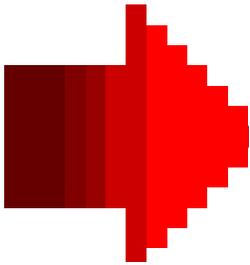


October 2005

The Monitor

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



OFFICER
ELECTIONS,
TOO!

MARA Meetings – Note these Location and Time Changes!!!

Take notice! The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association is changing its meeting places!

The next few months will see the MARA club meeting at three NEW locations.

The club will hold its annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, October 6th at the Golden Corral Restaurant on U.S. 33 east in Harrisonburg.

The meal will start at 6:30 pm, and the business meeting will begin at 7:30 pm.

Then, November 3, the meeting will be held at Pano's restaurant, and the December meeting will be held on the

first at Traditions restaurant.

The October 6 meeting is the annual corporate meeting where officers will be elected for fiscal year 2006, which starts November 1.

Come out and enjoy the food at these new venues so you can provide input to the new officers as to where you think we should meet in the future! Additionally, be prepared to vote on the new officers on October 6.

MARA President's Message

Greetings. It has been a busy month for hams, with the radio community reaching and supporting the relief efforts during hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Our hats are off to all those who helped in any way, from being directly involved in passing radio traffic, those who went down and gave their time to endure the primitive conditions in the areas affected by the storms, to those who gave to the Red Cross or Salvation Army, and other organizations supporting the relief efforts, and those who simply made room for communications on the bands. Amateur radio has received much praise for our operations, and hams have truly shown the motto, "When All Else Fails..." to be true.

October brings some changes to the club as well. It is time for everyone to decide on a new slate of officers. I have enjoyed my tenure as President, but it is time for someone else to step up to the plate and take control of the club. I would like to see someone who wants to put the drive back in the organization and make it the best it can be, lead the group.

Also, we begin a sampling of trying different locations for dinners and meeting locations. October takes us to the Golden Corral on Route 33 East in Harrisonburg. For the month of November, our meeting is scheduled to be held at Pano's on Route 11 at the south end of Harrisonburg. Our December meeting, traditionally our family Christmas banquet, is slated for Traditions Restaurant on Route 42, adja-

cent to EMU, in northwest Harrisonburg. I know this is going to be confusing to some of our members, but this was voted on and decided by the membership at the September club meeting.

Please make sure you call some fellow members the day or two before the meeting dates to remind them of where the club meeting is each month.

We have had several successful public service events held the last month. Thanks to every who came out and supported our efforts.

And lastly, please be sure to come out and support the Bike Virginia event in October. This year, the radio support is slated to be slightly different, with radio operators manning fixed checkpoints in lieu of being continuously mobile and providing SAG support. More details will be forthcoming at the October meeting.

Bill Karle, KG4UPN

MARA President

OCTOBER 15-16

MARA President's Article on Fall Foliage Ride

The drill for the former "Bike Virginia" Fall Foliage Ride will be a little different this year.

Because of high gas prices, the event is being organized so as to minimize the travel hams must do to provide communications and safety.

Instead of driving the route, looking for problems, the hams will be stationed at

fixed points, relying on relays from passing bikers to stay abreast of incidents needing attention.

Hats off to Ray Colvin, Marvin Henderson, and the others who are going to such lengths to organize this year's ride and ensure that both hams and bikers are kept safe and have fun.

VARA President's Message

What a beautiful time of the year! I guess if I had to say what my favorite month of the year is, I would have to say October.

Our big event for September turned out to be a big success. The Great Endurance Endurance Race tested our abilities to communicate with each other, especially in the early morning hours. Repeaters from Reidsville, North Carolina (N4IV) and from Portsmouth, Virginia (W4POX) were causing havoc with communications with the 146.850 repeater to the hams located at the higher elevations. Fortunately, about 9:30 am the conditions changed and we were able to hear each other a lot better. Fortunately all 155 runners that started either the 31 mile or 62 mile race were all accounted for at the end.

