Ken Purdy, WB4CKP, SK

The local ham community has lost another active communicator. We have just learned that Ken Purdy, WB1CKP, passed away on June 17, 2001, at the Veterans Hospital in Martinsburg, WV at the age of 78. Ken was a native of Waterbury CT, but spent a large portion of his adult life as a contract Electrical Engineer in the southern part of the United States. Ken was a World War II veteran, having served as a photographer in the South Pacific. He was a member of the Fort Harrison Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Burial will be on September 22 at the Connecticut National Cemetery with full military honors. Our condolences go to Ken’s family.

VARA and MARA Joint Club Meeting Sept 4: “WSVA Picnic”!

A joint MARA/VARA Picnic will be held in September in lieu of the normal club meetings. The picnic will feature a tour of the WSVA station and transmission facilities by their chief engineer, Ellsworth, K4LXG.

The picnic will start at 6:30 pm in the field in front of the WSVA studios. To reach the site, take US 33 west from Harrisonburg’s Court Square, out past Garber’s Church Road. Watch carefully for Media Lane on your left! You will see the signs for the TV station across from Weaver’s Cemetery. Turn left onto Media Lane and proceed up the hill till you see the pic-nic’ers.

Drinks will be provided. Bring a covered dish or dessert to share. Paper goods will be provided, but bring a lawn chair to sit on!

Oh, yes, the date! The picnic is scheduled for Tuesday, September 4, with a rain date of Thursday, September 6th!

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Mark Your Calendar — September 8 EMU Track and Field Event

Doug Alder, N4DUG, is seeking volunteers to help out with the annual EMU track and field day this year. The event will be held on Saturday morning, September 8. If you have a handheld or other portable two-meter rig, and would like to spend a nice Saturday morning playing radio, give Doug a call at 540-867-9719. This event is always a low-key, laid-back affair, with hams providing informal score and status reporting as well as providing emergency and contingency communications. The weather is generally very comfortable, and refreshments are provided. Thank you in advance for your assistance.
VE Session Report

Many thanks to the VE’s that helped with the August 4 test session at the Woodman of the World building. We had four persons take tests. Two candidates upgraded to Amateur Extra class, and one candidate is now a new Technician class ham.

The Volunteer Examiners that helped with this session were:

Charles Vogan, KD5KA
Richard Haxton, KC3AN
Robert VanFossen, K4DJG
Dale Showalter, N4DAI
Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG

I must add that Richard, KC3AN, keeps threatening to take the Extra class exam, so everyone encourage him to keep hitting the book.

Special thanks is also due to the Woodman of the World for the use of their building. It is an excellent location and a fine facility for our needs.

Gerald, KN4FM

Fox Hunt Results

On the night of August 9th, determined hunters searched and searched for the fox; he thought he was sly, but in 90 minutes of hunting the jig was up!

The hunters, in this case, were ham operators (as was the fox), and the weapons of choice (this particular night) were HT’s and bodyshielding. Richard KF4QZG, set up near Harristown, using a Ringo Ranger at 15 ft or so, and his mobile rig running 50 watts to begin with.

As the hunters narrowed their search, he reduced power to stop overloading the front-ends of the HT’s as the hunters got closer. Finally, Mark, W4MES, of Fishersville, located Richard 90 minutes into the hunt.

You might say, “What in the world good is all this running around looking for a transmitter?” Well, what if an airplane went down in the National Forest, and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service was activated to help locate it? Would you know how to begin looking for it? Or, what if someone were jamming a repeater? Could you locate the offender? With some practice (such as the Fox Hunts), and cooperation between the hunters, it is very possible to find the transmitter.

Come join us September 13th at 8 pm on 146.490 simplex for the 4th Augusta County ARES Fox Hunt.

The only clue as to the location of the fox is: he will be somewhere in Augusta County or Rockingham County. This is open to any hams, not just ARES members, and not just Augusta County ARES members.

