

May 2005

The Monitor

Published jointly by the Valley Amateur Radio Association and the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association

Field Day Location Still Undecided

As of press time, the Field Day Committee was still wrestling with the problem of WHERE to hold Field Day this year.

As many members may have heard, the traditional Field Day site has been torn up by four-wheel drive enthusiasts rutting the area, and destroying the grass, leaving little more than a muddy flat.

Alternate sites are being actively investigated, including a grassy mountain meadow a few hundred feet past the traditional mountaintop site, as well as a

private lakefront field between Harrisonburg and Broadway, off Kratzer Road.

Additionally, the committee is pursuing the possibility of Forest Service assistance at partially repairing the traditional site, or improving the access drives to the next meadow to the north.

Stay posted to the local repeaters and nets to learn of the decisions!

April: Three Upgrades, Two New Hams, One on His Way Up... Thanks to VE's

Thanks to the Volunteer Examiners who helped with the April 9 VE testing session at Dayton:

RAY RICHIE K4NRA

GERALD NAUMAN KN4FM

JASON ARMENTROUT N4DSL

E.C. SHOWALTER KG4KUR

NORMAN BENNER KA4EEN

ROBERT VANFOSSON K4DJG

RICHARD HAXTON KC3AN

JIM LEHMAN W4POL

We had seven to show for tests. The results were impressive

Three local hams upgraded:

Bryan Daniels K4RMY made General,

James McDowell IV KI4FZY got HF privileges,

and **Charlie Kline KI4DMC** made General.

We also have several new hams in the area.

Jeremy Phillips KB8DBO passed Element 3.

Frank Aigner KI4JRQ of Bridgewater got his tech license,

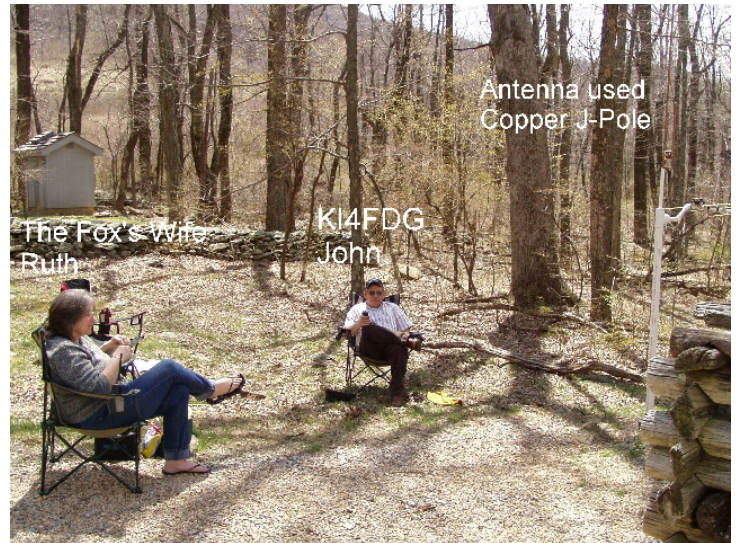
Timothy Kile KI4JRR also earned technician.

April Augusta County Fox Hunt Results

Sunday, April 17 – what a day for a nice drive up in the mountains!

The foxes did a great job of confusing the hunters. By hiding themselves way off the road in the woods, using low power, and making sure their signal had to bounce off several mountains before arriving at the valley floor, the wiley foxes held the hunters at bay for a much longer-than-usual amount of time. A really, truly, fun time was had by all!

Right: John KI4FDG was the fox, along with assistant Gary KI4FZV. Transmitting on 146.490 with a Yaesu VX-7R HT, using only 5-watts of power, they used a copper pipe fold-up J-pole antenna made from plans published in a recent issue of QST magazine. The fox den was behind the Humpback Rocks Visitor Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway at milepost 5.6.



Left: There were five teams reaching the den. First in at 3:44 pm, was Mr. RDF himself, Cowles Andrus K4EME, accompanied by Ray Colvin KE4HVR.



Right: Arriving in second place, at 4:26, was Brad KG4YLE and his daughter Cheyenne.



Left: Third, arriving at 4:36, was Bennie N4BCC and Jess W4PQK.

Only a few footsteps behind, arriving at 4:37, was Gordon WA4FJC and Jered KG4EHM.



