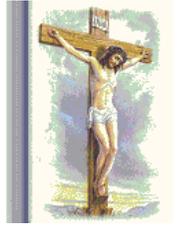


THE MONITOR



April 2014

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



VARA Meeting: Hometown Grille & Buffet in Staunton

The **Valley Amateur Radio Association**, will hold its **April 1st** 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. This month's program will be an introduction to Echo-Link by Greg, W4GRC.

MARA Meeting: Wood Grill in Harrisonburg

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, **April 3rd**, 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. Greg, W4GRC from VARA, will have a presentation on Echo-Link.

PVARC Meeting: Page County Sheriff's Training Room in Luray

The **Page Valley Amateur Radio Club** will hold its regular meeting on **April 4th** at 6:30pm at the Page County Sheriff's Training Room in Luray. All hams and their guests are invited.

Friday Luncheon: Hometown Grille and Buffet in 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.

New Members



MARA has three new members

Let's welcome Jean and Ashton Waters [no calls yet] and George Collins, KK4OLY to our club.

PVARC has a new member

Let's welcome Dave, KG4EYX to our club.



Ashton and Jean Waters

VARA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings fellow Amateur Radio Operators. I want to remind you that we will be meeting 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. Last month we voted to continue to meet at the Hometown Grill and Buffet rather than at County Cooking. I can't say that we will meet at Hometown Grill and Buffet forever, but let's give it a fair chance. Hometown Grill and Buffet has greatly improved the back room, however, there are a couple of issues. I trust Hometown Grill can work them out and make some more improvements.

Our program this month is on Echo Link. In fact, I will also share the Echo Link program at the next MARA meeting as well. I am not an expert on Echo Link, and I am sure there are some who can chime in and share what they know. After all, that is what Amateur Radio is all about. Amateur Radio is about learning from each other the ins and outs of communicating. Amateur Radio is all about experimenting with different modes, and even building some equipment. And let's not forget that Amateur Radio also provides a public service in time of emergencies and during special events. You have to admit, we have a great hobby and there is something for every ham to specialize in. I don't see how you can ever become tired of Amateur Radio! I have been a ham for 51 plus years now and I would not give it up for anything.

Field Day is about three and a half months away. I hope you will set the Field Day dates aside and join us. I am looking forward to meeting the other part of the Field Day committee from MARA and discover who the Field Day Chairman is. Then we can roll up our sleeves and get busy. You still have time to sign up and be part of the committee. There are never too many committee members! I suspect we will have our first committee meeting in April.

We still need volunteers to step up and share some of their special radio knowledge. A big thanks to David, AD4TJ for sharing some of his experiences with moon bounce communications last month. Let me or Wayne, N4EYZ know if you have a program you would like to share. It does not have to be complicated or lengthy. One goal I have as your president is to have a monthly program. After all there is a ton of stuff to share. For those who are connected via the Shenandoah Valley Google Groups, you know what I mean.

That sums it up for this month's edition of the Monitor. See you in April at the next VARA meeting, and bring a friend!

73, Greg, W4GRC, President, VARA



MARA President's Message

Once again we are rapidly approaching the first Thursday of the month which means it is time for the MARA club meeting.

There is one nagging item that we have to take care of this month, we need two (or more) volunteers for the Field Day Committee. Herb, AA2BH, volunteered to serve on the committee, and after the meeting a couple of others mentioned that they were interested in joining him but they had to check their calendars for Field Day weekend. If there are additional hams that wish to help, please offer your services, the committee can always use additional help. Thanks for volunteering Herb. For those of you that are wondering, this year Field Day is June 28 and 29.

The program this month is being present by Greg, W4GRC. Greg happens to be the president of the VARA club, but his program is not about the club, it is about Echo Link. I know what Echo Link is but I don't know much about it so this should be an informative program for me and I would expect there are many of you that will learn what it is all about and how to use the system.



I hope to see a good turn-out for the meeting on April 3 at 6:30 for the meal with the meeting starting at 7:30 at the Wood Grill Buffet at 1711 Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg.

Gerald, MARA President

Mobile Humor

MIB: Men in Black. Cars -- From a recent conversation:

"I noticed you have some antennas and a special license plate on your car. What does that plate mean?"

"You're right. That is a special plate. The K8MP was assigned to me by the United States Government."

"And what about the antennas?"

"They go with the two-way radio I have in the car."

"What do you use it for?"

"I send coded messages to other government personnel. Some are even foreign nationals. They have been permitted by their governments to send and receive coded messages as well."

"Can I see the radio?"

"Sure."

"Wow, that thing is small. It's amazing you can transmit to other countries with it. What do those numbers mean?"

"Those represent one of our special channels or frequencies. They are for our use only. Currently, the radio is tuned to 14.030 megahertz and that's what the numbers mean. If I turn this knob you can see the frequency changes. We use thousands of such frequencies to handle all the information we pass along."

"Can I listen to it?"

