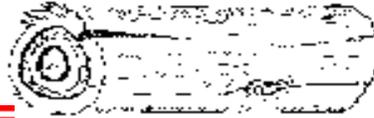




FOUNDED 1947

WEST PARK RADIOPS



LOG



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

April - May 2009
VOL. XLIV - NO. 3

Our 10m Net 28450 kHz 10 p.m. local

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ARTICLES THIS TIME
N8CX

ANTENNAS
W8PN, W8IDM

CLUB AWARDS
W8IDM

CONTESTS, SATELLITES
W8IDM

DX
N8WS

8TH AREA BUREAU LETTER MGRS.
N8WS, AF8C

EDITOR, WEBMASTER
AF8C

LABELS & ROSTERS
N8CX

WEST PARK EVENTS *

*Subject to Change

April 3 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

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

April 17 - FIELD DAY PLANNING/ CW PRACTICE PROGRAMS DEMOS

Let's talk about where we think we can have Field Day. Already there are two new suggestions for the group. And when we are talked out, let's test our fingers on CW practice programs brought in by anyone with a portable computer.

May 1 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

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

May 15 - COSMIC INFLUENCES ON AMATEUR RADIO

This is also Dayton weekend. But for those of us still in Cleveland without a life in Dayton, we will talk about out of this world events that affect amateur radio down here on the ground.

June 13 - NORTH OLMSTED ALL SCOUTS SATURDAY ONLY

Those members who have said they can support All Scouts, be prepared to bring your equipment. This is an excellent opportunity to test portable antennas too.

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Air (continued)

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Hams Can Help
With Digital TV
Conversion

CONTESTS AND EVENTS

- de WA7BNM & ARRL

Apr 4	ARCI SPRING QSO
Apr 11	RADIO MARITIME DAY
Apr 18	HOLYLAND DX CONTEST
Apr 20	RUN FOR THE BACON QRP
Apr 24	NCCC SPRINT LADDER
May 2-3	10-10 CW & DIGITAL
May 9	50 MHZ SPRING SPRINT
May 18	RUN FOR THE BACON QRP
May 21	NAQCC STRAIGHT KEY SPT
May 30	CQ WW WPX CW
Jun 13	ALL SCOUTS WEEKEND

SOAPBOX

We continue to test new antenna construction projects and ideas. The ARRL Field Day will be a place to try out new antennas. So let's keep learning.

In the spring we will be planning to support Public Service with our support to LCAC and their spring cleaning drive.

Our 10M net is on 28450 kHz.

This document was created using Open Office 3.0, and a PDF creator. Usage of Microsoft products was limited to as little as possible.

Prez Sezs...

We are in the middle of winter and I am not seeing any of the effects. It has been a very long winter and with the warmer weather here finally we can start thinking about outdoor task like antenna work. I personally have plenty of antenna work to perform since I do not have any antennas up yet. Since I moved into this new house I spent most of the winter working on indoor projects and simply did not have the time to think much about anything else. I personally like this time of year knowing that we are through with the cold and lack of sunshine and I can start working on ham radio related tasks.

Club membership seems to be holding steady but we need to have more club exposure to increase the chances of acquiring new club memberships. I think the idea that was brought up at our meeting to have a weekly 2 meter net is a great idea. We should seriously consider doing this, we just need to finalize the time, day, and repeater that we would be using. Having a 2 meter net along with All Scouts, Field Day, club picnic, and the community service activities should help the club at least maintain the present membership level. Any other ideas for increased club exposure can be further discussed at our regular meetings

73 for now, de Egon, ab8hy

WEST PARK PUBLIC SERVICE...

We have been invited to the North Olmsted All Scouts activity again this year. This year it's on June 13. After a poll for sufficient interest, we agreed to support this activity again this year.

The Bav Village scouting organization has postponed their Firelands weekend until October, 2009 (it was once postponed to spring 2009).

The LCAC Spring Cleaning Supplies delivery will occur this spring, to be announced in email.

RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON THE 10M NET...

