

August 2018

THE MONITOR

Published Monthly for Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Operators — Members of MARA, VARA, and PVARC

IN MEMORIAM

Bill Jones, KE4FM, SK



William W. (Bill) Jones, Jr., (KE4FM) of Weyers Cave passed away peacefully in his hospital bed on Thursday, July 26, after a brief illness.

Bill was the trustee of the 146.625 Big Mountain repeater in New Market for many years. He had been active in the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., and was well known on the 2m band. He also worked the world on HF using dipole antennas.

A native of the Shenandoah Valley, he also lived in Jacksonville, Florida for a time, before returning to McGaheysville in the 1970s, moving to Weyers Cave in the late 1990s. He became interested in ham radio and considered Ellsworth Neff K4LXG and Mark Payne WA4E to be his “Elmers”.

He worked for KwikKopy before retirement, and handled the printing of the club newsletters in the 1990’s and early 2000’s.

He was affectionately known as “Kitty-Cat Bill” by some old-timers in the ham community, to distinguish him from several other amateurs also named Bill. He had a favorite cat named “Blackie”.

He is survived by his wife Shirley, and numerous other family members. A memorial service was held on July 29 at the St. James United Methodist Church. Bill will be missed by those who knew him.

Mike Hendrix, K4MRH, SK

Michael Ray (Mike) Hendrix (K4MRH) of Monterey passed away at Avante in Harrisonburg on Wednesday, July 18. he was born April 22, 1947, and spent 65 years in Staunton before moving to Monterey in 2012. Mike was active in the Highland County amateur radio community, and considered Jerry and Melody Moats to be some of his most special friends. Mike is survived by two daughters and a grandson. A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

AUGUST CLUB MEETINGS

Thursday August 2 – MARA Meeting: Wood Grill in Harrisonburg

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, August 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. The business meeting will start at 7:00 p.m, followed by a brief program.



Tuesday August 7 – VARA Meeting: Hometown Grill and Buffet in Staunton

The Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold it's monthly club meeting on Tuesday, August 7, at the **Hometown Grill and Buffet** just north of Highway 250, 1 block east of I-81's Exit 219 in Staunton. The meal begins at 6:00 pm, the business meeting starts at 7:00 pm, to be followed by a brief program.



Thursday August 9 – PVARC Meeting: Tactical Walls in Luray

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular monthly meeting Thursday August 9 at the normal location, Tactical Walls, in Shenandoah. The address is 611 Williams Avenue, Shenandoah VA 22849. Tactical Walls is a manufacturing facility with a nice meeting room that is just east of highway 340 in Shenandoah. Turn east off 340, go about one block and drive through the gate in the fence and around to the door on the right.



PUBLIC SERVICE REPORTS

Bridgewater Lawn Party Parades July 20-21

Thanks to all who participated in the Bridgewater Lawn Party. Hams provided traffic control, and used HT's to coordinate street closings and other situations related to the parade on Friday and Saturday nights, July 20 and 21. Once again, the Town of Bridgewater officials, the police department, and especially the Bridgewater Volunteer Fire Company thanked the hams for their assistance and said that without the hams, the town probably could not have held the parade as smoothly as they did. Thanks to the following hams who participated and had a fun time:

Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG
 Debbie Fordham, KB4WPE
 David Fordham, KD9LA
 Gerald Nauman, KN4FM
 Bryan Daniels, K4RMY
 Pete Fundinger AA4PF
 Herb Slade AA2BF
 Bob Dixon W8HGH
 Bob Steere N1QEQ
 Glenn Mingo KJ4VVP
 Ray Albers K2HYD
 Chris Shirkey KI4BAQ
 Rick Neff KE4PHQ



MARA/VARA Field Day Report (*Yes it's public service!*)

Thanks to **Sandy Mullins K4PZC** for submitting the MARA/VARA Field Day Report. The W4XD operation entered in Class 3A, with **53 participants**. The operation used generators, batteries, and solar power, off-grid, to make **1,245 contacts** during the 24-hour operation, generating a claimed score of **7,294 points** after adding in the bonus points.

