

November-December  
2012

# THE MONITOR

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

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## **December 4 – VARA Annual Christmas Dinner : Westside Grill in Staunton**

The Valley Amateur Radio Association, will hold its December Christmas Dinner at the West Side Grill on West Beverley Street in Staunton on Tuesday, December 4, starting at 6:00 pm. **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED!** Please RSVP by Nov. 27th to eaglehiker@hotmail.com or by phone 540-746-0425 with the number of guests attending so we can have the right amount of food for everyone to enjoy!

## **December 6 – MARA Annual Christmas Banquet – Wood Grill in Harrisonburg**

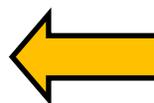
The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its annual Christmas Banquet at the Wood Grill in Harrisonburg on Thursday, December 6. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. Families and friends are invited and welcome. Reservations for this banquet are not required. We look forward to seeing you.

Unlike years past, this year's banquet will not feature a program or entertainment. Instead, we will recognize those hams who have come to our attention as being 80 years old or older, and their spouses.

## **December 7 – PVARC Club Business Meeting – Page Memorial Hospital**

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular bi-monthly business meeting on Friday, December 7 starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Day Room of the Page Memorial Hospital. All hams and their guests are invited.

The Monitor's  
**TRANSITION**  
Coming in 2013



**What's This? See Page 2**

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## New Monitor Editor to Take Over In 2013

Way back In 1994, David Fordham KD9LA agreed to be the Newsletter Editor and publisher for the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association. Dave agreed to take the job for a short time until a more permanent editor and publisher could be found. David agreed to type up the newsletter, format it, get it printed, labeled, and mailed. David agreed to do the job for a few months until a new editor took over the job.

Well, it has now been 19 years, and David is still newsletter editor. During this time, the Monitor has undergone some major changes. In the late 1990's over 200 copies were being mailed every month. This qualified for bulk mail rates. Today, fewer than 20 paper copies are sent each month by mail, but over 175 copies are distributed electronically in PDF format.

Three times in 19 years Dave had to ask someone else to put together the monthly newsletter, and all three times the substitutes did a magnificent job. And five times in those 19 years, he missed putting out an issue, and (like this month) published a two-month issue the following month. Not counting those, David has put out over 200 monthly issues of the Monitor. He has copies of every issue, going back to his first one in 1994.

A couple of years ago, Mike Reno, KG400N, graciously volunteered to do the printing, labeling and mailing.

Now, after 19 years, it is time for David to step down as editor and publisher, too.

Age, mental deterioration brought about by Lyme disease, repeated shingles episodes, arthritis, and plain old fashioned curmudgeonliness, coupled with Dave's heavy travel and work schedule, have all conspired together to make it impossible for Dave to continue more than a few more issues.

So, for the next few months, a search must be conducted by the members of VARA, MARA, and PVARC, for a new replacement newsletter editor. A new editor must be found as soon as possible, but in no case any later than December 1, 2013, David's absolute last day on the job as editor. An earlier transition date is much preferred.

If the new editor desires, Dave will work with him or her, teaching how to use Microsoft Publisher, the software Dave uses for the Monitor. But it is completely unnecessary for the new editor to use Publisher if he or she does not desire to. Any word processing product will work. The fancy-schmancy Monitor that Dave puts out is not required by any of the three clubs — it is just Dave's personality. A new editor will likely have their own personality, their own style, their own time limitations and other constraints. The important thing is, the Monitor belongs to the CLUBS, and it is up to the clubs to name the newsletter editor.

David has enjoyed his 19 years as editor. But make no mistake: David simply cannot continue.

If you know of someone who you think might be a good replacement, notify your club officers. Sometime in 2013, it is incumbent upon the officers of MARA, VARA, and PVARC to get together and compare notes and jointly name a new editor, or alternatively decide to go separately with separate club newsletters.

This decision should happen sooner rather than later. Dave is DEFINITELY anxious to get the new editor on-board and up-to-speed. The new editor does NOT have to wait until the December issue to take over! But if no editor is named by December 1, 2013, the venerable Monitor might just fade away, like a 20-meter ragchew slowly disappearing into the late night mist, and it's anybody's guess as to when it will come back again....

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## MARA Club Officers

Congratulations to the newly elected club officers of the Massnuten Amateur Radio Association. In the absence of a quorum at the October annual corporate meeting, the elections were held in November. The slate offered by the nominations committee was elected by acclamation:

- ⇒ **President David Fordham, KD9LA**
- ⇒ **Vice President Gerald Brunk K4RBZ**
- ⇒ **Secretary Dennis Phillips NS4K**
- ⇒ **Treasurer Sheryl Tonini KJ4DOC**
- ⇒ **Board Member at large (term expiring December 2014): Andrew Pearson N4RCE**

The above members join Board Member at Large (term expiring December 2013) Bob Van Fossen K4DJG to make up the governing board of the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Incorporated, a Virginia not-for-profit corporation qualified under the IRS rules 501(c) 3.



