

February
2011

THE MONITOR

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

February 1 – VARA Meeting: Tuesday, at Shoney's Restaurant

The Valley Amateur Radio Association leads off this month again with their monthly meeting at Shoneys Restaurant in Staunton (at I-81 and US Highway 250) on Tuesday, February 1, starting at 6:30 pm, followed by the business meeting at 7:00 pm.

February 3 – MARA Meeting: Thursday, at Wood Grill Restaurant in

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its February meeting at the Wood Grill on Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg on Thursday, February 3, starting with dinner at 6:30 pm, followed by a business meeting at 7:00 pm.

February 4 – PVARC Club Meeting: Friday, at Page Valley Hospital

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular bi-monthly business meeting on Friday, February 4 starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Page Valley Hospital in Luray. All hams are invited.

February 5 – FrostFest in Richmond

One of the larger regional hamfests in this area is the Richmond Frostfest, scheduled for Saturday, February 5.

The Valley will be well represented. David KD9LA, Bryan K4RMY, Rick KJ4IND, John W4ZAO, Jeff W4PJW, and numerous others have indicated they are making the trek. If you haven't been to the FrostFest since they moved to the racetrack, you might want to come and see the new digs. Doors open for general admission around 8:30 a.m. Get there early to get the good bargains.

Reminder from the Newsletter Editor: 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. Don't forget! Please?



PVARC President's Message

As I sit down to type this month's letter, the weather forecast is calling for snow and freezing rain, which makes me think of emergency preparedness on a personal level.

Emergency preparedness at the grass roots level has always been the key to amateur radio operators being on the air and able to communicate in emergencies. When we operate as totally independent self-contained stations with emergency back up power, we take away one of Mr. Murphy's footholds to cause problems.

Remember, one of Murphy's Laws: "the first element to fail is the common element in a redundant system." So, operating as independent stations will help avoid some of the catastrophic problems that happen to cell phones service providers, ECC's and similar public service systems.

The best advice at any time of the year is "be prepared!" So charge your batteries and test run your generator so you will be ready to communicate "WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS."

"73," Mark Hensley-N4YSA
President PVARC



Left: Pictured left to right:
Charlie Roach KG4ALT,
Gene Frazier KJ4HFO, and
Morgan Phenis K4RDH,
PVARC Board Member
(... or is that PVARC "Bored" member?)



Right: Pictured left to right:
Bob McKay KI4VFP (PVARC's newest member),
Ben Endicott N4SFG, Page County EC, and
Dave Firestone K4DPF, PVARC Vice-President.

VARA President's Message

The month of February will be off to a busy start for most hams with the VARA meeting on the 1st, followed closely by MARA's meeting on the 3rd, and then the Frostfest in Richmond on the 5th.

This Frostfest will be my first hamfest. I am looking forward to seeing the many different vendors and learning more about our hobby.

The Augusta County ARES Net meet's on Thursday, the 10th at 8:00 pm .

Now a break from our hobby on the 14th: Valentine's Day! I don't know about the rest of you, but if I didn't take time to wine and dine my wonderful wife, best friend, antenna holder, (honey, thanks for letting me buy more radio stuff), I would be hanging from that antenna upside down. So I will be turning off the radio and spending the day with the #1 contact that means the most, my wife. I personally wish each and every YL a Happy Valentine's Day and thank them for letting us pursue our hobby at all hours of the day and night.

There are many events coming up in the near future and I would like to ask all members to plan on helping in some way to make them all successful and to insure that our training in these events keeps us sharp in case of that *emergency* that could come up in a minutes' notice.

So on that note, please take a few minutes to check your emergency provisions; test those batteries, make sure you have the current local frequencies and phone numbers , check your food for expiration dates and let's remember our motto:

"When all else fails...Amateur Radio."

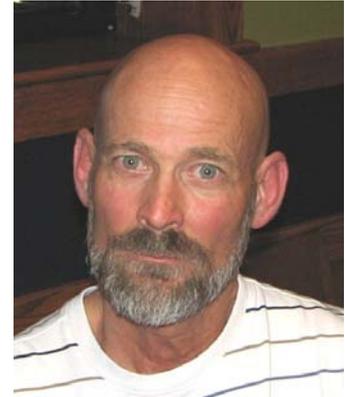
*John Keller, W4ZAO
President, VARA*

VE Test Session Report – December 2010

We had a good test session on December 11. There were three candidates and everyone passed! There was one upgrade to Extra class, one upgrade to General and a third candidate passed the Technician and General tests.

