

August-September  
2007

# The Monitor

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

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## Oh Where, Oh Where Has the Monitor Been?

For the second time in two months (and also the second time in 14 years), the editor missed a publication deadline for the Monitor. The problem? An editor who is simply too busy. Since the last issue of the Monitor came out, the editor has taught a class on two occasions in Washington, D.C., presented a paper at a conference in Chicago, participated in a national panel in Denver, made not one but two trips to Belgium, spent a week in Key West with his second son, spent a week in Jacksonville with his elderly mother who was in the hospital, attended an in-law function in South Carolina, sent his oldest son off to Army boot camp, helped his daughter pick out a college, and accepted a position as the financial clerk at his church. All this, plus both he and his wife have independently been hospitalized with kidney stones! The editor feels very badly about missing two issues this year, but hopes that all future issues will come out on time. Please keep those articles and information a'coming.

## VARA Meeting Location Changed for September 4 Meeting

Due to the sudden (and surprise) sale of Lynn's Pancake House, and its concomitant transformation into an Italian Restaurant, the Valley Amateur Radio Association will hold its September 4 meeting at Shoney's at Brand's Flats (between Staunton and Fishersville), at the intersection of US 250 and I-81. The group has reserved the meeting room. Dinner starts at 6:00, the business meeting will start at 7. One of the primary items on the agenda will be future meeting locations, so come and express your preferences.

## MARA Meeting September 6 to Feature N4RAG

The September 6 meeting of the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association will feature a special appearance by Donnie Mowbray, trustee and operator of the N4RAG system of repeaters which serve the valley.

Donnie operates and maintains the multi-featured 147.225 and the 146.895 machines which serve Rockingham and Augusta counties, as well as several other repeaters covering the 2-meter, 220 and 440 bands up and down the Shenandoah, including links between them.

The meeting will be held at Traditions Restaurant in Harrisonburg, located at the intersection of Highway 42 (North High Street) and the Mount Clinton Pike. Dinner starts at 6:00 pm, a short business meeting will start at 7 pm, followed immediately by Donnie's talk.

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## Public Service Help Needed: Bike Shenandoah: September 22

Bike Shenandoah will be on Saturday, September 22, and I need help to keep track of the riders.

We will be using the 147.225 repeater.

If you can help all day it would be greatly appreciated, but I can also use help in the morning only or the afternoon.

I need one person from 10 am until 4:30 or 5 pm (at Mt. Clinton Mennonite Church), and two from about 9 am to 2 pm (Hebron Mennonite Church in the Fulks Run area and in Dayton).

I already have a volunteer for the 8:30 to 12:00 position (Trissels Mennonite Church near Broadway).

If you would rather be Net Control, I'll let you have that job and I will go to one of the rest stops.

The times are approximate, based on past years. You will only have to drive to your assigned location, you will not have to drive around the circuit.

If you can help, contact me at [kn4fm@arrl.net](mailto:kn4fm@arrl.net), or 434-0859. If you would like more information about the ride, go to [www.bikeshenandoah.org](http://www.bikeshenandoah.org).

Thanks for offering to help.

**Gerald Nauman**  
**KN4FM**

## August VE Session Report

Thanks to the hams who helped with the August 11 VE Session in Dayton:

**Gerald Nauman KN4FM**  
**Michael McKay W4AZR**  
**James Lehman W4POL**  
**John Spilling KT4CB**  
**Bob Van Fossen K4DJG**  
**Howard Mullins III K4PZC**

There were six tests given, and one new Technician license issued. Congratulations to Michaëlle Whetzel of Moorefield WV.

## Appreciation for Volunteer Examiners

The ARRL is instituting something called the "Volunteer Examiner Honor Roll".

The VE Honor Roll made its debut appearance in September QST on page 40. It will run quarterly in September, December, March and June. The honor roll recognizes the top 25 ARRL VEs according to the total number of exam sessions they have participated in since their accreditation.

The purpose of the Honor Roll is to recognize those VE's who have put in hours upon hours of time helping new hams. Of course, the ARRL and the entire ham community expresses appreciation to ALL Volunteer Examiners for their generous contributions to the Volunteer Examiner program and the amateur radio community.

