

April 2007

The Monitor

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

MARA Meeting Date Change: April 12 HomeBrew and Trader's Night

Remember, the April meeting of MARA will be held the SECOND Thursday night this month!

Traditions Restaurant was unable to give us the meeting room for the normal first Thursday.

This month is our annual HomeBrew Show and Tell night. Bring those projects and things you've been working on. If your project is too big to bring (say, for instance, that new Rohn tower you put up last fall, or that new kilowatt amp you welded to the trunk of your car), then take some pictures and show and tell.

Also this month, we'll have a couple of tables set aside for a trader's session. Bring some of your old stuff you want to get rid of, and don't forget to bring some pocket change or a checkbook in case you find that old tube you've been seeking for years. (KD9LA is going to bring a tube rig that he'll let go for a song.)

VARA Meeting: April 3

The VARA meeting will be held at its regularly-scheduled time on the first Thursday of the month, at Lynn's Pancake House on US 250 West in Waynesboro.

Summer Thunderstorms Coming: Are You Ready?

It's that time of year again. Take a Saturday morning, and go around with a wire brush and loosen, scrape, polish, brighten, and then re-tighten all your ground connections, especially the ones associated with your tower and antenna system. Check your lightning arrestors, discharge modules, and cables.

It only takes a few minutes. Keeping your grounding connections bright and shiny and in good electrical condition could potentially ward off a lightning strike, or reduce the damage from a nearby strike.

An ounce of prevention is worth a ton of cure.

Answers to Last Month's Trivia Quiz

1. **Who used to have the call W4JZC?**
Answer: Richard Weaver, now W3HXX, used the Whiskey Three Jumping Zebra Colts call for over 30 years until he was able to regain his original callsign issued almost 70 years ago when Virginia was in the third call district.
2. **Who always introduces himself at club meetings as living in "Wilda"?**
Answer: KB4OLM, Clint Campbell, is proud to be from the settlement of Wilda, probably named after the reservoir known as "Lake Wilda".
3. **Who is "Farmer Al"?**
Answer: Al Bonck, N3JB, uses "Farmer Al" as his email address.
4. **Which ham in the valley used to be a lounge singer on a cruise ship between Miami and Jamaica?**
Answer: David Fordham, KD9LA, was a lounge singer on the two-stack cruise ship SS Emerald Seas in the Caribbean cruise service in 1974.
5. **Which ham in the valley is the child of the former executive of GE's Radio Division, and who worked on the radios on Barry Goldwater's airplane during his 1964 presidential campaign?**
Answer: Debbie Fordham is the daughter of Peter Bliss, W8DTD SK, who worked for General Electric as head of radio sales, and was assigned full time to supervise the installation and maintenance of communications equipment in Barry Goldwater's aircraft during the 1964 presidential campaign.
6. **Who in the valley will have been a licensed ham 70 years next year?**
Answer: Richard Weaver, W3HXX.
7. **Which ham owns a kilt? And actually wears it?!**
Answer: Bob Van Fossen, K4DJG, of New Market (formerly of Staunton) owns a real Scottish kilt, and actually wears it in public on formal occasions. (Yes, the kilt is considered just as formal as a tuxedo!)
8. **Which ham has a working seismograph in his basement to detect earthquakes?**
Answer: Jim Lehman, W4POL, is a seismologist and retired from the Physics Department at James Madison University. His basement seismograph has been featured in the local newspaper articles.

Linksys Installation CD Needed

.I'm trying to help my daughter set up a Linksys WMP54G wireless adapter but we cannot get the Linksys Setup program on the CD to function - the Autoplay or Run does not allow us to create a Profile.

I'd like to borrow another CD to check if its our CD or her computer that's at fault. Would you send this out to the group please.

The basic problem is that when my SSID is disabled (not transmitted for security) she cannot connect using the Windows Wireless Setup, but when the SSID is enabled (transmitted) she can connect. I want to keep SSID disabled for security therefore we need to get the Linksys Setup working.

