

Aliens from Pluto Responsible For AG4XN's Callsign Changes!

Hey, if the National Enquirer can get away with ridiculous and misleading headlines, so can the Monitor!

Even a kit! We want to see it! Show it to us!

Got anything you want to get rid of? Need some spare cash? The Trader's Table stuff does not have to be homebrew or home-made, as long as it relates to radio somehow.

Tell your friends. Let's make this a well-attended event. This might be the closest we come to having a hamfest in the valley this year!

See you there!

April 1: MARA Homebrew and Trader's

The MARA meeting April 1 will feature the traditional Show-And-Tell Homebrew Night. It will also feature Trader's Tables, where hams offer their unwanted gear for sale.

Bring boxloads of stuff!

Homebrew items don't have to be radios. Homebrew antennas, home-made mounts, accessories, microphone holders, anything! —

Kindergarten Teacher Arrested for Eating Fig Newtons

Ham radio classes started in the Valley on Monday, March 29. Gordon WA4FJC, Billy KG4JOF, and a few other intrepid hams are coordinating the project.

Morse Code training will be presented, but is not required.

Persons interested should call Gordon Batey in Verona at: 540-248-2732, or email at WA4FJC@arrl.net. Or you can call 540-885-5292, or you can call 540-942-3914.

All are welcome.

Ham Classes in Verona

The classes will meet every Monday night from 7 pm to 9 pm, at the Government Building in Verona, for about 12 weeks. Cost is \$25 per person, which includes all materials and books.

Michigan Teen on Atkins Diet Finds Lost City of Atlantis

The next VE Testing Session will be held on Saturday, April 10th!

Cost is \$10 for as many elements as you wish to take. Upgrades are encouraged!

If you are an accredited Volunteer Examiner and are available to help out, give a call to Gayle Shull, KU4XN, at 540-828-2132.

VE Exams April 10

They will be held at the Woodmen of the World building, on Highway 42, just north of Dayton, about a mile south of the Harrisonburg South Wal-Mart SuperCenter.

Three-Headed Baby Swallows Crocodile — On Live TV!

The Harrisonburg March of Dimes Walk needs hams on Saturday, April 24. — This is a fun little morning walk (5 kilometers). It begins at the Harrisonburg Municipal Building parking lot this year. The route goes through picturesque Hillandale Park, through residential neighborhoods, over to the JMU campus, and back to the municipal building.

About five hams with HT's are needed. We will be stationed at a couple of checkpoints along the way.

Hams serve as contact points for walkers who get in trouble,. We also give status reports to the walk headquarters.

Volunteers will need to report around 8:30 am. We should be finished by lunchtime.

If you don't have an HT but would like to participate, a generous ham has offered to loan a couple of HT's to the event.

This is a perfect public service event for someone who only has a couple of hours to spare on a weekend morning.

Hams who volunteer to help will receive a free breakfast, a free lunch, and a free T-shirt.

If you are available and willing to help with this event, please contact David Fordham, KD9LA, at 540-568-3024 (day) or at 540-234-0448 (evenings).

Israeli Intelligence Claims Bin Laden Attended VARA Christmas Banquet!

The Waynesboro Repeater Association has once again been asked to provide communications for the Riverfest 2004 activity to be held in Waynesboro Virginia on the morning of Saturday April 24, 2004.

The event will start at 10 am and we should be completed by 2pm.

Mobile or Handheld operation will be needed. We plan to meet in downtown Waynesboro at 9:30 and work out from there.

Further information regarding the event can be found at:

www.roadandriver.homestead.com

Please contact Gordon Batey WA4FJC if you are available to help in this event. Gordon's number is 540-248-2732



Exxon Execs Charged With CoverUp: Arab Oil Actually Comes From The Moon

Bob Van Fossen K4DJG, has provided a link to what is arguably one of the most USEFUL websites a new ham could stumble across!

Check out:

<http://www.qsl.net/wd4bis/Newham/newham.html>

This fellow has put together a whole library of simple, easy-to-understand hints for a new ham who just received his license.

Topics including your very first antenna, a primer on coax and feedlines, hints and tips about power supplies and batteries, test equipment, and so forth.

