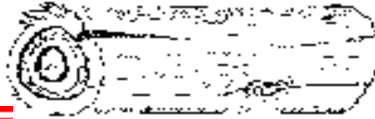




FOUNDED 1947

WEST PARK RADIOPS



LOG



Web: <http://www.westparkradiops.org>

Email: w8vm-<at>-arrl.net

June - July 2009
VOL. XLIV - NO. 4

Our 10m Net 28450 kHz Mondays 10 p.m. local

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FIELD EVENTS
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K8ME, N8CX

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AF8C, N8CX, K8TTL

ARTICLES THIS TIME
N8CX, K8ME, AB8HY

ANTENNAS
W8PN, W8IDM

CLUB AWARDS
W8IDM

CONTESTS, SATELLITES
W8IDM

DX
N8WS

8TH AREA BUREAU LETTER MGRS.
N8WS (T) & (W), AF8C (V)

EDITOR, WEBMASTER
AF8C

LABELS & ROSTERS
N8CX

WEST PARK EVENTS *

*Subject to Change

June 5 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

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

June 13 - NORTH OLMSTED ALL SCOUTS - SATURDAY ONLY 9:30 - 4

Those members who have said they can support All Scouts, be prepared to bring your equipment. This is an excellent opportunity to test portable antennas too.

June 19 - FIELD DAY PLANNING - LAST CHANCE

Let's talk about the final plans for Field Day. We already have plans for a new siting situation for our 2E Battery operation.

June 27 - FIELD DAY !!!

July 3 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

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

July 17 - PICNIC (OR SHOW AND TELL NIGHT)

We plan on having the annual picnic in Rocky River Reservation by Cedar Point road west of the traffic light. Show up at 6 p.m. with your table settings, picnic dish contributions, chair(s) and etc. Should the picnic be rained out, we will have a Show and Tell program at the regular meeting site as previously listed here.

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QRS and CQ

CONTESTS AND EVENTS

- de WA7BNM & ARRL

Jun 6	WAKEUP QRP SPRINT
Jun 13	ALL SCOUTS WEEKEND
Jun 13-15	ARRL VHF QSO Party
Jun 22	RUN FOR THE BACON QRP
Jun 27-28	ARRL FIELD DAY
Jul 11	IARU HF WORLD CHAMPS
Jul 11	FISTS SUMMER SPRINT
Jul 18-19	CQ WW VHF Contest
Jul 20	RUN FOR THE BACON QRP
Jul 30	CQ WW WPX CW
Jul 13	ALL SCOUTS WEEKEND

SOAPBOX

We continue to test new antenna construction projects and ideas. The ARRL Field Day will a big day to test antennas and your code speed. Practice Practice.

Sun spots are still AWOL. It's a good time to investigate 80 and 40 in really early morning hours. Look for DX from the pacific.

Our 10M net is on 28450 kHz, Mondays at 10 p.m. Local.

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...

Fellow West Park members,

The Memorial Day weekend marks the beginning of the warm weather summer season and I am looking forward to it as probably you all are too.

Dayton is over and the turnout was better than expected despite the economic downturn. Many of the forums were standing room only in many cases. I heard that quite a few exhibitors sold the same or slightly more than last year. It goes to show that amateur radio have not been phased by the present economic conditions.

Other upcoming events in June and July are:

June 13 North Olmsted All Scouts Weekend.

June 20 Kids Day Survey

June 27-28 Field Day

July 17 The club picnic

This year we are planning on having two separate operating QTHs for Field Day, one at Kevin's QTH (K8VUS) and the other at Ken's QTH (W8KH). The primary reason for splitting up the stations is to eliminate possible interference amongst the different stations operating on different bands. This will be interesting to see how this works out since this is the first time I believe that this club has tried something like this. The primary challenge will be to have all the stations manned at all times, this is crucial for obtaining a decent overall club score despite the current band conditions.

As always, please keep in mind any new activities that we can do as a club that will increase the chances for new memberships.

73 de, Egon ab8hy , President

WEST PARK PUBLIC SERVICE...

We have been invited by the North Olmsted All Scouts event managers to again put on our demonstration of amateur radio in action, on the afternoon of June 13. So we need to arrive at the southwest corner of North Olmsted city park around 9:30 a.m. in order to start setting up. Several of our members have assured that they will be there, and with enough power cords, small radios, maybe a laptop, a portable table, and some antennas in order to put on a station operation.

RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON THE 10M NET...

