

October
2011

THE MONITOR

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

October 4 – Tuesday: VARA Club Meeting:

The Valley Amateur Radio Association will hold its June meeting on Tuesday, October 4 at Shoneys on US. 250 at I-81, exit 222. Dinner starts at 6:00 pm and the business meeting starts at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome.

October 6 – Thursday: MARA Annual Corporate Meeting and Elections

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association will hold its Annual corporate meeting on Thursday, October 6, at the Wood Grill Buffet restaurant on Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Dinner starts at 6:30, business meeting at 7:30 pm. All hams and visitors are welcome and invited to attend. MARA members especially are urged to attend so that a quorum will be present to elect officers for 2012 and conduct other business that might come before the club.

October 7 – Friday: PVARC Club Meeting:

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular bi-monthly business meeting on Friday, October 7, starting at 6:00 p.m. in the dayroom of the Page Valley Hospital. All hams and visitors are invited.

Who Worked the September VHF Contest using K4MRA MARA's Club Call?

Jason N4DSL is trying to contact the person or persons who worked the September VHF contest using K4MRA.

A request for the logs has been received, so as club call trustee, Jason needs you to contact him as soon as possible if you either worked the contest using K4MRA, or know of who did use the club callsign. Jason can be reached via email at N4DSL@atrs.com

Public Service Volunteers Needed: KTM 500 October 1-2, Grindstone Oct 7-9

As this issue is going to press, volunteers are still needed for the KTM 500 motorbike ride, and the Grindstone 100 footrace. The KTM is on October 1-2, Ellsworth Neff K4LXG is the contact point (telephone 540-234-0342) The Grindstone 100 is October 7-8-9, and John Keller is the contact point, (telephone 540-248-3619 or email eaglehiker@hotmail.com

VARA President's Message

It's been a pretty fast summer for most of us this year with family, projects, hurricanes, earthquakes, and now preparing for fall/winter. I have several projects that have to be put to bed before my YL will let me get back to contesting, rag chewing and the most important project, putting up my tower and antenna that I recently bought. The other important thing I have to do is volunteer to help out on several community events that the club voted to help out this year.

The first will be the Grindstone 100 starting at 6:00pm Friday October 7 and running thru the morning of Sunday October 9th. I have 3 volunteers at the moment and need several more. I know you want to pick up that cell phone or email me online to help out. Don't wait!!! Call now!!! I am standing by to answer your call to volunteer.

The second big event will be the Fall Foliage Bike Festival scheduled for Oct 21-23. We need lots of volunteers for this event since there are several routes and spread out over a large area. We are also in need of a coordinator for this event. We also need a net control trailer to use throughout the event. So come one come all and sign up to help support this local event.

The other event is the the KTM 500 motorbike ride scheduled for this weekend, please contact Bryan Daniels, MARA President to help with this annual event.

The VARA picnic was a great success with lots of good friends, great food and the weather could not have been better. I want to thank all the volunteers who helped make this annual event possible.

We will have our monthly meeting at the Shoney's in Staunton on Oct 4th starting at 7:30pm; I hope to see everyone there.

Remember I am still standing by for that phone call for you to volunteer, I know you won't let me down!!

John Keller W4ZAO
President, VARA



224.500 Repeater Back on the Air!

Jason N4DSL and Tim KG4HOT, have announced that the 224.500 repeater is back up and on the air from Little North Mountain west of Harrisonburg. Dust off that 220 rig and give it a try. This repeater uses a PL tone if 131.8.



Fall Foliage Ride Public Service Event Volunteers Needed: October 21-23

John Keller, W4ZAO, is looking for volunteers for the Fall Foliage Ride, October 21-23. This event requires at least a dozen hams across the two-day event (Saturday and Sunday). If you can spare a few hours, it would be appreciated.

VE Test Session in Dayton VA – October 8 – Saturday at 9:00 a.m.

The bi-monthly VE testing session will be held on Saturday, October 8, at the Woodmen of the World building on Highway 42, just south of the Wal-Mart, between Harrisonburg and Dayton, Virginia. Sign-in starts at 9:00 a.m., followed by the testing session. If you can help, please contact Gayle Shull, KU4XN, VE Coordinator.

Free to Good Home: Old QST Magazines

Howard Zehr, N9AHQ, has a collection of old QST magazines he is looking to discard. The collection runs from the mid-1970s through 2003. Additionally he has some old CQ magazines that go with the deal. Contact Howard via email at zehrhj@aol.com .



Page County ARES Revitalization

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) organization at the local level varies from state to state and from county to county, as well as ebbs and flows over time. As part of an effort to rejuvenate Page County ARES in support of the Public and our Supported Agencies, we have been working with the Page County Emergency Manager, to hold a meeting of those who believe they are registered ARES members and those who might be interested in becoming members.