So I'd like to borrow a Linksys CD and would welcome any suggestions.

Thanks, Jess, w4pqq valyhome@ntelos.net



'Scopes Needed

Ray, would you mind asking the club guys if they have any 20 meg or better oscilloscopes for sale or for donation? I am gathering equipment for a Christian university in Bolivia. I will also be looking for digital meters, variable voltage power supplies, some 2 ghz equipment, a spectrum analyzer, antenna analyzers, frequency counters, signal generators, and some soldering stations.

Anyway, this might be a way for some of the guys to clean their shack, and help a good cause at the same time!

Thanks in advance for the help.

Charlie Bennetch N4LNU
 540-234-6222 (work)
 540-255-1811 (cell)
 540-363-3362 (home, after 5:30PM)

VARA President's Message

Greetings hamsters. Wow, I am so confused. Last month for just a moment I was the president of MARA. I don't even remember being elected! I guess I was impeached shortly after my last report. In any event, here I am again, and do I have a story to tell.

On March 24, 2007 a group of highly trained amateur radio operators awoke at the crack of dawn to do battle with the elements and protect the Shenandoah Valley. Wait a minute that is not the right story. I am saving that one for my next book. Let me try again.

On March 24, 2007, a group of highly dedicated amateur radio operators awoke at the crack of dawn and drove to Sherando Lake to assist in a 50K run known as the "Bel Monte Endurance Run." From this point on the aforementioned dedicated amateur radio operators shall be known as the "magnificent seven." The seven hamsters are: Marvin (KF4WDI), John (KI4TOH), Scott (KI4QQZ), John (N3GLZ), Ray (KE4HVR), Gordon (WA4FJC), and Greg (W4GRC). Each team member performed admirably.

Seriously folks, I am proud of the turnout we had and I can tell you that those who came out were greatly appreciated for their sacrifice of time, gas, and talent. My hat is off to Gordon (WA4FJC), who traveled to the highest point of the run in a blinding snowstorm and with 3 feet of snow already on the ground. (Wait, I think I made a mistake – that was last year and there were only a few inches of snow on the ground in the higher elevations). The truth is, the weather was very nice and there were no mishaps. Let me simply say thank you. Thank You!

Following the April Valley Amateur Radio Association business meeting, the second part of the story of the electric automobile will be shown. We will not discuss the proposed changes in the by-laws until the May meeting.

Don't forget that your help will be needed for the MS-Walk in Waynesboro on the 21st of April and on the 28th of April for Riverfest, which is also held in Waynesboro. To sign up to help with the MS-Walk, see Greg. To help out with the Riverfest event, see Gordon, WA4FJC (although he may still be somewhere in the Sherando area even now).

The next few months are filled with activities. In May our special event station will operate from Sherando Lake (we can pick up Gordon then) in honor of the Civilian Conservation Corp. During the depression of the 1930's to provide jobs, the government built many parks that are in use today. Mark your calendar for the first weekend in May. Come on down as they say and sit a while, play radio and chew the fat.

Planning for field day in June is underway. The field day committee met Monday, on the 26th of March in Mt. Crawford, VA. We need your help to prepare the field day site, and to operate during field day. So make plans to attend field day. It really is a lot of fun and as you know, it never rains on field day.

That's it for this month. I am not long winded except on Sunday morning, and I really do try to finish up my sermon by four in the afternoon. Okay maybe by eleven thirty at the latest.

Don't blame me folks, I did not vote for myself to be your president, you did that!

73, Greg, W4GRC

4-Element Tri-Band Antenna For Sale

Colin Hester, N4ZFQ, is selling his Wilson SY-2 four-element tri-band HF Beam antenna.

It has been stored inside since taken down in 1996.

It has a coax balun that was built and installed by KB4OLM.

Colin also has all documentation for the antenna. It can be seen at his home in Harrison, off of Route 340 in weekends or weekday evenings.

