

March
2012

THE MONITOR

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

Field Day Committee Meeting: February 29: See Page 4 for Details

March 1 – MARA Meeting – Thursday, Wood Grill in Harrisonburg

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., leads off this month with their monthly meeting at the Wood Grill in Harrisonburg on March 1. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. After dinner, a brief business meeting will be held starting at 7:00 p.m., followed by a program on Traffic Passing techniques, with a discussion led by Elsworth Neff, K4LXG.

March 2 – PVARC Club Meeting: Friday, Browns Restaurant in Luray

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular bi-monthly dinner meeting on Friday, March 4 starting at 6:00 p.m. at Browns Restaurant in Luray. All hams and their guests and families are invited.

**Aye, Laddies,
Be Sure To
Make Note of
VARA's
New Location**



March 6 – VARA Meeting: Tuesday, at Westside Grill in Staunton

The Valley Amateur Radio Association, will hold its March meeting at the West Side Grill on West Beverley Street in Staunton on Tuesday, March 6, starting at 6:00 pm with dinner, followed at 7 pm with the business meeting..

Equipment For Sale PVARC's Widows' Assistance Fund List Now Available on the Web

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Association has a collection of equipment for sale at reasonable prices, listed in their website: <http://www.k4pmh.org> Click on the "Enter" link, then click on the "NEWS" button.



Son of K4PAO, SK, Needs Assistance Disposing of Ham Radio Estate

Don DePoy, son of Carl DePoy K4PAO who was a ham for over 50 years in Swoope, is looking for some assistance disposing of his father's ham radio equipment, which includes some vintage antiques, such as a Viking Valiant, Hallicrafters, and other equipment, including HF and 2-meters. If you can assist Don in any way, please contact him at phone **540-209-3540**, or email via depoyd@hotmail.com "You never know: there may be treasure here."



Estate sale: Satellite Rotor System

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 Slingshot

This EZ HANG SQUARE SHOT 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.

No Ham Left Behind – MARA Members: Deadline for Opt-Out is March 15

MARA members who have email addresses on file with the club will be automatically signed up as members of Fred Evans N4KYM's ValleyHams Google Group, unless notification is received by a member of the Board of Directors before March 15. Those subscribed to Fred's group can unsubscribe any time they wish.



Reminder: Rockingham County ARES Net Schedule and Frequencies

The Rockingham County ARES Net wants to remind everyone of the hierarchy and order of precedence for alternate frequencies for emergency use when the main repeater and/or backup repeaters may be off the air. Please check these frequencies if the net is not on one of its regular frequencies. *In advance of the nets, program your radios accordingly.*

2-meter Repeaters in order of precedence:

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 (the 1st Monday net)

146.58

146.49

146.52 (National Calling Freq.)

Rockingham County ARES Net Control Stations – March through June 2012

March 5: K4RMY
March 12: KA4EEN
March 19: – OPEN –
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: – OPEN –

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



The Rockingham County ARES Net has an opening for net control on March 19 and May 28. If someone would like to volunteer for one of those nights please let me know. I would really like to have some new hams volunteer for net control, it is not that hard and will give you some valuable experience. The script that net control uses is already prepared, all you have to do is read what is there. Gerald Nauman would be glad to mail a copy to anyone that needs it. Contact Gerald at genauman@verizon.net



Field Day 2012: June 23-24

Field Day Site Location: Weyers Cave Community Center

Both MARA and VARA have voted to hold the joint Field Day exercise this year at the Weyers Cave Community Center, on Route 256 1.5 miles east of Interstate 81, Exit 235. We have the facility reserved starting Friday at noon, until Sunday at 5:00 p.m. Camping will be permitted Friday and Saturday nights, but no hookups are available. The restrooms will be accessible, as will the picnic tables, pavilion, and barbecue pit.

