

November
2013

THE MONITOR

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



November 1 – PVARC Meeting: Lord Fairfax in Luray

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its meeting on Friday, November 1st at Lord Fairfax Community College (Luray-Page County Center). If you're not sure where that is, plug the following address into your GPS: 334 N. Hawksbill St., Luray, VA 22835.



November 5 – VARA Meeting: Country Cooking in Staunton

The Valley Amateur Radio Association will hold its monthly club meeting on Tuesday, November 5th at the Country Cooking Restaurant at 1015 Richmond Avenue, which is Highway 250 east in Staunton. This restaurant is next door to Martin's Grocery, behind the Five-Guys Diner, across the street and west 1 block from Wal-Mart. The meal begins at 6:00 pm, the business meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

November 7 – MARA Meeting: Wood Grill in Harrisonburg

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, November 7th at the normal location: the Wood Grill at 1711 Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg. Dinner starts at 6:30 pm. All hams and their families are invited and welcome. After dinner, a short business meeting will be held. The MARA program for November will be "The WCKY AM Radio Antenna: An Innovation in Broadcast Design" by James Lehman.



Daylight Saving Time Ends

Fall Back

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour on Sunday, November 3rd.



Safety First

The Thanksgiving Holiday is one of the heaviest traveled holiday of the season. Please drive safely. Allow extra time to get to your destination and back if you are planning on traveling – and by whatever means you plan to travel.



Out with the old - In with the new!



New MARA Officers Elected for 2014 - Congratulations!

PRESIDENT Gerald Nauman, KN4FM	VICE-PRESIDENT Gerry Brunk, KB4RBZ	SECRETARY Dennis Phillips, NS4K	TREASURER Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC	BOARD MEMBER (exp 2015): David Fordham, KD9LA	BOARD MEMBER (exp 2014): Andrew Pearson, N4RCE (M I A)
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The excitement escalated as the President droned on at the annual corporate meeting held on October 3rd. Soon the election of the new officers would be held. After what seemed like an eternity, he announced it was time. He asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Almost in unison, the crowd sat on their hands. Not trusting to raise their hands to nominate anyone. After a palpable pause, he asked if the roster of candidates that was printed in last month's issue of the Monitor was acceptable. The relief was expressed as a collective sigh, and was unanimously agreed on and seconded. The out-going Administration had been replaced by a new group! Their reign of terror begins after the annual **MARA** Christmas party in December, and the out-going administration releases the whips and chains to the in-coming administration. Congratulations to the newly elected officers. The new President is Gerald Nauman, KN4FM. The officers re-elected include Vice President Gerry Brunk, KR4BZ, Secretary Dennis Phillips, NS4K, and Treasurer Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC. The outgoing President David Fordham, KD9LA, was elected as Board Member at Large, with a term expiring 2015. Andrew Pearson, N4RCE returns as Board Member at Large with a term expiring 2014. Many thanks to all who voted. (Even the ones that voted twice.) And many thanks for the nominating committee.

(Ed: I managed to corral the attending rogue officers for the above mug shot.)

MARA Invites VARA for Christmas Banquet

The **Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**, is pleased to invite all members of Valley Amateur Radio Association and their guests to join us for a "Dutch Treat" Christmas Banquet on the evening of Thursday, **December 5, 2013**. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Wood Grill Buffet at 1711 Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg, Virginia. This is across the street from the Rockingham County Volunteer Rescue Squad headquarters building, behind the Sheetz gas station across the street from CostCo.

Dress is holiday casual. Spouses are invited, along with any other guests that hams desire to bring. **No RSVP is required.** We have arranged to reserve the "double meeting room" to accommodate the large number expected. The MARA club is enthusiastic and we look forward to the fun and fellowship of joining our VARA colleagues for this banquet, David R. Fordham, President, on behalf of the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



Area SK's



On Fri, Oct 18, 2013 Friday morning's Staunton paper has an obituary for Robert S Lilly, KE4WII.

He was somewhat active on vhf several years ago. And supported the Waynesboro Repeater Association I met him on the air when he worked as a security guard at ASR.

73 Gordon WA4FJC

Going Somewhere? (How to Travel During a Winter Storm)

If at all possible, you should not attempt to travel during a winter storm. If you absolutely must, however, follow these tips from the National Weather Service:

- Always have Emergency Supplies in the trunk of your car (see below).
- Keep your car's gas tank FULL.
- Always let someone know your destination, your route, any alternate routes you may take, and when you expect to arrive. If you don't check in at the expected time, they can send help along your routes.
- In addition to your mobile radio in the car, take along a hand-held for backup.
- As you drive, make mental notes of your progress, so if you become stuck you can report your exact location.



If you do get stuck,

- Stay with your car. No matter how tempting, do not, repeat, do not try to walk to safety during a winter storm.
- Radio your location and appraise the listener of your location and status. Ask the listener to check back with you on a set schedule. Run the engine while you are transmitting to avoid draining the battery.
- Start the car, and use the heater for about ten minutes every hour or so. Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow so that fumes don't back up into the car. Keep a window (on the opposite side of the car from which the wind is blowing) open a crack for fresh air. If you started with a full tank, you should have enough fuel to do this for at least 48-72 hours, long enough for rescuers to arrive.
- Leave the parking lights on while the engine is running so that you can be seen.
- As you sit, move your arms and legs to keep the blood circulating.

Always Keep an Emergency Kit in the Trunk of your Car. Make sure each car you drive has a disaster supplies kit containing:

- Blankets
- An Extra Set of dry Clothing wrapped in a plastic bag
- A shovel
- A supply of sand (water-softener salt is cheap and comes in bags) for weight and use as a traction enhancer.
- Jumper Cables
- Flares
- First Aid Kit
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- A small non-perishable food supply (candy bars, pop-top cans of Vienna sausage, crackers, or other non-perishables not affected by cold).
- A Brightly-Colored cloth to tie to the antenna if you get stuck.

From the NWS Skywarn Brochure



SkyWarn Winter Education: Measuring Snow

The SkyWarn program is not intended to provide regular, formal weather observations to the weather service. Rather, it is intended to provide reports of severe weather such as hail, heavy sleet, freezing rain, ice accumulations, and high winds. These phenomena should be reported immediately to the SkyWarn 1-800 number, or reported through the SkyWarn nets if activated during a blizzard or winter storm.

SkyWarn volunteers should avoid providing extraneous information such as snowfall and snow depth if they are not properly trained in how to measure such information.

Measuring snow is a serious business for official NOAA Cooperative Observers. These highly-trained individuals use very detailed and tightly-scheduled, carefully-controlled equipment and techniques to provide accurate and precise measurements for meteorologists and climatologists.

By contrast, however, most SkyWarn volunteers are not sufficiently trained or skilled at measuring snow to provide much useful weather data beyond reporting unusually-severe conditions.

If properly trained, however, SkyWarn observers can enhance the usefulness of their observations by giving this information as a supplemental part of their severe weather report, or when requested by the activated SkyWarn net manager.



To measure snowfall, you must use a flat, unbendable, hard surface, and it must be painted white.

The surface does not need to be very large: a single 12-inch by 12-inch square-foot piece of plywood will do nicely.

The board must be placed on the ground, flat and level, **before** the snow begins to fall. It helps if you place a tiny

There are three measurements used by NOAA with respect to snow. The three measurements are made using different techniques.

The first measurement is called “Snowfall”, the second is “Snow Depth”, and the third is “Precipitation”. These three terms have very different meanings, and the numbers must be measured and reported correctly.

SNOWFALL

Regardless of what you hear on the radio or TV, or what your neighbors say, it is completely meaningless to report that “the storm dumped eight inches of snow on the city over the weekend.” That is NOT “Snowfall”.

Snowfall is the amount of snow which accumulates on a flat, white, level surface (called a “snowboard”) placed out in the open (away from obstructions such as buildings, trees, fences, decks, and lawn furniture) between periodic manual “clearing” operations.

flag, wire, or other marker next to the board so you can find it once snow has covered it up.

To take a “Snowfall” reading, use a ruler or hard tape measure calibrated in tenths of an inch. Snowfall is always measured to the nearest tenth of an inch. Stick the ruler down in the snow until it hits the snowboard surface, and take the reading at the surface of the snow. Do not lift the snowboard to take the reading, as moving the board will cause the snow to settle slightly.

Once you have taken your reading, *write it down* (human memory is notorious for its failures), and then pick the snowboard up and wipe it clean. Place the clean snowboard back down very carefully in a new location on TOP of the surface of the snow so that it is level. If necessary move your flag or marker to the new location.

