

March
2009

The Monitor

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

VARA Club Meeting: March 3 at Lynn's Pancake House in Waynesboro

The Valley Amateur Radio Association's March meeting will be held March 3 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: March 5 at Wood Grill Buffet in Harrisonburg

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its March meeting on Thursday, March 5. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm at the Wood Grill Buffet on Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg. A program will follow on antenna design and RF antenna propagation.



PVARC Club Meeting: March 6 at Page Memorial Hospital in Luray

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular monthly meeting on Friday, March 6, in the "Day Room" meeting room in the back of Page Memorial Hospital. No meal, but come and enjoy the fun and fellowship

Homebrew Night and Trader's Fest Coming Up April 2 (at the APRIL MARA Meeting!)

You've got just over one month left to finish up that homebrew project you've been working on!

The April meeting of MARA will feature our annual homebrew Show-N-Tell meeting.

The April meeting will also feature a "trader's table", so clean out your shack while you're at it! Remember, this is the APRIL meeting, not the MARCH meeting!

Congratulations to Clint KB4OLM & Benny N4BCC – CQ 160m Contest

Congratulations are in order for Clint Campbell, KB4OLM, who took FIRST PLACE in the state of Virginia, and also First Place in the four-state Roanoke Division, in the low-power category of the 2008 CQ 160-meter phone contest. Clint scored 51,975 points, making 426 contacts.

It is interesting to note that SECOND PLACE in Virginia and the Roanoke Division in the low-power SSB category went to Benny Cook, N4BCC, who scored 27,979 points with 247 contacts. Clint and Benny both outscored every other low-power ham in the state and division.

Additionally, numerous other valley hams scored respectably in the 160m CW portion of the contest, especially considering that the sunspots are non-existent, making 160 a night-time-only band. Al Bonck N3JB scored 66,150 points with 336 contacts, Benny N4BCC scored 14,147 in the CW portion with 144 contacts, and AD4TJ had 14,147 points with 144 contacts.



Hey, Let's Crash a Party! (.... a QSO Party, that is)

Looking for some quick, easy, and clean fun? There are six (count 'em, SIX) state QSO parties coming up in March!

One of the most overlooked (and fun) opportunities on the bands is the state QSO Party. No foolin', these events can help you rack up a nice QSL card collection, and complete your Worked-All-States certificate in a jiffy, not to mention having a lot of fun in the process.

A state QSO party is just what it sounds like: an on-the-air event where stations from a particular state make a special effort to get on the air and contact stations — just for fun. They are trying to contact stations from as many other states and countries as possible. This means that they want to work YOU! They'll be seeking you out to make a contact.

Let's say you live here in Virginia. And let's say that you've made contacts with stations in 40 other states. You have not yet contacted anyone from Oregon, Montana, Maine, Alaska, North Dakota, or five other states. Well, look! The North Dakota QSO Party is coming up THIS MONTH, on March 21 and 22! That weekend is an outstanding time to get on the air, and look for a North Dakota station!

Technically, most of these are "contests", but you don't have to be a contest to participate. In fact, there is no obligation to even "enter" the contest. All you have to do is get on the air and make contacts and have fun.

The Virginia QSO party is coming up in March, too! If you want to enter the contest, the rules are found on page 14 of this issue of the Monitor. If you're in Virginia for this event, you get multiplier credit for each county and city you work, plus each state and country. This is a good time to work stations who are trying to get a Virginia contact for their Worked-All-States award. What's more, there will be a lot of "county hunters" on the air, trying to make a contact from rare Virginia counties.

For even more fun, try working a QSO party from a remote or expedition location!

Need a particular state? The entire schedule for all 50 states can be found on the web at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/stateparties.html>

Statewide Tornado Drill Scheduled for March 17



The state of Virginia will hold a STATEWIDE tornado drill on March 17. State employees, emergency responders, officials, and EVEN ALL CITIZENS are invited to participate.

For information, go to the website <http://www.vaemergency.com> and find out more.

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club is planning to participate, according to an email forwarded to all club members originating with Gene Steward, Page County Office of Emergency Management.

Keep a weather-eye out for our local ham radio emergency coordinators to give us more information at the March club meetings and on the ARES Nets.

(This is just one more reason why you should COME to the club meetings and regularly CHECK INTO the nets!)



W4PQK: Valley FoxHunt March 1

Jess reminds everyone of the Foxhunt on Sunday afternoon,
March 1, starting at 2:00 pm



Jess will be the fox this time, since he was the winner of the last hunt.

A foxhunt is an RDF (radio direction-finding) exercise where a “fox” hides a transmitter, and the hunters use the periodic transmissions from the hidden transmitter to locate and home in on its location.

Experienced hunters are encouraged to take along some new-bies and introduce them to this fun Sunday -afternoon activity!

