

February  
2009

# The Monitor

*Published for Members of Participating Ham Radio Clubs in Virginia's Central Shenandoah Valley*

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## **VARA Club Meeting: February 2 at Lynn's Pancake House in Waynesboro**

The Valley Amateur Radio Association's January meeting will be held February 2 at Lynn's Pancake House in Waynesboro, on US 250, west of town. Dinner begins around 6:00 pm, and the business meeting begins at 7:00 pm. Visitors are welcome.

## **MARA Club Meeting: February 4 at Wood Grill Buffet in Harrisonburg**

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its February meeting on Thursday, February 4. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm at the Wood Grill Buffet on Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg. After a short business meeting at 7:30, the group will disperse to the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Radio Site on Tower Street for a behind-the-scenes tour of the new radio equipment buildings, antennas, towers, power supply equipment, etc. led by Captain Jim Junkins. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to see something that most citizens will never be able to see in person. All hams and guests are invited.

## **PVARC Club Meeting: February 5 at Page Memorial Hospital in Luray**

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular monthly meeting on Friday, February 5, in the "Day Room" meeting room in the back of Page Memorial Hospital. No meal, but come and enjoy the fun and fellowship as this new ham club makes plans to grow bigtime!

### **Last Call for Dues!**

#### **(You'll Be Missing The Monitor Next Month If You Don't Renew!)**

If you have already paid your club dues for 2009, well, forget this reminder.

**But if you haven't, this is a notice that *this Monitor* will be the *last* you will receive for a while.**

After the February meeting, the club treasurers send a list of members who have paid their 2009 dues. That list will be used as the mailing list (both email and hardcopy) starting with the March 2009 issue.

## PVARC Joins the Monitor Family

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club has been formally organized, and is meeting at 6:00 pm on the first Friday night of each month at the Page Memorial Hospital in Luray.

Welcome to PVARC hams. The club formally voted to join the MARA and VARA clubs in helping publish the monthly Monitor.

More clubs means more hams. With more hams contributing news stories, announcements, and other material about amateur radio in the Shenandoah Valley, the Monitor will be even more useful.



## 2009 FROSTFEST SATURDAY – FEBRUARY 7

As announced in last month's Monitor, the Richmond Frostfest is scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2009, at the Richmond Raceway. This is the same place it was last year. Check out their website for details:

<http://www.Frostfest.com>



### N1QEQ: Ride Needed to Frostfest

Bob Steere, N1QEQ is looking to share a ride to the Frostfest. If you are planning to go and have a spare seat in your vehicle, give Bob a call at 540-442-1470



## Apologies to K3EC

Due to an oversight, Hugh Pettis, K3EC, was accidentally overlooked when we recognized those Volunteer Examiners who assisted with the December VE testing session. Sorry about that Hugh!



## Next VE Testing Session: February 14

The next amateur radio test session for those wishing to obtain a new license or to upgrade will be on **Saturday, February 14** at **9:00 AM** at the Woodman of the World building on Rt. 42 in Dayton.

**The fee for 2009 is \$15.00** for the first test and as many additional tests as you wish to take as long as you pass the preceding test.

An additional \$15.00 is required if you retake a failed test. You also need to bring a photo ID, and the ORIGINAL and a COPY of your existing license if you have a license. We will not be able to make copies at the test location.

If anyone needs additional information, feel free to call me at 540-434-0859 after 6 pm.

Gerald, KN4FM

## KD4FKT: Valley FoxHunt Report

On Sunday afternoon, January 25, at 2:00pm the wily old fox (N4JGO Bob) started broadcasting so all three hunters could try to find him.

The first to find him (in a little over an hour) was W4PQK Jess Hancock. Second on the scene was KI4FZV Gary Van Fossen.

These gentlemen probably were using hand held direction finding antennas. They beat the team of N4IRT Brian Fitzgerald, N4ZFQ Colin Hester, and KD4FKT Joe Meek which were using a sophisticated doppler arrangement and computer enhancement.! Ain't technology wonderful?

The winners not only beat the hi-tech guru's — they stomped them real bad ... **as we never did find the fox!**

But in spite of our lack of expertise we still had fun. Hopefully Jess, who will be the next fox, will set a date soon to do another hunt and we will have many more hunters come out.

Submitted by Joe Meek, KD4FKT



W4PQK: First Place Winner



## VARA Jackets

The Valley Amateur Radio Club is arranging for club jackets to be embroidered with the club logo and the members' callsign.

Here are some photos of the finished jacket, along with a close-up of the logo.

Below are the prices, including the embroidery.

Come to the February club meeting for more information.



### VARA JACKET PRICES

	<b>S</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>XL</b>	<b>2XL</b>	<b>3XL</b>	<b>4XL</b>	<b>5XL</b>
JACKET		\$27.98			29.98	30.98	31.98	32.98
BACK EMBROIDERY		<u>5.00</u>			<u>5.00</u>	<u>5.00</u>	<u>5.00</u>	<u>5.00</u>
SUB TOTAL		32.98			34.98	35.98	36.98	37.98
TAX		<u>1.65</u>			<u>1.75</u>	<u>1.80</u>	<u>1.85</u>	<u>1.90</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$34.63</b>			<b>36.73</b>	<b>37.78</b>	<b>38.83</b>	<b>39.88</b>

## Want Your News Even Faster? Sign up for the Valley Hams Group!



Fred Evans, N4KYM, has taken the initiative to start a Ham Radio List Server for the hams in the Shenandoah Valley.

