

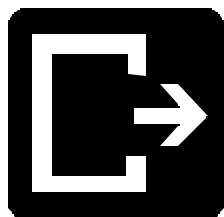
The Monitor

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



3A Category:

1st in Virginia
1st in Roanoke Div
10th in Nation!



**MARK
YOUR
CALENDAR
NOW!**

MARA/VARA Field Day Results: Top 2.2% In The Nation!

We did it just by having fun!

The combined MARA/VARA Field Day is not the competitive, high-pressure effort exerted by most other clubs.

But in spite of our traditional "have fun" approach, the MARA/VARA Field Day scored **number ONE in the state** of Virginia again this year, in our 3A category.

We even scored **number ONE in the Roanoke ARRL Division**, which includes Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and West Virginia, in the category.

Even better, we scored **number TEN in the nation** in the 3A category.

But the really grand news comes when you look at where we scored compared with ALL entries, across ALL categories!

There were 2,050 entries in the 2003 Field Day this year. According to Neal Layman, N4XU, and confirmed by the official posted scores from the American Radio Relay League, the MARA/VARA Field Day effort scored 45th in the nation, across ALL categories! This puts us in the top 2.2% of all entries in the U.S.! Way to Go!

MARA Holiday Banquet: January 8, 2004

Thanks to Gayle Shull KU4XN and Elwood Shrader K4DJN for volunteering to make the annual Christmas (Holiday) banquet arrangements this year.

At the October meeting, these two hams were given authority to select dates and make suitable arrangements for the club's annual gathering, which traditionally includes our spouses and families.

Ever's Restaurant cannot accommodate that big a party in early December due to other bookings. However, they have held our normal meeting night (first Thursday of the month) open for our regular club meeting of about 40 people.

After checking several other possibilities, Gayle and Elwood concluded that our best option was to book at Ever's in January.

The first Thursday in January is New Years Day, and we can't hold a club meeting on that night. However, Evers can accommodate our banquet (traditionally about 75-100 people) on Thursday night, January 8th.

Evers has several advantages over alternative locations. For instance, they ask for an approximate attendance figure, rather than a firm commitment. Since many of our annual banquets have been snowed out, it is important that we not have to pay for meals that aren't claimed.

Public Service I – Horse Play

Hams provided support communications for the “Ride-A-Thon” horse ride in Timberville on Sunday, October 5th.

The event was sponsored by Camp Still Meadows, a Singers Glen area summer camp aimed at mentally challenged children and those who normally would not be able to attend a traditional summer camp experience.

The ride commenced with breakfast at a farm nestled in the base of Little North Mountain northwest of Timberville. The morning dawned cool and foggy. Net Control was manned by Chris Shirkey, KI4BAQ, and was set up at the ride headquarters.

Hams were dispatched in their automobiles to several locations to provide status reports as riders passed the checkpoints. The ride consisted of an 8-mile loop, which took most riders 3-4 hours to complete, and also a 15-mile loop, which took some riders the full day to do.

As the last rider passed a checkpoint, the ham was redirected to a new location further down the trail ahead of the horses and riders. This way a count was kept of the 87 horses and riders, to ensure that all were accounted for.

Hams were provided lunch, which was delivered to their posts by the ride organizers. The only incident was a horse which slipped and fell while on the home stretch less than a hundred yards from the ride end, within sight of the ride headquarters.

But hams were on station, keeping track of riders, serving as safety posts in case of problems, and, to be honest, just having fun playing radio on a gorgeous autumn day up in the mountains.

Thanks to Bob Niemeyer W3MMC for use of the 146.625 W3MMC repeater for the event.



Thanks to:

- Ray Ritchie K4NRA
- Nancy Ritchie KG4JAZ
- Gayle Shull KU4XN
- Gail Shull KG4JBF
- Terry Kielbasa KG4MWI
- David Fordham KD9LA
- Kenny High K4KLH
- Chris Shirkey KI4BAQ

Net Control was set up at the ride headquarters, using a mobile rig, car battery, and a mag-mount antenna placed on top of an inverted baking pan for a ground plane. Hams, left to right: K4KLH, KD9LA, KI4BAQ, and KG4JAZ. Photo by K4NRA.

Public Service II – Bicycles And Ham Radio

The 13th Annual Bike Festival went off without even a bandaid needed. We did have a few bikers with tired, sore or pulled muscles who had to be sagged but all in all, it was a beautiful weekend for a drive in the back country. We sagged in a total of 36 bikers with their bikes.

