

October 2001

MARA/VARA MONITOR

Published Monthly for Radio Amateurs in the Shenandoah Valley

Bike Virginia – October 19-20

Bike Virginia is a state-wide organization of bicycle enthusiasts. They sponsor a Fall Foliage Festival ride through the Shenandoah Valley every October about the time the leaves change color. Ham radio operators serve as mobile safety monitors. Hams ride the route in their cars, and report (and if they want, also assist) bikers needing aid and rescue.

The importance of having safety monitors was underscored last year, when a biker died after suffering a massive heart attack during the event.

To participate effectively as a SAG vehicle you need a mobile 2-meter radio in your car or truck. To participate as a base station at a rest stop, water station or support center, you need a 2m HT with an external antenna, or preferably a portable 2-meter radio with a battery that will last several hours. To assist as net control, you simply need the ability to stay cool under stress, although a year or two of experience with the event would help.

Ham operators are needed for Saturday and Sunday. You don't need to spend all day. A couple of hours would be appreciated. It's relaxing to ride around the backroads and by-ways of western Augusta and Rockingham counties enjoying the scenery. Full-day participants usually get a nice silk-screen T-shirt and a free meal, too.

Greg Czerniak, W4GRC, is heading up the planning effort. More details will be finalized at the October VARA meeting at Shoney's in Staunton on October 2nd.

Take a Moment... for W4XD

Joe Moomaw, one of the elder statesmen of ham radio in the Shenandoah Valley, is suffering from Parkinson's disease. As you recall, Joe has been active on the bands for years, even letting us use his call for Field Day. Art Williams, W4TY, recently talked to Joe, and discovered that he is losing ground fast. His medication no longer keeps his symptoms under control, and the doctors believe the disease has progressed to the point where other control measures may be ineffective.

Being in a nursing home can be very lonely, especially when the chances for recovery are what they are with Joe. If you have a moment or two, he would certainly enjoy knowing that his friends here in the valley remember him. You can brighten his day by contacting him at:

Joseph F Moomaw Jr
Walter Reed Convalescent Center Room P13
P O Box 887
Gloucester, VA 23061

Phone: 1 804 693 4356

Have You Heard – ? New NOAA Weather Radio Station Now Fully Operational

David Damon, K4DND, is still welcoming signal reports on the new NOAA weather radio transmitter at Fan Mountain, near Coveseville, Virginia.

The new transmitter was put on the air with the help of the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club. It is intended to deliver NOAA information to Charlottesville and the surrounding area. However, the transmitter can apparently be heard quite well in much of Rockingham and Augusta counties, too.

The transmitter is located just east of Route 29, a few miles south of Charlottesville. The installation required new telephone lines be run to the mountaintop: one for control of the transmitter, and the other to carry the audio signal (from the Sterling forecast office).

Rumors circulated that the transmitter was to be installed on Buck's Elbow Mountain. Such a location would have provided clear coverage of the entire valley. However, the location was deemed too close to the NRAO radio observatory, because of the station's power and the continuous nature of its broadcasts.

After the AARC operators (who serve as auxiliary control operators) have a chance to get better acquainted with the software and know what and how to query it, the AARC should have someone willing to give a short presentation to nearby ham clubs.

The transmitter carries full forecasts and reports for the Shenandoah Valley, similar to those carried on the Moorefield station..

Be sure to program the new frequency into your radios. If Moorefield goes off the air, you can still receive NOAA broadcasts. In fact, some areas may receive the new transmitter better than they can Moorefield. If this is the case, be sure to let David know by dropping him an email at: dnd@virginia.edu

The new station is on 162.450 MHz. The system is comprised of 2 separate transmitters, each capable of running well over 1KW, but both are currently set for a maximum power output of 1KW. If the working transmitter output drops below 500W, the system will automatically bring up the secondary transmitter, and make the switch.

FIELD DAY 2001 PINS

Bob Steere, N1QEQ, wants to make sure everyone who participated in Field Day 2001 received their Field Day pins. If you have not yet received your pin, contact Bob via email at N1QEQ@aol.com. If you don't have email, contact the newsletter editor and he will forward your request.



