

March 2006

# The Monitor

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

## MARA March Meeting Program: “QBE: H.R.A.O.A.A.L.A.”

Yes, this is the abbreviation for the title of Hugh Pettis' (K3EC) program for the MARA March meeting.

Of course, the full title is: “QBE: Ham Radio Adventures of an American Amateur Living Abroad.” But all that won't fit on the one-line heading of this article!

By the way, what the heck is QBE?

QBE is the international Q-signal for “I'm about ready to wind in my aerial”.

See you at Traditions Restaurant, the new normal meeting place for MARA, on March 2nd! Meal starts at 6:00 pm, meeting at 7:00, followed by Hugh's program.

## VARA President's Message

February was a special time for VARA. At our monthly meeting, we welcomed four new members to the club. Joining were John Bottemiller (N4SYH), Bill Jones (KE4FM), Scott Martin (KI4MSJ), and Marvin Fortune (WA4TOJ). Welcome to each one of you!

A big “thank you” to Hugh Pettis for his interesting presentation on the role on hams in Britain during World War II,

Our field day committee has been set. The four members are Cowles (K4EME), Lou (W2LYL), Benny (N4BCC) and Doug (N8ESW). Thanks to these four for volunteering and to Jeff (W4PJW) helping to organize the committee this year.

Also, thanks to Charlie Eckman (KI4LHD) for volunteering to help Bob (N4JGO) on some new additions to the VARA website.

Recently I met with Erin Payne of the MS Society, She is looking forward to us providing communications again for the MS-Walk in Waynesboro. This will be held on Sunday, April 2nd at Ridgeview Park in Waynesboro. It would be great to have about 10 hams to help with this event.

Another event coming soon is the Waynesboro Riverfest on Saturday, April 29th. The Waynesboro Repeater Association provides communications for this fun event and many of our members help with this.

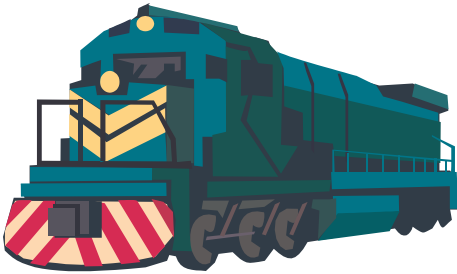
The “Quote of the Month” comes from legendary football coach, Vince Lombardi, who said; “The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.”

Marvin Henderson  
VARA President

### Is This Your Last Issue?

If you've NOT renewed your Club Membership for 2006  
then this is your last issue!

Like the lady says on the “Weakest Link.”: Good-bye!



Are you TRAINed??

# TRAINING NEWS

## KD5KA Makes ARRL Training Honor Roll

Chuck Vogan, KD9KA, was listed on the March QST Emergency Training Honor Roll. Chuck has successfully taken and passed all three FEMA-certified Emergency Communications Training courses offered by the ARRL.

## N3JN: FEMA On-Line Training Now Available

John Nelson, N3JN, ran across an ARES newsletter which announces on-line FEMA emergency training. This training is on-line, and can be taken as an independent study program. Additionally, the Emergency Management Institute offers in-person training that often qualifies for college credit. There is a wealth of offerings. One of the most useful courses for ham radio operators is the Incident Command System and Unified Command System course. More information is available from the very informative websites listed here:

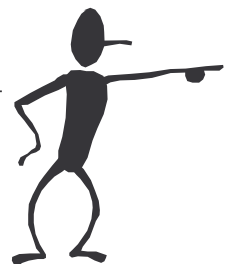
<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMLweb/IS/crslist.asp>

<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMLweb/IS/is700.asp>

**SkyWarn Training Schedule  
is on Page 5 of this issue!**

## KI4LLA: CERT Training Offered in Verona

Darrell, KI4LLA, has provided the flyer (reproduced on the opposite page) advertising the FREE Community Emergency Response Team training. The CERT training will start on March 29 at the Augusta County Government Center. YOU HAVE TO REGISTER FOR THE CLASS. Contact Rebecca Leigh Joyce, the Shenandoah Valley Project Impact and CERT Coordinator,. She will need your name, daytime phone number, mailing address, and email address. You can contact Rebecca and register for the class at the address and phone number shown on the flyer.



