

May
2009

The Monitor

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

MARA Club Meeting Thursday May 7

MARA will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday night May 7 at the Wood Grill Buffet. An astronomer from the National Radio Astronomy Observatory is scheduled to be the guest speaker, although the NRAO has not yet confirmed who will be speaking. Dinner begins at 6:30, the business meeting begins at 7:30, and the program follows.

VARA Club Meeting: May 5 at Lynn's Pancake House in Waynesboro

The Valley Amateur Radio Association's March meeting will be held May 5 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.

PVARC Club Meeting: Friday June 5

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club held its monthly meeting on Friday, May 1, which unfortunately was before the Monitor could be published this month. PVARC's next meeting will be on Friday, June 5, in the "Day Room" meeting room in the back of Page Memorial Hospital.

No Date Yet for the NRAO Observatory Tour

Negotiations and discussions are still underway as the very busy astronomers and other officials at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank work hard to find time to schedule a behind-the-scenes tour for the radio clubs. The Memorial Day weekend looked good initially, but the crowds expected that weekend will preclude any behind-the-scenes access. The Dayton Hamvention weekend is out for obvious reasons, and the other weekends have the staff working overtime to take advantage of certain observational opportunities coordinated with other observatories. It may be June before we can be 'fit in', but rest assured, the NRAO is working hard to get us some "telescope time" in the next few weeks.

MARA/VARA Field Day Committee Report

We are still trying to firm-up the use of a 2-meter beam and a 440 MHz beam for use on the tower for the Field Day UHF/VHF station.

A check of the MARA storage area did not turn up either one of these two types of antennas.

Anyone with a large multiple-element beam of either type, who is willing to loan it to the club for Field Day, please contact a member of the Field Day Committee, or give me a call or email.

Additionally, we need a general Field Day photograph to use to drum-up some publicity and public interest in the Field Day event. Herb Slade is planning a public information (press) release and would like to accompany it with some photographs showing the “emergency preparedness” aspect of the event. He has access to the photos on-line, but if you’ve got a particularly compelling photo showing the “wilderness city” and communications abilities we display at FD, please contact Herb.

Except for these last minor details, the Field Day planning is going great! We feel prepared for this year.

Bob Steere, N1QEQ

VE Exam Report

Thanks to the following who helped with the April 11 VE testing session: **Gerald Nauman KN4FM, E.C. Showalter KG4KUR, Mike McKay W4AZR, Hugh Pettis K3EC, Jim Lehman W4POL.**

We had five candidates for resting, four for technician and one for extra. Three passed the Tech exam, and the extra candidate also passed.

Great appreciation is owed to these hams who give up their time to help others become licensed or upgraded operators. If not for your service, this would not be available in our area.

Our next session will be Saturday June 13.

Gayle Shull, KU4XN

Harrisonburg March of Dimes Public Service Report

I would like to thank the following hams for their assistance at the March of Dimes Walk in Harrisonburg on April 18. The weather was very comfortable for the walkers and runners, and we had no medical emergencies — except a wheelchair-bound participant requested a ride back. The contact was relayed from the Harrisonburg Police Department to the hams, who quickly arranged the transportation.

The event sponsors are very, very appreciative of our efforts. They recognize and acknowledge that our support saves them much time and effort in policing and securing the route, in addition to providing the communications of message traffic. We were all treated to refreshments both before and after the event. Thanks to:

Chris Shirkey KI4BAQ , Bryan Daniels K4RMY, Herb Slade AA3BF, Ellsworth Neff K4LXG, Ray Ritchie K4NRA, and Nancy Ritchie KA4JAZ

Bob Steere, N1QEQ

MMT-100 Mountain Run Public Service Event: May 16-17.

Hams have been asked to provide communications support for the 15th annual MMT Massanutten Mountain Trails 100-mile run (yes, 100 miles of running!)

If you want more information on this event, check out the website <http://www.vhtrc.org/mmt/>

Larry Miller, KB6VAA is coordinating the ham radio part of the event. If you are interesting in helping out with this contact Larry, who is the Shenandoah County ARES EC, at **540-459-1910**, or **540-325-8644**. This is the Dayton Hamvention weekend, and if you aren't going to Dayton this year, hey, here's a chance to play radio and have some fun outdoors too!

