

September
2012

THE MONITOR

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

September 4 – VARA Meeting : Tuesday, at Westside Grill in Staunton

The Valley Amateur Radio Association, will hold its monthly meeting at the West Side Grill on West Beverley Street in Staunton on Tuesday, September 4 starting at 6:00 pm with dinner, followed at 7 pm with the business meeting.

September 6 – 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, September 6. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. After dinner, the business meeting will be held starting at 7:30 p.m., followed by a program by Bob Dixon, W8HGH. The program will deal mostly with what is involved in setting up the homebrew outside box that is at the base of a vertical antenna. Also, Bob will address burying radicals in a flower garden. Part of the emphasis will be on the fact that you can get a fairly good antenna in a small restricted space.

September 7 – PVARC Dinner Meeting – Friday, Luray Southern Grill

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular bi-monthly dinner meeting on Friday, September 7 starting at 6:00 p.m. PVARC members should note the new location for the dinner meeting. The new locale is on Highway 340 just outside Luray. All hams and their families and guests are invited.

VARA Family Picnic: Saturday, September 8: Noon at Gypsy Hill Shelter

The annual VARA picnic will be Saturday September 8th at noon at the shelter next to the Gypsy Hill Golf House.

All VARA members along with their entire families, are invited, but the event is not restricted to VARA members. All hams and their families and visitors are welcome. The club is providing meats and buns; everyone please bring a covered dish or two, and something to drink.

There is no charge. Come out and enjoy some fun and fellowship with the VARA club members and families.

MARA President's Message: Upcoming Fun!

The next 60 days are going to offer some of the best fun of the year!

Field Day is fun. But the months of September and October offer REAL FUN! That's fun with capital letters and an exclamation point.

More members of the general public get to see ham radio in action, up close and personal, during September and October than in a decade of Field Days.

More local hams actually operate on the air in the field during September and October than in two or three years worth of Field Days.

And more manhours of real help and assistance is delivered in September and October than in the other 10 months of the year combined.

Someone said, "many hands make light work". But I don't see the September and October public service events as work. They are a chance to get out in the field and play radio for a few hours, maybe even a full day or two or three, however much time you can devote to your hobby. It's a chance to actually see ham radio in action. It's good practice for emergencies, and a great learning experience. And it's fun!

If you haven't taken part in these events before, try to find 2-3 hours on a Saturday or Sunday and see what we do and how we do it. Ham radio provides communications in areas not covered by cell phone towers, and not even well-covered by emergency response organizations' systems. We can create a blanket of radio coverage spanning two or three counties and even across state lines. We can keep tabs on hundreds of runners, riders, and cyclists. We can help event administrators manage inventories at aid stations, dispatch repair crews, guide rescue vehicles, help find lost participants, get messages to various parties and participants, report dangerous conditions, give alerts to hazardous situations, keep up with progress and status of various events, and all kinds of other necessities. It is personally satisfying to be able to communicate when and where needed.

Most participants of these events pay dozens or even hundreds of dollars to participate. But there is no charge whatsoever for ham radio operators — we get free meals, refreshments, t-shirts, hats, and all kinds of other benefits of participation, the only cost is enjoying a few hours talking to each other on the radio.

All you need is a mobile 2-meter transceiver in your car, and a few gallons of gas. And your mileage is deductible as a charitable donation since most of these events are for 501(c)3 organizations.

And to be perfectly honest: It is FUN! With capital letters and an exclamation point!

David Fordham, KD9LA
President, MARA

Shiver Me Timbers! Real Pirate Radio Operators! ... And They're Legal, Too!



Avast, me hearties! MARA President David Fordham, KD9LA, spent a fun weekend providing radio communication support for Wash-Jam 2012: the Washington state Boy Scout Jamboree, held at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Tacoma, Washington, August 16-18.

The event involved over 4,300 Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts from all over Washington state, as well as guest troops and packs from Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and even British Columbia, Canada.

Dave's daughter Cathryn, KF7VBO, and her husband Jack DeFabio are scout leaders and were instrumental in jamboree operations.

Ham radio was well represented at the WashJam, with several booths set up by radio clubs in the area. The Yaesu FT-817 and 897 radios provided on-the-air special event contacts while roaming VHF mobile ops provided support for jamboree operations.

