

January
2010

THE MONITOR

Published Monthly for members of the Amateur Radio Clubs in Virginia's Central Shenandoah Valley

VARA Meeting Tuesday, January 5 at Shoneys

The Valley Amateur Radio Association will hold its regular monthly club meeting at Shoney's Restaurant in Staunton at the usual date and time: Tuesday, January 5, starting at 6:00 pm. The restaurant is on Highway 250, 1 block east of I-81 in a little place called Brand's Flat.



MARA Meeting Thursday, January 7 at Wood Grill

The regular monthly meeting of the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will be held on Thursday January 7 at the Wood Grill Buffet on Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Dinner will begin at 6:30 pm, followed by the business meeting. Spouses, family, and guests are invited and welcome.

PVARC New Dinner Meeting: Friday, January 8, at Brown's Restaurant

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its first dinner meeting at Brown's Restaurant on Main Street in Luray on Friday, January 8 at 6:00 pm, The club's normal meeting is the first Friday of the month but this year the first Friday in January falls on a holiday. Hence, we'll meet on January 8. See the article on page 3 about the new PVARC dinner meeting arrangement!



Club Dues are Due! Use the Renewal Form inside the Back Cover!

PVARC's President's Message

Greetings from the Page Valley Amateur Radio Club.

As I write this, the Christmas Season is upon us and the snow is falling and it looks like we will have a white Christmas.

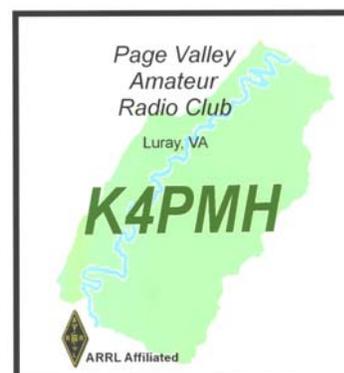
The PVARC had a good turnout for our last meeting with good discussion and great fellowship. We have some projects in the works for the new year and hopes of more growth and more opportunity to further the scope of what amateur radio can do for our community and for each other.

I would like to wish all a very Merry Christmas and may God Bless you in the New Year.

"73"

Mark Hensley-N4YSA

PAGE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



PVARC Website Working Group Working

As seen in the photo above, the Page Valley Amateur Radio Club's Website Working Group is working hard on getting the club website up and running. Left to right: Dave Firestone K4DPF, Geoffrey Phillips WD4LYO, and Carol Terry KA4LAF at Carol's QTH in Luray.

PVARC's New Club Banner

Last month's Monitor unveiled the new logo for the Page Valley Amateur Radio Club. Below is a photo of the club's new official banner. What a beaut!

Muddy Feet Graphics did a great job of putting Geoffrey's design on a banner at a fair price.



Page Valley Amateur Radio Club Begins Bi-Monthly Dinner Meeting

Starting with the January 2009 meeting on January 7, the PVARC will experiment with a bi-monthly dinner meeting, held at Brown's Restaurant on Main Street in downtown Luray.

The club will meet for dinner starting at 6:00 pm, on the EVEN-NUMBERED months: that is, January, March, May, July, September, and November – on the first Friday of the month, unless the date falls on a holiday.

The EVEN-NUMBERED months we will meet back at the Page Valley Hospital meeting room, and have only a business meeting starting at 6:00 p.m.

An easy way to remember it is, it is ODD for PVARC to have a dinner meeting! Hopefully, it won't be odd long, and we'll have a great turnout! The dinner meeting will be a great venue to bring spouses, friends, visitors and prospective hams to get acquainted with the club. See you there!

PVARC's President's Spud-Gun

Mark Hensley, N4YSA, proudly shows off his "Tenna Cannon" potato bazooka, intended for launching a weighted projectile attached to a leader line, for hauling a wire antenna up into places normally unreachable by other means. Ready, Aim... ..



ARES Vehicle Drive-In?

Your newsletter editor caught wind of a possible activity in May – an ARES vehicle "drive"-In.

While no details have been discovered yet, this sounds like it might be a worthwhile event to put on the calendar.

More information will be provided as soon as it is received.



