

June  
2012

# THE MONITOR

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

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## FIELD DAY ISSUE

**All participants and attendees of the joint MARA/VARA Field Day event should read the information in this issue of the Monitor, especially the Equipment Policy printed at the bottom of page 7.**

### **June 1 – PVARC Club Business Meeting – Friday, Page Memorial Hospital**

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular bi-monthly business meeting on Friday, June 1 starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Day Room of the Page Memorial Hospital. All hams and their guests are invited.

### **June 5 – VARA Meeting : Tuesday, at Westside Grill in Staunton**

The Valley Amateur Radio Association, will hold its June meeting at the West Side Grill on West Beverley Street in Staunton on Tuesday, June 5, starting at 6:00 pm with dinner, followed at 7 pm with the business meeting. The program will cover the features and operation of the computer software that will be used for logging at this year's joint MARA/VARA Field Day event June 23-24.

### **June 7 – MARA Meeting – Thursday, at Wood Grill in Harrisonburg**

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its monthly meeting at the Wood Grill in Harrisonburg on Thursday, June 7. 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 brief program outlining the plans for Field Day.

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## Photo of the 2012 Riverfest Public Service Event Team



Photo provided by WA4FJC

## Richard Huttinger, AA4RH, QST Author

VARA member Richard Huttinger, AA4RH, of Staunton, joined the short list of valley hams who have authored a major feature article in QST magazine, the Journal of the American Radio Relay League. Richard's article, titled "Build a Portable Mount for Your PhotoVoltaic Panes", appears starting on page 32 of the June issue of QST..

Richard also volunteers at the local Talking Books Center. The photo to the right was taken at the center.



Photo provided by AA4RH

## VARA President's Message

It looks like summer is finally here, and with that our big event of the year is just around the corner. The 2012 Field Day Event is June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at the Weyers Cave Community Center. The Field Day Committee has worked hard to get all the pieces in place and all we need now is your willingness to come out and join us for the weekend or at least a couple of hours to help. We need crews to set the antennas and trailers, operators to work all the stations or just a greeter say hello to the public. This event showcases what we are all about and with a great public location this year we are hoping for a large turnout of the public, thus needing YOU to enjoy the weekend with the hard-working men and woman who have put a lot of effort into this year's Field Day! See you there!!



Last week I attended my 2<sup>nd</sup> Dayton Hamfest along with several HAMS from VARA and MARA and again had a great time and leaned a lot. I also attended the Contest University course, for those who like contesting this was a great 1 day course in all aspects of contesting. I would highly recommend taking it, the instructors are very informative and networking was great, I had the opportunity to chat personally with several of them and they took the time to show me some ideas to help improve my station and contact scores.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Field Day and hope you all have a great summer! Be safe, make a new contact and help someone in need!

John Keller, W4ZAO  
President, VARA

## MARA President's Message

Thanks to Gerry for presiding at the meetings while I've been away on business. I also want to thank Jason and Ray for volunteering to be on the repeater committee. I believe these repeaters will add considerably to our capabilities, especially when an emergency or other event drives the usage of our communications channels to capacity.



I also want to thank Bob Steere and the entire Field Day Committee for the hours of work they have put into the planning for this year's Field Day event. I want to point out to everyone that this year is an experiment. Numerous hams have indicated that their inability to participate in this important training and preparedness event was primarily due to the distance of having to drive up to the mountain. Now that the event is down where it is convenient to get to, we'll be looking for those hams to come out and join the fun.

And I also want to point out that this year's Dayton Hamvention was one of the most enjoyable that I've attended. The caravan on the way back was also one of the highlights.

See you at the club meeting Thursday.

David Fordham, KD9LA  
President, MARA



## 2012 Dayton Hamvention

The 2012 Dayton Hamvention was, in the words of one Dayton attendee: "Probably the most enjoyable time at Dayton I've ever experienced."

