

THE MONITOR

May 2014

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



**Field Day Committee:
Looking for a few good men
(and ladies)
Sign up early
Sign up sheet starts on page 10**

MARA Meeting: May 1st

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, **May 1st**, 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. The program for will be by Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW, on the installation and operation of mobile amateur radio.

PVARC Meeting: May 2nd

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular meeting on **May 2nd** at 6:30pm at the Page County Sheriff's Training Room in Luray. All hams and their guests are invited.



VARA Meeting: May 6th

The Valley Amateur Radio Association, will hold its **May 6th** 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.



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.

Can you believe it? May is here! I am still trying to figure out what happened to January, February, March, and April. The old adage is true, "the hurrier I go the behinder I get." I am not sure where that came from, but it seems to be right on. All I can say is greetings hamsters and are you ready to cut grass?

By the time you read this, the Field Day Committee will have had their first meeting. I am looking forward to getting the ball rolling because honestly folks, it will be June before you know it! My opinion as one of the members of the committee is that we should keep Field Day simple. Over the past several years, we have had too few people trying to do too much. I for one am not in support of continuing in that direction. My excitement for Field Day has waned, and it's just not as much fun. However, we will have to wait and see what the Field Day Committee decides to present to the clubs at their respective May meetings. So stay tuned.

And by the way, I do remember the time and no doubt you do as well when our Field Day site looked like a village. There were RV's and tents everywhere with various operating stations spread throughout the Field Day site. We even used a 3 element yagi on HF. Now let me tell you, that was an adventure. It could be a challenge to get the tower and beam up in the air! Maybe someday that will happen again. That would be awesome! But again for that to happen we need some new blood.

Our eating and meeting location (Hometown Grill and Buffett) is working out, but frankly friends, I would prefer a more formal meeting place in a school or library or some other public place. I think it is great that we meet to eat, and there is no reason that would not continue if we had a more formal meeting place close by. Would it not be great to have a meeting place with audio-visual equipment in place with a screen to boot? I think so. I think our meetings would be better if we could hear and see better and not have to set up a bunch of equipment in a confused manner. In fact, I as your president was not happy with my program last month, and I was aggravated with the set-up. Bottom line, Amateur Radio is about more than eating.

Okay, I will get off my soap box. I am looking forward to seeing each of you at our next meeting. I am always impressed by the wealth of information we have to share about our hobby.

73, Greg, W4GRC, President, VARA



Lest We Forget...

Lest we forget those that came before us. Looks like a BC-610 and an early Hammarlund rcvr. This guy must have had some bucks!

Bob, W8HGH

Nice read

April 1, 2014 Meeting

President Greg Czerniak, W4GRC, opened the Valley Amateur Radio Association's April 1st monthly meeting at the Hometown Grill and Buffet Restaurant in Staunton at 7:01 pm. 23 members and guests were present and introduced themselves. The 50/50 drawing winner was Doug Tippet W8RTN; his winnings were \$8.00.

ARES Report: David Tanks, AD4TJ, EC: He was glad we had made it through the winter with no real emergencies. He noted that Bryan Daniels K4RMY, EC for Rockingham County, had put in the newsletter info on the courses that FEMA has and the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications have, and encouraged all hams to consider taking them to be better prepared to help out in times of need. The next net will be on the 2nd Thursday of the month, April 10th at 8 pm on the 147.075 repeater. Gordon Batey WA4FJC volunteered to be Net Control.

Field Day: Greg said that a committee meeting date should be set at the MARA meeting coming up on Thursday.