I would like to thank the persons that helped with this event. Helping were Mike Reno (KG4OON), Ray La Falce (K2ULW), Benny Cook (N4BCC), Greg Czerniak (W4GRC), Steve Davis (KI4CGI), David Tanks (AD4TJ),

Bill Karle (KG4UPN), Ray Colvin (KE4HVR), Darrell Little (KI4LLA), Gordon Batey (WA4FJC), Doug Tippett (N8ESW), and Richard Huttinger (AA4RH).

Our big event for October is the Shenandoah Fall Foliage Bike Race on the weekend of the 15th and 16th. This is a big money making project for our club and the MARA club. Check out their website at www.shenandoahbike.org.

The "Quote of the Month" comes from the great singer and composer, John Denver, who said in his song "Friends"; Friends, I will remember you, think of you, pray for you; and when another day is through, I'll still be friends with you."

Marvin Henderson, KF4WDI
VARA President

OCTOBER 15-16

VARA President's Article on Fall Foliage Ride

Our big event for the month of October is the Shenandoah Fall Foliage Bike Festival. This will take place on the weekend of October 15th and 16th.

Barbara Wright, the director of the bike ride, is looking forward to us helping again this year. Due to the higher prices of gas this year, she is okay with us positioning ourselves at strategic locations throughout the race course.

The weekend will consist of 4 separate events. On Saturday, an on-road bike ride will take place from Staunton to Natural

Chimneys and end back up at Staunton. Also on Saturday, a mountain bike ride will take place in the Shenando Lake area. On Sunday, the on-road event will be a ride from Staunton to Middlebrook and back to Staunton. Also on Sunday, a mountain bike ride will take place in the Todd Lake area.

This is a fun event for the clubs to participate in. We look forward to having many volunteers again this year. Check out the website at www.shenandoahbike.org. Pay special attention to the "RIDES" link on the website, which gives a description of each of the rides.

Bike Shenandoah Public Service Report

Many thanks to James KI4FZY, for filling the net control position for this event. He did an outstanding job of keeping the rest of us in line. Bryan, K4RMY, was at the Trissels Rest Stop. E.C.KG4KUR, manned the Hebron stop; Gayle KU4XN and Richard KC3AN shared duties at the Dayton Rest Stop, and I took care of things at the Mount Clinton Rest Stop.

The first riders left the starting post at EMHS sometime around 7:30 am I am told, but we didn't bother to show up until 8:00 am. By the time Bryan got to Trissels (after the hams chewed the rag at EMHS for a while) the first three or four riders in the 100-mile event had already passed that stop.

Our main duty was to keep track of which riders had passed through each stop. There were two SAG vehicles, and James kept in touch with them via cell phones.

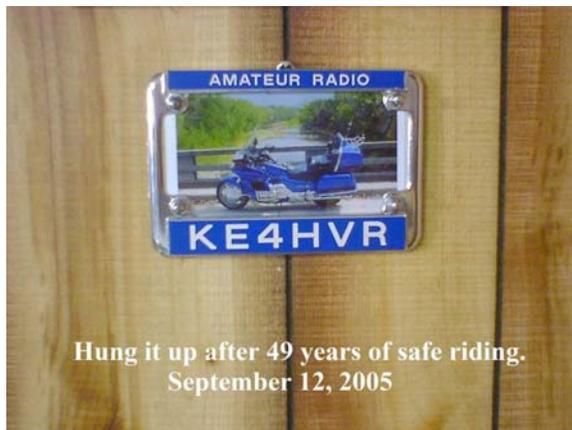
The big event of the day was a rider with a flat tire, and a second rider that appeared to have gotten himself lost at some

point. There may have been other incidents that I was not aware of. The SAG vehicles took care of both these problems.

