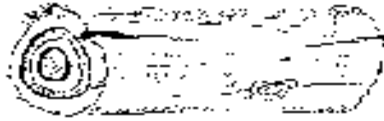




FOUNDED 1947

WEST PARK RADIOPS



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

LOG



Feb. - Mar. 2009
VOL. XLIV - NO. 2

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K8ME, N8CX

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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

Feb. 6 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

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

Feb. 20 - ARRL'S TRIPLE PLAY AND LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD

You are challenged by the ARRL to work all 50 states on phone, CW, and RTTY. However, you need to use Logbook of the World to prove your contacts. So we figured it was time once again to review how to use Logbook of the World.

Mar. 6 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

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

Mar. 20 - 160M RANDOM WIRE ANTENNAS

Hal Braschwitz, W8PN, Don, W8IDM, and others familiar with the technology will discuss K9AY and beverage antennas for 160 meters.

Apr. 15 - IRS SPECIAL

No meeting, but you are probably resting up from your battle with the 1040. Kick back and open a cold one, after the envelope is mailed!

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CONTESTS AND EVENTS

- de WA7BNM & ARRL

Feb 8 NA SPRINT CW
Feb 14-15 CQ WW RTTY WPX
Feb 15 NA SPRINT SSB
Feb 16 RUN FOR THE BACON QRP
Feb 21 ARRL DX CW
Feb 28 CQ 160M SSB 48 hrs
Mar 7-8 ARRL DX SSB
Mar 15 NA SPRINT RTTY
Mar 16 RUN FOR THE BACON QRP
Mar 28-29 CQ WW WPX SSB
Mar 28-30 BARTG HF RTTY

SOAPBOX

We are getting warmed up to the idea of QRP in the Park, new antenna designs, Field Day 2009 planning, and etc. Special DX this year: Desecheo, and Midway Atoll. Will we see sunspots? The experts are still seeing old Cycle 23 spots this week. But some experts predict a big Cycle 24 is still coming!! This antenna weather is getting old now.

This document was created using Open Office 3.0, and a PDF creator. Usage of Microsoft products was limited to as little as possible.

Prez Sezs

Hello everyone,

We are in the middle of winter and I am not seeing any of the effects of global warming. Having moved four months ago into my new QTH and not having any ham antennas up yet makes for a very long winter; I miss not being able to work contests or just do some occasional rag chewing in my spare time. But hopefully, with an early spring and the help from my fellow club members, I will back on the air in short order.

At this time I would like to thank the following club members that have volunteered to be club officers for another year:

Bill N8WS	Vice President,
Kevin K8VUS	Treasurer,
Glenn AF8C	Secretary, and
Al N8CX	Club Trustee.

Some of these officers have continually held the same position and deserve special recognition for their devotion and hard work. To get our minds off of the winter cold and snow, I look forward to start planning this years upcoming events (Dayton, Field Day, and All Scout Day). Any new ideas related to these events to make them more conducive to drawing new club members would be our primary focus; this would ensure that our club will continue to grow with new memberships and ideas. I look forward to being your president and any help or assistance would be greatly appreciated.

73 de, Egon AB8HY

WEST PARK PUBLIC SERVICE...

The following club members participated in the Lakewood LCAC food deliveries on the weekend of Dec. 19-20: Linda Freeman, N8CX, and AF8C. Deliveries for Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. occur again in the spring with cleaning supplies.

We anticipate helping with two scouting events in 2009: Bay Village Scouts some time in the spring and North Olmsted around the first or second Saturday in June where we already have an official invitation.

RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON THE 10M NET...

On the Club's net, 28450 kHz, we have recently discussed code practice with RUFZX8, iPods can play CW practice from the ARRL, autotuner problems, the TV transition on Feb. 17, deflation, XMLOG, free credit bureau reports, Delta water valves, snowblowers, ARRL's Triple Play, coronal holes, ice dams, ice bows, working code at 200 WPM, CB radios and traffic jams, and of course all the stories and propagation analyses after the big contests.

ARRL NEWS...

(from issues of *The ARRL Letter*)

FCC REPORTS DECLINE IN BPL CUSTOMERS ...

