

November 2006

The Monitor

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MARA November Meeting Nov 2: Skywarn Winter Storms Class



The November 2nd MARA meeting will feature the Skywarn Winter Storms class by the National Weather Service. The location is the normal meeting place: Traditions Restaurant at the intersection of Route 42 and Mount Clinton Pike in Harrisonburg.

Meteorologist James Brotherton who conducted the Skywarn Training Basics classes in Weyers Cave last spring will be returning with a special one-hour class on observing, measuring, and reporting winter weather phenomena.

The class is intended for those who have completed Skywarn Basics I, but visitors are welcome to come and observe. The program is sure to be very interesting and informative.

If you are planning to attend, please email John Lasher, N3GLZ, at n3glz@arrl.net so they will know how many books to bring.



NEW LOCATION ➔

VARA November Meeting Nov 7: 30th Anniversary of VARA's Founding – Note New Meeting Location

The November 7th VARA meeting will feature a special program by Jeff Rinehart W4PJW covering 30 years of VARA operation. A separate article on page 2 of this issue gives some additional details.

The November VARA meeting will also inaugurate the new VARA meeting location: Lynn's Pancake House, on Route 250 West in Waynesboro. Dinner starts at 6:00 pm, and the meeting will start promptly at 7:00 pm.

A special invitation is extended to all former VARA members for this special re-union celebration. The meeting, of course, is also open to all hams, and anyone else interested in ham radio.

Special Invitation: VARA's 30th Anniversary Celebration

The Valley Amateur Radio Association is celebrating its 30-year anniversary and you are invited to participate.

This invitation is being extended to those of you who may or may not have been actual members of VARA during the early formative years. Of course we want to celebrate those members who have been with the club for the past 30 years but it is also recognized that many others in the ham community were instrumental in the success of radio operations in the valley during those same early years.

Our celebration will include a power point presentation of pictures from the first Field Days held by the club. This will include a group picture of all the participants in the very first Field Day held on Shenandoah Mountain in 1977. There are pictures of many of us who were much slimmer and even had an abundance of darker hair back then. There will be a hand-out which will include copies of some early newspaper articles, a copy of the very first secretary's report which lists the first club officers and some other interesting facts about the club's early beginnings.

We will conclude with a few pictures of some of the special event stations that the club has sponsored over the years.

I hope that all of you can attend. I have listed below all those who are receiving this special mailing. If you know of anyone who I have missed, or who you think would be interested, please feel free to extend this invitation to them.

This meeting will be held on our regular club meeting night at **Lynn's Pancake House** on U.S. 250 W. Waynesboro, Virginia on **November 7, 2006**. If the meeting is cancelled due to inclement weather then a new mailing will be sent out with a new date - probably after the 1st of the year. Please come early to the meeting and enjoy a meal with everyone - be there about 6 PM. The special celebration presentation will start promptly at 7 PM.

Please call me if you have questions, need directions or transportation.

W4PJW Jeff Rinehart,
Trustee W4XD VARA Club Call
Email: w4pjw@arrl.net
Phone: 540 337-7337 6-9 PM

How Many of These OT's Do You Know?

As part of the 30th VARA Anniversary, Jeff W4PJW has compiled a list of former members. Do you know any of these old Old-Timers?

N4AOP WILLIAM DAY, JR
WD4ASE JOHN H LEETH, III
W4BLD ROBERT B KERBY
KI4BR BUDDY PADGETT, JR
WX4C DONALD N LANDES
KE4CAX (was W4IHQ) JAMES E NEWLEN
KQ4D (was WB4DAK) PHILIP RINACA
W4DLJ (was WA4PXX) DANIEL L JAMES, SR
KF4DQ FRED M CASTELLO
WA4E MARK L PAYNE
KG4E DOUGLAS M HUGHES
WD4EHR ROGER P SPROUSE
WA4ESI THOMAS W BENSON

KE4FM WILLIAM W JONES, JR
WD4HJK EVERETT H MARTIN, JR
W3HXX (was W4JZC) RICHARD S WEAVER
N4ICT ROBERT E OSTERLOH
WA4ITY CHARLES E GARNER
N4JCL LLOYD L COFFEY
WD4JEL ROBERT J CARLSTROM
WA4KKL FREDRIC N BUCKINGHAM
KB4KL LYNWOOD R DAY
N4KYM FREDERICK N EVANS
WD4LES J FRANK FORSYTH
K4LXG ELLSWORTH NEFF, SR
W3MMC ROBERT T NIEMEYER
WA4NIC LEWIS A HENSLEY
KA4NWK DOUGLAS W EDWARDS
K4PAO CARL W DE POY
W4PJW JEFFREY M RINEHART
W4PNT DEE C ALMQUIST

