



FOUNDED 1947

WEST PARK RADIOPS



LOG



Web: <http://members.core.com/~af8c/westpark/>
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April – May 2005
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AF8C, N8CX, K8TTL

ARTICLES
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ANTENNAS
W8PN, W8IDM, W8IMF

CLUB AWARDS
W8IDM

CONTESTS
W8IDM

DX
W8IMF

EDITOR, WEBMASTER
AF8C

LABELS & ROSTER
N8CX

WEST PARK EVENTS *

*Subject to Change

Apr. 1 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

Meet in the usual place. Bring your questions or answers to the radio problems of the day/week/month. Or bring your show and tell items.

Apr. 15 - Program Night – TECHNICAL TOPIC

We plan on having the IRS here to audit your returns. NO just Kidding. Actually we are going to hear about one of the latest new technologies that could affect our future of amateur radio –SOFTWARE DEFINED RADIO.

May 6 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

Bring your questions or answers to the radio problems of the day/week/month.

May 20 - Program Night –TECHNICAL TOPIC

It's about time to learn how the pro's design printed circuit boards. Or rather, how the "artwork" becomes an electronic design of form, fit, and function, while avoiding ground loops and cross-coupling in radio design. A live circuit board layout session is planned.

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

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CONTESTS AND EVENTS

de WA7BNM Contest List

Apr	16-17	MI QSO Party
Apr	2-3	QCWA Spring QSO Party
Apr	23-24	Florida QSO Party
May	1	May CW Sprint
May	14	FISTS Spring Sprint
May	20-22	DAYTON HAMVENTION
May	28-29	CQ WW WPX CW
May	29-30	Mem. Day CW Sprint
May	7-8	County Hunter CW Test
May	7-8	10-10 INT. Spring CW
Jun	11	ALL SCOUTS WEEKEND
Jun	25	ARRL FIELD DAY

SOAPBOX

No longer deny yourself the pleasure of high speed CW operating. For most of us, daily CW listening practice can be achieved on the CW portions of the bands, and in the evening visit 40M CW for the local traffic nets. Then there is the contests (listed to the left) where you can try to make QSOs. The point is to warm up your CW skills and get them ready for the ARRL Field Day in late June. (Yes, I'll try to practice also.)

THE PRESIDENTS FORUM

As I write, the vernal equinox is a few hours away and the noticeably longer daylight and warmer temperatures bring the promise of spring. I wouldn't get out the chaise and suntan lotion just yet, however it is time to plan on being part of the club activities planned for the coming months. Our first operation will be Field Day and we already had a computer meeting to familiarize operators with the logging program. Later we will probably repeat our other operating activities plus a picnic or two along with public service events when asked.

The members who regularly work hard to plan and staff these events need help. Four or five people can't be expected to do it all alone. Our club name West Park Radiops ARC spells the reason for our association. Radio operators in an Amateur Radio Club! West Park has been a premier club for over 50 years but in order to remain as such needs more members participating in radio related areas. Please bring the ladies to our coed picnics so those present don't feel out of place with a bunch of guys sitting around the fire. As a final note, we always welcome visitors to our meetings and operating events. Contact an officer via e-mail or phone to get information.

73 for now. Dick K8AB.

NEW ARRL APPOINTMENT...

Joanne Solak, KJ3O, of Mantua (Portage County) will return as Affiliated Clubs Coordinator for the Ohio Section effective immediately. It is a section cabinet position she took over in 1986 (until she resigned in 2000) and had designed during her 14 years on the job. In that time, Joanne earned the respect of all Ohio ham radio clubs and the respect of ARRL Headquarters where she is regarded as the Gold Standard of ACCs across the United States. For this work, she received (in 2002) Ohio's highest and most prestigious award - The Alan Severson, AB8P, Memorial Award. - de Joe Phillips, K8QOE, Ohio SM.

PUBLIC SERVICE...

Saturday, June 11, 2005, **NORTH OLMSTED ALL SCOUTS WEEKEND**, the West Park Radiops members will be testing out new antenna theories at the North Olmsted city park as well as **demonstrating amateur radio to the scouts from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.** Al, N8CX, has a new portable HF vertical antenna system to put through another run if the propagation will allow it. Glenn, AF8C, plans to test a new "live" antenna switcher as a precursor to Field Day. Of course, the main event for us at All Scouts Weekend will be the **demonstration of amateur radio to the scouts** that tour around the park and visit our operations center. After this winter of almost record breaking snowfall (did we do it?) it will be fun to be out in the warm sun in June.

RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON THE 10M NET...