The band-by-band breakdown showed 40 meters as the most active band, with 384 contacts on CW, 63 on digital, and 756 on phone. 80 meters had 330 CW, 21 digital, and 170 on phone. 20 meters had 302 contacts on CW, 81 digital, and 237 on phone. 15 meters had 20 contacts on CW. The operation also had 36 phone contacts on 6 meters, and 14 on 2 meter phone, and 13 on 70cm phone. The GOTA station had 19 contacts on phone. Thanks to **Fred Costello KF4FC**, and the entire Field Day committee for putting on a successful and fun operation again this year!

UPCOMING PUBLIC SERVICE

HELP NEEDED: August 4 – Mountain Mama Bike Ride

The 2018 Mountain Mama Road Bike Challenge is scheduled to take place on Saturday, August 4th in beautiful Highland County, Virginia. The yearly event features 2 States, 3 Counties, 9 mountains, 105 miles, and over 10,000 feet of climb. The challenge features 4 courses of different ability levels, they include a 27-mile, 53-mile, 67-mile, and 100 mile rides. Mountain Mama features six (6) fully stocked rest stops every 15-20 miles along the routes. Ham radio volunteers provide communications support throughout the ride. Volunteers receive a moisture wicking event tee shirt, pre-ride breakfast, and post-ride meal.

Ham operators are needed to gather at the Highland County Public School (yes, there's only one!) in Monterey, Virginia, at 7:00 a.m. August 4, to be assigned locations and tactical callsigns. Any help you can offer, even only an hour or two, would be greatly appreciated. Please note that Monterey is approximately one hour drive west of Staunton on US Route 250.

You will need a 25– to 50-watt mobile radio with outside antenna for this ride. Most of the route is on mountainous terrain in the fringe coverage areas of the repeaters. Please pre-program the following frequencies into your radio before arriving:

- 147.180 (offset +0.600 MHz), PL tone of 100.7 Hz
- 147.345 (offset +0.600 MHz), no tone required

Talk-in Saturday morning on 147.180 repeater.

If you can help with this ride, please, PLEASE, contact Butch Washer N5SMQ at n5smqw4@gmail.com or Jerry WD4ITN at WD4ITN@yahoo.com, if you have not already responded. Give them your shirt size along with the times you can help.

VE Examination Session – August 11 (*Yes it's public service too!*)

Our next test session will be August 11 at the Woodmen Life Building, 3045 John Wayland Highway, Dayton, Virginia. The sessions start promptly at 9:00 a.m. Accredited Volunteer Examiners are always appreciated.

UPCOMING PUBLIC SERVICE

Shenandoah 100 Bike Race – September 2

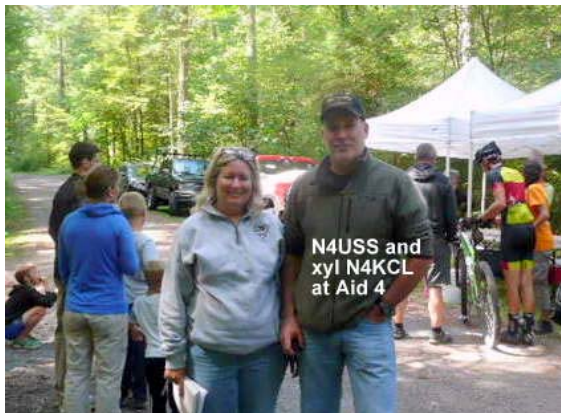
Stokesville Campground (site of our FD) will be hosting the Shenandoah 100 mile bike race on September 2, 2018. Bike riders and event leadership will once again be counting on ham radio communications for swift accurate relay of any emergency needs during this one day event.

Medical personnel will once again accompany one of our ham radio operators for quick dispatch where needed. Ham radio operators will also be stationed with rescue squad vehicles for swift response. Others will be stationed at remote sites on the course. Ham radio provides a crucial aspect of the activity as cell phone service is spotty at best and non-existent in many places on the course.



