

WEST PARK RADIOPS







FOUNDED 1947

Web:

http://www.westparkradiops.org
Email: w8vm-<at>-arrl.net

August-September VOL. LVIII

2023 No. 5

CLUB'S W8VM SKCC #12111

WEST PARK NEWS *

*Subject to change

The August meeting will be at the North Olmsted Library on the second Tuesday of the month at 3 p.m. Monday night nets are on the NODXA's repeater at 8 p.m. Listen or check in. Join the fun. We thank the Northern Ohio DX Association for our use of their repeater, W8DXA, 147.36+ (107.2).

UPCOMING CONTESTS AND ACTIVITIES...

(sourced from WA7BNM and ARRL information)

- Aug 5 North American QSO Party, CW
- Aug 12 144 MHz Meteorscatter Sprint Contest
- Aug 19 North American QSO Party, SSB
- Aug 26 Ohio QSO Party
- Sept 2 Wake-Up! QRP Sprint
- Sept 9 Ohio State Parks on the Air
- Sept 17 North American Sprint, RTTY
- Sept 23 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY
- Sept 24 Cleveland Hamfest 8am-1pm

WEST PARK RADIOPS MEETINGS & PROGRAMS FOR 2023*

Aug 8
Sept 12*
Oct 10*
Nov 14*

Possible Choices*

QRP operation*

Linux Demonstration*

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* Subject to Change, Including order of events, locations and times.

GET A HARD COPY PDF OF YOUR LICENSE!...

Did you know that recently the FCC's ULS server was down for an uncomfortable length of time? That server is the go to location for where you can download a PDF file of your license. What if you needed to print a

copy of your license to send in with your Ohio BMV automobile tag renewal, and time was running short because you failed to plan, and if you didn't renew your car plate tag you would lose your plate number? Losing your ham call plate is permanent in the state of Ohio. You can't revive it. So you should acquire the PDF of your license ASAP!

"Print an Official or Unofficial Copy of Your Amateur Radio License (By Anthony Luscre, K8ZT)

As of February 17, 2015, the FCC no longer routinely issues paper license documents to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS). The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one. Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization — as well as an unofficial "reference copy" — from the ULS License Manager. I've created a set of instructions on how you can request an "official" printed copy of your license.*

http://arrl-ohio.org/news/2020/print_your_license.pdf "

THIRTEEN MONTH CALENDAR...

The ancients did not like the number 13. So they created a 12 month calendar where some months are longer than others. Doing so used up some extra days, so no 13 month calendar was needed. Here's a proposal, a bit wacky of course, because I wrote it. Create an additional month, calling it Trisky (after triskaidekaphobia) and jam it in between two of the other months. Because there are 365 days in a year (leap year 366) the arithmetic is 364/13 = 28. So every month can have 28 days and start with the first of the month being Sunday. A week would still be 7 days. All months would have the same layout, starting on Sunday the first day of the month. Just before January 1 and after December 28, would be the unnumbered New Years Day as a holiday by itself for the 365th day. Then in leap years a special event day (366) would occur right after New Years Day. However, this 366th day could have naming rights sold to the highest bidder for multi-megabucks once every four years. Once named, 366 would only be celebrated once with that name. Four years later the whole name bidding contest would start over again. Money from those sales would go to some international relief charities such as UNICEF. - de AF8C

FT8 NO 24/7, PLEASE...

(from https://www.g4ifb.com/FT8 Hinson tips for HF DXers.pdf)

"For now, full-auto lights-out robotic FT8 stations are fairly easy to spot thanks to obvious clues such as:

- Operating 24x7, or at least for extended periods whereas most normal people would need or choose to take breaks.
- Always using auto-sequencing with standard messages no friendly greetings or off-the-cuff comments and responses during or at the end of their QSOs, easily confused by out-of-sequence and custom messages.
- Static audio frequency for all transmissions no QSYing to avoid QRM.
- Absence from DXpedition fox-n-hounds pileups.
- Frank admissions by their operators, or at least evasive or dubious answers if challenged about this.

Stealthier, more sophisticated robots, though, could prove difficult to identify as such and might conceivably match competent DXers and contesters in capability."

OHIO SECTION REPORTING...

