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WEST PARK RADIOPS



LOG



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

April - May 2011
VOL. XLVI - No. 3

Our Nets 28.450/147.36 Mondays 9 p.m. local

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FIELD EVENTS
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ARRL VE'S
AF8C, N8CX, K8TTL, N8WB, W8MET

ARTICLES THIS TIME
N8CX

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
N8CX

WEST PARK EVENTS *

* Subject to Change

Apr. 1 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

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

Apr. 15 - VIRTUAL TEN-TEC TOUR*

Bill N8WS will* present "Tour of Ten-Tec Manufacturing" via DVD.

May 6 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

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

May 20 - ECHOLINK and BLUETOOTH? *

More technology: We plan* to have a live Echolink demo via Blue Tooth by AF8C

June 11 - ALL SCOUTS WEEKEND in North Olmsted City Park (QRP to the Field)

West Park members plan to set up in the morning to demonstrate amateur radio to the Scouts from 1 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2:
Prez Says

Public Service
2M/10M Net topics

ARRL HR-607 Video

Page 3:
Dayton Bus
May 2011

Ham Bill HR-81

Australia's New WIFI
Methods

Page 4:
Ohio Traffic Nets

Detailed Status of
JA Manufacturers
after 9.0 Quake

Page 5:
Solar Flux
Definitions

CONTESTS AND EVENTS

- de WA7BNM & ARRL

Apr 2-3 MO, QCWA QSO PARTY

Apr 9-10 MT, NM QSO PARTIES

Apr 16-17 MI QSO PARTY

Apr 23-24 NE QSO PARTY

Apr 30-M1 FL QSO PARTY, QRP FIELD

May 7-8 7TH AREA, IN QSO PARTY

May 14-15 FISTS SPRING SPRINT

May 20-22 60th DAYTON HAMVENTION

May 28-29 CQ WW WPX SSB

Jun 11 All Scouts Weekend

SOAPBOX

This is when we start to look forward to ARRL Field Day and so we need some thinking about whether we do anything novel this year to have more fun with that activity.

We have been opening our Monday night nets to check-ins from out-of-state using Skype. Listen or check in. Join the fun.

This document was created using Open Office 3.2.1, and a PDF creator. Usage of Microsoft products was limited to as little as possible.

Prez Sez...

Hi all,

Well, welcome to spring. As I write, the end of March, it is snowing outside with big flakes coming straight down and mounting up. At any rate, spring and summer activities are not far away. Dayton is coming up the 3rd weekend in May. If you can, even as a day trip, try to get there.

Our All-Scouts event on Saturday June 11th will be combined with a QRP Fun-Day, an event we haven't had for a couple of years. As always, the entire day will be a lot of fun. We also have many good programs lined up for our second meeting of the month, speakers and DVDs. Also, we might be thinking about another club construction project. There are many good projects available, everything from receivers and transmitters to test equipment and station accessories. We can discuss these at a meeting soon.

If anyone has any ideas, please bring them up. The club always needs input from the members about programs, projects and activities.

Well, that's about it for now. See you at the next meeting.

As always, vy best 73s to all,
AI, N8CX, President

WEST PARK PUBLIC SERVICE...

The next LCAC delivery will occur in May. In 2010 we helped LCAC three times. In June we have the North Olmsted All Scouts Weekend amateur radio demonstration. Come on summer!

RECENT NETS & TALK...

For the Club's nets, 28450 kHz +/- and 147.36+, lots of discussions have been summarized in our almost weekly net reports. In the latest news, we have the ability to support club old-timers and club vacationers with net check-ins through Skype over the Internet.

FIELD DAY...

We really need to get busy thinking of what choices of venues and class of operation we want to tackle this year. This will become an important topic in June. Pretty soon now we will need to have the usual Field Day expenses motion to put on the table.



ARRL HR-607 VIDEO (THREAT TO 70 cm BAND)...

ARRL has created a video about HR-607. You can see it at < <http://www.arrl.org/hr-607> >
... And it has already also been posted on YouTube at
< <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HAwDhb6i-fl> >

At the bottom of the ARRL page is a low resolution .WMV file you can download if desired. The **full, high resolution** files are available by sending Allen Pitts an email – but note that they are just **over 1 gigabyte** in size. You'll be downloading for a while :-)

Allen Pitts, W1AGP Media & PR Manager, ARRL - 225 Main St. Newington, CT 06111
(860) 594-0328

... ..

Sample Letter Opposing H.R. 607 Available On the ARRL Web:

ARRL members can find a sample letter opposing H.R. 607 in its current form at:

< <http://www.arrl.org/sample-letters> >

On that page you will also find links showing contact information for your Member of the House of Representatives as well as information on sending your letter to the ARRL's Washington legislative relations firm of Chwat & Co.

ARRL members should send their signed letters to Chwat & Co. for hand delivery to Congress. This personal contact provides our Washington team an opportunity for a face-to-face meeting with key staff in each Congressional office when a delivery is made – giving our team the chance to lobby for our position.

DAYTON BUS MAY 2011...

