

September  
2009

# The Monitor

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

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## Special MARA Programs for Recently-Licensed Hams

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association is sponsoring a pair of programs aimed at the recently-licensed radio amateur. However, even seasoned veterans and old-timers will find these programs interesting – you never know when an old dog might learn a new trick. These programs will cover practical material – critically-important information for actually **getting on the air** – but you don't find in the license study manuals.

The first program, titled "The Magnificent Seven" addressing VHF communication, will be held at the September 3rd meeting. The second, titled "Getting Started on HF" will be held on November 5. The programs are completely independent, so missing one will not affect your ability to understand the other. Put these two MARA meeting dates on your calendar. The programs are open to all – not just MARA members. Visitors are welcome.

## August 9 Foxhunt Won by AD4KZ and K4PQZ

The fox was a team comprised of Gordon Batey WA4FJC and Jered Weaver KG4EHM. The event began with a callup at 2pm on 147.075. The foxes used 146.49 Mhz as the frequency of the transmitter to be located. At 3:35 the team of Albie McCutcheon AD4KZ and Jess Hancock K4PQZ arrived at the foxes' location. For this event the foxes were using a MFJ 434B voice keyer interfaced with his 2 meter rig. This allowed automatic transmitting of the foxes' message every 45 seconds. The photos were made by KG4EHM.



## *A Stroll Through*

# SEPTEMBER

### **September 1: VARA Club Meeting**

Shoneys in Staunton, 6:00 pm

### **September 3: MARA Club Meeting**

Wood Grill in Harrisonburg, 6:30 pm

Special Program: "The Magnificent Seven: The Absolute Minimum on a VFH Radio"

### **September 4: PVARC Club Meeting**

Page Memorial Hospital, 6:00 pm

### **September 6: Page County ARES Net**

8:00 pm, 146.670 repeater, -600khz offset, PL 114.8

### **September 7: Rockingham County ARES Net Simplex Meeting**

8:00 pm, 146.550 simplex

### **September 10: Augusta County ARES Net**

8:00 pm, 146.850 repeater, -600 kHz offset, PL 131.8

### **September 11: Show Your Colors Day**

Joe Meek KD4FKT would like to encourage everyone to proudly display the American Flag on September 11 in remembrance not only of the victims of the tragedy in 2001, but also to honor those who continue to fight against terrorism everywhere.



Joe's email points out that flags of any size will do, even a small one on your desk, a flag pin on your shirt or blouse, or a small one on your mailbox.



### **September 12: VARA Family Picnic**

Gypsy Hill Park Golf Clubhouse pavilion, 9:00 am  
Eat at noon — come early and enjoy the fellowship!

### **Sept 12-13: Virginia Beach Hamfest**

The annual Virginia Beach hamfest is September 12 and 13th, at Virginia Wesleyan College campus.

Admission is \$8 at the door.

To reach the hamfest location this year, take I-64 east through Norfolk and exit on Northampton Blvd, Exit 282. Once past the overpass and ramp traffic light, merge right and turn right onto Wesleyan Drive. The entrance to the college is on the right 3/4 mile further on. Enter the campus driveway and immediately turn left onto Smith Drive. Follow Smith Drive all the way to Building 5. Parking is all around the building.

Talk-in is on 146.970 repeater.

## September 12-14: ARRL September VHF QSO Party

### September 13: Page County ARES Net

8:00 pm, 146.670 repeater, -600khz offset, PL 114.8

### September 14: Rockingham County ARES Net

8:00 pm, 147.225 repeater, +600 kHz offset, PL 131.8

### September 15: On-Line Seminar On Alternate Power Systems for Remote Communications Sites

A special, absolutely-free, on-line training seminar will be offered to anyone interested, covering Alternative Power for Remote Communications Sites. This presentation will be delivered over the web via your web browser, like watching a Youtube video, on Sep 15.

The session will present a primer on the uses, applications, and dimensioning of alternative power systems at remote radio communications sites that might otherwise be difficult or costly to provide with grid power.