There were approximately 800 bike riders for the event – about 150 less than last year. The organizers suspect that since a lot of the riders come from the eastern shore area, hurricane Isabel must have had an influence on participation. Our only significant problem was signage. There were signs missing on some of the routes so the riders had to resort to the printed maps to know which way to turn in several places. Thanks to W4GRC, KD4VPE and KU4XN who had to stand at a couple turns and “point the way” till make shift signs could be provided. The bike festival folks are already working on resolving this problem before next year.

Jeff, W4PJW and Benny, N4BCC shared the “in charge” responsibilities this year. Ken, KE4GKD typed up and printed all the materials which we handed out. Ray, KE4HVR kept track of who volunteered for what day etc. There is a lot that goes on “behind-the-scenes” to make an activity like this run so smoothly. Thanks to all who helped.

As usual, we had a good time and once again it was good practice for us to use “tactical callsigns” and participate in a directed net. Clint, KB4OLM was master net control and had assistance Saturday from Billy, KG4JOF. On Sunday, Clint pretty well handled it himself but did corral others from time to time to give him

some relief. All in all, the repeaters worked well and everyone was able to communicate in spite of some of the noise on the repeaters both days. It worked well to move some of the communications off to 147.075 to keep the primary frequencies clear.

Everyone seemed to know how to work their radios this year, and the only glitch in this area was Gordon’s radio (WA4FJC) seemed to lose it’s tone output sometimes. This provided us with some good practice relaying and listening on the input to the repeater or using simplex on the repeater output frequency. I am sure Gordon would have liked it better if he didn’t have the problem but it did, in the end, provide us with a good drill.

Billy, KG4JOF and Jeff, W4PJW had some fun 4-wheelin on Sunday to take water jugs about a third of the way down the jeep trail at Sherando Lake. Billy got some off-road experience and manned the rest stop near the parkway all day Sunday. Jeff continued down the jeep trail and managed to get lost a couple times but it all worked out in the end. Terry, KG4MWI and Billy retrieved the water jugs at the end of the day and as far as we know, all the bikers on the trail managed to find their way back to Sherando Lake.

It’s called a jeep trail for good reason. There are boulders, ditches, steep hills and water holes deep enough to float my Blazer – some of the spots are too rough and steep to even walk on – I wonder how those bikers manage?

If you helped – thanks again, if you couldn’t help this year then SEE YOU NEXT YEAR.
Jeff W4PJW



Thanks to Those Who Helped With Bike Ride

SATURDAY

- Greg W4GRC
- Sandy K4PZC
- Gordon WA4FJC
- Gayle KU4XN
- Doug N8ESW
- Dan KE4JSX
- E.C. KG4KUR
- Debbie KB4WPE

Below, left to right: KD4WWF, KD4FKT, K4DJG, KB4OLM, and N4BCC, standing in front of KB4OLM's communications trailer which served as Net Control location.



SUNDAY

- Joe KD4FKT

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

- Clint KB4OLM
- Jeff WB4PJW
- Benny N4BCC
- Pat KD4WWF
- Billy KG4JOF
- Bob K4DJG
- Terry KG4MWI
- Kenny KD4VPE
- Richard AA4RH (*)
- Stin KF4SSF (*)



Photos and story by W4PJW

(*) *Bike Mobile*

Sympathies to KE4GKD

After a series of lengthy illnesses, the mother of Kenny Harris, KE4GKD, passed away on the morning of October 22.

Kenny has been widely recognized in the valley for his work in coordinating the activities of MARA and VARA. For the most part, many of the cooperative efforts between the two

clubs — from Field Day, to the joint newsletter — are the result of Kenny's tireless efforts at getting the two clubs to work closely with each other.

The thoughts and prayers of the entire local ham community are with Kenny and his family during this time.

Phil Peterman At Home

Phil Peterman, ex-WD4RAO, well-known among the old-timers in the valley, is now at home, after spending several months in the hospital and Life Care Nursing Center following his 4-wheel drive accident earlier this year. Thanks to Bill Jones for this tidbit.

Public Service III – Volunteer Examination Session

Yes, that's right. Public Service! Helping new hams get their license is one of the many valuable public services we provide to our community! Our Test Session of October 11 was attended by 11 people. It should be mentioned that Carson happens to be E.C.'s son-in-law! Our next VE Test Session is December 13th! See You There!

