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The Monthly Newsletter of the Monongalia
Wireless Association
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President: Rich Kennedy, W8PT
Secretary/Treasurer: Norton Smith, WD8AFJ

Vice President: Jack Averill, N8NQW
Newsletter Editor: Jack Coster, WF8X
Co-Editor: Bill Jacobs, WA8YCG

Words from the President

Iwish everyone a wonderful holiday season. I'm stepping down as Prez after 3 years and it has been just a great experience serving MWA, Amateur Radio, and the community in general. I hope to continue to attend all meetings and perhaps do a few presentations even though I now live in Friendsville, MD.

I also want to thank the many MWA members who supported me and made it easy to fulfill the duties of the position: Norton, Noreen, and Jack just to name a few.

— 73's. Rich, W8PT

MWA Field Day

The December *QST* reports results of the 2001 Field Day Event that took place in June. MWA's efforts were in the "4A" category (4 transmitters on 4 bands, with emergency power). Our score of 2,902 ranked us 70th out of 171 stations in the 4A category. The overall winner was a 26A station with a score of 31,760! (But did they *really* have fun?)

N8HGL Awarded

Bob Steele, N8HGL, received MWA's Technical Award for 2000 at the December 1 MWA-MARA Holiday dinner. Bob has been a strong volunteer supporter of Red Cross activities, including their communications. He is active in Navy MARS and ARES. Bob began his career in radio communications with the U.S. Navy about 1952 and then graduated to Amateur Radio about 15 years ago.



Bob Steele, the shorter bearded one, is presented with the MWA Technical Award by MWA VP, Jack, N8NQW.

Holiday Dinner

The annual MARA-MWA dinner was attended by over 40 persons on December 1. Awards went to Bob Steel, N8HGL for the MWA Community Service Award (see above), Alan Carpenter, W8OP for the MARA Amateur of the Year, and to Jacob Tennant, K8JWT for the MWA Technical Award. Special mention award from the Taco Tuesday Seminar on Things Great and Small to Bill Jacobs for wearing a necktie to the event.

K3JT's Antenna

The cubical quad antenna is back up at K3JT. The antenna is on a self-supporting tower at 40 feet height. The antenna is 3 elements on 20/17/15 meters and 4 elements on 12/10/6 meters. The boom is 20 ft long, 3-inch diameter aluminum, the cast aluminum spiders and fiberglass spreaders were obtained from Cubex and the wire is 14-gauge stranded, tinned, Cu-clad steel. After about a year of work, the original antenna (which can be seen at <http://www.qsl.net/k3jt>) was redesigned and significantly improved (electrically and mechanically), all repairs were completed, elements were measured and attached, and coax feed lines were attached (6 separate feed lines are used, one for each band). New 1/4 inch steel galvanized guy cable was installed and used to pull the tilt-over antenna to the upright position.

How does it perform? The first morning after putting the antenna up, I worked 2 stations in Greece, 5 in France, several in the Caribbean and all of this on 6 meters! Performance on the lower frequencies is outstanding. In the CQWDX CW contest, I made 826 DX contacts and my station beat out the big guns on several occasions. Most contacts were made on the first

call. I did not find a single station that I could not get through the pileup to make the QSO. Visitors are always welcome, and I'm always



Raising the K3JT Cubical Quad.

glad to "show off" the station. I hope to have new pictures on my website soon. Thanks to all who helped, this project would never have happened without your donation of time and efforts to make this project a success. I really appreciate your help. The MWA is really a great radio club. — Terry, K3JT

DX Goes on ? !

ARRL has approved Afghanistan operation for DXCC: The ARRL DXCC Desk reports it has received acceptable documentation for YA5T in Afghanistan and has approved it for DXCC credit. *Afghanistan is among the top 10 "most wanted" countries.* YA5T will be on the air *as their schedules permit.* For more information, visit the YA5T Web site managed by Bruce Richards, WD4NGB <http://www.qsl.net/ya5t/>.

--- ARRL Newsletter

REMINDER: No December MWA meeting.

Amateur Radio Trader calls it quits.

