

The MARA/VARA Monitor

Published monthly by the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., of Harrisonburg, Virginia for radio amateurs in the Shenandoah Valley.

FIELD DAY ISSUE

Everyone is invited!

(Hams, Non-Hams, Families, Friends)

NO ADMISSION CHARGE!

Setup of the Field Day stations begins
at 2:00 pm Friday, June 26.

Field Day *On-The-Air* operation
starts at 2:00 pm Saturday, June 27,
and runs thru 2:00 pm Sunday, June 28.

Talk-in to the FD site will be on the
147.315 (+.600) or 145.130 (-.600) repeater.
(No PL tones are required for these frequencies.)

Local on-site communication will be on 147.470 simplex.

Your family is invited to come to the FD site
the week before Field Day
and enjoy a relaxing five days of free family camping.

Here are the Field Day statistics from the last four years.

FIELD DAY 1994 CALL W4XD

<u>BAND</u>	<u>CW QSO</u>	<u>CW QSO PTS</u>	<u>SSB QSO</u>	<u>SSB QSO PTS</u>
160	0	0	0	0
80	174	696	274	548
40	218	872	83	166
20	307	1228	237	474
17	0	0	0	0
15	69	276	252	504
NOV-T	0	0	227	454
MISC	10	40	151	302
TOTAL	778	3112	1224	2448

(3112 CW QSO PTS + 2448 SSB QSO PTS) + 1000 BONUS = **6,560 TOTAL POINTS**

FIELD DAY 1995 CALL W4XD

<u>BAND</u>	<u>CW QSO</u>	<u>CW QSO PTS</u>	<u>SSB QSO</u>	<u>SSB QSO PTS</u>
160	0	0	0	0
80	200	800	180	360
40	184	736	260	520
20	404	1616	94	188
17	0	0	11	22
15	121	484	2	4
NOV-T	0	0	180	360
MISC	1	4	133	252
TOTAL	910	3640	860	1720

(3640 CW QSO PTS + 1720 SSB QSO PTS) + 1100 BONUS = **6,460 TOTAL POINTS**

FIELD DAY 1996 CALL W4XD

<u>BAND</u>	<u>CW QSO</u>	<u>CW QSO PTS</u>	<u>SSB QSO</u>	<u>SSB QSO PTS</u>
160	0	0	0	0
80	237	948	212	424
40	175	700	154	308
20	310	1240	336	672
15	152	608	40	80
NOV-T	24	96	247	494
MISC	0	0	139	278
TOTAL	898	3592	1128	2256

(3592 CW QSO PTS + 2256 SSB QSO PTS) + 1000 BONUS = **6,848 TOTAL POINTS**

FIELD DAY 1997 CALL N4XU

<u>BAND</u>	<u>CW QSO</u>	<u>CW QSO PTS</u>	<u>SSB QSO</u>	<u>SSB QSO PTS</u>
160	0	0	0	0
80	287	574	394	394
40	211	422	98	98
20	310	620	232	232
17	0	0	0	0
15	51	102	51	51
NOV-T	0	0	303	303
MISC	2	4	179	179
TOTAL	861	1722	1257	1257

(1722 CW QSO PTS + 1257 SSB QSO PTS) + 800 BONUS = **3,779 TOTAL POINTS**

FIELD DAY EQUIPMENT POLICY

Adopted by MARA and VARA
Amateur Radio Clubs

Be it understood that:

As a participant in Field Day operations, whether club member or visitor, you are using equipment that may belong to someone else. Care for it as if it were you own.

No repairs or modifications shall be made to any equipment without the owner (or owner's designated representative) present.

Any apparent malfunction of the equipment shall be reported immediately to the owner.

Be it further understood that:

Equipment which is brought to the Field Day site and made available for use is done at the owner's discretion, and said equipment should be supervised by the owner or his/her designated representative.

Any damage to, or failure of, the equipment at Field Day will be the responsibility of the OWNER, and NOT that of the sponsors, organizers, or management of the Field Day activities.

