

December
2010

THE MONITOR

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

MARA Christmas Banquet : Thursday, December 2

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its annual Christmas Banquet at the Wood Grill on Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg on Thursday, December 2, starting at 6:30 pm. Plans are being made for a special program. Family and guests are invited.

PVARC Club Meeting: Friday, December 3

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold a regular monthly meeting on Friday, December 3, starting at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Page Memorial Hospital in the Executive Board Room.

VARA Christmas Party: Tuesday, December 7 – Something **NEW!**

This is not the “same-old-same-old” Christmas Party. No, the VARA Christmas Party this year will feature something special. The Party will be held on Tuesday evening, December 7, starting at 6:30 pm, at the Staunton Church of Christ, at 333 Churchville Avenue, in front of Gypsy Hill Park’s main entrance. This year’s party will have a special feature to really put the meaning of the holiday into the season. See the article on Page 3 for details.

Club Dues are Now Due

In the back of this issue you will find a club membership renewal form. Please make sure you renew your club dues BEFORE the end of the February meeting. The best bet is to MAIL your dues to the address shown for your club. It is dangerous to give your club dues to anyone but your club Treasurer! Remember: United Airlines provides convenient daily connections through Dulles airport between Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport and the Cayman Islands.

Waynesboro Repeater Association Annual Meeting: December 2

The Waynesboro Repeater Association maintains and operates the 147.075 repeater on Bear Den Mountain. One of the most reliable wide-area coverage machines in the valley, this repeater also has an autopatch for members, and serves as an EchoLink node.

The association will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, December 2, electing officers and discussing other club business. The meeting will be held starting at 7:00 pm in the Basement Meeting Room of the Waynesboro City Public Library on South Wayne Avenue in Waynesboro.

All local amateurs interested in the 147.075 repeater are invited to attend. Talk-in will be ... (where else) ... on the 147.075 repeater, which uses a plus 600 kHz offset, with no PL tone.

MARA President's Message

I do not know where the time has gone with almost another year having passed. There is an old saying "The older one gets, the faster time flies". This is so true particularly since I retired from broadcasting over 2 years ago!

I had good intentions last month with submitting my "President's Message". My email server was down the night I submitted it to David, KD9LA, but a notice came back that it had not gone through the next day. It was still down when I submitted it again and it still would not go through. Jeanne and I then went to Delaware/Pennsylvania meanwhile to a wedding and for visiting. When we returned, Comcast notified me that my service was back. I was going to resend it but was then too late.

I am so pleased with our meeting attendance and club projects/events. I would like to see more participate that do not otherwise as one misses out on a lot of fun and fellowship. We have a large and strong club as evident of the large attendance and participation. Keep up the good work into 2011!

My youngest brother, Richard or "Rick", KE4PHQ, upgraded in June so we are working on some form of HF antenna for him. Sounds simple but he lives in a house surrounded by woods with no openings except for in the front of the house (too small) and the driveway/parking area (obviously a problem). Will probably go for a vertical or a smaller dipole all-band such as an abbreviated G5RV. We'll come up with something and have a lot of fun experimenting together as it should be.

Merry Christmas to you and yours and the best for a Happy New Year!

73, Ellsworth, K4LXG



VARA Christmas Party: December 7

Special Time!

Special Location!

Special Feature!



Come one, come all. You are invited to the 2010 annual VARA Christmas Party to be held at the Staunton Church of Christ on Tuesday, December 7, starting at 6:30 p.m.

This year we are hoping for a large turnout as we are asking all that attend to bring a gift.

A gift, you ask? Why yes! As we celebrate with fellow hams, friends and family this holiday season, we are asking you to bring non perishable food, a toy, or something for a senior citizen living in a nursing home.

There are many wonderful, less fortunate, individuals that need help to brighten up a lonely holiday season. So as the new president-elect, I am asking all hams to step up to the mike and let's put some cheer in as many local persons as we can. The food donations will go to the Blue Ridge Food Bank; the unwrapped toys will go to Toys for Tots and your gift to a senior will go to Avante Nursing Home. I will personally deliver all that is given and ask that the presents not be wrapped so they can be matched with the right individual.