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

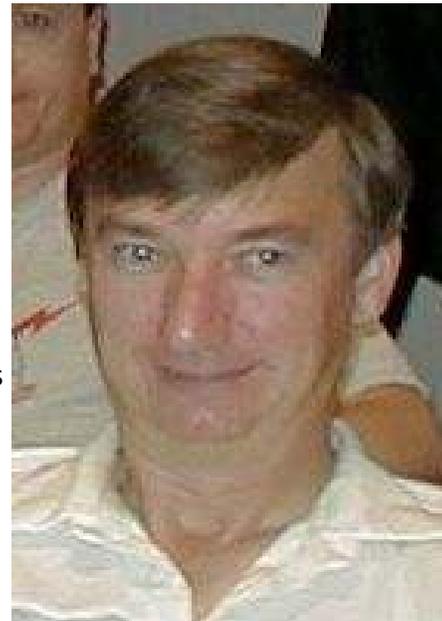
Treasurer's report: Treasurer Wayne Bowyer N4EYZ, gave the report, seconded and passed.

The CQ WPX SB contest was March 29-30, and David AD4TJ reported that several hams had sent him emails about their efforts and are sending in logs with the Shenandoah Valley Wireless club name included, so we have met the necessary 3 or more logs that they require for a club to be included in the club results.

Upcoming contests/events: Gordon WA4FJC reported that the Waynesboro Riverfest will be held Saturday May 3rd, and that volunteers are needed to cover this approximately 3 to 4 hour event. They are expecting a turnout larger than last year due to a change in dates. Meet at the Kroger parking lot in downtown Waynesboro around 9:30 am.

James Cash KK4YGP was voted in as a new member, with him getting a free 1-year membership due to him being a newly-licensed ham.

Old business: Jeff Rinehart W4PJW was presented with a plaque in appreciation of his efforts in amateur radio, and was given a paid-up life-time membership in VARA.



New business: David AD4TJ, said that Wilson Middle School, one of the 6(note: actually 7, including Wilson Middle) schools in Augusta County designated as an emergency shelter(the other schools being: Clymore Ele, Stuarts Draft High, Stuarts Draft Ele, Churchville Ele, Beverly Manor Middle, and Wilson Memorial High), has not had a ham VHF/UHF antenna installed yet, and that he had been in contact with Frank Green KE4ASC, to see if the Maintenance Dept could fund it. After some discussion, Dave Fordham KD9LA made a motion that, if the Maint. Dept can't/won't come up with funds, that the club allow up to, and including, \$400.00 to be used to purchase the materials necessary(less labor) to get the job done. Passed. There is an SO-239 connector installed inside the schools for the ham operator to hook his radio up to(the operator must supply the radio, coax jumper cable, and power supply; none of those are at the schools).

With no other topics or business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm.

The program was given by Greg on EchoLink.

Respectfully submitted,
David Tanks AD4TJ VARA Secretary

Congratulations Jeff on your plaque of appreciation!
John, KT4CB, Editor

April 3, 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 41 people attended of which 8 were guests. Introductions were made all around.

New Members: A first reading for membership voting was done for Hugh Robertshaw , **KK4YGR**

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

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

Reports by Committees

VE Committee: Testing Session will be April 12th at 9:00AM at the Woodman of the World Building on Route 42 North of Dayton

Public Service: Ellsworth Neff K4LXG asked for volunteers on quick notice for an April 4th 5K Run in Bridgewater.

ARES/RACES: Bryan Daniels **K4RMY** 225 machine is not working. Use 130.

Repeaters: 440 Working well

145.130 Dave Fordham advises to back off the microphone to get a clean signal.

147.315 Now up and running fine

147.225 Being repaired

Old Business: MARA is Chairing this year. Herb Slade AA2BF Chairman and the committee is Bob Monger, KK4OLV, Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG, Rodney Good K4DOV, George Collins, KK4OLY

New Business: The audit committee of Rick Adams KJ4IND and David Fordham KD9LA submitted their audit and all was in order.

Announcements: Elwood Schrader KB4DJN is in the Bridgewater Retirement Community and would like friends to visit.

