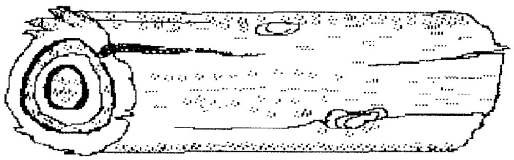
LOG

FOUNDED 1947



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

CLUB'S W8VM SKCC #12111

August - September 2024
VOL. LIX No.5

WEST PARK RADIOPS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

WEST PARK NEWS *

*Subject to change

Monday night nets are on the NODXA's repeater at 8 p.m. Listen or check in. Join the fun. We thank the Northern Ohio DX Association for our use of their repeater, W8DXA, 147.36+ (107.2). Our meeting schedule is changing. Pay attention to our opportunities to announce meeting changes.

UPCOMING CONTESTS AND ACTIVITIES...

(sourced from WA7BNM and ARRL information)

Aug 17 North American QSO Party, SSB
Aug 24 Ohio QSO Party
Aug 31 K1USN Slow Speed Test
Sep 7 Ohio State Parks on the Air
Sep 14 ARRL September VHF Contest
Sep 22 Cleveland Hamfest
Sep 28 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY

LOOK FOR 6M OPENINGS

Thursday Evenings FT4 Contest

WEST PARK RADIOPS MEETINGS & PROGRAMS FOR 2024*

August 13 North Olmsted Library 2:30 p.m.*

September 10 Golden Corral 11:30 a.m.*

* Subject to Change, Including order of events, locations and times.

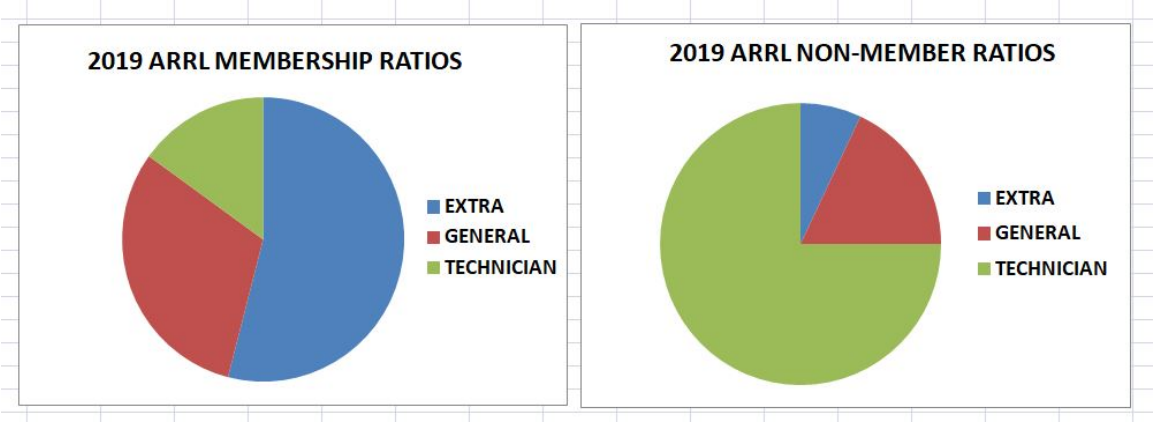
THE POPULATION OF HAMS IN THE U.S. …

(abridged)

by WB2ITX, Howard Michel, former CEO of ARRL

In May 2019 QST

Fifty-four percent of our current members have an Amateur Extra-class license, 31% have a General-class license, and 15% have a Technician-class license. But the pool of non- member amateurs is very different. They, too, are generally white males, but younger. In a category we call "rookies," the average age is 52. In terms of license class, 75% are Technicians, while 7% are Amateur Extra, and 18% have a General-class license.



ARRL SERVER DISRUPTION …

(from ARRL webpage news)

Aug 7, 2024: ARRL Service Disruption - Affect on Awards / Logbook --

"To all Award participants: UPDATE - Current estimated DXCC System restoration date is by August 20th.

