

November 2004

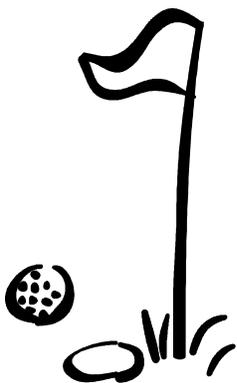
The Monitor

*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*



Ah, down, down, the valley's peaceful roads, where ...
The piercing autumn sunshine meets cold, crisp air,
Cyclists by the dozens, in colorful costume,
Glide swiftly through the cow pastures' perfume,
And SAG vehicles with their aerials a-sway,
Between the bicycles they thread their way,
To give reassurance and some peace of mind
To the many who, in this quiet valley, find
The beauty and pleasure of another Fall Foliage Ride.
And, the ham radio operators, smiling with pride,
Know that their services once again are needed,
As the call of public service is, as always, happily heeded.

“Great for weekend getaways, Field Day, or even trips to Loft Mountain, Big Meadows, or Natural Chimneys, too.”



W4QDC: Portable Radio Shack for Sale

Jay, W4QDC, is looking for a buyer for his motor home. This vehicle makes a great rolling radio shack for those weekend camping trips, vacations, and even an expedition to a remote wilderness contest site. Completely self-contained, it is comfortable regardless of whether you are at the Field Day site, parked outside a Dayton Ohio

shopping center, or even on your way to Alaska for a summer of salmon fishing and eating Eskimo pies. The price is right too. Call Jay to discuss the terms and possibilities.

K4RBZ: No Multipliers, and Only One Contact!

Gerry Brunk, K4RBZ, recently snagged the rare one! Already on the DXCC honor roll, he keeps seeking new and exciting challenges. He finally “worked” the one he’s been trying to reach ever since he first worked it way back in 1981.

In case you haven’t heard (which means that you haven’t seen Gerry all month! ... Or rather, that he hasn’t seen you all month!), Gerry hit a hole in one on October 4, 2004, at the Heritage Oaks golf course. It was on the #8 hole, which is a par 3, distance of 170 yards.

Of course, given that Gerry hits an average of 632,356 golf balls in any given year, the statistics say that he’s bound to get one in the cup every now and then, right?

But hey, two within a span of less than 25 years is something to crow about. And get this! There were witnesses! How’s that for good luck!

Congratulations to Gerry for accomplishing this rare feat, something that your newsletter editor has never done and probably will never do (especially since he doesn’t play golf!)

WV3J: Waldo Spotted!

The elusive WV3J was spotted not once, but twice, this past month! He reportedly came to the MARA club meeting, and another anonymous caller reported him at Wal-Mart. Guess this puts to rest those rumors about his secret hideaway near the Pakistani border. Now the next question: Has anyone intercepted any radio communications from him recently?

KD9LA: EchoLink Works!

David, KD9LA, located in beautiful downtown Antwerp, Belgium, has successfully installed Echolink and has woven his way through the University of Antwerp firewalls, and connected to both of the local Shenandoah Valley Echolink nodes. Sitting in his Spartan office at Rodestraat 17, one block from the Paardenmarkt, Dave had enjoyable QSO’s with KE4FM, WX4C, KE4GKD, KE4LKQ, and a host of other valley hams. He is on the air occasionally during the morning drive time in the valley (which is mid-afternoon in Belgium), and at other odd times here and there. Listen on 147.075 or 443.150.

KE4JSX & K4DJG: Recovery Operations

The best wishes of the ham community for a speedy recovery go out to KE4JSX and K4DJG.

Dan KE4JSX, has something unusual showing up on the scans of his pituitary gland. The doctors, including some at U.Va., are keen on taking a

harder look at it, — like, up close and personal. So far, there is no indication that is it anything to worry about over the long term, but just getting to the darn thing is going to be a bit hairy. That little gland is tucked away in an area that is difficult to get to without some

pretty serious digging. Keep Dan in your thoughts and prayers.

And Bob, K4DJG, is home again after having some repair work done to fix an abdominal aortal aneurism. If the medical dictionary is to be believed, this is something between a leaky

underground water main, and a massive oil well blowout. It is made worse by the fact that that, once again, some pretty heavy digging has to be done to get to the site of the problem.

We hope to see (and hear!) both of these hams back up on their feet and on the radio again real soon.

MARA Secretary's Report — From... uh, ...WHEN?

