

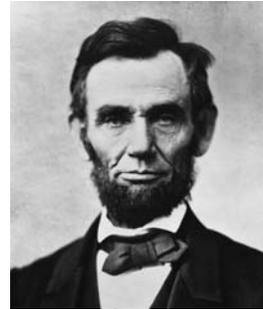
February
2010

THE MONITOR

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

VARA Meeting: Tuesday, February 2 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, February 2, starting at 6:00 pm. The restaurant is on Highway 250, 1 block east of I-81.



MARA Meeting: Thursday, February 4 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. Chris is working on lining up a program. Spouses, family, and guests are invited and welcome.

PVARC Meeting: Friday, February 5, at Page Memorial Hospital

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its monthly meeting in the Day Room of Page Memorial Hospital, starting at 6:00 p.m.



Last Call! This is the last issue of the Monitor you will receive if you have not renewed your club dues!

Use the Renewal Form inside the Back Cover! Do it NOW!

Sunspot Appears!

HF Radio is a lot more fun when the sun's acne has broken out.

For the last five years now, we have been suffering from a sunspot minimum which is the longest in recent history.

The sun was completely spotless more days during the last five years than any other five-year period in the last century.

But there's hope: two tiny spots were recorded in the last weeks of 2009, and although they didn't last but a few hours each, they signaled a possible start of an upswing.

Indeed another spot, still tiny, was observed on the sun at the end of January 2010. Can you see it on the photo below?



Let's hope the trend keeps up.

Keep up with the Spots!

Fred Evans N4KYM provides us with a link where we can keep track of what's happening. This site is updated EVERY DAY with the status of the sunspots. It also gives information on other astronomical phenomena such as conjunctions between the moon and planets, eclipses, meteor showers, etc. as well as some way-cool pictures!

Check it out:

<http://www.spaceweather.com>

Richmond Frostfest: February 6

Yes, it's a SATURDAY this year!

The Richmond Frostfest is on February 6, same place as last year: The Richmond Raceway.

PVARC's President's Message

The PVARC has changed its meeting place

Every other meeting will be at Brown's Restaurant in Luray.

Our first meeting at the restaurant was January and was well attended and everyone seemed to enjoy the change.

The February meeting will be at Page Memorial Hospital's Day Room.

We have begun planning for Field Day 2010. If you would like to be involved in any capacity be sure to attend the meeting. If you can not attend a meeting you can contact K4DPF Dave Firestone or KD4KL Sparky for information on Field Day. Don't miss it because Chef Morgan will be preparing his culinary delights!

But Field Day help in any capacity is very much appreciated.

"73" — Mark Hensley-N4YSA

Page Valley Amateur Radio Club Meeting Guidelines: Dinner is Odd!

All PVARC members and visitors are reminded that the club will meet for dinner on the ODD-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! See you there!

KR4CKA: EchoLink Information Needed

I was wondering if anyone else in the area also has an interest in Echolink / IRLP, or if there are any active radios / repeaters supporting either one in the Valley. I've just recently been Echolink-verified, and am keen to start some experimentation with it as are some Ham friends of mine in Seattle and Los Angeles. Seems like it could be a good stop-gap for me until I sit my General and start actually doing transcontinental HF ;)

73s, Cameron (KR4CKA).

Email: kr4cka@gmail.com

Echolink Article or Program Needed

Do you know about Echolink? Could you find time to write up a short article for the Monitor on this mode of operating? If not, please call or email the newsletter editor with some basic facts about local Echolink operation, and he'll write the article for you.

Better yet, how about a program at one of the club meetings?



Why is MARA.WS No Longer Working?

For some reason, the website URL "mara.ws" no longer works.

Never fear! The MARA website is still up and running. You just have use the longer URL:

<http://cob.jmu.edu/fordham/MARA>

If anyone has any information on why mara.ws is no longer working, have them contact the club officers.

Thanks,

Hams of the Month

Sparky Terry, KD4KL and Carol Terry KA4LAF

Mike “Sparky” Terry was first licensed in 1958 as KN0PJX in Denver, Colorado, while still in high school.

