



# Di-Dah-Dit

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

## P.A.R.K. Sizzlin' in Summer

### Klub Members Radio Active with POTA and ARRL Field Day

**Radio Active** (as a play on words) is used in advertisements by manufacturers of ham radios. The American Radio Relay League incorporates the same phrase as a logo on t-shirts, ball caps and license-study manuals.

For two successive and *successful* weekends in June, Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub members and friends were radioactive and literally put P.A.R.K. on-the-map (see HAMRS map) using the Klub call, W8PAR.

Recently, "radio active" was defined fully when 16 people made a P.A.R.K.-sponsored event happen (see *roll call list*).

A POTA Activation occurred on June 15, for two hours, from the *Ohio River Islands and Wildlife Refuge* in Williamstown, WV. This event marked the first time the Klub collectively conducted an activation of POTA.

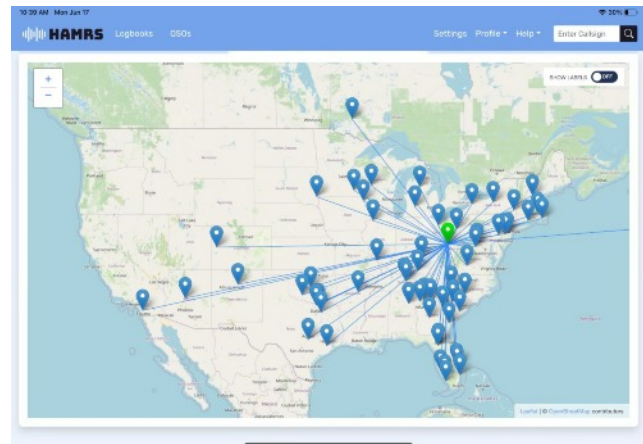
Robert, KA4VNB says, "I really enjoyed myself at the POTA Activation and was impressed with the professionalism and ingenuity of the operators. Learning about the Yaesu 891 radio and the Diamond BB7V vertical antenna was a plus too." (see [parksontheair.com](http://parksontheair.com) and DX [engineering.com](http://engineering.com))

Several Klub members are registered POTA Hunters and Activators. Tom, KD8NRV, as a hunter, has worked all states (WAS). Hunters and Activators compete for various awards. It's not necessary to compete though. Tom said, "I was up all hours of the day and night and used various bands to work all the states, but, really it was sort of easy to do." Fun and fellowship dominate any POTA activation, plus, seeing some new spaces in local and regional park is another factor.

Larry, KF8NW, said, "Back in September (2023) I shared my vision for the Klub in 2024—including activations of POTA."

To bring fruition to the vision an ad hoc committee formulated plans, procederes, the actual gathering, the site, registration, logging, antenna placement and onsite training before the first call was made. The ad hoc committee members were: Corey, KE8YXF, Scott, KE8UTO,(these two members of the committee supplied all of the radios and antennas for the two stations), other committee members were; Bob, KE8ZAM, Jim, KE8TKY, Mike, W8MKH and Jim, WV8JHF.

A total of 56 SSB and CW QSOs were logged and uploaded to POTA website log following the activation.



Here is a map showing all of the POTA contacts. Good Job guys.

- > All of these folks attended the first-ever POTA activation from US-0608
- > Ohio River Islands Wildlife Refuge, Williamstown, WV
- > Corey KE8YXF
- > (Laura and baby Emerson)
- > Jim KE9TKY > Scott KE8UTO
- > Norma KE8UTN > Conard WV8JCR
- > Dave KE8RBY > Mike N8XYM
- > Robert KA4VN > Bob KE8ZAM
- > Paul KN6PVB ( Susan)

> Larry KF8NW (Eli)  
> John W8WEJ> Ron NQ0D

Some POTA photos, Thanks Norma.



**Field Day Recap.** Field Day 2024 will be recorded as the hottest in recent memory (if not actual meteorological history). Temperatures reached nearly 100-degrees on June 22-23.

As “CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day” filled the airwaves from Fort Boreman Park, the air itself was thick enough to chew with high humidity.

Conard, WV8JCR, prepared two homemade air conditioners in anticipation of the sweltering conditions during the weekend. “I used two chest-type coolers, two round fans, a hole saw, two ninety-degree four inch PVC fittings and a (clean) section of sewer drain-pipe,” Conard said. Air was forced down into the coolers which were filled with cubed ice—the air was subsequently vented through the fittings onto the operators at their operating positions. “The temperature

difference between the ambient air and the forced air was huge. However, the consumption of the cubed ice was sizable as well—but it worked.”

