



FOUNDED 1947

# WEST PARK RADIOPS



# LOG



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JUN. - JUL. 2004  
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## 2004 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, W8IDM**

ANTENNAS  
**W8PN, W8IDM, W8IMF**

CLUB AWARDS  
**W8IDM**

CONTESTS  
**W8IDM**

DX  
**W8IMF**

EDITOR, WEBMASTER  
**AF8C**

LABELS & ROSTER  
**N8CX**

## WEST PARK EVENTS \*

\*Subject to Change

### Jun. 4 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT/ QRP Chat

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

### Jun. 12 - ALL SCOUTS WEEKEND -- 8 a.m. until dusk Saturday

This year **we don't meet on Friday night**. The Scouts have asked for us to be ready at 1 p.m. on Saturday, so if we plan accordingly we will have plenty of time to set up a 40M and a 2M station, with rain being the usual wildcard. We might need a roof over our head. Meet at the usual place in North Olmsted City Park at 8 a.m. SATURDAY MORNING for setup.

### Jun. 18 - PROGRAM NIGHT - FIELD DAY PLANNING FINAL ROUND

Our final planning session for Field Day occurs tonight. Be there if you are going to help with setup or operation on Field Day.

### Jul. 2 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT/ QRP Chat

Meet in the usual place. Bring your questions or answers.

### Jul. 16 - SUMMER PICNIC IN PARK - EARLY START TIME TBA

At the board meeting the decision was to have a **Picnic in the Metroparks**. The exact location, map, times, etc. will be announced at the club meetings.

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## CONTESTS AND EVENTS

	De WA7BNM Contest List
Jun. 12	Asia-Pac. Summer Sprint, SSB
Jun. 12-14	ARRL June VHF QSO Party
Jun. 19	Kid's Day Contest
Jun. 19-20	West Virginia QSO Party
Jun. 19-20	Quebec QSO Party
Jun. 19-20	All Asian DX Contest, CW
Jul. 3-4	Original QRP Contest
Jul. 4-5	MI QRP July 4th CW Sprint
Jul. 10	FISTS Summer Sprint
Jul. 10-11	IARU HF World Championship
Jul. 24-25	Russian RTTY WW Contest

## SOAPBOX

**Are you ready for operating during emergencies? You can easily plan ahead, have on hand emergency lighting and food, and perhaps generator and fuel. You can also keep a used automotive 12V battery on hot standby on a trickle charger for use in power outages.**

**CHARGE YOUR BATTERIES A WEEK BEFORE FIELD DAY!!**

**LET'S WELCOME NEW MEMBERS  
BOB PLOW, W8NNC;  
BOB JUNKE, K8NRT**

**\*THE PRESIDENTS FORUM\***

Depending on what your operating habits are HF and VHF are in the dumper as far as DX goes. There is always some DX even at the bottom of the sunspot cycle but working it is most difficult. An article in *WorldRadio* tells of WG5G who started with a Heathkit HW-9 and a trapped vertical in 1984 and then later upgraded to the QRP version of the TS-130. He worked WAS, WAC DXCC, and WAZ by 1987. He hit # 317 DX of the 327 possible in 1994. He accomplished this without packet cluster help but used propagation charts and aids. During his chase for the really rare DX he put up a 4 element Quad at 55 ft.

This year's Field Day may not provide good propagation unless the God of R.F. smiles on us that weekend. The workhorse bands will be 40 and 80 meters. Activity on 20 has been fair on PSK but 5 watt SSB may be marginal. One thing for certain: West Park Radiops will do their best trying to repeat or surpass our clubs previous years fine scores. Please plan on being a part of this effort in helping set up, operating, providing equipment and especially enjoying the camaraderie.

Glenn, Al, and I attended the first meeting of CPAR, a group attempting to coordinate all the amateur radio clubs public relation activities in order to present amateur radio to the various news media, city officials, and also to attract new people into the hobby. We will discuss this in detail at future meetings to gauge our clubs position in this group.

73 for now and hope to see you at Field Day.

