

September 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

Monitor Announcements est en Lingual-Multie für Quadro Mönthes

Is it French? Is it German? Dutch? Flemish?

None of the above. Then what is it? Who knows! And more importantly, who cares?

The Monitor editor is in Belgium for the next four months. The Belgians speak several languages officially (French, Dutch, and Flemish), and several more unofficially (English, German) and you can find innumerable additional languages sprinkled around here and there (Moroccan is big, so is Turkish, Yiddish, and Polish).

The result: it is next to impossible to tell what language someone is speaking or what language something is written in. And most people speak several languages, and none of them well.

You might think this would pose a problem, but nooooo.

As you can see by the headline above, it is fairly easy to understand what is going on, just by the context, along with a little tiny bit of knowledge about the Latin and Saxon roots of the English language.

For example, the headline above tells you that the Monitor might be multilingual for the next four months. Enjoy!

Something else interesting: Upon arrival here in Antwerp, I quickly met the study abroad program coordinator here, one Jim Kelly. Turns out he is a former U.S. ham, WA0ITY. When he moved to Belgium a few years ago, it was so much trouble for an American to get a ham license (and still is!) he simply let his license lapse. WA0ITY was an active general class US ham for many years. Anyone in the valley have one of his old QSL cards?

73 from ON-land, KD9LA

MARA President's Message

First off, I am looking forward to taking over the Presidency from our esteemed ex-President, David Fordham (KD4LA). Just like another famous president who resigned, I know "he is not a crook!" I know he is looking forward to getting over to Europe, and I am sure he will have stories to tell upon his return.

In the meantime, Bryan Daniels (K4RMY) has volunteered to assume the Vice Presidency, and the Board unanimously ascended him to the position. Thanks, Bryan!

We face a number of challenges in the upcoming months. Not only do we have a number of public service events on the slate, we are just now getting into the heart of hurricane season. It has already been quite active to date, and has the potential for continuing in that matter.

To that end, it is very important that each and every ham check their gear and their Go bag for readiness. The day before a storm is not the time to find out your batteries or

radio has quit working. And let's not forget our family planning and preparedness. We all must look to our family's safety first, so that we are in a better position to help others.

There are a number of upcoming club events, including the annual elections for our offices and board, as well as the annual Christmas dinner (yes, it's not too early to start planning that!). All of these go much easier with a few volunteers, and I think it is more fun that way too. I am also looking for ideas for programs for the club meetings. We want to bring the membership enjoyable programs, and hopefully we can all learn a bit too at the same time. If anyone has some ideas that we can pursue for this, please let me know.

So far, we have had a very good year for MARA - let's keep it up!

Bill, KG4UPN

Mountaintop Expedition: VHF Contest September 11-12

Jason Armentrout, N4DSL, is planning a mini-expedition up to a remote location, far away from electrical noise and interference, for the September 11-12 VHF Contest.

The operation will be at great altitude so as to maximize signal path distance.

All hams are welcome and invited to join in on the fun. Come camp in a beautiful mountain meadow, similar to field day but without the mud holes.

Jason is planning on going up Sept 10 Friday, and will camp out the entire weekend. The operation will be working 6m, 2m, 220, 440.

The directions (you may want to take this copy of the Monitor with you, even though the site is relatively easy to find!):

Take I-81 north from Harrisonburg, to the Broadway/Mauzy exit (Exit 257). Turn left at the end of the exit ramp, and across the overpass, turn right at the traffic light onto Route 259.

Take Route 259 through Broadway (remember, 259 makes a right turn at the concrete plant traffic light!) Take Route 259 west out of Broadway like you are going to the West Virginia line (up towards Matthias). Take 259 17 miles out of Broadway to the flashing yellow light sign at the Bergton

Road intersection.

