

April  
2012

# THE MONITOR

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

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## **April 3 – VARA Meeting : Tuesday, at Westside Grill in Staunton**

The Valley Amateur Radio Association, will hold its March meeting at the West Side Grill on West Beverley Street in Staunton on Tuesday, April 3, starting at 6:00 pm with dinner, followed at 7 pm with the business meeting. The program chair has advised that the program will be an entertaining video on a recent DXpedition.

## **April 5 – MARA Meeting – Thursday HomeBrew and Show-and-Tell Night**

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its monthly meeting at the Wood Grill in Harrisonburg on Thursday, April 5. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. After dinner, a brief business meeting will be held starting at 7:00 p.m., followed by the annual HomeBrew Show-and-Tell program.

If you have a homebrew project, bring it and show it off. It does not have to be fancy, complicated, or even finished. Homemade antennas, control circuits, patch boxes, amplifiers, even a modification to a commercial piece of equipment – if you've worked on it, bring it down and show it off!

## **April 6 – PVARC Club Meeting – Friday, Page Memorial Hospital**

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular bi-monthly dinner meeting on Friday, April 6 starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Day Room of the Page Memorial Hospital. All hams and their guests and families are invited.

## **April 11 – Field Day Committee Meeting – Mt. Crawford Burger King**



The Field Day Committee will meet at the Mount Crawford Burger King on Wednesday, April 11, starting at 6:00 p.m. All hams are invited to attend the meeting, regardless of whether you are on the FD committee or not: all input/comments are welcome.

## **April 14 – VE Exams**

The next Volunteer Examiner VE Session for ham radio license exams will be held Saturday, April 14, at 9:00 a.m. at the Woodmen of the World building on Highway 42 in Dayton, VA.



## April 14 – Harrisonburg March of Dimes Walk Public Service

The organizers have not yet contacted MARA about supporting this event. We may be asked to provide safety and status communications for this morning-only walk in Harrisonburg on Saturday, April 14. If so, an announcement will be made at the April MARA meeting.



## April 21 – Scout Camporee Public Service – Fort Seybert

Thanks to the hams who have stepped forward to provide safety communication for the Boy Scout camporee at Fort Seybert. This event is especially important since it involves bicycles on steep mountain roads with sharp drop-offs, in an area not covered by cell telephone service: N1QEQ, W4ZAO, K4RMY, KI4ND?, N4PKJ, WA4FJC, K4DJG, and KI4FZV.



## April 21-22– Fort Valley Adventure Race Public Service – Page County

Coverage for the Adventure Race Located in the Fort Valley area of Page County April 21,22 2012: For the two locations, Bentonville Low Water bridge and Woodstock Tower Parking Lot is looking good.

K4RHD Morgan has Volunteered for the Woodstock Tower Site for the entire 12 hours, but could still use help if you would prefer the Tower end of the Race or feel more comfortable in a team atmosphere.

The Bentonville Low Water Bridge end is wide open,so if you would like to help contact me via 2 meter 146.625, cell 540-578-1133

The communication for this event should be basic 2 Meter voice communication. You should plan on a mobile rig 25 watts + or equivalent such as a handheld with a gain antenna and enough battery power to last your entire shift. Also bring your jump kit or go kit.

If you go to the Page County ARES web site [www.pagecountyares.org](http://www.pagecountyares.org),reference documents and links go kit or you can find many other sites that have information on go kits, jump kits.

I hope to see everyone at the Page County ARES training Saturday March 10, 10:00am at the Page County Sheriffs Office investigations building.

For more information, contact PVARC President Mark Hensley, N4YSA, at [n4ysa@gmx.com](mailto:n4ysa@gmx.com)

## April 28 – Waynesboro Riverfest Public Service

For hams who enjoy participating in this fun Saturday morning event, the date for the 2012 Riverfest has been set as April 28 this year. The event consists of a 3.1 mile run, a 2-mile paddle down South River, and an 11.5 mile bike ride through the back roads of Augusta County. Hams provide visual oversight communication for the participants. Hams meet at the downtown Waynesboro Kroger parking lot at 9:30 a.m., and are usually finished by noon. If you are able to help with this event, please contact Gordon Batey, WA4FJC, at [GPBATEY@wildblue.net](mailto:GPBATEY@wildblue.net)

## April 28 – Charlottesville Ham Radio Cruise-In

This fun event is not public service, but just an informal get-together of hams who have mobile equipment installed in their vehicles and who want to show it off. It is also an informative training session for hams who want to put ham radio in their vehicle. **Remember: Virginia state law requires that if you have ham radio license plates, you must have a working ham radio transceiver permanently installed in your vehicle.**

The cruise-in will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Darden Towe Park . This is located a half-mile north on Route 20 from Route 250 East of Charlottesville. Talk-In will be on 146.760 Repeater – call WA4TFZ. No tone required on this date. Talk-Around on site will be on 146.550 simplex. For more information, call Jim Crosby, K4JEC, at 434-823-2277.

