

April-May 2013

THE MONITOR

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

May 2 – MARA Meeting: Wood Grill in Harrisonburg

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, May 2 at the normal location: the **Wood Grill at 1711 Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg**. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. All hams and their families are invited and welcome. After dinner, a short business meeting will be held, followed by our annual home-brew and show-and-tell sharing session. Bring your projects, home-made gear, and just about anything else that you want to show off and share with others! (The president will be showing off a ham radio item that is 98 years old.)

May 3 – PVARC Meeting: Luray Southern Grill

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular bi-monthly meal meeting in May on Friday, May 3, at the **Luray Southern Grill, 1599 US 340 Business, in Luray**. At the April meeting, the club voted to hold business meetings on even numbered months at the Lord Fairfax Community College Campus, and on the odd-numbered months at the Luray Southern Grill. This month, being month #5 (May), the meeting will be held at the Luray Southern Grill. Dinner starts at 6:00 pm.

NOTE LOCATION



May 7 – VARA Meeting: Country-Cookin' in Staunton

Due to the sudden closing of Shoney's, the Valley Amateur Radio Association will hold it's monthly club meeting on Tuesday, May 7 at the **Country-Cookin' Restaurant at 1015 Richmond Avenue**, which is Highway 250 east in Staunton. This restaurant is next door to Martin's Grocery, behind the Five-Guys Diner, across the street and west 1 block from Wal-Mart. The meal begins at 6:00 pm, the business meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

NOTE LOCATION



2013 Field Day Committee

A huge "Thank You" goes to the hams below who comprise the 2013 Joint MARA/VARA Field Day Committee. The committee will be meeting on the second Tuesday of May (May 7), and June (June 9) at 6:30 p.m. All hams are invited to attend the Field Day Committee meetings, which are held at the Burger King on U.S. 11 just north of Mt. Crawford, near I-81 exit 240.



VARA representatives (Left-to-right): Jeff Rinehart W4PJW, Benny Cook N4BCC, Greg Czerniak W4GRC



MARA representatives (Left-to-right): Nelson Seese W4BHD, Andrew Pearson N4RCE, Herb Slade AA2BF

Introducing the new Monitor Editor: John Spillman, KT4CB

Starting next month, the Monitor will have a new editor!

MARA and PVARC member John Spillman KT4CB, of Stanley, has volunteered to take the reins of editorship from Dave, KD9LA, who is retiring after 20 years of preparing the monthly ham radio newsletter.

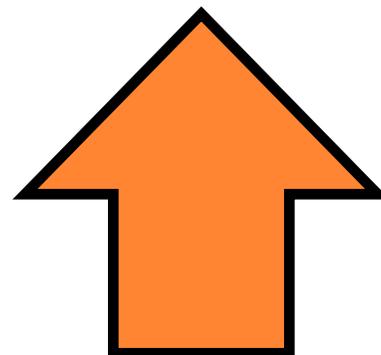
John is an experienced and skilled user of Microsoft Publisher. He brings his own creative talents, ideas, and skills to the job, so expect a few changes. One thing that won't change, however, is the editor's commitment to putting out a quality monthly newsletter.

If anything, John's editorship will return the Monitor to a regular monthly publication schedule. David's work, health, and personal calendar have all taken a toll recently on Monitor publication, so John will be restoring the prestige and quality that makes the Monitor a first-class publication.

For now, John plans to observe the traditional deadline (the 20th of each month for articles and submissions for publication the following month. John can be reached at: kt4cb,va@aol.com



WELCOME
to the new Editor
JOHN SPILLMAN — KT4CB



Waynesboro Riverfest Public Service Report

Local area Amateur Radio Operators provided public service communications for the annual Run, Paddle down the River and Bike ride out into Augusta County on Saturday April 27, 2013.

The attached photo shows from the left:

Kayli Weaver, Kristen Weaver, Jo Anna Weaver, Jered Weaver KG4EHM, Casey McCracken KF4MTP, Tom Bensen WA4ESI, Gary VanFossen KI4FZB, Ed Tutwiler WA4TPE, Bob McCracken N4JGO, John Lasher N3GLZ, Susan Lasher KK4DQW, Richard Huttinger AA4RH, and Glenn Mingo KJ4VVP. Photo by Gordon Batey WA4FJC. It was a great day to be outdoors in the spring sunshine .

Gordon Batey, WA4FJC



Still Seeking the Club Rotor and Control Box

The Field Day Committee is still seeking the MARA Rotor and Control Box from Field Day last year. It is obviously in someone's possession by accident. If you know where to find this rotor and control box, please contact any member of the Field Day Committee, or any officer of either MARA or VARA. Thank you,

No, You Didn't Accidentally Delete It!

