

The Monitor

Published jointly by the Valley Amateur Radio Association and the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association,
Dedicated to serving those interested in Amateur Radio in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley

Don't Adjust Your Set!

No, there's nothing wrong with your computer monitor! This month we changed our color scheme. Give us feedback about how you like the new colors.



George Brunk, Father of K4RBZ, WB4IXG, and K4RY

After several months of ill health, Dr. George Brunk passed away on April 21 at his home.

Dr. Brunk was an eminent theologian, and was one of the most recognized ministers in the area. Associated with the Mennonite faith, he received numerous awards and recognitions honoring his lifetime of service. At a recent banquet in his honor, a speaker said that Rev. Brunk "had made an impact that will last for generations."

Dr. Brunk was the father of three active valley hams: George Brunk WB4IXG, Paul Brunk K4RY, and Gerry Brunk, K4RBZ. In addition, he is survived by another son and a daughter, as well as other family members.

Our prayers and sympathies are extended to Dr. Brunk's family.

Hams Do It Again! -- Harrisonburg March of Dimes Report

The March Of Dimes Walk on Saturday, April 20, marked the beginning of our involvement with Community Service Events for this year.

The March of Dimes Walk was held here in Harrisonburg. Unofficially, there were about 420 persons who walked this year.

According to the event's organizers, the walk raised over \$65,000! This is a major event, and the amateur radio assistance is really appreciated.

There was a new loop this year for those who had small children either walking or being pushed in strollers. This new loop was about a third as long as the complete course.

There was a picnic which followed the walk that included a chicken BBQ. I am very glad to report that we had nine (9) hams present to help with the event, which I can report was very successful.

A "thank you" is in order, to

- Sandy (K4PZC),
- Gayle (KU4XN),
- Kenny (KE4GKD) who came down from Staunton,
- Ray (K4NRA)
- Nancy (KG4JAZ),
- Elwood (KB4DJN),
- Gerald (KN4FM),
- Enos (KF4BFF) and
- myself Doug (N4DUG).

I would like to thank all who participated and made the task of being Net Control a very easy job!! I would also like to thank the repeater group for the use of the 147.315 machine. There are a few spots on the JMU campus that are challenging to simplex operation. Once again thanks to all who made this first event a success !!!!!!!

Doug Alder (N4DUG)

Waynesboro MS Walk Report

The MS Walk was held in Waynesboro on April 7th at 2 PM and we had good weather for the event and about 75 walkers to take part. I would like to thank everyone for their time and support for taking part in the Communications for the walk.

Pictured are:

- Greg (W4GRC);
- Mascot (Excelsior - no call)
- Lenny (N4LXP)
- Ray (KE4NNV)
- Billy (KG4JOF)
- Richard (KF4QZG)
- Pat (KD4WWF)
- Gordon (WA4FJC)
- Benny (N4BCC)
- Joe (W4LIG)
- Ken (KE4GKD)



A good job done by all and looking forward to your support in the future.

Ken (KE4GKD)

Big Mountain Repeater News

Did you know that the Big Mountain Repeater (146.625, input down 600 kHz, PL tone of 131.8hz) can test your key pad tones for you? You Betcha! Dial 375 and then hold your PTT on and press your tone pad keys, then release the PTT button. The repeater voice will read back to you those tones that it was able to decode. This works not only for digits 1-9, but also the #, *, and A, B, C, keys too.

The mailing address for repeater business has changed to provide a greater degree of security to the mail. The address is: Big Mountain Repeater Association, PO Box 5, Bergton VA. 22811. If you don't think Bergton mail is secure, come up here and see the big brown dog what guards the Post Office!

For voice, try telephone 540-852-3289. Fax is available at the same number. If you get the answering machine, simply press your START key on your fax machine, and wait for the machine to switch over to Fax receive mode.

Update on the Big Mountain Repeater Picnic: Everything is coming together nicely for the August 18th get-together. The horseshoe pits are all spiffed up. The driveway is in good shape. Groceries are nearly all purchased and stored. (Last minute items, such as meats, lettuce, tomatoes, and ice, of course, are still to be gotten.) The Albino Grouse hunt is still in the plans (if the Avian Flu doesn't cause a cancellation!)

Don't forget the tailgate! Clean out your shack and bring all that old dusty stuff you want to get rid of! Get to park your car or truck right up front here by the eatin' meetin'. Set out your gear and get ready to collect the money. Let's start a tradition of trading stuff around, and maybe we can tell people this is the beginnings of a hamfest! Just imagine: A Bergton Hamfest!