Turn left off of Route 259 onto Bergton Road Rte 820 - This takes you into Bergton, you will go past the Bergton store, continue on Rte 820 until it turns into Rte 865 and continue straight ahead. (the road name will stay Bergton Rd) You will follow Rte 865 for a about 2.5 miles and you will make a few sharp turns.

You will want to turn right once you reach Rte 824 - Bennett Run Rd. You will follow this road for 4 miles, it is a dead end, it will take you to the top of the mountain. Once you reach the top there will be a culdesac and you will see a old school house to your right, there is a road straight ahead and sharp to the right. You want to take the road furthest to the right, closet to the school house (there is a sign that says private property & no trespassing, thats ok, you have permission to take that road!)

This lane will lead to the very tip-top where you will see a gate that enters to the field and a sign that says West Virginia Line 200 ft from this sign. This is where you need to enter. You may open the gate, but please keep it closed when you come through so that the cattle don't escape. (Put the gate back as you find it) The pad lock can stay unlocked for the weekend.

Once you come through the gate, bear all the way to the left and you will go down in a dip and when you come up, turn right and go straight down the field (follow the tracks) and you will see us in the distance.

We will monitor the 146.625 New market repeater, 131.8 tone. if you need help finding us. We will need some help setting up and tearing down. We will probably start setup early Sat morning, and of course we need operators!! The contest starts at 1800z Sep. 11 ends at 0300Z Sept. 13 (Sun Eve) Attached is a pic of the site.



220 Repeater for Sale

Our Club, the Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club Inc (of North Carolina, not Virginia!) is offering our 220Mhz Repeater for sale. This is a complete system that is ready to be put in use by someone. We only took it out of service on August 21, 2004 to post it for sale. This machine has provided

great coverage and we are only selling it due to lack of use and we have other projects we desire to undertake. For a more complete description and pictures of the system, please visit <http://www.rcarc.com/220sale.html> A link from our Website is also available at <http://www.rcarc.com>

Augusta County Fox Hunt: September 9

The Augusta County Fox Hunt in August was rained out. Thus, the hunt has been rescheduled to take place on the second Thursday of September, which falls on September 9th.

The hunt will start at 7:00 pm sharp. Listen for the fox on 146.490 simplex. DO NOT transmit on the foxes frequency! Only the fox should be here. The fox will be somewhere in Augusta County.

If you want to coordinate with other hams to find the fox as a team, use the 147.075 repeater to make contact with the other hunters. You can use the repeater if you like, or you can move to another frequency of your choosing.

There will be a prize for the first one to find the fox!

The hunt should be over by 8:30 at the latest, but it might end a lot earlier if we have some good direction-finding hams out there seeking the foxy fox!

A Real "Coat" of Paint?

In my job I am exposed to a lot of new information, sometimes not only in electronics. Today I was reading the August 2004 NASA Tech Briefs and ran across something that really sounds like it might be worth trying the next time I am in the mood to paint. This is one of those NASA spin-offs that really sounds neat!

I checked the prices and it seem very reasonable. I am planning to get some of the paint additive and do some experiments to see if is as good as they say. The concept seems to make good sense from a physics stand point.

Check it out:

<http://www.hytechsales.com/index.html>

If any of you have already tried this product, please let me know if it works.

Thanks,

Cowles Andrus, K4EME

Be On The Lookout For New Hams

The newsletter editor, being thousands of miles away, has looked in his crystal ball and discovered two individuals in the Shenandoah Valley who are interested in joining in the local ham fun. In Harrisonburg, there is Chad Stover, email Cstover@martinslumber.com, who is interested in becoming

a ham radio operator. Chad may show up at the MARA Meeting. In Fishersville, there is Marvin Fortune, WA0TOJ, WA4TOJ@aol.com, who may show up at the VARA Club Meeting. Be on the lookout for these two, and welcome them into the valley ham scene!

George Hoffman, W2CID, SK

It is with great regret that we must report that George Hoffman, W2CID, lost his battle with cancer on July 22. He died very peacefully at his home on the eastern slope of Massanutten Mountain north of Stanley.

