

April
2011

THE MONITOR

Published Monthly for members of the Amateur Radio Clubs in Virginia's Central Shenandoah Valley

VARA President's Message

Spring is finally here! April is a great time to get outside and check that tower, antenna, cables and guy wires for any damage that may have occurred during the winter.

The monthly VARA meeting will be on April 5th with a great program of homebrew equipment brought in by all of our members. I can't wait to see each of your projects.

The Field Day Committee held their first meeting on March 17th and a lot of information was presented and will be discussed at the April meeting. Over the past several weeks I have had phone calls and emails of members that won't be at this year's Field Day. I ask all of you to help and participate in this nationwide event. After seeing earthquake torn country's of Japan and Haiti I can't stress enough that we must be ready for and be able to set up radio stations, communicate and assist all our fellow man. This is a great opportunity to set up, operate and work together as a club to make sure we are ready and have the gear in working order. So again please don't let just 3-5 persons plan, set-up and operate this year's field day events. I challenge each of you to bring a friend, church member, school age child or co-worker to this year's event so that our community can see how prepared we can be in an emergency situation and they can have fun also working a radio as well.

Also the committee is seeking an "In Charge Person" for the GOTA station, anyone who would like to volunteer to oversee this station is asked to call or email me.

The next Field Day meeting will be Monday April 11th at 6:00pm at the Mt. Crawford Burger King, all are welcome.

I would like to announce that Dan James (W4DL J) has generously donated a power supply and a Kenwood 2000 to our club. Please give him a BIG THANK YOU next time you talk or see him. His donation will come in handy for emergencies, Field Day and those members that want to check it out.

Have a great April, get on the air, help a fellow ham or someone that needs a helping hand or friendship.

*John Keller W4ZAO
President VARA*



PVARC President's Message

Greetings from the Page Valley Amateur Radio Club.

Spring is almost here and it's time to upgrade antennas and towers and get ready for Field Day.

But I am sure most Hams think about these things all year long.

The next PVARC meeting will be at Page Memorial Hospital Friday April 1 at 6:00 pm. We will be discussing Field Day preparation, along with regular meeting topics. So if you have some ideas about Field Day operations or what victuals you would like Chef Morgan-K4RHD prepare, come out and join us.



*"73"
Mark-N4YSA
President PVARC*

April 12 – Tuesday: Listen for the Space Station on 145.95 FM

In tribute of Yuri Gagarin Day, Tuesday April 12, the International Space Station will activate the ARISSat-1 ham radio beacon. There will be six passes of the space station across the U.S., and many hams will be able to hear the station with a very simple 2-meter ham setup. Voice messages and telemetry will be heard on 145.95 MHz. For more information check out: <http://www.ARISSat.org> Listen at the times the station is over the valley. For the latest pass information go to: <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/tools/predict/>

April 14 – Thursday: Augusta County ARES Net

Not just for Augusta County hams, this net meets once a month at 8:00 pm local time, usually on the 146.850 repeater. This repeater uses a transmit offset of -0.600 MHz, and a PL of 131.8.

April 16 – Saturday: Harrisonburg March of Dimes Walk Public Service Event

The MARA club will again provide communications support for the March of Dimes Walk in Harrisonburg on Saturday, April 16th. The event starts behind the Harrisonburg City Hall next to the farmers market at 9:00 am. We should be there by 8:30. They have breakfast snacks before the march and lunch after.

We need 6-7 more hams to assist. If you can spare a couple of hours, please contact me. If you can't stay the whole morning, we can assign you a location where you can be released as soon as the last marcher passes. We will be using a local repeater and in most locations a handheld will work. A mobile will work anywhere along the route.

I can be reached as follows: Phone: (Home) 442-1470, (Cell) 421-5582 email: n1qeq@aol.com

Thanks, Bob Steere, N1QEQ

April 30 – Saturday: Waynesboro RiverFest Public Service Event

Calling all local Radio Amateurs. The 2011 Waynesboro Riverfest Event is scheduled for APRIL 30 th 2011.

This is a great opportunity for local amateurs to provide public service communications to support this interesting event. The event consists of a 3.1 run, a 2 mile paddle down the South River and a 11.5 mile bike ride out on the back roads of Augusta County. We provide visual oversight and related communication for the participants of this event.

