



# Sinewaves



## STONEWALL JACKSON AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

16 July 2012

### Net Control

### Date

- |    |             |               |
|----|-------------|---------------|
| 1. | K8WWW.....  | June 26, 2012 |
| 2. | K8TPH.....  | July 3, 2012  |
| 3. | WD8NSC..... | July 10, 2012 |
| 4. | K8TPH.....  | July 17, 2012 |

### Minutes

#### June 21, 2012

The SJARA meeting was called to order at 1930 by the Secretary N8YPE, due to the absence of the President and Vice President, at the St Marks Lutheran Church.

Minutes were accepted as read.

The Treasurer's, K8TPH, reported a balance of \$1048.14

The Field Day committee reported that set up would start at about 3PM Friday.

The CAP will bring their trailer and generator and camp overnight.

They have fixed frequency transceivers and can not operate on amateur frequencies. They will participate on our GOTO stations to get a feel for on the air operation. Everyone is asked to bring a vegetable, salad or dessert dish. The raffle tickets have been printed and selling well.

There was no new business.

Net Controls were assigned for next month and the meeting was

adjourned by the Secretary N8YPE.

### Field Day 2012

#### Soapbox

Another year has gone and Field Day for 2012 is now history.

The Stonewall Jackson Amateur Radio Association (SJARA) was one of the many stations on the air to participate in Field Day. SJARA operated as a 3A under the call of K8DF and GOTA call of K8TPH.

When Friday came around there were some doubts that we might have a little rain for the weekend.

Luckily the rain stopped around 3 PM on Friday and the sun came out and it turned into a very warm day. We put up our antennas (3 element beam up on a 40ft tower, an 80 meter and 40 meter dipoles.

The shelters were erected and we were ready to get everything installed on Saturday morning.

We were located at our usual location on Lowndes Hill a part of

the Clarksburg Park system. We were directly behind the Harrison County YMCA around 1200 feet overlooking the city of Clarksburg.



We started final set up on Saturday morning around 10AM and the temperature had already reached the high 80s. Soon after noon it had hit the 90 degree mark with about 90% humidity.

We put in place the CW station, two Phone stations and of course the GOTA station. We were hoping but did not know how many would be there to man the GOTA station. A little after 11 AM the Harrison County Civil Air Patrol arrived fully equipped and ready to share Field Day with us and also setting up the CAP

Communication Center to run drills. The young CAP members were very interested in the GOTA and set up a watch system to man the GOTA station for the complete 24 hours. We had two coaches KA5NYN and K8OZS, both commisioned officers participating the local CAP system.



The GOTA was never without an operator and the young men learned quickly and appeared to really enjoy in the give and take of Field Day. Of course, there were those little embarrassing moments for some the operators but everyone got a good laugh and everything was taken in good sport. As the day drew on it appeared that signal conditions were a little lacking. We started Phone on 20 meters, 40 and 80 meters and realized 40 meters was going to be the productive band. 80 meters seemed to hold up its' end worked out very well for the GOTA. We left 80 meters on the GOTA for the entire 24 hours and it work out very will with our CAP operators. Conditions on 80 meters is very near the conditions that the CAP has on their frequencies just above 80 meters.

The CW station started out on 40 and moved from time to time to 15, 20, 80 keeping up as conditions changed throughout the day. SJARA was blessed with two outstanding CW operators. A computer network was established and computers were available to all stations for logging and a spare just in case it was needed. Our computers gave us no trouble at all except one just didn't what to set the UTC offset. It took a few minutes to convince the computer who was boss.

All was running very smoothly until the evening meal came along. The meal was outstanding. KD8FOH brought a meat smoker and barbecued short ribs and a turkey. Dinner was held at 7 PM and each station was relieved so everyone could partake of the delicious barbecue and covered dish dinner supplier by our members.

We were visited on Saturday by the local TV station WBOY-TV and interviews were held with several members to be broadcast on the 6 and 11 local news. The local Newspaper, Clarksburg Exponent Telegram also dropped by for interviews and our Field Day activities were listed with a large colored picture on the front page.

As the sun was setting and night was coming on, someone suggested that we turn on some lights. It seems that no one had brought any lights so there was a scramble to find lights and get the place lit up. Just one of those things that everyone thinks someone else it doing and it falls through the cracks. With a quick trip home lights were gotten as it is said, "there was light". Will make a note to make sure to plan for lighting next year.

The generator only went down once. It ran for 8 hours without a refill. Another one of those things, thinking that someone else was filling up the gas tank. Only down about 5 minutes but had to reboot all the computers, but we were prepared so no data was lost.

Sunday morning ran very smoothly and activities came to a close a 2PM. Everything was accomplished in reverse and we packed up for another year. The club received a donation of a second transceiver, so now the club has enough equipment to set up in an emergency without calling on any individual club member to furnish equipment. All we will need is manpower and with our dedicated members bodies are not the problem. Always someone is ready to go at moment's notice when and if communications are necessary in the local area.