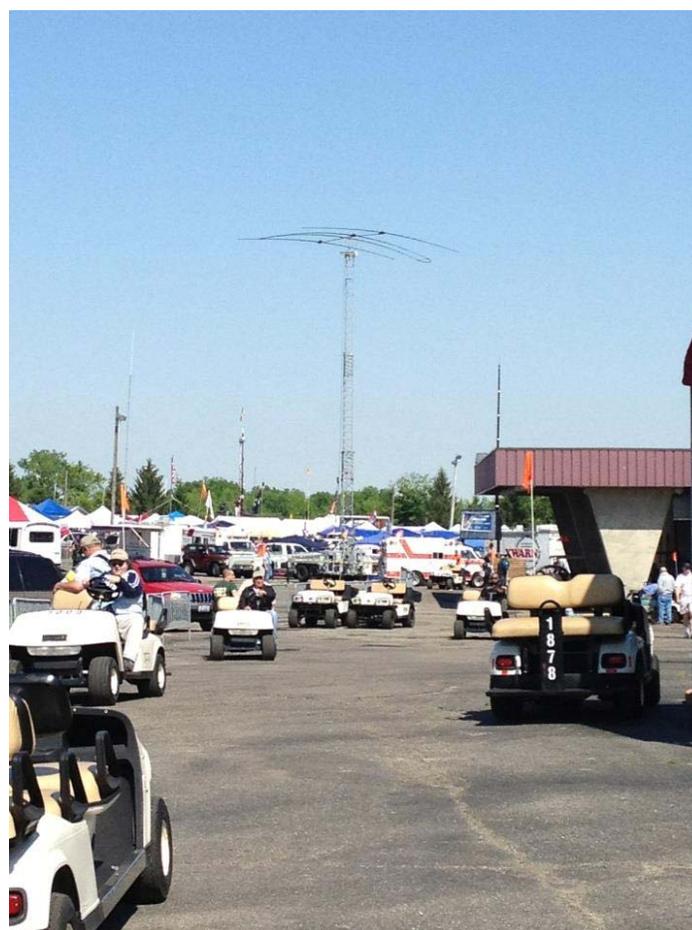
As you can see from the photo on the opposite page, attendance was down somewhat from last year. This made the experience much more pleasant, you didn't have to push through crowds of people to see the booths and exhibits.

The weather was perfect, not too hot, not too cool, and no rain or drizzle.

Pictured above right is the crew from the valley who enjoyed dinner together Friday night and who caravanned together back to the Valley on Sunday.

From left to right: Richard Wilkins KR4V, Bob Van Fossen K4DJG, John Keller W4ZAO (rear), Pam Wilkins KC4HYT, David Fordham KD9LA, and Jeff Rinehart W4PJW. Not pictured from the valley is Paul Wyse W4PFM.

Condolences to Bob, K4DJG, who had to leave the Hamvention early due to the passing of his mother, in southern Indiana, after surgery for an abdominal blockage.



## VE Testing Sessions

Thanks to those who helped with the testing sessions of February and April. The next session will be held on June 9, 2012. Note that the extra class test and manual changes as of July 1, 2012. If you need a new study manual, contact Gayle Shull, KU4XN, at gskuxn@msn.com

Gerald Nauman KN4FM

Don Landes WX4C

Gayle Shull KU4XN

Bryan Daniels K4RMY

Steven Prosti W4SVP

Jim Lehman W4POL

Ray Ritchie K4NRA

Glen Thompson W4GWT

E.C. Showalter KG4KUR

Bob Van Fossen K4DJG

Richard Haxton KC3AN

Ellsworth Neff K4LXG

Hugh Pettis K3EC

## Public Service Opportunity in Swoope: Friday Mornings During the Summer

At the recent Boy Scout Jamboree at Fort Seybert, WV, a scout leader approached two of the hams after working the bicycle trek through the hills. He asked if area hams would be interested in setting up a "demo" type station at Camp Shenandoah's summer camp near Swoope in western Augusta County.

