

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

Howdy, y'all! Winter is over! We survived another one with no major mishaps. Great! Now we can enjoy Spring, with its great tower- and antenna-planting weather. Just be very safe when you put them up.

Thanks to Jerry K4RBZ for the video of HCJB, the international Short Wave station, located in Quito, Ecuador. That is the birthplace of the Quad antenna.

Remember that April is Homebrew Night; bring in your projects for display. May's program will be either a video tape, or several showcasing Kenwood products; we'll know for sure later. Stay tuned!

Congratulations to Karen Zirk KE4WIE (and to her husband Doug KE4RMD) on the birth of their baby girl. A future ham in the making! (?)

The sun spots are on the rise! Ten meters is opening more and more often, and the openings on 6 meters are getting more distance to them. Around March 15 hams in New England were working South Americans on 6 with strong signals, a good indication that the sun spot cycle is working towards its expected peak in 1 to 3 years. World-wide DX on 6 meters will be possible at the peak, 10 meters will be open several hours after dark, and 20 meters may be open most of the night. Have your QSL cards ready!

A few club meetings ago, someone raised the question of starting a database holding the names of those who had test equipment or expertise and who would be willing to help out their fellow hams when the need arose. Well, this issue of the Monitor addresses that item:

Look on page 11 for a questionnaire. All hams are welcome to complete the questionnaire, but I would especially invite MARA members to step forward and let us know what your expertise is, and if you would be willing to share experience, assistance, or equipment with the rest of us. Thank you very much for your support of our fellow amateurs.

See you soon.

*David Tanks AD4TJ
MARA President*

HELP NEEDED WITH MARCH OF DIMES WALK APRIL 24th.

Norman is still looking for volunteers to assist with the annual March of Dimes walk on April 24th. If you can spare a couple of hours on a Saturday morning, let him know. This is one walk where the hams are really and truly appreciated. Our communications assistance has proved invaluable to this group. Norman's number is 289-5801.

ZIRK HARMONIC HOME

Congratulations to Doug and Karen Zirk (KE4RMD and KE4WIE, respectively) on their new harmonic, home from the hospital and doing fine.

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DEAR TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

Last year I upgraded Girlfriend 1.0 to Wife 1.0 and almost immediately noticed that the new program began initiating unexpected child processes that took up a lot of space and valuable resources. No mention of this phenomenon was included in the documentation. In addition, Wife 1.0 installs itself into all other programs and launches during system initialization, where it monitors all other system activity. Applications such as Poker night 3.3 and Beer bash 2.5 no longer run, crashing the system whenever selected. I cannot seem to purge Wife 1.0 from my system. I am thinking about going back to Girlfriend 1.0 but the normal uninstall routine does not work on this program. Can you help me?

A stumped user

Dear Stumped User:

This is a very common problem men complain about, but it is mostly due to a fundamental misconception.

Many users upgrade from Girlfriend 1.0 to Wife 1.0 with the idea that Wife 1.0 is merely a "utilities and entertainment" program. Let me be very clear about this: Wife 1.0 is an OPERATING SYSTEM and is designed by its creator to run *everything*.

WARNING, DO NOT TRY to uninstall, delete, or purge the program once it is installed. Trying to get rid of Wife 1.0 can be disastrous. Doing so improperly may end up damaging your hard drive and/or your floppy drives.

Trying to uninstall or remove Wife 1.0, even by following the proper, lengthy, and detailed procedures, will almost certainly destroy valuable system resources, including what you think are hidden files. Let me say this again: you cannot go back to Girlfriend 1.0 because Wife 1.0 is simply not designed to allow this.

Some have tried to install Girlfriend 2.0 or Wife 2.0, but end up with more problems than they started with. Look in your manual under Warnings-Alimony/Child Support. And the upgrades usually have more bugs than the original versions.

Others have tried to run Girlfriend 1.0 in the background, while Wife 1.0 is running. This type of multitasking is very draining on your resources. Your system performance inevitably suffers. What is worse, eventually Wife 1.0 detects Girlfriend 1.0 and a major system conflict occurs. This can lead to a non-recoverable system crash. In cases like this, Wife 1.0 has been known to destroy your most critical software, leaving your system drive permanently crippled.

Some users have tried to download similar products, such as Fling and 1NiteStand. Often their systems have become infected with a virus.

I recommend you keep Wife 1.0 and just deal with the situation as best you can. Wife 1.0 is a great program but requires unbelievably high maintenance.