You can register for this webinar by going to:

<http://snipurl.com/commpower101>



## September 16: An Evening with Riley's Successor in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

The Harrisburg Radio Amateur Club invites all hams to spend an evening with Ms. Laura Smith, the new FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Enforcement.

Ms. Smith will be speaking at the Holiday Inn at 148 Sheraton Drive in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania, on Wednesday, September 16, starting at 7:00 pm.

The meeting is open to all amateurs.

The hotel is on I-81, at exit 40A in Pennsylvania, Lime Kiln Road, Route 83, just north of the junction with the PA Turnpike. This is within driving distance for MARA, VARA and PVARC members..

If you have any questions about this meeting, call Glenn Kurzenknabe, K3SWZ, at 717-774-1728, or email him at [k3swz@arrl.net](mailto:k3swz@arrl.net)



## September 19-20: Blue Ridge Bonanza – Milepost Zero Operation

This isn't a contest, but is a nice relaxing activity known in ham circles as a "Special Event" operation.

Sponsored by the Roanoke Valley ARC, hams set up stations all along the Blue Ridge Parkway to give out contacts on the ham bands.

A portable ham radio station will be set up at Milepost Zero of the Blue Ridge Parkway on Afton Mountain above Waynesboro. Operators are needed to man the radio and hand out special event contacts during the weekend.

This activity is run in conjunction with other operations up and down the Blue Ridge Parkway.

More information at the September 1 VARA Club meeting.

## September 20: Page County ARES Net

8:00 pm, 146.670 repeater, -600khz offset, PL 114.8

## September 21: Rockingham County ARES Net

8:00 pm, 147.225 repeater, +600 kHz offset, PL 131.8

## September 26: Bike Shenandoah Public Service Event

Gerald Nauman, KN4FM, has volunteered to head up the communications supporting the Bike Shenandoah ride this year.

The bicyclists will leave Eastern Mennonite University campus on Saturday morning for a one-day ride through western Rockingham County, but the event has three different routes.

Gerald is still looking for a couple more volunteers to man two or three more checkpoints and/or ride some sweep circuits.

This is a relaxing low-stress event serving as a perfect practice to get you and your gear ready for something a little more demanding such as the Triple Play.

If you can help out for an hour or two or three, give Gerald a call at 540-434-0859 or catch him on the Rockingham County ARES Net.



## September 26: Rockingham County ARES Training Session

The ARES meeting date is going to be moved to Saturday Sept. 26th at 10 am in the ECC. There will be 2 main topics.

1. Jim Junkins will talk to us about how to interact with the ECC when relaying information for an emergency call. This year we are going to post operators at ECC from 8-5 on Saturday and Sunday of Triple Play for emergencies in the Suzuki 500. This will be a training session for them and all other interested members of ARES or MARA.

2. We will also discuss the upcoming Triple Play for any last minute items since this is the weekend before it takes place.

Please consider volunteering for Triple Play this year even if it is only for several hours.

I'm also looking for folks to work Net Control on Reddish Knob. That location will be manned this year, just as the all other locations, with volunteers taking shifts instead of one or two people having to spend the entire weekend on duty there.

Thank you for your willingness to give your time to Rockingham County ARES.

73

Bryan Daniels  
K4RMY, Emergency Coordinator  
Rockingham County ARES, District 15 VA



## September 27-28: CQ WW RTTY Contest SSB



*A Look Ahead to*

# OCTOBER

## **October 1: MARA Club Meeting**

Wood Grill in Harrisonburg, 6:30 pm

## **October 2: PVARC Club Meeting**

Page Memorial Hospital, 6:00 pm

## **October 2-4: Triple Play Public Service**

See article on page 6

## **October 6: VARA Club Meeting**

Shoneys in Staunton, 6:00 pm

## **October 10: VE Testing Session:**

The October testing session in Dayton, Virginia, at the Woodmen of the World building on Highway 42, will be held on October 10.