David Tanks AD4TJ EC and ERO for Augusta County

Did You Read It?

Last month’s Monitor just might be a keeper.

The August issue contained lots of important information.

Did you notice the Highway Patrol direct telephone numbers?

How about the VDOT district information for reporting road hazards?

Did you read the letter from the County Fire Chief?

Did you know the new NOAA weather radio transmitter’s frequency?

How many of the new hams in the area have you heard on the air?

Did you remember that the Sunday night Page County ARES Net is now on 146.670? Did you even know about the 146.670 repeater?

And of course, there was the humorous opinion piece griping about how no one reads the Monitor anymore...

Some hams keep a 3-ring binder of their Monitor copies for reference. If you do, last month’s issue might be one to put in. Those phone numbers especially might be worth keeping..
Congratulations are in order for some local hams who placed well in international contests recently.

KB4OLM, a group effort with a number of local hams participating, scored first in their class in Virginia in the 10-meter contest.

Also, Sandy, K4PZC, scored third in Virginia in the recent RTTY contest. Kudos to these local operators.

Ruth Purdy, widow of Ken, WB4CKP, has for sale a Yaesu model FT-208R 2-meter transceiver with manual and charger. If you are interested, call Ruth at 801-8001 (Harrisonburg).

Come take out the trash. David, KD9LA, has some computer equipment that someone might find useful. He has two 386 computers, one of which won’t communicate with the monitor, and one of which has suffered a hard drive failure. Both these boxes have 3.5 and 5.25 floppy drives in them. With a stocked junk box, a tinkerer might be able to put the two together to make a usable 386 computer. He also has a spare 20 megabyte hard drive. What he doesn’t have is the time to play with this stuff. If you can find a use for these things, call Dave at 234-0448 (Weyers Cave) to drop by and pick ‘em up.

This is a popular public service event utilizing a dozen or more hams. This year it will be held on October 19-21.

Check out the following website, provided by Ray Colvin. It purports to list all the major repeaters in the U.S., regardless of coordinating agency. The website also has the provision for reverse lookup by frequency, callsign, or location, and provides links to some other useful repeater-related sites. Check it out!

http://hamrepeaters.com

Andrew Barbour, KG4GZG, has a collection of mint condition IC chips for sale at give-away prices. Watch next month’s issue for a listing.

Don Landes, WX4C, provides the website below which calculates the visible passes for the Space Shuttles when they are in orbit.

http://liftoff.msfc.nasa.gov/RealTime/JPass/PassGenerator/

Late Breaking ARRL News

- FCC is considering reallocating the ham 2.3-2.4 GHz band to commercial services.
- FCC is accepting comments on proposal to give hams a 60-meter band (5.25-5.4 MHz).
- AO-40 is in an orbit safe for 20 years.
- Three more ham satellites are scheduled for launch September 17th, including one that can be accessed with an HT.
- Colorado is getting a new County.
MARA President’s Message

Many thanks to those of you that showed up at the last meeting. As promised, there was no presentation as we normally have at our meetings. I guess that since nobody had a suggestion, or volunteered to present something, that means that we know all there is to know, or at least know all we care to know, about amateur radio. Somehow I don't believe that is true.

For August, Ellsworth K4LXG has offered to host the MARA and VARA clubs at WSVA (located on Rt. 33 west of Harrisonburg) for a joint picnic. There will also be a tour of the radio station, and he says we will see what a REAL transmitter looks like. This event, like all of our meetings, is open to everyone, so bring your families, chairs and something to share (a food item or two). The club will furnish drinks and paper plates, cups and the genuine plastic silverware.

On the agenda for the October meeting is election of club officers. We need to elect a new President, Vice President and a Director. I have served as President for two years and want to serve as ex-president next year! Steve, KF4ZWK, our Vice President has left us. He is in college in New England, and I would like to wish him well in his studies. David’s, KF4SVR, term as Director ends this year. Please let one of the present club officers know if you would like to volunteer yourself or someone else for the ballot. Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated. Remember, it is your club, so pitch in and help.