Contact Jess at vallyhams@googlegroups.com and let him know if you're experienced or a newbie, and he'll get you matched up.

If you are house-bound and can't get out, you can still try to listen to the fox Sunday afternoon on 146.49 MHz. Jess will also periodically check in on 147.075 repeater to see how the hunters are coming. (Jess is going to hide a 15 milliwatt transmitter on 145.255 somewhere near the fox's location, for an additional challenge after the foxhunt is over!)



Field Day Committee Meeting on Last Thursday of Each Month

The 2009 Field Day Committee will be holding monthly meetings on the last Thursday of each month between now and Field Day. The first meeting will be (or rather, was), on February 26th.

The next meeting then would be scheduled for March 26.

The meetings are at the Burger King in Mt Crawford, at the intersection of route 257 and US 11, 1/2 mile west of I-81 at the Bridgewater exit.

The meeting begins around 6:00 pm. Everyone is invited to participate.

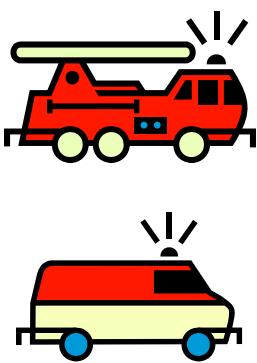
This year's Field Day consists of:

**Chris Shirkey KI4BAQ
Herb Slade AA3BF
Bob Steere N1QEQQ,
James McDowell IV NN4JM
Gordon Batey, WA4FJC
Bennie Cook, N4BCC, and
Scott Newlen KI4QQZ**



Rockingham Emergency Dispatch Frequency Still Available on UHF to Hams: 460.625 MHz

Captain Jim Junkins W4JLJ, has passed along word that the standard analog FM dispatch frequency for Rockingham County Fire and Rescue will remain active and therefore available to hams and scanner listeners — for the near-term future anyway.



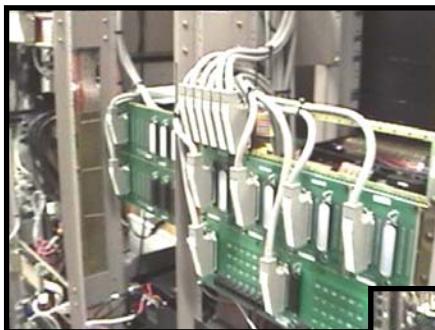
With the conversion of city and county emergency communication systems to the new encrypted digital formats, many hams were concerned that they would no longer be able to copy the dispatch signals on the extended-coverage receivers common in many of today's VHF/UHF radios.

Capt. Junkins reports that the actual dispatch of the fire and rescue services will continue to "tone out" on the analog frequency of 460.625 MHz. Once the vehicles arrive at the scene of the emergency, however, all communications will be transferred to the encrypted (Capt. Junkins prefers the term, "secure") digital channels.

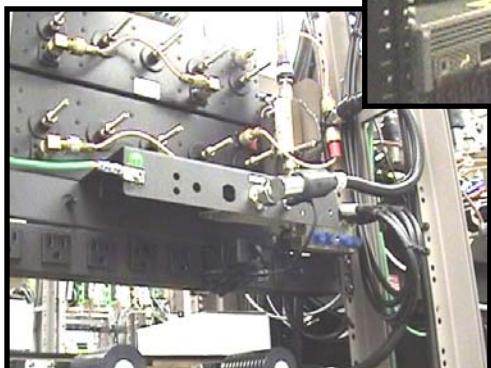
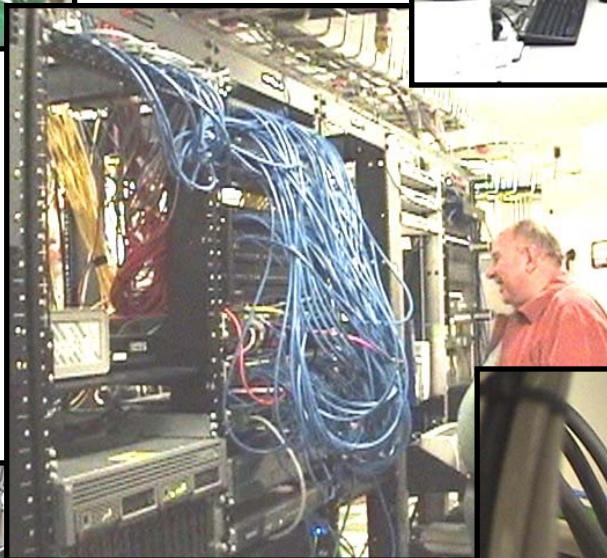
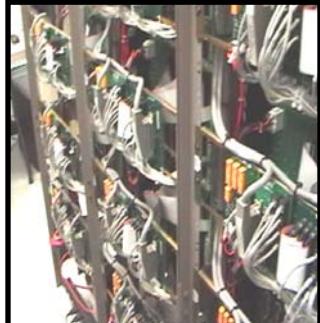
MARA Tours Harrisonburg/Rockingham Emergency Communications Facilities



Photos
Provided by
Ellsworth
Neff,
K4LXG



Thanks again to Capt Jim Junkins, W4JLJ, for arranging the tours of the EOC (January) and the Tower Street Transmission facility (Feb)



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

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



Don't Forget to Register with the ARES-RACES OF VIRGINIA Website

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

Hams must register on that website in order to be covered under the state liability insurance in the event of a call-up or emergency activation.