Dick K8AB

A Motivational message: "The floggings will continue until morale improves !"

**DXCC STANDINGS...**

Congratulations to John, N8KUS, for his PHONE total of 332, and Don, W8IMF, for 325 in the 2003 ARRL DXCC yearbook that just arrived. Don says that deleted countries do not count for eligibility toward Honor Roll. So with 326 being the minimum needed for Honor Roll, he is still more than one away.

Some of our club members have never availed themselves of the "opportunity" to send in their cards to the DXCC desk and get registered for DXCC. For some folks, when the ARRL started charging a fee, opportunity quit knocking.

Meanwhile, over here we are working on getting our logs into *LogBook of the World*. With Microsoft Excel help, we have worked out a way to export an Access database to EXCEL and from EXCEL into ADIF text files for input to LOTW. Therefore, FYI, we can convert ASCII text log files of almost any size over to ADIF, using EXCEL, should anyone want to know how.

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

The Club's 10 Meter Net topics were the rain and wind of late, plus weed wackers, gumout, raccoons and other critters, SY8DX, income taxes, QRP, KA8UTC, antennas, arbitron ratings, rocks from Mars, the solar transit of Venus on June 8, and outer space. The big trivia question: A grapefruit should have how many segments?

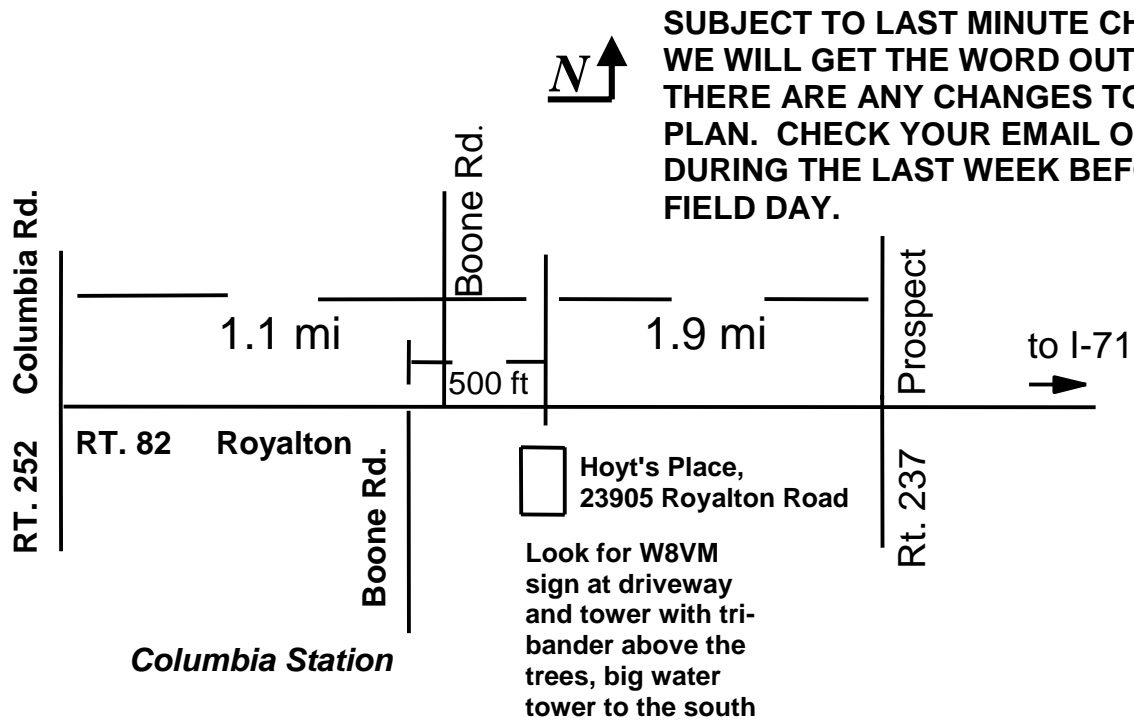
**ARRL FORUM AT DAYTON...**

- NURTURE THE NEWCOMERS AND EXPECT CHANGE (from The ARRL LETTER bulletin May 28, 2004)