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW HAMS:

- Vito Malta II, KI4CQR, of Front Royal
- Neil Cupp, KI4CQS, of Bridgewater.
- Carson Ralston, KI4CQQ, of Monterey.
- Paul Bonavich, KI4CQT, of Waynesboro.

CONGRATULATIONS ON AN UPGRADE:

- E.C. Showalter, KG4KUR to Extra Class.

THANKS TO THE VE'S:

- Gerald Nauman KN4FM
- Sandy Mullins K4PZC
- Andrew Barbour AG4XN
- Bill Elliot N4VUF
- David Fordham KD9LA
- Jason Armentrout N4DSL
- John Nelson N3JN
- Gayle Shull, KU4XN

N9AHQ Honored – Again.

Howard Zehr, N9AHQ, Broadway Ham Extraordinaire, has been awarded the 2003 International Prize for Restorative Justice by the PFI Center for Justice and Reconciliation.

Howard is the co-director of the Conflict Transformation Program at Eastern Mennonite University, and also serves as professor of sociology and restorative justice.

The award was presented in August in Toronto, and came with a \$5000 cash stipend.

“Howard’s writing and speaking have fired the imaginations of people in North America, Europe, Africa and the Pacific,” said, Dan Van Ness, the PFI Center’s executive director.

Howard’s book, *Changing Lenses: A New Focus for Crime and Justice* (a title which reflects Howard’s other hobby of photography!) is a foundational work in restorative justice. “It



is probably referenced as much as any other single book in the growing literature in the field,” according to Van Ness.

Howard directed the first victim-offender reconciliation program in the U.S. in the 1970’s. He suggests a more cooperative, problem

solving approach to demonstrate a different kind of justice than that usually found in the court systems.

This is at least the fourth time that N9AHQ has been nationally and internationally recognized since joining MARA.

MARA November Program: Antenna Software – WA4FJC

The MARA club meeting program will feature Gordon Batey, WA4FJC, from Waynesboro, giving an encore presentation of his VARA program on antenna software.

The MARA Board of Directors meets at 6:00 pm, the general dinner begins at 6:30, and the business meeting begins at 7:30 pm, EST.

The meeting is held at Ever's restaurant, on U.S. 11, just north of I-81 Exit 240. Visitors are welcome at this and all MARA meetings.

FIND OUT
THE ANSWER
at the
FEBRUARY 5th
MARA CLUB
MEETING

How Do You Spend \$16 Million on a Radio System?

Actually, it may be more like \$22 million by the time the first on-air transmission is made.

This question has been on the minds of hams and non-hams alike ever since

Rockingham County and the City of Harrisonburg announced their new joint radio system.

The answer will be provided by Captain Jim Junkins, communications

director of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham County EOC Center, at the February MARA club meeting.

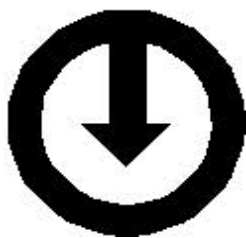
That meeting will be held on February 5 at Evers. Pass the word.

Bill KE4FM Joins the Weyers Cave Hams

In case you hadn't heard, Bill Jones KE4FM (kitty cat Bill) has and his wife Shirley have moved from Massanutten to the beautiful suburbs of Weyers Cave.

Bill now joins eighteen (that's right, count 'em, 18!) other hams in this community on the border between Rockingham and Augusta Counties.

Weyers Cave has a population of only 362 people, but with 19 hams now, it has one of the highest concentrations of radio amateurs per capita of any community in the valley.



Net Control Operators Needed

Norman Benner, KA4EEN, asks for volunteers to sign up for the Rockingham County ARES Net Control position.

Serving as Net Control Operator for one of these Monday night nets is a great low-stress way to gain valuable experience

for emergency communications.

The Net script can be found on the MARA website. For your convenience, the script, complete with annotated instructions for Net Control stations, is reprinted here in the Monitor.

You might want to save this month's issue for this valuable reference.

The Rockingham County ARES Net meets every Monday night at 8:00 pm local time. The first Monday of the month, it meets on 146.550 simplex to give everyone a chance to

check the range of their home station setup. All other Monday nights, it meets on the 145.13 repeater, which uses a PL tone of 88.8 Hz.

Give Norman a hand by volunteering. Call Norman at 289-5801, or catch him on the net.

