

February 2013

THE MONITOR

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

February 1 – PVARC Meeting: Lord Fairfax CC – NOTE LOCATION CHANGE

Due to the flu epidemic, the Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular bi-monthly business meeting on Friday, February 1, starting at 6:00 p.m. at the **Luray Campus of the Lord Fairfax Community College on 334 North Hawksbill Street in Luray**. This is the old Wrangler Annex Building. All hams and their guests are invited.



February 5 – VARA Meeting: Shoneys in Staunton – NOTE LOCATION CHANGE

The Valley Amateur Radio Association is changing its meeting location for the February meeting. On Tuesday, February 5, VARA will be found at the **Shoney's Restaurant at I-81 and Route 250 east of Staunton** at a little place called Brands Flat. Shoneys is offering VARA hams a 10% discount on normally-priced menu items. The meal is entirely optional. The dinner beings at 6:00 pm, the business meeting starts at 7:00 pm



February 7 – MARA Meeting: Wood Grill in Harrisonbug (same location)

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, February 7, at the normal location: the **Wood Grill on 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 a program by Bob Dixon who will share some of his rare QSL's.

LAST CALL: Renew Your Club Membership NOW!

Don't wait! MARA members who do not renew by the February meeting may have to be voted into membership again. And the hassles for the newsletter editor are multiple, even for VARA and PVARC members too. So be a dear, and please renew now, without delay. See the renewal form inside the back cover (page 15) of this issue.

VARA President's Message – Thanks for Your Opinions!

Greetings to everyone and hope February brings you warmth and happiness. Last month I notified all the members of VARA that we would have to change the venue of our monthly meeting place and we had a great turnout for a good discussion and voted to return to Shoney's at exit 222 at our normal 1st Tuesday date each month. Afterwards many of you emailed me and the group of your ideas, suggestions, or just comments about future meetings. I personally was surprised by all the members that answered one way or another, and for that I want to THANK everyone for their input. VARA is your club and as President I want to try and accommodate as many of the members as I can and still get business and community activities done.

So I would like to request that you attend this month's meeting and let's see if we can all put our heads together and plan the next several months that will include some or all of your great comments. If anyone has connections for project ideas, guest speakers, presentations or meeting places I would ask that you email me, so I can set up my meeting agenda to cover those ideas if you can't make the meeting.

For the new HAMS among us, I really would like you to join us at the monthly meetings and bring your ideas and input as well. There are so many avenues in amateur radio and new and old HAMS alike benefit from everyone participating.

As a reminder, don't forget FROST FEST in Richmond Feb 2rd, Valentine's Day Feb 14th and dues are always welcome even if they are late. — Be safe, help someone in need and I will be listening for you on the bands.



John Keller W4ZAO
President VARA

MARA President's Message – Are You In Compliance with Virginia Law?

From time to time, it's good to be reminded that Virginia state law allows licensed hams to display ham radio license plates on their car <<PAY ATTENTION TO THIS>> **ONLY if the car has "a radio transmitter and receiver or transceiver capable of transmitting and receiving 2-way amateur transmissions" and it "must be permanently installed in the vehicle."** Note the words "*permanently*" and "*installed*" and "*in the vehicle*".

The law specifically states that having an HT in the car with you is not "permanently installed in the vehicle" and does not qualify you to use ham radio license plates. The radio must be hooked up to vehicle power, and it must be connected to an antenna. (Nothing is said about whether the antenna has to be permanently installed or whether a mag-mount will qualify, but THE RADIO MUST BE PERMANENTLY INSTALLED IN THE VEHICLE in order for the ham radio license plates to be legal.

A few years ago, there was an official notification sent from the state police about this, and ARRL officials verified that the law is indeed the law and must be followed. So if you don't have a ham radio in your car, get with the program and stop flaunting the law. (And make sure it works. Police can ask you to demonstrate that it works.)

And just as importantly, once you DO have a radio installed in your car, <<PAY ATTENTION TO THIS>> Turn It On and Transmit Once in a While! We have a lot of repeaters on the air right now. Give them some exercise.

And for you HF operators, I've **started including some of the HF contests and QSO state parties in the calendar in each Monitor**. These are great ways to add QSL's to your collection or Logbook of the World award qualifications.

But if you aren't into transmitting, well, I have a suggestion. Come to the club meeting. Enjoy a good meal. Enjoy the fellowship of face-to-face conversation. We're a good bunch of guys. Come to the meeting, and maybe we can make it FUN to transmit again. See you there.

