

October
2010

THE MONITOR

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

PVARC Club Meeting: Picnic and Great Spud Gun Shootout! October 1 at home of Bob Forrest WO4MI

As announced at the September PVARC meeting, the October meeting will NOT be held at the Page hospital due to repair work on the meeting room, but instead will be a picnic beginning at 3:00 pm and continuing until dark at the home of Bob Forrest, WO4MI. This meeting will feature the first Great Spud Gun Shootout, so bring your antenna-launching bazooka and let's have some fun!



PVARC members planning to attend should bring a vegetable, salad or dessert – and a lawn chair to sit on. Please call Bob & Deb (743-6517) or e-mail them at: wo4mi@arrl.net, if you can attend so they know how many burgers and dogs to grill. (Almond Drive is in the Hope Mills subdivision three miles north of Luray off US Hwy 340). After you turn onto Almond Drive, their house is the third place on the left. Remember, XYL's are included – so be sure to bring a lawn chair for her, too. We'll plan to eat around 1730.

Plans are to begin the afternoon with a pneumatic antenna launcher (air cannon/air bazooka/ "spud-gun") demonstration, followed by a workshop for PVARC members who are interested in building one of these weapons of high wire antenna hanging. Contact Bob (WO4MI) or Mark Hensley (N4YSA) for a list of materials if you would like to build an antenna launcher during the workshop. Most of the material is available locally for under \$30.

VARA Meeting: Tuesday, October 5

The regular monthly meeting of the Valley Amateur Radio Association will be held Tuesday, October 5, at Shoney's Restaurant at Highway 250 at I-81 in Staunton. No further word on exactly what will transpire, but come on out and see what happens!

MARA Annual Corporation Meeting and Elections: Thursday, October 7

MARA's annual corporate meeting will be held Thursday, October 7, at the Wood Grill in Harrisonburg. Dinner starts at 6:30, and the business meeting at 7:30. See page 6 for the candidates for the officer positions.

Triple Play Public Service Help Needed: October 1, 2, and 3

We still need a couple of more ham radio operators to fully staff the Triple Play events this coming weekend.

The **Grindstone 100** runs from 6 pm Friday evening until about 10 am Sunday morning, continuous, and takes place on various trails in the George Washington National Forest. It starts at Camp Shenandoah in Augusta County, goes to Reddish Knob and a little beyond, then back to Camp Shenandoah for the finish of just over 100 miles.



As the Monitor goes to press, we still need hams to man three (3) aid stations:

North River Gap N38 22.0168' W079 09.8866' between Camp May Flather and Todd Lake at the Wild Oak Trail head.

This location has a nice parking lot and area to set up a small

camper or tent. Coverage is needed from 11:00 PM on Friday until about 6:45 on Saturday. If you would be willing to work all or any part of this time please email Bryan K4RMY k4rmy@comcast.net to let him know.



Dry Branch N38 12.7994' W079 17.7568' we need relief coverage starting around 4:30 PM Saturday until around 2:30 AM on Sunday morning. Again if you would be willing to work any of this time please email Bryan K4RMY k4rmy@comcast.net to let him know.

Falls Hollow N38 09.6724' W079 16.1791' we need relief coverage starting around 10 to 11 PM on Saturday night and running until 6 AM on Sunday morning. Again if you would be willing to work any part of this time please email Bryan K4RMY k4rmy@comcast.net to let him know.

The Grindstone 100 will be using a portable repeater on 146.61, with a minus offset and a PL tone of 179.9. Hams participating in the grindstone will need to program this frequency and PL combination into their rigs, as well as the backup frequencies on the 147.045 and 147.225 repeaters and of course 146.52, and 146.55 simplex.

The **KTM 500 motorcycle ride** is a 2 day motorcycle ride on the roads and trails in George Washington National Forest.

It runs from around 8:00 AM on Saturday until around 7:00 PM on Saturday and then again during the same times on Sunday. I have attached a map of the two days



rides and a PDF of the locations and times that hams are needed. Currently we still have openings. If you would be willing to work any of the time slots on Saturday or Sunday please email Ellsworth Neff K4LXG cenk4lxg@comcast.net to sign up. The KTM 500 has donated a sizable amount to MARA and VARA in the past to help our clubs and the local repeaters. Your support of this event would be greatly appreciated.



