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WEST PARK RADIOPS



LOG



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AF8C, N8CX, K8TTL

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K8AB, W8IDM

ANTENNAS
W8PN, W8IDM, W8IMF

CLUB AWARDS
W8IDM

CONTESTS
W8IDM

DX
W8IMF

EDITOR, WEBMASTER
AF8C

LABELS & ROSTER
N8CX

WEST PARK EVENTS *

*Subject to Change

Aug. 6 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT/ Field Day Analysis

Meet in the usual place. Bring your questions or answers to the radio problems of the day/week/month. Hal, W8PN, is going to give his analysis of our operations on Field Day.

Aug. 20 - Program Night -- QRP Update

This year 6 meters and QRP on HF have been continuing to grab attention. Tonight there will be more new information to digest on these topics.

Sep. 3 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

We will be heading into Labor Day Weekend. Have it get off to a good start by coming to the meeting.

Sep. 17 - Program Night – Time Division Multiplexing

On this topic there is plenty to say regarding what goes on in the depths of digital communications and related Internet data flows.

Sep. 26 - Cleveland Hamfest and Computer Show

At the Berea Fairgrounds, meet the guys. Enjoy the last nice days before fall really sets in.

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CONTESTS AND EVENTS

De WA7BNM Contest List

Aug. 7 - 8 Nat. Lghthse Wknd QSO Test

Aug. 7 - 8 ARRL UHF Contest

Aug. 7 - 8 10-10 Int. Summer Test, SSB

Aug. 14 -15 WAE DX Contest, CW

Aug. 21 -22 SEANET Contest

Aug. 28 - 29 Ohio QSO Party

Sep. 4 - 5 All Asian DX Contest, Phone

Sep. 11 - 13 ARRL Sep. VHF QSO Party

Sep. 18 - 19 SARL VHF/UHF Contest

Sep. 18 - 19 QRP Afield

Sep. 25 - 26 CQ WW DX Contest, RTTY

SOAPBOX

The solar cycle is still 2.5 to 3 years from the bottom! So what to do when the bands are dead? See in QST where the 6M openings become more numerous in the summer. So if you can swing it, try out 6 Meters this summer.

AMSAT has a new AO-51 satellite (previously named ECHO). It is available for listening to downlinking and decoding of telemetry. The old AO-7 is still kicking.

THE PRESIDENTS FORUM

According to TV weather, summer is in full swing. You would never know it by the cold temperatures and rain every other day. At my qth the incessant tinny sound of Scott Joplin's "The Entertainer" played over and over as the ice cream truck rolls through the adjoining streets reminds me it is summer. Now, if that wasn't annoying enough the solar flux dropped in the first weeks of July to high 70's to low 80's stifled HF operations then in the last two weeks of July we experienced major solar flares with flux in the 170's but A indices over 100. This caused total blackout of HF prompting packet cluster postings of ZILCH, and other humorous remarks. For those that work VHF though there has been some good 6 meter E skip openings to the east coast and after the flares I made a few Aurora contacts on 6 M and 2 M.

For those that didn't attend the club picnic in the park on July 16th. you missed a great evening. About 14 attended the picnic and the same god of Field Day again gave us perfect weather with no bugs. The food was great and the fellowship was most enjoyable. .

The NOARS-fest was held July 17th. and though it rained quite hard on the drive to Wellington it stopped by 7 AM and remained dry until the drive home. I believe only 4 West Park members were at the hamfest. Although I didn't purchase anything I enjoyed talking with 3 or 4 hams that recognized my call sign and remembered working me in VHF contests. C U at our next meeting and bring along something interesting to discuss or tell some long forgotten humorous anecdote from your ham career. Help make our meetings interesting.

73 Dick K8AB

PUBLIC SERVICE...

Thanks to AI, N8CX, for assisting again this year at the Special Olympics (Lorain County) on May 14, 2004 at Ely Stadium, Elyria High School, Elyria Ohio. The annual affair has run every year since about 1990, and our West Park Radiops support began 4-5 years ago when AI assisted with amateur radio communications there.