For those who may not be familiar with the concept of a List Server:

A list server is like a “remailer”. A ham operator who has “subscribed” to the list can send an email to the list server’s email address. The list server will then forward a copy of that email to everyone else who has subscribed to the list! It’s kinda like a repeater on the Internet.

In this case, the listserver is a “Group” on GoogleGroups.

Fred emphasizes: this is NOT a club sponsored project. This is open to ALL hams in the valley, regardless of which club you belong to, or even if you don’t belong to a club. There is no charge for subscribing or sending or receiving messages.

Sure, it results in more email in your in-box. But hopefully, it will be email that you WANT in your in-box.

So far, with almost 50 hams signed, there have been no more than a handful of emails sent and received. But Fred notes: this tool might really come in handy one day. It’s a great way to keep in touch with other hams and get announcements out without having to wait on the Monitor. Plus, the listserve messages go to all subscribers, including many local hams who are not club members and do not get the Monitor.

This listserver is NOT for sending jokes, forwarding political messages, or any other non-ham type of messages. Subscribers who abuse the list will be removed. However, the list invites all legit ham radio emails: requests for information on a ham subject, announcements of ham events, requests for help, inquiries, almost anything related to ham radio in the Valley!

What’s more, anyone who has subscribed can Unsubscribe any time they wish, simply by sending an unsubscribe email to the list server.

Right now, Fred is handling the signing-up of hams who are interested. Most of the VARA club has subscribed, as have many MARA members, too. ANY ham in the valley is welcome and invited!



Check out the list and see what’s been posted so far: Go to:

<http://groups.Google.com/group/valleyhams>

From that page you can send Fred a request to subscribe. Remember, it’s free, and you can unsubscribe at any time if you later change your mind.

## Monday Night Rockingham County ARES Net Control Stations

The net meets every Monday at 8:00 pm local time on 147.225, except the first Monday of the month when it can be found on 146.550 simplex.

The 147.225 repeaters requires PL tone 131.8

February 2: Bryan Daniels K4RMY

February 9: Norman Benner KA4EEN

February 16: Gerald Nauman KN4FM

February 23: Gerry Brunk K4RBZ

March 2: Ray Ritchie K4NRA

March 9: Hugh Pettis K3EC

March 16: Paul Helmuth N4VVJ

March 23: Fred Evans N4KYM

March 30: Norman Benner KA4EEN

April 6: Bryan Daniels K4RMY

April 13: Gerald Nauman KN4FM

April 20: Gayle Shull KU4XN

April 27: Paul Helmuth N4VVJ

May 4: Ray Ritchie K4NRA

May 11: David Fordham KD9LA

May 18: James McDowell IV NN4JM

May 25: E.C. Showalter KG4KUR

## ARES-RACES OF VIRGINIA Website

The Virginia ARES and RACES combined website is up and available at: <http://aresracesofva.org>

That website has more information about the proposed legislation on the facing page.

The proposed law is especially ironic since the state requires hams to have radio transmitters in their cars at all times, but then proposes a law that will prohibits them from using them unless they pull over and stop to transmit!

Get busy and write your representative today!

## Augusta County ARES Net: Second Thursday Night at 8:00 pm

The Augusta County ARES net meets once each month on the second Thursday evening at 8:00 pm on the 146.850 repeater.

This machine requires PL of 131.8 Hz.

The next net is scheduled for **February 12**.



## Page County ARES Net: Every Sunday Night at 8:00 pm

The Page County ARES Net meets every Sunday night at 8:00 pm local time, on the 146.670 repeater. This machine requires PL of 114.8.

## Legislative Alert: Proposed Bill in Virginia Legislature Calls for Mandatory Hands-Free Communication Devices in All Cars – But Does Not Exempt Hams!

Our SGL, Marty Mait, AG4DN, has alerted us about two bills that have been submitted to the legislature concerning the use of telecommunication devices while operating motor vehicles. These bills are currently in committee. Please see below or go to our website at [www.aresracesofva.org](http://www.aresracesofva.org).

Carl Clements, W4CAC  
ARRL Virginia Section Manager

### Proposed Bill Calls for Hands-Free Devices in Vehicles

Written by Joe Safranek, K4JJS, Section PIC  
Monday, 19 January 2009 14:58

A bill submitted to the Virginia legislature by Rosalyn R. Dance, House District 63, Southern Chesterfield, Petersburg and part of Northern Dinwiddie, calls for the use of hands-free devices with "mobile telephone or other wireless electronic telecommunications devices" but does not specifically mention two-way radio equipment (ham, CB, FRS, etc.) although it could be interpreted to include them.

**The bill does not exempt amateur radio operation from the proposed new law. Members are encouraged to contact their delegates and specifically request an exemption for amateur radio be added to this bill whether or not your local delegate is a member of this committee.**

This is the bill as posted on the official Commonwealth website.

