

May 2003

# 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

## "Wise Ol' DX'er" to be May MARA Program Speaker

It is rumored that a very "WISE" DX'er is scheduled to be the program speaker at the MARA May meeting. This fellow is traveling a very long way (from another state, even!) just to speak to the valley hams. So be sure to show up and hear what this world-traveling DX'er has to say!



## KE4LQK & Ham Radio — to the Rescue! Or, ... What Do You Do With A Sleeping Sailor?

I just completed a real mayday situation on HF radio this morning (April 21).

A sailing craft calling "mayday" on SSB from the Gulf of Mexico was picked up on the slowscan frequency of 14.233 by WB5MXO. WB5MXO responded to their emergency.

I got on in time to relay important info between WB5MXO and the sailing craft the "MYSTIC". Propagation was strange. The sailing craft was fading in and out every minute or so. Between the two of us (WB5MXO and KE4LQK) we were able to get the entire message through.

Other hams policed the frequency keeping it quiet while we were working this situation... We got the Coast Guard notified and also a merchant ship sailing about 9 miles away.

The emergency related to another craft, called the "NORWAL". The Norwal was sailing with the Mystic. The two craft became separated as they sailed. They were about 4.5 miles from each other at the time the distress call was sounded. Why the distress call?

The Mystic saw the Norwal skipper make a sail change, but then he would not respond by radio when the Mystic called him. The Mystic skipper thought that the person on the Norwal had gotten knocked overboard! The Mys-

tic could not catch up, as the Norwal was now sailing faster than the Mystic could sail.

The Mystic also had radar and could see the Norwal on radar but not by sight.

After what seemed like an eternity, and after the merchant ship had changed course to intercept the Norwal, the person on board the Norwal finally heard all the noise on the radios, and called the Mystic to see what in the world was going on!

The Mystic responded that everybody was wondering what was going on the Norwal, that they could see the boat was on autopilot and was not responding to anybody, and so everyone had assumed that he had gone overboard or was somehow incapacitated.

The Coast Guard was notified that the Norwal skipper had awakened from his nap, upon which they stood down.... He thanked everybody on ham radio and the Mystic and said "Thank you for a job well done".

It took me awhile to stop shaking. but if he had indeed gone overboard the Coast Guard would have been to the location in a short time, since we were relaying position, speed, and direction of the craft every 5 minutes or so... Pretty exciting while it lasted!

Vic, KE4LQK

## MARA President's Message

Hello to all!

After a balky start, can spring be here? One thing has been certain, that one cannot be certain about the weather lately. Plenty of good weather coming for portable operating, antenna work and Field Day. Fall always seems to come sooner than it should so take advantage of the coming days. Nothing definite yet but I would like a picnic or two planned.

It was with deep regret that I found out last week that the SunBelt Service Net has been discontinued. I discovered this net three years ago on 3990 Khz. while scanning the 75 meter band and I have checked into it almost every evening since then. It was started around 1994 and has grown to where there were over 150 check-ins daily. With the few net-controllers remaining, it was a tremendous strain on the evening's net-control by the end of the 2 1/2 to 3 hours time it required. The net-control stations used computer rosters to keep tabs on the stations checking in, no small task. I believe

that around 1500 stations total were on the rosters. I have made some dear friends as a result of the net: Bill, W3IHZ, Berryville, VA; Frank, W8CXU, Swanee, GA; "Q", KC4SR0; George, AA2FU plus others.

Jeanne and I attended the SunBelt Convention in Mt. Sterling, Kentucky last year. I miss the fellowship and fun of the net but hope to still have contact with the friends I have made through the net. My hat goes off to the SunBelt Service Net and the fine jobs the net operators did over the years. The popularity of it was the best indicator.

I am so pleased with the attendance of our club. A club is only as strong as its members so keep up the good work.

