

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 from the 'burb of Verona! We had 23 souls brave the heat and make it to the July MARA meeting. Lots of Public Service opportunities coming up, hamfests, too. Congratulations to our newest club members: Bob KG4CHL, Richard KC3AN, and his wife Phyllis N4VZC.

Field Day. It can be summed up in one word: WOW!!!! Good band conditions, an adequate supply of operators, no rain (practically), not too hot (until we started to tear down), all contributed to a great outcome: one of the best scores (if not the best) we have ever achieved for Field Day: 8,976 points. Way to go, you guys!

Don't forget our Christmas Banquet this year, to be held at Ever's, on the regular meeting night of December 2, at 6:30 pm, buffet menu as usual.

We had good attendance at our August meeting with 27 present. I had a short program on Direction-Finding; and I mean short! It really was just an introduction into the basics of it. You never know when we may be called up to help locate a downed airplane, or track down a jammer. Colin said that the Rockingham County ARES net will include some practice in that area, so listen in on Monday nights at 8 pm and see what is happening there. Also, John WA4KQX, will present a program on Fox Hunting/Direction Finding at the September 2 MARA meeting; make plans to attend and learn some good stuff!

We have been soooooo lucky so far this year, to not have had bad weather. Don't count on it to stay that way. Are you prepared to provide emergency communications if called on? Do you know the procedures of your local ARES net? Can you run one if needed? If not, NOW is the time to get prepared. Volunteer to be an NCO (Net Control Operator) to get a feel of how things will run in a real situation. Let your EC know that you are prepared to provide a service. With snow and ice coming up, he needs to know who would be able to provide a 4-wheel drive vehicle for transportation if the need arises. He needs to know who has mobile HF/VHF capabilities for getting communication into a dead spot for VHF repeater/simplex operations. Keep him informed so he will know what services the Amateur community can provide the local authorities. ---See you in September!!!

*David Tanks AD4TJ
MARA President*

Due to out-of-town commitments by your newsletter editor in July, this is the combined August/September issue.

AUTHOR! AUTHOR!

Shenandoah Valley's very own Howard Zehr, N9AHQ, has authored a feature article published in the July issue of *CQ Ham Radio* magazine entitled, "Resurrecting the Hallowed Hartley: How to Build an Instant Antique and Join the Fun of Old-Time Wireless," pp. 22-24.

HAMS DOWN BUT NOT OUT...

Our sympathies are extended to several hams who are currently experiencing health problems. Our apologies for overlooking anyone, but optimism springs eternal.

Mark Hensley, N4YSA, who many of us know for his gracious assistance in erecting towers and antennas, suffered a tower collapse in his own back yard, bringing him quickly down to earth, hitting the ground quite hard. Mark is in the U.Va. medical unit recuperating from multiple injuries.

Pat KD4WWF went to the doctor at MCV August 24 to see about his back. The doctor found another bad disc that has to be repaired and he will go in on the 31st for blood work then be operated on Sept. 1st.

Ken KE4GKD's wife Janice went in the hospital Aug. 24th for an operation. She came through the operation well but had a lot of pain and was quite sick. They were giving her medication.

Joe Archambeault N4TRH is taking treatments at this time. The doctor told Joe he was responding well to the treatments which is good news.

And Walt Lam is still under the weather, also, as of this printing.

Our best wishes go out to all of these local hams.

Memories of Field Day

Ahh, the memories of the 1999 Field Day:

No fireworks, no rain (well, almost no rain), very little wildlife, decent band conditions, the mind-numbing roar of generators, the computer in the VHF station that didn't like generator, the bad cable that kept the digital station guys scratching their heads for hours trying to figure out what was going on, the RF on 15 meters that kept making the CW computer do things to itself, the twin porta-potties (great idea!), the camaraderie and cutting up, the thrill that first-time operators had of making their first contact, the smell of gasoline as generators were refueled, the ease of putting up and taking down towers when Gary KE4DFH is there to help, the ring of CW in your ears hours after Field Day is over, the QSO rates going over 100/hour when the old hands get on the radios, all the aluminum in the air at the Satellite/VHF station, the nice trailers that were so graciously loaned for us to set our stations in, the smell of an open campfire burning, the nuisance of flies Saturday morning, the 2-meter sporadic E opening to Texas, etc, etc, etc.