We contacted all 50 states plus Puerto Rico and worked 8 Canadian Provinces less North West Territory. The winners of the raffles were: KV8S, Dick Bumgardner won the dual band HT, and Craig Burget won the Emergency Power Pack. I bet he used it during the lastest power failure.

See you all next year when we will hit the ground running.

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**Report sent to ARRL for  
Field Day 2012**

QSOs	CW 716 x 2	1432
QSOs	PH	1248
Total QSOs		2680
Power multiplier		<u>    x 2</u>
Total Score		5360
Total Bonus Points		<u>1230</u>
Total Score Claimed		<u>6590</u>

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**SJARA**  
**June, 2012**  
**Tuesday Night Net**

Sessions.....	4
Total Time.....	60mins
Total Check ins.....	36
Formal Traffic.....	0

**Joke**

In a long line of people waiting for a bank teller, one guy suddenly started massaging the back of the person in front of him.

Surprised, the man in front turned and snarled, "Just what the hell you are doing?!"

"Well," said the guy, "you see, I'm a chiropractor and I could see that you were tense, so I had to massage your back. Sometimes I just can't help practicing my art!"

"That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard!" the guy replied.

"I work for the IRS. Do you see me screwing the guy in front of me?"

**Power Failure**

Well, it seems the power failure in 53 of the 55 counties of West Virginia has captured most of the conversation and will for the time being until we all get back to our normal routine.

I think that most of us that were effected by the storm and following power failure are slowly getting things sorted out. I hope that most if not all of you, at least, saved your contents of your freezers.

It reminds me of a story an elderly gentleman told me in 1965 while I was in the Pensacola Naval Hospital. He was at Corregidor and the first thing that got hit was the freezers on the island so while the food lasted he said they ate like kings, steaks three times a day because the meat had to be eaten

before it turned bad. He said at the beginning they were the best fed and fattest prisoners of war but after the death march all they had were dreams of how well they ate when the freezers went out. We didn't have to face what those men faced in the days, weeks, months, and years that followed as a POW.

I was lucky, my son brought over his storage batteries and inverter from his wind generator and we kept the batteries charged from the alternator in the car. We could charge for an hour and get about 2 hours of power to keep the freezer running. By the next morning my son in law got his power back and I took everything from the freezer and placed it in his freezers. Then all I had to do was find ice to keep the daily articles cool. Didn't know it would last 8 days.

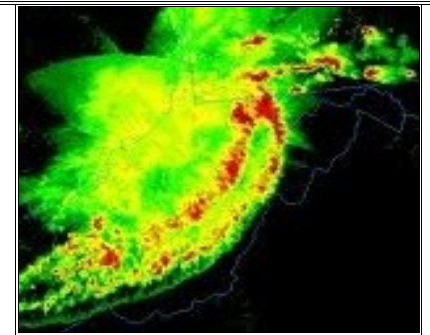
I have never seen such panic since the gas shortage in 1973. It seemed the panic pumped the area out of gasoline. There was never a shortage, just a lack of power to run pumps so the general public just panicked. Panic seems to be the the biggest problem when there is an act of nature that makes things a little unusual, throwing us back at least a generation. God bless the Internet generation.

Ham Radio was also effected when all of the repeaters in the area, or an area of about a 25 mile radius of Clarksburg all went down. In Clarksburg the first back on the air was 147.165. N8FMD repeaters were down but 147.210 and 444.175 are back up after a week off the air. Repeater 147.210 seems to be working a little better since it came back on the air but time will tell. It is a shame that the 70 cm repeater isn't used, it has a very good coverage and has always been a very quite repeater.

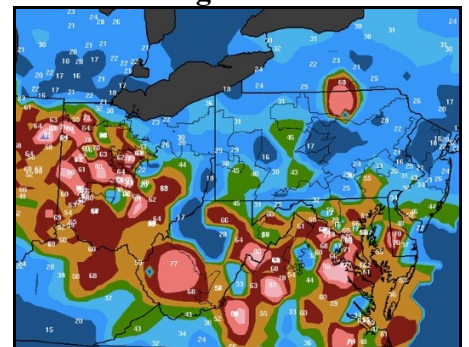
Hope to see everybody back up on the local repeaters when things get back to normal.

I did hear that the 911 center was only out until their emergency generators kicked in but I do know that during the night they were out of telephone communications with the data circuits for checking license and driver information. Also the police in the area were very busy keeping traffic running smoothly with all the traffic lights out and all the gas panic blocking traffic flow.

Just one question, how many of you were ready to go and set up emergency communications? Of course, VHF/UHF wouldn't have been at it's best but it did not come to the point that we needed to communicate out of the area, the phone system did not go down. We were not called on but I could have gone at a minutes notice. since I have everything at my fingertips to put two HF stations on the air on 40/80 mtrs. Of course, I didn't get the call.



**Weather Radar**  
**At the height of the storm**



We made money on the raffle, will make a report at the next meeting.