73,  
Ellsworth K4LXG

## MARA Needs a Public Service Committee Chairperson

The MARA club needs a volunteer to serve as the Public Service Committee chairperson. This position serves as the contact point between the club and the public organizations that we serve, such as the March of Dimes, the MS Society, Bike Virginia, the Bridgewater Lawn Party officials, and such. There are about four or five more events this year. This is a very rewarding position, and doesn't take too much time. If you are willing to serve your community and the club in this manner, please call Ellsworth or any other member of the Board.

### DON'T FORGET! RACES CLASS!

There is a Virginia RACES Training Session on **May 31** at EMU in Harrisonburg!

There is no cost, but you **must** pre-register!

Go to the VA-RACES website to register with RACES and also to sign up for the course.

## VARA President's Message

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Shoney's in Staunton on April 1, 2003.

I opened the meeting at 7:30 pm. There were 23 members present and 5 guests: Bob VanFossen K4DJG, Don WX4C & Carol N4JKX Landes and Joshua & Jacob, sons of Frank Green KE4ASC.

The 50/50 was won by Kay Cook KF4CZL, Congratulations, Kay!

The VARA Field Day Committee for 2003 is Terry Kielbasa, KG4MWI, Billy Hooke, KG4JOF, and Mike Reno KG4OON. They will be working together with the MARA FD Committee.

Billy was elected to be the Field Day Committee Chairman and Jason N4DSL from MARA will be the Assistant Committee Chairman.

Gayle Shull KU4XN will be ordering FD pins and also taking orders for Field Day T-shirts, if anyone

is interested. A picture of the T-shirt can be seen on the ARRL Web Site.

The MS Walk was held on Sunday, April 6th, in Waynesboro. Everything went well. Thanks to Pat KD4WWF, Richard AA4RH, Cowles K4EME, Billy KG4JOF, Marvin KF4WDI, Benny N4BCC and Ray Ke4HVR for all their help. Even though it was cool, it was very sunny and we had a good time.

It's time to start thinking about Field Day. Then comes the time to tear down all the equipment and antennas, pack them up for another year. Don't forget that we need help tearing down also.

Our next meeting is May 6th at Shoney's, be seeing you there.

In the meantime, hope you are really enjoying this nice spring weather.

Benny, N4BCC

## For Sale or Trade

TRIBAND BEAM, ROTATOR, AND TOWER: Complete tri-band antenna system: Mosley TA-33Jr tri-band beam; Alliance rotor, control, cable; 30+ foot steel tower; with instruction manuals. All for \$150. Contact Howard Zehr, N9AHQ, in Broadway at 540-896-9086

SPEAKER: Kenwood SP430 speaker, excellent shape. Size matches the TS430, TS440 and TS450 radios. The color is lighter than that of the TS450. Price is \$75.00 plus shipping from zip code 19518. Contact Neal Layman, N4XU, my daytime phone is 610 385-6075(work) and after 6 PM 610 469-6081 (home).

VX-5R Handheld Tri-band: Yaesu VX-5R Kit Includes:VX-5R Triband radio (6m,2m, 70cm) @ 5 watts, Battery charger, Yaesu ADMS-1E Programming Software and programming cable w/ Yaesu adapter, MFJ boom headset for VX-5, VX-5R Pocket Reference by Hugh McCully, VE3AYR (much better than the manual) , VX-5R Wallet Reference by KB9K Asking \$225. Contact Bryan, KG4RMY, at 540-434-6966

G5RV HF ANTENNA: Covers 80 through 10 meters with a tuner. Reasonable coverage on 20-meters without a tuner. Includes SO-239 connector, 31-foot twin-lead vertical section, center insulator, and 102-foot top section (51 feet each side of center insulator), all assembled, rolled up and ready to go. Asking \$20. Contact David, KD9LA, at 540-234-0448 evenings.

## Free to Good Home

NETWORK CABLING: Category 3 (10 MBps) 8-conductor networking and telephone wire, perfect for home networking, several 75-to-100 foot lengths. Free. Contact David, KD9LA, at 540-234-0448.