One crisp hundred-dollar bill (U.S.) will take this baby home with you. No trades or lesser offers, please.

For more information, or to schedule a visit, call Colin at home 540-249-1122, or his cell phone 540-271-2555.



April 14 VE Session Announcement

Remember the April 14 VE Session coming up.

As usual, sign-in and registration will start at 9:00 am, and the exams will start as soon as the paperwork is ready.

It is expected that a larger-than-average number of candidates will appear for upgrades, so a good turnout of Volunteer Examiners will be greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer examiner, contact Gayle Shull, KU4XN at 540-828-2132 and he'll tell you how easy it is to become accredited.

Any ham General class or above can become a volunteer examiner.

And remember, there's no better time to upgrade than April 14th!

ReLocation, Relocation, Relocation: K3EC in Staunton

K3EC, Hugh Pettis, is still alive and kicking the airwaves.

Hugh recently left his digs at the VMRC center and moved to Marian Place in Staunton, Virginia, where he is setting up housekeeping and his new shack.



Hugh reports that he had a great pizza party on March 10, to put up a new antenna with James KI4FZY, Dick KC3AN, and Phyllis N4VZC coming over to put up a more permanent HF antenna (long wire), with Elwood KB4DJN spending the entire day March 13 getting in a really good FB ground system essential to tuning up a random wire on 75m.

Hugh says, "Thanks for the help!"

Featured Ham of the Month



March's ham of the month was E.C. Showalter. E.C. called to correct us in that he served for many years as a letter-carrier with the Weyers Cave Post Office, but never actually had the headaches of being the postmaster. E.C. and his XYL make their annual pilgrimage to Florida to rest and relax in the sunshine, while some of us are shoveling snow. E.C. is very active in public service events in the valley, and serves as a role model for many of us younger types.

This month's featured ham has been licensed more than 50 years, first transmitting on the ham bands as W8DEY from Charleston, West Virginia in 1953. He earned a degree in Electrical Engineering from Virginia Tech shortly after the discovery of electricity – way back in 1961. He worked for Reynolds Metals in Richmond for several years before coming to the Shenandoah Valley where he spent 29 years working for GE-Genicom in Waynesboro. After retiring from GE in 1995, he worked for an environmental consulting firm in Charlottesville for several years before retiring again six years ago. He is a licensed Professional Engineer, and is still available for occasional consulting work. He enjoys 20m CW as his favorite operating mode, has two grown children and two grandchildren so far, and engages in vegetable gardening when he's not on the radio. He has an impressive hill-top radio location outside of Verona, Virginia. One of his distinguishing characteristics is his energetic participation and leadership in ham public service events. Who is he?



Update on 147.075 – Bear Den Mountain (Waynesboro) Repeater

This afternoon the new KENWOOD repeater, power supply and SCOM controller was placed into operation at the Bear Den repeater site. I thought that the following information might be of value to you all.

The power into the duplexers is 42 watts under normal conditions. This should put about 25 to 28 watts to the antenna which is a slight increase from the other repeater. The audio deviation is set at 3 Kc. The sensitivity to open the squelch was measured at 0.2 uV.

The ambient noise floor at the site was measured and was found to be very good. I seem to remember Neil

saying something like 4 dB but that figure might be in error.

The repeater normally operates on commercial power. The controller operates from the battery bank. When a power failure occurs, the repeater automatically switches to battery power, lowers the power output to 20 watts, sends out a tone for a couple of seconds, turns out all panel leds and enables a CW ID tail message that spells out "BAT". Some of you may have noticed that the new repeater is sending out the BAT message but this is in error. I hope to be able to fix this error thru remote programming so it should go away soon (unless we have power failure).

The Phone Patch is NOT operational at this time. I would hope that we can activate this thru remote software programming in the near future.

The signal appears to be very good and I would like to thank all those many area amateurs that supported and helped with this long term project.

I am sure that there will be some glitches and gotchas along the way. Send me a note and I will see if we can improve whatever the situation is that you are reporting.

