

# THE MONITOR

March 2014

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



## **VARA Meeting: Hometown Grille & Buffet, Staunton**

The **Valley Amateur Radio Association**, will hold its **March 4th** monthly meeting at **Hometown Grille & Buffet (Old Shoney's)** at 30 Sanger Lane, Staunton, VA. Directions: I-81 to Exit 222, Richmond Rd. & Rte. 250. Turn East, Hometown Grille & Buffet will be on the left across the street from Mrs. Rowe's. Dinner starts at 6:00pm, and the general meeting begins at 7:00pm. David, AD4TJ, will give a talk on EME or Moon-bounce.



## **MARA Meeting: Wood Grill in Harrisonburg**

The **Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**, will hold its monthly meeting on **Thursday, March 6**, at the Wood Grill on Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. All hams and their families are invited and welcome. After dinner, a short business meeting will be held. followed by a show and tell program by club members. Bring your home brew projects for show and tell.

## **PVARC Meeting: Page County Sheriff's Training Room**

The **Page Valley Amateur Radio Club** is meeting on **Friday, March 7th** at 1830. The meeting will be held at the **Page County EOC Training room**, above & behind the Sheriff's Office. Access is gained from the Court House parking lot on S. Court Street, just off W. Main Street in Luray. Look for the wooden steps leading to the rear door and the PVARC "sandwich board." All are welcome.

## **Friday Luncheon: Hometown Grille and Buffet, Staunton**

The Friday **weekly** casual lunch meetings are at Hometown Grille & Buffet (Old Shoney's) at 30 Sanger Lane, Staunton, VA at 11:00AM. Directions: I-81 to Exit 222, Richmond Rd. & Rte 250. Turn East, Hometown Grille & Buffet will be on the left across the street from Mrs. Rowe's.

### **Daylight Saving Begins!**

#### **Spring Forward!**

Don't forget to turn your clocks **AHEAD** one hour on Sunday, **March 9th**.

[Sundials and moondials don't count]



## VARA President's Message



Greetings fellow Amateur Radio Operators. One the first things I want to remind you of is that we will be meeting this March at the **Hometown Grill and Buffet** (the old Shoney's) off Richmond Road at 6:00 PM for supper and at 7:00 PM for our general meeting. As most of you know we could use more space. So this month we are trying out the new old place. Hometown Grill has made some recent improvements and we will meet in the back room. They have enclosed the room in so that we will not be overwhelmed by normal restaurant background noise. I think we call it "QRM." We will try it in March and if it does not work out, we can go back to Country Cooking.

**Josh Johnson, K4OOD** has volunteered to sit on the Field Day Committee. Josh is a new member and a new ham with a desire to learn how it is done. Josh, thank you and trust me when I say you will learn a whole bunch about Field Day. You will almost be an expert by the end of June. Josh will work with me, **Wayne (N4EYZ)** and **Bennie (N4BCC)**. And of course **Jeff (W4PJW)** will be our go to guy on the VARA end. Remember, MARA chairs the committee this year.

Speaking of Field Day, I hope we have a lot of participation this year. Over the past several years participation has fallen off. And yes, I know we are all getting older, but if we work together we can all operate for a couple of hours at the phone and cw stations and then relax. We need manpower for that to happen.

I would also like to take a moment and thank **Wayne (N4EYZ)** for stepping up and becoming our Program Manager. If the club is going to keep growing and retaining its members then we need some Amateur Radio related topics to share. By the way, if you have been following the Valley Hams Group you are no doubt aware of the recent discussion on grounding. Excellent comments from all, and I want to thank those who took the time to write long replies in an attempt to answer a multitude of questions. What I learned is that we have a lot of talent and knowledge out there. I hope someone will step up and offer to share their knowledge during a club meeting. Hint we need programs!

Speaking of programs, last month the Echo Link Program did not happen as promised. My fault for not communicating better with **Al (N3JB)**, and as a result we did not have the video projector or a screen. I have decided to have the program in April for both the VARA and MARA clubs. I am working on a Power Point program to help make Echo Link as clear as possible. I am far from an expert, but I use it on a regular basis and if I can do it, anyone can.

In conclusion, I look forward to seeing each of you at the next meeting. I don't know about you, but Amateur Radio is an awesome hobby that not only connects us to each other, but in time of need serves the public. How cool is that?

73, Greg, W4GRC, President, VARA

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## MARA President's Message

As I'm writing this the weather experts are telling us there should be some more snow or freezing rain tonight, I sure will be glad when they change their tune to tell us we can expect some nice weather for awhile, at least it is suppose to warm up tomorrow and stay nice for the rest of the week. At least I'm thankful we have not gotten all the cold and snow that our neighbors to the north have gotten this winter.



MARA needs some volunteers to step up and offer to help with Field Day at the end of June. This is an event that we work together with the VARA club, and they already have a couple of volunteers for the committee. We need to have at least three MARA members step forward to work with them to plan for Field Day, so please come to the meeting on March the 6th and volunteer. If you've never helped, don't worry, this is your chance to jump in and help, there will be others on the committee who have been served before to give you a helping hand.

For those of you that are not part of the Valley Hams group e-mails, you are missing out on a lot of interesting e-mails. It is a good place to ask questions and get help with questions or problems you may have. This past week there has been an interesting exchange about grounding, both relating to RF grounds for antenna systems and for grounding for lightning protections and for home wiring. If you want to join, it is entirely free and you don't have to contribute or do anything but read the emails. To join, send an e-mail to Fred, at [n4kym@yahoo.com](mailto:n4kym@yahoo.com) or to Ray at [colvingr@comcast.net](mailto:colvingr@comcast.net), they will be glad to add you to the list.

73, Gerald, KN4FM, President, MARA



## Valley Hams at the Richmond FrostFest

This year's Frostfest had good news and bad news. The good news was that the size of the flea market seemed about average, and there was the usual wide variety of goods to select from, at least for those who arrived early. The bad news was that there was a very noticeable lack of dealers and other commercial concerns. Many attendees had arrived hoping to purchase new gear as well as browse the flea-market tables, but there was precious little new gear to find. The really good news, however, is that the valley hams were well represented. MARA, VARA< and PVARC all three had a great showing of hams turning out for the event.

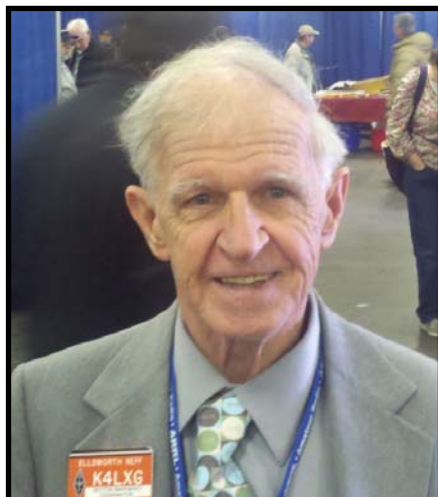


Top row, left to right: Richard Wilkins KR4V, Pam Wilkins KC4HYT, John Keller W4ZAO, Dave Firestone W4DPF, David Fordham KD9LA with Bob Van Fossen K4DJG. Second row left to right: Mark Hensley N4YSA, Herb Slade AA2BF, Kay Cook KF4CZL, Benny Cook N4BCC, Tom Pike KK4BPD, Sheryl Tonini KJ4DOC. Right: Gerry Brunk K4RBZ. Below, left to right: Jason Armentrout N4DSL, Brian Cowger KI4LLC, along with another valley ham whose name I failed to record, Paul Wyse W4PFM, John Schuster KK4UNI, and Foster Farone, WF4O.





