



# THE MONITOR

December 2013

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



## MARA President's Message



I for one am looking forward to the joint MARA / VARA Christmas Party this coming December 5, at the Harrisonburg Wood Grill on Reservoir Street. We have reserved the double-room for our annual family banquet. The fellowship will be the highlight of the evening. The dinner begins at 6:30 p.m., and we have the room until the normal 8:30 clean-up time, although the restaurant rarely complains if

some of us stay afterwards to complete our visits! Come join us for the party. No reservations necessary, and dress is holiday casual. Oh, and Happy Thanksgiving to all! --

David Fordham, KD9LA, President of MARA

### December – MARA–VARA Christmas Banquet

Instead of the normal meetings, The **Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**, and the **Valley Amateur Radio Association** will have their annual **Christmas Banquet** on Thursday, **December 5th** at the Wood Grill at 1711 Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg. The festivities begin at 6:30 PM.

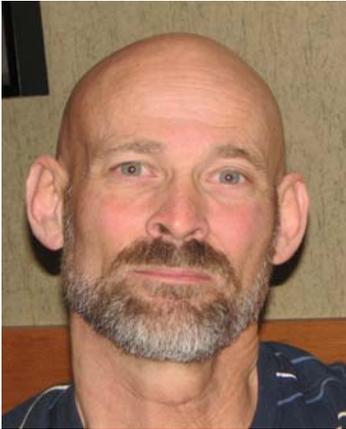
### December– PVARC Meeting: Lord Fairfax in Luray

The **Page Valley Amateur Radio Club** will hold its regular meeting on Friday, **December 6th**. The meeting will be held 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. The meeting begins at 6:30 PM.



**Don't forget to renew your club membership!**

Use the renewal form on the last page of the Monitor this month to send in your dues!



It seems just a short time ago that I walked into my first meeting of VARA and introduced myself as W4ZAO aka John Keller, a new ham and hoping to learn a thing or two about Amateur Radio, that was Jan 2010. During the entire year of 2010, I found out what Field Day was all about, along with how to erect antennas, how to volunteer for community service projects and how to spend countless hours learning all the new avenues of Amateur Radio.

If my mind serves me right, it was around September 2010 at the Club picnic that I was asked if I would run for President of VARA. Of course I tried to say no, but several members said I should and after some arm twisting (all in good fun of course) I said yes.

I became President in January 2011 and have been re-elected for 2012 and also for 2013.

But like all things, somewhere they have to end to start another adventure. So it is with mixed emotions that this will be my last Presidents letter.

Over my 3 years as President, I have had the opportunity to work with a fantastic group of members and community service leaders that I can never thank enough for their support and guidance.

But if the membership will let me indulge for a moment to thank in public some special HAMs for all they have done to expand my knowledge of Amateur radio, guiding me thru the protocol of being an officer, allowing me to ask hundreds of questions and finally hearing all my firsts that I have accomplished in my short 4 years as a HAM.

Of course most HAMS seek out an Elmer and I was fortunate that one individual named Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW did not give me time to ask what an Elmer was; he volunteered five minutes after I walked in my first meeting. Over the course of my Presidency he has been a friend, fellow officer, co-pilot at community events and field day, but most of all he is has been my driving force to expand my knowledge of Amateur Radio and to help me learn the science and experimentation of this great hobby. Jeff thanks for taking me under your vast wings and I hope to someday teach someone as well as you have taught me.

To my past and fellow officers for always being there to keep the club operating smoothly and keeping me informed so that I looked like I knew what I was doing. To David Tanks, AD4TJ, Steve Grant, W4IIV, Doug Tippet. W8RTN, Jeff Rinehart. W4PJW and Al Bonck. N3JB—a hearty THANK YOU for a job well done. To Benny, N4BCC, Bob, K4DJG, Larry, K3JRR, Gordon, WA4FJC, Jay W4QDC, David, KD9LA, Gerry, K4RBZ and lots of others that have tolerated my questions, what ifs, got another contact, scored this etc. Thanks for pushing me to improve and to keep reaching higher.

And finally I ask that all the members support our new officers for 2014 -Greg Czerniak, W4GRC President, Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW Vice President, David Tanks, AD4TJ Secretary, and Wayne Bowyer, N4EYZ Treasurer, these gentlemen will serve VARA members well, but they need each and every one of you to help throughout the year for community service projects and other events that arise. It takes every member to make these events a success and also take some of the pressure off of the workload involved to make them happen.

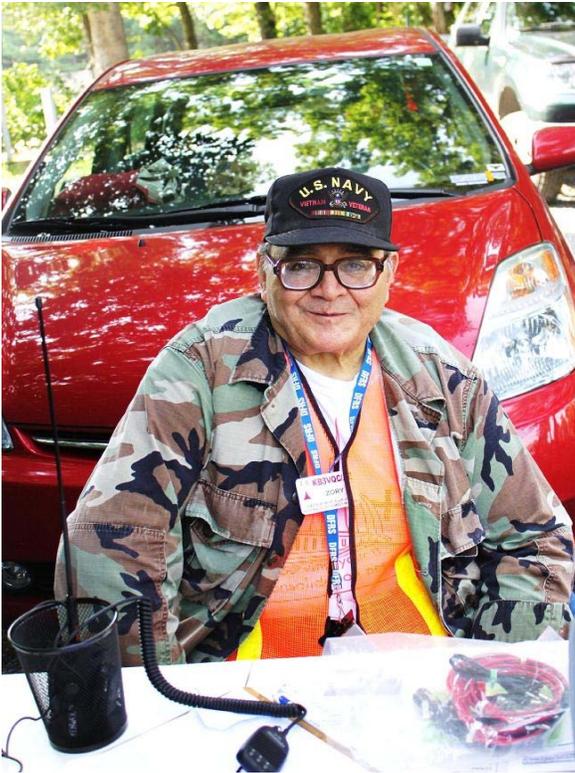
I wish you and all your families the best this holiday season and look forward to seeing each and every one of you at the meetings, events and on the bands!

Just made a QSO to WAKE ISLAND!!!! My First!!!, What if I raise my antenna another 20', Why can't I hear him? , Only another 133 countries to catch K4RBZ!!!! Oh 2014 is just around the corner and I have so many more questions, firsts and what ifs to ask and tell, ARE YOU READY???

Sincere Thanks!

John Keller W4ZAO

President VARA



**Note to *Monitor* Readers:** In the Nov. '13 issue of the *Monitor*, a short article appeared which briefly described my visit to Frank Donovan's (W3LPL) beautiful contesting station in MD. What actually appeared in the *Monitor* was the early draft of the article, sent (a few days prior to the publication deadline) by me to the Editor, John Spillman, so as to provide him with an idea of what was to follow (anticipated to be in a day or so), and with a promise to include some of the photos (to allow layout space to be planned).

What I didn't anticipate was that one of my daughters-in-law, Debra, age 46, would suddenly be hospitalized, and after 2 days on life support @Wash. Hosp. Ctr., would expire.

