

*Published jointly by the Valley Amateur Radio Association and the*

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## MARA President's Message



As the elections pass by, and the year draws to its close, we can take time to look back on 2004. There's a lot to be thankful for.

But first off, WHERE DID IT GO!?! It seems that the months flew by too rapidly for my taste. I get to look back at my past radio accomplishments (or lack thereof), and see what I need to do in the future: attend more hamfests, get the new ham shack set up, get an antenna up in the air, get some air time, get some more training!



I have not had the time to devote to radio or to the Club over the last several months. I am thankful, however, for being able to buy a house, move, and get married to a wonderful woman in a short time span. I think 2005 will even out the hectic life a bit more, so I can spend a bit more time in the hobby. Who knows, maybe I'll even have time to study for that next upgrade!

With winter approaching, it is time once again to check on the state of your equipment and power sources. Winter storms are probably the most severe weather we normally receive here in the Valley. It is important that we all check our emergency power sources, to make sure they are up to snuff, as well as check antenna systems to make sure they will stay up during that next blizzard.

And while you are at it, check on your family supplies to ensure they are up to date. Food, water, heat, and warmth are important

in case you lose power at your house for a few days. It can happen anywhere, and it is much easier to get prepared now instead of when it is too late.

Also, with Christmas coming soon, how many of you will find a new radio related gift under your tree? Better get that wish list up-to-date, so Santa will be good to you!

I hope to see you all at the annual Christmas party. It's on Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 6:30 pm, so bring your spouses, wives, girlfriends, family, and friends to celebrate the end of the year with your fellow hams. As VARA has elected not to have one this year, everyone is welcome to come attend ours. I only ask that you let me know by November 30th how many will be attending, so we can give Evers Restaurant a head count. You can give me a call at 540-941-1961 and leave a message, or email me at [wckarle@yahoo.com](mailto:wckarle@yahoo.com).

On a personal note, I would like to recognize and thank two of our members for their service to MARA: Todd Harrison, K4TMH, who has served as Secretary, and Norman Benner, KA4EEN, who has coordinated the ARES net for many years. Both of these members volunteered and played an important role in the functioning of our group, and are to be congratulated in their service. I would ask that other members of MARA please step forward and honor these two members by filling these two positions.

Have a great Thanksgiving, and we'll see you all on the 2<sup>nd</sup>!

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*For those who may not know, Bill was married on Sunday, November 21st.*

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## WRAV Annual Meeting Scheduled for December 16

The Waynesboro Repeater Association of Virginia is going to hold its annual meeting on Thursday December 16, 2004 at 7:00 pm in the meeting room of the Waynesboro Public Library.

All members and those interested in the 147.075 repeater are invited to attend.

If you aren't familiar with the WRAV, this is the group that maintains the 147.075 repeater on Bear Den Mountain. This machine is one of the most reliable wide-area coverage repeaters serving the valley,

The machine features an autopatch available for association members, as well as Echolink access tying your 2-meter mobile or handheld into a network of over 2000 repeaters around the world.

Come the meeting to find out more information on how you can access the great features of this machine.



## VE Examination Coordinators Report – 2005 Calendar

Thanks go to all those who helped make this past year's testing sessions a success!

We served twenty-five (25!) people so far this year, and we still have December's testing session to go.

We gave 27 tests, and are responsible for 14 technician licenses, and 3 general licenses.

We still have the upcoming VE session on December 11.

The tests for next year (2005) are scheduled on:

- **February 12**
- **April 9**
- **June 11**
- **August 13**
- **October 11**
- **December 3**

Note that they are all the second Saturday, except December. Mark your calendar now.

I'm looking forward to another good year with your help.

Gayle Shull

KU4XN

## Camp Still Meadows Public Service Report

The event came off as scheduled with K4NRA, Ray serving as net control.

Seems that Gerald was going to be away so asked for someone to take charge of this event. When no one seemed anxious to do that I decided to call Gerald and tell him that I would do that. Certainly it was for a good cause and we ought to do our part.

