



Di-Dah-Dit

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

PARKERSBURG – Members of three regional amateur radio clubs contacted ham radio operators worldwide for World Amateur Radio Day (WARD) Saturday at Fort Boreman Park in Parkersburg.

WARD, also known as the Ham Radio Open House, was a collaboration of Great Bend Radio Group of Meigs County, Ohio, the Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub and Wood County Emergency Communications.

The three clubs working together on this project fulfills this year's American Radio League emphasis on "Year of the Club)



(left to right) Beth, WB3TH, and Brian, KZ8U, displayed the GBRG banner on the shelter and each of them brought radios and

antennas for setup at this year's event. Notice that the GBRG involves more than hams in their group. *See the editorial comment story in this edition of Di-Dah-Dit*



From left, Kenny Harris, WA8LLM of WCEC and Larry Dale, KF8NW of PARK, suspend an 80m dipole and a G5RV in inverted-vee antenna configurations for the Ham Radio Open House Saturday.



Ron Kuhn, NQØD of PARK, operates his home QTH ham radio station remotely over the internet using a cellphone and a "hot spot." The station is in Fleming, Ohio—and is being operated from Fort Boreman Park.

Stability, Stagnation, Static and Satisfaction



I usually editorialize on "Over The Coffee Cup" but I have decided to take this space to share some thoughts with you all.

The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) are both now over 100 years old. Both the ARRL and IARU have passed their respective centennials with some celebration and fanfare.

What is the mission of these organizations?

Both work together to defend and expand the amateur radio spectrum (frequency bands) globally. That's the short answer.



(IARU) is the worldwide federation of national Amateur Radio organizations. The membership of the IARU consists of more than 160 member-societies in as many countries and separate territories.

The IARU is recognized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) as the representative of amateur radio interests—worldwide. That's the longer answer.

For the longest answer visit: ARRL.org



Since my days as a Novice-class ham radio operator (circa 1964), I've always tried to enhance my hobby and the hobby of others

with my membership in ARRL. I believe in it.

Plus, I learned a lot and became more enraptured with my hobby by reading the pages of QST magazine.

(Okay, I admit to ogling the manufacture's advertisements showing the latest gear, antennas and station accessories)

Nowadays your membership dues give you much more with online access to League publications—three of which you used to have to pay for. So it's a push.

Plus, for a premium price you can still get the magazine in your snail-mail-box and all of the online resources as well. Using a tablet to read all of these publications can be satisfying though.

Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub is an ARRL affiliated club. I believe in this as well—and also believe the Klub should remain affiliated with ARRL.

So far, you've hopefully understood my reason for using the word **Stability** in the title. Ham radio and PARK are stable and will remain so, thanks to Klub members, ARRL and IARU.

Stagnation is a state of inactivity, lack of growth, or failure to develop, characterized by a "stuck" condition; movement; or when progress stops. It doesn't just happen to still water.

Here would be a likely place to "throw shade." But that's not needed.

We all know when we haven't been to a Klub meeting in a while, or haven't kept our dues current or maybe missed out on being a part of what we do as a Klub. I'm guilty as charged.

You can trust I know what busyness is about—and what I have to do to escape my busyness.

This may sound like a contradiction—I have to take time to create time to defeat busyness. And it works.

QRN is a Q-code that's sent (CW/digital) or said (voice) and relates to atmospheric

static and noise. With the topics I've covered so far—there is sometimes QRN.

Static.

Quotes usually include: "I don't believe or support ARRL anymore since "they" (*went to incentive license, dropped the Morse code requirement, raised their dues, quit sending a hardcopy of QST, etc.*)

Three years ago, Suz, K8SUZ, surprised me for Father's Day with a three-year membership to ARRL—that included a free gift of an ARRL coffee mug. It was at this very time that the change in publication and distribution of QST was going on.

At first, I was miffed. But patience and the use of my iPad for reading paid off.

I was one of those people who collected QSTs and stored them like people do with National Geographic magazines.

I started giving mine away. Now I can access any article from any issue anytime on-

line—and the tempting manufacturer's ads are still there. Okay no more MFJ ads (which by the way added weight to the stacked magazines anyway.)

What about **Satisfaction**? Satisfaction was realized in a huge way on April 18, 2026. Three radio clubs/groups came together to celebrate World Amateur Radio Day at Fort Boreman Park.

