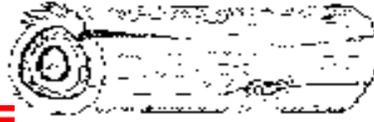




FOUNDED 1947

# WEST PARK RADIOPS



# LOG



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

Oct. – Nov. 2009  
VOL. XLIV - No. 6

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

## 2009 CLUB OFFICERS

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## COMMITTEES

FIELD EVENTS  
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PUBLIC SERVICE  
K8YQL

WAS & VUCC CHECKERS  
K8ME, N8CX

ARRL VE'S  
AF8C, N8CX, K8TTL

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

### Oct. 2 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

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

### Oct. 16 - PROGRAM NIGHT\*

Recent new technologies have stirred up amateur radio again. One of those is "let the computer become part of the radio", as in Software Defined Radio. Bill, N8WS, is going to show us a working demo of a software defined radio.

### Nov. 6 - FIRST FRIDAY BUSINESS/ FIXIT NIGHT

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

### Nov. 20 - PROGRAM NIGHT\*

Bring in your good and bad coax tonight for a working meeting where we will test your coax for quality, loss, propagation constant, etc. This activity will be headed by Don, W8IDM. For those of you with MFJ meters: if you bring them in, we can compare results since the quality of testing is dependent upon the calibration accuracy of the meters.

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## CONTESTS AND EVENTS

- de WA7BNM & ARRL

Oct 3	TARA PSK RUMBLE
Oct 3-4	CA QSO PARTY
Oct 10-11	PA QSO PARTY
Oct 19	RUN FOR THE BACON QRP
Oct 24-25	CQ WW DX PHONE
Oct 24-25	10-10 FALL CONTEST CW
Nov 7-9	ARRL SS CW
Nov 14-15	WAE DX RTTY
Nov 16	RUN FOR THE BACON QRP
Nov 21-23	ARRL SS PHONE
Nov 28-29	CQ WW DX CW

## SOAPBOX

We are entering the fall season and should be getting ready for many contests. Also it's a good time to check out all those things that must work well when the cold weather strikes, such as the furnace, leaf blower, and snow blower.

Since we have global warming, expect higher humidity and more snow, not less.

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...

Another summer season is soon coming to a close, but the silver lining is that the contest season is fast approaching. With the dismal sunspot numbers and propagation forecasts, the need to get your antenna system working in top working order is more important than ever. Being able to make contacts in this solar minimum with the least number of retries is probably more important -in my opinion- than the skill level of the operator. With that being said there will be many upcoming contests to test both antenna and operator:

California QSO Party	Oct. 3-4
Pennsylvania QSO Party	Oct. 10-11
CQWW, SSB	Oct. 24-25
ARRL Sweepstakes, CW	Nov. 7-9
Kentucky QSO Party	Nov. 14-15
ARRL Sweepstakes, SSB	Nov. 21-23
CQWW, CW	Nov. 28-29

Some final notes: this is the month that we start to think of nominations for club officers for next month. We do not have to do a white ballot like we seem to do quite often, in other words, let have some newer members have the opportunity to run for office.

Also, keep thinking of new programs for our meetings. It is always difficult coming up with new ideas, but if we put our heads together we can come up with some interesting programs.

73s de,

Egon, AB8HY President

## WEST PARK PUBLIC SERVICE...

Al, N8CX, recently attended a planning session for the Lorain County Mock Disaster Drill to be held on October 3. Al will be at the Incident Command Center as NCS at the Red Cross. Even though this event is for and by the Lorain County official authorities, the amateur radio operators will provide a communications net to assist passing traffic. Our local EC, Matt Welch, W8DEC, District Emergency Coordinator - Ohio ARES District 10, is heading up the amateur radio activities.

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

On the Club's net, 28450 kHz +/-, we have discussed the successful NOARSfest, the life of bees, the OH QSO party, 6m antennas, working contests from Ottawa County and QRP from Huron County, PSK31, computer worms, getting 160m antennas ready, repairing antennas, the Ashland balloon festival, owning part of your own private fishing lake, and the return of flora and fauna to the state of Ohio.

## 2M NET PLANNING...

West Park is still in the planning stage for this net. Send suggestions to the club officers.

## ARRL Ohio Section...

Section Manager: Frank J. Piper, KI8GW [ki8gw@arrl.net](mailto:ki8gw@arrl.net)

Now here's the monthly club report from Accredited Club Coordinator, Joanne Solak, NJ3O:

Right now I would like to call your attention to the following information that could have a great impact on all of us Amateur Radio Operators living in Ohio...This could effect us like nothing else could. In other words, get us where it hurts. Read On!

