

May  
2011

# THE MONITOR

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

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## **May 3 – Tuesday: VARA Meeting at Shoney's Restaurant in Staunton**

The Valley Amateur Radio Association will hold their May meeting at Shoney's Restaurant in Staunton (at I-81 and US Highway 250) on Tuesday, May 3, starting at 6:30 pm, followed by the business meeting at 7:00 pm. The program will be given by Rick Gregory of the Rockingham-Augusta Search and Rescue Team.

**PROGRAM:  
Rockingham-Augusta  
Search and Rescue**

## **May 5 – Thursday: MARA Meeting at Wood Grill Restaurant in H'burg**

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its May meeting at the Wood Grill on Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg on Thursday, May 5 starting with dinner at 6:30 pm, followed by a business meeting at 7:00 pm. After the business meeting, the program will be presented by Bob Dixon on QSL'ing.

**PROGRAM:  
QSL'ing**

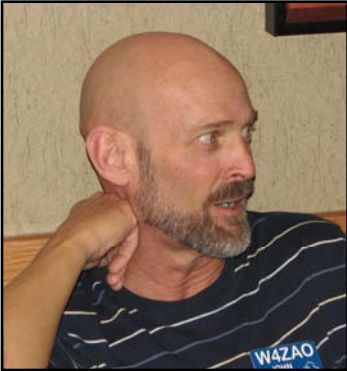
## **May 6 – Friday: PVARC Club Meeting at Brown's Restaurant in Luray**

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its bi-monthly eating meeting on Friday, May 6 starting at 6:00 p.m. at Browns' Restaurant in Luray. All hams, their families, and visitors are invited.

## **May 9 – Monday: Field Day Committee Meeting**

The next Field Day Committee Meeting will be held May 9 at the Burger King in Mount Crawford (1/2 mile west of I-81 Exit 240 (the Bridgewater Exit), at the intersection of US 11 and Highway 257. The meeting starts at 6 pm All hams are invited, not just the Field Day Committee members.

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## VARA President's Message

Well, Spring is finally here. I had to break out the mower and weed eater, which means less time on my radio and more time doing outdoor chores and helping out on community projects. I will be helping out on the "Waynesboro Riverfest" along with other local hams this weekend April 30<sup>th</sup> with Gordon Batey WA4FJC being the contact person.

At the May 3<sup>rd</sup> VARA monthly meeting we will have a presentation by Rick Gregory, President of the Rockingham-Augusta Search and Rescue. I hope all members will attend as this will be very informative.

The Field Day Committee will hold their monthly meeting at the Burger King in Mt. Crawford on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM, all are welcome to attend and participate. I want to thank all the committee members and other attendees who have been working hard to make the 2011 Field day a successful.

On May 19<sup>th</sup> I will be attending my first ever Dayton Hamfest, I have been looking forward to this event for over a year and have had a lot of prepping by Jeff W4PJW, Bob K4DJG, David KD9LA and Jay W4QDC. I want to thank my wife (Ann) for letting me go and skipping out on the outdoor projects. I know I will pay for it later but it will be worth it! Look for my follow-up story in the June Monitor with pictures!

I hope that all of you will get out and enjoy the spring weather and lend a hand to someone in need, whether it is helping with a community event or helping a friend or neighbor out. Or better yet help someone you don't know. Who knows one day you might need a little help.

*John Keller W4ZAO  
President VARA*

## MARA May Meeting: Program on QSL's

The MARA May program will be given by Bob Dixon, W8HGH. Bob will explain how to make your own QSL's, and some hints for making cards "error-proof" when sending and receiving QSLs and submitting via "buro". He'll get into recordkeeping and most importantly of all, he'll cover possible ways of getting the most cards (the highest response rate). He'll mention Logbook-of-the-World and its impact on QSL'ing. His hope is to have more of a discussion than a lecture, so come on out to the meeting on May 5 and hear this interesting program.



## May 19-22: Another Caravan Planned for 2011 Dayton Hamvention

Bob Van Fossen K4DJG, John Keller W4ZAO, Richard KR4V and Pam Wilkins KC4HYT, James McDowell NN4JM, and maybe even Richard Huttinger AA4RH, as well as a lot of others are already laying the groundwork for the annual valley ham trek to Dayton Ohio for the May 20-22 Hamvention. The caravan leaves Thursday morning after breakfast at 8:00 am (usually the Redwood Restaurant at I-64 and Route 11 in Lexington, right on the way), eats lunch at Bob Evans en route, and arrives at Dayton early Thursday afternoon. After spending Friday, Saturday, and possibly Sunday morning at the hamfest, the group drives back Sunday afternoon. Make plans now to join the group: the more the merrier!