"Sure, I'll turn up the volume." _*(NOTE that the sounds are Morse Code, not voices)*

"That sounds like something from a James Bond movie."

"Yes, it's in code."

"What did he just send?"

"UA3RGW."

"What does that mean?"

"That is the code name for his station. Every one of us has his own. You already know that mine is K8MP."

"Where is he?"

"He's in Moscow."

"WHAT???" This can't be legal. I knew something was fishy here."

"Nope, it's perfectly legal. Look, here's my permit from the Federal Communications Commission."

"Wow. But isn't it dangerous to have your code name on your license plate?"

It's like advertising that you're a spy."

"Well, it does raise some eyebrows sometimes. But at the same time, it's a good way for others who do this to recognize me. Sometimes we even pull off the road and exchange the messages in person. That way we can maintain a degree of radio silence."

"That's great thinking. After all, your plate just looks like a typical vanity plate so most folks wouldn't think anything was up. Heck, when I first saw it, I thought it meant the owner's name was Kate Empty until I saw you get in the car."

"You're not the first person to think that. At stop lights, I sometimes look in the rear-view mirror and see folks staring at it, trying to decipher it. The other day, a guy behind me even whipped out his cell phone and took a photo of my license plate and another of the big antenna on the fender. I've been mistaken for a cop too. Folks often come flying up behind me and then hit the brakes when they see the all black car with antennas and a cop-sounding license plate number."

"This is all so interesting. How long have you been doing it?"

"I started during the Cold War."

"WHAT???" Now I'm suspicious again."

"Relax, it's nothing bad. Actually, I have been teasing you a bit in the way I have explained things. This radio is something you have probably already heard about. It's a Ham radio."

"No way. I have seen Ham radios in movies and they look nothing like this. They were huge, with great big knobs and gauges and even had vacuum tubes in them. And they certainly didn't have lit up numbers like yours does. No, this is not a Ham radio. I really think you're some sort of spy. And that's OK with me, as long as you are working for our side."

"Think what you want but it really is a Ham radio."

"I just don't believe you because Ham radios died out when cell phones came in. This is something different. Speaking of cell phones, why don't you guys just use those?"

"We prefer to stay off the grid."

"There you go again. What are you hiding? And I want to know what that Russian guy told you."

"It was routine stuff."

"Oh yeah? Like what?"

"Really, it was nothing to get excited about."

"Then you shouldn't have a problem telling me what it was."

"All right. He simply said that I had a good signal into Moscow and that his name was Boris."

"That's all?"

"Pretty much. Oh, he did say something about his XYL." (Note: XYL just means Ex Young Lady, or married)

"XYL?"

"That's our code word for wife."

"I'm pretty much convinced you're a spy now. And I bet you use that code word for wife to protect your wives from harm. I'm kind of surprised that the Boris would even mention he had a wife, er, I mean an XYL. You know, for her safety and all that."

"There is really no danger. Boris and his wife are just regular folks like you and I. I'm sorry I misled you before. IT IS REALLY JUST A HAM RADIO !!!

"I'd like to believe you but there are too many things that don't add up.

Say, you never told me what Boris actually said about his XYL."

"Oh, he only mentioned her name."

"What is it?"

"Natasha.."

That's it... there was no way the guy would believe K8MP wasn't a spy.

A good example how simple nothings can become "big somethings".

PVARC Meeting Summary – March 7, 2014

The **Page Valley Amateur Radio Club** held its monthly business meeting in the **Page County EOC Training Room** in Luray on this date. The meeting was called to order at 1830 by **Bob Forrest/WO4MI**, PVARC President. Sixteen of 26 members were in attendance. After introducing our newest member **Dave/KG4EYX**; and, recognizing Letty (accompanied by member **Zory/KB3VQC**) who were providing refreshment this evening, he announced that **Dave/K4DPF** would be demonstrating his latest home brew project (based on an article in the January 2014 QST) where he can track aircraft by reprogramming a {cheap} digital TV SDR chip to receive Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast (ADS-B) signals, following our business meeting.



Announcements: Zory announced that he and Letty had brought in some donuts and soft drinks as refreshments, adding that there was no coffee this evening and suggested that some provision for coffee and light refreshment should be considered for future meetings. {Secretarial note: Item was noted and will be put on the agenda for the next Board Meeting.}

Secretary & Treasurers Reports:

The Secretary reported the minutes of last month's meeting were printed in The Monitor and thanked those responsible for providing minute notes in his absence. A motion was made to approve them as printed. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

PVARC Treasurer unable to attend but has provided the Secretary & President with the current spreadsheet. She reports the PVARC checking account (at the end of February) totaled: \$1,481.56, up from last month with money received to date for 2014 dues (not including those paid this evening). There were no outstanding bills, but noted that the ARRL sponsored Insurance Policy will lapse in May unless renewed. The motion to approve the report was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

In an effort to make time for the Technical Program, **Bob/WO4MI** asked if there were any abbreviated committee reports.

