

February 2005

The Monitor

Published jointly by the Valley Amateur Radio Association and the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, serving Amateur Radio in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley

LAST ISSUE!

Yes, that's right.

If you have not renewed your club dues, this is the last issue of the Monitor you will receive.

At the end of the February club meetings, the treasurers will provide an updated list of paid members.

If your name isn't on that list, you will miss the Opinionated One's "State of the Hobby" address in the March issue!

Use the handy form at the back of this issue to renew today!

VARA President's Message

Greetings to everyone. 2005 is off to a great start for the Valley Amateur Radio Association. I am looking forward to an exciting year.

It is a pleasure to welcome two new members to the club. These are Gary Van Fossen (K14FZV) and Lou Joseph (W2LYL). Lou gave the club an informative report on QRP communications at our meeting. Welcome, gentlemen.

Our club made a donation to the Tsunami relief effort. It is hard for us to imagine the heartaches that so many are going through at this time. It feels good to be able to help in some small way.

As spring and summer approach, it is not too early to start thinking about our many activities planned. The MS Walk, Waynesboro Riverfest (supported by the Waynesboro Repeater Association), Field Day and the Shenandoah Fall Foliage Bike Festival. I hope we can have good club participation in many these and other events.

I hope to see each of you at the February meeting.

73,

Marvin Henderson - KF4WDI

Ben Zeker Om De Vergadering Bij Te Wonen Deze Maand

It means: You want to be sure to attend the club meeting this month!

This month's program is by David, KD9LA, on his recent four-month sentence, er.... semester, in Belgium.

No, he is not going to show all 2000 slides he took of him standing in front of all the buildings with the pretty Belgie flag and the big stone lions.

He is going to show you a few slides of some things that American ham operators might be interested in. And at the end, he'll show you how easy it is to read Flemish.

Be sure to attend.

Which club meeting? Both of them!

Dinner at 6:30, business meeting at 7:30, program following. See you there!

QRP Club Still Powered Up — Come Join the Fun!

The local QRP club is still meeting the second Tuesday of every month, at the home of Andrew Barbour, AG4XN.

This group puts together transmitters that use less power than a fly generates when it blinks.

Well, not really, but the things they put together do qualify for the EnergyStar rating!

You don't have to be an engineer to get in on the fun. Plan to drop in on one of these meetings and see what low-power transmitters and lightweight

low-cost homemade receivers are all about.

The location is 516 St. James Road, Fishersville. The place is just off the Interstate northeast of Staunton.

To reach the place, get off I-81 at exit 225, the Woodrow Wil-

son Parkway. Take the road EAST (away from U.S. 11) less than two miles to St. James Road and turn right.

Give Andrew a call at 540-248-3240 and ask for more specific directions.



KB4Q: Pirated Callsign In the Valley

Gordon Batey, WA4FJC, reports that several hams have been copying a young voice on the local repeaters who identifies as KB4Q.

The teenager (or even pre-teen) says his name is Dale, but he obviously is not familiar with ham jargon and operations — unusual for a two-by-one extra-class callsign.

Gordon contacted the real KB4Q, Herb, in Christiansburg, and discovered that the real KB4Q is an old geezer like most of us, and he hasn't been in the valley for quite some time. He still has all of his radio equipment, and has no idea why someone would bootleg his call.

Is anyone around here missing any equipment?

The RDF folks might want to begin monitoring the 147.075 (where the station seems to be appearing most frequently) to find out from what area of the valley the pirate is operating.

On a related note, several other non-hams have legitimately contacted KD9LA, K4RBZ, and others asking how to get started in ham radio. If you know of others wanting to become licensed, let the clubs know. Another round of classes might be in order! You never know!

KG4KUR and KU4XN: The Florida Boys — Orange You Glad?

E.C. Showalter, KG4KUR, sends his greetings to the valley hams. Spending the winter months in sunny, warm central Florida, a few miles south of Orlando, is a really dirty job, but somebody has to do it!

