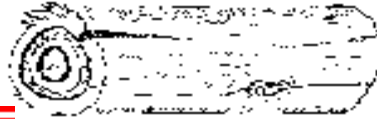




FOUNDED 1947

WEST PARK RADIOPS



LOG



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

Email: w8vm-<at>-arrrl.net

June - July 2010
VOL. XLV - No. 4

Our 10m Net 28450 kHz Mondays 9 p.m. local

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PUBLIC SERVICE

WAS & VUCC CHECKERS
K8ME, N8CX

ARRL VE'S
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ARTICLES THIS TIME
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 4 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

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

June 18 - FIELD DAY PLANNING

We have our last chance to discuss Field Day planning and operations.

June 26-27 - FIELD DAY!!! See notes herein!

July 2 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

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

July 16 - PROGRAM -

We will entertain having a program either on "Understanding the Contest Rules of Different Contests" or on "Digital Photography and Digital Photograph Processing Programs" for your computer. The final choice will be announced during the last week before the meeting when we learn which meeting room we will be in and if we can borrow a working computer projector!

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CONTESTS AND EVENTS

- de WA7BNM & ARRL

Jun 5-6 DIGIFEST

Jun 12 NOR. OLMSTED ALL SCOUTS

Jun 19-20 WV QSO PARTY

Jun 26-27 ARRL FIELD DAY

Jul 3-4 40M FIRECRACKER SPRINT

Jul 10-11 IARU HF CHAMPIONSHIP

Jul 17 NOARSFEST @ LCCC

Jul 17-18 CQ WW VHF TEST

Jul 17-18 NA QSO RTTY TEST

Aug 7-8 10-10 SUMMER SSB TEST

SOAPBOX

The temperature is hot, and in only three weeks we will be seeing the days get shorter again. Wow time flies! N8CX says Labor Day is only around the corner.

For programs, we are soon going to run out of the list from last summer's board meeting. Tell us more about what you want to see at the meetings!!

This document was created using Open Office 3.2, and a PDF creator. Usage of Microsoft products was limited to as little as possible.

Prez Sezs...

It is the beginning of another summer season. Dayton was another success with some of our membership attending the event. I personally never went to Dayton Hamvention before and would definitely like to be there next year, at least just for the experience.

Field Day is coming up very quickly (June 26, 27) and it is going to be held at Kevin's house this year again. I hope there will be enough operators to man the stations at least for the majority of the time. There will be a shortage of a few operators this year because of other commitments. Kevin has a good set-up as far as antennas and equipment to give the club a competitive edge amongst the rankings of other stations in our category.

Other point of interest is that the club might be starting a 2M net every other Monday if the NODXA club grants us permission to use their repeater for our net. If this works out, this will give the club increased exposure to the Ham community increasing our chances of obtaining new club memberships, more outside check-ins, and just more general awareness of our club.

As always, if you can think of anything that we can do as a club whether it be a program, club activity or something else please bring it up at one of our business meetings.

73 de,
Egon AB8HY
President

WEST PARK PUBLIC SERVICE...

Kevin, K8VUS, and AF8C assisted the Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corporation in the May 8 delivery of free spring cleaning supplies to over 120 disadvantaged families in Lakewood Ohio. The next LCAC event will probably be the food delivery on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, 2010.

Al, N8CX, has for several years been on a volunteer committee at the Elyria, Ohio, Red Cross serving for possible assistance anytime there is a major emergency in the northern Ohio area. With the recent FCC decision to possibly allow Red Cross volunteers to use amateur radio in major emergencies, the Elyria Red Cross already has an ace on standby.

RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON THE 10M NET...

On the Club's net, 28450 kHz +/-, lots of discussions have been summarized in our almost weekly 10m Net net-reports.

2M NET PLANNING...

West Park Radiops is currently awaiting approval to use a local club's repeater for our possible 2m nets. Stay tuned!

NEW "PRB-1" for Ohio (Update)...

During the May 12th session of the Ohio Senate, Ohio Senate Bill 218 (aka "PRB-1 for Ohio") **passed** by unanimous vote, and will move on for consideration in the Ohio House of Representatives.

This bill, which will **require** local municipalities to **provide reasonable accommodations** for Amateur Radio antennae, passed the Senate with a 32-0 vote for passage.

The next step is for the bill to be entered into the House of Representatives, combined with existing House Bill 212 in the Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee, and voted upon before being sent to the Governor for signing into law. The bill will be entered into the House within the next 2 weeks.

State Government Liaison Nick Pittner, K8NAP said this is a great day for Amateur Radio in Ohio, and good news to have right before the Dayton Hamvention!