George was a long-time radio operator, being a communications officer with the federal government. He started out with the U.S. Navy. His shack proudly displayed numerous medals and honors bestowed by upon him for meritorious service during his Navy years.

After retiring from the Navy, he served in several intelligence communities. He kidded that he couldn't tell us who he worked for or what he did during that time. If he did, we would disappear and never be heard from again!

George retired from the intelligence services and began a third career with the National Park Service, where he served as ranger and park police officer for many years. He was assigned to Camp Hoover when dignitaries would visit there.

After retiring a third time, George was a police officer for the town of Stanley for about seven years.

George was active in the MARA club in the early 1990s, and stayed mainly on the ham satellites, having a very respectable station which he donated to the JMU Wireless Experimenters last month.

The entire valley ham community expresses its sympathies to George's wife Barbara, and the rest of his family.

Condolences from the Ham Community to W3MMC and WD4JEL

The ham community extends its condolences to Bob Niemeyer W3MMC, on the recent loss of his sister, Mary Margaret Baxter.

We also express our sympathies to Bob Carlstrom, WD4JEL, on the recent passing of his mother, Elizabeth Carlstrom.

Map Site On Web

After purchasing that new Icom radio that costs as much as a used Pontiac, you don't have enough left over to buy the \$39.95 MapUSA program? Don't despair. Check out the maps on the web.

No, not the old dinosaur MapQuest, which is good but slow. Check out www.us.map24.com. According to Ray KE4HVR, it is slow to start, but once you are in, it runs like lightning.

Virginia Beach Hamfest: September 18-19

The ARRL Roanoke Division Convention will be held in Virginia Beach on September 18 and 19, 2004 at the Virginia Wesleyan College. The convention will be open from 9 AM to 5 PM on Saturday and from 9 AM to 3 PM on Sunday. E-Mail inquiries can be sent to hamfest@exis.net. There will be persons on had to check

QSLs for DXCC, WAS, VUCC and CQ Awards. For tickets and table requests, contact Lynn Lilla, W9DJQ at 757-479-1597 and dealers contact Lewis Steingold, W4BLO at fax 757.486.0757. The web site for the convention is <http://www.vahamfest.com>.

SEND YOUR MONITOR ARTICLES VIA EMAIL

The Newsletter will go on! Send your announcements, for sale items, presidents messages, member messages, travel reports, hate mail, opinion articles, camping invitations, contest solicitations, SK notices, interesting websites, cute photos, not-so-cute photos, and other material for the Monitor to fordhadr@jmu.edu and we'll get it in! If you send it any other way, it may not make it!

Der Commentes Du Ein Opinionaté

Der Monituer das durventag mein icht artikle der Antwerpen Belgie, undurhobben leiben Americain, specifer der Valley du Shenandoah, est en radioamateurs.

Das languie en Belgie esten veery goede ver understandig min nicht dictionaire, eef ein usen der intelle heddenoggin.

Der governmente officiales en Belgie asso similare du governmente officiales en USA, liken to dumkoffen. Das bureaucrats aan alle idioties veery grossen en stupide, a trulie es morons extraordinaire ven kommen tu realité. Der governmente officiales apparentlie ust der same rounden der hol vorlde.

Mein jobb es nicht commence anndil veek kommen. Und danka der governmente officiales, nien radioamateurwerken ver Fordhams gedurende inhaben Belgie. Dam governmente paperwerken.

Und Vemmen Debbie und Cathryn und Dianna est habben goede tijmes in Belgie, und ben shoppen und shoppen und shoppen, purchasen stufe fromme der SuperMarkt und FurniteMarkt un GroteMarkt und PaardenMarkt und FrankMarkt und KorteMarkt und LangeMarkt und ... Vell, ust a getten der picture. Du supply meeger Fordham currencie est goen lik blitzen. Der familie

ictoben veery poore veery kwikklie iffen das vemmenshoppen keepen upp.