There were 12 riders in the 100 mile event, 13 in the 62 mile event, and 27 in the 30 mile event. There was also a 5-mile and a 15-mile event, but we were not involved with these. This event raised \$13,000 which is to be divided between the Harrisonburg Pregnancy Center, Mennonite Central Committee, Virginia Mennonite Board of Missions, and the Mennonite Media.

Again, many thanks to shoe that volunteered their time to help with this event.

Gerald Nauman, KN4FM



For Sale: Amplifier

Ameritron AL-1200 Linear Amplifier, Asking \$1000.
Call Richard Wilkins, 540-433-5277

VE Examinations Oct 8

Please don't forget the October Volunteer Examination, to be held on Saturday, October 8, at the usual location in the Woodmen of the World Building on Route 42, Dayton.

We usually start registration at 9:00 pm sharp, with the exams starting immediately upon completion of the paperwork.

We are usually done before noon.

If you are interested in becoming an examiner, please contact Gayle Shull.

Letter From Lou Joseph, W2LYL

Editor's Note: Lou Joseph is a retired CPA from the New York and New Jersey area who has recently moved to the Shenandoah Valley and is impressed with the good reception (no pun intended) he received by the hams here.

Thank you for hosting the C.W. station W4XD this past weekend. It was a great pleasure for me to be a small part of the activity. The setup played very very well, I could not count them all answering at once. Many, many times there were 3 or more stations calling us at the same time. That may have been the biggest problem other than poor band

conditions. I was energized and inspired by KD9LA's piece in QST as more than likely were the other members of VARA / MARA..

VARA has some really great C.W. ops, you, Neil, the tall guy from VARA (*David Tanks AD4TJ*), I'm bad on names! Sri. In any event it was great fun for me, thank you. ... There were as many as four really excellent C.W. types copying the same info at the same time, we all don't hear the same things at the same time, I did not keep a check sheet, but believe that I got it correct more times than most. Thank you. When I operated the station, I had absolutely no problem hearing.

I will ask you to provide me with the contest log because I would like to see if I have set a personal record of Qso's/ Hour. I began operating at midnight local time and continued for I believe the next 2.5 hours. I Came back (*to the CW trailer*) at 5 AM (local) and remember entering 3 QSO's / minute but not for such a long period. I believe that not a minute went by with out (a Qso)... during that time, and there were many minutes with 3 entries. Never made four a minute though, (*but*) wait until next year!

In the '70s I had a TH6 @ 64 FT with a 4-1000 in front of it and a Collins S Line before

the 1.5 KW (out) amp and only made 60 QSO's / hour.

Personally it was great to be with some folks I got to know better, and some others I got to meet for the first time. Coming from the a-moral north, it was just wonderful to hear a fellow ham say early on a Sunday morning that he must QRT from ham radio to meet his XYL in Harrisonburg so they could go to church together. Sorry to say, such does not exist north-east of the Shenandoah Valley. That is why I'm here to stay!

TNX, 73, Lou W2LYL

Medical Corner: N4EYZ, N4XPW, and KE4GKD

Three Augusta County Hams are still under their Doctor's Car.

Wayne Boyer, N4EYZ, had a heart attack which interfered with this giving the program at the recent MARA club meeting. Reports are that he is recuperating nicely, and hopes to be back on the program shortly

Denny Morland, N4XPW, has completed his physical therapy at the nursing center and is back at his home as of September 19. He has been on 2-

meters, and is checking into the Virginia Fone Net routinely now. It's nice to have Denny back on the air! He is getting around with his walker and is kinda slow getting around, but hopes to be able to come to Kathy's within a couple of weeks.

Kenny Harris, KE4GKD, continues his slow recovery and battle with complications after his surgery last month. Seems like Kenny is in the hospital, out of the hospital, in the hospital, out of the hospital, in the hospital,

every day or two his status changes. He has been eating a couple of bites of solid food, but in general is what most of us describe as "one sick puppy".

