

January
2011

THE MONITOR

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

VARA Meeting: Tuesday, January 4 at Shoney's Restaurant

The Valley Amateur Radio Association leads off this month with their monthly meeting at Shoneys Restaurant in Staunton (at I-81 and US Highway 250), starting at 6:30 pm, followed by the business meeting at 7:00 pm.

MARA Meeting : Thursday, January 6 at Wood Grill Restaurant in Harrisonburg

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its January meeting at the Wood Grill on Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg on Thursday, January 6, starting with dinner at 6:30 pm, followed by a business meeting at 7:00 pm.

PVARC Club Meeting: Friday, January 7 at Brown's Restaurant in Luray

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular bi-monthly dinner meeting on Friday, January 7, starting at 6:00 p.m. at Brown's Restaurant in Luray. Family and visitors are invited.

New Years Eve Net: 11:00 pm on 224.700 and 146.045 Repeaters



I talked with Tim KG4HOT, he is planning a New Years Eve Net at 11:00pm December 31 on the 244.700 repeater with a tone of 136.5.

He may have it linked up with Larry's 220 and the 147.045 repeater.

Ray Colvin, KE4HVR

Reminder from the Newsletter Editor: Club Dues are Now Due!

In the back of this issue you will find a club membership renewal form. Please make sure you renew your club dues BEFORE the end of the February meeting. The best bet is to MAIL your dues to the address shown for your club. Don't forget! Please?





PVARC President's Message

Merry Christmas from the PVARC, hope that this Holiday Season finds you happy, healthy and Hamming radio. The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club continues to grow and have good turn-outs for meeting, even if not a meeting at Brown's Restaurant, I would like to thank the club members for making that special effort to come to club meetings this busy time of year. We are already making plans for Field Day, antennas, rigs, modes etc. a great deal of the fun of Field Day is in the planning and preparation. The next meeting of the PVARC will be at Brown's Restaurant 36 West Main St. Luray until next year Best Wishes for this Christmas Season and may God richly bless you in 2011.

*Mark Hensley, N4YSA
President, Page Valley Amateur Radio Club*

MARA Ex-President's Message

Hello to all members of MARA.

I thank all of you for allowing me to be your president for the year 2010. We have a large, fine club and I am proud of you all. I appreciate your help and support as the President cannot do it alone.

You have a fine new 2011 president in Bryan Daniels, K4RMY, who I work with regularly, he being the Rockingham County Emergency Coordinator and I the District Emergency Coordinator for District 15. I know that all of you will give him the help and support that was given to me.

Thanks, again.

73, Ellsworth, K4LXG



**Another Friendly Reminder:
Club Dues are Now Due!**

VARA President's Message

With 2011 just around the corner, I am sitting here in my shack, thinking back over what an exciting year 2010 has been.

First, I walked in alone to my first amateur radio meeting, the MARA Christmas party Dec, 2009, A guy named David (KD9LA) was the first person to walk up to me and introduced himself as the President of MARA and gave me my first copy of the monitor and a membership application which I immediately filled out and returned. (Oh, with a check)

A week later I meet Gayle (KU4XN) and other VE's and after a friendly welcome I'm taking my first amateur radio test. After some anxious moments and a little sweating, I find out that I passed.

WOW, I am a "HAM"! (Now what do I do?)

In January, I attend my first VARA meeting and again a guy Jeff (W4PJW) walks up to me introduces himself as the President of VARA and gives me a membership application and again I fill it out and return it promptly. (And with another check)

In February I take my general test and pass.

Over the next several months I am introduced to David (AD4TJ), Brian (K4RNY), Jay (W4QDC), Gordon (WA4FJC), Jerry (K4RBZ), Bob (K4DJG), Benny (N4BCC) and Scott (KI4QQZ). I am welcomed by ALL members as I jump in with both feet and absorb as much knowledge as I can from the Boy Scout Jamboree, Field Day, Fall Foliage Bike Festival, Triple Play, ARES Emergency Drills, Monthly Club Meetings, and the informal "roundtable" at Wendy's.

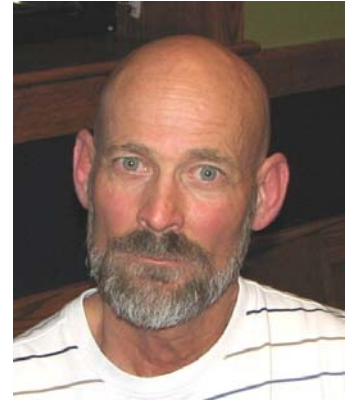
Why am I telling you all this?

