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WEST PARK RADIOPS



LOG



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Dec. 2012 - Jan. 2013
VOL. XLVIII - No. 1

Our Nets 147.36 Mondays 9 p.m. local

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FIELD EVENTS
W8IDM, W8PN

PUBLIC SERVICE
open

WAS & VUCC CHECKERS
K8ME, N8CX

ARRL VE'S
AF8C, N8CX, K8TTL, N8WB, W8MET

ARTICLES THIS TIME
N8CX, W8PN

ANTENNAS
W8PN, W8IDM

CLUB AWARDS
W8IDM

CONTESTS, SATELLITES
W8IDM

DX
N8WS

8TH AREA BUREAU LETTER MGRS.
N8WS (T) & (W), AF8C (V)

EDITOR, WEBMASTER
AF8C

LABELS
N8CX

WEST PARK EVENTS *

* Subject to Change

Dec. 7 - BUSINESS MEETING/ ELECTIONS / FIXIT NIGHT

Bring your questions or answers to the radio problems of the day/week/month. This is the official election night. Per our latest nominations in November, Stephen N8WB is running for president and Al, N8CX will replace Don, W8IDM for V.P.

Dec. 21 - ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIES AND CHEER EVENT

Bring cookies or cheese or pop or anything equally equipped and non-alcoholic to enhance the Christmas cheer in this season of the year.

Jan. 4 - BUSINESS MEETING/ FIXIT NIGHT

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

Jan. 18 - PROGRAM NIGHT - PIC KITS AND BLINKING LIGHTS

Tonight's program will be a presentation by Al, N8CX, on the techniques for building "PIC" kits and programming the PIC microprocessor to do useful functions in your shack.

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CONTESTS AND EVENTS

- de WA7BNM & ARRL

Dec 8-9	ARRL 10M CONTEST
Dec 15	OK DX RTTY CONTEST
Dec 22-1	LIGHTHOUSE QSO PARTY
Dec 29-30	STEW PERRY 160M
Jan 1	ARRL STRAIGHT KEY NITE
Jan 5-6	ARRL RTTY ROUNDUP
Jan 12-13	NA QSO PARTY CW
Jan 19-20	NA QSO PARTY SSB
Jan 25-27	CQ 160M CONTEST CW

SOAPBOX

There's lots of contests and DX in the winter. Enjoy the fun and practice your CW for Field Day.

Has Pearson's Law failed us? The FCC has several new actions and NPRMs at the peak of the sunspot cycle, not in the valley. Read these pages!

Our Monday night nets have moved to the 147.36 repeater. Listen or check in. Join the fun.

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Prez Sez...

Hi all,

Well, I have reached the end of my two-year stint as your president. I must say that even in previous years, I have enjoyed the position immensely. We have accomplished some things and participated in many outdoor operating and public service events. I sincerely hope that everyone has had as much fun as I have. Our next president, Stephen, N8WB, will continue to lead the club forward and I, as well as the other members of West Park, wish him the best and will support him in any way we can.

So, the very best 73s to everyone and I am looking forward to 2013 and all the good things the new year holds.

Al, N8CX

WEST PARK PUBLIC SERVICE...

The Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. ran their first fall delivery on November 17. West Park members arrived and helped deliver food to Lakewood seniors: Al, N8CX, Kevin, K8VUS, Ken W8KH, and Glenn, AF8C. LCAC will have their next charity food delivery events on December 15. As an ARRL Special Service Club, our members assist this activity every year. More members helping would be welcome.

RECENT NETS & TALK...

For the Club's nets, we have switched over to only operating on 2m on 147.36+. Many interesting discussions have been summarized in our almost weekly net reports. Now you don't have to have an HF rig and antenna to be in our nets.

PEARSON'S LAW FAILS...

The FCC has no less than four outstanding NPRMs for the amateur bands at this time.

ARRL VETERANS APPRECIATION ...

