



Di-Dah-Dit

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

Ham radio's biggest weekend includes local Field Day sites



In this photo submitted by the Parkersburg Amateur Radio Club's Dave Hanes, KE8RBY, uses a home-made compressed-air antenna launcher to secure lines used to suspend antennas from trees. Nicknamed "The Howitzer," the device is used at the amateur radio Field Day event

or during emergency situations when quick deployment of antennas for communications is needed.

Fromstaff reports (Parkersburg News)
PARKERSBURG - Amateur radio operators will be on the air for 24 consecutive hours from 2 p.m. Saturday to 2 p.m. Sunday for the American Radio Relay League's Field Day, including multiple sites in the Mid-Ohio Valley.

"Always on the fourth weekend of June, P.A.R.K (Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub) members and friends join tens of thousands of other ham-radio operators for ARRL Field Day," P.A.R.K. President Larry Dale said in a press release.

The ARRL on its website describes Field Day as "ham radio's open house," an annual event since 1933.

"Every June, more than 31,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation," the group says at arrrl.org.

There will be two Wood County Field Day site locations. The P.A.R.K. will be set up at Fort Boreman Park, while Parkersburg and Wood County Emergency Communications will be at Hendershot Farm Drive, off of Rising Sun Ridge, five miles off of Old St Marys Pike. Washington and Meigs County have sites that will be active as well.

Field Day sites can be found online at www.arrrl.org/field-day-locator.

"No matter where you live or where you may be vacationing, there's a Field Day site nearby," Dale said.

All ham radio operators must have a valid Federal Communications Commission-issued license. The FCC and the ARRL developed volunteer exam coordinators and use the help of volunteer examiners to administer the test-

ing. There is a fee charged for administering the exam.

Dale noted that the question pool for technician class licenses was recently revised, with the changes going into effect on July 1.

"If anyone has been studying for their 'tech license,' we're offering test sessions at the WCEC Field Day site this weekend - using the current question pool," he said. "Other test elements for general and extra class licenses will be available too."

More information about ham radio is available on P.A.R.K. webpage, w8par.org.

The WX? Ducky!



"Nice weather for ducks," was the forecast for FD 2026. But, (l-r) Libby, KA8FUA, Tonya and Jane, N8MOW, would have nothing to do with that. In fact, one brief shower occurred late Sunday.

What else do HAMS Do?

You find memorial signs along the roadway, attached to an edifice, placed at historical sites and other places



to commemorate events, persons of notoriety and history. The signs are erected throughout the World. But did you know that many of these markers are crafted right here in the Mid-Ohio Valley?

Sewah Studios in Marietta, Ohio, designs, creates, casts, polishes, packs and ships memorial signs worldwide.



Jeremy Barnhouse, KE8ROB, a P.A.R.K. Klub member works there, Casting and molding molten aluminum into these works of art. "The recent hot weather is nothing new to me—where I work, it's always hot," Barnhouse said.



He added, "It's nice to get out of the shop, put on my referee uniform and do 'what else I do' besides being on the radio."

(What Else Do HAMS Do? A new feature for Di-Dah-Dit readers)

Field Days score submitted Summary:

Entry received at: 2026-07-06 18:19:25

Call Used: W8PAR GOTA Station Call: (NONE)

ARRL/RAC Section: WV Class: 3A

Participants: 32 Club/Group Name: Parkersburg
Amateur Radio Klub

Power Source(s): Generator, Battery, Solar

Power Multiplier: 2X

Preliminary Total Score: 2,360

Bonus Points:

100% emergency power	300
Media Publicity	100
Public location	100
Public information table	100
Site visit by invited elected official	100
Educational activity	100
Youth participation (1 x 20))	20
Safety officer	100
Social media	100
Entry submitted via web	50

Total bonus points 1,070

Score Summary:

Total QSOs 177 51 189
Total Points 354 102 189 645 Claimed
Score = (QSO points x power mult) = 1,290

Submitted by: Jerrold L Wharton, KA8NJW

j_wharton@suddenlink.net

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

CW Digital Phone

QSOs	CW	DIG	SSB		
80m 0	100	1	100	0	100
40m 174	100	5	100	14	100
20m 3	100	28	100	65	100
15m 0	100	17	100	94	100
10m 0	100	0	100	12	100
2m 0	100	0	100	4	100

Minutes May 26

Parkersburg Amateur Radio club meeting was called order by Larry Dale at 6:30 at the Western Sizzlin steakhouse on route 68. Parkersburg on May 11, 2026. There were 33 members and guest in attendance. Minutes of the April meeting were read by Susan Dale and Mary Wharton's absence they were accepted as read. Next, the treasurers report was given by Jane Holtz 4843 beginning balance raffles \$20 collected and \$40 in dues. The raffle was one by Jim Foster \$25 oldbusine

OLD BUSINESS :

Larry talked about the world Amateur Radio day at Fort Borman Hill and enjoyed working with various groups.