Status Report from Iraq – KI4MSJ

From: Scott Martin <martin9428@aol.com>

Hey Ray and gang,

All is going well here. The missions are going well and we have started doing dismounted patrols with the Iraqi Police through Basrah. The weather here is starting to get hot with temps already at 102 degrees with 50% humidity. The lightning storms are pretty wild here and most bolts seem to hit the ground. I have tried to get permission to hook up my radio with no luck. We are constantly moving so a long wire is out. I have been considering just hooking up my Buddipole for brief times to see if I can make any contacts at all. Digital might be the way to go but, set up time is very short and finding a place for the antenna is tough. I will continue to work with my contact in the MARS program in gaining my license but haven't heard from him in awhile. Meantime, keep listening, you never know who you might hear. All you guys are in my thoughts and looking forward to getting back to the club.

Attached is a picture of me wilting in the heat and working on my vehicle before mission

Thank You,

Scott A. Martin(KI4MSJ)
 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



PVARC Planning a Field Day Event at Lake Arrowhead

As noted in the club meeting minutes this month, the Page Valley Amateur Radio Association is planning a Field Day event at Lake Arrowhead. This is a public venue easy to get to, and sure to raise the curiosity of members of the general public.

The club is planning a major public-relations effort to accompany the Field Day operations, too.

The MARA/VARA Field Day has always stressed the emergency preparedness aspect of a major (very major) event far away from the public infrastructure. While the public is definitely welcome and invited, the location makes it difficult for the casual citizen to “drop in” for a few minutes to see what ham radio is all about.

The complement the MARA/VARA operations, PVARC will operate a much smaller, less thorough, but more accessible site primarily for the public exposure. Being on opposite sides of the valley, on opposite sides of the Massanutten Range, and with very different terrain and views to the sky, ionosphere, and other propagation determinants, it is going to be a very educational experiment to compare results from the two operations.

Hats off to the PVARC Field Day participants for a new and innovative addition to the valuable and important MARA/VARA FD event! Both events are sure to be loads of fun and pleasure.

N4Zfq: Rohn 25G Tower for Sale

Colin Hester, N4Zfq, has six to seven 10-foot sections of Rohn 25G tower for sale, plus 2 base plates and 2 top sections. He is eager to get rid of this tower, so call him to discuss price! Colin can be reached by phone at **540-271-2555**. Colin lives near New Hope in Augusta County.

N4MQR: Rohn 25G Tower for Sale

Vic Altger's uncle **Ralph Alger N4MQR** is also disposing of a 25G tower. This one is an 80-foot tower and comes along with the fold-over attachment sold by Rohn for this model tower. This tower will need dismantling, and was part of Lowell Ulrich's estate. It is located west of Dayton near Mole Hill in Rockingham County. If you are interested in pricing this tower, call Robert or Ralph at **540-421-9395**.

Riverfest Public Service Report

Local area hams assisted with providing communications for the Waynesboro RiverFest 2009 Run/Paddle/Bike ride event on Saturday April 25, 2009. The starting gun sounded at 10 am.

Those hams participating included:

N3GLZ John, KI4FQZ Gary & son, AA4RH Richard, N8ESW Doug, KI4QZ Scott, N4JGO Bob, KF4MTP Casey, Ke4HVR Ray, KE4ASC Frank & son, AD4KZ Alby, KJ4RM Mike, K4PMC Pat, K4JEC Jim and WA4FJC Gordon.

Approximately 20 runners participated and a good time was had by all. The last runner finished about 12:30.

One lost cell phone was turned in to race officials and one runner was transported from the canoe put in point to the finish line. The weather cooperated wonderfully and a good time was had by all.

K4JEC took several photos of the participants. The one attached shows the initial assignment to all persons assisting with the operation.

Thanks to all who assisted in this public service event.

— *Gordon Batey WA4FJC*

Kantronics TNC's Needed

Jim Duram of the Whitehall (Ohio) Police Department is searching high and low for used Kantronics TNC's in serviceable (working) condition. Any model will do, as long as it is compatible with the KPC-3. If you have one or more of these sitting around that you would be willing to get rid of, for cash, contact **Jim K8COP** at **whitehall-police@charterinternet.com**



Field Day Site Pics

Scott Newlen drove up to the Field Day site and took some pictures. He reports that the site is not in pristine condition, but might be serviceable. As expected, the 4-wheel drive "mudders" have been tearing up the landscape.