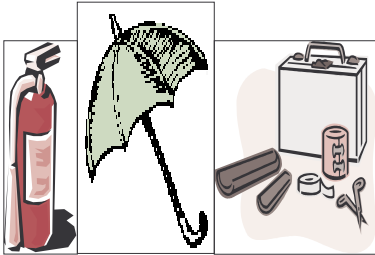
## Rockingham ARES Net on 147.225

Because of the technical problems on the 145.13 repeater, the Rockingham County ARES Net can be found on 147.225 (PL 131) +0.600 on Monday nights, except the first Monday of each month when it is on 146.550 simplex.

## KA4EEN: CERT Training in Rockingham County Cancelled

CERT training was scheduled for Rockingham County at the town hall in McGaheysville. But registration was insufficient and the Rockingham County course has now been cancelled, according to Norman Benner, KA4EEN

**In an Emergency or Disaster, would you be able to help yourself, your family, or your**



You would if you attended a **CERT** training course. **CERT** (otherwise known as **Community Emergency Response Team**) training is designed to help you to prepare yourself, family, and neighbors for an emergency or disaster. Because emergency services personnel may not be able to help you immediately, you can use this training in basic skills that will help you to save lives and protect property.

**After completing CERT training you will be able to :**

Describe the types of hazards that affect our area and take steps to prevent and prepare for disaster.

Identify and reduce potential fire hazards in your home and workplace.

Apply basic first aid techniques to open airways, stop bleeding and treat wounds.

Understand what terrorism is.

Be able to implement crime prevention strategies to protect your home and family.

Prepare your pets for a disaster.

Be aware of what special needs people

## CERT Courses Spring 2006

March 29th - May 10th

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Augusta Co. Govt. Center, Verona



Shenandoah Valley Project Impact, in partnership with Augusta County and the Cities of Staunton and Waynesboro is offering **CERT** training.

Classes meet one night a week for seven weeks. You will learn about a different topic each night.

**Week 1:** What Is A Disaster, Disaster Mitigation, and Preparedness

**Week 2:** Emergency First Aid I

**Week 3:** Emergency First Aid II

**Week 4:** Fire Safety

**Week 5:** Terrorism Preparedness and Crime Prevention

**Week 6:** Disaster Psychology

**All Classes Are Free**

**And For The General Public!**

**To register for the CERT course contact:**

**Shenandoah Valley Project Impact**

**C/O Central Shenandoah PDC**

**112 MacTanly Place; Staunton, Virginia 24401**

**Telephone: 540-885-5174**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## KC8TEN: Tower Builder Moves to Valley

Dan Hale, KC8TEN, has moved to the valley. Dan and his wife just purchased a house in Crimora, and will be moving there shortly. As of now, however, they are living in a motor home parked in front of his daughter's home on 163 Orchard Road, Staunton (near Jollivue).

Yes, you read right! Another ham with a motor home! Field Day, here we come!

And here's something to crow about: Besides being active in Army and Nave MARS, Dan is also a designer and builder of fold-over radio towers! He is looking forward to getting settled, and then engineering and building his own fold-over (he had to leave his last one behind when he moved!), and then he might be talked into building some others for local hams! Stay posted, and look for Dan at one of the club meetings!

## Virginia QSO Party: March 19

Only a month until the Virginia QSO Party!!! Are you and your club ready?? The Sterling Park Club has done another great job on this event so lets get on the air and make some contacts. You can find the rules at <http://www.qsl.net/sterling/uf1.htm>. They also have a web page showing which counties and cities will have a station on the air. Take a look at that page and see if you can help them with a county or city. The goal is to have a Ham on the air from each multiplier, all 95 counties and 39 cities!! Please encourage your club members to participate and make this years VA QSO Party the best yet!! See you on the air from FBX / K4TS!!! — John Humphrey W4IM

## MARA Homebrew Night Moved to May

Due to such an interesting program scheduled for April, you now have an additional month to finish that homebrew project you've been working on!

The Traditional MARA Homebrew Night normally held at the April meeting, will now be held at the MAY meeting.

## MARA April Meeting: W4AZR on Skyhooks

The April meeting will host a program titled: "Antenna Modeling and What It Can Do For You", presented by Mike, W4AZR.

Remember, the March program is by Hugh, K3EC, on "QBE: Ham Radio Adventures of an American Amateur Living Abroad". And other programs are being planned. We are looking forward to one on APRS, and possibly one on ARES, too!

