

# 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

## ADDITIONAL SYMPATHIES

Our sympathies also go out to Gayle Shull KU4XN, on the passing of his father March 5.

Additionally, we received word that Ward "Dan" Messimer of Waynesboro passed away in early March. He had been an active ham in early years.

Also, as this issue goes to press, George Brunk, Sr., father of three hams in the valley (K4RBZ, WB4IZG, and W4RY) was resting his final days at home.

The thoughts and prayers of the ham community go out to those whose loved ones have reached the end of the QSO.

## Wade Bowman, Husband of KF4BFE

Wade M. Bowman, a MARA member for a number of years, passed away on Feb. 5, 2002. Wade was not a ham, but despite becoming nearly sightless in later life, he was very interested in amateur radio. His wife, Lois, KF4BFE, along with their daughter, Wanda, survives.

Wade worked for 35 years with the State Hospital System, and retired from Western State Hospital in Staunton in 1992.

For years he sang tenor in the Singing Messengers male quartet. He was a good friend to many, and those who visited his home were given a small gift of appreciation for their visit. MARA extends its sympathies to Lois for the loss of one who will be greatly missed.

*Gerry Brunk, K4RBZ*

## N4DUG: Help Needed for Hburg March of Dimes Walk – April 20

We need a couple more hams to help with the Annual Harrisonburg March of Dimes Walk again this year.

So far, we've got Enos KF4BFF, Gerald KN4FM, Elwood KB4DJN, and Ray K4NRA, signed up. We actually need one or two more for full coverage.

This event is very popular, low stress, and lots of fun. You get a very nice free Bar-B-Q meal, and usually a free T-Shirt, too. The

people are great, and you're helping a good cause, too.

The walk begins near K-Mart, winds around behind the mall and downtown, and returns. Hams report for duty around 8 am, and are generally through by lunchtime. You can walk if you want, or ride in your car, or even help out as net control in an easy chair.

If you can help this year, give Doug Alder a call in the evenings at: 540-867-9719.

## MS Walk in Waynesboro: April 7

VARA voted to support the MS Walk in Waynesboro, Va. on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April.

We still need several more volunteers to help so we can do a good job of coverage for the walkers. The walk starts at 2 PM and should last three hours or so and we would need to meet at 1 PM just to get our maps and etc. and remember there may be some

treats afterwards for those that help out.

So if you will give me a call on the 146.850 Repeater or Home at (540) 885-1818 so I can get your name on the help list.

*Kenny Harris, KE4GKD*

## VE Exams – April 13

Our first spring test is scheduled for Saturday morning, April 13, 2002.

As warm weather approaches we look forward to antenna repairs and installations. As we are planning our agenda, think about the possibility of upgrading so you can take advantage of all band privileges available to the Hams. We can usually work band segments above our license class (General) with the antennas we now have. So why not upgrade? A little study in your spare time could be worth extended privileges. Give it a thought.

To all VEs, if you can help with this session drop me an E-MAIL. (GSKUXN@MSN.COM)

Remember the EXTRA CLASS license study material and test change JULY 1– 2002!. After April we have only one exam session before those changes take place. (June 8, 2002)

Look forward to seeing you there.

*Gayle, KU4XN*

## Kudos on Upgrades: KG4OON and KC4HYO

While we are on the subject of upgrades, congratulations are in order for Mike Reno, KG4OON, who recently earned the General Class ticket. Look for Mike on the HF bands, now. Mike is a co-worker with the infamous Bill Jones, KE4FM, at the Kwik Kopy shop on Reservoir Street. Next time you see Mike, give him two thumbs up.

Also, congrats and a tip of the hat to Ed Good, KC4HYO, who now joins the ranks of the Extra Class hams in the valley. Ed routinely activates such rare DX as Williamsburg, Virginia Beach, and other points in the Far East. Now, he can use that slice of extra spectrum and talk to the Big Dogs in the valley.

## New Local Web Site: WRAV

The Waynesboro Repeater Association of Virginia (WRAV), sponsors the W4PNT two-meter repeater. This machine, which transmits on 147.075 MHz, is one of several really nice wide-area coverage machines, and is very popular in the area. The repeater is located on Bear Den Mountain, above and just east of Waynesboro, Virginia.