Since I had previously been entrusted by Debra as her medical and financial power-of-attorney, and the guardian of her 16 yr old daughter (my granddaughter), needless to say, my life suddenly changed. Editor John attempted, unsuccessfully, to reach me, and finally decided to "print" what he had "in hand".

Since that time, following the funeral, a short period of grieving, and successfully returning my granddaughter to some semblance of normalcy, and back into school, I have been able to complete the article. Editor John offered to publish the greatly revised (and hopefully more interesting) description of this outstanding contesting station, along with a selection of some of the photos I took during my visit. I apologize for not having provided the polished story initially.

73, Zory Glaser KB3VQC



Frank demonstrates the clamps he uses to attach antenna elements to the boom

## Report on a Visit to a Major Amateur Radio Contesting Station and Antenna Farm, W3LPL



Some of Frank's 9 towers

PVARC member Zory Glaser, KB3VQC, made a PowerPoint presentation (incorporating many of his photographs) at the Oct. PVARC Club meeting on his recent visit to an impressive radio contesting station located in the Glenwood area of Howard County, five miles west of Columbia, MD. Glaser was a guest of Frank Donovan, W3LPL, who owns and operates the station and the "antenna farm" at his

beautiful home. Frank's extraordinary station was the subject of an article in *CQ Magazine* (1998), and frequently operates as a part of the club competition efforts of the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC). PVRC was founded in 1947, specifically for the purpose of competing in amateur radio contests. It now has hundreds of active members in MD, DC, VA, PA, DE, WV and NC. (Author Glaser is pleased to report that he is one of the newest members of PVRC.)



Frank Donovan (W3LPL) pointing out a newly-installed beam

The W3LPL station can operate simultaneously on six bands as a high-power, multi-transmitter/ multi-operator ("multi-/ multi") contest station. Operating positions are usually staffed by two persons; one who uses the "search and pounce" operating technique, and by a second operator who "runs" stations by calling CQ, and responding to callers. Each two-person operating position has

state of the art transmitting / receiving equipment (i.e., Elecraft K3, Yaesu FTdx5000, and Yaesu FT-1000MP transceivers), a 1.5kW amplifier, filters, microphones, keyers and paddles, and two computers and flat-screen monitors. The station's six 1500 W linear amplifiers operate from two centrally-located 4000 V power supplies.



Three of the Station's 6 Operating Positions

Frank's antenna farm is located 2 miles south of Interstate 70, and consists of 9 towers. Four of the towers are each 200 ft. (actually about 199', since it saves on light bulbs) in height. The three 150 ft. towers can be rotated, and two of the towers are 125 ft. in height. The latter towers comprise part of a four element 160 m



Frank explains how this tower is rotated

antenna array. Antennas consist of a wide variety of full-size, multi-element Yagi arrays mounted on 48 ft. booms, and wire dipoles, loops, and other antennas mounted on, or suspended between many of the towers. Antennas cover the 160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6 m bands. Most of the antennas are fed with coaxial cable, however ladder-line is also used for two of the 80 m quad anten-

nas. Ten Beverage receiving antennas (each 580 ft. in length) are also installed at various azimuths, about 1000 ft. south of the transmitting arrays.

A workshop with radio/ electronic test equipment, equipment being modified / repaired, and spare operating equipment is located adjacent to the operating area (located in the basement of Frank's home). Even the "cable vault"/ connection



Full size, multi-element beams mounted on 48 ft. booms hung on a tower which can be rotated

space containing the feeds from / to each antenna, and the cables from / to each receiver / transmitter is impressive. A portion of Frank's multi-bay garage serves as an antenna component storage and assembly area.

Bernie McClenney (W3UR), who writes the 'DX' column for QST Magazine, and is the publisher of the "Daily DX", is a next-door neighbor of Frank's, and shares the use of all of Frank's antennas. Frank is a member of the CQ Contest Hall of Fame, and he and his charming wife were gracious hosts.

Again, many thanks, Frank. 73

## New Calls You Will Hear in the Valley

New Call for Kenneth M Anderson, KD4VPE is now W4JQT

Congratulations to Kenneth M, Anderson ex-KD4VPE. Ken was assigned his dad's call after the recent death of Kenneth B. Anderson, W4JQT SK. So now, W4JQT is back on the air, once again as Ken Anderson, but this time you'll be talking to "Ken the Younger" in Grottoes.

New Call for Sam Lilly, KK4QKI is now N4SJR

Congratulations to Sam Lilly, Jr., ex-KK4QKI, on receiving vanity call N4SJR from the FCC. If you hear Sam on the air, thank him for the work he and John Piotrowski KI4YNA are doing on the 147.315 repeater.



## Links to ARRL RTTY Roundup Records

It not a record of frogs talking! It's not a record of how many times someone zipped up their coat, or an AK-47 'talking'. And it is not a chain link. But a record of an amateur radio mode. This was forwarded by David Tanks. Thanks, Dave. Just a couple of links that you might have missed.

ARRL RTTY Roundup records through 2013 are up:

VE/US at [http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Records/arrlrrty\\_records\\_wve\\_2013.txt](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Records/arrlrrty_records_wve_2013.txt)

DX at [http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Records/arrlrrty\\_records\\_dx\\_2013.txt](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Records/arrlrrty_records_dx_2013.txt)

Chen W7AY's Hal ST-8000 as a Regenator articles can be found from the EWARG front page link. <http://www.ewarg.org/>

Also there is a link to K7WM's RTTY Journal CD's as well as an article by Eddie G0AZT on DX pileups. Jay



## Waynesboro Repeater Association of Virginia Meets in Fishersville

**QST QST QST**

The annual meeting of the Waynesboro Repeater Association of Virginia, sponsors of the 147.075 repeater on Bear Den Mountain, will be held at 6:30 pm on Thursday December 5th, 2013 in the basement meeting room of the Augusta County Library in Fishersville, Virginia. All local amateurs are invited to attend.

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

I realize that this is the night of the MARA / VARA Christmas party but this is when the room was available.

Additional information about the Waynesboro Repeater Association of Virginia may be found on their web site at [www.qsl.net/wrav](http://www.qsl.net/wrav)

73 Gordon WA4FJC Secretary/Treasurer



# Late Breaking News!



## Local Club Places First in the State



Luray, VA—Update—Field Day 2013. Using the call sign 'K4PMH' and the exchange of '1A', the 'Hamsters' of Page Valley Amateur Radio Club spent twenty-four hours on the last full weekend in June braving mosquitoes, bugs and other local insects to gather enough points to win #1 place in the

state, #2 place in the Roanoke Division, and #15 nationally. In addition to having wires in the trees to snag the plethora of birdies of CQs and QRZs, they sent their own CQs and QRZs out on the ether. Of the dignitaries invited to observe the festivities, only one was noticeably absent. Mr. Murphy never arrived as promised. In the words of the Vice President of the club remarked, "...had a great time to boot, Thanks everyone, I had a blast!! Congratulations to all who were in any way involved in 'Page Valley Amateur Club' Field Day 2013." [And that includes the "bugs" that assisted at the CW station.]

