

MARA/VARA MONITOR

Published Monthly for Radio Amateurs in the Shenandoah Valley

Joe Archambeault, N4TRH, SK

We are saddened by the passing of Joe L. Archambeault who passed away on October 31st 2000 after a long bout with cancer. Joe was a long time member of the VARA and attended the Friday luncheons regularly. Joe was known for his witty sayings and was quick to say what was on his mind. He moved here from New York and many of us called him the "Little Yankee".

Sometimes he had something to say about that but most of the time he just laughed it off with us. Joe helped with events such as MS Walks and Bike VA until later years then he stood by at home to make phone calls if we ran into an emergency. Joe will be sadly missed in the valley and on amateur radio.

Ray Colvin



December Meetings: Christmas Dinner!

Don't forget... this year's December club meetings will be the annual Christmas Dinner. Spouses and guests are invited.

See the Club President's columns in this issue for more information on each club's activity.

Phase III-D Now In Orbit – Satellite ID A0-40

For several years, the amateur radio community has been looking forward to the launch of the new Phase III-D satellite.

Basically, this satellite is a versatile “repeater in space”. It is designed to be worked by the average “Joe Ham”, without special equipment, beam antennas, tracking software, az-el rotators, or any other special equipment.

The satellite is now in orbit, and by the time you read this, should have been checked out and “opened for use”.

The latest information on how to operate the satellite, its status, and other details, can be obtained from the web at: <http://www.amsat.org/amsat/sats/phase3d.html>

ISS Ham Station On the Air

The amateur radio station has been completely installed and tested. It is ready to go.”

In addition to the Phase III-D satellite, hams can also contact another new orbiting station.

The International Space Station is now populated by three radio amateurs.

The ham rig has been connected, configured, and tested out by the orbiting astronauts. Hams can expect routine QSO's with the astronauts (technically, two Russian cosmonaut and one American astronaut) of the Alpha team to begin shortly.

For up to the minute information on the status of the ham operations, check out the Goddard Space Flight Center's ARISS web page:

[Http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/](http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/)

For your information, ARISS stands for Amateur Radio on the International Space Station.

469 Virginia Hams Register with ARES

Well over four hundred hams in Virginia have registered as volunteer emergency communicators with the state-wide Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

You don't have to register with ARES to volunteer to help during an emergency. However, your registering will certainly help the emergency planners get an idea of what they can expect in the way of assistance should a disaster occur.

Your registration does not in any way obligate you

to serve, either. It is merely letting the state authorities know that you are here, and are interested in possibly being called if needed.

Registering also gives you access to information about training sessions, drills, and other activities aimed to better prepare hams for emergency activation.

Registration is fast and easy, and can be found on the ARES-VA home page:

<http://www.aresva.org/>

New Vanity Calls in the Valley...

Several hams have recently been assigned new vanity callsigns, replacing some familiar ones...

Listen for N3JN, John Nelson, formerly WA4KQX.

Also, listen for W4DLJ, Dan James, formerly WA4PXX.

And listen for K4EME, Cowles Andrus, formerly KB4CNI.

Also, listen for N3BES, Brown Snyder, formerly N4ZHV.

New Safety Regulations Fully in Effect as of September 1, 2000

Starting September 1, every US amateur is required to fully comply with the FCC's RF exposure guidelines. The regulations, which went into effect January 1, 1998, require US Amateur Radio operators to read and understand the rules and, where necessary, perform technical evaluations to determine that their stations are compliant with the new regulations. Up until now, only hams who have had to file an Amateur Radio application with the FCC have had to certify compliance with the RF exposure rules. As of September 1, all amateurs must comply.

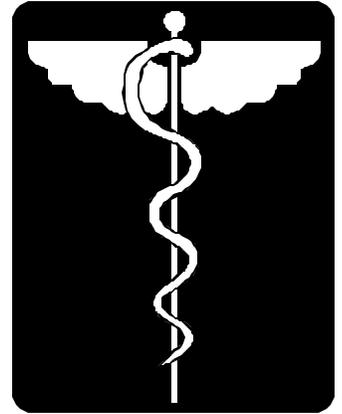
Under the regulations, an amateur station must not exceed the maximum permissible exposure limits for transmitter operation.