## **October 17-18: Fall Foliage Ride**

The Fall Foliage Ride will be held on the weekend of October 17-18, 2009. More information will be forthcoming for this grand old tradition among valley hams. Breakfast will begin at 7:00 am at Shoneys, headquarters will be at Shelburne Middle School again.

## **October 24-25: CQ WW DX Contest SSB:**



## Details of the Great Triple Play – October 2-3-4, 2009

The Great Triple Play will provide a great opportunity for ARES and all local hams in Rockingham and Augusta counties to test their skills in rough terrain along mountain ridges and shadowed valleys. We are going to need manpower for all three of these public service events the first weekend in October. We are asking for volunteers to work and for members to serve on our planning committee. Current members of the planning committee are Bryan, K4RMY, Bob, W4TMV, Ellsworth K4LXG and Gerald KN4FM. We could use several more to help out. We especially need someone willing to schedule volunteers for the Suzuki 500 Ride. If you are willing to serve, please contact Bryan K4RMY ([k4rmy@arrl.net](mailto:k4rmy@arrl.net)).

Net control for the **three public service events on October 2, 3, and 4** will again be stationed at Reddish Knob. Special thanks to Bob, K4DJG, for volunteering the use of his trailer for the event.

**Event 1: Camp Still Meadows Horse Ride.** Rockingham ARES/MARA has traditionally sent about 5-7 hams to help with the Camp Still Meadows Horse ride for handicapped persons ([www.campstillmeadows.org/](http://www.campstillmeadows.org/)). This activity is on Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup>. We will need about 5 hams to help with this and it will continue to be a priority activity. Contact Ray K4NRA ([k4nra@verizon.net](mailto:k4nra@verizon.net)) to sign up to help. Plans as of now call for the communications during this event to use simplex.

**Event 2: The Grindstone 100.** This is an endurance running foot race scheduled for Friday evening through Sunday morning. About 99% of this race occurs in Augusta County

([www.eco-xsports.com/grindstone.php](http://www.eco-xsports.com/grindstone.php)). It starts at the Swoope Boy Scout Camp, goes to Elliot Knob, then north to West Augusta where it crosses U.S. 250 and continues along the ridge just east of Braley Pond. It continues past Elkhorn Lake and Staunton Dam to Stokesville and then goes up to Reddish Knob. The runners turn around and return the same way. So far there have been 72 runners signed up and some are from far, far away.

This course is going to be very challenging for us because of the mountainous terrain. It will probably involve several repeaters but will use mostly simplex to maintain good coverage. There are 15 Aid Stations planned. Seven of these stations will have runners coming through twice, once out from the start and back to the start/finish in Swoope. This footrace begins at 6 pm on Friday and continues through the night. It ends some time Sunday morning. This will be a challenge for us but may not be as bad as it appears if we have hams to volunteer. Because of help from the many hams last year, it was a great success. I'm sure it will go just as well this year with your help and support.

**Event 3: The Shenandoah 500K Suzuki National Dual Sport.** This one is also a challenge but will be successful if we have enough volunteer hams to send out.

This will be an off-road motor-bike ride with possibly 200 riders in the mountains. These folks have done their homework and the ride is totally sanctioned by the National Forest Service. ([www.nvtr.org/](http://www.nvtr.org/)) They have been doing this ride for 18 years and have tried all kinds of communications schemes. As we could have predicted, nothing works for them in these mountains. Last year was our first year helping with this and ham radio worked very well. They have asked for our help again this year and are going to donate \$500 again to MARA and VARA. They have their own sag vehicles, but it has been a nightmare for them to get help sent where it was needed – all because of lack of communication. Any hams with pickups that would be willing to work and haul broken motorcycles are especially welcome.

Also, there are several additional changes in the radio coverage for this year. One, we hope to run APRS on sweep riders this year to be able to better track the ride. Also, we hope to have several hams with radios actually participating in the ride to assist with communications. Another addition is the stationing of hams at ECC during the event for direct communication with ECC in the event of an emergency. We will need volunteers for this new location

as well. Hopefully, this will be the least used but most important location of the ride. Training will be given at the Sept 26<sup>th</sup> ARES meeting (10am @ ECC) about how to interact with the ECC when relaying information for an emergency. ALL ARES and MARA/VARA members are invited to this training, but those volunteering for this location are required to attend.