## Radio Controlled Aircraft Display

Gary Van Fossen, K14FZV, VARA member, would like to inform all local radio amateurs that the Expoland (Augusta County) Radio Control club will be having a static display of model aircraft at the Colonial all in Staunton, Saturday, March 4. The display will be located at the Steve and Barry's Court area of the mall. There will also be a computer set up with a flight simulator, and a TV playing hobby-related tapes. The display will run from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. There are several local hams who are model aircraft R/C enthusiasts. While some hams are unaware of it, the six-meter band is one of the more popular frequency bands for radio control of model vehicles, including cars, boats, and in this case, airplanes and helicopters! Come out and see what's up!

## Dayton Hamvention Caravan: May 18-21

Make plans now to join in the local ham crew going to the Dayton Hamvention. We'll be leaving Thursday morning May 18, and returning Sunday. The caravan is a lot of fun!



## NOAA Sterling Open House

NOAA's Weather Service Office in Sterling, Virginia, will host an Open House on Saturday, April 29, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Sunday April 30, from noon to 5:00 pm. This open house is intended to give SkyWarn members and other interested parties some behind-the-scenes looks at what goes on in the weather office. Staff will make presentations on all kinds of topics, including careers in meteorology. A weather balloon will be released each afternoon.

One of the highlights of the tours will be the technology used by the weather service. Programs will demonstrate and explain the WSR-88D radar network, the numerical weather prediction models, and rapid-update-cycle models, as well as a sneak preview of the SPY-1 technology currently deployed on Navy ships for use in weather forecasting, and scheduled for adaptation to the NWS forecast office use.

BASIC I Skywarn training will also be held during the open house. Those interested must register in advance. See the accompanying article on Skywarn Training.

## SkyWarn Newsletters On-Line

The Sterling Weather Service office has placed the SkyWarn member newsletters online. Check out::

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/reporter>

**SkyWarn Reporting Hotline:  
1-800-253-7091 x 1**

## SkyWarn Training Class Schedule

MARA is attempting to contact the NWS office to see about hosting a Skywarn training session in Rockingham and/or Augusta Counties sometime during the late spring or early summer time.

In the meanwhile, if you can afford the gas and are in a hurry to get registered as a Skywarn volunteer, or want to upgrade your recognition and reporting skills, take advantage of the currently-scheduled classes:

- March 6: Basics I, at the Frederick Downtown Public Library
- March 10: Flood Class: Public Safety Training Academy, in Rockville MD
- March 13: Basics I: Shepherdstown Fire Company, in Charles Town, WV
- March 15: Basics I and II, Emergency Operations Center in Cumberland MD
- March 30: Basics I in Hampshire County WV
- March 31: Basics I in Baltimore County
- April 1: Basics I and II: Maryland Science Center in Baltimore MD
- April 17: Flood Class: Shepherdstown WV Fire Company
- April 25: Basics I King George County Administration Building, King George County
- April 25: Basics II: Shepherdstown WV Fire Company
- May 2: Berkeley County WV Red Cross Building, Martinsburg WV

For more information on SkyWarn Training, look on the web at::

<http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/skywarn/classes.html>

## No Word From FCC On Eliminating Morse Code Yet...

Just when the FCC will act on the "Morse code" proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, remains hazy. The Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) last July proposing to eliminate the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse code requirement for all license classes. The Amateur Radio community has filed more than 3800 comments on the proceeding, and additional comments continue to show up, even though the formal comment deadline was last October 31 (with reply comments by November 14). The next—and most-anticipated—step for the Commission is to formally adopt any revisions to its rules and conclude the proceeding with a Report and Order (R&O) that spells out the changes and specifies their effective date.

"There really is no news," an FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staffer told ARRL this week on background. "We certainly hope to release WT Docket 05-235 sometime this year, but we're not making any predictions at this time. We certainly are not saving up any big announcements for Dayton Hamvention."

Beyond eliminating the Morse requirement, the FCC declined proposing any other suggested changes to the Amateur Service.