## VE Session Report

A big "Thank You" to the accredited Volunteer Examiners who gave up a Saturday morning of their time to help out with the VE session April. We have seven candidates. There were three new technician class licenses earned, and four general class licenses earned. Thanks to the VE's:

Gerald Nauman KN4FM

Mike Turner K4MIC

Bryan Daniels K4RMY

Mike McKay W4AZR

Ray Ritchie K4NRA

Richard Haxton KC3AN

Ellsworth Neff K4LXG

Jim Lehman W4POL



Our next test session will be June 11. I now have the new General Study Manuals available if anyone needs one or knows of a technician who is interested in upgrading and enjoying the HF bands.

*Gayle Shull, KU4XN  
VE Coordinator*

## Harrisonburg March of Dimes Public Service Event Report

The 2011 March of Dimes Walk went as scheduled on Saturday, April 16th. About 75 hearty souls braved the heavy rain and wind in support of this important fundraising event. Most of the walkers elected to do the short route, but a few walked the complete 6 mile route in the rain! Refreshments were provided before it started. After the walk the event staff moved into the Municipal Building for the awards and more refreshments. The Harrisonburg Police Department provided vehicles to lead and follow the walkers as a safety consideration.

Our thanks to the following hams who supported the event. I have Tee shirts for all and will bring them to the next club meeting.

K4RMY Bryan Daniels

K4NRA Ray Ritchie

KG4JAZ Nancy Ritchie

KU4XV Gayle and XYL Gail Shull

KJ4DOC Sheryl Tonini

N4RCE Andrew Pearson



*Bob Steere, N1QEQ  
Net Control*

## Sunday Nights: Page County ARES Net

The Page County ARES net meets every Sunday night on the Luray 146.670 repeater. This repeater uses a minus transmit offset, and requires a PL tone of 114. The net begins at 8:00 pm local time, and hams from all over the area (not just Page County) are invited to check in.)



## May 12 – Thursday: Augusta County ARES Net

Not just for Augusta County hams, this net meets once a month at 8:00 pm local time, usually on the 146.850 repeater. This repeater uses a transmit offset of  $-0.600$  MHz, and a PL of 131.8. However, to encourage flexibility, the net has recently been moving around a bit. Look for them!

## WD4ITN: Highland County ARES Net Now Meets on 1st and 3rd Thursdays

Jerry and Butch want everyone to know that the Highland County ARES Net has moved to the first and third Thursday nights at 8:30 pm. This net meets twice a month on the 147.180 repeater. The repeater uses a  $+0.600$  MHz transmit offset, and a PL tone of 100.0 Hz.

If you are in Rockingham or Augusta counties and have trouble raising the 147.180 repeater, you can still check into the Highland County ARES Net! Give a try on the 444.775 UHF repeater, which uses a  $+5.000$  MHz transmit offset and requires a PL of 151.4 Hz.

## Monday Nights: Rockingham County ARES Net Continues Contingency Drills

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. Please check these frequencies if the net is not on one of its regular frequencies. *In advance of the nets, program your radios accordingly.*

2-meter 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**

**146.52 (National Calling Freq.)**

### Rockingham County ARES Net Control Stations

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

## Keep Tabs on the Tropical Weather

Jay Stewart KD4OXU sends us this link to the official Atlantic Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook webpage which might be worth bookmarking. This page is updated four times per day with the latest conditions, forecast, outlook and prognoses for the tropical Atlantic area. More importantly, it reports the computer models' outlook for tropical storm formation long before it appears on the satellite photos or the weather channel. This is an official U.S. NOAA weather service site: [http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gtwo\\_atl.shtml](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/gtwo_atl.shtml)



## N4EYZ Featured in Staunton News-Leader April 20

Wayne Bowyer, N4EYZ, was featured in the April 20 issue of the Staunton News-Leader in a feature story about his miraculous recovery from Guillain-Barre syndrome. Wayne, who was born in New Jersey, moved to the valley as a kid, and graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1973. For the past 18 years, he worked as a tower technician engineer, tower climber, and safety director for a local radio tower erection and maintenance company. He also did quite a bit of tower work for local hams, including climbing poles and other structures to get at the antennas. Last year, he lost consciousness and entered a coma, only waking up in July. At first doctor's suspected a stroke, but later realized that his immune system had attacked his nervous system, a classic case of Guillain-Barre Syndrome. With the help of physical therapy, Wayne has come a long way, but still has a ways to go before a complete recovery as his body repairs the damage. Wayne was recently remarried to his high school sweetheart Donna in a ceremony conducted in the hospital room. Look up the April 20 issue of the News-Leader for the full story and pictures.