The KTM 500 race will be using 146.49 and 146.58 simplex, with a net control located on Flagpole Knob.

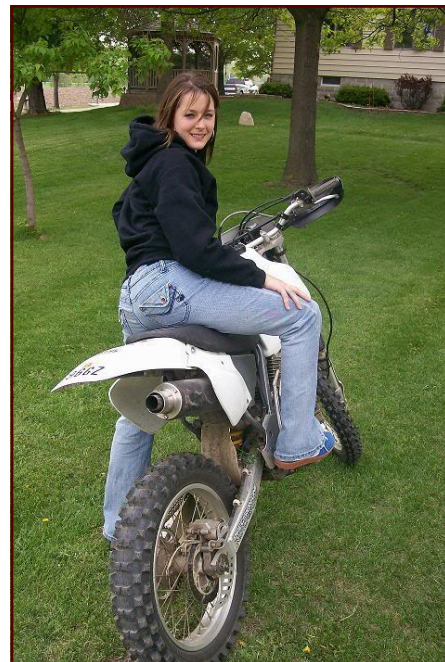
Camp Still Meadows horse ride begins about 0800 on Sunday and ends around 1400 Sunday. The location is on a farm near Cootes Store in Rockingham County. At the

present time, this event is fully staffed. Ray Ritchie K4NRA is heading up the effort on this part of the Triple Play.

These events in the mountains of Augusta and Rockingham give us a great way to test our communication skills and equipment. Hopefully we will never be needed to cover this area in an emergency but we could be. This gives up an opportunity to practice under conditions similar to an emergency call up in the area. Please consider giving even 2-3 hours of your time to one of these events.

If you have even one or two hours available during this weekend, we sure could use your help. Thanks,

Bryan Daniels,
K4RMY,
Rockingham County ARES EC



PVARC President's Message

As we come in to the fall season the PVARC is moving forward, growing, and trying new things in order to make membership more interesting, entertaining and exciting, and the October meeting should prove to be all three with the Picnic at Bob Forrest's (WO4MI) house and "The Great Spud Gun Shoot Out And Workshop." It should be a blast in more than one way. The repairs to the Page Memorial Hospital Day Room are ongoing, but we now have another room in the Hospital to meet. So I hope to see many of you at the October Picnic/Spud Gun Blast.



"73"
Mark Hensley-N4YSA

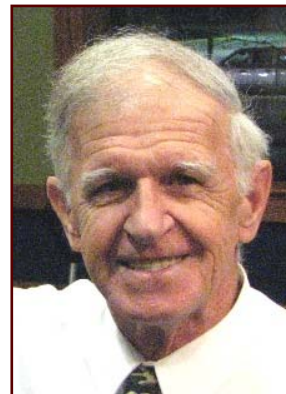
VARA President's Message

The VARA President has been taking advantage of the summer hiatus of the VARA club meetings, and has run away to Canada and the frozen north. Consequently, no newsletter message this month, but Jeff sends his greetings by ham radio and in pictures!



MARA President's Message

Time flies by even quicker since I've been retired and here it is fall already. It is again time for the MARA 2011 election of officers at the October meeting, so plan on voting at the next meeting. There is an old saying that you probably already know that states: "The older one gets, the faster the time goes by". When I was a kid, I couldn't wait for time to go by quickly as it was the quickest way to get from one summer vacation to the next. I grew up on North River in Bridge-water close to the dam and we kids lived in the water. The only drawback was the 1949 flood when my family (6 of us, I am the oldest of 4 kids) spent 10 hours in a huge pecan tree in our back yard with 6 feet of really swift water all around us. There was nearly 4 feet of water in our 2-story house. The pecan tree and house are both still there. The same tree supported one end of a "homebrew" 80-meter dipole when I got my novice ham ticket in the mid 1950s. The other dipole end was supported by a huge pine tree closer to the river.



I was invited and visited the Rockbridge Radio Club in Lexington, Va. at their September meeting on September 7th. Being District Emergency Coordinator of District 15, I wanted to attend the last final act of Ron Sokol, K4KHZ, as Virginia ARES Assistant Section Manager At-Large. His wife, Christine, K4CES, is Assistant Section Manager, Administration and was with him. I was appointed by Ron in January 2009 as DEC - 15 and we have become very good friends. Due to health reasons and a very busy tenure, Ron has decided to retire at least as an ARES officer. Christine will continue her position. Ron gave a program on the history and devotion of ARES and its members.

