

August 2006

The Monitor

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

KI4MSJ: Help Needed for XYL – Moving Household

**Can Anyone Help
my Wife While I'm
Deployed?
Please?,
Moving from 509
Mason Street In
Staunton, to New
Hope, mid-to-late
August.**

I am being deployed on Saturday, July 15, to the Arizona-Mexico border. This assignment will last at least 90 days, maybe more.

This comes at a very bad time for me, and especially my wife Julia.

We are in the process of selling our house and buying another in New Hope. My wife will continue with this process by herself in my absence. She will be moving our household on her own.

I would like to ask if any local hams, especially club members, might have pickup trucks or

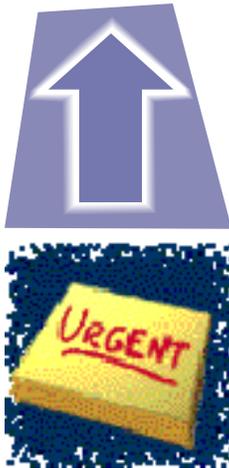
trailers, either open or closed, and might possibly have to time to be able to help my wife in my absence.

Our phone number is 540-885-6038.

I would like to express my appreciation in advance for any help that anyone can offer.

Thank you, and I hope to see you all again in October,

Scott Martin, KI4MSJ
Martin9428@aol.com



Harry Brooks, N1PG, SK

As noted in local papers, Harry Brooks, N1PG, became a silent key on July 14. Harry passed away at his home after a lengthy illness. He was 72 years old.

Harry had been an early member of the Valley and Massanutten Amateur Radio Associations, dating from the 1970's. He gave many important and informative meeting programs back in the 1980's.

Harry had been in the U.S. Navy for 25 years, and then served in the Merchant Marine as radio and electronics' officer for another 20 years.

Harry is survived by his wife Carol, a son Jerry, a daughter Michele, and many other family members.

Harry's funeral was held July 17.

KF4WDI: VARA President's Message

The year was 1976. America celebrated the 200th year of existence with the Bicentennial festivities. From the world of politics, President Gerald Ford was defeated in the November elections by a relatively unknown governor from Georgia, Jimmy Carter. From the world of space, NASA's Viking probes landed on Mars and transmitted scientific data back to earth. In Philadelphia, "Legionnaire's Disease" broke out at a convention and claimed 29 lives.

In the world of sports, the Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Dallas Cowboys in Super Bowl X in January. In baseball, one of the most dominant teams of all time, the Cincinnati Reds (the Big Red Machine), defeated the New York Yankees in 4 games to win the World Series. In NASCAR, David Pearson won the Daytona 500 and Cale Yarborough won the Winston Cup.

In November of 1976, another big event happened. It was the first meeting of the Valley Amateur Radio Association. Many thanks to the group of individuals that had the foresight to join their common interest in amateur radio and form this organization. As we approach the 30th year of the group, I would like for us to have a "birthday party" for VARA at our November meeting. This would be an excellent time for us to reflect on the history of our organization and think about what it will take for the group to continue for another 30 years.

73,
Marvin Henderson - KF4WDI
VARA President



Kudos to K4LXG

Congratulations to Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG, who was honored by the Virginia Association of Broadcasters for his lifetime achievement of excellence in Broadcasting Engineering. The official name of the award is the "J. Jerry Freeman Engineering Award". Ellsworth received the honor and a nice plaque at the 69th annual Virginia Broadcaster's convention in Virginia Beach last month. Ellsworth has been active for more than 40 years in the Broadcasting Industry, working with numerous local radio and television stations over the decades, and currently is the Chief Engineer for VerStandig Broadcasting's five Harrisonburg stations. After all these years, he's "still putting out a good signal".

VE Session August 12

Gayle KU4XN wants to remind everyone of the Volunteer Examiner Testing Session to be held August 12 at the Woodmen of the World building on State Highway 42 in Dayton, Virginia. This location is just north of the Dayton traffic lights, and about a mile south of the Harrisonburg Super Walmart on South High Street.

Sign-in starts at 9:00 am, and tests begin as soon as the paperwork is done.

If you are a VE and can help out, please give Gayle a call.

