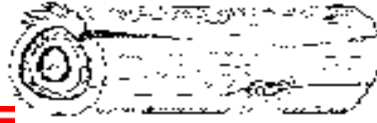




FOUNDED 1947

WEST PARK RADIOPS



LOG



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

Apr. - May 2010
VOL. XLV - No. 3

Our 10m Net 28450 kHz Mondays 9 p.m. local

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PUBLIC SERVICE
K8YQL

WAS & VUCC CHECKERS
K8ME, N8CX

ARRL VE'S
AF8C, N8CX, K8TTL

ARTICLES THIS TIME
AB8HY

ANTENNAS
W8PN, W8IDM

CLUB AWARDS
W8IDM

CONTESTS, SATELLITES
W8IDM

DX
N8WS

8TH AREA BUREAU LETTER MGRS.
N8WS (T) & (W), AF8C (V)

EDITOR, WEBMASTER
AF8C

LABELS & ROSTERS
N8CX

WEST PARK EVENTS *

*Subject to Change

Apr. 2 - GOOD FRIDAY - MEETING CANCELLED

No meeting.

Apr. 16 - PROGRAM ON CONTEST RULES

We have a suggestion from Dwaine, K8ME, to provide a run-through of contest rules, logging, Cabrillo submissions, etc. that always seem confusing considering the types of contests throughout the year.

May 7 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

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

May 21 - PROGRAM - "OTHER" HOBBIES

Though this is Dayton weekend, some of us are still back in Cleveland. Let's have a program on "other" hobbies! Everyone be prepared to bring doodads or words about their other hobbies. Now, let's not talk pets during hobby night. But there can other more interesting topics like model trains, helicopters, genealogy, gardening, fishing, etc.

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CONTESTS AND EVENTS

- de WA7BNM & ARRL

Apr 10-11 RADIO MARITIME DAY
Apr 17-18 MI QSO PARTY
Apr 19 RUN FOR THE BACON QRP
Apr 24-25 FL QSO PARTY
May 1-2 10-10 SPRING DIG. TEST
May 8 FISTS SPRING SPRINT
May 12 RSGB CLUB DATA CHAMP
May 17 RUN FOR THE BACON QRP
May 29-30 CQ WPX CW TEST
Jun 26-27 ARRL FIELD DAY

SOAPBOX

The snow has melted. There will be outside activities galore. Want to make some of them be amateur radio activities? Come to the meetings to help decide.

For programs, we have been working off our list of programs lined up for 2010. Tell us more about what you want to see at the meetings!!

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...

Fellow Club Members,

Spring is finally here, longer hours of daylight and better weather puts me in the mood to start working on outdoor activities. There are also many upcoming club events that I am sure everyone is looking forward to such as: Dayton Hamvention, Field Day, All Scouts, and the Club Picnic.

Other things that I am personally looking forward to is finally putting my station on the air this Spring/Summer. Due to time, cash flow, and other priorities that did not include Ham Radio, I was not able to do much to get on the air; but finally circumstances are changing and I expect to be back by early summer the latest.

I am glad to see that having multiple net control operators on the 10 meter net is working out, it is good to have backup operators and the experience doesn't hurt either. That is it for now and enjoy the warmer weather.

73 de,
Egon AB8HY

WEST PARK PUBLIC SERVICE...

We will again be looking for volunteers in the spring for the spring cleaning supplies delivery for LCAC in May 2010.

RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON THE 10M NET...

On the Club's net, 28450 kHz +/-, lots of discussions have been summarized in our almost weekly net reports, which carp are the bad Asian carp, fishing stories, the Iceland volcano, computer and Windows problems, beer is good for bones, the price of gas of course, discussing the merits of having antenna site altitude above sea level, members have worked DX on the bands lately, and Vicki and Joe are trying some new antennas.

2M NET PLANNING...

West Park is still in the planning stage for this net. Send suggestions to the club officers. One time I was thinking of a limited "tech net" which would only discuss how to solve computer problems. Bill N8WS said in a meeting that there is another club running a tech net. Any comments on the value of our having a computer-only tech net are welcome.

NEW "PRB-1" for Ohio...

