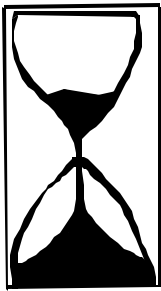


The Monitor

Published jointly by the Valley Amateur Radio Association and the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association,
Dedicated to serving those interested in Amateur Radio in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley



Time's Up

Yes, it's true. Someone might not get their Monitor this month. Ask them to contact their respective club treasurer about that.

We are now on the new mailing list. Monitors are sent only to those who have renewed their membership for 2002.

What is This a Map of?

Hint: Think "Juliet Three". Our very own Jay Suter, W4QDC, and his lovely wife Geneva recently vacationed here, and handed out a log-ful of contacts to the good boys back home. Some of the lucky stations who can add J3 (or perhaps another J3) to their QSL collection include N4DSL, N4YET, W4PJW, N4ZKH, KA4EEN, KU4XN, W3HXH, WB4IXG, K4RBZ, W4RY, and several others. Also, KC4HYO operated portable in Williamsburg, and KD9LA operated mobile and portable along a route from North Carolina to southern Georgia. Operations back to the home planet were on 17 and 20 meters.



VE February Exam Results

Our February exam session was another success with the help of the following VE's:

- Gerald Nauman KN4FM,
- Charles Vogan KD5KA,
- Todd Harrison K4TMH,
- Robert VanFossen K4DJG,
- Richard Haxton KC3AN,
- Ray Ritchie K4NRA,
- Howard Mullins K4PZC,
- Ellsworth Neff K4LXG and
- Kevin Barb KD4WWM.

Thanks go out to the HAMS who conducted the recent class for Technician. They must have done an excellent job for all of the students who took their test passed with flying colors. We had seven candidates show up and all were successful. Issued license were:

- New Technicians — 3
- New Generals — 3
- New Extra — 1

Thanks to all those who helped. The next exam are to be held Saturday April 13, 2002, see you there.

Gayle, KU4XN

VARA President's Message

Hello to all. It sure was nice to see everyone at the last club meeting. We enjoyed a very good program provided by Al (N3JB). He had some very good hand-outs and then a question and answer period. Al hopes this will generate some interest in the 160 band.

Next month (March) Cowles (K4EME) will have a program on Satellites and the equipment needed to work them. Most of us may already have most of what we need. It is just a matter of knowing how to use it on the birds. All are welcome to attend the meeting and hear what Cowles has to share with us.

I myself would like to see more Amateurs check in to the Augusta County ARES Net which is the second Thursday of each month on the 146.850 repeater, and also the other area ARES nets on other local repeaters, too. Let's try to make a note and check into these nets!

We also now have three amateurs to take part on the Field Day Committee. They are David (AD4TJ), Benny (N4BCC), and Clint (KB4OLM). Let's give them our support and make this a Field Day to remember. As the two club committees get together for their meeting as in the past, it will be open for anyone to attend.

Speaking of Field Day, anyone interested may go to the ARRL Web Site and obtain the Field Day Rules and Packet to learn more about Field Day 2002.



I would also like to say Congratulations to Clint and David for their results in the September 2001 VHF QSO Party Results. In the state of Virginia Clint (KB4OLM) placed third and David (AD4TJ) placed sixth so again a Big Congratulations to the both of them.

OK, that's about it for this month but hope to see all of you at Shoney's in Staunton on March 5th. 2002 and remember we come to eat around 6 or 6:30 and the meeting starts at 7:30 PM.

73 until next time,
Ken Harris, KE4GKD

Loopy: N3JB Signal Going In Circles

This is a photo of Al N3JB's loop antenna taken during his recent program at VARA. The members of MARA will have the opportunity to see this up close and in person at the March meeting.

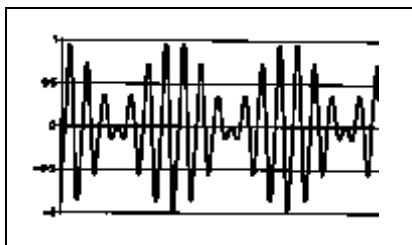
The photo doesn't reproduce well on the copy machine, but is beautiful in color on your computer monitor. This is one more reason to receive your newsletter by email. To get the Monitor via PDF email attachment, send an email to the editor, fordhdr@jmu.edu, requesting the email edition, and giving the email address to which you want it sent. The service is free.