For the future we may want to consider a receive preamp and possible a gain antenna as funding becomes available.

Gordon Batey, WA4FJC

Public Service Event #1: April 21 Harrisonburg March of Dimes Walk

Bob Steere, N1QEQ, is heading up the annual Harrisonburg March of Dimes walk this year.

Christine Bilbrey, the walk manager, is very appreciative of the reliable manner in which hams have manned the rest stops and kept track of the walkers. In general, hams are the primary communications between the route workers and headquarters.

This is a low-stress, relaxing public service event, and our assistance is very important to the success of the activity.

Hams should contact Bob before the event to arrange the frequencies, meeting locations, and times.

Public Service Event #2: April 21 Waynesboro Multiple Sclerosis Walk

The VARA club has agreed to provide communications for this event occurring on Saturday, April 21st.

Since the MS Walk is in Waynesboro, it should not conflict with the March of Dimes walk in Harrisonburg to be held the same day.

Little is known about this event at press time, so be sure to get the details at the April VARA club meeting.

Public Service Event #3: April 28 Waynesboro RiverFest

It's time to mark your calendar for the 2007 Riverfest Run-Paddle-Ride Road-n-River event that is scheduled this year for April 28 in Waynesboro.

This event consists of a multi-mile run, followed by a canoe-paddle race down the South River, followed by a multi-mile bicycle ride.

As in the past, local hams are asked to provide watch and communication duties for this event.

It should finish up around noon. More than likely, the hams will be using the 147.075 repeater for this activity.

If you can assist in providing communications for this public service event, please call Gordon Batey, WA4FJC and he will keep you posted on the details as they develop.

“Tiny’s Radio Works” – Does Yours?

Do you remember when a local ham was just waiting for you to make a mistake or say something that could be related to the "Citizens Band", which he was into big time before he got his ham radio license?

Things like this would make his day. He didn't care who's case he jumped on either.

Yes.....Tiny WD4FOZ, today he would be 68 years old. Born March 12, 1939 died August 23, 1998.

Tiny was “on” the radio. Tiny didn’t mind listening to the frequencies any time he could. And he didn’t mind talking, either.

What has happened to ham radio today?

Back then when we turned our radios on and gave our callsign there was always someone to chat with. Even if it was just to say good morning, because they had reached their destination or, they were on the phone and would call you back shortly.

What has happened our ham radio communications today?

Is the Internet taking over? Are we losing interest in ham radio? What are we – you and I – doing today to keep ham radio alive?

Today, even in those rare moments when we do turn our radios on, most of us are guilty of just listening to it. Worse, we listen to the AM-FM radio, check our e-mail, surf the WEB, search e-Bay or forward jokes we have received in our e-mail, and let the ham rig gather dust.

How much time do we spend actually visiting with our friends on the air? Let's all make this coming Spring more enjoyable by signing on when we turn our radios on. If we don't sign on, no one will know we are near the radio.

It's true we have lost some great ham radio friends in the past and we all miss them each day.

But.....it's up to us now, to keep ham radio active in the area.

Just remember Tiny. I'm sure he remembers us...

[Have a good day.....73...Ray...KE4HVR](#)

DX Cluster Operating Manual Online

Set your browser URL to:
<http://snipurl.com/ARCMANUAL>

This is an online manual giving instructions and reference material about the operation of the DX Cluster. The cluster is now run by Vic Alger, K4XTT.

“What is a DX Cluster?” you ask?

The answer is too complicated to print here, but ask some of the old-timers in the valley next time you hear them on.

One way of accessing the cluster is via FM packet radio. If your computer is connected to your two-meter radio via the sound card or a TNC, your computer can alert you to rare DX stations which are discovered operating on HF frequencies.

Another way is via the internet. Set your browser to: [Telnet://dxcc.w4ml.net](telnet://dxcc.w4ml.net) Then, issue the command to view only the spots posted by hams in the U.S. and Canada: `set/filter doc/pass k,ve`

The cluster is a great way to rack up QSL cards from rare countries.

