

February
2012

THE MONITOR

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

MARA Club Meeting Thursday February 2

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., holds its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, February 2, at the Wood Grill Buffet, 1711 Reservoir Street, in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m., with the business meeting starting at 7:30 p.m.

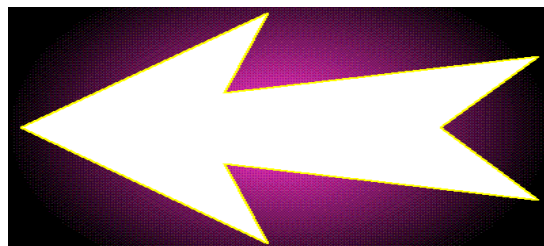
PVARC Business Meeting: Friday, February 3 at Page Valley Hospital

Page Valley Amateur Radio Club's bi-monthly business meeting will be held February 3 in the day room of the Page Memorial Hospital in Luray, Virginia, starting at 6:00 pm.

NEW LOCATION !!

VARA Club Meeting Tuesday February 7

The Valley Amateur Radio Association will meet at a new location for their February club meeting. Starting at the normal time of 6:00 pm, dinner will be held at the new Westside Grill, at 2314 West Beverley Street, west of downtown Staunton.



Last Chance to Renew your Club Membership

Membership in PVARC, MARA, and VARA is on a calendar-year basis. Dues should be renewed by January of each calendar year. Use the handy renewal form inside the back cover of this issue of the Monitor.

February is the last chance for a renewal. Don't let it slip your mind again. Renew today.



KI4DMC: Power Supply and Tuner Needed

Larrie Kline has an old Icom HF rig to power up and get on the air, but he needs an antenna tuner and power supply. If you have an antenna tuner or 20-amp or greater power supply sitting around, give Larrie a call and let him know what you'd take for it. Contact Larrie at lkline39@yahoo.com

KK4FKF: Basic HF Rig for New Ham Wanted

I'm a new Ham looking for an economical starter hf rig to get my feet wet. Im not looking for anything fancy, just functional and within the budget. If anyone is looking to clean out some space in the basement or shack, please shoot me an e- mail and let me know what you got and what you are asking. Thanks and 73,

Joe Lipscomb, KK4FKF
Email: ironmask55@gmail.com

WA4FJC: Satellite Rotator System – New – Complete – For Sale

The Waynesboro Repeater Association has been given a dual rotator system for use with satellites. It is made by AZ-EL and includes a computer to control the rotators to track the satellite. There is a program on the computer to download the parameters from the world wide web. This system is brand new, never used outdoors. All funds will go towards the support of 147.075. Interested persons should contact Gordon, WA4FJC@arrl.net.

Estate Sale: EZ-Hang Square Shot

This EZ HANG SQUARE SHOT antenna launcher from the estate of a silent key is offered for sale. It appears brand new and in pristine condition. See www.ezhang.com for more details.

Any funds generated will go to the XYL. Contact Gordon WA4FJC@arrl.net.

AD4TJ: Loop Yagi Wanted for 23 cm Band

Does anyone have a 1296 loop yagi they would like to part with? Looking for 33 elements or more. Let me know what you have.

David Tanks AD4TJ,
ad4tj@yahoo.com

KD4UPL: Yaesu FT-100D for Sale

I have decided to sell my Yaesu FT-100D and matching screwdriver antenna. I am the original owner of the radio, I bought the ATAS-100 at the Dayton hamfest several years ago. The antenna works fine. The radio works perfectly but I think the power output is down on 2m and 70cm. It is currently installed in my truck and used almost every day. I have the original box. I'm asking \$500 for the radio and \$200 for the antenna. I'm not sure what these items are worth so make me an offer if that seems too high.

Matthew Huffman
540-578-190
matt@huffmanelectricalsystems.com



N9AHQ: Wanted – Old Radios to Fix

Howard Zehr has a hobby fixing and repairing old AM and FM and shortwave radios from the 1930's, 1940's and 1950's.