Do not replace your snowboard in the hole where it originally was located. The snow from around the edges of the hole will collapse or blow back onto the snowboard and cause error in your next measurement. Make sure the new location is level, flat, and away from obstacles such as buildings, fences, trees, etc.

Snowfall readings should be taken once every six hours, or when snow has accumulated on the board close to four inches.

If readings are taken more often than every six hours, add the read-

SEVERE WEATHER REPORTS

SkyWarn volunteers should report hail, heavy sleet, freezing rain, ice accumulations, and high winds.

SkyWarn volunteers should become familiar with the difference between hail, which normally occurs during thunderstorms in the spring and summer, versus sleet, which often is much tinier, lighter, and occurs without thunder and lightning when the temperature is near or below freezing.

Freezing rain is rain that freezes once it contacts the cold surface of the ground or other objects.

Ice accumulation is measured by breaking off a piece of ice accumulating on an object, and measuring the thickness of the ice chunk to the nearest tenth of an inch. Ice accumulation measurements can be made once every three hours or when requested by SkyWarn net control.

When reporting the severe weather mentioned in the paragraphs above, SkyWarn volunteers should resist the urge to add extraneous information to their reports unless they know their measurements were taken in accordance with strict NOAA measurement techniques.

NOAA SNOW MEASUREMENTS

ings together to get a single six-hour snowfall total.

For example, if it is snowing very hard, and you record 4.1 inches after 3 hours, clear your board, and you then record another 2.4 inches after another 3 hours, you will report a six-hour snowfall total of 4.1 + 2.4 inches, or 6.5 inches of snowfall for that six hour period.

Snowfall does not have to be reported every six hours. You can report a daily total, but a daily total must be for exactly 24 hours.

Use the word “Snowfall” when reporting the 6-hour or 24-hour snow measured in this way.

You are also free to add up the measurements during an entire storm for a “storm total snowfall”.

Snow packs down as it accumulates, the sun causes melting and evaporation (sublimation), and wind blows snow away. So you can readily see that “Snowfall” cumulatively measured every six hours during a snowstorm is quite likely very different from the depth of snow that will be on the ground at the end of that snowstorm. It is actually possible for a storm to drop 12 inches of SNOWFALL, and yet only six to eight inches of snow will be on the ground at the end of the storm.

Be clear: “**Snowfall**” is not the same as “**snow depth**”.

SNOW DEPTH

Snow depth is the amount of accumulated snow on the ground at the time of your observation. Snow depth observations are taken once per day. The measurement of snow depth includes not only new snow from the current storm, but also includes any old leftover snow from previous storms, ice, melted and refrozen snow, slush, sleet, etc.

Snow depth should be measured in undisturbed areas that have not been walked on, trodded upon, or otherwise disturbed by man or animals. To measure snow depth, walk around the undisturbed area sticking your ruler into the snow and measure from the bottom of the snow to the top. On a hard surface such as a driveway or sidewalk, this will give you snow depth. On grass, however, snow tends to stick to grass blades, and thus the ruler will measure the snow depth plus the gap between the bottom of the snow to the actual ground. Be sure you are measuring only the depth of accumulated snow and ice.

Do not take measurements in obvious drifts or piles of snow which



have gathered along the edges of buildings, trees, buildings, etc. Measure only in open areas away from obstacles. Make numerous measurements, and average them.

Snow depth is always reported rounded to the nearest whole inch.

“Snow depth” is measured and reported only once per day. It is possible to have a 24-hour snowfall total of 16.2 inches, for example, but only have a snow depth of 10 inches due to packing, melting, etc.

Similarly, if there was snow on the ground already before a snow storm — perhaps weeks old — it is possible for a station to report a snowfall of only 1.1 inches, but a snow depth of 42 inches.

PRECIPITATION

Precipitation is the water equivalent, measured during the 24-hour observation period. Very few SkyWarn volunteers will be willing to go to the trouble of reporting precipitation. Precipitation measurements are the least necessary of the three measurements, but are still important for cooperative observer stations to provide a continuous set of observations for climatological purposes.

Precipitation measurements requires a special rain gauge with a special snow accumulation tube built to go along with the rain gauge, and involves melting the snow accumulating in the tube over the past 24-hour observation period.

An amateur weather observer can obtain an approximation of the precipitation figure by using a very large rain gauge which allows accumulating of snow through a large (more than six square inches) opening, and then carefully melting the snow inside to obtain a water equivalent reading.

But it must be emphasized that unless the observer uses the official weather service-approved equipment, such measurements will not have official standing with NOAA and should not be provided during SkyWarn Reports.

VIDEO AVAILABLE ON-LINE

A good and informative video on snow measurement for cooperative stations can be found online at:

http://madis-data.noaa.gov/snow_video.html

Let’s hope that we don’t have to measure too much snow this winter.



Public Service Event Report: Shenandoah 500 Bike Ride



The MARA and VARA clubs worked together to make our premiere public service event of the year an enjoyable experience again. We have been supporting the riders in this large event every year since 1990. That's 23 years and counting. From the beginning our ability to provide effective communications assistance has been obvious.

In the early years cellphones were in their infancy and their coverage in the bike festival areas was non-existent. This year cell phones worked in a lot more of the places along the routes. This is partly due to the fact that the routes have now migrated out of the National Forests into the more populated areas and of course the proliferation of cell towers has made coverage much better.

This year on Saturday net control was set up once again at Mount Horeb Presbyterian Church using the 146.850 repeater. Coverage by the repeater was great even for Wayne N4EYZ who rode his motorcycle around the 100 mile loop. Other shorter loops were closer in and we had good coverage everywhere. Net control duties were covered by Augusta County Emergency Coordinator AD4TJ and Bob N1QEQ.

David could only be net control till noon on Saturday so Bob N1QEQ was thrust into "full battle"

mode for the rest of the day. Bob soon learned about how complex the duties of net control were when he had to figure out the unfamiliar back roadways of Augusta County - all the while keeping track of those 650 or more bicyclists. He had to move our ham operators around the course to follow the bulk of the riders and also make sure that any stragglers were accounted for as the day drew to a close around 5pm.

We had 16 ham volunteers Saturday and all of them performed very well together. We had the task of hauling broken bikes and sometimes just "broken people" off the course throughout the day. We sagged in 12 bikes with their riders. A special thanks goes to Greg W4GRC who helped me set up the net control trailer Friday evening and then dismantle it again on Saturday. Greg and I finally got off the course at 6pm.

Sunday morning started off bright and early with quite a few riders leaving from Shelburne School again and even more from the remote start point at Middlebrook Community Center. Our ham volunteer

numbers were way down for Sunday with only 5 folks volunteering for the entire day. We had 3



Shenandoah 500 Bike Ride (Continued)

others join us for parts of the day and a surprise volunteer Larry Kline KI4DMC from Harrisonburg. The routes were more concentrated for us on Sunday and there were fewer riders than Saturday. Most of us had to do a lot more driving on Sunday to try to cover the courses but we did a good job of keeping track of the riders. Gary KI4FZV did net control duties out of his vehicle for the entire day because we didn't have enough help to dedicate a person at a net control trailer.

The weather was nice enough on Saturday but it was beautifully sunny on Sunday. We only had to sag 9 bikes/riders on Sunday and the last of us finished up around 5:30pm.

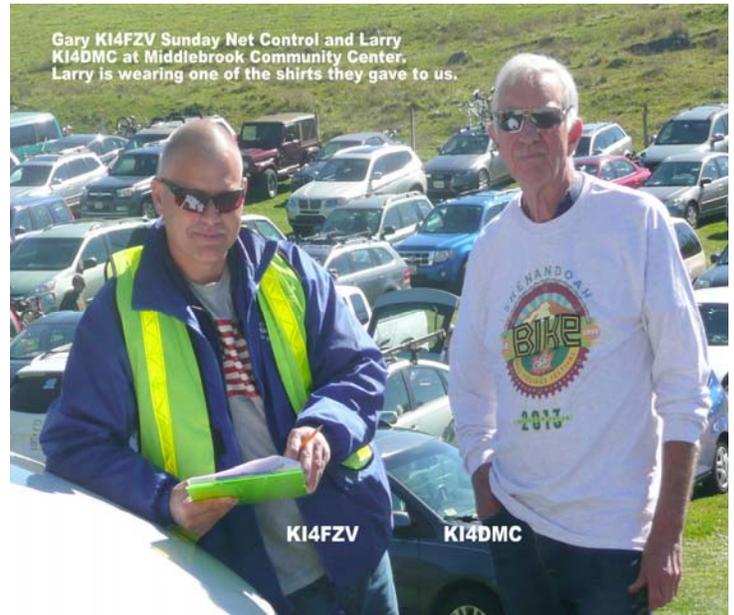
We all want to thank Tim KG4HOT for making special effort to get 147.045 back up and running for us to use Sunday.

