



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

15/June/2015

Net Control	Date
1. K8TPH.....	June 9, 2015
2. K8WWW.....	June 16, 2015
3. K8TPH.....	June 23, 2015
4. K8WWW.....	June 30, 2015
5. K8TPH.....	July 7, 2015

Minutes

SJARA Meeting

May 21, 2015

The Thursday night meeting of the Stonewall Jackson Amateur Radio Association came to order at 7:40PM with N8YPA, Vice President residing. Minutes from the April meeting were read and accepted as read. Treasurer's report with balance of \$1321.35. A check was written for insurance of \$125.69 to Erie Insurance Company. A motion made by K8TPH and seconded by WD8NSC to accept the treasurer's report and past by the membership present. The meeting was concluded and the floor was passed to KD8IZD who lead a short presentation about training and certification in SKYWARN and the organization of a SKYWARN net on one of the local repeaters, with suggestions that it be held on the Hamtalk system. It was discussed as to whether the net would be called on a regular schedule or to called only during extreme weather conditions. It was discussed as to how to accomplish the organization of a SKYWARN net. Contact

information was given to KD8IZD to contact N8FMD and discuss the plans for a SKYWARN net. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM. For more information on what SKYWARN is go to www.sjara.org and click on "What is SKYWARN"

Morse Code

There are always new ways to encourage more Hams to learn Morse Code. Since the trend is toward the new digital world and using "Apps" here is a new way to look at learning Morse Code. Leave it to the Brits to come up with a new way. Its called "Morse Mouse" and you can download a free "App" with a crib-sheet to help you learn. Download the "App" and try it.

<http://www.m0pzt.com/?mouse>



Field Day

June 27/28 2015

For years I have been writing the newsletter (Sinewaves) and have maintained the SJARA Web Site. This all takes time and effort on my part. I have no idea how many read or like what I write. There are a few that do read what I write and give their input. There are others that I doubt ever read or even reference the Emails or Sinewaves for information.

The club as a group has in the past participated in local fairs and other drills to let the public know that Amateur Radio groups are there to serve the public especially in the event of communications during an Emergency. We maintain a Memo of Understanding with the Harrison County Commission, Office of Emergency Management, and Bridgeport Office of Emergency Operations to assist in Emergency Communications.

The club doesn't ask much of the membership except to help and participate in at least one activity

during the year. A couple days out of a year is not much to ask.

There are a few and I can count them with out taking off my shoes that are always there to help. I am getting exhausted begging for help during any of the activities of the club.

There is an activity "Field Day" this month, that the Stonewall Jackson Amateur Radio Association (SJARA) has been holding to my knowledge and from club records behind the YMCA for over 25 years. Some years have been great and the club has always been either number one or in the top ten in West Virginia for all of those years.

Participation by members has been dwindling over the years and in 2014 we had enough operators to operate for a total of only six hours during the 24 hour period of Field Day. This is a shame that we can't support the club in the one major activity held by the club to present to the public to what we can do if we are needed.

We invite any Amateur Radio Operator to come and take part in Field Day. You don't have to operate a radio but you can help with record keeping, logging, set up, and take down of the equipment and shelters.

Shelters and antennas are installed on Friday evening 26th and taken down on Sunday afternoon and returned to storage to be accessible in the event of an Emergency.

Their will be, as there has been every Field Day a radio that can be operated by anyone under supervision of a Field Day Coach so you can see how "Ham Radio" works. Bring a friend.

The club owns all the equipment to shelter and operate except a power source which is normally provided by a member. The club would like to

have a generator and/or a solar power source (with power storage) and if there are either of these available please consider donating to the the club. SJARA is a

Hurricanes



WX4NHC, the Amateur Radio station at the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami, reports that it has stood the test and is ready for the 2015 Hurricane Season, which began on June 1 and will continue through November. WX4NHC conducted its Annual Station Test on May 30, at the end of Hurricane Preparedness Week. This marked the 35th year of volunteer public service by the WX4NHC Group at the NHC. WX4NHC Amateur Radio Asst. Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R, said the station was tested on many frequencies and modes, including digital modes, and that all radio equipment and antennas performed well.

"The WX4NHC test event is also good practice for Amateur Radio operators worldwide, but especially in hurricane prone areas, to test their station's ability to contact WX4NHC, should they need to during a hurricane," Ripoll said. "It was also a good opportunity for NWS Office staff to become aware of the unique capabilities of Amateur Radio during severe weather and disaster communications, when conventional communication modes fail."

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center has forecast that the 2015 Atlantic hurricane season will likely be

below normal, but, it added, "that's no reason to believe coastal areas will have it easy."

For the 2015 hurricane season, NOAA has predicted a 70 percent likelihood of anywhere from six to 11 named storms (winds of 39 MPH or higher), of which three to six could become hurricanes (winds of 74 MPH or higher). That forecast included up to two "major hurricanes" (Category 3, 4, or 5) with winds of 111 MPH or greater.

"A below-normal season doesn't mean we're off the hook," NOAA Administrator Kathryn Sullivan said. "As we've seen before, below-normal seasons can still produce catastrophic impacts to communities."