Program Committee: Co-Chairmen - **Zory/KB3VQC & Morgan/K4RHD**

Announced that **Dave/K4DPF** had agreed to present the program this evening provided they could figure out the A/V hookup & access the internet to demo the device! **Zory/KB3VQC** reiterated the need for speakers prepared to address amateur radio operations in general such as: good operating practices on repeaters or in a net control environment; or describing common protocols to use when Dx'ing or how and when to work "split" frequency. Because many new hams enter ham radio with the Technician Class license and work primarily on 2m and/or 440 MHz they are not familiar with operation in the HF spectrum. Perhaps programs like this may encourage them to upgrade their licenses and increase their enjoyment of the hobby. He suggested that the more experienced members could use the ARRL Operating Handbook as a Lesson Plan for a 15-20 minute segment and passed around a list of possible topics asking for volunteers to sign up for topics they would feel comfortable presenting or suggesting others not listed. The general consensus was that programs as described would be beneficial. Contact Zory/

KB3VQC or Morgan/K4RHD if you have additional ideas, or would like to volunteer to present a topic. Zory also discussed and passed around the latest copies of two ARRL publications: Handbook for Public Service; and, Hints & Kinks for Radio Amateurs.

NEW BUSINESS: Zory/KB3VQC passed out literature and brochures on the National Electronics Museum in Linthicum, Maryland, which is located near BWI airport and asked if there was any interest in visiting the facility; and/or the touring the nearby National Security Agency sanctioned National Cryptologic Museum. This event would probably require a full day given the driving time of 3 hours in each direction and 1-1/2 to 2 hours to browse each museum. In discussion it was determined that there was some interest, probably on a weekend (a Saturday) and suggested that carpooling would be the best way to travel. **John/KT4CB** said he would be willing to put an article in The Monitor to solicit interest from other clubs in a “joint venture.” {This item was tabled for further discussion.}

Zory also discussed the availability of college scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 offered by the Foundation for Amateur Radio to young hams – the main requirement is to hold a valid Technician or above license. Last year the Foundation gave out 52 grants. If you know of anyone qualified, give Zory a call and he will be happy to discuss details and provide further information on how to apply.

At the end of the meeting, **Bob/WO4MI** announced that a copy of the ARRL publication entitled: Even More Wire Antenna Classics – Volume 3, had been donated and would be auctioned off to benefit PVARC. Gary/K6OZ offered to be auctioneer and subsequently accepted the bid of \$23 from Bob/WO4MI. A check in that amount was given to the Secretary for deposit to the PVARC account. Bob/WO4MI concluded his remarks by thanking Zory/KB3VQC & Letty for their generosity in providing (for the 2nd month) free drinks and refreshments, noting that next month there would be a donation box on the table to help offset expenses, *and possibly raise additional funds for the club coffers!*

Bob/WO4MI then called for a motion to adjourn @ 1855, turning the podium over to Dave/K4DPF for his presentation on Software Defined Radio (SDR), based on his homebrew/construction of a “Virtual Radar from a Digital TV Dongle” as described in the January, 2014 edition of QST. He demonstrated the concept by linking to his home station over the internet from the EoC. The system he constructed used an inexpensive DVB-T stick (also called a dongle) that plugged into the computers USB port; and, using free software (ADSB# and Virtual Radar Server) downloaded from the internet. He showed the major elements consisting of a homebrew collinear antenna, the DVB-T TV tuner dongle (the SDR) which he had programmed to cover the ADS-B signals transmitted by aircraft at 1090 MHz. Using these devices he showed us numerous commercial airliners traveling in controlled airspace at 35,000 feet (estimated) within a 75-80 mile radius of his QTH. His very interesting program was received with great pleasure by the members. When asked how much it cost and what construction difficulties he encountered, he said it was not at all difficult, the parts cost were less than \$50 overall and could easily be built over a weekend! In answer to a question on the antenna & weatherproofing he replied that he installed the collinear antenna & associated dongle inside a PVC pipe, which provided both physical strength and protection from the elements.

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

MARA Secretary's Report — March 6, 2014 Meeting

**Meeting Called to Order at 7:30 PM by President Gerald Nau-
man KN4FM**

The meeting was at the Wood Grill .

Attendance: A total of 42 people attended of which 7 were guests. Introductions were made all around.

New Members: The membership vote was taken and the following 3 were elected to membership:

George Collins **KK4OLY**
Ashton Waters (not licensed yet)
Jean Waters (not licensed yet)

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

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

Reports by Committees

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

Out of the 10 who took tests, all past the test making 6 new Technicians and 4 new Generals

Public Service: None

ARES/RACES: Bryan Daniels **K4RMY** is the local coordinator and said that he has 20 members. He invited all who have not registered to do so using Google.

Ellsworth Neff **K4LXG** is the SEC Coordinator for Virginia and he is still getting the data base coordinated He said that MARA is in District 15.

Repeaters: 440 Bob Van Fosen Working well
145.130 Working great.
147.315 Now up and running fine
147.225 is being repaired.