"Testing One Two Three" VE Session – October 6

October is already here and we have not finished all of the summer time jobs. But is this not the way it happens. With fall and winter on it's way this is a good time to start thinking about that upgrade you have been putting off. I have had several people tell me, "I will see you at the test session to upgrade." There is no time better to do this than the upcoming session, October 6.

See you there.

Gayle Shull, KU4XN
Exam Coordinator

"Everything but the Ants!" VARA Picnic Report

The VARA Picnic was held Saturday Sept. 15 in Staunton at Gypsy Hill Park. It was a little cool and windy when Pat got there at 4 :30 am to reserve the shelter behind the Armory. Ken, Ray Pitsenbarger and myself (Ray Colvin) came by to relieve until others started arriving for the picnic. As the sun came up and the wind died down a little it turned out to be a nice day for the picnic. Greg and I kept three gas grills busy cooking the hamburgers and hot dogs. Everyone brought a covered dish, drinks and a lawn chair. We had 27 present and no complaints of anyone going away hungry. Everyone enjoyed setting around talking and joking afterwards until around 3:00 pm in the evening.

Thanks to everyone for their help that made it all possible.

Ray Colvin KE4HVR

Going "Cross-Country" Means Getting "A Little Off Track" ... — EMHS Cross-Country Public Service Report

This month several local Hams were involved with the EMHS cross country event.

This event brings together hundreds of athletes from area High Schools. We had a beautiful day and lots of help.

Other than a glancing blow from a low limb of a tree to one of the runners, there were the usual cases of asthma, general fatigue and a realization that the race was much farther than some had anticipated.

I would like to say a big THANK YOU to **K4NRA, KG4JAZ, KC3AN, N4VZC, N1QEQ, KU4XN, KG4CHL and KA4EEN** who gave of their time to help make this years event a resounding success.

I was able to answer a few questions about Ham Radio in between races from youth catching their breath after a long run. Perhaps if they find that running isn't their thing then the Ham Radio Hobby will interest them more. (Maybe, that's just my thoughts.)

73 Doug (N4DUG)

Special Callsign from Kuwait

Effective Sept 15th 2001, the Kuwait Amateur Radio Society (KARS), in conjunction with the Kuwait Ministry of Communications, has authorized the use of the callsign 9K2USA. All Radio Amateurs of Kuwait will be using this single callsign. NINE KILO TWO UNITED STATES of AMERICA will be heard on all bands, all modes being used by all Kuwait Amateurs simultaneously.

As a small token of the sympathy and support for the people of the United States from the citizens of Kuwait, and as an expression of deep condolence, the callsign will be used until the end of September.

For the past few days many people have asked me to comment on the feeling and mood in Kuwait.

People ask after my safety, and express concern for me being here in the Middle East. It is hard for me to describe the genuine outpouring of concern, sympathy and support that is shown to me; not only by Kuwaitis, but people of all Asian nationalities. People stop me in the street and ask "Are you an American? I just wanted to tell you how sorry I am ..". At the gas station yesterday, I had to argue with the cashier to take my money (after he heard my accent) -

- Now that would be nice if it happened at home. Kuwaiti friends and colleagues in the Kuwait Army call me twice a day (and visit me once a day) to check that my wife and I are safe, and that we have all the comforts we need. In a rather unnerving event two days ago, a car pulled me over on the freeway. The driver (a Kuwaiti who spoke impeccable English) came over to my car and asked "Are you American? I just wanted to express my horror .."



Am I safe? You bet. The Kuwaitis will make sure of it. Having a couple of aircraft carriers, and squadrons of fighter jets, and many thousands of US troops close by helps too!

The Kuwait Amateur Radio Society (KARS) will be doing the QSL chores. They will put together a common database, and all QSLs will be via 9K2RA. The e-mail address for KARS is 9K2RA@KARS.ORG. May I suggest that an e-mail to them expressing your personal feeling (good or bad) may be appropriate.

9K2USA is not 'my' callsign. This callsign is for all people of the United States of America, and those of all nationalities who have been affected (directly or indirectly) by the tragic events of this past Tuesday. I will not be posting my 9K2USA QSOs on-line as I do with my other 'personal' callsigns.