In the words of one ham-ster, "...and I learned much, and had fun, and ate very well. "



Mark Hensley-N4YSA

Vice-President

Page Valley Amateur Radio Club

AEC Training Page County ARES

n4ysa@gmx.com



A link to the Field Day results: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/ContestResults/2013/2013-FD-QST.pdf>

## Update on Mike McKay, W4AZR

Area hams may remember Mike McKay, W4AZR, for his deep booming bass voice on the Monday night ARES nets. Mike was a communications engineer for several space-related companies in central Florida back in the 1950s and 1960's. After retirement, he and his wife relocated to a hilltop home at the upper end of New York Avenue in Harrisonburg, where Mike put up a collection of antennas covering HF through microwaves.

Mike is now 89 years old and no longer able to care for his 96-year-old wife who is blind. They moved to the Emeritus retirement facility in Staunton a few months ago. On November 2, Mike and his wife relocated again, this time to a facility near his daughter's home outside Charlotte, North Carolina.

No word yet on whether he will be setting up his station there. Mike was off the air while at Emeritus, and has asked David KD9LA to dispose of the last couple of items left over from his shack in Harrisonburg. Mike still has his Yaesu FT-847 and some 2-meter gear, including antennas. We will try to provide Mike's new address as soon as we have it, so his friends can send Christmas cards and other holiday greetings, which we know will be greatly appreciated.

## Update on Phyllis N4VZC and Richard Haxton KC3AN



Phyllis still has not fully recovered from the nasty fall she suffered a few years ago. Richard and Phyllis had been living at the Legacy retirement facility in Staunton, but on November 7, were forced to relocate to Emeritus because Phyllis now requires more in-depth care than Legacy could provide.

In a recent visit with KD9LA, Richard reports that he still has his Yaesu FT-100D, but can not figure out how to rig a 2-meter antenna without putting high levels of RF in their room. Dave is going to loan them an HT, with which they should be able to at least hit the Staunton and Waynesboro repeaters.



Richard and Phyllis occupy a second-floor room, but unfortunately, it is on the south side of the building. Their new address is 1900 Hillsmere Lane, Room 244, Staunton, VA 24401. (Yes, their room number is also the first three digits of the Staunton zip code, which should make it easy to remember in case anyone wishes to visit them!) Phyllis is essentially bed-ridden and must be carried to the bathroom, but Richard is in relatively good health for an 89-year-old, and, all things considered, in excellent spirits.

If you get a chance and find yourself on the west side of Staunton, Richard and Phyllis are up on the hill above the intersection of Highway 250 West, and the Staunton by-pass. They would love a visit.

Thanks Dave, KD9LA

## From the Newsletter Editor: They're Coming to Take You Away!

They're coming to take you away—They're coming to take you away—  
Those nice young men in their clean white suits— They're coming to take  
you away— If you don't pay your dues! So, use the form on page 23 to  
beat them off.

[It's best though to mail them to the address shown for your club.]



## LIDS - Not What You Think

Link explains it: <http://www.qsl.net/dl4tt/w5vsr.html>



## Repeaters Provide Coverage To West Virginia Communities

Thanks to Nate KI4MSK and John N4SYH for information on two repeaters near Sugar Grove and Greenbank, West Virginia.

The Frost WV repeater is on 145.110, with a minus offset, and PL of 107.2 Hz.

The Marlinton WV repeater is on 147.090, with a positive offset, and PL of 162.2 Hz.

Both of these machines are low-altitude, serving communities close by the National Radio Astronomy Telescope and Sugar Grove Listening Station, and thus do not have a wide coverage area. But there may be places in the Shenandoah Valley that can access these repeaters. (For example, Dave KD9LA was able to bring up the Marlinton repeater, although his signal from Weyers Cave was quite weak and intermittent.)

The Frost and Marlinton repeaters join the list of machines providing communications into and out of West Virginia from here in the Valley.

The 147.345 machine can be worked from many places in Rockingham and Augusta counties. This machine is in Franklin WV and uses a positive offset, and requires no PL tone.

The Monterey machine is on 147.180, also uses a positive offset, and uses a PL of 100.0 Hz.

And of course, the Spruce Knob machine of 147.285 (positive offset, PL 103.5) is accessible from almost all areas of the Shenandoah Valley. Program these repeaters into your rigs if you can work them.

## Full-Time Link Now on the 146.895 Repeater

Nate KI4MSK reports that the Buck's Elbow Repeater, 146.895 is now linked fulltime with the Charlottesville 146.760 repeater.

The Buck's Elbow machine is located east of Skyline Drive, about 10 miles east of Waynesboro. It has a negative offset of -0.600 MHz, and uses a PL of 151.4 Hz. This repeater can be reached from many places here in the valley. The link to the Pantops Mountain machine means that the 146.895 machine will now provide coverage from the Shenandoah Valley into the far eastern parts of Albemarle County and on to Richmond.

The Buck's Elbow machine is set up to indicate whether the station you are listening to is coming in from the 146.895 machine or the 146.760 machine. The indicator is the courtesy beep: If the courtesy tone is the Morse code letter "I" (for internal) the station you are listening to is coming in on the 146.895 repeater. If the courtesy beep is the letter "S", the station you are listening to is the 146.76 repeater.

Stations who are listening to the 146.76 repeater will hear just the opposite courtesy tones. The "I" courtesy beep is for stations coming through the repeater you hear, and the "S" is for stations coming through the linked machine.

Give these repeaters a try and see if you can work them. The 146.895 machine is equipped with emergency backup power and should be a reliable link over the mountain. Remember, both of these machines use PL of 151.4.

## Franklin, West Virginia Repeater Is Now Workable from the Valley

Testing has shown that the re-located Franklin, West Virginia repeater in Pendleton County can be reached from several places in the Shenandoah Valley. This repeater is on 147.345 and does not require a PL tone.

This repeater is the only one which reaches reliably into the Franklin area. This repeater might be a life-saver, since Franklin is down in the valley of the South Branch of the Potomac River. This normally docile creek is well-known for its raging floods during heavy rains and storms and spring-time snow-melts.

It is therefore suggested that valley hams try and test their ability to reach the Franklin repeater. You may want to try from your base station, since mobiles generally have trouble. If you can bring up the repeater, please program that frequency. This will allow more of us to check on our Franklin neighbors in the event of a flood or blizzard or other storm that takes out the communications to that area of West Virginia. Thanks for your support.



## The 147.315 Repeater is Down for Maintenance

Thanks to John KI4YNA and Sam Lilly N4SJR for ordering the new controller board for the MARA repeater on 147.315. This repeater was located at the EMU observatory building on campus, but is temporarily at John and Sam's radio shop for installation, configuration, and connection of the new controller. There are no plans to change the tone access or any other repeater parameters, save for the 30-second "squelch-tail" which should be reduced to about 1 second once the new controller is up and running.