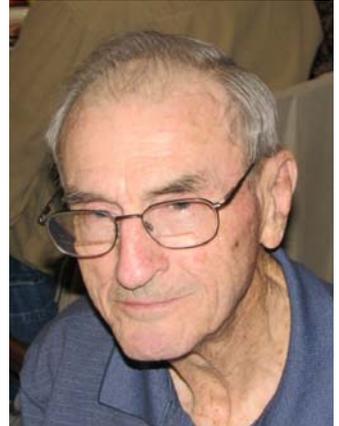
Due to David Fordham's work schedule, the April Monitor was not published. This month's issue is the combined April and May issue.

Ken Anderson, W4JQT, SK

MARA member Kenneth Anderson, W4JQT, passed away peacefully on April 8, 2013. He was born on May 8, 1922, in Indiana, and served in the Signal Corps during World War II, earning numerous distinctions and commendations. After the war, he studied radio engineering and relocated to Vienna, Virginia with AT&T, retiring after 34 years. He then worked as an independent consultant for several years before moving to Florida in 1990. He returned to Virginia in 2009 to be near family.

Ken was a lifetime member of the Vienna Wireless Association and also a member of the Englewood (FL) and MARA ham clubs. Ken was originally licensed as W9CLU on December 5, 1947 while living in Indiana after the war.

Ken is survived by his wife of 65 years, Alice Anderson, and a son Ken M. Anderson (also a MARA member) KD4VPE, along with numerous other relatives. A remembrance service was held in Bridgewater on April 12.



Linda Mowbray, N4RAF, SK

Former MARA member Linda Mae Mowbray, N4RAF passed away on April 26, 2013. She was born May 23, 1947 in Maryland and moved to the valley some years ago. She was an inspector at Metro Pants. Linda was preceded in death by a son, Donnie (Buck) Mowbray Jr. N3RIQ (SK) a few years ago. Linda was the wife of Donnie P. Mowbray Sr., N4RAG, who was active in operating a number of linked repeaters in the area, including the 147.225 repeater on Laird's Knob.

Linda was also active on the 2-meter bands a few years ago. She is survived by Donnie Sr., and a number of other relatives. A memorial service was held April 30 in Harrisonburg.

Donation to MARA from Joanne Jedlicka, daughter of W3MMC (SK)

The president of MARA recently received a donation of \$200 to the club treasury, in memory of Bob Niemeyer, W4MMC (SK). Bob's estate was auctioned off very successfully after his passing in 2010. The family is still working on trying to get his tower down, but most of the other equipment went quite quickly at auction.

The donation was accompanied by the following note:

"Please find enclosed a donation of \$200.00 to the club in "Thanks" for their generous bids. I've been wanting to make this donation and I apologize that so much time has lapsed. Please accept this check with our "Thanks".

It was signed by Joanne Jedlicka, who is Bob's daughter. She adds a postscript: "we have put a lot of sweat equity into Bob's Knob. Fresh paint and desperately-needed upkeep. ... I think Dad would be pleased that we have kept it and brought it back to new life. It will be two years in April. We sure miss W3MMC!"

We miss him too.

On behalf of MARA, thank you for the donation.

MARA Board Proposal for the 147.315 Repeater

After months of work, it is beginning to appear that the 147.315 repeater might not be returned to the air.

This repeater pair is very close in frequency to the 147.300 repeater in Bluemont (north of Harrisonburg), and also the 147.330 repeater (south of Harrisonburg). As a result, this repeater must be kept “low” in altitude, and “low” in power, so as to not interfere with either of the other wide-area coverage machines, both of which are active emergency communications facilities (battery power, generators, Skywarn affiliation, RACES sponsorship, etc.)

The MARA club obtained a new EPROM from the repeater manufacturer, and also obtained construction coordination for a low local-area coverage location.

Additionally, while a site was found at EMU, and a suitable mast and antenna donated, once the repeater was activated, it was quickly discovered that the output power was measurable in microwatts rather than watts. With a range of only a few hundred feet, the machine was removed from service and diagnosed by Larry Harrison, K3JRR. Larry replaced the exciter transistor, and other components, but additional problems remain, and the repeater output is still below a fraction of a watt.

A majority of the MARA Board of Directors feels that given the current low usage of the existing repeaters, an additional repeater on 2-meters — while a nice rig to have in reserve — is simply not worth the investment in time, effort, or expense required at the present time.

At the May MARA meeting, the Board will propose that the repeater be formally retired, the frequency pair coordination relinquished, and the power supply and duplexer set held in reserve as replacements or supplements for the 145.130 repeater on Massanutten Peak. The mast and antenna will be returned to the donor, and the site lease relinquished.

Mike McKay, W4AZR, in Emeritus Assisted Living Facility; visits appreciated

MARA member Mike McKay, who is in his late 80's, and his wife who is 96, have relocated to the Emeritus Assisted Living Facility on Englewood, Room 105. This is located just west of Staunton (above the by-pass intersection with Hwy 250). If you get a chance, he would welcome a quick visit just to let you know he's not forgotten. He is temporarily off the air to pay more attention to his ailing wife.