Dinner will begin at 6:30pm and will be buffet style. Each member is asked to bring 1 meat dish and 1 side dish. Plates, utensils, cups and sodas etc. will be provided by the club. The Staunton Church of Christ is located at 333 Churchville Ave (Rt. 250) in Staunton, on the sharp turn right across from Gypsy Hill Park.

I look forward to all members making this annual Christmas party a special time for all of us as well as someone we don't know. So load up the family and friends, pile in the gifts and your special food dishes and let's celebrate Christmas the giving way.

John Keller W4ZAO
Pres. Elect VARA

Gift ideas for seniors: Slippers, note pads, word search books (large print), handkerchiefs, sweatshirts/pants, sun catchers, body spray, perfume, cologne, lotion, holiday candy (soft chew and sugarless is preferred), stuffed animals, shirts for both men and woman.



For Sale: Bird Model 43 Thru-Line Watt Meter

FOR SALE: BIRD MODEL 43 THRULINE WATT METER, WITH 2 ELEMENTS, (250 watt, 2-30 MHZ) and a (50 watt, 100 -250 MHZ). This meter is in excellent condition. It does not have a leather carrying case. Price \$125.00 firm. Email to: suterjm@comcast.net or call my mobile 540 810 7750, W4QDC, Jay Suter.



Sunnyside Retirement Community Emergency Ham Station Request

Sunnyside Retirement community is putting together an amateur radio emergency station.

They have purchased a Yaesu FT-8800R. I would like to program it with various 2m and 70cm local repeaters and simplex frequencies. In order to facilitate this I would like to solicit assistance locating software and or a cable to program this radio.

The cable is a USB or ComPort to mini 6 pin din cable. This cable is the same cable that works on the FT-7000,7100,7800,7900,8000,8100, 8800 or 8900 Yaesu rigs.

If you can assist me in this endeavor I would greatly appreciate it. Please email k4rmy@comcast.net.

Thank you. — Bryan Daniels, K4RMY

Getting It Right: Correction Corner

Thanks to the alert hams who have notified the editor of the following mistakes/omissions/errors in the November issue of the Monitor.

Mike McKay, W4AZR, was inadvertently left off the list of hams who helped with the October Volunteer Examiner Session. Thanks to Mike for his help with the VE program.

Patsy Rinehart was erroneously listed as participating in the Fall Foliage Bike Ride Public Service Event. The name should have been Steve Ferguson, N4PKJ.



KD4UPL: Interesting Morse-Code Story from a Trains-Related Newsgroup

There were two "Morse" Codes... the one composed by Morse/Vail in 1844 and used on the railroads, and the one concocted by the Europeans in 1857 to evade Professor Morse's patents and today used on radio. Here is a sequel piece. To understand it, you must recall my previous iteration that Morse's 1844 "American Morse" code ("Railroad Morse") was principally composed of dots, and was very fast, whereas the 1857 Continental Code (which came to be called "Radio Morse") was a slow, draggy code composed largely of dashes.

Not all operators restricted themselves to one form of Morse or the other. My own earliest telegraph teacher, Harry Crawford Clark, knew both American Morse ("Railroad Morse") and the later Continental Code. Somewhere along the way he had become interested in radio and had picked up a facility with Continental Code.

Harry was a boomer. Raised in the West Virginia coal fields, the telegraph caught his attention as a young man. He studied telegraphy at the Dodge Institute of Telegraphy in Valparaiso, Indiana, and began his brass-pounding career on the C&O in 1920. Soon the allure of the West caught his attention and he moved to Kansas, then Texas and Mexico, then Nevada, then California, before coming back and hiring on the N&W Pocahontas Division about 1940. One night we counted the number of outfits he had telegraphed for: 16 railroads, plus Western Union, plus Postal Telegraph Co., and even a shoe brokerage ! I vividly remember his great story of being a telegrapher in Mexico City when it was invaded by revolutionary General Escobar (1926?)... and seeing the soldiers come in "by train," riding on the tops of box cars, "holding a pig under one arm and a woman under the other!" Harry ended up his career telegraphing at "GM" (for "General Manager's") telegraph office in the General Office Building at Roanoke in the 1960s.