The WRAV group has now established a web site for users and local radio amateurs. Check it out at:

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

This site provides information about the repeater and its background. Several more items are scheduled to be added to the site in the near future. It is planned that this site will be updated frequently. Area amateurs are encouraged to visit the site on a regular basis.

*Gordon Batey WA4FJC*

## RTTY Anyone?

Congratulations to W4PJW, WB4YEX, and N4DSL on winning the ARRL plaque in the 2000 RTTY contest! Now, about this year...

Who wants to play RTTY Radio on the weekend of April 27?

Daryl is looking for hams to go with him up to the Field Day Site (between Reddish Knob and Flagpole Knob, on the peaks west of the Valley) and camp for the weekend. If you are interested in learning a little bit about traditional radio-teletype, and want to get in some family camping to boot, drop Daryl an email at: [daryl@ntelos.net](mailto:daryl@ntelos.net)

# 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BOB'S KNOB PICNIC 1 PM AUGUST 18TH

It's time to plan for you and your family's attendance at the annual picnic in Bergton! As the notice mentions, this will be the 11<sup>th</sup> picnic held to raise funds for the maintenance of the 146.625 Mhz Big Mountain Repeater by the Big Mountain Repeater Maintenance Association. Insurance coverage and repairs (including antenna replacement) are some of our expenses.

As in previous years, hamburgers, hot dogs, iron-kettle-cooked beans, and the usual pink lemonade and iced tea will be the main attractions. Guests should bring a "covered dish" salad and/or desserts and a folding chair or or two. Cups, plates utensils and condiments will be provided. Badminton, horse shoes, will keep the kids occupied. A long walk around the property should also allow for spotting deer, groundhogs, grouse, turkeys and other birds, squirrels and rabbits will keep you fit!

Don't forget: a picnic table working party is needed for Saturday at 9am on the 17<sup>th</sup> to carry picnic tables from the Bergton Fair Grounds; and the same gang to carry them back on Tuesday evening. Help will be needed at the serving tables and doing the cooking. Bob's Knob hats and Aprons will be available. Sign-up during the A.R.E.S. Nets or telephone Bob at 852-3289 or even E-mail him at [W3MMC@AOL.COM](mailto:W3MMC@AOL.COM).

A 50-50 drawing will be held, as well as the usual Donation Bucket will be at the Sign-In table. Directions to the picnic are easy: From Broadway, take Route 259 (Brocks Gap Rd.) West to a pair of flashing YELLOW FLASHING LIGHTS. Then turn left onto Route 820 (Bergton Road ). Go past the Bergton Grocery and turn right on to Crab Run Road (still on Route 820. Go about 2 miles to bridge with metal guard rails and turn left onto a gravel road,(Mongold Hollow Rd) and go ½ mile and turn left again onto Arbuckle Road, (Rt 822) and turn right at the FOURTH mail box onto Bob's Knob Blvd and drive up to the picnic site! Rain date will be AUGUST 25<sup>TH</sup>. Oh yes, don't forget the ALBINO GROUSE HUNT for the kids!

SEE YOU THERE!

*(Paid Advertisement)*



## MARA President's Message

Hello to all! Well, we have gotten some badly needed rain the past few days. We are still very short even then but every little bit helps.

I did manage to get my new G5RV antenna up in the air around 70 feet between 2 trees using the Spincast (a slingshot with a fishing reel attached) I got at the Richmond Frostfest. This device works great and I managed to do so without any injuries, deaths or broken windows. The G5RV performs well as I made some foreign contacts on 20 meters, A 75-meter dipole was the only antenna I had up HF-wise since I moved.

The QRP group has met twice so far and a nucleus is forming. A few of us got together on March 5th at Chuck Vogan's home and tossed a few ideas around. We announced the next meeting at the March MARA club meeting and we had quite a nice turnout on March 18th again at the home of Chuck Vogan.

Some are gathering parts to homebrew QRP equipment and some are constructing QRP kits. We invite anyone to attend as the QRP "bug" (no pun intended) may bite.

The next QRP group meeting will be announced.

I attended the Field Day Committee meeting last night (Tuesday) and they are off to a good start for Field Day 2002.

