

May-June 2007

The Monitor

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

Field Day Information

Typically, the June issue of the Monitor contains the Field Day Spreadsheet. According to Benny Cook, N4BCC the spreadsheet is unavailable as of press time (Saturday, June 2).

Thus, the Field Day Committee themselves will be distributing the information to the local ham community when it is ready. The Field Day Committee continues to work diligently on putting together the assignments and responsibilities, and we appreciate their work.

The next Field Day Committee Meeting will be held Monday evening, June 4, at the Mt. Crawford Burger King. All hams are welcome and invited to attend.

On page 9 of this issue, you will find directions to the Field Day site, as well as the Field Day Equipment Policy which must be read by everyone participating in Field Day.

VARA Meeting: June 5

The VARA meeting will be held at its regularly-scheduled time on the first Thursday of the month, at Lynn's Pancake House on US 250 West in Waynesboro. No other information had been provided as of press time.

MARA Meeting: June 7

The MARA meeting will be held at its regularly scheduled time on the first Thursday of the month, at Tradition's Restaurant in Harrisonburg, at the intersection of Mt. Clinton Pike and Highway 42.

Did Something Happen? You Bet...

Lots of stuff happened.

First, the newsletter editor was away on business, getting ready to prepare the Monitor for May, when all hell broke loose. Crisis after crisis erupted. The emergencies involved the Study-Abroad students, the landlord of the present resident building, the landlord of the new building, errors at the bank, mixups by the internet service providers, problems with the program's Belgian logistics manager, a strike by the Belgian transportation workers, an oversight in paying the special electric assessment bill, a student got sick, the faculty member who was supposed to be in charge had a family emergency.... You name it.

Bottom line, for the first time since taking over the newsletter publication in 1993, the editor missed issuing a copy of the Monitor.

Hence, some articles, such as the VARA President's May message and report on the Waynesboro MS Walk, are delayed and are printed in this issue.

Public Service Event Report: April 21 Harrisonburg March of Dimes Walk

I would like to thank those hams who volunteered at the Harrisonburg March of Dimes Walk on April 21. We were able to provide and deliver supplies at several stations that were not delivered by the sponsoring organizations' volunteers who did not show up. Our assistance was greatly appreciated by both the walk organizers and the participants.

As a suggestion, for future endeavors of this type we should have one ham fire up the system at the Harrisonburg/Rockingham EOC. This would eliminate any delay in reaching a police officer should the need arise.

Bob Steere N1QEQ
Net Control Operator for the Public Service Event

VARA President's May Message: Report on the Waynesboro MS Walk

The MS-Walk held in Waynesboro, VA on the 21st of April was a great success thanks to those who helped out. Ray, KE4HVR was our net control station operating on 146.85, while Steve, KI4CGI and his bride Fran operated as the support and gear vehicle. Steve and Fran also run with the Waynesboro Rescue Squad and were prepared to assist if a medical emergency occurred. Greg, W4GRC and Bennie, N4BCC drove from one location to another making sure no one was left behind on the route. Kay, KF4CZL walked the short route and made sure everyone made it back to the starting point. Heartfelt thanks from me to you for giving up part of your Saturday to help out.

At this month's meeting we will look over the by-laws. They have been shortened somewhat to reflect what the club really does. I look forward to your input and also want to thank Jeff, W4PJW and Doug, N8ESW for their valuable insight and help. So please try to attend this meeting.

By the time you read this it will probably be only one week before we hold our Sherando Lake Special Event. I would like to see a good turnout. The more the merrier. It will be a great time for fellowship, not to mention a little practice for Field Day, which is right around the corner. The station(s) will be set up at the group camping area (read Jeff's blurb on how to get there). Feel free to camp and of course you might want to offer a prayer for good weather. This is not Field Day where it never rains!

Did you know that the American Radio Relay League archives their bulletins and code practice sessions? Well, they do, and you can go to the ARRL website and access them. The on air W1AW code practice is sent from 5 to 35 words per minute at specific times each day. However, on the website, you can practice code at 40 words per minute or slower anytime you want to. So sharpen your pencils and give it a try. Oh, yes, if you try to copy code at above 30 wpm, forget the pencil. Copy it in your head or use a keyboard. That's the way to learn code anyway (thus says a former Navy Radioman, i.e. your president).

73, Greg, W4GRC

Paul, WV3J, in the Newspaper

Paul Helbert, WV3J (West Virginia's Three Jiggers) was featured in a newspaper article run by the Harrisonburg Daily News-Record on May 25. The article reported extensively on his farming activities: using sustainable and ecologically/environmentally sound practices in generating "natural" chickens and other farm output. Thanks to **Bill Jones, KE4FM** for calling this article to our attention.

Congratulations to K4RBZ: Gerry Finally Worked 'Em All!

Gerry Brunk, K4RBZ has finally accomplished the Holy Grail of DX'ers... he has worked every single country on the DXCC countries list! Yep, that's 346 (count 'em!) different countries. The last was Scarborough Reef on 20m CW in mid-May. Way to go, Gerry! (Now, if he can only get them all *confirmed!*)

Sympathy and Condolences

Our thoughts are with VARA member **Bill Jordan, KE4LKS**, who recently had an infection in a heart valve which resulted in a heart attack. He now has a repaired valve, and is on medication for the infection.

Benny Cook, N4BCC, reports that **Denny Moreland, N4XPW**, recently fell again, at the end of May. Denny has been laid up for quite a few months now with injuries and other orthopedic problems, and his friends all wish him a speedy recovery.

The ham community extends its condolences to **Bob Eshleman, W4DR**, who recently lost his son. Bob is from the valley and is well-known among the local hams

We also extend our condolences to **Rusty Bowman, N4YET**, of Singers Glen, whose mother passed away the morning of May 1.

We also extend condolences to **Mark Payne, WA4E**, of Bridgewater, whose father passed away the week of May 15.

Valley Technician Licensing Class Tentatively Moved to September

Darrell Little KI4LLA notified us that the radio class he was mentioning in April has been postponed until at least September. This will allow more time for publicity and advertising, and perhaps result in more potential ham candidates being able to attend.