Field Day Committee Meeting: Wednesday, February 29

The 2012 Joint Field Day Committee's first meeting will be held on Wednesday February 29, at the Burger King in Mount Crawford. This is 1/2 mile west of Interstate 81's Exit 240. The location is in the Exxon station at the corner of US 11 and



**ALL
Hams
are
Invited
to this
Meetin'**

Field Day Committee Contact Information

The 2012 Field Day Committee still needs one more member from the MARA club to be properly balanced.



Bob Steere
N1QEQ

n1qeq@aol.com



Herb Slade
AA2BF

hflade@verizon.net



John Keller
W4ZA0

eaglehiker@hotmail.com



Wayne Bowyer
N4EYZ

Wayne.bowyer@gmail.com



Charlie Bennetch
N4LNU

cbennetch@comcast.net

March 20: Statewide Tornado Drill

The Commonwealth of Virginia has announced that Tuesday, March 20, has been proclaimed "Tornado Preparedness Day" by Gov. McDonnell, and at approximately 9:45 a.m., the Statewide Tornado Drill will begin. Tune in to the ARES Nets for information about this drill from our local emergency communications specialists, and/or read up on the drill at <http://www.vaemergency.gov/>



N4YET Donation to MARA

The MARA club would like to thank Rusty Bowman, N4YET for the recent donation of equipment to the club. Rusty has donated:

- A Cushcraft 13B2 Vertically polarized 2m 13-element beam
- Two Cushcraft 17B2 Horizontally polarized 2m 17-element beam
- A Cushcraft 220 MHz Horizontally polarized 20 element beam
- A Cushcraft 430/440 MHz Horizontally polarized 19-element beam
- A Cushcraft AR-6 6-meter Vertical Ringo Ranger antenna



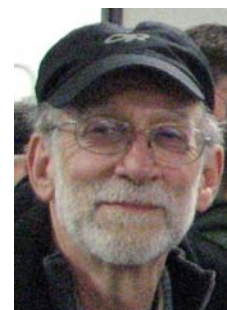
Some of these might find use at Field Day. Others may be offered for sale by the club. The MARA Board will be discussing the deployment of this equipment at the March Board Meeting.

Thanks again to N4YET.

Correction to Howard Zehr's Email Address for Disposing of Old Radios

Howard Zehr N9AHQ is still interested in fixing and restoring old AM and FM and short-wave radios from the 1930's, 1940's, 1950's and 1960's. He'll be happy to come get any that you want to get rid of.

The February issue of the Monitor got Howards' email wrong. Howard can be reached at: zehrjh@aol.com



Worked All States Yet? Check the Calendar on Page 11

The calendar on page 11 lists the state QSO parties that are coming up. Some rare states are on the air in March and April. Plan your weekends now to snag those states you still need for your WAS certificate.

April 5 – MARA Homebrew Night

You still have time to finish that homebrew project! Hurry up! Plan to tell us about it at the MARA club meeting April 5 at the Wood Grill in Harrisonburg.



April 14 – VE Exams

The next Volunteer Examiner VE Session for ham radio license exams will be held Saturday, April 14, at 9:00 a.m. at the Woodmen of the World building on Highway 42 in Dayton, VA.



April 14 – Harrisonburg March of Dimes Walk

Although the organizers have not yet contacted ham radio operators about supporting this event, it is expected that we will continue to provide safety and status communications for this morning-only walk in Harrisonburg on Saturday, April 14.



April 21 – Scout Camporee – Fort Seybert

Thanks to the hams who have stepped forward to provide safety communication for the Boy Scout camporee at Fort Seybert. This event is especially important since it involves bicycles on steep mountain roads with sharp drop-offs, in an area not covered by cell telephone service: N1QEQ, W4ZAO, K4RMY, KI4ND?, N4PKJ, WA4FJC, K4DJG, and KI4FZV.



April 28 – Waynesboro Riverfest

For hams who enjoy participating in this fun Saturday morning event, the date for the 2012 Riverfest has been set as April 28 this year.