According to AI, there are parades of the contestants, around the high school stadium field, and then following events concentrate on any or all of four different athletic events for the handicapped participants. Events include track, long jump, and softball throw. For some of the participants, depending on age which varies from 8 to 15, there may wheel chair race (25M) and assisted walking competitions.

The amateur radio operators perform live links between field events and the press box. Also assisting are high school students who exchange a day of school for a day of supporting the events.

RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON THE 10M NET...

The Club's 10 Meter Net topics have included Field Day, 6M band openings and related 6M activities such as antenna building. Also mentioned were chimney rebuilds, property lines, apple trees, amyryllus, the 817 radio's fussiness with CAT connections, and digital HDTV.

BPL NEWS...

(from The ARRL Letter Vol. 23, No. 30)

The broadband provider that's been testing BPL in the Village of Penn Yan, New York, reportedly plans to "move away" from that technology. The Western New York community of some 5000 residents has been considering various proposals with Data Ventures (DVI) to offer broadband service. A BPL trial has been underway in Penn Yan for several months. The village reportedly would get 10 percent of the generated revenue. According to an article in the July 28 edition of the Finger Lakes Times Online, DVI now is proposing to employ wireless mesh "WiFi" technology instead of BPL. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, congratulated Penn Yan Mayor Douglas G. Marchionda Jr and DVI for going with wireless broadband instead of BPL.

"Not only will your citizens receive better service, but a serious radio spectrum pollution problem has been averted as well," Sumner said in a fax to Marchionda and to DVI CEO Marc Burling. "We hope that other communities will be able to profit from your experience." Sumner raised the issue of interference complaints from the Penn Yan BPL trial with Marchionda last April.

The Finger Lakes Times report quotes Burling as saying that his company didn't feel BPL was "commercially deployable." He also cited issues with the BPL trial including security concerns and interference--which will not be an issue with the wireless system. Burling told ARRL that the Penn Yan BPL system remains on line but would be shut down once DVI starts deploying its wireless system. As for BPL, "We are going to sit back and wait for an official ruling from the FCC and go from there," Burling added. Penn Yan already has rejected two DVI proposals to bring high-speed Internet service to the community, the newspaper said. Village officials reportedly met again with DVI representatives this week. DVI is partnering with Nortel to offer the wireless service. In a March 23 article "In This Power Play, High-Wire Act Riles Ham-Radio Fans," Wall Street Journal reporter Ken Brown described a "firestorm" of protest from amateurs when Penn Yan approved the BPL test plan.

ARRL also has learned that Energy East--a cooperative of New York State Electric & Gas and Rochester Gas & Electric--decided against deploying BPL in their Western New York service area. Energy East based its decision in large part on the high levels of radio frequency interference an engineer and company officials observed during a visit to the Penn Yan field trial.

On July 29, Grand Haven, Michigan, announced that it had become the first community in the US to deploy a WiFi network <<http://www.ottawawireless.net/about-us/press-room.html>> that blankets the city and up to 15 miles off shore in Lake Michigan with broadband Internet access.

(More information is available on the ARRL Web site.)

MINING ARRL FIELD DAY...

The ARRL Field Day results were worth doing this year. We should have 6725 total QSO points before bonus points are added. The event was held again at the backyard QTH of Hoyt, KA8UTC (SK). AF8C copied the ARRL W1AW Field Day Bulletin on Saturday before the 2 p.m. starting time. Al, N8CX, sent the NTS Message to our section manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE. At that time we had 11 club members supporting the stations. By the end of the event we had another 6 members show up. We had a real newspaper article covering our activities this year (Lorain Morning-Journal newspaper). We had the SSTV demo station going for 100 bonus points.