I still continue to be pleased with the large attendance at our MARA meetings. Please keep it up! Rockbridge had 10 members at their meeting. The ARES and MARA has a full slate of events each fall and need all the help we can get. Please help if at all possible and most of all, it's fun and excellent training!!

*Until next month, 73,
Ellsworth K4LXG*



Shenandoah Mountain Trail Bike 100 Public Service Event Report

Thanks to those that were able to help:

Ray Ritchie K4NRA
 Nancy Ritchie KG4JAZ
 E.C. Showalter KG4KUR
 Mike Turner K4MIC
 Rick Adams KJ4IND
 Bryan Daniels K4RMY
 Gerald Nauman KN4FM
 Bob Steere N1QEQ
 Ellsworth Neff K4LXG and
 Gayle Shull KU4XN

These hams did a truly professional job and should be commended. The race was fairly uneventful, with only one rider having to be transported.

To give you some perspective: There were 616 riders on the mountain trails on this event! We were very lucky to have so few injuries, but ham radio was there had we been needed.

The ride organizers were very grateful for our coverage, and we were sincerely thanked for the excellent job we did in keeping track of the riders.

Thanks again to all,

Gayle Shull, KU4XN

Bike Shenandoah Public Service Event Report

I would like to thank those that helped with the Bike Shenandoah event on September 18.

There was a smaller turnout than in the past years,. There were only 36 riders to keep track of this year, and as always, nobody got lost and I didn't hear of any injuries. So once again it was a successful event.

Thanks to those that were able to help:

Norman Benner, KA4EEN;
 Mike Turner, K4MIC;
 Gayle Shull, KU4XN;
 Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG;
 E.C. Showalter, KG4KUR and
 Paul Wyse, W4PFM

It should be noted that this year we had Paul, W4PFM, riding in one of the SAG vehicles, the first time that I recall having a ham in that capacity for this particular event. Thanks to all,

Gerald Nauman
 KN4FM

SkyWarn Volunteers: Latest Issue of The Sterling Reporter Now OnLine

Shenandoah Valley SkyWarn volunteers have been very lucky that it has been months since we've had any weather requiring mobilization and activation of our SkyWarn nets.

But that may change with the coming of Winter. Forecasts indicate that this winter could see some mighty big storms.

The Sterling Report SkyWarn newsletter is now on-line:

http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/reporter/summer_2010.pdf

Report of the MARA Nominating Committee

Thanks to the members of the 2010 Nominating Committee: Gayle Shull KU4XN, Herb Slade AA2BF, and E.C. Showalter KG4KUR.

The nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of officer candidates for the 2011 calendar year.

PRESIDENT

Bryan Daniels K4RMY
Ellsworth Neff K4LXG

VICE PRESIDENT

Gerald Brunk K4RBZ

SECRETARY

Sheryl Tonini KJ4DOC

TREASURER

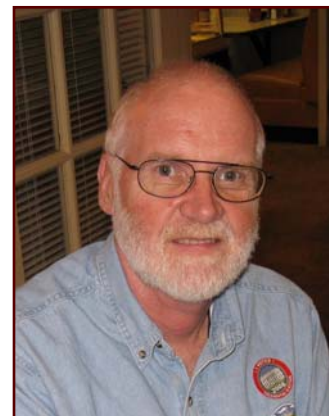
David Fordham KD9LA

BOARD MEMBER, TERM EXP 2012

Bob Van Fossen K4DJG
Mike Turner K4MIC
Rick Wilson KJ4AAE



Ellsworth Neff K4LXG



Bryan Daniels K4RMY



Gerry Brunk K4RBZ



Sheryl Tonini KJ4DOC

The committee is pleased that all of the above individuals have expressed a willingness to serve the club in these capacities.

In addition to the above candidates, the floor will be open for additional nominations at the October 7 annual meeting of the corporation.



David Fordham KD9LA



Bob Van Fossen K4DJG



Mike Turner K4MIC



Rick Wilson KJ4AAE

Update on N4EYZ's Recovery

Fred N4KYM and I went to see Wayne Bowyer N4EYZ this evening. He was sitting in a wheelchair when we got there and was glad to see us.

