

MARA/VARA MONITOR

Published Monthly for Radio Amateurs in the Shenandoah Valley

VARA Meeting Location To Be Announced...

Where is VARA meeting this month? If you have email, and your email is on the records of the VARA secretary, you will receive an email advising you of the May VARA meeting location.

If you don't have email, telephone the club president, Greg Czerniak, at 885-5292 to get the location.

Dick Waldmuller, WB8GIF, SK

Richard R. (Dick) Waldmuller WB8GIF, became a SK on Saturday April 21st at 11:00 pm.

Dick had several health problems in the past and just recently finished chemo treatments for cancer. Then on Easter Sunday he had a massive heart attack, went into a coma and died peacefully the following Saturday in his sleep.

Dick and his loving XYL June lived in Middlebrook until 1999 when they sold their house and moved to Ohio where their children live. Both Dick and June were active members of the Valley Amateur Radio Association, and have many friends in the Staunton area.

Some hams have talked with June on the phone

and our thoughts are for those wanting to remember her at this time. Given June's situation, and the tremendous medical bills and all, it would be of more help to send her money instead of flowers. Just our thoughts, do what you feel comfortable with.

June's mailing address is:

June E. Waldmuller
KC4PKJ
4371 Stollaker Rd.
Jefferson, OH 44047

Even a card would be appreciated. The thoughts of the entire ham community are with June and the others in Dick's family.

Recognize anyone you know? This is the crew that provided communications for the MS Walk in Waynesboro on April 22. See the article on page 5.





AD4TJ, N3JB, KB4OLM, Rackin' up the Score!

David Tanks, AD4TJ, Moonbouncer Extraordinaire, is also a contester extraordinaire. One of the valley's most prolific competitors, David has:

- Scored 2688 points, with 80 contacts & 32 multipliers in the September 2000 VHF QSO Party
- Scored 11,328 points (the state leader!) on 159 contacts in the June 2000 VHF QSO Party
- Scored 3220 points on 108 contacts with 28 multipliers on the January 2000 VHF Sweepstakes
- Scored 61, 110 points on 479 contacts, 63 multipliers in the 1999 ARRL 160 meter contest
- Scored 32,844 points on 317 contacts in the 2000 CQ WW DX 160 meter contest

Other testers are also active from the valley. Al Bonck, N3JB, known as "Farmer Al", scored 43,098 points on 310 contacts on the 1999 ARRL 160 meter contest, and 60,888 points on 425 contacts in the 2000 CQ WW DX 160 meter contest.

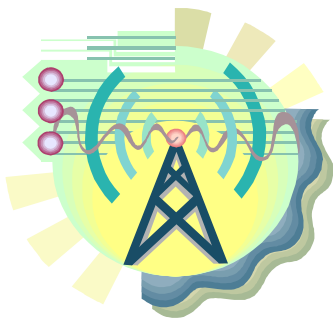
Clint Campbell, KB4OLM, scored 4,294 points on 108 contacts with 38 multipliers in the 2000 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes. Clint and Daryl Cline, WB4YEX, routinely invite other valley hams to join them in their contesting efforts. Also Rusty, N4YET, Dale N4DAI, and others are active in contesting.

If you've scored in a contest, let the newsletter editor know, and come get your Snickers bar!

Local Net Summary

- Virginia District 1 ARES Net: Every Thursday at 8:00 pm, 28.385 USB, vertical polarization
- Local Traffic Net: every evening at 8:30 pm on 147.030 repeater (+600 kHz)
- Augusta County ARES Net: Second Thursday at 8:00 pm, 147.075 repeater (+ 600 kHz)
- Page County ARES Net: Every Sunday at 8:00 pm, 146.625 repeater (-600 kHz)
- Rockingham County ARES Net: Every Monday at 8:00 pm, 146.550 simplex (1st Mon) or 145.130 repeater (-600kHz) all Mondays except first Monday.
- Digital ARES Net: Third Thursday at 8:00 pm, 145.750 or 145.670, using standard AX.25 packet, KB4OLM, Conference Mode

Volunteer Examiner (VE) Session Report



I would like to thank the following Hams for a job well done at the April 14 test session.

- **N4DAI Dale,**
- **KN4FM Gerald,**
- **KC3AN Richard,**
- **KD5KA Chuck,**
- **N4DUG Doug,**
- **KA4EEN Norman,**
- **and W4PJW Jeff.**

This session offered a challenge for the team — a challenge that we do not get at every session: A visual test was given for code.

Jeff [W4PJW] helped make a test and install it on a floppy disk. The test was then given on a computer and the results were positive.

Again I would like to thank all the team members for making this another successful event.

Remember our next test is scheduled for Saturday, June 2, 2001. We have plenty of openings for our local hams to test for upgrades, hope to see you there.