To top off Kenny's troubles, his companion and primary caregiver Janice fell and broke her leg, laying her up for a while! Janice has been recuperating at her mother's house in Weyers Cave, and has been in a lot of pain recently.

The thoughts and prayers of the

local ham community in the Shenandoah Valley are with these hams and their families as they struggle with the infirmities that characterize this mortal life.

We hope they get well soon.

The Opinionated One: The A to Z Guide to Valley Ham Radio

Upon arriving in Belgium last year, a friend gave me a copy of a book titled, "The A to Z Guide to Belgium". This little volume is a definitive reference work which filled me in on all the hidden details and nuances of local culture which they don't tell you about in the tourist guides.

For example, the book said that contrary to popular belief, it doesn't rain all the time in Flanders. (It rains only on days ending in "Y".) The book also told me the correct way of standing in line (with your belt buckle touching the behind of the person in front of you, otherwise someone will butt in ahead of your position). In the book, my wife found information on which cuts of meat to avoid in the butcher shops (those that are gray-green and have fuzz on them). It even had an answer for the question, "how can you get decent service from a store clerk?" (Answer: it can't be done).

This is useful knowledge that would otherwise take years of experience to accumulate. I learned so much about the local culture, that I figured I would put together such a work for the ham radio scene in the Shenandoah. I'm sure there are new hams who have heard terms like "Bob's Knob" and "the two-two-five machine" who wonder what in the world we are talking about.

So to fill in that gap, here is knowledge that you didn't know you needed, but will perhaps expand your understanding of the local ham scene. Enjoy!

Antenna: the part of a valley ham radio system painstakingly constructed to exact dimensions, so as to optimize the attraction of lightning.

Big Dog: any of a number of Rockingham County hams living west of Route 42 and owning a tower, an amplifier, and one of various models of wheeled sleeping apparatus capable of being driven or towed to Field Day. To qualify as a Big Dog, a ham must meet one of the following criteria: (a) own a dump truck, (b) install a 500-gallon supplemental fuel tank in the bed of his pickup, (c) have confirmed QSL cards verifying he worked Barry Goldwater, King Hussein, Elvis Presley, and the Loch Ness monster on HF, or (d) be capable of heating his home all winter long using only his amplifier finals.

Bob's Knob: nature preserve in far northern Rockingham County, inhabited by albino grouse, fat overfed deer, and an old-timer happy to share his two-seater outhouse with anyone willing to stir a kettle of beans. No, this isn't a joke.

Burger King: Location of all official ham club meetings that aren't official ham club meetings. There are six or eight different restaurants which meet this criteria, and actually, not all of them are "Burger King" Burger Kings! (Surprisingly, it was recently discovered that the Bridgewater Burger King is actually in Verona!)

CW: abbreviation for Country-Western, a style of music associated with lots and lots of crying, excessive beer drinking, spousal abandonment, and cowboy boots. This mode of operation is often engaged in by hams who live within two miles of U.S. Highway 340, or who have to drive through Broadway to get home from work.

Dayton Hamvention: The Mecca of ham radio: every Shenandoah ham needs to make the pilgrimage at least once in his lifetime. Once you've been to Dayton when it was raining, you'll understand why the Muslims put their Mecca in a desert.

EastCars: The ham radio version of the good ol' Boy Scout Snipe Hunt. "Yeah, he was here a few minutes ago calling for you. Maybe you should try again in half an hour..."

Field Day: excuse for spending forty thousand dollars to purchase (and then another thousand dollars a year maintaining) any of various models of wheeled sleeping apparatus valley hams use to decorate their driveways.

Fox Hunt: a fun Sunday afternoon activity engaged in by Augusta County hams, consisting of burning fifteen gallons of gasoline trying to locate a transmitter operated by a VARA club member well-schooled in the techniques of the Marquis de Sade.

Full Duplex: a type of residence lived in by hams whose children are grown, with an anti-ham neighbor residing in the same building. For some unexplained reason, over a third of these are found within two miles of EMU, with another third in the new suburbs south of Waynesboro.