HOUSE BILL NO. 1769, Offered January 14, 2009

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 46.2-1078.1, relating to use of wireless telecommunications devices while operating a motor vehicle.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 46.2-1078.1 as follows:

&sect; 46.2-1078.1. Restricted use of mobile telephone and other wireless electronic telecommunications devices.

No person shall use a mobile telephone or other wireless electronic telecommunications device while operating a moving motor vehicle on any public highway in the Com-

monwealth unless such mobile telephone or other wireless electronic telecommunications device is equipped with a hands-free accessory.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to the following:

1. Emergency use of a mobile telephone, including calls to 911 or a hospital, an ambulance or other emergency medical services provider, a fire department, or a law-enforcement agency;
2. Use of a mobile telephone by law-enforcement and emergency personnel or by a driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, acting within the scope of official duties; or
3. Initiating or terminating a telephone call, or turning the telephone on or off.

+++++ end of bill as written +++++

Another bill introduced by Delegate A.T. Howell (D, 90th District, parts of Chesapeake, Norfolk and Virginia Beach), is House Bill 1659, which also contains loose wording referring to telecommunication devices being prohibited from use while driving except in an emergency. This bill (number 1659) also does not exempt amateur radio operation from the proposed new law.

**ARRL Members are urged to contact their delegates and specifically request an exemption for amateur radio be added to this bill.**

The list of all delegates and their phone numbers, both in their district and in the capital, can be found at

<http://dela.state.va.us/dela/MemBios.nsf/MWebsiteTL?OpenView>

ARRL Virginia Section  
Section Manager: Carl A. Clements, W4CAC  
[w4cac@arrl.org](mailto:w4cac@arrl.org)



## KI4MSJ: News from the Front Lines in Iraq

I just wanted to let everyone know that all is going well here in Iraq. I am working with the communications people to get a mast set up for antennas. My footlocker just arrived and I am trying to sort things out and work out operating frequencies and bands. Once my dipole is set up, I will be watching the gray line in hopes to make contacts back home. Sorry I missed the Christmas meeting. I hope you all had a good time.

Thank You for keeping me in mind,

Scott A. Martin(KI4MSJ, YI9MSJ)  
 Fire Fighter/Emergency Medical Technician  
 Augusta County Fire and Rescue  
 Military Police/Combat Life Saver  
 266 th MP Co. Det 1  
 3rd Plt/C Team Leader



## Dan Beidler KE4JSX: Some Good News

I had my follow-up MRI last week (to see if the Gamma Radiation treatment of last summer helped). I don't know any detail other than the "good news" comment from Dr. Vance. That's enough for now. Thanks for all of the prayers and concern - it's a good feeling to hope that the pituitary tumor might be controlled for a good (hopefully LONG) while. Whew. Hope all are doing well with your individual challenges. — - Dan, KE4JSX

## W4POL: Still Wigglin'

Good news through the grapevine about Jim Lehman, W4POL. He has completed his chemo and his legs seem to be doing a bit better.



## A Gentle Reminder from KB4WPE: Valentine's Day is Still on February 14

Be sure you mark your calendar and do something special for that someone special

## MARA President's Message

I was very pleased that we had forty (yep, 40!) people at our January meeting. Big turnouts like this make for some fun meetings. Let's keep up the momentum!

As reported at the January meeting, I have pasted some stickers inside a batch of old QST and CQ magazines, and am leaving them around town in doctor's waiting rooms, dentists' waiting rooms, and RMH's waiting rooms. If you have some recent (since 2005) QST's or CQ's you want to get rid of, bring them to the meeting and I'll take them off your hands and get them in front of the public!

The stickers give the meeting times and location, and also contact information in case someone who picks up the magazine is interested in learning more about ham radio.

Plus, you never know when the magazine is going to be picked up by someone who is already a ham living in the valley but might be unaware of the existence of our club.

My next task is to get the cable TV company and TV and radio stations to run announcements of our meetings on their community calendars. I've been meaning to do this, but have really been busy lately. (as always!)

I want to thank Capt. Junkins for the tour of the EOC last month. I'm looking forward to "part 2" at the actual radio transmitter site.

Those of you at the club meeting remember that I was taking lots of pictures. Well, when I got home to take the pictures off the camera card and put them on my computer, I discovered that I had the memory card locked, and not one, not ONE single picture had been saved!

And my camera hadn't given me the first inkling that anything was wrong!

Ain't technology wonderful?

I'd also like to extend a big welcome to the Luray hams. The new club there has less than a dozen members at the moment, but seems to be ready to grow. Lest anyone think that the clubs are competing, let me quickly point out that all but two of the Luray club members are hams who aren't able or don't have the time to come all the way to Harrisonburg for a club meeting. Dave Firestone and myself are members of both clubs, but we're the only ones who've been active in MARA. The more active hams we have in the area, the better it will be for all of us!

Speaking of members: don't forget to renew your dues!

While you are writing a check for your club dues, please keep in mind those wonderful hams who purchase, operate, and maintain our local repeaters. It's a thankless job that takes bucketloads of money. If you talk on one or more of the repeaters on a regular basis (or even only occasionally), consider writing a small donation check to help with the upkeep of an expensive piece of equipment that gives all of us a lot of pleasure, fun, and utility.