Editor's Note: David Gordon, KB4LCI, recently came across a very interesting archive: the minutes of the VERY FIRST meeting of the Massanutten Amateur Radio association.

*The meeting was held at EMC (today EMU) on the evening of **October 24, 1987**, 17 years ago.*

David thought everyone might enjoy seeing who the "charter" members of MARA were, way back in those days.

First group meeting of local Amateur Radio operators in the Harrisonburg, Rockingham County area. Held at EMC on 10/24/87 at 2 pm.

Present were:

- Wayne Miller – KB4WOM – Harrisonburg, ARRL member
 - Donnie Mowbray – N4RAG – Penn Laird, ARRL member
 - Linda Mowbray – N4RAF – Penn Laird, ARRL member
 - Lance Truax – N4QIC – Luray, ARRL member
 - Glen Saufley – KC4BKM – Grottoes
 - Don Landes – WX4C - Harrisonburg, ARRL member
 - David Gordon – KB4LCI – Bridgewater, ARRL member
 - Curt Holsapple – K9CH, EMC, Harrisonburg, ARRL member
 - Dave Burgess – K1DB – Harrisonburg, ARRL member
 - Ted Allen – WB3CVN – Harrisonburg, ARRL member and member of CAP
 - Mark Payne – WA4E –
- Bridgewater
- Tim Taylor – K4SAD – Harrisonburg, ARRL member
 - Vernon Schmidt – W4CND – Harrisonburg, ARRL member
 - Phil Harder – WD0FER – Harrisonburg, ARRL member
 - Richard Wilkins – K4VHH – Harrisonburg, ARRL member
 - Charlie Garner – WA4ITY – Staunton

It was agreed by those present, that this radio amateur club be called the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association. The first 12 listed amateurs above are to be the Chartered Members of this Association. Also, 13 out of 16 present were Members of the ARRL.

It was also agreed, that Acting Secretary would be David, KB4LCI, Group Leader, Wayne,

KB4WOM and ARRL Speaker, Curt K9CH.

The meeting place was to be at EMC, primary, with Bridgewater Municipal Building as an alternate; on the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 pm. Dues were agreed to be \$ 15.00 per year.

Guest was Charlie Garner, WA4ITY from VARA.

Election of officers were to be held at the November meeting with collection of dues at that time.

Richard, K4VHH won a door prize; a 1988 ARRL Handbook. Tim Taylor, K4SAD, would work on a club mailing list and Curt, K9CH, would do a club Newsletter.

Signed,

David Gordon, KB4LCI, Acting Secretary

VE Exam Results: Congrats to KI4HIP and KI4HIQ

Thanks to those Hams who gave time for another exam session.

- CHARLES E. NEFF K4LXG
- RICHARD HAXTON KC3AN
- JIM STAMPER KG4LDF
- EC SHOWALTER KG4KUR
- JIM LEHMAN W4POL

We had two people show up for testing. **CLAY SHIFLET** and **CHAD STOVER**, both of Clover Hill Road in Dayton, Virginia. And both earned their licenses!

Congratulations to Clay, KI4HIP, and Chad, KI4HIQ.

Our next test session will be **Saturday December 4 2004**. Mark this date on your calendar for helping and upgrades. We have had a very good year of testing and as long as we maintain the good help that we have had, hopefully we will continue with the program.

I will advise you of the schedule for next year as soon as I clear it with the Woodmen.

Again thanks to those volunteers who have made this program a success.

KU4XN GAYLE

Public Service Report: October Bike Festival 2004

Saturday morning was beautiful. It was so nice in fact that several of the more than 750 bike riders left their rain gear behind. That turned out to be a big mistake as light rain showers began just a few miles into the ride. The wind blew and the temperature was not favorable either. The need for SAG became quite apparent.

What is SAG – well, I was informed that it meant Support And Gear. Amateur radio operators used their pickups and vehicles with bike carriers to SAG riders to one of the bike repair places, a warm place for lunch or back to the Shelburne School in Staunton. We used our amateur radios as Gear to coordinate with NCS. Greg W4GRC had brought along his portable air pump and found a good use for that gear too.

Net Control was handled Saturday by Gayle KU4XN with the help of Billy KG4JOF. They were set up in a nice “box” type utility trailer, which Gayle acquired for the day. NCS on Saturday was at the lunch stop at Towers Ruritan Hall near Natural Chimneys Park. On Sunday NCS was handled by Billy from his SUV at the Middlebrook Fire Department.