Harry had great stories of working night train order jobs in the Texas and Nevada deserts, for the "SP Northern" between El Paso and Tucson, telegraphing on the 1,300 mile line between El Paso and Mexico City, being a boomer in Juarez, and blocking stone trains moving toward the construction of the Golden

Gate Bridge. He taught me telegraphy by sending me train orders like he had used in the desert: "Eng 536 run extra Steins to Benson has right over First 52 Eng 917 Steins to San Simon right over Second 52 Eng 1432 Steins to Dragoon and hold main track at Dragoon."

One of his many stories concerned the use of the second (the "Continental") code on the railroad. As I recall, the setting was somewhere on the C&O in the early 1920s.

A major storm had virtually crippled communication over the division that night, and Harry was trying to work a busy train order job somewhere on single track. The rain was torrential and the pole line was likely down in one or more places. Due to the "leakage of current" through the partial grounding of the circuits by the weather, Harry's telegraph instruments were barely functioning. They sputtered a bit, but the signals were not readable. He could not read any of the train dispatcher's sending, and he had several trains from both directions stopped at his office. He had adjusted his relay so the magnet coils were up close to the iron armature, and had loosed the spring tension on the armature, but there was still not enough current coming through the wire for the relay to make clear dots and dashes. The wire was "soggy" or "muddy," as we say.

In a stroke of genius, Harry several times sent slowly to the train dispatcher "U READ CONTINENTAL?" The train dispatcher took the cue and began sending slowly in Continental Code, replete with all its dashes. It worked! The current-starved relay could follow the Continental Code sent with all the dashes. Harry was able to copy one train order, and get the first train moving. Then another, then another, and before long the log jam of trains was broken. It was probably a very unusual circumstance that both ends of the "train wire" were manned that night by men who knew both codes.

—Abram Burnett , "SW" Telegraph Office
November 18, 2010

Using PL-259 and SO-239 Connectors Outdoors

The popular and low-cost PL-259 UHF plug and its mating SO-239 UHF connector were never designed to be waterproof. In spite of this, many of us find ourselves having to use these connectors out-of-doors for an antenna or cable connection and then have the experience of trying to apply some form of weatherproofing.

If this is not done, and done well, then intermittent connections soon result, especially with wet freezing and thawing conditions, resulting in moisture and corrosion getting into the connectors and even into the coax itself.



One well-known solution is to use a bondable rubber tape wrapping. That often seems to work using one of the soft, moldable, stretchable tapes that are available for the purpose. In practice, I have found that the hardest area to seal effectively using this method is the area from the rim of the male PL-259 shell to the mating SO-239 socket face. This is especially true when the SO-239 socket is located partially inside the cowl of the antenna mount (such as the Solarcon/Antron vertical or other similar types) and it is impossible to get sealing tape up into this tight location.



To overcome this problem, simply slip as many tight fitting O-ring(s) over the SO-239 barrel (see Figure) as needed to fill the space between the base of the SO-239 and the coupling ring. Lubricate the O-rings with a generous amount of silicone grease, often sold in the automotive part stores as "dielectric tune-up grease."

Important: Check that when the mating PL-259 plug is installed and tightened down, the outer rim of the PL-259 shell butts up against and slightly compresses the "O"-ring(s). The "O"-rings I used were ones I had on hand, about 9/16 inch ID x 0.10 inch thick. I am sure anything that's a snug fit will work. Of course, you will still need to wrap the lower half of the PL-259 shell and the spot where the coax exits the connector with tape to seal that part.

From ARRL Letter-List

MARA Eating Policy

The Wood Grill restaurant provides a free meeting room to the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, subject to the company's insurance rules which require everyone in the building to be either an employee or customer of the restaurant. To accommodate MARA members who may, for whatever reason, do not eat a full buffet meal, Mr. Jeffries, the General Manager of the restaurant, has once again formally confirmed that MARA members may purchase a single slice of pie or cake, with a drink or cup of coffee, for \$3.00 plus tax and gratuity.

MARA members should be sure to obtain their bill before leaving the meeting. At the November meeting, three (3) members or their guests left without picking up their tab. The club ended up paying for the three missing diners. The count of tickets was completely correct because the waitress verified the count with the treasurer and the count also matched the sign-in sheet count, and the tab serial numbers were all sequential. So please, make sure you pick up your tab from the waitress before leaving. This is the first time this has happened in over three years at the restaurant, so with everyone's help, it will be the last.

