

May
2010

THE MONITOR

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

MARA President to be Guest Speaker at VARA Club Meeting: Tuesday, May 4

The regular monthly meeting of the Valley Amateur Radio Association will be held on Tuesday, May 4 at Shoney's in Staunton. Dinner starts at 6:00 pm, business meeting at 7:00. After the business meeting, a program will be given by the MARA club president, Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG, about his decades with WSVA and other valley broadcasting legends. Come out and hear a real old-timer talk about the old times! See you there!

Program on Backup Power Systems at MARA Meeting: Thursday May 6

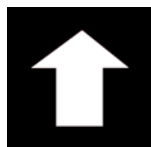
MARA's monthly meeting will be held May 6 at the Wood Grill in Harrisonburg. Matthew Huffman of Huffman Electrical Systems will present a program on Emergency, Backup, and Alternate Power Systems. Dinner starts at 6:30, Business meeting at 7:30, followed by the program. Visitors are welcome.



PVARC Meeting: Friday, May 7, at Browns Restaurant in Luray

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its bi-monthly dinner meeting at Browns Restaurant in Luray, May 7 starting at 6:00 pm. Families, Spouses, and friends are invited.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGES



VARA President's Message

At the April meeting, we were busy discussing all the different directions that VARA is proceeding. Steve Ferguson N4PKJ is busily coordinating the VARA and Boy Scout venture at Expoland for May the 8th so keep that in mind – more on this at the May meeting. We discussed a little bit about whether or not VARA would set up a booth at the Augusta County Fair in August with no firm commitment at this time. Gordon WA4FJC requested some help with Riverfest in Waynesboro on April 24th but that activity will probably be over by the time you get this.

Membership is growing for the club and as you can see, we are getting into the swing of things for the summer. Of course there is Field Day the 4th full weekend of June and our committee members have already had their first organizational meeting. If you want to be a part of the planning, you can attend the next committee meeting at 6pm at the Mt. Crawford Burger King on May 20th.

I mowed the yard today – 80 degrees HOT!! Summer is still my least favorite of our four seasons around here. I will have to admit though, that this past winter made think twice about that – maybe I'm getting “soft” in retirement??



*Jeff W4PJW,
President VARA*

PVARC President's Message

Greetings from the Page Valley Amateur Radio Club.

Summer is near and preparations for antenna parties, tower work and Field Day are at hand.

The opportunities for public service, and the chance to help other Amateurs are many, and to me one of the most satisfying parts of the hobby. Antenna work is at the top of the list of things that other hams need and could use help and guidance.

But even if you cannot climb a tower or you are not the resident antenna guru, there are many other places that we could all use help from time to time. Being a Elmer to a new Ham will have a life long impact on that person. Who of us can't remember who guided us on our first steps of this great hobby.

You could help a brother ham get started with the digital modes or in the repair of equipment. Or sometimes just a little advice can help immensely. Even if you feel that you are not able to physically help, just being there for moral support is good for those helping, and those being helped.

So when the opportunity presents itself, lend a hand. This is one of the satisfying parts of the hobby.

Hope you are present at the next meeting rather it be PVARC, MARA or VARA.



*Mark Hensley, N4YSA
President PVARC*

MARA President's Message

I am getting this message to The Monitor editor, David, KD9LA, later than I planned as my brother next in age to me, Larry, (I am the eldest) was in a 2 car auto accident on Sunday, April 18th near Fredrick, Maryland. As he lives alone and was a good distance from home, I went there to look after him and attend to his affairs. He sustained a head injury/brain concussion and was not able to think clearly for himself for a few days. His car was totaled so I drove him home last Thursday night. He has greatly improved and thank God he was not more seriously injured or killed! All of this just about filled my whole week.



Here it is almost into May and it seems as if we just had our MARA Christmas Party. Well, I guess it is time to take down the Christmas tree, Hi, Hi! Remember, only 2 months until Field Day!

I am pleased at the large number of new hams who were just recently licensed or upgraded and are now active.

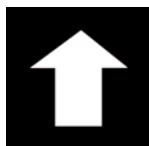
Last Saturday the 24th, I took Clayton Towers, K4RHQ, with me to attend the Virginia Fone Net yearly get-together/dinner at Mrs. Rowe's Restaurant at Mount Crawford. I saw lots of familiar faces there and many more that I have worked in the past but finally got to meet eyeball. Neal Layman, N4XU, who is always at our Field Days as a CW operator was the net manager/master-of-ceremonies. He gave me a job of taking pictures for him with his camera. There were 110 attendees which is a fantastic turnout. I might add that Clayton, K4RHQ, has been the Saturday evening net control for the Virginia Sideband Net for 45 years. What a fantastic accomplishment! Also in attendance was Carl Clements, W4CAC, the Virginia Section Manager for ARES/RACES, one of my bosses as DEC. It is reported that I traveled the shortest distance, 2 and 1/2 miles.

I again want to express my pleasure over the enthusiastic attendance at the MARA meetings. What a fine group we have.

Again, if you have a program idea for our monthly meetings, please let Vice President Chris Shirkey or me know of such.

*Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG,
President, MARA*

ASSISTANCE NEEDED



KI4DMC: Elmer Help Needed

Larrie Kline, KI4DMC, a general-class ham on Locust Drive in Harrisonburg, has obtained a 30-foot tower from the estate of John Hochmeister, W9IMI, and is looking for some assistance and help getting it up.

