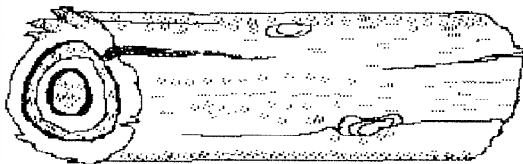




# WEST PARK RADIOPS



# LOG



Web: <http://members.core.com/~af8c/westpark/>  
Email: [w8vm-<at>-arrl.net](mailto:w8vm-<at>-arrl.net)



FEB. – MAR. 2004  
VOL. XXXIX - NO. 2

## 2003 CLUB OFFICERS

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## COMMITTEES

FIELD EVENTS	- W8IDM, K8AB, N8WS
PUBLIC SERVICE	- KA8YQL
WAS & VUCC CHECKERS	- K8ME, N8CX
ARRL VE'S	- AF8C, N8CX, K8TTL
ARTICLES	- K8AB
ANTENNAS	- W8PN, W8IDM, W8IMF
CLUB AWARDS	- W8IDM
CONTESTS	- W8IDM
DX	- W8IMF
EDITOR, WEBMASTER	- AF8C
LABELS & ROSTER	- N8CX

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Page 2:

The President's Forum  
Our Ham News  
Public Service  
Spectrum Protection Act

### Page 3:

Internet War  
CT10 Announced  
FCC Notices for Part 97  
For Sale

### Page 4:

AO-40 SK ?  
Antenna Rules of Thumb

### Page 5:

100 Yrs. Old & Operates FB  
7 Yrs. Old with Extra Fun

## SOAPBOX

It is already time to start planning for Field Day. Ask not what your Field Day chairperson can do for you, but ask what you can do to help on Field Day. Let's plan for how to deal with this year's propagation.

## CONTESTS AND EVENTS

De WA7BNM Contest List

Feb. 7-8	10-10 Intern. Winter SSB
Feb. 8	North Am. Sprint SSB
Feb. 9-14	ARRL School Club Roundup
Feb. 14-15	CQ WW RTTY WPX
Feb. 14	FISTS Winter Sprint
Feb. 15	QRP ARCI Winter Fireside SSB
Feb. 21-22	ARRL Intern. DX CW
Feb. 28-29	CQ 160M SSB
Mar. 6-7	ARRL Intern. DX SSB
Mar. 14	North Am. Sprint RTTY
Mar. 20-21	Russian DX Contest
Mar. 20-22	BARTG Spring RTTY
Mar. 27-28	CQ WW WPX SSB

## WEST PARK EVENTS \*

### Feb. 6 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

Meet in the usual place. Bring your questions or answers to the hot problems of the day/week/month. Field Day Planning must start!

### Feb. 13 - PROGRAM NIGHT -- BUREAU MGR. VISITS

Our local 8<sup>th</sup> Area Incoming QSL Bureau Letter Manager will be supplying another installment on how to QSL "via the Buro" both for outgoing and incoming cards. N8WS to present.

### Mar. 5 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

Meet in the usual place. Bring your questions or answers to the hot problems of the day/week/month. Remember Field Day is right around the corner!

### Mar. 19 - PROGRAM NIGHT -- THE FCC AND HDTV

Your TVs and VCRs will be obsolete in three years, so obsolete that they will have to be replaced, even if they are brand new today. Why? The FCC's mandate for television to go all digital by 2007 is going to strike like a hammer on a thumb. Find out all about it tonight. W8IDM to present.

**\*THE PRESIDENTS FORUM\***

GreetingS to members and readers. As your new president I would like to invite each member with thoughts about our clubs activities, kudos, gripes, or suggestions, speak to any of the officers privately to give your view point. I realize each member is an individual with his or her own priority of importance to Amateur Radio and likewise their own skills and preferences when operating. These preferences preclude meetings and activities that please everyone all the time but we will try.

There are exciting new modes and bands you may not have tried. Put a spark in you operation by trying something different from your usual operating. I have just made my first contacts on the 60 M. band and it is a challenge. Although my first contact was WA, I cannot copy many stations in the Midwest and Northeast. Static is loud and QSB and echo are common, yet some have worked WAS and DX to EU. Remember 60 M. is only USB and 50 Watts ERP. Find a niche, join in and rekindle the excitement you had on your first QSO. I leave you with this thought.

