

April
2009

The Monitor

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

MARA Homebrew Night and Trader's Night Thursday April 2

Time is up! 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 and bring the stuff to sell!

The meeting will be held at the Wood Grill Buffet on Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg, across from the Harrisonburg Rescue Squad. Dinner starts at 6:30 pm, meeting starts at 7:30 pm

PVARC Club Meeting: Friday April 3 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

VARA Club Meeting: April 7 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.

Carl De Poy, K4PA0, SK

Carl William DePoy, K4PA0, 80, of Swoope, Va., died Friday, March 20, 2009, at Augusta Medical Center in Fishersville. Carl was active on the local ham radio repeaters back in the 1980's and 1990's, and many old-timers remember him. He was born Jan. 3, 1929, in Broadway, and was the owner of Carl's T.V. in Staunton, which he started in 1956. He had served in the U.S. Army and was an FCC First Class licensee and master electrician licensee. Carl was also into music, and had been inducted into America's Old-Time Country and Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame. He was a master fiddler, one of the most influential musicians in the Shenandoah Valley for keeping the old time music alive. He played on Old Virginia Barn Dance.

Field Day Committee Report

The Field Day Committee composed of MARA and VARA members met at the Mt Crawford Burger King on Thursday, March 26th. We reviewed and updated the item-and-responsibility spreadsheet.

We have people who have agreed to be in charge of all four of our Field Day radio stations.

Many others have stepped up and assumed responsibility for other tasks which has taken much of the load off of the committee. We are grateful.



We are still looking for someone to be in charge of the Welcome Center. That duty covers setting up the pot luck supper of Friday evening and keeping the coffee pots going. There will be plenty of help to do all of the labor of setting up the awnings, lights and providing power.

The four station trailers have all been provided for. The Natural Power/GOTA trailer will again be provided by Matthew, KD4UPL. The other three trailers are being provided by W4PJW; KI4QQZ and K4DJG.

Remember to invite any hams you know as well as any other interested people. You don't have to be ham to enjoy Field Day.

We are going to get an information packet together about Field Day and try and distribute it to all of the schools in the area as well as the Staunton and Harrisonburg newspapers. If anyone knows of other newspapers in the MARA and VARA area besides the Daily News Leader, Daily News Record, and Waynesboro News Virginian, please let us know.

For the Committee: Bob Steere, N1QEQ, Herb Slade AA2BF, Benny Cook N4BCC, James McDowell IV NN4JM, Scott Newlen KI4QQZ and Ellsworth Neff K4LXG, with help from Jeff Rinehard W4PJW and Bob Van Fossen K4DJG. I hope I haven't overlooked anyone.

Bob Steere, N1QEQ



Harrisonburg March of Dimes Public Service Event April 18

MARA will again provide the communications support for the Harrisonburg March of Dimes Walk-For-Babies on Saturday, April 18th.

We will set up a net control station about 8:30 a.m. behind the Harrisonburg City Hall, across from the Daily-News-Record newspaper offices.



The March of Dimes provides a continental breakfast before the start, and a very nice lunch after the end of the walk. They also provide free T-shirts to volunteers, including hams.

We still need 3 to 4 more hams to volunteer. This is a nice laid-back affair. We can use you with either a mobile, or even an HT for this event. We are always done by noon, although several checkpoints can check out even earlier if you have plans for that Saturday.

Please contact me at n1qeq@aol.com if you can help.

Bob Steere, N1QEQ



Waynesboro Riverfest April 25

The annual Riverfest 2009 will be held on April 25 in Waynesboro. We will meet at the Kroger's parking lot on Arch Avenue. This is a great time to be outdoors enjoying the weather while helping with a public service event. This event is usually over by early afternoon. Mark your calendars and plan to join us.

FYI, this event starts off with runners, then kayaks, and finally bicycles to end the race..

Ray Colvin, KE4HRV

Rockingham County ARES Organization Report

Rockingham Co ARES Meeting March 28, 2009 Summary:(Please note that this is just a brief summary of topics discussed at this meeting.)

