



# SOLID COPY

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

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**Next MWA Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 16**  
**WVU Engineering Bldg., Rm G 084**

## President Bill Ponders CW

Today's CW lesson. If you were to send dits instead of dahs and dahs instead of dits, sending the word "time" backwards would be the word "time". I just thought you should know.

— Bill. WA8YCG

*(Editor's comment: CW can do strange things to a person.)*

## Hams Surprise Governor Wise

It's not often one sees a state governor at a loss for words. Upon learning that the call sign of his late father, Robert Wise Sr, WA8AYP, was going to be used by the ham radio station in the new Kanawha County Metro Emergency Operations Center in Charleston, West Virginia, Gov Bob Wise quietly said, "I don't know quite what to say."

In a February 17 ceremony, Gov Wise prepared to present a \$50,000 check to Kanawha County officials to purchase Amateur Radio gear for the new EOC--set for completion next spring. However, he was interrupted by a voice calling him on the ham radio set up in his office for the

event. Control operator Bill Hunter, K8BS, identified the station as WA8AYP. When he handed over the mike, the surprised governor responded, "This is the son of WA8AYP."

It was then that Gov Wise learned that the call sign of his father, who died in 1986, had been secured for the ham station at the new EOC. It was an emotional moment. "Thank you very much for remembering Dad," he said. "I can't think of anything that would make him happier." Then he quipped, "Do I get a QSL card for this?" To the governor's surprise, officials then unveiled a specially designed WA8AYP QSL card and passed out copies, later signed by the governor for the eager hams in attendance.

Kanawha County Commission President Kent Carper, W8CHS, said Amateur Radio operators provide the county with \$25,000 to \$30,000 a year in free services during disasters. Some of the state funds also will provide ham gear for a new Mobile Command Center. On hand was the West Virginia Legislature's only ham radio operator, Kanawha County Delegate Sharon Spencer, KC8KVF, who also serves as the section's ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator.

— ARRL Newsletter

**Next MWA VE Exams**  
The next scheduled Radio License exams offered by MWA's VE Team is April 29. See A1, W3GEG for details.

## Please Meet KC8YNY

*(Note: Jennifer McCartney is going to be helping out with Solid Copy. Here is her "Ham" story.*

*—Jack)*

Now that I know what it is I can say the first time I spoke over an amateur radio, I was about 4 years old. My father was in the Navy when I was growing up, and on very rare occasions, he could make "Ship to Shore" phone calls. I thought it was fun, we had to say "OVER" when we were done talking, and my brother would poke me in the ribs if I forgot. It was more fun than talking into the tape recorder my mom would put on the table and tell me to talk to my dad. With the Amateur connection, my dad would talk back.

I guess you could say amateur radio has been a big part of my life at various times. When my dad was out to sea, it was usually for at least 6 months at a time, and this was the only way our family could hear his voice. Later in life, I met my fiance (Roger KC8YNZ formerly N8QFS) who was already a HAM, this was the first time I heard it referred to as "HAM". Roger was inspired to become a HAM by his Uncle Tom (N3AKB). He lived in Fairmont at the time, and his uncle in Pittsburgh, so they would meet on the W8MWA Morgantown repeater to talk between family visits.

When he and I got together, one day he said, "Do you want to go to a HAM fest?" to which I responded "A what?!". From there came the description of amateur radio, and how it's fun, but he has never gotten involved in it as much as he wanted to.

So we went to Butler, PA with Uncle Tom and there I was in a sea of components, boxes of antennae and mingling people all wearing hats with call signs on them. To an outsider, this is an interestingly unique experience. After a little while, I got the idea. Then I started to notice the license plates with call signs on them and decided this was pretty cool. For the first couple years of our relationship, we would go to various area HAM fests and ogle radios we couldn't

afford, and talk about how we should get more involved.

Well, we were college students, we had studying to do and jobs to try to find after graduation. One day, Roger looked at his amateur license and noticed it had just expired, we didn't know about the two-year grace period then. He hadn't been talking with Uncle Tom all that much in the last couple years, and actually none at all in the last months, and the expiration kind of crept up on him.

A few years went by and we've settled, have careers under way, but didn't have a hobby we could do together. We're both technologically inclined, and we were looking for something that would get us out of the house during the various seasons. Roger was still on the email list for the WVU Amateur Radio club, and one day an email came through announcing a series of classes to get a Technician class license. We decided to join the class with our main goal of participating in the Special Olympics.

We want to get out, be involved in the community, and have a hobby we enjoy, and amateur radio seems the perfect fit for us. We are looking forward to building our base station in our new home, buying a radio for me, participating in field day, and various other community events as soon as we get into the swing of things. There have been many things that have influenced why I became a HAM, and hopefully many more things will keep me involved and interested over the years to come.

-- Jennifer, KC8YNY

## Dayton Hamvention is coming.

Gary, N8EMO, reports all is going smoothly as the 2004 show approaches. Hamvention will take place Friday through Sunday, May 14-16, at Hara Arena near Dayton, Ohio. The theme for the 53rd Hamvention is "The Year of the Contact." All of the forum slots have been filled, and about two-thirds of the inside exhibit spaces have been spoken for--which is ahead of last year. Advanced ticket sales and

flea market signups appear to be strong. The Hamvention Web site has been upgraded and now provides for on-line, credit card ticket purchases.