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 **March 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.

Highland County ARES Net: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 8:30 pm

The Highland County ARES Net meets on the 147.180 repeater.

This machine requires PL of 100.0 Hz.

N4LJF to Feature Ham Radio on Statewide AM-FM Radio Programs

The Schilling Show with Rob Schilling will feature an interview with Jeff Seay plugging amateur radio, on Friday, February 27 at 12:30 pm on WINA 1070 AM from Charlottesville.

Seay will also be the featured guest talking about ham radio on The Afternoon Get-Together on Thursday, March 5, at 4:15 pm. This program will be carried on FM stations all over the state. Listen on 100.3 FM (Waynesboro), 101.3 FM (Harrisonburg), 106.5 FM (Roanoke), 95.3 (Culpeper), and 96.7 (Charlottesville), among others.

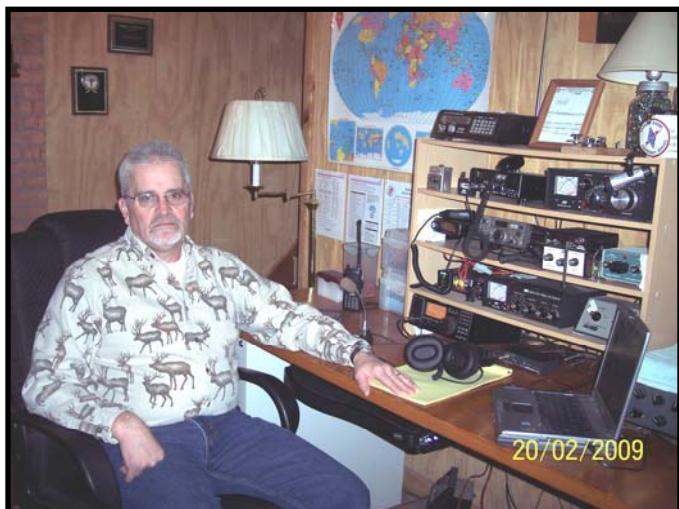
PVARC President's Message

Greetings from the newest amateur radio club in the valley: "Page Valley Amateur Radio Club" (PVARC). First I would like to thank Dave KD9LA for offering to allow PVARC to be a part of the Monitor Newsletter, which is much appreciated and gives exposure to our fledgling club that would be very difficult without Dave's help.

PVARC has big plans for the coming year, we hope to be able to have a Club sponsored Field day, and a PVARC manned radio booth at the 2009 Page County Fair. We are also working on a local level Memorandum Of Understanding with Page County Government Fire/Rescue groups and other 1st Responders. Hopefully this will be a busy year for our young club. I would like to encourage everyone to become active in some new facet of Amateur Radio. Try a new mode or band; build an antenna or QRP rig; help someone with license upgrade; or, get involved in ARES/ARRL.

Don't forget to write, call, or E-Mail your representative about HB Nos. 1659 and 1769 and any others that may come up that adversely affect all of us as Amateur radio operators. I invite all to visit a PVARC meeting, which are on the first Friday of the month at Page Memorial Hospital day room at 6:00 p.m.

73,
Mark Hensley
President, PVARC



February's VE Testing Session Report

THANKS to the Volunteer Examiners that helped with the test session on February 14. We had eight examiners and two candidates for tests. The examiners were

Ray Ritchie, K4NRA,
Bob Hume, W4TMV
Hugh Pettis, K3EC,
Richard Haxton, KC4AN
Jim Lehman, W4POL,
Mike McKay, W4AZR,
Bob VanFossen, K4DJG
Gerald Nauman, KN4FM

As always, thanks to the Woodman of the World for allowing us to use their building for our test session.

The candidates were Donald Bailey Jr., he passed the Technician test and we are looking forward to having him back in April for the General class test. Fred McDavid passed the Extra class test. Congratulations to both of you.

Gerald Nauman, KN4FM

Kudos: K4NRA Does It Again; Ham Radio in the Public Schools

Thanks to Ray Ritchie, K4NRA, for bringing ham radio into the classroom at Wilbur Pence Middle School.