Last Call for Local Sale

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, 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, 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 \$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 further reduced! \$200.

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. \$250, mint, in original box.

These items will be going to a friend who has a booth at Dayton, and will be listed on Ebay at considerably higher prices, unless someone here in the valley wants them before May 10, so speak up now if you are interested.

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

KI4GST: Google in CW!

Bob Wilson KI4GST pointed out that Google, in its tradition of honoring special events by changing its logo, had replaced the logo with a set of dots and dashes, spelling out "Google" in Morse Code, to commemorate Samuel F. B. Morse's birthday on April 27.

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

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 on the first and third Wednesdays. This machine requires PL of 100.0 Hz.

CLIP THIS AND TAPE IT UP ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR!

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

Radio Shack Giving Cash for Old Electronics

Radio Shack is asking you to bring in your old electronics in exchange for a RadioShack Gift Card.

The RadioShack Gift Card which can be redeemed immediately and put towards new purchases.

David Shifflett, manager of the Harrisonburg RadioShack, says that the program is not only good for the environment. It also helps you get rid of old electronics and get new ones for less.

"They're going to have that, that older obsolete, piece of electronics lying around the house anyways, taking up space, not doing anything for them," says Shifflett. "And they can trade it in at RadioShack get a few bucks for it."

Your products are appraised by a computer program. It determines your gift card amount by the condition and age of the product, as well as if it needs any accessories to function such as a charger.

Provided by Valley Hams Listserv

MARA Application in the Works to Restore ARRL Affiliate Status

In accordance with a resolution passed at the recent meeting, the leadership of MARA has been working to restore ARRL Affiliated-Club status to the organization.

One of the sticking points has been the requirement that the club provide proof that at least 51% of the club membership holds ARRL membership. After several attempts, this requirement is being addressed by a "de-facto" assumption by the application, and we'll let the ARRL "disprove" that 51% of the membership holds ARRL membership.

Once the application process is complete (right now projected for the middle of May), the ARRL will then obtain approval from the Virginia Section Manager and the Roanoke Division Director. Finally, the ARRL Executive Committee will vote to approve the affiliation, after which it's all over but the shouting. Hurray!

KD40XQ Server On-Line

Jay Stewart wants everyone to know that his new server is on-line and available: <http://75.145.241.235>

New ARRL Advanced Emergency Communications Course in the Works

Over the past several months, ARRL staff have been reviewing the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications online course program and have decided to combine two of the three Emergency Communications courses. According to ARRL Education Services Manager Debra Johnson, K1DMJ, the review included a critical examination of the course content, as well as methods of course delivery and interrelationships with government organizations. Johnson said that the decision was made to revise the Level 3 course to become a new Advanced Emergency Communications Course; this, she said, will replace both the current Level 2 and Level 3 courses. The new advanced course is set to be released during the last quarter of 2009.

"Our aim is to develop professional level courses which are widely accepted by other organizations for the emergency communication component of Amateur Radio," she said. "We are investigating requirements that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is currently putting in place for approved courses, as well as other possibilities to develop emergency communications training that meets the emerging training needs surrounding emergency communications."

Students who have previously taken the Level 2 course will need to have the new advanced course to complete the current Amateur Radio Emergency Communications training program, Johnson explained. "Those who have completed the Level 1 course may progress directly to the advanced course when it is made available; this new course contains content formerly included in the former Level 2 and 3 courses."

Johnson said that there are no current plans to change the Basic Level 1 course and that that course will continue to be offered in its current format. With the combining of the Level 2 and 3 courses, Johnson said that anyone who had signed up for the Level 2 course set to begin April 17 may apply for a refund. Any scheduled field instruction of the Level 2 content, as well as Level 2 exam sessions, will also be suspended. "We will honor exam sessions that have been previously scheduled and award Level 2 certificates for any exams successfully completed up to May 31," she said. "Our training program mandate is to provide the training that ham radio communicators need to be prepared to serve our communities in time of communications emergencies," Johnson explained. "This consolidation of program content will streamline the delivery of the training and apply volunteer and administrative support resources more effectively."