And one final note: On the next page, you will find a list of repeaters that used to be workable from the valley. Can you take a few minutes and see which ones you can still bring up, and drop me an email letting me know which ones are still around and which ones have disappeared? I don't have the time to drive from Edinburg to Greenville checking, so if you could help update this list, I would greatly appreciate it!

See you at the club meeting!

David Fordham, KD9LA  
MARA President



## Help!! Request for Repeater Information

Does anyone know which repeaters are still on the air and can be worked from the Valley?

Does anyone know what the PL tone is for the local repeaters?

These questions are asked frequently, and so far, the answer has been, No, and No.

FREQUENCY	LOCATION	CTCSS
145.110	Dunmore (Pocahontas County WV)	
145.130	Massanutten Peak, Harrisonburg	88.8
145.190	Moorefield WV	118.8
145.210	Linden VA (North of Luray)	131.8
145.285	Zions Crossroads, N of Charlottesville	
145.330	Farmville, S of Charlottesville	
145.410	Madison VA	100.0
145.470	Stuarts Draff OFF THE AIR?	
145.490	Amherst, N of Lynchburg	136.5
146.625	Big Mountain, E of New Market VA	131.8
146.670	Luray, VA	114.8
146.685	Amherst, N of Lynchburg	100.0
146.700	Staunton OFF THE AIR?	
146.730	Frederick MD	
146.745	Berkeley Springs WV	123.0
146.760	Charlottesville	151.4
146.790	Fairfax	
146.805	Covington, W of Lexington	118.8
146.820	Winchester VA	
146.850	Hermitage, N of Waynesboro VA	131.8
146.895	Bucks Elbow Mtn, E of Waynesboro	151.4
146.910	Vienna VA	
146.925	Charlottesville VA	151.4
146.985	Roanoke VA	
147.045	Elliots Knob, W of Staunton	131.8
147.060	Frederick MD	
147.075	Bear Den Mtn, E of Waynesboro	
147.090	Spruce Flats, WV	131.8
147.120	Culpeper VA	
147.165	Warrenton VA	
147.180	Monterey VA w of Staunton	
147.225	Lairds Knob, NE of Harrisonburg	131.8
147.240	Woodbridge VA	107.2
147.285	Spruce Knob, WV Hamtalk Link	103.5
147.300	Bluemont, N of Front Royal VA	146.2
147.315	Harrisonburg OFF THE AIR?	
147.330	Rockbridge, E of Buena Vista VA	
147.345	Franklin WV	
147.360	Stuarts Draff OFF THE AIR?	

The lists to the left and below are NOT accurate, but may serve as a starting point.

If you know which information here is out of date, please send an email to me at: [fordhadr@jmu.edu](mailto:fordhadr@jmu.edu) or phone 540-568-3024.



FREQUENCY	LOCATION	CTCSS
224.300	Elliots Knob, W of Staunton	131.8
224.320	Bucks Elbow Mtn, E of W'boro	131.8
224.680	Hermitage, N of Waynesboro	131.8
224.760	Charlottesville	
224.800	Somewhere in WV?	
FREQUENCY	LOCATION	CTCSS
443.150	Lairds Knob, NE of Harrisonburg	131.8
443.250	Madison VA	107.2
444.050	Off the Air in Stuarts Draff?	
444.100	Elliots Knob, W of Staunton	131.8
444.150	Rocky Mount, E of Buena Vista	
444.250	Charlottesville	151.4
444.400	Madison (Hamtalk Link)	103.5
444.600	Harrisonburg? Off the Air?	
444.825	Hermitage, N of Waynesboro	131.8

## Net Schedule by KE4HVR (Cut This Page Out and Keep It Handy!)

<b>DAYS</b>	<b>NETS</b>	<b>TIMES</b>	<b>FREQ.</b>
Every EVENING	VIRGINIA FONE NET	4:00 & 7:30pm	3.947
Every DAY	805 RAGCHEWERS NET	8:00pm	146.805
SUN – FRI	MINUS-2 NET	10:00pm	146.850
SATURDAY	MINUS-2 NET	10:00pm	147.045
1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> MONDAY'S	Old Dominion Emergency Net	6:30pm	3.947
Last WEDNESDAY	Old Dominion Emergency Net	8:45pm	3.947
April – Sept. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed.	Old Dominion Emergency Net	6:30pm	7.243
Oct. – Mar. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed.	Old Dominion Emergency Net	8:45pm	1.900
Every SUNDAY	PAGE Co. ARES	8:00pm	146.670
1 <sup>st</sup> MONDAY	ROCKINGHAM Co. ARES	8:00pm Simplex	146.550
Other MONDAY'S	ROCKINGHAM Co. ARES	8:00pm	147.225
Every TUESDAY	BEDFORD NET	7:00pm	146.685
Every TUESDAY	SKYLINE REGIONAL NET	9:00pm	147.330
1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> WEDNESDAY	HIGHLAND Co. ARES	8:30pm	147.180
2 <sup>nd</sup> THURSDAY	AUGUSTA Co. ARES	8:00pm	146.850
4 <sup>th</sup> THURSDAY	TRIPPLE NICKLE NET	8:30pm Simplex	147.555
Each THURSDAY	PIEDMONT EMERGENCY NET	8:00pm	146.760
Every FRIDAY	AUGUSTA Co. 10M NET	8:30pm USB	28.490
Every SATURDAY	VIRGINIA 6M NET	9:00pm	53.010
Every SUNDAY	W4CUL NET	7:30pm	147.120

VSBN Daily at 1800 LSB on 3947.0 kHz

VN Daily at 1900 on 3578,5 kHz (NTS connection via 4RN).

