



Sinewaves



STONEWALL JACKSON AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Meetings: 3rd Thursday of each month, 1930 hrs at Saint Marks Lutheran Church RT19/98 Clarksburg
SJARA Tuesday Night Net

*This net meets each Tuesday evening at 2100 hours utilizing the N8FMD Repeater on
147.210 MHz with PL Tone of 103.5*

February 12, 2010

Net Control

Date

- | | | |
|----|-------------|-------------------|
| 1. | KD8FDD..... | January 26, 2010 |
| 2. | WD8NSC..... | February 2, 2010 |
| 3. | K8TPH..... | February, 9, 2010 |
| 4. | WV8JON..... | February 16, 2010 |

Meeting Minutes January 21, 2010

The meeting of the Stonewall Jackson Amateur Radio Association was called to order by the President Jason Hatfield KD8FDD.

There were no December minutes because the Christmas Dinner replaced the meeting.

The treasurers Dick Wilt K8TPH reported a balance of \$1612.47.

Under Old business it was reported that the coax for the HF radio has yet to be installed at the 911 center.

Under New business a motion was made by Dave N8YPE to pay the state association fee, Seconded by Tom KB8WRZ, and passed.

A motion was made by Dave N8YPE to offer a Technician class in March, Seconded by Bill KA5NYN.

Dick K8TPH will check on a date for the class room. Motion Passed.

A motion was made by Dave N8YPE to order Material for a General Class, seconded by Tom KB8WRZ. Motion passed.

SJARA Club Dues

I have been asked by several members to please let them know if they have paid Dues for 2010. The following members are shown on my records as unpaid for calendar year 2010.

- K8EAS
- KC8MTW
- K8RAS
- KD8KCC
- KB8RIA
- NW8U
- KC8RIQ
- KC8RIP
- KC8BRZ
- KC8ZLC
- KC8FWD

- N8FXH
- KE4THX
- W9AFC
- KA5NYN
- KD8IZC
- KD8FLI
- KB8QIM
- Murl

If you wish you may send dues to the Treasurer at:

K8TPH
170 Pennsylvania Ave.
Bridgeport, WV 26330

or attend the club meeting on February 18th. Please bring the correct change. It makes it a lot easier for me. Single member ship \$12.00 Family \$18.00
Thank you, Dick.

Happy Valentine Day

February Propagation

From the middle of February through early April, typical equinoctial propagation conditions can be expected on the HF frequencies. This usually means a noticeable improvement in conditions between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Look for improvements between the United States and South America, Africa, Australasia, Antarctica, and parts of Asia. Equinoctial propagation occurs during the spring and fall months, when the Sun is most directly overhead at the equator, producing similar ionospheric characteristics over large areas of the world. It tends to maximize during sunrise and sunset periods and over both short- and long path openings.

We continue to see sunspot activity, so little by little we'll see improvements in the propagation at higher frequencies over long distance paths. It is always a surprise to the casual amateur radio operator when he or she gets on a band such as 10 meters during the solar minimum and discovers that there is still some life on the band, beyond short-skip distances, especially during periods when sunspots occur and the daily 10.7 cm flux levels increase enough to wake up the higher frequencies. However, the currently weak solar activity still does not support worldwide DXing on the highest HF bands for a significant length of time.

One good thing about becoming an Old Timer in Ham Radio is every QSO is a new contact, and no one cares if you forget to zip your fly.



New ARRL Web Site Coming Soon!

After more than two years of planning, designing and writing, the ARRL is anxiously awaiting the launch of the new ARRL Web site. We've been able to make the online experience easier for our members -- from the online store, to registering for a class, to finding a club -- plus we've created a new, enhanced member profile with many more options available. We've made improvements with you in mind, making sure that we've created the easiest, most enjoyable online experience possible. The new Web site will be available sometime in February.

KA CHUNKING

One thing that bothers me and many other ham radio operators is, KA CHUNKING a repeater without giving your call sign. I know it is human nature to just check to see if you can hit the repeater at your location or just doing something when you pick your mic. Remember it is annoying to others that are listening.

What should you do?

The answer is very simple. Anytime you Key your transmitter unless you have it on a dummy load the first thing you should do

when you transmit is give your call sign.

Some of the common announcements when you key a repeater are:

1. Call Sign "Listening"
2. Call Sign "Monitoring"
3. Call Sign.

Since everyone knows you must be listening or monitoring if you have your transceiver turned on these are acceptable announcements over a repeater when originating a call.

One thing that is very rude.

When someone announcing that they are listening or monitoring, someone just KA CHUNKS the repeater and says nothing.

What the KA CHUNKER is telling the other operator is, I don't like you or don't want to talk to you but I want to let you know you are heard but not good enough to talk to.

You don't have to get into a life long friendship with lengthy on air QSOs but you do owe him/her a "Hello, I'm here and I would like to wish you a good day" but you don't need to talk for the next hour. What you should do is say, "Hello, but can't stay on, but just wanted to let you know you have a nice signal" and pass names, location and say 73" and go your way. Maybe next time you may have a little more to say. Courtesy is the word when you key your transceiver and bring up a repeater, be kind and courteous to others and they will pass it on to the next operator.

NHC to Provide Greater Lead Time for Watches, Warnings

Beginning with the 2010 hurricane season, [NOAA's National Hurricane Center](#) in Miami will issue watches and warnings for tropical storms and hurricanes along threatened coastal areas 12 hours earlier than in previous years. According to NHC experts, advancements in track forecasts are making it possible for forecasters to provide greater lead time. Tropical storm watches will be issued when tropical storm conditions are possible along the coast within 48 hours. Tropical storm warnings will be issued when those conditions are expected within 36 hours. This is an increase of 12 hours from those issued in previous years.