There will NOT be a meeting at Ever's this month. They are not expecting us to show up, so don't surprise them. The meeting day for this month has changed to the first Tuesday of September (Sept. 4 — the picnic, remember?) with Thursday (Sept. 6) as the rain date. The picnic starts at 6:30 pm. Spread the word!

73 de
Gerald, KN4FM

Special Event Station at the Jousting Tournament Yields Lots of Fun and Contacts...

More pictures are available on the Internet at: Http://photos.yahoo.com/kf4qzg
Opinion Piece: The Many Kinds of Hams

Much has been written about the different kinds of amateur radio operators. You can classify hams based on their license class, whether they use CW or phone, or even whether they experiment with exotic and far-out modes like moonbounce, meteor-scatter, or trying to use the Outback repeater system.

But this month, I’m going to clue you in to the real way to classify ham operators. It has to do with which celebrity they most resemble. Once you know what to look for, you can easily identify exactly which class a valley ham belongs in.

The Goober Pyle Operator: If you believe the ARRL propaganda, the age of the average U.S. ham today is quickly approaching somewhere around 92, so most of you will remember Gooben Pyle, the mechanic on the Andy Griffin Show. Gooben could work on any kind of car, and he loved tinkering around, but you never saw him actually drive anything. The GP ham is the same way. The GP Ham loves to tinker around with stuff. He is always building something, modifying something, or taking something apart to see if he can make it better. You can recognize a GP ham because his soldering iron hasn’t been unplugged since the 1970’s energy crisis. His workbench is larger than his XYL’s kitchen. He owns enough electronic parts to rebuild the avionics on all four space shuttles and still have enough left over to stock the Cloverleaf Radio Shack store. If you ever need a part for your 1964 LaFayette Short Wave Y-1, the GP ham can either (a) find you the right part in his junkbox, or (b) he’ll put one together for you using a mayonnaise jar lid, two 25k resistors, a diode, and copious amounts of solder. And it will work, too. But you’ll never hear the GP ham on the air.

The Rene Descartes Ham: This is a variant of the Gooben Pyle Ham. Rene Descartes was the philosopher who said, “I think, therefore I am.” The RD ham thinks he can communicate with nothing, so therefore he does communicate with nothing. Often referred to by the derogatory term, “QRP operator”, the RD ham thinks he can work the world with 0.00015 watt. He puts together little teeny tiny things that fit inside the groove of your wedding ring and take all their power from the bottom cover of a deaf hearing aid battery. A half-grown housecat rubbing against a coax switch generates more RF than all his transceivers put together, yet the RD ham expects stations in Franz Josefland to give him 5-by-5 signals. The RD Ham thinks he can figure out how to get the cover off our radios. Heck, some of us still have enough left over to stock the Cloverleaf Radio Shack store.

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The Heinrich Himmler Ham: Named for the infamous head of the feared S.S. (Gestapo) in 1940’s Germany who was responsible for guarding the purity of the Aryan race, this type of ham believes he has been commissioned by the Almighty to keep the ham bands pure and free from contamination, no matter how slight. The HH hams are especially hard on immigrants, those who only recently joined the ham community and haven’t yet learned the customs, rules, and “verboten’s” of ham jargon. HH hams wage wars of terror, intimidation, and torture on newcomers who violate the regulations of the Skywarn nets or VHF repeaters. Richard, KE4HVO, is one valley resident who was arrested by an HH ham.

The Mother Teresa Ham: Unlike the three kinds of hams already discussed, these hams are in short supply in the valley. There are only about a half-dozen of them. They are the brave souls who shoulder the burden any time there is real work to be done. They are the few who sacrifice, time and time again, tirelessly and selflessly, to man the marathons, the bike rides, the parades and lawn parties, the fund raisers for MS and MD and MTV. These are the hams who, week after week, volunteer to serve as net control because no one else will step forward. These hams will be put on the fast-track to sainthood after they become Silent Keys.