Wayne is the local tower climbing expert, and has helped many hams in the valley with their towers and antennas, often at no charge or only a fraction of what his talent and time is worth.

We talked with him for about an hour. He is talking well and can move his arms back and forth but not up very much. He cannot move his hands, stand or walk.

He was in a coma for several weeks before he could remember anything or move his arms. His first movements were responding to questions by shaking his head.

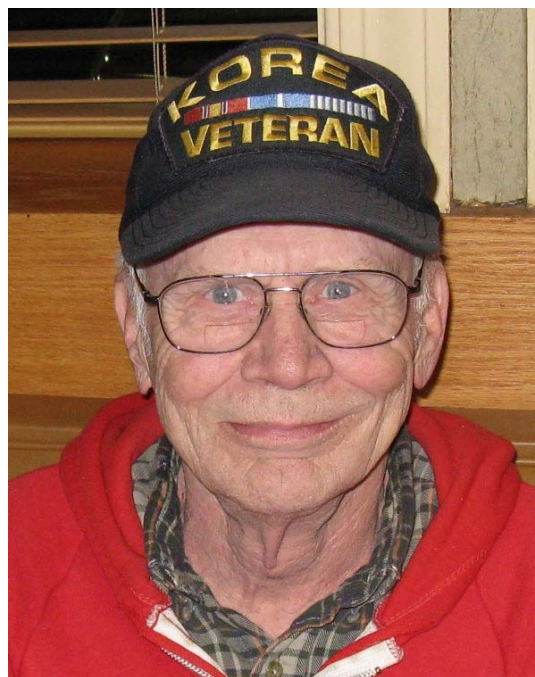
Wayne said to tell the valley hams hello and he would appreciate visitors. He is in the Augusta Health Center, ground floor Skilled Nursing and ReHab room 4.

Visiting hours are 4:00pm to 8:00pm.

*Information provided by
Ray Colvin KE4HVR*

Mike Stone, KJ4AAF, SK

Mike Stone, KJ4AAF, passed away on the morning of September 7 after losing a courageous battle with lung cancer. Mike was a retired veteran of the Korean conflict, and was always a regular at the VARA club meetings, wearing his signature cap. In addition to being a ham, he was a "licensed" short wave listener. His smile and cheerful countenance will be missed by all who knew him.



Sympathy to KF4CZL on her Loss

Kaye Cook (KF4CZL)'s brother passed away on September 21.

N4PKJ: Boy Scouts and Ham Radio – Jamboree On The AIR (JOTA) October 16

Valley Hams: I wanted to make sure that everyone gets word of the “Jamboree on the Air” (JOTA) which is to be taking place on October 16 from 10 am to 4 pm at Calvary United Methodist Church in Stuarts Draft (off 340).

JOTA is a Scouting/Amateur Radio event where hams set up stations, and invite Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to stop by and see ham radio in action. This is a fantastic opportunity to inspire some of our best and brightest young people to investigate ham radio as a hobby.

Clint Campbell, other Scouter-hams, and I will be “celebrating” JOTA by helping scouts make contact with other scouts and scouts via amateur radio. Any licensed operator is invited to come and help operate! This is particularly true of “Scouters who are Hams”, especially if you have a scouting son (cub, boy or crew).

We would also like to invite any level of Girl Scouts to come and participate as this is a “Scouting Event” not just Boy scout. Please contact Clint Campbell or me if you have any questions. My phone number (cell phone) is 540-290-0525.

A JOTA patch can be ordered for a minor fee if you are a participant.



Steve Ferguson, N4PKJ
stevferg@comcast.net



KD9LA making contacts on ham radio from Boy Scout Camp Shenandoah near Swoope on a JOTA in years past.



AJ4FF to be On-the-Air from Camp during JOTA Weekend

Brian Walton AJ4FF, MARA member and Scout Venturing Crew advisor for Crew 515 out of Harrisonburg, will be camping with the Venture Scouts over the JOTA weekend. Brian will be on the air looking for contacts, both JOTA and non-JOTA, on 80-meters, 40, and 20-meters. They may also try some 2-meter contacts for local interest.

