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**The monthly Newsletter of the Monongalia Wireless Association
Morgantown, West Virginia**

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President: Alfred Heck, W3GEG

Secretary/Treasurer: Norene Arnold, N8TJM

Vice President: Jack Averill, N8NQW

Newsletter Editor: Jack Coster, WF8X

Co-Editor: Bill Jacobs, WA8YCG

NEXT MEETING

The third Tuesday of the month October 21, 2002 in or near Room G 84 of the Engineering Science Building
7:30 PM

Election of Officers

Election of Officers will be held this month. Come to the meeting and volunteer for a job or just to protect your self. The new officers will take office in January.

Program for the Meeting

There will be a program for the next meeting. Bob, WA8YCG (some times known as Governor Bob) will show an old move about the triode tube. It is produced by Westinghouse Electric and called "The Magic Bottle"

Field Day Wrap Up

As I sit here tonight, listening to the WV state Emergency net on 3.865, I hear Hurricane Isabel's winds blowing and the rain coming down, but I am thinking about the MWA Field Day in June. It was preparation for events such as we are having this September 18, 2003. But it was less nerve racking since it was all planned. Tonight, we're sitting here waiting for something bad to happen, or at least the power may go out. The laptop I'm typing this has a

battery and it's the same one I used on Field Day. I'm using the same HF rig, my IC-706, but there is a



lot of QRN as the eye of Isabel approaches Morgantown. I had a few glitches on Field Day. I forgot the adapter for my headset, so I had to use the built in speaker on the rig, all the while the generator was making lots of back ground noise and it was harder to copy CW with all the racket. Boy, I wish I had remembered that little adapter for my headset, that way I wouldn't have gotten a headache. On 3.865, the NCS is



calling for a list of all areas known to have power outages: Shepards-town, and two others. Hampshire county station reports flickering lights and 17mph winds, 1.13 inches rain at 10pm. We started setting up Friday evening,

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using the slingshot and fishing rod method to get our antennae high up over the trees. By Saturday at 2pm, we were ready for radio action. Field Day was beautiful weather, not too hot, sunny and pleasant. Only one time, Saturday night about midnight, there were a few lightening flashes, but it never did rain. I stayed up almost all night, I didn't intend to, I wanted to not get too burned out this Field Day, but as the evening grew later, I enjoyed the radio more and more, and just couldn't quit. So, the generator quit about 5AM and then I decided it was time to get some sleep. It seemed like only 15 minutes, but it was actually a couple hours, when I got the breakfast call. I slept enough to enjoy the coffee, hotcakes, eggs and sausage thanks to the early risers and Audrey and Noreen's wonderful cooking. Sunday morning, I find out the generator shut down due to low oil pressure,



not lack of fuel. It gets going again, and I go back to 20M CW. Trying to make more contacts, now the short skip is coming in, and I work CT, ME, even NY stations from New England on 20M and they are loud. *Fairmont station reporting sporadic power outages in Harrison County. I can only guess that Field Day was more fun for them too. It could turn serious if Isabel becomes vengeful.* I hand copied the W1AW bulletin on CW at the first opportunity on Saturday afternoon; don't want to miss out on those bonus points. Sometimes the bulletin announces another way to earn more bonus points. This year, the message is about a special event station in Cuba. *32 counties have checked in to the WV state Emergency net. Pretty good turnout while conditions are still pretty tame. XYL is watching "Larry King Live" and tells me somebody called in*

