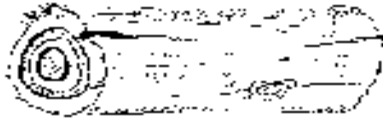




FOUNDED 1947

# WEST PARK RADIOPS



Web: <http://www.westparkradiops.org>  
Email: [w8vm-<at>arrl.net](mailto:w8vm-<at>arrl.net)

# LOG



June - July 2007  
VOL. XXXXII - NO. 4

## 2007 CLUB OFFICERS

President	
Alan Moriarty	N8CX
(216) 221-3682	
Vice President	
Egon Fordos	AB8HY
(440) 333-9344	
Secretary	
Glenn Williams	AF8C
(440) 835-4897	
Treasurer	
Kevin Brandstetter	K8VUS
(440) 734-5532	
Trustee	
Dick Naumann	K8AB
(440) 884-2929	

## COMMITTEES

FIELD EVENTS  
W8IDM, W8PN

PUBLIC SERVICE  
K8YQL

WAS & VUCC CHECKERS  
K8ME, N8CX

ARRL VE'S  
AF8C, N8CX, K8TTL

ARTICLES  
N8CX, W8IDM

ANTENNAS  
W8PN, W8IDM, W8IMF

CLUB AWARDS  
W8IDM

CONTESTS, SATELLITES  
W8IDM

DX  
W8IMF

EDITOR, WEBMASTER  
AF8C

LABELS & ROSTERS  
N8CX

## WEST PARK EVENTS \*

\*Subject to Change

### June 1 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

Bring your questions or answers to the radio problems of the day/week/month. Top item of business will be the Field Day budget vote.

### June 15 - Program Night - Annual FIELD DAY Planning Meeting

Tonight will be the annual final planning session for how we will operate Field Day 2007.

### July 6 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

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

### July 20 - Program Night - Picnic and Rain Test

Tonight at 5:00 p.m. will be another test of the Cleveland Weather Prediction Project, wherein we will plan to picnic in Metroparks, just west of the river off Cedar Point Road. BYO chairs, plastic ware, OFF, etc.

## IN THIS ISSUE

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- Public Service	Ultimate DX-Challenge
-10M Net Topics	AMSAT EAGLE
- Info from Jim Weaver, K8JE	

<b>Page 4:</b> American Civil War connections	<b>Page 5:</b> Another CC
Hawaii Moonbounce	Computers at Walmart
	CQ Hall of Fame

## CONTESTS AND EVENTS

- de WA7BMN Calendar

Jun 2	WAKE-UP! QRP SPRINT
Jun 9	ALL SCOUTS QRP/PARK
Jun 16	KID'S DAY CONTEST
Jun 23	ARRL FIELD DAY
Jul 4	MI QRP SPRINT
Jul 14-15	IARU HF CHAMPIONSHIP
Jul 14	NOARS HAMFEST
Jul 21-22	CQ WW VHF CONTEST
Sep 22	ARRL DIV. CONVENTION
Sep 23	CLEVELAND HAMFEST

## SOAPBOX

**Cycle 24 is now predicted to be almost a year "late".**

**Field Day is coming. We need a plan, folks!**

**Join us at North Olmsted ALL SCOUTS from 8:30 a.m. to late afternoon. Remember to keep those cool QRP radios cool. :)**

**There are only about 180 shopping days until the winter 160M contests start! :)**

This document was created using Open Office 2.0. PDF Creator. Usage of Microsoft products was limited to as little as possible.

## Presidents Corner

Hi gang,

Well, Summer is here and West Park has plenty of activities coming up. Glenn called the first QRP-to-the-field "fun-day" as All-Scouts, on Saturday, June 9th. Following closely is Field Day, June 23rd and 24th, "go for it". Then, the West Park annual cookout comes up on Friday, July 20th. Another QRP to-the-field outing is planned for Sunday, July 29th, from 1 – 5 p.m. This is the annual "Flight of the Bumblebees" sponsored by the Adventure Radio Society. I already have my Bee number (#28). All Bees must be portable. Food will be provided. More on this one at an upcoming meeting. Throughout the rest of the summer and into Fall color time we will certainly have some other outdoor activities possibly including some form of portable or mobile operation for the Ohio QSO Party on Saturday, August 25th.

That's a rundown on what's coming up for the next few months at least. So please mark your calendars and plan on participating and having fun with your friends at West Park, and above all, please suggest activities or programs for the meetings.