New license earned on the 14th of April were:
2 extra,
4 general,
6 technician.

Congratulations to all of those who earned an upgrade or passed a test. Again thanks for a job well done.

GAYLE KU4XN

For Sale – Door #1: Icom 730 Mobile HF Radio and Power Supply

For Sale, Icom IC-730 HF rig with matching IC-PS15 power supply and DC power cable. Works fine but needs a new pre-amp relay. Reason for selling is to get a 706 or maybe a Yaesu FT-100. I'd also like comments and recommendations on these radios as well as mobile HF antennas. I'll take \$400 or best offer the rig. Phone 540-867-5120 email: needmore@rica.net Thanks, Matthew Huffman, KD4UPL

For Sale – Door #2: Kenwood TS-850 HF Radio, Astron PS, Oscilloscope, VTVM

For Sale from the estate of a local Silent Key: Kenwood TS-850S w/2.1 kHz filter and Astron RS-35A power supply. Also, a Heath IO-18 5 inch oscilloscope, PACO V-70 VTVM and RCA WV-98C VTVM. Contact Gordon at WA4FJC@ARRL.NET or 540-248-2732. Gordon Batey, WA4FJC

For Sale – Door #3: 20m QRP Radio and Gel-Cell, VersaTuner, HF SWR meter

MFJ 9020 20 Meter CW QRP rig with optional audio filter and Curtis keyer modules, manual, and a 5AH-12v gel cell. \$135. Also, MFJ 207 HF SWR Analyzer. Covers 1.75-30 MHz. \$50. Also one MFJ 941D Versa Tuner II. \$50. Contact Richard Wilkins, KR4V. 540-433-5277 or rwilkins@shentel.net.

Who's Responsible for WB4YEX? – The Story of an Elmer

Here is a picture of my 8th grade science teacher Fred Maas KT5X . This was taken last weekend in his camper on a mesa in N.M. where he has lived since taking a teaching job at a private high school in 1970. Of course he had hair back then. :-)

Fred is the one who sparked my interest in ham radio, rock climbing, caving etc. They say that everyone had a teacher who made a great impact on them. For quite a few of us it was this man. He was a civilian oceanographer working for the navy. He took the teaching job at Thomas Harrison Junior High to keep the navy from shipping him out on the *Pueblo*. Of course we all know what happened on that trip. He said something smelt fishy about it from the beginning and he didn't want anything to do with it.

Another interesting note. His one son ran in the Olympics in Atlanta. His picture was on the front page of the most recent issue of US News and World Report. :-)



Submitted by Daryl Cline, WB4YEX

VARA President's Column – Think the Bismark!

I want to begin by saying "thank you" to Richard, KF4QZG for doing the foot work for our special events station. We are making progress.

Richard and myself met with the Park Superintendent of Natural Chimneys on Saturday, April 14th. The club has been given permission to operate this August during the 180th National Jousting Event. We have a site, a place to run antennas and electric.

Richard will need help. The club needs various pieces of equipment. No doubt Richard will be contacting some of you soon.

Sam Pickering, KF4EKV requested help, and VARA came to the rescue. Thanks go out to Frank, WD4LES who donated a 2 meter rig and power supply, and to Ray, KE4NNV and Bennie, N4BCC for building a J-pole antenna for Sam.

Sam will now be able to get on two meters. If you hear him on the air, take time to chat with him. It is heart warming to see fellow amateur radio operators step up to the plate and help one of their own.

The MS walk in Waynesboro was held on Sunday, April 22nd. Thank you all for your participa-

tion. See the article by Ken, KE4GKD with photos in living color.

Where will VARA meet in May? Stay tuned, check your e-mail.

Bismark, the new restaurant in town is scheduled to open for business on the 24th of April. Pat, KD4WWF and myself are going to visit with the new owner and discuss meeting there. Bismark is located on the corner of Churchville Ave (Route 250) and Gurbert Avenue (there is a stop light).

Clint, KB4OLM filled in the club on preparations for Field Day in

June. Everyone involved has done a great job. Now we need workers and some equipment.

Please contact Clint, Dave, AD4TJ, or Bennie, N4BCC if you can loan equipment or help set up.

Speaking of Bennie, **HE IS NOW THE HOLDER OF A GENERAL CLASS LICENSE. WAY TO GO MR. N4BCC.** Bennie is an inspiration. He never quit!

Until we meet again, 73, from Greg, W4GRC

MARA President's Column – ARES: the Sign of the Ham

Last month's meeting was the annual Homebrew Show 'n Tell. Thanks to those that brought something to present at the meeting.

This month the program subject is ARES. For those that are new to ham radio, ARES stands for Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

The purpose of ARES is to provide communications during a disaster. ARES is not a club function, but it often seems that it is because of the time that we devote to it.