VDN Mon - Fri at 1915 on 3578.5 kHz (or 1900 kHz) on CHIP-64 USB audio 1300 Hz.

VLN Daily at 2200 LSB on 3947.0 kHz

BY: RAY COLVIN KE4HVR Staunton, VA  
Updated: 3/27/2008

## Waynesboro Repeater Association Held Its Annual Meeting December 3, 2008

The Waynesboro Repeater Association of Virginia held its annual meeting on Tuesday, December 3, 2008 in meeting room A of the Waynesboro library. The following officers were elected for 2009:

President	Frank Green KE4ASC
Vice President	John Lasher N3GLZ
Sectary/Treasurer	Gordon Batey WA4FJC

The association owns and operates the 147.075 wide-area coverage repeater located on Bear Den Mountain above Waynesboro.

Copies of the meeting minutes are available from Gordon Batey, W4FJC

The association web site is <http://www.qsl.net/wrav>

## VARA Website Fixed and Updated

Fred reports that the VARA website is back up and updated, and ready to roll!

<http://www.qsl.net/w4xd/>



## For Sale: Military Surveillance Receiver

Military Surveillance receiver for sale, 4 bands 30mhz-1000mhz with spectrum display, works good, rack mount, made by ACL who was purchased by WJ. This cost the govt a pile of money in it's day. Includes a copy of the manual \$225 Staunton Dave KJ4JX 540 292 8864



## Needed: 2m Antenna and Desk Mike

I am in need of a 2-meter vertical antenna, and an HF desk mike for Kenwood, but preferably not an MC-50. Bill Jannisch, KD7JDM, Staunton, email [kd7jdm@comcast.net](mailto:kd7jdm@comcast.net)

## W1AW Winter Operating Schedule

Time	Mode	Days
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWf	Tue, Thu
2100 UTC (4 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
2200 " (5 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
2300 " (6 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0000 " (7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 " "	CWf	Tue, Thu
0100 " (8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
0200 " (9 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0245 " (9:45 PM EST)	VOICE	Daily
0300 " (10 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 " "	CWs	Tue, Thu
0400 " (11 PM EST)	CWb	Daily



### Frequencies (MHz)

**CW: 1.8175 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675 28.0675 147.555**  
**RTTY: 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095 147.555**  
**VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390 28.590 147.555**

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM

CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM

CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

RTTY = Teleprinter Bulletins = BAUDOT (45.45 baud) and AMTOR-FEC (100 Baud).

ASCII (110 Baud) is sent only as time allows.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Teleprinter at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 100 in the January 2009 issue of QST or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html>.

## W4PJW in Texas: If the Bands Are Dead, My Radio Doesn't Know it!

Many of you know that my brother Roger N4KQH and I took a ten day trip down to Corpus Christie Texas to do some home repair/maintenance work for our two sisters Melanie and Becky K8ESS.

I sent out a schedule via email to several of you whom I thought might be interested in making contact with us as we traveled along. The schedule included times for contacts on 60, 40 and 20 meters. I had never worked 60 meters before and was quite anxious to see how it would be. Neil WA4KKL modified my Icom 706 so that it would work on 60 meters and encouraged me to give it a try.



Since we would be traveling over the New Year's holiday, I expected to make some good contacts as most folks were home and could play radio. I was not disappointed. We left on Tuesday afternoon and the schedules started on Wednesday Dec. 31 at 9 and 10 am. We had spent the night near Knoxville, Tn and made first contact on 40 meters with KD9LA WA4FJC WA0TPN/M in Indiana, K4RBZ KZ1A and WA4KKL – all with good signals on 40 meters.

I did not keep perfect notes of the contacts but nevertheless the plan was to make contact on 40 meters for 10 minutes and then move to 60 meters and in some cases move on to 20 meters. We found the bands to be very good with my received signals in the S9 to +10 region for most of the stations regardless of the band used. At the 10am schedule on Wednesday we had a very nice contact on 60 meters with WA0TPN/M and WA4KKL.

We spent the second night just north of New Orleans, La. and on Thursday, the schedules continued. At 9am

we were just getting on the road on I-10 just north of New Orleans. My records don't show any contacts on 40 but I noted good signals on 60 from WA0TPN/M WA4KKL and K4DJG. The 10am schedule was when we were going around Houston and I don't have notes for any of that. The next schedule I have notes for was 2pm. By this time we were close to Victoria Tx and I noted contacts with K8KMM from Brandywine and K1DB.

I know that I missed writing down some of you who contacted us and I apologize for that. I know that somewhere in there we had contact with N4ZFQ and KE4HVR but I failed to write them down. On the way back home we worked some others including KC4HYO W4QDC K4DJG and others. My apologies if I failed to write your call down or remember the contact. WA4KKL was very faithful in meeting the schedules and was especially interested in seeing how things worked on 60 meters.