Last year we were much more organized than in the past and event leadership certainly noticed and appreciated our radio group's ability to cover the course effectively. Several riders stopped by the net control station and conveyed their appreciation for the service we provided.

Please be reminded that our rental of the Stokesville Campground for our Field Day activity is a direct result of the service we provide on this one special weekend. Last year the campground management



N4USS and
xyl N4KCL
at Aid 4

was approached by other groups who wanted to rent the entire site for the same weekend as our FD activity. Because of the valuable efficient and effective communications we have been providing for several years at this bike race, they declined those rental requests and kept it reserved for our FD.

Please consider helping with this activity September 2nd so that we can maintain our good relationship with the campground.

You will need a 25 watt or more 2 meter radio with a good mobile antenna. We do try to keep travel miles to a minimum but some driving on dirt roads may be required.

Email John n3glz@comcast.net or Jeff w4pjm@arrl.net, or call John 540-451-0184, or Jeff at 540 294-0976 if you can help all or even part of the day.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Another Public Service Event – September 8

Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 8. The Valley Veterans Ride for Heroes raises money to help offset the costs to families of disabled American Veterans. Since the ride encompasses a huge part of Augusta and Rockingham counties, hams provide SAG support and communications.

Advance Notice for October Public Service Events

Mark your calendars for these additional important public service events!

OCTOBER 5-7: The famous valley Triple-Play

- October 5-7: Grindstone 100 Public Service Event
- October 6-7: Northern Virginia Trail Riders Shenandoah 500 Public Service Event
- October 7: Camp Still Meadows Horse Ride Public Service Event

OCTOBER 19-21: Fall Foliage Bike Festival Public Service Event

New Digital Repeater on the Air from Bear Den Mountain

Kevin, KC8MTV, reminds everyone of the new Yaesu Fusion repeater on the air from Bear Den Mountain east of Waynesboro. This repeater has great coverage both in the central Shenandoah Valley and on the Charlottesville side of the Blue Ridge. It is using a 2-meter Diamond X30A antenna at 25 watts presently. The frequency is 145.290 MHz, offset is down 600 kHz, PL of 131.8. The repeater is currently in AUTO mode, so you can work it with analog FM transceivers, or digitally using a Yaesu fusion-capable (C4FM) radio. Signal reports are always welcome .

145.130 Repeater Antenna On Order – One More Crewman Wanted

The long-awaited upgrade to the K4MRA 145.130 repeater is now proceeding. The antenna is now on order, and project manager Mark Hensley, N4YSA, is assembling the crew for installation. While the work can proceed with the existing volunteers, one more tower crewman would make the work go much faster. Scheduling is flexible. Thanks to **Mark N4YSA, Larry K3JRR, David KD9LA, Bob N1QEQ, and Mike KJ4KWD** for volunteering to help. If you can help, contact David at kd9la@arrl.net.

HF CONTEST LOCAL RESULTS

North America QSO Party RTTY Contest

Contratulations to **Jim Clymer, WS6X**, for a claimed score of 72,480 points in the NAQP contest. **Fred Castello KF4FC** scored 35,400 points. **Jeff Rinehart W4PJW** scored 29,321 points. **Sandy Mullins K4PZC** scored just under 10,000 points, thanks to Murphy's Law being in high gear at his station. **David Tanks AD4TJ** scored 1,530 points, making more contacts on 15m than on 20m (surprise). These five stations made up the Shenandoah Valley Wireless club operation for this contest. **Butch Washer N5SMQ** also worked the contest, working forty contacts, but did not report a score.

2018 ARRL DX Phone Contest Final Scores

Congratulations to **John Keller, W4ZAO**, local contester extraordinaire, for placing first in Virginia, first in Roanoke Division, first in the fourth call area, 6th in the United States, 9th in North America, and 11th in the world, in the ARRL 2018 ARRL DX phone contest, in the Single Operator Assisted Low Power category, scoring 288,120 points.

David Fordham, KD9LA, placed 1st in Virginia, 5th in the Roanoke Division, and 7th in the 4th call area, in the Single Operator Unassisted Low Power category.