Our club meetings are the best way for the local ARES organization has to communicate with the local ham population. I don't know for sure, but I would guess that most of the club members are also ARES members.

ARES is the way that government officials best know about amateur radio. Dale, N4DAI, the District Emergency Coordinator, has mentioned on several occasion the we are known to the local authorities as "those guys that helped us" during some emergency.

They may not know us by name, but they certainly know who we are and what we can do. Let's not let them down.

If you aren't involved in ARES, or don't know what it is all about, this is your chance to find out what is going on and how you can get involved.

I hope to see everyone at the May meeting at Ever's Restaurant on Rt. 11 north of Mt Crawford at 6:30 pm for dinner, or 7:30 pm for the meeting. Tell the hostess that you are there for the Ham Radio

meeting, and they will show you to our room.

Gerald, KN4FM

Put the "Jack" in the Box: MARA now has its own Address!

The MARA club has a new address!! The Board decided that we should have a post office box to simplify things when the board members change, especially the treasurer because of the official mailings (Insurance policy, things dealing with the Corporation, etc.)

The official MARA address is:

**MARA
PO Box 1882
Harrisonburg, VA 22801**

Spirit of Service Past: April 22 MS Walk in Waynesboro

On Sunday April 22, 2001 the VARA Club provided communications for the MS Walk held in Waynesboro, Va. The weather was perfect (not like years past) and we had to bring in only one walker that could not finish the course. They did not have as many walkers as they did last year but all seemed to enjoy and have a good time. After the walk, all were provided Pizza, Subs and other snacks and drinks which we enjoyed.

I would like to Thank the following Amateurs who took part in this event and without them it would have been impossible to provide Communications.

- **Lenny (N4LXP)**
- **Kay (KF4CZL)**
- **Ray (KE4NNV)**
- **Richard (KF4QZG)**
- **Pat (KD4WWF)**
- **Benny (N4BCC)**
- **Joan (KF4CWR)**
- **Ken (KE4GKD)**

(See picture on Page 1 of this issue)

Spirit of Service Future: May 12-13 — MMT-100 Needs Help

(With apologies to Charles Dickens for borrowing his "Spirit of the Past, Present, and Future" metaphor... — editor)

Here are some specifics regarding the MMT-100 event to be held on May 12th and 13th.

The run is sponsored by the Virginia Happy Trails Running Club and involves over 200 runners trying to complete a 100 mile closed course primarily in the Page County area. The runners will have 36 hours to complete the run, starting at 0500 on Saturday, so you can see that many of the aid stations will need communications for an extended period of time. The course starts at Skyline Ranch Resort at the northern extent, and then follows Massanutten Mountain south to the just south of the Massanutten Visitor Center on Rt. 211 in the New Market Gap area. From this point the circuit turns north and climbs Kerns Mountain, hops over to Short Mountain, then Powell Mountain and Three Top Mountain before heading east back toward the Skyline Ranch Resort in Warren County.

In the past, the Shenandoah Valley ARC has provided communications, but we no longer have enough folks interested in public service to cover this event. Additionally, the SVARC is tasked with a large effort for Apple Blossom festivities the weekend before the MMT-100, which drains some of our strength. As a result, ARES has been called upon to coordinate this communication effort. I am trying to interest operators from ARES Districts 1, 2, and 15 to help. Since the event runs for 36 hours, a rotation schedule is required so that no single operator gets burned out. This operation configuration will require a minimum of 20 operators over the 36 hour period to keep everyone relatively comfortable. Since the MMT-100 is held very close to many ARES operators in the

Page County and Harrisonburg area, I am hoping that many of you will be able to make the short drive out on Saturday or Sunday to help out.

The importance of amateur radio communications in the MMT-100 cannot be stressed enough. The event has no EMT units on hand. The only way for a runner to receive medical help is to make it to an aid station and have the ARES operator radio for help. I am advised by the organizer of the event that cell phone coverage over much of the route is non-existent. Medical help comes via amateur radio, or not at all. In a situation where seconds may determine survival, ARES operators can make the difference if we are there.

Another reason why I want to be able to help Mr. Ed Demoney of VHTRC with MMT-100 communications this year is that I have information indicating he has had to pay for amateur radio services in the past. As you know, it is illegal for us to take money for our services, and I want to make it up to Mr. Demoney by showing him Virginia ARES can provide quality communications for a price that can't be beat...FREE! There is, of course, excellent food for all operators on Saturday and Sunday evenings. Some aid stations have food throughout the day, and if you are lucky to be stationed there, then you can eat well.

