

The Monitor

Published Jointly by the Massanutten and Valley Amateur Radio Associations of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley

FIELD DAY ISSUE

VARA President's Message

I would like to thank everyone who helped at the MS-Walk in Waynesboro. We had 6 hams who volunteered on Sunday, April 10th to provide communications. Many thanks to Ray Colvin (KE4HVR), Benny (N4BCC) and Kay (KF4CZL) Cook who provided mobile communications. Jess (W4PQK) and Valorie (KB8ZIS) Hancock walked the course with the other walkers and monitored 146.490Mhz. I personally enjoyed helping very much. The ladies in

charge of the MS-Walk were very gracious for the support we gave them. Many thanks also to the club members who helped with the Riverfest in Waynesboro on April 23rd. This public service event, sponsored by the Waynesboro Repeater Association, was assisted by about 15 local hams, plus 1 visitor from Atlanta (Pete Weiland - K4A00). Gordon (WA4FJC) did a great job coordinating our involvement in this event and being net control operator.

June has two big events we can be looking forward to. The first is on June 21st when emergency operations groups from several counties will meet in Staunton for training. The local ham community has been invited to give a demonstration on emergency communications. This is a great opportunity for us to participate in a real life exercise with groups that we may need to assist if needed. We only have to think back a couple of years when Hurricane Isabelle came through to see how emergency groups

and ham radio operators can work together. Of course, our other big event is field day and hopefully many persons can participate.

The "Quote of the Month" comes from one of our own. Denny Morland, N4XPW, has a meaningful quote on his QRZ webpage that each one of us should remember; "Each day is a good day. Be thankful for all you have." Thanks, Denny !!

Marvin Henderson,
KF4WDI

MARA President's Message

Memorial Day traditionally brings in the rites of summer, and that means ham-fests, outdoor public service events, and of course, Field Day! This year is no different, and field day will soon be upon us. Everyone should be in final preparations for it, and make sure your gear, your camper, and your coffee cup are ready to go. You will find elsewhere in this

issue the listings for equipment, supplies, and operators for the various stations we plan on running this year. If there is something amiss, please let one of the field day committee members know. I want to personally thank the committee members and the others who through their interest and perseverance continually make field day a success!

Of course, June 1st also marks the beginning of the hurricane season for the U.S. Although this area is not normally affected directly by the hurricanes, we can still get plenty of wind and rain out of a passing storm. And this year is once again forecast to be quite active, so we may see more action in our area. So please keep your equipment and go bags

stocked and ready, just in case we are ever needed to serve.

So get your radios out, dust 'em off and get them tuned up, fish out all your coax and other radio gear, and join us on for field day for some operating fun! Coming soon to a mountain near you.

Bill Karle, KG4UPN

Consolidation of MARA Equipment Inventory...

On Sat the 7th of May, Jason N4DSL, Bryan K4RMY, Gene KG4UPL and Myself AG4XN met at my house around 9:30 to load up the trailer that I had "acquired". It took us roughly half an hour to load up the tower sections, a beam, and assorted odds and ends. We then headed out caravan style to Gayle's KU4XN house with Brian and Jason in the lead car. I followed close behind in my truck with the trailer and Gene brought up the rear. My thanks to Gene for giving frequent reports on the condition of the load it really took a load off my mind. Once we arrived at Gayle's we loaded up the clubs antennas that

he had in storage. We had a few minutes to kill so we took a "tour" of Gayle's garage and ham shack. Numerous deals were struck to purchase various ham related items (Gayle you should think about opening a store you could give HRO a run for their money). I had Gayle back the truck and trailer out of his driveway (didn't want to tear up the front lawn). I think from the short time Gayle was in my truck I convinced him to trade in the Ford pickup for a Dodge. From Gayle's we headed for the storage area which is located west of WSVA just off of route 33. When we got there it turned out to be an old tur-