Top row, left to right: Randy Smith N3XA, with Matthew Huffman KD4UPL in the background, Larry Harrison K3JRR, Clint Campbell KB4OLM. Second row: Ken Anderson Jr., W4JQT, and Glen Heatwole N4ALS. Third row shows a typical flea-market table, Sandy Mullins K4PZC (formerly of the valley, now of Heathsville VA), and Jim Franklin W4SIU. Bottom row left to right: Our Section Emergency Coordinator, Ellsworth Neff K4LXG, Paul Brunk W4RY, and Bob Steere N1QEQ. There were others from the valley, but they successfully avoided having the paparazzi take their photo.



WOW!!

I opened my emails this morning and was very impressed to see the conversations about grounds. My initial response to the original question about adding the second ground rod was only relating to the 60 cycle ground. Matthew and I had talked about this several years ago when I was building out my garage. I can see that a mix of dc grounding and rf grounding questions have been raised so I thought I would attach a really good article that I have had for some time on the subject. It was written by a fellow ham Steve WA3SWS.

I know it is a long read, but I promise, you will sit back a little higher on the learning curve, with a new inspiration about your grounding setup.

Also Greg there is another ham in our community WG4T (Dave) who was plagued with "equipment destroying" lightning strikes, until he installed the Polyphaser grounding setup. I know I am stepping out on a limb, but he might be a ham to reach out to, to get for a discussion also.

Bob N4JGO

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Steve WA3SWS

There is a world of difference between 60 cycle grounding and protecting equipment from lightning and surges. That makes it fun when you hire electricians to do some of the install. They don't understand and argue with you.

A 60 cycle power ground is an open circuit to lightning. Figure lightning is around a megacycle for purposes of calculating, although it is broadband in reality.



The reason for a single point ground is to prevent voltage drop across ground. A nearby lightning hit induces a LOT of current in any nearby conductor. Multiple paths to ground induces a voltage difference between the different points, and this voltage will force its way to ground through your equipment. Very bad juju.

Figure what a few hundred, or a few thousand, amps will do across a few Ohms' difference in ground.

You need a low impedance ground. That is difficult to achieve. For example, lightning does not turn corners. You cannot bend con-



ductors in less than a certain radius (no tighter than around a coffee can is a good reference).

You are dealing with the skin effect with lightning having the characteristics of RF. So you need a lot of surface area. The current from a lightning hit, or fast-rise-time surge will travel primarily on the surface of a conductor. Large solid conductors are worthless because you don't have much surface area. Large solid conductors are suitable for 60 cycle power (practically DC relatively speaking) but not for lightning or surge protection. Braid is slightly better, but still has far too much inductance to give you the low impedance path you need. Solid copper strap is the best. 1.5 inch is minimum. 3 inch is better. Wider is necessary for longer runs. It comes up to 6 inch in width. 1.5" will do for 95% of installations.

[www.polyphaser.com](http://www.polyphaser.com) is my source for all this stuff -- protectors, everything for grounding, etc. They publish a booklet on effective grounding which is worth the money. If you're serious and doing work for an organization, classes are available to give you hands on. I highly recommend them if you can justify them.

You need proper protectors specific to each type of equipment. There are 60 cycle protectors for line voltage. There are modules for data, telephone and low voltage. Various inline types for coax. See Polyphaser's website. All coaxial signals are not the same. There are specific protectors for video, and dozens for RF depending on the max freq and power level they need to pass.

Cheap protectors (99% of them regardless of price) are single stage. Single stage protectors are of minimal use. Polyphaser uses typically 3 stages. Surge protection power strips as are sold to protect your computer area complete waste of money. They're good only as multiple outlet strips. Surge protection is a sales feature. They can't shunt any appreciable amount of power, and the building's power ground has way too high an impedance for quick rise pulses to be any good dissipating them.

The idea is, you need to grab a very quick pulse before it gets to your equipment. Once you grab it, you need to get rid of it in a hurry. Devices which turn on quickly enough to protect electronics cannot handle much current. The devices which handle adequate current take along time to turn on. Therefore a properly designed protector will have typically three stages, where the initial stage turns on early and starts shunting and providing protection while the longer, higher current stages start to turn on in cascade. The high current stages take longer to turn on. Stages which turn on quickly can't handle much power. So combining them makes an effective combination.

You want quality power and data protectors which fail in the SHORTED position, which is unusual, so when they fail you are forced to replace them. Separately fuse anything on a power buss for obvious reasons. Most protectors fail open and you'll never know they failed. Any protector can operate only a certain number of times. That number may be several thousand, but a single thunderstorm can generate a hundred hits. I have found absent a



nearby hit, I need to replace telephone line protectors about every 5 years.

Once you grab this quick surge, you need to do something with it. Feeding it into the 60 cycle power ground is a worthless effort as mentioned above. You need to get rid of it in a hurry, hence the low impedance ground. The single point ground, usually a large copper plate on which all devices are mounted, gives you a common ground to prevent voltage drops across ground as mentioned. This single point ground is grounded to earth with copper strap. Up to 50 or 75 feet or so is OK for 1.5" strap. Ground the mains power going into the equipment with the appropriate protector. Don't worry about a long trench to ground the entire house electrical system.

Then this strap has to go to ground, using proper 'saddle' clamps and preparation of all copper (strap, clamp and rod) by polishing all to a mirror finish with Scotchbrite and immediately applying copper antioxidant paste to all surfaces. Copper starts to oxidize in seconds.

Saddle clamps are massive two piece pure copper clamps cast to clamp the copper strap onto the copper plated ground rod. The two halves are attached with 1/4-20 hardware and external star lock washers. I prefer to Loctite the hardware too, because copper is relatively soft and will flow under pressure. A properly designed saddle clamp will be molded closely enough to fit the ground rod so as to minimize flowing and is designed to crush itself around the ground rod to conform and give maximum surface contact. Loctite is cheap, and a lot cheaper than a service call. Hose clamp type attachments are a waste of money and useless for anything other than 60 cycles if even that.

A single ground rod is not adequate. A ground rod will 'saturate' the ground for a radius of twice its depth. Saturated ground will not sink much current, so additional ground rods provide a much larger earth area to absorb the huge amount of power you're trying to dump. If you can't dump it well enough, it will find its way to ground through other parallel paths, like your equipment.



The industry standard is three eight foot ground rods spaced twice their length apart, connected in a Delta, Tee or daisy chain fashion with the copper strap and saddle clamps. Use 7/8" copper plated steel ground rods. Get properly sized saddle clamps.

If you happen to be on a mountain with a repeater site on rock, you don't even need ground rods. Simply lay a few hundred feet of 3 inch strap on the ground and it will couple adequately. Remember with the strap, no 90 degree turns unless very gently radius. Very quick pulses will hit that 90 and keep going straight. I've seen it in videos of testing. Impressive.

All this is not as difficult as it seems, HOWEVER, you cannot take ANY shortcuts. Do it properly according to Polyphaser's instructions and it will work. Take one shortcut, like something you don't understand or seems too difficult, and you may be wasting your time.

I have no relationship with Polyphaser other than as a long time customer.