Dwaine, K8ME, is arranging on behalf of CARS a Saturday bus to the Dayton Hamvention, for \$40.00 per person. Contact Dwaine at 440-582-3462. Time is running out. Don't delay.



AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS ENHANCEMENT ACT IN CONGRESS...

(from ARRL news)

ARRL Bulletin 3 ARLB003
From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT
January 11, 2011
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB003 ARLB003
New Amateur Radio Bill Introduced in Congress

The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act, which died at the end of the 111th Congress, has been reintroduced in the 112th Congress as **HR 81**. The sponsor is Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18). The new bill -- which was introduced on January 5 -- has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Rep. Jackson Lee first introduced the bill -- HR 2160 -- in the 111th Congress in April 2009. It gained an additional 41 co-sponsors but did not progress out of the committee of jurisdiction. A similar bill introduced in the Senate -- S 1755 -- made it all the way through that body in December 2009, but likewise was not taken up by the House.

The objective of the bill -- which is supported by the ARRL -- is for the Secretary of Homeland Security to study the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief and to identify and make recommendations regarding impediments to Amateur Radio communications, such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations. "We are hopeful that this early start will lead to success in the new Congress," commented ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ.

HR 81 can be found on the web in PDF format at, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hr81ih/pdf/BILLS-112hr81ih.pdf>.

AUSTRALIAN METHOD FOR WIFI DISTRIBUTION...

(from Internet sources)

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) will attempt to smash its current top speeds with its new Wi-Fi TV antenna technology, connecting up to 12 users on one 7 MHz TV spectrum band at 50 Mbps -- instead of the old 12 Mbps.

The technology, named Ngara, works by installing antennas on existing TV broadcasting towers that transmit wireless broadband to households through their existing TV antennas. The antennas are slightly modified, as some of the components in existing antennas don't allow them to be used as transmitters.

To receive the signal, and transmit back to the network, users would connect a modem to a slightly modified version of their existing TV antenna

The most recent trial of the technology this month allowed six users to connect simultaneously through the equivalent spectrum space of one TV channel, with upload and download speeds of 12 Mbps. In a field trial in Tasmania last year, CSIRO managed to get six simultaneous uploads at 12 Mbps at a distance of 16 km. The next stage of the trial will see researchers attempt to get upload and download speeds of 50 Mbps, and connect up to 12 users simultaneously.

Getting broadband connectivity to Australia's rural and remote areas is difficult because the population is sparsely scattered over a wide area. Current terrestrial wireless technologies have limited capacity and coverage and satellite technologies are expensive and provide limited data rates. CSIRO is focused on providing high-performance network connectivity to those Australians not served by existing technologies.

CSIRO is developing wireless technologies that aim to bring broadband to people living beyond the planned fiber network, but in such remote areas satellite really is the only option -- covering about four per cent of the population.

OHIO TRAFFIC NETS...

The following net information was drawn from several sources. Changes are possible after the seasonal time changes or if I have grabbed the wrong Web page and need to change something.

Burning River Traffic Net (BRTN), 9:30 PM daily, 147.150 MHz, N8IXF manager

Central Ohio Traffic Net (COTN), 7:15 PM, daily, 147.240 MHz, N8XCT manager

Miami Valley Traffic Net (MVTN), 7:00 PM Mon, Thurs, Sat, 146.640 MHz, KC8HTP manager

Northwest Ohio ARES Net (NWOHARES), 6:40 PM, daily, 146.940 MHz, PL 103.5, N8TNV manager

Tri-County Traffic Training Net (TCTTN), 9:30 PM Sun, Tues, Fri, 147.015 MHz, KI8U manager

Tri-State Amateur Traffic Net (TATN), 8:00 PM daily, 145.370 MHz, WG8Z manager

SSB

Ohio Single Sideband Net (OSSBN), 10:30 AM, 4:15 PM. and 6:45 PM daily, 3.972.50 MHz, N8OD mgr.

CW

Buckeye Net (Early), BN-E, 6:45 PM daily, 3.577 MHz, N9AUG manager

Buckeye Net (Late), BN-L, 10:00 PM daily, 3.577 MHz, NY8V manager

Ohio Slow Net (OSN), 6:00 PM daily, 3.5355 MHz, WD8Q manager

URLs

<http://www.oharts.org/>

<http://www.ohioslow.net/>

Details on traffic net operation are available at:
< <http://www.arrl.org/table-of-contents-nts-methods-and-practices-guidelines> >

and

< <http://nts.ema.arrl.org/node/17> >

NON-TRAFFIC LOCAL NETS

<http://www.cfarc.org/localnets.html>

STATUS ON JAPANESE MANUFACTURERS...**ARRL NEWS****ICOM, Kenwood Issue Statements Regarding Effects of Earthquake on Operations**

After the [9.0] earthquake struck Japan last week, both ICOM and Kenwood, as well Yaesu, have issued statements how the natural disaster has affected their operations.

Yaesu had reported that one of their factories in Fukushima was damaged and will be closed for "one to two weeks."