Right: The fifth and final hunter to arrive was Jason KG4YLG.

Photos by Gary KI4FZV.

MARA Donates Amateur Radio Books to Massanutten Regional Public Library

Below is a summary and description (from the ARRL web site) of the books and CDs that MARA donated to the Massanutten Regional Library. These books and CDs should be available for check-out by the first of May. The library staff was very appreciative of the donation. There are some VERY useful books here!

Now You're Talking!

All You Need For Your FIRST Amateur Radio License

In one book, you have everything you need to earn your Technician class license: Friendly, easy-to-understand theory and rules; Latest Technician class question pool (Element 2) with answer key, for use on exams beginning July 1, 2003, and detailed explanations for all questions, including FCC rules.

ARRL General Class License Manual

Everything You Need To Pass Your General Class Written Exam covering the latest General class question pool (Element 3) with answer key, for use beginning July 1, 2004.

ARRL Extra Class License Exam Manual

Covering the latest Extra class question pool (Element 4) with answer key, for use beginning July 1, 2002.

ARRL Handbook

About the Eighty-Second Edition:

The most complete update in a decade! This edition is by far the most extensively revised version of this work in ten years. Entire sections of this book were updated to reflect the most current state-of-the-art: analog and digital signals and components; working with surface-mount components; High-Speed Multimedia (HSMM); new and previously unpublished antennas, and advice on baluns; satellites and EME, now with new Phase 3E details; oscillators, DSP and software

radio design; a new chapter with Internet tips for hams, Wireless Fidelity or Wi-Fi, and other wireless and PC technology.

CD-ROM now included. For the first time, this edition is bundled with The ARRL Handbook CD (version 9.0)--the fully searchable and complete book on CD-ROM (including many color images).

Thorough coverage of theory, references and practical projects. More projects! The ARRL Handbook is an unmatched source for building receivers, transceivers, power supplies, RF amplifiers, station accessories and antenna construction projects. Now featuring more antenna projects and a new 10-W, 60-meter SSB transceiver! There's something inside for experimenters of all skill levels.

ARRL Antenna Book

20th Edition

The ARRL Antenna Book is *The Source* for current antenna theory and a wealth of practical, how-to construction projects. Extensively revised, and featuring antenna designs enhanced by the latest advances in computer modeling. 944 pages! In depth coverage of antennas, feed lines, and propagation. Design, build and install any imaginable type of antenna!

Bundled with this edition is the fully-searchable book on CD-ROM and additional software utilities. The CD-ROM supports Windows and Macintosh systems. At your command is the entire book--every word and every page--PLUS pages of band-by-band propagation tables for locations around the world!

Uses the widely popular Adobe® Acrobat® Reader software (included) to view, navigate, search and print from all chapters.

The CD-ROM included with this book includes four updated and improved programs (for Windows):

YW--Yagi for Windows (view manual)

TLW--Transmission Line for Windows (view manual)

HFTA--HF Terrain Assessment (view manual)

EZNEC ARRL--Antenna Modeling by W7EL

In addition, some still valuable DOS programs from previous editions are included:

AAT--Analyze Antenna Tuner

SCALE for converting Yagi antenna files to different frequencies or element tapers for YW

GAMMA for computing gamma matches
MOBILE for computing mobile whip parameters

MAKEVOA to convert HFTA output files to VOACAP antenna files

Some supplementary software utilities included, for Windows and DOS only, along with thousands of Propagation Tables, propagation forecasts for more than 150 QTHs around the world for all portions of the solar cycle are included on the CD-ROM (PDF format for Adobe Acrobat Reader).

ARRL Operating Manual

8th Edition

The most complete book about Amateur Radio operating:

Rules and Regulations updated and including 60 meters FM operating, including repeaters, EchoLink and IRLP. Extensive operating detail for dozens of modes including CW, PHONE, and many digital modes.

VHF and HF digital with new emphasis on sound-card based operating modes and APRS Other VHF/UHF modes including meteor scatter and weak signal software applications DXing, Contesting and Award Hunting and featuring ARRL's Logbook of The World Emergency communications updated for the post-September 11, 2001 environment Traffic Handling Image Communications including innovations using sound cards , satellites ...and many additional references. This book is designed to help you increase your enjoyment and skill.

