

July 2005

# The Monitor

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

## **MARA: New Meeting Time!**

Because our programs have become so interesting and because our fellowship and friendship encourages us to hang around after meetings, and also because Ever's restaurant really does need to close and let their employees go home at night (!) the

MARA club has elected to move the meeting time up by half an hour.

Starting with the July club meeting, dinner will begin at 6:00 pm, and the business meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 pm.

## **A New Valley Chapter of QCWA, Anyone?**

Have you been a licensed ham more than 25 years? That is, were you first licensed in 1980 or earlier?

Don Landes, WX4C, is wondering if there is enough interest to start a local chapter of the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) here in the Shenandoah Valley.

It would seem that there are plenty of old-timers that would qualify. It takes a minimum of only five (5) members of the association to start a local chapter.

If you are interested, contact Don at [wx4c@msn.com](mailto:wx4c@msn.com).

## **Shenandoah Valley Hams in the News**

Shenandoah Valley Hams have been getting more than their share of good publicity lately.

Page 2 of this issue points out that Field Day was the impetus for a number of articles in the Journal and the Daily News Record, as well as spots on WSVB (AM radio), and even the television news reports, as well as a nice short on the public access television cable channel.

And if you haven't read it yet, check out the article in the July issue of QST, starting on page 35, highlighting some of the interesting things going on here in the Radio Quiet Zone!

If you haven't been on the air lately, why not fire up the rig and join in the fun! See you at the club meetings!

## Amateur Radio Week Proclamation

WHEREAS, the Shenandoah Valley has more than 250 Amateur Radio Operators who have demonstrated their value in public service by providing emergency radio communications; and ...

WHEREAS, these Amateur Radio Operators donate these services and equipment free of charge to those groups requesting those services, such as the Red Cross, Salvation Army, State, City, and County Emergency Services organizations, and the Department of Homeland Security, and...

WHEREAS, the Amateur Radio Operators are constantly on alert for any emergency, whether it be local, county, state, or national, and they demonstrate and practice these skills each year during the American Radio Relay League's Field Day exercise; and...

WHEREAS, this year's local Field Day exercise will take place in George Washington National Forest near Flagpole Knob on

June 25-26, with members of the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association from the Harrisonburg area and the Valley Amateur Radio Association from the Staunton area operating under simulated emergency conditions, and invite the public to attend and participate, ...

NOW, THEREFORE, the following city and county officials hereby declare the week of June 19-26, 2005, as Amateur Radio Week, in recognition of this important emergency preparedness exercise, and call upon all citizens of the Shenandoah Valley to Recognize our Amateur Radio Operators.

Signed,

Larry Rogers, Mayor, City of Harrisonburg,

Pablo Cuevas, Chairman, Rockingham County Board of Supervisors

## Amateur Radio Publicity: N1QEQ

Bob Steere, N1QEQ, provided the Monitor with the above copy of the Amateur Radio Week Proclamation by the Harrisonburg and Rockingham officials.

He also has clippings of the newspaper stories in several local papers covering ham radio and the Field Day exercise. Superb front-page coverage was obtained.

Bob also recorded a five-minute video segment aired on WAZT IND and the Harrisonburg Public Access cable TV channel (channel 14) the last week of June, giving a very nice overview of local amateur operations in the area, as well as a video visit to the Field Day Site.

Thanks for Bob for helping on all this publicity.

## Voice From the Past: Clayton Towers, K4RHQ

I got my license in 1957. Richard Weaver gave me my novice test. One of my early contacts in morse code was with KN4RBZ in Eastern Virginia. Gerry and I have been friends through the years.

Ellsworth Neff and I got our license about the same time. We had a big time studying morse code in the kitchen of my apartment. Ellsworth and I have been long time friends.

I'm not as active as I used to be in this hobby. I guess weather, teaching string music, computers, doing volunteer work, has pushed amateur

radio on the back burner a bit. Also, old age has dampened my ambition. I'll be 86 on my next birthday. I have some health problems that have held me down.

My big interest at one time was DX.. I worked 55 Australian stations one year and got the Captain Cook award. Have QSL cards from around 50 countries.

At the present time, I'm net control of the Virginia Sideband Net on Saturday nights at 6 o'clock. I've done this for about 40 years.

When I came on the scene, there were very few hams in this area. Long distance for 2 meters was Staunton. Contacts with cars on I81 lasted for about 5 minutes. There were no repeaters. HF contacts were in AM. There have been a lot of changes in this hobby through the years.

