

WEST PARK RADIOPS







FOUNDED 1947

Web:

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

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October - November VOL. LVII

2022

No. 6

CLUB'S W8VM SKCC #12111

WEST PARK NETS*

During the Covid crisis we have held extra Friday night 8 p.m. 2m nets. Our Monday and Friday 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 the use of their repeater, W8DXA, 147.36+ (107.2).

These substitutes for actual on site first and third Friday meetings along with regular Monday nets, are:

Oct 3,7,10,17,21,24,28 - 2M NET,, 8 p.m.* *Subject to change

Oct 14* - MEETING ON ZOOM 7:30 p.m.* Nov 4,7,14,18,21,25,28 - 2M NET, 8 p.m.*

Nov 11* - MEETING ON ZOOM 7:30 p.m.*

But when a meeting site opens up we plan to get back to on-site meetings. Thus the nets and Zoom meetings listed above may suddenly change.

UPCOMING CONTESTS AND ACTIVITIES...

(sourced from WA7BNM and ARRL information)

Oct	8	SKCC Weekend Sprintathon
Oct	15	10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW
Oct	22	Stew Perry Topband Challenge
Oct	29	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB

Nov 5 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW

Nov 12 WAE DX Contest, RTTY

Nov 19 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB Nov 26 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW

WEST PARK RADIOPS PROGRAMS FOR 2022*

October 14 FT8 demonstration*

November 11 Veterans Day*

December 9 Christmas Party if we can work it*

MEMBER HAPPENINGS IN 2022...

Melba, VA3PLO, and Bob, VE3ELR, have been welcomed as new Honorary Members of the club.

West Park Radiops ARC members regret the loss of these club members just in 2022.

AB8PG Vesselin Zhelezov

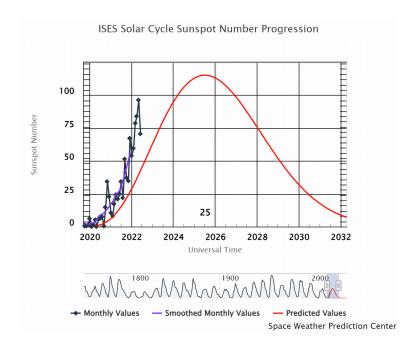
W8PN Harold "Hal" Braschwitz

WV8P David Germ

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🥝 Solar Cycle 25...

How about this. The predictions for the progress of Cycle 25 were too low. The sun is boss and it is already running way above the predictions. If you are chasing DX, this implies some interesting possibilities.



© EVENTS ON THE AIR...

JOTA -- Scouting Jamboree On The Air

POTA -- Parks on the Air (see below)

OSPOTA - Ohio State Parks on the Air

BOTA - Boats on the Air SOTA - Summits on the Air

VOTA - Volcanoes on the Air

So why not add this one: ACOTA?



Asteroid Craters On The Air? There are three craters just between Cleveland and the Chicago, Illinois, area. There's one in southern Ohio!

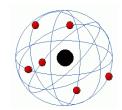
(Personally, I can't believe no part of Hudson Bay is a crater. So the number of craters is perhaps more than volcanoes and less than parks, but not out of the question.)

Image borrowed from

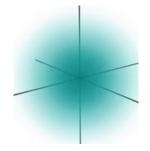
https://www.thelivingmoon.com/43ancients/02files/Earth Images 09.html

"PERSONALITIES" OF ELECTRONS...

Many folks who have been in amateur radio for a number of years may not know of a misconception about how electrons "orbit" the nuclei of atoms.



They may assume that electrons kind of orbit the nucleus like planets orbit the sun. This kind of diagram has been popularized as early as 1911 by Ernest Rutherford https://commons.wikimedia.org



But in actuality, electrons travel more like in a cloud around the nucleus. So according to "Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle", if you try to locate the exact position of an electron, you can't thenmeasure the momentum of the electron very well. Or vice versa.

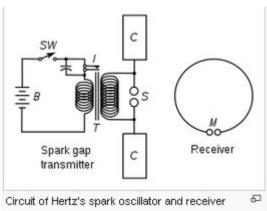
https://www.wikipedia.org/

SPARK GAP TRANSMITTERS...

