

February 2007

The Monitor

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



MARA Meeting February 1 : Radio Extraordinaire – Setting Up A Wi-Fi Network at Home

Many of today's portable devices, from laptop computers to PDA's, come with Bluetooth or Wi-Fi wireless capability built in. Did you ever wonder how to actually USE this capability?

Imagine surfing the web from your easy chair with your laptop, then moving to the kitchen table when your feet fall asleep! Or going out on the back patio this summer without losing the connection to the web!

At the MARA February meeting, KD9LA will show us how to turn on and activate the wireless features of some common portable equipment, and then how to select, set up, secure, and configure a wireless router as an Internet access point.

The February meeting of the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association will be held at the traditional location: Tradition's Restaurant on Highway 42 at the Mt. Clinton Pike. Dinner starts at 6:00 pm, Business Meeting begins about 7:00, followed immediately by the program.

VARA Meeting February 6 : DVD Show – "Death of the Electric Car"

Al Bonck, program director for VARA, reports that the February meeting will feature a DVD show entitled, "Death of the Electric Car", produced by General Motors and narrated by Bill Shott, W2ZVM. The meeting will be held at Lynn's Pancake House on US 250 West of Waynesboro. As usual, dinner will start at 6:00 pm, the business meeting will begin around 7 pm, followed by the movie.

LAST ISSUE – If you have not renewed your MARA or VARA membership by the end of the February meeting, then this will be the last issue of the Monitor you receive. The term SNAFU generally rules the situation when you fail to renew on time: your name gets deleted from the active-member list, and getting it put back on is a lot of trouble and can take up to a year or more, no joke. Most of the problems experienced by local hams not getting their newsletter can be traced to their failure to renew on time. So take out the checkbook right now, and mail in your dues to the address shown on the back of this issue.

VARA President's Message

January 2007 has started with a bang. And I would like to thank each member for stepping up to the plate. I believe that we will accomplish a lot together this year. My agenda is a simple one: to see the club grow and serve the community through Amateur Radio.

One of the ways we serve the community is by being prepared for any emergency that might come along in the future. It is too easy to be complacent and think that our services will never be needed. Well, don't tell that to the folks along the Gulf Coast!

Let me remind you that one of the reasons why Amateur Radio exists in the first place is to serve as a trained pool of men and women who can provide radio communication in times of natural disasters or in this day and age of terrorist attacks. Homeland Security for example takes Amateur Radio seriously. And we should too.

VARA is more than a social club. VARA provides a service that may one day save lives. So I want the club under the direction of David Tanks (AD4TJ) to take emergency communications seriously. I hope that David will give us some much needed training at one or more of our club meetings.

Now let me ask you a question. If you were called upon to provide emergency communications for some undefined emergency, would you be able to do so? Do you have a radio, antenna, power supply, and misc. stuff ready to go? This winter might be just the time to prepare to have equipment ready to go at a moments notice.

By the way, I know that a lot of hams have call sign license plates on their cars. Did you know that according to Virginia law, that in order to have call sign license plates you are required to carry radio equipment (to communicate) on board (that does not mean a 6 transistor radio).

As you might have guessed, one of the things I am concerned with as your president is our ability to respond to an emergency fully prepared. So part of my agenda for this year is to improve our capability to respond when needed.

On a different subject, VARA will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of the month at Lynn's Pancake House on Route 250 in Waynesboro for at least the next six months. If you happen to know of a better place where we can meet, by all means let me know.

One final comment, when you come to a meeting bring your ideas and your suggestion to Al (N3JB). He is our program director and he needs some help in putting programs together. He needs your input! So don't be shy.

I look forward to seeing you on the first Tuesday in February.

73, Greg, W4GRC

MARA President's Message

Thanks for the opportunity to serve you.

I had a talk with the Manager at Traditions Restaurant. She said we have the meeting room for every "First-Thursdays of the month" except for the month of April. (She had already booked the first Thursday in April, but has us penciled in for the second Thursday for that month.)

We are working on some great and interesting programs for this year. And don't forget, Field Day will be here before we know it.

Get on the radio and let me hear you talking!