Clint Campbell, KB4OLM, placed second in Virginia, sixth in the Roanoke Division, and 9th in the fourth call area.

Paul Wyse, W4PFM, also participated in this contest, and other may have, but did not submit reports to the Monitor.

2017 CQ WPX Contest Final Scores

Congratulations to **John Keller W4ZAO** placed 1st in Virginia, 1st in the 4th call area, 3rd in the United States, and 6th in North America. In the Single Operator Low Power All-Bands Assisted category of this contest.

David Fordham, KD9LA, placed 1st in Virginia, 1st in the 4th call area, 4th in the United States, and 7th in North America in last Fall's CQ WPX contest in the Low Power Single-Element/Tribander category, and 1st in Virginia, 1st in the 4th call area, 6th in the United States, and 10th in North America in the Single Operator Low Power All-Bands Assisted category,

FOR SALE

Rare Russian CW Paddle with built-in Keyer

Paddle was manufactured in early 1900's. Sometimes called "C W Siberia". It had a non-lambic built-in keyer but I (cleverly, I might add) replaced it with a PK-4 keyer with solid-state relay so that it can handle grid-block keying. Selling for \$80 if purchased locally. More information available on request. Contact Howard Zehr, email zehrj2@gmail.com



Kent dual paddle, with original box and custom plexiglass cover. \$100

Contact Howard Zehr, email zehrj2@gmail.com



Icom IC-735 HF Rig (plus parts rig)



I have a fully functioning Icom 735 as well as a parts rig that is complete but somewhat disassembled. Includes power cable and HM-12 mic. I also have original Icom operation and service manuals for the rig.

I bought the parts rig originally because it included the keyer unit as well as cw filter. That's mostly why the rig is somewhat disassembled. Parts radio was mostly

operational but had vfo issues. PA delivered 100+ watts etc. The keyer and filter would have ultimately ended up in my first 735. But I've another Icom hf rig (756) on it's way back from being repaired so don't need this one. (pair actually)

It's advertised on QRZ for \$400 shipped. Here I'm asking \$350. If it doesn't go this week I plan to take it to Berryville this Sunday.

Wayne Bowyer email: wayne.bowyer@gmail.com

FOR SALE

μBitX HF Transceiver

μBitx SSB/CW transceiver from <http://www.hfsignals.com>. This is a 10W rig that comes in semi-kit form, intended to be configured and hacked by users. There is a very active user group sharing ideas for it. (There was an article about the rig in QST recently.)



This one is put together and in a nice case with built-in speaker. All cables to front and back panels have connectors for easy removal. I have added an internal BCI filter, updated the audio amp IC and made the sidetone volume adjustable. A muting circuit has been added to eliminate audio pop when switching between receive and transmit (this was a notorious problem with the rig). The latest KD8CED firmware – v1.8 – is installed and provides lots of features including CAT communication and the ability to add a low-cost SDR. The display is the original LCD but there are various ways to substitute a touch-screen display. (See ubitx.net for user information on this.)

I have only used this on cw. A mic comes with it, and the output shows modulation on SSB, but from the discussion on the group, it may need a mic preamp to get full power output. I have not tried it on the air with SSB. Selling this to move on to new projects. \$100

Howard Zehr, email zehrhj2@gmail.com

QRO 2500X HF Amplifier with Spare Tubes

The QRO 2500DX is a legal limit amplifier with low drive requirements (typically around 35 w for full output). The amp is in very nice condition - no dents or scratches and has never been used for contesting. Tubes are in good condition. A spare set of NOS GU74b/4CX800A tubes is included. I used the spares for about a month to be sure they were good, and then removed them and stored them. The 2500DX uses vacuum relays for full QSK. This is a very heavy well-built amp. See the eHam reviews. Reason for selling - bought SPE solid state amp. Price is \$2000 firm, cash. Watt meter not included. NO SHIPPING. Location is Harrisonburg, VA. Richard Wilkins, KR4V email rl_wilkins@comcast.net



FOR SALE

ClearSpeech External DSP Speaker (Audio) Amplifier: \$100

Speaker Amplifier with ClearSpeech® Adaptive DSP Noise Reduction for Voice and CW 58407-949. Asking \$100.00. These units are currently selling for \$189.96 at HRO. With original box, cables. This DSP is for signal processing for noise reduction, not narrowing filter width. Tested by factory. \$100.00



Howard Zehr, email zehrj2@gmail.com

SteppIR 20-6 Dipole with Controller – Brand New for \$800

New in box. Won at Hamvention in May. Not going to use it.