– ARRL Newsletter

## Bogus ARRL.net e-mail

Several members have notified ARRL that they have received e-mail messages alleging to be from the ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service, "The ARRL.net team" or some variation.

The messages, which often carry a subject line along the lines of "Warning about your e-mail account," indicate that the recipient's ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service <call sign>@arrl.net address will be closed within three days because of an alleged violation of acceptable practices. These messages are false and did not come from The ARRL Forwarding Service.

They are the result of one of the variants on a number of viruses now permeating the Internet. A file usually is attached to these messages. As always, do not open any attachments that you cannot identify. Opening the file could result in your computer being infected by a virus.

This is only one of the several virus-laden messages currently propagating across the Internet. The ARRL advises its members to be cautious in opening any message and/or attachment, even if it appears to be from someone you know. All of these viruses use e-mail addresses from the address book of an infected computer to falsify the "From:" address in the header to make it appear that the message is from someone the recipient knows.

– ARRL Letter

## Smoke Theory Expounded

*(President Bill submits the following in the interests of understanding and advancement of electronic knowledge in ham radio. **Solid Copy** will entertain reasoned replies to this interesting theory.)*

"A Treatise on the Importance of Smoke" by Joseph Lucas (1842- 1903).

All electrical components and wiring harnesses depend on proper circuit functioning, which is the transmission of charged ions by retention of the visible spectral manifestation known as "smoke." Smoke is the thing that makes electrical circuits work. Don't be fooled by scientists and engineers talking about excited electrons and the like. Smoke is the key to all things electrical.

We know this to be true because every time one lets the smoke out of an electrical circuit, it stops working. This can be verified repeatedly through empirical testing. For example, if one places a large copper bar across the terminals of a battery, prodigious quantities of smoke are liberated and the battery shortly ceases to function. In addition, if one observes smoke escaping from an electrical component such as a Lucas voltage regulator, it will also be observed that the component no longer functions.

The logic is elementary and inescapable! The function of the wiring harness is to conduct the smoke from one device to another. When the wiring harness springs a leak and lets all the smoke out of the system, nothing works right afterward.

Starter motors were considered unsuitable for British motorcycles for some time largely because they regularly released large quantities of smoke from the electrical system.

It has been reported that Lucas electrical components are possibly more prone to electrical leakage than their Bosch, Japanese or American counterparts. Experts point out that this is because

Lucas is British, and all things British leak. British engines leak oil, British shock absorbers, hydraulic forks, and disk brake systems leak fluid, British tires leak air and British Intelligence leaks national defense secrets.

Therefore, it follows that British electrical systems must leak smoke. Once again, the logic is clear and inescapable.

Sometimes you may miss the component releasing the smoke that makes your electrical system function correctly, but if you sniff around you can often find the faulty component by the undeniable and telltale smoke smell. Sometimes this is a better indicator than standard electrical tests performed with a volt-ohm meter.

In conclusion, the basic concept of transmission of electrical energy in the form of smoke provides a clear and logical explanation of the mysteries of electrical components and why they fail.

"A gentleman does not motor about after dark."  
-- Joseph Lucas

## Truckers on 10 Meters

The FCC is continuing efforts to stem alleged unlicensed operation --primarily by long-haul truckers--on the 10-meter amateur band. Enforcement Bureau Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth, this month wrote FedEx Corporation CEO Frederick W. Smith enclosing a complaint asserting that some FedEx drivers have used "Amateur Radio transmitters to communicate on the 10-meter Amateur Radio band without a license," Hollingsworth said. The complaint focused on alleged operations in Tennessee.

"Many truckers use CB radio, which does not require a license," Hollingsworth told Smith. "However, any person using a radio transmitter on Amateur Radio frequencies must possess both a station and operator license, for which an examination is required." He pointed out that

some truckers have been known to use uncertificated dual-purpose CB radios that also can transmit on 10 meters. CB gear must be FCC certificated, formerly known as type acceptance, but ham radio gear does not need to be. So-called dual-use ham/CB transceivers may not be sold or marketed under FCC rules.

Two additional trucking firms this month were the target of FCC warning notices involving complaints of unlicensed operation on 10 meters. Hollingsworth wrote Carl Leonard Ross of CLR Transport in Saluda, North Carolina, citing allegations that a CLR Transport vehicle traveling on I-85 in North Carolina "was the source of unlicensed radio transmissions on the 10-meter Amateur Radio band on July 14, 2003." Cassidy's Express of Bristol, Pennsylvania, heard from the FCC regarding reports that one of its vehicles was the source of unlicensed radio transmissions while under way in Pennsylvania last October 9.

Hollingsworth asked Smith to advise FedEx drivers that such operation of radio transmitting equipment without a license is a violation of federal law and could subject violators to stiff fines and even jail time as well as seizure of equipment. Pointing out the same penalties for violators, Hollingsworth asked the other two trucking firms to contact him to discuss the allegations.

Earlier this year, the FCC sent warning notices to two shipping companies in the wake of reports to the Commission that some of the companies' vehicles may have been illegally transmitting on 10 meters. At least one of the companies, UPS, offered its full cooperation and promised to investigate.

– ARRL Letter