

June
2008

The Monitor

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

FIELD DAY ISSUE

ARRL Field Day: June 28-29 — MARA/VARA Joint Camping Event: June 21-29

MARA Meeting: Wood Grill at 6:30 pm, Thursday June 5

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association is meeting at the Wood Grill Buffet Restaurant on Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg. This is across the street from the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Rescue Squad building and the Sheetz Gas station, half a block from CostCo. The dinner will start at 6:30 pm, followed by a business meeting at 7:30 pm.

Remember, everyone is required to purchase something, so the restaurant can claim everyone as a “customer” for insurance purposes. However, if you don’t want the scrumptious buffet, you can get just a drink, or just a drink with one serving of dessert. Be sure to tell the waitress if you qualify for the senior discount.

As usual, the program will follow the business meeting. At press time, the choice between two programs had not been made, but one will be given this month, and the other will be saved for the fall.

VARA Meeting: Shoneys at 6:00 pm, Tuesday June 3

The Valley Amateur Radio Association will meet back at the Shoney’s Restaurant for the June 3 meeting. This is located just north of US 250, east of the intersection with Interstate 81, in Staunton (Brands Flat, actually).

The dinner begins at 6:00 pm. You can order off the menu, or enjoy the buffet. The business meeting begins at 7:00 pm, followed by the program.

Buck Mowbray, W3HMB, ex-N3RIQ, SK

Donnie Preston “Buck” Mowbray, Jr., passed away Wednesday May 28, in Augusta County Medical Center from complications of a medical procedure.

Buck was well known as N3RIQ, the operational programmer of the N4RAG repeater and link systems. In 2003 Buck obtained the call of his former mentor, W3HMB, the late Tom Jones.

Buck was a partner in 181.FM, a division of NetRadio Partners, of Waynesboro. He is survived by his parents, Linda N4RAF and Donnie N4RAG, as well as his wife Amanda, three sisters, and a number of other relatives. The thoughts and prayers of the ham community are with his family.



The Phillips Code

It was one of those great "AHA!" moments. Circulating around the Internet as "Only great minds can read this" floated across my screen. You may have seen it:

"fi yuo cna raed tihs, yuo hvae a sgtrane mnid ... "

Of course I could read the scrambled and garbled text. Then came comprehension. A great light dawned in this Old Timer's CW consciousness. This little exercise from some researchers at Cambridge University reveals the secret of copying highspeed CW plaintext. That is, the CW op doesn't need ALL the letters in a word to recognize it, much less in correct order – just enough letters (initial and terminal) to fit it to its context for a fully transcribed text. I have known and marvelled at highspeed ops who could copy plaintext English 60-65 WPM. I personally clocked one at 68 WPM, the highest setting we could get on a Boehme keyer. Awesome.

I knew that such high speed ops had to slow down significantly to receive and transcribe five-letter cipher groups. Such coded texts preclude subliminal recognition of content; every letter has to be accounted for individually – there is no "context" of meaning in raw cipher traffic. So the 60 WPM high speed press op, for example, had to brake down to 35-40 WPM to handle five-letter code groups. Many high speed ops could comfortably copy press ten to twenty words behind transmission. No problem remembering context and meaning as the plaintext words flow across the page. (I've known and seen shipboard ops copy press for the ship's newspaper directly on mimeograph stencils.)

Copying five-letter code groups behind is tougher. There is no "meaning" to recall while pounding the mill. Although I have friends who could copy four or five groups behind (i.e, 20-25 characters), the best I could do in my salad days was one to two groups (or five to ten letters) behind. Years later, a psychology prof explained this exhibited a typical short-term memory "bin" of the mind. That's why we can easily recall 7-digit telephone numbers but have difficulty with the 10-digit ones or commercial 9-digit zip codes.

