

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

MARA Meeting Date Change: To July 11th

Do they have a Fourth of July in England?

Because of the National Holiday, this month's MARA club meeting will be postponed one week, to Thursday evening, July 11th.

The location remains the same: Ever's Restaurant south of Harrisonburg on US Route 11.

And to answer the question, yes, of course they have a Fourth of July in England. They just don't celebrate anything on that date the way we do. But it appears on their calendars, right after the third of July!

Now's Your Time: Help Us Obtain More Ham Bands!

Public comments on FCC proposals to create two new amateur bands and to upgrade an Amateur Service allocation at 2.4 GHz to primary are due by July 29, and reply comments are due by August 12.

In response to an ARRL petition, the FCC last month released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (ET Docket 02-98) that proposed to create a new 5-MHz HF allocation and a new low-frequency band in the vicinity of 136 kHz in addition to elevating amateurs from secondary to primary at 2400 to 2402 MHz.

NPRM was published June 14 in The Federal Register. A copy of the petition is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/et02-98/>>.

Interested parties may file comments via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>>. To view filed comments, click on "Search for Filed Comments;" to file a comment, click on "Submit a filing." In either case, enter "02-98" in the "Proceeding" field. More than 130 parties--most of them individual amateurs--already have filed comments.

If the proposals eventually are approved, amateurs would gain a new, secondary, domestic (US-only) HF allocation at 5.25 to 5.40 MHz and a new LF "sliver band" at 135.7 to 137.8 kHz.

The FCC has recommended permitting amateurs to operate at full legal limit on a new 5-MHz allocation, but it left open for further discussion whether to restrict band access to certain license classes. The FCC also has invited further comment on whether the band should be broken down into mode-specific subbands.

On 136 kHz, the FCC has proposed limiting output to 1 W effective isotropic radiated power (EIRP)--or 100 W PEP maximum transmitter output--and with a transmission bandwidth of only 100 Hz. The ARRL had asked for 2 W EIRP and a maximum transmitter power of 200 W PEP. The FCC has asked whether its proposed power limits are appropriate. The FCC proposed to limit access to the band to General and higher-class licenses.

*"Don't Let
This Chance
Pass You By!"*

Virginia Beach Hamfest Date Change: To September 28-29th

The dates and location for the 2002 event have changed from the one-day show, scheduled for the 8th of September, advertised in the last issue, to a two-day show on the weekend of 28/29 September.

The change was made for a few reasons. The FAR show, up in Maryland, was also scheduled for the 8th and 9th. Our loyal regular dealers were having to make a difficult choice of which one to attend. They also expressed favor to two-day shows over one-day events.

Also, this year's Hamfest, the ARRL Roanoke Division Convention, will take place in a new location – a huge empty store in one of our most popular malls - again, a change with positive perks.

Although we all had enjoyed the Pavilion facilities for over 20 years, the rising rental cost of the building has proved to be beyond what our patrons and dealers are willing to lay out for tickets, tables and booths, in order to pay for it. This new location will give all an opportunity to experience good meals during show time, while not paying Pavilion vendor prices – and will allow the non-Hams of the

family an opportunity to “shop til’ they drop”, or watch the latest movies if they choose.

You’ll also pay a dollar less for your ticket this year (\$5), due to the savings of the location change.

Pembroke Mall is less than 15 minutes from the ocean front, for those who care to lodge within beach distance, and the end of September is still a beautiful time for late night walks in the sand. Great dealers and manufacturers, door prizes, free parking and a fun-filled weekend for you and the family in Virginia Beach. What more could a Ham ask for? Please visit our website, WWW.VAHAMFEST.COM for ticket, table and other Virginia Beach Hamfest information, and feel free to contact us at hamfest@exis.net with any inquiries.

Hope to see you all there!
Lynn Lilla, W9DJQ
President, Virginia Beach Hamfest

“Free Food, Free Drinks, Bring Your Own Lawn Chairs and Covered Dish, and enjoy the Fellowship!”

