

July
2009

The Monitor

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

HEADS UP, VARA! The normal routine is changing!



VARA Takes Vacation: No VARA Meetings in July and August! Next Meeting September 1 – Annual Picnic on September 12

The Valley Amateur Radio Association is taking a break this summer. The club will not meet in either July or August. The next meeting will be the first Tuesday of September – September 1st! And while you're at it, mark your calendar for September 12th, too, which is scheduled as the annual VARA family picnic!

MARA Meeting: Wood Grill at 6:30 pm, Thursday July 2

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association meets at the Wood Grill Buffet Restaurant on Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg on Thursday, July 2. Dinner starts at 6:30 pm, followed by a business meeting at 7:30 pm. At press time, no program has been scheduled.

PVARC Meeting: Friday, July 3 at 6:00 pm

No information has been received about the Page Valley Amateur Radio Club, but it is assumed that the meeting will be held on Friday, July 3rd at 6:00 p.m. in the Day Room of the Page Memorial Hospital.

Monitor Early for a Change

David KD9LA is travelling extensively this summer, and his schedule requires a very early July issue (voila!), and to make up for it, the August issue may be a little late! Thanks for your understanding.

FIELD DAY – JUNE 27-28

Field Day Camping Sites Still Available

Word from the mountain is that there is still plenty of room if you'd like to come camping at the MARA/VARA Field Day Site. Camping is free starting June 20, and the porta-potty is provided, but you must bring all your food and water and other supplies. Families welcome!



Field Day Pot Luck Dinner – Friday, June 26

Don't forget the dinner up on the mountain at the Field Day Site. See the June issue of the Monitor for the directions. Plan to arrive around 5:00 pm to enjoy some before-dinner fellowship. If you can't arrive by 5, come on up any time during the evening!

Bridgewater Lawn Party Parade Public Service Event: July 15-16



Thanks to Gayle Shull, KU4XN, for making arrangements for the ham radio community to obtain some additional funding for the club treasuries via a donation from the town of Bridgewater. In appreciation, the hams will provide complimentary communications support for the town lawn party parades on July 15 and 16. Be sure to attend the July MARA meeting for specific instructions and information. But go ahead now and mark your calendars and make plans to join us for the evening.



IARU HF World Championship: Rack Up Your Country Count on July 11-12!

OK, admit it. You haven't worked as much HF world-wide short-wave as you'd like.

So plan now to spend the weekend of July 11-12 increasing your country count!

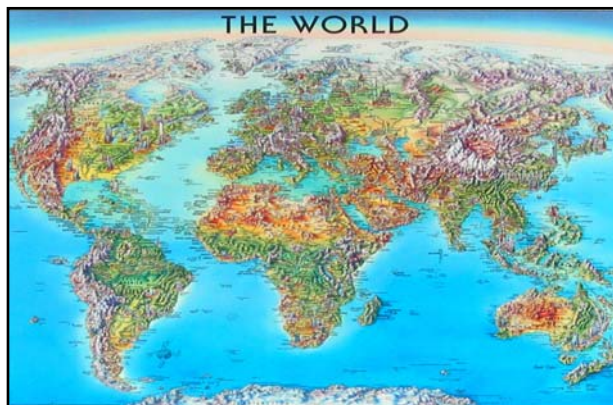
Even if you know your modest barefoot station won't end up in the top 10 (or even the top 10,000), at least you can take pride in talking to over 50, 100, or 150 countries in just a few hours.

Even modern internet denizens will have a hard time talking to that many different countries in a weekend, whether by I.M., chatrooms or even by e-mail!

So do something different for a change! Check out your HF antenna, fire up the power supply, and get on the air!

The contest starts at 1200 UTC Saturday (which is actually 8:00 a.m. Eastern Time) and runs 24 hours. Work as much as you like.