to ask what Ham radio operators do to help out with the hurricane. One of the guests gives a really good plug for ham radio, saying their help is very important and valuable. One guest comments, "I know they practice for this type of thing all the time." I guess Field Day was worth it. We got a message out to report our Field Day participation to the SCM and a couple other NTS messages for extra points. We operated in a public place: Camp Mountaineer. There were 5 stations set up, even if 10M never opened for QSO's. We tried APRS but the TNC wouldn't cooperate. Lots of 40M phone QSO's, we're talking fast! I like CW so, I keep plugging away until the last QSO just before noon. I manage to work some old friends on 15M CW, it's always a thrill to say hello to old friends and familiar calls. I have missed very few Field Days since my first one back about '66. It's always a lot of work but the fun part of it gets better every year. Augusta county, VA reporting inches (did I hear that right, maybe it is 4 inches) of rain at 10:30 pm. Logan county WVA reporting lots of steady rain but no wind. My first Field Day, I operated with "K 3 Hairy Ugly Octopus". "Whiskey 8 Mike Whiskey Alpha" is a lot easier. Well, It was a very good Field Day this year, we even had slow scan



TV and PSK31 going on 20M making QSOs and we made some QSOs on 6 meters. It is 4 inches of rain in VA. 3 inches of rain since 11AM in Pendleton County, WV. South Branch of the Potomoc River is up a foot and rising. More rain coming expected to be heavier through the night. That's the advantage of Field Day, operate from a hilltop. The Dominion Post reporter wrote up a real nice article that appeared in Sunday's paper. We're on record at the ARRL for our good efforts, watch for our listing

when the Field Day results come out in QST. *I hope Isabel's winds don't cause too much damage tonight, thank goodness hurricanes don't come this far inland very often.* You never know when that Field Day experience will come in handy and prove to be valuable. 73 to all, enjoy this great hobby of ours. Terry, K3JT.

Jack WF8X returns from China



Jack and his wife at the Great Wall of China
Thanks JackWF8X
Jack WF8X has returned this week from a six-month excursion to China. He has promised us an article about the trip

Upcoming Tech Class PASS THE WORD!

The current plan is for Mondays, beginning October 6, 2300Z-0100Z (that's 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM local time!) in room G84 ESB.

The class is open to anyone, and is "free" as far as the class is concerned, but you are **STRONGLY** advised to purchase one of the current study guides available. I don't really care which one, as long as

it's current to the July 2003 FCC Amateur Service Question Pool...

We will be generally following the ARRL "Now You're Talking!" content, so that's the "primary" book. Other books are OK, such as the ARRL Tech Q&A Book, W5YI Q&A Book, WB6NOA (Gordon West), or just about anything.

"Now You're Talking (5th Ed)" presents the material in topical manner, then refers you to the back for the relevant questions, and is \$19.95. The "Tech Q&A (3rd Ed)" is \$12.95, and presents each question in the Question Pool, shows the correct answer and a synopsis.

We hope to have several of the folks from the radio club out to help us discuss (and possibly demonstrate) various topics. We will also give you a schedule of local events (like club meetings, hamfests, etc.)

NOTE: This current session is for the NO CODE TECH. Once we get under way we will discuss who's interested in working on 5 WPM Code for the Tech Plus, General, or Extra...

Thanks Bob West WA8YCD

A Tip on Emergency Preparation



Thanks WA8YCD

Rohn Industries Declared Bankruptcy

Rohn Industries of Peoria, Ill declared chapter 11 bankruptcy in federal court September 16, 2003. This is the maker of Rohn 25 tower that we all love and use but wish it was the more heavy duty Rohn 45. Horace Ward, the Chief Executive Officer of the Company, is the only remaining director of the Company. Commenting on today's announcement,

Mr. Ward said, "Our immediate goal is to stabilize the Company's financial situation and utilize the Chapter 11 process to enable the Company to conduct normal business operations as the Company works to complete a sale transaction."

State Radio Council's Meeting

The West Virginia State Amateur Radio Council's quarterly meeting will be held Saturday, October 11, 2003 at the Steakhouse, I-79 Exit 99, 1:00 P.M

L. Ann Rinehart" ka8zgy

Did you Know?

Bob WA8YCD won a door prize at the Washington, PA Hamfest.

Bob N8HGL was awarded the West Virginia Navy Mars Member of The Year Award for 2003.

There were 17 people at the first meeting of the Technetium Class.