Always interested in how electrical things operate, he began tearing down old radios for parts. Encouraged by his Elmer, Frank Weightman (K0DKB) and a local owner of a Radio & TV Repair Shop, he gradually “learned the ropes” in what was to become a career in electronics.

After joining the Navy in 1959 he was sent to the Navy Electronics Technician training school in Great Lakes, Illinois. What a thrill – to spend eight hours a day learning about radio and radar equipment, and getting paid for it as well!

Leaving active duty in 1963 he built on his training by joining Burroughs Electro-Data Systems as a field engineer on their first solid state computer – an 8K core memory main-frame built for use in the banking community.

Follow-on jobs included a stint in R&D with Sylvania, HF/SSB & VHF/FM two-way radio repair and installation for the Federal Government in Alaska, Utah and the former Trust Territories of the Pacific - a great opportunity to hold exotic call signs such as KL7FMO & V73KL; and, to operate stations in Hawaii (KH6SP) and Switzerland (4U1ITU).

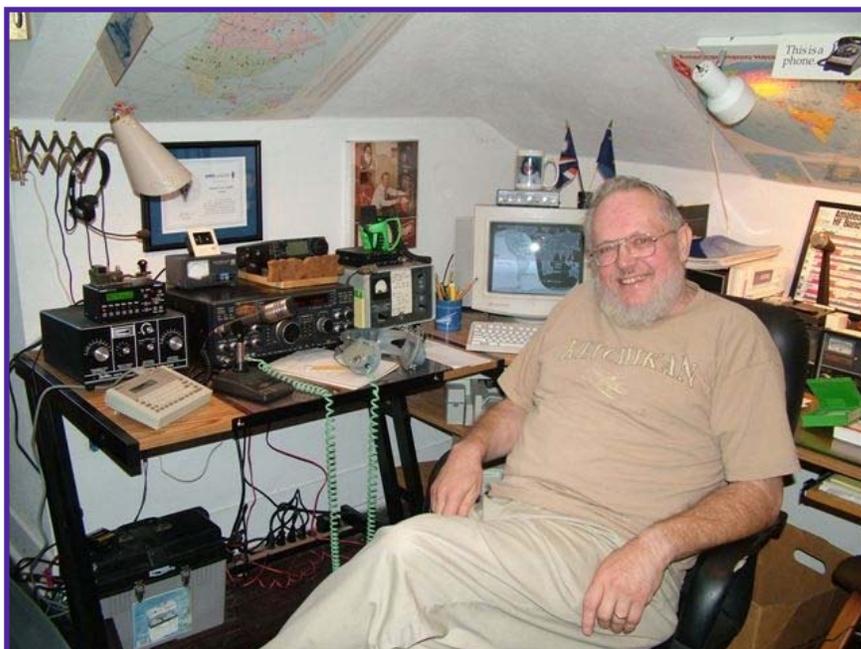
While continuing his federal government career he also remained in the Naval Reserves, serving on a variety of ships until 1985, retiring as a Chief Radioman where

he had the sad experience of witnessing the demise of CW (and HF radio) in navy communications.

Sparky retired from the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1995 where he served as the agency manager of radio communications networks and radio frequency licensing authority for bureaus located throughout the U.S. and its possessions.

“How fortunate I was to have a vocation and avocation” he says, “where I always looked forward to going to work AND going home because there was always something interesting to do!”

Living in Luray with XYL Carol (KA4LAF), they also maintain a condo in Alexandria so he can continue his volunteer work in the Electricity Collection at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History and Carol can be close to her consulting practice.



Sparky and Carol both love to travel domestically and abroad.

Sparky recently bought an old 1947 Ercoupe airplane and has taken up flying again after a lapse of more than 40 years. Look for him “aeronautical mobile” soon!

The photo at right shows Carol KA4LAF sitting behind the controls of the Ercoupe.

Sparky and Carol have a harmonic, and ham radio runs in the family. Not only is son Frank (KCOVGF) a ham, but so is brother Ed (KCOUCY). Frank and Ed are both back in Denver.

In keeping with his interest in restoration of antique airplanes and radios, Sparky enjoys putting around his basement workshop working on pre-1950 era tube radio equipment.

An inveterate “rag-chewer,” he works HF/VHF voice, cw and data modes.

