



Di-Dah-Dit

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

Klub Ham Radio Open House

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) celebrates World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) each year on April 18. This year, 2025, marked the centennial for the global organization that strives to protect and preserve radio spectrum for ham radio operators around the world.

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the National Association for Amateur Radio in the United States, tagged the event, Ham Radio Open House. The Klub went with that theme.

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub (PARK)—for the first time—had its members and friends of the Klub participate in the WORLD observance. "The original plan was to extend our affiliation with Parkersburg South High School's science department on the campus of PSHS (*as we did during the solar eclipse*) Klub president Larry, KF8NW, said.

But for this event there was a conflict on the date of the IARU centennial. "WARD is always on April 18. This year, that date was an out of classroom day, so all the public schools were closed in Wood County.** "The Klub then decided to setup a display at Grand Central

Mall (GSM) on Good Friday, from 11am-5pm, at center court of the mall (H&M entrance)."

At GSM the Mall goers could see and experience ham radio exhibits from the past to state of the art modern-day remotely operated on-air transmissions.



NQØD, Ron, using a laptop and WiFi, remotely controlled his station from inside the mall to Fleming, Ohio. "I can operate through WiFi or a Hot Spot on a cellphone. I'm capable of switching antennas remotely as well, Ron said. "Miss Daisy"(Sue), Ron's XYL and their nine-year old granddaughter, de-



signed an informative graphic poster that explained how remote operations are used and how signals function in ham radio.

Keyboard-to-keyboard communication using Packet Radio was displayed and operated by WA8LLM, Kenny, of PARK and Wood County Emergency Communications (WCEC). "Packet, though not as popular as it once was, is still useful, reliable and easy to set up." To show how simple packet is, Kenny used an HT and (get ready) an old (real old) Tandy portable computer with a LCD display—and it worked!!

KD8IK, Larry (aka Sir Lawrence), brought two HF radios for display. Of interest to all in attendance—



Larry removed the tops

of each radio so people could see inside them and they could ask questions and were provided an-

swers about the changes in equipment over the years. His portable HamStick-antenna array made a perfect mount for the newly purchased Klub portable banners*.



KF

8NW, Larry, displayed his original novice station receiver (circa 1964) a Hallicrafters SX-140 which features an open back design in the cabinet—for heat control and accessibility for maintenance procedures. After all tubes get hot and need changed every now and again.

He said, "I raised a few eyebrows when I'd say, 'I know most of you have heard of solid-state equipment and components, but have you ever heard of hollow-state equipment?' With the open back on the receiver visitors to the HROH could see what a vacuum tube looks like, as well as a plug-in calibration crystal, power transformers, coils, tuning capacitors—and the one component that took everybody by surprise—a dial cord used for the slide rule pointer on the face of the radio. None of the stuff I talked about was anywhere near modern day—with names like TenTec, Vibroplex, Bunnell, MFJ and of course, Hallicrafters."

Larry said the Vibroplex Bug telegraph key (circa 1945) I displayed belonged to W8GWR, Archie (sk), who used it to make his living as a

telegrapher for the B&O Railroad and he used magnetic sounders for the code (think click-click-click, instead dah-dit-dah.)



One highlight of the HROH was several people with expired licenses and call signs visited the display and were inspired to renew their license and get back on the air.

KF8NW said, "One gentleman, Larry Midcaff, who was not a ham operator, showed up with a paper bag filled with old (filled out) ARRL brand handwritten logbooks. Price tag on the logbook in 1936 was 35 cents. The books are dated 1937 through the mid 80s and appear to be from different ham operators.

It'll be fun to peruse these relics and see who they belonged to.

After interviewing this guy about where he got them (logbooks) Midcaff told me that they belonged to WA8CRW, Tim (sk) and KB8BOA, Mary (Britton) Midcaff (sk). Larry and Mary were married following Tim's death." KF8NW added.

The success of this entire event was amplified by the excellent media coverage by WTAP and The Parkersburg News & Sentinel as well as the broadcast group of Seven Mountains Media.

Thank you all for your support of ham radio.

