

# SINEWAVES

STONEWALL JACKSON AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION  
PO Box 752 Clarksburg, WV 26302-0752

[WWW.SJARA.ORG](http://WWW.SJARA.ORG)

October 26, 2007

**Monthly Meeting at Saint Mark's Lutheran Church, located at the intersection of US 19 and SR 98**  
**Next meeting will be November 22, 2007**

Stonewall Jackson Amateur Radio Association		Tuesday Night Net
N8FMD Repeater 147.210 Mhz with P/L tone of 103.5 hz		
Net Control Operator	Date	Call Sign
Tom Bell	October 30, 2007	KB8WRZ
Bill Williams	November 6, 2007	K8WWW
Dave Morris	November 13, 2007	WD8NSC
Jason Hatfield	November 20, 2007	KD8FDD
Tom Bell	November 27, 2007	KB8WRZ
Dick Wilt	December 4, 2007	K8TPH
Dave Morris	December 11, 2007	WD8NSC

## OCTOBER 18, 2007 MEETING

The Oct 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SJARA was called to order by KB8RIA, Paul Howe who then ask for a reading of the minutes from the Sept meeting, which was read by the Secretary WD8NSC, Dave Morris. Next Dick Wilt, K8TPH gave the Treasurers Report was given and the club has a balance of \$1545. Both the minutes and Treasurers were accepted as read.

Under old business KB8RIA reported that the club Christmas Dinner is to be held Dec 13<sup>th</sup> at Raymond's Restaurant with a social get to gather at 6:30 and diner at 7.

Next under new business a report was given by K8TPH on his attempt to obtain a copy of the county's Emergency Operation Plan. A letter from the county's prosecuting attorney is attached. A report was presented by Dave Anderson, N8YPE on the Simulated Emergency Training, held in September. 4 club members participated in SET. A report of the Election Committee was given and a slate of officers was presented for the up coming

club election to be held at the Nov meeting. The slate is as follows; Dave Anderson N8YPE-Pres.

Mike Talkington KC8FWD-VP  
Dick Wilt K8TPH-Treas  
Dave Morris WD8NSC-Sec

## CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Annual SJARA Christmas Dinner is to be held at Raymond's Restaurant on Dec 13, 2007. A social half-hour to be begin at 6:30 and we will sit down to eat at 7 PM. All amateurs are invited along with club members, families and guest.

Please let KB8RIA, Paul Howe know if you are planning to attend and how many will be coming with you.

## CLUB DUES

Just a reminder to all that the club dues are due in December for all. The dues are \$12 for a single membership or \$18 for a family membership.

Checks made out to SJARA should be sent to Dick Wilt or to the clubs post office box listed above. New amateurs dues are free the first year but due for the following year in December.

## **SIMULATED EMERGENCY TRAINING**

A report on SET by Dick Wilt, K8TPH. Three of us in Harrison County participated in the SET  
K8TPH was on 146.685 phone and DAREN with Packet and of course my TelPac was up and running. I was located at the Horizon Church, which in the future will be an ARC shelter under Project G.R.A.C.E  
N8YPE was on 146.685 (mobile at the American Red Cross)  
K8WWW monitored 146.685 and also monitored 3.865 Emergency Net.  
Since we were the only ones in Harrison County we joined the emergency net on 146.685 with Doddridge County Net control WU8WV (Monte)

## **CLUB WEBSITE**

After problems with the club website Dick Wilt, K9TPH is reporting that the site is now up and running again.  
Don't forget to check the site for up to date news and items of interest to the SJARA members.

## **“Ham” hobby popular locally**

**Many residents communicate worldwide with home-based radios**  
*by Laura Wilcox*

Staff Writer: Exponent Telegram, Clarksburg  
Publishing Company  
Sunday October 7, 2007

**Clarksburg** – In homes and vehicles across the region many residents make friends over the radio.

Without cell phones or the Internet, many locals communicate with people worldwide through the use of amateur or ham radios.

In West Virginia hundreds of people are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission to operate ham radios.

In Clarksburg, more than 150 people hold some form of amateur license, according to the FCC database.

Paul J. Howe of Clarksburg got his license in the early 1990s. He became interested as a child in his friends basement. His friend's father was a “ham”, and Howe was “taken aback” by his equipment.

