

July 2006

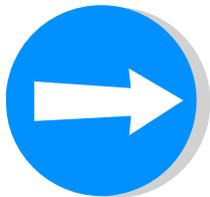
The Monitor

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



VARA Meeting Date Change! JULY 11

Because of the Independence Day Holiday, the Valley Amateur Radio Association will meet on Tuesday night, July 11, instead of the normal "first Tuesday" meeting night.



MARA July Meeting: Home Brew Festival and Trader's Night

Okay, the time has come! Bring those homebrew projects and show them off! And while you're at it, bring those pieces of junk you've got lying around and see if anyone is willing to trade with you! The MARA meeting will be the annual homebrew and trader's night. Thursday, July 6, at Traditions.

AD4TJ: New Augusta County ARES/RACES Net Procedures Guide

In spite of a bad fall in which he broke three bones in his wrist, David Tanks, AD4TJ, Emergency Radio Office for Augusta County Radio Amateurs, has published a new Callup sheet and procedures guide for the Augusta County ARES/RACES net.

The new guide can be found on page 10 of this issue of the Monitor, and will hopefully be on the VARA website by the time you read this, or shortly after. You can also contact David Tanks for a copy.

WD4LES Doing Well in New Digs

Frank Forsyth, WD4LES, is pretty well settled into his new home in Baldwin Park. He gets out okay on 2m from the second floor. He doesn't have an HF antenna, but has permission to put up a long wire. He gave up computers a while back, and doesn't have email anymore, but his mailing address is: Frank Forsyth, Baldwin Park, 21 Woodlee Road Apt 219, Staunton, VA 24401.

KJ4RM: Suggestion for Virginia's 400th Birthday Amateur Special Event

As you may remember from last month's Monitor, the ARRL Section Manager is looking for groups of radio amateurs to put Virginia stations on the air for special events every week, or at least every month, of the next year, to commemorate the 400th birthday of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mike Solomon, KJ4RM, has done some preliminary investigation and legwork and has found that the entire month of May, 2007, is still available for such special events (not yet spoken for by any Virginia clubs).

Mike has suggested that we make the event a camping weekend. He is suggesting Sherando Lake Recreation area, just south of Lyndhurst and Waynesboro, between US 340 and the Skyline Drive. There is a very nice group camping area just off of the upper lake dam, complete with hot showers, plenty of water, picnic tables, lots of shade, and a gorgeous open meadow just perfect for antenna placement. The elevation is over 2000 feet ASL, and there are good hiking trails and a swimming beach within walking distance at the lower lake, as well as playgrounds and other activities

making the location perfect for camping with our families.

Mike points out that during the 1930's, an early CCC camp was established at Sherando to support the construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway. During WWII, the area was the site of a German POW camp, providing labor to local farms. The Howardsville Turnpike was one of the first real roads built over the Blue Ridge, and Torey Furnace at the base of the hollow was used to make cannonballs during the Civil War.

In spite of its elevation, the campsite is surrounded by mountains, and tests probably should be done to ensure that HF signals will be able to get out of the hollow to where we want to aim them. But if the propagation tests are successful, the area would be a great one for a family camping weekend combined with playing radio.

Of course, May also contains Mother's Day, the Dayton Hamvention, and Memorial Day weekend, which might complicate scheduling.

Be thinking about this and other possibilities!

Public Service Opportunity: Waynesboro—Stuarts Draft Area August 27

The Blue Ridge Extreme Cycling Event will be held August 27, and needs ham radio communications support.

The ride will begin on top of the Blue Ridge at Afton, and the route runs down to Waynesboro, out through Sherando, south of Stuarts Draft towards Steele's Tavern, out towards Newport, back through Vesuvius, up to the Blue Ridge Parkway, then on the Parkway back to Afton.

For Extreme Extreme Cycling, there is also a route which additionally goes past Crabtree Falls and back up to the Parkway past the entrance to Wintergreen, up to Reeds Gap,

before returning to Afton. Details are online at <http://www.blueridgeextreme.com>

Much of the route is not supported by cellular service, and ham radio communications are essential. In the past 8-10 hams helped with this event.

The ride benefits the Hospice of the Piedmont.

The VARA club will be discussing their support of this event at the July meeting.