"These regulations are not a major burden on the

Amateur Radio Service," said ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI. "Most hams are already in compliance with the MPE requirements; some hams will need to conduct a simple station evaluation."

A complete description of the rules is available on the ARRL Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/news/rfsafety/>. The site also contains resources to make your station evaluation quite painless.

Address questions about RF safety and the FCC exposure guidelines to ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, ehare@arrl.org.



Richmond Frostfest on January 21st

Mark your new calendars! One of the biggest ham radio hamfests in the area will occur on January 21st.

The Richmond Frostfest will be held at the Showplace, 3000 Mechanicsville Turnpike, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm that Sunday.

This year, the Frostfest is the site of the ARRL Virginia Section Convention, too. Tony Amato, the director of the state ARES organization is a featured speaker. There will be hourly door prizes for all attendees.

Talk-In directions can be obtained on the 146.880 repeater (-.600 offset).

You can also call the hotline at 804-330-3165.

The Frostfest has its own website, too.

Check out <http://www.frostfest.com>

Many hams carpool to this event. Get on the air on one of the local ARES nets (Sunday or Monday nights at 8:00 pm, 146.625 or 145.130 MHz) to arrange carpools.

"Doors Open at 8:00 am".

FCC To Authorize New Citizens Radio Service—MURS

FCC set to authorize MURS: With no fanfare, the FCC is set to authorize a new Citizens Band Radio Service to be called the Multi-Use Radio Service, or MURS.

The service, which came about as part of the biennial review of Part 90 of the FCC's rules, will deploy five former Private Land Mobile Radio Service VHF "color dot" channels for voice, data and imaging transmissions.

The channels, 151.82, 151.88, 151.94, 154.57 and 154.60—will be authorized for up to 2 W on

an unlicensed basis under Part 95 of the FCC's rules. The establishment of MURS was buried within a huge Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making released this summer as WT Docket 98-182 and PR Docket 92-235.

The FCC said it will "revisit" the issue of allocating additional MURS channels "at a later date should additional support develop." The effective date to deploy MURS is pending completion of the FCC proceeding.—FCC





Don't Delay, Write your check today!

Dues Now Due

Yes, it is that time of year again.

Use the handy form on page 9 of this month's Monitor to renew your membership in the club of your choice.

Or, you can pick one up at the next club meeting.

You must renew by the end of January of next year, otherwise

your March Monitor won't arrive, either email or snail mail.

While you are writing checks to the clubs for your annual dues, please remember the repeater owners and operators. While these fine hams do not actively solicit donations, they certainly appreciate every penny you can find a way to send them. Oper-

ating a mountaintop repeater is generally a very expensive operation. If you can't contribute, for whatever reason, at least give them a word of encouragement or in some other way express your appreciation for their efforts.

Contest Changes Coming...

As the "contest season" approaches, ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, is reminding ARRL contest participants of changes that become effective this year. His department also is gearing up to face the challenges that lie ahead as the Contest Branch starts implementing new log-handling methods.

Starting November 1, 2000, the ARRL standard file format for electronic submissions will be the Cabrillo format. ARRL November Sweepstakes will be the first operating event to fall under the new electronic logging standard.

Henderson also reminds contest participants that with the addition of West

Central Florida this past January there now are 80 ARRL/RAC sections.

First announced more than a year ago, the Cabrillo format will result in electronic logs that adhere to a uniform standard that allows them to be processed more expediently. Henderson says the change to the new format will mean the Contest Branch can post the list of "Logs Received" for a given contest much sooner—once the non-electronic logs have been processed into the database.

"The Cabrillo format will allow us to verify entries and initialize the database more efficiently, with fewer data entry errors," Henderson said.

Cabrillo—pronounced kuh-BREE-oh—is not a program but an electronic file format that specifies what information is contained in certain fields in the file document. Henderson says major contest logging software programs have incorporated the Cabrillo format into their products. "If you're using a current version of one of those programs, you should have the ability to generate the Cabrillo file already," he said.

Details on the format appear in the "General Rules for all ARRL Contests" in the November 2000 issue of QST. Additional information is available at <http://www.kkn.net/~trey/cabrillo/>.