A video archive of the Senate session is now in the Ohio Senate website.

Go to < www.ohiosenate.gov >, click on "Session", "Session Video", and then click the flash video for May12th. Senate Bill 218 begins at the 35 minute mark. The testimony given by Senators Tim Schaffer and Tom Sawyer will make you proud to be a Ham Radio operator.

73, Frank Piper KI8GW, Ohio Section Manager

FCC NPRM on Emergency Communications...

(In *The ARRL Letter* April 29)

FCC Seeks Comments on Newly Proposed Rules for Amateur Radio Operators and Emergency Drills

The FCC is seeking comments regarding its proposal to amend 97.113(a)(3) of the Amateur Radio rules. The deadline to file comments [has already passed].

In March, the FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) (Docket #10-72) that proposed to amend the Part 97 rules -- specifically 97.113(a)(3) -- governing the Amateur Radio Service. The new rules would provide that, under certain limited conditions, Amateur Radio operators may transmit messages during emergency and disaster preparedness drills, regardless of whether the operators are employees of entities participating in the drill.

On April 22, a summary of the NPRM was published in the Federal Register and the FCC is seeking comments on it. Comments must be filed on or before May 24, 2010 (30 days after publication in the Federal Register); reply comments must be filed on or before June 7, 2010 (45 days after publication in the Federal Register). Instructions on how to file comments are listed beginning on page 5 of the NPRM.

[Note to ARRL Volunteer Examiners: with the likelihood that this rulemaking will actually end in changing the rules in part 97.113, the ARRL has announced deletion of a couple of questions from the standard question pools for the VE exams occurring before the new question pools are published in July. The questions deleted are related to the former wording of 97.113(e)(3) and it is deemed at least unproductive for examinees to learn rules that will change in the next few weeks or months.]

IRCs NOW FOR SALE...

(05/26/2010 ARRL Web)

Order Your IRCs Online at USPS Web Site

Many hams have long complained about difficulties they have encountered when purchasing International Reply Coupons (IRCs) from their local post offices. Now the US Postal Service (USPS) has made it easier to get those IRCs to send with your direct QSL cards -- order them online from the USPS Web site. The USPS ships all in-stock domestic orders for stamps and retail items within 1 business day via Priority Mail with Delivery Confirmation or First Class Mail. Shipments should arrive within 3-5 business days. All stamp orders are charged a \$1 handling fee, regardless of the order amount. IRCs purchased from the USPS, whether online or in person at a post office, cost \$2.10 each.

International reply coupons (IRCs) provide foreign addressees with a prepaid means of responding to inquiries, solicitations, or other types of communications that are initiated by US senders. IRCs are exchangeable for postage

stamps by postal administrations in member countries of the Universal Postal Union (UPU). Each IRC is equivalent in value to the destination country's minimum postage price for an unregistered airmail letter. According to the UPU, some 2.2 million reply coupons are sold each year by 121 postal administrations. While not all countries sell IRCs, all the postal operators of the UPU's 191 member countries, and their territories, are required to exchange them.

More than a century after it first appeared in 1907, the IRC remains a useful item. Aside from its traditional use for correspondence, according to the UPU, two particular groups of users have emerged: Students who use them as a means of exchanging correspondence with academic institutions, and Amateur Radio enthusiasts, who use coupons when exchanging their QSL cards.

As of October 11, 2007, only those IRCs that have been printed by the UPU may be redeemed at US post offices. The valid version of the international reply coupons printed by the UPU is approximately 3.75 inches by 6 inches, has a bar code on the back and an expiration date of December 31, 2013. This policy is for those IRCs issued by the United States, as well as for those issued by foreign postal administrations.

Software Defined Radios (FlexRadio etc.) ...

(summarized from advertising and commentary)

The **accepted definition** of a real software defined radio is one **"where components that have typically been implemented in hardware (e.g. mixers, filters, amplifiers, oscillators, modulators/demodulators, detectors. etc.) are instead implemented using software running on a personal computer or other embedded computing devices"**. [Flex Radio Systems]

The advantages of a SDR over a traditional analog radio, a hybrid DSP/analog radio or "firmware defined radio" are many. Versatility, flexibility and immunity to obsolescence are just a few of the inherent characteristics of fully software defined radios. FlexRadio Systems says: "Don't be misled by other manufacturer's claims that their radios or accessories are 'software defined' when they are just really software controlled or have software defined 'like' features".