Of course, all this would not be possible if not for the hard work of the following: the Field Day committee: **David KF4SVR**, who volunteered (?) to be chairman when **Clint KB4OLM** could not attend, **Kenny KE4GKD** who put many miles on his truck on several trips up and down the hill, **Sandy K4PZC** who brought several computers for the various stations, **Pat KD4WWF**, **Richard KF4QZG**, **David AD4TJ**; **Elsworth K4LXG** for getting us publicity and the Denton truck for the CW station; **Matthew KD4UPL** for getting a trailer for the phone station, **Gary KE4DFH** for the Satellite/VHF station, **Mark WA4E** for the trailer for the Novice/Tech guys, and **Scott KE4CKJ** for the Digital station shelter. Thanks for all who brought rigs and computers for the various stations. Thanks to **Dick W3HXH** and **Noman KA4EEN** and their wives for the Welcome Center/Information Booth setup. Thanks to **Jeff W4PJW** for working with the computer disks and getting all the info together to send in. Thanks to those who went up 2 weeks ahead of time and mowed and weed-eated the area in preparation for the event. And thanks to all those who helped set up and tear down. And to anybody else I may have inadvertently left out, THANKS!

*David Tanks AD4TJ
MARA President*

SHELBY, ANYONE?

If anyone is planning to attend the Shelby Hamfest in Shelby, North Carolina ("the granddaddy of them all", according to their publications), be advised that the talk-in frequency will be on the 146.88 repeater, down 600 khz, no PL. The Shelby hamfest will be held September 4 and 5, and has a web site at www.shelby.net/n4fan

Report on Public Service

MARCH OF DIMES WALK

Saturday morning, April 24, 1999, was a good morning to sleep in, except for the 650-700 people who were taking part in the march of Dimes Walk-America. These courageous souls ignored the cool air to get up and go.

All seemed to go well, even though our "sag" units brought a few walkers back to the command post that couldn't make the trip.

The walk raised \$68,500 for healthier babies.

We had eight (8) amateurs on the "payroll" for the event. They were: **Norman, KA4EEN** Net control, **David KF4SVR**, **Enos, KF4BFF**, and **Gerald KF4FM** serving as Rest Stop Contacts. **Ray, K4NRA**, **Glen N4ALS**, and **Adam KF4ZJF** were driving the sag units. **Jay, KD4OZQ**, operated as standby unit.

Thanks to those who helped and those who wanted to help and couldn't.

If you would like to help with the Walk America next year, please mark your calendar now for the fourth (4th) Saturday of April.

*Information by
Norman, KA4EEN*

VARA PICNIC REPORT

The VARA Picnic was held on Saturday July 31st in Pat's back yard. Everyone brought a covered dish, drinks and a lawn chair. We had approximately 34 to brave the heat and join us. Greg W4GRC gave the blessing and everyone enjoyed a great evening meal and fellowship. We would like to thank Pat and Diane for sharing their back yard for this event. We would also like to thank Ken for bringing his large canopy to shade the tables. We hope more can join us next time for a great evening cookout and fellowship.

Ray Colvin KE4HVR

ITEMS FOR SALE

Ten-Tec Omni C (Model 546) HF transceiver. Features include digital readout, 160-10 meter coverage, 100 watts output. Includes an Astron 35 amp power supply. Price \$335.00. Bruce Matthias at 434-4625 or via e-mail at matthibp@jmu.edu

Zenith 386 laptop computer with 40 MB HD, 1.44 floppy, monochrome screen, carrying case and operating manual. Loaded with DOS 6.22 and YAPP packet program. Has a serial port and printer port and has been used for packet. Asking \$50.00. Also have an Compaq 486 desktop, with 120 MB HD, 1.44 and 1.2 floppy drives. VGA color monitor, keyboard and mouse included. Loaded with 6.22 DOS and Windows 3.1. Asking \$75.00. Call Jay, W4QDC at 434-7750 or e-mail to jsuter@gte.net.

Uniden 2000 "C" band TV satellite downlink receiver with VideoCipherII decoder chip already installed, remote control, and power supply to power C-band dish. Make offer. Call Dave, KD9LA, at 540-234-0448, or email fordhadr@jmu.edu

You, too, can help!

BIKE RIDE HELP NEEDED

The Mile Post Zero bike club of Waynesboro will be holding its annual Tour de Valley on Sunday, Sept 5th. They usually start about 6-7 am and could go as late as 4 pm. We need to have about 10 - 15 bodies to cover the Rest Stops and Sags. Rest 2 will need a strong rig - 25 watts or better. Anyone interested can contact me at either 337-5179 (leave a message if I'm not here) or e-mail me at KC4TQF@Juno.com.