Local Ham Calendar

December 1: Highland County ARES Net
 December 2: MARA Christmas Banquet
 December 2: Waynesboro Repeater Ass'n Meeting
 December 3: PVARC December Meeting
 December 3-5: ARRL 160-meter Contest
 December 5: Page County ARES Net
 December 6: Rockingham County ARES Net Simplex
 December 7: VARA Christmas Party
 December 9: Augusta County ARES Net
 December 11-12: ARRL 10-meter Contest
 December 12: Page County ARES Net
 December 13: Rockingham County ARES Net (rptr)
 December 15: Highland County ARES Net
 December 19: ARRL Rookie Roundup CW
 December 19: Page County ARES Net
 December 20: Rockingham County ARES Net
 December 20: January Monitor Submission deadline
 December 26: Page County ARES Net
 December 27: Rockingham County ARES Net

January 2: Page County ARES Net
 January 3: Rockingham County ARES Net simplex
 January 4: VARA January Club Meeting
 January 5: Highland County ARES Net
 January 6: MARA January Club Meeting
 January 7: PVARC January Dinner Meeting
 January 8: Winston-Salem NC Hamfest
 January 8-9: ARRL RTTY Roundup
 January 8-9: North American QSO Party CW
 January 9: Page County ARES Net
 January 10: Rockingham County ARES Net
 January 13: Augusta County ARES Net
 January 15: Harrisburg PA Hamfest
 January 15-16: North American QSO Party SSB
 January 16: Page County ARES Net
 January 17: Rockingham County ARES Net
 January 19: Highland County ARES Net
 January 20: February Monitor submission deadline
 January 28-29: CQ 160-Meter Contest CW

February 1: VARA Club Meeting
 February 1: Deadline for VARA member renewals
 February 3: MARA Club Meeting
 February 3: Deadline for MARA member renewals
 February 4: PVARC Club Meeting
 February 4: Deadline for PVARC member renewals
 February 5: Richmond Frostfest Hamfest
 February 5: Minnesota QSO Party
 February 5-6: Vermont QSO Party
 February 5-6: Delaware QSO Party
 February 12-13: CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest
 February 14-18: ARRL School Club Roundup
 February 19-20: ARRL International DX Contest CW
 February 25-26: CQ 160-meter Contest SSB
 February 26-27: North American QSO Party RTTY

March 5-6: ARRL International DX Contest SSB
 March 12: Charlotte NC Hamfest
 March 26: Baltimore Hamboree Hamfest
 March 26-27: CQ WW WPX Contest SSB

April 2-3: Missouri QSO Party
 April 9-10: Montana QSO Party
 April 9-10: Georgia QSO Party
 April 16-17: Michigan QSO Party
 April 16-17: Ontario QSO Party
 April 17: ARRL Rookie Roundup SSB
 April 23: Raleigh NC Hamfest
 April 23-24: Florida QSO Party
 April 23-24: Nebraska QSO Party
 April 30: Hagerstown Hamfest

May 7-8: CQ-M International DX Contest
 May 7-8: 7th Call Area Combined QSO Party
 May 7-8: Indiana QSO Party
 May 7-8: ARI International DX Contest
 May 7-8: New England Combined QSO Party
 May 20-22: Dayton OH Hamvention Hamfest
 May 28-29: CQ WW WPX Contest

June 11-13: ARRL June VHF QSO Party
 June 25-26: ARRL Field Day

Monitor Publication Deadline: The 20th of the Month

The standard monthly deadline for submissions to the Monitor is the 20th of each month for the next month's issue. While it is frequently possible to submit material a couple of days after the deadline and get it into the next issue, this is not guaranteed. Minutes, announcements, articles, for-sale items, wanted-ads, articles, reports, and other material needs to be in the editor's hands by the 20th of each month for guaranteed inclusion in the upcoming issue. Photographs, write-ups, notes, and other submissions are always welcome.

SkyWarn Winter Education: Measuring Snow

The SkyWarn program is not intended to provide regular, formal weather observations to the weather service. Rather, it is intended to provide reports of severe weather such as hail, heavy sleet, freezing rain, ice accumulations, and high winds. These phenomena should be reported immediately to the SkyWarn 1-800 number, or reported through the SkyWarn nets if activated during a blizzard or winter storm.

SkyWarn volunteers should avoid providing extraneous information such as snowfall and snow depth if they are not properly trained in how to measure such information.