Anyway I called Ray, K4NRA and since he lives in that area he agreed that both he and his wife would help. When we

arrived early that morning while eating a huge prepared breakfast, Ray agreed that he would take charge of the assignments and be net control. So it went well, had 43 horses and no injuries nor problems.

Finished up with a lunch provided for us. The day was beautiful and the ride around the mountain made for a very pleasant day. Thanks to Ray for a job well done.

E.C. Showalter  
KG4KUR

## Telephone Pioneers Project

Here are some pictures of the Learning Tool Maps I have been helping Durwood WA4ZBP, my neighbor, with lately.

These maps are donated to schools as a learning tool for the children. We have made over 100 of them and we are making 30 more this time. The little box on the right is a continuity tester, there are staples in each state where the capitals are located and a staple by the list of capitols at the bottom. When the child touches one probe to the state and the other to the right capitol at the bottom a buzzer goes off and a LED lights up.

There is a lot of work involved in making these maps. But making learning fun for kids is the whole idea.



## Dan Beidler, KF4JSX, Get Well

For those without Internet access and an email account, Dan Beidler has been keeping the group up-to-date with his surgery.

Dan had a growth around the blood vessels of his pituitary gland, tucked up underneath his brain.

The surgery went well, although Dan still had a lot of pain from the cuts (!) as the last posting. The doctors will monitor his progress closely.

The entire ham community wishes Dan a speedy recovery.

## Fox Hunt Winners: KD4FKT and N4IRT

Congratulations to Joe Meek KD4FKT, and Brian N4IRT, on winning the Fox Hunt in October in Augusta County. Since they found the fox first, they get the chance to be the fox for the next hunt, Sunday November 21. If you are interested in radio direction finding, contact one of these hams on the air, and get them to "show you the ropes!"

## VARA Secretary's Report – November 2 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Kathy's in Verona on Nov 2, 2004. The President Billy Hooke KG4JOF opened the meeting at 7:30pm. There were 23 members present and 3 guests, Chris Pickering, Robert Wilson KI4GST, Lou Joseph W2LYL. Welcome to our visitors, and we would like to see all of you back next month.

Richard Huttinger AA4RH won the 50/50 drawing. Congratulations Richard!

**New Associate Member:** Tom Weyrick (no callsign) was voted into the VARA. Glad to have you Tom!

**New Application:** Lou Joseph W2LYL Lou moved to Waynesboro from New Jersey and found us on the Internet.

**The trailer Committee:** Richard AA4RH reported on behalf of the committee that with all the legal work, taxes and insurance to own a trailer it isn't feasible at this time and the Club agreed. Thanks to each person on the committee for a

great job and a well thought out report.

### 2005 OFFICERS:

**President:** ?

**Vice President:** Marvin Henderson KF4WDI

**Treasurer:** Jeff Rinehart W4PJW

**Secretary:** Ray Colvin KE4HVR

**Antenna & Coax Project:** Greg W4GRC and David AD4TJ didn't have a report on the progress of installing antennas at Fire Dept. and Rescue Squad buildings. Hopefully we can make this happen before long, then in an emergency all we need to take will be a radio and power supply to be on the air.

### ON THE SICK LIST:

**Dan Beidler KE4JSX** is having more tests and hopefully medications will shrink his tumor so surgery can be done.

**Ken Harris KE4GKD** after taking it easy last month, said he is feeling better and has gained eight pounds.

**Charlie Bennetch N4LNU** had a hernia operation on Nov. 2nd

**Lets keep these folks in our thoughts and prayers.**

### SWAP SHOP:

**This is 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 a picture of the item would help it sell. Go to VARA Web Site at: <http://www.qsl.net/w4mus/> **if your item has been sold, PLEASE notify Billy so he can take it off the Web Page.**

