

The MARA/VARA Monitor

Published monthly by the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., of Harrisonburg, Virginia for radio amateurs in the Shenandoah Valley.

BIKE VIRGINIA OCTOBER 24-25, 1998

Note: the date has changed to the 24th and 25th.

OVERVIEW and PURPOSE:

There will be over 1000 bike riders of varying capabilities traveling long distances on the highway and gravel roads from Staunton to Singers Glen and on into the George Washington National Forest. These riders are NOT professional riders and this is NOT a race. Some riders will be attempting off-road trails in the national forest too. Our responsibility is to travel the route in our automobiles to report any need for emergency aid for riders who wreck or need assistance. It will be necessary, in some cases, to transport disabled bikes and their riders back to the staging area.

INTRODUCTION:

Once again this year, the number of riders is expected to increase. It is felt that there will be in excess of 1000 riders on the back roads of Rockingham and Augusta Counties during this event.

GOOD PRACTICE FOR EMERGENCIES:

An event of this magnitude provides an excellent opportunity for our ARES organizations to exercise their abilities to provide communications under trying circumstances. This event will be good practice for us.

First of all, it is good practice because there are so many participants. It is obvious that someone somewhere will need to get in touch with someone somewhere else in the group. This will provide good practice for us in relaying messages accurately and in timely fashion.

Second, there is a large territory to cover. This activity covers an area on Saturday from the National Guard Armory at Staunton's Gypsy Hill Park all the way north to Sengers Glen, Todd Lake, Elkhorn Lake and Natural Chimneys Regional Park. With so many riders covering such a large area, we will be challenged to maintain communication even with mobile set-ups. Saturday will be the day we need the most help.

On Sunday, the bikers will travel from the National Guard Armory south through Middlebrook and on south for approximately another 10 or 15 miles. There will once again be an off road area from the Blue Ridge Parkway down to Stuarts Draft (This area will require special attention). Sunday's activities usually end around 3 pm.

Third, there is a history of required emergency activity. I remember one year when an older biker rode right in front of a car in the Stuarts Draft area. We had a radio operator stationed with the rescue squad vehicle that year and response time was immediate. We have had other incidents too - one I remember was a lady biking down hill on a dirt road - she attempted to remove her jacket while in motion and crashed. Fortunately a radio operator who was an EMT was not far behind and immediate care was provided while the ambulance was on the way. There were two other incidents that I remember in the past - both involved bikers and automobiles and both required emergency rescue response. We don't wish for

emergencies, but we do wish for fast appropriate response and as amateur's, we can provide that by radio for the bikers.

MONEY:

Bike Virginia is the organization sponsoring this activity. They have paid personnel on their staff and bike riders pay a significant fee for the opportunity to ride in this organized event. The money paid is used to pay the employees of Bike Virginia and the associated expenses (ie. police patrols, lunch, rent on buildings, signage, truck rental). A portion of the profits are donated this year to the Virginia Bicycling Education Association.

We as amateurs are donating our time, radio equipment, automobiles and gasoline for the benefit of the bike riders. We are NOT participating in the organization of this event and what we do does not directly monetarily benefit the Bike Virginia organization. Bike Virginia has traditionally made a gift donation to VARA and MARA as a token of their appreciation for our assistance to the riders each year.

WE NEED YOU:

I estimate that we will need 15 - 20 amateurs for Saturday and 8 - 12 on Sunday.

WHAT TO BRING:

We will need two or three amateurs with 5 watt handhelds and mag-mounts to ride with Bike Va personnel as "shadows" to their leadership each day. If you have a cigarette lighter "tee" connector, please bring it with you if you want to tap into their cigarette lighter receptacle. In our automobiles, we will need radios with at least 5 watt output and outside antennas. Handhelds inside the vehicle will NOT work in the areas we have to cover. Lunch tickets will be provided for all radio operators.

BASE STATION:

KB4OLM has volunteered to pull his communications trailer to the Towers Ruritan Hall near the rescue squad building close to Natural Chimneys for us on Saturday. He will provide antennas, power and radio for the net control operator. It will be located near the Fire House, at the old school, in Middlebrook on Sunday. (What a coincidence - these are the lunch locations each day too!)