Der variete de restaurants esta veery impressive. Der menus kottaanen stufen mit namen liken escargot und gerookte paling und bloedworst und ossehaas, namen nicht nrecognizen Americans. Dees en realité ben American "snails" und "eel" und "cow brains" und me uder partens uff animales unfitten ver consumption ge humans.

Aber ven ordenen fromme menus en restaurants, das servenplatens veery olfactonne und lookke veery goede, und ein tempte du voracian eeten

kwikklie, shovell enn der mooth. Ven, ein lernen vat u vest aaten, der tummy upchukken.

Das computer es werken okay. Das newspaper esta American languie, und television asso American languie, differens ai British languie. Und artikles allos veery obseene, mit picktures du vemmen naked un bonne vemmen naked. Veery bonne vemmen naked. David ben loeken et picktures und drooelling vater, und Debbie ben poken David's en der eeyes, und getten madd, und diskaard der papers kwikklie.

David habben goede tijme in Belgie, asso!

Teel tijme necht, 73

Undeer: David drooeling vater und aboout getten eeyes pokt veer Debbie. Newspaper ben diskaard. Notice der "truth en advertisement", en automobiles avec label "Citroën" en car. Der verd "citroën" en English translatte te "Lemon".



MARA Secretary's Report: August 5 Meeting

The August 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 new club president, Bill Karle, KG4UPN of Staunton, and there were 18 members and 4 guests present.

The first order of business was to find a new Vice President to replace Bill, Bryan Daniels, K4RMY of Harrisonburg volunteered and was appointed the new Vice President.

The July secretary's report was accepted as written in the July monitor. Sandy Mullins, K4PZC gave the treas-

urers report and it was accepted as read.

Gerald Nauman, KN4FM announced that help will be needed for a bike ride on Saturday, September 25th, the ride will start at EMHS, would like to have eight operators for the ride.

The club also voted to pass on another event, the MS 150K bike ride due to other commitments, the club will check with the Charlottesville and Woodstock club who have worked the event in the past

Bob VanFossen, K4DJG mentioned the Shenandoah Fall Foliage bike festival

(<http://www.shenandoahbike.org/>) October 16-17 which we work with the VARA club.

Jason Armentrout, N4DSL asked the club to use the club call (K4MRA) and some of the clubs equipment (tower, antennas) for the ARRL VHF QSO party contest on September 11-12, a motion was made and passed.

An application for membership was read and will be voted on next month, the applicant is James McDowell IV of Mt. Sidney, KI4FZY.

Norman, KA4EEN told the club he needs net operators for the Monday night Rock-

ingham ARES net, anyone wanting to run the net please volunteer.

Members noted the great trip to the Greenbank observatory on July 10, and that there are photos at the following web address www.n4dsl.com/greenbank0704/gallery.php.

Bob VanFossen, K4DJG won the 50 / 50 drawing, Bob got \$11.00 and \$11.00 went to the club.

The formal meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Todd Harrison, K4TMH
MARA Secretary

On the Road with W4PJW and KC4HYO



Several hams were on the go in August. Most famous of them all was the dynamic duo consisting of Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW, and Ed Good, KC4HYO, and their XYLs. This pair of pairs willingly gave up door number 1 and a trip to Alaska for door number two, and a trip to Tennessee. To the left we see the abode of Jeff and Patsy, and to the right we see a picture of Jeff's radio setup while on the road. Jeff's report:

Camped from Monday 8/2 to Fri 8/6 here at Riverside Campground at Sevierville, TN = Pigeon Forge - went to several shows including Blackwood Brothers breakfast and concert - Good S'n Gospel singing - ended up week Thurs. Eve with Dinner and Show at Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede - shows were really good. Would have taken some pix of the shows but cameras etc. generally prohibited in the shows. You shudda seen Ed KC4HYO clapping his hands and tapping the toes of those cowboy boots he wears - he was right at home.