MARA President's Message

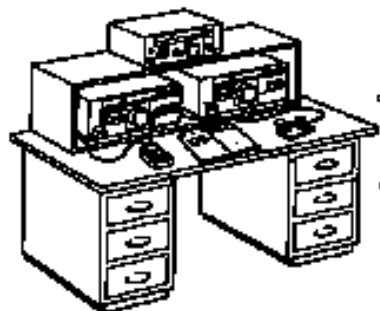
Boy, what a shock to see my picture come up on the screen in last month's Monitor! I have been told that this is a good computer tester!

I enjoyed seeing those of you I met at the Frostfest in Richmond, Va. I made a few purchases, one being the MFJ-SWR Analyzer and case. I plan to install more permanent antennas where I live now and near Mt. Crawford on our land where Jeanne and I are to build. I also bought a Diamond tribander VHF/UHF antenna, a G5RV HF antenna kit and a Spincast, a combination slingshot/fishing reel for shooting antenna pull-up lines over trees, etc. With the mild winter so far, maybe I can get an early start.



Your MARA Club Vice-President, Chuck Vogan, KD5KA and I are planning a QRP branch of our MARA Club, and as of this writing, we plan to meet at noon today for lunch as a planning session. QRP (low-power transmitters) has always been of interest to me and I have enjoyed operating QRP because as a young teen it was all I could afford. Chuck and I hope to have details regarding the QRP Club soon.

I would like to start a "ham-of-the-month" profile each month in the Monitor where a club member would be selected. It would tell about that member's personal life, interests, and would feature pictures of his/her



shack and equipment, etc., and the featured ham's picture and anything else of interest. Now all I have to do is get with David Fordham, KD9LA, our editor, and Kenny Harris, KE4GKD, the VARA Club President about it.

There are three new hams in the Harrisonburg area as a result of the VE Session on Saturday, February 2. They are "graduates" of the class Chuck, KD5KA, Gerald Nauman, KN4FM and I held during November, December and January. They are: Christopher Burkholder, KG4RMW, his father, Ruel Burkholder, KG4RMX and Bryan Daniels, KG4RMY. Congratulations, guys!

Our MARA Club meeting is Thursday, March 7 at Evers Restaurant just north of Mt. Crawford. The program will be by Al Bonck, N3JB, of the VARA Club and features 160 and 80 meter loop antennas. I saw his presentation at the VARA February meeting and found it very interesting. I hope to see all of you there. Program starts at 7:30pm.

I want to hear from all of you with program suggestions and other ideas.

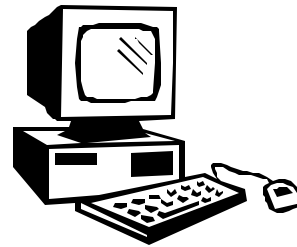
Until next time, 73,
Ellsworth Neff
K4LXG



For the convenience of MARA and VARA members, the ARRL 2002 Field Day rules, logs, forms, etc. can now be found on the MARA web site, as well as the ARRL web site. The package is in Adobe PDF format.

Computer For Sale: Make Offer

Original owner purchased in late 1996. 120 MHz computer, 1.2 Gig hard drive; 24X cd-rom; 3.5 floppy drive (new). Has WIN95/98 (98 update). Has 15" monitor, keyboard and small computer desk with slide keyboard tray, fits 18 X 28 space. Everything working except modem, which is installed but not functional. **Make offer**. Bill Jones KE4FM (wwjones@gte.net)



Needed to Buy: Prop Pitch Motors

Need 1 or 2 small or medium prop-pitch motors, reasonably priced; contact David Tanks, AD4TJ, after 5:00 pm at 540-248-1207 or email below.



Needed to Buy: Rohn Thrust Bearing Bracket

I need a Rohn thrust bearing bracket TB-3. Name your price. Contact David Tanks, AD4TJ, at phone number above or email below.

Needed to Buy: Old Ham Radio Magazines (certain issues only)

Ham Radio magazine, issues: 1982- June; 1984- May, 1985- January, February, April, May, August, and 1987- August. Any one with these items contact David Tanks at : davidmoonbounce@aol.com, or call me at home after 5 pm at: 540-248-1207.

