# WEST PARK RADIOPS LOG

FOUNDED 1947

Web: http://members.core.com/~af8c/westpark/
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February – March 2005
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CONTESTS
**W8IDM**

DX
**W8IMF**

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**AF8C**

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## WEST PARK EVENTS *

*Subject to Change

**Feb. 4 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT**
Meet in the usual place. Bring your questions or answers to the radio problems of the day/week/month

**Feb. 18 - Program Night –**
We plan on having as many computers as possible at the meeting for the purpose of having **NA contest program training night**. You WILL be trained! No more excuses hi hi.

**Mar. 4 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT**
Bring your questions or answers to the radio problems of the day/week/month.

**Mar. 18 - Program Night – DX VIDEO OR TECHNICAL TOPIC**
We can choose between a DX video on the T33C (Banaba) DX-pedition or cover one of the technical topics we had planned to cover this year. A hot new technology, for example, is Software Defined Radio. The final decision on tonight's program will be forthcoming.
(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

## IN THIS ISSUE



## CONTESTS AND EVENTS

De WA7BNM Contest List

| | |
|---|---|
| Feb 13 | North American Sprint CW |
| Feb 19-20 | ARRL Inter. DX Contest CW |
| Feb 26-27 | CQ 160-Meter Contest SSB |
| Mar 05 | Wake-Up! QRP Sprint |
| Mar 05-6 | ARRL Inter. DX test SSB |
| Mar 07 | RSGB 80m Club Chmp Data |
| Mar 16 | RSGB 80m Club Chmp CW |
| Mar 19-21 | BARTG HF Contest RTTY |
| Mar 24 | RSGB 80m Club Chmp SSB |
| Mar 26-27 | CQ WW WPX Contest SSB |
| Jun 11 | All Scouts Weekend |
| Jun 25 | Field Day |

## SOAPBOX

**No longer can we be complacent about our CW skills. Field Day is coming, not to mention just a few other contests and operating events. The ARRL CW practice sessions are on HF almost every night. Do it. Turn on your radio and try copying CW by ear, every chance you get. Work the contests. Work the Sprints. There they are listed to the left! Attend our training nights! See inside this issue.**

## *THE PRESIDENTS FORUM*

We are half way through winter and what a winter it has been. ice, bitter cold, flooding, plus unusually heavy snow fall. Now is a good time to vacuum the dust out of rigs, power supplies, under the operating bench etc. Contest season is on and some of us are embroiled in weekend contesting putting equipment dusting on a rear burner. Propagation has been marginal on HE and almost non-existent on VHF. According to *CQ Magazine*, there have been several solar sighting periods when there were no visible sunspots. The article states this may indicate an earlier solar cycle minimum in 2006 or even late 2005 rather than the predicted year 2007. Our club Program on Jan 21st. was a revue of our 2004 Field Day. Hal, W8PN presented charts and graphs and an in depth analysis of our strengths and deficiencies and what we could do to increase our score. Hal's charts showed the difficulty in getting good QSO rates on 20 through 10 M. especially using QRP and SSB during this period of low solar activity. CW operation could help since it gets out better plus gives a double QSO points bonus.

Another major problem is keeping both rigs operating the whole 24 hours. This problem is exacerbated by our small number of operators familiar with contest type operation. We have great rig's, antenna's, computer software and a good location, all that is missing are a few more capable operators. Even if you don't care to operate please come to help with site set up and of course come during Field Day to experience the camaraderie we enjoy every year. More planning at future club meetings.

73 - Dick K8AB

P.S.
From the Washington Post readers contest to add or move one letter in a word and give it a new meaning:

Dopeler effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly. –de Dick

## MORSE CHANGES ON STANDBY…

(the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 50, 12/24/04)

The ARRL does not anticipate the FCC will offer up any proposals on the Morse requirement and further restructuring of the Amateur Radio licensing system until sometime in mid-2005, possibly sooner. The FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau continues to review thousands of comments it received on 18 petitions for rule making--including one from the ARRL.