Gene, KG4JBC

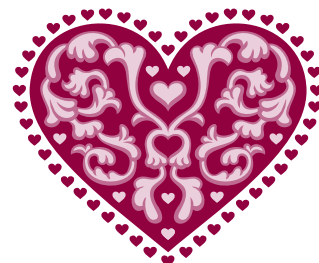
How to Keep Your XYL in Tune

Hams are reminded that February 14 is considered a special day by XYL's.

No, you won't find it listed in any of the ham contest calendars or hamfest schedules, but you should consider it as important as the CQ WW WPX contest, the November Sweepstakes, Berryville, or the Dayton Hamvention.

The simple gesture of taking the time to buy a \$2 card will go further towards keeping your radio hobby enjoyable than any \$400 beam or \$1600 amplifier.

You might even consider taking her to a nice restaurant on top of it! Remember, the date is February 14.



Neighbors in the News – All the Gossip That's Fit to Print

BOB VAN FOSSEN, K3DJG, is recuperating nicely from his knee replacement surgery. Sporting a new stainless steel bionic knee joint, Bob was able to make it to the Wendy's ham luncheon last week, with his XYL Laura serving as chauffer.

OPAL DILLON, widow of OZZIE DILLON KD4RD, passed away January 24. Ozzie died in 2003 at age 87. Opal had been suffering from failing health for several months. There will be no formal service, and she will be cremated per her wishes.

JUNE WALDMULLER KC4PKC, widow of Dick Waldmuller WB8GIF is moving January 29 to be closer to her kids. She still lives in Ohio, and will advise her friends of her new address and phone number once she gets settled.

E.C. SHOWALTER KG4KUR, and GAYLE SHULL KU4XN, are both getting nice and tan on



their Florida Winter Retreats down near Orlando. They had planned to work us poor snow-shoveling saps here in the valley on 20 meters, but at the bottom of the sunspot cycle, the band didn't cooperate. They plan to bring a bucket full of Florida sand back to show everyone when they return in a few months.



MIKE SOLOMON KJ4RM, is home for a few days recuperating nicely after the first of his bone marrow transplants. He has to go back to Richmond weekly and appreciates all the contact with the local hams.

JOE PEHAN, WD4LIG, the featured ham of the month in January's Monitor, lost his mother late in December.



STEVE DAVIS, KI4CGI, lost his sister back in December. She had been in declining health for some time. Her funeral was held in Pinehurst, NC.

DON LANDES, WX4C, has been gallivanting all over the U.S. in his APRS-equipped truck, and wants everyone to know that they can follow his track at: <http://snipurl.com/dv60>



BRYAN FORDHAM, KG4JOE, harmonic of DAVID KD9LA and DEBBIE KB4WPE, recently became the senior co-pilot based in Key West Florida for Gulfstream International Airlines. Gulfstream is



Continental's regional carrier serving Florida and the Caribbean and operates more than 200 scheduled daily flights, not including the twice-daily flights between Miami and Havana, Cuba. On his days off, Bryan has a second job crewing a tourist submarine for a local marina, exploring the coral reefs in the Gulf waters

This is the only tourist submarine in North America and weighs 120 tons, holds 45 passengers, and is rated to 1500 feet. (*What a life – ed.*)



GERRY BRUNK, K4RBZ, worked valley stations via Eastcars, Southcars, Midcars, and Everything-Else-Cars on 40 meters, on his recent trip to Texas. No, that's not a ten-gallon hat, more like a quart-and-a-half.

KEN MILLER K8KMM from Franklin West Virginia was one of the hams working KD9LA on Dave's recent three-week DXpedition to South Carolina.

The father of **DAVID TANKS, AD4TJ**, Augusta County EC, passed away early Saturday morning, January 13.

ED GOOD KC4HYO and his XYL GLORIA are settling in nicely in their new home not too far from the coast of Virginia Beach.

Morse Code Will No Longer Be Required for Ham Radio Licenses February 23

The ARRL reports that the effective date for the FCC Report and Order eliminating the Morse Code requirement for ham licenses is Friday, February 23.

On and after that date, applicants for a General or Extra class ham license will no longer be required to demonstrate proficiency in Morse Code. They'll still have to pass the written examination.