Bob’s Knob Picnic Still On for August 18

With all the date changes, it is nice to know that the Big Mountain Repeater Picnic is still scheduled for August 18th.

Don't forget the tailgate swap meet. Bring your stuff to sell, swap, trade, show-off, brag about, or get rid of. See you and the family there Aug. 18.

Examination Results...

I would like to personally and publicly thank the following VEs for the help with the June 8 test session .

- **Ray K4NRA,**
- **Bob K4DJG,**
- **Chuck KD5KA,**
- **Richard KC3AN,**
- **Gerald KN4FM,**
- **Ellsworth K4LXG.**

We had Ten candidates for test or paper work. There are now One (1) new Technician, Two (2) new Generals, and Four (4) New Extras.

One person passed both the General and the Extra test. Congratulations to all.

Our next session will be August 10, so if you need any testing you have plenty of time to get peaked on the studies.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at Field Day. The camping on site has been very enjoyable.

Wish you were here.

GAYLE KU4XN 7 3



Hurricane Season Started June 1. Is your station and jump-kit ready?

Wildfires Spark Communication Emergency

QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 38 ARLB038
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT June 24, 2002
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB038
ARLB038 General Communications Emergency
Declaration

On June 24, 2002, under the authority of Section 97.401 of the Federal Communications Commission's Rules and Regulations [47 C.F.R. Part 97] a General Communications Emergency is declared to exist in Arizona requiring the protection of amateur emergency communication frequencies.

Amateurs are required to refrain from using 7265 kHz (daytime), and 3990 kHz (night time) plus or minus 3 kHz unless they are taking part in the handling of emergency traffic. This order is effective immediately until rescinded but may be as long as 14 days.

Arlan K Van Doorn, Senior Advisor for Public Safety Enforcement Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC.

W1AW will discontinue its 3990 kHz phone bulletin, transmitted daily at 0145z, until the declaration is rescinded. NNNN /EX



Stay off 7265 kHz and 3990 kHz, plus or minus 3 kHz to leave plenty of room for fire-related communications

VOPEX Drill: Wednesday, July 16th

Message From Virginia ARES/RACES List

Hi All. It is VOPEX time! Virginia RACES has again been asked to staff the VAEOC and reactor LEOF at North Anna. Additionally, our local people will staff their normal county operations units. Date: 16 July 2002. The registration page is up on the web site at www.varaces.org Just click on VOPEX.

Additionally, the full details of who will do what, per VDEM, can be viewed at: http://www.va-ares.org/VOPEX_1-2002/VOPEX_FV.pdf

Those of you who will be free on Wednesday, July 16th, 2002 are strongly encouraged to participate.

A very important note: Registration is REQUIRED for this drill. Due to heightened security concerns, registration cutoff will 6 July 2002, 9 PM. The information you supply will be sent, on 7 July 2002, to VDEM for background checks as required, as we have done for the past 8 years.

Those of you who have specific requests for assignments, please forward to VOPEX-2002@kr4uq.org so the information can be included with your registration, to be sent to VDEM.

Very 73/Tony Amato
State Emergency Radio Officer
Virginia RACES
www.varaces.org

*Note: Advance
Registration is
Required for this
Training Exercise!*

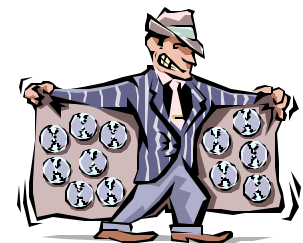
For Sale: FT-1000MP in Excellent Condition. Also QRP Rig!

For sale: Yaesu FT-1000 MP in excellent condition Includes mike, manual, video, and original shipping boxes. \$1500.

MFJ 9020 20M CW QRP rig with optional audio filter and Curtis keyer installed.

Also includes two 5AH batteries and homebrew ps/charger. \$125.

Contact Richard Wilkins, KR4V. Or email at rlwilkins@adelphia.net or phone (Harrisonburg) 433-5277.



Delivery Negotiable



This year the Valley sure could've used a little rain on Field Day!