He is a life member of ARRL & AMSAT, and the Secretary/Treasurer of PVARC.



VARA September Picnic Sep 11

No, this isn't a left-over article. It's a very, very, very early announcement about the 2010 VARA Picnic!

Nancy Colvin KE4PHP has reserved the Staunton Park pavilion near the armory and golf course for the VARA 2010 picnic next fall.

We just thought we'd let you know early so you can put it on your calendar!



KD40XQ: Server Back on Internet

My server has a web page back on it "KD40XQ's Home Page"! I have a few links on it and some items that can be downloaded if people are interested. For those (if any) that have checked it from time to time, this will be old news since I have been working on it for a while here and there a little bit at a time.

<http://www.valley-ham.info/index.html>

I will be adding stuff from time to time so people can keep checking back and if anyone would like to add any programs to the list or would like to see some information on there, they can feel free to get with me and I will see what I can do. At this time it is very basic but I will make it better looking as time goes on.

This is something for the next MARA news letter. You might want to rewrite it as I am not a writer as you can see but I gave you the info to work with. You can also ask if K4RMY would like to add anything since it does have ARES items on it.

Jay Stewart, KD40XQ

Rockingham County ARES Net Control Schedule

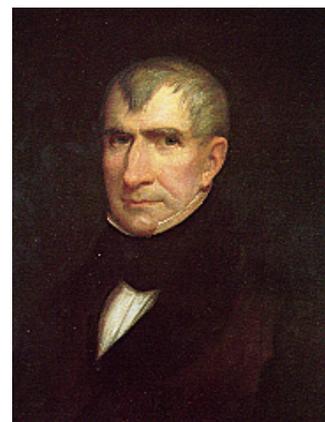
The net meets every Monday night at 8:00 pm local time. The first Monday of the month finds the net on 146.550 simplex. All other Mondays, the net meets on the 147.225 repeater, which uses a +0.600 MHz transmit offset, and requires a CTCSS (PL) tone of 131.8.

The net control station assignments are:

February 1	Bryan Daniels K4RMY
February 8	Richard Weaver W3HXH
February 15	TBA
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

The net control call script is published on page 9 of the January 2010 issue of the Monitor, available for downloading from the MARA webpage.

It can also be found on the Rockingham County ARES Website: <http://www.rockingham-ares.org>



William Henry Harrison

VARA Secretary's Report – January 5 Meeting

The Vara met at the Staunton Shoneys on 01/05/2010 at 7:00pm.

Had 1 visiter - John Keller

Charles Bennetch N4LNU won the 50/50 drawing - he donated his winnings to the club

Treasurer's report given and approved for November and December

Secretarys report was given and approved

No new members were submitted

New president Jeff Rinehart W4PJW gave a talk on some things he wanted to do for the new year

A booth at Augusta County Fair was discussed

Thanks was received from the repeater groups for donations given by the VARA

Thanks were also received from the bike fest people

There was no presentation cause the meeting ran very long - we had a lot to do.

73s

Steven Grant W4IIV Secretary VARA



For Sale: Icom 751A and accessories: \$650

I am selling my Icom 751a HF rig. It comes with the hand mic, Heathkit desk mic, matching speaker and remote keypad. (RC10) I have the original boxes and manual.

I sent the radio to Paul Hansen's Icom shop in South Carolina last year for repair and complete tuneup (alignment).

\$600 will take this station home ready to play.....

Contact me by email or call me at 540-271-2555

Colin Hester, N4ZFQ, n4zfq@yahoo.com



MARA Secretary's Report – January 7 Meeting

Attendance: Members: 22 Guests: 10 Total: 32

Introductions made all around. Ellsworth (K4LXG) conducted the meeting.

Reports:

New Members: 1st reading: N/A 2nd reading: John Keller (W4ZAO) and Paul Boyson (KB3EDO), approved.

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

Treasurer's report: It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the Audit Committee Report of the organization's financial records for the period September 1, 2000 to September 30, 2009 as read by Sheryl (KJ4DOC) and printed in the Monitor.

Groups:

ARES/RACES: Next ARES meeting scheduled for Saturday, January 9th at 10:30 am at the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center on the 5th floor of the Harrison Plaza in Harrisonburg.