FIELD DAY TO FEATURE SATELLITE OPERATION

Are you interested in “working” the ham radio satellites that orbit the earth? Would you like more information on what is involved in working these “birds”?

Well, come to Field Day!

Clint (KB4OLM), David (KB4LCI), and Cowles (KB4CNI) are planning to set up and operate a satellite station as part of this year’s Field Day activity. The satellite station will not be on the air continuously, but will be operated whenever a satellite is “in view”.

Stop by the satellite station. You will get to see the satellite tracking software, and Clint, Cowles, or Dave will be happy to explain what is involved in

tracking, working, and enjoying the satellites. They will even let you operate the satellite station for your first satellite contact!

There is a satellite mode for almost everybody. Most hams already own sufficient equipment to work at least one, if not several, of the birds.

Some sats use the 10m and 2m bands. Some use 2m and 440. Some use 15 meters. Some are analog CW or SSB. Some are packet stations, and there is even an FM repeater or two in the sky that you can work with your mobile rig in your car!

So when you are at field day this year, stop by the satellite station and see how much fun this part of ham radio can be!

MARA/VARA FIELD DAY CHART

June 27-28, 1998

Field Day Committee: KE4GKD (chair), KD4WWF, N3GLZ, K4PZC, KF4BFB, KD4FKT

FIELD DAY 1998 CALLSIGN: N4XU, Category 3A

SITE PREPARATION: KE4GKD, KD4WWF

SITE CLEANUP: You pack it in, you pack it out -- everyone cleans up their own campsite.

PHONE STATION: Coordinator -- WA4ITY

Rig: WA4ITY & K4PZC
Computer: K4PZC
Generator: KE4GKD
Shelter: KD4UPL

Antennas: TA33 beam (MARA), MARA tower & rotator
joint MARA/VARA pushup mast for dipole

CW STATION: Coordinator -- N4XU

Rig: N4XU
Computer: N4XU
Generator: KE4GKD
Shelter: Denton's Truck

Antennas: Tri-band beam (KD4FKT), tower (KE4GKD),
Rotor (KE4GKD), joint club pushup mast for dipole

NOVICE/TECH STATION: Coordinator -- KD4FKT

Rig: KD4FKT
Computer: K4PZC
Generator: KE4GKD
Shelter: WA4E's trailer

Antennas: 10m Vertical (AD4TJ), club pushup mast for dipoles

NOTE: Novice/Techs can operate **any** station, as long as a control operator is present whose license class covers the frequencies being used at the time.