May 17-20 Hamvention: Another Caravan Planned for 2011 Dayton

A lot of local hams are already laying the groundwork for the annual valley ham trek to Dayton Ohio for the May 17-20 Hamvention. The caravan leaves Thursday morning after breakfast at 8:00 am (usually the Redwood Restaurant at I-64 and Route 11 in Lexington, right on the way), eats lunch at Bob Evans en route, and arrives at Dayton early Thursday afternoon. After spending Friday, Saturday, and possibly Sunday morning at the hamfest, the group drives back Sunday afternoon. Make plans now to join the group: the more the merrier!



Virginia Ham Radio Cruise-In

Meet & Greet

Show your rig

See others' rigs

Share the fun and camaraderie

*Cruise to Charlottesville and receive a
"Certificate of Participation"
just for showing up!*



No mobile rig required! However, special certificates will be awarded to the most innovative mobile station shown in a car, truck, RV, motorcycle and bicycle; as well as a certificate for the ham traveling the longest distance.

Saturday, 10 a.m. till 4 p.m.

April 28, 2012

Rain or Shine!

The event will go on with shelter available

Darden Towe Park - Charlottesville

(A Half-Mile North on Route 20 from Route 250 East of Charlottesville)

Talk-In will be on 146.760 Repeater with WA4TFZ

No Tone Required on this date

Talk-Around on site will be on 146.550 simplex

Query: Jim Crosby, K4JEC, 434-823-2277

AREA REPEATERS

AS OF FEBRUARY 2012

| REPEATER | SHIFT | CTCSS | LOCATION |
|----------|-------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| 145.130 | - | 88.5 | Massanutten Peak east of Harrisonburg |
| 145.170 | - | 151.4 | Palmyra east of Charlottesville |
| 145.190 | - | 118.8 | Moorefield WV |
| 145.490 | - | 136.5 | Amherst north of Lynchburg |
| 146.625 | - | 131.8 | Big Mtn, east of New Market |
| 146.670 | - | 114.8 | Massanutten Mtn west of Luray |
| 146.685 | - | 100.0 | Apple Orch. Mtn east of Buena Vista |
| 146.700 | - | 131.8 | Downtown Staunton |
| 146.715 | - | 146.2 | Mount Jackson, north of New Market |
| 146.760 | - | 151.4 | Charlottesville |
| 146.805 | - | 118.8 | Covington west of Lexington |
| 146.850 | - | 131.8 | Hermitage north of Wboro |
| 146.895 | - | 151.4 | Bucks Elbow Mtn, east of Waynesboro |
| 146.925 | - | 151.4 | Heard Mtn Charlottesville |
| 147.045 | + | 131.8 | Elliott Knob southwest of Churchville |
| 147.075 | + | none | Bear Den Mtn east of Waynesboro |
| 147.120 | + | 146.2 | Culpeper |
| 147.165 | + | 167.9 | Warrenton |
| 147.180 | + | 100.0 | Monterey VA |
| 147.225 | + | 131.8 | Lairds Knob northeast of Harrisonburg |
| 147.285 | + | 103.5 | Spruce Knob WV |
| 147.300 | + | 100.0 | Bluemont east of Winchester |
| 147.330 | + | none | Rockbridge, east of Buena Vista |
| 147.345 | + | none | Franklin WV |
| 147.360 | + | none | Stuarts Draft south of Waynesboro |
| 224.180 | - | 100.0 | Apple Orchard Mtn east of Buena Vista |
| 224.300 | - | 131.8 | Elliott Knob southwest of Churchville |
| 224.580 | - | 136.5 | RockyTop Lexington |
| 224.500 | - | 131.8 | Little North Mtn west of Harrisonburg |
| 224.600 | - | 151.4 | Charlottesville |
| 224.680 | - | 131.8 | Hermitage north of Waynesboro |
| 224.760 | - | 151.4 | Bucks Elbow Mtn east of Waynesboro |
| 442.650 | + | 100.0 | Bedford, west of Amherst |
| 442.075 | + | 151.4 | Charlottesville |
| 443.150 | + | 131.8 | Lairds Knob northeast of Harrisonburg |
| 443.250 | + | 107.2 | Culpeper |
| 444.000 | + | 151.4 | Charlottesville |
| 444.100 | + | 131.8 | Elliott Knob southwest of Churchville |
| 444.775 | + | 151.4 | Staunton, link to Monterey |
| 447.325 | - | 103.5 | Moorefield |