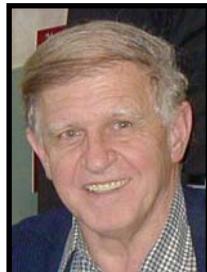
In what has become an annual event, Ray and other hams bring their rigs and antennas and set up in the classroom, giving lessons and demonstrations of ham radio's wireless communications capabilities.

After the demo, students are invited to actually come work the equipment, and make contacts. Thanks to Ray for providing this important exposure to ham radio to the youth of our community.



Page Valley Amateur Radio Club Officers for 2009

The PVARC meets monthly at the Page Memorial Hospital on the first Friday night. The officers for 2009 are: (left to right) Sparky Terry KD9KL (Secretary/Treasurer), Morgan Phenix K4RHD (Member, Board of Directors), Mark Hensley N4YSA (president), Dave Firestone K4DPF (Vice-President), and Bob Forrest KJ4HFU (member, Board of Directors).

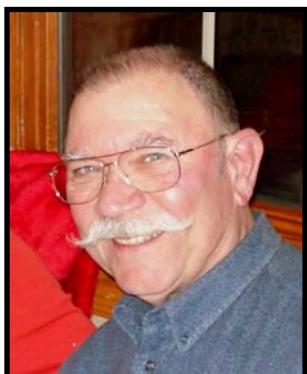


K4LXG Named to District EC Post

Ellsworth Neff K4LXG was recently named as the District Emergency Coordinator over the ARES-RACES District that covers the Central Shenandoah Valley. Congratulations, Ellsworth!

Kudos to K4DJG: Worked All States on RTTY!

Hats off to Bob Van Fossen, K4DJG, who recently worked the state of Montana on RTTY to finish up his Worked-All-States certificate on that digital mode.



Bob has been trying to complete his WAS RTTY award since enrolling in the Logbook of the World, which automatically informed him that he was almost there!

"If it hadn't been for the Logbook of the World telling me I was so close, I never would have thought twice about it," says Bob.

Montana took some work, though. Apparently, there aren't a lot of Montana stations on RTTY.

Congratulations again, Bob!



KE4ASC and K4BDR: Looking for Anyone Doing Amateur Television

Frank Green, KE4ASC, is looking for anyone doing Amateur Television. He's planning to get his station back on the air soon. If you are interested in ATV, email ke4asc@arrl.net, or leave him a packet message on 145.730 mailbox (connect to ke4asc-1). Also, Kevin Ward K4BDR, is interested in ATV and wants to hear from anyone else interested in this aspect of the hobby. Email Kevin k4bdr@yahoo.com or phone 434-531-7959.

For Sale: Yaesu FT-990 100w HF Transceiver, Built-In Tuner and Power Supply



For Sale: Yaesu FT-990, 100W all mode HF Transceiver, 10-160m, built in tuner and power supply. EXCELLENT condition. Comes with original boxes and has the filters installed. Comes with several AC power cords. Please contact James NN4JM at jmcdiv@msn.com or cwdxchaser@gmail.com . My home number is **540 234 9488**. Price is negotiable. Feel free to operate before buying.

James McDowell IV, NN4JM

Miscellaneous Materials and Equipment For Sale

250-feet of **6-conductor rotor control cable** on spool. excellent condition, \$20

360-feet of **2-conductor (red/black) 16AWG high-quality speaker cable**, BOSE #132440, gray PVC jacket type T1 CL-2, rated at 105-degrees Celsius, 300-volt, new, on spool, \$30

3-amp power rectifier diodes, 50PIV, new in blister pack, \$1 for the pair

Miniature Power supply, 120VAC input, 15-volt adjustable output, 3.4 amp, terminal block input and output, mint, \$5

Auto adapter, Lind Electronics, GA1950-651C, designed for car use with Dell/Gateway laptop computers, 11-16VDC input, 19VDC output, 5.0 amps, no cables, \$10

Auto adapter, Lind Electronics, CA13118-897B, designed for low-current misc. electronic equipment requiring regulation and low-voltage compensation, 11-16VDC input, 13VDC output, 1.8 amps, no cables, \$5

Vector Electronics, VEC-1086B, Fully automatic electronic battery charger for car and marine/RV batteries, 6-4-2 amps, reverse polarity protected, pure DC regulated output, automatically adjusts for low AC line voltage, can be used with long extension cords, out-of-adjustment generators, etc. includes cables and clamps, new in 2008, brand new, still factory sealed in original box, \$25

Astron VS-20M variable voltage variable current power supply with meters, 0-20 amps, 0-15 volts DC, 120VAC input, traditional linear power supply (not switching), mint condition, \$95

Connect Systems, Inc, CSI CS-900 Simplex autopatch inter-connect, fully programmable, includes electronic voice delay, fully-regenerated DTMF, built-in programming keyboard, digital display, CWID, toll control, 90-number speed-dial memory, in-dial capability, etc. mint in original box. (Selling new at HRO for \$499), \$250.