Submitted by,
Larry KF8NW
73

* The new smaller banners are available to Klub members to use on POTA activations and at other events where ham radio is the focus. (The large PARK Klub banner we use at Field Day and other events was purchased and donated to the Klub by N8TWV, Raymond and KB8YPB, Emily (circa 2000). The small banners were approved for purchase by the Klub at the April, 2025, monthly meeting.

** Planning ahead; Next year, we won't be back on campus at PSHS either—because April, 18, is on Saturday. So share your ideas on the repeater system where we have another Ham Radio Open House.



ARRL Ham Radio Open House Events Making Headlines

04/21/2025

[ARRL Ham Radio Open House](#) events across North America have increased public awareness and engagement with amateur radio during April – which is [Citizen Science Month](#).

Centered around World Amateur Radio Day on April 18, ARRL Ham Radio Open House events were held in at least 57 locations. Several more are scheduled for this upcoming weekend. Find the details on them at www.arrl.org/Open-House.

In Vienna, West Virginia, the Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub, W8PAR, set up its open house in a shopping mall, garnering many impressions in foot traffic – and even more in the local news. The [Marietta Times](#) and [Parkersburg News and Sentinel](#) newspapers and [WTAP-TV](#) each did stories on their activation

N8UTZ “Nutzee” Award

KF8CWM, Travis, was awarded the very-first “Nutzee” (about ham radio) Award by working through a pile-up, (that he created) during Winter Field Day (WFD). It’s from this experience that he now enjoys activating Parks-On-the-Air (POTA) and portable-operating outings.



WV8PWR, (power) Mike, took the “Nutzee” home by being

helpful at antenna parties and constantly being willing to serve.



The “Nutzee” Award came about when Mike spared no expense to memorialize all of the fried squirrels he has found dead at the base of Mon Power poles during power outages. He found the the memorial plaque, which is the N8UTZ “Nutzee” Award at a Dollar General Store.

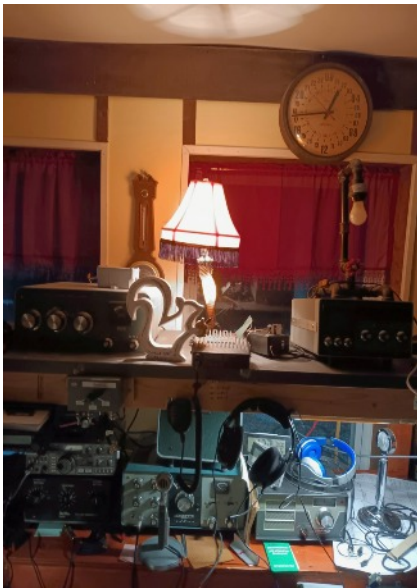
The plaque memorializes those critters (r.i.p.) which make their first, and their last “contact” on a transformer on a utility pole.

The additional photo shows Mike (atop a power pole himself) with his handheld, the rumor is, he’s placing little tiny “Danger High Voltage” warning

signs on the transformers to perhaps save a "squacks" life, yes, Mike's very compassionate too.



KE8RBY, Mayor (Lowell, OH) Dave's radio shack has "Nutzee" front and center. The additional photo shows how Dave (aka Dead-eye Dave) took the



"Nutzee"—by being a marksman with his Howitzer- antenna launcher. He's helped the Klub to activate POTA and be on-the-air at WFD. He's also helped new hams and Ol' Timers string wires into trees.

NQØD, Ron, seated in his radio shack with bare walls, no radios, no power supplies, and no coax hanging from the ceiling.



But just you wait! Soon (and very soon) the multiple monitors attached to the walls, along with Ron and "Nutzee," will be joined by the "state of the art"-software-defined radio Flex-6400, a new remotely-controlled antenna switching system and various companion radios for voice, digital and satellite communication—plus gadgets and (mostly) hidden cables. Plus a new full-room desktop with two-person operating positions. All this and



more, arranged and suspended over top a newly installed laminate floor.

Ron says, "I wanted my ham-radio buddies to know—I'm not just limited to bathroom -remodeling projects, yep, I'm beyond bathrooms—but one is nearby."