We meet for this event on the downtown Kroger parking lot at 9:30 and usually are finished by noon.

The web site with official information is located at:

http://www.riverfestwaynesboro.org/Road_and_River_Relay.html

If you are able to assist with this Public Service Amateur Radio activity please let me know so that I can provide further details as the time approaches.

73 Gordon WA4FJC
GPBATEY@wildblue.net
GPBATEY@compuserve.net

April 30 – Charlottesville: Second Annual Virginia Ham Radio Cruise-In

Announcing the Second Annual Virginia Ham Radio Cruise-In on Saturday, April 30 in Charlottesville.

The Cruise-In is a great opportunity to compare notes on mobile installations of amateur radio equipment and promote good fellowship among your club members and other amateurs throughout Virginia.

Those who participated last year cited, “A fantastic place for a picnic, visiting and enjoying great views of the mountains.” This was such a grand new amateur radio activity that it was cited in QST with an offer of a ‘How to do it kit’ that has drawn responses from all across the country.

Nothing to sell and nothing to buy – just eating, visiting and swapping ideas of how to get mobile with your ham station. Put this date on your calendar now!

May 19-22: Another Caravan Planned for 2011 Dayton Hamvention

Jay Suter W4QDC, Bob Van Fossen K4DJG, John Keller W4ZAO, and a lot of others are already laying the ground-work for the annual valley ham trek to Dayton Ohio for the May 20-22 Hamvention. The caravan leaves Thursday morning after breakfast at 8:00 am (usually the Redwood Restaurant at I-64 and Route 11 in Lexington, right on the way), eats lunch at Bob Evans en route, and arrives at Dayton early Thursday afternoon. After spending Friday, Saturday, and possibly Sunday morning at the hamfest, the group drives back Sunday afternoon. Make plans now to join the group: the more the merrier!

Rockingham County ARES Net Continues Contingency Drills

Continuing through June, the Rockingham County ARES Net will make some random changes at least once a month to the operating frequency for the net. Please check these frequencies if the net is not on one of it's regular frequencies. *In advance of the nets, program your radios accordingly.*

2-meter Repeaters in order of precedence are:

147.225 + 131.8 PL
(normal net repeater)

145.130 - 88.5 PL

146.625 - 131.8 PL

2meter Simplex frequencies
in order of precedence are:

146.55 (normal net simplex)

146.58

146.49

146.52 (National Calling Freq.)

Rockingham County ARES Net Control Stations – April through June 2011

April 4: K4NRA

April 11: KU4XN

April 18: KG4KUR

April 25: NN4JM

May 2: KA4EEN

May 9: K4RBZ

May 16: W3HXH

May 23: KN4FM

May 30: K4MIC

June 6: KU4XN

June 13: K4NRA

June 20: KG4KUR

June 27: NN4JM

Field Day Survey Form – *PLEASE* fill out and return

This survey is being sent to area hams so the Field Day committee can get an idea of who may or may not be planning on operating at Field Day. Field Day period is Sat. June 25, 2PM to Sun. June 26, 2PM - 24 hours continuous day and night. For directions see: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator> Look for the station in Virginia W4XD.

We will be needing station operators who can spend at least 2 or more hours at the site and operate, either Phone, CW, VHF, GOTA or Digital Modes. Radios, computers, interfaces and logging software will be provided. If you are a CW op, and have a favorite CW paddle/key, you are encouraged to bring it along.

Question 1: Are you planning to attend Field Day on the Mountain? _____ Yes _____ No
(If "NO", you need not answer the following questions)

Question 2: Are you willing to operate one or more of the stations? _____ Yes _____ No

Question 3: What mode or modes do you prefer to operate? (Check with an X all that apply)
_____ Phone _____ CW _____ VHF _____ Digital _____ GOTA
(GOTA eligibility requires that you have been "generally inactive" on HF or unlicensed.)

Question 4: What days and how many hours are you planning to spend at the site? _____
What time frame(s) will you be available to operate? (Example: Sat. 2pm to 6pm, Sun. 7am to 9am etc.)