The station would be set up and operate for five (5) consecutive Friday mornings from 9-12 noon covering each of the five groups of scouts attending the week-long camp. The Fridays would be in July and August. It would be an introduction to Ham Radio including modes of operation, possible antenna mounting by a spud gun or sling shot-sorry-emergency antenna erection tool. The purpose is to get scouts interested in ham radio and earning merit badges now awarded for ham radio.

Personnel could come not only from MARA or VARA, but the Lexington club or any ham wishing to help. If interested, please contact one of the officers of MARA or VARA. The Scout leaders would like an answer so they can plan their camp schedule. Two or three hams each Friday would probably be enough.



Above: David KD9LA, manning the ham radio station at Boy Scout Camp Shenandoah summer camp a few years ago.

## Directions to the New Field Day Site

Take Interstate 81 to Exit 235 – the Weyers Cave exit. GO EAST on Highway 256 (towards the Airport, towards Grottoes) approximately 1 mile. Cross the railroad, tracks, go straight through the traffic signal, and continue another quarter mile. The Weyers Cave Community Center building (pictured below) will be on your left.



## Field Day Equipment Policy

Adopted by the MARA and VARA Amateur Radio Clubs.

Be it understood that:

As a participant in Field Day operations, whether a club member or visitor, you are using equipment that may belong to someone else. Care for it as if it were your own.

No repairs or modifications, no matter how slight, shall be made to any equipment without the owner (or owner's designated representative) present.

Any apparent malfunction of the equipment shall be reported immediately to the owner.

Be it further understood that:

Equipment which is brought to the Field Day site and made available for use is done at the owner's discretion, and said equipment should be supervised by the owner or his/her designated representative.

Any damage to, or failure of, the equipment at Field Day will be the responsibility of the owner, and NOT that of the MARA or VARA, or sponsors, organizers, participants, or management of the Field Day Activities.

## Field Day 2012

Field Day 2012 is rapidly approaching. You should see posters appearing soon in supermarkets and other public places all over the area. On Tuesday, June 12th, there will be a short presentation/invitation given at the City of Harrisonburg City Council meeting which is broadcast over local cable. Efforts are under way to have a presentation done on Channel 3 in Harrisonburg. Hopefully, they will do a site visit during the event.

The spreadsheets of all of the assignments for FD are in the Monitor. If you are listed as being responsible for any supplies or duties, please advise one of the FD Committee members if you cannot complete them.

The member who was going to head up the CW station has had a family wedding scheduled for that weekend. Thus, this position is open. If you would like to assist in that capacity, contact one of the Committee members.

We will try and accommodate anyone who wishes to operate the GOTA station. We will schedule hams that have not been active on HF in the past year. We expect a large number of Scouts to visit, especially on Saturday. Any Scouts that would like to make a contact as credit towards the Radio Merit Badge will be given a certificate by the GOTA Control Operator on duty. Hams have not been active on CW are invited to try and get some of the rust out. Why not start at the GOTA station and then give a try at the CW station? We will need additional CW operators, especially in the early morning hours.

Several short CD's about ham radio will be shown on a large screen inside the building.

We would like to thank Jim Junkins and the staff of the Harrisonburg/Rockingham County Emergency Operations Center for their assistance. They are providing one of their tower-equipped trailers for use as a station and will have their Radio Cache trailer on display all weekend. The generator in the tower trailer will provide most of the emergency power for the weekend. We will start setting up at 2 P.M. on Friday afternoon.

**MOST OF ALL, REMEMBER THE POT LUCK SUPPER. IT WILL BE HELD INSIDE THE BUILDING STARTING AT 6 P.M. ON FRIDAY NIGHT. Please stop by, help set up and stay for the pot luck supper!**

Thank you,

Bob Steere, N1QEQ, on behalf of  
the 2012 MARA/VARA Field Day Committee



**Field Day Set-Up: Friday June 22**  
**Operation Starts: 2:00 pm Saturday June 23**  
**Operation Concludes: 2:00 pm Sunday June 24**