Complete information can be found on the web at: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/iaru.html>



RTTY QSO Party: July 18-19

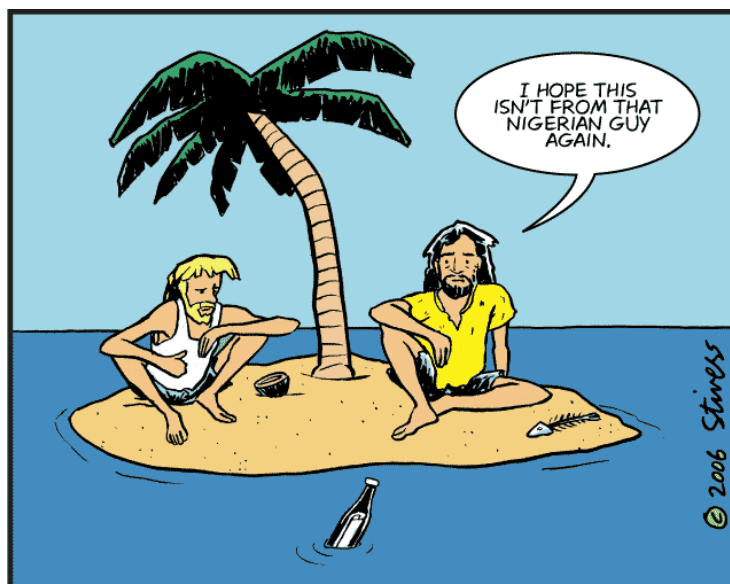
Connect your computer to your radio and let 'er rip! Getting on RTTY is fast, easy, and fun. If you want to increase your RTTY contact list, plan on working the QSO party July 18-19. Bob Van Fossen can tell you: earning your Worked-All-States award can be done without even realizing it!

No Computer? Work the VHF Contest, or the Islands On The Air Contest!

July features a lot of good contests!

July 18-19 is the CQ WorldWide VHF contest. Predominantly SSB and CW, this contest is a nice way to test out how far you can read on 2-meters. Don't overlook 10 meters and 6-meters, either!

The Islands on the Air Contest is July 25-26. Plan to work some exotic DX as well as coastal islands and rare ones, too!



VE Session Report

Thanks to the VE's who gave their time to serve those who wish to upgrade and/or get their ham ticket.

E.C. Showalter, KG4KUR
Michael McKay, W4AZR
Richard Haxton, KC3AN
Jim Lehman, W4POL
Ray Ritchie, K4NRA
Gerald Nauman, KN4FM

We had 10 people for testing at the June session, and gave 17 examinations. Everyone there earned a license! Nine passed Element 2, four passed Element 3, and 1 passed Element 4! Several individuals took multiple tests. This was one of the best test sessions we've had in a while.

Our next testing session will be August 8, 2009.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer examiner, you can do it all on-line now! Check out ARRL.ORG and do a search on VE, or give me a call and I'll get you started.

Gayle Shull, KU4XN
 VE Coordinator
 Phone 540-828-2132



Field Day Camping — June 20-27

Gossip, Rumor, Grapevine, Etc.

Congrats to **Robert Wilson, KI4GST**, on his third anniversary. Oh, and congrats to Angel, too, since she shares it with him!

Best wishes for a speedy recovery for **Ray Pitsenbarger, KE4NNV** after his recent knee replacement. He has been bothered with lingering pain, but the therapy seems to be helping.

Frank Forsyth, WD4LES, survived a heart attack May 21, and is doing therapy to get his strength back. This is a real accomplishment, because Frank will be 94 (yep, that's Ninety-Four) years old on November 7th!

Best wishes also to **Marty Krupinski, KE4KEW**, who along with his wife was injured in a motorcycle accident in May.

Scott Martin, KI4MSJ, with the 266th MP Company, is leaving Basrah, Iraq, sometime soon, but not necessarily coming straight home. He is doing fine, coping with the madness in Iraq, and suffering from the heat and some rather amazing insects. Daytime high's are near 115 many days, with high humidity on top of it.

Gerry Brunk, K4RBZ, and his XYL Shirley, will be celebrating their 25th anniversary this month. Hats off!

Three cheers for **Jeff Rinehart W4PJW**, on finally retiring from Wagner Hearing Aids! Okay, now it's time to get busy, Jeff!

Bryan Fordham, KG4JOE, spent two weeks in Washington D.C. participating in congressional subcommittee hearings on pilot working conditions at the regional airlines, in the wake of the crash of the Colgan flight in New York last winter. As the senior co-pilot for Gulfstream Airways, he also has been serving as expert witness at court hearings in Dallas, Texas.

