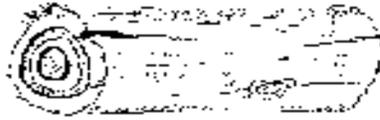




FOUNDED 1947

WEST PARK RADIOPS



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

LOG



Dec. 2008 – Jan. 2009
VOL. XLIV - NO. 1

2009 CLUB OFFICERS

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<u>Trustee</u>	
Alan Moriarty	N8CX
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COMMITTEES

FIELD EVENTS
W8IDM, W8PN

PUBLIC SERVICE
K8YQL

WAS & VUCC CHECKERS
K8ME, N8CX

ARRL VE'S
AF8C, N8CX, K8TTL

ARTICLES THIS TIME
K8ME, W8IO, K8MP

ANTENNAS
W8PN, W8IDM

CLUB AWARDS
W8IDM

CONTESTS, SATELLITES
W8IDM

DX
N8WS

8TH AREA BUREAU LETTER MGRS.
N8WS, AF8C

EDITOR, WEBMASTER
AF8C

LABELS & ROSTERS
N8CX

WEST PARK EVENTS *

*Subject to Change

Dec. 5 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

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

Dec. 19 - COOKIES, PUNCH, AND GOOD CHEER

You are challenged in "bet you can't eat just one" contest on our annual cookie night. Could we arrange for some truly awesome but low cost party eats?!

Jan. 2 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

Bring your questions or answers to the radio problems of the day/week/month. Settle your bets with your acquaintances now that you know who won the election.

Jan. 16 - SPECIAL PROGRAM – LEAD ACID BATTERY APPLICATION

Bob Plow, W8NNC, will tell us about "Lead Acid Batteries for Standby Applications", a topic which is becoming increasingly important given the state of our power grid during storms and other outages that we have seen in the last few years. Bob has considerable experience in this field from his days in working in a specialized industrial environment.

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Part 1

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Bus

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Part 2

Popular Amateur
Radio Software,
and Web Sites

CONTESTS AND EVENTS

- de WA7BNM & ARRL

Dec 5-7 ARRL 160M CONTEST
Dec 13-14 ARRL 10M CONTEST
Dec 22 RUN FOR THE BACON QRP
Dec 27-28 STEW PERRY 160M
Jan 1 ARRL STRAIGHT KEY NGHT
Jan 3-4 ARRL RTTY ROUNDUP
Jan 3 ARRL KIDS DAY
Jan 17-19 ARRL JAN VHF CONTEST
Jan 19 RUN FOR THE BACON QRP
Jan 22 NA QCC STRT KEY SPRINT
Jan 23-25 CQ 160M CW

SOAPBOX

The fall contest season will wind up very soon now. Popular contest programs in our club include NA, TR, Wintest, N3FJP, and even standard DX logging programs. Some folks use pencil and paper. West Park has been making some marks and getting awards this year. Whatever your favorite method, keep on plugging away for those QSOs.

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 Sezs

Well group, this will be my last Prez Sezs column. My two year term as president is over. I certainly want to tell everyone how much I have enjoyed being president and I want to thank everyone for their help and contributions to the club which have kept West Park at the very top. I look forward to the next few years with anticipation.

Our new officers for next year are: Egon, AB8HY, President – Bill, N8WS, Vice President – Kevin, K8VUS, Treasurer and Glenn, AF8C, Secretary. I will move to the traditional spot of Club Trustee.

Please give the new officers your support by attending meetings and participating in the many club activities.

as always,
 vy best 73s to u es urs,
 Al, N8CX

PUBLIC SERVICE...

The following club members participated in the Lakewood LCAC food deliveries on the weekend of Nov. 21-22: N8WS, N8CX, K8VUS, W8KH, and AF8C. Food deliveries for Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. occur again on Dec. 20 with bagging occurring on the Friday afternoon and evening before the event.

We anticipate helping with two scouting events in 2009: Bay Village some time in the spring and North Olmsted around the first or second Saturday in June.

RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON THE 10M NET...

On the Club's net, 28450 kHz, we have recently discussed the economic news of course, digital thermometers, putting 160m antennas at the tree tops, snow, contest scores, computer viruses, "spam", gift cards that will zero out after Christmas, what to buy for a new PC, charging batteries, starting or non-starting snow blowers, K8MMM is a SK, and how our equipment is always goofy after a contest. Join us Monday nights.

DIGGING UP DIRT DATA...

Hal, W8PN, has a project to investigate the conductivity characteristics of dirt from the yards of club members. Bring in a sample of your yard, enough to fill a large peanut butter jar.

OHIO SECTION NEWS...