key shed. I have to say it was quite clean and rather full of stuff in storage not leaving much room in the middle to back a trailer. Naturally, Bryan's storage area was on the other end. That of course was closed off to outside access leaving us on option but to back the whole length of the shed. Having such an "expert" behind the wheel such as my self it only took a dozen or so attempts to actually get the trailer down the other end. While it took some time to get to Bryan's storage area I can proudly say that I didn't hit anything. Once there we quickly unloaded things and removed the truck and trailer from the building as

other were waiting to access there assigned areas. We finished up very close to twelve O'clock so we elected to have lunch at Luigi's on route 42 (they just happen to have lots of room to turn a trailer around on). While in the process of eating our Supreme pizza, Bob wondered in with his lovely wife. They sat in the booth next to us. We talked about Dayton Hamfest and other things. We tried to get the waitress to give Bob our bill but she said she didn't think he'd pay. After lunch we all went our separate ways.

Andrew, AG4XN

QRP Group Meeting Report May 10 — Next Meeting June 14th

Richard Huttering AA4RH, Mike Solomon KJ4RM, Bryan Daniels K4RMY, Bill Karle KG4UPN, and myself AG4XN where in attendance for the QRP meeting held on Tuesday May 10. Admittedly I was late to my own meeting owing to issues at work. The meeting started outside on the tailgate of Bill's pickup. When I arrived which was roughly 10 minutes after everyone else had arrived, they were sorting out resistors, boards and capacitors for our next QRP project an automatic T/R switch to use with the receivers and

Tuna Tin II transmitters that we have already built. I was nice enough to allow everyone into the house so we ended up at our usual spot in the basement. We reviewed the schematics of the T/R switch and discussed changes to schematics that we would have to make to get everything to work. Richard and Mike then showed us another QRP transceiver project they were working on, another one small enough to fit in an Altoids can. The group broke up around 9:30 pm. I did talk to a number of group members

about having a cookout next month (Sorry, Bryan). Everyone seemed to be in agreement, so next month Cookout!!! Meeting time is moved to 6:00pm. So if you have an interest in QRP operations, want to get in on doing some kit building, and have a nice evening with other hams, come on out. We look forward to seeing the QRP regulars then and hopefully some new faces. AG4XN's house in Fishersville is easy to get to. Come on by on June 14th!

Tower Sections Wanted

I recently acquired two sections of Rohn tower , a standard 10' section and a top section, so I can start working on installing an antenna at the house. I am wondering if anyone has one or two extra sections of 20 or 25G tower to sell (or give away) so I can finally get something up in the air? If so, please contact me (Bill Karle) KG4UPN via the phone, email, at the meeting, or at field day!

VE Exams: June 11

Gayle KU4XN and the VE crew could use some help at the June 11 testing session. If you are free, please consider helping out. The sessions usually last from 9:00 am to just before noon.

If you are not yet an accredited Volunteer Examiner, contact Gayle Shull at 540-828-2132 for information how you can become a VE and assist with this valuable public service.

Run 100 Miles on Foot? ... Yep, With Help from Ham Radio!

Larry Miller KB6VAA of the Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club coordinated the efforts of the amateur radio operators to provide emergency communications and runner tracking throughout the recent 100 mile MMT foot-race. Yes, you read correctly, that's 100 miles on foot!

Without the efforts of these hams, there would have been aid stations where communications by other means would have been very poor.

We had some small problems but were able to overcome them and maintain good communications. Operators were from the Shenandoah Valley and Northern Virginia areas. Despite the long hours many of the operators put in, they maintained a professional manner throughout.