See ya'll in August. In the meantime, hey, Check Out Your Tones!

— Bob, W3MMC

Liability Insurance Problems Cancel Highland County Event

Hello Fellow Hams:

I am sorry to have to inform you that the Highland County Medical Center's Mountain Mama Bike Challenge for this year has been canceled.

After an incident that occurred during last years event and after long research on the part of the medical centers board of directors it was discovered that there is no way that the Highland Medical Center can obtain any type of liability insurance coverage that would fully protect the center and its directors from any liability that might occur.

At this point in time the medical center feels it is in the best interest of the center to cancel this years event.

The board is looking at other options that might allow the event to resume in future years.

If you have helped in past years events I would like to thank you on behalf of the Highland County Medical Center for your efforts and hope that if a solution to this problem can be found that we could call on you for your help again in future years.

Jerry, WD4ITN

Station For Sale: Make an Offer

My name is Wayne Grill (N4YGE) located in Winchester, Va. I have my station equipment for sale due to moving to a new location. I really don't have the time to do the hamfest thing and so the stuff has been in my basement for the last year. I really hate to sell, but housing restrictions and a happy XYL take precedence right now. Make an offer on anything you see that you'd like:

- Kenwood TS940S
- Kenwood TL922 amplifier
- Yaesu FT-23R 2m Handheld
- 3 sections of Rohn 25 tower
- House brackets for tower
- A3 3-element HF beam,
- Yaesu GS800 rotor (incl control box)
- Carolina Windom antenna (new in bag)
- Heil headset,
- Kantronics KAM controller TNC,
- Variac
- Several boxes electronics, parts and ham-related hardware

Contact Wayne Grill, N4YGE, at wgrill@adelphia.net

Do You Recognize This Ham?

Do you remember this ham from the Shenandoah Valley? Hint: The picture was taken around 1993 at Jeff's (W4PJW) house and he was using Neal's (N4XU) radio. Neal sent this to me and I thought the group might like to see it also.

Ray Colvin



(See page 7 for the answer.)

Antenna For Sale

Ken Miller would like to find a good home for his Hustler CG 144 Mobile 2-meter antenna, including a bumper mount. \$10 takes it. Contact Ken Miller at k8kmm@access.mountain.net

Major Events Coming Up

May 2: MARA Club Meeting (Evers in Harrisonburg)

May 4-5: 10-10 International Contest

May 5: Hagerstown (MD) Hamfest

May 7: VARA Club Meeting (Shoneys in Staunton)

May 17-19: Dayton (Ohio) Hamvention

May 25-26: CQ WW WPX CW Contest

June 2: Manassas Hamfest

June 23-24: Field Day

August 18: Big Mtn Repeater Picnic (Bob's Knob Bash)

VE Report; Also, Upgrade to Extra Before the End of June!

Our session of April 13 was attended by four candidates to try their luck with the test and check the fruit of their labor at hard study. All were successful and one person who had let his license expire many years ago, took all three written exams to gain back his Extra. His credit was still good for the code.

Helping with this session,

- Gerald Nauman KN4FM,
- Robert VanFossen K4DJG,
- Ray Ritchie K4NRA,
- Richard Haxton KC3AN,
- Kevin Barb KD4WWM,
- Howard Mullins III K4PZC.

Thanks for giving your Saturday morning, I know it was appreciated by all who tested. After the session I received several phone calls thanking us for giving our time to this cause and I said I would pass along the thanks to the examiners. Just a reminder we have one more Testing before the Extra question pool changes are made: June 8 2002.

Gayle Shull, KU4XN

New Hams In the Valley

Congratulations to the following new hams in the Valley, who passed their examinations over the past few months:

KG4RDH: Donnie Williams, Elkton
KG4RMW: Christopher Burkholder, Harrisonburg
KG4RMX: Ruel Burkholder, Harrisonburg
KG4RMY: Bryan Daniels, Harrisonburg
KG4RMF: Thomas Elliott, Monterey

MARA President's Message

Hello to All,

Spring is here with all it's beauty and warmth. A good time to install those antennas you've been putting off, or checking over/overhauling the ones you have.

As of this writing Jeanne and I are getting ready to fly to San Francisco, CA for her son's wedding. I had wanted to take a rig along, but just didn't feel with all the airport security measures that it would be worth it.

