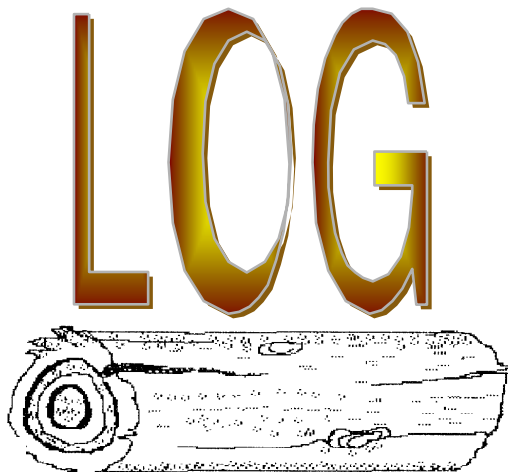




FOUNDED 1947



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<http://www.westparkradiops.org>

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CLUB'S W8VM SKCC #12111

December 2025 – January 2026
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WEST PARK RADIOPS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



WEST PARK NEWS *

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). Our meeting schedule varies. Pay attention to our opportunities to announce meeting changes.



UPCOMING CONTESTS AND ACTIVITIES*...

(sourced from WA7BNM and ARRL information)

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

Dec 6 ARRL 160-Meter Contest

Dec 13 ARRL 10-Meter Contest

Dec 20 RAC Winter Contest

Dec 27 Stew Perry Topband Challenge

LOOK FOR 6M OPENINGS

Jan 4 ARRL RTTY Roundup

Jan 10 North American QSO Party, CW

Thursday Evenings FT4 Contest

Jan 17 North American QSO Party, SSB

Jan 24 CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW

Jan 29 NAQCC CW Sprint

*Subject to change



WEST PARK RADIOPS MEETINGS & PROGRAMS FOR 2025*

Dec 9 } Canary's Restaurant 11:30 a.m.*

Jan 13 } Lunch and short business meeting



RIG POWER CABLE VOLTAGE DROOP...

(Inspired by Kevin Brandstetter, K8VUS)

Some transceivers can be sensitive to the power supply voltage. Full 100% power on transmit can be hard to achieve if the power supply voltage is less than the specified amount in the User Manual. The following discussion shows how you can figure out the **loss of voltage** in just the resistance of the power supply cable you use to power the rig. Basically, using Ohm's Law and a calculator gives the result. Take the resistance R' in the table below, multiply by 2 (the positive lead and the return lead count as 2) times the length in feet L of the cable, and the DC current in amps while transmitting, and you get the answer. Maybe you should assume something like 0.05 volt additional loss in the inline fuse and wire terminals resistance.

WIRE GAUGE (AWG)	OHMS/FT R'
8	0.000641
10	0.00102
12	0.00162
14	0.00258
16	0.00409
18	0.00651



FREQUENCY RULES FOR WORKING UK HAMS ON 60m

(per Uwe Risse DG2YCB)

“At the closing meeting of the 2015 ITU World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-15) on 27 November 2015, amongst the Final Acts signed into the International Radio Regulations was one approving A Worldwide Frequency Allocation of 5351.5–5366.5 kHz to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis. Based on this, an international band plan was established, which allocates 5357 kHz for our digital modes. That's why 5357 is "magic".

In the United Kingdom, however, we have a completely different situation, which, to my knowledge, is unique to this country. Here, the line between permitted and not permitted runs right through the 3 kHz wide 5357 kHz digital modes sub-band. This is not because of any obstacles created by amateur radio operators themselves, but because certain military facilities transmit from 5358 kHz onwards. That's a pitfall that's very easy to fall into.”

Note that it's quite easy for UK stations to operate digital modes legally on 60m: They must keep their TX frequency (base RF frequency plus generated audio frequency offset of 950 Hz) below 5358 kHz. (The 50 Hz slot bandwidth plus 950 Hz = 1000 Hz.)

🔴 AIR GAP BREAKDOWN VOLTAGES ...