Equipment requirements will be a 50 watt 2-meter mobile radio as a minimum. This is not an event for HTs. Many of the aid stations are "RF challenged" and the more power you can put into the highest antenna is the order of the day. I am hoping that the 147.030 can provide coverage over much of the route, with 146.82 and 145.21 helping in the northern areas. Those with UHF equipment would do well to bring it as well. The ARES repeater in the Winchester area on 449.175 provides good coverage over the northern portions of

the route, and there may be a portable UHF repeater in operation if ARES DO2 can make it available.

I have not told Mr. Demoney that ARES can work this event. I have told him that I will do my best to find enough operators to yield a quality service while not overworking any one ARES member. If I receive a commitment from at least 20 ARES operators, then I will commit to the effort and start formulating schedules based upon operator availability. Please be advised that Sunday the 13th is Mother's Day. This is not a concern for me as my wife Christine, KC4CK will be working the event with me. I do understand that many of you may not be able to work Sunday. For those with Mother's Day plans, there is plenty to do on Saturday and on into the night. For those with no Mother's Day plans, please come out and help on Sunday.

Don't forget that this event is excellent ARES practice. Operating from challenging locations with portable equipment and uncertain weather conditions. Surely the scenery and food cannot be beat, as well as the warm and fuzzy feeling of knowing you helped many people.

If you can lend a hand with this event, please contact me via reply e-mail to John Roberts, jroberts@rma.edu

73 de John, WA4JR
Warren County ARES EC

More Spirit of Service Future: May 26 Parade in Shenandoah

The town of Shenandoah is holding a Memorial Day parade on May 26. Jeff Maiden, KE4ZLH, is trying to get several volunteers to man the emergency communications to support the parade.

Compared to some service commitments, this one should be relatively light duty. If you have a couple of hours to spare, give Jeff a call at 540-652-8061.

Spirit of Service Present: Why Should I?

Okay, here's why.

This is Ed Harris, KE4SKY, Virginia ARES / RACES Training Officer.

Please forgive this intrusion. I ask only that you read the following message and decide on your own, whether you want to make a difference in preserving our amateur radio spectrum, becoming a better amateur radio operator and helping neighbors in your community or elsewhere in the Commonwealth, when it really matters.

If you are so inclined, I would encourage you to pass this along to other radio amateurs. If you believe in the mission of amateur radio to provide community service, please do so.

The primary purpose of the Amateur Radio Service is to provide a reserve of trained radio operators capable of providing communications during emergencies when normal communication systems are inadequate. The FCC doesn't grant amateurs that spectrum just for DX, contest and ragchew!

Few amateurs actually step up to the plate and "walk the walk." We all seem to be good at "talking the talk!" Virginia ARES / RACES needs amateur radio operators of ANY license class, statewide, to provide auxiliary communications in support of local hospi-

tals, public safety and disaster relief organizations.

During the three weeks following Hurricane Floyd when floods ravaged southwest Virginia, 147 ARES / RACES members from all over the Commonwealth provided over 9500 hours of volunteer community service. This mutual aid response of neighbors helping neighbors was in the best tradition of amateur radio. If you think that your community is immune from disasters, please think again. All amateurs should learn essential safety, preparedness and operating skills such as directed net procedures and message handling. Without knowing the fundamentals of providing emergency communications, well-meaning amateurs who "just show up" offering to help after a disaster can be more a hindrance than help.

Many amateurs think of public service as a simple extension of the "talk time" in the hobby, but this is a gross over-simplification. ARES / RACES members are ordinary hams like you, who agree to register and maintain a minimum level of preparedness. That means spending as little as an hour weekly keeping their equipment in good operating order, being able to operate independent of AC power, participating in local nets and public service events to learn and practice basic communication skills. This is a great

way for new licensees to learn more about the hobby, as well as an opportunity for experienced operators to teach others and involve family members in fun group activities.

ARES / RACES needs amateurs who are willing to learn to COMMUNICATE and not just talk! Would you like to learn more about amateur radio emergency and public service? Would you like to receive FREE training to learn to become a competent emergency communicator? If you are willing to invest a little of your time in serving your Commonwealth and community, or if you'd just like to learn more, please visit the Virginia ARES / RACES training page at <http://www.aresva.org/Training/training.html>

I'd suggest that you start with the "Emergency Managers Briefing" which gives a good overview of what we do. If this or the other online presentations spark your interest, if you would like a speaker to attend your radio club meeting or if you have questions, please contact me.

73 de KE4SKY,
Regards Ed
ke4sky@arrl.net
District Emergency Coordinator
Virginia District Two ARES / RACES
State RACES Training Officer

Monitor Turned Up Missing? — What to do about Problems receiving your Newsletter

If you don't receive your Monitor, please let David know. Send email to fordhadr@jmu.edu, or telephone or catch him on the air.