## May 17-20 Hamvention: Another Caravan Planned for 2011 Dayton

A lot of local hams are already laying the groundwork for the annual valley ham trek to Dayton Ohio for the May 17-20 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!



## June 23-24 – Field Day at New Site: Weyers Cave Community Center

Since numerous hams have been unable to participate in Field Day due to the long drive to the traditional mountain site, this year the joint MARA/VARA Field Day operation will take place at the Weyers Cave Community Center, less than a mile off Interstate 81, at exit 235, centrally located between the MARA and VARA membership. This site offers air conditioning, rest rooms, a nice meeting room for public relations, plenty of parking, easy access, and a field larger than the mountaintop site to accommodate antennas with enough room left over for camping. Plan now to attend the Field Day Committee meeting on April 11 to find out more about the details.

## Rockingham County ARES Net Control Stations – April through June 2012

April 2: K4NRA	May 7: K4LXG	June 4: K4NRA
April 9: K4RBZ	May 14: KG4KUR	June 11: KU4XN
April 16: K4MIC	May 21: K4RMY	June 18: K4RBZ
April 23: KA4EEN	May 28: – OPEN –	June 25: KG4KUR
April 30: KU4XN		

## VARA President's Message

Spring has Sprung and the forecast is for a lots of good weather and radio fun. First I participated in the ARRL DX contest and then the Virginia QSO party and finally the CQ WPX contest last week-end. Great to hear other local hams enjoying the contests as well. I have learned a lot from these contests and have added to my DXCC and WAZ awards. If you haven't participated in a contest I highly recommend that you give it a try. If you think you need a lot of fancy equipment the answer is no. I run barefoot with a Icom 706MKIIG and a extended Zep wire antenna. You can work as fast or slow as you want and the contacts will come. After working 24-48 hrs you will be surprised how many QSO's you obtain.



Spring also starts our volunteering of working special events in the community and of course our BIG event "FIELD DAY" in June. I am excited that we will be at the Weyers Cave Community Center for this year's event and hope that all amateur radio operators will come out and join in this event. I ask that you get the word out on this new and community friendly location and bring a friend this year when you stop by to help for an hour or two. We are in need of volunteers to work the HF and CW stations during the event.

Not that spring is here, be safe outdoors and on those towers and help someone who needs a helping hand.

SEE you at the next VARA meeting April 3rd at the Westside Grill in Staunton.

*John Keller W4ZAO  
VARA President*

## MARA President's Message

Last month, MARA was the beneficiary of a generous donation by Rusty Bowman, N4YET: the club received a set of world-class VHF/UHF antennas, to be used by the club, or to be disposed of as the club sees fit, with the proceeds used to benefit amateur radio emergency communication in the valley.

This month, an even more generous offer was made. The Shenandoah Valley Repeater Group, an association composed of Rusty Bowman N4YET, Dale Showalter N4DAI, and Marshall Cooper N4ZKH, offered the donation of the association's entire set of assets.

To quote the offer, "This consists of the allocation of four repeater frequency pairs, (147.315, 145.130, 444.600, and 224.820), all repeaters and equipment in our inventory that supports the repeaters, all sites or site access where the repeaters are now in operation, and all control of same. This includes the federal lease to the Great North Mountain repeater site, its building, fencing, site development, and authorization as per lease, which includes the ability to sub-lease to commercial users. Since the club is a 501(c3) you should qualify for a no-charge 10-year renewable lease. There would be a nominal federal fee if sub-leased to a commercial tenant. The Great North site is the last site made available for use at that location."



As with the antenna donation last month, this donation is given with permission to utilize, re-deploy, or liquidate, as the club sees fit. Under Virginia corporate laws, the Board of Directors of a corporation is the decision-making body. The Board met in special session in accordance with the corporate by-laws, and after careful consideration, decided to accept the donation. The timeframe is to transfer ownership, possession, rights, leaseholds, etc. sometime during this coming summer.

