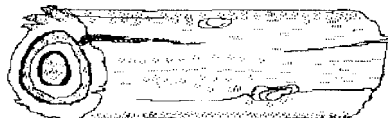




FOUNDED 1947

WEST PARK RADIOPS



LOG



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Aug. – Sept. 2005
VOL. XXXX - NO. 5

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K8AB, W8PN

ANTENNAS
W8PN, W8IDM, W8IMF

CLUB AWARDS
W8IDM

CONTESTS
W8IDM

DX
W8IMF

EDITOR, WEBMASTER
AF8C

LABELS & ROSTER
N8CX

WEST PARK EVENTS *

*Subject to Change

Aug. 5 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

Meet in the usual place. Bring your questions or answers to the radio problems of the day/week/month. Also bring your show and tell items.

Aug. 19 - Program Night – So many choices / Use only one

At the last board meeting, the discussion brought out a list of several technical topics, some of which are more computer-centric than radio-centric. These include anti-spam measures, IP addressing, the USENET "news" system on the Internet, HDTV, and others. Our program night topic will be selected from one of the technical topics or a radio topic.

Sep. 2 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

Bring your questions or answers to the radio problems of the day/week/month. Show and tell is always available.

Sep. 16 - Program Night - Another One of the Tech Choices

Sep. 25 - Cleveland Hamfest

October - Mars Is Coming!

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2:
The President's Forum
Public Service Activities
Pearson's Law
No More CW Test?
New Planet Discovered

Page 3:
W8PN's Preliminary
Field Day Report
Rewire with
Andersen Powerpoles

Page 4:
Club DXCC &
Other Standings
FCC Form 605 change
Space Station Repeater
Wikipedia Rescue
LOTW Record

Page 5:
Battery Web Site
Zombies in Your
Shack
End of TV Era
Throw Them Out
Quick

CONTESTS AND EVENTS

de WA7BNM Contest List

Aug. 6-7	Nat. Lighthouse Weekend QSO
Aug. 6-7	ARRL UHF Contest
Aug. 13-14	WAE DX Contest, CW
Aug. 27-28	Ohio QSO Party
Aug. 27-28	Hawaii QSO Party
Sep. 3-4	All Asian DX Contest, SSB
Sep. 5-6	MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint
Sep. 10-11	WAE DX Contest, SSB
Sep. 10-11	ARRL September VHF QSO Party
Sep. 24-25	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY
Sep. 5	Fall QRP Homebrewer Sprint

SOAPBOX

Some of you may have noticed that we claimed 60 points of credit in our Field Day report because we earned points with QSO's made by youth. Amateur Radio is facing a crisis of how to identify with the youth and be interesting to a group that has ready access to cell phones and the Internet. This is of obvious concern by the ARRL also. We will be discussing at our meetings coming up later this year how to interest the youth before we take advantage of an All Scouts invitation to speak before the Scouts.

+ THE PRESIDENTS FORUM +

Enjoying the heat? It wasn't long ago we were complaining of the fierce winter and delayed Spring. Now we have had weeks of 90+ degree humid weather. What's not to like? We had excellent weather for our Field Day weekend along with a pretty good score considering the dismal Solar Flux and indices. The rigs, antennas, and operators performed flawlessly and everyone participating had a good time. Thanks to Don W8IDM & Hal W8PN who plan our strategies each year. Hal W8PN is working on statistics and will present a critique showing how well the equipment and operators performed despite the vaguerities of propagation. Our club score for Field Day has been sent in and a hearty "well done" to those that participated in an way to make F.D. 2005 successful. Thanks to K8AB's XYL Carole for preparing a huge pot of Chili and also to Bill N8WS's niece for donating great hamburgers, buns, and condiments each year. Thanks Glenn AF8C for preparing a fine breakfast of pancakes and bacon. We thank Virginia Landis our hostess and all who helped in the set up, operating, or by bringing the diverse hardware such as antennas, cables, towers, and all the things needed for this operation. Our club picnic was held July 15th in the Metro Park. The rain held off allowing those present to enjoy the get together. Don W8IDM and I operated the CQWW-VHV July 15/16 and conditions were miserable. A few states on 6 M. but the usual locals were not heard. I was away most of Sunday and Don got to work a short opening to southern states and out-scored me with multipliers. With two hurricanes over and others breeding in the Caribbean, it would behoove amateurs to have stand-by battery power in case of severe wind damage to phone and power lines. I again urge all members to participate in West Park's club activities and advise the officers of ideas to improve our club

