

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

Enos Nauman, KF4BFF, SK

It is with great regret that we report the passing of Enos P. Nauman, KF4BFF, on Tuesday, September 17, at RMH. Enos succumbed to complications from a stroke he suffered the previous weekend. He was 82 years old.

Enos was an active member of the MARA club from the time he was first licensed in 1997. He and his son, Gerald, KN4FM, were familiar sights to MARA members, with Gerald serving two terms as club president. Enos was especially active in supporting and participating in public service events.

Enos was mechanically inclined, and served many years supporting missionary efforts in Puerto Rico. After returning to the states, he worked for Shenandoah Manufacturing before retiring.

Enos enjoyed serving his fellow man. Only a few days before his stroke, he had been actively engaged in public service, providing communications support for the EMHS walk.

Enos will be missed by his many friends.

Make Note: Both Clubs Have New Web Site Locations!

MARA and VARA both have new website locations.

For MARA, the change means quicker and faster page delivery. For VARA, it means they finally have a reliable web site up and running.

The MARA website can now be found at:

<http://cob2.jmu.edu/fordham/MARA/>

The MARA site features club rosters and directories, contact information for club officers, copies of the club by-laws, a calendar of events of interest to the local ham community, and an archive of all back issues of the Monitor for the last seven years.

The new VARA website is:

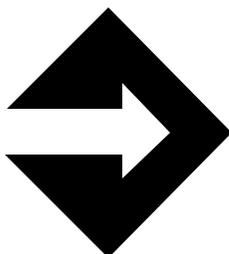
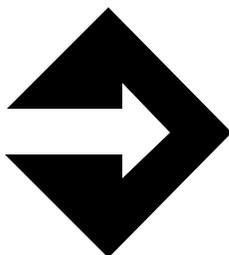
<http://www.qsl.net/W4MUS/>

The VARA website features a list of club members, a calendar of events, club by-laws, and a very nice page of links to other ham radio websites.

Both the MARA and VARA websites are maintained by volunteer webmasters. MARA's website is maintained by Dave, KD9LA. VARA's is maintained by Bob McCracken N4JGO.

These webmasters are busy professionals, but they would like to keep the sites current. If you notice something on the web page that is out of date, do them a favor by letting them know so it can be changed and brought up-to-date.

Check out the new websites, and be sure to update any bookmarks or history files you may have on your computer!



The Eleventh and Last Bob's Knob Picnic

First of all, I want to thank all the volunteers who helped pull this picnic off! Starting with the picnic table crew (after a weak start!), Ray Ritchie K4NRA, Bob Slaney WB4WRE, Daryl Coffman KG4PRR, and Mike Hirsch KG4USG, are to be commended for filling out the small crew bringing eight (8, count'em) picnic tables from the Bertgon Fairgrounds to Bob's Knob – Tough Work and done in good time!

Fortunately, we also had help from Frank Worley KE4RMB, Adam Smith, and the Dove Family from Fulks Run, giving us a full working party in returning the tables.

The early arrivers at the Saturday festivities were Frank Worley KE4RMB and Charlie Roach KG4ALT who manned the bean kettle, with Chester Fields KG4EYX taking charge of the Lemonade and Iced Tea preparations. Special recognition goes to Carla (KE4RMB's XYL) for taking charge of the Serving Table preparations, which included slicing the tomatoes and onions for the hamburgers and hot dogs. She did much to get things organized. (And she was even seen stirring the bean kettle.)

Bob Slaney WB4WRE came up early to get the grills all fired up and actually was the chief griller for most of the afternoon. Additional help included Jim Steiner W3BWD and Neal Layman N4XU who managed the Talk-In, sign-in sheets, and 50/50 ticket table, as well as supervising the donation bucket.

Undying gratitude is extended to Sandy Mullins K4PZC, his XYL Missy, and dad Moon Mullins for donating the cracked ice which provided refrigeration for the food and drinks. I think Chip Mullins KF4LGT also lent a hand to the Ice Man.