Having Wife 1.0 installed myself, I might also suggest you read the entire section regarding General Protection Faults (GPFs). Once you install Wife 1.0, you must then assume responsibility for all faults and problems that might occur. The best course of action when a fault occurs, regardless of what caused the error, will be to click quickly on the apologize button then the reset button, within seconds of when the lockup occurs. Your system will run smoothly as long as you take the blame for all GPFs.

Suggestions for improved operation of Wife 1.0: weekly use utilities such as TLC and FTD. Another hint: frequently use Communicator 5.0. And remember, Wife 1.0 is designed to control all other applications, so don't even bother trying to manage your system resources yourself. Good luck.



Tech Support

Complete HF Station

FOR SALE

Yaesu FT-757GX in good “cosmetic” condition, excellent mechanical and electrical condition.

It comes with a hand mike, built-in Iambic keyer, wide and narrow CW filters selected from the front panel. It has two (2) built-in VFOs, 10 memories, and lots of other bells and whistles. Covers all nine HF bands, 160m through 10m.

I have both technical and operating manuals that will go with it.

How much would you be willing to give for this setup?

But wait, there’s more!

The package also includes an Astron RS-35A power supply, a Nye straight key, a set of Brown Brothers BTL-A paddles, a Swan SWR meter, an MFJ Versatuner II Model 941-D antenna tuner, a hustler bumper-mount antenna system complete with resonators for 75, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands.

Make me an offer. I’d prefer to sell the entire lot as a package for a low price, but I will consider splitting it up.

Call Ken Purdy, WB1CKP, at 540-801-8001. Items can be inspected (by appointment) at 1184A Old Furnace Road, Harrisonburg.



“Daddy, what’s that funny-looking round thing with all the holes in it on the telephone?”

Like Auctions?

Donated Radio Up For Highest Bidder

The MARA club was left a radio, power supply and an antenna tuner, by the late Vernon Schmidt, W4CND. At the club meeting, it was decided to make the whole package available to the highest bidder, with sealed bids accepted, \$450.00 as a minimum, with the opening to be done at Field Day, time to be decided later.

The equipment consists of: a Heath SB-1400 HF solid-state transceiver: it is identical to the Yaesu FT 747, and covers all HF bands from 160 to 10 meters, including the WARC bands, CW/AM/SSB modes, 100 watts output, hand mike included.

It has the companion Heath power supply/speaker SBA-1400-4, rated at 20 amps, and has terminal posts on the back for powering accessories, or it can be used as a stand-alone supply for another radio.

Also included is an MFJ Versa Tuner II, model MFJ 949D. (It’s a 300 watt antenna matcher with a Peak/Average switch for the meter, a built-in dummy load, 2 coax antenna jacks, balanced line input, long-wire input, etc.)

The whole station is set up on a steel rack and makes a nice compact unit. I have checked the system out and everything works; the CW delay needs adjusting, it stays in transmit too long for me. I brought it to the March club meeting for everyone to get a look at it, and will bring it to the May and June meetings.

Bids will be accepted by our treasurer Matthew KD4UPL, or myself, up until the opening time at Field Day. In case of a tie, the tied bidders will re-bid immediately until a high bid is accepted. Please bring a check along if you have made a bid, so if you are the winner you can take it (the radio) home with you. Happy bidding!

*David Tanks AD4TJ
MARA President*

From N3GLZ

de DE

The Delaware Lehigh Amateur Radio Club, Inc. based in the Easton, Bethlehem, and Allentown, PA area, with about 400 members, will be on the low bands, *en masse*, June 5 and 6, 1999, to enable hams throughout the world to earn the coveted and beautiful Worked All DLARC certificate.

Hams need to log QSOs with at least 50 of the 400 active DLARC members. On band or combination of bands, 160 meters through 10 meters. Multiple QSOs and bands do not count extra. Endorsements are available in additional 50 member increments. VHF and UHF QSOs do not count for this award.

Log the date, time, call, name, band, and signal reports. Exchanged. QSLs are not necessary, but admired. Submit a copy of your log to the Delaware Lehigh ARC, Greystone Building, Gracedale Complex, Nazareth, PA 18064. No strict time limits apply to the operating or award submission.

DLARC members will be active on SSB generally around frequencies ending in 70 kcs. in the general class license bands, and on CW around up 50 kcs. from the lower band edges. Example frequencies are 3550, 3870, 3970, 7070, and 7270 kcs. Many novices and tech plus licensees will be active on 10 meters. Some may also be exchanging 10-10 numbers and giving out QSOs from Northampton, Lehigh, and surrounding counties for the county hunters. All will be calling CQ DLARC. The DLARC club station, W3OK, should also be active.