## Ham Radio Classes Begin June 6; Information Session May 23

The Valley Amateur Radio Association will be offering a set of entry level Ham Radio classes in conjunction with the Department of Parks and Recreation.

**An information and registration meeting will be held at the Staunton Public Library from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on Monday May 23, 2011.**

The library is located at 1 Churchville Ave. This is where Churchville Ave. meets Augusta Street in Staunton.

Costs will be \$40.00 (\$15.00 facility fee plus a \$25.00 book fee). Since the test pool has recently been updated, the latest ARRL book will be used.

**Classes will be held at the Nelson Street Teen Center for 10 weeks beginning Monday June 6, 2011.**

A testing session is scheduled the Saturday following the course completion at the Woodmen of The World Hall in Dayton, Virginia.

Contact Alby McKutchen, John Keller or Gordon Batey with questions.

## Robert Niemeyer, W3MMC, SK

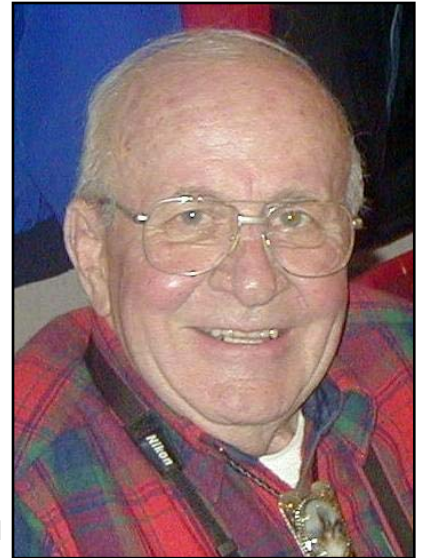
It is with great regret that we report the passing of Robert Niemeyer, W3MMC, on April 7. Bob, who was 80 years old, went by the moniker of “Mickey Mouse Club”, and was the voice of the Big Mountain Repeater (146.625) for many years.

Valley old-timers will remember the annual “Bob’s Knob Bash”, the August fundraiser which Bob held at his Bergton mountain home to benefit the Big Mountain Repeater operations. The bash was legendary for the great food, the camaraderie, the albino grouse, the two-seater outhouse, and just plain old good clean fun.

Bob was widely known for his sincere and well-intentioned “encouragement” of good operating practice on the airwaves. Hams from all over the country, and even into Canada would hear his voice on the 625 machine while driving up and down I-81 through the valley, always ready to give a weather report, relay traffic conditions, give directions, or pass along recommendations for eateries and accommodations.

Bob was a regular at the Thursday ham gatherings, an informal weekly “meeting” of ham radio operators who regularly ate lunch at the Golden Corral on east Market Street. He was famous for his line “I don’t do windows”, in reference to, well, just about anything that might be out of his comfort zone. Bob was good-natured about many jokes involving the possible need for female companionship, the remote nature of “Bob’s Knob”, life in a trailer, his deer feeder, and other defining characteristics of his persona. Many of us can also remember his love for his beloved pet canine, and how broken up he was upon the death of his long-time four-legged companion.

Bob was one of the most generous, public-spirited, and giving individuals, and enthusiastically spent many thousands of hours with the Bergton fair, volunteer fire company, and uncountable other community activities. He monitored the local repeaters almost 24/7, and could always be counted on to make an emergency phone call for anyone in distress. He was willing to help out whenever needed. He will definitely be missed by those of us who knew him.

