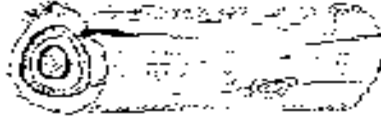




FOUNDED 1947

WEST PARK RADIOPS



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

LOG



Dec. 2006 – Jan. 2007
VOL. XXXXII - NO. 1

2006 CLUB OFFICERS

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

COMMITTEES

FIELD EVENTS
W8IDM, W8PN
 PUBLIC SERVICE
KA8YQL
 WAS & VUCC CHECKERS
K8ME, N8CX
 ARRL VE'S
AF8C, N8CX, K8TTL
 ARTICLES
AB8HY, W8IDM
 ANTENNAS
W8PN, W8IDM, W8IMF
 CLUB AWARDS
W8IDM
 CONTESTS, SATELLITES
W8IDM
 DX
W8IMF
 EDITOR, WEBMASTER
AF8C
 LABELS & ROSTER
N8CX

WEST PARK EVENTS *

*Subject to Change

Dec. 1 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

Meet in the usual place. Bring your questions or answers to radio problems. Election results by ballot will be really quick tonight. Guess the color of the ballot.

Dec. 15 - Program Night – Lessons in Breaking Diets

Cookies and punch and cheer. Bring your XYL. Can someone bring something for music this year?

Jan. 5 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

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

Jan. 19 - Program Night -

We are planning to have back our guest speaker, DaveTannehill, who will discuss more show and tell on Surface Mount Technology parts and soldering and repair techniques. His introductory talk was well received at our October 20 meeting.

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- Big Time DX

CONTESTS AND EVENTS

- de WA7BMN

Dec 1-3	ARRL 160M CONTEST
Dec 9-10	ARRL 10M CONTEST
Dec 30-31	STEW PERRY CHALLENGE
Jan 1	ARRL STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT
Jan 6-7	ORIGINAL QRP CONTEST
Jan 6-7	ARRL RTTY ROUNDUP
Jan 7	KIDS DAY CONTEST
Jan 13-14	NORTH AM QSO CW
Jan 20-22	ARRL VHF CONTEST
Jan 27-28	CQ 160M CONTEST

SOAPBOX

Cycle 24 is starting. 160M propagation is now almost as good as it gets for the next 9 years or more.

Want some CW practice but don't have a lot of time. Enter the North American QSO Party CW on January 13-14 (1800Z-0600Z) and sharpen up on your code. Even AF8C has seen improving CW with practice.

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

* THE PRESIDENTS FORUM *

This will be my last article as president of West Park Radiops. I am proud to have served as president of this club and will no doubt have the opportunity to be club President once again in the near future. N8CX, Alan Moriarty -who is now serving as Vice President -will take my place as President and will no doubt do an excellent job moving this club forward next year. I want to thank AF8C, Glenn Williams, and K8VUS, Kevin Brandstetter, for continuing their responsibilities as Secretary and Treasurer of our Club. I also want to thank W8IDM, Don Pearson, and W8IMF, Don Altmos, and W8PN, Hal Braschwitz for their efforts in keeping us informed about upcoming Contests, Satellites, DX, and antenna design and theory. The continued support of these individuals is what makes our club informative, fun, and interesting to attend.

Our club had a very good year as far as community service (Lakewood's food for the needy), and public service (North Olmsted All Scouts Weekend,). Field Day was also a success beating the previous years score. With the use of Don Pearson's QTH, West Park was able to once again obtain an impressive score considering the less than optimal band conditions and only running 5 Watts of power.

With the upcoming year this club should have as its number one priority bringing new members into the club either by exposure of amateur radio to the public or bringing friends and neighbors to the meetings. The club has been able to keep its membership numbers steady. Adding new members will ensure continued club growth and vitality.

The club needs new volunteers to do regular club functions such as doughnut boy, make coffee, and clean-up after every meeting. It seems like the same individuals are relegated the chores at every meeting. It would be refreshing to see different club members step up to the plate sometimes.

With that I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and good health.

73 de, Egon Fordos AB8HY

PUBLIC SERVICE...

West Park Radiops helped with the October 28 Bay Village Scout Camp weekend event at Firelands Campground in Lorain/Huron Counties. Our support involved demonstrating amateur radio to the scouts during their activities time.

On December 16, West Park Radiops members can volunteer to help with holiday dinner food deliveries to the elderly and handicapped in Lakewood on behalf of the Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation. This past November 18 the drive was supported by N8CX and AF8C.

RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON THE 10M NET...