Notice the HT's on the pirate's belts, just below their right elbows – KD9LA left, and KF7VBO to the right.)

The event lasted three days, but KD9LA only participated for two, thanks to United Airlines' flight overbooking policies.

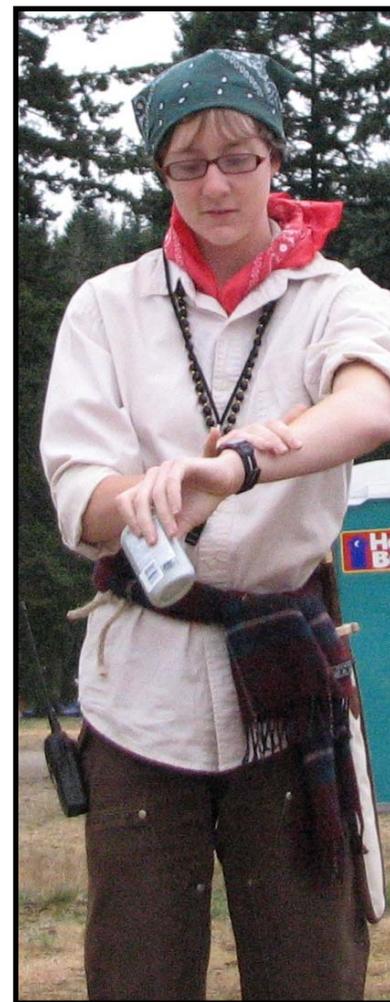
According to Dave, swabbing the decks, walking the planks, giving Polly her crackers, and walking around growling "Aaaarrrrggh" has never been so much fun.

At the end of the Jamboree, a National Court of Honor was held, at which KF7VBO and her husband Jack were both presented their Woodbadge beads.



Woodbadge is the Ph.D. of Scout Leader training,

Additionally, KF7VBO was awarded the rare Young American award by her Council. Less than 200 Young American awards have been issued since its inception in 1954, making it one of the rarest of BSA's recognitions.



Community Emergency Response Team Training: Last Opportunity until 2013

In light of what has gone on along the Gulf Coast with Hurricane Isaac and with the Derecho in June, have you thought about how prepared you and your family are for severe weather or a disaster?

We have a course that can help you get prepared and even train you to help your neighbors and community at the same time.



CERT Training is being offered on Thursday evenings, September 13 – November 15, 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. for anyone who lives or works in Staunton, Waynesboro, or Augusta County.

This is the only time this training will be offered until at least the Fall of 2013 so if you or anyone you know has been interested in this training, now is the time to sign up for this valuable, (and free) course. Information about the training is below and attached. Please pass this information along to anyone that you think might be interested.

If you are interested in this training, contact Rebecca Joyce, at 540-885-5174, or 540-885-2687, or email her at Rebecca@cspdc.org

Tommy Eutsler, KB4ONZ, SK

Thomas Lee “Tommy” Eutsler, KB4ONZ, of Waynesboro, died Sunday, Aug. 26, 2012 as a result of a traffic accident. He was born in Waynesboro in 1946 and was 66 years old.

Tommy had worked in Maintenance at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, managed a motel in Alexandria and had been a heavy equipment operator. He was a former member of VARA.

He was preceded in death by his father, Lurty Eutsler and his wife, Mary Hale Eutsler. Mary was also a ham. He is survived by his mother, Willa Mae Eutsler of Scottsville; his son, David Eutsler and his wife, Inez, of Stuarts Draft; his daughter, Tammy Vailcount of Alexandria; his step-son, Ricky Hale and his wife, Pam, of Waynesboro; his step-daughter, Melissa Stacey and her husband, Joe, of Waynesboro; his favorite aunt, Anna Monroe of Waynesboro; several stepgrandchildren; his best friend, Jimmy Roadcap; and his neighbors and fishing buddies, Robert and Roy Cochran.



Presidential Suite: All Three Club Presidents Together at Berryville



The three club presidents were in attendance at the Berryville Hamfest. Left to right:

David Fordham, KD9LA, President of the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association.