E.C. reports that the weather is mainly in the 70's during the day.

E.C. is joined by Gayle Shull, KU4XN, who stops by E.C.'s winter QTH periodically to chew the rags.

These two fine gentlemen have been chatting with W4HXH and KB4DJN on the Sunday afternoon Menno-Net, and even surprised Gerry K4RBZ by copying him while he was net control on his jaunt in Texas. E.C. had company arriving at the time and didn't get to check in, but said he had a fine copy on Gerry's mobile from the Lone Star State.

E. C. is using a clamp-on mount for 20-meters.

Gayle and E.C. are looking forward to attending the Orlando Hamcation again this year if they get the chance.

Status Report on W4XD's Callsign for VARA Club

I just wanted everyone to know there has been some progress made toward getting Joe Moomaw's Call Sign for the VARA Club Call Sign, as were his wishes.

His call sign was canceled in October of 2003. A form 605 and Schedule D was sent in soon after that but came back saying improper funds was sent. At that time as we understood, there was no fee for a license in Memoriam. This month I made a phone call and talked with Bart Jahnke W9JJ, he walked me through the needed forms. It was then that I found out there had been some changes made and a license in Memoriam is the same as a Vanity call sign, at the present the fee is \$20.80.

At this point we ran into another problem. To have a 1 X 2 call sign (W4XD) we would have to have an Extra Class Operator for the Trustee. Our Trustee at that time was Charlie Garner WA4ITY who is an Advanced Class Operator. There is a form to change the Trustee of the club call sign (605C).

This has been done and the new Trustee is Jeff Rinehart W4PJW. At this point the forms have been mailed from the Staunton post office as of Jan. 22, 2005 at 7:00am. Now we are waiting for the call sign to show up in the FCC database.

— Ray Colvin, VARA Secretary

Harry Dannals, W2HD, Alive and Kickin’

Harry Dannals, W2HD, receives a complimentary copy of the Monitor by email each month, and wants us to know that he fondly remembers all his old-time friends over here on the west side of the Blue Ridge. If you’d like to drop him a note,

his new email is: w2hd@earthlink.net. Harry is a former ARRL president and is active in the Charlottesville area. Hey, Harry, get on the 147.075 repeater and give us a call!

Letters From Charlie

Ray, KE4HVR, received a letter from Charlie Garner, WA4ITY, who recently suffered a heart attack.

Charlie had some chest pains and went to the hospital to have it checked out, but they didn’t find anything. So they decided to send him over to U.Va. to have an unpleasant test for a blockage. But before he could even get out of the Augusta Medical Center, they came back and said he was having a real live heart attack right as they watched!

They pumped him full of anti-coagulants and clot busters and stuff (from the pharmacy or the ABC store?) and then shipped him off to

U.Va. where they put in another stint. For those of you who don’t know how they do it, use your imagination on this: Charlie has a bruise that stretches from his belly button to his knee!

Hams will be glad to hear Charlie is on the mend. His doctor feels there is little or no long-term damage, but Charlie says he doesn’t yet have the stamina he used to. (Hey, Charlie, that’s not the heart attack that does that, you know! We’re all getting old!)

Charlie wants to thank everyone for the cards.



Zed Queue Willie: Everything Came Out Just Fine!

A few weeks back, Leon Rosenberger, WA4ZQW, had a flare-up of Crohn’s disease, resulting in an intestinal blockage. This put him in the hospital for four days.

You know how some people are always wishing they had a BMW? Well, Rosie couldn’t have cared less about the “W” part!

In a phone call on January 26, he assures us everything came out okay! He’s back home recuperating and getting his strength back, and appreciates everyone thinking of him.

Rosie is the one who always lends his expertise with a fishing rod in getting the Field Day messenger wires up into the trees! We don’t want him in an “immovable” state come June!



KE4JSX: A Real No-Brainer...

