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WEST PARK RADIOPS



LOG



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

April - May 2013
VOL. XLVIII - No. 3

Our Nets 147.36 Mondays 9 p.m. local

2013 CLUB OFFICERS

President	N8WB
Stephen Kinford 216-702-8384	
Vice President	N8CX
Al Moriarty (216) 221-3682	
Secretary	AF8C
Glenn Williams (440) 835-4897	
Treasurer	K8VUS
Kevin Brandstetter (440) 734-5532	
Trustee	N8CX
Al Moriarty (216) 221-3682	

COMMITTEES

FIELD EVENTS	W8IDM, W8PN
PUBLIC SERVICE	N8CX
WAS & VUCC CHECKERS	K8ME, N8CX
ARRL VE'S	AF8C, N8CX, K8TTL, N8WB, W8MET

ARTICLES THIS TIME
N8WB

ANTENNAS
W8PN, W8IDM

CLUB AWARDS
W8IDM

CONTESTS, SATELLITES
W8IDM

DX
N8WS

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

EDITOR, WEBMASTER, OO
AF8C

LABELS
N8CX

WEST PARK EVENTS *

* Changed after the Friday April 5 meeting.

Apr. 5 - BUSINESS MEETING/FIXIT NIGHT

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

Apr. 19 - SHOW AND TELL NIGHT*

We need to make some decisions on which logging program will be used for 2013 Field Day. Stephen, N8WB, demonstrates some software. What have you got?

May 3 - BUSINESS MEETING/ FIXIT NIGHT*

Bring your questions or answers to the radio problems of the day/week/month. After the business meeting we are going to run a Field Day simulation so we can test our favorite choice of Field Day logging software.

May 17 - PROGRAM NIGHT - LOGBOOK*

This meeting will be a bit light without a serious program due to the unknown number of members who will be here and not in Dayton. Bring any topics of concern regarding amateur radio operating, logging, and working DX.

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CONTESTS AND EVENTS

- de WA7BNM & ARRL

Apr 6	PODXS 070 Club PSK 31
Apr 13	EU SPRING SPRINT CW
Apr 20	MI QSO PARTY
Apr 27	FL QSO PARTY
May 4-5	10-10 SPRING CW TEST
May 11-12	VOLTA WW RTTY
May 11	FISTS SPRING SPRINT
May 17-19	DAYTON HAMVENTION
May 25-26	CQ WW WPX CW

SOAPBOX

Practice your CW for Field Day. Once again we are in the pre-planning stages for Field Day. Bring your Field Day thoughts to the meetings.

It's spring cleaning time. Help with public service at LCAC on May 11.

Our Monday night nets have moved to the 147.36 repeater. Listen or check in. Join the fun.

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What was the President Thinking?

Hello Everyone!

Well as we all know both Hamvention and Field Day are quickly descending upon us. This is a great time of year, Spring is springing, Summer is summering and the winter is fast receding. This is also the time of year that antenna work will begin and not end until after next winter when it will begin again. Sort of the cycle of life for hams: Hamvention, Field Day, Antenna work, Contests, repeat! The club and I would also like to thank all of the members who did all the great contesting in this last year and every year for that matter. You are all what this hobby is really about.

And now I will knock myself for a moment. Whoever heard of a Ham Radio club who's president doesn't have an antenna up?? Probably the same people who's Ham Radio president who has done IT work for 30+ Years didn't have his first computer until 10 years in it. But I have two antennas one that Dave WV8P gave me and a wire dipole. And my commitment will be that they are both going up this year. Thank you all for being patient with me. May you all have a very wonderful and safe beginning to this time of year.

Be very blessed in all you do!
Stephen, N8WB 73 My Friends!!=

WEST PARK PUBLIC SERVICE...

The Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. will run their spring cleaning supplies delivery day on May 11. As an ARRL Special Service Club, our members assist this activity every year. More members helping would be welcome.

ALL SCOUTS WEEKEND...

We have our official invitation letter for the event on Saturday June 8 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

RECENT NETS & TALK...

For the Club's nets, we have switched over to only operating on 2m on 147.36+. Many interesting discussions have been summarized in our almost weekly net reports. Now you don't have to have an HF rig and antenna to be in our nets.

PLANNING FOR FIELD DAY 2013...

Some discussions have started, via emails and over coffee and donuts at the meetings, on what to do this year for Field Day. There seem to be two camps if 2012 is a guide: one camp says let's concentrate on getting a high score, and the second camp says let's take it easy and learn some contesting, i.e. "have a fun weekend". We also have to have a site. Talk this up at the meetings!

Boy Scouts of America endorses Amateur Radio...

(01/18/2013 ARRL News)

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has approved an Amateur Radio Operator rating strip for Scouts and Scouters to wear on their uniforms. According to BSA Communication Services Director Jim Wilson, K5ND, the strip recognizes the Scout or Scouter's availability as an Amateur Radio operator for communication services for events and activities, as well as emergencies. All registered youth members and adult leaders who also hold a valid FCC-issued Amateur Radio license of any class are eligible to wear the rating strip.