HOW TO VOLUNTEER:

Please let me know what days and times you can help. Contact Jeff W4PJW 540 337-7337 (Home) before 9:30 pm weekdays 540 434-0062 (Work) 9am - 5pm M-F jmrinehart@yahoo.com

Check out the MARA home page for late changing details at the following address:

<http://cob.jmu.edu/fordhadr/MARA/>

MARA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was good to see a super turnout at the September meeting for our guest speaker, Jim Junkins of the Harrisonburg EOC center. 32 hams listened intently as he talked about the 911 system, how hams are very helpful in emergencies, etc. We do appreciate him taking his time to speak to us.

There are lots of opportunities in October to work Public Service events. I hope each ham decides to help out on at least one event, if not more. The more hams to be seen means more exposure, which means more chances for them to see Amateur Radio in action, and in a positive light.

Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall! Where has the time gone? The evenings are getting so dark now that it's not possible to get a lot of things done before the sun is gone. Well, now that there more of us will be indoors earlier, I'll begin the CW Practice nets again, on Monday nights, right after the Rockingham County ARES nets on the 145.130 repeater. Anyone and everyone is invited to tune in and get practice so you can upgrade if you desire. Also the Trader's Nets will resume on the 3rd Monday nights following the ARES net. That means there will be no CW practice that night.

With the coming of Fall, Winter is not too far behind, and that may mean Baaaadd weather. Are you ready for Emergency communications if you are called on? If a blizzard hits us, do you have equipment that can work while using a 12 volt car battery? Do you have a 2 meter vertical(roll-up J-pole, a mag-mount 5/8 wave or 1/4 wave, etc) that you can use to set up a station at a Rescue Squad buiding or Fire House? If you have HF privileges, do you have a portable antenna that you can use for communicating with the state's hams on 14.325 or 3.910 mhz? Be thinking about your plans and what you can do in case of emergencies. More to follow later.

I hope you are making plans to attend the Christmas Banquet at Pano's Restaurant on December 3rd, at 6:30 pm. It's always good to see everybody in one place, all at the same time! Tentatively, 67 have signed up so far! And that's only the ones who have made it to the last 2 meetings! Should be a whale of a turnout(unless the weather gets into the act). See you at the meeting.

73,
David Tanks, AD4TJ
MARA President

VARA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello to all and looks like we are never going to get any rain or not as of this writing anyway. Maybe it is because I got a new law mower!!!

It was nice seeing everyone at the last Club Meeting and I am also looking forward to seeing everyone at the Club's Picnic on Oct. 3rd. more to follow in the Newsletter.

Would like to remind all of Bike Virginia coming up on October 24th and 25th and hope we have a nice turn out to provide communications as we have done in past years. Hope the leaves are pretty as in past years.

At our next meeting we will have Dr. Gordon Smith of Mt Sidney give a presentation on license plates and all about how they started and a display of some of the different types he and his wife have collected over the years and I hear tell of more that 5,000 plates in his collection. He will have several dozen on display at the meeting and we will even learn how the Amateur Tag got started. Do you know when the first one was issued or when Virginia issued the first one? Good question I think, so come on to the Meeting on October 14th and enjoy the presentation.

As you read this Newsletter Virginia Beach Hamfest will be over but I am looking forward to having seen all of those that attend again this year. I might even eat some seafood!!!! This is the only event I can get my XYL interested in must have to do with the beach.

Well until next time take care and looking forward to talking with all on the repeaters.

Ken Harris, KE4GKD
VARA President

FAMILY LOSSES

Our condolences are sent to Billy Mundy KF4PFQ of Crimora, on the tragic loss of his son in a motorcycle accident near Dooms in early September.

Also, condolences are sent to Pat (KD4WWF) and his wife Diane on the loss of her mother, Dutchie Brown.

While passing on is part of life on earth, we must remember it is the surviving family members who bear the greatest loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

*Information supplied by
Ken Harris, KE4GKD,
and Ray Colvin, KE4HVR*

VARA PICNIC OCT. 3

The VARA picnic will be held Saturday Oct. 3rd at 2:00pm in Staunton at Gypsy Hill Park. We will be at the shelter on the hill behind the National Guard Armory. The picnic is for all amateurs not just Club Members.

The Club will furnish hot dogs, buns, plates, napkins and utensils. Please bring a covered dish, drinks for yourself and chairs.