Check with any of the major HF operators for more information. Most HF operators use the cluster for DX spotting.

Gerry, K4RBZ, Very Close to the End

No, Gerry is not suffering from ill health.

The “end” being spoken of is the completion of working the entire current list of ARRL countries!

Yep. Gerry has contacted hams in ALL of the countries, and needs only two more contacts to finish off the entire DXCC countries list!

And the really good news is that both of those countries are going to be put on the air by DXpeditions in the next two months!

Best of luck to Gerry in snagging the last two!

Local 10-meter Net On The Air

Darrell Little, KI4LLA, wants to remind everyone of the 10-meter Net, Friday evenings at 7:00 pm EST (local time) on 28.490 MHz SSB Phone. With limited propagation at the moment, contact may still be limited to local area Hams, but we're looking forward to conditions improving and having others check-in to the Net. Check <http://www.ki4lla.us>

The FM Minus Two Net: Nightly at 10

Tune your VHF radio to 146.850 (down .600, PL of 131.8) and check into the Minus Two Net each night at 10:00 pm.

Except Saturday night that is! On Saturdays, the net can be found on the 147.045 repeater (up .600, PL of 131.8), where they link up with some 220 machines covering West Virginia, to include even more hams in the fun. This is an informal net meant to keep local hams in touch with each other.

Rockingham County ARES/RACES Net Control Schedule: 8:00 pm

April 2 (Simplex): James McDowell KI4FZY

April 9: Vic Alger K4XTT

April 16: Bryan Daniels K4RMY

April 23: Gerald Nauman KN4FM

April 30: Gayle Shull KU4XN

May 7 (Simplex): Ray Ritchie K4NRA

May 14: E.C. Showalter KG4KUR

May 21: Bryan Daniels K4RMY

May 28: Norman Benner KA4EEN

June 4 (Simplex): Bryan Daniels K4RMY

June 11: Gerald Nauman KN4FM

June 18: James McDowell KI4FZY

June 25: Gayle Shull KU4XN

July 2 (Simplex) Ray Ritchie K4NRA

July 9: Vic Alger K4XTT

July 16: Hugh Pettis K3EC

July 23: Norman Benner KA4EEN

July 30: E.C. Showalter KG4KUR

Waynesboro Repeater Association

The Waynesboro Repeater Association, sponsor of the wide-area coverage 147.075 repeater, held its annual business meeting on December 6, 2006, with about 20 members present.

After a brief business meeting, including financial report and technical discussion, the new repeater equipment was made available for inspection by those present.

Work is proceeding with interfacing and programming these items. (The new repeater is now on the air on Bear Den Mountain, see the related article at the top of page 5 of this issue — editor)

Where are the members? This local association had about 36 members in 2006.

Local amateurs interested in learning more about this repeater, or helping provide support for this fine machine, are encouraged to contact association President Charlie Garner, WA4ITY, or Vice President Frank Green KE4ASC, or Treasurer Gordon Batey, WA4FJC for more information.

The association website is: www.qsl.net/wrav/

Virginia's 400th Anniversary Special Event

Don't forget the VARA camping trip the first weekend in May at Lake Sherando's group campsite!

This camping trip is intended to put VARA on the air as a special event station, part of the celebration of Virginia's 400th birthday this year.

The event will feature family camping, and the site even has hot running water in the restrooms! Campers, RV's, and even tents are welcome around the ring, and in the center will be the operational radio station giving out contacts as part of the 400th anniversary celebration.

The event and camp is open to all amateurs and their families, and is not limited to VARA members. Contact any VARA member for more information.

MARA Secretary's Report: March 1 Meeting

Meeting called to order by David, KD9LA, Vice-President

Introductions were made all around.