House Bill 261 was introduced into the Ohio House of Representatives to revise bills that would prohibit the text messaging or typing on a keyboard, such as your laptop, while driving a vehicle. Then there is House Bill 262 right behind that would PROHIBIT talking on a mobile communications radio and make it a secondary traffic offense. This could affect us as amateur radio operators in that there is no exclusions for amateur radio as the introduced bill is written. Nick Pittner, K8NAP, Ohio Section Govt Liaison will be working on a game plan on how to approach this problem by working with the legislators to be sure the interests of Amateur Radio Operators are protected. And do not forget House Bill 212, antenna regulation. These are very important Bills which could HURT us amateur radio operators. Keep up on information pertaining to these Bills and the Ohio Sections efforts to protect all amateurs.

## Section Nets ...

Buckeye (early): 6:45p 3.577 ;      Buckeye (late): 10.00p 3.577;      Ohio Slow: 6:00p 3.5355 ;

Ohio Single Sideband: 10:30a, 4:15p, 6:45p ; 3.9725

Times are Eastern.

**FT5, GLORIOSO ISLANDS DX...**

( from various Web sources)

The Glorioso Islands are a group of French islands and rocks totalling 1,200 acres, about eight times the size of The Mall in Washington, DC, at 11°33'S, 47°20'E in the northern Mozambique channel, about 99 miles northwest of Madagascar. The Glorieuses have an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 18,670 sq. mi. The islands comprise a French possession administered by Commissioner of the Republic, resident in Reunion, and fly the French flag. There are anchorages offshore, and Grande Glorieuse has a 4,300 ft. long airstrip.

The archipelago consists of two islands, Grande Glorieuse and Île du Lys, as well as eight rock islets formed from parts of a coral reef and lagoon. Grande Glorieuse is roughly circular and measures about 1.9 mi. across. It is thickly vegetated, mainly all lush vegetation and coconut palms

Île du Lys lies about five miles northeast of Grande Glorieuse, is about 2,000 ft. long and consists of sand dunes and scrub with some mangroves. It was formerly quarried for phosphate (guano).

The climate is tropical and the terrain is low and flat, varying from sea level to 39 ft. Île de Lys in particular is a nesting ground for migratory seabirds, and turtles lay eggs on the beaches.

The Glorieuses were named and settled in 1880 by a Frenchman, Hippolyte Caltaux, who established a coconut and maize plantation on Grande Glorieuse. The archipelago became a French possession in 1892. From 1914 to 1958 concessions to exploit the islands were given to Seychelles companies.

The islands are today nature reserves with a meteorological station garrisoned by French troops (The French Foreign Legion). They are claimed by Madagascar (because of their strategic importance), the Seychelles (considering the islands part of the Seychelles Archipelago) and the Comoros (considering the islands part of the Comoros Archipelago).

In late September, 2009, during the depths of our extra long solar sunspot minimum, a team of radio amateurs decided to try making a DXpedition to Glorioso, operating as FT5GA. The FT5GA team (F4EGS, F5IRO, F5LPY, F5PRU and F8CRS) departed Paris in the local early evening on 11 September, for their destination St. Denis, Reunion Island. The military flight to Glorioso (via Mayotte) was scheduled for 14 September. The team is expected to remain on Grande Glorieuse for about three weeks. QSL via F5OGL, direct or bureau. At the time of this writing FT5GA is on the air, perhaps accompanied by pirated calls, and operating on 80, 40, and 20 CW (per the PacketCluster(TM)).

**HAMFEST FORUMS...**

(from notes taken on site at the forums)

At the September 27 Cleveland Hamfest there were two significant forums during the morning,

**ARES Forum**

Matt Welch, W8DEC, presented his leadership position on the coordination of Emergency Coordinators in Ohio District 10, which includes 10 counties in northeastern Ohio. There were 26 interested audience members, include representatives from Cuyahoga, Lorain, Lake, and Medina counties (I might have missed one or two). Activities discussed were the upcoming October 3 Simulated Emergency, and the recent simulated emergency in Cuyahoga County at Hopkins Airport. Also mentioned were the Burke Lakefront Airport Drill, Lake County Hospitals Drill, Ohio MARCS (sic) and the Pumpkin Patrol in late October. Matt was congratulated by Ohio SM Frank Piper, KI8GW, on the record attendance at this forum

**ARRL Forum**

Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver K8JE  
DLAC John Meyers NB4K  
Ohio Section Manager Frank Piper KI8GW  
Ohio Assistant SM Bob Winston W2THU  
Ohio OOC Rick Swain KK8O

Jim K8JE started off with a powerpoint presentation on the flowdown from International Radio Law and the WRC Conventions (formerly WARC) that occur every two to three years on the average. The 2010 WRC evolved into the 2011 WRC but will really occur in 2012. Remember that previous WARCs gave us new bands on 10, 18, and 24 MHz, and the slow clearing out of the broadcasters on the 40m band. As it is now, 7.0 to 7.2 MHz is getting noticeably free of foreign broadcasters. WARC related (treaty) actions can take up to 20 years to fully come into play. Jim reported that on the ARRL web page is an FCC-oriented white paper (sic) on current FCC activities.

