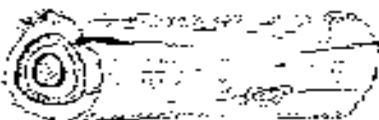


# WEST PARK RADIOPS



# LOG



FOUNDED 1947

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

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Dec. - Jan. 2008  
VOL. XLIII - NO. 1

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K8ME, N8CX

ARRL VE'S  
AF8C, N8CX, K8TTL

ARTICLES  
N8CX, W8PN, 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

Dec. 7 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

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

Dec. 21 - Program Night - CHRISTMAS COOKIES and CHRISTMAS CHEER

This evening's entertainment is brought to us by XYLs in the kitchen as well as local bakery or catering emporiums. Please don't bring any juice or pop that can stain the carpet (!) since we will most likely be in the library tonight.

Jan. 4 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

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

Jan. 18 - Program Night - ANTENNA TUNER CHECKUP/SHOOTOUT

Tonight's Program, although a repetition of one about 10 years ago, will update us to how well the latest technology antenna tuners match with balanced feeder output without losing balance on the higher bands. BYOT: Bring Your Own Tuner to test.

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## CONTESTS AND EVENTS

- de WA7BMN & ARRL

Dec 8-9	ARRL 10M CONTEST
Dec 15-16	INTERNATIONAL NAVAL TST
Dec 14-15	LAKWOOD FOOD DRIVE
Dec 16	Run for the Bacon QRP
Jan 1	ARRL STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT
Jan 5-6	ARRL RTTY ROUNDUP
Jan 5-6	ARRL KIDS DAY
Jan 12-13	NA QSO PARTY CW
Jan 19-21	ARRL VHF SWEEPSTAKES
Jan 19-20	NA QSO PARTY SSB
Jan 20	Run for the Bacon QRP
Jan 26-27	CQ 160M TEST CW

## SOAPBOX

Did we ever get going on the West Park 6 meter challenge? Did you get your antennas ready for the current contest season? How about the N8CX 2M simplex propagation test on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. (146.58)? Don't let the grass grow under your feet even in January!

This document was created using Open Office 2.2, and a PDF creator. Usage of Microsoft products was limited to as little as possible.

## Prez Says

Hi everyone,

Well, here we are in the midst of not only the contest season, but the holiday season as well. Too bad the weather outside isn't as joyous as well.

I hope everyone did well in the recent contests. Besides Sweepstakes, CQWW DX and the just-completed ARRL 160 meter, we have the ARRL 10 meter contest coming up this weekend. Don't forget, John, AC8E will be putting W8VM on the air this weekend for the 10 meter contest and has invited all West Park members to attend. Thanks John. Don't forget the ARRL Straight Key Night which begins New Years Eve at 7 p.m. and runs through New Years Day at 7 p.m. This is a really good time to be on the air, as hams bring out their antique and homebrew equipment. It's very interesting.

At this time I certainly want to wish everyone a very happy holiday season and the very, very best in the new year. West Park will have a full calendar of activities this year. I hope everyone can find time to participate.

So, that's it for now. As always, the very best of 73s to us urs, Al, N8CX

## PUBLIC SERVICE...

On November 17 West Park provided support to the Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. holiday food delivery in the embodiment of Don, W8IDM; Kevin, K8VUS; Glenn, AF8C; and XYL (of KA8YQL) Linda. There will be another delivery on December 14-15. In 2008 we can support amateur radio for the North Olmsted All Scouts weekend in June and Bay Village Scouting in October..

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

On the Club's net, 28450 kHz, we have recently discussed 6 meters, contest results, raking leaves, prices of gasoline, fixing dryer belts and bearings, how to solder to aluminum and stainless steel, microphone problems, the last of the 2007 praying mantids, TV antennas can be turned into amateur radio antennas, and programs that will or won't work in Windows XP(TM).

## NEWS BITS...

(from ARRL's *CONTESTER'S RATE SHEET* 14 NOVEMBER 2007 )

Ken K5KA, Sweepstakes Contest Manager, notes that QSO totals over 1500 were reached in the CW weekend for the first time in a while. He also notes, "Another highlight for me was when I found Bill, K4LTA CQing Sunday and worked him at 35 wpm or so. For those of you who do not know, Bill is sightless. So, if you want a real challenge, try doing SS CW (or any contest for that matter) with a blindfold. Thanks for getting on Bill." Food for thought!

