MARA Club Program February 7: RadioTeleTYpe — Getting started in RTTY
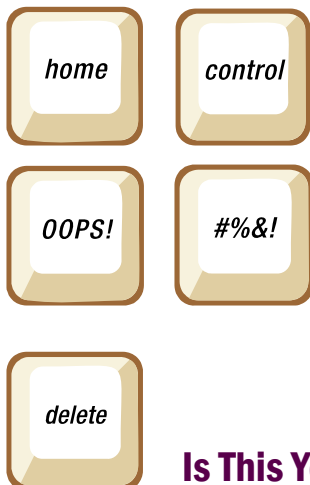
The MARA Club will meet at its usual date, time, and location — Thursday February 7 at Traditions Restaurant in Harrisonburg. The program will be presented by Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW.

Jeff will show us how easy it is to get started on RTTY.   He will also show some simple circuits that make getting on RTTY quick and simple for almost anyone with an HF rig and a computer.

This classic but effective mode has been around longer than Jeff has, and is still just as vibrant and active as it was half a century ago. Best of all, RTTY still "gets the job done" — even in these times of missing sunspots, as evidenced by the recent scores on the national and international RTTY Contests (see article on page 5 of this issue).

Jeff's program is occurring just in time for the February CQ WW RTTY Contest, too.

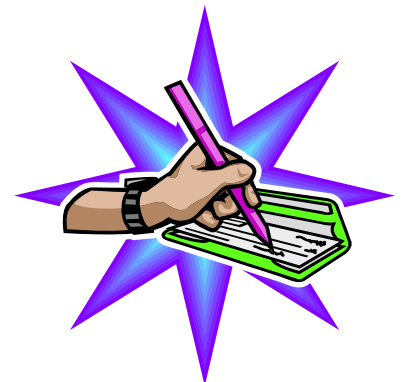Dinner starts at 6, the business meeting starts at 7, and Jeff's program follows immediately after.

home   control

OOPS!   #%&!

VARA Club Meeting: February 5

The Valley Amateur Radio Association's February meeting will be held Tuesday February 5 at Shoney's Restaurant in Brands Flats, US 250 just east of Staunton, at I-81. Dinner begins around 6:00 pm, and the business meeting begins at 7:00 pm.   Visitors are welcome.

delete

Is This Your Last Issue of the Monitor?

If you don't get your membership renewal to your club treasurer by the end of the February meeting, you bet your sweet bippy it is. At least for a while!   In about ten days, the club treasurers will notify the editor of who has renewed their membership, and *poof*, everyone else will magically disappear from the mailing list. Use the handy form inside the back page of this issue to renew. Don't wait any longer.

What's With the Pepto Pink?

Valentine's Day, of course.

MARA and VARA members who can *not* receive the electronic version of the Monitor are getting a real treat this month.

Mike Reno, KG4OON, has volunteered to print the Monitor in full color at rates competitive with or even better than the black and white printing formerly used.

Mike is also handling the labeling , distribution, and mailing of the hardcopies.

Since each hardcopy mailed costs almost $2.00, it is strongly recommended that all members who have email sign up to receive the electronic copy. The PDF formatted E-copy is delivered a lot faster, and always comes in full living color.

Address changes should continue to go to the editor KD9LA, both for postal service and email distribution addresses. See the return address on the back of each issue.

Next time you see Mike, thank him for bringing you the local ham news in such *colorful language*.

Volunteer Exam Session February 9

The next VE session, and the first one in 2008 in this area, will be on Saturday, February 9 at 9:00 am

As always, the session will be held at the Woodman of the World building in Dayton.   This is on Highway 42, just north of the Dayton town limits and about a mile south of the Harrisonburg Wal-Mart on Harpine Highway.

As usual, I don't know how many candidates to expect. It would be nice to have a large turn out — which of course means we also need a good group of VE's.

If you can help, please let me know.