Free to Good Home: HF Vertical Antenna plus Spare

Free for the taking: Older multi-band HF base station type vertical if anyone wants one - complete with a back-up unit for spare parts. If interested contact me at 540 337-7337 between 7 and 10 pm or email me at W4PJW@ARRL.NET

Deal of the Decade: Free Industrial Batteries – Come Haul Them Away!

I have for FREE - 8 large storage batteries. These are industrial lead acid batteries from a commercial telephone microwave station. Ideal for back-up 12 volt power source. These cells are very heavy—over 100 lb each and are supposed to be 2.2 Volts when fully charged. I have eight of these, which should provide a couple spare units. Six (6) of these in series at 2.2 volts each should equal 13.2 volts with a very high current capacity. These batteries will provide plenty of power for running your HF or VHF rig with enough left over to run a couple 12 volt light bulbs. In fact, with a high-current inverter, you might be able to use these as an emergency 120-volt AC source during power outages. I also have some information on how to set up a power supply to charge these. If no one takes them off my hands soon, they are going to the dump. Contact Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW@arrl.net, or phone me at 540-337-7337 between 7 and 10 pm.

Date Set for 2002 Big Mountain Picnic: August 18th

It's time to plan for you and your family's attendance at the annual picnic in Bergton! This will be the eleventh (11th!) annual picnic to raise funds for the maintenance of the 146.625 Big Mountain Repeater, by the Big Mountain Repeater Association. Insurance coverage and repairs (including recent antenna replacement) are some of our expenses.

As in previous years, hot dogs, hamburgers, iron-kettle-cooked beans, and the usual pink lemonade and iced tea will be the main attractions. Guests should bring a covered dish salad or a dessert.

A folding chair or two will take the edge off the picnic table's hard settin' surface. Cups, plates, utensils, and condiments will be provided. Badminton and horseshoes will keep the kids (of all ages) entertained. A long walk around the property should allow for spotting deer, groundhogs, grouse, turkeys, and other birds, along with squirrels and rabbits to keep you fit.

Don't forget: a Picnic-Table working party is needed for Saturday, August 17th, at 9:00 am to carry picnic tables from the Bergton fairgrounds. Another gang will be needed to carry them back on Tuesday evening. Help will also be appreciated at the serving tables and assisting with the cooking. Bob's Knob hats and aprons will be given to those who help.

To give us some idea of how many may attend, sign up during the local ARES nets, or telephone Bob at (540) 852-3289. Or you can email him at W3MMC@aol.com.

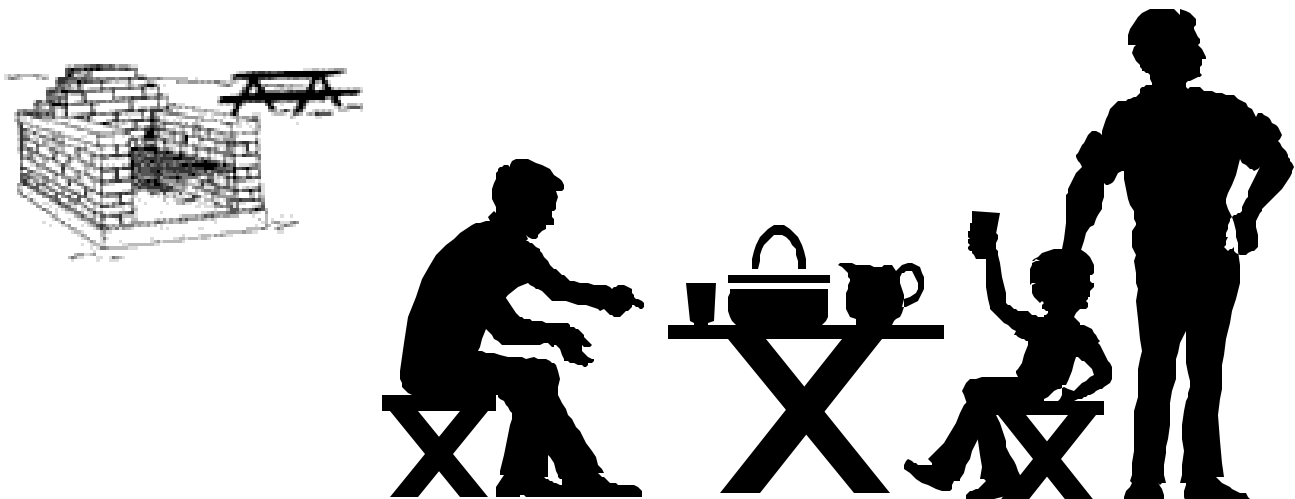
A 50-50 drawing will be held, and the usual donation bucket will be at the Sign-In table.