I don't know how long it had been down but when I spoke to Tim on Thursday, he said he would try to get it repaired and on the air for us before Sunday. He says it is still not working right but it did fine for us. Thanks Tim. Thanks to the following who helped out this year.

Saturday: K4DJG WA4FJC W4GRC W4PJW



Popular rest stop near Newport and Rockbridge County on the 100 mile Century Ride



Gary KI4FZV Sunday Net Control and Larry KI4DMC at Middlebrook Community Center. Larry is wearing one of the shirts they gave to us.

KI4FZV

KI4DMC

N1QEQ N4EYZ KJ4VVP AD4TJ KG4EHM KU4XN
N4RVG KI4FZV N4XBP KI4CGI N3GLZ N4LNU

Sunday: W4PJW KI4FZV KJ4VVP K4GJG N4EYZ
KI4DMC N4RVG N3GLZ

Just as a side note - this particular bike festival is getting nation-wide attention.

The Staunton News Leader did a nice interview, you can view it here:http://www.newsleader.com/article/20131019/NEWS01/310190021/Hundreds-bike-riders-enjoy-fall-foliage?nclick_check=1

If you Google "Fall Foliage Bike Festival" you will find articles by NBC-29 Charlottesville,

NBCWashington.com and traveltips.usatoday.com plus many of the biking web sites.

Also check <https://www.facebook.com/ShenandoahFallFoliageBikeFestival>.

One of the web sites notes that this bike ride is in the top 10 fall color bike rides in the US. It's nice to be a part of something like this and we look forward to next year.

Jeff, W4PJW

Triple Play Public Service Event Report: “Two Out of Three’s Not Bad!”

This year’s anticipated “Triple Play” became merely a “Two-Fer” after the federal government shutdown lasted into early October. For safety reasons (among others, ahem) the administration of the George Washington National Forest cancelled all Special Use Permits for events in the Forest.

This effectively cancelled the Grindstone 100, the footrace whose entire course lies almost completely on trails within the forest boundaries.

The shutdown also threw a monkey-wrench in the plans of the Shenandoah 500, sponsored by the Northern Virginia Trail Rider’s Association. But the association leadership did a magnificent job of re-routing the course onto county roads. The revised route utilized public roads, including a couple of state routes running through the forest which remained open to traffic.

The ham radio volunteers did a fantastic job covering what turned out to be an almost flawless operation. Saturday morning, a little before 7:00 a.m. saw **KD9LA David Fordham** setting up Net Control on the summit of Reddish Knob. Dave used the quick deployment portable station he utilized at the public Field Day event last June. From this vantage point at 4300 feet ASL, Dave could reach all stations Saturday on simplex, and all but one or two on Sunday. Dave had his solar-charged batteries, military-surplus masting, and plenty of radios and antennas, but was soon joined by **KJ4VOV, Bernie Behling** from

Fredericksburg, who brought a fully-stocked emergency communications van (see photo).

Bob Steere N1QEQ activated the ham radio station at the Harrisonburg - Rockingham Emergency Communications Center on both days, giving hams a direct link straight to the 9-1-1 center in case of emergency. To provide a clear channel for any emergency traffic, the HRECC station and Net Control agreed on a backup frequency to handle the tactical communications. This would allow the primary net to continue functioning while the emergency was handled on the backup frequency. All through the day both days, Bob N1QEQ ran tests to determine simplex coverage from the HRECC station to various points along the route.

Fortunately, no accidents or other problems required 9-1-1 assistance this year so the backup channel wasn’t needed. However, while setting up the station equipment for the backup frequency, Bob was able to detect and diagnose a problem with some of the radios at the center.

This proves the wisdom of drill operations and periodic activations of the emergency station.

An additional problem cropped up which also highlighted the value of exercises such as this one. Propagation Saturday on the 2-meter band was such that Dave KD9LA on Reddish Knob received interference from the St. Mary’s ARES group in Maryland who began holding a Simulated Emergency Test



Left: The fully-stocked emergency communications van of **KJ4VOV Bernie**, from Fredericksburg. A former contractor, Bernie converted his work truck to store a self-contained 72-hour emergency operation when he retired. The van stores and transports equipment, it does not have an operating position inside. Equipment includes tents, tarps, cots, rope, antennas, radios, coax, power cables, generators, batteries, food, water, sanitary items, tools, and dozens of other essentials.

Triple Play Public Service Event Report: Continued

net on the primary net frequency late in the morning. Their net control, K3HKL, was kind enough to move their operation to a new frequency, but they moved to the “backup” frequency selected by the HRECC station! Luckily, no emergencies required HRECC assistance.

In fact, the only blood reported during the race was a cut finger, suffered by Net Control while setting up operations!

On Saturday morning, approximately 175 bikers departed Natural Chimneys Regional Park a few minutes after 8:00 a.m. At the park, **KI4STU Deeter Merz** and his XYL **KG4IFR Caren** provided continuous on-site communication with the race leadership.

KE4HVR Ray Colvin manned the first SAG station, located on US Highway 250 between Churchville and Monterey. Within minutes of setting up, Ray was relaying information relating to SAG operations assisting riders needing repairs and maintenance.



K4DJG Bob Van Fossen held down the fort at the Sugar Grove intersection, along with **KK4TWK Dan Farsen** in the SAG vehicle at that location. This location was an impromptu reassignment requested by the ride organizers, and had not been originally put on the map, but Bob was able to handle the new location without problem.

K4RMY Bryan Daniels manned the fuel stop in Brandywine, at the north end of Saturday’s loop, with **KC7URL Troy Wright** in the Brandywine SAG vehicle. The Brandywine firehouse was Saturday’s lunch stop. **N4WDC Dave Collins**, **KI4LLC Brian Cowger**, and **N4DSL Jason Armentrout** rode motorcycles in the event Saturday, keeping contact with the net, advising of stranded riders and other problems as they were encountered.

KN4FM Gerald Nauman tended the home stretch, positioned at the Lilly fuel stop, just south of US 33,

closing down when the sweep marshals came through about dinnertime.

Sunday morning, KI4STU, KG4IFR, N1QEQ, and KD9LA were back at their respective posts. K4DJG was back in West Virginia, this time up near Camp Run and N4DSL and KI4LLC were back on their bikes. N4WDC manned a checkpoint on the state line, and KC7URL ran the route in West Virginia and eventually was posted north of Bergton. **K3JRR Larry Harrison** manned the lunch spot at Bergton’s Community Center. Since this station could not be heard by Net Control, traffic in and out of the Bergton area was relayed by K4RMY located high atop the ridge

between Criders and Camp Run. KC7URL, KK4TWK, and W3VFR kept SAG stations available in the Forest for those few bikers adventurous enough to deviate from the published route. **W4PFM, Paul Wyse** kept the home stretch covered at the Lilly fuel stop on Sunday afternoon until the sweep riders cleared the course.

There were numerous incidents requiring SAG assis-

tance, repairs, and transport. Sunday saw the wind kick up on Reddish Knob, and the assistance of **W4PJW, Jeff Rinehart** at the summit was greatly appreciated. Operations ended about 5:30 p.m. with **N4WDC** serving as the final sweep back into base camp at Natural Chimneys.

All in all, it was a fun weekend, and significant operating experience was gained.

All in all, it was a fun weekend, and significant operating experience was gained.

The highlights of the school of hard knocks:

- ◆ The relay operation from the Bergton and Criders area worked perfectly.
- ◆ Having a ham co-located with the SAG vehicle worked very well.
- ◆ Having constant communication with race HQ was essential and worked very well.

Continued

Triple Play Public Service Event Report: Continued



Left: the quick-deployment station of David KD9LA, consists of a sun shelter which can be set up by a single person (although a second makes it go a lot quicker & easier!), along with the military surplus masting and tripod support, along with a 6 dB gain omni-directional antenna, folding table, deep-cycle batteries with solar panel charger, folding camp chairs, and radios. Dave has a second radio on standby, plus extra antennas, coax, power cables, etc. In the trunk.

