

August 2005

The Monitor

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

MARA President's Corner —

So you think since Field Day has come and gone, that's the end of summer?? Wait...there's plenty more in the wings!

With more public service events to come, including the fall Shenandoah Bike Ride, more fox hunts, contests, hams on the Shuttle and Space Station, and hamfests in the surrounding localities, there's a lot to do.

Also, with the summer season, there's time to install and able with different antennas. And try to get outside some evening with a homebrew yagi, and see if you can work some meteor scatter signals during the upcoming meteor showers. There's plenty of fun to be had!

And don't forget, we are just starting to get into the heart of hurricane season. It started with bang, and seems to be taking a bit of a breather right now, but there's plenty more

to come. There's no better time to check over all your gear, charge up the batteries, make sure your go bag and emergency house supplies are in order, and you and your family have a disaster plan ready to go.

I would like to send out special thanks to Jason, N4DSL, for compiling and submitting the results for Field Day. I would also request that everyone take time to say a short prayer or thought for several members of the VARA club; Kenny, KE4GKD, as he undergoes his long recovery process, and for Denny, N4XPW, as he recovers from a broken leg bone.

Remember to keep those airwaves hopping!

Bill Karle,
KG4UPN,
President

Medical Center

The thoughts of the entire local ham community are with Kenny Harris, KE4GKD, as he recuperates from surgery.

Ray Colvin, KE4HVR, has been sending email updates regularly, as he hears them from Kenny's relatives.

Kenny had some major surgery at the U.Va. Hospital in mid-July, keeping him in the Intensive Care Unit for a while. He then was released to come home, where he enjoyed a real hospital bed, complete with an oxygen bottle, right there in his own bedroom.

But alas, complications arose within a few days of his coming home. He went back to the local doctors, who recommended that he return to U.Va. and his surgical team. Last word, he had pneumonia in both lungs, which is sure to

slow his recovery. We all wish Kenny the best in the coming weeks.

Although he was holding his own as of July 29, he's definitely not out of the woods yet, as they say. At the present time, doctors recommend no visitors except for close immediate family.

And speaking of speed, we are all keeping up with Denny Morland, N4XPW, who fell and broke his left leg about two inches below the hip. With technology being what it is, they put a pin and couple of screws to hold him together for a while.

Latest word says that Denny is now at the Avanti Nursing Home, room #230, where he will be doing his therapy. He has been in good spirits and reports surprisingly little pain. Denny can have visitors, and you can also telephone him at 540-941-5459.

PUBLIC SERVICE

August 6th – Mountain Mama Bike Ride

Mountain Mama is fast approaching. It is Sat Aug. 6th.

For those of you who are planning to help this year we will try to meet at the Highland Co School buildings at about 7:00am. I think first riders leave at 7:30am.

As in the past bring high power radios and gain antennas, as handheld radios will be of absolutely no use.

We will again be using the 147.180 + offset and the 147.285 + offset with a tone of 103.5. Please have these frequencies and tone in your radios and ready to go.

Also please bring lunch and a drink with you as we will not be close anywhere to buy lunch.

Thanks in advance for your help and we seem to be short help this year so if you know of anyone who would like to help please let me know.

73 Jerry Moats, WD4ITN

Note About the Mountain Mama

I am planning to ride my bicycle in this one with a handheld.

I will carrier a 5/8 wave telescopic antenna in my saddle bag for backup.

I know handhelds don't work well back there, however it was all I had in 2003, and it works much better than the cell phones!

Many of the bikers were carrying cell phones and had tried to call for help, only thing that work was Ham Radio!

It got the job done!

73,
Cowles_K4EME

September 17 – 100 kilometer Great Eastern Footrace

Can you imagine RUNNING 100 kilometers (about 65 miles!). Running, like on your two feet?

Okay, now imagine running 100 kilometers up and down mountains! Yes, mountains, like the Blue Ridge parkway, Sherado Recreation Area Trails, and such. Running!

People who do stuff like that need help. Serious help.

And help is what ham radio operators like to provide.