He is looking for old discards that you might have lying around and want to get rid of.

Contact Howard at: n9ahq@arrl.net

MARA Audit Volunteer Needed

The MARA by-laws require that the treasurer records be audited once each year. Sheryl Tonini KJ4DOC and Rick Adams KJ4IND have kindly served as auditors for the past two years. They are willing to serve again, but would like to have a third auditor to gain experience and perhaps join Rick next year, since Sheryl is the new treasurer and thus won't be able to serve as independent auditor next year.

No experience is necessary, and you don't have to be an accountant or CPA. The MARA books are very simple, and easy-to-understand, and most members are likely qualified to serve as a volunteer auditor. If you are interested in helping out with the audit this year, please contact any member of the MARA Board.

Amateurs Asked to Listen for RS-39 Satellite Beacon: 435.315 and 435.215 MHz

The Chibis-M microsatellite, also known as RS-39 (RadioSputnik 39), was jettisoned from the Progress M-13M cargo spacecraft Tuesday evening (UTC). The satellite is designed to study atmospheric phenomena such as Terrestrial Gamma Ray Flashes (TGFs) associated with lightning. RS-39 has CW beacons on 435.315 and 435.215 MHz and amateurs are asked to submit reception reports via email to the Space Research Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences by email at this address: amateur-rs39@chibis.cosmos.ru. Each report will be acknowledged with a special QSL. The CW telemetry format is available on the web. Telemetry decoding software written by Mike Rupprecht, DK3WN, can be downloaded at <http://www.dk3wn.info/files/rs39.zip>

Satellite Quick Reference Webpage

AMSAT maintains a quick link that gives the up-to-the-minute status for all operational amateur radio satellites. This page includes links that give every satellite's frequency, operating hours, tracking information, telemetry decoding, and other useful information. Check out the webpage: <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/satellites/status.php>



Cutting Edge Technology – What is This?

If you know what this is, turn on the QR-Code reader inside your smart-phone ... and see where this takes you!

Your QR Code reader should even be able to properly decode this from off your computer screen – the PDF version of the Monitor,— as long as you are displaying it at 75% size or better.

Valley Hams Place Well in 2011 International CQ WW 160-meter Contest

NAME	CALL	SCORE	QSO's	STATES/ PROV'S		COUNTRIES	PLACE
Jeff Rinehart	W4PJW	44,160	316	48	12	1st in VA Single Low-Power Assisted	
Neal Layman	N4XU	78,064	455	51	17	2nd in PA Single Low-Power	
Richard Wilkins	KR4V	63,700	359	51	19	4th in VA Single Low-Power	
David Tanks	AD4TJ	64,545	433	55	10	8th in VA Single High-Power	
Al Bonck	N3JB	49,980	299	51	17	9th in VA Single High-Power	
John Kanode	N4MM	40,524	216	49	17	11th in VA Single High-Power	
Bennie Cook	N4BCC	11,562	127	37	4	14th in VA Single High-Power	
SSB							
Clint Campbell	KB4OLM	12,397	113	44	5	2nd in VA Single Low-Power	
Bennie Cook	N4BCC	68,796	478	53	10	4th in VA Single High-Power	

Staunton Ham Radio Class Almost Complete

Eleven students are about ready to complete the ham radio Technician-class course taught by David Fordham, KD9LA, with the assistance of certified ARRL instructor Gordon Batey WA4FJC. The class has met for several 2-hour sessions on Sunday nights at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (yes, Mitt Romney, not Warren Jeffs) on Berry Farm Road in Staunton. Most of the group plans to take the exam on the February 11 VE test date. The youngest member of the group is Matthew Roland, who is 12 years old.



Pictured above, left to right: David Wright, Chris and Jennie Loomis, Jared and Heidi Fair, Kristy and Josh Cypher, and Matthew Roland. Students not pictured: Lowell Ways, Dean Richmond, and James Fravel. Photo by David Fordham KD9LA.