Ripoll said WX4NHC logged contacts during the test with some emergency communication notables. These included FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, KK4INZ, on EchoLink and on the Florida UHF SARnet, plus a 20 meter contact with FEMA Chief Technical Officer Ted Okada, K4HNL. WX4NHC also worked ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, KI1U, and Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV.

"Mike, Bobby, Craig, and Ted all understand very well how Amateur Radio can help their communities during and after severe weather and other natural disasters," Ripoll said.

"We expressed our thanks to all of them for their strong support of the Amateur Radio volunteers and WX4NHC." Ripoll also expressed appreciation to SKYWARN volunteers.

"You may never know, but your efforts may someday save someone's life," he added.

WX4NHC during the 2015 Station Test: (L-R) Julio Ripoll, WD4R; Lloyd Kurtzman, N4LJK; Jan

Lederman, K9JCL, and John McHugh, K4AG.

During the 8-hour test, contacts were made and surface reports received from many stations throughout the US and Canada, as well as in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America, Ripoll said. He noted that more than 40 D-STAR/D-RATS surface weather reports were received at WX4NHC.

LightSail



After going silent for a few days, The Planetary Society's LightSail™ spacecraft has resumed transmitting. A suspected software glitch had caused the satellite to stop sending telemetry back to Earth on the 70 centimeter Amateur Radio band. The communication issue now out of the way, the LightSail team will soon determine when to attempt deployment of the spacecraft's Mylar® solar sails.

Tracking & Receiving

Jason Davis reports that the LightSail CubeSat is operational again.

Nine beacon packets on 437.435 MHz (AX.25, 9600 bps FSK) were received during 2:14 pm EDT pass on June 6, 2015

Watch Tracking & Receiving the LightSail CubeSat using free Orbitron software on You Tube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4HivzE6BERc>

Read Jason's blog on the Planetary Society website

<http://www.planetary.org/blogs/jason-davis/>

Track LightSail

<http://www.n2yo.com/?s=40661>

General Class July 1, 2015

You only have until June 30, 2015 to take the General Class test using the present list of questions. Check to see if there are any clubs that will give the tests on Field Day. You will be under the wire for General.

The new ARRL General Class License Manual (8th edition) now is available in soft-cover, spiral-bound, or e-book versions.

With the optional academic-style spiral-bound edition (ARRL Item 1904, retail \$32.95), the manual lies flat, making it more convenient for both students and instructors. It includes everything you need to prepare for the 35-question General class Amateur Radio license exam, so you won't have any surprises on test day.

The exam questions and answer key are built from the latest General class question pool, which goes into effect on July 1, 2015. You can use the General Class License Manual in conjunction with ARRL's online Exam Review for Ham Radio. It includes detailed explanations for all test questions as well as FCC Amateur Service (Part 97) rules.

The ARRL General Class License Manual is also available in traditional softcover format (ARRL Item No 8119, retail \$29.95). Both spiral-bound and soft-cover editions are available from the ARRL Store or from your ARRL Publication Dealer, or call 860-594-0355 or toll-

free in the US 888-277-5289 to order.

In addition to the hard-copy manuals, ARRL has just released a digital edition of The ARRL General Class License Manual in Kindle format from Amazon.

W4DXCC Convention

The W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention located in Pigeon Forge, TN starts September 25th and 26th, that's in 110 days. This is our 11th year and it will be another great event.

The presentation schedule is full and packed with presentations. Our manufacturers are located in the lobby right outside of the conference hall allowing you easy access to all the gear. Come and have a one on one conversation with the manufacturers and twist the knobs.

This year for the first time we have the Ham Radio Bootcamp on Friday before the convention. The Ham Radio Bootcamp is an all day session that will help the new amateur learn how to build a station, build antennas, make QSOs and log them and after lunch learn how to DX, How to Contest and learn some tricks for DXing. This is the Elmer you never had to help you get started right. This session is sure to be of use to every Ham.

We will conduct Amateur FCC License testing. It's a great time to upgrade or get your spouse or friends licensed.

Pigeon Forge is a wonderful place for the family too, bring the family and they can enjoy the local attractions while you enjoy the convention.

<http://www.w4dxcc.com/index.html>

CWVWA Annual Picnic

The Central West Virginia Wireless Association will hold their annual picnic at the Maple Pavilion just inside the gate at Norwood Park on September 12, 2015 beginning at noon. All local Amateur Radio Operators are invited to attend. Contact information: Vick WV8CC vshuttlewor@frontier.com

Field Day Equipment

As far as I know we will be setting up the computers at the June meeting to check out the computers and network. If everything works we are in good shape but we should have spares to replace anything that does not work. We need a couple spare "mouse" and a couple extra keyboards. If anyone would have them to spare or want to get rid of them please bring what you have to the next meeting. We could also use an extra flat screen monitor. John, NW8U dropped off two computers and I have gotten both working with software loaded for Field Day. Also, if anyone would have a couple either net cables we could use anything up to 12 to 16 feet in length.