



FOUNDED 1947

WEST PARK RADIOPS



LOG



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

Email: w8vm-at-arrrl.net

SKCC #12111

Our Nets 147.36 Mondays 9 p.m. local

April -May
VOL. LI

2016
No. 3

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COMMITTEES

FIELD EVENTS
OPEN

PUBLIC SERVICE
OPEN

WAS & VUCC CARD CHECKERS
K8ME, N8CX

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

ARTICLES THIS TIME
WA8NVW, WV8P

ANTENNA GURU
W8PN

CLUB AWARDS MGR
W8IDM

CONTESTS, SATELLITES
W8IDM and N8WB

DX REPORTER
N8WS

8TH AREA BUREAU LETTER MGR.
AF8C (V)

EDITOR, WEBMASTER
AF8C

LABELS
N8CX



WEST PARK EVENTS *

*Subject to change

Apr. 1 - BUSINESS MEETING/FIXIT NIGHT*

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

Apr. 15 - PROGRAM NIGHT - RASPBERRY PI

We again plan on having a presentation on Raspberry PI circuit boards.

May 6 - BUSINESS MEETING/FIXIT NIGHT*

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

May 20 PROGRAM NIGHT - TUNING TUNERS TOO

Karl's program is on the combination of all-band antenna, antenna tuner, and transceiver not working on all bands. This usually involves a big Z mismatch somewhere between those components. And don't forget that ground wires have resonant lengths too.

June 4 - ALL SCOUTS Weekend Radio Setup for 3 to 5 p.m. demo

June 25-26 - FIELD DAY! The ARRL Field Day Packet is available now.

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2:
President's Thoughts

Page 3:
Busted QSOs

Page 4:
Upcoming DX
Raspberry PI

Page 5:
Geosynchronous
Amateur Satellite

Club Nets
Public Service

Morse Telegraph Cub

ARRL and FCC actions

CONTESTS AND EVENTS

- de WA7BNM & ARRL

Apr 2	NA SSB SPRINT CONTEST
Apr 9	SKCC WEEKEND SPRINT
Apr 16	MI QSO PARTY
Apr 23	10-10 SPRING SPRINT DIG
Apr 30	FL QSO PARTY
May 7	10-10 SPRING SPRINT CW
May 14	FISTS SPRING SPRINT
May 20-22	DAYTON HAMVENTION
May 28	CQ WW WPX CONTEST CW

SOAPBOX

West Park Radiops technical interests include Go-Boxes, recent digital radio technologies, new antenna projects, contesting.

For Public Service, we will have helping the Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. spring cleaning supplies delivery on Saturday May 14.

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

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Prez Sez...

Here we are at the end of March with two new learning opportunities and a busy 'radio-active' calendar ahead.

First, some of our newer members were surprised to hear that West Park Radiops has been listed as a top ten club in contest participation for several years. After some coaxing by our vice-president Vesselin, Tim Holmes W8TAH has agreed to lead a special interest group helping both new and more experienced club members to refine their operating and contesting skills so we can continue this recognition. The SIG is an extension of the many contest notices and club score summaries that Don Pearson W8IDM has been compiling and emailing for quite a few years. Catch Tim and the live SIG discussions during our coffee break after each meeting. The Better Contesting SIG is open to all hams, not just WPRC members.

Second, this Friday West Park will introduce a new discussion segment which was inspired by the ARRL adding extra points to the club's Field Day score for having a safety officer. Safety is important every day of our lives, not just Field Day weekend, so Paul Gunderson KE8NN will lead a brief discussion about shack safety at every business meeting this year. He may ask you to help by providing either a lesson you learned or a question you might have about safety in the ham shack or some part of your mobile or portable operation.

Elsewhere in this issue you'll see several opportunities to participate in public service work and public demonstrations of our unique hobby. You're always invited to take part in these events. Please also consider a coordinator position for just one of these events during the year. If each member does so the club earns public support for many special things that amateur radio does for the community.