The ARRL Awards System has (3) flow processes: One process is Logbook; one process is Paper Applications by Mail; and the last process bring Logbook and Paper Applications together in a Master DXCC Processing System. At present, while the Logbook program is now allowing customers to submit/complete Award applications online (this began about July 1st), the Master DXCC Processing System remains offline, therefore we are not yet able to fully complete final processing of any DXCC applications at this time. As soon as the Master DXCC Processing System is back on line, we can then finish the final processing of Paper or Logbook applications received.

Worked All States (WAS) applications, endorsement stickers and certificates are able to be processed and certificates are able to be printed and mailed, as they do not flow through the Master DXCC Processing System.

VUCC applications are being processed and completed, certificates and endorsement stickers are being mailed.

Please also note that as the "Online DXCC" application system is not yet operational - it too is tied to the Master DXCC Processing System currently offline."

HOW TO QSL…

QSLing

Beginners:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QSL_card

For the Eight Area, what you need to know/review:

https://arrl-greatlakes.org/8th_bureau.html

There is a lot of information there. One detail that I know personally: you can send SASEs to your letter manager using A7 size envelopes. What is an A7 envelope? So next time you get or send a birthday card or Christmas card and it appears to be the "usual size" for those, you are looking at an A7 envelope.

There's a problem, though, with A7 envelopes, is that the paper stock material may not be strong enough to hold a large number of QSL cards (thickness) going through a USPS sorting machine. So SASEs using strong manila colored 6x9 envelopes is a better choice.

By the way, have you ever looked up the USPS rules on addressing envelopes? There is a lot to learn there.

Here's a quotation from the 8th-bureau web page: "If you don't worry about us wasting your postage, put "mail every cycle" on the bottom of each SASE and we will send you what you have each time"

Here's what the USPS says about the location "mail every cycle" of information on the face of an envelope:

Automated mail processing machines read addresses on mailpieces from the bottom up and will first look for a city, state, and ZIP Code. Then the machines look for a delivery address. If the machines can't find either line, then your mailpiece could be delayed or misrouted. Any information below the delivery address line (a logo, a slogan, or an attention line) could confuse the machines and misdirect your mail.

One time I got a piece of junk mail where below the address line of city and state the sender printed FINAL WARNING (or something like that). The junk mail had obviously been sent to France and back before I received it.

So don't follow that rule from the bureau. Maybe put "mail every cycle" on the back of the envelope. You don't need your QSL card envelopes routed through Madagascar.

These days the flow of QSL cards has really slowed down. The Logbook of The World (LoTW) and eQSL have probably caused a big reduction in real QSL card flow. Don't expect cards to come more than once every nine months or so.

WSJT-X FT8 NEW SUPERFOX/SUPERHOUND DETAIL…

WORKING SUPERFOX DX ON FT8

ADVICE here. Check where the 750 Hz pilot tone operating frequency reads out in FT8 in the Band Activity window (left side). The SuperFox frequency will be listed. The frequency tolerance for the SuperFox responses to be decoded is 750 HZ +/- 100 Hz. If you see that the SuperFox's frequency readout in the Band Activity window is outside the tolerance range, move your VFO or RIT slightly to get the SuperFox audio frequency into the range of the required frequency.

SUPERFOX CODING SUPER SIMPLIFIED …

SUPERFOX TRANSMISSION OF TEXT

If you listen to the SuperFox transmissions, it should sound to you like a chorus of short musical chirps in completely random order, like a poorly composed song. That's a detail of the "Q-ary code" used by the new SuperFox coding. Imagine it's like this. The French song "Alouette" could stand for A. "Born in the U.S.A." could stand for B. "Mary Had a Little Lamb" could be used for M. Well, it's only kind of like that. Combine some "tunes" for a series of ONEs and ZEROs that are a compressed data code version of nine streams of data and you have a very rudimentary explanation of how SuperFox modulation works.

