

November-December
2009

The Monitor

Published Monthly for members of the Amateur Radio Clubs in Virginia's Central Shenandoah Valley

VARA Christmas Party at Staunton Church of Christ on Tuesday, December 1

The Valley Amateur Radio Association will hold its annual Christmas Party at the Staunton Church of Christ on Churchville Avenue near Gypsy Hill Park, on Tuesday, December 1st. The party will begin with a covered-dish meal at 6:00 pm. Following the meal, there will be a gift exchange like in the past. Bring a gift to exchange, in the \$5 to \$10 range. This can be either a serious-type gift, or a gag gift meant for fun and laughs. Come out and enjoy the fun and fellowship.



MARA Christmas Banquet: Thursday, December 3

The Annual Christmas Banquet of the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will be held on Thursday December 3 at the Wood Grill Buffet on Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Dinner will begin at 6:30 pm, and a very brief business meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Following the business meeting, the Eversole Road Men's Quartet will perform some Christmas Favorites. Spouses, family, and guests are invited and welcome.

Hmmmm.....PVARC Meeting at Page Memorial Hospital on Friday, December 4 – ?

No news has been received from the Page Valley Amateur Radio Club about their December meeting.

It is assumed that the Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its meeting in the Day Room of the Page Memorial Hospital in Luray on Friday, December 4 at 6:00 pm.

Club Dues are Due! Use the Renewal Form inside the Back Cover! Renew Today!

MARA Officers for 2010

President: Ellsworth Neff K4LXG
Vice-President: Chris Shirkey, KI4BAQ
Secretary: Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC
Treasurer: David Fordham KD9LA
Board Member '10: Bryan Daniels, K4RMY
Board Member '11: James McDowell IV



VARA Officers for 2010

President: Jeff Rinehart W4PJW
Vice-President: Gordon Batey WA4FJC
Secretary: Steve Grant, W4IIV
Treasurer: Doug Tippett N8ESW
Program Manager: Al Bonck N3JB



VE Test Session Report: October 10

We had another successful test session October 10.

Thanks to the VE's who helped:

Gerald Nauman, KN4FM
Michael McKay W4AZR
Richard Haxton, KC3AN
E.C. Showalter KG4KUR
Ellsworth Neff K4LXG

There were six candidates for testing. Two qualified for each class of license! Congratulations on a 100% pass rate!

Our next session will be December 12, 2009

Remember: these tests are for upgrades, too! So unless you're an Extra Class license, think about coming out and trying for a higher class of license!

Gayle Shull, KU4XN

WX4C: Follow, Follow Me!

Don Landes, WX4C, United States Traveler Extraordinaire, is on the road again, and this time he invites you to follow along! He will be running to Oregon (yep, that's a long way away!) and (HEY! Get this!) making weekly trips to Alaska!

Don is equipped with APRS ham radio in his big rig.

Don reports that you can find him on:

<http://www.wulfden.org/APRSTracking.shtml>



Augusta County Official Fox Hunt Report

We had a beautiful day for the fox hunt. Alby, AD4KZ was the acting Fox most of the time, trading off with Jess, W4PQK to let the radios cool off.

Note: Typically the hunt is on 146.490 MHz with the 147.075 repeater being used for check-in, coordination and questions. Some Foxes choose to give out hints as to the location. The W4PQK practice is to forewarn the Hounds that “you should not trust anything the Fox says, except in case of a stated emergency condition”. I’m of the opinion that Fox hunting is all about what the antenna tells you, not verbal hints.



Hunt started at 2PM as scheduled.

Participants were Gordon – WA4FJC, David – AD4TJ, and Ray – KE4HVR with Mike Stone – KJ4AAF as rider – new ham and new to Fox Hunting I think.

The Fox was located in a new subdivision Sugar Creek where Belvue and Forest meet. Belvue is N4BCC’s street – go as far west as possible and you would be in the cul-de-sac where the Fox was located. Its relatively high and had a very nice view.

Gordon took 1st place (2:44PM) being advantaged with a Doppler – he’s the next Fox.

David took 2nd place at 3:12 PM. The hunt was terminated at 4:10 PM.