For Sale Items – by WA4FJC

Exceptionally nice Collins 75 A4 receiver. The power supply caps have been replaced in the past and it has been recently aligned. It has the original 3 kc SSB filter and a Dave Curry 2.5 kc filter. Sounds great. Asking \$1,000 plus shipping.

ICOM 756 Transceiver. Real clean and sounds and looks very good. Asking \$900 plus shipping.

Collins KWS-1 restored by Howard Mills. Asking \$2500 pick up only from Central Virginia.

— The above three items are from an estate sale for an SK ham's widow.

Also, the Waynesboro Repeater Association still has some surplus equipment for sale

Repeater (147.075/147.675 xtal controlled) consisting of a Kenwood receiver/transmitter (1 watt to amp) with an RC-85 Controller and a GE MASTR power amplifier (50 watts). The controller is arranged for a phone patch connection to the phone line. All equipment operates from 12 VDC. This was used for many years on Bear Den mountain just northeast of Waynesboro, VA.

Satellite Az-El dual axis rotor system for satellite tracking. Brand New – never used outdoors. Set up complete with controller, PC computer, monitor and keyboard, and tracking software.

Email me at gpbatey@wildblue.net for pictures and further info. 73 Gordon WA4FJC

For Sale Items – by AD4TJ

Cushcraft 2-meter beam, model 13B2, has 13 elements on a 15-foot beam. Assembled, but never put up. Sells new for \$250. Asking for any reasonable offer.

Bird Wattmeter, Model 43, used, no elements. Currently has "N" connectors, but I can change them to UHF if you prefer. This is an expensive meter, but I'm interested in any reasonable offer.

David Tanks, AD4TJ, cell phone 540-255-1567

For Sale Items – by K4EME

70-cm pre-amp, several really good 21.5 dB gain pre-amps, great for moon-bounce work but also good for terrestrial communications.

Noise floor is below 0.25 dB.

Email for more specs.

Cowles Andrus, K4EME,
candrus@mgwnet.com





The MARA and VARA communities are both mourning the loss of faithful and active members this month.

Darlene (Lena) Piotrowski, KJ4UDZ, SK

MARA member Darlene (Lena) Piotrowski, KJ4UDZ, died Wednesday morning, January 23, from injuries she sustained in a traffic accident the night before. At highway speeds, another vehicle came across the center line and struck Lena's small sedan head-on. She was airlifted from the scene directly to the U.Va Medical Center where doctors worked all night in an attempt to save her. She is survived by her husband John KI4YNA, also an active MARA member. A memorial service will be held Tuesday, February 5, at 12:10 p.m. at the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church located at 154 North Main Street in Harrisonburg. The thoughts and prayers of the entire ham community are with John during this tragic time. Darlene will be greatly missed.



Frank Forsyth, WD4LES, SK

Frank Forsyth, WD4LES, age 97, passed away peacefully on January 14 in Lone Tree, Colorado. Frank was a long-time Staunton resident and VARA member. He was also active in the Civil Air Patrol rescue service, and many other charitable and service organizations. When his wife died in 2011, Frank moved to Colorado to be near his son. Many local hams fondly remember Frank for his efforts as elmer in helping new hams get started in the hobby. Frank will be missed by his many friends.



Ray Colvin, KE4HVR, Suffers Mini-Stroke

As this issue was going to press, we were notified that Ray Colvin, KE4HVR, suffered a mini-stroke on Wednesday, January 30, and spent several days in the hospital. Fortunately, he is now home and resting comfortably, but supposedly wearing a Monitor. Which begs the question, Ray, which month's issue is it? Get well soon!

K3EC: Ham Radio – A Gateway to a Fulfilling Lifelong Career

It is worth noting that for some of us back in the old days of wind-em, solder-em and fire-em-up ham radio was very much a gateway into a life's employment and career – and fulfilling enjoyment.

Waldo G. Fields W7KKY gave my Class C (Conditional) written and 13-WPM exams in Elk River, Idaho July 1948 My very first QSO as W7MVA on October 20 was with Fred VE7AFR on Prince Rupert Island BC on 3712 KCs CW with an ARC-5 WW-2 command set and a Hallicrafters SX-24 receiver from my home QTH in Potlatch, Idaho. It was so EXCITING I woke up my sleeping parents with this joyful news – which is why they never understood nor welcomed my career preference for ham radio and radio telegraphy instead of medical school.

In college at the time, I set up my ham station in the dorm, joined the university's amateur radio club (W7UQ) and was promptly recruited by a 2nd year law student to cover his traffic skeds. Bill Smith W7GHT (ex-Capt USA/SC and OSS) taught me how to be a professional telegrapher, sitting the state and regional traffic nets, handling traffic – while he kept his grades up. (Check your August 2010 QST, p.68 for Bill's George Hart Distinguished Service Award – he's still a bona-fide brass pounder.)

