

The M.A.R.A./V.A.R.A. Monitor

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

MARA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all from Verona! It's February already. Can you believe it? Where has January gone? We had **28 people** at our January meeting; decent weather at the time helped. I'm thankful the ice storms we've had have not been major ones. We don't need that stuff.

Our February meeting will be highlighted by a program given by Gary Morin, KE4DFH. He went over to Kenya in August immediately after the American Embassy bombing there, and will talk about his experiences. Y'all come!

Don't forget about Homebrew Night at the April meeting: bring in all the projects you worked on over the winter, and show them off that night to everybody, and hear their Ooohs and Aaaahs!

See you at the meeting!
David Tanks, AD4TJ

VARA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(by the Vice-President)

January Meeting: The meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm, at Gavids Resturant. There were 18 members and 1 guest present. \$22.00 was collected for the 50/50 drawing, \$11.00 of it was won by Elaine Archambeault a guest.

Just a little item to let you know what can happen: I recieved a notice from W5YI that my license was up for renewal, so I signed the form and put my call on it and put a check in the envelope for the fee. I expected that a week or so the license would come. Well, it did. But not for my call! It was a *new* call that was issued *without my consent*. I called the FCC at Gettysberg and they referred me to W5YI in Dallas. I called them and they said that it couldn't happen! It did! They promised they would take care of it. We'll see. I write this in hopes no one else has this problem. Learn from this experience! Send your renewals to the FCC! Good luck

The V.A.R.A. club has a Yeasu 101-R transceiver that was not used enough to make it worth while to keep. We are going to have it checked over and offer it to our members first, if they don't want it , it will be offered to others. I twill be decided after Feb.s meeting The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 pm.



Dick Waldmuller, WB8GIF
Vice President

DON'T DELAY!

**RENEW YOUR
CLUB MEMBERSHIP ... NOW!**

Use the handy renewal form in this issue of the Monitor!

NEW ARES NET FOR AUGUSTA COUNTY

Support your local ARES nets! Yes, NETS, plural. You already know about the Page County ARES net on Sunday nights, and the Rockingham County ARES Net on Monday nights. Now, there is a new kid on the block! As new Emergency Coordinator (EC) for Augusta County, one of my first things to do is get a net going for our own county. My assistant EC's and I have set up, for the present time, the 2nd Thursdays of each month, at 8 pm, on the 147.075 repeater. We'll convene the Augusta County ARES Net. All hams are welcome to check in. We'll be doing a variety of things, like practice passing messages, simulating an emergency situation, zeroing in on a signal (with beams) to get its location, and other things as we think of them. With the advances in technology, such as Cell Phones, pagers, GPS units, the new communications system installed in the county, etc, we'll be less likely than in the past to be called up. But we want to be ready if and when the time comes. In the meantime, get yourself, and your gear, ready! -- Thanks,

David Tanks
AD4TJ

EC for Augusta County

RADIO FOR SALE

Alinco DR-590 Dual Band 2m/440 Transceiver -- Includes cable for packet & mobile mounting bracket -- Radio purchased in 1991 and used in shack. -- Will sell for \$225.00.

*N3GLZ- John Lasher
H-540-298-8433*

NEW HAM STUDY WEBSITE

PREMIER Communications wants to help people to become hams. And they want to help hams upgrade. So the maker of ADI radios has created a new website designed to help newcomers study for and pass the U.S. Amateur Radio license theory exams.

This new internet site gives prospective amateurs and those studying for an upgrade an easy resource for all of the U.S. amateur radio license theory tests. Users of the site have the opportunity to study the entire question pools, from Novice to Extra. They can even gauge their progress by taking live, simulated exams using a java-based applet.

And, when an applicant is ready to find a test session in his or her area, a link is provided to the ARRL VEC homepage and the database of upcoming test sessions.

The website is located on the web at:
<http://www.hamtest.com>

It's there free of charge for anyone to use and enjoy.

