

December
2008

The Monitor

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

MARA Christmas Banquet— 6:30 pm — Thursday December 4 — Wood Grill

The **Massanutten Amateur Radio Association** will hold its annual Christmas banquet at the Wood Grill Buffet Restaurant on Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg on Thursday evening, December 4

Dinner starts at 6:30 pm. After-dinner Christmas music will be provided by the Bridgewater Recorder Consort in medieval costume. All hams, regardless of whether you are a member of MARA or not, are invited to join us for dinner and an evening of fellowship. Bring a spouse, your family, and friends. All are welcome.



VARA Christmas Covered-Dish Dinner and Gift Exchange — 6:00 pm — Tuesday December 2 — Staunton Church of Christ

The **Valley Amateur Radio Association** will hold its annual Christmas dinner and Chinese Gift Exchange on Tuesday, December 2, at the Staunton Church of Christ, on US 250 in Staunton, across from the entrance to Gypsy Hill Park.

The event is a covered-dish dinner. It is open to all hams, regardless of club membership, and spouses, family, and friends are welcome.



Gifts should be limited to around \$10, and should provide entertainment value when opened, and again when exchanged under the “merry-go-round” trading under the Chinese system. Bring a dish of your favorite victuals and come enjoy the holiday fellowship.

VE Testing Session Report

The October testing team was busy!

We had eight (8) candidates show up for testing, and gave ten tests.

Seven new licenses were issued.

Thanks to those who helped:

Jim Lehman, W4POL
Mike McKay W4AZR
Gerald Nauman KN4FM
Richard Haxton KC3AN
E. C. Showalter, KG4KUR

Our next session will be Saturday, December 13.

I still have study manuals. If you or someone you know are in need of one, let me know.

Gayle Shull, KU4XN
 Phone 540-828-2132.

Magnetic Signs Available

I have some magnetic signs coming.

They are nice to have while working a public service event. They stick to your car doors (as long as you don't drive too fast!)

They have "Ham Radio" on them, along with the ARRL logo and red-white-and-blue Emergency Radio circle.

The price is \$26.25.

Let me know if you would like one or more of these.

Gayle Shull, KU4XN
 Phone 540-828-2132.



Rockingham County ARES Net Controls

December 1 (*simplex*): E.C. Showalter
 December 8: Norman Benner KA4EEN
 December 15: Gerald Nauman KN4FM
 December 22: James McDowell NN4JM
 December 29: Bryan Daniels K4RMY

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.

2009 FrostFest – February 7

As announced in last month's Monitor, the Richmond Frostfest is scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2009, at the Richmond Raceway. This is the same place it was last year. The price this year has gone up slightly, but the Frostfest is offering a discount to early-bird ticket purchasers. Check out their website for details:

<http://www.Frostfest.com>

Waynesboro Repeater Association Meeting Tuesday, December 2

The Waynesboro Repeater Association will hold its annual meeting in Meeting Room A of the Waynesboro Virginia Library, at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, December 2, 2008.

All hams are welcome to attend.

Gordon Batey, WA4FJC

VARA President's Message

At our last meeting there was some discussion regarding Amateur Radio License Plates. Here is what I got off the DMV website:

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR CALL LETTERS PLATE

"A vehicle displaying Call Letter Plates is subject to inspection by DMV or any police officer to determine if the operator and the vehicle comply with the requirements. To display Call Letter Plates you must be an amateur radio operator licensed by the Federal Communications Commission, have operational transmitting and receiving equipment permanently installed in your vehicle, own the vehicle on which your Call Letter Plates are displayed, return your Call Letter Plates to any DMV office to exchange them for regular plates if your equipment is not operating and/or is removed for more than 90 days."

Someone at the meeting had mentioned that any law enforcement agency could remove your plates if you failed to have a working radio in your car. Not having a working radio would void your registration. I have not been able to confirm that statement. I spent some time in a law enforcement rules and regulations book with about a million laws, but did not find it. That does not mean it is not there, it just means I ran out of time to research the issue. In any event, if you have ham plates, you should keep your end of the bargain and have a working radio and antenna permanently mounted in your car.

STUFF FOR SALE

A local ham has a few items that might be of interest for sale. If you are interested please contact me (Greg, W4GRC at grcljc@verizon.net or call 885-5292). The proceeds for the sale of these items will be given to Staunton Church of Christ as a donation. Here's the list:

Ten-Ten 937 Power Supply (7 amps – 11 amps continuous). Price \$89.00.

Mirage B1016 160 watt 2 meter amp with pre-amp. Price \$150.00.

Midland 2 meter 73-005A handheld. No tone board installed. Price \$50.00.

Kenwood TR-751A all mode 2 meter transceiver. From what I understand, this radio is still sought after and spoken highly of for its excellent receiver. This radio has a low receive problem, but transmits fine. Used they sell for anywhere from \$225-350. Since this one needs work, all offers will be considered, but not all offers will be accepted!

