



# 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

14/September/2015

<u>Net Control</u>	<u>Date</u>
1. K8TPH.....	September 1, 2015
2. K8WWW.....	September 8, 2015
3. K8TPH.....	September 15, 2015
4. K8WWW.....	September 22, 2015
5. K8TPH .....	September 29, 2015

### Minutes SJARA Monthly Meeting August 20, 2015

The Stonewall Jackson Amateur Radio Association monthly meeting was called to order by President KA5NYN at 7:40PM in the basement of the St. Marks Lutheran Church on Thursday August 20, 2015. We got into the meeting a little late due to church members were putting repairing the parking lot.

Minutes of the July meeting were read by Secretary K8TPH and a motion to accept the minutes as read by WD8NSC and seconded by N8YPE accepted by unanimous vote.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer KC8IZC with a balance of \$1059,21 unchanged since last meeting. Motion by K8TPH and seconded by WD8NSC and accepted as read.

Old Business: N8YPE gave a short summery and what was going on with the LEPC and that the next

meeting will be in September. He has a rough draft prepared of the EOP to present to the next LEPC meeting.

New Business: K8TPH asked if the club would be willing to commit themselves to a SET sometime during late September or early October. K8TPH said he had contacted Paul Bump OEC Harrison County to coordinate the SET with OEC.

K8TPH announced that the members of SJARA are invited to the CWVWA picnic that will be held in the Nutter Fort Park on September 12th starting at noon. Attendees are asked to bring their own drinks and a covered dish.

K8RAS/KA8EAS presented a suggestion that the SJARA membership take on a project of helping the fire stations throughout Harrison County to map the location of fire hydrants by GPS listing all by longitude and latitude so they can be located quickly during a fire. K8RAS will bring maps to be distributed and more instruction on how the project will proceed.

KA5NYN gave a short presentation pertaining to the Young Eagles at Benedum Airport and possibly SJARA furnishing back up communications if asked as needed. He will present more information at the next meeting.

Motion was made to adjourn by K8TPH ad seconded by KD8IZC. Meeting adjourned at 8:55PM.

### HAMTALK

On August 26, 2015 KD8BMI DEC WV Division 2 inaugurated the first statewide net held on the HamTalk system utilizing 7 repeaters on two meters and 1 ten meter repeater covering a large part of West Virginia. The net went very well with KD8BMI as net control and having 43 check ins ranging from Doddridge County in the west into Maryland and Virginia to the east with Lewis County to the south. Places are being made to make repairs on the 2 meter repeater covering the southern counties of WV. There are also plans to install a 10 meter covering the same area.

These repeaters will be on Powell Mountain south of Sutton. This net will be held each Wednesday at 8PM local time. You will be able to check in on any of the repeaters on the HamTalk system. Information on the HamTalk system can be found on: HAMTALK.COM

September 2, 2015 41 check ins

## WiFi Availability

WASHINGTON, August 18, 2015 – The Federal Communications Commission’s Enforcement Bureau today announced a \$750,000 settlement with Smart City Holdings, LLC for blocking consumers’ Wi-Fi at various convention centers around the United States. Smart City, an Internet and telecommunications provider for conventions, meeting centers, and hotels, had been blocking personal mobile “hotspots” that were being used by convention visitors and exhibitors who used their own data plans rather than paying Smart City substantial fees to use the company’s Wi-Fi service. “It is unacceptable for any company to charge consumers exorbitant fees to access the Internet while at the same time blocking them from using their own personal Wi-Fi hotspots to access the Internet,” said Travis LeBlanc, Chief of the FCC’s Enforcement Bureau. “All companies who seek to use technologies that block FCC-approved Wi-Fi connections are on notice that such practices are patently unlawful.” In providing service at convention centers, Smart City charged exhibitors and visitors a fee of \$80 to access the company’s Wi-Fi services for a single day. The FCC’s investigation revealed that, if exhibitors or visitors to the

