APRIL SHOWERS

WEST VIRGINIA SPLATTER

APRIL 2025

EXTRA! EXTRA!

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

DAN HALL, KF8BKS OF SOUTH CHARLESTON, HAS BECOME THE KANAWHA VALLEY'S NEWEST EXTRA LEVEL AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR!

LESS THAN ONE YEAR AGO, ON JUNE 1, 2024, DAN RECIEVED HIS TECH LICENSE. ON JULY 23, 2024 HE EARNED HIS GENERAL LEVEL LICENSE. AT THE CHARLESTON HAMFEST ON MARCH 1, 2025 HE PASSED THE EXAM FOR HIS EXTRA LICENSE.

DAN IS NOT ONLY A FREQUENT ATTENDEE OF THE TUESDAY MORNING WVDXA BREAKFAST AT BOB EVANS ON JEFFERSON ROAD IN SOUTH CHARLESTON, HE IS ALSO A FREQUENT MEMBER OF CHARLIE YOUNG'S ANTENNA 101 CLASSES AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS AROUND THE VALLEY. HE IS ALSO A VOLUNTEER AT THE FOOD BANK AT HEART AND HAND ON D STREET IN SOUTH CHARLESTON.

AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF – DAN IS A MEMBER OF BOTH THE WEST VIRGINIA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB AND THE KANAWHA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB! I WONDER WHEN HE SLEEPS?

CONGRADULATIONS DAN!!

USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO REMOVE NOISE

I have recently seen two presentations by David Wiley, WV8O, on the FREE ***RM Noise*** software program. It uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) to remove noise from SSB voice or CW radio signals. The AI is trained using noise recordings which are often unique to each setup and location. This software program requires a computer and an internet connection so it may not be useful in POTA or mobile operations.

Individuals who install the software are asked to record their radio for a half hour and submit those recordings to help train the software. The client program sends the radio's noisy reception to the AI servers, and the servers remove the noise in real-time and return the audio back to the client for listening. The turn-around was so short I couldn't tell that there was any delay.

In both demonstrations the noise reduction was dramatic! In one, the transmission came through the filtering understandable even though the original signal was all static to my ear. If you have a noisy reception at your location this software may be the answer to your prayers.

JACKSON COUNTY HAMFEST AND FLEA MARKET SUNDAY MAY 4, 2025

The Jackson County Amateur Radio Club will be holding their annual hanfest on Sunday, May 4, this year at the Ripley Middle School, One West School Street in Ripley. For more information contact Roy Moore, KB8ZSG at kb8zsg@gmail.com

SAVE THESE DATES!!!!

May 16-18, 2025	**Dayton Hamvention**
Saturday-Sunday, June 28-29, 2005	**ARRL Field Day**
Saturday, July 19, 2025	**Museum of Radio and Technology Summer Swap Meet**
Saturday, July 26, 2025	**The 67th WV State Amateur Radio Convention**
Saturday, August 9, 2025	**The Tri-State Amateur Radio Hamfest in Huntington, WV**
Saturday, August 16th, 2025	**The Portsmouth (Ohio) Radio Club HamFest**
Saturday, October 11, 2025	**Wood County (WV) Area Hamfest**
Sunday, November 2, 2025	**The Kanawha Amateur Radio Club Tailgate Hamfest**

WEST VIRGINIA SPLATTER BACK ISSUES

The West Virginia Amateur Radio Club has posted back issues of WV SPLATTER on their website at www.wvar.com This emphasizes our intention that WV Splatter is a newsletter for all hams in West Virginia. Reposting WV SPLATTER on other club websites is encouraged. Just let me know so I can pass the word.

WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY OPEN HOUSE
MAIN STREET PLAZA, ST. ALBANS, WV

Members of the West Virginia DX Association, the West Virginia Amateur Radio Club, the Kanawha Amateur Radio Club and the Kanawha Amateur Radio in Emergency Services group will be conducting an Open House on Main Street in St. Albans to celebrate World Amateur Radio Day. The event will take place from 8:00 AM TO 8:00 PM (EDT) on April 18, 2025.

The members there will be monitoring the Putnam County repeater (147.270) and the Kanawha County repeater (147.350). Other repeaters and frequencys will be monitored as the resources allow.