Some of you have asked why we hunt Sunday afternoons. Being relatively new to the area, my answer is “that’s the way it has always been done”. This doesn’t really answer the reason why. Gordon has suggested that we hold the Fox hunt on Saturday afternoon. It would be interesting to know what the group thinks – I’m flexible and am OK with either.

Please respond to valleyhams@googlegroups.com with your preference or to David AD4TJ directly if you wish.

So Gordon, we await your announcement for the next hunt. A nice warm December day?

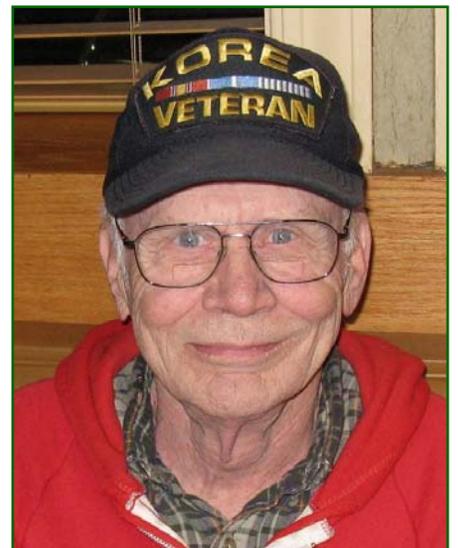
Anyone wish to suggest alternate forms of Fox hunting for the Winter months to minimize the need to be out of doors?

73 all

Jess, W4PQK

Fox Hunt Report from a New Ham’s View: KJ4AAF’s Perspective:

This was all new to me. I've been on sports car rallyes where the goal is to arrive at checkpoints at precise times (using WWV) & directions provided. Must average certain speed to be at the next checkpoint where you are clocked in. Directions can be cryptic to make it harder. Every one starts out @ the same starting point 5 min. apart. On time is good, but being early or late subtracts points. Much more complicated then Fox & Hounds. More for mathematicians. I think of fox hunting as triangulating a transmitter on a map. Like orienteering in the boy scouts maybe. Was fun today. Maybe I'll get the jist of it sooner or later. I thanked Ray for the ride for this newbie. 73 to the club. Mike Stone...—... KJ4AAF



Skywarn Reminder: What to Report

All certified and trained Skywarn Volunteers are reminded to send in the following reports:

1. Tornado or Funnel Cloud
2. Storm Rotation
3. Hail (any size), giving size of hail and the depth of any hail accumulation on ground
4. Wind of 50 mph or greater (measured, or with large 2-inch branches coming down out of trees)
5. Wind damage from gusts (downed branches >2-inches, powerlines, structural damage, etc.)
6. Snow accumulations every 2-inches (and email the storm total after the snow stops)
7. Ice accumulation (any ice accumulation)
8. Heavy rain (more than 1-inch per hour) (email the storm total after rain stops if >2 inches/day)
9. Flooding (creeks/streams out of banks, covering roadways, etc.)

Be sure to record the time and location of each event, and provide your Skywarn ID number.

Telephone Hotline: 1-800-253-7091. Email: LWX-report@noaa.gov



Rockingham County ARES Meeting Scheduled for January 9

The Rockingham County ARES organization will hold its next meeting on Saturday, January 9, starting at 10:00 a.m., location TBA. The topic will be "Home Preparedness".

Ham Radio Jargon Website: Test Yourself

Sure, you passed your exam. But do you really know all the modern lingo of ham radio?

Test yourself and see how many of the terms you know at: <http://www.ac6v.com/jargon.htm>

Bike Shenandoah Public Service Report

I would like to thank those that were able to help with Bike Shenandoah on September 26. We had a wet day which may be the reason for the lower turnout this year. There were a total of 22 riders in the 100 and 62 mile rides, I did not get a count for how many were in the 30 mile ride. There were also shorter rides but we were not involved with those.

James, NN4JM, volunteered to be net control and he did a good job coordinating and keeping track of which riders were where. Norman, KA4EEN, took care of the rest stop at Trissels church, Ellsworth, K4LXG, was at Mole Hill Bike Shop at Dayton, EC, KG4KUR, was at the Mt. Clinton church, and I took care of the rest stop at Hebron church and then relieved EC at Mt. Clinton since that rest stop was open the longest. As usual, we managed to lose a rider. He finally showed up at Hebron about a half hour later than we expected. He had stopped at Turner's Hams in Fulks Run for a sandwich. I guess the food at the rest stops didn't meet his expectations!

