



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

September 16, 2013

Net Control

Date

1.	K8TPH.....	August 20, 2013
2.	K8WWW.....	August 27, 2013
3.	K8TPH.....	September 3, 2013
4.	K8WWW.....	September 10, 2013
5.	K8TPH.....	September 17, 2013

SJARA Meeting Minutes August 15, 2013

Stonewall Jackson Amateur Radio Association meeting was called to Order by the Secretary, N8YPE at 7:30 PM at St. Marks Lutheran Church... Minutes of the April meeting were read by N8YPE and accepted as read.

Treasurers, K8TPH, report a balance of \$ 1508.97 with \$ 1424.97 in the general fund and \$ 195.00 in the equipment fund. A \$400.00 donation was refunded to the amateur who had specified that it was to be applied to a new repeater. In that we have been unable to coordinate a new 2 meter frequency it was refunded.

There was no old business:
New business: Motion by KA5NYN for the club to provide \$200.00 for the repair of 147.210 second by KD8TRA Motion was passed.

Discussion: The Ham Talk repeaters and the 210 are now under the management, as N8FMD is no longer able to maintain them. The 210 repeater is believed to have a bad antenna or connection to the antenna. The club will cover the cost of the tower work. A spare antenna is available if needed. We are exploring moving one of the existing repeaters to the 911 tower if the present owner of one of the existing sites requests that we move. New officers are needed for all positions.

Net controls were appointed and the meeting adjourned.



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ARRL

Symbol Rate Restrictions

Once, the ARRL supported restrictions that limited the symbol rate and crippled the development of amateur radio HF data modes, now nearly 34 years later they have changed their mind In 1977 in Docket 20777 the FCC tried to introduce band planning by bandwidth, it was at the time opposed by ARRL who were successful in defeating it. Subsequently, on March 17, 1980, a 300 baud symbol rate restriction on HF data was introduced with ARRL support. It's intent was to restrict the bandwidth of data transmissions without actually specifying a bandwidth restriction since band planning by bandwidth was something the ARRL bitterly opposed.

The draconian symbol rate restriction limited the ability of US hams to experiment with and develop new and innovative data modes.

In the September issue of QST the ARRL has announced a new

position on symbol rates. They are now proposing that the FCC delete all references to symbol rate from Section 97.307(f) of the amateur regulations and adopt a bandwidth limit of 2.8 kHz for amateur data emissions below 29.7 MHz. It appears the ARRL proposals would also eliminate the symbol rate restrictions at VHF and UHF. Read More at: [ARRL](#) and [FCC 97.307](#).

Equipment Certification



The ARRL is urging the FCC not to grant private organizations greater authority in certifying that RF devices comply with commission rules and do not cause harmful interference. According to the ARRL Letter, much of this work is already done by so-called "telecommunication certification bodies" or "TCBs," but under FCC oversight and following an initial FCC evaluation of new products. In reply comments on a proceeding seeking to outsource all equipment authorizations to TCBs, the ARRL joined the National Association of Broadcasters in questioning the bodies' track record on accuracy and transparency, and noted that enforcement of FCC rules "is the proper task of the Commission's staff."

Solar Flip-Flop

The sun's magnetic field is in the process of reversing itself, and NASA Science News says scientists monitoring the activity say they expect the reversal to be

complete by the end of this year. This flip of magnetic polarity on the sun marks the peak of each solar cycle, so conventional wisdom says we are now at solar max for Cycle 24. However, some scientists are predicting a double-peak, as we saw with Cycle 23, because the sun's hemispheres are not in synch with each other. According to this report, the sun's north pole has already reversed polarity and the south pole "is racing to catch up." This could lead to a second sunspot peak in the 2014-15 time frame

UV5RA



Handheld Manual

One often-heard complaint about the low-priced Chinese ham rigs that are making big inroads into the U.S. market is that the quality of the user manuals does not match that of the radios. Help is on the way, reports Newline, which says a group calling itself the Radio Documentation Project is working to produce high-quality, in-depth, open-source manuals for Chinese-built handhelds. The first one completed is for the Baofeng UV-5R dual-bander. It may be downloaded for free, [PDF](#)

MARS

MARS stands for Military Auxiliary Radio System. We are headquartered at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, and assigned to the

Headquarters, United States Army Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM).

MARS is a Department of Defense sponsored program, established as a separately managed and operated program by the [Army](#), [Navy](#), and [Air Force](#). The program consists of licensed amateur radio operators who are interested in military communications on a local, national, and international basis as an adjunct to normal communications.