Cool Stuff on the Web I: Energy-Saving Light Bulbs Cause RFI

Ray Colvin KE4HVR provided a nice on-line article explaining why you may have noticed a significant increase in background noise on the ham bands lately: the new efficient fluorescent energy-saving bulbs being sold today have switching power supplies built into their base which emit significant amounts of RFI;

<http://my.inil.com/~torpor-skog/lightbulb.htm>

Cool Stuff on the Web II: History of Distress Calls

Thanks to **Don Landes, WX4C**, for informing us of a very interesting article on the History of Maritime Distress Calls such as CQD and SOS. The article can be found on the web at:

<http://www.telegraph-office.com/pages/arc2.2.html>

Cool Stuff on the Web III: Satellite and Aerial Photos

Ray Colvin KE4HVR told us about Flashearth, where you enter your address and the site will zoom in to show you the aerial view:

<http://www.flashearth.com>

Also, check out Wikimapia, which takes a little more navigating, but often has high-resolution photos:

<http://www.wikimapia.org>

VARA President's June Message: Report on the Sherando Lake Special Event Operation

Greetings to one and all. In just a few days VARA will meet to review the by-laws. Please do your best to attend this meeting. David has been kind enough to add a copy of the by-laws to this month's Monitor.

Oddly enough, I am typing this report while camping at Sherando Lake. It was only a week ago when VARA held its special event activity commemorating the 400th Anniversary of Jamestown, VA.

The club made about 400 contacts. Two stations and sometimes three were up and running. We operated on 80, 40, and 20 meters, and I believe Darrell, KI4LLA even tried to make some contacts on 17 meters. It was a fun event. No stress and lots of good old fashion fellowship.

On Friday folks began to arrive at the Group Camping site at Sherando Lake. Those who came early on Friday helped set up the main stations, put up antennas, ran electrical cable and moved fire wood. That evening the group spent its time around the campfire telling stories about the old days of AM (Ancient Modulation).

The weather was good, although we did experience cooler temperatures than normal and a bit of rain late Saturday evening. I would like to thank those who operated. They were:

**Bob, (N1QEQ),
Jeff, (W4PJW),
Clint, (KB4OLM),
Scott, (KI4MSJ),
Gordon, (WA4FJC),
Fred, (N4KYM),
Ray, (KE4HVR),
Darrell, (KI4LLA),
Marvin, (KF4WDI),
John, (KI4TOH), and last but not least,
Steve, (KI4CGI).**

I am looking forward to Field Day and hope all of these folks will be there to help.

Not everyone operated our special events stations. We had several visitors as well. These folks

helped set up and take down the equipment and provided moral support for those who did operate. Our support team consisted of:

**Doug, (N8ESW),
Al, (N3JB),
Alby, (AD4KZ),
Richard, (AA4RH),
Patsy, (K4PJJ),
Benny, (N4BCC),
Gale, (KU4XN),
Dan, (KE4JSX),
Martin, (KE4KEW),
Mark, (KI4SMB), and
Greg, (W4GRC).**

I also want to thank each of the above mentioned for their support.

So far the certificate procedure is working like a charm. I have sent out around 45 certificates via e-mail thus far.

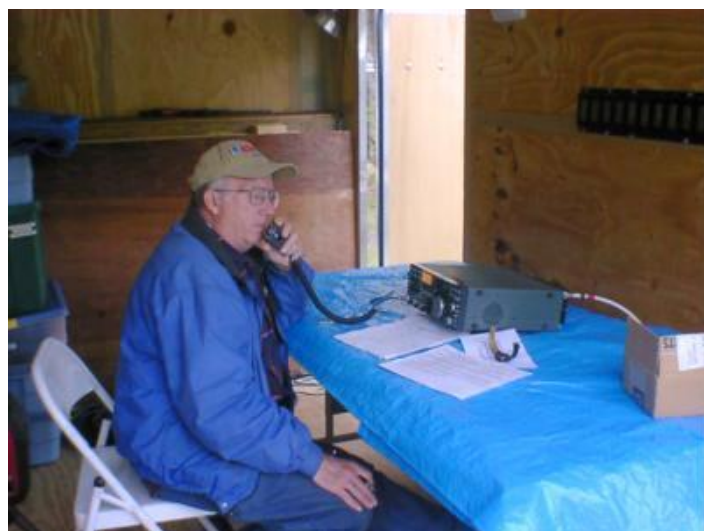
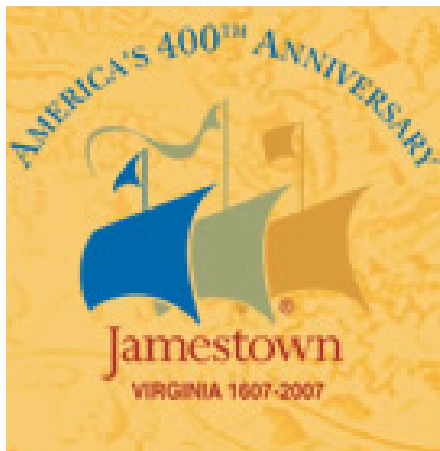
I would like to thank Ray (KE4HVR) for taking pictures during our special event. Ray does a lot of good things behind the scenes and needs a bit of credit for all he does. The secretary keeps the president and v. president squared away. He does a very good job. So pat him on the back and let him know.

When I was a young ham, there was a ham from the Buffalo, NY area who only operated AM. He did not take kindly to young hams calling him. He used to call CQ in the following manner: "CQ, CQ, CQ, no kids, no lids, no space cadets." His name was Mike and his call was W2OY. Maybe some of you old timers worked him. I tried once, but my young and tender voice gave me away!

I look forward to seeing your smiling faces at our June meeting!

73, Greg, W4GRC

Photos of the VARA Sherando Lake Special Event Operation



Public Service Report: Waynesboro Riverfest April 29

The following area amateurs assisted with the Riverfest 2007 Run, paddle down the river and bike ride on Saturday April 28.