Connect Systems, Inc., CSI CS-800 full-duplex interconnect phone patch and repeater interface, similar features as CS-900, but for full-duplex operation. Includes repeater controller/ interface. \$275, mint, in original box.



Ameritron RCS-4 4-position remote Coax switch, use coax for power, does not require separate control cable, new, never been outdoors. 1-30 MHz, \$75.

Kenwood PB-3 batteries, NiCd battery pack for Kenwood TH-215 and TH-225 handhelds. in original boxes, never used, but purchased new in 2003 and current condition unknown. \$5 for pair as is.

Centronics parallel printer cables, assorted lengths, Free DB-25 cables, assorted lengths, free DB-25 A/B switch, free

30-feet of RG-58-type used coax cable, fair condition, free

Contact David Fordham, KD9LA, fordhadr@jmu.edu or telephone 540-568-3024 (leave message).

Official Rules: 2009 Virginia QSO Party (March 21-23)

SPONSOR

Sponsored by the Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club, Call Box 599, Sterling VA, 20167.

OBJECTIVE

To promote amateur radio activity in the 95 Virginia Counties and 39 Virginia Independent Cities.

DATES

1800 UTC on Saturday, 21 March 2009 through 0100 UTC on Monday, 23 March 2009.

ENTRY CATEGORIES

Operator Categories

Single Operator - One person performs all operating and only one transmitter may be on the air at a time

Multi Operator / Single Transmitter - Two or more operators with one transmitter on the air at one time.

Multi Operator / Multi Transmitter - Two or more operators with two or more transmitters on the air at one time.

Station Categories

Fixed Station – home stations, base stations, etc.

Mobile - Single or Multiple individuals operating Mobile under a single call sign with only one transmitter on the air at a time. A mobile station is self-contained and capable of legal motion (land, water or air) while operating. Motion is optional, and discouraged, during operation.

Expedition - One or more operators of a station that moves between two or more Virginia locations during the course of the contest. All equipment, power supplies and antennas must be transported to each operating site.

Power Categories

High (greater than 150 watts), Low (150 watts or less) and QRP (5 watts or less)

Band Categories

Multi-Band or Single Band

Mode Categories

Phone, CW, Digital, and Mixed.

Club Entry

Club - Minimum of three valid contest entries each indicating club affiliation.

VALID CONTACTS

Virginia stations work all stations. Out-of-State stations work Virginia stations only. Work fixed stations once per band/mode.

Work Virginia Expeditions and Mobiles in each Virginia County or Independent City from which they operate. Stations on County or Independent City lines count as one QSO and only one County/Independent City multiplier.

No cross-mode or repeater QSO's. Spotting nets, DX clusters, etc., may be used to locate other stations - no self-spotting permitted.

EXCHANGE

Exchange QSO number and QTH (Virginia County or Independent City for VA stations; State, Province or "DX" for others).

Virginia Mobile and Expedition Stations log QSO's by Virginia Independent City or County of operation.

Identify all QSO's with band/mode, sequential QSO number sent/received and date/time of contact in UTC.

Please follow standard contest practices by making and responding to "CQ Virginia QSO Party" calls.

Multiple Transmitter stations may maintain sequential QSO numbers independently for each transmitter.

SCORING

QSO Points:

QSO's count 1 point per Phone, 2 points per CW, 2 points per digital mode (RTTY, PSK31,etc.), and 3 points per contact made with a Virginia Mobile (Phone or CW or Digital).

Multipliers:

Multipliers are only counted once, i.e., contacting the same Virginia County, Independent City, State, Province or Country using a different band or mode counts only as a new QSO, not as a new multiplier.

Virginia Mobile, Expedition, and Fixed Stations multipliers are the total number of Virginia counties, Virginia Independent cities, U. S. States (except Virginia), Canadian Provinces, and DX entities. No extra DX multiplier for U.S. (including Alaska and Hawaii), Virginia, and Canada. Mobile and Expedition stations that contact 10 (ten) or more different stations while operating from a county or independent city may claim it as a

multiplier, if not otherwise worked.

Outside of Virginia station multipliers are the total number of Virginia Counties (95) and Independent Cities (39) worked.