Maybe, I'll get over to one of meetings sometime. Don't go out much anymore.

73,  
Clayton

## VARA President's Message: CEP Success

June has been an memorable month for our club. Many thanks to everyone who helped with the County Emergency Preparation event on June 21. It was great to hear the number of check-ins and to hear about what was happening at the host site in Staunton. An activity like this greatly increases the public awareness of everything that ham radio brings to emergency situations.

A very special thanks to John Lasher (N3GLZ) for all the work he did in planning this event along with Leon Fix (WE1FIX) of Rockbridge County.

The club has two new members. They are Tom Kieffer (K2ULM) and Raymond LaFalce (KF4CZM). Welcome to the club !

The "Quote of the Month" comes from U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt who said; "Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

Marvin Henderson, KF4WDI  
VARA President

## MARA President's Message: New Meeting Time

June certainly was busy month for local hams. We held a successful meeting with local emergency officials in Staunton on June 21<sup>st</sup>, followed by a very well attended Field Day, and throw in a few contests and some great publicity and magazine articles for good measure! I want to thank Hugh Pettis, K3EC, for a very informative and interesting program at the June MARA meeting. Our hats are off to John Lasher, N3GLZ, for organizing the CEP project and arranging for those area folks who head up the various CERT and emergency response teams to meet up with some of our operators, and see what amateur radio is all about. Thanks also Bill Barrett, W1WJB, who came down from ARRL headquarters to give the main presentation, and to the local hams who came

out, manned the various check-in points, and gave proof that our reach is not only local, but global as well. Kudos all around!

And certainly, it did NOT rain on Field Day! Many thanks goes out to those who helped set up and take down, bring equipment in and out, contact the local press and authorities, and organize the operations. Also, I want to thank all of those who donated their equipment and their time to make Field Day happen. Without the radios, gear, antennas and trailers, and the trust these people place in the rest of us who attended and operated, we wouldn't have as good of a Field Day as we had. Without the time and effort that goes into organizing all of the elements that make up Field Day, none of this would be possible. From the

internet and VoIP phone service to the hot CW keys, the trailer setups, the satellite connections, the solar-powered GOTA station, and the warm conversations around the fires during the evening, every one who helped out or assisted is to be commended!

And if you haven't had the opportunity to check out the article by David Fordham in the latest issue of QST, get a copy and check it out. It features a number of our members in their never-ending quest to stretch the limits and see what is possible! Once again, Kudos go out to David, Jason, Bob, Gerald and the others in the article. I think it will open many eyes onto the wonders going on in (and over) the Shenandoah Valley!

Bill, KG4UPN

## Volunteer Examination Session Report: June 11

Thanks to the local hams who donated their Saturday morning to help us with our June 11 VE testing session. Hams who showed up to help out were:

**Gerald Nauman, KN4FM**  
**Jason Armentrout, N4DSL**  
**Richard Haxton, KC3AN**  
**Norman Benner, KA4EEN**  
**John Spillman, KT4CB**  
**Robert Van Fossen, K4DJG**  
**E.C. Showalter, KG4KUR**

James McDowell IV is now a General Class ham!

Please remember that our next session will be on Saturday, August 13. Mark your calendar now. If you'd like to become an accredited Volunteer Examiner and help us out with the important public service, give me a call at 540-828-2132.

Gayle Shull  
KU4XN  
VE Coordinator

## Best Wishes for Ken Harris, KE4GKD

*Those who know Kenny Harris, KE4GKD, of Staunton might be interested in the following email received from him and forwarded to many of his friends.*

*Kenny has been recognized by both MARA and VARA as being instrumental in the cooperative and collaborative nature fostered between those two clubs. It is only fitting that the Monitor publicly acknowledge that there are many thoughts and prayers being offered wishing Ken a successful surgery and speedy recovery.*

July 13th I will have another upper scope being done this time by Dr. Jones my surgeon, just to see what may have

changed and to finish his final plan for the operation.

July 14th. (unknown time as of now) Dr. Jones will be doing 100% of my surgery with his staff helping him, and he said it was going to be a long hard surgery.

He plans to move a piece of my Colin up and attach just below my voice box. There is a chance this procedure will not work even within the first few hours and his orders at this time will be to just stop the operation at this point. (which will mean the end for me) If it does work there could be more complications where he will have to go in my neck area to try to make a repair if possible. Again if this happens and can not be repaired it

means the same as mentioned above.