*The company of those seeking the truth is infinitely to be preferred to that of those who think they've found it already. (Author Unknown)*

73 Dick K8AB

**PUBLIC SERVICE...**

West Park members Dave, KA8YQL, and Linda; and also Glenn AF8C all assisted the Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation in their Christmas Food Basket Drive on December 19, 2003.

**A NOTE FROM:**

Heinz Wimmer, KC8F

"On 14 January I mailed in the license renewal form the ARRL had sent me. On 26 January the renewed license from the FCC arrived. Less than 2 weeks duration for this process is satisfactory to me."

**GEORGE HINDS, SK...**

Some of the club members will remember that this newsletter was for a time edited by George Hinds, N8CIX. We were sorry to learn recently that George became a Silent Key on January 2, 2004. George had retired to the wide open spaces of Colorado some years ago. George was also a kingpin in the creation of the LEARA repeater club.

**RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON 10M NET...**

The Club's 10 Meter Net is still going strong on Monday nights, 10 p.m. local, on 28450 kHz. Themes of discussion that never go away: Contesting, How To Be Rid Of Mice, Gardening (Bill grows huge asparagus every spring), What's On 6 Meters. Recent discussions have included: Counting The Segments In Various Citrus Fruit, Why Does A Computer Monitor Cause A Buzz In The Receiver, Mars Rocks For Sale On Ebay, Tektites From Space, Fox Squirrels, Cats, The Trials Of Cabrillo And ADIF, Computer Batteries, Solar Flux, QRP Boards And Who Has The Most QRP Contacts, DXCC Without Really Trying, Ants, Fake Lady Bugs, Gas Treatment, Furnace Shopping, Linear Testing, Pop Goes The Microphone, How Antennas Stand Up, How Antennas Fall Down...

**TO ALL GREAT LAKES DIVISION ARRL AFFILIATED CLUBS Subject: A CALL FOR ACTION**

December 9, 2003 Is your amateur radio club looking for a meeting program that will be more beneficial to amateur radio than anything else you can do? The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act, known as House Bill HR 713 and Senate Bill S 537, is legislation now being considered and we can do more to help amateur radio than anything we have done in the past. Our very existence is at stake! Many members of Congress will not consider co-sponsorship of comparatively small, technical bills like HR 713/ S 537 without concrete evidence of support from their own constituents. So if you'd like to help Amateur Radio make a statement on The Hill. Consider getting together with your members at an upcoming special meeting of your club to send a letter, or even a QSL Card to your legislators. Yes, I said Special Meeting, because time is running short! There is no better time than now to get this done. I would suggest making this a part of your ... Meetings. It takes very little time if you prepare in advance by having addresses ready for your members to use. ... Another thought for a meeting that will help is to invite your legislator to attend your club meeting and ask for their support as a co-sponsor. To those of you that have legislators that are co-sponsors, take a moment to send them a note to thank them for their support. It is the numbers that count and will make a difference. The more mail the better. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JPB testified on Capitol Hill, this summer, on the importance of this bill to protect amateur radio. Please heed this call for action and get our members mobilized to protect our valuable spectrum. Nothing is more important at this time. While your at it you may want to remind everyone of the importance of ARRL Membership and support of the Spectrum Defense Fund. We need your help. 73, Dick Mondro, W8FQT Vice Director, ARRL Great Lakes Division

## INTERNET WAR...

VISA, MASTERCARD, PAYPAL, MICROSOFT, and on and on. Some of you may have gotten email from some big name company (or so it seems) telling you about a security hazard or broken password or expiring account, etc. In order to do what the email says, you have to click on a link from your email account and fill out a form, or download something. **DON'T DO IT.** Always start over (get OUT of email entirely) and use your Browser to contact the REAL company and see if the story still makes sense.

I used that scary title up there because I heard on public radio an opinion that certain parties are through with just messing around with Spam and now starting to plan big time attacks.