This is from Section Manager email, written by Tom W8LCD

"Of immediate concern:

- 1) [FCC] A petition for rulemaking by the Shortwave Modernization Coalition has got many of you concerned about our continued use of the shortwave bands. ARRL is investigating the consequences of this proposal and will make more information available as the petition moves through the process of being adopted. So far this does not seem to have much traction, but ARRL will give us more information as, and if, it becomes an issue.
- 2) [CONGRESS] ARRL is also involved in the process of supporting H.R. 3241 the "Amateur Radio Communications Improvement Act" having to do with the repeal of Symbol Rate Limits. I know that a lot of you are interested in this and as I get more information from ARRL I will pass it along to you.
- 3) [CONGRESS] This is my favorite issue: H.R. 4006, the "Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act". This bill aims to amend the Communcations Act of 1934 to prohibit the application of certain private land use restrictions to Amateur Station Antennas, and for other purposes". ARRL is lobbying for this bill that would make it illegal for private organizations (like an HOA) to put restrictions on communications antennas, most especially Amateur Radio antennas. Because of the precedence of other communications devices being granted immunity from restrictions, this is put forth as a logical conclusion for the Congress to approve. "

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND CW...

I have boldly sent the ARRL and CQ contest management an email suggestion to revise CW contest rules so that Artificial Intelligence (AI) use in contesting is outlawed in the rules. Who wants to compete against stations that are automated 24/7 "operators" that don't need to eat or rest and can CAT tune a radio lickety-split? --de AF8C

EARLY DATA OBFUSCATORS...

Hedy Lamarr, actress.

https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/hedy-lamarr

In 1940 Lamarr met George Antheil. The two eventually came up with the idea of the use of "frequency hopping" with radio waves, with both transmitter and receiver hopping to new frequencies together, the basis for today's WiFi, GPS, and Bluetooth.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edgar_Allan_Poe

Poe invented substitution cryptography. 1841

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caesar_cipher BCE 56

Julius Caesar invented the Caesar cipher, also known as Caesar's cipher, the shift cipher, Caesar's code, or Caesar shift, is one of the simplest and most widely known encryption techniques.

Queen Mary of Scots 1586

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/codebreakers-discoverand-decipherlong-lost-letters-by-mary-queen-of-scots-180981613/

She employed ciphers and codes of varying complexity for over 100 written notes and letters.

INCANDESCENT LAMPS ARE OFF THE MARKET...

As of August 1 old fashioned light bulbs (lamps) with tungsten filaments are no longer allowed to be manfactured or sold in the U.S. So what are you going to do when you need a pilot lamp for your old antique radio or to light up the inside of that aging refrigerator?

MOW TO BUILD OR BUY A FAST PC COMPUTER...

It is possible to obtain a computer that is fast enough for almost all your urgent computational uses, one that boots up in less than 15 seconds with Windows 10 or 11. There are several main requirements for what you purchase.

- 1 The CPU should be some version of an i5, i7, etc. or AMD equivalent.
- 2 A minimum of 8 GB or RAM, but 12 GB is much better.
- 3 No spinning platter hard drive: only a Solid State Drive (SSD) allowed.
 - 2 & 3 together almost eliminate the wait times of virtual memory storage, CPU thrashing, and process paging.
- 4 Stop your slow WIFI data handling. See 7.
- 5 A Super Fast GPU (Graphics Processing Unit) is not usually necessary unless you are doing computing involving video games or video processing. Don't run Zoom or Skype while running WSJT-X at the same time.
- 6 For FT8, don't be running live QSOs while running too many other applications. Hams frequently use JTAlert and logging programs at the same time as FT8. But watch out for having the CPU chip do too much work while also running the Fourier Transforms built into the "Decode" functions between 12.8 seconds and 14.99 seconds of every cycle.
- 7 Have a very fast Internet router and high speed Internet provider on the FT8 system, or temporarily disconnect from the Internet while you are operating.

HOT LAPTOP?...

For some laptop computers, such as Dell, there is an air vent on the left side of the base section where air comes out after going through the CPU fan. If you make your CPU chip work hard by using some fancy graphics application or two, then after a little while the air coming out there will be really warm. So you can easily test for the warm air. "Some" CPU chips will slow down when too hot. That won't help if you are running WSJT-X at the same time.

THE DX SCENE...