The ARRL VEC web site makes it possible to access a list of the number of ARRL VEC exam sessions each Volunteer Examiner has served in. The listings are in alphanumeric call sign order according to VE location by state (VEs address in ARRL VEC records). The VE Session Counts page recognizes the accomplishments of the 25,000-plus current and actively accredited ARRL VE's. Thank you for your support over the years. Access your VE session Participation total via the "VE Session Counts" page at <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/veparti.php>.

The next VE exam in the valley will be held on October 13, at the usual place, the Woodmen of the World building on Highway 42 north of Dayton.

I have some study manuals at a reduced price for those who need them. I try to keep a copy of each class, and if I am out of any, I can get them in just a few days. Let me know what you need.

Thanks to Darrell Little for offering the ham class (see article on next page!)

Gayle Shull, KU4XN  
VE Coordinator

## Ham Radio Licensing Class: Sep 6

Amateur Radio Technician Course  
Exam Preparation

**Dates:** September 6, 12, 20 & 27, 2007  
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Augusta Community Care Conference Center  
Just immediately behind Augusta Medical Center

There will be "ARRL Ham Radio License Manuals" available at the class for anyone that does not already have one (10% discount).

Contact Darrell Little, KI4LLA for more information  
[dilittle@augustamed.com](mailto:dilittle@augustamed.com)  
540-332-4928  
8:30 am - 5:00 pm Mon - Friday  
540-885-2262  
Evenings and weekends

Darrell Little  
Augusta Medical Center  
Fishersville, VA



## Latest Word from Sam Pickering

Thought I'd drop you a note and let you know about Sam. I had him to the emergency room Friday night, thought he was having another stroke. Turns out to be Bells Palsy that effects the face muscles. The doctor thinks he also has shingles which might have started it. So we are treating him for both which means meds 5 times a day.



He can't close his left eye which is troublesome in the daylight. Have drops to keep the eyeball moist and ointment for the night. He has been choking on everything for 2 weeks and has an appointment this Friday for a swallowing test at the VA hospital. The Bells Paulsey should clear up by itself some time. Everyone is different.

Always something around here.

Margaret Pickering

## Are You Well-Grounded, Well-Guyed, and Well-Prepared?

Ray Colvin, KE4HVR, provides this excellent website on lightning protection and grounding for the ham shack.

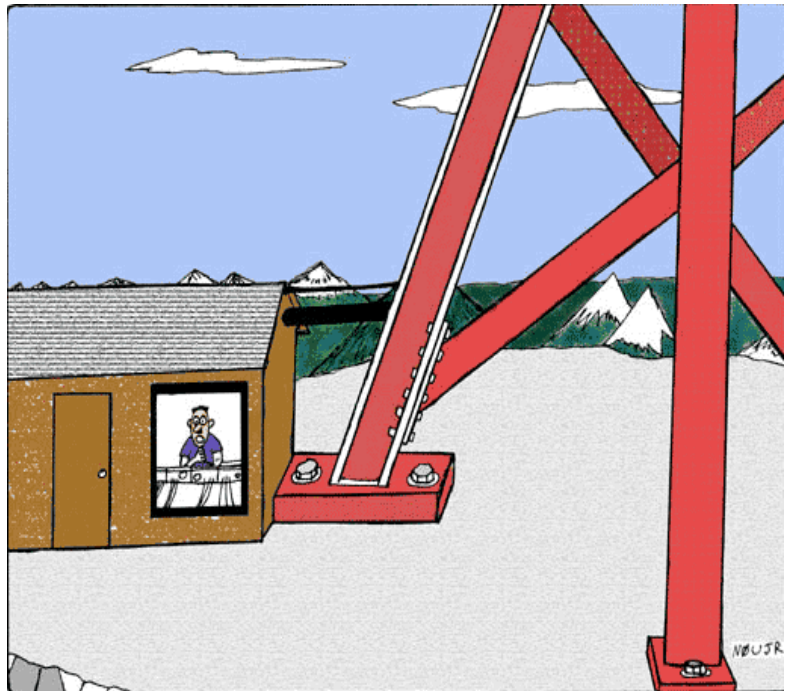
<http://members.cox.net/pc-usa/station/ground0.htm>

James McDowell IV, KI4FZY, provides this excellent website on the importance of maintaining corrosion-free guy wires on your tower or antenna supports:.