(continued on next page)

MARA Library Donation Details

(continued from previous page)

Your Intro. to Morse Code (audio CDs)

Don't just learn the code--master it! This set includes two audio CDs (for your audio/music CD player) with nearly 2-1/2 hours of practice. Follow the proven ARRL Morse code teaching system. Sample exams included! Includes 2 audio CDs and instruction booklet.

Morse Code: The Essential Language

by Peter Carron, W3DKV.

This book covers both the Morse code's fascinating history and its up-to-date applications. You'll learn how to receive and send, and for the proficient operator there's a chapter on high-speed operation. Learn how to handle distress calls heard not only on the ham bands but on maritime and aircraft frequencies as well. Finally, there is a look into the future and super CW.

ARRL FCC Rule Book 13th Edition

edited by John Hennessee, N1KB.

The Rules that govern the Amateur Radio Service.

Includes the entire text of Part 97, with easy to read explanations, completely updated to include the latest regulatory changes. Includes an enhanced index with Part 97 citations, and the new 60-meter frequency details!

New sections make license modifications a breeze! A

new section to guide you through the FCC Universal Licensing System should be very useful. The book also includes extensive new material explaining FCC mandated registration under the Commission Registration System

This issue also covers the rulings, guidelines, and FCC-issued material governing the interconnection and use of the Internet and Amateur Radio, along with repeaters, Public Service, and Interference issues.

A special feature of this book is a copy of the letter from the President of the United States recognizing Amateur Radio.

Understanding Basic Electronics

Written in an easy-to-understand style for electronics beginners, Understanding Basic Electronics is also for those who want to brush up on electronics principles. Loaded with illustrations, the book starts with math skills and progresses to dc and ac electronics principles. It concludes with clear, simple explanations of how components like diodes, transistors and integrated circuits work.

The RFI Book

There are two kinds of hams: Those who don't have interference problems and those who get on the air! If you're among the latter, you need the information in this book. ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, and a team of RFI experts have compiled the best advice available on every type of interference: automotive, television, computers, lamps, VCRs, stereos, intermod, telephones, and interference due

to powerlines. If it's a device that can be affected by interference, including your station receiver, you'll find practical cures in this book. This extensively rewritten book is the successor to ARRL's earlier interference book, Radio Frequency Interference, How to Find It and Fix It. You'll find more real-life examples and the most up-to-date and proven techniques for curing all kinds of interference problems. The latest RFI regulations, suppliers, and a complete bibliography have been updated and expanded.

N0AX's Radio Puzzler

By H. Ward Silver, N0AX

Sharpen your pencil--while sharpening your mind! Here's a fantastic collection of Test Your Knowledge articles from QST, and other challenging logic problems. Enjoy puzzles, quizzes, humorous articles, and word problems; sprinkled with some vintage cartoons. A ham operator's delight!

Transmitter Hunting

by Joseph Moell, K0OV and Thomas Curlee, WB6UZZ.

All the information you need about equipment and techniques for HF and VHF radio direction finding. Transmitter hunting is both practical and fun. Using the information in this book, you can not only locate jammers and other sources of malicious interference, but you can also locate downed aircraft, engage in sport hunting, even help search-and-rescue groups save lives!

Night Signals (fiction)

Part of the Amateur Radio adventure series by popular author Cynthia Wall, KA7ITT.

"Heavy morning ground fog. Increasing clouds and lower temperatures. Lows of 20 to 25 fahrenheit in the Cascades with accumulations of 5 to 6 inches new snow possible tonight." Marc Lawrence, badly injured from a fall in the rugged Cascades, can't hear the forecast. His only hopes of communication are his smashed ham radio transmitter and a VHF hand-held radio out of repeater range.

And then there's Kim, the high school senior, he had talked to the night before by Morse Code. When Marc doesn't show up on the air the next day, she launches one of the largest rescue operations ever seen in the Northwest.

But will they be in time?

Kudos to James McDowell KI4FZY

Last month's Monitor carried an article about James KI4FZY taking top honors at the school and county and district science fairs.

This month, we are pleased to report that James made headlines on the on-line ARRL "Breaking news" website. Featuring a photo of the winning project, the story gave good publicity to a very deserving local ham.

Harrisonburg March of Dimes Walk: Fun and Service

With over 350 registered walkers, the Harrisonburg MD Walk-America is a BIG deal.