Now just a few words about some other details. Many of you know that I recently purchased a used truck. I spent a lot of time installing radios and antennas on the truck. I installed the 706 and an Icom 2720 dual bander under the back seat with the remote heads mounted into openings in the dash of the truck. I also mounted an old 2 meter rig under the seat for the APRS Tiny Tracker 3. It was neat having Patsy K4PJJ call me on the phone and insisting that we should slow down a bit. She tracked us pretty faithfully over the internet.

The truck worked well. It is a ¾ ton crew cab with a 6.6 Duramax Diesel and Allison transmission. This is the first pickup truck I have ever owned and the first diesel too. We pulled my utility trailer and hauled back a truck and trailer loaded with my grandmother's antique dining room suite. I was anxious to check the mileage and was not unhappy with the 18.2 mpg over the 3,200 mi. trip.

Rumor has it that the ham bands are pretty useless and nearly dead. Apparently my mobile setup hasn't heard about it yet.

We spent a few days around Corpus doing projects with no radio contacts made or planned – we were busy. The return trip started about noon on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Radio contacts were pretty sparse on Wednesday but by Thursday, we were leaving Texarcana, TX. The bands were working ok but the skip wasn't right for us at 9am and we had to have relays from Mid Cars Net Control to let folks know where we were. I remember that K8KMM was there and maybe others.

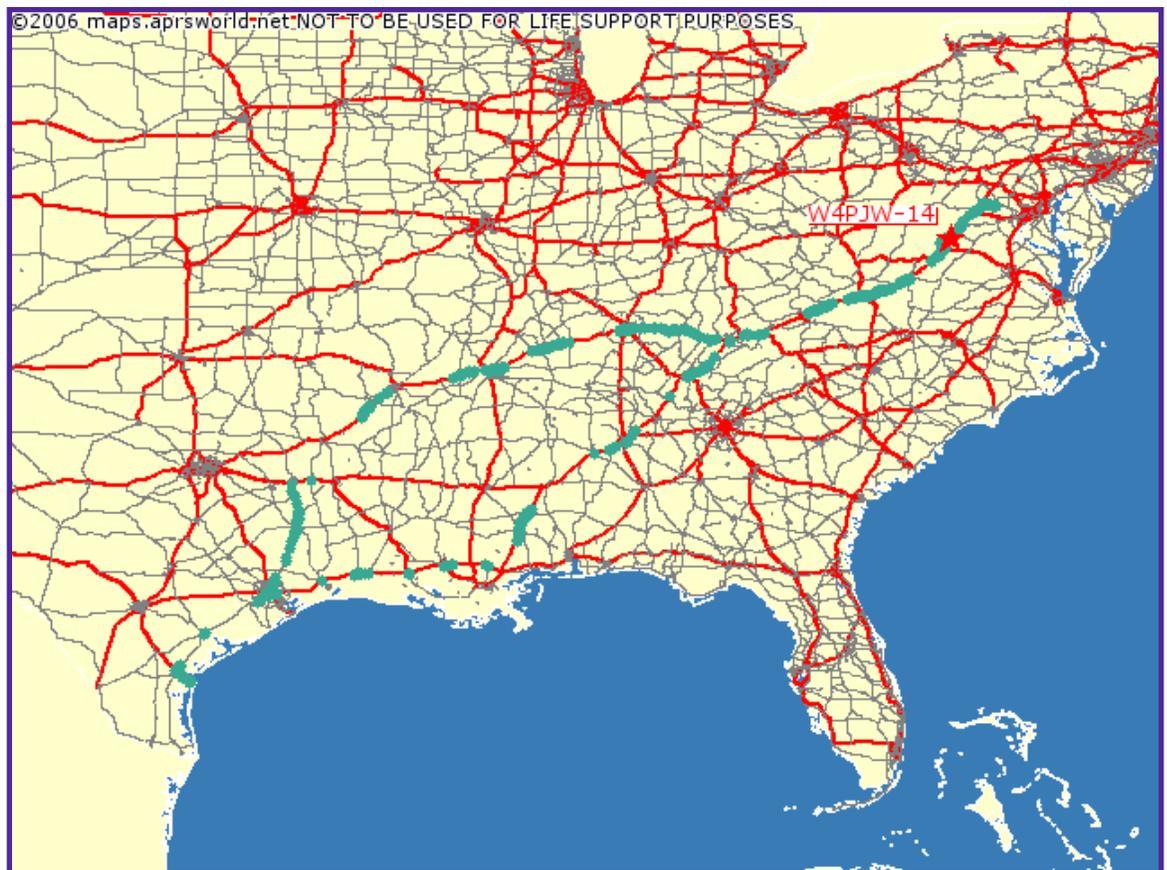


Above: the dashboard layout of the truck. Notice the control heads of the both radios fit nicely on the dash. Remoting kits are the greatest thing since the invention of the microphone.

Above right: On the way back from the Lone Star State. Notice the price of gas!

Right: A track of our route, as captured by the Internet by "listening" to our GPS location beacon via packet APRS.