March 23, 2010 -- I am pleased to announce that Ohio Senate Bill 218 (Amateur radio antennae-codify federal restrictions on local zoning (aka "PRB-1" for Ohio)) had its fourth hearing on Tuesday, March 23, 2010, and was voted unanimously out of the State and Local Governments and Veterans Affairs Committee. Both Myself and State Government Liaison Nick Pittner, K8NAP were present, and worked with Committee members to ensure its vote and passage. The Bill is now on its way to the Senate Floor, and is scheduled for a vote of the entire Senate on April 13th. Once it clears the Senate floor, it will then travel to the Ohio House of Representatives for their vote. Since both House Bill 212 and Senate Bill 218 have the same wording, it should pass through and hopefully go to the Governor for signature soon!

Now is the time to contact your local State Senators and Representatives and ask for their vote of support on this important piece of legislation for Amateur Radio in Ohio. As always, as the Bill progresses its way through the hurdles of the Statehouse, I will keep you informed of its progress.

73, Frank J. Piper KI8GW, Ohio Section Manager

[de AF8C – When this becomes Ohio Law, this newsletter will print the final signed off wording for the benefit of all ham-kind!]

FCC Reaffirms Statement on ROS...

(From ARRL Web 3/4/10)

In mid-February, European amateurs first used a new, experimental digital mode known as ROS. On February 23, 2010 -- after FCC review of the original documents provided from the developer's Web site -- the FCC made the following statements on ROS:

"Section 97.305 is the rule that specifies where different emission types are allowed to be transmitted on different bands. 'ROS' is viewed as 'spread spectrum,' and the creator of the system describes it as that. We assume that he knows what he created. [Section] 97.305 authorizes spread spectrum emission types (defined in Section 97.3) to be transmitted by FCC licensed amateur stations at places we regulate communications only on 222-225 MHz and higher frequency amateur bands. European telecommunication regulatory authorities may authorize amateur stations in Europe to use SS on the HF bands, but this is of no concern to us. The Commission does not determine if a particular mode 'truly' represents spread spectrum as it is defined in the rules. The licensee of the station transmitting the emission is responsible for determining that the operation of the station complies with the rules. This would include determining the type of emission the station is transmitting and that the frequencies being used are authorized for that type of emission."

Since that initial FCC review, several Internet sites have reported a claim -- attributed to the FCC -- that the original statements made had been reconsidered and that the FCC view was now that "ROS cannot be viewed as Spread Spectrum and it would be encompassed within Section 97.309 (RTTY and data emissions codes)."

When queried about this new statement, the FCC's Consumer Assistance Office stated that "[T]he information contained on the ROS Web site was not provided by the FCC." They then reaffirmed the original statements that originated from the FCC's Wireless Bureau, which handles Amateur Radio rules for the US.

The ARRL supports -- as one of the basic purposes of Amateur Radio -- the experimentation and advancing the technical skills of operators. The development and use of any new mode is exciting to many amateurs, and the League encourage amateurs to experiment within the parameters of the rules; however, the ARRL also reminds US licensees that according to Section 97.307, spread spectrum communications are only permissible in the US on frequencies above 222 MHz.

[Ed. Note: these are two good Website on ROS:

<http://rosmodem.wordpress.com/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0zHillFLoos>

Enjoy! de AF8C]

EARLY HISTORY OF AMATEUR RADIO...

(found in this URL)

< <http://earlyradiohistory.us/1922smit.htm> >

[I quote from this interesting Web page. Since the article is likely copyrighted, and long, I decided not to include more than the introduction. - Ed. AF8C]

"In 1922 J. Owen Smith was a Radio Corporation of America engineer, and was also an official in the RCA-affiliated National Amateur Wireless Association. At this time Smith operated Special Amateur station 2ZL, located in Valley Stream, Long Island, New York, which he used to test and promote continuous-wave operations, on shortwave wavelengths below the traditional amateur wavelength of 200 meters. Smith's 2ZL was also one the stations heard in England during the historic December, 1921 trans-Atlantic tests. "

CQWW 160M

BAND SEGMENT VIOLATIONS...

IARU Region 1 President Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T, draws attention to the problem of some amateur radio operators in the CQWW 160-Meter SSB contest operating outside the Amateur band.

On the IARU Region 1 website he wrote:

It was disappointing to notice that numerous contest stations from Region 1 violated their national regulations by transmitting out of band during last weekend's CQ World Wide 160-Meter SSB Contest. While I can have some understanding that the IARU bandplan for top band is not followed during this major contest, I totally disagree that contest stations transmit outside bands allocated to the amateur service. For a station transmitting in LSB on 160 meters this is below 1813 kHz (for transceivers with carrier readout).