Similar increases in lead-time will apply to hurricane watches and warnings. The hurricane watches and warnings will generally be timed to provide 48 and 36 hours notice, respectively, before the onset of tropical storm force winds. That additional time will also allow people preparing for the storm -- securing oil rig platforms, getting food and water stockpiled, boarding windows and such -- enough time to finish preparations and get to safe shelter.

According to [WX4NHC](#) Coordinator John McHugh, K4AG, the NHC has improved the track accuracy in their forecasts over past few seasons, cutting the error rate to roughly one-third its level in 1970 and half the level of 15 years ago, thanks to advances in computer models and increased satellite measurements of atmospheric conditions;

WX4NHC is the Amateur Radio station at the NHC. "The extra 12 hours that has been added to both the tropical watches and warnings will be of benefit to the Amateur Radio volunteers of WX4NHC who have for the past 30 years supported NHC in their mission," McHugh told the ARRL. "This increase in time will allow us to better schedule their operating time along with those of our supporting groups of the Hurricane Watch Net ([HWN](#)) and the VoIP Hurricane Net ([VoIPWXNet](#)) and allow people to better plan the release from their day jobs."

National Hurricane Center Director Bill Read, KB5FYA, said the new guidelines will make it easier for those who live in hurricane-affected areas to evacuate in a more timely manner: "With increases in population and infrastructure along vulnerable US coastlines, emergency managers need more lead time in order to make life-saving decisions regarding evacuations."

Hurricane season runs from May 15-November 30 in the Eastern Pacific and on June 1-November 30 for the Atlantic Basin.

Technician Class

As indicated in the minutes of the January meeting it was proposed that a Technician Class should be held. Arrangements have been made with Paul Bump to use the 911 conference room for a Technician Class from 9 AM through 6 PM on Saturday February 27th, 2010. Any one wanting to attend or knows someone that wishes to attend the Technician class contact K8TPH

via email cn8ff@aol.com or call 304 629 4302 to be placed on the list. I must know how many will be in the class by February 15th. There is no charge for the class. Bring pencil and paper for taking notes. Study material will be furnished by the instructor.

The Radio Amateur is

CONSIDERATE.....never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL.....offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE.....with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY.....slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED.....radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC.....station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

--The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928.

Spontaneous Nets

I have received a query from a SJARA member if the club could have Spontaneous Nets, either on the 147.210. We may even try to see if this could be done on 146.685. We used to have a call-up tree of phone numbers and email addresses but it was something I just couldn't dedicate more of my time to so it went by the way side like many good ideas. The only way that this can be done is to have an individual to take over the responsibility to maintain a call-up list including telephone numbers and emails and coordinate with the county EC about trying to call a Spontaneous Net. If you have time, please volunteer to be a call-up committee of one or more to keep this up to date. I will more than be happy to post it on the SJARA web site and in the newsletter (SINEWAVES) each month, without telephone numbers.

Equipment for Sale

SP 600 Receiver, 1950 vintage frequency range of 500khz to 30Mhz. Belongs to the SJARA but no one seems to be interested. Power supply works but no audio output. Make us an offer.

If anyone has anything for sale or is looking for equipment please drop me an email and I can list it in a future Sinewaves. k8dfsjara@aol.com

Buy American

I recently needed to replace an item for my house because it was broken and not working properly. I went to Lowe's and bought an exact replacement and could only

find one made in China. I have installed the item and smile broadly with a great feeling of relief each time I use it, reminding me what I think of Chinese products. What was the item?

A "Toilet Seat".

Happy New Year

The Year of the Tiger

**Club Meeting Thursday
February 18th, 19:30 St. Marks
Lutheran Church basement.**

Emergency Communications

On Saturday February 6th at 9 PM SJARA was contacted by the Harrison County OEM to assist the County OEM with emergency communication to deploy Amateur Radio operators to the area of Sardis and Wallace due to snow and ice damage to the telephone system furnishing 911 service in the area. In less than an hour six amateurs were placed on alert to be deployed if the OEM could not restore 911 service. Repairs were made during the night and 911 service was restored by early Sunday morning so we were not needed but we were ready to go with manpower and equipment. The OEM called later Sunday and wanted to thank everyone that were on standby to assist the county in case they became overwhelmed with outages. In the news today it was reported that at one time nearly 25,000 were without power across West Virginia. Several people that had been without power for over 30 + hours and in some areas the power and telephone may not be up and running for several days.

Harrison County. EC

The request for assistance from the 911 center brought up several questions. The response from the members was great with 6 responding favorably in a short time but the potential problems we were looking at could have been overwhelming. We briefly discussed some of them at the last meeting, but volunteers are needed to address the following items: a list or repeaters and coverage, up dated call up tree, how are going to mobilize the amateurs, a script for the net control operator, message forms, what type of equipment is need to cover the county, who has it, what do we do if the local repeaters are out, and perhaps this many more I haven't thought of. --Harrison Co. EC

Are you prepared to be without power and telephone service. You should make sure that you have batteries charged so your gear can be used to call for help if needed by you or your neighbors. You should also have food and water and other supplies put away for at least 72 hours without any help from the outside world. If you don't know what you should have on hand please go to the following Web Site to learn just what you need. <http://www.ready.gov> and make a list and then get **"Ready"**

January SJARA Tuesday Net

Sessions.....4
Checkins.....38
Total.Time.....60mins
Traffic.....none