Gray: the official color of ham radio. Ever since the disappearance of Heathkit Aqua, all ham radios have been gray. The reason for this is simple: hams like radios that remind them of the color of the hair they used to have.

Ground: (1) one of those little black things in the bottom of your coffee cup at Kathy's; (2) anything causing your lousy audio: "yeah, I must have a loose ground"; (3) the semi-liquid surface at the base of your tower, extremely effective for swallowing up those unique and irreplaceable fasteners you need to secure your beam to the rotator, especially when you drop them from fifty feet up; or (4) the only prong of the electric plug that you never contact with your fingers while it is halfway into the wall.

Hamfest: the only reason anyone has ever heard of Berryville, Virginia.

High SWR: the red indicator light on your radio which proves that you were royally screwed by the company that sold you that new \$300 automatic antenna tuner.

Iambic keyer: Beautiful but expensive assemblage of shiny metal, still used in lieu of a microphone by hams who were born while Grover Cleveland was president.

Inverse Proportion: the relationship between total transmitted power on a 75 meter phone QSO, and the total cumulative IQ of the roundtable participants.

Jerky: (1) favorite food item of hams sitting around the fire at Field Day; (2) the image on your computer's CRT screen when you push the PTT button using a legal limit amplifier; (3) what you do to the coax you are pulling when it snags on a protruding bolt halfway up the tower.

Jumping Zebra Colts: phrase of historic trivia, relating to a callsign issued to a valley ham born in the 14th century.

Kenwood: brand of radio invented primarily to spur increased volume of boxes traveling via United Parcel Service to various service centers. As a famous ham once said, "Going to Field Day without a Kenwood is like going fly-fishing without an accordion."

Legal Limit Amplifier: essential piece of ham gear, just like boats, RV's, and women: they are unbelievably expensive, very easy to ruin, and impossible to keep in operating condition, but in spite of this, every ham wants one, and once he has one, he wants a better one. Once he's had one for a while, he understands why nobody has two. Only late in life does he realize he would have been just as well off and had a lot less hassle if he'd used the money to buy Enron stock instead.

Morse Code: ancient skill, still very impressive to watch, and falling into the same usefulness category as leather-tanning, abacus-based long-division, and flint-and-steel firestarting; fiercely defended by hams whose computer skills rival those of Teddy Roosevelt.

Net: an on-the-air meeting between three or more amateurs; the origin of 99% of all fights between hams.

Oscilloscope: expensive museum pieces still common in hamshacks, containing green CRT screens displaying wavy lines, intended to give young hams the false impression that extra-class hams actually know something about electronics.

Public Service Event: any of various activities occurring in bad weather, consisting of six hams watching five hundred people clad in ridiculous outfits move around a convoluted route by walking, running, cycling, or riding horses; to qualify for participation, a ham must own a mobile 2-meter radio and have an intermittent defect in the microphone, transmitter, feedline, and/or mag-mount antenna... preferably all four; source of most of the colorful t-shirts worn by valley hams while mowing grass or changing oil.

QRZ?: Meaningless formality transmitted by a rare DX station at the end of an exchange; roughly translated, it means "I've got my receiver volume turned way down, so no matter how many times you call, I won't hear you."

Raging Thunderstorm: non-ham jargon for the heavy dew that frequently occurs at Field Day.

Repeater: (1) old-timer at club meetings who tells the same joke over and over again; (2) old-timer at club meetings who raises the same complaints over and over again; (3) old-timer at club meetings who tells you his medical problems over and over again; (4) old-timer at club meetings who...

Simplex: a blonde ham.

Sked: any pre-arranged meeting between two hams on the air. A good sked is always arranged so as to coincide with either a sunspot eruption sufficient to close the band, or an international DX contest pileup frequency.

Tower: The only method by which an old-timer can realistically compete in the typically-male game of "Which One of Us Has The Biggest?"