This open house is intended to demonstrate to First Responders, Public Officials and the public the capabilities of amateur radio and how it can be used on a daily basis and during emergency events. Everyone is encouraged to stop by and visit. Local hams who cannot visit the location in person can assist by getting on the radio and rag chewing with those operating radios at the open house. Hams coming to the open house should bring their handie-talkies or any other radio they want to show off. Limited electric outlets are available.

Parking is at a premium along Main Street, however, there is ample free parking in the lot between the Fire Station and the laundromat on Sixth Avenue. C Street, beside the laundromat, leads directly to the Main Street Plaza. Even more parking is available at the Loop just west of the Fire Department.

Some participants in the open house will be interviewed by Buzz Browning on WWSA/LP (FM 96.9) during their “Lunch Time Live” broadcast at noon on April 16. This low power station has a huge following in the St. Albans area. This interview should bring a number of people to the location in addition to those who use Main Street as part of their daily routine. The station usually posts these interviews on their Facebook page a day or two after the air date.

Come out and join us for an hour or two of fellowship if you're in the area.

Spring Swap Meet at Museum of Radio and Technology
Saturday April 19, 2025

It is the first of three-swap meet/auctions for 2025 at the MRT. Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 19. Curator Geoff Bourne will open the gates at 7:00 am for early setup and things will kick off at 8:00 am. Lunch TBD. The auction part of the day commences at 12:30 pm. If you are planning on auctioning off some or all of your items, please see Bill Reich well before 12:00 to fill out your paperwork. No item for auction will be accepted after noon.

As in years past there is no general admission charge but if you want to rent a table the first one will cost you $10.00, and each additional table is $5.00. Museum members, your first table is free and thank you for being an MRT member. Weather permitting you can also take advantage of our green space to set up and tail gate your treasures at no charge. On behalf of the staff at the Museum of Radio and Technology we look forward to seeing you all. Bring lots of cool stuff to sell and/or money to spend. Please contact Bob Ripley at mratwv@gmail.com for questions or to reserve a able(s). We hope to see you there.

CALLS AND VANITY CALLS
by Jim Hudson, KE8PNY

Call signs are like your name. Your parents gave you one at birth without you having any input into the selection. The FCC assigns you the other from a pool without you having any choice. However, both can be changed if you want.

A friend of mine was given the name Jean Peloquin by his parents. After serving in the US Army, Jean took his guitar to Hollywood where he eventually became Jean, the singing cowboy, on ***The Virginian*** TV show. If you have watched the 1968 season you have seen him singing in the bunk house, alongside a campfire or at one of the dances featured on the show. He wrote some of the songs so they coordinated with the episode's theme. After leaving that show, his agent or someone talked Jean into changing his name. I don't know exactly why he agreed to change it, or how he chose his new name. As Joe Cannon, he became a well known singer/song writer in the San Francisco and Sun Valley areas.

Just like Jean/Joe changed his name, hams can change their caall signs. And just like with Joe, I may never know why a given ham chose to get a vanity call sign or why they chose the one they did. I have talked to a few hams with vanity calls and these are the reasons they gave:

- My nephew, Dale Hudson, KM4JQE changed his call to KD4DEH to use his initials as his suffix. I assume he did so to “personalize” his call.
- Joe Richards, KD8BJT became WV8WVU to use the state's postal abbreviation as his prefix and to honor the university he attended in his suffix.
- Fred Vickers, KE8BL combined these two approaches to become WV8FV.
- In looking over the call signs of hams in the local area, I noticed more than a couple with an “X” as the first letter of their suffix. I don't know if all of them hold an eXtra class license or not. But, Rob West, KE8DEY did become W8XRW after getting his Amateur Extra license.
- Some hams simply want a shorter call sign that is easier to say phonetically or send on CW. Or one that is easier to remember. Bob Delauter, KE8ZEC will be a prime candidate for a new call sign as he moves up the ladder. The sounds of the three letters in his suffix are so similar it is difficult to understand them when he checks into the nets.
- Some just want a more memorable call such as Robert Campbell, KE8DEU who became WA2GO to get a call that is both memorable and a constant reminder that he has a “WAY TO GO” as a ham. Or maybe it's just a constant pat on the back? Dr. Campbell's call is also an example of using an area number outside your own geographic area.
- Finally, some hams take their Elmer's call sign to honor those who helped them become hams (or better hams) and to keep their memory alive. This is usually done with the Elmer's family's permission.

