



Di-Dah-Dit

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

Dear ARRL Roanoke Division Members:

A Christmas message of hope. ARRL has worked with Congress to introduce legislation which would bring relief to those operators living in communities, neighborhoods and subdivisions with antenna restrictions.

For the past three years, ARRL's Legislative Advocacy Committee has met with congressional leaders and staff to develop a bill containing language which can realistically pass and become law. U.S. Rep. Bill Johnson (R-Ohio 6th District) introduced H.R. 9670 -- the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act. Rep. Johnson plans to refile the bill in the upcoming 118th Congress when that session convenes in January.

Other sponsors are being lined up to support the bill and ARRL will be developing programs where members can contact their House representatives to support the legislation.

Antenna relief is critical to many Hams in the Roanoke Division. Vice Director Bill Morine, N2COP, and Section Managers Jack Smith, KE4LWT, of Virginia; Marv Hoffman, WA4NC, of North Carolina; Marc Tarplee,

N4UFP, of South Carolina and West Virginia's Dan Ringer, K8WV, and I have all heard from members frustrated at attempts to get on the air in antenna restricted communities. This is especially true in areas with high concentrations of housing units, especially near cities in metropolitan areas. Many Hams have complained they have little choice in housing in some areas, especially if they need to be close to work. Also, an increasing trend are Hams who are downsizing into retirement and senior communities with antenna restrictions. According to building trade associations, an estimated 70%-90% of new housing has private deed covenants, many of which contain antenna restrictions.

Another benefit which H.R. 9670 — the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act will bring is encouragement to those who live in communities with antenna restrictions to become licensed for the first time. The title of bill H.R. 9670 — the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act emphasizes that Amateur Radio operator volunteers offer emergency communications in natural

and manmade disasters at no cost to the public.

In addition to H.R. 9670 -- the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act, introduced this week in Congress was H.R. 9664, the ARRL Symbol Rate Bill. Its purpose is to force the FCC to act on the 2016 proposal to replace the archaic maximum 300 baud symbol rate for digital communications and require a bandwidth maximum of 2.8 kilohertz. The United States is the only remaining developed nation with this obsolete constraint which hampers high speed data exchange and experimentation in digital modes.

More information will be forthcoming on this and on other developments in the Roanoke Division in the upcoming end year division newsletter which will be released this coming week. Until then, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all ARRL members and Hams and their families in the four states of the Roanoke Division.

73 de Dr. Jim Boehner, N2ZZ
Roanoke Division Director

Noble Skywave - The Value of HF

Since 2013, the Canadian Communications and Electronics Branch has brought hundreds of teams from dozens of nations together to test, strengthen expertise, and compete in a friendly atmosphere to what is now known as the most prestigious military led HF competition in the world: Noble Skywave.

Noble Skywave acquired its "letters of nobility" through highly skilled and proud participating teams, which are either HAM/Canadian Forces Affiliated Radio System/US Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) or Military Radio Operators around the globe. As the Leading Nation for this event, the Canadian Armed Forces are committed to provide the best possible training experience to all participants and looks forward to crowning the best HF Radio Operators in the world.

A few years ago, Joint Force Headquarters-National Capital Region and the U.S. Army Military District of Washington (JFHQ-NCR/MDW) deployed their mobile command post on Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C., to compete in the 7th annual Noble Skywave. The exercise challenged competitors with voice and data contacts between domestic and international teams via HF skywave propagation.

The JFHQ-NCR/MDW team consisted of three telecommunications specialists from the Communications-Electronics Directorate and two telecommunications specialists from the 744th Communications Squadron from

Joint Base Andrews. The 3d U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) also sent members from their Communications-Electronics Directorate to observe and learn.

The exercise consisted of four events: Establishing the Net, Free Play, Team Contact Challenge, and Back to the Future. During the competition portion, voice and data contacts were logged with as many stations as possible, with bonus points awarded during certain phases for the longest distance contacts. Once both stations logged the contact, the results and high score for the top twenty competitors were displayed in real time on the Noble Skywave website.