Directions to the picnic are easy. From Broadway, take Route 259 (Brock's Gap Road) west about 14 miles. Just past the yellow flashing warning light sign, turn left onto Route 820 (Bergton Road). Go about 2 miles, and pass the Bergton Grocery. Turn right onto Crab Run Road (still on Route 820!).

Go about 2 miles to a metal rail bridge, and turn left onto the gravel road (Mongold Hollow Rd). Proceed 1/2 mile and turn left onto Arbuckle Road (Route 822). At the fourth (4th) mailbox, turn right onto Bob's Knob Parkway, and drive up to the picnic site!

Rain date will be August 25th. See you there!

Bob Neimeyer
W3MMC



From the Opinionated One: A 20-meter Programming Guide

I was trying to phone my chiropractor the other day and somehow got the cable lady by mistake. Before I could hang up, she tried to talk me into paying \$39 a month for something called a "basic package". She offered to send me a free "programming guide". It shows all the channels you get if you pay the subscription fee. In other words, it tells you what to find where.

How nifty! Wouldn't it be great if someone put out a programming guide for ham radio? Well stand back, boys and girls, because I now give you -- the Ham Radio Programming Guide! Of course, there's too much for a single issue of the Monitor, so I'll start with just one band. And being a third-generation native of 20-meter phone, I figure this is as good a place as any to begin. So here goes:

14.150 to 14.225 MHz: The 75-meter Wannabee Band.

This is where you find all the old geezers who should be clogging up the 75-meter phone band, but who don't have a backyard big enough to stretch out the antenna. So they buy 5000-watt amplifiers and 80dB beam antennas and pretend they are on 75-meters. "Hey, Bob?" "Yeah?" "You there?" "Yep." "Have you heard from Bud lately?" "Nope" "Here I am, fellas." "That you Bud?" "Yep." "Good to hear you on." "Thanks Bob." "Been to town lately?" "Nope, not since yesterday." "Oh." "Is Pete in here yet?" "Yeah, I'm here." "Hi, Pete." "Hi, Bud." "Hey, Pete?" "Yeah?" "You seen the television?" "Nope." "Oh." "Well, Bud, I've got to go fix breakfast." "Okay." "Hurry back." "I will." and so on and so forth. When you look up their call signs (--which they give once every three hours--) you discover they all live within a six block radius of each other up in Minnesota, except for Pete, who is retired in Michigan.

14.230: The Bird Chirp Channel. This is where you find the warbling music that sounds like some sort of exotic mode like ATV or PSK31 or something. It's always here and is a good test to see if your receiver and antenna are hooked up to each other. Some day we'll discover it really isn't a signal at all, just a harmonic put out by the Waynesboro police radar speed trailer.

14.235 to 14.250 MHz: DX Subband Band. A favorite hang-out for the deaf and the really, really dumb. "The Kilo Six station, go." "November Four Foxtrot Ta -- Romeo Hotel -- Delta Charlie, Delta Charlie -- Whisky Seven -- vember Five Tango Sierra." "No, no, no, fellas. Just the Kilo Six station, just the Kilo Six station. The K6 only, go ahead." "Whisky One Romeo -- Alpha Alpha Nine Zulu -- Quebec Golf -- Delta Charlie, Delta Charlie, Delta Charlie, Delta Charlie" "Wait, wait. There are too many stations. All stations please stand by. We'll work you all in time. Please, only the Kilo Six station, the Kilo Six only please." "Whiskey Nine Foxtrot Yankee -- Delta Charlie, Delta Charlie, Delta Charlie, Delta Charlie ..."