### Field Day Welcome Center

WHAT	WHO	Notes
Welcome Center	<b>NEED VOLUNTEERS TO MAN</b>	
Location	<b>INSIDE BUILDING</b>	
Registration	N1QEQ Bob	Make up sign in sheets
Display Table	N1QEQ Bob	material in storage
Coffee Pot	Welcome Center	MARA/VARA STORAGE
Tables	USE MEETING ROOM ON SITE	
Welcome Center Sign	Place outside over door	committee
Pads / Pencils	VARA STORAGE	
Power	IN BUILDING	

## Field Day General Logistics

WHAT	WHO, WHERE, ETC	Notes
Location	Weyers Cave Community Center	
FD Frequencies	Site - 147.470 Sim. / Talk-in 147.225 Rpt.	
Call Sign	W4XD	
Station Class	2A	<b>plus gota, uhf/vhf,nat. power</b>
<b>FD COMMITTEE</b>	N1QEQ W4ZAO K4LXG N4LNU NYEYZ AA2BF	
FD Chairman	N1QEQ	
Assistant Chairman	W4ZAO	
Scoring / Totaling / Entry	K4PZC	
PIN PERSON(ORDER PINS)	<b>N4LNU</b>	Ordered 40
BAND PLAN COORD	Group	
Pads / Pencils	<b>W4PJW</b>	
Gasoline - 20 gal VA		TBD
Signs for each Station	Committee	
Signs at road	MARA/VARA in storage	
Put info on WCCC sign	available bodies early that week	
Publicity	AA2BF	
Public Official	Invite V Mayor Staunton, Mayor Hbg	AA2BF
Backup generators	W4ZAO K4LXG k4NRA	
location to ARRL	W4PJW	done
VARA/W4PJW stuff to CC	<b>Gordon</b>	
MARASTuff to WCCC	<b>Mike Turner</b>	
Copy FD Message	AA2BF AD4TJ	
Send messages	AD4TJ	
Extra power supply	AD4TJ	
Antenna switches	AD4TJ	

## Station 1 – Phone

WHAT	WHO	Notes
In Charge of Station	John Keller W4ZAO	
Assistant	<b>NEEDED</b>	
Location	TBD	
SHELTER	KD4UPL Trailer	
Table	on site	
3 Chairs	on site	
Mast	center support sectional mast	one end tower other end EOC Tripod
Antenna 1	<b>DIPOLAS(20/40/80 in storage)</b>	<b>CAROLINA WINDOM-N1QEQ</b>
Backup Antenna	G5RV	K4LXG
Coax for all Antenna's	MARA & VARA Clubs	
Radio	<b>W4ZAO IC 706 MK 2</b>	
Tuner	<b>W4ZAO</b>	
Power Supply	<b>W4ZAO</b>	
Computer	K4PZC	
Computer Log	N3FJP with Updates / Sandy K4PZC	
Power	Solar and EOC Generator	Use batteries for radio-all other EOC power
Power Cable	VARA Club	
LIGHTS	in trailer and storage	
Info Packet	K4PZC	
Grounding	in storage	

WHAT	WHO	Notes
In Charge of Station	NEEDED	
Assistant	AA2BF	
Location	tbd	
Shelter	QQZ TRAILER	
table	IN TRAILER	ON SITE
Chairs	IN TRAILER	ON SITE
Antenna supports	Center-K4LXG mast	one end tower-one end mara mast
Antenna 1	Zepp	in VARA storage
Coax for all Antenna's	MARA/VARA Clubs	
Radio	751A -AA2BF	
KEYER/PADDLE	<b>NEEDED</b>	
Power Supply	AA2BF	if needed
Tuner	AA2BF	backup N1QEQ
Computer	K4PZC	
Computer Log	N3FJP with Updates / Sandy K4PZC	
Power	EOC TRAILER GENERATOR	
Power Cable	IN STORAGE	
Pads and Pencils	VARA Storage	
Lights	Storage	
Info Packet	K4PZC	
Grounding	IN STORAGE	

## Station 2 – CW

If you know Morse Code, why not try your hand at using it to communicate?