Gerald Nauman KN4FM

Longing for an upgrade?
February 9 is your date!

New Cross-Band Repeater Available
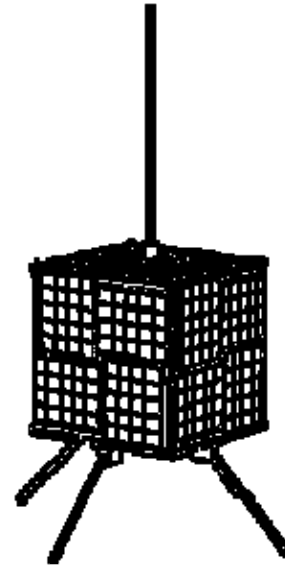# —— Great Location, Too!

Launched in January 1990, AMSAT-OSCAR 16 (AO-16) -- a digital satellite -- has been unavailable for use while the command team dealt with a serious computer problem. The satellite has since been recovered, and **is now a voice repeater**, at least for an unspecified "test period" using FM voice on the uplink, but transmits DSB voice on the downlink (best received on SSB).

Since AO-16 was recovered approximately six months ago, the command team attempted to reload the satellite software without success. AMSAT Vice President of Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, said, "After concluding that the spacecraft computer system was damaged, and as discussions about decommissioning were taking place, we recalled a series of low-level commands that allows an uplink receiver to be directly tied to a downlink transmitter. The twist is that the uplink is regular FM, but the downlink via the BPSK transmitter is DSB (Double Sideband). We placed the satellite in this mode and did some testing."

Glasbrenner said the satellite hears very well; the reduced bandwidth by using either USB or LSB on the ground station receiver "allows for a very robust downlink. Tuning the downlink is just like on a linear transponder, meaning it is tight and with fast Doppler. Uplink tuning is not required, just as with the FM mode V/U satellites." Some stations are able to access and hear the satellite within one degree of the horizon, much lower than any other current bird. This should be an easy satellite with omni antennas and a 70 cm preamp.

Glasbrenner said that he would like to open the satellite to general use for a test period. The uplink is 145.920 FM, and the downlink is 437.026 SSB +/- Doppler shift. He asks that users restrict their uplink power to a reasonable power level, and do not transmit without being able to hear the downlink; all general single-channel guidelines apply. Please submit reports via e-mail ao16@amsat.org. "Enjoy this bird's new life!" Glasbrenner said.

ARRL Letter

AMSAT OSCAR 16 (alias PACSAT)

Callsign: PACSAT-11

Launched January 22, 1990

Launched from French Guiana

Weight at Launch: 13.34 kg

Orbit: Near Polar Low-Earth Orbit, 98-deg

Orbital Period: 100 minutes

Current mode: Voice repeater, cross-band

Uplink: 145.920 FM

Downlink: 437.026 SSB +/- Doppler shift

Workable with 50 watts or less, and a simple beam antenna (although circular polarization works best) or even an omni-directional transmit antenna with a 440 pre-am.

Web News

Morse Code Not Completely Hosed

For those who may have missed James NN4JM's email, here is a link to a You-Tube video that shows an ingenious Morse code key made out of a couple of good ol' automotive hose clamps:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I8XJHXzchBg

Is it Hose … or Tubing?

Valves, anyone? For those who may have missed Ray KE4HVR's email, here is a link to a well-done and absolutely fascinating video that shows the hand-fabrication of an electronic tube:

http://snipurl.com/tubefab

For readers who were born after 1920, the term "valve" is the old-style British name for an electronic tube.

Extra Credit: Do you know *why* it was called a "valve"?

MARA Website Updated — Finally

The **VARA** website has featured a ham-related calendar for quite a while.

But **MARA**? Well…. ummm…

For those who have been waiting for the MARA page to catch up, you can now rejoice!   The schedule page has finally been updated!

http://mara.ws and click on **Meeting Schedule & Calendar.**

Like the VARA calendar, the updated MARA schedule page shows local club meetings, nets, and public service events. The MARA page also lists hamfests within driving distance (and others that local hams have expressed interest in) and includes some of the more popular major contests as well.