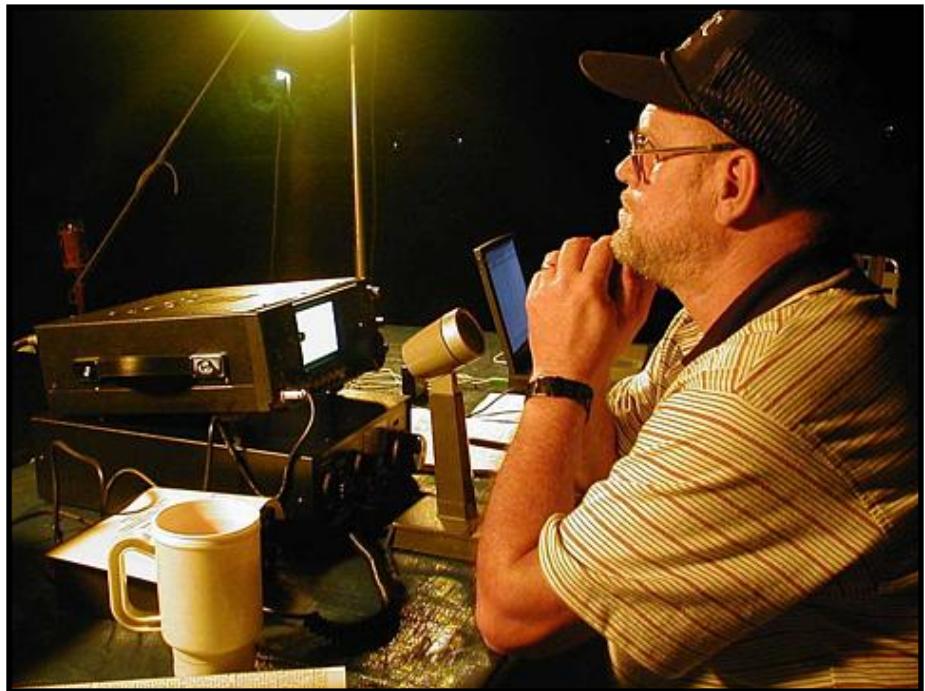
Bonus Points:

Virginia Mobile and Expedition stations receive a bonus of 100 additional points for each Virginia County/Independent City from which they log a valid QSO.

All stations add 500 bonus points for a contact with K4NVA the club station of the Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club.

Final score

Final score is the number of QSO Points multiplied by the number of Multipliers plus Bonus Points



FREQUENCIES

160 meters and up, except no WARC band QSO's permitted. Suggested frequencies:

CW – 1805 KHz and 50 KHz up from band edge on others.

PHONE – 1845, 3860, 7260, 14270, 21370 and 28370 KHz.

Novice/Tech Plus – 10 KHz up from the edge of the CW band and 28370 KHz on PHONE.

VHF – 50.130, 144.200 (CW & SSB), 146.580 and 223.50 MHz.

UHF – 446.00 MHz.

Digital contacts should use normally accepted subbands for these modes.

ENTRIES

For award purposes, Fixed, Expedition, and Mobile operation will be considered separately. Please submit separate logs for Fixed, Expedition, and Mobile operation.

Multiple operator stations should indicate all operators by call sign.

Electronic (preferred) or paper logs, summary and dupe sheets (200 or more QSO's) are required for all entries. The summary and 'dupe sheet' requirement is waived if recognized contesting software is used. Summary sheets are available at the con-

test web site.

For Club Competition purposes, be sure to indicate club name on summary sheet and log.

Submit log entries by April 15, 2009 by mail to the VA QSO Party, Call Box 599, Sterling, VA 20167 or by email to vqp@verizon.net. If you have problems, please send an email to nq4k@arrl.net.

A \$1.00 donation to help defray the costs of printing and mailing is encouraged.

AWARDS

All participants submitting a log will receive a certificate.

The Plaques to be awarded are identified on the contest web site.

INFORMATION

Additional information may be obtained by mail at VA QSO Party, Call Box 599, Sterling, VA 20167, from the SPARC website www.qsl.net/sterling, or by contacting Gordon, NQ4K, at nq4k@arrl.net.

Thanks to Mike Reno KG4OON for printing and mailing the Monitor each month!

MARA Secretary's Report – February 5 Meeting

Attendance: Members: 29 Guests: 9 Total: 38

Introductions made all around

1. Reports:

New Members: 1st reading: -- none

2nd reading: K2HYD Ray

Approved by unanimous secret ballot vote.

a. Secretary's minutes as printed in the Monitor, moved, seconded and approved with one amendment – there is a correction to the email address for Bryan (ARES/RACES section). His email is K4RMY@comcast.net.

b. Treasurer's report – Current balance of \$2,655.37 which includes a \$5.00 bank charge and \$25.00 to the Treasurer of Virginia for the Mara club charter renewal. It does not include any dues paid in January.

c. Groups

ARES/RACES -

Bryan (K4RMY) reports 31 official members. He is trying to get a place where the group can meet to review the handbook and update as needed.

VEC-Session –

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

d. Public Service- no report

2. Announcements:

March - Video on antennas

April - home brew month

May - Green Bank NRAO and Saturday tour

Frostfest, Richmond Saturday, February 7th, 2009

Fred Evans (N4KYM) of the Staunton club has started a Ham Radio List Server for hams in the Shenandoah Valley. To subscribe go to <http://groups.Google.com/group/valleyhams>. Once there, you can send Fred a request to subscribe. Check out the February Monitor (pg 5) for more information.