Opportunity called. I took a job as a USGovt telegrapher for a two-year stint overseas to get my career aspirations in focus, then came back to the U.S. (with a bride) and finished college on leave from Uncle Sam – then back for a lifetime's career in Government communications operations and planning and more overseas adventures – with such overseas calls as SVOWF and G5AFO. Fun while getting paid for it! (So much for a career in medicine, and when I see what the ACA ("Obamacare") is doing, I have no regrets.)

To round this off – Took my Extra Class ticket in 1965 in D.C. and found the written exam the toughest and most honest examination I have ever encountered in college and graduate school. A succession of Stateside calls have come my way, from W7MVA at first to today's K3EC (1975). I've not succumbed to the lure of a personalized vanity call sign. I like what the FCC doles out, and has made possible for a lifetime's calling and vocation.

I appreciate today that the gateway Amateur Radio offers newcomers is more cerebral than manual, and in our ever-expanding world of digital technology and application is every bit as enticing as it was for me 65 years ago. So, you guys with the KK4 prefixes UPGRADE and come on in – the water is just fine as Jess, Ellsworth and I found out to our great and good fortune not so long ago.

Hugh Pettis, K3EC



443.150 Repeater : Back to Fully Operational Status

Jason N4DSL advises that the 443.150 repeater is backup to its normal self. They found a bad PA and a bad diplexer on receive. The Echolink node is still up and active and working well, so give it a try. This repeater uses PL of 131.8

145.130 Repeater Status: Fully Operational – NOTE PL CHANGE

Thanks to Larry Harrison, K3JRR (yes, that's a three-call) for the help in fine-tuning the 145.130 repeater, which is now back on the air and doing great from Massanutten Peak. **Very important NOTE: The PL tone on this repeater is now 131.8**, making it consistent with most of the others covering the central valley.

147.075 Repeater Interference Reported

Gordon WA4FJC reports that intermittent interference is plaguing the input of this machine off and on. When the interference holds the transmitter up, the control operators take the machine off the air. If you can't raise this repeater, try back in a few minutes.

Northern Area Repeater Status Report as of February 1

The Central Shenandoah Valley north of US Highway 33 is under T-MARC jurisdiction. This area is undergoing much activity in the way of repeaters. Here is a summary of the status repeaters in this area:

145.130 on Massanutten Peak: New Coordination has been received in good order; The repeater is now fully operational and within all FCC requirements, including the 440 control links. The PL has been changed and is now 131.8 to make it consistent with the other repeaters in the area.

146.625 on Big Mountain, east of New Market, Fully Operational including Echolink access, PL 131.8 Hz

146.670 on the Blue Ridge, east of Stanley, Fully Operational, PL 114.8 Hz

146.715 in Mt. Jackson, operational with local coverage in the Mt. Jackson area. PL of 146.2

147.075 on Bear Den Mountain, intermittent interference sometimes requires shutdown. see article on page 5.

147.225 on Laird's Knob, east of Broadway: Fully Operational, PL 131.8 Hz

147.315 on the campus of Eastern Mennonite University west of Harrisonburg: Under construction, planned for operational status sometime in March 2013. Temporary coordination for construction and testing has been received from TMARC. A new EPROM is being acquired, and arrangements are pending for erecting the mast and antenna.

224.500 on Little North Mountain west of Harrisonburg: Fully Operational, PL 131.8

224.820: MARA has formally relinquished the coordination of this frequency pair from TMARC, so that N4SYH and NS4K can pursue the use of this frequency pair for a new 220-band repeater in the SERA coordination area (south of U.S. Highway 33).

443.150 on Laird's Knob, east of Broadway: Fully Operational, PL 131.8. See article on page 5.

443.350 on Big Mountain, east of New Market, Fully Operational including Echolink, PL of 131.8

444.600 on Great North Mountain west of Mt. Jackson: Coordination completed and received. Fully Operational, PL of 131.8 APRS node is also operational from this site.