Public Service Opportunity: Bridgewater Lawn Party July 14 and 15

Once again, the Town of Bridgewater will rely on local ham radio operators to provide communications support and traffic direction for their parades at the annual lawn party.

The lawn party parades will be held on Friday and Saturday evenings, July 14 and 15.

Hams should meet at the Town Hall Friday at 6 pm, and Saturday at 5 pm. Instructions and assignments will be

given out, as will traffic vests, after which the hams will go to their individual stations, keeping in touch via 2-meter HTs.

We need about ten (10) hams to volunteer for this event, which gives us high visibility (!) in the community.

For more information on this event, contact Gayle Shull, KU4XN, at 828-2132.

KF4WDI: VARA President's Message

July has come and with it the hottest weather of the year. Also, hurricane season has come upon us. As a group, we should remain prepared to help out in the event of an actual emergency. Our June club meeting was enjoyable with Dick Smith's presentation on model airplanes. Many thanks to him for this informative talk. Thanks to Mike Solomon for volunteering to secure us a date to operate a special events station in the 400th year celebration of Virginia in 2007.

Looking ahead at the next several months, we have several dates to remember. On July 12th through 15th, MARA helps with the Bridgewater Lawn Party and can use volunteers. New offi-

cers will be elected this fall, beginning with the September club meeting appointment of a nominating committee and the election of new officers at the October club meeting. Also in October, our big fundraiser for the year, the Shenandoah Fall Foliage Bike Ride will take place on October 21st and 22nd.

In keeping with the important recognition given to our American forefathers on July 4th, our "Quote of the Month" comes from President and Virginia native, Thomas Jefferson, who said; "The boisterous sea of liberty is never without a wave."

Marvin Henderson
VARA President

W4PJW: Great Lightning Protection Article

Jeff W4PJW has provided a link to a fantastic article on lightning protection, by the lightning protection experts, Polyphaser Corporation. The newsletter editor has been unable to get any response to an inquiry to reprint the article, but here is the URL so you can read it for yourself, directly from the source:

http://www.polyphaser.com/ppc_TD1016.aspx



KU4XN: VE Examination Session Report

Thanks to the Volunteer Examiners who assisted with the June test session. We had three local individuals sit for the examinations, and all three passed!

Welcome to the ranks of local ham radio go to Jamie Bernare of Charlottesville who passed the Extra exam, David R. Simmons of Franklin WV who passed the Technician exam, and Joan Pitsenbarger who passed Element 3 Theory exam.

A big "Thank You" of appreciation goes to the VE's who assisted: Jason Armentrout N4DSL, Andrew Barber AG4XN, E.C. Showalter KG4KUR, Richard Haxton KC3AN, Bob Van Fossen K4DJG, and Ray Ritchie K4NRA.

Our next test session will be August 12.

Gayle Shull
KU4XN



N3GLZ: UHF-VHF Contest Report

About three years ago, a good friend of mine, Hale (N3NYC), contacted me about operating the VHF/UHF contest from a high location somewhere on the Blue Ridge. He had been operating from a "hill top" in Lancaster County, PA near Mt. Gretna, and he was aspiring to find a real mountain top location from which to operate to improve his score. After studying several topographic maps, we decided to choose Loft Mountain Campground in the Shenandoah National Park as our location.

That was three years ago and we had been operating from Loft Mountain ever since for both the June and September contests. Several weeks prior to this year's June contest, I made a trip to Loft Mountain to do a "pre-contest check." As some of you may realize, that National Park Service has converted their radio system to an APCO 25 full digital system. Unless you have a P25 capable digital receiver, you will no longer be able to monitor the system, which previously had been using conventional FM on 166.900 Mhz. One of the 166.900 repeaters is located at the Loft Mountain Campground and it's used to cover the southern part of the park. When I arrived at the site, there was a Motorola technician at the repeater site in the process of installing the new system. He advised that although it was not his decision, the park authorities might be sensitive about any radio operation that close to their repeater site. Based on this information, we collectively

decided to look for an alternate site.

Bryan (K4LTX) graciously offered his cabin site, which is located on top of Flat Top Mountain in Greene County. The top of Flat Top Mountain is about 3300 ft. above sea level and because it is the highest point for miles, you have a 360 degree view to the horizon. It is a spectacular operating location.