Old Business: It is MARA's turn to chair Field Day. Herb Slade is one volunteer and he is looking for others. The topic will be brought up at next month's meeting.

New Business: The audit committee of Rick Adams KJ4IND and David Fordham KD9LA are still working.

Announcements: John Spillman, Monitor Editor, invited everyone to submit article for the Monitor. Everyone agreed that the newsletter is looking good and informing well.

Motion to Adjourn: Seconded, passed.

The 50/50 Drawing : The pot was a total of \$30 and the split was won by **John Spillman, KT4CB**, worth \$15.

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 with a generous tip.

Program: The topic was "Homebrew" and **K4LXG**, Ellsworth Neff brought an antenna turner that he homebrewed in the late 1940s. He also showed a 100 milliwatt CW transceiver rig that he made from a kit. Some delightful recollections of quartz crystals followed in light of many old timers remembering when Novices were required by law to be crystal frequency controlled. Adjusting the frequency down required using a fine

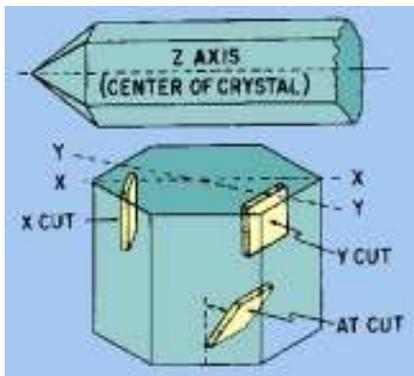


abrasive such as Bon Ami scouring powder to slowly grind away the physical size of the crystal into the correct frequency. If the frequency become slightly higher some hams would rub some pencil lead (graphite) on the crystal face to lower the frequency. Commercial AM broadcast stations used a crystal kept at a consistent temperature in an "oven" for a stable frequency source.

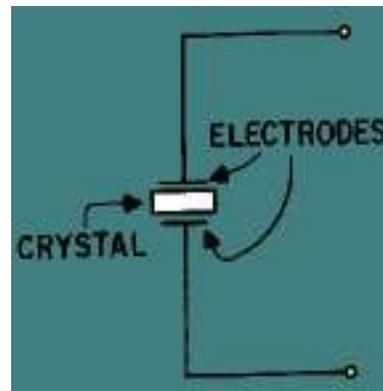
One long time source for crystals is Bomar Crystals in New Jersey. They have been in business for over 50 years.



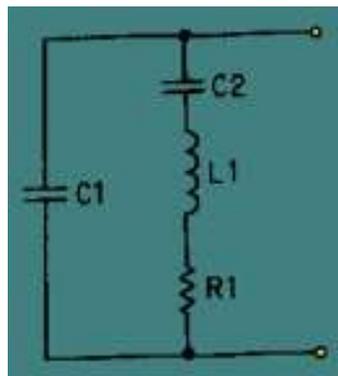
Crystals (XTAL)- Properly cut and mounted a crystal of quartz becomes a Quartz Timing Device, it can be made to bend in an electric field, by applying a voltage to an electrode near or on the crystal. This property is known as piezoelectricity. When the field is removed, quartz will generate an electric field as it returns to its previous shape, this can generate a voltage. Quartz crystal behaves like a circuit composed of an inductor, capacitor and resistor, with a precise resonant frequency.



Grinding scheme for Crystals



Crystal in a circuit

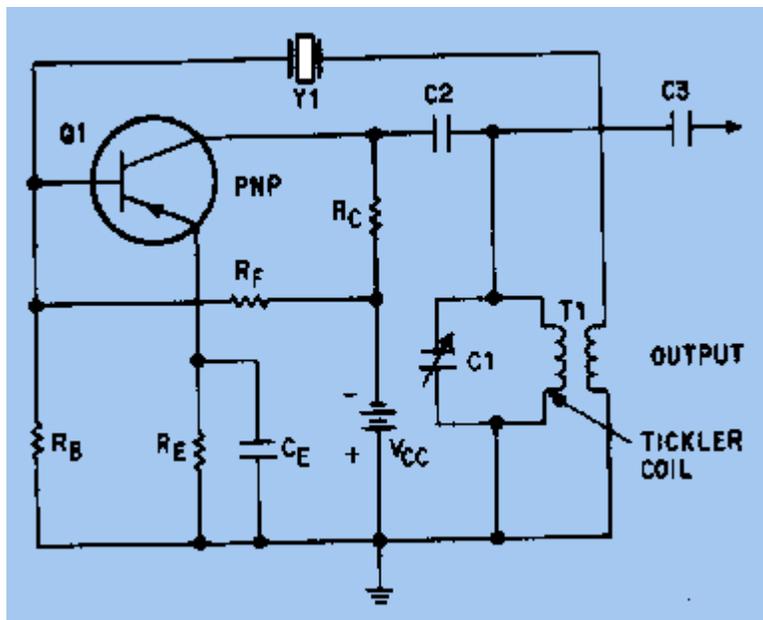


This is the equivalent circuit



Here is a simple Armstrong crystal controlled oscillator. It can be used as a CW transmitter. It was invented by Edwin Armstrong in the early days of radio.