Seeking RF Foxhunters

Michael Gilmore in Earlysville, Virginia, is seeking a group of hams interested in hunting hidden transmitters, a popular ham activity typically called "foxhunting". If you are interested in helping Michael get started in this exciting aspect of the hobby, email him at mdg.gilmore@gmail.com



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

FEBRUARY

- 1 – PVARC Club Business Meeting – NEW LOCATION**
- 2 – Richmond FrostFest**
- 2 – Delaware, Vermont and Minnesota state QSO Parties
- 3 – Page Valley ARES Net
- 4 – Rockingham County ARES Net – Simplex
- 5 – VARA Club Meeting – NEW LOCATION**
- 7 – MARA Club Meeting**
- 8-10 – CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest**
- 9 – VE Examinations – Dayton VA**
- 9 – Louisiana and New Hampshire state QSO parties
- 10 – Page Valley ARES Net
- 11 – Rockingham County ARES Net
- 11-15 – School Club Roundup
- 14 – Augusta County ARES Net
- 16-17 – ARRL International DX Contest CW weekend**
- 17 – Page Valley ARES Net
- 18 – Rockingham County ARES Net
- 22-24 – CQ 160-meter Contest Phone weekend**
- 23 – Mississippi state QSO party
- 24 – Vienna Winterfest Hamfest (Annandale VA)**
- 24 – Page Valley ARES Net
- 24 – North Carolina QSO Party
- 25 – Rockingham County ARES Net

MARCH

- 1 – PVARC Club Dinner Meeting**
- 2-3 – ARRL International DX Contest – Phone weekend**
- 3 – Page Valley ARES Net
- 4 – Rockingham County ARES Net – Simplex
- 5 – VARA Club Meeting**
- 7 – MARA Club Meeting**
- 8-9 – Charlotte (NC) Hamfest
- 9 – Idaho state QSO Party
- 10 – Wisconsin state QSO Party
- 10 – Page Valley ARES Net
- 11 – Rockingham County ARES Net
- 14 – Augusta County ARES Net
- 16 – Charleston (WV) Hamfest
- 16 – Virginia state QSO Party**
- 16 – North Dakota and Oklahoma state QSO parties
- 17 – Page Valley ARES Net
- 18 – Rockingham County ARES Net
- 24 – Page Valley ARES Net
- 25 – Rockingham County ARES Net
- 29-31 – CQ WW WPX Contest – Phone weekend**
- 30 – Raleigh (NC) Hamfest

APRIL

- 1 – Rockingham County ARES Net (simplex)
- 2 – VARA Club Meeting**
- 4 – MARA Club Meeting**
- 5 – PVARC Club Business Meeting**
- 6 – Baltimore Hamfest (Timonium MD)**
- 7 – Page Valley ARES Net
- 8 – Rockingham County ARES Net
- 11 – Augusta County ARES Net
- 13 – VE Examinations – Dayton VA**
- 13 – March of Dimes Public Service Event (Hburg)**
- 13 – York (PA) Hamfest**
- 14 – Page County ARES Net
- 15 – Rockingham County ARES Net
- 21 – ARRL Rookie Roundup Contest
- 21 – Page County ARES Net
- 22 – Rockingham County ARES Net
- 27 – March of Dimes Public Service Event (Staunton)**
- 27 – Waynesboro Riverfest Public Service Event**
- 28 – Page County ARES Net
- 29 – Rockingham County ARES Net

MAY

- 2 – MARA Club Meeting**
- 3 – PVARC Club Dinner Meeting**
- 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
- 24-26 – CQ WW WPX Contest – CW weekend**
- 26 – Page Valley ARES Net
- 27 – Rockingham County ARES Net

JUNE

- 4 – VARA Club Meeting**
- 6 – MARA Club Meeting**
- 7 – PVARC Club Business Meeting**
- 8-9 – ARRL June VHF Contest**
- 15 – ARRL Kids Day – On-Air Event
- 22-23 – ARRL Field Day**

The Monitor's
TRANSITION YEAR
 2013

New Monitor Editor Needed to Take Over Before End of 2013

As explained in the last two issues of the Monitor, David KD9LA is having to retire from the editorship of the Monitor due to health reasons. A new editor must be found as soon as possible, but in no case any later than December 1, 2013, David's absolute last day on the job as editor. An earlier transition date is much preferred.

If you know of someone who you think might be a good replacement, notify your club officers. Sometime in 2013, it is incumbent upon the officers of MARA, VARA, and PVARC to get together and compare notes and jointly name a new editor, or alternatively decide to go separately with separate club newsletters.

This decision should happen sooner rather than later. Dave is DEFINITELY anxious to get the new editor on-board and up-to-speed. The new editor does NOT have to wait until the December issue to take over!

Volunteer Examination Session – February 9

The next VE exam date will be held, as usual, at the Woodmen of the World building on Highway 42 just north of Dayton, Virginia on Saturday, February 9. Paperworks starts at 9:00 a.m.
 Gerald Nauman, KN4FM

Committee Members Needed for Joint MARA/VARA Field Day Committee

It's getting to be that time of year again. Consider volunteering to serve on the 2013 Field Day Committee. The committee representatives from each club should be named at the February meetings.