This procedure has never been done at UVA or any other hospital that Dr. Jones knows of and he also said that UVA would be the only hospital around to give it a try.

Chemo and Radiation may be an option after the surgery but not before the operation.

Dr. Jones plans on cutting me on the side of my neck, in the right chest area, upper center chest area and lower abdominal, also parts of my clavicle will be removed and not replaced.

I will be in ICU for some time and if all goes well I will be moved to a private room and

then after a couple of weeks (give or take) I will be able to come home but only if I am able to get up and walk some on my own.

I mentioned to Dr. Jones that I did not want to be on a feeding tube for longer than three months and his answer was that he would not do the surgery unless I gave him more time for the feeding tube. OK I gave in to awhile longer but we did agree that after a few more months it was of not help it would then be removed as to my wishes.

Odds are that 70% I will make it out of the operations and 60% that I will be able to make it home from UVA. Dr. Jones seems to think that the first two weeks will tell the story.

## Long Distance on 2-meters

The following is from Bob Steere, N1QEQ:

About 9:00 pm on Tuesday, June 28, I heard a signal on 145.130, but it wasn't coming from the N4YET repeater. It was a QSO between two stations, I could hear one pretty clearly, but the other was a bit faint.

I looked up the call and he lives in Winton, North Carolina, which is near the ocean in the Kill Devil Hills area.

Mapquest puts the distance between him and me at 253 miles!

There were thunderstorms in our area at the time. Mother Nature never ceases to amaze me.

N4NWA, Reggie Faust, later sent a message to Bob:

"I was on the 145.130 repeater in Ahoskie, NC. I live 9 miles north of it. ... The callsign is WB4YNF. We work Richmond all the time through that machine. Last Friday, we had stations from Burgaw NC, and Lumberton NC getting into it full quieting. This is all the way across the state! Try it sometime when you don't have thunderstorms in your area!"

## Surplus Deep Cycle 12v Batteries

Battery Express (formerly Battery Mart), located at 1501 South Main Street in Harrisonburg (across the street from Wendy's) has a limited supply of surplus sealed lead-acid batteries. The best part: They are available for under \$20 each!

These are 1-year-old, 12-volt, 100-amp-hour, zero-maintenance deep-cycle batteries removed from a hospital UPS system as part of an annual maintenance procedure.

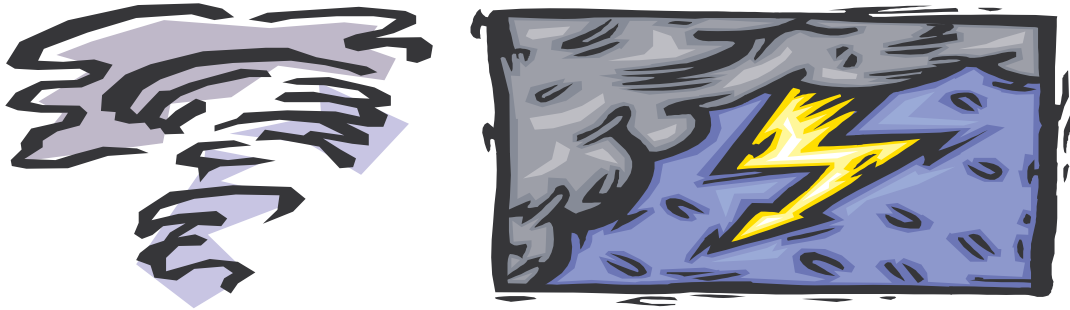
Manufactured by the Dynasty Division of C&D Technologies, these DCS-100L batteries are great for emergency standby use in amateur radio applications. They are in mint condition.

Ask for Eric or Carl, and tell them you are a ham operator.

As of July 1, there were still over a dozen of these batteries still available.



DCS-100L



## *ARE YOU READY FOR EITHER ONE OF THESE?*

THE EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT ALONG WITH THE PAGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WILL BE HOSTING A "SKYWARN" WEATHER SPOTTER CLASS JULY 27<sup>th</sup>

SKYWARN is a national network of volunteer severe weather spotters. The spotters are trained by local National Weather Service Forecast Offices on how to spot severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, hail, and flooding. In some parts of the country, spotters also report snowfall and ice accumulation.