The Club's 10 Meter Net topics have ranged around again during these two months. There is the microphone virus that seems to afflict some of the people who check in, by causing their audio to be all ratty. We also discussed hungry man-eating snow blowers, antivirus and anti-spam software, how to restore hard drives that seem to have lost their usefulness, new and old antenna theories, contest scores, stuck antenna rotators, water tables, and sometimes DX. Our net is on 28450 kHz at 10 p.m. local most Monday evenings.

FIELD DAY...

W8PN's data mining from last year's Field Day seems to have been completed (?) and we have our goals being focused for this year's Field Day. Some new antenna configurations are planned. Operators are being introduced to contest logging training. We are seriously considering having a GOTA station this year for hams to operate if they have never really tried contesting before.

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT ANTENNAS...

There is a great source of information on the Web, one that you can use to learn about all sorts of technical details, "more than you could ever ask or imagine". It's all about a sort of a free encyclopedia on the Web, called WIKIPEDIA. The pages in Wikipedia are updated by professionals in their field, and refereed so as to not get polluted with non-factual information or innuendo. What you see there will be the real facts, more than you can find on other Web pages. Also, there won't be popups and other commercial aggravations. So let's say you want to learn about the various types of antennas. Then see:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Radio_frequency_antenna_types

And, you might want to visit all the URL links in that page to see what else is written about antennas. Don't worry about the math on some of the pages. Just ignore what you don't understand, because there is still plenty to learn. Their page on amateur radio is fairly up-to-date:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antenna_%28radio%29

Enjoy. - de AF8C

CLUB CONTEST SCORES...

West Park Radiops members have logged the following scores in recent ARRL and CQ contests (list supplied by Don, W8IDM).

CQWW 160M CW	
<i>Call</i>	<i>Score</i>
W8IDM	27456
W8PN	27120
K8AB	20774
TOTAL	75350
CQWW 160M SSB	
<i>Call</i>	<i>Score</i>
K8AB	24582
K8VUS	6360
W8IDM	4563
AB8HY	3200
AF8C	1155
TOTAL	39860
ARRL DX CW	
<i>Call</i>	<i>Score</i>
W8PN	214542
AF8C	81750
W8IDM	75762
K8VUS	61560
KD8RB	40656
N8WS	17820
TOTAL	492090
ARRL DX SSB	
<i>Call</i>	<i>Score</i>
K8VUS	88773
K8AB	57420
AF8C	18096
AB8HY	14145
W8IDM	8601
TOTAL	187035

West Park members can add their call here in the coming contests, QSO Parties, Sprints, etc. Also, send the editor any activity or logs for traffic net operations, QRP notes, County hunter status, etc. Next time we may also run a one-time table of types of rigs or antennas in use by club members.

FLORIDA LAW WOULD STOP HAM RADIO...

(condensed from *The ARRL Letter*, March 4, 2005)

League Asks FCC to Void Florida RFI Statute

NEWINGTON, CT, Mar 1, 2005--The ARRL has asked the FCC to declare invalid a Florida law that prohibits anyone making radio transmissions without a license or Commission "exemption" from interfering with a licensed broadcast station. By prohibiting [RFI] interference to broadcasters, the ARRL contends, the Florida law could have the apparently unintended consequence of affecting ham radio licensees as well as operators of certain unlicensed Part 15 devices, such as cordless telephones.

"What is clear is that no radio transmissions, licensed or not, are permitted if they result in interference to public or commercial radio stations licensed by the Commission," the League said. "Thus, it would appear that Commission-licensed Amateur Radio stations in Florida are subject to felony prosecution if their transmissions interfere with interference-susceptible broadcast or other radio receivers used in listening to public or commercial radio stations."

The law also could subject operators of Part 15 unlicensed intentional radiators that interfere with broadcast stations to felony criminal prosecution, the League said, adding that it "could be interpreted to prohibit operation of Part 15 devices entirely."

Citing case law and legal opinions dating as far back as the 1930s, the ARRL requested a declaratory ruling from the FCC that the Florida statute "exceeds the jurisdiction of the State of Florida and intrudes on the Communications Act of 1934 as amended, to regulate radio stations and to address interference phenomena."

The Florida Legislature enacted the law, §877.27 to take effect July 1, 2004. Violations would be considered third-degree felonies in Florida.

The ARRL says it's not clear that Florida lawmakers intended the law to be as broad in its application as it reads, but that the new law--apparently aimed at unlicensed "pirate" broadcasters--"nonetheless on its face prohibits any person from causing interference" with an FCC-licensed broadcast station.