Larrie is interested in putting together a tower party, but before he can schedule a date, he wants to hear from some experienced hams who might be able to give him a few pointers, guidelines, suggestions, hints, and things to watch out for.

Give Larrie a call at 540-433-2022 or email him at lkline39@yahoo.com



WA4FJC: 50C5 Tube Needed

A friend of mine (yes, he's a ham) is looking for a 50C5 vacuum tube (photo right). Anyone close by have one sitting around they'd like to get rid of?

Gordon Batey, WA4FJC
WA4FJC@arrl.net



N1QEQ – Anyone Got A Faceplate?

I have acquired a working Realistic model 20-135 hand-held scanner. It covers selective bands from 30 MHZ thru 960 MHZ. Only problem is the faceplate is missing which labels all of the pushbuttons (25) on the front. If anyone has one and could tell me what each button does or better yet, have a manual, please let me know.

Bob Steere, N1QEQ

K4LXG: How is your IC-751A Doing?

I have had an Icom IC-751A for around 15 years and it has worked perfectly during this span of time to now. A couple of days ago I was on 75-meters (3947 KHz.) on the Virginia Sideband Net when the frequency display changed from the displayed frequency to all zeros and would not receive or transmit. A couple of times the frequency flashed back and it would operate but then it would go back to the zeros and the loss of the transmit/receive functions. It has the built-in AC power supply, by the way. I tried it on an external 12-volt, 35-amp. AC power supply and found no change. I checked the memory battery and it is still above 3 volts. I also unplugged and replugged most of the connectors on the boards in case a connection had oxidized or corroded. I downloaded servicing data and schematics but they are of poor quality. My first suspect is an electrolytic capacitor having dried out and/or shorted. It acts as if the clock/master oscillator/CPU/phase-locked loop/whatever has failed. Indicator lights on the buttons/controls still function and it switches between transmit and receive but with no RF output or reception.

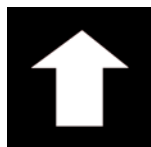
I was checking info on the internet regarding any problems with the '751A and it mentions one problem being that the trimmer capacitors being made, in that vintage radio, of a plastic that deteriorates with time and all these trimmers need to be replaced as they fail with time. It could be that the problem I have is not related but has anyone had a problem with a '751 like I describe or with the trimmers going bad and/or having to be replaced? I am debating on whether to repair it myself, send it in for repairs or "trash it". Replacing these capacitors, providing they can still be obtained, will require a complete alignment of the entire transceiver also. Otherwise it is in excellent shape and condition.

I will very much appreciate it if you will contact me regarding any problems or experiences you may have had with a '751A in your past or can add anything further.

Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG



PUBLIC SERVICE HELP NEEDED



Help Needed for MMT-100 Foot Race: May 15-16

It is that time of year again when I am looking for Radio Operators for the MMT-100 foot race in Fort Valley, Va. It will be held on the weekend of May 15 and 16 rain or shine. This year will be different because they have changed the start/finish line to Caroline Furnace Camp which is located inside Fort Valley. We will still have all the same Aid Stations but they will be numbered differently and the open and close times will not be the same as before. You can go to their web site, <http://vhtrc.org/mmt/>, for more information as to the times of each Aid Station.

We are working on a new repeater for the area and hope to have it ready by race time. Hopefully it should give us better coverage than we have had in the past.

Please spread the word around to other hams because I can use all the help I can get.

73

Larry Miller KB6VAA

Rockingham County ARES Training Drill – May 15

Rockingham County ARES is planning to participate with the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center in a training drill. We will need 12 volunteers to assist with this drill.

The date is Saturday, May 15th!

The drill will consist of two parts. The morning session will be training and discussion revolving around the scenario of a multiple HRECC tower outage. Topics will include dual band operations, equipment compatibility, antenna and propagation issues, mounting of antennas, alternative power, long term operations, and other topics from the Public Safety area.

The afternoon will consist of actually going to sites from the scenario and creating a net to pass information/traffic back to HRECC.

This is the first time that we have worked in a formal way with the HRECC in a training drill. We hope to make this a very worthwhile activity for all concerned.



Bryan Daniels, K4RMY
Emergency Coordinator, Rockingham County ARES
District 15 VA

Scouting Around: Help Needed for VARA Public Service Event on May 8

Greetings to all the amateur radio operators in the Shenandoah Valley and nearby areas. I just wanted to give all a quick update on VARA hosting a table and an operating station at the Scout Expo event happening on May 8th at the "Expo" facility in Fishersville. The event is slated to run from 10 am to 4 pm. We will be able to do set up the evening before which will probably be necessary.

Scout Expo is a scouting show put on by all the units in the regional Stonewall Jackson Area Council (SJAC). SJAC is the regional scouting unit comprised of Rockingham, Augusta, Albemarle, Nelson and Rockbridge Counties and the included cities. This includes Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Venture and Explorer Scouting units. Most of the units will be represented at the Scout Expo showing off their unit and some aspect of scouting. Individuals attending Scout Expo will have the opportunity to walk around and learn about scouting (all phases), see how scouting works and learn much about all aspects of scouting. Community organizations (commercial and non commercial) supportive of scout have also been invited to present at Scout Expo. This will help the scouts and their families learn more about their organizations and give the organizations a chance to present themselves to scouting & the general public.