CATHODE POISONING…

Wikipedia's hot cathode page discusses how part of a vacuum tube really works.

From a long time ago, before World War II:

"The activated electrodes can be destroyed by contact with oxygen or other chemicals (e.g. aluminum, or silicates), either present as residual gases, entering the tube via leaks, or released by outgassing or migration from the construction elements. This results in diminished emissivity. This process is known as cathode poisoning. High-reliability tubes had to be developed for the early Whirlwind computer, with filaments free of traces of silicon."

"Barium oxide reacts with traces of silicon in the underlying metal, forming barium silicate (Ba2SiO4) layer. This layer has high electrical resistance, especially under discontinuous current load, and acts as a resistor in series with the cathode. This is particularly undesirable for tubes used in computer Applications, where they can stay without conducting current for extended periods of time.[9]"

Silicates contain the element silicon. So if physicists had studied in more detail the "silicates" on vacuum tube cathodes way early in the 20th century, perhaps they would have learned about the nice features of semiconduction in silicon. Then perhaps we would have had personal computers and smartphones during the Korean War, or even earlier.

DXCC AND KH5 …

So recently the DXAC has been considering whether to split Palmyra & Jarvis (KH5) into two separate entities because between the two the International Dateline winds around Kiribati. Per DXCC rule 2(b)(iii) there is "an intervening DXCC entity" that specifies that Palmyra and Jarvis should be separated.

Trivia: per Wikipedia, Kiribati's island locations are such that it is the "the only country in the world located simultaneously in all four hemispheres: the Northern, Southern, Western, and Eastern hemispheres."

NEW VERSION OF WSJT-X WITH SUPERFOX…

Available for download here. Be sure to download and install the "2.7.0-rc" version.

https://wsjt.sourceforge.io/wsjtx.html

NOTE: if you have installed WSJT-X before, you can keep from disturbing your setup and log files as new versions of WSJT-X come, out by installing in a NEW folder every time. Each new version of WSJT-X uses the existing data files because each version knows where the existing data files should be.

Be sure to locate the SHARE folder of the new installation to find the NEW User Guide. READ THE SECTIONS FOR FT8!!!

WSJT-X System Requirements (per the User Guide)

SSB transceiver and antenna

Computer running Windows 7 or later, macOS 10.13 or later, or Linux

1.5 GHz or faster CPU and 200 MB of available memory; faster machines are better

Monitor with at least 1024 x 780 resolution

Computer-to-radio interface using a serial port or equivalent USB device for T/R switching, or CAT control, or VOX, as required for your radio-to-computer connections

Audio input and output devices supported by the operating system and configured for sample rate 48000 Hz, 16 bits

Audio or equivalent USB connections between transceiver and computer

A means for synchronizing the computer clock to UTC within ±1 second

---------- - de AF8C
I will add one opinion: computer should use a Solid State Drive.

THE DX SCENE…

(Courtesy of the NG3K website)