VHF/UHF STATION: Coordinator -- KB4OLM

All equipment: KB4OLM

DIGITAL STATION: Coordinator -- WA4KQX

Rig: WB4PJW
Computer: WB4PJW
Generator: KE4GKD
Shelter: KE4CKJ

Antennas: WB4PJW

SATELLITE STATION: Coordinator -- KB4LCI & KB4CNI

Rig: KB4LCI
Manual log, give to Jeff WB4PJW
Generator: KB4OLM
Shelter: KB4OLM

Antennas: KB4LCI & KB4CNI

NATURAL POWER STATION: Coordinator -- KD4UPL

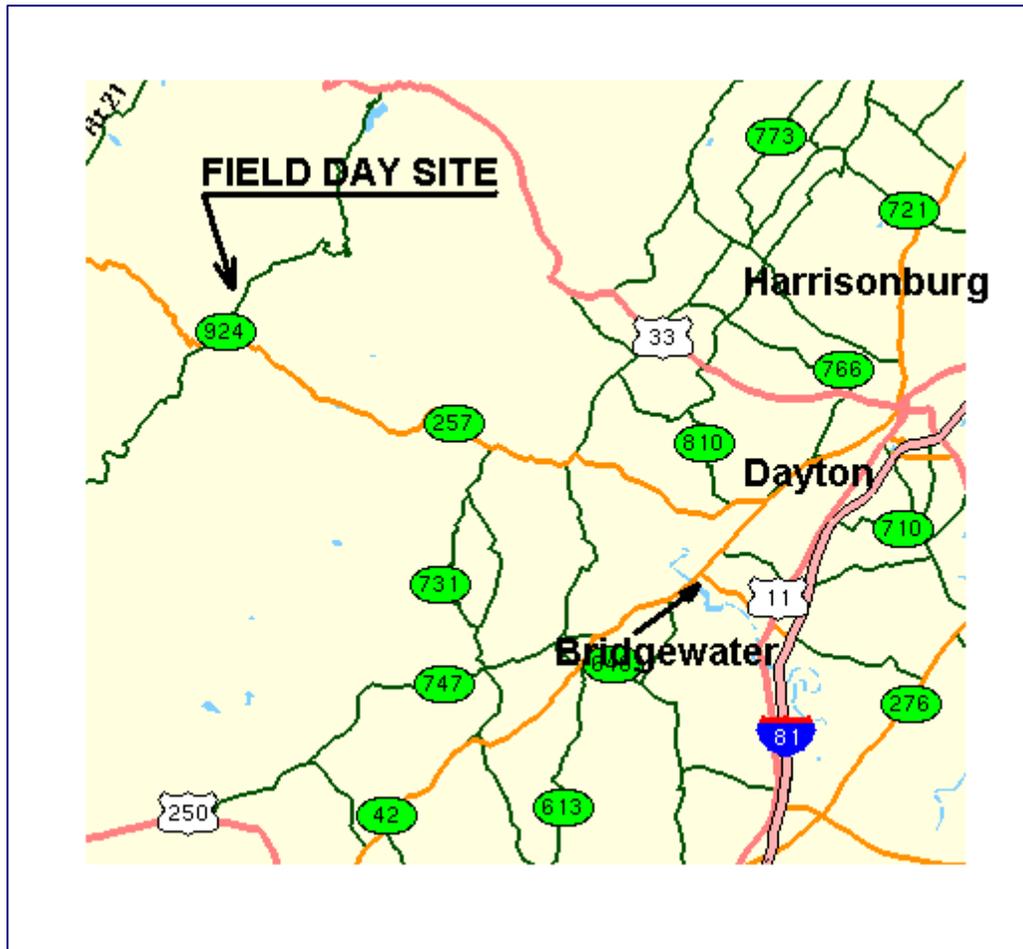
Includes rig, power source, and antennas -- KD4UPL Give log to Jeff, WB4PJW

MISCELLANEOUS

Sign at Dirt Road:	K4PZC	Welcome Center:	KA4EEN
Publicity:	K4LXG	Registration Table:	KA4EEN
Firewood:	KF4BFC & KF4SVR	Display Table:	KA4EEN
Tables for Stations:	WA4ITY	Coffee Pot:	KA4EEN
Chairs for Stations:	WA4ITY & WB4PJW	Extension Cords for above:	KA4EEN
PortaPotti:	K4PZC (club cost)	Generator for above:	KE4GKD
Photographers:	KE4GKD & N3GLZ	Gas for all stations:	KD4WWF

Organizational meeting held at the main campfire circle on 1:00 pm Saturday. Be There!

MAP TO FIELD DAY



DIRECTIONS TO THE FIELD DAY SITE

From Interstate 81, take **Exit #240** (State Route **257**, the Bridgewater/Mt. Crawford exit) and go west towards Bridgewater. Follow route 257 straight past the first traffic light about 2 miles, into the town of Bridgewater. Turn right at the Hardee's (second traffic light after leaving the Interstate), and head north on Route 42.

As you come into the town of Dayton, Route 257 will turn left (1 block *before* the Dayton traffic light!). --- Follow Route 257 west forever! Route 257 makes a sharp left turn at the stop sign in Ottobine, and turns right at Briery Branch. At the entrance to Hone Quarry campground, Route 257 bears left (crossing the new bridge), and becomes Forest Road 924. Continue to follow the paved road up the mountain about 5 more miles.

