

January
2009

The Monitor

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

VARA Club Meeting: January 6

The Valley Amateur Radio Association's January meeting will be held January 6 at Shoney's Restaurant in Brands Flats, US 250 just east of Staunton, at I-81. Dinner begins around 6:00 pm, and the business meeting begins at 7:00 pm. Visitors are welcome.

MARA Club Meeting: January 8 (NOTE DATE CHANGE)

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its January meeting on Thursday, January 8. This is the SECOND Thursday, so note the change.

Dinner begins at 6:30 pm at the Wood Grill Buffet on Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg. After a short business meeting at 7:30, the group will disperse to the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center 1 block north of Court Square, for a behind-the-scenes tour of the new facility, led by Captain Jim Junkins.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to see something that most citizens will never be able to see in person. All hams and guests are invited.



MARA President's Message: MARA Banquet Sets New Attendance Record

The MARA club Christmas Banquet had a total of **eighty-five (85)** attendees this year! This is absolutely amazing, especially when you remember that we were struggling to get a minimum of 20 members at a regular club meeting at the beginning of 2008. I'd like to thank Gene Rodgers KG4JBC for his leadership over the past two years. It's not everyday that we have someone who lives **over an hour away** volunteer to spend his time to serve our club. Hat's off to Gene for all his time and efforts on our behalf.

And thanks also to Bryan Daniels for the many hours he spent as club Secretary. He still is spending hours and hours as our local emergency communications coordinator. It's nice to have him still on the Board as a Director.

And thanks to Sandy K4PZC for volunteering to serve another year as Mr. Moneybags. And to Gayle KU4XN for his service on the Board and as VE Coordinator. And to Sheryl KJ4DOC for volunteering to be Secretary this coming year. With the other Board members, including Gerry K4RBZ and Ray K4NRA, we have a lot of enthusiasm and energy in the club leadership this year. Who knows, we might even be able to build the club into a proverbial "powerhouse". With your help, sure we can.

David Fordham, KD9LA

K4TMH: Neat VHF/UHF Stuff For Sale

Todd Harrison, K4TMH, has just moved and is getting ready to reorganize his shack, and is looking for a good home for the following spare items:

Diamond CP22E 2m Base Antenna: \$25

Hustler G6-440 70cm Base/Repeater Antenna \$50

Cushcraft 124WB 4-element 2M beam \$25

Diamond V2000A Tri-Band Antenna 6M, 2M 70cm \$50

Diamond DPGH62 6m 21' Antenna, one ground radial damaged, \$50

MFJ 1276 TNC \$30

Alinco DR-430 (70cm transceiver) with 100-channel memory expansion \$75

GE Mastr-II UHF Radios \$20 each

Please contact Todd at todd@k4tmh.com or phone him at 540-289-3860.

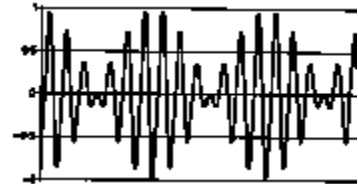


W4YJ's QSL Card Collection Available

Gwen Short Munzer, Oscar Short's daughter, is seeking someone who might be interested in her father's QSL card collection. The cards fill two heavy cartons and represent over 70 years of DX'ing by W4YJ, who became a silent key last year.

Gwen can be reached at 540-574-3808.

Information provided by Hugh Pettis K3EC



Dues are Due!

If you haven't already done so, fill out the renewal form at the end of this issue, and mail in your dues.

DO IT NOW while you are thinking about it!

2009 FrostFest – Saturday February 7 (yes, Saturday!)

As announced in last month's Monitor, the Richmond Frostfest is scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2009, at the Richmond Raceway. This is the same place it was last year. The price this year has gone up slightly, but the Frostfest is offering a discount to early-bird ticket purchasers. Check out their website for details:

<http://www.Frostfest.com>

W4PJW: On the Road Again... Plus: A Chance to Use the 60-meter Band

My brother Roger, N4KQH and I (W4PJW) are traveling to see my sister Melanie and my other sister Becky K8ESS. The two sisters live in Corpus Christie, Texas with their husbands and families. We are going to do some projects for them and pick up some antique furniture.