Nancy Ritchi KG4JAZ, Crissy Rosenberger, Anne Roach, Missy Mullins, and Mabel Breedlove KD4DEJ all assisted Carla handling the serving line.

For all the fine folk helping and whose names I either forgot or couldn't spell, my thanks to you also.

Now for the fun! Winner of the 50-50 drawing was Ron Beeman N8YIB, and the second drawing for the albino grouse planter went to Mabel KD4DEJ.

The ten (10, count'em) living albino grouses were captured by six cow-girls who enjoyed the "big game" hunt!

This has been my eleventh picnic to raise supporting funds for the 146.625 Big Mountain Repeater. And I feel compelled to thank all the amateurs, tolerant wives, and kids for their participation. It is time now to close this chapter in my life and attend someone else's picnic. I have spent from February to August of each year performing the complicated preparations for these picnics, and it is time to take a much needed rest. I will still be actively maintaining the repeater.

Support donations this year were not up to previous year's donations and therefore it is not worth the huge effort needed to pull off a picnic of this magnitude.

If you wish to continue your support of the repeater, you may send a check to the Big Mountain Repeater Association, PO Box 5, Bertgon, VA 22811. Knowing Bertgon, please do not mail cash.

Thank you again for your support.

*Bob Niemeyer, W3MMC
President, BMRA*



Great Deal on an HF Station!

Hardy Forman, AD4IZ, is moving into retirement, and is liquidating his mid-range HF rig. It is a Yaesu, FT-890. This is a super little rig, about the size of an Icom 735, but a little newer and more modern. It comes with an internal antenna tuner and matching power supply.

Jay Suter, Q4QDC, has checked out the rig, including bench and on-the-air tests. He reports that the rig, is working great on all bands. He was impressed at how quickly and accurately the tuner tuned & matched the antenna.

Everything is in great condition, no scratches, etc. Hardy even has the original boxes, as well as the manuals.

With its size, internal tuner, and matching supply, this outfit would make a great RV or portable rig. It has features usually found only on the "big gun" radios.

Also for sale is a Bencher ST-1 paddle (not iambic) with black base. Also he has, a Bencher ZA-1A balun 0.5 to 30 MHz, the spec sheet says it handles up to 5 kilowatts of RF power.

All of the equipment comes with manuals and the original packaging.

If you are interested, call Jay Suter W4QDC, at 540-434-7750.



Checked out and ready to go!

Volunteer Examiner Report

Another summer has gone. We have only two test sessions left this year, October 12 and December 14.

Thanks go to all who have made this a successful year for the service to our area by furnishing an opportunity to those who wish to enter or upgrade in the field of Ham Radio. Many thanks and way to go for giving of your time for this service.

Again we have only two sessions this year so let me know if you are willing to help. We have other projects ongoing but I think we can cover all of these with the size of our two clubs. So this is your chance to give a small amount of your time to these good causes.

Special thanks to the following who helped with the August test session.

- Greg Czerniak W4GRC,
- Richard Haxton KC3AN,
- Ellsworth Neff K4LXG,
- Kenneth High K4KLH,
- Todd Harrison K4TMH,
- Gerald Nauman KN4FM,
- Howard Mullins K4PZC,
- Robert VanFossen K4DJG and
- Jason Armentrout N4DSL

Gayle Shull, KU4XN
Volunteer Examiner



**Next VE Exam is
October 12!**

Cuppa Joe Optional

Chester, KG4EYX, has provided information on the "Coffee Net" on the 147.225 N4RAG repeater.

This is an informal net that meets every morning (except Sundays) at 10:30 am. Net control rotates around, but you don't have to take a turn if you don't want to.

The net attracts a well-rounded diverse set of hams from as far away as Gordonsville, Winchester, and West Virginia (oh my!)

If you want to check in, just tune to the 147.225 repeater any morning except Sunday, at 10:30 am.