The Virginia Happy Trails Running Club really appreciated the service provided by these amateur radio operators:

Habron Gap: Tom Brownlee AF2D
 Camp Roosevelt: Ed Koiler KG4QUR
 Gap Creek I: Mal Sarna W1DSH
 Visitor Center: Jim Stamper KG4LDY
 Bird Knob: Paul Brown KD4UPD
 Rte 211 East: Howard Cunningham WD5DBC
 Gap Creek II: Dave Adsit KG5BIR, Dawn Adsit KD4AWN, and Josh Adsit KG4WJC
 Moreland Gap: Cliff Guetter KC4KOP
 Edinburg Gap: Tom Brownlee AF2D and Wayne Frye KD4WIE
 2100 Woodstock Tower: Jerry Shadle WA3UTL and Janet Shadle KG4JBB
 Powell's Fort: Marc Spaziano KG4UHO
 Elizabeth Furnace: Brian Cochran WC4J
 Net Control Start/Finish: Larry Miller KB6VAA , Steve Larrabee W2HHT and Valerie Meyer W8VAL

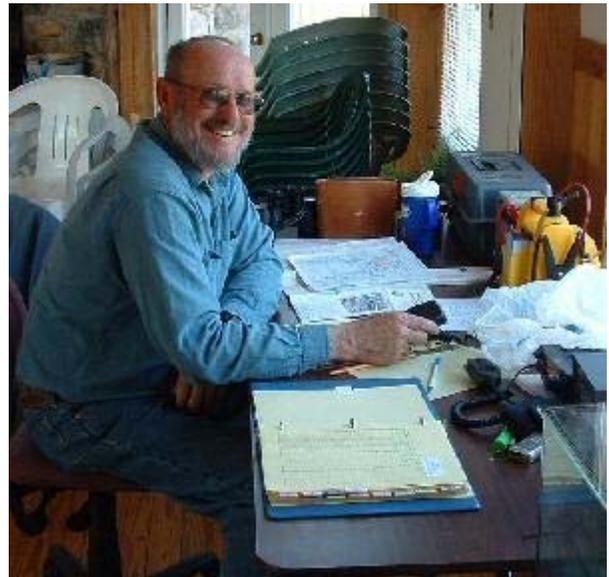
Thanks also to Robert Neimeyer W3MMC for the use of the W3MMC repeater.

We were able to provide radio support for 143 runners over a 36 hour period. I believe that there were 96 runners that finished the whole 100 miles with the winner completing the race in 18 hours 13 minutes a new record for The Virginia Happy Trails Running Club.

More information on the race can be obtained by going to the web site at: vhtrc.org/mmt/map.htm.

We appreciate the use of the W3MMC repeater and also the KD4DDI repeater.

Larry Miller, KB6VAA



New Field Day Site Selected!

Because of site damage caused by unscrupulous four-wheel drive vehicle enthusiasts, the Field Day Committee spent many hours investigating and analyzing alternate courses of action, including patching and repairing the traditional site, proceeding with the site as is, and relocating Field Day Operations to one of many other locations.

The end result: Field Day will be held this year in the grassy area approximately one-quarter mile BEYOND the traditional site, just to the left (west) of the road which runs through the traditional site.

To reach the new site, proceed to the old site, then continue down the road approximately 200 yards, and look for the turnoff to the left. The “hump” at the entrance is negotiable by most RV’s and trailers, including large ones. The new site is comparable to the old site in terms of size, radio propagation physics, shade, drainage, and other characteristics, but has not been damaged (yet) by vandals.

If you’ve never been to Field Day, follow these directions:

From Interstate 81, take Exit 240 (Bridgewater). Take Route 257 west towards Bridgewater. Proceed approximately three miles into Bridgewater, and turn right at the light (Hardee’s on the corner!) and head north, still on Route 257.

You will go through a traffic signal (cemetery on the right corner), and another traffic signal (Turner Ashby High School). Turn left at the THIRD traffic light (following the signs for Route 257 West!) as you begin to enter the town of Dayton, Virginia.

Follow Route 257 for a LONG way. Route 257 will make a sharp left turn at the Ottobine Stop Sign, and will make a sharp right turn at the Briery Branch Diner. Be careful of horses and buggies in the road all along Route 257.

Just keep following Route 257!

Bear left as you pass the entrance to Hone Quarry Campground, where Route 257 becomes Forest Road 924. Stay on the paved road as it crosses the little bridge and begins climbing up the mountain.