Dan Beidler, KE4JSX, reports that his doctors are very positive about the results of his surgery. While the tumor was benign, it has potential for regrowth (it's called a Silent ACTH tumor). Yearly MRI's should catch it if it comes back.

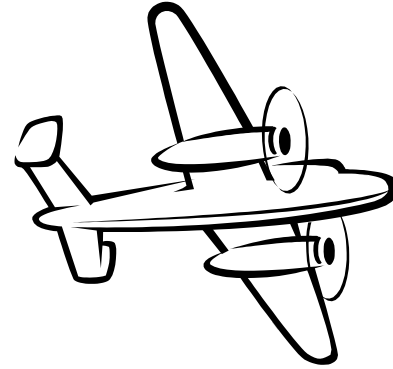
Dan has been able to go to work part time, and even is putting in some 8-hour days now and then. He wants to thank every one in the ham community for their thoughts and prayers.

N4DUG: A Real "Hands-On" Type of Guy

Doug Alder, N4DUG, was out playing with radio controlled model airplanes. He reached in to make a minor adjustment while an engine was running, and accidentally got his hand caught in the propeller. These are big planes, and it took off a

finger right quick-like. While the doctors sewed it back on, only time will tell if it will have to be removed again. Best wishes to Doug on his "digital" recovery.

— Info from Sandy, K4PZC



Great On-Line Lookup — for those Rare Prefixes!

KE4HVR tells us that the website below is a great reference site for looking up ham radio prefixes, CQ Zone, ITU and continent information:

<http://no4j.com/nfdxa/dxcc/dxcc.asp>

Quick! Where is BR549?

N04J: A Voice From the Past — On the Web At Least

When yours truly, your newsletter editor, typed in the URL which Ray provided above, something sounded familiar about it. It wasn't the site itself. No, because the URL given above actually links to K4UTE's website.

So what was it? The callsign N04J sounded very familiar. So did the NFDXA. Hmmmm. The North Florida DX Association?

Then it hit me. N04J was David Mains! Sure! That's it! David Mains!

Way back in 1974, I was a young college student attending an evening class in business law. During a break, one of the other students, David Mains, started playing a cassette tape of Morse code on a Walkman. Having learned a little Morse code in the Boy Scouts, I walked up to him and asked what was going on, and he explained that he was studying for an exam to become an Extra Class ham radio operator.

I expressed interest in becoming a ham, and after class that night, David took me to his home and showed me the big HF ham radio he kept in his bedroom. It was a Kenwood TS-520, state of the art in those days, and he also had an Alpha One amplifier which dimmed the lights when he transmitted.

We worked a fellow in Colorado. What a surprise, especially for David Mains' wife, who was actually in bed in her skimpy see-through baby-doll nightie at the time! (Honest, I was really interested in the QSO, cross my heart! — And my fingers! Although I have to admit, I don't remember the callsign of the guy in Colorado!)

Back in those days, a General class ham could give a Novice license exam. David Mains offered to give me my Novice exam after I'd studied for three weeks! I passed with a 100% (honestly), and he even helped me order (and then troubleshoot!) my first Heathkit radio. It's nice to see N04J is still active on the bands.

Lest We Forget...

Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW, reminds us that by maintaining goodwill with local governments, hams in this area were successful in overcoming potential antenna restrictions in Rockingham County's zoning ordinances.

Thanks to Paul Helbert, WV3J, Charlie Garner WA4ITY, Bill Fawcett WB4PHP, and about 50 other hams, amateur radio towers and antennas were specifically excluded from a very restrictive ordinance regulating the height and placement of radio transmission towers. The proposed ordinance was going

to be especially hard-hitting to towers placed in residential areas. The draft was intended to target the prolific erection of cell phone towers, but originally covered all radio transmission facilities, including towers, antennas, poles, and all other support structures.