The various petitions called for eliminating or altering the Morse code requirement and changing other sections of the Amateur Service Part 97 rules, including further restructuring of the amateur licensing system.

Before the FCC adopts any changes in the Morse requirement and the license structure, it must complete its comment review, issue a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), reflecting its interpretation of consensus within the amateur community based on comments received and invite further comments on the NPRM. The FCC then will review those comments before issuing a Report and Order that spells out any final rules. [No rule changes would occur] before 2006, possibly later.

## PUBLIC SERVICE…

Saturday, December 18, was N8CX, K8VUS, AF8C and Linda (KA8YQL's XYL) supporting Lakewood Community Assistance Corp. by bagging and driving around Thanksgiving food basket for the needy. Additional help was supplied the day before by Don, W8IDM, plus some of the Saturday crowd. We will do this again in the fall. In the spring of 2005 will be a cleaning supplies delivery by LCAC.

Al, N8CX, is starting the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education course in Emergency Communications. He will have more to say about this as he works his way through the course. Al says that the material already covered has opened whole new vistas on what the amateur radio community is already doing and can do when real emergencies happen.

## RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON THE 10M NET…

The Club's 10 Meter Net topics have covered the gamut. Try these: doping vaseline laced with cayenne pepper on leaves etc. to repel deer and squirrels, catching mice (as usual), snow and snow blowers, contesting, painting walls, the tsunami, Windows trivia and frustrations, frozen rotators, PakRatt, Dx-peditions like the upcoming 3Y0, big screen TV, the "truth" about HDTV and the upcoming digital revolution in TV, DVDs and VHS tapes becoming obsolete (!), personal safety around the home, anti-virus software, and more.

## FIELD DAY…

We are looking forward to GREEN grass, warm days, and starting to setup for All Scouts Weekend and then Field Day 2005. Hal, W8PN, is burning the midnight oil, data mining our previous Field Day efforts, and scheming on how new antenna planning can help us acquire those signals that have been so elusive.

## RECORD CODE SPEED…

(from ARRL Web pages 12/08/04)

- Guinness World Records Ltd has recognized the high-speed telegraphy achievement of Andrei Bindasov, EU7KI. "On 6 May 2003 Andrei Bindasov (Belarus) transmitted 216 marks of mixed text per minute during the 5th International Amateur Radio Union World Championship in High Speed Telegraphy in Belarus," the Guinness database listing states. Witnessing the accomplishment in Minsk were HST International Referee Oscar Verbanck, ON5ME, Region 1 Executive Committee member Panayot Danev, LZ1US, and IARU Region 1 HST Coordinator Oliver Tabakovski, Z32TO. Bindasov says he received the official certificate from Guinness November 24. Bindasov also sent 271 letters per minute and 230 figures per minute during those phases of the 2003 HST competition.

## SCAMP On-Air Testing Commences

(from ARRL Web pages 12/08/04)

The Sound Card Amateur Message Protocol--or **SCAMP**--is not just a conference paper topic anymore. On-the-air testing of the digital communication protocol began in late November, and the first transcontinental communication using SCAMP occurred on December 4. SCAMP is designed to eliminate the need for pricey external hardware for passing e-mail traffic on relatively narrow-bandwidth channels. Rick Muething, KN6KB, prepared a presentation on SCAMP for the ARRL-TAPR Digital Communications Conference in September.

"SCAMP is an example of what is now possible with sound card, computer and software technology using cooperative amateur efforts," he says. "SCAMP and similar programs like **DIGTRX** for image transmission offer low-cost alternatives to dedicated or proprietary hardware." As Muething explains, SCAMP is intended for transmitting messages--text with binary attachments--via 2-kHz bandwidth HF and VHF voice channels. The program is compatible with **Winlink2000**. SCAMP uses the Redundant Digital File Transfer (**RDFT**) transport layer, developed by Barry Sanderson, KB9VAK, with the addition of Automatic Repeat Request (ARQ)--the technique all "linked" modes use to ensure error-free transmission—and message layer protocols that Muething developed. He says SCAMP offers a moderate- throughput, error-free protocol that works using conventional sound cards and modestly powered computers.