Finally, you will reach an intersection where the paved road makes a hard left turn, and two dirt roads split off, one going left and one going sort-of straight ahead. Keep as far to the right as possible, following the right-most dirt road for another half-mile to the Field Day site.

If you need assistance, call on the **147.315** repeater (transmit up 600 kHz, no PL) for talk-in. If you cannot raise the 147.315 repeater, try **145.130** (transmit down 600 kHz, no PL). Once you are in the mountains, you might not be able to raise either repeater, so try **147.470** simplex to talk directly to the field day operators.

VARA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello to all and it sure was nice to see everyone at the last meeting. We got a lot accomplished and even saw a tape of some past Field Day happenings. I hope this got your interest up and you are making plans to attend the Field Day event this year.

Sam (KF4EKV) has taken a lot of time and has gotten the patches for the Club all worked out. They should be on order by the time you read this newsletter. When we receive them, these patches will be offered for sale to club members. We hope that all members will take advantage of this offer.

Joe (WD4LIG) has offered his services to sew the patches on for the members and we thank Joe for that gracious offer.

We have also set the date for the VARA Yard, Craft & Bake Sale. This event will be held on June 13th from 8 AM until 2 PM at my house, which is located at 312 Norwood Rd. Staunton, Va. (rain or shine). So if you can get some items together for the sale and wish to donate them to the Club it would be great. We plan on setting the tables up on Friday evening the 12th for the sale. So hope to see all come by and take part in this event and let's hope we can make some money for the Club's Treasury.

I would like to see some of you make plans to give some type of presentation at a future Club meeting and if you have any ideas please contact me and we will work out some plans and a date.

Well, again, I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Field Day. I hope to spend another week up on the mountain playing radio, having fun and just plain relaxing and enjoying the nice cool weather (cool compared to what is down here in the valley!).

Remember Field Day is on June 27th and 28th this year so will see you there

*Ken Harris, KE4GKD
VARA President*

MARA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Verona!

Twenty-two (22) hams and visitors came to the May MARA meeting to enjoy the food, fellowship, and the video of last year's Field Day activities. Very soon the real thing will be happening (Field Day 1998, that is). I hope you are making plans to attend, help set up, operate, and tear down.

Field Day is a time when members of both clubs get together and work and have fun, all the while learning emergency preparedness, operating radios and passing information under lots of QRM. It gives us a chance to learn more about the different propagation situations on HF and VHF bands, to work with the computers and the contesting programs, and to even learn about satellite operations. And all of this education is free, and most important, it's *fun*!

There's something for every class of ham to do at Field Day. It's a mountaintop experience! If you see something that you don't understand or don't know what it is, or how it works, ASK! That's what it's all about. Oh, and don't bother to bring any foul-weather clothing; "It never rains at Field Day!"

IMPORTANT NOTICE! There will be a **SPECIAL SPEAKER** at the June MARA meeting: W2HD, Harry Dannals, a former President of the ARRL, will be making the trek across the mountain from Charlottesville to give us a talk entitled, "Amateur Radio: The Challenges It Faces". This should be of interest to all hams.

Remember, our meetings are open to anyone who has an interest in Ham Radio, so come on out and eat with us at 6:30 pm at Ever's Restaurant, or come to the meeting at 7:30. I hope to see YOU there!

Happy grass-cutting!

*David Tanks AD4TJ
MARA President*

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

VHF/UHF CONTEST

This is an announcement of the June VHF/UHF contest times. There are several operators in the area (including myself) who will be participating and would love to make a contact with you on as many VHF/UHF bands that you have. Even if you only have 2 meter FM you can help us out by putting 146.55 into your memory, and sometime in the time period below you should hear one of us on. There have been a couple of these contests where, if I had made a contact only with every club member, I could have turned in a better score than the one I did, even though it included all other stations I could work! Who knows, the contest bug might bite you!