The object is to make friends, obtain the beautiful certificate, and practice on HF for the upcoming Field Day exercise. This is *not* a contest. Rapid fire QSOs are discouraged. We want to encourage new hams to explore the low bands, gain confidence in operating, practice CW, and enjoy using their radios and antennas. It should excite them enough to pursue upgrading.

For further information contact Bill Goodman, K3ANS, via telephone at office 610-253-2745 or home 610-258-5063, by E-mail at goodmancpa@enter.net, via the DX Packet Cluster at K3ANS > W3MM, on W3OK/R 146.70 mcs., or on HF in the DX pile ups. The ham with the most members worked will be given free admission to the DLARC hamfest, in September.

Contributed by John Lasher, N3GLZ

WA4ITY STILL KICKING...

Here is a note from Charlie WA4ITY:

From: "Charles E. Garner" <garmerc@cfw.com>

I wanted to write and thank you all for your good wishes, thoughts, and prayers.

They found two blockages, one 80% and one 90%, did balloon angioplasty on both and placed stents (wire cages) in both. They tell me everything went very well and both places were opened up to 100% again. However, there is a 15-25% chance each place may close up again in 2-6 months as a result of the healing process (scar tissue forms over the places that were opened), so we'll have to wait and see.

I'm a little tender and don't have much stamina at the moment, but doing OK and expect to be feeling even better each day. Of course while I was having the heart plumbing worked on, the kidney stone they worked on 2 1/2 weeks ago decided to act up, so I'm dealing with that as well. I guess when it rains, it pours!

My next appointment is Friday morning, so I hope to be at the luncheon afterwards and see most of you there.

*73, Charlie, WA4ITY
(Contributed by Ray Colvin)*

IN PASSING...

Condolences to Rusty Rothgeb, on the passing of his grandmother on February 26.

Information by Ray Colvin

Over the Hill. ... way, way over.

YUP, WELL, ...

I recently traveled to the Mall to meet with my fellow "Dead Wood Bench, DX Chasing, Commiserating, Fellow Ham Flaming Curmudgeons." I especially wanted to hear the views of a fellow DWBDCCFHFC on the recent internet/cluster ravings.

I explained the endless grouching about Frequency Spotting and another thread about the use of an Internet auction listing on the reflector. The sage listened to my explanations and nodded his head. "Yes, there will always be debates like this"

he tapped out with his cane on the floor, "it's the nature of us beasts, we always want it OUR way" (*continued*)

"So about this frequency thing, who is right?" I yelled into his ear trumpet.

"Well we *all* are. We develop practices which make it easy for ourselves. When someone uses a technique different from what the rest of us are using, or one which makes us think or work a bit, we become upset."

"But surely there is some common ground with which we can agree?" I screamed.

"Nope...can't happen...won't happen...never happened before ... and will never happen in the future."

"But during the CW contest I saw a cluster spot berating a previous spotter about mistyping a call which made him QSY for a new multiplier, of course to no avail." (Truth...I did see this spot!)

The old-timer took another slug of Geritol and looked to the heavens. "In my day of crystals and plug in coils, it could take 10 minutes to change frequencies. Sometimes the multiplier had died and was buried and the family was finishing probate before you got to the frequency. In those days 200 QSO's during a contest was a good effort."

"So your point?" I asked.

"Maybe we should all go back to 'spark', then it won't matter what frequency you think the dang DX is on...you'll hear him anywhere you tune the dial."

I left the Mall and guided my walker to the handicapped parking area, still not knowing the answer to my dilemma. It's time to meet with the fellows at MacDonalds (or is the Golden Corral today?) and ask the old gray Hamfester fellow and query him about his thoughts on Ebay.com. But first, better stop at home and change my 'Depends'.

Contributed by David Gordon, KB4LCI

FCC'S RILEY HOLLINGSWORTH ON HAM RADIO ENFORCEMENT

After six months as the FCC's top Amateur Radio enforcer, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, says he's pleased with the progress he's made and the support he's received from the amateur community. "I thought it would take a year or two years to be at this point," he told ARRL staff members March 17 during a visit to ARRL Headquarters. "We've had some very good enforcement luck."

Amateur Radio enforcement has been "one of the few victories the Commission has been having these days," Hollingsworth said, and he doesn't expect the impending FCC restructuring--including creation of a new Enforcement

Bureau--to affect its course or momentum. At the same time, Hollingsworth expressed some concern that his efforts not be perceived as the FCC "gone crazy" on Amateur Radio enforcement. "I don't want people saying, 'This is too much government,'" he said.