Some calls that appear to be vanity call signs are not; Robbie Robinson, N4PAH is one example. Charlie Young, N8RR is another. Charlie got his N call in the mid-seventies when they were first issued. When the N calls were new, massive pile-ups occurred whenever Charlie called CQ. His previous call sign is not listed in the online license data base. This tells me the data base wasn't established until after the mid-seventies. Charlie tells me he got vanity call to get an N call AND because he hated his previoous call sign. I'm sure there are other examples around the Mountain State. I just don't know which hams are in this category.

John Jones, WB8CQV, a well known ham in the WVDXA community told me he didn't think it would be worth it for him to get a vanity call because he would have to change the call sign on all of his repeaters in Kanawha County. John recently linked one of his repeaters into the ARA network of repeaters and has another one set to link into the WVAR repeater for the Country Roads Net (C4FM) on Thursday nights. So a vanity call sign is not for everyone.

I have considered a vanity call sign and even checked on some of my choices in the ULS data base. My ideal call sign would be WV8JIM, or WV8GEM. That's how my YL spelt it when we first started dating because I was her little jewel. Later she began using the usual Jim spelling. Now my XYL spells it Gym. She says I smell like dirty socks. I might as well stick with KE8PNY.

73

WV SPLATTER

I continually need more and different types of articles for WV SPLATTER. If you know of an event coming up in a couple of months, have an idea for an article you want to write, or something you want me to research and write about, then drop me an email at nettlescreek@frontier.com

Use the same address to submit email addresses for anyone you think might be interested in being on the WV SPLATTER Distribution List. They don't have to be in West Virginia, they don't even have to be a ham.

I was recently asked about including advertisements for ham gear in WV SPLATTER. Ads for ham radio equipment, tools, and related items are welcome. Get them to me by the fifteenth of the month and I'll include them in the next months WV SPLATTER.

UPDATE ON FEMA STUDENT INDENTIFICATION NUMBER

There have been a few changes in the system for people who do not have a FEMA Student Identificaiton Number to take the on line classes (ICS 100, 200, 700 and 800). The direct link to the system is: FEMA Student Identification (SID) System. Be sure to read the message at the top of the screen to ensure doing things right.

WEST VIRGINIA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NETS

Northern Panhandle Amateur Radio Club
Sunday at 7:00 PM
Digital net 441.825

Kanawha Amateur Radio Club Net
Sundays at 8:30 PM
145.350 PL 91.5

8 Rivers ARC Net (Pocahontas County)
Sundays at 9:00 PM
145.11 PL 107.2

8 Rivers Six Meter Net (Pocahontas County)
Thursday, 9:00 PM
53.33 MHZ Tone 156

Ritchie Amateur Group (RAG) Net
Thursday at 9:00 PM
147.300 MHz Tone 107.2

Black Diamond ARC Net (Raleigh County)
Friday, 9:00 PM
145.370 MHz PL 100.0

CWVWA Net
Thursday 9:00 PM
147.165 MHz Tone 91.5

Coal Country ARC Net (Boone County)
Tuesday 9:00 PM
147.195 MHz

Eastern Panhandle Traffic Net
(Jefferson, Morgan and Berkley Counties)
Daily 6:45 PM
147.255 MHz Tone 123

Mason County Amateur Radio Group
Monday 9:00 PM
442.400 MHz Tone 91.5

Pioneer Amateur Radio Association 2 M Net
Central West Virginia
Tuesday 7:00 PM
146.835 MHz

Plateau Amateur Radio Association 2 M Net
Thursday 8:00 PM
146.790 MHz

Buffalo 10 Meter Net
Thursday 8:00 PM at 28.405

WV Amateur Radio Club Information Net
Tuesday at 8:30 P.M.
147.270 – offset PL Tone 123.0
EchoLink Node 439354

Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub (P.A.R.K.)
Tuesdays, 9:00 PM on all linked repeaters.
146.970 MHz -offset Tone 91.5
147.390 MHz +offset Tone 91.5
444.725 MHz + offset Tone 91.5

Country Roads Net
Thursday 8:00 P.M
WV-Link Room 46488
Local Node Connection:
WVAR UHF 441.825 (Scott Depot, WV)
WB8CQV VHF 147.21 MHz (S.Charleston)
Hot spots use US-WV-LINK (19941)

Pocahontas County Coffee Net
Monday-Wednesday-Friday 10:30 AM
146.730 – Tone 100.0
EchoLink WB8CNN-L

Mon County Amateur Radio Club Net
Wednesday at 8:00 PM
147.075 Tone 103.5
Linked to HAMTALK System

JARC (Jackson County)
Monday 8:00 PM
146.670 MHz Tone 107.2

Monongalia Wireless Association
Monday 9:00 PM
145.430 MHz Tone 103.5

Mountain State FM Net (Tucker County)
Saturday 9:00 PM 145.370 MHz

Potomac Highlands Amateur Radio Net (Hardy)
Monday 8:30 PM
145.190 MHz

Stonewall Jackson ARA 2 M Net
Tuesday 9:00 PM
147.210 MHz Tone 103.5

DMR Net by David Sexton AB8D
Tuesday at 7:30 PM W8MOP 444.45 DMR repeater
on the 3154 WV statewide talk group

WEST VIRGINIA ARES AND SKYWARN NETS

Kanawha ARES Net
Sundays at 8:00 PM
145.350 PL 91.5

Jefferson County ARES Net
Sunday at 8:30 PM
147.2WV Eastern Region ARES Net
Monday at 8:00 PM
147.255 MHz

Cabell County ARES Net
Monday at 8:30pm
On the following linked repeaters:
W8VA 146.76 MHz PL 131.8
N8OLC 146.985 MHz PL 131.8
KB8TGK 443.850 MHz PL 162.2 (Echolink)

Tri-Counties ARC ARES Net
Boone, Lincoln and Logan Counties
Tuesday at 7:30 PM
145.17 Tone 100.0

MARA weekly ARES WX net
Wednesdays, 9:00 P.M.
145.35 MHz PL 103.5

Marion County ARES Net
Wednesday 8:00 PM
145.350 MHz

*The West Virginia **ARES HF** Net*
First Thursday of each month
After WV Fone Net at 2200 UTC
3.805 MHz or 7.235 MHz

Mason County Amateur Radio Group ARES
Monday 9:00 PM
444.300 MHz Tone 91.5

Multi County ARES NET (HAMTALK System)
Tuesday 9:00 PM
146.685 MHz

Northern WV ARES/RACES Net
Wednesday 8:30 PM
145.300 MHz

TSARC Skywarn Net
Tuesday 7:15 PM
146.910 MHz

Blufield Skywarn Net Mercer County
Monday 7:30 PM (Except first Monday)
145.490 MHz

Raleigh County ARES Net
Monday 8:00
145.370 MHz Tone 100
EchoLink 145.370-R

Fayette County ARES Training and INFO Net
Second and Fourth Thursdays each
Month at 8:30 PM - 146.790 MHz

Tri-State Skywarn Net
Friday's at 8:00 PM
On WVAR's 147.27o Tone 123 linked to
Ashland' 's 146.94 repeater.

Ohio Valley ARES Net
Saturday 10:00 AM
441.825 Mhz

District 6 ARES Net (Mineral, Grant, Hardy, Morgan,Jefferson Berkeley and Hampshire)
Sunday 8:30 PM
147.390 MHz Tone 123

District 7 ARES Net (Raleigh County)
Tuesday 8:00 PM
145.370 MHz Tone 100

Gilmer County ARES/RACES Net
Monday 9:00 PM
145.290 MHz

Mercer County ARES Net
Third Thursday 7:30 PM
145.490 MHz

Ohio County ARES Net
Sunday 8:00 PM
146.760 MHz

Pendleton County ARES/RACES Net
Second and Fourth Thursday 8:30 PM
147.345 MHz

Wayne County ARES Net
Monday 9:00 PM
147.390 MHz