Keep going on the paved road up the mountain, about six miles. Finally, you will reach an intersection where the paved road makes a hard left turn, and two dirt roads split off, one going left and one going sort-of straight ahead. Keep as far to the right as possible, taking the dirt road straight ahead. Go another half mile to the traditional Field Day site (a grassy clearing), and proceed straight down the dirt road through the middle of this clearing. When you re-enter the forest on the other side of the clearing, proceed another quarter mile (okay, maybe it’s a half mile, but who’s counting!), and look for the left turning dirt road leading to the new Field Day site. The Field Day site is down the left road about a hundred yards.

If you need assistance, call on the 145.130 repeater (transmit down 0.600 MHz, PL tone 88 Hz required), or try the 147.470 simplex once you get into the mountains.

Come join the fun!

Field Day Responsibilities

It is traditional for the Monitor to publish the Field Day Committee's Spreadsheet in the June issue.

Hams should double-check these lists for their name or call. If you appear, it means the Field Day Committee is counting on you to come through.

If for some reason you cannot provide the equipment or service listed, please contact the Field Day Committee immediately so they can make alternate arrangements.

Field Day Schedule

Friday, June 17: Beginning of traditional "family camping week" at the new Field Day site. Free camping. Porta-potty provided.

Saturday, June 18: Arrival of more campers.

Sunday Afternoon, June 19: If you aren't camping, this is a good day to drive up the mountain to make sure you know where the new Field Day Site is located.

Monday, June 20: Deadline for early-bird campers to arrive. After this date, you will no longer be considered an "early-bird" camper, just a regular camper.

Tuesday and Wednesday, June 21 and 22: Free time, relaxation for campers.

Thursday Night, June 23, 9:00 pm: Deadline for the traditional "heavy dew" to fall. After this point, all further liquid precipitation will be ignored.

Friday afternoon, June 24: Pot-Luck Supper for everyone, come one come all.

Saturday, June 25, 2:00 pm: Field Day officially starts.

Sunday, June 26, 2:00 pm: Field Day officially ends, but cleanup and take-down starts. Don't plan to leave the site until 6:00 pm.

Event	Field Day - June 25 - 26, 2005
Location	Mountaintop Field Day Site
FD Frequencies	Site - 147.470 Sim. / Talk-in 145.130 Rpt.
Call Sign	W4XD
Station Class	2A
FD Committee	MARA - KG4UPN Bill, K4LXG Ellsworth, N1QEQ Bob VARA - AA4RH Richard, KJ4RM Mike, W2LYL Lou
FD Chairman	KG4UPN Bill
Assistant Chairman	N4DSL Jason
Scoring / totaling / Entry	N4DSL Jason
Pin Committee	KU4XN Gayle
Band Plan Coordinators	K4PZC Sandy
Welcome Center	K4LXG Ellsworth
Registration	K4LXG Ellsworth
Display Table	N1QEQ Bob
Coffee Pot	KF4ZWK Steve
2 Tables	W4PJW Jeff
Awning 10' x 20'	MARA Club
Awning 10' x 20'	VARA Club
Pads / Pencils	KE4GKD Kenny
Va Generator + Ground	WA4FJC Gordon
WVa Generator + Ground	N4YET Rusty
Gasoline - 20 gal VA	KD4WWF Pat (Reimbursed by Clubs)
Diesel - 20 gal WV	N4YET Rusty
Site Overhead Lighting	
Signs for each Station	N4XU Neal
Signs at road	VARA Club
Publicity	K4LXG Ellsworth
Public Official	K4LXG Ellsworth
Fire Wood (Camp. Week)	W4PJW Jeff & Bob K4DJG
Fire Wood (FD Weekend)	W4PJW Jeff & Bob K4DJG
Porti-John - 1 week early	N1QEQ Bob
Toilet Paper	N1QEQ Bob
Pictures	K4DJG Bob, KG4RMY Bryan, KE4GKD Kenny