It's up to today's Amateur Radio veterans to cultivate the younger generation, ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, told the ARRL Forum at Dayton Hamvention 2004 May 15. Haynie cited ARRL survey data showing that more than one-fifth of new amateur licensees never get on the air. He suggested that too few experienced amateurs take new licensees under their wing to help them get started. "One of the things that we need to do is open up our hearts and open up our minds a little bit about the new generation coming along," he said. The addition of another half-dozen ARRL Education and Technology Program (ETP) pilot schools has raised the total to 81, Haynie pointed out. While its primary goal is using Amateur Radio to educate youngsters about wireless technology, the ETP has resulted in thousands of new hams--teenagers and younger.

"What makes these programs successful, of course, is the local hams, the local clubs getting behind the program and teaching these kids the kinds of things we all know," Haynie said, adding that nothing is too basic or simple. "I didn't know how to put on a PL-259 when I got my General." Haynie suggested that today's older hams also need to consider that technology is changing, and the questions appearing on the ham radio examinations of tomorrow will be ones "that haven't been thought of yet." In 1972 when he took his General, he said, his test included questions on Hartley and Colpitts oscillators. In contrast, today's exams cover topics such as phase-locked loops, satellite operation and digital technology.

Haynie said the ARRL Board did not take lightly its latest restructuring proposal, and he acknowledged that the League's petition has not won universal praise. "It was not an overnight decision," he said, adding that the Board wanted to take a fair and evenhanded approach to restructuring. How the FCC will act on the Morse code requirement and restructuring "is anyone's guess," Haynie said, but he predicted that the Commission will never reinstate higher code speed requirements as some have requested. "The FCC is not going to go back to 13 and 20 words per minute, and you can take that to the bank," he predicted. "It's not going to happen."



**CQ FD DE W8VM...**

Field Day happens this year at the QTH of Hoyt Landis, as shown here. BYOB, that's Bring your own (sleeping) Bag, etc. Plan for weather extremes, for HOT days and/or COLD nights, or very WET all the time! Meals will be impromptu except for Sat. evening which might be more organized.

Operation: from 2 p.m. Sat. June 26  
 to 2 p.m. Sun. June 27  
 Setup: starts 9:30-10 a.m. Saturday.  
 Advance Setup: Friday afternoon, contact W8IDM for info.

Two-meter communications will be on 146.58 near Hoyt's place. The number of volunteers and operators directly determines what we can do! The plan will be finalized at the June 18 meeting. We may go 2A-Battery and work for maximum CW points. What we decide needs your input!

NEEDED: usual Field Day hardware, antennas, rigs, muscles, gofers, etc. The Field Day committee says we need six FRESH CAR BATTERIES and three or more computers with interface cables, etc.



**AH SPRING...**

It seemed like the ideal day to mow the lawn for the first time this year. After three days without rain, I could run the riding mower without leaving muddy ruts in the lawn. The first thing I noticed was a low tire on the mower. I found the tire pump and inflated all four tires to the proper pressure. Then I added gas, checked the oil and rolled the mower down the ramp into the yard. The battery had just enough charge to make a clicking sound when I turned the starter key. I pushed the mower across the yard to an outlet near the patio door and hooked up the battery charger. An hour later, I still got the clicking sound. I checked old records and found the battery was starting its fifth mowing season. Remembering what the battery expert told us at a meeting last year, I knew that I needed a new battery. I could get the battery type from the owner's manual except that the manual had gone into hiding. So I measured the old battery and headed off for the store. I didn't write down the measurements because I figured that there would be only one battery size. Why would manufacturers make several sizes of this small mower battery? I learned that my mower manufacturer didn't leave room for a regular lawn tractor battery and had used a much smaller motorcycle battery instead.

