

# MARA/VARA Monitor

September 2002 Issue

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## What Happened To My Monitor?

Where is the professional-looking *Monitor* that we've come to know and expect?

Don't worry. It will return next month!

The Newsletter Editor, KD9LA, got a new computer three weeks before this month's *Monitor* issue went to press. For three weeks, he and the tech-support guru's have been fighting the new machine, trying to get it set up correctly. Finally, the tech-support people threw in the towel. They gave him a new machine the night before this issue of the *Monitor* was started.

The old "Publisher95" software will not run on the new operating system (XP). Therefore, rather than be late, this issue is being created in Word.

It is an abbreviated issue. There isn't much here compared to a normal issue. But don't fret. Next month, the *Monitor* will return in all its glory. Thanks for your patience.

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## What Happened to the Articles?

The newsletter editor doesn't know where all the articles went. Perhaps they haven't been written yet!

If you have knowledge about any of the following events, please write some information down, and pass it to KD9LA at one of the addresses given on the back of this newsletter. Information is needed on the following:

- Bob's Knob Picnic Report
- VARA Picnic with Model Airplane Club
- Results of the August VE Session
- Bike Virginia Coming Up (isn't it?)
- Annual Tour of Greenbank Radio Telescope (did it happen?)

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## **N4ALS -- For Sale: Tower, Rotator, Beam – Great Price!**

Glen Heatwole, N4ALS, has a 40-foot tower, an HF tri-band beam, and a rotator for sale. There is an argument going on as to which is the best part of this deal: (1) The tower is already dismantled and the equipment is on the ground, ready for loading, or (2) The price is so low, it couldn't get any lower if he was giving it away! (get my drift?)

If you are interesting in this equipment, contact Gerry Brunk K4RBZ at 540-434-0440.

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## **W3MMC -- For Sale: Receiving Tubes of all Kinds**

Somebody didn't read the sign. They left several huge boxes (crates?) of electronic vacuum tubes at the Bob's Knob Picnic after the tailgate was over. These tubes are brand-spanking new (most of them, anyway) and still in their original boxes. The price of these tubes is every bit as low as the price of Glen's tower and beam! You can't get any lower! Call Bob Niemeyer W3MMC at 540-852-3289.

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## **AD4IZ -- For Sale: Hardy Forman's Station**

Hardy, AD4IZ, is selling his home, and has asked Jay Suter W4QDC to oversee the disposition of his equipment. Hardy's station includes a Radio Shack 2m HT, a Yaesu FT-890 HF rig, and lots more. The prices of Hardy's gear are not quite as low as the Glen's and Bob's, but they are still a great bargain. If you are interested, call Jay at 540- 434-7750.

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## **W4PJW – For Sale:**

Jeff, W4PJW, has for sale a Heathkit Frequency Counter model IM-2410. It has an 8 digit display, 10 Hz to 225 MHz, 25mVrms max, 10 mV typical, input protected, +-10 PPM 0-40deg C., 110 or 240 volt. Manual included - excellent condition \$50 - contact Jeff Rinehart W4PJW at 540 337-7337 6-10pm or email [w4pjw@arrl.net](mailto:w4pjw@arrl.net)

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## **N4DUG – Don't Forget the EMU Track Meet**

Saturday, September 7, is the EMU Track Meet. Hams are needed to provide safety communications for the event. This is a great way to spend an early fall morning. If you haven't served a public service event yet this year, this is a great one to "wet your feet". The going is easy and there's plenty of fun to watch. Contact Doug at 540-867-9719 if you can give an hour or two to help out.

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## **New Location & Date for Virginia Beach Hamfest: 9/28-29**

Note the new date and location for the Virginia Beach Hamfest! The hamfest will be Saturday and Sunday (two days!) at the Pembroke Mall. The Mall is easy to find. Take Highway 264 East, Exit 17B North, go four (4) Stoplights, turn right in front of the Sears Auto Center, and the hamfest will be in the first large building on the right after the Sears Auto Center.

The mall venue gives great opportunity for shopping for your companions who might not be as interested in the really good hamfest stuff. Plus, it provides a great food court with plenty of variety for things to eat.