Hollingsworth said that enthusiasm for amateur enforcement has even spread to FCC field personnel, some of whom are hams and who now ask to be included in amateur cases. He pointed to a recent case of interference to a Pennsylvania repeater system that came out of an investigation at the field-office level.

Calling Amateur Radio "a great natural resource," Hollingsworth said he felt privileged to be in his current enforcement role and was enjoying his work immensely. At this stage in the FCC's latest enforcement initiative, Hollingsworth says he's still making up for the FCC's "long period of neglect" of amateur enforcement. But he said he also looks forward to the day when he's no longer needed. He also said he can appreciate the frustrations of the Amateur Auxiliary during the years of FCC enforcement neglect and he welcomes their cooperation in the future.

In the weeks ahead, Hollingsworth said he hopes to turn his attention to such problems as the incursion of unlicensed operators on 10 meters--the so-called "freebanders" who often stray onto amateur frequencies--as well as the improper marketing of equipment to unlicensed individuals and examination fraud cases. He also plans to add some casual monitoring capabilities at his Gettysburg office. "If they know that we're out there bandsurfing, it will help," he said.

Hollingsworth said he's currently working about a month behind in replying and advised those contacting him to use either a letter or e-mail (rholling@fcc.gov) instead of the telephone.

ARRL officials and staff members were quick to praise Hollingsworth's successes as well as his approach, which has been a combination of stern sanctions and "jawboning" with alleged offenders to resolve enforcement issues. As a result, he has not had to designate any amateur cases for hearings. "Few hams have the ability to change the hobby radically," ARRL First Vice President Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, told Hollingsworth. "We're real fond of you." ARRL Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, WA1STO, called Hollingsworth "a huge breath of fresh air" for ham radio.

During his visit, Hollingsworth made a quick contact with an acquaintance on 20 meters from W1AW. He also had the rare opportunity to wield the original Wouff Hong and Rettysnitch--the traditional symbols manufactured and invoked by "The Old Man" during the early years of the hobby to combat poor operating practices. League officials expressed the hope that the experience would provide an additional boost to Hollingsworth's present-day enforcement efforts.

From the ARRL Letter

APRS EMERGENCY CALL BRINGS HELP

When Scott Ratchford, KC5JGV, witnessed a bad accident during a snowstorm on Pennsylvania's I-76 recently, he immediately grabbed his cell phone and called 911. When that--and several other possible combinations--failed, he tried an emergency call on 2-meters. Again, no luck.

Two people were trapped inside an overturned vehicle, and Ratchford was getting desperate. "Here I am in the middle of who knows where, a huge snowstorm, a serious accident, folks needing help, no one answering on .52!" he said in a March 8 posting about the incident on the APRS Special Interest Group. "So, I switch the MIC-E to 7, and hit the button." This sent an emergency mike-encoder signal out over the Automatic Position Reporting System. (*editor's note: see article on page 2 of last month's Monitor, "Ham's Version of Northstar - And It's Free"*)

Ratchford's emergency beacon was spotted by several stations who immediately contacted the Pennsylvania State Police. But the cops "don't do latitude and longitude," said Dan Velez, W4DJV, in Virginia, one of the stations monitoring the call.

Clay Owen, AA3JY, in Pennsylvania, had better luck. He also called the state police and was able to give them references to exits and route numbers, thanks to APRS+ and the Delorme Street Atlas. "I also gave them the name of the individual to be contacted, thanks to QRZ built into this program," he reported.

APRS developer Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, was among those noting the emergency call in the Pennsylvania-Maryland-New Jersey area. Bruninga notes that APRS-DOS will display the nearest mile marker on interstates but "apparently I missed I-76 in the database."

Unknown to Ratchford, the message was received and understood. "Little did I know that the APRS message was received, as a trooper had arrived within minutes of my transmission," he said. Only when the trooper asked for him by name as he was about to leave did Ratchford learn that APRS had delivered the message and that someone had called the police. "I left the scene feeling very happy about our hobby and especially our interest in APRS," he said.