Although the Communications Act of 1934 does not specifically preempt state regulation of RFI matters, Congress clarified in 1982 that all telecommunications are interstate and subject to exclusive regulation by the FCC, the ARRL pointed out. It cited the Communications Amendments Act of 1982, Public Law 97-259 to support its stance. In a 2003 case, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, the FCC "held clearly that all attempts by states and municipalities to regulate RFI are void as preempted by the supremacy clause of the Constitution," the ARRL said. The League's petition concludes that the Florida statute "is void as preempted by federal communications law."

BPL UPDATE...

(much condensed from *The ARRL Letter*, 3/11/2005)
**BPL RECONSIDERATION PETITIONS FILED; LEAGUE
 CEO SAYS COURT APPEAL PROBABLE**

More than a dozen petitions for reconsideration, including one from the ARRL, have been filed in the wake of the FCC's Oct. 2004, Report and Order adopting new Part 15 rules governing BPL deployment. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, has expressed little confidence that the FCC will make any substantive rule changes in response to any arguments put forth in the petitions for reconsideration. In a March 1 interview with Marc Strassman of *Broadband over Power Line World* (BPLW) Sumner predicted that the BPL proceeding ultimately will wind up in court. In his interview with Strassman, Sumner discussed the League's petition, which calls on the FCC to "reconsider, rescind and restudy" its unanimous adoption of the new Part 15 BPL rules last October. See the ARRL's petition at

http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et04-37/recon_petition/ .

Strassman also interviewed Associate Counsel Brett Kilbourne of the United Power Line Council (UPLC), an organization promoting BPL development that also filed a reconsideration petition. Among other things, Kilbourne conceded to BPLW that Amateur Radio complaints and concerns raised about RFI from BPL could hinder BPL rollouts.

In its reconsideration petition, the UPLC calls on the FCC to not require 30-day advance notice of BPL operations. It also wants the FCC to extend the 18-month transition period that applies to marketing or installation of equipment. Comments were due March 23

Among other reconsideration petitions were those filed on behalf of BPL manufacturers Amperion and Current Technologies; Donald G. Everist, a professional engineer; the National Antenna Consortium; Aeronautical Radio Inc; the American Petroleum Institute; the Association for Maximum Service Television; G. Scott Davis, N3FJP; W. Lee McVey, W6EM, a professional engineer; Steven E. Matda, KE4MOB, and Cortland E. Richmond, KA5S. The ARRL is reviewing all petitions for reconsideration filed in the BPL proceedings to see if any opposition from the League will be required.

AND...

(from *The ARRL Letter*, 3/18/2005)

**AMBIENT, FCC FAILING TO ADDRESS NEW YORK
 BPL COMPLAINTS, ARRL CHARGES**

The ARRL has charged BPL equipment maker Ambient Corporation and the FCC with being unwilling or unable to effectively deal with harmful interference stemming from a New York BPL pilot project. The League this week asked the FCC for the third time to shut down Ambient's Briarcliff Manor "non-compliant system without further delay" until Ambient addresses interference complaints. Ambient

operates the system under its WD2XEQ Part 5 Experimental license. In a February 10 letter from the FCC's Bruce Franca, deputy chief of the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET), the FCC concluded that measurements in response to Amateur Radio complaints of harmful interference showed that no changes were required to the BPL system.

"The Commission's failure to conduct a thorough investigation of this matter, and the tenor of your February 10, 2005, letter, lead to speculation that the Commission is really not interested in finding the interference that exists at Briarcliff Manor or at other BPL test sites or in enforcing the Part 15 rules," the ARRL responded.

The League's latest filing is on the ARRL Web site
<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/files/BPL-BCM-Reply2Franca031705.pdf> .

AND MORE...

**LEAGUE SEEKS TEXAS BPL PILOT PROJECT
 SHUTDOWN, FINES**

The ARRL has requested that the FCC immediately shut down an Irving, Texas, BPL pilot project and fine its operator for causing extensive harmful interference to Amateur Radio communications. The League's March 15 filing to the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology and the system's operator comes in the wake of-- and supports -- a complaint from ARRL member Jory McIntosh, KJ5RM, of Hastlet, Texas, who regularly commutes through the BPL test zone in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The FCC has yet to respond to a formal complaint he filed last fall.

The results of tests conducted by ARRL Laboratory Manager show that harmful interference exist in most bands and also covers a wide swath of HF as well as low-VHF and "various aeronautical, commercial and government spectrum according to the League's complaint, signed by ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD. The levels of interfering BPL signals that ARRL's Ed Hare measured last October "are sufficient to obscure virtually all Amateur Radio received signals and preclude Amateur Radio communications in the areas and on the bands identified in the report." McIntosh personally documented some two dozen instances of harmful interference from the BPL test stand on 11 days between July and October 2004, logging serious interference on 40, 20, 17, 15, 10 and 6 meters. McIntosh says he's experienced interference "so bad that even with full filtering and digital signal processing engaged, I am unable to continue my communications until I am one mile away from the system." A copy of the League's filing is on the ARRL Web site

<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/files/BPL-IrvingComplaintAsFiled0305.pdf> .