While the turnout was a little small, the results made it worth the effort. I'd like to thank the VEs that were there to help, Gayle Shull, KU4XN, ran the session, E.C. Showalter, KG4KUR; Mike Turner, K4MIC; Richard Haxton, KC3AN; Bob Van Fossen, K4DJG; Hugh Pettis, K3EC; Michael McKay, W4AZR; Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG; Bryan Daniels, K4RMY; and Jim Lehman, W4POL were there also to lend a helping hand.

Gerald Nauman, KN4FM





WF40 – Spanning More Than Miles

I've had the ham radio bug since I was about ten years old. I was introduced to ham radio by Jeff, a childhood friend, who would visit his aunt who lived across the street from me. He would talk of Morse code, the glow of tubes, and something called DX. He even gave me one of his QSL cards (which I have long since lost).

I was fascinated. The more I heard and read about it, the more I wanted to become a 'ham'. I didn't know anyone else in amateur radio, and my interest never really advanced until college.

In college I met my Elmer, Bob Wiley, KI8P. Bob took the time to demystify the hobby to me. He helped me learn the code, and even gave me my Novice 5 wpm test himself. Being in college and solidly in "study mode", I quickly upgraded to general class.

I had the license, but didn't get onto the low bands until after college. I didn't devote much time to the hobby over the next couple of decades; career and family had my attention. I have been sporadically active over the last few years.

In 2010, I decided that this was the year to reconnect with my childhood passion. I replaced my Kenwood TS440S which I had purchased used in 1986 with a more modern rig. I strung a small loop in my backyard, and began practicing the code off the air. My new rig arrived in October, my fist was passable, and I got back on the low bands; — well, some of them. My tuner couldn't load the antenna for anything lower than 40 meters. My solution was to add two extra legs to the loop so that from above the loop looks like Pac Man. My goal was to participate in the December ARRL 160 meter CW contest. I had only had 5 CW QSO's before the contest so my confidence wasn't very high. But I did manage 37 contacts during the contest. Anxious to collect QSL cards, I looked over my log for states to begin confirming.

One call sign and name caught my eye, WB8WKQ, Jeff Miller in Michigan. My childhood friend who introduced me to ham radio was Jeff Miller.

I wrote a note on the back of my QSL card asking if it were possible that he might be from Pittsburgh and visited his aunt in New Castle, PA. A week later I got an e-mail that began "this is Jeff Miller from your childhood."

It's been forty years since we've seen each other. Jeff sent me his QSL card, this time with my call on it confirming our QSO. I don't think I'm going to lose his card this time.

Foster Farone, WF40

Rockingham County ARES Net Plans – Through June 2011

Starting in early 2011 and continuing through June, the Rockingham County ARES Net will make some random changes at least once a month to the operating frequency for the net. This is being done to familiarize those checking in to the net with the frequencies used by Rockingham Co. ARES during an emergency when the main repeater and/or backup repeaters may be off the air. These changes will NOT be announced. Please check these frequencies if the net is not on one of its regular frequencies. Please program your radios accordingly.

2meter Repeaters in order of precedence are:

147.225 + 131.8 PL
(normal net repeater)

145.130 - 88.5 PL

146.625 - 131.8 PL

2meter Simplex frequencies
in order of precedence are:

146.55 (normal net simplex)

146.58

146.49

Rockingham County ARES Net Control Stations – February through June 2011

February 7: K4NRA
February 14: K4RBZ
February 21: KN4FM
February 28: W3HXH

March 7: K4LXG
March 14: KA4EEN
March 21: K4RMY
March 28: K4MIC

April 4: K4NRA
April 11: KU4XN
April 18: KG4KUR
April 25: NN4JM

May 2: KA4EEN
May 9: K4RBZ
May 16: W3HXH
May 23: KN4FM
May 30: K4MIC

June 6: KU4XN
June 13: K4NRA
June 20: KG4KUR
June 27: NN4JM



Don't forget to make your sweetie feel special before checking into the net February 14.