Field Day: June 23-24 – Location TBA

The Field Day Site Committee has been asked to conduct RF spectrum analyses on the two primary FD location sites: (a) the Weyers Cave Community Center, and (b) the Rockingham County Fairgrounds. They are expected to present a formal proposal and report to the February Club Meetings. All hams are urged to attend the February meetings, since a location must be selected and cast in stone quickly, allowing Field Day planning to stay on schedule.



FD Site Selection Contact Information

Mike Turner, K4MIC: k4mic@arrl.net
home phone 540-896-5290

Mike Turner, KJ4TPA, rednbabygurl@aol.com
home phone 540-421-6389

Bob Steere, N1QEQ, n1qeq@aol.com
home phone 540-442-1470

Bryan Daniels, K4RMY, k4rmy@arrl.net
home phone 540-433-5520

Greg Czerniak, W4GRC, grcljc@comcast.net
home phone 540-886-5560

John Keller, W4ZAO, eaglehiker@hotmail.com,
home phone 540-248-3619

2012 Field Day – Camping Option is Still Uncertain if Weyers Cave is picked

Several hams have expressed an interest in camping at the 2012 Field Day site, where-ever it might be.

At MARA's request, David KD9LA, checked with John Long, who is the scheduling coordinator for the Weyers Cave Community Center. John was unable to give immediate approval for camping without first checking with the Community Center Board. The center has never been asked about camping before, and the Community Center Board will need to weigh factors such as liability, the Center's insurance rules, the County rules regarding overnight camping, etc.

If camping is approved, the earliest that campers could set up at the site would be Monday June 18, since the weekend before Field Day is likely booked for a wedding. If camping is approved, campers would most likely not have access to restroom facilities, electricity, or other hookups until Friday. It is likely that camping may be limited to the parking lot rather than the grass, and open fires would be limited to the barbecue pit.

Cost of camping is also unknown at the present time, but John was hopeful he would be able to report back on all these details before the MARA meeting on Thursday, February 2.

Richmond Frostfest: Saturday, February 4

The Richmond Frostfest is scheduled for Saturday, February 4, at the Richmond Raceway Complex.

Most local hams will be leaving the valley around 6:30 a.m. and will listen on the 147.075 repeater for caravan information.



Looking Ahead...

Dayton Hamfest: May 18-20

Once again, a caravan of hams are planning to drive to the Dayton Hamvention in May. The group leaves on Thursday, May 17, for the drive to Ohio, and attends the hamfest Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, returning home Sunday afternoon. Typically, the group meets around lunchtime each day to compare notes, swap locations of desired treasure, and trade stories about what we've seen. Working 2-meter simplex for miles and miles on the road is also fun. Don't forget to ask your boss if you can take off a few days in mid-May. See you there!

Berryville Hamfest: August 5

Although it is a long way away, put August 5 on your calendar for the annual Berryville hamfest in Winchester.

Date Set for Fall VARA Picnic

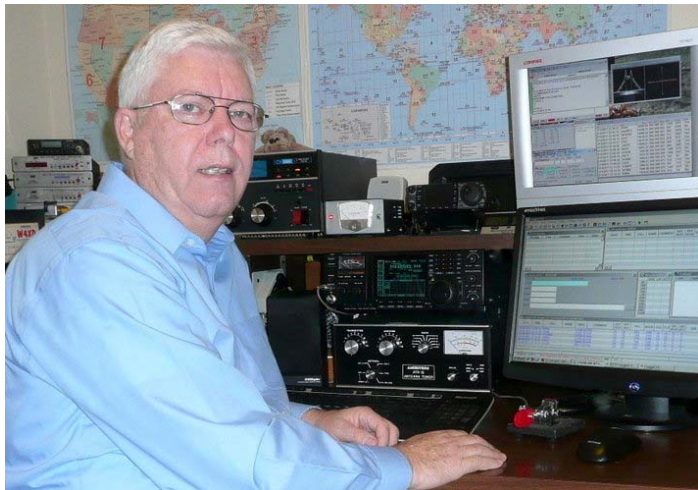
VARA Picnic is scheduled for September 8, 2012 at the pavilion near the Golf Club House in Gypsy Hill Park in Staunton.