Denny W. Morland, N4XPW, SK

After a very lengthy illness, multiple stays in some away-from-home locations, and a courageous struggle -- an outright brave battle, even -- with uncountable complications, Denny W. Morland Sr., N4XPW, lost his fight and passed away on Thursday morning December 10. He was 74 years old.

In addition to being a ham radio operator and long-time VARA member, he served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean conflict, and also in the Delaware National Guard. He is survived by his wife Shirley, who graciously kept Ray Colvin KE4HVR and Benny Cook N4BCC, and his other ham radio friends advised of Denny's on-again, off-again progress as he fought against numerous health problems. Denny is also survived by two sons, five daughters, 12 grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and a brother.



VE Test Session Report: December 12 Session ... and 2009 Annual Summary

We had another great test session December 12. There were eight test candidates, and everyone left with either a new ticket or an upgraded license. There were three that passed the Technician test, two that upgraded to General, and three that upgraded to Extra! Congratulations to all the candidates.

We had a very busy morning, and the VE's who volunteered are greatly appreciated:

*Thank
You* →

Gayle Shull, KU4XN
Gerald Nauman, KN4FM
Michael McKay W4AZR
Richard Haxton, KC3AN
Jim Lehman, W4POL
Bob Van Fossen, K4DJG
Hugh Pettis, K3EC

If you get a chance, say "thank you" to the Volunteer Examiners. Remember what the word "Volunteer" means.

In the six test sessions this year, the VE teams gave a total of 47 exams to 30 different individuals. Of these 30, 14 ended up with a Technician-class license, 7 with a General, and 8 with an Extra-class ticket. There were also 11 different VE's who helped administer at least one exam session. Thanks to all who make the VE program work.

Gerald Nauman, KN4FM

Augusta ARES Net January 14: 446.000 Simplex (Yes, the 70-cm band!)

David Tanks AD4TJ reminds all Augusta ARES members that the Augusta County ARES net will be held on January 14, at 8:00 pm, the second Thursday of the month.

However, for January, the net will meet on the 70-centimeter band! Dust off those dual-band HT's and program in 446.000 simplex.

Put up that new dual-band outside antenna you got for Christmas so you'll be ready to go. Let's all check in and test out coverage on this band across Augusta County.

Upcoming Contest Dates

- ARRL RTTY ROUNDUP: January 3-4
- ARRL KIDS DAY: January 4
- ARRL JANUARY VHF SWEEPSTAKES: January 17-19
- CQ WW 160M CONTEST CW: Jan 29-31
- CQ WW RTTY WPX CONTEST: Feb 12-14
- ARRL INTERNATIONAL DX CONTEST CW: February 21-22
- CQ WW 160M CONTEST PHONE: February 26-28
- ARRL INTERNATIONAL DX CONTEST PHONE: March 7-8
- CQ WW WPX CONTEST: March 26-28
- ARRL FIELD DAY: June 27-28

For Sale: Kenwood TS-850S – \$350 OBO

Are you or someone you know looking for a reliable rig, or perhaps you're looking for a good backup rig. I have a Kenwood TS-850S available and am asking \$350.00. It is in great condition, works great, and has the antenna tuner built in.

If you are interested,, you can drop me line at billbearden@ntelos.net.

Thanks and have a very Merry Christmas.

Bill Bearden, KC4TQF



Upcoming Hamfest Dates

- WINSTON-SALEM FIRSTFEST: January 9
- RICHMOND FROSTFEST: Saturday Feb 6
- ANNANDALE WINTERFEST: February 28
- CHARLOTTE NC: March 13-14
- RALEIGH NC: April 3



Hams of the Month

Richard Haxton KC4AN and Phyllis Haxton N4VZC

The year was 1962. John Kennedy was still alive. John Glenn was getting ready to be the first American to reach orbit. Computer chips hadn't yet been invented. Touch-tone telephone dialing was still in the laboratory. Commercial microwave ovens were still three years in the future. There were no cell phones, personal computers, or airport x-ray machines. But Russia was a formidable threat to the U.S., especially with missiles being shipped to Cuba.

