Sinewaves

December 19, 2009
Stonewall Jackson Amateur Radio Association Tuesday Night Net
Repeater N8FMD 147.210 Mhz PL tone 103.5
Net Controls

Call Sign	Date
KD8FOH	December 22, 2009
K8TPH	December 29, 2009
WD8NSC	January 5, 2009
N8YPE	January 12, 2009
WV8JON	January 19, 2009

Next Regular meeting at 7:30PM on Thursday January 21, 2010

Christmas Dinner

Merry Christmas

The Stonewall Jackson Amateur Radio Association held their Christmas Dinner at Raymon's Restaurant on Friday December 11th with 18 attending.
The dinner was very enjoyable and I feel everyone had a very good evening of eyeball QSO"S with fellow members of the SJARA.
Below is a picture showing the dinning room and the members that attended. More pictures can be seen on the Club Web Site http://www.sjara.org.

We are sorry that several of our members could not attend due to travel or sickness. Our prayers go out to all that could not attend due to illness.

New Officers were installed for 2010-2012.

President	KD8FDD Jason
VPres.	KC8FWD Mike
Sect.	N8YPE
Treas.	K8TPH

http://www.sjara.org/xmasdinner09.htm

Message from your past President

As your Club president I look back with pride, on what our club has accomplished over the last 2 years. As preparation for our role in emergency communications we have participated in two SET (Simulated Emergency Test), enjoyed two successful field days, and established an amateur radio station at the county EOC with the help of Paul Bump and the Harrison County Commission. The club presented two Technician classes at no charge to the participants and had over 90% of the participants pass the Technician Test.
Another significant accomplishment was the resumption of the ARRL Volunteer Examiner licenses tests.

To everyone who made this possible my heart felt thanks.

As we get older I think we spend too much time looking at what has been and not what can be. Therefore I ask every member of this club help Jason as he assumes leadership of the SJARA.

Bendy Antenna

By Jeanna Bryner
Nov . 30, 2009

Tiny antennae that can bend, twist and stretch, before snapping back to their original shapes, could some day find themselves in flexible electronics and equipment that needs to be rolled up before deployment.

The shape-shifting antennas are still in the lab and the researchers from North Carolina State University are not sure when the invention would hit the market.

Even so, the team can already envision such novel antennae being used in military equipment that can then be rolled up or folded, trekked to another site and unpackaged with no wear on the antenna. The antenna could also be used to monitor motion in structures such as bridges. As the bridge expands and contracts, it would stretch the antenna — changing the frequency of the antenna, and providing civil engineers information wirelessly about the condition of the bridge.

And study researcher Ju-Hee So is working on artificial eyes in which such twistable antennae would send visual signals to the brain to help blind individuals regain some sort of sight.

Like all antennae, most of which are made out of copper and are not reshapable, the bendy variety would collect or emit radio waves of a certain frequency.

The work is detailed in the Nov. 23 issue of the journal Advanced Functional Materials.

To build simple dipole antennae that work on the same principle as bunny ears for an old TV, Michael Dickey and his colleagues started with a piece of elastic silicon that resembles a flat ribbon. Then, they injected an alloy of gallium and indium into tiny channels within the stretchy ribbon. Each channel is just a tad thicker than the width of a human hair and has two openings, one at either end.

The alloy is liquid at room temperature and can slosh around like water, with one key difference.

"The reason this works is that the bulk of it is like water, with low viscosity, but the surface oxidizes and forms a skin, and that skin is what holds it in the channel," Dickey told LiveScience.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34211455/ns/technology_and_science-innovation/

Surfin': A Wireless Dilemma

By Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU
Contributing Editor November 27, 2009

It's a wireless world! It seems like every day another electronic gizmo joins the radio-controlled ranks of gizmos.

That's fine -- unless you are a ham trying to transceive in a wireless world. Wireless equipment transmissions have been interfering with our ham receivers since just about Day One and we have learned how to deal with that problem.

But what about ham radio transmissions interfering with wireless equipment receivers? In a recent e-mail, a Surfin' reader asked, "I wonder if the topic of wireless routers used in the ham shack has ever comes up? I expect a large percentage of hams use wireless in their homes, and I imagine many are like me and have their Internet connection and router in the shack, close to their amplifier.

