

June  
2009

# The Monitor

*Published for Members of Participating Ham Radio Clubs in Virginia's Central Shenandoah Valley*

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## FIELD DAY ISSUE

### VARA Club Meeting Tuesday June 2

The Valley Amateur Radio Association's March meeting will be held Tuesday night June 2 at Lynn's Pancake House in Waynesboro, on US 250, west of town. Dinner begins around 6:00 pm, and the business meeting begins at 7:00.

### MARA Club Meeting Thursday June 4

MARA will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday night June 4 at the Wood Grill Buffet. Dinner begins at 6:30, the business meeting begins at 7:30.

### PVARC Club Meeting Friday June 5

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its monthly meeting on Friday night, June 5, in the "Day Room" meeting room in the back of Page Memorial Hospital. No meal, but the business meeting starts at 6:00 pm..

### NRAO Observatory Tour: Saturday June 6

Paulette Woody of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Greenbank, West Virginia, has worked hard to schedule a special behind-the-scenes tour for radio amateurs in the Shenandoah Valley. It's a long drive, but well worth it, since these radio antenna are things that very few people ever get to see up close.

Some hams are meeting for breakfast at Shoneys in Staunton (On US 250 at Interstate 81's exit 222) at 7:00 a.m.

The hams will all caravan to Greenbank so that we can arrive at the same time, making things easier on the tour guides. The facility's Starlight Café will have a pizza snack available for us after the tour.

The caravan will assemble at **8:00 a.m. promptly** so that the group can **arrive at the observatory at 10:00 a.m.**

**The caravan will assemble at the Holiday Inn parking lot at I-81 Exit 225.** Talk-in will be on the **146.850** repeater, which uses PL of 131.8 Hz, input down 600 kHz.

See the map on page 2 for more details, and snack information on page 3.

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## Directions to the NRAO Greenbank Observatory Tour

Hams can meet for an optional breakfast at Shoneys in Staunton at 7:00 a.m. This is an informal get-together and not a formal meeting, as we have not reserved the meeting room for the event.

The caravan will assemble at 8:00 a.m. promptly in the parking lot of the Holiday Inn at I-81 Exit 225. (This is the north end of the Staunton By-Pass, State Highway 262/275, the Woodrow Wilson Parkway. The Holiday Inn is on the northwest corner of the exit interchange, but you have to use Country Club road to access the parking lot.

Talk-in to the caravan assembly will be on the 146.850 repeater, using PL of 131.8.

The caravan will depart the Holiday Inn Parking lot no later than 8:15 a.m., and will follow the Staunton By-Pass west to US 250. Turn right onto US 250 heading west, and go for approximately 64 miles. This is a mountainous and rugged route. Go through the town of Monterey, continuing west on US 250, entering West Virginia.

US 250 takes a sharp left turn at Thornwood. Shortly thereafter, take West Virginia route 28 to the left, following the signs to Greenbank and Frost, West Virginia. From this point, follow the signs to the NRAO observatory facility, which is just off West Virginia route 28.

The caravan will use 146.550 simplex to communicate while en route, but it will be a good idea to stop transmitting when you get to the turn-off from Route 250 onto Route 28, to avoid interfering with the observatory's sensitive receivers.



Paulette Woody and several other astronomers will meet the group in the Visitor's Center at 10:00 a.m. to start the tour. The group will likely be divided into two or three smaller groups for the trip out to the telescope dishes and tours of the electronics laboratories.

The tour will take approximately 2 hours, and pizza will be available at the public cafeteria immediately afterwards (see article next page!).

Bob Steere, N1QEQ, has graciously agreed to be the ham's point person for the trip, and he'll handle the distribution of the pizza slices for lunch.

## NRAO Pizza Snack Information

The NRAO has a full-service food facility which could have arranged a nice buffet lunch, had we been able to give them an exact count of persons attending in our group.

Unfortunately, history has shown that getting an exact count of valley amateurs who actually show up and participate in *anything* is as impossible as peace in the Middle East.

So that hams don't go hungry, however, we have arranged for seven 12-inch pizzas to be prepared of various kinds, for \$1 per slice. Drinks, salad and side dishes will also be available for an extra charge. The prices are very reasonable, given that there is nothing else anywhere near Greenbank!

The food service facility will be open to the public, but rarely is prepared to handle more than a dozen or so individuals. Our seven large pizza's will be ready for us, and they will have sufficient drinks and trimmings, but don't plan on getting the normal cafeteria meal selections: they'll be sold out by the time the sixth ham has come through the line! Plan on eating pizza!

