

July
2012

THE MONITOR

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

July 3 – VARA Meeting : Tuesday, at Westside Grill in Staunton

The Valley Amateur Radio Association, will hold its July meeting at the West Side Grill on West Beverley Street in Staunton on Tuesday, July 3 starting at 6:00 pm with dinner, followed at 7 pm with the business meeting.

July 5 – 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, July 5. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. After dinner, a brief business meeting will be held starting at 7:00 p.m..

July 6 – PVARC Dinner Meeting – Friday, Luray Southern Grill

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular bi-monthly dinner meeting on Friday, July 5 starting at 6:00 p.m. PVARC members should note the new location for the dinner meeting. The new locale is on Highway 340 east outside Luray. All hams and their families and guests are invited.



Preliminary Field Day Results

Sandy Mullins, K4PZC, is the wizard in charge of calculating and submitting the joint MARA/VARA Field Day scoring tabulation. As this issue of the Monitor goes to press, no score had yet been put together, but Sandy did offer the following statistics: 935 phone contacts in the log, 880 CW contacts (count 2 points each), 60 contacts for the VHF station, at least 50 (perhaps 140?) for the GOTA station, plus 5 for the Natural Power station. Bonus points will come from the natural power station, publicity, having a public service official visit the site, being in a public location, passing 10 messages, and copying the W1AW bulletin, and perhaps some others that aren't immediately obvious. The phone station guys are to be commended for making up for time lost due to antenna connections coming loose, coupled with bad band conditions. To coin the phrase made famous by a famous SK, KE4GKD, "a good time was had by all".

Public Service: PVARC Booth at Elkton Field Day – July 13

It's yet another Field Day! This one is not a ham radio field day, but rather is the town of Elkton's annual festival. July 13, Gene KJ4HFO has made an offer to the Club of a prime location, with power and a place to put up antennas for an Amateur Radio demonstration/PVARC exposure event.

This is a chance to demonstrate Amateur Radio at a high traffic event. Plans are to set up a HF and a VHF station with information about the Page Valley Amateur Radio Club and Amateur Radio in general. Morgan Phenix, being newly retired, has volunteered for this event, and more help would be appreciated. Even though it's Friday, the 13th, come on out and have some fun!

MARA President's Message: A Whopping "Thank You" to the FD Volunteers

I was really looking forward to participating in Field Day this year, after over 10 years of being tied up with an academic conference out West every year during the last week of June.

Alas, the best laid plans of mice and men, — and hams.

My job required me to attend a Board Meeting in Colorado the weekend before the conference this year.

But I did get to stop by the Weyers Cave Community Center as the event was setting up. It looked like it was going to be a fantastic success.

The preliminary scores are shown on page 1 of this issue. If these figures are correct, the 935 phone contacts is much lower than the 1625 last year, but the 880 CW contacts is more than the 825 last year. Of course, the primary purpose was to have fun, and fun seemed to be in abundant supply, at least on Friday while I was there.

I wish to publicly thank the Field Day Committee for all their work this year, and also recognize the many hams who helped in preparing the new site, new location, and additional arrangements we had this year. Field Day was again a massive undertaking, and the average club member does not appreciate how much time and effort is spent on the preparations by the small number of dedicated hams who do most of the work.

The main thing we are interested in now is the relative participation of hams at the event. Did more hams come out and participate, now that we held the event down in a more accessible location? I noticed that some of the most vocal hams who complained about having to drive all the way up the mountain for Field Day were not on the sign-in sheet when I saw it, but then I haven't seen the final listing.

Field Day is held where we hams want to hold it. So be thinking about the direction and guidance you want to give next year's Field Day Committee.

David Fordham, KD9LA
President, MARA

MARA Secretary's Report – June 7 Meeting

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

Attendance: 27 present - 24 Members and 3 Guests Introductions made all around.