Respectfully submitted: Dick K8AB

Thimk:

- WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU GET SCARED HALF TO DEATH, TWICE?
- OK, SO WHAT'S THE SPEED OF DARK?
- SUPPORT BACTERIA. THEY'RE THE ONLY CULTURE SOME PEOPLE HAVE!

PUBLIC SERVICE...

We recently supported the Scouts at ALL SCOUT WEEKEND early on June 11, 2005 in North Olmsted Park. We have been asked to give a presentation and demonstration in the fall at a Scout Troop meeting. More information on that will be in our next newsletters toward the fall.

RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON THE 10M NET...

The Club's 10 Meter Net topics have included iron vane meters, microphone equalization, new grandchildren, the ARRL bandwidth proposal, the FCC no-code NPRM, how better to erect towers in emergency radio conditions (a.k.a. Field Day), CW vs. cell phone Text Messaging on Jay Leno, band conditions, and DX or lack thereof.

FIELD DAY...

W8PN's preliminary analysis appears on page 3 of this issue. More information will be forthcoming later in the year after more data mining is accomplished. The ARRL received our mailed report on July 25, one day before the deadline for being postmarked.

TENTH PLANET IN SOLAR SYSTEM ANNOUNCED JULY 29...

Dr. Michael Brown of the California Institute of Technology today announced the discovery of a new as-yet unnamed planet in the solar system, orbiting the sun at a distance about three times further out than the ninth planet Pluto. The new one is at least as large in diameter as Pluto. Brown, and Chad Trujillo, of the Gemini Observatory in Mauna Kea, Hawaii, and David Rabinowitz, of Yale University, New Haven, Conn., realized on January 8, 2005 that they had photographed the new planet on October 21, 2003 with the 48-inch Samuel Oschin Telescope at Mt. Palomar Observatory near San Diego, California. For an announcement of this magnitude, they waited months to analyze all available observations.

PEARSON'S LAW NOW IN EFFECT THROUGH 2007...

Since we are nearing the bottom of the sunspot cycle, it is now time for Pearson's Law* to kick into effect. That means it is time for large-scale Part 97 rule changes. First, the FCC is proposing to modify Part 97 rules to eliminate CW as a requirement (The ARRL Letter, July 22, 2005) saying "Based upon the petitions and comments, we propose to amend our amateur service rules to eliminate the requirement that individuals pass a telegraphy examination in order to qualify for any amateur radio operator license." The Commission included the provision in a July 19 Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235. The NPRM&O is on the FCC Web site http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-05-143A1.pdf. A 60-day period for the public to comment on the NPRM&O in WT 05-235 will begin once the notice appears in the Federal Register.

Meanwhile, the ARRL Board formally adopted a regulation by bandwidth plan at their recent July 15-16 meeting. The revised plan stipulates that the League "will promptly undertake a procedure to establish a band plan to be utilized with the proposed subband allocation petition [to the FCC]." The ARRL proposal would leave two important FCC rules unchanged. §97.307(a) says: "No amateur station transmission shall occupy more bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted, in accordance with good amateur practice." §97.101(a) reads: "In all respects not specifically covered by FCC Rules each amateur station must be operated in accordance with good engineering and good amateur practice." [These changes would not eliminate CW and SSB modes.] [*Don Pearson, W8IDM]

PRELIMINARY WEST PARK RADIOPS 2005 FIELD DAY REPORT

By W8PN, Hal Braschwitz

It appears that in spite of the declining sun spot cycle with its corresponding diminishing effectiveness of the ionosphere that we were able to about meet last year's Field Day score due to a number of improvements the club was able to institute. On forty and eighty meters we managed fewer contacts than we had last year. To offset this loss we were able to increase our QSO production on twenty and fifteen meters. The VHF group also succeeded in doubling last year's score.