## KD4OXQ: FTP is Running on New Server

People with FTP capability can access shared files on the new ham server using the IP of "75.145.241.235" and a user name of "HAM" and password of "MARA" (all without quotes).

The files shown are read only and there is a folder "Uploads" that you can upload files to and they will be added to the read only folder soon for all to see.

I now have pictures from the 2008 field day weekend on there for anyone to download.

Groups of pictures will be added by single pictures and also a zip file including all in that group.

Please, if you upload one or more files, make a folder with your call and a word or two description to put your uploads into. If you need a longer description (ie you upload a program file) make a notepad file with the information in it and upload that with the files you upload in the same folder.

This server is for all hams to use and enjoy. Please take advantage of this service. Thanks.

*Jay Stewart, KD4OXQ*



## W3HXH Honored as NOAA's Third Longest Reporting Weather Station

*Awards for over 125 Years of Service at Third Oldest National Weather Service Observing Site*

NOAA's National Weather Service recognized Richard and Ginny Weaver with the "Family Heritage Award," for 125 years of service to the Nation by taking daily weather observations for the historic climate record at Dale Enterprise, Virginia. Dale Enterprise is the oldest operating station in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the third oldest in the country, dating back to 1880.

Richard Weaver is a retired Pastor and active Ham Amateur Radio Operator of seventy years. Virginia Weaver is a retired nurse of the Civilian Public Service Camp from World War II. Their son, Robert Weaver, has recently been assisting the family's service.

Richard and Ginny were honored on May 13 at the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors meeting by James Lee, Meteorologist in charge of the Sterling WSFO and other dignitaries.

Congratulations to Richard and Ginny on this honor.

## K3EC: Q-Signals, Anyone?

[QSIG8-1.TXT] May 15, 2009

QBE?

Back in days long past, pounding brass was the primary means of radio communications. Radio telegraphy reigned supreme within the marine, aviation and amateur radio services whose operators spoke clearly and unambiguously across language barriers with simple three-letter "Q" signals. Some are still used by hams today but simply as nouns -- e.g. "QRM", "QRN" and "QSB" -- but not as statements or queries. (How many readers know what "QST" originally meant?)

Consider a case in point: many books describe the sinking in 1912 of the Titanic and include references to its exchanges of wireless traffic with other vessels. Most notable is the QSO (AHA! -- you know what that means!) between Jack Phillips (Chief Op on the Titanic) and Cyril Evans, the solo operator on the liner Californian which was stopped just 10 or so miles distant -- only an hour before the iceberg encounter: As usually written up:

"Evans ... tried to inform Phillips of the fact (i.e. stopped in ice) about 11 P.M. but Phillips was busy 'copying' messages from Cape Race, and Evans, being so much nearer and having a broad spark note, naturally interfered. Evans received a curt 'Shut up, I am busy with Cape Race' from Phillips. Phillips informed Cape Race that he had just been 'jammed' by the Californian and to resume traffic after the last message which he had received 'OK.'"

I would guess that what was really exchanged between the three operators was not such wordy English, but more likely a string of Q-signals such as: "QRT QRL CPR - CPR DE MGY QRM - QSL NR [xxx] - QRV" (MGY was the Titanic's callsign, and I've assumed "CPR" for Cape Race and "xxx" as the number of the last message acknowledged.) In all likelihood, something like that was sent by Jack Phillips at the Titanic's key.

What did these Q signals communicate? Namely (then as today):

QRT -- "Stop sending"  
 QRL -- "I am busy"  
 QRM -- "I am interfered with"  
 QSL -- "I acknowledge receipt [of message nr xxx]"  
 QRV -- "I am ready to copy"

Note these Q signals are "verbals," i.e. complete sentences with emphasis on the predicates.

Q signals focused on communications matters, not social subjects. (No Q signal for "What's the best bar in port?") But otherwise, a lot of really useful ones that eclipse the foggy wordiness of today's voice communications. A sampling:

QAR? -- "May I stop listening for \_\_\_ minutes?"  
 QBU -- "Message is not clear."  
 QCA -- "You are causing delay by slowness to answer."  
 QXS? -- "Is my procedure incorrect? Advise instructions."

(The venerable, impolite and unofficial "QLF" doubtless remains -- but just a nostalgic memory for brass pounders of yore from any CW-based radio or telegraphic service.)