Steve NN4X posted a link (<http://tinyurl.com/23hfh3>) to an interesting article on the movement of the Northern Magnetic Pole. It seems to be headed for Siberia and may actually be close to the geographical North Pole by 2020 or sooner! This will certainly affect the location of the auroral oval, possibly improving polar propagation from the western US and Canada to both East Asia and Europe. The South Magnetic Pole is also moving - also in a northerly direction, towards Australia. This link (<http://bbs.keyhole.com/ubb/showflat.php?Number=133295>) discusses both poles and has a very cool animated graphic showing the movement of the poles since the late 1500's.

If you think the rig-in-an-Altoid-tin radios are tiny, try this (<http://tinyurl.com/2v5xel>) on for, um, size! Don't sneeze - you'll lose the radio! (Thanks, George K5TR)

After experiencing RFI from compact florescent bulbs (CFB) installed on a dimmer-controlled circuit, Phil KB9CRY discovered that not all CFB's will work properly with a dimmer! He replaced the trouble-causing bulbs with dimmer-rated bulbs and the RFI disappeared.

And from the 28 November 2007 *CONTESTER'S RATE SHEET*

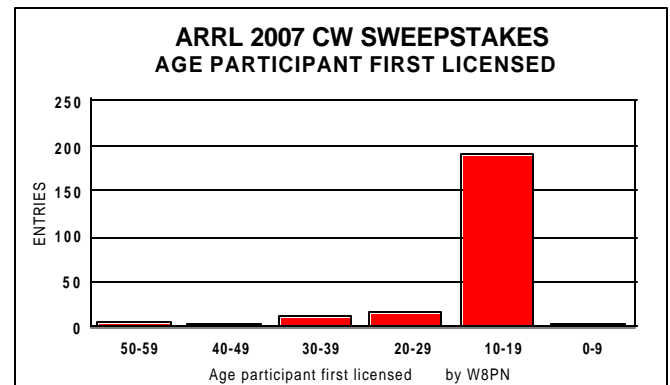
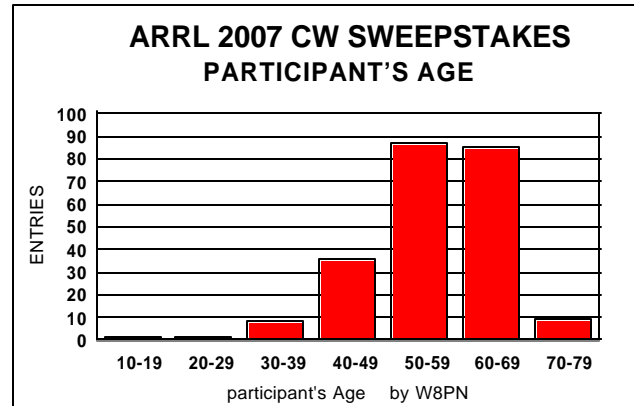
Larry F6FVY has written a very nice on-line <http://f6fvy.free.fr/qthLocator/fullScreen.php> coordinate finder that uses the Google maps interface. Click anywhere on the map to see lat/long and 6-character grid locator. Or enter the grid locator (2-, 4-, or 6-character) and go directly to a display of the appropriate map! (Thanks, Jim AD1C)

## PARTICIPANTS IN THE 2007 ARRL CW SWEEPSTAKES CONTEST

By Hal Braschwitz, W8PN

The ARRL Sweepstakes Contest is the oldest and most complicated of any amateur radio contest. The CW portion of this contest probably requires the most concentration and skill of any ham radio contest. The information exchanged allows obtaining an age profile of the entrant as well as the age at which they first received their amateur radio license. I did this for the people I worked in the recently past running of the cw portion of this contest. I was able to determine the information for 227 of the folks I contacted. I believe that this number gives a fair representation of the total universe of entries. Last year 1,326 hams entered this contest.

The ages ranged from 16 to 76. As a personal note I did not include myself in the sample. However, at age 79 I was probably on of the oldest participants. The average age was 57 and the average age at which the entrant was first licensed was 17. Notice the age ranges in Figures 1 and 2. This points out the fact that, as in many other endeavors, if one wants to excel at something one had better start early.