Question 5: Do you plan to attend the pre FD, Friday evening Carry-In dinner? _____ Yes _____ No

Question 6: Can you help with "tear down" on Sunday afternoon 2-4pm? _____ Yes _____ No

Question 7: Your Name _____ Callsign _____
License Class _____ Email address _____

Please give this some serious consideration. We already know it appears there may be a shortage of operators this year. If you can operate CW at 20WPM or so, you'll be "good to go" !!! If you can operate a "push-to-talk" button on the microphone, you'll be "good to go" !!!! Someone will be present to help with the computer program at each station.

Your comments (if any) below:

Please fill out and return prior to our next FD Committee Meeting which will be held on Monday, April 11, or bring along to the regular April club meeting(s) .

Email this completed form to: eaglehiker@hotmail.com Or mail to: John Keller W4ZAO, 842 Leaport Rd, Verona, VA 24482

Thank You!

*KD4UPL Matthew Huffman FD Chairman (hesinc1986@hotmail.com)
W4ZAO John Keller Asst: Chairman (eaglehiker@hotmail.com)*

Results of Communications Test from Sunnyside Retirement Community

On March 7th, Bryan K4RMY and Ellsworth K4LXG did a test of the new radio equipment purchased by Sunnyside Retirement Community for emergency communications.

They used a Yaseu 8800 at 50 Watts using a dual band-J-Pole antenna at about 15 feet to check into to the Rockingham Co. ARES Net. There was some question as to antenna placement but a good location was found after an initial false start. The radio was used on power mains and battery – with no difference in signal reports.

They were able to hear all but 3 of the 13 stations checking-in to the simplex net. Two of those they couldn't hear were using hand held radios at 5 watts or less. The Sunnyside station was heard in Pineville, Grottoes, Waynesboro, Staunton and Fishersville, as well as the general Harrisonburg area. They were not able to hear Singers Glen nor did Singers Glen hear them.

Overall the test proved the equipment purchased will be more than adequate for local emergency communications. Currently there is work toward a Memorandum of Understanding between Rockingham Co. ARES and Sunnyside.

WD4ITN: Highland County ARES Net Now Meets on 1st and 3rd Thursdays

Jerry and Butch want everyone to know that the Highland County ARES Net has moved to the first and third Thursday nights at 8:30 pm. This net meets twice a month on the 147.180 repeater. The repeater uses a +0.600 MHz transmit offset, and a PL tone of 100.0 Hz.

If you are in Rockingham or Augusta counties and have trouble raising the 147.180 repeater, you can still check into the Highland County ARES Net! Give a try on the 444.775 UHF repeater, which uses a +5.000 MHz transmit offset and requires a PL of 151.4 Hz.

KK4AGZ: Help Needed for Kenwood TS-140S

Hi, My Kenwood TS-140S has lost USB receive. Thought maybe two minds would be better than one! Everything on the 140 works except USB receive. I can hear something if I turn up the gain to max....very tinny sounding can't make out. All other modes working great. It has been a while since I trouble-shot anything complicated so thought you might give me a suggestion or two. I think it might be IC-3 which is the RX SSB Det and TX Bal Mod? Any suggestions? Also, if you know of anyone that has an old 140 gathering dust, I might make a deal! Steve KK4AGZ (Angry Green Zebra – You'd be angry too!)

KJ40AS: Help Needed for Simple Tower Adjustment

The recent high winds have twisted my beam about 90 degrees to the east. Does anyone climb towers or have access to a lift that would go high enough? I think all that is needed is to loosen the bolts and align it again. The tower is 40 feet. Thanks,

Ed Varner, KJ40AS

email: evarner1985@comcast.net

W4PJW: Ham Maps On-Line

Here is an excellent, simple set of maps showing answers to questions that many new hams (and even some older ones, too) have about CQ zones, ITU Zones, Grid Squares and Continents.

For example, if you are doing a contest and part of the exchange is to send your CQ Zone, how many of us know what that is? Or maybe it's the ITU Zone?

And what about when you read about rules that only apply to those in Region 2 or 3 - what does that mean? This link will answer those questions.

<http://www4.plala.or.jp/nomrax/hammaps.htm>

W4DJ Donates Equipment to VARA

VARA life-member Dan James W4DJ, donated a Kenwood TS-2000 and power supply to the VARA club for use at Field Day, as well as emergency, special event, and public service communications activities. Shown below is Dan in his shack, along with VARA President W4ZAO accepting the package on behalf of the club.