Submitted by Bryan Daniels, K4RMY

Clearing Up the Confusion about ARES/RACES Registration

There still appears to be some misunderstanding with regards to two DIFFERENT registrations available on the ares-racesofva.org website. The two registrations are as follows: 1. Registering for inclusion in the ARES/RACES of Virginia database; and 2. Registering for aresracesofva.org website access.

Let me explain the difference between the two different registrations.

1. ARES/RACES of Virginia database: This database registration (http://aresracesofva.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=78&Itemid=94) is designed to accommodate two different things.

a. Section Emergency Coordinator's need for information for deployment of ARES-RACES units during communications emergencies.

b. To fulfill the liability insurance requirements of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management as per the Memorandum of Understanding signed on July 3, 2008, between VDEM and ARRL VA.

(http://aresracesofva.org/index.php?option=com_weblinks&view=category&id=77&Itemid=100)

2. aresracesofva.org website access:

a. The website registration is a totally separate requirement for appointees, specifically to gain access to monthly reports and appointment nomination forms. All ASEC's, DEC's, and EC's, plus their designated assistants/alternates are required to be registered.

b. All members are welcome to register to gain access to some other items available on the website that are not available to the general public; however, only ARES appointees are given access to the items listed above.

I hope this clarifies your understanding of the requirements of the TWO SEPARATE registration processes.

Thank you for your support of emergency communications in the Commonwealth.

— Joe Safranek, K4JJS, SEC

MARA Secretary's Report – April 2 Meeting

Attendance: Members: 25 Guests: 6 Total: 31

Introductions made all around

1. Reports:

New Members: 1st reading: N/A

2nd reading: Don (KJ4JNP), Fred (KJ4INF), John (N4SYH) and Gene (KJ4HFO). Approved by unanimous secret ballot vote.

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

b. Treasurer's report – Current balance of \$2,929.66

c. Groups

ARES/RACES -

VEC-Session – The next VE session will be on April 11th 9:00 am at the Woodmen of the World building in Dayton.

d. Public Service – mark your calendars for the upcoming events. We have many opportunities to volunteer.

March of Dimes - April 18th

Field Day planning update – there has been good response to the sign-up lists. All stations have been assigned including the welcome station. It looks like we are in good shape. The committee may need help with transportation from storage. Be sure to mark your calendar for the last full weekend in June (6/27-29/09).

Bridgewater Lawn Party – 3rd Friday/Saturday in July (7/17-18/09)

The Mountain Bike group would like us to assist again for the 2009 ride on September 6th. We received \$600 for assisting with the 2008 race.

Triple Play – We have been asked to provide support again for the motorcycle group and runners the 1st weekend in October (10/2-4/09). This was a challenging weekend for us last year and provided a great opportunity to test our skills in some very remote locations.

2. Announcements:

May – Representative from the Green Bank NRAO (tentative). We are also trying to schedule a Saturday field trip to tour the “behind the scenes” part of the facility.

Jay (KD4OXQ) has acquired a server that he is willing to make available to the group. He will need some help getting it set up and running.

Old Business:

Dave (KD9LA) announced that we are waiting for the required paperwork to renew our status as an officially affiliated ARRL club.

New Business: N/A

New Call or Upgrades: N/A

Motion to adjourn, seconded and approved.

50/50 - \$29.00

Won by Brian (K4RMY) and donated back to the club.

Program: Annual Homebrew Show and Tell

Submitted by
Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC,
MARA Secretary

Good News: W4POL Up and Around; Bad News: K8KMM Out of Circulation for a Bit

While the good news is that Jim Lehman, W4POL is back up and around after his chemo and radiation therapy, now comes word that the doctors treating Ken Miller, K8KMM have discovered he has lymphoma. Ken is undergoing chemo and other therapies, and will be quite out of circulation for the next few weeks. The doctors advised him not to affiliate with crowds, such as the club meetings or even the small group lunches at Burger King, due to his immune system being so suppressed by the treatments. Best wishes and our prayers are with Ken and his family as he works hard to overcome this difficult condition.