KI4GST – Be on the Lookout for a Stolen Radio

Robert Wilson, KI4GST, would appreciate everyone being on the lookout for his radio which was recently stolen.

The radio is a YEASU VX-7R, with a diamond super flex antenna on it that is around 18 inches long. Not sure on the exact timing of radio going MIA. Robert suspects someone that works for his apartment complex or that had worked for them has a key, since this is not the first time stuff has been out of place.

If you happen to hear of any one trying to get rid of a radio that matches this description, get in touch with Robert.

He can be reached at 540-414-6595 or 540-294-4859



KJ4VWP: Northern Piedmont Emergency Digital Net (NPEDN)

This digital net meets Tuesday evenings and is sponsored by the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club <http://www.albemarle-radio.org/>. It takes place at 7 p.m. on their 146.895 repeater.

This mode allows text to be transmitted and received over the 2 meter band (Can also be transmitted on HF.).

With Narrow Band Emergency Message System (NBEMS) you can pass digital traffic and data files quickly from point to point with 100 percent accuracy. You can generate National Traffic System (NTS) radiograms and ICS-213 messages, automatically send them, and be 100 per cent assured they have been received correctly.

The hardware needed is a 2m transceiver and a computer with the free Fldigi <http://www.w1hkj.com/Fldigi.html> software installed.

Communications in this program take place using Olivia 4 tones and 500 kHz bandwidth (4/500).

You can operate this by putting your computer's microphone on the radio's speaker and the radio mic near the computer speakers using the computer's sound card or you can get an additional piece of hardware like Signalink <http://www.tigertronics.com/> and hard wire the computer and radio together. This allows you to have your hands free for keyboarding.

If you go to the Virginia ARES website <http://www.ares-races-of-va.org/> halfway down the page you'll find a short article "Introduction to NBEMS" and two files, http://wpanbems.org/introduction_to_NBEMS.pdf and http://wpanbems.org/advanced_NBEMS.pdf that go into detail about how this system operates.

Come join the fun! The 146.895 repeater has great coverage in the Shenandoah Valley.

Glen Mingo, KJ4VWP

NWS to Test Tornado Warning System on March 15

For the first time in Virginia, the National Weather Service will send a test tornado warning to start the Statewide Tornado Drill, set this year for Tuesday, March 15.

The test warning will be tone alerted and broadcast by NOAA Weather Radio and will simulate what listeners would hear during an actual tornado warning.

For past tornado drills, the NWS has sent a routine test signal, but many weather radios do not sound an alerting tone for routine tests. This year, **all listeners who have a NOAA Weather Radio will hear the same tone alert that would be broadcast during an actual tornado warning.**

The annual Statewide Tornado Drill will be held at 9:45 a.m. March 15. If there is widespread bad weather March 15, then the drill will be rescheduled for Wednesday, March 16.

The drill is an opportunity for schools, businesses and individuals to practice important tornado safety steps. During the drill, NOAA Weather Radios will sound a tornado warning tone alert to start the drill, and participants will practice quick evacuation to designated safe areas in their buildings. Radio and TV stations also will broadcast the tornado warning sound.

Detailed instructions for identifying safe areas, conducting a tornado drill and registering participation in the Statewide Tornado Drill are available on the web at: <http://www.vaemergency.com/threats/tornado/index.cfm>



Tower Climbing Video, ... and Response by AA2BF

Fred Evans, N4KYM, recently posted a link to a great video, taken by a professional tower climber as he climbed to the tip top of a 1768-foot high broadcast tower.

http://www.liveleak.com/e/07b_1284580365

The video shows the narrator climbing, most of the way without using any safety lines, a practice called "free-climbing".

Herb Slade, AA2BF, former professional tower climber, has the following response:

Tower climbing is not for everybody.

When it's your choice, it's always good to carry a small amount of fear. (It keeps you alert!) It is most dangerous when it becomes a boring routine. The narrator is adding a couple more unnecessary and serious dangers to the mix. Free climbing is neither wise nor is it necessary on any tower!

Neither is climbing a structure that will take a long time to get down, when clouds are threatening lightning (like the ones in this video).