Members in attendance: **Norman Benner KA4EEN, Jay Stewart KD4OXQ, Bob Hume W4TMV, Gene Sullivan WA4NUF, Paul Helmuth N4VVJ, James McDowell IV NN4JM, Gerald Nauman KN4FM, David Brian Walton AJ4FF, Rick Wilson KJ4AAE, Paul Wise W4PFM, Hugh Pettis K3EC, Dave Firestone K4DPF, Vic Alger K4XTT, Ellsworth Neff K4LXG and Bryan Daniels K4RMY**



A short discussion of items from the Virginia State ARES Leadership meeting was presented. Highlights included Civil Immunity Bill 1983, state Red Cross Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), liability coverage issues for hospitals and Salvation Army assistance, ICS 100 and 700 training classes, and local establishment of an "Instant Response Team".

Additional Meeting Discussions:

A Training Exercise Committee was established consisting of Vic K4XTT, James NN4JM, Bryan K4RMY and Jay KD4OXQ to set up an exercise for May or June to test communications from fire stations and rescue squads.

Also, there was a discussion of locations of emergency service providers and equipment that is located in these buildings for ARES use during an emergency. Jim Junkins W4JLM will be contacted to get more detailed info.

An ARES Handbook Update Committee was set up. Members include, Jay KD4OXQ, Vic K4XTT, Gerald KN4FM and Bryan K4RMY. Vic will handle getting any paper copies made that are needed, and Bryan will do the digital CD version.

A lengthy discussion of formal traffic message handling was held. The group felt it would be a good idea to schedule a class to train ARES members in handling formal message radio traffic, both ARRL form and ICS-213 forms, and to practice passing traffic. More will be discussed on this topic at the next ARES meeting.

Periodic ARES organization meetings are established for the 2nd Saturday of all odd numbered months, ie Jan, March, May, etc..

There was discussion of FEMA ICS-100, ICS-200 and ICS-700 training for ARES members. Paul N4VJ will look into having some formal, official, classes for these courses conducted through the Rockingham Co. Emergency Services organizations.

Several appointments of Assistant ECs were made:

Vic K4XTT for RACES

Gerald KN4FM for Net Control Operations

Paul N4VVJ as Liaison for Rockingham County Emergency Services

Dave K4DPF and N4VVJ to work with Digital modes

There was discussion of possible communications testing between and among area hospitals. Dave K4DPF will have more on this at a later time.

Ellsworth, our District 15 DEC discussed issues with mutual aid in the case of an emergency.

The next Rockingham County ARES meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday May 9th at 10:30am at the Rockingham County Office Building in Harrisonburg.

Submitted by Bryan, K4RMY

Foxhunt Winner: Gordon, WA4FJC...Report by K4PQK

The 2PM Sunday Augusta Count Foxhunters (no animal) foxhunt fielded 3 teams of hounds.

Thanks to those participating. We missed those who didn't make it.

2:45PM First in was Gordon Batey, WA4FJC using a Ramsey Doppler with a very nice looking antenna array. Gordon's son-in-law and granddaughters Kayla (sp?) and Christian assisted. The girls made a visual find of the 20 mW Fox #2 transmitter out on the hillside.



3:40PM Second was Joe Meek, KD4FKT using N4IRT Brian's PicoDopp Doppler with antenna issues. This antenna array was a heavy duty sheet of aluminum deck on an aluminum frame – that's rugged.

Both Gordon and Joe started at Ingleside Motel, a very good high point.

4PM (or earlier) Gary Van Fossen, KJ4FZV and Evan (sp?) using a nice looking Tape Measure Antenna with attached Offset Attenuator and radio mount.

Jess, the Fox was assisted by Alby McCutcheon, AD4KZ. This was Alby's first time playing the Fox.

The Foxes were located in the Home Depot parking lot close to the end of the road cul-de-sac. Beyond the end of the road was a rolling open field scattered with occasional pieces of trash. One piece of trash was used to conceal the 20 mW Fox transmitter (3 x 3 x 5 inch aluminum box plus antenna).

Gordon had to leave before others arrived. The Gary and Joe teams got to visit and I got a chance to meet Evan.