On the Club's net, 28450 kHz, Monday nights at 10 p.m., we have recently discussed the Dayton Hamvention, digital TV antennas, lawn mower repairs, how to repel ants and deer, computer problems, the Dayton bus, contesting, new and old radios, new radios at Dayton, yard work, and occasionally PSK31 and the upcoming 2m net.

2M NET PLANNING...

West Park may start up a weekly 2M net in the near future. At one point it seemed as if this would be mid-evening on Wednesday or Thursday night. Stay "Tuned".

AMATEUR RADIO ENHANCEMENT ACT...

(from *The ARRL Letter* email, May 1, 2009)

- On Wednesday, April 29, Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) introduced HR 2160 -- the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009" -- in the US House of Representatives. This bill, if passed, would "promote and encourage the valuable public service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a volunteer basis by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service, by undertaking a study of the uses of Amateur Radio for emergency and disaster relief communications, by identifying unnecessary or unreasonable impediments to the deployment of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications, and by making recommendations for relief of such unreasonable restrictions so as to expand the uses of Amateur Radio communications in Homeland Security planning and response." The bill has been referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce < http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bill_s&docid=f:h2160ih.txt.pdf >.

If enacted into law, HR 2160, would instruct the Secretary of Homeland Security to undertake a study and report its findings to Congress within 180 days. The study would spell out uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief. The study shall:

- * Include recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts.
- * Include recommendations for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and in furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives.
- * Identify unreasonable or unnecessary impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications -- such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations -- and make recommendations regarding such impediments.
- * Include an evaluation of Section 207 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat 56 [1996]).
- * Recommend whether Section 207 should be modified to prevent unreasonable private land use restrictions that impair the ability of amateurs to conduct, or prepare to conduct, emergency communications by means of effective outdoor antennas and support structures at reasonable heights and dimensions for the purpose in residential areas.

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall utilize the expertise of the ARRL and shall seek information from private and public sectors for the study. *[This could be the start of stopping restrictive covenants that aim to prevent amateur radio antennas from being erected in residential neighborhoods. – de AF8C]*

On-Line and On-the-Air-more info-

by N8CX

Yet another installment.

Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society
and
International Lighthouse-Lightship
Organization

For complete information visit the websites:

< <http://www.arlhs.com/> > & < <http://www.illw.org/> >

These are must-see websites !

Frequencies

All frequencies extend plus and minus 20 kHz

1.830
1.970
3.530
3.970
7.030
7.270
14.030
14.270
21.030
21.370
28.030
28.370

Info and On-the-air activities

The Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society is a for-pay membership. The International Lighthouse - Lightship Week is free. The two organizations have recently merged and each site has a link to the other. The International Lighthouse-Lightship Week is really an organization unto itself which fosters lighthouse and lightship preservation. It is the host for the Lighthouse - Lightship Week operating event.

This years Lighthouse - Lightship Week will be from August 1 - 9, 2009.

This also corresponds to the lighthouse weekend that we already participate in. Note: John, K8YSE, always puts a few lighthouses on the air each year. I will provide details when they become available.

The ILLW publishes an-line newsletter called the “Blog Horn”. The ARLHS publishes a free e-mail newsletter. Both will keep you informed about worldwide current activities. There are many.

HFpack Portable

For complete information visit the website.

<http://www.hfpack.com/>

This is also a “Yahoo Group”

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/hfpack>

Note that Upper Sideband (USB) is used where we would normally use LSB.

3791	LSB (U.S.)
3996	USB
5371.5	Primary USB
5403.5	USB
7065 Europe	USB
7090 Europe	USB
7185	USB
7296	USB
10117.5	CW
14342.5	USB
18157.5	USB
21285	USB Europe
28360	USB Europe

Info and On-the-air activities

HFpack is based in Europe and is involved in the following rather extensive list of activities:

- HF nets - emergency communications -
- portable transceiver equipment - DX - NVIS
- HF SSB CW - data - marine – aero -
- VHF/HF portable - mobile emergency communications.
- Camping - hiking - bicycle expeditions - TX/RX techniques – manpack, packset , backpack - handheld pedestrian mobile.

The organization always has a group meeting outside Hara Arena at Dayton each year. Pictures are available on the website. You can easily spot them, as they all wear backpacks with vertical antennas attached.

This group has quite a large following here in the U.S. and you can sometimes hear them on the 60 meter channels. They are low power most of the time.

Dayton Bus Review...