Wait – there's more! More than a century ago telegraphy was our only mechanism for transmitting

news and messages across the land. Electricity beat out the Pony Express in just one year when the transcontinental railroad came along in 1867. The telegraph flourished with avidly sought-after sports and political news, all usually charged at a unit cost-per-character. High speed telegraphers (such as Thomas Edison) made bundles of money for Western Union, Postal Telegraph and other companies producing hand-written messages at speeds of up to 30-35 WPM. Exactly as the 20th century's high speed radiotelegraphers could do with plaintext press as noted above.

In 1879 Walter J. Phillips developed a "telegraphic shorthand" to speed up transmission times and economize on per-character cost. Mr Phillips' code embodied one to four letter abbreviations for roughly 10,000 common English words. (Did you know your own English storage bin recognizes about ten times that number?) In Phillips Code, for example, "MST HV IMT AR TO OU TGM O YA" is written out as "Must have immediate answer to our telegram of yesterday" – a saving of 49% of per-character charges, and a freeing up of 33% more available circuit capacity.

By century's end (1900) the Phillips code was in common use by skilled telegraphers across the land. When typewriters came into general use, telegraphers knowing Phillips Code abbreviations would directly transcribe text into plain language as heard on the sounder. Although telegraphic and radio circuits were advanced with the machinery of 20th century electro-mechanical technology (e.g. teletype, ticker tape), brass-pounding old timers still used it through WW-2 on both military radio and LL circuits if they found a knowledgeable partner on the other end and the text was unclassified plain English.

Morse telegraphy, including HF CW, has indeed faded away into a dim and distant past. Phillips Code itself occupies a small niche in the annals of American communications technology. Yet we as amateur radio operators occasionally using CW Morse code on the air employ some vestiges of this long-forgotten Phillips Code: ES for "and" and TT for "that." Two from ten thousand is a tiny remainder and minuscule percentage indeed, but maybe as with the South, Mr Phillips' English language code Will Rise Again!

Hugh Pettis, K3EC

Correction

In the article titled "Public Service Report: Waynesboro Riverfest" in the May 2008 issue of the Monitor, John Bobbio Jr., KI4TOH was listed as John Passarilli KI4TOJ. John Bobbio was the ham who helped with the event.

William Pollard, W4KTT, SK

Jim Lehman informs us of the passing of William Pollard, 91, formerly of Portsmouth, Virginia, who died on April 26. Bill was in the electronics field with the Navy installation before he retired a few years ago. He and his wife Rose lived the past several years at the White Birch Estates in Bridgewater, near their son William Jr. Although health problems restricted his getting around much locally, Bill was active with his ham friends on 75m through the Virginia Fone Net and other nets, and kept active until recently by using the long wire in the trees in his backyard. Burial was in his home town of Portsmouth on April 29.

Boyd Hevener, KB4DJK, SK

Boyd Hevener, who was well-known by many local hams as well as those involved in the valley gospel singing scene, passed away May 15. Boyd lived on Route 250 near Churchville. He had just recently retired and had not even been able to attend his retirement party. His brief illness and sudden passing took many by surprise. Boyd was like family to several local hams and will be greatly missed.

VE Exams June 14

The next VE session will be held June 14, open for all tests, new hams, and upgrades. If you need a study manual, contact Gayle Shull, KU4XN at 540-828-2132.

Gayle wants to remind everyone that the Extra Class Question Pool will change as of July 1st, so if you are studying from the old manual, be sure to take the test June 14!

Rockingham County ARES Net Controls

June 2 (*simplex*): Bryan Daniels K4RMY
 June 9: James McDowell NN4JM
 June 16: Vic Alger K4XTT
 June 23: Bryan Daniels K4RMY
 June 30: Gerald Nauman KN4FM

Remember, this net meets Mondays at 8:00 pm local time. Simplex nets are on 146.550. Other Mondays, the net meets on the 147.225 repeater, which requires a plus offset (+0.600 MHz), and a PL tone of 131.8 Hz.

HRECC Weather Station

Don't forget: the weather station at the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center is now operational. You can view the weather station data on the internet by clicking on the following link:

<http://snipurl.com/hrecc>

Use the 145.130 Repeater

Also, don't forget there is a repeater on 145.130 which gives excellent coverage of the central Shenandoah Valley. The offset is down .600 MHz, and presently no PL tone is required. Be sure to add this back into your radio's memory, and don't be afraid to use this nice new machine.