1. Reports

New Members, first reading

KI4TOI, Mike Swinson

N4DBX—Ken Briden

KE4JFB—Julie Briden

A. Secretary's Report approved as printed in the Monitor

B. Treasurer's Report

\$2118.19 Feb 19

\$2098.19 Jan 19

C. Group Reports

ARES/RACES: Brief discussion on the standby during the ice-storm on February 13-14.

VE: Large Session in February: eight VE's and 11 candidates for examinations. All candidates passed.

Field Day Committee: Bryan K4RMY and Bob N1QEQ volunteered to be on this year's FD committee.

Public Service: April 21st March of Dimes Walk needs 6-8 hams. Contact is Bob Steere, N1QEQ.

2. Announcements

Valley ARA Lake Sherando Campout Special event is the 1st weekend in May (May 5-6), to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Virginia.

Ellsworth Neff reported the tower at WHBG behind BelleMeade has been cut down.

Pictures from the Little North Mountain Repeater Site were passed around. The

145.13 repeater will hopefully be back on the air soon.

Ray K4NRA thanked those who helped with his ham radio lessons: N1QEQ, K4RBZ, K4RMY, WA4NUF, at Pence Middle School. There was a DX contact made every period.

3. Old Business

Bob N1QEQ said Amateur Radio access badges for rRH will be ready soon.

4. New Business — None

5. Program was a video tape about short wave broadcast station HCJB in Ecuador, presented by Gerry Brunk, K4RBZ

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

April 3: VARA Meeting
 April 14: VE Exams in Dayton VA
 April 12: MARA Homebrew Night (note date change!)
 April 15: Chesapeake (VA) Hamfest
 April 21: Harrisonburg March of Dimes Walk
 April 21: Waynesboro MS Walk
 April 22: York (PA) Hamfest
 April 26-29: Virginia Beach Special Event Operation

May 1: VARA Meeting
 May 3: MARA Meeting
 May 4-6: VARA Special Event Camp at Sherando
 May 6: Hagerstown Hamfest
 May 12: Reidsville (NC) Hamfest
 May 18-20: Dayton Hamvention
 May 26-27: CQ WW WPX Contest CW
 May 26: Durham (NC) Hamfest
 May 27: Silver Springs (MD) Hamfest

June 3: Manassas Ole Virginia Hamfest
 June 5: VARA Meeting
 June 7: MARA Meeting
 June 9: Frederick (MD) Hamfest
 June 9-11: June VHF QSO Party
 June 23-24: Field Day

Field Day Coming Quick

It will be here before we know it.

This year's annual ARRL Field Day event is promising to be as good as ever.

The MARA Club has already named two hams to serve on the Field Day Committee, and is looking for a third.

The VARA Club has filled its three slots.

The Committee currently is composed of: Benny Cook N4BCC, John Bobbio KI4TOH, Doug Tippet N8ESW, Bryan Daniels K4RMY, and Bob Steere N1QEQ.

Field Day Committee meetings are open to all hams, and are usually held at the Burger King in Mt. Crawford on Thursday nights.

Contact a Field Day Committee member for more information. And don't forget to mark your calendar!

Field Day Camping will begin Friday, June 16.

VARA Secretary's Report: March 6 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Lynn's Restaurant in Waynesboro on March 6, 2007. The President, Greg Czerniak W4GRC, opened the meeting at 7:00pm. There were 28 members present and 8 guests, Angel Wilson, Andrew Babour AG4XN, John Barbour, Eddie Barbour, Bill Garber KI4SMB, Fran Davis, Bob VanFossen K4DJG and John Bobbio KI4TOH. Welcome to all our visitors, we would like to have you back for next month.

Meeting Place: The club voted to meet at Lynn's in Waynesboro through the month of June 2007.

50/50: was won by Alby McCutcheon AD4KZ, congratulations to Alby!

New Members: Jim Newlen KE4CAX and John Fiske KI4QQX. Welcome to the VARA!

Waynesboro MS Walk: will be held on April 21, 2007. Mark your calendar now and plan to support your club in this public service event.