(Courtesy of the NG3K website) Call, Start Date., End Date, DXCC Entity CN2DX,2023 Jul16,2023 Aug16,Morocco PJ4,2023 Jul17,2023 Aug11,Bonaire JD1,2023 Jul20,2023 Aug31, Minami Torishima TF,2023 Jul27,2023 Aug17,Iceland VP5,2023 Jul31,2023 Aug14, Turks & Caicos FJ,2023 Aug06,2023 Aug08,St Barthelemy OY,2023 Aug07,2023 Aug09,Faroe Is PJ6,2023 Aug08,2023 Aug11,Saba & St. Eustasias OX,2023 Aug11,2023 Sep21, Greenland FS,2023 Aug11,2023 Aug16,St Martin TF,2023 Aug11,2023 Aug25,Iceland FO,2023 Aug13,2023 Sep05, French Polynesia V5,2023 Aug14,2023 Sep07, Namibia VP9,2023 Aug19,2023 Aug22,Bermuda 9Q2WX,2023 Aug20,2023 Sep09,DR Congo V47JA,2023 Aug28,2023 Sep12,St Kitts & Nevis T8,2023 Aug29,2023 Sep04.Palau KH0,2023 Aug31,2023 Sep14, Mariana Is T32AZ,2023 Sep01,2023 Oct17,East Kiribati D44TWO,2023 Sep02,2023 Sep17,Cape Verde Is SV5,2023 Sep05,2023 Sep21, Dodecanese V31XT,2023 Sep06,2023 Sep14,Belize T8,2023 Sep12,2023 Sep18,Palau KH2,2023 Sep16,2023 Sep30,Guam VK9LAA,2023 Sep20,2023 Oct04,Lord Howe Is 5W0LM,2023 Oct01,2023 Oct14,Samoa YJ0TT,2023 Oct01,2023 Oct31,Vanuatu TX6D,2023 Oct02,2023 Oct15,French Polynesia V7,2023 Oct03,2023 Oct15,Marshall Is W8S,2023 Oct04,2023 Oct17,Swains Is E6AM,2023 Oct10,2023 Oct23,Niue T2C,2023 Oct10,2023 Oct30, Tuvalu V63AH,2023 Oct18,2023 Oct30, Micronesia ZL7.2023 Oct20.2023 Nov22..Chatham Is PJ5,2023 Oct25,2023 Oct31,Saba & St Eustatius H40WA,2023 Oct26,2023 Nov09,Temotu V63CB,2023 Oct27,2023 Oct31, Micronesia 4W8X,2023 Nov01,2023 Nov30,Timor Leste E6AJ,2023 Nov03,2023 Nov10,Niue TX7L,2023 Nov04,2023 Nov19, Marguesas H44WA,2023 Nov15,2023 Nov29,Solomon Is VK9XGM,2023 Nov21,2023 Dec05, Christmas Is TX5S,2024 Jan18,2024 Feb01, Clipperton Is CB0ZA,2024 Feb13,2024 Feb20,Juan Fernandez 8R,2024 Feb14,2024 Feb24,Guyana 3B8.2024 Feb20.2024 Feb27.Mauritius J3,2024 Mar04,2024 Mar16, Grenada

2023 ELECTED CLUB **OFFICERS**

President Glenn Williams (440) 934-5566 Vice President

AF8C

Karl Beckman (440) 234-4839 **WA8NVW**

Secretary Open

Treasurer Ann Wadsworth

KA8ZEP

Fifth Board Member Stephen Kinford (216) 702-8384

N8WB

<u>COMMITTEES</u>

FIELD EVENTS COMMITTEE -

OPEN

Safety Officer OPEŃ

License Trustee N8WB

ARRI VE'S

AF8C, N8WB, W8MET, KC8FOS

ARTICLES SUBMITTED

NET MANAGER W8WLI

CONTESTS, SATELLITES N8WS and N8WB

PROPERTY CUSTODIAN N8WS

8TH AREA BUREAU LETTER MGR.

AF8C (8V)

PROGRAMS

AF8C and VOLUNTEERS

EDITOR, WEBMASTER

AF8C

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WEST PARK RADIOPS ARC meets at the North Olmsted Library on the second Tuesday of the month 3 p.m.

Dues are \$15/yr. We welcome anyone interested in amateur radio to our activities. We operate Monday night nets on 147.36+ MHz (PL 107.2 Hz) at 8:00 p.m. Eastern.

http://www.westparkradiops.org
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W8VM