On the Club's net we have talked about how to catch your own praying mantids egg cases, contesting, Montenegro logs, problems with antivirus software and computer operating systems, damage to radios, rodent control, balun design, memory sticks, digital thermometer problems, lightning damage, cheap computers, QSL managers, the transit of planet Mercury, Linux vs. Windows, digital voice keyers, car repair, sunspot cycle 24 that might have started, the current shortage of Helium, pickled peppers, and miscellaneous flora and fauna stories. Try our net, 28.450 MHz, Monday nights at 10 p.m.

A word of advice from the net control operator is to try to keep the monologues to within **3 minutes** or so.

2007 HAMFEST & OTHER NEWS FROM K8JE

Don't forget about the Great Lakes Division Convention on September 22, 2007. It is in Cleveland the day before the Cleveland Hamfest which is on September 23. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN is banquet speaker. Joel is a real go-getter and a very interesting speaker. You'll have ample opportunity to speak with him in person throughout the weekend. The details of the program will be released later; however, the program committee is working on a real winner. They have polled numerous amateurs throughout the area to learn the programs that are in greatest demand.

K4FQT is none other than ex-W8FQT, Dick Mondro, our former Vice Director. Dick and Sandy, who is now KC4SM, moved to Florida nearly a year ago. No longer a resident of the Great Lakes Division, Dick could not run for re-election here. Also if you didn't know it, Dick is an outstanding business consultant. In fact, he is personal consultant to the owner of the Detroit Tigers baseball team. Dick's influence in structuring the Tigers' organization and its concept for running the team on the field for the current season is largely responsible for the success the club has had in copping the American League, Central Division pennant.

Great job, Dick, but watch out for the Chisox next year!
73, Jim Weaver, K8JE, Director ARRL Great Lakes Division

FCC RULES CHANGES DUE DEC. 15...

(from ARRL email Nov. 22, 2006)

The new rule changes includes a significant expansion of the 75 meter phone band and a variety of other changes.

* For Amateur Extra class licensees, the 75 meter phone band will start at 3600 kHz, while Advanced class licensees start at 3700 kHz and Generals at 3800 kHz. The high end of the CW/RTTY/Digital band is now 3600 kHz (although CW is allowed on the entire band).

* On 40 meters, Amateur Extra and Advanced licensees will be able to operate phone beginning at 7125 kHz, while Generals start at 7175 kHz. The top end of the CW/RTTY/Digital band will be 7125 kHz (although CW is allowed on the entire band).

* There are no changes to the 20 meter band.

* On 15 meters, the General class phone band now starts at 21275 kHz.

* On 10 meters, Novice and Technician Plus licensees can now operate CW/RTTY/Digital from 28000 kHz to 28300 kHz.

* In addition, Novices and Tech Plus licensees can use CW only on the same frequencies as General and Advanced licensees on the 80, 40 and 15 meter bands: 3525 kHz-3600 kHz; 7025 kHz-7125 kHz and 21025 kHz-21200 kHz.

The Report&Order as published in the Federal Register clarified two items that had raised some concerns when it was first released October 10: That the 80/75 meter band split applies to all three IARU Regions, and that FCC licensees in Region 2, which includes North America, can continue to use RTTY/data emissions in the 7075-7100 kHz band.

Several controversial aspects of the proceeding are still to be resolved, although the FCC is working on an erratum for the inadvertent elimination of J2D emissions of more than 500 Hz bandwidth. The Commission intends to release the erratum by the December 15 effective date.

MORE CHANGES POSSIBLE...

(from *The ARRL Letter*, November 3, 2006)

The ARRL wants the FCC to throw its support behind a Draft Proposal seeking to have World Radiocommunication Conference 2007 (WRC-07) delegates consider a worldwide, secondary Amateur Radioallocation from 5260 kHz to 5410 kHz.

The ARRL included the request in comments

<<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/WRC07/WRC-07-Comments-10-27-06.pdf>>

it filed October 27 in IB Docket 04-286, "Recommendations approved by the Advisory Committee for the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference." WRC-07 Agenda Item 1.13 will review allocations to all services between 4 and 10 MHz. The League told the FCC that a contiguous band of frequencies in the range of 5 MHz is an important goal of the amateur community – domestically and internationally.

"There are times when the propagation at 5 MHz bridges a significant gap between the Maximum Usable Frequency (MUF) when the MUF is below 7 MHz, but the Lowest Usable Frequency (LUF) is above the next lower Amateur Radio allocation at around 3.8 MHz," the League said, citing the Draft Proposal. "For reliable communications, an Amateur allocation in the vicinity of 5 Mhz is the solution." The ARRL also added disaster relief as a reason for the changes. "The amateur services provide emergency communications on a local, national and international basis as an adjunct to normal communications, and in many cases provide the first information about disasters and serve as the only communications link when communications infrastructures are destroyed," the IWG-4 Draft Proposal background information notes.