Hams in Rockingham and Augusta counties turned out en masse to the meeting of the Board of Supervisors, and were polite, courteous, and non-confrontational. Additionally, several public-service agencies supported the hams — a direct result of long-standing coopera-

tion and good will between amateur operators and the public safety departments.

Not only was the ordinance amended to exclude regulation of ham facilities, but (get this!) the Board was so impressed by the hams' contribution to the community, they went further and struck an existing zoning law requiring hams to get a special use permit to erect a tower!

A special article on the event appeared in the ARRL Letter on October 17, 1997, Volume 16, Number 41.

Jeff wants to remind everyone that we need to continue that cooperation and goodwill with our government agencies. Only by remaining friends with those in high places can we prevail when battles loom on the horizon. With BPL coming into the area, we need to polish up our friendships and reputations. Let's not appear to be contentious, argumentative, or forceful, but at the same time, let's make sure everyone knows how important hams are to the community.

Rockingham-Harrisonburg Signs Contract for Communications System

According to a news release January 10, M/A-COM said it has received an \$18.9 million contract from the Rockingham County and Harrisonburg Emergency Communications Center to deploy a system that will provide interoperable communications between public-safety agencies in the city and county that are served by that center. The 800-MHz system will employ EDACS IP Project 25-compliant digital communications in a complex network to provide the backbone for the new system, which replaces the conven-

tional Low-Band VHF and UHF systems. According to M/A-COM, a complementary paging system, UHF, and 800 MHz mutual aid network are also included in the project. You can read the press release at the following URL:

<http://snipurl.com/cbdd>

Published by the MRT Bulletin (Mobile Radio Technology), Volume 3, Number 2, January 14, 2005, submitted by David Gordon KB4LCI.



AA2BF: Homeward Bound

Herb Slade, AA2BF, Valley Ham Extra-ordinaire, may be returning to the valley again sometime around March. Moving back here, that is!

Herb, in a moment of temporary insanity, left the snowy, cold, and cloudy climes of the Shenandoah for that ugly sunny warm sandy state of Arizona. He apparently finds it too pleasant out

in Scottsdale, and expressed plans to return to Augusta County in March.

Wonder what came over him?

Anyway, Herb reports that two antennas on a rooftop met, fell in love and decided to get married. The wedding itself wasn't much, but boy oh boy, the reception was great!

Huge Estate Sale: N4EAU, SK

Louis Risley, N4EAU, of Mount Torrey Road, Lyndhurst, VA, passed away last fall after suffering several years with Alzheimers and Parkinsons. The equipment described below will be taken to the Richmond Frostfest if not sold to valley hams before. If you are interested in any of this equipment, contact David, KD9LA, at 540-234-0448 or 540-820-6766. All equipment is currently available for inspection and testing at Dave's QTH in Weyers Cave.