- ◆ The Reddish Knob location has radio coverage into areas far removed from the valley, so potential for interference should be considered on future operations.
 - ◆ The phrase “the frequency is clear”, said by Net Control at the end of an exchange, alerts other stations that the channel is available, This is essential when the simplex stations can not hear other stations which might be using the frequency.
 - ◆ The HRECC station equipment problems were discovered and will be addressed.
 - ◆ The wind at Reddish Knob can be hazardous even on a good-weather day.
 - ◆ The presence of the general public on Reddish Knob means that two hams should be assigned to this location, one to run the radio operations, and the other to answer the questions asked by a curious public.
 - ◆ The operation could benefit from naming or otherwise designating specific locations on the map. This year’s map lacked course detail due to the last-minute course changes, but having certain points with designated names or letters
- Net Control apologizes if any station was left out of the log.

Shenandoah 500



The **Shenandoah 500** went very well this year despite all the changes needed due to the government shut-down. To my knowledge there were no major accidents that involved emergency assistance.

I would like to thank and recognize those that helped and volunteered. Due to the route changes all those that volunteered were not needed. Net Control on Reddish Knob both days was Dave KD9LA. At Natural Chimneys both days Deeter KI4STU.

Saturday: Ray KE4HVR, Bob K4DJG, Gerald KN4FM, Bryan K4RMY, Jason N4DSL, Brian KI4LLC

Sunday: Bob K4DJG, Gerald KN4FM, Dave N4WDC, Larry K3JRR, Paul W4PFM, Bryan K4RMY, Jason N4DSL and Brian KI4LLC

Volunteered: Gayle KU4XN and Herb AA2BF

Additionally there were several riders and SAG drivers that were hams and helped out as well. I hope I haven't missed anyone but if I did please accept my apologies. I have shirts for those that helped. I'll get them out ASAP.

Again thanks to all who made this a success.

Bryan, K4RMY

Reminder

All ARES members that helped out with the Bike event: Your time preparing for /working the Bike is needed by your appropriate EC for their reports. Thanks for everyone's help!

73, David AD4TJ EC for Augusta County

VARA Secretary's Report – October 1st Meeting



The **Valley Amateur Radio Association** held a meeting at the Country Cooking restaurant in Staunton on **October 1st**. The meeting was opened at 7 pm by President W4ZAO, John Keller.

30 members and guests introduced themselves. The \$16 winner of the 50/50 drawing was Ray Lafalce K2ULW, who just recently moved back to the area.

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

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Doug Tippett W8RTN being away, Al Bonck N3JB gave September's report for him. His report was approved.

ARES report: EC AD4TJ David Tanks announced that the next ARES net will be October 10th, at 8 pm, on the 146.850 repeater, with Steven Grant W4IIV volunteering to be Net Control.

Upcoming events: John W4ZAO said that Brian Daniels K4RMY is still looking for help on Flagpole Knob for the Triple Play weekend of the 5th and 6th. Also John said that Geep Howell WA4RTS will have more info on the Grindstone race soon. John is still looking for help for that event.

Old business: Ray Colvin KE4HVR said there were about 16 people at the VARA picnic in September. The club decided to discuss next month whether to continue the picnics.

Greg Czerniak W4GRC on storage units: Staunton Mini-Storage is merging, and will call him Friday with details on pricing / availability; the Kalorama Street units have 24 hour access, with no gates to hassle with in case there is no power. The VanFossen units will require a call to get access after-hours. More discussion to be done at the November meeting.

Greg W4GRC also talked with the old Shoney's people, and they seemed more interested in closing off the back room after it was pointed out that it could be used by other groups also, as a meeting place, or dinners, etc. They are even considering installing a screen.

New business:

Officer nominations: It is that time of year when officers are needed for the club. David AD4TJ said that he would continue in his position as secretary, and Steven W4IIV said he would like to run for vice president. If anyone is interested in an office please email John at eaglehiker@gmail.com.

Greg made a motion that the club give a 1 year free club membership to newly-licensed hams in Augusta County who earned their licenses at the tests at Dayton, VA. Discussion: Bob VanFossen K4DJG said the average age of testees is 30ish. Mary Ann Lafalce K2ULW wondered if we can get into schools to demonstrate ham radio; Greg said it may be difficult. Elizabeth Varner told us that there are Morse Code classes or courses in Stuarts Draft Middle School right now! Dave Fordham KD9LA said that VEC rules state that they can not divulge info from testing sessions. He also said that a sign-up sheet for those who would be interested in joining a club was at 3 test sessions, but resulted in only 1 person signing it. Greg then modified his motion to state: that on a regular basis the secretary of the club would check the FCC website for new hams in our area, and to notify them that they are being offered a free 1 year membership to the club. Ray KE4HVR suggested that we should include upgrades (those that have upgraded and are not members currently). That was accepted. Greg's proposal then passed.

Greg: Christmas party discussion: combine with MARA at the Wood Grill? David KD9LA, MARA's president, said that he thought there would be no problem with that, and that he would bring it up at their meeting on the 3rd. Passed.

Charlie Bennetch N4LNU said that he knows someone who is selling his dad's(W4RPH, SK) gear, and would like some help with it; Wayne Bowyer N4EYZ said that he had already called him and offered to help.

Bike Festival, Oct. 19-20th: John said that he may be out of town and unable to lead our effort, and would like someone to take charge. He has not received any info or updates on it from the organizers of it. He noted that last year we had 19 hams working the event on Saturday, and 11 on Sunday.

David KD9LA, said that Bob Tennyson KG4CHL's son, Steve KF4ZWK, has a 45 foot tower for give-away if someone takes it down and removes it.

Bennie Cook N4BCC, said that he got a shot in his left leg at Augusta Health, and now has no pain. He had Al N3JB build a meter to check the frequency of the voltage coming from a generator to help him troubleshoot his generator.

With no other business to discuss, and no program, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

AD4TJ, David Tanks, VARA Secretary

MARA Secretary's Report - October 3rd Meeting

Meeting Called to Order at 7:31 PM by President **David Fordham KD9LA**

President Fordham announced that since a quorum was present and according to our by-laws, this would be the scheduled Annual Meeting of the Corporation.

John Spillman ,KT4CB, was introduced as our serving Monitor Editor.

Attendance: 34 present – 30 Members and 4 Guests. Introductions made all around.

New Members: We had two 1st readings for Zack Shifflet KK4RUZ and George Brunk WB4IXG

Secretary Minutes: Approved as printed in the October 2013 issue of The Monitor

Treasurer Report: Approved as printed in the October 2013 issue of The Monitor



Reports by Committees:

Volunteer Examiners: Gayle KU4XN The next testing session is on October 12th at the Woodman of the World.

Repeater Committee: All repeaters are functioning. The **APRES** was reported as now having a temperature sensor.

147.315 A new controller has been ordered. President Fordham said that he timed the squelch tail as 30 seconds duration.

131.8 is the tone for all repeaters.

ARES/RACES: Ellsworth Neff K4LXG says that Roger Pence N1XP, in Staunton , is the new DEC

Public Service: Bike Shenandoah on September 21st 4 people helped. There were 95 Riders said Gerald Nauman KN4FM

The Federal Shutdown may affect the Shenandoah 500 and force re-routing the roads said David Collins N4WDC

The Horse Ride on October 6th in Timberville was reported by Ray Ritchie K4NRA

Old Business: The RHM Emergency station is still in limbo. The new Hospital Administration is slow in making decisions and authorizations. MARA Repeater Contributions will be collected in February

New Business: The Christmas Party will be held the 1st Thursday of December at the Woodgrill. It was voted and approved to invite the VARA Club. They will provide the entertainment for this annual holiday party.

Nominating Committee: The following slate of officers were nominated for the next year

President Gerald Nauman KN4PM

Vice President Gerald Brunk K4RBZ

Treasure Sheryl Tonini KJ4DOC

Secretary Dennis Phillips NS4K

The vote was taken and all were elected to office.

Other Announcements: 50/50: won by Gail Shull KG4JBF The total pot amount was a \$24.00 and the split was \$12.

Motion to Adjourn, seconded, passed.

Program:

President David Fordham presented a Power Point picture presentation about a Dayton Hamfest fixture, **Mendelson's Liquidation Outlet**. He began by showing their large tent on the Hamfest site. He had the opportunity to visit their main downtown Dayton location. It is blocks long and fills several high rise industrial buildings. The dozens of photos of every conceivable consumer product along with President Fordham's constant reminder that all you had to do was "make them an offer". made for a very enjoyable and humorous presentation. The vast amount of electronics available for sale was mind-boggling. Several comments were heard during the meeting that plans were being made to take a trip in a Ryder truck to Dayton.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Phillips, MARA Secretary

Mendelson's Liquidation Outlet.