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.

Public Service – None to report

Announcements: It was announced that the RMH patient move date is currently scheduled for June 22, 2010.

Old Business: None to report.

New Business: Richmond Frostfest will be held Saturday, February 6th.

New Call or Upgrades: None to report.

Motion to adjourn, seconded and approved.

50/50 – \$17.00 won by Fred Evans (N4KYM) and donated back to the club.

Program: Around the room sharing of what we all received for Christmas.

Submitted by

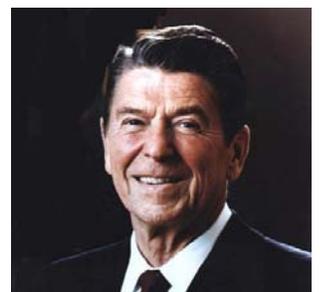
Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC



VE Exam Session: February 13

Don't forget: The February VE Session will be held Saturday, February 13, at the Woodmen of the World building on Highway 42 just north of Dayton, Virginia. Sign-in starts at 9 am.

Trivia Question: What do all these former presidents have in common?
And why are they in the February issue of the Monitor?



PVARC Secretary's Report – January 8 Meeting

Page Valley Amateur Radio Club welcomed the New Year and celebrated its second year as an ARRL sanctioned club with a “Dutch Treat” dinner meeting at Browns Chinese Restaurant in Luray on January 8th.

Testing the water (and tasting the food) proved to be a successful strategy, with nearly 100 percent membership attendance and a couple of local amateurs “dropping in” to check out the local ham club.

I think they were favorably impressed and hope they will feel comfortable enough to join the club. We even had one “non-ham” visitor stop by after reading our meeting notice in the Courier newspaper inviting the public to attend, and asking technical questions about installing a 2 meter antenna, monitoring the local repeater and basic FCC licensing information.

One of our main initiatives this calendar year is to continue to “grow” the club membership. The general consensus is that PVARC should continue to alternate business meetings at the Page Memorial Hospital facility; and, social gatherings at Browns.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 5, 2010 in the Page Memorial Hospital Day Room (Luray) at 6:00 p.m. The agenda is still open but will certainly include a continuation of our dinner topics including: plans for a club website, ARRL Field Day assignments and member projects - especially Dave K4DPF's recent entry into the rarified atmosphere of those hams who remotely control their stations over the internet using only a lap top computer! Well done Dave!!

So there you have it - PVARC is on the move and looking forward to a new year of fun and ham radio activities. We encourage all amateurs (or non-amateurs), members or not, to attend any of our functions.

Remember, we meet the first Friday of each month (except January) at 1800 local time - odd numbered months at Browns Restaurant and even numbered months at Page Memorial Hospital. Both venues are in Luray.

PVARC contact person is Sparky Terry KD4KL who can be reached at 540-743-1415 or by email: KD4KL@ARRL.NET for additional information about club activities.

MARA Treasurer's Report – December 20, 2009 to January 25, 2010

Beginning Balance December 20 (last report)	\$ 3,283.32
Add:	
Membership renewals (29 members since last report)	\$ 348.00
January meeting 50/50 donations	\$ 17.00
Donation from William Shell	\$ 8.00
Less:	
Meals for Christmas Banquet Singers	\$ 33.99
Printing and mailing of newsletter: May 2009 thru January 2010	\$ 324.44
Ending Balance as of January 25, 2010	\$ 3,297.89

Submitted by David Fordham, KD9LA, MARA Treasurer

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 February 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

The Monitor is published monthly by MARA, Inc.
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 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.

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 the Monitor may occasionally use copyrighted material under the
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Copyright notices must be respected.

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.

Had you rather receive the Monitor via US (snail) Mail instead of email: (circle one): EMAIL / U.S. MAIL

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



Question: Why Is My Mailbox Empty?

Answer: Because you didn't renew your dues on time!

This is the last issue you will receive if you have not renewed your dues. The Monitor distribution database will be purged after the February club meetings, and if your name is not on the Treasurers' list of renewals, well, — the photo to the left could be your mailbox next month, whether electronic, or snail mail.

Don't let this happen to you! Use the form above to send in your check TODAY.

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



MARA
VARA
PVARC