There is parking and restrooms on site. Mark your calendars now. Eating starts at noon but come early and enjoy the day.



W4PJW Gets Surprise in the Mail! First Place in the CQ 160m CW Contest

Sometimes a special surprise comes at an unexpected time. This happened to Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW last month, just a couple days after Christmas. Apparently, Santa Claus got to his mail box just in time, as the envelope was dated December 23, 2011.



Jeff enters lots of contests, but never as a serious competitor for any top prizes. Jeff says he normally just sets a goal for himself depending on how much time he has to spend and how many family responsibilities are in the mix. Sometimes he just tries to better his own "last year's score" but never expects to win anything.

There are a lot of contests fitting most everyone's interests, abilities and capabilities. There's RTTY, SSB, VHF, PSK and of course CW. With the recent announcement that CQ contests are now going to accept ARRL's Logbook of the World QSO entries, a lot more of us should be considering working one or more of these contests. It sure is a good way to get your country, zones and states totals up.

Getting an award can be just the "shot in the arm" that we need to get us more enthused about our hobby. Such was the case when this envelope showed up in Jeff's mailbox from CQ Magazine. He was not expecting any type of award for entering the CQ 160 CW contest in 2011. He didn't make that many contacts – actually only 316 QSO's. In this same contest there were others from this area of Virginia who entered at the same time and made more QSO's,

but Jeff was the one who got the 1st place certificate. Here is a listing with number of QSO's of some call signs you should recognize: N4XU Neal Layman 455, AD4TJ David Tanks 433, KR4V Richard Wilkins 359, W4PJW Jeff Rinehart 316, N3JB Al Bonck 299, N4BCC Benny Cook 127, W4PFM Paul Wise 123.

Jeff received a very nice certificate stating **1st place**, Single Operator, Low Power Assisted. Furthermore he was #12 in North America, #9 in the United States, #2 in the 4th Call Area. So you ask, how did Jeff get a certificate for first place when others had higher numbers of contacts? Well, here's how it can happen.

You can enter contests in a variety of classes. Some folks enter as high power, some less than 100 watts, some QRP and some contests even have categories for wire antennas or rookie operator. Entering as a multi-op station is fun too as several hams can get together and make a fun weekend of the activity. (Think food – Pizza)

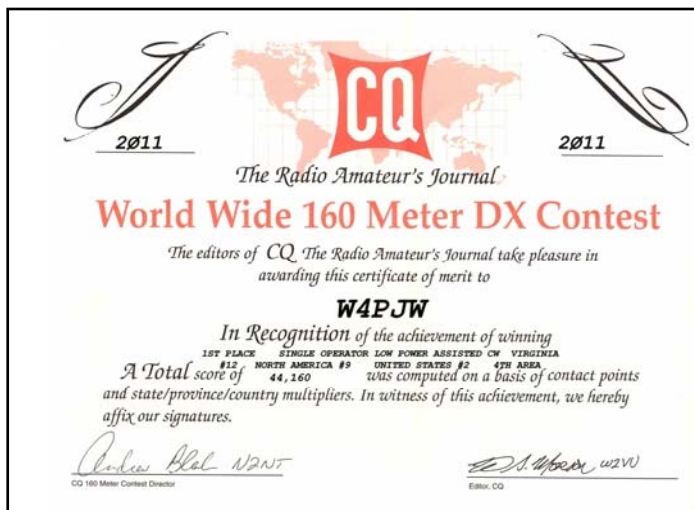
Jeff entered in the single operator, low power Assisted category and that is what made the difference. If one uses any type of assistance – DX cluster, remote receivers, second receiver, friends calling in info. about multipliers, etc. then you have to enter this contest in the assisted category. Jeff used the DXcluster for help in finding QSO's that would be multipliers. Little did he know that this would put him in a condition that would generate a nice first place certificate.

