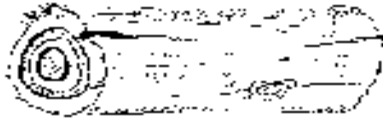




FOUNDED 1947

# WEST PARK RADIOPS



Web: <http://www.westparkradiops.org>  
Email: [w8vm-<at>-arrl.net](mailto:w8vm-<at>-arrl.net)

# LOG



Aug. - Sep. 2007  
VOL. XXXXII - NO. 5

## 2007 CLUB OFFICERS

<u>President</u>	
Alan Moriarty	N8CX
(216) 221-3682	
<u>Vice President</u>	
Egon Fordos	AB8HY
(440) 333-9344	
<u>Secretary</u>	
Glenn Williams	AF8C
(440) 835-4897	
<u>Treasurer</u>	
Kevin Brandstetter	K8VUS
(440) 734-5532	
<u>Trustee</u>	
Dick Naumann	K8AB
(440) 884-2929	

## COMMITTEES

- FIELD EVENTS  
W8IDM, W8PN
- PUBLIC SERVICE  
K8YQL
- WAS & VUCC CHECKERS  
K8ME, N8CX
- ARRL VE'S  
AF8C, N8CX, K8TTL
- ARTICLES  
N8CX, W8IDM
- ANTENNAS  
W8PN, W8IDM, W8IMF
- CLUB AWARDS  
W8IDM
- CONTESTS, SATELLITES  
W8IDM
- DX  
W8IMF
- EDITOR, WEBMASTER  
AF8C
- LABELS & ROSTERS  
N8CX

## WEST PARK EVENTS \*

\*Subject to Change

### Aug. 3 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

Bring your questions or answers to the radio problems of the day/week/month. Top item of business will be the Field Day budget vote.

### Aug. 17 - Program Night - The History of Radio Astronomy

Tonight will be a different type of program. Hal, W8PN, has spoken on the topic of the History of Radio Astronomy at LEARA and CARS and he will present that talk to us tonight.

### Sep. 7 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

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

### Sep. 21 - Program Night - Operating Six Meters

Tonight's Program will discuss the hardware and operating techniques for the Six Meter band, a band gaining in popularity during the last decade. Chances are W8IDM and K8AB will have plenty of information. Perhaps some hardware will show up as a demonstration, or some informative handouts will appear.

### IN THIS ISSUE

**Page 2:**  
-The President's Forum

- Public Service

-10M Net Topics

- Info from Jim Weaver, Div. Convention

**Page 3:**  
QRP Trick

NC Antenna Bill

Bakelite Anniversary

QSL Card Care and Feeding

**Page 4:**  
Measuring Cable Loss  
Blu-Ray vs. HD DVD

Post-Katrina FCC Order

**Page 5:**  
NAVIGATOR

RARE Q SIGNALS

### CONTESTS AND EVENTS

- de WA7BMN Calendar

- Aug 4-5 INTERNAT. LIGHT HSE QSO
- Aug 11-12 WAE DX CONTEST, CW
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday RUN FOR THE BACON QRP
- Aug 25-26 OHIO QSO PARTY
- Sep 8-10 ARRL SEPTEMBER VHF QSO
- Sep 9 NA SPRINT CW 4 HOURS
- Sep 16 NA SPRINT SSB 4 HOURS
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday RUN FOR THE BACON QRP
- Sep 22 ARRL DIV. CONVENTION
- Sep 23 CLEVELAND HAMFEST
- Sep 29-30 CQ WW RTTY

### SOAPBOX

**It is not the class of license the Amateur holds, but the class of the Amateur that holds the license.**

**(de w9vt.org Tri-Town ARC, Hazel Crest, IL).**

**In case you missed it, the following web site provides live solar propagation graphs:  
<http://www.sec.noaa.gov/>**

This document was created using Open Office 2.0, PDF Creator. Usage of Microsoft products was limited to as little as possible.

## Prez Says

Hi everyone,

Well, we've passed mid-summer so I hope everyone is working on their projects that must be completed before fall sets in.

The recent board meeting produced a wide range of topics for programs for the remainder of this year and on into next year.

So, it's very worthwhile to attend meetings. Our next club outing will be the Bay Scouts outing at Firelands Scout Reservation in October. Unfortunately, it looks as if the weekend will not be the usual CQWDX-SSB weekend that we have enjoyed so much the past two years. This year, it will be on Saturday, October 13th. This is always a fun outing and really signals the last until next summer. Please try to attend. Maps and other information will be available at the meetings.

That's it for this issue of the Log so, please attend the meetings and enjoy the fellowship and excellent programs that have been lined up. There is always some bit of information that we all pick up.

P.S. Some of us have been experimenting with a "drive time" net on 146.58 simplex in the mornings after 8:30 a.m.