## WRC-07 WRAPS UP IN GENEVA

(from *The ARRL Letter* November 16, 2007 )

The final working session of the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07) in Geneva drew to a close Thursday afternoon, November 15. Per International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, the principal achievements and disappointments, as they relate to the Amateur Services, of the conference are:

### Achievements:

- \* Maintain all existing amateur allocations, including the 7.200-7.300 MHz allocation in ITU Region 2 (the Americas) that had been somewhat at risk in connection with consideration of additional allocations for HF broadcasting (see below).
- \* A new worldwide secondary allocation at 135.7-137.8 kHz with a maximum radiated power limit of 1 W e.i.r.p. (given the low efficiency of practical antennas for this frequency range, this limit is not as severe as it may sound).
- \* Inclusion of an item, "to consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415-526.5 kHz to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis, taking into account the need to protect existing services" on the provisional agenda for WRC-11 (set for 2011).
- \* Avoidance of future agenda items that pose serious threats to key amateur allocations.
- \* Some improvement in the so-called "country footnotes" that provide for different allocations by country in all or part of the 1.8, 3.5, 50 and 430 MHz amateur bands.

### Disappointments:

- \* No new allocation for the Amateur Service in the vicinity of 5 Mhz, and no agenda item to consider such an allocation at a future conference.
- \* No future agenda item to consider an amateur allocation at 50 MHz in ITU Region 1

## A Digital Television ...

by Don Pearson W8IDM November 16, 2007

February 17, 2009 is when our television stations stop broadcasting analog TV signals. This will affect TV viewers who get their signals over the air from the broadcasters. It will not affect TV viewers who subscribe to cable or satellite television.

The over-the-air viewers will no longer be able to receive signals on their analog TV sets and will have to purchase new equipment to receive digital television. They have the option of buying a digital-to-analog converter for their old sets or buying new digital TV sets. This will be a personal choice involving quality and appearance of the TV picture and the cost of new equipment. Digital converters are selling for \$200-\$300 while new 19 inch digital TV sets are available for under \$300. So the choice depends on how much they are attached to their present TV sets or whether they want a new large flat screen set.

Buying a new digital TV set involves a lot of research involving screen size, LCD or plasma display screens, cost and other choices that the viewer must make. We have a year to make up our minds.

[ Don has supplied a TV-buying flowchart which appears on page 5. ]

## Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Coupon Program...

The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has launched the Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Coupon Program (Coupon Program), as authorized in the Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005.

Starting January 1, 2008, all U.S. households will be eligible to request up to two coupons, worth \$40 each, to be used toward the purchase of up to two, digital-to-analog converter boxes. For more details on the federal regulations, go to

<http://www.ntia.doc.gov>

### Ways to Prepare:

Your TV tuner is:	You get your programming from:	You will need by Feb. 17, 2009:
Analog	Over-the-air	Digital-to-Analog converter box
Analog	Cable or satellite	Contact your Provider
Digital	Over-the-air	Nothing
Digital	Cable or satellite	Contact your Provider

### Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Coupon Program: **Fact Sheet for Consumers**

- \* The Coupon Program will receive coupon requests beginning January 1, 2008.
- \* Consumers will be able to apply for their coupons through a Web site, via a toll-free number, or by mail.
- \* Households will be able to apply for a maximum of two (2) coupons, each worth \$40. Coupons will be mailed to eligible households and will expire after 90 days of issuance.
- \* Coupons will be available on a first-come-first-serve basis to all U.S. households until \$890 million has been expended.
- \* If these initial funds are exhausted, an additional \$450 million will be made available to households that receive only over-the-air television service.
- \* Consumers may call toll free 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009) in English and Spanish for updates.
- \* Frequently Asked Questions and program brochure are online:

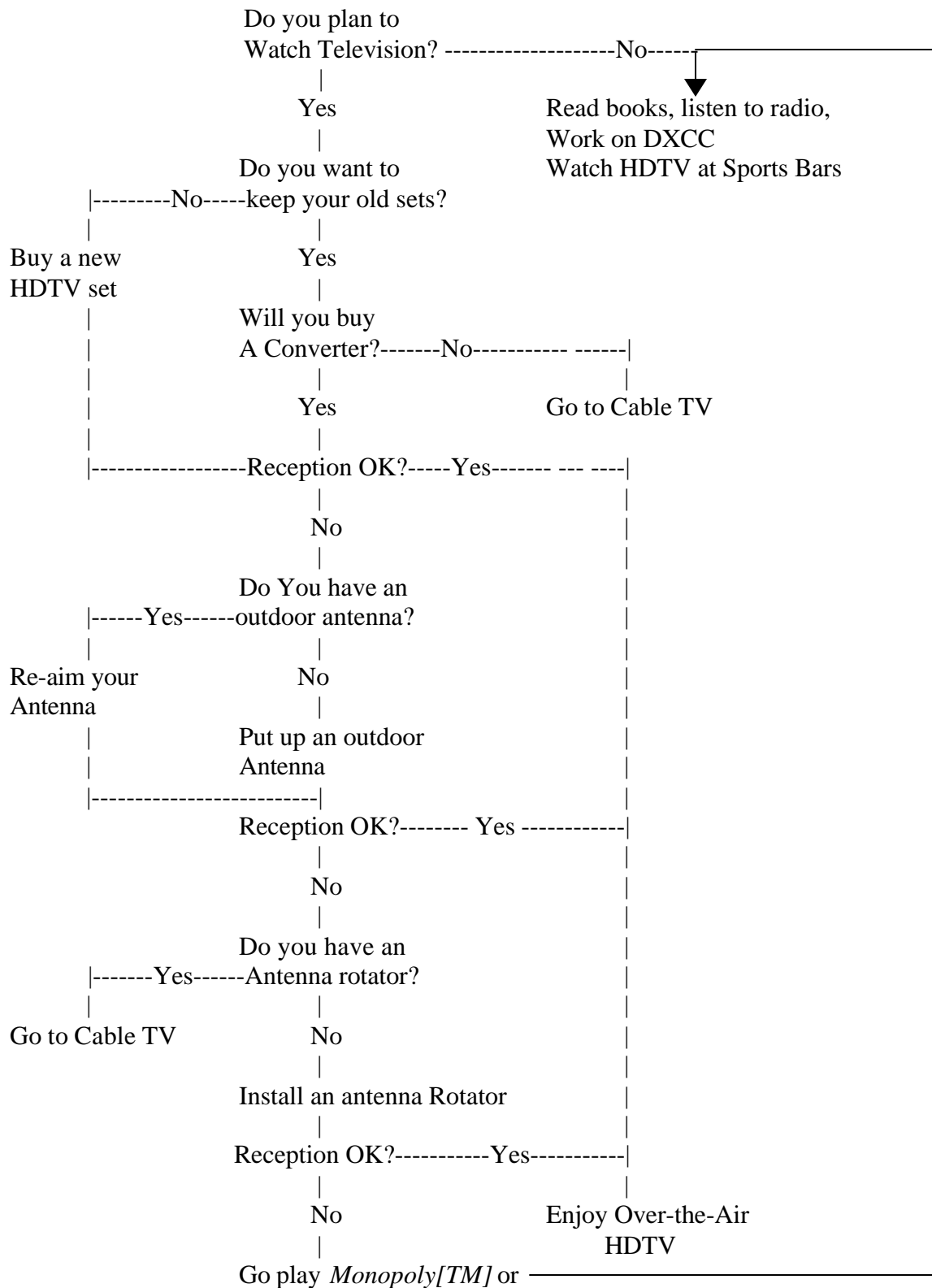
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/dtvcoupon/faq.html>

### **IF YOU HAVE TO BUY A NEW TV...**

I have some weekly exposure to a closed-circuit TV network in a two year old public building in which there are various sizes of TV panels in use (cathode ray tube televisions are GONE, GONE, GONE from the stores). Actually the best color rendition and resolution is on a 9-inch color cathode ray tube monitor. But for the flat panel TV's, I have observed some really poor resolution and color renditions in TV's allegedly designed for the new world of digital TV. So if you are ready to buy new stuff, first read Web pages on the various picture size formats and color definitions before buying a TV. (- de AF8C)

By Don Pearson W8IDM, November 16, 2007

On February 17, 2009, all the Analog TV stations will go off the air.



WEST PARK RADIOPS **LOG**  
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-- MAILING DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