Just today I read a new message that says that one of the latest Internet worms was attempting to attack Microsoft Corp. (or maybe SCO) with Denial Of Service attacks. Those attacks start from peoples compromised PCs, because the person clicked on a link that opened up a worm, etc. (SCO is a company that is trying to sue Linux out of existence. There are rumors that Microsoft could be sympathetic to the cause of wiping out Linux.)

There are allegedly some telephone cold-callers out there with warning messages about "your account" and telling you that you should tell them your card number or Social Security number. Well, this is just a telephone company version of playing the non-Internet spam game. I even heard that VISA card owners were getting phone calls trying to trick card owners into "only" giving out the secret 3-digit number printed on the back of the card. Don't fall for that one. Urbanlegends.com says it's a hoax. But don't do it anyway!

## K1EA Announces CT Version 10...

from Ken Wolff, K1EA

Website: <http://www.k1ea.com> on January 4, 2004

I have released CT10 placed it on [www.k1ea.com](http://www.k1ea.com)

Release 10.0 - 1 Jan 2004

This is a major release because the binary format of the .bin files has changed. The record now has an extra 14 bytes of name information for contests such as NAQP and NA Sprint. The version 9 record size was 50 bytes per QSO, the version 10 record size is 64 bytes. NAQP is now supported. NA Sprint is now supported. There are two new conversion utilities - 9TO10 and 10TO9 The windows versions of these programs are packaged with CTWin and can be found in C:\Program Files\K1EA Software\CtWin. The DOS versions have the same names and can be found in CT10\_00.ZIP

If you convert a version 10 NAQP or NASprint log to 9, you will lose all the name information in the log. Otherwise, you should be able to convert freely between 9 and 10.

Clearly, I have not been able to test the thousands of combinations of contests, categories, modes, bands, radios with and without networking. If you find a bug, please verify that it does or does not work in version 9. Bugs still outstanding in 9 will be fixed in 10 only.

## FCC PART 97 CHANGES PROPOSED...

(via email from Henry Schuett , K3LOW)

- Limit Transmissions of Information Bulletins
- Implement the WARC 1997 Acts
- Amendment to Provide Color-coded License Documents
- Allow Instant Temporary Licensing
- Limit Oneway Voice Broadcasting in Amateur Service
- Curb Certain Abuses in the Amateur Radio Service
- Establish Two Classifications of Information Bulletins
- Authorize Image Emissions in Additional HF Segments

\*Check the FCC at [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov) for updates on these actions and if there are any comment periods.\*

## FOR SALE...

Great Starters or use on Packet Radio,  
All Computers have Windows "98"

IBM PERSONAL COMPUTER

350 - 167 MHz., 640kb memory, 384mg Ram

15" \* & 17" Monitors, Keyboards, Mice

One Laser Compact XT, with Kraft Monitor -DOS Only

Okidata Microline 184 Turbo Printer

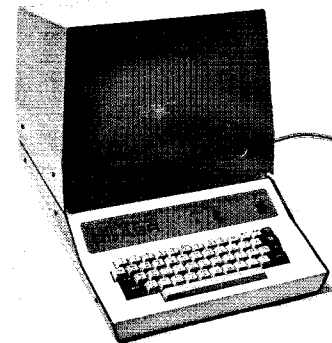
NEC Pinwriter P-3200 Printer

If interested and further info call (Larry)-W8DNH at  
330-273-1031

## MORE...

HAL DS-3100ASR unit for sale.

If interested and further info call Dwaine, K8ME, at  
440-582-3462



**AO-40 SK? ...**

(adapted from news on the ARRL Web)

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 28, 2004--Ground controllers for the AO-40 satellite still are trying to figure out just what happened aboard the spacecraft earlier this week to cause a significant drop in the bus voltage. For now, the satellite has gone silent--initially as an automatic response to a precipitous voltage drop from around 26 volts down to 18 volts early on January 27 (UTC). AO-40 controllers are fairly certain that one or more shorted battery cells are at the root of the problem. Efforts to restart the satellite's 2.4-GHz downlink transmitter so far have been unsuccessful.