Don't forget our MARA meeting April 4, 2002 at Evers Restaurant just north of Mt. Crawford on Rt. 11. Howard Zehr, N9AHQ, will present the program.

Happy DXing! Until next time,

73,

*Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG*

" It Never  
Rains At  
Field Day"

## VARA President's Message

Hello to all! It was a pleasure to see everyone at the last meeting. I believe there were 32 in attendance. Sure hope to see the visitors return and maybe even join the Club in the future.

A Great Big THANKS goes out to Cowles (K4EME) for his Satellite Presentation. I have heard a few Amateurs talking as to what they can do to put some of Cowles ideas to work.

We as a Club voted to support the MS Walk in Waynesboro, Va. on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April and I still need several more volunteers to help so we can do a good job of coverage for the walkers. The walk starts at 2 PM and should

last three hours or so and we would need to meet at 1 PM just to get our maps and etc. and remember there may be some treats afterwards for those that help out. So if you will give me a call on the 146.850 Repeater or Home at (540) 885-1818 so I can get your name on the help list.

We will vote on a new member at the next meeting as Billy (KG4JOF) turned in his application for membership.

The Field Day Committee will have its first meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March and we hope to hear some good results as to the preparation for the Field Day 2002 event that will be on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. and 23

rd. this year. So lets all gather in and give them a hand with the planning and make this a bigger and better Field Day than ever!!! (remember it never rains on Field Day)

At our next meeting Richard (KF4QZG) and Clint (KB4OLM) will have some pictures and give a talk of their visit to Singapore in both a work and visit setting so make plans to attend the next meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. see what they can show and tell us.

Hope to see all of you there.

*Kenny Harris, KE4GKD*

## The Opinionated One: The Proper Way to Tune an XYL

The phone rang. It was one of those new hams in the valley. You know the kind. They're still enthusiastic about the hobby. They've not yet had their enjoyment dampened by meeting some of the old timers who grouse about the way things used to be. These kids've never even **heard** of a Collins S-Line, Johnson Viking, Heathkit SB-100, or a Gavid's Buffet. They're still young, good looking, & slim. They don't know what a QTH is, don't know Jumpin' Zebra Colts or Zed Q. Willie, and they wouldn't know how to QSY if their life depended on it.

Well, anyway, this young fella called me to cry on my shoulder. "I want to buy that new Kenwood 2000 that's in the new QST, but my wife won't let me," he sobbed.

"The devil you say!" I exclaimed. "Since when does a wife tell a ham what kind of radio to buy? If you want to waste your money on a Kenwood instead of buying a decent radio, well, hey, that's your call, not hers." This guy needed some serious educating.

"No, no, that's not it. She doesn't want me to buy a new radio **at all**. She wants me to spend the money on the kids' braces."

"Oh," I said. I immediately recognized the problem. This fella was trying to work into a non-resonant XYL. Nothing will eat up a radio signal faster than trying to work into a non-resonant XYL. I patiently explained his problem and how to fix it. What he had to do was to carefully tune up the wife until a good match is achieved. Once the tune-up process is complete, you can then operate and buy all the radios you want. (--which, as we all know, is anywhere from three to six radios more than you actually need.) But until she's tuned, well, ... NPO: No Power Out.

While I was explaining the tune-up procedure to the new guy, it occurred to me that there may be some older hams around who could benefit from the tutorial. I mean, look at all the hams who live in the area but you never hear on the air. When was the last time you worked N3DLB? or KD4DCX? or KE4JSQ? or K4SAD? or KE4HVO? Hmmm? I'll be these guys would love to get on the air, but they are trying to work into a non-resonant XYL. Until they get the XYL tuned up, you'll never hear a peep from 'em.

The tune-up procedure is sometimes tricky and you have to do it carefully. And you have to do it **before** you start transmitting. Otherwise, you can get arcing and hissing, and maybe even an XYL burn-out, which might keep you off the air for years.

To start with, you need to find a location in your home which you can call your "shack". It probably would be best **not** to use the word "shack" in front of the XYL, since it tends to elicit smart remarks about the condition of the house you provide for her -- remarks that no doubt originated with your mother-in-law. Anyway, find some little out-of-the-way spot that she won't object to being the "center" of your ham radio hobby. A corner of the basement would be ideal, since it's close to a ground connection, and also because the basement is already inhabited by creatures which your XYL would just as soon avoid, like spiders, silverfish, and the occasional plumber or two.