The RDFT utilities and documentation for the Windows and Linux operating systems have been released under the GNU General Public License (**GPL**).

Muething says a dozen dedicated testers began initial on-air testing on HF and VHF November 27 using the alpha version of a Windows-based SCAMP client called **Paclink SCD** that he and Vic Poor, W5SMM, developed.

In addition to Muething and Poor, alpha testers included Scott Thile, K4SET; Bud Thompson, N0IA; Bill Hickey, AB7AA; Howard White, VE3GFW; Dave Wagner, WA2DXQ; Lor Kutchins, W3QA; Larry Trullinger, KB0EMB; Mike Burton, N6KZB; Bill Kearns, WB6JAR, and Steve Waterman, K4CJX. Primary testing was done on 40, 30 and 20 meters, and VHF testing was carried out on 2-meters using both FM and SSB. Alpha testing will continue over the next several weeks, and beta testing is set to crank up in February, Muething says. The first successful transcontinental exchange of Amateur Radio e-mail messages using SCAMP took place December 4 on 20 meters between N6KZB in Temecula, California, and W3QA in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Each station ran 70 W.

"Several other two-way exchanges were also made over the weekend as operational and protocol bugs were fixed in the alpha software," Muething reports. "The throughput of SCAMP adjusts to the channel quality, reaching a current net maximum of about 4800 bytes per minute before compression gains."

Muething says all SCAMP encoding, decoding and protocol processing is done by the local computer's CPU, and it doesn't require a high-powered PC. "Initial tests with Paclink SCD suggest that a 1-GHz class Pentium or Celeron processor with a minimum of 128 MB of memory is needed to reach full throughput," he explained. "Lesser processors may be used at some reduction in throughput."

The complete SCAMP specification is available and will be released under the GPL as a blueprint for client developers to ensure compatibility across different implementations. Muething says further protocol optimization continues to up system throughput and improve its robustness in poor HF multipath channels. He'd also like to see some band plan restructuring to "open up spectrum for digital modes and encourage new experimentation and development like SCAMP." **The ARRL has sought comment from the amateur community on draft proposals seeking to regulate subbands by emission bandwidth rather than by mode.** At this point, the proposals remain a work in progress, and the ARRL has not petitioned the FCC for any changes.

Muething has more information on SCAMP. Contact him via e-mail kn6kb@arrl.net. Information on RDFT is available on the Web.

## AO-51 DOWNLINK DECODER…

From AMSAT, SILVER SPRING, MD, JAN. 23, 2005
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS $ANS-023.S2

Downlink: 435.150 MHz, FM 9600 baud PacSat BroadCast Protocol (PBBS) , Digital Downlinks: 435.150 MHz FM, 38k4 Digital, PBP.

Mike Kingery (KE4AZN) has released **TimEcho** to capture and decode telemetry downlink broadcast. See http://web.infoave.net/~mkmk518/echo.htm

## BPL UPDATE…

(from the ARRL Web pages)

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 17, 2004 [UPDATE]--Officials of Internet service provider EarthLink told the FCC that broadband over power line (BPL) cannot compete with the dominant cable or DSL technology today or in the near future. A BPL industry spokesperson subsequently criticized the ARRL apparently for reporting the company's statements. EarthLink President and CEO Garry Betty and other company officials met November 16 with FCC Chairman Michael Powell and Commission attorney Aaron Goldberger to deliver an ex parte presentation on several Wireline Competition Bureau and Common Carrier Bureau proceedings.

"EarthLink discussed that it has invested in and is in trials with several potential 'third wire' broadband transmission paths to the home, including WiFi, WiMax, MMDS and broadband over power lines," EarthLink Counsel Mark J. O'Connor informed FCC Secretary Marlene Dortch in a November 17 letter. "However, EarthLink pointed out that cable and DSL still account for virtually all consumer broadband connections and that none of these alternative technologies offer a commercially viable alternative today or in the near future."