Technical Tidbit

Back at the house as Alby was getting ready to leave, I showed him my Radio Shack handheld (HT 202) located about 4 feet from the 20 mW transmitter. The signal strength was Full Scale with the rubber duck antenna on (**and OFF**) – didn't matter. The HT 202 is poorly shielded and a resistive attenuator will be USELESS up close to the Fox. An OFFSET attenuator is needed. This shifts the Fox signal to an adjacent frequency 1, 2, or 4 MHz off the Fox frequency – then the shielding of the radio does not matter and the attenuator works great. Easy to build too.

73, Jess, w4pqq

KD40XQ: Server Available

Jay Stewart KD40XQ, has obtained a server that can be used to host ham radio websites. He is offering to host local ham club sites, including PVARC, as well as the ARES groups. Jay knows OS and VnC's etc., but will need some help from others to get this baby up and running. He will entertain more than one person helping out with it. He is willing to sponsor membership lists, and FTP server, mail server, and bulletin board-type applications. He thinks he can scrounge up any parts or other hardware needed, but would appreciate any help with the software and configuration, if you have experience with this sort of thing. Contact Jay at kd4oxq@gmail.com.

EVE: Earth-Venus-Earth!

Subscribers to the Valley Hams newlist feed got a report of the first Earth-based ham radio contact, two-way communication, by using signals bounced off of the planet Venus!

Of the 6 billion people on the face of Earth, only a handful have ever communicated by sending signals to the moon, and Cowles Andrus K4EME is one of them. Now comes word that a group of German hams have successfully communicated by using Venus! It takes several MINUTES at the speed of light for the radio signal to get to Venus and back. It is over 100 times further away than the moon, which itself is over 35 earth diameters away!

Wow! Talk about some long-path DX!

Harrisonburg/Rockingham Emergency Dispatch Frequency Will Be Available on Analog UHF Permanently: Tune to 460.625 & 452.050 MHz

Last month, the Monitor reported 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.



Jim Junkins, has clarified that this analog channel will remain active permanently, that will continue to be used for dispatch.

Additionally, there is a similar paging channel for the Harrisonburg Fire Department on 452.050 that will be in place long-term as well.

For now, these channels are wide-band (25 kHz), but will be converted over to narrowband (12.5 kHz) by 2013.

In a life-or-death emergency where cell-phone service is not available, if your ham radio can transmit on these frequencies, be aware that these channels use PL of 156.7 Hz. However, except for life-and-death emergencies, a ham radio transmitting on these frequencies violates Federal Law.

Also, we learned that Jim Junkins technically is no longer “Captain” Junkins. He used to work for the Fire Department and held the rank as Captain. But today, he is employed by the HRECC, which is a joint service authority of both the city and the county. He reports to the City Manager of Harrisonburg, and the County Administrator of Rockingham County, and is titled Director of the Emergency Communications Center.

Jim also is a licensed ham, and holds callsign W4JLJ.



Items Still Available 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, now includes 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, now includes cables, \$5

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, Price Reduced for quick sale! \$85

Connect Systems, Inc, CSI CS-900 Simplex autopatch interconnect, 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), Price reduced! \$225.

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. Price reduced! \$250, mint, in original box.

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 but still usable for HF, free.

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

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 repeater requires PL tone 131.8

April 6: Bryan Daniels K4RMY

April 13: Gerald Nauman KN4FM

April 20: Gayle Shull KU4XN

April 27: Paul Helmuth N4VJ

May 4: Ray Ritchie K4NRA

May 11: David Fordham KD9LA

May 18: James McDowell IV NN4JM

May 25: E.C. Showalter KG4KUR

Other ARES Net Schedules

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 **April 9**.

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.

The Highland County ARES Net meets on the 147.180 repeater. This machine requires PL of 100.0 Hz.

Reporting Severe Weather

Nikole Listemaa of the NOAA Skywarn office reminds all trained Skywarn Spotters that the number for reporting severe weather is 1-800-253-7091. Be prepared to give the person on the phone your name and spotter ID number.

The office needs reports of hail (pea size or larger), severe thunderstorms, wind of 50 mph or greater, tornado, funnel cloud, any rotation within a thunderstorm, flooding, and any other storm that is causing damage.