Roger and I will be on the road all day Wednesday and Thursday and at least half a day on Friday, December 31 - January 2. We will be in Texas for about a week. The current plan is to leave there to return to the valley Friday January 9 (possibly leaving on Thursday even - I'll let you know) and be on the road all day that Friday, Saturday and most of the day Sunday, January 9, 10, and 11

I plan to be on HF as well as have my APRS tracker running for the entire trip.

Our APRS tracker location can be checked on the Internet.



If you aren't familiar with how to do the internet tracking thing, then the simplest thing to do is to do a Google search for W4PJW-14 and click on the link that is from the "Find-U" site. This is usually the top - first choice - just click on it and at the top of the resulting page you will see a description of our location and how long it has been since we were last heard from.

If you want to see the track of how we have been traveling, just look down the left side of that page and click on "display track". This page does not automatically update so you will need to click on "refresh" in your browser or come back later to see how far we have moved.

Here is my plan for HF.

I have been trying to get 60 meters to work from the mobile and have succeeded but can only run half power on that band so I may not be too strong - 40 and 20 meters seem to work properly.

Wednesday December 31 - 9am and 10am

Thursday January 1 - 9am 10am 2pm and 4pm

I plan to first try and make contact on 40 meters MID-cars 7258. If no one shows up after 10 minutes, I will move to 60 meters - channel 4 first then channel 5. If no one can hear me after 10 minutes I will move to 20 meters 14.317 plus or minus QRM.

Friday January 2 - 9am and 10am only

I plan to first try and make contact on 40 meters MID-cars 7258. If no one shows up after 10 minutes, I will move to 60 meters - channel 4 first then channel 5. If no one can hear me after 10 minutes I will move to 20 meters 14.317 plus or minus QRM.

RETURN TRIP - This may be moved up a day to leaving on Thursday instead of Fri - I'll let you know.

Friday January 9 and Saturday January 10 - 9am 10am 2pm 4pm

I plan to first try and make contact on 40 meters MID-cars 7258. If no one shows up after 10 minutes, I will move to 60 meters - channel 4 first then channel 5. If no one can hear me after 10 minutes I will move to 20 meters 14.317 plus or minus QRM.

Sunday January 11 - 9am 10am and 2pm

I plan to first try and make contact on 40 meters MID-cars 7258. If no one shows up after 10 minutes, I will move to 60 meters - channel 4 first then channel 5.

It's always fun to play radio when you're on the road traveling, and the fun is doubled if you can talk to the stations back home. And on this trip, the icing on the cake is: someone else is driving!

See you on the bands...

Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW



W3HXH: 70 Years as a Ham!

Rev. Richard Weaver W3HXH, was recognized at the MARA Christmas Banquet for being a licensed amateur radio operator for 70 years, as of December 24, 2008.

Richard was 19 years old when he hitched a ride with a goat farmer to Washington D.C. over 90 miles away (an all-day trip back then) to take his exam at the FCC offices.

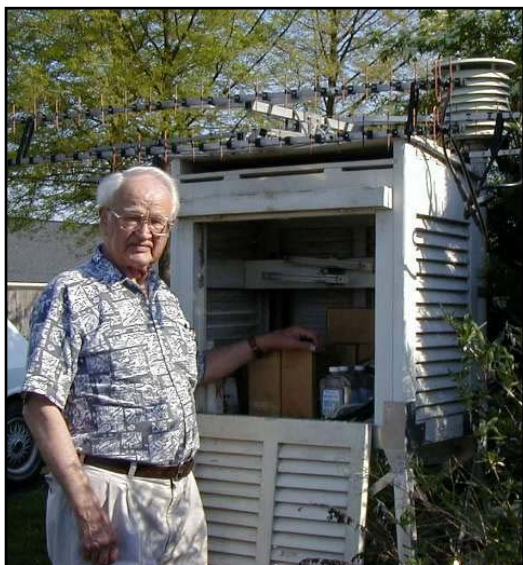
His first ticket arrived on Christmas Eve, 1938, and he was on the air the very next morning. Richard will soon be celebrating his 90th birthday.