- **Pioneer Audio-Video Stereo Receiver VSX-5000** – Good condition, works perfectly! Receives all VHF-UHF television signals, AM and FM broadcasts, CATV. Inputs: CATV, TV/FM1 and TV/FM2 (3000 ohm and 75 ohm antenna inputs for each), video source, video adapter, VCR1, VCR2, VDP(DVD- player)/VCR3, CD player, Audio Tape 1, Audio Tape 2, and Phono (turntable changer). Outputs: VCR1, VCR2, VDP/VCR3, Audio Tape1, Audio Tape 2, TV Monitor, RF Modulator output, Pre-Amp out, Power Amp out (50 watts), Monaural output, and four speaker outputs, with Dolby SurroundSound. Variable speaker impedance adjustment. Additional controls: FM De-emphasis, surround balance, dynamic expanders, video enhancer, studio/stadium selector, loudness contours, 20 memory presets, headphone jack, split-screen video mixer and other features too numerous to mention. **Includes two BSR 60-watt floor speakers**, featuring 3-inch mid-range/tweeter, resonance port and 8-inch woofer speakers. (Woofers have cracks in the rubber mounting rings, but the cones are solid and they sound great!) Includes remote control, but remote is missing battery-compartment cover. System was originally purchased in 1994 for \$1100, asking \$95 for entire system, or best offer.
- **ProFormance Dual Synchronized Tape Deck**, dual cassette, Dolby, CrO2 and metal oxide bias (switchable for normal bias tapes too), tape counter, stereo mike inputs. Originally purchased for \$195. Asking \$25 or best offer.
- **Norman Rockwell Collector's Edition real wood replica of antique table radio.** Mint condition. Shown at right. Working solid-state AM and FM radio receiver. Cabinet must be seen to appreciate. Original price unknown, asking \$65 or best offer.
- **40 channel CB-Radios:** Two (2) Realistic TRC-481's – Both in mint condition, never used. Includes PA capability, channel 9 priority, external speaker capability, power cord. One has mobile mounting bracket. Other includes back-of-set antenna. Both work perfectly. Asking \$10 each, \$15 for both, or best offer.
- **40-channel CB Radio:** TRC-418 – Mint condition, never used. Includes PA capability, noise limiter, channel 9 priority, external speaker capability, power cord). Includes mobile mounting bracket and back-of-set antenna. Works perfectly. Asking \$10 or best offer.
- **40-channel CB/Weather Radio:** TRC-448 – Mint condition, never used. Includes noise limiter, power cord, channel 9 priority, external speaker capability, adjustable RF gain control, and also receives 7 NOAA Weather-radio channels. Includes mobile mounting bracket and back-of-set antenna. Works perfectly. \$10 or best offer.
- **RadioShack TRC-509 FM 49 MHz Handi-talkie transceiver**, operates on 49.830 MHz (part 15, can be received on baby monitors, etc.). Telescoping antenna. Only 1. Asking \$1 or best offer.
- **RF Concepts RFC 2-23 VHF 2-meter amplifier**. Mint condition. Only 2-watts in yields 30-watts out. Includes receive pre-amp, FM/SSB switch. Asking \$60 or best offer. (KD9LA will throw in a coax jumper!)
- **Icom IC2A** – not 2AT or O2AT, just plain 2A! 2-meter handheld, works great, five watts out on external 12-volt DC, 2 watts on battery. Thumbwheel frequency selection, high/low power, manual repeater offset, jacks for external speaker and mic, battery case accepts 12-volt CD barrel input. No PL, no DTMF pad, and no memories, but the transceiver works perfectly. Includes desk charger, good NiCad battery pack. Asking \$25 or best offer.
- **Kenwood TH-25AT**. 2-meter handheld. Includes touch-tone pad, memories, comes with two (2) good NiCad battery packs plus DC input adapter, wall-charger, wall power-supply, operating manual and schematic. Includes jacks for external speaker and mic. This radio does not presently have the PL tone board, but it was designed to be easily added. Asking \$35 or best offer.



- **Radio Shack HTX-202 handheld 2-meter transceiver.** Excellent condition, works great. Includes good NiCad battery pack, carry strap, belt hook, ten memories, full PL tone capability (send and receive), jacks for external speaker and mic, external DC power cord, and copy of operating manual. Asking \$50 or best offer.
- **Radio Shack HTX-202 2-meter receiver.** Originally a handheld transceiver, the transmitter portion no longer works, but the receiver works fine. Internal speaker no longer works, but this unit comes with a new external speaker which works great. Accepts 12v DC barrel input on top of unit. Ten memories, PL tone squelch. Missing tuning knob, but shaft can be easily turned by hand and frequency can be input by keypad entry. Scanner function works fine. Asking \$10 or best offer.
- **Sony video camera.** Originally a Sony Handycam CCD-TR517 palmsized camcorder, the tape portion of this unit no longer works. But the camera works perfectly and puts out gorgeous video and audio to the included RCA-jack cord. Accepts standard tripod mounting. Includes hand strap, neck strap, AC power supply/battery charger, new Sony InfoLithium 330 Li-ion battery, output cable (RCA plugs, video and audio). Would make an excellent color camera for surveillance or ham TV purposes. Asking \$75 or best offer.
- **Sony Trinitron 19-inch Color TV.** Tuner is on the fritz, but audio/video input jacks (RCA) allow use with a VCR tuner or DVD player. Perfect companion for Sony camera above to create a full-color full-audio surveillance setup. Asking \$75, but will sell TV and camera together as a set for \$125.
- **Radio-Shack Intercom Units** (four), plugs into AC outlets, paging tone and voice. Works great all over large house. All four units for \$10.
- **Magnavox 13-inch color TV.** Six years old, this little unit would be great for bedroom, kitchen, or office use. Cable ready, 75-ohm RF input. Remote control unit is missing, but unit is compatible with most universal remotes. Asking \$50 or best offer.



