

# MARA/VARA MONITOR

Published Monthly for Radio Amateurs in the Shenandoah Valley

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## MARA Elections: Announcement Delayed

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association (MARA) held its annual election of officers at the October meeting, in accordance with the corporation's by-laws. The new officers will take over at the November meeting.

Who are the new officers?

Good question. No one has advised the newsletter editor of the winners. No minutes were received this month, and no other communiqués were received giving the information.

Apparently there is some question about whether hanging chads count as a vote. Plus, the litigious Ft. Lauderdale members are filing suit to stop the recount and have KD9LA declared the "whiner".

The latest word is that the ballots were being transported by Ryder Rental truck for counting by a special panel of Florida hams. We will let you know the outcome as soon as an official announcement is made, probably by June.

In the meantime, come to the November meeting at Ever's and find out for yourself!

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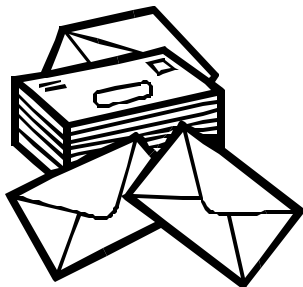
## Want A Real "Classy" Date? Try November 5!

Ham Radio Classes may return to the Valley on November 5th. The class will prepare candidates for the Technician exam. There is no minimum age, and no experience is necessary.

If you know of someone interested in taking the classes, contact Gerald Nauman, KN4FM, at phone 540-434-0859, or email at [kn4fm@arrl.net](mailto:kn4fm@arrl.net)

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## Anthrachnophobia: Irrational Fear of Envelopes



In cooperation with Bin Laden's efforts at severely disrupting and inconveniencing American society, both the FCC and CQ magazine have announced they will no longer open envelopes.

According to the ARRL letter dated October 19, the FCC headquarters has advised they will no longer accept any hand-delivered, messengered, or mailed envelopes until further notice, advising all filers to handle their business on-line.

In a similar development, CQ magazine has said in a public email that all logs for the CQ WW DX

contest will sit in their mailroom unopened. They instruct all contest participants to submit their logs electronically, and ask all hams to pass the word on the change.

Neither the FCC nor CQ have given any direction to the many hams who do not have computers or access to on-line services. Also, it is unknown whether emails will be disinfected from viruses before opening.

*Information submitted by ARRL  
and Daryl Cline, WB4YEX*

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## Bike Virginia Fall Foliage Festival Public Service Report

Our Bike VA mornings started out with a great breakfast at Shoney's of Staunton. As usual there was no joking around the table...Well, not too much. Even our nice waitress joined in on the joking and laughter each morning.

We had a new net control both days this year, Benny N4BCC did a great job for us. Thanks to Benny for taking on this task for us. Also Bryan Fordham KG4JOE got some experience as net control and filled in some for Benny. Good Job! Bryan keep up the good work with amateur radio.

For the most part things went well both days without any really serious accidents. On Saturday a

thirteen year old Son somehow got separated from his Dad. His Dad asked for our help locating him. The son was found back at their camp site near the park gym unharmed and enjoying himself. The father had gotten nervous and really worried, he was all smiles and thankful to hear we had found his son and he was safe and unharmed.

Late Sunday a young man had a bike wreck in which he received hand, arm and knee injuries. Luckily there were no serious cuts or broken bones. He was taken to the hospital to be checked out just in case there was an injury that was not noticeable.

The weather was wonderful both days and the riders made many comments about it. This year the riders seemed more courteous by moving over when they noticed a car coming. I had several riders stop or make a comment as they passed by saying they appreciated us being there for them. We transported several riders back to their campsites that had tired out from riding the hills. Some said they had not been used to long distance rides and the hills but really enjoyed the scenery here in the valley. All riders were really appreciative of the amateurs who gave them rides back to camp or to the bike repair stations so they could continue on their way.

Thanks to the owners of the 147.225 and the 147.045 repeaters that were used again this year for the Bike VA communications. The valley repeaters make our job possible during these rides.