(by Wikipedia®)

“Paschen's law is an equation that gives the breakdown voltage– the voltage necessary to start a discharge or electric arc –between two electrodes in a gas as a function of pressure and gap length. It is named after Friedrich Paschen who discovered it empirically in 1889.

Paschen studied the breakdown voltage of various gases between parallel metal plates as the gas pressure and gap distance were varied.”

I only mention this because of my own curiosity as to what the numbers are for air gaps in circuitry that I might be messing with, or for radio equipment experiencing lightning discharges. The resulting Paschen equation and various factors for voltage breakdown are quite complicated. Some sources quote 1100 volts per millimeter in air at nominal atmospheric pressure and humidity, but don't tempt fate if you are messing around with high voltage circuitry. **Use proper insulation and safety rules.**

🔴 WSM AM BLAW-KNOX TOWER...

One of the tallest AM towers in United States, visible from Interstate 65 near Nashville, TN.



808-foot tall broadcast tower in Brentwood, TN, that was built in 1932 for the WSM radio station. Credit: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.5/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blaw-Knox_tower

HISTORY OF LARGE AM STATIONS...

<https://www.ominous-valve.com/wlw.html>

This very interesting history of commercial AM stations includes the original non-ham W8XO WLW 700 station history.

USE WINDOWS COMMAND PROMPT BAT FILES FOR FT8...

Some users of WSJT-X load up their Windows-based PCs with all sorts of accessory support software (see the August 2025 issue of the West Park Radiops LOG for a partial list) for real-time tracking of their on-the-air FT8/FT4 goals. Their successes and real-time opportunities for new DX for those big time goals of DXCC or Honor Roll hinge on finding new ones to work. Using log analysis software and tracking with Windows GUI (Graphical User Interface) assistance builds in extra CPU workloads that might interfere with real-time Rx decoding, especially with the new deep-decode setups.

In this shack I have WSJT-X running almost stand-alone. When I want to know a status of something in my logs and ADIF files, I just fire up a BAT file and it tells me what I want to know in seconds. Then I can close the Command Prompt window for that and any slight extra CPU load is gone. Here's the code for a BAT file that searches my WSJT-X AdIF logs for a specific call sign.

```
@ECHO OFF
SET /P ucall=ADIF?
IF "%ucall%"==" " GOTO Error
echo.
type bands.txt
findstr /I %ucall% %localappdata%\wsjt-x\wsjtx_log.ad
echo.
pause
GOTO End
:Error
ECHO No call entered
:End
```

WHAT HAPPENED TO SPARK?...

In December 1924, Spark Gap Transmitters were made illegal on the newly allocated 5, 20, 40 & 80m bands. They we made illegal for HAM use on all HAM Bands by 1926.

THE ULTIMATE RIG...

1977: { Controls: Power on/off, Volume, Frequency readout. } All other effectors are fully automatic including decoding the signal on the frequency to determine its type, set up AGC, ALC, auto tune, optimum power, noise filtering, etc.
(original concept by W8OKE-sk, Ed Reilly)

2025: Black box. { Control done by RF data link such as WIFI or Bluetooth}. No cables attached other than power. Single indicator: Power On. Fully smart.

📡 IC7300 BOOTCAMP...

If you own/operate an IC7300 you might want to read these articles.

https://www.w1hh.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/April2022_BARSNewsletter_Web.pdf

<https://www.w1hh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/BARSOctober2025Newsletter.pdf>

Thanks to the Billerica Amateur Radio Society (BARS).

📡 NEW HARDWARE REVIEW...

Fast PC? But not happy with results on FT8. Have you read the manual?

=====

Source: [REDACTED]

“I got a new laptop to replace my older machine running Windows 10 on a Core i5 system. My NIDXA friends recommended one with a Ryzen 7 CPU. My new machine has 40 GB of RAM, a Radeon GPU, and runs Windows 11. I also installed the All CPU monitor recommended by [REDACTED]. The new laptop is fast, but the CPU still maxes out if decoding is set any higher than Normal in WSJT-X Improved. Looking at the CPU monitor, I can see that cores 4&5, 9&10, and 15&16 are doing most of the work; usually only one pair on a decode cycle. It alternates between those three groups. The rest of the cores are hardly doing anything, and are showing around 0% most of the time.”