Most of the entries have hot-links directly to the event sponsor's websites.   By clicking the event on the MARA page, you can go directly to the hamfest web-page, or the contest rules, or other resource associated with that event. Enjoy!
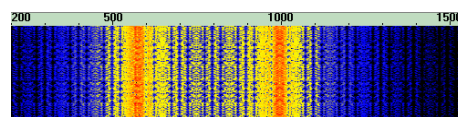
"Well, it's about time!"

Fun with RTTY

The ARRL RTTY Roundup was held the weekend of January 5. Several local hams participated in that contest and reported surprisingly good results.

Mike MCKay W4AZR of Harrisonburg reported some reasonably-good propagation at some times, and a quiet band at others.   As a veteran RTTY'er he wasn't surprised at how well the mode holds up under low sunspot conditions which generally render SSB communication very difficult.

Jeff Rinehart W4PJW of Churchville also worked the contest.   To show how good RTTY gets through during a period when the sun was essentially spotless, look at what Jeff was able to do in only 22 hours:

Jeff worked 47 states — which is all of them except for Montana, Nebraska, and Utah.

He worked 10 of the Canadian provinces — all of them except Northwest Territories and Yukon.

(Notice that the unworked states and provinces are not heavily populated by hams and their absence from his logbook may have been due more to lack of activity than on propagation.)

More evidence of the efficacy of RTTY can be seen from Jeff's band and country breakdown:

On 80 meters, Jeff worked Spain, England, Aruba, and Puerto Rico.

On 40 meters, Jeff worked Croatia, Morocco, Madeira Island, Spain, France, England, Italy, Granada, Bulgaria, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, and Venezuela, all in 6 hours.

On 20 meters, he was able to work all of the 40 meter countries, plus Germany, Ireland, Wales, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Norway, Aruba, Poland, Ukraine, Mexico, and South Africa, as well as Hawaii and Alaska, all in 7 hours.

On 15 meters, he was able to snag Portugal, Honduras, Puerto Rico, Aruba, and Brazil, all in 15 minutes!

Jeff ended up with 29 countries,558 QSO's, and a score of 46,314. And remember, this is without much help from the sun!

Jeff will give a program at the MARA February meeting on how easy it is to get started in RTTY.   He will show how any one with an HF rig and a computer can get on RTTY quickly and easily by using a simple home-made circuit and some freeware. Be sure not to miss this opportunity to check out a new, but really old, mode.

Net News

Rockingham ARES Net Script Now on MARA's Webpage

When it comes your turn to call the Rockingham County ARES net, don't forget that you can now download a copy of the net control callup script from the MARA website Reference page:

http://mara.ws/ then click on **Reference Materials**

Also, from that same page, you can download a copy of the Net Log, as well as a "two-up" master for making copies of the ARRL Radiogram Message Form for passing formal ARRL Traffic in the ARRL traffic net format.

Rockingham County ARES Net — Net Control Volunteers

Thanks to the hams below for volunteering to serve as net control for the Monday night Rockingham County ARES Nets! The net meets every Monday at 8:00 pm local time on 147.225, except the first Monday of the month when it can be found on 146.550 simplex.

February 4: Ray Ritchie K4NRA (*simplex*)
February 11: Gerry Brunk K4RBZ
February 18: Norman Benner KA4EEN
February 25: Vic Alger K4XTT

March 3: James McDowell NN4JM (*simplex*)
March 10: Gerald Nauman KN4FM
March 17: David Fordham KD9LA
March 24: Hugh Pettis K3EC
March 31: Bryan Daniels K4RMY

Augusta County ARES Net: Second Thursday Night at 8:00 pm

The Augusta County ARES net meets once each month on the second Thursday evening at 8:00 pm on the 146.850 repeater.