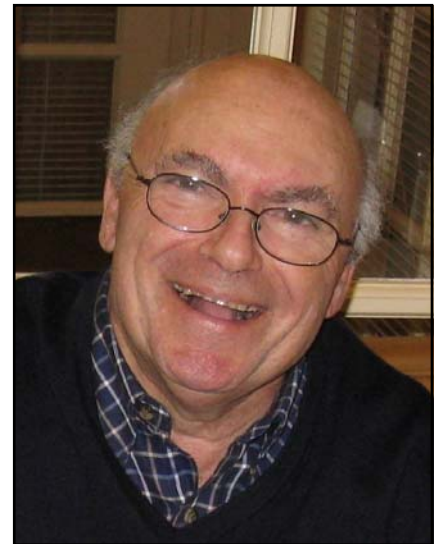


## Lou Joseph, W2LYL, SK

Lou Joseph, W2LYL, long-time resident of New Jersey, and short-time resident of the valley, passed away suddenly at his home in Stuarts Draft on April 26 at age 73.

Lou was an active member of VARA and was well-known at the club meetings. Lou participated in numerous public service events during his few years here, and was famous for his smile and quick laugh. His passing came as a shock to those who knew him. His funeral Mass was held in New Jersey.

Lou will also be missed greatly by the local ham community.



## Photo from Don Landes, WX4C

In a few months, hot weather will be here. To keep things in perspective and to remind you how lucky valley residents are, take a look at this photo provided by Don Landes, WX4C. This was taken on the Alaska Highway by Don, showing his big rig, compared to the seven-foot-high wall of snow. Brrrrr.



## W1LDR: Dual-Band Beam for Sale

Evan Wilder, W1LDR, has a mint-condition dual-band beam antenna for sale. A Cushcraft A270-10S 10dB beam on a 6-foot beam, the antenna sports five elements on 2 meters, and 5 elements on 440. It comes assembled and ready to mount on your mast, including the phasing harness and manual. Evan is asking \$75. Call him at 540-294-6206.



## Calendar Highlights

Turn to page 14 of this issue, and feast your eyes on all the events coming up during the rest of this year offering you an opportunity to play with your ham radio! Get out your calendar right now while you are thinking about it, and start saving the dates.

## KJ40AS: Help Needed on Amplifiers

Hi everyone. I am thinking about building an HF amplifier and was wondering if anyone has experience in this area and would be willing to share some tips? I was thinking about a 600 watt solid state using MRF-150 transistors. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks,  
Ed Varner, KJ40AS  
edvarner@comcast.net

## KB4OLM: Boy Scout Camporee May 13-15 — Local Special Event Station



The Boy Scouts of America are planning a Camporee at the Frontier Culture Museum in Staunton on May 13-15.

A camporee is a special gathering of several dozen troops of Boy Scouts from all over the Council, which covers several counties. Often a Camporee involves hundreds of young men, all eager to learn something new, while having fun in a camp environment.

**On May 14th 9am to 5pm, I have been asked to set up a special event station for the scouts to have an opportunity to see and operate ham radio.**

Folks I need help with the operation of the station, if you can help, send me an e-mail and let me know.

Set up help the evening before and tear down that night would be nice as well.

This is an easy day of fun and a chance to attract future hams. Lets put on a really big show. There will be lots of folks there, and you never know when a spark might take hold and this station might result in some new young people joining our hobby one day.

There will be lots of activities for the scouts to see and do, rumor has it that there may also be a "black hawk" helicopter there as well! (Some of us old-timers might enjoy a chance to sit in the seat of a Blackhawk!)

Mac McGrath will be there with Troop 30, and Steve Ferguson N4PKJ will also likely be on hand, but these hams will have official scout duties, so we need some additional hams to man the station. Thanks in advance for your assistance.



*Clint Campbell, KB4OLM  
email: kb4olm@hotmail.com*

## Photos from PVARC

On the opposite page are photographs from the April 1 PVARC meeting, provided by Sparky Terry, KD4KL.

From the Top Right Corner and moving Clockwise: Tim Raney AK4CJ, the newest PVARC member.

Underneath Tim is: Carol/KA4LAF, Bob/WO4MI, Ben/N4SFG, Wes Shifflett/Page County Emergency Manager & Tim/AK4CJ.