Thanks to all who helped with Bike VA this year. The Bike VA people put in a really good word for the valley amateurs and wanted to let all that helped know they were greatly appreciated.

Ray Colvin KE4HVR

## Thanks to Bike Virginia Helpers!

Benny	N4BCC	Greg	W4GRC
Jeff	W4PJW	Ray	KE4HVR
Clint	KB4OLM	Pat	KD4WWF
David	Ad4TJ	Cowles	K4EME
Paul	KG4GCA	Joe	N4LIG
David	KD9LA	Gayle	KU4XN
Bryan	KG4JOE	Billy	KG4JOF
Debbie	KB4WPE	Joe	KD4FKT
Doug	N4DUG	Stin	KE4SSF
Bill	KE4LKS	Ken	KE4GKD
Gordon	WA4EJC	Paul	KG4GCA

We would also like to Thank the following for the use of their repeaters during this event. Each machine with the coverage area they have worked just great as in years past!!!

Donnie	(N4RAG)	147.225
Scott	(KE4CKJ)	147.045

Also, thanks to Clint, KB4OLM for the setup and use of his communications trailer, used for Net Control both Saturday and Sunday.



Over a thousand bicyclists participated in this year's Bike Virginia event. Saturday's net control station was based at the Towers Community Center just west of Natural Chimneys, where lunch was offered to participants, including the volunteer ham communicators.

## “Oh-Oh” is Good for a Change! – K4RBZ Cited for Good Operating Practice

As a novice in 1954, I received two pink slips from ARRL Official Observers telling me my CW transmissions were being received on harmonics outside the ham band.

Upon returning from our trip to the Maritime provinces of Canada, I found another Official Observer notice from Wayne Staats, WS8RM of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. I was apprehensive about what I could have done

wrong now, but this time it was a Good Operator Report.

On September 11, the day of the terrorist attacks, the Virginia RACES net was called on 3.9470 Mhz.

On Tuesday nights at 9 pm, the MennoNet regularly meets on 3.947.5 Mhz, so I checked into the RACES net and requested permission to announce on the MennoNet frequency that our net would be cancelled that evening so that we would not

interfere with the emergency net.

The Official Observer noted my "EXCELLENT radio signal quality/operating procedure as a fine example for all radio amateurs," and said to "please thank yourself and all the members of your group (net) for giving up the frequency for the VA RACES net. You all are a good example to all amateurs in the hobby....This Observer thanks you for your excellent example of good amateur practice for

others in the Amateur Radio Service. Keep up the good work."

By the way, while enroute to Canada, I stopped at Newington, Connecticut and toured the headquarters of ARRL which was very fascinating and informative.

*Gerry Brunk (K4RBZ)*

## W3HXH Receives Award from Eastern Mennonite High School

Dick Weaver, W3HXH, has just received a letter of commendation from Eastern Mennonite High School where he graduated in 1936.

The award recognizing his ministry of many years, which included three Mennonite churches in West Virginia, two in Harrisonburg, and one in

Staunton since his ordination to the ministry at age 28. He was also recognized for his role in the Mennonite Hour radio program, where for eleven years, he served as vice-chairman and worked as an announcer and recording engineer.

Dick was publicly honored at the annual Homecoming ser-

vice at EMU on Sunday, October 21.

Strangely nothing was mentioned in the letter or the service about his significant role in amateur radio, so that must be noted as well. He played a significant role in emergency communication while in West Virginia, and has been one of the

main leaders in Sky Warn here in the Valley. All of us fellow hams congratulate Dick and Virginia for this honorable recognition!

Here's to Rev. Weaver!

*Gerry.....K4RBZ*

## WB4YEX is “Hot on the Trail”

I do not know how many may be aware of it but the Eastern PA.QRP club has various awards for achieving QSO's from all the states the trail runs through.

Since building my K1 I have been going upon the AT every other weekend and operating .

One of the awards is working all trail states with someone on the trail and one is working all the trail states from the trail.