If you have a correction or update to this listing, email the Monitor editor at: fordhadr@jmu.edu

Before submitting a correction, make sure the repeater is on the air. Many repeaters are listed in the coordinator listings and repeater directories, but are not on the air and therefore not included on this list.

MARA President's Message

We've been having a wonderful turn-out for our monthly club meetings. We had more than forty attendees several times in the past few months, and have even exceeded 50 a couple of times. It's great to see so many local hams enjoying the food and fellowship.

I just wish I could hear all these hams on the air.

It used to be, you'd hear dozens of hams on the repeaters over the course of a week. A monthly ham club meeting would be a real treat: you finally get to meet the hams in person. It was always a real **shockeroo** to find out how different they look from what you'd pictured in your mind.

But now, I go the club meeting and see hams that I've never, ever, worked on the air.

Put your radio in your car. And then TURN IT ON! And then give a call. If no one comes back to you, try another repeater.

Don't be afraid to look put your radio in SCAN mode. Then, program your memories with the local repeaters.

In the house, put your HT on the dresser or book case, and *TURN IT ON*.

Sure, a few of us can get long-winded now and then, but happily no one gets into political arguments or religious proselyting or other behavior — at least not locally.

So use your radio more than just for the weekly nets.

I hope to hear you on the air, and I look forward to seeing you at dinner Thursday night.

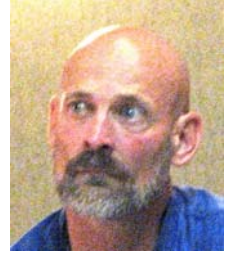


David Fordham, KD9LA
President, MARA



Photo by Howard Zehr, N9AHQ

VARA President's Message



A few days ago while sitting on my deck overlooking the Middle River, with a glass of tea, a sunny balmy 50 degree afternoon, I was thinking what topic should I write about for the Monitor newsletter and then it hit me. The topic: What a GREAT group of men and woman who make up VARA and the hard work they all put in to keep our club and hobby going strong and exciting. In the past 2 years I have had the privilege to see firsthand the dedication, the experience, experimentation, working thru major club decisions, teaching, community involvement, and friendship this club has produced.

The Amateur radio community as a whole has proven over and over throughout time that when we are called upon to help in the world, everyone pitches in and does their part to assist.

But what I have also found is that on the local level that everyone continues to help on a daily basis, even though you may not realize it.

Some examples:

The club officers who keep the members informed of up-coming events and prepare for discussion the items that affect all of us. These men and woman are willing to take on the extra responsibilities to insure a smooth running club and work thru the agendas before the meetings.

The members who run the nets on a daily, weekly and monthly basis, taking their personal time to make sure everything runs smoothly and assists those who are new net members to make them feel like a long time ham. I have learned that there is a net for just about any topic and every net operator has taken the time and patience to keep it fast moving, but also on topic.

The daily rag chews that all hams join in either daily or now and then, gain further knowledge from the discussions that are always spirited and informative. Remember there are new and old hams alike just listening to the conversation about how to fix or build something and next thing you know they tell someone else and on and on.

The volunteers who commit so many hours with community events, providing neighbors, visitors and the community, the communication experience ,so everyone can enjoy the day. With these events someone is thinking "wow I would like to do that", we talk about our hobby both the fun and serious side of it and that helps in bringing in new members to the amateur radio family.