## PVARC Officer Candidates

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club Nominating Committee has submitted the following slate of officer candidates for possible election at the December club meeting:

- ⇒ **President Bob Forrest WO4MI**
  - ⇒ **Vice President Mark Hensley N4YSA**
  - ⇒ **Secretary Sparky Teery KD4KL**
  - ⇒ **Treasurer Carol Terry KA4LAF**
  - ⇒ **Board Member at large: Geoffrey Phillips WD4LYO**
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## VARA President's Message

The 2012 year is almost over. What a fast year it has been! Just a few months ago I had all these plans to complete by December. Most are still on the drawing board or in the middle of completion. (Don't talk to my wife about the wall project!) I have added another year of Amateur Radio experience (3 yrs) with the help of so many of you, for that I am so thankful. The HAM community is a very special group of men and woman who open up their hearts and expertise to anyone who wants to explore this great hobby. I was on the Augusta ARES Net and heard several new radio operators and remember I was once one of them as well. The well seasoned HAM veterans welcomed me and now they are stuck with me always asking questions, or how I got a new DXCC country, or what piece of equipment I should get to improve my contest skills. Besides your expertise there is a human side as well, we have had so many HAM family members in the hospital, family deaths or accidents and anyone who hears about a member makes it a point to let the entire group know so that we can provide support, friendship or anything else that is needed. You all are a special group in this changing world of ours.



I would like to take a moment and thank all the officers of both MARA and VARA for all their hard work to keep both clubs running smoothly. A lot of time goes into maintaining each position's duty and responsibility. They all deserve a big Thank You!

Also I want to thank the Field Day Chairman Bob N1QEQ and the rest of the committee for their hard work in making this year's field day event a success. We had several new operators and a new location that changed our normal status quo and provided many operators to get involved with a lively discussion on change. Thanks to everyone who participated in all aspects of Field Day.

Another big round of thanks goes to all the Coordinators of all the community events that both clubs volunteer to help support, without their extra hours of planning and scheduling these events would not go as smooth as they do. Thank you!!

There are so many others that take their personal time to make Amateur Radio a success, state coordinators, local ARES and RACES coordinators and the list goes on and on. I want to personally give a big round of THANKS to these individuals for their dedicated service to our community and state.

So as we look forward to 2013 and all the new adventures, contests, DX contacts and new rag chewing friends remember to help someone in need, thank a fellow HAM for helping you solve that problem or in putting up an antenna and remember to volunteer for a few hours to help a community activity.

Thank you all for a wonderful 2012 and I look forward to seeing you all in 2013!

John Keller W4ZAO  
VARA President



## Condolences to Melody Moats KF4HEW

The ham community expresses its sympathy to Melody Moats, KF4HEW, of Monterey, on the tragic death of her younger sister last month. Melody and her husband Jerry are the primary radio amateurs behind the Highland County ARES nets.

## Speedy Recovery Wished to Steve Grant W4IIV

The ham community wishes a speedy recovery to Steve Grant W4IIV after his recent heart attack. Word has it that this is Steve's fourth one. Get well soon, Steve!

## Field Day 2012 Report: Statewide 2nd Place & In the Top 5% Nationally

The ARRL Field Day results are official. The joint MARA/VARA Field Day exercise this year scored 2nd place in Virginia in our class out of 13 entries, we scored 13th in all classes out of 204 entries in Virginia. We also scored 28th in the nation in our class (2A), and scored 127 out of 2,217 entries total, among all classes and categories. Once again, this places us in the top 5% of all stations in the nation! Way to go, MARA and VARA!

## Volunteer Examiner Report – Oct 13 Test Session: 3 New Hams, 1 Upgrade

We held another successful VE session on October 13. There were four candidates who earned three new Technician class licenses and one upgrade to General. Congratulations to each of you.

I would also like to thank the VEs that helped with the testing, **Bob Van Fossen, K4DJG; E.C. Showalter, KC4KUR; Jim Lehman, W4POL; Hugh Pettis, K3EC; and Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG.**

Gerald, KN4FM

## Atomic Clock Synchronization for Older Operating Systems

Windows 7 comes with utilities which keep your computer synchronized with the international time standards, but for older operating systems, check out these free utilities which do the same job: Thanks to AD4TJ.

<http://schmail.com/atomictime/>

## MARA Website Updated

For those MARA members who have noticed the club website was a little out of date: It has now been updated and should be a bit more current. Back issues of the Monitor can be found, along with the 2013 officers, directions to the club meetings, and other useful information. Please notify KD9LA of changes needed.