PVARC Secretary's Report—October 4th Meeting

The **Page Valley Amateur Radio Club** was called to order at the Lord Fairfax Community College – Luray Campus at 1800 by Bob/WO4MI, President. With 15 of 25 members in attendance a quorum was present to conduct business.

Announcements: Bob/WO4MI reported the passing of Ben Endicott/N4SFG on September 16th. Ben was one of the founding members of PVARC and was active in many other local public service organizations as well. His family is planning to host a “memorial” for Ben on Saturday, October 12th, although details are not yet confirmed - we'll keep you informed as they develop.

He also reported that he had talked to Geoffrey/WD4LYO, who is now back in his home QTH and slowly recovering. While still physically weak, he appreciates hearing from members and hopes to rejoin us when he can. Brian/W5YQ, a long time friend of Geoffrey enjoyed a lengthy telephone call with Geoffrey as well, reporting essentially the same facts. Geoffrey's landline is: (540) 743-1493.



Morgan/K4RHD announced that the Boyce train station turns 100 years old tomorrow, October 5th and will be having a Centennial event and telegraph reenactment throughout the day. They are asking any and all hams to come and listen to some original American Morse over telegraph wires.

Secretary's Report: Sparky/KD4KL reported the Summary Minutes of the September 6th dinner meeting were printed in The Monitor and asks that they be accepted as published. The motion to approve was seconded, passing without objection. He also announced that Brian Turner/W5YQ and Harold Hall/KK4SYN (otherwise known as “double H” on the air) have joined PVARC as our newest members. The current membership is now 25 members (noting the loss of Ben/N4SFG, SK). Three past members are in arrears and renewal letters are being prepared to bring them “back into the fold.”

Treasurer's Report: Carol/KA4LAF reported that the present balance at Pioneer Bank is \$1,262.56. This is up \$48.00 from dues paid by Brian/W5YQ, Harold/KK4SYN, James/W4SIU and Don/KE4SRI. (Sec'y note: SRI paid 2014 dues in advance.) A motion to approve the Treasurer's report passed unanimously.

Committee Reports: Emergency Preparedness Committee & EOC Training Subcommittee Chair – Dave/K4DPF announced that since he was spending more time in northern Virginia and much less time in Page County he desired to resign from the chairmanship of: Emergency Preparedness; EOC Training; and, ARRL Field Day positions. He also felt he would be unable to be a member of the Website Subcommittee as well. Bob/WO4MI thanked Dave for his 5+ years of service to the club and the community, indicating that the PVARC Board will be searching for replacements, asking that anyone interested in any of the open positions to please contact one of the officers or board members.

Technical Assistance Subcommittee: Mark/N4YSA & Paul/N4PJI reported they had helped Don/KE4SRI with the installation of an antenna.

Widow's Assistance Committee: Morgan/K4RHD is working on a spreadsheet listing equipment, condition and suggested prices for Ben / N4SFG estate, which he hopes to promulgate within the next two weeks.

Old Business:

1st – The suggested rewrite of the PVARC bylaws discussed at the August 2nd meeting and modified at the September 6th meeting are up for vote this evening. The rewrite addresses suggested changes with regard to quorum requirements; and, voting by e-mail. The members were sent an e-mail of the proposed changes on September 1st which were slightly modified at the September 6th meeting. Having laid over for the statutory period – we can now vote to accept/reject the proposed changes.

Following a reading of the proposed changes by the Secretary and a short discussion, the motion to accept was made, seconded and subsequently passed unanimously. The bylaws will be amended accordingly.

2nd – A status report on the incorporation issue. While the Executive Committee has not formally met on this item, Sparky/KD4KL & Carol/KA4LAF have volunteered to begin looking into the issue and preparing “draft” paperwork

PVARC Secretary's Report (Continued)

necessary for a filing. This will ultimately require a vote of the membership. This issue continues to be tabled for action.

New Business:

1st – A dilemma. We need (once again) to discuss the availability of a restaurant able to provide a reserved banquet room meeting our criteria for: privacy/noise, individual menu selections and availability, year around on Friday evenings on a bi-monthly basis. The Luray Southern Grill cannot guarantee this on their busy Friday's – and has asked if PVARC could change to a bi-monthly Thursday reservation instead?

Following a spirited discussion the consensus was to move away from dinner/social meetings at a restaurant, and settle on monthly business / educational meetings at the **Lord Fairfax Community College** which can provide a classroom setting with good audio/visual capabilities. Notwithstanding the above, it was generally agreed that the social aspects should not be overlooked but could be met by special arrangements at a local restaurant or a members home as has been done in the past several years.

Accordingly, a motion was made by Phil/KQ4D to conduct monthly PVARC business /educational meetings at Lord Fairfax Community College – Luray Campus. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

A second motion was made by Gary/K6OZ that the meeting time be changed to 1830 to allow additional time for out of area hams to attend. The motion was seconded and passed without objection.

Morgan/K4RHD (LFCC liaison) noted that the above were subject to LFCC approval, which would probably not be a problem. Noted.

2nd – Need to fill vacancies for the following committee: 1) Emergency Preparedness Committee; 2) EOC Training Committee; 3) ARRL Field Day Subcommittee; and, 4) Website Subcommittee. (Tabled to Executive Board for recommendations.)

3rd - **Zory/KB3VQC**, on behalf of an individual at the Page Chamber of Commerce asked if PVARC might be interested in conducting a Technician training class. He has passed on several ARRL brochures and would like PVARC to consider the possibility. PVARC presently has 3 known VEC's and asks if LFCC would be an appropriate venue. (This item tabled for further action/discussion to **Zory/KB3VQC** and **Morgan/K4RHD**.)

There being no further comments or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1855. Members were reminded of the change in time and location of the next meeting: LFCC @ 1830 on Friday, November 1st.

Submitted by: **Sparky Terry/KD4KL, PVARC Secretary**

MARA Treasurer's Report

September 21, 2013 – October 20, 2013

Beginning Balance September 20, 2013 (Last Report)		\$ 2,914.16
Add: October Meeting 50/50	\$ 12.00	
New Members (2)	<u>24.00</u>	
Total Deposits		\$ 36.00
Less: Bank Fee (September)	\$ - 2.00	
SVEC (September)	<u>-22.84</u>	
Total Disbursements		<u>\$ -24.84</u>
Ending Balance as of October 20, 2013		\$ 2,925.32



Submitted by *Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC, MARA Treasurer*

The History of the .625



It has always been a long trip up Big Mountain to work on the repeater and it was no different Labor Day 1977 when a few Hams with dreams of a coordinated repeater on 146.625 headed toward the top of the Mountain.

This was not the first time that Big Mountain was the site for a VHF signal for several years prior Ellsworth Neff had been operating from the site with converted Motorola Progress line equipment on 2 meters. His job as Engineer for WSVA and then WHSV made for the perfect opportunity to play radio in his spare time on the hill, which at times could be often. At the time when engineers working the Big Mountain site worked 2/21 hour days per week were required to be on site when the station was on the air.

Ellsworth was not the only Ham who had the opportunity to mix work with Ham radio through the years, Tom Jones -W3HMB, and Buddy Lowe-K4AVW at some point worked or had reason other than just amateur radio to generate RF on the mountain top and played a role in the history of what would become the Big Mountain Repeater Association .

WHSV Which was WSVA until 1974 has been very good to the Big Mountain Repeater Association over the years. It allowed the repeater(s) to be housed in the same building and the antennas on the same tower since it was originally installed in the 1970's by Gilmore Broadcasting and soon after changed to WHSV-TV.

Tom Gimbert-K4PQD was the supplier of the first transceiver/repeater on the site with the original duplexers being supplied by Warren Denton- WA4FEI and still in use. Others that were involved on the original project Jim Landrum-W4BRH(SK) , Arthur Smiley-WA4DUM(SK), Larry Heatwole-AA4TC, Ellsworth Neff- K4LXG, Phil Rinaca-KQ4D, Ike Rozzaza-K4DIW, Doug Hughes-W4BRH (which is Jim Landrum's old call), Charlie Morrison-W4BIG and Stan Cline-K4JRX,

Some of the control operators in close to chronological order including the original call of WR4AGT, Phil Rinaca-WB4DAK now KQ4D, Buddy Lowe K4AVW, Bill Jones KE4FM, Mel Hoover WA4OKL, Bob Nemiear-W3MMC,(SK), Lewis Hensley-WA4NIC and full circle back to Phil Rinaca-KQ4D

The 146.625 repeater has now morphed into the Big Mountain Repeater Association, which is comprised of the 146.625 repeater, 443.350 repeater, the Big Node (BIGND) 145.57, a remote base on UHF/146.52 and numerous on going experiments. It is still housed in the original building using the same tower, and I suspect, the same family of copperheads in the rock pile at the south side of the building.