An organizational meeting of interested hams has been scheduled for 10:00 AM, local, on Saturday, October 8, 2011, at the Page County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) which is in the Sheriffs Office Investigations Building. The building is located in Luray, VA, on the south-east corner of W. Page St. and Lee St, down the hill from the Sheriff's Office and the Courthouse and next to the Mimslyn. It is envisioned that the EOC would become our focal point for ARES planning, training, exercises and operations. All hams interested in supporting Page County ARES are invited to attend.

Recently, Dave Firestone, K4DPF, began serving as Emergency Coordinator (EC) for Page County, pending his official appointment. As part of the ramping up process, Mark Hensley, N4YSA, agreed to take on the role of Assistant EC for Training and Morgan Phenix became the Net Manager for the Page County ARES Net.

To aid members and interested hams in accessing ARES information and communicating their ideas, Dave is building a website at <http://www.pagecountyares.org/>. It is definitely a site "Under Construction", but check it out.

MARA November Meeting Date Change

Due to an error in booking, the Wood Grill Restaurant has asked MARA to move its November meeting from the first Thursday, to the second Thursday of the month. So please NOTE: THE NOVEMBER MARA MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THE SECOND THURSDAY IN NOVEMBER: November 10. Mark your calendar now.

ARES/RACES and the Harrisonburg Rockingham Emergency Communications Center Changes

Starting in the very near future all ARES/RACES members who wish to participate and work with the HRECC, both in the facility at N. Main St and during drills, will have to be credentialed and subject to a background check. Once you have filled out the paper work for the background check (at no cost to the ARES/RACES member) you will be asked to come in for a photo ID that will be issued by HRECC and will allow access to the facility and equipment during training drills such as the recent one at JMU and in the event of a call-up. I emphasize that this is NOT a requirement to participate in Rockingham-Harrisonburg ARES/RACES but will be required if you want access to the HRECC facility and equipment during a drill or call up. Personally, I would like as many members of Rockingham-Harrisonburg ARES/RACES as possible to gain this credentialing. It will make it much easier to have drills and work closely when needed with the HRECC.

If you are interested in obtaining this ID, please contact me at k4rmy@arrl.net and I will email you the form to fill out. You will then have to mail it to:

Jim Junkins, Director
Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center
101 N. Main St.
Harrisonburg, VA 22802



Bryan Daniels
Rockingham County EC

Bike Shenandoah Public Service Report

I want to thank the hams that helped with Bike Shenandoah on September 17. There were a total of 47 riders to track this year, 14 100 milers, 11 62 milers and 22 rode in the 30 mile event, I think that is the fewest total number of riders they have had. The routes were changed this year to avoid roads with heavy traffic as a safety measure and some riders commented that it was one of the hardest rides they have ever had. Once again there were no injuries so it was a safe ride for all involved, but several did drop out due to the difficult route.



Thanks to Ray Ritchie, K4NRA; Bryan Daniels, K4RMY; Glenn Mingo, KJ4VVP; E. C. Showalter, KG4KUR and Gayle Shull, KU4XN for their help, it was greatly appreciated.

Gerald Nauman, KN4FM
Net Control

VARA Family Picnic at Gypsy Hill Park

The annual family VARA picnic enjoyed great weather and lots of great fellowship. Scott served as chef (see photo), and there was plenty to eat for everyone. Photos supplied by W4ZA0.



KC3AN and N4VZC at new QTH

Richard and Phyllis Haxton, KC3AN and N4VZC respectively, have recently relocated, albeit just a few feet away from their former abode. Their new address consists mainly of a new number and street name. They now live at 3310 Dawn Drive, Harrisonburg, VA 22801. They report that they now have a much better 2-meter location compared to their old place. Their phone number remains unchanged.



N5SMQ Suffers Stroke

As the Monitor was going to press, we received word that Butch Washer, N5SMQ of Monterey was in Augusta Health Center room 3 (on the ground floor), after experiencing a small stroke. He will most likely be spending some time in therapy, but the prognosis looks good. He is accepting visitors, and visiting hours are only in the evenings on weekdays, 4-8 pm, but include 10-8 on Saturdays and Sundays.

Bob's Knob Sale Status Report – September 30

Items are being offered to the local ham community at *absolute auction* by the estate of W3MMC

No phone calls please. Make a bid by sending an email to: bobsknobsale@gmail.com Your bid must include the *ITEM NUMBER* shown below, a *description* of the item (to ensure a match with your item number), the amount of your offer, and contact information. List of top bids will be distributed again at the club meetings in October. A final list will be distributed via ValleyHams Grouplist and email to MARA/VARA/PVARC members around October 10. Bidding closes at midnight, the night of October 15.