Notice the Crystal and the "feedback" method to maintain oscillation is a "tickler coil" in the "Tank Circuit" (C1) which is inductively coupled with crystal.



Ellsworth mentioned that his father worked in Baltimore for Bendix radio and made the radios for Amelia Earhart's Lockheed aircraft.

Respectfully submitted by Dennis Phillips, Secretary

MARA Treasurer's Report February 21, 2014 – March 20, 2014

| | | |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| Beginning Balance February 20, 2014 (Last Report) | | \$ 3,075.99 |
| Add: March Meeting 50/50 | \$ 15.00 | |
| Membership Renewals (2) | <u>24.00</u> | |
| Total Deposits | | \$ 39.00 |
| Less: SVEC (February) | \$ -23.49 | |
| Jan-Mar Monitor Printing/Mailing | -156.57 | |
| 2014 SCC Registration Fee | <u>-25.00</u> | |
| Total Disbursements | | \$ <u>-205.06</u> |
| Ending Balance as of March 20, 2014 | | \$ 2,909.93 |



Submitted by Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC, MARA Treasurer

Minutes of the VARA Meeting of March 4th, 2014

The Valley Amateur Radio Association held its monthly meeting at the Hometown Grill and Buffet Restaurant in Staunton on March the 4th. The meeting was opened at 7:01 pm by president Greg Czerniak, W4GRC. 28 members and guests were present and introduced themselves. The 50/50 drawing winner was Steve Davis KI4CGI; his winnings were \$12.50.

ARES Report: David Tanks, AD4TJ, EC: The next net will be on the 2nd Thursday of the month, March 13th at 8 pm on the 146.850 repeater, with Roger Pience N1XP, our District Emergency Coordinator, volunteering to be Net Control. David was glad that the weather has not been too bad, and glad that we have not had to be activated. He noted that there is a state-wide Tornado Drill on the 11th of the month, at 9:45 am.

Field Day: Greg said that **Josh Johnson K4OOD**, has volunteered to be on the committee, so he will join Greg, **Bennie Cook N4BCC**, and **Wayne Bowyer N4EYZ**. Anyone is welcome to attend their meetings to see how they operate.

Ellsworth Neff K4LXG, our Section Emergency Coordinator, reported on activity and coverage on 3.947 MHz. He also encouraged us to get on the air, and be more active on the repeaters, especially the ARES repeaters(146.850 for Augusta County), and to monitor it more, in case there is an unexpected call-up.

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.

Doug Tippett W8RTN, our old treasurer, reminded everyone to NOT send him checks for the dues; they should go to Wayne N4EYZ.

Upcoming contests/events: the Virginia QSO Party is the weekend of the 15-16th.

Greg will present next month's program: it will be on Echo-Link.

Ellsworth said that he had a video of a WWII movie that he would be willing to show to the club, if we were interested; we are, so it will be the program for the May meeting.

The 1st reading of the membership application of James Cash KK4YGP 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.

Old business: The plaque for W4PJW: Fred Evans N4KYM was not here to report on progress.

New business: Meeting place: after some discussion, we voted to continue meeting at the Hometown Grill and Buffet, as they have made acceptable improvements to the room to make it quieter for our meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.

The program was given by David AD4TJ on EME(Earth-Moon-Earth) or Moonbounce.

Respectfully submitted,

David Tanks AD4TJ VARA Secretary



**Rockingham County ARES Net will continue to use
the 145.130 - PL 131.8 until further notice.**

The following courses are highly recommended for all ARES members, please consider taking them if you are interested in ARES or Emergency Communications:

FEMA:

These courses each take approximately 2-3 hours online and are free to register and take. When finished you will be asked to take a quiz and when you pass it you will get a certificate of completion to download and print. These are prerequisite courses to the ARRL ARES paid courses.

IS-100.b/ ICS-100 Introduction to Incident Command System:

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/courseOverview.aspx?code=IS-100.b>

IS-200.b- ICS-200 for Single Incidents and Initial Action Incidents

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/courseOverview.aspx?code=IS-200.b>

IS-700.b NIMS: An Introduction

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/courseOverview.aspx?code=IS-700.a>

IS-800.b National Response Framework

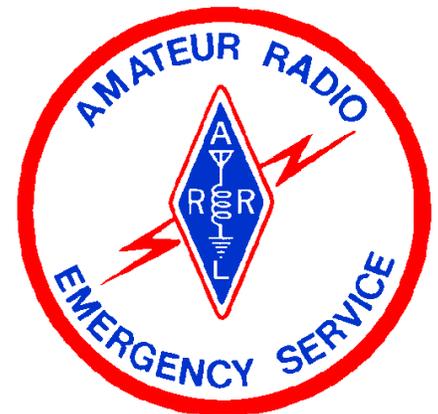
<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/courseOverview.aspx?code=IS-800.b>

ARRL:

ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1/ Basic (EC-001)(this is a paid course)

<http://www.arrl.org/online-course-catalog>

Description. This course is designed to provide basic knowledge and tools for any emergency communications volunteer. The course has 6 sections with 29 lesson topics. It includes required student activities, a 35-question final assessment and is expected to take approximately 45 hours to complete over a 9-week period. You will have access to the course platform at any time of day during this 9-week period so you may work according to your own schedule. You must pace yourself to be sure you complete all the required material in the allotted time.