"Last year, the BSA Awards and Insignia Committee introduced the Morse Code Interpreter Strip upon the recommendation of the BSA's National Radio Scouting Committee," Wilson told the ARRL. "We are always looking for ways to promote Amateur Radio, both within Scouting and to the world. The National Radio Scouting Committee thought this new Amateur Radio rating strip was a wonderful way to do exactly that, as it readily identifies to everyone that the wearer is a licensed radio amateur, prepared to be useful and to help others."

Wilson, who heads up the National Radio Scouting Committee, said that the Amateur Radio Operator rating strip is similar to the Amateur Radio Operator badge offered as a proficiency badge by Scouts Australia, as well as the badge recently introduced by Scouting Netherlands. It follows in the footsteps of the Scout Radioman personal interest badge for Senior Scouts and Explorer Scouts that was offered by the Boy Scouts of America in the 1940s. The strip is worn on the right sleeve.

GLOBAL FOREVER STAMP...

January 28, 2013

USPS Release No. 13-011

WASHINGTON Today, the U.S. Postal Service introduced the Global Forever First-Class Mail International stamp.

Priced at \$1.10 each and offered in a pane of 20, the Global stamp offers a single price for any First-Class Mail International 1-ounce letter to any country in the world. The Global stamp also may be used to mail a 2-ounce letter to Canada.

Customers may purchase the stamps at usps.com/stamps, by phone at 800-STAMP24 (800-782-6724) and at Post Offices nationwide.

ARRL "HOW TO" VIDEOS...

(from Feb. 14 ARRL Web pages

Three new "how to" videos have been posted on the ARRL website. All three videos are hosted by W1AW Station Manager Joe Garcia, NJ1Q.

- How to attach a PL259 connector to Coaxial cable.
- How to use CTCSS in a typical FM transceiver.
- How to enjoy split-frequency operating.

To view these videos your web browser must support Flash technology. Also, some Internet Explorer browsers may have compatibility issues when attempting to view Flash video within Windows 7 and 8. If you do not see the individual video player screens on the Multimedia page, click your Internet Explorer "Compatibility View" icon located in the right-hand section of the Internet Explorer address entry window.

SPACE JUNK DEAD AND ALIVE...

AMSAT NEWS SERVICE

ANS-062

An American satellite, abandoned in 1967 as a piece of Space Junk has begun transmitting again after 46 years.

An Amateur Radio Astronomer in North Cornwall accidentally picked up the signal and after cross checking with various lists, has identified it as LES1 built by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and launched in 1965. The satellite failed to reach its intended orbit owing to a wiring error and has been drifting out of control ever since.

Phil Williams G3YPQ from near Bude noticed its peculiar signal drift caused by its tumbling end over end every 4 seconds as the solar panels become shadowed by the engine. 'This gives the signal a particularly ghostly sound as the voltage from the solar panels fluctuates' Phil says.

It is likely that the on board batteries have now disintegrated and some other component failure has caused the transmitter on 237Mhz, to start up when its in sunlight.

LES1 is about the size of a small car, It is not likely to re-enter the atmosphere for a long time as the orbit is still relatively high. It poses no threat other than that caused by the thousands of other pieces of space junk in orbit.

Phil says its remarkable to think that electronics built nearly 50 years ago, 12 years before Voyager 1, and long before microprocessors and integrated circuits, is still capable of working in the hostile environs of space.

Listening to the signal you can easily imagine the craft tumbling over and over every 4 seconds and the transmitter starting up as the sun rises. He refers to the hobby as 'Radio-Archeology'!

[ANS thanks Phil Williams G3YPQ and Southgate ARN for the above information.]

PSK-31 ACCEPTED...

(from ARRL Web news 02/21/2013)

On Tuesday, February 19, François Rancy -- Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau (ITU-R) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) -- announced the simultaneous adoption and approval by correspondence of a new Recommendation entitled Telegraphic Alphabet for Data Communication by Phase Shift Keying at 31 Baud in the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services. The alphabet – commonly called “Varicode” because the more frequently used characters (in the English language) occupy fewer bits -- was developed by Peter Martinez, G3PLX, in the 1990s. Martinez was awarded the ARRL Technical Innovation Award for the year 2000 by the ARRL Board of Directors for his development of PSK31, which uses Varicode for transmission efficiency in much the same way as the Morse code. In ITU parlance, it now becomes Recommendation ITU-R M.2034.

Adoption of the Recommendation is the culmination of work conducted in ITU-R Study Group 5 and its Working Party 5A during 2011 and 2012. Working Party 5A is responsible for studies of techniques and frequency usage in the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services, as well as certain aspects of the land mobile and fixed services.