Reports:

New Members:

1st Reading: Jason Armentrout N4DSL and Hugh Pettis, K3EC, both former members of MARA

2nd Reading: Tommy Hepner KE4GMJ and Dale Showalter N4DAI ; both were approved by vote of members.

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: No report; Bryan Daniels (K4RMY)

VEC-Session: The next VE test session will be held June 9; Gayle Shull (KU4XN)

Public Service: Gayle Shull reminded us that the Bridgewater Lawn Party is expecting our help again this year, July 20 and 21. Bob Steere N1QEQ reported on an opportunity to put a ham station on the air at Boy Scout Camp Shenandoah in Swoope for five Fridays during the summer beginning June 23 Hams interested, please contact Bob Steere N1QEQ@arrl.net

Announcements:

David Fordham reported on a conversation with Bob McCracken which seemed to indicate that RMH may be showing renewed interest in the possibly solving the antenna stalemate which will allow re-establishing the ham station at the new hospital.

David also announced that the Board had approved plans for Christmas Banquet this year. The banquet will honor the MARA members and other valley hams who have passed their 80th birthday. These octogenarian hams and their spouses will be MARA's guests at the Christmas Banquet, and members may be asked to provide transportation for those couples who cannot drive at night.

Old Business: None:

New Business:

David Fordham will contact Rusty Bowman and Dale Showalter to continue the efforts to transfer the SVRG repeater operations to the club. David will ask Rusty or Dale to see if they have interest in serving on the club's repeater committee. Bryan also volunteered to be on the committee, along with Bob Van Fossen K4DJG and Jason Armentrout N4DSL. Gayle Shull also volunteered to help out on a site committee, which will assist in getting the site approved with the Forest Service and the repeater coordination body.

New Call or Upgrades: none announced

Motion to Adjourn: Made, seconded and approved.

50/50 Raffle: Total \$31.00. \$15.50 split won by Ray Ritchie, K4NRA

Program: Bob Steere N1QEQ reported on Field Day preparations. Located at the Weyers Cave Community Center on June 23-24, noise levels are fine, camping is ok, there will be restrooms, no fires allowed, The traditional pot luck supper Friday night starting at 6:00 pm, and we are still in need of CW operators.

Submitted by
John Keller, W4ZAO
MARA Secretary

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

Beginning Balance May 25, 2012 (last report)			\$ 2,961.55
Add:	May 50/50	\$ 14.00	
	June 50/50	\$ 15.50	
	New Memberships May (2 new members)	\$ 24.00	
	New Memberships June (2 new members)	<u>\$ 24.00</u>	
	Total Income		\$ 77.50
Less	Bank Fees	: <u>\$ 2.00</u>	
	Total Disbursements		<u>\$ -2.00</u>
	Total		
Ending Balance as of May 25, 2012			\$ 3,037.05

Submitted by Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC, MARA Treasurer

PVARC Secretary's Report – June 1 Meeting

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club business meeting was called to order at 1800 by Mark/N4YSA, President. Given the large attendance and new members he asked that self-introductions be made.

Minutes for the May meeting were tabled until published in The Monitor. The Treasurer reported a bank balance of \$2,155.20 with no outstanding bills. The Treasurers Report was approved.

Committee Reports were as follows: Geoffrey/WD4LYO provided the status of the PVARC website. The Home Page was modified earlier this date. He is looking for news items to show current club activities, with pictures if possible. When asked if the site has a "hit counter" showing usage he responded that while not shown on-line he has the numbers. He agreed that he could add the counter without difficulty to the home page. Carol/KA4LAF reiterated her earlier request for committee chairs to submit a short summary describing the purpose/extent of their current activities. A paragraph or two would suffice.

Education/Training: Zory/KB3VQC/AE will attempt to bring a video relating to an unbelievable Field Day run by a club with more than 50 stations operating in the same locale! Hopes to have it for the July 6th PVARC meeting.