Here's an electrical schematic of a spark gap transmitter like from the early 1900's.

The idea is that the "SW" is the Morse Code key. Closing the circuit causes the transformer to excite a spark across antenna gap "S" similar to how ignition coils operate in vehicles. Obviously the spark is not going to radiate a clean CW tone. It is possible to hear simulated spark gap transmissions (like the ones sent by the radio operator in the sinking *Titanic* in 1912).

For example, on Wikipedia you can listen to a simulated spark gap signal.



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

Imagine on a dark night you hear that kind of CW signal sending "CQD MGY". That is what would resemble the radio band sound on April 14-15, 1912 with the sinking of the *Titanic*.

LED DIMMERS CAN CAUSE SERIOUS QRM

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This URL link is good for learning how LED dimmer "switches" can cause RFI in your home and even in your neighborhood. For example, such as do you hear loud noise and static on the radio but you aren't using anything in your home that could make the noise?

https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/solved-rf-interference-from-dimmer-switches.831621/

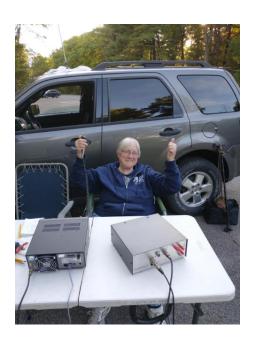
Also in some cases you may be being bothered by RFI from old plasma televisions.

https://www.dxengineering.com/techarticles/lightningandrfiinfo/plasma-tv-mother-of-all-rfi-producers

SERIOUS POTA OPS (not potato chips!)

Club members Dan, W8AJF, and Ann, KA8ZEP, have been doing some recent POTA operations. In August Dan operated from North Carolina. On October 5 Ann really got into the scheme of things and operated 50 FT8 contacts and 73 USB phone contacts on 20m from Findlay State Park.





POPULAR ANTENNA MODELING SOFTWARE IS FREE...

< https://www.rtl-sdr.com/eznec-pro-antenna-modelling-software-will-be-free-from-2022/ >

July 21, 2021 EZNEC Pro Antenna Modelling Software will be free from 2022 EZNEC is a popular antenna modelling program created by W7EL which is based on the "Numerical"

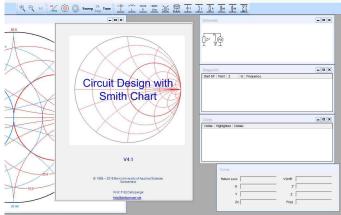
Electromagnetics Code" or NEC. With a NEC based antenna modelling program it is possible to design antennas by modelling their geometry and connections, and then simulating parameters like radiation pattern gain and VSWR. You can also determine the effects of height, roof angles, nearby objects and more. Originally the pricing was \$99 for EZNEC, \$149 for EZNEC+, \$525 for EZNEC Pro/2 and \$675 for EZNEC Pro/4. W7EL is retiring and from Jan 1 2022 EZNEC Pro/2 and EZNEC+ will be made free, and EZNEC Pro/4 will be discontinued. The source code will not be released, and no support will be provided. If you're after a free NEC based

EZNEC+

antenna modeler today, 4NEC2 is a similar program that is already free. There is also the recently released and more modern CENOS, which is free for hobbyist use.

FREE MODELING WITH SMITH CHARTS...

https://www.fritz.dellsperger.net/smith.html



Free for use with a limited number of finite elements.

His software, like most Smith Chart software, requires a bit of experimenting in order for the user to climb the learning curve.

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In February 2022 I had just closed on confirming 100 mixed DX entities for DXCC on 80m, which required seeking paper QSLs with orders on OQRS. Some hams (e.g. GW3YDX) are very strict on how they will supply QSLs. There is also the issue of time delay after supplying the requisite postage via OQRS and PayPal. It takes time for paper QSLs to be written up and mailed and also the time for DX to QTH via international mail services.

Getting real QSL cards from a few operators was difficult because of the time delay after paying for the postage on oQRS. Some DX operators are slow to respond or have strict rules (GW3YDX for example.)