Public Service Report: March of Dimes

I would like to thank Brian, K4RMY, Gerald KN4FM and Paul W4PFM for assisting at the March of Dimes Walk in Harrisonburg in April. Although we were a bit thin, we managed to provide the services they were looking for. How about some of you volunteering next year for this and the other Public Service activities we as a club are supposed to support? You're missing out on some fun activities, as well as opportunities to get ham radio in front of the public. Bob N1QEJ

Icom IC-728 For Sale

All-band HF, includes general coverage receive, includes the 10m FM transmit module, excellent condition, includes original box, microphone, manuals, etc. Asking \$350 or best offer.

Call Wayne Boyers, 540-294-3325 (personal cell), 540-569-6880 (work)



Yaesu FT-901DM For Sale

Vintage analog HF transceiver, plate and loading tuning, RF clarifier, 10m-160m 100-watt all mode AM/FM/FSK/CW/SSB. And the best part of this deal is the price: Make an offer!

Call Richard Haxton, KC3AN at 540-432-6742



Ten-Tec Corsair Model 560 For Sale

Vintage analog HF transceiver, plate and loading tuning, known for its outstanding receiver. Deal includes Model 288 1.8 kHz 8-pole SSB filter, Model 285 500 Hz 8-pole CW filter, Model 263 Remote VFO unit, Model 260 Power Supply and Speaker unit, also includes all manuals. There is a slight drift during warm-up. Asking \$275 or best offer.

Call Richard Haxton, KC3AN at 540-432-6742 or
Paul Wyse W4PFM, 540-434-3065



Ten-Tec Scout Model 555 For Sale

Vintage no-tune compact portable HF transceiver, 50-watts, with built-in keyer. Deal includes modules for 3.5, 7, 14, and 21 MHz. Also includes Model 700C handheld microphone and manual. Excellent quiet receiver, good portable or backup transceiver. Asking \$300.

Call Paul Wyse W4PFM, 540-434-3065



Tower and Beam For Sale

Five sections of Rohn 25G tower, including a base mounting plate and tapered top section, plenty of new 1/4" guy wire, with turnbuckles and guy-wire performs, asking \$500 or best offer.

HF Beam: TH3 Jr., Old but in fair condition. Needs 1 part that fastens one element to the boom. Paperwork is included. \$100.

Call Wayne Boyers, 540-294-3325 (personal cell), 540-569-6880 (work)

Dayton Daze: Hamvention Visited (Once Again) By Plethora of Valley Hams

The weather was wonderful, the eatin' was good, and the fellowship was great. Attendance was down a bit, and gas prices were out of sight. The caravan kept their speed down below the legal limit, and discovered that the experts really are correct – the hams found that gas mileage improved significantly.

If you haven't made your hotel reservations for next year, do so soon because the good and inexpensive rooms fill up quickly.

Pictured below, back row, left to right: Dave Fordham KD9LA, Brian Walton AJ4FF, Gerry Brunk K4RBZ, Jeff Rinehart W4PJW, Gerald Nauman KN4FM, Bob Gay KE4BOB, and Bob Van Fossen K4DJG. Front row, left to right: Geneva Suter (XYL of W4QDC), Jay Suter W4QDC, Patsy Rinehart K4PJJ (and XYL of W4PJW), and Laura Van Fossen (XYL of Bob K4DJG).

Other photos, clockwise from the far right: The "porcupine" car was spotted in the parking lot, and yes, there are just as many radios inside as there are antennas outside! Brian AJ4FF poses with the roving astronaut. The main arena is one of six buildings, not counting the 16-acre flea-market area. Bottom left: An indoor antenna farm.



Field Day SpreadSheets

Many thanks to the Field Day Committee and their assistants who have put together another great event for 2008. Below are the duty and assignment spreadsheets as they stand at press time on May 28. The data printed below and on the following pages is still subject to change, but this should give you a good idea of who is planning to do what.