On the Club's net, 28450 kHz, Monday nights at 10 p.m., we have recently discussed 160m contest activities, ARRL DX contest activities, cats and dogs, the K3 radio and software defined radio kits, CW practice programs, digital TV antennas and the delayed switchover (now June 12), adhesives, deer and eagles, cable modems, hamfests, Logbook Of The World, computer problems, DX, Triple Play, wishing snow goodbye, estate sales and swap and shop. Join the net, or listen, and have fun.

2M NET PLANNING...

West Park may start up a weekly 2M net in the near future. Stay "Tuned".

ARRL NEWS...

(from issues of *The ARRL Letter*)

HAMS TO ACTIVATE MIDWAY ATOLL AS K4M IN OCTOBER 2009

Earlier this year, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced that they would open Midway Atoll <<http://www.fws.gov/midway/>> to Amateur Radio operations for two weeks only, from October 5-19, 2009 <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/01/27/10596/>>. Tom Harrell, N4XP, of Monroe, Georgia, and Dave Johnson, WB4JTT, of Aitkin, Minnesota, have put together a team of 19 operators from all over the world to activate Midway Atoll for a 10 day period as K4M <<http://www.midway2009.com/>>. This the first time that USFWS has allowed amateurs to operate from the wildlife refuge since 2002.

"Midway ranks as Number 24 worldwide and Number 13 in Europe on DX Magazine's Most Wanted List <<http://www.dxpub.com/>>," Harrell and Johnson said. "Activity will be on 6-160 meters with 5 to 6 stations. At least one station will be active on 20 meters around the clock for those who need it for a new country. Major efforts will be made to meet the demand to the most needed geographical areas, the low bands and RTTY." The team has posted a list of planned frequencies on their Web site <<http://www.midway2009.com/kh4freqs.html>>.

ARRL ANNOUNCES SECOND HOMEBREW CHALLENGE

The first ARRL Homebrew Challenge, announced in the August 2006 issue of QST, offered a prize for the best 5 W, 40 meter CW and voice transceiver our readers could build. The only requirement was that the rig had to be built for less than \$50 of new, readily available parts. In 2009, ARRL ups the ante in the Second Homebrew Challenge by upping the power limit to 50 W. All entries are due no later than February 28, 2010 <<http://www.arrl.org/qst/hbc/>>.

LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD NOW EASIER THAN EVER

In order to better accommodate new users as well as existing account holders, ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) has been updated <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>>. According to ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Assistant Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, these improvements were made based LoTW help questions and listening to users.

On-Line and On-the-Air**-more info-**

by N8CX

In the last issue of the *LOG* I listed the various on-line clubs and their frequencies of operation on the various bands. In this issue, I will list details and on-the-air activities, in any, of these organizations. Listen-in, participate and have fun! Remember, for the most part, these events are slow cw and the signals will be weak most of the time.

This column will be on-going as there are a number of organizations and activities. Each issue of the *LOG* will have pertinent information about different organizations and their on-the-air activities. In this issue I will concentrate on a few that have regular monthly events. On a daily basis, look for activity on their frequencies.

Adventure Radio Society – ARS

For complete information visit the website.:

< <http://arsqrp.pbwiki.com/> >**Frequencies:**

3.560, 7.030, 14.060, 21.060, 28.060

Info and On-the-air activities

The Adventure Radio Society - founded in May 1996 – sponsors popular events, such as its monthly Spartan Sprint, and the annual Flight of the Bumblebees.

We support the development of imaginative radio equipment and antennas suited for outdoor operation and publish this wiki, *The ARS Sojourner*.

Spartan Sprints

1st Monday from 9 PM local until 11 PM local.

The Spartan Sprints have a unique, three-faceted focus. They encourage outdoor operation with back country radio gear (if outdoor operation isn't practical, home-based operation is fine). They gather fascinating information about the upper atmosphere, documenting how low power signals can travel long distances. And they encourage the growth of a like-minded community of amateur radio operator who generously share their knowledge and experiences.

The bands will be 80 meters, 40 meters, 20 meters, 15 meters and 10 meters. You may operate any number of bands your choice. Many Spartan Sprint operators gravitate to the QRP CW calling frequencies on these bands.

Spartan Sprinters use 5 Watts or less. We encourage you to experiment with 1 Watt or less. You will be surprised at how effective these low levels can be, and how much fun QRP really is. Similarly, we encourage you to experiment with simple wire antennas. And we encourage sprinters to use equipment they built from "scratch," that is, equipment built from schematics.