Note: We were not responsible for the food.

Gerald Nauman, KN4FM



MARA/VARA Field Day Operations Final Scores: We're Still (Near) the Top!

Here are the results from FD 2009 for MARA/VARA joint Field Day effort, as published on the ARRL web-site as of November. 5, 2009.

W4XD - Class 2A - Virginia
#2 Virginia
#3 Roanoke Division
#27 In Class 2A All Entries
#104 In All Classes out of 2,612 Total Entries
Score - 7,914 - QSO's - 2,343

W4ML beat us by 1,792 points this year, which is much less than what they beat us by last year, but a North Carolina station also beat us in the Roanoke Division, which put us back to 3rd.

We were down 10% in points and in total QSO's from 2008.

The score of 7,914 is only the 5th time in 13 years of my stats, that we have scored less than 8,000 points. Yes, propagation is and has been pretty bad, so I think we can honestly say that factor has taken its toll. Let's hope things improve for 2010 - THINK FIELD DAY!!!

73 - Neal - N4XU - CW4EVER



Cap and Trade? Grindstone 100 Participants!

Bryan, K4RMY, has bright yellow hats for all the hams who participated in the Grindstone 100 Triple Play event this year. The caps have your call and name embroidered on it. Bryan will bring the box of hats to the MARA Christmas Banquet for distribution. If you will not be able to attend the MARA Christmas Banquet, contact Bryan and let him know how to get your hat to you.

Fall Foliage Bike Festival Report

I would like to give a big Thank you to all of the folks that helped out with this event. This year's weather forecast might have contributed to the lack of participation as only half of those registered for the event came out. With low attendance, we were able to handle the event with 13 people on Saturday, 6 people on Sunday, and a returning young ham and his family from North Carolina. He was able to give us some help while he was riding with his family. Only two people were sagged in this year, and no one got hurt. Thanks again for your help in making another year go by smoothly.



Thank you to,

Ray, KE4HVR; Jeff, W4PJW; Bob, K4DJG; Doug, N8ESW; E.C., KG4KUR; Gayle, KU4XN; James, NN4JM; Gordon, WA4FJC; Norman, KA4EEN; Evan, W1LDR; Gary, KI4FZV; Greg, W4GRC; Joe, KD4FKT; Joe, W4LIG; Richard, AA4RH; Scott, KI4QQZ; And the Jenkins Family from North Carolina - Sam, KI4TRG; Steve, KA8HXX; and Grace, KJ4KWG.

Scott Newlen, KI4QQZ

Thanks from Ray Colvin, KE4HVR

I would like to thank the VARA for working with me as their Secretary for the past ten years. During these years we have had some great times working together in our public service events. Somehow we always seemed to work our way through the events with the members that gave their time to help out. There were times we were short of help but thanks to those that were willing to work longer hours to make these events a success. Then there were some sad times when we lost some of our members due to illness. I often hear their names mentioned during events, meetings, Friday lunches and on the radio. We miss them all.

Steve Grant W4IIV will be your secretary beginning in January 2010. I hope you will support Steve as you have me in the coming year.

A special thanks to David Fordham KD9LA for all he has done for the VARA and me during my years as VARA Secretary. David has been dedicated to getting the MONITOR together and getting it out on time. When you didn't get the MONITOR on time there was always a good excuse such as being in Belgium or on the road in work related trips. Recently David's Father passed away and he had to be in Florida. We all understand when things like this happen. There have been times when I have let the time slip up on me to get my secretary report to David on time. He would send me an e-mail to remind me, thanks for those reminders David!

Thanks again for your support during my years as your VARA Secretary.