General Logistics

Event	Field Day 2008 June 28-29th	
Location	Mountaintop Field Day Site	
FD Frequencies	Site - 147.470 Sim. / Talk-in 147.225 Rpt.	
Call Sign	W4XD	
Station Class	2A	
FD Committee	N4BCC Benny; W4GRC Greg; W4PJW Jeff; KI4QQZ Scott; K4RMY Bryan; N1QEQ Bob; K4EME Cowles	and others
FD Chairman	Bob N1QEQ	
Assistant Chairman	K4PDF Dave	
Scoring / totaling / Entry	K4PZX Sandy	
Pin Committee	Dave Firestone	55 on order
Band Plan Coordinators	W4PJW K4PZC N4XU	
Welcome Center		need workers
Registration	part of display table	2008 stuff on hand
Display Table	N1QEQ Bob	on hand
Coffee Pot	Welcome Center	James and MARA storage
Tables and Chairs	p/u at Legion on Friday w/truck or earlier	n1qeq arrange p/u time at legion
Awning 10' x 20'	MARA Club	Mara Storage
Awning 10' x 20'	VARA Club	VARA Storage
Pads / Pencils	W4PJW	
Coax seal	N1qeq has 1 roll.	
Generator Welcome Ctr	Greg W4GRC	
Phone generator	Sandy K4PZC	
CW & VHF Generator	Benny N4BCC	
Gasoline - 20 gal VA	N4BCC	
Gasoline - 15 gal	W4PJW	
Signs for each Station	N4XU	
Signs at road	MARA/VARA in storage	new sign posts done N1QEQ
Fire Wood (Camp. Week)	Jeff to schedule week of 6/14	send out email for assistance
Fire Wood (FD Weekend)		
Porti-John - 1 week early	N8ESW	done
Toilet Paper	N8ESW	done
Pictures	K4DJG Bob, K4RMY Bryan	
Site Prep and mowing	Individual responsibility plus campers	schedule w/e 6/14 via email for help

Welcome Center

At press time, the Welcome Center responsibility was still up in the air, so if you are willing to volunteer to to head up this easy task, contact Field Day Committee Chairman Bob Steere N1QEQ.



Welcome Center	See list below	Scott, Jeanne Neff, Patsy Reinhart
Registration	N1QEQ Bob	Make up sign in sheets
Display Table	N1QEQ Bob	
Coffee Pot	Welcome Center	James and MARA storage
Tables	available thru legion Bob N1QEQ	
Awning 10' x 20'	MARA Club	MARA Storage
Awning 10' x 20'	VARA Club	VARA Storage
Pads / Pencils	W4PJW Jeff	
Power	K4PZC Sandy	
WORKERS tentative	Poss Scott and wife; Patsy R; Gordon	others to pitch in

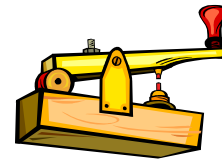
HF Phone Station



FD Station #1	Call - W4XD	
In Charge of Station	K4PZX Sandy	
Location	Southwest Corner	
Shelter	W4PJW	ok
Table	sandy	n1qeq if necessary
3 Chairs		****
Mast	Sandy	Mara Storage-spare
Antenna 1	20m Dipole - Clubs	VARA
Antenna 2	40m Dipole - Clubs	VARA
Antenna 3	80m Dipole - Clubs	VARA
Coax for all Antenna's	MARA & VARA Clubs	
Radio	Ray KE4HVR	
Tuner	Ray KE4HVR	
Power Supply	Ray KE4HVR	
Computer	K4PZC Sandy	
Computer Log	N3FJP with Updates / Sandy K4PZC	
Power	sandy k4PZC	
Power Cable	VARA Club	
Lights	Clubs	some in MARA storage
Info Packet	K4PZX Sandy	
Grounding	K4PZC Sandy	
Foot Switch	W4PJW	