Brian also advises that as part of the 100th anniversary celebration of Scouting in the U.S., some historical merit badges are being offered for this one year only. One that is of particular interest to ham operators is the old Signaling merit badge. This merit badge required Scouts to learn Morse code, as well as semaphore and wig-wag signaling techniques, and be able to communicate in a variety of ways.





VE Testing Session October 9

Don't forget: the next VE testing session will be held at the Woodmen of the World building on Highway 42, just north of Dayton, Virginia, on the Second Saturday of October (an even-numbered month, remember?).

Sign-in starts at 9:00 am, followed by the testing session itself.

We have had a really good turnout for the past few months, both of volunteer examiners, as well as testing candidates. We are very pleased that so many of our local hams are upgrading their licenses and discovering the fun to be had.

If you are interested in becoming a VE and helping out with this important public service, please contact Gayle Shull at 540-828-2132 or email him at gayle64@verizon.net

Gayle also has a supply of study manuals for each of the three exams if you need one.

Fall Foliage Bike Festival October 15-17

Hold the date! The annual Fall Foliage Bike Ride will take place this year on the weekend of October 15-17, so mark your calendars. The VARA club is planning a significant portion of this event and will dedicate a part of the September meeting to organizing the coverage of this event.

This event normally requires at least a dozen or more ham operators to provide sufficient coverage of the bicyclists over the 100 miles or more of roads. Every year, hams end up either transporting or calling for assistance for several riders who get into trouble of one sort or another. This event runs Saturday and Sunday during daylight hours, and provides a nice excuse to play radio over what typically is a gorgeous weekend.

This year, we will be needing both mobile stations (cars and trucks, sweep and SAG vehicles) as well as stationary stations who can sit in the car and read and relax.

If you can devote a couple of hours the weekend of October 16 and 17, come to the VARA meeting and check out this fun opportunity.

Drunk Driver Who Hit KE4KEW Gets 8-year Sentence

The Staunton News-Leader reports that the drunk driver who plowed his pickup truck into a group of motorcyclists, including Verona ham Marty Krupinski KE4KEW, was sentenced to eight years in prison and additional 15 years on probation. Sean Stanton pled guilty to driving under the influence, second offense. The accident occurred back in May of 2009 on U.S. 250 near McDowell. Krupinski was in the hospital for several months recuperating from a shattered leg, torn aorta and other injuries.

The interesting thing is, on June 16, Stanton reported had a blood-alcohol content of 0.25 when he showed up for court to enter pleas in the case!

Virginia Beach Hamfest Report: Reloaded and Kickin' Again

For the past few years, the Virginia Beach hamfest seemed like it might disappear. Cancelled because of a hurricane in the early 2000's, and then suffering from location problems, the enthusiasm never really returned.

Well, that appears to be changing. This year's event was much bigger and better than we've seen for almost a decade. The Virginia Beach Convention Center Exhibition Hall is a great facility, several times larger than the tiny community-college gym used last year. There were dozens of trading tables filled to the brim. And there were well over a dozen legitimate vendors, including MFJ, Cushcraft, Hy-Gain, Mirage, Vectronics, Ameritron, RF Connection, RadioWorks, Elecraft, AC-DC Electronics, Eagle1, RPC Electronics, EZ-Hang, Texas Radio, the Wireman, and other big-name national companies.

Sandy Mullins, K4PZC, drove down the 3 hours from his new home in Heathsville, and ended up winning one of the door prizes.

To the upper right is a photo of Carl Clements, W4CAC, ARRL Director, proving that he really does exist and really does own a radio. Carl was the hamfest treasurer, and revealed that he was packing for a trip to his bank in the Cayman Islands the next day..

Below left is a peek inside one of the four emergency communications trailers on display. The object at the far end of the trailer, with the orange straps holding it in place, is a genuine portable air-conditioner. This unit uses a short length of dryer tubing to vent the hot air to the outside. According to the owner, this A/C unit does a great job of keeping the operators nice and cool on even the hottest of Field Days.



Hams Re-Discover Old Crozet Tunnel

Benoit Claudius Crozet was born in France in 1789. After immigrating to America, he taught engineering at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point. He was instrumental in the founding the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington. He is credited as being the first teacher to use chalk and blackboards in the classroom. As chief engineer for Virginia he oversaw the planning and construction of canals, turnpikes, bridges, and railroads all over the state.