Because the HAM's in Staunton and Harrisonburg took a guy who they never had met before, shook his hand, filled him with radio knowledge, gave him hands-on demonstrations, prodded and encouraged, teased and molded a new HAM to your ranks. I am that guy who you all welcomed into the "Amateur radio family" You then voted me in as your next VARA president for the 2011 year. (Several of you laughing and reeling your fishing line in with me on the end of the hook.)

Those 2 former presidents I first at the MARA and VARA meetings have set the bar for the level of standards I hope to maintain in professionalism, programs, projects and recruitment. I will try and do the same for other new individuals that walk into a meeting, sits down alone at a table and wonders if he/she can be a HAM!

I thank everyone who has helped me along the way and hope to continue my enthusiasm throughout the NEW YEAR and hope to INFEFT as many experienced and new HAM's as I can. Here's to a GREAT 2011! (Oh don't forget YOUR check, it's now due!)

John Keller W4ZAO
President, VARA



Editors Note: John passed his Extra Class test on Dec 11, 2010.

Betty Jo Batey, XYL of WA4FJC, on the Mend

The good news is that Betty Jo, Gordon's wife seems to be recuperating, albeit slowly. No definite word yet, but it might be a bout with pneumonia. Tests are continuing. The condition had manifest in fluid around the heart and lungs, giving everyone a scare. Best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Ralph Alger, N4MQR, SK

Ralph Alger, 86, N4MQR and former MARA member, passed away peacefully in his sleep early Tuesday morning, Nov. 23. Ralph was born in Rockingham County on Nov. 2, 1924. He served in Civilian Public Service at Powellsville, Md., and in North Carolina during World War II. He also served two to three years in Mennonite Voluntary Service at Calling Lake, Alberta, Canada, as a bush pilot. He graduated from Eastern Mennonite College in 1954. In 1968, he received a certification in electronics from Northern Alberta Technical Institute, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Upon completing his electrical engineering degree, he returned to Virginia to help get WVPT-TV on the air. He then worked for Worrell Productions, WHSV-TV as senior staff engineer until his retirement in 1989. His hobbies were flying air-planes and glider planes, sailing while in St. Thomas, and riding a bike for exercise. He especially enjoyed spending time on his ham radio, talking to local friends or other operators around the world. A memorial service was conducted on Saturday, Dec. 18, 2010, at Zion Mennonite Church located in Broadway.

Condolences to WV3J on the passing of his father

Dr. Hollen G. Helbert, well-known Rockingham County physician and father of Paul Helbert WV3J, passed away on November 16, 2010.



Wayne Bowyer N4EYZ Returns Home ... for now...

More good news: Wayne N4EYZ, came home on December 20th. He will be home for the holidays but will be admitted to the Woodrow Wilson Rehab Center on January 3 for a residential rehabilitation program, living there Monday through Friday, and home on the weekends. Wayne loves hearing from the local ham community. He also especially appreciates visitor, although a phone call before you come will probably be in order. Wayne's home address is: 308 Devon Road, Staunton, VA, 24401. (His is the only blue house on the street!)

Monitor Publication Deadline: The 20th of the Month

The standard monthly deadline for submissions to the Monitor is the 20th of each month for the next month's issue. While it is frequently possible to submit material a couple of days after the deadline and get it into the next issue, this is not guaranteed. Minutes, announcements, articles, for-sale items, wanted-ads, articles, reports, and other material needs to be in the editor's hands by the 20th of each month for guaranteed inclusion in the upcoming issue. Photographs, write-ups, notes, and other submissions are always welcome.

Rockingham County ARES Net Plans – January Through June 2011

Starting in January of 2011, the Rockingham County ARES Net will make some random changes at least once a month through June to the operating frequency for the net. This is being done to familiarize those checking in to the net with the frequencies used by Rockingham Co. ARES during an emergency when the main repeater and/or backup repeaters may be off the air. These changes will NOT be announced. Please check these frequencies if the net is not on one of its regular frequencies. Please program your radios accordingly.