(11/08/12 The ARRL Letter)

The ARRL would like to take this opportunity to thank our service veterans. Whether they served on active duty or reserve, during peacetime or time of conflict, they served their country with honor. We also would be remiss if we did not remember the families of those veterans who kept the home fires burning bright; without their love and support, our veterans would have indeed been alone.

ARRL Headquarters has its share of service veterans: Assistant VEC Manager Perry Green, WY1O (Army); Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR (Army); News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA (Coast Guard); Instruction and Resource Coordinator Nathan McCray, K9CPO (Navy); DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L (Army); Reprints Specialist Tony Nesta, AA1RZ (Navy); Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N (Navy); Technical Relations Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA (Army); Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG (Air Force), and Education & Technology Program Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME (Air Force).

Thank you for your service -- your sacrifice and the sacrifice of your fellow service members is not forgotten.

FIELD DAY CRITIQUE by W8PN...

West Park's Field Day operation this year was our first portable field activity since we left the Columbia Station site after 2005. In 2005 we placed second nationally in the 2A Battery Class. After 2005 we no longer had access to the Columbia Station site and we operated from fixed locations until this year's Field Day.

This year we had access to N8WS's location in Wakeman, Ohio and attempted a portable operation for the first time in seven years. During that seven year period differing attitudes developed over how a club Field Day should be run. One school of thought was that which was employed during our last ten years at the Columbia Station location. It was, that we had picked our niche classification of 2A Battery and attempted to maximize our score in that category. We were reasonably successful in that attempt because during that period we were always competitive nationally, attaining a second place nationally in 2005. To accomplish a competitive score nationally in that classification required running five watts and doing it all on CW. Our being a small general purpose club made obtaining competent CW Field Day operators a continuing challenge. We did have some success in "growing our own" CW operators. The five watt limitation made improving our antenna stable imperative. We did develop our two element phased array for forty meters which performed well. We also struggled to erect a triband beam up at forty feet to improve our signal into Texas and California. We also had an effective 80 meter inverted-vee antenna which performed well on that band. We did keep a running tally on our contacts as the contest progressed so everyone knew where we stood compared to previous years and potentially the competition.

Another school of thought also developed that Field Day was not a contest and that any and all should be allowed and even encouraged to operate regardless of experience or ability with no thought given to the score attained. It should be a "fun" event, something like a picnic. A time to test novelty antennas, develop muscles erecting towers, play with computer contest programs, operate VHF, get some fresh air, etc. This was pretty much the philosophy that was in play for our 2012 Field Day endeavor. With this attitude it was decided, that because of the influx of operators, we could easily run three stations simultaneously for 24

hours and throw in a VHF station to boot. The result was that the first transmitter got on the air one and one half hours after the start of the contest, The second transmitter got on the air three hours after the start of the contest and the third transmitter never made it to the starting line. The VHF transmitter made 48 points in 24 hours. Traditionally, the first hour of an activity such as Field Day is your most productive. Obviously, no one was interested in a score even though 24 hours is allowed for set up and preparation.

Operator inexperience was evident in a number of areas. The first was that the logging software did not include the club call, W8VM, in several instances. Rather than let the logging software take over the chore of sending CW, several operators were sending manually. Also one of the pieces of information in the message received was the ARRL section. A number of errors were detected in the logging of the received section. Some of the operators were not aware of the standard section abbreviations. Some operator orientation would be helpful in this area prior to the performance of Field Day. Some of the errors observed were "ak" is not Arkansas, "sd" is not San Diego, there is no "Eastern Florida Section", a "J5" is probably not in Arizona and finally a W1 operating portable 4 is probably not in Western PA. The second piece of information in the received message was the Field Day Class. Errors here are harder to see but one example was that we worked W3AO four times. For three contacts the class was 27A and in the fourth it was 3A.

The concept that Field Day is not a contest is certainly a delusion. It is probably the "Mother" of all contests. It is performed under portable conditions with limited set up time. It is also a test of the club's preparation and ability against all of the other ham clubs and groups in the country. The score is an indication of the club's performance. By not concerning ourselves with the score is in effect degrading the reputation of the club. In football parlance, we look at Field Day as the first preseason game when in fact it is the Super Bowl game.