**Marvin, KF4WDI,
Herb AA2BF,
Doug KA4NWK,
Ken K4KPB,
Darrell KI4LLA and
Gordon WA4FJC.**

The recently upgraded 147.075 repeater was used for communication during this event.

This team provided a watchful eye over the participants as they moved through the three different parts of this event in order to provide emergency communications if necessary. It was a real nice spring day and a good time was had by all present.

73 Gordon WA4FJC

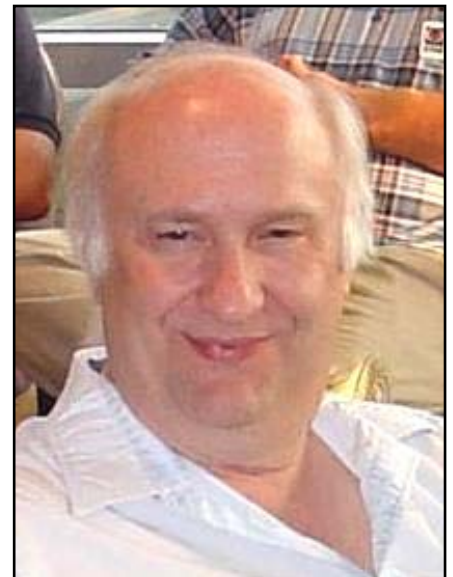
Featured Ham of the Month



April's featured ham was none other than Gordon Batey, WA4FJC, of Verona (left). Although not as elderly as many of his cronies in this area, Gordon is still a real bonafide old-timer, having been licensed more than 50 years.

The featured ham for this issue is shown to the right. He was born in the Philadelphia area and was first licensed as KN3YMG way back in 1963. He came to the valley where he served as an orderly for the Bridgewater Home in 1968-1969. After that, he did a 10-year stint in South Carolina near the Greenville area, and while there earned his First Class Commercial Radio license. Also while in SC, he went to the Atlanta FCC office to take his amateur General test, and was granted call-sign WA4KQX, which he brought back to the valley in 1982. He now holds a vanity "3" call (remembering his Philly roots) with his initials.

In addition to his freelance work in commercial radio, he taught himself electronics and computer science, and has spent the last few years as an independent computer consultant. One of this major clients is the Shenandoah Valley Electric Co-Op, where he is presently configuring and programming equipment designed to stop blackouts from spreading. This ham has been an officer and served on the board of directors of the MARA club, and can be found on the 2-meter repeaters most of the time. — Who is he?



Status of Rockingham Memorial Hospital Ham Operator Identity Badges

As has been announced for the past several months, Rockingham Memorial Hospital is now requiring security badges to gain access to the ham radio emergency station built into their facility.

In an emergency, authorized ham volunteers will have to stop at the security desk upon entering the building, and ask for their security ID badge before proceeding to the station.

We have been taking photos of those hams who have completed the training, and providing them to the hospital security staff for creation of the badges.

The first set of 11 ID's are ready and are in the security office at RMH. I will try and fire up the system there for next Monday's Net. I have been away. At future meetings, I will take a picture of anyone who wants to be listed and have an ID made. The Security Group at RMH has been very helpful. They took the picture of the old MARA logo and cleaned it up for use on the ID's. I will ask at a future meeting whether there is any interest in getting a price on patches with this logo on it.

Bob Steere N1QEQ

Public Service Report: VE Exam Session April 14

Thanks to those who helped with the VE test session Saturday April 14th. We had one of the biggest turnouts in recent memory in terms of the number of candidates served. It is great to see the large number of hams who are upgrading.

The following hams volunteered as examiners, and the entire ham community should express appreciation to the work these volunteers do:

ROBERT VANFOSSEN	K4DLG
JOHN SPILLMAN	KI4EB
MICHAEL MCKAY	WA4ZR
E.C. SHOWALTER	KG4KUR
HUGH PETTIS	K3EC
KEVIN WARD	K4BOR
GERALD NAUMAN	KN4FM

We had 12 candidates show up for testing.

CHAD STOVER	KI4HIQ	UPGRADED TO GENERAL
MARVIN HENDERSON	KF4WDI	UPGRADED TO GENERAL
MARTIN COGGINS	K4CRC	UPGRADED TO GENERAL
RODERICK PASSATELLI		TECHNICIAN ELEMENT 2
ELBERT HALTERMEN		TECHNICIAN ELEMENT 2
SHIRLEY THOMAS		TECHNICIAN ELEMENT 2
WAYNE SHIFFLETT	KI4ORU	UPGRADED TO GENERAL ELEMENT 3
JOHN BOBBIO	KI4TDH	UPGRADED TO GENERAL ELEMENT 3
CHRISTOPHER SLACK		EXTRA ELEMENT 2-3-4
DAVID SMITH		TECHNICIAN ELEMENT 2
PAVEL KALINCHUK		TECHNICIAN ELEMENT 2
DANIAL KVITKO		TECHNICIAN ELEMENT 2

Again thanks to all who make this possible.

Here's looking forward to seeing you at our next session to e held June 9.

GAYLE KU4XN

Public Service Opportunity: August 26th

John Lasher, N3GLZ, is scouting for volunteer hams to help with the Blue Ridge Extreme Public Service Event.

This event involves over 450 riders. Hams have proven integral to the event's safety and execution. The local fire and rescue squads are going to be manning 4 of the 8 rest stops, and will provide the emergency vehicle support. But the public safety communications system can not be relied upon in the mountainous terrain, and cannot handle non-emergency but essential traffic.

Hams who help out get a free shirt, a free massage (!), as well as free energy drinks, soft drinks, snacks, and pizza at the start and finish areas.

June 9 Safari: Come See the Amazing Things on Display in the Valley!

When can you spend a day seeing things you didn't even KNOW existed in the Shenandoah Valley? Have you met our local Smithsonian curator and his collection of antique cars? Come nose to nose with llamas? Found the ostrich or miniature donkey? Seen the salt palace? Watched the trained Border Collies do their tricks? Seen the civil war reenactment up close and receive a confederate coin? There is even a surprise we can't even mention!