Call, Start Date End Date, DXCC Entity

VP8DPD,2024 Jul27,2024 Aug12,Falkland Is
8Q7GG,2024 Aug03,2024 Aug13,Maldives
ZA,2024 Aug03,2024 Aug20,Albania
N5J,2024 Aug07,2024 Aug19,Palmyra Jarvis Is
OH0AM,2024 Aug10,2024 Aug11,Aland Is
TO8FP,2024 Aug10,2024 Aug22,St Pierre & Miquelon
OG0C,2024 Aug11,2024 Aug18,Aland Is
EX,2024 Aug13,2024 Aug20,Kyrgyzstan
KH8,2024 Aug15,2024 Aug29,American Samoa
FO,2024 Aug15,2024 Sep15,French Polynesia
4W,2024 Aug17,2024 Aug30,Timor Leste
YJ0VK,2024 Aug20,2024 Aug27,Vanuatu
ZD9GJ,2024 Aug23,2024 Sep30,Tristan da Cunha
9G5AS,2024 Aug26,2024 Sep04,Ghana
CY9C,2024 Aug26,2024 Sep05,St Paul Is
4L,2024 Aug29,2024 Sep30,Georgia
FP,2024 Aug31,2024 Sep03,St Pierre & Miquelon
E51WLG,2024 Sep01,2024 Sep08,South Cook Is
KH8T,2024 Sep02,2024 Sep16,American Samoa
Z22AO,2024 Sep03,2024 Sep13,Zimbabwe
3A,2024 Sep05,2024 Sep09,Monaco
VP6WR,2024 Sep05,2024 Sep15,Pitcairn Is
6O0T,2024 Sep09,2024 Sep30,Somalia
5R8SR,2024 Sep10,2024 Sep20,Madagascar
T8,2024 Sep12,2024 Sep19,Palau
9J2AO,2024 Sep14,2024 Sep23,Zambia
FO,2024 Sep17,2024 Sep21,French Polynesia
5H1WX,2024 Sep18,2024 Oct06,Tanzania
A25AO,2024 Sep24,2024 Oct04,Botswana
5W0TE,2024 Oct03,2024 Oct10,Samoa
V5,2024 Oct05,2024 Oct14,Namibia
JW5X,2024 Oct09,2024 Oct14,Svalbard
C21MM,2024 Oct11,2024 Oct26,Nauru
YJ0VV,2024 Oct16,2024 Oct30,Vanuatu
6Y,2024 Oct23,2024 Nov06,Jamaica
7Q1,2024 Oct24,2024 Nov02,Malawi
XT2MD,2024 Oct31,2024 Nov11,Burkina Faso
VK9CV,2024 Nov01,2024 Nov15,Cocos Keeling
S9Z,2024 Nov11,2024 Nov20,Sao Tome & Principe
3D2Z,2024 Nov15,2024 Dec04,Rotuma
TO9W,2024 Nov30,2024 Dec13,St Martin
VP2VMM,2024 Dec08,2024 Dec18,Br Virgin Is
TO0J,2024 Dec20,2024 Dec31,French Guiana
KH0,2024 Dec30,2025 Jan03,Mariana Is
PJ7AA,2025 Mar09,2025 Apr05,Sint Maarten
VU4X,2025 Mar10,2025 Mar25,Andaman Is
HD8G,2025 Apr18,2025 Apr27,Galapagos
OY,2025 Jun01,2025 Jun10,Faroe Is
XT2MD,2024 Oct31,2024 Nov11,Burkina Faso
3D2Z,2024 Nov15,2024 Dec04,Rotuma
TO9W,2024 Nov30,2024 Dec13,St Martin

2024 ELECTED CLUB OFFICERS

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Bill Squires **N8WS**
(216) 215-0371
Vice President
Glenn Williams **AF8C**
(440) 934-5566
Secretary
Open

Treasurer
Ann Wadsworth **KA8ZEP**

Fifth Board Member
Stephen Kinford **N8WB**
(216) 702-8384

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Safety Officer
OPEN

License Trustee
N8WB

ARRL VE'S
AF8C, N8WB, W8MET, KC8FOS

ARTICLES SUBMITTED
--

NET MANAGER
Needed

CONTESTS, SATELLITES
N8WS and N8WB

PROPERTY CUSTODIAN
N8WS

8TH AREA BUREAU LETTER MGR.
AF8C (8V)

PROGRAMS
VOLUNTEERS

EDITOR, WEBMASTER
AF8C

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WEST PARK RADIOPS ARC meets
Once a month
Time and Location on page one.

Dues are $15/yr. We welcome anyone interested in amateur radio to our activities. We operate Monday night nets on 147.36+ MHz (PL 107.2 Hz) at 8:00 p.m. Eastern.

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