The "Nutzee" Award was given to Ron because of his generous free gift of a HF (10m) multi-mode transceiver, vertical antenna and coaxial cable to help get a "newbie" on HF—following the new ham's license upgrade to General Class.

WARNING:

IF WHILE ON-THE-AIR THE SUBJECT OF GIVING EXCESS RADIO EQUIPMENT AWAY TO CLEAN OUT A CLOSET COMES UP—IMMEDIATELY TURN THE VOLUME DOWN ON YOUR RADIO (or switch to headphones. It is possible your XYL may overhear the topic and ask, "Why don't you do what Ron did??")

There is a related story about "Nutzee" in a back issue of the Klub's newsletter Di-Dah-Dit.

Go to W8PAR.ORG (click on Newsletter Di-Dah-Dit tab and select Dec. 2024 issue)

Submitted by Larry KF8NW

PARK Minutes 1/13/2025

Park meeting was called to order by Larry Dale at 6:30 PM January 13 at the Western Sizzlin steakhouse on route 68. Introduction was made by 23 members and guests

Minutes were read by Mary WHARTON. from the December meeting. Minutes were approved as read.

Next up with treasurers report beginning balance, 4549 ending balance 3942 the main expense being the Christmas dinner that was catered.

The 50-50 raffle was one by Scott, \$29.00 and given back to the Club.

Next item on the agenda was the application for membership from Travis Daugherty. This call is KF8CWM Larry read the application. He was approved for associate membership for one month. The final approval will come with the next meeting.

Next item on the agenda was Winter field day. Winter field day will be participated in by the club for six hours on January 25 using the main pavilion at the city park in Parkersburg. We're going to try to run Phone digital and C W. We're going to meet at 10 AM and start setting up d

stations on the air by 11 AM. There was discussion about separation of the CW and phone stations to avoid interference but if we do that we'll have to have two generators and two locations 1000 feet apart. I think we decided at the meeting and informal decision was made not to do that this year.

Please come and help if you can. There was a discussion by members of a new social media service or platform called Discord started out as a gaming platform or gaming message platform but it's turned into one that can be used by ham radio enthusiasts to spread videos and instructional ideas more to come later about this service. Was presented by MIKE Cremeans W8XYM

Next item of business was a sad note, we had a moment of silence concerning the passing of David Wright. N8NWV. At this time no details about any services are available.

The last thing on the agenda was a short talk by Larry Smith KD8IK Concerning a get together on 10 m on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7 PM at a frequency of about 28 for 25 this will be similar to over the coffee cup meeting that occurs at approximately 8 AM every morning on a 2 m net 97 machine. If you have 10 m capability and want to stop by at 7 PM

on Monday, Wednesday or Friday feel free to join the group. No further business was discussed meeting adjourned at 7:15 approximately. Minutes submitted by Mary WHARTON. dictated by Jerry Wharton

PARK Minutes 2/10/2024

Meeting was called to order by President Larry Dale at 6:36 PM at Western Sizzlin steakhouse.

Introductions were made by 32 members and friends.

Minutes from January meeting read by Mary Wharton.

Treasurers report was given by Jane. The starting balance of \$3942, plus collected \$444 in dues and \$25 in raffle refunded to the Klub. Also there was a \$50 disbursement to the Wounded Warriors in the name of David Wright, who was a recent silent key of the klub. The 50-50 raffle was one by Travis for \$35. He donated the money back to the club. Thanks Travis.

The treasurers report and the minutes were both approved as read the motion was made by Scott second and my Brynn.

Larry would Give a report on Winter Field Day. He thanked

everybody who came out to help with winter field day. There were 100 contacts made. With 50 onCW and 50 mix of Phone and digital. Everybody seemed to have a good time although the weather was a bit chilly.

Old business,
Travis Daugherty was approved from Associate member to a full member of the club.

Larry accepted an application for membership from Lloyd Wilson KC8TEO for Associate membership in the Klub. The motion made by Earl seconded by Scott vote to accept him was passed.