However, how about that "QBE" title above? It means "I am about to wind in my antenna." I intend having it inscribed on my gravestone after "K3EC" to leave a puzzle for all those who come after me in these times of cell phones and digital communications. I'm betting it'll drive 'em nuts!

de Hugh Pettis, K3EC

## K4KMM: Repeater for Sale – Great Condition and Dirt Cheap!



For Sale:  
 Aerotron Repeater Station. Currently crystaled for 153.55 but easily converted to upper Ham 2 meter freq. Includes all documentation, conversion and operating manuals. This was to be backup for the Franklin Repeater, 147.945/345. Will not get time to complete.  
 Asking \$135.00 OBO as is. Pickup in Brandywine, WV.  
 INFO: Ken Miller, K8KMM 304-249-5278 or k8kmmwv@yahoo.com

Editor's Note: the above Aerotron Repeater is the same model as the Franklin repeater W3RUA on Dickenson mountain. It can easily be converted to the 2-meter band, as Ken Miller, K8KMM can attest. The repeater is in excellent working condition. If you are interested, call Ken at 304-249-5278.

### VE Exams June 13

Don't Forget! Our next VE testing session will be Saturday June 13, at the Woodmen of the World building in Dayton Virginia, starting at 9:00 am.

*Gayle Shull, KU4XN*

## Page Valley ARC Field Day Spreadsheet

### PAGE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2009 FIELD DAY

Qty	Description	Sources	DONOR
2	Transceivers	TS-2000	K4DPF
	Microphones		
2	Power Supply		K4DPF
2	PC for logging		N4YSA
	PC to XCVR Interface	RIGblaster	K4DPF
1	Generator<=5KW		N4YSA
1	Generator	2KW	K4DPF
	Fuel/OIL		
2	Deep Cycle Batteries	Discuss...have two in trailer	N4YSA AND K4DPF
1	Battery Charger	Trailer	K4DPF
2	Power Strip		K4DPF
2	Ground Rod w/ cable		N4YSA
2	HF Antenna		G5RV N4YSA
2	Antenna Couplers		N4YSA AND K4DPF
	Cable and Connectors		
2	Voltage Regulator(UPS?)		ROBERT FORREST
	Extension Cord	200 ft #14	K4DPF
	Tent/shelters	Sandy: Walled Tents, DPF 2 Pop-ups	NOT NEEDED
	Table and Chairs	need two tables, 6 chairs??	HAVE PICNIC TABLES
	Table Lamp w/ spare bulbs		
	Rope for Antenna		K4DPF
	Antenna Masts	BACKUPS	DPF--ROBERT
	Sling shot for antenna		K4DPF
	CW Paddle		K4DPF
	Keyer	MFJ	K4DPF
	Logging Program	Have N3JTP	
	400 Watt Inverter		N4YSA
	QRP/Solar Rig		Morgan Phenix

TASK		
Arrange for Site Station One Set up	\$60.00	Have approved site at Lake Arrowhead, FFA Shelter N4YSA to direct, Need volunteers
Generators/electrical distribution		Have a shelter, still need someone to set up generator, run cable etc.
Signs? Ben to price a banner		
Welcome/Information Table		Geoffrey (Old QST's, set up table, flyer, etc.)
News Paper Press Release		SPARKY
Served Agency Visitor		
Angie Fox, Gene Stewart??		K4DPF will ask
Elected Official Visitor		
??		
NTS Message to ARRL SM/SEC		Can generate Winlink Email and send
Photographs		Geoffrey
Educational Activity		
Youth Bonus		
Tear down and Clean up		
SCHEDULING		

## Page Valley Amateur Radio Club Receives Club Callsign

The Page County amateurs have been issued callsign KJ4LNI, just in time for Field Day. However, the club is applying for a vanity callsign of K4PMH (to honor Page Memorial Hospital for their support and use of facilities).

Listen for this call on Field Day!

Can't make it up the mountain to the joint MARA/VARA Field Day exercise? Plan to join PVARC down in the valley at the Page Valley Amateur Field Day at Lake Arrowhead (courtesy of the Luray Parks and Recreation Department)!

The PVARC Field Day will be found at the FFA Shelter, complete with public information for prospective hams.

## Joint MARA/VARA Field Day Preparations Complete

Looks like Field Day 2009 is moving right along. The 2M beam antenna and the 440 beam antenna has been taken down and will make their way to the field day site. These antennas had to be removed from K4pzc's QTH in Elkton and is letting us use them for Field Day, and then he will take them to his new QTH after Field Day. A big thanks to Sandy for the use of the antennas and to Bob N1QEQ and his helpers that took down the antennas.