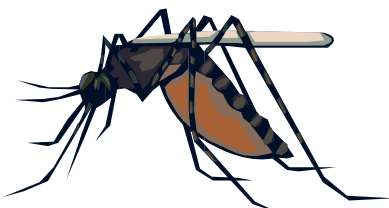
HF CW Station

FD Station #2	Call - W4XD	
In Charge of Station	n4Xu Neal-W4PJW Jeff	
Location	North	
Shelter	k4DJG	
Chairs	N1qeq	
Mast	K4DPF	
Antenna 1	Extended Zepp	W4PJW
Coax for all Antenna's	MARA & VARA Clubs	
Radio	n4xu and W4PJW	
Power Supply	N4XU and W4PJW	
Computer	N4XU & W4PJW	
Computer Log	N3FJP with Updates / Sandy K4PZC	
Power	n4bcc	
Power Cable	n4bcc	
Lights	MARA & VARA clubs some in trlr	some in MARA storage
Info Packet	K4PZC Sandy	
Grounding	W4PJW	
	Misc needed	
cordless drill	W4PJW	
U Bolts	W4PJW	
heater	W4PJW	



**DIRECTIONS
TO THE FIELD
DAY SITE CAN
BE FOUND
ON PAGE 15 .**

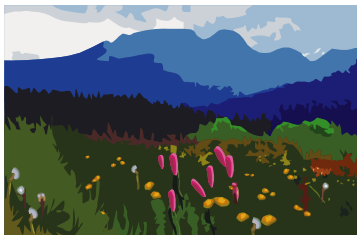
GOTA (Get On The Air) Station



FD Station #3		
Call Sign	Mara Club Call K4MRA	
In Charge of Station	dave k4dpf	NN4JM, KI4TOH
helper		
Location	Center	
Table	Matthew in trailer	N1QEQ if needed
Chairs	Matthew in trailer	N1QEQ if needed
Shelter	KD4UPL Matthew	
Antenna 1	W4PJW zepp	
Antenna Tuner	k4dpf Dave	
Radio	VARA ICOM 751A	backup n1qeq 751a
Computer	K4PZC Sandy	
Computer Log	N3FJP with Updates / Sandy K4PZC	
Power	Battery - KD4UPL	
Lights	clubs	
Info Packet	K4PZC Sandy	
Grounding	KD4UPL Matthew	
Operating Modes	SSB, CW and Digital	

VHF-UHF Station

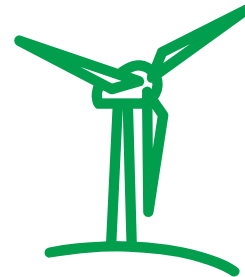
FD Station #4	Call - W4XD	
In Charge of Station	Dave Tanks	asst ray Ritchie
Location	East side NE corner near woods	
Shelter	U Haul truck rental	no trlr available
Table	N1QEQ Bob	
Chairs	N1QEQ Bob	
Tower / Mast	in MARA Storage	1 section w/James-repaired
Rotor	rotor in tower section	
block and tackle	James NN4JM	extra pulley and rope-MARA storage
rotor control box	???????????	is one at MARA storage ok?
Antenna 1	Six Meter Beam	Sandy(?)
Antenna 2	2m/440 vertical w/cable and mast	Dave Tanks
Antenna 3	2 Meter Horizontal Beam	not at MARA storage
Antenna 4	432 Horizontal Beam	not at MARA storage
!!!!!!!	paddles and keyer to fit 706MKIIG	cw use on 6m, 2m, 432
coax for antennas 1-4	lo loss purchased by clubs	W4PJW has cable
dplx for 2/440 incl ps	Dave Tanks	
Radio 1	2m/440 Dave Tanks	
Radio 2	K4NRA Ray	Dave and Ray to coordinate
	does MKII cover 6 M??	
Amplifier 1	K4EME Cowles	ck w/cowles
Power Supply	K4RMY Bryan	ck w Bryan, James NN4JM
Power Supply	use James extra one	
Terminal for Pkt	Dave F	
Pkt TNC	Dave F	
Computer	K4PZC Sandy	
Computer Log	N3FJP with Updates / Sandy K4PZC	
Power	Benny	
Power Cable	benny	
Lights	MARA & VARA Clubs	
Info Packet	K4PZX Sandy	
Grounding	Mara storage	