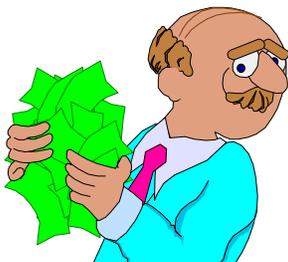
- Start time: June 13, Saturday, at 2 PM.
- End time: June 14, Sunday, at 11 PM.

Frequencies to listen to:

- 6 meters: 50.125 to 50.250 SSB; (for the adventurous, try CW around 50.090 to around 50.105)
- 2 meter FM- 146.49 and 146.55
- 2m SSB and CW-144.150 to 144.250
- 432 CW and SSB- 432.08 to 432.125

Hope to work you in the contest, and thanks ahead of time for the contacts!

David AD4TJ



Contests: A good way to collect QSL cards!

WORLD-WIDE SIX METER NET NOW “CONTROLLED” BY DAVID GORDON, KB4LCI

David, KB4LCI, a prominent local ham, will be Net Control Station (NCS) for the 6 Meter World-Wide DX Club Net. This net meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 8:30 pm, EDT, on the frequency of **50.170 MHz**, USB; work and WX permitting.

David is a member and liaison for the 6m WW DX Club serving the Mid-East coast area. For more information about the Club, see their Web page at: <http://www.6mt.com> or contact David for membership information. The goal of this club is to increase 6m activity world-wide.

See you on 6...

de David - KB4LCI

VEC EXAM SCHEDULE CHANGES!!

Randy Smith, N3XA (formerly KN4KB) reports that the Shenandoah Valley ham radio exam schedule is changing, effective with the June exam.

The new schedule will place the exams on the *third* Saturday morning of the even numbered months. (Previously, exams were held on the second Saturday.)

Spread the word. VEC Exams will still be held at the Massanutten Vo-Tech center, with sign-in starting around 9:00 am. Testing begins at 10:00 am, on the *third* Saturday of every even-numbered month (February, April, June, August, October, and December). Exam cost is still only \$6.35 per session, regardless of how many exam elements you take.

For more info on the exams, contact Buck Mowbray, at 540-289-5580, email n3riq@rica.net. Check out the exam web pages at: <http://home.rica.net/pages/randy/files/hamradio/exam.htm>

MS WALK REPORT, APRIL 19TH, WAYNESBORO

I would like to thank the following amateurs that took part in the MS Walk. As you may know, the Walk was finally rained out after all showed up for the event. Matter of fact, I don't think we can say "rained out" --- it was a real *storm*, complete with lightning and all the fixings. We have no control over the weather but again THANKS to all that took part in the event.

Kay (KF4CZL)
Stephen (no call)
Charlie (WA4ITY)
Karen (KE4WIE)
Doug (KE4RMD)
Joe (KD4FKT)
Allan (KE4CKG)
Gary (KF4PFR)
Pat (KD4WWF)
and myself Ken (KE4GKD)

MARCH OF DIMES WALK, MAY 2ND, STUARTS DRAFT

I would like to thank the following Amateurs that took part in the March of Dimes Walk in Stuarts Draft on May 2nd. Unlike the April 19 walk, we had nice weather for this event. We all had a really nice time. Without Amateurs like you we would not be able to support these events.

Tom (KB4ONZ)
Pat (KD4WWF)
Nancy (KE4PHP)
Kay (KF4CZL)
Benny (KF4CZK)
Ray (KE4NNV)
Joan (KF4CWR)
Joe (WD4LIG)
Norman (KA4EEN)
Dan (KE4JSX)
Allan (KE4CKG)
myself, Ken (KE4GKD)
as well as my daughter, Candi Dunlap,
who helped with the third party traffic

VARA YARD SALE - JUNE 13

VARA will have a yard sale on Saturday, June 13, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm at the home of Ken Harris, KE4GKD, 312 Norwood Rd. in Staunton.

Please save us your yard sale items! We would also like crafts and bake sale items. If you need items to be picked up you may call Ken Harris at 885-1818 or Ray Colvin at 886-1559.