The Homer Simpson Ham: This is the most common type of ham in the valley. Most of us are HS Hams. We use the repeaters and expect someone else to drive up 60 miles to the mountaintop in the snow within ten minutes of it going off the air. We work one public service event every six years and proudly tell everyone how much service hams provide. We passed the code test in 1971, and that exam was our last CW “contact”. We can’t copy the ID from our local repeater, even after hearing it 60 thousand times. And many of us have trouble even when it’s using the voice synthesizer! And when it comes to radio theory, most of us can’t even figure out how to get the cover off our radios. Heck, some of us have to get help to change the battery on our HT!

The Fraser Crane Ham: The FC ham is named for the pretentious star of the TV show Fraser, a fellow who wants everyone to believe he is humble and modest, while at the same time taking great pains to ensure they recognize his genius. The FC Ham starts out a conversation: “Yep, I worked Zero Charlie Nine Zulu last night. Snagged him on the first call. This makes the third time I’ve worked the Zirconium Islands. I sure hope this group sends the QSL quicker than those guys who did the Rowan and Martin Reef expedition last year. Yep, my new 400-foot tower is sure turning out to be worth the effort. I bounced a microwave signal off of my Aunt Lou’s bird bath in Florida this morning and worked a Quebec Seven Delta station in the Andromeda Archipelago. He was mobile using homebrew with a four-day-old piece of spaghetti as an antenna and he gave me a 20-20-9 report...” You get the idea.

You can probably think of many other kinds of hams. For example, do you know any Brittany Spears hams? Tom Hanks hams? Or how about Gary Condit hams?
VARA President's Message

I was able to contact the folks at Bike Virginia. The Fall Festival tour will start on October 19th, with registration at the Armory from 3:00 PM until 9:00 PM. The tour begins on Saturday at 7:30 AM, and will continue until 4:00 PM. Then on Sunday, October 20th, the tour will start again at 8:00 AM following the Middlebrook route and finish at 3:00 PM. The club will need volunteers for both Saturday and Sunday. It is time to check your calendars and mark them. The following "note" was taken from their web site. Looks like there will be no bike tour in the Todd Lake recreation area.

NOTE FROM THE BIKE VA WEB SITE: This year we will offer only On-Road rides. Rider participation on Fall Festival has been 90% on-road and 10% off-road. Since the off-road routes demand about 40% of our staff resources to ensure the safety of the cyclists, in order to better serve our registrants, we will limit the ride to on-road this year. An off-road tour may be offered in the future.

Is There Hope For Amateur Radio?:
Every now and then we read articles written by doom and gloom naysayers who predict the end of Amateur Radio as we know it. They complain that the tests are getting too easy, and that it won’t be long and code will be nothing more than a memory. Why, they even predict that all you will have to do is spell your name correctly and you’ll receive an instant Extra Class Amateur Radio License!

Personally, I don’t think so. In fact, as a holder of an Extra Class License with 20 wpm code speed I am amazed at the number of hams with Extra Class licenses who are suspended by the FCC for malicious interference! Here’s my point. The hobby isn’t dead, but it is evolving and if we do it right, Amateur Radio will evolve into a better hobby.

It may be true that our newer hams have no interest in code. But they are interested in newer modes such as PSK31. Jason N4DSL shared with us a program using cutting edge technology. Sure I might get out my old bug (semi-automatic key), but Jason brought to the club for his program a transceiver, a lap top computer, and a projection system. Now tell me, is that not the cutting edge?

I don’t think we should complain that our hobby is evolving. I remember what the old AM (amplitude modulation) guys said when SSB (single side band) was introduced. I can sum it up this way. They said, “There goes the ham bands.” They were wrong. Single side band has made communications a lot easier!