The following amateurs operated the June contest on June 10th and 11th from Flat Top Mountain, Bryan K4LTX, Jason N4DSL, John N3GLZ, Hale N3NYC and JP N3GWR. Hale is a longtime friend of mine who lives in the Baltimore, MD area; and JP is a long time radio friend who lives near Fleetwood, PA in Berks County near Reading. Bryan (K4LTX) lives in the Gordonsville area and he is a familiar voice on many of our local repeaters, especially those in the 220 Mhz band.

During the contest period, we made 221 contacts, broken down as follows, 178 contacts on 6 meters, 21 contacts on 2 meters, 8 contacts on 222, 10 contacts on 432 and 4 contacts on 1296. Six meters was open through much of the contest which gave us the opportunity to work 112 multipliers. Because the conditions on six meters were so good, we did not concentrate as much on the other bands this year.

*John Lasher
N3GLZ*



View Looking East from the Contest Site



Antennas for 1296, 432, 222 and 146. Also, notice the 6m Halo antenna



Jason N4DSL and Hale N3NYC

VoIP Hurricane Net Provides One More Link for Emergency Communication

The VoIP Hurricane Net is seeking ARES, RACES, SKYWARN and other emergency communications groups such as REACT, MARS, and SATERN to utilize the VoIP Hurricane Net as another means to pass weather, damage, and other pertinent reports to WX4NHC and other national agencies.

The net current has a weekly preparedness net that meets at 0000 UTC on Sunday (Saturday evening for most of North America), meeting on IRLP reflector number 9508, and utilizing the

EchoLink conferences *VKEMCOMM*, Node 270177, and "WX-TALK" Node 7203, connected into one integrated net. During activations, the net would meet using the same system. This is currently the backup system as the main Raleigh 9210 IRLP reflector system is undergoing an upgrade. Net activation connect status will be posted on the voipwx.net site.

IRLP and EchoLink repeaters are growing plentiful, but are not yet currently located in

every remote coastal area subject to hurricanes.

While some might question the need for such a highly "infrastructure-based" communications mode in an emergency, the VoIP nets are seen as one more tool in the toolkit of possible communications channels when a disaster strikes. "Sure, the Internet might be down in one affected area, but if it stays up in another affected area, using VoIP might take some of the pressure off of the overloaded inter-region radio cir-

cuits. In an emergency, having more tools at your disposal is usually a good thing," according to one NHC planner.

More information on the VoIP Hurricane Net can be found online at:

<http://www.voipwx.net>

*Information provided by
Bryan Daniels, K4RMY*

Montenegro is Latest New DXCC Country: On-Air Festival Planned to Give QSOs

In case you missed it, Montenegro is the latest addition to the DXCC country listing.

The United Nations admitted the Republic of Montenegro (black mountain) as the 192nd member on June 28.

That action automatically makes the tiny Balkan nation the 336th DXCC entity.

Current radio amateurs in Mon-

tenegro will continue to use their YU/YT/YZ/40/4N prefixes until the ITU gets around to assigning a new unique callsign block for the new country.

An International DX festival is being planned for July 20 to August 12, where numerous international DXers will join with Montenegrin amateurs to put the new country on the air in a bid to blunt the demand for the

new country. Festival organizers want to work 200,000 QSO's for the event, which will be held on all HF bands.

Check out:

<http://www.yu6scg.cg.yu/international-dx-festival.html>

—ARRL Letter

*“July 20 to
August 12, ...
Festival
Organizers want to
work 200,000
QSO's.”*

KB4LCI: For Sale — Kenwood TS430S

David Gordon KB4LCI is selling his Kenwood TS-430 HF rig, hoping to upgrade shortly.

The rig works 1.8 to 30 MHz, including general receive, and has AM and CW filters installed.

The rig also includes the FM module, and has been modified for MARS/CAP operation.

The deal includes a hand mike and power cord. There are no known defects or problems with the radio, and it is in very good condition and has been taken care of.

He is asking \$600, but the price is negotiable. Contact David at 540-249-4745 in the evenings.



Astounding Discovery: It Does Indeed Sometimes Rain at Field Day!

In one of the most earth-shattering scientific discoveries of the last century, local Valley Amateurs this year discovered what many of them still have trouble believing: It can indeed sometimes RAIN at Field Day!

Beginning with a crack of lightning Friday evening, the thunderstorms continued off and on all through Saturday and Sunday, even into the first part of the next week.

