



# Solid Copy

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April 2005

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The Monthly Newsletter of the Monongalia Wireless Association  
P. O. Box 4263 • Morgantown • West Virginia 26504-2463 • USA

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ARRL



Affiliated Club

### 2005 Officers and Appointees:




<i>President:</i>	<i>Leroy Heck</i>	<i>N8UEV</i>	<a href="mailto:n8uevalh@aol.com">n8uevalh@aol.com</a>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Randy Crowe</i>	<i>N8OZY</i>	<a href="mailto:rcrowe@wvu.edu">rcrowe@wvu.edu</a>
<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	<i>Norene Arnold</i>	<i>N8TJM</i>	<a href="mailto:norene.arnold@mail.wvu.edu">norene.arnold@mail.wvu.edu</a>
<i>Webmaster</i>	<i>Roger Neptune</i>	<i>KC8YNZ</i>	<a href="mailto:rneptune@email.com">rneptune@email.com</a>
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	<i>Bob West</i>	<i>WA8YCD</i>	<a href="mailto:rlwest@wa8ycd.net">rlwest@wa8ycd.net</a>

## 2005 Club Events

<b>April</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>April Club Meeting</b>
	<b>20</b>	<b>Tech Class – Chapters 7 &amp; 8</b>
	<b>27</b>	<b>Tech Class – Chapters 9 &amp; 10</b>
	<b>28</b>	<b>VE Session</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>May Club Meeting</b>
	<b>19</b>	<b>Harrison County SKYWARN Class</b>
	<b>20-22</b>	<b>Dayton Hamvention</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>3-5</b>	<b>Special Olympics</b>
	<b>25-26</b>	<b>ARRL Field Day</b>
	<b>26</b>	<b>Monongahela Triathlon</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>July Club Meeting</b>
	<b>28</b>	<b>VE Session</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>August Club Meeting</b>
	<b>27</b>	<b>WV ARRL Section Convention</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>September Club Meeting</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>October Club Meeting</b>
	<b>28</b>	<b>VE Session</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>November Club Meeting</b>
<b>December</b>	<i>tbd</i>	<b>Christmas Dinner</b>

Please send corrections and additions to [rlwest@wa8ycd.net](mailto:rlwest@wa8ycd.net) - Thanks!

## 2005 Local Ham Radio Service Events

<p><b>Thursday May 19</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>Skywarn Class</b></u></p> 	<p>Rich Kane of the Pittsburgh National Weather Service office has cancelled his spring 2005 schedule due to health reasons.</p> <p>The Charleston NWS office is offering a SKYWARN class in Clarksburg on May 19, 2005 at the club meeting of SJARA.</p> <p>The meeting and training will commence at 7:00 PM at the St. Marks Lutheran Church. The meetings are held in the basement of the church. St. Marks is located at the junction of WV RT 20 and RT 98. When coming from I-79 to Clarksburg via US RT 50 just following the blue hospital signs to the United Hospital Center. The church parking lot is on RT 20 just prior to the traffic light to turn into the hospital.</p> <p>PLEASE NOTIFY Bob West WA8YCD <a href="mailto:rlwest@wa8ycd.net">rlwest@wa8ycd.net</a> if you plan to attend. I need to pass on a head count so they can be properly prepared for the number of attendees.</p>
<p><b>Friday June 3 Saturday June 4 Sunday June 5</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>Special Olypics</b></u></p> 	<p>Once again the MWA and friends are volunteering to help out with this event. This is a fun day of watching highly motivated athletes compete.</p> <p>Communications will be held on 2 meters, primarily on simplex, but may use the W8CUL or W8MWA repeaters if needed.</p> <p>This is a great opportunity for new hams to develop their communications skills.</p> <p>Contact Norene Arnold N8TJM <a href="mailto:Norene.Arnold@mail.wvu.edu">Norene.Arnold@mail.wvu.edu</a> for more information.</p>
<p><b>Sunday June 26</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>Mountaineer Triathlon</b></u></p>  <p><a href="http://www.mountaineertri.com/">http://www.mountaineertri.com/</a></p>	<p>This is a high-profile opportunity for Morgantown area hams to perform some good community service work.</p> <p>The event consists of swimming in the Monongahela River, bicycle riding and running.</p> <p>Ham communication points will be posted at several key spots along the course and at the organization's checkpoints.</p> <p>Contact Bob Steele, N8HGL <a href="mailto:bostinc@adelphia.net">bostinc@adelphia.net</a> for more information.</p>



## The President's Corner

Leroy Heck N8UEV

Here is a list of projects and goals I would like to see the MWA membership work toward in the year 2005.