As always, very best 73's to everyone, AI, N8CX

Your President

## PUBLIC SERVICE...

In early June we supported once again the North Olmsted All Scouts event by showing off amateur radio to the young (and older) scouts. On October 13 we will be again operating amateur radio for the Bay Village scouting event at Firelands Campground.

## RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON THE 10M NET...

On the Club's net, 28450 kHz, we have recently discussed Montenegro QSLs, plants that deer won't eat, beams and towers, local sources of electronic parts, satellite passes, Scarborough Reef and Swains Islands operation, the upcoming Great Lakes Convention September 22, operating from Wellington, operating from Johnson's Island, WD-40, Forever Stamps and general comments on the world, grandchildren, and beer and popcorn. A common antenna that gets discussed is the delta loop. There may be a message there.

## NEWS FROM OUR DIRECTOR...

++ Division Convention ++

I have never seen a harder working bunch of convention or hamfest workers than we have for the 2007 Great Lakes Division Convention.. The program they've assembled, coupled with the tremendous speakers, the banquet and even the DX card checking -- especially the card checkers -- are unprecedented. In this latter feature, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN and I will even check 160 M cards which ordinarily can be checked only at HQ.

The web site is: <http://www.2007gldc.com/> .

**Saturday, September 22, 2007** opening ceremonies at 11:30am. Sign-In and Sponsor Tables open at 9:00 am Location: **Sheraton Independence Hotel, 5300 Rockside Road**, Independence, OH 44131

### Salon One & Two

1:00 - 1:10 DX Seminars will be opened and moderated by Tedd Mirgliotta KB8NW (Editor of the OPDX)

1:10 - 1:45 Bernie McClenny W3UR, Editor of "The Daily DX and Weekly DX and QST's "How's DX?" column will give a talk on the "History of DX - from the beginning to today".

1:45 - 2:10 Don Karvonen K8MFO, Ohio's number one DXer, who is in the top ten of the ARRL's DXCC Challenge, is giving a talk about 6 meter DXing.

2:10 - 2:40 John Papay K8YSE, one of the KH8SI operators who will talk about activating Swains Islands as a brand new DXCC entity.

2:40 - 3:25 Bob Allphin K4UEE, newly appointed DXAC Chairman, will talk about the DXAC and his recent VU7RG activity.

3:30 - 3:55 DX Seminars will end with a question and answer panel consisting of KB8NW, K8YSE, K4UEE, K8MFO, K4ZLE, W3UR and possibly others.

### Salon 3

1:00/1:55 ARRL EmComm speaker from HQ discusses emergency communications and the National Emergency Response Planning Report.

2:00/2:55 ARDF by Bob Frey WA6EZV and Dick Arnett WB4SUV. Lots of great equipment to see and pictures from International Competitions.

3:00/3:55 AMSAT Jim Sanford WB4GCS Eagle Satellite Project Manager. Hear about new developments & Amsat!! Jim WB4GCS also is 2007 ARRL Atlantic Div. Technical Award Winner!

## QRP TRICK...

I learned a new trick in ARRL Phone...by accident... from my old buddy K1TO. I just happened to tune across Dan on 20M listening 14104. I NEVER heard of anyone working split on 20. I listened to 104 and sure enough...nice clear frequency, QRP Europeans in the clear. I moved up a few from Dan and listened 107 and had a great run! Another first for me...for the first time in a phone contest, thanks to Randy, K5ZD tipping me off how he uses his 1000D, I only used the 2.0K filter. Once I got used to less fidelity than the 2.4K I always used before, I think I pulled more weak calls thru than ever.

- de Barnacle Jack, W1WEF, w1wef@arrrl in YCCC *Scuttlebutt*, April 2007, Steve Rodowicz, N1SR, editor ([n1sr@arrrl.net](mailto:n1sr@arrrl.net))

## North Carolina Antenna Bill...

(Jun 29, 2007 from *The ARRL Letter*)

-- On Friday, June 29, North Carolina Governor Mike Easley signed HB1340, the "Amateur Radio Antenna" bill into law. North Carolina becomes the 25th state to pass a state model of the FCC's 1985 PRB-1 regulation, and becomes the halfway point for all 50 states having some kind of state antenna legislation. The bill was introduced for the first time in February and passed unanimously in both the House and the Senate. The law takes effect October 1 and permits antennas up to 90 feet in height in areas regulated solely by municipal (county and city) ordinances.

## BAKELITE ANNIVERSARY...

(from various Internet news sources)

Belgian-American chemist Leo Baekeland applied for a U.S. patent on a substance he dubbed Bakelite. On July 14, 1907, a U.S. patent application was filed by Leo Hendrik Baekeland for polyoxybenzylmethylenglycolanhydride, or better known as Bakelite. Leo Hendrik Baekeland was a Belgian-American chemist. In 1893 he invented Velox photographic paper. His Bakelite was an inexpensive, nonflammable, and versatile plastic that spawned growth in many twentieth century industries.