The information is not meant to teach you exam material; it is meant to be good advice for someone putting together a station, just starting out on the air.

We checked it out, and highly recommend this site to anyone who received their license in the last year, as well as old-timers who haven't been on the air in a while.

Check it out! Thanks to Bob!

Princess Diana's Secret Diary Reveals KE4GKD Spent Three Days At Michael Jackson's Ranch ... While Hams Thought He Was At Field Day!

The photo scanner doesn't do justice to the hardcopy Wal-Mart prints. Here are some pictures of the Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community ham radio station!

This station was put together with donations of time, effort, and equipment.

VMRC Hams can now work local repeaters, DX, and more importantly, will be able to provide emergency communication to the community should the need arise.

The station is located on the fifth floor of the Park Gables building. The operating position is located just underneath the attic. The antennas are actually mounted in the attic. The station is undergoing final testing for potential interference to and from other electronic gear in the Park Gables building.

Shown to the right is the station's operating position, featuring an Icom IC-746 Pro (which covers HF through 2 meters), and an Icom IC-2100H (providing a good high-power signal on 2-meters to get into the local nets!).

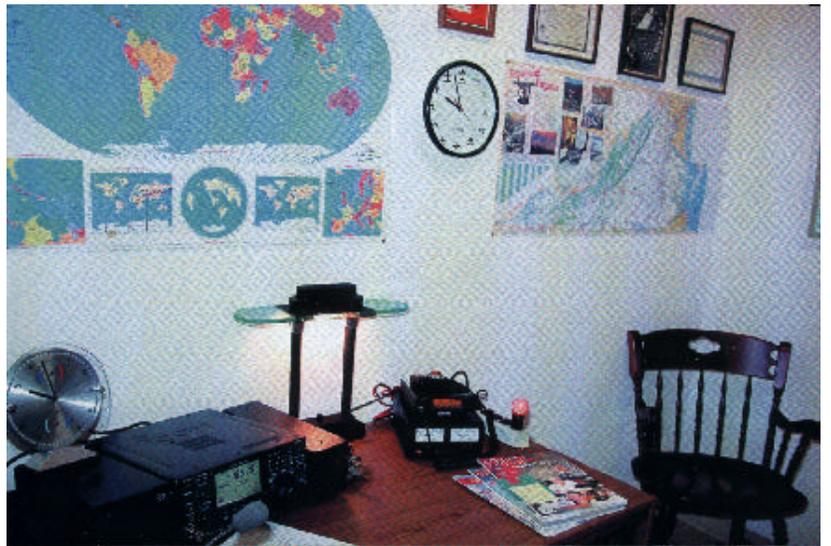
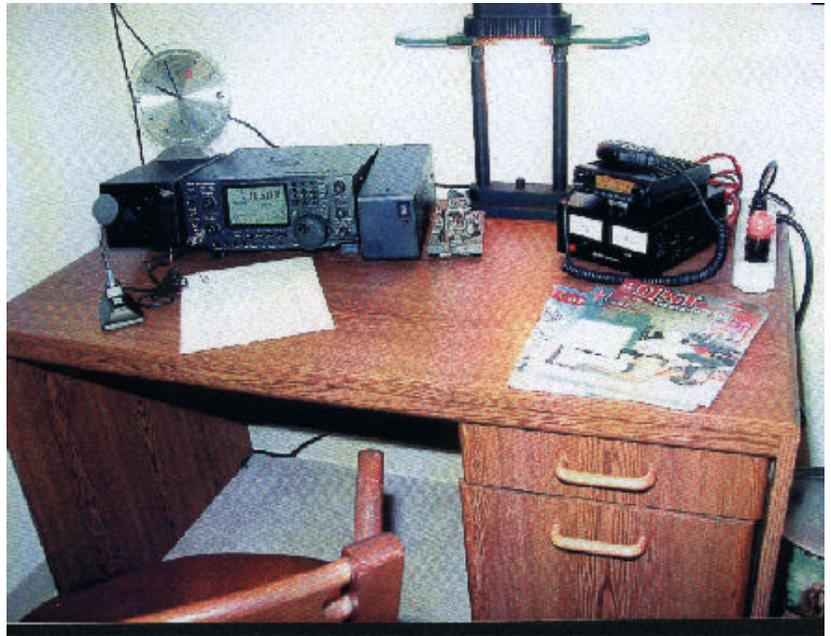
Other furnishings provided by K3EC include clocks (no, your eyes aren't going bad – the clock's numerals aren't your usual Arabic numerals! – Is that Korean, Cambodian, or Tibetan, Hugh?) chairs, a lamp, and other accessories, including a switching power supply.