VARA Secretary's Report – April 7 Meeting

The **VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION** met at Lynn's in Waynesboro April 7, 2009. The President, Scott Newlen KI4QQZ, opened the meeting at 7:00pm. There were 23 members present and 1 guests Andrew Newlen.

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

50/50 was won by Evan Wilder W1LDR. Congratulations to Evan!

New Member: Evan Wilder W1LDR. Welcome to the VARA.

MEETING PLACE: The club voted to meet at Lynn's in Waynesboro for six months.

April Event: Thanks to all that came out and helped with the Riverfest 2009 on Saturday April 25th.

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 7:55pm.

PROGRAM: Gordon Batey WA4FJC gave a presentation on FMT (Frequency Measuring Tests. Which is determining the frequency of a remote transmitter as accurately as possible. Some methods were: Read the dial of the receiver and note the frequency, read the dial of the receiver and determine of the offset frequency with a frequency counter OR a sound card program, Generate a local signal and allow it to mix with the received signal and adjust the local signal to Zero Beat OR an offset frequency that can be measured with a sound card program. Measure the local signal with a frequency counter.

Thanks to Gordon 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. **Frank Forsyth WD4LES** brought his wife Kitty to the Friday the 17th luncheon. We were all glad to see her again. **Let's keep Denny and Mrs. Kitty 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 Tippet N8ESW dtippet@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: Scott Martin KI4MSJ has received the items collected by the VARA and said to thank everyone that contributed. He said he watched one of the videos and went to sleep watching another one.



PVARC Secretary's Report — April 2 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Day Room, Page Memorial Hospital (Luray), by President Mark Hensley N4YSA. The minutes of the March 6th meeting were read and approved. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as submitted with no changes.

Acting on paperwork prepared by the Secretary, and approved by the PVARC Executive Committee, the President asked that the Application for a Club Call Sign be submitted to the FCC via ARRL. The club trustee will be Dave Firestone K4DPF (an Extra Class Licensee). The PVARC/FCC point of contact for the station will be Sparky Terry KD4KL, PVARC Secretary/Treasurer. Once the initial call sign is granted and a ULS identification number assigned, PVARC will consider requesting a vanity call sign. He noted that a vanity call sign can only be obtained in exchange (traded in) for an existing call. A new club cannot initially get a vanity call sign as their first call sign. If the club moves in this direction, the fee will be \$12.30 for the 10-year license term.

The usual Committee Reports were dispensed with to allow time to discuss and plan for the upcoming ARRL Field Day event scheduled from 1800 UTC June 27, 2009 – 2100 June 28, 2009. As Field Day Chairman, Dave K4DPF reported an application for space at Lake Arrowhead is pending. (Secretary's Note: Subsequently approved by Luray Parks and Recreation Department on April 7th.) We will set up in the FFA Shelter and will be allowed to operate overnight. The operating position will be centrally situated between two, one-hundred foot tree's, spaced about 125 feet apart. Just right for the HF dipole. (His "sling-shot" will be perfect for getting a little elevation!) Several club members have stepped forward with offers of equipment, a generator, deep cycle batteries, antenna masts, etc. Dave also noted that he has a neat Logging Program that will "dazzle" the public on-lookers; and, greatly facilitate multiple band, multiple operator activities. Morgan, K4RHD may be able to bring a solar powered Icom 703 and antenna to demonstrate QRP operations. The President asked Sparky KD4KL to handle local publicity, especially with respect to our local newspaper – The Courier. All members are encouraged to give whatever time and support they can to this, PVARC's first ARRL event. Dave will continue to coordinate and keep everyone informed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next PVARC meeting is scheduled – same time, same location on May 1, 2009.

Submitted by
Sparky Terry, KD4KL
PVARC Secretary/Treasurer

From the Monitor Editor: Thanks!

This issue marks the 15th consecutive year that KD9LA has been editor of the Monitor.

As you probably noticed, this issue is running late. In fact, most of the issues recently have run late. Some very late.

KD9LA is up to his proverbial eyeballs with work, and is stressed. Thanks to a Governor and General Assembly who are reluctant to raise taxes (have you thanked them for that?), the state is running a billion-dollar shortfall, resulting in some major cuts in university budgets. Due to travel cut-backs, salary reductions, elimination of raises, elimination of merit pay, and elimination of incentive plans, the really good university professors are leaving the state in droves for greener pastures.