Estimates of rainfall ranged from “just over four inches” to “just under seven inches”.

The Field Day site held up remarkably well, and there were no reports of stuck vehicles or mudholes, in spite of the heavy rains.

And in spite of fears to the contrary, the rains did nothing to interfere with the operation of the radios, either.

As this issue of the Monitor went to press, we didn't have a preliminary score report from the Field Day Activity. However, it is guessed that our score will be about the same as the last couple of years.

The CW station this year made fewer QSO's than last year. There were a total of 921 CW QSO's, according to one source.

However, the SSB station made more QSO's than last year.

Once again, valley hams pulled together and provided a commendable group effort, providing everything from firewood to generators to screenhouse tents for the community activities. Jason Armentrout, N4DSL, served as de facto FD Chairman this year, and additionally provided not only a wireless hot spot — complete with high-

speed broadband Internet connectivity — but also telephone service. (Jason's contributions are even more impressive when one considers that FD required considerable juggling of priorities on Jason's part, especially the sacrifices he made in an important romantic pursuit!)

Regardless of our score, this year's field day operation was a success on a more important level: Once again, everyone had a wonderful, fun time!

Photos provided by W4PJJW and K4DJG





The Opinionated One: Field Day – Home of the Whopper

We were sitting around the campfire, waiting for Druly Ehrwaxx to show up with some more RG-8 so we could finish erecting the antennas for the 20-meter phone station. I popped the top on another Dr. Pepper, took a sip, and passed it around the circle.

“Field Day is one of the most fun contests we take part in,” said Hack Moore.

“I don’t know about that,” replied Fizzy, “I think the peripheral contests at the Field Day site are more fun than the Field Day contest itself. Let’s see, there’s the Eatin’ Contest, there’s the ‘Who Has The Most Expensive RV’ contest, and the ‘How long has your Kenwood worked without bein’ in the shop’ contest.”

“And the Lyin’ Contest. Don’t forget the Lyin’ Contest, to see who can tell the biggest whopper,” added Verman, breaking off another chew from his Red Man chunk.

“I reckon you’re right,” admitted Hack. “Especially the lyin’ contest. But I’m not sure I’d call that one a real contest. Seems like every year, good ol’ Digby Trowell always wins the lyin’ contest hands down. No one else even comes close to him.”

There was a pause in the conversation, as everyone remembered some of the whoppers told by Digby over the years.

For example, there was the Field Day a few years back where it was raining cats and dogs. Digby was manning the 40-meter CW station. He claimed that he and his logger worked for three hours, putting over 380 QSO’s in the log, and working 172 DXCC countries and 52 ARRL Sections, before

they discovered that the radio had been turned off the whole time. They had been copying the two hundred tree frogs chirping outside in the rain.

Or the time that a windstorm had come up and torn down the trees holding up the 160 and 80 meter dipoles. Digby claimed that as the trees came down and rolled down the hill, they cut and coiled up the wire into huge loops that were perfectly spaced to form a twenty-five element circularly-polarized beam for 10 meters, and they were able to work a station running QRP at 5 watts located somewhere in the fringes of the Andromeda Galaxy.

Or the time they were working the VHF contest way up on the top of Tuning Knob. A thunderstorm came up and a lightning strike blew up their generator. But it didn’t stop them. According to Digby, they’d put their cooking materials in an empty one of those cylindrical Igloo coolers to keep them dry. There was a roll of paper towels in there with a roll of aluminum foil. Somehow, the two rolls got intertwined, and the foil and paper in the cylinder made a giant capacitor, and the lightning bolt charged it. They hooked up their radios to the cooler spigot and worked the remaining 14 hours of the contest, and still had enough power left over to jump-start Druly’s pickup when the contest was over.

And then there was the time they were working a January contest, and the wire antenna got coated with ice. The ice prevented the signals from getting out. But unknown to the operators, the CQ’s were being frozen and were collecting inside the wire. When the wire

was taken down and stored in Digby’s garage, it thawed out three days later, and all the signals came out at once, and he got a warning from an Official Observer about using a 200 kilowatt signal that completely covered up the entire 15 meter band, end to end, for five solid minutes.

Or the Field Day where Digby was in charge of ordering the Porta-Potty, and accidentally dialed the number for Glass and Metals, and when everybody got to Field Day and saw what was there, nobody had the courage to use the bathroom – for three days.