I found the motorcycle batteries near the car batteries. They come in a box that is much larger than the battery and have the dreaded "Dry Charge" label. This was a battery kit. I had to take it home, fill it with acid and charge it before installing it. The job was growing. I picked the box that showed a battery size close to what I remembered and took it home. I had picked one with ALMOST the right dimensions. I had to face another trip to the store to exchange the battery before I could start pouring acid into the tiny cells. Noticing my fatigue and mood, my wife came with me on this trip. She even offered to drive.

I filled the battery ( without spilling too much acid) and put it on charge for an hour or so while we ate dinner. The rest was going to be easy. I took the battery to the mower and discovered that the battery terminals were reversed from the original. I had to turn the battery around and reroute the wiring to make it fit. This took more time than I thought and I didn't notice the skies growing darker until the first rain drop hit me. In the gentle rain, I finished the final battery connections and closed the cover of my riding mower. I set the choke, turned the starter switch and listened to the sound of the motor as it struggled to run. Finally it caught. I put the mower in gear and drove slowly back to the tool shed, leaving tracks in the tall wet grass. It was nearly seven PM and I was tired.

Don Pearson, W8IDM

**STORY OF THE METER...**

(partly as told in *The Measure of All Things* by Ken Alder)

Most of us, being in the hobby of using radio frequency bands measured in meters, know what a meter is, correct? That's 39.37 inches of course.

Well, it turns out that having a definition of a meter is kind of relative. It could have been 42 inches or 31.4159236.. inches (you know, 10 times PI) or whatever. The French decided to define it at one ten-millionth of the distance from the earth's equator to the earth's north geographic pole. You know, the north pole is that place where a polar bear could walk 3 meters, take a 90 degree right turn, walk 3 meters, take another 90 degree right turn, and after walking another 3 meters be right back where he started from. The French actually made the measurements to define the meter using the finest available instrumentation at the time, and were still slightly off the mark. But once the meter was defined, then a cube of water at room temperature, one hundredth of a meter on a side, would define a gram. One thousand of those is a kilogram, and also defines a liter of water. And with the kilogram, meter, and the measurement of a second of time (still based on units of 60 rather than 100) the 19<sup>th</sup> century scientists began to standardize how everything was measured. That enabled new discoveries in physics, the definitions of electric units and charges, the discovery of the particles of the atom,  $e=mc^2$ , and the whole lot that makes up the background of the modern technical world.

In 1792, during the era of the French Revolution, Jean-Baptiste Delambre (del-OMB-ra - like bomb without the b) and Pierre-Francois-Andre Mechain (mesh-EH) set out from Paris, one north to Dunkirk and one south to Barcelona, to survey the land and affix the length of the meter. Their story is definitely not like you might have heard in grade school history. They had death threats, were arrested, dealt with superstitious peasants, and even one endured a guilt trip. You see, Mechain made a small error in his calculations and covered up his mistake. The guilt drove him to madness and suicide.

In the late 1700's France, there were over 800 measurement systems with no less than 250,000 different units of measurement! By defining the meter, the French were going to beat the system and come up with one system for all time. Interestingly, it appears that after all that trouble, the French failed to take advantage of their new system in its entirety until less than 100 years ago. But most scientists embraced the system and began to settle once and for all the values of physical constants. Now we have volts, amperes, ohms, farads, henrys, newtons, oersteds, curie, and gauss (and more) constants named in honor of the some of the greatest minds the world has known, all based on kilograms, meters, and seconds. – de AF8C

**SOME COMING RULES CHANGES... EMERGENCY PLANNING EXERCISE**

(from ARRL Bulletin 15 ARLB015 May 7, 2004)

Minor FCC amateur rule changes effective June 1, 2004

The FCC says minor amendments to various Amateur Radio rules become effective June 1. The regulatory changes, which the FCC made on its own motion rather than in reaction to any petitions, appeared May 5 in the Federal Register.

"This document makes minor amendments to various rule sections to clarify or eliminate duplicative language or conform them with other rule sections," the FCC said.

