

# Monongalia Wireless Association

## W8MWA

### MINUTES of the Monthly Meeting *June 21, 2016*

Meeting convened at 7:00 PM in the American Red Cross facilities with MWA Vice President WT8WV (Spence Graham) presiding.

18 people attending.

It was announced that our Club VE Coordinator, (WA8YCD Bob West) had fallen and was in the hospital. MWA Club President Michael DeHaan (KD8ZMV) was at the hospital with Bob at the time of this meeting. Well wishes were expressed for Bob and for his speedy recovery.

With true sadness, we observed a moment of silence for two Silent Keys of our Club; Jacob Tennant and Parker B of the WVU ARC, who both passed suddenly in the last couple weeks. Both men have been quite active in our Club and are truly missed.

It was reported that our Secretary / Treasurer Mig Crowe was recuperating from her knee replacement 10 days prior and was doing as well as can be expected. The Club expressed best wishes for her speedy recovery, too!

### **Business Discussed**

The Monongalia County Fair will be upon us in August and we will have a presence there with more details to come in the next few weeks.

Jim Seckel (WA8YUI) discussed the July "Fox Hunt" and also recapped the very successful and well-attended May "Bunny Hunt" at Coopers Rock State Forest, in detail. The Fox Hunt will be held as a Road Rally on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of July. Bunny Hunt video and pictures have been posted to the Club website.

The Morgantown Marathon will be held September 17<sup>th</sup> and the Club will assist with COMMS for that large event again this year. More details to follow as developed.

ARRL Field Day Contest is this coming weekend and the Club will participate with 4 stations at Sand Springs location. More info below.

The West Virginia State Amateur Radio Council will be held at Jackson's Mill, WV in the weeks ahead and all members encouraged to attend.

### **W8MWA Committee Reports**

**Repeater Committee...** WR8S (Bill Shultz) said our Yaesu System Fusion Repeaters are installed and ready for antenna check-out procedures. They should be online and operational tomorrow. There

will be some additional Beta Testing done over the next weeks and additional features functional over time. For those adding System Fusion technology to their personal inventory, resources are available on our Club website and some local blogs. Bill indicated that some tower maintenance was soon to be done and he had asked the professionals doing that service to take a gander at the Club's antennas as they climbed up the tower. We thank Bill for all of his work on this major project.

WT8WV (Spence Graham) opened a discussion about the future "resilience" of our Club Repeater System for the longer term. With the new System Fusion Repeaters installed, the focus was now on the antenna and hardline/coaxial cable systems and controller. In discussing this, it was approached as a "worst case scenario" in the event of antenna system failure(s) and what would the Club need to consider in mitigation. The VHF and UHF antennas are Station Masters and range in age from 20-30 years of service at this date. They will be inspected soon during routine tower maintenance by professional tower climbers and an overall assessment made as to their expected lifetime. Bill indicated each of the three (3) antennas would cost about \$300 each to replace in the event of failure. The hardline cabling would be about \$3000 - \$4000 to replace since it is now prerequisite to be of a different specification to meet current required standards. Connectors would be about \$100 per end connection and termination. Labor to replace antennas and hard lines on the various spots on the tower would bring the total cost to replace the antenna systems at about \$10,000 should that be needed at some point.

It was suggested that the Repeater Trustee and the Repeater Committee convene and compile any and all official Forms and Operation & Service Manuals, including the Controller and Command Control directions for future continuity of the repeater systems. With the new "technology age" the Club is entering into, it will be a great membership benefit to take advantage of as additional features are cycled-on in the future. We also want to once again say **THANK YOU** to those members who made financial contributions for the purchase of the new Yaesu System Fusion VHF and UHF Repeaters! Without their generosity the funding would have been prohibitive for the Club to absorb at this time. The W8MWA Repeater(s) serve a critical region of the country with reliable communications and that of our local communities in times of need.

**Field Day Committee...** WR8S (Bill Shultz) will bring a power generator and there will be four (4) operating stations to cover 80, 40, 20 and 15 Meter bands. He and WT8WV will bring fuel. Operators should bring personal items, chairs and awnings for their stations. Bill will also network laptops for contest logging purposes. Josh will provide an Access Point to assist and a grill for cooking. Given the weather forecast, it will most likely be hot and with possible thunderstorms we need to be prepared.

Site directions will be on the Club website.

Randy Crowe (N8OZY) will bring up on Friday night antennas, coaxial cables, power distribution boxes and rope. He will also haul Josh's grill up to the mountain to help keep us from starvation. Someone will touch base with Mike and Libby (KD8ZMV and KD8ZMW) about the hotdog / burger stand and food. Other items need to be brought by other people attending for their other meals.

WR8S (Bill) and WT8WV (Spence) will go up on Thursday evening to begin site preparation. Others will come up on Friday, as possible. Port-A-Potty should be delivered by Friday and will be handicap accessible.

Saturday morning at 9 am will begin four (4) antenna launching sequences. The contest begins at 2 PM on Saturday and runs to 2 pm on Sunday.

We will try to have a GOTA (Get On The Air) station manned. We will also have a Press Release and various Club brochures. We will try to capture the ARRL Message. All these add extra points to our scores. We encourage all members, families and their non-ham friends to attend. Think NEW members!

**VE Team Committee...** The VE Team has been quite active on a monthly basis under the good guidance of WA8YCD (Bob West) and is consistently bringing new Hams into the hobby and shepherding our members and friends into upgrading their existing licenses. As this excellent service and growth continues, the VE Team will begin cross-training Team members for all aspects of the service. This includes VE Session Examiners & Proctors, official paperwork and Forms, public relations and information, intake process for those testing, examination grading procedures and ARRL submission processes. It will also encompass the new Monongalia Wireless Association School of Radio classes, materials, student recruiting, faculty development, individual course and chapter content, test preparation and support services.

We also want to reach out into our communities to the various Scouting programs (Boy & Girl), private school science programs, local school science programs, home schoolers, prepper groups, and other youth and senior groups.

**Program Committee...** due to Michael DeHaan (KD8ZMV) attending to Bob West (WA8YCD) in the hospital, the evening presentation will be rescheduled for a later date.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.