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

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President: Bill Jacobs, WA8YCG
Secretary/Treasurer: Norene Arnold, N8TJM

Vice President: Jack Averill, N8NQW
Newsletter Editor: Jack Coster, WF8X

Next Club Meeting
April 20, 2004. WVU Engineering Bldg.

Morse Code on NPR Radio

Some hams may have thought they'd left their transceivers turned on Tuesday, February 17. That's when the popular National Public Radio afternoon news magazine "All Things Considered" ran a piece about the pending addition of the @ symbol to the official international Morse code lexicon. That's because NPR introduced and closed the nearly four-minute segment with actual CW, catching the ear of many hams. The short feature, "Morse Code Enters Cyber Age," is available on the National Public Radio Web site, <<http://www.npr.org/rundowns/segment.php?wfid=1680529>>

– ARRL Newsletter

The UL Knot

Remember how to install "zip cord" into an AC fixture?

There is my way, and the right way. Here is the right way, using the official UL knot. Of course, with some of the newer SPT type cords, there are some hardware strain reliefs that can be used with those cords. Thanks to WA2ISE for the UL graphic.



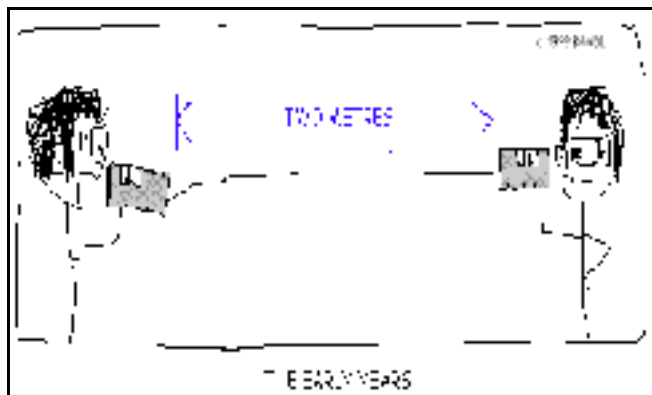
Spring Check-up of the Antennas

Winter winds -- they sure can cause some problems with those outside antennas. It seems that dipoles suffer the worse around my place. My G5RV is up about 50 feet in the air stretched between two maple trees. It whips around in the wind for about 2 years before one end or the other lets loose. The antenna is laying on the roof right now. The 3/16 inch cord on the north end wore through the other night and the antenna came down with a clatter. It has been too rainy to climb on the roof to fix it. Besides, I need to get Mike to come over with the Pterodactyl M1 shooter to get up and over the tree again.

The old 160 Meter dipole has held up for almost 5 years. Of course, it is only at 30 feet and does not whip around in the wind like the G5RV. The VHF and HF verticals are pretty much trouble-free. The R7 is up about 35 feet on the roof and it whips and bends in the wind, but it has been doing that for 8 years now.

It's a sign of Spring – repairing antennas.

– Jack, WF8X



Just Wondering

Is it just me or does anyone else find it amazing that our government can track a cow born in Canada almost three years ago, right to the stall where she sleeps in the state of Washington? Also they track her calves to their stalls. But, yet they are unable to locate 11 million illegal aliens wandering around our country. The solution is to give every illegal alien a cow.

– Bob, WA8YCD



LST-325 Amateur Radio Operations

During the last week in May, the entire month of June, and the first week in July, the World War 2 ship USS LST-325 will be cruising the Eastern Seaboard from Mobile to Boston and Gloucester, MA and Alexandria, VA. Last summer LST-325 operated the ham bands from the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. LST-325 is a 327 foot by 50 foot landing ship for tanks and troops that participated in the WW2 invasions of Sicily, Salerno and Normandy. It will be using the Amateur Radio call WW2LST/MM. It will also use the Special Event call sign W2T when in the Boston harbor and again when in the Washington, DC area.

The daily operating schedule will be announced on the Mobile Marine net (14.300 MHz) at about 1700 UTC. Time permitting, also look for WW2LST/MM and W2T daily at 0500 UTC on 7.233.5 and 3.905 MHz (Century Club Net) and 0700 UTC at 7.235 MHz (HHH Net).

If you don't make contact the first day you try, don't give up. The ship will be in port or cruising for approximately 45 days and will strive to keep

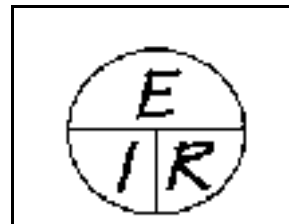
the indicated schedule whenever possible. So keep trying. There will be ample opportunity for a QSO since the radio room is equipped with multiple transceivers.

– Bob, N8HGL

Restructuring Ham Radio

The ARRL has filed a Petition for Rule Making asking the FCC to amend its Part 97 rules to complete the Amateur Service restructuring the Commission left unfinished in 1999. The League wants the FCC to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra (see "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access") <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/>

– ARRL Newsletter



Repeaters Operated by MWA
W8MWA 145.430 MHz (VHF output)
W8MWA 444.700 MHz (UHF output)

NOTE: Both repeaters have standard input offsets. The UHF repeater has input on UHF and simultaneous output on both of the UHF and VHF assigned frequencies. Antennas for both repeaters are located on the WNPB broadcast tower, 10 miles East of Morgantown.

HF Nets in WV

Here are frequencies and times for nets that operate on HF and serve WV:

HF Nets				
Net Name	Day(s)	Time (local)	Frequency (MHz)	Manager
West Virginia Early Net	Dy	1900	3.567	N8NMA
West Virginia Fone Net	Dy	1800	3.865	W8YS
West Virginia Late Net	Dy	2200	3.567	N8NMA
Mountain State Emergency Net	Th	1830	3.865	N8TMW
West Virginia Mid Day Net	Dy	1145	7.235	WW8D
Triple States ARES CW Net	W	1846	28.480	KF8RL
TSARC 10 meter Phone Net	W	1930	28.480	N8FQN
TSARC 40 meter Net	W	2000	7.260	K8UGO

Field Day 2004

Get this on your calendars! Clear all other activities! Start planning now!
MWA will need a Field Day Coordinator for our activities. Could that be you?
June 26-27

BPL. What's the Fuss?

BPL, Broadband over Power Line, is a technology of using existing electric utility power lines to carry radio data such as Internet access. So why the concern?

Because power lines are not designed to prevent radiation of RF energy, BPL represents a significant potential interference source for all radio services using this frequency range, including the Amateur Radio Service. Overhead electrical power lines and residential wiring act as antennas that unintentionally radiate the broadband signals as radio signals throughout entire neighborhoods and along roadsides. Interference has been observed nearly one mile from the nearest BPL source.

BPL is being deployed in some cities already. The results are mixed. FCC is still deciding on final regulations. We should all find out more about this. Could it happen in Morgantown?

For more information, check out the ARRL web site, especially at <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>

– Jack, WF8X