

Ham Radio Today Newsline

Episode 22, Thursday, February 4, 2016

QST, QST, QST, Calling all amateur radio operators. Good Morning. The time is 7:30 a.m., 12:30 zulu and welcome to the morning edition of the Ham Radio Today newsline, reporting news and events of interest to ham radio operators in North Central West Virginia and Southwestern Pennsylvania. Bandwidth for Ham Radio Today is provided by the Monongalia Wireless Association through the W8MWA repeater, transmitting on 145.43 MHz with a PL tone of 103.5. This is episode 22, for February 4th, 2016, with Michael DeHaan, KD8ZMV reporting.

General News

Here is today's news in ham radio.

Item 1

The Ham Radio Today newsline is back and transmitting from its new indoor station. We would like to thank you for your patience while we overcame our technical difficulties. We are returning, however with several improvements. We've made several improvements to our format, as well as, some new services for our listeners. Have you ever heard us list a web site listed for your reference, but couldn't write it down, or remember it? Beginning immediately, we will be posting a transcript of every morning's episode on the Monongalia Wireless Association's web page. Simply go to the web page at www.W8MWA.org to view it. Also we will begin posting the audio as a podcast in MP3 format in the same location soon. Please feel free to visit the website and check it out.

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Item 2

You would never know it now, but we had a bit of snowfall last week, and we weren't the only ones. The storm of historic proportions dropped up to 3 1/2 feet of snow throughout the North East. While the storm bypassed Northern New England, it brought major East Coast cities to their knees, and approximately 30 deaths have been blamed on the storm. As always, Amateur Radio volunteers were at the ready to lend a hand with communications where ever needed. The appalachian Region was the hardest hit with more than 40 inches of snow reported in parts of West Virginia, where Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin declared a state of emergency on January 22, deploying state resources in anticipation of the storm. ARRL West Virginia Section Manager Phillip Groves, N8SFO said "We were lucky." "Lots of snow - 24 inches in Beckly, a few power outages around the state. We had several ARES/RACES nets on Standby, and a lot of hams with nothing to do but talk on the radio."

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Item 3

The Kanawha County ARES activated nets on 75, 40, and 2 meters. Elsewhere about the state, numerous ARES nets were placed on standby, including the local Mon. County ARES net. ARES/RACES nets were also activated or placed on standby in Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, Delaware, Washington D.C., Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and New Jersey.

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Weather

Now for today's weather.

Regular Weather

The local meteorological forecast for today calls for seasonal temperatures to return today and remain through the end of the work week. A few scattered rain and snow showers will arrive with the colder air.

For Today, cloudy and much colder, near steady temperature in the mid-30s. West winds at 5 to 10 mph.

For Tonight, mostly cloudy and colder with lows in the lower 20s. Northwest winds around 5 mph.

For further information, listen to NOAA weather radio at 162.475 MHz .

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Solar Weather

Now for Solar Weather

Solar activity is expected to be very low with a chance for C-class flares. The solar wind environment is expected remain enhanced today and tomorrow, and the geomagnetic field is expected to reach unsettled levels with a few isolated periods of active levels, due to a CIR arrival followed by the positive polarity Coronal Hole High Speed Stream.

The greatest expected Planetary K-index for February 4th is 3 with an average of 2.25.

The solar radiation storm forecast for an S1 or greater storm is 1%

No radio blackouts were observed over the past 24 hours. The chance for an R1 to R2 radio blackout for today is 1% with the chance of an R3 or greater blackout at 1%. No R1 or greater radio blackouts are expected, and no significant active region flare activity is forecast.

For more information visit the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center at www.swpc.noaa.gov. For a synopsis of the current band conditions, visit the band conditions chart at the Monongalia Wireless Association's website at www.W8MWA.org.

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Events of Interest

Today

Events of interest for today; Thursday, February 4th, 2016 include the following:

Item 1

Taco Thursday - a weekly lunch gathering held in Morgantown where local ham radio enthusiasts gather to discuss common interests in amateur radio. This gathering is usually well attended and the discussion is often lively. Taco Thursday is held every Thursday at noon (1700 zulu) at the Los Mariachi's Restaurant in the Evansdale area of Morgantown, WV. We recommend arriving a few minutes early for this event as many local ham radio operators attend and seating is often limited.

Item 2

The Mon. County Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular monthly meeting tonight at the Shoney's in Sabraton on Earl Core Rd. The meeting will begin with a social period at 6:30 p.m. with the regular business meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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Item 3

The Uniontown Amateur Radio Club will hold its net at 9:00 p.m. (0200 Zulu) on the W3PIE repeater, transmitting on 147.045 MHz with a standard offset and a PL tone of 131.8. For more information visit the club's website at www.W3PIE.org

Item 3

The Clarksburg net will be held at 9:00 p.m. (0200 Zulu) on the WV8HC repeater, transmitting on 147.165 MHz with a standard offset and a PL tone of 91.5.

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This Week's Events

Events happening later this week include the following:

Friday (February 5th)

The Elkins net will be held at 9:00 p.m. (0200 Zulu) on the K8VE repeater, transmitting on 146.745 MHz with a standard offset and a PL tone of 103.5.

Saturday (February 6th)

The Parsons net will be held at 9:00 p.m. (0200 Zulu) on the KC8SIG repeater, transmitting on 145.370 MHz with a standard offset and a PL tone of 103.5.