At the lower right is Hugh Pettis, K3EC, enjoying a 2-meter QSO.

Hugh and the other hams in the VMRC would like to again thank those hams who have provided time and toil to get this station on the air.

If you would like to set up a sked with the station, check with Hugh at the next MARA meeting. Perhaps a special QSO will be forthcoming?

Photos were taken March 8, and provided by K3EC.



Surgeons Find Two Grown Ferrets Living in Arthritis Victim's Pancreas!

Former MARA President Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG, celebrated his big 6-0 Birthday with a gala party in Park View on Sunday, March 7. Of course, he was telling everyone it was 60. And others were saying 65! And there are even some rumors it was a lot more! Hey, Happy Birthday, Ellsworth!

Martian Virus Found in Siamese Twins Adopted by One-Eyed Chinese Mime

Daryl WB4YEX, went up to check out the Field Day site, and according to Daryl's standards of camping aesthetics, "It ain't a pretty sight!" Supposedly, the four-wheel-drive SUV's have rutted the camping area. Daryl said he was working with the Forest Service to see if some leveling of the ground can be done before June. Perhaps this is a job for the Field Day Committee? Daryl are you volunteering?

Pillsbury Doughboy Charged with DUI

Speaking of the Field Day Committee, Chris Shirkey has resigned from the Field Day Committee to attend to other more pressing personal business. This leaves an opening in the Field Day Committee from the MARA side of the table. Anyone interested? Here is a great training opportunity to learn more about emergency communications mobilizations

FBI Mole Says New Evidence Links Lizzie McGuire to JFK Conspiracy

Cowles Andrus K4EME, has pointed out that the "pollution" from the hundreds of thousands (or even millions) of unlicensed transmitters of the Broadband Over Power Lines initiative will take network transmissions out of the Part 15 band, and put them right in the middle of the HF bands, using antennas (yes, that's right, antennas) provided by the power companies. This hash may spell the end of HF ham radio as we know it. Contact Cowles at 540-885-3665 if you are interested in learning more or joining an effort to put a stop to the madness before it overwhelms the regulatory authorities like CB did in the 1970s.

Woman Gives Birth to Ant Farm

Neal Buckingham, WA4KKL, managed his own pile-up on the Virginia QSO party. He was working mobile and happened to mention that he was going through Nelson County. Apparently Nelson County is as rare as North Korea! The question is, did Neal find any evidence of nuclear weapons on his trip?

NASA: Elvis is Living on Space Station

Is anyone interested in a program on the Sugar Grove listening station? The Opinionated One has a friend who works there (he wears a uniform and salutes a lot) and might can put us in touch with a Public Relations Officer if anyone is interested in a program on the place. Anyone interested? Let your club president know if you'd like to learn about that facility.

Danish Doctor: Trimming Fingernails May Cause Increased Risk of Cancer

What happened to the annual trek to Green Bank? Now that the new telescope is up and running, have they closed the place down? Will any hams be going to take a tour this May, as they have been in May's past? Does anyone have any word on this?

Scientists Agree to Halt Experiments Involving Ponies & Creamed Asparagus

Dale N4DAI has offered a tour of the Ham Radio Station which has been installed at Rockingham Memorial Hospital. Access is normally by authorized hams only, but if anyone is interested in a tour, let the MARA President know.

CDC: Sleeping While Lying Down May Cause Increased Risk of Cancer

Daryl Cline, KB4YEX, is looking for someone (anyone!) to go camping one nice spring weekend to work a RTTY Contest. Any takers? Daryl has mellowed in his old age, and has turned over to Dan James W4DLJ the title of "world's most prolific producer of political email." Keep up the good work, Dan, and Daryl, we'll be looking for you RYRYRYRY...