N4RAG DON MOWBRAY
AB4RI DAVID L MORRISON
KA4RCL DUAINÉ J EYE
K4RHQ CLAYTON N TOWERS
WA4RXY DAVID R CAVE
K4SAD TIMOTHY N TAYLOR
AA4TC LAWRENCE K HEATWOLE
WA4TKB LEON H HAROUFF
WA4TPE ED TUTWILER
WA4UML NORVELL E GODSIE
KR4BG MATTHEW C BRILL
W4WRN ROY G SILLING
KA4WSI ANDREW L MC CASKEY, SR
N4XPW DENNY W MORLAND, SR
WA4ZBP DURWOOD B HUMPHREYS
W4ZNB ARTHUR R SCOTT, JR
KI4ZM JAMES H BALLEW

VE Examination Session: Public Service Report

Many thanks to the Volunteer Examiners who helped with the test session Saturday October 14: Mike McKay W4AZR, Richard Haxton KC3AN, Gerald Nauman KN4FM, Jim Lehman W4POL, and John Spillman KI4CB.

Without the generous help of hams like these, we could not offer such a valuable service to the community and ham radio hobby.

We had two candidates to test. Mark Hensley N4YSA qualified for his General class, and Harold Knicley of Bridgewater earned his Technician license.

Again, thanks to the VE's for giving your time to this worthy cause.

Gayle Shull, KU4XN
VE Exam Coordinator

Camp Still Meadows Horse Ride: Public Service Event Report

Jane Maasch, Executive Director of Camp Still Meadows, a special-needs facility providing unique therapy for their patients, has formally thanked the ham radio operators for their support in providing communications services for their annual fund raiser ride in early October. As in past years, hams provided monitoring of the progress of the riders, and were available in case of emergency or accident on the 10-mile route through the forest.

This is the camp's biggest fund-raiser of the year. The funds go to maintain the grounds, buy much-needed equipment, and care for the camp's therapy horses, so that they can continue to meet the special needs of their patients.

Chris Shirkey, KI4BAQ, served as Net Control again this year, manning the station at the ride headquarters. Ray Ritchie, K4NRA, was again the primary organizer and dispatcher for the communications end of the event. The following hams spent the better part of their Sunday manning various check-points and riding "clean-up" to ensure that all riders and horses returned safely: Nancy Ritchie KB4JAZ, Bryan Daniels K4RMY, Phyllis Haxton N4PZC, Dick Haxton KC3AN, Gayle Shull KU4XN, E.C. Showalter KG4KUR, David Fordham KD9LA, and Ken High K4KLH.

The date has already been set for next year's event: Sunday, October 7, 2007, and the hams have already been asked to help again.

Shenandoah Fall Foliage Bike Ride: Public Service Event Report

The Shenandoah Fall Foliage Bike Ride took place on October 21st and 22nd. The weather was absolutely gorgeous. Approximately 600 riders took part in this year's event.

MARA and VARA joined forces to provide communications for this year's event. The course took us to 3 counties (Rockingham, Augusta and Rockbridge).

Helping with the event this year were Ray Colvin (KE4HVR), Richard Huttinger (AA4RH), E.C. Showalter (KG4KUR), Darrell Little (KI4LLA), Gayle Shull (KU4XN), James McDowell (KI4FZY), Cowles Andrus (K4EME), Gordon Batey (WA4FJC), Bryan Daniels (K4RMY), Jeff Rinehart (W4PJW), Joe Meek (KD4FKT), Mike Solomon (KJ4RM), Bob Steere (N1QEQ), and Marvin Henderson (KF4WDI). Many thanks to each one who participated.



Scary Halloween?

Talk about spooky! Can you imagine anything more frightening than working K4RBZ on Mid-Cars? Gerry and his XYL Shirley are trucking back from Illinois in their trusty Impala, and he will be working 40-meter Midcars on 7.258 kHz starting at 10:00 am on October 31. Tune in and get spooked.

MARA 2007 Officer Slate

Due to the relatively high quorum requirement of the MARA by-laws compared to average meeting attendance, voting for officers is being done by proxy again this year.

The slate of officers put together at the October meeting consists of Gene Rodgers KG4JBC as President, David Fordham KD9LA as Vice-President, Sandy Mullins K4PZC as Treasurer, Brian Daniels K4RMY as Secretary, and Gayle Shull KU4XN as Board Member at Large (replacing Jason Armentrout whose term expires in December 2006). If approved by proxy vote, these officers will join David Gordon KB4LCI in composing the executive board of the corporation, taking office in January 2007.

Featured Ham of the Month



Last month's Monitor contained a picture of Rev. Richard (Dick) Weaver (left), former W4JZC (known affectionately as "Jumpin' Zebra Colts") and now once again using his original callsign W3HXX (issued way back when Virginia was in the 3rd call district). Dick is the official weather observer at Dale Enterprise, and has been active on the ham bands for well over half a century. Serving in many capacities over the years, including president of the ham radio clubs, Dick is truly the local "Elder" of ham radio.