Richard is widely known as the “weatherman” of Dale Enterprise, being the only “official” manned NOAA observing station in the Valley.

Richard was also honored by a very nice article in the Harrisonburg Daily News-Record on December 29.



Photos by KD9LA



WA4E Back On the Air? Nahhh... Must Be Some Mistake.

Several hams reported that Mark Payne WA4E was heard transmitting on 2-meters recently. Can this be true? Move over, Loch Ness, Bigfoot, and UFO's! If you believe this, next thing you know, someone will be claiming that they heard WV3J, N4ZKH, K9GCS, KF4BFL, or N9AHQ on the air! One word: Horsefeathers!



W3MMC Repeater: Now WA4NIC Repeater

Bob Niemeyer has formally turned over the reins of the Big Mountain Repeater to Lewis Hensley, WA4NIC. Lew's call now appears on the repeater ID.

The repeater requires PL of 131.5 Hz.

This machine has been a great asset to the valley and travelers up and down I-81. Lew has spent many hours over the past few years maintaining this machine and its power supply and antenna system for the benefit of the local ham population.

Thanks to both Bob and Lew for all the money, time, effort, and work they've invested in this fine machine.

Buck's Elbow Repeater PL Changes

With the new ownership of the 146.895 repeater on Buck's Elbow Mountain, the PL tone has changed.

The new trustees, the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club WA4TFZ, now maintain a PL input requirement of 151.4 Hz.

This repeater has great coverage over most of Augusta and southern Rockingham Counties, and can reach over the Blue Ridge into Charlottesville, Lovingson, Ruckersville, and east on towards Richmond.

Be sure to reprogram the new PL into your rig's memories.



On the Up-Swing...

KD4OXQ

Jay was able to make it to the MARA Christmas Banquet, and his recuperation from his stroke is coming along nicely.

W3MMC

Bob Niemeyer reports that doctors have removed a Cadillac from his right eye, and plan to remove another one from his left in about two weeks.

Well, uh, maybe that should be **cataract**?

Anyway, Bob is also going in to have some plumbing work done in another couple of weeks, too. He has a 7 cm aneurism on his aorta which doctors want to splint up a bit.

Or, maybe that's "stent" up a bit.

KU4XN

Rumor has it that Gayle's broken ankle is healing enough for him and Gail to make the trip to sunny Florida to join KG4KUR in the sunshine state. Best wishes for a safe trip. Say 'hi' to E.C. for us while you're down there!



W4POL

Although no official word has been received, reports have been circulating that Jim Lehman's chemo treatments are slowly but surely having an effect. He is presently scheduled for only one more treatment. Congratulations, Jim. We're looking forward to seeing Jim back on the air and at the club meetings soon.

KC8TEN

Dan Hale's house caught fire last week and burned down, destroying quite a bit of his family's possessions. Dan was injured in the fire, and spent a bit of time in the hospital. He's out now and recuperating. Best wishes from the ham community for a speedy recovery.



Amateur Radio License Plates: Are You Breaking State Law? (Some of us are!)

A letter was recently distributed to certain law enforcement officials asking for increased attention to the Virginia state code regulating use of Amateur Radio License Plates on motor vehicles.

Virginia code Title 46.2 Chapter 6, paragraph 46.2-738, and related regulations allow the issuance and display of amateur radio license plates **ONLY** on a vehicle which is titled in the name of an actively licensed radio amateur, **AND** (*here's the kicker*) **"has equipment permanently installed in the vehicle capable of receiving and transmitting on the amateur radio bands."**

The letter was prompted by the discovery that a large number of amateur radio operators are driving vehicles that are in blatant violation of the law. In a recent check of 23 routine traffic stops involving vehicles registered with ham radio plates in the central part of the state, "21 of the 23 vehicles were not in compliance" with the law and did not have working amateur radio transmitting and receiving equipment permanently installed as required by the law.