Note from KD9LA: Please make an offer on any of this stuff you want, because I'd prefer not to lug it all to Richmond!





What Is This?

Can you identify this slab of stone?

Hint: It is in the British Museum, but it wasn't always there.

In fact, to be honest, lots of stuff in the British Museum wasn't always there!

Some people have criticized the British Museum for "stealing" treasures from around the world. The British Museum tour guides make it very clear that the British Museum doesn't "steal", it "acquires".

And this is one of the things it has acquired. It is probably the most famous stone on the planet right now. No, it didn't come from the moon. And no, it didn't appear in the film "2001: A Space Odyssey".

Come to club meeting this month and find out what this is, and why it's so famous.

(photo taken by KD9LA)

K4RBZ Snags Andaman Islands in the Nick of Time!

Valley DX Honor Roller Gerry Brunk, K4RBZ, was able to snag a contact with the DXpedition on the Andaman Islands, just hours before the tsunami wiped the place off the map.

As reported in the Washington Post on Sunday, January 2, on page D1, a team of six Indian DXpeditioners was running the first ham operation from the Andamans in over 17 years. They were operating from the fifth floor of a hotel when the building began rocking from the earthquake.

Located in the Indian Ocean 900 miles east of the Indian mainland, the islands are just a few dozen miles from the earthquake's epicenter. While the earthquake damaged buildings and structures, its effect was tiny compared to the resulting "tidal wave" that killed over a quarter of a million people across Asia.

Within minutes of the earthquake, the water had washed away entire neighborhoods on the island. The electrical power was off, the phones were out, the satellite relay stations were gone — the entire island was cut off from the rest of the world.

Except for ham radio.

The DXpeditioners quickly set up their equipment on the lawn of the hotel, using a generator they had brought along as part of their planning. Within an hour, they were relaying damage and casualty reports to the Indian mainland & the rest of the world.

All thoughts of handing out rare QSLs was abandoned. Efforts turned towards relief. For the next week, the hams provided communications support for the emergency response teams. The entire communications infrastructure of the area had col-

lapsed. Ham radio was the only link for thousands of victims needing relief, and for hundreds of thousands of relatives, officials, and relief workers from outside the area trying to get status reports.

The hams also helped 15 American tourists get information on their welfare back to their families in the U.S.

The DXpedition's leader, an Indian housewife named Bharathi Prasad, spent 17 years trying to get permission from the government bureaucracy to operate on the island. She hopes this experience will pave the way for future expeditions to the island, and make it easier for other hams to get permission to operate from this rare outpost.

In the meantime, K4RBZ will wait patiently on his confirmation of the rare contact!

W2LYL and KB4OLM: Contesting a la Augusta County

Lou, W2LYL, obviously “has what it takes”. He reported that he worked the QRP contest, and actually made a good showing, by using flea power and — of all things — a simple wire antenna. But this wasn’t your typical ham

wire antenna. This was just a plain old wire, strung outside his apartment, across the field next door. No high supports, no towers, no special grounds, nothing. Just a plain old wire strung across a field, and in a

QRP contest!