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## Bike Shenandoah Public Service Event Report

The Bike Shenandoah event held on September 22 was big a success. There were 20 riders in the 100 mile event, 13 in the metric century event (approximately 62 miles) and approximately 27 in the 30 mile event. One rider took a rather nasty spill and was transported to the hospital, there was no additional word on what his final status was. The event raised more than \$17,700 which was divided evenly between three mission organizations and the Northend Greenway.

Thanks to **Norman Benner, KA4EEN; Glenn Mingo, KJ4VVP; Gayle Shull , KU4XN; E.C. Showalter, KG4KUR; Ray Ritchie, K4NRA and Paul Wyse, W4PFM** for their help in making this a successful day.

Gerald, KN4FM

## Camp Still Meadows Public Service Event Report

Camp Still Meadows horse ride was a dreary rainy day in the morning hours but the sun finally shone and the day ended nice. Since the weather did not cooperate, the number of riders was down this year. Only 29 horses hit the trails on Little North Mountain. No accidents or incidents were reported and the amateur coverage was fantastic. The following hams were manning the routes and did a fantastic job communicating on a simplex frequency in mountain terrain — a very good training exercise.

**Gayle Shull KU4XN + SIDEKICK, Kent Harper KK4LRD , E.C. Showalter KG4KUR, ?? KJ4INC , Sheryl Tonini KJ4DOC, Ken High K4KLH +SIDEKICK , Nelson Seese W4BHD, Chris Shirkey KI4BAQ - Net Control, Gerald Nauman KN4FM., and myself, K4NRA.**

Thanks to these hams for their service and hope to see them again on the farm next year for all the good food and fellowship. The riders and organizers gave us praise for our excellent communications and help.

73's Ray Ritchie, K4NRA



## Thanks from Camp Still Meadows

MARA received a very nice “thank you” card from Camp Still Meadows expressing appreciation for the loyal work of the hams on the Horse Ride.

## Grindstone 100 Public Service Event Report

I want to thank everyone for assisting with this year's event. We were certainly touch and go in getting all the spots filled up to a couple of days before the event, but everyone of you came through and we were successful in our endeavor. The temporary repeater functioned even better than last year, not sure why, but it did very well, eliminating the need to go from system to system, and allowing everyone to hear all the traffic that was passed. Falls Hollow continues to be a little difficult but after picking the right spot, it works too.

Many many thanks to all the stations who had the NCS job throughout the weekend. This position, quite honestly, caused heartburn, as Hal KA4YNO got very little sleep between race start and late Saturday night. Thanks very much to Gordon WA4FJC for taking the Friday night shift and Daniel KI4EXQ for stepping forward on Saturday evening to let Hal get some rest. I found that I could work the temp repeater from home in Lynchburg with a fully quieted signal, allowing me to handle the net for a while Saturday evening, but was faced with no one to alert Clark Zealand to problems at the camp. Daniel solved this problem.

Next October, we'll be back in the hot seat. I need to work with Jeff and John in getting some additional stations to man the Camp Shenandoah spot for Clark's liaison and NCS duties. I think this was our weak point this year. There seems to be an ongoing problem in almost every organization with which I am involved in getting people to volunteer for events. Somehow, we need to try and over come that problem in the future for this event. The Valley folks have the additional disadvantage of three events going at the same time, with the Grindstone 100, the Shenandoah 500 motorcycle race and the Camp Still Meadows horse ride. Makes one want to tear out hair.

We all need to encourage our younger and newer club members to get involved with these events. Our youngest participant was Daniel, and the age rapidly went up from there. It is great to have all the experience that years of operational service brings, but what happens when we begin losing folks in the higher age brackets? I had two people – who have steadfastly worked our local Ten Miler for years – drop out this year. Both are more than 90 years old and decided perhaps it was time to step back a bit. Can't blame them. We're all headed that way, and this is why we all need (in my humble opinion) to encourage our newer hams to get involved.

I hope to be back up and running next year, getting this strange ailment under control so as to be useful again. I hope that all of you will continue to be interested in working the event. It cannot be done by just a handful of folks, takes a lot of us to make it work, and I am very proud of the job that we Amateurs do.

Again, particular thanks to John K4ZAO and Jeff W4PJW for organizing help from the Valley clubs, and to Jeff for spending his weekend pouring fuel in a generator on a hilltop far, far away! We'll get that blasted aux tank working properly before the next one.

Geep, WA4RTS



10.06.2012

## Shenandoah 500 Motorbike Public Service Event Report

The Shenandoah 500 Motorcycle Ride went very smoothly this year. We had very good weather the first day of the ride and only one injury confirmed that emergency personnel had to deal with. On Sunday the weather turned bad but things still went very well. The only excitement was a pickup truck that tried to get out of the way of some riders and ended up teetering on the edge of the mountain and had to have a tow truck pull him out.