ICOM

According to a press release, no one from ICOM is known to be injured. No damage has been reported at ICOM's headquarters in Osaka, or at either of their two main factories in Wakayama; both Osaka and Wakayama are located far south of the most severely affected areas. The branch offices in Tokyo and Sendai, however, did suffer some minor damage. "Most of ICOM's facilities and systems are ready to get back to normal business, but supplier logistics, commuting issues and future power disruptions will affect our company," the press release said. "It is too soon to tell how big an impact the earthquake and its aftermath will have on ICOM. We appreciate your interest and concern."

Kenwood

"Thankfully, our staff in Japan is safe due to earthquake preparedness and the special construction of our buildings," said Kenwood USA President Junji Kobayashi on the Kenwood website. "Power outages and interruption of mass transit have kept most of Kenwood's staff at home since the earthquake; however, we expect the infrastructure to improve in the coming week and our operations to fully resume accordingly. We appreciate the concern for our employees expressed by all those who have contacted us." Kenwood's primary office facilities in Yokohama and Hachioji were not damaged, due to their proximity further south and west of the quake's epicenter. Since Kenwood's primary manufacturing facilities are in Malaysia, electronics production is unaffected.

SOLAR FLUX DEFINITIONS...

(from Internet Sources)

Solar Index Terms *QST* September 2002 p. 40:

ap index: A measure of the general level of geomagnetic activity over the globe for a given day. A mean, 3-hourly “equivalent amplitude” of magnetic activity based on K index data from 11 Northern and 2 Southern Hemisphere magnetic observatories between the geomagnetic latitudes of 46 and 63 degrees.

Ap index: A daily index determined from eight ap index values. Geomagnetic activity: Natural variations in the geomagnetic field classified into quiet, unsettled, active and geomagnetic storm levels. Geomagnetic storm: A worldwide disturbance of the Earth’s magnetic field, distinct from regular diurnal variations. A storm occurs when the Ap > 29, a minor storm when 29 < Ap < 50, a major storm when 50 ≤ Ap < 100 and a severe storm when Ap ≥ 100.

K index—A quasi-logarithmic local index of the 3-hourly range in magnetic activity relative to an assumed quiet-day curve for a single geomagnetic observatory site. First introduced by J. Bartels in 1938, it consists of a single-digit 0 through 9 for each 3-hour interval of the universal time day (UT).

Kp index—The planetary 3-hour-range index Kp is the mean standardized K index from 13 geomagnetic observatories between 44 degrees and 60 degrees northern or southern geomagnetic latitude. The scale is 0 to 9 expressed in thirds of a unit; e.g., 5– is 42/3, 5 is 5 and 5+ is 51/3. This planetary index is designed to measure solar particle radiation by its magnetic effects. The 3-hourly ap (equivalent range) index is derived from the Kp index.

Note: Kp, Ap and other indices can be downloaded via FTP at the following site: ftp.ngdc.noaa.gov/STP/GEOMAGNETIC_DATA/INDICES/KP_AP/.

Indices can also be downloaded from www.sec.noaa.gov/Data/alldata.html.

From “A Glossary of Space Weather Terms” (www.irfl.lu.se/HeliosHome/spacew9.html) and the National Geophysical Data Center Web site (www.ngdc.noaa.gov/stp/GEOMAG/kp_ap.html).

Table 1

The General Relationship between A and K Values

A	K	Comments
0	0	Quiet
2	1	Quiet
3	1	Quiet
4	1	Quiet to unsettled
7	2	Unsettled
15	3	Active
27	4	Active
48	5	Minor storm
80	6	Major storm
132	7	Severe storm
208	8	Very major storm
400	9	Very major storm

These figures can be found at a variety of places, including on the Internet at a variety of sites including www.eham.net, www.qrz.com, DX Summit at oh2aq.kolumbus.com/dxs/ and in the K7RA Solar Updates that are posted regularly on ARRL Web at www.arrl.org.

At each 3- hour increment the K index at an observatory is converted to an equivalent “a” index using Table 1, and the 8 a-index values are averaged to produce the A index for that day. Kp index is the planetary average of all the K indices at observatories around the globe. For a more in-depth recap on radio propagation, get on the Web and go to

<www.radioelectronics.com/info/propagation/radio_prop_list.html>, or just visit www.radio-electronics.com and navigate from there.

Steve Nichols G0KYA and Alan Melia G3NYK wrote a series of propagation articles for the RSGB that is now an ebook. It can be downloaded from Steve Nichols’ blog <http://g0kya.blogspot.com/2010/11/understanding-1f-and-hf-propagation.html>.

For more information concerning radio propagation, see the ARRL Technical Information Service web page at <http://arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>.

For an explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin, see <http://arrl.org/the-sun-the-earth-the-ionosphere>. An archive of past propagation bulletins is at <http://arrl.org/w1aw-bulletins-archive-propagation>.

Find more good information and tutorials on propagation at <http://mysite.ncnetwork.net/k9la/index.html>
-de K7RA ARRL Propagation Bulletin

[sri abt Open Office formatting problems – de AF8C]

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 Monday night nets on 28450 kHz and 147.36 MHz Mondays at 9:00 p.m. local time.

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W8VM