[http://www.wirelessestimator.com/t\\_content.cfm?pagename=Guy%20Anchors](http://www.wirelessestimator.com/t_content.cfm?pagename=Guy%20Anchors)

Ray also let us know about a super brochure providing a check-list for an emergency preparedness kit:

<http://snipurl.com/1q9qj>



"Yes I really am running just 5 watts QRP...although I suppose I do have an above average antenna system..."

## Rockingham County Emergency Net Control Stations

Cut out this page and put it up on your refrigerator, above your operating position, or somewhere else handy to your 2-meter home station, as a reminder of the Rockingham Net which meets each Monday night at 8:00 pm.

Below are the Net Control Station assignments for the rest of this year. If you would like to volunteer for a spot, any one of these hams would be glad for the help. Contact Bryan Daniels, K4RMY, at [k4rmy@comcast.net](mailto:k4rmy@comcast.net)

This list is also available at:

<http://rockingham-ares.org>

**September 3: Ray Ritchie, K4NRA**

**September 10: Vic Alger K4XTT**

**September 17: Hugh Pettis K3EC**

**September 24: Norman Benner KA4EEN**

**October 1: Bryan Daniels K4RMY**

**October 8: E.C. Showalter KG4KUR**

**October 15: James McDowell IV KI4FZY**

**October 22: Gerald Nauman KN4FM**

**October 29: Gayle Shull KU4XN**

**November 5: James McDowell IV KI4FZY**

**November 12: Hugh Pettis K3EC**

**November 19: Bryan Daniels K4RMY**

**November 26: Vic Alger K4XTT**

**December 3: Ray Ritchie K4NRA**

**December 10 E.C. Showalter KG4KUR**

**December 17: Norman Benner KA4EEN**

**December 24: No net (Christmas Eve)**

**December 31: No net (New Years Eve)**

The net meets every Monday night at 8:00 pm

The first Monday of every month, the net is on 146.550 simplex. All other Mondays, the net is on the 147.225 repeater, PL 131.8, +.600 transmit offset.

## Letter from the Director of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center

I made a brief trip up to the MARA/VARA Field Day site this year, on Saturday afternoon/evening to take a tour of the happenings, reacquaint with old friends, meet some new ones and of course hopefully give the clubs a few bonus points to the event as a government representative.

It seems every year, I renew my amazement of the capability, flexibility, survivability, professionalism and coordination of amateur radio operators surrounding an event that is all about "testing" their ability to communicate anytime, anywhere ultimately for the protection of their fellow man.

The citizens of the Central Shenandoah Valley have no clue how prepared amateur radio operators are to assist them. As an emergency communications professional, I do know it, see it (in the "grandfather" of events each year) and rely on it throughout the year as part of our overall emergency preparedness planning.

On behalf of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center, I congratulate the MARA/VARA clubs for another successful field day event.

Best Regards,

Jim Junkins

Director

Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center

## Rumor: Another RMH Insider?

Rumor has it that **Carter Ritchie, KG4PRP**, has retired from the Sheriff's office and is now working at Rockingham Memorial Hospital (although not in security unless he's undercover!). This gives the ham community another "insider" for potential help and coordination of the ham radio station at RMH.

## VARA Picnic Scheduled for Oct 6

The August meeting of the VARA club voted to hold a family picnic on Saturday, October 6, at Gypsy Hill Park, starting at 12:00 noon, straight up.

The club will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, paper plates, cups, napkins, and drinks.

Anyone planning to attend needs to contact **Scott Newlen, KI4QQZ**, at [we4newlens@comcast.net](mailto:we4newlens@comcast.net), or telephone 540-248-3742 and let him know how many from your family will be attending, so we can plan and purchase food accordingly.

Those attending are asked to bring a covered disk to contribute to the community atmosphere.

Mark your calendars now: October 6 at noon!

## VARA Nominating Committee Named

At the August meeting, VARA President Greg W4GRC appointed a nominating committee to arrange candidates for the officer's positions for 2008. Elections will be held at the November meeting.

The committee consists of **Steve Davis KI4CGI**, **Marvin Henderson KF4WDI**, and **Ray Colvin KE4HVR**.

The committee asks that all members suggest some names for nominees. The committee will then do the hard part of trying to convince the nominees to serve!