In 1962, a young telephone company employee by the name of Richard Haxton went to the FCC office in Washington D.C. and took the test for his first ham radio license.

Richard, today KC3AN, doesn't even remember his first callsign, but it was a WN3-something, he reports. When he took the test to upgrade to General, he initially flunked the code test, but the FCC employee suggested he take the written portion, which he passed, and earned his technician's license WA3IVB.

Richard worked at the phone company AT&T, and held the title of "customer engineer", even though he admits he never went to engineering school. "They just give you the title instead of increasing your pay," he jokes.

Richard's largest customer was the Federal Government. He says, "I did an awful lot with the 'Cold-War Stuff'. You can say that I had a lot to do with those 'holes-in-the-ground'."

Apparently a lot of what went on during those days is classified, and he can't talk a lot about it. "But the guys who worked with the holes in the ground in those days will know exactly what I'm talking about," he says.

Richard met Phyllis while she was working at the Army's Quartermaster Corps. Phyllis too quickly became bitten with the ham radio bug, and was first licensed in the 1960's. She took her tests at the FCC's Richmond office. Together they began getting deeper and deeper into the hobby that still keeps them together.

Phyllis later held positions with the Montgomery County Tax Department, the Department of Interior, and the school system, while raising the kids who are now grown and gone.

Together they raised four children — two boys and two girls, and they presently have 2 grand-daughters and a grandson.

Their ham radio operations go way back. They ran phone patches back in the 1960's and 1970's, using a \$5 beam on a surplus pole at their home QTH in Montgomery County Maryland.

Upon retirement, they moved to Northumberland County -- the very area now inhabited by Sandy Mullins, W4PZC, long-time treasurer of MARA. Phyllis relates: "While we were there, we were both active in the RARA, the rah-rah we call it, the Rappahannock Amateur Radio Association. We got to know a lot of the Shenandoah valley hams from our contacts we made with them on the air — Dick W3HXH, Gerry K4RBZ, and of course we knew Hugh K3EC.

"We came to Harrisonburg to see our friends, and fell in love with the place. Since Northumberland County is so far away from ... well, literally everything, we decided to move here."

Richard and Phyllis are both members of the Quarter Century Wireless Association ("and have been for many, many years," points out



Phyllis). They have taken several cruises with the QCWA.

They purchased a house in Harrisonburg and set up a nice station, becoming active in the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association from its inception.

But a couple of years ago, Phyllis took a nasty fall down the staircase. With a split head, broken bones, and a concussion, she lost

at least 10 years' worth of memory. "There is so much of my life that's simply gone," she says. "I spent months in Harrisonburg Rehab Center — those people there are miracle workers. My doctor didn't think I was going to make it."

But she did, and with the exception of about 10 years worth of memories, she's back in the swing of things.

"We sold our house since the doctor didn't think much of her going up and down the stairs anymore," says Richard. "We love it here in the Birch community."

Richard and Phyllis share a nicely stocked station, working HF and the VHF/UHF bands. The retirement villas don't allow huge towers and antennas, but in a show of ingenuity, Richard has run his coax out to his vehicle, which sports a nice set of mobile antennas. He can work the world from the comfort of his station, cozy inside the second bedroom of the villa, by using the mobile antennas on the truck. He uses a through-the-window insert panel from MFJ to get the signal out of the house.

Another demonstration of ingenuity is his 75-meter antenna: his rain gutter and downspout! As shown in the accompanying photographs, an alligator clip connects the whip end of the antenna to the aluminum downspout, adding in the metal from the gutter running the entire length of the villa.

"It really works, too," Richard reports.

Richard and Phyllis continue to be active on the bands, and often participate in public service events. They are regulars on the Monday night ARES net and many of the HF nets, too.