There are currently several bills being considered in the Virginia Legislature restricting the use of cell phones and radios while driving. Please contact your delegate and request an exemption for amateur radio be added to these bills. Information regarding the bills can be found at www.aresracesofva.org.

Ellsworth (K4LXG) has been recently appointed to serve as the new District Emergency Coordinator for District 15. Congratulations!

Old Business:

We need 3 members to serve on the Field Day Committee along with the VARA volunteers. The commitment will involve 3 – 4 Thursday evenings between now and field day. Chris (KI4BAQ), Herb (AA2BF), Bob (N1QEY) and James (NN4JM) have volunteered to represent MARA.

New Business:

The Board of Directors proposes that we restart the tradition of contributing to the major repeaters serving our area: 145.130, 147.225, 146.625 and 443.150. It has been several years since the club made any donations to support the repeaters and in the past monies received from the Bridgewater parade was used for this purpose. It was proposed that we donate \$150 to each of the four major repeaters for 2009. A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposal. Motion was approved.

5. New Call or Upgrades: --- none

Motion to adjourn, seconded and approved.

50/50: Won by Chris (KI4BAQ) and donated back to the club.

Program: Tour of the Rockingham/ Harrisonburg ECC radio new 800MHz service on Tower Street.

Submitted by
Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC,
MARA Secretary

Valley Hams Listserver Working Great! Subscribe Today!

Fred Evans, N4KYM, reports that well over 100 hams have signed up for the Valley Hams on-line email 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.

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. 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. 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.

VARA Secretary's Report – February 3 Meeting

The VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION met at Lynn's in Waynesboro February 3, 2009. The President, Scott Newlen KI4QQZ, opened the meeting at 7:00pm. There were 28 members present and 3 guests Ellsworth Neff N4LXG, Evan Wilder W1LDR and Richard Anderson.

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

50/50 was won by Tom Weyrick. Congratulations to Tom!!!

New Member: Bob Johnson KJ4BXQ, welcome to the VARA Bob.

Three New Applications: Steve Grant W4IIV, Bill Bearden KC4TQF and Richard Anderson.

BPL: The Club voted to send ARRL \$200 to fight the BPL project.

Bills in Congress: Scott KI4QQZ read some information on the bills in congress concerning mobile communications requiring hands free equipment. This is something we all need to let our legislators know our feelings and concerns.

Field Day Committee: Our 2009 field day committee of three are: Gordon Batey WA4FJC, Bennie Cook N4BCC and Scott Newlen KI4QQZ.

MEETING PLACE: The club voted to meet at Lynn's in Waynesboro for our March meeting.

This is a buffet with 3 meats, veggies, salad, drink and a dessert for \$10.88 including gratuity and use of the room.

CLUB APPAREL: Doug Tippett N8ESW will need the members to sign up and pay for the jackets as soon as possible. There was a signup sheet at the meeting tonight for this.

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 2nd Thursday of the month at 8:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:57pm.

PROGRAM: David tanks AD4TJ gave a PowerPoint presentation on Moon Bounce. He showed several arrays of antennas from some of the moon bounce operators around the country. He talked about the different polarizations used for this mode. He showed some construction details and hardware for tracking the moon using software.

Thanks to David for this program.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm.

VARA SECRETARY
Ray Colvin KE4HVR



VARA Notes of Interest to Members

Club Dues are due so lets get them in 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 2nd 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

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 doing well in a nursing home in Florida at this time after his second leg was amputated.

Dan Hale KC8TEN and his family are in a local hotel waiting for his insurance company to settle on his trailer.

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 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, Doug Tippett

N8ESW dtippett@ntelos.net,

Ray Colvin KE4HVR colvinqr@comcast.net and David Fordham

KD9LA 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.

VARA Members: Your Jackets are In!

VARA members who ordered jackets at the February meeting should plan to pick them up at the March meeting! And the treasurer says, "Bring the money!"

PVARC Secretary's Report – February 6 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.; at the Page Memorial Hospital (Luray), by President Mark Hensley N4YSA. There were nine members present. Minutes of the December 5, 2008 and January 9, 2009 meetings were read and approved. The Treasurers Report showed a balance of \$220.00, following payment of dues by WD4LYO, KG4ALT and W4GSB. The Treasurers Report was approved.

The President signed the ARRL Articles of Association, requesting that PVARC become an ARRL Affiliated Club. PVARC exceeds the minimum 51% ARRL Membership requirement with 11 of 13 voting members belonging to ARRL. The Secretary will duplicate and mail the package to the League within the next few days. The Secretary reported that he had a spread sheet listing hams in Luray, Elkton, Shenandoah and Stanley numbering 48 potential members. Others may exist outside these town jurisdictions (sorted by zip codes) which will be sent post card invitations to attend upcoming PVARC meetings.