Jeff noted that in this particular contest, there was only one entry from Virginia in the multi-op category in 2011. Maybe sometime a multi-op effort should be coordinated at someone's station. In the SSB version of this contest only KB4OLM and N4BCC entered from this area of Virginia, so some competition is in order for these two stations in 2012. Maybe it should be you. Getting a certificate is nice to have, but having fun in contesting is the ultimate goal. Give it a try – maybe you will get a surprise too.

The SSB version of this contest is scheduled for February 24 and 25, 2012. Mark this on your calendar now.

The complete CQ contest calendar is online at

http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cq_contests/cq_annual_contest_calendar/cq_annual_contest_calendar.html



MARA Board votes for Valley Hams Group Enrollment with “Opt-Out” Option

MARA members take note! For over a year, Fred Evans, N4KYM, has operated a Google Group named “Valley-Hams”, allowing local hams an easy way to share information, for-sale items, and other immediate announcements, without having to wait on the Monitor’s monthly publication. At the inception of the group, Fred asked for email addresses of all hams in the Shenandoah Valley for automatic (free) enrollment. At the time, the MARA Board deferred, citing the possibility of the group causing spam and unnecessary clutter in MARA members’ email inboxes.

The fears have proven unfounded. Many MARA members voluntarily joined. The reflector group has generated only a couple of emails per week, and all emails have been overwhelmingly accepted and appreciated by the group members. In light of the success of the group, the MARA Board agreed at its January meeting to provide free enrollment of all MARA members in the group. However, the Board also agreed to an easy “Opt-Out” for any member who does not wish to be enrolled.

The email addresses of MARA members will be provided to Fred on March 15. **Any MARA member who does not wish to be enrolled in Fred’s reflector can contact ANY member of the Board and ask to be excluded from the enrollment.**

Once enrolled, any member of the group can send an email to the group address. The computer then “reflects”, or repeats, the email to everyone enrolled. **The service is completely free of charge.** Fred does a good job of policing the list to ensure that spam and other bothersome communications don’t find their way into your in-box. **You can un-enroll at any time.**

Members of ValleyHams are currently receiving about one to four emails per week, offering helping tips, how-to hints, notification of upcoming events, keeping abreast of all kinds of immediate ham news, and other items of interest to the local hams.

If you are already enrolled in ValleyHams, Fred will take care to see that you are not enrolled twice. Once enrolled, you can remove your name from the reflector at any time simply by contacting Fred, at n4kym@arrl.net

The MARA Board feels this opportunity will be beneficial to the membership, offering one more opportunity for communication between members.

New Rockingham Memorial Hospital Ham Station Is On The Air!

Bob Steere, N1QEQ, has worked with Bob McCracken and the staff at Rockingham Memorial Hospital to install and test the ham radio emergency backup station at the new building, located on the corner of Reservoir Street and Port Republic Road in Harrisonburg.

N1QEQ and Bryan Daniels K4RMY both checked into the January 23 ARES net from the new station. Thanks to Bob McCracken, N4JGO, for his assistance, expertise, influence, time, and effort on making the preparations for ham radio communications at this important facility.



Volunteer Examiner (VE) Session Feb 11

The February VE session will be held on Saturday, February 11, at the Woodmen of the World building, 3045 John Wayland Highway, Dayton VA 22821.

Sign-in will start promptly at 9:00 a.m. followed by the administration of the examinations.

Exam fee is \$15, which allows 1 try at each license class. You must pass the lower class test before taking the higher class exam.

Candidates must bring several #2 pencils, and TWO (2) proofs of identification and address: Driver’s license, utility bill, school identification card, passport, or some other forms of ID.