Thanks
Bryan, K4RMY



FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO SCHOLARSHIP DUE SOON

The Foundation for Amateur Radio (F.A.R.) a non-profit, all volunteer organization, manages 52 scholarships, worth an aggregate of \$72,100, all to be awarded to licensed amateur radio operators who complete applications.

We are presently accepting applications for scholarships for the 2014 / 2015 school year. The application form is available on the F.A.R. web site at: <<http://www.farweb.org/2014-scholarship-information>>.

This is a treasured opportunity, especially in difficult economic times, to assist in making the cost of academic studies affordable. Many parent(s), as licensed Amateurs, encourage their children to seek a FCC radio license ? knowing the rewards it might bring. Although the challenges for passing the FCC exam may seem monumental at the time, the challenges of funding a college degree are now upon you.

Help the F.A.R. and our college-bound students achieve their dreams.

There are no restrictions on age for any of the scholarships, nor is there a requirement that the students be attending a four year institution.

However, all of the scholarships do require that the candidates be full time students.

Please forward this information to help get the word out to as many students as possible.

Thank you!

Dave Prestel, W8AJR, Chairman
F.A.R. Scholarship Committee

For information about the F.A.R. visit <www.farweb.org>

or contact: Dave Prestel, W8AJR - Chairman of the Scholarship Committee via e-mail at: <dave.prestel@gmail.com>



On The Mend

Joan Pitsenbarger KF4CWR, wife of Ray Pitsenbarger KE4NNV had a slight stroke Monday morning, March 10th. As of the 12th, she was released from the hospital. Joan is home and taking therapy, she has some good days and some that's not quite as good but she's glad to be home.

Thanks Ray for the update.





IOTA for April and Beyond!

AF-014; CT3; Madeira Archipelago: Rosel/DL3KWR and Hardy/ DL3KWF are going to spend yet another holiday on Madeira. QRV from March 6 to April 2 as CT9/home calls, mainly in CW and digital modes, with a focus on the WARC bands. Request bureau QSLs via <dl3kwf (at) darc.de>.

AN-010; various; South Shetland Island: Alexander/RX0QM is a member of the 59th Russian Antarctic Expedition and is going to relieve Oleg/RI1ANU around March 10 on Base Bellingshausen. His call, **valid until November 26** will be **RI59ANT**.

AS-031; JD1_oga- Harry, JG7PSJ will be active again as **JD1BMH** from Chichijima, Ogasawara from 27 April to 11 May. He will operate CW, SSB and RTTY on 40-10 metres. QSL via JD1BMH (bureau) or JG7PSJ (direct). Logsearch and other information can be found at <http://sapphire.es.tohoku.ac.jp/jd1bmh/> [TNX JG7PSJ]

AS-101; THAILAND, HS. David, **HS0ZLU** is QRV from Koh Phangan Island, until **May**. Activity is on 20 and 10 meters using SSB and PSK. **QSL to home call**.

EU-038; PA - PD7YY and PE1GNP will be active as PH38EU from Terschelling Island on **11-14 April**. They will operate SSB on 40, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 2 metres. QSL via PD7YY or PE1GNP, direct or bureau. [TNX rsgbiota.org]

NA-033; 5J0, SAN ANDRES (Update). Operators Robert/N7QT, Melanie/AB1UH, Hugh/W4VAB and Guy/N7UN will be active as 5J0X from San Andres Island (NA-033) between April 2-14th. Activity will be primarily holiday style (suitcase mini DXpedition) on 80-10 meters using CW, SSB and PSK. Elecraft trans-

ceivers and amplifiers will be used. Portable antennas will be used from the Villa location and /p from nearby beaches. QSL direct to N7QT. No eQSLs. IRCs are acceptable. ARRL Bureau cards are acceptable. Direct QSLs with 2 USDs will be returned via international postage otherwise via the ARRL Bureau. Logs will be uploaded during the operation to Clublog and to LoTW shortly after the mini-DXpedition.