Despite the enormous and unwarranted hype given to BPL by the FCC under Chairmen Powell and Martin, the message from the marketplace is clear: BPL is going nowhere as a means of delivering broadband connectivity to consumers," observed ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Still, the FCC has unfinished business with respect to BPL. It has been nine months since the federal Court of Appeals ordered the Commission to correct the errors it committed in adopting rules that inadequately protect licensed radio services from BPL interference <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/25/10064/>>, yet the FCC has made no effort to comply. With the change at the FCC helm that is about to take place, we hope the foot-dragging will come to an end and the Commission will fulfill its obligations to the Court as well as to its licensees."

FCC LICENSE ACTIVITY ON THE RISE...

According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, there continues to be a heightened interest in Amateur Radio following the FCC's elimination of the Morse code exam requirement in February 2007: "The number of new license applicants remains strong under the new Amateur Radio Service rules. The following table chronicles all 14 FCC authorized VEC organizations' new license activity over the last few years." In 2008, the total number of US amateurs rose 1.2 percent, from 655,800 in 2007, to 663,500 in 2008.

ARRL EXPANDS MEMBER ACCESS TO QST ARCHIVE...

ARRL is pleased to announce that online access to the QST archive <<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/qqnsearch.html>> will be expanded. Beginning February 1, 2009, ARRL members will be able to search and view QST -- from December 1915 through December 2005 right from their computer. With an additional year -- 2005 -- added to the viewable archive, this valuable benefit is available to all ARRL members.

West Park Radiops LOG

On-Line and On-the-AirQRP and other activities

by N8CX

Having found and joined a number of on-line ham radio operating and special interest clubs, I thought I might share some of them with you; specifically what their interests and activities are. Many of these clubs have one or more on-the-air activities each month and throughout the year, not to mention the myriad of useful technical and operating information that is available on their web sites.

Key to club names:

30m PSK 30 meter PSK Digital Group
<http://www.30meterdigital.org/>
 ARLHS Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society
<http://arlhs.com/> (note: no www. ? strange but true)
 ARS Adventure Radio Society
<http://arsqrp.pbwiki.com/>
 FISTS FISTS CW Club
<http://www.fists.org/index.html>
 FP Flying Pigs Intl.
<http://www.fpqr.com/>
 G-QRP G (United Kingdom) QRP Club
<http://www.gqrp.com/>
 HF-Pack HF Backpack Portable
<http://hfpack.com/>
 NAQCC North American QRP CW Club
<http://www.arm-tek.net/~yoel/>
 QRP-ARCI QRP-Amateur Radio Club Intl.
<http://www.qrparci.org/>
 SKCC Straight Key Century Club
<http://www.skccgroup.com/>

1.808 CW FISTS
 1.810 CW QRP-ARCI / NAQCC
 1.814 CW FP
 1.820 CW SKCC
 1.830 CW ARLHS
 1.843 CW Europe
 1.910 SSB QRP-ARCI
 1.970 and down 20 kHz SSB ARLHS

 3.530 CW SKCC / ARLHS
 3.550 CW SKCC Primary
 3.558 CW FISTS
 3.560 CW QRP-ARCI / NAQCC / ARS
 3.564 CW FP
 3.690 SSB Europe
 3.985 SSB QRP-ARCI
 3.970 and down 20 kHz SSB ARLHS
 3791 LSB (US) HFpack
 3996 USB HFpack

5.371.5 SSB HF-Pack Primary
 5.403.5 SSB HF-Pack

7.028 CW All IARU Regions FISTS
 7.058 CW IARU Region 2 FISTS

7.030 CW ARS / QRP-ARCI / ARLHS / G-QRP & Europe
 7.040 CW QRP-ARCI / FP / ARS
 7.055 CW SKCC Primary
 7065 USB HFpack (Europe)
 7.090 SSB Europe
 7.120 CW SKCC
 7.185 USB HFpack
 7.270 and down 20 kHz SSB ARLHS
 7.285 SSB QRP-ARCI
 7.296 USB HFpack

10.106 CW QRP-ARCI
 10.110 CW FP
 10.116 CW QRP-ARCI / NAQCC
 10117.5 CW HFpack
 10.118 CW FISTS
 10.120 CW SKCC
 10.140 30m PSK

 14.030 CW ARLHS
 14.050 CW SKCC
 14.058 CW FISTS
 14.060 CW ARS / QRP-ARCI / NAQCC / G-QRP & Europe
 14.062 CW FP
 14.270 and down 20 kHz SSB ARLHS
 14.285 SSB QRP-ARCI
 14.342.5 SSB HF-Pack