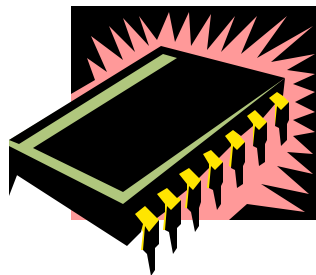
Check out their website at

<http://www.n3epa.org/Pages/AT/AT.htm>

You need not be QRP for the awards .

## Mint Chip Sale! Only 50 cents Each! –KG4GZG

Integrated IC Chips for Sale! Only 50 cents each! 50% of all sales go to MARA. Contact Andrew Barbour KG4GZG at 540-337-1608 in Stuarts Draft for further details if you are interested!



CD4027  
CD4028  
CD40102BE  
CD4025  
CD4012AE  
CD4049AE  
CD4050BE  
CD4013AE  
CD4022  
CD4029AE

CD4019AE  
MC498  
MC14528CP  
MC14013B  
MC1458PI  
MC1458CP  
TIL112  
UA741CV  
SN74C193N

## Help Decide: "What is the VE Testing Schedule for 2002?"

October 6 test session was another success, with four tests given with three new licenses issued.

I would like to thank the following Hams for their dedication to give their time for the test.

- **Greg Czerniack W4GRC--**
- **Robert Van Fossen K4DJG-**
- **Jason Armentrout N4DSL and**
- **Ray Ritchie K4NRA** (who could not sign off on any papers because his brother was testing.)

Congratulations to all who tested successful and many thanks to those who helped. Our next and last session for the year will be held December 1, 2001.

The schedule for next year is yet to be worked out. I need your thoughts for the frequency of our dates for the next year. Let me know what your feelings are.

*Gayle Shull, KU4XN*

## Swan Song: MARA President's Report

I want to think Cowles Andrus, K4EME, for the presentation he made at the October meeting. His talk about satellite operations was very interesting. I learned some new things, and hope each of you did also.

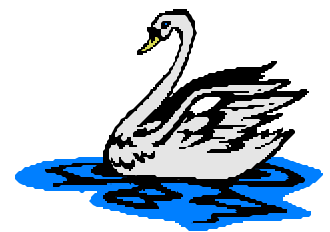
Congratulations to the new board that was elected last month. We made good selections, and hope each of us support them during the coming

year. I have enjoyed the past two years, and would like to thank each of you for the help you gave me.

There is one more area that I want to plug. As most of you know, the club is planning to hold classes for Technician class operators. Ellsworth, K4LXG, Chuck, KD5KA, and

myself are planning to teach. Classes should start on Nov. 5 if we get all our "ducks" in a row. Let me know if you know someone that is interested in taking this class. Pre-registration is required. You can reach me at 434-0859 or kn4fm@arrl.net. I'll have more details at this month's meeting.

*Gerald, KN4FM*



## VARA President's Message

### ELECTIONS FOR NEW OFFICERS NEXT MONTH

A nominating committee has been selected to find candidates for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Joan (KF4CWR) our current treasurer, Ray (KE4HVR) our current secretary, and Richard (KF4QZG) our current Vice President have done a great job. I think each deserves another term. As your president, I think it is time to make a change. I hope someone will come forward and express their interest in serving as President of VARA. I think we need a president with a passion for Amateur Radio. I have passion, but little time to do the kind of job I think a president should do.

### WEB SITE FOR VARA

We had great deal of input regarding a new web site for VARA. Lot's of good ideas as well. One thing we at least agree on, is our need for a web page. During discussion, it was suggested we have our news letter editor down load the newsletter to the web page, then everyone could go to the web page and read or download the newsletter. I guess this might save Dave some time. The club suggested we list the club members on our future web site with e-mail addresses. Stay tuned. Several have come forward and a committee was formed to explore the possibilities.

### CHRISTMAS DINNER DECEMBER 4TH

Can you believe it? It is almost time for the holidays. In less than two months we will gather together for our annual Christmas party. This year we will meet at the Texas Steak House, located off Route 250 on Rowe Road. I look forward to seeing a great turn out. You don't have to RSVP or pay in advance, just show up. We have a room and will order off the menu. That's all for this month folks. See you in November at Shoney's. Bring a friend and let's talk up Amateur Radio.