Committee: Scott, KI4QZ / Bob, N1QEQ / Benny, N4BCC / Herb, AA2BF / Gordon, WA4FJC / James, NN4JM / Jeff, W4PJW

Welcome Center	KI4BAQ	
Registration	N1QEQ Bob	Make up sign in sheets
Display Table	N1QEQ Bob	IN STORAGE N1QEQ
Coffee Pot	mara storage	2 in storage
Tables and Chairs	N1QEQ Bob	
Awning 10' x 20'	MARA Club	MARA Storage
Awning 10' x 20'	VARA Club	VARA Storage
Power	N1QEQ to check with K4PZC	backup
	NN4JM has power cord	

**Welcome  
Center**

**HF Phone  
Station  
(Station 1)**

<b>FD Station #1</b>	Call - W4XD	
In Charge of Station	N4XU W4GRC	
Location	Southwest Corner	
Shelter	W4PJW	
Table	N4BCC	
3 Chairs	N4BCC	
Mast	N4XU N4BCC	
Antenna 1	N4XU N4BCC	
Coax for all Antenna's	MARA & VARA Clubs	
Radio	N4BCC	
Tuner	N4BCC	
Power Supply	N4BCC	
Computer	K4PZC Sandy	
Computer Log	N3FJP with Updates / Sandy K4PZC	
Power	Sandy K4PZC ??	
Power Cable	VARA Club	
Lights	BRING FROM MARA STORAGE	some in MARA storage
Info Packet	K4PZC Sandy	
Grounding	N4XU	
Foot Switch	N4XU	



## General Logistics, Overall Equipment, and Site Setup

<b>Event</b>	FIELD DAY 2009	
Location	Mountaintop Field Day Site	
FD Frequencies	Talkin 147.470 or repeater 147.225	
Call Sign	W4XD	
Station Class	2A	
FD Committee	<b>N1QEQ AA2BF NN4JM K4LXG N4BCC KI4QQZ WA4FJC</b>	and others
FD Chairman	KI4QQZ	
Assistant Chairman	N1QEQ	
Scoring / totaling / Entry	K4PZC	
Pin Committee	NN4JM	
Band Plan Coordinators	NN4JM N4XU	
WELCOME CENTER	KI4BAQ	
Registration	part of display table N1QEQ	2008 stuff on hand
Display Table	N1QEQ Bob	on hand
Publicity	n1qeq	
public official	N1QEQ Hbg Councilman or others	KI4QQZ to contact Staunton Council
Public safety official etc	j junkins already contacted	
Coffee Pot	mara storage	2 in storage: 1 new 1 old
Tables and Chairs	N1QEQ	n1qeq if needed
Awning 10' x 20'	MARA Club	Mara Storage
Awning 10' x 20'	VARA Club	VARA Storage
Pads / Pencils	W4PJW	
Coax seal	<b>N1QEQ</b>	2 or 3 rolls
Generator Welcome Ctr	K4PZC Sandy ??	
Phone generator		Back up generator from W4GRC
CW & VHF Generator	N4BCC	
Gasoline - 20 gal VA	N4BCC	
Gasoline - 15 gal	W4PJW	
Signs for each Station	N4XU	
Signs at road	aa2bf in mara/vara storage	W4PJW has VARA sign and poles
Fire Wood (Camp. Week)	at W4PJW'S HOUSE-NEEDS HELP AND TRANSPORT: NN4JM N4BCC	W4PJW NEEDS HELP LOAD HIS TRAILER AND TRUCK TO PULL UP
Fire Wood (FD Weekend)	"	
water-4 15 gal jugs	W4PJW	jugs in VARA storage/ K4DJG has pump
Porti-John - 1 week early	already ordered by N1QEQ	
Toilet Paper	"	
Pictures	AA2BF	
Site Prep and mowing	KI4QQZ NN4JM WA4FJC	FOR BONUS POINTS on June 20 for mowing

### HF CW Station (Station #2)

<b>FD Station #2</b>	Call - W4XD	
In Charge of Station	NN4JM W4PJW	
Location	NORTH CENTER	
Shelter	K4DJG	
Chairs	W4PJW	
Mast	N4BCC	WA4FJC has extra set
Antenna 1	Extended Zepp	W4PJW
Coax for all Antenna's	MARA & VARA Clubs	
Radio	W4PJW	NN4JM has back up
Power Supply	W4PJW	
Computer	W4PJW	
Computer Log	K4PZC	
Power	N4BCC	
Power Cable	N4BCC	
Lights	K4DJG SOME IN TRLR	
Info Packet	K4PZC	
Grounding	W4PJW	