Don't worry about radios just yet. Once you have the location chosen, stock it with some old furniture, like a chair and an old desk. The Discount Centers (AKA, recycle stations) at Bergton, Mt. Sidney, or Moscow are good places to find this kind of stuff. Next, put some shelves over the desk. If you don't know a hammer from an allen wrench, stop at a roadside garage sale and buy a huge \$5 bookcase to set on the back of your desk. What you are trying to do is build yourself a place to put your radios. But notice that I said a "**huge**" bookcase. You want it to have plenty of space. Then pack that space with junk. Boxes, mugs, tools, broken radio pieces your friends will give you just to cart away, anything. Just **load it up**. Load it up good. Then invite your wife in to see the place, making sure she notices all the old

"junk". Point out to her that you haven't bought a radio yet!

Okay, you are now ready to move to step two. Get a ham friend to loan you a handheld VHF radio. This radio won't get out from the basement very well. In fact, you don't **want** to use it in the basement at all. You want to use it in the kitchen, at the dinner table, in the living room while the family is watching TV, in the bedroom while she is trying to read. Make a real nuisance of yourself. Talk on every repeater from Winchester to Covington. Loudly. For hours.

Here is the tricky part. Watch very closely, and as the needle on your wife's temper meter is just about to hit the red zone, turn off the radio, and tell her how much you'd love to return this little HT to your friend and buy a big radio, your own radio, one that would fit in your new shack in the basement.

If your XYL has her ground wire connected, after a couple of days, you should get permission to buy a radio for your shack. It helps to have a friend waiting in the wings to sell you a used one cheap. So do this: Remove a piece of junk from the bookcase to make room for the radio. Put the radio there, power it up, and leave it on, with the panel lights glowing.

After a few days (or weeks, depending on how far into the red zone the needle went last time), mention how neat it would be to have another radio, this time in the car. Point out that if you could ham while you are in the car, you might have time to help her around the house. (Be very careful to watch your wording. Don't make the mistake of actually saying that you **will** help her, only that you **might have the time**. You will definitely need to remind her of this exact wording later!)

If you've been a real good boy for a while, you might get permission for a second radio. But don't put the radio in the car yet! No, remove another piece of junk from the bookcase in your shack and put the radio there for now. Hook it up, and again leave it on with the panel lights glowing. Be patient.

Then comes the climax. Go out and buy yourself a lighted meter. Any kind of meter. A cheap one. One of the \$4 ones from Radio Shack will suffice. Put it on a shelf, again replacing another piece of junk, and hook up the light and turn it on. You should now have three lighted pieces of equipment.

Now, if your wife is like most, she will not be able to tell the difference between a lighted radio and a lighted meter. She will come in and see the new lighted box, and she will immediately complain loudly about the money you are spending. You can honestly and truly retort that you only spent \$4 on your latest "acquisition". Hey, is this is a cheap hobby or what?.

At this point, she will throw her hands up in the air and say, "what do you need with all those radios?"

Yes! Yes! That's it! Those are the magic words you want to hear! "**All those radios!**" She has lost count. Instead of 1, 2, or 3 radios, you now have "all those radios." Bingo! You have achieved resonance. The XYL is now tuned.

From this point on, you can buy more and more radios, meters, tuners, scopes, controllers, etc. All you have to do is remove some more of the old junk to make room. Eventually, **all** the junk can be replaced by radios. A tuned XYL won't be able to remember which pieces were already there and which are new. You are now a full-fledged ham radio operator.

A properly tuned XYL will usually stay resonant for months at a time without further adjustment.

Now, -- about those kids' braces...

## MARA Secretary's Report

The March 7<sup>th</sup> Massanutten Amateur Radio Association's meeting was held at Ever's Restaurant on Route 11 South. The meeting was opened by President Ellsworth Neff at 7:35 p.m.

After a welcome of all the members and guests, we all introduced ourselves. There were 29 members and guests present. Last month's Secretary's Report was not read as it was in the newsletter. It was approved as read.