Do not use the phone number for delayed reporting, such as rainfall totals or snowfall accumulations. Those should be emailed to lxw-report@noaa.gov

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.

On February 20-22, there was a meeting of the ARRL Section Manager and the Virginia ARES senior leadership in Lexington. Numerous items were discussed and all members are invited to read the report of business conducted at the meeting.

The main web page listed above contains a link to the report.

Joe Safranek, K4JJS,
ARRL Section Emergency Coordinator

ICE for Lightning?

Both Bryan K4RMY, and Jeff W4PJW, have informed us of a great resource for lightning protection information.

The ICE Radio Products webpage has some very interesting information about the latest scientific understanding of lightning, and how the voltage and currents of a lightning bolt act and react in a radio transmission cable.

Best of all, this company is making these white papers available for free:

<http://www.iceradioproducts.com/10.html>



PVARC President's Message

Another month has come and gone and we are starting the most beautiful time of the year here in Virginia.

It's time to line up a crew for the antenna projects and getting things ready for field day - rerouting coax into the shack, and maybe even mow the grass if you get time.

Hopefully there will be some sunspot activity and we can hear the HF bands come alive, it would be nice to have some 10 meter 5 watts and a wet noodle days, its been a while.

But even without the help of the sunspots we can answer a call on 2 meters or call CQ on 6 meters or get active on an ARES net, there is always some band or mode to work.

You are always invited to the PVARC meetings, you don't have to be a member - we are having more and more visitors. Come to Luray on the first Friday of the month at 6:00 p.m., at Page Memorial Hospital in the "day room;" hope to see you there!

73,
Mark Hensley
President, PVARC

PVARC Widow's Assistance Program: SG-2000 Transceiver for only \$600

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club has a few items left from the estate sale of Maurice KA4LER.

One item of special interest to any amateur needing a general purpose transceiver for MARS and/or digital amateur use is a SGC Power Talk HF/SSB unit with ADSP.

This Model SG-2000 has full documentation. It was purchased used by KA4LER for \$1,330. We think it would be a great buy at \$600 and will throw in a HEIL HMM-K handheld microphone.

If interested, contact Sparky KD4KL via e-mail: kd4kl@arrl.net.

VE Testing Session April 11

Don't forget the April 11 VE testing session, at the usual time and place: 9:00 am at the Woodmen of the World building on Highway 42 north of Dayton.

Gerald Nauman, KN4FM

Are You On 220?

Jay Stewart KD4OZQ, reports that the N4DSL repeater on 224.500/222.900 MHz repeater is on the air and working great! This machine uses 131.8Hz PL.

If you are on 220, Jay would love a call.

Local Ham Club Treasurer Arrested in Vegas, Passing Bad Club Checks

Las Vegas police have arrested a local ham club treasurer for passing thousands in bad checks drawn on the club's bank account to support his gambling addiction. See the bottom-right of page 9 for more details.

Valley Hams Working HF

In spite of the continued lack of sunspots, Valley hams are working the shortwave bands.

Gerry K4RBZ, and Scott WA0TPN have both been working the valley from their mobile rigs as they drive between the east coast and the Great Plains!

Evan Wilder, W1LDR (nice call, Evan!) worked the ARRL DX contest in March, as did Dave KD9LA. Dave racked up 67 countries in a little over 12 hours of operating! No official word yet on Evan's results, but rest assured he did fine considering the minimum in the sunspot cycle.



MARA Secretary's Report – March 5 Meeting

Attendance: Members: 28 Guests: 4 Total: 32

Introductions made all around

1. Reports:

New Members:

1st reading: Don (KJ4JNP), Fred (KJ4INF), John (N4SYH) and Gene (KJ4HFO)

2nd reading: None

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

b. **Treasurer's** report – Not given

c. Groups

ARES/RACES -

Bryan (K4RMY) announced a reorganization meeting for ARES/RACES. They have officially merged state wide. The meeting will be held on March 28th at 10:30 am at Montevideo Middle School. For directions, contact Bryan at K4RMY@comcast.net.