MARS has a long and proud history of providing world-wide auxiliary emergency communications during times of need. The combined three service MARS programs (Army, Air Force, and Navy-Marine Corps) volunteer force of over 5,000 dedicated and skilled amateur radio operators is the backbone of the MARS program. The benefit of MARS membership is enjoying an amateur radio hobby through the ever-expanding horizon of MARS. Our affiliate members' continued unselfish support of our mission keeps Army MARS Proud, Professional, and Ready.

MARS normally operate just outside of the Amateur Bands. They are mostly used to support the military, Army, Navy, and the Airforce. Originally MARS was a very good source of equipment that a Ham could receive as it became surplus by the military.

MARS has become a smaller group of individuals as has the Amateur Radio world. This being caused by the Internet and the Cell Phone. For more information please go to: [MARS](#)

netcom.army.mil/mars/

Crank up Towers



If you have a crank-up tower and are seeing some broken strands on the lifting cable, there are standards for when a wire rope should be replaced by [OSHA](#) and inspection tips from [Safety Solutions](#).

Radio Moskva



As I do and many others that spent time in Europe while in the military know Radio Moscow at times was the only place you could listen to music. We couldn't always get VOA.

The Russian government's international radio broadcasting service Golos Rossii (Voice of Russia) will stop its shortwave broadcasts from January 1 next year, the Digit.ru online journal reported Wednesday.

The shortwave service is closing "due to funding cuts," Voice of Russia deputy director Natalya Zhmai said in a letter dated August 15 to Andrei Romanchenko, head of the Russian Television and Radio Broadcasting Network (RTRBN), the journal said.

Voice of Russia, established in 1929, currently uses RTRBN transmitters to broadcast to foreign

countries using short and medium waves. After the shortwave service goes off the air, only three low-power medium wave transmitters will be used to broadcast to other countries, an industry source told Digit.ru.

The radio will mostly use FM band transmitters based abroad, the source said.

At the beginning of the year, Voice of Russia cut the total volume of shortwave broadcasts to 26 hours a day from more than 50 hours in 2012.

USA Spectrum Monitoring Pilot Program



The NTIA is planning a two-year pilot program to determine the benefits of an automated spectrum measurement and data collection system

In his June 2013 Executive Memorandum on Expanding America's Leadership in Wireless Innovation, President Obama directed the **National Telecommunications and Information Administration** (NTIA) to design and conduct a pilot program to monitor spectrum usage in real time in selected communities throughout the country.

NTIA's budget request to Congress for fiscal year (FY) 2014 seeks an initial \$7.5 million research and development investment for a two-year pilot program to determine the benefits of an automated spectrum

measurement and data collection system to better analyze actual spectrum usage. NTIA issues this Notice of Inquiry (NOI) to seek public comment on this proposed spectrum monitoring pilot program that, if funded, would develop and deploy a prototype system to monitor spectrum usage in up to ten metropolitan areas throughout the United States. The NOI requests input from all interested stakeholders on the measurement system's design, features, deployment options, operational parameters, expected utility, potential benefits, and other issues. Subject to the availability of funds, NTIA will design, develop, validate, and field this prototype system and evaluate whether a more comprehensive monitoring program would create additional opportunities for more efficient spectrum access through, for example, increased and more dynamic sharing. NTIA intends to use the input received in response to this NOI to help design and implement the spectrum monitoring program.

[FEDERAL REGISTER](#)

National Wildlife

Refuge Week 2013

Amateur Radio Special Event

www.nwrweek-radio.info

National Wildlife Refuge Week is set for October 13 to 19, 2013, and Amateur Radio will again be helping to mark this event, Oct. 12 to 20. The goal: Combine your communication skills with your enjoyment of the outdoors to help others learn about the National Wildlife Refuge System. Only authorized, safe, responsible access to refuges is sanctioned by this event. **New for 2013:** In addition to operating from national

wildlife refuges managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, this year, hams may operate from a wildlife refuge, area or preserve managed by any state, territory or Canadian province.

**Tom Christian,
VP6TC/VR6TC, SK**



A great DX station for many. I worked him, sometimes on a daily schedule, but at least weekly when I was stationed in the Panama Canal Zone. I operated as KZ5WR. I was also very lucky to meet Tom on one of his visits to the Panama Canal Zone coming to purchase needed items from the Free Zone in Panama. Tom Christian, VP6RC/VR6TC, a long-time radio amateur who became known as “the Voice of Pitcairn,” died July 7 on the tiny South Pacific Island that was his lifelong home. He was 78 and a descendent of Fletcher Christian of “Mutiny on the *Bounty*” fame.

