not feel welcome.

There were nine original members of the club. If there were others I can't recall them. This all occurred about 1948. In May 1949 my dad became a silent key, and my interest in the radio stopped for about nine years. I'm sure there are others that can tell you more history of the Blennerhassett Amateur Radio Club.

Note: Mark Schauwecker became a SK in 2020.

Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub is still around, so that gives us about a 70 year history in the area. We are still meeting the second Monday of each month. We have a website WWW.W8PAR.ORG and we sponsor 2 repeaters. One is N8NBL on 146.97 and the other is W8CRW on 147.39.

We participate in field day at Fort Boreman Hill and sponsor a special event station at the Volcano Days in Cairo West Virginia, although they've been canceled for the last two years because of Covid19.

We are an ARRL affiliated club. Jerry KA8NJW