The actual QSL card to be used for 9K2USA will be chosen by the Kuwait Amateur Radio Society. However, I will post my personal 9K2USA card on my website within the next 24 hours. This is a blank QSL card, and can be copied from www.k4cy.com (just click on the 9K2USA link). While the artwork and/or text is not original, I believe it appropriately reflects the situation.

My personal condolences and best wishes to all,
Salaam Aleikum, Bob, K4CY/9K2ZZ

“Kids – 5; Albino Grouse – Zip” – Bob’s Knob Picnic Report

A good time was had by all.

The 10th annual Bob’s Knob Bash, aka the Big Mountain Repeater Fund Raiser and Family Picnic, was a very successful event. The weather was perfect for an outside picnic.

The famous bean kettle produced outstanding fare, with thanks going to Frank Worley (KE4RMB), and Charlie Roach (KG4ALT).

It was soooo good that there was hardly a single gallon of beans left over!

The all-beef hotdogs and hamburgers left everyone stuffed up to their tonsils.

There were only 72 participants this year, compared to 102 last year, but the donations were nearly \$42 more!

Chief cooks were Bob Slaney (WB4WRE), and his neighbor, Carl Miller; along with James Teter (KC3FPD), Ray Ritchie (K4NRA) and his wife (KG4JAZ) and Chester Field (KG4EYX).

At the serving tables were Carla Worley (KE4RMB’s XYL), Crissie (WA4ZQW’s XYL), squad members Holly Whetzel, Irene Yankey, and Nancy Ritchie (KG4JAZ).

No picnic would be complete without the mountains of ice cubes from Sandy and Missy

Mullins (and pappy, Moon Mullins).

Many thanks to all the folks who brought covered dishes and filled the serving table with an outstanding array of salads and deserts.

Besides Bad Minton, Volleyball, and horseshoes, the attending young folks went “ape” over our first Albino Grouse Hunt!

The kids scored 5, the grouse were zip. We’ve got to make this an annual activity! Three grouse found their way back home. Special thanks to Chester, who served as the “game keeper”.

Oh yes, I must not forget to thank all the folks who helped move picnic tables from the Bergton Fair Grounds and back again.

My appreciation is extended to all those people who attended, and for the generous donations to the Big Mountain Repeater Association. Don’t forget. Contributions can still be made by checks mailed to the Big Mountain Repeater Association, c/o R. T. Niemeyer, PO Box 5, Bergton, VA 22811.

Bob, W3MMC

Less than Two “Minutes” – MARA and VARA Joint Picnic Report

(This report takes the place of the monthly club meeting minutes. –ed)

The two radio clubs, MARA and VARA, held a joint picnic and meeting on September 4, 2001.

The picnic was held at the radio complex of the stations WSVA, WQPO, WAMM, WHBG, AND WBMB which is located on Media Lane off of Route 33 West near Harrisonburg.

There were approximate 53 members and friends

present. After a picnic with lots of conversation and good food both groups held very brief business meetings. The MARA, led by Gerald Nauman, noted that next month we will have a new member to vote upon.

Also the club will provide communications for the EMU Interschool Cross Country Race on Saturday September 8th. The volunteers will meet with Doug at the southern end of the track at EMU with their HT’s fully charged at 10:00 a.m.

The VARA had its brief meeting reporting an area fox hunt covering Augusta and Rockingham counties. Our Jason is to be the fox. This will be a practice run using Simplex. All are invited to participate.

The special event - jousting - joined by both clubs was a success with 318 contacts.

Also note that the Bike Virginia on Oct 19 and 20 will be an event to be covered.

After the business was completed for the evening, Ellsworth Neff, Chief engineer for the Radio complex gave tours through the building which is still used including much interesting information about the antennas, etc.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis, N4VZC
MARA Secretary

Opinion Piece – MFJ’s Exciting New Product Line-Up

The clowns at HRO Woodbridge call it “Mississippi’s Finest Junk”, but you’ve got to hand it to Martin F. Jue, his little company offers the biggest variety of ham radio stuff on the planet. If it pertains to ham radio, MFJ makes it, and sells it at a reasonable price.