HF Phone Station

FD Station #1	Call - W4XD
In Charge of Station	KU4XN Gayle - N4DSL Jason
Location	Northwest Corner
Shelter	K4DJG Bob
Table	Included in Trailer
3 Chairs	K4RMY Bryan
Tower / Mast	MARA Club - K4RMY Bryan
Rotor	MARA Club
Antenna 1	20m Dipole - Clubs
Antenna 2	40m Dipole - Clubs
Antenna 3	80m Dipole - Clubs
Coax for all Antenna's	MARA & VARA Clubs
Radio	N4DSL Jason
Power Supply	N4DSL Jason
Computer	K4PZC Sandy
Computer Log	CT=FD05PH
Power	N4YET Rusty
Power Cable	VARA Club
Lights	Included in Trailer
Info Packet	K4PZC Sandy
Grounding	KU4XN Gayle
Foot Switch	N4DSL Jason

GOTA Station

FD Station #3	KD4UPL
Call Sign	KD4UPL
In Charge of Station	KD4UPL Matthew
Location	South Side, Parallel to Road
Table	KD4UPL Matthew
Chairs	K4RMY Bryan
Shelter	KD4UPL Matthew
Mast	
Rotor	
Antenna 1	N4BCC Benny, Full Wave 80M Loop
Antenna Tuner	W4PJW Jeff
Coax for all Antenna's	N4BCC Benny
Radio	KD4UPL Matthew
Power Supply	KD4UPL Matthew
Computer	K4PZC Sandy
Computer Log	CT=FD05GO
Power	WA4FJC Gordon
Power Cable	N4BCC Benny
Lights	KD4UPL Matthew
Info Packet	K4PZC Sandy
Grounding	KD4UPL Matthew
Operating Modes	SSB & CW

HF CW Station

FD Station #2	Call - W4XD
In Charge of Station	N4XU Neal - W4PJW Jeff
Location	West End
Shelter	N4DUG Doug
Table	W4PJW Jeff
Chairs	K4RMY Bryan
Tower / Mast	KE4GKD Kenny
Rotor	KE4GKD Kenny
Antenna 1	Extended Zepp
Antenna 2	
Antenna 3	
Coax for all Antenna's	MARA & VARA Clubs
Radio	N4XU Neal - W4PJW Jeff
Power Supply	N4XU Neal
Computer	N4XU Neal
Computer Log	CT=FD05CW
Power	N4YET Rusty
Power Cable	N4YET Rusty - KE4GKD Kenny
Lights	MARA & VARA Clubs
Info Packet	K4PZC Sandy
Grounding	W4PJW Jeff

Natural Power Station

FD Station #6	Call - W4XD
In Charge of Station	KD4UPL Matthew
Location	GOTA Station
Shelter	KD4UPL Matthew
Table / Chairs	KD4UPL Matthew
Tower / Mast	
Rotor	
Antenna 1	N4BCC Benny, Full Wave 80M Loop
Coax for all Antenna's	N4BCC Benny
Radio	KD4UPL Matthew
Computer	K4PZC Sandy
Computer Log	CT=FD05NAT
Power	Solar Panels
Gel Cell?	KD4UPL Matthew
Power Cable	KD4UPL Matthew
Lights	MARA & VARA Clubs
Info Packet	K4PZC Sandy
Grounding if needed	KD4UPL Matthew

VHF/UHF Station

FD Station #4	Call - W4XD
In Charge of Station	K4RMY Bryan - N1QEQ Bob
Location	East Side, Near Woods
Shelter	N4DUG Doug
Table	W4PJW Jeff
Chairs	N4BCC Benny
Tower / Mast	KU4XN Gayle
Rotor	KU4XN Gayle
Antenna 1	Six Meter Beam, Jason
Antenna 2	K4NRA Ray
Coax for Antenna's 1-5	KU4XN Gayle
Triplexer for 2/220/440 vert	
Radio 1	K4RMY Bryan
Radio 2	K4NRA Ray
Amplifier 1	2 Meter N4DSL Jason
Power Supply	K4RMY Bryan
Power Supply	
Terminal for Pkt	
Pkt TNC	N4DSL Jason
Laptop w / Baypac tnc	N4DSL Jason
Computer	N4DSL Jason
Computer Log	CT = FD05VHF
Power	N4DSL Jason
Power Cable	N4BCC benny
Lights	MARA & VARA Clubs
Info Packet	K4PZC Sandy
Grounding	K4RMY Bryan