convention centers did not pay this \$80 fee, Smart City would automatically block users from accessing the Internet when they instead attempted to use their personal cellular data plans to establish mobile Wi-Fi networks – or “hotspots” – to connect their Wi-Fi-enabled devices to the Internet. As part of the settlement, Smart City will cease its Wi-Fi blocking activities and will pay a \$750,000 civil penalty. In June 2014, the Commission received an informal complaint that consumers could not connect to the Internet at several venues where Smart City provided Wi-Fi service. The Enforcement Bureau’s investigation revealed that Smart City automatically blocked consumers from using their own “rogue” Wi-Fi networks at several convention centers the company serves, including the convention centers in Cincinnati, Ohio; Columbus, Ohio; Indianapolis, Indiana; Orlando, Florida; and Phoenix, Arizona. No evidence exists that the Wi-Fi blocking occurred in response to a specific security threat to Smart City’s network or the users of its network. This is the FCC’s second major enforcement action regarding Wi-Fi blocking. In October 2014, the FCC fined Marriott International, Inc. and Marriott Hotel Services, Inc. \$600,000 for similar Wi-Fi blocking activities at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee.

The Smart City Consent Decree is available at: [PDF](#)

[https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DA-15-917A1.pdf](https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-15-917A1.pdf)

## Malicious Interference

The FCC has proposed levying an \$8000 fine on a Cincinnati, Ohio, radio amateur, Daniel R. Hicks, KB8UYZ, who at one point had volunteered to track down the interference he was causing on a number of primarily VHF repeaters. In a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) released on August 20, the FCC Enforcement Bureau asserted that Hicks intentionally interfered with other Amateur Radio operators’ communications and failed to identify properly. According to the NAL, an agent from the Bureau’s Detroit office first responded to multiple complaints of interference on various repeaters in April 2014.

Whether you run a full-power station or a small ham operation, “rules is rules.” A Michigan amateur radio station operator has learned that the hard way after allegedly playing music and broadcasting animal noises on his amateur radio station. Ham operator Michael Guernsey was handed a \$22,000 fine by the FCC last year, to which he submitted an appeal; but to no avail. After reviewing his case, the FCC has not found his arguments persuasive, and confirmed the penalty. In March 2014, the FCC’s Enforcement Bureau found that Guernsey was interfering with other amateur radio operators and had failed to identify himself to other operators as required by FCC rules. As a result, the bureau issued the \$22,000 levy for repeated violations. Guernsey appealed in August of last year, saying the fine should be cancelled because bureau agents did not actually inspect his station to establish properly that it was his station causing the interference. In his response to the FCC, Guernsey contends that the source of the interference could have been any number of amateur

operators who live within a quarter mile of his location. He also told the FCC he was unable to pay because of his financial situation. The FCC responded that its agents performed close-in direction-finding to confirm that the source of interfering transmission was the address of Guernsey's amateur station, KZ8O. Agents monitored the transmissions for 40 minutes and heard a prerecorded song and various animal noises on the frequency. Guernsey also failed to transmit his assigned call sign as required, the FCC said. This isn't Guernsey's first run-in with the commission. According to the FCC in its forfeiture order, the Parchment, Mich., resident has a history of causing "repeated acts of intentional and malicious interference to other amateur radio operators," and has been warned repeatedly in writing by the bureau that his actions violate FCC rules. The commission gave Guernsey 30 days to submit payment.

### **ARRL Elections**

Two incumbents face challenges in the 2015 election cycle for ARRL Director and Vice Director. Both races are in the ARRL Northwestern Division. Incumbent Director James Pace, K7CEX, of Centralia, Washington, will face a challenge from William Balzarini, KL7BB, of Auburn, Washington. Delvin Bunton, N7QMT, of Vancouver, Washington, is seeking to unseat Northwestern Division Vice Director Bonnie Altus, AB7ZQ, of Sheridan, Oregon.

The ARRL Ethics and Elections Committee earlier determined all candidates for the 2016-2018 term in this year's election cycle to be eligible and nominated.

Incumbents in four other ARRL Divisions faced no challengers in

the current election cycle and have been declared re-elected. They are Central Division Director Dick Isely, W9GIG, and Vice Director Kermit Carlson, W9XA; Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, and Vice Director Bill Hudzik, W2UDT; New England Division Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, and Vice Director Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF, and Roanoke Division Director Dr Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, and Vice Director Bill Morine, N2COP.

Ballots will be mailed on October 1 to ARRL members in good standing in the Northwestern Division as of September 10, 2015. Ballots will be counted under the supervision of an independent auditor, and the successful candidates will be announced on November 20.