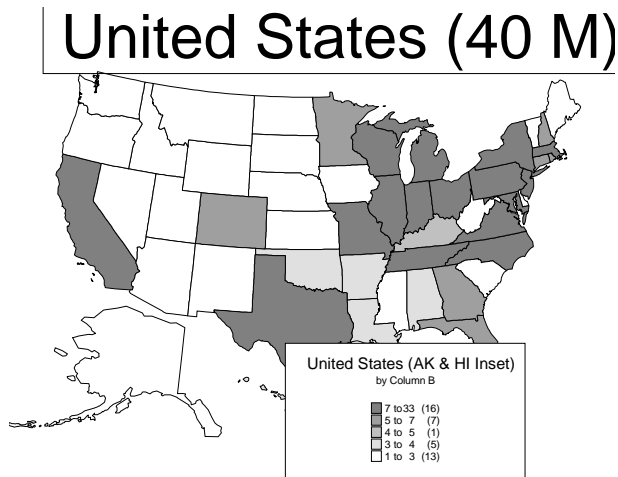
All our operators save one hit CW hard, and it showed. We operated as 2A Battery with 5 watts for each of the transmitters. The band-by-band results looked like this:

<u>BAND</u>	<u>CW</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
80	189	
40	305	32
20	111	
15	20	
6	2	35
2		19
.7		5

The new 40 M beam designed by Hal, W8PN, was being tested again this year in Field Day. A map of the 40M results appears below.

The weather was great, as we lucked out between our late spring and early fall to have some nice days for Field Day.

-de AF8C



INTERNET UPGRADE...

(information borrowed from the Internet)

If you are concerned about the continuing aggravation of receiving spam and/or viruses via email, and possibly spyware from using your browser, there is a glimmer of hope in the offing. Perhaps we will be saved by something called Ipv6.

IPv6 is short for "Internet Protocol Version 6" which is the next generation protocol designed to replace the current version Internet, IP Version 4. Until now we have been using IPv4. Ipv4 is 20 years old and due many factors is starting to show its age. One problem is that the number of available Internet addresses is running out. Basically anyone on the face of the earth who uses the Internet for any reason is probably using up one address, if not more. IPv6 fixes the problem with the number of addresses by having a longer IP address field. (Internet Protocol or IP packets travel from one transmitter to one receiver, and each one has an address that is either permanently assigned or is temporarily assigned by one's ISP during the login process.)

Actually IPv6 can be or is supported by most major operating systems and applications is use already.

Agencies will start giving out IPv6 domain names when the protocol is really ready for production use on the Internet, which is as early as July 26, 2004, in Japan and Korea (sic).

The current IPv4 uses 32-bit addresses (usually represented, for instance, as 123.321.214.189), and eventually there won't be enough to meet demand. IPv6 uses full 128-bit addresses thus multiplying the number of addresses to such a large number that no feasible shortage could ever exist. IPv6 usage will be first be seen on Japan's (.jp) and Korea's (.kr) country codes. France (.fr) will be next.

The growing Internet usage, based on new technology and demand for attaching the Internet to additional hardware devices, will consume many more magnitudes of addresses. Mobile devices, the new Voice Over IP (VOIP) protocols in which telephone calls are routed over the Internet are examples of exploding demand on the Internet. Worldwide, consumers in non-US markets are asking for huge blocks of IP address space. Unfortunately for the older addressing system, a majority of the entire world's supply of IP addresses is blocked out for U.S. consumption.. In the United States, new technology in IP is usually adopted at a slower pace but the Department of Defense is seeking for IPv6 to be fully operational only 4 years from now.

Finally, IPv6 carries with it new packet security protocols, so perhaps there could be fewer hijacked and spoofed emails and logins in the future. On the other hand, they also say that hackers are having a field day playing with new IPv6 security issues, looking for holes.

KRAUS et. al. SK...

(From the ARRL Letters as noted)
Vol. 23, No. 29 July 23, 2004)
JOHN D. KRAUS, W8JK

Radio astronomer, antenna designer, cosmic explorer and author John D. Kraus, W8JK, of Delaware, Ohio, died July 18. He was 94. While he enjoyed a worldwide reputation, Kraus is perhaps best known in Amateur Radio circles for his bi-directional wire beam antenna--often dubbed the '8JK array. Other important Kraus designs include the corner reflector and helix antennas.

The Michigan native was a pioneer of radiotelescope design and the father of the "Big Ear" radiotelescope. Kraus first became licensed as 8AFJ. He later was granted the now-famous W8JK call sign. A graduate of the University of Michigan, he joined the faculty of the Ohio State University 1946, serving as a professor of electrical engineering and astronomy and founding and directing the OSU Radio Observatory. In that capacity, Kraus designed and oversaw construction of the Big Ear on land owned by Ohio Wesleyan University.