Like the 147.225 repeater, this machine requires PL of 131.8 Hz.

The next two nets are scheduled for **February 14**, and **March 13**.

Page County ARES Net

The Page county ARES net meets every Sunday night at 8:00 pm on the 146.670 repeater. This machine has a minus .600 transmit offset, and uses a PL of 100.00 Hz.

Hams from all counties are welcome and invited to check in. Often this net can be heard from Waynesboro, Fishersville, and Staunton, as well as Elkton, McGaheysville, Grottoes, and Weyers Cave. Some stations can copy it in Bridgewater, Dayton, and even Churchville with a good antenna.

Highland County ARES Net

The Highland County ARES net meets the THIRD Wednesday of every month, at 8:30 pm on the Monterey 147.180 repeater.

This repeater can be reached from many places in the valley (especially with a base station and outside antenna).

The machine as a +.600 transmit offset, and uses a PL tone of 100.0 Hz.

Triple Nickel Net — Fifteen Cents, Anyone?

Darrell Little KI4LLA, will be Net Control for the Triple Nickel Net which will meet at 8:00 pm on the Fourth Thursday of each month.

What's with the "Triple Nickel"?

The net meets on 147.555 simplex. — 555, get it?

(Be sure to note that it is 147, not 146!)

This net is an informal net, supplementing the Minus-Two net, to promote usage of the local VHF band. Put your radio back in the car, take the bank statements off the base station 2-meter rig, charge up the HT batteries, and check in..

Traffic Net Schedules

The Old Dominion Emergency Net meets First and Third Mondays at 6:30 pm local time on 3947kHz. It also meets the last Wednesday at 8:45 pm on 3947kHz, and the second Wednesday at 8:45 pm on 1900kHz

The Virginia Sideband Net meets daily at 6:00 pm on 3947kHz. The Virginia Phone Net meets daily at 4:00 pm and 7:30 pm on 3947kHz. The Virginia Traffic Net meets daily at 1:00 pm on 3907kHz and 7260kHz.

The Northern Virginia Traffic Net meets daily at 7:30 pm on the 147.300 repeater (+.600) MHz.

Minus Two Net

An nice informal ragchew net meets on the 146.850 repeater at 10:00 pm (midnight minus two hours, local time).

This repeater uses a minus .600 transmit offset and requires a PL of 131.8.

All hams are welcome to check into this net, too.

While this net generally met nightly, the VARA web site shows that this net follows a formal schedule of meeting on Saturday nights at 10 pm.

The Valley on Ten

One of the most neglected bands today is Ten Meters. Now really, be honest. When was the last time you talked on ten meters?
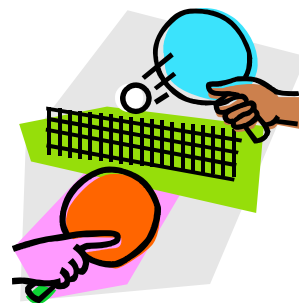
Well here's your chance.

A new 10-meter net has been started on 28.490 every Friday night at 8:30 pm. This net is a local Shenandoah Valley net intended to let hams test their equipment and get some fun on a band most of us hardly ever use anymore.

The 10-meter band requires a really short wire diploe antenna, one that can be hung almost anywhere, if you don't have a commercial one. So how far can you talk on groundwave on 10m?

Tune in on Friday night and find out!

Always be mindful of the nets...

Net Schedule on the Web

If you can't remember all the net times, frequencies, and schedules, don't despair.

Both the VARA and the MARA websites have web pages listing all of the major nets serving this area.

On the VARA website, click on the "Net Meetings" link in the menu on the left side of the main page.

On the MARA website, click on the "Net Schedules" link on the main web page .