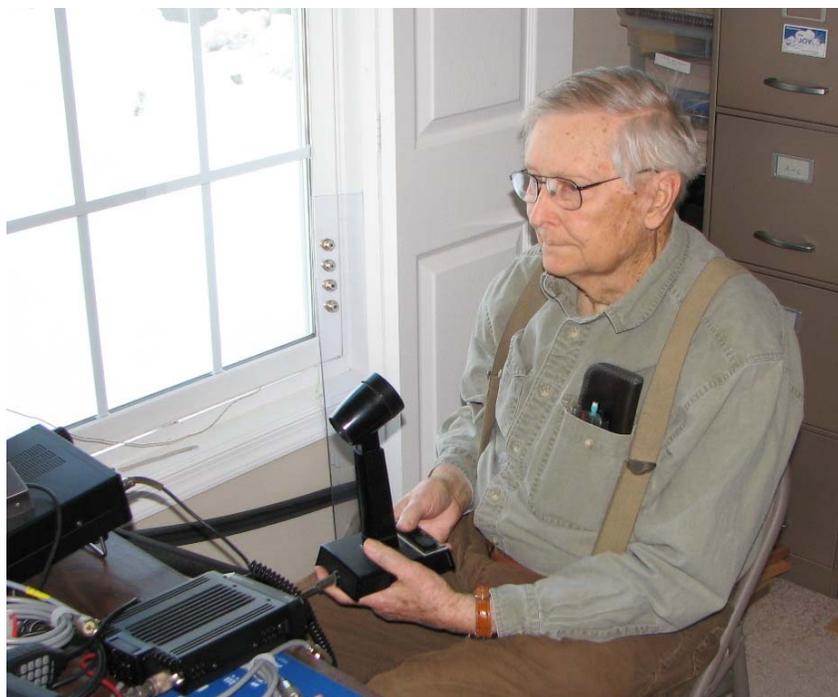
If you hear him on, ask him about the holes in the ground. But chances are, he can't tell you!



Above, after almost 40 years hamming, Phyllis isn't shy about picking up the microphone and pressing the PTT key.

Above left: Richard and Phyllis use an alligator clip to get their 75-meter signal onto their rain gutter and downspout. According to KC3AN, it really does work, although it does require a pretty good tuner. "We've worked the world with that downspout."

Left: Richard sits at their shared operating position. Notice the clear Plexiglas MFJ window insert panel with four SO-239 connectors leaning up against the window in the background, just above the microphone in the photo. The panel allows N4VZC and KC3AN to connect their rigs to the vehicular antennas in the driveway and still keep the cold (or hot) air outside.



ROCKINGHAM COUNTY ARES



Rockingham County ARES Meeting: January 9, 10:30 a.m. at HRECC

Bryan Daniels, K4RMY, emergency coordinator for Rockingham County ARES, wants to remind everyone that the Rockingham County ARES organization will hold a meeting on Saturday, January 9, at 10:30 a.m. at the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center on the 5th floor of the Harrison Plaza in downtown Harrisonburg.

The program will be a discussion of preparedness for ARES-RACES activations. Focus will be on “go-kits” and portable equipment.

If you plan to attend and would like to bring your own “go-bag” or “jump-kit” or other portable equipment to demonstrate or share, please do! The program will be better as a show-and-tell than a formal presentation.

Please advise Bryan by January 7th if you will be attending, and whether you plan to bring any equipment.

If you have questions, contact Bryan via email at k4rmy@comcast.net.

Rockingham County ARES Net Control Schedule

The net meets every Monday night at 8:00 pm local time. The first Monday of the month finds the net on 146.550 simplex. All other Mondays, the net meets on the 147.225 repeater, which uses a +0.600 MHz transmit offset, and requires a CTCSS (PL) tone of 131.8.

The net control station assignments for 2010 are:

January 4	Ray Ritchie K4NRA
January 11	Bob Hume W4TMV
January 18	Gerry Brunk K4RBZ
January 25	Norman Benner KA4EEN
February 1	Bryan Daniels K4RMY
February 8	Richard Weaver W3HXX
February 15	David Fordham KD9LA
February 22	James McDowell IV NN4JM
March 1	Ellsworth Neff W4LXG
March 8	Gerry Brunk K4RBZ
March 15	Ray Ritchie K4NRA
March 22	Gerald Nauman KN4FM
March 29	Norman Benner KA4EEN
April 5	Gayle Shull KU4XN
April 12	Bob Hume W4TMV
April 19	E.C. Showalter KG4KUR
April 26	Richard Weaver W3HXX
May 3	Bryan Daniels K4RMY
May 10	David Fordham KD9LA
May 17	James McDowell IV NN4JM
May 24	Ellsworth Neff W4LXG
May 31	Gerald Nauman KN4FM
June 7	Ray Ritchie K4NRA
June 14	E.C. Showalter KG4KUR
June 21	Gayle Shull KU4XN
June 28	Norman Benner KA4EEN