Then he says 'Take a look at my logbook!' It was all FT8!"



THE DX SCENE...

(Courtesy of the NG3K website <https://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>)

Call, Start Date End Date, DXCC Entity

P40MC,2025 Nov04,2025 Dec06,Aruba
 5X7W,2025 Nov14,2025 Dec08,Uganda
 PJ4KV,2025 Nov20,2025 Dec03,Bonaire
 V51WH,2025 Nov20,2025 Dec31,Namibia
 YJ0GC,2025 Nov23,2025 Dec05,Vanuatu
 VP9,2025 Nov24,2025 Dec04,Bermuda
 XU7RRC,2025 Nov25,2025 Dec03,Cambodia
 A52AA,2025 Nov25,2025 Dec05,Bhutan
 HP3,2025 Nov26,2025 Dec10,Panama
 TO9W,2025 Nov30,2025 Dec12,St Martin
 8Q7HT,2025 Dec01,2025 Dec10,Maldives
 TT1GD,2025 Dec01,2025 Dec22,Chad
 6Y,2025 Dec04,2025 Dec06,Jamaica
 OA4,2025 Dec04,2025 Dec14,Peru
 TG,2025 Dec07,2026 Jan05,Guatemala
 T88AC,2025 Dec10,2025 Dec17,Palau
 9Y9DX,2025 Dec17,2025 Dec29,Trinidad & Tobago
 S21DX,2025 Dec21,2025 Dec27,Bangladesh
 PZ5OZ,2025 Dec21,2026 Jan02,Surinam
 TO2FY,2025 Dec22,2026 Jan15,French Guiana
 4K,2025 Dec26,2026 Jan03,Azerbaijan
 KH0,2025 Dec30,2026 Jan03,Mariana Is
 3A,2025 Dec30,2026 Jan03,Monaco
 J3WG,2026 Jan01,2026 Feb16,Grenada
 TY5GG,2026 Jan06,2026 Feb06,Benin
 VU7,2026 Jan10,2026 Jan22,Lakshadweep Is
 XQ,2026 Jan12,2026 Feb15,San Felix & Ambrosio
 PJ7,2026 Jan13,2026 Jan21,Sint Maarten
 8Q7JI,2026 Jan18,2026 Jan24,Maldives
 8P9CB,2026 Jan18,2026 Jan30,Barbados
 FG4KH,2026 Jan20,2026 Feb10,Guadeloupe
 PJ2,2026 Jan22,2026 Mar31,Curacao
 V660XGI,2026 Jan22,2026 Jan28,Micronesia
 OX7AKT,2026 Feb10,2026 Feb17,Greenland
 VP8TM,2026 Feb14,2026 Feb28,Falkland Is
 3Y0K,2026 Feb15,2026 Mar14,Bouvet Is
 JW8EKA,2026 Mar13,2026 Mar15,Svalbard
 CY0S,2026 Mar19,2026 Mar31,Sable Is
 EA8,2026 Mar30,2026 Apr06,Canary Is
 TX9XG,2026 Apr01,2026 Apr08,French Polynesia
 TX9W,2026 Apr19,2026 Apr30,Marquesas
 V4,2026 May24,2026 Jun01,St Kitts & Nevis
 J68TT,2026 Aug15,2026 Aug22,St Lucia

2025 ELECTED CLUB OFFICERS

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Vice President
 Vicki Mate **K8VGM**
Secretary
 Glenn Williams **AF8C**
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Treasurer
 Ann Wadsworth **KA8ZEP**

Fifth Board Member
 Stephen Kinford **N8WB**
 (216) 702-8384

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N8WS and N8WB
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N8WS
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AF8C