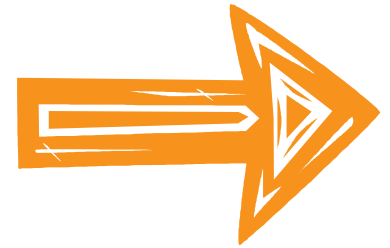
The proceeding began with 18 petitions for rule making—many just calling for the elimination of the Morse requirement but some asking for more far-reaching changes in the Amateur Service rules. The various petitions attracted a total of some 6200 comments. The FCC subsequently consolidated the petitions—including one from the ARRL asking the FCC to establish a new entry-level license class and to retain the Morse requirement only for Amateur Extra class applicants—into a single proceeding designated WT 05-235.

The FCC has not proposed extending HF privileges to current Technician licensees who have not passed a Morse code examination. In its NPRM&O the FCC suggested that in a no-Morse-requirement regime, "codeless Techs" could gain HF access by taking the Element 3 General class written examination.

Any FCC decision to eliminate the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for HF access would have \*no\* impact on either the current HF CW-only subbands or on the CW privileges of Amateur Radio licensees.

Before it releases an R&O on the Morse code proceeding, however, the WTB wants to wrap up action in another Amateur Radio-related docket—the "Phone Band Expansion" (or "Omnibus") NPRM in WT Docket 04-140, released April 15, 2004. A dozen petitions for rulemaking, some dating back to 2001, were consolidated in the Omnibus proceeding.

In that NPRM, the Commission proposed to go along with the ARRL's Novice refarming plan aimed at reallocating the current Novice/Tech Plus subbands and expanding portions of the 80, 40 and 15 meter phone bands. The FCC also agreed with an ARRL proposal to extend privileges in the current General CW-only HF subbands to present Novice and Tech Plus licensees (or Technicians with Element 1 credit). WT 04-140 further proposed to essentially do away with FCC rules prohibiting the manufacture and marketing to Amateur Radio operators of amplifiers capable of operation on 12 and 10 meters. — ARRL Letter, Vol. 25 No. 7, February 17, 2006.



## Flyer for New Hams

Thanks to Jeff, W4PJW, for putting together a flyer to be given to all new hams (and even prospective hams) who attend one of the VE sessions in Dayton Virginia.

The flyer, reproduced on the opposite page, will be provided to anyone attending a VE session, to promote the local amateur radio clubs.

Feel free to copy this page, (or tear it out) and give it to anyone you know who might be interested in ham radio.

## Condolences

The condolences of the ham community are extended to Magarat Pickering, XYL of VARA member Sam, .

Margaret's mother passed away in early February. Our thoughts are with her and the family.



# WELCOME NEW HAMS

**THERE ARE TWO LOCAL RADIO CLUBS that would love to have you attend their meetings – membership is NOT required – everyone is welcome.**

## **Harrisonburg, Rockingham County and surrounding areas.**

Massanutten Amateur Radio Association (K4MRA) meets the first Thursday of each month at Traditions Restaurant on Mt. Clinton Pike, Harrisonburg. Meal starts at 6:00 pm. Business meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

For more information contact the President: Richard Weaver W3HXH at 540-867-5600

Email: [w3hxx@adelphia.net](mailto:w3hxx@adelphia.net)

The MARA Club is on the internet at <http://www.mara.ws>

## **Staunton, Augusta County and surrounding areas.**

Valley Amateur Radio Association (W4XD) 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 6:00 pm. Business meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

For more information contact the President: Marvin Henderson KF4WDI at 540-324-0937

Email: [marvista@ntelos.net](mailto:marvista@ntelos.net)

The VARA Club is on the internet at <http://www.qsl.net/w4xd>

It is NOT required that you partake of the meal or that you be a paid up member to come to the meetings of either club – you are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**RADIO EQUIPMENT:** Often new Hams need radio equipment. There is a “swap-n-shop” for local used ham radio equipment on the VARA Club website at [www.qsl.net/w4xd](http://www.qsl.net/w4xd)  
Also, remember that the club meetings are good places to meet hams and ask around for who might have something to sell.

If you prefer new equipment, the closest “radio store” is Ham Radio Outlet in Woodbridge, VA. Here is their info. <http://www.hamradio.com/web/stores.html> 1-703-643-1063 1-800-444-4799  
It is recommended that you do your shopping on the internet and know what you want before you go to the store.