I suspect and assume that DX operators (outside of U.S.) who want to register with Log Book of the World have to prove their call sign is valid with extra paperwork. But they only have to do that once every time they need a new certificate. Perhaps some DX operators are just unwilling to deal with the LOTW red tape every time they need to send in an ADIF confirmation.

To be fair, it is conceivable that poor Internet connections at some DX locales make it very difficult to communicate with LOTW.

With FT8 it is easy to get accurate log entries with call signs properly spelled, whereas with CW and sometimes Phone there is a chance of logging misspelled call signs. In that case it is guaranteed that a QSL documented by any means will still not match up on LOTW and the contact will be ignored. An operator running FT8 has a computer, and so very likely is also doing email.

If you use LOTW with TQSL, you know that for submission of your logs for DX checking, you use your LOTW certificate and an ADIF file to submit a record. TQSL bundles those data items together into something (here I call it a token) that can go directly to LOTW or via email to LOTW. So my enquiring mind said "what if" the operator I just worked could email directly to me with something like that LOTW token as an attachment. Then I could attach my token to his token with some special digital "glue" and send that to LOTW myself. The DX operator would

never have to log into LOTW again but I would still get my confirmation at the speed of email instead of paper mail.

All this schema would require some changes to LOTW and TQSL, of course. But it would not be hard to change the software code to add those features.

There are some obvious side disadvantages though. Let's say I work 305 contacts in the ARRL International DX Contest. Do I want 305 emails with tokens arriving in email after the contest? That would be a problem. But more likely a large percentage of those operators would QSL directly into LOTW and only a few would require me to take action with OQRS and email me their tokens.

So do we need such a technology? Would anyone use it?

Well, I submitted a proposal to the ARRL for "digital QSL cards" via such tokens, with different words than I wrote here. The proposal was rejected.

--de AF8C

PROBLEM WITH MODULAR POWER ADAPTERS...

Just recently I was going to use a brand new modular 12V DC power adapter (aka wall wart, "device") to power up some expensive equipment. But having recently heard that not all such devices are well designed, I decided to check the device's open circuit voltage with a voltmeter. It waw supposed to be 12V DC but it measured over 17V DC. Upon looking up the details for the exact model number of the device on the Internet, I learned that it consists inside of an ac down converting transformer, some diode rectifiers, one storage capacitor, and the output cable/connector. Result: with no load on it the device just charges the capacitor to the peak of the ac voltage out of the transformer secondary. Therefore, in order to get the DC voltage down to something like 12V, there has to be substantial current draw at a large percentage of the rated full current load. Well, my expensive equipment would use 500 mA and the device was rated at 1000 mA (1A). So the question boiled down to: would 500 mA reduce the voltage sufficiently. I decided to find a new source of 12V DC.

For the reader, the important part of this story is that if you want to power up something with a device like this, don't plug it into the wall socket first, and then later connect the end of the power connector to the load while it's open circuited and sitting at 17V DC. You might damage your equipment while the 17V bleeds down to 12V during the first few milliseconds of applying the power. Plug the device into the 117 Vac last after connecting to the equipment/load first.

WATERY FOR ULTRA-QRP QSO...

https://www.doitpoms.ac.uk/tlplib/batteries/potato_battery.php

You can make a 2.89V battery with a potato, aluminum foil, a copper penny or flat piece of copper, and two alligator clip leads. Slice the potato so it has a flat side. Place the flat side down on the aluminum foil. Poke the copper item into the top of the potato. Use the clip leads to connect the battery to the radio power wires. This works due to phosphoric acid in the battery. You will get more current if the copper is wider than a penny.

THE DX SCENE...