The amateur service has always been known as a self regulating service, which has helped us in our negotiations with administrations.

A behaviour as shown last weekend will certainly not help us in the future. I call upon all contesters to reinstate our values.

WESTPARK SK ...

Stan Haase, K8VI (ex-K8YVI), Cleveland Heath store manager).

Mike Muza, W8ZEU, loaned his generator for FD for many years.

Wayne Matz, W8LHJ, early member.

INTERNATIONAL POSTAGE RATES...

This website lists postage rates for the all the major foreign countries to which you might QSL and for which need to supply SASE green stamps:

<http://www.k4hb.com/postage.html>

REPAINTING ENGRAVED LETTERING...

(from *The ARRL Letter* on March 11, 2010)

(from Dave Price, K4KDP, daveprice@nc.rr.com)

As I get older, I find it is harder to read some of the smaller print on my radios. The ICOM 706 is a good example. The radio connectors are marked ANT 1, ANT 2, MIC and DC 13.8V, just to name a few. These are marked by either raised letters or letters that are indented into the radio housing. I found that if I paint these letters white, they show up much better on the black metal case. There is a fairly easy way to paint the letters white using cotton swabs with wooded sticks.

Break off the cotton tip on some of the swabs until you have about six of them with sharp points at the break area. Throw away the cotton tip and use only the wooden stick to paint with. Now spray a small puddle of white paint onto a piece of cardboard. The cardboard will absorb some of the moisture. Just as the paint starts to thicken dip the pointed end of the stick into the paint and then gently tap the paint into the indented area of the radio housing. On raised letters I use the blunt end of the stick, repeating the same process. It is best to use very little paint and repeat the process of dipping into the paint and tapping the paint onto the letters many times.

You will find you have to replace the stick several times and spray a new puddle of paint when the old puddle gets too thick. You will also need to have some small paper towels

and rubbing alcohol close by to quickly clean up any mistakes. I strongly recommend you practice this on some junk metal before attempting this on your expensive radios. I have also used this same trick on unpainted numbers for my Chevy truck 4 wheel drive shift mounted on the truck floor and for my watch bezel to make the unpainted numbers easier to read.

TIPS ON TAPPING ALUMINUM...

(by K3MT (in the DXZONE), May 2, 1997)

Tapping aluminum can be difficult. The tap often binds and may break off, both ruining the tap and marring or ruining the piece being worked.

Here are some styles of tap I have used in the past:

- * Three fluted taps very bad - often break!
- * Two and four fluted taps. difficult - may jam
- * Gunn taps quite good! Usually do the job nicely
- * Spiral fluted taps. Excellent!! The best!

Flutes are the grooves between the rows of threads. The common tap has straight flutes, and may have two, three, four, or more, depending on its size.

A Gunn tap has two straight flutes, and is ground for production work. It cuts a curl, rather than chips, and pushes it ahead of itself. The curl continues out the other side. For hand work, these do well, but you need to remove the curl from the bottom of a blind hole.

A spiral fluted tap, readily available from machine shop supply houses, has flutes that are not straight - they're spiraled! Think of a common 1/4" drill. It usually has two flutes, and it is a twist drill - the flutes are spiraled like a coarse screw thread. A spiral fluted tap is very similar, except the high parts of the drill have a fine thread cut into them. It cuts a curl that enters the flutes and is pulled back toward the tap wrench. I had a single 3/8-24 spiral fluted tap in a production operation that tapped over 2500 holes through a 2" aluminum hex nut before I ran out of work. It was still in good shape!

Gunn and spiral fluted taps are available from most any machine shop supply house, and some larger hardware supply firms. Ask. If you can't find a source, e-mail me: I'll pass on the phone number of a local supplier where I buy mine.

[de AF8C - <http://www.mcmaster.com/#>]

OUTDOOR/INDOOR RF GROUNDING...

(reported in Found in Trident Amateur Radio club W4ANK, N4EE, on the web news, from the ARRL Web page, 1988)

The US Army Signal Corps recently reported on the results of improved grounding techniques for mobile field tactical radio stations. These mobile stations are usually installed in trucks, and use vertical antennas. The ground system consists of a cable connected to a copper rod driven several feet into the earth. The typical ground resistance and RF impedance obtained, therefore, are often not optimal.