The Saturday hours are 9 am to 5 pm, and Sunday from 9 am to 3:30 pm.

More information is available on the web at: <http://WWW.VAHAMFEST.COM>

Tickets are \$5 each, but children under 12 are free when accompanied by a paying adult.

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## **MARA President's Report**

Hello to All!

The summer is sure flying by. Cool weather will be here before we know it. I apologize for not having a President's Report for August, as the computer was down and I did not discover it until just before the deadline. I have had some positive comments on not having a report. (Hi, Hi!) I am going to be nice and NOT give the August report.

We had a good QRP meeting at Chuck Vogan's (KD5KA) home and almost everyone has their Tuna Tin Two QRP transmitters finished and a few picked up their kits this evening to be assembled. I just completed my MFJ 20-meter QRP transceiver and battery/AC power supply. I have listened but have not had a contact with it yet. I have a dummy load connected to it, maybe

that's why! (Hi, Hi!) The next move is to make contacts between the members before we venture out for contacts over greater distances. We are having fun, so come join us!

I am looking forward to our joint club picnic in Weyers Cave on Tuesday, September 3rd at 6:30pm. Rain date is Thursday, September 5th. Be certain to come and bring your family and something to eat.

73,  
Ellsworth

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## **MARA Secretary's Report – August 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting**

Ellsworth, K4LXG, opened our meeting by having all present introduce themselves by giving their names and their Call Signs. . There were 18 members present and two guests.

The Treasurer was not present so the June total was read. It was \$1,848.85. There will be an update at the next meeting.

The Secretary's Report was voted upon and accepted as presented in the Club Newsletter.

### **Committee Reports.**

Public Service, Doug N4DUG will need volunteers for the September 7 Track Meet at EMU. Give him a call if you can help out at this public service event.

Emergency Communications: No Report

ARES Net: Brian, KG4RMY. Will be net control on August 5. Norman, KA4EEN always has need of net control volunteers. He is almost always on the Monday Net. Let him know if you will be willing to act as net control operator on the net.

Volunteer Examiners: On August 10 there will be Amateur exams held at the Woodman of the World building in Dayton. Exams begin promptly at 9:00a.m.

Field Day: No additional information besides what you will read in the Monitor.

If you did not read your newsletter yet, when you do you will find a very good collection of pictures taken by the club members at Field Day.

### **Old Business:**

The QRP club will meet at Chuck Vogan's QTH next Tuesday which is August 6 at 7p.m. The group is assembling transmitters which are built into tuna fish cans. Later they will separate and test them out. Sounds very interesting. Chuck brought one of the transmitters with him as a demonstration model.

Don't forget to try out the new repeater (444.775 and 131.8 tone).

Swap Meet- Still on hold. Anticipate a report at next meeting. .

## New Business

No applications for membership presented at this meeting.

Arrangements being made for Christmas Dinner. More on this later.

50/50 Ellsworth had the winning ticket. The Club netted \$10.50. Lets shake the box better next time. Maybe you can win.

Annual MARA Picnic: The club picnic will be on Tuesday, September 3 with a rain date of September 5 which would be the usual club meeting date. It will be a covered dish picnic with the club furnishing the paper goods, the plastic-ware and napkins. Bring your lawn chairs. It will be at the Weyers Cave picnic grounds shelter. It is behind the Fire House off of Rt. 256.

Time for the Nominating Committee: Using last year as a precedent, the MARA Board will meet to contact members to obtain a slate of new officers for the club to vote upon.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07p.m.

## Program

Ellsworth distributed forms for all present to fill out listing the amateurs' call, name, interests and capabilities which would be useful in club activities. He is planning to file them in a book making the information available for the club activities.

Because it is good for all of us to learn more about our club members, each person was asked to give a short biographical sketch including how they became interested in Amateur Radio. I am sure that we all enjoyed becoming better acquainted with our fellow Hams.

Respectfully yours,  
Phyllis Haxton, N4VZC  
Secretary

Note: Two corrections in the Newsletter. VARA Picnic to be on Saturday August 17 at noon.  
The EMU Track Meet will be held on Saturday September 7.