*73, Greg, W4GRC*



## A Few Words From Officer Tony...

Hi Folks! As many of you know, the Virginia RACES training materials are constantly undergoing review and update.

During the Y2K activation, there was quite a bit of discussion about the very real threat of terrorist activities, from the very same people who are credited with the horrible September 11 attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

One of my first acts was to appoint Ed Harris, KE4SKY, State RACES Training Officer. Ed has done an outstanding job in developing and updating our training materials that you see at the live sessions. Steve Cuccio, Erik Werner, Vic Culver, and Art Fella have assisted Ed with particular modules. Erik did a great job on Packet. Many thanks to all for their contributions!

Most modules are strictly amateur radio related. However, two programs are excellent for the general public. These are

(and they are new) Terrorism Awareness (released a month before the September 11th attacks) and, Fire Awareness (released on 2000).

We have been inundated by requests for these programs from all over the country, and they are now posted on the web site ([www.varaces.org](http://www.varaces.org)) for anyone to download. There are no passwords, there has never been a charge for training in Virginia - and, as long as I have anything to do with it, that's the way it will stay!

In fact, WRVA today featured our Terrorism Training program on the Allen Price show. They suggested every business and individual in Richmond should download the Fire Awareness program and also the Terrorism Awareness package, "so you won't be subject to ridiculous stories about what is not true."

On an individual basis, you may wish to suggest your local media

stations and newspapers look at them for their listeners and readers. While we develop the training programs for Virginia RACES members, the two referenced programs would be excellent for the ordinary citizen. These programs are for Educational Use Only, and may not be sold.

As of yesterday, 17 state amateur radio ECOMM organizations are using Virginia RACES training materials. Oklahoma was the 17th. Santa Clara CA, although not a state, is now using our materials also.

Additionally, well over 500 emergency management organizations across the country are using our Fire Awareness program, and I have no idea how many are now using our Terrorism module. One thing I do know, its a lot!

You can download the training modules from [www.varaces.org](http://www.varaces.org) by clicking on "Training." They are in Adobe Reader 5.0.

Lastly a reminder, the Franklin training session (last live training for 2001) will be held at the City of Franklin, November 10, 2001. Each attendee (seating limited to 100) will receive 2 Gel Cell battery's, a CD of all training materials, and we believe a free lunch! Lunch is courtesy of the local merchants as a "Thank You" for all the great work done by RACES volunteers during Hurricane Floyd and the Franklin flood.

And, be safe in your daily travels - be aware of what's going on around you. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

*Tony Amato/KR4UQ  
State Emergency Radio Officer*



## Briefly...

### **Three more ham satellites are in orbit as of October 1.**

PCsat is a 1200-baud APRS digipeater designed for use by amateurs using hand-held transceivers or mobiles. PCsat is transmitting 1200 baud AFSK telemetry on 145.825 MHz, and was opened for general amateur use on October 3. Carried into space in addition to PCsat were the Starshine 3 and Sapphire payloads. Sapphire has 1200-baud telemetry and a voice replay on 437.1 MHz. Starshine3 is a "disco" mirror ball with 9600 baud telemetry on 145.825. Starshine 3's mirror ball is visible to the naked eye for earthbound students to track. Chip Margelli, K7JA, spotted the satellite October 2 on the West Coast. "Starshine was at least as bright as Mars," he reported. "Very impressive!" You should be able to hear Starshine's beacon on an FM HT anytime the satellite is in view.

### **Dah-Dit, Dah-Dah-Dah, ... Dah-Dit-Dah-Dit, Dit-Dah-Dah!**

Saying that it was setting aside any previous relevant decisions, the International Amateur Radio Union Administrative Council last week resolved that IARU policy supports "the removal of Morse code testing as an ITU requirement for an amateur license to operate on frequencies below 30 MHz." The Council further resolved to urge member societies--as an interim measure--to seek Morse code testing speeds not exceeding five words per minute.