Hotel Room in Dayton for Hamvention Might Still Be Available



David Fordham, KD9LA, may still have a hotel room available for sharing for the Dayton Hamvention. If you did not receive an email confirmation from David **ON FEBRUARY 1st** that you have a room CONFIRMED, then you don't presently have one. Contact him if you are definitely going to Dayton and want him to hold a bed for you. The cost of a shared room is about \$39 per person. The location is on Miller Lane, close to the hamfest.

If you want Dave to hold a bed for you, email him at fordhadr@jmu.edu and let him know and he'll email you the strings attached. First come, first served.



VARA Secretary's Report – January 8 Meeting

The VARA club held its 1st meeting of the new year on January 8th at the Westside Grill. The meeting was brought to order at 6:57 pm. 27 members and guests were present. The usual introductions were made. The 50/50 winner was Fred Evans N4KYM, who generously donated his winnings of \$11.00 back to the club.

ARES report: David Tanks AD4TJ EC for Augusta County was thankful that the weather has been kind to us so that we have not had any call-ups. The next net will be January 10th at 8 pm on the 146.850 repeater.

Secretary's report: David AD4TJ made a motion that the December minutes of the November meeting be corrected to read that a motion by Greg Czerniak W4GRC made to reimburse Jeff Rinehart W4PJW was not needed, as it had already been taken care of. Seconded and passed. David made a motion that the Christmas Party minutes be accepted as printed in the newsletter; seconded and passed.

Treasurer report: Doug Tippett W8RTN(ex-N8ESW) gave us November's figures, and December's. Seconded and passed. As was voted on at the November meeting, the following members who helped out with the Bike Festival were given free dues for 2013: W4ZAO, W4GRC, N3GLZ, KI4QZ, KE4HVR, KG4OON, WA4FJC, AD4TJ, W4PJW, KI4CGI, KI4FZV.

Events: the CQ WW 160 CW contest is the last full weekend of this month; the NA Phone QSO Party is the 19th.

Old business: none.

New business: John W4ZAO asked the club if they still wanted to do the picnic in September as usual; Gordon Batey WA4FJC made a motion, seconded, and passed to retain the picnic.

David AD4TJ noted that a couple are retiring to the Staunton area, and have a 220 repeater that they would donate it to the club if we want it to keep the coordinated 224.82 frequency pair in the valley. Bob VanFossen K4DJG noted that the TMARC organization that coordinates repeaters has rescinded that pair from the MARA club, so there should be no problem getting permission to use it. After some discussion, it was decided to thank Roger N1XP and Karen N3TCT Pience for the offer but we respectfully decline.

New meeting place: the restaurant is not going to continue accommodating us as the low attendance is not allowing the restaurant to make money. They would let us have the meetings on Wednesdays or Thursdays, as they are normally open then. David AD4TJ noted that Shoney's is still available for the 1st Tuesday meetings, and would give us a 10 % discount on our meals(except for specially-priced promotions). If someone knows a different restaurant to meet please let us know. Or do we want to meet without a meal somewhere? And do we want to keep the meetings on the 1st Tuesday of the month? We voted to keep it on the 1st Tuesday of the month. We also voted to meet at Shoney's for February and March, and discuss further details at those meetings.

And, still on the present restaurant, the Christmas Party was a loss for them as we only had 26 show up, and we had said there may be 45 to show up. The club voted to make up the difference of about \$190.00.

Field Day was discussed; volunteers were asked for, and Greg W4GRC and Jeff W4PJW agreed to be on the committee. Still looking for one more warm body from the club.

Dan Hale KC8TEN asked the club what is the youngest person who is a member of the club? We guessed it was around 40 or so. How can we get younger people interested? Several hams have tried to get that done, through Cub/Boy Scouts, advertising, etc. We just can't get them involved. Some complained that they didn't see advertising for Field Day, even though there were posters, provided by the ARRL, that had been up in the area, and articles were submitted to the papers; the papers determine if/or how much they want to print, we have no control over it. It was mentioned that some clubs operated from public parks where the public can have access(it was also mentioned that we had done that in the past).

Frostfest in Richmond was noted that it was the 1st Saturday in February.

Since there was no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Program: Al Bonck N3JB showed us his solid state HF amplifier that he built, capable of 500 to 600 watts output.