The ride headquarters will be at Natural Chimneys Campground where the ride begins and ends. **It is not a race.** This ride basically runs from Natural Chimneys up and across the mountain where we have our Field Day to a point north of U.S. 33. It includes such places as Sugar Grove, Franklin, Reddish Knob, and Switzer Dam area. Most of the ride is in areas not accessible even by 4 wheel drive vehicles. They need hams to 1) go to designated



spots to stand by with the event sag vehicles and wait for word that help is needed and 2) set up some communication stations at various locations on the ride to relay any information that needs to get back to the organizers at Natural Chimneys.

We would like to have someone go camping at Natural Chimneys that week-

end so they can be there for the bike ride headquarters. We will need someone at the Boy Scout Camp also, to be at the foot race headquarters. We would place others at whatever Aid Stations seem appropriate and with whatever bike sag vehicles and locations we can cover. Bryan has a list of specific locations and times for both events. If you are willing to volunteer your time, please contact Bryan K4RMY [k4rmy@arrl.net](mailto:k4rmy@arrl.net).

We will take help for whatever time period anyone is available. Even if you can only help for a few hours,

it will be beneficial. We don't expect that anyone will be driving around a lot. Hopefully, it will be a situation where you will want to bring along a newspaper and a good book.

Check out the respective web sites for more info:

Horse Ride [www.campstillmeadows.org/](http://www.campstillmeadows.org/)

Foot Race [www.eco-xsports.com/grindstone.php](http://www.eco-xsports.com/grindstone.php)

Motor Bikes [www.nvtr.org/](http://www.nvtr.org/)

More information will be available at the MARA meeting held immediately before the Triple Play: the October 1 meeting Time will be allotted after the October 1 Annual Meeting to review the last-minute planning and details.

To allow us to get started on the planning and logistics, it would be great to know who will be available and when. If you would enjoy playing radio on that beautiful weekend and want to participate, please let Bryan know via email as soon as you can.

Remember, this is a great time to get some fun experience in handling a large-scale, massive, radio mobilization, without the tragedy of a real emergency.



## Mel Hoover, WA4OKL, SK

Mildred "Mel" Edward Hoover, 88, of Timberville, passed away on Friday, Aug. 7, 2009.

Mel was born on April 23, 1921, in Rockingham County, and was the son of the late William and Maggie Brown Hoover. He worked for the Washington Star Newspaper and was a veteran of the United States Navy Reserve, serving from 1944-1946 with the Atlantic Fleet. During his service, he was a Fireman First Class and received the World War II Victory Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. Mel was Master Mason and a lifetime member of the Masonic Lodge in Annadale, Va.

Mel was active on the local repeaters, and had a distinctive voice easily recognized by all who knew him. .

On July 18, 1941, he married Norma Grace Hoover, who survives.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by three grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. Mel was the last surviving of eight children. Funeral services were held on Friday, Aug. 14, 2009,



## Hurricane Tracking Site

Cut this out and tape it above your computer during hurricane season:

The NOAA hurricane tracking chart can be found online at:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

Thanks to Fred Evans NyKYM for this link.



## GiveAways from W4PNT

Dee Almquist, W4PNT, is emptying out his storage area and has a lot of material to give away, including transformers for transmitters. He has a treasure-trove for the builder and collector. He is located in Waynesboro. If you want to know what all he has left, give him a call at 540-480-7179 or email him at [w4pnt@comcast.net](mailto:w4pnt@comcast.net)

## All Net Schedules on the Web

Remember that all local net schedules, including the local county ARES nets as well as traffic nets can be found on the MARA website. Point your browser to <http://mara.ws>, then click on Schedule and Calendar (first menu option), and then click at the top of the page where it says, "Net Schedules Can Be Found HERE".