MFJ offers stuff that no one else even thinks of offering. For example, every time you buy a radio from one of the big manufacturers these days, you discover they’ve invented a new jack/connector combination never before seen by human eyes. They have an army of designers dedicated solely to dreaming up new connectors to drive hams batty. And to ensure a high frustration level among their customers, they don’t offer extra connectors. Nope, they only sell a \$65 “cable assembly” to pass for what should legitimately be a \$2 connector. And don’t bother spending three hours with the manual trying to find an AMP part number, or spec, either. So, happily, MFJ seizes another opportunity.

MFJ has its own army of designers figuring out what hams want or need. They base their product line-up on matching today’s technology with ham radio needs. Here’s a sneak peek at some of the new products you can expect from MFJ in the coming months.

ABF circuit: Most hams are familiar with the noise blanker, which filters pulse noise out of the demodulated audio stream. And today’s newer radios come with adjustable notch filters to remove heterodyne whine from the audio stream. Well, the next logical step is MFJ’s invention of the ABF, or Automatic Bozo Filter. This little black box will connect between your rig’s speaker jack and your external speaker, and filter Bozo’s out of the audio stream. It will sell for about \$39, and here’s how it will work.

Let’s say you are using the 147.330 wide-area repeater to talk from Harrisonburg to a buddy in Lynchburg. This Bozo comes on the air, “Excuse me fellas, but I need to make a quick call. Bob, N4GBI, November Four Great Big Idiot, are you coming over?” and Bob comes back, “Yeah, Tom, I’m pulling in your driveway now.”

Say *what?* He’s *in the driveway!*? Then why is he using...

“Okay Bob, I see your car now. Come on in the house.”

“Tom, where should I park? Behind your car?”

“Yeah, anywhere is okay. Behind the red van is best.”

“All right, I’m parked. I’ll be in the house in a minute.”

“Great. Did you bring the soldering iron?”

“Aw, shoot. I forgot. I’ll go back to the house and get it. I’ll be back here in about three minutes. By the way, did you...”

These guys are oblivious to the fact that they are tying up a wide-area repeater to talk across a distance less than the length of a six-meter dipole! So here is where the Automatic Bozo Filter comes in. You just press the green button on the MFJ ABF box, and presto... both of these Bozo’s are filtered right out of the audio stream. You can now continue with your QSO.

Imagine the possibilities of this little invention! Think of all the open space there will be on 75 meters! And this baby will be a favorite of net control operators! By using the Bozo filter on the local ARES nets, they can all be back in front of the TV by 8:05 pm!

Diagnostic Box: Starting around 1971, the big automakers began putting special diagnostic boxes in their dealer’s service departments. When a car would start acting up, the service technician would hook the car up to the computer, and the diagnostic box would tell the mechanic what was wrong and what needed fixing: “Cylinder Four is firing late due to carbon buildup.” or “Air pressure is low in crankcase, replace air filter.” Well, boys and girls, MFJ has is planning to introduce similar equipment for your shack. Your new \$2800 radio goes on the fritz, you just hook it up to your new MFJ diagnostic box, and look at the readout on the MFJ panel: “Capacitor C64 is shorted causing overvoltage on transistor Q40.”

The deluxe version will even tell you why the failure occurred

C56 and L17 is cracked because idiot operator keeps putting his ice tea glass on the hot radio” or “Pot 14 keeps overheating because hairball from yellow tomcat is clogging the fan.”

Because the different manufacturers have different radio designs, MFJ will offer a different diagnostic box for each major brand of radio. For example, the Kenwood version will have to handle continuous duty. And it will have a VGA port so you can hook it up to your computer monitor and scroll up and down the 800 lines of information listing the problems. And the Radio Shack version will be the cheapest because its LCD panel can be hardwired to always display, “this radio no longer works; take it back to the store and see if it’s too late to get your money back.”

QSO Completer: This little baby is the logical outgrowth of matching voice recognition technology with memory keyers, voice recorders, and voice synthesis technology.

For years, MFJ (and others) have offered memory keyers and digital voice recorders. You hear them all the time on the bands. Joe Ham records one time, “CQ Contest, CQ Contest, CQ Contest, this is November Nine Echo Papa Papa calling CQ Contest”, and he then plays it back thousands of times every five minutes. In fact, most CW memory keyers have several channels so you can also record the mandatory “599 Virginia, Gd Luck OM QRZ”. This way, you can operate an entire weekend without ever having to actually key a mike or touch a paddle.

