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

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From the New Prez

Hello from your new President. I hope that you all had good holidays. The New Year is here and let's hope it is a good one for the club also.

I hope that I will do the job that you have elected me to. I will be open for anything that will benfit the club. Let all come out to the meetings and enjoy yourself and talk to your friends.

-- Al, W3GEG

2002 QSL Service

ARRL QSL Service ended 2002 just shy of 2 million cards shipped -- that's up 1.6 percent over 2001. With sunspot numbers slowly starting to decline, it may be a while before the QSL Service again sees the sort of activity it dealt with in 2002.

– ARRL Newsletter

Next MWA Meeting
January 21, 7:30 PM, Room G084, WVU Engineering Building.
Program
"Home Computer Networking" By Randy Crowe, N8OZY.

Got Computers?

If you have 2 or more computers, you have probably given thought to linking them so that they can talk to each other. They could share printers and internet connections. Randy Crowe is going to tell us how to make a computer network in your own home. Be at the January 21 meeting.

Repeater Update

Arrangements have been made with TriStar Communications of Clarksburg to replace the hardline coax at W8MWA. Good weather is needed to complete the work, and that has not been in abundance recently. This project was authorized at the November meeting.

MWA Repeater Frequencies
145.430 (-600 kHz)
444.800 (+5MHz)

MWA ON-LINE
Visit MWA's web site at
http://www.qsl.net/w8mwa

A Fast Look at Slow Scan TV Part 1

*This is the first of two parts of an introduction to Slow Scan Amateur TV **by Jim Southern, KC8GGX**. Part 2 will be in the February issue.*

Well now has come the time for me to write a whole lot about the little I know. The subject is "Slow Scan Television" (SSTV). Far be it for me to tell anyone about anything, and how to do anything. I am usually the one who goes to others for advice or ideas. For all the hams that know more about SSTV than me, I hope that I keep you amused and not insulted. If you are looking for something new to do, I hope that I can excite you to stretch the bounds of ham radio.

SSTV started about 40 years ago; that was when hams had real radios that glowed in the dark and kept your radio shack warm on cold winter days. Back then you had special equipment that cost a bundle. Now days all you need for SSTV are an old computer with a sound card, a radio that can receive and/or transmit in the ham bands, and "FREE" software. Yes, I said, "FREE". Free is worth staying up late for, and "It's a good thing".

To find SSTV, tune your rig to the 20-meter band at 14.230 MHz., USB. Don't worry if you can't find anything there, because those strange sounds are all over the ham bands. If you can hear beeps, blurps and bongs you are on your way.

The way SSTV software works is to scan an image and convert it to audio tones and then sends those tones out over a continuous carrier. The receiving station captures those audio tones and sends them through the computer's sound card. Then it gets decoded and displays a visual picture. You can think of it like a phone modem going over the Internet, but it's better, it's "Ham Radio".

Let's go and get your software. There are many programs that are available for Macintosh and Linux as well for Windows from 95 all the way to ME. You can even find programs for DOS. In the box are some programs and their download sites.

Chroma Pix:	**www.silicompixels.com**
MSCANTV:	**www.mscan.com/**
W95SSTV:	**www.siliconpixels.com**
WinPix32:	**www.skypoint.com/~k0heo/**
QSSTV(Linux):	**home.tiscalinet.be/on1mh_ham/**
Multimode(Mac)	
www.blackcatsystems.com/software/multimode.html	
MMSSTV:	**www.geocities.com/mmhamsoft/**

At last glance there are over 40 different modes of operations of slow scan so you would need a software program that will automatically switch from one mode to another. You will need a program that would let you save, download, crop and copy and paste pictures. When you get more involved you will want to add special effects. There are many programs that you can purchase, that can give you most of the bells and whistles that you need. Did I mention that there is a "FREE" shareware program that will do just about all you would ever need?