"Our current best understanding is that we suffered a catastrophic failure of the main battery, which is clamping the bus voltage at a low level," Stacey Mills, W4SM, of the AO-40 command team said in a posting on the AMSAT-DL Web site. "Accordingly, we have been concentrating our efforts on trying to connect the auxiliary battery to the main bus and disconnect the main battery, placing it on trickle charge for further analysis."

The AO-40 ground team is sending blind commands to the spacecraft to activate its onboard computerized control system in order to switch in the auxiliary battery bank, which was tied to the main battery bank after a bus voltage drop January 26. Getting the S-band (2.4 GHz) transmitter to restart at low voltage is a long shot, however, since--as Mills pointed out in an AMSAT bulletin board posting--it was never designed to run below 20 volts.

"We are seeing if the K-Tx [2.4-GHz transmitter] will respond at these voltages," he said. Mills believes the command team can activate the onboard computer even with the bus voltage as low as 10 volts, however. "As a safety measure, each command session ends with commands to shut off all of the transmitters, since we would not want to leave them on line at these low voltages," he added.

Mills said that while ground controllers don't claim to fully understand what happened aboard AO-40, operator practices were not to blame.

"AO-40 was designed to withstand all that you can throw at it," he said. "Although there was a lot of passband activity on Sunday--and under really marginal conditions heavy usage could put us transiently in a negative power budget--it is now clear that it was the failing of another cell on the main battery that caused the passband shutdown at that time."

Mills explained that the main AO-40 batteries consist of 20 40-Ah cells arranged on three of the radial support arms inside the spacecraft--two packs of seven cells and one pack of six cells.

"It is entirely possible or even probable that the main batteries suffered some damage during the 400-N motor event," Mills said, referring to the onboard catastrophic incident that caused AO-40 to go dark and destroyed some onboard systems less than a month after its launch in November 2000. "One clue to this is the fact that we lost two

of the three temperature sensors attached to these packs, and since that time we have been able to measure the temperature of only one of the three packs."

The command team had been keeping a close eye on the main battery for several months and had noted that it was not performing as expected. Anomalies included voltage fluctuations.

"If it's at all possible to bring AO-40 back, we will," said Mills, who concedes that he's "lived and breathed AO-40" for more than four years. "No success for even weeks or months does not mean that we won't eventually be successful. We will sure keep trying."

Mills speculated that if the voltage is, indeed, clamped low because of a shorted battery cell or cells--and there is no other damage--it could take a long time for the cells to open. "Hopefully not as long as for AO-7," he added wryly, "or it may happen today."

The AO-7 satellite, launched in 1974, went silent some 21 years ago, apparently as a result of a battery failure. AO-7 shocked the amateur satellite community when it suddenly reappeared in mid-2002. The prevailing theory is that the battery cell or cells that had shorted and shut down the satellite in 1981 eventually opened up, permitting AO-7 to function from its solar panels whenever it's in sunlight.

**ANTENNA RULES OF THUMB...**

(Collected by Cleveland Chapter One, Quarter Century Wireless Association)

There are many truths concerning antennas. Many falsehoods, too. Many members of the Quarter Century Wireless Association have observed antenna behavior for over 25 years, and some have used rough "rules of thumb" to describe them. An antenna, said the late Lew McCoy, WIICP, "Is anything that conducts RF, be it paper clip or a large rain gutter. The trick is to get power into such things." So, here are a few antenna rules of thumb. Take them with a large grain of salt. Then head straight to the Antenna Book for the facts!

1. If it stays up, it wasn't high enough.
2. SWR is inversely proportional to adjustment ease.
3. Temporary installations tend to become permanent.
4. Permanent installations never are.
5. Mail order lightning arresters arrive the day after the storm.
6. The frequency of the need to repair any antenna increases logarithmically with its height above ground.
7. The efficiency of any given antenna is inversely proportional to the ambient temperature of the outside air at the time of installation.
8. Antennas tend to work better if you have confidence that they do.

Info from Dee Logan, WIHEO. Contact Dee for info on QCWA Chapter 1 membership, [delogan@ameritech.net](mailto:delogan@ameritech.net).