VARA President's Message

The Christmas Season is upon us and we all know what that means. It means we drool a lot over radio equipment (I personally don't need a special season to drool over radio stuff). So what's its going to be this Christmas? Maybe a Ten-Ten Pegasus under the Christmas tree? Or maybe a Mark-V FT-1000MP from Yaesu? Of course stocking stuffers are always nice. How about a nice QRP rig? Something you can take with you when you hike, go camping, or visit friends. HT's always look nice sticking out of a stocking. That little antenna is a dead giveaway. In any event, let me wish you all a very Merry Christmas! If

Christmas isn't your thing, then have a Happy Holiday.

Take time to count your blessings. This year we don't have to worry about Y2K, although I am making preparations for Y3K. You can never be too prepared! And speaking of preparedness, lets keep that radio gear working and ready just in case Old Man Winter is not very kind this year!

A NOTE FROM BIKE VIRGINIA

Allen Turnbull from Bike Virginia sent the following note. It reads, "I want to thank everyone for his or her help during the 10-th Annual Fall Festival bike

tour. The cyclists have been giving us high marks on their surveys, and it's not all due to the spectacular weather! We couldn't have done it without all of your help at the Armory, at Gypsy Hill Park, great communication along the route, sag support, entertainment, hospitality with cider and fresh baked cookies, and of course the food to keep the cyclists spinning each day."

Well done fellow amateur radio operators!!

73 From Greg, W4GRC

MARA/VARA Field Day Results Official! We're Number One!

Well - we did GOOD! Again this year! Here are the results: N4XU - Massanutten and Valley Amateur Radio Associations Field Day 2000

Category - 2A Total Entries - 517
 N4XU - #1 - Virginia
 N4XU - #1 - Roanoke Division
 N4XU - #12 Nationwide

We placed in the top 2.3% in our entry category this year.

A job well done by all participants - those who went up to the Mountain Top early and secured the site - those who hauled the wood for the camp fire - those who prepared the food for that GREAT Friday evening meal - those who worked feverishly to set up the operating

sites, antennas, generators, etc. And all the GREAT operators, spotters, loggers, station managers - and our Field Day chairman, Sandy, K4PZC. A big Thanks goes to everyone.

Now - let's start to prepare for 2001 - let's make more QSO's - let's make all the bonus points available - BUT - let's keep it the FUN event that it's been for the past years!

The total results are published in December 2000 QST.

Think Field Day 2001 !!! 73, Good DX, CW 4 Ever - Neal - N4XU - didididahdidah !!

MARA President's Message!

I hope everyone enjoyed the November meeting as much as I did. I want to thank Bob, W4DR, for a very interesting program. Somebody did a very good job when they put that program together. Thanks Gerry for arranging to have Bob present his amateur radio life history.

As we approach the end of another year, I would like to thank those of you that made this year special for us. The first person that comes to mind is Dave Fordham, KD9LA. Every month he prepares this newsletter. He devotes more time to the benefit of our club than the rest of us all put together. Dave, I don't know what you could possibly do to improve the newsletter. Thanks, we all appreciate your efforts.

I want to also express my thanks to those of you that presented programs during the year. Gerry, K4RBZ, presented a program on DX, and arranged guest speakers for two other meeting, Jon Rudy, N0NM, and Bob Eshleman, W4DR, who spoke to us about their DX activities. Have you figured out where Gerry's ham radio interest lies? Dick, W3HXH, told us about his phased vertical antenna system, and Elsworth, K4LXG, about his early days in ham radio when home built gear was the rule, not the exception. Jeff, W4PJW, presented a program on packet, a mode that has become less popular in the recent years but is making a comeback. Clint, KB4OLM, had a presentation on his VHF/UHF activities, and Clayton Towers, K4RHQ, told us about his interests and involvement in collecting weather data. Dale, N4DAI, had a presentation on ARES, and Sandy, K4PZC, presented the Field Day program.

Others in the club that deserve a special thanks are Doug, N4DUG, for the time he devoted to organizing our Public Service events, and those that participated in these events (including Ray, K4NRA, for organizing the help for the Bridge-water parades). Gayle, KU4XN, has done an excellent job organizing the VE tests sessions that we have with the VARA club. While not a club function, I also want to thank those in the area for the time they have devoted to ARES activities, including the packet system, the Monday night nets and in general getting us prepared for when our services are needed to provide emergency communications.