Ray Colvin KE4HVR



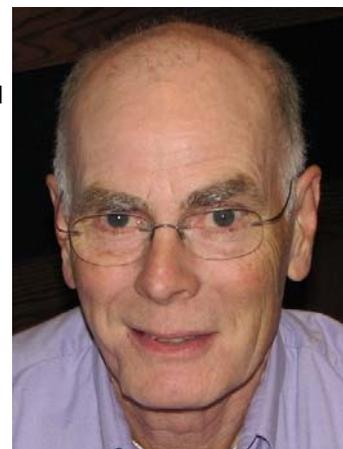
Augusta County Hams Owe a Debt of Gratitude to Herb Slade, AA3BF

Augusta County Hams probably didn't even notice, but Herb Slade, AA2BF, is to be commended for quick thinking and even quicker reflexes, in attending the Augusta County Planning Commission meeting which was considering "comprehensive revisions to the Augusta County Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances with respect to Wireless Communication Facilities".

Herb made a presentation to the Board at their October 26 meeting, and provided information to the commission and the county attorneys relating to PRB-1 and the Virginia version of that pre-emption regulation.

Herb's alertness and quick thinking may have saved Augusta County Hams uncountable hours in trying to get a restrictive ordinance rescinded.

Thanks Herb!



Mortality Reminders

Clint Campbell, KB4OLM, reportedly had arthroscopic gall-bladder surgery in mid-November and is doing okay.

Frank Forsyth, WD4LES, lifetime VARA member, celebrated his 94th birthday on Saturday, November 7.

The father of **Lonnie Czerniak, N4WIV** passed away on October 28, in Fishersville.

The father of **David Fordham, KD9LA**, passed away in Jacksonville, Florida, on November 1.

Also, **David, KD9LA**, had a confirmed case of the H1N1, even though he supposedly was old enough to be immune. Go figure. It was a relatively mild flu, lasting about five days, with fever, chills, and aches and pain, none of the nasty stuff involving the bathroom, thank heavens.

Waynesboro Repeater Association Meeting Minutes: November 4 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Waynesboro Repeater Association was held on November 4, 2009 in Meeting Room A of the Waynesboro Library.

The following were present:

K2ULW Ray KF4AGT AL K4NZ Dave K4JEC Jim K4PMC Patsy K4DND Dave
 KA4NWK Doug WA4TPE Ed W4BLD Bob N3GLZ John KG4HOT Tim WA4FJC Gordon

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by vice president John, N3GLZ who served as moderator. All present introduced themselves.

Gordon, WA4FJC read the minutes of the 2008 meeting. After a motion by W4BLD, seconded by W4DND they were approved as read.

WA4FJC presented the treasurers report. The beginning balance was \$595.98. Donations and dues from 20 members received were \$1068.00. It was noted that we had 26 members in 2008. Some discussion was held regarding the procedures of local hams being encouraged to support their local repeater. Expenses totaled \$1219.96. Expenditures exceeded income by \$151.96. The ending balance was \$444.02. He reported that several dues and donations had been received as a result of the meeting notice mailing and that these funds would be deposited next week along with funds received at the meeting. A motion was made and passed to accept the treasurer's report as presented.

The moderator called for nominations from the floor for the all officers. W4BLD made a motion that the current slate of officers be reelected by acclamation. All present agreed. The officers for 2010 are:

President KE4ASC Frank Green

Vice Pres. N3GLZ John Lasher

Scty/Treas WA4FJC Gordon Batey

A brief discussion was held regarding the status of the ECHOLINK equipment that is not currently operational. This equipment is not owned by the Association but its use is permitted. The computer is currently inoperative. WA4FJC said that he could furnish a computer if it was necessary. W4BLD reported that the equipment really needs to be at a location with a high speed internet connection, possibly the Waynesboro EOC or AHC. If a site could be found and several persons were responsible for the equipment then the ECHOLINK could be placed back into operation.

WA4FJC reported that he is still slowly working on the phone patch equipment and hopes to place it into operation.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Minutes provided by Gordon Batey, WA4FJC



NMO 2m Antenna Needed

Evan Wilder, W1LDR, is looking for a 2-meter NMO-mount antenna. If anyone has one lying around, he already has the NMO base, but will take a package deal if that's what it takes to get the antenna.

Cheap (low price) is the primary consideration.

If you can help, please contact Fred Evans, N4KYM at n4kym@yahoo.com, since Evan doesn't have a com-

Is T-MARC Looking for You?

Jay KB4OXQ, found the following web page for T-MARC, the repeater coordination council. It looks like they need contact information for the sponsors of several repeaters in our area:

http://tmarc.org/index_files/page0006.html

PVARC Secretary's Report – October 2 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 announced that there were no formal announcements and proceeded to open the business portion of the meeting.