### ADDRESSES!!! Keep your e-mail address up to date.

Please send them to: Billy Hooke KG4JOF, [KG4JOF@arrl.net](mailto:KG4JOF@arrl.net) Jeff Rinehart W4PJW, [jmrinehart@yahoo.com](mailto:jmrinehart@yahoo.com) Ray Colvin KE4HVR, [colvingr@rica.net](mailto:colvingr@rica.net) and David Fordham KD9LA, [\[hadr@jmu.edu\]\(mailto:hadr@jmu.edu\) Also, it's good to keep QRZ updated when call signs and e-mail addresses are changed.](mailto:ford-</a></p>
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**ARES NET:** David Tanks AD4TJ is looking for Net Controls for the Augusta County ARES Net. The Net will be held on the 146.850 repeater on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 8:00pm. This repeater has a minus offset and a tone of 131.8 when needed.

**PROGRAMS NEEDED:** Richard AA4RH, Program Chairman, is looking for anyone that would like to do a program for the club. Give him a call and set up a date to present it. It does not have to be HAM related. It could be anything you think the group would find interesting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Submitted By:  
VARA Secretary  
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

## SKYWARN Nets and Protocols

I have received a couple emails in the past week concerning our new net protocols we have adopted recently, so I wanted to offer this explanation:

The Main SKYWARN Net for the NWS Sterling, VA CWA is on the 147.300+ Bluemont repeater. Our new SKYWARN Net Auxiliary / Subnet Backbone is utilizing the Network Engineers Repeater Association's linked 440 system, comprised of:

1. **449.975-** WA3KOK Wash DC
2. **443.400+** K3HOT German-town, MD
3. **442.450+** WA3KOK Caca-pon Mt, WV (near Berkeley Springs)
4. **443.250+** K3HOT Fork Mountaint, VA (Madison Co.) **and the one which covers most of the Shenandoah Valley!**
5. **449.275-** N3CDY Baltimore, MD
6. **447.775-** WA3KOK Bull Run Mt, VA
7. **443.400+** WA3KOK Frost-burg, MD

8. **442.725+** N4NRO High Knob Mt, VA (near Linden, VA)

This net is mostly informal, and from now on will be running whenever the Main SKYWARN Net is active. We will be using this system's enormous coverage area to maintain contact with the subnets, coordinate activities off the Main Net frequency, and offer spotters another method of sending reports. WX4LWX, the SKYWARN Coordinators, and Subnet Coordinators will monitor this system during activations. Anyone

not able to get their reports into the net on 147.300 are encouraged to do so using this system.

The NVFMA 146.910- Tysons Corner repeater is the Backup Primary Main SKYWARN Net frequency. If we are active and lose the capability to use the Bluemont repeater during a SKYWARN net, this is the first place to go. Stations not able to access this repeater should monitor the NERA System.

*Continued on next page –>*

## MARA Secretary's Report – November 4 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Bill KG4UPN.

Members and Guests were introduced. Guests includes four hams from Ottawa Canada. VE3NJH – Don, VE3EQE - Marge and two others – (I have to get names and call-signs at home.)

Sect. report was read and approved.

Treasurer's report was \$1751.00. Report was approved.

### Old Business:

The Secretary's position is still open. This is a corporate position required by the bylaws and Charter. It was asked that a member volunteer to fill the position for the upcoming year. The position remains vacant.

There was discussion about purchasing the ARRL library books package to donate to the Massanutten Regional Library in Harrisonburg. A

motion was made and passed to purchase the \$200 package.

### Public service:

MARA Christmas Dinner will be Dec. 2nd at Evers. The VARA club has been invited. Please let Bill KG4UPN know if you are coming so we can get an accurate count for Evers. Call 540-941-1961 and leave a message, or email him at [wckarle@yahoo.com](mailto:wckarle@yahoo.com). 6:30 start time for dinner.

Oct. 2nd 2005 the Camp Stillwater Ride. There was a letter to the editor of the DNR in the 11/0/04 issue thanking all those that helped with the 2004 Ride and MARA was mentioned.