MARA Local Repeater Access Listing Now On-Line

The MARA March 2011 Repeater listing, showing the repeaters that were accessed from Rockingham County in March of 2011, is now available on-line. Go to the MARA home page (<http://mara.ws>) and click on "Other Reference Materials", then select the "List of VHF Repeaters Worked from Harrisonburg in 2011" link. This listing gives the repeater frequency, the transmit offset, the PL required, and the location of the repeater.

The MARA reference page also includes the latest directory of MARA members, contact information for the club officers, a copy of the current club By-Laws, links to back-issues of the Monitor, the Rockingham County ARES Net Script, and a copy of the ARRL Traffic Form (Radiogram) that hams can make duplicates of for their "go-box".

Don't Forget to Fill Out and Send In the Field Day Survey on Page 5 of this issue

Local Ham Calendar

April 1: PVARC Business Meeting
 April 2-3: Missouri QSO Party
 April 3: Page County ARES Net
 April 4; Rockingham County ARES Net simplex
 April 5: VARA Homebrew meeting
 April 7: MARA Homebrew meeting
 April 7: Highland County ARES Net
 April 9: VE Exams—Dayton VA
 April 9-10: Montana QSO Party
 April 9-10: New Mexico QSO Party
 April 9-10: Georgia QSO Party
 April 10: Page County ARES Net
 April 11: Joint MARA/VARA Field Day Committee Meeting
 April 11: Rockingham County ARES Net
 April 12; Yuri Gagarin Day Space Station Special Event
 April 14: Augusta County ARES Net
 April 16: Harrisonburg March-of-Dimes Walk Public Service
 April 16-17: Michigan QSO Party
 April 16-17: Ontario QSO Party
 April 17: ARRL Rookie Roundup SSB
 April 17: Page County ARES Net
 April 18: Rockingham County ARES Net
 April 21: Highland County ARES Net
 April 23: Raleigh NC Hamfest
 April 23-24: Nebraska QSO Party
 April 30: Waynesboro Riverfest Public Service Event

April 30: Hagerstown Hamfest
 April 30: Florida QSO Party
 April 30: Virginia Ham Radio Cruise-In (Charlottesville)

May 3: VARA Club Meeting
 May 5: MARA Club Meeting
 May 6: PVARC Club Dinner Meeting
 May 7-8: CQ-M International DX Contest
 May 7-8: 7th Call Area Combined QSO Party
 May 7-8: Indiana QSO Party
 May 7-8: ARI International DX Contest
 May 7-8: New England Combined QSO Party
 May 20-22: Dayton OH Hamvention Hamfest
 May 28-29: CQ WW WPX Contest

June 11: VE Exams, Dayton VA
 June 11-13: ARRL June VHF QSO Party
 June 18-16: Field Day Site Camping Trip
 June 25-26: ARRL Field Day

August 7: Berryville (Winchester) Hamfest

September 10: VARA Annual Family Picnic

October 1-2: Shenandoah 500 NVTRA motorbike ride
 October 7-9: Grindstone 100 mountain footrace

VARA Secretary's Report – March 1 Meeting

The monthly meeting of the VARA was held March 1st 2011 at 7 pm at Shoneys. John Keller W4ZAO presiding 25 people attended the meeting, 5 were visitors , 50-50 winner was Ed Varner KJ4OAS

ARES report: ARES net was held on the 10th at 8 pm on 146.850

Secretary's report was given and accepted. Treasurer's report was given and accepted

Report on field day: MARA has volunteered to mow the grass. It was decided to use a lighter tower for VHF - also tabling the decision for a winch . 3 people have signed up from MARA for the field day committee

John Keller W4ZAO is going to Dayton Ohio this year.

Albemarle ARC won "Club of the year" for outstanding emergency services, and "youth push" - kudos to them

Don't forget: Waynesboro Riverfest will be April 30th from 9:30 till about noon.

