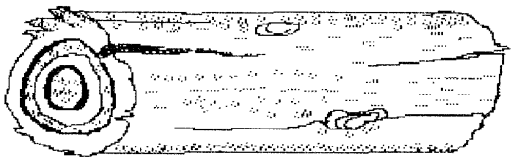
LOG

FOUNDED 1947



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

CLUB'S W8VM SKCC #12111

October-November 2024
VOL. LIX No.6

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)

Oct	12	Pennsylvania QSO Party
Oct	19	Stew Perry Topband Challenge
Oct	26	CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB
Nov	2	ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW
Nov	9	CQ-WE Contest
Nov	16	ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB
Nov	23	K1USN Slow Speed Test

LOOK FOR 6M OPENINGS

Thursday Evenings FT4 Contest

WEST PARK RADIOPS MEETINGS & PROGRAMS FOR 2024*

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

October 8 Golden Corral 11:30 a.m.*
November 12 North Olmsted Library 2:30 p.m.*

THREAT TO 900 MHz BAND …

(from the ARRL)

08/15/2024
The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) accepted for public comment a Petition for Rulemaking filed by NextNav Inc., a licensee in the 900-MHz Location and Monitoring Service (LMS), to completely reconfigure the 902-928 MHz band and replace the LMS with high-powered 5G cellular and related location services.

The FCC Notice requested comment on the effects that NextNav's proposals would have on amateur radio operations in the band. ARRL® The National Association for Amateur Radio® is preparing comments urging protection of existing and future amateur uses in this band and urges all amateurs to file their own comments describing their activities in this band and the expected effect of the proposed changes.

The new nationwide license would authorize NextNav to provide much higher-powered traditional broadband and 5G cellular services as well as the related location service occupying 15 of the total 26 megahertz available in the band. The reconfiguration proposed by NextNav would create a 5-megahertz-wide uplink subband at 902-907 MHz paired with a 10-megahertz downlink subband at 918-928 MHz. The 5-megahertz uplink subband would be limited to use by mobiles with a maximum of 3 watts ERP. On the 10-megahertz downlink subband, up to 2000 watts ERP would be permitted in rural areas and 1000 watts ERP in urban and suburban areas, radiating from tower structures that could reach 1000 or more feet above average terrain. These configurations reflect the FCC's rules for standard cellular configurations that have been adopted to govern a number of other bands used for similar 5G and like services.

NextNav, in its petition, argues without evidence that the changes that it proposes to the 902-928 MHz band "will not impede amateur operations." In an 8-page description of NextNav's proposal released by the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, the FCC staff asks a series of questions that would clarify the proposal and help the Commission ascertain the likely effect of the proposed changes on existing users if the requested changes were adopted. Comment was specifically requested on the extent of amateur operations in the band, the potential impact of the proposed changes, any other spectrum options that may exist, and the costs for relocations if other options exist.

The ARRL has filed comments urging protection of existing and future amateur uses in this band. ARRL urges all amateurs to study the proposal.

ARRL SERVER DISRUPTION …

(in ARRL webpage news)

News on the May 2024 ARRL IT hack has been seen in email and elsewhere. This newsletter is not going to print any of that information. Someday the true story will be available and only then might there be information on it printed here.

Meanwhile, the news on DX_World said that it is still impossible to obtain a new LoTW certificate (as of September 26).

HOW TO PREVENT LOSING YOUR LoTW CERTIFICATE…

I have noted after many years of using LoTW that I don't have all my local ADIF log files (type .adi) in one folder. So it would be advisable to download all my own LoTW data to a reliable source of backup, such as a flashdrive. (See page 5.)

Flashdrives are so small. And you can also use microSD memory drives which are so overwhelmingly tiny you could drop one into your bowl of cheerios and not be able to find it. (But to use one you put the microSD into a special carrier that can be handled.)

Anyway, before you or I do the above, I have concluded that it is really important to have an up-to-date "tqslconfig.tbk" file saved off. I mean up to date as of AFTER my/your last file upload to LoTW. And I just learned there are multiple files. The older ones have some date information in the file name after the "tqslconfig" part. I am saving all those files on my flashdrive. I think the older ones are plain copies of "tqslconfig.tbk" but I haven't confirmed that.

As I was telling someone, "tqslconfig.tbk" contains information about what QSOs have been sent to LoTW. So if you have a large ADI file that has already been uploaded, then the next time only the latest QSOs are added to LoTW, and "tqslconfig.tbk" is also updated. So, later on, use of the large ADI file can be still be continued and added to, and TQSL will ONLY upload the "new" QSOs and not re-upload the older ones. This saves a lot of hassle. Here's my example.