Dave/K4DPF, putting on his Emergency Preparedness Committee & EoC Training Subcommittee hats reported on the monthly ARES training sessions; and, call-ups for special events in the past month. The next ARES training class will be Saturday, June 9th in the EoC at 1000. Mark/N4YSA is scheduled to cover ICS (topic 15) in the workbook.

Moving on the yet another "hat," as ARRL Field Day chairman, Dave briefly touched on planning efforts underway. One outstanding item was expenses likely to be incurred by "Chef Morgan"/K4RHD in food preparation. Following a discussion, it was moved & seconded that a food allowance of \$200.00 be made available for the purchase of necessary ingredients. The motion passed unanimously, and the Treasurer was directed to write a check for this purpose. In a similar vein, it was proposed that PVARC begin to acquire equipment exclusively for use by club

PVARC Secretary's Report – continued

members in support of club activities. One reason cited was loaned equipment used for field day last year (a laptop computer) that suffered screen damage from a chemical bug spray. Following a lengthy and far ranging discussion it was determined that PVARC should begin by purchasing a laptop to be used for field day and related public service operations – noting that it would also be useful for training, education and administrative purposes. The President remarked that funds were available and that the By-Laws allow the purchase of property by the organization. Ownership will reside with PVARC. Dave demonstrated a newly rebuilt laptop, currently available at a cost of \$272.00, that would handle our immediate needs. A motion to purchase the laptop was made, seconded and passed. The Treasurer again was directed to write a check in the amount of \$272.00 for this purpose.

Other Field Day issues discussed included: Need a volunteer to provide a “Tech Talk” for extra points – please call Dave/K4DPF. Looking for a “few good messages” good for extra points if passed during the event – work with Morgan/K4RHD. Feedback on FD Feeding Frenzy – worked out to be about 20 folks for the Saturday evening meal. Club banner needs to be located and given to Dave/K4DPF – Bob/WO4MI will follow-up. Public notification – Sparky/KD4KL has submitted article to the local Page News & Courier for publication and hopes to follow-up with pictures. Name badges – Geoffrey/WD4LYO will print them for everyone. The discussion plastic name tags unique to PVARC members was TABLED for future discussions when associated costs are available. The “public display table” will be managed by Geoffrey/WD4LYO. Charlie/KG4ALT will provide old editions of QST. Bob/WO4MI indicated that he will work with local scout leaders in an effort to get one or more scout troops to attend FD, and also look into asking elected town/county officials as well. Tim/AK4CJ will invite Sheriff Thomas.

New Business:

Established a Nominating Committee (Chaired by Bob/WO4MI) for presentation of a slate to be elected at the November meeting and voted upon at the December meeting. He will be assisted by: Phil/KQ4D & Geoffrey/WD4LYO. He may ask for a couple more members to participate. Pres/VP/Sec/Trea and one board member positions will be considered.

The President called for a discussion as to whether the Secretary/Treasurer position should be split apart, as provided for in the By-Laws. Following a discussion, the membership voted to separate it into two separately elected positions in the next election of officers. With the consent of the membership, an audit committee was established consisting of: Zory/KB3VQC/AE, Gary/K6OZ and Charlie/KG4ALT to audit the club account in anticipation of a transition.

Carol/KA4LAF led a discussion on issues to be considered in the pursuit of State Incorporation, IRS (501(c)(3) non-profit and/or State tax-exempt status. Following a far ranging discussion this item was TABLED for a future business where a legal opinion from a lawyer as to feasibility/suitability issues might be sorted out. Two members: Ben/N4SFG and Morgan/K4RHD volunteered to look into a suitable speaker who might be willing to address this issue on a pro-bono basis.

Old Business: Should PVARC look for a different restaurant for its “Eatin’ Meetin’?” In an attempt to centralize the meeting place and garner additional space for our growing club it was agreed that we would meet at the Luray Southern Grill on Highway 340 South, about 3 miles south of Luray for our July 6th meeting. If it is found to be satisfactory, future bi-monthly social meetings may be held at that location if the membership desires. Stay tuned!

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned @ 1917.