A big round of applause is due for **Jim Lehman, W4POL**, who has successfully beaten back his cancer and is now up and around, helping out with the VE session and having lunch at the Burger King again!

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with **Ken Miller, K8KMM**, who is now treading the path of Jim, undergoing the chemo and radiation treatments. Best wishes, Ken.

An Evening with Riley's Successor

The Harrisburg Radio Amateur Club cordially invites all interested hams to spend a special evening with Ms. Laura Smith, Esq., the new FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Enforcement.

Ms. Smith will be speaking at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center at 148 Sheraton Drive in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania, on Wednesday, September 16, starting at 7:00 pm

The meeting is open to all amateurs. No reservations required.

The hotel is on I-81, at exit 40A in Pennsylvania, Lime Kiln Road, Route 83, just north of the junction with the PA Turnpike. This is within driving distance for MARA, VARA and PVARC members.

There has been some speculation about the direction the FCC will be taking with amateur radio rules enforcement since the retirement of Riley Hollingsworth, who for many years did an exemplary job of enforcing the Part 97 rules. Be sure to come hear Ms. Smith's presentation, followed by an open question and answer period.

If you have any questions about this meeting, call Glenn Kurzenknabe, K3SWZ, at 717-774-1728, or email him at k3swz@arrl.net

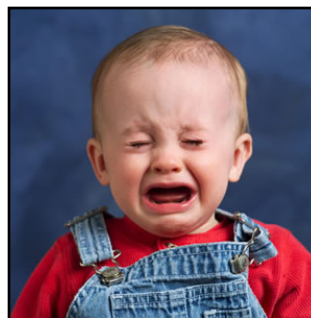


Tone Encoder Board Needed

Jay DiCicco, N4NKM, is looking for a tone encoder board to fit inside his Kenwood TH-25AT. If anyone knows where he can obtain one, he would appreciate a call, since these are kinda hard to find these days. Call Jay at 540-943-6036



Due to the usually-early deadline this month, the minutes for the VARA and PVARC club meetings were not received in time for inclusion in this issue of the Monitor. Look for them in the August issue, along with Field Day reports, Dayton Hamvention pictures, NRAO tour reports, and lots more!



MARA Secretary's Report – June 4 Meeting

Attendance: Members: 30 Guests: 5 Total: 35

Introductions made all around.

Gerry (K4RBZ) conducted the meeting in Dave's (KD9LA) absence.

Reports:

New Members: 1st reading: Tom Endress

2nd reading: N/A

Secretary's minutes: It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the minutes as printed in the Monitor

Treasurer's report: No report

Groups:

ARES/RACES - Bryan (K4RMY) reported on the good turnouts on the net. We have been averaging about 20 participants even on simplex. The goal is to make the weekly net more of a training event. Bryan is looking for net operators. Just let him know if you are interested.

Bryan asked the net operators to provide a report of the total number of check-ins (including the operator) and the total minutes run after each net. The net counts as training hours and he has to submit the information to the state.

ARES event (July 11th) – Rockingham County Office Building. FEMA has developed some on-line classes they would like ham radio operators to take. This will be an opportunity to take the classes and test at the end of the session.

VEC Session - the next VE session will be on June 13th 9:00 am at the Woodmen of the World building in Dayton. At this point, we are short on volunteers to cover this session.

Public Service – mark your calendars for the upcoming events. We have many opportunities to volunteer.

Manassas Ham Fest (June 14th)

The Triple Play – (October 2 - 4)

Bridgewater Lawn Party (July 17 -18)

Field Day Committee update – Bob would like to thank everyone who has volunteered and accepted responsibility for the many tasks associated with this event. The committee is still looking for help loading the trailer at the storage unit in the Cooks Creek area. Also, if anyone has a vehicle with a hitch, they are looking for a volunteer to haul the trailer up to the site.

Jeff would like to see new operators/hams or inactive folks on the HF. It's a great opportunity to get on the air and make contacts at the 'Go To' station. We are also looking for operators under the age of 18.

Press release information is going out to the city, county, Daily News Record and the Staunton News Leader.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the last full weekend in June (6/27-29/09)!