MARA President's Message

Hello to all.

Gosh, at the time of this writing, Field Day is only 2 days away and I will be driving the MARA/VARA equipment: towers, antennae and accessories— up to the Field Day site along with my trailer which will be used as the HF phone station shelter.

Why do we need a shelter or shelters anyway? It never rains on Field Day according to my colleague, Mr. Harris, the president of VARA! I guess the shelters shelter us from the sun, huh.

Where does the time go? It just does not seem a year since the

last Field Day. It's not that we are getting older is it?

I am looking forward to the three "F's" of Field Day: Fellowship, Food & Fun — as is the case each year.

My YL, Jeanne, will be manning the Reception/Welcome Center and has been getting ready by purchasing supplies and etc. It is a tough act to follow after Virginia and Dick Weaver, W4HXX and Doris and Norman Benner, KA4EEN have done such a great job other years.

Of course by the time you read this Field Day 2002 will all be another memory and we can all

look forward to the next Field Day. hope we do even better this year although ninth nationwide is nothing to sneeze at.

Either way, we can be proud of our efforts. I know I am very proud to be associated our club and the fine people who compose the two clubs.

I want to have a picnic of the two clubs very soon as everyone had such a good time at our last one last September.

As Paul Harvey says:
Good Day!

73,
Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG

"Next Month We Will Have a Presentation on Message Handling."

VARA President's Message

Hello again to all. It was good seeing everyone at the last club meeting.

As of this writing a group of us are already at the Field Day site enjoying the nice cool weather, camp fires and the good fellowship.

So looking forward to seeing you on the mountain. Remem-

ber it never rains on Field Day weekend !!!

Next month we are going to have a presentation on message handling and this should create some interest, as well as some interesting transmissions in the near future. Greg W4GRC will be in charge of this program and we all can learn the art of passing messages.

Going to keep it short this month and again come visit the Field Day site, help set up, operate, and dismantle the equipment on Sunday. Also remember the pot luck dinner Friday evening at about 6:00 PM. All are welcome.

Until next month---
7 3 KEN KE4GKD

June 1 OPEX Drill — A Learning Experience

I want to thank everyone who helped with the OPEX Saturday June 1st.

It went fairly smoothly on our part.

Remember, every little bump we encounter during a drill means one less problem during a real emergency! We learn from these drills and training exercises!

For those of you who had trouble downloading and viewing the mes-

sage form — hey, I had trouble also, I got a blank screen — I was using Adobe Acrobat Reader 3.0. I went to Adobe.com and downloaded version 5.0.5, and when I went to the RACES website I was able to view the form.

The upgrade Adobe download is completely free. You might want to upgrade your reader before the next exercise.

73, David AD4TJ ERO for Augusta

County



Caption describing picture or graphic.

John Hope Passes Away: Weather Channel's Hurricane Expert

John Hope, the famous weather man who specialized in Hurricanes and other tropical storms, passed away on June 13, from complications during heart surgery.

John was famous for his no-nonsense, plain English, explanations of Hurricane phenomena, delivered on the Weather Channel during hurricane seasons.

His career in meteorology started in World War II when he served as a flight navigator.

After the war, he obtained a meteorology degree from the University of Illinois and started with the National Weather Service in 1949. He held several posts as lead forecaster for various weather offices, including a 13 year stint as lead forecaster in Memphis. He applied for, and was accepted, to the Spaceflight Meteorology Group for NASA starting with the launch of John Glenn in 1962. He joined the National Hurricane Center in Miami in 1968.

He held the U.S. Department of

Commerce Silver Medal, and several meteorology awards, including the coveted Neil Frank Award from the International Hurricane Conference. He joined the Weather Channel in 1982. Alas, he never had time to get his ham license.

John Hope was 83 years old. He explained the nature of his longevity the way many old timers do: "I really enjoy what I do."



John Hope, 1919-2002

SkyWarn Classes Announced!

SkyWarn has a number of upcoming classes scheduled.

The Basics I class is the first in the series. All Skywarn volunteers must take this course first.