Mountain Mama Ride: Aug 5

Mountain Mama is fast approaching. It will be held on Sat. Aug. 5th in Monterey. We will once again be meeting at the Highland County School building at about 7:00am that morning. **If you are planning to help this year please email me and let me know.** As of now we are severely short of help so if you know of anyone who might like to help please let me or Butch know.

73 Jerry

Jerry WD4ITN wd4itn@yahoo.com

Butch N5SMQ n5smqw4@gmail.com

W4AZR: June Microwave Experiments – Success and Fun

The June issue of the Monitor contained a plea for assistance with microwave experiments by Mike, W4AZR. Here is a report on Mike's activities. – Editor

I heard from no one in the valley by the time of the start of the recent VHF contest on Saturday, June 10. This made what ultimately happened of some possible interest to potential users of our microwave allocation in the 2.3 GHz microwave band!

Briefly, a few minutes after the startup of the contest at 2:00 pm local time, I contacted the Spruce Knob group on six meters, and told them I was listening on 2304.100 MHz for their call, K8GP.

Nothing was heard for about 10 minutes, when suddenly a very weak CW came through and in an instant it faded out.

Then, a voice came in, weak as water, but still readable, calling a K9 station.

Needless to say, my blood pressure hit a new high. But I knew that with only 1 watt to my antenna, it was not possible to make it, as it was apparent that the K8GP antenna was aimed far away from the heading of about 117 degrees (from Spruce Knob to Harrisonburg).

So I called them on 432 MHz, and asked to have the microwave people rotate their antenna towards our direction. They asked me to QSY to 2304.105 MHz, and to look for them.

It turned out that the K8GP group were operating from several different re-worked school busses scattered all about their Spruce Knob site, so this took a few minutes.

My received noise level was S4 to S5, but after they re-aimed the antenna, I clearly pulled them out at about S9 or a bit more. They were advising me to sit tight while they rotated their 6-foot dish onto my signal.

Their signal went up to 20dB over S9, and a moment later, they hit 30dB over S9, and remained there while we chatted a bit!

They were running 130 watts output and copied my 1 watt clearly.

The distance was about 43 miles, and of course their altitude of about 4960 feet helped!

In any event, this was quite an afternoon. It was nothing in the way of DX, and did not set any records, but it sure shows what can be done on the microwave bands. Forty three miles with 1 watt!

If anyone is interested in joining me in the fun on the 2.3 GHz band, please get in touch with me.

Mike McKay, W4AZR
675 New York Avenue
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
Phone 540-442-9964

Shipping Rate Comparison Website

Sending your Kenwood back to the service center again?

This time, compare shipping rates of the various transportation methods, all in one web visit!

DHL, USPS, FedEx, Eastern Connection, and other carriers are compared side by side at a new website called Red Roller.

You enter the from and to ZIP codes, city and state, the type of package, and the weight, and the website compares the shipping charges of the various carriers for getting your package to the destination.

Check it out at:

<http://www.redroller.com/shippingcenter/home>

N4KYM: The Minus-2 Net is on the Air!

Fred, N4KYM, has started a nightly net on the 146.85 repeater at 10:00 pm.

This repeater has minus-600khz offset, and uses a tone of 131.8.

This is not a formal traffic net. Its primary purpose is to

get more local hams ON THE AIR! Lately the group has been running 5WPM Morse Code practice after each round of comments. If you are working on your 5 WPM code to get on the HF bands, this may help!

Check out: <http://n4kym.myddns.com:84/>

MARA/VARA Combined Club Event: Field Day Results

Call Used: W4XD
 GOTA Station Call: KD4UPL
 ARRL Section: Virginia
 Class: 2A
 Participants: 79
 Name: Massanutten and Valley ARA
 Power Source: Generator, Solar
 Power Multiplier: 2X
 Bonus Points:
 100% Emergency Power: 200
 Media Publicity: 100
 Set in Public Location: 100
 Information Booth: 100
 NTS Message to SEC: 100
 W1AW FD Message Copy: 100
 Formal NTS Messages (10): 100
 Satellite QSO Completed: 100
 Natural Power QSO: 100
 Site Visit by agency Official: 100
 GOTA Bonus: 50
 Submitted via web: 50
 Non-traditional mode (ATV): 100
 Non-traditional mode (SSTV): 100
 Non-traditional mode (APRS): 100
 Total Bonus Points: 1500