Rockingham County ARES Net Script

Calling all radio amateurs, calling all radio amateurs. This is the Rockingham County Amateur Radio Emergency Service Net. This net meets each Monday evening for the purpose of training local amateurs in emergency communication and to give them an opportunity to test their equipment.

Net control tonight is (your call) and my name is (name), located in (town). This is a directed net, so please follow the instructions from Net Control.

Do we have any stations with emergency or priority traffic, your callsigns please?
(*recognize the stations and handle this traffic immediately*)

Do we have any stations with announcements for the net, your callsigns please?
(*recognize the stations, but hold the announcements until after roll call*)

Do we have any stations on emergency power, batteries, or mobile, portable, or any short time stations? Your callsign please.
(*recognize the stations, ask them individually if they can hold traffic and comments until after the roll call and announcements*)

Do we have any liaisons to section nets, area traffic nets, MARS, Civil Air Pa-

trol, or any other net, your callsign please.
(*recognize the stations and ask them to stand by*)

At this time, we will take check-ins, by callsign suffix. If you have traffic, please state the nature of your traffic at the time you check in. Stations with suffix ending in Alfa through Golf, your callsigns please.
(*recognize stations in groups of 3 or 4, and ask "any more Alfa through Golf?"*)

Stations with suffix Hotel through November, your callsigns please.
(*recognize stations in groups of 3 or 4 and ask "any more Hotel through November?"*)

Stations with suffix Oscar through Tango, your callsigns please.
(*recognize stations in groups of 3 or 4 and ask "any more Osca through Tango?"*)

Stations with suffix Uniform through Zulu, your callsigns please.
(*recognize stations in groups of 3 or 4 and ask "any more Uniform through Zulu?"*)

This is the Rockingham County ARES Net, this is (your call) Net Control. At this time we will take additional check-ins with suffix anywhere in the alphabet, your callsign please.
(*recognize stations and*

ask, "any more or are there any relays?")

At this time, we will proceed with announcements. (*Call on the stations with announcements, in order, and at the end of each, ask "Does any station need fills?". Recognize any stations asking for fills and direct them to contact the announcement station directly on the net.*)

Are there any late check-ins for the Rockingham County ARES Net, your callsign please (*recognize the station.*)

*If any station listed "Traffic" during check-in, at this time, handle any **traffic** that was listed during check-in time. Call on the station listing traffic, and ask if the traffic is formal or informal. If formal, direct the listing station to call the liaison station directly on the net to handle the traffic. If informal, call the listing station and ask him to designate a frequency off the net to handle the traffic, then call the receiving station and direct that he meet the listing station on the designated frequency. Direct both stations to return to the net and check in with Net Control after their traffic is completed.*

At this time, we will close the formal portion of the net, and excuse any mobile, portable, short-time stations, or stations on emergency or backup power who would like to be

excused. We will proceed with an informal round of comments.

(*Call on each station checking in, in order, including the mobile, portable, short-time and emergency power stations, and ask if they have any informal comments. Recognize each station after their comments, thanking them, then move on to the next station in the check-in listing.*)

(*Don't forget to identify your station as Net Control every ten minutes during the comment period.*)

That concludes the first round of comments. At this time we will take late check-ins to the Rockingham County Emergency Net. (*recognize stations, and after all late stations are recognized, ask them for their comments individually.*)

Is there any other traffic for the net?

If not, this concludes the Rockingham County ARES Net. We would like to thank the trustee of the area repeater for the use of the machines. This is (your call) Net Control, closing the Rockingham County ARES Net at (time, UTC or local) and we now return the frequency to general amateur use.

(*This script can be found on the MARA website.*)

What Should A Ham Club Be?

More specifically, what should **your** ham club be?

When I ask MARA members why they are members, here are some of their answers:

Number One: A Social Gathering. When we start counting the hairs that AREN'T gray rather than the hairs that **are**, many of us look for a place where we can enjoy a cheap hot meal, and just relax and shoot the breeze with our friends.

Number Two: A Place for Learning. Some of us enjoy hearing someone give a talk on a subject that we want to know more about.

Number Three: Support Group. When you encounter a problem, it's nice to be able to ask others whether they've experienced the same problem, and if so, what they did about it.

Number Four: Strength In Numbers. A few years ago, the hams banded together to defeat a potentially disastrous county ordinance regulating antennas. Being able to respond en masse is often critically important to protect our enjoyment.