Tri-Band Beam: Two dollars' worth of aluminum combined with four dollars' worth of stainless steel screws, which when packed together in a box, sells for over six hundred dollars.

Two-two-five machine: The Downtown Atlanta of ham radio: great place during the day, but you don't want to be anywhere around here after dark.

Upgrade: the process of traveling the last seven miles to the Field Day site.

VE Examiner: Canadian border inspector whose job it is to discover the cheap Viagra that Big Dogs try to smuggle back from Quebec by hiding it inside their screwdriver antennas.

Wasp: stinging insect suffering from continual PMS, whose natural habitat is antenna rotators above the 60-foot level. Unlike bees, wasps can each sting 400 times per minute, making them almost as popular among valley hams as the broadcasts by K1MAN.

Wire antenna: a long piece of metal strung between two trees for three months, after which it suddenly disappears, and magically re-appears two weeks later, wrapped around the shaft of your lawnmower.

XYL: a common ham accessory which, once acquired, diverts time and resources away from radios, and towards useless stuff like furniture, clothing, housing, and children's orthodontics. Often a major source of low scores in DX contests.

Yagi: Someone who attended Texas A&M University.

Yasme: Name of a sailing vessel whose significance is known only to old-timer Big Dogs who achieved DXCC before the discovery of penicillin.

Zepp: antenna used only by hams who know where Goshen College is; the only antenna design not yet adapted to a mobile mag-mount by MFJ enterprises. But give them time!

Product Innovation in Belgium

American visitors to Europe have long bemoaned the complete lack of ice in European restaurants. When you order a drink in Europe, they take the bottle off the shelf, pop the cap off it, and hand it to you, along with an empty glass. Anyone who dares ask for ice is immediately identifiable as one of those obnoxious, war-mongering, Bush-loving Americans. And you don't get ice, only an icy stare.

Recently, however, American citizens are becoming more and more common in Europe (although still not as common as Guatemalan citizens are in Harrisonburg). Thus, there is a rapidly-developing market for American-type stuff.

One example of innovation in action is illustrated by the photo at right. This is not an April Fool's prank, this is a real, honest-to-goodness photograph taken by Debbie, KB4WPE, on a routine shopping trip to the local grocery store in Merksem, a middle-class suburb of Antwerp, Belgium.

This product is put out by Spa, a well-known company whose primary product is bottled water.

The product shown here is aimed squarely at people who deal with Americans, although it was obviously designed by somewhat unknowing Europeans. Before you laugh at the company who made this product, let's review seven important facts:

Fact One: the recipe for ice cubes is not found in any Belgian cookbook.

Fact Two: no Belgian currently living has any idea how to make them, and further, doesn't know anyone in any other European country who knows how to make them, either. In fact, most Belgians under the age of sixty have never seen an ice cube except on American TV shows.

Fact Three: Americans aren't any help, because when you ask an American how to get ice cubes, he replies, "you push the lever on the refrigerator door, and they come out and drop into your glass."

Fact Four: the average Belgian refrigerator could easily fit into the average American's bathroom medicine chest, and it has a freezer so small it can't hold more than one Weight-Watcher's frozen dinner, let alone an ice-maker or dispenser mechanism.

Fact Five: There are no Wal-Marts in Europe, no dollar stores (not even Euro stores!), and no Rubbermaid outlets, either. Ergo, no plastic ice trays, even if you could find a Belgian refrigerator with a freezer large enough to hold one.

Fact Six: Americans tend to get grumpy after five weeks of drinking room-temperature tea, room temperature Cola, room temperature beer, and room temperature orange juice.

Fact Seven: Grumpy Americans are easily mistaken for Frenchmen. Since Frenchmen are universally despised everywhere in Europe outside of France (despised even more than Bush-loving Americans!), no Belgian wants to embarrass himself by accidentally treating an American like a Frenchman. Thus, there is an incentive to keep Americans from getting so grumpy.