(from recent issues of the *Ohio Section Journal*, de Section Manager, Joseph J. Phillips, K8QOE)

STEVE KATZ, N8WL, WILL HEAD OHIO'S PRB-1 EFFORT

Ohio's effort to write national PRB-1 type tower protection into state law will get a new project manager to organize the Ohio Section effort in the 2009 General Assembly. Ohio State Government Liaison, Nick Pittner, WB8TMF, has appointed Steve Katz, N8WL, of Granville as Project Manager. Steve has a strong record of service to the Ohio Section first in ARES, currently serving as District Emergency Coordinator for the 7th District, and in governmental oversight as Local Government Liaison for Licking County. Steve plans to continue his current ARES activities as well as heading the PRB-1 effort.

Complete details are found in the SGL Column on Page Six of the November issue of the Ohio Section Journal - Published versions of the OSJ are also on the Ohio Section Web Site – <http://www.arrlohio.org/> The PRB-1 bill has been known as Ohio House Bill 563 but it will be reintroduced in January now that Ohio voters elected a new Ohio General Assembly at November 4th election. At that time, the bill may get a new number.

15th Allan Severson Award Winner, Nancy Rabel Hall is Introduced at Ohio Section Conference

Nancy Rabel Hall, KC4IYD, has "an ever present enthusiasm which reflects the spirit of the late Al Severson" declared Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE. as he presented her with the certificate during the conference. The Severson award is the highest honor of the Ohio Section of the ARRL. It annually goes to the Ohio Section ham who exemplifies the spirit of the late Division Director -- as it is printed on the certificate -- whose devotion to serve amateur radio inspired a whole generation of Ohio Section leadership.

Dr. Strangekey or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Code...

(by Joe Papworth, K8MP, via Bob Allen, W8IO)

It was autumn, 1961, and I had just begun seventh grade at Bay Village (Ohio) Junior High School. Over the summer, several buddies and I had been bitten real hard by the radio bug. One guy had a small transistor radio that received short-wave broadcast frequencies. We'd listen with rapture to Radio Moscow, HCJB in Quito, HER3 in Berne, and others.

For my home listening pleasure, I had a Zenith AM broadcast-band receiver, with the famous "Wave-magnet" loop antenna. At night, I'd listen in bed and pick up stations like KMOX in St. Louis, WWL in New Orleans, and a station in Waterloo, Iowa whose call-sign escapes me right now. OK, enough background info. I think you get the picture.

Seventh grade was my first year with what we had previously called "The big kids." (aka Junior high schoolers). That meant extra-curricular activities like math club, football, chess club, and..."What's that?" "There's a *radio club*?" Wow, I was in fat city.

A local ham, K8JHZ, was the club's leader. Six-meter old timers may remember Art as Kilowatt-8-Jolly-Happy-Zombie or as his radio-buddies called him, "Gravel Art", because of his rough voice characteristics. Art really taught us. He drilled us with theory *and* the code.

I hated CW practice. It was hard and I was sure I'd never master the 5 words-per-minute to pass the Novice test. I can't remember if I voiced it or just thought it, but I distinctly remember wondering: "Why in the world would anyone ever want to you use Morse code on the radio when you can just talk?" But worse news was still to come.

After several weeks, our radio club got canned. It turned out there was a rule stating that club leaders had to be part of the school staff. One of the science teachers volunteered to take over, but it just wasn't the same. "Fat City" had shriveled up. Or had it?

Ol' Gravel Art came to the rescue by referring us to the West Park Radiops club. They were running a Novice and Tech class in the area. Most of the school clubbers joined that class and we all had our "tickets" by the following June. That's right, they taught us for several hours every Saturday for nearly the entire school year. It was a good thing too, because it took me that long to get my code speed above 5 wpm.

For the record, I can't remember a single thing they taught but boy do I remember the stories they told. There were stories about DXing, and lightning hits on towers, and being

able to hear your own signal after it went all the way around the globe. Those things lit up the imagination of a 13-year-old.

I still remember the day my license arrived in the mail. I wasn't home when the mail man came but I remember walking in the side door and reading in big letters on mom's black-board:

"CONGRATULATIONS WN8ETC !!!"

It took a few seconds to register. After all, the only Ham calls I had ever heard were those of my elmers (Art, K8JHZ, Steve, W8DIA, and Dick, K1RAW/8, (or "Numero Uno" as they call him in Ten-Ten International) and maybe a few calls at the Novice class.

Eventually it sank in...

That's a Ham call on that black board !!! In those days, you didn't know if you passed your test until the license arrived in the mail. That was an excruciating 8 to 10 weeks. But I now had my own call-sign !!!

The next step was to acquire a rig, a key, and get an antenna up. My dad bought me a Heathkit DX-40 from one of the local guys and a high-school-aged Ham (Steve, W8DIA) moved in across the street who lent me a 40-meter dipole. I can't remember where I got my first key from. Oh, I also needed a crystal for the 40-meter novice band. I bought one locally and was ready to go.

QSOs were short and infrequent at first. But after a while, I got the hang of things and began making friends on the air. I worked most of the guys who had crystals within 5 or 10 kHz of my crystal. There was also a sort of pecking order amongst us. Guys who had WN8XXX calls issued before mine were given special honor as "the experienced ones", while those whose calls followed mine were expected to pay their dues.