SAFER EMAIL COMING...

(information NOT text from messagingpipeline.com)

Coming soon to a computer near you, hopefully REALLY near you, could be a form of email data encryption that would secure your email from the hackers and snoopers on the Internet. The new technology currently has the name Identity Based Encryption, with one of those "cute" acronyms of IBE. Cute because without the word encryption after the E no one knows what IBE is without help.

So, what's it all about? Well, "strong" encryption such as what you see referred to when you use a more modern Web browser with "128 bit" encryption, uses really hard to duplicate arithmetic to mix up the data bytes so almost no one in the world is smart enough to figure out the secret of the algorithm. But there is another method called public key-private key encryption that can be used to make sure you can send someone a message or a file and they can get it without the whole world being able to see what's in it. The problem with that system is that you have to get the software and register your keys, with some cost (I think) and a whole lot of trouble. IBE is also strong, but requires that you tell your email recipient your public key (which is a huge long number you couldn't possibly keep straight without directly transferring it electronically etc. etc.

So IBE was invented about 20 years ago, back when all there was for an IBM PC was XT's and PC's and DOS 3.x. But for technical reasons, although IBE was invented it wasn't feasible to be used. Now, due to some technology developed at Stanford and UC Davis, it can start to be used. The method still uses keys developed by an outside company, but makes use of your email address, like jane@doe.com, to build the keys. Once you download your own keys from the company, you can decode email sent to you by anyone encrypting their email with IBE before sending it.

I don't know when IBE encryption will become popular enough that you will have to worry about where to get the IBE keys and software. I don't want this article to be an advertisement for the one company I know of that says they have IBE running. So we all have to QRX and wait for more news on this. – de AF8C.

Hmmm...

If those space scientists are so smart, why do they all count backwards?

If you mixed vodka with orange juice and milk of magnesia, would you get a Phillip's Screwdriver?

Do Scottish Terriers get Scotch Tape worms?

If diamonds are a girl's best friend and a dog is man's best friend, who really is the dumber sex?

ARRL DXCC LISTINGS ON WEB...

(from *The ARRL Letter*, January 28, 2005)

The ARRL Web site now features up-to-date listings of DXCC awards earned. The new system shows every issued DXCC award known to ARRL's computerized DXCC system, with the exception of individual standings for 5BDXCC. ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, says the Web site listing is even more complete than the DXCC Yearbook ever was, since the printed list did not list inactive band-accounts for the previous year. "This will list everything and everybody," Mills emphasized. "The new system makes available a separate listing for each DXCC award type—band or mode." Even more important, Mills notes, is that it essentially renders obsolete the manually generated monthly and yearly reports. "Under the new system, DXCC listings will updated daily," he emphasized. The DXCC standings of all ARRL members will remain in dark type. Call signs of non-members who have not submitted credits for 10 years or more are in grayed-out type.

Each listing by band or mode is complete in a separate Adobe PDF file. The largest listing (DXCC Mixed) now runs to more than 50 pages, but the size of the PDF file is only about 150 kbytes because of file compression. Printing format options include US letter-sized or ISO A4 paper. The DXCC listings can be found at

<http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/#listings>.

LANGUAGES IN USE...

By now you probably thought that major countries in the Western World had all evolved into having a standardized language within their borders. Well, here are some statistics from the World Almanac and elsewhere, of native languages in some common countries (not counting languages used by immigrants): English is spoken in over 100 countries, with Spanish and German in use in about 40 countries and French in about 50 countries. There are over 5000 languages in use in the entire world, with about 1500 languages that may disappear in this century.

Country	Number of Native Languages in Use by At least 2 million people
Germany	2
Italy	8
France	1
Spain	2
Russia	2
India	31
China	14
Pakistan	7
Iraq	4
Iran	4
Ethiopia	5
South Africa	5

WEST PARK RADIOPS

LOG

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A NON-PROFIT SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATIONAL CORPORATION, FAIRVIEW PARK, OHIO.
MEETINGS: WEST PARK RADIOPS ARC meets the FIRST and THIRD Friday evenings each month at
Ascension Lutheran Church, 28081 Lorain Road, North Olmsted, OH (across from North Olmsted Park) at 8 PM sharp.
Dues \$12/yr. We welcome anyone interested in amateur radio to our meetings.

<http://members.core.com/~af8c/westpark/>
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W8VM