John Keller, W4ZAO, President of the Valley Amateur Radio Association.

Mark Hensley, N4YSA, President of the Page Valley Amateur Radio Club.

All three are extra-class licensees, but notice the variety of prefixes.

FCC Releases Study of Ham Radio Contribution in a National Emergency

Many hams are not aware that Congress issued a mandate to the FCC to study the contribution that ham radio can make to the nation's preparedness, as well as studying the impediments that hams might face in helping the nation in an emergency. One of the items of interest was the situation with restrictive deed covenants and neighborhood and homeowner association rules.

The FCC has now completed the study and submitted their report. Hams may not all like what the report has to say. While the report is complimentary overall, many hams will disagree with the conclusion that no problem with covenants and neighborhood homeowner associations exists.

The report is recommended reading for all hams. The report is in traditional PDF format, and can be downloaded from this website: <http://snipurl.com/fccreporta1>

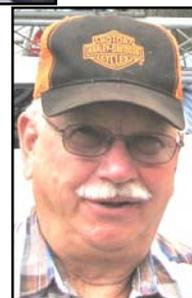
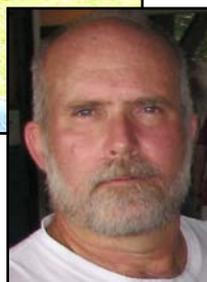
N4XU For Sale: 2-meter Amp and Yaesu FT-450D

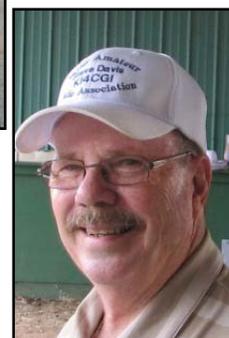
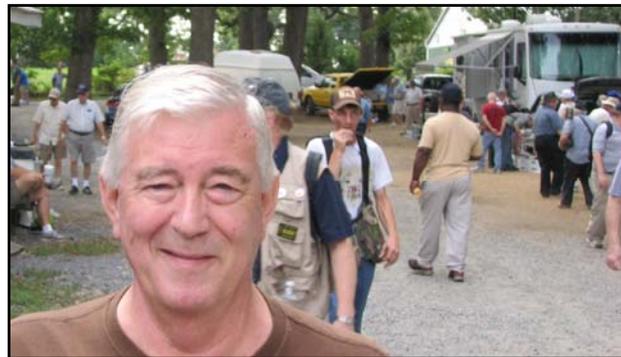
For Sale: A Mirage B-108 2-meter all-mode amplifier, 10W in/~80W out, working receive pre-amplifier, power cord and 2 copies of the manual plus schematic. This is the "Brown Face" Mirage - manufactured before MFJ got their hands on the Mirage company. Price is \$80.00 - includes shipping. :-). If you want a picture of it, send me an e-mail.

I also have a pristine Yaesu FT-450D HF/6 transceiver for sale. It is 18 months old, comes with original box/packing, full length power cable, hand microphone, and manual. This is the new version of the FT-450 with improved DSP, and built-in antenna tuner. Current HRO discounted price is \$979. My price is \$750.00. We can discuss shipping costs.

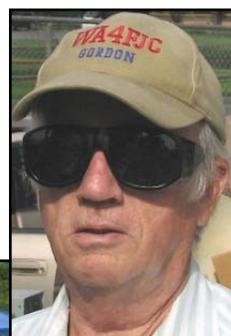
Contact Neal Layman, email n4xu@comcast.net

MARA, VARA and PVARC Hams at Berryville Hamfest: Who Do You Know?