Kerry Denies GOP Allegations: "I Never, Ever, Dated Prince Charles"

Did anybody work the March 16 Tornado Drill? Would anybody like to write a report for the newsletter on it? Please?

Amazing Chihuahua Uses Coat-hanger to Remove Truck Driver's Appendix

No one wrote a rebuttal to last month's Scathing Editorial. Pity.



Britney Spears Honeymoon Shocker: Pop Star Admits She Checked Into The Virginia Phone Net on Her Wedding Night!

Bob Van Fossen K4DJG, came across a do-it-yourself idea for hams needing a 12-volt power distribution system. Utilizing Anderson Power Pole Connectors (the new ARES standard for higher-power connections than the 7-amp Amp polarized plug can accommodate), this system uses components easily acquired from Radio Shack to build a safe, fused distribution block similar to the \$100 RigRunner series advertised in the ham magazines. You can check out this handy project at the MARA Homebrew Night, or check out the web page at <http://www.qsl.net/wd4bis/connect.htm>.

Taxpayer Dollars Used to Build Top-Secret Undersea Banjo Factory

The ham community extends it sympathy to Neal Layman, N4XU, on the passing of his father February 29. A memorial service was held at Weaver's Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg on Sunday, March 7. Neal has been an active ham in the valley, even loaning the clubs his callsign for Field Day. He is now living in Pottstown PA.

Nobel Laureate Builds Time Machine Out of Bananas, Perfume, and Old TV Guides

Last month, Fred Evans, N4KYM, lost his uncle early in March. Condolences to the family.

Loch Ness Monster Caught on Richmond Traffic Camera — Driving A Mini Cooper

Joe Moshier, KF4QPC, has been active on the 2-meter band. Up until recently, Joe was one those rare hams in the valley who was in the bad habit of listening more than he talked! Welcome to the "land of the rag-chew drive time", Joe!

Oprah's New Weight Loss Plan — Olives, Lemon Juice, Chocolate, and Dirt

Paul Brunk, W4RY, has been a real "Charleton" lately. He's been going back and forth to Charlotte, North Carolina, something about a grandbaby! Hey, Paul, going to the Raleigh Hamfest in April?

Mars Probe Finds Jimmy Hoffa's Body

Is anyone actually reading the articles in this month's issue? Nope, I didn't think so. If you read this, and tell the newsletter editor about it, he will put your name in a hat for a drawing for a free year's subscription to the 145.13 Autopatch!

Harvard Law Prof Marries Hickory Tree

Joe Moomaw's son Dick wrote a nice note thanking the VARA club for honoring W4XD. VARA is in the process of acquiring the call as a club callsign to honor Joe, a lifetime member of VARA until his passing last year.

Princeton Medical Study Says Combing Your Hair Increases Risk of Cancer

And Colin Hester, N4ZFQ was reportedly heard on the repeaters last month, too. Of course, this might just have been an old echo.

Cher Files Suit: Claims Pacific Ocean Was Deliberately Cooled To Hurt CD Sales

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Kathy's in Verona on March 2, 2004. The President Billy Hooke KG4JOF opened the meeting at 7:30pm. There were 20 members present and 4 guests, Bob VanFossen K4DJG, Mike Solomon KJ4RM, George Spolnicki and Craig DuCharme. Welcome to our visitors, and we would like to see all of you back next month.

The 50/50 was won by Joe Pehan W4LIG.... Congratulations Joe! Hope you took Maria out somewhere for a nice meal.

The Club will start lessons for new hams and the registration date is March 29th. Gordon Batey WA4FJC, Richard Huttinger AA4RH and Greg Czerniak W4GRC are in charge of this committee. Gordon gave a report on the material they had received from the ARRL to help get classes organized. Plans are to use the ARRL Now You Are Talking text books and have a \$25 fee to cover these expenses. Anyone that is willing to help teach when the class begins should contact a member of this committee.

