

May  
2012

# THE MONITOR

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

## VARA Club Meeting Tuesday May 1

The Valley Amateur Radio Association will hold its monthly meeting Tuesday, May 1st, at the new location at the Westside Grill on West Beverley Street. Dinner starts at 6:00 pm and the business meeting begins at 7:00 pm

## MARA Club Meeting: Thursday, May 3

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, May 3rd, at the Wood Grill Restaurant on Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm, and the business meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Visitors are welcome.

## PVARC Dinner Meeting: Friday, May 4

Page Valley Amateur Radio Club's bi-monthly eating meeting will be held Friday, May 4th at Brown's Restaurant in downtown Luray, Virginia. The dinner starts at 6:00 pm followed by an informal meeting. Families and spouses are always invited to the bi-monthly dinner meetings.

## Missing Field Day?

This year, 2012, is one of those years when lots of folks will miss Field Day. Why? Because they may not know when Field Day is this year?

This is why I keep trying to drill into everyone's head that it's "always the 4th Full Weekend in June" (not the last weekend in June)

*Jeff Rinehart W4PJW*

JUNE 2012						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## Robert Kerby, W4BLD, SK

Robert Browning Kerby, 73, died Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at Augusta Health, Fishersville, a few days after emergency surgery. He was 73. Born October 21, 1938, in Waynesboro, he graduated from Fishburne Military School in 1956 and received his BS degree from Virginia Tech in 1961. An amateur pilot, he spent four years on active duty with the US Air National Guard. His professional activities included jobs as a technical editor for General Electric Corporation and as business manager of Radio Station WANV, but he is perhaps best known for his leadership of his Alma Mater, Fishburne Military Academy. A lifelong resident of the Waynesboro area, he was of course an active ham operator, he will be missed by the local ham community.

## Dayton Hamfest: May 18-20

Once again, a caravan of hams are planning to drive to the Dayton Hamvention in May. The group leaves on Thursday, May 17, for the drive to Ohio, and attends the hamfest Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, returning home Sunday afternoon. Typically, the group meets around lunchtime each day to compare notes, swap locations of desired treasure, and trade stories about what we've seen. Working 2-meter simplex for miles and miles on the road is also fun. Don't forget to ask your boss if you can take off a few days in mid-May. See you there!

## Volunteer Examiner (VE) Session June 9

The next VE session will be held on Saturday, June 9, at the Woodmen of the World building, 3045 John Wayland Highway, Dayton VA 22821.

Sign-in will start promptly at 9:00 a.m. followed by the administration of the examinations.

Exam fee is \$15, which allows 1 try at each license class. You must pass the lower class test before taking the higher class exam.

Candidates must bring several #2 pencils, and TWO (2) proofs of identification and address: Driver's license, utility bill, school identification card, passport, or some other forms of ID.

## Berryville Hamfest: August 5

Although it is a long way away, put August 5 on your calendar for the annual Berryville hamfest in Winchester.

## VARA Family Picnic September 8

VARA Picnic is scheduled for September 8, 2012 at the pavilion near the Golf Club House in Gypsy Hill Park in Staunton.

There is parking and restrooms on site. Mark your calendars now. Eating starts at noon but come early and enjoy the day.

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## Rockingham County ARES Net Control Stations

This net meets every Monday evening at 8:00 pm local time. The first Monday of the month, the net meets on 146.55 simplex. All other Mondays on the 147.225 repeater. The 147.225 repeater requires CTCSS tone of 131.8 Hz, and uses a "plus" offset (+0.600 MHz)

May 7: K4LXG

May 14: KG4KUR

May 21: K4RMY

May 28: K4MIC

June 4: K4NRA

June 11: KU4XN

June 18: K4RBZ

June 25: KG4KUR

Net Control Coordinator:

Gerald Nauman 540-434-0859

## Boy Scout Camporee Public Service Event Report

Early on the morning of Saturday April 21st, 8 hams from MARA and VARA travelled across the mountain into West Virginia on Rt. 33 to provide communications for a mountain bike ride. This ride was part of the Massanutten District Boy Scouts Spring Camporee. The ride began around 7:30 am on forest road 151 in the George Washington National Forest off of Rt. 33 and ended back at the campground in Fort Seybert, WV. The ride was about 15 miles of up and down on a beautiful spring Saturday morning. Seventeen scouts and two hams with HTs, Joe KK4FKF and Kevin KK4FSO, completed the course. During that time there was one flat tire and one mechanical problem for the scouts and the hams helped repair both. In addition, John W4ZAO manned the first rest area and Steve N4PKJ and Bob N1QEQ manned a second rest area. Bryan K4RMY and Rick KJ4IND manned net control back at the camp ground. At net control, they talked with a number of the scouts and their leaders about ham radio and passed out invitations to Field Day printed up by Bob N1QEQ.

The original plan for communications was to use the Spruce Knob repeater. Once everyone was on location it was discovered that simplex on .550 actually worked better than the Spruce Knob repeater, so the frequency was changed and communication continued on simplex. Also, during the ride several of the hams had a brief conversation on simplex with AJ4XC Rene from his cabin in Highland Co, VA. He was also heard conversing ( only his side of the conversation) with several hams in the Northern VA area. Obviously it was a good morning for 2M FM DX.

After the ride the Scouts presented the hams with a badge to commemorate the ride, and a patch to commemorate the camporee. Additionally, a framed certificate of appreciation was given to the hams from the Massanutten District Boy Scouts as a thank you for their efforts in providing communications and assuring a safe ride .

All in all, it was a very enjoyable Saturday morning public service event in the mountains of West Virginia for both the Scouts and the hams.



Photos and article submitted  
by John Keller W4ZAO and  
Bryan Daniels K4RMY

## PVARC Secretary's Report – April 6, 2012 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 1800 in the Page Memorial Hospital Day Room by PVARC President Mark Hensley/N4YSA. There were no visitors present. After calling for announcements Mark/N4YSA recognized Dave/K4DPF, Page County EC, who wished to remind everyone that he would be conducting his ongoing ARES Training sessions at the Page County EoC on April 14th at 10:00 a.m.

In response to the Presidents call for the Secretary/Treasurer's Report, Sparky/KD4KL advised that the Minutes for the March meeting were as published in the current edition of The Monitor. As Treasurer, Sparky reported a balance of \$1,468.20 with one outstanding check in the amount of \$50.00 to the Page County Repeater Association, sent on September 15, 2011 not yet cashed. Don//KE4SRI (a principal in the repeater association) said he would look into the matter and report back. Mark/N4YSA called for a Motion that these Minutes, and associated Treasurer's Report, be accepted as presented. The motion was made, seconded and was carried unanimously.

The President called for Committee Reports:

**Membership Committee:** Members Charlie/KG4ALT and Geoffrey/WD4LYO. Nothing to report. Sparky/KD4KL noted that PVARC membership now totaled 22 paid members, with 2 memberships not yet renewed (checks are in the mail?). Geoffrey/WD4LYO asked for an updated list. The Secretary agreed to send him a current full membership list, with revisions, as they subsequently occur.

**PVARC Website Subcommittee:** Members Geoffrey/WD4LYO, Carol/KA4LAF and Dave/K4DPF led a discussion on a variety of issues associated with the development of our PVARC website (k4pmh.org). Recognizing that the website is a "work in progress" they all agreed that more participation from the members is crucial if it is to be a meaningful site. More data relating to specific activities of the various committees, and club members in general is needed to make it useful and interesting - to both the public and the membership. As an example, Carol stated that her e-mail request for a "Summary Definition" of each committees' purpose seems to have fallen on deaf ears – only one Committee Chair (Morgan/K4RHD) has responded to date! She needs a brief description of the purpose of the committee or subcommittee, and a list of any current activities the committee is engaged in. Geoffrey reiterated the need for more details and pictures of PVARC activities in general to showcase on the site, citing the upcoming weekend Rev3 Adventure Race (April 21st/April 22nd) where we've agreed to provide communications coverage. Morgan/K4RHD agreed to send additional information on the Adventure Race; and, Dave/K4DPF also agreed to send information related to ARRL Field Day and links to the ARES site. The President asked that all the committee chairs please e-mail the information requested by Carol/KA4LAF their purposes and activities ASAP.