And then there was the situation with Digby’s Icom 706, the two ducks, a bottle of Old Spice after-shave lotion, and the 4-foot rattlesnake that could hum the Greek National Anthem.

Well, anyway, the guys around the campfire were all familiar with Digby’s stories, and they all agreed that it wasn’t really a contest when it came to lying.

Well, this year’s Field Day was different: Digby Trowell never showed up!

We went over to his house after FD was over. Digby’s wife Lollie answered the door.

“Digby said he wasn’t going camping in the woods anymore, ever,” she said, with a frown as serious as the mission controllers after the loss of Columbia. “He had a traumatic experience in the mountains last month, and it had a psychological effect on him. He had a run-in with the Hoompaw,” she explained.

“No!” we cried. “Not the Hoompaw! When? Where?”

“Yes, it’s true. Digby saw the

Hoompaw, and he’s a changed man. Why, he even offered to take me out to a nice restaurant one night last week. I suggested he go to counseling, but you know how proud he is...”

Now most educated people don’t believe in the Hoompaw. It is a mythical creature said to inhabit the far reaches of the George Washington National Forest. Those few people who have seen it (mainly in West Virginia after a night of heavy drinking) say it is a Sasquatch or Bigfoot on steroids.

“Digby actually SAW the Hoompaw?!” The guys were incredulous. About this time, Digby, who had heard us from the back room, came to the door.

“It was horrible,” he said, tears welling up in his eyes. “I get goosebumps just recalling the memory of it. It was terrible, just hideous. You guys know how I’m prone to exaggerate. But this time, I’m telling the truth. The Hoompaw is so horrible, even Hollywood couldn’t come up with anything close.”

“Tell us about it. What did it look like?” asked Verman.

“It was unbelievable. It’s got red scaly skin covered in long fur that’s all greasy and sticky and smells like hundred skunks. It has long, sharp fangs, and they’re dripping green and brown slime. It growls and hisses like bear. Its breath can knock down a 200-year old oak tree at 50 yards. Its eyes are red & it looks like a demented warthog. It must weigh 800 pounds.” Digby shuddered. “The thing was getting ready to EAT me! It was right on top of me, holding me down, trying to kill me. I knew I was a goner.”

“How’d you let it get so close to you?” asked Hack.

“It snuck up on me while I wuz

napping. And the worst part of it," here Digby broke down into sobs again, "IT ATE AMPEL. My good pal, Ampel McPharty, it killed him and ate him."

"No, not Ampel McPharty," we gasped. "The heavy-set E.M.T. with the beard, down at the rescue squad? It ate him?"

"Yep, it ate him. He's gone. I haven't had the strength to go over there and tell Maudie the truth about what happened to him." Tears streamed down Digby's face.

"Gracious sakes alive," said Hack—or words to that effect. "How'd it happen?"

"Well, me and Ampel wuz up there on Squelch Knob, working the 10-10 contest. We'd set up in his camper. But with our bad luck, the band was completely dead. Ampel got hoarse from calling CQ. After about sixteen hours of listening to static, I decided to take a short walk in the woods. Well, I kinda got lost, and it took me a couple hours to find my way back. When I got back, there was no sign of Ampel anywhere. With hindsight, after what happened to me, it's plain as day the Hoompaw got him and ate him.

"But at the time, I didn't think about the Hoompaw, I'd always figured it was just a myth. I was tired from walking around in the mountains after being up all night, so I lay down on the bed and took a little nap. The next thing I knew, the Hoompaw'd somehow got into the camper, and was right on top of me, getting ready to eat me. It's mouth was just inches away from my face, those gaping fangs dripping its corrosive slobber on me. It had some kinda noose or something it was trying to strangle me with. And the smell, oh, (gag) the memory of that awful smell, ooooh..."

Digby began choking, but in a minute or two he was able to continue.