Evan Bevin of The Parkersburg News and Sentinel provided coverage in two separate issues of the paper. And nearly 30 people, hams and those yet to be licensed, came to the park and most of them stayed the whole time.

Plus, the Civil War enactors of the 17th Virginia Calvary (Company F), The Night-hawk Rangers, fired their war cannons—three times over the Point at the park.

The WARD was slated to be held at the WV Welcome Center, I-77 Exit 185, in Williamstown, WV.

The WV Department of Highways was more than cooperative in getting our permit for setting us up there at the center.

Four days before WARD, the WV Tourism Department sent an email to me saying, they were denying the (already approved) permit. Their reason, WARD didn't have tourism value and didn't promote West Virginia.

I didn't have time to talk about SOTA from Spruce Knob, or POTA from Blennerhassett Island or North Bend, or Volcano Days, or safety communications at Mountwood, there's past involvement with the Parkersburg Half Marathon, emergency response to a tornado in Wood County, floods in southern West Virginia and I could go on. I used the word miffed earlier, didn't I?

Thankfully, Wood County Commission granted us permission to use Fort Boreman Park. Being there at the park allowed us to do what we couldn't do at

Grand Central Mall in 2025 at our first observance of WARD. We were able to put up antennas, run multiple stations with different modes. It was better.

As Klub President, earlier this year—in February—I signed an executive order to always conduct Winter Field Day "on the Grove" in Pleasants County. My office is considering another executive order to always conduct WARD at Fort Boreman Park or maybe in Meigs County somewhere or at Hendershot Farm. Who knows??

73

Larry, KF8NW

PARK Minutes Feb. 9,2026

Larry Dale called the Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub meeting to order at 6:30 PM on February 9 at the Western Sizzlin steakhouse on route 68 S . Introductions were made by 33 members and Guests.

Minutes of the January meeting read by Mary Wharton and approved his read. Treasurers report was given by Jane Hulce beginning balance 3567 with addition of \$45 in

dues and \$30 in raffle money brings the total to 4122. Treasurers report was approved as read.

First order of business was thanking everybody for participating and helping in the Winter Field Day, especially thank you guys to the younger newer members who did a yeoman's job and Mike and his family for having a great venue. We had a big success with a lot of contacts. We also had a lot of scrumptious food. Thanks everybody who helped. At this point Larry made an executive decision that we have winter field day at the same venue next year that was generally agreed on by everyone.

Power Mike won the 50-50 raffle of \$28 which he return to the club. Thanks Mike.

A report was given on the status of the 97 repeater and the rental of the building at this time negotiations are still ongoing. We don't know if we have to move or not yet will keep you posted.

Larry reminded everybody that the W1AW call sign is available for use in the USA 250 contest being run by the ARRL..

We voted in to new members for full membership to the club that were approved as associate members last month, they are

Greg Bayless KE8AZU
J R Morton KD8PYH

With no further business The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 minutes taken by Mary Wharton. Dictated to Jerry W.

PARK Minutes March 9 2026

President Larry Dale called a meeting to order at 6:35 on March 9. We were meeting at our usual spot, Western Sizzlin steakhouse on route 68.

Introductions were made by 32 members and guests. The minutes of the February meeting were read by Mary W and Approved as read.

The treasurers report was given by Jane H, beginning balance of \$4122 + 112 in dues and \$57 income from the raffle. Treasurers report was also approved as read.

Conner gave a report about the 97 machine. We have offered to do maintenance on the grounds such as mowing, etc. in exchange for using the repeater site. We have not heard back. We will keep you posted when we get new info.

Larry mentioned that he had gotten a photo published in April QST from our field day site from last June. it's kind of cute. It is in the upfront section. QST April 26 edition this edition also, has Curt's KAUC silent key notice.

Moving along, Larry mentioned this was the ARRL Year of the club. He wants to set up a ham radio open house station at the Williamstown welcome Center on route 77 the station will be set up on April 18th from

10 to 3 PM this is still a work in progress.

Larry also mentioned that there will be two days of auctions or Curt's equipment, April 11 and April 18 it includes cars, trailers tools, and radio equipment.

The 50-50 drawing was won By Greg \$29.

