

# Di-Dah-Dit

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PARKERSBURG AMATEUR RADIO KLUB  
P.O. Box 2112, Parkersburg, WV 26101

## Amateur Radio Classes Start Klub sponsors classes for all license grades

**We're using ARRL publications this year.**

*Carl, K8OWL, PARK education chairman*

**Here's** your chance to upgrade, or introduce your friends, family and co-workers to ham radio.

On January 19 at 7p.m., the 1993 Amateur Radio classes, sponsored by the Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub, get underway at the Red Cross Center on Market Street in Parkersburg.

The Klub-sponsored classes have a very impressive success record, with both new hams and those who desire to upgrade their present license.

Klub education committee chairman, Carl, K8OWL, told *Di-Dah-Dit*, "This year, we are using the ARRL publication *'Now You're Talking'* as a study guide for the novice and technician class license. Also, the other study guides of the ARRL

for the other grades of licenses—are being suggested as study guides."

The Klub will order these books at the test site the first night of the class.

The cost of the "Now You're Talking" book is about \$20. The other books are about \$8.

The Klub will charge a fee of \$10 to those

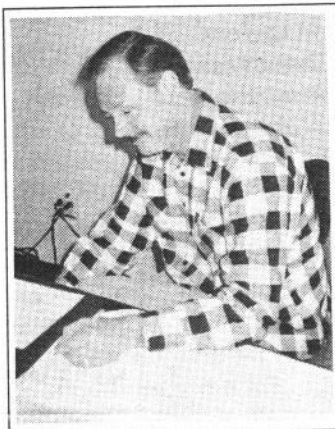
people who take the course. This fee is in addition to the book costs.

However, the benefit of a fully-paid Klub membership for one year is the premium offered for the \$10 fee (that's a savings of \$6 from the annual dues schedule).

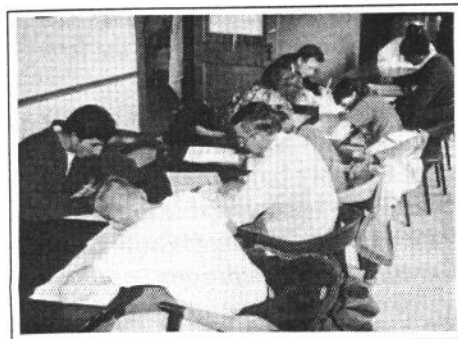
The novice/technician class is a combined class. The option of Morse Code is offered.

Curt, K8UC, says, "While the code is not required for the technician license, we've found that a good number of the people who take the Klub's course opt to go ahead and try the code. After all, they don't have anything to lose and could easily end up with more privileges on the HF bands."

Tim, KB8JWF, will again spearhead the CW portion of the Klub's classes. Jerry, KA8NJW, Carl, KB8MDO, and Carl, K8OWL, will be the instructors for the theory and rules and regulations part of the course.

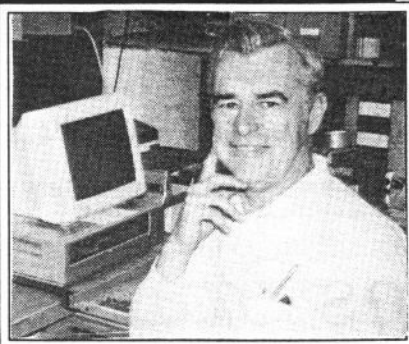


**Larry Deems, N8TGI, is Tech + HF. 5 wpm code test a success.**



**Ham radio license test session at the Red Cross, Parkersburg.**

## President's Corner



Curt Fouse, K8UC

## Hammy 1993 New Year

**H**appy New Year. And it can be a Hammy New Year too.

Colder weather limits our outdoor activities and chores and gives us more time to spend in the shack. This time is a good time to project, experiment or do the most dreaded of all ham activities—clean-up the shack. Hi.

Wintertime is the top time for Top Band (160 meters). The band is quiet. It's a band that is open at night (so you don't have to call off work, unless you are on swing shift, to work the band). If you've never tried Top Band, and you have the privileges, get on 160 meters and enjoy! By the way, can anybody give me the origin of the term Top Band?

I have looked back through my recent log and am reminded that 160 is not the only band that's hopping. Several good openings are logged on 10 meters. And on my favorite band, 20 meters, it's always open.