- 1: It would be neat if we could get more people active on the six meter band within our geographic area. We have many people within the club that have all mode radios that can access the six-meter band.
- 2: We should try to get some people active on the 222 MHz band. Everybody get out those 222 MHz radios you've been keeping in the attic, closet, or basement. (Maybe some time in the near future, we could apply for some grant money for a 222 MHz repeater!)
- 3: Sometime in the summer, we need to have an antenna building project day. We could build some J-pole antennas. We did something very much like this several years ago at the club picnic.
- 4: I would like to see the club get more involved in the use of fast and slow scan amateur TV modes.
- 5: We need to get more club members up and running with APRS packet gear. APRS packet gear and GPS units could help during certain events and club operations.
- 6: We should try to help get radio clubs going in our local public schools. In later years this could help our club with getting new members.
- 7: In years past, our club has worked events along side the Morgantown City Police Reserve. We should schedule a meeting with them to see if we could help with some of their radio communications needs.
- 8: I would like to see our club get some voice over IP radio projects going. Something on the order of the Echo Link system or the IRLP system.
- 9: Look into getting some activity going on the 902 MHz band or the 1.2 GHz band. Mr. Bob West, WA8YCD has a pair of 1.2 GHz FM hand held radios. If we ask him nicely, I'm sure he would demo them for one of our club meetings.
- 10: Explore the possibility of getting a quantity of APCO 25 protocol digital voice radios. If we could get the funding to do it, we could also upgrade to an APCO 25 protocol compatible repeater system.

## Local Repeaters

CALL	INPUT	DUP	PL	NOTES
W8MWA	145.430	-		SAND SPRINGS
W8MWA	444.700	+		
W8CUL	146.760	-		WVU ARC
KE8MR	147.075	+	103.5	HAMTALK
	147.000	+		KINGWOOD
W8SP	145.350	-	103.5	MARA



# A Handy Battery Holder

By Leroy Heck N8UEV

Hello MWA newsletter readers. This month I'll let you in on a little gizmo I developed a few years back. This little wonder is my 12-volt D cell battery brick. To build this project you will need two, 4 D cell battery holders Radio Shack part number 270-396A. With a bit of Internet and catalog searching, very similar 4 D cell battery holders can be had.

The next step in our project is to assemble the two battery holders together into one battery brick. Over the years, I have developed several ways to put these units together. In my first prototype units I used simple double-sided tape. Then the design evolved to use self-adhesive Velcro strips. The units I build now days use thin, long plastic zip-ties. To assemble the



unit, place the two 4 D cell batter holders back to back and fasten with one of the methods outlined above.

For the last part of our project we will be doing a bit of wiring. With the two 4 D cell battery holders fastened together, take the red and black wires on one end and fasten them together. Connect the red and black wires together on one-end wires the two battery holder

units in series so they will produce 12 volts DC. This connection can be made with a small wire nut or a crimp type connector. The red and black wires on the other end of the unit will be for connecting the power cable of your hand held radio or maybe even a nice little QRP radio.

## A v Kid In Town...

The new victim... er, I mean  
Newsletter Editor for 2005 is



Bob WA8YCD

<mailto:rlwest@wa8ycd.net>

Howdy Y'all...

I have agreed to take on the job of editing **SOLID COPY** for a while. Not that I was bored or anything, but I had some ideas... Well, anyway, we'll see how it works out.

Here are some of my ideas:

- Regular contribution from The President
- Meeting Schedules (programs, issues)
- Club Activities (Special Olympics, Field Day)
- Member Projects (building, new equipment)
- Repeater listings
- Hamfest listings
- Net listings
- Questions for Elmer
- Other Clubs in the Area

A newsletter editor can't be expected to produce EVERYTHING. The editor really should not be writing much if anything. The newsletter editor SHOULD collect items from sources and contributors and assemble them into an issue.

I have lots of sources, like the ARRL Letter, the Amateur Newslite, and various magazines and other newsletters.

I need CONTRIBUTORS. I need YOU to tell me what you're doing. What bands are you working? What contests? Any new DX? Have you put up any new antennas? Or are you planning to? Have you tried out any new modes or types of operation? What clubs have you visited? What else is going on? Stuff like that.

You don't have to write anything big. A nice long article on your recent DXpedition would be SUPER, but just a note to let me know you worked a couple of new prefixes would be enough!

If you've built something, or gone to a hamfest, or read an interesting article in QST or CQ or WorldRadio, drop me a note.

You, the members of the club, and readers of SOLID COPY are the best resource I can use. Please keep me in mind whenever you do anything that might be of interest to hams.



