

August
2010

THE MONITOR

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

MARA Meeting Thursday, August 5

MARA's monthly meeting will be held August 5 at the Wood Grill in Harrisonburg. Dinner starts at 6:30, Business meeting at 7:30, followed by the program.

VARA Still on Vacation

The regular monthly meeting of the Valley Amateur Radio Association has been suspended until September.

PVARC Meeting: Friday, August 6 – Location TBA

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its bi-monthly business meeting on Friday evening, August 6, at 6:00 p.m. Check your email for the actual room location, since the normal meeting room at the hospital was destroyed when a car drove through the wall. If you don't have email, check in on the Sunday night net, 146.670, minus offset, PL of 114.

New Repeater on Air: 146.715

John Piotrowski, KI4YNA, provides the following information: As of Saturday we have a new repeater on the air for the Shen Co Ares. It covers Southern Frederick Co, All of Shenandoah Co, and Northern Rockingham Co. It is located 3 miles north of Hudson's Cross Roads. Larry Miller KB6VAA is the trustee. It is on a freq of 146.715 with a minus offset and a tone of 146.2. It is open to all hams.

Enjoy!

Page Valley Amateur Radio Club on YOUTUBE!

Type this URL into your browser, and take a gander at the video of the PVARC Club's Field Day Effort!

Thanks to Dave, KD4DPF, for putting together this fantastic record of the PVARC Field Day picnic at Lake Arrowhead \in Luray!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvDQA2ZsFso>



VE Exams: August 14

Gayle Shull, KU4XN, wants to remind everyone about the VE exams on Saturday, August 14, starting at 9:00 am at the Woodmen of the World building on Highway 42 just north of Dayton, Virginia.

Also, give thanks to the excellent group of Volunteer Examiners we have in the valley for donating their time and talents to this important public service.

PVARC President's Message

Another Field Day has come and gone and we are all in the recovery mode,

It is the general consensus among the attending members of the PVARC that Field Day was a great success. With only some minor setbacks (which build character) we operated on the Solar station for 20 minutes as a backup at the start, and it was all smooth sailing after that, with the weather cooperating and enough operators to keep the radios manned for the entire 24 hours and full time chef Morgan Phenix-K4RHD preparing every meal, yes every meal.

We are already making plans for next year. The Hospital meetings will have to be relocated until repairs are made to the day room at Page Memorial Hospital after an unfortunate accident in which a automobile drove through the room in which we meet causing severe structural damage,

With no estimate of when the repairs will be done everyone will be advised of the locations of meetings, via email and Sunday evening ARES nets on 146.670.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with Field Day for there efforts to make it a fun and successful event.

*Mark Hensley
N4YSA*

MARA President's Message

I hesitate to say too much about the extremely hot weather as less than 6 months ago we were complaining about the extremely cold weather and heavy snows. But you know, we haven't had too much in-between weather either. According to our government, a person can have 1 foot frozen in a block of ice and the other foot in a pot of boiling water and should be comfortable. Hi, Hi!

As ARES DEC of District 15, I took a break Saturday from the MARA/VARA Field Day and visited the Field Day site in Rockbridge County as I did last year. They do not contest but do it for the practice. They have a nice site and I met around 10 people while I was there. I was made to feel very welcome. I met AEC Steve Presti again as Bob Gay, the EC, was away.

I have spent part of the past week at Smith Mountain Lake with my 2 brothers and we all had a ball! We have a houseboat, a cabin cruiser and 2 sailboats there and it was really great cruising and sailing around both after dark and during the day. I got my 24 ft. sailboat around a month ago but am still learning the ropes (I should say shrouds or lines depending). We grew up on North River at Bridgewater so boating is second nature to us. I have to admit that I have little experience sailboating but am sure giving it my best. My youngest brother Richard, KE4PHQ, (I'm the oldest) has had his sailboat a good while, has a great deal of sailing experience and is teaching me. After hurricane season, we want to sail our 2 sailboats to Key West, Florida by way of the Intracoastal Waterway and stopping along the way at Cocoa Beach to see the space shuttle launching in November.