Sunday (February 7th)

The Terra Alta net will be held at 9:00 p.m. (0200 Zulu) on the KC8KCI repeater, transmitting on 147.000 MHz with a standard offset and a PL tone of 103.5.

Ham Radio Today will return after this brief pause for station identification.

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This is KD8ZMV transmitting for Ham Radio Today

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Next Week's Events

Monday (February 8th)

The ARES traffic and training net will be held at 9:00 p.m. (0200 Zulu) on the W8MWA repeater, transmitting on 145.43 MHz with a standard offset and a PL tone of 103.5. This net is conducted every Monday at 9:00 p.m. (0200 Zulu). For more information visit the club's website at www.w8mwa.org.

The North central West Virginia 2 meter single sideband net will be held at 8:30 p.m. 0130 zulu. This net will meet on the second Monday of each month at 8:30 p.m. 0130 zulu. For more information, contact Josh Smith, KD8HRX, at juicewvu@gmail.com.

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Tuesday (February 9th)

Taco Tuesday - a weekly lunch gathering held in Morgantown where local ham radio enthusiasts gather to discuss common interests in amateur radio. Taco Tuesday is held every Tuesday at noon (1700 zulu) at the Wings Ole Restaurant next to the Westover bridge in Morgantown, WV

The North Central West Virginia Young Ladies net will be held at 9:00 p.m. (0200 Zulu) on the W8MWA repeater, transmitting on 145.43 MHz with a standard offset and a PL tone of 103.5. This net is conducted every Tuesday at 9:00 p.m. (0200 Zulu). For more information, visit the net's website at www.NCWVYL.net, or, contact Libby DeHaan, Kilo Delta 8, Zulu, Mike Wiskey at KD8ZMW@gmail.com

The Washington, PA net will be held at 8:30 p.m. (0130 Zulu) on the K3PSP repeater, transmitting on 146.685 MHz with a standard offset and a PL tone of 103.5. This net is conducted every Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. (0130 Zulu). For more information visit the club's website at <http://www.wacomarc.org>.

The Stonewall Jackson net will be held at 9:00 p.m. (0200 Zulu) on the N8FMD repeater, transmitting on 146.685 MHz with a standard offset and a PL tone of 103.5. This net is conducted every Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. (0130 Zulu).

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Wednesday (February 10th)

The Mon County Amateur Radio Club will hold its weekly trivia net at 8:00 p.m. (0100 Zulu) on the KD8BMI repeater, transmitting on 147.075 MHz with a standard offset and a PL tone of 103.5. This net is conducted every Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. (0100 Zulu). For more information visit the club's website at www.qsl.net/k8mcr

The Phillippi net will be held at 9:00 p.m. (0200 Zulu) on the K8VE repeater, transmitting on 145.150 MHz with a standard offset and a PL tone of 103.5.

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This Month's Events

Other events happening this month include the following:

Club Meetings

Beginning with club meetings

W8MWA

The Monongalia Wireless Association will hold its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 16th at the River Valley Red Cross Chapter on Pineview Drive. There will be a VE Testing session beginning at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will hold a social period at 6:30 p.m. followed by the regular meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.

MARA

The Mountaineer Amateur Radio Association will hold their regular monthly meeting at the First Street United Methodist Church in Fairmont on February 9th. Festivities will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a social followed by their regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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Events Farther Out

Looking to events next month and beyond.

Item 1 (March 7th)

The new W8MWA Simplex Net will be held on Monday March 7th, with a goal of seeing who can talk to whom should the local repeaters stop functioning. This net is held on the 1st Monday of every month on 146.580 MHz simplex. For more information contact Dr. Carl Werntz WA3ZZU, at cwerntz@hsc.wvu.edu

Item 2 (March 19th)

The Kanawah Amateur Radio Club will hold its 32nd Annual Charleston Area Hamfest on March 19th 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in their new venue at the Activity Center of the Emmanuel Baptist Church. More details will follow as the event draws near.

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Major Events

West Virginia Ham Radio Convention (August 19, 2016)

The West Virginia State Amateur Radio Council has announced even more activities for the 58th West Virginia State Amateur Radio Convention to be held in the WVU Jackson's Mill Conference Center in Weston, WV, beginning on Friday August 19th 2016. This year's convention will feature VE Testing by

the Mountain State VE team from Elkins, WV. Also on tap is a social gathering on Friday August 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the Jackson Lodge Mountaineer room where guests can meet and greet each other, as well as the West Virginia State Amateur Radio Convention committee members and the convention's guest speakers. Speaking of which, stay tuned for the announcement of this year's keynote speaker soon. On Saturday, August 20th the midnight convocation of the Royal Order of the Wouff Hong will induct new members. More activities and forums will be announced as the event draws closer.

Dayton

There are 105 days until Hamvention on May 20th 2016, in Dayton OH.

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This has been the Ham Radio Today newslines morning edition. Ham Radio Today broadcasts the newslines each morning at 7:30 a.m. Monday through Friday with an evening edition containing breaking news from the day at 5:00 p.m., transmitting on the W8MWA repeater, at 145.43 MHz with a PL tone of 103.5. Anyone wishing to submit a story or have their event announced may send the relevant information via email to HamRadioToday1@gmail.com. All stories and announcements must be compliant with Part 97 of the Federal Communications Commission regulations and must be related to amateur radio. So until, five o'clock, wishing everyone listening 73's and hoping you have a great day, this is KD8ZMV clear and returning the repeater to general use.