The Great Eastern Endurance Run will take place on Saturday, September 17 of this year. They would greatly appreciate having amateur radio operators provide com-

munications support for this event. As you can imagine, safety and well-being of the runners is critical for something like this. Most of the aid stations are outside of cell phone range, way up in hollers and mountain ravines.

Most of the run takes place on trails where vehicles cannot go. Race managers do not expect ham operators to "cover the trails" the way we do on many of our bike events. No, the communications for this event will be quite different. And it will likely be very enjoyable, too!

This event has the potential to be big. It is sure to garner

a lot of media coverage, and will be a great way to prove that ham radio can get the job done when the commercial communications infrastructure falls down. But it will require help from a lot of hams to pull off. This race starts at 6:00 am in the morning (actually, we need to be onstation even earlier!), and will last until... midnight! Yes, midnight! So a lot of hams will be needed.

Get in on the ground floor. Help out with the communications planning. Contact Marvin Henderson for more information.

If you want to take a gander at some details before raising your hand to help, check out the MARA website, which has the entire race guide, including the map of the route with the aid stations indicated.



OPPORTUNITIES

September 24 – Bike Shenandoah

Bike Shenandoah, an annual fund raising bike ride, will be on Saturday, September 24 this year.

The organizations benefiting from this year's ride are the Harrisonburg Pregnancy Center, Mennonite Media, Mennonite Central Committee and the Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions.

Hams provide support communications, as well as emergency backup services to the extent that we can. A very fun and low-stress event, this bike ride is relatively laid back and

extremely enjoyable.

If you would like to help by providing communications for this event, please let me know. We really need at least 4 or 5 people to man the check points, but could use as many as want to come out and join the fun! This is an all day event, but if you could only help for a half day let me know.

Gerald Nauman, KN4FM



October 2 – Camp Still Meadows Horse Ride

One of the most relaxing events for ham radio operators. You get to operate from your car on this one!

What better way to enjoy the fall foliage than to leisurely play leapfrog with a hundred horseback riders as they wind their way through the deserted backroads and gravel trails of northwestern

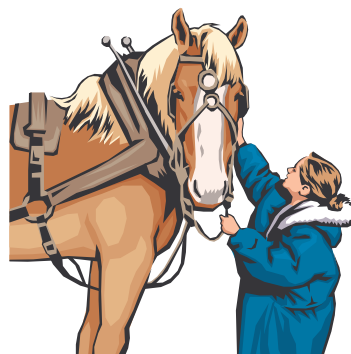
Rockingham County?

This ride needs a small contingent of hams, anywhere from five to eight, with vehicles, to man various checkpoints and be available for emergencies.

In past years, hams have been very instrumental in providing communications for things like downed riders,

lost riders, and first aid needs on the trail. Lunch is always provided for the radio volunteers, and it will be delivered to you if you are manning a checkpoint.

Camp Still Meadows is a very worthwhile charitable cause which provides fun opportunities for the disabled.



October 15-16 – Fall Foliage Bike Festival

One of the most popular events among local hams because of the wide area covered and the variety of terrain and colorful time of year. This event typically requires a dozen or more hams on each of the two days (Saturday, and Sunday), because hams not only

provide communications support, we also serve as the primary "SAG" rescue vehicle providers.

If you have a pickup truck, you can plan on being called on to bring some overzealous riders back to ride headquarters from where the rider gets "plumb tuckered

out", or has an accident or malfunction.

A really fun event, mainly because of the high spirit of camaraderie between the large number of amateur operators on the air for the duration of this event.



Field Day Results

Thanks to Jason, N4DSL, for completing the paperwork and handing the submission to the ARRL for this year's joint MARA/VARA Field Day operation.

The operation was conducted under the callsign W4XD, legacy call of Joe Moomaw, one of the charter members of VARA. The GOTA station also operated under callsign KD4UPL.

This year, we operated again under class 2A, meaning we had two transmitters on the air, not counting the bonus transmitters such as the GOTA station.

The Field Day operation logged 86 participants this year.

According to the numbers, we had 955 CW QSO's, and 1475 phone QSO's this year, and earned a total of 1550 bonus points. Our claimed score was 6, 770 points.