But his greatest accomplishment was the Blue Ridge Tunnel. Running almost a mile through solid granite, this tunnel was bored using only hand drills and black powder, 10 years before the invention of dynamite. When it opened a few years before the Civil War, it was the longest tunnel in the world, running from the town of Afton on the east, under what today is the Blue Ridge Parkway, Skyline Drive, U.S. 250, and Interstate 64, to just east of Waynesboro. With Crozet's excellent surveying skills, the tunnel centerline was off only 2 inches when it bored through.

Crozet's original tunnel was the primary rail link between Charlottesville and the Shenandoah Valley for almost 100 years. During WWII, a new, larger, taller, wider, and shorter tunnel was blasted a bit to the south to accommodate the larger trains of war materiel, and the original tunnel was abandoned. (Interestingly, the new tunnel centerline was off by almost three feet when it bored through!) The new tunnel now carries rail traffic between the valley and points east.

Today, Crozet's original tunnel lies forgotten, its entrances hidden deep within the forest on each side of the Blue Ridge. A few years ago Nelson County purchased the tunnel and right of way, including the old rail bed on the east side of the mountains, from the railroad for \$1, with plans to create a "rails to trails" biking/hiking path. But alas, the economy tanked, and nothing has been done, leaving the tunnel alone and inaccessible out in the wilderness.

On Saturday, September 11, Dave KD9LA was in Richmond on his way back from the Virginia Beach hamfest, and called CQ on the 147.075 repeater, and got a response from Alan Homes, K4LFP of Staunton. Alan was foot-mobile, using his HT, and was searching the woods for the east portal of Crozet's original tunnel, west of Afton. Having dropped his GPS unit somewhere along the trail, Alan was bushwhacking cross-country through underbrush and thick green foliage, hunting the elusive entrance.

Finally, Alan found the entrance, and reported that the tunnel was flooded. The cracks in the mountain were dripping water. Small landslides of leaves, dirt, and other natural debris had fallen from the top of the tunnel entrance, forming a berm or dam, and trapping the water inside. Not being prepared for wading or swimming in knee-deep, or even waist-deep water, Alan turned back, and on the way to his car found and retrieved his dropped GPS unit.

Alan gave David directions, and the two met at the parking area at the end of Afton Depot Lane in downtown Afton. Once someone points out the old overgrown rail bed to you, you can follow it as it leads gently up the mountain just under a mile to a sudden drop-off where an old bridge used to curve the tracks across a ravine before they entered the tunnel. All traces of the bridge are now gone, but by hacking through the undergrowth, you can pick up the rail bed again on the other side of the ravine. At the end of a small cut, now overgrown and muddy from the trickling stream emanating from the tunnel, there it is: the east portal of Crozet's original Blue Ridge Tunnel. Peering into the blackness, you can only imagine the ingenuity and effort it took to carve this hole a mile deep into the rock.



The tracks are long gone, and water fauna such as frogs, crayfish, and water skates now keep company with the bats hanging from the ceiling. It is exciting to discover something so well hidden, especially something with so rich a history. What was once the longest tunnel in the world sits right here under our very noses, turning a short Saturday walk into an experience to remember.

K3EC Seeking A-1 Ops

Have you ever heard of the A-1 Operators?

Hugh Pettis K3EC is wondering whether there are any A-1 Operators in the Shenandoah Valley?

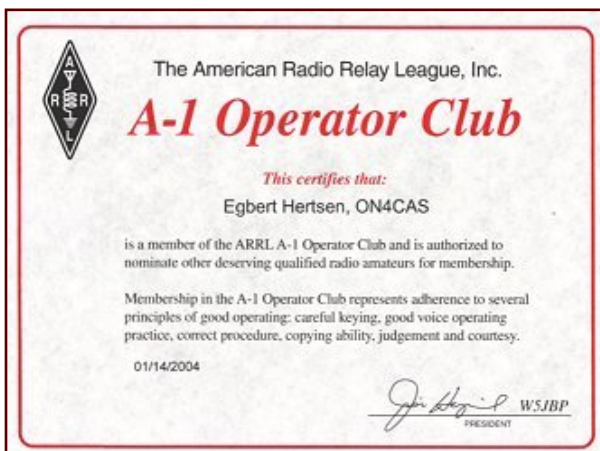
Hugh is a proud recipient of this honor, from way back on the 1960's.