We are hopeful, that by making our score equivalent to last year's score, we may be able to improve our standing among our competitors.

In recounting the improvements we were able to provide, probably the most outstanding was the reduction of lost operator time compared to last year. Last year at the two stations we lost at least eleven hours of the possible forty-eight hours of operating time due to the lack of operators. This year that loss was decreased to about one hour out of the possible forty-eight, certainly a notable improvement. By encouraging our members to enter CW contests from their home stations during the year we were able to add to our supply of competent operators.

Next by increasing the height of our Tri band beam from thirty to forty feet and by adding a double extended zepp also at forty feet we were able to greatly improve our presence on both twenty and fifteen meters. This resulted in increasing our twenty meter score by over fifty percent compared to last year and by more than doubling our fifteen meter score.

The increased height requirement did produce a problem that still needs to be addressed by the club. The erection of this taller tower needs to be accomplished in a more proficient manner. Don Pearson did outline one possible solution during the last club meeting that included the use of our thirty-foot tower as a gin pole along with some sort of a winch to erect the taller tower. We do need the help of some of our more mechanically inclined members to provide an answer.

The VHF group also managed to double their scoring output. One possible improvement in that area would be to increase the percentage of CW to Phone contacts. The two main run stations this year made one hundred percent of their contacts on CW. This year the VHF station made seventy-four contacts

on phone and only twenty-six were made on CW.

Finally, we had ample people available on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning for the station set up and the two run stations were on the air prior to the two o'clock Saturday start time.

A much more detailed report including statistical data will be available in the near future

ANDERSEN POWERPOLE STANDARD DEVELOPING...

(borrowed from RACES and ARES Web sites)

The Anderson PowerPole Connector is quickly becoming the de facto standard dc power connector for use by ARES groups around the country and the reason is simple. Using this standard, highly reliable connector allows for quick and easy installation and substitution of radio equipment, power supplies, batteries, and other equipment, in such a manner that immediate recabling to other radios and/or power sources can be done in mere seconds. The State of California OES prescribes the Anderson Powerpole as the standard dc power connector for use by State ACS/RACES personnel. Orange County, CA, RACES and other RACES groups throughout California and the United States have now started adopting this connector and there are rumor words about whether the connector will become the "ARRL" standard.

These standard, highly reliable connectors allow quick and easy installation and substitution of radios, power supplies, batteries, and other equipment. There are 15A, 30A, and 45A sizes, and different sizes mate with each other. The plastic parts are the same. The barrel area (which holds the wire) of the silver-plated contact is smaller or larger depending on the amp rating, but the contact area is the same. The connectors dovetail together into a compact unit.

Housings come in a pair, one red for "+" and one black for "-" leads and are mated, viewing from the contact side, (opposite the wire side), tongue down, hood up, RED on the LEFT, BLACK on the RIGHT. Use of a 3/32-inch-diameter roll pin, 1/4 inch long, keeps the housings locked together. Silver-plated contacts make for minimal contact resistance at high currents. Self-wiping action on make and break keeps conducting surfaces clean. Contact shapes keep connectors mated in high-vibration applications and provide quick-break, snap action upon disconnect.

Housings are genderless—making assembly quick and easy and reducing the number of parts to buy. When the connectors are disconnected, no metal parts are exposed.

The manufacturer is Anderson Power Products although they are may be available at hamfests. Reference material is provided on West Mountain Radio's website which is also the source for the popular Rigrunner. There WILL BE a live demo of these in use at one of our meetings in August.

CLUB MEMBER CERTIFICATE, AWARD STANDINGS...