"The fright was too much for me. I grabbed something, I don't know what, and shoved it in the creature's face. It let out a horrible bellowing sound, so I threw something else at it and jumped through the camper's window. And you know, it came right after me, right through the window, just inches behind me! It chased me at least a mile, slobbering & hissing & growling on all fours, clawing and snapping at my ankles, no more than a couple of inches away. But eventually I was able to outrun it. I ran six miles down the mountain and came to the Efrim Diner there at the four-way stopsign in Berpsville, and asked them to call the police. They said something about the police already being busy with a missing persons case. I tried to tell them that the missing person was Ampel and that the Hoompaw had ate him, but they acted like they didn't believe me. I tell ya, I'm never going back in the woods again, no sir. I hitch-hiked a ride back home, and I've been here ever since. If the police don't believe me, well, that's their problem. I tell you, the Hoompaw ate Ampel. Poor Ampel...I wonder if they'll ever find his body..." Digby was shaking and sobbing again, so we decided to leave him at that point. It was obvious that he was telling the gospel truth this time.

"Let's go over and pay our respects to Maudie," someone suggested. "Then we can go up and have a look around the Knob and see if we can find what's left of Ampel."

We went to Ampel's house to see Maudie, and to our amazement, Ampel himself answered the door. He was dressed in pajamas, even though it was late afternoon. "Hey, wassup

guys?" he said. "Sorry about the PJ's, but I've been under the weather recently. I didn't even make it to Field Day this year. I lost my voice at the 10-10 contest last month, and haven't fully recovered yet."

Hack Moore was the first one to find his voice. "Ampel? Why aren't you dead? Digby told us about the Hoompaw gettin' ya'll up on Squelch Knob."

"Say what? Digby Trowell? The Hoompaw? What's that old liar up to now?" Ampel seemed clueless.

"Digby said the Hoompaw ate you at the 10-10 contest, and just about ate him too," I explained. "When was the last time you talked to Digby?"

"That stupid jerk. I don't know that I'll ever talk to him again. Why, he's caused me more trouble than those three blondes and that butane lighter did for P-J-W last year."

"Can you tell us what happened?" Verman asked.

"Well, Digby wanted to go with me up to the top of the Knob to work the contest. We set up the camper, but the band was dead, and I was coming down with this darned sore throat. Saturday morning, Digby says he's going for a short walk, probably to use the bathroom, but he doesn't come back. I fix us some lunch, black beans and rice, stewed onions and garlic, and creamed spinach, and after a half hour I go ahead and eat, but still no Digby. After another hour, I go out looking for him, but can't find any trace of him. I was getting worried, so I walked down the mountain to the Efrim Diner, and called the Sheriff. The sheriff sent out a search team. We range all over the mountains. I worked up a real sweat. I was in such a hurry to find Digby, I didn't take time to put on a shirt. Without

my shirt, going through the woods my beer belly got all tore up from the briars, and I get a bad case of poison ivy on my chest. Luckily I've got a lot of hair on my chest and tummy. Man, it was hot for June, and I was sweatin' up a storm. Well finally, just before dark, I go back to the camper, and there he is, snoring like a log! I roll him over and ask if he's all right.

"He doesn't respond. I think maybe he's had a heart attack or something, so I get my stethoscope from the first aid kit, and get real close to him to see if he's breathing. I'm putting the stethoscope on his chest, with my face maybe four inches from his, when Digby opens his eyes, looks at me, and shouts some obscenity I've not heard since I got out of the Navy. Then, get this, he grabs my Weller soldering iron and shoves it up my nose! I yell and he grabs the leftover creamed spinach and throws it in my face. Then he jumps right through the window of my camper! But he's got my stethoscope caught in his belt, and the other end's wrapped around my neck. He drags me right through the window by it, and starts running down the road! I try to get his attention, but he's dragging me down the road by the stethoscope and I'm so hoarse I guess he can't hear me. He musta drug me a mile or more. Finally the stethoscope breaks loose and he runs off. I decided to give up on the contest and bring the camper home. I'm so mad I don't want to talk to him. If you see him, tell him he owes me a window, a stethoscope, and a soldering iron. And I'm never inviting him on another camping trip again."

The next day at the Burger King, we all agreed: Digby Trowell has won the contest again this year.

MARA Secretary's Report – June meeting

This space was reserved for the MARA Meeting minutes, which unfortunately, were not received in time for inclusion in this month's newsletter.

Good Luck to KC4HYO

Ed Good KC4HYO and his wife Gloria have sold their house in Harrisonburg and have moved over towards the Eastern Shore. Ed promises to keep in touch with the local ham scene.

Augusta County Net Control Script

"CALLING ALL RADIO AMATEURS, CALLING ALL RADIO AMATEURS"

This is the "Augusta County Amateur Radio Emergency Service Net" sponsored by the VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION. This Net meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 8 PM for the purpose of training radio amateurs to handle Emergency Communications.