In 1978, after the "Big Ear" detected the still-unidentified "Wow!" signal that suggested the possibility of intelligent life elsewhere in the universe, Kraus launched Cosmic Search, a magazine devoted to the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. The Big Ear fell victim to development pressures and was torn down in 1998.

Kraus's classic textbook Antennas, now in its third edition, has been an engineering school staple for decades. Among his other titles are Electromagnetics, Radio Astronomy, Big Ear, Big Ear Two and Our Cosmic Universe. Kraus also wrote several articles for QST. He did a "recap and update" of his W8JK antenna in the June 1982 issue. An article in the July 1970 edition describes a "W8JK 5-Band Rotary Beam Antenna." A 1934 QST article by Kraus highlights "Amateur Radio in the Soviet Union." Kraus was a fellow of the IEEE and a member of the National Academy of Engineering. In 1996, Dayton Hamvention honored Kraus as the recipient of its Special Achievement Award. In 2001, CQ named Kraus to the inaugural class of its Amateur Radio Hall of Fame.

Vol. 23, No. 28 July 16, 2004

Actor Marlon Brando, KE6PZH/FO8GJ, in Los Angeles July 1. He was 80. Brando appears in the FCC database under his pseudonym, "Martin Brandeaux," while his FO8GJ listing indicates both names. Brando held a US General class ticket. He was on the air occasionally over the years as FO8GJ from his private island in French Polynesia. He was best known for his roles as Stanley Kowalski in "A Streetcar Named Desire," a dockworker in "On the Waterfront," and Vito Corleone in "The Godfather." He was nominated for eight Academy Awards and won twice.

Vol. 23, No. 23 June 4, 2004

OLDEST AMATEUR IN US—
BYRL "TEX" BURDICK, W5BQU

The man believed to be the oldest Amateur Radio operator in the US—Byrl "Tex" Burdick, W5BQU, of El Paso, Texas--died May 30. He was 103. Admired as much for his courteous and kind personality as for his longevity and youthful appearance, Burdick was licensed for nearly three-quarters of a century. During his many years on the air, he took pleasure in meeting new friends and was a regular QSLer. When Burdick, an ARRL member, turned 103 last September, ARRL President and fellow Texan Jim Haynie, W5JBP, extended congratulations and best wishes on behalf of the League.

Burdick was a charter member of the El Paso Amateur Radio Club, and he donated a windmill tower for the new clubhouse to use as an antenna support. A similar structure holding a tri-band Yagi graces his own residence.

Burdick retired in 1979. After retirement, he and his wife, Juanita, traveled the world. In addition to ham radio and an early interest in photography, Burdick also enjoyed hunting and fishing and spending his summers in Alaska and Colorado.

Vol. 23, No. 25 June 18, 2004

"SIGALERT" DEVELOPER
LOYD C. SIGMON, EX-W6LQ

"Sig Alert" inventor Loyd "Sig" Sigmon, ex-W6LQ, of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, died June 2. He was 95. According to the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans), the SigAlert got its name and its start in the 1940s when the Los Angeles Police Department were in the habit of alerting Sigmon--then a radio reporter--of bad traffic accidents. His on-the-air bulletins, initially called "Sigmon Traffic Alerts," soon became known as SigAlerts.

The SigAlert apparatus used an electronic system using a tape recorder and a radio receiver to let LAPD dispatchers send bulletins to broadcasters over the regular police radio frequency--then 1730 kHz--alerting them to traffic conditions and emergencies. Activated by the dispatcher, the SigAlert transmission--accompanied by a special receiver-activation tone--would notify stations via a red light or a buzzer.

The first such SigAlert, broadcast in 1955, urged medical personnel to respond to an LA train derailment--reportedly causing a traffic jam when so many doctors and nurses showed up to help.

Now in use throughout California, the system--which has since become computerized--has been duplicated in other areas of the US. CalTrans says SigAlerts today are limited to any unplanned event that causes the closing of one lane of traffic for at least 30 minutes. For the invention Sigmon was honored by the National Safety Council, among others.