Once the revised rules are in place, an applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) may redeem it for an upgrade. (CSCE's is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, no exceptions.)

For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid CSCE for Element 3 may apply at a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) test session, pay the application fee, and receive an instant upgrade to General. An applicant holding a CSCE for Element 4 can receive an instant upgrade to Extra.

The ARRL has posted all relevant information on this and several other important rule changes on the website: <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>

Featured Ham of the Month



January's featured ham of the month (left) was Joe Pehan, WD4LIG. This is the second month in a row that we've featured a real honest-to-goodness JOE Ham. This Joe was born in Germany, and still has a trace of Prussian accent when you talk to him. He served as primary costumer for the world-famous singing group, "The Statler Brothers" for several decades before retiring. Joe is quite active in public service events.

This month's featured ham is shown to the right. A resident of the far northern recesses of Rockingham County, this old-timer is a true institution on two-meter FM in the valley. Widely known for his on-air personality, he is almost as famous for hosting an annual Bash in the late 1990's and early 2000's, gathering scores of hams to the mountain knob bearing his name. He retired from the government where he did something he can't talk much about. His QTH sports an authentic working two-seater (not on wheels, either). Active in the local fire department, he is often found warming the bench at the local General Store when he's not at Golden Corral. Who is he?

JMU CISAT Antenna Struck by Lightning

Sometime between last October and January 13, the dual-band 2m/440 base station antenna owned and operated by the James Madison University Wireless Experimenter's Group was struck by lightning.



Because of the well-designed grounding system and good connection maintenance with the grounding cables and bus, no radio equipment was damaged. The current apparently went right down the structural steel into the earth.

But the antenna itself was split open from the strike and ruined.

(This antenna is part of a monitoring system which is separate from the power-generation monitoring station featuring the twin

antennas on the tower holding the CISAT wind turbine.)

Station trustee David Fordham KD9LA reports that the struck antenna has been removed by JMU physical facilities personnel and probably won't be replaced.



N1QEQ's Proposal for Easy Rockingham Medical Center Ham Access in Emergencies/Disasters

I met with the Security folks at RMH. I explained the idea I had to make it much easier to gain access to the radio system on the 4th floor of the Cancer Center. My proposal was as follows:

- RMH creates an official ID card for all those who have been checked out on the RMH radio system.
- Those ID cards will be kept in the Security Office just inside the main door of the Emergency Room on the left. This is an ID card ONLY and not an access-type card.
- Should the need arise, just stop at the security office, identify yourself, drivers license, etc and your badge will be issued. A Security Guard will escort you to the Conference Room/ Storage area on the 4th floor. When you are finished, call Security (ext) and notify them that you are finished. They will check and lock the doors.
- Return the ID badge to Security.

They seemed receptive to this idea. RMH will create a unique ID card for each trained and authorized ham operator which will contain:

- Massanutten Amateur Radio Club
- Picture of individual
- Name of individual.
- Club Logo or possibly ARRL. (do we have a MARA logo?)

At the next club meeting on Thursday, Feb 1, 2007, I will be taking pictures of all present that are on the list they have. They were very cooperative and thought the proposal would eliminate any communications problems.

If you are on the list and cannot attend the meeting, please let me know and I will arrange to get your picture taken.

I hope to be able to access the system to be on the net a week from Monday.

As soon as the badges are ready and verified, I will advise.

I think this type of system could also be used at the EOC Center. Comments?