The yard sale will be held rain or shine. Okay, VARA members, now is the time to clean out your basement or garage. Come out and enjoy the fun. Remember, just like Field Day "it never rains on a VARA yard sale".

Ray Colvin
KE4HVR

CAN YOU HELP K2VJ?

I'm a retiree currently living in Verona. I hope to settle somewhere in the Valley. I am a member of VARA. I'm looking for a small piece of land either to buy or "rent." To explain, I'm thinking of ordering a custom 16ft-wide mobile home. But I first need a place to put it and that's why I'm addressing this to hams who might have "backyard space" and might be interested in selling or leasing part of it.

My major requirement with where I live is that it have a good view. This could be out in the country or on the edge of town, as long as I could look out a window and see a few miles away.

We could talk about your maybe selling me a small piece of ground. All I need is enough land to have a fair sized veggie garden. I'd pay the perc and survey fees. Or you could buy the mobile home from me via monthly rental payments, in which case you'd end up owning it. As a third option, I could lease ground from you. From what I've been told, there are ways these things can be worked out that conform to zoning.

Vince Luciani, K2VJ
540 248 0810
vincek2vj@rica.net

ACROSS STATE LINES

145.110 REPEATER ON AIR

Dave, KB4LCI, reports that the 145.110 repeater is on the air now from West Virginia, with its permanent antenna. Give it a try!

MORE REPEATER NEWS

MASSANUTTEN REPEATER FREQUENCY TO CHANGE

Sometime in the next few weeks, the frequency of the Massanutten Peak repeater will be moving from its current 147.315 frequency to **145.130** MHz.

The new frequency uses an uplink that is down (-) 600 kilohertz. The repeater will remain open to all hams; no PL tone will be required for the time being.

Autopatch operations may be interrupted for a couple of days during the change-over, but will quickly be restored once the new frequency is in use. Subscribers to the autopatch have already received a letter notifying them of the frequency change.

The future of the 147.315 frequency is uncertain as of press time, but the channel will be retained as a coordinated pair for the Shenandoah Valley. Plans are to restore the frequency, possibly as a local coverage machine, as soon as a new site can be found.

*Information provided by
Rusty, N4YET*

MARA JULY MEETING DATE CHANGE

The MARA club usually meets the first Thursday of the month. The *June* meeting will be held normally, on June 4th. However, due to the Independence Day holiday, the *July* meeting will be delayed one week, until **July 9th** this year. Mark you calendar now! -- Before you forget!

IN MEMORIAM

BOB SMITH, KA4EEI, SK

It is always sad to have to report the passing of a local amateur. Robert (Bob) Smith, Sr., KA4EEI, passed away on May 1st, at his home on Barbee Circle in Bridgewater, where he had lived since 1970. He is survived by his wife Muriel, a son and a daughter. The sympathy of the ham community are offered to his family.

TIPS TO NEW HAMS

“BREAK” MEANS EMERGENCY

What does the word, “Break” mean to you? If you are a ham, it means that another amateur has an urgent need to use the frequency.

Whenever you hear the word, “break” between transmissions on a ham frequency, you should immediately recognize the breaking station and then stand by to let the station handle their emergency traffic. Immediately. Like, right then and there.

A double-break (“Break, break”) generally means a life-threatening situation. A single break is used to indicate the need to call police or fire and rescue for an auto accident, for example. Either way, the frequency is needed immediately for urgent use. You should relinquish the air for the breaking station.

If you want to join a conversation in progress, simply give your callsign in between transmissions. Most hams on VHF allow a second or two between transmissions to reset the repeater timer. Just jump in before the courtesy beep and give your callsign.

But *don’t* use the word “break” unless you have a real emergency. Remember what happened to the little ham who cried wolf?

PACKET COMPUTER FOR SALE

We've got a 486 computer, 66 MHz clock speed, with 16 Mb RAM, a 540 Mb hard drive, 14.4 bps modem, and 16 bit sound blaster sound card. It has a lot of ports and is in a nice desktop case. It would be perfect for a packet station, or a first computer for someone who doesn't need a Pentium. It will get you on the Internet with no problem. We'll include the keyboard and a 15" color monitor (the monitor is pretty much fried, but you might be able to do something with it). We're asking \$75. Yes, that's right, only \$75. Let me know if you are interested.