There are a number of horror stories about the results of unsafe practices like these in commercial climbing, let alone amateur ventures. I know, because I have been a commercial tower climber.

The company I worked for, Shenandoah Tower Services in Staunton, had a 6-year safety record when I was there in 2001. No lost-time climbing accidents! The owner, David Anthony, "put his money where his mouth is", by holding weekly one-hour safety meetings at that time for up to 160 employees. He insisted on practices being followed, including always having at least one attachment at all times when on a tower (typically two, if resting, or tying off to do work). FREE CLIMBING could get you written up, warned, and if repeated, dismissed. At the first sign of rumbling or distant lightning, we were to get down, ASAP, no exceptions. Needless to say, we used full body harness, steel-toe, steel-shank climbing boots, positioning belts and shock-absorbing double "monkey tail" lanyards that you climbed with, one in each hand - quick enough?

And we had regular training, including tower rescue procedure.

Do I free climb? Yes, I do. When and why? When climbing trees, it is more dangerous, in my opinion, to be constantly reattaching yourself to get around branches (if you can find any other attachment point in a tree). If there are not enough well-located, sound branches, you need to nail cleats to the trunk, or get a cherry picker to do your work.

Do I hurry? Never.

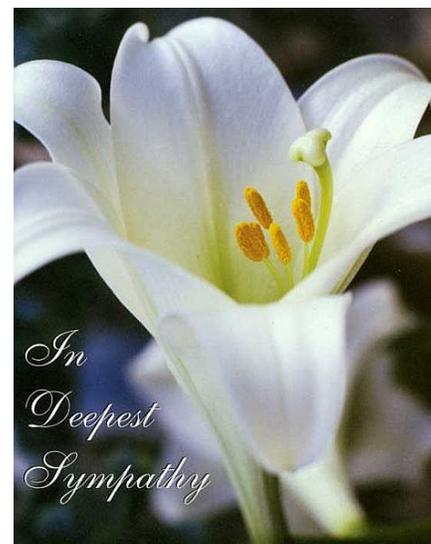
I have survived a couple of falls from trees, and don't intend to repeat that. I have been climbing them since I was five years old, and still do, in my seventies.



73, Herb Slade, AA2BF

Betty Jo Batey, XYL of Gordon Batey, WA4FJC

Shortly after last month's Monitor went to press, we received the tragic news that Betty Jo Batey, wife of Gordon Batey, WA4FJC, succumbed to a stroke on January 7, after several weeks of hospitalization at the University of Virginia Medical Center. Gordon and Betty have a son Michael and daughter Jo Anna, and two granddaughters. Betty Jo taught school in Augusta County for many years, including Churchville Elementary, Fort Defiance High School, and Stewart Middle School. In retirement, she remained active as a substitute teacher and in many church and charitable endeavors. Gordon is well-known in the Augusta and Rockingham County areas, and there are dozens of hams who consider him their "Elmer". The thoughts and prayers of condolences of the entire local ham community are with Gordon during this difficult time of loss.



Jolaine Archambeault, Daughter of N4TRH

Some old-timers in VARA, Augusta County, and Waynesboro may remember Joe Archambeault, who passed away several years ago. Joe's daughter Jolaine Marie Archambeault passed away on January 17. She is survived by her mother, Elaine Archambeault, and a brother and sister.

Wayne Bowyer N4EYZ, Home on Weekends Now

Wayne Bowyer, N4EYZ, who is slowly recovering from Guillain-Barre syndrome now, is getting PT during the week at Woodrow Wilson Rehab Center, but is at home on weekends. Wayne was a professional tower climber for Shenandoah Tower Service. In addition to being an active ham, he wrote a major article for QST many years ago about his experience climbing a 1400-foot tower near Richmond. Wayne was mentor and crew chief to Herb Slade (see article on previous page) when Herb first started at Shenandoah Tower Service. Many hams have used Wayne's services on their towers, and were saddened by his illness. Best wishes for a continued recovery, Wayne.