Dave Firestone K4DPF, chairman of the Emergency Preparedness Committee reported on recent tests of the Page County EOC and the Page Memorial Hospital EOC. He discussed how he has successfully controlled one of the facilities remotely via the internet and certain technical issues yet to be resolved. Meetings are planned with town and county officials regarding a variety of issues including adequacy of present facilities, necessity of MOU's , etc. Mark Hensley noted that these activities fell under the purview of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, chaired by Dave and asked that he keep PVARC informed of continuing activities as they develop. Dave will be assisted by: Sparky KD4KL; and, Ben Endicott N4SFG, Page County ARRL Emergency Coordinator, on the MOU issue. Dave noted prior assistance provided by Mark N4YSA, Geoffrey WD4LYO, Charlie KG4ALT and Phil KQ4D.

A far ranging discussion on emergency communications followed, with particular emphasis on related training courses available through ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications courses; and, several of FEMA National Incident Management System (NIMS) online computer training courses. It was suggested that this might make a good program for a future meeting.

Concluding the Education/Training theme, following a discussion of the upcoming ARRL Field Day - Dave K4KPF, as chairman of the ARRL Field Day Subcommittee, volunteered to make a presentation on his thoughts and plans for that event at the next scheduled PVARC meeting on March 6, 2009.

Sparky KD4KL, Chairman of the Widow's Assistance Committee reported that a few small items remain in the KA4LER estate. He hopes to have them listed on the PVARC Google site soon, and may also advertise them in: The Monitor – jointly published by the VARA/MARA amateur radio clubs.

Absent a Chairman of the Membership Committee, Mark asked Charlie KG4ALT and Geoffrey WD4LYO to serve on that committee. The goal is to "grow" our club, with special emphasis on recruiting, or encouraging young people to consider amateur radio as an entree into mathematics, science and spectrum dependent communications careers.

Following the Committee Reports, Mark asked Morgan Phenix K4RHD and Bob Forrest KJ4HFU to co-chair and collaborate on an Education Outreach Program to involve young people in the school system and make recommendations at a future meeting. Morgan K4RHD currently chairs the Education/Training Committee, which includes the Volunteer Examination Subcommittee led by Phil KQ4D and the Technical Subcommittee (vacant).

Submitted by
Sparky Terry, KD4KL
PVARC Secretary/Treasurer



Happy Saint Paddy's Day.
May the Luck of the Irish be with ye
in the Contests this month!

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, KI4QQZ
 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 (\$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 amateur radio clubs in the Central Shenandoah Valley.

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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 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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MARA/VARA

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

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

Return Service Requested

Calendar of Events

March 1: Augusta County Fox Hunt Hidden Transmitter Event
March 1: Page County ARES Net (146.67)
March 1-2: North Carolina QSO Party
March 2: Rockingham County AREA Net (146.55 Simplex)
March 3: VARA Club Meeting: Waynesboro
March 4: Highland County ARES Net (147.180)
March 5: MARA Club Meeting: Harrisonburg
March 5: N4LFJ Radio Interview (see page 6 of this issue)
March 6: PVARC Club Meeting: Luray
March 7-8: ARRL International DX Contest SSB Weekend
March 8: Page County ARES Net (146.67)
March 9: Rockingham County AREA Net (147.225)
March 12: Augusta County ARES Net (146.850)
March 14-15: Idaho QSO Party
March 15-16: Wisconsin QSO Party
March 15: Page County ARES Net (146.67)
March 15: North American RTTY Sprint
March 16: Rockingham County AREA Net (147.225)
March 17: Virginia Statewide Tornado Drill practice event
March 18: Highland County ARES Net (147.180)
March 21-22: 10-10 Mobile QSO Party
March 21-22: North Dakota SO Party
March 21-22: Oklahoma QSO Party

March 21-22: Virginia QSO Party
March 21-22: Russian DX Contest
March 22: Page County ARES Net
March 22: Chesapeake VA Springfest hamfest
March 23: Rockingham County AREA Net (147.225)
March 26: Field Day Committee Meeting, BK Mt. Crawford
March 28-29: CQ WPX Worldwide Prefix Contest SSB
March 29: Page County ARES Net (146.67)
March 28-29: BARTG HF RTTY Contest
March 28-29: Baltimore Hamboree (Timonium MD)
March 30: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225)

April 2: MARA Homebrew and Trader's Night
April 11: VE Exams, Dayton Virginia
April 11: Raleigh NC Hamfest
April 18: Harrisonburg March for Babies Public Service
April 30: Field Day Committee Mtg, BK Mt Crawford

May 3: Boonsboro (Hagerstown MD) Hamfest
May 15-17: Dayton Hamvention

June 14: Manassas Hamfest
June 27-28: ARRL Field Day

August 2: Berryville Hamfest