BPL to Be an IEEE Standard...

(adapted from Web reports)

When the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers starts working on an industry standard, you know that industry thinks something has a good chance of being successful. So get ready for this.

After several pilot tests by power line companies around the nation, enough interest in Broadband over Power Line (BPL) has arisen that the IEEE and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) are working on standards and deployment procedures designed to address the radio interference issues.

The IEEE has started the development of the P1675 "Standard for Broadband over Power Line Hardware." IEEE P1675, to be completed by mid-2006, will provide electric utilities a complete standard for installing the required hardware on distribution lines—both underground and overhead—that will provide the infrastructure for BPL systems, protect the installers from electrical hazards, and protect the public.

This comes after an NTIA report issued earlier this year concluded that the success of BPL can, in fact, be realized by applying "rigorous technical solutions" that would protect critical federal systems from interference.

Around 59,000 federal radio-frequency assignments exist in the spectrum between 1.7 and 80 MHz. These frequencies provide multiple services, including: fixed, mobile, radio astronomy, radar, and broadcasting. The NTIA, which has processed 10 million measurements of BPL systems, believes that certain techniques will protect critical government radio systems. NTIA is completing a second study later this year assessing the potential interference risks and evaluate the effectiveness of proposed interference-measurement techniques.

Currently BPL testing is occurring in Texas, Virginia, Indiana, North Carolina and Kentucky.

ROGUE WAVES STUDIED IN ACTION...

(more data from the Web)

Amateur radio operators know both sides of the story about maritime radio operation. There is DX fun in working a maritime station on the high seas. There is the public service issue of helping with radio communications in the event of a ship sinking.

In the past there have been stories of mysterious "rogue waves" crashing into ships and causing great damage or a sinking. Scientists used to think that either these stories were hoaxes or at least that rogue waves occur extremely rarely, such as one in 10000 years. Well, all that has changed.

The European Space Agency's ERS satellites have helped establish the widespread existence of rogue waves on the open ocean as a scientific fact.

In December 2000 the European Union initiated the new MaxWave project to document the occurrence of rogue waves, and model how they occur and what are their hazards.

Data from ESA's ERS radar satellites were first used to carry out a global rogue wave study. ESA's satellites ERS-1 and 2 which were launched in July 1991 and April 1995 respectively, carry Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR). Using SAR, they acquire 10 by 5 km 'imagettes' of the sea surface every 200 km. These small imagettes are then mathematically processed similarly to medical MRI images into averaged-out breakdowns of wave energy and direction, into files called ocean-wave spectra.

While the raw imagettes are not made available, the ocean wave spectra are. They provide mean sea state data of individual wave heights. ESA gathered three weeks' worth of data - around 30,000 separate imagettes - around the time that the Bremen and Caledonian Star were struck by huge waves in late winter of 2001. The image processing occurred at the German Aerospace Centre (DLR).

Despite the relatively brief length of time the data covered, three weeks, the MaxWave team identified more than ten individual giant waves above 80 feet in height running amuck around the globe.

So far some patterns have been uncovered. Rogue waves often occurred where ordinary waves encountered ocean currents and eddies. The strength of the currents concentrates the wave energy, forming larger waves, like an optical lens. This is especially true in the case of the dangerous Agulhas current off the east coast of South Africa. But rogue waves are also found with other currents such as where the Gulf Stream in the North Atlantic interacts with waves coming down from the Labrador Sea.

However the data show rogue waves also occur elsewhere, well away from currents, but in the vicinity of weather fronts and lows. Sustained winds from long-lived storms exceeding 12 hours in length possibly enlarge waves moving in sync with the wind, like large bathtub waves.

During the last 20 years, severe weather has sunk more than 200 supertankers and container ships exceeding 200 meters in length. Rogue waves are believed by some to be the major cause of these sinkings. Ships and offshore oil platforms are engineered to withstand maximum wave heights of only 15 meters. The new discoveries about the sizes and frequencies of rogue waves show that major threats to shipping and oil platforms exist and more serious attention needs to be paid to the existence of the waves. The Europeans have launched a project to go for two years to continue the study of these waves.

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.

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W8VM