On Saturday, June 9th, the Weyers Cave Ruritan Club is presenting a new idea in entertainment. Starting with registration at the Weyers Cave Community Center on Weyers Cave Road from 8:30 - 10:00 am, you can spend the next few hours in your car exploring in and around Weyers Cave, meeting people, learning new things, and taking lots of pictures. Open to the public! Hams are invited to bring their XYL and kids. We don't need to provide communication this time! This is for pure enjoyment only!

There are twelve locations on the safari, divided into themes of animal, business, and historical interests. You drive from one to the next. Some will give freebies, others will have great picture opportunities but all will be "Ah-Ha!" opportunities that you will be glad you had the chance to see. A couple dollars of gas will cover the whole route.

You can find the sites the easy way by looking them up on a map, or solving puzzles to find the addresses, or using your GPS (the coordinates will be available for those who are techies or geo-cachers.) The entire safari takes place in northern Augusta and southern Rockingham counties. There will NOT be a lot of walking involved, and children are invited. Weather will not be a factor.

Concession stands will be open, or bring a picnic lunch. Sites will be open until 2:00 pm. Cost is \$10 per person or \$20 per carload. So come, tell your friends, and help make this successful enough to repeat next year.

Any questions can be directed to Deborah Fordham, KB4WPE, Event Coordinator, at 540-234-0448 or deb-biebf@aol.com.

All money collected by this event goes to support the Piedmont Hospice.

John will report to AD6JV with those willing to help from our side of the mountains. Several hams have participated with this organization before, and they are good to work with. The date is Sunday, August 26th. Anyone who would like to help provide communications for this fun event, email John at N3GLZ@arrl.net

The Opinionated One: A Long Time Ago, on a Mountain Far Far Away...

Once upon a time, there was a handsome knight who lived in a blue stone castle on the top of a high green mountain. This knight was named Degracio Del Didanario Du Dandelius, but everyone called him “Dee” for short. He was known throughout all the land for his long red beard, his light brown eyes, and for having a tattoo of a panda on the back of his right hand.

One day in late June, when the flowers were blooming and birds were singing, Knight Dee was out and about, riding his beautiful white horse down a wooded lane when suddenly he heard a cry of distress. He hastened to the sound, and found a beautiful young woman in a long flowing dress, with a coronet of flowers in her hair, perched high up in the limbs of a large spreading oak tree.

“Hail, yonder damsel, for what strange purpose doth thee attend, yonder high in this tree?” asked Knight Dee.

“Forsooth, ‘tis a knight,” thought the damsel to herself. Then, looking down on Knight Dee, she replied, “Aye, Sir Knight, I am seeking the noble sage, — he who answereth all questions, and knoweth all mysteries. I was told to seeketh high and low and I should find him. For a week now sought I him, first in low places, and now ‘tis time to seek in high places. This oak seemeth high to me, so here do I now seek this sage.”

“Silly wench,” laughed the knight. “All the kingdom knows very well that the sage ye seeketh will be found in a bottle.”

“in a bottle?” repeated the damsel.

“Yea, verily, in a small bottle, one with the name McCormick on its label. Truly, I have seen this bottle, and can testify of a certainty that therein can be found sage. And also, in like bottles, can be found parsley, thyme, rosemary and basil.”

“The devil you say!” exclaimed the damsel. “My sister Rosemary, the one with the baby, — and my cousin Basil — are to be found in bottles? What strange magic is this?”

“Nay, ‘tis not magic. ‘Tis the seasoning to be jolly. Be that as it may, I dearth would have thee to hastily get thee down out of this stout oak, and climb thee up on my saddle and accompany me on my travels.”

The damsel climbed down out of the tree, and joined the knight and together they rode down the lane to the village. Just before crossing the wooden drawbridge at the gate, they met an old woman, hunched over, carrying a loaf of bread in a basket. Her head was covered with a wool shawl. She looked up at the maiden sitting on the horse behind Knight Dee, and exclaimed, “Why, Virginia, what doeth thou in the company of such a nobleman as Knight Dee?”

“How knowest thou my name?” asked both the knight and the damsel, at the same time. They paused and looked at each other and said, together, “Jinx, double jinx, psyche, double psyche, make that two, and knock on wood.”

“I knoweth all things,” replied the old woman, pulling back her shawl to uncover a wrinkled face framed by fluffy snow-white hair.

“Art thou the sage which we seeketh?” asked the damsel?

“Why seeketh thou a sage?” asked the old woman of the damsel. “Is thy soup not tasty enough already? Forget the sage. It is I who have the answers. If thy brave knight shall do exactly as I say, then he shall find a dragon. This dragon has the ability to clone itself, and once cloned, the two dragons can transport a damsel to a place where she can enjoy peace and happiness ever after.”

The knight said, “Speak, old woman, I implore thee, tell me how to find this dragon. For indeed, I desireth greatly to provide happiness for my maiden.”

“Praythee, listen carefully, for I sendeth thee up into the mountains on a quest. You shall ride for many days. You will find three meadows. The first will be Meadow C. The next will be Meadow B, and the third will be Meadow A. When you get to the third meadow, you will not see a dragon, but it will be there, and it can hear you. You must command the dragon to make a duplicate of itself.”

“So I simply tell this dragon to clone itself?” asked the knight.

“Impetuous fool, listen. You must not simply speak. You must carefully say a magic incantation. This incantation, if you speak it loudly enough and often enough, over and over, will tell the dragon that you are seeking its meadow. What’s more, this incantation will command the dragon to duplicate itself, just for you. Finally, this incantation will also direct the dragon to transport your fair damsel to the kingdom of “Al Faah”, and there she will find peace and happiness forever.

“The kingdom of Al Faah?” asked the knight. “I beggest thou pardon, old woman, but isn’t the middle east the antithesis of peace?”

“Thy unbelief doth vex me greatly,” growled the old woman.

“Okay, okay, okay, please forgettest I asked” said the knight.

“Oh, and one thing more,” added the old woman. “From this time hence, you can no longer be called “Dee”. From this time forward, you will be known as “the knight formerly known as ‘Dee’. Or if you prefer, can call yourself “Ex-Dee”.”