It was moved that the minutes of the September 4, 2009 meeting as printed in The Monitor be accepted as written. The motion was seconded and passed. Sparky KD4KL reported that there had been no expenditures during the month past month and the balance remains unchanged.

Membership Committee Co-chair Geoffrey WD4LYO reported that he was still working on a membership relational database. He also remarked that he had sent e-mails to those individuals indicating an interest in amateur radio in general, and PVARC activities in particular during the recent County Fair – but had not received any replies. Undaunted by this, he will attempt to contact them by telephone or “snail mail” and invite them to future meetings.

Dave K4DPF, Chair of the Emergency Preparedness Committee was unable to attend the meeting since he was providing communications support to the annual triathlon being held this weekend. Mark N4YSA reported that 60 people attended the Beginner SKYWARN Class last month, including four known local hams – there may have been more. In the following discussion it was determined that most PVARC members were SKYWARN qualified but would be interested in additional training at the Intermediate or Advanced level. It was agreed that PVARC should look into obtaining or sponsoring additional training.

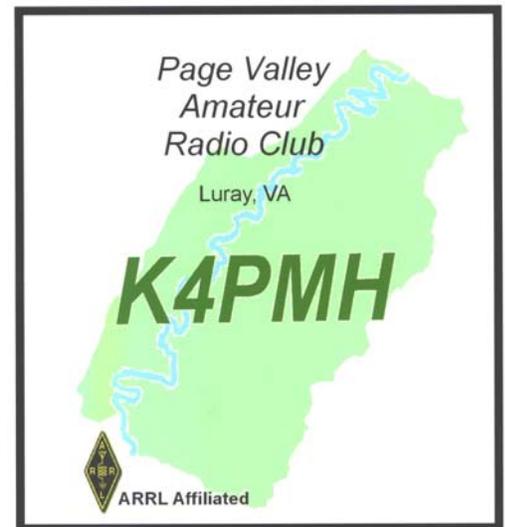
On behalf of Dave K4DPF, Mark N4YSA also reported on related activities associated with Emergency Preparedness, noting that the EOC at the Luray Police Department is functional and in need of additional trained amateurs to operated that station. In particular, operators to meet scheduled nets during the month are needed. The equipment is nearly identical to that used at the Page Memorial Hospital station. Anyone interested should contact him, or Dave K4DPF for details.

Topics under Old Business included: Status of the Club Banner, comments on a proposed Club Logo and participation in the upcoming Heritage Festival in Luray. All were somewhat related and discussed together. Ben N4SFG had called Mark indicating that he was “under the weather” and unable to attend today’s meeting. Given the short timeline, Ben had not been able to coordinate a role for PVARC in this years’ festival. However, it was generally agreed that PVARC should work toward becoming involved in this important annual event. In conjunction with PVARCs’ community activities everyone agreed that we should continue our efforts to have an appropriately sized club banner fabricated, using the Logo designed by Geoffrey WD4LYO. The club logo/banner effort will be worked on over the next few weeks and reported on at the next meeting.

The President introduced a new topic for discussion under New Business. Mark suggested that PVARC obtain a dedicated Internet domain name and begin to build a “web presence” on the Internet. He explained that his preliminary investigation reveals that registration would cost about \$25/year and typical web host expenses would run between \$5 and \$10 a month. Benefits to the club could include club-wide e-mail, club activities, event schedules and a link from The Monitor. The members responded enthusiastically and agreed to “work on the problem” over the next month individually and bring their ideas back for further discussion. Geoffrey WD4LYO stated that it would help him in his work with the club database program to make sure that the site was SQL compatible. The Secretary was asked to send an e-mail reminder to the membership outlining the proposal. This item was tabled until the next meeting. The Business Meeting was QRT @ 1833.