The Basics I class is scheduled for Saturday, September 7th, 12:00-3:00 pm at the FARCARA Amateur Radio Fall-Fest, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD

Register and information with Al Brown at KZ3AB@arrl.net or call 301-490-318.

If you have completed Basics I and have been assigned a SkyWarn ID number, you can take the Net Control Class, also held at the Fall-Fest, September 7th, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Call Al at the number above to register.

Skywarn volunteers can also

attend the Hurricane Class on July 18th at the Sterling Forecast office, or the one on August 3rd, also at the Sterling Forecast Office. For these classes, please email Melody. Paschetag@noaa.gov



Having a "ball" while others do the real work!



Someone figured it would be a good time to show off a new toy!



My mower's faster than yours! Is not! Is too!

Thanks to the crew that mowed the grass in the field where Field Day was held! Hats off, and a tip of the blade to: KE4GKD, W4PJW, N4BCC, K4DJG, KD4WWF, and KE4HVR.

MARA Secretary's Report

Evers Family Restaurant, Mt Crawford, Time 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 6, 2002.

The guests and members totaled 33 present.

REPORTS: Because of the National Holiday July 4th our next meeting date will be a week later on July 11th.

The Secretary's Report was accepted by the members as read in the Monitor.

The Treasurer's Report by Sandy as follows:

The current MARA TOTAL ASSETS as of 5/31/02 are \$2007.03

COMMITTEES:

Public service: - We can look forward to the Bridgewater Lawn Party which is held in July. We will need volunteers for this activity. The Bike Shenandoah will be in October. More on this later.

Emergency Communications: - No Report

ARES: - Net operators needed.

Volunteer Examiners: - The tests will be this Saturday at the Woodman's Building just north of Dayton. The fee for each test will be \$10.00. We are expecting a good turnout.

Field Day: - There was much discussion regarding the Field Day preparations. All needs mentioned in last month's Monitor have been met. Ellsworth will need help on June 21 to load antenna for the activity.

There will be a potluck dinner on Friday 21 between 5 and 6 pm at the Field Day Site. All are welcome. The food disappears fast. Don't be late.

OLD BUSINESS:

QRP Club: Meeting at QTH of Chuck Vogan. Call for information about day and time of meeting.

Don't forget to try out Jason's new repeater (444.775 and 131.8 tone)

Regarding vandalism at Rusty's site. The Forest Service has closed off public access to the site area which also includes other repeater sites. Hope this will deter most or all of the vandalism.

Swap Meet: - Do you want to have one? Where? Motion made that Elwood and Chuck

of MARA and Clint and Ray of VARA check out sites in their locations which would be suitable and available for a "Swap Meet" and report back to each club. The motion was seconded by several and passed by the members present

NEW BUSINESS:

A new member was voted in by the membership. Welcome Chris Burkholder.

50/50: Won by Gerry Brunk. \$14.00 to Gerry and \$14.00 to MARA.

PROGRAM: Ellsworth -K4LXG - Maritime Ham Radio.

The program was cancelled because of the long discussion and plans for the Field Day activity.

We will look forward to having it at a later meeting.

Sincerely submitted,
Phyllis Haxton, N4VZC,
MARA Secretary

How Did We Do At Field Day?

"A Good Time Was Had by All"

The Field Day operation was, as usual, packed with fun.

Informal word of mouth seems to indicate that the numerical score will be somewhere close to our results last year, whereas the fun factor will probably exceed the results from last year.

The Field Day site is becoming a popular ham family camping ground, and every year more and more people bring their campers and popups and stuff and enjoy the cool mountain air.

In fact, one of the problems developing is answering the question, "where can we put everyone?"

To demonstrate the point, Sandy, K4PZC, reports that someone has a photograph, taken this year, of Bill Jones, KE4FM, who not only showed up at the Field Day Site live and in person, but he actually (get this!) stayed overnight!

Talk about snagging the rare one! Old Timers will tell you that many people have lived their entire lives and never experienced something that unusual.