The members who teach, both as a classroom teacher and the well respected "Elmers" who we ALL have had the privilege to work with. These men and woman are the elite group of our club and hobby. Without them many of us would not be where we are today. I for one can attest to that in my short 2 years in the hobby!! Also included in this group are the VEC volunteers who dedicate their time to assist that all the paperwork and tests are conducted properly ..and they are always the FIRST to congratulate the new ham or the experienced ham with his/her new upgrade.

Then there are the experimenters, the builders, the neighbor ham that will assist ANYONE with a project whether it be to help solder a circuit board, raise a tower, build an antenna or help someone talk on the radio. The VARA members have time and time again helped new and old alike gain from their expertise no matter how small or large the project.

And finally the friendships that have developed and continue to provide many of us the "Best Friends" anyone could have!!

So the next time you get on the radio, talk to new neighbor, solve a problem with a fellow ham , volunteer or just come to the monthly meeting, you are helping someone .. I am very proud of all our members and with that would like to say THANK YOU for all you do for the club and the amateur radio world.

*John Keller W4ZAO
VARA President*

Local Ham Calendar

February 29: MARA/VARA Joint Field Day Committee Mtg Burger King in Mount Crawford

March 1: MARA Club Meeting
 March 2: PVARC Club Meeting
 March 3-4: ARRL DX Contest Phone Weekend
 March 4: Rockingham County ARES Net simplex
 March 5: Page County ARES Net
 March 6: VARA Club Meeting
 March 7: Highland County ARES Net
 March 8: Augusta County ARES Net
 March 10-11: Charlotte NC Hamfest
 March 10-11: Idaho QSO Party
 March 11: North American RTTY Sprint
 March 11: Daylight Savings Time Begins at 2:00 a.m.
 March 11: Page County ARES Net
 March 11-12: Wisconsin QSO Party
 March 12: Rockingham County ARES Net
 March 17: Charleston WV Hamfest
 March 17-18: Virginia QSO Party
 March 17-18: Oklahoma QSO Party
 March 17-18: North Dakota QSO Party
 March 18: Page County ARES Net
 March 19: Rockingham County ARES Net
 March 20: Virginia Statewide Tornado Emergency Drill
 March 21: Highland County ARES Net
 March 24-25: CQ WW WPX Contest SSB
 March 25: Page County ARES Net
 March 26: Rockingham County ARES Net
 March 31: Baltimore Hamfest
 March 31: Missouri QSO Party

April 1: Page County ARES Net
 April 2: Rockingham County ARES Net
 April 3: VARA meeting
 April 4: Highland County ARES Net
 April 5: MARA Homebrew Meeting
 April 7: Raleigh NC Hamfest
 April 8: Page County ARES Net
 April 9: Rockingham County ARES Net
 April 12: Augusta County ARES Net
 April 14: VE Exams—Dayton VA
 April 14: Harrisonburg March-of-Dimes Walk Public Service
 April 14-15: Montana, New Mexico, and Georgia QSO Parties
 April 15: ARRL Rookie Roundup SSB
 April 15: Page County ARES Net
 April 16: Rockingham County ARES Net
 April 19: Highland County ARES Net
 April 21: Boy Scout Camp Public Service Event Ft Seybert
 April 21-22: Michigan, South Dakota, Ontario QSO Parties
 April 28: Virginia Ham Radio Cruise-In (Charlottesville)
 April 29: Chesapeake Springfest hamfest
 April 28: Waynesboro Riverfest Public Service Event
 April 28-29: Florida, Nebraska, QSO Parties

May 1: VARA Club Meeting
 May 3: MARA Club Meeting
 May 4: PVARC Club Meeting
 May 18-20: Dayton OH Hamvention Hamfest
 May 26-27: CQ WW WPX Contest CW weekend