The knight knelt at the feet of the old woman. She whispered the incantation into his ear, kissed the panda on the back of his hand, and sent him on his way.

To make a long story short, the knight did exactly as he was told. He embarked on the quest, and rode up into the mountains repeating the incantation, even when no one was listening. The incantation informed everyone that he was seeking the third meadow, the one after meadow C and meadow B. It also directed the dragon to duplicate itself for the knight, and to transport the damsel to the kingdom of Al Faah. To be sure the dragon transported the correct damsel, he called her by name as part of the incantation.

But alas, the poor knight never found the right meadow. And that is why, to this very day, if you go up into the mountains in June, when the birds are singing and the flowers are blooming, you can hear: “Seek you, seek you, Field ‘A’.... Seek you, Field ‘A’. Double you for Ex-Dee, double you for Ex-Dee. To Al Faah, Virginia, to Al Faah, Virginia”, thousands of times, over and over.

Directions to the Field Day Site

From Interstate 81 take Exit 240 (Bridgewater, Mt. Crawford), and go WEST on State Route 257 towards Bridgewater.

Follow Route 257 straight past the traffic signal at US 11. Go 2.5 miles past US 11, and come into the town of Bridgewater. Turn right onto Highway 42 (Hardee's on the corner, Quarles/Bullets ahead) and go north, still following Route 257. Go north on 42/257 for almost three miles.

On your way, you will go through one traffic light (cemetery on the corner) and a second light (Turner Ashby High School). At the third traffic light, turn left onto Mason Street, as you begin to come into the town of Dayton. **Follow Route 257 West!**

Be careful along this stretch. You will be sharing the road with bicycles, horses, and buggies! Go 6.5 miles out of Dayton, to a stop sign. Route 257 will make a sharp left turn at the stop sign (Ottobine Store on the right) onto Briery Branch Road. Go three miles on Briery Branch Road. There, Route 257 West will make a sharp **right** turn at the Route 257 Grocery. Turn here.

Just keep following Route 257 West! Bear left as you pass the Hone Quarry Campground entrance, staying on the main road. Just past the campground entrance, Route 257 becomes Forest Road 924. Stay on the main paved road as it begins climbing the mountain. The pavement gets really rough for the next few miles.

Keep going up the mountain. WAY up. Go up the mountain **7.5 miles** past Hone Quarry entrance, (which will be 10 miles from where you made the right turn at the Route 257 Grocery!). WAY up.

Finally, at the top of the mountain, you'll reach a complex intersection where the paved road makes a hard left (almost U) turn and two gravel roads split off, one due left and one going sort-of straight ahead. Keep as far to the right as possible at this three-way intersection. You want to take the right-most fork (straight ahead). In another half mile, you will pass through a nice meadow, which is the OLD field day site.

Proceed straight through the OLD field day site, and continue into the woods another 1/3 mile, and turn LEFT into the NEW Field Day Site.

It's a LONG way into the wilderness. If you need assistance, call on the 145.225 repeater (transmit up 600 kHz, 131 Hz PL tone required), or try 147.470 simplex once you get up into the mountains.



MARA/VARA Field Day Equipment Policy



Adopted by the MARA and VARA Amateur Radio Clubs.

Be it understood that:

As a participant in Field Day operations, whether a club member or visitor, you are using equipment that may belong to someone else. Care for it as if it were your own.

No repairs or modifications, no matter how slight, shall be made to any equipment without the owner (or owner's designated representative) present.

Any apparent malfunction of the equipment shall be reported immediately to the owner.

Be it further understood that:

Equipment which is brought to the Field Day site and made available for use is done at the owner's discretion, and said equipment should be supervised by the owner or his/her designated representative.

Any damage to, or failure of, the equipment at Field Day will be the responsibility of the owner, and NOT that of the sponsors, organizers, or management of the Field Day Activities.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 4: Field Day Committee Meeting
 June 5: VARA Meeting at Lynns
 June 7: MARA Meeting at Traditions
 June 9: VE Exams in Dayton VA
 June 9-11: ARRL June VHF QSO Party
 June 17: Frederick (MD) Hamfest
 June 16-24: Family Camping at the Field Day Site
 June 23-24: Field Day
 July 19-21: Bridgewater Lawn Party
 July 22: BRATS (Baltimore) Hamfest
 August 4: Vinton (Roanoke) Hamfest
 August 4-5: ARRL UHF Contest
 August 5: Berryville Hamfest
 August 11: Huntington (WV) Hamfest
 August 19: Westminster (MD) Hamfest
 August 26: Blue Ridge Extreme Public Service Event
 September 8-10: ARRL VHF QSO Party
 15-16: Virginia Beach Hamfest
 September 23-24: CQ WW DX Contest RTTY
 October 7: Camp Still Meadows Public Service Event
 October 28-29: CQ WW EX Contest SSB
 November 25-26: CQ WW DX contest CW

Local Net Schedule on the Web

If you can't remember all the local nets, be advised that they are on the web at:

<http://mara.ws/schedule-nets.htm>

Rockingham County ARES/RACES Net Control Schedule: 8:00 pm

June 4 (Simplex): Bryan Daniels K4RMY
 June 11: Gerald Nauman KN4FM
 June 18: James McDowell KI4FZY
 June 25: Gayle Shull KU4XN
 July 2 (Simplex) Ray Ritchie K4NRA
 July 9: Vic Alger K4XTT
 July 16: Hugh Pettis K3EC
 July 23: Norman Benner KA4EEN
 July 30: E.C. Showalter KG4KUR

Minutes of the April 30 Field Day Committee Meeting

Minutes of Field Day 2007 Meeting - April 30, 2007
 Held at Burger King, Mt. Crawford, VA

Those in attendance were: K4RMY, KD4UPL, K4DJG, N1QEQ, K4EME, KU4XN, W4PJW, K4PZC, K4DPF, KI4TOH, N4BCC, N8ESW, N4XU

Items discussed and generally resolved are as follows:

Rotator for VHF/UHF Station - Gayle KU4XN will take care of this item

MARA Equipment will be loaded on Gayle's trailer, from the storage facility

Tables and Chairs to be provided by the Dayton American Legion, per Bob, N1QEQ, and will be loaded on Gayle's trailer along with MARA equipment

Station trailers will be provided as follows: CW - Bob, K4DJG: GOTA - Matt, KD4UPL: VHF/UHF - Gayle, KU4XN and E C, KG4KUR: Phone - Jeff, W4PJW

Firewood will be supplied by Jeff, W4PJW and Bob, K4DJG

Computers for VHF/UHF, Phone and GOTA supplied by Sandy, K4PZC

Computer for CW Station supplied by Neal, N4XU

Cowles, K4EME will do Satellite Operation if it appears that it will entail a minimal amount of equipment, and if there is a visible pass during FD operations. Otherwise, he will assist in the VHF/UHF station and the Phone station, as needed.