The Board will be seeking input from the membership as to how to best deploy these assets. It is the Board's feeling that these assets, even as they stand today, can be a valuable contribution to the preparedness and enjoyment of the Shenandoah Valley hams, not just the MARA club. The Board is grateful and expressed their appreciation on behalf of MARA and other valley hams to the SVRG for this generous donation. Thanks, Rusty, Dale, and Marshall!

*David Fordham, KD9LA  
President, MARA*

## AREA REPEATERS

AS OF FEBRUARY 2012

REPEATER	SHIFT	CTCSS	LOCATION
145.130	-	88.5	Massanutten Peak east of Harrisonburg
145.170	-	151.4	Palmyra east of Charlottesville
145.190	-	118.8	Moorefield WV
145.490	-	136.5	Amherst north of Lynchburg
146.625	-	131.8	Big Mtn, east of New Market
146.670	-	114.8	Massanutten Mtn west of Luray
146.685	-	100.0	Apple Orch. Mtn east of Buena Vista
146.700	-	131.8	Downtown Staunton
146.715	-	146.2	Mount Jackson, north of New Market
146.760	-	151.4	Charlottesville
146.805	-	118.8	Covington west of Lexington
146.850	-	131.8	Hermitage north of Wboro
146.895	-	151.4	Bucks Elbow Mtn, east of Waynesboro
146.925	-	151.4	Heard Mtn Charlottesville
147.045	+	131.8	Elliott Knob southwest of Churchville
147.075	+	none	Bear Den Mtn east of Waynesboro
147.120	+	146.2	Culpeper
147.165	+	167.9	Warrenton
147.180	+	100.0	Monterey VA
147.225	+	131.8	Lairds Knob northeast of Harrisonburg
147.285	+	103.5	Spruce Knob WV
147.300	+	100.0	Bluemont east of Winchester
147.330	+	none	Rockbridge, east of Buena Vista
147.345	+	none	Franklin WV
147.360	+	none	Stuarts Draft south of Waynesboro
224.180	-	100.0	Apple Orchard Mtn east of Buena Vista
224.300	-	131.8	Elliott Knob southwest of Churchville
224.580	-	136.5	RockyTop Lexington
224.500	-	131.8	Little North Mtn west of Harrisonburg
224.600	-	151.4	Charlottesville
224.680	-	131.8	Hermitage north of Waynesboro
224.760	-	151.4	Bucks Elbow Mtn east of Waynesboro
442.650	+	100.0	Bedford, west of Amherst
442.075	+	151.4	Charlottesville
443.150	+	131.8	Lairds Knob northeast of Harrisonburg
443.250	+	107.2	Culpeper
444.000	+	151.4	Charlottesville
444.100	+	131.8	Elliott Knob southwest of Churchville
444.775	+	151.4	Staunton, link to Monterey
447.325	-	103.5	Moorefield

In case you missed it last month, we are reprinting the local repeater listing.

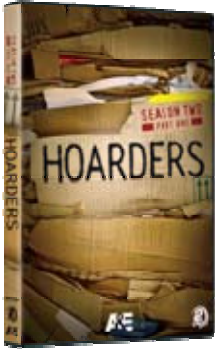
If you have a correction or update to this listing, email the Monitor editor at: [fordhadr@jmu.edu](mailto:fordhadr@jmu.edu)

Before submitting a correction, make sure the repeater is on the air. Many repeaters are listed in the coordinator listings and repeater directories, but are not on the air and therefore not included on this list.



## Calling all Hoarders: Monitor copies prior to October 1994 Needed

The Monitor archives presently start with the incorporation of the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., with the October 1994 issue being the first issue in an uninterrupted collection up to the present time.



But what happened before October 1994?

Do you, or does someone you know, have copies of the club Newsletter before Oct. 1994?

John Nelson, N3JN, graciously has provided some back copies, hit or miss, from 1987 to about 1989, but the inventory is far from complete.

We would like to compile as complete a collection as possible for our archives. Specifically, WHEN was the MARA club founded? We know that the club was incorporate in 1994, but it was functioning under its current name as early as 1987. Was it in existence long before then? If not, then this year is MARA's 25h birthday! But if so, then the club is even older – and thus may be wiser....?

Any documentation would be greatly appreciated. Please provide copies of whatever you have, or even whatever you know, or possibly even remember – to any Board member for our archives. Thanks you for whatever you can provide.