VARA participation in the Scout Expo is a chance to show off what amateur radio is and how it fits into scouting. Communication has always been part of scouting skills. Boys at one time even had the opportunity to learn Morse code in earning a boy scout rank. Amateur Radio now is represented by Radio Merit Badge, Jamboree on the Air (in October), suggested scout operating frequencies and similar. Many scout dads and granddads are ham operators. This goes for the moms and grandmoms also. **This is a chance to show off amateur radio and possibly influence some interested or curious scouts into becoming or someday becoming amateur radio operators.**

Help will be needed during the Saturday event to demonstrate operation, help scouts operate third party style, and just talk about amateur radio in all its variety. Help will also be needed the evening before to help set up a raise-able tower to mount wire antennas from. Friday evening Clint - KB4OLM is going to park his operating trailer/tower base behind the EXPO building where some outdoor scouting activity will take place. We will be trying to park it against the base of the hill behind EXPO and put wires up the hill. This should give us a good outdoor operating area, plus we will have an indoor table for information, contact point, sending people out to the trailer etc. We will be able to do some types of operating from inside (2 m, 440, anything computer based etc.). We will hopefully be stationed near one of the back doors and can put an appropriate antenna outside also. Communication with the operating trailer can be via two meters.



As this is a fund raising event for the Council and for individual scouting units all who enter the EXPO whether helping or just viewing will need to pay a ticket price. Tickets are \$2.00 if bought in advance or \$3.00 at the main entrance. The club has offered to reimburse any VARA member who comes to help during the day on Saturday. I will try to have tickets for sale at the \$2.00 price at the next meeting. I will of course be trying to get help for Friday evening and for the Saturday event.

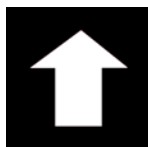
If I can answer any questions or someone wants to get on the volunteer list early please call me, contact me during the Minus Two Net, email me, etc.

73 for now...

Steve Ferguson/N4PKJ
Scouting Commissioner for Pack, Troop, and Venture Crew 30
Home phone: 885-5982
Cell phone: 290-0525
email stevferg@comcast.net

N4PKJ in uniform

FOR SALE



W4POL: Estate Sale – Yaesu FT 901DM Station from Bill Pollard W4KTT, SK

YAESU FT-901DM All-mode HF Transceiver, 160-10m, 180 watt SSB/CW with:

SP 901 Phone Patch and Speaker
 Micronta 3-range PowerMeter and SWR Tester
 Heathkit Electronic Keyer HD-1410

The Yaesu transceiver is about 35 years old, but was used by Bill up to his death last year.

Also for sale: Astron Power Supply, 110-volt in, 13.8 volts out, 30-amp. Traditional not switching.

Gear is now at 1180 Shenandoah Street in Harrisonburg, available for viewing and inspection. If you are interested, email me at lehmancj@shentel.net, or phone 540-433-1364.

Enjoy the lovely spring weather, and remember that HF will be coming back soon!

Jim Lehman, W4POL



YAESU FT-901DM

For Sale: 54-Foot Tri-Ex Tower Model 354: \$500

David Morrison AB4RI is selling a tower from the estate of Ben Levitz. Dave has all the paperwork and engineering specs on the tower, and is asking only \$500, which is a bargain considering that this tower is a telescoping tower, crank-up model, in really great condition, according to Ray Colvin, KE4HVR, who personally inspected it. The tower has three 21-foot sections, and includes the base with the winch, also! The bottom tower section measures 2-feet across the legs. The whole thing weighs in at about 700 lbs.

Dave also has three tower sections of Rohn 25G, plus the top section with the thrust bearing. Ray says these tower sections are also in great shape.



Free to Good Home: Collectible Hallicrafters S-53A Receiver

The estate of W8LWR is looking for a good home for a vintage receiver, a real Hallicrafters S-53A receiver. This receiver is at least 50 years old. If you are interested, email Dick Bright, ex-K8EDE at rhbrightebb@ntelos.net

For Sale by the PVARC Widow's Assistance Program

As a service to local hams who have passed away, the PVARC will assist widows with the liquidation of ham radio-related items at no charge. Below are the items presently available from the estate of KA4LER. Questions and inquiries about these items should be directed to Sparky Terry, KD4KL, at kd4kl@arrl.net

SGC PowerTalk SG-2000 HF Transceiver: Asking \$750

The SGC Power Talk SG-2000 is an advanced ADSP - HF/SSB transceiver in a slim state-of-the-art package. A spinner knob gives you hands-on tuning. PowerTalk SG-2000 features 644 ITU and ham frequencies, including SITOR/AMTOR/PAKTOR telex channels, permanently etched into memory, plus 100 user programmable frequencies and easy Weatherfax connections. Would make a wonderful MARS capable rig! A full 150 Watts of power. It has an extra large, extra bright LCD display and a removable control head. All manuals, cabling and Heil handheld microphone included. Cost new: > \$2,000. PVARC Widow's Assistance Program price: \$750.