My company manufactures and installs man-rated commo and surveillance systems all over the world. I can't



afford to send someone to Delhi to replace a piece of equipment damaged by lightning. We were forced to learn long ago how to do grounds properly, and if you do them properly, you won't have problems. My own home office has had lightning hit in the woods within a few hundred yards of the building. We had zero damage. Others in the area to half a mile away lost telephones, computers, video and other stuff. In demos, I've seen wires exploded going into a properly protected system, and consumer grade electronics on the protected side unaffected. I've got a lot of antennas and comms here, never disconnect anything, and have never lost anything since putting in a proper grounding network some years ago.

If you want to discuss this in more detail, email me and we can get together on the phone. I don't have time to key in everything you need to know, but we could discuss it on the phone. Could also send you some photos of large ground networks from some of our jobs. In some cases, the grounding costs more than the equipment.

It's worth the effort to do it properly.

Steve WA3SWS

And another amateur asks further:

My Oregon QTH supposedly 'meets code', according to a home inspection made a year ago, and it has three separate grounds: AC Mains, Telephone and Cable TV. Each one goes to a separate and independent ground stake some distance from the others at various points around the house where the wires enter. I'm inclined to bond the three of them together to prevent one of those grounds from 'floating' to a voltage different from the others, and then them to the antenna ground as well.

Steve WA3SWS replies:

You've got the right idea.

If you tie the grounds together properly, it will be a good thing. If not done properly, it will be dangerous, possibly more so than if left alone. Remember a ground for lightning is very different from a DC ground or a ground for 60 cycles. Few electricians appreciate the difference. Your application could be perfectly adequate for 60 cycles and useless to protect electronics during storms or from power surges.

Lightning typically has a frequency about 1 megacycle, and this is what is used in calculations. Think RF, not mains frequencies.

It is very difficult to make a low impedance connection at those frequencies capable of handling high current. But you must. Remember what potential will develop across a 1 ohm ground system at 1000 amps. You can have 50 or 100 ohms between different ground rods as mentioned above. You cannot

measure impedance accurately with a DC ohmmeter although one will give you a rough relative idea.

A single point ground is ideal, and difficult and expensive to achieve. We install electronic intelligence systems for foreign governments in the desert on water towers and the like, with a high likelihood of taking hits. Intercept systems want the highest

sites around, and are the most attractive to lightning.

A minimum low impedance ground to prevent damage to comms gear consists of three 8 foot ground rods spaced 16 feet apart, bonded together with 1.5" copper strap and massive copper saddle clamps. The ground rods must



be Scotch-bried clean to a mirror finish, then immediately protected with conductive antioxidant which is like a very thick gold colored grease containing suspended copper particles. Clean copper starts to oxidize immediately, so you don't stop for lunch between cleaning them and painting them. Polyphaser, my favorite manufacturer of protection components, sells a CCK Copper Cleaning Kit which contains Scotchbrite, antioxidant, and hand cleaner for getting the antioxidant pasts off your mitts. Better to wear gloves.

That copper strap goes to a heavy copper plate mounted on insulators off the wall of the comm shack. The copper plate is sized so as to straddle studs for ease in mounting, and is backed by a thick piece of wood to let you use long sheet metal screws for mounting components. I use #10 panhead sheet metal screws. All coax protectors are bolted to that plate using the same cleaning and antioxidant. Power protection and telco line protection the same way. All hardware uses external star lockwashers to cut into the material being fastened.

In dry soil or where conductivity is low, the soil may need to be saturated with copper sulfate to increase conductivity. Hollow spikes with a plastic bottle of copper sulfate on top are driven into several areas around the grounding system, where rain will dissolve and leach the substance into the soil. This is not necessary very often, but in dry soil you must do it or the rest of the effort is wasted. This is really beyond the abilities of anyone not specifically experienced in grounding systems for communications. That virtually always excludes electricians.

If your ground run is long, like up the side of a building, you may end up with 3 inch or even 6 inch wide copper strap to get the low inductance needed. In one job, we had to go up 15 stories to the roof of a government building in Delhi, and the cost of the

grounding system exceeded the cost of the commo gear. The customer does not like to see the cost of this in the design and spec, especially where other companies with little experience overlook it or allow a hundred bucks for a surge protector. If you want it to be reliable you have no choice.

Remember, also, lightning does not turn corners. Any bends in the system must be very gradual. A sharp bend is like an open circuit to lightning. In school you see videos of a lightning bolt traveling down a ground wire wrapped around an eave. When it gets to the corner, the lightning continues to go straight. Radius any conductor no larger than the diameter of a coffee can. Larger is better.

At home, remember a single ground rod and a single wire, even if large gauge, is not effective. If a single ground rod is pounded in near the foundation, even less effective. Go out from the building, drive three 8 foot ground rods 16 feet apart, use the clamps and strap I mentioned above, bury the strap in a simple shovel slit, and run it into the house. Use that as the drain for your single point ground.



I have done precisely this and have had in the past a fairly busy shack with amateur and commercial equipment and many antennas. Everything is protected as described above. We have taken lightning hits directly on the property which destroyed trees, and I have

not lost anything in any system ever. I do not disconnect antennas or phone lines from anything and have no concerns. Neighbors are always replacing answering machines, modems and sometimes televisions.

[Thanks to all who weighed in on this very important topic. ED]

Deep Earth Grounding vs Shallow Earth Grounding study with graphs here: <http://www.cpccorp.com/deep.htm>

# Happy St. Patrick's Day!

## VE REPORTS (Hey! - We're not talking Canada!)

Once again we had a fairly large size test session, there were ten candidates present for tests. A total of seven passed the technician tests, and one of them along with three others upgraded to general class. Congratulations to each of the candidates, it is always gratifying to see everyone leave with something that allows them to start in this hobby or to progress to bigger and better things.

I would like to also thank the four VEs that turned out to help. Foster, WF4O, Ellsworth, K4LXG, Jim, W4POL and Bryan, K4RMY. The test session would not have been possible without their help.

Gerald, KN4FM



The next Volunteer Examiner Session is scheduled for **Saturday, April 12**, 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.

## Another Mode Available!

**Computer savvy Hams could probably produce some great videos.** After all, TV is one of the transmissions modes we are licensed to do!



I decided to show how I spend my Sunday mornings at the WSVA Radio.... This is a promo for the station <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3ULTizlZUA>

I put this together myself.

I did not spend more than 10 minutes setting up the tripod and starting and stopping my cheap camera. I walked by the camera and moved into static shots. The toughest part was tromping in the snow where the station sign is.

I recorded the audio with a few short statements ( which became my talk track) and the Talk-up Jingle and copies of what I had done that morning for weather, traffic etc.

I brought them home on a thumb drive and mixed the audio on this computer with Audacity ( a great freeware audio program) and the video was done with Windows Movie Maker ( another freeware program) . MP4 to WMV conversion was done with the Real Player Converter (Free!).

**Try out your skills, communication is our passion!**

Dennis





## Special Call Signs for Sochi Olympics



**UA**— About 160 special call signs (**R2014x, R2014xx, R22xxx, R22xx, R11xxx, R11xx, R000x, R7378TM, R7975TM, R7979TM**) will be in use until **31 March** [425DXN 1178] to celebrate the **XXII Olympic Winter Games and the XI Paralympic Winter Games** to be held in Sochi. See <http://OK2014.ru/> for further information, including log search and details on various awards.