Doug Tippett, N8ESW will contact Gordon, WA4FJC about bringing his big generator up to the FD site, for use as needed.

Tentative Station Managers for the Phone Station are as follows: K4PZC, KU4XN and K4RBZ. Help setting up the station and its antennas will be required. As of this meeting, the above listed people have agreed to work together.

The GOTA Station as of this meeting will be operated under the call sign of KZ1A, Mac. However, in lieu of Mac being there, Matthew, KD4UPL has agreed to use his call sign and be station manager/control operator.

We have a tentative lineup of CW operators as follows: N4XU, W4PJW, W4GRC, N3JB, AD4TJ, KI4FZY, K4DPF, and possibly J.R. from West Virginia.

Publicity will be taken care of by Bob, N1QEQ.

Next Meeting will be held on Monday, June 4, 2007 @ 6:00 PM @ Burger King, Mt. Crawford, VA

Minutes provided by Bryan Daniels, K4RMY

MARA Secretary's Report: April 12 Meeting

The meeting was held on the second Thursday of the month instead of the first since Tradition's had been booked for the first Thursday. Introductions made all around

1. Reports

New members-

Second reading-

KI4TOI -Michael Swinson

N4DBX - Ken Briden

KE4JFB - Julie Briden

Approved

a. Secretary-Approved as printed in the Monitor

b. Treasurer- No report

c. Groups

ARES/RACES- Net Contols needed for Monday net on .225

VE -test session on April14th

d.Field Day Committee for MARA

K4RMY-N1QEQ

e. Public Service -April 21st March of Dimes Walk 6-8 hams will be needed. Contact Bob N1QEQ

2. Announcements:

Valley ARA Special Events Station at Lake Sherando camp 1st weekend in May 5th and 6th for the 400th Anniversary of Jamestown

AMC- Tech License Class in May

N8S Swains Island. on the air

MENNOnet 20 m and 80 m

Dayton Hamvention: there is a group going please contact Bob K4DJG or Jeff W4PJW

3. Old Business

none

4. New Business

Relay for Life use of MARA Club sign for a special events station - approved

Use of MARA call sign for ARES/RACES at ECC- approved

Program was Swap and Show AND TELL

Submitted by Bryan Daniels K4RMY, Sect.

MARA Secretary's Report: May 3 Meeting

Introductions made all around

1. Reports

-New members-none

a. Secretary-Approved as read

b. Treasurer- \$2,193.19

c. Groups

ARES/RACES- more net control operators needed

VE - test session on April14th

12 candidates 14 tests...100% successful

June 10th next session

d. Field Day Committee for MARA

K4RMY-N1QEQ - everything is falling into place as of now. there may not be a satellite station due to change in rules
Field Day- the new site has now also been torn up by four wheel drive vehicles

e. Public Service -April 21st March of Dimes Walk- K4RMY made comments on walk. Had a good turnout of hams and the walk was very successful .

2. Announcements:

No newsletter this month due to editor being out of the country

No class until fall for VARA club Tech. class

Camp Still Meadows Public Service Event is scheduled fro Oct. 7th

Manassas Ham Fest June 3rd

Bridgewater Fireman's parade middle of July

Relay for Life special events station May 11 and 12

3. Old Business

KU4XN- Field Day pins order up to 45 Motion made and seconded, approved.

Green Bank trip- any information?

4. New Business — none

50/50—\$22.00 pot, \$11.00 won by Pam Wilkins KC4HYT

Submitted by Bryan Daniels K4RMY, Sect.

VARA Secretary's Report: April 3 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Lynn's Restaurant in Waynesboro on April 3, 2007. The President, Greg Czerniak W4GRC, opened the meeting at 7:00pm. There were 26 members present and 6 guests, Angel Wilson, Andrew Barbour AG4XN, Bob VanFossen K4DJG, Hugh Pettis K3EC, Alfred Passarelli KI4TOJ and Rod Passarelli.

Welcome to all our visitors, we hope to see you back for next month.

Meeting Place: The club voted to meet at Lynn's in Waynesboro through the month of June 2007.

50/50: was won by Robert Wilson KI4GST, Congratulations to Robert! Are you sure that wasn't Angel's ticket?

New Member: John Bobbio KI4TOH. Welcome to the VARA!

New Application: Alfred Passarelli KI4TOJ

Tech Class: Darrell Little KI4LLA is planning to start a Tech Class at AMC beginning the first Thursday in May for four Thursdays. Anyone interested contact Darrell at: darrell@ki4lla.us

Field Day Committee for 2007: Benny N4BCC, John Bobbio Jr. KI4TOH and Doug Tippett N8ESW

MS Walk in Waynesboro Thanks to all that came out to help with the MS Walk on April 21. We had a great day for the walk and the MS officials said to tell everyone thanks for their help again this year. Those that helped were:

Bennie N4BCC, Kay KF4CZL, Greg W4GRC, Steve KI4CGI & Fran and Ray KE4HVR.

Virginia's 400th Anniversary Special Event: plans are underway for May 4 – 6 at Sherando Lake. The email address for the 400th Anniversary is: w4xd@yahoo.com

ON THE SICK LIST:

Denny Morland N4XPW has fell five times recently, no broken bones, is now in Avanti.