Bob Steere, N1QEQ

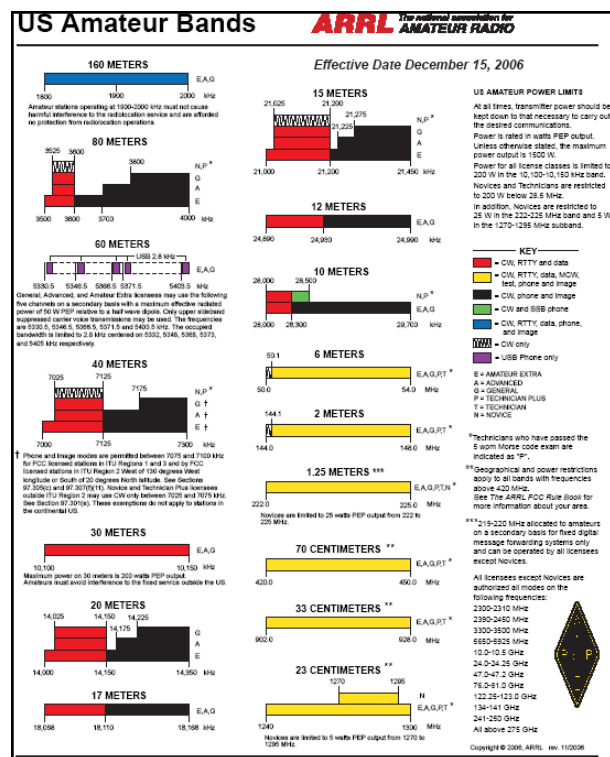
New Band Chart Available

Thanks to James McDowell IV KI4FZY for calling our attention to the availability of the new ARRL band-plan chart. This new chart shows the new operating privileges effective with the re-farming of the novice frequencies by the FCC last month.

You can get your own copy by downloading the chart from the ARRL website at:

http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/Hamband_s_color.pdf

(be sure the URL is all on one line!)



Richmond FrostFest: February 18

Don't Forget: The Richmond Frostfest will be held Sunday, February 18 at the normal location. Once again, several local hams will be sponsoring a table, providing a convenient place for meeting, hanging out, and sitting and resting a spell. For information, contact Jay Suter W4QDC at 540-434-7750.

The Opinionated One: Letter from the Water Company

The following notice appeared in the envelope with my water bill this month:

Dear Valued Customer:

We are pleased to announce that your water and sewer company was recently acquired by the Chase-Citi-First-Telecom-ISP-Cable Consolidated Utility Company. This is in keeping with our philosophy of corporate growth. We welcome you to our family. You probably recognize our name. We are a global company providing Internet, telephone, cellular, cable TV, and banking & credit card services to billions of people around the world.

Beginning February 1, we will be delivering your water and sewer services with the **exact same level of customer service** you have come to expect from your cable TV, cellular phone, internet, banking, and credit card providers!

You will shortly receive detailed information on changes we are making to your water and sewer service. Please read all 795 pages of tiny 3-point fine print as soon as you receive it.

Here are some of the major changes you can expect.

UPGRADED WATER: Effective February 1, we will be upgrading the water provided to our customers. We are investing millions of dollars to replace our network of pumps, pipes and valves with state-of-the-art equipment so we can provide you the latest in water technology. During this upgrade, some of our customers may experience service interruptions of up to several days. Thank you for your understanding and patience as we work to serve you better.

A few of our customers (those in houses built more than six months ago) will find that this new water is incompatible with their conventional appliances. Items such as washing machines, dishwashers, sinks, and toilets may experience leaking, rusting, exploding, and other minor problems. To avoid this, we suggest you promptly upgrade your appliances.

Why are we making this change? To better serve you and to offer you the service you have come to expect from your modern service partners! This new water allows us to tailor and customize our service and billing offerings as described in the next section.

IMPROVED SUBSCRIPTION OFFERINGS: In order to provide you with better service, effective February 1, we will be discontinuing the present flat-rate billing arrangement for your water and sewer service. Customers must now choose from a number of different options designed to better meet the individual needs of each customer. This new level of service is possible because of enhancements in technology: We will be delivering water that can be used only for specific purposes. This way, we can offer different billing plans to suit the many different lifestyles of our customers, just as we do for our Internet, banking, cellular and telephone customers.

You will be required to select one of over two thousand, eight

hundred and sixty four different subscription plans. Choose the plan that best meets your needs. Some of our more popular plans are listed below:

Basic Service Plan: This plan provides 6 gallons of drinking water per month, with 6 gallons for flushing toilets. Water used over this amount will be charged at the rate of \$20 per gallon. Water will not be available for any other purpose under this plan. This plan is popular with our elderly customers and others on fixed incomes and costs only \$240* per month.