We would like to know how many can be there so we can tell how much food to buy. Please contact me Nancy Colvin by phone at 886-1559 or on the 146.850 repeater, or Ray Colvin KE4HVR on the 146.850 or 224.680 repeaters.

Hope to see you there!

Nancy Colvin KE4PHP

ITEMS FOR SALE

Anyone interested can call 540 943-9128 or leave E-Mail at jmakuch@amp.com

- 1) Fantastic premium tower deal. Rohn commercial Self Supporting Tower sections; no guys. #4N and #5N @ 20" each; and 12" of #3N. Hot dip galv. solid steel. #5 2'6" face; #4 2'2" face. #4 & 5 sections are bolted cross bars; #3 is welded. Held TB6EM tribander through 6 years of Connecticut ice and hurricanes. Disassembled and down, in Waynesboro. Have specs. -- Was \$2200 new in 1990; asking \$1500.
- 2) 3" dia X 3/8" wall mast 12" long -\$50
- 3) Misc alum tubing, plus old fullsize 3 el 20 M monobander -75\$
- 4) Generator-Tecumseh & Fairbanks Morse heavy duty Like new; carb just overhauled by Burkhardt Tractor; runs great; \$250
- 5) 5.) Massive industrial gearbox rotor, motor and control parts Needs reassemble. No more rotor failures! \$150

Take them all for \$1800; individually are \$2025.

John Makuch



DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

MARA CHRISTMAS BANQUET MENU

Here are the menu selections we need to vote on for the Christmas Banquet.

First we need to decide if we want to go with Option A or Option B.

Option A is a buffet tailored especially for MARA. Option A requires us to select 1, 2, or 3 entrees, and four vegetables from the choices below. And Option A requires us to *prepay* in advance for everyone who attends. In other words, with Option A, we need to take advance reservations and payment, with an exact count of attendees. We do not get any refunds for no-shows, even in case of inclement weather.

With option B, we do not need to prepay, although an estimated count would be appreciated. With Option B, however, we must select one (1) of the five possible menu combinations. Once the club has selected one of the five menus, everyone who comes will have their own personal choice from among the three or four entrees on that menu. With Option B, we do not need an exact count.

OPTION A

Below are the buffet selections.

- 1 entree selection for \$7.95
- 2 entree selection for \$8.95
- 3 entree selection for \$9.95

Price includes: Salad Bar (Potato Salad, Macaroni Salad, Cole Slaw, and Fruit Jello), your choice of 4 vegetables, assortment of pies and cakes, dinner rolls, coffee, tea, butter and the proper sauces and gravies.

Price does not include 15% gratuity and 8.5% sales tax.

MAIN ENTRÉE CHOICES

Beef Stroganoff
Chicken Stir-Fry
Roast Prime Rib of Beef (add \$2)
Beef Tips cooked with Onions and Peppers
Glazed Baked Ham
Baked Chicken
Pork Chops (add \$1)
BBQ Ribs
Roast Pork Loins (add \$1.50)
Roast Beef
Chicken Tenders
Fried Baby Shrimp
Chicken Cordon Bleu (add \$1)
Perch, Fried or Broiled
Fried Flounder (add \$1)
Whitefish, Fried or Broiled
Oysters (add \$2)
Beef Burgundy
Fried Scallops (priced to market)
Chicken Pot Pie
Steamed Shrimp (priced to market)
Chicken a la King
Steamed Crab Legs (priced to market)
Roast Fresh Ham
Vegetable Lasagna
Roast Turkey
Meat Lasagna
Shrimp Newberg
Ravioli
Shrimp Creole
Stuffed Shells
Shrimp Au Gratin
Grilled Chicken Breast

VEGETABLES

Buttered Corn
Rice Pilaf
Green Beans
Macaroni and Cheese
Lima Beans
Baked Apples
Italian Mix
Glazed Baby Carrots
Mixed Greens
Peas and Onions
Mashed Potatoes
Mix: Broccoli,
Carrots, and Cauliflower
Parsley Potatoes
Oven Greek
Potatoes
Scalloped Potatoes
Au Gratin Potatoes

MARA CHRISTMAS BANQUET MENU

(--continued)

OPTION B

We pick one menu, as we did last year, and when you get to the restaurant you order one entree from that menu. Remember, we do not pay ahead with this one, nor do we need to provide an exact count, although an estimate would be appreciated.