Last Friday and Saturday, July 23rd and 24th, I went to Monterey, Virginia in Highland County to participate in a high-powered rocketry demonstration by our club VAST (Valley AeroSpace Team) of which my middle son, Chuck (KG4NAA), is president. A couple of hundred people of all ages warmly received us. We were banned last summer from our launch site by Augusta County for now but we are appealing it. I met Butch Washer, N4SMQ, the EC for Highland County for the first time. We had a lot of fun getting acquainted during the day and acted as spotters. I have now met eyeball all 4 ECs of District 15.

Keep up the good work and attendance with MARA and the Monday Night ARES Net.

Stay cool literally!

*Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG,
President, MARA*

MARA/VARA Field Day Score: 6,042

The numbers are in. According to Sandy Mullins, K4PZC who submitted the official score sheet to ARRL Headquarters, the joint MARA/VARA Field Day score was 6,042 points.

The club got 200 points for operating emergency power, and 100 points each for: media publicity, setting up in a public place, having a welcome center, sending and NTS message to ARRL officials, copying the W1AW Field Message, handling 10 NTS messages, completing the required natural power QSO's, having the site visited by an elected official, having the site visited by an emergency official, having an educational activity, and having youth operators and participants. The club got 200 more bonus points for operating a GOTA station, and 50 points for submitting the scores on the web.

The CW Station logged 853 total QSO's, counting two points each.

The Phone station logged 1315 QSO's for 1315 points.

There was more to the scoring than just adding up the points. The GOTA station got double-count credit for QSO's, and there were some other little complexities, so the clubs owe a debt of gratitude to Sandy for the work.

And of course a BIG THANK YOU goes to the Field Day Committee, and all the hams who helped make the event a resounding success..

KB30: Ham Radio to the Rescue

I rendered help for the first time today. A car breakdown on Shenandoah mountain (no injuries). When I arrived the gentleman was outside his car trying to coax his blackberry into some sort of performance, but there is no cell coverage up there. I called on the repeater and reached KC4NBW, who relayed a message to the gentleman's wife. When I drove into cell coverage I called the wife too, who told me that both she and the tow truck were on the way.

Sometimes I call when I'm on the mountain and get no response. Now I'm sure that if I call with a problem I'll probably get an answer.

Paul Boisen KB30

West Augusta Repeater Status

Thanks to Larry Totten KC8LRN and James Phillips K8PKP who have taken over the operation and maintenance of the Elloit's Knob Repeaters.

The 147.045 Repeater is back on the air again as of Sunday July 11, 2010. It has a plus offset and a tone of 131.8

The 444.100 Repeater is on the air. It has a plus offset and a tone of 131.8

The 224.300 Repeater is down for maintenance at this time. It has a minus offset and a tone of 131.8.

Bridgewater Lawn Party Public Service Event "Thanks"

The town of Bridgewater and the volunteer Fire Department thank those who participated with the parades for the Fireman's Carnival and Lawn Party on July 16 and 17.

BOB STEERE	N1QE
MIKE TURNER	K4MIC
GERALD NAUMAN	KN4FM
BOB TENNYSON	KG4CHL
STEVE TENNYSON	KF4ZWK
RAY RICHIE	K4NRA
NANCY RICHIE	KG4JAZ
ELLSWORTH NEFF	K4LXG
GAIL SHULL	KG4JBF
GAYLE SHULL	KU4XN

We have several more upcoming events and will need help with those, too. Remember, this is a good way to make our services and capabilities visible to the public at large, and help our community at the same time.

Being a club is not only attending meetings and reading the newsletter. It is serving, and getting together with fellow hams to provide a service for our community.

(Plus, it's a heckuva lotta fun, too!)