## 100 YEARS OLD AND OPERATING FINE...

(By John J. Cline, K7BDS January 15, 2004,  
from the ARRL Web)

Neva Heckman, KC7MWB, operates on 2 meters from her home in Boise, Idaho. She's a regular on a number of nets and until recently regularly attended RACES meetings. She was born on April 10, 1903 into a world filled with the awe and wonderment of new discoveries. The United States was just getting ready to celebrate its 128<sup>th</sup> birthday. President Theodore Roosevelt would send the first message across the "Pacific Cable" interlocking San Francisco and Manila together in a new age of information-sharing and technology. Helium was discovered that year. Marconi was having great difficulty convincing the world's scientific community that his experiments with transmitting radio signals really did have a practical application.

Neva grew up in rural Idaho and said she clearly remembers traveling to Missouri with her family in a covered wagon. After living in Alaska for many years, she returned to Idaho. When asked why at age 92 she got her ham ticket, she quickly answered that it was because her son Paul "Doc" Rhines, KB7REX, wanted her to do so. Neva still lives at home, but requires her son's assistance on a daily basis. Neva remains active on the bands and still participates in local ham radio nets. One of her favorites is the Over the Hill Net, which refers to going over the hill to work, as opposed to being over the hill in age.

Neva Heckman, at 100, is Idaho's oldest Amateur Radio operator. Last year, she had the opportunity to meet the state's youngest ham, then-8 year-old Isaiah Livingston, KD7TBQ.

## 7 YEARS OLD AND GETTING EXTRA FUN...

(from the ARRL Web)

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 29, 2004--An Oregon girl considered a year ago as the youngest General class licensee in the US now may be the country's youngest Amateur Extra ticket holder. Seven-year-old Mattie Clauson, AD7BL (ex-KD7TYN and ex-KD7SDF), of Roseburg passed her Extra examination January 14 during a Valley Amateur Radio Club ARRL-VEC volunteer examination session in Eugene. The FCC granted her new ticket and an Extra-appropriate call sign on January 20.

"I DID IT! I DID IT! I DID IT! I PASSED MY EXTRA CLASS EXAM!!!! YIPPEEE!!!" Mattie exclaimed loudly on the QRZ.com Web site.

She also announced her accomplishment in a message routed via the RS0ISS packet system on the International Space Station. "Looks like a future astronaut to me," Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, remarked after spotting the post.

Mattie's proud papa, Tim Clauson, AC7SP, says his daughter missed only four of the questions on the Element 4 test, which Mattie described as "really, really hard!" Whether or not she is indeed the youngest Amateur Extra class licensee is more a matter of speculation these days, since the FCC no longer makes date-of-birth information public.

Several of the very youngest amateur operators in the US have been female. In 1948, Jane Bieberman, W3OVV (now Jane De Nuzzo and still holding the same call sign), made the December cover of QST for getting her General ticket when she was just barely 10 years old. Rebecca Rich, KB0VVT--a very active amateur--got her Extra ticket in 1997 at age 8. The parents of both girls were amateur licensees.

Mattie's own ham radio heritage also may have been a big plus. Her late great grandfather, S.A. "Sam" Sullivan, was W6WXU; his daughter, Joan Brady--Mattie's grandmother--now holds his former call sign. That makes her a fourth-generation ham.

Since entering Amateur Radio herself at age 5 when she passed the Technician test, the youngster has progressed steadily through the ranks each subsequent year, attaining General class at age 6 and now Amateur Extra at age 7. She concedes she would not have made it to Extra without a lot of study help and guidance from her parents (her mom, Charlotte, is AC7XM) and practice examinations on the QRZ.com Web site. The Clausons all are ARRL members.

Mattie says she continues to enjoy working HF SSB, especially DX. She also enjoys checking into various HF nets in the evenings and regularly checks into the Douglas County Amateur Radio Emergency Service Net as a visitor.

Mattie soon hopes to be sporting a new vanity call sign. Her father says she's applied for AE7MC, a call sign suggested by one of the members of the VE team she examined under. It would stand for Amateur Extra 7 (year-old) Mattie Clauson, her dad explained.

# 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/>  
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# W8VM