The A-1 operators club is made up of hams who have been recognized by their peers for outstanding on-air demeanor, judgment, courtesy, ability, and good operating habits. As you can guess, far less than 1% of ARRL members have qualified for this recognition.

To become an A-1 operator, however, you must be nominated by two (2) existing A-1 operators!

Hugh has noticed that we have numerous hams in the valley who would qualify as A-1 operators, but he needs a second A-1 Op to complete the nomination.

If you are an A-1 op, or even KNOW of any A-1 operators, please contact Hugh Pettis at k3ec@verizon.net.



What's Going On?

October 1: PVACR Picnic and Spud Gun Shootout (see page 1)
 October 1-3: Triple Play Public Service (see page 2)
 October 3: Page County ARES Net, 8 pm, 146.67 repeater
 October 4: Rockingham County ARES Net, 8 pm, 146.55 simplex
 October 5: VARA October Meeting
 October 6: Highland County ARES Net, 8:30 pm, 147.18 repeater
 October 7: MARA Annual Corporation Meeting
 October 9: VE Examinations, Dayton Virginia (see page 9)
 October 10: North American Sprint Fun contest
 October 10: 10-10 International Contact Day Sprint
 October 10: Page County ARES Net, 8 pm, 146.67 repeater
 October 11: Rockingham County ARES Net, 8 pm, 147.225 rpt
 October 14: Augusta County ARES Net, 8 pm, 146.85 repeater
 October 15-17: Fall Foliage Bike Festival (see page 9)
 October 16: Jamboree On The Air (see page 8)
 October 17: Page County ARES Net, 8 pm, 146.67 repeater
 October 18: Rockingham County ARES Net, 8 pm, 147.225 rpt
 October 20: Highland County ARES Net, 8:30 pm, 147.18 rpt
 October 24: Page County ARES Net, 8 pm 146.67 repeater
 October 24: Mason-Dixon Hamfest (Westminster MD)
 October 25: Rockingham County ARES Net, 8 pm , 147.225 rpt
 October 30-31: CQ WW Worldwide DX Contest phone weekend

November 2: VARA Club Meeting
 November 3: Highland County ARES Net, 8:30 pm, 147.18 repeater
 November 4: MARA Club Meeting
 November 5: PVARC Dinner meeting
 November 6-7: ARRL November Sweepstakes, CW weekend
 November 8: Page County ARES Net, 8 pm, 146.67 repeater
 November 9: Rockingham County ARES Net, 8 pm, 146.55 simplex
 November 14: Page County ARES Net, 8 pm, 146.67 repeater
 November 15: Rockingham County ARES Net, 8 pm, 147.225 rpt
 November 20-22: ARRL November Sweepstakes, phone weekend
 November 21: Page County ARES Net, 8 pm, 146.67 repeater
 November 27-28: CQ WW Worldwide DX Contest, CW weekend
 November 28: Rockingham County ARES Net, 8 pm, 147.225 rpt

December 2: MARA Christmas Banquet

December 3-5: ARRL 160-meter contest

December 11-12: ARRL 10-meter Contest

PVARC Secretary's Report – August 6 Meeting

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club met (again) at Browns Restaurant in Luray on Friday, September 3rd at 6:00 p.m. We welcomed our one visitor – Steve Trypuc, a U.S. Navy retiree and boating aficionado who is looking for assistance in getting his ham radio license. Dave (K4DPF) will be getting together with Steve to help him. Steve will be leaving shortly and sailing to the Caribbean! (Note: He subsequently bought the SGC HF/SSB marine radio from the estate of KA4LER.)

Following introductions, the members were informed that, hopefully, we will be back at Page Memorial Hospital for meetings in the near future since repairs are coming right along. However, lacking absolute knowledge as to whether the facilities will be available for the next meeting, it was announced that the October 1st PVARC meeting will be a “pot-luck” cookout from 1500 until dark at the home of Bob (WO4MI) and Debbie Forrest, 323 Almond Drive, Luray. Bob & Deb will provide the hamburgers and hot dogs. PVARC members planning to attend should bring a vegetable, salad or dessert – and a lawn chair to sit on. Please call Bob & Deb (743-6517) or e-mail him at: wo4mi@arrl.net, if you can attend so they know how many burgers and dogs to grill. (Almond Drive is in the Hope Mills subdivision three miles north of Luray off US Hwy 340). After you turn onto Almond Drive, their house is the third place on the left. Remember, XYL's are included – so be sure to bring a lawn chair for her, too. We'll plan to eat around 1730.