14.275 MHz: Glenn Baxter's Private Channel. This is a clear-channel broadcast station whose engineer is too drunk or too stupid to realize he's transmitting on a ham band. He gives new meaning to the term, "continuous duty transmitter". The station airs a 1-hour talk show, 24 times a day. And Glenn Baxter does all the talking. "Here is K1MAN, the ham radio advocate, standing for ham radio, promoting ham radio, helping ham radio, and benefiting ham radio. We love ham radio. Call us on our toll-free telephone line and tell us how great ham radio is, and we'll put your voice on the air. But for heaven's sakes, use the telephone! Whatever you do, don't use ham radio, because you might interfere with our broadcast!"

14.285 to 14.290 MHz: The Full Gospel International Bible Fellowship Christian Good News Pentecost Epiphany Evangelical Reformed Inspirational Holiness Net, which splatters over into the Ministerial Scripture Alliance of the Holy Ghost Prophets International Spiritual Christian Fellowship Net, which splatters over into the Christian Primitive Bible Holiness Fellowship Revelation of Prophecy Net, which splatters over into ..."

14.294 MHz: The New York-New Jersey African-American Channel. Got a friend whose ancestors hail from the dark continent? Does he live in New Jersey or the metro New York City area? You might find him here. Most of the hams on this channel have good signals into the valley, and unlike the 75-meter wannabees, they actually acknowledge you and let you break in once in a while for a signal report.

14.310 MHz: The 24-hour Spanish Channel! I have a friend in Timberville who speaks Espanol, so I asked him to translate what he heard on this channel one day. This is what he copied: "Hey, Pedro?" "Yep?" "You there?" "Yep." "Heard from Jose lately?" "Nope." "Here I am, fellas." "That you, Jose?" "Yep."... These guys all live within a six block radius of each other in Rio Paulo, except for Juan, who is retired in Las Verde Tomales.

14.313 MHz: The Maritime Mobile Channel. No one has any idea what the words "Maritime Mobile" mean, but they sound nice. "This is the Maritime Mobile Net. Do we have any Maritime Mobile stations with or without traffic? Maritime Mobile stations only, your call sign and location please." "Net control, please copy W8DTD, Phoenix." "This is N9EPP in Pierre South Dakota." "Here is W6 Baker Hotel on Mount Whitney."

14.335 MHz: The County Hunter's Channel. "Sierra Echo, Five Nine, go. Charlie Uniform, Five Nine, go. Tango Baker Baker, Five Nine go. Uniform Mike, Five Nine go. Any more? Victor Golf Echo, Five Nine, go. Any more? Hotel Hotel, Five Nine go. Any more? India Romeo, Five Nine go. Any more?"

14.340 MHz: The Contest Channel: "CQ Contest, CQ Contest, CQ Contest, this is W6TL." "W6TL, please copy November Four Golf Bravo India" "CQ Contest, CQ Contest, CQ Contest, this is W6TL." "W6TL, this is November Four Golf Bravo India" "CQ Contest, CQ Contest, CQ Contest, This is W6TL." "W6TL, for Chrissake, this is November Four Golf Bravo India" "Was there a Bravo station?" "Roger, it's November Four Golf Bravo India, QSL?" "QSL, I copy November Two Golf Virginia America, is that correct?" "No, no, it's November Four Golf Bravo India." "Okay, I've got November Ten Golf Denmark India, is that right?" "Negative, negative, it's November Four, November Four, November One Two Three Four." "Okay, got it that time, November One True Green Fort. Is that a roger?" "No, no, it's November Four Golf Bravo India." "Okay, now I've got it right, November Four Pop Victor India, you are Five Nine plus, Five Nine plus, Five Over Nine plus, beautiful signal into California, Good luck in the Contest, Q. R. Zed?"

The above programming is modified somewhat on the weekends, but on Monday through Friday, use the above guide to tune in and enjoy!

Little Quickies You Should Know About...