We were fortunate this year to have two EMT's as part of the radio group. Steve KI4CGI and his wife Fran helped us both days. They had their medical bags and a radio with which they could communicate directly with the emergency operations center. I am pleased to report that we did not have to call on them. The most significant accident the bikers had was a man who found himself looking up at the cloudy sky, from the pavement, on Sunday. He chose to ride on to Middlebrook but I had to SAG him and his wife back to Shelburne. He seemed to be doing ok.

Last year, we had a lot of problems with “signage” for the routes. This year however it was an entirely different situation. Barbara Wright, the event coordinator had assured me last year that the radio operators would not have to become “signage volunteers” again this year. She made sure that everything worked properly by having Stin, KE4SSF take charge of that responsibility. Stin has worked with the event for several years and many times would ride his bike too. He was a natural and effective choice for this job. Thanks Stin for making our job easier the bikers ride much safer.

A special thanks goes to Mike Reno who, at the last minute, printed and collated most of the paper work for the event. On Thursday before the bike ride was to start nothing had been done in preparation except to have Gayle acquire the NCS trailer. As I was sharing the eminent need to get the paperwork done, Mike jumped into the conversation on the 146.850 repeater and volunteered to help. I e-mailed the forms to him (5 pages) and he took care of printing collating and stapling 20 copies. I made up packets for NCS and Shelburne School for Saturday and Sunday. Ray KE4HVR worked out with Ken KE4GKD the radio, antenna, table and chair etc. for the station at Shelburne. Thanks very much to Mike, Gayle, Ken and Ray for helping to pull this all together at the last minute.

Thanks also to the repeater trustees and their folks who maintain the repeaters for us. On Saturday we used the 147.225 repeater on Lairds Knob. It worked extremely well with great coverage. On Sunday we were supposed to use the 147.045 Elliot Knob repeater but it has some problems, which will hopefully soon be resolved. We tried using the 146.700 repeater

just outside of Staunton but it didn't quite have the coverage to the south that we needed. We ended up using the 146.850 repeater for Sunday's activities and it did quite well. It was good practice to have to listen on the input frequency occasionally for those stations, which were down in a low area and couldn't be heard otherwise.

I want to thank all those who volunteered their time, automobiles, gasoline and radio's too. Without your participation, there would have been a lot of riders out there on the roads in the wind and rain with no support. Our communications skills have grown steadily over the years and amateurs in this community are much better prepared to handle emergencies thanks to drills like this bike event. See you next year.

Jeff

W4PJW

Photos by W4PJW and KE4HVR

Thanks to Those Who Helped With October Bike Festival 2004

Ray Colvin KE4HVR

Mike Reno KG4OON

Cowles Andrus K4EME

Michael Solomon KJ4RM

Stephen Davis KI4CGI

Fran, Steve's XYL

Kenny Harris KE4GKD

Richard Huttinger AA4RH

Pay Smiley KD4WWF,

Gordon Batey WA4FJC

Greg Czerniak W4GRC

Ronald Burch W4ZEE

Ronald Mecum KI4FZX

Matthew Huffman KD4UPL

Stin Lenkerd KE4SSF

Sandy Mullins, K4PZC

Gayle Shull KU4XN

E.C. Showalter KG4KUR,

Billy Hooke KG4JOF and

Jeff Rinehart W4PJW.



Mike Reno KG400N on lunch break



Riders were dying to find a place like the one below.



VARA Secretary's Report – October 5 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Kathy's in Verona on Oct 5, 2004. The President Billy Hooke KG4JOF opened the meeting at 7:30pm. There were 24 members present and 4 guests, Chris Pickering, Gary Van-Fossen KI4FZV, Tom Weyrick and Robert Wilson KI4GST. Welcome to our visitors, and we would like to see all of you back next month.

Benny Cook N4BCC won the 50/50 drawing. Kay almost got it away from him!

Application: Tom Weyrick turned in an application and will be voted on in November.

The trailer Committee: Richard AA4RH, Dan, KE4JSX, Cowles K4EME and Gordon WA4FJC have been working out some details the past month and gave a report on their outline so far. Some legal matters need to be worked out now.

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.

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR FOR DISTRICT 15: Leon Fix WE1FIX dropped by before the VARA Meeting and had David Tanks AD4TJ make an announcement for him. He is looking for an Emergency Coordinator (EC) for the District 15 area. Anyone

interested in this position is asked to get in contact with Leon Fix WE1FIX at fix-net@ntelos.net or David Tanks KE4GTJ at Davidmoon-bounce@aol.com

ON THE SICK LIST:

Dan James W4DLJ is doing well at home but not getting out much.

