



# Di-Dah-Dit

Official Newsletter of the Parkersburg Radio Klub  
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## Danish radio amateur Thomas Andersen, OZ1AA/K9DXX bikes around the globe

Danish radio amateur Thomas Andersen, OZ1AA/K9DXX, has said he never wanted to think back on things that he might have done during his lifetime, but did not. That's why he decided to follow his dream and start cycling — around the globe. He's now in the 5th year of his journey, and he's been meeting many hams along the way. This month he's been working his way up the East Coast of the US, more or less following US Route 1 from Florida.

"I have been staying with hams almost every day on the trip in the US!" the 32-year-old telecommunications engineer told ARRL this week. "Absolutely amazing hospitality." He plans to end the North American leg of his trip in St John's, Newfoundland. "From there I will be flying back to Denmark for a 3-month break," he explained. "Then my plan is to go to Africa and start riding home from there."

Andersen said his bicycle adventure also stemmed from a desire to attempt something that he was not entirely sure he could finish, but it's been an opportunity to combine his favorite activities.

"Apart from ham radio I have been interested in cycling since I was a kid," he said on his QRZ.com page. "I also love to travel, so it was somewhat natural for me to combine

my passions in life into a perfect match." Andersen has been pedaling since leaving his homeland in 2010. His initial plan was to cycle south-east and end his trip in Sydney, Australia. "When I left Denmark I had enough money for 1 year of traveling (on a \$20 a day budget). That was enough to get me to Australia," he told ARRL. "I thought I had to go back home from there, but I found work in Australia — on a huge cattle station out of Alice Springs — so I could save up more money and extend my trip to the Americas as well." He now hopes to complete his circumnavigation back home in Denmark.



So far, he has not been carrying along any Amateur Radio gear, because of weight concerns. "Even so, I have come to the conclusion that I would like to add a small HF rig to my setup. Having a radio in my bag simply seems worth it," he said on QRZ. Andersen said he thinks his adventure would not have been possible without his being a radio amateur. "I can't honestly think of any other hobby where you can show up in any town in any part of the world and be welcomed like I have been. He said his non-ham friends don't get it, though. "[B]ut all I can tell

them is: Become a ham, and you will have 1 million friends around the world as well."

Along the way he's met many hams, and while in Turkey he got to operate TC033TAI for the Turkish Island Award as well as TA3KM for the 2010 CQ World Wide CW contest. In Syria, however, he found himself listening to a plethora of DX signals at the YK0RJ club station, only to learn that only Syrian hams were permitted to use the station. "[O]ne of the more frustrating moments of my Amateur Radio career," he said.

Andersen said he's not encountered anyone who wanted to harm him. Some of the dogs he's passed along the way are a different matter. "While I only met people with good intentions, I can't say the same about the dogs," he said. "They have some nasty stray dogs in Turkey, and for some reason they turn made when they see a cyclist." He said a few of the canines snapped at his legs or his bags, but he's never been injured.

"For me, the chance to meet new people, to make new friends, and to see and learn about their way of life is the true highlight of the trip," Andersen concluded. "Ham radio certainly plays a big role in making that possible."

# Joint Cuba-US DX Operation Planned

## Joint Cuba-US DX Operation Planned; Will Include CQ World Wide SSB Contest

In the wake of an announced normalization of diplomatic relations between the US and Cuba, a joint US-Cuba operation is being planned for this fall, to include the dates of the CQ World Wide SSB contest.



“The combined group will be operating under the call sign T42US between October 21 and October 28, including during the CQ WW DX SSB Contest,” the announcement from The 7163 DX Group and the Federacion de Radioaficionados de Cuba (FRC) said. “There will be nine operators from the USA and approximately the same number from Cuba. The T42US group will operate 160-10 meters, SSB and CW.”

The US Team leader is Jim Millner, WB2REM, and the Cuban Team Leader is Bob Ibarra, CM2KL. Millner said the T42US operation will be among the first of its kind in Cuba and will involve a joint effort between the US and Cuban teams.