Virginia Section Manager Election Winner: W4CAC

Incumbent Virginia Section Manager Carl A. Clements, W4CAC, was elected to a full term in his own right after beating back a challenge from former Virginia SM Lynn Gahagan, AF4CD, 976 to 779 votes. The Virginia race attracted a greater than usual level of attention and number of votes cast by ARRL members. Gahagan, who was first elected in April 1998, was effectively removed from office last year after the ARRL Executive Committee declared the office vacant. Clements was named to fill the declared vacancy. The EC's action followed efforts by ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, to "review concerns" directly with Gahagan. Subsequently, at the direction of the EC, ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, wrote Gahagan setting out five points that had to be addressed and resolved "with regard to the administration of the ARRL emergency communications program" in Virginia. After considering Gahagan's reply, the EC met in a teleconference and vacated the position. In January, the ARRL Board of Directors revised rules to--among other changes--require anyone removed by action of the Executive Committee to get that committee's consent to be eligible to run again. The Board also gave the EC the power to cancel any field organization appointment "whenever it appears to be in the best interest of the ARRL to do so." Rules in place for this election cycle did not prevent Gahagan from running again, however. — From ARRL Bulletin ARLB015 February 20, 2002.

Neal, N4XU, is Warming Up For Field Day! Get a Load of These Numbers!

Just to let you know - I practiced for Field Day 2002 the week-end of February 16-17, 2002. Played contest radio for the week-end on the ARRL CW DX 2002 Contest. Made **1,189** Contacts, **258** Multipliers, for a claimed final score of **920,286**. Best band was 10 Meters, followed by 15, 40, 20 and 80. Plenty of CW practice, especially those European stations who speed up the reports to 50 WPM!! Think Field Day 2002! 73 - Neal - N4XU

Space Station Will Soon Have A Real Packet Radio Station! — Hams May Connect Anytime Station is In Range!

Normal packet activity with a real call sign should resume soon on the International Space Station. Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Board Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says a new packet module sent up to the ISS last August will be installed by February 25. Since Amateur Radio gear was installed on the ISS in 2000, the packet system--crippled with a dead RAM (random access memory) backup battery--has been operating in digipeat mode using the NOCALL call sign and other ROM (read-only memory) defaults. Earthbound users have been able to access the system nonetheless, but the lack of a call sign has been an annoyance. Bauer said the new module, using the call sign RSOISS, will employ a specially developed ROM programmed with standard ISS defaults, a new battery and an extended memory--up to one megabyte. The TNC also has eight-bit capability to support Russian Cyrillic typesets, and a one-minute timeout disconnect from the PMS if no pertinent packets are heard. Although the mailbox function will be activated, hams are discouraged from using it. "Currently there is no computer hooked up to the packet module," Bauer explained. "In addition, the crew will be much too busy to respond to messages posted there." ARISS packet radio frequencies will remain the same. The uplink is 145.99 MHz, the downlink is 145.80 MHz. For more information on the new packet hardware and the ARISS equipment, visit the ARISS Web site at, <http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/EVAs/amsat01.pdf>. — From ARRL Bulletin ARLS003, February 21, 2002.

Wait, Wait, Wait Vanity Callsigns Back on Hold Again...

Despite a rising level of annoyance among those awaiting Amateur Radio vanity call signs, the FCC remains at a standstill in terms of resolving the current stalemate. No vanity call signs have been granted since February 1, when applications received at the FCC October 22, 23 and 24 were processed. The FCC subsequently realized that it needed further information for an October 23 application, and--at least for now--it has rescinded vanity grants for October 23 and 24. The ARRL estimates that some 1800 vanity applications now are in the FCC's processing pipeline--the majority of them filed electronically. Once vanity processing resumes, the FCC is not expected to process all of the remaining applications in a single batch. It's more likely that the processing would be spread out over a period of a few days.

Need to Work Ethiopia? Listen for ET3PFM

Paul, W4PFM will be active in Ethiopia for about 6 months and has just received the call ET3PMW. He has been active on 15 and 10 meters just after 0700 and 1400z, respectively. Latest word is that his power supply went kaput, and he is on batteries, using low power. His signal is getting into the valley most afternoons, however. QSL via W7KEU.

FCC Gives Hams A Better Website!

The FCC has redesigned its Amateur Radio Service Web site and changed the URL to <http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur/>. The new layout makes it easier to find information on topics most requested by amateurs, including licensing, amateur exams, filing an application, changing an address or using the Universal Licensing System (ULS). The refurbished site also provides links to recent Amateur Radio-related news from the FCC. — From the ARRL Letter 21:08 February 22, 2002

Planning a Trip To Asheville? Phone Ahead for a Tour of the Ham Radio Museum!