For a very long time I have wanted a trailer, much like those at Field Day, for a portable station. I saved my pennies and bought a 6'x14' one and last weekend I installed commercial-grade carpet in it. It is available as a Field Day station.

I am very pleased with the very large attendance at our meetings. We do have a good club and I am very proud of it. I invite suggestions for programs and projects.

Remember - our program for the May meeting is to bring in a "show and tell" item or project - new or old.

Until next time, 73

Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG

VARA President's Message

Well again Hello to all and hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather we are having.

It was nice to see all at the last meeting and seems like the Field Day Committee has things well under way. Sure is nice to see the two Clubs working together again this year for the contest as in past years. Remember Field Day is June 22nd, and 23rd. this year and I hope everyone will come and help setup, operate and tear down the stations when we are finished and if you can not make it on the above dates quite a few of us will be on the mountain a week early so come and visit with us if you can.

We provided Communication for the MS Walk held in Waynesboro on April 7th. and I just wanted to say Thanks to all that helped with the event. The ladies with the MS Walk wanted to express to all how much help we are to them and the Communications we provide.

Anyone that may have something that we could use as Club Program please contact Richard (KF4QZC) or myself Ken (KE4GKD) and set a date, we have had some good presentations this year so let's keep them going. Looking forward to Mike (KG4OON) talking to the Airplane Club he is a member of and getting together with them for a picnic and show and tell about their planes in the future.

Let's also try to remember the local ARES Nets and give the folks that run them a check in and show support for the effort that is put out to prepare for any Emergency that may arise.

Remember the next meeting is on May 7th. at Shoney's in Staunton and hope to see you all there. Until next time take care and enjoy and REMEMBER it never rains on Field Day!!!

Ken KE4GKD

KB4WPE's Rebuttal to the Opinionated One's April Article

Editor's Note: Last year, the Opinionated One began writing inflammatory articles in an attempt to rile up a few folks and get them to start reading the Monitor a little more closely. He invited responses in the hopes of adding a little spice to the Monitor. Hats off to N3JB, N3JN, KE4FM, and K4RBZ for actually reading the Monitor and noticing the articles. But until now, no one has bothered to respond in writing to the outlandish and controversial drivel spouted forth by the old Geezer. But now, an XYL takes exception to what she read in last month's newsletter, and here she offers her rebuttal.

When I had my first child, they induced labor for three days before they finally gave me a C-section.

Good, now that all the guys have quit reading this, I'll tell you — this article is intended for the ladies only. (This is a little trick I picked up with four teenagers - two boys and two girls. Whenever we girls want privacy from the boys, we just say some "girl things" like that opening sentence, to get them to leave the room in disgust. . .)

Did you get a chance to see that article in last month's Monitor about how a ham can fool us ladies into not realizing how much he is spending on his radios?

Basically, that article said that if a ham makes a big mess, and gradually replaces the mess with one radio at a time, we ladies won't ever notice.

The funny thing is, the guys really believe it works.

They don't understand that we have a better handle on the finances than they do and pretty much know where every penny goes. And they think just because they don't notice something new in the house, we won't either.

Of course, if they want to have their toys, well, that's okay. All boys have their toys. And as toys go, ham radios are relatively harmless. They certainly beat guns, motorcycles, bass boats and big-tired mud trucks! At least with ham radio, we know where the boys are and what they are doing. And they get to feel like they are sneaking around like teenagers, pulling one over on Momma.

But the real thing I want to remind you of is, that the little "trick" the boys use to "make us not care" about how many radios they buy — it works because they think we don't pay attention to changes, because **they** don't pay attention to changes! In other words, they think that we won't notice because they never would.

Ask yourself, when is the last time your husband noticed something you changed around the house? Mine notices my new hair style. about six weeks after I change it! And he still hasn't noticed the new wallpaper in the kitchen, ... and it's been there *four years!*

So, use this to your advantage.

Do you like to collect cookbooks, figurines, dolls, makeup, or jewelry? Just use his own trick and collect to your heart's content. Put a bunch of junk where the collection will go. Just go get some stuff from the thrift store or

the kid's toybox. Or even the dirty laundry! Then, gradually replace it with the expensive stuff, little by little. They'll never notice. Never. Trust me.