Rarely seen hams sighted at Berryville: How many of these hams do you recognize? Opposite page, top row, L-R: Phil Rinaca KQ4D, and Mark Hensley N4YSA; Neal Layman N4XU; Phil Harder KR4V; Wayne Bowyer N4EYZ; Paul O'Sullivan KK4IRS. Opposite page, second row, L-R: David Tanks AD4TJ, Benny Cook N4BCC, and Neil Buckingham W4KKL; Darlene Piotrowski, KJ4UDZ, and John Piotrowski KI4YNA. Opposite page third row, L-R: Bob Dixon, W8HGH, and Jim Franklin, W4SIU. Opposite page bottom row, L-R: Fred Evans N4KYM, Gary Van Fossen KI4FZV, Howard Zehr N9AHQ, Gene Frazier KJ4HFO, and Bruce Catlett N4RVG. This page, top row: Pam Wilkins KC4HYT, Marshall Cooper N4ZKH. Second row: Gene Sullivan WA4NUF, Ed Varner KJ4OAS, and John Lasher N4GLZ. Right, clockwise: Steve Davis KI4CGI, Bob Van Fossen K4DJG, Rick Adams KJ4IND, and Gordon Batey, WA4FJC. Below: Ray Hensley KJ4MWQ. Sighted at Berryville but not pictured: Jeff Rinehart W4PJW, Gerry Brunk K4RBZ, Ray Colvin KE4HVR, Gerald Nauman KN4FM, and David Fordham KD9LA. All photos taken at Berryville 2012 by KD9LA



Public Service Opportunity 1: Sept 22 – Bike Shenandoah Bicycle Rides

A one-day event, this charity ride involves numerous routes, from five-miles, to a hundred miles, starting from Eastern Mennonite High School in Parkview. Primarily a MARA event, hams are needed to cover checkpoints and safety zones. Five to eight hams are still needed. Hams will need a good mobile rig or an HT with an outside mag-mount antenna at the very least. Positions are available for HT-equipped hams. This event is being headed up by Gerald Nauman, KN4FM. More information will be available on the Rockingham County ARES nets, and at the MARA meeting.

Public Service Opportunity 2: October 5-7 – Grindstone 100 Footrace

This event is the first of the famous “Triple Play” public service weekend. Imagine running 100 miles, day and night, up and down mountains! This event starts Friday evening at 8:00 pm at the Boy Scout Camp at Swoope, and runs through the wilderness of the George Washington National Forest in western Augusta and Rockingham Counties continuously until Sunday morning. This event is primarily managed by a group from Lynchburg, but because of the danger involved in running through woods at night, MARA and VARA hams are needed day and night to cover all the checkpoints and provide emergency communication. This is the event where the presence or absence of ham radio can mean the difference between life and death, as the 100-mile run puts tremendous physical strain on the participants.

Public Service Opportunity 3: October 6-7 – Motor 500 Trail Ride

This event is the second of the famous Triple Play weekend. This event has been known in the past as the KTM 500 Motorcycle Ride and is sponsored by Husqvarna this year. This is the Washington area Trail Riders Association motorbike ride in the forest, taking place coincident with the Grindstone 100, but on different roads. This two-day ride is daytime only, and starts at Natural Chimneys Park outside of Mt. Solon, and covers over 300 miles across two days in the George Washington National Forest in western Augusta County and Rockingham Counties. We will need about 6-8 hams each day to man points along the route with the ride management. The earliest shift would start around 0800 in the morning, the latest would start around 1500 (3:00PM). Longest shift should only be about 4 hours unless you are willing to move to another location which folks have done in the past. You will need a good 30W or more mobile 2M rig and a good mag-mount/mobile antenna for best converge. We are also in need of 2 net control operators to set up on Flag Pole Knob each day. If you are interested in helping out with this please contact Bryan Daniels at k4rmy@comcast.net.

Public Service Opportunity 4: October 7 – Camp Still Meadows Horse Ride

The third event in the Triple Play weekend. A relaxing half-day event, this charity ride usually involves a couple of hundred horses and riders, beginning from Camp Still Meadows outside of Timberville in northern Rockingham County on Sunday morning about 8 a.m. The riders complete one of several dirt-road rides, including a beginner's loop, finishing around lunchtime. Although HT's can be used in some areas, most hams find that a good 30-watt mobile rig comes in handy. If you are interested in helping out with this event, contact Ray Ritchie, K4NRA, at K4NRA@arrl.net

Public Service Opportunity 5: October 19-21 – Fall Foliage Bike Ride

This event requires the most hams, as it covers the most territory by far. As is the case of the Grindstone 100, ham radio coverage can help save someone's life in this event. This ride generally starts in Staunton at the middle school, and involves several different routes of varying levels of difficulty, mainly in Augusta County. The routes are on paved roads which means the riders will be competing with heavy vehicle traffic, making this a relatively dangerous situation. Hams will man checkpoints and aid stations during the day. No one has stepped forward to head this effort up this year, so stay tuned to the nets and club meetings for more information.