BRIEFS FROM ALL OVER

Solar activity was up slightly this week. Although average sunspot numbers were about the same, average solar flux was up about 12 points over last week. Expect solar activity to go lower in the near future. Look for solar flux to drop to around 125 in early April, and then begin to rise around the end of the month. Watch for a slowly rising solar flux to reach 150 around April 10. (*editor's note: see article on page 5 of last month's Monitor, "How to Use the Solar Flux Numbers" for how these numbers impact your operations.*)

The Texas legislature is considering a PRB-1-type bill, similar to the bill passed in Virginia last year, protecting hams' rights to install antennas and their support structures. - ARRL Letter

Ham Trader Yellow Sheets QRT: After 38 years in business, the Ham Trader Yellow Sheets will cease publication. The twice-monthly classified publication is being absorbed into the Amateur Radio Trader, according to an announcement in the last edition of the Yellow Sheets. Yellow Sheets subscribers will automatically get an Amateur Radio Trader subscription. - *ARRL Letter*

Contest Yearbook discontinued: The ARRL Contest Yearbook has been discontinued. Anyone needing contest rules, forms, or other information on ARRL-sponsored operating events can obtain them from ARRLWeb, <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>

Burundi (9U) contacts disallowed: The ARRL DXCC Desk says it's determined that documentation for operations from Burundi (9U) since 1994 was forged.

To get a **sample of OSCAR Satellite Report**, e-mail a request to: oseport@aol.com Be sure to include your mailing address with your request. For a **free sample issue of Amateur Television Quarterly** your e-mail request goes to: atvq@aol.com Be sure to include your mailing address with your request.

Special Canadian call sign: The call sign XL3D has been assigned for use on the 25th anniversary of the Ontario DX Association for the period March 25 to April 25, 1999. - *RAC*

New Canadian Prefix: **VY0** becomes effective April 1: The new Canadian Territory of Nunavut, VY0, comes into effect on April 1, 1999. To reflect this new addition, Nunavut will become a separate multiplier in the two RAC Contests, commencing with the RAC Canada Day Contest on July 1, 1999. - *RAC*

ULS on hold for hams: While the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau began using the Universal Licensing System (ULS) February 16, hams remain in a holding pattern on ULS until the FCC establishes a ULS Amateur Service database. That's not expected to happen until later this year. This means that hams still must use Form 610 and its variations. These so-called "pre-ULS forms" are valid until further notice. On-line services are limited to Form 900 renewals within 120 days of expiration and Form 610V vanity call sign application. License modifications are not yet available on-line unless done at the same time as a renewal. The ULS is a new, interactive licensing database that consolidates and replaces 11 existing databases and licensing systems, including the Amateur Service. Among other things, it will replace the venerable FCC Form 610 series with a new Form 605 and provide on-line filing, modification, and renewal for amateurs.

SPACE BRIEFS

SunSat is now operational. The satellite lifted off the pad in late February. The SunSat package includes digital store-and-forward capability and a voice 'parrot' repeater system that will be used primarily for educational demonstrations. The satellite has two VHF and two UHF transmit-receive systems. Current downlink activity from SunSat is on 436.250 MHz, using a FSK Bell 202 format at 1200 baud. For more information on SunSat, visit the following URL: <http://sunsat.ee.sun.ac.za>.

Stensat is the latest ham radio satellite to be announced. This tiny satellite is being built by a team in Northern Virginia for a September, 1999 launch. Stensat is a small (12 cubic inch, 1 pound) satellite which is intended for use by amateur radio operators world wide and will operate as a single channel mode "J" FM voice repeater. The earth-to-space uplink frequency will be 145.84 MHz and the space-to-earth downlink will be 436.625 MHz. Stensat will periodically transmit 1200 baud AX.25 for broadcasting the following telemetry: temperature, bus current, bus voltage, receiver RSSI and 3 digital "0/1" sun sensors. Additionally, amateur radio operators will be able to "PING" the satellite causing the satellite to broadcast a telemetry packet by transmitting a six digit DTMF command to the receiver uplink. Information can be found at <http://www.erols.com/hheidt> or <http://ssdl.stanford.edu/opal/index.html>

JAWSAT coming: As announced in last month's Monitor, JAWSAT is also scheduled for launch in September.

Citizen Explorer planned: The proposed frequencies for the small satellite called 'Citizen Explorer' have been announced. The proposed plan suggests a uplink/downlink combination of 145.860/436.750 MHz. Citize Explorer is scheduled for launch in December of 1999. More information is available at <http://citizen-explorer.colorado.edu>. --Stephen Horan, New Mexico State University

Remember, any time you wish to find information on the available ham radio satellites, check out: <http://www.amsat.org/amsat/sats/n7hpr/satsum.html>.

How to work MIR: Scott, WA6LIE, has a set of instructions on how to work the Mir spacestation. Copies of the instructions are available from Scott by e-mail at wa6lie@juno.com, or by packet at wa6lie@wa6lie.#wcca.ca.usa.noam.