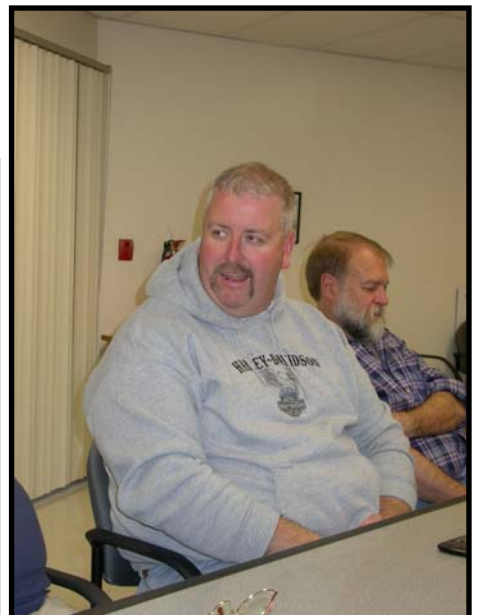
Bottom right corner: Wes Shifflett attended to brief PVARC on Page County Emergency Operations Center relocation.

At the bottom center: Dave/K4DPF explaining newly constructed 80 meter loop antenna for Field Day.

Above Dave: Geoffrey/WD4LYO, Gene/KJ4HFO, Mark/N4YSA & Bob/KI4VFP

Second from top on the left: Jim/KJ4ZVH & Zory/KB3VQC who were visitors & potential new members.

Top Left Corner: Ester Miller KK6AA & Larry Miller KB6UAA attended to brief PVARC on upcoming MMT 100 mile run.



Reprinted from the March 2003 Monitor

## A “Ham-to-English” Dictionary

There are Russian-to-English Dictionaries. There are French-to-English Dictionaries. There are even Japanese-to-English dictionaries. Why not a “Ham-to-English” dictionary? It’s not like the general public can understand our jargon without help. I mean, let’s get real. What does the average housewife, gas station attendant, or trial lawyer know about “G5RV”, “gain”, “DXCC” or “feedlines”?

To get started, here are some handy definitions for a few terms used by Valley hams.

**Rig:** As in, “I can’t wait to try out my new rig.” *Noun*. Any piece of ham equipment that costs more than a thousand dollars. A \$189 HT is not a rig. Neither is a \$269 mobile dual bander. But an FT-DX-5000, now **that** is a rig! A rig does not have to actually be a radio. For example, rigs with the name Kenwood on them primarily serve as filler material for cardboard boxes sent back and forth between hams and the Kenwood repair facility.

**Kerchunk:** As in, “Be real careful with my new \$3000 rig and don’t drop- ... *kerchunk*.” *Noun*. The sound made by James’ new rig when it hit the floor of Bob’s field day trailer.

**For I.D.:** As in, “This is KG4JOE for ID.” This is an abbreviation. Ham radio is full of abbreviations. This one stands for, “I don’t care what Bob or the other ham radio police say about redundancy. I have to say KG4JOE for ID because I’m not done talking yet and I don’t want the other clowns in this conversation to think I’m signing out, because that’s exactly what they’ll do if I just say ‘KG4JOE’.”

**QSY:** As in, “Let’s QSY over to 147.225.” *Verb*. Another ham abbreviation. This one means, “Forget 147.225. Let’s get back together again right here on this frequency in about ten minutes, because by that time I’ll have given up trying to figure out how to change the PL on this radio.”

**PL:** As in, “Why are there so many PL tones anyway.” *Noun*. An invention created for the sole purpose of weeding out the bozo’s who can’t figure out how to work their radios. If you don’t have a masters degree in Chinese trigonometry and a doctorate in Advanced Puzzle Theory, you will never be able to figure out how to set the PL frequency on a modern radio. Thus, you are effectively weeded out off the VHF and UHF airwaves ...unless you are like W4ZAO, who **did** happen to stumble across the instructions, buried on page 674 of the manual under the heading “Additional Features”. To help prevent the accidental discovery of PL settings, the ham radio manufacturers have agreed among themselves to each list PL as something totally different in their manuals’ index. One calls it “PL” and lists it under P. Another calls it “tone access” and lists it under T. The third calls it CTCSS, found under C. I still haven’t figured out what the other three manufacturers call it! And heaven help you if you try to set the PL tone by using the labeled buttons on the rig’s control panel. A few months back, Ray tried to set a PL tone without the manual in front of him. The next thing he knew, his rig was locked into scan mode, the on-off switch no longer worked, and the radio’s

display panel turned a pretty shade of blue and said, “Unable to find DLL, Windows caused a System Fault at \$R2D2”! To this day, that radio is still in scan mode. He uses it as a scarecrow in his garden.