Enhanced Service Plan: For our customers who drink bottled water, this plan provides 6 gallons for flushing toilets, and 139 gallons for rinsing out your empty water bottles for recycling. Water over this amount will be charged at the rate of \$20 per gallon. This plan is popular with environmentalists and Californians, and costs only \$315* per month.

Super Enhanced Service Plan: This plan provides only 3 gallons of drinking water per month, but allows up to 20 gallons for bathing. This should be sufficient for two 10-minute showers per month. (See the important note below about hot water.) This plan is available in most areas for only \$350* per month. It is popular with those who have access to toilets at their place of employment.

OPTIONAL ADD-ONS: Available with most (but not all!) of the 2,864 service plans, are 21,565 options that may be purchased individually or in combination. (**Note:** options must be added on for a minimum of 120 months.) One of the more popular options is the laundry option which offers 20 gallons per month for washing clothes for \$50 per month. **Note:** water delivered after February 1 can be used only with approved washing machines; washing machines manufactured before 2006 are incompatible with the new water and will require replacement or upgrade. **Note:** we reserve the right to stop offering any option at any time. If we stop offering an option you are receiving, you will be charged a \$20 termination fee.

*** Important NOTE:** Prices shown above do not include taxes, fees, surcharges, cost-recoupments, special assessments, government upcharges, profit-insurance fees, fuel surcharges, billing fees, pipe fees, flow fees, meter rental, and the thousand other things you will find on your bill. Your final bill might be considerably higher than the quoted price for any given plan, — just like your present bill for Internet service, telephone, cellular, and credit card charges.

A NOTE ABOUT HOT WATER: Under legislation recently passed to promote consumer safety, individual consumers are now prohibited by federal law from heating their own water if their local water company offers pre-heated water.

Since our company offers pre-heated water, you are covered under this new law, even though the only customers we can presently deliver preheated water to are those living in Wassupbro, Montana.

If you presently have a hot water heater, it will no longer work after February 1. Rest assured we are working diligently to expand our service and hope to make hot water available in your local area very soon.

Once we begin offering hot water in your area, we will notify you. Unlike the water you had to heat yourself, the new service requires different pipes and equipment in your home. The new law allows us to charge a one-time installation fee of \$6,400 to recoup our expenses.

We plan to be able to offer hot water to all customers in your area by the Spring of 2023, but this date is subject to change.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFERS: Periodically we offer new services. Customers who sign up during the initial promotional period will be able to lock-in the introductory rate for their first five years. Of course, the introductory rate is several times higher than the regular rate will be if you wait — but we'll pressure you to sign up quickly to ensure you are eligible for the significant penalty for early cancellation!

IMPROVED BILLING : We are eliminating monthly paper statements and invoices, saving you money. Beginning February 1, we will introduce On-Line Payment. You can check your account and make payments on-line at our convenient website. We have a team of specialists working to ensure that this site offers you the ultimate in on-line service, the same exact level of service you have come to expect from the Chase-Citi-First Consolidated banking, ISP, credit-card, cable TV, Internet, and cellular phone web-based customer services! Simply go to your web browser, enter your password, and wait for 10 minutes for the Real-Player Quicktime video commercials to complete, then sit back and enjoy reading the Error 404 message. After your computer has locked up, simply re-boot and repeat. (For security reasons, we will inactivate your password every time you log on properly. This is for your protection.)

IMPROVED PHONE-BASED CUSTOMER SERVICE: Surveys indicate that our customers hate having to call customer service reps to fix billing errors. We responded to this feedback. You will be pleased to know that we have eliminated all customer service reps and replaced them with a touch-tone-based system. This is the same system you have come to expect in your other utility services. If you experience a problem with your bill, simply call the toll-free number printed on the bottom of the paper statement (which you will no longer receive, remember?) and listen to the options (or music or busy signals, which many of our customers find relaxing) until you decide the problem isn't worth it and hang up.

We are proud to report that in 2006, we had a 100% resolution rate: our customers were never able to find a menu option dealing with their particular problem. This complete ab-

sence of reported errors was a major factor in our obtaining the coveted ISO 9000 quality certification in 2006!