Among other changes, the most significant involved revising the wording of Section 97.307(d), which defines spurious emissions. The updated language imposes a slightly higher standard on newer transmitters or amplifiers of any power level. Starting June 1, the rule will provide that:

\* the mean power of any spurious emission from HF transmitters or external RF power amplifiers installed after January 1, 2003, must be at least 43 dB below the mean power of the fundamental emission.

\* the mean power of any spurious emission from HF transmitters or external RF power amplifiers installed on or before January 1, 2003, must not exceed 50 mW and must be at least 40 dB below the mean power of the fundamental emission. If the mean power output of such as transmitter is less than 5 W, the attenuation must be at least 30 dB.

Still exempt from the provisions of Section 97.307(d) are transmitters built before April 15, 1977, or those first marketed before January 1, 1978.

The FCC also has redefined what constitutes an Amateur Radio operator to reflect the advent of the Universal Licensing System (ULS) electronic licensee database. Under the revised Section 97.3(a)(1) an amateur operator is **"a person named in an amateur operator/primary license station grant on the ULS consolidated licensee database to be the control operator of an amateur station."** The current rule defines an amateur operator as "a person holding a written authorization to be the control operator of an amateur station."

The Commission ordered the rule changes within the context of a larger, wide-ranging Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 04-140. That NPRM addresses several Amateur Radio-related petitions and proposes revisions to operating privileges. The FCC continues to seek comments on these proposals. Comments are due by Tuesday, June 15, and reply comments by Wednesday, June 30. Among other changes, the FCC has recommended adopting the ARRL's "Novice refarming" plan.

(modified, orig. from the MARC FEEDBACK, November 2003)

Here's items that will disappear really fast in a huge civil disaster/emergency that lasts a fairly long time and goes way beyond anything like Field Day. Will you have spares? Will you have a plan? The following is approximately sorted by priority. Think about the 1800's pioneers, what they had, and what they needed. There are no farm animals in this list, either. For short outages you can expect to use a generator, but not for long ones.

**ALTERNATIVE HEATING**

Water Containers (hard clear plastic, or metal)  
 Water Filters & Purifiers  
 Drinks (milk, pop, water, etc)  
 Soap (waterless anti-bacterial)  
 Canned Fruits, Veggies, soups, Foods, Snacks, Candy  
 Can openers & Aluminum Foil  
 Dog and Cat Food  
 Baby Supplies  
 Vegetable Oil  
 Toilet Paper  
 Personal Hygiene Supplies (all kinds)  
 Vitamins & Medicines  
 Clothes Pins, Line & Hangers  
 First Aid Kits  
 Cookstoves (Propane Coleman) or portable grills  
 Cast Iron Cookware  
 Charcoal & LighterFluid & Coleman Fuel, & Sterno  
 Plates & Cups & Utensils (type determined by duration of use)  
 Durable Work Clothes & Boots & Gloves & Jackets  
 Lumber (all types & sizes) & Seasoned Firewood  
 Flashlights & Light Sticks & Batteries (all kinds)  
 Matches & Lighters & Candles  
 Shovels & Saws, Hatchets & Axes  
 Tarps, Rope & Twine  
 Sleeping Bags & Blankets  
 Tools and Knives  
 Garbage Cans (Plastic)  
 Laundry Detergent (Liquid)  
 Bleach (Plain – Non Scented)  
 Generators, Gasoline & Kerosene & Propane Cylinders  
 Gasoline Containers (only for generators etc.)  
 Guns & Ammunition (think)  
 Garbage Bags & Paper Towels  
 Cash \$\$ (currency & coin)  
 Duct Tape, Nails & Screws  
 Fire Extinguishers  
 Coolers & Ice Chests  
 Bug Repellents  
 Portable Toilets  
 Coffee & Tea  
 Cigarettes, Wine & Liquors (at least for bartering! de AF8C)  
 Mouse & Bug Traps  
 Rain Gear  
 Hand Pumps & Siphons  
And added by AF8C  
Fishing Equipment  
 Something with wheels to help move things around, such as a cart, wagon, or bicycle.

# 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