On October 16, the highest bidder will be determined and notified. At that time, pickup and payment dates and times will be discussed. Sales of the tower and attached antennas are FOB Bergton; sales of other equipment can be FOB Bergton or Weyers Cave. Payment can be made by cash or personal check at time of pickup. If the highest bidder does not pick up the item by the agreed-upon deadline (individually negotiable), the second-highest bidder will then be notified, and so on.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Very little of this equipment has been checked out or tested. Thus, ALL SALES of the electronic equipment are made on a contingency basis: if you test it out at pickup, or even if you get the item home and it does not work, you can bring it back and get your full money back within 10 days of pickup. ALL ITEMS are covered by a 10-day money-back guarantee, to coin MFJ's phrase, "no matter what".

TOWER:

Item 1: Super-heavy duty tapered tower, estimated height 48 feet, no name or model available, but this is the heaviest tower construction I've seen, heavy-weld Z-bar bracing, hinged at very bottom but not a standard tilt-over (no winch), presently guyed. Slight trace of rust visible at the very bottom 2-inches, but practically no other rust visible. The tower is currently up, and the purchaser will need to make arrangements to take it down and transport it, although reasonable time (1-2 months) can be negotiated for those arrangements. Bids are expected to be less than market value due to purchaser having to dismantle the tower. *Current bid: none*

ANTENNAS CURRENTLY ON TOWER *(still no bids received yet)*

NOTE: All of the antennas below are presently ON the tower and must be removed. Bids are expected to be lower than market value because the purchaser will be responsible for removing the antenna from the tower. Reasonable time will be negotiated to allow the user to remove the antenna from the tower. All antennas are weathered but appear fully intact and serviceable. Because the antennas are on the tower, most are not identifiable by make or model.

Item 2: Cushcraft AR-6 vertical antenna, 6-meter Ringo Ranger

Item 3: 7-element yagi, appears sized for about 902 Mhz

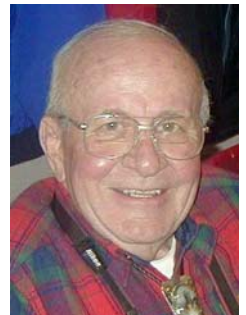
Item 4: 6-element beam, for 6-meters, looks to be in excellent shape at top of tower

Item 5: 2-meter/440 dual band beam, make and type unknown, approx. 5 elements on each band

Item 6: AEA Isopole 2-meter Antenna vertical (classic nested-2-cone style), fair condition.

Item 7: Two (2) 440 MHz 13-element yagi's with backstop elements

Item 8: Two (2) 10-element yagis apparently sized for 1.2 GHz



W3MMC, SK

Item 9: Rotor, rust apparent, with what is believed to be the control head

Item 10: Circular ring weather satellite receive antenna, approx. 12-inches in diameter, with 5-foot tower-offset mounting boom.

ANTENNAS OFF THE TOWER *(still no bids received yet)*

Item 11: Cross-polarized 10-element 2-meter beam, with 3 or 4 bent elements, weathered, with heavy-duty tripod roof mount.

TRANSCEIVERS (sold with 10-day money-back guarantee)

Item 12: Yaesu FT-857D HF mobile radio, including original invoice, box, and documentation. Already programmed with local repeaters, but never actually put on air – new but untested. **CURRENT BID \$651.**

Item 13: Yaesu FT-736R All-mode VHF/UHF transceiver, includes MD-1 desktop microphone and documentation. Appearance: good, with light smokers coating. This radio was installed at the operating position but we were unable to run tests on it. **CURRENT BID \$451**

Item 14: Yaesu FT-726R All-mode VHF/UHF transceiver, includes documentation and technical manual, as well as 2-meter and 440 modules. (May also include six-meter module, since Bob had an extensive log of 6-meter contacts and a 6-meter vertical and 6-meter beam on the tower.) Appearance: very good. Preliminary power up and receiver works, but was not thoroughly tested. **CURRENT BID \$291.**

Item 15: Yaesu FT-980 HF radio, includes dual receivers and comes with hand-mike and documentation. Appearance: good, with very light smoker's coating. This radio was installed at the operating position and we powered it up and the receiver works, transmitter not tested. **CURRENT BID \$202.25.**

Item 16: Yaesu FT-60 handi-talkie, includes desktop charger, batteries of unknown age and condition, programming CD, and original box. Not tested. **CURRENT BID: \$65**

Item 17: Yaesu FT-2700 older mobile 2-meter VHF radio with mounting bracket attached, includes manual and box. Appearance: commensurate with age. **CURRENT BID: \$61.**

Item 18: Yaesu FT-727R older handi-talkie, missing squelch knob but operator can still control squelch with stub. Includes headphones, manual, batteries of unknown condition but includes 12-volt car/auto power cord. Appearance: commensurate with age. **CURRENT BID: \$40**

RF POWER AMPLIFIERS

Item 19: Mirage 50-52 Mhz A1015, 10watts in, 150 watts out. Tested and working.