Those who are critical to the operation of the Big Mountain Repeater Assn.: Phil Rinaca-KQ4D, Larry Harrison-K3JRR, Gene Fraizer-KJ4HFO, Paul O'Sullivan-KK4IRS, Bob McKay-KJ4VFP, John Piotrowski-KI4YNA, Frank Worley-KE4RMB, and Ken High-K4KLH.

Submitted by Mark Hensley, N4YSA, Vice-President PVARC, AEC Page County ARES

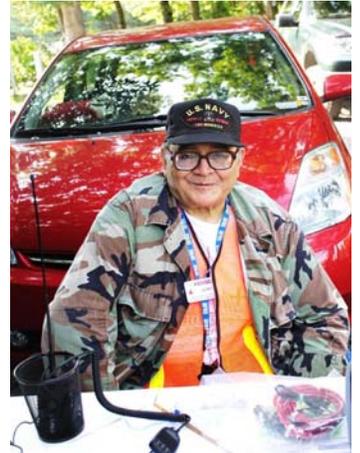
The Pendleton County 147.345

The 147.345 Pendleton County machine is back on the air from North Mountain West of Franklin WV, No PL and a elevation of 3900' and emergency power. The new call on the machine is KC8FPC Darren Hedrick of Franklin. We are glad to see the .345 back on the air and appreciate KC8FPC Darren working out all the details of getting the machine back up. If you are in the area give the .345 a workout.

Submitted by Mark Hensley, N4YSA

Report on a Visit to a Major Radio Contesting Station

PVARC member **Zory Glaser, KB3VQC**, made a PowerPoint presentation (incorporating many photographs) at the October Club meeting on his recent visit to an impressive radio contesting station located in the Glenwood/ Columbia, MD area of Howard County. He was a guest of **Frank Donovan, W3LPL**, who owns and operates the station and “antenna farm” at his home. Frank’s extraordinary station was the subject of an article in **CQ Magazine (1998)**, who frequently operates as part of the **Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC)**. PVRC is a 66 year-old (since 1947) association of approximately 16 ham radio “contesting/ DX/ Radiosport” clubs variously located in the MD, DC, VA, PA, DE, WV and NC areas.



The **W3LPL** station can operate simultaneously on 6 bands as multi-transmitter/ multi-operator (multi-/ multi). Each operating position has state of the art and / or quality vintage radio equipment, power supplies, amplifiers, mics, keyers and paddles (including K3, Viking Ranger II, Drake 2B, Collins, etc.), and computers and flat-screen monitors. The antenna array consists of 9 towers, each 200 ft. (actually about 199’, since it saves on light bulbs), with a variety of multi-element Yagj beams mounted on booms, including verticals on each **rotating tower**, with dipoles, loops and other antennas mounted and/or suspended between many of the towers. The antennas cover the 160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 m bands. A number (approx. 10) of Beverage receiving antennas (many 500 ft. in length) are also buried at various compass angles nearby. A workshop with radio/ electronic test equipment, for modifying/ repairing, and spare operating equipment is located adjacent to the operating area. Even the “cable vault” / connection space containing the feeds from each antenna is impressive.

Bernie McClenney (W3UR), who writes the ‘DX’ column for **QST Magazine**, (and publishes the “**Daily DX**”), is a neighbor of Frank’s, and shares the use of some of Frank’s antennas. Frank is a member of the CQ Contest Hall of Fame, and he and his charming wife were gracious hosts. Many thanks, Frank.

A New District Emergency Coordinator for District 15



Since Ellsworth is on medical leave, I will make the following announcement on my own behalf:

Ellsworth, Virginia SEC, appointed Roger Pience, N1XP, of Staunton, as District Emergency Coordinator, DEC, for District 15 (Blue Ridge) ARES / RACES of Virginia.

Congratulations, Roger!

District 15 encompasses Augusta, Highland, Rockingham, and Rockbridge counties.

Roger and his wife, Karen, N3TCT, recently moved to Staunton from Portland, Maine after retiring and to be near Karen's father; Grover "Doc" Cloyd, N4SMT.

73, Roger Pience, N1XP

Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG, Virginia SEC, is undergoing surgery this weekend (19-20th of October) at UVA Charlottesville. We wish him all the best.



Page County ARES News

Page County ARES monthly training will be on the last Saturday of the month at 10:00am local at the Lord Fairfax Community College. Luray Page County Center, 334 North Hawksbill St. Luray Va.

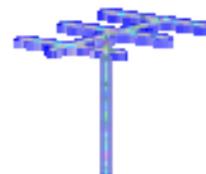
Thanks, **Mark, N4YSA**

MARS Impacted by Government Shutdown

The US **Army MARS** gateway station at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, is operating on its normal schedule during the government shutdown, but routine administrative activity is on hold, computer systems are down, and no membership paperwork can be processed for the duration. As a civilian contractor not covered by the shutdown, Operations Officer David McGinnis, K7UXO, is completing final preparations for the November 3-4 national communications exercise. The national net is functioning normally. — *US Army MARS news release* (From the ARRL web site)



DX Corner



November DXpeditions

E5_sc— Once again Bill, N7OU will be active as **E51NOU** from **Rarotonga (OC-013), South Cook Islands** between 14 October and **9 November**. He will be QRV in his spare time on 160-10 metres CW. QSL via N7OU. [TNX DX World] [from 425 DX News]

S2— S21ZBC and S21ZBB are the callsigns for the Mediterraneo DX Club's DXpedition to **Bangladesh** [425DXN 1156]: **S21ZBC** will be used on **16-22 November**, while **S21ZBB** will be used on **23-26 November**, CQ WW DX CW Contest included. A large multi-national team (**I2VGV, I8YGG, IK2LTR, IK4MTK, IT9ZZO, IZ2GNQ, IZ2KXC, IZ5GST, IZ8CCW, DF7TT, DJ7JC, DJ9RR, DL3GA, DL5DSM, DL80BF, F1HRE, F5EOT, HB9OCR, OE3JAG, ON7RN, RA9USU, S21AM, S21D, S21RC, YO5OED and YO9XC**) will be active on **160-6m** with six stations - two for SSB, two for CW and two for RTTY. QSL via IK2VUC, direct or bureau. Logs will be up loaded to LoTW six months after the conclusion of the DXpedition. Further information, including logsearch and OQRS in due course, can be found on www.mdxc.org/bangladesh2013/ [TNX MDXC] [from 425 DX News]

5X - Once again Nick, G3RWF will be active in his spare time as **5X1NH** from Uganda from 24 September until **16 November**. He prefers CW, with some activity on SSB and digital modes. QSL via home call, direct and bureau, and LoTW. [TNX G3RWF] [from 425 DX News]

5R— Once again Eric, F6ICX will be active as **5R8IC** from **Sainte-Marie Island (AF-090)** from **16 November to 15 December**. He will operate mainly **CW**, with some **RTTY, PSK** and **SSB**, on **40-10** metres. QSL via home call, direct or bureau, and LoTW. Logsearch and OQRS on Club Log. [from 425 DX News]

T33A BLOG → This is the place to be for up to the minute news regarding the **5-18 November T33A** DXpedition to **Banaba Island** [425DXN 1153]. "We will post information before, during and after the actual DXpedition radio operations", the team says.. "It will be as 'live' as possible".