Directory of C:\...\LOTW

07/16/2024	**08:53 AM**	**111,377 tqslconfig-2024-07-16-12-53.tbk**
07/27/2024	**10:10 AM**	**111,377 tqslconfig-2024-07-27-14-10.tbk**
07/27/2024	**10:24 AM**	**111,401 tqslconfig-2024-07-27-14-24.tbk**
07/27/2024	**11:01 AM**	**111,401 tqslconfig-2024-07-27-15-01.tbk**
07/30/2024	**09:22 AM**	**111,415 tqslconfig-2024-07-30-13-22.tbk**
08/21/2024	**11:06 PM**	**111,413 tqslconfig-2024-08-22-03-06.tbk**
08/21/2024	**11:13 PM**	**111,453 tqslconfig-2024-08-22-03-13.tbk**
08/21/2024	**11:14 PM**	**111,453 tqslconfig-2024-08-22-03-14.tbk**
08/21/2024	**11:15 PM**	**111,453 tqslconfig-2024-08-22-03-15.tbk**
08/21/2024	**11:17 PM**	**111,506 tqslconfig.tbk**

Now note that "tslconfig.tbk" is the most recent file, created during the LAST time I uploaded ADI file data. The others are older copies.

Note that tqslconfig-2024-08-22-03-15.tbk is ONE generation older by only two minutes.

PASS/FAIL TEST…

Sometimes in school the students will take a PASS/FAIL test. For those questions there is no "sort of" answer or letter grade. There are only two options.

Here's one such test question for any relatively experienced amateur radio operator, like you! You have a "dead" battery that is chargeable. So you put it on a charger and bring it up to full charge. Does the battery now weigh more than it did before it was charged?

YOUR OWN IT RULES…

Note that you should use 12-or more characters in all your passwords and never use the same password on more than one site. Don't complain about sites (like the ARRL!) being hacked until you have protected your own PC, first.

Note that hackers can compile information from you (on Facebook and other social media) and they can merge data. Then with it, try to figure out how your password on a particular site might look. For instance, you name your child, his high school and his football coach in a FaceBook note. With that kind of information stolen, a hacker might look for a website for that school and then look in a list of parents for teens who play football there. So in the list is your name. So the hacker then looks for your email on favorite sites such as gmail and yahoo. If your name is found there (there can be other people in the world with your name also!) the hacker can assume you use a password that includes your child's name, and try to guess a birthday, and see if it all works together as a clue to a password. So don't use personal information in passwords.

BITLOCKER OR BUST…

https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/device-encryption-in-windows-cf7e2b6f-3e70-4882-9532-18633605b7df

Some users of recent users of Windows may not be knowledgeable about "bitlocker". Here is the story condensed. A C: drive that is bitlocked is a drive that has all your files encrypted. Those files are managed by Windows internal operations, with the "BitLocker Key" used to encrypt new files that are added (written), or to decrypt files upon reading. This is a way to help keep your files safe from malware, in that bad actors cannot easily read files off your C: drive if they hack into your computer.

So if you register your ID and password for Windows with Microsoft and thus allow Microsoft to know more your computer's file contents, you become a bitlocker user, or captive, depending on your viewpoint. NOTE: You don't have to change much of anything in your computer in order to start getting educated about bitlocker. Just look up the story on the Internet.

In the START box click RIGHT CLICK. See where it says "RUN". LEFT CLICK in the RUN box and type "CONTROL PANEL" and open the Control Panel. Find "Bitlocker Drive Encryption" and LEFT CLICK it.

From there a window opens up. If your drive is NOT bitlocker encrypted then you won't have a bitlocker key and it will indicate so by will displaying "C:BitLocker OFF".

I don't know what happens if your C: drive is Bitlocker controlled and you write data files into a flashdrive. Is the flashdrive immediately bitlocked? If so, that's a problem if/when someone else receives from you a flashdrive with any of your files. Does that mean they can't read your files off the flashdrive? I don't yet know.

Now if the window says BitLocker is ON, then you really should make a backup per

https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/answers/questions/460098/bitlocker-key-id

FROM FOURIER TO SUPERFOX…

(information from Wikipedia®)

Jean-Baptiste Joseph Fourier (Four-ee-ay) who proposed the Greenhouse Effect in 1824 (two hundred years ago) also deduced that a mathematical function like a waveform could be separated into different pieces called sine waves, by use of mathematics we now call Fourier Transforms.

In 1965 by James Cooley and John Tukey invented the digital version of the Fourier Transform which can calculate the spectrum of a waveform. Their method is now called the Fast Fourier Transform (FFT). Only a few years have passed since the development of FT8 and other WSJT-X amateur radio communication modes. Many of those modes use the FFT as a basis of extracting the frequency variations of the signal spectra, to pull out ONEs and ZEROs that stand for printable characters. (Data Compression is also used to save transmission time.)

"Tukey came up with the idea during a meeting of President Kennedy's Science Advisory Committee where a discussion topic involved detecting nuclear tests by the Soviet Union by setting up sensors to surround the country from outside. To analyze the output of these sensors, an FFT algorithm would be needed." per Wikipedia®.

"it was later discovered that those two authors had together independently re-invented an algorithm known to Carl Friedrich Gauss around 1805." again per Wikipedia®.