Item 20: RF Concepts RFC-4-110, 430-450 MHz, 10 watts in, 150 watts out. Tested and working. **CURRENT BID: \$50**

Item 21: Mirage B-1018G, 144–148 MHz, includes preamp, with box and manual, tested appears to be working **CURRENT BID: \$25**

Item 22: Mirage B-1018G, 144-148 Mhz, includes preamp, no box or manual. Tested appears to be working. **CURRENT BID: \$50**

POWER SUPPLIES (all have been tested and are working)

Item 23: Diamond GZV-4000 40-amp variable voltage DC Power Supply, 120-volts in, 5-15 VDC out, documentation and box. **CURRENT BID: \$91.25**

Item 24: Astron SS-30M switching Power Supply, 120VAC in, 13.8 VDC out 30 amp. **CURRENT BID: \$76.25**

Item 25: Astron RS-35A linear (non-switching) power supply, 120VAC in, 13.8 VDC out, 35 amp **CURRENT BID: \$35**

Item 26: Not working, Discarded.

METERS, TUNERS, MOBILE ANTENNAS, TEST EQUIPMENT, OTHER

Item 27: MFJ-949C VersaTuner II HF antenna tuner includes meters, dummy load and antenna switch **CURRENT BID: \$76.25**

Item 28: Diawa CN-540 cross-needle 200-watt 50-150 MHz power/SWR meter. **CURRENT BID: \$3**

Item 29: Diawa CN-630 cross needle 200 watt 140-450 MHz power/SWR meter. **CURRENT BID: \$75**

Item 30: Larson Dual-band (2m/440) mag-mount mobile antenna with coax (PL-259 antenna base connection) with coax with PL-259 no bid yet.

Item 31: Diamond NR-770HA Mag-mount dual-band mobile antenna, with coax and PL-259. **CURRENT BID: \$15**

Item 32: Yaesu CA-10 desktop charger, dual slots, sleeve-type to accommodate several Yaesu HT battery configurations. No bid yet.

Item 33: Textronix 465 Oscilloscope, 100 MHz, 1996, with very nice floor stand **CURRENT BID: \$75**

Item 34: Intertek HyTronix Model 900 Automatic Transistor Analyzer, in case, with manual and accessories. No bid yet.

Item 35: GE "Mi" FM/AM Modulation Meter TF-2300B with 19" carry handles. Manual. No bid yet.

Item 36: Ungar 9900 Soldering Station. **CURRENT BID: \$15**

Item 37: Discarded

Item 38: CES 510-SA Smart Patch Telephone patch (connects rig to telephone line) no bid yet.

Item 39: Realistic SSB+AM CB Radio, 23 channels, in place at operating position so assumed to be working (several more CB's were located in the garage and assumed to not be working). No bid yet.

Item 40: Batteries for HT, Yaesu FNB-83, quantity 2, in box dated 2006, condition unknown, HT unknown No bid yet.

Item 41: Yaesu YHA-27, mini-duck 2m/440 HT antenna with BNC connector, **CURRENT BID: \$5**

Item 42: Yaesu microphone MH1-B8 No bid yet.

Item 43: (duplicate listing of item 36)

Item 44: Half-full Spool (estimated about 300 feet) of 6-conductor rotor cable, new condition, never been outside. **CURRENT BID: \$25**

Item 45: Almost-full Spool (estimated over 400 feet) of 9913 solid center-conductor coaxial cable, brand new condition, never been off the spool. This is high-quality, genuine Belden 9913-010, heavy, almost like hardline. **CURRENT BID: \$40**

Item 46: Vibroplex Iambic paddle set, only identifying number is 51074 which might be serial number.

Item 47: Tempo VHF-1-plus, classic crystal 2-meter channelized FM transceiver, powers up.

Item 48: Almotronics 12-volt power supply, 3-amp, tested and working

Item 49: Lodestar Tr Dip Meter, DM-4061, in box, mint condition, includes coils

Item 50: Peet Brothers Ultimeter 2000 Weather Station Control Console (no instruments, just the control console readout and wall-wart power supply)

Item 51: Weather Eagle 200, Weather Alert DTMF Remote Control and Repeater Interface with Smart Scan and documentation. Apparently this controller scans the NOAA radio frequencies, and upon receipt of a programmed tone, relays the weather alert onto the repeater. Manufactured by Dan Gropper, Thunder Eagle Inc.

Item 52: Scanner antenna: three adjacent vertical elements (looks like multiband J-pole) with ground plane. Presently on mast, easily removable.

Item 53: Schwinn Cardioscope, looks like classic oscilloscope

Item 54: Heathkit Q-multiplier, includes multi-contact connector cable

Item 55: MFJ-259C SWR Analyzer, powers up appears to work fine. **CURRENT BID: \$131.25**

Item 56: Mirage B-108 2-meter power amplifier, 10-watts in, 80-watts out, untested, needs power connector. **CURRENT BID: \$5**

Item 57: Jackson Model 715 Dynamic Tube Tester, portable model. No bid yet.