FlexRadio Systems impressive features are displayed in:

< http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_EL51ZGags >

< http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnidaUi2L_8&feature=related >

< <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OpxsgUEy3QE&feature=related> >

< <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AdG5zwNLITM&feature=related> >

< <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edBKWBtjuq4> >

ENJOY!!!!

UNITEC-1 to VENUS needs Hams...

(from the ARRL Web pages)

Space Engineering Consortium 05/25/2010

An informal network of ham radio experimenters, scientists and CW enthusiasts called FlyVenusCom -- a nonprofit, cross-cultural effort -- has been created to support communication efforts by Japanese scientists with its CubeSat Venus probe, UNITEC-1.

UNITEC-1 was developed by 20 universities of the University Space Engineering Consortium (UNISEC), the Japanese community developing nano-satellites. Specifically, the Japanese UNITEC-1 team has called for ham radio assistance worldwide in improving and testing two areas of the CubeSat's mission:

- Technologies to receive and decode very weak and low bit rate signal coming from deep space.
- Technologies to estimate orbit and signal Doppler shift of the satellite based on the received RF signal, essential for tracking and receiving signals from a satellite in deep space.

Bill Vartorella, KJ4ORX, is spearheading the informal FlyVenusCom effort: "The wave of the future is increasingly small, inexpensive, private and non-profit enterprise satellites. The trade-off is many of these satellites will not have sufficient power for robust communications. Weak signal challenges and research publications have been the hallmark of ham radio since at least the 1920s. What should spur ham interest is that UNITEC-1 will transmit an Amateur Radio telemetry beacon at 5.840 GHz. 'Big dish' participation is already beginning to gel, but monitoring and reporting the signal is just part of the equation."

Vartorella said that the signal from UNITEC-1 is mainly a CW beacon of about 1 bps speed. "It would also be possible to duplicate the received signals from several antennae to make the signal-to-noise ratio higher, so that we can decode the signal from UNITEC-1 while flying further away from the Earth. This experiment can also be performed in a competition style. We would greatly appreciate it if radio amateurs would propose interesting experiments or competitions, making the most of the UNITEC-1 launch and operation opportunity."

At the core is the Japanese consortium's emphasis is that this is the first university-developed interplanetary satellite -- as well as the first amateur interplanetary satellite -- that will provide what Vartorella called "a unique and exciting opportunity for the radio amateurs

all over the world to enjoy reception of signals from deep space. Not many of us have either a big dish in the back yard or access to one. With FlyVenusCom, we're trying to engage the broader Amateur Radio community for ideas, experiments, and weak signal 'home-brew' experience to help not only the Japanese students' efforts, but the potential creation of disruptive technologies that will evolve into shareware for all of us."

Vartorella said that FlyVenusCom is intended to serve as an informal portal or clearinghouse for dissemination of information for the Japanese team at Tokyo University, as well as a discussion list of challenges, innovations and next steps: "There is already shareware available for weak signal, and the Japanese are proffering support information. This is also a great opportunity for the CW community worldwide to show off their talents and innovative ideas. Vartorella said he is especially interested in one-page research suggestions that can be forwarded to the UNITEC-1 team at Tokyo University. Those interested in UNITEC-1 and suggesting research ideas, competitions or other approaches on a listserv, may contact Vartorella via e-mail at globebiz@juno.com or at William F. Vartorella, PO Box 1376, Camden, SC 29021 USA.

DON'T IGNORE THIS BUBBLE...

(iPad Sea Change and Other Rumors...)

Have you heard of the iPad (or its predecessors the iPhone and iPod and iTouch)? Are you like the folks in 1983 who wondered if they ever would need a PC?

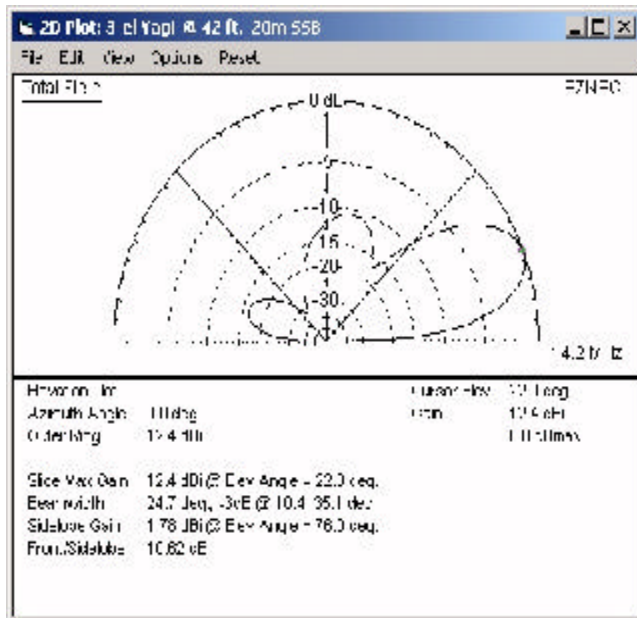
The latest hype on the Apple iPad is that it signals a sea change on how people interface to the Internet, and the PC (or Mac) may be "on the way out"! Time will tell.