DOWNLOAD YOUR ENTIRE LoTW LOG…

Aside from comments elsewhere in this newsletter, I believe making my own copy of my entire LoTW (Logbook of The World) log is a great idea. Back many years ago some of my QSL cards were used as the only proofs of contacts. Cards had to be submitted to an official card checker first. (Read ARRL rules.) So how would I now have my LoTW recreated if the ARRL were to lose it. I would rather not have to find my old QSL cards and repeat the card check process. Well, it's relatively easy to download the entire log. Just follow this URL. DO NOT click on of those big "DOWNLOAD" signs and take a chance with hacking! Click only the little submit button! Then save off the received file to a flashdrive.

https://www.rickmurphy.net/lotwquery.htm

HAM SOFTWARE FOR LINUX…

You can install Linux on a computer for free.! And there just might be more software applications for ham radio on Linux than there are on Windows. See the following URL proof.

https://www.dxzone.com/catalog/Software/Linux/

THE DX SCENE…

(Courtesy of the NG3K website)

Call, Start Date End Date, DXCC Entity

VU4X,2025 Mar10,2025 Mar25,Andaman Is
TX9A,2025 Apr25,2025 May07,Austral Is
S21DX,2024 Dec13,2024 Dec19,Bangladesh
VP9,2024 Oct11,2024 Oct14,Bermuda
A25AO,2024 Sep29,2024 Oct14,Botswana
VP2VMM,2024 Dec08,2024 Dec18,Br Virgin Is
XT2MD,2024 Oct31,2024 Nov11,Burkina Faso
ZF2XX,2024 Oct20,2024 Oct25,Cayman Is
ZL7IO,2024 Oct15,2024 Oct31,Chatham Is
VK9X,2025 Feb18,2025 Mar04,Christmas Is
VK9CV,2024 Nov01,2024 Nov15,Cocos Keeling
VK9C,2025 Mar04,2025 Mar12,Cocos Keeling
J75K,2024 Dec26,2025 Jan04,Dominica
OY,2025 Jun01,2025 Jun10,Faroe Is
3D2TP,2024 Nov08,2024 Dec12,Fiji
3D2NB,2024 Nov30,2024 Dec02,Fiji
FY,2024 Nov15,2024 Nov23,French Guiana
TO0J,2024 Dec20,2024 Dec31,French Guiana
FO,2024 Oct04,2024 Oct11,French Polynesia
TX7XG,2025 Apr09,2025 Apr15,French Polynesia
HD8G,2025 Apr18,2025 Apr27,Galalagos
C5T,2024 Nov25,2024 Nov29,Gambia
8R1TM,2024 Oct12,2024 Nov24,Guyana
6Y,2024 Oct23,2024 Nov06,Jamaica
5R8,2024 Oct23,2024 Nov06,Madagascar
7Q1,2024 Oct24,2024 Nov02,Malawi
8Q7TR,2024 Nov02,2024 Nov09,Maldives
WH0RU,2024 Oct11,2024 Oct20,Mariana Is
KH0,2024 Dec30,2025 Jan03,Mariana Is
TX7N,2025 Jan12,2025 Jan27,Marquesass
V7,2025 Feb11,2025 Feb23,Marshall Is
C91BV,2024 Oct17,2024 Oct24,Mozambique
C8K,2025 Jan17,2025 Feb02,Mozambique
V51WH,2024 Sep19,2024 Nov12,Namibia
C21MM,2024 Oct10,2024 Oct29,Nauru
T8,2024 Nov14,2024 Nov20,Palau
TO2DX,2024 Sep28,2024 Oct07,Reunion
FR,2024 Oct09,2024 Oct27,Reunion
3B9DJ,2025 Mar23,2025 Apr04,Rodrigues Is
3D2Y,2024 Nov15,2024 Dec04,Rotuma
9X2AW,2024 Oct09,2024 Oct23,Rwanda
5W0TE,2024 Oct03,2024 Oct10,Samoa
S9Z,2024 Nov11,2024 Nov20,Sao Tome & Principe
6W7,2025 Feb02,2025 Feb28,Senegal
PJ7AA,2025 Mar09,2025 Apr05,Sint Maarten
E51SGC,2024 Nov07,2024 Nov24,South Cook Is
ZD7,2024 Nov02,2024 Nov22,St Helena
V4,2024 Oct01,2024 Oct12,St Kitts & Nevis
FS,2024 Nov19,2024 Nov29,St Martin
TO9W,2024 Nov30,2024 Dec13,St Martin
5H3MB,2024 Oct10,2024 Nov11,Tanzania
A35GC,2024 Nov25,2024 Dec06,Tonga
YJ0VV,2024 Oct16,2024 Oct30,Vanuatu
KH9,2024 Oct22,2024 Nov05,Wake Is
FW7AA,2024 Nov16,2024 Nov29,Wallis & Futuna
3DA0DL,2024 Oct25,2024 Nov09,eSwatini

2024 ELECTED CLUB OFFICERS

President
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

COMMITTEES

FIELD EVENTS COMMITTEE - OPEN

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.

http://www.westparkradiops.org
mailto:w8vm<at>arrl.net

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