Remember, that repeater has a PL of 131.8 hz, with an input frequency up 600 kHz.

Oh, and you don't have drink coffee to check in!



Public Service Report: EMHS Cross Country Meet September 7



Our first public service event this fall was the E.M.H.S Cross Country event.

We had a beautiful day and plenty of help, which I was very thankful for.

It was very comforting to be able to visually turn runners over to the next man or woman along the course. It took a lot of guess work out of the picture.

We were able to call in assistance on several runners who either fell or were just too tired to continue.

Again we were given many compliments on our willingness and ability to help.

Thanks go to the following hams who helped:

- KF4BFF (Enos),
- KN4FM (Gerald),
- N1QEQ (Bob),
- KC3AN (Dick),
- N4VZC (Phyllis),
- KG4RMY (Bryan),
- KA4EEN (Norman) and
- KG4KUR (E.C.).

We have many more opportunities left this fall in which you can help as listed below.

Thanks again all who made this event a success.

I would like to say a special word of acknowledgement about Enos (KF4BFF) who always was there to help with these types of events and in many ways was helpful or offered words of encouragement to me along the way. His presence will surely be missed.

Doug Alder, N4DUG
MARA Public Service Chairman

Upcoming Public Service Events – Mark Your Calendar!

- September 28: Bike Shenandoah
- October 5: Benefit Horseback Ride support
- October 12: MS Walk – Harrisonburg
- October 18-19: Bike Virginia Fall Foliage Ride support

MARA President's Message



Hello to all...

I just returned from saying farewell to an old friend, even though I did not know him more than 5 years or so. I was dismayed this morning to hear that Enos Nauman (KF4BFF) had become a silent key. I will remember Enos as a quiet, gentle man who got into amateur radio later in life. I will especially remember him being my partner while directing traffic during the Bridgewater Parades. Our thoughts and prayers go to his family in their loss. Good-bye, my friend!

When life ceases, there always seems to be a replacement. Tuesday morning, Sept. 17, 2002, my granddaughter was born to my youngest son, Clifton. Ryan Noelle weighed in at 8 lb. 3 oz. Jeanne and I traveled to Warrenton, Va. to see her (and hold her, of course)! She looks like me!! She is my fourth grandchild: 2 grandsons and 2 granddaughters.

The joint club picnic on Sept. 3 was enjoyed by all who attended. The food, fellowship and location were excellent.

With the cooler weather coming, band conditions should get better and quieter. Now's the time to check those antennas before the ravages of winter strike!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at October's meeting on the 3rd.

73,
Ellsworth (K4LXG)

VARA President's Message – This Month

Hello to all...

It was nice to see all at the picnic with the MARA Club. We sure had a nice time and good fellowship and not to mention all the good food!!!

Remember the next VARA Meeting to be at Shoneys on the 1st. of October.

Benny (N4BCC) will be running the meeting on that day. (Training!!!) — So let's show Benny our support and come on out and attend the meeting.

Sorry about last months report not being in the Newsletter but I think David had computer problems and it got lost in the shuffle or again maybe it was just a lucky break for us all!

OK not much this month but hope to have more in the future. Everyone take care and see you on the 1st. at the meeting.

Ken Harris
KE4GKD



VARA President's Message from Last Month!

Hello to all ...

It was nice to see everyone at the last Club Meeting. We covered a lot of events to come in the future.

Next on the list will be the Picnic with the MARA Club on September 3rd. at the Weyers Cave Community Center so come on out and bring a covered dish and drink and enjoy the fellowship between the two clubs. This picnic will also take the place of our regular club meeting at Shoney's (same date) so let's all plan to attend and have a good time.

Looking forward to the VARA Web Page to be up and running soon and would like to say Thanks to Bob (N4JGO) for all his fine work in putting the page together for the club and I have had a preview and it is great!!!