Incident Command System Form ICS-213

*U.S. GPO: 1009-793-975

GENERAL MESSAGE

TO:	POSITION
FROM	POSITION

SUBJECT	DATE

MESSAGE:

DATE	TIME	SIGNATURE/POSITION

213 ICS 1/79
NFES 1336

PERSON RECEIVING GENERAL MESSAGE KEEP THIS COPY

SENDER REMOVE THIS COPY FOR YOUR FILES

Can You Handle The Traffic?

Here are the two major paper forms used in ham radio circles for recording messages being passed during an emergency activation or other formal event where hams provide formal communications support.

The ICS form on the facing page is used for all FEMA, local Emergency Operations Center response events, and other governmental-related incidents falling under the formal national incident command system.

The ARRL form below is used on all formal ARRL traffic nets, as well as in some other venues. Both forms, however, are simple and straightforward, with the possible exception of the ARRL form word count, which is probably the only area which causes problems. Both forms are designed to facilitate the accurate and efficient recording of all necessary information to ensure proper deliver, as well as recordkeeping of messages for reference and debriefing.

All hams, regardless of whether you consider yourself a traffic passer or not, should take a few minutes and familiarize themselves with the layout and information required on both forms, and learn the conventions and standards for every piece of information (such as the date format, time zone used, etc.) BEFORE a real emergency arrives.

ARRL Radiogram Traffic-Passing Form

The American Radio Relay League
RADIOGRAM
Via Amateur Radio

Number	Precedence	HX	Station of Origin	Check	Place of Origin	Time Filed	Date

To:

This Radio Message was received at:

Amateur Station_____ Date_____
Name_____
Street Address_____
City, State, Zip_____

Telephone Number:

_____   _____   _____   _____   _____

_____   _____   _____   _____   _____

_____   _____   _____   _____   _____

_____   _____   _____   _____   _____

_____   _____   _____   _____   _____

From	Date	Time	To	Date	Time
REC'D			SENT		

A licensed Amateur Radio Operator, whose address is shown above, handled this message free of charge. As such messages are handled solely for the pleasure of operating, a "Ham" Operator can accept no compensation. A return message may be filed with the "Ham" delivering this message to you. Further information on Amateur Radio may be obtained from ARRL Headquarters, 225, Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.

The American Radio Relay League, Inc. is the National Membership Society of licensed radio amateurs and the publisher of QST Magazine. One of its functions is promotion of public service communication among Amateur Operators. To that end, The League has organized the National Traffic System for daily nationwide message handling.

The Real Scoop on IRC's

Editors Note: A few weeks ago, Ray Colvin KE4HVR sent out an email notice about IRC's. As the result of a couple of inquiries, Ray investigated and received the following response from the expert. The bottom line is, the old IRC's aren't good anymore, and the new ones now carry an expiration date. Coupons being sold today will expire December 31, 2009. As time goes by, the expiration date printed on each coupon will be changed, but in general, coupons will be good for only a specified time.

Please note that since 2002, a validity date for exchange is printed on each International Reply Coupon (IRC). Only the actual Beijing model 2 IRC or Beijing model 2 "Centenary special" IRC, on sale from 1 July 2006, are valid for exchange until 31 December 2009 (see specimens attached).

The Beijing model 1 IRC, on sale from 1 January 2002 to 31 August 2006, was to be exchanged until 31 December 2006. They have no value after this date.

I would like to inform you that International Reply Coupons issued before 2002 do not have any value for exchange, anywhere.

The IRCs with an additional fee in postage stamps are accepted.

The sale of international reply coupons is the concern of the local postal administrations. The sale is optional but **exchange is obligatory** in every UPU member country.

You can normally buy or exchange International Reply Coupons at any post office. For more information about the sale of IRCs in your country, you should contact your postal administration: http://www.usps.com/

Please note that the International Bureau of the UPU is a secretariat working for postal administrations. The IRCs are only provided by UPU to the postal administrations which are entitled to sell them.

You can find more information on the UPU internet site on IRC's:

 http://www.upu.int/irc/en/index.shtml

To find out which countries are members of the UPU:

 http://www.upu.int/members/en/members.html

Claude VOIROL
IRC and Philately Programme Assistant

The present IRC

"pull my finger..."