## QSL Card Care and Feeding...

by David F. Doler Jr., WA3YAY, via eHam.net and NODXA RAG Jan.-Feb. 2007 edited by Dave Autry Jr., WD8IOU)

If you're going to print your own QSL cards, have a look at [www.wilhelm-research.com](http://www.wilhelm-research.com) first. What you're sending to that other ham might not last very long if you using a generic brand ink and photo paper. In fact, using the cheap stuff, your card might last less than a year before it fades into oblivion.

I received a home printed QSL a couple of days ago from a Ham in Florida. It was a pretty one with a nice bright sunset and all the QSO information printed on it. Knowing from my experience with digital photography and printing, I'll have to keep that card in a closed box unless I want to see that sunset disappear in relatively short order. On my desk are about two hundred cards that I've received that were printed in the 70's and 80' by commercial printers like 'The Little Print Shop'. These were offset printed or maybe by 4-color CMYK process for photos. Done properly and cared for, these cards will last a lifetime. Cards made by at-home inkjet methods probably won't.

When I was a novice in the mid-70, I had the stamina to stay on the air for hours on end happily pounding out 20 watts of CW on 40 and 80 meters. This netted me lot of QSL cards. Ever so proud of my accomplishments, I made the mistake of cellophane taping my favorite cards up onto heavy poster boards and sticking the whole think up on the wall. Even the best quality QSL cards are probably not printed on archival quality, acid free paper stock and they eventually my cards interacted with the adhesive on the tape and turned brown - and fell off the board too. To compound my mistake, I attempted to pull of some of what tape remained only to damage the back surface of the cards and in some cases ripped the card too. During a recent work project repairing old engineering blueprints, I discovered a small company ( continued on page 5)

## MEASURING CABLE LOSS...

( by Eric Scace, K3NA, From YCCC *Reflector* - 20 November 2006 )

A common method for measuring cable loss involves an MFJ or AEA analyzer as a measuring tool, and shorting the distant end of the cable. These analyzers do not do a very good job in measuring cable loss in this manner. That's because the analyzers have a very tough time giving an accurate impedance measurement when open or short (very high Z) conditions exist. Two related methods were written up in "QEX" magazine by AI1J and WA8VCQ a couple of years ago that allow these analyzers to produce a more accurate result. I use the AI1H method, which works as follows:

1. Attach a load of 1/2 the characteristic impedance at the end of the coax. For 50 ohm coax, use 25 ohms, etc. I built a PL-259 connector with a 1% resistor combination for this load.
2. Use the MFJ/AEA to measure R and |X| (the scalar value of X --the sign is unimportant). Use 29 MHz if you're just interested in the condition of the cable; use the intended operating frequency if you want to know the relevant loss there. Repeat steps 1 and 2 with a load of twice the characteristic impedance; e.g., 100 ohms.
3. Do some math.
4. Compare results to the MISMATCHED ideal loss of a new cable of that type to determine if your cable has additional losses beyond spec.

To simplify step 4, I build a little Excel spreadsheet form. It's posted now at my mini-website: [www.k3na.org](http://www.k3na.org). To use the form, just plug in your answers for the items in BLUE in the spreadsheet:

- characteristic impedance
- cable type (RG-213 or RG-8 foam are the only permitted answers right now)
- physical cable length in feet
- R and X, if you use the AI1H loss method illustrated next to the top box.
- SWR, if you want to use the less accurate version of the AI1H loss method (i.e., only have a simple SWR meter at hand) illustrated in the middle box.
- WA8VCQ method: similar but uses a pad of -3 dB or so in addition to open/short termination. My math averages out the results

from the two methods. I'm just a babe in the woods at RF engineering, so those who spot formula or concept errors should feel free to send feedback. The theory:

- Each load should produce a 2.0:1 SWR, **IF** the cable is perfectly lossless.
- A real cable will have less than 2.0 SWR. The difference can be converted to dB loss.
- We plug R and |X| into the spreadsheet because the MFJ/AEA analyzers give an extra digit of readout for these values, as opposed to SWR. But, if one only has an SWR meter on hand, a rough result can also be obtained. I hope this helps.

73, Eric K3NA

## BLU-RAY BEATS OUT HD DVD...

(from Internet news sources)

Sony Corp. says that Target stores will only carry Blu-ray high definition DVD players which hints that HD DVD is losing out in the market place.

The change begins in October with Target's sale of Sony's BDP-S300 unit for about \$500.

In June Blockbuster announced to sell Blu-ray rentals which are claimed to be in higher demand than HD DVD rentals.