On Friday, September 25, the ARRL Board of Directors adopted guidelines on the appropriate use of Amateur Radio on behalf of commercial, non-profit and government entities, as well as recommendations for additional steps to be taken by the ARRL to educate radio amateurs and others on how to prepare and train for public service and emergency communications while complying with the current FCC Rules. This topic was discussed by our Ohio SM KI8GW and the connection to recent activity with getting hospitals on-board with supporting amateur radio, to have amateur radio capability permanently on site in hospitals while avoiding commercial activity and conflicts of interest on the amateur bands.

## DANGEROUS SOLAR STORM...

(from NASA )

That's the surprising conclusion of a NASA-funded study by the National Academy of Sciences entitled *Severe Space Weather Events—Understanding Societal and Economic Impacts*. In the 132-page report, experts detailed what might happen to our modern, high-tech society in the event of a "super solar flare" followed by an extreme geomagnetic storm.

The strongest geomagnetic storm on record is the Carrington Event of August-September 1859, named after British astronomer Richard Carrington who witnessed the instigating solar flare with his unaided eye while he was projecting an image of the sun on a white screen. Geomagnetic activity triggered by the explosion electrified telegraph lines, shocking technicians and setting their telegraph papers on fire; Northern Lights spread as far south as Cuba and Hawaii; auroras over the Rocky Mountains were so bright, the glow woke campers who began preparing breakfast because they thought it was morning. Best estimates rank the Carrington Event as 50% or more stronger than the superstorm of May 1921.

"A contemporary repetition of the Carrington Event would cause ... extensive social and economic disruptions," the report warns. Power outages would be accompanied by radio blackouts and satellite malfunctions; telecommunications, GPS navigation, banking and finance, and transportation would all be affected. Some problems would correct themselves with the fading of the storm: radio and GPS transmissions could come back online fairly quickly. Other problems would be lasting: a burnt-out multi-ton transformer, for instance, can take weeks or months to repair. The total economic impact in the first year alone could reach \$2 trillion, some 20 times greater than the costs of a Hurricane Katrina or, to use a timelier example, a few TARPs.

## SPARK SIMULATION OF TITANIC SOS...

( attributed to AF2Z, on YouTube)

The final radiotelegraph transmissions from the Titanic: this recording is in all likelihood a simulation, but its exact origin is not known. It is notable for the authentic-sounding rotary spark gap tone and also for the code speed -- rather quick for a hand key! A video of the keying waveform is provided for further analysis.

<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=snkwsU98QIQ&feature=related>>

N1EA sound, AF2Z video, < [www.skccgroup.com](http://www.skccgroup.com) >

## ALPHA RADIO PRODUCTS ACQUIRED...

(from QRZ.com )

I have some exciting news about some big changes at Alpha Radio Products. A newly formed company, RF Concepts, LLC, has acquired all the assets of Alpha Radio Products. RF Concepts will manufacture the world-class amplifiers and other products that, for more than 40 years, our community has come to appreciate. The 3CX1500A7 triode-based Alpha 9500 Amplifier, dual 4CX1000 tetrode-based Alpha 8410 Amplifier, legal-limit Model 2100 Dummy Load/Wattmeter combo, and line of 4500 Wattmeters will continue to be handmade in our Boulder Colorado factory.

## EMERGENCY HOME POWER...

(By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU ARRL Contributing Editor)

July 24, 2009

*Home Power Magazine* is a print and online magazine that is considered the bible for anyone interested in getting off the grid. There are some good articles online that describe the fundamentals (look under "The Basics" menu) and there is a link to download a sample issue of the print edition of the magazine.

*Treehugger* answers the question "Is living off the grid right for you?" and is another source of basic articles on the subject including a piece that describes the four best ways of generating off-grid power.

*HowStuffWorks* describes how living off the grid works.

*Off The Grid Living* claims to take "it to the next level with discussions on new technology, what works and what does not," but it also has good articles about the basics, for example, *Off the Grid 101*.

.....