Announcements:

Field trip to Green Bank NRAO is scheduled for this Saturday (June 6th)

Old Business: None to report.

New Business: None

New Call or Upgrades: None.

Motion to adjourn, seconded and approved.

50/50 - \$28.00, Won by John

Program: Dick Weaver (W3HXH) – what it has meant to be in Amateur Radio for 70+ years.

Submitted by
Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC
MARA Secretary



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 2009): Ray Ritchie K4NRA
 Board (exp 2010): 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, K14QQZ
 Vice President: Gordon Batey, WA4FJC
 Secretary: Ray Colvin, KE4HVR
 Treasurer: Doug Tippett, N8ESW
 Program Manager: Al Bonck N3JB

<http://w4xd.com>

VARA Meetings are suspended for July and
 August. The next meeting will be held on Sep-
 tember 1st at a location to be announced.

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

Doug Tippett
 2348 Mosley St.
 Waynesboro VA 22980

PAGE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

President: Mark Hensley N4YSA
 Vice President: Dave Firestone, K4DPF
 Secretary/Treasurer: Mike "Sparky" Terry, KD4KL
 Board Member: Morgan Phenix K4RHD
 Board Member: : Robert Forrest KJ4HFU

Website to be announced

PVARC meets the first Friday of each month
 in the Day Room of
 Page Memorial Hospital in Luray, Virginia.

The business meeting begins at 6:00 pm

Visitors are welcome.

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

Sparky Terry
 PO Box 649
 Luray VA 22835-0649

The Monitor is published monthly by MARA, Inc.
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 in the Central Shenandoah Valley.

Distribution is in Adobe PDF format via email attachment
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 Contact the president of your respective club
 for information on paper copies.

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MARA/VARA

c/o David Fordham
131 Wayside Drive
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

Phone: 540-568-3024
Email: fordhadr@jmu.edu

Return Service Requested

Calendar of Events

June 27-28: ARRL Field Day
June 28: Page County ARES Net 146.67 repeater
June 29: Rockingham County ARES Net 147.225 repeater

July 1: Highland County ARES Net 147.18 repeater
July 2: **MARA Meeting** at Wood Grill
July 3: **PVARC Meeting**, Page Memorial Hospital
July 5: Page County ARES Net 146.67 repeater
July 6: Rockingham County ARES Net – 146.55 simplex
July 7: **NO VARA MEETING – Summer vacation**
July 9: Augusta County ARES Net 146.85 repeater
July 11-12: IARU HF World Championship Contest
July 12: Page County ARES Net 146.67 repeater
July 13: Rockingham County ARES Net 147.225 repeater
July 15: Highland County ARES Net 147.18 repeater
July 15-18: **Bridgewater Lawn Party (Public Service Event)**
July 18-19: North American RTTY QSO Party
July 18-19: CQ Worldwide VHF Contest
July 19: Baltimore BRATS Hamfest
July 19: Page County ARES Net 146.67 repeater
July 20: Rockingham County ARES Net 147.225 repeater
July 25-26: IOTA Islands on the Air Contest
July 26: Page County ARES Net 146.67 repeater
July 27: Rockingham County ARES Net 147.225 repeater

August 1: **Roanoke (Vinton) Hamfest**
August 1-2: ARRL UHF Contest
August 2: **Berryville Hamfest**
August 4: NO VARA MEETING – Summer vacation
August 6: MARA Meeting – Wood Grill
August 7: PVARC Meeting – Page Memorial Hospital
August 8: VE Exams – Dayton, VA
August 15-16: North American QSO Party SSB Weekend
August 16: Carroll County (MD) Hamfest

September 1: VARA Meeting, location TBA
September 3: MARA Meeting – Wood Grill
September 4: PVARC Meeting – Page Memorial
September 12: **VARA Family Picnic**
September 12-13: Virginia Beach Hamfest at VA Wesleyan College
September 16: **Evening with Laura Smith, FCC Counsel**
September 27-28: CQ WW RTTY Contest

October 2-4: **Triple-Play Weekend (public service event)**
October 16-18: **Fall Foliage Bike Festival (public service)**
October 24-25: CQ WW DX Contest SSB Weekend
October 25: Mason-Dixon (Westminster MD) Hamfest