Repeater Report: 444.600 Repeater On the Air, but to be Improved

Larry Harrison, K3JRR, has been working with Bob Van Fossen, K4DJG, on getting the MARA 444.600 machine on the air. Larry tweaked and adjusted the machine, and it is currently working, but the sensitivity is not where we want it. Improvements are being planned. For now, however, tune your radio to 444.600 and see where you can hear the signal.



Repeater Report: 146.625 Repeater Improvements Planned

Phil Rinaca, KQ4D, reports that the 146.625 repeater is also planning some upgrades. A completely new machine has been installed and tuned up, and should be working fine, but the group plans to link to a 440-band repeater which is in the process of being coordinated. Also, they hope to have an Echolink node up and working before the end of the year.



MARA Repeater Committee Volunteers Needed

At the September MARA meeting, volunteers will be solicited for a second repeater committee to get started on the 145.13 repeater on Massanutten Peak. This machine is currently on the air (with offset of -0.600 MHz and a PL tone of 88.1 Hz), but has some static on the receiver. If you are interested in getting your feet wet learning about repeaters, remote control, and auxiliary operation, consider joining some experienced hams for this endeavor. One of the first orders of business will be to work with Jim Junkins of the Rockingham County EOC center to investigate the possibility of re-locating the machine to the EOC site from the current commercial site location.



MARA Nominating Committee Needed

Would you like a sure way of guaranteeing you won't be selected as the new President of MARA? Here's your chance. Volunteer to serve on the Nominating Committee instead! The Nominating Committee is in charge of approaching candidates for the five open officer's positions (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and a Board-Member-At-Large) to create a slate of officer candidates for election at the October meeting. The Nominating Committee will be named at the September club meeting, and will submit its report for publication in the October Monitor. Don't take a chance on being railroaded into an officer's position: volunteer for the nominating committee at the September meeting!

MARA Secretary's Report – July 5 Meeting

Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 PM by Vice-President Gerry Brunk K4RBZ

Attendance: 34 present - 29 Members and 5 Guests Introductions made all around.

Reports:

New Members: 1st Reading: None

2nd Reading: Jason Armentrout N4DSL, and Hugh Pettis K3EC. Both were voted into corporate membership

Secretary Minutes: It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the Secretary's report 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;

VEC-Session: The next VE test session will be held August 11;

Public Service: Bridgewater Parade, July 21 and 22, in need of volunteers; Gayle Shull KU4XN.

Boy Scouts: Bob Steere N1QEQ every Friday through the summer the Boy Scouts would like to have a demonstration of ham radio at the Scout Camp in Swoope, Virginia.

Announcements:

Gayle Shull KU4XN is selling ham equipment for Fred McDonald. See Gayle for a list of items available.

Rockingham Memorial Hospital is still working on the antenna issue, but is making progress..

Old Business:

Christmas Banquet is scheduled for December 6 at the Wood Grill. Both rooms will be reserved, we will be honoring hams 80 years old and older, and their spouses. The club would like volunteers to pick up and bring them back home after the party..

New Business: None

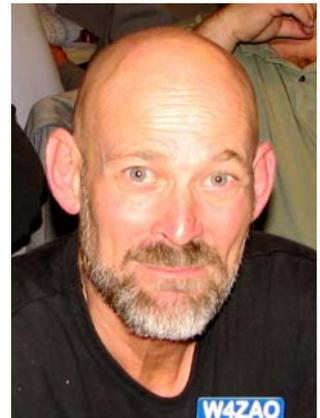
New Call or Upgrades: none announced

Motion to Adjourn: Made, seconded and approved.

50/50 Raffle: Total \$27.00. \$13.50 split won by Phyllis Haxton N4VZC

Program: Field Day Report by Bob Steere N1QEQ.

Submitted by
John Keller, W4ZAO
MARA Secretary



MARA Secretary's Report – August 2 Meeting

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

Attendance: 28 present - 27 Members and 3 Guests Introductions made all around.