In addition, and mostly during the summer hiking and camping months, hams will operate from many trails and campsites around the U.S. If you subscribe to the wiki you will receive e-mails when an operation is planned.

Flight of the Bumblebees

Last Sunday in July. This is a BIG outdoor / portable event. Check the website for details and some neat pictures.

Flying Pigs International - FP

For complete information visit the website.

< <http://www.fpqr.com/> > CHECK THIS ONE OUT!**Frequencies:**

1.814, 3.564, 7.044, 10.110, 14.062, 18.100, 21.064, 24.910, 28.064

Info and On-the-air activities**Nets**

Wednesday and Sunday evenings, 8 PM local, 7.044 +/-

Run for the Bacon

3rd Sunday from 9 PM local until 11 PM local.

North American QRP CW Club - NAQCC

For complete information visit the website

< <http://www.usatek.net/~yoel/> >**Frequencies**

1.810, 3.560, 7.060, 10.116, 14.060, 18.080, 21.060, 24.096, 28.060

Info and On-the-air activities**Activity Days**

In computerese, this is a beta program for the NAQCC in response to KD2MX's survey in which members expressed an interest in activities for 160 and 10 meters and the WARC bands.

Straight Key Century Club - SKCC

We are setting aside one day per band each month for our members to get on the air according to the following schedule:

- 160M - 23rd of the month
- 30M - 30th of the month
- 17M - 17th of the month
- 12M - 12th of the month
- 10M - 10th of the month

Obviously since there is no 160th of a month, the 23rd was chosen for 160M to space things out as well as possible. All the other bands/dates are easy to remember.

There are no rules, contests, etc. involved. We just want to try to find a way to more easily make QSO's on these bands by providing a common meeting day and time which is suggested below.

We suggest calling CQ near the frequencies listed above for the first 10 minutes of those hours convenient for you and which you know should provide openings on the band in question.

For example it would be rather useless to call CQ on 160M at local Noon, or on 12M at 3 AM. On the other hand calling CQ on 30 meters a couple hours before sunset should be an excellent choice. You all know (or may learn from this) what the optimum times for each band should be in your area.

NAQCC Sprints

Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov (odd-numbered months)
3rd Wednesday from 0030 to 0230 UTC. This is the Tuesday night before, starting at 7:30 PM EST or 8:30 PM EDT.

Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec (even-numbered months)
2nd Tuesday from 0030 to 0230 UTC. This is the Monday night before, starting at 7:30 PM EST or 8:30 PM EDT.

The Monthly Challenge

See the website for details. The challenge changes each month.

For complete information visit the website

< <http://www.skccgroup.com/> >

This is without doubt the fastest-growing and most-utilized by the members of any club on the air!

Frequencies

1.820, 3.530, 3.550 primary, 7.055 primary, 7.114*, 7.120, 10.120, 14.050, 18.080, 21.050, 24.910, 28.050, 50.090, 144.070

Info and On-the-air activities

All Frequencies are + or – 10kHz

SKCC Members who use bugs are encouraged to make higher speed calls/CQs 2 kHz above the calling frequencies.

SKCC Members who prefer QRS (sending slowly) are encouraged to make calls 2 kHz down from the calling frequencies.

*7.114 Mhz is the Elmer Frequency for beginning CW operators. This is a safe haven for them to try to get on the air. All Elmers or anyone who wants to help are encouraged to monitor the frequency and work the the beginners.

SKCC Weekend Sprint (WES)

2nd Sunday of the month from 0000 to 2400 UTC. This is the Saturday night before, starting at 7 PM EST or 8 PM EDT.

SKCC Monthly Sprint

4th Wednesday from 0000 to 0200 UTC. This is the Tuesday night before, starting at 7 PM EST or 8 PM EDT.

SKCC Mystery Sprint

This one has a QRP flavor as well.

See the following website for details

< <http://www.skccgroup.com:80/sprint/mystery> >

Additional QRP Operating Information**SSB frequencies**

1.910, 3.985, 7.285, 14.285, 18.130, 21.385, 24.950, 28.385

HAMS CAN HELP WITH DIGITAL TV CONVERSION...