Regarding point scores, the CW station worked just over 1100 stations, a hair under last year's performance. The GOTA station held a party when they broke

100 contacts, but their final number isn't known at press time. The phone station had made at least 700 contacts, maybe more, but again, the final number isn't in by the time the printer needed this issue.

Rumor has it that the six-meter band was good this year. With the digital, satellite, and VHF and UHF activity, our score will probably be somewhere close to last year's.

One thing is for sure: A good time was had by all. Look in next month's issue for photos, score reports, and more info.

VARA Secretary's Report

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Shoney's in Staunton on June 4, 2002. President Ken Harris KE4GKD opened the meeting at 7:30 pm. There were 23 members present and 4 guests, Shirley Robertson, Diane Smiley, Frank Green's Son Jacob and Kay Cook KF4CZL.

The 50/50 winner was Ray Colvin KE4HVR.

The clubs have agreed to sell the 20M mono-band beam that has been repaired from past damage at field day for \$100 and give Pat KD4WWF first choice at it since it has been stored at his house. Pat agreed to purchase it at the price offered if the instructions manual is found.

Mike Reno KG400N told us the model airplane club he belongs to would like to get together sometime in August and have a picnic then have a show and tell with their airplanes. Some of the plane owners may even let you fly!!! Mike was asked to get our opinion on a week day or weekend for the picnic, we voted for a Saturday or Sunday. Mike will let us know the day and time at our next meeting in July.

The Club voted to let the joint picnic with the Model Airplane Club be our VARA Club Picnic for this summer.

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 8:00 pm. 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.

Thanks to Gordon Batey WA4FJC, for volunteering to be Net Control for the June 13 Augusta Co. ARES Net.

We would like to get training classes started for the Technician level. Anyone interested in helping teach the classes please con-

tact Ken KE4GKD, Alby AD4KZ or Richard KF4QZG. We need to get some young people interested in ham radio so listen for any hints that they may like to know what it is all about.

Shirley Robertson attended our June meeting, Shirley and her Son Steven, are interested in getting into Ham Radio. Steven got called in to work and couldn't attend the meeting this month. This may help get a class started soon.

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. It does not have to be HAM related, anything you think the group would be interested in that you would like to do, OR could get someone to do for you.

There were twelve replies to the SWAP MEET e-mail that was sent out last month saying they would like to have a Swap Meet. Clint will check with Waynesboro Outlet Village for a possible location to have the Swap Meet and let us know at our July VARA Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Our Program in July will be on handling traffic and filling out the new forms by Greg Czerniak W4GRC.

Clint KB4OLM gave a short review on the progress of Field Day 2002. Clint said we placed 9th in 2001 and he would like to see us beat our last years score. Hopefully the weather will hold out and enough help will show up to make that happen this year.

Submitted By:

VARA Secretary

Ray Colvin KE4HVR

Calendar of Events

July 2: VARA Meeting (Staunton)
 July 4: Harrisonburg (PA) Hamfest
 July 11: MARA Meeting (Harrisonburg)
 July 11: Augusta County ARES Net (146.85 (-), PL of 131.8)
 July 13-14: CQ RTTY Contest
 July 16: VOTEX Emergency Training Drill
 July 18: Skywarn Hurricane Class (Sterling)
 July 20-21: North America RTTY QSO Party
 July 27-28: Islands on the Air Contest
 July 28: Baltimore Hamfest (Timonium)

August 1: MARA Meeting
 August 3: Skywarn Hurricane Class (Sterling)
 August 3-4: ARRL UHF Contest
 August 4: Berryville (VA) Hamfest
 August 6: VARA Meeting
 August 10: VE Examinations (Dayton VA)
 August 10-11: Maryland-DC QSO Party
 August 18: Big Mountain Repeater Picnic (Bob's Knob)
 August 31: Shelby (NC) Hamfest

September 7: Fall-Fest Hamfest and Skywarn Basics I Class
 September 28-29: Virginia Beach Hamfest

MARA/VARA

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

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