We still need to get a few more things added and Billy (KG4JOF) is out of state at a job training school and as soon as he returns we hope to have him and Bob get the page listed. So again thanks to all that have helped get information to Billy and then to Bob to make this possible.

Richard (AA4RH) and myself are

still looking for anyone that would like to provide a presentation for the club in the future so if you have an idea please let one of us know and we will make plans.

Christmas Party — boy did I get in trouble at the last meeting but we hope to have some plans made in the near future as to location and date and any other information that is needed and we want to thank Nancy (KE4PHP) and Kay (KF4CZL) for all their work to make this possible.

Bike Virginia is going to be October 19th and 20th and we need all the help we can muster from both clubs to make this happen. It is a two-day event and we will provide Sag and Communications for them. As in the past Bike Virginia has made a donation to the amateurs and it is split between both clubs so PLEASE plan to help on either or both days. (we need you) Jeff (W4PJW) and Pat (KD4WWF) are meeting with the lady in charge this Saturday (8-24-02) and plan on riding some of the routes and making some changes from years past as to how they are maker for travel. So again things are happening and plans being made so looking forward to working with you

as in the past.

Let's all remember the local nets and give them some check ins and remember we need amateurs to run Net Control so if you would like to give it a try just let us know.

I for one sure did enjoy the picnic on August 17th with the Airplane club and we had some hot weather but also some shade to eat and relax in. No I did not try to fly an airplane and I know that made a few people happy. We had 30 or so to attend and some good fellowship, good food and enjoyed the planes and the pilots showing their equipment and answering our question. Mike (KF4OON) made this possible, as he is a member of both clubs so a Big Thanks to Mike for all his efforts to make that happen.

OK that's it for this month and everyone take care and let's all hope for some rain in the near future.

Ken Harris, KE4GKD



Editor's Note: Computer problems last month caused the VARA President's Report to be invisible in last month's Monitor. Although it is somewhat out of date, here is the text which should have appeared in the September issue.

Model Airplanes Really Fly!

The VARA club held an August picnic with the Waynesboro Model Airplane Club. Here we see that KG4OON (Mike) really is versatile: he can cook and carry on a phone conversation at the same time! Far right, we see Queenie and Andrew (XYL and son of KB4OLM), Andrew is practicing to be an airplane mechanic when he grows up. Below we see Cowles KE4EME taking pictures of planes in flight, and Benny N4BCC looking over the craft. Everyone was glad Benny didn't try to fly one!



People in the News – Well, Kinda...

Ozzie and Dan, remember that you have many friends who have been thinking about you during your recent illnesses! Hang in there! Get well soon!

Sympathies to Norman, KA4EEN on the loss of his mother at the end of August..

Billy, KG4JOF, thanks for being the contact person for the VARA Website and passing information along to Bob, the webmeister!

Thanks to Richard Huttinger (who by the way got a new call: AA4RH!) for all those emails sent trying to find space for the VARA website!

Hey, hey, hey! Fred Evans bit the bullet and joined VARA!! Welcome Fred!

Who was that masked man? Somebody showed up in Weyers Cave and asked one of the locals "can I park my car in your driveway while my son and I go canoeing down the river?" The little girl who answered the door described the fellow as "scruffy looking, kinda old but not too old, and definitely the kinda guy who'd go canoeing when there wasn't any water in the rivers" Who was this mystery person? (PS: the car has disappeared!)

Ah, the joys of QRP! Chuck KD5KA reportedly went on a road trip across the country, taking his QRP rig. He obviously operated QRP, because no one back home could hear him! Chuck, let us know if you made any 2-way contacts!

Elwood Shrader, KB4DJN, also of Weyers Cave, is still trying to put up a workable antenna in a house covered by restrictive covenants. Anyone who would like to offer some words of advice or encouragement, please feel free to! Hang in there, Elwood!

Thanks to Jason N4DSL, for keeping a first-class blue-ribbon weather station on the web!

Rumor has it that members of the VARA club are so hot, they had to visit the fire station! Did anybody get to blow the siren?