Sam Pickering, KE4EKV May Be Returning to the Valley

Sam Pickering, a life-time VARA member, and local hero who saved a family from a house fire, before becoming seriously disabled, may be moving back to the Valley soon. His son David is planning to rent a house near Crimora, and will be host to Sam once they get settled, to prevent Sam from having to go to a nursing home. Hopefully, Sam and David both will become active in VARA again, and more importantly, return to the local airwaves.

N4XU: Heathkit Station Monitor For Sale

I have a Heathkit SB-614 Station Monitor (scope) for sale. It is a 9.5 out of 10, extra clean and working - however I don't have a manual. Asking \$125.00. Will e-mail pictures to anyone interested. Thanks - Neal - N4XU

e-mail: shadow1941@comcast.net

VE Test Schedule: Consistency, Thou Art a Virtue

The next VE test session will be held on Saturday, February 12.

As for the past few years, VE test sessions are scheduled for the SECOND SATURDAY of every EVEN NUMBERED MONTH.

The 2011 test sessions are scheduled for February 12, April 9, June 11, August 13, October 8, and December 10.

Mark your Calendars. If you are an accredited Volunteer Examiner, plan to come out and help with at least one test session. If you aren't a volunteer examiner, consider becoming one. It's easy, and you can help others get started in ham radio in return for one Saturday morning every now and then. Contact Gayle Shull KU4XN or Gerald Nauman KN4FM if you want more information on becoming a VE.

W3MMC Celebrates the Big Eight-Oh!

Bob Niemeyer, W3MMC, "Mickey-Mouse Club", recently celebrated his 80th birthday with a ice-cream-and-cake social at the Timberville nursing home where he is currently a resident.

Old-Timers in the valley remember Bob as a colorful personality from Bergton, Virginia, who for many years was the driving force behind the Big Mountain Repeater, the 146.625 machine in Northern Rockingham County.

Bob was well-known for his almost constant vigilance, watching over the 146.625 repeaters (and others that he monitored). No matter what time of day or night, you could always count on Bob to come back to you if you had an emergency or needed assistance of some kind. He was also well-known for his sincere efforts to improve the operating practices of repeater users in this area. Because the '625 machine was widely used by truckers and others travelling on I-81, Bob was well-known all up and down the East Coast for proactively "counseling" hams about proper etiquette and rules and good operating procedures. Many local hams can remember receiving advice, guidance, and other suggestions from Bob relating to all kinds of topics, not just ham radio. And many can credit Bob with notifying first responders of accidents and other problems back before cell phones became common and hams had to rely on a base station like Bob for help and assistance.

For almost 10 years, Bob sponsored the "Bob's Knob Bash", an annual picnic fundraiser for the Big Mountain Repeater. The picnic was famous from Lexington to Winchester, and well into West Virginia, for its big kettle of beans, stirred by a canoe paddle; the two-seater outhouse; the albino grouse (white chickens), the Bergton Fire Department picnic tables; the walking path back to the Deer Feeder, and Bob's two-story garage.

Due to failing health, Bob has relocated to the Timberview Nursing Home, 351 New Market Road, Timberville, VA, 22853. Bob always appreciates a card to let him know that hams still remember him and his hospitality up on Bob's Knob.



Local Ham Calendar

February 1: VARA Club Meeting
 February 1: **Deadline for VARA member renewals**
 February 2: Highland County ARES Net
 February 3: MARA Club Meeting
 February 3: **Deadline for MARA member renewals**
 February 4: PVARC Club Meeting at Hospital
 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 6: Page County ARES Net
 February 7: Rockingham County ARES Net simplex
 February 10: Augusta County ARES Net
 February 12: VE Exams, Dayton Virginia
 February 12-13: CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest
 February 13: Page County ARES Net
 February 14: Rockingham County ARES Net
 February 14-18: ARRL School Club Roundup
 February 16: Highland County ARES Net
 February 19-20: ARRL International DX Contest CW
 February 20: Page County ARES Net
 February 21: Rockingham County ARES Net
 February 25-26: CQ 160-meter Contest SSB
 February 26-27: North American QSO Party RTTY
 February 27: Annandale (Vienna) Winterfest Hamfest
 February 27: Page County ARES Net
 February 28: Rockingham County ARES Net