General Backups and Contingencies

BACKUP'S	
2m all-mode Radio	N4BCC Benny - K4NRA Ray
2m Amp	KU4XN Gayle - K4NRA Ray
6m all-mode Radio	N4BCC Benny - K4NRA Ray
Antenna Analyzer	Bring it just in case - All
Antenna Tuner	AA4RH Richard
Anything Else ?	Bring it just in case - All
Barrel Connectors	Bring it just in case - All
Pushup Masts	Bring it just in case - All
Coax	FD Committee - All
Computer / Keyboards	K4PZC Sandy
Generator - 5kw	N4DSL Jason
H.F. Radio - CW	
H.F. Radio - Phone	
Power Supply	Bring it just in case - All
Rotor - HAM 3 or 4	KU4XN Gayle
Rotor Cable	W4PJW Jeff
String / Cord for Dipoles	MARA & VARA Clubs
Tarps	Bring it just in case - All
Tent for Main Generator, WV	N4YET Rusty
Updated ver. Of CT	
Wire	Bring it just in case - All

Bonus Point Responsibility

Bonus Points	
APRS	N4DSL Jason - K4EME Cowles
Packet	N4DSL Jason
SSTV	N4DSL Jason
Originate 1 Message to Section Manager	AD4TJ David - N4DSL Jason
Originate 10 Messages	AD4TJ David - N4DSL Jason
Public Official	K4LXG Ellsworth
Satellite	K4EME Cowles
W1AW FD Msg	AD4TJ David - & All stations
GOTA	KD4UPL Matthew
Natural Power	KD4UPL Matthew
Display Table	N1QEQ Bob
ATV	K4EME Cowles

*Save this handy insert
for reference at Field
Day!*

Thanks to the Field Day Committee and those who came to the meetings and assisted in the planning process!

Satellite Station

FD Station #5	Call - W4XD
In Charge of Station	K4EME Cowles
Location	VHF/UHF Station
Shelter	VHF/UHF Station
Table / Chairs	K4EME Cowles
Radio 1	K4EME Cowles
Antenna 1	KLM 435-40CX - K4EME Cowles
Antenna 2	KLM 145-22CX - K4EME Cowles
Coax for all Antenna's	K4EME Cowles
Amplifier 1	70cm, TE System 4450 175w - K4EME Cowles
Amplifier 2	2m, KLM 160w - K4EME Cowles
Pre-Amp	SSB Electronics SP-7000 70cm LNA under 1db Noise Figure - K4EME Cowles
Pre-Amp	SSB Electronics SP-2000 2m under .8db Noise Figure - K4EME Cowles
Power Meter	Bird Trueline #43 - K4EME Cowles
Power Supply	Astron RS-70M 70amp - K4EME Cowles
Rotor and cable	Yaesu G-5400B - K4EME Cowles
Antenna tripod & base	K4EME Cowles
Antenna Mast	2 5' and 1 10' sections of pipe - K4EME Cowles
3 Guy ropes and anchors	K4EME Cowles
GPS	Garmin 45XL, for Correct time & location - K4EME Cowles
Compass	K4EME Cowles
Down Converter	2.4 ghz to 144mhz dcm 2400 to 144rx
Computer	Pentium Laptop for Satellite tracking (Nova Software) - K4EME Cowles
Computer	486 w / 14" monitor, running LogSat with Kansas City Tracker (Autotrack) - K4EME Cowles
Computer	For logging - K4PZC Sandy - Digital Station
Computer Log	CT = FD05DI
Power Strip	K4EME Cowles
Backup Power Inverter	12 VDC to 120 VAC - K4EME Cowles
Power	N4YET Rusty
Power Cable	N4DSL Jason - N4BCC Benny
Lights	N4DSL Jason
Info Packet	K4PZC Sandy
Grounding	K4EME Cowles
Satellites Planned For Operation	AO-10, 70cm up 2m down Oscar-20, 2m up 70cm down (JA) Oscar-29, 2m up 70cm down (JA) Oscar-27 2m up 70cm down (FM) UO-14, 2m up 70cm down (FM)