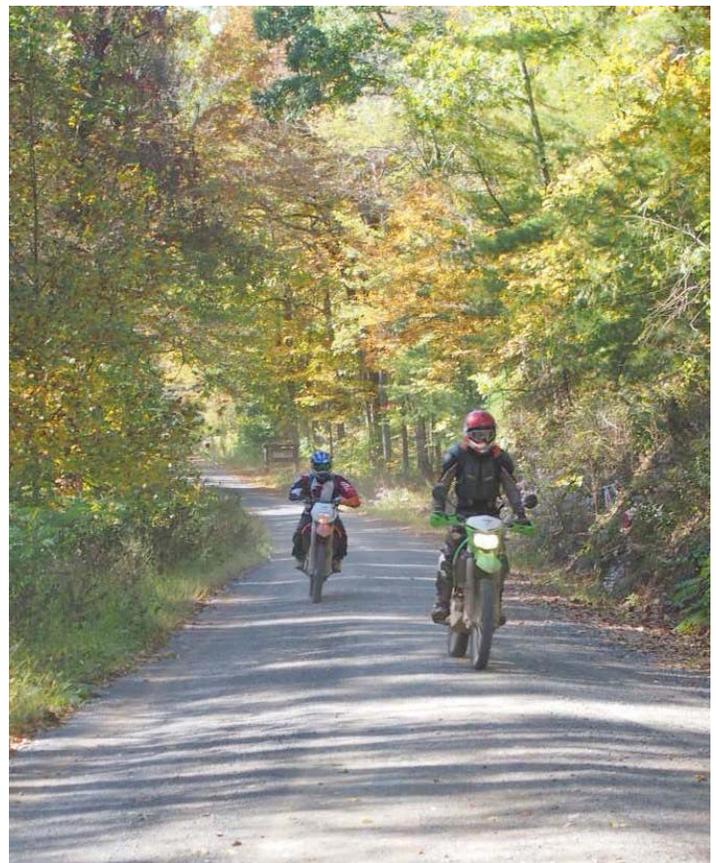
We were also able to find some locations in the north (thanks to David KD9LA) that we can use for relays next year in the German River area. We always seem to have problems communicating from that area to Net Control. This type of operational discovery is exactly why these events are so important for emergency preparedness!

The following hams helped during one or both days:

**Deter KI4STU, Caren KG4IFR, Ray KE4HVR, Ellsworth K4LXG, Bob K54DJG, David KD9LA, Gerald KN4FM, Rodney K4DOD, Rick KE4PHQ, Bryan K4RMY, Joe KK4FKF, Bob N1QEQ, Robert KD8PQM, Jason N4DSL, Brian KI4LLC, Troy KC7URL, David N4WDC.**

Thank you very much to all those that gave their time and energy to make the Shenandoah 500 a safer event. I hope I didn't miss anyone. If I did please accept my apologies and my thanks for helping.

Bryan K4RMY





### Triple Play Photos



## Fall Foliage Bike Festival Public Service Event Report

Thanks to all the hams who participated in the 2012 Fall Foliage Bike Festival. Two full days of excitement, boredom, rescue, enjoyment, easy driving, dog chases, and a special surprise! (... just ask KD9LA what he found hanging on a road sign at the Rockbridge-Augusta County Line while sweeping the route Sunday afternoon!)

There were the usual minor events requiring transport of bikers, calls for first aid, locating the repair van, and passing messages back and forth between participants, aid stations, rest stops, and race officials, on both days.

A special thank you to the hams who gave up part or all of their weekend to support this fun event:

David Fordham, KD9LA; John Keller W4ZAO, Glenn Mingo KJ4VVP, Greg Czerniak W4GRC, John Lasher N3GLZ, Scott Newlen KI4QQZ, Ray Colvin KE4HVR. Mike Reno KG4OON, Gordon Batey WA4FJC, Bryan Daniels K4RMY. Jeff Rinehart W4PJW, Bob Van Fossen K4DJG, Bruce Catlett N4RVG, David Tanks AD4TJ, Steve Davis KI4CGI, Gary Van Fossen KI4FZV, Bob Steere N1QEQ, and Charles Phillips KI4DNC.

## Appreciation for Repeater Owners, Operators, Trustees, Technicians

A huge “thanks” is due to all the many dollars, and many hours of blood, sweat, and tears, that have been put in over the years by all the trustees and technicians who have put, and are keeping, our local repeaters on the air.



## New 70cm Repeater On the Air – 443.350 MHz – Big Mountain

Phil Rinaca KQ4D, trustee of the 146.625 repeater on Big Mountain, reports that Mark Hensley N4YSA, and several others are hard at work making sure the new 443.350 repeater on Big Mountain is up and running smoothly. This repeater has a dedicated Echolink node, making it available over the Internet.