Panasonic RF-220 Receiver: Asking \$100

Introduced by Panasonic to the shortwave community around 1976, the RF-2200 was certainly a marvel of achievement for its day, and could very well be the best analog portable ever made. This radio still commands high respect today and can easily fetch anywhere between \$150 to \$200 on ebay in good working condition. You're getting it for a steal if you are lucky enough to find one of these gems at a flea market or yard sale for \$100 or less. This unit is in like new condition with original manual.

This is a receiver which offers the combined advantages of good solid construction along with high quality specs and great features. Being no slouch to size and weight, the RF-2200 is built around a heavy duty plastic body measuring 12" x 4" x 7½" and it weighs in at a hefty 6¾ lbs without batteries. Its tuning range covers 8 selectable bands which include, the medium wave BC band 520 to 1600 KHz, FM band 88 to 108 MHz, and shortwave frequencies 3.8 to 28 MHz. It features an analog frequency scale matched together with a manual rotary dial. Accurate and reliable tuning is accomplished with a set of 125kHz and 500kHz calibration markers. The radio also features a BFO which provides adequate reception for SSB / CW signals, selectable fast and slow tuning speeds, selectable wide and narrow bandwidth, RF gain control, separate bass and treble controls, plus good illumination for tuning and signal meter.



All of these features on the RF-2200 are further enhanced by a receiver having excellent sensitivity along with audio that delivers a full rich sound. This is a radio that is a genuine pleasure to use...both for beginners and seasoned users alike! There's nothing like sitting out back or on your front porch cruising the MW band with one of these '2200s just seeing what's coming in, day or night. Modern digital portables just don't give you the same experience as an analog radio. PVARC Widow's Assistance Program price: \$100.



Above: Geoffrey WD4LYO and Dav K4DPF, discuss the Widow's Assistance and Estate Sale items for sale at the PVARC Meeting.

PUBLIC SERVICE REPORTS



VE April Test Session Report

Thanks to the many fine VE's who helped with the April 10 Ham Radio Licensing Text Session:

**Bob Van Fossen K4DJG,
Michael Turner K4MIC,
Michael McKay W4AZR,
Jim Lehman W4POL,
E.C. Showalter KG4KUR,
Gerald Nauman KN4FM,
Hugh Pettis K3EC,
Richard Haxton KC3AN, and
Ellsworth Neff K4LXG.**

We had eight people for testing. All earned their license or upgrade. There were six new technician licenses, one new General, and one new Extra class license earned. Mark your calendar for June 12, as this will be the next VE session.

Waynesboro RiverFest Public Service Event Report

Several area hams assisted with the Waynesboro Riverfest 2010 which consisted of a 3.1 mile footrace, followed by a 2 mile kayak/canoe paddle and an 11.5 mile bike ride. It was held on Saturday April 24, 2010. The drizzle stopped just before the start of this three part event and a good time was had by all those participating in this public service event.

Shown in the photo are **Doug N8ESW, Marvin KF4WDI, Herb AA2BF, Stan K2SSB, Nicholas VanFossen, Gary KI4FZV.** Photo by **Gordon WA4FJC.**

A very big "Thank You" to the hams that took their day to assist with this event.



Harrisonburg March of Dimes Public Service Event

The March of Dimes organization would like to thank those hams who provided communication at this years walk in Harrisonburg. Everything went well.

We did find that communications to the 147.225 repeater from that area can be marginal, especially with the new metal roof on the Farmers Market causing problems. We had no problem when we switched to 146.52.

We also located a missing youngster who had been separated from his mother, just as the police radio was sending out a request to locate him.

Thanks to the following hams who assisted:

**Gayle Shull KU4XN
Gail Shull KB4JBF
James McDowell IV NN4JM
Ellsworth Neff K4LXG
Ray Ritchie K4NRA
Nancy Ritchie JG4JAZ
Bryan Daniels K4RMY
Larrie Kline KI4DMC
Bob Steere, N1QEQ**


ANNOUNCEMENTS


Charlottesville Mobile Ham Radio Cruise-In: Still on for May 1st

Come to Charlottesville and participate in a showcase of mobile amateur radio equipment. Pack a picnic lunch and spend a fun day in the park with your fellow hams from all over Virginia. Receive a "Certificate of Participation" just for showing up. No mobile rig required; however, special certificates will be awarded to the most innovative mobile station shown in a car, truck, RV, motorcycle and bicycle; as well as a certificate for the ham traveling the longest distance. **Saturday, 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. — May 1, 2010 Darden Towe Park - Charlottesville (A Half-Mile North on Route 20 from Route 250 East of Charlottesville)** Talk-In will be on 146.760 Repeater, No Tone Required. Talk-Around on site will be on 146.550 simplex Query: Jim Crosby, K4JEC, 434-823-2277 To save time on your arrival, let us know you are coming by completing the pre-registration form on our website. Pre-registration is not required for participation but will be appreciated for planning purposes. There will be no entry or registration fee. Check our website: albemarleradio.org for specific and last minute details. Email inquiries to: k4jec@arri.net



Field Day Committee Meetings: Mt. Crawford Burger King May 20, and June 17 — Starting at 6:00 p.m.

The joint MARA/VARA Field Day Committee is hard at work, and has already completed the first round of the assignment spreadsheets. The next meeting of the Committee will be Thursday night, **May 20**, at 6:00 p.m. at the Burger King in Mount Crawford, right off of Interstate 81 at the Bridgewater/Mt. Crawford exit (Exit 240). Mark your calendar. Visitors and other interested hams are welcome and invited.