Cell Phones on ICE

We all carry our mobile phones with names & numbers stored in its memory but nobody, other than ourselves, knows which of these numbers belong to our closest family or friends.

If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call.

Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency?

Hence this "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) Campaign.

The concept of "ICE" is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As cell phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name "ICE" (In Case Of Emergency).

The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognized name for this purpose. In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital Staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number you have stored as "ICE".

For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3, etc.

Be sure it's in your kid's cell phones also. A great idea that will make a difference!

Thanks to Ray Colvin
KE4HVR

Condolences to AD4KZ

The ham community was saddened to hear of the sudden death of the brother of Alby McCutcheon, AD4KZ. Next time you talk to Alby, let him know that we are all thinking of him and his family.

"Tango Niner" is Now "Echo Seven"

In case you missed it, the ITU has withdrawn the callsign allocation of T9 from Bosnia-Herzegovina and has issued an allocation of E7 to this country.

Callsigns beginning with E7A through E7Z will be appearing on the air, replacing the old T9A-T9Z.

Oh, and remember: 9A is Croatia.

Be A Field Day Committee Member

Field Day will be here before you know it. How about serving on this year's Field Day Committee?   It's great experience — and fun, too! The clubs will elect their FD representatives at the February meetings. Throw your hat into the ring, and come up a *winner*.

Remember Your Valentine

There's an old saying, "If Momma ain't happy, ain't nobody happy."

Be sure to thank that special someone in your life who allows you to play on the radio. Beat the rush. Take your valentine to dinner *before* February 14, and rack up a few brownie points to boot. Plus, by taking her to dinner early, you won't interfere with your checking into the Augusta County ARES Net which meets Thursday, February 14 at 8:00 pm.

Out of This World

HAARPing on the Moon

Valley ham Herb Slade, AA2BF, was able to successfully hear the HAARP signal bounced off the moon on January 18.

HAARP is the High Frequency Active Auroral Research program, a research project by the Air Force, Navy, University of Alaska, and DARPA, to better understand the ionospheric processes that affect communication systems. The research involves more than just playing with radios... it has already resulted in no less than five new patents.

In mid-January, HAARP directed a 40-meter signal (on both 6.7925 and 7.4075 MHz) towards the moon to test equipment and reflection characteristics.

Although the signal was beamed from Alaska, Herb was able to hear the reflected signal here in the valley on his 40-meter dipole.

Balloon Launch February 9

Vienna hams are planning to launch a balloon carrying a telemetry package which should be able to be received here in the valley once it attains sufficient altitude.

The balloon launch is planned for February 9th

More information can be found at:

http://www.viennawireless.org/balloon/

NASA's Space Station Looking for Amateur Ground Station Operators

Do you want to be part of the international network of ground stations that help support Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) operations?

ARISS is looking to add numerous ground stations capable of relaying ISS Amateur Radio sessions with schools and also serve as back-up communications relays should they be needed.

The following are guidelines for stations wanting to be considered: ability to speak and understand English; minimal horizon obstructions; 24/7 access and availability of station; operator(s) willing to support scheduled contacts at various times; phone patch; AZ/EL tracking satellite system, preferably an auto tracking system with the capability for manual override; multi-element Yagis for 2 meters and 70 cm (circular polarization preferred); pre-amps and transmit output greater than 70 W.

Stations that can support the following will be given special consideration, but these items are not required: Auto Doppler adjustment of frequencies; ability to speak and understand languages other than English; 1.2 and 2.4 GHz satellite hardware; Packet; SSTV; Digital ATV; redundant power system, and high-speed Internet.

If you would like to be considered for selection as one of the new ARISS ground stations, send an e-mail to ARISS-telebridge@amsat.org with details about your station and contact information.

