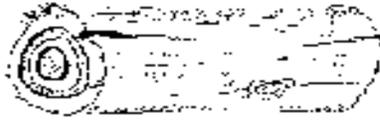




FOUNDED 1947

WEST PARK RADIOPS



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

LOG



Oct. - Nov. 2008
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2008 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 THIS TIME
N8CX, WA8NVW

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

Oct. 3 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT
Bring your questions or answers to the radio problems of the day/week/month.

Oct. 17 - ARRL DIVISION EC AT WEST PARK RADIOPS*
Matt Welch, KB1LCS, has asked to speak at our meeting* in order to introduce his plans for reviving ARES in northeastern Ohio. Since this will be a short presentation (20 min.) we need a part 2 program. So let's also plan on having a "Show and Tell" night as the second part of the evening. Bring your stuff.

Nov. 7 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT
Bring your questions or answers to the radio problems of the day/week/month. Settle your bets with your acquaintances now that you know who won the election. **It's time to discuss 2009 officer nominations!!!**

Nov. 21 - SPECIAL PROGRAM - SURVIVING AN EMERGENCY
Ike proved that even in NE Ohio we are not immune from emergencies. So as we go into winter, what happens if you lose power in your neighborhood for 4 days or 14 days by ice storm or earthquake? How would you survive a long outage of essential services? Tonight let's discuss equipping our homes for long-term emergencies.

<p><u>IN THIS ISSUE</u></p> <p>Page 2: - Pres Says - Public Service</p> <p>-Dirt Data</p> <p>- Clouds and Pileups</p>	<p>Page 3: W8IMF SK A Take on DTV</p>	<p>Page 4:</p> <p>DTV Test Fails Daylight Time FCC Mic Check</p>	<p>Page 5:</p> <p>QST Archiive Stolen Tower Cycle 24 Apophis Atomic Clock</p>
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<p><u>CONTESTS AND EVENTS</u></p> <p>- de WA7BMN & ARRL</p>	
Oct 11	PA QSO PARTY
Oct 18	STEW PERRY 160M CHLG
Oct 20	RUN FOR THE BACON QRP
Oct 20-24	ARRL SCHOOL CLUB EVENT
Oct 25	CQ WORLDWIDE DX SSB
Nov 1	ARRL SWEEPSTAKES CW
Nov 8	WAE DX RTTY TEST
Nov 15	ARRL SWEEPSTAKES SSB
Nov 17	RUN FOR THE BACON QRP
Nov 21-22	LCAC FOOD DRIVE HELP
Nov 29	CQ Worldwide DX CW

SOAPBOX

It's getting nippy outside, at least at night. The frost could be on the pumpkin in three weeks. It could be snowing two weeks after you receive this newsletter. Are you getting your antennas ready for winter? Have you started getting your furnace ready for its day when it goes to work? Are the dust filters replaced?

This document was created using Open Office 2.2, and a PDF creator. Usage of Microsoft products was limited to as little as possible.

Prez Says

Hi all,

Well gang; fall, October and the beginning of the BIG contest season are here. Although there is still time for some outdoor (backyard, etc) operating activities, it seems that, all-to-soon, summer was over. The time is growing short for any needed antenna repairs and to make sure that our equipment is in good working order for the "indoor" ham radio season. Hopefully, we will see some improvement in the propagation over the winter and into next spring. Right now, we are still deep in the solar minimum. This month is also time to be thinking of nominations for next years club officers. Nominations are next month, so please think about it. In the meantime, always be thinking of ideas for club meeting programs and activities. West Park has always been at the forefront of technology and our meeting programs are a testament to that.

vy best 73s to u es urs,
AI, N8CX President

PUBLIC SERVICE...

The North Olmsted Scouting organization has already officially requested our presence on All Scouts Weekend, 2009. How's that!! Meanwhile, we will be looking to see when the Bay Village scouts have scheduled their campout in the spring of 2009 (in lieu of fall 2008 which they have apparently dropped). Food deliveries for Lakewood Charitable Assistance Corp. occur Nov. 22 and Dec. 20 with bagging occurring on the Friday afternoon and evening before each event.

RECENT DISCUSSIONS ON THE 10M NET...

On the Club's net, 28450 kHz, we have recently discussed the after-effects of Hurricane IKE on September 14, Bill's new K3 tests, rolling a porch, Field Day scores, this year's home grown fruit and vegetables, tire valve failures, and various problems with radios, including understanding radio menus.