Karl Beckman WA8NVW

WEST PARK PUBLIC SERVICE...

For many years West Park Radiops volunteers have helped LCAC volunteers sort and deliver articles to the needy. As an ARRL Special Service Club, our members assist this activity every year. Dick, K8AB, and Glenn, AF8C, have recently supported food kitchens at church. Our next opportunity to help LCAC will be on Saturday May 14, 2016.

ALL SCOUTS will be on June 4, 2016, 3 to 5 p.m.

RECENT NETS & TALK...

Club nets have switched over to only operating on 2m on 147.36+. Many interesting discussions are being summarized in our almost weekly net reports. However, you must have a clear shot at the repeater's receiving antenna to use an HT. Please consider your 2m antenna systems and how they perform for the net. 9 p.m. local Mondays.

2015-2016 MEETING PROGRAMS...

The following topics are still on the list for programs: shack videos, Fox Hunt how-to's, comparing different Web browsers, operating Echolink and/or IRLP, or one of the old standbys such as Smith Chart, Transmission Line Analysis, antenna tuners etc. Also coming are discussions on Raspberry-Pi and Arduino.

KH5K KINGMAN DELETED...

03/28/2016

The ARRL Awards Committee has voted to delete Kingman Reef (KH5) from the DXCC List, effective March 29, 2016. Kingman Reef will be added to the Deleted Entities List on March 29, 2016. The total number of entities on the List will drop from 340 to 339. [This will also drop the threshold for Honor Roll to 330 and if you have KH5K credit, that will also change by 1.]

ARRL AND FCC...

(from ARRL news 02/24/2016)

The FCC is seeking comments on a Petition for Rule Making (RM 11760) that asks the FCC to grant lifetime Amateur Radio licenses. Mark F. Krotz, N7MK, of Mesa, Arizona, filed his request with the FCC last November. He wants the FCC to revise § 97.25 of its rules to indicate that Amateur Radio licenses are granted for the holder's lifetime, instead of for the current 10 year term. Krotz noted that the General Radiotelephone Operator License (GROL) already is issued on a lifetime basis, and he maintained that not having to renew licenses would lighten the FCC's workload. It would be mutually beneficial for the FCC and Amateur Radio operators to update Part 97 to grant operator licenses for lifetime, Krotz said in his filing. The FCC would benefit by reducing administrative costs. Individuals may submit comments via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS).

BUSTED QSO'S AND 'CUT NUMBERS'...

(from the *ARRL Contest Update* 3/9/16)

Do NOT convert your Cut Numbers! Just log what is sent, and submit that. The ARRL DX log scoring process will handle cut numbers just fine. From a past Contest Update:

What happens if you enter "Cut Numbers" in QSO lines of a Cabrillo-formatted log? You'll be hearing lots of them in the upcoming ARRL DX CW Contest, so here's the straight scoop. First, the character string is read from the submitted log. Then...

- Any instance of W or WATTS are removed from the string.
- If the string is one character long containing K, it is transformed to 1000
- Similarly, 1K and KILO become 1000
- All characters are removed which are not a numeral (0-9) – A, E, N, T, or O
- Replacements are then made: 'A' with '1', 'E' with '5', 'N' with '9', 'T' with '0', and 'O' with '0'
- If the result is 000, it is replaced with 1000
- Finally, the resulting set of characters are converted to an integer value for checking against other logs.

Thanks to Matt, W1MSW; Ward, N0AX, and Jim, W8WTS.

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MORSE TELEGRAPH CLUB...

Do you have an interest in the history of telegraphy and the telegraph industry? Are you interested in the history of telecommunications? If so, you are cordially invited to join the Morse Telegraph Club.

The Morse Telegraph Club was founded in 1943 to perpetuate the history of telegraphy. Its membership consists of retired railroad and commercial telegraphers, former telegraph industry employees, radio operators and others with an interest in the history of telegraphy.