"The capabilities of HF are so important and relevant because it delivers global reach without the use of repeaters or satellites," said Michael Koeniger, Jr., Telecommunications Specialist, JFHQ-NCR/MDW Communications-Electronics Directorate. "If the satellites fall out of the sky, cell towers go down, and the internet goes out, HF will still work. These abilities provide our command with more flexibility during real-world contingency events." The 2019 competition included 183 registered competitors from Active-Duty, Reserve, National Guard, and Auxiliary Force units, representing 13 countries.

"Exercise Noble Skywave is designed to improve participants' high frequency radio communications abilities using the spirit of competition," said Koeniger. "By competing, not only are we using our equipment in a real-world scenario, but we are also instilling goodwill

and confidence among friendly military and auxiliary volunteer forces."

The Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) mission provides contingency HF communications to support the Department of Defense and the military. Additionally, MARS also supports communication for combat commands by providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, contingency communications for Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA), and morale and welfare communication in support of the DoD.

The 2022 competition brought together 429 military units from across 13 nations competing to determine who can most efficiently utilize high-frequency radio technology. During the contest, teams set up a fully functioning radio station and utilized their skills to connect with other radio stations, some being thousands of miles away. "There is a set number of stations playing in this contest, and our objective is to contact as many of them as possible," said Airman 1st Class Matthew Recchia, 1st Combat Communication Squadron cyber infrastructure technician. "Whoever contacts the most stations, wins." - US Army Public Affairs Office, Thanks to Bart Lee, K6VK



Volunteers On The Air

As announced in the January 2023 issue of QST, ARRL is holding the year-long operating event, Volunteers On The Air (VOTA), honoring all ARRL volunteers.

In similar fashion to the 2014 ARRL Centennial QSO Party and the 2018 International Grid Chase, this event will be exclusively driven by contacts uploaded to Logbook of The World (LoTW).

Highlights of the event include:

Earning points for contacting W1AW portable stations: There will be week-long activations of portable W1AW/# stations in all 50 states, and in several US possessions/territories, which will generate on-air activity to earn points. Each state will be activated twice. The schedule of when each state will be activated will be updated as changes and additions occur. See the Points Table at www.arrl.org/volunteers-on-the-air for the full list of points.

Contacting ARRL volunteers or members on the air: ARRL Officers, Directors, Section Managers (and their appointees), staff, and even domestic and DX members, can be contacted for points.

Using LoTW (<http://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world>) as the contacts data source, the Volunteers On The Air event features W1AW activations from all 50 states (twice) and several territories during 2023. Weeks will begin on a Wednesday and end on a Tuesday. Some weeks will be shown as off weeks to avoid other major operating events.

Participants will work W1AW portable stations and ARRL volunteers to earn contact points.

Participants do not need to upload to, or participate in, LoTW. Uploads to LoTW by W1AW portable stations and by the volunteers will feed the points scoring system.

A leaderboard will be activated after the event ramps up, and certificates will be available during and after the event concludes. Once the year is completed, an annual summary will be released.

If you review the state activations list and notice your state is not yet indicating a host, and you have interest in activating your state, consider reaching out to your Division Director to express your club's interest.

For information and continued updates, visit the VOTA website at www.arrl.org/vota.



VOLUNTEERS
ON THE AIR 2023

Club Station Update

"Club Station," QST's newest column, continues to grow. In the coming months, clubs from around the country will share stories about their activities and programs, and

an Ohio club will offer advice and recommendations on how to successfully put together a club newsletter, among others.

"Club Station" is intended to show the successes and contributions of clubs by highlighting how many of them are overcoming the challenges of an ever-changing world, in an effort to help other clubs do the same. All clubs are invited to submit their story. The details on how and where to submit are located on the Affiliated Club Resources web page, under Club Station Author's Guide and Form. You do not have to be a professional writer to submit your club's story, and QST editors will be happy to work with you. We look forward to hearing from your club!

Amateur Radio Operators Invited to participate in Asteroid Bounce Experiment

The High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) will be conducting a research campaign/experiment on December 27, 2022, with transmissions between 1100 - 2300 UTC (0200 - 1400 AKST).

This experiment will reflect HAARP transmissions off of Near-Earth Asteroid (NEA) 2010 XC15, and the echo will be received by the Owens Valley Radio Observatory Long Wavelength Array (OVRO-LWA) at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) and by the University of New Mexico's Long Wavelength Array (UNM-LWA). The target asteroid will be roughly two lunar distances away from

Earth at the time of transmission. Characterizing the interior structure and composition of NEAs is critical for advancing the understanding of solar system evolution and aiding in planetary defense.