### **KI4MSJ: 2-Meter Amp Repair Info Needed**

Scott Martin, KI4MSJ, is looking for someone who might be interested in looking at a 2-meter amplifier he has, which suddenly quit working one day, without giving notice or applying for retirement. He was told by a little bird that someone in the valley repairs equipment of this kind. If you would like to help Scott out, give him a call at 540-885-6038, or drop him an email at martin9428@aol.com. Even if you can't help Scott repair the amp, perhaps you could still give him a call and let him know someone who does, whether they are local or whether he has to send it off. How can he get in touch with a repair dealer? Scott's waiting to hear from you.

### **KI4MSJ: CW-PSK Mode Information Needed**

Scott Martin, KI4MSJ, VARA Member from Staunton (yes, he's the same one who has the 2-meter amp that needs repairing) is also interested in getting started on CW-PSK and heard that at least one member in the area is on this mode.

If you know anything about getting started in CW-PSK work, please give Scott a call at 540-885-6038, or drop him an email at martin9428@aol.com.

### **N4XHE: Looking for an HF Receiver**

Herman Wing, N4XHE, is a long-time ham who lives on Paradise Lane, way out west of Broadway, almost up in the mountains, back past Sangersville. He is in the market for an HF receiver, preferably one that is filtered for CW, but he's willing to take a look at just about anything you've got that receives HF. Give him a call at 540-828-6276.



### **KI4FZY: Yaesu FT-757GX-II for Sale**

James McDowell IV, KI4FZY, has a Yaesu FT-757GX-II for sale. This radio covers 160-10 meters with 100 watts transmitter power. It is all solid state, and is in good condition. He is selling it because he bought an Icom 706 MkIIIG and no longer needs the 757.

This radio will come with the original microphone, the manual, and the power cord. James is asking \$375 or best offer. Pictures are available upon request. James can be reached at jmcdiv@msn.com.

### **W3MMC: In a Bit of a Jam**

Bob, W3MMC, of Bergton, MARA member, wants the ham community to know that he and some colleagues are actively pursuing the jammers, lids, or just plain clueless blondes who are causing Bob's blood pressure to rise by abusing the 146.625 repeater. They have been in contact with the FCC and are recording the input. RDF and microphone fingerprinting will be next.

Go Get 'Em, Bob!

## MARA Secretary's Report – February 2 Meeting

The May MARA meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm Feb. 2, 2006. Richard W3HXX Presiding. Introductions were made.

Secretary's report was approved as printed. Treasurer reported a balance of \$1565.40 New member Application read for KG4JAZ Nancy Ritchie XYL of Ray K4NRA

Field Day Committee :

The following members volunteered to serve as the MARA members on the Field Day committee:

Jason N4DSL  
Bryan K4RMY  
Sandy K4PZC  
Bob N1QEQ

Volunteer Examiner:

Next VE session will be Sat. Feb. 12 at 9:00 am located at the Woodman of the World building in Dayton, Virginia.

ARES/RACES:

Bryan K4RMY, reported on the last ARES meeting. Work continues on updating the Rockingham Co. ARES Handbook. Rockingham Co. ARES is going to get a domain name on the web and host an ARES/RACES web site for Rockingham Co. There was discussion about a drill to be held on April 1st. More information to follow. The next ARES meeting will be held on Saturday, March 4th at 9:00 in the Rockingham/Harrisonburg EOC.

SkyWarn

Dick is going to contact Skywarn about doing a seminar

## Upcoming Events

March 2: MARA Club Meeting  
March 4: ARES Meeting (R'ham EOC, 9:00)  
March 4-5: ARRL International DX Contest Phone  
March 7: VARA Club Meeting  
March 14: QRP Group Meeting  
March 18: Charleston (WV) Hamfest  
March 18-20: Virginia QSO Party  
March 25-26: Timonium (Baltimore) Hamboree  
March 25-26: CQ WW WPX Contest SSB  
April 1: Tentative Emergency Drill  
April 2: MS Walk in Waynesboro  
April 4: VARA Club Meeting  
April 6: MARA Club Meeting  
April 8: VE Exams  
April 22: March of Dimes Walk Harrisonburg  
April 29: Riverfest Waynesboro  
April 29: MS Walk Harrisonburg

QRP Group:

Still meeting the Second Tuesday of the month at Andrew's home AG4XN

VMRC:

Trying to get hams to work 2m net at VMRC. Outside antenna at VMRC is possible if permission is gotten and there are volunteers to set it up.