C-BAND SATELLITE RECEIVER: Working condition, includes remote, installed VideoCipher II chip. Also includes free 10.5-foot mesh dish with operational LNB, with equatorial mount, antenna polarization motor, and working dish drive motor and assembly. Free. Come help dismantle. Contact David, KD9LA, Weyers Cave, at 540-234-0448.

## Wanted to Buy

2-METER HANDHELD: Wanted: 2 meter handheld, at least 5 watts, tone capability..price range \$50 - \$100; Contact Morris Peltz, KG4VOQ, email only at morrispeltz@hotmail.com.

HF MOBILE TRANSCEIVER: Wanted: Moble transciever, run at least 10 -80 meters, price range \$275 max. Contact Morris Peltz, KG4VOQ, email only at morrispeltz@hotmail.com.

TNC's YOU NO LONGER WANT: Wanted: surplus, fully-operational TNC's you no longer want to keep around if you no longer work packet. Needed for digital demonstration network for educational institution. Contact David, KD9LA, at 540-568-3024 daytime or 234-0448 evenings.

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## Field Day Committee Looking For A Few Good Men (and Ladies)

The Field Day Planning is coming along nicely. We are still in need for a few volunteers, however.

Specifically, we need someone to help Ellsworth and Jeanne man (or woman) the welcome station and reception table.

We are also in need of a trailer or other "housing" for the Get-On-The-Air station. This is the station which allows novices and even non-hams (under the direction of a qualified control operator) to "get on the air" and experience the thrill of Field Day operating. If you know of where we can round up another trailer or other "hardtop" home for

this station, please let us know as soon as possible.

And finally, we need volunteers to sign up for operating shifts. Pick your time early, and get your first choice of the operating windows. Sign up for a half-hour, hour, two hours, or whatever you like. Especially, we need night owls to keep the transmitters operating during the midnight to breakfast period.

Our next meeting is May 8, at 6:30 pm at the Mount Crawford Burger King, half-mile west of I-81 exit 240.

If you can't make the meeting, contact the Field Day Committee via email at:

kg4jof@arrl.net

Or

n4dsl@atrs.com

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## The Opinionated One: How to Repair Your Ham Radio

My friend Verman Krabliess was working the DX contest last month when it happened. Twelve hours into the contest, in the middle of his fifth contact, his speaker suddenly went silent.

He immediately picked up the phone and called me, and asked, "What should I do? Should I box the thing up and send it back to the factory? Can some local dude fix it for me? Or do you think maybe I can fix it myself?"

To be perfectly honest, I was thinking of "fixing it" for him right then and there, — especially since I wasn't in the contest and had just been woken up at 2:30 a.m. on a Sunday morning by some bozo asking what he should do with his ham radio.

But I was nice. Instead of "fixing it" for him like I wanted to do, I simply told him, specifically, and very graphically, what he should do with his radio.

"Really? Won't that hurt?" he asked.

"Not if you do it really, really fast!" I snapped, and slammed the phone down.

"Was that my mother again," asked Deb, rolling over.

"You ought to be more polite to her. After all, she..."

"No, it was Verman!" I grumped. "His radio is broken."

"He woke you up in the middle of the night just to tell you his radio was broken?" Deb sat up, now wide awake too.

"No, he woke me up in the middle of the night to ask me what he should do with it, so I told him what he should do with it. And if he actually does it, the doctors in the emergency room at Augusta Medical will be talking about Verman's radio for years!"

"Maybe if he took it to lunch Monday some of the ham guys could help him fix it," Deb offered.

"Knowing the guys at the ham radio lunch, that will probably be about as productive as what I just told him to do with it," I answered.

Anyway, I called Verman the next morning and apologized, and suggested he bring the radio to the ham radio lunch place Monday at noon. "Most of the guys who eat there have that exact same kind of radio, so maybe they've encountered that particular problem and might give you some help on fixing it."