[So in looking over these magazines I found more interesting leads worthing reading:

<http://www.homepower.com/home/>  
<http://www.offthegrid.com/solar/off-the-grid-101.html>  
<http://www.taborsoft.com/wwizard/>  
<http://www.taborsoft.com/gawiz/>  
<http://www.taborsoft.com/btw/>  
<http://www.taborsoft.com/idwiz/>

] – de AF8C

**WSJT...**

(from Web sources)

WSJT (“Weak Signal Joe Taylor”) is a computer program used for weak-signal radio communication between amateur radio operators. The program was initially written by Joe Taylor, K1JT, but is now “open source” and is developed by a small team of programmers. Using digital signal processing techniques makes it substantially easier for amateur radio operators to employ esoteric propagation modes, such as high speed meteor scatter and moonbounce.

WSJT was originally released in 2001 and has undergone several major revisions. Communication modes have been both added and removed from the software over the course of its development. This licensing change required substantial rewrites and took several months to complete. Currently, the program is written in Python and C, with several utilities written in Fortran. Since 2005, the software has been released as open source software under the GNU General Public License.

The software carries a general emphasis on weak-signal operation and advanced DSP techniques; however, the communication modes rely upon different ionospheric propagation modes and may be used on many different bands.

**FSK441**

This mode was introduced in 2001 as the first communications mode and is designed to support communication using streaks of radio-reflecting ions created in the ionosphere by the trails of meteors entering the Earth's atmosphere. The bursts of signal as reflected off such trails, “pings”, may be as short as a tenth of a second and carry enough information to complete at least part of a contact. FSK441 employs multi-frequency shift keying using four tones, at a data rate of 441 baud. Because of the choice of character codes in the protocol, it is self-synchronizing and does not require an explicit synchronization tone. FSK441 is generally used on the 2m and 70cm bands. Contacts may be made at almost any time (that is, a meteor shower is not required to be in progress) day or night at distances of up to 1400 miles.

**JT6M**

Introduced in late 2002, JT6M is intended for meteor scatter and other ionospheric scattering of signals, and is especially optimized for the 6-meter band. The mode also employs multiple frequency-shift keying, but at 44 tones. One of the tones is a synchronization tone, leaving 43 tones to carry data (one tone per character in the character set, which includes alphanumeric and some punctuation). The symbol rate is 21.53 baud; the actual data rate as encoded for transmit is

14.4 characters per second. The mode is known for sounding a bit like piccolo music.

**JT65**

JT65 introduced in late 2003 and is intended for extremely weak but slowly-varying signals, such as those found on troposcatter or Earth-Moon-Earth (EME, or “moonbounce”) paths. It can decode signals many decibels below the noise floor, and can often allow amateurs to successfully exchange contact information without signals being audible to the human ear. Like the other modes, multiple-frequency shift keying is employed; but unlike the other modes, messages are transmitted as small units after being compressed and then encoded with a process known as forward error correction (“FEC”). The FEC adds redundancy to the data, so all of a message may be successfully recovered even if some bits are not received by the receiver. Because of this FEC process, messages are either decoded correctly with very high probability or not decoded at all. After messages are encoded, they are transmitted using MFSK with 65 tones.

Operators have also begun using the JT65 mode for contacts on the HF bands, often using QRP (very low transmit power); while the mode was not originally intended for such use, its popularity has resulted in several new features being added to WSJT in order to facilitate this use.

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The creator of WSJT, Joseph Taylor, Jr., K1JT, is a winner, along with with Russell Hulse, of a Nobel Prize in Physics for their discovery of a type of “new type of pulsar”, a discovery of a star type that has opened up new possibilities for the study of gravitation. In 1974, Hulse and Taylor discovered the first pulsar in a binary system, named PSR B1913+16 after its position in the sky, during a survey for pulsars at the Arecibo Observatory (radio telescope) in Puerto Rico. Although it was not understood at the time, this was also the first discovered of what are now called recycled pulsars: neutron stars that have been spun-up to fast spin rates by the transfer of mass onto their surfaces from a companion star.

The orbit of this binary system is slowly shrinking as it loses energy because of emission of gravitational radiation, causing its orbital period to speed up slightly. The rate of shrinkage can be precisely predicted from Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, and over a thirty-year period Taylor and his colleagues have made measurements that match this prediction to much better than one percent accuracy. This was the first confirmation of the existence of gravitational radiation, and is therefore a “really big-deal” physics discovery.

[Can you imagine working on a tedious project for 30 years, not knowing that after publishing your data you will win a Nobel Prize? Whew. – de AF8C.]

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

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# W8VM