The five officers positions to be filled are: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Program Manager.

Send an email to [colvingr@comcast.net](mailto:colvingr@comcast.net) or catch Ray on the air to suggest some names.

## Hardie Forman, AD4IZ, SK

Alexander Hardie Forman Jr., 87, of Harrisonburg, died Monday, Aug. 27, 2007.

Hardie was born July 8, 1920, in Pittsburgh, Pa., and was the son of the late Alexander Hardie and Clara Corbin Forman. (The elder Forman was a widely recognized physicist and publisher of papers on electrical motors, generators, etc.)

Hardie (Jr.) graduated from Morgantown High School in West Virginia, where he was active as an Eagle Scout and in musical activities. He graduated from West Virginia University in 1943 with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He was a member of the Reserve Officers Training Corps and active with the band and Men's Glee Club. After graduation, he served as 1st Lt. in the U.S. Army Signal Corps with service in the South Pacific and the Philippines.

Mr. Forman was employed by the General Electric Company from 1946 to 1985. As an electrical engineer, he was employed in Schenectady, N.Y. Syracuse, N.Y., Key West, Fla. and Pittsfield, Mass., where he retired from the Navel Ordnance Department. He was a life member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers and a licensed professional engineer in New York State.

After retirement, he moved to Harrisonburg and was active as a ham radio operator. Hardie was an extra class operator, callsign AD4IZ, and an avid user of high-speed CW. Many of us remember him as being an active Volunteer Examiner at the VE sessions.

Hardie was a member of the Shenandoah Choral Society and the First Presbyterian Church. Survivors include his wife, Elva Dyer Forman, whom he married Sept. 8, 1945; two sons, Richard H. Forman of Denver, Colo., and Dr. Paul A. Forman of Albion, Maine; a daughter, Jane DeChants of Ann Arbor, Mich. and five grandchildren.

A memorial service was held 11 a.m. Friday, Aug. 31, at Strite Auditorium in the Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community.

## American Choppers: Joan Pitsenbarger, KF4CWR

Best wishes to Joan, KF4CWR, who had two teeth pulled, and ended up hospitalized with an infection last month. As Joan can tell you, that *really bites*.

## Taking Care of Mom: Cowles Andrus, K4EME

Best wishes to Cowles, whose mother has been in U.Va. Undergoing treatment for cancer.

## MARAPrograms: Television Station Tour in the Works

The MARA club is working on a tour of the Channel 3 WHSV television station studios for a tour, possibly in conjunction with the November meeting.

Also, Captain Junkins has invited the club on a tour of some of the new municipal radio facilities, possibly as early as January. The tour of the Greenbank observatory has been postponed until the Spring.

## Public Service Help Needed: Camp Still Meadows Ride Oct 7

October 7 is the date for this year's Camp Still Meadow's horse ride. This event is one of the more rewarding events of the year, requiring about six to eight hams who are posted at several waypoints to serve as contacts in the event of a rider mishap. The foliage in the northern Rockingham County mountains is beginning to turn, the weather is cooling off, and the Sunday morning is normally quite beautiful. Helping with this ride is a great way to contribute to the community. Mark your calendars for Sunday morning, October 7.

## MARA Officers Election: October 4th Annual Meeting

Remember, the October 4 meeting of the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association is the formal, annual meeting of the corporation.

**It is essential that sufficient members of the club are in attendance at that meeting – so that officers can be elected.**

For several years now, the annual meeting has not had a quorum, preventing the officers from being elected at the annual meeting.

Please mark your calendars NOW to attend the first Thursday night of October (Oct. 4) so that we can avoid having to go to the trouble of using mail ballots.

Also, if you are interested in revitalizing the club, think seriously about volunteering to serve as an officer. The MARA club needs leadership.



## VARA President's Message

Did you get a chance to look at the September edition of QST? It is dedicated to emergency communication. I found it pretty interesting and it reminded me that it might be a good idea to talk a little bit about emergency communication.

Our emergency coordinator for Augusta County is David Tanks, AD4TJ. David has done a lot of work on the amateur radio infrastructure in the county without a lot of fanfare. I would like to personally thank you David for your dedicated work in our community on behalf of Amateur Radio and disaster preparedness.