More details and photos are available on Jason's website:

<http://www.n3dsl.com/>

The band-by-band breakdown was as follows:

On 80-meters, we had 257 CW QSO's with 525 phone.

On 40-meters, we had 432 CW QSO's and 316 phone.

On 20-meters, we had 235 CW QSO's and 122 phone.

On 15-meters, we had 1 phone QSO.

On 6-meters, we had 18 CW and 164 phone QSO's.

On 2-meters, we had 11 CW and 35 phone QSO's.

We had 7 QSO's via satellite, and 1 CW contact on "other" bands. The GOTA station is responsible for 305 phone contacts.

Thanks to the GOTA operators: Joe Meek KD4FKT, Matthew Huffman KD4UPL, Tommy Hepner KE4GMJ, Marvin Henderson KF4WDI, Gary Van Fossen KI4FZV, Bob Wilson KI4GST, and Bob Steere N1QEQ.

Letter from Captain Junkins, Rockingham EOC

Below is a letter received by Jason Armentrout, N4DSL, from Capt. Jim Junkins, director of the Harrisonburg/Rockingham Emergency Communications Center.

Jason:

Please convey my thanks to all the amateur radio operators at the field day site for their hospitality and to help me continue my on-going education in amateur radio operations during my visit. I am always glad to attend the event to experience first-hand the excellent group of intervals who can be prepared at a moment's notice to assist the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center. Hopefully my visit also gave the group a few extra points for the competition. I am always anxious to see the Field Day results in the MARA/VARA Monitor and am very impressed at the groups commitment and capabilities. By the way, I have informed the Harrisonburg City Manager and Rockingham County Administrator of field day web site pictures and statistics so they can review the event.

It was refreshing to see and reacquaint with so many familiar faces and get to know some new folks. I look forward to a continued great relationship with MARA and VARA. And for the folks that did ask, yes I am still planning to "jump

into the water" by testing for the tech license. Hopefully by next year's Field Day event, I will have obtained it.

Although you are very familiar with our new "home", the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center (HRECC), many amateur radio operators may not. We are very glad to have a dedicated amateur radio station in the operational area of the new communications center. If desirable, please convey to the MARA and VARA clubs that we will be glad to hold an exclusive open house one evening for all MARA and VARA amateur radio operators and their families to tour the HRECC and especially the fine amateur radio station.

If I can be of any assistance to the MARA or VARA clubs' endeavors, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jim Junkins
Director
Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center

Field Day Letter to MARA and VARA from Ed WA4FTX and Helen KD4SHT

First, I would like to say thank you to all of the members of the M.A.R.A. and V.A.R.A. clubs for giving me an A.R.R.L. Field Day pin; Ed.

Second, Helen and I both had a good time; as always. The weather was great this year, no rain, no wind, clear skies, excellent evening temperatures and I didn't even get one "itchy" insect bite! We both enjoyed sitting by your campfire and listening to all of the discussions, stories and jokes.

Thanks again.

73, Ed WA3TFX and Helen Troutman KD4WHT

Thanks Again to N1QEQ For News Coverage

Thanks once again to N1QEQ for spearheading the excellent coverage of ham radio and the field day operation in both the North Fork Journal and also the Shenandoah Journal newspapers. Both papers had some great coverage, including photographs of Doug Tippett N8ESW, Jeff Rinehart W4PJW, and Cowles Andrus K4EME.





More Field Day Pictures



To the right are (left to right) Vic Alter KE4LKQ, Emergency Communications Coordinator for Rockingham County, Captain Jim Junkins of the Harrisonburg/Rockingham County EOC communications center, and David Tanks, Emergency Communications Coordinator for Augusta County.



Welcome Back to KB4LCI

Welcome back to David Gordon, KB4LCI, who has accepted a communications job back here in the valley (he won't say where or what he'll be doing just yet), so look for him on the local area repeaters starting in early August. He'll be moving his household soon, and hopes this will be his last for a while. He says he's "back home again". He plans to come to MARA meeting soon to explain.