Item 58: Timex Sinclair early computer. This is a subminiature keyboard for nostalgia purposes only. **CURRENT BID: \$12**

Item 59: Uniden BC89XLT Scanner . **CURRENT BID: \$5**

Item 60: TE Systems 2-meter RF Power Amplifier Model 1410G, needs power connector, no other specifications available. **CURRENT BID: \$65**

Item 61: Kenwood classic 2-meter transceiver TR-7950, one of the first digital transceivers on 2-meters, includes mic and quick-release mount. Untested, needs power connector. No bid yet.

Item 62: Yaesu Micro-mini Dual-Band Mobile Transceiver FT-90R, untested, in box with documentation **CURRENT BID: \$51.50**

Item 63: Duplicate listing of item 18

Tripplett Industrial Panel Meters

These are the classic, round, black panel meters you see in 1960's industrial control rooms. Meters appear in decent condition, are in second-hand plastic Tupperware-type boxes labelled with hamfest prices of \$5 to \$20. NO BIDS YET. **MAKE OFFER.**

Item 64: 0 – 1.5 Amps (not otherwise specified)

Item 65: 0 – 5 amps RF thermocouple

Item 66: 0 – 50 microamps DC

Item 67: 0 – 15 AC amps

Item 68: 0 – 300 amps, modified 0 – 150 amps

Item 69: 0 – 100 amps AC

Item 70: 0 – 1 amp RF

Item 71: 0 – 100 microamps DC

Item 72: 0 – 10 milliamps DC

Item 73: 0 – 10 AC/DC volts

Item 74: 0-3 amps DC

Item 75: -50 to +50 Microamps

Item 76: 100 – 0 dB



BIRD WATTMETER AND ELEMENTS (added September 29 – no bids yet)

Item 77: Bird Model 43 Wattmeter, in heavy-duty Pelican 1400 plastic carry case with foam inserts. Includes one (1) element: 10-watt kj200-500 MHz element. Additional elements sold separately below. The Wattmeter includes an assortment of RF adapters, N, SO-239, PL-259, BNC, and others.

Item 78: Element for Bird Wattmeter: 10-watt, 25-60 MHz

Item 79: Element for Bird Wattmeter: 50-watt, 25-60 MHz

Item 80: Element for Bird Wattmeter: 10-watt, 100-250 MHz

Item 81: Element for Bird Wattmeter: 50-watt, 100-250 MHz

Item 82: Element for Bird Wattmeter: 250-watt, 200-250 MHz

Item 83: Element for Bird Wattmeter: 10-watt, 200-500 Mhz

Item 84: Element for Bird Wattmeter: 25-watt, 200-500 Mhz

Item 85: Element for Bird Wattmeter: 50-watt, 200-500 Mhz

Item 86: Element for Bird Wattmeter: 100-watt, 200-500 Mhz



MISCELLANEOUS OFFERED AT OPEN HOUSE IN LATE OCTOBER

As part of the Bob's Knob estate liquidation, there are several organizers containing thousands of miscellaneous electronic parts, of assorted transistors, diodes, high-power diodes, voltage regulators, trimmers, variable tuning caps, interleaving plate tuning capacitors, disc ceramic, molded, tantalum, tubular, and electrolytic capacitors, carbon resistors, full-wave rectifiers, 28-v zeners, microwave components, relays, panel switches (slide, pushbutton, toggle), pots, banana plugs, several 2000 mfd can capacitors, panel knobs, panel pilot lights, crystals, still-sealed electrical tape rolls, hanks of zip cord, hanks and spools of various wire gauges, fuses, etc. etc., etc.

Many of these items are very dusty and dirty from years of storage in a garage. Most are obviously new, but some look like they may have been salvaged. Simply identifying the items, let alone listing them, would take weeks or months.

These items will not be individually priced. They will be offered at an "open house" in Weyers Cave where hams can come and "pick through" the collection for parts they want or need.

The open house will be scheduled in late October, AFTER the close of the auction. The open house will also offer the remaining unsold items from the auction. All items at the open house will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis, but volunteers who are reported by net control as helping out with one of the September or October ham public service events will be invited for a special advance session the evening before the open house.

At the open house, hams are encouraged to take what you want for your personal use, but a small donation is asked, based on what you believe your handful may be worth to you: 5-cents, a dime, a quarter, a dollar, five dollars, whatever you believe is fair. For example, a handful of assorted components might be worth 25-cents to you, but 2 dollars to someone else. Hams are welcome and encouraged to take quantities for resale at hamfests, but the family asks that you donate a fair price (not necessarily full hamfest price, but what you think is fair) to Bob's estate at the time you take the items from the open house.