(by Dwaine Modock, K8ME)

The Dayton Hamfest has come and gone, but not without a fun one day bus trip to the Hamvention(TM). The bus left Kmart on Engle and Bagley road at 3:30 a.m. with 30 riders which included the five guys from western New York who were the first people waiting for the bus. While 35 people signed up, there were five people who dropped out for various reasons. The bus pulled into Bob Evans on RT-70 at 5:50 a.m. After the gourmet breakfast, the bus was back on the road and a little over an hour later the bus pulled into the hamfest around 8:15 a.m. That was perfect because the flea market opened at 8:00 a.m. and O'Hara Arena opened at 9:00 a.m. There was rain for a little bit going down, but it rained off and on all day.

The crowd was down and flea market size was down. The Arena had all the different companies introducing their new products. Icom and DX Engineering displays were very impressive. Yaesu was handing out maps and hats, with so much to see.

The bus was parked on the western side of arena all day, so we were able to come and drop purchase off or just rest in the bus throughout the day. I was glad because I never finished the flea market because of my sore feet. I know everyone else was tired also. The rain started with high winds around 4:00 p.m. which blew half the tents down in the flea market. Then we were waiting for the tired riders to return at the end of the day, and checking the riders off as they boarded, making sure all were accounted for. The bus left the hamvention around 5:10 p.m. for the journey home, stopping for quick fast food. The bus pulled into the Kmart lot a little after 9:00 p.m. Everyone was tired but happy they went.

THINK ABOUT NEXT YEAR.

73's Dwaine ---K8ME

D-STAR INTRODUCTION...

(based on gleanings from Web pages)

"D-STAR" stands for Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio. It is an open standard digital communication protocol established by Japan Amateur Radio League with development started in 1999 and initial standardization in 2001.

It uses 4.8kbps digital voice (DV) mode and 128kbps data (DD) mode communications are available. When using DD mode with a PC and the D-STAR radio, high speed data communication is possible. But to use DD mode you will need to have an ICOM ID-1 radio (and you will need friends to communicate with of course).

Data can be sent with a voice transmission in DV mode operation, simultaneously sending up to 950bps of data. Using an Internet gateway allows you to relay your call to a remote D-STAR repeater over the Internet, with remote

including foreign country operators or D-STAR repeaters. The D-STAR repeater call sign and IP address must be registered to the gateway server. Some restrictions may apply based on specific country regulations.

You can use a local D-STAR repeaters or you can also communicate with other D-STAR radios directly. There is a "private line" mode: when using the call sign squelch function the squelch is opened only when your call sign is received.

Perhaps you have not heard of D-RATS, wherein D-STAR equipment and communication can help first responders. D-RATS is a multi-platform integrated tool for communication using D-STAR radios. With only a pair of radios or assisted by a D-STAR repeater a variety of data transmission methods are supported, including: Instant-message chat, Automatic beacon messages, File transfers with error detection, Structured forms, and GPS position reports.

The first manufacturer to offer D-Star compatible radios was Icom. As of December 30, 2008, no other amateur radio equipment manufacturer had chosen to include D-Star technology in their radios. (Kenwood re-brands an Icom radio and distributes it in Japan only.)

Within the D-Star Digital Voice protocol standards (DV), voice audio is encoded as a 3600 bit/s data stream using proprietary AMBE encoding, with 1200 bit/s FEC, leaving 1200 bit/s for an additional data "path" between radios utilizing DV mode. On air bit rates for DV mode are 4800 bit/s over the 2 m, 70 cm and 23 cm bands as well as 10 GHz. As long as the signal strength is above a minimum threshold, and no multi-path is occurring, the quality of the data received is better than an analog signal at the same strength.

D-STAR has been criticized for its use of a patented, closed-source proprietary voice codec (AMBE). Hams do not have access to the detailed specification of this codec or the rights to implement it on their own without buying a licensed product. Hams have a long tradition of building, improving upon and experimenting with their own radio designs. The modern digital age equivalent of this endeavor would be designing and/or implementing codecs in computer software. Critics say the proprietary nature of AMBE and its availability only in hardware form (as ICs) discourages innovation. However, even the critics praise the openness of the rest of the D-STAR standard which can be implemented freely.

An open-source replacement for the AMBE codec would resolve this issue. Bruce Perens, K6BP, amateur radio and open source advocate, has announced that he will investigate the development of an alternative codec.

Further pro-D-STAR manufacturer web pages are at <http://www.icomamerica.com/en/products/amateur/dstar/dstar/default.aspx>

QRS and CQ...

In 39 years in amateur radio I have become curious as to the source of our communications prosigns that we know so well. Did radio amateurs invent these in order to simplify the standardize daily operation of traffic handling nets? Was it merely an antecedent to “10-” numbers used by CB operators needing to communicate in high-noise or fading conditions?