In addition to publishing a quarterly journal entitled "*Dots and Dashes*," MTC members assist with the design and construction of historically accurate museum exhibits throughout the United States and Canada. Members

present talks on the history of telegraphy and telecommunications for historical associations, engineering societies, Amateur Radio clubs and the like. MTC members also demonstrate Morse telegraphy at steam train excursions, US Civil War encampments, historical events and the like.

MTC membership is open to anyone with an interest in the history of telecommunications. One may join one of the many local chapters throughout the United States and Canada or become a member of the MTC "Grand Chapter" (member at large).

If you are a former commercial telegrapher with experience in railroad operations, stock brokerage work, commodities work (boards of trade, cotton exchanges, etc.), pipeline, press or other phases of telegraphy, you will meet other operators with similar backgrounds. If you worked in testing and regulating for organizations such as Western Union, Canadian National, CP Telegraphs or AT&T, you will enjoy the opportunity to re-establish connections with others who performed similar work. Radio amateurs, former maritime or military radio operators, and others will enjoy learning more about the history of telecommunications and the origins of many of the procedures and traditions with which they are familiar.

Please take a look at a sample copy of "*Dots and Dashes*" at:

<

http://www.morsetelegraphclub.org/files/dotsdashes/DotsDashesWinterNL_PRESS.pdf >

A membership application may be found at:

< [http://www.morsetelegraphclub.org/files/Forms/MTC Membership Form 2015.pdf](http://www.morsetelegraphclub.org/files/Forms/MTC%20Membership%20Form%202015.pdf)

>

73,
James Wades
International President,
Morse Telegraph Club, Inc.

UPCOMING DX FOR YOU...

(Courtesy of the NG3K website)

Call, Start Date, End Date, DXCC Entity

D2,2016 Feb14,2016 Mar31,Angola
 V21ZG,2016 Mar08,2016 Mar22,Antigua
 P4,2016 Mar12,2016 Mar24,Aruba
 C6AUX,2016 Jun23,2016 Jul08,Bahamas
 A91HI,2016 Apr28,2016 May01,Bahrain
 KH1,2017 Sep01,2017 Sep14,Baker & Howland Is
 8P6DR,2016 Mar29,2016 Apr22,Barbados
 A52NH,2016 Mar17,2016 Mar21,Bhutan
 PJ4,2016 Mar15,2016 Mar22,Bonaire
 A25MC,2016 Mar09,2016 Mar16,Botswana
 A25UK,2016 Apr13,2016 Apr19,Botswana
 XU7AKC,2016 Apr07,2016 Apr12,Cambodia
 XU7AKC,2016 Apr13,2016 Apr19,Cambodia
 ZL7G,2016 Oct26,2016 Nov09,Chatham Is
 VK9C,2016 Sep20,2016 Oct04,Cocos (Keeling)
 VK9CK,2016 Mar15,2016 Mar26,Cocos Keeling
 SV9,2016 Jul02,2016 Jul07,Crete
 PJ2,2016 Mar20,2016 Apr03,Curacao
 PJ2,2016 May16,2016 Jun06,Curacao
 T32,2016 Mar01,2016 Mar16,East Kiribati
 4W,2016 Apr05,2016 Apr11,East Timor
 CE0Y,2016 Oct24,2016 Dec02,Easter Is
 YS3,2016 Mar27,2016 Mar31,El Salvador
 3C7A,2016 Mar09,2016 Mar21,Equatorial Guinea
 ET7L,2016 Jan17,2016 Apr12,Ethiopia
 VP8DPD,2016 Feb15,2016 Apr01,Falkland Is
 PY0F,2016 Jan19,2017 Jan26,Fernando de Noronha
 PW0FN,2016 Mar15,2016 Mar22,Fernando de Noronha
 TX2AH,2016 Aug17,2016 Aug28,French Polynesia
 C5,2016 Mar20,2016 Apr01,Gambia
 4L9PL,2016 Apr21,2016 Apr28,Georgia
 OX3LX,2016 Mar15,2016 Mar21,Greenland
 J34G,2016 Mar10,2016 Mar24,Grenada
 GP4BRS,2016 Apr09,2016 Apr16,Guernsey
 8R1A,2016 Apr11,2016 Apr24,Guyana
 VK0EK,2016 Mar20,2016 Apr10,Heard Is
 HR4,2016 Mar25,2016 Mar27,Honduras
 TF3WK,2016 Mar20,2016 Mar30,Iceland
 YB9,2016 May15,2016 Jun01,Indonesia
 GD4SKA,2016 Mar15,2016 Mar23,Isle of Man
 MJ5Z,2016 Mar18,2016 Mar20,Jersey
 FT4JA,2016 Mar29,2016 Apr11,Juan de Nova & Europa
 XW7FG,2016 Mar29,2016 Apr04,Laos
 HB0,2016 Apr15,2016 Apr18,Liechtenstein
 VK9L,2016 Apr15,2016 Apr20,Lord Howe Is
 CT9,2016 Mar11,2016 Apr07,Madeira
 8Q7NC,2016 Mar12,2016 Mar22,Maldives
 3B8,2016 Mar14,2016 Mar21,Maldives
 8Q7,2016 Apr17,2016 Apr30,Maldives
 8Q7HW,2016 Jun20,2016 Jun28,Maldives