A suggestion would be to hold a pre-Field Day. This would serve a number of purposes. It would be a shake down of the equipment, test, if necessary of antennas, provide operator orientation, satisfy need to operate VHF, and be a picnic and "fun" however that may be defined. It would also test the organization and management of the Field Day operation.

FCC ACTIONS FOR AMATEUR RADIO...

(from various releases of The ARRL Letter)

The FCC is proposing to modify rules to grant examination credit for expired and beyond-the-grace-period-for-renewal Amateur Radio operator licenses; to shorten the grace period during which an expired amateur license may be renewed; to revise the time a call sign is not available to the vanity call sign system correspondingly, and to reduce the number of volunteer examiners needed to administer an amateur license examination. The FCC asks for comment on amending the rules to permit remote test administration, and proposes to amend the rules to allow amateur stations to transmit certain additional emission types.

11/21/2012

On Tuesday, November 20, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ET Docket No. 12-338) that proposes to amend Parts 1, 2, 74, 78, 87, 90 and 97 of the Commission's rules.

The FCC is requesting comments on three parts: changing the allocation to the amateur portion of the 160 meter band, allocating a new Amateur Service band at 135.7-137.8 kHz and cleaning up the rules for the 10.0-10.5 GHz band.

The FCC is proposing to change the Amateur Radio Service allocation to the 160 meter band (1800-2000 kHz), reallocating the 1900-2000 kHz segment to the Amateur Radio Service on a primary basis. The FCC is proposing to amend the US Table of Allocations and remove the federal and non-federal Radiolocation Service allocations from the 1900-2000 kHz band and the raise the secondary Amateur Radio Service allocation to primary status.

The FCC is seeking comments on whether 135.7-137.8 kHz band should be allocated to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis in accordance with RR 5.67A.

The FCC proposes to amend the Federal Table by revising the "10-10.45" GHz band and revise rules by adding the existing Amateur-Satellite Service allocation to the list of permitted non-federal services in the 10-10.5 GHz band and combine the rules which require that non-federal stations in the Radiolocation Service not cause harmful interference to the Amateur Service in the 10-10.5 GHz band and not cause harmful interference to the Amateur-Satellite Service in the 10.45-10.5 GHz sub-band, respectively).

The FCC proposes to revise Section 97.505 to require that Volunteer Examiners (VEs) give examination credit to an applicant who can demonstrate that he or she formerly held a particular class of license. In addition, the Commission seeks to shorten the grace period during which an expired amateur license may be renewed and to reduce the number of VEs needed to administer an amateur license examination.

The FCC is seeking to amend the Amateur Service rules to allow amateur stations to transmit additional emission types in order to permit Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) in the Amateur Service; however, it denied the League's request for a blanket waiver pending the resolution of the rulemaking proceeding. The FCC pointed out that one of the purposes of the Amateur Service is to contribute to the advancement of the radio art: "Allowing amateur stations to use communication technologies that are used in other radio services, such as TDMA technologies, allows Amateur Service licensees to experiment with and improve these technologies and, therefore, is consistent with the basis and purpose of the Amateur Service. For this reason, we agree with the ARRL that the current rules allowing the use of multiple time-slot TDMA repeaters, but not permitting amateur stations to transmit single-slot TDMA emissions, may be unnecessarily impeding Amateur Radio operators in advancing the radio art."

POSTAL RATES GO UP AGAIN...

(in The ARRL Letter and The Daily DX)

The US Postal Service has announced that as of January 27, 2013, the cost to mail First Class letters, postcards and packages within the US will go up. The cost to mail a first class letter will be 46 cents, while the cost to mail a postcard will be 33 cents, an increase of 1 cent for each. This is the third increase for postcard postage in less than two years; in April 2011, the USPS boosted the postcard stamp price from 28 cents to 29 cents, and from 29 cents to 32 cents in January 2012. The USPS will also introduce a First Class Mail Global Forever Stamp in January. This new stamp will allow customers to mail 1-ounce letters anywhere in the world for one set price of \$1.10. The cost to mail flat-rate Priority Mail packages and letters will also increase.