## Great North Mountain Repeater On the Air – 444.600 MHz

Bob Van Fossen K4DJG, Larry Harrison K3JRR, Ray Ritchie K4NRA, and others have spent quite a bit of time installing and tweaking the 444.600 repeater on Great North Mountain. This machine is now on the air with a PL of 131.8, and is workable from most of northern Rockingham County, into Shenandoah County, and all the way to Front Royal. Additionally, this location now has an APRS digipeater which fills in some areas not otherwise covered along Interstate 81.

## Massanutten Repeater OFF the Air – 145.130 MHz

Mark Hensley N4YSA and David Fordham KD9LA, went to the Massanutten Peak site along with Bob Van Fossen K4DJG, Larry Harrison K4JRR, and Jeff Rinehart W4PJW to retrieve the 145.130 repeater. This machine has been suffering from static on the receive signal which has gotten worse over time. Some bad coax cables were found in the duplexer assembly, and the entire machine has been brought down to the valley for checking, tweaking, and reprogramming the EPROM to update some parameters. Special appreciation is due to Larry Harrison K3JRR for his efforts in helping perfect this and the 444.600 machine.



## Waynesboro Repeater Association of Virginia – Annual Meeting December 6

Calling all Radio Amateurs. The Annual meeting of the Waynesboro Repeater Association will be held in the Basement Meeting Room of the Augusta County Public Library, 1759 Jefferson Highway, Fishersville, VA at 6:30 PM on Thursday December 6, 2012. All local amateurs are cordially invited to attend.

Talk-in on 147.075 (+600)

Directions: Exit I 64 at Fishersville and go North on Tinkling Springs road to US 250. Turn West (left) and then Left at the next light. Enter the library at the doors on the US 250 side. Turn left inside and walk all the way to the far end and down the stairs, turn right and the meeting will be in the last room on the left. You may have to park in the rear of the building. See you there.

73 Gordon WA4FJC



**Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and May Your Holidays be Super!**

## **VARA Secretary's Report – October 2 Meeting**

The Valley Amateur Radio Association held its October meeting at the Westside Grill in Staunton on Tuesday the 2nd. The meeting was attended by 19 members and visitors. President John Keller W4ZAO brought the meeting to order at 7:01 pm, and the usual introductions were made.

John announced that Jim Newlen KE4CAX received his DXCC certificate. Congratulations, Jim!

The winner of the 50/50 drawing was Bob Carlstrom, WD4JEL; he won \$9.00.

ARES report: David Tanks AD4TJ EC is grateful that halfway thru Hurricane season we have not had a concern, and reminded all to be prepared, and that it is a good idea to have a " Cheat Sheet " made up containing instructions on how to program your radio( s ). And, as usual, Net Control operators are needed for the monthly nets.

Bob Van Fossen noted that MARA has made operational a repeater on 444.600 MHz on Great North Mountain near Basye; it may be hard to hit from Waynesboro, due to terrain and distance. He also said that KQ4D is working on another 440 repeater, on 443.350, on Big Mountain, with the hopes of having Echo-link available on it.

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

Treasurer: Al Bonck N3JB, for Doug Tippet N8ESW read the report and it was accepted as read.

Events: the Bike Festival is later in the month, and the Tripleplay this weekend( Grindstone 100, KTM 500, and a horse ride ). Volunteers are still needed for all events.

David Fordham KD9LA announced that MARA is inviting all octogenerian hams( those 80 years old and above ) residing in the Valley to be their guests at their Christmas banquet in December. They and their spouses will be treated to a free meal. The list was in the Monitor; Al N3JB was added to that list at the meeting, as he will be 82 soon.

A Christmas party for the club was discussed, and there was enough interest shown to have one, and Ray and Greg were volunteered to check out if the Westside Grill would be available. Also the possibility of an activity or the Chinese gift exchange was brought up.

Nominating committee: with the time to find officers for the club at hand, those officers who were present were agreeable to remaining in their positions. Doug Tippet N8ESW, who was absent, will be contacted to see where he stands.

No other business was brought up.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted, David AD4TJ, VARA Secretary

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## MARA Secretary's Report – October 4 Meeting

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

**Attendance:** 18 present - 15 Members and 3 Guests Introductions made all around.

### Reports:

**New Members:** none

**Secretary Minutes:** It was moved, seconded and approved to accept the minutes for the July 5th and August 2 meetings as printed in the September issue of 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 (K4RMY) reported that an earthquake drill was conducted at RMH and Bob N1QEQ participated. Jim Junkins of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Operations Center has given RACES two more frequencies.

**VEC-Session:** Next VE test session will be held October 13.

**440 Repeater Committee:** Bob K4DJG reported that a new duplexer was installed, and the tone might change to 131.8. The Big Mountain repeater on 443.350 will be up and operational soon. The ZEP Mountain repeater is 442.475 with a PL of 77.0 Hz..