This months “Show & Tell” Program centered on presentations by Mark N4YSA and Sparky KD4KL on their respective approaches to QRP operation. Mark opened by discussing his ultra-light, homebrew (4oz/200 mW) transmitter in an Altoids tin. Sparky upped the ante by bringing in “the heaviest QRP” rig on 40/80 meters. The ancient relic from the WWII Lend-Lease Program weighed in at 75 pounds including the dynamotor (remember them?). With panel markings in English and Russian lettering this QRP monster transceiver had an output power of 50 watts using AM/MCW/CW modes. The frequency range was 2-8 Megacycles (MHz) with an amplitude-modulated subassembly (receiver/transceiver) operating in the 235 Megacycle range for “intercommunicating” between tanks or armored vehicles. While Mark wins hands-down in the watts/mile category, Sparky claims dominance in the pounds/watt arena – so it was called a tie!

Submitted by: Sparky Terry/KD4KL, PVARC Secretary



Real Antiques at Page Valley Amateur Radio Club



Left:
Mark N4SYA,
with QRP
Transmitter



Right::
Sparky KD4KL
with Russian
Tank Radio



Left:
From left: Gene KJ4HFO, Mark
N4SYA, and Geoffrey KD4LYO,
admiring the wonderful 1940's-
era craftsmanship.

VARA Secretary's Report – October 6 Meeting

The **VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION** met at Shoney's in Staunton on October 6, 2009. The President, Scott Newlen KI4QQZ, opened the meeting at 7:00pm. There were 20 members present and 1 guest Deborah Fordham KB4WPE.

After a round of introductions the Treasurer and Secretary Reports were read and accepted by the club.

50/50: was won by Charlie Bennetch N4LNU, Congratulations Charlie!

2010 VARA Picnic: The club voted to rent the shelter near the golf course again for our annual picnic. This past year the fee was \$25.

Repeater donations: The club voted to donate \$200 to Scott Fielding KE4CKJ for his three repeaters 147.045, 224.300 and 444.100, \$150 to the Waynesboro Repeater Association for the 147.075 Repeater and \$150 to Durwood Humphreys WA4ZBP for the 146.850 Repeater.

Christmas Party: 6:00pm Tuesday December 1st at the Staunton Church of Christ on Churchville Ave. across from Gypsy Hill Park in Staunton.

Fall Swap Meet: Darrell Little KI4LLA is planning to have another swap meet at the hospital in Fishersville on November 7, 2009. So, start gathering up ham radio items you are no longer using and bring the out.

TRIPLE PLAY WEEKEND October 2nd, 3rd & 4th Thanks to all that came out and helped with communications for this event. A special thanks to all the net controls for the great job they did keeping up during all the confusion they had at times.

FALL FOLIAGE BIKE FESTIVAL: October 17 & 18. Thanks to all that came out and helped with the Shenandoah Fall Foliage Bike Festival. We had a safe weekend again this year. Many riders at the rest stops told us and at lunch that they really appreciated the help we gave them along the routes. The weather was a little cooler than expected and the forecast of rain and snow caused about a third of the riders to cancel. We had 13 hams helping Saturday and 6 on Sunday. We had a young boy named Sam who had just gotten his ham license KI4TRG riding both days and checking from time to time during the ride. He said he really enjoyed listening to what was going on during our communications.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:49pm.

VARA SECRETARY
Ray Colvin KE4HVR



VARA NOTES OF INTEREST

VARA Web Site: Type in **w4xd.com**

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 2nd 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 could be anything you think the group would find interesting. Al's e-Mail address is: margeal@ntelos.net

ON THE SICK LIST:

Denny Morland N4XPW Avante called and told Denny's wife and son that Denny wasn't eating well and had lost forty pounds. Shirley had been talking with him and trying to get him to eat more but he told her he felt like it would come back if he tried to eat.

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

Scott Martin KI4MSJ has returned from IRAQ. Scott has some medical issues he is trying to get under control at this time. His radio equipment has not arrived at this time but should be here by November or at least December. This morning I (Ray KE4HVR) caught up with Scott while walking in the park and had a nice chat with him. He is hoping to be back on the air soon.

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 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, Doug Tippett N8ESW dtippett@ntelos.net,
Ray Colvin KE4HVR colvingr@comcast.net and David Fordham KD9LA fordhadr@jmu.edu.

ALSO, keep QRZ updated when call signs and e-mail addresses are changed.