Scenes from the Far North... K4DPH Gone Loopy?



(Left to right) Dave/K4DPF, Mark/N4YSA & James/W4SIU - installing HF loop antenna at K4DPF's QTH on a cold, windy, blustery day.

Conventional wisdom has it that antennas work best when they are put up on cold, windy days. The colder, the windier, and the more bitter the weather, the better the antenna will work.

Several Page Valley hams are confirming that theory by putting up an HF loop antenna at the QTH of Dave Firestone, K4DPF.

The day apparently had sufficiently terrible winter weather, because the antenna seems to be working just fine.



Dave/K4DPF checking out the loop on 75m - sounds great!!

2012 Ham Radio Testing Sessions

Contacts: Gayle Shull 540-828-2132
Gerald Nauman 540-434-0859

Location:	February 11
Woodmen of the World	April 14
3045 John Wayland Hwy	June 9
Dayton VA 22821	August 11
	October 13
	December 8



Rockingham County ARES Net Control Stations

This net meets every Monday evening at 8:00 pm local time. The first Monday of the month, the net meets on 146.55 simplex. All other Mondays on the 147.225 repeater. The 147.225 repeater requires CTCSS tone of 131.8 Hz, and uses a "plus" offset (+0.600 MHz)

Net Control Coordinator:

Gerald Nauman 540-434-0859

Upcoming Events

February 2: MARA Club Meeting — Wood Grill, Harrisonburg
February 3: PVARC Club Meeting — Page Memorial Hospital
February 4: Richmond Frostfest — Richmond Speedway
February 7: VARA Club Meeting — West Side Grill, Staunton
February 11: VE Exams in Dayton VA
February 11-12: CQ WPX Contest RTTY
February 13-17: School Club Roundup
February 18-19: ARRL DX Contest CW
February 24-26: CQ WW 160m Contest SSB
February 26: Vienna Annandale Winterfest

March 1: MARA Club Meeting
March 2: PVARC Club Eatin' Meeting
March 3-4: ARRL DX Contest Phone
March 6: VARA Club Meeting, Location TBA
March 17: Charleston WV Hamfest
March 24-26: CQ WPX Contest SSB
March 31: Baltimore Hamboree

April 7: Raleigh Hamfest
April 14: VE Exams, Dayton VA
April 15: ARRL Rookie Roundup

May 18-20: Dayton (Ohio) Hamvention

June 23-24: ARRL Field Day

August 5: Berryville Hamfest

September 8: VARA Family Picnic

February 6: K4NRA
February 13: K4MIC
February 20: K4RBZ
February 27: KN4FM

March 5: K4RMY
March 12: KA4EEN
March 19: W3HXX
March 26: K4LXG

April 2: K4NRA
April 9: K4RBZ
April 16: K4MIC
April 23: KA4EEN
April 30: KU4XN

May 7: K4LXG
May 14: KG4KUR
May 21: K4RMY
May 28: K4MIC

June 4: K4NRA
June 11: KU4XN
June 18: K4RBZ
June 25: KG4KUR

REMEMBER: DUES ARE DUE— RENEW TODAY!

VARA Secretary's Report – January 3 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Shoney's Restaurant, Staunton, on January 3rd, 2012. President John Keller W4ZAO opened the meeting at 7 pm. There were 21 hams present. Everyone introduced themselves as usual. The 50/50 drawing was held, with a total pot of \$20.00; the lucky ham was Gordon WA4FJC, winning \$10.00

Committee reports:

ARES: David AD4TJ EC for Augusta County, reported that the Virginia ARES website is still not available for on-line registrations, so our DEC Ellsworth K4LXG found forms on the ARRL's website to use until that time. 3 forms were passed out to prospective ARES members during the meeting. And, as always, he is looking for Net Control Ops (Fred volunteered to take the net this month). David also passed out calendars from the Shenandoah Valley Project Impact group (they sponsor the CERT classes in Staunton).