West Park Radiops members have the following to say about their standings:

CERTIFICATE STANDINGS
W8IDM 138 Countries via bureau, 6M 167 GR-SQ, 2M 42 GR-SQ, 70 cm 15 GR-SQ
W8PN, Worked All Counties once, up to 2878 2 nd time, 5BWAS, 250 DXCC, almost 5BDXCC
K8ME, 329 SSB / 325 CW, 5B WAZ
W8BE, 356/326 mixed per QST
W8IMF 326/321 SSB
AF8C, 301 LOTW, 300 credited, mixed WAS
K8AB not conf., 309Mx/184 RTTY/ 144 PSK, 45 6M, WAS on 10&20&PSK&RTTY
N8WS 10M WAS, 293 DXCC never registered
N8KUS 332 SSB DXCC H.R. / 7BDXCC,5BWAS,5BWAC & Plain WAZ

FCC FORM 605 UPDATED...

For those club members who will be using Form 605 in the near future to renew their license, please note the following **changes are in effect as of July 18.**

(from *The ARRL Letter*, July 15, 2005)

The revised form includes a new Question 13 (subsequent questions have been appropriately renumbered) that will affect amateurs applying for an administrative update (AU) to reflect a change in licensee name. Question 13 now asks: "If the licensee name is being updated, is the update a result from the sale (or transfer of control) of the license(s) to another party and for which proper Commission approval has not been received or proper notification not provided?" **Amateur Radio Service applicants should always answer "no" to Question 13.**

Applicants can avoid filing outdated editions by submitting their applications through the Universal Licensing System (ULS) <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>>, given that changes to the paper forms will be incorporated into the system automatically," the FCC said. The new Form 605 is available online from the FCC Web site

<http://www.fcc.gov/Forms/Form605/605.html>

LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD MILESTONE...

(from *The ARRL LETTER*, July 15, 2005)

(LoTW) now has surpassed 10,000 registered users worldwide! The LoTW Web page <http://www.arrl.org/lotw> has complete information on how to register and use the system.

SPACE STATION REPEATER...

(from *The ARRL Letter*, July 22, 2005)

NA1SS aboard the International Space Station is now operational as a Mode U/V (Mode B) FM voice repeater. Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, said July 20 that the system appears to be working well following a week of silence during an initial attempt to activate the repeater.

"John Phillips, KE5DRY, gave it a second try after a scheduled contact with Goddard Space Flight Center," Ransom told ARRL. "On the next pass, I was able to work four stations." Just how long the repeater mode will be active remains to be seen, and it could be switched off after the next ARISS school group QSO or because of the space shuttle's arrival (NASA plan to launch Discovery on Tuesday, July 26).

Phillips and crewmate Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR, can step in and talk to Earth stations if they wish; otherwise, the system acts as a crossband repeater when the ISS is within range.

"Enjoy it while it lasts," Ransom remarked, "because we don't know when they're going to shut it off."

The uplink frequency is 437.800 MHz; the downlink is 145.800 MHz. The RS0ISS packet system is off the air while the voice repeater is in operation. Since the ISS equipment is channelized, it cannot correct for Doppler shift, which can be significant at 70 cm.

STUMPED? FIND WIKIPEDIA...

Wikipedia is a fantastic on-line encyclopedia "for the people" in which world-class experts in various topics submit their writeups on their topics of interest to be peer-reviewed for accuracy before posting on the Web. (Therefore no lies, no spam, no ...). For example, you have a technical or historical or literary topic that you need information on. Just get into your browser, connect to a search engine you like, and enter "wikipedia" AND your keywords for the topic of interest. Chances are you will go from stumped to even more stumped, but in between perhaps you will see on your screen more information than you could ever imagine on the topic. For example, who invented the telegraph? Samuel Morse? Well, actually he invented a later version than the electromagnetic needle telegraph, invented by Baron Schilling in 1832, six years before Morse. And Morse did not do his invention alone. Alfred Vail was also working on the concept at the time. That's what Wikipedia says. That page was updated on July 2, 2005 – only 29 days ago! To get that information, I entered "wikipedia telegraph" into google.com and then took one of the first links that Google displayed. So if you really want to try it out, track down "wikipedia gamma function", "wikipedia fort sumter," "wikipedia charlotte bronte", and "wikipedia st peters fish" and get ready for some really good reading. (de AF8C)

LEAD ACID BATTERY WEB SITE...