*Gayle Shull
KU4XN*

<http://www.kd4oxq.info> WEBSITE Info

For ARES members and any hams interested in keeping up with the ARES maps for Rockingham County that I have developed, keep checking my website (www.kd4oxq.info) frequently for updates and additions to the map files! You can get to the download page by going to my home page then clicking on the following links:

Rockingham County ARES Information Page (in the Site Directory section)

Maps (in the Local Downloads & Pages section)

I am continually updating the maps and related files as I keep the present data up to date and also contacting other organizations like the Red Cross and the Department of Social Services for places they would use in case of an emergency that would have a need for ham coverage for communications!

These maps can be a valuable tool for us for drills and activations at the local and state level! The map set can also be an invaluable resource for hams that come from outside our area to participate in our ARES drills and activations! All downloads without an update or new date are originals first posted. All update dates will remain until further updates are made and uploaded to the site. If you have any questions, comments or something you would like to see on my site, feel free to email me at kd4oxq@gmail.com. My site is to serve the local ham community with special interest to ARES members and those interested in ARES! Also check out the forums that are now up and running (you can get there from my home page in the Site Directory section)! Feel free to register and take full advantage of another valuable resource that I am providing to our local ham community! I have put many hours into my website in hopes that the local hams will make use of the information provided including the ARES map set, programs and forums along with the other features I provide on the site!

The first hurricane (Alex) has already come and gone hitting Mexico as a category 2 and the season does not end until November 30th. Be prepared for disaster (www.kd4oxq.info) and keep informed (www.nhc.noaa.gov)!

– 73's

Jay,
KD4OXQ
MARA, Rockingham County ARES/RACES (District 15 VA)

Fall Net to Address Technical Issues

Greg Czerniak, W4GRC, is planning to start a local 2-meter net where hams can discuss technical aspects of our hobby. Topics of discussion might include antenna design, operating procedures, mobile radio installation, computer technology as it relates to ham radio, et.c

If you think this is a good idea, get in touch with Greg, and send him an email at: grcljc@comcast.net

W4PJW and N4PJJ on Road Trip

Jeff and Patsy are joining Ed Good KC4HYO, and his XYL Gloria, on a glorious trip out to the Northwest Territories and the Yukon.

Keep up with them on APRS, by going to <http://aprs.fi>

Yep, that's it: "fi", as in Finland (Suomi).

Put W4PJW in the center box, then click "search" to the right.

If you get a map of Finland, it means that Jeff and Ed haven't been within ARPS range in the last 24 hours.

You can also contact them by checking into the 20 meter RV net, 14,307.5, Tuesday and Fridays at 5 pm Eastern Time, and 12 noon and 5 pm every day they are on the road.



For Sale: Computer Memory

I have some computer memory for sale: Kingston 1 GB DDR PC2100 266 mhz; there are 2 of these. I paid \$100 for the 2 of these August 2008; they are from TigerDirect. Make me an offer I can't refuse! Email me at: ad4tj@yahoo.com

*David Tanks,
AD4TJ*

For Sale: Kenwood TS-50S HF Radio

For Sale: Kenwood TS-50S HF transceiver, 160 thru 10 meters, 100 watts, small size similar to Icom 706, but does not have a detachable faceplate. Has a 500 hz. CW filter, mic, mobile mount. Asking \$350. I also have a quick disconnect mobile mount for an extra \$25. Contact: Jay, W4QDC via phone 540-810 7750 or email W4QDC@arrl.net

*Jay Suter,
W4QDC*

For Sale: Lots of Stuff

Kenwood TS-700SP All Mode 2 Meter Base with Desk mic
Kenwood TM-2550A 2 Meter mobile
Alinco DR-430 70cm mobile (in box)
Icom IC-37A 1.25 Meter mobile
Two (2) MFJ-1270C Packet Controllers (in boxes)

Make offer on all equipment to:

Steve Winegard , N4WVY, phone (540) 833-2807



Is That a Grizzly?