Respectfully submitted,
David AD4TJ VARA Secretary

PVARC Secretary's Report – December 7 Meeting (Yes, December!)

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club convened its bi-monthly business meeting at Page Memorial Hospital, in Luray, for the principal purpose of conducting an election of officers for the 2-year period: 2013-2014; and, other business matters.

The meeting was called to order at 1800 by PVARC President Mark Hensley/N4YSA. There being 16 of 26 total members in good standing present it was determined that a quorum (>50%) existed for the purpose of voting for new officers and conducting other necessary business.

Before conducting the election, Mark/N4YSA called for committee reports, beginning with the Secretary/Treasurer. Sparky/KD4KL reported that Summary Meeting notes were as published in The Monitor.

As to the club's financial condition he stated that the current balance in the checking account is \$1,258.56 with one check in the amount of \$200.00 outstanding. He noted that it was "dues time" again and he would accept payment by check or in cash at this or any regular meeting: or, by mail via the PVARC postal box: PO Box 649, Luray, VA 22835-0649. He also reported that an audit of the PVARC books was conducted by the Audit Committee which would be discussed shortly. The Secretary/Treasurer's Report was approved following the motion to accept was made and seconded.

Other Committee Reports:

Membership Committee – Charlie/KG4ALT & Geoffrey/WD4LYO: Nothing significant to report, except Geoffrey/WD4LYO is working on, and seeking approval to: publish a "minimalist" listing of PVARC members on the website. Essentially he proposes to list only a member's given name (or nick name) and call-sign. Anything else would be an "opt-in" by the member, e.g., surname, e-mail address, address or telephone numbers. He would have liked to add anything that was published in the FCC database, but there seemed to be some concerns by some members relating to privacy issues – not withstanding the fact that FCC data is available to the public. The consensus was to initially publish name/call-sign only. Tabled for additional discussion.

Emergency Preparedness – Dave/K4DPF (also EoC Training Subcommittee): General remarks on EoC training session to be held December 15th. Still having problem with RF getting into co-located equipment due to proximity of HF antenna at the facility. Several fixes are under consideration. Recent exercises reveal need to accommodate data transmission to/from the VA EoC facility in Richmond since they are not interested in "voice" communications for operational reasons. This fact was bourn out in recent Regional Exercises. What seems to be evolving is a network of "digipeaters" and/or nodes within Page and adjacent counties. The nodes concept looks to be the way to go – KR4MA is assisting. In a related topic, Mark/N4YSA discussed future capabilities at the 146.625 site; including the 443.350 machine, high speed cable interconnect, VoIP, remote base control and EchoLink. Stay tuned!

Audit Committee – Zory/KB3VQC and Gary/K6OZ reported on their audit conducted on November 2, 2012. The Report, read by Zory/KB3VQC in its entirety essentially found "everything we examined to be chronologically well-organized, neat, readable, complete, understandable, and most-importantly, ACCURATE".... and, "happy to report that the books are in good order." A signed copy of the full report was presented for the record.

The Nominating Committee – Bob/WO4MI (chair), Geoffrey/WD4LYO & Phil/KQ4D presented their list of nominations for consideration and vote. Bob discussed the difficulties associated with putting together a list of candidates, noting that they had contacted virtually everyone active in PVARC to "step forward" and run for office. Nevertheless, the committee was only able to come up with one candidate for each office. He then asked Mark/N4YSA to query the members present and ask for nominations from the floor, to run against the slate presented last month (and again this evening). Accordingly, the President called for nominations from the floor for additions to the slate. With none forthcoming, he called for a motion to accept the slate as presented: Bob/WO4MI for President, Mark/N4YSA for Vice President, Sparky/KD4KL for Secretary, Carol KA4LAF for Treasurer and Geoffrey/WD4LYO for Board Member. The motion was made and seconded to elect the slate as presented for the ensuing two year period. The motion carried unanimously. Being duly elected the new officers were congratulated by the membership. They will assume their respective positions in January, 2013.

(continued on next page)

PVARC Secretary's Report – December 7 Meeting (continued)

There being no further business to conduct, Mark/N4YSA reminded everyone that next months meeting would be held at Mamma Mia's restaurant in Shenandoah on Friday, January 4th, 2013. A notice with directions to the restaurant would be sent to all members prior to the meeting. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and very Happy New Year, he adjourned the meeting @ 1915.

Submitted by: Sparky Terry/KD4KL, PVARC Secretary

PVARC Secretary's Report – January 4 Meeting

Once again, this being an "odd numbered" month, the Page Valley Amateur Radio Club conducted an "Eatin' Meetin'" at Mamma Mia's Restaurant in Shenandoah. Sixteen members were in attendance. Newly elected President, Bob Forrest/WO4MI, quieted the clamor to introduce guests and allow for self-introductions by members. Noting that this was not a business meeting, he was desirous of making a few opening remarks before the food arrived.