Number Five: A Single Point of Contact to Represent a Large Number of Individuals. Hams have kept their frequency allocations ONLY because they

provide public service when needed. Having a club, with a named set of representatives, serves as a convenient contact point when a local non-profit organization needs to mobilize ham radio operators to provide public service.

Number Six: A Monthly Newsletter. Many hams are members of the club just so they can get a monthly newsletter to keep up with what their friends are doing. There are at least a dozen members who pay their dues every year but who have not been to a club meeting or otherwise participated in club activities for years.

Number Seven: An Investment Pool. Clubs allow hams to combine their resources and money to make major purchases (such as repeaters, trailers, libraries of materials, and other investments) which an individual ham would find financially out-of-reach .

So how about you? Which of these reasons describes why you are still a member of the club? Or do you have an eighth reason?

Ask again, what should our club be?

MARA By-Laws and our corporate charter require that an annual meeting be held on the first Thursday of October for the purpose

of letting the members select the club leadership. Everyone knows the date of that meeting years in advance, so if they care, they can arrange their personal schedules to attend. This is the place you can, if you want to, speak up and select leaders who will take the club where you want it to go.

At the meeting this year, practically everyone around the room (even a nonmember!) was *individually* invited to serve as president, to lead the club, to take the club where he or she thought it should go, to inspire, to set an example, to select opportunities, to set the tone, to decide the personality of the club.

Everyone politely declined. Everyone. *Every one.*

This can mean only one thing. Nobody feels strongly about moving the club in a different direction than it is already heading. Otherwise, they would have stepped forward and said, "Hey, I'll lead the club, because I want it to go here or here or there."

So, as the new president, where do *I* want the club to go?

If we are currently at the point where no one feels strongly enough to lead the club in a new direction, then it is obvious that the club is exactly where we want it to be.

— Or is it?

Is the club really doing what we want it to be doing?

I have a few minor improvements that I will be proposing. Do you have yours? Some may disagree that my proposals or yours are really improvements. Ultimately, it is the membership itself who will decide. I plan to follow Roberts Rules of Order, as closely as the club By-Laws permit, to let the membership make the final decision: I and the Board may propose, but the membership must approve, and more importantly, implement.

So be thinking about it. What should our club be? Do you want to serve? Do you want to serve more? Do you want to learn? Learn more? Do you want to socialize? In fact, do you want to actively do *anything*? Or are you happy just to come and eat, or read the newsletter ... or even just sit around and talk?

It may surprise some to learn that I am convinced that there is room here for everyone. Yes, even those that check the box "no opinion"!

I ask the membership to let me know what you want your club to be. I see it as my job to help you make it into just that!

David Fordham, KD9LA
MARA President

MARA Officers Elected. Well, ...Kinda.

It wasn't a pretty sight.

And it sure wasn't a Florida election, either. No hanging chads here.

At the October 2nd, meeting, the MARA nominating committee presented the slate of officers published in last month's newsletter.

The nominated president, who had previously agreed to serve another year, came to his senses, er, rather, umm, reconsidered, and bowed out of the race, leaving the presidency open for nominations from the floor.

None were made.

The nominating committee representative went around the room, asking each individual in turn if they would be willing to serve as president. None did.

The nominee for Vice-President had agreed to serve as vice president, but did not come to the meeting, and thus was unavailable to agree to be president. Since the corporate by-laws dictate that a vacancy in the presidency position after the election must be automatically filled by the vice-president, the nominating committee was hesitant to force the vice presidential nominee into the presidency without his consent.

Out of desperation, one of the nominating committee members decided to agree to serve as president until the vice presidential nominee could be consulted about his feeling for the presidency position.

The slate of officers as published in the October issue of the monitor, with the substitution of David Fordham, KD9LA as president, was put forth for election by acclamation.

However, the nominee for president himself voted against the acclamation, forcing a counted vote.

A counted vote was taken, and the slate was duly elected unanimously.

Then, within a week, and before he could be approached about the presidency, the elected **vice** president submitted his resignation as an officer, saying that the club was "headed in a direction he'd prefer not to pursue."

Thus, in accordance with the corporate By-Laws, the

remaining Board will meet to select a new vice-president. In the meantime, David KD9LA will serve as president, Todd K4TMH will serve as secretary, Sandy K4PZC will serve as treasurer, Richard KC3AN will serve as board member at large, and Bill Karle KG4UPN will serve as the other board member at large.