New business
Larry would like to coordinate with this teacher at South and the commander of the Air Force ROTC to do something in connection with World Radio Day. This occurs on April 18 every year. This year it's special because of Mark's 100th anniversary of the international Telecommunication Union. Larry hopes to set up a ham radio station somewhere in the south campus to expose the students to the hobby. The details still must be worked out.

With no further business to discuss meeting was adjourned at about 7:25pm. motion to adjourn was made by Bob Riordan and seconded by Jerry minutes were taken by Mary Wharton.

Dictated by Jerry.

Minutes from the 3/10/2025 meeting.

The main meeting was called to order by Larry Dale at 6:30 at the Western Sizzlin steakhouse on route 68 south.

Introductions were made by 25 members and guests.

The Minutes for February was read by Mary WHARTON and approved as read.

The treasurers report was given by Jane beginning balance , \$ 4324+ \$150.02 dollars in dues \$70 in raffle proceeds ending balance \$4512.46 .Treasurers report was approved as read. The 50-50 raffle was one by Scott \$16.50 who donated the money back to the club. Thanks, Scott.

Lloyd Wilson's associate membership was voted on to full members approved as read. New associate member and new ham Cathy Chapman KE8 UTO. Was voted as associate member.

Larry brought up a discussion of setting a table up at the mall celebrating a 150th anniversary of the International Telecommunications Union and Amateur Radio Day April 18.

We originally wanted to do this at the school. Unfortunately the schools were closed on good Friday. After much discussion. The club decided to rent a table at the mall for \$150 and set up one or two stations and pass out flyers commemorating world radio day.

Jerry will look into getting the flyers in the ARRL. Larry will look

into finalizing the details with the manager tomorrow. Larry Smith was to go to Mall to see about using his remote Radio, for show and tell.

New business Jane wanted to know if we wanted to finalize the details of the Christmas dinner she said we needed to book the room early, if we were going to get it. After much discussion. The club decided to do a repeat of last year's using the same caterer at Emmanuel Baptist Church. If we go with the second Monday, we can get to singers from PHS we're pretty sure for entertainment that motion was passed.

I forgot to mention Gary McDonald was recognized as a returning club member N8CDD.

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:14. Minutes by Mary WHARTON dictation by Jerry WHARTON

PARK Minutes 4/14/2025

Parkersburg amateur radio club meeting was called to order at 6:30 4/14/2025 at the Western Sizzlin steakhouse on Route 68. Introductions were made by 24 members and guess.

Minutes of the March meeting read by Mary WHARTON excepted as read

Treasures report was given by Jane starting balance \$4512.46 taken in \$56 in dues and \$33 in

raffle tickets were added for a grand total of \$4601.46. Treasurers report was accepted as read.

50-50 raffle was one by Scott he won \$22 that was the second month in a row lucky son of a gun.

Old business.:

Larry went over the details of the Christmas dinner will be December 8 at Emmanuel Baptist Church and will be catered.

Next Larry brought up the vote for the two associate members that need to be voted in for full membership Cathy KF80JC, and Mike Swoops KF80JY they were voted in as for members.

We also voted in a new associate member Curtis, White KFABRB he was excepted for associate membership.

Next Larry discussed the upcoming World amateur radio day at the Grand Central Mall on April 18. We will be setting up a table have two at least one maybe two radio stations demonstrating the ability of ham radio we will have handouts for the general public. Larry will work with them all to determine the location of our set up. We plan to be working there from 11 to 5 on Friday.

Next Larry discussed the option of ordering two small banners to advertise the club activities. We have a giant banner but sometimes that can be too big so he propose getting two smaller ones 3 x 5' for you said club

events he offered to buy one another club by the other one. Earl made a motion that the club should buy both banners then it should not be Larry's responsibility to pay for one we accept his executive decision. The motion was passed to pay \$212 for both banners.

Larry encouraged everyone that could show up on Friday to help support the club activities at the mall.

The NUTTEZ AWARD was passed on to Ron NQ0D for donating radio equipment to a new HAM With no further business the motion to adjourned at 7:15 by Bob KM4CRF

Minutes taken by Mary Wharton. Dictated by Jerry WHARTON.

Some photos from Winter Field Day at City Park