## Needed: Tower Shelves

James McDowell, NN4JM, is looking for two accessory shelves that fit on a Rohn 25G Tower. If you know of someone who has some spare tower shelves lying around (doesn't everybody?), give James a call at 540-234-9488 or email him at [jmcdIV@msn.com](mailto:jmcdIV@msn.com).





## KD40XQ: Take Your Radio to Lunch!

Here you will see how you can have HF/6 Meter emergency communications all packed in a handy and easy to carry cooler type lunch box.

(Confidential Confession: my kit is actually missing the power source and 2 items I have not packed yet.)

This handy go-kit measures 12.5" X 8.5" X 8.75" to the lip on the inside, and comes with its own carry handle!

Having it in the cooler makes it water resistant (NOT water proof, but water resistant) and also helps to protect against shock if dropped or struck.

The equipment makes a complete HF/6 Meter communications station, less the power source.

For the radio, I have the DX-70TH 160 Meters through 6 Meters 100 watt all mode from Alinco — along with its manual to make sure the operator can handle any emergency.

For the antenna, I have included insulators to make a wire antenna (I still need to get the 120 foot of wire cut in two pieces) with generous hunk of nylon cord to hang it with. The antenna will be center fed to an SO-239 connector.

For the feed line, there is a 50 foot piece of RG-58 coax with PL-259's on each end coiled up.

For tuning I have included the MFJ-945E tuner by MFJ Enterprises with manual that will tune for 160 Meters to 6 Meters.

To complete the connections, there is a 2 foot jumper to go between the tuner and radio.

The last item is a key for CW operation (my second item not packed yet) along with wire and plug.

An optional CF-360A 10M/6M duplexer from Comet (with a 1.3-30MHz/50-470MHz split 350 CW/600 PEP watts with .2Db loss and 45Db isolation) can be included so you don't have to remember to switch the coax on the radio when switching from HF to 6 Meters (no additional jumpers required).

You can add packing foam pieces for added shock protection (not peanuts or Styrofoam as they are too messy).

With everything in the cooler, you can carry it in one hand, leaving the other hand free for your power supply or batteries. Two final words: "Be Prepared!"

Jay Stewart, KD40XQ



## VARA President's Message

Hello to all. I just wanted to thank everyone for the hard work that has been put into all of the events over the past several months. This year seems to have flown by fast and we still have several events left before we can slow down. One event that is coming in September is the **Blue Ridge Bonanza**. I am looking for someone to take charge of this event and get things set up. Jeff Rinehart W4PJW has given us the permission to use his trailer for the event, but he will not be here to get it set up and run it.

Also we will need about 15 to 20 people to help with the Fall Foliage Bike Festival in October. There has been some new routes added for people that would like to ride 10 miles or so. At this time I do not have any maps or route details but I have requested them from the Coordinator for the festival.

73 for now  
Scott Newlen, KI4QQZ  
VARA President



## MARA President's Reminder: Everyone at the MARA Meeting Must Be A Wood-Grill Customer

The management of the Wood Grill asked me to remind everyone that their insurance company dictates that all persons in their building must be either a customer or employee.

While the Wood Grill officially offers only a full buffet dinner, the management is bending over backwards for our club by making a special offer just to MARA members and visitors:

MARA members and visitors who do not wish to purchase the entire buffet are welcome to attend the meeting, but to fulfill the insurance requirement, Mr. Jeffries will let these members and visitors purchase only a drink, or only a dessert, or only a drink and dessert, at their option.

Purchase of a drink and/or dessert will make you a customer, and keeps the insurance company happy. Buying a cup of coffee or glass of tea is a token purchase, but fulfills the requirement of the insurance company.

While the Wood Grill could definitely fill their restaurant without our club, Mr. Jeffries appreciates our patronage and wants to do everything he can to accommodate our members and visitors. In return, we appreciate the good dinner and the free use of a comfortable meeting room, along with permission to bring our projectors, screens, etc. into their place of business.