When should you complain? The Monitor is generally sent out so as to arrive in email boxes over the **weekend before** the first Tuesday or first Thursday (whichever is earlier) of every month. The paper copy is mailed so as to arrive before the first Thursday of each month.

This schedule holds for all Monitor copies, for both MARA and VARA Members.

So if you are missing your Monitor, first check with the treasurer of the club to ensure he received your dues. If he has, then notify the newsletter editor, and a duplicate copy will be sent promptly.



Update on Sam Pickering, KF4EKV

This is a followup to the article in the April Monitor concerning Sam Pickering's need for a 2M radio.

Frank Forsyth had a radio he was not using and was willing to loan it to Sam. Kenny Harris checked the radio out and it does not have the tone board in it, the memory battery is bad and it has two VFO's on it plus RTTY.

We feel that this radio is not simple enough that Sam could

operate it at this time even if we replaced the memory battery and added a tone board. The power supply is only 5.5 amps continuous which is at the limit for this 25 Watt radio.

If anyone has an extra 2M radio or 12 Amp power supply they would be willing to loan to Sam he would appreciate it very much.

You may contact Ken KE4GKD, Benny N4BCC or myself Ray KE4HVR if you have either of

these or know of someone who may have.

Ray Pitsenbarger and Benny Cook built Sam a J-Pole antenna. Benny had some extra coax to use. I have the mast and mounting bracket to put the antenna up with, also one PL-259 on the coax, all of this is ready to go.

Benny Cook and I went down and talked with Sam and Margaret to find out what needed to be done to mount an antenna

and get the coax into the house where Sam needed the radio located. This will not be a problem.

Sam still has problem getting his words out and is somewhat hard to understand at this time.

Sam does have a new e-mail address: buckeyefox@hotmail.com

Thanks to all....
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

Classic Literature: Jason and the Argonauts... —Jumpin' Jupiter!

Old Timers may remember the Ten-Tec radio named the Argonaut. And *really* old timers may remember the classic Greek literature story of Jason and the Argonauts.

Well, Jason Armentrout, N4DSL, has a Ten-Tec radio, although it is not an Argonaut. It's a Jupiter. And Jason is planning to travel, just like the classic Jason. Below is an announcement of his domestic DXpedition:

I just wanted to let everyone know of my trip to Ocracoke, NC (an island off the outer banks, South of Cape Hatters) coming up here soon in 2 weeks with our church. I will be going there May 3-6.

I am planning on taking the new HF rig I got, Icom 706, and doing some operating on the way down and once I get there. I will be operating on 40m with a hamstick, I will also be taking a 20m hamstick, but 40m should work fine from down in Ocracoke. So if your around any of these days I would be glad to hear you.

Here is the schedule I am planning on. We are leaving Thursday morning at around 5:00am I figure at about 8:00am, I will be east of Richmond and close to Norfolk.

I will be checking in to the EastCars net on 7.255 at the top of each hour during the

day. Please feel free to catch me there. I will start checking in at about 7:00 am. I should be around all day until the foreign broadcasters get the band.

Once we get to the island and get settled I am planning on using digital modes to get back into the valley at night, that way I can operate in the lower part of the band. I am taking my laptop to operate.

Thursday night 9:30p.m.- 7.078 PSK31 and MFSK16 if need be (Remember USB for PSK31 and LSB for MFSK16 and RTTY) +/- QRM.

Friday, I am not sure yet of the Agenda, we are given this the morning of the trip. From previous years I am guessing we will probably go the beach or just R&R. I will try and check into EastCars 7.255 starting at 10:30 am and will then let you know what the rest of the sked will be for the day. Anyone that has capability of SSTV I will be sending pictures to W4QDC during the trip. Something to experiment with. I will also operate some digital modes probably during the day. I will also send out an email once I get to the island to let you know the agenda.

Friday Night - 9:30 p.m. - 7.078 PSK31 and MFSK16 if need be (Remember USB for PSK31 and LSB for MFSK16 and RTTY) +/- QRM I may try SSB voice if I can find a spot,

if so I will let Jay W4QDC know on PSK31 and I will QSY and he can announce any time I am on the air on the 145.130 repeater.

Saturday should be the same as Friday. Will check into EastCars at 10:30 am and will let you know the agenda for the day.

Saturday Night I will be operating some RTTY for the guys camping up on the Field Day site. I will meet on 7.078 at 9:30 p.m. And also during the day Saturday I will probably be operating some digital modes. If you are around, I will try and meet you at 1:00 pm Saturday on RTTY on 7.078

And finally Sunday we will be heading back. I will start checking into EastCars 7.255 at 11:00 a.m.

Will catch all of you later and hope to hear from you. I will send a follow up once I get to the island. And a reminder before I leave.

73 to all
N4DSL
Jason Armentrout
jason@atrs.com

Are You Really Where You Think You Are?