Of course, you have to use whatever tricks you can to find the money. Some lucky women control the purse strings in their families, and the men are pretty clueless about what they're spending. My husband just announced that since our king-sized bed is getting worn out after 20 years, we should go out and spend \$150 on a new one! \$150! For a new king sized bed! And he was serious, too. But if you are unfortunate to have a man who does keep tabs on the finances, there are several ways to keep the proverbial cookie jar going.

For one, you should never feel guilty matching dollar for dollar what he spends on his hobby for what you spend on yours. Think of the beautiful necklace you can get for the price of just one of those little "black boxes" that just sits there and lights up. Why, I was able to re-wallpaper the whole house just by matching the cost of what he bought at a hamfest last year.

Second, remember that whatever money you save by buying things on sale is yours. For example, if Ritz crackers are on sale for \$2 instead of \$3, buy twenty boxes and you now have \$20 for that new perfume you've been dying to try!

And don't forget that these purchases make his life better as well. When you look good, smell good, or feel good, the whole house runs smoother. Remember, "If momma ain't happy, there ain't **nobody** happy."

The third way to get a little extra money is to go on eBay and get rid of some of the junk that is lying around the house. If he has ten radios, do you really think he'll miss just one? Haven't you heard his friends tell him that Kenwoods are pieces of junk? You'll be doing him a favor when you help him clean up his mess. And you get a little pocket change to boot.

Take a nice picture of the equipment. Copy down all the little letters and numbers you can find on the thing. Put these in your ad and you are sure to get a good price. And if you rummage around in his shack and can find those exact same numbers and letters on a manual to include in the ad, you can usually get double the price for the thing! It's amazing how that works.

I hope these words of wisdom have helped you appreciate your job as an amateur's wife just a little better. And for those guys who like to skip down to the last line of an article without bothering to read anything else after the opening sentence. . .

I really think C-sections are probably a better way to go than having the baby naturally. At least you can sit down afterwards.

Debbie, KB4WPE

MARA Secretary's Report: April 4 Meeting

On April 4, 2002, The MARA Club met at Ever's Restaurant on Route 11 for dinner and our monthly meeting.

Before the business part of the meeting began, our president Ellsworth Neff introduced John Humphrey, W4IM, the ARRL Virginia Affiliated Club Coordinator. He shared with us some of the exciting things happening in Ham Radio and the ARRL. He was very interested in the QRP (operating on low power) group we have started. Tom Harmon, AK1E and the ARRL Emergency Security Communications Officer, also spoke regarding ARES.

The emergency command bus was brought to the restaurant so the members of the club could see it and check out all its radios, etc. Thank you for bringing the bus for us to view. This was arranged by Dale, N4DAI.

I: Introductions of members and of guests: Members present: 34. Guests present: 3. Total present: 37

II Old Business: Secretary's Report for March. Accepted as read.

III: Committee Reports:

- a. Treasurer: Sandy, K4PZC, 3-31-02 Total assets \$2260.89
- b. Public Service: Doug, N4DUG: Need volunteers for the annual Easter Seal Walk.
- c. ARES: Dale, N4DAI: Arranged to have the Bus at the restaurant.— Discussion regarding providing a session with "message handling" to acquaint member who lacks expertise in this area of Amateur Radio.
- d. ARES NET: Norman, KA4EEN: Need Control Operators for the Net. Also need new ideas to stimulate interest in the net. Attendance on the Net has been dropping.

- e. VE: Gayle, KU4XN The next testing session will be on April 13, 2002 at the Woodman Insurance building on Route 42 South of Harrisonburg.
- f. Field Day: Next meeting to be held at Burger King on April 18. A motion was made to purchase Field Day Participation pins (\$5.00) and T-shirts (\$13.95) by Ray Ritchie, seconded by Bob K4GJG and approved by the membership..

IV: New Business:

- a. New Members: Read Chuck Neff, Jr.'s (KG4NEA) application for membership. To be voted upon at our next meeting.
- b. 50/50 \$34.00
- c. Announcements: Hamfest on June 2 at Manassas. Check our web site for other events.

V: Program:

The speaker for the evening was introduced by Richard Weaver. His theme was "Back To The Basics" The speaker was Howard Zehr N9AHQ, from Eastern Mennonite University. Howard's field is Restorative Justice and Criminal Justice. His hobby is Antique Radios, including the period from 1920 through 1929. He gave a very interesting and informative talk and demonstrated a radio transmitter he built using the "20's" technology along with creative parts to solve problems. Thank you Howard Zehr. Perhaps we could induce you to return and give us some more of your ideas

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

*Sincerely,
Phyllis Haxton, Secretary.*

New Field Day Rules Available on MARA WebSite

The Field Day rules have changed from last year!