(from *The ARRL Letter* 2/20/2009)

ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, said he has been getting e-mails and phone calls from Amateur Radio operators concerning the digital TV conversion, now set to take place on Friday, June 12. "People are asking what's happening with the DTV conversion – especially now that it's been delayed -- and wondering what we as hams can do to help," he said. "There has been considerable confusion concerning the extension of the date, but the role of Amateur Radio is simply to be helpful to the people in our communities."

Pitts advises those hams that are helping to provide technical educational assistance keep in mind the following troubleshooting pointers, provided by the FCC:

* Check Your Connections

Check that your digital-to-analog converter box (or digital television) is connected properly. Make sure that your antenna is connected to the antenna input of your digital-to-analog converter box (or digital television). If you are using a digital-to-analog converter box, ensure that the antenna output of the converter box is connected to the antenna input of your analog TV. If you are unsure of the proper connections, refer to your owners manual.

Make sure that your components are plugged in and turned on. If using a digital-to-analog converter box, tune your analog TV to channel 3. You should see a set-up menu or picture on your screen. If you do not see this, re-check your connections.

* Perform a Channel Scan

Digital-to-analog converter boxes (and digital televisions) have a button -- usually on the remote control -- that is labeled "Set-up" or "Menu" or some similar term. Press that button to access the set-up menu. Using the directional arrow buttons on your remote, scroll to the option that allows you to perform a "channel scan." The channel scan will search for digital broadcast channels that are available in your area. If you are unsure how to do a channel scan, please refer to the owners manual for your converter box or digital television (whichever applies). Once the channel scan is complete, you will be able to tune to the digital channels received by your antenna.

* Adjust Your Antenna

As many hams know, small adjustments to an antenna can make a big difference; digital TV is no exception. If you have an indoor antenna, try elevating it and moving it closer to an exterior wall of your home. After adjusting your antenna, perform another channel scan to see if your reception has improved.

While adjusting your antenna, it may be helpful to access the "Signal strength meter" on your converter box or digital television set to determine whether your adjustments are improving the signals' strength. You can probably find your signal strength meter via the "Menu" function on your remote control, and your owners manual will provide detailed information on how to perform this function. Remember to do another channel scan after you have adjusted your antenna.

Make sure that you are using an antenna that covers both the UHF and VHF bands and that is connected properly (depending on what channels are in use in your area).

Late last year, the FCC requested assistance from the ARRL in providing educational support to local communities regarding the digital TV conversion.

"I really appreciate the willingness of the ARRL to actively participate in helping Americans with the transition to DTV and your helpful suggestions," said George Dillon, FCC Deputy Bureau Chief for Field Operations (now retired). "The DTV transition will be an historic moment in the evolution of TV. Broadcast television stations can offer viewers improved picture and sound quality and new programming choices. All-digital broadcasting also will allow [the FCC] to significantly improve public safety communications and will usher in a new era of advanced wireless services such as the widespread deployment of wireless broadband. Our goal is to engage the amateur community on a cooperative basis to help with the DTV outreach and to educate consumers."

The FCC said that it is seeking to ensure that even where all or most stations in a market are terminating analog service, consumers who are unprepared for the switch will continue to have access to critical local news and emergency information. In a statement released by the FCC, the Commission "examined each market in which stations planned to end analog service to try to ensure that at least one affiliate of the four major networks -- ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC -- would continue broadcasting in analog after February 17. Many had such a station, but in those instances in which there would be no top-four affiliate remaining in a market, the FCC attempted to ensure that analog local news and emergency information would remain available -- generally through what is being called 'enhanced analog nightlight' service. Under 'enhanced analog nightlight,' the top-four affiliates must keep at least one analog signal on the air to provide programming that includes, at a minimum, local news and emergency information"

<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-288530A1.pdf>.

For more information on the conversion to digital television, please see the DTV Conversion Web site <<http://www.dtv.gov/>>.

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.
We operate a 10m net on 28450 kHz Monday at 10:00 p.m. local time.

<http://members.core.com/~af8c/westpark/>
<mailto:w8vm@arrl.net>

W8VM