Bookmark <http://banaba2013.wordpress.com/> as "you will not see any fresher news and information than what you will see here". [from 425 DX News]

9X - Nick, G3RWF will be active again as **9XONH** from Rwanda from **19 November** for about ten days. Joining Nick will be Alan, G3XAQ, who will be active as **9X0XA**. They will participate in the CQ World Wide DX CW Contest as SOSB entrants. QSL 9XONH via G3RWF, QSL 9X0XA via G3SWH. [TNX G3RWF and NG3K] [from DX News]

SOLOMON ISLANDS, H4. Bernard, DL2GAC and Hermann, DL2NUD are QRV as H44MS and H44HP, respectively, from Honiara until **November 26**. Activity is on the HF bands with EME as well. QSL to home calls. [from ARRL #D040]

WRTC—2014 operators announced

WRTC2014 → **WRTC2014, Inc.**, host of the **2014 World Radiosport Team Championship** (www.wrtc2014.org), is proud to announce the operators that have been invited to form teams for the competition to be held in July 2014. In addition to the 51 Team Leaders who emerged from the qualifying process, the announcement includes two Wild Card selections, a Youth team, and the defending champion from WRTC2010:

Area	Team	Leader Name	Area	Team	Leader Name	Area	Team	Leader Name
AF	3V/KF5EYY	Achraf Chaabane	EU3	LY9A	Gediminas Lucinskas	NA4W	AD4Z	Julio Henriquez
AS1	R9DX	Vadim Ovsyannikov	EU3	YL1ZF	Kaspars Uztics	NA5	N5DX	Kevin Stockton
AS2	RC90	Anatoly Polevik	EU4	OE3DIA	Ivan Dobrocky	NA5	N5DX	Kevin Stockton
AS3	5B4WN	Marios Nicolaou	EU4	OM2VL	Vegh Laszlo	NA6	N6MJ	Daniel Craig
AS4	BA4ALC	Jie Zheng	EU4	OM3BH	Rastislav Hrnko	NA6	K6AM	John Barcroft
AS5	JH5GHM	Katsuhiro "Don" Kondou	EU4	OE2VEL	Wolfgang "Wolf" Klier	NA7	K7RL	Mitch Mason
EU1	CT1ILT	Filipe Monteiro Lopes	EU4	S50A	Tine Brajnik	NA8	K8MR	Jim Stahl
EU1	F8DBF	Sebastien Le Gall	EU5	E77DX	Emir "Braco" Memic	NA9	W9RE	Michael Wetzel
EU1	MOCFW	Kazunori Watanabe	EU5	UU4JMG	Andriy Kotovsky	NA10	KU1CW	Alex Tkatch
EU1	GOCKV	Olof Lundberg	EU5	403A	Ranko Boca	NA11	VY2ZM	Jeffrey Briggs
EU1	F4DXW	Stephane Van Langenhoven	EU5	UR0MC	Roman Tkachenko	NA12	VE7CC	Lee Sawkins
EU2	LX2A	Philippe Luty	EU5	9A6XX	Hrvoje Horvat	NA13	K9VV	Fred Kleber
EU2	IK2NCJ	Luca Aliprandi	EU6	RL3FT	Iurii Khmelenko	OC	KH6ND	Michael Gibson
EU2	DJ5MW	Manfred Wolf	EU6	RX3APM	Sergey Dyachenko	SA1	PY2YU	Hamilton Oliveira Martins
EU2	IK1HJS	Carlo De Mari	EU6	UA3DPX	Andrey Melanin	SA2	CX6VM	Jorge Diez
EU2	DL1QQ	Sandy Raeker	NA1	K1LZ	Krassimir Petkov	WILD	LZ4AX	Alexander Avramov
EU3	ES5TV	Tonno Vahk	NA2	W2RE	Ray Higgins	WILD	DK6XZ	Suad Zukic
EU3	OH2UA	Toni Linden	NA3	KE3X	Ken Low	YOUTH	IZ1LBG	Filippo Vairo
EU3	OH2UA	Toni Linden	NA4E	NN3W	Richard DiDonna	CHAMP	RW1A	Vladimir Aksenov

Each Team Leader will select one Team Mate for the competition. Team Leaders must accept their invitation to WRTC2014 and nominate their Team Mate by October 15, 2013. If a Team Leader is unable to accept, the invitation will go to the next highest qualifying applicant from the selection area. Once all of the Team Leader invitations are accepted, there will only be one other way to gain entrance to the WRTC2014 competition - through a Team Sponsorship. A Team Sponsor donation earns the right to select a team. Only two Team Sponsorships are currently available. Contact Doug, K1DG (k1dgd@wrtc2014.org) or Randy, K5ZD (k5zd@wrtc2014.org) for details. Sponsored Teams will be announced at a later date. [from 425 DX News]

Wake Island DXpedition delayed by Government Shutdown

Shutdown Upends Ham Radio Buffs' Trip Marking Massacre

By John McCormick - Oct 4, 2013 12:00 AM ET

For anyone questioning the reach of the federal government shutdown, consider Wake Island.

Not much more than military-plane refueling and classified operations occur on the unincorporated U.S. territory, a coral atoll located between Hawaii and [Guam](#), about 6,700 miles (10,780 kilometers) from the legislative standoff in [Washington](#).

That was about to change this week with the arrival of a dozen ham-radio operators who thought they'd won approval for a two-week commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the World War II massacre of almost 100 U.S. civilian contractors on Wake Island by the Japanese on Oct. 7, 1943.

Instead, after months of preparation, the trip is on ice because of a paperwork delay the group attributes to the partial federal shutdown, which started Oct. 1 as Republicans and Democrats failed to agree on a stopgap spending measure.

"They made it sound like it was just unfortunate timing," said [Craig Thompson](#), 61, one of the expedition's leaders. "At the level that it was at, they were focused on what they had to do to shut down government, to prepare their budgets and deal with all of the other changes that were going on."

The operation was of special interest to tens of thousands of ham operators inside and outside the U.S. The hobbyists collect contacts with all countries and islands in a practice known as DXing. Because Wake Island hasn't had a major radio [expedition](#) since 1998, there's great demand for its confirmation of a contact there.

Missing Signature

All the paperwork was in place, except for final travel orders that needed one last Pentagon signature, said Thompson, an electronics company owner from central [Illinois](#) who is a veteran of radio expeditions to other remote locales, including Midway Island and Swains Island in the [Pacific Ocean](#).

"Due to the U.S. Government shutdown, the Wake Island K9W Forgotten 98's Commemorative DXpedition is now on hold pending a revised schedule," a notice posted on the group's [website](#) says in a reference that includes its special call sign.

The U.S. [Air Force](#) manages Wake and access is restricted. The group was to fly commercial on Oct. 2 to Honolulu, where they would have then boarded a military flight today to Wake.

The decision to cancel was made late on Oct. 1 after determining the group probably wouldn't get final approval in time to catch the second flight, flown once every two weeks.

Anniversary Date

"They believed in the commemoration of these 98 people," Thompson said of the military. "Unfortunately, we are going to lose the significance of the Oct. 7 date, because that was actually when it happened."

Wake Island was annexed by the U.S. in 1899 for a cable station for trans-Pacific communications, according to the Central Intelligence Agency's World [Factbook](#). An air and naval base was built during 1940 and 1941, and in December 1941, just after the attack on [Pearl Harbor](#), the island was captured by the Japanese and held until the end of the war.

Some of the contractor prisoners of war killed on the island have yet to be identified and were interred in a military cemetery in Honolulu, Thompson said. Publicity about the expedition has already caused international attention and some people have brought forward DNA samples in hopes of repatriating the remains of missing family members, he said.

Since 1974, the island's airstrip has been used by the U.S. military, as well as for emergency landings. There are about 150 military personnel and civilian contractors on the island charged with maintaining the airfield and communications facilities, according to the Factbook.

Trip Budget

Sometimes those workers are ham operators, although one person isn't able to make the tens of thousands of contacts the expedition was planning during its around-the-clock operation.

The trip's budget is about \$140,000, Thompson said, with operators investing a minimum of \$9,000 of their own money. Costs include reimbursing the government for the Boeing DC-8 flight from Honolulu to Wake.

"This was actually revenue neutral to the government," Thompson said. "All it would have done was make their flight more efficient. We were filling seats that wouldn't have been filled."

To contact the reporter on this story: [John McCormick](#) in Chicago at jmccormick16@bloomberg.net

To contact the editor responsible for this story: Jeanne Cummings at [jcummings21@bloomberg.net](mailto:jcumings21@bloomberg.net)

[From Bloomberg.com/news] Link:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-10-04/shutdown-upends-ham-radio-buffs-trip-marking-massacre.html>

FROSTFEST

The Mid-Atlantic's
Largest Winter Hamfest!

Frostfest 2014 is approaching! It will be held on **Saturday, February 1, 2014** at the Richmond Raceway Complex, from 8:30AM until 3:30PM.