Caravan Planning for Dayton Hamvention 2010

If you haven't been to the Dayton Hamfest in Dayton Ohio, this might be a good year to go.

Local valley hams caravan together, leaving on Thursday morning. The group meets for breakfast in Lexington, then drives cars, trucks, RV's, almost anything with wheels and a 2-meter radio, to Dayton. The group meets again at lunchtime each day to compare notes, ask each other to "be on the lookout for" sought-after items, and just enjoy each other's company.

If you are thinking of going to Dayton this year, contact Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW, for some special information that will help prepare you for what may be one of the highlights of your life. Those who have been know: every ham needs to go to Dayton at least once in their life. Jeff's phone number (540) 337-7337 (Churchville).

The problem is, once you've been to Dayton, it's so great you want to go back again, year after year. Give some serious consideration to asking for a couple of days off work in May to attend this exciting and unique event. You'll be glad you did.

KQ4D



Who Are These Hams?

Who is that with Phil? These pictures were taken at the Baltimore Timonium hamfest last month. The ham on the left in the left picture is a very famous FCC enforcement officer — recently retired — by the name of Riley Hollingsworth. The ham on the right in the right picture is Riley's replacement, Laura Smith, who is presently the Chief Enforcement officer for the FCC's Amateur Radio Division. (Now the next big question is, what were FCC enforcement officers doing talking to Phil?)



Phil KQ4D Wows at the PVARC Meeting with his UUUHF kilowatt transmitter



Above: Phil Rinaca KQ4D trying to convince Mark N4YSA to buy his ultra-ultra-high-frequency (angstrom wavelength) kilowatt transmitter.



Above: Gene KJ4HFO and Mark N4YSA examining the Navy surplus search light obtained by Phil KQ4D at a recent hamfest.

FYI'S



WD4LES Moving to Colorado

VARA life member Frank Forsyth and his wife Kitty will be moving to Colorado to be closer to their family members. They want everyone to know their new address:

Frank Forsyth, WD4LES
6450 S. Boston St. Apt. 1105
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Shenandoah Hams Meet 3rd Saturday

Larry Miller, KB6VAA, wants everyone to know that a group of hams in Shenandoah Valley usually meets at the Exxon Station (yes, they have chairs inside!) starting at 8:30 a.m. This station is located at the intersection of I-81 and State Highway 42 in Woodstock. Hams are welcome to join them. The next Third Saturday will be May 15, but since that is the MMT event, contact Larry to find out for sure: lmiller@shentel.net

Can You Work the New Repeater?

Can you work the new repeater from your QTH? Will your mobile radio hit it? The repeater's output is 146.865, with a minus-0.600 MHz. offset, and the repeater requires a 179.9 Hz PL tone.

This repeater is located several miles south of Route 50 a few miles west of Winchester, and appears to have good coverage into the northern parts of Rockingham County, as well as hilltop areas in and around Harrisonburg. We have even had reports from Fishersville and high points near Staunton. Check it out, and get on the air!

Ozark Thread Works Makes Callsign Cap Offer to Clubs

Don Abshier is the owner of Ozark Thread Works in Arkansas, and often appears at hamfests in the Deep South. He wants to let everyone know that he's available to make club caps, and is running a special for members of local ham radio clubs. He will embroider a cap with name and call letters for only \$16 (including the cost of the cap!) when a club orders 10 or more caps at one time. The club can save on shipping too, at only \$0.55 per cap. If a club orders 20 or more caps at one time (different call on each cap, of course) then the shipping is free for the whole order. His website is www.ozarkthreadworks.com