Reports:

New Members:

1st Reading: Larry Harrison, K3JRR

Secretary Minutes: Postponed until they can be 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;

VEC-Session: The next VE test session will be held August 11; Gayle Shull (KU4XN)

Public Service: Gerald Nauman KN4FM reported that on September 22 5-6 volunteers will be needed for the Bike Shenandoah Event at EMU. Bob Steere N1QEQ reported that the Mountain Momma event in Monterey will be this coming Saturday. Ray Ritchie K4NRA reported that the Bridgewater Parade public service event was a success and everyone who participated had a great time.

Repeater Committee: Bob K4DJG visited the site several times, changed the lock on the entrance, and cleaned the area around the site. Jason N4DLS was checking on getting the electricity turned on. The electric bill is approximately \$30.00 per month. The frequency for the repeater is 444.600 with a PL tone of 154.4.

There was a motion to turn on the repeater, a second, no discussion, and the motion passed.

Announcements:

Bob Steere reported that the ham demonstrations at the Boy Scout Camp was received with many thanks and that the demonstrations were very informative.

The Berryville Hamfest is this weekend, Sunday starting at 6:00 a.m. at the Berryville Fairgrounds.

Old Business:

The MARA Board has decided to recognize all of our 80+ year old hams and their spouses at this year's Christmas Banquet. Volunteers are needed to pick up and drop off those who may be unable to drive to the event.

New Business: None

New Call or Upgrades: none announced

Motion to Adjourn: Made, seconded and approved.

50/50 Raffle: Total \$28.00. \$14.00 split won by John Bottemiller N4SYH

Program: David Fordham KD9LA led a discussion and report on the 2012 Field Day results and then followed with a discussion of member concerns and ideas/recommendations for next year.

Submitted by
John Keller, W4ZAO
MARA Secretary

Editor's footnote: This is the third month that the monthly ham calendar has not appeared in the Monitor. Is it missed? LDo you care? Let the editor know whether or not you find the calendar to be helpful. If no one cares, the space can be used for more useful purposes.

MARA Treasurer's Report – July 24, 2012 to August 26, 2012

Beginning Balance July 24, 2012 (last report)		\$ 2,426.02
Add:		
August Meeting 50/50	\$ 14.00	
New Memberships May (1 new members)	\$ 12.00	
Field Day Expenses CS Check (by VARA)	<u>\$ 210.00</u>	
Total Income		\$ 236.00
Less		
Post Office Box Annual Rent	\$ 58.00	
Monitor Printing and Mailing (May, June, July, August)	\$102.50	
Bank Fees (July)	: <u>\$ 2.00</u>	
Total Disbursements		<u>\$ -162.50</u>
Total		
Ending Balance as of August 26, 2012		\$ 2,499.52

Submitted by Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC, MARA Treasurer

PVARC Secretary's Report – August 3 Meeting

This being an "even" numbered month the meeting was held at Page Memorial Hospital in Luray. PVARC President Mark/N4YSA called the meeting to order at 1800. There being no visitors or newcomers, introductions were dispensed with. Mark announced that he had picked up all the remaining "widows assistance program" equipment from Sparky's garage and would be taking it to the Berryville Hamfest this coming weekend where he hoped to sell it all.

Sparky/KD4KL, PVARC Secretary/Treasurer reported that the Minutes for the June 1st meeting were published in the July edition of The Monitor. A motion to accept was made, seconded and passed unanimously. Geoffrey/WD4LYO asked if he could have copies of these minutes; and, any previous PVARC meeting summaries for the web site. Sparky agreed to look into his "archives" and send them to Geoffrey. The Treasurers Report was as follows: Bank balance: \$1,682.21 – with two unpaid bills: (1st) Field Day Food Expenses totaled \$269.83. PVARC Check #1005 in the amount of \$200.00 was authorized at the June 2012 meeting, which covers all but \$69.83. Receipts are in hand and a motion to pay the difference is required. Before the motion was called, Morgan/K4RHD (Chef Extraordinaire) stated that no reimbursement was required since some of the products were consumable and were saved, while other items purchased (plates, utensils, etc.) were set aside for next year. The receipts were retained for the record and will be used in future budget estimates. (2nd) Reimbursement for materials purchased to make re-useable wooden event signs (in the sandwich board style and used to direct the public to PVARC events) - for paint, letters & hardware has been submitted. Receipts were provided by Morgan in the amount of \$45.65. A motion to approve payment was made, seconded and passed unanimously and the Treasurer was directed to write a check in payment.