In order to improve the effective ground, field tests were made employing a number of ground rods mechanically connected in parallel around the mobile radio station. The ground rods were driven into the earth at various depths, and the resultant ground resistance and RF impedance measurements were recorded. Then the tests were repeated with ground rods mechanically connected in series and driven to different depths in the earth.

Analysis of the recorded data and the field radio transmission tests indicated that the use of four series-connected ground rods, driven only a foot or two into the earth, provided the most efficient ground system. These improved field grounding techniques should be applicable to Amateur Radio stations, particularly during Field Day operations.

-Lt Col A US (ret) David Talley, W2PF, Suite 1533-S, 10275 Collins Ave, Bal Harbour, FL 33154, *1 Signal*, Mar 1988, pp 79-80.

UNISTRUT ANTENNA SUPPORTS...

(from Louis Kobet, WB3DZD, of Camas, Washington., from *The ARRL Letter*, 2/11/2010)

When considering a center support for the installation of an inverted V antenna I decided on the following requirements: a strong material, easy assembly, corrosion resistant and with tilt-over capability. The initial design was to use several 10-12 foot sections of antenna mast or 2 inch galvanized pipe coupled together. Due to the cost of antenna mast and galvanized pipe being more than anticipated, an alternative, 10 foot sections of 1-5/8 inch Unistrut channel was selected.

Unistrut is a ham's Tinkertoy. It is available in 13/16, 1 1/4 and 1-5/8 inch widths, 10 and 20 foot lengths and in 12, 14 and 16 gauge sizes. It is made with dipped surface protective treatments from electro-deposition acrylic green to "hot dipped" galvanized coatings and multiple channel designs (including telescoping sections). A vast selection of brackets and fasteners is available and it is continuously slotted for easy guying. The design and choices for project use are limited only by the creativity of the user. The tilt over base

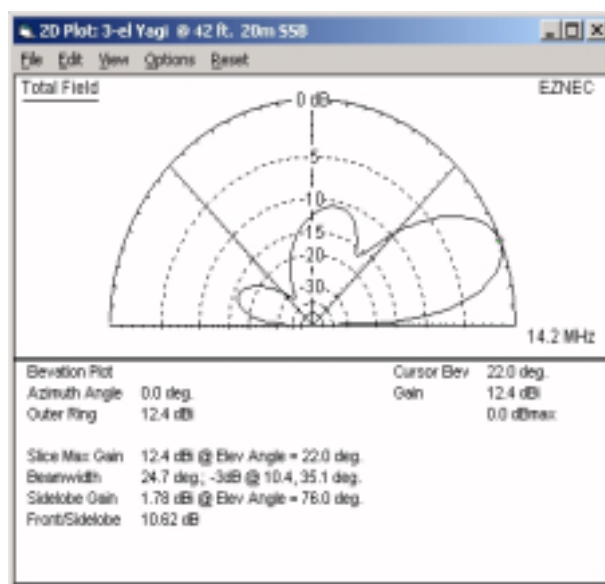
support consisted of a treated 4x4 inch landscape post anchored in concrete. (The wooden post was moisture sealed at the top using the dipped coating used for hand tools and along the length with several coats of wood sealer.) The Unistrut mast pivot point on the support base was a 3 inch lag bolt about 50 inches above ground. In retrospect, a section of Unistrut could have been set in the concrete as the antenna base support.

The Unistrut mast preparation consisted of black paint (except for areas where the sections were bolted together) and the addition of a hoisting pulley mounted at the end of a 2 foot PVC pipe. One problem encountered was in bolting the Unistrut together. Bolting back-to-back against the base of the "U" was not possible because I couldn't get a socket on the bolt head inside the Unistrut channel. To get around this the Unistrut was bolted with the open "U" ends face to face. Square Unistrut channel would have eliminated this issue. The three Unistrut sections were bolted together with about a 12 inch overlap.

An antenna hoisting line was fed through the pulley and mast section carried to the base support for mounting. After attaching the mast to the pivot point it was tilted up into position, plumbed and secured in place with three additional lag bolts. The V antenna was spread out, transmission cable attached and hoisted to the top of the mast. The ends of the V antenna were attached to a 12 foot landscape treated 4x4 that was secured to the property fence.

[de AF8C - <http://www.unistrut.com/>]

@ AF8C (worse than this!) on 20m



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 9:00 p.m. local time.

<http://www.westparkradiops.org>
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W8VM