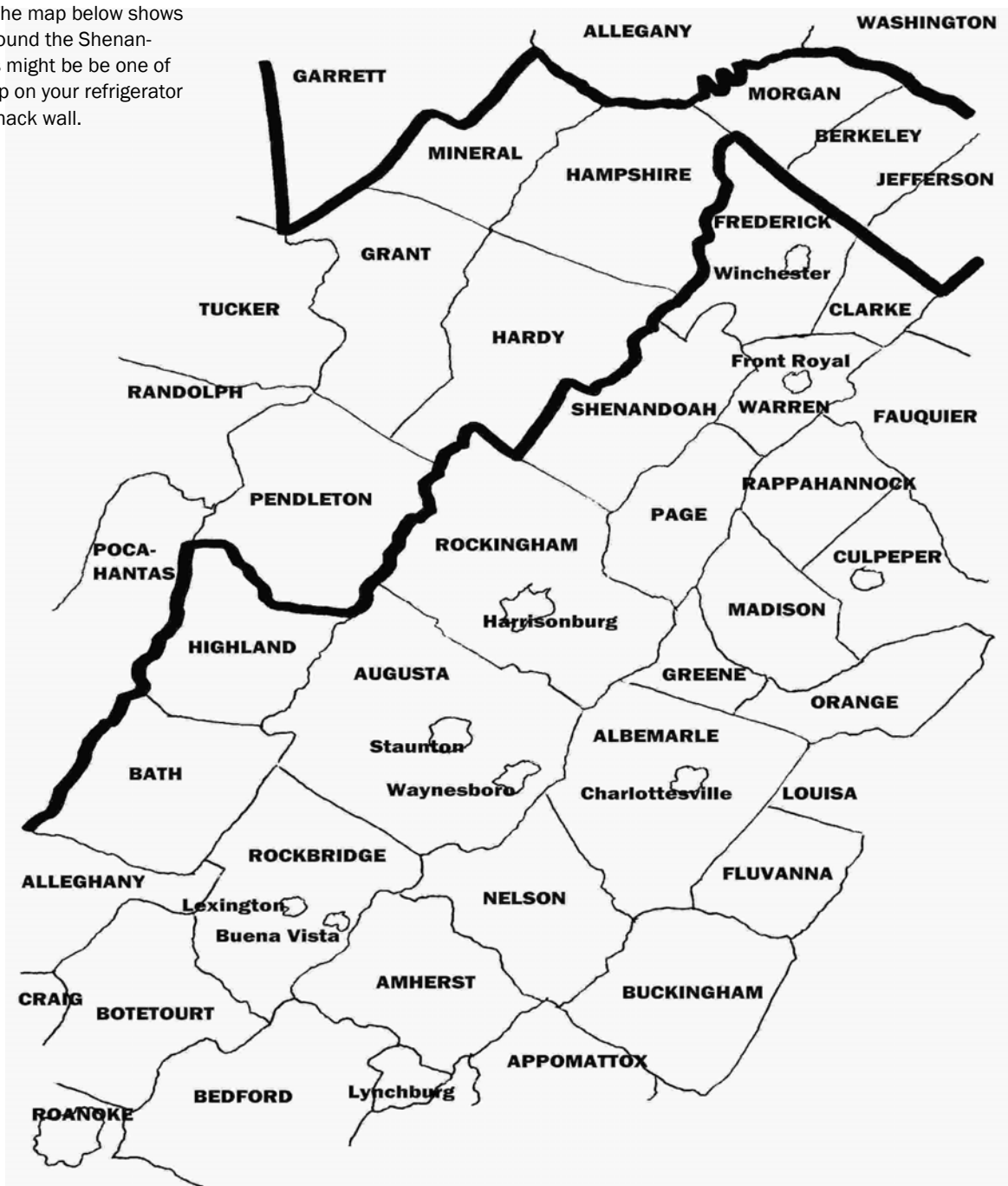
MARA members who have seen Jay's callsign cap up close and in person know that he could certainly use a new one.

REFERENCE



Map of Counties Around the Shenandoah

The National Weather Service often makes announcements of severe weather and gives the threatened locations by County. So where the heck is Tucker County WV with respect to you? The map below shows the counties in and around the Shenandoah Valley Area. This might be one of those things you put up on your refrigerator .. Or at least on your shack wall.





PVARC Secretary's Report – April 2 Meeting

The "Meetin' w/o Eatin'" was called to order at Page Memorial Hospital in Luray by PVARC President Mark Hensley N4YSA at 6:00 p.m. Only about half of the members were able to be present due to attendance at Good Friday services. Introductions were unnecessary since we had no visitors this month.

Announcements: Dave K4DPF gave a brief update on discussions with Angie, our point of contact for the meeting room in Page Memorial Hospital (PMH). In summary, he said Angie will continue to hold the Day Room reservation for PVARC on the first Friday of each month even though we are now meeting at PMH and Brown's Restaurant on alternate months. It was generally agreed that having the Day Room reserved gives the club a "back-up" in the event Brown's cannot accommodate us because of a schedule conflict.

The Secretary/Treasurer's Report was given by Sparky KD4KL. The minutes of the March 5th meeting were approved as published in The Monitor. A spreadsheet showing income from dues, and payments made in the past 30 days was handed to the President. Cash in PVARC's "Strong-Box" shows a balance of \$337.00. Sparky noted that a cash expenditure of \$60.00 will be made after the meeting to Dave K4DPF for costs associated with reservation of the 2010 ARRL Field Day pavilion at Lake Arrow Head.

The Emergency Preparedness Committee Report was presented by Dave K4DPF. He announced that next Thursday (April 8th) a training exercise will be held at the Charlottesville Regional Hospital Coordinating Center to test communications with and without amateur radio backup. He also noted that our own facility, Page Memorial Hospital, could use a few more volunteer operators. He is willing to train (or re-train) any interested PVARC member – just give him a call. Mark reminded the members that the Luray EOC still has a requirement to man their station on Sunday nights, and that while he is willing, additional help is needed to meet this requirement. Dave commented that not all the computer issues have been resolved, and the Luray EOC still needs to obtain a computer with a Windows98 operating system.

Widows Assistance Program: Sparky KD4KL reported that over \$5,000 in equipment has been sold from the KA4LER estate and passed on to the widow of Moe. He has set up a table this evening to display the remaining 9 items yet unsold. He asked that anyone attending a hamfest this year and willing to display/sell these items to contact him. The one "high value" commercial SGC PowerTalk HF/SSB transceiver might be of interest to a MARS member, or someone in the boating community. (It was suggested that perhaps e-bay would be a good outlet for this item!) Two items were purchased by Bob KJ4HFU from the display table: Item 28 – Palomar PT-340 "Tuner-Tuner" and, Item 67 – Ramsey CT-70 portable frequency counter.