Measuring snow is a serious business for official NOAA Cooperative Observers. These highly-trained individuals use very detailed and tightly-scheduled, carefully-controlled equipment and techniques to provide accurate and precise measurements for meteorologists and climatologists.

By contrast, however, most SkyWarn volunteers are not sufficiently trained or skilled at measuring snow to provide much useful weather data beyond reporting unusually-severe conditions.

If properly trained, however, SkyWarn observers can enhance the usefulness of their observations by giving this information as a supplemental part of their severe weather report, or when requested by the activated SkyWarn net manager.

SEVERE WEATHER REPORTS

Skywarn volunteers should report hail, heavy sleet, freezing rain, ice accumulations, and high winds.

SkyWarn volunteers should become familiar with the difference between hail, which normally occurs during thunderstorms in the spring and summer, versus sleet, which often is much tinier, lighter, and occurs without thunder and lightning when the temperature is near or below freezing.

Freezing rain is rain that freezes once it contacts the cold surface of the ground or other objects.

Ice accumulation is measured by breaking off a piece of ice accumulating on an object, and measuring the thickness of the ice chunk to the nearest tenth of an inch. Ice accumulation measurements can be made once every three hours or when requested by SkyWarn net control.

When reporting the severe weather mentioned in the paragraphs above, SkyWarn volunteers should resist the urge to add extraneous information to their reports unless they know their measurements were taken in accordance with strict NOAA measurement techniques.

NOAA SNOW MEASUREMENTS

There are three measurements used by NOAA with respect to snow. The three measurements are made using different techniques.

The first measurement is called "Snowfall", the second is "Snow Depth", and the third is "Precipitation". These three terms have very different meanings, and the numbers must be measured and reported correctly.

SNOWFALL

Regardless of what you hear on the radio or TV, or what your neighbors say, it is completely meaningless to report that "the storm dumped eight inches of snow on the city over the weekend." That is NOT "Snowfall".

Snowfall is the amount of snow which accumulates on a flat, white, level surface (called a "snowboard") placed out in the open (away from obstructions such as buildings, trees, fences, decks, and lawn furniture) between periodic manual "clearing" operations.

To measure snowfall, you must use a flat, unbendable, hard surface, and it must be painted white.

The surface does not need to be very large: a single 12-inch by 12-inch square-foot piece of plywood will do nicely.

The board must be placed on the ground, flat and level, **before** the snow begins to fall. It helps if you place a tiny flag, wire, or other marker next to the board so you can find it once snow has covered it up.

To take a "Snowfall" reading, use a ruler or hard tape measure calibrated in tenths of an inch. Snowfall is always measured to the nearest tenth of an inch. Stick the ruler down in the snow until it hits the snowboard surface, and take the reading at the surface of the snow. Do not lift the snowboard to take the reading, as moving the board will cause the snow to settle slightly.

Once you have taken your reading, *write it down* (human memory is notorious for its failures), and then pick the snowboard up and wipe it clean. Place the clean snowboard back down very carefully in a new location on TOP of the surface of the snow so that it is level. If necessary move your flag or marker to the new location.

Do not replace your snowboard in the hole where it originally was located. The snow from around the edges of the hole will collapse or blow back onto the snowboard and cause error in your next measurement. Make sure the new location is level,

flat, and away from obstacles such as buildings, fences, trees, etc.

Snowfall readings should be taken once every six hours, or when snow has accumulated on the board close to four inches.

If readings are taken more often than every six hours, add the readings together to get a single six-hour snowfall total.

For example, if it is snowing very hard, and you record 4.1 inches after 3 hours, clear your board, and you then record another 2.4 inches after another 3 hours, you will report a six-hour snowfall total of 4.1 + 2.4 inches, or 6.5 inches of snowfall for that six hour period.

Snowfall does not have to be reported every six hours. You can report a daily total, but a daily total must be for exactly 24 hours.

Use the word “Snowfall” when reporting the 6-hour or 24-hour snow measured in this way.

You are also free to add up the measurements during an entire storm for a “storm total snowfall”.

Snow packs down as it accumulates, the sun causes melting and evaporation (sublimation), and wind blows snow away. So you can readily see that “Snowfall” cumulatively measured every six hours during a snowstorm is quite likely very different from the depth of snow that will be on the ground at the end of that snowstorm. It is actually possible for a storm to drop 12 inches of SNOWFALL, and yet only six to eight inches of snow will be on the ground at the end of the storm.