This is a directed net; all communications should be directed to the Net Control, and all stations should notify Net Control if they are checking out. Net Control tonight is _____ and my name is _____, and I am located in _____. (Remember to ID every 10 minutes)

At this time is there any EMERGENCY TRAFFIC for the Net? If so, call now.

(If there is traffic handle it now.)

At this time are there any stations with traffic or announcements for the Net? If so, call now

and give the nature of your traffic. (Handle now)

At this time are there any mobile, portable, or short-time stations wanting to check into the Augusta County ARES Net? If so, call now. (Handle them now, and release them if they need to leave.)

Do we have any liaisons to Regional or Section Nets in the National Traffic System, or any affiliated stations, such as MARS, C.A.P., or other ARES Nets? If so, call Net Control now, with your call and what Net you are a liaison for.

"NOW WE WILL TAKE CHECK-INS FOR THE NET"

Stations with the suffix ALPHA through HOTEL call Net Control now.

Stations with the suffix of INDIA through NOVEMBER call Net Control now.

Best Wishes to N4ATF

The local ham community extends its wishes for a continued and full recovery for Dale, N4ATF.

Hburg/Rham EOC Training Still Available

There is still a need for local radio amateurs qualified to operate the new Rockingham/Harrisonburg Emergency Operations Center amateur radio station. Contact Vic Alger, who will arrange to conduct individual one-on-one training at YOUR convenience. This is an important, even critical, need, so if you can find a few minutes, give Vic a call at 540-896-2548.

Stations with the suffix of OSCAR through TANGO call Net Control now.

Stations with the suffix of UNIFORM through ZULU call Net Control now.

Stations regardless of suffix call Net Control now.

Let's begin the comment portion of the Net. (Go to the top of the check-in list and ask for comments, one station at a time)

Are there any late stations wanting to check into the Augusta County ARES NET, call _____,

Net Control now. (Take down their calls, then get their traffic or comments for the Net)

Thanks to everyone for checking into the Net, and at this time if there is no further traffic (pause for stations to announce traffic) we will close the AUGUSTA COUNTY ARES NET at (time) and return the frequency back to normal Amateur Radio use.

This is _____ Net Control clear.

August Monitor Deadline: July 13

David, KD9LA, and Debbie KB4WPE, are going on an Alaskan cruise for their 25th wedding anniversary. This trip will take place during the last half of July, right at the time when the August Monitor needs to be put together. Debbie has promised that if David spends the cruise time working on the Monitor, there won't be a

26th anniversary opportunity. So in order to put out the August Issue in time, the deadline is being moved up to July 13, and the August Monitor will come out around July 16th. Of course, if anyone would like to volunteer to do the Monitor for Dave, these dates can be adjusted. Any takers? Call Dave at 540-234-0448.

VARA Secretary's Report – June 6 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Kathy's in Verona on June 6, 2006. The President, Marvin Henderson KF4WDI, opened the meeting at 7:00pm. There were 28 members present and 5 guests, Bob VanFossen K4DJG, Andrew Barbour AG4XN, Dick Smith W4KHV, Mike Stone and Fran Davis.

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

Remember our new club meeting time is **7:00pm** to give more time for programs. We will still meet at 6:00pm to eat.

50/50 was won by Gary VanFossen K14FZV, Congratulations Gary!

NOTE: Since our next club meeting date falls on July 4th we will meet the following Tuesday July 11th.

The club voted to order field day pins together with MARA and split the cost between the two clubs.

The club voted to do a Special Event for the 400th Anniversary of the settlement of Virginia. Mike Solomon KJ4RM volunteered to head this up and find a location for the event. Mike will need our help to make this happen.

RIVERFEST Thanks to all that came out and helped with communications. We had an enjoyable day and all went well.

The Riverfest officials appreciated our help and send a big thank you to all the hams that came out and helped.

Club Web Page: Charlie Eckman K14LHD volunteered to help Bob McCracken N4JGO with some new items. Plans are to feature some of the area hams and how they got started into ham radio.

VARA ROSTER is now on the Club Web Page, go to <http://www.qsl.net/w4xd/> click on VARA MEMBERS, at the top click on MEMBERS LOGIN, user name is VARA, password is (lower case) virginia, click on SUBMIT and the roster comes up.