Secretary's report: No official report as the Christmas Banquet took the place of a regular meeting. The secretary made a motion that we accept the President's record of the Banquet, (which stated that there were around 45 present to enjoy the fellowship and the meal at the Golden Corral Restaurant in Waynesboro on December 6, 2011, and thanking Dan Hale KC8TEN for reserving the room for us). The motion was seconded and approved by the members present.

Treasurer's report: Doug N8ESW gave the report; motion made, seconded, and accepted as read.

John W4ZAO mentioned the Frostfest in Richmond was coming up in February.

Gordon passed out a list of items that were donated to the Waynesboro Repeater Association, to be sold at his house to raise funds for the repeater group.

Bob K4DJG reported that there will be a ham class at the Mormon Church on Berry Farm Road near Staunton, Sunday nights from January 8, 15, 22, and 29th. Dave KD9LA is heading it up.

Scott KI4QQZ asked for a volunteer to record audio tapes of the manuals for some new ham equipment that his dad just acquired. Greg W4GRC volunteered.

Field Day Site Report from Bob N1QEQ: Bob presented a slide show of the 2 main sites that are under consideration (as an alternative to the mountain) for Field Day this year: The Rockingham County Fairgrounds and the Weyers Cave Community Center. After much discussion it was voted that we recommend to the committee that Rockingham County Fairgrounds be selected for Field Day this year.

Jeff W4PJW reported with the details on the West Side Grill as an alternative to Shoney's; the members took a vote and it passed, so the February meeting will be held there on the 7th of February, meal at 6 pm, and meeting at 7 pm. It was suggested that we contact members who normally don't attend the meetings to encourage them to meet with us at that time. The address is 2314 West Beverly Street, Staunton.

John did the 1st reading of the application of Wayne N4EYZ to become a member of VARA.

The meeting was adjourned, with the program cancelled due to the time.

Respectfully submitted,
David AD4TJ VARA Secretary

PVARC Secretary's Report – January 6 Meeting

The January meeting of PVARC was the dinner meeting. No minutes were submitted to the Monitor by the publication deadline.

MARA Secretary's Report – January 5, 2012 Meeting

Attendance: Members: 42, Guests: 9, Total: 51

Meeting Called to Order at: 7:30 pm by David Fordham KD9LA;

Introductions made all around.

Reports:

New Members:

1st reading: KK4FSO Kevin Barko, KK4FKF Joe Lipscomb, KK4FKD Kevin Lipscomb

2nd reading: Mike Swinson KI4TOI was unanimously approved as a new member

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

Treasurer's report: it was moved, seconded and approved to accept the treasurer's report as printed in the Monitor.

Groups:

ARES/RACES – Bryan (K4RMY) No big news from ARES. The Harrisonburg EOC is still working on the security badges for ARES members to visit or access the EOC during an event.

VEC-Session – No one tested last session, the dates for the next session would be available in the Monitor.

Public Service: Field Day Committee member Bob Steere N1QEQ did a presentation of a couple of the suggested field day sites for 2012. The 2 were the Rockingham Fair Grounds and the Weyers Cave Community Center. The slide show presented an overview of the terrain and building layouts along with problems with each.

Announcements:

Frost Fest in Richmond on Saturday Feb 5th. Several members from MARA and VARA are planning on attending and car pooling.

Dayton Hamfest is scheduled for May 18, 19, 20 in Dayton Ohio. Several members from MARA and VARA are planning to car pool and caravan.

David Fordham KD9LA will be teaching the Tech course at the Church of the Latter Day Saints on Berryfarm Rd. from 5-7pm over the next few Sundays. Cost is only the Tech manual for each student. Contact David to sign up for the course.

Howard Zehr N9AHQ is writing a book on Amateur hams with pick-up trucks. Anyone interested in participating contact Howard.

David KD9LA presented to the members the advantage of having members sign up for **the reflector by N4KYM** to keep up with events and information by all hams in the area.