DIGGING UP DIRT DATA...

Hal, W8PN, has a project to investigate the conductivity characteristics of dirt from the yards of club members. This should be an interesting story as the results unfold, and maybe a program later this winter.

CLOUDS AND PILEUPS...

(from ARRL Propagation Forecast Bulletin #40, September 26, 2008)

Scott Bidstrup, WA7UZO who lives in Costa Rica, sent an interesting article about noctilucent clouds as a possible medium for UHF propagation. According to the article in Science Daily (see <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/09/080925144806.htm>), the clouds contain ice coated with sodium and iron from micro-meteors, and sit at about 53 miles (85 km) altitude, mostly between 50-70 degrees latitude, and sometimes as far south (or north, in the southern hemisphere) as 40 degrees latitude or less.

The clouds are highly reflective of radar signals, and instead of diffraction as we see in ionospheric propagation, ripples in the clouds seem to reflect in unison, reinforcing each other. Noctilucent clouds are sometimes visible at night, because their altitude is so high that they reflect sunlight into areas of darkness. They are also known as polar mesospheric clouds, and appear most often at twilight during the summer. Go to http://www.spaceweather.com/nlcs/gallery2008_page13.htm to see images of noctilucent clouds.

Cesar, PY2YP sent in a reference to his web site, which describes an interesting method of propagation prediction based on cracking large pileups. Instead of just calculating the signal strength over time between you and your target, it also factors in signal strength to the target station from various pileup generators, or sources of QRM. It determines when you are likely to be louder toward the DXpedition than other regions. Check it out on Cesar's web site at, <http://www.py2yp.com/> and click on "QSO Window Tutorial" on the upper left.

DON ALTMOS W8IMF ...

Our friend and club member Don Altmos regrettably became a Silent Key on August 30, 2008 after several heroic fights with several diseases over the years. Don was an early member of West Park Radiops (circa early 1950's) as well as the Northern Ohio DX Association and one or more astronomy clubs in the area. Don's story of running a Leese-Neville alternator to power his 160M mobile station in his Buick has been told over the years. Don was listed on the ARRL web site as having 329 countries registered with DXCC which did not quite place him in the DXCC Honor Roll.

Per Don, W8IDM:

Don Altmos was licensed in November or December 1951. He did little CW work, but was active in mobiles in the late 50's both on 10 meters and 160 meter mobile. His work kept him off the air in the early 60's but he started chasing DX in the 70's when he put up his tower and beam (from the estate of Charlie Sweeney WB8FVY) and built his Heathkit SB-220 amplifier. He ran the Heathkit SB-301 and 401 transmitter and receiver combination until the mid 80's when he bought the Kenwood TS-930S. Don was also active when West Park ran license classes in the 70's. He also was active at the NASA Visitors Center satellite station from 1991 on until just recently and volunteered there with W8IDM, on Wednesdays. He was active in various phone contests over the years.

SOON TO TAKE ON DIGITAL TV...

(de Karl, WA8NVW)

We are hearing a lot about the transition from analog to digital TV broadcasting. Most folks know they can continue to watch TV using a simple outdoor antenna, rather than subscribing to cable or satellite TV signal distribution. At least four brands of DTV to NTSC converters are available from the big-box electronics stores with varying features and levels of performance, and all require an external antenna. But where do you point it and where does the converter tune to find those over-the-air signals?

As with almost everything these days, there is a web site to help you select and orient your DTV antenna. Just fire up your browser and type in <http://www.antennaweb.org> to get there. On this home page you should click the box labeled "Choose an Antenna." It really should be labeled "Aim Your Antenna."

This takes you to a form where you can enter your street address and zip code. It is important to be fairly precise if you live within ten miles of any of the TV towers. Be sure to uncheck the two boxes about sending you information, then answer the question about nearby obstacles and select the correct type of house structure. Last, click "Submit" at the bottom of the page to see the results on a new web page.

Now you are looking at a long list of channels, distances, directions, and color coded antenna types. There's also a box "View Street Level Map" that you can click to see where to point the antenna for each of the local DTV channel transmitter locations. Go ahead and click that button to see how far off your old antenna was aimed. Then see if a slight readjustment will get things ready for the future. You won't want to be up on the roof in mid-February weather twisting those rusty bolts to get a picture on your favorite channel.