VEC--

The next VE session will be on April 11th 9:00 am at the Woodmen of the World building in Dayton. Two candidates attended and successfully passed their respective exams at the February 14th session. Congratulations to Fred McDavid (Extra) and Don Bailey (Technician).

d. Public Service- Ray (K4NRA) thanked all the hams who helped with the program at Wilbur Pence Middle School.

We will need 5 – 6 volunteers for the March of Dimes event on April 18th. Please contact Bob (NIQE) if you can help.

Field Day planning update – there has been good response to the sign-up lists. Be sure to mark your calendar for the last full weekend in June (6/27-29/09). The next committee meeting will be in April.

2. Announcements:

April - home brew month

May – Representative from the Green Bank NRAO

Old Business: N/A

New Business:

Dave (KD9LA) announced that MARA is no longer an ARRL officially affiliated club. The advantages include free publicity for meetings and VE sessions. The only requirement

to regain our status is to complete the paperwork. There is no cost to the club.

5. New Call or Upgrades: Gene Frazier (KJ4HFO) passed his General exam at the Richmond Frostfest.

Motion to adjourn, seconded and approved.

50/50 - \$30.00 Won by Bob (W4TMV) and donated back to the club.

Program: Simple Antenna Concepts for beginners presented by Dave (KD9LA)

Submitted by
Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC,
MARA Secretary



Router Virus On The Loose

Manufacturers of routers, including Cisco, Linksys, Belkin, and others, have confirmed that there are malicious programs on the loose which are designed to take advantage of the sad fact that most non-commercial router owners do not bother to change the default password and administrator login of their routers.

With the proliferation of home computers, many families have purchased routers to enable multiple machines to share a single internet line, or to establish a wireless network in the home. These individuals are not savvy enough to change the login ID or password on their routers. Hence, malware can be designed to log in to such a router, and change the security settings, allowing an outsider to open up what you might have thought was a secure firewall setting. Once the firewall is disabled, your data is at risk, even if it is not being sent over the internet: an outsider can come in uninvited through an open firewall and take what he wants.

The malware is designed to use default ID's and passwords and if they fail, to try numerous combinations of common ID's and passwords, like "network", "mynetwork", "Home", "homenetwork", and passwords like "network1", "1111" and "abcd".

It is easy to eliminate this threat. Simply change your router's ID and password to a strong combination! But remember to record your changes and store in a safe place.

VARA Secretary's Report – March 3 Meeting

The **Valley Amateur Radio Association** met at Lynn's in Waynesboro March 3, 2009. The President, Scott Newlen KI4QQZ, opened the meeting at 7:00pm. There were 34 members present and 2 guests Ellsworth Neff N4LXG, Evan Wilder W1LDR.

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

50/50 was won by Phil Critchfield K4JVK. Congratulations to Phil !

New Members: Steve Grant W4IIV, Bill Bearden KC4TQF and Richard Anderson. Welcome to the VARA.

New Application: Evan Wilder W1LDR

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

April Event: Riverfest 2009 will be held on Saturday April 25th. Mark your calendars now and plan to help.

CLUB APPAREL: Doug Tippett N8ESW will take another order for jackets if you missed the first one. Contact Doug as soon as possible to get on 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.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.

PROGRAM: Scott Newlen KI4QQZ gave a PowerPoint presentation on AMSAT and SATELLITES. The program covered the different modes and frequencies used to make contacts with the Satellites and the ISS. Also the different antennas used to contact each satellite. He showed a video of one of the SSTV pictures as it was captured during a recent set up at school. He also played a sound file so we could hear what the SSTV sounds like as it is received.

Scott brought one of the eggbeater 440 antennas he built to receive the Satellites.

Thanks to Scott for this program.

Ray Colvin, KE4HVR
VARA SECRETARY



VARA Notes of Interest to Members

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 part time so he can breathe.

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 their new home in Fishersville after a fire destroyed his trailer in Crimora. **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 colvingr@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: The VARA has collected items to send to Scott Martin KI4MSJ who is on a tour of duty in Iraq. He plans to set up a ham radio station there and has his Iraqi call sign YI9MSJ. Hopefully some of us in the valley will be able to make a contact with him when he gets set up.