Submitted by: Sparky/KD4KL, PVARC Secretary/Treasurer

Editor's Note: There was actually more material submitted for this month's Monitor, but time constraints precluded the editor from getting all of it in. Look for a bigger and better Monitor next time, assuming time becomes available.

VARA Secretary's Report – June 5 Meeting

On June 5th the Valley Amateur Radio Association held its meeting at the Westside Grill in Staunton. There were 19 members and guests present. At 7:01 pm. President John Keller W4ZAO brought the meeting to order, and the usual introductions were made.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Gary Van Fossen KI4FZV; his share was \$9.00.

A special drawing of 2 tickets was done for 2 hats from the Dayton hamfest.

ARES: David AD4TJ announced that the next net will be June 14th on the 146.850 repeater; Gary KI4FZV volunteered to be Net Control.

Field Day report from Bob Steere N1QEQ: he had signs available to be put up in stores, etc, announcing Field Day. The Harrisonburg/Rockingham County EOC tower/trailer will be the home for the VHF station; the pneumatic tower will extend to 80 feet (they will limit it to 50 feet for our setup). As usual, the first 5 phone contacts will be done using solar/natural power from KD4UPL Matthew Huffman's trailer. Then the generator in the tower trailer will provide power to the whole operation(except the GOTA station). Many Boy Scout troops have been invited. Pot Luck supper will be at 6 pm Friday as usual. Camping will be allowed Friday night and Saturday night, but there will not be any fires allowed. The GOTA station will be in the building. Scott Newlen KI4QQZ asked about satellite operations; no plans had been made, so he volunteered to bring his equipment to try to make contacts there. News media from Channel 3 TV are planning on being there Saturday, and possibly newspapers, too. Many thanks to Bob for all of his hard work pulling all of this together.

Secretary's report: A correction to the report for the May meeting: Actually the class that Mike KK4DQX took was not the one in January/February 2012, but from last year's classes in the summer that were sponsored by the Staunton Recreation Department. Other than that, the report was accurate, motion made and seconded that the minutes be approved as printed in the newsletter, and the vote carried.

Treasurer's report by Doug Tippett N8ESW was given; voted and accepted.

Contest info: David AD4TJ reported that the June ARRL VHF contest is the weekend of 9th and 10th.

Dayton report: John and Jeff attended the Contest course there. Jeff said they walked in to register for the course, and saw some hams talking; turned out that one of them was N1MM, of the logging software. Another one was the ham who made instructional videos for using N1MM's software. One of the hams that was sitting at their table during the course was Bob Sherwood, who was the maker of the famous Sherwood filters.

The Manassas hamfest will be on the 10th of June.

New member: Mike Paxton KK4DQX was voted in as a new member.

The club members decided to continue meeting during the summer, as we did last year.

Steve Ferguson N4PKJ reported on getting Boy Scouts informed of our Field Day operation. There is also an opportunity during July and August at Camp Shenandoah, on Fridays, the leaders would like to have hams come and demonstrate ham radio with a temporary setup. Also in October on the 12th thru the 14th there will be a Councillor Camporee in Albemarle County that could be an opportunity for more ham radio demonstrations. And then there is the JOTA: Jamboree On The Air, 3rd Saturday-Sunday in October. And November 3rd, a Saturday, will be a Merit Badge University at the Staunton Mall. Many opportunities to get Boy Scouts interested in ham radio.

John noted that there are also many Public Service events happening in October.

Steve W4IIV reminded us again of an opportunity to have a booth at the Augusta County Expo event in August.

No other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Jeff W4PJW gave a program on using the N3FJP software at Field Day.

Respectfully submitted, David 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 Southern Luray Grill,
 Even-numbered Months in the Day Room of
 Page Memorial Hospital.

The meeting begins at 6:00 pm

Visitors are welcome.

Dues (\$12 per year) should be mailed to:

Sparky Terry
 PO Box 649
 Luray VA 22835-0649

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