Ray Colvin, KE4HVR, on the mend back at home

We are glad that VARA member Ray Colvin, KE4HVR, is back home and on the mend after a scare with heart problems. Way to Go, Ray!

Ray Ritchie, K4NRA, also on the mend back at home, too

We are glad that MARA member Ray Ritchie, K4NRA, is back home and on the mend after a scare with heart problems, too. Way to Go, Ray Number 2!

Congratulations to VA QSO Party Contestants!

Congratulations to the VARA Club team on its showing in the Virginia QSO Party: Jeff Rinehart W4PJW, David Tanks AD4TJ, John Keller W4ZAO, Bob VanFossen K4DJG, Bob McCracken N4JGO, Bob Steere N1QEQ, Ed Varner KJ4OAS, Benny Cook N4BCC, and Doug Tippet W8RTN.

WA4NUF: For Sale – Alinco DJ580T Dualband HT

Gene Sullivan WA 4NUF has an Alinco Dual-band HT, model DJ580T, for sale. It comes with a leatherette case, 2 batteries, Maha Battery Conditioner and Charger. Still in very good condition, one owner. He is asking \$125.00. Contact Gete at wa4nuf@arrl.net or by phone at 540-289-5906 after 5:00 pm.

WA4NUF: For Sale – Alinco DJ580T Dualband HT

Gene Sullivan WA 4NUF has an Alinco Dual-band HT, model DJ580T, for sale. It comes with a leatherette case, 2 batteries, Maha Battery Conditioner and Charger. Still in very good condition, one owner. He is asking \$125.00. Contact Gete at wa4nuf@arrl.net or by phone at 540-289-5906 after 5:00 pm.

Dayton Hamvention Caravan Set for Departure

A large contingent of hams will be departing the valley on the morning of Thursday, May 16, on the way to the annual Dayton (Ohio) Hamvention. The “Mecca” of ham radio, everyone needs to go to Dayton at least once in their life. Dayton is so addicting, all of those going this year have gone before. The lure calls...

ARI DX Contest May 4-5: All Modes

The ARI International DX Contest the weekend of May 4-5 is all modes: CW, SSB, and RTTY! Something for everyone!

Thanks to Larry Harrison, K4JRR

Hams in Rockingham County are indebted to Larry Harrison, K4JRR, for all his work on the area repeaters. Larry, who retired to Criders (outside Bergton, north of Fulks Run, west of Broadway, north of Harrisonburg) from his radio engineering business in Maryland, has spent dozens, even hundreds of hours donating his time to diagnosing and repairing the local repeaters on the mountaintops of the valley. Thanks for all your hard work, Larry!



Left: Larry, K3JRR, working on the 145.130 repeater on Massanutten Peak.

Photo provided by Phil Rinaca, KQ4D

**Don't Forget: Next Month's Monitor Submissions go to John Spillman KT4CB
kt4cb.va@aol.com**

Last Call to Opt-Out: MARA Members to be Signed Up for Valley-Hams Google

As announced in the Monitor several months ago and as announced at club meetings in 2012, the Board of Directors of MARA has voted to provide MARA members with automatic membership in the Google Groups "ValleyHams", run by VARA member Fred Evans N4KYM. No MARA member has yet chosen to Opt-Out of the sign-up. If you do not want your name submitted for subscription to ValleyHams, notify David Fordham KD9LA (at email fordhadr@jmu.edu) immediately. The email roster will be submitted to Fred on May 5.

MARA Treasurer's Report – February 25 to March 17, 2013

Beginning Balance February 25, 2013 (Last Report)		\$ 3,758.93
Add:		
March 50/50	10.00	
Membership Renewals (4)	48.00	
New Memberships (1)	<u>12.00</u>	
	Total Deposits	\$ 70.00
Less:		
Bank Fee (February)	\$ - 2.00	
SVEC (February)	-21.16	
EPROM Rep-200 Repeater	-51.00	
Communication Site Lease Fee	-111.93	
Annual SCC Registration Fee	<u>-25.00</u>	
	Total Disbursements	\$ -211.09
Ending Balance as of March 17, 2013		\$ 3,617.84

Submitted by Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC, MARA Treasurer

MARA Treasurer's Report – March 17 to April 22, 2013

Beginning Balance March 17, 2013 (last report)		\$ 3,617.84
Add:		
Membership Renewals (1)	\$ 12.00	
New Memberships (2)	<u>\$ 24.00</u>	
	Total Deposits	\$ 3600
Less		
Bank Fee (March)	\$ 2.00	
SVEC (repeater electric -December)	\$ 21.28	
MARA Storage Annual Bill	<u>\$ 360.00</u>	
	Total Disbursements	\$ -383.28
Ending Balance as of April 22, 2013		\$ 33,270.56

Submitted by Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC, MARA Treasurer

MARA Secretary's Report – March 7 Meeting

Meeting Called to Order at 7:33 PM by Vice President Gerry Brunk, K4RBZ.