VARA Secretary's Report – November 3 Meeting

The **VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION** met at Shoney's in Staunton on November 3, 2009. The President, Scott Newlen KI4QQZ, opened the meeting at 7:00pm. There were 23 members present and 2 guest Matthew Huffman KD4UPL and John Bottemiller N4SYH. After a round of introductions the Treasurer and Secretary Reports were read and accepted by the club.

50/50: was won by Scott Martin KI4MSJ, Congratulations Scott!

2010 Officers were elected and voted in. They are:

President:	Jeff Rinehart	W4PJW
Vice President:	Gordon Batey	WA4FJC
Secretary:	Steve Grant	W4IIV
Treasurer:	Doug Tippett	N8ESW
Program Manager:	Al Bonck	N3JB

VARA Christmas Party: Will be held at the Staunton Church of Christ on Churchville Ave. across from Gypsy Hill Park on Tuesday December 1, 2009. This will be a covered dish meal so dig out your favorite recipe and we will have some good home cooking. We will do the gift exchange again this year where each person brings a gift in the range of \$5.00 to \$10.00. This can be a regular gift or a gag gift. Who knows who will end up with duct tape or big ears this year. Come out and join us for the fun and fellowship.

Fall Swap Meet: Was held at the hospital in Fishersville on Saturday November 7th. An unofficial attendance count was in the mid to upper 20's. It was good to see some of the Hams we haven't seen for a while and also some we met for the first time. I feel like the fellowship was great part of Swap Meet. There is already some interest in having another one in the spring. Thanks to Darrell KI4LLA for reserving the room, setting up the tables and supplying the coffee.

New Member: Thomas R. Rosazza K4DIW was voted in.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm. Matthew Huffman KD4UPL presented a program on Solar Power and Systems. He had several pictures of different applications he had installed. He explained different types of solar panels and the power they could put out with direct sunshine. He showed the controllers and how they were wired to switch from solar power to commercial power automatically during cloudy weather and at night. Thanks to Matthew for a great presentation.

VARA SECRETARY
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

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AUGUSTA CO. ARES NET: David Tanks AD4TJ davideme@peoplepc.com is looking for Net Controls for the Augusta County ARES Net. The Net will be held on the 146.850 repeater on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 8:00pm.

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N4WIV, Lonnie Czerniak's Father passed away Sunday morning November 1, 2009.

Lonnie's dog gave a lunge, pulled her down and sprained her ankle.

Let's keep Denny and Lonnie 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 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.**

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Steve Grant W4IIV w4iiv@arrl.net and David Fordham KD9LA fordhadr@jmu.edu.
ALSO, keep QRZ updated when call signs and e-mail addresses are changed.

73...Ray...KE4HVR

MARA Secretary's Report – October 1 Meeting

Attendance: Members: 31 Guests: 5 Total: 36 Introductions made all around.

Reports:

New Members: 1st reading: Dennis Phillips (NS4K), 2nd reading: Rick Adams (KJ4IND)

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

Treasurer's report: As of 9/30/09 we have a cash balance of \$1,736.51. Disbursements included checks were written to Bryan Daniels (K4RMY) for equipment storage and VARA for Field Day expenses.

Groups:

ARES/RACES:

Bryan Daniels (K4RMY) extended his thanks to all who attended the ARES training session on how to communicate with the ECC during an emergency situation. We had 12 – 15 members in attendance. Bryan would like to ask Jim Junkins to consider presenting an abbreviated version at a club meeting.

VEC Session - the next VE session will be held on Saturday, December 12th at 9:00 am at the Woodmen of the World building in Dayton.

Public Service – Gayle (KU4XN) thanked all those who turned out to help with the 100 mile run. We were given a check that day.

Final preparations for the Triple Play were discussed during the program portion of the meeting.

Announcements: None to report.

Old Business: None to report.

New Business: The MARA Treasurer, Sandy Mullens has submitted his resignation effective this evening (10/1/09). He delivered 82 pages of club financial records. Sandy had served MARA in this capacity since 1995.

It was moved, seconded and approved to form a temporary audit committee to review the documents and verify the bank balance as presented. Rick Adams (KJ4IND) and Sheryl Tonini (KJ4DOC) volunteered to serve on the committee.

David Fordham (KD9LA) will serve as interim treasurer through December when the new officers begin their term.