The Recommendation was proposed by the United States, and ARRL Chief Technology Officer Brennan Price, N4QX, advocated for the Recommendation’s adoption as United States spokesperson for Amateur Radio issues at Working Party 5A. “The text of the Recommendation borrows heavily from the technical description of PSK-31, prepared by Steven Karty, N5SK, on the ARRL’s website,” Price explained. “Steven’s thorough description of Peter’s invention enjoyed relatively smooth sailing within the United States preparatory process and at the ITU.”

Adoption of an ITU-R Recommendation requires multiple levels of review. Following proposal by an administration, a draft Recommendation is vetted by one or more relevant ITU-R Drafting Groups, Working Groups, Working Parties and Study Groups, usually through several meeting cycles. “We are grateful to United States 5A delegates -- particularly delegation leadership from the FCC, NTIA and the State Department -- for supporting this effort at every step of the process,” Price said. “We also appreciate the deliberations of ITU delegates from dozens of countries

who evaluated the draft as it proceeded to adoption and approval.”

“Nothing that radio amateurs do on the air will change as a result of this ITU decision, but it is significant nonetheless,” observed ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. “It provides further documentation in an important international forum of radio amateurs’ continuing creativity and contributions to the art and science of radio communication.”

GROW LIGHTS AND RFI...

(from ARRL Web pages)

Large high-power grow lights in residential areas are on the rise. These lights are typically over 1,000 Watts and employ electronics that can act as ballast or perform some other vital function. Unfortunately these lights have proven to be a notorious source of RFI to the Amateur Radio service. Based on the distances over which the noise can propagate, and tests conducted in the ARRL Lab, these devices can exceed the FCC limits by a considerable margin. Although these tests were limited to just a few samples, one light was measured to be in excess of 30 dB over the FCC limits.

Interference from grow lights has been shown to be problematic at distances of over 1,000 feet. This is well over three times the distance one might expect from a legal Part 15 or 18 device, i.e., one that meets the applicable FCC limits. In addition, they are typically controlled by a timer, cycling on and off at precise times every 12 hours or so.

Historically most reports of RFI from grow lights have been from a limited number of states, particularly those known to have legalized or decriminalized marijuana. California and Colorado. Under federal law, only the FCC can create and enforce rules regarding harmful radio interference. Furthermore, both Part 15 and 18 of the FCC’s rules unconditionally prohibit interference to a licensed radio service caused by lighting devices. This includes interference to Amateur radio caused by grow lights.

It must be emphasized, however, that grow lights are being used for a wide variety of indoor horticulture. For example, other uses include growing indoor vegetables and household, ornamental and exotic plants. The mere presence of a grow light is not proof that illegal activity may taking place in someone’s home. (More information – see ARRL pages)

REVISED DEFINITIONS...

April 1, 2013

I have received word from certain world-wide standards organizations that after several high-level meetings some of the standard definitions of electronics terms have been updated to incorporate the effects of recent technology changes.

VOLT - no longer part of the title of a magazine

CURRENT - constant status of DXCC entities

POWER - operating QRO

QRP - operating QRO out in the boonies where no one can see your dials

FIELD - a flat space begging to have a tower set up in it

GROUND - a place to lose bolts, nuts, and tools dropped from top of tower

INDUCTOR - warm air for a winter shack comes out of here

CONDUCTOR - this must be where the cold air goes back to be heated again

HENRY - Elmer's brother

GUY WIRE - after three cups of joe he's ready to contest all night

PLATE - holds the chips and pizza

GRID - holds the burgers on the grill during Field Day

SHIELD - keeps spilled coffee from dripping into a radio

SHOCK - size of price sticker for the latest radio

LINEAR - device used to test traps, baluns, and coils

COULOMB - 70's slang for modern electrons

LOG - something you better have a backup for

OHM - first word out of your mouth when XYL notices you have been buying too many expensive radio toys

FEEDBACK - provided by XYL after your explanation

POINTS - lost during and after feedback

LIGHT - lower quality of beer

CLAMP - opener for 807's

AMPLIFY - something that happens when bragging about a QSO

NET - where you do the bragging

TRANSDUCER - having dual FT1000's, one for each ear

INTERNET ADVICE...

I recently heard a talk on Ransomware as being a growing problem on the Internet.

So with the talk came this piece of trivia: if you go to www.cnn.com to view their page, how many different Web links are in their first loaded page? The answer can be well over 120. That's a lot of ways that cookies can arrive in your computer! And that's only one web page! It's better to be safe than sorry and learn how to clean out the junk in your computer! Look at it this way: some of those cookies are like eyes watching your every move and every keystroke. Do you like being watched like that?

LOTW NEWS...

Soon some changes will be coming to Logbook of the World. Stay tuned. Meanwhile, we will have PRINTED instructions at the meetings on how to check the status of your "tq6" configuration files.

The logjam at the end of 2012 was cleared up in January when the LOTW was upgraded with fast solid state "hard drives". But it's still up to you to back up your own ADIF and Cabrillo files.

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 147.36 MHz at 9:00 p.m. local time.

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