## Local Ham Calendar

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| April 1: Page County ARES Net                             | May 1: VARA Club Meeting                |
| April 2: Rockingham County ARES Net                       | May 3: MARA Club Meeting                |
| April 3: VARA meeting                                     | May 4: PVARC Club Meeting               |
| April 4: Highland County ARES Net                         | May 18-20: Dayton OH Hamvention Hamfest |
| April 5: MARA Homebrew Show-n-Tell Meeting                | May 26-27: CQ WW WPX Contest CW weekend |
| April 6; PVARC Business meeting                           |   |
| April 7: Raleigh NC Hamfest                               | June 9: VE Exams, Dayton VA             |
| April 8: Page County ARES Net                             | June 23-24: ARRL Field Day              |
| April 9: Rockingham County ARES Net                       |   |
| April 12: Augusta County ARES Net                         |   |
| April 14: VE Exams—Dayton VA                              |   |
| April 14: Harrisonburg March-of-Dimes Walk Public Service |   |
| April 14-15: Montana, New Mexico, and Georgia QSO Parties |   |
| April 15: ARRL Rookie Roundup SSB                         |   |
| April 15: Page County ARES Net                            |   |
| April 16: Rockingham County ARES Net                      |   |
| April 19: Highland County ARES Net                        |   |
| April 21: Boy Scout Camp Public Service Event Ft Seybert  |   |
| April 21-22: Michigan, South Dakota, Ontario QSO Parties  |   |
| April 23: Rockingham County ARES Net                      |   |
| April 28: Virginia Ham Radio Cruise-In (Charlottesville)  |   |
| April 29: Chesapeake Springfest hamfest                   |   |
| April 28: Waynesboro Riverfest Public Service Event       |   |
| April 28-29: Florida, Nebraska, QSO Parties               |   |
| April 30: Rockingham County ARES Net                      |   |

## Minutes of MARA Special Board Meeting, March 24, 2012

In accordance with the MARA, Inc. by-laws, a special meeting of the Board of Directors was called, via initiation of the President, with all Board members receiving notification by the Secretary five days in advance. The special Board meeting was held on March 24, at 4:00 p.m. to discuss an email received from the Shenandoah Valley Repeater Group offering to donate the assets of the SVRG to MARA.

### Attendees

David Fordham KD9LA President  
 Sheryl Tonini KJ4DOC Treasurer  
 John Keller W4ZAO Secretary  
 Bob VanFossen K4DJG at Large member  
 Mike Turner K4MIC at Large member

Unable to attend but participating by proxy: Gerry Brunk: K4RBZ Vice President

Topic of Meeting: Offer of Donation by the Shenandoah Repeater Group

The meeting was called to order by David KD9LA at 4:00PM at the Burger King in Mauzy, VA. A discussion of accepting a donation of all current assets of the SVRG including leaseholds, repeaters, access rights, supporting equipment and other issues. The donation includes the rights to maintain the operations or disposal of any or all of the assets as the corporation sees fit to further emergency communication preparedness in the valley.

The sites and equipment donation includes the following:

145.130 repeater located at the Massanutten Peak site with the City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham EOCC

147.315 repeater located presently at Rusty Bowman's home N4YET

444.600 repeater, presently located at Big Mountain

224.820 coordinated frequency pair, but not set up at this time, no equipment

Lease from the Forest Service for a plot of land on Great North Mountain west of Bayse, Virginia.

The board discussed the tasks needed to complete the transaction which included, lease transfer, electrical service transfer, insurance, a new standing committee to maintain the sites and equipment, etc.

After a lengthy discussion and careful consideration of a number of factors, a vote was taken to accept the donation and by unanimous vote the generous donation from the repeater group was accepted.

Mike Turner K4MIC and Bob VanFossen K4DJG volunteered to sit on the subcommittee to maintain and operate the repeater sites. The board would like to see 3-4 other MARA members volunteer also.

David Fordham KD9LA volunteered to work with the repeater group on the transfer and other paperwork involved.

Sheryl Tonini KJ4DOC volunteered to work with our insurance company for rates and other needed paperwork.

A timetable target of the Summer was set for effecting the transfer of ownership, rights, leaseholds, electrical service, etc. This timetable should be do-able given the current pre-occupation with Field Day organization and changes.

This donation will add significantly to MARA's inventory of assets. It was decided that we needed to update the list and location of our entire asset inventory. Sheryl Tonini KJ4DOC and David Fordham KD9LA volunteered to compile and update in the near future.

The meeting adjourned at 5:04 PM

Submitted by:  
 John Keller W4ZAO  
 MARA Secretary

## MARA Secretary's Report – March 1 Meeting

**Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 PM by President David Fordham, KD9LA**

**Attendance:** 42 present - 28 Members and 14 Guests Introductions made all around.

### Reports:

#### **New Members:**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Ellsworth Neff K4LXG

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Ken Hines, KC4TJY, voted and approved for membership.