K4NRA thanked all those that helped with his class on ham radio at Pence Middle School, including: Bryan K4RMY, E.C. KG4KUR, Bob W3MMC, and Jerry K4RBZ.

### ARES Net:

Norman KA4EEN is retiring as ARES coordinator. Thanks for all your time and effort. We are now in need of a new ARES coordinator.

### VE Exams:

Please note that the exam day will be the FIRST Saturday in Dec. at the Woodman of the World Building in Dayton.

### QRP Club:

Will meet the 2nd Tuesday at Andrew's AG4XN house at 7:30

### New Business

There was one new member present: Jon Spillman KT4CB of New Market.

### 50/50

Was won by Norman KA4EEN (\$14.00)

There was a discussion of trying to get a Skywarn class or classes taught in our

area. Winter weather and basic I. Andrew AG4XN will find out about getting these as will Dick W3HXH.

### Program:

There was no formal program but one of the Canadians was asked to talk and he spoke of his club and IRLP links.

Respectfully submitted by

Bryan Daniels K4RMY VP and acting Secretary



## SKYWARN Nets and Protocols (continued)...

The K4QJZ 145.210- pl 141.3 Repeater at 2400' amsl on High Knob is our Secondary Main SKYWARN Net frequency. If the 147.300 Bluemont repeater is unusable and the SKYWARN Coordinator or current Net Manager deems having a wide-area coverage repeater for the Main net necessary, then this repeater will be used for the Main SKYWARN Net. In this case, the 146.910- machine will still be monitored by the Net Manager or other appointed station in

case of confusion, or if the Net Manager wants to activate a temporary Subnet on the repeater.

This repeater gives us the option of being linked with the 51.94- pl 131.8 N4MDK repeater (which is co-located with the 145.21- and the 442.725 NERA machine) and therefore giving us a very large area of coverage for the Main net. These changes to our net frequency protocol give us an unprecedented edge during se-

vere weather SKYWARN activations that we have never had before. We feel that there is enough redundancy in this system to handle any situation that might come to pass.

Let me also reiterate that the SKYWARN Operations Manual for the WX4LWX SKYWARN Amateur Radio Support Group is now available in its entirety, at [www.147300.com](http://www.147300.com). The link is located on the right side of the page in the SKYWARN Menu. The above information is included with the full version of

the manual, and also here: <http://www.147300.com/skywarn/skywarnfrequencies.htm> (which is also accessible from the main page of [www.147300.com](http://www.147300.com)) 73 and thanks for your time. If there are any questions, please email me directly at [w1car@147300.com](mailto:w1car@147300.com) Chad Rudolph, W1CAR LWX SKYWARN Amateur Radio Coordinator <http://www.147300.com>

# MARA/VARA

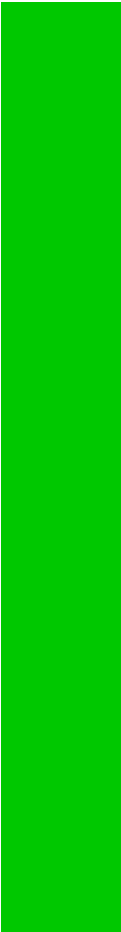
c/o David Fordham  
131 Wayside Drive  
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

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: Bill Karle KG4UPN  
Vice President: Bryan Daniels K4RMY  
Secretary: Todd Harrison, K4TMH  
Treasurer: Sandy Mullins, K4PZC  
Board (exp 05): John Nelson N3JN  
Board (exp 06): Richard Weaver, W3HXX

<http://mara.ws>

MARA meets the first Thursday of each month  
at Ever's Restaurant on U.S. 11 north  
of the traffic light in Mt. Crawford.

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: Billy Hooke, KG4JOF  
Vice President: Greg Czerniak, W4GRC  
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 Kathy's Restaurant on U.S. 11 north of  
the traffic light in Verona.

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

**Visitors are welcome.**