In the meantime, there is an explosive growth in the use of image-bearing data on the Internet (as in television, Facebook, and digital images in email, etc.) that, combined with the iPad and iPhone and similar devices (don't forget Motorola, Dell, HP, Nokia, HDC, and others) will choke up the Internet with large data transfers.

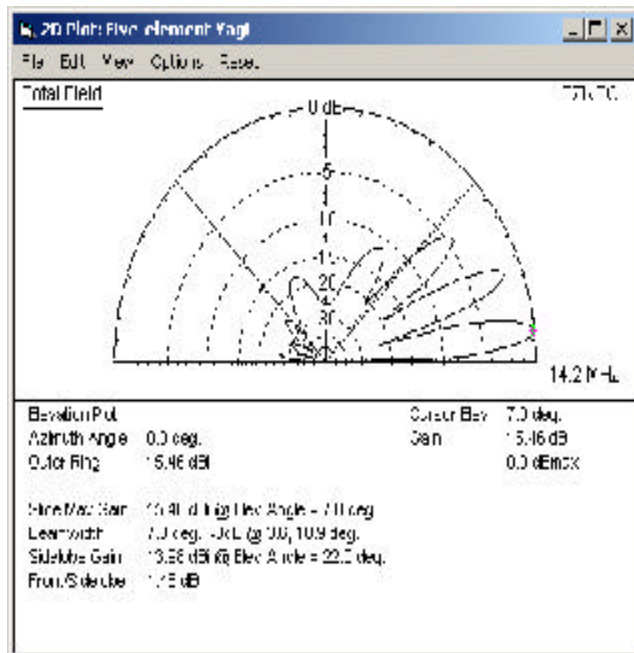
Already a certain big-name telecommunications carrier has had a series of recent outages that one might guess (no proof offered!) are caused by that company's failure to deal with traffic growth.

ANTENNA PATTERNS...

Below lies a picture of the antenna pattern for a hypothetical full-size 3-element triband yagi (20-15-10) on 14.2 MHz mounted on a 42 ft. tower (per EZNEC simulation).



Next is a pattern of for a 5 element tribander at 135 feet at the QTH of NA8SA, also at 14.2 MHz, modeled in EZNEC.



The 5-element array has more lobes, about 3-dBi more gain, a beamwidth 1/3 of the beamwidth of the 3-element array, and 3 forward lobes instead of one.

That's the kind of difference that help enable gaining more than four times as many contacts in a similar time-of-day 4-hour period in the 2010 ARRL DX Phone contest, and for a nominal 102 contact per hour burst rate calling CQ for only 45 minutes.

More data: the NA8SA station is on high flat ground not surrounded by hundreds of trees (as in the home QTH) at a higher elevation.

Similar effects were observed in the 2010 CQ WPX SSB competition on 80m and 40m using only broad-pattern wire antennas at each station, in similar time-of-day 4-hour sessions.

ARRL BOOKS...

(05/24/2010 ARRL Web)

The ARRL debuted two new books – *Remote Operating for Amateur Radio* and the third edition of *The ARRL RFI Book* – at the 2010 Dayton Hamvention(TM).

Remote Operating for Amateur Radio (\$22.95) shows amateurs how to assemble their own Internet-controlled station. As many hams are discovering, it has become increasingly difficult to enjoy Amateur Radio at home. Some have been driven off the air altogether by antenna restrictions, local interference and other limiting factors. But the widespread availability of high-speed Internet offers a powerful solution: Amateurs can now setup a complete station at a remote location and operate via the Internet, just as though they are actually sitting in front of the radio. That radio could be just across town or 2000 miles away. This book will guide you through the process of establishing your own Internet-controlled station.

ARRL's team of highly trained experts has compiled the best advice available on every type of radio frequency interference (RFI) in this brand new edition of *The ARRL RFI Book* (\$29.95). From automotive to television, from computers to DVD players, from audio equipment to telephones, amateurs will find a step-by-step process for eliminating problematic interference in one convenient book.

[Hmmm. Now what does it do to contest rules and FCC rules to have more and more amateurs operating contests from remote locations over the Internet? At the very least contest rules should be clarified. – de AF8C]