The nominating committee (Bryan Daniels, Bob Steere and Gerry Brunk) presented the following proposed slate of officers to the group. The term will run from January – December 2010:

President – Ellsworth Neff (K4LXG)
 Vice President – Chris Shirkey (KI4BAQ)
 Secretary – Sheryl Tonini (KJ4DOC)
 Treasurer – David Fordham (KD9LA)
 Board Member (2 yr term) – James McDowell, IV (NN4JM)

The nomination to accept the 2010 slate of officers by acclimation was seconded and the motion carried.

Christmas Party – discussed whether we wanted to have the Christmas party this year and if so, would we need to reserve the second room. We would need a attendance commitment of 70 to get the second room. There was general agreement to proceed with the plans.

New Call or Upgrades: None to report.

Motion to adjourn, seconded and approved.

50/50 - \$29.00 Won by Dave Firestone (K4DPF) and donated back to the club.

Program: Prep for Triple Play

 Submitted by
 Sheryl Tonini
 KJ4DOC



MARA Secretary's Report – November 5 Meeting

Attendance: Members: 27 Guests: 5 Total: 32 Introductions made all around.

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

Reports:

New Members: 1st reading: None to report 2nd reading: Dennis Phillips (NS4K)

Secretary's minutes: It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the September minutes as read.

Treasurer's report: As of 9/30/09 we have a cash balance of \$1,736.51.

Groups:

ARES/RACES:

Bryan (K4RMY) extended his thanks to all who supported the Triple Play activities. It was a very successful weekend. Next year Bryan is considering 3 separate net controls; one for each event.

The motorcycle ride had two accidents

The Grindstone 100 – 71 of 84 participants completed the run

Camp Still Meadows – 70 riders with 1 injury

VEC Session – 6 applicants took the October exams; 2 Technician, 2 General and 2 Extra. All passed.

The next VE session will be held on Saturday, December 12th at 9:00 am at the Woodmen of the World building in Dayton.

Public Service – None to report

Announcements: Bryan (K4RMY) has hoodies for those who worked the Grindstone 100.

Next MARA meeting on December 3rd will be the Christmas banquet. Guests as always are welcome!

Old Business: None to report.

New Business: Field Day results are in! We were #2 in Virginia, #3 in the Roanoke Division and #27 in the class 2A group.

New Call or Upgrades: Amanda Haddock (KJ4PTU) – Technician and Blaise Haddock (KJ4MWW) – Extra. Congratulations!

Motion to adjourn, seconded and approved.

50/50 – Cancelled for tonight – will resume next meeting.

Program: Mini home brew.

Submitted by
Sheryl Tonini
KJ4DOC



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.
 The October meeting will be held at the
 Shoneys in Staunton on Hwy 250 at I-81.

Dinner begins at 6:00 pm.
 The business meeting begins at 7:00 pm.

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.
 for members of the three amateur radio clubs
 in the Central Shenandoah Valley.

Distribution is in Adobe PDF format via email attachment
 to all club members in good standing.

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Membership Renewal Form

NAME: _____ CALLSIGN: _____ CLASS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

CELL PHONE (If you want it in club records for emergency purposes, not the roster!): _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: (print legibly!!) _____

MEMBER ARRL (Y/N) ___ REGISTERED ARES (Y/N) _____ SKYWARN ID: _____

Are you available for Workday Daytime Emergency Call up? (Y/N) _____

The club newsletter, the Monitor, is available free of charge monthly to all members of both clubs via email distribution, in PDF format. If you are unable to open PDF files, you can elect to receive the newsletter via printed copy, by U.S. mail, but are informed that printed copies are often delayed by the postal service, and sometimes arrive damaged by the automated postal equipment.

Had you rather receive the Monitor via US (snail) Mail instead of email: (circle one): **EMAIL / U.S. MAIL**

MARA members mail with \$12 to: MARA, PO Box 1882, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

VARA members mail with \$15 to: VARA, Doug Tippett, 2348 Mosley St, Waynesboro, VA 22980

PVARC members mail with \$12 to: Sparky Terry, PO Box 649, Luray, VA 22835



Please, please, renew your dues in a timely fashion, and save the poor newsletter editor the trouble.

MARA/VARA

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

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

Return Service Requested



Merry Christmas

MARA

VARA

PVARC