## March Contests and Special Events

1—Wake-Up QRP Sprint  
 1-2—ARRL International DX Contest, SSB  
 2—DARC 10-m Digital Contest  
 2—SARL Hamnet 40m Simulated Emergency Contest  
 4—AGCW YL-CW Party   
 4—ARS Spartan Sprint  
 5-6—AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest  
 8—AGCW QRP Contest  
 8-9—EA PSK63 Contest

8-9—AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest  
 14-16—SARL VHF/UHF Analog/Digital Contest  
 15-16—F9AA Cup, SSB, Russian DX Contest  
 15-17—BARTG HF RTTY Contest  
 16—NA Sprint, SSB  
 20—NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint   
 22—FOC QSO Party  
 29-30—CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB

## On The Air



**SP, Poland:** Popes John Paul II and John XXIII will both be canonised on April 27. The special event station HF2014JP draws attention to this event on the bands until **August 31**. **QSL via SP4ICP, eQSL.**

**OM, Slovakia:** **OM150JM** honours the memory of the Slovakian inventor and wireless pioneer Jozef Murgas. QRV from **February to May** on all bands in CW, SSB, and digital modes. **QSL via OM7AX.**

**LZ, Bulgaria:** The **Radio Club Blagovestnik** continues to honour one Bulgarian saint each month with the following calls in 2014:

LZ1375PRB	January	LZ1950SAS	February
<b>LZ1246SIT</b>	<b>March</b>	LZ1808SNS	April
LZ1555WNS	May	LZ1816PAS	June
LZ1810PPW	July	LZ1680MTS	August
LZ37MP	September	LZ1375IKA	October
LZ1164SIM	November	LZ1784SMH	December

All QSOs count towards the awards "All Bulgarian Saints - 2014" and "St. Teodosii Tyrnovski". QSLs via bureau, LoTW.

**5V, TOGO** (Update). Operators Phil/F5MVB and Joel/F5AOW are planning to be active as 5V7MP and 5V7BJ, respectively, from Avezo between **March 23-31st**. Activity will be on CW and SSB. Details on bands have not been announced yet but will be forthcoming. QSL via their home call signs, direct or by the Bureau.

**5X, UGANDA.** Just a reminder that Alan, G3XAQ, will return to be active as 5X1XA from the capital city of Kampala between **February 25th and March 16th**. Activity will be CW only. He will also be in the RSGB Commonwealth Contest (March 8-9th). **QSL 5X1XA via G3SWH.**

**9J, ZAMBIA** (Update). Members of the Italian DXpedition Team are planning to be active as 9J2T between **February 28th and March**

**17th.** Operators mentioned are Silvano/I2YSB, Vinicio/IK2CIO, Angelo/IK2CKR, Marcello/IK2DIA, Stefano/IK2HKT, Alfeo/I1HJT and Mac/JA3USA. Activity will be on all bands, 160-6 meters using all modes. Suggested frequencies are:

**CW** - 1826, 3530, 7025, 10115, 14030, 18068, 21030, 24893 and 28030 kHz

**SSB** - 3780, 7103, 14270, 18155, 21310, 24975 and 28420 kHz

**RTTY** - 14087 kHz

**6m** - 50102/CW and 50123/SSB

QSL via **I2YSB**, direct or by the Bureau. An OQRS will be available for direct QSL and LoTW at: <http://win.i2ysb.com/logonline/>  
**9X, RWANDA.** Nick, **G3RWF**, will once again be active as **9X0NH** from Rwanda between **March 3-12th**. Activity will be from Kigali on most HF bands and will be mainly CW with some SSB using K3 w/100 watts and wire antennas (Inverted V at about 40 Ft.). There will be no 160m, but he will be on 6 meters. Operations will include an entry in the RSGB Commonwealth Contest (March 8-9th). QSL via G3RWF. Nick states, "I use LoTW and do my own QSLing (prefer ClubLog)."

### IOTA

**OC-209 / OC-210.** The "DX-World.net" reports that **Din, YB8RW**, will be on a "**Northern Indonesia IOTA DXpedition**" and plans to activate **Miangas Island (OC-209)** and **Marore Island (OC-210)** as **YB8RW/p** between **February 10th and March 10th**. Activity will be on the HF bands. **QSL via YB9BU.**



**EI, Ireland:** Justin, EI3CTB, will be operating as EI30T all year long, thereby marking his 30th year on the air. QSL via homecall (ClubLog), eQSL.

**EI14LCC**, run by the Limerick Radio Club, will call attention on the air to Limerick being Ireland's City of Culture in 2014. QSL direct via EI4GXB, LoTW. <http://www.ei4gxb.com/>  
<http://limerickcityofculture.ie/>

**LA, Norway:** LM2T75Y celebrates the 75th anniversary of the NRRL club in Trondheim (LA2T). QRV all year long on HF in lots of modes. QSL via LA2T, LoTW.

**PA, Netherlands:** The international ham club "Whisky Oscar" (PI4WO) celebrates its silver jubilee all year long with the special event call PA35WO. QSL via PI4WO. <http://www.whiskyoscar.com>

**SM, Sweden:** 7S400K draws attention to the 400th anniversary of the city Kristianstad. QRV throughout the whole year on all bands and modes. QSL via SM7BHM. <http://www.sk7bq.com>  
<http://www.kristianstad.se/sv/Kristianstads-kommun/sprak/English/>

Umeaa in Sweden is one the two European Capitals of Culture in 2014. Local amateurs will be active in 2014 with the following special event calls: SC2014ECC, SB2014ECC, SC2014ECC, SD2014ECC, SE2014ECC, SF2014ECC, SG2014ECC, SH2014ECC, SI2014ECC, and SJ2014ECC. QSLs via SK2AT (B), LoTW, eQSL. <http://fura.se/> <http://umea2014.se/en/>

**UR, Ukraine:** The "Mountain Rescue of Crimea" (MRC) group celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. Its members (UU2JO, UU5JA, UU5JIP, UU5JDX, UU5JMW, UU5JMK, UU5JRD, UU5JKP, UU8JA, DD4IL, DJ4IL, DL3FCU, DJ6EB, DO1IM, RZ3CC, UR5FIR, UR6LED, UU0JU, UU1JJ, UU2JC, UU2JI, UU3JS, UU4JLZ, UU4JDZ, UU4JAR, UU5JAR, UU5JC, UU5JJ, UU5JRV, UU5JSA, UU5JSS, UU5JTT, UV5ESZ, UV5EUK, and UY7IQ) will operate the following special event stations all year long: EM50J, EM50JA (also /p and /a), EO50JA, UU3JZA, UU4JZA, and UU5JZA. The group also offers an award based on contacts with their stations. For QSL info: <http://kss.crimea.ua> and [http://www.hamradio.crimea.ua/p/blog-page\\_5799.html](http://www.hamradio.crimea.ua/p/blog-page_5799.html)

**YO, Romania:** YP1989TM is going to draw attention to the violent events of the Rumanian revolution during the end of 1989 which began in Timisoara and led to the overthrow of the country's dictatorship. QRV all year long, probably together with other special event calls using the YP25 prefix. A corresponding award will also be available. QSL YP1989TM via YO2KQT. <http://qrz.com/db/YP1989TM>

**YT, Serbia:** The radio club "Mihajlo Pupin" (YU7AAA / YT7C) is going to commemorate the 160th birthday of this physicist and writer with the call YTOPUPIN throughout all 2014. QSL via YT7WA, eQSL. <http://www.yt7c.org.rs/>

## DXCC NEWS

**CY0P** (Sable Island, 2013 operation) has been approved for DXCC credit. [Tnx NC1L] as well as **7Z1ES** and **T6ZG**.

**ZD9KX** (Tristan Da Cunha und Gough Island, 2012 and 2013) has been approved for DXCC credit.

## Around the Airwaves—Band Expanded

**CT, Portugal:** The Portuguese authorities have temporarily extended the 160m band for Portuguese hams for a number of international contests. In addition to the established frequencies 1810-1850 kHz Portuguese operators may currently operate also in the band 1850-2000 kHz.