The law applies to plates identifiable by the words "Amateur Radio" embossed and printed on the plate itself. (The law does not apply to vanity license plates with callsigns, only to real "Amateur Radio" plates.)

The letter advises that if the registrant of the vehicle bearing amateur radio plates is present in the vehicle (presumably when it is stopped for some other traffic infraction), the officer can require the demonstration "to the officer's satisfaction" that the equipment is working, is capable of both receiving and transmitting, and is permanently installed in the vehicle.

It goes on to say that handheld radios, handi-talkies, walkie-talkies and other portable gear is not considered permanently installed. Neither is a radio lying on the car seat, or on the floor.

The letter does, however, say that if a working radio is in a mounting, and the mounting is permanently installed in the vehicle, the radio is in compliance even if the radio can be easily and quickly removed from the mounting.

The letter points out that the requirement for "permanent installation" applies to the radio, and not

the antenna. It specifically states that a magnetic mounted antenna or other removable antenna does not affect compliance. Further, the presence of a permanently-affixed antenna does not prove compliance, but "the absence of any visible antenna" is likely, but not necessarily, an indication of non-compliance.

Registration can be cancelled for vehicles not in compliance. However, the letter urges officers to use care and discretion. The letter ends with a reminder that amateur radio operators who **are** in compliance are valuable assets to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

The message should be crystal clear. The law says that if you have ham plates on your car or truck, you are required to have a working ham radio permanently installed in that vehicle. Period. You signed a statement saying that you understood that when you obtained your ham radio license plates in Virginia.

(A check with the Department of Motor Vehicles on December 30, 2008 by your editor confirmed that this requirement has been in effect since the very first ham radio license plates were issued in Virginia, and the requirement has never been changed or relaxed or waived.)

The source who provided the copy of the letter wishes to remain anonymous, but feels like hams need to be reminded of their obligation under the law. A quick "heads-up" should allow many of us to get our vehicles into compliance without having to be reminded by an officer with blue lights and a badge.

While totally off the record, the source also mentioned that the closing paragraph of the letter (reminding officers that hams in compliance are valuable assets to the Commonwealth) might be a subtle hint that if a ham is caught in a minor infraction, maybe, just maybe, if the ham plays his cards right and is very polite and contrite and humble about it, the officer just might cut some slack on the ticket or fine for the other infraction.

Bottom line: never, ever argue with an officer!

Of course, if you don't have a working ham radio in your car when you're stopped for something else, well, ... you have now been warned! The chips may fall hard.

Take the hint: If you aren't in compliance, install a radio in your car, and make sure it's working!

The Opinionated One: A Ham Radio Phrasebook

In past issues, the Monitor has provided a few definitions of individual terms used by hams. But here is a list of common phrases found in the hobby, along with their meanings.

“I’ll catch you further down the log.” First off, no one knows what a “log” is. There’s speculation that a “log” might be remotely related to the computer program called “logging software”, used exclusively by contesters and rabid DX chasers. But this view is in dispute, mainly because contesters and DX-chasers are usually on HF, and this phrase is more commonly heard at the end of VHF contacts. Plus, contesters never ever take the time to say something as lengthy as “catch you further down the log”. And DX-chasers have absolutely no plans to ever work this station again as long as they live once they get the QSL card. So the link between a “log” and “logging software” is somewhat questionable. So what does this phrase mean? It’s just a fancy way of saying, “I’ve arrived at my destination so I have to get out of the car now. Goodbye.”

“He’s listening up six, dummy!” This phrase is often heard on the HF bands, and the word ‘dummy’ is substituted for any of a large number of words describing the outcome of various cross-species mating experiments. This phrase is used right after a sincere ham logically “comes back” to a rare DX station who was calling CQ. What the ham didn’t realize was the DX station is actually busy playing a game of hide-and-seek. Often the person helping the DX station play hide and seek is a guy called a “list manager” and he’s the one who probably told you to “Up Six”.

“Your audio is a little low” This can mean one of two things. Either, “I’m too darn lazy to turn up the volume on my receiver,” or “you must have one of those new Yaesu radios that doesn’t let you adjust the modulation.”

