

The M.A.R.A./V.A.R.A. Monitor

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

MARA MEETING DATE CHANGE

The July meeting for the Massanutten Amateur Radio Club will be held on July 8th. Dinner starts at 6:30 pm at Ever's Restaurant on U.S. 11, south of Harrisonburg and north of Mt. Crawford. The business meeting starts at 7:30. Visitors are welcome and invited to attend.

MARA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hot! Hot! Hot! As I'm writing this it's still hot outside at 9 pm. And it's not yet summer! Also, by the time you read this Field Day '99 is history. I wonder how it turned out? Did we have good band conditions? Enough operators? Did the weather cooperate? Did we "...done good! "? Questions to be answered.

We had good attendance again, with 28 hams and guests present. We voted in 1 new member(congratulations to Todd KC4LPD), and read 3 applications(Bob KG4CHL, Richard KC3AN, and Phyllis N4VZC) to be voted on at the July meeting. And the club keeps growing.

The MARA Christmas Banquet for this year will be held at the regular meeting place: Eaver's Restaurant, on the 1st Thursday night of December at 6:30 pm. Please mark your calendars now. I'll be asking later for an approximate head count so they'll know how many to set up for. The regular buffet will be available at the usual price of \$9.61, or you can get an Oyster platter and the salad and dessert bar for \$12.01, tax and tip included.

Remember that the July meeting has been changed to the 8th to get away from vacation time at the 4th, and to recover from Field Day! See you there.

*David Tanks AD4TJ
MARA President*

VARA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Congratulations to Clint (KB4OLM) and Queenie Campbell for the brand new addition to the family. If they follow the old tradition of the 1st born son inheriting all that his father has, I sure hope the little guy loves Amateur Radio!!

I would like to thank all those who were able to come out to our June club meeting. I appreciate the insight that you afforded me by filling out the survey. The results are quite interesting. I plan to have additional copies of this survey at Field Day. It basically lets me know where you would like to see our club go. Overall, I am pleased with the number of those looking to advance in the hobby. It's a good sign of life. I was very appreciative of those who offered to help out where they can. Quite a few agreed that some type of class should be offered - we'll talk about that more. I hope by the next issue of the Monitor to share the overall results. If you get a chance, please fill one out and get it to me.

I hope you all enjoyed Field Day and were able to learn and share something new. If you didn't get the chance to join in on the experience, at least use the reminder of FD to check out your gear. We can't serve our community during a disaster if we can't remember: - how our rig operates, - to charge the batteries or fire up the generator - where we put that length of coax/spare antenna - or to get that intermittent problem fixed (and it just DIED).

I especially appreciate those who go out of their way to further the cause of Amateur Radio. Whether through formal instruction, being an "Elmer", helping on special events or just welcoming all who enter the air waves - keep up the good work.

73
Dan Beidler - KE4JSX
ke4jsx@juno.com

BOB'S KNOB BASH

DATE SET FOR AUGUST 15

You are invited to the 8th annual Big Mountain Repeater Association's Bob's Knob Picnic and Repeater Benefit to be held on Sunday, August 15, 1999 (Rain date the following week).

Hot Dogs; Hamburgers; Iced Tea; lemonade; plates; napkins; cups and silverware will be furnished. You are to bring a covered dish or dessert for yourself and your guests, as well as a couple of 2 liter bottles of YOUR favorite soft drink. Various other items such as buns; ice for the drinks; potato chips and specialty items may be donated by some of the folks attending, and if you would like to contribute any items, call Bob. **BE SURE TO REGISTER (IN THE CHINESE PAGODA) WHEN YOU ENTER.**

NOTICE: The secret recipe Bob's Knob open fire cooked iron kettle BEANS will be available as in past years. Those beans sure are popular and alone are worth the trip to the knob. We will have (fer sure) a bucket or two asking for contributions to the Big Mountain Repeater Fund, with all proceeds going to maintenance; rental Fees and expenses for the .625 - please note that the repeater operation has been financed by the users for over 20 years. This is a community-based repeater, open to all. If you would like to make a contribution by mail; the treasurer is Carla Worley, (KE4RMB's XYL)

Bring Grandpa and the kids...plenty of room to romp on the knob. Folding chairs for you and your guests would be nice. There will be walks in the woods, badminton, horseshoes and just plain "relaxin" under the shade trees. Parking is at a premium though, so if you can drive the compact car that day, or car-pool, it will help. An "informal" tailgate session will be held, if you want to buy, sell or swap. The official talk-in frequency is 146.55 simplex, after you pass Fulks Run on Rt. 259. Talk-in station will be N4XU, Neal.