Where does your FCC license say your station is located?

Did you know that if the FCC finds out that your station is not where the license says, they can cancel your license?

Yep, that's right. If the FCC mails something to your address of record, and the post office returns it, for whatever reason, the FCC can cancel your license. And a cancelled license, unlike an expired one, is hard to get back.

The law requires that you keep the FCC updated with your current mailing address.

Sadly, many (over 150 at last count) hams in the valley have not yet notified the FCC of their new 911 mailing addresses. And the post offices are now returning mail addressed to the old Route-Box or HCR numbers.

The FCC license database is the source used by the callbook, and both sources are used by the newsletter editor, in addition

to supplemental records provided by the club treasurers.

Both clubs will be re-issuing their membership rosters in the next month. So be sure that your address is up-to-date, not only on the club records, but also with the FCC.

It is not worth the hassle of having your license cancelled.

"All SkyWarn Classes are Free"

For those interested in becoming a Skywarn volunteer:

The Basics I course is the prerequisite to all other Skywarn courses. At the conclusion of your Basic I course, you receive a Skywarn ID.

There are several Basic I classes scheduled for the next few months.

One class will be held Monday, May 14th, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Weather Center Forecast Office in Sterling Park (near Dulles Airport)

Another class will be held Thursday night, May 17, from 6:30 to 9:00 pm, in Cumberland Maryland at the Allegany County Emergency Management Agency offices.

A third class will be held in Rockville Maryland on Saturday, June 9, from 9:00 am to noon.

You need to attend only one of these classes to become a Skywarn volunteer.

If you have already completed Basics I, you might wish to at-

tend the Hurricane Preparedness class being offered in Rockville MD immediately following the Basics I class on Saturday, June 9.

Advance registration is required for all Skywarn classes. To register, call melody Paschetag at 703-260-0107, or email her at melody.paschetag@noaa.gov.

All Skywarn classes are free. You do not have to be a licensed amateur to be a Skywarn volunteer.



Calendar Item: Blacksburg ARES/RACES Training July 28

There will be an official Virginia ARES/RACES training session held at Virginia Tech, in McBryde Hall, on Saturday July 28.

ARES/RACES participation is open to all licensed hams.

You must complete a training session to be considered a full RACES member.

Advance Registration is required.

To find out more, or to register, set your browser URL to www.gilescounty.net/training.htm

If you don't have Internet access. Contact Brian Squibb, District 13 District Emergency Communications Coordinator, at 221 Sleepy Hollow Lane, Eggleston, VA 24086

Calendar Item: Hagerstown Hamfest – May 6 (note the new location!)

The Greater Hagerstown Area Hamfest will be held this year on Sunday - May 6, 2001.

There are several important changes this year.

New Location - Washington County Agricultural Center, Maryland Route 65 South, Sharpsburg Pike via I-70 Exit 29A SOUTH (about 6 miles S of I-70.)

Now with Picnic Pavilion Facilities, Playground Area For The Kids. Just 4 miles from Historic Antietam Battlefield. Just 6 miles from Prime Outlets at I-70 for the XYL.

A covered area for tailgating available first come first served.

A return to old fashioned Hamfest traditions-

A Foxhunt (2 meters) on the grounds will reward the winner with a prize.

Demonstrations and regular prize drawings throughout the morning.

Early Grand Prize drawing at 12:30 P.M. (nice hamfest type prize) and you need not be present to win!

ARRL VE Team Exams at 12:30 PM for Registration with testing starting at 1 PM.

The gate opens for tailgaters at 6:00 a.m. The building opens for attendees at 7:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Various Prize Drawings run from 8:00 am to noon. Programs run from 10 am to noon. The Grand Prize drawing is at 12:30 pm. VEC Exam registration starts immediately following, with the actual testing starting at 1 pm.

Talk-in on the 147.09 Repeater

Hamfest Chairman Carl Morris WN3DUG, Phone 717-267-3411, FAX 717-261-9487 E-Mail morriscw@cvn.net

Antietam Radio Association P. O. Box 52, Hagerstown, MD 21741-0052

ARA Homepage www.qsl.net/w3cwc

Proceeds from this hamfest benefits the projects and programs of ARA which include primary sponsorship of the Maryland-DC QSO Party to be held this year on August 11 and 12. (For advance qso party information, e-mail ARA's QSO Party Chairman, WA3EOP at [<w3ham1@hotmail.com>](mailto:w3ham1@hotmail.com).)

We hope to see you at the Hagerstown Hamfest on May 6th, 2001.

Calendar Item: Dayton Hamfest – May 18-20

Is there a Mecca for Hams?

Yes, it is Dayton Ohio, but the holy week (or rather, the holy weekend) is May 18-20 this year.