**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 badges for the RACES members and reported that ham radio EC's have not been contacted about participating in the statewide Tornado Drill.

**VEC-Session:** The next VE test session will be held April 14.

**Public Service:** No new information on the Boy Scout event in West Virginia on April 21. — Bob N1QEQ discussed the RMH problem with the HF antennas located on the roof of the new hospital. Also the UHF antennas are too close together. All antennas were installed by Blue Ridge Communications with amateur radio operator experience.

**.Audit Committee:** The audit committee submitted their annual letter accepting the Treasurer's books for the 2011 fiscal year. The members accepted the report.

### Announcements:

ARRL DX contest is March 3 and 4, Daylight Savings time starts March 11, Charlotte N.C. hamfest March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, Virginia QSO party March 17 and 18, CQ WPX contest is March 24 and 25, Baltimore Hamfest is March 30, Raleigh N.C April 7<sup>th</sup> and Dayton OH is May 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>

Rocking "R" Hardware has weather stations for sale for \$29.99.

### Old Business:

**Field Day Committee:** MARA needs one more volunteer for the Field Day Committee that will meet March 7. Ellsworth Neff K4LXG volunteered to be on the committee.

### New Business:

**Field Day Committee:** Bob N1QEQ discussed the Field Day Preparations at the Weyers cave Community Citer and the EOCC operations trailer setup. There will be camping available for Friday and Saturday nights.

**N4YET Donation:** Rusty Bowman N4YET has donated his VHF/UHF antennas to the club. We need a volunteer to pick up this donated equipment and take it to our storage area. Mike Turner KJ4TPA volunteered to pick up.

**New Call or Upgrades:** KI4TOI upgraded to General in February

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

**50/50 Raffle:** Total \$36.00. \$18.00 split won by George "Doc" Arey, KJ4BXP.

**Program:** Radiograms was the discussion, with Ellsworth Neff leading the informative session.

Submitted by  
John Keller, W4ZAO  
MARA Secretary



## MARA Treasurer's Report – February 21 to March 20, 2012

Beginning Balance February 21, 2012 (last report)		\$ 3,603.69
Add:		
Memberships renewals (3 renewals)	\$ 36.00	
New Member Application (1 member)	\$ 12.00	
March Meeting 50/50 club portion	<u>\$ 18.00</u>	
Total Receipts	\$ 66.00	
Less		
Bank Fees	\$ 2.00	
State Corporation Commission Registration	\$ 25.00	
Weyers Cave Community Center Field Day Deposit	<u>\$ 250.00</u>	
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ -277.00</u>	
Ending Balance as of March 20, 2011		\$ 3,392.69

*Submitted by Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC, MARA Treasurer*

## PVARC Secretary's Report – March 2 Meeting

This being an odd numbered month, the meeting was held at Brown's Chinese Restaurant in Luray. By custom, and with general agreement, no business was conducted. Sixteen members and guests were present, enjoying each other's company, and the good food. The gathering was presided over by PVARC President Mark/N4YSA. Following introductions and general comments, a variety of ham radio topics were overheard.

Sparky/KD4KL briefly discussed the equipment for sale on behalf of the Widow's Assistance Program. Many items have been sold and over \$1000 has been handed over to Mrs. Pickett already. He still has a great variety of equipment on display at his QTH and welcomes anyone interested to drop by after the "eatin' meetin'" to peruse the "goodies." Following the "sales event" this evening he will post an updated list of equipment on the PVARC web site (K4PMH.org) for anyone interested in what might be left. There are still some real bargains on the table – contact him at kd4kl@arrl.net for additional information. You don't have to be a PVARC club member to buy!

There was considerable discussion of the upcoming Adventure Race through the Fort Valley area of Page County to be held April 21st & 22nd. PVARC as agreed to provide overnight communications coverage from the Bentonville Low Water Bridge; and, the Woodstock Tower areas, probably using the 146.625 (KQ4D) and 146.67 (N4PJI) repeaters. More volunteers are needed – contact Mark/N4YSA or Morgan/K4RHD if you are willing to assist in this worthwhile effort.