Monitor Readers Likely to Fall for Editor's April Fool's Prank

The editor needed something relating to April to use as filler, so thanks for succumbing!

PVARC Secretary's Report – March 6 Meeting

The regularly scheduled meeting of PVARC was held in Luray, at Page Memorial Hospital at 6:00 p.m. Ten regular members and two visitors were present. Mark N4YSA, called the meeting to order and welcomed Clarence Truax N4QIC of Luray; and, his brother Dan Truax (no callsign) who was visiting from out of town.

PVARC Secretary/Treasurer Sparky KD4KL read the minutes from the January and February 2009 meetings which were approved as submitted. He remarked that in future, the reading of the minutes might be dispensed with if members scanned the Summary Minutes printed monthly in The Monitor newsletter forwarded to members each month by e-mail. The Treasurers' Report showed a balance of \$211.42 after an expenditure of \$8.52 for duplicating and postal charges associated with submission of the Club Affiliation application sent to ARRL. He expects that it will take 2-3 months before we hear back from ARRL. The Treasures' Report was also accepted as submitted.

Old Business: Dave K4PDF spoke briefly to the possible need for a local ARES/RACES memorandum of understanding (MOU). He felt this might possibly be covered under the present Statewide MOU but further discussions were necessary. An after meeting get together with Ben N4SFG, Mark N4YSA and Sparky KD4KL was planned for later this evening. There is no urgency on this matter and he promised to keep the club informed.

There being no committee reports, Dave K4DPF was asked to give his presentation on PVARC's participation in the 2009 Field Day scheduled for the June 27th/28th weekend. In his opening comments he made the following points: 1) Keep it Simple – we shouldn't try to maximize points but should emphasize demonstrating amateur radio emergency operations to the public. We're a small club, with limited resources. We should have limited objectives in this first year – perhaps one multimode station, using cw, voice and various digital modes on multiple bands (HF/VHF). We do not need to operate over the entire 24 hour period. 2) Public Location -The actual location should facilitate public interaction. Possible sites might be Lake Arrowhead or Imagination Station. 3) Emergency Power – Strongly suggest that all equipment should be "off-grid," using generator and battery operation to demonstrate emergency operations. 4) PVARC should look into a Club Call Sign.

Dave ended by asking everyone to consider how, and to what extent, they would be willing to personally participate.

He will call for volunteers at the April 3rd meeting. Clarence N4QIC agreed to look into access/availability of Imagination Station and Lake Arrowhead. Mark N4YSA can provide a large AC generator. Sandy W4GGX may be able to provide use of a "squad tent."

Mark N4YSA led a far ranging discussion on field day and concluded by asking that everyone consider what they can commit – operating time, equipment, etc. - and bring their comments and suggestions to the next meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1845. Anyone interested was encouraged to watch a demonstration of rig control over the internet by Dave K4DPF immediately following closure.

Submitted by
Sparky Terry, KD4KL
PVARC Secretary/Treasurer

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.

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 2009): Ray Ritchie K4NRA
 Board (exp 2010): 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 (\$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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact your respective club officers for more information.

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

Copyright notices must be respected.

MARA/VARA/PVARC

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

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

Return Service Requested

Calendar of Events

April 1: Highland County ARES Net (147.180 repeater)
April 2: MARA Homebrew and Trader's Night
April 3: PVARC Monthly Meeting
April 5: Page County ARES Net (146.67 repeater)
April 6: Rockingham County ARES Net (146.55 simplex)
April 7: VARA Club Meeting
April 9: Augusta County ARES Net (146.85 repeater)
April 11: VE Exams in Dayton VA
April 12: Page County ARES Net (146.67 repeater)
April 13: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 repeater)
April 15: Highland County ARES Net (147.180 repeater)
April 18: Harrisonburg March-of-Dimes Walk Event
April 19: Page County ARES Net (146.67 repeater)
April 20: Rockingham County ARES Net 147.225 repeater)
April 24-25: Charlotte NC Hamfest
April 25: Waynesboro Riverfest
April 26: Page County ARES Net (146.67 repeater)
April 27: Rockingham County ARES Net 147.225 repeater)
April 30: Field Day Commitee Meeting – All Hams Invited

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