Dave K4DPF led a discussion on the upcoming 2010 Field Day. He reiterated that PVARC would once again have a 1-A category station. The main emphasis would be to garner enough support from the membership to run the station over the full period. We would use the same equipment as last year, provided by the same individuals (spread sheet list provided). The intent is to "keep it simple" using the KISS approach. No GOTA station this year. Might consider a QRP station (need a volunteer). Need one or two good CW ops (ditto). The same logging software program will be used. The Secretary will handle PR with the Courier, and Dave will invite Gene/Angie as before. Again, main emphasis is maximum participation by PVARC members – plan on coming up to Lake Arrow Head and having lot's of fun! Dave was given \$60 to cover the Field Day site deposit.

Under Old Business: Geoffrey WD4LYO spoke to some of the issues that the Web Site sub-committee are dealing with, e.g., potentially using an OXO server on the ComCast network and ideas from a recent Monitor article. He, along with Dave K4DPT and Carol KA4LAF have met a couple times, but not recently since his XYL is in the hospital. He expects to continue his work and report on their joint activities as they evolve.

New Business: It was suggested that the club call sign should be added to Geoffreys' original artwork and possibly sent to QRZ as part of a potential club photo. The Secretary said he had retained the original artwork and would return it to Geoffrey.

Submitted by
Sparky Terry, KD4KL
PVARC Secretary/Treasurer

MARA Secretary's Report – April 1 Meeting

Attendance: Members: 29 Guests: 6 Total: 35 Introductions made all around.

Ellsworth (K4LXG) conducted the meeting.

New Members: 1st reading: Justin Rodes (KJ4SIU)

2nd reading: Charles Baber (KJ4SIP) and Tomie Baber (KJ4SIR)

asked that we rescind their applications for now due to financial exigency.



After the 50/50 drawing it was moved, seconded and approved to use the 50/50 proceeds to pay for Charles and Tomie Baber's annual membership dues. Their membership was then confirmed with a unanimous vote.

Secretary's minutes: It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the March minutes as distributed to the membership.

Treasurer's report: It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the report as distributed to the membership with one correction – there were actually 10 membership renewals, not 12 for a total of \$120.00. As of March 31, 2010 we have a balance of \$3,668.43. (The correction had been made in the April issue of the Monitor)

Groups:

ARES/RACES:

Bryan (K4RMY) reported that the May 15th drill is still open for anyone available to assist. This is an official drill with the ECC. The morning agenda will include a training session around the scenarios that will be tested in the afternoon. The basic scenario is that three towers are down (Bergton, Cooper Mountain and Feedstone). Communications will need to be set up at the tower sites back to the ECC with 2M equipment. They would like to have at least twelve people if possible as well as access to 4-wheel drive vehicles. Lunch will be provided. Contact Bryan at K4RMY@arrl.net if you would like to participate.

Copies of all of Bryan's emails can be found on Jay's website (www.valley-ham.info). You can also access Jay's website from the <http://www.rockingham-ares.org/> link. Just look for KD4OXQ Website.

VEC Session – the next VE session will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 10th at the Woodmen of the World building in Dayton. Gerald (KN4FM) has several exam preparation books available for anyone interested.

Public Service:

Bob (N1QE) asked for 7- 8 volunteers to help man the March of Dimes walk on April 17th.

Operating tip: hold the mike for 2 seconds before talking on the 147.225 repeater.

Announcements:

Bob (N1QE) – the first Field Day meeting will be at 6:00 pm on April 15th at the Mt. Crawford Burger King.

Old Business: We have located a rotator control box for the CDR4. The cost is \$150.00. The motion to purchase the control box was raised, seconded and approved.

New Business: Gerry (K4RBZ) reported use of objectionable language on the 147.075 repeater.

Jeff (W4PJW) reminded everyone of the Dayton HamFest the weekend of May 15th. He has some newbie information for anyone attending for the first time.

Reminder – 146.520 is the national simplex calling frequency. Hold the DTMF 0 tone at least three seconds for emergencies.

New Call or Upgrades: None to report.

Motion to adjourn, seconded and approved.

50/50 – \$26.00 total proceeds; \$13.00 split won by Dave (K4DPF). Donated to club to cover KJ4SIR and KJ4SIP dues.

Program: Show and Tell

*Submitted by:
Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC,
MARA Secretary*

MARA Treasurer's Report – March 31, 2010 to April 27, 2010



Beginning Balance March 31, 2010 (last report)		\$ 3,668.43
Add:		
Membership and renewals (3 members since last report)	\$ 36.00	
April 50/50	<u>\$ 26.00</u>	
Total Income		\$ 62.00
Less:		
Rental on storage unit for club property (through Dec 2010)	\$ 360.00	
Refund of Baber memberships (see April meeting minutes)	\$ 24.00	
Rotor Control Box for Field Day Roter (see April minutes)	<u>\$ 125.00</u>	
Total disbursements		\$ -509.00
Ending Balance as of April 27, 2010		\$ 3,221.43

Submitted by David Fordham, KD9LA, MARA Treasurer

VARA Secretary's Report – April 6 Meeting

The VARA met at Shoney's in Staunton Va at 7:00 pm April 6th 2010.

21 people showed up for the meeting.

The treasurer and the secretary gave reports and they were approved.

EC David Tanks AD4TJ gave his report.