### Satellite Station (Station #5)

### GOTA (Get On The Air) Station (Station #3)

<b>FD Station #3</b>		
Call Sign	<b>K4MRA</b>	
In Charge of Station	<b>KZ1A</b>	
helper	<b>TBD</b>	
Location	Center	
Table	KD4UPL Matthew	
Chairs	N1QEQ	
Shelter	KD4UPL Matthew	
Antenna 1	W4PJW zepp	
Antenna Tuner	<b>KZ1A</b>	
Radio	<b>KZ1A</b>	backup?
Computer	K4PZC	
Computer Log	K4PZC	
Power	KD4UPL & N4BCC	
Lights	KZ1A	
Info Packet	K4PZC	
Grounding	KZ1A	
Operating Modes	SSB, CW and Digital	

<b>FD Station #5</b>	Call - W4XD
In Charge of Station	KI4QQZ
Location	<b>TBD</b>
Shelter	UHF / VHF
Table / Chairs	
Radio 1	KI4QQZ
Antenna 1	<b>KI4QQZ</b>
Coax for all Antenna's	<b>KI4QQZ</b>
Amplifier 1	
Power Supply	KI4QQZ
Rotor and cable	
GPS	
Compass	
Down Converter	
Computer	
Computer Log	
Power	
Power Cable	
Lights	
Info Packet	
Grounding	

## VHF/UHF Station (Station #4)

<b>FD Station #4</b>	Call - W4XD	
In Charge of Station	<b>AD4TJ K4NRA</b>	
Location	East side NE corner near woods	
Shelter	<b>KI4QQZ</b>	
Table	N1QEQ KI4QQZ	
Chairs	KI4QQZ	
Tower / Mast	in MARA Storage	WA4FJC in charge of setting up tower
Rotor	rotor in tower section	
block and tackle	NN4JM has extra block & tackle	extra pulley and rope-MARA storage
rotor control box	N1QEQ	<b>N1QEQ Bob or NN4JM</b>
Antenna 1	6 mtr beam	<b>K4NRA</b>
Antenna 2	<b>2m/440 vertical w/cable and mast</b>	TBD
Antenna 3	2 Meter Horizontal Beam	K4PZC
Antenna 4	432 beam	K4PZC
<b>cw paddles or key</b>		N1QEQ has key and bencher
coax for antennas 1-4	MARA and VARA	in storage
dplx for 2/440 incl ps		
Radio 1		
Radio 2	AD4TJ 706 for 2/432	
Amplifier 1		
Power Supply	N4BCC and AD4TJ	
Terminal for Pkt		
Pkt TNC		
Computer	K4PZC	
Computer Log	K4PZC	
Power	N4BCC	
Power Cable		
Lights	MARA & VARA Clubs	
Info Packet	K4PZC	
Grounding	AD4TJ and K4NRA	N1QEQ has abt 30 ft of alum. Gnd wire.

<b>FD Station #6</b>	<b>W4XD</b>	
In Charge of Station	KZ1A	<b>IN GOTA STATION</b>
Location	GOTA Station	
Shelter	IN GOTA STATION	<b>KD4UPL</b>
TABLE	GOTA	
CHAIRS	N1QEQ	
Antenna 1	W4PJW - Zepp	
Radio	<b>same as GOTA Station</b>	
Computer		
Computer Log	Paper Log	
Power	Solar Panels	
Gel Cell?		
Power Cable	N4BCC	
Lights	MARA & VARA Clubs	
Info Packet	K4PZC	
Grounding if needed		
<b>NOTE:</b>	CW STATION OFF AIR FOR FIRST FIVE Natural Power CONTACTS	<b>(solar/natural power)</b>

**Natural Power  
Station  
(Station #6)**

**Bonus Points  
Checklist**

<b>Bonus Points</b>		
In Charge of Station	<b>AA2BF</b>	
Assistant	<b>NN4JM</b>	
APRS		<b>demo</b>
Packet		<b>demo</b>
SSTV		<b>demo</b>
Originate 1 Message to Section Manager	AD4TJ	
Originate 10 Messages	AD4TJ	
Public Official	N1QEQ Bob	
Director of Hbg/Rock EOC	N1QEQ Bob	<b>contacted already</b>
W1AW FD Msg		
GOTA	in trailer	
Natural Power	in trailer	
Display Table	N1QEQ Bob	
ATV		<b>demo</b>
Digital modes		<b>demo</b>
RTTY		<b>demo</b>
<b>BONUS ITEMS</b>		
<b>ACTUAL BONUS ITEMS TO BE DETERMINED BY HERB AFTER REVIEWING 2009 FD RULES.</b>		