Bill Bearden

Still another Report on Public Service!

BRIDGEWATER PARADE COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT

Many of our local amateur radio operators showed up and lent communication and traffic control assistance to the Fire and Rescue Units and Police in Bridgewater on July 16 and July 17. Without amateur help the parades in Bridgewater on these two evenings would be difficult for the town to manage.

Town officials are continually thanking us for our excellent help and comment on our expertise in communications in routing traffic and keeping police and motorists informed as to what is occurring. I would like to thank the following amateurs for helping keep our public service duties alive and well. With dedicated amateurs like these, there is little danger of losing our frequencies that we often take for granted. These amateurs are:

Colin, N4ZFQ
Enos, KF4BFF
David, AD4TJ
Steve, KF4ZWK
Dan, KE4JSX
Gary, KE4DFH
Dick, KC3AN
Bob, KG4CHL
Tommy, KE4GMJ
Kenny, KE4GKD
Phyllis, N4VZC
Greg, W4GRC
Gerald, KN4FM
David, KF4SVR
Doug, KF4YGO
Ray, KE4HVR
Gayle, KU4XN
Bob 7, KF4BFC
Ray, K4NRA
Nancy, KE4PHP

Note: I hope that I did not forget anyone. But, I often have a "senior" moment where my memory lapses.

As you can clearly observe, 20 of our local radio operators were present one or both evenings. If you didn't get in on the fun this year, I will be glad to reserve you a street corner in Bridgewater for the year 2000.

CUL 73'S Ray K4NRA

Big Mountain Repeater Association Annual Picnic

BOB'S KNOB BASH REPORT

The Bob's Knob bash, more formally known as the Big Mountain Repeater Association's Annual Picnic, was such a **great success**, that no one, *not a single ham*, has been able to put together a report yet! Now **THAT'S** a party!

Hopefully, next month's newsletter will recognize all the hams (and spouses) who really put forth a magnificent effort to make this event it's usual resounding success. Word is out that some attendees are still able to function normally, and they are working on putting together some word on the fine things that happened.

HELP GETTING STARTED ON THE HAM SATELLITES

Would you like to "listen in" on some correspondence between experienced satellite operators? Would you like to get help and assistance in getting on the birds?

Currently, AMSAT-NA supports the following free mailing lists:

- AMSAT News Service (ANS)
- General satellite discussion (AMSAT-BB)
- Orbit data (KEPS)
- Manned space missions (SAREX)
- District of Columbia area (AMSAT-DC)
- New England (AMSAT-NE)
- AMSAT Educational Liaison mailing list (AMSAT-EDU)

To subscribe, or for more list information, visit the following URL:

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat/listserv/menu.html>

International Space Station comes on the air next year!

SPACED OUT?

Space Shuttle mission STS-101, currently scheduled for launch on 1999-Dec-02, will be carrying the first set of amateur radio hardware up to the International Space Station. External antennas for the ham shack are expected to be installed during an EVA on this flight. The ham gear will be left onboard ISS, and there will probably be some very limited testing of the ham gear.

The ISS assembly crews are extremely busy, and the ham community is very fortunate that the ISS management and crews have made the Herculean effort to fit amateur radio into the ISS program.

Expect fairly regular amateur radio operations early next year once the first permanent crew arrives on the International Space Station.

[Info via Will Marchant, KC6ROL, AMSAT-NA SAREX Operations Manager]

AN INVITATION TO VARA MEMBERS TO SPACE OUT

I'd like to invite VARA to assist my school (the Central Shenandoah Valley Regional Governor's School, or CSVGRS, in Fishersville) as it prepares to participate in upcoming Space Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) and International Space Station (ISS) missions. The role of VARA would be in identifying club members who would be willing to advise us as we prepare for SAREX and ISS contacts.

Last school year, CSVGRS successfully involved students in Amateur satellite communications through RS-13. Since that time, the school has acquired additional portable satellite equipment, including Kenwood dualband THD7A handhelds, VC1 Visual Communicators, Mirage amplifiers and Arrow dualband yagis.

VARA would be responsible for completing following items in the SAREX application form we must submit:

ASSISTING LOCAL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

(To be filled out by the Amateur Radio club)

35. Name Of Amateur Radio Club:

36. Club Contact Person:

37. Contact Person's Call Sign:

38. Is this person Experienced With Satellite Operations? (YES or NO):

We hope that VARA will be able to assist us with this project. We'd like to submit a completed SAREX application to the ARRL as soon as possible.