Yaesu FT-7800 – sold.

There are several microphones and I am still researching their value, so stay tuned.

ONE MORE GOOD-BYE

I would like to say once more that I appreciate your support during my presidency. Let's all work together in 2009 to help Scott, and Gordon as they assume the rule of president and vice president.

DON'T FORGET THE DECEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our December meeting will be a fun filled night of silly stuff. So don't forget to bring a gift (under \$10.00) and a covered dish with some food in it. If you want more details, check out last month's newsletter. Looking forward to seeing you then!



73, Greg, W4GRC

Under the Weather: KD40XQ

Best wishes for Jay Steward, KD40XQ, who recently suffered a stroke and is unable to get out much.

Ham radio offers an excellent communications tool with Jay. Give him a call on the 147.225 repeater and let him know you're thinking about him

MARA Members: Note Change for January Meeting

Due to the New Years Holiday, the MARA club will hold its January meeting on the SECOND Thursday of the month, January 8th. This meeting will be followed by a field trip for a behind-the-scenes tour of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Operations Center.

12 Year Field Day Statistical Analysis by K4XU

12 Year FD Stats - VARA/MARA										
Year	Call	Class	Score	Total QSO's	Avg. Pts. per QSO	Place Virginia	Place Roanoke	Overall in Class	Total Logs All Classes	Place in All Classes
1997	N4XU	2A	6766	2120	3.19	1	1	20	2038	↓
1998	N4XU	2A	7764	2574	3.01	1	1	15	2055	↓
1999	N4XU	2A	6975	3004	2.32	2	2	10	2108	↓
2000	N4XU	2A	8396	2789	3.01	1	1	12	2043	↓
2001	N4XU	3A	9148	2561	3.57	1	1	9	2064	59th
2002	N4XU	3A	9046	2541	3.56	1	1	12	2100	69th
2003	N4XU	3A	8904	2641	3.37	1	1	10	2085	45th
2004	N4XU	2A	8254	2345	3.52	1	2	22	2250	76th
2005	W4XD	2A	8320	2430	3.42	1	2	21	2202	78th
2006	W4XD	2A	8436	2541	3.32	1	2	20	2184	75th
2007	W4XD	2A	6988	1899	3.67	1	3	34	2333	117th
2008	W4XD	2A	8810	2651	3.32	2	2	16	2410	62nd

In 2008 the Central Va. Contest Club, W4ML, Class 2A, beat us by 3,030 pts.

From 2007 to 2008 we improved 26% - the 4th best score in 12 years !

Looking at [Score] vs [QSO's] vs [Pts. Per QSO], it shows the importance of bonus points !

Example #1: [2007] Lowest # of QSO's, 3rd lowest score in 12 years, most pts. per QSO

Example #2: [1999] Low score, most QSO's in 12 years, missed bonus points, lowest pts. per QSO

The downside is we should not rely just on bonus points to get the big score !!!

Conclusion: Get ALL Bonus Points and Make Lots of QSO's - equals BIG Score!

Oh, wait, field day isn't a contest, is it?

Compiled by
N4XU

VARA Secretary's Report – November 4 Meeting

The **VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION** met at Shoney's in Staunton November 4, 2008. The President, Greg Czerniak, opened the meeting at 7:00pm. There were 24 members present and 1 guest Bryan Daniels k4rmy.

After a round of introductions the Treasurers and Secretary's Reports were read and accepted by the club.

MEETING PLACE: The club voted to try Lynn's in Waynesboro for our January meeting then make a decision if we want to change our meeting place there. This will be a buffet with 2 meats, veggies, salad and a dessert for \$8.00.

CLUB APPAREL: We discussed caps, jackets or windbreakers. Everyone was asked to give this some thought until our January meeting. We were leaning toward a jacket or windbreaker with RADIO COMMUNICATIONS on the back, the club insignia and our callsign on the front.

Tower Leg: Doug Tippett N8ESW and Gordon Batey reported that the tower leg is ready for final drilling and assembling.

Christmas Party: Our Christmas Party will be at Greg's Church on Churchville Ave. across from Gypsy Hill Park on December 2nd. We ask you to bring a covered dish and everything else will be furnished. We plan to have the gift exchange again this year so bring a gift in the range of \$5 to \$10. Come out and join us for a meal together and an evening of fun and fellowship.

Augusta Co. 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.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

PROGRAM: Jeff Rinehart W4PJW gave a PowerPoint presentation on the LOG BOOK OF THE WORLD and explained some of the process of signing up and transferring contacts into the program. LOTW can be used for contesters and individual contacts as well. The logs show your contacts for awards such as WAS for mixed bands or a single band.

The cost is much less than QSL Cards and postage for sending them for confirmation for rewards.

Thanks for a great presentation Jeff.