"I sure hope they don't tell me to do what you told me last night," said Verman. "Did you know that when I tried to..."

"Okay, okay, stop, I don't want to hear about it. Just bring the thing to lunch Monday."

Sure enough, when I arrived at the restaurant Monday, Verman was there with the radio. The cover was off and the guys were all hunched down over the table staring at its innards.

"Here's the problem," said the electronics wizard, pointing. "Your digital signal mixing ga-hoozer blopper is loose."

"Nope, that's not a problem," corrected the hearing aid man. "Mine's been like that ever since I got it, and it works just fine. I'll bet the problem is a bad resistor in your sibberfunken circuit. These little Icom's are famous for bad resistors in their sibberfunken circuits."

"It can't be that," said the New Market guy. "You only find sibberfunken circuits on the Mark III models, not this one. I'll bet his problem is a burnt-out final transistor on the gobbletinker board. That's where I'll put my money."

"Did you put it on the scope and check out the barkle pinkle level?" asked the one who works at DuPont.

"That won't matter if his lerbestoral capacitor has gone bad," said the Waynesboro geezer. "My guess is that he needs a new wumple. And I know this great RV place in northern Virginia where the guy will sell you a new two-dollar wumple, and will only charge you forty bucks, not the usual sixty like most of those RV

"But a wumple won't even fit inside that radio case," pointed out the guy with the bulging tummy.

"What do you know about radios?" asked the automatic transmission guy. "You don't even own an RV!"

"Yeah, that's right," everyone else nodded in agreement. "And you don't go to Gospel music concerts, either! In fact, you don't even own an SUV with a huge honkin' screwdriver antenna on it! What can you possibly know about radios!"

"Did it go 'fffzzzz' when it went out, or did it just die?" asked the old one from West Virginia, getting back to the radio.

"Nope, it went 'brrrrpPthPPthhh' and then went silent," Verman said, showering the whole table in the process.

"Sounds like gas to me," said the bearded professor, drying his face and arms with a napkin.

"But if it was gas, it wouldn't just go silent, would it? Wouldn't it make some noise?" asked the retired telephone guru, drying his glasses and face with his handkerchief.

"Mine did," said the office supply fellow, as he tried to dry the table with his sleeve. "It still makes noise."

"I'll tell you this" said the grey-beard from Staunton.

"Ozzie had one of these for at least 75 years, and Joe had one for at least 60 years. Their's never, ever, made noise."

"Serves you right for buying a Kenwood," pipes up the copier man, liberally sprinkling pepper on his burger, on his pie, in his iced tea, and even into Verman's radio.

"This isn't a Kenwood, it's an Icom!" Verman protested, blowing the pepper off the radio and making everyone sneeze, bringing back the napkins and hankies. "See here on the front it says, 'Icom'? Even I know enough not to buy a Kenwood."

"What's the difference?" asked the meteor-scatter aficionado. "Just be thankful it isn't a Yaesu or you'd be paying through the nose."

"So now it's my nose?" Verman asked. "Saturday night it was my..."

"Say, that reminds me of a joke I heard when I was living in Florida," said the fellow who drives the old silver BMW. "A duck, an elephant, and a blonde lawyer walk into a bar, ..."

"Everybody wave at the green dump-truck," interjected the retired-reverend-turned-long-distance-salesman as Amazing Grace roared by, Jake brake rattling the glass in the windows.

"How come he never honks?" asked the network kid, pumping his fist up and down in the air over his head.

"Can we get back to my radio?" Verman was exasperated. "Maybe I should send it back to the factory for repair."

"You'll be off the air for about four years, if you do that. That's how long it took them with mine," piped up the retired Air Force chaplain.

Verman shakes his head, picks up his radio, pops the cover back on, and walks out. I follow. In the parking lot, he asks, "do you suppose the lights had anything to do with it?"

"The lights? What lights?" I ask.

"The house lights. Just before the radio quit working, the power in my house went off and all the lights went out. You know, come to think of it, my 12-volt power supply and the computer in my shack quit working about that same time, too."