Other operators who are expected to join the operation include Jorge Novoa, CO2II; Nancy Yoshida, K9DIG; Mark Wohlschlegel, WC3W; Amed Santana, CO2AME; John Sweigart, KK4SHF; Ruthie

Sweigart, KC4BAB; Gordon Blumenfeld, WB0TKL; Rolf Seichter, KE1Y, and Stephanie Koles, WX3K

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## Katrina 10th Anniversary Mississippi Memorial Event Set

A special event operation from August 26 through September 2 will commemorate the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and the more than 230 people who lost their lives as a result of Katrina along the Mississippi Gulf Coast and points north.

“Many lost everything they owned and many lost their lives,” said Larry Morgan, AG5Z, who is spearheading the event. “We also want to honor the hundreds of volunteers from all over the country that poured in to assist us in our time of dire need.”

Several stations along the Mississippi coast will use special event K (for Katrina) prefix 1 × 1 call signs. Operation will begin on August 26 at 0000 UTC from home stations. On August 29 at 1300 — the time of Katrina’s impact — all stations will reduce power to 100 W, except for bonus stations K5M and K5T. Reduced-power operation will con-

tinue until September 2 at 2359 UTC.

K5Z at “ground zero” will consist of a portable QRP station set up on the beach using temporary antennas and emergency power.

Certificates will be available. See the Katrina 10th Anniversary Special Memorial Event website for details. Send logs and QSLs to AG5Z. Morgan expressed his appreciation to the 599 DX Association and the Hattiesburg Amateur Radio Club.

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## ARRL Logs Received Page Showing all 2015 Field Day Entries to Date

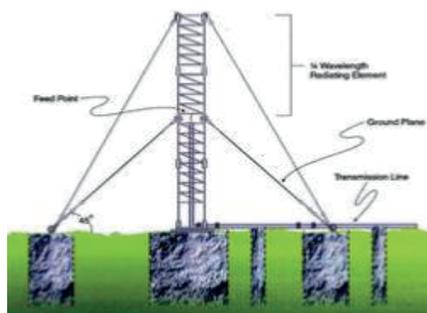
The ARRL "Logs Received" page now contains all 2015 ARRL Field Day entries received to date (scroll to bottom of page). This includes entries submitted via e-mail, web applet, or on paper. The date to submit entries for ARRL Field Day 2015 has passed.

The ARRL Contest Branch requests that Field Day participants review the list and contact ARRL Contest Branch Manager Matt Wilhelm, W1MSW, (860-594-0232) no later than Midnight, August 21, if anything appears to be incorrect with their entry information.



## WV's 25 MHz Signal is Back on Original Vertical Dipole

WTime and frequency standard station WWV's resurrected 25 MHz signal -- now back on the air for more than a year after going silent in 1977 -- is once again transmitting on a vertical dipole from its original antenna and location. The 25 MHz signal returned to the air on an "experimental basis" in April 2014, and it's been transmitting ever since. The WWV vertical dipole is not something you'd likely find in the average ham radio antenna farm.



A depiction of a WWV vertical dipole antenna. [Courtesy of Matt Deutch, N0RGT]

"The antenna the 25 MHz [transmitter] is on right now is the original antenna it was on in 1977," Matt Deutch, N0RGT, WWV's lead electrical engineer, told ARRL. "When the 25 [MHz transmitter] was shut down [that year], the radiating section was removed and tossed in the bone yard, and a new longer section put on the tower to make it a 15 MHz stand-by antenna."

Deutch said that when WWV first reintroduced the 25 MHz broadcast in 2014, it used a broadband monopole. It was later decided to use that antenna for WWV's 2.5 MHz stand-by transmitter, though. "So, we decided to rebuild the 25 MHz antenna," he recounted. "A few weeks ago the boys dug the 25 MHz radiating section out of the mud in the bone yard and rebuilt the 25 MHz antenna, so that it looks identical to what it looked like in 1977."

Deutch said the 25 MHz WWV vertical dipole now is coupled to its own, dedicated transmitter, radiating 2.5 kW "with near zero watts reflected," he added, and modeling has showed that the dipole exhibits a lower angle of radiation than the broadband monopole did. "There is no automatic backup transmitter for 25 MHz at this time," Deutch added. The 25 MHz WWV signal had been operating at about 1 kW for the past 16 months.