SCORE SUMMARY

927 CW QSO's
1614 Phone QSO's
1854 CW points
1614 Phone points
Total Points: 3468
Claimed Score: 6936

BAND/MODE QSO Breakdown:

80m: 205 CW QSO's, 438 Phone
 40m: 376 CW QSO's, 482 Phone
 20m: 283 CW QSO's, 237 Phone
 15m: 62 CW QSO's, none on Phone
 6m: 1 CW QSO, 113 on Phone
 2m: no CW QSO's, 25 on Phone

Other: 5 Phone QSO's

Satellite: 21 Phone QSO's

GOTA: 293 Phone QSO's

Total 927 CW QSO's, 1614 Phone

GOTA Bonus participants:

Joe Meek KD4FKT (15)
 Matthew Huffman KD4UPL (30)
 Thomas Hepner KE4GMJ (46)
 David Pickering KF4JCY (7)
 Howard Mullins IV KF4LGT (32)
 Charles Eckman KI4LHD (5)
 Scott Martin KI4MSJ (33)
 Gerald Nauman KN4FM (5)
 Michael Stouwie KY4FOX (35)
 Bob Steere N1QEQ (85)

(number in parentheses is number of QSO's)

Submitted by
 Jason Armentrout N4DSL
 FD Chairman



MARA and VARA wish to extend their appreciation to Jason Armentrout for serving as the Field Day Committee Chairman this year, as well as overseeing the score preparation and submission to the ARRL.

For Sale: Rohn 25G Sections

Roy Silling, W4WRN, has several sections of Rohn 25G tower for sale, in good condition. Best of all, the sections are on the ground, ready for pickup! The location is out near Middlebrook. He is asking \$75 per section. Call Roy at 540-886-6333.

Don't Forget: Blue Ridge Extreme Cycling Event Aug 27

As announced in last month's Monitor, there will be a need for ham radio operators to help with the Blue Ridge Extreme Cycling Event on August 27. This is a strenuous ride and takes place in areas where cell phone coverage is spotty or non-existent, making ham radio support essential. See last month's Monitor for details.

Public Service Report: Bridgewater Lawn Party Parades

The Bridgewater Police Department pays a hearty "thank you" to those hams who helped out with the Bridgewater Lawn Party Parade Traffic Control:



Bob Steere N1QEQ

Phyllis Haxton N4VZC

Richard Haxton KC4AN

Nancy Ritchie KG4JAZ

Ray Ritchie K4NRA

Ellsworth Neff K4LXG

Gerald Nauman KN4FM

Steve Ferguson KF4ZWK

Gordon Batey WA4FJC

EC Showalter KG4KUR

Ray Colvin KE4HVR

Nancy Colvin KE4PHP

Marvin Henderson KF4WDI

Gayle Shull KU4XN

Gail Shull KG4JBF

KJ4RM: Date Secured for Virginia's 400th Birthday Special Event: May 5-6, 2007

Thanks to Mike Solomon, KJ4RM, for making arrangements to secure May 5th and 6th, 2007, for the MARA and VARA clubs for the Special Event Station commemorating Virginia's 400th anniversary.

The August club meetings will discuss where the event will be held. Possibilities include Sherando Lake's upper group campground, Douthat State park, or somewhere else.

If we decide to go to Sherando, the

weekend of May 5-6 is available at the present time. The water to the site is turned on for the summer on the Tuesday before May 5. The cost of the entire site is \$50 per night. The small glitch is that their antiquated computer systems can't accept reservations for the site until January 1, 2007! But if we call January 2, it should still be available. No one has ever reserved the campground for a May date in the past until March.

Many thanks to Mike for spearheading this effort and getting our "weekend reservation" in to Woody Thompson of the ARRL.



N1QEQ: Area Governments Proclaim Ham Radio Week

Thanks to Bob Steere, N1QEQ, for obtaining the following four government proclamations in connection with Field Day!

OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN AUGUSTA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Augusta County has more than 50 licensed Amateur Radio operators who have demonstrated their value in public assistance by providing emergency radio communications; and

WHEREAS, these Amateur Radio operators donate these services free of charge to the County, in the interest of the citizens of the County as well; and

WHEREAS, these Amateur Radio operators are on alert for any emergency, local or world-wide, and practice their communication skills during the American Radio Relay League's Annual Field Day exercise; and

WHEREAS, this year's Amateur Radio Field Day will take place on June 24-25, 2006 near Reddish Knob in George Washington National Forest;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Wendell Coleman, Chairman, Augusta County Board of Supervisors, hereby declare the week of June 19-25 as

AMATEUR RADIO WEEK

in recognition of this important emergency preparedness exercise, and call upon all citizens to pay tribute to the Amateur Radio operators of our county and surrounding areas, and invite residents to the Field Day site to observe Amateur Radio in action.



Wendell Coleman
Chairman, Augusta County Board of Supervisors

Proclamation

WHEREAS, it appears the City of Staunton has more than 40 licensed Amateur Radio operators who have demonstrated their value in public assistance by providing emergency radio communications; and

WHEREAS, these Amateur Radio operators donate their services without cost to the City, in the interest of the citizens of the City as well; and

WHEREAS, these Amateur Radio operators are on alert for any emergency, local or world-wide, and practice their communication skills during the American Radio Relay League's Annual Field Day exercise; and

WHEREAS, this year's Amateur Radio Field Day will take place on June 24-25, 2006 near Reddish Knob in George Washington National Forest;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lacy B. King, Jr., Vice-Mayor of the City of Staunton, hereby declare the week of June 19-25 as

AMATEUR RADIO WEEK

in recognition of this important emergency preparedness exercise, and call upon all citizens to pay tribute to the Amateur Radio operators of our City and surrounding areas, and invite residents to the Field Day site to observe Amateur Radio in action.

Signed this 22nd day of June, 2006.


Lacy B. King, Jr.
Vice Mayor



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

S. PATTON
Commissioner

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- PABLO CIENFAS**
Election District No. 1
- CHARLES W. AHREND**
Election District No. 2
- DEE E. FLOYD**
Election District No. 3
- WILLIAM B. KYGER, JR.**
Election District No. 4
- MICHAEL A. BREEDEN**
Election District No. 5

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the County of Rockingham has more than 50 licensed Amateur Radio operators who have demonstrated their value in public assistance by providing emergency radio communications; and

WHEREAS, these Amateur Radio operators donate these services free of charge to the County, in the interest of the citizens of the County; and

WHEREAS, these Amateur Radio operators are on alert for any emergency, local or world-wide, and practice their communication skills during the American Radio Relay League's Annual Field Day exercise; and

WHEREAS, this year's Amateur Radio Field Day will take place on June 24-25, 2006, near Reddish Knob in George Washington National Forest;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Rockingham, Virginia, that said Board, acting through its Chairman and on behalf of the citizens of Rockingham County, that the week of June 20-26 in Rockingham County is

AMATEUR RADIO WEEK

in recognition of this important emergency preparedness exercise;

AND, FURTHER, the Board calls upon all citizens to pay tribute to the Amateur Radio operators of our County and invites residents to the Field Day site to observe Amateur Radio Week in action.

Given under my hand this
fifth day of June in the
year Two Thousand Six, A.D.



City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

Office of the Mayor
345 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801
(540) 432-7739/Fax (540) 432-7778

Larry M. Rogers
Mayor

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of HARRISONBURG has more than 75 licensed AMATEUR RADIO operators who have demonstrated their value in public assistance by providing emergency radio communications; and

WHEREAS, these Amateur Radio Operators donate these services free of charge to the City, in the interest of the citizens of the City; and

WHEREAS, these Amateur Radio Operators are on alert for any emergency, local or worldwide, and practice their communication skills during the American Radio Relay League's Field Day exercise; and

WHEREAS, this year's Amateur Radio Field Day will take place on June 26-27, 2006 near Reddish Knob in the George Washington National Forest; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Larry M. Rogers, Mayor of the City of Harrisonburg, hereby declare the week of June 20-27 as

AMATEUR RADIO WEEK

in recognition of this important emergency preparedness exercise, and call upon all citizens to pay tribute to the Amateur Radio operators of our city and invite residents to the Field Day site to observe Amateur Radio in action.