Thanks!

73, Ralph L. Irons, N7RI

Who on Earth talks to astronauts?

SHUTTLE HAM RADIO OPERATIONS CELEBRATE 25th FLIGHT MILESTONE

The flight of the Space Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) on STS-93 marked the end of an era. Ham Radio first started when Owen Garriot, W5LFL, carried amateur radio hardware on the STS-9 mission. Since then SAREX has flown 25 times on board the space shuttle.

The hardware configuration on STS-93 was a motorola 2-meter handheld radio, a packet TNC, and an experimental Digital Signal Processor (DSP). SAREX was intended to work on the space shuttle orbiter Columbia's internal power bus. But battery packs were flown for SAREX as a backup. More information on the SAREX operations on STS-93 is available at : <http://garc.gsfc.nasa.gov/kc6rol/sts93.html>. More information about SAREX is available at the SAREX home page : <http://sarex.gsfc.nasa.gov>.

The STS-93 crew had expressed a lot of interest in amateur radio operations. Their operations plan was to leave the packet rig active during their sleep time. This plan meshed well with the STS-93 orbit. The low inclination (28 degrees) limited the quality of passes for those at high latitudes. The daytime passes, with the crew operating on voice, would occur over the Western hemisphere. The crew sleep periods tended to occur over the Eastern hemisphere.

The packet TNC was configured for the usual SAREX robot mode of operations. This returns a unique serial number to the ham who successfully completes a complete connect/disconnect AX25 packet connection. In addition Bob Bruninga and the APRS working group developed a set of recommendations for using the STS-93 SAREX configuration for APRS digipeating.

STS-93 got off to a rocky start after two failed launch attempts. A fuel leak during lift off resulted in Columbia reaching a lower orbit than planned. This caused mission controllers in Houston extra work when they had to re-plan experiments to compensate for the different orbit.

Initial setup of the SAREX hardware was delayed due to problems with the orbiter power bus. The SAREX antenna also proved to be a source of problems. Shuttle command Eileen Collins spent a great deal of time debugging the configuration. She was able to solve the power problems and returned the SAREX antenna in a different window.

Five schools were scheduled to speak with the STS-93 crew via amateur radio. These were:- AWTY International School, Houston Tx. Buzz Aldrin Elementary School, Reston, VA. Harbor View Elementary School, Corona Del Mar, CA.

Memorial Middle School, Pharr, Tx. Osceola Elementary School, Ormond Beach, Fl.

The first school contact for STS-93, the Buzz Aldrin, was scheduled for little more than a day after launch. The Buz Aldrin contact was not successful, with very low down link audio signal from the orbiter. Shuttle commander Eileen Collins heard the school quite clearly. Commander Collins returned the antenna which was then used for a very successful QSO for shuttle pilot Ashby.

The Harbor View Elementary School contact went very well. But the Awty International school contact was very poor and not successful. The Osceola Elementary school and the Memorial Middle School had great contacts on the first try. There was a very successful conversation between the cosmonauts in the space station MIR and the astronauts on Columbia which was possible because of amateur radio. The orbits of the shuttle and MIR did not permit a direct contact between the two using amateur radio. The W5RRR club station at the Johnson Space Station was used to establish a Ham link with the MIR station, the club station was then tied into the shuttle communications network.

After a lot of planning by shuttle mission controllers the two failed school attempts were rescheduled for late in the shuttle mission. Both Buzz Aldrin and Awty International School were successful on the second attempt.

There were few reports of general QSO activity on STS-93. The problems with the orbiter hardware and the very busy schedule of this short mission preempted much of the voice QSO activity. Other experiments on the orbiter required it to be pointing out into deep space, away from the earth. This made it very difficult for both general voice and packet connections.

The tremendous success of amateur radio on the space shuttle and MIR has resulted in very strong support from the professional human space flight community. Because of this amateur radio has a permanent place on board the International Space Station (ISS). Go to :- <http://garc.gsfc.nasa.gov/~ariss> for more information about the future of amateur radio on board the ISS.

AMSAT News Service, thanks to Will Marchant KC6ROL, AMSAT-NA SAREX Operations Manager.

Remember...

The Johnny Appleseed Ride in Timberville is October 2-3, and the EMHS races are October 2 at the fairgrounds. The Bike Virginia ride is October 15-17. The ARRL VHF QSO party is Sept. 11-13. The Virginia Beach Hamfest is Sept. 18-19.