The WWV campus in Fort Collins, Colorado. [Courtesy of NIST]

Deutch has said that WWV has received reports on the 25 MHz signal from across the Atlantic. The 25 MHz transmission not only provides another option to check your frequency calibration or the exact time, it also can serve to indicate the state of propagation on 12 and 10 meters. The 25 MHz broadcast includes the same information transmitted on all other WWV frequencies and at the same level of accuracy.

Located in Fort Collins, Colorado, WWV is operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). WWV has invited listeners' comments and signal reports.

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### Rockwell Collins to End Mechanical Filter Production

As more and more communications equipment designs have adopted digital signal processing techniques, Rockwell Collins has announced that it will stop manufacturing its renowned mechanical filters. It did not provide a specific date.

"Over the past several years, we have seen a dramatic reduction in demand for narrowband analog filters," the company

said on its website. "Due to this and other economic reasons, [Rockwell Collins] Filter Products will be discontinuing its mechanical filter products in the near future."



Rockwell Collins makes two different types of mechanical filters, many of which have found their way into Amateur

Radio products and applications. In a mechanical filter, input and output transducers convert the electrical signal to and from resonant mechanical vibrations, respectively.

"For frequencies between 100 kHz and 700 kHz, we create filters made from rods resonating in a torsion mode," the company explained on its website. "For frequencies below 100 kHz, we use flexure mode bar resonators."

Collins has made mechanical filters for more than 6 decades, and their initial application was in telephone circuits. The filters gained favor for Amateur Radio use because of their excellent selectivity, especially in IF applications. It is said to take about 12 weeks to manufacture a single unit.

Art Collins, W0CXX (SK), founded Collins Radio Company in 1933 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. That same year Collins supplied the equipment to establish communication with the Byrd South Pole expedition. Over the years, Collins produced a line of Amateur Radio equipment, and its products remain popular among radio amateurs and collectors. Rockwell International purchased the company in 1973, and Rockwell Collins was spun off in 2001. Today, the company has focused its market on electronic communications, avionics, and in-flight entertainment systems. —

Thanks to Mike Morris, WA6ILQ; Rockwell Collins

# PARK MINUTES

April 13, 2015

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant for the April meeting.

Videos of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank were shown before the meeting. Jep K8BOT talked about how Penn Metal fabricated metal for the big telescope.

The meeting was opened at 7:08 PM by president Jerry Wharton KA8NJW. Introductions were made by 27 members and guests. The 50/50 drawing of \$18.50 was won by Libby KA8FUA.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. There was no treasurer's report.

Unfinished business: Field Day. Curt K8UC got permission to use the cabin at Fort Boreman Park. Jerry KA8NJW will serve as field day chairman since he was the only volunteer. Jerry KA8NJW reported on attending the Charleston hamfest.

New Business and announcements: The Athens OH hamfest is April 26.

Curt K8UC and Darrell W8DLF are disassembling his EME dish. Jerry KA8NJW reported on his trip to GA.

Connie N8IO needs some antenna repair work done.

Sam W8SPM is working 2 meter SSB portable this evening from 7 to 11 on 144.200.

Jep K8BOT moved and Dave N8NWV seconded to adjourn at 7:35 PM

May 11, 2015

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant for the May meeting.

Videos were shown of Edwin Armstrong and of Louie Zamperini, an Army Air Force member who was shot down and survived 47 days drifting in a life raft in the Pacific Ocean before being captured by the Japanese.

The meeting was called to order by president Jerry Wharton KA8NJW.

The 50/50 drawing of \$19.50 was won by Dan WV8X. Introductions were made by 24 members and guests.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was given by Jane N8MOW, treasurer.

Unfinished business: Connie N8IO still needs antenna work done. Blaine WA8IOE got approval for us to stay overnight at Fort Boreman Park for Field Day. This needs to be done every year. A field day meeting will be held about one week before field day. Operators are needed for all modes of operation.

New business: The 146.970 repeater site needs mowing. Possible date will be on the 13th after lunch at Captain D's. Earl KB8HRG added five gallons of water to the backup batteries and still needs more. The 146.970 repeater is running on two separate antennas and the coverage may be a little different.