<http://www.anacom.pt/render.jsp?contentId=1188418>

This month's bulletin was made possible with information provided by NC1L, QRZ DX, The Weekly DX, The OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST, the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

## CQ Announces eQSL Electronic Confirmation Acceptance

CQ magazine will accept contact confirmations made on the eQSL.cc electronic confirmation system for its operating awards effective immediately, CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, and eQSL Founder and Webmaster Dave Morris, N5UP, announced in January.

There will be certain limitations and procedural differences for different awards, at least to start. Only confirmations from "Authenticity Guaranteed" members of eQSL will be accepted, and in accordance with existing eQSL policy, a membership level of bronze or higher is required in order to participate in award programs via eQSL. "This is the first time that CQ has formally accepted anything other than traditional paper QSL cards for its awards," said Moseson. "We have been working with Dave Morris and his team for several months to assure that the integrity of our awards programs will be protected and to create mechanisms to make it easy for both award applicants and award managers to use eQSL credits toward our awards. All of our award managers have been involved in this process and support this action." "We want to express our great appreciation to Dave and his team for their willingness to do whatever was necessary to make this agreement possible," Moseson added. "It has been a pleasure working with them and we look forward to a long-lasting relationship." "We are pleased to be adding CQ to the top of our list of amateur organizations that accept electronic QSLs," said Morris. "CQ has some of the most highly sought-after awards, and we have been working behind the scenes for years to create credit submission mechanisms that would ensure the integrity of their programs without introducing any additional labor for the award managers.

We believe the electronic QSL can drastically reduce costs, and the award application mechanisms we have developed will provide for more efficient processing at reduced cost for both the applicant and the award manager." Specific Requirements and Procedures Applicants for the CQ DX and CQ DX Field Awards must print out their eQSLs and submit them along with their traditional QSLs to a CQ checkpoint or to CQ DX Awards Manager Billy Williams, N4UF. eQSL has an automated process in place for applicants or CQ's Worked All Zones, WPX, and USA Counties awards.

N5UP explains how that will work for the applicant: "The applicant goes to the My Awards screen. He clicks on the particular award he wants to apply for. This brings up a list of the credits our system 'thinks' he is entitled to. There are checkboxes that allow him to check which ones he wants to use, and we automatically pre-fill one credit per category so he doesn't have to do anything if he wants to take the defaults. At the bottom of the screen are two buttons: 'Submit to CQ' and 'Print Paper Application'." The "submit" button will place all the selected QSOs into a file for the award manager to access, while the "print" button will generate a printed list to be submitted along with the traditional application.

PLEASE NOTE that ALL applicants must send the award fee payment to the CQ Award Manager, regardless of how the application is submitted. Some CQ award managers are now accepting PayPal; see individual award web pages for details. All awards will continue to accept traditional QSLs as well as eQSLs. For the USA-Counties Award (USACA), applicants must note on their record books (or printouts) whether each county has been confirmed traditionally (with an "X" to the right of the entry) or electronically (with an "E" next to the entry).

For more information on eQSL, visit <http://www.eQSL.cc>.

[A PDF version of this can be downloaded here.](#)

Thanks Dave.



**This is an announcement**

that I and other active testers in the Valley are starting a contest club.

We are calling it " **Shenandoah Valley Wireless** ". Any ham in the Shenandoah Valley, or relatively close to it( I'll explain later ), may join.

There are 5 CQ contests open to club competition( actually there are 8; 3 of them have CW

and SSB contests on separate weekends ); there are 5 different rules concerning club members for these.

And there are 8( 11 counting separate CW and SSB contests ) ARRL contests that have Affiliated Club Competition.

For the CQ contests, here are the rules concerning club entries:

**CQ WW 160(CW and SSB ):** a club must submit at least 3 logs to be put into the Club competition. No mention of area is made.

**CQ WW WPX RTTY:** minimum of 3 logs, must live in the same geographic area.

**CQ WW RTTY DX:** minimum of 4 logs; must live in the same geographic area.

**CQ WW WPX( CW and SSB ):** minimum of 3 logs; must live in the same geographic area.

**CQ WW DX:** minimum of 4 logs; members must live in a circle of 175 miles radius( 350 mile diameter ) of a selected center. I have selected N4MM's QTH as the center of our 175-mile radius circle, so that we may include Neal N4XU in the contest club( but as you see, he, and anyone else not living " in the same geographic area " is only eligible to use the club for the 1st and last CQ contests listed. Anyone who lives within 175 miles of John N4MM's QTH is likewise eligible to enter.

There are no other requirements for the CQ contests for clubs, other than anyone who wants their score to help out the club must put the club name in their entry in the proper place with the exact name ( Shenandoah Valley Wireless ) used.

The ARRL's rules are much stricter: we must be an ARRL Affiliated Club, and at least 51 % of the members must be ARRL members, must have filed an annual report with the Field Services Dept of ARRL HQ within the last 2 years, and submit a list of all club members eligible to compete for the club within 30 days after the contest, and there must be at least 3 entries from qualified club members submitted to the ARRL; and, of

course, you must put the club name on your entry in the required spot using the exact name. The ARRL's circle rule is the same as the CQ contests.

The ARRL has 3 levels of club competition: Local, Medium, and Unlimited.

**Local** is limited to 10 or fewer entries, and all operators must live within 35 miles of the club's designated center, and the members must be in good standing according to the rules and requirements of the club.

**Medium** is 50 or fewer entries, and are to be within the circle ( a 175-mile circle from a designated center; sounds like the CQ definition, but it depends on what your definition of **is** is! ), and, again, members must be in good standing, etc.

**Unlimited:** 51 or more entries must be made( I don't foresee us reaching that level anytime soon! ), and live within the circle, and members must be in good standing, etc.

The Medium Club category seems to fit us the best, at this point, anyway.

I/we are going to try to keep rules for the club to a minimum, so we may get as many participants as possible( more people sending in logs with the club name included equals a higher club score ). We will appreciate any number of contacts that you can contribute to the club's effort! Whether you make 10 Q's or 500, you will not be turned down! Actually, logs are not sent to me; they are sent by you to either CQ or the ARRL. Sending in your entry with the club name on it **DOES NOT TAKE YOU OUT OF YOUR ENTRY CATEGORY!** If you enter as Single Op, Low Power, you will be competing against those in that category; putting the club name on your entry only ensures that the club will receive credit for your log in computing club scores.

If you are interested, I would like to hear from you! Please let me know, so I can judge how big this might be.

This is going to be a fun club! Some of us are die-hard testers, while others just want to get on the air, and see what they can do in the limited time they have to play. All are welcome.