The field day committee continues to meet and will report soon

2 new members were added:

 John Keller, W4ZAO of Verona

 Tom Benson, WA4ESI of Staunton

Welcome to the VARA

We have decided to help with Riverfest again April 24th. Come on out and have some fun.

We have also decided to help with the 100th anniversary Boy Scouts Jamboree to be held May 8th 2010, by having a station there and operating it.

Members are invited to come out and help with this event

We will have a group going to Dayton OH for the hamfest to be held on may 14th.

If you want to go, come to the next meeting and let us know.

After the meeting, there was a lengthy video on the recent DXpedition to a reef.

We have more things coming up very shortly, so come on down and find out what we are up to

*Steven Grant W4IIV
VARA Secretary*



CALENDAR



Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 1: Hagerstown (MD) Hamfest
 May 1: Ham Radio Cruise-In (Charlottesville)
 May 1: ARI International DX Contest
 May 2: Page County ARES Net 8pm 146.67 repeater
 May 2-3: MARAC County Hunter HF Contest CW&SSB
 May 2-3: ARI International DX Contest
 May 3: Rockingham County ARES Net 8pm on 146.55 simplex
 May 4: VARA Club Meeting — Shoneys in Staunton
 May 5: Highland County ARES Net, 8:30 pm 147.18 repeater
 May 6: MARA Club Meeting — Wood Grill in Harrisonburg
 May 7: PVARC Dinner Meeting at Browns Restaurant in Luray
 May 8: VARA Boy Scout EXPO Special Event and Public Service Event
 May 9: Page County ARES Net 8pm 146.67 repeater
 May 9-10: Armed Forces Communications Test
 May 9-10: CW-M International DX Contest
 May 10: Rockingham County ARES Net 8pm on 147.225 repeater
 May 13: Augusta County ARES Net 146.85 repeater
 May 14-17: Dayton Ohio Hamvention Caravan Trip
 May 15: Rockingham ARES-RACES Emergency Drill
 May 15: Shenandoah Ham Gathering at Exxon in Woodstock
 May 15-16: MTT 100-mile Footrace — Public Service Event
 May 16: Page County ARES Net 8pm 146.67 repeater
 May 17: Rockingham County ARES Net 8pm on 147.225 repeater
 May 19: Highland County ARES Net, 8:30 pm 147.18 repeater
 May 20: Field Day Committee Meeting — Mt. Crawford BK
 May 21: Monitor Publication Deadline for June Field Day Issue
 May 23: Page County ARES Net 8pm 146.67 repeater
 May 24: Rockingham County ARES Net 8pm on 147.225 repeater
 May 29-31: CQ WPX CW Contest
 May 30: Page County ARES Net 8pm 146.67 repeater
 May 31: Rockingham County ARES Net 8pm on 147.225 repeater

 June 1: VARA Club Meeting
 June 2: Highland County ARES Net, 8:30 pm 147.18 repeater
 June 3: MARA Club Meeting
 June 4: PVARC Club Meeting
 June 6: Page County ARES Net 8pm 146.67 repeater
 June 7: Rockingham County ARES Net 8pm on 146.55 simplex
 June 10: Augusta County ARES Net 7 pm 146.85 repeater
 June 12: VE Exam Session — Dayton Virginia 9 am
 June 13: Page County ARES Net 8pm 146.67 repeater
 June 13: Manassas Hamfest
 June 14: Rockingham County ARES Net 8pm on 147.225 repeater
 June 16: Highland County ARES Net, 8:30 pm 147.18 repeater
 June 18: Beginning of family camping at Field Day Site
 June 25: Friday Night Pre-Field Day Banquet at Field Day Site
 June 26-27: ARRL Field Day

Get On The Air! Get On The Air! Get on...

Sunday night from Luray. Monday night from Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. Wednesday nights from Monterey and Highland County. Almost every night from Staunton, Waynesboro, and Augusta County. Get on the nets! Get on the air! Transmit something. Say something. Exercise your equipment! Even if you can't find anyone on during the day, turn on your radio in the evening and check in and let us know you're around.

Sunday nights: 8 pm: 146.670 repeater, input down 0.600, PL 114 Hz

Monday nights: 8 pm: 147.225 repeater, input up 0.600, PL 131.8 (first Monday of each month on 146.55 simplex)

Wednesday nights: 8:30 pm: first and third Wednesdays only, 147.180 repeater, input up 0.600, PL 100.00

Almost every night: 10:00 pm: 146.850 repeater, input down 0.600, PL 131.8

Second Thursdays: 8:00 pm 146.85 repeater, input down 0.600, PL 131.8

June Monitor Deadline

Articles, For-Sale items, photos, public service reports, and other material for publication in the Monitor should arrive at the Editor's mailbox on or before May 21.

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 Tippet, N8ESW
 Program Manager: Al Bonck N3JB

<http://w4xd.com>

VARA meets the first Tuesday of each month
 at Shoneys in Staunton on Hwy 250 at I-81.

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

Visitors are always welcome.

Dues (\$15 per year) should be mailed to:

Doug Tippet
 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 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 three amateur radio clubs
 in the Central Shenandoah Valley.

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

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 Contact the president of your respective club
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Back issues are freely available on the MARA website
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Since the clubs derive their revenue from memberships,
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Occasional complimentary current copies are
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Clubs may also formally decide to provide complimentary copies
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Contact your respective club officers for more information.

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