Spotters are all ages beginning as young as 14 and range well into retirement age. There are farmers, pilots, engineers, housewives, lawyers, television cameramen, teachers, students, firemen, and more. These volunteers are diverse but with a common interest in weather and a strong desire to help their community.

There are currently thousands of active volunteers across the Commonwealth who are trained as SKY-WARN spotters. I would like to increase that number by asking you and anyone you would like to invite to attend the training session in Luray on July 27<sup>th</sup>. This training is open to all who would like to attend. Please make copies of this announcement and forward it on to churches, schools, civic organizations, volunteer organizations, etc.

Besides being trained as a spotter, Mr. David Manning with the Baltimore-Washington Forecast Office of NOAA will speak on the upcoming hurricane season. This years' season is predicted to be a VERY busy season. We've already had three named storms and the season has just begun!

Once again, please forward this on to anyone you feel would be interested in attending. This class is only offered a few times a year around the region. Please take advantage of this very important informative class while it is being taught close to your hometown.

The class will be held at the Luray Fire Department on July 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM and should run approximately two and half hours. Please register for this very informative class by calling Gene P Stewart, Jr. at 540-843-0911, Ext 4.

## Advanced SkyWarn Classes Might Come to Rockingham/Augusta

On the previous page is a flyer for the Luray introductory Skywarn class on July 27. Feel free to copy that flyer and post it anywhere in your community that you think interested people might see it.

For ham operators who are already certified Skywarn

observers, take note:

Andrew Barbour AG4XN, is working on a tentative arrangement with David Manning to come to Rockingham/Augusta counties and teach one or more of the harder-to-get Skywarn classes (such as the flash flooding class, the Hurricane

class, or perhaps even the net control class).

He asked for a large number of participants if he goes to the trouble of coming this long way.

The earliest the class could be held would be August, but we are in the process of find-

ing out how much interest there is in these classes.

If you are interested in additional Skywarn Training, please contact me.

Andrew Barbour, AG4XN  
phone 540-248-3240  
wollybak@mindspring.com

## Spectrum Protection Act Needs You...

The ARRL has once again obtained sponsorship for an Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act, which hopefully will become a federal law requiring the FCC to find replacement spectrum for radio amateurs to replace any ham frequencies taken away for other radio services.

Write your congressmen and senators and ask them to co-sponsor and otherwise support House bill H691 and Senate bill S1236.

The ARRL website has sample letters for you to send, pointing out ham radio's need for replacement spectrum.

The ARRL will also serve as a delivery service for your letters. If you prefer, rather than mailing the letters to your congressmen, you can email them as an attachment to: [research.assistant@chwatco.com](mailto:research.assistant@chwatco.com) or fax them to 703-684-7594, where they will be gathered and presented en

masse to the members of Congress by hand.

This is one of the few times that you have the ability to perhaps make a difference in the long-term future of the ham radio hobby. Write today.

## Another Voice From the Past — N3BES

Remember Brown Snyder, N3BES? Brown is living it up in hot Florida. Last September, he had a pacemaker installed, and is doing fine. His wife Linda is doing great, too, and they have a one-year-old white poodle that rounds out the family. Brown always did enjoy the warm weather, so Florida in July should be right down his alley! Best wishes to Brown.

## K1MAN Finally Fined

David Gordon points our attention to the ARRL Letter which announced that Glen Baxter, K1MAN, has been fined for numerous violations of the FCC rules. Hams on HF are very familiar with Baxter's irritating broadcasts which cover up QSO's in progress on "his" frequency on the 20-meter (and other) bands. The FCC is levying a fine of \$21,000.

## Condolences to N3XA

The thoughts of the ham radio community are extended to Randy Smith, N3XA, whose father passed away in late May.

## Laptop Computer Battery Melting?

Ray Colvin lets us know that Battery-Biz, Inc., is recalling thousands of its batteries used in laptop computers. They can overheat and cause injury or fires. The company has verified six cases where the batteries melted. The batteries are found in numerous brands of laptops. Serial numbers for the affected batteries are found on the website: <http://www.hi-capacity.com/exchange>



## QRP Picnic: Food, Fun, and a Real QRP Contact!

The QRP Group Barbeque kicked off at 6:00pm on the 14th of June.

It was attended by Mike Reno and his lovely XYL, along with Richard Huttinger AA4RH, Mike Solomon, Bill Karle KG4UPN, Bryan Daniels KG4RMY, and myself.