I stop and say, "Verman, go home and try your radio today. I'll bet these guys have fixed your problem, and you didn't even know it! Man, are these guys good or what!?"

Once again, Deb was right! Verman was back on the air that very night! Those guys can fix anything! The secret to repairing ham radios is to come to lunch and consult the experts! Their advice is priceless!



## QRP Group Status Report

The members of the QRP Club met Tuesday, April 15, at KD5KA Chuck Vogan's house. Many topics relating to QRP and radio activities were discussed, and stories shared by the members. Everyone had a chance to admire Ramsey QRP 40 meter transceiver kit built by Steve, WD4RXU, as well Chuck's handiwork with his Elecraft K2 transceiver. QRP doesn't necessarily mean cheap or simple.

Some of the topics that have been in the forefront of the group's discussions have to do with QRP operations during times of emergency. Low power operations really go hand-in-hand with emergency operations, when QRP can be powered by natural means, such as solar power, or long-lasting deep cycle batteries. Stations can be set up with relative ease without dragging around extra gear and power supplies. One of the areas that the club will be focusing on in the next few months is determining the effective locations for QRP operations in Rockingham and Augusta Counties. Certain locations will prove to be better for low power operations, and the challenge is to determine these for future reference. It will involve putting some of the things the club has discussed during the winter months into actual practice in the field, and the members are looking forward to that.

The club has also been discussing antenna systems for mobile QRP operations. There have been several good articles in QST magazine lately dealing with simple portable antenna designs, and some of the members have had varied experiences with antennas. The club will be testing some of these designs out in the future, and putting them to the test in the field as such.

As spring and summer allow more activities outdoors, you can be sure that the QRP club will be taking an active role in getting out and seeing just what can be done with just a few watts of power. It promises to be a fun and exciting time in the near future for the club members. Come join us, and see what QRP can really do!

Above Photo: Club members meet at KD5KA Chuck Vogan's house April 15. Left to Right: Bill Karle, KG4UPN, Andrew Barbour, AG4XN, Chuck Vogan, KD5KA, Bryan Daniels KG4RMY, Steve Hensley WD4RXU, Ellsworth Neff K4LXG, Jeff Hensley KG4GYZ.

## Volunteer Examiner Session Report and Welcome to New Hams!

The following Hams made the April 12 test session a success.

### VOLUNTEER EXAMINERS

- BOB VANFOSSEN K4DJG
- GERALD NAMAN KN4FM
- WILLIAM E ELLIOT N4VUF
- KENNITH HIGH K4KLH
- ANDREW BARBER AG4XN
- RAY RITCHIE K4NRA
- ELLSWORTH NEFF K4LXG

We had Ten candidates for testing with seven (7) new licenses and three upgrades.

### UPGRADES

- WILLIAM E SMITH JR UPGRADE (GENERAL) KC8SRJ
- JAMES CONIS (EXTRA) KG4VOP
- TERRY KIELBASA (TECH HF) KG4MWI

### NEW LICENSES

- CHAD MOYER KC8WKF
- RANDY GARDNER KG4ZSS
- THOMAS BROESKI KG4ZSR
- DORMAN SEE KC8WKE
- TAMMIE GREEN KG4ZSQ
- GLEMA REXRODE KG4ZSP
- WARD MALCOM KC8WKD

Many thanks to all those who gave their time for this service to our community.

KU4XN GAYLE  
Volunteer Exam Coordinator

## VARA Secretary's Report—April 1 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Shoney's in Staunton on April 1, 2003. The President Benny Cook N4BCC opened the meeting at 7:30pm. There were 23 members present and 5 guests, Bob VanFossen K4DJG, Don WX4C & Carol N4JKX Landes and Joshua & Jacob, sons of Frank Green KE4ASC.

The 50/50 was won by Kay Cook KF4CZL. Congrats, Kay!