Mission status of STS-96 --the next ISS flight-- is as follows:
Vehicle: Discovery Target launch: May 20, 1999 Mission duration: 9 days, 19 hours and 56 minutes Orbital Information: 173 nautical miles/51.6 degrees this means the Shuttle will go right over the Shenandoah Valley.

DO YOU KNOW YOUR COUNTIES?

On the next page is a map of the Shenandoah Valley area, showing the county lines, along with the independent city outlines.

How many of these counties can you identify? Why would you need to know where a county is? Weather, that's why!

Let's say the National Weather Service reports a tornado in Mineral County, West Virginia, moving northeast at 50 miles per hour. Is that tornado heading towards you?

Or say that a severe thunderstorm is reported in Clarke County Virginia, headed southwest at 25 miles per hour. How long do you have until it reaches your home?

See how many of the following counties and cities you can properly identify on the map:

Virginia Counties:

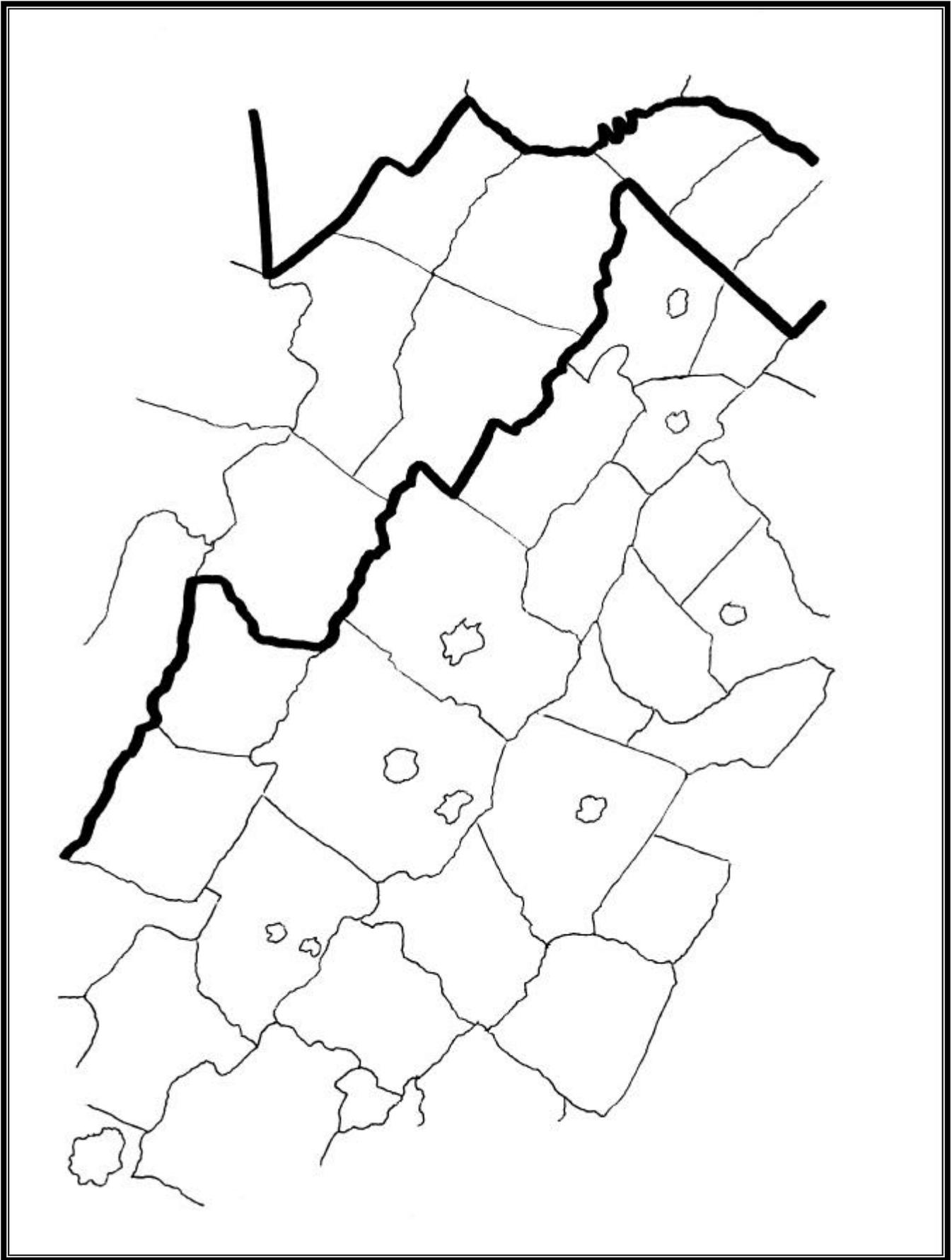
Albemarle	Frederick
Alleghany	Greene
Amherst	Highland
Appomattox	Loudon Louisa
Augusta	Madison
Bath	Nelson
Bedford	Orange
Botetourt	Page
Buckingham	Rappahannock
Clarke	Rockbridge
Craig	Rockingham
Culpeper	Shenandoah
Fauquier	Warren
Fluvanna	