The **Valley Amateur Radio Association** held its November meeting at the Country Cooking restaurant in Staunton on the 5th. The meeting was opened at 7:02 pm by John Keller W4ZAO, President. 22 members and guests were present and introduced themselves. The 50/50 drawing winner was Gordon Batey WA4FJC; he won \$10.00.

**ARES Report:** David Tanks, AD4TJ, EC: The next net will be on Thursday Nov. 14th at 8 pm on the 146.850 repeater; Fred Evans N4KYM volunteered to be Net Control. David reported that he and Roger Pience N1XP, District EC, had met with Scott Masincup, Safety Officer of Augusta Health, and we suggested some things they could do, such as get another HF radio and antenna to set up in the hospital (in addition to the HF radio and antenna that is in the emergency communications trailer that they have, and in addition to the dual-band VHF/UHF radio and antenna that is installed there ). Scott said they have some UHF equipment they would like to donate to the club or to someone who could put it to good use: 2 UHF repeaters, and several HTs and mobile units. No decision was made on what to do with the offer.

**Nominating Committee:** John reported that after several emails and solicitations( starting in August! ), that there were still openings for Treasurer and President; David had agreed to continue as Secretary, and that Jeff Rinehart, W4PJJ, our current Vice President, and Steven Grant W4IIV, had expressed interest in the VP slot. Wayne Bowyer N4EYZ agreed to run for Treasurer. Greg Czerniak W4GRC agreed to run for President. A secret ballot was taken for the VP slot (as it was a given that those running unopposed were going to be voted into office ); a majority of the votes were for Jeff to continue as VP.

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

**Treasurer's report:** Postponed as the Treasurer Doug Tippet W8RTN had to leave suddenly after a phone call. We will have him read the treasurer's report at the December Christmas Banquet/Meeting( or possibly postpone it until the January meeting ).

**Old business:** John read a letter from Beth Ann Hinnant, the new coordinator for the Bike Festival this year, thanking us for the help we provided. Next year's event is October 17-19th. Enclosed was a donation to the club (s). Jeff reported that since MARA had 6 % of the volunteers that helped out, that they would receive 6 % of the check. Also, Jeff said that Beth Ann told him that the Bike Festival staff are volunteers, they don't keep any monies, anything left over is given to the community. They have already submitted paperwork for non-profit organization status. After some discussion it was agreed that those who helped out with the event would have their club dues paid, as was done last year. And it was agreed to do this for only this event, on a yearly basis. Duly noted by the secretary to remind us next year so that maybe more people will volunteer to help out, with that added incentive.

Next month's meeting will be the December Christmas Banquet with MARA on December 5th, at 6:30 pm. John recommends get there early, as it may be packed due to the Christmas season.

**New business:** Gordon reported that the Waynesboro Repeater Association will hold its annual meeting on that same night, December 5th, at the Augusta County Library at 6:30 pm.

Nancy Colvin KE4PHP wanted to know if we were going to plan on our September picnic to be held at the Gypsy Hill Park location, as it was soon to be time to reserve the shelter; after some discussion it was voted to reserve the shelter at the park.

John made the 1st reading of the membership application of Sam Gamble K4RTE, who just upgraded to General Class. He qualifies for a free membership offer as was voted on last month.

Storage Unit: Discussion is tabled until next year.

John announced the new slate of officers: President: Greg; VP: Jeff; Treasurer: Wayne; Secretary: David. John thanked everyone for supporting him in his 3 years as President, and encouraged us to take part in the public service events that we cover, and to support our club by taking officer positions.

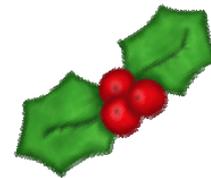
Wayne offered an Astron 20 amp power supply for sale; see him after the meeting.

David noted that the average age of people present at the meeting was over 50. He said we need some young, fresh members. It was noted again that Stuarts Draft Middle School is offering a 6-weeks elective class on Morse Code; could we get ARRL material into that class to possibly get some interest? Fred noted that a major hurdle was the smart phones that can do everything, and have a lot to do with the younger crowd's disinterest in Amateur Radio. It was also mentioned that what if the cell towers went down for some reason? What would the kids/younger set do for communication? The classes that Gordon held in conjunction with the Staunton Parks and Recreation were seen as a good effort at getting younger members. The lack of programs at the club meetings was mentioned, along with low usage of the repeaters in the area. Amateur radio satellites was mentioned as a possibility of attracting younger folk. It was mentioned that kids may be attracted by hands-on projects, such as wire antenna building.

With no other business to discuss, and no program, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**AD4TJ**, David Tanks VARA Secretary



**Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 PM by President David Fordham (KD9LA)**

**Attendance:** 32 present – 30 Members and 2 Guests present. Introductions made all around.

**Readings for Membership:** 1 Reading for Brenda Hill (KK4UNK)

**Voting for Membership:** Two candidates- George Brunk (WB4IXG) and Zak Shifflett, (KK4RUZ) Both were approved

**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:**

**ARES/RACES:** Bryan Daniels (K4RMY) Thanked all who participated in the Shenandoah Motorcycle 500.

**Volunteer Examiners:** Gayle Shull (KU4XN) 2 New Licenses and 2 upgrades

**Repeater Committee:** Two are functioning

444.600

145.130

147.315 It is being worked on at Blue Ridge Communications. The new board will not talk to the computer.

**Public Service:** Ray Ritchie (K4NRA) thanked all who helped in the Timberville event. They had 49 horses.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Other Announcements:** Russ Mumaw (K3NLT) showed a QRP Elecraft portable rig. He was happy with the performance in a small package.

President Dave Fordham asked if anyone knew the status of the allocation for the 220 MHz Repeater.

He was waiting to hear from John (N4SYH) and Roger (N1XP)

The 2014 Membership Dues are due in December. Please pay them to avoid a lapse in membership.

Wayne Miller's Estate, which includes a Kenwood TS 2000 is for sale. President Fordham has the details.

President Fordham showed an nice wall plaque which had his FCC Ham License engraved on it. He can get a group deal at a very reasonable price if anyone wants their license on a wall plaque.

**50/50:** won by Gerald Brunk (K4RBZ) The pot was a \$12.50 split from a total of \$25.00 collected

Motion to Adjourn, seconded, passed.

**Program:** Jim Lehman (W4POL) presented a program, which featured the engineering details of WKCY's new AM Broadcast antenna. Jim also had a small model and engineering packets and photos for all the members. The antenna is call a Kinstar AM antenna and is a low-profile and low-maintenance system. It is made by Kintronic Laboratories in Bristol, Virginia and was approved by the FCC for broadcast operation. The 5 telephone poles are strung in a square arrangement with a center pole. The 4 radiating wires surround the center pole and then go outward in an "L" configuration to each pole in the square. Engineering studies showed that the antenna efficiency matches that of a standard broadcast monopole.