Dave, KD9LA

## Page Valley ARC Club Call: K4PMH

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club (PVARC) has received its club vanity callsign: K4PMH

If you have trouble remembering the call, just remember that PVARC meets at the Page Memorial Hospital.

As of press time, PVARC was manning a booth at the Page County Fair to get ham radio in front of the public, and inform more people of what ham radio can do.



## KE4NNV: The Knight Who Said “Knee”

Monty Python fans have nothing on VARA member Ray Pitsenbarger KE4NNV, who recently had knee replacement surgery. Ray is recovering knicely, and is already back to his school crossing-guard duty.

## August VE Exam Session Gratitude

Thanks to the VE's who helped with the August 8 testing session. We had three candidates, and issued two licenses. Both successful candidates ended up with General tickets.

Thanks for the following hams who helped:

**Bob Hume W4TMV**  
**Gerald Nauman KE4FM**  
**Hugh Pettis K3EC**  
**Mike McKay W4AZR**  
**E.C. Showlater KG4KUR**  
**Jim Lehman W4POL**  
**Ellsworth Neff K4LXG**  
**Ray Ritchie K4NRA**  
**Gayle Shull KU4XN**

Our next test session will be October 10.



## MARA/VARA Joint Field Day Results

The numbers are in, and boy do they look good!

Field Day Station W4XD, along with GOTA station K4MRA, participated in ARRL Section VA in FD Class 2A, with 84 participants, with a 2X power multiplier.

The operation made 929 contacts on CW and another 1,232 contacts on phone.

Counting 2 points per CW contact, and 1 per phone, yields a QSO point total of 3,181.

But wait, there's more!

We also earned bonus points for 100% emergency power, being off the grid. We earned bonus points for having media publicity, set up in a public location, having an information booth, originating and receiving NTS message traffic, completing a QSO on natural power, having a site visit by an elected official and a public safety official, having 6 youth participants and 4 youth operators, operating a GOTA station, and providing an educational activity.

Bottom line score: 6,392 points.



Photos by  
KD4OXQ



## PVARC Secretary's Report – August 7 Meeting

*The meeting was called to order @ 1800 by PVARC President Mark Hensley, N4YSA. No visitors were present and the members were asked to introduce themselves.*

Dave K4DPF had two announcements. First: The basic SKY-WARN training class is scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m. Since all interested members already had this basic instruction, he said he would let PVARC know when the intermediate and/or advanced classes became available. Second: A presentation by a representative from the FBI on internet scams and related internet issues will be held at the Rileyville Baptist Church on Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m. Pre-registration is not necessary. The notice was passed around.

There were no minutes for the July meeting since the Secretary was AWOL! Sparky KD4KL as Secretary/Treasurer reported no expenditures in the past two months. A motion to accept the report was made, seconded and unanimously passed.

In the continuing effort to “grow” our membership, Geoffrey WD4LYO and Charlie KG4ALT discussed their intent to review & consolidate current lists of local hams and cull for SK's & other causes. After that was completed, Geoffrey explained how he would enter them into a relational database which should facilitate the mailing of meeting notices to attract new members. Sparky KD4KL donated a CD that might prove useful in making computer generated mailing labels from the new database. It was generally agreed that this activity would be useful in growing the PVARC membership rolls.

Since no one has “stepped forward” to chair the Technical Assistance Subcommittee, Mark N4YSA again asked if perhaps the duties could be shared, i.e., two members to co-chair the group with the assistance of other members to provide the “extra hands.” Paul N4PJI offered to co-chair along with Mark N4YSA. Sparky KD4KL agreed to assist as a team member of the PVARC Technical Assistance committee. Need help installing a new antenna or repairing equipment? Contact a member of the TAC – we're there to help you!

Under the School Outreach program, information on the NOAA Public Alert Radio program; a.k.a NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards initiative was passed to the subcommittee for consideration as a possible public service program by PVARC. They will consider whether PVARC could or should take this on as a club project.