*Let me know about your latest Home Brew project!!!*

*If you get newsletters from other radio clubs, let me know.  
I'd like to contact the editor and swap monthly issues!*

## WV HF Nets

Daily	1145 ET	3865 LSB 7235 LSB	WV Mid-day Net	NTS Section Net
Daily	1800 ET	3865 LSB	WV Fone Net	NTS Section Net
Daily	1900 ET	3567 CW	WV CW Net Early	NTS Section Net
Daily	1900 ET	3567 CW	WV CW Net Early	NTS Section Net
Daily	2200 ET	3567 CW	WV CW Net Late	NTS Section Net



## ASK ELMER

Each month we will try to answer a question from anyone, especially NEW HAMS. We have lots of years of expertise in the club, and the older members are always willing to help. If you can't find it on the web or ask someone on the air, send your question to <mailto:rlwest@wa8ycd.net> and we will try to get an answer to you.

This month's ASK ELMER question comes from Mike Bellotte KD8AWQ.

## NOAA Weather Radio

There IS in fact a station located in Morgantown at the 911 center just down the hill from General Hospital (across the road from the county EMS). They transmit with 300 watts!

There are several stations around, and they cover the county and surrounding areas. Most WV stations are programmed out of Pittsburgh National Weather Service office.

The nearby NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) frequencies are:

Freq	Location	County	Programmed from
162.400	Charleston	Kanawha	Charleston WV
162.425	Frostburg MD	Allegheny	Baltimore/Washington DC
162.450	Backbone Mt	Tucker	Pittsburgh PA
162.475	Morgantown	Monongalia	Pittsburgh PA
162.500	Gregg's Knob	Preston	Pittsburgh PA
162.525	Bridgeport OH	Belmont	Pittsburgh PA
162.550	Clarksburg	Harrison	Charleston WV

For more information see <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwrbro.htm>



## Local VHF Nets

Monday	145.430	-	none	Monongalia County Traffic and Training Net
Tuesday				
Wednesday	145.150	-	none	Barbour County ARES
Thursday	147.075	+	103.5	Multi-County ARES Net (HAMTALK)
Friday	146.775	-	88.5	Randolph County
Saturday	145.370	-	118.9	Mt State Transmitters
Sunday	147.210			Stonewall Jackson Net

*Send additions and corrections to <mailto:rlwest@wa8ycd.net>*

# Technician License Class Nearing Completion

*Last Session will be April 27*

The MWA Technician License Class has been meeting at the Red Cross Training Room at White Birch Tower on Pineview Drive since the last week in February. We started out with 15 folks, but attendance has dropped off.

The next regular VE session is Thursday, April 28, the night after the last class session.

The class has been following the ARRL book "Now You're Talking!" reviewing each chapter, with handouts and practice exams.

MWA members have been providing demonstrations and helping Bob WA8YCD with class presentation and exam practice.



JIM KC8GGX DEMONSTRATES SSTV TO MWA TECH LICENSE CLASS

*MWA members working with the class are Randy N8OZY, Al W3GEG, Bob N8HGL, Bill WA8YCG, Wick KC8RHO, Jim KC8GGX, and Bob WA8YCD.*

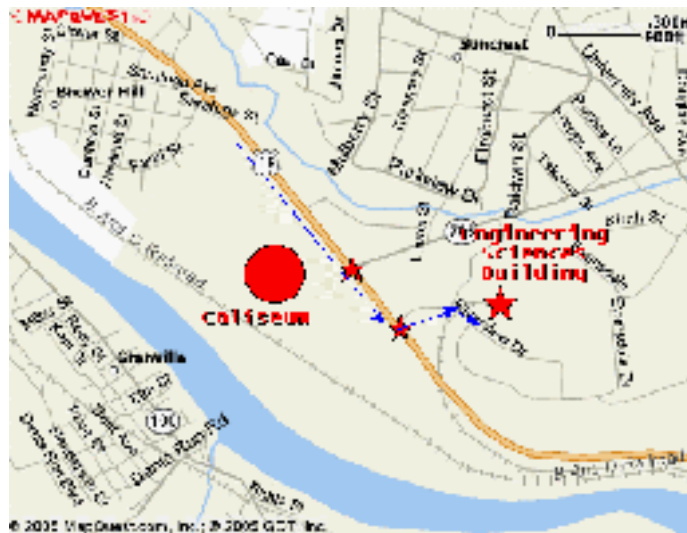


CONGRATULATIONS TO PETER SANDERS, **KI4JMF**. PETE TOOK HIS EXAM AT THE BARBOUR COUNTY VE SESSION IN MARCH AND ALREADY HAS HIS LICENSE. WAY TO GO, PETE!