So based on accidentally finding a curious article in my father's *TRAINS* magazine some 20+ years ago, I realized that the likelihood of a historical basis for some of our prosigns was highly likely. However, previous to Google(TM) and Wikipedia(TM) and the Web, locating real positive proof of the origin of some our prosigns was nearly impossible.

Recently however a Web search chanced upon some of the Google Books(TM) web pages, leading to some interesting findings. (Let me first mention that Google is presently progressing on a huge project to digitize tens of thousands of books and old written documents in order to make them available for the public of the world. Think about it. Hundreds of years of publishing of all kinds and levels of technical information and literature around the world has been moldering away in libraries, virtually inaccessible to the world, while in the computer world we might have the tendency to assume that what we find in the local libraries and book stores is sufficient coverage of what is known.) In my searches through Google Books I learned of a fantastic history of communications all in the years BEFORE radio was invented.

For background, once upon a time in the West Park LOG pages I challenged anyone to produce information on how, during the Revolutionary War, George Washington learned so quickly of the arrival of the British at our shores. In all appearances it was as if George Washington had access to high speed communications well beyond the capabilities of a horse and rider. Readers of Alexander Dumas' novel *The Count of Monte Cristo* may remember evidence of some form of high speed communications in France in the early 1840's.

So getting to the point here, it is worth noting that Washington had access to “another system of telegraphy, somewhat akin to the semaphore, known as Washington's telegraph, was at one time employed in this country. It was, presumably, so called, because of the fact that it was one among many similar telegraph systems used during the war of Independence in this country. The apparatus used in the Washington telegraph system was easy of construction, and, it must be admitted, somewhat crude. It consisted of a portable mast, on the top of which was placed a tub, or barrel – also, on one side of the post, a movable flag was placed, and on the other side, near the top, a basket, which was suspended from a bracket or nail. By interchanging the position of the flag, the barrel and the the basket, and by moving the flag up and down, various signals could be sent, -- about 60 different signals in all.” (Source: *American*

Telegraphy, William Maver, Jr., J.H. Bunnell & Co., New York, 1892, preface page xiv)

By the early 1800's the electrical telegraph had been invented and received rapid popularity. The LOG pages have documented the invention of Morse code and interesting stories about the use of telegraphy in the American Civil War and how President Lincoln took advantage of “tmail” in order to stay in contact with his generals. By 1863 the number of telegrams sent in Australia, no less, was over 400,000 over more than 6600 miles of telegraph lines. By 1870 Europe had over 100,000 miles of lines. Documentation shows detailed drawings of dozens of different types of manual and pen-operated sending and receiving keyers and devices. The British post office, by 1870, was in standard use of electrical technology to transmit telegrams, using message formats strikingly similar to ARRL message forms. Telegraph operators already had standard prosigns that we would recognize. For example: “CQ .. All Stations. A notification to all postal telegraph office to receive the message.” “WB - word before. WA - word after.” (Source: *Handbook of the Telegraph*, R. Bond, Lockwood and Co., London, 1870.)

From the above it is certain that “CQ” was already in use in 1870. Surely there is more history about that prior to 1870. But so far, my additional searches for documentation on this hypothesis has yet to be found..

So, having located information like that, I took more time and looked harder. (During an all night charity event I had my laptop and access to WIFI wireless.) It wasn't hard to find more interesting details. In *During the Civil War in the United States*, William R. Plum, LL.B., Jansen, McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1882, were found hundreds of pages of stories involved with telegraphy assisting Civil War maneuvers, but with no luck in finding documentation on prosigns and message formats.

Later I found, in *Twentieth Century Manual of Railway and Commercial Telegraphy*, Frederic L. Meyer, Rand, McNally & Co., Chicago and NY, 1902, and in *Telegraphy, Railroading, Express, and Freight*, Julien E. Soule, The University Press, Cambridge, USA, 1911, “GN – Goodnight” “BK – Break”, and “73 – Accept my compliments” among a whole list of numbered and abbreviated phrases. Then in *Handbook of Military Signaling*, Captain Howard Giddings, U.S. Signal Corp., D. Appleton & Co., New York 1917, and *Signal Book, United State Army*, 1916, US GPO, 1916 were found “BK-- Break”, “CQ”, “DE -- call letters of calling station”, “K -- go ahead”, “OK -- I understand”, and “QRS” and “QRT” as we know them today.

Bottom line: radio amateur traffic, net and QSO operating techniques were inherited from old time telegraphy! I feel it is likely that professional telegraphers used what they already knew when they were off from work, experimenting with early amateur radio. – de AF8C.

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.
We operate a 10m net on 28450 kHz Monday at 10:00 p.m. local time.

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W8VM