Take Rt. 259 (west) through Broadway and continue on until you reach the Rt. 820 Bergton cut-off (at the flashing yellow light) which is Bergton Road. This is 15 miles WEST of Broadway. Continue on Bergton Road; turn right on Crab Run Road. Turn left on Mongold Hollow Road, then left again on Arbuckle Road. Bob's will be the 4th mailbox in, on the right, (Bob's Knob BLVD).

*Bob W3MMC -Licensee and President
Frank Worley K4RBZ -Engineer
Carla Worley, Franks XYL -Treasurer*

GOODIES STILL FOR SALE

- Kenwood TH-25AT Handheld VHF (2-meter band) transceiver, includes PL tone encoder/decoder unit already installed, touch-tone pad, memory scan; comes with extended receive capability for NOAA and VHF-hi public service band reception. Also includes new NiCad battery pack, wall charger, belt clip, original box and packing, manual, and schematic. Asking \$95.
- Uniden UST 9900 Satellite TV Receiver (C-band). Includes power supply, antenna control box, LNA power supply, handheld remote. VideoCipher-II decoder installed. (Simply add a C-band dish and an LNA and you're ready to go.) Asking \$50 but will let go for best offer.
- Simpson classic antique Model 380 Wavemeter-Modulation Indicator. Collector's item, mint condition! Includes plug-in coils for 80, 40, 20, and 10-meter bands. Uses include wavemeter, field-strength indicator, measure parasitic oscillations and harmonics, SWR meter, percentage modulation. Includes manual, schematic, dial calibration cards, and original box. Asking \$25.
- Lunar Electronics 2-meter linear amplifier model 10-80P, including receive pre-amp. Mint condition. Great companion for HT's. 2.5 watts in produces 20 watts out, 5 watts in produces 50 watts out, 10 watts in gives you 80 watts out. Includes spec sheet, instructions, and schematic. Asking \$50.
- Trunk-lip mount 2-meter 5/8 wave 3 db gain mobile antenna, includes short length of coax and PL-259 connector already installed, ready to mount on your trunk. Asking \$15.

Willing to negotiate on prices, especially for multiple purchases. Call David, KD9LA, daytime 540-568-3024, evenings 540-234-0448, email fordhadr@jmu.edu

The deadline for the August issue of the Monitor is Friday, July 23. All articles, for-sale ads, stories, reports, announcements, editorials, cartoons, pictures, jokes, complaints, lost-and-found and other stuff for the newsletter should be in the editor's hands July 23.

FIELD DAY RESULTS
 Provided by Sandy, K4PZC

This is the Official Unofficial score for the MARA/VARA joint 1999 Field Day exercise

STATION	QSO's	Value	Power level	Total
CW	1031	2	2	4124
Phone	1121	1	2	2242
Novice/Tech	542	1	2	1084
Vhf/6m/Sat	314	1	2	628
Bonus points				
Emergency Power				100
Public Relations				
	A			100
	B			100
	C			100
Message Origination				100
Satellite QSO				100
Natural Power				100
W1AW Message				100
Total				8878

The AD4TJ Experimental
 Digital Station 100 2 2 400

NOTE: This station can not be used for the contest

PHOTOS FROM FIELD DAY 1999
Courtesy of John Lasher, N3GLZ









VIRGINIA ARES MEETS WITH STATE OFFICIALS

Radio operators specializing in wireless digital communications met June 6th at the Virginia Department of Emergency Services (VDES) Disaster Field Office to discuss preparations for Y2K response and other events which require the state to seek alternates to telephones, faxes and the Internet. Although 90 per cent of reports and requests from localities to the VDES are carried by the telephone network, it must have a back-up system during disasters. "Digital (radio communications) is the only way to operate in wide spread disasters," according to Don Morton VDES Chief of Information Planning. "We can't do it with over 100 phone lines and must have digital access to get the traffic through."

Fred Vincent, Deputy Operations Director of VDES, explained as an emergency planner, he must assume the worst in terms of Y2K and disasters. He remarked, "Voice is great, but I can't imagine keeping up with the volume or accuracy of information without digital communications."

He further explained by planning for potential Y2K problems, it assists in updating and building a network of humans and digital communications. Mr. Vincent noted, Virginia Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES/ARES) was the only organization that is statewide in scope with the ability to connect individual localities to the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VAEOC).

The meeting detailed the status and coverage of VDES's wireless digital network, how corporate and agency contributions can be used to expand it and how digital experts can involve and instruct more amateur operators in this vital field.