These officers, along with the new vice president to be announced at the November meeting, are interested in receiving your assistance as they do their best to serve the interests of ham radio in the Central Shenandoah Valley.

Come to the November meeting to learn more!

VARA Officers Re-Elected. Well, ...Sorta.

VARA re-elected their existing slate of officers for the 2004 year. Benny N4BCC continues as president, Kenny KE4GKD continues as vice-president, Ray KE4HVR is secretary, Jeff W4PJW is treasurer, and Richard Huttinger AA4RH is program manager.

MARA Club Call: K4MRA

Thanks to the efforts of Gayle KU4XN, Sandy K4PZC, along with Jason N4DSL, the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association is now the licensee of ham club call K4MRA: the Massanutten Radio Amateurs.

The club call trustee is Jason Armentrout, N4DSL, outgoing Board Member at Large.

MARA now joins VARA in the "club call owner" category. (VARA's club call is W4MUS.)

Remember, MARA's website can be found at: <http://mara.ws>

VARA's website can be found at: <http://www.qsl.net/w4mus/>

VARA Secretary's Report – October 7th Meeting

The **V**alley **A**mateur **R**adio **A**ssociation met at Shoney's in Staunton on October 7, 2003. The President Benny Cook N4BCC opened the meeting at 7:30pm. There were 21 members present and 6 guests, Bob VanFossen K4DJG, John Bottemiller N4SYH, Doug Tippett N8ESW, Charlie Bennetch N4LNU, Josh & Jacob Green Sons of Frank Green KE4ASC.

Welcome to our visitors, and we would like to see all of you back next month.

The 50/50 was won by Ray Colvin KE4HVR, I couldn't believe it! Second time in ten years.

New Members

We voted in two new members, Jess W4PQK and Valorie KB8ZIS Hancock who recently moved to Waynesboro from West Virginia. Welcome to the VARA, Jess and Valorie!

The club voted to continue with the same officers for the year 2004.

The Christmas Party was brought up for reconsideration and the majority didn't want to have one this year. Guess everyone is too busy to enjoy two or three hours together to share the Christmas Season.

Alby McCutchen AD4KZ said he was having a problem finding the forms he needs to order study guides and books from ARRL. Benny told him to come over and he would

get him on the Internet to find what he needs and get the books ordered for the library.

Since our Club is out growing the room at Shoney's we have a committee of three, Richard Huttinger, Benny Cook and Al Bonck that are looking for a new location. The suggestion was made to try Kathy's in Verona for our December meeting to see what the service is like since they are now under new management. The committee will check with them to find out if they can have us and report back at our November meeting. Hopefully we can find a place soon because we are outgrowing Shoney's.

Billy Hooke KG4JOF has the swap shop page completed and Bob McCracken N4JGO has linked it to the VARA Web Page. **This will be for Ham related items only.** You can send a list of items you have for sale, swap or something you would like to buy, to Billy Hooke KG4JOF at: KG4JOF@arrl.net Also if you have a digital camera or scanner and can send a picture of the item, that would help it sell. Check it out from the VARA Web Site at: <http://www.qsl.net/w4mus/>

Butch Washer N5SMQ is the EC for Highland County and Jerry Moats WD4ITN is his assistant. Their ARES Net will be on the Monterey repeater 147.180+ and tone of

100.0 at 8:30pm on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month. They would like to welcome everyone that can get into the repeater to check into the Net.

ADDRESSES!!! If your e-mail address or home address is changed for any reason **YOU** need to notify us so we can make the necessary changes so you will continue to get your newsletter. Also you should update your e-mail address in QRZ and Buckmaster. This is where we look if an e-mail is returned to us. You can send your e-mail address to: Benny, bennycjr@ntelos.net Ken, klharris@rica.net Jeff, jmrinehart@yahoo.com Ray, colvingr@rica.net David, fordhadr@jmu.edu

On the sick list:

Dan James W4DLJ is getting around without his walker part of the time but he said he was not sure when he would be able to join us for the Friday lunches.

Marvin Henderson's (KF4WDI) Daughter recently had an operation and her doctor said all went well.

Valorie Hancock KB8ZIS had to go to UVA because of a detached retina on Oct. 16.

Ken Harris KE4GKD has had the flu and very close to pneumonia, he is on strong medication and staying home to rest. Lets keep these folks in our thoughts and prayers.