New business:

Jeff W4PJW announced the those taking tests at the VE sessions will be given information about the VARA and MARA clubs and local ham radio activity in the area. Mike KG4OON, announced that on the 18th of Feb. the Model Airplane Club is having a swap meet at the Weyers Cave Community Center.

KA4EEN, Norman announced that a free CERT program/class will be offered at the old town hall in McGaheysville.

50/50 Drawing was held and \$14.50 was won by Ellsworth K4LXG

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm

Respectfully submitted by  
Bryan Daniels, K4RMY

Program was presented by Gerald, K4RBZ on DXing

## KE4LQK-2: New DX Cluster on Air

There is a new DX Cluster in the Valley, located in Broadway, gridsquare FM-08-00. This new cluster node is operated by Vic Alger, and carries callsign KE4LQK-2.

The new cluster can be accessed direct on 145.750 via 1200 baud AX.25 packet. The cluster is also accessible via the DX node on the mountain called DXPJW, or W4PJW-1. Additional frequencies can be added if the cluster gets busy. The goal is offer everyone a reliable connection.

Investigation is being made to see if perhaps a link can be made to DXENOB.

Do you have any other nodes which Vic might be able to reach? If you have any information on other nodes in the area, please call Vic at 540-896-2548 in the evenings.

## VARA Secretary's Report – February 7 Meeting

The **V**alley **A**mateur **R**adio **A**ssociation met at Kathy's in Verona on February 7, 2006. The President, Marvin Henderson KF4WDI, opened the meeting at 7:30pm. There were 30 members present and 8 guests, Bill Blasius WA1EFY, Charlie Eckman KI4LHD, Bob Van-Fossen K4DJG & his wife Laura, Andrew Barbour AG4XN, Herman Wing N4XHE, Hugh Pettis K3EC and his wife Colleen. Welcome to our visitors, and we would like to see all of you back next month.

The club voted to pay \$500 for the field day items Kenny owned and stored in his garage. These items were brought or sent to field day each year to be used by the club.

**50/50** was won by Bill Shott W2ZVM.....Congratulations Bill!!!!!!

**We voted four new members into the club. Welcome to the VARA!**

**Marvin Fortune WA4TOJ**  
**Scott Martin KI4MSJ**  
**Bill Jones KE4FM**  
**John Bottemiller N4SYH**

**Applications:** We have two new applications to vote on in March Bill Blasius WA1EFY and Charlie Eckman KI4LHD.

**Upcoming Events:** Mark your calendar for April 2<sup>nd</sup> for the MS Walk in Waynesboro.

Riverfest in Waynesboro will follow on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Club Web Page:** Charlie Eckman KI4LHD volunteered to help Bob McCracken N4JGO with some new items. Plans are to feature some of the area hams and how they got started into ham radio.

### ON THE SICK LIST:

**Queenie, Clinton's (KB4OLM) wife** still has health concerns but is improving.

**Denny Morland N4XPW** is home and continuing to improve with his PT at AMC.

**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](mailto:marvista@ntelos.net) Jeff Rinehart W4PJW [jmrinehart@yahoo.com](mailto:jmrinehart@yahoo.com) Ray Colvin KE4HVR [colvingr@adelphia.net](mailto:colvingr@adelphia.net) and David Fordham KD9LA [ford-hadr@jmu.edu](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 8:00pm. This repeater has a minus offset and a tone of 131.8 when needed. Fox hunts are also scheduled for some months as weather permits.

**PROGRAMS NEEDED:** Richard AA4RH, Program Chairman, is looking for anyone that would like to do a program for the club. Give him a call and set up a date to present it. It does not have to be HAM related.

It could be anything you think the group would find interesting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

### Program:

Hugh Pettis K3EC presented a great program with transparencies on "**How British Hams Helped Win WWII**"

Ham radio operators at home played a great part in intercepting CW transmissions and forwarding them to the military.

He told about the young civilians that built and set up ham radio stations to monitor a certain bandwidth of frequencies and reporting messages and codes they had copied using CW, they were called "Y" (WI) operators. They built small CW transmitters with 30 watts of output power and used various receivers, some Helicrafter and HRO. They used long wire antennas because they were easy to put up and take down. They would set up, listen for information, transmit back then move to another location so the enemy wouldn't catch them. The Hams served as operators in the Diplomatic Wireless Service. In the MI6-VIII they served as agent radio trainers to train the new persons as they came in. There were also one-way broadcasts to get messages through but didn't have receivers at their location. The SCU's in the field operated in 3-man teams, driver/mechanic and two operator/technicians providing 24-hr service initially in Packard sedans then Dodge ambulances and finally in military 1 ½ ton trucks supported by 35 – 50 men as fully self-contained, self-supporting units. (but still with the 3-man MI6/VIII crew)

Last Chance: Use the form at the right to renew your membership and avoid missing next month's Monitor.