An EarthLink analysis indicated that BPL is the most expensive of the broadband technologies it evaluated. In a chart titled "Next generation broadband," EarthLink said that wireless and BPL "are not likely to be competitive in cost and performance with cable and DSL over the last mile to the home." The company's judged as "not successful" one unspecified BPL technical trial using Amperion equipment in a "wireless/BPL combo."

In discussing other trials using Ambient and Current Technologies equipment--one of which EarthLink had invested in--the ISP's assessment was that the high cost per household passed--$125 in both instances--would require a better than 15 percent market penetration to attain a competitive cost.

EarthLink said its assessment determined that ADSL2+ technology is the "best option" and can offer VoIP as well as high-speed broadband (at 6 to 10 Mbps) and video over copper wire and using on-premise consumer equipment. The company also indicated that it plans to invest in ADSL2+ technology.

ARRL's reporting of EarthLink's November submission to the FCC apparently struck a nerve at Ambient, with which EarthLink has a business relationship. In a classic case of shooting the messenger, Ambient CEO John J. Joyce took the League to task on the CBS MarketWatch.com Web site on behalf of the BPL industry. Calling ARRL "the leading opponent of BPL in the US" and his own corporation as "a leader on Power Line Communications (PLC)," Joyce seemed to suggest that the League itself had provided the EarthLink information and was spinning the company's remarks to advantage.

"The release by the ARRL clearly takes the statements of EarthLink's attorney out of context and conveniently ignores many developments in the industry that contradict ARRL's conclusions," Joyce said.

Among other things, Joyce said that "the ARRL perception of BPL's economics fails to consider that consumer broadband is only one application for a BPL-enabled utility system." he said there are other industrial applications that may augur in BPL's economic favor. He also emphasized that the projects with which his company and EarthLink have collaborated were demonstrations "never intended to be competitive installations" and are "in no way representative of BPL economics." He said Ambient "continues to refine its system and equipment design for cost efficiencies."

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the League stands by its account, which Joyce characterized as a "claim" on the ARRL's part. Sumner also chided CBS MarketWatch.com for reporting Joyce's comments on Ambient's behalf but not referring readers to EarthLink's publicly available submission to the FCC, to which the League account includes a link.

"ARRL's report on the document was accurate in every way, and we stand by our report," Sumner said. "The conclusions given are not ours, but EarthLink's. Anyone who wishes to do so can read the submission for themselves."

## RSS, PODCASTING…

In line with our policy of informing you of new technology developments, already two new digital developments have come out since I last wrote about the new paradigms the digital telecommunications technology will be bringing. And, I guessed neither of them in my prognostications.

First, if you are a Web user you should by now have tried the new Web browser FireFox 1.0. Soon FireFox 1.1 is coming, and 2.0 is due out by the end of 2005.

When you set up FireFox you will find they are talking about RSS. That's new-speak for Really Simple Syndication which is a family of XML-based communications standards with the following members: Rich Site Summary (RSS 0.9x and RSS 2.0) RDF Site Summary (RSS 0.9 and 1.0). RSS syndication protocol primarily used by news websites and weblogs. For amateur radio, the ARRL's Web pages recently started supply an RSS feed that you can tie into FireFox, and then you will able to have amateur radio news automatically loaded in your FireFox browser. Don't worry, it's friendly!