Calling for a show of hands, he asked how many members would fall into various age groupings – over 80, between 70 & 79, between 60 & 69 and then those under age 60. Without naming names, he deduced that most members would fall into the age group of 60 through 79 – a pattern shown by ARRL and others to be representative of the amateur radio community as a whole.

He went on to explain that one of the goals he would be setting during his tenure would be attempting to bring younger people into ham radio. His preliminary focus would include out reach programs to county "first responders," scout troops and school age kids in middle school, high school and the local community college. This might require PVARC to conduct licensing classes and subsequent VEC testing.

He is also interested in how PVARC could further assist the county in meeting their emergency response commitments through ARES programs under the auspices of PVARC member Dave Firestone/K4DPF, the ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Page County. F

inally, he would be looking to the membership for ideas on future PVARC meetings by asking whether we should continue our current meeting cycle of alternating business meetings with social meetings at local restaurants; if restaurant meetings are continued, should they be moved month to month or settle on one venue? Should PVARC continue to hold business meetings at Page Memorial Hospital (currently undergoing a new construction program) or might we consider an alternate location, such as one of the county Fire/EMS facilities (if available)?

Having given much to "chew" on, over and above our meals, the remainder of the evening was spent in good conversation and old fashioned rag-chewing. Listening into various conversations, one could hear discussions on: changes and improvements to our valley repeater networks; suggestions for getting started with packet radio interconnections (dedicated TNC vs software driven approaches); and, a "show stopping" computer-in-a-box (a very, very, small box) capable of running LINUX and is programmed using C++ language. It was brought in by Bob/K4DJG, who is a retired IBM engineer. This little jewel costs about \$40 plus shipping and has tremendous capabilities!! SDR anyone?

The dinner meeting broke up about 1930. Members were reminded the next business meeting will be held on Friday, February 1st in the Day Room, Page Memorial Hospital in Luray at 1800.

Submitted by: Sparky/KD4KL, PVARC Secretary

MARA Secretary's Report – January 3 Meeting

Meeting Called to Order at 7:31 PM by President David Fordham, KD9LA.

Attendance: 40 present - 36 Members and 4 Guests Introductions were made all around.

Reports:

New Members: 2nd Reading: Al Bonck N3JB, Ken Anderson KD4VPE, voting, accepted into membership

Secretary Minutes: Moved, seconded and approved to accept the minutes as printed in the Monitor,

Treasurer Report: Moved, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed in the Monitor.

Groups:

ARES/RACES: Bryan Daniels K4RMY: Winter is the time for ice storms. ARES members should be on the alert for this. Bryan will run the January 76 ARES Net from the HRECC location.

VEC-Session: Gerald Nauman KN4FM: Reminder of the upcoming VE session February 9.

Public Service: No report

Repeater Committees: 444.600: Bpb Van Fossen: UP and working APRS at the site is also working. Tweaking will continue on this machine to improve performance, 145.130: David Fordham KD9LA: Repeater is up and working, and will shortly meet FCC control rules. Larry K3JRR is helping assemble the control unit. Coordination has been applied for. 147.315: David KD9LA: Local site has been acquired at EMU, coordination applied for, machine will be installed and activated soon.

Announcements:

The 220-band frequency which is coordinated to the club will be allowed to lapse and go back into the TMARC pool unless someone comes forward soon. John Bottemiller N4SYH may have some ideas. Dennis Phillips offered to donate a midland 13-509 as the basis of a repeater. Additional work will be forthcoming.

RMH Hospital situation: Bryan Daniels K4RMY reports that Jim Junkins (HRECC) called Robbie Symons at RMH. Robbie will take an interest in getting the hospital station relocated to a proper location.

FrostFest in Richmond February 2nd. Some hams will be carpooling and going in a caravan.

Dayton Hamvention May 16-19: The caravan will leave Thursday, return Sunday. KD9LA has a couple of hotel beds available for about \$36 per night average, first come first served. Notify KD9LA if you are interested.

Field Day Committee will be named at next month's meeting. Volunteers are needed.

Announcements were made about surrounding club meetings, and the ARES nets in the area.

Echolink is available on the 146.625 repeater now

Gerry Brunk K4RBZ is looking for programs for future meetings

The Page Valley Emergency Operations Center is holding a Packet Radio Summit on January 12 at 10:00 a.m.