Amateur Radio Trader magazine is ceasing publication with its second November issue. "This was a difficult but necessary decision, due to the combined effects of the Internet on our print edition and the economic climate," said the magazine's editor Barbara Patterson, KF4MVV. Subscribers will be reimbursed for any outstanding issues.

– ARRL Newsletter

Shortwave Ham Radio Programs

Shortwave station HCJB, broadcasting from Quito, Ecuador, has a good program about Ham Radio. Called "Ham Radio Today" the half-hour program is hosted by two hams, VE3MDV/HC1 and HC1QH. It airs on Wednesdays at 0130 UTC on 9745 kHz and on Saturdays at 0200 UTC at 9745, 15115, and 21455 kHz. Program content covers the range of ham radio activities. The level tends to be toward the more basic levels of hams. HCJB also broadcasts "DX Partyline", a program aimed primarily at the SWL (Shortwave Listener) but containing interesting information on propagation and general international radio news. DX Partyline is on at 0110 UTC and 0410 UTC each Sunday on the same frequencies as Ham Radio Today. Saturdays, they can be found at 0610 UTC at 11680 kHz. Check out their web site at www.hcjb.org/english for publications, qsl's, and more station information.

– Jack, WF8X

MEETINGS NOTE: MWA Club meetings for January 15, February 19, March 19, and April 16 will be in Room G-39 of the WVU Engineering Sciences Building.

For Sale. Complete Kenwood TS-430s HF station, all matching Kenwood components. Nice! Transceiver, power supply, speaker. Jack \$550. Jack, WF8X. 594-2740.

“The Night Before Christmas” -- Ham Radio-style

Twas the night before Christmas, when all
through the town,
The snowstorm was raging, the phone lines
were down;
The wind it did howl, the tree limbs did crack,
I hope that St. Nick isn't forced to turn back.

The wife making cookies, the kids making noise,
While away in the shack, by my rig I was poised.
The finals were glowing, the mike gain was set,
I was chasing DX to see what I could get.
The bands were all empty, the frequencies clear,
Except one lone station that sounded quite near.
He was calling CQ and my interest did pique,
When he ended transmission with the words,
"Old St. Nick".

I answered back quickly, I used great dispatch,
If this were St. Nicholas, good God, what a catch!
We exchanged information, it was really quite graphic,
Then he came back and said, "I've emergency traffic!"
His reindeer were tired, his elves in a grump,
If he didn't land soon, then his sleigh he would dump.

I thought very carefully, I thought very hard,
Then I gave him directions to my snow covered yard.
As he flew past my window, his hair like a mane,
He reined in his chargers and called them by name:
"Whoa, Anode! Whoa, Cathode! Whoa, Zener! Whoa,
Diode! Stop, Heater! Stop, Grid leak! Stop, Bias!
Stop, Triode!
You're flying too low! you're flying too fast!
Look out, you dumb reindeer, his antenna mast!"

So into the backyard the reindeer did drop,
St. Nick, the elves, and the sleigh went kerplop!
Then at the back door, I heard this loud knocking,
"Open up in there, or I won't fill your stocking!"
As I turned off the light and was leaving the shack,

Into the house Saint Nicholas came from the back--
His two-meter rig held to his hip with a strap,
"Hams do it in the shack" on the front of his cap.
The sack that he carried made his aged brow furrow,
And he handed me a card that read,
"QSL Via Bureau".
His clothes were all sooty, from his shoes to his vest;
I felt like a novice taking his test.

His fingers were calloused and from what I could tell,
This came from a straight key that I'll bet he used well.
I offered him coffee, I offered him smokes,
I tried easing the tension by telling ham jokes.
Then he nodded his head and raised up his thumb,
He smiled like an Elmer, did I ever feel dumb.
He grabbed up his sack and went straight for the tree,
And placed in it a large present for me.

When he finished his work, he stood up, took a bow,
Then out the back door to his team he did plow.
But I heard him exclaim as he flew o'er the land,
"Beware the FCC, friend, we were both out of band!"

Merry Christmas from my house to yours!

– With thanks to Robert J. Long's web page

<http://home1.gte.net/longrj2>