To the right is our featured ham for November. This ham is famous in Rockingham County (and other places too!) for his many years of service as coordinator of the Monday night ARES nets. More famous than Candid Comment, more famous than Sonny Randall's "So Long, Ever'body", more famous than Mr. Bush's "stay the course", is this Pineville ham's plea, "I need Net Control Operators." — Who is he?

CallSign Search Winners

Congratulations to the hams who won last month's contest to find the most callsigns in the puzzle, and also identify the two callsigns in the list that weren't in the puzzle. From VARA, the prizes were won by Joe Meeks and Bob Van Fossen. From MARA, James McDowell IV KI4FZY and, again, Bob Van Fossen won the prizes. All three hams were rewarded by, uh, (dubious) prizes.

VARA Looking for a President

As of press time, the Valley Amateur Radio Association was still looking for a candidate to serve as President. Al Bonck N3JB, had volunteered to serve as Program Manager for 2007, filling all officer candidate positions except that of El Presidente.

Please give this some serious thought, as November will be our last meeting since we will be doing the Christmas Party in December.



Driven to Distraction – Should Ham Operators Have Steering Wheels in the Shack??



Some media reports are suggesting that drivers get distracted when they attempt to talk on cell phones. The photo at left, provided by Don Landes, WX4C, apparently shows that ham radio operators are immune from this disorder. The main question asked by this photo is, “who would want to waste their time driving when they have all this neat radio gear to be playing with?” Imagine how distracting it would be to have to watch speed limits and traffic lights while trying to break the pile-up to South Porpoise Island or the Mount Bushwacker Expedition! And heaven help you if you have to make a left turn while trying to copy the QSO number from your hundredth multiplier during the 10-10 contest!

RMH Station Back In Service

Bob Steere, N1QEQ and MARA ham who has been inquiring about the status of the ham radio station at Rockingham Memorial Hospital, reports that things are looking up for the station there.

The station had been effectively “off the air” — at least on HF — for some months due to a reported antenna problem. Inquiries at several recent club meetings have affirmed that the station was indeed down, but no one was able to provide information on what, if anything, was being done to address the situation.

After realizing that RMH was not represented in the recent state-wide DPH communications drill, Bob made some inquiries about the status of the station directly with RMH.

Bob McCracken, N4JGO, VARA member and IT guru at RMH, diagnosed the problem with the HF G5RV antenna, and one of the maintenance tech’s made up a lexan insulator to take the strain off the feedline, put

it together, and remounted the antenna between the supports. The station antennas are reportedly now up and ready for testing.

Word is that several other employees at RMH also have, or are getting, ham tickets, and will be making sure the station is fully operational and capable when needed.

There is a suggestion out that the station be put on the air on a regular basis. Due to more pressing problems requiring the time of the IT department, the hospital communications staff was unable to put the station on the air for the recent VA DPH drill, but plans are to participate in future drills whenever possible.

The RMH station is apparently serving as a model: The Augusta Medical Center director has contacted RMH to get a list of station equipment, possibly with an eye towards putting in a similar permanent station at AMC.

So, the bottom line is, RMH once again has a capable ham station in place, and should be able to activate in case of disaster or emergency.

Massive Ham Radio Equipment Sale

There are very few things that really rile up David, KD9LA. One of them is club members who don't renew on time. Another one is having his garage chock full of ham gear gathering dust when it could be in someone else's shack being used! Dave is eager to get rid of the equipment below so he can settle up with the estates, widows, families and others who need to liquidate their OM's stations. Dave has invested the time to check most of the gear out and make sure it is in good shape. Call Dave at 540-234-0448 evenings, or leave a message at 540-568-3024 and he'll return your call. Or email fordhadr@jmu.edu with an offer or inquiry.

TRANSCEIVERS

Icom IC-28H 45-watt 2-meter mobile txcvr, incl PL, HM-14 DTMF mic, manual, mobile mounting bracket \$75 or best offer.

Icom IC-28A 25-watt 2-meter mobile txcvr, incl PL, HM-12 mic, manual, rubber feet make great base station \$70 or best offer.

Icom IC-28A 25-watt 2-meter mobile txcvr, incl PL, HM-14 DTMF mic, \$65 or best offer.

Kenwood TM-231A 45-watt mobile 2-meter txcvr, incl mic, mobile mount, manual, orig box, \$60 or best offer.

MFJ-9020 5-watt 20meter CW txcvr. Fantastic QRP rig. \$95 or best offer.

Kenwood TS-930SAT, deluxe HF txcvr, full coverage rcvr, incl hand-mic, power supply, built-in auto antenna tuner, pkg deal \$600 fairly firm

Yaesu TF-847 mint txcvr, HF, 6m, 2m, 440, all-band, all-mode, satellite ready full duplex, full coverage receive, incl hand mic, manual, orig box, plus outboard FC-20 auto-antenna tuner, pkg deal \$1100 fairly firm

Yaesu FT-100D mobile txcvr, HF, 2m, 440, all band, all-mode, incl DTMF mic, manual, orig box, outboard FC-20 auto-antenna tuner, remote mounting kit, remote speaker, pkg deal \$850 fairly firm.