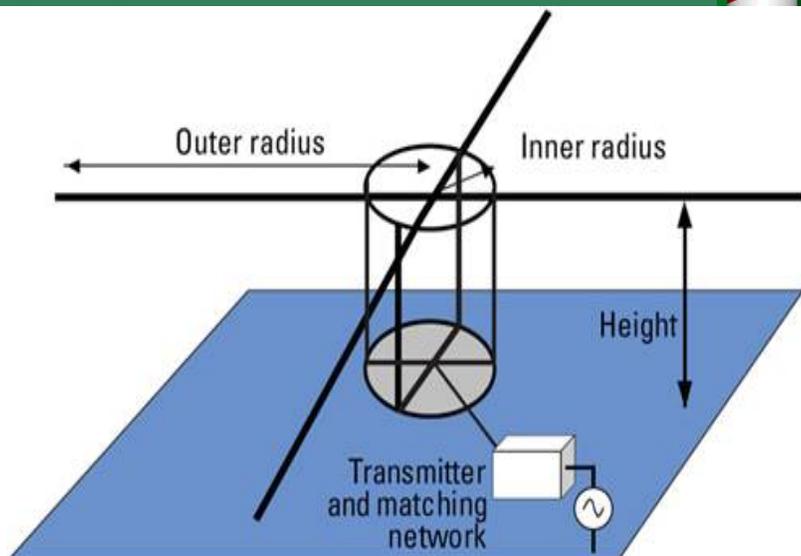
The Kinstar antenna final design configuration using lumped element matching and with top and bottom of vertical radiating wires connected together. All antenna wires are insulated from ground and supports.

Star-H Corporation and Kintronic Labs offer a solution for AM non-directional station operators.



The Kinstar antenna conceived by Star-H Corporation, particularly Dr. James Breakall, professor of electrical engineering at Penn State University, was developed into a marketable broadcast product by Kintronic Labs. The Kinstar was officially type-accepted by the FCC on October 25, 2005, for full-time omnidirectional operation in the AM band in the U.S. market .

Clear Channel Radio installed one for Harrisonburg's WKCY-AM 1000 Khtz off Old Furnace Road. It does not need tower lights due to the low height and no tower painting is needed and the telephone poles can easily be replaced. They apparently believe it is an economical solution to a tower system. WKCY is omni-directional. Kintronics says they are working on a variation of this design that can be used for a directional pattern. For more information see: <http://www.kintronic.com/resources/technicalPapers/15.pdf>



Respectfully submitted by,  
Dennis Phillips, MARA Secretary

**ED: A complete FCC Rackley report on this system is attached to the email with this newsletter. Thanks go to Jim, W4POL for this report**



### MARA Treasurer's Report November 20, 2013

MARA Treasurer's Report	October 21, 2013 – November 20, 2013	
Beginning Balance	October 20, 2013 (Last Report)	\$ 2,925.32
Add:	November Meeting 50/50	12.50
	New Member (1)	12.00
	Membership Renewals (7)	<u>84.00</u>
	Total Deposits	\$ 108.50
Less:	Bank Fee (October)	\$ - 2.00
	SVEC (October)	<u>-22.54</u>
	Total Disbursements	<u>\$ - 24.54</u>
Ending Balance as of	November 20, 2013	\$ 3,009.28



Submitted by Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC, MARA Treasurer



The **Page Valley Amateur Radio Club** was called to order at the Lord Fairfax Community College (Luray-Page County Center) by Bob Forrest/WO4MI, PVARC President at 1800. 15 Members were in attendance. With 15 of 25 members attending a quorum was present to conduct business. There were no visitors.

**Reports:** Secretary reported the Summary Minutes of the October 4<sup>th</sup> business meeting were published in The Monitor and asked that they be accepted for the record as published. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Carol/KA4LAF reported that the current balance at Pioneer Bank is \$1,262.56. No change from last month. A spreadsheet showing YTD income & expenditures was given to the President and Secretary for the record. A motion to accept the report was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

In calling for committee reports, Bob/WO4MI reminded the members that we still need folks to “step forward” and volunteer to fill several vacancies. Following a discussion of key positions needing to be filled Tim/AK4CJ and Morgan/K4RHD volunteered to co-chair the ARRL Field Day Subcommittee position. Still vacant: The Emergency Preparedness Committee and the EOC Training Subcommittee are still looking for volunteers to chair. Bob/WO4MI thanked Tim and Morgan for accepting joint responsibility for the clubs field day venture, an important (and much appreciated) club activity.

**Widow's Assistance Committee:** Chair - Morgan/K4RHD reported on the status of equipment sales from the estate of Ben/N4SFG SK. He has e-mailed a list of equipment and an associated spreadsheet, updated several times over the past month to members. He still has few items left. Check the e-mail and call him if you would like to inspect or buy anything.

**Website Subcommittee:** Chair - Geoffrey/WD4LYO & Carol/KA4LAF. No update. Need to work with Geoffrey when he is feeling better and gather information necessary to continue work on this project. This “committee of 2” would also benefit from additional technical help from experienced volunteers.

**Education/Training Committee:** Chair – Morgan/K4RHD. Still considering a Technician Class course, perhaps after the first of the year. Zory/KB3VQC and Morgan are continuing to investigate possible venues. Also under consideration is hosting a Sky Warn Class. Hope to have more specifics at a later date.

**New Business:** Bob/WO4MI opened a discussion on how to schedule future technical programs and/or ham radio oriented presentations. This led to a far ranging discussion when Morgan/K4RHD announced that the current meeting place here at LFCC (with its outstanding multi-media capabilities) could no longer be guaranteed to PVARC (or any other organization) on a regular basis at no cost. A rough estimate of future cost for continuing to meet at LFCC was given as \$50.00/month. (Treasurers Note: With current membership of 25 and dues @ \$12.00/yr this is not possible!) Morgan assured PVARC that the LFCC facility would remain available at no cost for the December meeting. However, we should be considering alternatives. Several possibilities were discussed, including: Page Memorial Hospital (now Valley Health System), Page County Fire/EMS stations and Page County School facilities.

#### Hospital System

New facility is under construction. Old building and meeting room now unavailable. No known planning for radio operating space, wireless access or antenna installations. Given the potential to interfere in today's RFI/EMI rich environment, consideration should be given to occupying an “out building” on the new hospital campus. Bob/WO4MI reported difficulty in getting the attention of PMH staff, he has talked and corresponded with PMH and Valley Health personnel and is currently waiting for their responses. The consensus seemed to be that this alternative would be the most desirable outcome. Station equipment purchased with Federal Grant money is available, compatible and interoperable with equipment at hospital facilities throughout Virginia. Morgan/K4RHD recommended formally setting up a new arrangement through Valley Health. Sparky/KD4KL agreed, further suggesting that since low-level discussions over the past several years have not been fruitful perhaps it is time to get the attention of upper level management.