Field Day Committee for 2007: Benny N4BCC, John Bobbio Jr. KI4TOH and Doug Tippett N8ESW

Virginia's 400th Anniversary Special Event: plans are underway for May 4 – 6 at Sherando Lake. The web site for the 400th Anniversary is: w4xd@yahoo.com

VARA By-Laws: Plans are under way to update the by-laws and get the memberships approval on the changes.

ON THE SICK LIST:

Denny Morland N4XPW had another stroke, fell and is in AMC. He will then move to rehab for three weeks.

Mike Solomon KJ4RM is at MCV for the second part of his bone marrow transplant.

Let's 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 the VARA Web Site at: <http://www.qsl.net/w4xd/> **PLEASE notify Billy when your item is sold.**

e-Mail ADDRESSES: Keep your e-mail address up to date. Please send them to: Greg Czerniak W4GRC grcljc@verizon.net, Doug Tippett N8ESW dtippett@ntelos.net, Ray Colvin KE4HVR colvingr@adelphia.net and David Fordham KD9LA ford-hadr@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. Foxhunts are also scheduled for some months as weather permits.

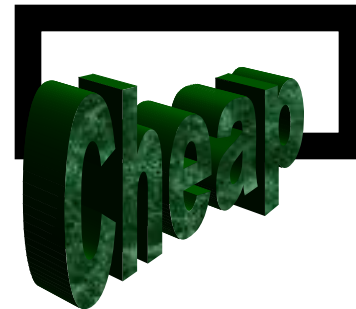
PROGRAMS NEEDED: Al Bonck N3JB, our 2007 Program Chairman, is looking for anyone that would like to do a program for the club. Give him a call and set up a date to present it. It does not have to be HAM related.

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 7:40pm.

PROGRAM: Al Bonck N3JB and Bill Shott W2ZVM presented the first half of a video on the "Death of the Electric Car" in February. The second half of the video for our March 6th meeting was canceled for the lack of a projector. The tentative date for the second half of the video will be April 3rd.

Submitted By:
VARA Secretary
Ray Colvin KE4HVR



Drake Microwave Transverter for the Price of a Combo-Meal

Dave, KD9LA, has a microwave transverter he wants to get out of his garage..

It is a Drake model 2880.

Input power is 12-24 volts.

Input signal is 2.5 to 2.686 Giga-hertz.

Output signal is 222-408 MHz.

It comes with some misc. cables, booklets, and stuff. This is a "leftover", and has Dave's standard estate warranty of "seven days, money back, no questions asked".

If you can put it to use, offer to buy Dave lunch at Wendy's sometime, and come pick the thing up.

First to make it to Weyers Cave gets it. Call Dave at 540-234-0448 or email him at kd9la@arrl.net to set up an appointment.

Dave also has a barbecue-grill dish antenna, complete with feed-arm and mount, free for the taking. The parabolic disk is about 20 inches square and currently covered with wire screen to enhance the gain. Ask Dave about the antenna when you call about the transverter.

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: Eugene Rogers KG4JBC
Vice President: David Fordham KD9LA
Secretary: Bryan Daniels K4RMY
Treasurer: Sandy Mullins, K4PZC
Board (exp 07): David Gordon KB4LCI
Board (exp 08): Gayle Shull KU4XN

<http://mara.ws>

MARA meets the first Thursday of each month
at Traditions Restaurant on Mt Clinton Pike, in
Harrisonburg.

Dinner begins at 6:00 pm.
The Business Meeting begins 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: Greg Czerniak, W4GRC
Vice President: Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW
Secretary: Ray Colvin, KE4HVR
Treasurer: Doug Tippett, N8ESW
Program Manager: Al Bonck N3JB

<http://www.qsl.net/w4xd>

VARA meets the first Tuesday of each month
at Lynn's Pancake House on Hwy 250, in
Waynesboro.

Dinner begins at 6:00 pm,
The Business Meeting begins at 7:00 pm

Visitors are welcome.

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

Doug Tippett
2348 Mosley St.
Waynesboro VA 22980