Here is the list of channels most folks in Cleveland will be looking for. First, you can see that many stations are already broadcasting in digital today on a different channel from the analog channel numbers we know. Then you'll discover that several stations will broadcast digital TV on a different channel starting on February 17, 2009.

Lastly, WVIZ will even move their DTV transmitter to the WKYC tower.

Station Call	Assigned to City	Analog Today	Digital Today	Digital Feb 17
-----	-----	---	---	---
WKYC	Cleveland	3	2	17
WEWS	Cleveland	5	15	15
WJW	Cleveland	8	31	8
WOIO	Shaker Hts	19	10	10
WVPX	Akron	23	??	59
WVIZ	Cleveland	25	26	26
	(Moves to WKYC tower)			
W35AX	Akron	35		
WDLI	Canton	17	39	39
WUAB	Lorain	43	28	28
WEAO	Akron	49	50	50
W51BI	Canton	39		39
WGGN	Sandusky	52		42
WCDN-LP	Cleveland	53		
WBNX	Akron	55	30	30
WQHS	Cleveland	61		34
WOAC	Canton	67		47

DTV TEST FAILS..

(from news sources)

Authorities expect that the February 17, 2009 shift to all-digital TV will result in a huge number of irate customers calling whomever they can find to complain about their TV channels having been cut off.

Recently a test run of the switch-over was conducted in Wilmington, NC. Commercial broadcasters in Wilmington switched off their analog transmissions on September, as a test. In the next 5 days 1828 people contacted the FCC about their having "no TV", and slightly more than half were unable to receive any channels. The largest number of calls were in regard to the NBC-affiliate WECT. It happens that the analog signals, prior to turn-off, propagated farther over ground paths than the digitally modulated signals. [Probably this was due to a different, and lower frequency, for the analog TV?] A total of 553 complaints were about the lack of WECT alone.

DAYLIGHT TIME IN THE U.S., SOME TRIVIA INCLUDED...

"Standard" time in time zones began with the railroads in 1883, but did not become U.S. law until the March 1918 with the Standard Time Act. The act also established daylight saving time, but that part of the law was repealed in 1919 as too controversial. So daylight time became a local choice until it was reinstated nationally early in World War II. After the war daylight time again became a local matter and varied among states and localities. The Uniform Time Act of 1966 reestablished beginning and end dates but still left local exemptions in place. Thus Indiana, for one, has still held onto a mixture of daylight time observances.

Usually daylight time began on the last Sunday in April and ended on the last Sunday in October, with the changeover at 2 a.m. local time Sunday morning.

In 1974 Congress experimented with new dates, with January 6, 1974, and February 23, 1975 becoming the dates for starting. In 1987 the starting date was shifted to the first Sunday in April. The ending date remained the last Sunday in October.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 changed them again. Starting in 2007, daylight time started on the second Sunday in March and ended on the first Sunday in November.

Now we get to the trivia part. Let's think about the times of sunrises that we would measure using our kitchen clock. Putting "Bay Village" and "2008" into a U.S. Naval Observatory web site, I found that on Nov. 1 the latest sunrise is 0800 EDT, but on Nov. 2, the next day, with EST, the sunrise happens about 0701 EST. Then as we go deeper into winter, the sunrise times continue to fall later and later as usual. But, working both ways in that web page, I found that around January 5, 2009, the latest sunrise is 0754 EST, which is also matched by 0754 EDT around October 27, 2008. So for 5 days in late October and then on November 1, the sunrises are the latest all year, on our kitchen clock!

FCC CONDUCTS MIC CHECK...

Wireless devices use unlicensed spectrum?

(from news sources)

For years, wireless microphones have been in commonplace uses ranging from sports broadcasts to live musical performances to church services.

Recently a group called the "Public Interest Spectrum Coalition" (PISC) filed a complaint with the FCC, saying that continued unauthorized, unlicensed use of wireless microphones could interfere with future public safety and commercial wireless services that will be launched after broadcasters transition from analog to digital transmissions in February 2009.

So a debate heats up: the "white spaces", or vacant frequencies, that exist between TV channels, are worth large profits. On one side large tech companies like Google, Microsoft, and Motorola, lust for use of the vacant spectrum for their gadget sales. On the other side, TV broadcasters and manufacturers of wireless microphones are concerned that gadgets could interfere with anything from sports programs to Broadway shows. PISC believes that users of many wireless microphones for local civic centers, musical productions, churches, and the like, should never have been allowed to use those devices because FCC rules reserved those frequencies for TV, cable or film production. The group estimates that between 500,000 and 1 million wireless microphone systems are operating without proper FCC licenses and that many system owners are clueless about any regulations.