In the same vein, Mark/N4YSA noted that PVARC has discussed, from time to time, whether our website should list club members "personal data" such as; call signs, addresses, telephone numbers and/or e-mail address generally available to the public – or should it be restricted to members only? Following a lively discussion a motion was made "to list any relevant (amateur radio) information" on any member that is generally public knowledge (FCC-ULS, QSL.COM, etc.) unless the member specifically chooses to OPT OUT. The motion carried unanimously. The Secretary was directed to e-mail this result to the PVARC membership before sending the list to Geoffrey for inclusion in the PVARC website.

**Technical Assistance Subcommittee:** Members - Mark/N4YSA & Paul/N4PJI reported tower work for Morgan/K4RHD completed. Don/KE4SRI needs help re-hanging his antenna. Working party will be set up, call Mark or Paul if you want to help.

**Emergency Preparedness Committee/EoC Training Subcommittee:** Chairman – Dave/K4DPH informed us that Morgan/K4RHD is now the liaison between the Northern Virginia Traffic Net and our local ARES net. He also noted that Roanoke Section Emergency Coordinator Ed Krom is being kept informed of our ARES/EoC activities. He will be focusing on traffic handling using both digital and voice modes in future training classes: and, is looking into ways and methods of plotting mobile and repeater coverage areas with respect to the Page County EoC.

**Widow's Assistance Subcommittee:** Chair – Sparky/KD4KL announced sales amounting to \$1,345 to date, with all monies passed on to the widow through Mark/N4YSA. The remaining equipment, including the Kenwood 850 and the ETO PA-77 linear (among other items) will be reduced in price, so go to the PVARC website and check out the bargains!

**New Business:** Mark asked Morgan/K4RHD to brief the members on the ARRL sanctioned Club Liability Insurance Program. Morgan summarized his several contacts with the Hays Affinity Group agent Jennifer Warzecha, including history of actual liability claims against a club, actual losses incurred, etc. The responses were discussed, ultimately culminating in an amended motion: To purchase both the Basic & the Optional Automobile Coverage package, at a cost NTE \$350.00/year. The motion carried with one vote opposing.

Absent further business, the meeting adjourned 1920, with the reminder that the next meeting will be held at Browns Restaurant on Friday, May 4th.

Submitted by:  
Sparky Terry/KD4KL  
PVARC Secretary

## VARA Secretary's Report – April 3 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at the Westside Grill in Staunton on April 3rd. There were 20 members and 2 guests present. President John Keller W4ZAO brought the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and the usual introductions of everyone was done. The 50/50 drawing was won by David Tanks AD4TJ, the amount being \$8.50.

ARES report: David AD4TJ, EC for Augusta County, stated that the net for the month will be held Thursday the 12th at 8 pm on the 147.045 repeater with himself as Net Control. He also note that we missed the tornados, and that since spring came early that his prediction was for an early hurricane season. It was asked if we had any info on the statewide tornado drill, and he said there was nothing from the state ARES officials about it.

Field Day Committee: John W4ZAO reported that there is now a full complement of committee members. John said that Bob Steere N1QEQ was putting a lot of time into the effort. The VARA equipment is at Jeff Rinehart's house, and will be loaded onto his trailer, just need someone to pull it to the site( Gordon Batey WA4FJC volunteered ).

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 Tippett N8ESW, VARA treasurer, gave his report; motion made and seconded; report approved.

Update on events: Barbara of the Fall Foliage Bike Festival called John: this year's dates will be October 20th and 21st.

April 21st is the Boy Scout Bicycle Race in West Virginia. April 28th is the Waynesboro Riverfest, with Gordon WA4FJC being in charge of amateur operations there.

New members: the 2nd reading of Chad Offenbacher to become an Associate Member( no license yet ); voted on and accepted as a new member.

Old business: None.