FREE! Oscilloscope

Want a tube-type oscilloscope? Here's one for the taking! Contact Howard Zehr, at 540-896-9086, or email at zehrh@aol.com

For Sale: Homebrew Amplifier

400-600 watt output homebrew RF amp currently designed for 160, 80 and 40 but could be put on 20M. Classic 813 grounded-grid design. Well built, with internal heavy duty supply. Roller inductor pi-output circuit. Untuned input. Has worked very well with my tube-output TS-830s, with great audio reports. I'm told it would also work with a solid-state exciter with built-in tuner. \$100. Howard, N9AHQ. zehrh@aol.com. 540-896-9086.

Have You Forgotten the Nets?

Yes, the ARES nets are still alive and well!

Grab your HT or microphone and check into one of the local nets! We are here, on the air, to help you check out your equipment and make sure it's working properly, and that you still have a decent sounding audio circuit, and that you can still hear and understand voice over the radio!

Sunday nights: Every Sunday Night — the Page County ARES net meets at 8:00 pm local time, on the 146.670 repeater. The repeater requires CTCSS tone of 114 Hz, and gets it input down 600 kHz.

Monday nights: The first Monday of the month, the Rockingham County ARES net meets on 146.550 simplex starting at 8:00 pm local time. This net occasionally has some really cool exercises, too! All other Monday nights, the net meets on the 145.130 repeater. The repeater often requires tone of 88 Hz, and its input is down 600 kHz.

Wednesday nights: The Highland County ARES net meets the first and third Wednesday nights at 8:30 pm local time on the 147.180 repeater in Monterey. This repeater requires CTCSS of 100.0 Hz, and input is up 600 kHz.

Thursday nights and Sunday afternoons: The Augusta County ARES net holds its net at various times, and often will replace the net with a fox hunt on a Sunday afternoon. Give a call on the 147.075 repeater on Sunday afternoons around 2:00 pm and see who's on!

The Opinionated One – Tractor Beams

I stopped in at Kline's Ice Cream the other day, and found two of my ham radio buddies sitting on the bench.

Verman Beddwedder, dressed in his perennial coveralls, was talking to elderly ol' Druly Ehrwaxx. "Man, talk about hot. Really hot. Unbelievably hot. Words can't convey how hot. I mean H-O-T, hot."

I asked, "are you talking about the weather, or that blonde in the pink shorts who passed her VE exam at the May session?"

"I'm talking about the weather, you stupid elbow! Do you think my wife would let me go to Field Day for a weekend up there in the woods if she knew about..."

"Don't say it, Verman, don't say it," I shouted, as Druly quickly covered Verman's mouth with his hands. "Deb's got spies, er, friends all over! If Deb were ever to find out the real reason why it never rains at Field Day, why, she'd..." I made a slicing motion with my forefinger across my throat.

"Anyway," Verman continued once Druly removed his hands and dried them on his shirt, "last week, in spite of the heat, I decided to cut my grass ... er, well, uh, mow my lawn, that is. Not my grass. My grass ain't ready to cut yet. That Mexican stuff grows real slow in the heat. Anyway, I went to mow the lawn and the darn tractor won't start.

"Hope you got the manual,"

Druly said.

"Of course I got it!" Verman went on. "Any amateur radio operator can tell you that a manual is worth its weight in gold. Why, I saw an old Heathkit manual for sale at Berryville last year with a price high enough to cover half the Social Security shortfall through 2050. So I take out the tractor manual, and I look at the exploded parts diagram..."

"Exploded? Like the London subway?" Druly interrupts.

"Huh?" says Verman. "London? What?"

"Don't you watch TV, Verman?" I asked.

"Nope, I get all my news from the Daily News Record and Daily News Leader. Now them's real newspapers! I like their news. They got the good stories. They print stuff about Elkton's mayor, the Grottoes police chief, and which street in downtown Staunton is gonna be next to get tore up for six months. Now that's some real news. And remember that feature story last month about those three brothers in Churchville that looked up their family tree, and found out one of their ancestors was a real purebred Pomeranian..."

"Churchville? I thought that kinda thing only happened in the communities up and down 340," I interjected.

"Let me guess. I'll bet you tried to find Pomerania on a map, didn't you Verman?"

Druly rolled his eyes.