The logical extension is to advance this concept up from contests and into rag chews. How many times have you made a call, and gotten some Bozo who wants to tell you about his rib replacement surgery, or brag about his Kadiddlepumper antenna design, or describe in excruciating detail how his cat passed a kidney stone last year. If the fellow accidentally lets his finger slip off the PTT button, you can always break in and lie, “Well, Karl, the XYL is calling me for dinner, so I’ve got to go”, upon which you sign and then tune up 25khz and start calling CQ again.

But with the MFJ QSO completer, you don’t have to sacrifice your honor by telling a whopper. This circuit board installs in your radio, and is activated by double-clicking the RIT button. Here’s what happens. Your current receive frequency is stored in the circuitry. No matter where you tune your radio, that original frequency is monitored every three seconds to see if the other ham is still transmitting. This frees you up to leave the frequency and go find another one and start a new QSO, or perhaps go to dinner, or go watch the Redskins beat the Cowboys on ESPN. As soon as the MFJ circuit detects that the other ham has stopped transmitting, it uses a secondary transmitter on the original frequency, and by using voice recognition algorithms, creates a reply on the same subject. “Yeah, Karl, well I can top that. Let me tell you about the time that my Jack Russell Terrier removed his own appendix by using a coat hanger. It was a Tuesday, cold and blustery, and well, little ol’ Curdlebritches here decides to”

The circuit continues to transmit for about 40 minutes, interjecting your callsign every 9 minutes to remain legal. Meanwhile you’ve finished dinner and mowing the yard, and are ready for the 9 pm traffic net. Of course, one drawback is that the bands might fill up with QSO completers talking to each other, and the real hams will all be out in their woodworking shops or cleaning their deer, or painting the bedroom for the XYL.

You can see from these examples, MFJ knows the pulse of today’s ham radio hobby. And they will continue inventing and offering for sale those little goodies that we simply can’t live without, but which the big manufacturers just refuse to sell. Here’s to Martin F. Jue, ham radio’s version of the WalMart Supercenter.

MARA President's Column: "Election Selections"

Last month we enjoyed a picnic with the VARA club and a tour of the Verstandig studios (WSVA, WQPO, WHBG, WAMM and WBHB) and the transmitters for WSVA and WQPO. For those that were not there, you missed some good food, fellowship (also known as an eyeball QSO's) and a look at a commercial broadcast facility. Many thanks to Ellsworth for arranging this event and the tour.

This month we have our elections for officers for the coming year. I want to encourage everyone to come and par-

ticipate in this. This is your chance to select who will be doing the day to day (or should that be month to month) running of the club. Don't forget, once they are elected they also must be supported with our help. They can't do it all themselves.

The program this month will be presented by Cowles Andrus, K4EME. The subject is satellite operations, how to work them and the equipment that you need. AO40 promises to be a good satellite, even with the apparent loss of some the equipment on the satellite.

There are several other good satellites in orbit that continue to provide good service.

I hope to see a good turnout this month for the meeting on Thursday October 4 at Ever's Restaurant. Dinner starts at 6:30. If you can't make it for the meal, the meeting starts at 7:30. Tell the hostess that you are there for the Amateur Radio club meeting and they will direct you to the meeting room.

Gerald, KN4FM

VARA President's Column: "GRC on FRN"

FCC REGISTRATION NUMBER MANDATORY IN DECEMBER

Get ready (again) for the FRN! Although the FCC has slipped the deadline before, the Commission said this week that, starting December 3, 2001, everyone doing business with the FCC--licensed or not--must obtain and use a 10-digit FCC Registration Number--or FRN. The FCC called the move "a first step" toward streamlining fee collection and tracking. Many amateurs registered with the Universal Licensing System (ULS) were assigned a 10-digit FRN by the Commission Registration System--or CORES--in a one-time cross-registration last year and notified by mail.

Details to implement CORES for the Amateur Service are still being worked out. Steve Linn of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau said just how CORES and ULS will work together remains up in the air. "CORES is not replacing the ULS database," he explained, "but there are a lot of questions as to how it is to be integrated." A final implementation with respect to Amateur Radio is "yet to be determined," he said. Under the most likely scenario, however, CORES registration will supplant ULS registration

for those who do not already have an FRN.