Larry M. Rogers, Mayor

Attest:

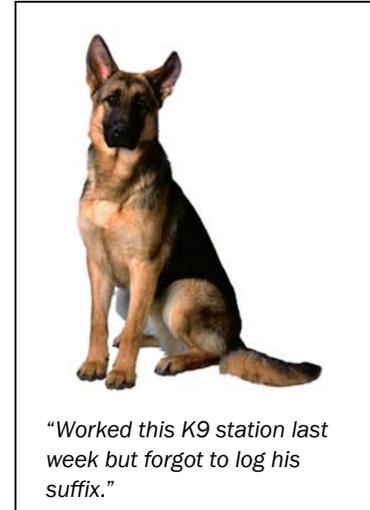
Yvonne Ryan, CMC, City Clerk

City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

N4BCC: David Tanks AD4TJ and Denny Morland N4XPW Both On the Mend...

Benny stopped by to see David Tanks, AD4TJ, and reports that David is coming along okay. He had just finished an operation to remove two of the screws from his left hand (where he broke his wrist), but was not in as much pain as he had been. The doctors plan to remove the stitches at the end of July.

Benny also went by to see Denny Morland, N4XPW, who is still in the hospital as of July 13. Fortunately, X-rays have shown that Denny's shoulder and elbow aren't broken, but they need to do an MRI to ensure his rotator cuff isn't damaged. The doctors had given him cortisone shots in the shoulder to relieve the pain, but according to Denny, it wasn't working as well as he wanted it to.



The Opinionated One: A HomeBrew 13-Band All-Mode Transceiver for under \$6

Reading all the complaints in the op-ed pieces in today's ham magazines, you might get the impression that today's hams don't build anything anymore.

Not true. Hams love to build things. And the abundance of homebrew articles in those very same magazines is testimony that hams get as much fun out of *writing* about their projects as they do by laughing at all the homebrew articles.

If it's good enough for the big ham magazines, then by golly it's good enough for the Monitor. So here is an article describing how to put together a fantastic commercial-quality transceiver that works every bit as well as the latest model from Kenwood. This is a fun and easy one-evening project.

I got the idea for this project one day last May as I was walking in the mall. I stopped in front of the Victoria's Secret store window when suddenly it hit me.

My wife's hand, that is.

But while admiring the gorgeous window glass, it occurred to me that hams everywhere have been wanting a 13-band all-mode transceiver with advanced digital signal processing, in a box that can fit into a teaspoon, and costs less than six dollars. So I got out my soldering iron and proceeded to build one.

I call this project my "Thirteen-Band All-Mode Transceiver With Advanced Digital Signal Processing In A Box That Fits Into A Teaspoon And Costs Less Than Six Dol-

lars", or the "TBAMTWADSPIABTFIATA CLTSD" for short.

It features all bands 160 through 10, 6-meters, the new sixty-meter band, plus 2-meters, 440, and the ever-popular 220 MHz band. And as described here, it operates all modes including CW, SSB, FM, AMTOR, RTTY, PSK31, 802.11n, Bluetooth, Firewire, Cheyenne smoke signals, and semaphore. And by adding a two-stage Shultz-Morris multiplier, it can even operate Braille.

The parts all together cost under \$6, even less if you have a well-stocked junkbox. Alignment is also a snap, assuming you have ready access to one of the popular Estonian Navy Kudu-class SHF radar diagnostic test sets.

The heart of this project is Motorola's BS-1610-S chip. Like its bigger sister, the BS-1610-L (see footnote 1), this chip is designed for 12-volts DC, has 128 MB of memory, and can be programmed in Iskutuk (see footnote 2).

These qualities make it ideal for this application. The chip was originally designed to handle the navigation and fire control systems of the Air Force's B2 stealth bomber. The chip is still highly classified and sells for around \$23-million retail, but if you look hard enough, you should be able to find used ones at hamfests for under a dollar.

Before you part with your buck, however, test it out and make sure all

12,362 programmable function calls are operational, as you will need most of them when it comes time to change bands.

The circuit is so simple, there is no need for a schematic. Along with the BS chip, the project requires only an oscillator, a mixer stage, and a Korman auto-filter.

We'll start by assembling the oscillator. For the capacitance end, begin by taping two pennies together with a 37-cent postage stamp between them. (These stamps are no longer sold, but you might be able to find one behind your dresser or under your car seat.)

