



# Di-Dah-Dit

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

## ARRL to Launch New On the Air Magazine

ARRL is launching a new magazine, *On the Air*, in January 2020. To be published on a bimonthly basis, *On the Air* will offer new and beginner-to-intermediate-level radio amateurs a fresh approach to exploring radio communication. Each issue will include advice and insights on topics from the variety of Amateur Radio interests and activities: radio technology, operating, equipment, project building, and emergency communication. The goal of this new magazine is to be a vital resource in helping new and newer radio amateurs get active and involved in radio communications.

"On the Air responds to the brand-new and not-so-brand-new radio amateur seeking ideas and answers," said QST Managing Editor Becky Schoenfeld, WIBXY. Schoenfeld is part of the ARRL staff team that developed the new magazine. The planning included an extensive national-level study of new Amateur Radio licensees, identifying their motivations for getting licensed and their experiences of getting started. A focus group responded positively to a trial sample edition of the magazine.

"Too many new licensees never take the next step," says Schoenfeld. "We're excited to introduce a new Amateur Radio magazine for this audience, aimed at getting them

active, getting them involved, and getting them on the air."

The first issue of *On the Air* will be published in January 2020 (January/February issue) and will be introduced as a new ARRL membership benefit. Effective November 1, when eligible US radio amateurs join ARRL or renew their memberships, they will be prompted to select the print magazine of their choice -- *On the Air* or *QST*. Current members receiving the print edition of *QST*, upon renewal, may choose to continue receiving the print edition of *QST* (monthly) or the print edition of *On the Air* (bimonthly).



All ARRL members, including international members, will be able to access digital editions of both *QST* and *On the Air*. Members who already access *QST* on the web or from the mobile app will be able to access *QST* and *On the Air* starting in January.

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### So Now What? Podcast

"Ham Lingo" will be the focus of the new (October 17) episode of the *So Now What?* podcast for Amateur Radio newcomers.

If you're a newly licensed Amateur Radio operator, chances are you have lots of questions. This biweekly podcast has answers! *So Now What?* offers insights from those who've been just where you are now. New episodes will be posted every other Thursday, alternating new-episode weeks with the ARRL *The Doctor is In* podcast.

*So Now What?* is sponsored by LDG Electronics, a family owned and operated business with laboratories in southern Maryland that offers a wide array of antenna tuners and other Amateur Radio products.

ARRL Communications Content Producer Michelle Patnode, W3MVP, and ARRL Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, co-host the podcast. Presented as a lively conversation, with Patnode representing newer hams and Carcia the veteran operators, the podcast will explore questions that newer hams may have and the issues that keep participants from staying active in the hobby. Some episodes will fea-

ture guests to answer questions on specific topic areas.



Listeners can find So Now What? on Apple iTunes, Blubrry, Stitcher (free registration required, or browse the site as a guest), and through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle, or Android devices. Episodes will be archived on the ARRL website.

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**AMSAT Goal: "Amateur Radio in Every CubeSat"**

AMSAT wants to see Amateur Radio in every CubeSat, and it's partnering with non-Amateur Radio partners to make that happen. In the "Apogee View" editorial for the September/October issue of The AMSAT Journal, Executive Vice President Paul Stoetzer, N8HM, wrote, "[W]e continue to support a stream of LEO satellites. RadFxSat-2/Fox-1E is ready for launch no earlier than December 1, 2019, on the ELaNa XX mission. The linear transponder and telemetry system carried aboard Fox-1E was designed for use in different CubeSats by merely adding an interface adapter for connection to the host bus."



Stoetzer said CubeSat programs interested in launching an Amateur Radio payload may partner with AMSAT to carry a Fox-1E module on their spacecraft. "By providing Amateur Radio capability, the CubeSat program gets a worldwide ground station network to receive their telemetry and experiment data while the Amateur Radio community gets a transponder to use in orbit," he pointed out.

Stoetzer said the first such partnership will be with the Husky Satellite Lab at the University of Washington. Its 3U CubeSat -- HuskySat-1 -- is set to launch on the ELaNa XXV mission from Wallops Island, Virginia, no sooner than November 2. A Northrop Grumman Cygnus spacecraft will carry HuskySat-1 to the International Space Station, and after completing its mission there, Cygnus will continue to an orbit of approximately 500 kilometers (310 miles) to deploy HuskySat-1.



"After a 30-day mission to complete tests of its experimental payloads -- a pulsed plasma thruster, and a K-band (24 GHz) communications system -- the satellite will be turned over to AMSAT, and the linear transponder will be made available to the Amateur Radio community," Stoetzer said.

AMSAT will celebrate its 50th anniversary at its 2019 Board of Directors meeting and AMSAT Space

Symposium October 18 - 20 in Arlington, Virginia. -- Thanks to AMSAT News Service

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**Ohio Sheriff Observes and Participates in ARES Simulated Emergency Test**

One public official in Ohio not only observed the ARES Simulated Emergency Test (SET) this month but participated in it with Greene County ARES (GCARES). Greene County Sheriff Gene Fischer, KX8GCS ("Greene County Sheriff"), checked in when the Resource Net Control, Bob Baker, N8ADO, called for volunteers. Although the suggested scenario called for only using simplex, GCARES employed the Xenia Amateur Radio Weather Net (XWARN) repeater to reach out for as many volunteers as possible. Volunteers then switched to a simplex tactical net to communicate with the GCARES Command Center.