Attendance: 29 present - 27 Members and 2 Guests Introductions made all around.

Secretary Minutes: After an amendment to correct a call sign error, and a correction that a first reading was done for Glen Heatwole N4ALS and Phil Helmuth KC4LTP, it was moved, seconded and approved to accept the minutes for the February 7th meeting as printed in the March issue of the Monitor.

Treasurer Report: It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's report as printed in the Monitor.

Reports:

New Members: Balloting was held for Kent Harper KK4LRD, Glen Heatwole N4ALS and Phil Helmuth KC4LTP and they were approved.

Groups:

ARES/RACES: Bryan (K4RMY) expressed disappointed at the ARES "Foxhunt" Exercise. He said that confusion over frequencies may have resulted in less than desired results. We have these Frequencies for Emergency Operations: Prime 147.225, Secondary 145.130 with tone 131.8 Sky-Warn 147.625, Simplex 146.55, 146.58, 146.49 These frequencies should be programmed into everyone's radios.

Public Service: David Collins N4WDC asked for help with the BMW Motorcycle Washington Trail Riders event to be held on April 20-21. A vote was held and Club participation was approved.

Repeater Committee: All repeaters worked well in the March 6th major Snowstorm.

444.600 Bob VanFossen. There are no further reports of interference on 145.130 and an EPROM has been ordered for 147.315.

Audit Committee: Rick Adams KJ4IND reported that there were no exceptions found in the Jan 2012-2013 club records.

Field Day Committee: Greg Czerniak W4GRC said a meeting was planned for the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Burger King in Bridgewater and the decision had been made to return to the Reddish Knob mountain-top site for this June's Field Day.

Other Announcements: Ellsworth Neff K4LXG reported that ARES operators need to know the proper format for passing written traffic messages.

Old Business: None

New Business: Vice President Gerry said that we still need a new editor for The Monitor since this is president Fordham's last year doing his long term service as editor.

New Calls: Howard Zehr N9AHQ is now K4LXY

50/50: won by Tom Hepner KE4GMJ \$10.00 split from total \$20.00 collected.

Motion to Adjourn, seconded, passed.

Program: by Paul Wyse W4PFM. Paul was a long time worker with the Wycliff Bible translators in South America. He shared a Power Point with pictures of remote areas of Peru where he helped with short and medium wave transmitters. He gave some history of the Christian radio station HCJB. It was begun by Christian missionaries in Quito in the 1930s and they overcame technical problems with their antennas at high altitudes. HCJB has now moved to the Internet for program distribution.

Respectfully Submitted by

Dennis Phillips, NS4K,
MARA Secretary

MARA Secretary's Report – April 4 Meeting

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

Attendance: 27 present - 20 Members and 7 Guests. Introductions made all around.

Secretary Minutes: It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the minutes as distributed to the members.

Treasurer Report: It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's report as distributed to the members. The balance as of March 17, 2013 was \$ 3,617.84.

Reports:

New Members: 1st Reading: No names presented. 2nd Reading: No names presented.

Groups:

ARES/RACES: Bryan (K4RMY) – the Sunnyside radio test was supposed to be held the day of the snow. The test has been rescheduled for Monday, April 8th.

HRECC Applications: Still waiting for 4 – 5 people to pick up their badges. Let Bryan know if you need to pick up your badge and he will make arrangements to pick up your badge and get your picture taken.

Rockingham Memorial Hospital: Jim Junkins (HRECC Director) and staff member met with the hospital staff. We have not heard any feedback to date.

VEC-Session: The next VE test session will be held at 9:00 am, April 13, 2013 at the Woodmen of the World building in Dayton.

Public Service: Bryan (K4RMY) reported that the BMW Motorcycle Washington Trail Riders event approved at the March 7th meeting and originally scheduled for April 20-21 has been postponed for now.

Repeater Committee:

444.600 – Larry (K3JRR) and Bob (K4DJG) will check out the repeater this Sunday.

145.130 – David (KD9LA) will try to get up to the site to put up the 440 receiver outdoor antenna.

147.315 – Jerry and David (KD9LA) went up to the site today. The transmit power is 0. The PA transistors need to be replaced.

Field Day Committee– Herb (AA2BF) reported the next committee meeting is this next Tuesday (April 9th) at the Burger King at Mt. Crawford. The committee is asking for input as to the location for this year's Field Day.

Announcements:

May meeting: Show and Tell - Home Brew projects.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None

New Call or Upgrades: Howard Zehr was N9AHQ, is now K4LXY – His original call was K9LXY, this is the close he can come.

Motion to Adjourn at 7:58pm: Made, seconded and approved.

50/50 Raffle: No raffle held.