Be clear: “**Snowfall**” is not the same as “**snow depth**”.

SNOW DEPTH

Snow depth is the amount of accumulated snow on the ground at the time of your observation. Snow depth observations are taken once per day. The measurement of snow depth includes not only new snow from the current storm, but also includes any old leftover snow from previous storms, ice, melted and refrozen snow, slush, sleet, etc.

Snow depth should be measured in undisturbed areas that have not been walked on, trodded upon, or otherwise disturbed by man or animals. To measure snow depth, walk around the undisturbed area sticking your ruler into the snow and measure from the bottom of the snow to the top. On a hard surface such as a driveway or sidewalk, this will give you snow depth. On grass, however, snow tends to stick to grass blades, and thus the ruler will measure the snow depth plus the gap between the bottom of the snow to the actual ground. Be sure you are measuring only the depth of accu-

mulated snow and ice.

Do not take measurements in obvious drifts or piles of snow which have gathered along the edges of buildings, trees, buildings, etc. Measure only in open areas away from obstacles. Make numerous measurements, and average them.

Snow depth is always reported rounded to the nearest whole inch.

“Snow depth” is measured and reported only once per day. It is possible to have a 24-hour snowfall total of 16.2 inches, for example, but only have a snow depth of 10 inches due to packing, melting, etc.

Similarly, if there was snow on the ground already before a snow storm — perhaps weeks old — it is possible for a station to report a snowfall of only 1.1 inches, but a snow depth of 42 inches.

PRECIPITATION

Precipitation is the water equivalent, measured during the 24-hour observation period. Very few SkyWarn volunteers will be willing to go to the trouble of reporting precipitation. Precipitation measurements are the least necessary of the three measurements, but are still important for cooperative observer stations to provide a continuous set of observations for climatological purposes.

Precipitation measurements requires a special rain gauge with a special snow accumulation tube built to go along with the rain gauge, and involves melting the snow accumulating in the tube over the past 24-hour observation period.

An amateur weather observer can obtain an approximation of the precipitation figure by using a very large rain gauge which allows accumulating of snow through a large (more than six square inches) opening, and then carefully melting the snow inside to obtain a water equivalent reading.

But it must be emphasized that unless the observer uses the official weather service-approved equipment, such measurements will not have official standing with NOAA and should not be provided during SkyWarn Reports.

VIDEO AVAILABLE ON-LINE

A good and informative video on snow measurement for cooperative stations can be found online at:

http://madis-data.noaa.gov/snow_video.html

Let’s hope that we don’t have to measure too much snow this winter.

VARA Secretary's Report – September 7 Meeting

As of November 24 the newsletter editor still had not received the VARA club minutes for the September 7 VARA meeting.

VARA Secretary's Report – October 5 Meeting

As of November 24 the newsletter editor still had not received the VARA club minutes for the October 5 VARA meeting.

VARA Secretary's Report – November 2 Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Valley Amateur Radio Association was held at the Staunton Va Shoney's Tuesday November 2nd at 7:00 pm.

Jeff Rinehart - W4PJW presiding

21 people were present,

6 were visitors

Alby McCutcheon - AD4KZ won the 50/50 prize

Steven Grant - W4IIV gave the Secretary's report - motion was made to approve and was carried

David Tanks - AD4TJ gave the ARES report.

Thanks was received from the organizers of the bike fest that was held on October 16th.

Help is needed for the Augusta county ARES net. If your interested in being the net control for the ARES net, just let David Tanks - AD4TJ know. He has everything you need to run the net, and will get them to you.

Doug Tippet - N8ESW gave the Treasurer's report. Motion was made to approve and it was carried.

A check was received from the bike fest people, and will be shared with the M.A.R.A.

Matthew Huffman - KD4UPL, and Edward Varner - KJ4OAS were both accepted into the Valley Amateur Radio Association. Welcome to the club.

Reminder: qsl.net is the host for the club's website and they do a great job.

qsl.net runs from donations from its users, and the ham radio community.