ARRL Letter
Information provided by
Frank Bauer, KA3HDO,

MARA Secretary's Report — January 3 Meeting

Meeting held January 3 at Traditions, called to order at 7:00 pm. Introductions made all around

1. Reports:
 New members- 1st reading
 Russ Mumaw K3NLT of Broadway
 Richard Wilson KJ4AAE of Port Republic
   a. Secretary minutes as printed in the Monitor, moved, seconded and approved.
   b. Treasurer's report - NONE
   c. Groups
     ARES/RACES -
         New Net Control schedule is on the web at http://rockingham-ares.org
         Bryan K4RMY asked for more volunteers for net control. Contact him at bryan@k4rmy.com
         ICS classes recommended for those working in Emergency Communications:
         FEMA IS-100 (Introduction to Incident Command System) http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is100.asp
         FEMA IS-200 (Single Resource Initial Action Incidents) http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is200.asp
         FEMA IS-700 (National Incident Management System) http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is700.asp
         Hugh K3EC said he's willing to assist in dealing with training for passing traffic on the local ARES net.
          A meeting is scheduled for Feb 9th to discuss this. All interested hams are welcome. Location TBA

     VE- Second Saturday in Jan - Jan 9th
   d. Public Service- None

FD Planning- Put on Agenda for Next meeting

Continued problems getting into hospital to run the ham station were reported by Bob N1QEQ.

2. Announcements:
   Frostfest moved to Richmond Raceway Complex but on Saturday not Sunday Feb 2nd.   Date was wrong in QST.
    it is Feb 2 NOT Feb 9th according to the Frostfest 2008 website http://www.frostfest.com

Web pages of interest: mara.ws and   rockingham-ares.org
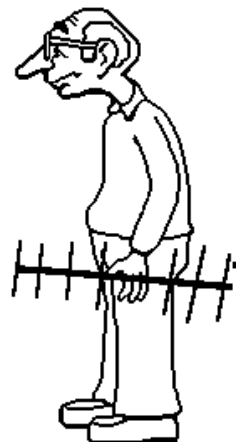
New Callsigns- NN4JM James formally KI4FZY

3. Old Business — None

4. New Business — None

Motion to adjourn, seconded and approved.

Submitted by
Bryan Daniels
K4RMY

VARA Secretary's Report: January 8 Meeting

The **V**alley **A**mateur **R**adio **A**ssociation met at Shoney's in Staunton January 8, 2008. The President, Greg Czerniak W4GRC, opened the meeting at 7:00pm. There were 37 members present and 2 guests John Barbour AJ4DZ and Bob Johnson. Welcome to all our visitors, we hope to see you back for next month.

VARA Meeting Place for February 5th will be at Shoney's in Staunton. Mike Reno KG4OON is checking on another meeting place with more room and will report back to the club at our February meeting.

License upgrade: John Barbour AJ4DZ now has an Extra Class License.

50/50: Doug Tippett N8ESW had the winning ticket. Congratulations to Doug!

CLUB DUES were due in January. If your dues are not paid by our March Club Meeting you will be dropped from the membership. David would appreciate prompt renewals to keep from deleting and reinstating memberships. The Club voted to keep our dues at $15/yr. for a full membership and $7.50/yr for an associate membership.

VARA Meeting Place for February 5th 2008 will be at Shoney's in Staunton.

Augusta Co. ARES NET: Was held on simplex 146.490 on January 10, 2008. There were **?** check-ins.

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. The ARES Net will be run on simplex from time to time so listen on the repeater and watch for e-mails to this effect.

PROJECTOR: Al Bonck N3JB has purchased the projector for the club and put in use at our January meeting.

ON THE SICK LIST:

Denny Morland N4XPW would appreciate cards and visits from anyone in the valley.

Dee Hale KE4GMI wife of Jerry Hale KR4EQ passed away on December 23, 2007.

AD4KZ Alby McCutcheon's brother was killed from a gun accident.

Let's keep these members 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.