Program: Jim Lehman (W4POL) presented the history of the Naval Listening Post at Sugar Grove.

Submitted by
Sheryl M. Tonini KJ4DOC
(acting secretary on behalf of Dennis Phillips)

VARA Secretary's Report – March 5 Meeting

VARA held its March 5th meeting at the Staunton Shoney's. The meeting was brought to order at 6:59 pm by president John Keller W4ZAO. 17 members and guests were present. The usual introductions were dispensed with, as everyone knew everyone there. The 50/50 winner was Steve Davis KI4CGI, winning \$10.50.

ARES report: David Tanks AD4TJ EC for Augusta County noted that the predicted snow storm was not the kind that usually involved a call-up, but he said be prepared, just in case. Listen to the 146.850 repeater, the Augusta County Primary repeater; in case the generator malfunctions then tune to 146.490 simplex. The next net will be March 14th at 8 pm on the 146.850 repeater.

Field Day report: Bennie Cook N4BCC, one of the 3 VARA committee members, said they have not had a meeting yet, but they would be held on Mondays or Thursdays, to be determined. The other members are Jeff Rinehart W4PJW and Greg Czerniak W4GRC. All hams are welcome to attend those meetings.

Secretary's report: David AD4TJ made a motion that the February minutes be accepted as printed in the newsletter; seconded and passed.

Treasurer report: Doug Tippett W8RTN(ex-N8ESW) gave us the figures for February. The 3 repeater groups/owners were sent checks of \$150.00 each: 146.850, 147.045, and 147.075. Motion was made and seconded to accept the report; passed.

Upcoming events: the Virginia QSO Party is the weekend of the 16th and 17th; the last weekend of the month will be the CQ DX SB contest.

The 1st reading of Roger Pience N1XP's application was made; then Elizabeth Varner was voted in as a member.

Old business: Bennie N4BCC had sent off the club's Kenwood TS-2000 for repair; the total bill including shipping was \$278.44.

New business: Greg noted Ray Colvin KE4HVR will have heart bypass surgery Monday the 11th; also Greg is working on the estate equipment of Dan James W4DLJ, and will list them for sale as he goes through them. Of course the money will go to his widow.

Gordon Batey WA4FJC thanked the club on behalf of the Waynesboro Repeater Association for the donation.

Meeting place: Al Bonck N3JB looked at several places, with the only possible location being a meeting room at the motel next to the Shoney's Restaurant. He and John will check it out. So the next 2 meetings will be held at Shoney's for now.

No other business or matters to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm

Respectfully submitted, David AD4TJ VARA Secretary.

VARA Secretary's Report – April 2 Meeting

The VARA club held its April 2nd meeting at the Staunton Shoney's. President John Keller W4ZAO called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm. 28 members and guests were present. Introductions were made. John talked a little bit about the Virginia QSO party and the results of the club's group effort, with 8 hams using VARA as their club entry we ended up with 214.888 points. The 50/50 winner was Gordon Batey WA4FJC, winning \$12.00.

ARES report: David Tanks AD4TJ EC for Augusta County noted that it is hard to come up with Net Control operators. He also thanked Jeff Rinehart W4PJW for stepping in and running the net when his EC(me!) forgot about it. The next net will be April 11th at 8 pm on the 146.850 repeater. John volunteered to be NCS. Thanks John!

Field Day report: Bennie Cook N4BCC. one of the 3 VARA committee members, said they would have a meeting Tuesday April 9th at 6:30 pm at the Mount Crawford Burger King. Any ham that would like to attend is welcome.

Secretary's report: David AD4TJ made a motion that since the April Monitor had not been delivered yet, that we postpone accepting the March minutes until the May meeting. Seconded and approved.

Treasurer report: Doug Tippett W8RTN(ex-N8ESW) gave us the figures for March. Motion was made and seconded to accept the report; passed.

Upcoming events: David Fordham KD9LA had 1 bed left to share with someone going to the Dayton Hamfest. The Dayton " Caravan " is up to about 9 cars/people. John reported that the Fall Foliage Bike Festival is coming up in October, 18th to the 20th, with a new Director heading it up. They are contemplating adding a Century route for Sunday, and a dirt/gravel route on Saturday. Also changing a route to make it safer is in the works.

Gordon also reminded us that the Waynesboro Riverfest is April 27th, meet at the Kroger's in downtown Waynesboro about 9:00 AM or so, and he is recruiting help for it.

David AD4TJ mentioned that the ARRL Rookie Roundup is April 21st for 6 hours only.

Roger Pience N1XP was voted in as a new member.

Old business: None.

New business: Dave KD9LA brought the 2.4 GHz equipment of W4AZR, Mike, to the meeting as he is moving to an assisted-living home and has no need of it. He asked that it be given to an interested ham, on the condition that he comes to visit him at the assisted-living home.