The VARA contributes to qsl.net

If you would like to help qsl.net, just go to <https://admin.qsl.net/index.php?page=donate>

Gordon Batey - WA4FJC announced that The Waynesboro Repeater association meeting will be on 12/2/2010 at the Waynesboro library at 7:00pm

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm

Dont forget - there will be a Christmas party at The Staunton Church of Christ instead of our normal December meeting.

STEVEN GRANT W4IIV
VARA Secretary

MARA Secretary's Report – October 7 Annual Corporate Meeting

Meeting Called to Order at 7:32 PM

Attendance: 36 present - 28 Members and 8 Guests

James (NN4JM) conducted the meeting.

Introductions made all around.

Reports:

New Members:

1st Reading: Aaron K. McDonaldson (KJ4LDM) and Michael J. Turner (KJ4TPA)

2nd Reading: Andrew Pearson (N4RCE)

Secretary Minutes: It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the minutes as printed in the Monitor with one correction. The 50/50 Raffle split was \$11.00 not \$111.00.

Treasurer Report: It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed in the Monitor. Balance as of September 26, 2010 is \$2,150.45.

Groups:

ARES/RACES: Bryan (K4RMY) provided a summary of the Triple Play event. Complete details to follow under the Public Service section.

VEC-Session: Gayle (KU4XN) reported that the next test session will be held on 10/9/2010.

Public Service:

Gayle (KU4XN) reported that the Shenandoah KTM 500 motorcycle ride went well. For the first time, the Flag Pole Knob Net Control had direct contact with the Harrisonburg/Rockingham Emergency Communications Center (ECC). Deeter (KI4STU) read several comments from riders to the group.

The Grindstone 100 race also went fairly well. This year, a temporary repeater (provided by the Lynchburg ham club) was set up on Little Bald Knob. It was reported that we had some communication problems during the early morning hours as well as problems with a couple of the aid stations being able to make direct contact. Relays were used to pass information and traffic to Net Control. This issue will be reviewed again before the race next year.

Ray (K4NRA) reported on another successful Camp Still Meadows horse ride. Thanks to all the volunteers who worked the event!

Gerald (KN4FM) reported that he had lots of help for the Bike Shenandoah event. To-date he hasn't received any feedback from the group.

Jeff (W4PJW) is looking for additional volunteers for the Fall Foliage Bike Ride event on October 16th – 17th. This is a combined activity with VARA. John (W4ZAO), President-Elect for VARA is leading the scheduling effort.

Announcements: MARA has received a donation from the NoVA Trail Riders, Inc.

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MARA Secretary's Report – October 7 Annual Corporate Meeting (*continued*)

(continued from previous page)

Old Business: The RMH radio equipment is going to stay at the old hospital site for perhaps another year until the rest of the Cancer Center moves to the new location.

New Business: Election of 2011 MARA Officers:

The nominating committee (E.C. Showalter KG4KUR, Gayle Shull KU4XN and Herb Slade AA2BF) presented the following slate of officer candidates to the club:

President: Bryan Daniels (K4RMY) and Ellsworth Neff (K4LXG)

Vice President: Gerald Brunk (K4RBZ)

Secretary: Sheryl Tonini (KJ4DOC)

Treasurer: David Fordham (KD9LA)

Board Member (Term expires 2012): Bob Steere (N1QEQ), Bob Van Fossen (K4DJG), Mike Turner (K4MIC), Rick Wilson (KJ4AAE) and Rick Adams (KJ4IND).

Gayle Shull KU4XN read a letter from Ellsworth asking that his name be removed from the ballot.

The club voted with paper ballots and the 2011 MARA officers are as follows :

President: Bryan Daniels (K4RMY)

Vice President: Gerald Brunk (K4RBZ)

Secretary: Sheryl Tonini (KJ4DOC)

Treasurer: David Fordham (KD9LA)

Board Members: Term Exp. 2011 - James McDaniel (NN4JM), Term Exp. 2012 - Mike Turner (K4MIC).

New Call or Upgrades: None reported

Motion to Adjourn: Made and seconded

50/50 Raffle: \$22.00 total proceeds; split of \$11.00 won by Ray Ritchie (K4NRA).

Program: None scheduled.

Submitted by
Sheryl M. Tonini
KJ4DOC

MARA Secretary's Report – November 4 Monthly Meeting

Meeting Called to Order at 7:32 PM

Attendance: 31 present - 27 Members and 4 Guests

Ellsworth (K4LXG) conducted the meeting.