Amateur Radio Newsline

ANTARCTIC CALLS

Most of you are probably aware that the callsign blocks for United States Amateur Radio operations in Antarctica are KC4AAA through KC4AAF and KC4USA to KC4USZ. But according to John Hennessee, N1KB, of the ARRL Regulatory Information Branch, these callsigns are not issued by the FCC. Instead, they are administered by either the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Military. As a result, Antarctica callsigns do not appear in the FCC database.

(ARRL via Amateur Radio Newsline)

SPACE STATION HAM RADIO INSTALLATION ANNOUNCED

The first part of the ham gear to be flown on the International Space Station is ready to go. Astronaut Ron Parise, WA4SIR, says that Phase 1 of the International Space Station amateur radio station will consist of 2 meter and 70 cm transceivers and a packet Terminal Node Controller or TNC. Parise says that the hardware has been built and that it is currently undergoing qualification testing.

The space veteran who is an integral part of the ISS Amateur Radio planning group says that the ham gear will arrive on board the space station in several phases. Phase 2 will be higher power equipment with a digitalker and configurations for crossband repeater operation.

The final part of the station, Phase 3, will be a re-configurable station through the use of plug-in modules designed to operate on any band from HF through microwave. It will also be able to operate on any mode.

According to Parise, this station will be commandable from the ground. It will also be interfaced to space stations voice and video channels to allow the ISS television camera system to be used as a source for Slow Scan amateur television.

Parise says that the ham radio station aboard the International Space Station is, and we quote, "a very exciting project and we have a fantastic international team in place to make it happen!"

Phase 1 of the ISS station is expected to come on the air as soon as the first permanent crew takes residence on board the space station.

(VHF Reflector, WA4SIR)

(see the International Space Station link on the MARA home pages! – ed.)

RUSSIAN 10 METER REPEATERS

On the international scene, DK20M and G3LDI both report that FM repeaters are now on the air in Russia on 28.105, 28.235 and 28.595 MHz using. Only one problem with the operation: while these are ham frequencies, the repeaters don't appear to be ham stations. Rather these machines appear to be commercial operators using single channel simplex repeating devices.

(VHF Reflector)

REPORTS FROM HAMS UNDER THE WEATHER

Hello all, ... thought you may like to hear from Joe Moomaw W4XD. -- 73 RayColvin

HI Ray & Nancy:

Good to hear from you when I turned this PC back on yesterday. Here at my daughters's we were without electric power for 8 hours less than a full week. With no way to heat the house son Dick and his wife and two children who had come from St Louis for Christmas and I spent five of those days in Motels. Seems like that fellow Murphy still has me by the tail and doesn't mean to let go. Kathy came down with flu several days ago. Her husband Ed developed pneumonia about the same time. I got a sinus infection and the doc prescribed some real high priced pills for that. Think we are all getting better and will be OK next week. Understand that the storm made right much of a mess for you people up there. Don't know much more . You all take care.

BCNU 73 Joe

Hello Friends:

For those of you who have not heard, I had a heart attack on monday the 18th of January. I went to the EM of Augusta Medical Center, they got me stabilized and did a catheterization Tuesday morning but from my risk factors were not expecting to find any thing serious, Wrong...they found I had two blockages at 95%. Since they do not do the balloon surgery there I was sent immediately by ambulance to the University of Virginia for that. That evening around 8:30pm I had a mini-heart attack that got the nurses and the doctor on duty moving. They gave me two nitro tablets and got things back under control. They called the doctor that did the catheterization and he said that was normal for all he did. There was one blockage that was longer than the other and he put two stints in that one then one in the other. Thursday evening they moved me to a regular room and said I could do some walking on Friday. I got up Friday morning, got washed up and shaved, ate breakfast and started walking about 9:00am until 3:30pm, I would walk the length of my hallway then come back to my room and sit for about 20 min. then go again and did well with it. A friend had brought my wife over to see me and when the doctor came in that evening and examined me and ask how much walking I had done he said he didn't see why I couldn't go home that evening...I didn't argue with him and came home...been doing ok since. Now it take a while of rest, eating the right foods and exercise while the healing process is going on. I want to thank everyone for the kind thoughts and prayers during this illness and all those who have called, sent cards, visited, sent e-mails. This means a lot when you are down. It is things like this we don't think about while we are felling well and going on with our daily lives. Thanks again everyone!