And most importantly, the deadline for the October issue of the *Monitor* is Sept. 20.

READY? ... SET? ... GO!

Are you ready for severe weather? -- No, I mean, "Are you *really* truly ready for some really severe weather?"

I'm still younger than the average ham, according to the statistics. But even at my tender age of the mid-forties (I'll let you guess which one), I've seen a whole lot.

I've personally been in the eye of not one, but two, major hurricanes in my life. And I've felt the 100+ mile-per-hour winds of four more. And seen the flooding from another two, one here in Virginia.

I've manned emergency-activated ham communications posts at six Red Cross evacuation shelters, one hospital, one weather center office, two EOC centers, a fire station, and a remote police precinct office. I've ridden in a National Guard humvee holding an HT.

I've experienced four blizzards, six floods, three telephone system outages, and a public service radio outage, in addition to the hurricanes.

No, this doesn't make me an expert. No, I don't consider my experience to make me any better at emergency communication than Joe Ham who just got his ticket last year.

But it does make me appreciate having my "jump kit" packed and ready. And more important, my *family's* jump kit!

I was manning an emergency shelter in a flood in Tallahassee, Florida, in 1990. The shelter was a high school gym. The power was off, the only light came from the emergency floodlights. There were about 40 families there who had been evacuated from a low-lying neighborhood which was now under two feet of water. They had been awakened in the middle of the night by police knocking on their door. Most of them were still in wet pajamas. They had had no time to change clothes, let alone pack anything. And believe me when I say, they were not happy campers.

With the exception of this one family.

This one family, somehow, had come into the shelter with a suitcase. They had not had time to pack it. No, they had, like everyone else, heeded the policeman's warning and woken the kids and jumped right into the car and come to the school.

The suitcase was kept in the back of their van all the time.

They opened the suitcase, and took out a blanket and spread it in one corner of the gym. Out of the suitcase came a toy for the baby, and a deck of cards for the older kids. Mom had a book to read, while Dad took out a small cooking pot, and, get this! He took out his own water jug, and filled the pot with water, then opened – surprise! – a packet of KoolAid and mixed a batch. He pulled tin cups out of the suitcase and gave each of the kids some drink, and a candy bar.

As time wore on, the other people in the gym fidgeted, fussed, and worked themselves into a bad mood. But not this family. The kids were really enjoying what to them was a "campout", a special outing, a fun time, a great experience. For the time being, the mess awaiting them at their house was forgotten. They actually enjoyed themselves.

They dried off, told stories, smiled, laughed, listened to music on their transistor radio, and had a good time.

In an idle moment, I wandered over to the family and looked in their suitcase. They had a backpacker's stove and a small canister of propane. They had some cans of tuna, some Melba toast, and other food, along with more candy bars. They had hot chocolate mix. They had a couple of towels, some spare clothes for the baby, and a good supply of diapers and wet wipes. There was a plastic drop-cloth.

They had a Ghostbusters flashlight for each of the kids. They had matches, more water, and a cigar box of odds and ends: a magic marker, a hand mirror, a comb, a bar of soap, a tiny hotel bottle of shampoo, a box of bandaids and some gauze pads, an Ace bandage, a spare set of keys, some string, a magnifying glass, a fever thermometer, a bee-sting kit, some plastic garbage bags and twisties, some el-cheapo plastic ponchos, and a change of underwear for everyone, including Mom and Dad.

My mouth dropped open. I asked them, how did you have time to pack all this stuff? They hadn't, they replied. They always kept this old, beat-up suitcase packed with surplus stuff, in the back of their van. They had another, smaller one in the back of Dad's little Toyota, they explained, and a third one by their back door. Each one had enough stuff to keep the user (the whole family for the van, enough for Dad in the Totota) very comfortable for about 72 full hours. And even had some extra to spare for others. Wow!

As the morning dawned, the other occupants of the shelter grew more restless. The Red Cross had not been able to get a coffee van mobilized, there was no food, and with the power off, the Coke machines were stalled. All we had was lukewarm water to drink. People were getting ugly, fussing about "where is the government, somebody should come help us." Tempers were flaring.

The "prepared" family offered to share all of their KoolAid and their hot chocolate with the rest of the crowd. This stopped the complaining, as the others in the shelter were too embarrassed to accept, embarrassed that they hadn't come as prepared as the little family in the corner.