And don't forget Sam Pickering. Anyone who can go through what Sam has gone through, and still have the guts to live in eastern Augusta County, well, our hats are off to you Sam! Your XYL is a saint! Our prayers are with you.

The Opinionated One — “ A Dozen Things I Wish They’d Invent:”

Number one: A soldering iron that will melt solder onto a PL-259 connector’s casing and the coax braid, but without simultaneously melting through the center conductor insulation.

Number two: A wire stripper that will strip wire for more than six times. All the strippers I’ve ever purchased worked great for half a dozen times, and then started shredding, nipping, and scraping instead of stripping.

Number three: Tools that don’t disappear into thin air. I know you’ve experienced this too. You’re sitting down at your workbench using your pointy-nose pliers, and you set them down to adjust your glasses or something, and when you reach for the pliers, they’ve disappeared into thin air. They are nowhere to be found. You pick up and look under everything on the bench and the pliers simply aren’t there anymore. You can’t possibly have dropped them, and you haven’t gotten up from your chair, but the pliers are gone. Two weeks later they mysteriously reappear in your toolbox in the garage.



Number four: A Kenwood radio with illumination that doesn’t go dark. I guess this is asking too much. Yaesu, Icom, Alinco, Azden, and Standard all make radios with panels and dials that stay lit for years and years and years. In fact, I’ve got an Icom radio that dates from before Marconi made his first transmission and the panel lights still light bright! But Kenwood radios always go dark — or worse yet, half of the display goes dark! — about 30 minutes after the warranty expires! Always.

Number five: Kenwood panel light bulbs that you can replace without a scanning electron microscope and nanometer tweezers! And heaven help you if you need to solder the thing in! Your best bet is to wire-wrap a sewing needle to the tip of your soldering iron. But make sure it is a *sharp* needle! And don’t use a straight pin: the eye of a needle is a great place to hold the bulb until you are ready for it!

Number six: A battery that will transmit a message just before it goes dead. Don’t you hate it when someone’s battery gives out right in the middle of their transmission and the listeners don’t have a clue what happened to the poor sap? Wouldn’t be nice to have the battery interrupt

the transmission and say, “this turkey’s battery is about to give out on him, so don’t worry when his signal disappears in about five seconds. Four. Three. Two...”

Number seven: A beeper built inside those little teeny tiny screws that hold HT cases together! Every time I open an HT case (for example, to install the barometer unit inside my VX5R), I always drop one of those little microscopic screws into the carpet. It would be nice if I could go to a base unit somewhere and press the “Page” button, like I do when I lose my cordless phone. The remote unit begins beeping and you can then follow the sound to find the missing screw.

Number eight: Schematic diagrams which are readable. Lately, the schematics which come with my ham equipment have used teeny tiny illegible writing. I finally gave up trying to read the numbers and designations with a magnifying glass, and put the thing under a microscope. Know what I discovered? It’s illegible because the writing is smaller than the fibers in the paper! Obviously the radio manufacturers have hired those guys who used to work at circuses writing the book of Psalms on a grain of rice!

Number Nine: A ham catalog with actual selling prices in dollars and cents instead of the maddening price of “Call!”

Number ten: A microphone that can tell the difference between your hand and your behind, so that when you sit on the microphone in the car, it doesn’t transmit you singing along with your Ray Conniff tape over the wide-area repeater or the MidCars net.

Number eleven: A squelch knob. The old radios used to have these, so when the static came up, you could easily twist the knob and turn up the squelch. Nowadays, the squelch is turned up by holding down the function key while pressing the menu key, turning the selector knob to option 36B, “set squelch”, which is abbreviated by “LRVNT” or something like that, then you press “Set”, then hit Enter twice, hold the function button down for two seconds and press the PTT key to save the setting, and then press function again while holding down the “D” key to exit the menu. Why can’t they just go back to putting a squelch knob on the radio?