**Field Day Talk-In: 147.225 (+)
repeater (131 Hz tone)
—or— 147.470 simplex**

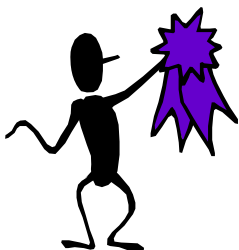
Natural Power Station

FD Station #5	W4XD	
In Charge of Station	same as GOTA Station	James to coordinate bonus points
Location	GOTA Station	
Shelter	KD4UPL Matthew	
Table / Chairs	KD4UPL Matthew	N1QEQ if necessary
Antenna 1	W4PJW - Zepp	same as GOTA
Radio	same as GOTA Station	
Computer	K4PZC Sandy	
Computer Log	N3FJP with Updates/Sandy K4PZC	
Power	Solar Panels	
Gel Cell?	KD4UPL Matthew	
Power Cable	KD4UPL Matthew	
Lights	MARA & VARA Clubs	
Info Packet	K4PZC Sandy	
Grounding if needed	KD4UPL Matthew	



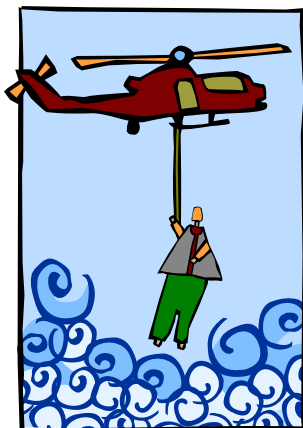
Bonus Point Coordination and Application

Bonus Points	James will coordinate all bonus points	
APRS	K4DJG	???
Packet		???
SSTV	W4PJW	???
Originate 1 Message to Section Manager		
Originate 10 Messages		
Public Official	n1qeq-Jim Junkins letter	VARA-Staunton V Mayor
W1AW FD Msg	all hands plus ?	
GOTA	KD4UPL Matthew	
Natural Power	KD4UPL Matthew	
Display Table	N1QEQ Bob	
ATV		
Digital modes		
RTTY		



Backups and Contingencies

BACKUP'S		2008
2m all-mode Radio	N4BCC Bennie - K4NRA Ray	need
2m Amp	K4NRA	Dave tanks
6m all-mode Radio	N4BCC Bennie - K4NRA Ray	
Antenna Analyzer	James	
Antenna Tuner	Dentron 3000 James	
Antenna Tuner	n1QEQ	kenwood AT 200-manual
Antenna Tuner		
Anything Else ?	Bring it just in case - All	
Barrel Connectors	Bring it just in case - All	
Pushup Masts	1 spare metal from MARA stge	
Coax	FD Committee - All	
Computer / Keyboards	K4PZC Sandy	
H.F. Radio - CW	W4PJW	
H. F. radio 751A	N1QEQ	
Power supplies	James 35A	
Rotor - HAM 3 or 4	n1qeq w/box and cable	another in MARA stge condit ?
Rotor Cable	W4PJW Jeff	some rotor cablwe in towqer
String / Cord for Dipoles	MARA & VARA Clubs	some in MARA storage
Tarps	Bring it just in case - All	
latest version of log program	Sandy	
extra dipoles	James	20, 40, 80
	four 300' pieces w/connectors MARA storage	