In another contest, Clint KB4OLM, report earning over 84,000 points in the 10-meter contest last month.

Clint racked up 484 contacts,

which is not too shabby on 10 meters.

Have you worked a contest recently? Let us know about how you did. We’ll put your score in here, too!

More 802.11 Range Experiments: 72 Miles?

In early January, a crew of hams from the Valley attempted another long-distance record 802.11 connection.

Led by Jason, N4DSL, the group was hoping to establish reliable computer connections on the 2.4 GHz band over a distance of 72 MILES using the common 802.11 protocol.

Yes, that’s 72 MILES. And yes, that’s 802.11 — a protocol which is designed for an effective range of 300 feet.

Jason and other hams had already established solid links at distances of 34 miles last summer, and more recently at 56 miles last November.

One of the problems they’ve run into has been the time-out problem. The long distances the radio packets have to travel means that the travel time of a radio packet exceeds the allowable time programmed into the 802.11 equipment. Even at the speed of light, the difference in travel time between a packet going 300 feet and one going 72 miles is significant.

To get around this problem, the group used a programmable ac-

cess point allowing for adjustable enq-ack delay times. By telling the equipment to wait a little longer (a LOT longer) before retrying to send a packet, the access point would give more time for the packet to travel across the long distance.

Alas, the effort didn’t succeed. Why not? One possibility was equipment problems. Another problem cause might have been the hazy atmosphere soaking up the microwave signal. Still another explanation might be found in the high wind which was buffeting the antenna at the north end of the path.

Complicating matters was the interference: the path crossed large populated areas (such as Lexington, Buena Vista, Staunton, etc.) and numerous other networks were detected on the channel.

The south end of the circuit was on Apple Orchard Mountain, manned by Jason, Bryan K4RMY, and David KD9LA. The northern end of the connection was handled on Flagpole Knob and the Field Day site near Reddish Knob by Bob K4DJG and Jim Lehman W4POL.



A very cold, but calm, morning on Apple Orchard Mountain. KD9LA, N4DSL & K4RMY hiked up the mountain with backpacks. They carried the laptop computer, 802.11 network gear, preamps, cables, programmable node controller, tripod mount, barbecue-grill dish antenna, toolkit, 2-meter ham gear for voice communication/coordination purposes, and a big heavy battery, too! The site was just off the Appalachian Trail between Lynchburg and Glasgow, beside an FAA radar dome. Seventy-two miles to the north, on Flagpole Knob and at the field day site, W4POL and K4DJG were fighting raging winds which rocked their dish, causing sporadic reception. They were even unable to connect to Laird’s Knob, a known workable path, raising the possibility of either potential equipment problems, wind interference via antenna motion, or atmospheric absorption of the signal.

MARA Secretary's Report – January 6 Meeting

As you may know, MARA is currently without a secretary. Legally, we have to have a corporate secretary, by law, to continue operating. Former Secretary Phyllis Haxton, N4VZC, filled in for the January meeting and took notes for the minutes, but we need a permanent secretary as soon as someone agrees to serve!

MARA'S first meeting of 2005 was held on January 6 at 7:39pm at Evers Restaurant. It was chaired by Bill KG4UPN, our newly wedded president. The tickets for the 50-50 were sold while the New Year good wishes were shared.

The introductions were shared by all those present. Sandy, our treasurer, gave a report for November and December. It was accepted as read. Thank you Sandy. If you have not paid your dues for 2005, he would like to have them ASAP so the membership list can be updated.

No new upgrades or memberships were received.

A general discussion followed at this time. Jason, N4DSL, gave his report on a wireless link. Ellsworth gave information on a now defunct tower from the commercial radio station for which he is responsible.

Dale gave a report on the pro-

gression of City Emergency Radio System. Several of the Club members are involved with this activity.

MARA still needs a club secretary.