The Ethics and Elections Committee agreed in January to return to using solely paper ballots, after instituting a hybrid paper and electronic balloting process in the autumn of 2012. Online balloting proved popular among those who took advantage of it, but overall voter participation declined significantly. See August 2015 QST, p 78, for more information

### **September National Preparedness Month**

On behalf of the Ready Campaign, I invite you to join millions of Americans who have made a commitment to increasing the level of emergency preparedness for themselves, their family and their community.

September 1 is the first day of National Preparedness Month. We are encouraging everyone to participate in the theme, Don't Wait.

Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today.

Now is a great time to make an emergency communication plan for your family. This month, we hope that you will spend time together with your family and talk about how you will contact each other and where you will meet should disaster strike.

National Preparedness Month culminates with National PrepareAthon! Day on September 30 when we turn our attention from awareness to action. If you have not already done so, please use this national day of action to practice your family emergency communication plan, and make sure everyone knows what to do and has the phone numbers they need to stay in touch.

Join America's PrepareAthon! Visit [www.ready.gov/prepare](http://www.ready.gov/prepare). Click on Be Counted, Add Your Activity and tell us how you, your family and friends, and community are getting more prepared. Your registration could motivate others to prepare!

Thank you for your interest in participating in National Preparedness Month. We look forward to seeing what you and your community will do!

### **FCC (True or False?)**

The website LibrePlanet.org reports: the FCC is considering a proposal to require manufacturers to lock down computing devices (routers, PCs, phones) to prevent modification if they have a "modular wireless radio"[1][2] or a device with an "electronic label"[3]. The rules would likely:

Restrict installation of alternative operating systems on your PC, like GNU/Linux, Open BSD, Free BSD, etc.

Prevent research into advanced wireless technologies, like mesh networking and buffer bloat fixes  
Ban installation of custom firmware on your Android phone

Discourage the development of alternative free and open source WiFi firmware, like OpenWrt

Infringe upon the ability of amateur radio operators to create high powered mesh networks to assist emergency personnel in a disaster.

Prevent resellers from installing firmware on routers, such as for retail WiFi hotspots or VPNs, without agreeing to any condition a manufacturer so chooses.

Take Action Now!

The FCC is asking for comments on this proposal. The most important thing you can do is comment on the FCC's proposal and tell them you want to be able to control your computing devices. Will you do this?

Comment deadline extended to October 9.

<https://libreplanet.org/>

## Papal Visit

Pope Francis visits the United States September 22–27 and amateur radio will be part of the celebration. Throughout the 6 day event (September 23 0000Z – September

28 0000Z) 6 special event amateur radio stations will be on the air to commemorate the event.

Call signs from the Washington, DC area will be K3P and N4P.

From New York and New Jersey the call will be K2P.

W3FRC/WMF will be on the air from southeastern Pennsylvania and W3P will be on the air in Philadelphia. WM3PEN, also of Philadelphia, will join in Thursday evening at 8 PM EST (Friday 0000 GMT).

Four unique qsl cards will be available along with a certificate to mark this special and historic event. A website is being established for QSL and certificate information. Early information and links can be found on the WM3PEN qrz.com website

When Pope Francis arrives in the United States at the end of next month, a group of amateur radio operators from across the region will be activating special stations to mark the historic occasion.

Ron Sigismonti, a Chester County ham operator whose radio call sign is N3RS, is recruiting ham operators from the Frankford Radio Club in southeastern Pennsylvania, south Jersey and Delaware to take part. Sigismonti says “Frankford Radio Club has a call sign, W3FRC. And, we’ll be working W3FRC portable

WMF which is standing for the World Meeting of Families.”

<http://www.epa-arri.org/popeinphilly>

## Are you ready?

<http://www.ready.wv.gov>

## QCWA

The Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc. (QCWA) presented a 90 Year Licensed Certificate Award (Serial #1) to Charles “Charlie” Hellman W2RP. Mr. Hellman is 105 years of age and is the oldest living amateur radio operator in the United States and possibly the world. Charlie was licensed in 1925 as a 15 year-old, and joined QCWA in 1975 and is also a member of local QCWA Chapter 181 Hudson Valley, NY