Mike Solomon KJ4RM is at home and doing well after his bone marrow transplant.

Let's keep these folks and their families 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 the VARA Web Site at: <http://www.qsl.net/w4xd/> **PLEASE notify Billy when your item is sold.**

e-Mail ADDRESSES: Keep your e-mail address up to date. Please send them to: Greg Czerniak W4GRC grcljc@verizon.net, Doug Tippett N8ESW dtippett@ntelos.net, Ray Colvin KE4HVR colvingr@comcast.net and David Fordham KD9LA fordhadr@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. Foxhunts are also scheduled for some months as weather permits.

PROGRAMS NEEDED: Al Bonck N3JB, our 2007 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. Al's e-Mail address is: margeal@ntelos.net

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

PROGRAM: Al Bonck N3JB presented the second half of a video on the "Death of the Electric Car". There were several reasons why the electric car was turned down. Among them were the car manufacturers, oil companies, and our government. The electric cars were taken out of service, parked a good while then crushed. Money was allotted to build the electric cars then they were crushed, What a waste of our money. They also tried the Hydrogen fuel cell but the change over of fuel stations there was too expensive. Toyota and Honda now have hybrid cars that are getting around 125 MPG with a comfortable ride.

Thanks to Al for this presentation!

Submitted By:
VARA Secretary
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

VARA Secretary's Report: May 1 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Lynn's Restaurant in Waynesboro on May 1, 2007. The President, Greg Czerniak W4GRC, opened the meeting at 7:00pm. There were 25 members present and 4 guests, Angel Wilson, Bob VanFossen K4DJG, Bob Steere N1QEJ and Rod Passarelli.

Welcome to all our visitors, we hope to see you back for next month.

Meeting Place: The club voted to meet at Lynn's in Waynesboro through the month of June 2007.

50/50: was won by Al Bonck N3JB, congratulations to Al!

New Member: Al Passarelli KI4TOJ. Welcome to the VARA!

New Application: Rodrick Passarelli KI4VLB

New Upgrades: Marvin Henderson KF4WDI and John Bobbio KI4TOH are now General Class operators.

Tech Class: Darrell Little KI4LLA cancelled the Tech Class for May and hopes to begin around September.

If you know of anyone interested in a class please tell to contact Darrell at: darrell@ki4lla.us

Field Day Committee for 2007: Benny N4BCC, John Bobbio Jr. KI4TOH and Doug Tippett N8ESW

THE JAMESTOWN 400th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EVENT: Thanks to everyone that came out to help man the stations and also to those that stopped by to visit and see how to set up and run portable stations. Stations were operating from commercial, generator and bat-

—Continued on next page....

VARA Secretary's Report: May 1 Meeting (continued)

tery power. The weather could have been better, we had a little breeze and the temperature dropped as the evening showers began. Check out the pictures from the Special Event.

ON THE SICK LIST:

Denny Morland N4XPW has fallen five times recently, no broken bones, is now in Avanti.

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PROGRAMS NEEDED: Al Bonck N3JB, our 2007 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. Al's e-Mail address is: margeal@ntelos.net

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.

Greg W4GRC explained some of the changes to the VARA By-Laws. Since the membership didn't get a copy ahead of time, the changes will be discussed at the June meeting and voted on at the July meeting. Please read over them before the June club meeting.

Submitted By:
VARA Secretary
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

VARA Proposed By-Laws

VARA members are asked to carefully read the proposed revised by-laws for the Valley Amateur Radio Association, reproduced below and on the next two pages. Members are asked to come to the June meeting prepared to discuss and/or ratify the by-law document.

BY-LAWS

VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

=====

ARTICLE I - GENERAL

We do hereby establish the Valley Amateur Radio Association (also referred to as the "Club") as a non-profit, dues paying organization. Our purpose is to advance the art of Amateur Radio both within our membership and within the community as well as providing public service to the community.

Section 1:

Voting shall be by a show of hands. Special circumstances may require a secret ballot or some different method of voting as determined by unanimous consent of Board members present and agreed to by a majority of members present.

Section 2:

Fifteen members of the Club shall constitute a quorum. A quorum is required for all items brought up for a vote.

ARTICLE II Officers

Section 1:

The officers of the Club shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these By-Laws and by parliamentary authority adopted by the Club.

Section 2:

At the regular meeting held in September, a Nominating Committee of three (3) members shall be appointed by the President. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate candidates for the offices to be filled at the Annual Meeting in October. Before the election at the Annual Meeting in October, additional nominations from the floor shall be permitted.

Section 3:

The Officers shall be elected to serve for one year or until their successors are elected, and their term of office shall begin on January first (1st.) following the Annual Meeting at which they are elected.

Section 4:

No Member shall hold more than one (1) Board office at a time, and no member shall serve as President or Vice-President for more the three (3) consecutive terms.

Section 5:

The President shall preside over all regular and special meetings, appoint committees, and call special meetings.

The Vice-President shall assume all the duties of the President during his/her absence and shall perform other duties as may be assigned by the President.

The Secretary shall keep the minutes in writing of all regular and special meetings, maintain the By-Laws, maintain a current listing of all members, and notify all members of every meeting, prepare and mail or distribute correspondence and perform other secretarial duties as the President may direct.

The Treasurer shall receive and receipt all monies collected and expended. The Treasurer shall maintain a record of all transactions and shall make available a summary of account at each regular meeting and shall provide a detailed summary of income and outgoing expenditures at the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Eligibility

Any person with a genuine interest in Amateur Radio shall be eligible for membership by submitting, in writing, a request to join to the Secretary and by agreeing to abide by the Club's By-Laws. The request will then be voted on at the next regular Club Meeting. Any person so elected by majority vote shall be declared a member upon payment of the appropriate dues. (Dues are due at the time of application of membership to the Club)

Section 2: Types of Membership

Full Member:

A full member shall be a member holding a valid Amateur Radio License of any class. Only Full Members shall have voting rights or be eligible to hold office.