Meanwhile, probably most of us radio amateurs do not yet own an iPod from Apple Computer, into which we load popular songs. Well, now there's "Podcasting" into which programming resembling commercial radio programming can be downloaded and then listened to while not connected to the Internet at all! -de AF8C

## GEORGIA CC&R …

(from ARRL web pages 12/10/04)

Georgia community to allow ham antennas in CC&R-governed subdivisions (Dec 9, 2004) --

Tim Richardson, W4IOU, an alderman in Acworth, Georgia, reports that his city has added language to its Residential Development Standards that allows antenna installations for amateurs living in subdivisions governed by deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) and homeowners' associations. A city of some 20,000, Acworth is some 35 miles northwest of Atlanta, and, Richardson says, one of the state's fastest-growing cities. "While a special stipulation previously was added to each new residential zoning request before the city, this incorporates the language directly in the zoning and development standards," Richardson explains. According to the language incorporated into the ordinance November 5, "Antennas for amateur radio stations licensed by the Federal Communications Commission will not be prohibited by Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions or homeowners' association, and the installation of such antennas must be reasonably accommodated." ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the Acworth ordinance was the first to come to his attention. "Congratulations to you and the City of Acworth for your vision," he told Richardson.

## EARLY RADIO PROGRAMS PUT ON VINYL…

(from October 2004 *SMOKE SIGNALS*, Indian Hills Radio Club, edited by "Dee" Logan, W1HEO, taken from Web articles by Gus, W8RPT)

The earliest recording of any sort of radio signal was made in 1913 by Charles Apgar, an amateur radio operator. He creatively fitted a homemade electrical recording head to an Edison cylinder phonograph and attached that to his homebrew radio receiver. The first signals recorded were CW transmissions from the New York *Herald* radio station in New York City and from the Telefunken relay station in Sayville, NY.

Earliest recordings of "programs" were made in 1921-22 but none are known to have survived. In 1923-24 Western Electric made test recordings of the New York Philharmonic over WEAF in New York. The earliest radio program to be recorded for broadcast was "Amos and Andy", distributed on 78 rmp discs by the Chicago *Daily News* Syndicate between March 1928 and August, 1929. Earliest recordings of broadcasts were made using a Speak-O-Phone system. It electrically embossed audio signals on an aluminum disc.

The cellulose-nitrate-coated aluminum recording disc blank was introduced by the Presto Corp. in the U.S. in 1934. NBC was the first to adopt the system.

By 1930, many ad agencies and performers were using the technique to make test airchecks of live broadcasts.

## REMINDER TO GRANDPARENTS…

If you are a parent, grandparent, **or for ANY REASON transport children** via automobile, truck, SUV, etc. you need to be aware of the following recommendations from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, [and it might be an element of state law or insurance policies]. You need to have a child seat or restraint in YOUR car if you transport any child for any reason:

**General Child Seat Use**
**Buckle everyone. Children AGE 12 and Under in BACK!**

| **Age/Weight** | **Seat Type** |
|---|---|
| birth to one year and at least 20 pounds | Infant-only seat/rear facing or Convertible seat used in rear facing position. Seats should be secured to the vehicle by the seat belts or by the "latch" system. Latch system: use Lower anchors and tethers for children. |
| Less than one year/ 20-35 pounds | Convertible seat/rear facing, built for heavier infants. Seats should be secured to the vehicle by seat belts or by the "latch" system. |
| 1 to 4 years/ at least 20 pounds to 40 pounds | Convertible seat/forward facing, or Forward facingOnly seat, or High Back Booster/harness. Seats should be secured to the vehicle by seat belts or by the "latch" system. |
| 4 to 8 years old unless they are greater than 57 in. tall | Belt positioning booster (no back, base only) or High back belt-positioning booster. Never use with lap-only belts -- belt positioning boosters are always used with lap AND shoulder belts. |

For adults and larger children -- All seat belts now require shoulder and lap belting. Wearing the lap-only belt is very dangerous for anyone.

## QRP RECORD…

(Karl Beckman, WA8NVW, relayed this email he had received)

"A ham radio operator in New London, North Carolina correctly copied an 80 meter CW beacon in Wappingers Falls, New York, a distance of 546.8 miles. The kicker is, the beacon station, an Elecraft K1, was putting out 40.6 uW (40.6 millionths of a Watt) -- which works out to 13,467,980 miles per watt!"

The story and comments thread is here:
http://tinyurl.com/3jvgc

# 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.

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# W8VM