Field Day Equipment Policy:

Mandatory Reading for All Participants of Field Day, and all Owners of Equipment Used at Field Day

Field Day Equipment Policy Adopted by the MARA and VARA Clubs...

Be it understood that:

As a participant of Field Day operations, whether as a club member or visitor, you are using equipment that may belong to someone else. Care for it as if it were your own.

No repairs or modifications, no matter how slight, shall be made to any equipment without the owner or owner's designated representative being present.

Any apparent malfunction of equipment shall be reported immediately to the owner.

Be it further understood that:

Equipment which is brought to the Field Day site and made available for use at Field Day is done at the owner's discretion, and said equipment must be supervised by the owner or his/her designated representative.

Any damage to, or failure of, the equipment shall be the responsibility of the owner, and NOT that of the sponsors, organizers, or management of the Field Day Activity.

Model Airplane show on May 14th weekend in Woodruff, SC

Mike Reno KG4OON is trying to figure out how he can sweet talk Ellen into buying him this plane for Christmas.



The newsletter editor is in Belgium again, working sixteen-hour days, and with sporadic outages in email. Thanks to Mike KG4OON and Bill KE4FM for arranging the printing, and to Debbie KB4WPE for addressing and mailing this hardcopies of this issue.

VARA Secretary's Report -- May 3 Meeting

The **V**alley **A**mateur **R**adio **A**ssociation met at Kathy's in Verona on May 3, 2005. The President, Marvin Henderson KF4WDI, opened the meeting at 7:30pm. There were 24 members present and 8 guests, Bob Van Fossen K4DJG & his wife Laura, John Bottenmiller N4SYH & his son Bryan, Dick Smith W4KHV, Elwood Shrader KB4DJN, Bill Karle KG4UPN and Andrew Barbour AG4XN. Welcome to our visitors, and we would like to see all of you back next month.

50/50: Bill Shott W2ZVM won the 50/50 drawing, Congratulations Bill!

Field Day 2005 Committee report was given by Richard Huttinger AA4RH and Jeff Rinehart W4PJW. The next meeting agenda will be deciding on a site for the 2005 Field Day. The forestry service has done some work on the regular site but will still be muddy. Jeff and some others had camped on the next site out the mountain and only had minor problems getting the campers on the site.

Riverfest 2005 Thanks to all that came out on a pretty Sunday evening to help with communications. All went well and they had a good turn out, 34 teams, for the relay race of running, kayaking and biking. Richard AA4RH & Mike KJ4RM helped make up one of the three man teams and took first place in the race. Congratulations to them!

New Applications: We have two applications to vote on in June, Tom Kieffer K2ULM and Raymond LaFalce KF4CZM.

ON THE SICK LIST:

Ken Harris KE4GKD has finished his treatments and will go for a test in two weeks to check his blood.

Lonnie Czerniak N4WIV is back in Florida with her Dad waiting to see if the Doctors will let him stay at home.

Queenie, Clinton's (KB4OLM) wife has some 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 8:00pm.