West Virginia Counties:

BerkeleyGrant	Morgan
Hampshire	Pendleton
Hardy	Pocahontas
Jefferson	Randolph
Mineral	Tucker

Others

Garrett Co., MD	Lexington
Allegany Co., MD	Lynchburg
Washington Co., MD	Roanoke
Buena Vista	Staunton
Charlottesville	Waynesboro
Harrisonburg	Winchester



You are where?

MARA SECRETARY'S REPORT

March 4, 1999 Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association was held on March 4th at Evers Restaurant at Mt. Crawford, Virginia. Those who came to dine met at 6:15 p.m. and the regular meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. There were twenty-five members and guests present.

The president, David (AD4TJ) called the meeting to order and everyone introduced themselves with name, call sign, and location.

The following reports and announcements were made:

ARES: Eight or nine people are needed for the March of Dimes Walk-a-thon to be held on April 24th. A sign up sheet was passed. The assembly point will be the K-Mart parking lot at 8 a.m. on that date. If you did not sign up and can help, call Norman (KA4EEN). Also net control stations were needed to March 15th and 29th.

The motion regarding printing emergency services maps in color was tabled until the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: The proposals of what to do with extra money in the treasury was tabled also until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: The Field Day Committee was appointed. It was reported that a couple of the regular resource people would not be there this year due to work and other plans.

A 160 to 10 meter Heathkit donated to the club by Vernon Schmidt was discussed. It was voted to offer the equipment in the news-letter and solicit sealed bids with a minimum of four hundred and fifty dollars (\$450). The bids will be due at Field Day.

Various hamfests and contests were announced and will be listed at other places in the newsletter.

TREASURER: There are a few renewals out yet at meeting time. The balance in the treasury was \$2,545.92.

MISC: The 50/50 drawing was won by Al (N3JB).

The April meeting will be "HOMEBREW" time again. Bring along your projects, etc. and be ready

to demonstrate/explain them. This is always an interesting meeting.

Speaking of interesting, the program presented by Gerry (K4RBZ) was a video showing equipment and operation of HCJB, Quito, Ecuador. Those of us who listen to shortwave certainly at one time or another have come across "the voice of the Andes". I personally always enjoyed it when stationed in Italy and Okinawa.

Respectfully submitted
Wilton B. Thomas, KF4BFL
MARA Secretary

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 1: MARA Homebrew Night (*no foolin'!*)
April 8: Augusta County ARES Net (147.075+)
April 10: Richmond VE team license exams
April 14: VARA April Meeting
April 17: Harrisonburg VE team license exams
April 24: Chesapeake VA Hamfest
April 24: Harrisonburg March of Dimes walk

May 1: Stuarts Draft March of Dimes Walk
May 1-2: ARI International DX Contest
May 2: Antietam/Hagerstown Hamfest
May 6: MARA Club Meeting
May 8-9: CQ-M International DX Contest
May 12: VARA Club Meeting
May 14-15: Dayton OH Hamfest
May 13: Augusta County ARES Net (147.075+)
May 29-30: CQ WW WPX CW Contest

June 6: Ol' Virginia Manassas Hamfest
June 26-27: Field Day
August 1: Berryville Hamfest

VARA MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 1999 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association club meeting for March was held at Gavid's Restaurant in Staunton on March 10, 1999. The meeting was opened around 7:30 pm by Interim President, Dick Waldmuller (WB8GIF). There were 13 members present at the meeting.

The can for the 50/50 drawing went around for anyone interested in buying tickets. We collected \$16 and Bill Shott (W2ZVM) won the drawing.

No ARES report was given because David Tanks (AD4TJ) was not present at the club meeting. However, we were reminded that the Augusta County ARES Net takes place on the second Thursday of the month on the 147.075 (+) Waynesboro Repeater.