David also passed out a VARA membership list, so that he can get any corrections as needed.

Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG talked about the days of ham radio during World War II, and a CW key that he got from a neighbor ham operator.

No other business or matters to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm

Respectfully submitted, David AD4TJ VARA Secretary.

PVARC Secretary's Report – March 1 Meeting

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club was held at the Lord Fairfax Community College (Luray-Page County Center), 334 N. Hawksbill Street in Luray. The meeting was called to order at 1800 by PVARC President Bob Forrest/WO4MI. 14 members were in attendance. There were no opening announcements.

The President called the Secretary's Report. Sparky/KD4KL reported that the minutes for the February meeting were published in The Monitor. A motion to accept was made, seconded and passed to approve the Minutes.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Carol/KA4LAF who reported a balance of \$1,638.56 on the books, noting that a check written to the Page Valley Repeater Association in the amount of \$200.00 had not yet been cashed. She has been in contact with them, offering to reissue the check if lost. PVRA asked her to wait while they check into it. Dues collected this evening totaled an additional \$48.00. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made, seconded and passed.

Bob/WO4MI asked if there were any committee reports.

Dave/K4DPF, Chairman of the Emergency Preparedness Committee & EOC Training Subcommittee briefly discussed the status of the area packet network. He has met with adjacent area amateurs (WD4VF and others) and reported that we now have access to four WinLink gateways through local repeaters and access to Richmond via VDEN.

Quickly putting on his second hat as Chairman of the ARRL Field Day subcommittee, Dave/K4DPF gave a quick rundown of current plans. Basically, he proposed that PVARC run Class 1A, with the addition of a VHF station using the van offered by Phil/KQ4D. The application for use of the FFA Pavilion at Lake Arrowhead Park is ready for submission to the Town of Luray. He concluded by asking that those wishing to help meet with him immediately following this evenings meeting.

Bob/WO4MI initiated a discussion of possible activities for 2013/14 by the Education and Training Committee. He asked if PVARC should conduct one or more training classes in 2013? How many VE's are current and who would be able to act as instructors? Following a discussion of the topic it was determined that PVARC "probably" has at least four VE's: Zory/KB3VQC, Bob/WO4MI, Steve/KI8DM, Sparky/KD4KL and probably others. Phil/KQ4D indicated an interest in instructing and others will consider doing it also, depending upon when/where classes are conducted and subject to scheduling issues. Morgan/K4RHD indicated he would initiate discussions with the new school Superintendent about the possibility of ham radio classes at local middle schools. Other possible organizations that might be interested in classes were discussed, including local EMS, volunteer fire fighters and scout troops. Ben/N4SFG offered to contact EMS and fire fighters; and, Tim/AK4CJ and Bob/WO4MI will make contact with troop leaders.

In continuing to discuss community activities, Bob/WO4MI asked what PVARC might do to provide expertise in support of school youth programs? Following a discussion period it was generally agreed that the ARRL Summer Teachers Training Program might be one route to take. Bob/WO4MI will contact Mr. Burrous Snelling, a local school teacher who has visited PVARC to solicit assistance from local hams in his robotics class, as a possible candidate and ascertain if there is any interest.

Geoffrey/WD4LYO, Chairman, PVARC Website Subcommittee reported on the status of his efforts. The website address is: K4PMH.org. He is encountering problems with site navigation, noting it is "clunky" and hard to update. He needs to change the structure and really wants FEEDBACK from the members. He is looking for "content" and asked for members to provide station photos and activity notices. Also, still looking for input from Committee heads! Carol/KA4LAF will resend what little she has acquired to date and will send new info as it is received. Tim/AK4CJ asked him to please add an updated membership list (the Secretary will follow-up). It was suggested that a summary of ongoing packet activities and projects be added. Bob/KI4VFP volunteered to join the subcommittee, which also includes Dave/K4DPF and Carol/KA4LAF.

Widow's Assistance Committee: Sparky/KD4KL reported no outstanding equipment to dispose of at this time. He asked to be replaced as chairman since he is currently "down sizing" and preparing to liquidate his own equipment in preparation for moving into the "Old Folks" home. Morgan/K4RHD volunteered to assume the position.