When you consider these seven facts together, it is really not surprising that an enterprising inventor came up with this product.

The product consists of two trays, each made up of 12 detachable, disposable soft plastic hollow cubes. Each cube contains 1.5 cubic centimeters of water (about the size of a large marble) and is sealed and covered with plastic wrap (like Saran wrap). The instructions for use are quite simple:

Step One: break off as many little cubes as you desire from the 12-cube tray, and place them in your freezer for two hours.

Step Two: at the end of the two hours, remove the cubes, and peel off and discard the plastic cover wrap.

Step Three: place the plastic cube over the top of your glass, invert, squeeze, and voila, the little ice cube plops into your drink. Simple, yet effective. Dispose of the empty plastic cube in the recycle bin.

As one of our Belgian friends marveled: "What will they think of next?" These boxes sell for 3 euro each, about \$4.25.

Hams in Belgium

To the right, KD9LA and KB4WPE pose in front of the Rosary Wharf on the canal in Brugge, Belgium.

Brugge is to Medieval Europe what Colonial Williamsburg is to the American Revolution. The town is a five-square mile city, completely restored to its exact appearance as of 1450, when Brugge was the cultural center of northern Europe. With 50,000 people before the plague hit, Brugge was larger than Paris, larger than London, and third only behind Rome and Venice as an important trading city.

The town features local townsfolk in period costumes, engaged in authentic period activities, from making lace by hand, to driving horses around the market, to sailing small trading boats on the canals.

Brugge is a popular destination for English tourists, especially those seeking a real, true, Middle-Ages experience. By coming to Brugge, you can get a feel for what it would have been like to see electrical sockets and fluorescent lights in a 13th-century windmill, or what it would have been like to buy postcards in a 14th-century brick-oven bakery using your credit card. You can sip genuine 12th-century beer brewed by monks in a real monastery, served to you by waiters in flaxen costumes carrying plastic trays emblazoned with the "Marlboro" cigarette logo. Very historic.

The center photo is the "Steen", the castle on the waterfront in Antwerp, located about six blocks from the temporary home of KD9LA and KB4WPE, and their daughter Dianna. The lower part of the Steen survives from its original construction by the Romans, the top part was rebuilt after a siege in 1290.

The lower photo is of the Cathedral in Antwerp. This church is only five blocks from the Fordham's apartment, and was started in 1302, and finished about 1512. This is farther BEFORE the signing of the Declaration of Independence than today is AFTER the signing.

In Europe, 100 miles is a long distance. In America, 100 years is a long time. America's entire recorded history fits into what Europe calls, "the modern age". (Photos by KD9LA)



Calendar of Upcoming Events

- October 2: Camp Still Meadows Horse Ride Public Service Event
- October 4: VARA Meeting at Kathy's in Verona
- October 6: MARA Meeting at Golden Corral in Harrisonburg
- October 8: VE Exams in Dayton
- October 15-16: Fall Foliage Ride Public Service Event
- October 29-30: CQ WW SSB Contest
- October 30: Mason Dixon Hamfest, Westminster MD
- November 1: VARA Club Meeting at Kathy's
- November 3: MARA Club Meeting at Pano's in Harrisonburg
- November 5-6: ARRL CW Sweepstakes
- November 19-20: ARRL SSB Sweepstakes
- November 26-27: CQ WW CW Contest
- December 1: MARA Christmas Banquet at Traditions
- December 3: VE Exams in Dayton

MARA Secretary's Report – September 1 Meeting

The Sept. MARA meeting was called to order at 7:11 pm Sept. 1, 2005. Andrew AG4XN Presiding. Introductions were made.

Sick List:

Kenny KE4GKD, is home but still not doing very well.

Secretary's report was approved as printed in the Monitor.

Treasurer reported a balance of
June- \$1835.53
July- \$1835.53
Aug.-\$1810.53

Announcements:

David Fordham got the QST cover plaque award for his article in QST

Public service events:

Afton Mt. High Endurance race 100 miler- Sept.17 and 18

Bike Shenandoah-Sept 24th 8:00 am 1/2 day or whole day operators needed.