Trista Graham

email: 3kitties@gte.net

<http://home1.gte.net/3kitties/index.htm>

540-433-2735



MAKING PLANS?

- June 4:** MARA June Meeting
- June 7:** Manassas Hamfest
- June 10:** VARA June Meeting
- June 13:** VARA Yard Sale
- June 13-15:** ARRL VHF QSO Party
- June 20:** VE Licensing Exams
- June 27-28:** (Fourth Full Weekend in June): Field Day
- Fourth of July:** Bridgewater Lawn Party
- July 8:** VARA July Meeting
- July 9:** MARA July Meeting (*note date change*)
- August 15:** VE Licensing Exams
- August 16:** Bob's Knob Bash Annual Picnic
- October 3-4:** MS 150k Bike Ride
- October 3-4:** Johnny Appleseed Ride
- October 17-18:** Bike Virginia Bike Ride
- December 3:** MARA Christmas Party at Pano's

THEY NEVER COME BACK

I'd been checking out my new 5kW linear on the workbench when I touched the final plates while holding the chassis with my other hand. No problem, except I'd forgotten to turn off the power.

Next thing I knew, this kindly person sitting in a white Jeep was calling to me. "Hop in," he said with a grin. And I did.

We took off on a path that wound around the side of a huge treeless mountaintop nearby. To my joy, there were phased rhombic antennas all over the place, most about a mile and a half on each leg. Wow! What a dx'ers dream!

At the top of the hill was a fair sized building, to which my friend, who gave his name as Pete, invited me into. Inside were even more ham thrills. Pete explained, "A separate receiver and 5kW rig on every band from 160 to 2 meters. And all controls at your fingertips from the console." He brought me over to the operating position. "Take a listen," he offered. And I did.

Wow! DX coming in from all directions. I mean real DX! All the QRM was DX. "Not to worry," said Pete. "Just push in lightly on the receiver dial and concentrate on the station you want." And I did. Immediately, the QRM would fade and the signal I wanted stood out, S9! Wow! I never had a DSP so good!

Then I heard one of the rarest of the rare, a 9N1 from Nepal about S5. A little QRM was there so I looked for the beam rotor. There was none. Pete, who was watching all this with delight seemed to know right away what was on my mind. "That red button," he pointed. "It turns the entire mountaintop. Push it in." And I did.

Wow! There wasn't anything except a slight rumbling sound to let you know something was going on-- something BIG. And sure enough, in a second 9N1VJ was coming in so clear like you were keying C-sharp on the church organ, sending out CQ DX. I smiled to myself and went back to him on the keyer with a one-by-one, smugly confident. I stood by.

But nothing happened. That is, nothing as far as I was concerned. Plenty else, though, because the DX station went back to KE4HVR! Doggone! That Ray had an old Heathkit 807 rig that squeezed out maybe 40 Watts on CW. Where does he get off beating me out of DX? I looked at Pete with that question on my face. He knew what I was thinking.

"That switch down there under the table," he pointed. "Flip it up. It connects you to a 75kW final down in the basement." And I did. Wow! I hit out a NST and with each tap of the key the house lights dimmed. I smiled again and without even waiting for Ray to QRT. I called that 9N1 five times. "I'll show that Ray a thing or two about DX," I said to myself. "Beat me out of a rare DX contact, would he? Now we'll see if my signal doesn't burn out the first RF of the 9N1's receiver."

But again, nothing. No reply. I looked over at Pete who somehow seemed less angelic in appearance than before. In fact, there was a sort of evil grin on his face. "How come no contact?" I demanded to know. "Seventy five kW and mile-long rhombics? I don't get it."

Pete snickered. "Of course you don't," he was quick to reply. "They never come back. That's the hell of it."