Greene County Sheriff Gene Fischer, KX8GCS.

Before the SET, Fischer let Greene County ARES Emergency Coordinator Henry Ruminski, W8HJR, know that he planned to participate in the SET to determine how well

his handheld radio would perform in an emergency situation. While he found it okay for getting into the resource net, it was less than adequate for effective simplex operation.

Sheriff Fischer had an intense introduction to ham radio in the spring of 2017 when the Dayton Hamvention® moved to Xenia, and his department dealt with traffic control and other issues created by the influx of more than 25,000 visitors. At the urging of several hams, Fischer subsequently got his license, and his wife became relicensed. Fischer has since upgraded to General.

Ruminski said the SET was "relatively successful." Signals could have been better from some locations, but most stations were able to communicate with command, he said. Lessons learned will be used to improve future emergency communication plans.

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### FCC Dismisses Three Petitions for Rule Making Filed by Radio Amateurs

Edward C. Borghi, KB2E, of Farmington, New York, and Jeffrey Bail, NT1K, of West Springfield, Massachusetts, submitted very similar petitions seeking changes in how the FCC grants Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications. Borghi's Petition (RM-11834), would have prohibited vanity applicants from requesting call signs not designated for the applicant's geographical region, with exceptions under the rules governing call signs previously held by family members. Borghi complained that applicants had to compete with "out-of-area people for the few 1 × 2 or 2 × 1 or catchy

2 × 3 call signs available in their area of residence."

Bail's Petition (RM-11835) asked that the FCC give residential preference in competing applications to applicants whose listed FCC address is within the same district/region as the applied call sign. He cited limited availability and increased demand for 1 × 2 and 2 × 1 call signs. The FCC dismissed both petitions in a single letter.

"The Commission does not limit applicants for vanity call signs to requesting call signs assigned to the region of the applicant's mailing address, except for call signs designated under the sequential call sign system for Alaska, Hawaii, Caribbean Insular Areas, and Pacific Insular Areas," the FCC pointed out. "When the Commission established the vanity call sign system in 1995, it rejected a proposal to restrict vanity call sign applicants to call signs designated for the region in which the applicant resides," because it would restrict a given applicant's choice of vanity call signs to 10% or less of those otherwise assignable.

The FCC also noted that a limitation based on an applicant's place of residence "could easily be circumvented by using a mailing address in another call sign region."

In denying the petitions, the FCC concluded that no need exists to require vanity call signs to correspond to a licensee's mailing address, "given that call signs do not automatically change when a licensee moves, and a licensee's mailing address is not necessarily the location from which he or she is transmitting."

"The Commission rejected this proposal again in 2010 for the same reasons," the FCC said. "The records before us do not demonstrate any changed circumstances or other reason that would warrant revisiting this decision." The FCC further pointed out that vanity applications received on the same day are handled by a random selection batch process, making it impossible to identify in-region vanity call sign applications and process them ahead of other applications for the same call sign."

The FCC also turned away a Petition (RM-11833) from Jerry Oxendine, K4KWH, of Gastonia, North Carolina, who asked the FCC to clarify that states and localities should have no authority to regulate Amateur Radio with respect to enacting "distracted driving" statutes. Oxendine argued that such statutes violate FCC rules on scope and operation of equipment by licensees; violate the intent of the FCC and Congress with respect to Amateur Radio's role in disasters, and hinder emergency operations using mobile equipment.

In denying the request, the FCC took issue with Oxendine's assertion that the strong federal interest in promoting Amateur Radio communication should preempt distracted driving laws. The FCC said it received about 20 comments supporting Oxendine's petition.



"Laws that prohibit talking on handheld

communications devices while driving do not preclude or unreasonably obstruct mobile use of handheld two-way radios," the FCC said in denying

Oxendine's petition. "These laws apply to the use of handheld devices while driving. A driver can comply with these laws by using a hands-free attachment or by parking the vehicle prior to using a handheld device, both of which are contemplated by our rules regarding two-way radios."

The FCC said, "The record before us does not demonstrate that state and local laws that prohibit talking on handheld devices while driving stand as an obstacle to amateur communications or actually conflict with federal law in any way." The FCC further noted the lack of any express preemption or argument that Congress has "occupied the field" of regulation with respect to distracted driving statutes

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## RCA



The legendary Radio Corporation of America (RCA) incorporated on this date, October 17, in 1919. RCA negotiated patent cross-licensing agreements with other industry leaders, paving the way for the explosive devel-

opment of American radio in the early 1920s. In 1921, WCC in Chatham, Massachusetts, became the first RCA coastal station equipped with tube sets offering 2 kW on 600 and 2200 meters. The WCC Amateur Radio Association (WCCARA) continues its year-long celebration of the RCA centennial as WA1WCC/100RCA. -- Thanks to Ed Moxon, K1GGI, trustee, WCC commemorative station WA1WCC

## MINUTES

August 12, 2019

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant for the August meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by president Jerry Whar-ton KA8NJW.