"I had used satellite Internet until a few months ago, when I switched to a local WiFi network. The WiFi network is faster and less expensive than satellite, but the WiFi system seems to be more sensitive to the particular type of router I use. I used a D-link router successfully with the satellite system, but it tends to disconnect at random with the WiFi system.

"I was told by the WiFi provider that they had good luck with Belkin routers, so I got a Belkin unit. It does not disconnect at random, but it does disconnect when I transmit more than about 500 W. I've tried all the usual things: Ferrite cores on the cables, grounding the unit, etc., but nothing helped. It simply must not be designed for an RF environment. So I would like to find out which wireless routers other hams use that do not have problems when they transmit high power."

Any ideas? I figure that some you out there in the Surfin' audience have encountered and overcome this problem. If you have, please share your experience.

Until next time, keep on surfin'!

Editor's note: Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU, wonders "When did 'wireless' become 'radio?'" To contact Stan, send him e-mail or add comments to his blog.

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Are you a crossword enthusiast? You may want to try this one:

http://www.arrl.org/news/puzzles/2009/11/

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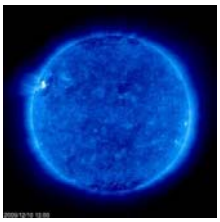
The Sun, as seen on Thursday, December 10, 2009 from NASA's SOHO Extreme Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope. This image was taken at 171 Angstrom; the bright material is at 1 million degrees Kelvin.



Tad "When I behold, upon the night's starr'd face" Cook, K7RA, reports: Finally! A sunspot appeared on Wednesday, December 9, giving us a daily sunspot number of 13 -- this followed 16 days of no sunspots. The new group is number 1034, and need we say it is a Solar Cycle 24 spot? Cycle 24 spots were news at one time, but we haven't seen a Solar Cycle 23 spot since number 1016 on April 29-30, 2009. Solar Cycle 23 peaked around 8-9 years ago. Excitement builds for this weekend's ARRL 10 Meter Contest. Will sunspot activity amount to enough to enhance 10 meter propagation? The latest prediction shows a rising solar flux, 74 and 75 on December 10-11 and 77 from December 12-16; this must correspond to the

new sunspot swinging into view, instead of peeking over the horizon as it did on Wednesday. Even without sunspots, Geminids meteor showers have intensified with each passing year as Earth moves deeper into the debris stream from extinct comet 3200 Phaethon. The predicted peak of the meteor shower is about five hours after the end of the contest and there is a good chance that ionized comet trails could enhance 10 meter propagation this weekend. Look for more information in the Solar Update, available on the ARRL Web site on Friday, December 11. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Keats' When I Have Fears That I May Cease to Be.

WV ARES® BULLETIN NR 09.49
DATE: December 6, 2009

SUBJECT**: THE NEED FOR REGISTRATION**

For every Public Safety function, problem, or event, there is a Government agency charged with the primary response, control, and mitigation.

Some agencies use volunteers on a regular basis, and others do not. Such regular, or professional, volunteers are generally expected to meet certain qualifications prior to acceptance and enrollment.

Some skilled volunteers, properly trained and registered, are an important part of, and support, a specific Public agency. Public agencies do not take kindly to unregistered volunteers showing up at an emergency. By the same token, properly registered volunteers should not respond to an incident on their own. They should wait and be asked to respond by authorization from a competent authority.

One of the prerequisites in West Virginia for a volunteer to serve a Public agency is to first become a registered Emergency Services Worker in accordance with West Virginia Code: Chapter 15, Article 5.

To be a good volunteer it helps to be familiar with the procedures of an agency you will be working with. As communicators one way to get familiar is to take the National Incident Management System (NIMS) courses. No set rules have been established for communications yet, but a good start is the NIMS IS-100, IS-200, IS-700, and IS-800, or their lasted issue.

Ken Harris, WA8LLM, Wood County, WV
WV ARES® Section Emergency Coordinator
WV ARES® District 3 Emergency Coordinator

Amateur Radio Bill Passes Senate, Moves to the House

On Monday, December 14, S 1755 -- *The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009* -- passed the Senate by unanimous consent; the bill now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration. Sponsored by Senator Joe Lieberman (ID-CT), and Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), S 1755, if passed, would direct the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to undertake a study on emergency communications. S 1755 points out that "There is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of Amateur Radio Service stations, and that performance must be given -- (A) support at all levels of government; and (B) protection against unreasonable regulation and impediments to the provision of the valuable communications provided by such stations." Read more here.