The menu include hot dogs, hamburgers and chicken with side dishes of cole slaw, potato salad and chips. For dessert their was a nice ripe watermelon.

After dinner quite a number of things seemed to happen.

First (and it really was a first!) we actually did some QPR (albeit the contact was only across the yard)!

The rigs worked flawlessly.

Second, having developed the knack of actually being productive, we worked on tuning a number of 2 meter antennae (mostly mag mounts) . Thanks to Bryan for bringing HIS MFJ tuner.

Third, for entertainment

Mike Reno brought an RC plane with him that we got to watch him fly over the neighbors' field.

All in all I would say things were very successful at the last meeting. Judging from the results, we will have to do it again later in the season.

The next QRP group meeting will be July 12 at 7:30 pm at my place (unless the location changes).

If you need directions either stop me at one of the club

meetings or email at [ag4xn@arrl.org](mailto:ag4xn@arrl.org).

Hope to see you at the next qrp meeting. Until then 73.

Andrew Barbour  
AG4XN

Photos clockwise from left top: Taking flight, watching KG400N do his thing; munchies on the deck; Richard and Bryan listening to the QSO coming from across the back yard; a close-up of the back-yard spanning rig.



## Community Education Program: Demo of Ham Radio for Local Government Officials

June 21, at 7:00 pm, at the Central Shenandoah Planning Commission offices on McTanly Place in Staunton... numerous ham operators, including David AD4TJ, John N3GLZ, Richard AA4RH, Leon W1FIX, and KJ4RM, all gathered to demonstrate ham radio and its local capabilities to government and emergency officials of Rockingham and Augusta counties.

Other hams, including WA4FJC, KC4YIV, N8ESW, N4BCC, K4DJG, KA4LKQ, KI4ZR, and K5SMQ, manned outposts such as the Field Day site, Rockingham Hospital, Augusta Hospital, Bath, Rockbridge, and Highland county centers, and EOC cen-

ters in Augusta and Waynesboro.

Officials seemed genuinely impressed at the quality and professionalism, as well as the equipment and capabilities, of the amateur radio operators.

The demo used both simplex and repeater frequencies, and will likely result in increased cooperation between the hams and the government officials.

See the article on the next page for the response we've received from the officials so far.

A big "Thank You" goes out to the hams who helped in this endeavor.



## K4PZC Wins 10m Contest!

Question: Who took **first place** in the **Virginia Section**, AND also took **first place** in the **Roanoke Division** in the ARRL 10-meter Contest?

If, based on the headline, you guessed **Sandy, K4PZC**, you would be right!

Sandy entered the Single-Op, Low Power Phone Only Class B Power B category, and scored 5th place in the entire Southeast Region, and 40th place in the entire contest.

The surprising thing is: this is one of Sandy's worst scores in this contest! Just shows what a sunspot cycle does to a contest!

Hats off to Sandy for this great showing!



## Email from John Lasher to MARA & VARA re: CEP Meeting

Bill & Marvin,

Please distribute this to the club members. I would especially like to thank those amateurs who participated by either coming to the CEP event, and those who checked into the net.

Due to some very good questions, conversation and dialogue going on during the presentation, the demonstration part of the event got off to a late start. But the delay was worth it considering the quality of the dialogue that was going on at the time.

The attendees were very impressed with our communication's capability and the professionalism of the radio operators. A Captain from the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office stated, "I can't believe how clear the person checking in from Reddish Knob sounds. Harrisonburg doesn't even come in that clear on our radio system from here in Staunton."

Fellas, we met our objective! Thanks.

John.

N3GLZ

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Forwarded email

**From:** Rebecca Joyce [mailto:Rebecca@cspdc.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 24, 2005 9:48 AM  
**To:** Fix, Leon T  
**Cc:** Lasher, John; rcsokol@i-plus.net; WJB  
**Subject:** RE: June 21st event

Leon,

Thanks for the email. From my perspective, I thought the presentation also went very well. Those who attended were very interested in the use of ham radios

for emergencies. I thought the ham radio operators did an excellent job with the demonstration - it was very interesting and informative. We appreciate all the time and hard work that was put into the demonstration, not only here at our office but at the remote sites as well. It was a great illustration for the folks attending about the variety of communication that the "hams" can provide and that they can be anywhere they are needed.