**XYL:** As in, “My XYL said no.” *Noun*. A safety device, widely used by ham radio operators to prevent the uncontrolled transfer of money from their wallets & bank accounts to the cash drawers of ham radio dealers.

**“Hi-Hi”:** As in, “Just wait till his XYL finds out how much he spent on his new rig, hi-hi.” Some hams are under the mistaken impression that hi-hi means laughter, — sort of a pseudo “ha-ha” with a French accent. It doesn’t. If hi-hi meant laughter, you would at least occasionally hear hi-hi preceded with something funny, such as “Ellsworth working CW? Hi-hi, hi-hi, hi-hi.” But you don’t. Hi-hi is never preceded with something funny. No one knows what “hi-hi” really means. So it is used like a squelch tail beep, meaning “back to you”.

**Fine Business:** As in, “fine business on whatever it was that you just said.” *Adjective*. This is an abbreviation for “ok”. It is also a code word meaning, “None of my ancestors married their brothers or sisters.” If your ancestors **had** married their brothers or sisters, instead of ‘fine business’ you would say, “Yupp, yupp, I heard thay-utt, I heard thay-utt, I shore did.”

<censored> As in, “who the <censored> writes these instructions, anyway?” *Noun* This little short word means, “I’ve just spent six hours rubbing the skin off my fingertips by tighten-

ing all 12,375 screws, nuts, and bolts on this new 35-element beam, and now I discover the boom is on upside down!” It is also used to describe directions which were written using a Japanese-to-English dictionary and which say things like, “To construct: yes before first. Considerate quickly. Place a minutely gentle after a quadrant insertion during the counterclockwise. Caution: Assure the utmost extremely that you do not this. Warranty voided then.”

<censored> As in, “Holy <censored> !!”. *Expletive*. This word has several different meanings, depending on the context in which it is used. For example, if the situation is one where you are a ground crew member of a tower-raising party, you might energetically shout this word to the ham standing at the 75-foot level of the tower, in which case the word means, “Wow, Jeff, that 10-pound sledge hammer you just dropped missed my head by an eighth of an inch. Now I’ve got to go change my underwear!” In a different situation, it might mean, “How the heck did I get way out here in the front yard?” right after you let your fingers brush against the live contacts of your amp’s 600-volt power supply. If this word is repeated numerous times rapidly in succession, it generally means, “I knew I should’ve double-checked the polarity of that power cord before I plugged it into my new \$3000 rig!”

There are many other terms out there in Shen-Valley ham-land which need defining, but we’ll stop here by popular demand.

## PVARC Secretary's Report – April 1 Meeting

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club met on Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> in the Day Room at Page Memorial Hospital in Luray. Mark/N4YSA called the business meeting to order at 1800. The Minutes of the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as published in The Monitor. The Treasurer's Report was given by Sparky/KD4KL. PVARC shows a current balance of \$394.00 in the checking account. Dave/K4DPF has submitted an invoice from the Town of Luray in the amount of \$60.00 reserving the FFA Shelter at Lake Arrowhead for the June 25/26<sup>th</sup> ARRL Field Day event. It was moved/seconded that the reimbursement & amended report be approved.



Ben/N4SFG (Page County ARRL Emergency Coordinator) introduced Wes Shifflett, Page County Emergency Manager. Mr. Shifflett was asked to give PVARC members an assessment of the county's telecommunications infrastructure and how local amateurs might assist him in meeting emergency communications requirements. We were informed that making dramatic changes to the current radio networks, i.e., changing to 6.25 kHz narrow-band or digital radio equipment is unlikely given the current economic situation. Such changes could cost over \$5M to implement and matching funds for Federal grants in just not available. He expects to utilize existing analog radios (mostly Motorola HT-1000) that is not APCO P-25 compliant: and, depending on base-band interface equipment to provide out-of-area and/or inter-governmental interoperability. He also discussed plans to move the current emergency operating center from the town hall basement to a new location in the building housing the Page County Sheriff's Office. Following a brisk interchange of related topics Mark/N4YSA asked that Dave/K4DPF, as PVARC Emergency Preparedness Committee Chairman responsible for EOC training, act as the club point of contact with the Page County Emergency Manager. Dave agreed to meet with Wes within the next few days and report back at the next business meeting.