20 meters is sometimes called the "Kilowatt Band"—but not by me. You see, a few years ago my amp went to the Hamvention in Dayton and found a new home. CW is my mode choice.

A footnote to the cover story—here are few reasons why you should attend the Amateur Radio class, sponsored by the Klub, if you are considering an upgrade to your license.

- Group study is more fun and more effective.
- An experienced instructor can help you on trouble spots.
- You tend not to procrastinate when you have a scheduled class to attend.

Also, I think I will contact the ARRL and set the Klub up as a stocking VE team. This will mean we can give test sessions on shorter notice. And will save the ARRL (and us) postage and other expenses. The color-coded material from the League is easier to use than what we could produce with software and a poor-quality printer.

That's about it from this end. If you didn't attend the Christmas Dinner, I hope to see you at the next meeting at Bonanza in Vienna (January 11, 1993, at 7 p.m.).

VY73, Curt, K8UC

## Klub Notes

submitted by  
Rory, KB8MDN, secretary

Judy, N8UFQ,  
winner of  
"Widget"



"Widget"

Earl Hulce, KB8HRG  
named Ham of the  
Year. Plaque to be  
presented during Jan.  
Meeting

CW practice on 147.390  
Mon., Wed. and Fri. 8:30 p.m.

## Some Goals for 1993

*Editor's note: These are some ideas and concepts overheard on-the-air and from other sources which would help promote the hobby of Ham Radio and our Klub.*

Ladies, in 1993, how about a YL and XYL's net? And a YL/XYL Field Day station?

Refrain from using double entendre-style humor on-the-air and on the repeaters. (*Double entendre? Look it up in your Funk and Wagnell's*)

Create a callbook for the area.

Have a Klub membership drive—complete with prizes.

Swap meet Klub meeting.

Think about these ideas, and talk them up

## Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub 1992-1993 Officers and staff

Curt Fouse, K8UC, President  
Earl Hulce, KB8HRG, VP  
John McGuffey, N8NBL, VP  
Bob Lyons, KB8EFB, VP  
Rory Hughes, KB8MDN, Sect.  
Jane McGuffey, N8MOW, Treas.  
Jerry Wharton, KA8NJW, Ed.  
Larry Dale, KF8NW, Ed.

# WD8IFR Expanded Scale Voltmeter

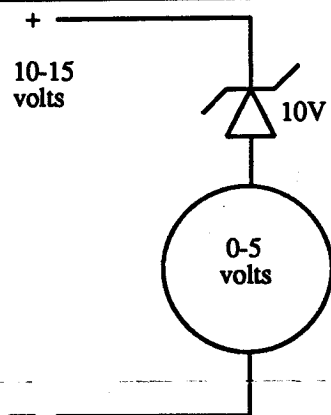


Fig. 1

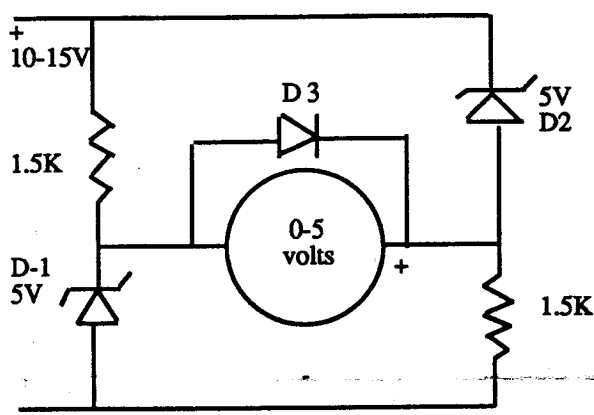


Fig. 2

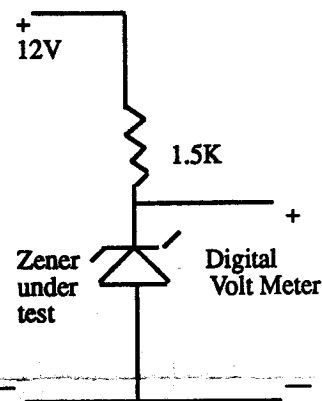


Fig. 3

I don't claim this to be an original, but the circuit has given me good service. I realize digital voltmeters are now common. However, I thought some of you still might be interested.