What's more, the state is under a hiring freeze, so those leaving can't be replaced. The work must be picked up by those who are left. (We won't dwell on the observation that while the good professors have been leaving the state in droves, David is still here!)

Dave has been working in the classroom or his office from 7 or 8 in the morning, until 9, 10, or 11 at night, or even until 1 or 2 a.m. sometimes, every day of the week, yep, all seven of them, for the last four solid weeks. He's pooped.

He interrupted his office work for a couple of hours about 6 pm one Sunday night in mid-April when he thought he was having a heart attack, but a trip to the emergency room showed it wasn't his heart, so he returned to his office until midnight that night. Later doctor visits showed it was only his ulcer.

Dave greatly appreciates all the kind words over the years about the Monitor and its appearance. He is especially grateful for all the wonderful support and assistance he has received in the form of article submissions, photos, etc.

And most of all, he is incredibly appreciative for the patience and tolerance shown by the club members when the Monitor is late, or worse, isn't able to be published at all, or when he overlooks something or makes a mistake, (like the wrong dates for club meetings the last three issues!).

It takes several hours to put the Monitor together, and another hour or two updating changes and additions to email addresses. It's not onerous, but for someone who is already too busy, it's a few hours that Dave doesn't have. So he really, sincerely, appreciates everyone's understanding.

After 15 years, Dave is willing to turn the job over to anyone else who would like to try their hand at it. So far, no one has expressed an interest. But David has no "ego" in the editorship, and if someone else would like to take a crack at the job, he'll work with them a few months to pass the torch to some new blood, some new ideas, and a new editor.

And let's not forget Mike Reno, KG4OON, who gives his time to print, label, and mail the issues to everyone, saving Dave many more hours. Thanks, Mike!

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
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MARA/VARA/PVARC

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Return Service Requested

Calendar of Events

May 4: Rockingham County ARES Net simplex night 146.55
May 5: VARA Club Meeting: Lynn's
May 6: Highland County ARES Net 147.18 repeater
May 7: MARA Club Meeting: Wood Grill Buffet
May 10: Page County ARES Net 146.67 repeater
May 11: Rockingham County ARES Net 147.225 repeater
May 14: Augusta County ARES Net 146.85 repeater
May 15-17: Dayton Hamvention
May 16-17: MMT 100-mile run Public Service Event
May 17: Page County ARES Net 146.67 repeater
May 18: Rockingham County ARES Net 147.225 repeater
May 20: Highland County ARES Net 147.18 repeater
May 24: Howard County (MD) Hamfest
May 24: Page County ARES Net 146.67 repeater
May 25: Rockingham County ARES Net 147.225 repeater
May 30-31: CQ WW WPX Worldwide Contest CW Weekend
May 31: Page County ARES Net 146.67 repeater

June 1: Rockingham County ARES Net simplex night 146.55
June 2: VARA Club Meeting at Lynn's
June 3: Highland County ARES Net 147.18 repeater
June 4: MARA Club Meeting at Wood Grill Buffet
June 5: PVARC Club Meeting at Page Memorial Hospital

June 13: Volunteer Examiner Ham Radio License Exams
June 13: Winston-Salem (NC) Hamfest
June 13-14: ARRL June VHF QSO Party
June 14: Manassas Hamfest
June 20-28: Field Day Site Camping
June 27-28: ARRL Field Day

July 11-12: IARU HF World Championship Contest
July 18-19: North American RTTY QSO Party
July 18-19: CQ Worldwide VHF Contest
July 19: Baltimore BRATS Hamfest
July 25-26: IOTA Islands on the Air Contest

August 1: Roanoke (Vinton) Hamfest
August 1-2: ARRL UHF Contest
August 2: Berryville Hamfest
August 15-16: North American QSO Party SSB Weekend
August 16: Carroll County (MD) Hamfest

September 12-13: Virginia Beach Hamfest
September 27-28: CQ WW RTTY Contest

October 24-25: CQ WW DX Contest SSB Weekend
October 25: Mason-Dixon (Westminster MD) Hamfest