LINEAR AMPLIFIERS

Drake L7 legal limit amplifier, mint condition, includes power supply, plus matching MN2700 3kw antenna tuner, manuals, pkg deal amp plus tuner, \$750 OBO

RF Concepts, 2-417 2-meter amplifier, 45-watts in, 170-watts out, incl preamp, FM/SSB, \$160 or best offer.

RF Concepts, 4-310 440 MHz amplifier, 30-watts in, 100-watts out, incl preamp, FM/SSB, \$160 or best offer.

POWER SUPPLIES

Astron VS-20M Variable Power Supply, 5-20VDC, incl meters 16-amps continuous duty, 22-amp surge, mint, \$75 or best offer

Craig Z253 Regulated Power Supply, 13.8VDC 7-amp continuous, 12-amp surge, \$35

GSC 10R Regulated Power Supply, 13.8VDC 10-amp, \$45

NEC 2+amp Power Supply, 13VDC, makes super trickle-charger \$10

IAMBIC PADDLE

Bencher Iambic paddle BY-1, incl cable and 1/8 stereo plug, black base, w/chrome components, mint, \$60 or best offer

KEYERS

MFJ-495 Deluxe Memory Keyer w/2-line display; comes with free full-sized AT keyboard, manual \$75

MFJ 484 Grandmaster Memory Keyer, incl manual, \$45

ANTENNAS

Valor 2-meter mag-mount quarter-wave, incl coax, PL-259, \$8 or best offer

Cushcraft A27010S 10dB Dual-band 2m/440 yagi beam, incl phasing harness, 5-ele on each band, never been outside, assembled \$75 or best offer

MFJ-1763 2-m portable 3-element beam, new in box, never opened, \$25

BNC rubber duck 2-meter, mint, \$5 or best offer

MFJ-1772 heavy-duty 20-meter dipole, professional quality, heavy-duty, new in box, never used, \$15

15-meter dipole w/balun, homebrew, w/coax, \$10

20-meter dipole, homebrew, w/coax, \$10 or best offer

40-meter dipole, homebrew, w/coax, \$10 or best offer

Diseno Microwave BBQ-grill-type parabolic dish antenna, screen-covered, incl feed arm and mounting arm, 26-inches square, \$15 OBO

ANTENNA TUNERS

Kenwood AT-200 Antenna Tuner, inc 3-pos antenna switch and dummy load, manual, meter, 200watt, \$75

MFJ-989C Versatuner V - 3kw antenna tuner, illum x-needle meter, T-matching, built-in balun, dummy load, 2-pos coax plus balanced line output, \$175

ANTENNA ACCESSORIES

Ameritron RCS-8V 5-position remote coax switch, incl 75' of control cable, manual, \$35 or best offer

Balun, center insulator for dipole 1:1 \$5 or best offer

Balun, center insulator for dipole 4:1 \$5 or best offer

12 ceramic heavy-duty antenna egg-type insulators, lot of 12 for \$2 or \$.25 each

Heath Cantenna 1000-watt dummy load (just add oil), \$20 or best offer

MFJ-260C 300-watt dummy load, incl spec sheet, \$10 or best offer

Yaesu G-5400B azimuth-elevation rotator, incl control box, approx 150-foot control cable, \$250 or best offer

30-foot roll of heavy-duty ladder line, \$10 or best offer

METERS

10-amp ammeter in homebrew box, \$1 or best offer

Panel meters, \$5 each: 0-15volt panel voltmeter, 0-25amp panel ammeter

Veritas HF SWR/power meter, \$15 or best offer

Diawa CN-520 1.8-60MHz 2kw cross-needle power/SWR meter, \$65 OBO

COMPUTER-RELATED

MFJ-1275 Sound Card Radio-to-Computer interface, incl AC power supply, \$45

Kantronics Universal Terminal Unit TNC, incl cables, \$20 or best offer

Netgear EN104 4-port Ethernet hub, \$5 OBO

Maxtor Ultra-ATA internal disk mounting kit, incl 80-pin ribbon cable and brackets, \$1, free with any purchase

15-inch HP Pavilion M70 Color Monitor (manuf. June 2000), 1280x1024 resolution, incl built-in microphone, \$35 or best offer

13-inch HP Pavilion M50 Color Monitor (manuf. May 1998), 1024x768 max resolution, incl built-in microphone, \$25 or best offer

17-inch EMC PX-986 Color Monitor (manuf. March 2001), 1280x1024 resolution, \$35 or best offer