2meter Repeaters in order of precedence are:

147.225 + 131.8 PL (normal net repeater)

145.130 - 88.5 PL

146.625 - 131.8 PL

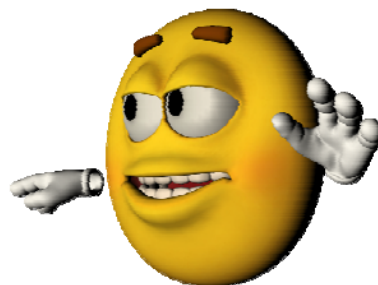
2meter Simplex frequencies in order of precedence are:

146.55 (normal net simplex)

146.58

146.49

146.52 (National Calling Freq.)



*Bryan Daniels, K4RMY
Rockingham County EC*



Rockingham County ARES Net Control Stations – January through June 2011

January 3: K4RMY
January 10: K3MIC
January 17: K4LXG
January 24: KA4EEN
January 31: NN4JM

February 7: K4NRA
February 14: K4RBZ
February 21: KN4FM
February 28: W3HXX

March 7: K4LXG
March 14: KA4EEN
March 21: K4RMY
March 28: K4MIC

April 4: K4NRA
April 11: KU4XN
April 18: KG4KUR
April 25: NN4JM

May 2: KA4EEN
May 9: K4RBZ
May 16: W3HXX
May 23: KN4FM
May 30: K4MIC

June 6: KU4XN
June 13: K4NRA
June 20: KG4KUR
June 27: NN4JM

Local Ham Calendar

January 2: Page County ARES Net
 January 3: Rockingham County ARES Net simplex
 January 4: VARA January Club Meeting
 January 5: Highland County ARES Net
 January 6: MARA January Club Meeting
 January 7: PVARC January Dinner Meeting
 January 8: Winston-Salem NC Hamfest
 January 8-9: ARRL RTTY Roundup
 January 8-9: North American QSO Party CW
 January 9: Page County ARES Net
 January 10: Rockingham County ARES Net
 January 13: Augusta County ARES Net
 January 15: Harrisburg PA Hamfest
 January 15-16: North American QSO Party SSB
 January 16: Page County ARES Net
 January 17: Rockingham County ARES Net
 January 19: Highland County ARES Net
 January 20: February Monitor submission deadline
 January 24: Rockingham County ARES Net
 January 28-29: CQ 160-Meter Contest CW
 January 31: Rockingham County ARES Net

February 1: VARA Club Meeting
 February 1: **Deadline for VARA member renewals**
 February 2: Highland County ARES Net
 February 3: MARA Club Meeting
 February 3: **Deadline for MARA member renewals**
 February 4: PVARC Club Meeting at Hospital
 February 4: **Deadline for PVARC member renewals**
 February 5: Richmond Frostfest Hamfest
 February 5: Minnesota QSO Party
 February 5-6: Vermont QSO Party
 February 5-6: Delaware QSO Party
 February 6: Page County ARES Net
 February 7: Rockingham County ARES Net simplex
 February 10: Augusta County ARES Net
 February 12: VE Exams, Dayton Virginia
 February 12-13: CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest
 February 13: Page County ARES Net
 February 14: Rockingham County ARES Net
 February 14-18: ARRL School Club Roundup
 February 16: Highland County ARES Net
 February 19-20: ARRL International DX Contest CW
 February 20: Page County ARES Net
 February 21: Rockingham County ARES Net
 February 25-26: CQ 160-meter Contest SSB
 February 26-27: North American QSO Party RTTY
 February 27: Annandale (Vienna) Winterfest Hamfest
 February 27: Page County ARES Net
 February 28: Rockingham County ARES Net

March 1: VARA Club Meeting
 March 2: Highland County ARES Net
 March 3: MARA Club Meeting
 March 4: PVARC Dinner Meeting
 March 5-6: ARRL International DX Contest SSB
 March 6: Page County ARES Net
 March 7: Rockingham County ARES Net simplex
 March 10: Augusta County ARES Net
 March 12: Charlotte NC Hamfest
 March 13: Page County ARES Net
 March 14: Rockingham County ARES Net
 March 16: Highland County ARES Net
 March 19: Charleston WV Hamfest
 March 20: Page County ARES Net
 March 21: Rockingham County ARES Net
 March 26: Baltimore Hamboree Hamfest
 March 26-27: CQ WW WPX Contest SSB
 March 27: Page County ARES Net
 March 28: Rockingham County ARES Net