NEW ACCOUNTING FEES: As with your banks and credit card companies, we are modifying the interest fees and late charges, including those we charge you even if you are on-time with your payment. These fees will change weekly and will include late payment fees, on-time fees, interest, check acceptance fees, service continuation fees, disconnect charges, reconnect charges, and other similar accounting items. (These are separate from the taxes, fees, and charges which are part of your normal monthly bill.) These accounting-related charges are allowed by law and are consistent with the charges you now find on your telephone bill, electric bill, internet service bill, credit card statements, and other services we provide. In this way, we can double or triple your bill and still tell the state regulators that we have lowered our rates — all without sacrificing any of the revenue required by our service upgrades (and the debt burden caused by our leveraged buyout of your water company!)

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT: We are dedicating an entire department to continuous improvement of our customer service. You can expect changes each and every month intended to improve the way you do business with us. For example, we will be continually changing our website options, layout, and design in an effort to improve service. Every month, the menus will be completely and totally different. This continual improvement philosophy will also extend to our phone numbers, which we'll change at least weekly, sometimes more often. We'll also be changing the actual physical location where our employees work: every time you come to visit us, we'll be at a new location.

EMPLOYEE TRAINING PROGRAM: To keep your costs low, we have outsourced many of our functions. For example, repair of all underground pipes in your area is now performed by craftsmen in the mountain village of Jhrurabi Burkhanistan via the Internet. We have ongoing employee training programs, beginning with how to speak English. We expect that by 2013, all our maintenance employees will know how to turn off a water valve.

NAME CHANGE: Unfortunately, our new computer systems in Burkhanistan will require all customers to legally change their names to use only the letters B, K, I, P, and Y. All customers must change their legal names by March 1. We are not responsible for the costs you incur to change your name or to notify your families, friends, and business partners of your new name.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR PATIENCE. We know that growth and improvement often mean minor inconvenience. But we thank you for your understanding as we continue to work hard to bring your water and sewer service up to the exact same level of convenience, cost savings, and satisfaction that you have come to expect from providers of your 21st-century utility, banking, and financial services!

KB4WPE's Response to the Article "How to Keep Your XYL In Tune"

My OM, KD9LA, asked me to proofread this newsletter – and lo and behold, there on page 2 was an article about Valentine's Day!

It was the same old "Don't forget to give your wife a card and take her out to dinner" routine. Yeah, right.

My dear hams, a card and dinner out is just a bare minimum "formula" – something to let you think you can get by on Valentine's Day. It is the product of an impaired romantic gene (which usually gets deactivated by eating wedding cake anyway).

So let me help you out.

The secret to keeping your XYL happy for Valentine's Day is to be original, unpredictable, and most of all, romantic.

What woman wouldn't brag to her friends that her husband dressed the dog up like a horse and used a whole roll of aluminum foil to make himself a knight-in-shining-armor costume to woo her for Valentine's Day?

But you don't have to go to such extremes.

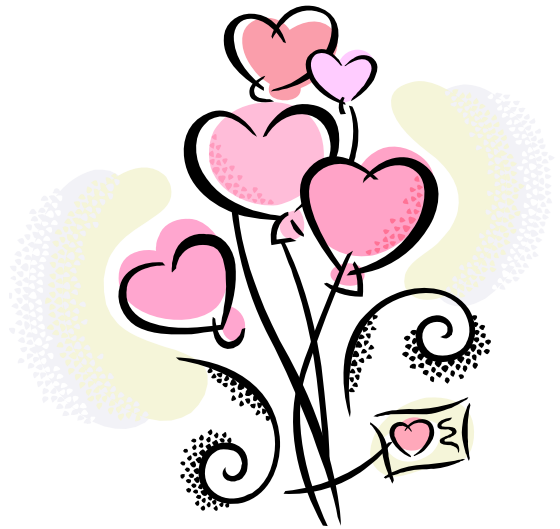
Try the following ideas, which are not only thoughtful, but relatively cheap as well!

Buy a small bag of miniature chocolates (I personally love the dark Lindt balls you can get at most grocery stores and Walmart for \$2-3 a bag). Hide them individually around the house with a note on each one expressing gratitude for something she does for you. You score extra points for being specific. For example, instead of saying "Thank you for cooking" say "Thank you for making your wonderful chicken pot pie."