#### Fire/EMS stations

Several members thought Fire/EMS stations might also work. One advantage might be the ability to install a club station. Co-location with Fire/EMS is consistent with and supports emergency operations. Emergency backup power is probably available. Public visibility is good.

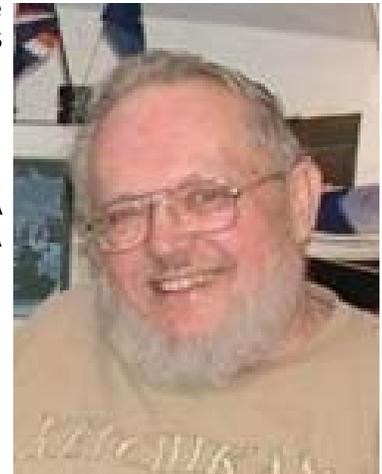
#### School facilities

Paul/KK4IRS suggested PVARC consider meeting in one of the Page County schools, if that were possible. The advantages would include the ability to accommodate 20-30 members, availability of blackboards and possible use of A/V capabilities and community visibility through meeting notices. Morgan/K4RHD thought this might be a viable possibility since school custodians are generally working on Friday evenings because of after school activities. (Secretarial Note: Availability during summer months was not discussed.)

Bob/WO4MI agreed that all these alternatives deserve further consideration and would be a major topic at the upcoming meeting of the PVARC Executive Board - with results to be reported back to the membership at the December meeting. [Tabled]

One immediate and positive outcome of this discussion via the Education/Training report – Zory/KB3VQC has volunteered to be (our first!) Program Chairman; and, Brian/W5YQ (our newest member) agreed to be our first presenter at the next meeting where he will discuss the basics of EZ-NEC and antenna modeling. Stay tuned!!

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1945. The next meeting will be held here at LFCC on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 1830.



## What If They Made Toasters?

If IBM made a toaster, it would be big and blue. There would be only one model to choose from, and it would cost so much only restaurants could afford it.

If Microsoft made toasters, you would have to buy a new toaster every time you bought a loaf of bread. (The new toasters would be called "upgrades" and you'd have to spend 3 hours each time learning how to get the bread to go down and come up.) The new Toaster 95 would be overpriced, and would take up all of the counter space in your kitchen. When you turned it on the first time, it would query all your other appliances to find out who made them, and then would falsely claim that the only way you could operate them would be to use the controls on the toaster. The advertising would lead you to believe that the Toaster 95 was the first toaster ever made that lets you control the darkness of toast. Additionally, once you got a Toaster 95, it would be impossible to get rid of.

If Radio Shack made toasters, their sales associates would try to sell you six of them, but they wouldn't be able to tell you what a toaster really does or how it works. The instructions would be written in broken English. You could also buy the

toaster in pieces that come in little plastic bags (most of which had been opened by previous customers), for assembly at home. But you'd have to go to at least six Radio Shack stores to get all the parts for one toaster.

If the ARRL made toasters, well, ... they wouldn't make a toaster, but would run a series of articles over six months telling you how you could make one. The article would be so complicated and im-

practical that only the author would ever think of putting one together. And you could only get the heating element and timer from some obscure company that went out of business three months before the last installment was published.

If the FCC made toasters, the manual would tell you that it only takes six seconds to toast a piece of bread. But when you put one in, it takes six months before the heat comes on. And anyway, commercial interests are buying up all the bread at the auctions, so why bother?

If Kenwood made toasters, they would be made of plastic, even the heating element. Two weeks after you got it home, the lights would burn out and you couldn't tell if it was toasting or not except by sticking your fingers in the slots.

If TenTec made toasters, they would be the best toasters ever made, the toast would come out perfect every time, even buttered and jellied, but only true toast gourmets would be caught dead owning one of them.

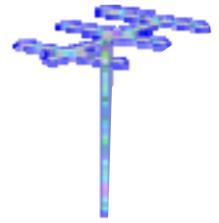
If MFJ made a toaster, it would only cost \$2, and when it stopped working, you'd have to throw it away and buy a new one because no one would want to work on it, and MFJ wouldn't sell



parts.

If AMSAT made toasters, only twenty people in the whole world would ever eat toast, but they'd be asking for money to build a fancy toaster that everyone could use. To make toast, you'd first either have to use a bazillion dollars worth of breadmaking equipment, or else grow your own wheat, grind it into flour, raise chickens for the eggs, and .. well, you get the idea.

*Adapted from the Jax (FL) Range Squelch Tale*



- J7** - Walter, **HB9MFM** is active as **J79WTA** from Dominica (NA-101) until **21 December**. He expects to be QRV on 160-10 metres SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via home call, direct or bureau. Logsearch on Club Log. [TNX NG3K]
- FK** - Freddy, F5IRO will be active as FK/F5IRO from Plum, New Caledonia (OC-032) between **1 November and 1 March 2014**. He plans to operate mainly CW with some PSK on 80-10 metres, running 100 watts into dipoles and long wire antennas. He will participate in the CQ WW DX CW Contest as TX5W along with FK8IK. QSL via F5IRO, direct or bureau. He will upload his log to Club Log and Lotw in March 2014. [TNX DX World]
- 7P** LESOTHO. Wolfgang, DH3WO, will once again return to Lesotho for a brief operation as **7P8WO** between **December 22-24th**. Activity will be holiday style (as time allows) on the HF bands. QSL via DH3WO, direct or by the Bureau. [OPDX.1134]

### ANTARCTICA

- **Slava RD3MX**, **Alex UA1PAW** and **Oleg ZS1ANF** will be at Novo Runway, Antarctica from November 2013 through **March 2014**. They plan to be QRV as **RI1ANR** in their spare time, with a focus on the low bands. QSL via **RK1PWA**. [TNX I1HYW]
- **Mike, RW1AI** will be active as **RI1ANT** from Mirny Station, Antarctica from **December 2013 through February 2015**. QSL via RW1AI, direct or bureau. Logsearch at [www.qsl.net/ua1ake/logs/](http://www.qsl.net/ua1ake/logs/).
- **Alex, RD1AV** will again be active again as RI1ANC from Vostok Station, Antarctica from **1 December 2013 to 1 February 2015**. He will be QRV on all bands CW, SSB and digital modes. QSL via RN1ON, direct or bureau. [TNX RN1ON]

## The Tower

Dear Ms. Jones  
Patsy Insurance Co.  
Wata'ohoh, HI 96999-0101

I am writing in response to your request for additional information for Block 3 of the Accident Report Form (ARF) I submitted to you on April 1, 1997. I put "poor planning" as the cause for the accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully. I trust the following detail will be sufficient.

I am an Amateur Radio operator and on the day of the accident, I was working alone on the top section of my new 80 foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now unneeded tools and material down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which was fortunately attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went back to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and material into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow decent of the 300 pounds of tools.