About 30 pounds of bagged ice was consumed in just a few hours. But forcing air over the melted ice water also lowered the direct air delivered from the chest cooler air conditioners. Later in the day, Mike, WV8PWR, delivered about two-hundred pounds of ice from his work place’s ice machine, and there was ice left over when the FD site was dismantled. (Thank you Mike).

Ron, NQ0D, constructed a Field Day satellite station\* in and on his truck that was parked at Fort Boreman Park, the Klub’s operating location. “We’ll have one shot at the satellite at 7:11PM, this evening,” Ron said, Saturday afternoon. Satellite communication is complicated and requires specialized equipment and research. Ron used a bare bones approach at Field Day. In describing his station’s setup he said, “On the rear of the truck in the bed’s post holes I have two antennas, we call them ‘egg beaters’ because of the kitchen-whisk type appearance on top of each antenna (they’re omnidirectional). In the cab of the truck, I use two different radios. A two-meter rig for the uplink and a 440 MHz receiver for the downlink. I call on two-meters and the satellite repeater talks back (if you will) on 440 MHz frequency.”

Factors like any obstruction of line-of-sight (trees, buildings, terrain, etc.) can and do affect communicating with all satellites. And the age of the satellite is also a big factor. “Many of these ‘birds’ are decades old, Ron said. Their batteries can only charge in direct sunlight. They can be turned on and off by ground control—so you never know what’s going to happen.” He added that one of Russia’s satellites that has been in space since the 1980s is still functioning.

Larry, KF8NW, and Bill, KE8GGV, both observed the attempt by Ron. “I climbed into the front seat and Bill got in the back of the truck at about 7 o’ clock, and we started listening. Larry said. At about twenty minutes past the hour there was zero activity—so the attempt was terminated.” But there was one reward, Bill said, “At least we were in an air-conditioned truck for a while, I appreciate that.” Ron added, “We’ll try it again next Field Day.”

\*John, WD8LKT (SK), always erected a satellite station (for several years) at PARK Field Day events in the late ‘80s and 1990s, when FD was conducted at the *McDonough Wildlife Refuge* in Vienna, WV.

Thanks Larry, for the great wrote-up.

\*\*\*\*\*



Next up is the article from the Newspaper.

## Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub participates in national ham radio field day

Michelle Dillon

PARKERSBURG - Amateur radio enthusiasts gathered in Parkersburg on Saturday to test their skills and prove their readiness for an emergency.

Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub members participated in the American Radio Relay League Field Day on Saturday afternoon at Fort Boreman Park.



PARK President Larry Dale, whose call sign is KF8NW, called the day "ham radio's open house."

"This is (primarily) a preparedness exercise in the

event of some calamity or disaster," he said.

According to Dale, during the field day amateur or ham radio operators go on the air and try to get through to each other. He said that about 40,000 people will participate in the field day which ran from 2 p.m. Saturday to 2 p.m. Sunday.

Dale said the ARRL field day is more than 90 years old and is held the fourth full weekend of June.

"What we do is we work as many contacts as we can in this 24 hour period," he said.

According to Dale, during the 24-hour period the ham radio operators participate in what is called the "exchange," where they record the call sign, location, and power source of operators they contact. Those operators do the same.

The focus during the field day is not just the number of operators you can contact but also the accuracy of contacts.

Participating in the event is a test of emergency preparedness, according to Florida ham radio operator and event participant Steve Lewis, whose call sign is K9SEL, and who is not a member of PARK.

"They do this for one day once a year to see if we're ready and able to respond to an emergency," Lewis said.

According to a PARK media release, the ARRL Field Day is the largest single emergency preparedness exercise in the United States.

PARK ran three different kinds of stations during the field day, Dale said - a continuous station using Morse code, a single side band station using the operator's voice to communicate and a digital station where one computer communicates with another computer.

The ARRL Field Day is not just about radios, according to Dale.

"What we do here is make it a social event," he said.

Dale said some people camp during the event, and PARK would host a dinner Saturday evening for participants.

More information about PARK is available online at <https://w8par.org/>.

Michelle Dillon can be reached at [mdillon@newsandsentinel.com](mailto:mdillon@newsandsentinel.com)



FD CW ops, Lil' John, W8WEJ and Larry, KF8NW



Staying hydrated, (seated) Jerry, KA8NJW and Scott, KE8UTO



FD FT8 ops, (l-r) Jim, KE8TKY and Conard, WV8JCR



["Ready, Aim, Fire !!"]  
Earl, KB8HRG launches  
antenna pull-ups for  
FD



A soapbox filled with  
tennis balls and a  
bucket of bailing string  
are used to put anten-  
nas in the air (Bill and  
Tonya)



(l-r) Bill, KE8GGV, Earl,  
KB8HRG and Conard,  
WV8JCR load string for  
the air cannon to aid in  
hoisting FD antennas