SPECIAL THANKS to all that took their time and helped with the Shenandoah Bike Festival this year. We had a good turnout of helpers this year, which is great. We even had some helpers coming in later to work the busiest part of the ride. This is a great time of the year to ride the country roads and enjoy the scenery of our mountain ranges. And ... some other scenery too!

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 will be held on 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.

NOTE: We will have a FOX HUNT on Sunday November 2nd at 2:00pm, tune to 146.490 Simplex.

Training classes may be close!

We would like to get training classes started for the Technician level. Anyone interested in helping teach the classes please contact Benny N4BCC, Alby AD4KZ or Richard AA4RH. We need to get some young people interested in ham radio. Also we have several bear hunters interested in getting licensed and learning what ham ra-

VARA Secretary's Report — ...continued

dio is all about. Listen for any hints that someone may like to learn what ham radio is all about and tell them about the class.

PROGRAMS NEEDED...

Richard AA4RH, our 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. It could

be anything you think the group would find interesting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16pm

Gordon Batey WA4FJC presented a program on antenna modeling from a computer program called EZNEC using a laptop computer, projector and screen. This is a great program for designing many

different types of antennas and getting the length, height and feed line correct the first time. The program lets you change each component of the antenna and shows you what difference it makes. There are lots of features like a Smith Chart type diagram that shows Elevation Plot, Azimuth Angle, 3D Max. Gain, Beam width in degrees, Sidelobe gain, and Gain in DBI. The program also

gives you the best wire size and shows the current at various segment spacing along the elements. The cost of the EZNEC 3.0 CD is \$99.

**Great job Gordon!
Thanks for taking your time to get all this together for us.**

Submitted By:
VARA Secretary
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

MARA Secretary's Report — October 2nd Meeting

The October meeting of the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association was held at Evers Restaurant in Mt. Crawford, the meeting was opened at 7:30PM by the club president, Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG, and there were 26 members and 7 guests present.

Sandy Mullins, K4PZC gave the treasurers report, the clubs balance as of 9/30/03 was \$1807.99, and the report was accepted as given.

Gerald Nauman, KN4FM reminded the club of the

upcoming bike festival which used to be Bike Virginia October 18th and 19th which will need several operators. Wilton Thomas, KF4BFL told the club about the Camp Still Meadows horse ride on October 5th which will need 4-5 operators.

Gayle Shull, KU4XN announced the upcoming VE testing in Dayton at the Woodmen of the World building on October 11th.

Rusty Bowman, N4YET won the 50 / 50 drawing, \$16.50 went to Rusty and \$16.50 went to the club.

A Christmas dinner committee has been put together consisting of David, KD9LA, Elwood, KB4DJN, and Gayle, KU4XN.

The MARA election was held for the officer positions, and they had the following results:

—>President:
David Fordham, KD9LA

—> Vice President:
Chuck Vogan, KD5KA

—>Secretary:
Todd Harrison, K4TMH

—>Treasurer:
Sandy Mullins, K4PZC

—> Board Member:
Bill Karle KG4UPN

The formal meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM.

The program was by Hugh Pettis, K3EC who presented an excellent program on antenna designs Hugh had implemented through his years as an amateur.

Todd Harrison, K4TMH
MARA Secretary

Some Important Dates

November 1: ARRL CW DX Sweepstakes
November 2: Augusta County Fox Hunt
November 4: VARA Club Meeting
November 6: MARA Club Meeting
November 15-17: ARRL Phone DX Sweepstakes
November 29-30: CQ WW DX Contest CW

December 2: VARA Club Meeting (normal mtg)
December 4: MARA Club Meeting (normal mtg)

January 6: VARA Club Meeting
January 8: MARA Holiday Banquet

More dates including net schedules are listed on the MARA schedule page. Go to: <http://mara.ws>

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: Dave Fordham, KD9LA
Vice President: vacant
Secretary: Todd Harrison, K4TMH
Treasurer: Sandy Mullins, K4PZC
Board (exp 04): Richard Haxton, KC3AN
Board (exp 05): Bill Karle KG4UPN

<http://mara.ws>

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: Benny Cook, N4BCC
Vice President: Ken Harris, KE4GKD
Secretary: Ray Colvin, KE4HVR
Treasurer: Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW
Program Manager: Richard Huttinger, AA4RH

<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