Larry decided to make an executive order that all future world Amateur field day. Projects will be at Fort Borman Hill.

Conard talked about the problems with the 97 machine these problems dealt because Optimum did not have the proper equipment. He asked for and got permission to purchase a newer better modem for 170 that should fix the problem.

NEW BUSINESS:

Larry discussed the problem of an interloper On the 97 machine he's using a fake call that's made up. The best thing to do is ignore him. Don't return his call and don't talk about it.

Last month three associate members were voted on for full membership and approved

K3jld Jjohn Bowes

kb3ouv Kate Bowes

ke8rob Jeremy Barnhouse

Jerry gave his report on volcano days. They will be September 26 from 10 to 4. We will have a radio on a 20 m and 40 m band and also FTA available. All operators are welcome.

All operators are encouraged to bring their own equipment.

Five members of the club said they were going to be attending the Dayton hamfest.

The last item on the agenda tonight was awarding the Nut/zee award to Conard. Travis, the first recipient made the presentation to Conard, the latest recipient of this prestigious award.

I
No further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned. Motion was made by Scott and approved. Minutes were taken by Susan Dale thanks, Suz.

Minutes June 2026

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio club met for it's June meeting on June 8, 2026 at The western Sizzlin steakhouse on Route 68. The meeting was called order at 6:30 by President Larry Dale. there were 25 members and guest in attendance introductions were held by all.

Minutes of the May meeting were read by Mary Wharton and approved as read.

The treasurers report was given by Jane. The beginning balance of \$4042 it was added \$80 in dues And \$26 in raffle proceeds treasurers report was approved as read.

The 50-50 drawing was then Taken and it was won by Larry Dale \$22 and he swears there was no shenanigans.

Next a report was given by a few of the five members of the club who attended the Dayton Ham Convention they all had a blast and spent some money I think.

New business upcoming events the West Virginia QSO party will actually be on West Virginia day this year June 20 all members are encouraged to participate as a base station or Rover you can use your call sign or the clubs call sign W8PAR if you wish.

The next week end June 27 is the annual fuel day at Fort Borman Park. We will be setting up or staging antennas on Friday night. We will be putting up antenna Saturday morning with Field day starting at 2 PM Eastern standard time. Borman Park

The highlight of Field day is always the covered dish meal at 6:00 pm Saturday evening. The club will be

providing the meat the silverware and the drinks, deserts and veggies are optional for club members to bring. All members are encouraged to attend and either log or operate for part of the 24 hours.

Larry suggested that next year we should pay for the shelters use for world Amateur Radio day and Field day at the same time everybody thought that was a good idea.

Jerry reminded everybody that we also have Volcano days coming up September 26 at Cairo Mount Wood Park. It's a fun experience for everybody. We will be operating two stations CW and phone 20 and 40 m everybody's encouraged to help.

Next item on the agenda was the presentation of the NUT-ZEE award to Jane and Earl. The presenters were Jerry and Mary. The only other couple to win the award. This award was given and recognition of all they do for the club.

The new website is up and running wapar. org and it looks beautiful thanks for all the updates and everybody that worked on it.

A discussion was had concerning the Internet requirement for the 97 Machine. We had been paying Connor \$240 a year to use his business account since he no longer has the business account the cost for the Internet is \$100 a month. The discussion was mad to pay \$240 that we owed Connor and to allow him to take \$100 a month to pay for the Internet that we are now using.