Current model, list price \$1059. Selling for \$800.

More information at: <https://www.steppir.com/shop/horizontal-antennas/20m-6m-dipole/>

Tom Benson wa4esi@gmail.com

Heathkit SB-220 Linear Amplifier with spare set of tubes: \$650

Good condition, with extra pair of 3-500z. Pulled from service last year, wired for 220v, no manual but tons of reference material online. Selling for \$650 Tom Benson wa4esi@gmail.com



Icom IC-707 HF Rig: \$275

Icom IC-707 HF rig Good condition, 100w to QRP, 160-10. General coverage and Mars mod. Fully CI-V computer compatible. This was the predecessor to the 718, basically the same radio without the keypad. With icom hand mike and power cord. Manual on-line. If you want a good, basic HF rig to use, this is it. Selling for \$275

Tom Benson wa4esi@gmail.com



FOR SALE

DX Engineering DXE-MBV 43-foot Multi-band Vertical HF Antenna

DX Engineering 43 ft. vertical with **tilt-over base** for easy installation. Includes a "**radial ring**" for connection of any number of radials, and a **metal shelf for mounting an automatic antenna tuner** (not included). Antenna is **partially assembled** into 3 sections. Excellent quality throughout. With installation **manual**. Will deliver up to 75 miles.

This antenna is currently selling for \$437 at DX Engineering. **Asking \$100.** Jay Suter, W4QDC.
Phone: 540-810-7750. Email: suterjm@comcast.net.

Short-Wave Items

Grundig AN200 indoor Loop antenna for Short Wave listening. In original box. Knob is loose off of tuning shaft but works fine. **Asking \$30.00**

Sony ICF-2010 Short Wave and aircraft receiver. All new batteries, with 120 volt power supply, original accessories and manual. In original box. Looks and works great. **Asking \$ 150.00**

Radio Shack 278-758 Short Wave antenna Kit. New in zip lock bag with instructions. **Asking \$ 10.00.**

Gordon Batey, WA4FJC
gpbatey@compuserve.com
cell 540-280-0572



UPCOMING HAMFESTS

Roakoke (Salem) Hamfest – August 4

Doors open at 8:00 a.m., hamfest ends at 3:00 p.m. At the Vinton Moose Lodge Family Center, 2127 East Washington Avenue, Vinton, Virginia, 24179. FREE ADMISSION. This is a nice tiny hamfest made up primarily of tail-gaters from the southwestern Virginia area. Best of all, it's free,

Berryville Hamfest – August 5

68th Annual Berryville Hamfest & Computer/Electronics Show, Sunday, August 5, 2018, Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds, 890 W. Main Street, Berryville, Virginia 22611.

Gate opens at 6:00 a.m. Vendor buildings open at 8:00 a.m.

Large tailgating area with ample shade under huge oak trees.

Electric power is available for testing purposes at various places within the tailgating area.

Admission is a \$10.00 donation per person, children under 16 are free.

Additional \$10.00 per space for tailgaters – no reservations, first come first served.

Ruritan park rules: No pets, no porn, no weapons.

VE Exams administered by the Laurel Amateur Radio Club VE team at Cooley Elementary School (across the street from the hamfest. Bring a picture ID (and your existing license if you are upgrading). Walk-ins are welcome, all three classes of test will be available. Testing begins at 12 noon.

Country ham and egg breakfast starting at 7:00 a.m., Ruritan's famous chicken and beef barbecue starting at 11:00 a.m. Additional concessions and snack bar available.