New business: Steve Grant W4IIV said that Jerry Moats WD4ITN had asked for assistance from the valley hams for several events in Highland County, one need in particular is a class to teach ham radio, as there are several people wanting to get their license( one being the police chief ), and then have a VE exam session for them. One of the events is the Mountain Momma bike race( August 4th this year ). Steve reminded us again 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.

The issue of safety( traffic ) cones for Field Day was discussed.

No other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 pm.

A video of the 2002 DXpedition to South Sandwich Islands was shown by Al Bonck N3JB, Program Manager.

Respectfully submitted,  
David AD4TJ,  
VARA Secretary

Right: Colton Huffman, son of Matthew Huffman KD4UPL, loves to listen to the Monday night ARES net. Matthew reports that he unplugged the microphone to let Colton hold it without transmitting, but Colton, who is 20 months old, has already learned to plug it back in! Way to go, Colton! There are guys on the net who have been hams for decades who haven't yet figured that out!



## MARA Secretary's Report – April 5 Meeting

**Meeting Called to Order** at 7:31 PM by Vice-President Gerry Brunk, K4RBZ, presiding due to the absence of the President.

**Attendance:** 24 present – 18 MARA Members and 16 Guests. Introductions made all around.

**Reports: New Members:** 1st Reading: None 2nd Reading: Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG, 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 report as read and also printed in the Monitor.

**Groups: ARES/RACES:** Bryan (K4RMY) – no report

**VEC:** The next VE test session will be held at 9:00 am, April 14, 2012 at the Woodmen of the World building in Dayton.

**Public Service:** No information on the March of Dimes Walk.

**Announcements:** Dayton Hamvention May 18 – 20, 2012

### Old Business:

**Field Day Committee** – EOCC trailer includes a 40' tower which can handle any antenna. The assembly is handled on the ground and then the antenna is lifted up. The generator in the trailer will be available for use and the EOCC will pay for the fuel. The Go-To station will be located inside the Community Center building. The Field Day Committee is looking for a trap vertical – please contact a committee member if you have one available for use.

Status on transporting the donated VHF/UHF antennas to storage – Mike Turner (KJ4TPA) is still trying to schedule a time.

Gordon Batey (VARA) will be transporting the VARA equipment.

Camping will be available at the Field Day site. Restroom facilities are located in the building. No fires will be allowed.

**RMH Station status** – the RMH staff knows they have to correct the problems, but have made no progress to date on the HF antenna. The pandemic drill has been scheduled, but right now, RMH will not be participating until they get the station put together.

**New Business:** Repeater Donation from the SVRA was discussed briefly. Additional discussion tabled until later meeting.

**New Call or Upgrades:** None reported

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

**50/50 Raffle:** Total \$15.00. \$7.50 split won by Rick Adams, KJ4IND.

**Program:** Home Brew Night, Show and Tell

Submitted by  
Sheryl M. Tonini, KJ4DOC  
Acting Secretary

## MARA Treasurer's Report – March 21, 2012 to April 22, 2012

Beginning Balance March 21, 2012 (last report)		\$ 3,392.69
Add:		
April Meeting 50/50	\$ 7.50	
Total Deposits		\$ 7.50
Less: Bank Fees (March)	\$ -2.00	
Printing cost of February, March and April Monitor	\$ -74.64	
Total Disbursements		\$ -76.64
Ending Balance as of April 22, 2012		\$ 3,323.55

Submitted by Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC, MARA Treasurer

### MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.

President: David Fordham, KD9LA  
 Vice President: Gerry Brunk, K4RBZ  
 Secretary: John Keller, W4ZAO  
 Treasurer: Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC  
 Board (exp 2012): Mike Turner, K4MIC  
 Board (exp 2013): 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, W4ZAO  
 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 May meeting will be held at the  
 Westside Grill, 2314 W. Beverley St, Staunton

Dinner begins at 6:00 pm,  
 the business meeting begins at 7:00 pm.

**Visitors are always 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  
 PO Box 649  
 Luray VA 22835-0649

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## MARA/VARA/PVARC

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

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