Those without an FRN will be required to register and provide one before transacting business with the FCC, whether or not a fee is required. An individual does not have to hold an FCC license to obtain an FRN. The requirement to obtain one extends to applicants for an Amateur Radio license as well as to anyone required to pay a fee to the FCC, such as those applying for a vanity call sign. CORES registrants will be required to supply a Taxpayer Identification Number--or TIN--typically a Social Security Number (SSN) for an individual. The FCC says CORES information is not made public.

An FRN will not be needed to file comments in rule making proceedings. Filings that do require an FRN but don't include one will be rejected. The FCC has not yet proposed replacing the ULS Licensee Identification Number with an FRN; many amateurs already have both, and both numbers appear in FCC licensee records. The ULS continues to be available to new registrants.

The FCC began implementing

CORES last year. The agency announced the adoption of its new CORES/FRN rules on August 31 and detailed the requirements in a Report and Order.

In its Order, the FCC sounded almost apologetic for imposing yet another set of numbers on licensees and applicants. "We realize that the manner in which our electronic systems have developed has results in a multiplicity of numbers, passwords and identifiers," the FCC conceded. The FCC said that once various electronic filing systems--such as ULS--incorporate CORES and FRN into their application process, "the need to maintain registration information in multiple systems will be eliminated."

The FCC said CORES makes provision for the registration of foreign nationals unable to obtain an SSN by providing the ability to register without one. The FCC has required that club stations obtain an assigned TIN when registering in the ULS. In an apparent about-face, the FCC's CORES Order states that unincorporated radio clubs registering in CORES should use the TIN/SSN of the license trustee. The ARRL has asked the FCC to clarify

The on-line filing system and further information on CORES is available by visiting the FCC CORES Web page.

FALL BIKE TOUR, OCTOBER 19TH AND 20TH

The Fall Bike tour is just around the corner. We need your help. We will discuss the event at our October meetings at Shoney's. Please be at the next meeting.

EMERGENCY RADIO

Considering all that has happened in NYC and DC, it would behoove us to keep our emergency radio skills honed. Not only that, let's keep our equipment in working and ready to go if we should need them.

MARA-VARA PICNIC

I want to thank Ellsworth for coming up with such a great idea that allowed the clubs to come together on the grounds of WSVA. The food, fellowship and tour was great.! Thank you all!

See you all at Shoney's on the first Tuesday of October!

73 De Greg, W4GRC

"A Touch of Class" ... Take Your Pick: October 2nd or 4th

It's not too late!

If you would like to be a Skywarn weather reporter, you still have one more chance (two more, actually) to attend the Basic Training course before winter.

One course will be held in Frederick Maryland on October 2nd, from 7 pm to 10 pm. For more information, call 301-865-3035 between noon and 9 pm EDT, and ask for information on the Frederick Skywarn class.

The other will be held in King George, Virginia, on Thursday, October 4th, from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm. More information on this course can be obtained by emailing KF4SLX@arrl.net.

Both courses are official Skywarn Basics I training sessions. You only need 1 course to become an official reporter. All ham radio operators (and others interested in weather reporting) are welcome to attend.

Sky warn volunteers are trained to use standard terminology when observing and reporting weather phenomenon. They serve as extended eyes and ears to the weather service when severe weather threatens the area. More information on Skywarn can be obtained by checking into the Sunday or Monday night ARES nets and asking for W3MMC or W3HXH.