Number twelve: a mag mount antenna that retracts automatically when you enter a carwash.

Skywarn Training Class Schedule

BASICS I CLASS (prerequisite for all other classes)

October 5: 2pm to 5pm in Charlottesville. Register with Dave at dnd@Virginia.edu
November 6: 6pm to 9pm, Williamsport Maryland (I-81) call Donna or Carla at 301-582-0813
November 12: 6pm to 9pm, Jefferson County WV, call Darrell at 304-728-3290
December 7: 9am to Noon in Stafford VA, contact k3ep@arri.net

BASICS II CLASS

October 1: 6pm to 8pm, Jefferson County WV, contact Darrell at 304-728-3290
December 7: 9am to Noon, Stafford VA, contact k3ep@arri.net

WINTER STORMS CLASS

November 14: 6pm to 8pm, Jefferson County WV, contact Darrell at 304-728-3290
December 3: 6:30 to 9:30 pm, Cumberland Maryland EOC, call 301-777-7112

Special "Getting Started" SkyWarn Basics I Class in Charlottesville & Williamsport

Want to get started as a SkyWarn volunteer weather spotter? The Basic I Skywarn class will be held at the NRAO auditorium on UVA grounds October 5, 2-5:30PM. The Sterling NWS folks are doing the course, and would like to invite anyone from Augusta County who is interested to attend.

Also, another Basics I class will be held in Williamsport Maryland, just off I-81, just across the state line south of Hagerstown. This is just over an hours drive from Harrisonburg. Again, all interested hams in the Valley are invited to attend.

SkyWarn classes are open to anyone who is 14 years old or older, able to make simple observations of severe weather, and able to relay local information to Sterling NWS using a phone, fax, internet or amateur radio. There might even be some folks who already have a skywarn spotters number but might like to take a refresher of the Basic information.

Registration is required. Here is an internet link to the Sterling Skywarn page. <http://205.156.54.206/er/lwx/skywarn/skywarn.htm> gives full information on how to go about registering, or see the contacts in the article above.

Can You Help N4XU?

I got a phone call today from Mike Hayden, KF8ZN - used to be a member of the V F N up until a couple of years ago. He had a friend who lived in Staunton and who just recently became a Silent Key. His friends call sign was WA4RRM - John Haun on Frederick St., Staunton.

Seems as though John passed away, and left no will. Hence, John's sister has no idea how to handle his estate - whatever it may or may not be.

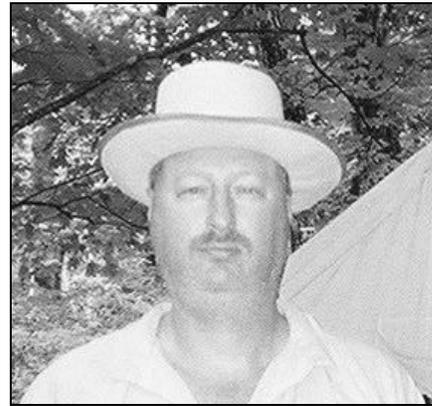
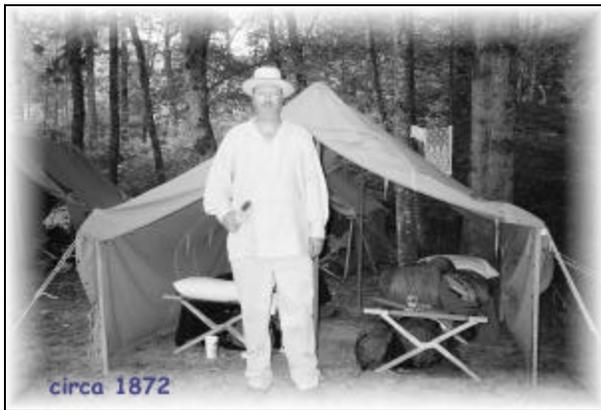
She called Mike and asked if he could contact any of the V F N Members who may have known John, to see if he ever mentioned anything about his legal affairs, ie: who his attorney might have been, etc.