Ellsworth Neff K4LXG asked for the floor to give thanks to the club for his recent "Lifetime Achievement" award.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Volunteers were solicited for the annual Audit Committee. Andrew Pearson N4RCE, Larry Heatwole AA4TC, and Rick Adams KJ4IND volunteered. The Audit Committee should submit their report by the March issue of the Monitor, or by the March club meeting if possible..

Continued on next page

MARA Secretary's Report – (continued)

No new calls or upgrades: None announced

50/50: won by Carol Landes WX4CFL. \$27.00 total, \$13.50 split.

Motion to Adjourn, seconded, passed.



Program: Russ Mumaw K4NLT, presented a program on QRP — operating with reduced or very low power. Russ defined QRP as working with less than 10 watts SSB and less than 5 watts CW transmitter output. He explained some of the thrill of working the world on less power than the power of a nightlight bulb. He showed some of the QRP gear that he uses in the field and at home, as well as poles used for hanging wire antennas. Also presented were magazines, books, and other sources of working QRP.

Submitted by
Dennis Phillips, NS4K
MARA Secretary

MARA Treasurer's Report – December 21, 2012 to January 24, 2013

Beginning Balance December 22, 2012 (last report)			\$ 2,981.82
Add:	January Meeting 50/50	\$ 13.50	
	Returned Check Charge Reimbursement	\$ 12.00	
	Membership Renewals (45)	\$ 552.00	
	New Memberships (1)	<u>\$ 12.00</u>	
	Total Deposits		\$ 589.50
Less	Bank Fee (December)	\$ 2.00	
	SVEC (repeater electric -December)	\$ 21.28	
	Supplies Reimbursement (keys, award frames, Christmas Party Guest Dinners, etc.)	<u>\$ 315.60</u>	
	Total Disbursements		<u>\$ -338.88</u>
Ending Balance as of January 24, 2013			\$ 3,232.44

Submitted by Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC, MARA Treasurer

Don't forget to renew your club membership!

Use the renewal form on the last page of the Monitor this month to send in your dues!

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 Tippett, W8RTN
Program Manager: Al Bonck N3JB

<http://w4xd.com>

VARA meets the first Tuesday of each month. The February meeting will be held at Shoneys at I-81 and US 250 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 Tippett
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: Geoffrey Phillips WD4LYO

<http://www.k4pmh.org>

PVARC meets the first Friday of each month.

February's meeting will be held at the Luray Campus of Lord Fairfax Community College.

The meeting begins at 6:00 pm

Visitors are welcome.

Dues (\$12 per year) should be mailed to:

Sparky Terry
PO Box 649
Luray VA 22835-0649

The Monitor is published monthly by MARA, Inc. for members of the three amateur radio clubs in the Central Shenandoah Valley.

Distribution is in Adobe PDF format via email attachment to all club members in good standing.

Clubs differ in their policies regarding paper copies. Contact the president of your respective club for information on paper copies.

Back issues are freely available on the MARA website starting a few months after publication.

Since the clubs derive their revenue from memberships, the Monitor is not to be made regularly available on a timely basis to individuals who are not club members.

Occasional complimentary current copies are provided to prospective members free of charge.

Clubs may also formally decide to provide complimentary copies at club expense to various constituencies.

Contact your respective club officers for more information.

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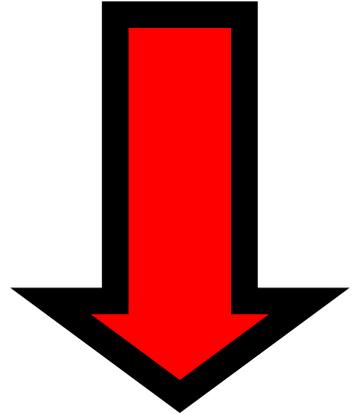
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RENEW

RENEW

RENEW

**RENEW YOUR CLUB
MEMBERSHIP!**



Membership Renewal Form

NAME: _____ CALLSIGN: _____ CLASS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

CELL PHONE (If you want it in club records for emergency purposes, not the roster!): _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: (print legibly!!) _____

MEMBER ARRL (Y/N) ___ REGISTERED ARES (Y/N) _____ SKYWARN ID: _____

Are you available for Workday Daytime Emergency Call up? (Y/N) _____

MARA members mail with \$12 to: MARA, PO Box 1882, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

VARA members mail with \$15 to: VARA, Doug Tippett, 2348 Mosley St, Waynesboro, VA 22980

PVARC members mail with \$12 to: Carol Terry, PO Box 649, Luray, VA 22835

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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