Motion made by David for permission to update our membership list by sending the Monitor to include all former members. Hopefully this will generate interest and we will regain some members. Motion made, seconded, and passed.

Our March meeting will be a swap and shop and a giving away surplus gear. Go through your [I don't want it anymore] stuff and set it aside for this event. Also, your show and tell.

Also, we were told about a new spot on the web we might find interesting.

www.freecycle.org is a new site which anyone can access as a way to pass most anything away. Afterwards we should have room to begin collecting new giveaways.

At the 50-50 drawing Hugh, K3EC gained \$10.50 and MARA \$10.50.

Victor Alger, KE4LKQ, and David Fordham, KD9LA, will be working on an upgrade of our Monday night Net. Keep in touch.

Sincerely, Phyllis N4VZC,
Temporary Acting Secretary

VARA Secretary's Report – January 4 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Kathy's in Verona on Jan. 4, 2005. The President, Marvin Henderson KF4WDI, opened the meeting at 7:30pm. There were 27 members present and 2 guests, David Pickering KF4JCY and Bob Van Fossen K4DJG. Welcome to our visitors, and we would like to see all of you back next month.

2005 OFFICERS:

President:
Marvin Henderson KF4WDI

Vice President:
Greg Czerniak W4GRC

Treasurer:
Jeff Rinehart W4PJW

Secretary:
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

Richard Huttinger will remain as Program Chair.

David Tanks AD4TJ won the 50/50 drawing. Congratulations David!

New Members: Gary Van Fossen KI4FZV and Lou Joseph W2LYL were accepted into the club. Welcome to the VARA!

The VARA voted to send \$100 to the Asia Earthquake Relief Fund through the American Red Cross.

Field Day is coming and Marvin is looking for three volunteers for the Field Day 2005 Committee.

ON THE SICK LIST:
Dan Beidler KE4JSX Dan is recovering at home from his operation and doing well.
Ken Harris KE4GKD has gained 14 lbs. And said he could pinch a half inch now.
Charlie Garner WA4ITY had another heart attack in December and is recovering well at home.
Lets keep these folks in our thoughts and prayers.

Antenna & Coax Project: Greg W4GRC and David AD4TJ will attend the Fire Dept. and Rescue Squad yearly meeting to get their thoughts for this project. 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.

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/> **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 colv-ingr@adelphia.net and David Fordham KD9LA ford-hadr@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 8:02pm.

Submitted By:
VARA Secretary

Ray Colvin KE4HVR

MARA/VARA Membership Renewal Form

NAME: _____ CALL: _____ CLASS: E A G T N

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

CELL PHONE: _____ Do you want your cell phone number in the Roster? YES / NO

EMAIL ADDRESS: *(print legibly!!)* _____

Do you want to receive the Monitor via PDF Email? YES / NO / I already Do (circle one)

MEMBER OF ARRL (y/n): _____ DO YOU WANT YOUR NAME ON AN ARES "POSSIBLE VOLUNTEER" LIST? (Y/N) _____

ARE YOU A REGISTERED MEMBER OF VA-RACES (y/n): _____ RACES TRAINED (y/n): _____ RACES CERTIFIED? (y/n) _____

SKYWARN ID *(if SkyWarn trained)* _____ Are you available for Workday Daytime Emergency Callup? (y/n) _____

What topics would you like to see presented as a program at a ham club meeting? _____

In your opinion what is the thing you like best about our ham club? _____

If you could change anything about the club, what would it be? _____

Other comments for the officers? _____

VARA Renewals: mail with \$15 to Jeff Rinehart, 1344 Hankey Mtn Highway, Churchville VA 24421

MARA Renewals: mail with \$12 to VARA, PO Box 1882, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

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: vacant
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, just north
of the traffic light in Mt. Crawford.

Meal starts at 6:30 pm.
Business meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

Visitors are welcome.

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/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.

~~Visitors are welcome.~~