Sure, some Field Day stations will be using high-speed, but even if you can only do 10 words per minute, take a few minutes and see if you can get the other stations to slow down a bit long enough to make a contact.

The whole idea of the MARA/VARA Field Day is to **have fun..**

## Station 3 – GOTA

The “Get On The Air” station is intended to let newly-licensed amateurs and non-hams experience the fun of ham radio by getting them on-the-air!

Any ham who was licensed in the last year, as well as inactive hams who have not transmitted a radio signal on the ham bands over the past year, are qualified to make GOTA contacts.

What’s more, non-hams can hold the microphone, talk, and make contacts as long as there is a licensed ham sitting at the position supervising the station.

The GOTA station is primarily a demonstration station, but the contacts count points.

WHAT	WHO
Call Sign	K4MRA
In Charge of Station	N1QEQ
Assistant	<b>NEEDED</b>
Location	INSIDE BUILDING
Table	IN BUILDING
Chairs	IN BUILDING
Message processing and sign in	John Hensley if available
Antenna	Windom-N1QEQ
Antenna Tuner	N1QEQ
BACKUP ANTENNA	K4LXG Vertical
Radio	751 A (VARA)
Power supply	self-contained
Computer	K4PZC Sandy
Computer Log	N3FJP with Updates / Sandy K4PZC
Power	K4NRA outside bldg.
Key	N1QEQ
Info Packet	K4PZC Sandy
Grounding	as necessary
Operating Modes	SSB AND CW

WHAT	WHO	Notes
In Charge of Station	KD4UPL	
Assistant	K4NRA Ray	others
Location	north side of picnic shelter	
Shelter	EOC Trailer	
Table	on site	
Chairs	on site	
TOWER	EOC TOWER	
Mast/Bracket	KD4UPL	
Rotor	MARA Storage	
Rotor Controller	MARA Storage	
rotor cable	MARA Storage	
Antenna 1	6 M Beam K4NRA	
Other antennas	2 MTR BEAM MARA	if used
coax for antennas	MARA/VARA Storage 9913	
Radio 1	706MK2G AD4TJ	
Amplifier 1	TBD IF NEEDED	
Power Supply	30 AND 50 A IN EOC TRLR	
Computer	K4PZC Sandy	
Computer Log	K4PZC Sandy	
Power	EOC GENERATOR	5 KW GENERATOR W4ZAO
Power Cable	N/A	
Lights	BUILT IN	
Info Packet	K4PZC Sandy	
Grounding	EOC OR MARA STORAGE	

## Station 4 – VHF/UHF

This year's VHF/UHF station is an experiment to see how the lack of height (e.g., not being on the mountain) materially affects our ability to make VHF and UHF band contacts.

## Station 5 – Natural Power

This station is primarily to earn bonus points, and also demonstration the "green" abilities of local hams to use renewable, sustainable, and long-lasting non-grid energy supplies.

WHAT	WHO
In Charge of Station	Phone station personnel
Location	Phone Station
Shelter	Phone station trailer Kd4UPL
Table / Chairs	on site
Antenna 1	PHONE ANTENNA
Radio	PHONE RIG 706MK2 W4ZAO
tuner	W4ZAO
Power Supply	W4ZAO
Computer	K4PZC Sandy
Computer Log	N3FJP with Updates/Sandy K4PZC
POWER-SOLAR-RIG ONLY	IN KD4UPL TRAILER
Power-computer only	EOC GENERATOR
Lights	STORAGE
Info Packet	K4PZC Sandy
Grounding if needed	MARA storage

## MARA Secretary's Report – May 5 Meeting

Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 PM by Vice-President Gerry Brunk, K4RBZ, in the absence of Pres. Fordham, who is in Europe on business.

**Attendance:** 33 present - 25 Members and 8 Guests Introductions made all around.

### Reports:

#### New Members:

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Tommy Hepner KE4GMJ and Dale Showalter N4DAI

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG, voted and approved for membership.

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

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

### Groups:

**ARES/RACES:** Bryan Daniels (K4RMY) reported that he will be getting with Jim Junkins to process the next batch of ID badges for the volunteers to gain access to the Rockingham EOC center.