Volunteers at Public Service Events to get Preview of Misc Open House

Hams who volunteer for one of the public service events in September or October will be invited to a special preview event, giving access to the miscellaneous items before the general open house in late October. Take advantage of this offer by volunteering at the KTM 500 motorbike ride October 1-2, or at the Camp Still Meadows Horse Ride October 2, or the Grindstone 100 footrace on October 7-9, or at the VE volunteer examination session on October 8, or at the Fall Foliage Bike Ride event October 21-23. Stations participating in the September Public Service event will also be included in this special invitation.

Rockingham County ARES Net Control Stations

Oct 3	K4NRA	Nov 7	K4NRA
Oct 10	KA4EEN	Nov 14	K4LXG
Oct 16	W3HXH	Nov 21	KG4KUR
Oct 24	K4MIC	Nov 28	KU4XN
Oct 31	KN4FM		
		Dec 5	K4RMY
		Dec 12	K4RBZ
		Dec 19	W3HXH
		Dec 26	K4MIC



This article originally appeared in the September 2001 Monitor

Opinionated One Redux: The Different Kinds of Hams

Much has been written about the different kinds of amateur radio operators. You can classify hams based on their license class, whether they use CW or phone, or even whether they experiment with exotic and far-out modes like moonbounce, meteor-scatter, or trying to use the Outback repeater system.

But this month, I'm going to clue you in to the *real* way to classify ham operators. It has to do with which celebrity they most resemble. Once you know what to look for, you can easily identify exactly which class a valley ham belongs in.

The McGyver Operator: If you believe the ARRL propaganda, the age of the average U.S. ham today is quickly approaching somewhere around 92, so most of you will remember McGyver, the secret agent who could patch together a solution for almost any problem. The McGyver ham is the same way. The McGyver Ham loves to tinker around with stuff. He is always building something, modifying something, or taking something apart to see if he can make it better. You can recognize a McGyver ham because his soldering iron hasn't been turned off since the 1970's energy crisis. His workbench is larger than his XYL's kitchen. He owns enough electronic parts to rebuild the avionics on a fleet of Boeing 787's and still have enough left over to stock the Mendelson's tent at Dayton. If you ever need a part for your 1964 LaFayette Short Wave Y-1, the McGyver ham can either (a) find you the right part in his junkbox, or (b) he'll put one together for you using a mayonnaise jar lid, two 25k resistors, a diode, and copious amounts of solder. And it will work, too.

The Rene Descartes Ham: Rene Descartes was the philosopher who said, "I think, therefore I am." The RD Ham thinks he can communicate with nothing, so therefore he *does* communicate with nothing. Often referred to by the derogatory term, "QRP operator", the RD ham thinks he can work the world with 0.00015 watt. He puts together little teeny tiny things that fit inside the groove of your wedding ring and take all their power from the bottom cover of a dead hearing aid battery. A half-grown housecat rubbing against a coax switch generates more RF than all his transceivers put together, yet the RD ham expects stations in Franz Josefland to give him 5-by-5 signal reports. And he claims he gets them, too. For some unknown reason, almost all RD hams sport gray facial hair, and over a third of them live in or around Broadway.

The Loch Ness Ham: Named for the famous but elusive monster reportedly inhabiting a Scottish pond, the Loch Ness ham is one of the most common in the valley — assuming they really do exist, of course. The only eyewitnesses are VE team members. According to the reports, these Loch Ness hams studied hard for their license, and showed up for, and then passed, the VE test. But except for the VE team, no one has ever seen them, let alone heard them on the air. Investigators have extensively interviewed the witnesses, and most VE's seem reliable, intelligent, and sincere in their belief that they weren't dreaming, they really did witness someone or something passing the test. But if these elusive test passers exist, most of them apparently don't ever purchase a radio, let alone actually set it up, program it, or connect it to a power supply and an antenna. And of the few that do own a radio that is

set up and connected to a power supply and antenna, less than one out of twenty apparently ever actually transmit on it. The honesty and integrity of the VE team is bolstered somewhat by the fact that you occasionally see a ham license plate on a car or truck, bearing the call letters of one of these LN hams that no one has ever worked. But you never, ever, hear an LN ham on the air, leading skeptics to ask: "are they real?"

The Fraser Crane Ham: The FC ham is named for the pretentious star of the TV show Fraser, a fellow who wants everyone to believe he is humble and modest, while at the same time taking great pains to ensure they recognize his genius. The FC Ham starts out a conversation: "Yep, I worked Zero Charlie Nine Zulu last night. Snagged him on the first call. This makes the third time I've worked the Zirconium Islands. I sure hope this group sends the QSL quicker than those guys who did the Rowan and Martin Reef expedition last year. Yep, my new 400-foot tower is sure turning out to be worth the effort. I bounced a microwave signal off of someone's birdbath in Florida this morning and worked a Quebec Seven Delta station in the Andromeda Archipelago. He was mobile using homebrew with a four-day-old piece of spaghetti as an antenna and he gave me a 20-over-9 report..." You get the idea.