This is a great hamfest. Last year, they admitted 1500 people, had 239 tailgaters, and 24 vendors.

This year, vendors include Quicksilver, RW Antennat Store, Satellite HDQ, KJI, EZ-Hang, DebCo, dBj Radio, and more. The ARRL will have a booth this year, as will ARES/RACES of Virginia.

Virginia Beach Hamfest – September 8

.2018 Virginia Beach Hamfest, September 8, at the Virginia Beach Convention Center, 1000 19th Street, Virginia Beach, VA 23451.

General Admission 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Admission: \$9.00 per person advance, \$10.00 at the door.

Note that the Talk-In frequency has been changed. The new Talk-in is 146.895, PL tone 141.3 Hz.

On-line tickets available via Pay-Pal, information at: <http://virginiabeachhamfest.com/ticket-info/>

CLUB MEETING MINUTES

PVARC Secretary's Report – July 12, 2018 Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Secretary **Gary Fischer K6OZ** at 7:09 PM at Tactical Walls in Shenandoah. (Thanks to **Tim KM4TGC** and **Carrie KM4WDX** for the donation of the use of the facility!)

4 members were in attendance and the meeting was held outdoors on a beautiful summer evening.

The Secretary's report was approved and the Treasurer's report was deferred.

Old Business:

Committee reports:

Field Day: **Dave K4DPF** reported the Field Day score was 2308 QSO points and 1170 bonus points which is a little bit higher than our lowest score year of 3444 points in 2009. A discussion of this year's event included comments that Everyone Had Fun, the new pavilion site was much better, FT8 was a no show, and we accomplished getting most of the equipment into our new trailer! All in all, another great Field Day.

Website: **Dave K4DPF** reported that some Field Day information disappeared but will be recovered.

Gary K6OZ will look into getting a survey for club meeting time and date accomplished

New Business:

Discussion of the need for a new club computer. **Dave K4DPF** will drop off the existing computer to **Will N4WIL** for evaluation.

Discussion of the possibility of a club station. Location possibilities include Tactical Walls, a local school, and the new trailer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM having been thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted by **Gary Fischer K6OZ**, PVARC Secretary

MARA Secretary's Report – July 5, 2018 Meeting

General Meeting called to order at Wood Grill, Harrisonburg, by President **Gerald Nauman (KN4FM)** at 7:30 P.M. There were 23 members and 5 guests present. Introductions were made all around.

New Member Vote: none

New Member First Reading: Bob Hume (W4TMV)

The Secretary's Minutes: June report approved.

The Treasurer's Report: Foster Farone's (WF4O) June report approved as read by Gerald. Foster was unable to attend.

Committee Reports:

ARES: Bryan Daniels (K4RMY): We will have a **new DEC** soon, as the present DEC is advancing to Regional EC. **ARES changes** are coming from ARRL, including a requirement that EC's attend classes for levels 1, 2, or 3. Bryan says this is being resisted to convince ARRL that ARES will lose all its EC candidates, unless they can get some form of provisional status. **Another change** will require all new and present ARES members to sign/resign up through ARRL, which then moves their credentials down to the local chapters.

Repeater Committee: David Fordham (KD9LA): The Massanutten Peak tower is waiting on the county for antenna work. The 145.130 repeater is operating from a pipe attached to the building pending resolution of the tower issue.

VE Committee: Gayle Shull (KU4XN): The next regular test session will be at 9:00 A.M., Aug. 11, at Woodmen Life, 3045 John Wayland Hwy (Rt 42) in Dayton.

Public Service Committee: Ellsworth Neff (K4LXG): The Bridgewater Lawn Party will be held Friday and Saturday, July 21-22. Volunteers will provide communications from several posts around town, 2 per post, on each evening. Friday event starts at 6:00 P.M.; Saturday starts at 5:00 P.M. Volunteers should appear at Town Hall P.D. 45 minutes earlier, to avoid being caught as streets are being closed to traffic. (Ed. Note: Bring charged HT's for simplex 2m operation. Primary freq. 146.550, backup freq. 146.490.)