MENU #1

Baked Chicken, marinated in special spices
Chopped Sirloin, USDA Choice 12 oz.
Combination Seafood Platter: Boneless
Trout and Baby Shrimp lightly breaded

*Those 3 served with your choice of
baked potato or french fries,
salad and dinner rolls*

Spaghetti with Meat Sauce or Marinara Sauce, served
with salad and garlic bread

\$6.95

MENU #2

Chicken Parmesan served with Linguine
Chopped Sirloin Steak with or without grilled onion and
mushroom sauce
Broiled or Fried Perch

*Above 3 served with
baked potato or french fries,
salad and dinner roll*

Mediterranean Salad: Grilled Chicken Strips and Feta
Cheese served over lettuce, tomato, cucumbers, olives,
onions, and your choice of dressing.

\$7.95

MENU #3

Fried Oysters lightly breaded and fried in 100% non-
cholesterol-oil
Broiled Chicken Breast marinated in special spices
Rib Eye Steak- 12 oz. of USDA choice

*Above 3 served with baked potato or french
fries, salad and dinner rolls*

Baked Spaghetti w/Meat Balls and Meat Sauce served
with salad and garlic bread

\$8.95

MENU #4

Broiled Swordfish Steak broiled in light lemon butter
sauce and selected spices
New York Strip Steak 14 oz USDA choice
Chicken Julienne served over rice

*Above 3 served with: baked potato or french
fries, salad and dinner rolls*

\$10.95

MENU #5

Broiled Combination Seafood Platter: Flounder, Scallops,
and Shrimp broiled in light lemon butter sauce and
selected spices
Prime Rib of Beef
Veal Scaloppini in mushroom and wine sauce

\$13.95

FOR ALL MENUS: .70 extra for coffee, tea, or soda. Or...
\$1.75 extra for coffee, tea, or soda, and your choice of fruit pie.
Prices do not include 15% gratuity and 8.5% sales tax.

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL
BIG MOUNTAIN REPEATER ASSOCIATION PICNIC
“BOB’S KNOB BASH” REPORT

After postponement of the Bob’s Knob Picnic to the Sunday August 23rd (from its original date of August 16th), a warm and sunny day emerged to usher up a great afternoon for all to enjoy a great festival of tailgating, games, and fantastic food for the more than 70 people attending.

What makes a really good outing is the enthusaism of the attendees, and outstanding help from folks who volunteered setup, cooking, serving, and administrating the sign-in and talk-in activities.

Thanks to Enos (**KF4BFF**) and son Gerald (**KE4FN**), and Kevin (**KF4WWM**) for donation of the hamburger and hot dog rolls; and to Sandy (**K4PZC**) and his dad “Moon” for the abundance of free ice. And of course, special gratitude to all th gang who came early and spent all day cooking and serving the food:

The Bean Pot: **WV3J**, **KF4WWM**, **KF4SVR**, and **KF4BFM**
The Grills: **WB4WRE**, **WF4BFM**, **KF4SVR**, **KE4RMB**, **WD4LIG**
Publicity and Tailgating Support: Bill **KE4FM**
Talk-In and Sign-In: Neal **N4XU**
Games: **KB2TBL**, **K4NRA**, **KF4BFM**, **NF4SVR**
Serving Tables: Carla (**KE4RMB**’s **XYL**), Winnie Cooper (late **KC4YAR**’s **XYL**), Helen (**WA4ODD**)
Picnic Table Work Party: **WB4WRE**, **K4NRA**, **KF4BFM**, **KF4WWM**, **KF4SVR**, **KE4RMB**

Award Certificates, prepared by **N4XU**, were presented to Bill Jones (**KE4FM**), Mark Payne (**WA4E**), and Lewis Hensley (**WA4NIC**) for their years of participation and support of the Big Mountain Repeater operations. Lewis’s call now adorns the repeater’s ID, and Frank (**KF4RMB**) has accepted the position of lead engineer. Treasurer is now Carla Worley (Frank’s **XYL**). **W3MMC** remains the BMRA association president.

Special Thanks go to Joe, **WD4LIG**, for making some terrific German Sausages, and cooking them up for a bunch of delighted picnic’ers. Thanks also to the many folks who support the repeater maintenance fund, to the tune of \$314.00. Any additional donations will be gladly accepted by the treasurer, Carla Worley, at 142A Colonial Drive, Harrisonburg, VA 22801. Please make checks out to BMRA. The winner of the 50/50 drawing was George Saunders, **KR4MU**.