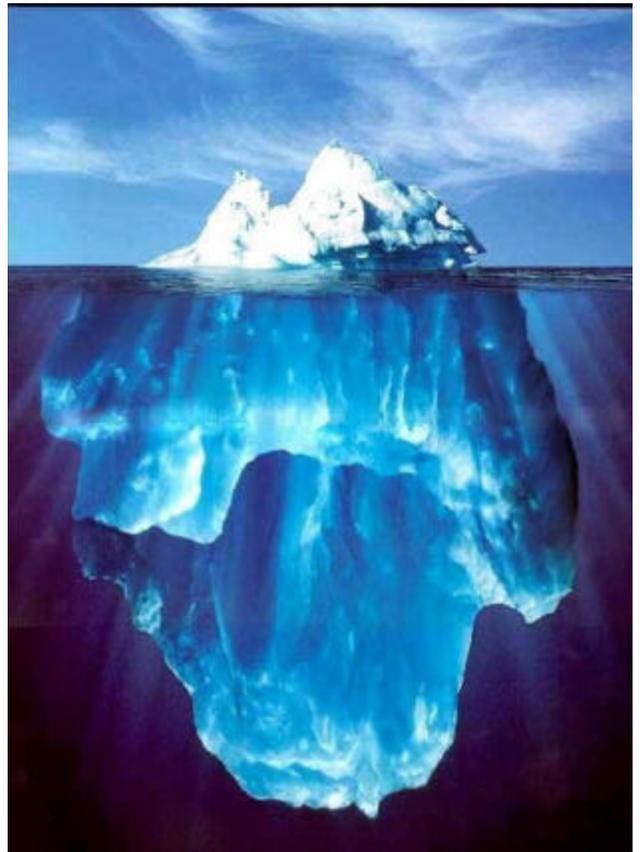
Maiden Voyage of the K1: Wired Maple

There are a series of awards offered by the Eastern Pa. QRP club involving the Appalachian trail. They involve working all of the states the trail runs through. You do not have to actually be QRP for the awards. One award is for qso'ing with someone actually on the trail in all the states. There are numerous different ones which can be gotten under several operating conditions. Of course being a hiker and Backpacker I am interested in the ones involving operating from the trail. Now with my new K1 I am going to have a lot of fun up there. Despite the WX yesterday I had a nice trip to the AT with my new K1. I had planned on hiking from back at Grottos to the top at Browns gap but the WX wasn't very co-operative. Instead of hiking 5 miles in the rain I drove to the top of the mountain at Swift Run Gap and set up where the AT crosses Rt. 33 across from the ranger station and entrance station to the Skyline drive along the road. The

rain had quit by the time I got there but The truck was handy should it start up again. I worked 8 stations. 7 on 40m and one on 20. 20 was dead from up there. For a while some rangers watched me from a distance. A couple rode by me and waved. I figured they were wondering what kind of idiot sits along side the road like I was. Before I could go over and talk to them another fellow driving a park service law enforcement vehicle drove over. He didn't have a uniform on but just a glock on his hip and a badge on his belt. He was a very nice very friendly young fellow. He thought the AT ham award was a neat thing. He said to have fun and there was no problem being there. He said they had received several calls about someone by the side of the road with a wire in a tree and a box. He said law enforcement gets a call if a stranger sneezes funny since the WTC. He said everyone is so freaked out that they spook

TIP OF THE ICEBERG...

Bill Edmonson, W4IMS, provided the photo below, This picture came from a Rig Manager for Global Marine Drilling in St. Johns Newfoundland. They actually have to divert the path of these things away from the rig by towing them with ships! Anyway in this particular case the water was calm and the sun was almost directly overhead so that the diver was able to get into the water and click this picture. They estimated the weight of this baby at 300,000,000 tons. This is a good metaphor for ham radio, where most of the hobby's benefits are completely unknown to the general public. Do your part. Let the community know the value and fun of ham radio. What they see at public service events is just the tip of the iceberg!



about anything and everything. Its ridiculous. He said someone must have thought I was a terrorist that was going to blow up that maple tree my wire was in the middle of the mountains. :-)

He had a great sense of humor and I got the impression that he was getting annoyed at frivolous calls all the time. Anyway I look forward to the next trip up the AT. Maybe yet a hike this weekend with the K1. You guys who make fun of the QRP crowd

(I was once one) don't know hat fun you are missing by being able to sit under a tree with a wire, battery and dinky little rig. Especially if you like the out doors. I wish I had gotten into QRP years ago. One question. Why is it that when you CQ at 15-20 wpm everyone wants to answer you and QSO at 3000 wpm ? :-)

Daryl Cline
WB4YEX

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

Website pending

VARA meets the first Tuesday of each month At Shoney's Restaurant on U.S. 250 just east of I-81 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