The net control call script is published on the following page for your reference. It can also be found on the Rockingham County ARES Website: <http://www.rockingham-ares.org>

Rockingham County ARES Net Control Call Script

Calling all radio amateurs, calling all radio amateurs.

This is the ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE NET, sponsored by the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association.

This net is a directed net which meets every Monday night at 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of training radio amateurs to handle emergency communications and to give them an opportunity to test their equipment.

Net control tonight is: *(your callsign)*

My name is *(your name)* and my location is *(your city or town)*.

This is a directed net, so please follow the instructions of Net Control.

At this time is there any EMERGENCY or TIME VALUED TRAFFIC for the net. If so, call now.

(Recognize the stations and handle any traffic immediately)

Do we have stations with ANNOUNCEMENTS for the net, if so your callsign ONLY please

(Recognize the stations but hold the announcements until after the roll call)

Do we have any liaisons to REGIONAL or SECTION NETS in the NTS, or any affiliated stations, such as MARS, CAP, other ARES or INDEPENDENT NETS. If so, your callsign ONLY.

(Recognize the stations and ask them to standby until after the roll call)

Are there any mobile, portable, short time, or stations operating on emergency power wishing to check in. If so, call now.

(recognize the stations, ask them individually if they can hold traffic and comments until after the roll call and announcements)

At this time we will take check-ins, by callsign suffix. If you have traffic, please state the nature of the traffic at the the time you check in.

(record your check-ins on your ARES Net log sheet)

Stations with suffix ALPHA through GOLF, call now.

Stations with suffix HOTEL through NOVEMBER, call now.

Stations with suffix OSCAR through TANGO, call now.

Stations with suffix UNIFORM through ZULU, call now.

Stations regardless of SUFFIX, call now.

At this time we will take stations with announcements or traffic only.

(Call the stations with announcements in order. At the end of each ask "Does any station need fills?" Recognize any stations asking for fills and direct them to contact the announcement station directly on the net.)

At this time we will secure the formal net and any mobile, portable, or short time stations needing to leave the net are now released.

Lets continue the informal portion of the net with a round of comments.

(Go to top of roll call list and ask for comments including any mobil, portable, or short time stations who have not left the net. Check periodically during the comments for late check-ins).

Is there any other traffic for the net or any other late check ins?

If not, this concludes the Rockingham County ARES NET.

Thanks to everyone for checking in. We would like to thank the trustees of the area repeaters for the use of their repeaters. At this time we will close the ROCKINGHAM COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE NET at _____ p.m. and return the frequency to normal amateur use.

This is _____ net control.

Report of the MARA Audit Committee

November 23, 2009

We the undersigned, being named as the 2009 Audit Committee for the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., have performed a detailed examination of the organization's financial records we were provided for the period September 1, 2000 to September 30, 2009.

In our opinion, the records present fairly the financial position of the organization as of September 30, 2009. During our review, we discovered no evidence that would cause us to suspect material error, fraud, or other discrepancies with the financial management or record-keeping.

The records indicate that the organization's financial balance as of September 30, 2009 is \$1,693.32.