David has called out from time to time local hams to man schools, the EOC, and other county and city locations. Often it has been difficult for David to find adequate manpower. Herein lies a major problem for us as an Amateur Radio club. How can we provide adequate manpower when responding to an emergency? In fact, this is a concern that Jeff (W4PJW) and myself briefly discussed via e-mail and over dinner one evening. The question is what will we do if we have a real emergency (and we will)? Our club is top heavy with older hams that will not be able to respond to an emergency. How then will we be able to man all the various locations and go out into the field at the same time?

Do you have a solution to the problem? I am sorry to tell you this, but I don't really have one as we currently exist as a club. However, maybe you do and I think it is worth discussing at one of our meetings and try to determine how we are going to meet any future challenges when called upon to do so. The obvious answer of course is to infuse some new and younger blood into the club and to make emergency communications and preparedness a priority within the club.

We finally did it! We updated our by-laws at the August meeting. The updated by-laws are simpler and more concise. But, like any document, they will need to be reviewed from time to time to make sure they are still relevant. The next step is to build a Standard Operating Guide (S.O.G.). The S.O.G. will help us fine-tune our club's operations. They will serve as a guide to our day-to-day club activities. For example, the S.O.G. will answer questions like, "who may borrow equipment from the club and for how long?"

The bottom line is that there are some things that do not belong in our by-laws. To make a change to the by-laws can be a lengthy process. To change the S.O.G. requires nothing more than a simple majority vote at a club meeting. One thing is certain, as we grow, we will need a set of guidelines to help us work more efficiently.

Last, but not least, Jeff Rinehart, our vice president will conduct the September meeting of the Valley Amateur Radio Association (thanks Jeff). Your president is going to take a short vacation with his bride. Don't forget, we have a picnic scheduled for October and the Fall Festival Bike Event is also in October. Please mark your calendars.

73, Greg, W4GRC



## Phyllis Haxton, N4VZC, Calling CQ....

Phyllis Haxton, N4VZC, had a nasty fall in her home last May. She was knocked unconscious for 18 days, broke numerous teeth, as well as fracturing every bone in her spine from one shoulder to the other. The fall messed her body up in innumerable other ways, too, and it is truly a miracle that she survived at all.

Her husband Richard was able to get help. After almost a month in the hospital, where she was categorized as "condition 1" out of 5 (meaning her prognosis was not good), she has made something of a comeback. Phyllis has spent the last three months in Harrisonburg Rehab Center (formerly Camelot) on Reservoir Street, staring at the painted walls.

She still suffers from occasional pain, and has almost continuous dizzy spells. She has, in her words, "someone else's bones in me now", a result of her transplants. She describes her smile as "snaggletoothed" from the fall, since dental repairs are low on the medical priority list given her other major injuries.

Local hams know Phyllis as a reliable participant in uncountable public service events, from the Spring March of Dimes walks in Harrisonburg, to the Camp Still Meadows Horse Rides, from the Bike Virginia rides to the Bridgewater Lawn Party Parades, and a regular check-in on the ARES nets, as well as a faithful attendee of MARA club meetings.

David KD9LA talked with her on the phone this past week. She has a wonderful attitude and enthusiastically looks forward to her discharge, although that may be a long time away. Because their home has stairs,

she cannot return to the house that she and Richard share, and he is having to make arrangements for an alternate residence.

She sounds much better than her condition would merit. David mentioned the possibility of her getting back on the air from the rehab center. She said she would love it if someone could set up a 2-meter rig for her in the room. Richard is busy trying to make arrangements for their new home and hasn't had time. While the policies of the H'burg Rehab Center towards 2-way radios is unverified, their allowance of cordless and cellular phones is an encouraging sign. Phyllis said one of the worst parts of being under the weather for so long is that she misses the club meetings and the on-the-air interaction with the local hams.



If you have time to stop by and see Phyllis, she would greatly appreciate a visit. She is in room 63 of the Rehab Center on Reservoir Street (the old Camelot center), right behind Hardee's. Perhaps someone might have time to bring over a surplus 2-meter transceiver and portable or mobile antenna, or perhaps an old HT with a good antenna? Phyllis would be very grateful to hear from her old friends again.

## MARA Meeting Minutes

As of press time, the editor had not yet received either the July or August meeting minutes for publication.