The owners of the 97 Tower have not gotten back to us about our continued use of the site. If anything happens, it will be discussed in an upcoming meetin

The motion to adjourn the meeting was approved at 7:45 PM

N8UTZ MEMO from Larry N=KF8NW

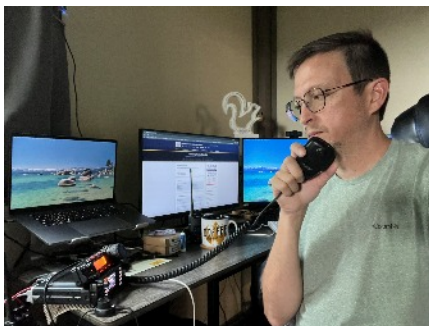
able, Conard's dog, advises and warns "Nut-zee," N8UTZ, regarding the dangers of getting too close or coming in contact with anything that's electrified.



The Wizard," Conard, WV8JCR, was awarded the Nut-zee at the May, 2026, P.A.R.K. Klub meeting. Travis, KF8CWM, the first winner of the award, made the presentation.



Conard says, "Thanks to Mable, Nut-zee didn't get 'grounded out' however, that wacky-squack was in fact—grounded and restricted to stay in my shack until he moved on to the next award winner



At the June, 2026, Klub meeting Jane, N8MOW, and Earl, KB8HRG, were the second duo to receive the Nut-zee Award. Klub secretary, Mary, and Jerry, KA8NJW, (the first duo award winners) presented the award to the Hulce's.



Earl says, "That squirrel does so much barking, I keep my headphones on all the time.



Jane added, "I'm following Conard's example of discipline—I'm gonna keep Nut-zee inside and on a short leash. The last thing we need is for the neighbors to see the squirrel up on Earl's 'crap-per" antenna or jumping element-to-element on the tri-band beam."

(Nut-zee is awarded randomly to folks who are a bit nutty about ham radio. Previous award winners constitute a quorum in the selection process)

I try to not be a naysayer regarding ham radio. Nor do I fall into the practices of self-appointed elitists in the hobby either.



"Gloom and doom lingo about the demise of my avocation are best met with encouragement, I think."

Perhaps you've heard me say, "Hams have the ability to embrace new technology and use it to improve the hobby." I mean that.

Examples;

Cellphones and EchoLink

Commodore for packet (not Pong)

Software instead of sound cards

SDR radios, DMR, Winlink, digital this- and-that and the lists go on.

At Field Day this year, I discovered a way to encourage people to embrace technology and attain their goal of operating cw with Morse Code.

Here's what I discovered. Justin White, KE8CEI, and his father, Curtis, KF8BRB, visited the cw station set-up in the log cabin at Fort Boreman Park. I had the FT-100D volume turned up and a 300Hz filter enabled. Of course, the band was crowded and QRM was heavy (it's FD).

Justin whipped out his iPhone, launched an app and placed the phone on the operating table near my transceiver. He was able to copy the 20-wpm sending station I was working—with no mistakes

in the exchange—QRM and all—plus other people were talking inside and outside the log cabin to add more QRM.

My interest was piqued.

The app is **Morse-it** and uses iOS. (your 64k computer will be out on this one.) Curtis says, "It's available in the App Store for 99¢. And if needed, Williamstown Bank is offering good loan rates." (he's like that)

Morse code encoder/decoder devices, terminal-node controllers, arduino and a plethora of other technologies are waiting to be embraced and used for learning the code.

Of course, WIAW-ARRL HQ, offers code practice and archives for code practice and review.

Heck, you could change the pitch of the sound effect on your old Pong game to a cw tone and see if you can make e-i-s-h-5 Morse characters with the repetition of the Pong bounces.

73

Larry KF8NW




ARRL FIELD DAY 2026

— BE ON THE AIR. BE PART OF SOMETHING BIG. —



JUNE 27-28, 2026
SAT 2:00 PM – SUN 2:00 PM
24 HOURS OF AMATEUR RADIO



FORT BOREMAN
1042 Fort Boreman Drive
Parkersburg, WV 26101



VISITORS WELCOME • OPEN HOUSE

Free admission • Family-friendly

No experience required — come ask anything!

WHAT YOU'LL SEE

-  HF radio stations and a satellite station — all running for 24 hours straight.
-  Voice, Morse code, and digital modes.
-  See how amateur radio keeps the country connected when other systems fail.
-  Walk in, ask questions, and try a microphone!

FIELD DAY IS...

- ★ A nationwide emergency preparedness exercise
- ★ A test of our skills and equipment
- ★ A chance to work fellow operators across the country
- ★ Fun, learning, and community — all in 24 hours!

GET ON THE AIR WITH US! EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



FIELD DAY 2026