Manning eight different rest and refreshment stops, as well as some strategic corner locations, ham radio operators once again provided superb communications support for the three-hour, six-kilometer walk. Net Control operated from the start/finish line in constant touch with the organizers.

E.C. Showalter, KG4KUR, manned the South Avenue Rest area.

Gayle Shull, KU4XN, and Gail Shull, KB4JBF, together manned the Hillandale Park Refreshment Center and later did sweep duty.

Bob Steere, N1QEQ, served as an

important relay station from a post high atop a hill overlooking the entire city, and doing sweep duty.

Ray Ritchie K4NRA, staffed the Harrisonburg High School rest area, driving the route, performing sweep duty, and ferrying supplies and people.

Nancy Ritchie, KG4JAZ, initially posted at a critical intersection, later managed the Kinko's rest area.

James McDowell IV, KI4FZY, manned the important intersection at Main Street and JMU, an important fork in the route.

Bryan Daniels, K4RMY, served as delivery driver and manned the Kiwanis Park rest area.

Bill Karle, KG4UPN, manned the JMU Tennis Court rest area.

Phyllis Haxton, N4VZC and Richard Haxton, KC4AN, manned the Keister Elementary School Rest Area.

David Fordham KD9LA, served as net control, assisted by his 15-year-old daughter **Dianna Fordham**.

Elwood Schrader, KB4DJN, also came into Harrisonburg to assist, but encountered insurmountable equipment problems and had to check out early. The entire crew thanks Elwood for his willingness to help.

Hams each got a nice meal and a T-shirt. Next year's walk is scheduled for April 22, so mark your calendars!



Left: Bob N1QEQ, James KI4FZY, and EC KG4KUR.

Below left: Gayle KU4XN, Ray K4NRA, Bob N1QEQ, Nancy KG4JAZ, and Gail KB4JBF.

Below: Bill KG4UPN, Bryan K4RMY, and Dave, KD9LA, at the net control station.



Waynesboro Riverwalk

The Waynesboro Repeater Association with support from other area amateurs assisted with the RiverFest 2005 Run/Paddle/Ride event in Waynesboro on April 23, 2005.

The weather was great and the RiverFest participants appeared to have a good time. Many thanks to all those that assisted with this public service event.

Submitted by Gordon Batey



The photo above shows some of those assisting. From the left: Ray Colvin KE4HVR, Marvin Henderson KF4WDI, Stacie Henderson, Gary VanFossen KI4FZV, Josh Green, Frank Green KE4ASC, Pete Weiland K4AOO, Helen Bassett W4HLB, Ken Bassett K4KPB, Doug Tippet N8ESW, and Bob McCracken N4JGO. Not shown: Gordon Batey WA4FJC, Ed Tutwiler WA4TPE, John Lasher N3GLZ, and Doug Edwards KA4NWK.

VARA Secretary's Report – April 5 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Kathy's in Verona on April 5, 2005. The President, Marvin Henderson KF4WDI, opened the meeting at 7:30pm. There were 21 members present and 3 guests, Bob Van Fossen K4DJG, John Bottenmiller N4SYH and David Pickering KF4JCY. Welcome to our visitors, and we would like to see all of you back next month.

50/50: Gordon Batey WA4FJC won the 50/50 drawing, HEY THAT'S ME, he said!

Field Day 2005 Committee report was given by Richard Huttinger AA4RH and it seems like they are well on the way with the planning.

Waynesboro MS Walk It was a pretty day for the MS Walk again this year. We had five hams that gave up a nice Sunday evening to help with communications, Benny N4BCC, Kay KF4CZL, Marvin KF4WDI, Jess W4PQK who also walked and Ray KE4HVR. Everything went well and the MS Walk officers appreciated each and every one who helped. Thanks to all that came out on a pretty Sunday evening on April 10th to help with the MS Walk communications.

New 220 Repeater! A 224.600 repeater is up and running on Afton Mountain. HT's should work it from most of the valley.

ON THE SICK LIST:

Ken Harris KE4GKD is still taking treatments at AMC to build his blood up.

Lonnie Czerniak N4WIV has her Dad re-hab in Florida, after a leg amputation and a pacemaker.

Queenie, Clinton's (KB4OLM) wife has some health concerns at this time.

Lets keep these folks in our thoughts and prayers.

