

SINE WAVES

Stonewall Jackson Amateur Radio Association

PO Box 752

Clarksburg, WV 26302-0752

www.sjara.org/

March 14, 2006

FEBRUARY 16th MEETING

The February SJARA meeting began with acceptance of the Secretaries report and the Treasurers report. Cards from the American Red Cross were passed out to members that attended the training held at the January meeting. Also, a short discussion was held about a radio at the Red Cross facility on Pike St. and it was decided to do this during a break in the weather.

There was a discussion about whether the IRS status of the club being a non-profit organization.

There was an explanation of classes available from the ARC and if any club members were interested in attending they were to contact the ARC.

A motion was made by KB8WRZ and seconded by KE4THX to pay the fee for the domain name of the club on the web. A second motion was made by KB8WRZ and seconded by KE4THX to pay the insurance fee that is due in May.

EMCOMM I, II and III courses are available on disk and if interested contact Dick Wilt, K8TPH.

A motion to adjourn was made by KB8WRZ, seconded by K8TPH, motion carried

SJARA Members Meet with Ron Watson, President, Harrison County Commission

When: Sunday, March 5, 2006, 1400 - 1630

Where: At the home of Ron Watson

Purpose: To discuss relationship of SJARA to county 911 Center and discuss CERT

Attendees: Ron Watson; Craig Crimm, Planer Citizen Corps/CERT Coordinator; Paul J Howe III, oversight board member of Harrison County EMS

SJARA members: Paul KB8RIA, Dick K8TPH, Dave WD8NSC, Dick N8FMD, David N8YPE and Gordon WV3G

Discussion: Paul KB8RIA initiated the discussion by providing Ron Watson and Craig Crimm with a short information paper giving the background of Amateur Radio Emergency Communications. Our target audience had little knowledge of the role amateur radio played in disasters. The paper and general discussion focused on what it is; how hams help local officials; we described the major amateur radio organizations and the formal (MOA & MOU) that ARRL has with national relief organizations, such as, the Red Cross, FEMA, Salvation Army, etc. The SJARA group described the emerging relationship with the North Central WV chapter of the Red Cross; the community activities that SJARA has participated in over the years and general capabilities possessed by hams. We talked about what it would take to create a formal relationship with the county in supporting emergency communications requirements.

We noted that the newspaper reported that the Harrison County Commissioners had approved a county Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) in the last couple of months. We requested a copy of the plan and we were informed that it is not ready for distribution. Mr. Crimm still has work to do on it; it was a real big document and there were only a couple of copies provided by their contractor. I asked about an

electronic copy being available; that was not quite ready either. It turns out that to meet a regulatory requirement to have an EOP their contractor provided a document that met the goal of having the document. In its current state it may have limited utility in an actual emergency. Craig Crimm will continue working on it. We provided the WV department of Homeland Security's EOP Communications Annex to show that Amateur Radio is recognized as a vital component at the state level and we are anxious for similar recognition at our county level.

Ron Watson asked many questions throughout the discussion. He asked for a "plan" from SJARA that would describe how we would help out the county. We did not sign up to provide him one. It would be easier for SJARA to see how we might fit within the county plan if it becomes available. The other thing he requested was a 'scenario-based' description of how SJARA could help. He used the Salem fire as an example; how could we have helped there? He desires similar scenarios that would be a story-based approach to explain the role amateur radio would play in local disasters and emergencies. I suspect that he is requesting this because he lacks the experience to imagine how we could be utilized and would like this for self-education as well as explaining this to others.

Gordon WV3G provided his exhibit of the CERT toolkit related it to ham radio. Craig Crimm discussed the county CERT, discussed the content of the training and program. He has enough toolkits left to support another 50 volunteers. He provided us with some basic hand-out materials and one copy of a student binder. SJARA agreed to discuss with the membership at the next meeting whether we wish to take the CERT training and do further coordination with Craig. I think Craig thought he was showing up for a CERT only meeting, and then found out we had a broader agenda. The meeting worked out well. I think we were all satisfied with the outcome of the meeting and viewed it as the beginning of a beautiful relationship. We have work to do on our part. We have not really cracked the management of the 911 Center into accepting ham radio. If the members wish to work at it we will have to provide a scenario type paper to the County Commission and let them direct the 911 Center on how they should work with the ham radio community. A note of thanks to Gordon for setting this up; even though he only got us a day and a half notice to put our story together. This was something like a drill.

....Paul KB8RIA

NEXT CLUB MEETING

The next regular club will be on March 16th, 7:30 PM at St. Marks Lutheran Church near UHC Hospital.

CLUB WEB SITE

A reminder to all club members to check the club website at www.sjara.org for up to date info on all club activities.

NET CONTROLS

Net controls for the Tuesday night club net are as follows;

March 14 th	K8WWW	Bill Williams
March 21 st	KB8QIN	Bill Snyder

The club net is held every Tuesday night at 9PM on the 147.210 repeater. This repeater requires a PL tone of 103.5. Club members and all Amateur Operators are encouraged to check in.

An up to date schedule of Net Controls is on the club web site.

TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 16th Club Meeting

April 20th Club Meeting

May 18th Club Meeting

June 15th Club Meeting