**Public Service:** Bryan still has need for more volunteers for the Shenandoah 500 motorbike ride. The Grindstone and the Camp Still Meadows horse ride appear to be well-staffed.

**Nominating Committee:** Bob Steere N1QEQ reported that the nominating committee has obtained approval from the following individuals to run as candidates: President KD9LA, VP K4RBZ, Secretary NS4K, Treasurer KJ4DOC, and Board Member at Large N4RCE. The by-laws require a quorum to be present at the annual meeting of at least 20 members or 50% of the membership. Neither requirement is met tonight.

### Announcements:

The octogenarian list should receive invitations to the Christmas Banquet by November 10. Anyone that knows of any ham that is 80-plus years old is requested to provide the name to David KD9LA so that the club can invite them to be our guests..

### Business:

**No quorum was present, so no business could be conducted. Elections are postponed until a quorum can be assembled**

**Motion to Adjourn,** seconded, passed.

**50/50:** won by Nelson Seese W4HBD, \$19.00 total, \$9.50 split.

**Program** by Nelson Seese, W4BHD, on some rare and collectible QSL cards he has accumulated in almost 60 years of hamming.

Submitted by  
John Keller, W4ZAO  
MARA Secretary

## PVARC Secretary's Report – October 5 Meeting

This being an "even" numbered month the meeting was held at Page Memorial Hospital in Luray. Fifteen members and one guest were "congratulated" for wending their way through the maze of corridors due to hospital construction activities. Inasmuch as our President, Mark/N4YSA was unable to wield the gavel due to a work conflict, the meeting was called to order by PVARC Vice President Dave/K4DPF. Our visitor was Burrous Snelling, a local High School Science Teacher who is interested becoming a ham (through self study); and, is also looking for volunteers to assist in upcoming student activities associated with building robots using programmable microcomputer chips and pre-packaged parts kits. We're certain to hear more on this at a future meeting!

Sparky/KD4KL and Carol/KA4LAF reported on their visit with Tony Zukas/W3ELE who had just lost his XYL (Betty). Tony thanked those members that sent notes and attended her memorial service. He is interested in attending PVARC meetings when things settle down. Since he is visually impaired he will need a ride to/from meetings. He was assured that when he was ready, we'll find transportation for him. Phil/KQ4D said he would be dropping in from time to time and encouraged other members to do likewise.

Dave then called for Committee Reports, beginning with the Secretary/Treasurer. Sparky/KD4KL noted that the minutes for the September meeting were published in The Monitor and suggested that they be voted upon if acceptable. A motion to approve them as published was made, seconded and passed without objection. Putting on his "green eye-shade" as Treasurer he then reported that our bank balance is currently \$1,458.56 with no outstanding bills to be paid. A motion to approve the Treasurers Report was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

The Emergency Preparedness Committee & EoC Training Subcommittee is headed up by Dave/K4DPF, who is also the Page County Emergency Coordinator. He briefly summarized the upcoming (Saturday, October 6th) Simulated Emergency Test (SET) which will be a precursor to a Regional Exercise scheduled for Tuesday, November 13th. His plans are for PVARC and Page County ARES members to provide 2m radio communications between the County EoC and the four Fire & Rescue stations throughout the county. Test messages will be passed.

The Nominating Committee Chair, Bob/WO4MI reported that they have essentially completed work on a proposed slate of officers for the 2013-2014 (2-year election cycle) and will present a finalized list at the November meeting. The list will "lay-over" for a month and then voted upon at the December meeting. Once elected, the officers will take up their positions in January, 2013.

Geoffrey/WD4LYO chairman of the PVARC Website Subcommittee reported on activities associated with that endeavor. He is slowly restructuring and improving the navigation capabilities, and still needs pictures of members and PVARC club activities. Old Business: VP Dave/K4DPF called for a discussion of our Bi-Monthly "Eatin' Meetin'" tabled last month for further deliberation. Is it useful as a social function and should it be continued? Should PVARC settle on one venue where everyone knows when and where to meet, or should it be allowed to "float" or move around the county so members living further from Luray don't have to drive across the county every time? Following a lengthy discussion and review of some menu's it was agreed that the goal should be to locate a single restaurant that can accommodate PVARC's schedule throughout the year. Action to be deferred until the new officers are in place, at which time a final decision will be made. As an interim measure, a motion was made, seconded and passed that the November 2nd meeting would take place at Brookside Restaurant on U.S. Route 211 East of Luray; and, at the MaMa Mia Restaurant in Shenandoah on January 4, 2013. Zory/KB3VQC was asked to coordinate with Brookside.

There being no further business, Dave/K4DPF adjourned the meeting at 1915, thanking all for participating.