We are looking forward to a great hamfest with manufacturers' representatives, new radio dealers, accessory dealers, and many, many tables filled with amateur radio equipment of all descriptions. There will be VE Testing, forums and meetings, and much, much more.

Our **Grand Prize is \$1,000 in Frostfest Buck\$**. Also, Early Bird ticket holders will be able to enter at 8AM, 30 minutes before General Admission starts!

All the details can be found at <http://www.frostfest.com>.

Tickets and tables can be purchased online at <http://www.frostfest.com>.

Plan on joining us for **Frostfest 2014**.

Frostfest is sponsored by the **Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society**

VE Test Session Report



Thanks to those who gave up their Saturday morning of their time to help with this important service:

GERALD NAUMAN , KN4FM

JIM LEHMAN, W4POL

FOSTER FARONE , WF40

ROBERT VANFOSSEN, K4DJG

And apologies to Hugh Pettis, K3EC for the mistake of his call sine in the report from August.

Treat yourself to an upgrade for Christmas.

The Volunteer Sessions are held the second Saturday of each even month.

The next Volunteer Examiner Session is scheduled for **Saturday, December 14th**, at the Woodmen of the World building on Highway 42 (John Wayland Highway) just north of Dayton, Virginia. Sign-in starts at 9:00 am, followed immediately by testing. If you are an accredited VE and would like to help, contact Gayle Shull, KU4XN, at gayle64@verizon.net. If that doesn't work, try gayle642@verizon.net.



Gayle Shull, KU4XN

Boyce Centennial Photo and Video



Hey Gang,

Here is a photo of probably the best part of the Boyce Centennial Event (well to me). In the photo there are three generations. You may think 'What's the big deal'? Well, the big deal is not the fact that all three sat at the telegraph, or that the five-year old girl had a blast playing with the 'bug'. It is the fact that the girl's mother, who is blind, was given the chance to connect to history through sitting at the telegraph and sending some code (well random dots and dashes) with both the straight key and the 'bug'. That sums up why we do what we do.

Whether it is as a ham operator and working events in the public service field or a historian helping the blind connect with the past. We are here for the people, to help and serve the people.

Now here is a video of the 'local sounder' at work. Complete with a Prince Albert can ;-)
(sorry for turning my smart phone sideways, but I wanted a good close up) as well as a couple TV 3 Winchester Links:

Here is the Video of the 'Local Sounder' in action, complete with a Prince Albert Tobacco can.

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10151627391181781&l=1424859851204664945>

Here is TV 3 Winchester's website, that was aired to announce the event.

<http://www.tv3winchester.com/home/headlines/Boyce-Railway-Depot-Celebrates-100-Years-226363601.html>

Here is TV 3 Winchester's coverage of the event on Saturday.

<http://www.tv3winchester.com/home/headlines/Boyce-Railway-Station-Celebrates-Centennial-226677501.html>

73, Nate, KI4MSK

Reward Offered

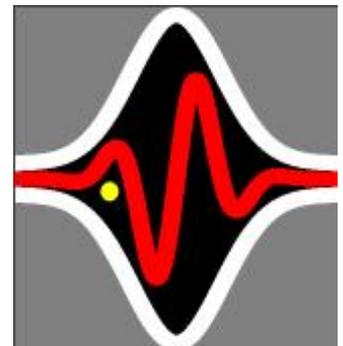
A reward of 500 Microfarads is being offered for information leading to the arrest of Hop-a-Long Capacity. This unrectified criminal escaped from a Weston Primary Cell where he had been clamped in ions awaiting the Gauss Chamber.

He is charged with the induction of an 18 turn coil named Milli Henry who was found choked and robbed of valuable joules. He is armed with a carbon rod and is a potential killer. If encountered, he may offer a series of resistance.

Capacity is also charged with driving a DC motor over a Wheatstone Bridge and refusing to let the band-pass.

He was last seen riding a kilocycle with his friend Eddy Current and playing a Harmonic.

The electromotive force spent the night searching for him in a magnetic field, where he appeared to have gone to earth. They had no success and believe he has returned Ohm via short circuit.



Upcoming Calendar of Events

November

- 1 **PVARC Club Meeting**
- 1-7—Easter Island DXpedition
- 1-9—South Cook Island (OC-013)
- 1-16—Uganda DXpedition [5X1NH]
- 1-26—Solomon Islands-H4[HF]
- 2-4—November Sweepstakes—CW
- 3—Daylight Saving Time ends**
- 3—Page County ARES Net
- 5—Election Day**
- 5 - **VARA Club Meeting**
- 5-18—Banaba Island DXpedition
- 7 - **MARA Club Meeting**
- 10—Page County ARES Net
- 11— Veterans Day
- 16-17 EME Contest: 50-1296 MHz (Round 2)
- 16-22—Bangladesh DXpedition [**S21ZBC**]
- 16-30 –Sainte-Marie Island [**AF-090**][**5R8IC**]
- 23-26—Bangladesh DXpedition [**S21ZBB**]
- 17—Page County ARES Net
- 16-18 November Sweepstakes - Phone
- 20 – Deadline for December submissions***
- 24—Page County ARES Net
- 28— Thanksgiving**



December

- 1—Page County ARES Net
- 1-15—Sainte-Marie Island [AF-090]
- 3 - **VARA Club Meeting**
- 5 - **MARA Club Meeting and Christmas Banquet**
- 6 - **PVARC Club Meeting**
- 6-8—160 Meter
- 8—Page County ARES Net
- 10—Augusta County ARES Net
- 14—VE Testing Session
- 14-15—10Meter
- 15—Page County ARES Net
- 20 – Deadline for January submissions***
- 22—Page County ARES Net
- 22—Rookie Roundup—CW
- 25— Christmas Day**
- 29—Page County ARES Net
- 31—Annual Membership Renewal Due**
- 31—New Years Eve**



Monitor Submission Deadline: The 20th of the Month

The standard monthly deadline for submissions to the Monitor is the 20th of each month for the next month's issue. While it is frequently possible to submit material a couple of days after the deadline and get it into the next issue, this is not guaranteed. Minutes, announcements, articles, for-sale items, wanted-ads, articles, reports, and other material needs to be in the editor's hands by the 20th of each month for guaranteed inclusion in the upcoming issue. Photographs, write-ups, notes, and other submissions are always welcome.

The club newsletter, **the Monitor**, is provided free of charge monthly to all members of all three clubs via email distribution, in PDF format. However, it is the individual club members' responsibility to notify the newsletter editor directly of all changes in email address. Electronic back issues will be provided free to members on request.

Elderly, disabled, or special-needs members may make special arrangements with their respective club officers to receive a hardcopy of the Monitor via U.S. mail in lieu of the electronic PDF version. However, the hardcopy requires additional production and delivery time and is not guaranteed to arrive before the scheduled monthly club meeting dates.

Members not receiving the electronic Monitor in a timely fashion (e.g., before their monthly club meeting) should notify the newsletter editor promptly to investigate and resolve the problem with distribution.

Members who are using the latest update version of Adobe Reader and experience trouble opening the Monitor email attachment can contact the newsletter editor for assistance.

MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.**(Effective 1/1/2014)**

President: Gerald Nauman, KN4FM
 Vice President: Gerry Brunk, KB4RBZ
 Secretary: Dennis Phillips, NS4K
 Treasurer: Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC
 Board (exp 2014): Andrew Pearson, N4RCE
 Board (exp 2015): David Fordham, KD9LA
<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 W4ZAO
 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 Staun-
 ton, 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: Bob Forrest, WO4MI
 Vice President: Mark Hensley N4YSA
 Secretary/Treasurer: Mike "Sparky" Terry, KD4KL
 Board Member: Morgan Phenix K4RHD
 Board Member: : Geoffrey Phillips, WD4LYO

<http://www.k4pmh.org>

PVARC meets the first Friday of each month
 at Lord Fairfax Community College
 334 N. Hawksbill St., in Luray Virginia
 The meeting begins at 6:30 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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 in the Central Shenandoah Valley.

Distribution is in Adobe PDF format via email attachment
 to all club members in good standing.

Clubs differ in their policies regarding paper copies.
 Contact the president of your respective club
 for information on paper copies.

Back issues are freely available on the MARA website
 starting a few months after publication.

Since the clubs derive their revenue from memberships,
 the Monitor is not to be made regularly available on a
 timely basis to individuals who are not club members.
 Occasional complimentary current copies are
 provided to prospective members free of charge.

Clubs may also formally decide to provide complimentary copies
 at club expense to various constituencies.
 Contact your respective club officers for more information.

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