The Homer Simpson Ham: This is hands-down the most common type of ham in the valley that is on the air. Most of us who own and use transmitters are HS Hams. We use the repeaters and expect someone else to drive up 60 miles to the mountaintop in the snow within ten minutes of it going off the air. We work one hour at one public service event every twelve years but proudly tell everyone how much valuable public service hams provide. We passed the code test in 1971, and that exam was our last CW "contact". We can't copy the ID from our local repeater, even after hearing it 60 thousand times. And many of us have trouble even when it's using the voice synthesizer! And when it comes to radio theory, most of us can't even figure out how to get the cover off our radios. Heck, some of us have to get help to change the battery on our HT! We don't know the name of the antenna connector on our rubber duck. We have no clue as to how to go about working a ham satellite, copying RTTY, working television, how to configure a packet station, or even how to put on an Anderson PowerPole. When our radios don't work, even when the problem is user error, all we can say is, "Duh".

The Mother Teresa Ham: Unlike the other kinds of hams already discussed, these hams are in short supply in the valley. There are only about a half-dozen of them. They are the brave souls who shoulder the burden any time there is real work to be done. They are the few who sacrifice, time and time again, tirelessly and selflessly, to man the marathons, the bike rides, the parades and lawn parties, the fund raisers for MS and MD and MTV. These are the hams who, week after week, volunteer to serve as net control because no one else will step forward. These hams will be put on the fast-track to sainthood after they become Silent Keys.

You can probably think of many other kinds of hams. For example, do you know any Oprah Winfrey hams? Michelle Bachmann hams? Or how about Bill O'Reilly hams?

Local Ham Calendar

October 1-2: Shenandoah 500 NVTRA motorbike ride
 October 1: ARRL National Simulated Emergency Test
 October 2: Camp Still Meadows Horse Ride
 October 4: VARA Club Meeting
 October 6: VARA Annual Corporate Meeting
 October 7: PVARC Club Meeting
 October 7-9: Grindstone 100 mountain Footrace
 October 8: VE Exams in Dayton VA
 October 8: Page County ARES Organizational Meeting
 October 9: North American RTTY Sprint
 October 10: 10/10 Sprint
 October 14-16: Jamboree on the Air Special Event
 October 15: Deadline for Bobs Knob Sale Auction
 October 17-21: ARRL School Club Roundup
 October 21-23: Shenandoah Fall Foliage Bike Festival
 October 23: Mason-Dixon Hamfest (Westminster MD)
 October 29-30: CQ WW SSB Contest
 October 29-30: Fall VHF Sprint contest

November 1: VARA Club Meeting
 November 4: PVARC Club Meeting at Browns Restaurant
 November 5-7: ARRL Sweepstakes CW weekend
November 10: MARA Club Meeting NOTE DATE CHANGE!
 November 19-21: ARRL Sweepstakes Phone weekend

Net Schedules can be found at: <http://mara.ws>



VARA Secretary's Report – September 6 Meeting

Our September meeting was a joint meeting with MARA at the Wood Grill in Harrisonburg. There were 15 members present and 2 visitors, Patsy Rinehart K4PJJ and KC8TEN Dan Hale's wife.

50/50 drawing went to Dave Collins N4WDC.

After a round of introductions both clubs had a short business meeting then a discussion on our 2012 Field Day location. Should it be held on the mountain top or move to the valley? The age of our hams, distance to the mountain top, gas prices and more exposure to the public were the main items talked about.

Since the official from e-QSL couldn't make the meeting he sent a video to be shown to the group but due to lag time on the WEB it wouldn't run.

John W4ZAO said he is expecting a DVD on e-QSL to show to both clubs.

Don't forget to charge your batteries and program your radios for the local repeaters. This is the season for bad weather and flash flooding so we need to be prepared in case we are called out to help with communications.

We have several events coming up in the next two months. Your help is needed to make these events a success.

Ray Colvin, KE4HVR
 Filling in for Steve Grant W4IIV

MARA Secretary's Report – September 6 Meeting

The September meeting was held on September 6, the first Tuesday of the month, as a joint VARA/MARA meeting, at the Wood Grill Restaurant in Harrisonburg.

Meeting Called to Order at 7:08 PM

Attendance: 39 present – 19 MARA Members, 17 VARA Members and 3 Guests (as reported on MARA Meeting Roster)

Bryan(K4RMY) conducted the MARA portion of the business meeting.

Introductions made all around.

Reports:

New Members: None reported 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 report as printed in the Monitor.