Figure one is the sometimes suggested way to expand the scale of a voltmeter. This circuit is usually very non-linear because the zener is operating in the "knee" region, that is to say, the transitional zone before the zener's voltage becomes stable.

Figure two is the bridge configuration I use. The resistors allow the zeners to operate above the "knee" region. D3 is a protective diode to limit reverse meter deflection. This component can be almost any signal or power diode. A IN914 or IN4001 is fine. 400mw to 1watt zeners are used. The voltage of the completed unit will be from the sum of the two zener diodes plus the full scale voltage of the basic voltmeter. As shown the expanded voltage range will be from 10 to 15 volts (from 5+5 to 5+5+5).

Use two 6 volt zeners and a 0 to 2 volt meter and you have a good meter circuit for a car battery or regulated 12 volt power supply. The range with these components is 12 to 14 volts.

Now for the bad news. Zener diodes are not sold as exact voltages. They have a tolerance just like resistors—usually 5 to 10 percent. Your expanded scale voltmeter will magnify these errors. Therefore, the zeners will have to be selected from as many as you can collect. The exact voltage is really not important. But, the total of the two must equal the lower end of the expanded scale voltage (i.e.  $4.7v + 5.3v = 10v$ ).

Figure three is a test circuit. Final accuracy will be dependent on the accuracy of the zener diode selected. Use your digital voltmeter—with better than one percent accuracy—if possible. Helpful hint: A signal or power diode (used in the forward direction) in series with the zener diode will raise the voltage .6volt to .8volts.

A milliammeter with a series resistor can be used as the voltmeter and may make finding an appropriate meter face easier. A 1ma meter or less should do a fine job. *Note: The expanded scale meter draws about 10ma more than most meters which limits its use with dry cell batteries.*

Submitted by:  
Perry, WD8IFR

clip and save

## Repeaters and NetNights Parkersburg/Marietta Area

146.970 (minus) Tues. 9 p.m.

147.390 (plus) MWF 8:30 p.m.

147.255 (plus) Sun. 8:40 p.m.

146.745 (minus) Wed. 8:30 p.m.

146.670 (minus) Mon. 9 p.m.

146.880 (minus) Sun. 9 p.m.

146.625 (minus) wide-area repeater Trader Net Mon. 9 p.m.

147.240 (plus) New Martinsville

146.985 (minus) New Martinsville

147.030 (plus) St. Marys

147.360 (plus) Dutch Ridge

**There may be others, if you know of them, tell Di-Dah-Dit**

# Are You a Know Code?

**N**o-code! You hear a lot of discussion about the new technician class license.

I am sorry to say, "Some seasoned hams have elevated themselves somewhere above these new hams." That is not fair. Nor is it in the spirit of amateur radio. Many of these people haven't had the experience of an Elmer to teach them all about our hobby. Rather than using a condescending tone when talking about these hams—try being an Elmer instead.

I won't editorialize further.

But I would like to show you, that even though you may not be a No-Code ham—you may not know code.

In the original code introduced in 1838, there were 11 major differences in the code we now use.

The "T" and "L" and the numeral zero, were represented by a single dash of varying lengths.

The letters "J" and "Q" were both Dididahdit. Yes, that's now our letter "F." The letter "F" was Didahdit (*that's a good name for a newsletter*) Hi.

These six letters that had internal spacing which identified them was a major confusion factor too.

How about the use of "ES" for the word, *and*? It comes from the "mother tongue" of code for the ampersand. That's the little dohickey above the seven on your keyboard. It represents the Latin word *et* (and). And was sent with ditdididit. "C" was didit dit. "O" was dit dit. "Y" was didit didit. And "R" was dit di dit. Had enough? Know Code.

73, Jerry, KA8NJW  
& (et) Worldradio 10/92

## Buy Sell and Trade Items

Jerry, KA8NJW, is in the market for a VGA or RGB monitor for an IBM (or clone). He has an amber screen to swap too. 428-3395

Larry, KF8NW, needs some HF antennas. Used or repairable. Will take down. 863-0073

**Don't forget!**  
**Tuesday night**  
**is**  
**NetNight**  
**on Nine-Seven**  
**at**  
**Nine-oh-Clock**

**Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub**  
**P.O. Box 2112**  
**Parkersburg, WV 26101**

93  
KA8NJW Jerry Wharton  
1722 20th St.  
Parkersburg WV 26101