**Check Out Your Gear!** A bad mike connector. A loose joint in the feedline. Intermittent connection where the coax hits the mobile antenna. Sticky contacts on the old battery pack. Bad ground, voltage drop due to excessively long power cables, --- you name it! These problems are normally inconveniences, but they can be downright dangerous in an emergency situation. Emergencies require solid and accurate communication. Fix your gear! Get out the soldering iron, call your elmer for assistance, and get the stuff fixed! You never know when you'll be asked to man a Red Cross shelter or fire station, and that is no time to be monkeying around with loose mike contacts or intermittent antennas.

**Valley Ham History Trivia** What year did the club officers consist of President Bob Smith KA4EEI, Vice-President Gordon Batey WA4FJC, Secretary Bill Jones KE4FM, and Treasurer Ozzie Dillon KD4RD? Bill Jones submitted a club roster from the past, complete with coffee stains, typed on a real honest-to-goodness typewriter. As a hint, the most recent call on the list was a KA4, and about half of the list are now Silent Keys!

**Reap What You Sow!** Want more diversity in your Monitor articles? Want to read about something other than the usual tripe? Then get busy and send in an email, an article, an announcement, a for-sale ad, a kudos, or a joke. Make the Monitor better!

## The Opinionated One Tries Digital – Works New Countries (...really new countries!)

A few months back, a young feller showed up at the local club meeting with one of them there newfangled computer thingies. He gave a right good program on some kinda new digital mode called PSK21 or MFJ32 or Car54 or some such somethin' or other. He said it was downright easy to use a radio to send and receive messages on a computer keyboard. In fact, to hear him tell it, working digital on the ham bands is as easy as forgetting how set the PL tone on a Kenwood HT. Man, it doesn't get any easier than that!

Now, everyone knows that I'm a bigger genius than anybody in the Valley. I hear them talking about me all the time, saying, "why, he's absolutely the biggest one in the whole Valley!" "Nobody can even come close to him, except for maybe MMC or GKD on a really good day..." Yep, they are all absolutely amazed at my mental abilities. "How can a man of his intelligence survive that long in the world today?" or my favorite: "That old man's mind oughta be in a museum." or "It's a wonder he can eat and breathe at the same time" and other such complimentary phrases showing how impressed they are with my intellect. I figger'd with so much intelligence stored up in my head, I could easily get started on the digital stuff. After all, if a young'un can do it, surely I can too.

I picked up the trusty old AES catalog and phoned Wycliffe. After about 30 minutes of arguing and screamin' and yellin' and cussin', I verified that they don't possess my mental aptitude. However, they were ready to admit my superiority and eager to learn from me. Whenever I'd ask them a question, they'd quickly respond back at me, "just how much do you know about this stuff, anyway?"

It only took a few minutes for me to impress them. I heard the fella cover the receiver as he called over to his buddy in the store, "Hey, Jack, come here and listen to this. You won't believe this guy I've got on the phone!" The other fella was duly impressed too. I heard him swear it would be years before they got a call from another one like me. I told them I was the smartest person in the Shenandoah Valley, and they said something about it's no wonder everybody there buys from HRO. The last thing they said before they hung up was, "You've got to know something we don't, if you honestly believe you can do that with this stuff!" It's always nice to have your genius recognized by the rank and file.

I dialed the trusty old boneheads over in Woodbridge, and in less time than it takes to kerchunk the Big Mountain repeater, the man in the brown shirt and brown shorts was unloading a pile of cardboard boxes off his Big Brown Truck.

I opened the packages, threw away all the styrofoam, hauled the black boxes down into the shack, and picked up the installation disks. Being a certified genius (even my doctor tells me that I'm "certifiable"), I decided to start by setting up the computer.

The first thing I did was boot my laptop. I did it the way W4GRC does it, and bruised my big toe. It sure didn't do the boots any good, either. I put the disk in the slot and double-clicked the icon, and the screen turned this pretty shade of blue and said something about an "Exception at Address \$650E\$45F". I suppose that's talking about that new Euro currency that's replacing the French Franc or something. I rebooted and the screen went blue again and said Windows has caused a System Fault. Imagine that! I rebooted again, and got another pretty blue screen with some other numbers, this time saying something about not finding a guy by the initials of D.L.L. After a little more experimentation, I discovered the disk apparently came

with a free game or simulation or something about NASCAR racing on it, because it kept telling me that it "Couldn't find the right driver." After three days, I gave up and tried another disk.