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 8:08 pm.

Jeff Rinehart W4PJW gave a short talk on RTTY and how different it is today from the days of the old monster teletypes from years gone by. Today you can buy an interface with jumpers to adapt it to any radio and get on the air with RTTY, SSTV and PSK-31. If you are handy with a soldering iron you can build your own interface with just a few parts. These three modes are a lot of fun and you don't need to run a lot of power or have an acre of land for the antenna.

Al Bonck N3JB gave a powerpoint presentation on solid state amplifiers of various output powers and their design.
Al talked about the filters needed on some amps that can be purchased today to make them type accepted.

Submitted by
VARA Secretary
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

Membership Renewal Form

NAME: _____ CALLSIGN: _____ CLASS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

CELL PHONE (If you want it in club records for emergency purposes, not the roster!):_____

EMAIL ADDRESS: (print legibly!!) _____

MEMBER ARRL (Y/N) ___   REGISTERED ARES (Y/N)_____   REGISTERED MEMBER VA-RACES (Y/N) ___   RACES TRAINED (Y/N) ___

SKYWARN ID if trained: _____   Are you available for Workday Daytime Emergency Call up? (Y/N)

The club newsletter, the Monitor, is available free of charge monthly to all members of both clubs via email distribution, in PDF format.
If you are unable to open PDF files, you can elect to receive the newsletter via printed copy, by U.S. mail, but are informed that printed copies are often delayed by the postal service, and sometimes arrive damaged by the automated postal equipment.
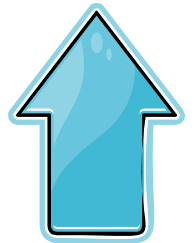
DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THE MONITOR via US MAIL RATHER THAN EMAIL?   Yes / No / I already do and wish to continue

MARA members mail with $12 to: MARA, PO Box 1882, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

VARA members mail with $15 to: VARA, Doug Tippett, 2348 Mosley St, Waynesboro, VA 22980

Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 2: Richmond Frostfest (note new location)
February 2-3: Ten-Ten Winter Phone QSO Party
February 4: Rockingham County ARES Net (146.550 simplex)
February 5: VARA Club Meeting - Shoneys in Staunton
February 6: Highland County ARES Net
February 7: MARA Club Meeting - Traditions Restaurant Harrisonburg
February 9: VE Exams - Dayton Virginia
February 9-10: CQ WW WPX RTTY Contest
February 10: National Contest Journal North American SSB Sprint
February 11: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 repeater)
February 11-15: National School Club Roundup
February 14: Valentines Day — Treat your sweetie early so you can make…
February 14: … the Augusta County ARES Net
February 16-17: ARRL International DX Contest (CW)
February 18: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 repeater)
February 20: Highland County ARES Net
February 23-24: CQ WW 160m DX Contest (Phone)
February 23-24: NCJ North American QSO Party
February 24: Vienna Winterfest
February 25: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 repeater)
February 28: Special Triple-Nickel Net 147.555 simplex, 8:00 pm

Renew Now!

*If you have not renewed your membership by the end of the February meeting, **you can kiss the Monitor goodbye** for a while. It may take weeks to get you back on the mailing list! Renew NOW!.*

MARA/VARA

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

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

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 08): Gayle Shull KU4XN
Board (exp 09): Ray Ritchie K4NRA

(*see article on page 1 about the club website*)

MARA meets the first Thursday of each month
at Traditions Restaurant 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

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VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

President: Greg Czerniak, W4GRC
Vice President: Scott Newlen, KI4QQZ
Secretary: Ray Colvin, KE4HVR
Treasurer: Doug Tippett, N8ESW
Program Manager: Al Bonck N3JB

http://www.qsl.net/w4xd

VARA meets the first Tuesday of each month
at Shoney's Restaurant on Hwy 250 east of
Staunton. 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 Tippett
2348 Mosley St.
Waynesboro VA 22980

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