There was no Skywarn Report for this month, although we have had some interesting weather this month.

The Secretary's Reports for both the month of January and the month of February were included in the last Monitor. Nancy (KE4PHP) made a motion to accept both reports as written in the Monitor. Pat (KD4WWF) seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

No Treasurer's report was given because Jeff Rinehart, (W4PJW) was not present at the club meeting.

Under new business, once again, VARA has been asked to help out with the March of Dimes Walk America in Stuarts Draft. The walk is expected to take place on May 1, 1999. The club agreed to take this matter up at the April club meeting.

Under old business, the Yaesu radio to be sold by the club was determined to have a bad transformer in it. After discussion by those club members present, a motion was made by Ray (KE4NNV) to determine what the cost of a new transformer would be. The motion was seconded by Daniel (KB2TBL) and the motion carried.

Also, Karen Zirk's daughter is doing better. As many of you know, the daughter was born prematurely, weighing only two pounds. Well, her daughter has grown to about three-and-one-half pounds now, and is doing fine.

With no other suggestions or comments, Ray (KF4HVR) made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ray (KE4NNV) seconded the motion, and the meeting was closed unanimously at 8:10 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
J. Daniel farrow, KB2TBL,
Secretary*

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Well, not really intentionally. We need more news!

Please, please, send your newsletter editor information on upcoming events, special walks, runs, and travels. Let him know about how you did in the contest, blow your own horn a little. Comments or opinions? Send 'em in!

Send articles via email to: fordhadr@jmu.edu

Send articles via U.S. mail to 131 Wayside Drive, Weyers Cave, VA, 24486.

Read articles over the phone at 540-234-0448... the newsletter editor can transcribe and type them himself. Or leave a message at 540-568-3024 and he'll call you back.

Tell him about events over the air. Look for him on the local Harrisonburg repeaters.

Your editor's work schedule prevents him from attending many of the meetings, but hey, we are communicators. So start communicating. Send those articles and newsnotes in today.

The deadline for the May issue of the Monitor is April 20.

MARA 1999 ASSISTANCE QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME: _____ CALL: _____

CITY: _____ HOME PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

BEST DAYS AND TIMES TO MEET OR PHONE ME: _____

I hold some knowledge or experience in the following areas, and would be glad to share with others:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> VHF FM (2-meter mobile) | <input type="checkbox"/> Packet Node configuration | <input type="checkbox"/> Tower Installation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> UHF-Lo (220 band) | <input type="checkbox"/> APRS Position Reporting | <input type="checkbox"/> HF (kw) Amplifier use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> UHF-Hi (440 band) | <input type="checkbox"/> QRP operation | <input type="checkbox"/> Simple RFI detection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HF worldwide bands | <input type="checkbox"/> QRP construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Complex RFI detection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Microwaves (above 440) | <input type="checkbox"/> Repeater setup and operation | <input type="checkbox"/> Direction Finding/Foxhunts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amateur slowscan television | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio Controlled (RC) models | <input type="checkbox"/> Weather stations w/packet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amateur fastscan television | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Handling (general) | <input type="checkbox"/> Weather satellite monitoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ham Satellite Operation | <input type="checkbox"/> HF Traffic Nets | <input type="checkbox"/> Skywarn Operations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ham Satellite Tracking | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Net Control Op | <input type="checkbox"/> Tube transceiver diagnostics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moonbounce | <input type="checkbox"/> DX'ing and QSL'ing | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid State Xceiver diagnostics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meteor Scatter | <input type="checkbox"/> HF Contesting | <input type="checkbox"/> Oscilloscope operations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Simple Packet Radio | <input type="checkbox"/> VHF/UHF Contesting | <input type="checkbox"/> Deviation checks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Packet BBS's (users) | <input type="checkbox"/> Antennas: VHF/UHF | <input type="checkbox"/> Modulation checks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Packet BBS operator | <input type="checkbox"/> Antennas: simple wire | <input type="checkbox"/> Power measurements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Packet Node (users) | <input type="checkbox"/> Antennas: HF beams | <input type="checkbox"/> SWR measurements |

OTHER: _____

I have the following equipment, books, shareware, test gear, or other stuff that I might be willing to share or loan to another ham for short periods of time, or use myself to help another ham in the area:

Bring this questionnaire to the meeting or mail to David Tanks, RR 1 Box 114, Verona, VA 24482

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: vacant
Vice-President: Dick Waldmuller WB8GIF
Secretary: Daniel Farrow KB2TBL
Treasurer: Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW

<http://www.hamsnet.net/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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