The FCC has raised \$19 billion auctioning frequencies being vacated by broadcasters. AT&T and Verizon were the big commercial winners in that auction, while a portion of that coveted spectrum was awarded for public safety use. With big profits at stake, the use of frequencies is becoming more and more of a hot issue.

QST ARCHIVE...

All QST Articles from December 1915 to December 2004 are now available on the ARRL Web Site. Only ARRL members can access those pages and articles, but for free.. See the announcement for complete details.

< <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/qqnsearch.html> >

STOLEN TOWER...

Windber, Pa. -- Police in Somerset County are trying to figure out how a radio tower disappeared. A whole 120 feet of tower, all of the steel and copper, just disappeared.

Police believe cables were thrown over the guy-wires and then the tower was yanked down with a truck. Cut bolts and torch marks were found on nearby grass. Police say the tower had to be cut into small pieces in order to get it out of the wooded area, but they can't figure out how the thieves did it without anybody noticing. The thieves also got away with a 300-pound power transformer full of copper.

"There's probably a half a dozen routes that come in and out of that area. At least 20 four-wheelers and ATV riders go through there a day," said Paint Township Police Chief Rick Skiles.

The radio tower hasn't been used for years, but the family who owned it has been negotiating with a company wishing to rent the tower to bring wireless Internet to Windber. The family is offering a \$1,000 reward for any information leading to the arrest of the thieves.

CYCLE 24 WHERE ARE YOU...

Sunspot # 1003 is fading away. After a long period of missing sunspot activity a high-latitude sunspot appeared, number 1003, within the last few days. But it is very small and is fading. Two details make it a Cycle 24 sunspot and not a Cycle 23 spot. First, the spot's orientation of North-South magnetic fields has to be the opposite of Cycle 23, because actual sunspot cycles consist of a pair of magnetic reversals every 11.3 years or so. Second, new cycle spots come in at a high latitude and then over the next 11.3 years the spots slowly drift down in latitude. Note: "latitude" on the sun is defined just like on earth, measured from the equator at 0 degrees up to the poles at plus and minus 90 degrees.

APOPHIS AMONG US...

Apophis is an asteroid (from the Greek name of the Ancient Egyptian enemy of Ra) that on Friday, April 13, 2029, will pass Earth within the orbits of geosynchronous communication satellites (22300 miles from the earth). Apophis will return for another close Earth approach in 2036.

Based upon the observed brightness, its length has been estimated to be as long as 1150 to 1350 ft. Apophis's brightness will peak at magnitude -3.3, with a maximum angular speed of 42° per hour. Such a close approach by an asteroid of this size is expected to occur only every 1,300 years or so. The maximum apparent angular diameter will be ~2 arcseconds, which means it will be a star-like point of light in all but the very largest telescopes.

Radar ranging in 2013 will be able to provide data good enough to predict the asteroid's orbit out to 2070. But even so there are a few uncertainties. Believe this or not: the asteroid's orbit is modified by the Yarkovsky effect. This cause of this affect is that the pressure of sunlight shining on the asteroid actually acts like a very weak wind, and thus bends the asteroid's orbit. Since the asteroid is likely to be oblate or at least not perfectly round, the pressure of light will vary as the asteroid rotates, and thus the orbit cannot be perfectly determined.

Currently the probability of Apophis striking earth is predicted to be in the neighborhood of 1 in 45000.

[I don't know if bookies are taking bets yet. In the worst case, you might not even need to pay your bookie, IF Apophis strikes earth!]

ATOMIC CLOCKS...

Atomic clocks do not use radioactivity, but rather the precise microwave signal that electrons in atoms emit when they change energy levels. Early atomic clocks were masers with attached equipment. Today's best atomic clocks are based on absorption spectroscopy of cold atoms in "atomic fountains" and can achieve time stability if 1 part in 100 trillion. It is with such accuracy that spacecraft can be built to travel around the solar system and land accurately on Mars or an asteroid. It has been suggested that a spacecraft be launched to go visit Apophis, much like a fighter jet would be used to "visit" an errant airplane. And the spacecraft will use an atomic clock.

WEST PARK RADIOPS

LOG

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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