I will email John for a mailing address but would like to follow up with a formal thank you letter to the group from our organization. I also know that someone from the radio operators was taking pictures so you might ask John (it might even have been him). We would also love a copy of the pictures - I hope to do a follow up story in our newsletter and it would be great to include a picture.

I hope this will be the start of a good working partnership to both our groups. I know that you all already have a great relationship with the local emergency managers and are great volunteers in our EOCs and at the local fire houses, etc. during times of disaster. I am hoping that we can also work to create an expanded communication network that might have radio operators working with some of our special needs facilities as well, such as our nursing homes and community service boards, down the road.

Thanks again to all the local radio operators for putting on a great show - I hope we might be able to do something similar again sometime.

Rebecca Leigh Joyce  
 Senior Planner  
 Shenandoah Valley Project Impact and CERT Coordinator  
 Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission  
 112 MacTany Place; Staunton, Virginia 24401  
 Phone: 540-885-5174 Fax: 540-885-2687  
 e-mail: rebecca@cspdc.org

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## Thanks to Repeater Maintainers

Many thanks to those hams who have donated their time and talents to maintaining the local repeaters lately. Scuttlebutt has it that Ray KE4HVR and Roger WD4EHR did some work on the 146.700 repeater in Staunton, getting its signal in ship shape. And also we've heard rumors that someone has been spending time on the 147.075 repeater, too, but no one seems to know exactly who we should thank for that.

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## MARA Secretary's Report – June 2 Meeting

The May MARA meeting was called to order at 7:24 pm June 2, 2005. Bill Karle KG4UPN Presiding.

Introductions were made. Sick and injury report: None. Secretary's report was approved as printed. There was no Treasurer's report.

### Announcements:

There will be an open house for the 911 Center at Harrison Plaza on June 10th.

June 11: VHF/UHF contest.

Leon Fix WE1FIX did a presentation about the June 21st demo for CEP for Homeland Security. There is a grant from Homeland Security through the ARRL to educate people about how ham radio can help during an emergency. Starts 7:00 pm

June 11 is the 70th Anniversary of WSVB

**New members:** Michael McKay W4AZR was voted in as a new member.

### Committee reports:

Public service events- Bike Shenandoah Sept. 24th

Field Day Committee - Due to

the bad condition of the current Field Day site, the committee voted to move the site about .25 miles north of the current site in a field located on the left. Everything is moving along fine with preparations.

Bob N1QEQ talked to Rep. Goodlatt's office about obtaining a portable tower for us to use at Field Day and during emergencies.

VE session- Will be held June 11 at the Dayton Woodman of the World building

ARES/RACES: Vic KE4LKQ reported about the on going work on the EOC ARES/RACES station at the Harrison Plaza Building.

QRP Group- meeting will be June 14th at Andrews AG4XN. There will be a cookout. Time is 6:00 pm

VMRC- Nothing new to report

**Old business:** No old business

### New business:

Reservation sheet from Evers- if there are less than 20 people there will be a room charge of

\$25. Room 3 will be reserved for us on our normal meeting nights. Prices may go up in the future. There was a motion made and seconded to accept the reservation sheet from Evers. The motion passed.

There was a motion to change the meeting time to 7:00 pm to better accommodate Evers time allowance for our meeting. Motion was passed.

50/50 Drawing was held and won by Jim Stamper KG4LDY \$16.50

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by Bryan Daniels, K4RMY

Presentation was made by Hugh Pettis, K3EC, about amateur radio operations and secret wireless communication during W.W.II (1938-1945) by the British.

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## Okay, So WHERE Are the Field Day Pictures?

They've been censored! — That's right. They've been blocked by the email system used by the newsletter editor.

Someone, somewhere, has been trying to send an email with an ungodly-huge attachment, more than 10 megabytes in fact, to the newsletter editor. It is our guess that these are the Field Day pictures.

Such a huge file won't fly. Very few email services will deliver an email that large.

Good net etiquette says you should never send any file larger than five (5) megabytes, which is the unwritten standard maximum for email attachments.

Even then, it is polite to send a short email the recipient in

advance warning of any impending file over 1 MB in size.

Huge files (>5MB) are often deleted by the receiving mail server. The recipient is notified that a file has been discarded, but (s)he does not always know from whom the file came from. That is the case here.

If you have a couple of good pictures of Field Day, and want to submit them, first REDUCE THEIR SIZE using a photo editing program, to less than 100 kb each. Then, send a couple at a time to the editor. If their total will exceed five megabytes or so, send a short email message advising the recipient, and wait for him/her to make sure the server is set up to receive such a large file.