Our Field Day committee volunteers for 2004 are: Billy Hooke KG4JOF, Richard Huttinger AA4RH and Jess Hancock W4PQK. A tentative date for the Field Day committee meetings is the second Thursday of the month beginning on March 11th at Burger King in Mount Crawford at

6:00pm. They will be looking for help during field day such as equipment, shelters, set up and when it's time to take down antennas, towers and gather up extension cords, tarps, stakes and get them all loaded to bring off the mountain. We would like to have more help with site clean up, mowing and trimming this year. There's a lot of grass to mow at the site and the extra help would be greatly appreciated. When those mowing have to stop to pick up rocks and limbs it makes the job more time consuming.

New Club Call Sign:

Charlie Garner WA4ITY has received a letter from Joe Moomaw's Daughter and Son granting permission for us to use Joe's call sign W4XD for the VARA call sign. Gordon Batey WA4FJC and Ray Colvin KE4HVR will get the proper paper work started to make this happen, hopefully before Field Day.

SWAP SHOP:

This is 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 a picture of the item would help it sell. Go to VARA Web Site at: <http://www.qsl.net/w4mus/>

Highland County ARES Net will be on the Monterey repeater 147.180+ and tone of 100.0 at 8:30pm on the 1st & 3rd Wednes-

day of the month. They would like to welcome everyone to check into the Net.

ADDRESSES!!! Keep your e-mail address up to date. Please send them to: Billy Hooke KG4JOF, KG4JOF@arrl.net Jeff Rinehart W4PJW, jmrinehart@yahoo.com Ray Colvin KE4HVR, colvingr@rica.net and David Fordham KD9LA, fordhadr@jmu.edu Also, it's good to keep QRZ updated when call signs and e-mail addresses are changed.

ON THE SICK LIST:

Dan James W4DLJ is getting around without his walker part of the time but not able to join us for the Friday lunches.

Neal Layman's N4XU, Father passed away on February 29th in Oak Lea at VMRC, Harrisonburg at 93 years of age.

Kenny Harris KE4GKD, is doing therapy on his shoulder after his recent operation.

Lets keep these folks in our thoughts and prayers.

ARES NET: David Tanks AD4TJ is looking for Net Controls for the Augusta County ARES Net. 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.

PROGRAMS NEEDED: Richard AA4RH, Program Chairman, is looking for anyone that would like

to do a program for the club. Give him a call and set up a date 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 8:14pm.

Dan Beidler KE4JSX gave a presentation on the Red Cross topic of "Emergency Preparedness". Our greatest disasters are floods and fires. The presentation made us more aware of what we need to have in emergency kits at home and in our vehicles. Some of the items for each kit are: water, non-perishable food, matches, flashlight with extra batteries, battery powered radio, blankets, first aid kit, extra eye glasses and any prescription drugs you may be taking. We also need to have an escape route planned to get out of our house and to a safe place nearby. We need relatives phone numbers both nearby and in other states so we can let them know where we are in emergency situations. The other item is giving blood, blood is very much needed at this time and especially the rare types of blood. Remember, if you are prepared for emergencies your chances of escaping unhurt is much greater.

Submitted By:
VARA Secretary
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

Killer Asteroid To Hit Cleveland in June! Sharpton Leads Rally, Blames Police

Kitty Cat Bill Jones, KE4FM, now has a 40-meter dipole up. Well, kinda. It's suspended from staples under the eaves of his new house in Weyers Cave! But hey, it works! Bill enjoys Sunday morning QSO's with Neal, N3XU, from Pennsylvania, with a reasonably good signal. Now if only we can do something about his signal into the 625 repeater!

Nevada Man Grows 26-Ton Raisin!

Joe Meek, KD4FKT, has changed his email address. His new email is: bobbiejoe@newhopetel.com

Archaeologists: Dinosaurs Invented The Internet 10 Million Years Ago

Charlie Garner, WA4ITY, finally, finally, at long last, got around to renewing his dues in VARA. And it's only the end of March, too, Charlie! Why so soon?

Kidnapped Newborn Converts MP3 Player to Cell Phone — Then Calls 911 !

Bob Niemeyer, W3MMC (let's see, that's I before E ...) recently trekked up to the mountain to tweak the 625 machine. That's Bob. Always tweaking someone or something!