As always, best 73s to u es urs and hope to cu at the meetings and the activities,

Al, N8CX  
President

## PUBLIC SERVICE...

In May our club again supported the Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation in helping by delivering spring cleaning supplies to the needy in Lakewood. Assistance was provided by Dave KA8YQL, Linda Freeman, Al N8CX, and Glenn, AF8C.

On June 9 we will be supporting the North Olmsted scout troops by providing amateur radio experience to the youngsters (and even the scout leaders!) with our operating station setup in North Olmsted City Park, with setup starting at 8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

AF8C has served as a VE at two sessions in Elyria after the end of code testing requirements and the inrush of new amateur radio wannabes.

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

On the Club's net, we have recently discussed bees, praying mantids-to-be, Scarborough Reef, where to buy electronic parts and towers, exploding stars, DX, computer problems, other nets and SKYWARN events, Swains Island, and other chit-chat. Join our net since you never know what the topic will be.

## NEWS FROM OUR DIRECTOR...

++ Your Help, Please

Within just a few days, all members will receive a request to write to your US Representative in support of a bill designed to protect Amateur Radio frequencies from interference. This request will include LACs and LAAs as well as all other members.

I will send a draft letter for you to modify or to use as it is. To learn who this should be sent to, go to the Members Only site of [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org). When this site opens, the name and address of your US Representative will appear on the left side of the screen. The names and addresses of your US Senators will also appear; however, please do not write to them at this time. It is too soon to contact them.

Please limber your writing hand and be ready to write. I'll include further information along with the draft letter.

++ Updated Graphics

By now, everyone who reads QST with at least one eye open has seen the tremendous upgrading in graphic appearance this journal has undergone. The changes began a few months ago with a rather major change. They have continued on a lesser scale.

In addition to the positive changes in QST, the WAS and 5-Band WAS certificates have also been modernized. The new look should definitely have greater appeal to all of us -- young or old -- who like to collect and show our wallpaper.

Already have a WAS or 5-Band WAS, but would like to have the new look? You may order a new one based upon your existing record, or why not earn a new award?

(de Jim Weaver, K8JE, Director ARRL Great Lakes Division)

## POSSIBLE FALL & WINTER PROGRAMS ...

Already some new programs have been discussed. We will need a board meeting before August to iron out our program plans for the rest of the year. Some possible topics include a presentation on Explorer Post balloon flights, Software Defined Radio kits, and SO2R interfaces for you folks with two radios available for a contest.

## RADIO CLUB FORFEITS SS CONTEST...

(from the ARRL Web pages)

Contest club does "the right thing" (May 25, 2007) -- The **Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC)** has agreed to **forfeit** its victory in the 2006 ARRL November Sweepstakes because some of those contributing scores to PVRC turned out to be outside the club's territory.

"This is a decision that I take very seriously, as so many of you poured your heart and soul into this great competitive event," PVRC President Jim Nitzberg, WX3B, said in a letter to members. "We decided this was the best course of action consistent with our high ethical standards as one of the finest unlimited contesting clubs."

Nitzberg says the PVRC completed last fall's November Sweepstakes with the largest turnout of operators in its history. But upon closer examination, he said, measurable activity occurred from areas "clearly beyond" the 350-mile diameter ARRL competition boundary (175-mile radius). Nitzberg says once the club used more precise measurement techniques to determine its boundaries, it ended up losing by a wide margin.

Nitzberg notes that the club was not officially challenged nor requested to forfeit but made the decision on its own after carefully examining participation. He also accepted responsibility for the error as the club's president and extended congratulations to the Northern California Contest Club for winning the November SS gavel.

The PVRC this year celebrates its 60th anniversary this year, and members will take part in an annual on-the-air reunion over the June 2-3 weekend. During the event PVRC ops are encouraged to append /60 to their call signs.

## ULTIMATE DX CHALLENGE...

(from the ARRL Web pages)

Recent news of the now-lost Mars Polar Lander has renewed interest in the **Elser-Mathes Cup**. Visitors to ARRL HQ may recall having seen the unusual trophy on display. It's intended to mark the occasion of the first two-way Amateur Radio contact between Earth and Mars. (The actual bowl of the cup is borne by images of beings that only coincidentally resemble the large-eyed hominids of alien abduction lore; that was not the intention, however.--Ed)

The story of the Elser-Mathes cup appeared in the November 1969 issue of *QST*. In his article, "That Planet Mars QSO Cup," Col. Fred Johnson Elser, W6FB, recalled meeting League founder Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, in the 1920s. He learned that Maxim had an interest in Mars and even owned a globe of "The Red Planet." Later, back in The Philippines--in 1928 under US jurisdiction--Elser was inspired by a visit with Philippines SCM Lt Cmdr Stanley Mathes, K1CY, to offer "a unique trophy" for the first two-way communication with Maxim's "pet planet," Mars.