Camp Stillwater ride. Oct. 2 around 10:00 am, we need 6 people to work

Committees-

VE:

Oct. 8 next VE session

ARES/RACES:

No report. No change in script.

SkyWarn: Contact has been made about training sessions in the Valley, but no answers yet

QRP Group Meeting scheduled for 2nd Tuesday in September

Old business:

Still working on Life Membership information.

Discussion on changing meeting location.

Golden Coral, Traditions and Pano's seen as options-

A motion was made to move meeting place to Golden Coral in October, Pano's in November, and Traditions in December to try to determine which place would be most suitable if there was to be a permanent change. Eating time is 6:30 pm with 7:30 pm for meeting time, pending times change after arrangements have been made at each location. Motion passed.

New business:

Elections:

President and Vice President candidate spots are vacant

Sect.-Bryan K4RMY

Treas.- Sandy K4PZC

Trustee- David KB4LCI

Nominations Committee for slate of officers- Andrew AG4XN and Bryan K4RMY

The distribution of money donated to the club from the Bridgewater parade was discussed. A motion was made to split the money among the local repeaters associations. Motion passed

There was a brief discussion of the Simulated Emergency Test as presented in QST.

50/50 Drawing was held and won by Andrew AG4XN \$10.00

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by
Bryan Daniels, K4RMY

VARA Secretary's Report – September 6 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Kathy's in Verona on September 6, 2005. The President, Marvin Henderson KF4WDI, opened the meeting at 7:30pm. There were 17 members present and 9 guests, Fran Davis, Bob Van Fossen K4DJG, Andrew Barbour AG4XN, Jason Armentrout N4DSL, Darrel Little KI4LLA, John Bottemiller N4SYH, Scott Martin, Louise Akers WB3GEP, Alan Akers WB3IZY. Welcome to our visitors, and we would like to see all of you back next month.

50/50: Winner was Andrew Barbour AG4XN. Congratulations Andrew, and thanks for the donation back to the VARA!

Richard Huttinger AA4RH will order CD's and Tapes from ARRL to be used for programs at the club meetings.

We have three volunteers on a committee to decide how the VARA can help with the Katrina Hurricane relief. They are, Mike Solomon KJ7RM, Richard Huttinger AA4RH and Greg Czerniak W4GRC.

The Waynesboro Repeater Association welcomes everyone to their meeting on October 3, 2005 at 7:00pm in the Waynesboro Public Library at 600 South Wayne Avenue. The meeting room is in the basement and is most easily accessed thru the door at the east end of the building.

By the By-Laws of the VARA October is the month for the 2006 Officer election. Please consider excepting an

office in **YOUR** club in the coming year.

ON THE SICK LIST:

Ken Harris KE4GKD is now at home and doing some better. They still request No Visitors so he can get his rest.

Queenie, Clinton's (KB4OLM) wife still has health concerns at this time.

Denny Morland N4XPW is still in Avante Nursing Home doing therapy but can come home for a day's visit.

Marvin Henderson's Daughter recently had her health problems return and is in the hospital.

Lets keep these folks in our thoughts and prayers.

Remember: We are in Hurricane Season, keep your batteries charged and radio's programmed for local repeaters and

simplex frequencies in case you are called out.

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 Ford-

ham 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 8:03pm.

Submitted By:
VARA Secretary

Ray Colvin KE4HVR

MARA/VARA

c/o David Fordham
131 Wayside Drive
Weyers Cave, VA 24486
Phone: 540-568-3024
Email: fordhadr@jmu.edu

NOTE MARA MEETING CHANGE!!

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 W3HXH

<http://mara.ws>

MARA meets the first Thursday of each month
The October Meeting is at the Golden Corral
on US 33 East in Harrisonburg.

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 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