Signed, Audit Committee Members

Sheryl M. Tonini (KJ4DOC)

Rick Adams (KJ4IND)

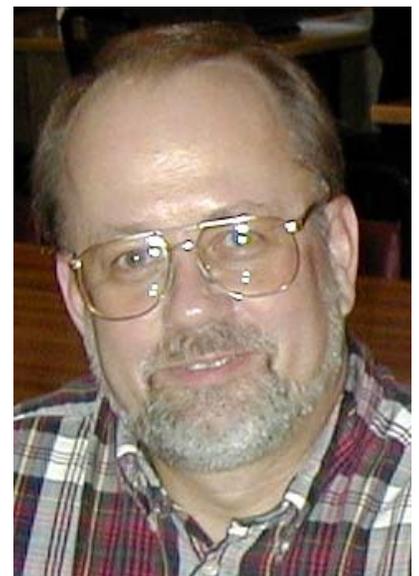
Thanks to Sandy Mullins, K4PZC

The MARA club would like to thank Sandy Mullins, K4PZC, for his service to the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association.

Sandy was first elected to serve as a Board Member of the corporation in October 1996, and has served continuously as a corporate officer ever since. He moved from Board Member to the office of Vice-President in October 1998, re-elected as VP in 1999, and was elected Treasurer in October 2000 – a position he has served in for the last nine (count 'em, nine!) years!

Sandy would still be serving if he had not "retired" to the far east, even further away than Elkton, too far away to drive to the monthly club meetings. We all hope you enjoy your life on the shores of the Chesapeake, Sandy. Thank you, and keep in touch!

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



VARA Secretary's Report – December 1 Meeting

The **VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION** met at Staunton Church of Christ on Tuesday December 1, 2009. The President, Scott Newlen KI4QQZ, welcomed everyone and gave a message of thanks to outgoing officers. We all gave Scott a big hand for all his time and work during his 2009 term as President.

2010 Officers are:

President:	Jeff Rinehart	W4PJW
Vice President:	Gordon Batey	WA4FJC
Secretary:	Steve Grant	W4IIV
Treasurer:	Doug Tippet	N8ESW
Program Manager:	Al Bonck	N3JB

VARA Christmas Party: Was held at the Staunton Church of Christ on Churchville Ave. across from Gypsy Hill Park on Tuesday December 1, 2009. Greg W4GRC asked the blessing before our covered dish meal. We had a good meal from many favorite recipes and lots of good home cooking. We did the gift exchange again this year and everyone enjoyed that. We had a total of thirty two persons for the party. On behalf of the VARA we would like to thank Greg for the use of his Church.

The **YEAR 2010** brings reminders of our Club dues and many events the club is asked to help with. Hopefully we can get more participation this year from club members for these events. These events are a great opportunity to show what ham radio can do for the community and in case of emergencies.

Thanks again for your support during my 10 years as VARA Secretary. I hope you will give Steve W4IIV your support in 2010.

Outgoing VARA SECRETARY
Ray Colvin KE4HVR

VARA NOTES OF INTEREST

VARA Web Site: <http://www.qsl.net/w4xd/> OR just type in w4xd.com

Minus-2-Net: <http://groups.google.com/group/minus2/web/main-minus-2-net-info-page?hl=en>

On this web page you will find a list of files on the right side, if you click on NET TIMES you will get a listing of these local nets. Print them out and place them by your radio as a reminder.

Valley Hams Group: <http://groups.google.com/group/valleyhams?hl=en>

AUGUSTA CO. ARES NET: David Tanks AD4TJ davideme@peoplepc.com 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 could 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 is in AH and not doing well. He is in room 219 if you would like to go see him or send him a card.

Let's keep Denny 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.**

Local Nets – I would like to see more participation in the local nets in the year 2010. The Augusta County ARES Net is held the second Thursday of each month at 8:00pm on the 146.850 repeater or on simplex at 146.490. The Minus-2-Net has been going on for over five years on the 146.850 repeater at 10:00pm. The Triple Nickel Net is held on the 4th Thursday of each month at 8:30pm on 147.555 simplex. The Augusta County 10M Net is held each Friday at 8:30pm on 28.490 USB.

For those that can get into the Highland repeater on 147.180+ Tone 100.0 they have their ARES Net on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month.

MARA Secretary's Report – December 3 Meeting

Due to the large number of attendees (84 total), introductions were limited to guests.

David (KD9LA) conducted the meeting.

New Members: 1st reading: John Keller and Paul Boison (KB3EDO). No second reading.

Secretary's minutes: It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the October and November minutes as printed in the Monitor.