## Backups and Contingencies

<b>BACKUP'S</b>		
2m all-mode Radio		
2m Amp		
6m all-mode Radio		
Antenna Analyzer	WA4FJC	others if they wish to bring it
Antenna Tuner	AA2BF	
Antenna Tuner		
Antenna Tuner		
Anything Else ?	Bring it just in case - All	
Barrel Connectors	Bring it just in case - All	
Pushup Masts	VARA	is there a second one?
Coax	VARA/MARA ALL	
Computer / Keyboards	K4PZC Sandy	
H.F. Radio - CW	NN4JM	
H. F. radio 751A	VARA	<b>N4BCC to pick up</b>
Power supplies	NN4JM	
Generator	K4LXG	KI4QQZ
Rotor - HAM 3 or 4	n1qeq w/box and cable	
Rotor Cable	N1QEQ has 100'	SOME ROTOR CABLE IN TOWER
String / Cord for Dipoles	N1QEQ to get 300# test	some in MARA storage
Tarps	Bring it just in case - All	
latest version of log program	K4PZC	
EXTRA ANTENNAS		
<b>EXTRA COAX</b>	<b>four pieces 300' total in MARA storage</b>	

## Field Day Equipment Policy

Adopted by the MARA and VARA Amateur Radio Clubs.

Be it understood that:

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

No repairs or modifications, no matter how slight, 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 Talk-In Frequency: 146.225 or 146.470

Don't worry about getting lost! Just get on your radio and TALK TO US!

Field Day will be monitoring the 147.225 repeater (PL 131.8, input up 600 kHz), and also will be monitoring 146.470 simplex!



Lost, but too embarrassed to stop and ask for directions. Another sufferer of directive dysfunction.

## Directions to the Joint MARA/VARA Field Day Location

If you pay attention and can follow the road signs, it's simple - just go to exit 240 on I-81 and follow Rt 257 to the west till you get to the top of the mountain and take the dirt road to the right. At the first opportunity make a left turn into the clearing - you have arrived.

Now in more detail for those who need a bit more clarity.

Go to the Mt. Crawford exit on I-81 just south of Harrisonburg. It is exit #240. The exit ramp puts you on Rt. 257. Follow 257 toward the west. Be advised that 257 makes several turns along the way. The first turn is at Bridgewater where you turn right on Rt 42 toward Dayton (you are still on 257). As you approach Dayton, 257 turns left (at a stop light). Follow 257 to Ottobine where 257 turns left at a stop sign. The next turn is at the Briery Branch service station store where 257 turns right. At this point, you are about 15 - 20 minutes west of I-81.

Follow 257 till the road narrows and becomes one lane paved forest road and starts up the Shenandoah Mountain. Go (slowly) up the mountain for about 4 miles. Once you start up the mountain, there will be no intersections and no chances to make any wrong turns. After climbing and climbing and climbing, you will come to an intersection where the paved road makes a sharp left, a dirt road goes straight ahead and another dirt road veers off to the right. Take the dirt road to the right. There will likely be a small metal sign pointing to the right.

Follow this dirt road past the first clearing (about 100 yards) and continue for several hundred more yards to the first opportunity you have to make a left turn into another clearing - you have arrived. If you come to a small road which angles off to the right, you just missed it.

Remember to dress warmly (nearly 4000' elevation) and "if you want it, bring it with you". The clubs provide a porta pottie but that's it - no McDonalds no water fountains etc.

### GPS INFO:

Most GPS's let you put in coordinates and then they will take you to that spot. Here's the coordinates in a couple different formats.

38.488, -79.216

38.29.17N, 79.12.59W

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## MARA Secretary's Report – May 9 Meeting

Attendance: Members: 29 Guests: 10 Total: 39

Introductions made all around.

Reports:

New Members: 1st reading

2nd reading: none

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

Treasurer's report: the current balance of \$2,802.06 as reported by Dave (KD9LA), moved, seconded and approved.

Groups:

ARES/RACES - Bryan (K4RMY) announced there will be as ARES meeting **this Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at ECC.**

There was a good turnout at the March of Dimes Walk on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

VEC Session - the next VE session will be on June 13<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am at the Woodmen of the World building in Dayton. We had six VEs covering the last session. Thanks to all the volunteers who make this event possible.

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

One week from this Saturday (May 16<sup>th</sup>) is the 100 mile run. We still need some volunteers. We will be using a portable repeater this year which will hopefully help improve our coverage.

The Triple Play – We have been asked to provide support again for the motorcycle group and runners the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend in October (10/2-4/09). This was a challenging weekend for us last year and provided a great opportunity to test our skills in some very remote locations. We have also received a formal request from Camp Still Meadows to cover the horse ride (10/4/09) again this year.