## Blowing Smoke...

A lawyer purchased a box of two-dozen very expensive and rare cigars. He then purchased a standard casualty insurance policy on them, insuring them against, among other things, fire.

In less than a month, he had smoked every single one of his stockpile of expensive cigars. But because the insurance company had given him 30 days to pay the first premium on his policy, he had not even made the first payment.

Yet, he filed a claim with the insurance company.

In his claim, he stated that the cigars were lost “in a series of small fires”.

The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason, that the lawyer had consumed the cigars in the normal fashion, as they were designed.

The lawyer sued.

And guess what?! He won!

Delivering the ruling, the judge had to agree with the insurance company that the claim was a travesty. But the judge stated that, nevertheless, the law was very clear and unambiguous on the matter: The lawyer held a legal contract, a valid policy from the insurance company, in which it had agreed to warrant the cigars against destruction by fire, without defining what it considered to be “acceptable” or “unacceptable” fire.

The lawyer had produced the ashes from the cigars as evidence that they had been indeed destroyed by fire. The policy stated that in the event of loss by fire, the company would pay. Therefore, under the law, it was unquestionable that the insurance company would have to pay the claim!

Rather than endure the lengthy and costly appeal process, the insurance company decided to accept the ruling. The company paid \$15,000 to the lawyer for his loss of the cigars in the “series of small fires”.

But now for the best part!

After the lawyer had cashed the check, the insurance company’s lawyer went to the local police department and filed criminal charges against him, and had him arrested!

What for?

He was criminally charged with 24 counts of ARSON!

Using his own insurance claim as evidence, as well as testimony in the public record of the previous lawsuit, the lawyer was charged, and ultimately convicted, of intentionally setting fire to, and burning, his insured property!

The insurance claim was invalidated upon his conviction of deliberate destruction of the insured property. Thus the company recovered the \$15,000 it had paid. Plus, the conviction on arson charges brought him 24 months in jail and a \$24,000 fine!

It’s hard not to laugh when two such obviously-deserving parties get entangled with each other! Jeff Foxworthy points out that the logo for the medical profession is two snakes wrapped around each other. He raises the question: shouldn’t that be the logo for the law profession?



## VARA Secretary's Report: April 3 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Lynn's Restaurant in Waynesboro on July 3, 2007. The President, Greg Czerniak W4GRC, opened the meeting at 7:00pm. There were 20 members present and 4 guests, Bob VanFossen K4DJG, Dave Metz KJ4JX, Andrew Barbour AG4XN and Marty Krupinski KE4KEW. Welcome to all our visitors, we hope to see you back for next month.

50/50: was won by Marvin Henderson KF4WDI, congratulations to Marvin!

FIELD DAY 2007: Thanks to all that helped in any way with field day this year. Contacts were down a little from last year but it should even out with the other states.

NEW APPLICATIONS: Dave Metz KJ4JX and Marty Krupinski KE4KEW to be voted on in August.

### By-Laws

The Club voted to write up a (SOP) Standard Operation Procedure for other club details not included in the By-Laws and keep them with the By-Laws. Greg W4GRC is writing up an Article 10 to this effect. The vote on the by-laws will take place at our August 7th meeting.

BRIDGEWATER PARADES: Thanks to all that came out and helped with communications during the parades again this year. Our help was greatly appreciated by the Police and Fire Department Officials and all went well.

QSL CARDS: The Club voted to purchase QSL Cards and stamps for QSLing 100% from the Club call sign W4XD. We have been getting QSL Cards in the past and Jeff W4PJW has been taking care of them on his own. Since we are getting more cards as time goes on the Club needs to cover this cost. The e-QSLing was also brought up at the meeting.

SPECIAL EVENT: Ron Ramsey AB4A, representative from ARRL Roanoke Division was present at our June meeting and asked for our help for the "Blueridge Parkway Mile Post Zero Special Event" Sept.

22 – 23, 2007 on 14.200 & 7.220 from 9:00am until the bands go dead. This has to be set up within 5 miles from Mile Post "0". Jeff Rinehart W4PJW is the contact person for this event. Please contact Jeff at jmrinehart@yahoo.com if you would like to enjoy a few hours on the Parkway operating the radios. This will be fun event with no pressure to make more contacts than other locations also working the event.