Many hams are expected to make the long pilgrimage from the valley to Dayton, to the HARA arena, where the largest hamfest in the world will take place.

Come see the new equipment, demonstrations of new techniques, and find out what's on the drawing boards for the future of ham radio.

Come hear the movers and shakers give their assessment of where the hobby is headed.

Come hear the tales from Dxpeditors, who visited far off

places and saw strange new sights, and worked pileups and lived to tell about it.

Come get some great discounts and deals on new and used equipment.

Come watch Bob Eshleman, W4DR, former valley resident, receive the coveted DeSoto Cup as the world's top DX'er and be inducted into the DX Hall of Fame.

Come for the excitement, and just the experience of being at Dayton's Hamvention.

There are many hams going this year. Get on one of the nets and inquire about sharing rides, or come to a meeting and ask around. Dayton is an experience which every ham should get at least once in his or her lifetime.

Calendar Item: Manassas Hamfest – June 3

It's always the first Sunday in June!

And now, our Hamfest is AIR CONDITIONED!

The Manassas, VA Hamfest will take place on June 3, 2001, 7am - 3pm, sponsored by the "Ole Virginia Hams" ARC at the Prince William County Fairgrounds, Manassas, VA.

Open to the public at 7am, Tailgaters at 6am. Admission is \$5.00 per person; Tailgating is \$5.00 additional per space. All activities are wheelchair accessible. Talk-In on 146.970-224.660- or 442.200+ MHz.

Unlimited Tailgating space will be available. Come share your junk box with those who treasure your junk.

For general information contact Mary Lu, KB4EFP on Tel: 703/369-2877, or email "MBIasd1638@aol.com".

The ARRL Roanoke Division Officers will be present. The 4th Call Area QSL Bureau Representatives will be present. DXCC QSL Card Checking will be available. The "Virginia QSO Party" awards will be presented.

VE Testing will also be held on June 3rd in conjunction with the hamfest. Contact Ruth, KU4WH on Tel: 703/331-1234, or email "Frizzy2@aol.com" for details.

Visit our web site: <http://www.qsl.net/olevahams> for details regarding Hotels/Motels, Directions, etc.

Calendar Item: Field Day – June 23-24

Don't forget: Plan now to join the fun at Field Day – Always the fourth full weekend of June.

This year's Field Day Committee has already spent hours planning the event.

Bring a friend. Join us on the mountain, between Reddish Knob and Flagpole Mountain.

And don't miss next Month's Monitor. That issue will have all the details, maps, directions, and information on the event.

Norman Benner, KA4EEN, provided the picture at right., of Ken Harris, KE4GKD.

As you can see by the photo, the excitement and action at Field Day is unmatched.

While it may appear that Kenny is just resting after a hard night of working SSB on 20-meter phone, Norman informs us that Kenny is actually performing his famous "It never rains at Field Day" mantra, in an attempt to keep the thunderstorms at bay.

Whatever it is that he's doing, it must work. Because, it never rains at Field Day.



Right: Ken Harris, KE4GKD, busy demonstrating the excitement of Field Day 2000, by converting an expected thunderstorm into nothing more than a very heavy dew.

Hail, Thou, Sir Knight! I Praythee, QSL our Special Event Station, Forsooth!

The VARA has voted to operate a Special Event Station on August 18, 2001 at Natural Chimneys State Park. The station will celebrate the 180th Natural Chimneys Jousting Tournament. The jousting competition at Natural Chimneys State Park is the oldest continuously held sporting event in North America.

The purpose of the Special Event Station for the VARA club is twofold. The club was looking for a way to educate the public about Amateur Radio and to hopefully generate interest in license classes we plan to hold in the fall. Secondly, we wanted the fun of operating a Special Event Station at an event that was unique to our area. Jousting is certainly an unusual sport and should provide the basis for an interesting and desirable certificate.

The park manager, Derek Flory, has been very supportive of our efforts. He presented our proposal to the jousting sanctioning organization and they are interested in our participation as a way to increase awareness of the tournament.

Derek Flory has made an ideal location available for the Special Event Station. We will be close to the chimneys and in a location that will also allow us to be near the competition and in plain view of the public. We will be permitted to camp at the location of our station during the evenings of the 17th and 18th. There is power available at the station site and a number of large trees for antenna supports.

This event promises to be a lot of fun and it should be a good chance to let others know about Amateur Radio. So, if the idea of taking part in this Special Event Station appeals to you please consider volunteering to help out. There will be a lot to do to prepare for this event and of course there will be a need for operators, backup operators, and hams who enjoy interacting with the public and telling them about the Amateur Radio hobby. Participation is not limited to VARA members; there should be plenty to do for anyone who wants to help out.

Richard L. Huttinger KF4QZG
VARA Vice President
e-mail: cayuse97@cfw.com

Calendar Item:
August 18: Jousting
Tournament Special
Event!