"Nope, I used a globe. Never found it."

"Well, I think it's just to the east of Malaria," Druly explained, opening another tin of chewing tobacco. "And if it's the one I'm thinking about, the capital is Spinal Meningitis."

"Spinal Meningitis?" Verman looked puzzled. "Wasn't that the name of that red-headed Mennonite preacher that used to run the Ottobine Feed Store back in the 70's?"

"Let's get back to the tractor," I pleaded.

"Okay. Well, I called the 1-800 number for tech support, and I get this recording that said my call was really important to them, and to press one if I owned a touch-tone phone, press two if I spoke Yiddish, press three..."

"Yeah, I know the recording. Everybody I call nowadays has that same recording. Everybody. It's all over the place," I replied.

"Yep," Druly added. "Why, I called my dog for dinner the other night and got the exact same recording."

"No kidding?" Verman asked, being totally serious. "I didn't know your dog spoke Yiddish."

"Verman, has anyone ever told you your Zeners are a few volts short of going avalanche?"

"No, they haven't. In fact the only one that's ever mentioned my Zeners wuz my old girlfriend Wynkie.

She used to go 'round tellin' everybody in the old Beverly Manor Middle School that my Zeners ..."

"Never mind, Verman, let's get back to the tractor."

"Well after an hour or two on the phone, I finally hang up and decide to see if maybe there's some troubleshooting stuff in the manual. So I starts readin'. The first couple dozen pages are like ham radio manuals, all those safety warnings and junk. Did you know that you're not supposed to use a lawn tractor while you're swimmin'? It says so right there in the manual. And pages 10 through 33 are little tiny fine print, and when I got out the magnifying glass and read it all, basically it says that the product is not approved for use by infants or nursing mothers, and that if I have any side effects like headache, blurred vision, or sudden constipation I should discontinue using it immediately and see my doctor."

"Hmmm, the lawyers have been really busy lately," I admitted.

"I read the whole manual. They put the troubleshooting guide way at the back. It has a bunch of steps to follow. It's just like a ham manual. Did you know that lawn tractors now come with computers and software in them?"

"No, I didn't, but it doesn't surprise me," Druly replied. "Everything has computers

(Continued on page 9)

Opinionated One (continued...)

(Continued from page 8)

and software in it nowadays. I got a salad at Wendy's the other day, and before I could open it I had to click on this icon that said I accepted the user agreement. I asked for a fork, and the fellow gave me one. It wouldn't work right, so I complained and the fellow said that the free forks weren't designed for salads and I needed to pay \$49 to upgrade to the full version."

"I got one of them, too. Take it from me, save your money.

It wasn't worth the \$49 upgrade," Verman offered, proving Druly's point about his Zeners. "Okay, so the troubleshooting guide tells me to reboot the tractor. Know how you do it? Simple. You hold down the gas pedal, turn the steering wheel all the way to the right, then turn off the key, count to five, and turn it back on again while pushing down on the headlight switch. Just like my old Kenwood. And guess what! Just like my old Kenwood, doing all that stuff didn't do a darn thing!"

"Why am I not surprised?" I yawned.

"Cause you've owned a Kenwood before," snapped Druly. "But that don't mean lawn tractors are all bad."

"And the next step said to box the tractor up in its original packaging and send it to the service center. But that's where I ran into the problem. You see, the tractor was made by Murray out of Armonk, New York, but there was a sticker in the manual saying that they had been bought out, and I

should send it to this address down in Mississippi."

"Bought out? No!" I shouted. "Not Mississippi! It can't be. He wouldn't. Not a lawn tractor company! He couldn't! Could he? Tell me it isn't true!" I pleaded.

"It's true. Seems like except for the major rig manufacturers like Icom, Yaesu, and Kenwood, everything else in the world that's being used by us hams these days is getting' bought out by MFJ Enterprises!"