Ray Colvin

FAMILY MATTERS...

Our sympathies are extended to the family of Gerry Brunk K4RBZ, on the recent passing of his mother. Our sympathies are also extended to Ray Pitsenbarger, KE4NNV, on the passing of his mother.

ARRL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO PONDER LEAGUE NAME CHANGE

Could the American Radio Relay League enter the new millennium with a new name? The ARRL Board of Directors has asked the League's Executive Committee to develop a proposal to change the League's name to one that more clearly reflects the focus and purpose of the organization to hams and nonhams alike. The Board charged the Executive Committee to develop a name change proposal for consideration by the Board at its July meeting.

The name-change idea is not a new one. A previous proposal was considered by the Board several years ago, but it was set aside. The now-obscure "Relay" part of the League's name often is the most troublesome to explain nowadays. It refers to the earlier practice, fostered by the League, of relaying long-distance message traffic from station to station in a time when direct contact was not always feasible. The Board's resolution said the League's current name no longer adequately reflects "the breadth of amateur radio" and that the ARRL needs a name that would "clearly reflect our focus and purpose-- Amateur Radio--to those both inside and outside our organization."

The Board said the year 2000 would be "a natural point for change." Members who learned of the resolution this week discussed the issue on various Internet reflectors.

Earlier this decade, the ARRL Board declined a suggestion from the Long Range Planning Committee to change the League's name to the American Amateur Radio League--ironically the same name first suggested by ARRL founder Hiram Percy Maxim in 1914. The November 1992 issue of QST broached the subject to the League's members and encouraged them to express their opinions. Directors overwhelmingly--but not unanimously--abandoned the name-change campaign at the Board's January 1993 meeting.

ARRL Letter

FCC ISSUES 5-MHZ BAND EXPERIMENTAL LICENSE TO ARRL

The FCC has issued an Experimental Radio Service license to the ARRL to permit two-way tests in the vicinity of 5 MHz, the most likely site of the next amateur HF band. The license, bearing the call sign WA2XSY, was issued January 8. A group of 15 current amateurs in various parts of the US and the Caribbean will conduct experimental, two-way RTTY and SSB transmissions within the band 5.100 to 5.450 MHz. To avoid interfering with existing services, the participants will confine their operations to the least-populated 50-kHz segment.

"The idea is to show that an amateur allocation there will improve our emergency communication capabilities by filling the gap between the 3.5 and 7.0 MHz bands," said ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. Sumner pointed out that several of the participants are phone net members in the Caribbean and Gulf area who frequently handle hurricane-related traffic and now must alternate between 75 meters and 40 meters. Other participants are members of a nationwide digital data-forwarding network.

The Experimental license is good for two years. Two studies by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) include an allocation at 5 MHz among the future spectrum needs for the Amateur Service. The subject is not likely to show up on the agenda of a World Radiocommunication Conference for several years, however.

Participants in the WA2XSY experiment may run up to 200 W effective radiated power. Similar multiband trap dipoles capable of operation on 80 and 40 meters as well as at 5 MHz will be employed at each station location. Operation by participants will consist of short transmissions to determine propagation characteristics. Participating stations are located in New Hampshire, Tennessee, Ohio, Florida, Mississippi, Wisconsin, Indiana, California, Utah, New York, Texas, the US Virgin Islands, and Maryland.

ARRL Letter

ULS FINAL ORDER PUBLISHED

The Final Order to implement the new Universal Licensing Service was published December 14, 1998, in the Federal Register. The new rules become effective in mid-February--60 days following publication. Among other things, the ULS will replace the venerable Form 610 series with a new Form 605. Electronic filing of routine Amateur Radio applications will be encouraged but not required. Included in the new rules are changes affecting operation in the US by hams from other countries with which the US has reciprocal agreements. Under the new rules, alien operators would no longer have to apply for a permit to operate in the US, similar to the system already in place between the US and Canada.

ARRL Letter

Missing Minutes

WHEN EVERY *MINUTE* COUNTS!