Dan WV8X talked to someone using a cellular network to link to a remote base in GA.

Blaine WA8IOE purchased a new 2 meter Yaesu FT-1900R radio at the Ripley hamfest for \$100 and is offering it to anyone wanting it for the same price.

Curt K8UC assigned net control stations for the next 2 weeks from his list of operators.

Jep K8BOT moved and Dan WV8X seconded to adjourn at 7:37 PM.

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July 13, 2015

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant for the July meeting.

Before the meeting two videos were shown of the MFJ antenna analyzer and Software Defined Radio.

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by president Jerry Wharton KA8NJW. Introductions were made by 25 members and guests. The 50/50 drawing of \$14 was won by Harold N8KO.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved and the treasurer's report was given by Jane N8MOW.

Unfinished business: Jerry KA8NJW gave a report on field day. There were lots of CW operators this year. 335 CW contacts were made and almost 200 phone contacts. Curt K8UC made a solar powered contact despite cloudy conditions and a leaky trailer roof.

With much difficulty, Jerry KA8NJW, Earl KB8HRG and Dave WD8CYV removed the batteries

## Minutes Continued

from the 146.97 repeater site. The six batteries were loaded onto Jerry's KA8NJW trailer which caused the tires to rub the fenders. Dave's WD8CYV trailer was brought in and three batteries were loaded onto it. Each battery weighed 322 pounds and were taken to Ashley's where the club received \$289 for them. Because of the difficulty of this work, Jane N8MOW moved and Mike WD8BTI seconded to buy \$25 gift cards for each of them. The motion carried.

Earl KB8HRG reported on the 147.39 repeater. Joe Thomas N8MEV accepted the DR type trimmer and will use it to mow around the site. The club has no further use of the trimmer and this donation was made because the club is getting free electricity and use of the tower. The repeater building was slipping and Joe's son jacked it up and leveled it. They will also be relocating the power line into it.

Steve Ashcraft KC4URI is back in the Charleston hospital.

New business: Jerry KA8NJW and Jane N8MOW will name a nominating committee for the coming year's slate of officers.

John W8IDW will get a copy of the field day log sheet from Dan WV8X. QRZ's listing for the club call W8PAR is unmanaged and John W8IDW will also get it updated.

Curt K8UC noted that the field day antenna held up with binder twine came down twice in the night and next year it should be doubled or heavier twine used.

There being no further business, Harold N8KO moved and Blaine WA8IOE seconded to adjourn at 7:40 PM.

August 11, 2015

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant for the August meeting. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Dave Wright N8NWV. Introductions were made by 16 members and guests. The 50/50 drawing of \$8 was won by Darlene W8PAN who donated it back to the club.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved and the treasurer's report was given by Lynn N8IIM.

It was decided to have the September meeting at the restaurant instead of having a picnic.

The nominating committee reported, nominating all current officers to run for another year. Election will be held next month.

Harold N8KO had donated a 10 x 20 canopy to the club some time ago, and Blaine WA8IOE tracked it down to being stored with a Marietta Club member. It is available any time we need it.

Blaine WA8IOE reported that the 2 push up towers canvas bags holding tools and parts have rotted and there is a need to construct or find new containers for them.

The 2 push up towers and 2 generators owned by the club can be loaned to any member for short term use.

There being no further business, Jep K8BOT moved and Curt K8UC seconded to adjourn at 7:14 PM.

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### **Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Fee to Disappear in September**

The Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee is set to disappear in the next few weeks. According to the best-available information from FCC sources, the first day that applicants will be able to file a vanity application without having to pay a fee is Thursday, September 3. In deciding earlier this year to drop the regulatory fee for Amateur Radio vanity call signs and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) applications, the FCC said it was doing so to save money and personnel resources. The Commission asserted that it costs more of both to process the regulatory fees and issue refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment.

"Our costs have increased over time, and now that the costs exceed the amount of the regulatory fee, the increased relative administrative cost supports eliminating this regulatory fee category," the FCC said in its Report and Order, which appeared on July 21 in The Federal Register. "Once [it's] eliminated, these licensees will no longer be financially burdened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments."