NA-085; W; Bruce, **K5TEN** will be active from Dog Island (WWL EL79) on **13-19 April**. He will operate SSB, CW and digital modes on 40-6 metres. **QSL to home call direct only** (DX stations may QSL via the bureau). [TNX rsgbiota.org]

NA-092; W; Members of the "Project X Contest Team" will be activating Mustang Island (USI TX-011S, Nueces County, Texas) as **N5T** between **April 5-6th**, and during the "Texas State Parks on the Air". The "Project X Contest Team" does have Twitter at:

<http://twitter.com/@mustangisland1>

They will be QRV on 80, 40, 20, 1M and 10metres SSB and PSK. QSL direct to K5HM, and LoTW. Further information and updates can be found at www.mustangislandontheair.com. [TNX K5HM]

ADDED NOTES: Also look for the "Project X Contest Team" to be in the CQ WPX SSB Contest from Cullinan Park Sugar Land, Texas, March 28-30th. QSL direct via the address on QRZ.com. Logs uploaded to LoTW after the event.

NA-174; VE - David, VE3VID is back to Igloolik Island until **20 April**. He expects to operate mainly RTTY and other digital modes as VY0/VE3VID. QSL via home call. [TNX The Daily DX]



I - ARI Vercelli will be active as **I11SWL** on **5-13 April** to promote "amateur radio and radio listening". QSL via bureau or direct to IW1EHL. See <http://www.qrz.com/db/I11SWL> for further information. [TNX IW1EHL]

CE0Y, EASTER ISLAND. Victor, **CE1WFN**, will be active as **CE0Y/ CE1WFN** from Easter Island between **April 5-17th**. Activity will be on the HF bands. **QSL via his home callsign direct.**

HR, Honduras: Gerard, F2JD, returns once more to Copan and is going to operate as **HR5/F2JD** from **March 6 to June 4**. QRV in CW, SSB, and RTTY. **QSL via F6AJA.** <http://lesnouvellesdx.fr/voirlogs.php> http://f2jd.free.fr/crbst_10.html <http://f2jd.free.fr/>

TANZANIA, 5H. Maurizio, IK2GZU is QRV as **5H3MB** until **April 11** while visiting a hospital and orphanage here that are both part of the Mission Ilembula. Activity is on the HF bands in his spare time. QSL to home call.

9N, Nepal: Andy, **UA3AA**, remains on the air as **9N7AA** until May 23, often battling high local QRM.

QSL via home call, direct only.

LY - Jonas, LY5A will be active as LY24A from 11 March to 11 April to celebrate the 24th anniversary of the restoration of Lithuanian independence **QSL via LY5A, direct or bureau.** [TNX LY3BY]

E7, Bosnia and Herzegovina: Members of the Akademski Radio Klub (E74EBL, ex-YU4EBL) in Banja Luka are celebrating their club's 50th anniversary on the bands with the call E750EBL **until the the year's end. QSL via E77E.**

YS, El Salvador: Hiro, **JA6WFM**, remains active as **YS1/NP3J** until the end of the year. QRV on 80-6m in CW and SSB. **QSL via EA5GL, direct only.**

Pirates on the Air

VK0HI Pirate: The recent operations under the call VK0HI clearly are slim activities. Hold on your QSL requests.

<http://www.m0oxo.com/797-vk0hi-pirate-station-qrv.html>



UK POSTAL RATES RISING!

Postal rates in the United Kingdom will change on 31 March. The new rates for International Standard (previously Airmail) letters up to 20 grams will be GBP 0.97 (Europe) and GBP 1.28 (rest of the world).

Upcoming Special Events and Contests Mark Your Calendars for your Favorite Events!

3 SARL 80M QSO Party
5 LZ Open 40m Sprint Contest
5-6 MS QSO Party, SP DX Contest
8 ARS Spartan Sprint
9 NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint
12 EU Spring Sprint, CW
12-13 JIDX CW Contest, NM, GA QSO Party
13 Hungarian Straight Key Contest
18-19 Holyland DX Contest
19 TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest

19 ES Open HF Championship
19 EU Spring Sprint, SSB
19-20 CQ Manchester Mineira DX Contest, MI, ON QSO Party
19-20 YU DX Contest
26-27 10-10 Int'l Spring Contest, Digital
26-27 SP DX RTTY Contest
26-27 QRP to the Field, FL QSO Party
26-27 Helvetia Contest
27 BARTG Sprint 75

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.

Luray Triathlon

It is again time to plan for the **Luray Triathlon**, it is scheduled for **August 16-17, 2014**, if everyone that could, and is willing to help, mark these dates on your calendar.

We are hoping to have enough help to double team some critical locations. We will have more details as we get closer to race date. All help is much appreciated!

Thanks,
Mark

Mark Hensley-N4YSA
Vice-President Page Valley Amateur Radio Club
EC Page County ARES
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1-540-578-1133



Dave N6AN does the component calculator one better with this simple rule for capacitors: "**pF** is the sound capacitors make when they burn up. **uF** is the sound made by whoever has to replace them and **mF** if there are many of them." Aren't you glad to know this? [from the ARRL Contest Update bulletin]



Hamvention 2014 Coming Soon to Dayton!