Bridgewater Lawn Party – 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday/Saturday in July (7/17-18/09)

Field Day Committee update – Herb (AA2BF) reported there are just a couple of open issues remaining. We would like to publicize the event in the paper and Herb is looking for some good pictures from last year's Field Day. Let him know if you have any pictures you would be willing to share. Be sure to mark your calendar for the last full weekend in June (6/27-29/09)!

Announcements:

Jay (KD4OXQ) is still looking for some help with his server setup project.

We are now officially affiliated again with ARRL!

Richard (Dick) Weaver (W3HXX) and his family are being recognized for their 125 years of continuous weather reporting.

Old Business: N/A

New Business: A motion was made to extend a vote of thanks to Dave (KD9LA) for his long serving efforts with the publication of the Monitor. The motion was moved, seconded and approved. Dave is still accepting all offers to take over the monthly task.

New Call or Upgrades: N/A

Motion to adjourn, seconded and approved.

50/50 - \$38.00 Won by Richard (W3HXX)

Program: Green Bank NRAO astronomers

Submitted by  
Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC,  
MARA Secretary

## Thanks to NRAO

The National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Greenbank West Virginia graciously provided a program for the May MARA club meeting.

Paulette Woody, interference coordinator for the facility, along with one of the scientific astronomer research team, brought an interesting, educational, informative, and entertaining slide show covering some of the highlights of the physical facility and its dish antennas.

The program included a few of the scientific discoveries which have been made by the observatory, and their contribution to the knowledge of our universe and the world we live in.

Paulette finished by summarizing the cooperation between the NRAO and ham operators, cooperation which has enabled both hams and the astronomers to co-exist with a minimum of impact or effect on either party's operations: hams can do pretty much what we want, and the NRAO does not suffer interference, largely because of the efforts of Paulette and her staff working with those amateurs who establish base stations and repeaters within the quiet zone.

Thanks again to the NRAO for devoting the time to prepare and present this interesting program.

## MARA Regains ARRL Affiliate Status

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association has regained its status as an official ARRL-affiliated club. Information can be found on the ARRL website.



## VARA Secretary's Report – May 5 Meeting

The **VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION** met at Lynn's in Waynesboro May 5, 2009. The President, Scott Newlen KI4QQZ, opened the meeting at 7:00pm. There were 19 members present and 3 guests Andrew Newlen, Jim Crosby K4JEC and Patsy Crosby K4PMC. After a round of introductions the Treasurer and Secretary Reports were read and accepted by the club.

**50/50** was won by Jim Crosby K4PMC. Congratulations to Jim!

**LYNN'S MENU CHANGE:** The Buffet was set up for 30 people, we had 22 people at our May meeting and only 18 ate. This left Lynn's at a loss which the Club made up for this month. The club voted to begin ordering from the menu at our June meeting.

**WEB SITE DOMAIN:** The club voted to go with the Domain of w4xd.com for the Club Web Page.

**MARA TRIP TO NRAO:** For those that would like to go to The Green Bank NRAO you are welcome to go with the MARA Club on June 6, 2009. More info later.

**CHARLOTTESVILLE ARC:** We were invited to attend the Charlottesville ARC Meeting that meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm at the Charlottesville Observatory by Jim Crosby K4JEC.

**Augusta Co. ARES NET:** David Tanks AD4TJ is looking for Net Controls for the Augusta County ARES Net. The Net will be held on the 146.850 repeater on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 8:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

**PROGRAM:** Richard Huttlinger AA4RH gave a presentation on Homebrew QRP transmitters and transceivers. He brought in several homebrew QRP rigs and some made from kits. Mike Solomon KJ4RM also brought in some QRP rigs he built and helped out passing them around. Richard also had some handouts that were passed around.

Thanks to Richard for this program.

Ray Colvin, KE4HVR  
VARA SECRETARY

## VARA Notes of Interest to Members

**AUGUSTA CO. ARES NET:** David Tanks AD4TJ is looking for Net Controls for the Augusta County ARES Net. The Net will be held on the 146.850 repeater on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 8:00pm.

**PROGRAMS NEEDED:** Al Bonck N3JB, our 2008 Program Chairman, is looking for anyone that would like to do a program for the club. It does not have to be HAM related, It can be anything you think the group would find interesting. Al's e-Mail address is: [margeal@ntelos.net](mailto:margeal@ntelos.net)

### ON THE SICK LIST:

**Denny Morland N4XPW** has been in bed for some time now but seems in good spirits. Jeff Rinehart W4PJW gave him a 27" TV and I helped him take it to him and get it set in place. Denny was happy to be able to watch a bigger screen TV than the little 13" TV he had been watching.

