West Virginia State Convention

August 16-18, 2013

Weston, WV

The West Virginia State Convention has been held for many years at a 4-H conference facility owned by West Virginia University called Jackson’s Mill, located near Weston, WV. In addition to the conference facility, Jackson’s Mill includes a living history museum made up of the early 19th-century mill and related buildings. Its claim to fame is that General Stonewall Jackson spent part of his youth there living with the family of his uncle who operated the mill. At the time, what is now West Virginia was still part of Virginia.

The convention is sponsored by the West Virginia State Amateur Radio Council (http://www.qsl.net/wvsarc/), whose sole purpose is putting on the convention.

The convention began on Friday evening with a meal in the conference center dining hall, followed by a reception in one of the residence lodges. Other ARRL officials present included Director Bodson, Vice Director Boehner, Section Manager Ann Rinehart KA8ZGY, and Honorary Vice President John Kanode N4MM. For those of you who remember John from his days on the Board, I am happy to say that he seemed well and was in fine story-telling form at the reception.

For attendees who were staying at the facility, pre-paid meals were taken in the dining hall. The number of people who stayed at the center was reported to be a great deal smaller than it was many years ago. At the council’s meeting there was a discussion about why the attendance has been decreasing. There was also considerable difficulty getting someone to run for each of the council officer positions.

On Saturday morning there was a flea market in a pavilion. The ARRL table was in a prominent position and offered some publications for sale. The predicted bad weather did not happen. In fact the weather could not have been more pleasant.

All day Saturday there was a program of forums (see the PDF attached to this e-mail) including my keynote speech and the formal ARRL forum ably conducted by the Director and Vice Director. The program line-up was an interesting contrast to the program of the New Mexico Convention the preceding weekend. There was nothing on the program in West Virginia that could not have been found on a convention program when I was a new ham thirty years ago. New Mexico’s program was much more oriented towards recent developments in Amateur Radio.

The convention ended with a group breakfast on Sunday morning in the dining hall. The hams who attended this convention were very friendly and pro-ARRL. They appreciated the opportunity to talk with ARRL officials about League affairs and also about their personal interests in ham radio.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Craigie N3KN