Next, take the ball out of a ball-point pen (the white stick pens from Marriott hotel rooms work best) and glue the ball to the top penny, forming a pentagon.

Make the inductor by winding 23.6475 turns of 16-gauge speaker wire on a full roll of Charmin toilet-paper. The number of turns is critical. Clip the excess wire to avoid destabilizing the heterosexual bipolar ADHD module.

The mixer stage is not critical. I salvaged one from an old Icom IC756 ProIII that I had lying around in my junk box, but you can use the mixer stage from any transceiver appearing on the back cover of a ham magazine for more than three consecutive issues. If you are like most hams, you've already have several dozen of these lying around the shack.

(continued on next page...)

Opinionated One: 13-Band All-Mode Homebrew Transceiver (— continued)

(...from previous page)

If any part of this project can be called difficult, it is the soldering. Soldering the two pennies to the tissue paper without starting a fire is somewhat challenging. It took me three tries before I got good solid connections, but your mileage may vary. (Try using some Vaseline and grape juice on the end of the soldering iron. —Ed.)

To counter the tendency of the oscillator to “dance” under high loads, you might want to add a 1-watt 10-ohm resistor where needed.

Next, empty out a box of Diamond matches (the kind you used to be able to pick up from the bowl at the cashier’s counter at Pano’s before the no-smoking craze got out of hand), and keep the empty box. (You can discard the matches, or better yet, put them in your junkbox for a future project – next month I’ll describe how to make a legal-limit antenna tuner using match sticks, sixty feet hemp rope soaked in milk, and some teal paint flakes off a Heathkit HW-7.)

After assembling the oscillator, tighten the sixteen screws on the mixer stage, being sure to get the hexnut positioned right side up. Insert the mixer into the center core of the Charmin tube, then shrink the whole thing down and squeeze it into the empty matchbox. Use care that you don’t accidentally knock the wire coils out of round while you are shrinking the assembly.

Add a Korman 5-stage auto-filter (NAPA part number 463-67 or equivalent) being sure to seal the gasket where it meets the oil pan.

You are almost ready to add the BS chip.

Before going further, however, put the matchbox on your oscilloscope and make sure you are getting good fifth-order Fourdrinier trans-orthogonal CtX-dimension waveforms. If not, gently insert a 2mm tuning tool into the oscillator, being careful not to loosen the postage stamp or tear the tissue paper, and twist it clockwise, watching the ‘scope, until the edges of the log-log curves are inverted. Some splatter is normal, so be sure to wear long sleeves.

Take the BS chip out of its blister-pack and wipe it clean with a soft cloth. Install it inside the matchbox to the right of the oscillator stage, one-tenth of an inch behind the mixer board. The clearance should be tight. Proceed to connect all 56 pins to the tissue paper at the proper spots (see Footnote 3).

You are now ready for control programming.

Connect the power leads to any 12 VDC source, and let the chip warm up for a couple of minutes. Place the unit on your EPROM burner, and proceed to load the control program one line at a time, until all 41,564 lines are loaded (see Footnote 4). Connect a microphone, speaker, and keyboard. The display will automatically appear the next time you power up the unit.

Alignment and initial tune-up is a snap: all you do is yell “Jzszjk Trjkqwp Drkb Pwltmzk” (which is Polish for the letter “V”) into the microphone, while opening and closing the matchbox, watching the dial on the Estonian Navy Kudu diagnostic set until the transmit harmonics null. That’s all there is to it!

Sharp hams will quickly notice that by adding a Class AG-AE amplifier stage and two 10pf mica caps in series before the filter, you can easily modify this transceiver to pick up transmissions from the sunken cruise liner Andrea Doria.