Introductions were made by 17 members and guests.

Minutes of the July meeting were read by John W8IDW and accepted.

Treasurers report was delivered by Jane N8MOW.

The 50-50 drawing was won by Andrew Auvil who skillfully drew his own ticket.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The log cabin at Ft. Boreman that is used by the Klub as field day shelter, needs some work on the porch. Jim Miracle requested the Klub perform some maintenance. Addendum: Subsequent to the August meeting, an article appeared in the Parkersburg News and Sentinel that the Wood County Commission (who has responsibility for the operation of the park) is developing plans to move the cabin across the access road and construct an additional picnic shelter. The third annual Klub special event station at the Mountwood Park Volcano Days will be run on Sept 28 from 10am to 6 pm on 20 and 40 meters.

### NEW BUSINESS:

President Jerry assigned a nominating committee of one (Blaine WA8IOE) for election of officers during the September meeting. It is expected that the current group of officers will continue for 2020.

Bill Thomas KB8ZSN who married Jane and Earl, became a silent key. Jane to send a sympathy

card.

### MISC:

Earl discussed how to upgrade a Win 7 computer to Win 10 for free. The motion was made by Bob KB8EFB, second by Blaine WA8IOE to adjourn the meeting at approx 7:24 pm.

Minutes by John's W8IDW, secretary  
List of attendees recorded

September 9, 2019

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant for the September Meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:57 pm by president Jerry Whar-ton KA8NJW.

Introductions were made by 23 members and guests.

Minutes of the August meeting were read by John W8IDW and accepted.

Treasurers report was delivered by Jerry per information from Jane N8MOW.

The 50-50 drawing of \$16 was won by Bill Roberts. One dozen eggs each were won by Brenda and Dave Wright N8NWV.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The log cabin at Ft. Boreman has been determined not movable by County Commission engineer. New shelter will be built past the cabin. Klub still needs to determine if requested porch maintenance is to be performed.

The special event station at the Mountwood Park Volcano Days radio is ready and Earl KB8HRG will provide a 20/40 meter antenna. Event will run on Sept 28 from 10am to 6 pm and operators are Requested.

### NEW BUSINESS:

No new nominations for Klub officers for 2020 were received by Blaine WA8IOE. A call for floor nominations yielded none so the current group of officers will continue for 2020.

President Jerry offered for consideration a change of start time for the Klub meetings. He proposed a start time of 6:30 pm as most members have finished dinner by that time. Motion by Darlene W8PAN to table discussion of the change till the October meeting.

Annual audit of the Klub financial records will be performed by Libby KA8FUA and Debby KA8ZLB.

**MISC:**

None.

The motion was made by Bob KB8EFB, seconded by Phil KE8GCL to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Minutes by John W8IDW, secretary  
List of attendees recorded

**October 14, 2019**

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:51 pm by president Jerry Whar-ton KA8NJW.

Introductions were made by 25 members and guests.

Minutes of the September meeting were read by John W8IDW and accepted.

Treasurers report was delivered by Jane N8MOW, with no activity for the month of September.

The 50-50 drawing of \$20 was won by Bill Roberts KE8GGV. One dozen eggs each were won by Bob KB8EFB and Libby KA8FUA.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Treasurers books will be given to the audit team of Libby KA8FUA and Debby KA8ZLB tonite for audit.

The special event station at the Mountwood Park Volcano Days was run Sept 28. 85 contacts were made with certificate / QSL requests incoming. Tim / Conard / Jerry operated thru morning rain and seam leak in the canopy. The Klub meeting time issue raised last month was put to a vote with motion by Larry Smith KD8IK and second by Jane N8MOW. Motion passed by voice vote to move the meeting time from 7 pm to 6:30 pm.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

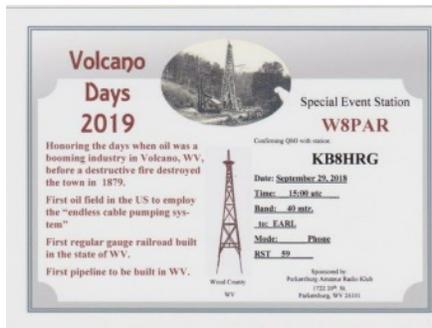
Susan Stout KA8ZZL and Shane Brannan (awaiting call sign) attended the September meeting and were given membership applications.

**MISC:** None.

The motion was made by Bob KB8EFB, seconded by Dave N8NWV to adjourn the meeting at 7:11pm.

Minutes by John W8IDW, secretary  
List of attendees recorded

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**Volcano Days**

Our special event station at Volcano Days was a success. We had several hams help out. We made 85 contacts on 40 mtrs. Thank you to all that helped. Next year Conard want to ass a digital station to the fun.

Here a a few photos of the event.