David, KD9LA, recently visited Asheville North Carolina. Thanks to Jeff, W4PJW, for tipping Dave off to the existence of the Southern Appalachian Amateur Radio Museum. The museum houses a collection of old ham radio gear, including transmitters, receivers, test gear, exotic tubes, circuitry, and other stuff. One of the highlights is the collection of QSL cards from the 1910s and 1920s.

The museum is located in the AB Technical College's Elm building. You can gain free (yes, completely FREE) admission and a personal guided tour by calling ahead: simply phone John Travis, W4QCF, 828-298-1847 a day or two in advance and they will make arrangements for a one-on-one tour!





A sampling of the exhibits at the museum include (facing page, at bottom) a mint-condition set of Drake Twins, and a mobile Morse key which snaps onto a pilot's leg. Also on display are a number of classic ham radio tubes (below), a mint Heathkit HW-100, a B&W shortwave receiver, and a host of other classic items (some shown above). Hallicrafters, Drake, Collins, Trio, Heath, and even commercial manufacturers like RCA, GE, Allied, and Johnson are represented. The museum also includes a nice operating position with a modern transceiver where you can get on the air and do a little operating of your own. Photos by KD9LA.



VARA Secretary's Report: February 5, 2002 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Shoney's in Staunton on February 5, 2002. President Ken Harris KE4GKD opened the meeting at 7:30pm. There were 19 members present and 6 guests, Sandy Mullins K4PZC, Todd Harrison K4TMH, Bob VanFossen K4DJG, Ellsworth Neff K4LXG, Jeanne Neff (no license) and Kay Cook KF4CZL.

REMINDER: If you have not paid your dues for 2002 this is your last Newsletter. VARA dues for 2002...\$15 Full Member & \$7.50 Associate Member.

Make your check to VARA and send it to Jeff Rinehart W4PJW, 1344 Hankey Mountain Hwy. Churchville, VA 24421. Or, just hand it to Jeff at the next club meeting.

MARCH PROGRAM: Cowles Andrus K4EME will present a program using Power Point on working Satellites, the equipment needed, how to make your call and when to listen for satellite passes in your area by using a computer program or the internet.

The 50/50 winner was Jeanne Neff (Ellsworth's wife) Jeanne, Did Ellsworth make you pay for Dinner?

We voted in two new members, Paul Ruppert KG4GCA and Mike Reno KG4OON. Welcome to the VARA!!

David Tanks AD4TJ needs HELP with the Augusta County ARES Net. Anyone that is willing to be net control and help David out give him a call. The Net has moved to the 146.850 repeater on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 8:00 pm. This repeater has a minus offset and a tone of 131.8 when needed. Mark your calendar and check into the net. Remember without YOU there will be NO ARES NET.

We would like to get training classes started for the Technician level. Anyone interested in helping teach the classes please contact Ken KE4GKD, Alby AD4KZ or Richard KF4QZG.

Richard KF4QZG, Program Chairman, asks for anyone who would like to do a program at one of our meetings to give him a call and get a date set up to present it.

Our Field Day 2002 Committee will be Clinton KB4OLM, Benny N4BCC and David AD4TJ.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59pm

Al Bonck N3JB presented a program with hand outs on several types of 160M receiving antennas including the loop antenna and explained how they were built, the materials used, how they were tuned and the grounding needed to make them perform correctly. Al also brought in two loop antennas for show that he had built and still uses at home on 160 Meters. Thanks Al, for a great program on various 160M wire antennas and the loop antennas.

Submitted By:
VARA Secretary
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

Look What's Happening!

March 2-3: ARRL DX Contest - Phone Weekend

March 3: Vienna Hamfest

March 5: VARA club meeting - Shoney's in Staunton

March 7: MARA club Meeting - Evers in Harrisonburg

March 16: Charleston (WV) Hamfest

March 16-18: Virginia QSO Party

March 30-31: CQ WPX SSB Contest

April 6-7: Baltimore Hamboree

April 13: VE Exams -- Dayton VA

April 14: Raleigh (NC) Hamfest

April 20: Chesapeake (Norfolk) Hamfest

May 17-19: Dayton Hamvention (Dayton, Ohio)

June 2: Manassas Hamfest

June 8: VE Exams -- Dayton VA

June 22-23: ARRL Field Day

August 18: Bob's Knob Picnic

MARA Secretary's Report: February 7, 2002 Meeting

MARA Meeting held at Ever's Restaurant on Feb 7, 2002.