(Courtesy of the NG3K website and KB8NW's OPDX Bulletins)

Call, Start Date, End Date, DXCC Entity VQ9SC.2022 Sep16.2022 Oct16.Chagos SV5,2022 Sep18,2022 Oct09, Dodecanese 3C3CA,2022 Sep19,2022 Oct19, Equatorial Guinea VP9,2022 Sep25,2022 Oct06,Bermuda VP9,2022 Sep26,2022 Oct06,Bermuda FO,2022 Sep27,2022 Oct05, French Polynesia V5,2022 Sep28,2022 Oct11, Namibia AH2,2022 Sep30,2022 Oct04,Guam TX7G,2022 Oct01,2022 Oct15,Marguesas S79,2022 Oct02,2022 Oct15,Seychelles 8Q7TD,2022 Oct02,2022 Oct17,Maldives ZA,2022 Oct03,2022 Oct18,Albania AH0.2022 Oct06.2022 Oct13.Mariana Is D60AE,2022 Oct05,2022 Oct17,Comoros AH0,2022 Oct06,2022 Oct13,Mariana Is 5R8FG,2022 Oct08,2022 Oct17,Madagascar 5R8,2022 Oct11,2022 Oct22,Madagascar VP2,2022 Oct13,2022 Oct20,Montserrat TY0RU,2022 Oct14,2022 Oct26,Benin 7Q6M,2022 Oct19,2022 Nov29,Malawi 3A,2022 Oct20,2022 Oct23,Monaco V3E,2022 Oct19,2022 Oct23,Belize PJ5,2022 Oct25,2022 Nov04,Saba & Sint Eustatius VK9CM,2022 Oct26,2022 Nov03,Cocos Keeling HR9,2022 Oct27,2022 Oct31,Honduras P29RO,2022 Oct25,2022 Nov10, Papua New Guinea J28MD,2022 Oct29,2022 Nov07,Djibouti TX5XG.2022 Nov01.2022 Nov09.Austral Is 7P8CW,2022 Nov02,2022 Nov07,Lesotho TX5XG,2022 Oct02,2022 Nov09, Austral Is T88WA.2022 Nov02.2022 Nov14.Palau A35GC,2022 Nov02,2022 Nov20,Tonga TL8AA,2022 Nov12,2022 Nov26, Central African Rep P40DA,2022 Oct14,2022 Nov27,Aruba T88PB,2022 Nov23,2022 Dec04,Palau HR5,2022 Nov23,2022 Nov30,Honduras TO9W,2022 Nov30,2022 Dec09,St Martin S21DX,2022 Dec10,2022 Dec16,Bangladesh FT8/c,2022 Dec15,2022 Dec31,Crozet VP2MDX,2023 Jan02,2023 Jan31,Montserrat TN8K,2023 Jan07,2023 Jan21,Congo T8,2023 Jan13,2023 Jan20,Palau 3Y0J.2023 Jan23.2023 Feb28.Bouvet I J8,2023 Feb15,2023 Feb21,St Vincent HK0,2023 Feb28,2023 Mar05,San Andres & Providencia HC8M,2023 Mar01,2023 Mar11, Galapagos

PJ7AA,2023 Mar04,2023 Apr01,St Martin CY0S,2023 Mar20,2023 Mar29,Sable I

2022 ELECTED CLUB OFFICERS

President Glenn Williams (440) 934-5566

AF8C

<u>Vice President</u> Karl Beckman

WA8NVW

(440) 234-4839 <u>Secretary</u>

Secret Open

<u>Treasurer</u> Ann Wadsworth

KA8ZEP

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Fifth Board Member Stephen Kinford (216) 702-8384

N8WB

COMMITTEES

FIELD EVENTS COMMITTEE - OPEN

Safety Officer OPEN

OPEN

License Trustee N8WB

A D.D.L. V/E/C

AF8C, N8CX, N8WB, W8MET, KC8FOS

ARTICLES SUBMITTED

-

NET MANAGER W8WLI

W8WLI

CONTESTS, SATELLITES

N8WS and N8WB

PROPERTY CUSTODIAN

N8WS

8TH AREA BUREAU LETTER MGR. AF8C

(8V)

PROGRAMS KC8FOS and AF8C

EDITOR. WEBMASTER

AF8C

ORIGINAL LABELS DATABASE

N8CX

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MEETINGS: WEST PARK RADIOPS ARC plans to resume meeting each month at Cuyahoga Community College West Campus in the Public Safety Training Center, 11000 Pleasant Valley Dr. at 7:30 PM sharp.

But our on-site meetings have been suspended during Covid-19 protocols. Therefore we meet on Zoom on the second Friday, 7:30 p.m.

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

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