I want to remind everyone that each spring we have a Home Brew night. This is your chance to bring and show us those projects that you have built in the past year. If you haven't built anything yet, this is your warning to get started. If you need help with your project, ask someone in the club. We should be able to find you a helping hand.

Our December meeting is the annual Christmas Banquet on December 7 at Ever's Restaurant. Please note that the time has been changed to 7:00pm. We won't have a program, so come and enjoy the meal and a chance to have an "eyeball" QSO with the other hams in the area.

I would like to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and the best that a New Year can bring.

Gerald, KN4FM



Thanks to those of you who made this year special for us...

VARA Secretary's Report – November 7 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association club meeting was held at Gavid's Restaurant in Staunton on November 7, 2000. PRESIDENT GREG CZERNIAK W4GRC opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.. There were 24 members and guest present.

50/50 was a total of \$36.00, which was won by Lonnie, N4WIV a split of \$18.00 each, and Lonnie donated her winnings back to the club. Thanks Lonnie for the donation.

Clint, KB4OLM & Richard, KF4QZG informed the club that negotiations are OVER on the tower and that it has been sold. Thanks Clint & Richard for all the effort put forward on this project.

David, AD4TJ Needs HELP with the Augusta County Emergency net. Anyone that is willing to be net control and help David out give him a call. David also has the forms for the D.M.V ID. Cards.

We have the time, date and cost of the Christmas Party. It will be December 5th, same day as the club meeting night. Time is 7pm and we will eat at 7:30pm. Cost is \$11.00 per person. Children 5 and under eat free, over 5 to 10 will be half price-\$5.50. The menu is country style steak, western ham, fried chicken, salad bar, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, green beans, lima beans, macaroni & cheese, baked apples. Dessert will be cobbler & ice cream. November 15th is the cut off date so please make your reservations early so we will know how many to prepare for. Send your checks to Jeff ,W4PJW 1344 Hankey Mtn Hwy, Churchville, Va. 24421.

FIELD DAY: A GREAT JOB done by all that participated in field day this year. MARA & VARA showed that both clubs merged as one and using the call sign of N4XU & KD4FKT put together a super effort and came in 12th in the nation and first in Va. This was done in the 2A category, all the information can be seen in QST December issue on pages 104 & 105. Thanks to all the amateurs that made this possible.

Please welcome and support the new officers for the year 2001:

President	Greg W4GRC
Vice President	Richard KF4QZG
Secretary	Ray KE4HVR
Treasurer	Joan KF4CWR

BIKE VIRGINIA: October the 21 & 22, was a success mostly because of all the amateurs that came out and helped. Bike Virginia was real pleased with the effort put forth by both clubs. Thanks to all that helped.

NOTE: ARES address is ARESVA.ORG

Ray KE4HVR gave a good talk on PSK 31 along with handouts a very good presentation. Thanks Ray for a job well done.

PLEASE check your address on QRZ and make the necessary changes. Also add your email address if you have one. Remember ULS all AMATEUR'S have to register. The address is FCC.GOV/WTB/ULS

A motion to adjourn the V.A.R.A meeting was made by Lonnie, N4WIV and seconded by Nancy KE4PHP. The motion was accepted and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

This being my last secretary report I would like to thank the officers and members for all the effort put forward this year to keep the club up and going and I know we have a great slate of officers and members for the year 2001. Also I would like to give a special THANK YOU to my wife Diane who really helped me get this report out each month. 73 to all.

Pat Smiley, KD4WWF
VARA Secretary



Deadline for the January issue
of the Monitor is December 15th.

MARA Secretary's Report – July 6, 2000 Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Gerald Nauman, club president. The roll was called with 26 present.

Old Business: Dale Showalter (N4DAI), brought up license classes. Said he would teach if someone would set it up. Gerald said he would appoint someone. --- Jeff Rinehart (W4PZC), passed a photo album around of Field Day 2000 put together by Neil (N4XU) and Kenny (KE4GKD). --- Ballot was taken on a new member and was passed.