18.080 CW SKCC / NAQCC
 18.085 CW FISTS
 18.096 CW QRP-ARCI
 18.100 CW FP
 18.157.5 SSB HF-Pack

 21.030 CW ARLHS
 21.058 CW FISTS
 21.060 CW QRP-ARCI / NAQCC / ARS
 21.064 CW FP
 21.285 SSB HFpack (Europe)
 21.370 and down 20 kHz SSB ARLHS
 21.385 SSB QRP-QRCI

24.096 CW QRP-ARCI / NAQCC
 24.910 CW SKCC
 24.918 CW FISTS

28.030 CW ARLHS
 28.050 CW SKCC
 28.058 CW FISTS
 28.060 CW QRP-ARCI / NAQCC / ARS
 28.360 SSB Europe
 28.370 and down 20 kHz SSB ARLHS
 28.885 SSB QRP-ARCI

50.058 CW FISTS
 50.090 CW SKCC
 50.285 SSB Europe
 50.885 SSB QRP-ARCI
 51.000 FM PL-151.4

144.058 CW FISTS
 144.060 CW QRP-ARCI
 144.070 CW SKCC
 144.285 SSB QRP-ARCI
 144.300 Simplex FM PL-151.4
 145.720 FP

APOLOGY TO A GREAT HAM...

As editor I hereby apologize to the famous amateur radio operator whose callsign I was misspelling in this newsletter for I don't even know for how long. No, it's for me to know and you to find out.

CORIOLIS FORCES AND CANNONS...

As the earth rotates, the ground speed of any floating object (in the air or in water) at a certain latitude will speed up or slow down relative to the ground as it moves north or south from its original location. Without going into a large amount of explanation, it sufficient here to say that at a speed of approximately 1000 miles per hour at the equator (25000 miles circumference of the earth divided by 24 hours) works out to be near 700 mph at some temperate latitude. However, in large systems, such as storm clouds, the difference in ground speeds between the south and north end of a large system can add up to enough local rotation (the Coriolis effect) to spin the cloud and even in special cases form a hurricane. (If you do the math accurately, you can calculate that the water in a bathtub does NOT have enough differential rotation to cancel out random rotational buildup as water goes down the drain. That is, you can make the water spiral either way with only a little effort.)

However, in special cases the coriolis effect can make dramatic effects in man-made systems. One example occurred in World War I. In 1914, near the Falkland Islands in the earth's southern hemisphere, the Germans and English were having a warship shoot-out with their large cannons. The opposing navy ships were firing at each other from a distance of about 10 miles. But the English forgot to reverse the direction of their Coriolis correction from their manuals which were written for the northern hemisphere. It wasn't until many hundreds of shells landed in the ocean did the English finally make the correction by changing the sign of the correction factor, and then scoring about sixty direct hits, winning the battle.

Needless to say, you can't rotate your beam antennas fast enough to have any measurable warping due to the coriolis effect. And, since electromagnetic waves are not measurably affected by the earth's gravity, and they aren't particles, your radio waves are also not affected by coriolis forces. Hi --de AF8C

CONTEST PROGRAMS...

I was looking around and discovered that QRZ.COM and AC6V web sites have a lot of useful lists of software for various phases of ham radio. The following is a list of contest logging and assistance programs.

K4HAV 10-10 Contest Program -- For 10-10 QSO Parties.

CT by K1EA

Field Day Loggers 1.3 & 1.7 -- From N3FJP MS Windows 95 or later versions

NA Contest Logging Program -- Logging program for MS-DOS computers, primarily for use in operating in amateur radio contests.

N3FJP's Contest logging programs

VHF Contest Logs From N3FJP --- MS Windows 95 or later versions, ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes -- ARRL June VHF QSO Party-- ARRL UHF Contest -- ARRL September, VHF QSO Party -- CQ World Wide VHF

SweepStakes Logger -- November Sweepstakes Logging Program by N3FJP

QQSL -- The Ultimate Ham Radio QSL Label Program by Bill Mullin - AA4M

SD Super Duper -- Contest Logging Software From Paul O'Kane, Dublin, Ireland

QRATE by VE3SUN -- QSO Rate -- works with with CT and other logs

TR LOG Web Site -- Contest Logging Program

UT1YV -- Software programs including: CW program, DSP filter program, radio logbook, Spectrum Analyzer, Beacon-Echo Repeater, for Windows 95/98/NT -- You have to see these!!