Thought maybe you or some of the Staunton Gang might be able to shed some light on this subject to help the sister in the estate settlement.

I'll do a QNC on the VFN this evening, if propagation is good enough - if not, maybe you would do it?? If anyone can help, they should call Mike Hayden, KF8ZN at (217) 892 - 1658.

See y'all later - 73 - Neal - N4XU

Mystery Ham? Who is this celebrity?



Do you recognize this famous personage from MARA and VARA? This picture was sent in by a ham who used to live in the area, and is now the communications systems manager for the city of Danville, Virginia. The picture was dated circa 1872, but judging from the plastic Slurpee cup under the cot, the picture more probably was taken sometime after 1910.

VARA Christmas Party Scheduled for Tuesday, December 17th!

Go ahead and mark the calendar. The Christmas Party for 2002 is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17th at Western Sizzlin in Waynesboro, VA. We will meet in the big room to the right as you come in. Plan to arrive at 6:30pm and we will eat at 7:00pm. When you go through the line and place your order they will give you your bill, pay when you leave. This price does not include a tip for our waitress. **Mark your calendars now** and plan to join us for another great meal and celebration this Christmas Season.

Local Ham on West Coast Wants to Return to the Shenandoah Valley

Debbie, KB4WPE, discovered a local ham who is currently living in Washington state. He is too far from home and wants to move his family back to the Valley. Before he comes, however, he wants to find a steady job.

Michael Davis KD7PCE is an experienced project manager and distribution system designer for complex telephone and telecommunication systems. His most recent specialty is LANs and related computer network systems.

He has experience in customer needs analysis, system design, traffic pattern analysis and the like, and has managed some big-bucks installation projects. However, he is not picky, and having been-there-done-that, he would now be quite happy with a job installing smaller networks, cabling, and the like.

In fact, he says he'd consider almost any employment in the telecom or computer networking fields. He has a nice resume prepared.

He is very active in ham radio, and is looking forward to joining one of the local clubs here when he arrives. He has an older teenage son who is also an active ham. But before they come, he needs a job.

If you know of good steady employment in the telecomm or computer networking field in this area, give Debbie a call at 540-487-6767 and tip her off. The Valley can always use another good ham.

Net Skeds

- Rockingham ARES: Monday nights 8 pm 145.13 repeater (except 1st Monday on 146.55 simplex)
- Page ARES: Sunday nights 8 pm 146.67 repeater (PL of 114)
- Augusta ARES: Second Thursday night of each month 8pm 146.85 repeater (PL of 131)

VARA Secretary's Report – September 3 Meeting

This month the VARA didn't have a regular meeting but was invited by the MARA President Ellsworth Neff K4LXG at our August meeting to join the MARA for a joint picnic at Weyers Cave. I didn't get there because of the death of a co-worker but everyone I talked with said they enjoyed the food and fellowship was great. Thanks to the MARA for inviting us to join them for the picnic and a great evening outdoors.

Bob McCracken N4JGO has the VARA Web Page up and running. Thanks to Bob for a great job in getting our Web Page set up for us. It looks great Bob! Thanks to Billy Hooke KG4JOF for being our contact person and passing information on to Bob. Thanks to Richard Huttinger AA4RH for hanging in there and contacting QSL.net for web space. Check it out and let Bob, Billy and Richard know what you think about it. Here is the address: <http://www.qsl.net/w4mus/>

The Bike VA date is Oct. 19th and 20th so mark you calendars and plan to help support your Amateur Radio Club in this event.

The Christmas Party for 2002 is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17th at Western Sizzlin in Waynesboro, VA. We will meet in the big room to the right as you come in. Plan to arrive at 6:30pm and we will eat at 7:00pm. When you go through the line and place your order they will give you your bill, pay when you leave. This price does not include a tip for our waitress.

Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for another great meal and celebration this Christmas Season.