March 1: VARA Club Meeting
 March 2: Highland County ARES Net
 March 3: MARA Club Meeting
 March 4: PVARC Dinner Meeting
 March 5-6: ARRL International DX Contest SSB
 March 6: Page County ARES Net
 March 7: Rockingham County ARES Net simplex
 March 10: Augusta County ARES Net
 March 12: Charlotte NC Hamfest
 March 13: Page County ARES Net
 March 14: Rockingham County ARES Net
 March 16: Highland County ARES Net
 March 19: Charleston WV Hamfest
 March 20: Page County ARES Net
 March 21: Rockingham County ARES Net
 March 26: Baltimore Hamboree Hamfest
 March 26-27: CQ WW WPX Contest SSB
 March 27: Page County ARES Net
 March 28: Rockingham County ARES Net

April 2-3: Missouri QSO Party
 April 9: VE Exams—Dayton VA
 April 9-10: Montana QSO Party
 April 9-10: Georgia QSO Party
 April 16: Harrisonburg March-of-Dimes Walk Public Service
 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: Nebraska QSO Party
 April 30: Hagerstown Hamfest
 April 30: Augusta March of Dimes Walk
 April 30: Florida QSO Party
 April 30: Waynesboro Riverfest Public Service Event

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: VE Exams, Dayton VA
 June 11-13: ARRL June VHF QSO Party
 June 25-26: ARRL Field Day

August 7: Berryville (Winchester) Hamfest

October 1-2: Shenandoah 500 NVTRA motorbike ride



Is This You?

It is if you don't get your dues to your club Treasurer by the February meeting.

VARA Secretary's Report – January 4 Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Valley Amateur Radio Association was held at the Staunton Shoney's, January 4th, 2011 at 7:00pm. John Keller W4ZAO presiding. 26 people attended: 23 members, 3 visitors. 50-50 winner was Richard Huttinger AA4RH

NEW OFFICERS for 2011: President: John Keller, W4ZAO; Vice President: Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW; Secretary: Steven Grant, W4IIV; Treasurer: Doug Tippett, N8ESW; Program Manager: Al Bonck, N3JB.

ARES Report given by EC David Tanks AD4TJ: No real emergencies to report for 2010. Reminder to keep all emergency equipment maintained and at the ready, make sure batteries are fresh - This month's net will be on 147.075.

Secretary's report was given and accepted as read. Treasurer's report was given and accepted as read. Was a great turnout at the club's Christmas party. The donations were accepted and given to the proper places .

New Business: President Keller tells us that the web site needs to be kept current, and timely.

Do you have any program ideas for after the meeting? contact Al Bonck N3JB

Interested in Contesting??? Jeff Rinehart W4PJW invites you to contact him. He says that contesting should be fun - call him, come on over and see how its done!!!

Field Day committee needs to form

A personal note to Gordon Batey WA4FJC- its always a shock when you lose a loved one. We all pray that God's hand will always be with you, and that you will be comforted by God, your family, and all of us of the Valley Amateur Radio Association.

Steven Grant W4IIV

MARA Treasurer's Report – December 24, 2010 to January 27, 2011

Beginning Balance December 24, 2010 (last report)		\$ 3,357.02
Add:		
Memberships renewals (31 renewals)	\$372.00	
Replacement check from member (replacing NSF check below)	\$ 12.00	
New Member Application	\$ 12.00	
January Meeting 50/50 club portion	<u>\$ 13.50</u>	
Total Receipts		\$ 409.50
Less		
Bounced check returned NSF	:	\$ 12.00
Printing & Mailing Sep,Oct,Nov,Dec,Jan Monitors	<u>\$169.07</u>	
Total Disbursements		<u>\$ 181.07</u>
Ending Balance as of January 27, 2011		\$ 3,585.45

Submitted by David Fordham, KD9LA, MARA Treasurer

MARA Secretary's Report – January 6 Meeting

Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 PM

Attendance: 31 present - 23 Members and 8 Guests. Bryan (K4RMY) conducted the meeting. Introductions made all around.

Reports:

New Members:

1st Reading: John Hensley (WD4RXU); Ken Anderson (W4JQT); Robert Dixon (W8HGH)

2nd Reading: None

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

Treasurer Report: It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's report as printed in the Monitor. The balance as of December 24, 2010 was \$3,357.02.