MARA Secretary's Report, April 5, 2001 Meeting

The meeting began with introduction and the welcoming of two guests, Don, KC4AFH and Jimmi Mallory.

Twenty five folks signed the attendance sheet. . Two of these were our guests.

Old Business

a. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

b. A vote was made on the welcoming of two new members with a unanimous yes. They are Ellwood Schrader, KB4DJN and Bryan Fordham, KG4JOE

c. Soon there will be a class available to introduce those interested in the wonderful world of Amateur Radio. It will be led by N4DAI. There was much meaningful discussion on the need to arrange location, advertising, and updating of material. Many members appear to be willing to assist with the class.

Committee Reports

a. Treasurer: Sandy, K4PZC [?-money] We now have a Post Office Box courtesy of Sandy. It is: MARA , Post Office Box 1882, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

b. Public Service: Doug, N4DUG: The first event of the year will be coverage of the March of Dimes Walk on April 26. The march will begin and end at KMART on University Blvd. near Route 33. Doug is looking for Amateurs to cover the walk.

c. ARES: Dale, N4DAI The county has purchased a bus to be used for communication purposes. A complete Amateur Station will be included. Dale has been given the go-ahead to purchase radio equipment. It would be helpful if we could have or acquire a computer with monitor so we could operate digitally. Any thoughts on this?

d. ARES Net: Norman, KA4EEN The list for Net Control Operators was circulated. Volunteers?

e. VE: Gayle, KU4XN It is planned that there will be a testing session for persons interested in obtaining Amateur Licenses on the first Saturday of every even month this year. Testing by our VE examiners will take place in the Woodmans Insurance Building on Route 42 just north of Dayton. The next testing session will be on April 14 at 9 a.m.

New Business

a. Received an application form for new member from Eric Lantz. It will be voted upon at our May meeting.

b. 50/50 drawing was won by Bob Steere, N1QEQ in the amount of \$10.50.

c. Field Day - Much discussion. Motion was made that we operate in 3A mode with one of

the stations being a digital operation. [The VARA Club has voted to operate the same way]. The motion was seconded and accepted by the members.

d. Other: There will be a Manassas Old Fashioned Hamfest on June 3, 2001 at Prince William County Fairgrounds. The talk-in frequencies are: 146.97-, 224.660-, 442.200+.

e. Program for next month to be announced.

Program:

Homebrew Several members brought in interesting projects which stimulated much interest.

Thank everyone for sharing your projects.

Submitted by
Phyllis Haxton,
N4VZC
MARA Secretary

VARA Secretary's Report — April 3, 2001 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association club meeting was held at the Staunton Church of Christ in Staunton on April 3, 2001. President Greg Czerniak W4GRC opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. There were 20 members present and one guest, John Hensley N4IWI.

David AD4TJ Needs HELP with the Augusta County ARES Net. Anyone that is willing to be net control and help David out give him a call. Also David has the forms for the DMV ID. Cards if you need one.

We voted to go with 3A including a Digital station and no QRP station for Field Day 2001.

The 2001 Field Day Committee of three, Clint KB4OLM, David AD4TJ and Benny N4BCC are

asking for anyone who has equipment they are willing to bring to field day to give them a call and let them know what you have so they can get their list started. This includes radios, coax, antennas, towers, masts, power supplies, connectors, rope, shelters, mowing, set up help and OPERATORS.

We would like to get training classes started for the Technician level. Anyone interested in helping teach the classes please contact Greg W4GRC, Alby AD4KZ or Richard KF4QZG.

If you have an e-mail address but are not getting the Club Newsletter electronically please send your e-mail address to David Fordham at ford-hadr@jmu.edu so he can put you on the list.

Plans are coming together for the SPECIAL EVENT STATION at Natural Chimneys Regional Park on August 18, 2001 during the jousting tournament weekend. Your help is needed to design a QSL card and/or certificate for this event. Also for help setting up the station and keeping the station running for the duration of the event. The Event information needs to be mailed in time to be published in the August QST Magazine.

Richard KF4QZG is our new Program Chairman and asks for anyone that would like to do a program to give him a call and get a date set up to present it.

A motion to adjourn the V.A.R.A meeting was made by Benny N4BCC and seconded by Ray Pitsenbarger KE4NNV. The

meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Gordon Batey displayed two awards and some of the QSL cards from Jerry Menk W4BKP who recently became a SK. Jerry enjoyed working DX had an award for working 320 Countries and one for working 5BDXCC.

NOTE: Tell a friend about the VARA Club Meetings and invite them to join us this month.

Submitted By:
VARA Secretary
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

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:
MARA
PO Box 1882
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

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
See Page 1 for location of May meeting.

Visitors are welcome.

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