continued —

PVARC Secretary's Report – continued

The Technical Assistance Committee – Mark/N4YSA & Paul/N4PJI reported the "tower party" held at the QTH of Morgan/K4RHD was successful. Thanks to all that helped. Pictures are posted on the PVARC website at: www.k4pmh.org. Future events include getting Sparky's rotor installed when the weather cools down, and possibly more antenna work at Zory/KB3VQC/AE's QTH.

Emergency Preparedness Committee & EOC Training Chairman Dave/K4DPF said he was unable to conduct the scheduled EMCOMM training class on August 11th. Mark/N4YSA will substitute if possible. Dave also commented on the upcoming SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST (SET) 2012. The SET weekend is scheduled nationally for October 6-7 and he would like our ARES group to participate. Page County will be participating in a Regional Exercise on Tuesday, November 13th and the October SET would be a great opportunity for us to practice. Check out the ARES website for details: www.pagecountyares.org. Bob/KI4VFP asked if access to the N4VEM repeater would be necessary. If so, perhaps a manned mobile/transportable relay station could be stationed on a ridge with line-of-sight to both the Page County EOC and the Richmond repeater. The Richmond repeater is reportedly heard locally from time to time. It was agreed that this would be desirable and should be looked into. A possible alternative would be to have an HF link using a Near Vertical Incident Skywave (NVIS) type antenna installed at the Page County EOC (which would provide the majority of its radiation at an extremely high angle) – good for statewide coverage on 75 meters.

Four items of old business were briefly discussed and tabled for the next business meeting. (1) Should PVARC look for a different restaurant for its "Eatin' Meetin'" or keep looking? Commentary: The Southern Grill served a good meal in July, menu lacks variety, accommodations were good & prices were reasonable. Agreed to meet there again for the September meeting; but, will keep looking for a better alternative. Tabled. (2) Status of Nominating Committee. Commentary: Chairman Bob/WO4MI and associates still making inquiries. Will have a slate in time for consideration at the October business meeting. Tabled. (3) Report from the Audit Committee? Commentary: Zory/KB3VQC/AE, Gary/K6OZ & Charlie/KG4ALT have not yet met with Sparky/KD4KL, Secretary/Treasurer. Will have a report by end of the year for PVARC balloting of new club officers. Tabled. (4) Should PVARC pursue incorporation, non-profit and/or tax-exempt status? Commentary: Morgan/K4RHD, Ben/N4SFG & Phil/KQ4D are independently looking into a suitable speaker to address this issue. Tabled.

Final Comments/Discussion: Dave/K4DPF spoke to the need for continued financial support of the two local repeater associations that are providing enhanced communications throughout the valley. The N4PJI and KQ4D repeaters are a great asset to the community and we – that is the PVARC organization AND individual amateurs should contribute to ensure they are maintained, upgraded and insured. He noted that the KQ4D repeater is planning to add UHF and EchoLink capabilities and it is important for us to help them both to the extent we can.

Mark/N4YSA concluded the business meeting, reminding the members that the next meeting will be held once again at the Southern Grill on 340 South of Luray on Friday, September 7th at 1800. Everyone was encouraged to remain for a DVD brought by Zory/KB3VQC/AE showing the operation of a 50+ station ARRL Field Day event. You have to see it to believe it!

The meeting was adjourned at 1915.

Submitted by: Sparky Terry/KD4KL, PVARC Secretary

Virginia Beach Hamfest – September 15

The hamfest starts at 9:00 a.m., and runs until 4 pm, (but most participants leave around 2 pm). The event will be held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center, 1000 19th Street, Virginia Beach, VA. Unlike in most recent years, numerous major vendors will be in attendance this year. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

VARA Secretary's Report – August 7 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association held its August meeting at the Westside Grill in Staunton on Tuesday the 7th. There was a huge crowd present for a summer meeting: 35 members and visitors! President John Keller W4ZAO brought the meeting to order at 7:04 pm, and the usual introductions were made.