Even now that he understands the physics behind the radios, Howe said he continues to be amazed.

“To me, it's still magic that I can pick up a microphone and say hello to someone in South Africa. It also makes you realize how small the world is,” he said.

On multiple occasions, Howe has been talking with someone in an other country only to find out that they've been through Clarksburg or the region before. Once he was speaking to a missionary in the Kalahari Desert. When How told the man where he was from, he was surprised by the response.

“He says, Clarksburg? I haven't been there in 15 years. Is T&L Hot Dogs still in business?”

Today Howe is president of the Stonewall Jackson Amateur Radio Association, a local club with about 30 members.

He said some members have military backgrounds, come from law enforcement or emergency medicine, or became interested because of family or friends.

“For me, it was just the mystery and fascination – to be able to talk around the world”.

He said operators can spend as little or as much money as they want to get into the hobby, and the test to become licensed is simple.

Harold Tate, known as Hal to his ham friends, also is a member of the local club.

“I used to listen to a couple hams in the '60s and I thought, 'I want to do that some day.' I finally got enough nerve to pass the Morse code and get into it 24 years ago,” he said.

Like others, Tate said his favorite thing about ham radio is the people.

“you go anywhere in the country, and lots of places in the world, and there are people who know you by name,” he said.

Hams also may serve as backup in case of an emergency when other communications are disabled. Tate said it feels good to be able to provide such assistance.

In the 1985 flood, Tate was one of many hams who helped answer inquires from out-of-town relatives checking on family.

Howe said several West Virginia counties have working agreements in case of emergency, but Harrison does not.

On Saturday afternoon many local operators were planning to participate in a Simulated Emergency Test, a nationwide drill in emergency communications.

In Doddridge County Tammy McGinnis and her husband also enjoy using ham radios. She said she would likely participate in the drill over the weekend.

“When you see the radio work and you’re sitting in your house talking to (people in) North Caroline, Florida, Puerto Rico, it’s just miraculous” she said.

Dick Wilt of Bridgeport has been working with amateur radio since 1959 when he was stationed with the U.S. Navy in Alaska.

Wilt also said he enjoys it because of the contacts he makes.

“You can talk around the world, talk to just about any country in the world,” he said. “You can operate from your car. You can operate at home. You can operate by voice or by the old-fashioned Morse code.”

Wilt also is the treasurer of the Stonewall Jackson Amateur Radio Association. Each year the club participates in “field day,” when groups from all over North America compete to see how many contacts they can make in a day. The local club placed first in the state and 19<sup>th</sup> in the United States in 2006, he said.

“We talked to about 3,000 contacts in a 24-hour period,” Wilt said.

Howe said the purpose of the activity is to prove hams can operate without commercial power. They set up antennas and run on generators,

batteries or solar cells. Recently the event has taken place near the Harrison County YMCA.

Though West Virginia has 21 clubs affiliated with the American Radio Relay League (the national membership association for ham operators), Howe said interest in amateur radio is waning.

While it may have been new and exciting in the 60s, today’s youths have text messaging and the Internet, he said.

“It’s a different world than what it used to be. There’s a lot of competition for the attention of young people,” he said.



HARRISON COUNTY COURT HOUSE

COUNTY OF HARRISON  
OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
301 WEST MAIN STREET  
CLARKSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA 26301  
PHONE: (304) 624-8660  
FAX: (304) 624-8708



*Joseph F. Shaffer*  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

October 11, 2007

Richard R. Wilt  
170 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Bridgeport, WV 26330

Dear Mr. Wilt:

Your request for Harrison County Emergency Operations Plan was forwarded to this office. The Harrison County Prosecuting Attorney's Office acts as counsel for the County Commission regarding such requests. By this letter I must deny your request to view and/or copy Harrison County's Emergency Operations Plan. Information of this nature is not disseminated by the County.

Further, pursuant to West Virginia Code §29B-1-4(9), (10) and (14), such information is not even discoverable under the Freedom of Information Act. Therefore, should you issue a FOIA request for such information, such request will be denied as well.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Joseph F. Shaffer  
Prosecuting Attorney

JFS/kjm

cc: Harrison County Commission