Win-Test -- The definitive contest software - Written by Olivier F5MZN (45 Euros via Paypal)

WriteLog for Windows™ -- For ALL of your CW, SSB, and RTTY contesting.

ITEMS FOR SALE

YAESU FT-100D XCVR OPERATES 160m-440, PLUS FC-20 AUTOMATIC ANTENNA TUNER, WITH SEPERATION KIT FOR MOBLE USE, AND CABLES. PRICE: \$750.00

KENWOOD TR-7400 2Meter xcvr 50watts has independent frequency switches on the front panel, was using it for local packet network. PRICE: \$40.00

OAK COMPUTER DESK/ HUTCH WITH TWO DRAWERS AND FOUR DOORS AT THE HUTCH, GREAT CONDITION. THE ONE IN MY RADIO ROOM. PRICE: \$200.00

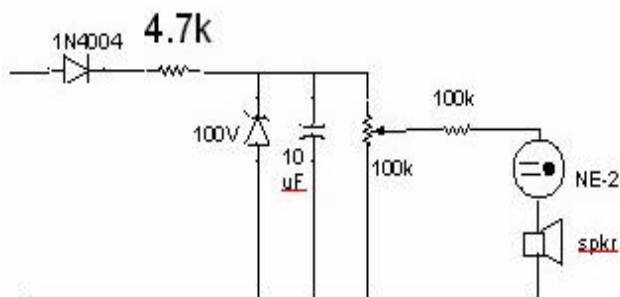
CONTACT: Dwaine –K8ME

E-MAIL: k8me@sbcglobal.net

PHONE: 440-582-3462

SIMPLE “GEIGER COUNTER” CIRCUIT...

Below you can see the circuit. This can be built on some perf board and put into a plastic box. Make sure the lamp is exposed to room light when it is mounted. By varying the potentiometer until the lamp is not normally lit, you can then see it flashing when particle radiation passes through the neon and ionizes it. Extra



bonus: in the evening, adjust the pot when the lights are off and then turn on the lights. What happens?

2007 ACT REGARDING LIGHT BULBS...

(adapted from the Energy Star Web site of the EPA and Department of Energy)

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (the “Energy Bill”), signed by the President on December 18, 2007 requires all light bulbs use 30% less energy than today’s incandescent bulbs by 2012 to 2014. The phase-out will start with 100-watt bulbs in January 2012 and end with 40-watt bulbs in January 2014. By 2020, a Tier 2 would become effective which requires all bulbs to be at least 70% more efficient (effectively equal to today’s CFLs).

It’s not entirely correct to say “CFLs will be required” or “incandescents will be phased out” because the standards set by the bill are technology neutral, and by 2012, a next generation of incandescent bulbs could satisfy the 30% increased efficiency. There are also other lighting technologies, such as halogen and LEDs that will be able to meet the new requirements and are expected to both increase in performance and drop in cost over the next few years.

Now let's try some arithmetic on the use of CFLs. A 60 watt equivalent CFL runs on about 15 watts of power at 120 VAC. That means $1000/15 = 66.6$ hours of use for a kilowatt hour of electricity. Since my electric bill says a kWh of electricity costs me \$0.117 (with fees), that means I am paying 11.7 cents after 12 evenings of use in my shack.

Now let's say, for example, the lamp costs \$3.49 at the hardware. That means that $\$3.49/\0.117 times 12 evenings or 357 evenings of use (~1 year) will pay for the cost of the lamp. So I better hope the lamp lasts that long.

So I am going to start a project of keeping track of how long a 60 watt CFL really lasts in my shack!

– de AF8C

CASCADED TUNERS...

An antenna tuner is more properly described as an antenna coupler, because unless your antenna is being physically changed by the tuner, the only thing you are doing is adjusting the impedance match from your rig to your antenna’s impedance as reflected by the impedance transformation of your antenna feedline at the coupler.

Next, the coupler's job is to adjust what might be 50 ohms at the output of your transmitter to the $R+jX$ impedance that is required to match the $R-jX$ impedance at the transmitter end of the antenna feedline. (That’s called a conjugate match by the math gurus.) However, and this can and has been argued, the output of your transmitter is not necessarily at 50 ohms, depending on the design of the transmitter and whether you have an autotuner in the radio that has attempted to “fix” an SWR mismatch. So cascaded tuners could be a problem.

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