Group Reports: dispensed with to give more time to the program.

Announcements:

VEC Session - the next VE session will be held on Saturday, February 13th at 9:00 am at the Woodmen of the World building in Dayton.

The following 2010 slate of officers took over at the close of this meeting:

President: Ellsworth Neff (K4LXG)

Vice-President: Chris Shirkey (KI4BAQ)

Secretary: Sheryl Tonini (KJ4DOC)

Treasurer: David Fordham (KD9LA)

Board Member '10: Bryan Daniels (K4RMY)

Board Member '11: James McDowell IV (NN4JM)

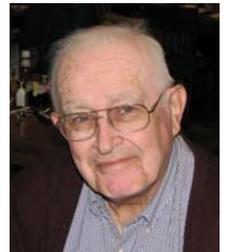
Old and New Business: None conducted, in deference to Christmas program

New Call or Upgrades: Blaise Haddock upgraded to Extra AK4BH, Amanda Haddock new ham KJ4PTU.

Motion to adjourn, seconded, approved. 50/50 – Cancelled for tonight due to Christmas program – will resume next meeting.

Program: Eversole Road Men's Quartet performed Christmas favorites.

Submitted by
Daryl Tonini (KJ4DNY)
on behalf of
Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC



MARA Interim Treasurer's Report – September 30, 2009 to December 20, 2009

Beginning Balance (per the Audit Committee and MARA books September 30, 2009)		\$ 1,693.32
Add:		
Membership (36 members as of December 17)	\$ 432.00	
October 50/50 donation	\$ 29.00	
Donations from organizations	\$1,300.00	
Less:		
Premium payments for club's liability insurance (checks 3430/3431)	\$ 171.00	
Ending Balance as of December 20, 2009		\$ 3,283.00

Submitted by David Fordham, KD9LA, Interim Treasurer

PVARC Secretary's Report – December 4 Meeting

Mark Hensley N4YSA, PVARC President called the meeting to order at 1800 in the Day Room, Page Memorial Hospital in Luray. Twelve members were present. There were no visitors. Inasmuch as there were no announcements, Mark N4YSA called for a reading of the November Meeting Minutes and the Treasurers Report by the Secretary/Treasurer. Both were accepted as read.

Committee Reports were as follows: Dave K4DPF & Phil KQ4D for the VEC Subcommittee reported on the two individuals doing self-study, noting both expect to be ready to try for their licenses at the next scheduled VE exam session.

The Technical Assistance Subcommittee reported they had installed a new antenna for Geoffrey WD4LYO. Using a homebrew "Bazooka," (sometimes called a "spud-gun") made of cemented lengths of PVC pipe and charged with compressed air was triggered by a nifty solenoid switch that easily launched a tethered projectile over a 50 foot tree. The bazooka, built by Mark N4YSA was passed around for all to see and admire. Geoffrey reports the new G5RV antenna a great improvement to his station.

While no report was given by the Membership Committee - Phil KQ4D spoke on the desirability of getting area inactive hams back on the air to help increase PVARC membership. Geoffrey WD4LYO, the co-chairman responded that he was still working on combining several lists of area amateurs into his database and hoped to have a "working list" shortly. It was generally agreed that these "inactive" hams should be invited to attend PVARC meetings. Mark N4YSA commented that hams checking into the Sunday night Page County ARES net who are not members have been invited to "drop-by" and visit.

Reporting on Emergency Preparedness Committee activities, Dave K4DPF briefed the members on a recent exercise conducted at the Page Memorial Hospital Emergency Operations Center. He was assisted by Geoffrey WD4LYO. He noted that there were still some problems associated with WinLink2000 that needed to be resolved, but the station is operational. Dave also mentioned that three ICOM 706 transceivers were successfully installed in the Health South Rehabilitation Center Regional EOC.

Putting on his "Field Day" hat, Dave K4DPF discussed various issues to begin thinking about in planning for the 2010 event. He will reserve the same location (if possible) at Lake Arrow Head when the reservations become available in Jan/Feb. In the ensuing discussion, Morgan K4RHD volunteered to cook for the event and others made further suggestions to improve our score. Mark N4YSA asked that the members take time over the next month to think over things they

would like to see and provide ideas on a separate sheet of paper to be passed on to the ARRL Field Day Subcommittee for consideration. He would like to see a maximum effort made by PVARC next field day!