“Yep, yep, fer shure, hi-hi”. Some old hams (most of whom are dead by now) believed that this phrase meant laughter. But it can’t possibly mean laughter, because it has never in history been preceded with anything funny. About the best we can guess is, this phrase means “You just said something really, really stupid, and I’m too polite to say so.”

“QSL to my manager in the callbook, and green stamps are appreciated.” This phrase is most commonly given by a rare DX station that you really need to qualify for the next level of DXCC. It means, “if you don’t send my friend in the Cayman Islands a twenty-dollar bill, all you’ll get back is your own QSL card with the annotation, ‘sorry, not in log’.”

“I’ll QSL via Bureau, for sure”. This is generally said by a

ham who doesn’t even plan to print QSL cards, let alone actually fill one out or mail it. It’s simply one more way of saying, “Goodbye”.

“@%\$&, (expletive), #@!*+&! , @%!\$&*# , (expletive)”

This phrase often includes liberal use of excretory and reproductive slang terminology. Literally translated, this phrase actually means “The band-switch on your HF rig is now set to the 75-meter phone band.”

“Is this frequency in use?” This phrase is used by courteous hams on the HF bands 2 seconds before they kick on their 1500-watt amplifier to begin a three-hour ragchew with their neighbor across town. Protocol demands that before asking, “is this frequency in use?”, the ham must turn the volume on his receiver all the way down to zero so in the likely event someone says, “yes it is”, the ham can still claim the channel by explaining, “I asked six times and never heard anyone come back.”

“We’re actually finished, old man, just give us half a minute to say our seventy-three’s”. This phrase is the standard reply to a polite request to move up or down the band a few kilohertz to accommodate a fifty-member net, or a sked with a crystal-based wilderness station on battery power. Translated, this phrase means, “We’ll be here at least another half-hour, and by then the skip will have changed and the frequency will be occupied by two megawatt stations in Brazil who only speak Portuguese.”

“Just the Charlie Zulu station, the station ending in Charlie Zulu only, all others please stand by, just the Charlie Zulu, Charlie Zulu only please.” If you’ve ever listened to a pile-up, you’ll recognize that this phrase obviously means, “stations whose prefix begins with A, K, N, or W, please call now.”

“You’re not quite into the machine old man, try standing up a little higher on the ladder,” can mean one of four things. 1. “You’re silly to try to work a repeater using a handheld inside a metal automobile.” 2. “You’re silly to try to work this repeater from 90 miles away.” 3. “You’re silly to be using such an old radio with a bad microphone connector and such an old antenna with a ratty old crushed-up and kinked coax cable.” Or, more often than not, 4. “This repeater’s acting up again, but we’re too polite to mention it because if we do, the repeater owner might tell us to go up the mountain and fix it ourselves.”

“I snagged VP7 on my second call.” This means, “I called nine hours a day for six days, and then on the last day of the DXpedition, I got lucky and he came back to me after only two hours.”

“It never rains at Field Day.” This is the first part of a phrase whose remainder is never spoken because everyone who’s been to Field Day knows what the rest of the phrase is. For those of you who haven’t, the remainder of the phrase is, “... if you’re in the Sudanese Desert, but man oh man does it pour at Field Day up at Flagpole Knob, and you should see the lightning bolts, and the wind, and the bugs. But hey, it’s really a lot of fun spending hours and hours in the cold wet rain watching two other hams in a little makeshift trailer call ‘CQ Field Day’ till they’re more hoarse than last year’s Kentucky Derby winner.”

“This is the SouthCars net. This net meets daily to serve mobile stations.” This means, “If you’re mobile, don’t bother waiting around to check in, because this is really a ragchew net for retired old men at high-powered base stations in Tampa, Huntsville, and Indianapolis who lost their driver’s licenses over sixteen years ago shortly after their 80th birthday.”

“This is the MidCars net. This net meets daily to serve mobile stations...” This means, “If you’re mobile, don’t bother waiting around to check in, because this is really a ragchew net for old men (plus one woman) at high-powered base stations in Detroit, Waukegan, Louisville, and Des Moines so they can compare intimate details of their recent medical procedures.”