## Membership Renewal Form

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALLSIGN: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE (If you want it in club records for emergency purposes, not the roster!): \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: (print legibly!!) \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER ARRL (Y/N) \_\_\_ REGISTERED ARES (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_ REGISTERED MEMBER VA-RACES (Y/N) \_\_\_ RACES TRAINED (Y/N) \_\_\_

SKYWARN ID \_\_\_\_\_ Are you available for Workday Daytime Emergency Call up? (Y/N)

DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THE MONITOR via PDF EMAIL? Yes / No / I already do

CURRENT ABILITIES & CAPABILITIES: Do you have the technical ability, knowledge, experience, know-how and the equipment to reliably operate the following modes or activities: *(circle all that apply)*

HF CW slow-speed	50 Mhz FM	APRS base WX or digipeating
HF CW high-speed (15 wpm up)	50 Mhz – other modes	APRS mobile transmitting
HF SSB	2M FM	Simple GPRS positioning
HF Mobile	2M weak signal, AM, ect.	EME or Meteor Scatter or JT44
HF Portable or QRP	220 FM	Microwave (902 Mhz or above)
NTS HF Message Handling	220 other modes	Satellite Operations (analog)
HF Slow-Scan TV	440 FM	Satellite Operations (digital)
Traditional RTTY	440 weak signal	RDF – Direction Finding
PSK31	440 fast scan television	Ham equipment repairing
Other HF digital modes	Simple Packet	Tower climbing/Ant. Installation
Weather Station & Monitoring	DX cluster or BBS	PIC programming / cir. Design

WHAT TOPICS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ON THE CLUB MEETING PROGRAMS? (Circle what you'd like to see!)

HF operating and etiquette	Weather Stations, Weather monitoring and reporting	Innovative Mobile Rig Install
HF Dxing	Skywarn: What's it about?	Microwaves 902 Mhz & up
Contesting Etiquette	Ultra-Simple Antenna Designs	Satellite Operations (analog)
QSL'ing Methods, Hints, Tips	2M weak signals	Sattelite Operations (digital)
Comparisons of Logging Software	220 or 440 operations	RDF – Direction Finding
Mobile, Portable, QRP operations	Fast Scan TV, how to	Emergency Response Kits
NTS HF Message Handling	Simple Packet: how to	Radio: Operate in Emergency
HF Slow-Scan TV: how to	DX cluster / BBS operate	Ham equipment repair
Traditional RTTY: how to	APRS: getting started	Tower / Antenna installation
Other HF digital modes	Simple GPRS introduction	PIC program & design
What's on 50 Mhz	EME or Meteor Scatter	Traders Day, Homebrew Fair
CORES, FRN, ULS: what is it?		

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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

VARA members mail with \$15 to: VARA, Doug Tippett, 2348 Mosley St, Waynesboro, VA 22980

## MARA/VARA

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

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### Return Service Requested

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#### MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.

President: Dick Weaver W3HXH  
Vice President: Gerald Nauman KN4FM  
Secretary: Bryan Daniels K4RMY  
Treasurer: Sandy Mullins, K4PZC  
Board (exp 06): Jason Armentrout N4DSL  
Board (exp 07): David Gordon KB4LCI

<http://mara.ws>

MARA meets the first Thursday of each month  
at Traditions Restaurant  
on Mt Clinton Pike, Harrisonburg.  
Meal starts at 6:00 pm.  
Business meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

#### Visitors are welcome.

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

MARA  
PO Box 1882  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

#### VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

President: Marvin Henderson, KF4WDI  
Vice President: Mike Solomon KJ4RM  
Secretary: Ray Colvin, KE4HVR  
Treasurer: Doug Tippet, N8ESW  
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 6:00 pm.  
Business meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

#### Visitors are welcome.

Dues (\$15 per year) should be mailed to:

Doug Tippet  
2348 Mosley St.  
Waynesboro VA 22980