I’ve found that by taking great care during construction, this transceiver actually

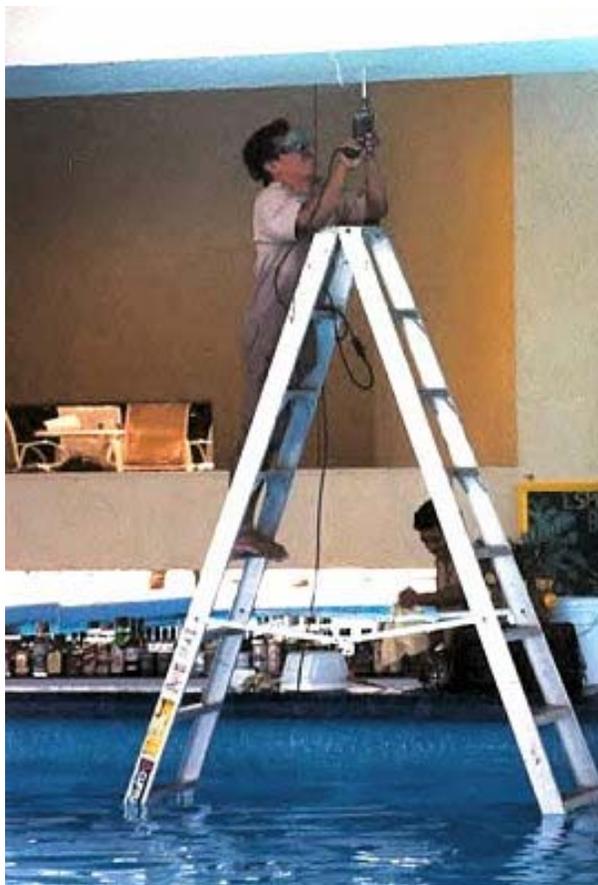
performs as good as my new Kenwood TS-980A, and because of its light weight, it costs a lot less to ship back to the repair center, too! Have fun!

Footnote 1: The “S” suffix on the chip designation stands for Small, the “L” on the bigger chip stands for Large. The “M” and “XL” versions of the chip are no longer being manufactured.

Footnote 2: Iskutuk is the language spoken by an extinct tribe of nomadic yak herders that inhabited the eastern mint marshes of Tibet in the late 13th century. It is now used as the basis for the menu structure of Yaesu handhelds.

Footnote 3: The connection diagram can be found on page 71 of the 1992 Rodale Press Horticulture Handbook.

Footnote 4: The control program is no longer available, but for \$18 and an SASE, the author will send you a CD containing pictures of his recent Alaska vacation.



To the left is a photo of the author making the final adjustments to the volume control by using a 440-volt drill motor, while standing, with wet bare feet, on a metal ladder, in a pool of water.

Pay particular attention to the heavy emphasis on safety demonstrated by the use of safety goggles.

MARA Secretary's Report July 6 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at Tradition's Restaurant. Introductions were made.

New member vote: none. Reports:

Secretary's Report: Minutes were not published in the Monitor due to an email problem.

Treasurer's Report: none

Groups:

ARES: Aiming for meeting first part of August to finalize ARES Handbook

RACES: none

VE: none

Field Day: Jason N4DSL is working on getting results to ARRL. Over 2.4 inches of rain during FD at Flagpole Knob site.

Public Service: Bridgewater Lawn Party July 14, 15. Gayle, KU4XN, 6:00 pm Friday, and 5:00 pm Saturday.

Other: none

Announcements:

Berryville Hamfest will be August 6.

Ellsworth K4LXG was elected broadcaster of the year by the Virginia Association of Broadcasters, and received a nice plaque.

Old Business: Virginia-Jamestown 400th Anniversary Special Event station. Anyone interested?

Discussion of sites for this station: Sherando Lake and Dundo on Skyline Drive. David KD9LA, moved that we agree to set up a station at a date and location TBA. Bob K4DJG seconded. Motion passed.

New Business: none

50/50 Drawing: Gene KG4JBC won \$12.

Program: Homebrew/Trader's Night

Submitted by

Bryan Daniels K4RMY
MARA Secretary

MARA Secretary's Report June 1 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at Tradition's Restaurant. Introductions were made.

New member vote: Brian Cowger KI4LLC, was elected as a new member.

Reports:

Secretary's Report: accepted as printed in the Monitor

Treasurer's Report: April balance \$2002.60. May balance: 2002.60.

Groups:

ARES: Certificates were given to all the AEC's present.

RACES: none

VE: June 10 is next test day.

Field Day: updated information is published in the June newsletter. Bob N1QEQ said there will be proclamations signed in support of Field Day by Harrisonburg, Rockingham County, Augusta County, and Staunton government officials.

A motion was made for the club to pay for Field Day pins. Motion passed.