Bridgewater Lawn Party Thanks Hams

Thanks to all who helped with the Bridgewater Lawn Party. Your participation is much appreciated, and the clubs are the real beneficiaries. We had a great time, the weather cooperated for the most part, and no real problems surfaced. Thanks to:

- GORDEN BATEY, WA4FJC
- BOB TENNYSON, KG4CHL
- DOUG TIPPETT, N8ESW
- BOB STEERE, N1QEQ
- RAY RITCHIE, K4NRA
- NANCY RITCHIE, KG4JAZ
- RAY COLVIN, KE4HVR
- NANCY COLVIN, KE4PHP
- EC SHOWALTER, KG4KUR
- DICK HAXTON, KC3AN
- PHYLLIS HAXTON, N4VZC
- BRYAN DANIELS, K4RMY
- GAIL SHULL, KG4JBF
- GAYLE SHULL, KU4XN
- CHRIS SHIRKEY, KI4BAQ

VE Session August 13

Please don't forget, we still need some hams to sign up to conduct the VE testing session on August 13. As always, this session will be at the Woodmen of the World building in Dayton, Virginia, starting at 9:00 am.

And if you would like to become an accredited Volunteer Examiner, we can always use you. Just give me a call and I'll get you set up in a hurry!

Gayle Shull
KU4XN
Phone 540-828-2132

W4PJW – Mobile “Phone”

Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW, and his wife Patsy K4PJJ, are working 40-meter mobile from, well, just about everywhere they go!

Jeff had reportedly taken his noble steed (aka, Yukon SUV) into the shop telling the mechanic that his engine was missing. But after a brief search, the mechanic found the engine, right where it was supposed to be. But to be safe, the mechanic worked on it anyway, replacing a part or two, and departing last week, Jeff and Patsy rode off into the wilds, pulling their trusty camper trailer.

Since departing, Jeff’s friends (yes, he really does still have a few!) have been checking on his progress via the FindU website, and also by the periodic skeds on 40-meter phone as Jeff checks into the EastCARS network every day that he is on the road.

Tune into EastCARS on 7255 kHz on the days below when Jeff notes that he plans to be traveling. When you’re miles from home, it’s always nice to hear a familiar voice.

W4PJW’s Original Planned Schedule

Saturday July 30, Schroon Lake, NY

Sunday July 31, On The Road, driving from Schroon Lake to Lake Winnepasaka, NH (no, we don’t know how to pronounce it either, that’s why we call it Lake “W”)

Monday August 1, Lake W. attending a 50’s Dance Cruise 6-9pm

Tuesday, August 2, Lake W attending a playhouse “The Nerd”

Wednesday, August 3 probably a daytrip to Rumney, NH Greenes 7:00 pm (about 45 min. NW of Lake W.)

Thursday, August 4, Lake W – or Gunstock Recreation area camping - Craft Fair Aug 5–7 Meredith farmers Market; sidewalk sale days Laconia

Friday, August 5, Arts and Crafts fair at Freedom 10-3 and at Gilford; Street dance in Meredith; Fireworks at Weirs Beach 10 pm; Pittsfield Rotary Hot Air Balloon Rally, Fireworks, Live music, carnival etc at Drake Field; Wolfboro Hospital Aid Street Fair; Weirs Beach Rock Music at the Market Place 7-10pm (see sheet for more). (Editor’s note: Wow, what fun!)

Saturday, August 6, Soul Fest? Lakes Region Summer Craft Fair – Gilford

Sunday, August 7 — Dixie Strollers at Tilton Is. Park, Tilton

Monday, Aug 8 through Saturday, August 13, don’t know yet, maybe Patriot Center, Joyce Meyer

Saturday August 13 or Sunday August 14, Drive Home!

Calendar

AUGUST

- 2: VARA Club Meeting 6:30 pm
- 4: MARA Club Meeting 6:00 pm
- 6: Mountain Mama Bike Ride Public Service Event (page 2)
- 6: Roanoke Hamfest (Vinton)
- 6-7: ARRL UHF Contest
- 7: Berryville Hamfest
- 13: VE Exams in Dayton VA
- 14: Carroll County (Westminster MD) Hamfest

SEPTEMBER

- 1: MARA Club Meeting (6:00 pm)
- 3-4: Shelby (NC) Hamfest
- 6: VARA Club Meeting (6:30 pm)
- 10-11: Gaithersburg (MD) Hamfest
- 10-12: ARRL VHF QSO Party