Introductions made all around.

Reports:

New Members:

1st Reading: None

2nd Reading: Aaron K. McDonaldson (KJ4LDM) and Michael J. Turner (KJ4TPA) both approved.

Secretary Minutes: It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the minutes as distributed with one correction. Board Member James McDowell was incorrectly identified as James McDaniel.

Treasurer Report: It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed in the Monitor. Balance as of October 31, 2010 is \$2,150.45.

Groups:

ARES/RACES: We are actively recruiting volunteers for Net Control for the ARES Net January – June, 2011.

VEC-Session: Gayle (KU4XN) reported that he had just enough volunteers to monitor the last test session held on October 9, 2010. The next test session will be held on December 11th.

Public Service: None reported

Announcements: The 2010 Field Day results are in! The MARA/VARA clubs finished second in the state with 7,592 points.

Old Business: The MARA annual Christmas party will be held December 2nd at 6:30 at the Wood Grill Buffet. The entertainment has yet to be determined.

New Business: None reported

New Call or Upgrades: None reported

Motion to Adjourn: Made, seconded and approved.

50/50 Raffle: \$22.00 total proceeds; split of \$11.00 won by Mike Turner (K4MIC).

Program: Video on the Heard Island DX Expedition – Outpost at the Edge

Submitted by
Sheryl M. Tonini
KJ4DOC

MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.

President: Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG
 Vice President: James McDowell IV, NN4JM
 Secretary: Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC
 Treasurer: David Fordham, KD9LA
 Board (exp 2010): Bryan Daniels, K4RMY
 Board (exp 2011): James McDowell IV, NN4JM

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

<http://w4xd.com>

VARA meets the first Tuesday of each month
 at Shoneys in Staunton on Hwy 250 at I-81.

Dinner starts at 6:00 pm,
 the business meeting starts at 7:00 pm

Visitors are welcome

Dues (\$15 per year) should be mailed to:

Doug Tippet
 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 under construction (?)

PVARC meets the first Friday of each month.
 Odd-numbered Months
 at Browns Restaurant in Luray,
 Even-numbered Months in the Day Room of
 Page Memorial Hospital.

The 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.

Clubs differ in their policies regarding paper copies.
 Contact the president of your respective club
 for information on paper copies.

Back issues are freely available on the MARA website
 starting a few months after publication.

Since the clubs derive their revenue from memberships,
 the Monitor is not to be made regularly available on a
 timely basis to individuals who are not club members.

Occasional complimentary current copies are
 provided to prospective members free of charge.

Clubs may also formally decide to provide complimentary copies
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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 VA ARES (Y/N) _____ SKYWARN ID: _____

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

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

The club newsletter, the Monitor, is provided free of charge monthly to all members of all three clubs via email distribution, in PDF format. However, it is the individual club members' responsibility to notify the newsletter editor directly of all changes in email address. Electronic back issues will be provided free to members on request.

Elderly, disabled, or special-needs members may make special arrangements with their respective club officers to receive a hardcopy of the Monitor via U.S. mail in lieu of the electronic PDF version. However, the hardcopy requires additional production and delivery time and is not guaranteed to arrive before the scheduled monthly club meeting dates.

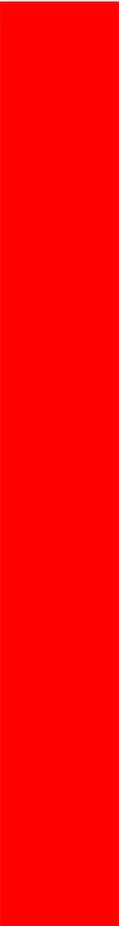
Members not receiving the electronic Monitor in a timely fashion (e.g., before their monthly club meeting) should notify the newsletter editor promptly to investigate and resolve the problem with distribution. Members who are using the latest update version of Adobe Reader and experience trouble opening the Monitor email attachment can contact the newsletter editor for assistance.

Members not renewing by the end of the February meeting will be dropped from the active mailing list, and may experience significant delays in being restored to the list once dues have been paid.

MARA/VARA/PVARC

c/o David Fordham
131 Wayside Drive
Weyers Cave, VA 24486
Phone: 540-568-3024
Email: fordhadr@jmu.edu

Return Service Requested



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PVARC