Staunton Rec wants us to teach a ham radio course - we may discuss more later.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:34pm

Steven Grant W4IIV
 VARA Secretary

MARA Secretary's Report – March 3 Meeting

Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 PM

Attendance: 43 present - 32 Members and 11 Guests

Bryan (K4RMY) conducted the meeting. Introductions made all around.

Reports:

New Members:

1st Reading: Scott Long (KJ4SIT), Al Passarelli (KI4TOJ), Stephen Shobe (KK4AGZ)

2nd Reading: Trenton Good (AK4CV) – was unanimously approved as a new member.

Secretary Minutes: It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the minutes as printed in the Monitor.

Treasurer Report: It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's report as printed in the Monitor. The balance as of February 25, 2011 was \$ 3,662.11.

Groups:

ARES/RACES: Bryan (K4RMY) announced that Monday night net on March 7th will be run from Sunnyside. They would like a couple of volunteers to help at 3:00 pm with the set up. Ellsworth (K4LXG) will be running the net.

VEC-Session: The next VE test session will be held at 9:00 am, April 9, 2011 at the Woodmen of the World building in Dayton.

Public Service: Bob (N1QEQ) reported that the March of Dimes Walk will be held April 16th. The motion to accept the walk as a club project was moved and approved. Bryan asked that if you vote to accept the motion, then you would be willing to participate. Bob would like to have eight volunteers to cover the course.

We will have more events as we move into spring and summer including the Bridgewater Lawn Party and the Labor Day bike ride. This year the triple play events will be held over two weekends instead of just one weekend. The motorcycle ride and Camp Still Waters will be the first full weekend and the 100 mile run will be the second weekend.

Announcements: David (KD9LA) distributed several handouts to the members including the By-Laws, updated repeater list, list of Virginia counties and a Sky Warn handout. Recently, Carol from the National Weather Service contacted David. The last several times Sky Warn was activated, of the 64 Harrisonburg/Rockingham spotters, only 0 - 3% reported. She wanted to make sure they haven't made us mad. One problem is that the former coordinator is no longer on the air. Spotters can use the 800 phone number or email to make their reports.

Field Day – one of the volunteers has had to drop out. Mike Turner (K4MIC) volunteered to fill the vacant position. The next meeting will be Thursday, March 17th at the Mt. Crawford Burger King.

Old Business: The audit committee comprised of Rick (KJ4IND) & Sheryl (KJ4DOC) expect to have the audit completed by the April meeting.

New Business: Bryan raised the question of creating a program committee. Due to time constraints, the discussion was tabled until next month.

New Call or Upgrades: None reported

Motion to Adjourn: Made, seconded and approved.

50/50 Raffle: Won by John (KI4YNA). \$11.00 to John, \$11.00 to the club.

Program: Jeff (K4PJW) presented a demonstration of his logging software.

Submitted by
Sheryl M. Tonini
KJ4DOC

MARA Audit Committee Report

March 17, 2011

We the undersigned, being named as the 2010 Audit Committee for the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., have performed a detailed examination of the organization's financial records we were provided for the period September 1, 2009 to December 31, 2010.

In our opinion, the records present fairly the financial position of the organization as of December 31, 2010. During our review, we discovered no evidence that would cause us to suspect material error, fraud, or other discrepancies with the financial management or recordkeeping.

The records indicate that the organization's financial balance as of December 31, 2010 is \$3,345.02.

Sheryl M. Tonini KJ3DOC (signed)

Rick Adams KJ4IND (signed)

MARA Treasurer's Report – February 25, 2011 to March 31, 2011

Beginning Balance February 25, 2011 (last report)		\$ 3,662.11
Add: New Member Applications (3 members)	\$ 36.00	
March Meeting 50/50 club portion	<u>\$ 11.00</u>	
Total Receipts	\$ 47.00	
Less Reimbursement for March Speaker's Dinner	\$ 13.09	
Total Disbursements	<u>\$-13.09</u>	
Ending Balance as of March 31, 2011		\$ 3,696.02

Submitted by David Fordham, KD9LA, MARA Treasurer

PVARC Secretary's Report – March 4 Meeting

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club held its March 4th, 2011 meeting at Brown's Chinese Restaurant in Luray. Inasmuch as this was an informal social event, business was held to a minimum. All officers were present and a healthy (and hungry) number of members were in attendance. PVARC President Mark/N4YSA presided over the festivities. Following introductions around the table the club scribbler & "lock-box" holder (Secretary/Treasurer) was asked to report anything of interest. Sparky/KD4KL rose to the occasion and reported as follows:

Thanks to referrals from The Monitor, PVARC has received three inquiries regarding membership. Subsequent telephone and e-mail contact has been established and hopefully will result in those local hams coming to the next club meeting. Other efforts to "grow the club" continue and will, hopefully, also bring in additional members!