The complete rules can be found on the MARA website.

All hams are invited and encouraged to download a copy and read the new rules carefully!

The rules are in PDF format, so you will need the PDF reader. The same PDF reader that you use for the Monitor will work for the Field Day rules file.

For those hams who don't have internet access, we will try to have copies of the rules to pass out at the next club meeting.

Remember, Field Day is the last full weekend in June. This year Field Day is June 22-23.



VARA Secretary's Report: April 2 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Shoney's in Staunton on April 2, 2002. President Ken Harris KE4GKD opened the meeting at 7:30pm. There were 18 members present and 4 guests, Herb Slapu AA2BF, Dan Beidler KE4JSX, Dana Swann (no call) and Kay Cook KF4CZL.

The 50/50 winner was Clint KB4OLM.....More money for Andrew's piggy bank!!!

A new member, Billy Hooke KG4JOF, was voted into the VARA Club.

We had one upgrade, Mike Reno KG400N is a General Class now....Congratulations Mike!!!!

Thanks to all who helped with the MS Walk on Sunday April 7, in Waynesboro. We got good reports on the way the communications was done and they appreciated us being there to help again this year.

The Club voted to purchase a 10'X20' awning for the Welcome Center at Field Day and other Club functions as needed. Jeff W4PJW and Ken KE4GKD will be shopping for a good price on the awning.

Mike Reno KG400N told us the model airplane club he belongs to would like to get together and have a picnic then have a show and tell with their airplanes. Some of the plane owners may even let you fly some!!! Mike will get back with us later with further details from the model airplane club.

The Highland Medical Center Mountain Mama Bike Challenge this year is on Saturday Aug. 3rd. This is a fundraiser for the nonprofit center. Jerry Moats is heading this up and could use more help if

you are available on that Saturday. This is like our Bike Virginia here in the valley. They have a site on the web at: <http://www.bikemountainmama.com> and Jerry's e-mail is: wd4itn@yahoo.com

David Tanks 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. The Net has moved to the 146.850 repeater on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 8:00pm. This repeater has a minus offset and a tone of 131.8 when needed. Mark your calendar and check into the net. Remember without YOU there will be NO ARES NET.

We would like to get training classes started for the Technician level. Anyone interested in helping teach the classes please contact Ken KE4GKD, Alby AD4KZ or Richard KF4QZG.

Richard KF4QZG, Program Chairman, asks for anyone who would like to do a program at one of our meetings to give him a call and get a date set up to present it.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.

Clint KB4OLM gave a very good rundown on the up coming Field Day events and the new rules for 2002 as the presentation for this month.

*Submitted By:
VARA Secretary
Ray Colvin KE4HVR*

The ham on page 3 is W4XD, Joe Moomaw, the granddaddy of ham radio in the Augusta County Area.

Field Day Committee Working Hard

To the left is the official Field Day Committee. Seated left to right: Benny N4BCC, Jason N4DSL, and Chuck, KD5KA. Standing Left to Right: Gayle KU4XN, Clint KB4OLM, and David AD4TJ.

To the right is the Committee meeting with the group of hams who are helping plan this year's event. Seated L-R: Benny N4BCC, Ken KE4GKD, Jason N4DSL, Robert N4DJG, Chuck KD5KA, and Rusty N4YET. Standing L-R: Gayle KU4XN, Clint KB4OLM, David AD4TJ, and Jeff W4PJW.

Thanks to everyone for pitching in.



MARA/VARA

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Return Service Requested

MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.

President: Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG
Vice President: Chuck Vogan, KD5KA
Secretary: Phyllis Haxton, N4VZC
Treasurer: Sandy Mullins, K4PZC
Board (exp. 02): Bob Tennyson, KG4CHL
Board (exp 03): Jason Armentrout, N4DSL

<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: Ken Harris, KE4GKD
Vice President: Benny Cook, N4BCC
Secretary: Ray Colvin, KE4HVR
Treasurer: Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW
Program Manager: Richard Huttinger, KF4QZG

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

VARA meets the first Tuesday of each month
At Shoneys Restaurant on U.S. 250 east 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:
Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW
1344 Hankey Mtn Hwy
Churchville, VA 24421