The VARA Field Day Committee for 2003 is: Terry Kielbasa KG4MWI, Billy Hooke KG4JOF and Mike Reno KG4OON. They will be working together with the MARA FD Committee. Billy KG4JOF was elected to be the Field Day Committee Chairman and Jason N4DSL will be the Assistant Committee Chairman. Gayle Shull KU4XN will be ordering FD Pins and also taking orders for Field Day T-Shirts if anyone is interested. A picture of the T-Shirt can be seen on the ARRL Web Site.

Since our club is out growing the room at Shoney's we have a committee of three, Richard Huttinger, Benny Cook and Al Bonck that are looking for a new location.

The MS Walk was held on Sunday April 6th in Waynesboro and all went well. The VARA had seven members to help,

Billy Hooke KG4JOF has the swap shop page completed and Bob McCracken N4JGO has linked it to the VARA Web Page. This will be for ham related items only. You can send a list of items you have for sale, swap or something you would like to buy, to Billy Hooke KG4JOF at: KG4JOF@arrl.net Also if you have a digital camera or scanner and can send a picture of the item, that would help it sell. Check it out from the VARA Web Site at: <http://www.qsl.net/w4mus/>

Butch Washer N5SMQ is the EC for Highland County and Jerry Moats WD4ITN is his assistant. Their ARES Net will be on the Monterey repeater 147.180+ and tone of 100.0 at 8:30pm on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month. They would like to welcome everyone that can get into the repeater to check into the Net.

ADDRESSES!!! If your e-mail address or home address is changed for any reason YOU need to notify us so we can make the necessary changes so you will continue to get your newsletter. Also you should update your e-mail address in QRZ and Buckmaster. This is where we look if an e-mail is returned to us. You can send your e-mail address to: Benny, bennycjr@ntelos.net Ken, klharris@rica.net Jeff, jmrinehart@yahoo.com Ray, colvingr@rica.net David, fordhadr@jmu.edu

On the sick list:

I talked with Ozzie Dillon KD4RD on the phone on Tuesday morning April 8th after trying him at home for two days. Since I didn't get him I called the hospital and he had been there since Friday April 4th. His voice was weak and he didn't have much to say except that he thought the doctors had things under control at this time. He doesn't have any idea when he may get to go home.

I was by to see Dan James W4DLJ recently; he is getting

around with his walker. He had a problem with his HF antenna and had been out to repair that a few days before I was there. Let's keep these folks in our thoughts and prayers.

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 will be held on the 146.850 repeater on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 8:00pm. 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 Benny N4BCC, Alby AD4KZ or Richard AA4RH. We need to get some young people interested in ham radio. Listen for any hints that someone may like to learn what ham radio is all about.

PROGRAMS NEEDED...Richard AA4RH, our 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. It does not have to be HAM related, it could be anything you think the group would find interesting.

It's time to start thinking about Field Day. Make plans to be there and help set up stations, pull up antennas, have fun operating FD 2003. Then comes the time to tear down all the equipment and antennas, pack them up for another year. Don't forget, we need help tearing down also.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57pm

Field Day Chairman, Billy Hooke KG4JOF, gave a rundown on the progress of the committee after their second meeting. He reported that MARA had voted to order 35 FD Pins for 2003. The VARA also voted to order 35 pins. Billy said Gayle Shull KU4XN would be doing the ordering for both clubs, a total of 70 pins.

Submitted By:  
VARA Secretary  
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

### GOING TO DAYTON?

Anyone interested in carpooling or joining a vehicle caravan to the Dayton Hamvention, contact Bob Van Fossen, email [k4djg@arrl.net](mailto:k4djg@arrl.net)

## MARA Secretary's Report –April 3rd Mtg

The April meeting of the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association was held at Evers Restaurant in Mt. Crawford. The meeting was opened at 7:30PM by the club president, Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG. There were 20 members and 3 guests present.