“This is the EastCars net. This net meets daily to serve mobile stations...” This means, “If you’re mobile, don’t bother trying to check in, because this is really a ragchew net for old men at high-powered base stations in Boston, Pittsburgh and Syracuse who take five hours trying to determine which one of them is going to be net control for the next 30 minutes.”

“I’m using a Kenwood 450 putting out 50 watts into a wire antenna at 30 feet.” What a lie. He’s using a Pro-III and a kilowatt amp into a \$1400 beam on a 150-foot tower, but wants to impress you with what a good operator he is. (The giveaway is the fact that he’s actually transmitting a fairly decent signal but yet he’s claiming that he’s using a Kenwood.)

“I’ll be happy to take a look at it. Maybe I can fix it for you, but it might be next week before I can get around to it.” This means, “We’ll both forget that you ever gave it to me and that it has an intermittent problem, and I’ll end up selling it for \$45 to some sucker at Berryville four years from now.”

“Where the blue-blazes is Wilda?” Phrase heard at the VARA club meeting every month where KB4OLM is in attendance. It means, “where the blue-blazes is Wilda?”

December VE Testing Session Report

The December 13 test session saw five (5) people show up for exams. All earned a license. Three were a couple of new Tech licenses, as well as a couple of upgrades.

Thanks to the hams who helped:

**E.C. Showalter KG4KUR
Mike McKay W4AZR
Ellsworth Neff K4LXG
Gerald Nauman KN4FM
Bob Van Fossen K4DJG**

Gayle Shull, KU4XN

Dates For 2009 VE Testing Sessions

Our VE Testing schedule for next year will again be the second Saturday of every even-numbered month.

**February 14
April 11
June 13
August 8
October 10
December 12**

Please put these dates on your calendar and think about upgrading.

As we cannot offer this service without the help of the volunteer examiners, it bodes well for the dedicated hams who give of their time.

If you want to become a Volunteer Examiner, just let me know and I’ll be happy to tell you the few simple steps required to get your VE accreditation.

See you at the next testing session!

Gayle Shull, KU4XN

Rockingham County ARES Net Control Volunteers

Thanks to the hams below for volunteering to serve as net control for the Monday night Rockingham County ARES Nets! The net meets every Monday at 8:00 pm local time on 147.225, except the first Monday of the month when it can be found on 146.550 simplex.

January 5: Ray Ritchie K4NRA
 January 12: Hugh Pettis K3EC
 January 19: David Fordham KD9LA
 January 26: James McDowell IV NN4JM
 February 2: Bryan Daniels K4RMY
 February 9: Norman Benner KA4EEN
 February 16: Gerald Nauman KN4FM
 February 23: Gerry Brunk K4RBZ
 March 2: Ray Ritchie K4NRA
 March 9: Hugh Pettis K3EC
 March 16: Paul Helmuth N4VVJ
 March 23: Fred Evans N4KYM
 March 30: Norman Benner KA4EEN
 April 6: Bryan Daniels K4RMY
 April 13: Gerald Nauman KN4FM
 April 20: Gayle Shull KU4XN
 April 27: Paul Helmuth N4VVJ
 May 4: Ray Ritchie K4NRA
 May 11: David Fordham KD9LA
 May 18: James McDowell IV NN4JM
 May 25: E.C. Showalter KG4KUR

MARA Secretary's Report: December 4 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Gene Rodgers. There were 85 members and guests present. Introductions were made all around. The second reading was performed for W. David Collins, N4WDC, who is president of the Fredericksburg ham club and has decided to also join MARA. Voting was unanimous in the affirmative. To accommodate the musical program, committee reports were deferred. David KD9LA made presentations of appreciation to Gene Rodgers KG4JBC, Bryan Daniels K4RMY, Gayle Shull KU4XN, and Sandy Mullins K4PZC. A special presentation was made to Richard Weaver, W3HXH, for his 70th anniversary as a licensed amateur. There was no 50/50. After adjournment, the Round Hill Recorder Consort played some musical numbers, after which Rev. Richard Weaver was invited to give a short benediction and Christmas blessing.