Committee Reports: Doug (N4DUG) called for volunteers for the Bridgewater Lawn Party. Ray (K4NRA) is in charge of it and would like ten operators per night. Dates are July 14 and 15. --- There are Field Day Pins left over. If anyone didn't get one, please see Doug. --- Ellsworth (K4LXG) hasn't heard from the bike ride people. --- Gayle (KU4XN) informed us of the VE applications he is taking up. Many filled them out tonight. Also, when the new supplies for the VE's are ready they will ship them out.

New Business: Shenandoah Repeater Group Dale (N4DAI) reports that Larry (K4JRR) is putting together a repeater for them that will be installed on the site at Great North Mountain and will be a linked repeater with a frequency of 444.600.

Hamfests Coming: Asheville, NC July 29th — Roanoke, VA August 5th --- Berryville, VA August 6th

Meeting adjourned. --- Program was by Jerry (K4RBJ) on DX'ing. A very good program. Told how to go about DX'ing and shooting for the DXCC. Jerry is in the DXCC and has been trying for the DXCC Honor Roll for 30 years. He should make it by the end of October, 2000.

*Respectfully submitted by
Sandy Mullins (K4PZC)
Acting secretary*

MARA Secretary's Report – August 3, 2000 Meeting

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association meeting was held at Evers Restaurant at Mt. Crawford, Va. On August 3, 2000. The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by the club president, Gerald Nauman (KN4FM). A round of introductions was made. There were thirty-four members and guests present.

Discussions were held on the holding of classes and it was planned when a place and instructors could be secured. Also members were reminded of the hamfest coming up at Berryville, Va.

ARES: It was announced that a training film is in production to train amateurs for emergency services. I D badges are also in the making. There has been some turmoil in positions and now Tony Amato is the Virginia EC. Colin (N4ZFQ) is working on I Ds. SET is the acronym for Section Emergency Test.

The new VE announced that the first testing session would be offered at the Woodmen of the World building on Route 42 between Harrisonburg and Dayton would be held on September 9th

Membership in the club was extended to Bob Steer (KG4CHC).

Newsletter: David (KD9LA) proposed that we drop the postage permit and go to first class mail for delivery of future newsletters. Those who want the newsletter by e-mail only should indicate their preference to the editor and it will save the club about nine dollars per year for each.

There was a 50/50 drawing with a total of \$28 to be divided equally between the club and the winner.

After adjournment the program was given on Packet 101 by Jeff (W4PJW) which was very informative to all of us unfamiliar with packet operation.

*Respectfully submitted,
Wilton B. Thomas (KF4BFL)
Secretary*

MARA Secretary's Report – October 4, 2000 Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association for October was held at Evers Restaurant at Mt. Crawford, Va. There were thirty-three members and guests present. The meeting was opened by the president and introductions were made and as first order of business Benjamin Vogan (KE4IWA) was elected into membership. Next was discussion as to the place of the annual Christmas meeting and it was agreed that the club would meet at Evers Restaurant, as usual.

First item of new business was the election of officers for the new year. The following persons were elected: Gerald (KN4FM), president; Steve, (KF4ZWK), vice-president; Phyllis (N4VZC), secretary; and Sandy (K4PZC), treasurer.

ARES: Norman (KA4EEN) requested persons sign up to act as net control for future nets. It was announced there would be a VE session on November 4th. Also the announcement was made of the "Bike Virginia" and MS walks were coming up and members had been requested to help monitor routes and give assistance where needed. It was also announced that all need to register or re-register for the state-wide ARES. This can be done on the VA-ARES web page.

Various used equipment owned by a long time amateur is offered for sale. He is moving into a retirement home and cannot erect antennas there.

The VE announced that twenty-two persons tested last time.

After adjournment of the meeting, a very interesting program was given by Clint (KB4OLM) on VHF-UHF radio operation.

*Respectfully submitted,
Wilton B. Thomas (KF4BFL)
Secretary*

MARA Secretary's Report – November 2, 2000 Meeting

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association's November meeting was opened at approximately 7:30p.m. by its president Gerald Nauman, KN4FN. The meeting was held at Ever's Restaurant, 7:30p.m. on Thursday, November 2, 2000. There were 9 guests and 33 members present making the total of 42 present. There was a 50/50 which netted 34 dollars, one half which went to the club and the other half to WV3J.