Old Business: Andrew Pearson (N4RCE) Field Day went "very well". 990 CW Contacts, about 1900 SSB, about 50 VHF (6m), and a number of digital contacts. **Herb Slade (AA2BF)** asked if all documentation for bonus points have been forwarded to **Sandy Mullins (K4PZC)**. We were informed that Sandy has submitted our MARA/VARA FD entry to ARRL.

New Business: David Collins (N4WDC): The **Washington Area Trail Rides** event will be on the same weekend (Oct. 6-7) as the **Grindstone 100** and the **Still Meadows Horse Ride** this year. He requested that MARA commit to **support the Trail Rides event**. It was moved, seconded and approved. Herb's motion to table the motion to give time to consider the number of volunteers needed failed.

(continued)

MARA Secretary's Report – July 5, 2018 Meeting (continued)

Announcements:

David Collins N4WDC.: The 13 Colonies ops can be worked anytime for credit.

Ken Anderson (K4JQT) needs help to transport to his Grottos home, a tower and other ham items he has received as gifts from NOVA.

Next meeting is Aug. 2, 2018.

50/50 Drawing: Bob Dixon W8HGH won \$12.50 of the \$25.00 collected. He contributed his share to the MARA Treasury. **Thank you, Bob!**

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Program: Jim Lehman (W4POL) gave a presentation of the history of ARRL, from the days of rotary spark in 1916 forward, from Hiram Percy Maxim's (1AW) proposal of a backbone of relay stations that could pass messages across the continent. Hence the name, "American Radio Relay League". In those early days, the trunk lines were manned by hams who were knowledgeable about best practices of operation and traffic handling, not to mention their reliability at all times. Jim's handout showed the early routes between east and west coasts, and north and south, and alternate connections for times when propagation or unavailability of an operator required a detour.

Respectfully submitted,
Herb Slade (AA2BF), Secretary

MARA Treasurer's Report – June 21, 2018 to July 20, 2018

Opening Balance	Opening Balance		\$ 1,214.32
Income:	Memberships	\$ 36.00	
	50/50 – July Meeting	\$ 25.00	
	Total Income:		\$ 61.00
Expenses:	Electric	\$ 20.69	
	Stokesville Campgnd (Field Day)	\$ 250.00	
	Total Expenses:		\$ 270.69
Balance July 20, 2018	Balance July 20, 2018		\$ 1,004.63

Submitted by Foster Farone WF4O
MARA Treasurer

VARA Secretary's Report – July 3, 2018 Meeting

At 7:00 pm the meeting was brought to order by Vice President **Bennie Cook N4BBC** for President **David Fordham KD9LA** who was away. There were **25 members and guests were in attendance**. The usual introductions were made. The 50/50 drawing for \$12.00 was won by **John Glover KN4ILI**.

The secretary's report was voted on and accepted as printed in the newsletter.

The treasurer's report was given by **Greg Czerniak W4GRC**: read, seconded and accepted.

2 members were voted in: **John Glover KN4ILI**, and **Erika Kancler K4NOV**(formerly **KN4MQE**; she requested her dad's old call). Welcome! We had gotten word that **Gordon McConnel W4/M3ZTO** who had submitted an application, had gotten a job transfer out of the area, so would not be joining the club.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARES: David Tanks AD4TJ, EC: the next net will be July 12, the second Thursday of the month as usual. The net will be held on the **146.850** repeater; Net Control to be determined.

Field Day Committee report: Fred Castello KF4FC, reported that we seemed to have done well this year.

VARA Asset Distribution committee, consisting of **Greg Czereaniak W4GRC**, **Wayne Bowyer N4EYZ**, and **Jeff Rinehart W4PJW**, have completed the inventory. They do need the serial numbers off of the radios that the club owns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ellsworth Neff K4LXG, reported that the Bridgewater Lawn Party Parade is Friday July 20th and Saturday July 21st, and that he is needing volunteers to help out.