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

Bryan K4RMY led a discussion on the proposed field day sites and updated the club on the results from the suggestions and comments that the subcommittee received. The majority of the members did not want to use the "mountain" this year. John N4SYH proposed a motion to have the field day site at Weyers Cave. There was a second, with discussion as follows: Bob N1QEQ gave the costs of each site. Jim Junkins W4JLJ of the Harrisonburg EOC said his staff and equipment could be set up at either location, with a smaller staff at the Weyers Cave location due to budget and distance expenses. Bryan K4RMY presented to the club the email that was received by David K1DB of the Valley Radio Controlled Flying Club, then David K1DB presented the R/C club's concerns with having the Field Day site located at the Rockingham Fair Grounds. The concerns of radio interference with their small transmitters could be a possible danger to people and property if one of these aircraft were to experience it. Ellsworth K4LXG proposed that we test each site for interference from power sub stations and high voltage lines located at each site. Herb AA2BF suggested that we test during high humidity and dampness.

MARA Secretary's Report – continued

New Business (continued)

Gerry K4RBZ wanted to know what it would cost the club for people to stay at the Weyers Cave location a week before field day as many do on the mountain. David KD9LA would check on the request with members at the community center. An amended motion to use the Weyers Cave Community Center if no RF interference was found, the amendment was approved.

A call to question by Bryan K4RMY, call to question passed, Amended Motion carried.

Mike K4MIC suggested the V.E. group have a test site at the Community Center the weekend of field day. **A motion by Bryan K4RMY to have the field day committee arrange a second testing session with the other field day programs, seconded, and passed.**

New Call or Upgrades: none reported

Motion to adjourn: made, seconded and approved.

50/50: Won by: Bob Dixon W4HGH a \$60.00 total; split \$30.00

Program: Bob Nixon W8HGH introduced Harry Wilson from Computer Recycling. Harry presented information on the company's business of recycling and selling used electronic equipment to keep it out of the landfill. They fix and refurbish all computers and related equipment. A 6 month warranty is also offered. They are located in the Cloverleaf Shopping Center and their phone # is 540-564-1990.

Submitted by:
John Keller W4ZAO
Secretary, MARA

MARA Treasurer's Report – December 29, 2011 to January 21, 2012

Beginning Balance December 29, 2011 (last report)		\$ 3,148.14
Add: Membership Renewals (30 renewals)	\$ 360.00	
New Members (3 new members)	\$ 36.00	
January Meeting 50/50	\$ 30.00	
Total Deposits		\$ 426.00
Less: Bank Fees (December)	\$ -2.00	
Returned Check NSF from member	\$ -12.00	
Returned Check Fee charged by bank	\$ -12.00	
Total Disbursements		\$ -26.00
Ending Balance as of January 21, 2012		\$ 3,548.14

Submitted by Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC, MARA Treasurer

MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.

President: David Fordham, KD9LA
 Vice President: Gerry Brunk, K4RBZ
 Secretary: John Keller, W4ZAO
 Treasurer: Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC
 Board (exp 2012): Mike Turner, K4MIC
 Board (exp 2013): Bob Van Fossen, K4DJG

<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: David Tanks, AD4TJ
 Treasurer: Doug Tippett, N8ESW
 Program Manager: Al Bonck N3JB

<http://w4xd.com>

VARA meets the first Tuesday of each month.
 The February meeting will be held at the
 Westside Grill, 2314 W. Beverley St, Staunton

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 Tippett
 2348 Mosley St.
 Waynesboro VA 22980

PAGE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

President: Mark Hensley N4YSA
 Vice President: Dave Firestone, K4DPF
 Secretary/Treasurer: Mike "Sparky" Terry, KD4KL
 Board Member: Morgan Phenix K4RHD
 Board Member: : Robert Forrest KJ4HFU

<http://www.k4pmh.org>

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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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 Tippett, 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 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:
DUES ARE DUE**



**MARA
VARA
PVARC**