You will note in Block 11 of the Accident Report Form that I weigh only 155 pounds. Due to my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope.

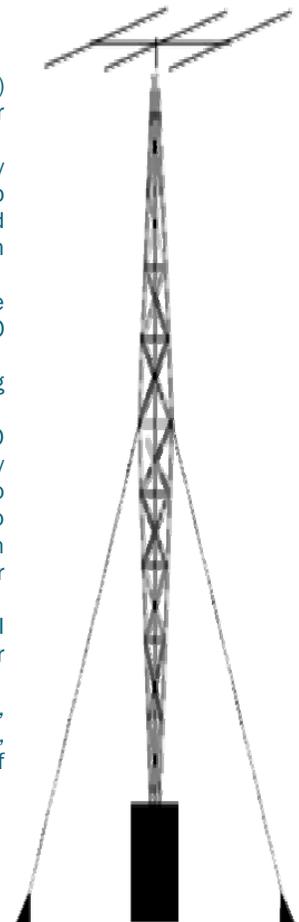
Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately, by this time I had regained my presence of mind and in spite of my pain, I was able to hold on to the rope. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight, shown in Block 11 of my submission.

As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, and the lacerations of my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools and, fortunately, only 3 vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind and let go of the rope . . . . .

Sincerely,

Andy Clark, WA4PRF  
TIARA (Tokyo International Radio Association) [from the internet]



## W1AW Winter Operating Schedule

Pacific	Mtn	Cent	East	UTC	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
6 am	7 am	8 am	9 am	1400z		Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code
7 - 9 am	8 - 10 am	9 - 11 am	10 am - Noon	1500z to 1700z	Visiting Operator Time				
10 am - 12:45 pm	11 am - 1:45 pm	Noon - 2:45 pm	1 - 3:45 pm	1800z to 2045z	Station closed 1700-1800 UTC (12 Pm-1 PM EST)				
1 pm	2 pm	3 pm	4 pm	2100z	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code
2 pm	3 pm	4 pm	5 pm	2200z	Code Bulletin				
3 pm	4 pm	5 pm	6 pm	2300z	Digital Bulletin				
4 pm	5 pm	6 pm	7 pm	0000z	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code
5 pm	6 pm	7 pm	8 pm	0100z	Code Bulletin				
6 pm	7 pm	8 pm	9 pm	0200z	Digital Bulletin				
6:45 pm	7:45 pm	8:45 pm	9:45 pm	0245z	Voice Bulletin				
7 pm	8 pm	9 pm	10 pm	0300z	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code	Slow Code	Fast Code
8 pm	9 pm	10 pm	11 pm	0400z	Code Bulletin				

on ARRLWeb, in MP3 format. Other resources can be found on the ARRLWeb [Learn CW](#) page.

**W1AW Qualifying Runs** are sent on the same frequencies as the Morse code transmissions. West Coast Qualifying Runs are also transmitted monthly by either K6YR on approximately 3590 kHz, or other West Coast stations on various frequencies. At the beginning of each code practice session, the schedule for the next qualifying run is presented. Underline one minute of the highest speed you copied, certify that your copy was made without aid, and send it to ARRL for grading. Please include your name, call sign (if any) and complete mailing address. The initial certificate is available for a \$10 fee. Subsequent endorsement stickers are available for a \$7.50 fee.

### Digital Transmissions

**Frequencies** are 3.5975, 7.095, 14.095, 18.1025, 21.095, 28.095 and 147.555 MHz.

**Bulletins** are sent using 45.45-baud Baudot, PSK31 in BPSK mode and MFSK16 on a daily revolving schedule. The actual daily schedule can be found [here](#).

**Keplerian elements** for many amateur satellites will be sent on the regular digital frequencies on Tuesdays and Fridays at 6:30 PM Eastern Time using Baudot and PSK31.

**Voice Transmissions**  
Frequencies are 1.855, 3.99, 7.29, 14.29, 18.16, 21.39, 28.59 and 147.555 MHz.

### W1AW EchoLink Conference Server - W1AWBDCT

Audio from W1AW's CW code practices and CW/digital bulletins is available using EchoLink via the W1AW Conference Server "W1AWBDCT." The 9:45 PM ET phone bulletin is currently unavailable via W1AWBDCT. The audio is sent in real-time and runs concurrently with [W1AW's regular transmission schedule](#).

All users who connect to the conference server are muted. Please note that any questions or comments about this server should not be sent via the "Text" window in EchoLink. Please send any questions or comments to [w1aw@arrl.org](mailto:w1aw@arrl.org).

Please note that W1AW is also present on the list of active EchoLink stations. However, W1AW is listed as "BUSY" since this connection is used for the conference server.

Information about EchoLink can be found at <http://www.echolink.org>.

(From the ARRL Web site)

**W1AW's transmitting schedule occurs at the same local Eastern time throughout the year.**

### Daily Morse Code Practice QST Source

Code practice text is from the pages of QST magazine, the League's membership journal. The source is given at the beginning of each practice session and alternate speeds within each session. For example, "Text is from August 2012 QST, pages 86" indicates that the practice session's plain text is from the article on page 86.

[Click here to see the table for each daily Morse Code Practice text.](#)

### Morse Code Transmissions

**Frequencies** are 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675 and 147.555 MHz.

**Slow Code** = practice sent at 5, 7-1/2, 10, 13 and 15 words per minute (wpm).

**Fast Code** = practice sent at 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 wpm.

**Code bulletins** are sent at 18 wpm.

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

**World Wide Web:** You can also find [W1AW code practice](#) here

With the switch from Daylight Saving Time to Standard Time, W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, has updated the W1AW operating schedule to reflect the change. The local standard times have not changed, but the UTC times they reference have.

## Amateur Radio Volunteers Ready as Strong Typhoon Hits Philippines

11/08/2013

Super Typhoon Haiyan, a category 5 storm, has hit the Philippines, triggering flooding, destroying buildings, and causing millions to take shelter. Ramon Anquilan, DU1UGZ, of the Philippines Amateur Radio Association (PARA) reports that the typhoon made landfall at about 4:40 AM local time November 8 in **Guian Estern Samar**, about 600 kilometers southeast of Manila. Neighboring provinces are affected. The storm made a second landfall over **Dulag-Tolosa, Leyte**, with maximum sustained winds of 235 kilometers per hour (146 MPH) near the center, with gusts up to 275 kilometers per hour (171 MPH).