Groups:

ARES/RACES: Ellsworth (K4LXG) announced they are looking for an Emergency Coordinator for Rockbridge County. Let him know if you know of anyone who lives in Rockbridge County who may be interested.

Bryan (K4RMY) discussed the changes planned for the Rockingham County ARES Net. At least once a month there will be an unannounced random change to the operating frequency. Check the January Monitor for a complete list of the frequencies.

VEC-Session: The next VE test session will be held at 9:00 am, February 12, 2011 at the Woodmen of the World building in Dayton.

Public Service: None reported

Announcements: Mark your calendars and plan on attending the annual Richmond FrostFest!

Old Business: Ellsworth reported that he will need to re-order the Dexpedition DVD's approved for purchase at the May 6, 2010 meeting. Apparently, there was a change in the web site and the MARA order was never processed.

The status of the RMH radio equipment move is still unknown. Chris (KI4BAQ) volunteered to research Sentara to see if we could determine their support of radio communication at other facilities.

It was reported that the equipment ordered by Sunnyside has arrived. The equipment is scheduled for testing the first Monday in February with check-in to the ARES Net.

New Business: Reminder! Bob Niemeyer's 80th birthday bash will be held on Saturday, January 8th from 1:00 – 2:00 pm. Check your email for additional information.

New Call or Upgrades: None reported

Motion to Adjourn: Made, seconded and approved.

50/50 Raffle: Total \$27.00. \$13.50 split won by Bob Dixon (W8HGH).

Program: Rick Gregory of the Rockingham/Augusta Search and Rescue (RASAR).

Submitted by
Sheryl M. Tonini
KJ4DOC

PVARC Secretary's Report – January 7 Meeting

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club met, as ordinarily scheduled on odd numbered months, at Brown's Chinese/American Restaurant in Luray.

Absent the President, a short business meeting was conducted by the PVARC vice-President, Dave Firestone/K4DPF. Following the usual custom a reading of the January Minutes was waived and they stand approved as written in The Monitor. The Treasurer's report was given, noting that most members had renewed their membership and the "strong-box" holdings are sufficient to meet anticipated expenses in the coming year.

A short discussion followed regarding the need for construction of an additional antenna, possibly an 80/40m loop, to enhance our low frequency capabilities for the 2011 ARRL Field Day event. This will be discussed further by the Executive Board and presented as a proposal, with associated costs, at one of the PVARC working meetings. Since the antenna would be homebrewed it is assumed the cost would be nominal. With all the newly built "spud-guns" launching such an antenna should not be a problem!

Table topics ranged from Antennae to Z-matches, always favorite topics whenever hams get together. Dave/K4DPF demonstrated his "mini-spud-gun" by launching small marsh mellows across the room. Presumably to demonstrate how to hang microwave dipoles millimeters high!

It was noted that our club banner was prominently mounted on the wall of our restaurant meeting room for the first time. It really looked great and hopefully will show the public that a local radio club is active in the area; and, maybe get us additional members as well.

Activity on the local 2M repeaters is on the upswing thanks the local users and the weekly scheduled Sunday evening Page County ARES Net. The club also needs additional operators for the Page Memorial Hospital EoC, anyone interested should contact Dave/K4DPF for particulars..

After an evening of good fellowship, and with full tummies we all trundled home.

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will be on Friday, February 4th at Page Memorial Hospital at 6:00 p.m. Reminders are e-mailed to members and a public notice is printed in the Page News Courier the week before. All are welcome.

Submitted: Sparky Terry, PVARC Secretary



Left: PVARC's Club Banner, proudly on display at Brown's Restaurant in Luray.

MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.

President: Bryan Daniels, K4RMY
 Vice President: Gerry Brunk, K4RBZ
 Secretary: Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC
 Treasurer: David Fordham, KD9LA
 Board (exp 2011): James McDowell IV, NN4JM
 Board (exp 2012): Mike Turner, K4MIC

<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: John Keller W4ZAO
 Vice President: Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW
 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
 at club expense to various constituencies.

Contact your respective club officers for more information.

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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.



This is your last reminder. This form will not appear in next month's Monitor.

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

Don't let this happen to you. Renew now.

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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VARA
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