Submitted by: Sparky/KD4KL, Secretary/Treasurer

## MARA Secretary's Report – November 1 Meeting

Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 PM by Vice-President Gerry Brunk, in the absence of President David Fordham, KD9LA.

**Attendance:** 35 present - 27 Members and 8 Guests Introductions made all around.

### Reports:

**New Members:** 1st Reading: Paul Boison KB3O 2nd reading: none

**Secretary Minutes:** Since the Monitor was not published, approval is delayed until next month..

**Treasurer Report:** Since the Monitor was not published, approval is delayed until next month.

### Groups:

**ARES/RACES:** Bryan (K4RMY) reported ARES members were put on standby for Hurricane Sandy from Sunday until Tuesday. Bryan thanked everyone who signed up to help. Ellsworth K4LXG talked about other counties preparation and problems that occurred with Hurrican Sandy.

**VEC-Session:** Next VE test session will be held December 8. He has test books available

**Public Service:** John Keller W4ZAO reported on the Fall Foliage Bike Ride and read a letter of appreciation from Barbara Wright (the event Coordinator) and also said the check wrote a donation check for \$1,000 for helping out with the event.

Bryan K4RMY, preoted on the success of the Shenandoah 500 motorbike event.

Ray K4NRA, reported on the Camp Still Meadows event success.

### Announcements:

John Keller W4ZAO, reported on the final results from Field Day 2012. The joint MARA/VARA exercise placed 2nd statewide in the 2A category.

Gerry K4RBZ, reminded everyone of the Christmas Banquet December 6th at Wood Grill starting at 6:30 pm. There is no program; Guests will be hams who are 80 years old and older and their spouses...

**Election of officers:** Since there was no quorum present at the October meeting, the election of 2013 officers was postponed to this meeting. Gerry asked for nominations from the floor to add to the slate of officers submitted by the Nominating Committee last month. No additional nominations were offered. Bryan K4rmy made a motion to accept the slate of the nominating committee by acclamation, Bob N1QEQ seconded. There was not discussion, and the motion carried.

### No new calls or upgrades

**Motion to Adjourn,** seconded, passed.

**50/50:** won by Kathy Fovargue. \$38.00 total, \$19.00 split.

**Program** by Jim Lehman, W4POL, on the history of the Sugar Grove naval intelligence radio facility, and the equipment used in the 1940's and later..

Submitted by  
John Keller, W4ZAO  
MARA Secretary

## MARA Treasurer's Report – September 27 to October 26, 2012

Beginning Balance September 27, 2012 (last report)			\$ 2,773.61
Less	Bank Fees	:	\$ 2.00
	SVEC (repeater electric)		\$ 12.18
	Annual Liability Insurance Premium		<u>\$ 165.00</u>
	Total Disbursements		<u>\$ -179.18</u>
Ending Balance as of October 26, 2012			\$ 2,594.43

Submitted by Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC, MARA Treasurer

## MARA Treasurer's Report – October 27 to November 20, 2012

Beginning Balance October 27, 2012 (last report)			\$ 2,594.43
Add:			
	October Meeting 50/50		\$ 19.00
	VARA Field Day Expense Reimbursement		\$ 65.16
	Membership Renewals (2)		\$ 24.00
	New Memberships (1)		<u>\$ 12.00</u>
	Total Deposits		\$120.16
Less	Bank Fees (October)	:\$	2.00
	SVEC (repeater electric)		<u>\$ 21.67</u>
	Total Disbursements		<u>\$ -23.67</u>
Ending Balance as of November 20, 2012			\$ 2,690.92

Submitted by Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC, MARA Treasurer



**Don't Forget to RENEW your Club Dues!**

**See Your Club Treasurer to renew  
your club dues for 2013!**

## PVARC Secretary's Report – November 2 Meeting

This being an "odd numbered" month, the Page Valley Amateur Radio Club held its informal "Eatin' Meetin'" at the Brookside Restaurant on US Rte 211, 4 miles east of Luray. Twenty-one members and guests attended. Following self introductions, three new visitors were welcomed: Bob VanFossen /K4DJG, John Spillman/KT4CB and Richard White (studying - no call sign, yet).

Inasmuch as it was primarily a social event, business was held to a minimum. However, in accordance with PVARC Constitution and By-Laws the Nominating Committee was called upon to present their recommended slate of officers for a two-year election cycle beginning January 1, 2013 and ending December 31, 2014. The rules call for notification at the November meeting for a vote at the December meeting. The nominating committee consisted of: Bob Forrest/WO4MI (chair), Phil Rinaca/KQ4D and Geoffrey Phillips/WD4LYO.