And your new business we had an application from John Addis, W8BBX The application was approved for associate membership. Next month will be the official vote for membership.

Having no further business meeting was adjourned at 7:12 minutes were taken by Mary Wharton. Dictated by Jerry.

Larry Dale called the Parkersburg Amateur Radio club meeting to order at 6:30 at the Western Sizzlin steakhouse on Route 68. Minutes of the March meeting were read by Mary Wharton and accepted as read.

The treasurers report was given by Jane H. getting balance of \$4291. In addition to that was \$64 in dues and \$29 in raffle collection 50-50 raffle was won by Kenny W8BBX of 20.

24 members and guests were in attendance.

Larry talked about the world Radio day that we are going to do with Kenny's group and Great Bend radio group and our group (PARK) it was going to be held at the visitor center near route 77 at William-

stown but the West Virginia Department of tourism canceled our plans. The new place is going to be Fort Borman Hill to celebrate 100 years of ham radio in world radio day we are going to operate radios from 10 to 3 this coming Saturday, April 18 at Fort Borman Hill shelter. It was quite a snafu on the part of the bureau of tourism but we appreciate everything Larry did to try to get it worked out under adverse conditions. Thanks Larry.

There has been nothing heard about the 97 repeater site so I guess it's still in limbo will use it until they throw us out I guess. We had applications for three new members all were approved for associate status for one month. They are John Bowes K3JJB
Kate Bose KB3URV and Jeremy Barnhouse KE8ROB

Under New business Larry talked about the sky warning training. It's going to be May 7 on Thursday at 3 PM first classes at Marietta Memorial. The next class will be at 5 PM at Coolville fire department and then last class would be at Lubec firehouse at 7 PM classes are free and you will be getting a certificate for a Sky warning volunteer. New business also was mentioned that if we want to do volcano days, we have to get it in QST in the next month. Jerry will check on the date and the information for QST. No further business was discussed. We adjourned at 7:12 PM.

B I G Success Defines WARD 2026

What has the potential to eclipse attendance and participation figures of ARRL Field Day and Winter Field Day? It was a regional special event station.

On April 18, 2026, members of the Great Bend Radio Group, Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub and Wood County Emergency Communications combined their membership, portable equipment and love for amateur radio with an event station at Fort Boreman Park in Parkersburg.

The World Amateur Radio Day, Ham Radio Open House special event station targets (even bullseyes) the intent and emphasis of the America250 Year of the Club by ARRL in 2026. Plans are on the table for a repeat in 2027.



(foreground right) Beth, WB3TH, of Great Bend Radio Group spots stations on the POTA website while (center) Jim, KE8TKY, of PARK works the POTA stations on-the-air. (left) Brian, KZ8U, of GBRG takes a break

while Jim enjoys his first experience with a headset with attached mic.



Kenny, WA8LLM, of Wood County Emergency Communication and Nick, KD8DCR, of GBRG use two PSK 31 setups at the Ham Radio Open House special event station at Fort Boreman Park.



(left) Brian, KZ8U, tunes-up and prepares to allow a "yet-to-be-licensed" visitor, Garrett Watson (right), of Salem, WV, to go on-the-air as third party.



"They came outta' the woodwork" to make the World Ama-

teur Radio Day observance WORK. Not all of these hams got in on the action at the Ham Radio Open House special-event station. However, their presence made the day a very special event.

(from the left) Travis, KF8CWM, Jim, KE8TKY, Jim, WV8JHF, Kenny, KE2NNY, Gabe, KF8GAD and (foreground) Mike, N8XYM



(right to left) Gabe, KF8GAD, has some "Tenna Talk" with Power Mike, WV8PWR and Mayor Dave, KB8RBY. The next day, Gabe installed a new VHF antenna (with assistance by Mike) and he was in-the-air everywhere. Travis, KF8CWM, said, "I wish had a beard like that."



Beth, WB3TH, and Brenda, KF8EVU represent the GBRG in Meigs County. (editors note)

Beth's smile is as pleasant as Brenda's—but the camera clicked just as she started her explanation of Quantum Physics—which by far, was the best dissertation I've ever heard. Editor)



Here is a photo of Conard, WV8JCR, helping with tear down (disassembly) of antennas and cables at the conclusion of WARD 2026.

Again, his wizardry proves he stands alone—and is truly “outstanding in his field.”