Lonnie Czerniak N4WIV had back surgery August 27th and is recovering well at home.

Ken Harris KE4GKD received good results on his recent and was told to do absolutely nothing for a few weeks.

Lets keep these folks in our thoughts and prayers.

New Club Call Sign:

Charlie Garner WA4ITY the Club callsign Trustee, sent me an e-mail saying the application for our request by Memoriam for Joe Moomaw's callsign W4XD for the VARA Club call sign came back from the FCC saying the payment was not enclosed or did not arrive in the allowed time frame. It was our understanding that no fee was necessary.

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: 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 Swap Shop Web page.**

Highland County 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 to check into the Net.

ADDRESSES!!! Keep your e-mail address up to date. Please send them to: Billy Hooke KG4JOF, KG4JOF@arrl.net Jeff Rinehart W4PJW, jmrinehart@yahoo.com Ray Colvin KE4HVR, colvingr@rica.net and David Fordham KD9LA, fordhadr@jmu.edu Also, it's good to keep QRZ updated when call signs and e-mail addresses are changed.

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 2nd 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 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ray Colvin, KE4HVR
VARA Secretary

MARA Secretary's Report – October 7 Meeting

The October meeting of the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association was held at Evers Restaurant in Mt. Crawford, the meeting was opened at 7:30 PM by the club president, Bill Karle, KG4UPN of Staunton, and there were 20 members and 1 guest present.

The September secretary's report was accepted as written in the October monitor. Sandy Mullins, K4PZC gave the treasurers report and it was accepted as read.

On October 10 there will be the Camp Still Meadows horse ride (formerly the Johnny Appleseed ride), the ride will need 5-6 operators, it starts at 8:30 and breakfast and

lunch will be provided. Another public service event will be held on October 16-17, the Fall Foliage bike ride.

A new member was voted in, John Spillman, KT4CB of New Market is a new MARA member.

Norman, KA4EEN told the club he can use all the net operators he can get for the Monday night Rockingham ARES nets, anyone wanting to run the net please volunteer, also Norman noted that this will be his last year as net control manager.

James McDowell, KI4FZY won the 50 / 50 drawing, James got \$11.00 and \$11.00 went to the club.

The MARA officer elections were held at this month's meeting, Richard Weaver, W3XHX is our new board member and the Secretary's position is now vacant, all other officer positions remain the same.

The formal meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.

The MARA Christmas dinner will be held on December 2nd at Evers Restaurant.

Todd Harrison, K4TMH
MARA Secretary

The Opinionated One: A Partial Transcript

Nummer 12! Goede Moorgan..

Good morning, sir. Here's my number, 12. Sprecht u Engels?

Yah, I speak English a little good. All Belgians speak English a little good, and Francais, and Vlaams, and Deutsch, and ...

Very well. I was told that this is the office where I apply for an amateur radio license. Now here is my passport and here is my Belgian identity card, I'm licensed in my home country, but I expect I'll have to take a test, and ...

Yah, dis is an office. Can I help you?

Uh, yes, okay, I'll go slower. Is this the office were I apply for an amateur radio operator's license?

Ah, no, we don't have radios here, we are a stad office, a, um, ...uh, how you say, government office. See the sign out front with the pretty Belgie flag and big stone lions? You buy der radios down at der Media Markt, two blocks noord, then one block west, over towards the Tramm Station, and...

Um, yes, I know. No radio, no radio. License. License. Is this where you apply for license?

Why should I apply for a license? I don't need to apply for a license. And don't speak so simple. I speak English much good.

No, no, not a license for you, the license is for me.

Oh, YOU want a license. Yah, this is der office. We make all der licenses here. What kind of license you want?

I would like a ham radio license.

Oh, yah, okay, ham radio license, yah, now I understand, you are at the right place to get the license, yah? You want a ham radio license, yah?

Yes, that is what I want, yes.

Okay, one moment while I consult. One moment. Oh, I see here in the Nederlands Engels dictionary what ham means, and you need to go down to the Vleeshuis and ...

No, no, no, I don't need the butcher shop, I wanted to ..

But you said you wanted ham, and ...

No, I need an amateur radio license, I shouldn't have said ham license, I was wrong, Forget I said ham. I meant amateur ...

Oh, okay, amateur. One moment while I consult. One moment.... Oh, I see what amateur means. Ah, amateur. I see. You are not paid. You are poor, yah? You want der Welfare Office, they fix you up. It is five blocks noord, four blocks west, and has a pretty Belgie flag out front and big stone lions and ...