Jim Dodd (KF4LGV) presented detailed visual maps illustrating coverage of each VHF station within the network. The Radio Mobile Deluxe program showed where gaps occur and Jim identified certain locations where additional nodes could fill in the gaps for better communications. Ben Sager (KC4ASF - ASEC Digital Operations Statewide) mentioned that a High Frequency network is also in place which offers complete coverage within Virginia and potentially to other states.

Tony Amato, Area "A" ASEC ARES/RACES, (KR4UQ) asked, "How can VA ARES/RACES help you?" He answered, "the number one tool is nonprofit tax deductions." As a nonprofit corporation, it is in a position to assist in recruiting and receiving tax deductible donations from corporations and various agencies. Rather than depending on a few large towers and nodes, Mr. Amato encouraged the establishment of many "small sticks" for redundancy and flexibility in network communications. He explained that commercial broadcast stations and commercial tower owners' could deduct the full fair market value of tower space made available for network use. A brochure and forms will be available to secure donations of all types.

Frank Mackey (K4EC), a director of VA ARES/RACES and State ARES/RACES Officer, defined two areas that digital experts need to pursue. The first is getting "to the grass roots and show people how to use it." By writing up instruction sheets explaining how to route, send and receive messages to the VA EOC, more amateurs can participate in emergencies. The second involves promoting portable packet operations. An example cited was the Washington, DC Marine Corps. Marathon, during which 500 injured runners and other events triggered over 6000 digital messages. All of these were linked automatically (via Amateur Radio Digital Network) to Marine computers and were instantly available. It would have been impossible to handle by telephone or voice radio. Mr. Mackey outlined the future of wireless digital communications including spread spectrum, wider bandwidth and the ability to transmit video images and faxes of the complex forms used by VDES and other agencies.

VARA SECRETARY'S REPORT

June 9, 1999 Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Valley Amateur Radio Association was held on June 9, 1999 at Gavid's Restaurant in Staunton, VA. There were 15 members present. The business meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by the new club president, Dan Beidler - KE4JSX.

There were no reports from ARES or SKYWARN. The Secretary's report from last month's Monitor was noted to have mentioned Pat Smiley, KD4WWF and Dan Beidler, KE4JSX to be co-presidents. Pat, KD4WWF, made a motion to correct it to read that Dan, KE4JSX is the only president and that there is no "co-presidency" . It was seconded by Bill Shott, W2ZVM.

New Business:

Dan, KE4JSX, passed out some "free" ink pens (from his business) as long as those present filled out the survey that his daughter, Danielle, passed around. The survey included ideas from club members on 1) What can they share with the club, 2) How can the club help the members, and 3) Where would we like to see our club go in the future. If you would like to add your input, please e-mail Dan (ke4jsx@juno.com) or fill out a survey at the next club meeting.

It was noted that if we would like to have an ambulance supported by the clubs at this year's Bike Virginia, we will need to provide an EMT to be with it. If you are, or know of an EMT that would be willing to help out, please contact Dan, KE4JSX.

Old Business:

A discussion about Field Day was led by Clint Campbell, KB4OLM. Ideas and input was shared to help work out details concerning this event.

Miscellaneous: A 50/50 drawing was won by Bennie Cook, KF4CZK.

The meeting was closed at approximately 8:10 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Dan Beidler, KE4JSX
VARA President*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 8: MARA Club Meeting (note date change)

July 10-11: IARU HF Championship

July 14: VARA Club Meeting

August 1: Berryville Hamfest

August 5: MARA Club Meeting

August 11: VARA Club Meeting

August 15: Bob's Knob Bash

Sept 18-19: Va Beach Hamfest

ARES NETS

Augusta County: Second Thursday of each month, 147.075 repeater, (+.600 khz).

Page County: Sundays, 8:00 pm local time, on the 146.625 repeater, (-.600 khz)

Rockingham County: Mondays, 8:00 pm local time. First Monday of each month on 146.550 simplex, all other Mondays, on the 145.130 repeater (-.600 khz).

MARA SECRETARY'S REPORT

May 6, 1999 Meeting

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association met on May 6th at Evers Restaurant in Mt. Crawford, Virginia with thirty-two members and guests present.