I had more luck with the second disk. It told me my computer had an incompatible device controller. NOW we were getting someplace. After a while, it told me to insert my Windows95 CD. Shoot, \*all\* my CD's are Windows 95 CD's. I'd insert one into the drive, and the machine would read it for a second and then spit it out and tell me to insert my Windows95 CD, so I'd insert another one, and it'd read it for a second or two and spit it out and ask for my Windows95 CD, and so on. I went through all 120 of my CD's (including "The Living Strings Play Herb Alpert's Greatest Hits" and "AOL Now Gives You 500 Free Minutes!") and finally, would you believe it, the screen turned this real pretty shade of blue again and said I'd created a Parity Check in Register 64\$F! Wow! I had no idea it was that easy! Am I a genius or am I a genius! And I did it without ever having to crack the manual!

Now that my computer was all set up and ready to go, I went to work assembling and configuring the black boxes. I'm something of an expert on the "translated English" that they use to write manuals these days. WA4E taught me well. "Battery please downside seeing or inserted sure" or "Connection uptake reversing beyond red and black on" or "Extreme Caution: quick knob about Yes." By using some imagination, a mirror, and a left-handed pencil, most hams can easily understand such assembly directions.

I hate hassling with all those ridiculous proprietary connectors they're putting on radios these days. So I use a trick KE4ASC told me about. I just pop the covers off the stuff and solder my own wires right to the boards themselves, bypassing the connectors entirely. I generally use Radio Shack zip cord or speaker wire. Sometimes I solder the same wire to ten or twelve traces on the circuit board, just to ensure a solid connection and make sure I've got enough voltage. That way, the wires help keep the shack warm in winter. The smoke keeps the flies away, too.

It took me less than an hour before everything was soldered together. The hardest part was figuring out how to wire the things into the funny new mike connector on my 2-meter rig. At least, I *think* it's a mike connector....

Once all the cables were plugged in, I turned on the power supply, pushed all the buttons marked "Power", and presto! The green lights came on, everything started buzzing, and I saw DX on my computer screen! Just like N4DSL said, I was copying the world! Those DX call signs literally flew across my screen! In fact, I saw some calls from countries I'll bet old W4LIG and N3JB and AD4TJ all put together haven't ever heard of! In less than ten minutes, I had sixty new DX calls in the log!

And it taught me how out-of-date I am with the ham prefixes. I guess its time to get a new callbook and start learning where these new calls are from. Then, I can start addressing QSL cards to those stations from my screen. I can't wait to get cards from R%tCdr&, T(q46xN't, ZbVt38, or wEJim5. Can you imagine what the ARRL Contest Manager will say when I submit my next DX Sweepstakes log!

## VARA Secretary's Report

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Shoney's of Staunton on October 2, 2001. President Greg Czerniak W4GRC opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. There were 20 members present and 6 guests, Frank Green KE4ASC brought his Wife and two Sons, Tom Eutsler KB4OLM, Bill Jordan KE4LKS and Paul Ruppert KG4GCA, Paul also submitted an application to join the Club.

The 50/50 winner was Clint KB4OLM.

Our Christmas Party Committee reported that the Christmas Party will be held on December 4<sup>th</sup> at the Texas Steak House just off Rt. 250 (Richmond Rd.) in Staunton. **Order what you want when you get there.** Thanks to Nancy KE4PHP, Lonnie N4WIV and Joan KF4CWR who did a great job getting our party scheduled for this year.