Hamfests: David AD4TJ, told us that the Berryville Hamfest is August 5 (always the first Sunday in August), and the Roanoke/Vinton hamfest is the first Saturday of August (the 4th this year).

Contests/Special Events: David AD4TJ brought us up-to-date on those Thanks to **Ray Colvin KE4HVR** for reminding us of the 13 Colonies Special Event this week.

Bennie N4BCC mentioned that David Fordham said that there will be a program next month.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
David AD4TJ, VARA Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 2018

August 2: MARA Club Meeting

August 4: Roanoke (Vinton, Salem) Hamfest

August 4-5: North American QSO Party CW

August 4-5: Mountain Mama Public Service Event (Monterey, Virginia)

August 3-5: 10-10 International Summer Contest SSB

August 5: Berryville Hamfest

August 5: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)

August 6: Rockingham County ARES Net (146.550 simplex)

August 7: VARA Club Meeting

August 9: Augusta County ARES Net (146.850 PL 131.8)

August 9: PVARC Club Meeting

August 11: VE Exams

August 12: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)

August 13: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 PL 131.8)

August 17-19: North American QSO Party SSB

August 17-19: International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

August 19: ARRL Rookie Roundup RTTY

August 19: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)

August 20: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 PL 131.8)

August 25-26: Hawaii QSO Party

August 26: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)

August 27: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 PL 131.8)

SEPTEMBER 2018

September 1-2: Shelby (NC) Hamfest

September 2: Page County ARES Net (146.550 simplex)

September 2: Shenandoah 100 – Bike Race Public Service Event

September 3: Rockingham County ARES Net (146.550 simplex)

September 4: VARA Club Meeting

September 6: MARA Club Meeting

September 8: North American Sprint CW

September 8: Virginia Beach Hamfest

September 8: Valley Veterans Ride for Heroes – Public Service Event

September 8-9: ARRL September VHF QSO Party

September 9: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)

September 10: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 PL 131.8)

September 13: Augusta County ARES Net (146.850 PL 131.8)

September 13: PVARC Club Meeting

September 15: Annual VARA Family Picnic at Gypsy Hill Park

September 16: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)

September 15: North American Sprint RTTY

September 17: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 PL 131.8)

September 22-23: CQ WW DX Contest RTTY Weekend

September 23: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)

September 24: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 PL 131.8)



MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.

President: Gerald Nauman, KN4FM
Vice President: David Fordham, KD9LA
Secretary: Herb Slade, AA2BF
Treasurer: Foster Farone, WF4O
Board (exp 2018): Rick Adams
Board (exp 2019): 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: David Fordham, KD9LA
Vice President: Benny Cook, N4BCC
Secretary: David Tanks, AD4TJ
Treasurer: Greg Czerniak, W4GRC
Board Member (exp. 2018): John Keller, W4ZAO
Board Member (exp 2019): Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW

<http://w4xd.com>

VARA meets the first Tuesday of each month
at the Hometown Grill and Buffet
off Richmond Rad 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:

VARA
PO Box 2103.
Staunton, VA 24402

PAGE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

President: Will Baukhages, N4WIL
Vice President: Gene Frazier, KJ4HFO
Secretary: Gary Fischer, K6OZ
Treasurer: Carrie Matter, KM4WDX
Board Member (exp 2018): Tim Matter, KM4TGC
Board Member (exp 2019): Dave Firestone, K4DPF

<http://www.k4pmh.org>

PVARC meets the first Friday of each month:
even-numbered months at Tactical Walls,
611 Williams Avenue in Shenandoah, Virginia

The meeting begins at 7:00 pm

Visitors are always welcome.

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

PVARC
PO Box 245
Luray VA 22835-0245

The Monitor is published monthly
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.

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.

The clubs derive their revenue from memberships.
The Monitor is not made regularly available on a
timely basis to individuals who are not club members,
but occasional complimentary current copies are
provided to prospective members free of charge.

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.

Editor: David Fordham, KD9LA,
email: kd9la@arrl.net or fordhadr@jmu.edu