PROGRAM:

Wayne Bowers gave a PowerPoint presentation of a tower and antenna job he did in Sudan, Africa. The station is a Christian broadcast station which broadcasts on a frequency of 5985 two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening. The antenna is a rhombic antenna supported by four 100ft towers and the transmitter is powered by generator. Wayne and his crew were flown in to Sudan and heavily guarded by soldiers during their stay to protect them from people that roamed the area looking for food and killed for it when they had a chance. Their biggest problem was getting equipment there when it was needed, there were lots of delays during shipping. There was very little vegetation there and only scrubby looking trees they called African Bush Trees, so there was little natural shade. The Sudan people that helped on the project took a two hour break during the hottest part of the day, Wayne's crew had to do the same. Wayne said he enjoyed the trip and work but didn't especially want to back into their extremely hot climate again. They all drank lots of water to avoid dehydration.

Thanks to Wayne for a great presentation of his tower and antenna job in Sudan.

Submitted By:
VARA Secretary
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

MARA Secretary's Report -- May 5 Meeting

The May MARA meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm May 5th, 2005. Bill Karle KG4UPN Presiding. Introductions were made. Secretary's report was approved as amended and printed. Treasurer reported a balance of \$2,048.50

Announcements:

- Walk America volunteers were thanked.
- Bible Fellowship Net is having meeting/reunion at Massanetta Springs Conference Center this weekend May 6-8.
- Dayton Hamvention will be May 20-22 in Dayton, Ohio. A number of members are forming a caravan leaving on Thursday May 19th to attend.

New member Michael McKay W4AZR to be voted on next meeting

Committee reports :

Public service events: None other than the recent Walk America.

Field Day Committee: A decision will be made as to what site will be used at the next meeting which is May 12 at the BK in Mt. Crawford.

VE: Next test session on June 11.

ARES/RACES: no report

QRP Group: Tuesday May 10 at Andrew AG4XN's home at 7:30. May begin work on some kits.

VMRC: 746 Pro from VMRC will be used at Massanetta Springs for the Bible Fellowship NET

Old business:

Field Day discussion-

The upper site about .25 miles N of old site was looked at for FD this year Jeff W4PJW commented on the site condition. A discussion followed on the problems with entrance and Forest Service improvement of the road into the site. Had very little problems except for low campers and long campers. May be used as an alternate site if FD committee decides on it. Will need to be mowed and cleaned up. Better for camping than the old site.

Bill KG4UPN commented on alternate site near Frazier Quarry. Rusty N4YET and Bob N1QEQ talked about the site....42N off to right 300 acres. 1200 ft elevation with good open shot NE for VHF/UHF. It is a secluded site even though it is close to town. Next FD meeting will decide where the site will be.

Pins for Field Day- 50 pins to be ordered.\$5.00 T-shirts by request only @ aprox. \$13.00 each

Motion made to buy 50 pins. Motion passed.

Lifetime membership- Majority vote of board of Directors needed to pass. Bill KG4UPN discussed the changes to by-laws. Rusty said the lawyer said there can be only one class of members. May be an honorary membership. Discussion on the status of clubs charter as 503 nonprofit status organization. Bill will continue to research and determine what may be done.

New business:

From VARA meeting: Community Education project between ARRL and Homeland Security. Week prior to FD to do a demonstration with Emergency Services/ARES/Races 7 minute video will be shown. Field operations 2m and HF to do a June 21st demo. 6:00 pm set up and a 7:00 pm meeting. Anyone interested please contact Bill KG4UPN

Bob N1QEQ talked about discussion he had with WWSA news director. There was a news item about the hospital setup on Tuesday May 3rd about the hospital setup as reported by Norman KA4EEN.

The June program will be Hugh K3EC giving a talk on the use of British Amateur radio secret uses during W.W.II.

The club's Field Day equipment will be moved Sat. May 7 at 9:30 am to a more permanent storage facility provided by Bryan K4RMY.

50/50 Drawing was held and won by Jenny XYL of W3HXH. She won \$13.00

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm

Respectfully submitted by
Bryan Daniels, K4RMY

Massanutten and Valley
Amateur Radio Associations
C/o David Fordham
131 Wayside Drive
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

NEW FIELD DAY SITE: See Page 4

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 W3HXXH

<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.

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 Huttering, 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