OJ0W,2016 Apr09,2016 Apr10,Market Reef
 FM,2016 May06,2016 May11,Martinique
 FM,2016 May23,2016 Jun03,Martinique
 3B8,2016 Jun15,2016 Jul14,Mauritius
 FH,2016 Mar18,2016 Mar24,Mayotte
 FH,2016 Mar24,2016 Mar25,Mayotte
 FH,2016 Apr16,2016 Apr21,Mayotte
 JD1,2016 Mar15,2016 May15,Minami Torishima
 V5,2016 Feb09,2016 Sep18,Namibia
 VK9NU,2016 Apr23,2016 May02,Norfolk Is
 VK9NT,2016 May20,2016 May31,Norfolk Is
 JD1BOI,2016 Apr26,2016 May06,Ogasawara
 T88,2016 Mar17,2016 Mar21,Palau
 T88IR,2016 Mar20,2016 Mar25,Palau
 T88SM,2016 Apr13,2016 Apr18,Palau
 T88RF,2016 May01,2016 May05,Palau
 E44YL,2016 Mar23,2016 Apr07,Palestine
 E44QX,2016 May08,2016 May15,Palestine
 OA4,2016 Mar12,2016 Mar25,Peru
 VP6AH,2016 Sep03,2016 Nov25,Pitcairn Is
 5W0XG,2016 Apr19,2016 Apr25,Samoa
 5J0P,2016 Mar06,2016 Mar21,San Andres & Providencia
 S9BK,2016 Feb29,2016 Mar24,Sao Tome & Principe
 S79KB,2016 Sep24,2016 Oct08,Seychelles
 H40GC,2016 Oct04,2016 Oct17,Solomon Is
 E51AQA,2016 Mar04,2016 Mar19,South Cook Is
 E51DLD,2016 Apr24,2016 May10,South Cook Is
 E51XYZ,2016 May23,2016 May28,South Cook Is
 TBA,2016 Apr05,2016 Apr09,Spratly Is
 4S7,2016 Mar02,2016 Mar18,Sri Lanka
 FJ,2016 Jun17,2016 Jun29,St Barthelemy
 V47JA,2016 Mar14,2016 Apr12,St Kitts & Nevis
 J68GU,2016 May12,2016 May22,St Lucia
 CY9C,2016 Aug19,2016 Aug28,St Paul
 FP,2016 Mar17,2016 Mar29,St Pierre & Miquelon
 JW,2016 Mar30,2016 Apr04,Svalbard
 H44GC,2016 Sep24,2016 Oct03,Temotu
 H44GC,2016 Oct18,2016 Oct21,Temotu
 5V7D,2016 Mar24,2016 Apr12,Togo
 9Y,2016 Apr14,2016 Apr26,Trinidad & Tobago
 5X1XA,2016 Mar04,2016 Mar16,Uganda
 YJ0CS,2016 May01,2016 May27,Vanuatu
 3W2BR,2016 Mar10,2016 Mar26,Vietnam

TRY RASPBERRY PI...