Sandy Mullins gave a complete Treasurer's Report. The total assets were 2,259.50 as of 2/28/02 with no liabilities listed.

### Committee Report:

Public Service: David Fordham reported for Doug Alder. On 4-20-02 There will be the annual March of Dimes Walk. We have taken part in this activity for five years. Doug needs six volunteers one of which will be the net control. Several members volunteered. A final request for amateurs will be given on the Monday ARES Net.

ARES: Dale reported that RMH will spend \$3,000 on purchasing radio equipment which we are to install so that there will be a complete station for emer-

gency use at the hospital. It would be helpful if a usable IBM computer could be acquired for use at the station.

He also reported that the "Command Bus" was brought out and used this past week to locate a Alzheimers individual who had wandered off. The search was successful. The bus was very useful. He also stated that he would have the bus present at our April meeting at Evers.

ARES Net: Although Norman was not present, there was a call for additional Net Control Operators. A suggestion was made that we be guests on the other Nets in the area. Check the Monitor for the frequencies of the other nets.

Volunteer Examiners: The next VE Exams will be held on April 13.

We want to express our heartfelt sympathy for Gayle Shull and his family on the death this week of his father. Those wishing to express their sympathy will contact Gayle at the following address. Gayle Shull, 2048 Airport Road, Bridgewater, VA, 22812.

Field Day Committee: We now have three members of our Field Day committee:

Jason Armentrout, Gayle Shull, and Chuck Vogan. A printout of the Field Day Rules was distributed to all members at this meeting.

Old Business: We had a new member voted in at the last meeting. George Brunk, WB4IXG.

Sorry I missed you in my February Report. Welcome George.

New Business: : We are starting a QRP Club, to promote QRP operation (mainly CW but with some phone) among hams in the Valley. Come to the meeting on March 18, 2002 at Chuck Vogan's QTH to finish kits, look through spare parts, etc. Drinks provided. E-mail KD5KA or give him a call.---E-mail: [cvogan@shentel.net](mailto:cvogan@shentel.net) ----- Phone: [540-234-0081](tel:540-234-0081)

New Members We welcome Bryan Daniels, KG4RMY, as a new member. Welcome Bryan.

Notes: Check the Club's web page to find a listing of all the upcoming events in amateur radio including dates of ham-fests.

50/50 drawing: It was won by Andrew Barbour, KG4GZG. He turned his share back to the club. The total amount was

\$18.00. Thank you Andrew.

Ellsworth introduced a visitor from VARA, Jeff Rinehart, Treasurer. He presented the Club with a check for \$150 as MARA's share of their volunteer work during the VA Bicycle Event last fall. Also, He presented Jason with a certificate for coming in first in a RITTY Contest which he shared with Jeff, himself, and Daryl .

Meeting was closed at 8:10 p.m.

Program: It was by Al Bonck, N3JB of the VARA Club. Our president, his wife, Sandy Mullins, and others of our club attended the last VARA Meeting. They were so impressed by Al Bonck's program that they invited him to our meeting. He gave a very interesting program on circular antennas and his experiences with using CW on 160 meters. Complete with handouts which allowed us to take "him and his expertise" home with us. Thank you Al, very much.

Sincerely yours,  
Phyllis Haxton, N4VZC, Secretary

## Repeater Lookup Website

Here is a site where you can look up repeater locations on a certain frequency. Just type in the Receive Freq. and click SUBMIT.

<http://www.bargainsusa.com/rvlookup.htm>

Ray Colvin, KE4HVR

## EMWIN Station Coming!

Vic, KE4LKQ, and David KD9LA, are working on getting an EMWIN re-transmitter on the air in the Harrisonburg area. What is EMWIN? It is a special radio service of NOAA, providing up to the minute weather information, maps, charts, forecasts, warnings, and other local weather information, digitally. The data is intended for emergency management personnel, responders, and local officials, but is available to the general public. The service is broadcast by satellite. The local station will select the information and maps pertinent to the Harrisonburg area, and retransmit the local information for use by city and county officials and the public. Decoders are available very cheaply, allowing anyone with a scanner or UHF radio to tune it in and display the data on their computer. Look for further articles on the local EMWIN system as our plans move along.