Many of you at some point of time will have a question about a car or Deep Cycle battery. Well, you need merely to check <http://www.batteryfaq.org/> for answers to your questions. Whether its brand, type, applications, theory, or references for car, motorcycle, power sports, truck, boat, marine, RV, solar, or starting problems, or even keeping a battery alive for next year's Field Day, you can uncover lots of useful advice on this Web site.

ZOMBIES IN YOUR HAM SHACK...

(and things that go bump in the night)

Folks who are not too familiar with how to protect their computers from "malware" have lately become subject to more and more threats. The real issues are when, by some stroke of bad luck and mouse clicks on your part, a hacker gains access to your computer while it is tied into the DSL or cable modem line 24/7, and less so on telco modem dialup.

The problem is that hackers are getting sophisticated at sneaky tricks to take over your computer so it can be used to source more spam or malware onto the Internet, with YOUR IP address attached as the source of the problem and not the hacker's original IP address. What can happen is that your computer can be doing "work" while you think the computer is just idling because you are not there using it right then. Unfortunately there are legitimate ways and reasons your computer's hard drive could be accessing files ("clicking sounds inside") while you aren't even using the computer. But lots of action by your hard drive for long periods of time while you are off at work, sleeping, or watching TV can be a sign that your computer is a "zombie" and may be up to no good. Do you have any way of checking on what your computer is doing?

For some time now the Internet good guys have been cooking up "IPv6," which is a new version of the Internet Protocol that uses 6 bytes of addressing instead of four. Six bytes is 48 bits, and 2^{48} is about 10^{15} (a one followed by 15 zeroes) worth of addresses, enough to allow everyone on the face of the earth at least 10,000 IP addresses of their own. With some other new features attached, you would think that IPv6 might be able to permit a more secure Internet. Well, even though IPv6 is actually out there available for you or I to test, industry articles say that IPv6 is not gaining acceptance. IPv4 still seems to be acceptable. Why would people want to learn how to use IPv6 when there doesn't seem to be enough reason? "I'd rather fight than switch over" still seems to be the story.

THE END OF TELEVISION AS WE KNOW IT...

And if IPv6 isn't enough, just imagine that someone is about to knock on your door and ask you to disconnect your outdoor TV antenna, take down the antenna (I still have mine) and buy a \$250 converter box to let you watch television over cable that you have to pay for. And then they will take your former TV VHF/UHF bands and reassign them to other uses for mobile telecommunications. Who knows, maybe you will also have to pay some company a monthly fee to allow you to use broadband wireless in what used to be your TV spectrum.

Well, what about that part about disconnecting your antenna? It's coming no later than 2009. The part about the converter box? Well, that will probably be here even sooner, and the open issues are whether you can buy a converter box outright or be forced to rent it, and whether the price will be in the hundreds of dollars, or around \$50 or so because the manufacturers will have ramped up production to making millions of boxes. And that is per EACH TV!

Me? I am sitting here wondering whether I will have to switch to a digital converter box and see my monthly cable bill go up 40% to 60%. But I am really ready to have a party taking down my TV antenna when the last free broadcast signals disappear from over the hill in Parma, Ohio. Should I drop the antenna on the driveway, finally smashing those plastic parts from 1975 that are still hanging in there on a rusty wall mount above my side door, or do I blow away the antenna with a shotgun? Well, I can think of three or four reasons why the latter might not be such a good idea. Maybe I will take down the antenna and sell it on eBay. Oh, that would be right along with the 20 million other antennas for sale. Or, maybe I can use it for a tomato trellis. We'll see. There is yet one more choice: rebuild the antenna for use as a 6M beam. Don, W8IDM, can tell you about that. But hurry. Those new Radio Shack TV antennas soon might be disappearing from the shelves.

DISPOSING OF OLD TV AND COMPUTER CRT MONITORS...

There are a few companies that can recycle the glass of a CRT monitor or "picture tube" and get the lead back out of the glass. But for most of us, we will have to pay to get rid of those units. Beat the 2007-2009 lead rush and start figuring out how to dispose of those boxes now. One of our club members has discovered that just putting out on the tree lawn an old TV can make it quickly disappear. But there has to be a limit to how far into the future this will work before the scavengers figure out they have enough TVs.

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