**Let's keep Denny in our thoughts and prayers.**

**SWAP SHOP This is for Ham related items only.** You can send a list of items you have for sale, swap or something you would like to buy, to Fred Evans at: [n4kym@yahoo.com](mailto:n4kym@yahoo.com) Also a picture of the item would help it sell. Go to the VARA Web Site at: <http://www.qsl.net/w4xd/> **PLEASE notify Fred when your item sells so he can remove it from the list.**

**E-MAIL ADDRESSES: Keep your e-mail address up to date.** Please send them to:  
Scott Newlen KI4QQZ [we4newlens@comcast.net](mailto:we4newlens@comcast.net), Doug Tippet N8ESW [dtippet@ntelos.net](mailto:dtippet@ntelos.net), Ray Colvin KE4HVR [colvingr@comcast.net](mailto:colvingr@comcast.net) and David Fordham KD9LA [fordhadr@jmu.edu](mailto:fordhadr@jmu.edu).  
**ALSO**, keep QRZ updated when call signs and e-mail addresses are changed.

## PVARC Secretary's Report – May 1 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Day Room, Page Memorial Hospital (Luray), by President Mark Hensley N4YSA. Following a round of self introductions by the members present, the President welcomed our newest PVARC member Gene Frazier, KJ4HFO from Elkton.

The minutes of the April 3rd meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as submitted, showing: \$6.00 (half year) dues paid by Gene – KJ4HFO and reimbursements to Dave K4DPF in the amount of \$60.00 paid to Luray Parks and Recreation Department for the FFA Shelter at Lake Arrowhead - selected as the PVARC ARRL Field Day site; and, \$0.42 for postage to mail the application for our Club call sign. (The latter expenditure was hotly debated inasmuch as no receipt was tendered!)

Mark N4YSA, announced that PVARC had received the club call sign from FCC. The new call sign is: KJ4LNI – try sending THAT all day at 35 wpm! Following an animated discussion, it was moved, and seconded, to make an application for a vanity call sign, with K4PMH winning greatest support. The PMH suffix is appropriate, in view of the support given by Page Memorial Hospital where PVARC holds its meetings and operates the hospitals' Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Dave K4DPF, the station trustee, was directed to follow up with the necessary paperwork for the vanity call sign. Hopefully, the new call sign will arrive before Field Day. In any event, listen for PVARC using either KJ4LNI or "possibly" K4PMH!

Dave K4DPF presented his Field Day spreadsheet outlining radio equipment, antennas, power supplies (battery/generator/solar) and related items needed to adequately support the operation. He also lists what has been promised, and by whom. Dave asks that everyone look the spreadsheet over and see how they might personally support this endeavor by helping to setup or tear down the site, operate during specific hours, etc. The Secretary was asked to forward the spreadsheet by e-mail to all members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next PVARC meeting is scheduled – same time, same location on June 5, 2009.

Submitted by  
Sparky Terry, KD4KL

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**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 meets the first Tuesday of each month  
 at Lynn's Pancake House on Rt 250  
 west of Waynesboro, Virginia.

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

**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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# MARA/VARA/PVARC

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

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

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## Return Service Requested

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## Calendar of Events

June 1: Rockingham County ARES Net simplex night 146.55  
June 2: VARA Club Meeting at Lynn's  
June 3: Highland County ARES Net 147.18 repeater  
June 4: MARA Club Meeting at Wood Grill Buffet  
June 5: PVARC Club Meeting at Page Memorial Hospital  
**June 6: NRAO Observatory Tour (see pages 1-3 of this issue!)**  
June 7: Page County ARES Net 146.67 repeater  
June 8: Rockingham County ARES Net 147.225 repeater  
June 11: Augusta County ARES Net 146.850 repeater  
June 13: Volunteer Examiner Ham Radio License Exams  
June 13: Winston-Salem (NC) Hamfest  
June 13-14: ARRL June VHF QSO Party  
June 14: Manassas Hamfest  
June 14: Page County ARES Net 146.67 repeater  
June 15: Rockingham County ARES Net 147.225 repeater  
June 17: Highland County ARES Net 147.18 repeater  
June 20-28: Field Day Site Camping  
June 21: Page County ARES Net 146.67 repeater  
June 22: Rockingham County ARES Net 147.225 repeater  
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 11-12: IARU HF World Championship Contest  
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 25-26: IOTA Islands on the Air Contest  
August 1: Roanoke (Vinton) Hamfest  
August 1-2: ARRL UHF Contest  
August 2: Berryville Hamfest  
August 15-16: North American QSO Party SSB Weekend  
August 16: Carroll County (MD) Hamfest  
September 12-13: Virginia Beach Hamfest  
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