Associate Member:

An Associate Member shall be any member not holding a valid Amateur Radio License. An Associate Member may not vote or hold office. If at any time during the year an Associate Member obtains his/her Amateur Radio License and desires to upgrade to Full Membership they may do so once the FCC has issued his/her Call Sign and upon another payment of half dues, to total the full dues for the year, unless such upgrade occurs after August 1st. in which case the additional payment of dues shall be waived.

Life Membership:

Life Membership can be conferred upon a Full Member who has rendered notable service to the Club or Amateur Radio and has been a Full Member for at least seven (7) years. A Life Member shall be entitled to all of the Club's Privileges of a Full Member, and shall be exempt from paying dues. Any member proposing another Member for Life Membership shall submit the name of the Amateur and the justification for such membership in writing to a member of the Board. The Board shall review the application to assure the Amateur meets the qualifications for such membership, and if determined to be appropriate, submit the application at the next regular Club Meeting. An affirmative vote by three quarters (3/4) of those members present shall be required for acceptance at a regular scheduled club meeting.

Section 3: Termination of Membership

Any member desiring to resign from the Club shall submit his resignation in writing to the Secretary, who shall submit it to a member of the Board for action.

Any member whose Amateur activities are regarded to be detrimental to the Club or the Amateur Radio Community may have his/her membership terminated by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote at any Club meeting. Allegations of misconduct shall be presented in writing, signed by the complainant detailing the misconduct, to a member of the Board. The Board shall review the allegations and give the accused member an opportunity to refute the allegations. The Board, should they deem the allegation valid, shall present the details and their recommendations to the membership at a regular meeting.

ARTICLE IV - Board of Directors

The Board shall be comprised of the Club President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Trustee of the Club Callsign, and the preceding Club President. The Board shall have the general supervision of the affairs of the Club between its business meetings, fix the dues, the hour and place of the meetings (with approval of the majority of the membership) make recommendations to the Club, and shall perform such other duties as are specified in these By-Laws. The Board shall be subject to the orders of the Club, and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the Club.

Each member of the Board shall assist in the operation of the Club as requested by the President.

ARTICLE V - Club Callsign

W4XD is the FCC assigned Club Callsign. The trustee of this callsign must be duly registered with the FCC. Procedures for changing the trustee shall follow the same procedure as for amending the By-Laws before submitting a requested change to the FCC.

ARTICLE VI - Dues

The regular assessment of yearly dues, as set forth in these By-Laws, shall be for the purpose of providing funds for the clubs operation expenses. Those desiring Full Membership shall pay full dues. The only exception is a licensed family member desiring Full Membership and living under the same roof as a Full Member. That person may pay half dues provided that at least one (1) family member pays full dues.

Anyone joining the Club on or after August 1st. who desires a Full Membership, shall pay only half dues for the remainder of the calendar year.

Dues are payable in advance or no later than the February Club Meeting of each calendar year. The Treasurer shall notify members one month in arrears, and those not paid by the February (meeting night) shall be automatically dropped from Membership of the Club. Any member who is dropped from the Club due to non-payment of dues shall be considered a non-member. If membership has lapsed for a period of greater than one year from the first of February, than reapplication is required.

ARTICLE VII - Meetings

Section 1:

The regular meetings of the Club shall be held on a monthly basis unless otherwise ordered by the Club or the Board.

Section 2:

The regular meeting in October shall be known as the Annual Meeting and shall be for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports from officers and committees, and for any other business that may arise.

Section 3:

Special meetings can be called by the President or by the Board and shall be called upon written request of ten members of the Club. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. Except in emergency, at least three (3) days notice to the membership shall be given.

Section 4:

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern the Club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-Laws and any special rules of order the Club may adopt.

ARTICLE VIII - Amendments

All proposed amendments to these By-Laws should be submitted to the Secretary in writing. The President shall have the proposed changes read at a regular meeting. All members shall be notified that changes in the By-Laws will be acted on at the next regular meeting. At this specified meeting the proposal shall be voted upon and, shall require an affirmative vote by $\frac{3}{4}$ of the membership present.

ARTICLE IX - Dissolution

Procedures for dissolution shall follow the same procedure as for amending the By-Laws. Upon enactment of the motion of dissolution, the Full Members present shall appoint a board of three (3) trustees. These trustees shall take charge of all assets of the Club, dispose of all saleable assets, if any, and distribute all monies, if any, in a manner determined by a majority vote of the Club members present at that meeting.

Revised - Date: 04/25/2007
President – Greg Czerniak, W4GRC
Vice President – Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW
Secretary – Ray Colvin - KE4HVR
Treasurer – Doug Tippet – N8ESW

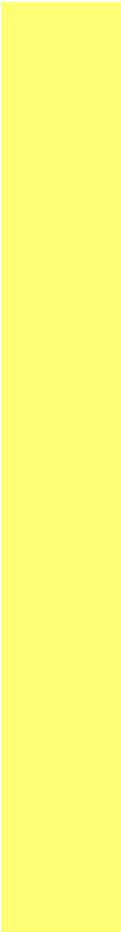
(End of Proposed By-Law Document)

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: Eugene Rogers KG4JBC
Vice President: David Fordham KD9LA
Secretary: Bryan Daniels K4RMY
Treasurer: Sandy Mullins, K4PZC
Board (exp 07): David Gordon KB4LCI
Board (exp 08): Gayle Shull KU4XN

<http://mara.ws>

MARA meets the first Thursday of each month
at Traditions Restaurant on Mt Clinton Pike, in
Harrisonburg.

Dinner begins at 6:00 pm.
The Business Meeting begins 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: Greg Czerniak, W4GRC
Vice President: Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW
Secretary: Ray Colvin, KE4HVR
Treasurer: Doug Tippet, N8ESW
Program Manager: Al Bonck N3JB

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

VARA meets the first Tuesday of each month
at Lynn's Pancake House on Hwy 250, in
Waynesboro.

Dinner begins at 6:00 pm,
The Business Meeting begins at 7:00 pm

Visitors are welcome.

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

Doug Tippet
2348 Mosley St.
Waynesboro VA 22980