April 2-3: Missouri QSO Party
 April 9: VE Exams—Dayton VA
 April 9-10: Montana QSO Party
 April 9-10: Georgia QSO Party
 April 16: Harrisonburg March-of-Dimes Walk Public Service
 April 16-17: Michigan QSO Party
 April 16-17: Ontario QSO Party
 April 17: ARRL Rookie Roundup SSB
 April 23: Raleigh NC Hamfest
 April 23-24: Florida QSO Party
 April 23-24: Nebraska QSO Party
 April 30: Hagerstown Hamfest
 April 30: Augusta March of Dimes Walk
 April 30: Waynesboro Riverfest Public Service Event

May 7-8: CQ-M International DX Contest
 May 7-8: 7th Call Area Combined QSO Party
 May 7-8: Indiana QSO Party
 May 7-8: ARI International DX Contest
 May 7-8: New England Combined QSO Party
 May 20-22: Dayton OH Hamvention Hamfest
 May 28-29: CQ WW WPX Contest

June 11: VE Exams, Dayton VA
 June 11-13: ARRL June VHF QSO Party
 June 25-26: ARRL Field Day

August 7: Berryville (Winchester) Hamfest

October 1-2: Shenandoah 500 NVTRA motorbike ride



**...And Another Reminder:
Club Dues are Now Due!**

MARA Treasurer's Report – October 31 to December 24, 2010

Beginning Balance October 31, 2010 (last report)		\$ 2,150.45
Add:		
Memberships (2 new membership)	\$ 24.00	
Memberships (6 renewals in November)	\$ 72.00	
Donation from NoVa Trail Riders	\$ 500.00	
October Meeting 50/50	\$ 11.00	
November Meeting 50/50	\$ 11.00	
Donations to cover cost of unpaid meals (anonymous)	<u>\$ 36.00</u>	
Total Receipts before December 2 meeting	\$ 654.00	
Less:		
Paid to Wood Grill for unpaid meals in November	\$-38.50	
Postage for Administration	\$-44.00	
Total Disbursements before December 2 Meeting:	<u>\$ - 82.50</u>	
Balance as of Beginning of December 2 Meeting (verbal treasurer's report approved at December 2 meeting)		\$2,721.95
Add:		
Memberships renewals (36 renewals)	\$432.00	
Contribution from VARA for Public Svc Assistance	\$144.00	
Donation for November unpaid meals (anonymous)	\$ 2.50	
Additional Donation to Club by member	<u>\$150.00</u>	
Total Receipts during/after December 2 meeting	\$ 728.50	
Less		
Reimbursement to N4DSL for website domain registration:	\$ 9.99	
Meals for December musical program guests	\$ 65.44	
Bank Fee for Check Printing	<u>\$ 18.00</u>	
Total Disbursements during/after December 2 meeting	<u>\$ 93.43</u>	
Ending Balance as of December 24, 2010		\$3,357.02

Submitted by David Fordham, KD9LA, MARA Treasurer

VARA Secretary's Report – December 7 Meeting

VARA's December meeting was the Christmas Banquet and no business meeting was held.

The minutes from the September and October VARA meetings are still missing and will be presumed lost if not received by January 20, 2011 for the February 2011 issue of the Monitor..

PVARC Secretary's Report – December 3 Meeting

The December 3, 2010 business meeting was called to order by PVARC President Mark Hensley (N4YSA) in the Executive Conference Room, Page Memorial Hospital at 1800. Following introductions, our visitor and newest member – Bob McKay (KI4VFP) was welcomed to the PVARC family. Mark announced that the principal business of the evening was the election of officers for the next two years. In accordance with the PVARC By-Laws it was moved and seconded at the November 5th meeting to accept the nominating committee recommendation to continue all the currently serving officers in their same positions for the years 2011 & 2012 . There being no additional nominations from the floor, a motion to re-elect the below listed officers was made, seconded and passed unanimously:

President: Mark Hensley N4YSA
 Vice President: Dave Firestone K4DPF
 Secretary/Treasurer: Sparky Terry KD4KL
 Board Member: Morgan Phenix K4RHD
 Board Member: Bob Forrest WO4MI

Bob Forrest, acting on behalf of the PVARC Secretary/Treasurer who was unable to attend, agreed to take the meeting minutes and collect dues. He gave the financial report and passed on a request from the Secretary/Treasurer that a committee be formed to audit the PVARC accounts. This item was deferred until the next meeting when Secretary/Treasurer would be in attendance & the audit conducted.