The answer is YES. This photo was taken by **Don Landes, WX4C**, on one of his many trips to Alaska. Don is driving up and down the Pacific coast, running big rigs for Wal-Mart. You can check out his pictures on his Picasa web album at:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/wx4cast/AlaskaTrucks?feat=directlink>

(be sure it all goes on one line with no spaces!)

Short and Sweet

The VARA Minutes are missing since VARA did not hold a July meeting.

The PVARC minutes are missing because they didn't arrive in time for the Monitor deadline.

The MARA Treasurer's Report is missing because there isn't room, and besides, Dave is still trying to collect all the bills from Field Day.

The calendar is missing because there isn't a whole heckuva lot going on in August, except the Berryville Hamfest, which is always the first Sunday in August.

So there you have it. Make the September issue a good one. SEND IN SOME STORIES!

MARA Secretary's Report – July 1 Meeting

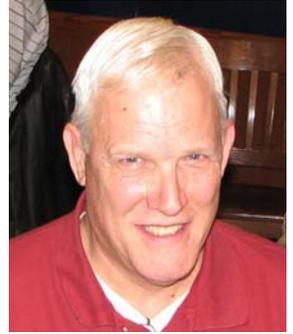
Meeting Called to Order at 7:32 PM

Attendance: 23 present - 20 Members and 3 Guests

Reports: New Members: None; 1st Reading: None; 2nd Reading: None

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

Treasurer Report: No formal report made. Treasurer Dave Fordham (KD9LA) reported the cash balance on hand as of 6/19/2010.



Groups:

ARES/RACES: Bryan Daniels (K4RMY) reported that the State Department of Emergency Services wants to conduct an emergency communications drill from 9:00 - 11:00 AM on 7/10/2010 from selected shelters, including JMU (specific location unknown). There was no further information available at this time and nobody in the State organization seemed to know exactly what was going to happen. The only apparent objective of the drill was to determine whether communications could be established between the shelters and Richmond.

It was also reported that the Monday evening ARES Network is currently averaging 20 check-ins per session.

VEC-Session: Gayle (KU4XN) reported that the next test session will be on 8/14/2010. He thanked everyone who came out to help with the June session.

Public Service:

Gayle (KU4XN) reported that the annual Bridgewater Town Picnic/Parade would be held on 7/16 and 7/17, and that our assistance in putting out signs and directing participants was again requested. He reported that 6-7 volunteers would be needed for each day.

The Bike Shenandoah is scheduled for 9/18/2010 and that volunteers would be needed for communication support for this year's event.

The Labor Day Mountain Bike Race will be held on 9/5/2010, and communication volunteers will be need for this event.

Announcements:

Bryan (K4RMY) reported on the purchase of his new Wouxun KG-UVDIP dual-band handheld radio. He described some of its extraordinary features, including its very reasonable price tag.

Old Business:

A brief discussion was held on a news article reported in the Daily News-Record on this year's Field Day. It was reported that the event was also covered in story aired by WSVA.

New Business:

A discussion was held on the Antenna/Tower arrangement used in this year's Field Day event. Suggestions were presented regarding safer/easier setup and take down methods. It was decided that further research was needed. Results of that research will be published in the Monitor

A preliminary discussion was held on this year's upcoming Triple Play Event. More on this event will be discussed in the future.

New Call or Upgrades: None reported.

Motion to Adjourn: Made and seconded

50/50 Raffle: No drawing held.

Program:

Dave Fordham (KD9LA) presented ideas and took suggestions regarding topics for our meetings starting in September. Dave plans to develop a program(s) for new Hams to introduce them to HF operations. He plans to show how to get started, the basic equipment needed and how to find the necessary equipment at reasonable costs.

*Submitted by
Rick Adams, KJ4IND
Acting Secretary*

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.
 The club is taking vacation in August, the
 next meeting will be in September.

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

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