So where are we? We have a diverse hobby. I am thankful for cw operators because I am one and I enjoy cw more than any other mode. I am also glad that there is enough room in our hobby to allow others to experiment and try out new things. If you’re like me, you may wonder where we are going. Well, sit back and ride along. I think you’ll be surprised and you won’t be disappointed.

So whether it is cw, moon bounce, satellite, PSK31, RTTY and so on, fasten your seats belts because here we go!

We would like to get training classes started for the Technician level. Anyone interested in helping teach the classes please contact Greg W4GRC, Alby AD4KZ or Richard KF4QZG.

Still Lost:
Two lengths of coax, 30’ and 40’ during field day in the area of the Novice Tech Station. These belong to Gordon Batey WA4JFJ and have his name or call sign on them. If these should show up with your equipment please contact Gordon and make arrangements to get them back to him.

Submitted By Ray Colvin KE4HVR

VARA Secretary’s Report — August 7 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Shoney’s of Staunton on August 7, 2001. President Greg Czerniak W4GRC opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. There were 19 members present and 5 guests, Fred Evans N4KYM, Jason Armentrout N4DSL, Gerry Brunk K4RBZ, Diane Smiley and Mike Reno KG4OON.

We have a new member, Fred Evans N4KYM renewed his membership to the VARA.

NOTE: Our meeting for September 4th will be a joint picnic with MARA at the WSVA radio site in Harrisonburg on Rt. 33-W where 4 lanes change to 2 lanes. Just look for the radio towers on the left. Bring a covered dish and lawn chairs.

The 50/50 winner was Gerry Brunk K4RBZ.

The club voted to send Ed Troutman WA3TFX and his wife Helen KD4WHT of Brandywine, WV field day pins. Ed was the one in a wheel chair if you didn’t get around to talk with them on the mountain. They were there last year for a visit but by camping at the field day site this year they got to see the antennas going up for all the stations and the stations in full opera-

tion for Field Day 2001. They said it was a great experience for the both of them and they enjoyed talking and camping with everyone.

We have a committee of three for the Christmas Party this year, Nancy KE4PHP, Lonnie N4WIV and Joan KF4CWR.

A picnic is planned on September 15th in Gypsy Hill Park in Staunton. The Club will furnish the meats, plates and plastic ware. Bring a covered dish, drinks and lawn chairs.

PLEASE...Let Greg or Lonnie know if you plan to attend. They will be getting the meats for the picnic and need to know how much to buy. Don’t wait until the last minute!

David AD4TJ Needs HELP with the Augusta County ARES Net. Anyone that is willing to be net control and help David out give him a call.

Field Day 2001 contacts are looking good even though we ran 3A this year. The final count may be done in time to make this newsletter.
MARA Secretary’s Report — August 2 Meeting

MARA had it’s August 2, 2001 meeting at Evers Restaurant beginning at 7:30p.m.. The meeting was chaired by its president, Gerald Nauman.

**Introductions:**
All those present introduced themselves and gave their call signs. There were 21 members and 4 guests present making a total of 25.

**Old Business:**
The minutes of the last meeting were approved as presented in the newsletter.

After a closed ballot we were pleased to welcome a new member to MARA. His name is Eugene Rodgers and his call sign is KG4JBC.

**Committee Reports:**
1. Treasurer: Sandy, K4PZC  Balance in our treasury is $2385.84
2. Public Service: Doug, N4DUG   We received $300.00 from our participation in the Bridgewater Lawn Festival.
3. ARES: Dale, N4DAI   Although Dale was unable to attend due to another meeting there was a lot of discussion on the City of Harrisonburg’s offer of their former bus which was used for communications. A Motion was made by Richard, W3HXH seconded by Paul, WV3T as follows: Motion made that Dale accept the bus and arrange for its transportation to Broadway Metal Works. A vote was taken and the motion accepted.
4. ARES Net: Norman, KA4EEN  We need Net Control Operators
5. VE: Gayle, KU4XN   There will be an Amateur Exam this Saturday, August 4th in Dayton. Exams to begin at 9:00a.m. For this exam, Gerald will be in charge.

