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The Monthly Newsletter of the Monongalia  
Wireless Association  
Morgantown, West Virginia

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## From our (New) Prez

We are starting the New Year with the look of winter. This is good weather for hamming, rag-chewing, DXing, and just listening to the activity on the bands. I hope Santa was good to you all and that your New Year's was happy.

It has been a long time since I have held an office in the MWA, but I am looking forward to serving the club as president. Many of you may not know my interests and me. I have been a HAM since 1957 when I received my NOVICE license (one year non-renewable) with the call KN8LGS. Less than a year later I received a GENERAL class license with the call K8LG. I was quite active on 20m and 75m while in high school. Activity did drop off during my first year or so in college until I shared a room with another HAM. We did have fun! I changed my call to K8LG when the FCC first offered EXTRA class operators the option.

My areas of interest in amateur radio have changed over the years. My initial interest was in operating, collecting cards, and meeting new people in far away places. A period of time of intense construction of equipment (amplifiers, transceivers, repeaters, antennas, etc) and much less operation followed this. I became involved in the West Virginia State Amateur Radio

Council and the ARRL serving as Frequency Coordinator for West Virginia, one term as Vice President of the State Radio Council, two terms as President of the State Radio Council, and ARRL Technical Advisor for West Virginia. In the past ten or so years I have had a very strong interest in matters technical including conversion of Motorola radios for amateur use, PIC micro controller based amateur radio projects, satellite communications, and digital mode communications. My latest interest has been in making printed circuit boards .

I feel it is time for MWA start a couple on new initiatives:

-- It is time for MWA to again reach out to the amateur community and invite them to join us at our monthly meetings. I will be forming a committee to prepare and mail an invitation to all the amateurs in the area inviting them to our meeting and asking them to join MWA.

-- I would also like to investigate the possibility of doing HAM RADIO classes. MWA has not had classes for several years and there may be a number of people interested.

If any one has other items to add to the two above please feel free to share them with me. I look forward to MWA activities.

73, Mike, K8LG

# Pocket Computers For Hams

**Y**ou have probably seen some of us at our monthly meetings beaming programs to one another using our pocket computers and written us off as the nerdier of the nerds. Actually, these computers, Palm, Handspring, etc., are in many ways much more powerful than the hardly luggable computers many of us remember so well from the early days of personal computing (they had 64 Kilobytes (Kb) of memory, enough memory to hold about 50 pages of text). These pocket computers have from one Megabytes (Mb) to several Mb, holding from about 800 pages of text to many times that. You can purchase used ones for under \$100 at (<http://www.usedpalmPilots.com/buyers.html>) .

Tons of software programs are available related to amateur radio. Here is a good ham-related site to begin with: (<http://www.qsl.net/va3pkh/palm-ham.html>) . One you will enjoy is DotDash, a CW training program. It has features such as "Train Random Words", "Learn Alphabet", recognize random abbreviations, different speed settings, morse text as you write etc.. DotDash was shareware, but is now freeware. Also, at this web site you will find software related to electronics, logging programs, gps programs, rig control programs, test study guides, satellite tracking, and many more topics for hams.

All hams will want a good calculator on their pocket computer, and I recommend EasyCalc, a free graphing scientific calculator. To find EasyCalc, do a web search using Google, (<http://www.google.com>). (By the way, Google puts most other search engines to shame with its speed and thoroughness. It searches over 1.6 BILLION web sites in fractions of a second). Type in EasyCalc, and you find more than you want to know. My closing advice, get a pocket computer and amaze (or bore?) you friends.

-- Harry, KG8RZ

# VE Fees the Same

**T**he ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator says that Amateur Radio test fee will remain at \$10 for 2002. The 2002 National Exam Day dates are (spring) April 27-28 and (fall) September 28-29, 2002-- the last full weekends in April and September each year.

# Upcoming WVSARC Meeting

**S**aturday, January 19, 2002 is the next meeting of the West Virginia State Amateur Radio Council. The meeting will be at 1 PM at Western Sizzlin Steakhouse, Exit 99 of I-79. Come earlier to eat lunch.

# Jax Mill Survey

**T**he WVSARC is conducting a survey of member's ideas and opinions about and our State ARRL Convention each year at Jackson's Mill. The survey form is available at the WV section website -- (<http://www.qsl.net/wvarrl>). All WV amateurs are encouraged to participate in the survey and it only takes a few moments time to answer the questions. Rich Clemens KB8AOB is compiling the responses.

# Eliminate the Novice Bands?

**T**he ARRL Novice Spectrum Study Committee has recommended that the ARRL petition the FCC to eliminate the Novice CW subbands and allow Novice and Technician with Element 1 credit licenses to operate CW on the General 80, 40, 15 and 10-

meter CW allocations at up to 200 W output. The panel suggested setting aside portions of those bands for "slow CW operation" to aid new CW operators in enhancing their skills. The committee recommended refarming the current Novice/Tech Plus subbands in part to allow expansion of the phone allocations on 80, 40 and 15 meters (The FCC no longer issues new Novice licenses). The committee's report will be presented to the ARRL Board of Directors for consideration at its annual meeting in January.

– ARRL Newsletter

## New WV Newsletter . . .

**H**al Turley, KC8FS, the new Section Manager for WV ARRL, has initiated a bi-weekly newsletter called *Dits and Dahs*. The newsletter will carry brief Section announcements and relevant amateur radio tidbits, happenings and trivia. It is available as a PDF file for download from the section website URL (see above).

## . . . and a New WV eGroup

**Y**ou can also keep in touch with going's on in WV Hamdom through a Yahoo eGroup. The group is a place where members can send and reply to questions and hold discussions about ham-related topics. To join, go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/> and search for wvarrl.

# Online Antenna Modeling Course

**B**uilding upon the success of its emergency communication courses, the ARRL will offer an on-line course in computerized antenna modeling. The course will be offered once per month for up to 50 registrants. It is scheduled to take 12 weeks to complete and the fee will be \$80 for ARRL members. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/cce>> and the links found there. For more information, contact C-CE Coordinator Dan Miller, K3UFG, [cce@arrl.org](mailto:cce@arrl.org).

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