Do a chore that she normally hates to do. Vacuum the coils under the fridge. Scrub the bathroom (especially the toilet). Dust up high. Wash the screen in the window over the kitchen sink. Wipe down that grimy area around the kitchen garbage can. You know what she hates to do. So spend a couple of minutes doing it!

Dust off the tape player, CD, or stereo and have some lovely music playing that you enjoyed together when you were first married. Extra points if you offer to dance with her in the living room. Now *this* is romantic!

Sit her down, get on your knees, look her in the eyes, and tell her that you are grateful she has stayed married to you all these years, that you don't deserve her, and that you still



love her. (and don't choke or laugh when you do this, either. — ed., speaking from experience). Tell her that marrying her is the smartest thing you ever did and if you had to do it over, you would do it all again – with her.

Write a poem about your life together, highlighting important events.

Look at your house as a stranger would see it. A woman judges herself, to some extent, by how her home looks. Look at the frayed rugs, worn curtains, stained tablecloths, etc. and take her out to replace something. **Warning:** Very few men have the ability to pick something out on their own. Let HER pick it out. Your job is to pay for it, carry it, and say it looks nice.

Cook dinner for her. Put some effort into figuring what she does, and doesn't, like to eat.

After dinner, play a game with her or take her for a walk to the park or the mall. Spend time with her doing something other than watching television.

If you use any of these suggestions, you are sure to score plenty of Valentine's points. If she thinks you thought of them yourself, all the better. I'll never tell!

(PS - The gauntlet is thrown down, KD9LA. Next month, everyone will be asking what YOU did for ME!)

Debbie, KB4WPE

Editor's note: the opinions and recommendations expressed above are the sole responsibility of the article's author, and do not necessarily reflect the position of the editor/publisher of the Monitor.

VARA Secretary's Report: January 2 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Lynn's Restaurant in Waynesboro on January 2, 2007. The President, Greg Czerniak W4GRC, opened the meeting at 7:00pm. There were 25 members present and 5 guests, Bob VanFossen K4DJG, Laura VanFossen, Robert Wilson K14GST, Angel Wilson and John Fiske K14QQX.

Welcome to all our visitors, we would like to have you back for next month's meeting.

2007 Officers are:

President: Greg Czerniak, W4GRC
Vice Presiden: Jeff Rinehart, W4PJV
Treasurer: Doug Tippett N8ESW
Secretary: Ray Colvin KE4HVR
Program Manager: Al Bonck N3JB

CLUB DUES: If you haven't renewed your VARA Membership, it's time to get that done.

50/50 was won by Fred Evans N4KYM...How many miles will that take you on your scooter?

BPL Donation: The club voted to send \$500 to the Spectrum Defense Fund.

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

Virginia's 400th Anniversary Special Event plans are underway.

Fire Stations: Planning is under way to get fire stations equipped with antennas and coax for emergency use.

VARA in 2007...we would like to see an increase in attendance so mark your calendars for the 1st Tuesday of each month and invite a guest.

ON THE SICK LIST:

Denny Morland N4XPW I e-mailed Denny, he said that he was doing ok at home now.

Mike Solomon KJ4RM had the first half of his bone marrow transplant and his white blood count is beginning to come back.

Joe Pehan's W4LIG Mother passed away near the end of December.

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 7:35pm.

Submitted By:
VARA Secretary
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

Augusta County ARES Net

The Augusta County ARES Net will meet on the air at 8:00 pm on Thursday, February 8. The net will use the 146.85 repeater, which requires PL of 131.8.

VOLUNTEER FCC EXAMS:
Every second Saturday of every even numbered month, VE exams are held in the Woodmen of the World building on Highway 42 in Dayton, VA. The next exam is February 10.