The proposed allocation is "well within the scope of existing resolutions from WRC-03," the League said. It reiterated that amateur use of the five current 60-meter channels "has not resulted in any apparent compromise in the use of the band" on the part of primary Fixed and Mobile services. "To the contrary, that use has demonstrated compatibility with primary users over a reasonable period of time," the ARRL said.

The ARRL's request in its IB Docket 04-286 comments is unrelated to the League's October 10 Petition for Rule Making <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/5MHz/5-MHz-Improvement-Petition-09-2006.pdf>> , in which the ARRL asked the FCC to expand operating privileges on 60 meters and to swap one existing channel for a new one.

Both the FCC and the NTIA provide input toward positions the US delegation ultimately will take on various WRC-07 issues. Should WRC-07 delegates eventually consider and agree to the international allocation at 5 MHz that ARRL proposes, it still would be up to the FCC -- in conjunction with the NTIA -- whether to authorize such a band for US radio amateurs.

FCC & BPL...

(from *The ARRL Letter*, November 17, 2006)

Broadcasters Intervene to Support ARRL in BPL Court Appeal

The Association for Maximum Service Television (MSTV) and the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) have filed a joint motion for leave to intervene in support of the ARRL in its court appeal of the Federal Communications Commission's Broadband over Power Line (BPL) rules.

The motion to the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit is dated November 9 and states: "MSTV and NAB believe that the regulations under review are arbitrary, capricious, and contrary to law, and will adversely impact their members by, among other things, permitting unlicensed users of radio spectrum to interfere with licensed uses of the spectrum."

MSTV and NAB are entitled to intervene as a matter of right, so the Court is expected to grant the motion. As expected, some BPL proponents are seeking to intervene on the side of the FCC.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, welcomed the support of MSTV and NAB. "It is gratifying that these two prestigious broadcasting organizations recognize the danger posed to all FCC licensees by the FCC's flawed BPL rules. It's good to have them on our side."

MERCURY FROM WILDFIRES...

(from various Web pages)

In all the discussions about the amount of mercury humans are releasing into the environment by burning fossil fuels and performing other polluting activities, hardly anyone has noticed the news about other sources of mercury. Web reports indicate that as a result of climate change in Canada's northern woods, there are numerous wildfires there that have released 15 times the emission of mercury than previously recorded. Those emissions now exceed the amount of mercury emitted by all the U.S. coal-burning power plants. That amount is expected to double during the first part of this century.

Mercury has accumulated in the northern Canadian peat-lands over thousands of years from the effects of rain water and snow melt leaching mercury out of the land. The peat filters the mercury out of the water in a manner that was not previously known. Now as the climate changes and warms, more and more peat-lands

have dried out and become tinder for naturally ignited fires from sources such as lightning.

According to the United States Geological Service, climate change could double the group's current estimate that peat-burning forest fires release 341 tons per year across the world's northern forests. That compares with about 48 tons per year for all American power plants, and 1,000 tons a year from all natural sources in North America.

ITU MARKS 100 YEARS ...

(from *The ARRL Letter*, October 20, 2006)

This year marks the 100th anniversary of what became the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) <<http://www.itu.int/>> Radio Regulations, and the ITU will formally celebrate the occasion later this month.

<www.itu.int/ITU-R/information/promotion/100-years/>.

The first International Radiotelegraph Conference gathered 29 maritime states in Berlin, Germany, in November 1906 to sign the "International Radiotelegraph Convention," establishing the principle of compulsory two-way coast-to-ship radio communication and aimed at making it free from harmful interference. The annex to that convention contained the first regulations governing wireless telegraphy. Since expanded and revised by numerous radio conferences, these regulations now are known as the Radio Regulations of the International Telecommunication Union, or simply as "the Radio Regulations."

MARCONI'S 1901 TRANSATLANTIC SUCCESS...

(from *The ARRL Letter*, October 6, 2006)

A 160-meter beacon will take to the air this fall and winter from Cornwall, England, to explore how Guglielmo Marconi was able to span the Atlantic by wireless for the first time on December 12, 1901. Radio history says that's when the radio pioneer at a receiving station in Newfoundland successfully copied the Morse code letter "s" sent repeatedly by his team in the Cornwall town of Poldhu. The latter-day venture is a cooperative effort of the Poldhu Amateur Radio Club (PARK) in Cornwall and the Marconi Radio Club of Newfoundland (MCRN). The Poldhu club's Keith Matthew, G0WYS, said the 2001 centenary of Marconi's achievement reopened discussion into the mechanism by which the 1901 spark transmitter signal propagated.