Again, let me say “Thanks” to all our visitors and participants!

*Bob Niemeyer, W3MMC
BMRA President.*

Guest Column

TALES FROM THE VERONA WOODS...



Although I do better as a camel train drive than a chess player, about 15 years ago I started a radio-chess organization called Chess and Amateur Radio International. At its best, we had about 300 members from 15 different countries.

Membership included a 20-page bimonthly newsletter. I did it all on a typewriter and copy machine. What a hassle compared with today!

One of our members, Steve Tower, **KB6DZU**, was a real talent. All kinds of talent, one of which was cartooning. Above you see a sample of his output.

To those chess-illiterates like myself, the Staunton cartoon above may be no more humorous than thunderstorms on field day. Chess types, however, know that the design of modern chess pieces was actually named after a dude named H. Staunton, a famous 19th-century London chess pro. (If you thought he was the same chap who founded the Augusta County’s seat, well, sorry about that.)

By the way, if any of you are into radio chess, or merely enjoy chess aside from ham radio, I could come up with some neat stories on how these two hobbies combine. Like, there’s CARI’s America’s Cup for Radiochess with a bunch of us took on our **VK/ZL** members, way back when conditions were so good, the tie-breaking game went on for ten hours on three different bands! And the rest of us followed along listening and duplicating the moves on our own boards! How come so long a game? Well, both players were hyper-cautious bankers! Who finally won? Tune in and I’ll tell you!

Vince, K2VJ

MARA WEB PAGE FINDS HOME



<http://cob.jmu.edu/fordhadr/MARA/>

Are you on the Internet? If so, you now have instant access to MARA information, including a schedule of all events that your newsletter editor knows about!

Yes, that's right. The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association now joins the VARA group and dozens of other amateur radio clubs in having its very own web presence.

Set your browser to the URL shown above, and check it out.

One of the features is the member's email directory. If you would like to be added to the directory, simply send an email message to fordhadr@jmu.edu asking to be added.

Another feature is the download page containing back issues of the *Monitor*. Issues prior to January 1998 are available in HTML format and can easily be read on your browser. Issues after January 1998 are available in the popular Adobe PDF format. The PDF reader is available free of charge for download, also.

Another feature sure to be popular is the list of links to other related ham radio sites. If you have favorite sites to be added, email them to the newsletter editor!

Thanks to the James Madison University's College of Business for lending the space for this page.

PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES



PUBLIC SERVICE

CAN YOU HELP?

Can you identify the pictures on the previous page?

The photos were taken at the Eastern Mennonite High School Varsity Meet. Shown in the lower photo is net control station KE4EEN, Norman, directing the volunteer communications system providing radio communication between officials of the meet.

Ham radio operators in the valley are welcomed at many public service events. We provide trained and professional-quality communications between remote event stations and the central administration station.

If you have a hand-held VHF transceiver, maybe you can be one of us! All it takes is a few hours on a Saturday (or a Sunday, if you prefer), maybe once or twice a year. Of course, you can volunteer much more frequently if you desire! There are activities taking place almost every month of the year.

In most cases, the volunteer communicators receive a token thank you, such as a free T-Shirt, a free lunch, perhaps a patch or two, and sometimes nothing more than a pat on the back. But knowing that we are available, if an emergency should occur, is often our most valuable reward.

Over and over again, areas which have been hit with natural disasters are able to cope with the communications catastrophe because ham radio operators were prepared, practiced, and proficient in handling formal traffic for primary organizations. No, net operation is not the same as everyday rag-chewing on the repeaters. Yes, there are some rules and guidelines to follow. Knowing these differences in advance is what enables good disaster support communication. And these public service events are the preparation and practice we need to hone our skills.

So please, think about participating. And there is one very main reason to "put in your time" on these activities! It is **FUN!**

VARA SECRETARY'S REPORT

September 9, 1998 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association (V.A.R.A.) club meeting was held at Gavid's Restaurant in Staunton on September 9, 1998. The meeting was opened at 7:35 p.m. by the club president, Ken Harris (KE4GKD). A round of introductions was made. There were 22 members and guests present.