The best starter "FREEware" program that you could come across is called "MMSSTV". The "Slow Scanners" call it the Mickey Mouse, and it's "FREE". Free I tell you, "FREE". That which is "FREE" is "FREE" indeed.

MMSSTV is a product from JE3HHT Makoto Mori, ("MM") of Japan. Makoto is also the developer of the excellent program MMTTY for RTTY. He was working on another project, and took a break and decided just for the heck of it to make a SSTV program, because he had not done that kind of stuff before and to keep people from bugging him. This freeware is designed for transmitting and receiving SSTV using a computer's sound card. The beauty of it all is that it will all fit on a single 3 ½ disk. There is no other program on the market that can offer that. That could be why some people do not like "MMSSTV", because they paid for theirs and it

cannot do as much as "MMSSTV". So, you can tuck it away, carry it around and pass it on to a friend. File it away for a rainy day. It takes a few hours playing with the program to understand it.

So, get your copy of MMSSTV and play with it a little. Next month we will get on the air with SSTV.

<div align="right">– Jim, KC8GGX</div>

Christmas Dinner

T he joint MARA/MWA Holiday Dinner was held on December 13 at Tygart Lake State Park Lodge. The joint Holiday dinner has been held for many years. Here are some photos taken by Bob West, WA8YCD.

Bob XF8C   Mike K8LG   Chuck KB1TY

WA8YCD WB8P K8LG
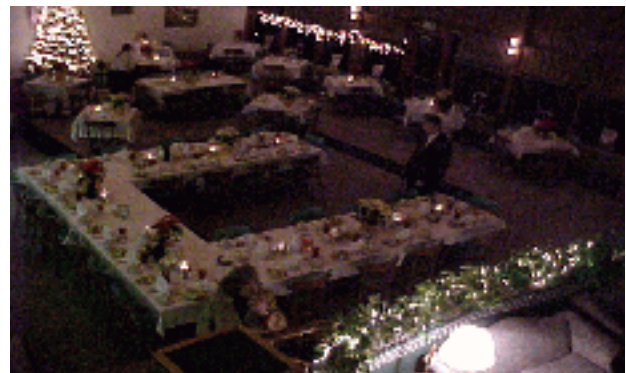
Soft Stuff

Here is another brief review of a freeware computer program that may be of interest to hams.

The wide interest of most hams often includes curiosity about heavenly bodies. You know, the ones up in the sky. MWA even has some amateur astronomers in our membership. Here is a free computer program with really neat graphics of the heavens.

Distant Suns, Special Edition, may be used freely. It would be a nice program to use with youngsters to show them the heavens. For the ham who is casually interested in knowing what is in the sky, it is worth having on your machine.

The graphics are beautiful. You can view tonight's sky, skies on your date of birth, watch the Sun set behind Saturn, land on Mars, and follow newly discovered comets. With its print facility, you can print out star charts for camping trips. The tutorial is cool and fun too.

Distant Suns runs on Windows 95, 98, ME, NT, 2000, XP and even MacIntosh. Download it from www.distantsuns.com.

– Jack, WF8X

ARRL/VEC Fee Up

Starting January 1, the fee charged all applicants at ARRL VEC-coordinated amateur Radio test sessions will increase from $10 to $12 for the year 2003. This fee is charged to anyone applying for a new amateur license or upgrading their operating privileges. Applicants failing an exam element at ARRL sessions where examiners permit retesting on the same exam element also must submit a retest fee of $12.

Stuff for Sale? A new baby? A rare country worked ? An announcement? A hard-to-find part needed? You turned over 300,000 miles on your 1962 Corvair?

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Solid Copy is for you, the MWA members. Our policy is, "all the news that is fit to print." Send your tidbits to Jack, WF8X at wf8x@arrl.net or to Bill, WA8YCG at wa8ycg@arrl.net. Get those tidbits to us by the 7th day of the month in which you want it to appear in Solid Copy.

– Jack and Bill