DAYTON NEWS (SWODXA DX Dinner Press Release) [edited]. The SouthWest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA) has announced that David Collingham, K3LP, will be the featured speaker for their 29th annual SWODXA DX dinner. The dinner, held in conjunction with the 2014 Dayton Hamvention®, will be on Friday, May 16th, at the Marriott Hotel in Dayton.

Dave first obtained his Novice license, WN6KTF, when he was 15 years old. He currently holds an amateur Extra Class License and a Commercial Operators License. His Elmer and High School Teacher was Louis P. Malory (WA6DVK) who he met in the 10th grade, at Fontana High School in Fontana, California and still visits during trips to S. California. His prior USA call signs were: WN6KTF, WB6KTF and AA6DC. Dave has been on over 65 DXpeditions, visited 76 different DXCC entities while operating from 51 of them. He enjoys contesting, DXing, travelling and working with youth. He is a member of INDEXA, ARRL, NCDXF, SWODXA, Potomac Valley ARC and the National Capital DX Association. Dave will have an informative and entertaining presentation on the Humanitarian Side of DXing and DXpeditions. For more information and to order dinner tickets, visit <WWW.SWODXAEVENTS.ORG> and follow us on Twitter (@SWODXA).

Coming to a ham club near you on the last full week-end in June!

Start planning now!

Field Day

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME (DST). Did you remember to change your clocks?

Countries in the Northern Hemisphere (most of N. American and some of the Caribbean) who observe Daylight Saving Time should have changed their clocks on Sunday, March 9th at 2:00 AM, and should have moved their "local clocks" forward 1 hour to 3:00:00 AM local time. Daylight Saving Time will end on Sunday, November 2nd at 2:00 AM. European countries will switch to DST on March 30th. For the history and details about DST, as well as an interesting map of the world (showing the countries who observe DST), see:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daylight_saving_time

<http://www.timeanddate.com/time/dst/2014.html>

ADDED NOTES: Hopefully, all amateur radio operators know not to change their GMT/UTC/ZULU clocks. However, since most operators usually set their computers to local time, some may have to change their settings on "some" ham radio software (ex. logging, propagation, DXTelnet, etc..) programs.

North American RTTY QSO Party 2014 Preliminary Results

The NAQP RTTY contests allows teams of up to 5 members to participate, and combine their scores to compete against other teams. This past February **Butch Washer N5SMQ, James McDowell NN4JM, Bob VanFossen K4DJG, Sandy Mullins K4PZC** and myself(AD4TJ), formed a team called " **Blue Ridge Gentlemen** ", and competed, and here are the preliminary results:

As a team, we placed 26th out of 41 teams with a score of 100,581 points. In 4-land, in the single-op category, out of 80 entries: Butch placed 25th; Bob placed 37th; Sandy placed 45th; I placed 46th.

In 8-land, in the single-op category, James placed 8th out of 22 entries:

Looking forwards to next year(hopefully I will have better antennas up by then)!

73, David AD4TJ

VE Testing Sessions



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. If you are an accredited VE and would like to help, contact Gayle Shull, KU4XN, at gshu74@gmail.com.

Gayle Shull, KU4XN



April

- 1 **April Fool's Day**
- 1 VARA Club Meeting
- 3 MARA Club Meeting
- 4 PVARC Club Meeting
- 4—Friday Luncheon
- 6 Page Cty ARES Net
- 7 Rockingham Cty ARES Net [K4NRA]
- 11—Friday Luncheon
- 12-13 GA QSO Party
- 13 Page Cty ARES Net
- 14 Rockingham Cty ARES Net [KN4FM]
- 15—**TAX DAY**
- 18—Friday Luncheon
- 20 **EASTER**
- 20 **Deadline for May submission***
- 20 Page Cty ARES Net
- 21 Rockingham Cty ARES Net [K4RBZ]
- 25—Friday Luncheon
- 26 Page County ARES Training Class
- 27 Page Cty ARES Net
- 28 Rockingham Cty ARES Net [KU4XN]

**May**

- 1 MARA Club Meeting
- 2 PVARC Club Meeting
- 2 Friday Luncheon
- 4 Page Cty ARES Net
- 5 Rockingham Cty ARES Net [K4RMY]
- 6 VARA Club Meeting
- 9 Friday Luncheon
- 11 **MOTHER'S DAY**
- 11 Page Cty ARES Net
- 12 Rockingham Cty ARES Net [KA4EEN]
- 16 Friday Luncheon
- 16-18 **Dayton Hamvention**
- 18 Page Cty ARES Net
- 19 Rockingham Cty ARES Net [KG4KUR]
- 20 **Deadline for June submission***
- 23 Friday Luncheon
- 25 Page Cty ARES Net
- 26 Rockingham Cty ARES Net [K4LXG]
- 30 Friday Luncheon
- 31 Page County ARES Training Class

**How Long Has It Been Since You Checked Into One of the Nets?**

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 145.130 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!

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

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: 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 Hometown Grill & Buffet off 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

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Return Service Requested



Happy Easter

MARA

VARA

PVARC