VARA SECRETARY
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

VARA Notes of Interest

VARA PICNIC: Nancy Colvin KE4PHP has reserved the pavilion near the golf course in Gypsy Hill Park for September 12, 2009. There are rest rooms on site and also tables and chairs in the storage room to use. The cost to reserve the pavilion is \$25.00 which will be paid by the club.

AUGUSTA CO. 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.

PROGRAMS NEEDED: Al Bonck N3JB, our 2008 Program Chairman, is looking for anyone that would like to do a program for the club. It does not have to be HAM related, It can 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 has been in bed for some time now and is still on oxygen. Shirley said he is not doing well.

Lonnie's (N4WIV) father has decided to have his other foot removed. Lonnie is in Florida at this time.

Mike Stone's (KJ4AAF) wife fell at home on 11/20/08 and has a fractured arm close to the shoulder.

Let's keep Denny and Lonnie's Dad and Mike's wife 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 Fred Evans at: n4kym@yahoo.com Also a picture of the item would help it sell. Go to the VARA Web Site at: <http://www.gsl.net/w4xd/>
PLEASE notify Fred when your item sells so he can remove it from the list.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES: Keep your e-mail address up to date.

Please send them to:

Scott Newlen KI4QQZ we4newlens@comcast.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.

Tour of Duty: Scott Martin KI4MSJ left October 7th for Fort Dix NJ., then he will be deployed on December 20th for a tour of duty in Iraq. Let's all keep him in our prayers. He also plans to set up a ham radio station there and already has his Iraqi call sign YI9MSJ. Hopefully some of us in the valley will be able to make a contact with him while he is there.

73...Ray...KE4HVR

Dues Renewal Time Again

Don't let the deadline slip up on you again this year! Pay your dues early!
A handy renewal form is included at the end of this issue.



MARA Secretary's Report – November 6 Meeting

Introductions made all around.

1. Reports:

2. New Members: 1st reading: N4WDC David

2nd reading: K4DOD Rodney Good, KJ4DOB Alan Nicol, AA2BF Herbert Slade

All three new members on the second reading were approved by secret ballot.

a. Secretary's minutes as printed in the Monitor, moved, seconded and approved..

b. Treasurer's report – no report

c. Groups

ARES/RACES -

The Grindstone 100 group sent tokens of appreciation for those who worked the race. Jeff distributed a Grindstone 100 t-shirt and head lamp for the volunteers.

VEC-Session – December 13th next VE session at the Woodmen of the World building in Dayton.

d. Public Service- no report

2. Announcements:

Next few meeting programs:

Christmas meeting - Bridgewater coral group will sing.

January - meeting will be the 2nd Thursday and will include a tour of the ECC in Harrisonburg

February - Rockingham/ Harrisonburg ECC radio new 800MHz service.

March - home brew month

April - Video on antennas

May - Green Bank NRAO and Saturday tour

Dave KD9LA read part of a State Police email sent to all law enforcement officers regarding vehicles that are stopped with Amateur Radio tags. If you have Amateur Radio tags on your vehicle you must have a radio permanently installed that is capable of sending and receiving. A handheld radio is not considered permanently installed. The owner of the vehicle may have to demonstrate ability to send and/or receive. While acknowledging that amateur radio operators offer a valuable service to the Commonwealth, an officer has the discretion to pull the tags immediately if the radio is not permanently installed or is not capable of sending and/or receiving.

3. Old Business: VARA has respectfully declined our invitation to join us for the Christmas meeting.

4. New Business: None

5. New Call or Upgrades: None

Motion to adjourn, seconded and approved.

50/50 Won by Daryl KJ4DNY \$12.50

Submitted by
Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC
Acting Secretary



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) ____ SKYWARN ID: _____

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.

Had you rather receive the Monitor via US (snail) Mail instead of email: (circle one): EMAIL / U.S. MAIL

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

December 2: VARA Christmas Party (covered dish and gift exchange at Staunton Church of Christ, 6:00 pm)

December 4: MARA Christmas Banquet at Wood Grill Buffet in Harrisonburg, 6:30 pm

December 13: VE Exams Dayton VA

January 6: VARA Club meeting, location TBA

January 8: MARA Club meeting, Wood Grill Buffet, followed by field trip:
Tour of the Rockingham County EOC Center

February 3: VARA Club Meeting

February 5: MARA Club Meeting, folloed by field trip: Harrisonburg city public service radio facilities

February 7: Frostfest Hamfest in Richmond

February 14: VE Exams



Merry Christmas from KD9LA, your Monitor editor, and KG4OON your Monitor Publisher!

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

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 December Christmas Banquet
will be held at the Staunton Church of Christ

Covered-dish Dinner begins at 6:00 pm,

Visitors are welcome.

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

Doug Tippet
2348 Mosley St.
Waynesboro VA 22980