As of January 27, 2013, the USPS wants to stop selling International Reply Coupons (IRCs). If approved and the US no longer sells IRCs, post offices in the US must continue to redeem them for those patrons who use them, per United Postal Union regulations.

Per the Universal Postal Union (UPU) regulations, the USPS must continue to exchange and redeem IRCs that have been purchased in foreign countries and presented at USPS facilities.

IRCs provide foreign addressees with a prepaid means of responding to inquiries, solicitations or other types of communications – such as QSL cards -- that are initiated by US senders. IRCs are exchangeable for postage stamps by postal administrations in member countries of the UPU. Each IRC is equivalent in value to the destination country's minimum postage price for an unregistered airmail letter.

HMS BOUNTY AND AMATEUR LOST AT SEA...

Every DXer knows the story of the HMS Bounty and Pitcairn Island, VP6: In 1789, the HMS Bounty -- a small three-masted sailing vessel sent by Britain's Royal Navy to the Pacific on a supply expedition -- was roiled by tension between its crew and its captain, William Bligh. After landing in Tahiti and taking on a cargo of breadfruit, the Bounty set sail for the West Indies; it never reached that destination. Instead, Master's Mate Fletcher Christian led the men in a

mutiny, eventually allowing Bligh and his loyalists to sail off in a longboat. Christian and his followers ended up on Pitcairn Island where they burned the Bounty and settled on the island. Passing ships did not discover the enclave until after the turn of the century.

On Monday, October 29, during Hurricane Sandy, a replica of the HMS Bounty -- built in 1960 for the 1962 film Mutiny on the Bounty -- sank off the coast of North Carolina. The vessel left Connecticut on Thursday, October 25 with a crew of 11 men and five women, ranging in age from 20-66.

Of its 16 crew members, 14 were rescued by the US Coast Guard. Bounty Captain Robin Walbridge, KD4OHZ, never made it to one of the two deployed life rafts and is presumed dead. Claudene Christian, who claimed to be a direct descendent of Fletcher Christian, was unresponsive and passed away at a North Carolina hospital on Monday evening.

Doug Faunt, N6TQS, was one of the 14 who was rescued by the Coast Guard; Faunt served as a deckhand and was also the ship's electrician. A noted DXer and ARRL Life Member, he was part of the FO0AAA DXpedition crew in 2000 to Clipperton Island. He was also a member of the VP6DIA DXpedition to Ducie Island, and in 2007, he was part of the DXpedition to Lakshadweep.

According to Spud Roscoe, VE1BC, Faunt had satellite communications equipment and Winlink capabilities on board the Bounty, but he was not the ship's radio officer. (Roscoe was the radio officer on the replica Bounty for its original voyage to France in 1962.) Faunt told the ARRL that the Bounty crew tried various methods, including a satellite phone, to call for help, "but we got nothing when we tried calling out on HF. We tried Maritime Mobile Net, but nothing was out there. We had Winlink on the ship that we used for accessing the Internet and we finally found an e-mail address for the Coast Guard. As a last-ditch effort, we used Winlink to e-mail the Coast Guard for help. [Soon] we heard a C-130 plane, and later, a helicopter overhead." According to Faunt, it was Walbridge, as master of the ship, who sent out the distress messages.

After being treated at a hospital in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, Fount arrived back home October 31. "I'm looking for a new boat to sail and a DXpedition to go on," Faunt told the ARRL. "Ham radio got me into my position on the Bounty, and ham radio got me out alive!" (per The ARRL Letter)

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.
We operate Monday night nets on 147.36 MHz Mondays at 9:00 p.m. local time.

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W8VM