Here's Earl (he may have been  
thinking, there was an odor of burn-  
ing rubber when this photo was tak-  
en)



(l-r) Ron, NQ0D,  
Tom, KD8NRV, Te-  
resa, KF8ADF,  
Scott, KE8UTO,  
Norma and Lil'  
John, W8WEJ,  
stand ready for sta-  
tion setup duties



Welcome to Field  
Day 24



Ron, NQ0D, attempted an  
AMSAT contact during FD



Yum Yum



Summary: of FD Score

Entry received at: 2024-07-01 16:57:21

Call Used: W8PAR GOTA Station Call: (NONE)  
ARRL/RAC Section: WV Class: 3A

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

Power Source(s): Generator, Battery, Solar

Power Multiplier: 2X

Preliminary Total Score: 2,388

Bonus Points:

100% emergency power	300
Media Publicity	100
Public location	100
Public information table	100
Site visit by invited elected official	100
Educational activity	100
Safety officer	100
Entry submitted via web	<u>050</u>
Total bonus points	950

Score Summary: (

	CW	Digital	Phone
Total			
Total QSOs	170	143	93
Total Points	340	286	93
719			

Claimed Score = (QSO points x power mult) =  
1,438

Submitted by: Jerrold Wharton, KA8NJW

Band/ Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW		Digital		Phone	
QSOs	Pwr(W)					
80m	0	100	38	100	0	100

40m	90	100	57	100	64	100
20m	34	100	26	100	21	100
15m	46	100	22	100	6	100
10m	0	100	2	100	0	100
TOTAL	170		143		93	

\*\*\*\*\*

K8UC, Curt Fouse, 92, celebrated his birthday with cake and ice cream.

Jane, N8MOW grew the flowers. Earl, KB8HRG and Larry, KF8NW, delivered a "card shower" from several Klub members.

Curt played his harmonica.

Curt's daughter, Kam, provided cake, brownies, chips, nuts and soft drinks.

"A good time was had by all."



\*\*\*\*\*

## Minutes

The May meeting of the Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub was called to order at 6:31 PM at the Western Sizzlin steakhouse by President Larry Dale.

Introductions were made by 27 members and guests. Two special guess were in attendance this evening, Scott's mom, Dorothy and Sue Kuntz.. We welcome them to our meeting.

The 50-50 raffle was one by Susan Howle of \$30.

Minutes of the April meeting were read by Jane H in Mary W's absence. The minutes were approved as read.

Treasures report was also given by Jane. The starting balance of 4358,99 to which was added some dues and raffle money with an ending balance of \$4394.99. Treasurers report was approved as read.

After the 50-50 raffle drawing, Larry gave out three extra door prizes. They are ARRL book to Jerry A book about the Parks on the air to Brenda and a pack of software to Robert KA4VWK.

The next thing on the agenda is old business with a little bit of new business thrown in.

First is Field day, June 22 at Fort Boreman Park. Larry passed around a sign-up sheet for the meal at 6 PM. Saturday evening on June 22. The club will be providing the meat. The bread and tableware. The members will have to bring the other goodies. It was noted that we will need a new cook this year because Blane and Libby are going to be out of town. We also need a Safety Officer as Blame usually does that.

Jerry will take care of renting the shelter and ordering the Porta John. (both Done, jw)

Larry passed out another sign-up sheet for operators CW in Phone and digital to work field day. We will have a station there for CW, phone and digital. You're welcome to bring your own, If you so desire. We will provide the computer logging software. We will need workers to help log and work the radios.

Larry said he would be taking care of publicity. Next item on the agenda.

The club has been talking about activating a park, during Parks on the Air, (POTA)/ The Klub will be activating the Ohio River Wilderness Park near Williamstown on June 15<sup>th</sup>., that's a Saturday between 9 and 11 am.

Next item on the list was the Special Event Station at Volcano Days. This year at Cairo. West Virginia. The date will be September 28. We plan on operating the station from 10 am to 6.00 pm with Phone, CW and digital on 20 and 40 mtr. We will need some help putting up antennas and operating stations. It will be a little harder this year because I don't know if Kenny Harris is going to be there or not and he usually helps us with. Power. Jerry will take care of it registering with the ARRL special events page.

Next item on the agenda was to approve a new member for associate status. His name is Mike Cremins, N8XYM, He was voted on and was unanimously be accepted into the Klub, even though he was recommended by Larry we won't hold that against him.

Motion to adjourn was made by the other Bob KM4CRF It was approved at 7:20 PM.

Minutes were taken by Jerry W, dictated by Jerry W and approved by Jerry W.

Minutes Park meeting June 10, 2024.