Net Schedules

<u>DAYS</u>	<u>NETS</u>	<u>TIMES</u>	<u>FREQ.</u>
Every EVENING	VIRGINIA FONE NET	4:00 & 7:30pm	3.947
Every DAY	805 RAGCHEWERS NET	8:00pm	146.805
SUN – FRI	MINUS-2 NET	10:00pm	146.850
SATURDAY	MINUS-2 NET	10:00pm	147.045
1 st & 3 rd MONDAY'S	Old Dominion Emergency Net	6:30pm	3.947
Last WEDNESDAY	Old Dominion Emergency Net	8:45pm	3.947
April – Sept. 2 nd Wed.	Old Dominion Emergency Net	6:30pm	7.243
Oct. – Mar. 2 nd Wed.	Old Dominion Emergency Net	8:45pm	1.900
Every SUNDAY	PAGE Co. ARES	8:00pm	146.670
1 st MONDAY	ROCKINGHAM Co. ARES	8:00pm Simplex	146.550
Other MONDAY'S	ROCKINGHAM Co. ARES	8:00pm	147.225
Every TUESDAY	BEDFORD NET	7:00pm	146.685
Every TUESDAY	SKYLINE REGIONAL NET	9:00pm	147.330
1 st & 3 rd WEDNESDAY	HIGHLAND Co. ARES	8:30pm	147.180
2 nd THURSDAY	AUGUSTA Co. ARES	8:00pm	146.850
4 th THURSDAY	TRIPLE NICKLE NET	8:30pm Simplex	147.555
Each THURSDAY	PIEDMONT EMERGENCY NET	8:00pm	146.760
Every FRIDAY	AUGUSTA Co. 10M NET	8:30pm USB	28.490
Every SATURDAY	VIRGINIA 6M NET	9:00pm	53.010
Every SUNDAY	W4CUL NET	7:30pm	147.120

VSNB Daily at 1800 LSB on 3947.0 kHz

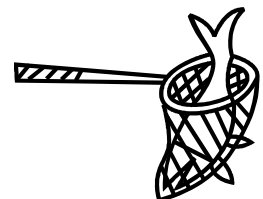
VN Daily at 1900 on 3578,5 kHz (NTS connection via 4RN).

VDN Mon - Fri at 1915 on 3578.5 kHz (or 1900 kHz) on CHIP-64 USB audio 1300 Hz.

VLN Daily at 2200 LSB on 3947.0 kHz

BY: RAY COLVIN KE4HVR Staunton, VA

Updated: 3/27/2008



MARA Secretary's Report – May 1 Meeting

Meeting held at Wood Grill on Reservoir Street. Introductions made all around

1. Reports:

New members- AJ4FF David Walton 2nd reading Approved---

1st reading Robert S. Edmunds KF4ZXO, Daryl Tonini KJ4DNY, Robert Brady KJ4DNX

- a. Secretary's minutes as printed in the Monitor, moved, seconded and approved.
- b. Treasurer's report - no report
- c. Groups

ARES/RACES— Bryan, K4RMY had ARES membership forms for those willing to join Rockingham Co. ARES The 145.130 repeater is back up. Bryan K4RMY got permission to use for this repeater occasional ARES net and as a backup ARES repeater. Also Rockingham Co. ARES will use the .130 as repeater for passing traffic during the regular ARES net.

Bryan K4RMY will be making business cards that contain information about ARES to be distributed to all MARA members and ARES Members . A motion was made and seconded to reimburse Bryan K4RMY for card stock used for the ARES info card. Motion passed.

VEC- A possible VE session July at Fairgrounds . More information to follow. Only 1 hour allotted for session.

d. Public Service- Grindstone 100 info for first weekend in Oct. There will be a 100 mile ultra mountain race the first weekend in Oct. Friday thru Sunday. They are asking for hams to help with communications during the race. More information will follow.

Ray K4NRA reminded everyone of the Bridgewater Lawn Party Jul 17-19

2. Announcements: KR4V Richard had 2 Dayton Hamfest tickets that he would like to sell.

3. Old Business: Field Day Planning Committee- David K4DPF Pins ordered-things look good Next FD committee meeting will be May 29th

Tower repair- James, NN4JM had the broken segment repaired. Total cost \$10. Thanks James.

4. New Business: None

Motion to adjourn: seconded and approved.