In follow-on discussions several members (Bob/WO4MI, Geoffrey/WD4LYO, Zory/KB3VQC) emphasized the importance of training exercises conducted on a regular/scheduled basis, leading to an ability of PVARC to man BOTH the county EOC & the Page Memorial Hospital EOC at the same time. Given the interest shown, and the similarity of equipment used at both locations, this club initiative could prove to be a highly effective public service to the community. (Dave/K4DPF, Mark/N4YSA)

Mark next recognized Ester (KK6AO) and Larry Miller (KB6UAA) to address their request for assistance in the upcoming MMT 100 Mile Run scheduled for May 14/15<sup>th</sup>. They informed us that approximately 180 runners are expected and the event will be conducted "rain or shine!" Beginning around 0400 Saturday and ending (if all goes well) mid-afternoon on Sunday. They hope to have stations every 5 miles along the route to relay arrival and departure times to net control. Operations will be on 2 meters, using local repeaters where possible. Their hope is that PVARC members could man four locations; two located in Page County and two in Warren County. Four members signed up for the event and several more expressed interest in knowing the exact locations to determine if their individual mobile/portable capabilities would work. Larry agreed to send additional information to PVARC with specifics. His e-mail is: lmillier@shentel.net. Contact him for additional information. While not related to the MMT, Larry mentioned that a SKYWARN Basics class will be conducted May 23<sup>rd</sup> by NOAA. Specifics are on the NOAA website.

Under Old Business, Geoffrey/WD4LYO reports he is beginning to think about issues associated with building the PVARC Web Site and a database of local amateurs to assist in recruiting new members. His "co-conspirators" Dave/K4DPF & Carol/KA4LAF will meet with him when they return from their "travel obligations," probably after field day.

Given the late hour, Dave/K4DPF gave an abbreviated outline of proposed Field Day plans. Everything pretty much like last year with location, chief cook (Morgan/K4RHD), equipment and display table (Geoffrey/WD4LYO) identical! He brought in the 80 meter loop he built and will conduct a short "show & tell" after the meeting. A sign up sheet will be available at next months meeting.

Mark/N4YSA thanked everyone for their participation, noting the next meeting will be at Brown's Chinese/American Restaurant in Luray. He welcomed our newest member: Tim/AK4CJ and said applications for membership had been given to Zory/KD3VQC and Jim/KJ4ZVH. We hope they will be joining us soon – HOWEVER, all are welcome to attend any of PVARC's activities, member or not!! The meeting adjourned at 1920.

Submitted by: *Sparky Terry/KD4KL, PVARC Secretary*

## VARA Secretary's Report – April 5 Meeting



Our meeting was opened by president John Keller W4ZAO at 7:00pm at Shoney's in Staunton, VA.

We had 21 members present and 4 visitors. Ethan and Andrew Newlen, sons of Scott Newlen KI4QQZ, Bob VanFossen N4DJG and Elizabeth Varner, wife of Ed Varner KJ4OAS.

The 50/50 was won by Ray Colvin KE4HVR.

Secretary Report was accepted as printed in the MONITOR.

Treasurers Report was accepted as read to the membership.

The Field Day Committee reported that things are coming together nicely but they are still looking for someone to oversee the GOTA Station.

We received an e-mail from a local ham that wants to return to the Ham Radio Community. He is looking for some help tuning up his radio, adjusting his tuner and checking out his antenna. Any help would be appreciated: Preston Hadley III, AE4I, 790 Battlefield Rd., Fort Defiance, VA 24437. Phone: 363-0188 e-Mail: prestonhadley@hotmail.com

Upcoming Ham Radio Classes: The Staunton Parks and Recreation Department has asked for the help of VARA to teach Ham Radio Classes. A special thanks to the [Valley Amateur Radio Association](#) (Cowles Andrus/ K4EME, John Keller/ W4ZAO, Alby McCutcheon/ AD4KZ) for their assistance in offering the official Ham Radio Tech class. The Staunton Parks and Recreation Department will begin taking registrations for the upcoming classes on April 13th. The anticipated delivery date for the print version on the brochure is April 27th.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm

Homebrew Night. Several Members brought in their projects to show.

Al Bonck N3JB – Amplifier & Power Supply

Charlie Bennetch N4LNU – Octopus device used with an oscilloscope for checking electronic componets.

Richard Huttinger AA4RH – QRP Transmitters and a transceiver.

Scott Newlen KI4QQZ – Antenna launcher.