VARA FIELD DAY COMMITTEE: Cowles Andrus K4EME, Lou Joseph W2LYL, Benny Cook N4BCC and Doug Tippett N8ESV. Jeff Rinehart W4PJW gave a short report and some information to the new hams and those interested in attending Field Day 2006.

ON THE SICK LIST:

Queenie, Clinton's (KB4OLM) wife still has health concerns, then recently was involved in an auto accident which left her scratched and bruised but luckily no serious injury.

David Tanks AD4TJ was trimming a tree from a step ladder with a chainsaw when the limb kicked back and knocked him off the step ladder breaking three bones in his left wrist. David is left handed so he is learning to use his right hand.

Nancy Colvin KE4PHP had a follow up stress test and got a good report back.

Denny Morland N4XPW is home but his PT at AMC is making him sore for a couple days afterwards so he is reducing his schedule for a while to see if that helps.

Gordon Batey's WA4FJC, Son & Daughter-in-Law are doing as well as can be expected with their broken bones.

Kathy's Dad passed away and was buried June 9, 2006. Kathy is the owner of Kathy's Restaurant in Verona where we meet for the VARA Meetings and also the restaurant in Staunton where we meet for our Friday lunch.

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 Doug Tippett N8ESV dtippett@ntelos.net Ray Colvin KE4HVR colvingr@adelphia.net and David Fordham KD9LA [\[hadr@jmu.edu\]\(mailto:hadr@jmu.edu\) Also, keep QRZ updated when call signs and e-mail addresses are changed.](mailto:ford-</p>
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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 7:35pm.

PROGRAM:

Dick Smith W4KHV brought his large radio controlled model airplane to the meeting and told us about some of his model plane background when he used to build the radio gear. He also told us about his building experiences and the plane he flew for the first time, forgetting to turn the receiver switch on. With no control the plane was long gone. The plane he brought in was a 937 Stinson SR9C and was built after seeing the picture in one of the RC Magazines and looking up a manufacturer that sold the kit. This kit consisted of a box of balsa wood, some model building plywood and four sheets of plans. Dick said it took about four years to complete building the model. The plane weighs 22 ½ lbs., has a wingspan of 100", runs on a gas engine and is considered by many to be the 'Cadillac' of the smaller private planes. He said he has had two eight to twelve minute flights at this time and plans to fly again at an upcoming fly-ins at EXPO the weekend of June 10th and in Harrisonburg the weekend of the 17th. Visitors are welcome to come and watch. Thanks to Dick for his presentation.

VARA Secretary

Ray Colvin KE4HVR

Calendar

July 6: MARA Club Meeting at Traditions
 July 11: VARA Club Meeting at Kathy's
 July 13: Deadline for August issue of the Monitor
 July 14-15: Bridgewater Lawn Party Parade Public Service
 July 15-16: CQ WW VHF Contest

August 1: VARA Club Meeting
 August 3: MARA Club Meeting
 August 6: Berryville Hamfest (Winchester VA)
 August 12: VE Exams in Dayton VA
 August 19-20: NA QSO Party SSB
 August 27: Extreme Cycling Public Service Event

MARA/VARA

c/o David Fordham
131 Wayside Drive
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

Phone: 540-568-3024
Email: fordhadr@jmu.edu

NOTE VARA MEETING DATE CHANGE — Page 1



MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.

President: Gerald Nauman KN4FM
Vice President: John Lasher, N3GLZ
Secretary: Bryan Daniels K4RMY
Treasurer: Sandy Mullins, K4PZC
Board (exp 06): Jason Armentrout N4DSL
Board (exp 07): David Gordon KB4LCI

<http://mara.ws>

MARA meets the first Thursday of each month
The July meeting is at Traditions
Restaurant on Mt Clinton Pike, Harrisonburg.
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: Mike Solomon KJ4RM
Secretary: Ray Colvin, KE4HVR
Treasurer: Doug Tippett, N8ESW
Program Manager: Richard Huttinger, AA4RH

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

The VARA July Meeting will be July 11
at Kathy's Restaurant on U.S. 11 north of
the traffic light in Verona.
Meal starts at 6:00 pm.
Business meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

Visitors are welcome.

Dues (\$15 per year) should be mailed to:

Doug Tippett
2348 Mosley St.
Waynesboro VA 22980