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## VARA Secretary's Report – August Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Shoney's in Staunton on August 6, 2002. President Ken Harris KE4GKD opened the meeting at 7:30pm. There were 21 members present and 9 guests, Bob VanFossen K4DJG, Jeanne Neff, Ellsworth Neff K4LXG, Bob, Fred Evans N4KYM, Tammie, Joshua and Jacob Green, Andrew Barbour KG4GZG, Bill Karle (license waiting to be processed) and Kay Cook KF4CZL. The 50/50 winner was Joan Pitsenbarger KF4CWR. Would you believe...she wouldn't share with Ray?

Jeff W4PJW gave the treasurers report and was excepted by the club as read.

The Secretary's report by Ray Colvin KE4HVR was excepted as printed in the Monitor.

Bob McCracken N4JGO is doing the VARA Web Page and will keep it updated. **There will be one contact person, Billy Hooke KG4JOE**, that will report to Bob. Richard Huttinger AA4RH and Ray Colvin KE4HVR will assist in getting information to Billy for forwarding to Bob. VARA Web Page address will be sent out later.

This year Bike VA SAG Communications will be handled totally by the Amateur Radio Clubs. This will be no different than in the past, except that the Bike VA people will be doing their thing and the Amateurs will be doing theirs. We will only do SAG and Communications for them. The date is Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> so mark you calendars and plan to help support your Amateur Radio Clubs in this event.

The Christmas Party committee Kay Cook KF4CZL and Nancy Colvin KE4PHP gave us information on four locations this month. There were other locations brought to the attention of the committee that will be checked out and discussed at the September 3<sup>rd</sup> picnic with MARA. Thanks to these ladies for volunteering to accept this responsibility.

We have one member on the sick list at this time.

Ozro Dillon KD4RD, has been diagnosed with cancer of the pancreas and lung and is taking Chemotherapy.

**Lets keep Ozzie in our thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery.**

Joan Pitsenbarger KF4CWR, is recovering well from her recent illness and is back on the radio.

Frank Forsyth WD4LES is recovering from his accident and back to driving his car.

#### **PICNIC:**

Ellsworth Neff K4LXG, President of MARA extended an invitation to VARA for a joint picnic at the Weyers Cave Community Center on September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm. The Club voted to except the invitation. Bring a covered dish and drink. This will take place of our regular scheduled VARA meeting in September.

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. 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.

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 find interesting.

We are still looking for a suitable location for the Swap Meet and hope to have one scheduled soon.

Bob McCracken N4JGO and Bob Carlstrom WD4JEL are now members of the VARA. Lets all give them a warm welcome to our radio club when you see them.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43pm.

Greg Czerniak W4GRC was in charge of the program and explained how to fill out the new traffic handling forms that ARES has posted on their site. He also noted some of the differences in the new ARES form and ARRL Radiogram form that we are more familiar with.

Thanks Greg, for a great presentation of traffic handling and filling out the new forms.

Submitted By:  
VARA Secretary  
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

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# **Reminder**

## **MARA/VARA Joint Picnic**

**Tuesday September 3**

**Rain Date September 5**

## **Weyers Cave Community Center Picnic Grounds**

Note: The Picnic Grounds Are  
Behind the Community Center  
*And* Behind the Weyers Cave Fire Department.

You can reach the picnic grounds by either  
Entering the Community Center Parking Lot  
Off State Highway 256 and coming around the  
Community Center Building, or by entering  
Beside the Fire Department off Keezletown Road  
And driving behind the fire department and around  
The Softball Field.

See You There!

MARA/VARA Monitor  
c/o David Fordham KD9LA  
email: fordhadr@jmu.edu  
131 Wayside Drive  
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

**NOTE: CLUB MEETING DATE CHANGES:**

**JOINT MARA/VARA PICNIC SEPT 3**

**JOINT MARA/VARA PICNIC**

**TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 3**

**(Rain Date Thursday September 5)**

**WEYERS CAVE COMMUNITY CENTER PICNIC GROUNDS**

**(Located to the west of the Community Center, behind the Weyers Cave Volunteer Fire Department Building. You can reach the picnic grounds from either the Fire Department parking lot, or the Community Center entrance road (turn left off of Highway 256, then turn left again just before you get to the building itself and come down to the picnic shelter.)**