Internal DVD ROM Pioneer DVD-114, \$5 or best offer

Internal CD-ROM read-only, AOpen MTRP, 50x, incl volume control and headphone jack, \$5 or best offer

Internal CD-ROM read-only, IOMagic, 52X, incl volume control, headphone jack, \$5

Computer Power Supplies, several, \$1 each, free w/pu

Internal 3.5-inch floppy disk drive, several, \$1 each

Visioneer 5600 1-touch flatbed scanner, incl power supply, USB interface, mint, \$10 or best offer

API Text-bridge flatbed scanner, incl manual and CD, USB interface, \$10 OBO

lomega Zip Drive, parallel port, incl 5 Zip disks, \$3 or best offer

Computer Speakers, assorted pairs, great sound, Harman-Kardon, Altec-Lansing, etc., \$5 per pair

Radio Shack RS-2 computer, notebook-sized, with built-in silver LCD mono display, with manual and documentation. Great for keyboarding keyers. \$25 OBO

CLASSIC COLLECTIBLES

Astatic D-104 classic silver microphone, mint, includes base, \$75 fairly firm

Conar Instrumentation - National Radio Institute desk-model VOM multimeter, \$15 or best offer

Conar Instrumentation - National Radio Institute model 320 Adj Power Supply 5-15v, 4-6 amp, regulated incl meter, \$25 OBO

Conar Instrumentation - National Radio Institute Model 500 Receiver, 80-40-15m ham bands, \$10 OBO

Simpson Model 380 Wave-meter Modulation indicator, incl complete set of coils, orig box, and spec sheet, \$25 or best offer

TELEVISION-STEREO EQUIPMENT

Swann Video outdoor wireless color video camera, incl night-vision and illuminators, transmitter plus remote receiver, RCA output, a steal at \$75

Phillips Magnavox Color TV large screen 27-inch, gorgeous picture, \$45 OBO

Sony Trinitron Color TV 21-inch, tuner inoperative, but works fine with RCA audio/video inputs from VCR or DVD player. \$35 OBO

Sony mini Handi-cam video camera CCD-TR517 (tape recording unit inoperative), 200x zoom, RCA outputs, power supply. Fits standard tripod. \$75 or best offer.

Surveillance Video Package Deal: Sony Trinitron 21" TV plus Sony Camera for \$99

Surveillance Video Package Deal: Sony Trinitron 21" TV plus Swann outdoor wireless camera for \$99

Panasonic component-type CD player \$5 or best offer.

12-VOLT BATTERIES

7 AmpHr gel-cell batteries, tested, holding charge fine, set of 2, \$10 or best offer

100 AmpHr deep-cycle sealed lead-acid batteries, tested, like new, work great, Dynasty brand, set of 3 for \$50 or best offer

100 AmpHr deep-cycle sealed lead-acid batteries, tested, new in box 5-years old, kept float charged and maintained, work great, Yuasa NP65-12, set of 3 for \$75 or best offer

OTHER

Connect Systems Inc, CS-800 Full-Duplex phone patch & repeater controller, 90-mem dialer, CWID, turns any transmitter & recvr into a repeater. New in box, never opened, \$175 or best offer.

24-inch high wall-mount standard 19-inch metal rack mount rack, mint, \$20 or best offer

600-watt DC-to-AC power inverter, \$50 or best offer

Solar Panel with built-in charge control circuit, 12-volt, 1-amp, perfect for float charging via solar power, \$75 or best offer

Weller SP-23 23-watt pencil-type soldering iron, \$1

SW Bell Caller-ID Unit, \$5 or best offer

Radio Shack 4-way telephone switch, 43-442, \$1 or best offer, free w/purchase

Uniden Bearcat BC-140 10-ch programmable scanner, 29-54 136-174 406-512 Mhz incl AC adapter and manual, \$5 or best offer

Radio Shack 33-3003 tie-clip lapel microphone w/20-foot cord, \$4 or best offer

Original Touch-Tone AT&T Bell system desk-set telephones, black, tone pads intermittent, good for answering extension phones, set of 3, \$5 or best offer.

75-ohm CATV coax, 25-foot spool, \$3 or best offer

6-conductor rotator cable, 250-foot spool, \$25 OBO

2-conductor 16-gauge red/black cable 360-foot roll \$20 OBO

30-foot roll of heavy-duty ladder line, \$10

FCC Report and Order 04-140: Omnibus Changes to Amateur Rules Adopted

Ending a protracted waiting period, the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the so-called "omnibus" Amateur Radio proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, was adopted October 4 and released October 10. The new rules are expected to become effective later this year. Among the highlights in the October 10 Report and Order, the FCC:

- * **"Reformed" the current Novice/Tech Plus bands to expand certain phone subbands;**
- * **Agreed to allow Novice and Tech Plus licensees to operate CW in the General class CW subbands on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters.**
- * **Implemented rules to discourage multiple vanity call sign filings on the same day from the same applicant;**
- * **Permitted auxiliary stations to transmit on portions of the 2 meter band;**
- * **Permitted amateur licensees to designate a specific Amateur Radio club to receive their call sign in memoriam;**
- * **Eliminated certain restrictions governing the manufacture, marketing and sale of external RF power amplifiers intended for Amateur Radio use;**
- * **Clarified that "amateur stations may, at all times and on all frequencies authorized to the control operator, make transmissions necessary to meet essential communication needs and to facilitate relief actions";**
- * **Deleted the requirement to publicly announce Amateur Radio examination locations and times, and**
- * **Deleted the frequency bands and segments specified for Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) stations.**

In response to an ARRL Petition for Rule Making, the Commission agreed to "reform" the HF segments currently authorized to Novice and Technician Plus licensees. The reallocation will expand

the phone subbands for General, Advanced and Amateur Extra licensees.

"We are persuaded by ARRL's contention that increasing the amount of spectrum for voice communications will reduce interference among stations using voice communications," the FCC said in its R&O, "thereby benefiting all licensees." The FCC said authorizing more phone spectrum would "more closely reflect licensees' operating preferences" and mean more efficient spectrum use.

On 75 meters, the FCC went well beyond the modest expansion the ARRL had proposed and the FCC had tentatively adopted in its 2004 NPRM. Generals will be able to operate on phone from 3800 to 4000 kHz, Advanced class licensees from 3700 to 4000 kHz – greatly reducing the amount of 80-meter spectrum available for RTTY and data (the only segment where automatically controlled digital stations may operate on 80 meters is 3620 to 3635 kHz).

The FCC said the amateur community wanted as much phone spectrum as possible. "Indeed, a number of commenters argue that the NPRM proposal to increase the amount of spectrum permitted for voice communications would still not meet the demand for voice communication spectrum in the HF bands, particularly in the 80 meter band," the FCC said.

On 40 meters, Advanced and Extra Class licensees will be able to operate phone from 7125 to 7300 kHz, and Generals from 7175 to 7300 kHz. On 15 meters, General class operators may operate phone from 21,275 to 21,450 kHz.

The FCC affirmed its intention to permit Novice and Tech Plus (or Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees to operate CW in the current General exclusive-CW allocations on 80, 40 and 15 meters and CW/data on 10 meters, where the FCC provided an additional 100 kHz for Novice/Tech Plus licensees. Novice/Tech Plus licensees still may run no more than 200 W PEP, but the Commission has done away with Novice band power limitations for higher-class licensees.

The R&O also affirms changes to Part 2 and Part 97 rules the FCC had proposed regarding the manufacture, marketing and sale of external RF power amplifiers. Current FCC rules prohibit commercial manufacturers from marketing RF power amplifiers capable of transmitting on the 12 and 10 meter bands. The rules were put in place as a way to prevent use of such amplifiers by Cbers.

"We agree with ARRL that the requirements imposed on Amateur Radio operators by the current rule are unnecessary because, under the present rules, 'the equipment, once authorized, can be modified to transmit on all amateur service frequency allocations,' and that revising the rule 'will enhance use of the 12 and 10 meter amateur bands,'" the FCC said.

To prevent the use of Amateur Radio amplifiers by Cbers, the FCC says manufacturers of Amateur Radio amplifiers must design their products to avoid operation between 26 MHz and 28 MHz. They also must certify that amplifiers are not easily modifiable to operate between 26 MHz and 28 MHz prior to a grant of equipment certification.

The various rule changes become effective 30 days after their publication in the Federal Register
<<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>>

A copy of the R&O appears on the FCC Web site
<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-06-149A1.pdf>.

ARRL has posted a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding the R&O
<<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt04-140/faq.html>>.

A downloadable chart shows the band changes
<http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt04-140/Hambands3_color.pdf>.

ARRL Asks FCC to Upgrade 60-meter Band

The ARRL is asking the FCC to expand 60-meter operating privileges and substitute a new channel for one that's often occupied by a federal government user.

The League wants the FCC to authorize General class and higher licensees to run 100 W effective radiated power (ERP) instead of the present 50 W ERP — and to allow CW and narrow-band digital modes, including PSK31 and PACTOR 3.

It also asks the Commission to replace the 5368.0 kHz center-frequency channel with 5358.5 kHz, so amateurs can avoid federal government digital traffic on the current channel. Operation on 60 meters would remain on a secondary, non-interference basis.

When the ARRL first petitioned the FCC for a 150 kHz-wide 60-meter band, the primary objection to granting the allocation came not from the Commission — which initially proposed granting the request — but from the

National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) which administers federal spectrum. The five channels, upper sideband only, 50 W ERP and maximum 2.8 kHz bandwidth that radio amateurs got represented a compromise between the two agencies.