Jeff Rinehart W4PJW – High current circuit to trigger amplifiers.

Gordon Batey WA4FJC – Tool for installing water proof “F” connectors.

*Ray Colvin KE4HVR  
Filling in for Steve Grant W4IIV  
VARA Secretary*

**Watch for your June Issue of QST Magazine! W4PJW tips us off that the June QST will contain a surprise article about hams in the Shenandoah Valley!**

## MARA Secretary's Report – April 7 Meeting

**Meeting Called to Order at 7:31 PM**

**Attendance:** 40 present - 33 Members and 7 Guests

Bryan (K4RMY) conducted the meeting. Introductions made all around.

**Reports:**

New Members:

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Phil Rinaca KQ4D

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: .Scott Long (KJ4SIT), Al Passarelli (KI4TOJ), Stephen Shobe (KK4AGZ)



**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.

**Groups:**

**ARES/RACES:** Bryan (K4RMY) reported on the Sunnyside Retirement Community's ham station which needs to get approval from the state authorities.

**VEC-Session:** The VE test session will be held April 9, 2011 at the Woodmen of the World building in Dayton.

**Public Service:** The March of Dimes walk is coming up, and we need four or five more volunteers.

Also, there will be a bike ride will be held over Labor Day.

Bike Shenandoah is scheduled for September 17.

The Triple Play this year may only be a double play. The Motorcycle Ride will be the first weekend in October (October 1-2) as will the Camp Still Meadows Horse Ride. The Grindstone 100 foot race, however, is moving to the second weekend in October (October 7-9).

The Bike Shenandoah Fall Foliage Bike festival is the fourth weekend in October this year: October 21-23.

**Announcements:** There was a great 10-meter opening to Africa. It appears the sunspots are returning.. There was an inquiry about anyone who might have an Icom 746 or 7000.

**Field Day** – There were 8-9 people at the committee meeting. Three MARA members, and the remainder from VARA. The next meeting will be Monday at the Burger King in Mount Crawford. All hams are invited to attend. All hams are encouraged to bring a friend or visitor to Field Day, even if only for a couple of hours.

**Old Business:** The audit committee completed their work and submitted the audit report which was published in the April issue of the Monitor.

**New Business:** A small program committee was formed for the purpose of arranging club meeting programs.

**New Call or Upgrades:** None reported

**Motion to Adjourn:** Made, seconded and approved.

**Program:** The club's annual Home Brew Show and Tell served as the program.

Submitted by  
Rick Adams, KJ4IND  
Acting Secretary

**The MARA Treasurer's Report was not submitted in time for this month's Monitor.**

## Local Ham Calendar

**April 30: Waynesboro Riverfest Public Service Event**

April 30: Hagerstown Hamfest

April 30: Florida QSO Party

April 30: Virginia Ham Radio Cruise-In (Charlottesville)

**May 3: VARA Club Meeting**

**May 5: MARA Club Meeting**

**May 6: PVARC Club Dinner Meeting**

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 9: Field Day Committee Meeting, Burger King in Mt. Crawford**

**May 12: Augusta County ARES Net**

**May 14: Boy Scout Camporee Special Event Station in Staunton**

**May 20-22: Dayton OH Hamvention Hamfest**

**May 23: Ham Class License Classes Information Session: Staunton Library**

May 28-29: CQ WW WPX Contest

**June 6: Ham Radio License Classes start in Staunton**

**June 11: VE Exams, Dayton VA**

June 11-13: ARRL June VHF QSO Party

**June 18-16: Field Day Site Camping Trip**

**June 25-26: ARRL Field Day**

**July 15-16: Bridgewater Lawn Party Parades Public Service event**

**July 23: Rockingham County Emergency Response Drill**

**August 6: Roanoke (Salem) Hamfest**

**August 7: Berryville (Winchester) Hamfest**

**September 4: Shenandoah 100 Bike Race**

**September 10: VARA Annual Family Picnic**

**September 17: Bike Shenandoah Bike Ride**

**September 17: Virginia Beach Hamfest**

**October 1-2: Shenandoah 500 NVTRA motorbike ride**

**October 2: Camp Still Meadows Horse Ride**

**October 7-9: Grindstone 100 mountain Footrace**

**October 21-23: Shenandoah Fall Foliage Bike Festival**



**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

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## MARA/VARA/PVARC

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