Old Business: Change of venue. Should PVARC look into a new meeting place since the PMH reconstruction project is making it difficult to schedule meetings? How about the "Eatin" meetings, should they be held every month, alternating months or not at all? Any comments on business meeting and/or restaurant meeting places? This HOT topic generated a very animated, vocal and far ranging discussion which could not be transcribed accurately. After lengthy discussion it was agreed that a minimum of three options will be summarized and available for a vote (or further action) at the next meeting. The one thing agreed upon was that the members did not want to continue in the current "gypsy mode!" (Tabled)

It has been proposed by Zory/KB3VQC that PVARC develop a brochure describing the activities provided by PVARC to the community suitable for distribution through the Page County Chamber of Commerce. A sample of the HEMARC club brochure was provided as an example. The package was given to Geoffrey/WD4LYO who will follow through and report at the next meeting. John/KT4CB volunteered to assist. (Tabled)

It has been proposed that PVARC consider the pro/con of incorporation. We have not been successful in getting a speaker to address the club on this issue. Morgan/K4RHD will attempt to contact a speaker (possibly Ken Alger?). (Tabled)

New Business: The club liability insurance policy will expire in May, 2013. We need to follow up on this before it expires. Morgan/K4RHD will follow up and report. (Tabled)

(continued →)

PVARC Secretary's Report – March 1 Meeting (continued)

Bob/WO4MI suggested that PVARC might want to consider a Club Station sometime in the future, as a long range planning objective. Ben/N4SFG agreed, noting that the hospital is not easily accessed under the best of conditions and the equipment is not owned by the club. Someone suggested the possibility of establishing a club station in the American Legion or VFW, another thought perhaps space might be available in one of the county fire department buildings. An interesting thought, which many members felt should be looked into as a long range goal.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1920. The next meeting will be held in this same building at 1800 on Friday, April 5, 2013.

Submitted: Sparky Terry/KD4KL, PVARC Secretary

PVARC Secretary's Report – April 5 Meeting

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club held the monthly business meeting was held at the Lord Fairfax Community College (Luray-Page County Center) in Luray. The meeting was called to order at 1800 by PVARC President Bob Forrest/WO4MI. 17 members were in attendance. One visitor, Rob Mazzolin/VE3IVT was introduced and made welcome.

Announcements:

Dave/K4DPF reminded members of two upcoming events that PVARC has been asked to assist by providing communications support. Contact Dave if interested.

Massanutten Mountain Race May 18th/19th - If interested contact Dave, who will liaison with Larry Miller.

Town of Luray Triathlon August 17th/18th (ARES Project) – Dave is PoC for this as well. E-mail him if you can participate.

Mark/N4YSA remarked that he has been contacted once again by Mike Spiller, Director of Operations for REV3 Adventures, regarding radio backup for this year's event scheduled for April 20th/21st. Contact Mark if interested in assisting.

Reports:

Secretary reported minutes from the March meeting are as published in The Monitor. Motion made, seconded to accept as published passed unanimously.

Treasurer Carol/KA4LAF reported a bank balance of \$1,698.56 w/ no bills outstanding; although one check has not yet been cashed in the amount of \$200.00 which makes the "true" balance \$1,498.56. Dues collected this evening amount to \$24.00. Expenditures to: 1) Renew the PVARC Club Insurance policy in the amount of \$300.00 is due by May 1st; and, 2) Expense to provide food and beverages for field day are expected to be about \$100.00. Morgan/K4RHD moved that the club authorize the insurance renewal under the existing conditions and in the amount of \$300.00 (same as last year). The motion was seconded and passed. The Secretary or the Treasurer will ensure a check is mailed in a timely fashion. Regarding the expected food/beverage expense, Morgan/K4RHD asked that we delay issuing a check until the May meeting when he will have a better idea of the expected costs. Item 2 was tabled.

ARRL Field Day Subcommittee – Chairman is Dave/K4DPF. Reported he had received final approval on March 19th for use of the FFA Pavilion, again at no cost. Plans on running VHF/UHF (2m and 440 MHz) stations using equipment in a self-contained van owned by Phil/KQ4D. Mark/N4YSA offered to provide a 2m yagi. We still need a UHF beam. Both can be mounted on the same mast, which will be turned using the "arm-strong" method. He is conducting ongoing discussions with other FD volunteers, essentially unchanged from last year, and will brief more fully at the next meeting.

Old Business:

Change of venue issues, tabled last month. Two ballot initiatives were presented for discussion and vote. Ballot 1 listed three options: Option A – Choose a single location for business meetings; and, one restaurant for an abbreviated business/social meeting on an alternating monthly basis. Option B – Conduct all meetings in a meeting room at one fixed location. Option C – Conduct all meetings in a restaurant at one fixed location.

Ballot 2 provided four restaurant choices: Mamma Mia's in Shenandoah; Browns Chinese & American Restaurant in Luray; Brookside Restaurant on US Route 211 East, east of Luray; and, Luray Southern Grill on US 340 South between Luray and Stanley. Ballot 2 also provided three meeting room choices: Page Valley Memorial Hospital; Lord Fairfax Community College (Luray-Page County Center); and, "Other."

Following a lengthy discussion of all the various options a vote was taken by a show of hands with the following result. The majority voted to meet at the Lord Fairfax Community College on even numbered months; and, at Luray Southern Grill on odd numbered months. The meeting time of 1800 to remain.