The 50/50 winner was Doug Zirk (KE4RMD). The total amount raised was \$25.

The secretary's report had a mistake last month. The three club members heading up the club picnic are actually June Waldmuller (KC4PKJ), Joan Pitsenbarger (KF4CWR), and Nancy Colvin (KE4PHP). The secretary report was accepted as printed in last month's newsletter and with this correction.

Jeff Rinehart (W4PJW) handed out a treasury report and discussed the figures. The report was accepted as read.

The club picnic is currently scheduled for two o'clock p.m. on October third at Gypsy Hill Park. Talk in will be on the 146.850 repeater. Bring a covered dish and a drink.

The club voted to have a Christmas party this year in place of December's regular meeting. Chairperson for this event is Nancy Colvin (KE4PHP).

Jeff Rinehart (W4PJW) announced that Bike Virginia is scheduled for October 17 and 18 and amateurs will be needed to help out with this event. Contact Jeff to sign up or for more info.

Richard Huttinger (KF4QZG) was accepted as a new V.A.R.A club member.

Mr. Gordan Smith will be giving next months presentation on the history of license plates, including amateur tags.

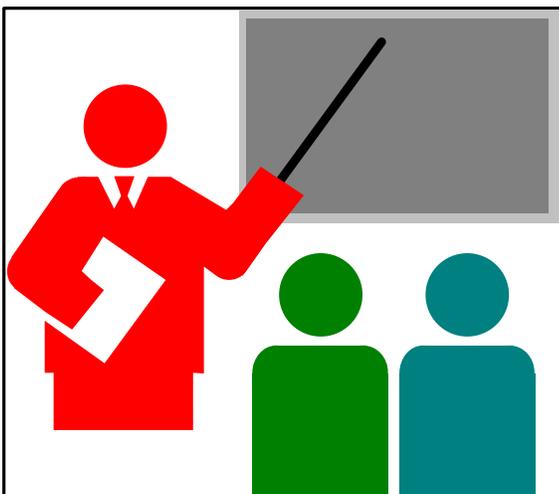
There was a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Valley Amateur Radio Association (V.A.R.A.). The motion was accepted and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by:
Douglas S. Zirk (KE4RMD)
Secretary

MARA BOARD MEETING

The Board met prior to the dinner hour with all members present. We discussed the dues for couples, with the suggestion made by David (AD4TJ) that they be reduced to \$ 18 for couples instead of the usual \$ 24 because they would only receive one newsletter. This was approved by all. It was also proposed that those joining after 1 July only pay half dues. However, after being reminded of the old policy was that any dues received from a new member after September was applied to the next year's membership, the board decided to continue that practice

The Christmas Banquet was discussed - program ideas, door prizes, youngest, longest licensed, newest licensed, were approved. The prizes decided on were two Repeater Directories, one for each ham winner, and Radio Shack gift certificates for the other two. For non-hams, the 50/50 tickets would be given to each non-ham, and then draw the lucky ticket. Awards will go to outgoing Board Members and Deserving Hams. David (AD4TJ) and Dale (N4DAI) will handle printing of the awards.



MARA SECRETARY'S REPORT

September 3, 1998 Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of Massanutten Amateur Radio Association was held at Evers Restaurant on Thursday evening, September 3rd with thirty-three members and guests present. The business meeting began at 7:30 p.m. with the usual introductions. A special welcome was given to the speaker of the evening, James Junkins who is the EOC representative for Rockingham County.

ARES: Norman (KA4EEN) reminded us of the Varsity Meet at Eastern Mennonite High School where amateurs were needed. Other things coming up where we are needed are the Johnny Appleseed Rides on 3-4 Oct., and the MS Walk in Harrisonburg on 17 Oct.

The treasurer announced that we had a balance of \$ 2,186.36 in the treasury.

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS: A class is planned in the fall for new amateurs to prepare them for the licensing test and teach them the fundamentals of amateur radio.

Liability Insurance for the club was discussed. After discussion of various plans, Dick (W3HXH) made the motion and a second was given by Walt (KF4BFB) that we purchase insurance from Auto Owners and after more discussion the motion was passed.

Bill (W4IMS) indicated he had run into problems with the city of Harrisonburg regarding putting up a tower, especially since he would have to put it in his front yard. It was the consensus of the club that amateurs were exempt from such rules and there was need to contact the city council.