For the ARRL club rules, I will need a definite answer, and whether or not you are

an ARRL member; for CQ contests all you need to do is include the club name on your entry. If you compete by sending in an entry I would like to receive an email from you with your totals, so I can do a quick calculation to see how we have done.

**ad4tj@yahoo.com.**

73, David AD4TJ



## Minutes of the VARA Meeting of February 4th, 2014



On Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the **Valley Amateur Radio Association** held its monthly meeting at the Country Cooking restaurant in Staunton. The meeting was opened at 7 pm by president Greg Czerniak, W4GRC. 20 members and guests were present and introduced themselves. The 50/50 drawing winner was Al Bonck N3JB, win-

ning \$9.00.

**ARES Report:** David Tanks, AD4TJ, EC: The next net will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, February 13th at 8 pm on the 146.850 repeater, with Greg W4GRC volunteering to be Net Control. David said the equipment at Augusta Health is not ready for us to pick up yet; they will let him know when it is available.

**Field Day:** Greg reminded us that we do have our 3 committee members: Bennie Cook N4BCC, Wayne Bowyer N4EYZ, and Greg W4GRC. Any one is allowed/ encouraged to attend their meetings to see how the planning makes it all come together. Where will Field Day be held this year? Still unknown, as the committee hasn't had a meeting yet.

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

**Treasurer's report:** Treasurer Wayne Bowyer N4EYZ, gave the report, seconded and passed.

**Contest Club:** David AD4TJ, gave details of the contest club that is being set up. There will be no dues, no meetings ( yet ). The name we have decided on is " **Shenandoah Valley Wireless** ". The club name must be on your member's logs to count toward the club. The CQ contests have 4 different sets of rules concerning clubs:

1. The WW 160 contests must have at least 3 logs submitted to be included in the club competition, with no mention

of geographical limits.

2. The WW WPX contests: 3 or more logs must be submitted, and all must live in the same geographic area.

3. The WW DX contests: 4 or more logs; members must live within 175 miles of a designated center.

4. The WW RTTY DX contests: 4 or more logs, and live in the same geographic area.

5. The WW WPX RTTY contests: 3 or more logs, and live in the same geographic area.

The ARRL has stricter rules: we must be an Affiliated Club to compete, which means that 51% or more of the members must be ARRL members, the club must have filed an annual report with the Field Services Dept. of ARRL HQ within the last 2 years, and submit a list of all club members eligible to compete for the club within 30 days after the contest, and there must be at least 3 entries from qualified club members submitted to the ARRL, and you must put the club name on your entry to count it with the club. He is waiting for clarification on their circle rule.

There are 3 levels of club competition:

**Local:** 10 or fewer entries, all operators must live within 35 miles of a designated center, and the members must be in good standing according to the rules and requirements of the club.

**Medium:** 50 or fewer entries, and live within 175 miles of the designated center, and good standing, as above.

**Unlimited:** 51 or more entries, and live within the circle, and be in good standing.

It looks like the Medium category fits us the best.

We know there are several contesters in the area interested in putting their efforts together. We also would like to see those who have not participated in contests to consider putting in some time, and include the club name in their entry. This is going to be fun! No pressure, just have fun! We will accept any effort you give, whether you make 1 contact, or 1000. All are welcome. Actually, I don't know what you have sent in, as you don't send it to me, you send it directly to CQ or the ARRL. I would like to hear from you if you have sent an entry in, so I can see how much interest there is. Sending your entry in with the club name on it **DOES NOT TAKE AWAY FROM YOUR ENTRY AS A SINGLE OPERATOR**. Even someone doing a Multi-Operator station is eligible to use the club name on their entry.





We have selected the center of the circle as being the QTH of John Kanode N4MM; looking on qrz.com at his info shows you how far away you are from him, to see if you qualify to be within the 175 mile distance requirement. We already have Sandy Mullins K4PZC, 122 miles from N4MM, and Butch Washer N5SMQ, 140 miles from N4MM, wanting to be included.

The 2nd reading of the membership application of Josh Johnson K4OOD( ex-KK4WBW ) was done, noting that he will get a year's free membership under the new rule of giving a free membership to anyone who is recently licensed in Augusta County or who has recently upgraded and are not a member currently. He was voted in as a new member.

**Old business:** Wayne N4EYZ mentioned that at the Frostfest they had drawings for prizes; at 1 pm they had a drawing for a dual-band mobile, and John Keller W4ZAO was one of the names drawn, but he must have left, as they announced another name that was drawn.

**New business:** Al N3JB is stepping down as Program Manager, after serving in that capacity for 6 years. A request for a volunteer was made, and Wayne N4EYZ, said that he would do it. Thanks to Al for his efforts for 6 years!

Fred Evans N4KYM said that there is a ham who is one of the original members of VARA when it first started in the 70's, and has been a force in getting things done, and being an Elmer to many hams in the Valley, and deserved recognition. Of course he was talking about Jeff Rinehart W4PJW. The club voted to give him a life-time free membership to the club, and have a plaque made for him. Fred will take care of getting the plaque made.

Greg received a call from the Hometown Grill, and they said that they have put doors on the openings leading to the meeting room in the back, and installed shutters to keep out the noise, and asked us if we would like to come back and meet there. After some discussion, it was voted that we would try it for the March meeting, depending on if the room would be available that night. Greg will find out and let us know( 2-6-2014: in an email from Greg, he said the room is available that night, so we will hold our March meeting there ).

David AD4TJ said that when he, Jeff, and Greg got together, that we said that the trustee of the club call sign should be on the bank's list of eligible persons qualified to sign checks, in addition to the treasurer. Doug Tippett W8RTN, ex-treasurer, recalled that Jeff is already qualified to sign checks.

David also brought up that February is when we donate money to 3 repeater groups/trustees/owners. After some discussion, we voted to donate \$300.00 to the Waynesboro Repeater Association( more than usual, to help offset expected costs in replacing batteries ), \$150.00 to the 146.850 repeater's owner, and \$150.00 to Fred for the 146.700 repeater.

David also brought up the videos that both the ARRL has, and a club in Ohio created, to inform the public of Amateur Radio. Also the ARRL has some handouts available for giving out to schools. The club voted to purchase one of the videos from the Ohio club to view it. Elizabeth Varner volunteered to contact the teacher at Stuarts Draft Middle School that, as part of an elective class, is teaching Morse Code to students, to see if she is agreeable to accepting handouts for the students, and/or receiving a video to present to them. Elizabeth said that a ham club in Chesapeake is geared to presenting Amateur Radio to the high schools, and that there are jobs in the Tidewater area that are available for students that have passed courses/ classes( elective or after-school ), and there are scholarships available( not sure if that was through them, or through the ARRL ). David also mentioned that our club had been offered a booth at Augusta Expo, by Steven Grant W4IIV for at least a couple of years and we had not taken advantage of it( due to lack of someone pushing it and volunteering to head it up/help out ). Greg mentioned contacting Physics teachers in the high schools, or maybe setting up a display for Career Days at middle/high schools. Elizabeth suggested the flyers could be gotten to hand out at Field Day.

Wayne showed a radio of his, a crystal-controlled, 1 watt, 2 meter mobile.

With no program to present, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Tanks, AD4TJ, VARA Secretary



## MARA Secretary's Report February 6, 2014 Meeting

Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 PM by President Gerald Nauman, KN4FM. The meeting was at the Wood Grill .