Norman (KA4EEN) our ARES representative announced he needed net controls for May 24th, 31st and June 14th. A sign up sheet was circulated. He announced there was a good representation at the March of Dimes. He had enough amateurs to cover all positions and there were six hundred and fifty walkers. Garry (KE4DFH) had attended ARES training. It was also announced that the Augusta County ARES nets are held on Thursday nights on 147.075. Dick (W3HXH) is trying to get jumpsuits for all interested from the Red Cross. Bob (W3MMC) is ordering Skywarn patches for those who want them and the Red Cross patches will have to be removed and Skywarn and ARES patches can be substituted. All were reminded of the Big Mountain Repeater picnic on August 15th and the Johnny Appleseed Ride held the first Saturday and Sunday of October.

The committee on spending money will report later. The treasurer reported a balance of \$2,434.82 as of May 6th.

The Field Day Committee met and all is well. A radio for the phone station is needed. Also the offer for sealed bids on the donated radio station was withdrawn and the equipment will be kept by the club for field day and other times of need

for the equipment. Questions were discussed about the possibility of a digital station for field day.

Various hamfests and other things of interest were announced. Other miscellaneous items were the 50/50 drawing from which the club received \$14.50. It was voted to donate \$25 to the Shenandoah County Cancer Walk to be held at the fairgrounds in memory and/or in honor of club members. This is held overnight and luminaries are used around the track representing those who have died of cancer.

We now have one hundred seven paid members and to continue bulk mailing we will rotate sending to other known amateurs in the area.

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

MARA SECRETARY'S REPORT

June 3, 1999 Meeting

Massanutten Amateur Radio Association held it's regular monthly meeting at Evers Restaurant near Mt. Crawford, Virginia on June 3rd with twenty-eight members and guests present. Those who came for dinner at 6:30 p.m. enjoyed the usual Thursday night menu.

Our business meeting began at 7:35 p.m. with introductions by all present. Todd Harrison (KC4LPD) of Elkton was voted into membership. In addition, we have applications from Richard (KC3AN) & Phyllis (N4VZC) of Harrisonburg and Bob Tennyson (KG4CHL) from Bridgewater.

Norman (KA4EEN) reported that ARES was progressing and he needed net controls for June 28th and also from July forward.

David (AD4TJ) read a letter he had received concerning used laptop computers available and clarified the price and conditions of purchase. Those interested were to contact David.

Bob (W3MMC) surprised us all with his second visit since his usual appearance at the Christmas Dinner. He was delivering Skywarn patches ordered for various members. Any who have not received their patches will have to get them at the Bob's Knob picnic in August or contact him personally at other times.

After brief discussion it was voted to have our Christmas Dinner at Evers Restaurant. It will be the scheduled meeting night and the dinner will be

buffet. Oysters may be ordered at an additional cost. There will be no advance reservations but we hope to furnish them a headcount a month before.

Field Day was discussed and all preparations are being made. A decision was made to this year run an experimental digital station.

We were all reminded of the Big Mountain Repeater Picnic to be held at Bob's Knob on Sunday, August 15th. All are welcome. Please bring a dish to share. (Do not worry about beans - there will be a kettle full). There will also be a special treat of home made sausages this year. Come when you like but eating will begin at 1 p.m. There will also be tailgating.

The club was reminded of the Bike Virginia again this year and our participation.

The next meeting is delayed one week to July 8th so that all may make family plans for July 4th weekend.

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

P.S. If you are looking for yard sales, good food, games, and fireworks on July 3rd, come to Fulks Run Ruritan Park and enjoy a full day of activity.

MASSANUTTEN ARA

President: David Tanks, AD4TJ
Vice-President: Sandy Mullins, K4PZC
Secretary: Wilton Thomas, KF4BFL
Treasurer: Matthew Huffman, KD4UPL
Board (exp 99): Bob Hughes, KF4BFC
Board (exp 00): Walt Lam, KF4BFB

<http://cob.jmu.edu/fordhadr/MARA/>

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 22802

THE VALLEY ARA

President: Dan Beidler, KE4JSX
Vice-President: Richard Huttinger, KF4QZG
Secretary: Daniel Farrow KB2TBL
Treasurer: Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW

<http://www.hamsnet.net/w4mus/>

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

The *Monitor* is published monthly by the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., a non-profit organization under the Internal Revenue Service regulations. The *Monitor* is distributed to all full current members of the Massanutten and the Valley Amateur Radio Associations under reciprocal agreements of the two clubs. Sample copies are sometimes sent to other hams in the Shenandoah Valley to invite them to join the club of their choice. All change of address, articles, comments, and other material for the *Monitor* should be sent to the newsletter editor, David R. Fordham, KD9LA, 131 Wayside Drive, Weyers Cave, VA 24486-2421, phone 540-234-0448, email: fordhadr@jmu.edu.

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