Various contests were mentioned and also the hamfest at Gaithersburg, MD on 13 Sep.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Ellsworth (K4LXG).

Next month the program will be on Inverted Ls and in November Paul (WV3J) was asked to prepare a program.

People were again reminded to sign up for the Christmas Dinner meeting to be held on the regular meeting night but at Pano's Restaurant.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Wilton B. Thomas (KF4BFL)
Secretary*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 1st: **MARA Club Meeting**
October 3rd: **VARA PICNIC**
October 3rd-4th: Johnny Appleseed Ride
October 14th: **VARA Club Meeting**
October 17th: Harrisonburg MS Walk
October 17th: VE Exams (Harrisonburg)
October 24th-25th: Bike Virginia
October 24th-25th: CQ DX Worldwide SSB
October 31st: 10-10 Contest

November 5th: **MARA Club Meeting**
November 7th- 9th: ARRL Sweepstakes CW
November 11th: **VARA Club Meeting**
November 21st-23rd: ARRL Sweepstakes Phone
November 28th-29th: CQ DX Worldwide CW

December 3rd: **MARA Christmas Party**
December 4th-6th: ARRL 160m Contest
December 9th: **VARA meeting** (check?)
December 12th-13th: ARRL 10m Contest
December 19th: VE Exams (Harrisonburg)



WANTED: WRITERS & REPORTERS *... or even Tattlers!*

Communication is the name of the game.

And we need you to do some communicating!

Are you in charge of a special event? Are you heading up a public service activity involving ham radio? Did you participate in a recent contest? Do you know of an upcoming activity which is not listed in the calendar on the facing column?

Then we need you!

Please, please, please, we beg you! Call your newsletter editor and give him the story. You don't have to be a writer, you can be a reporter if you prefer. Just call him up, on the phone, on email, on the repeater, even late for dinner! Give him the details and he'll put it in. You never know, he might even screw up the story better than you could yourself!

But the point is, we are only as good as the information we receive. We need information (especially reports) on the activities hams are involved with in the valley. New towers, for sale ads, contest results... you name it. Heard any good jokes lately? Send 'em in!

The deadline for the November Monitor is Wednesday, October 21st. Thank you!

David Fordham, 131 Wayside Drive, Weyers Cave, VA 24486, email fordhadr@jmu.edu, VHF 145.13 repeater, or phone 540-568-3024 (days) or 540-234-0448 (eve).

NETS STILL MEETING

A reminder that the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) nets still meet every Sunday and Monday evening in the northern part of the valley.

The Page County ARES net meets on Sundays at 8:00 pm, on the 146.625 repeater.

The Rockingham County ARES net meets on Monday nights, also at 8:00 pm. On the first Monday of each month, the RARES net meets on 146.55 simplex. On the remaining Monday nights for the month, it meets on the 145.130 repeater.

All hams with VHF capability are urged to check into one or both of these nets to insure your equipment is in good shape, operational, and ready for service. (Besides, it's just plain fun to talk to other hams, isn't it?)

MASSANUTTEN ARA

President: David Tanks, AD4TJ
Vice-President: Walt Lam, KF4BFB
Secretary: Wilton Thomas, KF4BFL
Treasurer: Matthew Huffman, KD4UPL
Board (exp 98): Sandy Mullins, K4PZC
Board (exp 99): Bob Hughes, KF4BFC

MARA meets the first Thursday of each month at Ever's Restaurant on U.S. 11, south of Harrisonburg. Meal starts at 6:30 pm, Business Meeting starts at 7:30 pm
Visitors are welcome.

Dues (\$12/yr) should be mailed to the Treasurer,
Matthew Huffman, KD4UPL, 5166 Mt Clinton Pike,
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

THE VALLEY ARA

President: Ken Harris, KE4GKD
Vice-President: Karen Zirk, KE4WIE
Secretary: Doug Zirk, KE4RMD
Treasurer: Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW

VARA meets the second Wednesday of each month at Gavid's Restaurant on US Route 11 South in Staunton. The meal begins around 6:30 and the business meeting begins at 7:30.
Visitors are welcome.

Dues (\$15/yr) should be mailed to the Treasurer,
Jeff Rinehart, 1344 Hankey Mtn Hwy, Churchville, VA 24421

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