**New Business:**
1. No new applications for membership.
2. 50/50    This was won by Bud, W5VEY. He donated his share to the club treasury. It was in the amount of $18.00.
3. Planning for the joint MARA and VARA picnic: Ellsworth, K4LXG agreed to coordinate arrangements for the picnic. The date is September 4th with September 6th as a rain date. The time is 6:30 p.m., the WSVA site is on Media Lane off of Rt 33 West. Look for the 4 tall towers. Paper goods will be furnished along with iced tea and lemonade. Your choice of what pot luck dish you will bring. Also, bring a folding chair for your convenience. A Motion was made by David, KD9LA that the Club set $75.00 aside for the purchase of paper goods, tableware, napkins, cups, etc. as needed for the club. The motion was seconded by Rusty, N4YET. The club members voted to accept the motion.

**Other Points of Interest:**
Members were reminded of the invitation to take part in the Special Event Station, Jousting Tournament, Natural Chimneys Park on August 17-18.

Berryville Hamfest this Sunday August 5th.

Submitted by Phyllis Haxton, Secretary

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**Calendar**

September 1-2: Shelby (NC) Hamfest
September 4: **MARA/ VARA Joint Club Picnic, WSVA, Harrisonburg**
September 6: Rain Date for Joint MARA/VARA Picnic
September 8: **EMU Varsity Track Meet Public Service Event**
September 8-9: ARRL VHF QSO Party
September 13: Skywarn Basics II Class, Sterling WSFO
September 15-16: York (PA) Hamfest
September 16: VE Exams in Roanoke VA
September 22-23: Virginia Beach Hamfest
September 29-30: CQ/RJ RTTY Contest
September 30: VE Exams in Lynchburg, VA

October 2: **MARA Club Meeting, Harrisonburg** (club elections)
October 4: **VARA Club Meeting, location TBA**
October 6: **Ham Radio VE Exams in Dayton, VA**
October 6: Lancaster (PA) TailgateFest
October 7: VE Exams in Radford, VA
October 10: Ten-Ten Day Sprint
October 13: Stafford (VA) Hamfest
October 13-14: ARRL EME Competition
October 14: VE Exams in Lynchburg, VA
October 19-21: **Bike Virginia Public Service Event**
October 27-28: Ten-Ten Fall QSO Party (CW)

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**Coming Next Month:**

Report on the Bob’s Knob Bash
Report on the Chimneys Special Event Results
More from the Opinionated One…

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Wanted: Articles for the Monitor. We need reports of your contest activity, your camping trips, pictures of your shack, announcements, for sale items, items needed, and everything else. Keep those cards and letters (and emails) coming!

The deadline for the October Monitor is Sept. 21.
MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

President: Gerald Nauman, KN4FM
Vice President: Steve Tennyson, KF4ZWK
Secretary: Phyllis Haxton N4VZC
Treasurer: Sandy Mullins, K4PZC
Board (exp 01): David Hughes, KF4SVR
Board (exp 02): Bob Tennyson KG4CHL

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

September Club Meeting to be held at WSVA Transmitter Site as a joint MARA/VARA Picnic. See Story on Page 1!

Visitors are welcome.

Dues ($12 per year) should be mailed to:
MARA
PO Box 1882
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

President: Greg Czerniak, W4GRC
Vice President: Richard Huttinger, KF4QZG
Secretary: Ray Colvin, KE4HVR
Treasurer: Joan Pitsenbarger, KF4CWR

http://www.hamsnet.net/W4MUS

September Club Meeting to be held at WSVA Transmitter Site as a joint MARA/VARA Picnic. See Story on Page 1!

Visitors are welcome.

Dues ($15 per year) should be mailed to:
Joan Pitsenbarger, KF4CWR
352 Campbell Street
Staunton VA 24401