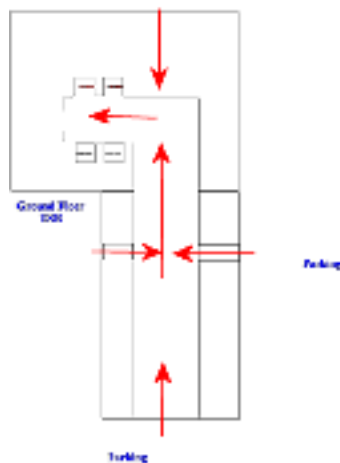
## VE Session April 27

The next MWA VE session is Thursday April 27 at 7:00PM, Room 355 ESB.  
All examination elements will be available.

- Exam fee is \$14.00  
Cash (exact change appreciated)  
Check (made out to “MWA”)
- Two forms of ID required  
(Photo ID preferred)
- If you have a current license or CSCE  
Bring the ORIGINAL and a COPY. The copy will be submitted with your application.



From I79 Exit 155, turn right at Sheetz and cross the Star City Bridge, up the hill past the Coliseum. Go STRAIGHT at the light at Pattenon Drive, then left at the Creative Arts Center, up the hill to ESB. Look for Parking Area 41 next to the building.



Park in the lot 41, come in on the Ground Floor, down the hall to the elevators.



On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, come around the hallway and find 355.



## Can't Make It To Dayton?

*Work the Special Events Station!*



Celebrating show # 54 in 2005, Dayton Hamvention® is working hard once again to host our Special Event Station, **W8BI**. Dayton Hamvention® will once again be "speaking to the world" via our Special Event Station, W8BI. The station will be in operation during the week of Hamvention.

Attendees may operate the station during show hours, May 20 - 22.

Frequencies to be used during our celebration:

- 3.870/3.650
- 7.270/7.050
- 10.110
- 14.270/14.050
- 18.130/18.090
- 21.370/21.050
- 28.670/28.050
- 147.55 Simplex

All freq's +/- QRM.

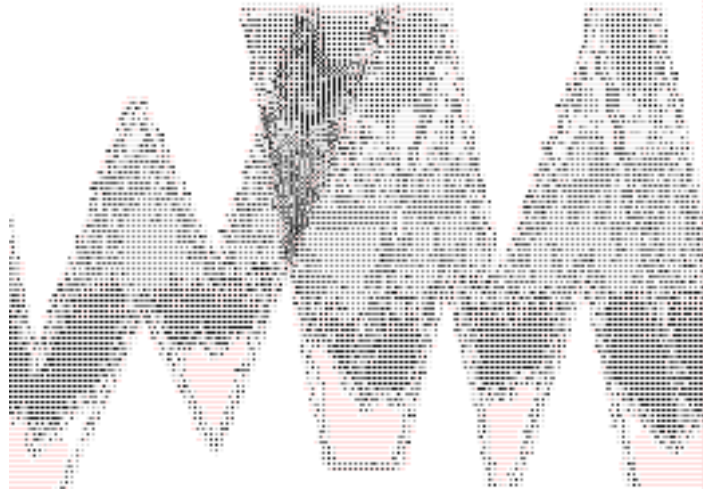
QSL's and certificates:  
DARA, W8BI  
PO Box 44  
Dayton, Ohio 45401

## 2005 Hamfest Calendar

Apr 24	Athens County ARA	Athens Recreation Center	Athens OH
May 1	Jackson County Amateur Radio Club	Ripley Middle School	Ripley WV
May 7	Foothills Amateur Radio Club	Westmoreland Career and Technology Center	Greensburg PA
May 20-21-22	Dayton Hamvention	HARA Arena	Dayton OH
Jun 5	Breeze Shooters	Butler Farm Showgrounds	Butler PA
Jul 10	North Hills ARC	Northland Public Library	Pittsburgh PA
Aug 6	Ham "OH" Rama		Columbus OH
Aug 27-28	WV ARRL Section Convention	Jackson's Mill	Weston WV
Sep 11	Butler County ARA	Butler Farm Showgrounds	Butler PA
Oct 2	Indiana County ARC	Chevy Chase Community Center	Indiana PA
Nov 6	WACOM Hamfest	Washington County Fairgrounds	Washington PA

Source: ARRL Website. Please send additions or corrections to [rlwest@wa8ycd.net](mailto:rlwest@wa8ycd.net).

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**To:**