The NTIA is far more favorably disposed to the ARRL's latest request this time, however. The NTIA's Office of Spectrum Management told ARRL earlier this year that the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC) had considered the League's requests and "would look favorably" on the channel change, use of additional modes and power increase proposals.

The League says Amateur Radio access to 60 meters over the past three years "has been successful without qualification," with no known instances of interference to federal users from radio amateurs.

American Red Cross Now Requires Background Checks; Effect on Hams Unknown

An article in the October 27 ARRL Letter reports that the American Red Cross is requiring background checks for all of its volunteers, starting October 31 of this year.

The ARRL's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Red Cross is the document which establishes ham radio's cooperation with the agency in case of emergency or disaster. The effect of the new policy on the MOU is unknown, as is the impact the new policy will have on ARES ham radio operators who volunteer their communications services in a true emergency.

Some chapters of the Red Cross are interpreting the policy to mean that anyone who volunteers in any way to assist in any capacity with the Red Cross must undergo the advance background check, which includes not only a criminal background check, but also a credit history check and mode-of-living checks. (The actual wording is: "character, general reputation, and personal characteristics".)

Others see the policy as affecting only formal Red Cross personnel, not ad hoc volunteers who, under the memorandum of understanding, remain relatively independent. The wording in the MOU states that "each organization retains its own identity

in providing service", thus suggesting that ARES volunteers are not Red Cross volunteers, but ARES members providing a temporary service as members of a different, completely-independent organization.

Radio Amateurs who volunteered with ARES to help the Red Cross in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and the 9/11 situation in New York City were badged as Red Cross Volunteers. There is no question that if hams are badged as Red Cross volunteers, they would be subject to the "due diligence" which the Red Cross is now required to exercise when registering its volunteers, and therefore subject to the advance background checks.

But there is still some question as to whether the checks are required if hams are not officially or formally associated with the organization but rather operating independently.

The ARRL is taking an interest in the matter, and more information and clarification may be forthcoming. This seems to be one more step in the growing but disturbing trend of local officials and agencies making it tougher and tougher on the average ham to offer any service at all in emergencies.

MARA Secretary's Report: October 5 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at Traditions Restaurant. Introduction were made.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the August meeting were accepted as printed in the October issue of The Monitor. (Due to the club picnic in September there were no minutes for that meeting.)

Treasurer's Report: September's ending balance was \$1252.91.

ARES: No report.

RACES: No report.

VE tests: Next exam date is October 14.

Public Service: The Fall Foliage Ride, October 21 and 22.

Announcements: James McDowell, KI4FZW, won a cordless mouse for finding the most ham call signs in the puzzle

printed in the October issue of The Monitor. Robert Van-Fossen, K4DJG, won a mug for finding the missing call signs.

Old Business: Bob Steere, N1QEQ, asked again if anyone knows the status of the station at RMH. Nobody seemed to know what the current status is, but the difficulty accessing the equipment was mentioned.

New Business: Election of Officers for 2007: Due to lack of a quorum, there was no voting for officers. A slate of candidates was prepared, and a ballot will be mailed by the club Treasurer to all members in good standing.

50/50 drawing: E.C. Showalter, KG4KUR, won. He received \$12 and the club received \$12.

Submitted by
Gerald Nauman, KN4FM
(Club Secretary absent)

Rockingham County ARES/RACES Net Control Operator Schedule

A new slightly-modified Net Control script has been prepared for the Rockingham County ARES Net. This net meets every Monday night at 8:00 pm local time.

The Net Coordinator, Bryan Daniels, K4RMY, does not need Net Control to send the log of check-ins to him, but rather just email the total number of stations participating, including the Net Control station.

Below is a four-month listing for Net Control duty. If you are unable to take net control on the date listed, no problem, but you are asked to let Bryan know so he can re-arrange the schedule.

Note there will be no net on Christmas Day.

If you would like to be Net Control operator, email Bryan at k4rmy@adelphia.net

Bryan would also like to invite any net control operator to meet him at the Rockingham County EOC center to run your net from there. Let him know, and he'll meet you at the EOC at 7:30 to give you access and get things set up.

November 6 (simplex): Bryan Daniels K4RMY
November 13: Vic Alger K4XTT (note call!)
November 20: James McDowell IV KI4FZY
November 27: E.C. Showalter KG4KUR

December 4 (simplex): Gayle Shull KU4XN
December 11: Gerald Nauman KN4FM
December 18: Bryan Daniels K4RMY
December 25: Christmas—No Net Meeting

January 1 (simplex): Ray Ritchie K4NRA
January 8: Bryan Daniels K4RMY
January 15: Vic Alger K4XTT
January 22: Jason Armentrout N4DSL
January 29: James McDowell IV KI4FZY

February 5 (simplex): Bryan Daniels K4RMY
February 12: Hugh Pettis K3EC
February 19: Norman Benner KA4EEN
February 26: Gayle Shull KU4XN