**VEC-Session:** The next VE test session will be held June 9.

**Public Service:** John Keller W4ZAO reported on the Waynesboro Riverfest event: there were 12 participants for the race and 14 hams to handle the communications. Bryan Daniels K4RMY reported on the Boy Scout West Virginia Bike Ride. Both MARA and VARA hams turned out to help with the communications support.

### Announcements:

The Dayton Hamfest is May 18-20, 2012; numerous hams from MARA are planning to attend.

### Old Business:

**Field Day Committee:** John Keller W4ZAO gave an update on the plans for the event; and reminded everyone that there are just 2 more FD committee meetings before the big event at the Weyers Cave Community Center.

### New Business:

Relating to the repeaters the club is in the process of accepting: two of the members of the Shenandoah Valley Repeater Association were in attendance tonight to answer questions. Additionally, Ray Ritchie K4NRA, and Jason Armentrout N4DSL, volunteered to serve on the newly-formed Repeater Committee as the club takes over responsibility for the four repeaters (see minutes from the last club meeting, as well as the minutes from the special Board of Directors meeting in the last issue of the Monitor).

**New Call or Upgrades:** none announced

**Motion to Adjourn:** Made, seconded and approved.

**50/50 Raffle:** Total \$28.00. \$14.00 split won by Darlene Piotrowski, KJ4UDZ.

**Program:** Very interesting program by Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW, on the logging software that will be used by the Field Day operation.

Submitted by  
John Keller, W4ZAO  
MARA Secretary

## MARA Treasurer's Report – April 23, 2012 to May 25, 2012

Beginning Balance April 23, 2012 (last report)		\$ 3,323.55
Less	Bank Fees	: \$ 2.00
	Annual Rental of Equipment Storage Unit	: <u>\$ 360.00</u>
	Total Disbursements	<u>\$ -362.00</u>
Ending Balance as of May 25, 2012		\$ 2961.55

*Submitted by Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC, MARA Treasurer*

## PVARC Secretary's Report – May 4 Meeting

This being an odd numbered month, PVARC met for a “Dutch Treat” social meeting at Brown’s Chinese Restaurant on Main Street in Luray. Absent the President and VP, yours truly, as Secretary/Treasurer, hosted the event. All members introduced themselves and their guests. Paul/N4PJI introduced his XYL Mary; Charlie/KG4ALT was accompanied by his XYL Fern; and, daughter Ann Ward. In addition, Paul O’Sullivan/KK4IRS and Don Evans/KN4ZG came as visitors and subsequently joined PVARC as our newest members! All were heartily welcomed. Congratulations were given Zory/KB3VQC/AE for passing the Amateur Extra Class examination last month. He also joined the ranks as an ARRL Volunteer Examiner (VEC) – all this from non-ham to extra within the past year! BRAVO ZULU Zory.... That’s “well done” for you land lubbers!

Following the meal, Morgan/K4RHD was prevailed upon to give an account of last weekends Adventure Race where PVARC provided backup communications. He reported that the overnight event was successful; and absolutely critical to the safety of the over 200 riders/families/observers scattered throughout the course. Two sites were set up. The first one at the Bentonville Low Water bridge manned by Dave/K4DPF aided by Mark/N4YSA and Zory/KB3VQC/AE. The second location at the Woodstock Tower parking lot was set up by Morgan/K4RHD assisted by Bob/K4VFP and Gary/K6OZ. Absolutely no alternative communications were available from these locations except the 2m links. While thankfully no emergency needs were encountered, the potential was very real. Bicyclists traversing the hills, orienteering in the dark forest areas as well - in some cases it seemed without adequate protection from the elements, further complicated things. It was a cold and rainy night and a few riders dropped out, so keeping track of those continuing and those “pulling out” was essential so as to prevent unnecessary searches.