However, earlier the HD DVD producers said that their video players have outsold rival Blu-ray players by a three-to-one margin in Europe so far this year.

Both of these technologies provide higher quality video than DVDs, but due to the high price of the players, market acceptance may not pick up quickly.

## POST-KATRINA FCC ORDER...

(from *The ARRL Letter*, July 13, 2007)

On July 11, the FCC released its Order regarding the recommendations of the independent panel reviewing the impact of hurricane Katrina on communications networks (Katrina Panel).

Among comments to the Katrina Panel, W. Lee McVey requested that the FCC initiate a rulemaking to create a new radio service in the 148-150 MHz band " to facilitate interoperability between different first responders during and following a national emergency"

The FCC noted that the 148-149.9 band is allocated on a primary basis for the federal mixed, mobile and mobile satellite (Earth-to-space) service, and the 149-150.05 MHz segment is allocated on a co-primary basis for federal and non-federal mobile satellite (Earth-to-space) and radio navigation.

**NAVIGATOR ...**

( <http://www.usinterface.com/Navigator.html#Navigator%20PCB> )

A new, rather expensive, computer-radio interface for the shack permits one USB connection on your computer to drive multiple sound card and COM port interfaces on your radio. The Navigator is designed for use with a PC using the Microsoft 2000, XP and Vista operating systems.

All Navigator options are Software Defined – there are NO jumpers or switches to connect or change around at all. So you will never have to open up the Navigator to reconfigure it for different transceiver. ALL configuration is done via the NavOptions software. An audio monitor with volume control is provided within the interface so that you can hear the side tone of all audio generated modes such as PSK. Side tone monitoring of the controller's modulation signal is provided.

All modes generated via the Audio Codec such as BPSK31, BPSK63, QPSK31, FSK31, RTTY (AFSK), SSTV, Packet, Amtor, MFSK16, THROB, MT63, Helleschreiber, Olivia, WSJT, CW (audio generated) and other new modes using the sound card architecture. CW side tone from WinKey controller. Software controlled enable/disable comes directly from the WinKey WK2MGR Setup Manager. FSK side tone is generated by FSK controller gives a clear audio representation of signal sent to digital FSK. There is also a software defined disable of FSK Side Tone.

A serial COM channel is dedicated to CAT functions. Data rate settable up to 115,200 baud. You can set the actual data rate compatible with your transceiver. If a transceiver with dual receive such as the Icom IC-7800 or Yaesu FT-1000D are connected, only one instance of the operating software is required, since the Navigator interface has two input channels one for the receiver and sub-receiver.

All transceiver interface signals are available at the DB25S connector on the back of the Navigator interface. The pin outs are compatible with all cables for the older RigExpert, RigExpert Plus and RigExpert Standard interfaces.

The Navigator Interface is made in the USA and is FCC Class B certified for a USB digital device. The Navigator also meets RoHS, CE (European) and Industry Canada Standard compliance standards.

**(QSL card care and feeding**

continued from page 3)

in New York City called Talis (212-219- 0770) that sells bookbinding supplies. They have an archival quality pressure sensitive, thin, transparent paper tape called Filmoplast P that's made from a special wood-free paper that virtually disappears leaving a mend that both looks and feels like the original paper. It won't discolor or damage the QSL card over time. Needless to say, I bought a roll and brought the old cards out into light and did my best to repair the tears and rips. It worked well and the cards should be stable for quite a while.

You should store QSL cards in an archival quality, acid-free box. Talis also sells these. But if you want to display the cards either on the wall or in a ring binder, be sure that the clear oversheets do not contain unstable chemicals such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polyether or acetate as these can, under the right conditions bind to the surface of the card. Also never, ever use the cheap "static"-type photo holders. They are about as un-archival as they come and will surely stain your cards over time. The best combination is a binder with acid-free fiber materials and 'foggy' Polypropylene for a coversheet. These offer the best environment for the cards survival.

The way I see it, QSL cards, like a well-kept logbook are a history lesson about your life as a Ham. It's worth sending good quality cards and taking care of the ones your get. One of my favorites is from K1HO aboard the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute's R/V Knorr research ship. I had a QSO with them while they were at sea right over the site of their discovery of the RMS Titanic in 1985. That's one that will last a long time.

**RARE Q-SIGNALS...**

(de PCARS *RADIOGRAM*, April 2007,

by Russ, KB8DPN)

QBA My antenna is BIG!

QBA? How big is your antenna?

QBS It's getting deep in here.

QBS? Did I tell you about the one that got away?

# WEST PARK RADIOPS

# LOG

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY WEST PARK RADIOPS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. ----  
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.

<http://members.core.com/~af8c/westpark/>  
<mailto:w8vm@arrl.net>

# W8VM