Your newsletter editor apologizes for the lack of meeting minutes in this month's newsletter. A very hectic travel schedule, coupled with a brand-new computer (complete with bugs to work out), has resulted in a time crunch here at the last minute (*no pun intended*). The editor did not have time to retype the VARA minutes (which were mailed in hardcopy in plenty of time, so it's no fault of the VARA secretary). Nor did he have time to get a second copy of the MARA minutes, either (which were sent from an Apple machine, and the newsletter editor's new Intel-based computer refused to touch the Apple format with a ten-foot pole, -- again, no fault of the MARA acting secretary). The minutes from both clubs January meetings will appear in next month's issue -- I promise!

I have recently received several really great articles from willing individuals. Time constraints have prevented some of these from appearing in the newsletter, but rest assured, you will see them in print shortly! Keep those articles coming!

The deadline for the March issue of the Monitor is Friday, February 20th.

CALENDAR

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|--------------------------|---|
| <u>Feb 4:</u> | MARA February Meeting |
| <u>Feb 6-7:</u> | 10-10 International SSB Contest |
| <u>Feb 10:</u> | VARA February Meeting |
| <u>Feb 11:</u> | Augusta County ARES Net (147.075+) |
| <u>Feb 13:</u> | Harrisburg PA Hamfest (Oberlin, PA) |
| <u>Feb 21:</u> | VE Exams, 9:30 am, Mass. Vo-Tech Center |
| <u>Feb 20-21:</u> | ARRL International DX Contest CW |
| <u>Feb 26-27:</u> | CQ 160m Contest Phone |
| <u>Feb 28:</u> | Vienna VA Hamfest |
| <u>Mar 4:</u> | MARA March Meeting |
| <u>Mar 6-7:</u> | ARRL International DX Contest Phone |
| <u>Mar 10:</u> | VARA March Meeting |
| <u>Mar 11:</u> | Augusta County ARES Net (147.075+) |
| <u>Mar 13-14:</u> | Charlotte NC Hamfest |
| <u>Mar 20-21:</u> | Virginia QSO Party |
| <u>Mar 21:</u> | Charleston WV Hamfest |
| <u>Mar 27-28:</u> | Timonium MD Hamfest |
| <u>April 1:</u> | MARA Homebrew Night (<i>no foolin'!</i>) |
| <u>April 24:</u> | Chesapeake VA Hamfest |
| <u>May 2:</u> | Antietam/Hagerstown Hamfest |
| <u>May 14-15:</u> | Dayton OH Hamfest |

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Use this handy renewal form for your 1999 Club Dues!

VARA – The VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Mail with \$15 to: Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW, 1344 Hankey Mtn Hwy, Churchville, VA 24421

NAME: _____ CALL _____

EMAIL: _____ HOME PHONE: _____

ARRL: Yes No ARES: Yes No SKYWARN ID: _____

Are you interested in receiving the *Monitor* electronically in Adobe PDF format? Yes No

If your address on the mailing label is correct, no further info is needed; otherwise complete the following:

ADDRESS: _____

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WORK PHONE (optional): _____

MARA – The MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.

Mail with \$12 to: Matthew Huffman, KD4UPL, 5166 Mt Clinton Pike, Harrisonburg, VA 22802

NAME: _____ CALL _____

EMAIL: _____ HOME PHONE: _____

ARRL: Yes No ARES: Yes No SKYWARN ID: _____

Are you interested in receiving the *Monitor* electronically in Adobe PDF format? Yes No

If your address on the mailing label is correct, no further info is needed; otherwise complete the following:

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP+4 _____

WORK PHONE (optional): _____

MASSANUTTEN ARA

President: David Tanks, AD4TJ
Vice-President: Sandy Mullins, K4PZC
Secretary: Wilton Thomas, KF4BFL
Treasurer: Matthew Huffman, KD4UPL
Board (exp 99): Bob Hughes, KF4BFC
Board (exp 00): Walt Lam, KF4BFB

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

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 22802

THE VALLEY ARA

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

<http://www.shenval.org/W4MUS/>

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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Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
c/o David R. Fordham
131 Wayside Drive
Weyers Cave, VA 24486-2421