**Attendance:** A total of 34 people attended of which 6 were guests. Introductions were made all around.

**New Members:** The first readings were for: George Collins **KK4OLY**

Ashton Waters (not licensed yet)

Jean Waters (not licensed yet)

A second reading was done for **KC4SSS**, **Barry May** and the vote was taken and he was elected to membership.

**Secretary Minutes:** Approved as printed in the February 2014 issue of The Monitor

**Treasurer Report:** Approved as printed in the February 2014 issue of The Monitor

**Reports by Committees**

**VE Committee:** Testing Session February 8 at 9:00AM at the Woodman of the World Building on Route 42, North of Dayton.

**Public Service:** None

**Repeaters:** 440 Bob VanFossen—Working well

145.130 Dave Fordham **KD9LA**—Working great.

147.315 Now up and running fine Paul Wyse **W4PFM** and Bryan Daniels **K4RMY** says it has good coverage for a low repeater

147.225 is down for repairs. The suggestion was to temporarily use the 147.130 machine for nets.

**Old Business:** **MARA club** dues are past due. According to our By-Laws if they are not paid by the February meeting, the by-laws may require a member to re-apply for membership.

There were no volunteers for field Day so the topic will be brought up next month's meeting.

**New Business:** The Field Day Committee will be announced next month

The audit committee of Rick Adams **KJ4IND** and David Fordham **KD9LA** has not met yet.

**Announcements:** John Spillman, Monitor Editor, invited everyone to submit article for the Monitor and he reminded us that it is our Newsletter.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Seconded, passed.

**The 50/50 Drawing :** The pot was a total of \$28 and the split was worth \$14 and won by Brenda Hill **KK4UNK**

**Due to new tax laws, the Wood Grill tip is no longer a part of the bill, so dinners are reminded to remember your server.**

**Program:** **K4LXG**, Ellsworth Neff brought in a 1944 Black and White film that he obtained from Turner Classic Movies.



## Patrolling the Ether (MGM)

Cast: Donald Curtis, Hazel Brooks, Selmer Jackson, Richard Crane, Connie Gilchrist, Lee Phelps, Emmett Vogan, Marc Cram

Release date: April 10, 1944 (USA) Director: Paul Burford

Running time: 21 minutes

It depicted the work of the RID (the FCC's Radio Intelligence Division) in policing the air ways by monitoring the airwaves for Nazi spy transmissions.

The hero is a young ham. The film is dedicated to America's unsung heroes who before the Pearl Harbor were amateur radio operators. The film is a dated but a fairly realistic melodramatic dramatization of an exciting spy hunt. An on-line site says that it is notable as the first film ever broadcast simultaneously on more than one television station; on 10 April 1944, it was shown on three stations, the beginning of broadcast television. Many believe that there was no television broadcasting during World War Two. Though production of television receivers came to a halt during the war, television continued in a number of ways. In the United States, broadcasting continued on a limited basis throughout the war. RCA provided TRK-12 sets for use in hospitals in New York

for injured servicemen, and had programs two nights a week. Both W2XBS and W2XAB broadcast civil defense programs. In 1943, Philco advertised that its Philadelphia station, WPTZ, had broadcast the Army-Penn football game. Don Lee's station in Los Angeles broadcast a regular schedule during the war. Many stations hired women to operate cameras and control panels to continue television programming, including W9XBK/



WBKB in Chicago and W2XB/WRGB in Schenectady.

The MARA club enjoyed seeing the old film and getting a good laugh at some of the plot devices such as a spy radio station hidden in a cemetery and a late night raid with a very squeaky iron gate. The absence of an antenna on the spy car , or at least anything that would satisfy the laws of physics, was humorous. The whole concept of having an FCC agent come and promise a career to a 16 year old kid is funny. And the obligatory spy car, the bad guys, going over the cliff in flames after a high speed chase by a teenage FCC agent was hilarious. I won't even get into the fact that the German Nazis all spoke English with a stereo-type accent!

Seriously, a big thank you to Ellsworth for a delightful showing and we need to be aware that the 1940s were a time when ridicule and cynicism were not in fashion.

Respectfully submitted, February 2014  
Dennis Phillips, MARA Secretary



**MARA Treasurer's Report**

**January 21, 2014 – February 20, 2014**

Beginning Balance January 20, 2014 (Last Report)		\$ 2,892.11
Add: February Meeting 50/50	\$ 14.00	
New Members (3)	36.00	
Membership Renewals (12)	144.00	
Miscellaneous Donations	<u>15.00</u>	
	Total Deposits	\$ 209.00
Less: SVEC (January)	\$ -23.12	
Bank Fee (December)	<u>-2.00</u>	
	Total Disbursements	\$ <u>-25.12</u>
Ending Balance as of February 20, 2014		\$ 3,075.99



*Submitted by Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC, MARA Treasurer*



## Page Valley Amateur Radio Club (PVARC) February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Meeting

The members of the Page Valley Amateur Radio Club met at 6:30 PM at the Page County Sheriff's Training Room, in Luray.

The meeting was called to order by President, Bob Forrest, WO4MI. Unfortunately, both the Secretary and the Treasurer were unable to be present.

Latecomers fortunately arrived to make a quorum, so voting could take place.

Bob had received a copy of the treasurer's report, which he passed around, and it was voted and approved.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed in the Feb. *Monitor* newsletter.

### Old Business:

Zory Glaser (KB3VQC), (on behalf of the Program Committee) announced progress in putting together a series of future programs to possibly get new amateurs with a technician license, and others who primarily use only VHF/ UHF interested in adding HF, and expanding their "ham ticket".

Zory and Morgan Phenix (K4RHD) suggested a series of short presentations/ discussions on topics encountered by hams actually "operating" their equipment. Such presentations would be made by club members, and/or invited guests who have an interest and experience in the topic. Following each short presentation, a discussion and demonstration and/or "show and tell" could/ would take place.

Examples of such topics include: Operating 'Split', Simplex and Repeaters, Beyond Repeaters (Weak Signals), 'DX-ing' and Data-Logging Programs, 'Low-Band' DX (160m), Electronic Log Records and 'LogBook of the World', Contesting and Contesting Software, Propagation Forecasting, Digital Voice and Data, Exchanging QSL cards and Bureaus ('Buros'), Operating 'Mobile' / 'Portable' / Low Power (QRP), Use of Beacons and Reverse Beacons, 'Spotting' and 'Skimming', Sources of Electronic 'Noise' / Dealing with 'Noise', Award Hunting (Collecting 'Wallpaper'), Emergency Communications/ EmComm (RACES/ ARES/ local), Public Service Events, Special Event Stations, Satellite Communication, Image Communication (ATV/ SSTV), ... Discussion ensued and interest in such programs is apparent.

John Spillman (KT4CB) added to the mix regarding a Short Wave Listener (SWL) program the 3905 Century Club has available, where anyone, including amateurs with a less than a General license can earn an award called the 'SWL Award'. John agreed to forward a PDF file with the details of the program to the membership. More detail to be forthcoming.

Members of the Club also have available a number of DVDs and CDs on a variety of ham-related topics, and would be willing to share the media as part of, or in addition to future programs.