The actual trophy selected by Elser and Mathes during a trip to Baguio is an example of Igorot native woodcarving. "The base symbolizes Earth and the seated figures are its inhabitants," Elser explained in *QST*. "The bowl is Mars, and the standing men are the amateurs who bridge the gap of space." The plate fastened to the cup includes space for the names and call signs of those who will one day fulfill the cup's eventual destiny. (In the meantime, if you'd like to send your name to Mars, visit

<http://spacekids.hq.nasa.gov/2001/>).

## AMSAT PLANNING EAGLE SATELLITE...

AMSAT News Service Bulletin 133.03

May 13, 2007

Congratulations to the U-Band Receiver team.

Jim Sanford, WB4GCS the Eagle Project Manager announced this week that the first prototype of the Eagle satellite 70cm receiver became operational this week. Juan Rivera, WA6HTP and team moved from troubleshooting to testing mode.

[ANS thanks Gould, WA4SXM for the above information]

[Eagle is planned for launch some time in 2009.]

## EXACTLY WHAT STARTED THE CIVIL WAR?...

I don't think it would be out of the question to say that in all of history, the ebb and flow of wars have depended human decisions and also on whatever technical advantage one side had over the other. It seems that in school history books the technical advantages are almost never discussed.

Our encyclopedia states that the Civil War was a sectional combat based on complex misalignments and disagreements in the political, economic, social and psychological backgrounds between the North and South.

The start is further described as Confederate commander P.G.T. Beauregard ordering the firing on Fort Sumter under instructions from his superiors. The North, under President Lincoln, was obliged to defend federal United States property, which included Fort Sumter, on day the hostilities began.

Until I acquired the book "Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails" by Tom Wheeler (HarperCollins, 2006) I had never heard of some technical connections to the Civil War that I have never seen before in history books.

First, as a side issue, Wheeler states that as early as 1753 an article was published in *Scots* magazine describing how at one location on a wire, an electric current could mimic "commands" entered at another point on the wire. After some developments in battery technology, Great Britain led the world in demonstrating electronic signaling. However, Joseph Henry, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, experimenting further, invented first the electromagnetic relay, and then in 1831 demonstrated a telegraph line that was 1.5 miles long using relays to repeat the signaling. However, Henry did not patent his new signaling device.

In 1839 Samuel Morse picked up the relay technology after visiting Henry. This solved a problem Morse was having with building a communication line between New Orleans and New York City, authorized by \$30,000 from Congress. (Morse invented his Morse Code while on-board the packet ship *Scully* in 1832. But he had not figured out a technology to successfully carry the signaling over long distances on wire.) After Morse's invention of his code, and the implementation of telegraphic signaling, the telegraph became a communication system popular all over the industrial world.

By the time Lincoln took office on March 4, 1861, the tension between the federal government and the

southern states was already near a breaking point. Shortly Lincoln sent a written message to Governor Pickens of South Carolina that he wished to have the Army send a peaceful resupply mission to Fort Sumter for the express purpose of supplying non-military provisions. (Lincoln did not yet fully understand the value of telegrams, so the message was sent by courier.) However, before the courier arrived, a spy relayed to Charleston, via **telegraph**, the essential contents of the message.

Governor Pickens then **telegraphed** Jefferson Davis in Montgomery, Alabama, the nature of the situation. Lincoln had stated that the Union was not to fire first. Davis **telegraphed** Pickens, ordering him to fire. So there you have it: **the telegraph carried the order to start the war.**

(Incidentally, George McClellan, Lincoln's general early in the Civil War, had already observed the use of the telegraph in the Crimean War (1854-1856) and was ready to use the telegraph even before Lincoln.)

Five weeks after the first firing commenced on Fort Sumter, the American Telegraph Company (in the North) sent workers to cut the telegraph lines to the South, at the Long Bridge where it crossed the Potomac River. At that point the North had 15,000 miles of lines and the South (the Confederate Telegraph Company) only had 500 miles of telegraph lines. Within months of the start of the war, Lincoln made effective use of the telegraph to stay in daily contact with his generals and to send orders to the field in near real time. With such a powerful means of communication on their side, it is easy for me believe that the North had a huge technical advantage over the South.