Larry Dale KF8NW called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM at Western Sizzlin steakhouse.

Larry Dale open to meeting with an update on people who were traveling and those who have been in the hospital including Jane N8MOW and Barney WY8L.

Larry also asked people to fill out a birthday card for Curt, K8UC, to be delivered to him on Saturday, June 15 after the Parks on the Air. Rob K84VNC brought a supply of blank cards to fill out for Curt's birthday. Thank you Rob.

50-50 drawing was won by Blane, W8IOE. He donated the \$25 back to the club. Thanks Blane.

Minutes from the May meeting were read by Jane, N8MOW, Conard made a motion to accept minutes with Jim, JHF seconding, The motion passed.

Treasures report was read by Jane, Scott made a motion to accept the report as read, Bill, KE8GUV seconded the request. the motion passed.

Old business:

Reminder, Field Day at Fort Boreman, June 22. Menu went around with club members signing up for various foods, You are encouraged to bring veggie dishes. The picnic is at 6 PM. Grills will be brought by Mike and Scott. Jane and Earl will get the meat, the buns, coffee etc. and the paper products.

Larry announced set up of antennas on Friday, June 21. We also encourage people to be loggers for CW and phone stations. Discussion was held on the weather, opening the building, storing of equipment, use of the air cannon and drones. The need for loggers was discussed.

Then discussing (pola) parks on the air and encourage people to attend.

After the BYOB on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. ham radio operators will go to the Ohio River Island and Wildlife Refuge located on Waverly Road, behind DiVinci's in Williamstown about 3 miles out. Three modes will be operated. The hams who plan to take part include Larry KF8NWM, Scott KE8UTO, Jim KE8TKY, Corey KE8XYM, Tom KD8NRV, Mike W8MKH and Bob KE8ZAM.

After the Parks on the Air event is over this crew will go over and visit Curt for a happy birthday.

Volcano Days Special event station will be listed in QST but there will be no bingo this year. Kenny WA8LM should still be there. There will be a need for pop-ups, tables, three laptops with logging software and three radios.

Earl reminded everybody that PARK members dues were due by June 30.

Conard was reimbursed for Internet use. Ask Jane for details.

Members voted on Mike Cremeans, N8XYM, for full Klub membership. Mike is an extra class operator.

Motion was weighed by Earl to accept Mike with Jim. Seconding motion passed.

New business:

A list was shown to attendees of the radio equipment from the estates of Baines and Jep. If you're interested in any of the equipment, please contact Earl KB8HRG.

The VE examiners team is looking to help amateur radio operators take exams, either in person or online. The team includes Jim, JWF, Scott, UTO, Kenny, LLM, Cory, KYF, Bob, ZAM, Rob, VNC, Bob, CRF, Mike, IK, and Larry, NW.

VE examination team will be ready to help others go through the process and proper protocol to get their. FRN an another documentation necessary. Cathy KD8DJJ will help in learning the proper protocols.

The park club is interested in encouraging hams to learn and share a basic electronics class this fall. TBA.

They were also be a time set up to have a test session in the late fall, mid November through mid December.

Motion to close the meeting was made by Larry KD8IK and seconded by Jim WVHJHF motion carried meeting concluded at 7:11 PM

PS Ron NQ0D demonstrated how to operate the repeater remotely. Thanks.

The minutes respectively submitted by Susan Dale KHSUZ. Thanks Susan.

Daniel Mowery Sr. SK WY8L  
JUNE 28, 2024

Daniel Barnes Mowery Sr., 82, of Washington, WV, passed away June 26, 2024, at Camden Clark Medical Center.

He was born Dec. 15, 1941, in Parkersburg, West Virginia, a son of the late Claude Asa Mowery and Roxie Irene (Cochran) Mowery.

Daniel was a computer programmer for the Wood County Board of Education. He enjoyed playing musical instruments and HAM Radio. Daniel is survived by three sons, Daniel Barnes Mowery Jr of Parkersburg, WV, Timothy Wayne Mowery of Parkersburg, WV, and Steven Jeffrey Mowery Washington, WV, one brother, Charles Mowery of Parkersburg, WV, two sisters, Judy Life of Parkersburg and Jan Powell of Parkersburg, and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Daniel was preceded in death by wife, Karen Mowery, two brothers, Robert Mowery and Earl “Gib” Mowery, two sisters, Kate Mowery and Claudia Mowery.

Funeral Service will be Saturday 1 p.m. at the Leavitt Funeral Home in Parkersburg with Reverend Larry Dale officiating. Interment will follow at Pleasant View Cemetery. Visitation will be Friday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.

Online condolences may be sent to the family @ [www.leavittfuneralhome.com](http://www.leavittfuneralhome.com).