We were invited to join the MARA for a picnic at the WSVA radio station for a picnic and a tour on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>. The VARA had

sixteen members and four visitors who attended. Everyone had a wonderful meal and good fellowship. Ellsworth did a great job with the station tour showing us the transmitters and all the monitoring equipment used there. (Dick W3HXH would like to have that tube in his HF Amp). He explained how the antennas could be switched to make them act like a beam when needed or switched out for less gain. We toured the studios that Wip Robertson and Arnold Felcher worked in when they were running the station. On our way to see the weather station we walked by the BIG emergency generator and Ellsworth said, "You know when this thing fires up". The weather station Wip used to give his famous temperature, barometer and wind direction readings is still there and is in use today.

Plans are under way for our club web page by a committee of four, Cowles, Pat, Greg and Paul Ruppert KG4GCA who was our visitor and submitted his application to join the club. Paul is also experienced with web

pages and said he wouldn't mind setting up a web page for the club.

We have a nominating committee of three for the 2002 officers, Benny Cook N4BCC, Kay Cook, KF4CZL and Nancy Colvin KE4PHP. This committee is to bring the nominees to our November meeting for a membership vote.

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.

David Tanks did some calculations on power levels listed in QST and by that Clint and those who worked the 10M contest came in ninth. QST listed all power levels together, which was not a fair procedure. Congratulations to the 10M Contest Team for a job well done.

We would like to get training classes started for the Technician level. Anyone interested in helping teach the classes please contact Greg W4GRC,

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.

**NOTE:** As of Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> Richard will be out of town for about two months. You may contact Greg W4GRC while Richard is gone.

A motion to adjourn was made by Nancy KE4PHP, seconded by Kay KF4CZL. We adjourned at 8:35pm.

Clint KB4OLM led a discussion on baluns, how many turns, what type coax to use and what diameter to wind them. Then we got into a discussion on grounding at the station and tower. Also on the size and placement of ground rods for the best protection of equipment and housing. Thanks Clint.....Great job!

Submitted By:  
VARA Secretary  
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

November 1: MARA Club Meeting (Ever's Harrisonburg)

November 3-5: ARRL November CW Sweepstakes

November 4: Page County ARES Net – 146.670 repeater

November 5: Rockingham County ARES Net 146.550 simplex

November 5: Possible Ham Radio Classes Begin (see page 1)

November 6: VARA Club Meeting (Shoneys Staunton)

November 8: Augusta County ARES Net – 146.850 repeater (?)

November 10-11: ARRL EME contest

November 11: Page County ARES Net – 146.670 repeater

November 12: Rockingham County ARES Net – 145.130 repeater

November 17-19: ARRL November Phone Sweepstakes

November 18: Page County ARES Net – 146.670 repeater

November 19: Rockingham County ARES Net 145.130 repeater

November 20: Deadline for December MARA/VARA Monitor

November 22: Thanksgiving – spend time with your family...

November 24-25: CQ WW DX Contest CW weekend

December 4: VARA Christmas Party–Texas Steakhouse Staunton

December 6: MARA Christmas Party (?) tentative?

December 7-9: ARRL 160-meter contest

December 15-16: ARRL 10-meter contest

December 31: Straight Key Night

And for those who plan WAY ahead:

February 10, 2002 Frostfest

March 3, 2002: Vienna Hamfest

May 17-19, 2002: Dayton Hamvention

# 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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## Address Service Requested

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### MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

President: Gerald Nauman, KN4FM  
Vice President: Steve Tennyson, KF4ZWK  
Secretary: Phyllis Haxton N4VZC  
Treasurer: Sandy Mullins, K4PZC  
Board (exp 01): David Hughes, KF4SVR  
Board (exp. 02): Bob Tennyson KG4CHL

<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: Greg Czerniak, W4GRC  
Vice President: Richard Huttinger, KF4QZG  
Secretary: Ray Colvin, KE4HVR  
Treasurer: Joan Pitsenbarger, KF4CWR

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

VARA meets the first Tuesday of each month At Shoney's Restaurant on U.S. 250 in Staunton at I-81. Meal starts at 6:30 pm. Business meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

**Visitors are welcome.**

Dues (\$15 per year) should be mailed to:  
Joan Pitsenbarger, KF4CWR  
352 Campbell Street  
Staunton VA 24401