The following slate was recommended by the committee:

- For President: Bob Forrest (WO4MI)
- For Vice President: Mark Hensley (N4YSA)
- For Secretary: Sparky Terry (KD4KL)
- For Treasurer: Carol Terry (KA4LAF)
- For At-large Board Member: Geoffrey Phillips (WD4LYO)

Two candidates on the proposed slate were members of the nominating committee. This was necessitated by the lack of available members available to fill those slots. In its deliberations, the nominating committee members under consideration abstained from deliberation/vote, so these candidates were nominated only by a 2/3 vote of the committee. Additional nominations from the floor can, and hopefully will be made from the floor at the December meeting.

Bob VanFossen /K4DJG talked about the 2.4 GHz wireless networking device he brought to the meeting. Two of these devices, consisting of a self contained parabolic (style) antenna and associated TX/RX components inside a protective PVC package will provide the ability to send high speed data between two lap tops over a considerable distance if in direct line-of-sight to each other. The equipment operates in legal ham spectrum (secondary/shared spectrum) and can be purchased for under \$75.00 per end unit. He suggested interested hams check out the website: [www.wirelessnetworkproducts.com](http://www.wirelessnetworkproducts.com).

Bob McKay/KI4VFP displayed a variety of homebrew devices he built and uses to interconnect his radio equipment to a computer based sound card to enable a variety of data transmission modes, e.g., PSK31, etc. No need to buy a commercial interconnect box for \$80 to \$100 per copy, just looks at his simplified approach – small neat package for less than \$5.00 in parts (less if you're a good scrounger). For those interested in exploring the digital modes using associated software (usually free) he suggested going to the website: [www.soundcardpacket.org](http://www.soundcardpacket.org).

Mark/N4YSA brought the members up to date on efforts to establish a Page Valley Packet System on 145.57 MHz; or, even putting a packet station at the 146.625 MHz repeater site. He also discussed the ongoing attempt to bring a 440 MHz repeater online, this is still a "work in progress," so standby for late breaking news.

Following a great meal with good friends and family, the "quasi-meeting" adjourned with the reminder that the next PVARC Business Meeting will be held at Page Memorial Hospital, unless otherwise noted before hand (under renovation), on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Day Room.

Submitted by: Sparky/KD4KL, Secretary

## **VARA Secretary's Report – November 6 Meeting**

The Valley Amateur Radio Association's November meeting was held at the Westside Grill in Staunton on Tuesday the 6th. The meeting was attended by 19 members and visitors. President John Keller W4ZAO brought the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, and the usual introductions were made.

The winner of the 50/50 drawing was Ed Varner KJ4OAS; he won \$8.00.

ARES report: David Tanks AD4TJ EC reported Net Control operators are needed for the monthly nets. Fred Evans N4KYM volunteered to be Net Control for the net to be held on the 8th at 8 pm on the 146.850 repeater.

Reports:

Secretary: David AD4TJ: as the newsletter has not come out yet, the acceptance of the minutes will be put off for at least a month.

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

Events: John thanked Mike Reno KG4OON for the use of the trailer for Net Control for the Bike Festival. John read a thank you note from Barbara, the coordinator of the Bike Festival, saying that this was her last year as coordinator, as she has been that for 20 years, and thanking the hams for the help they have provided for the many years.

David AD4TJ noted that the ARRL 160 meter CW contest is the 1st weekend in December; Jeff Rinehart W4PJW encouraged those who have never tried it to give it a go. The 2nd weekend in December is the ARRL 10 meter contest.

Gordon Batey WA4FJC reported that the annual Frequency Measuring Test is coming up on the 14th of this month. And he reminded us of the Waynesboro Repeater Association meeting on December 6th at the Augusta County Library at 6:30 pm.

John reported on figures from the Field Day results that he put together: Our group came in 2nd place Virginia in the 2A category; we had 150 more contacts but still lost out to the other group. There were 13 entries in our category. We were number 3 in the Roanoke Division out of 37 entries. We were 28th in the US out of 406 entries. And out of all categories we were 127th out of 2617 entries. Not too shabby!

For the Christmas party the club had decided to have it at the Westside Grill, as everyone was agreeable to that. The restaurant has a list of items for us to choose from; the top 2 picks for meats and vegetables would determine those 2 categories. December 4th, the 1st Tuesday, is the date; no time was discussed, but there will be a write-up in the newsletter. Also there will be a Chinese gift exchange as we have done in the past, with a \$10 maximum limit on the value of gifts.

New business: the possibility of reimbursing Jeff W4PJW for the gas he used in the Bike Festival was discussed. John said that several people put 100 or more miles on their vehicles. Greg suggested the possibility of giving everyone who helped out with the event to be given free dues for the 2013 year; it was passed.

No other business was brought up.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Al Bonck N3JB showed a video of the A52A DXpedition to Bhutan.

Respectfully submitted, David AD4TJ, VARA Secretary

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**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. 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: Brookside Restaurant on Highway 211 east of 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

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## MARA/VARA/PVARC

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Weyers Cave, VA 24486  
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