Finally, Morgan discussed the upcoming ARES On-Air Training Session to be conducted next Sunday (May 6th) on the 146.55 simplex frequency at 2000. The training session, designed by Dave/K4DPF, Page County EC, will involve moving stations off frequency to form specific functional nets, checking in and then returning to the main ARES net frequency upon completion. Particulars can be found at: [www.pagecountyares.org](http://www.pagecountyares.org). Members were also reminded that the monthly ARES Training Class will be held on Saturday, May 12th at 1000 at the Page County EoC, where we'll be discussing Traffic Handling and Message Formats.

There being no further announcements, the informal meeting was closed and members were able to continue their eyeball QSO's. The next scheduled business meeting will be held at Page Memorial Hospital in the Day Room on June 1st at 1800.

*by: Sparky Terry/KD4KL, PVARC Secretary*

## **VARA Secretary's Report – May 1 Meeting**

The Valley Amateur Radio Association held its May 1st meeting at the Westside Grill in Staunton. 20 members and 5 guests were present. At 7 pm. President John Keller W4ZAO brought the meeting to order, and the usual introductions were made.

Gordon Batey WA4FJC introduced Mike Paxton KK4DQX; he was one of the students in the ham classes that Gordon and Dave Fordham KD9LA taught in January thru the first part of February. He had just upgraded to General. Well done, Mike! And another visitor, Bruce Bolding KB6TUO, gave some background on himself; he just upgraded to Technician, after holding a Novice license for about 20 years, most of it inactive, and is studying for the General test now.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Scott Newlen KI4QQZ, winning \$12.00.

ARES report: David Tanks AD4TJ, EC for Augusta County, stated that the net for the month will be held Thursday the 10th at 8 pm; frequency and Net Control to be determined later, as there was no willing to commit to it.

Field Day Committee: John W4ZAO reported that things are progressing; Channel 3 will work on a story to be broadcast hopefully before Field Day occurs. Everyone was encouraged to make an extra effort to participate, so as to spread the operating time around. Bob Van Fossen thought it would be a good idea to have a handout available that would include pictures of some of the Public Service events and past Field Days to possibly spur more interest than just having people walk around; so if you have pictures send them to Bob. Gordon also suggested a package could be made up that would include a date for meeting to organize or attend classes. Richard Huttinger AA4RH mentioned that the Special Event station that was held at the Jousting Tournament several years ago that the ARRL had on their website info that could be downloaded and used for info packets. Tent camping was still not determined yet as to whether it would be allowed.

Secretary's report: David AD4TJ, VARA secretary, made a motion that the minutes be approved as printed in the Monitor; motion made and seconded, minutes approved.

Treasurer's report: Doug Tippett N8ESW, VARA treasurer, gave his report, which included the 3 \$150 donations made to the owners/trustees of the 146.850, 147.045, and the 147.075 repeaters; motion made and seconded that the report be approved; report was approved.

Update on events: Gordon WA4FJC reported on the Waynesboro Riverfest that there were about 13 hams helping out that day. Due to low participation this year, the hams outnumbered them 13 to 12!

John reported on the Boy Scout bicycle event in Pendleton County West Virginia from April 21st that everything went well.

New members: the 1st reading of Mike Paxton KK4DQX's application was made.

Old business: John read a letter of thanks from Gordon for the Waynesboro Repeater Association for the donation.

Gordon displayed several items for sale from the collection of items that Dee W4PNT( now Silent Key ) had owned.

Al N3JB had a box of video tapes that the club had bought several years ago for programs for meetings; now for sale.

Gordon reported on the problem with a carrier on the input on the 147.075 repeater. The problem was solved by reversing the antennas used for transmit and receive. Ray Colvin KE4HVR recalled a similar problem a few years ago that was traced to a ham shack east of Lynchburg, where the ham had left his radio on, and somehow the microphone had something sitting on it just enough that it keyed the radio continuously for several days (while he had gone away).

Jeff Rinehart W4PJW mentioned the book that Joe Pehan W4LIG had written, about himself (Joe) growing up during World War II, and was selling at the meeting.

No other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted, David Tanks, AD4TJ, VARA 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 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 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.

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