Actual transmit times are highly variable based on real-time ionospheric conditions and all information is subject to change. Currently, the Asteroid Bounce (2010 XC15) experiment will take place Dec. 27, 2022, from 1100 UTC to 2300 UTC; 9.6 MHz, LFM (linear FM), 0.5 Hz WRF (waveform repetition frequency), 30 kHz bandwidth. Reports recording echo are encouraged; demodulated recordings in .wav or .mp3 are recommended.

For real-time ionospheric conditions in Gakona, please consult ionograms from the HAARP Diagnostic Suite at <https://haarp.gi.alaska.edu/diagnostic-suite>.

Amateur radio and radio astronomy enthusiasts are invited to listen to the transmissions/echoes and submit reception reports to the HAARP facility at uaf-gi-haarp@alaska.edu and request a QSL card by mailing a report to:

HAARP
P.O. Box 271
Gakona AK 99586
USA

Minutes November 14, 2022

Meeting was called to order about 630. Introductions were had by 28 members and guests.

Minutes were read by Mary W. and approved as read for the October meeting.

Jane H. gave the treasurers report, Current balance is 4884. Plus \$16 in dues collected. The audit is going to be conducted by Libby and Debbie.

The 50-50 raffle of \$29 was won by Bill.

Old business:

Earl gave a report about the 97 repeater. Conard and Earl worked on it and got the controller working and so now there's a courtesy beep and all the messages appear to be working correctly, so that's good. The new 39 machine has not been put in place yet we're in the process of working on that.

A big thank you was given to Dan Bats for letting us acquire some surplus batteries and one of those sets of batteries is in place as a back up for the 97 and the other will be a back up for the 39, once we get it re-situated and the other set of two is a spare.

Club activities, several members of the club met at Bill's and put up four sections of his tower, it's only half finished. We still need some guy wires and a few more sections.

Several members of the club also went out to little John's and did some antenna work for him last Wednesday. We still on we're still in the process of looking for a few younger tower climbers. Nobody

over 70 should be on a tower, at least I think so anyway. (Jerry)

Barney Mallory, one of our newer members but an old friend, will be playing the piano for the Christmas dinner.

We will also be serenaded by the violin by Blane's daughter in law, Micah.

Earl gave a report that he had been hacked or at least his email had been hacked and ignore anything that was sent from Suddenlink and only use the w8par.org address.

One new member Paul Borg was voted into the club KN6PVB.

Motion to adjourn was made by Banes second by ray. at around 7 o'clock.

Minutes taken by Mary Wharton
comments by Jerry Wharton.

Park klub Minutes+ December 2022

Meeting was called order at 6:30 by vice president Jerry Wharton.

Introductions were made by 33 members and guests. The minutes were read by Mary Wharton from the November meeting, they were approved as read.

The treasurers report was given by Jane. The balance was same as November because of no activity had occurred.

New old business;
The books were audited by Libby Auville and Debbie and they were in balance. Thanks guys.(Gals)

Earl reminded everybody that dues were due as of January 1 and that we were offering a grace period for

those who had not paid in 2022. They would be forgiven their debts and would start out fresh on January one. In other words if you forgot to pay your dues. you were forgiven. Dues remain the same at \$16 per individual \$24 for family membership.

The 50-50 raffle was one by Kenny of \$32.

As this was the combined December, meeting and Christmas dinner, we were serenaded on the piano by Barney NY8L and the violin Michah, Blane's daughter-in-law, they sang and played several Christmas carols. There was even a sing along. Thank you guys for doing that. I heard there were several practice sessions involved.

The last item on the agenda was door, prizes, officiated by Earl. You could pick from any item on the table or the centerpieces, there were a variety of offerings to choose from: applesauce, code tapes, computers, wall hangings or jigsaw puzzles, you get the idea.

Motion to adjourn was by Larry Dale standing in for Bob, KB8EFB, who could not be in attendance. Minutes taken by Mary W. comments by Jerry KA9NJW

I did not get many pictures from the party, sorry.

Scott KE8UTO came to the rescue with some more photos

The last one is of my front porch, Just to get into the Christmas spirit.