The Raspberry Pi version 3 single board computer was announced on Feb. 29:

< <https://www.raspberrypi.org/blog/raspberry-pi-3-on-sale/> >

This version has a 1.2 Ghz 64 bit quad-core ARM Cortex-A53 CPU with integrated 802.11n WIFI and Bluetooth 4.1. Performance is quoted to be double that of the Raspberry Pi version 2. The price is still \$35.

GEOSYNCHRONOUS AMATEUR SATELLITE..

(from the ARRL news pages 12/24/15)

Researchers at the Ted and Karyn Hume Center for National Security and Technology are preparing to send an amateur radio transponder into a geosynchronous orbit in 2017.

"Seven days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, a new ham band will be available for the Americas," said Robert McGwier, a research professor in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Hume Center's director of research. "It will allow rapid deployment to disaster areas and support long-haul communications for first responders."

This would be the first amateur or "ham" radio payload in a geosynchronous orbit, and would significantly enhance communications capabilities for amateur radio operators, in particular following natural disasters or other emergency situations. The Hume Center team met with Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Craig Fugate in September to discuss the project.

There are more than 2 million amateur radio operators around the world, and the community has a long history of assisting with emergency communications when traditional communications networks collapse, because they typically rely on cell towers and the Internet. Ham radio signals require only compact, mobile equipment that can be easily transported to an emergency site.

"Hams show up at every disaster, no matter what," said McGwier, referring to amateur radio operators. After events like Hurricane Katrina and the Indian Ocean tsunami, "for days, the only way that people communicated out of those communities was amateur radio."

In fact, the Federal Emergency Management Agency signed an agreement in 2014 with the American Radio Relay League, also known as ARRL, that describes how the two organizations will work together to provide disaster relief, and the Federal Communications Commission has specific regulations authorizing the use of amateur radio in situations which threaten life or property.

But even amateur radio isn't always available.

Currently, most amateur radio operators communicate by bouncing their signals off the ionosphere. Solar flares, geomagnetic storms, and other events that change the condition of the ionosphere can affect the efficiency of radio signal propagation, making it unpredictable.

Sending radio signals to a satellite, instead, would be much more dependable, allowing radio operators to help emergency personnel reliably access supplies, logistical support, and medical assistance. The key is to ensure that the satellite would always be accessible to the radio operators—which is why the geosynchronous orbit is critical.

A geosynchronous orbit has the same period as the Earth's rotation—just under 24 hours. A satellite in such an orbit is easy to locate and access. In this case, the satellite will always be within a band of longitudes over the Americas, continually accessible to any amateur radio operator there, including the students and researchers at the Virginia Tech Ground Station.

The satellite itself will be operated by Millennium Space Systems on behalf of the United States Air Force; the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation, also known as AMSAT, will operate the radio, which will be designed and built by Virginia Tech students—making this project a unique collaboration among the university, nonprofit organizations, private companies, and the federal government.

The Hume Center team is also engineering a ground terminal that emergency personnel could use to relay their own existing communications channels through the satellite. This setup could be deployed through the American Radio Relay League and the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation as a key part of a robust national emergency response system, allowing trained operators to reliably mobilize to disaster areas in the first critical hours after a devastating event.

Read more at: <http://phys.org/news/2015-12-amateur-radio-geosynchronous-orbit-aid.html#jCp>