Continued —>

PVARC Secretary's Report – April 5 Meeting (continued)

Proposal to develop a color brochure describing the activities provided by PVARC to the community suitable for distribution through the Page County Chamber of Commerce and at PVARC public events. Discussion: Originally proposed by Zory/KB3VQC, (with artwork by Geoffrey/WD4LYO) and subsequently finalized in a sample brochure provided by John/KT4CB - was distributed for discussion and approval. Following a far ranging discussion a motion to expeditiously finalize the brochure, and obtain a cost estimate to have it printed locally was made, seconded and passed. John/KT4CB to lead the project, assisted by Geoffrey/WD4LYO in an effort to expedite printing in time for distribution at the 2013 ARRL Field Day event. The goal is to authorize printing of the brochure at the upcoming May 3rd PVARC meeting. This item is tabled.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned @ 1915, to be followed after a short break by a presentation and demonstration of packet radio by Dave Firestone, K4DPF entitled: PACKET RADIO REVISITED – AN INTRODUCTORY COURSE IN AMATEUR RADIO PACKET COMMUNICATIONS TODAY. Members were reminded the next meeting will be held at Luray Southern Grill at 1800 on Friday, May 3, 2013. This being an “Eatin’ Meetin’” – bring family and friends.

Submitted by Sparky Terry/KD4KL, PVARC Secretary

Ham Calendar – Upcoming Activities – Mark Your Calendars for your Favorite Events!

MAY

- 2 – MARA Club Meeting
- 3 – PVARC Club Dinner Meeting
- 4-5 – ARI international DX Contest All-mode (SSB/CW/RTTY)
- 4 – Hagerstown (MD) “Antietam” Hamfest
- 5 – Page Valley ARES Net
- 6 – Rockingham County ARES Net simplex
- 7 – VARA Club Meeting
- 9 – Augusta County ARES Net
- 12 – Page Valley ARES Net
- 13 – Rockingham County ARES Net
- 16 – Departure of caravan for Dayton Hamvention
- 17-19 – Dayton Hamvention – Dayton OH
- 19 – Page Valley ARES Net
- 20 – Rockingham County ARES Net
- 20 – Deadline for June Monitor Submissions
- 24-26 – CQ WW WPX Contest – CW weekend
- 26 – Page Valley ARES Net
- 27 – Rockingham County ARES Net

JUNE

- 2 – Page County ARES Net
- 3 – Rockingham County ARES Net
- 4 – VARA Club Meeting
- 6 – MARA Club Meeting
- 7 – PVARC Club Business Meeting
- 8-9 – ARRL June VHF Contest
- 9 – Manassas Hamfest
- 9 – Page County ARES Net

continued next column →

JUNE (continued)

- 10 – Rockingham County ARES Net (simplex)
- 13 – Augusta County ARES Net
- 15 – ARRL Kids Day – On-Air Event
- 16 – Page County ARES Net
- 17 – Rockingham County ARES Net
- 22-23 – ARRL Field Day
- 23 – Page County ARES Net
- 24 – Rockingham County ARES Net
- 30 – Page County ARES Net

JULY

- 2 – VARA Club Meeting (tentative)
- 5 – PVARC Club Meeting
- 11 – MARA Club Meeting ← Note Date Change!
- 18-20 – Bridgewater Lawn Party Public Service Event

AUGUST

- 1 – MARA Club Meeting
- 2 – PVARC Club Meeting
- 4 – Berryville Hamfest
- 6 – VARA Club Meeting (tentative)

SEPTEMBER

- 3 – VARA Club Meeting
- 5 – MARA Club Meeting
- 6 – PVARC Club Meeting
- 7 – VARA Family Picnic

MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.

President: David Fordham, KD9LA
Vice President: Gerry Brunk, K4RBZ
Secretary: Dennis Phillips NS4K
Treasurer: Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC
Board (exp 2013): Bob Van Fossen, K4DJG
Board (exp 20124: Andrew Pearson N4RCE

<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, W8RTN
Program Manager: Al Bonck N3JB

<http://w4xd.com>

VARA meets the first Tuesday of each month.

The May meeting will be held at Country Cookin' Restaurant 1015 Richmond Avenue 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: Bob Forrest W04MI
Vice President: Mark Hensley N4YSA
Secretary: Mike "Sparky" Terry, KD4KL
Treasurer: Carol Terry KA4LAF
Board Member: Goeffrey Phillips WD4LYO
Board Member: Morgan Phenix K4RDH

<http://www.k4pmh.org>

PVARC meets the first Friday of each month: even-numbered months at Lord Fairfax Community College in Luray, and odd-numbered months at the Luray Southern Grill.

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.

Articles in the Monitor may be quoted with attribution. Being a publication of an IRS 501(c)3 educational organization, the Monitor may occasionally use copyrighted material under the Fair Use Provisions of copyright law.

Copyright notices must be respected.

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

**WELCOME
to the new Editor
JOHN SPILLMAN — KT4CB**

**MARA
VARA
PVARC**