The meeting was opened by President Ellsworth Neff at 7:30 p.m. There were 27 members and 6 guests present for a total of 33. All the members and guests introduced themselves.

II. Committee Reports

- a. Treasurer: Sandy, K4PZC: A full report was given by Sandy. We have two outstanding bills to pay. Computer for Public Service Vehicle, \$667. and a bill for the newsletter pending. A more detailed treasurer's report is appended.
- b. Public Service: Doug, N4DUG: No Report. .
- c. ARES: Dale, N4DAI: Working with EOC. They want to know our capabilities for service to the community.
- d. ARES Net: Norman, KA4EEN: Requested net control operators for the Monday night ARES net.
- e. VE. Gayle, KU4XN: Exam was given Feb 2. We have 4 who successfully passed their tests. Congratulations to our new hams.
- f. FIELD DAY: We have two members for the Field Day committee. Jason, N4DSL and Gayle, KU4XZN. We still need a third member for our committee. Any volunteers?

III Old Business:

We have been having a lot of discussion regarding the gift of the old command bus from the city. David did a very thorough research on this subject. A motion was made by Bob Steere as follows: That we accept the bus subject to state inspection and a secret ballot vote.. It was seconded by Richard Weaver. After more discussion we had the ballot vote. There were 14 no votes and 12 yes votes, and one abstention. The motion did not pass.

MARA Treasurer's Report

November 30, 2001: Inflow from 50/50: \$10.00. Outflow for August through November newsletter publication: \$205.59. Ending balance: \$2449.25.

December 31, 2001: Inflow from Dues payments: \$567.00. Outflow for Supplies for Ham Class: \$158.02. Ending balance: \$2858.23.

January 31, 2002: Inflow from Dues payments: \$108.00 Outflow for December and January newsletter publication: \$87.72. Outflow for corporate charter: \$25.00. Ending balance: \$2853.51.

IV New Business

- a. New Members: We have two new prospective members who had their names read at this meeting. George R. Brunk, WB4IXG and Bryan E. Daniels, who has no call as of this date..
- b. 50/50: The drawing brought in \$27.50.

V Program: Gerry Brunk, K4RBZ, just completed a trip to Arizona and other parts. Some of the club members were able to keep in touch with him by radio. He brought a very interesting video showing areal views of Arizona. The film was well received.

Next month we will have a program by N3JB The subject will be a loop antenna for 60 and 80 meters. Should be interesting as we continue to increase our knowledge of antennas.

Phyllis M Haxton, N4VZC, MARA Secretary

Don't forget the ARES nets. They all meet at 8:00 pm local time. Page County meets every Sunday night on the 146.670 repeater (PL of 114). Rockingham County meets the first Monday night on 146.550 simplex, and all other Monday nights on the 145.130 repeater (occasional PL of 88). Augusta County meets the second Thursday of each month on the 146.850 repeater (occasional PL of 131).

MARA/VARA

c/o David Fordham
131 Wayside Drive
Weyers Cave, VA 24486
Phone: 540-568-3024
Email: fordhadr@jmu.edu

Return Service Requested

MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.

President: Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG
Vice President: Chuck Vogan, KD5KA
Secretary: Phyllis Haxton, N4VZC
Treasurer: Sandy Mullins, K4PZC
Board (exp. 02): Bob Tennyson, KG4CHL
Board (exp 03): Jason Armentrout, N4DSL

<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 per year) should be mailed to:
MARA
PO Box 1882
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

President: Ken Harris, KE4GKD
Vice President: Benny Cook, N4BCC
Secretary: Ray Colvin, KE4HVR
Treasurer: Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW
Program Manager: Richard Huttinger, KF4QZG

<http://www.hamsnet.net/W4MUS>

VARA meets the first Tuesday of each month
At Shoneys Restaurant on U.S. 250 east in
Staunton. Meal starts at 6:30 pm.
Business meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

Visitors are welcome.

Dues (\$15 per year) should be mailed to:
Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW
1344 Hankey Mtn Hwy
Churchville, VA 24421