By noon, the Red Cross van arrived carrying hot coffee and stale donuts, but hey, the rain had stopped, the waters were receding, and everyone was about ready to go back home. By evening, the gym was empty. As I rolled up the last of my coax, I remembered the family who had their jump kit. "Wouldn't it be great if every family had one of those," I asked myself. Just think. Everyone who was here could have experienced a fun "campout" instead of a miserable, wet, hungry, boring stay in a shelter.

As a result of that experience, I now keep a family kit prepared for my family. We no longer need the diapers, and I have MRE's in there, along with some additional stuff, too. I have a 1-man kit for me to take (along with my ham radio jump kit containing my emergency ham radio station equipment: coax, extra antenna, batteries, flashlight, frequency list, etc.). when I'm called out, and I have a whole-family kit in case my own family has to leave suddenly.

So I ask again, are you really, truly ready for severe weather? Shouldn't you be? We all pray that we'll never need to use it, but it sure is nice to know we are prepared.

David, KD9LA

MARA SECRETARY'S REPORT

July 8, 1999 Meeting

The July meeting of the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association was held on July 8, 1999, one week later than usual because of 4th of July week-end, at Evers Restaurant in Mt. Crawford, Virginia.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by David (AD4TJ) the president with the usual introductions by everyone present. There were twenty-three in attendance.

ARES - Norman (KA4EEN) announced that he needed persons to take net control during the month. The annual club project of helping with traffic direction at the Bridgewater Steam and Tractor Show was discussed. Ray (K4NRA) said he needed sixteen or seventeen persons to cover all spots. A sign up sheet was circulated. Other future needs for assistance were indicated as well - namely the Foot races at Eastern Mennonite High School the second Saturday of September, the Johnny Appleseed Ride and the Mennonite Relief Sale, both of which occur the first week-end in October. Also there is the MS Walk in October and the third weekend is the Bike Virginia in Augusta County.

Announcement was made that there was a training session for ARES on July 24th at Blacksburg, Virginia. We fall into the 15th region.

In the discussion of new business it was reported that the Christmas meeting for 1999 will be held at Evers Restaurant on the usual meeting night in December. Three new members were voted into the club membership.

Field Day reports were given and various subjects/problems were discussed. The Experimental Station caused some small interference. Appreciation was expressed to David (KF4SVR) for all his work as the emergency chairman. He also expressed thanks to all those who took part and helped in any way.

The meeting adjourned about 8:45 after a good and healthy discussion and much was learned by all.

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

MARA SECRETARY'S REPORT

August 5, 1999

The August meeting of the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association was held on August 5, 1999 with twenty-seven members and guests present. The usual meeting place is Evers Restaurant at Mt. Crawford, Virginia and those who wish to dine assemble at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting opens at 7:30 p.m.

Our meeting was opened by the president, David (AD4TJ) with the introductions. Then committee chairmen gave reports.

ARES Net Control persons are again needed to cover the nets during the months ahead. Again the future needs for community assistance were enumerated. They are as follows: Foot Races at Eastern Mennonite High School the second Saturday in September; the Johnny Appleseed Rides on 2 and 3 October and the Mennonite Relief Sale at the Rockingham County Fairgrounds on 2 October. It is hoped that those amateurs living near Broadway will help with the Ride and those near Harrisonburg would help with the Relief Sale.

Ray (K4NRA) reported that a total of twenty amateurs helped with the traffic control at Bridgewater. He also presented a donation given by Bridgewater to the club for their assistance.

Colin (N4ZFQ) reported on the training session held at Blacksburg which he attended. Forms were distributed to all who wish ARES membership as we need to register with the local unit as well as with the state. Dale (N4DAI) gave a Skywarn net control report.

New Business was discussed and was reported that a digital network is being established in Virginia. A power supply is needed for the local equipment and the club voted to purchase a power supply and make it available as long as necessary for this purpose.

Various hamfests and contests were reported by the president.

Applications for membership were read for the following: W. C. (Bud) Berryman (W5VEY) of 681 Maryland Avenue, Harrisonburg, VA 22801-5829 and Scott Lowe (WA0TPN) of 11400 Daphna Road, Broadway, VA 22815.

The 50/50 drawing was held and the winner received eleven dollars and the club the same amount.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. and the program followed with an informative discussion held about D Fing.

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

The VARA club minutes for July and August still had not arrived at the newsletter editor's desk as of the publication date of this issue.

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: Dan Beidler, KE4JSX
Vice-President: Richard Huttinger, KF4QZG
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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