June 9: VE Exams, Dayton VA
 June 23-24: ARRL Field Day

MARA Treasurer's Report – January 22, 2012 to February 20, 2012

| | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance January 21, 2012 (last report) | | \$ 3,548.14 |
| Add: | | |
| Memberships renewals (11 renewals) | \$132.00 | |
| New Member Application (1 member) | \$ 12.00 | |
| February Meeting 50/50 club portion | <u>\$ 19.00</u> | |
| Total Receipts | \$ 163.00 | |
| Less | | |
| Bank Fees | \$ 2.00 | |
| October-November Monitor Printing/Mailing | <u>\$105.45</u> | |
| Total Disbursements | <u>\$ -107.45</u> | |
| Ending Balance as of February 25, 2011 | | \$ 3,603.69 |

Submitted by Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC, MARA Treasurer

MARA Secretary's Report – February 2 Meeting

Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 PM by President David Fordham, KD9LA

Attendance: 43 present - 31 Members and 12 Guests Introductions made all around.

Reports:

New Members:

1st Reading: Ken Heinz KC4TJY

2nd Reading: Kevin Barko KK4FSO, Joe Lipscomb KK4FKF, Kevin Lipscomb KK4FKD, All 3 approved by vote for membership.

Secretary Minutes: It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the minutes as printed in the Monitor with a correction about the date of last month's meeting.

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

Groups:

ARES/RACES: Bryan (K4RMY) told the group the badges for the RACES members who filled out their paperwork could pick-up their EOC badges on Feb 9th between 5-6PM at the EOC building.

VEC-Session: The next VE test session will be held at 9:00 am, February 11, 2012 at the Woodmen of the World building in Dayton.

Public Service: Bob N1QEQ reported that all the ham gear at RMH was up and operational except HF antennas are the problem there. Blue Ridge Communications installed the equipment and none of the techs had any Amateur radio experience, They have agreed to come back out and have a ham/hams help in getting the HF antennas up and operational. Bob said MARA members were welcome to test the radios especially on the Monday night Net.

Announcements:

Richmond hamfest Feb. 4th, Charlotte N.C. hamfest March 10th and 11th, Raleigh N.C April 7th and Dayton OH is May 18th to 20th

Old Business:

Audit Committee: David Fordham presented to the club that the annual audit was due and that the audit committee was selected. A motion carried to proceed with the audit.

Field Day Site Noise Study: Ellsworth K4LXG and Bob N1QEQ reported to the members their testing of noise at the Weyers Cave site. They checked all bands except 30 and 160 meters. The noise level was tolerable, The site was not as good as our old site on the mountain.

A motion to extend the site committee to re-check the Weyers Cave site for noise carried

New Business:

Boy Scout Event April 21: David Fordham presented to the club information on the Boy Scout program in W.V. and a 14 mile bike race. The scouts need some hams to coordinate the communications for the event for Saturday April 21st, about 200 scouts are expected to attend. A motion to support this event carried. Volunteers are N1QEQ, W4ZAO, K4RMY and KI4ND

Field Day Site Selection: A motion to select the Weyers Cave site for the 2012 Field Day passed

Field Day Committee Membership: David KD9LA requested volunteers for the field day committee and the following volunteers are Herb AA2BF, Bob N1QEQ

New Call or Upgrades: None reported

Motion to Adjourn: Made, seconded and approved.

50/50 Raffle: Total \$38.00. \$19.00 split won by Doug Tippett, N8ESW.

Program: A show-and-tell of various members' handi-talkies, covering features, drawbacks, etc.

Submitted by
John Keller, W4ZAO
MARA Secretary

VARA Secretary's Report – February 7 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at the Westside Grill in Staunton, on Feb. 7th. There were 28 members present, and 7 visitors. President John Keller W4ZAO brought the meeting to order at 7 pm, and everyone introduced themselves, as usual. The 50/50 drawing was won by Gary VanFossen KI4FZV, with his share of the pot being \$16.

ARES report: David Tanks AD4TJ, EC for Augusta County, encouraged everyone to be prepared for bad weather, noting that we have been very fortunate so far. And, as always, is looking for Net Control Operators. Gordon Batey WA4FJC volunteered to hold this month's net on the 9th at 8 pm on the official Augusta County ARES simplex frequency of 146.490.