MARA Secretary's Report: January 4 2007 Meeting

1. Reports

New member applications:
Shannon W3SML and Rachel KB4FWB – approved.

b. Secretary's report: Minutes approved as printed in Monitor.

c. Treasurer 's report balance was \$1775.19

d. Groups :
ARES/RACES - discussed December mini-SET as was printed in the Monitor

VE - Next VE session is Feb. 10, 2007

No public service report

2. Announcements:

Blue Jump suits from KC3AN and N4VZC via W3HXX to be given away

Hugh K3EC Leaving Park Gables to live in Staunton and will be leaving his antenna at VMRC

Wilbur S. Pence Middle School, Ray K4NRA will need hams to talk to his class for unit on ham radio

3. Old Business

none

4. New Business

Discussion to stay at Traditions with an increased dinner cost to \$12.54 Motion made and seconded to keep meeting at Traditions on the first Thursday of the month. Motion passed.

Foundation for Amateur radio announcement read concerning scholarships. Check the ARRL web site for additional information

Introductions were made all around.

5. Program: The New 800Mhz Emergency radio system for Rockingham/Harrisonburg was discussed by David KB4CLI

Submitted by:

Bryan Daniels, K4RMY

MARA Secretary

Calendar of Upcoming Events

February 1: MARA Meeting

February 3-4: 10-10 International QSO Party

February 5: Rockingham County ARES Simplex net

February 6: VARA Meeting

February 8: Augusta County ARES Net (146.85)

February 10: VE Exams in Dayton, VA

February 10-11: CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest

February 12: Rockingham County ARES Net

February 17-18: ARRL international DX Contest CW

February 18: Richmond Frostfest

February 19: Rockingham County ARES Net

February 24-25: CQ WW 160-Meter Contest SSB

February 25: Annandale (Vienna) Hamfest

February 26: Rockingham County ARES Net

March 1: MARA Meeting

March 3-4: ARRL International DX Contest Phone

March 6: VARA Meeting

March 3-4: ARRL International DX Contest Phone

March 17-19: Virginia QSO Party

March 24-25: CQ WW WPX Contest SSB

Rockingham County ARES/RACES Net Control Operator Schedule

This net meets every Monday night at 8:00 pm local time.

Any net control operator is welcome to use the Rockingham County EOC center station to run your net. Contact Bryan Daniels, K4RMY, and he'll meet you at the EOC at 7:30 to give you access and get things set up.

February 5: (simplex 146.55) **Bryan Daniels K4RMY**

February 12: (147.225 rptr) **Hugh Pettis K3EC**

February 19: (147.225 rptr) **Norman Benner KA4EEN**

February 26: (147.225 rptr) **Gayle Shull KU4XN**

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!!) _____

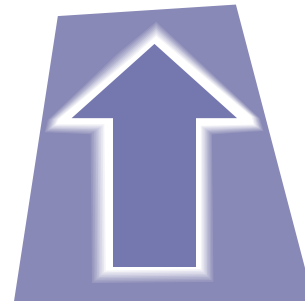
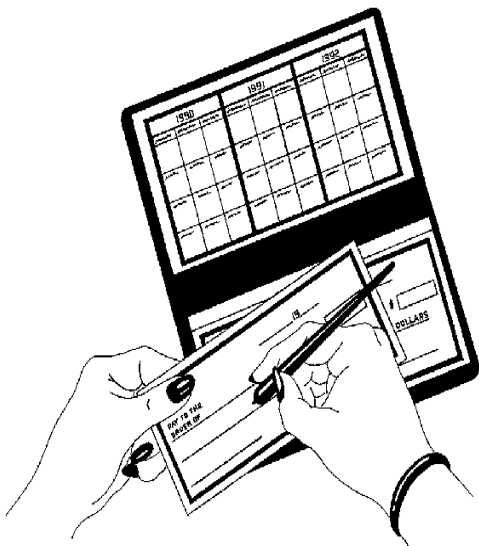
MEMBER ARRL (Y/N) _____ REGISTERED ARES (Y/N) _____ REGISTERED MEMBER VA-RACES (Y/N) _____ RACES TRAINED (Y/N) _____

SKYWARN ID if trained: _____ 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

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



If you didn't renew at the club meeting, or send in your check last month, stop right now and go get your checkbook and renew your club dues using the handy form above. This is the last issue of the Monitor you will receive if you don't!

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 Tippet, 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 Tippet
2348 Mosley St.
Waynesboro VA 22980