Picture on facing page: A fillup in Churchville before departing. Notice the trailer of deck supplies.



Thanks to KG400N for printing and mailing the Monitor each month!

## MARA Secretary's Report – January 8 Meeting

There were 33 members and 7 guests present at the January 8 MARA monthly meeting. Introductions made all around

### 1. Reports:

New Members: 1st reading: K2HYD Ray

a. Secretary's minutes as printed in the Monitor, moved, seconded and approved.

b. Treasurer's report – Current balance of \$2,685.37 which includes dues paid in December.

### c. Groups

#### ARES/RACES -

There has been a change to the state web site - <http://www.aresracesofva.org>. You must register on that site if you want to join. Bryan will be sent a confirmation notice of your registration. If you are interested in joining ARES/RACES and would like additional information, contact Bryan at K4RNY@comcast.net

#### VEC-Session -

The next VE session will be on February 14<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am at the Woodmen of the World building in Dayton.

### d. Public Service- no report

### 2. Announcements:

February Meeting Program - Rockingham/ Harrisonburg ECC radio new 800MHz service.

March Meeting Program- home brew month

April Meeting Program - Video on antennas

May Meeting Program - Green Bank NRAO and possibly a Saturday NRAO facility tour

Frostfest, Richmond Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Ellsworth K4LXG is thinking about opening an HRO outlet and repairs shop and is interested in getting feedback from the club members.

### 3. Old Business: none

### 4. New Business:

Dave KD9LA has a number of old QST magazines to distribute to doctors offices, etc. He suggested that we put new labels on the magazines with note "if interested in Amateur radio contact....." along with information about the monthly MARA meetings and contact information (name and phone number). Gerry K4RBZ

agreed to be a contact along with Dave.

It was suggested that we use the WHSV and WSVA community calendar for advertising our monthly meeting.

Also, It's time to start thinking about the 2009 Field Day!

5. New Call or Upgrades: New General licenses Fred KJ4INF and Daryl KJ4DNY.

Motion to adjourn, seconded and approved.

50/50 Won by Mike KG400N \$13.00

Members of the club travelled individually to the Harrisonburg-Rockingham County Emergency Operations Center on North Main Street for a one-hour behind-the-scenes tour of the new EOC center conducted by Captain Jim Junkins, Director of the EOC. The tour included visits to the actual 911 operating positions as well as the equipment room containing the communications equipment.

Submitted by  
Sheryl Tonini. KJ4DOC  
MARA Secretary

*February 14*



## VARA Secretary's Report – January 6 Meeting

The **VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION** met at Lynn's in Waynesboro January 6, 2009. The President, Scott Newlen KI4QQZ, opened the meeting at 7:00pm. There were 21 members present and 1 guest Bob Johnson KJ4BXQ.

After a round of introductions the Treasurer and Secretary Reports were read and accepted by the club.

**50/50** was won by Greg Czerniak W4GRC, Greg had said just minutes before the drawing that he has never won a 50/50 drawing. He had to take his words back, then he gave it back to the club. Congratulations to Greg!

**New Application:** Bob Johnson KJ4BXQ

The Club voted to give Dan Hale KC8TEN \$150.00 to help him get some of the essential items that is need at this time.

Dan is working with his insurance company getting a list of items and prices, which is expected to continue for two months or more. Dan and his wife are staying with their daughter in Staunton at this time.

**MEETING PLACE:** The club met at Lynn's in Waynesboro for our January meeting and made a decision to have our club meeting place there month by month for a while and see how it goes. This is a buffet with 2 meats, veggies, salad, drink and a dessert for \$10.88 including gratuity and use of the room.

**CLUB APPAREL:** The club members voted to purchase royal blue windbreakers with white lettering. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS and the club logo on the back and Valley Amateur Radio Association and our callsign on the front. The price of the windbreaker and all lettering is \$27.98 + tax. Doug Tippett N8ESW will need the members to sign up and pay for the windbreakers at our February meeting so he can place the order. There will be a sign up sheet at the meeting.

**Augusta Co. ARES NET:** David Tanks AD4TJ is looking for Net Controls for the Augusta County ARES Net. The Net will be held on the 146.850 repeater on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 8:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm.

VARA SECRETARY  
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

## VARA Notes of Interest to Members

**Club Dues** are due January 1, 2009 so lets get them in soon so you will not be taken off the mailing list for the Monitor. If they are not in by March 1, 2009 you will be taken off the list.

**AUGUSTA CO. ARES NET:** David Tanks AD4TJ is looking for Net Controls for the Augusta County ARES Net. The Net will be held on the 146.850 repeater on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 8:00pm.

**PROGRAMS NEEDED:** Al Bonck N3JB, our 2008 Program Chairman, is looking for anyone that would like to do a program for the club. It does not have to be HAM related, It can be anything you think the group would find interesting. Al's e-Mail address is: [margeal@ntelos.net](mailto:margeal@ntelos.net)

### ON THE SICK LIST:

**Denny Morland N4XPW** has been in bed for some time now and is still on oxygen. Shirley said he is not doing well.

**Lonnie's (N4WIV)** father is in a Rehab Center in Florida after his second leg was amputated.

**Dan Hale KC8TEN** and his family lost their double wide trailer and everything in it from a fire. Dan was in the hospital from burns received from the fire and they are now living with their daughter in Staunton.