Secretary's report: David AD4TJ made a motion that the minutes be accepted as printed in the newsletter; seconded and accepted.

Treasurer's report: Doug Tippet N8ESW: report given, motion made, seconded, and report accepted.

Dave Fordham KD9LA reported on the ham classes that he gave, that several of his students will be taking the VE exams on Feb. 11th and feels confident that most will pass.

1st reading of the membership application of Jay Stewart KD4OXQ. Voted in Wayne Bowyer N4EYZ.

New business: Jeff Rinehart W4PJW gave some info on the new meeting place, everyone was in agreement that it seemed very accessible and acceptable, so a vote was taken and passed that we meet there in March, at which time another vote would be taken as to whether or not to continue there or go back to Shoney's. David AD4TJ will inform Shoney's that we will not meet there in March.

Scott Newlen KI4QQZ suggested that the club donate monies to various repeater groups/owners, as the club uses several in its various activities, and that the MARA club had done the same thing. Doug N8ESW reminded us that we had given monies to the 3 local repeater groups/owners back in 2009. Motion was made and accepted that we donate \$150 each to the 147.075, 147.045, and the 146.850 repeater groups/owners. David AD4TJ is to make a note that that issue is to be revisited in February 2013's meeting.

Dave Fordham KD9LA reported that there will be a Boy Scout Camporee in Pendleton County West Virginia in April around the 21st, a Saturday morning, and that 200 bicyclists would be participating in a race/activity. and they were requesting assistance from the ham radio community. The MARA club had 3 volunteers already. The following VARA members volunteered: Bob VanFossen K4DJG, John W4ZAO, Steve Ferguson N4PKJ, Gary VanFossen KI4FZV, and Gordon Batey WA4FJC if the Waynesboro Riverfest wasn't that same day,

Field Day Site: Ellsworth K4LXG reported that he and Bob Steere N1QEQ had done RF testing of the old Field Day site, the Rockingham County Fairgrounds, and the Weyers Cave Community Center, and found that the Community Center was the noisiest, but also that they could not test far from the electrical substation that was the cause of the noise. Of course, since the January club's meetings it was brought to our attention that a radio-controlled aircraft event would be held at a location just across the road from the fairgrounds, so that made it impossible to consider that site for Field Day this year. After much discussion the club voted to recommend to the Field Day Site Selection Committee that we use the Weyers Cave Community Center site.

A Field Day committee was created, with the following VARA hams volunteering: Wayne N4EYZ, John W4ZAO, and Charlie Bennetch N4LNU.

With no other business at hand the meeting was closed at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, David AD4TJ VARA Secretary

PVARC Secretary's Report – January 6, 2012 Meeting

Our informal, bi-monthly, "Dutch Treat" dinner meeting was held at Brown's Chinese Restaurant in Luray. The festivities were presided over by our President, Mark/N4YSA, who wished a very Happy New Year to one and all. Fourteen members and two guests were in attendance. Self introductions were conducted and our two guests: Anne Ward, guest of Charlie Roach/KG4ALT and Beverly Franklin, XYL of Jim/W4SIU were introduced.

The abbreviated meeting agenda called for assurance from the secretary/treasurer that we were solvent going into the new year (but please pay your dues if not already paid); and, since no pressing business was outstanding - he urged everyone to enjoy the meal. Topics of interest overheard between the clash chopsticks and flat-ware included: the upcoming FrostFest in Richmond; development of the new PVARC website; increasing sun spots and associated HF propagation; antennas (always antennas); the ARES training program; and, what's your favorite hunting rifle and cartridge (sounded an awful lot like a gun club meeting for a while).

Following an excellent meal with great conversation, Mark thanked everyone for attending, reminding them that our regular business meeting will be held on Friday, February 3rd at Page Memorial Hospital at 6:00 p.m. Hope to see you there! Invite a fellow ham and help "Grow the Club!"