Regarding the PVARC treasury, Sparky reported that thanks to personal intervention by Morgan/K4RHD, one of our PVARC Directors, we now have a no-cost checking account at the Luray Branch of Pioneer Bank. We can now accept annual dues by check, made payable to Page Valley Amateur Radio Club. No monies were taken in or paid out in the past month and the balance remains as previously stated.

Not surprisingly, table topics this month included improving HF band conditions following the upward trending sun spots, digital modes where PSK31 seems to be most popular with our membership and HF antenna construction projects planned for spring/summer band openings. Dave/K4DPF reports he is still gathering material to build the 80 meter loop for the upcoming ARRL Field Day.

Finally, the new schedule showing net control stations for the Sunday evening Page County ARES Net was circulated and members were asked to sign up if possible. Once completed, the list will be sent to The Monitor for publication giving date specific time, frequency and net control information. Naturally, all amateurs, within or outside the county, are welcome to check-in.

Mark/N4YSA reminded everyone that the next PVARC meeting will be held (no fooling) on Friday, April 1st at Page Memorial Hospital beginning at 1800. Watch for e-mail and Courier announcements.

Submitted by: Sparky Terry/KD4KL, PVARC Secretary

MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.

President: Bryan Daniels, K4RMY
 Vice President: Gerry Brunk, K4RBZ
 Secretary: Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC
 Treasurer: David Fordham, KD9LA
 Board (exp 2011): James McDowell IV, NN4JM
 Board (exp 2012): Mike Turner, K4MIC

<http://mara.ws>

MARA meets the first Thursday of each month
 at Wood Grill Buffet on Reservoir Street
 in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Dinner begins at 6:30 pm,
 the business meeting begins at 7:30 pm

Visitors are always welcome.

Dues (\$12 per year) should be mailed to:

MARA
 PO Box 1882
 Harrisonburg, VA 22801

VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

President: John Keller W4ZAO
 Vice President: Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW
 Secretary: Steve Grant, W4IIV
 Treasurer: Doug Tippet, N8ESW
 Program Manager: Al Bonck N3JB

<http://w4xd.com>

VARA meets the first Tuesday of each month
 at Shoneys in Staunton on Hwy 250 at I-81.

Dinner starts at 6:00 pm,
 the business meeting starts at 7:00 pm

Visitors are welcome

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

Doug Tippet
 2348 Mosley St.
 Waynesboro VA 22980

PAGE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

President: Mark Hensley N4YSA
 Vice President: Dave Firestone, K4DPF
 Secretary/Treasurer: Mike "Sparky" Terry, KD4KL
 Board Member: Morgan Phenix K4RHD
 Board Member: : Robert Forrest KJ4HFU

Website under construction (?)

PVARC meets the first Friday of each month.
 Odd-numbered Months
 at Browns Restaurant in Luray,
 Even-numbered Months in the Day Room of
 Page Memorial Hospital.

The meeting begins at 6:00 pm

Visitors are welcome.

Dues (\$12 per year) should be mailed to:

Sparky Terry
 PO Box 649
 Luray VA 22835-0649

The Monitor is published monthly by MARA, Inc.
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 Contact the president of your respective club
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Back issues are freely available on the MARA website
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 timely basis to individuals who are not club members.

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Contact your respective club officers for more information.

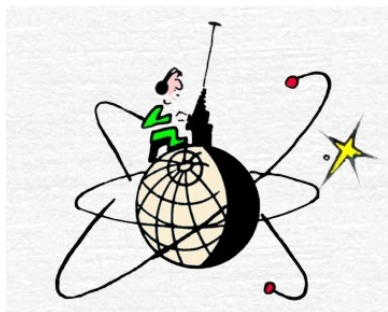
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