Dave/K4DPF, PVARC VP and Page County ARRL Emergency Coordinator reminded the members that he and his staff are still conducting monthly ARES training at the Page County EOC. The next training session is scheduled for March 10th at 10:00 a.m. He invites any ham operator of any license class to participate – there are opportunities to support ARES activities at all levels. He is also still looking for additional Net Control Stations willing to commit to calling the Sunday ARES Net one (or more) nights a month. We need both Net Control and alternate Net Control operators. Contact Morgan/K4RHD if you are interested.

It has been suggested by several members that PVARC might wish to consider other local restaurants for our social meetings. If that is true, Mark asked that anyone making such a recommendation look into the details, i.e., separate meeting room, bi-monthly availability, adequate menu, reasonable prices, etc. and bring the details to a regular business meeting for discussion. This will be discussed further at the April meeting.

Following an evening of good food and conversation, the meeting adjourned at about 1915 with many ongoing eyeball QSO's continuing well into the night. Mark/N4YSA reminded everyone that the next regular meeting will be held on Friday, April 6th at 1800 in the Page Memorial Hospital Day Room.

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

## VARA Secretary's Report – March 6 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at the Westside Grill in Staunton on March 6th. There were 25 members and 4 guests present. President John Keller W4ZAO brought the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and the usual introductions of everyone was done. There was no 50/50 drawing this night.

ARES report: David Tanks AD4TJ, EC for Augusta County, stated that the net for the month will be held Thursday the 8th at 8 pm on the 147.360 repeater with Gordon Batey WA4FJC being Net Control. David also mentioned how well the weather forecasters predicted the 6 inches of snow that the area received on Monday the 5th ( NOT! ).

Field Day Committee: John W4ZAO reported that only 2 committee members were present at the February 29th meeting along with 3 visitors. The next meeting was scheduled for March 7th. The Harrisonburg EOC will have 2 trailers at the site but only 1 will be operational with the other being available for the public to view and to be ready to leave the site in case of an emergency. The phone station is planned to be in one of the club's trailers, and the CW station is planned to be in the EOC trailer. The GOTA ( Get-On-The-Air ) station will go in the Community Center as there is expected to be a large Boy Scout attendance ( in addition to the greater ham and public attendance ), and that will make it easier for them to get to. We will still be a 2A entry this year. James McDowell NN4JM will be in charge of the CW station, making the trek from Ohio to join us. Mathew Huffman KD4UPL will be in charge of the VHF station. Camping will be allowed on the grounds ( beginning Friday, none allowed before ). A clarification of the Field Day rules was made: if someone wants to work Field Day from their home, then come to the club's site and operate, that is fine, as long as that ham had not made any contact(s) with our operation.

Secretary's report: David AD4TJ, VARA secretary, made a motion that the minutes be approved as printed in the Monitor; motion made and seconded, minutes approved.

Treasurer's report: Doug Tippet N8ESW, VARA treasurer, gave his report; motion made and seconded; report approved.

Update on events: Virginia QSO Party, weekend of 17th-18th; from last year John reported that there were 4 entries from Augusta County, and 1 from Highland County. The Highland County Maple Festival is going on that same weekend; maybe a possible Special Event station for next year?( Info: next year is the 55th festival; David AD4TJ March 20th ). April 28th is the Waynesboro Riverfest, with Gordon WA4FJC being in charge of hams there. April 21st is the Pendleton County Boy Scout Race.

New members: the 1st reading of Chad Offenbacher to become an Associate Member( no license yet ). The 2nd reading of the application of Jay Stewart KD4OXQ was made, and was voted on and accepted as a new member.

Old business: None.

New business: Steve Grant W4IIV said that as a board member of the Augusta County Expo organization, that he has a free space that the club can use to set up a booth to demonstrate ham radio.

Also discussed the new meeting site; it was voted on that we continue to meet at the Westside Grill for the immediate future.

No other business to discuss, and no program due to technical problems, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

*Respectfully submitted, David Tanks, AD4TJ, VARA Secretary*

**MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.**

President: David Fordham, KD9LA  
 Vice President: Gerry Brunk, K4RBZ  
 Secretary: John Keller, W4ZA0  
 Treasurer: Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC  
 Board (exp 2011): Mike Turner, K4MIC  
 Board (exp 2012): Bob Van Fossen, K4DJG

<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 W4ZA0  
 Vice President: Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW  
 Secretary: David Tanks, AD4TJ  
 Treasurer: Doug Tippet, N8ESW  
 Program Manager: Al Bonck N3JB

<http://w4xd.com>

VARA meets the first Tuesday of each month.  
 The March 2012 meeting will be held at  
 the Westside Grill on West Beverley Street in  
 Staunton, Virginia

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

<http://www.k4pmh.org>

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  
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