Calendar of Upcoming Events

November 2: MARA Club Meeting and Skyward Winter Weather Class
November 4-6: ARRL November Sweepstakes CW
November 7: VARA Club Meeting and 30th Anniversary Presentation
November 11-12: ARRL EME Competition
November 11-12: Kentucky QSO Party
November 18-20: ARRL November Sweepstakes Phone
November 23: Thanksgiving Holiday
November 25-26: CQ WW DX Contest CW

December 1-3: ARRL 160-meter Contest
December 5: VARA Christmas Banquet
December 7: MARA Christmas Banquet
December 9: VE Exams in Dayton Virginia
December 9-10: ARRL 10-meter Contest
December 25: Christmas Holiday
December 31: Straight Key Night

February 18: Richmond Frostfest
February 25: Annandale (Vienna) Hamfest

VARA Secretary's Report: October 3 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at the Staunton Church of Christ on October 3, 2006. The President, Marvin Henderson KF4WDI, opened the meeting at 7:00pm. There were 19 members present and 6 guests: Andrew Barbour AG4XN, Scott Newlen KI4QQZ, Jim Newlen KE4CAX, Bob VanFossen K4DJG, Mike Stone and David Pickering KE4JCY. Welcome to our visitors, and we would like to see all of you back next month.

2007 Officers — The Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary have agreed to continue their office for 2007. Al Bonck N3JB has accepted the Program Manager office. We still need someone to step forward for the office of President. **Please give this office some serious thought before our November meeting.**

Great Eastern Endurance Run: We had a great day for the run and the runners we talked with said they were having a great run and enjoying the weather. They thanked us for being there in case they had a problem along the way.

Fall Foliage Bike Festival 2006: Thanks to everyone that came out and helped with the bike ride again this year.

This November will be the 30th anniversary of the VARA. This will be a special meeting with lots of information on the beginning of the VARA and the charter members. There is a lot of work being done for this so plan to attend. **The November VARA Meeting will be at Lynn's Restaurant in Waynesboro on Tuesday November 7, 2006.** The meal begins at 6:00pm followed by the VARA 30th Anniversary PowerPoint presentation.

Skywarn Winter Storms Class will be held during the MARRA's regular meeting night at Traditions in Harrisonburg on Thursday November 2nd at 7:00pm. If you want to eat, the meal starts at 6:00pm. **PLEASE...** contact John Lasher N3GLZ at: n3glz@adelphia.net or 540 932-7662 if you plan to attend. John

needs a count to give the National Weather Service so they know how many books to bring to the class.

Christmas Party we plan to have our Christmas Party at Ryan's in Staunton on December 12th at 6:30pm. There will be a Chinese Gift Exchange again this year since everyone enjoyed the one last year. Greg Czerniak W4GRC has agreed to conduct it again this year. Just bring a GAG gift costing no more than 5 to 10 dollars and join the fun. It's fun to see who ends up with the silliest prize or the prize you would like to have at the end.

Sam Pickering KF4EKV and his wife, Margaret will be moving to Ohio next month to be with Margaret's father. Best wishes to you and your family as you get settled in at a new location. Please keep us on your e-Mail list.

VARA in 2007.....We would like to see an increase in attendance so mark your calendars for the 1st Tuesday of each month.

ON THE SICK LIST:

Queenie, Clinton's (KB4OLM) wife got a good report from her recent checkup.
Denny Morland N4XPW is home and doing well at this time.

Dan James W4DLJ Dan is improving day by day. "Takes longer after 39", he said. He has been on his radios lately.

Lonnie Czerniak N4WIV has been released by her doctor after her recovery from a broken hip.

Betty Ralston KF4EKU in the loss of her sister Joyce Snyder of Fairfield, VA
Lets keep these folks and their families 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.gsl.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 Doug Tippet N8ESW dtippet@ntelos.net Ray Colvin KE4HVR colv-ingr@adelphia.net and David Fordham KD9LA fordhadr@jmu.edu Also, 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: Al Bonck N3JB, our 2007 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. Al's e-Mail address is: margeal@ntelos.net

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

Program: Richard Huttinger AA4RH presented the video "All you ever wanted to know about antennas but was afraid to ask". This video was on lab type miniature antennas showing all types of antennas and their radiation patterns at different wave lengths and heights above ground. It also demonstrated the best antenna configuration for the range of area that you want to cover. This was an interesting video for all amateurs VHF through HF.

Thanks again Richard!

Respectfully Submitted
Ray Colvin KE4HVR
VARA Secretary

MARA/VARA

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

Return Service Requested

MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.

President: Gerald Nauman KN4FM
Vice President: John Lasher, N3GLZ
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
The January meeting is 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 7:00 pm.

Visitors are welcome.

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

Doug Tippet
2348 Mosley St.
Waynesboro VA 22980