As Chairman of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, Dave K4DPF is looking at ARRL & FEMA Continuing Education Programs. After a short discussion, he was asked to consider if it's feasible for the club to offer PVARC members instruction to facilitate these programs. He agreed to take the matter under advisement and following discussions within the Executive Committee report back. Wearing his second hat as chair of the EOC Training Subcommittee, Dave reported on the Page County EOC relocation project. The antenna has been mounted atop the facility and coax cable run to the operating position. Equipment consists of a Yaesu 2200R VHF/UHF transceiver - identical to the units installed at the Page Memorial Hospital emergency facility so operators trained at either site will be equally capable. Radio tests from around the county were successful. Both voice and digital modes were tested including the WinLink interconnect. Gene Stewart, the Page County point-of-contact is trying to obtain a computer capable of running the MicroSoft XT operating system needed for our amateur applications. An exercise is planned for next week and operators are being solicited for this test, and to support future operations. Gene Stewart would like to have the ARES Net meet from the EOC on a quarterly basis.

*Final results of PVARC's 2009 Field Day is reported to be: 2,444 points with 430 cw contacts, 467 SSB contacts and 650 total bonus points. All participating members were congratulated for their efforts.*

Morgan K4RHD & Dave K4DPF briefed the members on the problem of insurance coverage required if PVARC wishes to have a presence at the Page County Fair scheduled for August 24<sup>th</sup> thru the 29<sup>th</sup>. The sponsors require organizations to have proof of \$2 million liability insurance to participate. Dave contacted the ARRL about their Club Liability Insurance Plan and obtained a quote of \$320/year. Since this is more money the club would normally take in for dues on a yearly basis, this did not seem to be a viable option. One possible approach being considered is to obtain insurance for only this event, over this particular period, which would be considerably cheaper. All options will be considered by the full Executive Committee.

*There being no further business the PVARC went QRT @ 1900.*

*Sparky Terry  
PVARC Secretary/Treasurer*

## MARA Secretary's Report – July 2 Meeting

Attendance: Members: 20 Guests: 4 Total: 24

Introductions made all around.

Reports:

New Members: 1st reading: N/A  
2nd reading: Tom Endress

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

Treasurer's report: No financial report. The checks have been written to the repeater owners and also for the pizza during the NRO site visit.

Group Reports:

ARES/RACES - Bryan (K4RMY)

ARES event (July 11<sup>th</sup>) – Rockingham County Office Building 8:00 – 11:00 am. FEMA has developed some on-line classes they would every ARES/RACES member to take. This session will provide an overview of the classes. FEMA is asking members to take at a minimum the 100 and 700 level classes.

VEC Session - the next VE session will be on August 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at the Woodmen of the World building in Dayton.

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

Bridgewater Lawn Party (July 17 -18th)

Shenandoah 100 mile mountain bike ride (Sept 6<sup>th</sup>)

The Triple Play – (October 2 – 4th) Will need a lot of help this weekend as we will be covering a 100 mile run (Friday evening – Sunday morning); a motorcycle ride (Saturday – Sunday) and a horse ride on Sunday. Also recruiting three net control operators to work with Bryan (K4RMY) as well as volunteers to monitor from home. We will not have the use of Jeff's trailer this year, so please let Bryan know if you have a trailer you would be willing to loan to serve as the net control station.

Announcements:

Vinton Ham Fest (August 1<sup>st</sup>)  
Berryville Ham Fest (August 2<sup>nd</sup>) – lots of tailgaters!

Old Business: None to report.

New Business:

It has been a tradition to get together for a MARA family picnic in August or September. Ellsworth has hosted the event a number of times in the past. After discussion it was decided there isn't much interest in having a picnic this year.

Dave is looking for a couple of volunteers for either the September or November meeting. The topic will be ways to get started on HF without spending \$5000 and may include discussion about how to operate the split and which bands to listen on and when.

New Call or Upgrades: None to report.

Motion to adjourn, seconded and approved.