## VARA Secretary's Report

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Shoney's in Staunton on March 5, 2002. President Ken Harris KE4GKD opened the meeting at 7:30pm. There were 27 members present and 5 guests, Bob Carlstrom WD4JEL, Ed Taylor KA4VMP, Billy Hooke KG4JOF, Bob VanFossen K4DJG, and Kay Cook KF4CZL.

### REMINDER:

Those of you that can get the Newsletter by e-Mail and are not already receiving it that way, please send David Fordham an e-Mail with your current e-Mail address so you can be put on the list. This will save the VARA several bucks in a year's time. Davids e-Mail address is: fordhadr@jmu.edu

### APRIL PROGRAM:

Richard Huttinger KF4QZG and Clinton Campbell KB4OLM will present the program. Richard spent some time in Singapore on a business trip and Clinton, Queenie and Andrew visited Queenie's family in Singapore. Both of them have some very interesting things to tell us.

The 50/50 winner was David Tanks AD4TJ. David, did you tell your wife about this?

Billy Hooke KG4JOF, turned in his application for a VARA Membership and will be voted on next month.

The motion was made by Joan KF4CWR and seconded by Nancy KE4PHP to except the Treasurers report as read by Jeff W4PJW.

The Club voted to make a donation of \$100 to the Staunton Church of Christ for the use of the Church for the VARA meetings until we found a new location.

The VARA agreed to help with the MS Walk on Sunday April 7, at 2:00pm in Waynesboro. This should be over no later than 5:00pm and there are refreshments when it's over. You will need to be at Ridgeview Park in Waynesboro by 1:00pm to pick up your map and report to your assignment. Communications for the walk will be on the 147.075+ (no tone) repeater.

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

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

David Tanks AD4TJ Needs HELP with the Augusta County ARES Net. Anyone that is willing to be net control and help David out give him a call. The Net has moved to the 146.850 repeater on the 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, Albany AD4KZ or Richard KF4QZG.

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

Our Field Day 2002 Committee will be Clinton KB4OLM, Benny N4BCC and David AD4TJ. A kick-off meeting for Field Day was scheduled for Tuesday March 19, at 6:30pm at Burger King in Mt. Crawford.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm

Cowles Andrus K4EME, gave a great presentation on Satellites using Power Point and handouts. He explained the tracking, antennas and programs needed to be able to listen at the right time and in the right direction. He told us how the Satellites were kept in the correct position using torquing coils, sensors and kick motors so the solar panels could collect the suns energy and keep the batteries charged. He also explained the orbital pattern of the satellite as it travels around the earth. Thanks for a great Satellite presentation Cowles!!!

Submitted By:  
VARA Secretary  
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

## Calendar of Events

April 2: VARA Meeting (Shoneys Staunton)  
April 4: MARA Meeting (Evers Harrisonburg)  
April 6-7: Baltimore Hamboree  
April 11: Augusta ARES Net (145.850 repeater)  
April 13: VE Exams -- Dayton VA  
April 14: Raleigh (NC) Hamfest  
April 20: Chesapeake (Norfolk) Hamfest

May 17-19: Dayton Hamvention (Dayton, Ohio)

June 2: Manassas Hamfest  
June 8: VE Exams -- Dayton VA  
June 22-23: ARRL Field Day

August 18: Bob's Knob Picnic

## Two Bedrooms Available at Dayton

David, KD9LA, had reserved a two-bedroom suite at Residence Inn—Troy Ohio, for the Dayton Hamvention, but he found out that they only had smoking rooms available. Thus, being an asthmatic non-smoker, he will not be needing this accommodation. It is a two-bedroom, two-bathroom suite for \$99 per night, and includes a kitchen to save money on meals. Currently, it is reserved for Thursday night through Saturday night. If you are still hunting for a place to stay at Dayton, and can tolerate a smoker's room, you might want to take advantage of this. The Residence Inn is about 20 minutes north of the Hamvention Arena. If David doesn't hear from anyone by April 5, he will be canceling the reservation. Contact Dave by leaving a message at 540-568-3024, giving the day, time, and phone number where he can return your call.

## 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

Website under construction

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