Groups:

ARES/RACES: No report

VEC-Session: The next VE test session will be held at 9:00 am, October 8, 2011 at the Woodmen of the World building in Dayton.

Public Service:

Bryan (K4RMY) reviewed the status of planned events the first two weekends in October. What has traditionally been a single weekend with three major events will cover two weekends this year. The Camp Still Meadows ride and the KTM 500 will be held on October 1st and 2nd and the Grindstone 100 will be held the second weekend.

KTM 500: It was reported that several KTM riders will ride with HT's. The ride will run from 7:00 am – 5:00 pm on Saturday, October 1st and 7:30 am – 5:00 pm on Sunday, October 2nd. Net control will be located at Flagpole Knob. Ellsworth (K4LXG) is in charge of signups and assignments.

Camp Still Meadows: Ray (K4NRA) announced the ride event begins with breakfast at 8:00 am and ends with lunch. Let Ray know if you are interested in volunteering. His email address is K4NRA@verizon.net.

Grindstone 100: John (W4ZAO) is coordinating the volunteers.

Bike Shenandoah: Gerald (KN4FM) thinks they are staffed for the September 17th event but let him know if you are interested in signing up as backup. The ride will cover the back roads of Rockingham County.

Announcements: Bob Neimeyer's (W3MMC) daughter is disposing what is left of her father's radio equipment. Dave (KD9LA) will include a list of the equipment in next month's Monitor.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

New Call or Upgrades: None reported

Motion to Adjourn: Made, seconded and approved.

50/50 Raffle: Total of \$61.00 (\$30.50 won by David Collins (N4WDC) with the remainder split \$15.25 each MARA/VARA)

Program: Technical difficulties prevented the viewing of the E-QSL's video.

Submitted by
Sheryl M. Tonini
KJ4DOC

MARA Treasurer's Report – August 31, 2011 to September 30, 2011

Beginning Balance August 31, 2011 (last report)		\$ 3,262.86
Add: 50/50 from September meeting	<u>\$ 15.25</u>	
Total Receipts		\$ 15.25
Less Checks to 6 of the 7 local repeater trustees, repeater support (per resolution passed at the August MARA meeting)	\$-600.00	
Annual Insurance Premium	\$-165.00	
Printing and mailing of summer Monitors (thru Sep issue)	<u>\$ - 99.90</u>	
Total Disbursements		<u>\$-864.90</u>
Club Balance as of September 30, 2011		\$ 2,413.21

Submitted by David Fordham, KD9LA, MARA Treasurer

(The above balance is before writing the last of the seven repeater support checks. The treasurer is still awaiting contact information on the final repeater trustee, at which time the final \$100 check will be written.)

PVARC Secretary's Report – September 2 Meeting

The September 2nd meeting of the Page Valley Amateur Radio Club was held at Brown's Chinese Restaurant on Main Street in Luray. This being a regularly scheduled social event (Eatin' Meetin') only an abbreviated business meeting was held. PVARC President Mark/N4YSA opened the meeting with introductions. Since the Secretary and XYL (Sparky/KD4KL & Carol/KA4LAF) were "maritime mobile" aboard the Canadian Empress in the St. Lawrence Seaway, scribe duties were assumed by Bob/WO4MI.

A brief accounting of a PVARC board meeting held on August 13th by the Executive Board was given. Those present were: Dave Firestone, K4DPF, Vice President; Sparky Terry, KD4KL, Secretary/Treasurer; Bob Forrest, WO4MI, Board Member; and, Morgan Phenix, K4RHD, Board Member. Absent the President, the Vice President conducted the meeting. A consensus was reached that this meeting would focus on ARES issues; and, other equally important items would be deferred to the next Board Meeting. It was emphasized that while ARES and PVARC are completely separate organizations, PVARC members are committed to public service as a primary basis for the club's existence. We had extensive discussions about the need for activity, organization, training, volunteers and specific agency support. Following a wide-ranging discussion it was decided to support efforts to re-energize the local ARES organization. Since the ARRL Page County Emergency Coordinator (EC) was not present, it was agreed that a member of the Executive Board should make contact with the Page Co. EC and report back on those discussions.

The Board elected to have future meetings "periodically" as may be required, but that monthly meetings as a matter of course may not be appropriate. However, with the outstanding issues from this meeting in mind, the Board decided to meet again on September 24, 2011 @ 0930 at The Coffee Pot in Shenandoah.

At the conclusion of the short meeting, it was proposed that PVARC donate the sum of \$50.00 to each of the two local repeaters (N4PJI/rptr & KQ4D/rptr) as a token of our appreciation for their many years service to the community. (It was acknowledged that this small sum would not possibly cover a fraction of the actual costs – but, every little bit helps!)

The next regular meeting will be held on Friday, October 7, 2011 @ 1800 at Page Memorial Hospital in Luray.

Submitted by: Sparky/KD4KL, PVARC Secretary

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

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