Plans are to begin the afternoon with a pneumatic antenna launcher (air canon/air bazooka/ “spud-gun”) demonstration, followed by a workshop for PVARC members who are interested in building one of these weapons of high wire antenna hanging. Contact Bob (WO4MI) or Mark Hensley (N4YSA) for a list of materials if you would like to build an antenna launcher during the workshop. Most of the material is available locally for under \$30.

A short business meeting followed the meal. Dave (K4DPF) reported on the status of the repair work being accomplished at Page Memorial. He indicated that PVARC should be thinking of activating the radio equipment from the K4PMH emergency operations center on a more regular basis. We now have only three operators trained and could use a few more. Sparky (KD4KL) volunteered to train and several others said they might be interested as well. This topic will be discussed again once we gain access to Page Memorial following repairs. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1930 and all members were reminded to check into the 2M ARES net at 8:00 p.m. every Sunday and to monitor and use the local 2M repeaters when they are out and about – “chat them up” from time to time!!

Submitted by: Sparky Terry/KD4KL, PVARC Secretary

MARA Treasurer's Report – August 28 to September 26, 2010

Beginning Balance August 28, 2010 (last report)	\$ 2,339.94
Add: September meeting 50/50 donations	\$ 12.00
Less: Printing for June, July, and August newsletters	\$ -50.49
Annual Corporation Insurance Premium	<u>\$ -151.00</u>
Ending Balance as of September 26, 2010	\$ 2,150.45

Additionally, there is a special designated donation in the amount of \$36 to be acted on by the Board of Directors. This pending amount is not included in the above figures until the Directors decide on the disposition of the encumbrance.

Submitted by David Fordham, KD9LA, MARA Treasurer



MARA Secretary's Report – August 5 Meeting

Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 PM

Attendance: 29 present - 24 Members and 5 Guests

Ellsworth (K4LXG) conducted the meeting. Introductions made all around.

Reports:

New Members: 1st Reading: Andrew Pearson (N4RCE) 2nd Reading: None

Secretary Minutes: It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the minutes as printed in the Monitor with one exception – the date was incorrectly headlined as the July 1st meeting. The date of the meeting was actually August 5th, 2010.

Treasurer Report: It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed in the Monitor. Balance as of August 28, 2010 is \$2,339.94.

Groups:

ARES/RACES: Bryan provided an update on 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 on 10/9/2010.

Public Service:

Triple Play is once again scheduled for October 1st – 3rd. The weekend will include the Grindstone 100, the Shenandoah KTM 500 motorcycle ride and the Camp Still Meadows horse ride. Bryan (K4RMY) announced that Grindstone 100 group has asked that we use a portable repeater for their net control. He would a committee to meet to discuss and make a decision. Gayle Shull (KU4XN), Mike Turner (K4MIC) and Bob VanFossen (K4DJG) volunteered to work with Bryan on the net control/repeater issue.

Ellsworth (K4LXG) is scheduling the shift volunteers for the KTM 500. So far, they have only nine volunteers for the two events. Please contact either Bryan or Ellsworth if you are available to assist with either the Grindstone 100 or the KTM 500.

Ray (K4NRA) reported that the Camp Still Meadows Horse ride is pretty well staffed at this time.

Gayle (KU4XN) announced that he could still use volunteers to assist with the Mountain Bike 100 event on September 5th.

Gerald (KN4FM) indicated that he has pretty good coverage for the Bike Shenandoah event on September 18th.

Announcements: None reported.

Old Business: None reported.

New Business: None reported

New Call or Upgrades: It was announced that Anne Underwood (KA1LSK) has passed her Extra exam and Trenton Good (KJ4WXD) passed both his Technician and General exams. Congratulations!

Motion to Adjourn: Made and seconded

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

Program: "Getting Started on HF" presented by David Fordham included a Ten-Point Checklist to get folks started on HF.

Submitted by
Sheryl M. Tonini
KJ4DOC

VARA Secretary's Report

The VARA Secretary's Report was not received in time for inclusion in this issue of the Monitor.

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

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