In 2014 the FCC raised the Amateur Service vanity call sign regulatory fee from \$16.10 to its current \$21.40 for the 10-year license term. The \$5.30 increase was the largest such fee hike in many years. In a typical fiscal year, the FCC collected on the order of \$250,000 in vanity call sign regulatory fees.

The FCC said the revenue it would otherwise have collected from such regulatory fees "will be proportionally assessed on other wireless fee categories." Congress has mandated that the FCC collect nearly \$340 million in regulatory fees from all services in fiscal year 2015.

**Amateur Radio Parity Act Would Not Void "Private Contracts," ARRL General Counsel Says**

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, has rebutted assertions, expressed by some, that the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 would represent an unlawful intrusion into "private contracts" and would invalidate architectural limitations and rules regarding the installation of ham radio antennas in residential neighborhoods. Imlay said the argument raised is that no federal legislation should alter private land-use restrictions, since these are contractual obligations. "The contractual characteristic of private land-use regulation has not existed in the United States for a great many years," he pointed out. Imlay recently expanded on the topic during a lengthy interview with HamRadioNow webcast host Gary Pearce, KN4AQ.

"A contract requires a meeting of the minds between the two parties," Imlay said in his interview with Pearce, which also included ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, a prime mover of the legislation. With no opportunity to negotiate, "you don't have a contractual relationship at all. Instead, what you have is a preclusion."

Rather than contracts, Imlay explained, private land-use restrictions are limitations placed on the use of land long before the buyer ever shows up, and they have become increasingly difficult to avoid. With more and more neighborhoods imposing CC&Rs, the only choice a radio amateur has, Imlay told Pearce, is to buy or not to buy a dwelling in a community that may prohibit antennas completely.

The legislation -- H.R. 1301 and S. 1685 -- calls on the FCC to apply

the three-point test of the federal PRB-1 preemption policy to private land-use restrictions. Imlay said its passage would not mean that hams living in neighborhoods governed by CC&Rs could erect any antenna they wished. The obligation a homeowners association would have under the bill is not to prohibit but to make reasonable accommodation for some sort of effective outdoor Amateur Radio antenna, imposing the least practicable restriction to accomplish the association's aesthetic purposes, he explained.



ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB (left), and ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, appeared recently on Ham Radio Now.

The legal underpinning of the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 is well established, Imlay pointed out, and private land-use regulations must give way when they conflict with federal telecommunications policy. "It was held a long time ago by the US Supreme Court that federal communications policy trumps even private land-use regulations," Imlay told Pearce. "That's not a taking of land under the Constitution. It's simply a supervening authority." Imlay said that private land-use regulations that conflict with expressed federal telecommunications policy

are subject to pre-emption, which would restore private property rights to the landowner. The FCC, he explained, is not hostile to the bill, but it has indicated that it would prefer to have some guidance from Congress -- which does have the power to act -- before amending the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules.

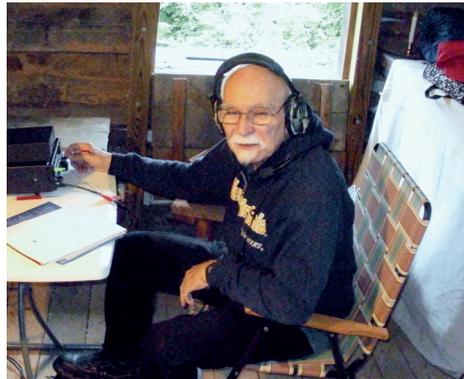
Several years ago, the FCC established the OTARD rule that lets residents living in deed-restricted communities install over-the-air television or radio reception devices, such as a satellite dish, but it does not apply to Amateur Radio antennas. Imlay said this precedent applies to the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015, and that the FCC was comfortable with the guidance it got from Congress at the time with respect to OTARD.

"There is no difference in the effect on the strong interest in Amateur Radio communications, whether or not an amateur station is precluded by a zoning regulation...or by a deed restriction," Imlay said in the interview. "The effect is the same: The ham can't build a station."

"We have until the end of 2016 to get this bill passed, and we have every intention of doing that," he assured Pearce.

Full information on The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 is on the ARRL website





# Field Day 2015