## VARA Secretary's Report – June 7 meeting

The **V**alley **A**mateur **R**adio **A**ssociation met at Kathy's in Verona on June 7, 2005. The President, Marvin Henderson KF4WDI, opened the meeting at 7:30pm. There were 18 members present and 7 guests, Bob Van Fossen K4DJG, John Bottenmiller N4SYH & his son Bryan, Dick Smith W4KHV, Bill Karle KG4UPN and Andrew Barbour AG4XN and Leon Fix WE1FIX. Welcome to our visitors, and we would like to see all of you back next month.

**50/50:** Richard Huttinger AA4RH won the 50/50 drawing, Congratulations Richard!

**Field Day** 2005 Committee report was given by Richard Huttinger AA4RH. The site for the 2005 Field Day will be out past the old site maybe half a mile. The clean up this year will be by the campers on the site so bring a weedeater, mower or what ever you have to clean up your site. Antennas for HF may all be wire antennas this year since Kenny will not be there to winch them up. Everyone is asked to bring spare equipment, what ever you may have on hand.

**New Members:** Tom Kieffer K2ULM and Raymond LaFalce KF4CZM are now VARA Members, Welcome to you both!!!!

**New Application:** Dick Smith W4KHV is mailing his application for membership to Jeff.

**Ham Radio Demonstration:** Thanks to Leon Fix WE1FIX and John Lasher N3GLZ for heading up the demonstration. Thanks also to everyone that brought equipment, helped set up and explain what ham radio can do in times of emergencies. Thanks to everyone that checked in from remote locations with comments. Hopefully the word got out to everyone through our demonstration so they realize

what Ham Radio is all about and can do when a disaster arrives. Remember the Shenandoah Valley could, in the future, be a disaster site like some of our neighboring counties have been.

### ON THE SICK LIST:

**Ken Harris KE4GKD** has a malignant tumor in his stomach, doctors are making decisions for surgery.

**Queenie, Clinton's (KB4OLM) wife** still has 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/w4xd/>

**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](mailto:marvista@ntelos.net) Jeff Rinehart W4PJW [jmrinehart@yahoo.com](mailto:jmrinehart@yahoo.com) Ray Colvin KE4HVR [colvingr@adelphia.net](mailto:colvingr@adelphia.net) and David Fordham KD9LA [ford-hadr@jmu.edu](mailto: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 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. 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 7:50pm.

### PROGRAM:

Our ARRL Representative Leon Fix WE1FIX with the help of John Lasher N3GLZ gave slide presentations from the program they have put together for the Ham Radio Demonstration on June 21 at the Central Shenandoah PDC Office located at 112 Mactanly Place in Staunton. The purpose of this demonstration is to: Increase Valley awareness of disaster prevention, Promote methods that protect homes, public buildings, critical facilities and natural spaces. Educate business and industry on disaster-resistant practices. Provide disaster prevention education for valley residents with special needs. Provide education that will allow people to think differently about disasters and change their lives for the better.

Thanks to Leon and John for a great presentation!

Submitted By:  
VARA Secretary

Ray Colvin KE4HVR

## Upcoming Events

July 4: Harrisburg (PA) Hamfest

July 5: VARA Club Meeting

July 7: MARA Club Meeting (NEW TIME!)

July 24: Howard County (MD) BRATS Hamfest

Bridgewater Lawn Party ???

August 2: VARA Club Meeting

August 4: MARA Club Meeting

August 6-7: ARRL UHF Contest

August 6: Roanoke Hamfest

August 7: Berryville Hamfest

August 13: VE Exams

August 14: Carroll County (MD) Hamfest

# MARA/VARA

c/o David Fordham  
131 Wayside Drive  
Weyers Cave, VA 24486  
Phone: 540-568-3024  
Email: fordhadr@jmu.edu

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## Return Service Requested

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### 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 6:00 pm.

Business meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

#### **Visitors are welcome.**

Dues (\$12 per year) should be mailed to:

MARA  
PO Box 1882  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

### VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

President: Marvin Henderson, KF4WDI  
Vice President: Greg Czerniak, W4GRC  
Secretary: Ray Colvin, KE4HVR  
Treasurer: Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW  
Program Manager: Richard Huttinger, AA4RH

<http://www.qsl.net/w4xd>

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