Submitted by: Sparky Terry/KD4KL, PVARC Secretary

PVARC Secretary's Report – February 3 Meeting

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club business meeting was convened this date at Page Memorial Hospital in Luray, Virginia. PVARC President, Mark Hensley/N4YSA, called the meeting to order at 1800. Mark welcomed our newest member, Stephen Statts/KI8DM, who has recently returned from assignment in SW Asia. Welcome Home!

Board Member Morgan/K4RHD reported that the PVARC nomination for the Roanoke ARRL Division Award was not selected this time around. Following a short discussion, it was agreed that the club should hold the nomination and resubmit again next year.

Sparky/KD4KL presented the Secretary/Treasurer's Report, noting that while the meeting notes for the January 2012 meeting had been e-mailed in a timely fashion as input to "The Monitor" they had been inadvertently omitted from that publication. They will be published in the next edition. Photographs taken at the "antenna party" at the K4DPF QTH were printed however. The HF loop antenna is working well, thanks to help from Mark/N4YSA & James/W4SIU. He reported also on the state of the treasury. A copy of the latest Bank Statement dated January 31, 2012 from Pioneer Bank showed a balance \$1,373.20. One check in the amount of \$50.00 has not yet cleared. The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

The Technical Assistance Subcommittee Report for the month was as indicated above, assisting Dave/K4DPF install his HF loop. There are no outstanding requests outstanding. Gene/KJ4HFO was added as a member.

EOC Training Subcommittee Chairman Dave/K4DPF announced that a training session will be conducted at the Luray EOC on Saturday, February 11th at 10:00 a.m. This will be a continuation of the ARRL Introduction to Emergency Communications Course, please bring your manual.

Switching "hats" once again, Dave/K4DPF - as ARRL Field Day Chairman conducted a far ranging discussion on the upcoming 2012 event. He reminded everyone that previously some members had suggested both a change of venue and class, yet no consensus had been reached. While the class issue; i.e., Class 1A or 2A could be sorted out later, the site location needed to be finalized as soon as possible to ensure its availability. In the end it was decided to stay with the existing site at Lake Arrowhead again this year. Dave will submit the necessary paperwork, and a check, in mid-March so we will have our site reserved for that weekend. The Treasurer will have the check prepared in advance (which he thought last year was in the amount of \$60.00). The motion to approve passed.

Sparky/KD4KL reported on the Widow's Assistance Program effort to sell equipment associated with the Pickett estate. The equipment has been moved to his QTH and a list of available equipment and suggested prices will be posted on the PVARC website: K4PMH.org by the end of the week. Contact him by e-mail: kd4kl@arrl.net if you would like to inspect the equipment. Weekends are best for him.

Submitted by: Sparky Terry/KD4KL, PVARC Secretary

MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.

President: David Fordham, KD9LA
 Vice President: Gerry Brunk, K4RBZ
 Secretary: John Keller, W4ZA0
 Treasurer: Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC
 Board (exp 2011): Mike Turner, K4MIC
 Board (exp 2012): 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 W4ZA0
 Vice President: Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW
 Secretary: David Tanks, AD4TJ
 Treasurer: Doug Tippet, N8ESW
 Program Manager: Al Bonck N3JB

<http://w4xd.com>

VARA meets the first Tuesday of each month.
 The March 2012 meeting will be held at
 the Westside Grill on West Beverley Street in
 Staunton, Virginia

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

<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.

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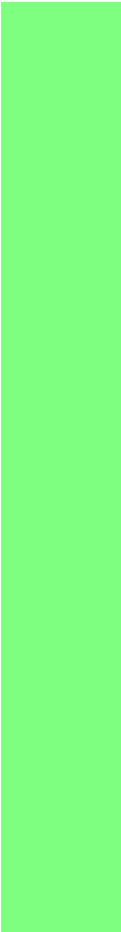
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