**Let's keep Denny, Dan and Lonnie's Dad in our thoughts and prayers.**

**SWAP SHOP This is for Ham related items only.** You can send a list of items you have for sale, swap or something you would like to buy, to Fred Evans at: [n4kym@yahoo.com](mailto:n4kym@yahoo.com) Also a picture of the item would help it sell. Go to the VARA Web Site at: <http://www.qsl.net/w4xd/> **PLEASE notify Fred when your item sells so he can remove it from the list.**

**E-MAIL ADDRESSES: Keep your e-mail address up to date.** Please send them to:

Scott Newlen KI4QQZ [we4newlens@comcast.net](mailto:we4newlens@comcast.net), Doug Tippett N8ESW [dtippett@ntelos.net](mailto:dtippett@ntelos.net),

Ray Colvin KE4HVR [colvingr@comcast.net](mailto:colvingr@comcast.net) and David Fordham KD9LA [fordhadr@jmu.edu](mailto:fordhadr@jmu.edu).

**ALSO,** keep QRZ updated when call signs and e-mail addresses are changed.

**Tour of Duty:** Scott Martin KI4MSJ was deployed on December 20th for a tour of duty in Iraq. Let's all keep him in our prayers. He also plans to set up a ham radio station there and already has his Iraqi call sign YI9MSJ. Hopefully some of us in the valley will be able to make a contact with him while he is there.

## 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) \_\_\_\_\_

The club newsletter, the Monitor, is available free of charge monthly to all members of both clubs via email distribution, in PDF format. If you are unable to open PDF files, you can elect to receive the newsletter via printed copy, by U.S. mail, but are informed that printed copies are often delayed by the postal service, and sometimes arrive damaged by the automated postal equipment.

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

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

PVARC members: contact Sparky Terry at PO Box 649, Luray, VA 22635

## Reminder: Put Your Radio In Your Car

Last month's Monitor contains an article reminding hams that Virginia law requires that, IF you have Amateur Radio license plates on your vehicle, you **MUST** have a **working** amateur radio **permanently installed** in that vehicle, capable of receiving and **transmitting** on the amateur radio bands.

A 2-meter VHF or 440 UHF rig will do nicely.

The radio must be permanently **INSTALLED** in the vehicle. You cannot carry an HT around with you and be in compliance.

Here's a suggestion: Once you get the radio installed in the car... **TURN IT ON** and give a call once in a while! That way, we'll all have more fun!



**MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.**

President: David R.Fordham, KD9LA  
 Vice President: Gerry Brunk, K4RBZ  
 Secretary: Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC  
 Treasurer: Sandy Mullins, K4PZC  
 Board (exp 08): Ray Ritchie K4NRA  
 Board (exp 09): Bryan Daniels, K4RMY

<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: Scott Newlen, K14QQZ  
 Vice President: Gordon Batey, WA4FJC  
 Secretary: Ray Colvin, KE4HVR  
 Treasurer: Doug Tippett, N8ESW  
 Program Manager: Al Bonck N3JB

<http://www.qsl.net/w4xd>

VARA meets the first Tuesday of each month  
 at Lynn's Pancake House on Rt 250  
 west of Waynesboro, Virginia.

Dinner begins at 6:00 pm,  
 the business meeting begins 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: Mark Hensley N4YSA  
 Vice President: Dave Firestone, K4DPF  
 Secretary/Treasurer: Mike "Sparky" Terry, KD4KL  
 Board Member: Morgan Phenix K4RHD  
 Board Member: : Robert Forrest KJ4HFU

**Website to be announced**

PVARC meets the first Friday of each month  
 in the Day Room of  
 Page Memorial Hospital in Luray, Virginia.

The business meeting begins at 6:00 pm

**Visitors are welcome.**

Dues (\$15 per year) should be mailed to:

Sparky Terry  
 PO Box 649  
 Luray VA 22835-0649

The Monitor is published monthly by MARA, Inc.  
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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  
 several 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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# MARA/VARA

c/o David Fordham  
131 Wayside Drive  
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

Phone: 540-568-3024  
Email: fordhadr@jmu.edu

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## Return Service Requested

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## Calendar of Events

February 1: Page County ARES Net (146.67)  
February 2: Rockingham County AREA Net (146.55 Simplex)  
February 3: VARA Club Meeting: Waynesboro  
February 5: MARA Club Meeting: Harrisonburg  
February 6: PVARC Club Meeting: Luray  
February 7: Richmond Frostfest  
February 8: Page County ARES Net (146.67)  
February 9: Rockingham County AREA Net (147.225)  
February 12: Augusta County ARES Net (146.850)  
February 14: VE Exams in Dayton VA  
February 14: Valentine's Day (take your honey out!)  
February 14-15: CQ WPX RTTY Contest  
February 15: Page County ARES Net (146.67)  
February 16: Rockingham County AREA Net (147.225)  
February 22: Vienna (Annandale) WInterfest  
February 21-22: ARRL International DX Contest  
February 22: Page County ARES Net  
February 23: Rockingham County AREA Net (147.225)