But we all stuck together, especially when do or die time came around, even though each of us had to face it individually. We each had a year to upgrade or die an agonizing radio death.

(OK, that's exaggerating a bit, but most folks who didn't upgrade to General during or soon after their one year sabbatical to Novice land, ended up permanently QRT, or worse yet, stuck in Ham radio purgatory as a life-time Tech)

A couple of us tried the General test a tad prematurely. We pretty much knew we weren't ready, but we wanted to know
(continued on page 5)

**Sign
up
now**



2009 Dayton Hamvention Bus Trip

CARS is again sponsoring a Bus trip to the Dayton Hamvention, the 2009 bus trip will take place on Saturday May 16.

The Bus trip will cost \$35.00 dollars per person, we need a minimum of 35 people to break even, the bus will be stopping for breakfast on the way down, with a brief stop on the way home for quick bite. You are responsible for your food and Hamvention ticket costs.

The bus will be leaving at 3:00 am from the Kmart parking lot at the intersection of Engle Road and Bagley Road, in Middleburg Heights, Ohio, Engle Road is a 1/4 mile west of I-71, which is the first intersection you come to, Kmart is behind the BP Gas station. Vehicles will be safe, there will be security to watch cars.

Bus tickets must be purchased and paid for in advance. If we do not sell 35 bus tickets by May 8, 2009 the bus will be cancelled and your money returned.

If you have any questions please bring them up at a cars meeting or contact me by email or phone: Dwaine 440-582-3462 or K8me@sbcglobal.net

**See you on the Bus
Dwaine ---K8ME**

Dr. Strangekey (continued)

what 13 words-per-minute sounded like. We took the test at the Cleveland Hamfest in the winter of 1962/63. I flunked the code miserably but heck, I still had several months of life as a Novice left, so I was OK. And I got to meet K8ETC at the hamfest, so that was cool.

By the way, in those days, if you flunked the code, you were done for the day. You only got a crack at the written exam if you passed the code test. Another bad thing was that the FCC only had permanent staff in a few cities. In Cleveland, they only came around quarterly, unless it was for a hamfest or other special event. And it was an intimidating thing when those Feds walked in for a testing session. When you're 13 or 14 and have been drilled and grilled about the FCC rules and regs, you kind of got nervous around those guys.

But I'm off track again. Just how did I learn to love the code? I don't know. I just did. I didn't have a choice. It was CW contacts or stay off the radio. The loving came with just doing it. If I had never been forced to learn and use the code, I would never have known what I was missing.

I finished up those last few months as a Novice and had a ball. I got to have eyeball QSOs with other teenage Hams in the area and we'd always compare notes about what far-off stations we had worked. When WN8DXB told me he had worked Hawaii, my mouth dropped open. (or was it Jim's brother Jerry, WN8DXA?). Either way, nobody can do that on 40 meters, or at least that's what I had thought.

Well, I finally passed the General test, even though it took me 3 more tries. Ironically, the code wasn't the problem. I was copying close to 20 wpm at the end of my Novice year, but I flunked the written test twice before finally passing. Boy that was a good feeling. But it only lasted until 1968. That's when something called "Incentive licensing" came along. That's another story for another time.

So what's the point to this writing? If you think you might like code, try it out. Not just a QSO a week or even one a day. Pretend you're stuck on CW like we were in the 60's. In a few months you won't know yourself. Your code speed will double or triple just by doing what's fun, which is being on the radio and making contacts.

One more thing that will enhance your CW experience is to do an Internet search for "Your Novice Accent" and read it. Some of the info is out-dated but most of it will be helpful. Forty-six years later, I still practice some of the things in that article.

POPULAR AMATEUR RADIO CONTESTING SOFTWARE...

Windows contest program
<http://www.nlmm.com/>

Contest contestants scores in real time on Internet!!
<http://www.contesting.com/articles/739>

Windows contest program
<http://www.win-test.com/>

County Hunter program
<http://members.surfsouth.com/~jhardy/1010ch.htm>

10-10 Logging program
<http://members.surfsouth.com/~jhardy/1010con.htm>
<http://members.surfsouth.com/~jhardy/1010sb.htm>

Software for all of amateur radio:
<http://www.ac6v.com/software.htm>

AC6V Big Index
<http://ac6v.com/>

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW...

Fractal Antennas:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fractal_antenna

Part 97 Rules
<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/news/part97/>

Measuring Ground Resistance
<http://www.kilowattclassroom.com/Archive/GndTestArticle.pdf>

Soil Resistance:
<http://www.smeter.net/grounds/earth-electrode-resistance.php>

Are there any good amateur radio blogs?
<http://ham-blogs.net/na/usa/>

K3LR's pages
<http://www.k3lr.com/>

Solar Activity Report
<http://www.dxlc.com/solar/>

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