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/>

PLEASE notify Billy when your item is sold.

ADDRESSES!!! Keep your e-mail address up to date. Please send them to: Marvin Henderson KF4WDI

marvista@ntelos.net Jeff Rinehart W4PJW jmrinehart@yahoo.com Ray Colvin KE4HVR colvingr@adelphia.net and David Fordham KD9LA ford-hadr@jmu.edu Also, it's good to keep QRZ updated when call signs and e-mail addresses are changed.

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. Fox hunts are also scheduled for some months as weather permits.

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 8:00pm.

Submitted By:
VARA Secretary
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

MARA Secretary's Report – April 7 Meeting

The April MARA meeting was called to order at 8:37pm by Vice President Andrew Barbour AG4XN.

Introductions were made.

Dick W3HXH was injured in an accident at home. He is doing well.

Secretary's report was approved as printed.

There was no Treasurer's report.

Committee reports

Public service:

Volunteers are needed for events listed below.

Harrisonburg March of Dimes Walk April 23. KD9LA is going to act as Net Control for the Walk.

Waynesboro MS Walk April 10

Shenandoah/Massanutten Mt. Trail Run will be held in May and they are looking for radio help.

Field Day Committee :

Our members officially include Ellsworth K4LXG and Bill KG4UPN. Next meeting is April 21 at the Burger King in Mt. Crawford.

Field Day Site is in very poor repair.

Fox Hunt:

David Tanks sent out an email Reminder about the Fox Hunt in Augusta County Sunday the 17th at 2 pm, on 146.490 simplex. Hunters use 147.075 repeater to coordinate efforts.

VE Committee:

Test session April 9th at Woodman of the World in Dayton 9:00am. Gayle thanked Gerald for standing in for him while he was in Florida.

ARES/RACES Committee:

EOC is getting ready to buy equipment for the station in the new Harrison Plaza Public Safety building. The station will consist of mostly ICOM equipment.

QRP Group:

Digital QRP kits were discussed at the last meeting.

QRP club meets the 2nd Tuesday at Andrew AG4XN's home. If you would like directions please call 540-337-1201. His address is 516 St. James Road, Fishersville, VA.

VMRC:

Hugh K3EC reported that simplex worked very well on the 2M ARES net.

He also reported that he got a filter to help the noise problem at VMRC that worked very well.

Old business:

Lifetime membership:

The board will discuss. Bill KG4UPN has done the research on how to amend the bylaws to allow for a new category of membership.

New business:

New programs are needed.

Hugh suggested a program about Secret Intelligence use of ham radio during WW2.

N4DAI report that missionaries in Papua New Guinea are in need an HF radio with digital capable output. There was discussion about the club doing this as a project. It was suggested that maybe other clubs may be interested in helping with this. Staunton club will be contacted to see if both clubs could work on it. Gayle KU4XN said he may have a radio he was willing to sell to help out.

Evers management said that we will have to pay for a room if we have less than 20 people for dinner. Suggestion was made to keep track of how many eat the next few months.

50/50 drawing was held and Jason N4DSL won \$13.50.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm

Swap Meet and Show and Tell followed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by

Bryan Daniels, K4RMY

Some Upcoming Events

May 1: Hagerstown (MD) hamfest
 May 3: VARA Club Meeting (Kathy's in Verona)
 May 5: MARA Club Meeting (Ever's in Mt Crawford)
 May 21-21: Dayton (OH) Hamfest
 May 28: Durham (NC) Hamfest
 May 28-29: CQ WW WPX CW Contest

June 2: MARA Meetibng
 June 5: Manassas Hamfest
 June 7: VARA Meeting
 June 11: VE Exams in Dayton (VA)
 June 11: Winston-Salem (NC) Hamfest
 June 11-13: ARRL VHF QSO Party
 June 18-24: Field Day Family Camping
 June 19: Frederick (MD) Hamfest
 June 24: Field Day Dinner

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: Bill Karle KG4UPN
Vice President: Andrew Barbour AG4XN
Secretary: Bryan Daniels K4RMY
Treasurer: Sandy Mullins, K4PZC
Board (exp 05): John Nelson N3JN
Board (exp 06): Richard Weaver W3HXH

<http://mara.ws>

MARA meets the first Thursday of each month
at Ever's Restaurant on U.S. 11, just 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/wx4d>

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