The winner of the 50/50 drawing was Bruce Catlett, N4RVG; he won \$13.00.

ARES report: David Tanks AD4TJ, EC for Augusta County, reminded everyone that we are in hurricane season, and to stay prepared. Also he reminded us that in the event of bad weather or other major happening, to monitor the 146.850 repeater, the primary Augusta County ARES repeater. The next net will be August 9th at 8 pm, and Gordon Batey WA4FJC, volunteered to be Net Control on the 146.850 repeater.

Reports: Secretary: David AD4TJ made a motion that the minutes be accepted as printed in the newsletter; voted on and approved.

Treasurer: Doug Tippet N8ESW read the report and it was accepted as read.

Event Updates: The club's picnic will be September 8th at Gypsy Hill Park, Staunton, at the shelter near the golf course, as usual; eat at noon, with the club providing the meat and buns, and everyone bring a covered dish or two and drinks.

Other events: the Bike Festival in October, and the Tripleplay, also in October(Grindstone 100, KTM 500, and a horse ride). Many hands are needed for these.

1st reading of new member applications: Bruce Bolding, KB6TUO, and James Fravel, KK4GYY.

Upcoming operating events: the Hawaii QSO Party is August 25th, and the NA QSO Party is August 17-18; September 15 is the Va Beach Hamfest.

There was no old business.

New business: VE testing session on August 11th; and Jack ??? is donating a generator to the club.

Field Day update: John W4ZAO discussed how the operation went: more hams (50 % more) signed in this year, with a total of 102 signees. Pros and cons of the Weyers Cave site were discussed. There will be a questionnaire sent out to solicit comments at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

The program was given by Jim Lehman W4POL, of Harrisonburg who talked about aviation navigation in the 1935 to 1955 era.

Respectfully submitted, David AD4TJ, VARA Secretary



ARES Net Reminder

The Rockingham County ARES Net meets the first Monday of every month at 8 pm local time on 146.550 simplex.

The Rockingham County ARES Net meets all other Mondays on 8 pm local time on the 147.225 repeater, PL 131.8, offset +0.600 MHz.

The Page County ARES Net meets every Sunday evening at 8 pm local time on the 146.67 repeater, PL 114, offset -0.600 MHz.

The Augusta County ARES Net meets the second Thursday (only) at 8 pm local time on the 146.85 repeater, PL 131.8, offset -0.600 MHz, but occasionally changes frequencies for training purposes.

ARES Nets are intended to let hams test out their equipment to ensure it is in working condition, before an actual emergency hits. Take advantage of this opportunity, and hone your operating skills at the same time.

Nets are also good sources of information about upcoming ham radio events in the local area. Support your local net control!

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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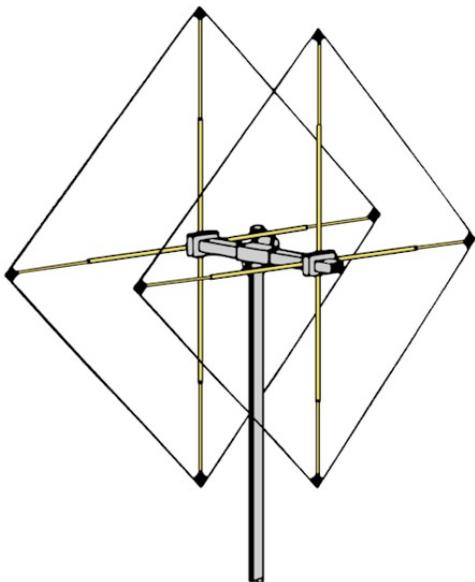
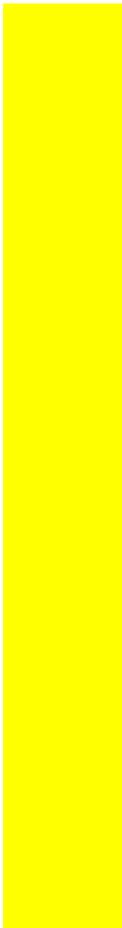
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