Contributed by Vince Luciani, K2VJ

MARA SECRETARY'S REPORT

May 5, 1998 Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association was held on May 5th, 1998 at Evers Restaurant, Mt. Crawford, VA. Those who came early had the buffet dinner together. Others came to join the business meeting.

The meeting began in the usual order with introductions. There was a total of twenty-two members and guests present. Two new amateurs made application for membership. They will come up for vote at the next meeting.

The following committee reports were given:

ARES: Norman (KA4EEN) reported that the schedule for 8 Jun was open - the net will be called on simplex. Also he reported on the M D Walk held the last of April. There was good participation and it was enjoyed by all who participated. Dale (KD4DAI) announced that he had the books compiled for emergency response in his car and they were available to any who needed them after the meeting.

FIELD DAY: It was announced the dates this year are 27 - 28 June at the usual place on top of Shenandoah Mountain. All who could were urged to come for what ever time they could and to participate in as much of the activities and they were so inclined to do. This is a great opportunity to operate as any licensed amateur can operate on any frequency used. If not as an operator, there is much to learn just by observation. In addition, it is a scenic spot. A pick-up is needed to take a load of wood up to be used during the Field Day.

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS: It was agreed that the July meeting will be moved to the 9th of July since the regular meeting would have been just before the celebration of Independence Day. A discussion was held concerning Liability Insurance for the Field Day. This will be researched. A card was sent around to be signed and sent to Walt (KF4BFB) as he was in the hospital awaiting surgery. It has since been reported that he was home and recovering nicely.

The treasurer reported we had close to \$2000. on hand at this time.

It was announced that the December Christmas meeting will be held on the regular meeting night and at Pano's Restaurant in Harrisonburg.

Other things announced were the M S Walk in Shenandoah County on 3 - 4 October; the Johnny Appleseed Horseback Rides on the same week-end; the third week-end of October is the Bike America Rides; and the trip to the Greenbank observatory will be May 30th and we plan to be at Greenbank at 10 a.m. A group will come from Charlottesville and others will join the group at Staunton at 8 a.m.

Information was shared concerning the moving of the 145.130 repeater from Great North Mountain to Massanutten Peak. This will take place in late May when the crystals have arrived and the group has time to go up to the repeater site. Also within a day or so after that the phone patch will be operable on the new frequency. Possibly in the future a new frequency will be obtained for Great North and the 147.315 may be relocated on the campus of E.M.U.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Wilton B. Thomas (KF4BFL)
Secretary*

The VARA minutes did not arrive in time for publication in this month's issue.

The deadline for the July issue of the Monitor is Monday, June 22nd.

MASSANUTTEN ARA

President: David Tanks, AD4TJ
Vice-President: Walt Lam, KF4BFB
Secretary: Wilton Thomas, KF4BFL
Treasurer: Matthew Huffman, KD4UPL
Board (exp 98): Sandy Mullins, KE4PZC
Board (exp 99): Bob Hughes, KF4BFC

MARA meets the first Thursday of each month at Ever's Restaurant on U.S. 11, south of Harrisonburg. Meal starts at 6:30 pm, Business Meeting starts at 7:30 pm
Visitors are welcome.

Dues (\$12/yr) should be mailed to the Treasurer,
Matthew Huffman, KD4UPL, 5166 Mt Clinton Pike,
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

THE VALLEY ARA

President: Ken Harris, KE4GKD
Vice-President: Karen Zirk, KE4WIE
Secretary: Doug Zirk, KE4RMD
Treasurer: Jeff Rinehart, WB4PJW

VARA meets the second Wednesday of each month at Gavid's Restaurant on US Route 11 South in Staunton. The meal begins around 6:30 and the business meeting begins at 7:30.
Visitors are welcome.

Dues (\$15/yr) should be mailed to the Treasurer,
Jeff Rinehart, 1344 Hankey Mtn Hwy, Churchville, VA 24421

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Massanutten Amateur Radio Assn, Inc.
c/o David R. Fordham
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