"HERO [Ham Emergency Radio Operators] have reported that those along the typhoon path have shut down their radios as they wait out for it to pass," said DU1UGZ. "In a few hours, we feel we should be hearing them again." Some 270 pieces of emergency traffic have been posted, with more expected. Earlier **PARA called for the frequencies of 7.095 MHz and 144.740 MHz to be kept clear for emergency traffic.**

The area of Bohol and Cebu, which suffered damage from a 7.2 magnitude earthquake in October, are along the typhoon's path. Bohol was the epicenter of the earthquake, which killed 222 people at left at least 5000 survivors living in tents. There is no power in many areas. Typhoon Haiyan — the world's strongest this year — may be one of the most intense storms ever recorded. The Philippines is battered by an average of 20 major storms or typhoons each year. — *Thanks to Jim Linton, VK3PC, Chairman IARU Region 3 Disaster Communications Committee [Thanks to David Tanks for this article]*

***Additional updated information can be found on the ARRL website.  
(enter 'Typhoon Haiyan' into the search box) [without the quotes]***

### ***Update [as of 11/16/2013]***

<http://www.arrl.org/news-features>

And

[ARRL Letter, November 14, 2013.](#)



Children run towards a U.S. military aircraft as it arrives to distribute aid to Typhoon Haiyan survivors in the destroyed town of Guiuan, Philippines on Thursday, Nov. 14, 2013. Aid was beginning to reach some of the half-million people displaced by Typhoon Haiyan that tore across several islands in eastern Philippines six days ago, killing thousands of people. (AP Photo/David Guttenfelder)



[From the Kim Comando website]

If you want to add your support, I've rounded up some legitimate organizations taking donations. These organizations are already in the thick of the emergency services and rescue operations.

**Remember:** Scammers love to take advantage of a disaster like this, so before donating to any organization, be sure to do your homework.

[Philippine Red Cross](#) - You can donate directly to the Red Cross division that is permanently stationed in the Philippines. Food and medical supplies were already on their way from the PRC to the city of Tacloban when Haiyan cut off all routes. It still needs help mobilizing its ground forces to get aid to the areas that were hit the hardest.

The Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services - You can donate directly to The Salvation Army through its website or you can text TYPHOON to 80888 to immediately donate \$10.

**GlobalMedic** - This Canadian organization is working to bring clean water to the disaster victims. As of Monday, November 11, 2013 the Canadian government is matching all donations to GlobalMedic for the Philippines response.

**CrowdCrafting** - CrowdCrafting needs your help identifying what areas of the Philippines need the most help. You can help determine what areas need help by sorting through photos and social media posts about the damage. It's a great way to help if you don't have the means to make a monetary donation.

Even if you can't afford to donate, I ask you to join me in prayer for those displaced people and their rescuers in the Philippines

# Plan Ahead

## 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**

## Dayton Hamvention 2014

Not too early to start planning... [<http://Hamvention.org>] **Dates: May 16–18, 2014**



Dayton Hamfest 2013 — Balloon Launch view at 1,000 ft.

## December

- 1—Page County ARES Net
- 1-15—Sainte-Marie Island [AF-090]
- 5 - **MARA/VARA Christmas Banquet**
- 6 - **PVARC Club Meeting**
- 6-8—ARRL 160 Meter Contest—CW
- 8—Page County ARES Net
- 10—Augusta County ARES Net
- 14—VE Testing Session
- 14-15—ARRL 10-Meter Contest
- 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**



## January

- 1-5 - S506SLG & S506PMC(Slovenia)S.E.
- 1-30 - 4S7KKg (Sri Lanka)DX
- 1-30 - FK8RO (New Caledonia)DX
- 1—**New Years Day**
- 1—Straight Key Night
- 1—SARG New Year RTTY Contest
- 1—AGCW Happy New Year Contest
- 2—MARA Club Meeting**
- 2—NCCC Sprint Ladder
- 3—PVARC Club Meeting**
- 4-5—RTTY Roundup
- 6—Kid's Day
- 7—VARA Club Meeting**
- 11-12—North American QSO Party-CW
- 12—DARC 10 Meter Contest
- 17-19—January VHF
- 18-19—North American QSO Party—SSB
- 20— Deadline for February submissions\***
- 24-26—CQ 160-m Contest—CW



## 432 and Above EME Newsletter

Interested in moonbounce? Microwaves? You are a new ham and didn't realize there is activity other than HF and 2 meter FM? Then you should check out this newsletter to see what you have been missing!

73, David AD4TJ

[Forwarded Message]

Hello All,

The 432 MHz and Above EME Newsletter for November 2013 by K2UYH can be downloaded here: <http://www.nitehawk.com/rasmit/em70cm.html>

Enjoy.

73 Rein W6SZ



## VE Test Schedule: Consistency, Thou Art A Virtue



From the minutes of the MARA meeting: 2 new licenses and 2 upgrades. No other information was received.



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

The next Volunteer Examiner Session is scheduled for **Saturday, February 8th**, 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 [gshu74@gmail.net](mailto:gshu74@gmail.net)

**Gayle Shull, KU4XN**

**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****(Effective 1/1/2014)**

President: Greg Czerniak, W4GRC  
 Vice President: Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW  
 Secretary: David Tanks, AD4TJ  
 Treasurer: Wayne Bowyer, N4EYZ  
 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 Tippett  
 2348 Mosley St.  
 Waynesboro VA 22980

**PAGE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

President: Bob Forrest, W04MI  
 Vice President: Mark Hensley N4YSA  
 Secretary: Mike "Sparky" Terry, KD4KL  
 Treasurer: Carol Terry, KA4LAF  
 Board Member: Morgan Phenix K4RHD  
 Board Member: Geoffrey Phillips, WD4LYO

**<http://www.k4pmh.org>**

PVARC meets the first Friday of each month: at the Lord  
 Fairfax Community College in Luray  
 The meeting begins at 18:30 pm

**Visitors are welcome.**

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

Sparky Terry  
 PO Box 649  
 Luray VA 22835-0649

The Monitor is published monthly by MARA, Inc.  
 for members of the three amateur radio clubs  
 in the Central Shenandoah Valley.

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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# Membership Renewal Form

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALLSIGN: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE (If you want it in club records for emergency purposes, not the roster!): \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: (print legibly!!) \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER ARRL (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_ REGISTERED VA ARES (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_ SKYWARN ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you available for Workday Daytime Emergency Call up? (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want to receive the Monitor via PDF Email? **Yes/No/I already do** \_\_\_\_\_

If **yes**, forward your email address to the editor at the email address on the back of the newsletter. Specify in the subject line: Please add me to the Monitor Mailing list

**Make sure the editor has your current email address to avoid interruption of your copy of the Monitor.**

MARA members mail with \$12 to: MARA, PO Box 1882, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

VARA members mail with \$15 to: VARA, Doug Tippett, 2348 Mosley St, Waynesboro, VA 22980

PVARC members mail with \$12 to: Sparky Terry, PO Box 649, Luray, VA 22835



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.

Members not renewing by the end of the February meeting will be dropped from the active mailing list, and may experience significant delays in being restored to the list once dues have been paid.

**MARA/VARA/PVARC**

c/o John Spillman  
168 Bosley Drive Ext.  
Stanley, VA 22851  
Phone: 540-778-1332  
Email: kt4cbva@gmail.com

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**Return Service Requested**

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**MARA**  
**VARA**  
**PVARC**

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