- 17: Great Eastern 100k Footrace Public Service Event (p2)
- 17-18: Virginia Beach Hamfest
- 24: Bike Virginia Public Service Event (page 3)
- 24-25: CQ RTTY Contest
- 25: Fall QRP Homebrewer Sprint

OCTOBER

- 2: Camp Still Meadows Public Service Event (p.3)
- 4: VARA Club Meeting
- 6: MARA Club Meeting
- 8: VE Exams in Dayton VA
- 8: Winston-Salem (NC) hamfest
- 10: 10-10 10meter Sprint
- 15-16: Fall Foliage Bike Ride Public Service Event (p.3)
- 29-30: CQ WW SSB Contest

VARA Secretary's Report —

The **V**alley **A**mateur **R**adio **A**ssociation met at Kathy's in Verona on July 5, 2005.

The Vice President, Greg Czerniack W4GRC, opened the meeting at 7:30pm. There were 18 members present and 7 guests, Bob Van Fossen K4DJG, John Bottenmiller N4SYH & his son Bryan, Bill Karle KG4UPN and Andrew Barbour AG4XN, Fran Davis, wife of Steve Davis KI4CGI and David Pickering KF4JCY. Welcome to our visitors, and we would like to see all of you back next month.

50/50: No tickets for 50/50 drawing in July.

Field Day: No official field day report at this time but we are told the totals look to be close to last year.

Ham Radio Demonstration: Thanks to Leon Fix WE1FIX and John Lasher N3GLZ for heading up the demonstration. Thanks also to everyone that brought equipment, helped set up and explain what ham radio can do in times of emergencies. Thanks to everyone that checked in from remote locations with comments. Hopefully the word got out to everyone through our demonstration so they realize what Ham Radio is all about and can do when a disaster arrives. Remember the Shenandoah Valley could, in the future, be a disaster site like some of our neighboring counties have been.

ON THE SICK LIST:

Ken Harris KE4GKD had major surgery on July 14 and went back to UVA the 27th with complications.

Queenie, Clinton's (KB4OLM) wife still has health concerns at this time. **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/w4xd/> **PLEASE notify Billy when your item is sold.**

ADDRESSES!!! Keep your e-mail address up to date. Please send them to: Marvin Henderson KF4WDI marvista@ntelos.net Jeff Rinehart W4PJW jmrinehart@yahoo.com Ray Colvin KE4HVR colvingr@adelphia.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. Fox hunts are also scheduled for some months as weather permits.

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 7:50pm.

PROGRAM: David Tanks AD4TJ gave a program on the digital modes of Ham Radio with a computer program by Joe Taylor K1JT. Joe has designed several digital programs for the modern ham radio modes of communication. Some of them are, **WSJT** – FSK Meteor-scatter, **JT44 & JT65** EME and troposcatter, **JT6M:** for meteor scatter (optimized for 50 MHz), **FSK441:** for meteor scatter, **EME Echo:** for measuring your own echoes from the Moon and **CW:** for EME QSOs using 15 WPM Morse code.

David had the computer program on his laptop and let us hear the sounds of these digital modes. In some modes you don't hear any sounds but the signal is picked up and displayed on the screen for the contact. The error correction on the digital modes is very good and helps make very accurate contacts at low power.

Thanks to David for a great digital mode presentation!

Submitted By:
VARA Secretary

Ray Colvin KE4HVR

The MARA Minutes did not arrive in time for inclusion in this issue of the Monitor. Maybe next month?

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: Andrew Barbour AG4XN
Secretary: Bryan Daniels K4RMY
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, just north
of the traffic light in Mt. Crawford.

Meal starts at 6:00 pm.

Business meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

Visitors are welcome.

Dues (\$12 per year) should be mailed to:

MARA
PO Box 1882
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

President: Marvin Henderson, KF4WDI
Vice President: Greg Czerniak, W4GRC
Secretary: Ray Colvin, KE4HVR
Treasurer: Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW
Program Manager: Richard Huttinger, AA4RH

<http://www.qsl.net/w4xd>

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