GREAT EASTERN ENDURANCE RUN 100K & 50K will be held on Saturday Sept. 29th. The Start and Finish point will be at Sherando Lake. This event starts at 6:00am and the 100K run is usually over around 10:00pm but has a cutoff time of 1:00am Sunday. Please contact Greg W4GRC at grcljc@verizon.net if you can be available for any time during this event.

### ON THE SICK LIST:

Denny Morland N4XPW fell three times this month and is confined to a wheel chair now and has a sensor that goes off if he gets near the door. He would appreciate cards.

Mike Solomon KJ4RM has attended our June and July Club Meeting. It's good to see Mike getting out again. 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 Tippet N8ESW dtippet@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 7:33pm.

Al Bonck N3JB showed a 25 minute video on "The Construction of the Phase 3D Amateur Satellite" back in 1997. The video showed some of the antenna design and testing. The Lab scope was set up to monitor the signal as it was received and the signal band pass during tuning. The Lab workers all got excited when they heard the signal coming in on their receiver.

Thanks to Al N3JB for showing us the video!

Submitted By:  
VARA Secretary  
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

## VARA Secretary's Report: August 7 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Lynn's Restaurant in Waynesboro on Tuesday, August 7, 2007. The President, Greg Czerniak W4GRC, opened the meeting at 7:00pm. There were 25 members present and 6 guests, Bob Van-Fossen K4DJG, Andrew Barbour AG4XN, Stan Thomas KI4GSU, Shirley Thomas KI4VLD, Angel Wilson and John Barbour. Welcome to all our visitors, we hope to see you back for next month.

**50/50:** was won by Robert Wilson KI4GST, congratulations to Robert!

**NEW MEMBERS:** Dave Metz KJ4JX and Marty Krupinski KE4KEW were voted into the club. Welcome to the VARA!

### By-Laws

The Club voted to accept the by-laws as revised and have a (SOP) Standard Operation Procedure written up for other club details not included in the By-Laws and keep them with the By-Laws. Greg W4GRC is writing up an Article to this effect.

### GREAT EASTERN ENDURANCE

**RUN 100K & 50K** will be held on Saturday Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>. The Start and Finish point will be at Sherando Lake. This event starts at 6:00am and the 100K run is usually over around 10:00pm but has a cutoff time of 1:00am Sunday. Please contact Greg W4GRC at [grcljc@verizon.net](mailto:grcljc@verizon.net) if you can be available for any time during this event.

**VARA PICNIC:** October 6 at 12:00 Noon in Gypsy Hill Park in Staunton, VA. The club will furnish hamburgers, hotdogs, buns and drinks. Scott Newlen KI4QQZ volunteered to purchase these at COSCO. Scott will

need a count on who plans to attend so he will know how much to buy.

**Contact Scott at:** [we4new-lens@comcast.net](mailto:we4new-lens@comcast.net) Members are asked to bring a covered dish.

**OFFICER COMMITTEE FOR 2008:** **Marvin KF4WDI, Steve KI4CGI and Ray KE4HVR.**

**CLUB DUES** will be discussed at our annual meeting on October 2nd.

### ON THE SICK LIST:

**Denny Morland N4XPW** is confined to a wheel chair now and has a sensor that goes off if he gets near the door. He would appreciate cards and visits.

**Joan Pitsenbarger KF4CWR** had some jaw teeth pulled, got an infection and had to go the hospital for IV antibiotics and is now recovering at home.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:grcljc@verizon.net), Doug Tippett N8ESW [dtippett@ntelos.net](mailto:dtippett@ntelos.net), Ray Colvin KE4HVR [colvingr@comcast.net](mailto:colvingr@comcast.net) and David Fordham KD9LA [ford-hadr@jmu.edu](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 8:00pm. This repeater has a minus offset and a tone of 131.8 when needed. 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](mailto:margeal@ntelos.net)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.

We had a show and tell on the Solarcon A-99 antenna by Ray Colvin KE4HVR. The SWR went high on the antenna, the antenna was cut open and one strand of the coax braid was touching the center conductor at the loading coil.

Submitted By:  
VARA Secretary  
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

# MARA/VARA

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

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

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## Return Service Requested

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### MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.

President: 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.  
The September meeting will be at Shoneys,  
off of US 250 at I-81.

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