On the sick list:

Ozzie Dillon KD4RD has been back in the hospital again but is home at this time and on oxygen most of the time.

Dan James W4DLJ is home after dual surgery on his neck and back. Dan will have in-home therapy until he is able to go to regular therapy here in town.

Lets keep both of these in our thoughts and prayers.

Fred Evans, N4KYM was voted into the Club as a new member. Welcome to the VARA Fred!!!

An application for new membership in the club was accepted from Bill Karle, KG4UPN. Bill will be voted in next month at our regular meeting.

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. 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.

Submitted By:
VARA Secretary
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

Last Minute For-Sale Items

Ozzie Dillon, KD4RD, is selling a video camcorder. It is a modern analog unit which uses the small tape (8mm?). Ozzie purchased the unit new from Wards a short while back, and taped half a tape, and hasn't used the unit since, so it is in mint condition. It comes with an adapter so you can play the tapes in a standard VHS VCR. You can reach Ozzie at 540-885-7852.

David Fordham, KD9LA, has a dual-bander mag-mount antenna for sale, brand new, still sealed in the shrink-wrap blister pack. MFJ 1278 is a short (20") 2-meter/440 mobile antenna with a cellphone-type spring in the center of the vertical element. Asking price is \$15. Also Dave has a working color computer monitor for sale. This is a small 13" monitor which works great at 640x480

256-color resolution. Asking price is \$25, but make an offer. Call Dave at 540-234-0448.

And be sure to see Hardy Forman's HF radio for sale at the top of page 3 of this issue. His FT-890 is a great buy!

MARA Elections are coming up. If you want to nominate someone for an officers post, contact a current officer or Board member and get their name on the ballot. What a wonderful way to surprise your friends!

Toy Story

There is a very nice toy store (for grown-up boys) in the Roanoke-Salem area. The Northern Tool and Equipment Company has a store about a mile off Interstate 81.

They have all kinds of tools and shop equipment, generators, meters, trailer & hitch stuff, traffic cones, even golf carts and bulldozers! They have a "dollar bin" and are always run-

ning specials and sales. If you like the "tool room" at Lowes, you'll love the Northern store.

Well, if you can't drive all the way to Roanoke just to drool, you can order their free catalog.

Over 300 pages in full color. Call 1-800-556-7885 anytime. If you enjoy window-shopping for "daddy" toys, this catalog is for you.

Calendar

OCTOBER

- 1: VARA Club Meeting—Staunton Shoneys Restaurant
- 3: MARA Club Meeting — Harrisonburg Ever's Rest.
- 5: Benefit Horseback Ride Public Service Event
- 5: Skywarn Basics I Class — Charlottesville (see pg 8)
- 5-6: Oceania SSB DX Contest
- 5-6: QCWA QSO Party
- 6: RSGB 21/28 MHz SSB Contest
- 10: Augusta County ARES Net (146.85)
- 12: VE Exams—Dayton VA
- 12: MS Walk Harrisonburg Public Service Event
- 12-13: Pennsylvania QSO Party
- 13: North American RTTY Sprint
- 18-19: Bike Virginia Public Service Event
- 19-20: JARTS RTTY Contest
- 26: Shippensburg (PA) Hamfest
- 26-27: CQ WW DX SSB Contest
- 26-27: ARRL International EME Competition
- 27: Westminster MD Hamfest

NOVEMBER

- 2-4: ARRL CW Sweepstakes
- 5: VARA Meeting
- 7: MARA Meeting
- 14: Augusta County ARES Net (146.85)
- 16-18: ARRL SSB Sweepstakes
- 23-24: CQ WW DX CW Contest
- 28: Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

- 6-8: ARRL 160-meter contest
- 14: VE Exams — Dayton VA
- 14-15: ARRL 10-meter Contest
- 17: VARA Christmas Party — Western Sizzlin

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://cob2.jmu.edu/fordham/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.qsl.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