Bridgeport Expo



I have made arrangements for a table for an Amateur Radio display and recruitment. There will be a display and handout

documentation of the emergency responsibility of Amateur Radio. The display will feature both Harrison County Clubs, SJARA & CWVWA. I would appreciate any participation in either coming to the Expo to help at the table or to monitor the local repeaters to support us in demonstrating the local repeaters 146.685, 147.165, 444.175. The Expo will be held at Bridgeport High School from 11AM to 2PM with a Skywarn Class at 3PM on September 21, 2013.

Space Junk



US Space Fence shut down

It is reported on SatWatch that the 216 MHz US Space Fence, used to detect orbital objects, was shutdown on September 1, 2013 at 0000 UT.

The Space Fence is a U.S. government multistatic radar system built to detect orbital objects passing over the United States. There are three transmitter sites operating on 216.983, 216.97 and 216.99 MHz and six receiving stations.

The U.S. Air Force is shutting down a key part of its network for tracking satellites and orbital debris, possibly as soon as Oct. 1, according to an Aug. 1 memo obtained by SpaceNews.

Deployed in the 1960s, the VHF Space Fence includes three

transmitter sites and six receiving stations.

It is responsible for approximately 40 percent of all observations performed by the Air Force-run Space Surveillance Network, which includes other ground-and space-based sensor assets, said Brian Weeden, technical adviser at the Secure World Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to space sustainability.

**HAMTALK
Online**

Doug, KC8AJH is trying something new for monitoring the **Hamtalk System**. He has made it easy to monitor the system on your computer. It is uploaded to a host server “RadioReference.com” It may be on and off during an evaluation period and if it works out it will continue online. To listen go to: <http://www.sjara.org> and click on “**Monitor Hamtalk Online**” to go directly to the web site or you can go to RadioReference.com which gives you many Police, Fire, and EMS systems. There is a delay of up to 1 minute with on air monitoring.

Joke

The man approached the very beautiful woman in the large supermarket and asked, "You know, I've lost my wife here in the supermarket. Can you talk to me for a couple of minutes?"

"Why?"

"Because every time I talk to a beautiful woman my wife appears out of nowhere."

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 2, 2013

Contact: **NWR Week-Amateur Radio**
info@nwrweek-radio.info

National Wildlife Refuge Week 2013 ***Amateur Radio Special Event***

www.nwrweek-radio.info

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New for 2013: In addition to operating from national wildlife refuges managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, this year, hams may operate from a wildlife refuge, area or preserve managed by any state, territory or Canadian province.

To operate from a National Wildlife Refuge:

1. Review special event rules, disclaimer and other information available at www.nwrweek-radio.info, formulate a proposal for the manager of the refuge you intend to activate.
2. Obtain permission from the refuge manager to operate within the refuge. Then, submit your operating plan to info@nwrweek-radio.info to have your operation listed on the web site.

Operating Tips:

- Operate one day or the entire week, subject to the refuge manager's authorization.
- Use your own call sign, a club call sign or a 1x1 special event call sign.
- Use SSB, PSK31, RTTY, CW, etc. Describe refuge features & wildlife to those you contact.
- Be a good steward of the refuge.

Ham operators who have experience operating from refuges are available to answer questions from those new to refuge operations.

Contact the NWR Week Amateur Radio coordinator at info@nwrweek-radio.info.



Mike Thomas NA5U operating from Balcones Canyonlands refuge in Texas

National Wildlife Refuges that have authorized amateur radio operations during NWR Week include:

National Wildlife Refuge & Location
Alaska Maritime NWR - Alaska
McKinney NWR - Connecticut
Kern NWR - California
Hobe Sound NWR - Florida
Loxahatchee NWR - Florida
Banks Lake NWR - Georgia
Driftless Area NWR - Iowa
Parker River NWR - Massachusetts
Seney NWR - Michigan
Whitefish Point NWR - Michigan
Mille Lacs NWR - Minnesota
Rice Lake NWR - Minnesota
Rydell NWR - Minnesota
Sandhill Crane NWR - Mississippi
Swan Lake NWR - Missouri
Great Swamp NWR - New Jersey
Bosque del Apache NWR - New Mexico
Sevilleta NWR – New Mexico
Lake Ilo NWR – North Dakota
Sullys Hill NGP - North Dakota
Ottawa NWR - Ohio
Wichita Mountains NWR - Oklahoma
Erie NWR - Pennsylvania
Hatchie NWR - Tennessee
Aransas NWR - Texas
Balcones Canyon NWR - Texas
Caddo Lake NWR - Texas
Eastern Shore NWR - Virginia
Occoquan Bay NWR - Virginia
Horicon NWR - Wisconsin
Trempealeau NWR - Wisconsin