The 1960 kHz beacon will use a two-minute transmit sequence starting at the top of the hour. It will consist of a CW identification followed by a series of carrier bursts, each reducing in power by 6 dB. An identification in PSK31 will follow. The transmit sequence will repeat at 15-minute intervals. ARRL member and radio history buff Bart Lee, KV6LEE, proposed the 160-meter experiment to test the feasibility of Marconi's 1901 claimed achievement. "Continuing cooperation between Canadian and British Amateur Radio operators can thus play a part in verification of one of the most interesting events in the history of our technology," Lee said.

AO-40 ATTITUDE CONTROL OPERATIONAL ...

(from *The ARRL Letter*)

The commissioning of the AO-40 satellite recently took another giant step forward as ground controllers reported success in testing the spacecraft's momentum wheel attitude control system. AO-40 controllers hope to use the momentum -- or "reaction"--wheel attitude control system to aim its antennas and, eventually, its solar panels. The testing paves the way for possible deployment of the solar array and better signals on the ground.

"We can say with some caution that we have a working three-axis control system!!!" enthused AMSAT-DL President and AO-40 team member Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, in a posting to the AMSAT bulletin board. Until now, AO-40's attitude has been under "spin control," and that remains an option. The three-axis control offered by the momentum wheels will mean much more positive attitude control from the ground anywhere in the satellite's orbit.

After preliminary tests, ground controllers Stacey Mills, W4SM, and James Miller, G3RUH, ran the momentum wheels up to more than 100 RPM August 16 and left them at that speed for about a half-hour. Telemetry before and after the spinup indicated the system was working properly. The momentum wheels are designed to run at a nominal operating speed of 1000 RPM.

"More tests will be done over the next few weeks, before we will transfer the spacecraft from spin stabilization into three-axis stabilization," Guelzow said.

Correct operation of the momentum wheels is considered essential to solar panel deployment. Ground controllers say the three-axis control system will be tested extensively before any decision is made to deploy AO-40's solar panels.

[With the solar panels in operation, AO-40 will have more power for the radio transmitters on the spacecraft.]

BIG TIME DX OPPORTUNITIES...

(from DX email news, including text from the OPDX reports by Tedd, KB8NW, and the 425 DX NEWS by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ and Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH)

Some interesting DX operations are coming in the near future. The first was to be the VU7RG activity, planned to take place on 1-10 December*. A large multi-national team of about 50 operators will be active from three operating sites, located on three different islands (Agatti, Bangaram and Kadmat). There will be three different QSL routes: the German DX Foundation (GDXF) for IARU Region 1, Bob Schenck (N200) for IARU Region 2 and the I-House Radio Club for IARU Region 3. Donations are being sought. Read the official press releases from NIAR in the News page at <http://www.vu7.in/>

The IARU affiliated Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI) has announced further details about the VU7LD activity from the Lakshadweep Islands [425DXN 804]. A team of about 25 Indian operators "who have a proven record of operating in pile up conditions" is being assembled, and operations will take place mainly from Karavatti Island for the entire month of December*. Initial plans are for eight stations to be QRV on all bands and modes. QSL via W3HNL. Please visit <http://www.arsi.info> for further information, official press releases and on-line logs, as well as to get the details on how to contribute. You can also e-mail vu7ldarsi@gmail.com.

An international team of twelve experienced operators lead by Hrane Milosevic, YT1AD, and co-lead by David Collingham, K3LP, will activate Swains Island, April 3-16th*, 2007, using the callsign N8S (November Eight Sugar). Hrane and David have been in direct contact with Larry Gandy, AH8LG, to gain a clear understanding of the island's requirements for permission to operate. The Swains Island permission to operate was confirmed via E-mail from Larry Gandy on October 23rd.

Their team has reached an agreement that meets the specified Swain Island requirements. The N8S DXpedition team includes: Hrane/YT1AD, David/K3LP, Krassimir/K1LZ, Kamal/N3KS, Doug/N6TQS, Eugene/RK3AD, Harry/RA3AUU, Vangelis/SV2BFN, Andrew/UA3AB, Roman/RZ3AA, Stevan/YZ7AA and Vel/YZ1BX.

The team will depart to Swains Island on the morning of Monday, April 2, 2007. The boat ride from American Samoa will take approximately 24 hours with the team arriving and setting up camps on Tuesday, April 3, 2007.

The operation will begin late Tuesday, April 3, 2007, and will end late Monday, April 16, 2007, providing 14 days of active operation. There will be a CW Camp, SSB Camp and Digital/6 Meter Camp each supplied with three ICOM radios, ACOM amplifiers and required antennas.

The team will depart Swains Island around noon on Tuesday, April 17, 2007, and arrive back in American Samoa on the morning of Wednesday, April 18, 2007. The QSL Manager and Web site information will be provided at a later date. At this time there is no plan for daily on-line logging. The logs will be posted on-line after April 27, 2007.

[* subject to weather delays, etc.]

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.

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

W8VM