Announcements:

ARRL UHF/VHF Contest June 10 and 11th. N3NYC will be working the contest from Flattop Mountain.

David Tanks AD4TJ was injured after falling off a ladder.

David KD9LA has some tailgate stuff for sale and to be given away after the meeting.

James KI4FZY has a frequency counter for sale.

Old Business: none

New Business: Virginia's 400th anniversary special event was discussed. The ARRL section manager wants a QSO party starting in January of 2007 to run every month during the year. More details will follow. There was some discussion of setting up a station to help out.

The MARA Board is working on getting or keeping ARRL Affiliated Club status.

Program: John Lasher introduced Steve Garger from Ntelos who gave an informative talk on the current state of cellular phones and their digital communications networks.

Submitted by

Bryan Daniels K4RMY
MARA Secretary

VARA Secretary's Report – July 11 Meeting

The **V**alley **A**mateur **R**adio **A**ssociation met at Kathy's in Verona on June 11, 2006. The President, Marvin Henderson KF4WDI, opened the meeting at 7:00pm. There were 17 members present and 5 guests, Elwood Shrader KB4DJN, Gayle Shull KU4XN, Gail Shull KG4JBF, Andrew Barbour AG4XN and Fran Davis. Welcome to our visitors, and we would like to see all of you back next month.

50/50 was won by Gayle Shull KU4XN, congratulations Gayle! Now you can buy more gas for the mower.

Mike Solomon KJ4RM suggested some locations for the Special Event for the 400th Anniversary of the settlement of Virginia. We will have more discussion on this at our August meeting.

Thanks to those that came out to help with the Bridgewater Parade again this year.

Jerry Moats WD4ITN is looking for help with the Mountain Mama bike ride again this year in Monterey. Any help would be appreciated, even half a day, morning or evening. If you are willing to help send Jerry an e-Mail at: wd4itn@yahoo.com

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.

FIELD DAY 2006 got a fair amount of heavy dew (since it never rains on Field Day has been our slogan). Contacts seemed to about the same as last year and we will have a report soon on the totals.

ON THE SICK LIST:
Queenie, Clinton's (KB4OLM) wife still has health concerns but is doing well.

August Calendar

August 1: VARA Club Meeting
August 3: MARA Club Meeting
August 5: NA QSO Party CW
August 5: Mountain Mama Public Service Event
August 5-6: ARRL UHF Contest
August 6: Berryville Hamfest

David Tanks AD4TJ is doing well even with all the pins and screws he recently acquired in his left hand after his fall. David is left-handed so he is learning to use his right hand.

Denny Morland N4XPW fell again at home and is in AMC at this time. At least this time he didn't break any bones.

Gordon Batey's WA4FJC, son can get around some with a cane and started driving. The daughter-in-law is still in a wheel chair but can stand to transfer to another chair.

Let's 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 N8ESW dtippett@ntelos.net Ray Colvin KE4HVR colvingr@adelphia.net and David Fordham KD9LA ford-hadr@jmu.edu Also, 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 7:35pm.

PROGRAM:

Richard Huttering AA4RH presented a video of THE LAST VOICE OF KU-WAIT. This video was about a ham in Kuwait that relayed messages through a ham in Fort Wayne, Indiana to Washington during the war. He had a scout that would go out on watch and report back with what was happening in the war. The ham was a brave ham to keep his station on the air even though he had been warned to shut it down. His house was searched and they took his radio equipment (so they thought) but he found out they were coming and replaced his good equipment with old broken equipment. When they left he brought out his equipment and was soon back on the air with his radio equipment running the AMTOR digital mode. When the war was over the ham's record was checked with the actual records and proved to be accurate. It's things like this that goes on not known to us that we need to be thankful for in time of war. These two men had a lot of courage.

Thanks to Richard for doing the video.

VARA Secretary

Ray Colvin KE4HVR

August 12: VE Exam Session, Dayton VA
August 12: Westminster (MD) Tailgate
August 19-20: North America 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

Return Service Requested

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
at Traditions Restaurant at the corner of
Mt Clinton Pike and Hwy 42, 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 Tippet, N8ESW
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 6:00 pm.

Business meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

Visitors are welcome.

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

Doug Tippet
2348 Mosley St.
Waynesboro VA 22980