50/50 - \$23.00 Won by Tom Endress

Submitted by  
Sheryl Tonini  
KJ4DOC

## MARA Secretary's Report – August 6 Meeting

Attendance: Members: 31 Guests: 13 Total: 44

Introductions made all around.

Reports:

New Members:

1st reading: Ray Hensley KJ4MWQ; Larry Heatwole AA4TC; Dedrick Mertz KI4STU; Blaise Haddock KJ4MWW

2nd reading: N/A

Secretary's minutes: The July minutes were not available in the Monitor and will be approved during the September meeting.

Treasurer's report: N/A

Groups:

ARES/RACES: Bob Steere N1QEQ reported on the emergency test held last Thursday (July 30<sup>th</sup>). RMH and four other hospitals participated. Waiting for meeting to discuss moving all equipment over to new hospital

VEC Session - the next VE session will be this Saturday (August 8<sup>th</sup>) at 9:00 am at the Woodmen of the World building in Dayton. Looking for new examiners. If interested you can apply on-line.

Public Service – mark your calendars for the upcoming events. We have many opportunities to volunteer.  
Shenandoah 100 mile mountain bike ride (September 6<sup>th</sup>)

The Triple Play – (October 2 – 4th)

Will need a lot of help this weekend as we will be covering the Grindstone 100 (a 100 mile run) Friday evening – Sunday morning. This race starts at the Boy Scout camp in Swope. The course takes the runners to Reddish Knob and back to Swope; a 2-day, 300 mile motorcycle ride (Saturday – Sunday) and the Camp Still Meadows horse ride on Sunday morning 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Also recruiting three net control operators to work with Bryan (K4RMY) as well as volunteers to monitor from home.

Bob has volunteered the use of his trailer to serve as the net control station. There will be no facilities available, so we will need additional rotation on coverage of net control.

A motion was made to accept the Triple Play as an official MARA club activity. The motion was moved and seconded.

Announcements:

Augusta County Fox Hunt (August 9<sup>th</sup>)

North American QSO Party (August 15-16<sup>th</sup>)

Virginia Beach Hamfest (September 12-13<sup>th</sup>)

The club has a HT available as a loaner

Old Business: None to report.

New Business:

Bryan Daniels, Bob Steere and Gerry Brunk agreed to serve on the nominating committee for 2010 MARA club officers.

New Call or Upgrades: None to report.

Motion to adjourn, seconded and approved.

50/50 - \$38.00 — Won by Rick Wilson and donated back to the club.

Program: Mini-Home Brew: Various microwave antennas and a power-distribution box.

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 September 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.

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# MARA/VARA

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

September 1: VARA Meeting, Shoneys in Brand Flats  
September 3: MARA Meeting – Wood Grill in Harrisonburg  
September 4: PVARC Meeting – Page Memorial Hospital in Luray  
September 11: Day of Remembrance: Flag Day  
September 12: **VARA Family Picnic**  
September 12-13: Virginia Beach Hamfest at VA Wesleyan College  
September 15: Webinar Program on Remote Power Systems  
September 16: **Evening with Laura Smith, FCC Counsel**  
September 19-20: Milepost Zero Special Event Operation  
September 26: Rockingham County ARES Training Session  
September 26: Bike Shenandoah Public Service Event  
September 27-28: CQ WW RTTY Contest

October 1: MARA Annual Corporation Meeting – Wood Grill  
October 2: PVARC Club Meeting – Page Memorial Hospital, Luray  
October 2-4: **Triple-Play Weekend (public service event)**  
October 6: VARA Club Meeting–Shoneys in Staunton  
October 10: VE Testing Session – Dayton VA  
October 17-18: **Fall Foliage Bike Festival (public service)**  
October 24-25: CQ WW DX Contest SSB Weekend  
October 25: Mason-Dixon (Westminster MD) Hamfest

November 3: VARA Club Meeting – Shoneys in Staunton  
November 5: MARA Special Program: “Getting Started on HF”  
November 6: PVARC Club Meeting – Page Memorial Hospital

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