Zory noted that Club member, Dave Firestone (K4DPF) had been invited to make a presentation at this meeting on the "Virtual Radar" device and application which he described in the current issue of the *Monitor*, and to discuss "Software Defined Radio". Unfortunately, Dave was unable to join us, due to a prior commitment, but did offer to make such a presentation at a future meeting (provided that we can provide a broadband internet connection so that he can link to his local home station). We will look into the availability of such a connection at our meeting site.

Another suggestion made was to have some refreshments available at our Club meetings, especially since we no longer conduct the majority of our meetings at an eating establishment. Zory offered to supply refreshments for the next meeting.

### New Business:

Field Day participation was discussed. The dates are June 28-29, 2014. Application for reservation of one of the pavilions at Lake Arrowhead has occurred. Morgan Phenix (K4RHD) agreed to be the chef again this year, and offered to again set up his solar ham station. Available ham radio equipment, antennas, power supplies, field operations, and related topics and equipment needs were outlined. Discussion to continue at next meeting.

Morgan (K4RHD) reminded folks that he would be cataloging the club-owned equipment, by item plus who was in possession and where it was being kept.

The meeting ended at approx. 8:25 pm, following spirited discussion on a variety of topics relating to future program planning and our Field Day operation.



## USCG Links

A link to the emergency contact information for the USCG.

[http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg534/Contact\\_CG.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg534/Contact_CG.asp)

...and here is a link to all the channel frequencies:

<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=mtvhf>

Thanks Mark & Dave

## ARES Update

**Rockingham/Harrisonburg ARES** needs to update the database of member information.

If you have been a participant in **Rockingham/Harrisonburg ARES** in the past I would appreciate you updating your information by filling out the Google form below. ( this would include any public service events that Rockingham/Harrisonburg ARES and MARA participate in)

Also, if you haven't participated but would like to ( even if you are not a resident of Rockingham/Harrisonburg) or if you are a regular check-in to the **Rockingham ARES net**, I would ask you to fill in the Google Form below. If you have any questions or comments please email me direct at [k4rmy@arrl.net](mailto:k4rmy@arrl.net). Your information will not be shared with anyone but the **ARRL ARES** organization and then only after I have notified members that they have asked for specific info. Typically, all reports I send in are of a very general nature and do not include email, phone numbers, and other personal information of members.

Additionally, please feel free to share this with anyone you know that may be interested in participating.

Google Form URL: <http://goo.gl/wsV7xD>

Thank you for you time and assistance in helping me to gather this information.

Bryan Daniels, K4RMY  
Emergency Coordinator  
Rockingham County ARES  
District 15 VA

## Section Manager for Virginia continues unabated

Virginia SM, Carl Clements, W4CAC, continues unabated, winning the election again! His term begins April 1. More information on the ARRL web site:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/two-arrl-sections-getting-new-section-managers-virginia-sm-re-elected>

## Rockingham ARES Net Repeater Change

**Rockingham County ARES** will move the normal **Monday night 8:00pm ARES Net** to the **K4MRA Massanutten Peak** repeater until further notice. **This is the 145.130 repeater with a negative offset and a tone of 131.8** . Please program your radios according.

Bryan Daniels, K4RMY  
Emergency Coordinator  
Rockingham County ARES  
District 15 VA



The **Page County ARES Net** meets the first Sunday nights on the local 147.550. the remaining alternate between (2nd and 4th Sundays) on the 146.67 repeater (PL 114.8) and (3rd and 5th Sundays) on the 146.625 (PL 131.8) repeater, at 8:00 pm local time.

The **Rockingham County ARES Net** meets Monday nights at 8:00 pm local time, the first Monday on 146.55 simplex, all other Mondays on the 147.225 repeater (PL 131.8).

The **Augusta County ARES Net** meets the second Thursday of each month at 8:00 pm local time, usually on the 146.850 repeater (PL 131.8).

The **NVTN (Northern Virginia Traffic Net)** meets daily on the 147.300 (PL 131.8) repeater at 7:30 pm local time.

All hams are welcome!

## Mark Your Calendars for your Favorite Events!

### March

- 2—Page Cty ARES Net [147.550 Simplex]
- 3—Rockingham Cty ARES Net [K4NRA]
- 4—VARA Club Meeting [New Location]
- 6—MARA Club Meeting
- 7—Luncheon Meeting
- 7—PVARC Club Meeting
- 8-9—ID QSO Party
- 9—DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
- 9—Page Cty ARES Net [146.670,PL-114.8]
- 9—NA Sprint, RTTY
- 9-10—WI QSO Party
- 10—Rockingham Cty ARES Net [KN4FM]
- 13—Augusta Cty ARES Net
- 14—Luncheon Meeting
- 15-16—VA QSO Party



- 16—Page Cty ARES Net [146.625 PL-131.8]
- 17—St. Patrick's Day
- 17—Rockingham Cty ARES Net [KA4EEN]
- 20—First Day of Spring
- 20—NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint
- 20—Deadline for April submission\*
- 21—Luncheon Meeting
- 22-23—LA, OK QSO Party
- 23—Page Cty ARES Net [146.670,PL-114.8]
- 24—Rockingham Cty ARES Net [WF4O]
- 28—Luncheon Meeting
- 29—Page County ARES Training Class
- 30—Page Cty ARES Net [146.625 PL-131.8]
- 31—Rockingham Cty ARES Net [K4LXG]



### April

- 1 April Fool's Day
- 1 VARA Club Meeting
- 3 MARA Club Meeting
- 3 SARL 80M QSO Party
- 4 PVARC Club Meeting
- 5-6 MS QSO Party
- 6 Page Cty ARES Net [147.550 Simplex]
- 7 Rockingham Cty ARES Net [K4NRA]
- 12-13 GA QSO Party
- 13 Page Cty ARES Net [146.670,PL-114.8]
- 14—Rockingham Cty ARES Net [KN4FM]



- 15—TAX DAY
- 19-20—MI, ON QSO Party
- 20—EASTER
- 20 Deadline for May submission\*
- 20 Page Cty ARES Net [146.625 PL-131.8]
- 21 Rockingham Cty ARES Net [K4RBZ]
- 26 Page County ARES Training Class
- 26-27—SP DX RTTY Contest
- 26-27—FL QSO Party
- 27 Page Cty ARES Net [146.670,PL-114.8]
- 28—Rockingham Cty ARES Net [KU4XN]



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.

President: Gerald Nauman, KN4FM  
 Vice President: Gerry Brunk, K4RBZ  
 Secretary: Dennis Phillips NS4K  
 Treasurer: Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC  
 Board (exp 2015): David Fordham, KD9LA  
 Board (exp 2014): Andrew Pearson N4RCE

<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: Wayne Bowyer, N4EYZ  
 Program Manager: Al Bonck N3JB

<http://w4xd.com>

VARA meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Country Cookin' Restaurant on Richmond Road in Staunton, Virginia

Dinner starts at 6:00 pm,  
 the business meeting starts at 7:00 pm

**Visitors are always welcome**

Dues (\$15 per year) should be mailed to:

VARA, Wayne Bowyer  
 802-B Randolph Street  
 Staunton, VA 22401

### 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: Goeffrey Phillips WD4LYO  
 Board Member: John Spillman, KT4CB

<http://www.k4pmh.org>

PVARC meets the first Friday of each month at the Page County Sheriff's Training Room in Luray, VA.

The meeting begins at 6:30 pm

**Visitors are always 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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**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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Happy  
St. Patrick's  
Day!

**MARA**

**VARA**

**PVARC**

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