After all were welcomed by the president and all introduced themselves, we had a vote to accept or reject two new members. The vote was yea. The two new members are: Jason Armentrout, N4OSL and Dale Armentrout, N4ATE.

Committee Reports

Public Service - Doug N43UG The MS walk operation was successful. There was much support from the club members. He thanked the club for their support.

ARES Net Control – Norman, KA4EEN There is a need for more control operators.

Ares - Dale, N4DAJ No report

VE-Sessions Gayle, KU4XN There will be a test session on November 4th at the Woodman's Insurance Co on Route 11, Harrisonburg. The testing will begin at 9 a.m.

Christmas Banquet - A signup sheet was circulated by Gerald Neuman. The banquet will be held on December 7, 2000, at Ever's Restaurant at 7:00p.m. The cost of the dinner is \$9.61 including tax and gratuity. There will be an extra charge for oysters which is \$2.00 +tax + gratuity extra. Tax is 4 1/2% or what it is in the county, and gratuity is 15%.

Several informal requests and events were mentioned. No action was taken.

Meeting was adjourned by the president.

Program. The speaker was introduced by Gerald Brunk, K4RBZ. It was an extremely interesting program by a 50 year DX5CC'er Bob Eshleman, W4DR.

*Submitted by
Phyllis Haxton,
MARA Secretary*

MARA Membership Renewal Form

NAME: _____ CALL _____

EMAIL: _____ HOME PHONE: _____

ARRL MEMBER: Yes No REGISTERED VA ARES : Yes No SKYWARN ID: _____ (If you have one)

Are you interested in receiving the *Monitor* electronically in Adobe PDF format? Yes No I Already Do

If your address on the mailing label is correct, no further info is needed; otherwise complete the following:

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP+4 _____

WORK PHONE (optional): _____

Mail with a \$12 check payable to:

Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., c/o Sandy Mullins K4PZC, 149 North Street, Elkton, VA 22827

VARA Membership Renewal Form

NAME: _____ CALL _____

EMAIL: _____ HOME PHONE: _____

ARRL MEMBER: Yes No REGISTERED VA ARES : Yes No SKYWARN ID: _____ (If you have one)

Are you interested in receiving the *Monitor* electronically in Adobe PDF format? Yes No I Already Do

If your address on the mailing label is correct, no further info is needed; otherwise complete the following:

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP+4 _____

WORK PHONE (optional): _____

Mail with a \$15 check payable to:

Valley Amateur Radio Association, c/o Joan Pitsenbarger KF4CWR, 352 Campbell Street, Staunton, VA 24401

MARA/VARA

c/o David Fordham
131 Wayside Drive
Weyers Cave, VA 24486
Phone: 540-568-3024
Email: fordhadr@jmu.edu

Address Service Requested

MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

President: Gerald Nauman, KN4FM
Vice President: Steve Tennyson, KF4ZWK
Secretary: Phyllis Haxton N4VZC
Treasurer: Sandy Mullins, K4PZC
Board (exp 01): David Hughes, KF4SVR
Board (exp. 02): Bob Tennyson KG4CHL

<http://cob.jmu.edu/fordhadr/MARA>

MARA meets the first Thursday of each month at Ever's Restaurant on U.S. 11 south of Harrisonburg. Meal starts at 6:30 pm. Business meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

Visitors are welcome.

Dues (\$12 per year) should be mailed to:
Sandy Mullins, K4PZC
149 North Street
Elkton, VA 22827

VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

President: Greg Czerniak, W4GRC
Vice President: Richard Huttinger, KF4QZG
Secretary: Ray Colvin, KE4HVR
Treasurer: Joan Pitsenbarger, KF4CWR

<http://www.hamsnet.net/W4MUS>

VARA meets the first Tuesday of each month At Gavid's Restaurant on U.S. 11 south in Staunton. Meal starts at 6:30 pm. Business meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

Visitors are welcome.

Dues (\$15 per year) should be mailed to:
Joan Pitsenbarger, KF4CWR
352 Campbell Street
Staunton VA 24401