No, I'm not poor. I want a license to operate a radio. An amateur radio.

Oh, yes, now I understand, you want a license to operate der radio, yah? One moment while I consult der vord "operate".

I'll save you some trouble. Operate is "deinst". I want to deinst the radio.

Ah, deinst. Operate a radio is deinst der radio. Ah. Yah, Very goot. Very goot. Only one problem.

What's that?

You don't need a license to operate der radio. Most radios sold in Belgie are simple, and you turn a switch, and twist a knob, and der music comes out, just like that, yah? This is not like in England, where you need a license and pay a tax to listen to der radio. We are smart here, yah? We don't charge you to listen to der radio like ...

No, no, no, I don't want to just listen on the radio, I want to talk on the radio, too.

Oh, dat's different. You need license to do that. We no let just anyone talk on radio. Fools like Bill O'Reilly and Dan Rather and Peter Jennings are not allowed on our radios except on, .. uh, how you say? Comedie radios, yah, der comedie radio. They are much like Monty Python, yah? Ha-ha, yah?

Yes, I have to agree with you there. Now, about applying for a Belgian license...

Why you want to talk on a radio? You think you Howard

Stern or that cowboy, eh, what's his name... Imus, Imus, you think you Imus? Where's your hat?

I don't have a hat, I'm not a cowboy, and I just want to, ...

You know Howard Stern, he say things like ...

Stop, stop! Will you please listen to me. I want to apply for a license to operate a radio for pleasure. I read where Belgium honors the CEPT agreement that ...

Ooooooh, CEPT! CEPT! Yes, you mean CEPT 61-01? Ah, yes, now I understand. You are wanting to get a license to operate a short-wave set and talk to other radio aficionados around the world?

Yes, yes, that's it! I am a licensed radio aficianado, and I want to operate in Belgium, and I ...

Hey, that is easy! We are efficient and we will have you ... how you say? .."on the air" in no time. Now, what part of England are you from?

Well, I'm not from England, but...

You from Scotland? Ireland?

No, actually I'm not from the UK and I don't actually hold a CEPT certificate, but ...

You speak English. Where you come from? Australia? Japan?

I know what's coming... (sigh) I'm, er, from the U.S....

What? America? Oooooooh, ooooooh, we hate Bush. We hate Bush. Bush is a very bad man, why he...

I hear that a thousand times a day, but I'm not here to...

Oh, and we hate Kerry, too. Kerry is a liar, and Bush is a warmonger. And Nader! Ha-ha. Nader! Ha-ha-ha. Why do you smart Americans choose such pop-sicles to be your leaders?

I wish I knew. Now, let's get back to the radio license...

Okay, you are American, and you don't have a CEPT certificate but you want to talk on the radio, yah?

Yah. I mean, yes.

This requires a license, but it is easy, real easy. You here for less than three months, no?

Well, no, I'm here for four months, and ...

Ooooo, then boy are you in big, big trouble, because you had to take your passport to the stadthuis and register and get an identity card. The stadthuis is on Kortstraat. It has a pretty Belgie flag out front, and big stone lions and...

Look, I've already registered, and here is my Belgian identity card. See? Now if I could...

Holy Potty! This is a real Belgian identity card! And it has your real picture on it! Where did you get this?

I got it at the stadthuis, just like I was supposed to. The man at the embassy said when I arrive in Belgium, I'm supposed to register my visa at the stadthuis and get my identity card within three days, so I did. Where else do you get them?

Oh, lots of places. There is this guy named Omar, from Morocco, over on Lange Nieuwklestraat, and there is Kashooi Maton from Congo, he operates in the park sometimes, and sometimes you see him in the tram station. He charges more than the stadthuis, and his pictures don't always look like you, but he never needs to see your passport, and then there is Kaleel...

Look, could we get back to the radio license, I've been standing in line for four hours, and now I've been speaking with you for another half hour, and I really have to get back to work, and ...

Okay, you have your identity card. But it says you are in Belgium for more than three months, so you cannot operate a ham radio without a real Belgian license.

Great. That is why I am here. How do I get a Belgian license?

You can't.

I can't? Why not?

Because you are here in Belgium for four months.

I know, but I'm registered. I'm allowed to be here for four months. Why can't I get a Belgian radio license?

Because it takes eight months to get a Belgian radio license! Bye, bye. Nummer 13!

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: 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, W3HXH

<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.

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.