Sea Monster Eats Sweden

Thanks to Captain Junkins for a very informative program on the new Rockingham County communication system at the March MARA Meeting. Captain Junkins will return later in the year for a program on how the hams can help the county.

Woman Removes Wedding Ring After 40 Years – And Finds Missing Nixon Tapes

Does anyone know where Brown Snyder went? He reportedly was on his way to Florida, but the callbook and FCC database still show him here. But his newsletter was returned as undeliverable.

Navy Captain Runs Nuclear Sub Aground in Kansas – Negligence Suspected

We know that some people will be offended at one or more of these headlines. So we apologize in advance & say, “April Fool”.

California’s 9th Circuit Court Rules King Henry VIII’s Ghost Is President of the U.S.

The March 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, David Fordham, KD9LA, there were 33 members and 4 guests present.

The secretary’s report for the November 2003 and the February 2004 meetings were accepted.

One new member was voted into the club, Roger Sack, N9ARC, formerly W4IPD of Harrisonburg.

Hugh Pettis, K3EC updated the status of the VMRC station located at Park Gables, included the ordering of an Icom IC-746PRO for the station.

Bill Jones, KE4FM noted the passing of Neil Layman’s father to the club.

Jon Lasher, N3GLZ reminded the club of the Virginia QSO party on March 20-22, for more information visit <http://home.online.no/~janalme/htmlrules/qsova.html>.

The March of Dimes walk will be April 24th, David Fordham, KD9LA reported that we will need 5 to 6 operators, the walk will be about 5 miles, net control will be from the Harrisonburg Municipal building, lunch and shirts will be provided.

Virginia RACES live training will be held again in Charlottesville, Dale Showalter, N4DAI reported the training will be held April 3rd at Mar-

Bill Jones KE4FM Comes to Ham Club Meeting Three Months In A Row!

April 1: MARA Homebrew & Traders Night

April 4: Raleigh Hamfest

April 6: VARA Club Meeting

April 10: VE Examinations in Dayton VA

April 18: York (PA) Hamfest

April 24: Rockingham County March of Dimes Walke

April 24: Waynesboro RiverFest

April 24: Chesapeake Hamfest

April 24: SP DX RTTY Contest

May 14-16: Dayton Ohio Hamfest

May 29-30: CQ WW CW WPX Contest

June 6: Manassas Hamfest

June 12-14: ARRL VHF QSO Party

June 26-27: ARR Field Day

tha Jefferson Hospital Educational Center at Charlottesville, Virginia. To sign up or see more information visit http://va-ares.org/html/va_races_live_training.html.

Gayle Shull, KU4XN announced the upcoming VE testing in Dayton at the Woodmen of the World building on Saturday, April 10th at 9:00 AM and Gerald Nauman, KN4FM gave a review of the February VE session which included four new Technician licensees and one new General.

The VARA club will be starting a Technician training class starting March 29th at the Augusta County Government Center in Verona.

Paul Brunk, W4RY won the 50 / 50 drawing, Paul donated his half to the club, \$34.00 went to the club.

The formal meeting was adjourned at 8:09PM and the program was a great presentation of the new Harrisonburg / Rockingham EOC center and the new radio system for the city and county by Captain Jim Junkins, director of Harrisonburg / Rockingham Emergency Operations Center.

The April MARA meeting will be homebrew and trader’s night, bring all projects and items to sell or trade.

Todd Harrison, K4TMH
MARA Secretary

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: David Fordham KD9LA
Vice President: Bill Karle KG4UPN
Secretary: Todd Harrison, K4TMH
Treasurer: Sandy Mullins, K4PZC
Board (exp 04): Richard Haxton, KC3AN
Board (exp 05): John Nelson N3JN

<http://mara.ws>

MARA meets the first Thursday of each month
at Ever's Restaurant on U.S. 11 north
of the traffic light in Mt. Crawford.
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: Billy Hooke, KG4JOF
Vice President: Greg Czerniak, W4GRC
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 Kathy's Restaurant on U.S. 11 north of
the traffic light in Verona.
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