Augusta County ARES Net: Second Thursday Night at 8:00 pm

The Augusta County ARES net meets once each month on the second Thursday evening at 8:00 pm on the 146.850 repeater.

Like the 147.225 repeater, this machine requires PL of 131.8 Hz.

The next two nets are scheduled for **January 8**, and **February 12**.

(While waiting for the net Thursday to roll around, check out your radio equipment by dropping in on the minus-2 net every night at 10 pm on 146.850.)

Page County Ham Club?

The Page County hams are getting together again at the Page Memorial Hospital, 200 Memorial Drive, in Luray, on Friday night, January 9th, in the hospital meeting room. David Firestone, K4DPF, announced the meeting on the Sunday night Page County ARES Net. Gee, sounds like things might just be getting serious, eh?

Calendar

January 3-4: ARRL RTTY Roundup
 January 6: VARA Club Meeting
 January 8: MARA Club Meeting and tour of the Harrisonburg ECC center
 January 9: Page County "club" meeting
 January 10: Winston-Salem (NC) Hamfest
 January 10-11: North American QSO Party CW
 January 17-19: ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes
 January 17-18: North American QSO Party phone
 January 23-25: CQ WW 160m Contest (CW)
 February 3: VARA Club Meeting
 February 5: MARA Club Meeting
 February 7: Richmond Frostfest
 February 14: VE Exams in Dayton VA
 February 14-15: CQ WPX RTTY Contest
 February 22: Vienna (Annandale) WInterfest
 February 21-22: ARRL International DX Contest
 February 27-March 1: CQ WW 160M Contest (phone)

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) ____ SKYWARN ID: _____

Are you available for Workday Daytime Emergency Call up? (Y/N) _____

The club newsletter, the Monitor, is available free of charge monthly to all members of both clubs via email distribution, in PDF format. If you are unable to open PDF files, you can elect to receive the newsletter via printed copy, by U.S. mail, but are informed that printed copies are often delayed by the postal service, and sometimes arrive damaged by the automated postal equipment.

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

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

VARA Secretary's Report: December 2 Meeting

The **VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION** met at The Staunton Church of Christ in Staunton on December 2, 2008 at 6:00pm for their Christmas Party and gift exchange. The President, Greg Czerniak, offered a prayer and blessing before the evening meal.

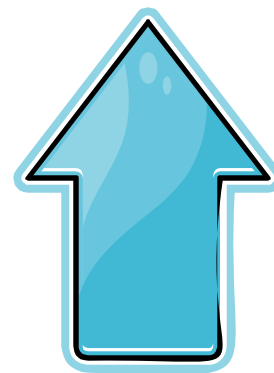
After the covered dish meal and fellowship we did the gift exchange, which is always a lot of fun. You never know just what you may end up with when it's all over. There is always a gift someone would like to keep but the next person whose name is drawn just may take it. Or the first person whose name is drawn may take it because this person gets the pick of all the gifts at the end of the drawing.

We had about 20 members and visitors at the party and everyone had a great evening of fun and fellowship.

DON'T FORGET YOUR CLUB DUES! They are due January 1, 2009.

See renewal form attachment.

Submitted by
VARA Secretary
Ray Colvin, KE4HVR



Renew Now!

*Don't let it slip your mind again....
go ahead and take out a pen and
your checkbook and get it over with.*

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: David R.Fordham, KD9LA
Vice President: Gerry Brunk, K4RBZ
Secretary: Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC
Treasurer: Sandy Mullins, K4PZC
Board (exp 08): Ray Ritchie K4NRA
Board (exp 09): Bryan Daniels, K4RMY

<http://mara.ws>

MARA meets the first Thursday of each month
at Wood Grill Buffet on Reservoir Street
in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Dinner begins at 6:30 pm,
the business meeting begins at 7:30 pm

Visitors are always welcome.

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

MARA
PO Box 1882
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

President: Scott Newlen, KI4QQZ
Vice President: Gordon Batey, WA4FJC
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 Shoney's Restaurant on Hwy 250
east of Staunton.

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