Dave/K4DPF called attention to the ARRL 2010 Field Day results in QST showing PVARC as the high scorer for our Station Class in Virginia and "in the running" in our region. He is confident that we will do even better in 2011 with the experience gained!

Bob Forrest/WO4MI, (formerly KJ4HFU) brought up the topic of "Sidewalk Radio," suggesting again that PVARC might consider setting up on the Luray Greenway some weekend when the weather gets warmer. There are several tall trees where we could shoot up a couple of dipoles with our new spud-guns, and there is certainly an ample amount of foot traffic on Saturdays, especially when the Farmers Market brings in additional visitors. While the community at large has a vague idea of what ham radio is about, the public has little opportunity to actually see what it is we do; or, how we do it! Bob felt we should be demonstrating our craft out in plain view where anyone, especially the younger generation, can see and appreciate what the ham radio experience of today is all about. The idea for Side Walk Radio was well received and hopefully will be initiated when the weather warms up.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and members were reminded that our next meeting would be held at Browns Chinese Restaurant located on West Main Street in Luray, on Friday, January 7th at 1800.

Submitted: Sparky Terry, PVARC Secretary

MARA Secretary's Report – December 2 Monthly Meeting

Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 PM

Attendance: 43 present - 29 Members and 14 Guests

Ellsworth (K4LXG) conducted the meeting.

Introductions made all around.

Reports:

New Members:

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: It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's verbal report as presented. Balance as of October 31, 2010 was \$2,150.45, November 28, 2010 balance was \$2,708.45 and the December 2, 2010 balance was \$2,721.95.

Groups:

ARES/RACES: No report

VEC-Session: The next test session will be held on December 11th.

Public Service: None reported

Announcements: Sheryl (KJ4DOC) reported that the Wood Grill Buffet management had informed the club of a conflict with the November 3, 2011 meeting. They had overbooked and asked if MARA would consider rescheduling the meeting to another time. After a brief discussion, it was decided that we would try to reserve November 10, 2011 as our November meeting date. This date was subsequently confirmed with the Wood Grill management.

Old Business: None reported

New Business: None reported

New Call or Upgrades: None reported

Motion to Adjourn: Made, seconded and approved.

50/50 Raffle: Raffle was cancelled for this meeting.

Program: We enjoyed holiday music sung by the Eversole Road Quintet. Thanks to Gerry Brunk (K4RBZ) for making the arrangements.

Submitted by
Sheryl M. Tonini

Right: The Eversole Road Quartet, which provided the musical entertainment at the MARA Christmas Banquet.



MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.

President: Bryan Daniels, K4RMY
 Vice President: Gerry Brunk, K4RBZ
 Secretary: Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC
 Treasurer: David Fordham, KD9LA
 Board (exp 2011): James McDowell IV, NN4JM
 Board (exp 2012): Mike Turner, K4MIC

<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: John Keller W4ZAO
 Vice President: Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW
 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 starts at 6:00 pm,
 the business meeting starts at 7:00 pm

Visitors are 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 under construction (?)

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.

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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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 VA ARES (Y/N) _____ SKYWARN ID: _____

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

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

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

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

The club newsletter, the Monitor, is provided free of charge monthly to all members of all three clubs via email distribution, in PDF format. However, it is the individual club members' responsibility to notify the newsletter editor directly of all changes in email address. Electronic back issues will be provided free to members on request.

Elderly, disabled, or special-needs members may make special arrangements with their respective club officers to receive a hardcopy of the Monitor via U.S. mail in lieu of the electronic PDF version. However, the hardcopy requires additional production and delivery time and is not guaranteed to arrive before the scheduled monthly club meeting dates.

Members not receiving the electronic Monitor in a timely fashion (e.g., before their monthly club meeting) should notify the newsletter editor promptly to investigate and resolve the problem with distribution. Members who are using the latest update version of Adobe Reader and experience trouble opening the Monitor email attachment can contact the newsletter editor for assistance.



Members not renewing by the end of the February meeting will be dropped from the active mailing list, and may experience significant delays in being restored to the list once dues have been paid.

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



Reminder from the Newsletter Editor:

Club Dues are Now Due!

MARA

VARA

PVARC