Several items of Old Business were taken up next. First: Status of the PVARC banner. Mark N4YSA reported that Geoffrey WD4LYO had provided the necessary artwork/graphic in a suitable format to the company and the banner is now a "work in progress." Hopefully we will have it shortly. Second: Carol KA4LAF, Dave K4DPF and Geoffrey WD4LYO discussed various aspects in the design of the proposed PVARC website. They had not met during the month, but have agreed to meet at KA4LAF's QTH to work on possible solutions; e.g., how to register and whether to buy a domain name; what the domain name should be: should the website be hosted at QRM.com or elsewhere; what should the site structure and content look like; and, what will it cost? Following a lively discussion, Mark N4YSA asked the working group to come up with recommendations, or better yet, make a short list for consideration by the membership to be voted upon at a future meeting. The Third and final bit of Old Business was to vote on the re-election of Bob Forrest KJ4HFU to a full two-year term as the second Member-at-Large on the PVARC Board of Directors. Since there were no other candidates, the motion to elect by unanimous consent was made, seconded and passed.

One last remaining item of business was presented by Bob KJ4HFU. He had been asked to look into the possibility of locating a local restaurant where PVARC could, if the members desired, have a short business meeting and a meal where friends and family could attend and socialize. Bob report that he had talked to Allen Chu, owner of Brown's Restaurant on Main St. in Luray. He said Mr. Chu would be happy to accommodate PVARC in either of two rooms separated from the main dining area depending upon the number attending. After a short discussion, a motion was made to adopt the proposal to meet on odd numbered months at Brown's Restaurant (at the usual 1800 hour); and, to continue meeting at Page Memorial Hospital, as we have been, on even numbered months. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mark N4YSA announced that, as provided in the Club by-laws, the January meeting could be moved if it would fall on/near a holiday (New Year's Eve). Therefore, the next meeting will be held on the second Friday, January 8, 2010 at Brown's Restaurant. He urged everyone to bring a family member, prospective ham or friend. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe, happy and prosperous New Year, he adjourned the meeting at 1843.

MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.

President: Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG
 Vice President: Chris Shirkey, KI4BAQ
 Secretary: Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC
 Treasurer: David Fordham, KD9LA
 Board (exp 2010): Bryan Daniels, K4RMY
 Board (exp 2011): James McDowell IV, NN4JM

<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: Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW
 Vice President: Gordon Batey, WA4FJC
 Secretary: Steve Grant, W4IIV
 Treasurer: Doug Tippett, N8ESW
 Program Manager: Al Bonck N3JB

<http://w4xd.com>

VARA meets the first Tuesday of each month.

The January meeting will be held at the
 Shoneys in Staunton on Hwy 250 at I-81.

Dinner begins at 6:00 pm.
 The business meeting begins at 7:00 pm.

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.
 Odd-numbered Months
 at Browns Restaurant in Luray,
 Even-numbered Months in the Day Room of
 Page Memorial Hospital.

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

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Membership Renewal Form

NAME: _____ CALLSIGN: _____ CLASS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____

CELL PHONE (If you want it in club records for emergency purposes, not the roster!): _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: (print legibly!!) _____

MEMBER ARRL (Y/N) ___ REGISTERED ARES (Y/N) _____ SKYWARN ID: _____

Are you available for Workday Daytime Emergency Call up? (Y/N) _____

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

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

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

PVARC members mail with \$12 to: Sparky Terry, PO Box 649, Luray, VA 22835



The lint monkey says,
*"Renew your dues right now.
 No, no, don't wait!
 No, — don't do it tomorrow.
 Do it now. Right now. Don't wait.
 Yes, right now. Right ... now!
 Do it."*

MARA/VARA

c/o David Fordham
131 Wayside Drive
Weyers Cave, VA 24486
Phone: 540-568-3024
Email: fordhadr@jmu.edu

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