Program presented by Jeff W4PJW on his trip to Alaska

Submitted by
Bryan Daniels
K4RMY



VARA Secretary's Report: May 6 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at the Staunton Church of Christ on May 6, 2008. The President, Greg Czerniak W4GRC, opened the meeting at 7:00pm. There were 25 members present and 2 guests Ron Ramsey AB4A and Wanda Dunmban. Welcome to our visitors, we hope to see all of you back for next month.

50/50 was won by Joan Pitsenbarger. Wonder if she will share with Ray?

New Member: Sophia Cliffe KI4OXI, welcome to the VARA Sophia!

Also Dan Hale KC8TEN renewed his membership. Welcome back Dan!

Mile Post "0" ... Ron Ramsey AB4A from Roanoke attended the meeting and asked us to run the Mile Post "0" on the Blue Ridge Parkway again this year. The event will be on September 27th and 28th. We will need equipment and operators to man the station and greet visitors that stop by as we did last year. We need someone to be in charge of this event.

FIELD DAY: Field Day will be June 28th & 29th so make plans to come to the mountain and join the fun.

VARA MEETING for June 3rd will be at Shoney's in Staunton. Meal at 6:00pm and meeting will start at 7:00pm.

Antenna System for Staunton EOC: David Tanks AD4TJ told me that Shawn, the Deputy Fire Chief, has the antenna and cable ordered. The city came up with the funds somewhere, so we should soon have an antenna at the EOC.

Augusta Co. ARES NET: David Tanks AD4TJ is looking for Net Controls for the Augusta County ARES Net. The Net will be held on 146.490 Simplex on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 8:00pm.

PROGRAMS NEEDED: Al Bonck N3JB, our 2008 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

ON THE SICK LIST:

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

Let's keep Denny 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.gsl.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 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.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.

Jeff Rinehart W4P JW gave a PowerPoint presentation on his trip to Alaska from flying out through the trip back. He told about the very few roads in Alaska and the surprise dips in the roads that had Interstate speed limits posted. There were pictures of flowers along the way and wild life at various locations. One picture that looked to be a tree was a framework of hanging baskets of flowers all the same color. He had pictures of caribou and bears. There was one surprise when a bear was spooked and ran by close to their rented motor home.

Thanks to Jeff for a great presentation!

*Submitted by
VARA Secretary
Ray Colvin KE4HVR*



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.

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.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

June 2: Rockingham County ARES Net (146.550 simplex)
 June 3: VARA Club Meeting (location TBA)
 June 4: Highland County ARES Net
 June 5: MARA Club Meeting at Wood Grill Restaurant
 June 8: Manassas Hamfest
 June 9: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 repeater)
 June 12: Augusta County ARES Net
 June 14: VE Exams in Dayton, Virginia
 June 14-15: ARRL June VHF QSO Party
 June 15: Fredericksburg (MD) Hamfest
 June 16: Rockingham County ARES Net
 June 18: Highland County ARES Net
 June 21-29: MARA/VARA Field Day Family Camp
 June 23: Rockingham County ARES Net
 June 28-29: ARRL Field Day
 June 30: Rockingham County ARES Net

July 1: VARA Club Meeting
 July 2: Highland County ARES Net
 July 3: MARA Club Meeting at Wood Grill in Harrisonburg
 July 6: Rockingham County ARES Net
 July 10: Augusta County ARES Net
 July 13: Rockingham County ARES Net
 July 17-19: Bridgewater Lawn Party Public Service Event
 July 20: Baltimore BRATS Hamfest
 July 20: Rockingham County ARES Net
 August 2: Roanoke (Vinton) Hamfest
 August 3: Berryville (Winchester) Hamfest
 August 9: VE Exams in Dayton VA
 September 20-21: Virginia Beach Hamfest

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

<http://mara.ws>

MARA meets the first Thursday of each month
at Wood Grill Buffet in Harrisonburg.

Dinner begins at 6:30 pm,
the business meeting begins at 7:30 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: Scott Newlen, KI4QQZ
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 June meeting will be at Shoneys
in Staunton at I-81 and US 250.

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