Did some driving around too in Gatlinburg - including beautiful drive yourself tour through the mountains. Was watchin for lots of wildlife - bears, deer etc. - didn't even see as much as a ground squirrel - maybe a bird or two - went in the middle of one of the hottest days and guess all the wildlife (animals) were hiding in a cool place??

VARA Secretary's Report: August 3 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Kathy's in Verona on Aug 3, 2004. The President Billy Hooke KG4JOF opened the meeting at 7:30pm. There were 21 members present and 3 guests, Bob VanFossen K4DJG, Bill Blasius WA1EFY and Robert Wilson.

Welcome to our visitors, and we would like to see all of you back next month.

There was no 50/50 drawing. (no tickets)

ON THE SICK LIST:

Dan James W4DLJ is getting around without his walker part of the time and said he may make lunch before long.

Lonnie Czerniak N4WIV has her surgery scheduled for August 27th.

Ken Harris KE4GKD is having lots of out patient tests done again this month at AMC. Lets keep these folks in our thoughts and prayers.

New Members: Ronald Mecum KI4FZX and Russ Murphy K7CDJ were voted into the VARA, Welcome to the VARA Ronald and Russ!

Lifetime Member: The club voted to make Dan James W4DLJ a Lifetime Member of VARA. Dan is one of the Charter members of VARA and the beginnings of Field Day as we know it today was held in a field on his farm.

The VARA voted to work the Bike Festival again this October so mark your calendars. There are some changes in routes and rest stops this year and also, some of the bikers will be marking the routes. This should take care of some of the confusion we have had with arrows in the wrong place or pointing the wrong direction and even no arrows at some turns in the years past.

The Club Name Badge project funded by the VARA for all paid members has been completed. If you have not picked up your badge contact Billy Hooke KG4JOF at: kg4jof@arrl.net

The club discussed the possibility of purchasing a communication trailer for the club and creating a club project to get it set up with radios and antennas for emergency communication. A box type trailer could also serve as one of the stations for field day. We have a committee of four Richard AA4RH, Dan, KE4JSX, Cowles K4EME and Gordon WA4FJC to search for a trailer, preferably a good used one. If anyone should run across a trailer of this type please contact one of the committee members.

WEATHER WATCH: This is a good time to check out our equipment and make sure it is in working condition. Have our local repeaters and their correct

tones programmed into your radios and HT's. If you are not sure how to program your equipment make a copy of that part of your operators manual and keep it in your go box. Keep your batteries charged and emergency antennas, mast and coax where you can easily get to them and go set up a temporary station if an emergency situation should arrive.

New Club Call Sign:

Charlie Garner WA4ITY the Club callsign Trustee, has gone on the FCC site and got the FRN number for W4MUS and mailed our request by Memoriam for Joe Moomaw's callsign W4XD for the VARA Club callsign. Hopefully this time it will be processed without any further problems.

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 8:08pm.

Submitted By:
VARA Secretary
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

Calendar

September 2: MARA Club Meeting
September 4-5: Shelby (NC) Hamfest
September 7: VARA Club Meeting
September 10-12: VHF Contest (see page 2)
September 11-12: Gaithersburg (MD) Hamfest
September 18-19: Virginia Beach Hamfest
September 25: EMHS Bike Ride Public Svc
September 25-26: CQ WW DX RTTY contest

October 5: VARA Club Meeting
October 7: MARA Club Meeting
October 9: VE Exams in Dayton VA
October 10: Camp Still Meadows Horse Ride
October 15-16: Fall Foliage Bike Ride
October 30-31: CQ WW DX SSB contest

MARA/VARA

c/o Bill Jones KE4FM
21 Shen Valley 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 04): Richard Haxton, KC3AN
Board (exp 05): John Nelson N3JN

<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