**(Note: Opinions by this editor do not constitute an endorsement by the club. - de AF8C)**

## HAWAII MOONBOUNCE...

(from The ARRL Letter, April 27, 2007)

Bruce Clark, K0YW, operating as KH7X from the station of Alex Benton, KH6YY, made the first successful 2.3 GHz EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) contact from Hawaii April 23 (UTC). "This is the first time EME from Hawaii has been worked on this band," reports Ron Hashiro, AH6RH, who assisted in the effort. Clark made contact with well-known VHF/UHF and moonbounce enthusiast Al Ward, W5LUA, in Texas. Hashiro says the Hawaii operation was set up in a tent pitched next to the 12-foot TV receive-only (TVRO) dish used for the antenna, in order to minimize feedline losses. "The CW signal was just above the noise level and sounded 'watery,' as if the speaker were being held underwater," Hashiro reported. In addition to Benton and Hashiro, others assisting in the moonbounce experiment included KH6ND, KH7U, WH6GS and AH6NF.

## ANOTHER KIND OF CC ...

(from the ARRL Web pages)

ARRL congratulates centenarian member (May 10, 2007) --

The ARRL has extended its congratulations to League member Harvey Baalke, **W9HNX**, of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, who celebrated his **100th birthday March 23**. Wrote ARRL CEO David Sumner, **K1ZZ**, on the League's behalf: "I seldom have the privilege of writing to an ARRL member on the occasion of their 100th birthday! Please accept belated congratulations on behalf of the Board, staff and your fellow members of the ARRL. I know you have seen many changes since you were first licensed. One thing that has not changed is the unique camaraderie among radio amateurs of different generations and cultures. Best wishes from the worldwide Amateur Radio community. Sincere 73."

Baalke first joined the ARRL in 1936.

## DELL COMPUTERS WITH LINUX, AT WALMART...

**(This is NOT an advertisement nor a recommendation or endorsement by the club nor by this newsletter!)**

Dell Inc., maker of Dell computers, announced they will be selling computers that are loaded with the Ubuntu 7.04 Linux system, for \$599. A few days later they also announced a deal to sell computers through WalMart.

These are curious events, considering the current monopoly of computer operating systems held by Microsoft Corporation.

Ubuntu Linux has recently been attracting attention as the most user friendly version of the FREE operating system that is our only option if we don't want to run Microsoft Windows on our PC. In early May Dell agreed to collaborate with Microsoft and Novell Inc. on making a version of Linux to work with Windows on computer servers. Note: we run clients, not servers, at home.

So it still is not known at the time of this writing what you get if you get one of the new Dells, either with or without Linux, at WalMart.

## CQ HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES...

(from *The ARRL Letter*, May 25, 2007)

ARRL Senior News Editor Rick Lindquist, **N1RL**, has been inducted into the 2007 CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame. CQ magazine, which sponsors the honor, cited Lindquist for keeping the amateur community updated on new developments via *The ARRL Letter*, ARRL Audio News and the ARRL Web news pages. He will retire June 1.

Other 2007 inductees included:

- \* Roy Lewallen, **W7EL**, for the development of the EZ-NEC antenna modeling software.
- \* Don Miller, **W9NTP**. An SSTV pioneer, he developed (with **KB9VAK**) the first high-definition digital SSTV protocol and program.
- \* Durward J. Tucker, **W5VU (SK)**, who helped promote and popularize RTTY in the 1950s.
- \* Ade Weiss, **W0RSP (ex-K8EEG)**, for being a leading proponent and promoter of QRP (low-power communications) in the 1970s and 80s.
- \* Farrell Winder, **W8ZCF**, for sending the first SSTV signals to the Russian Mir space station.
- \* ISS Expedition 12 commander Bill McArthur, **KC5ACR**, ARRL's guest of honor at the 2007 Dayton Hamvention and the most active radio amateur aboard the ISS to date.
- \* Phillip Catona, **W2JAV (SK)**, an RTTY pioneer and inventor of the modern-day terminal unit.
- \* Paul Flaherty, **N9FZX (SK)**, co-inventor of Alta Vista search engine.
- \* John Geloso, **I1JGM**, an Italian Amateur Radio manufacturer.
- \* Michael Griffin, **NR3A**, NASA Administrator.
- \* James Hillier, **ex-VE3SH (SK)**, co-inventor of scanning electron microscope and former head of RCA Labs.
- \* Herb Johnson, **W6QKI (ex-W7GRA) (SK)**, founder of Swan Electronics.
- \* Copthorne MacDonald, **VY2CM**, author and developer of slow-scan TV (SSTV).
- \* Louis Tristao, **KG6VY (SK)**, inventor of the crank-up tower.

The CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame honors individuals who, whether licensed or not, "have made significant contributions to Amateur Radio" and/or "have made significant contributions either to Amateur Radio, to their professional careers or to some other aspect of life on our planet."

# 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