The secretary's report for the March meeting was accepted as given in the April issue of the MARA monitor. Sandy Mullins, K4PZC gave the treasurers report. The club's balance as of 3/31/03 was \$2735.53 and the report was accepted as given.

Dale Showalter, N4DAI announced that volunteers will be needed to help with antenna mounting for the amateur station at RMH within the next few weeks. Also Dale noted that RACES will be buying pizza for the training on May 31<sup>st</sup>, and the county command bus will be on display at the training site.

David Fordham, KD9LA brought up the March of Dimes walkathon which will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup>, at least 5 operators will be needed for the event which starts at the Harrisonburg municipal parking lot.

Gayle Shull KU4XN made a motion for MARA to purchase half of the 2003 Field Day pins along with the VARA club, the motion was passed. Also Gayle noted he will be ordering Field Day shirts. Contact Gayle if interested.

Chuck, KD5KA reported there will be a meeting of the QRP club on Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at his home in Weyers Cave.

Gayle Shull, KU4XN reported that the next VE exam will be held on April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Woodmen of the World building in Dayton.

Billy Hooke, KG4JOF announced that the 2003 MARA / VARA field day will be using the N4XU call and will be category 3A. The next field day committee meeting will be April 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM at the Mt. Crawford Burger King.

50/50 was won by Benny Cook, N4BCC. \$13.00 went to Benny and \$13.00 went to the club.

The formal meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM and this month's program was show and tell. Many members brought their projects to the meeting and demonstrated them for the club.

Todd Harrison, K4TMH  
MARA Secretary



"That's the problem with calling "CQ Field Day" too long!"

## Calendar

- May 1: MARA Club Meeting
- May 4: Page County ARES Net 146.67 repeater (and every Sunday night)
- May 4: Skywarn Board Meeting and Net Control Class
- May 5: Rockingham County ARES NET (146.55 simp)
- May 6: VARA Club Meeting
- May 7: Highland County ARES Net (147.18 repeater)
- May 8: Field Day Committee Meeting (Mt. Crawford Burger King, 6:30 pm)
- May 8: Augusta County ARES Net (146.85 repeater)
- May 12: Rockingham County ARES Net (145.13 rptr, and every Monday night the rest of May)
- May 16-18: Dayton Hamvention
- May 18: Skywarn Storm Damage Survey Class
- May 21: Highland County ARES Net (147.18 repeater)
- May 24-25: CQ WW WPX Contest (CW)
- May 31: Virginia RACES Training Session
  
- June 1: Maanassas Hamfest
- June 3: VARA Club Meeting
- June 5: MARA Club Meeting
- June 7: Winston-Salem (NC) Hamfest
- June 14: VE Exams in Dayton VA
- June 14-15: ARRL June VHF QSO Party
- June 15: Frederick (MD) Hamfest
- June 18: Skywarn Basics II Class
- June 21: Ham Radio Kids Day
- June 27: Field Day Setup and Dinner
- June 28-29: ARRL Field Day

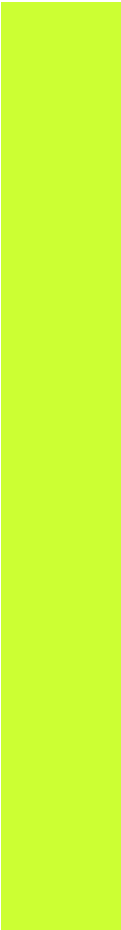
# MARA/VARA

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

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Return Service Requested

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## MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.

President: Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG  
Vice President: Chuck Vogan, KD5KA  
Secretary: Todd Harrison, K4TMH  
Treasurer: Sandy Mullins, K4PZC  
Board (exp 03): Jason Armentrout, N4DSL  
Board (exp 04): Richard Haxton, KC3AN

<http://mara.ws>

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: Benny Cook, N4BCC  
Vice President: Ken Harris, KE4GKD  
Secretary: Ray Colvin, KE4HVR  
Treasurer: Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW  
Program Manager: Richard Huttinger, AA4RH

<http://www.qsl.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