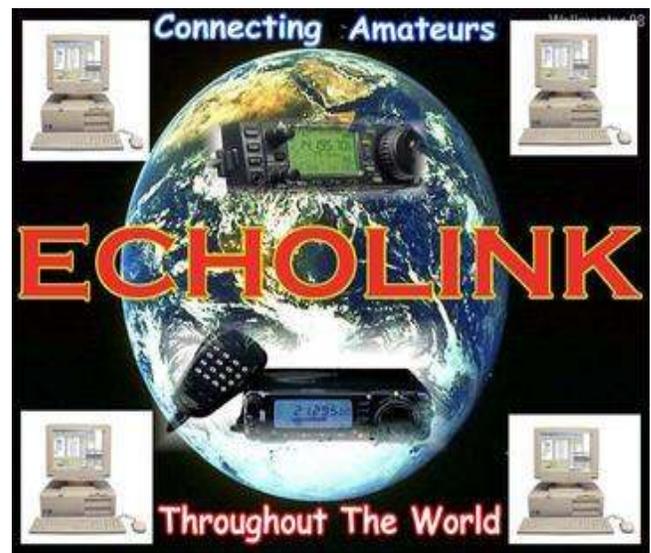
Motion to Adjourn: Seconded, passed.

The 50/50 Drawing : The pot was a total of \$26 and the split was worth \$13.50 and won by George Collins **KK4OLY**.

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 **Echo Link** was presented by Greg Czerniak, **W4GRC**, VARA President.

Greg says that he has been a ham for 51 plus years now and I would not give it up for anything. He enthusiastically gave a Power Point and explanation of Echo Link, which is a system for linking Ham radio stations using the Internet VoIP (Voice over Inter-



net Protocol) It is a way of bypassing the ionosphere and substituting the connection with the internet. Echo Link is distributed free of charge that allows radio amateurs to communicate with other amateur radio operators. It was designed by Jonathan Taylor, K1RFD. It is the same as other VoIP applications (such a Skype), but with the unique addition of the ability to link to an amateur radio station's transceiver. Any low-power handheld amateur radio transceiver which can contact a local Echolink node (A node is an active Echolink station with a transceiver attached) can then use the Internet connection of that station to send their transmission via VOIP to any other active Echolink node, worldwide. No special hardware or software is required to relay a transmission via an Echolink node.

The EchoLink system requires that each new user has a Ham License and provide positive proof of license and identity before his or her call sign can be added to the list of validated users. The service is free.

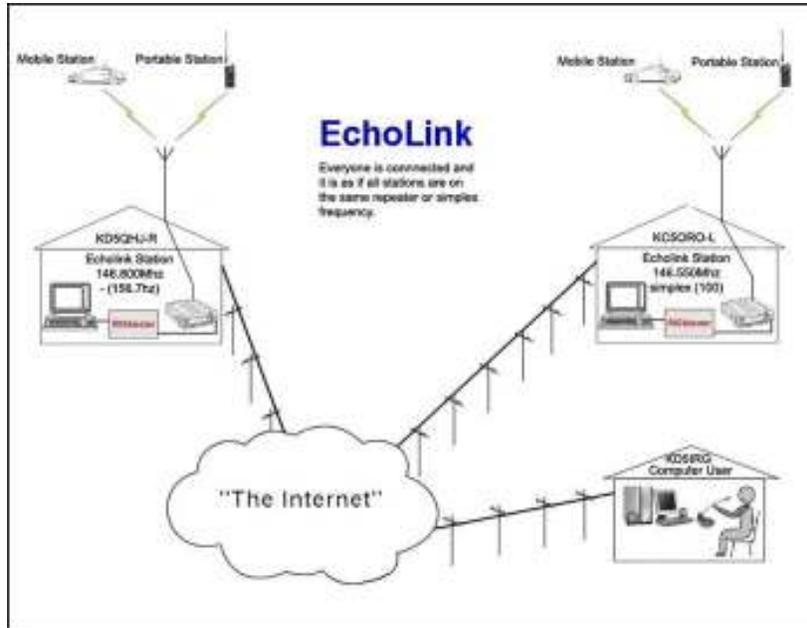
The software is written to run on 32-bit and 64-bit versions of Microsoft Windows. Another edition of the software runs on Apple mobile devices (iPhone, iPod touch, and iPad), and is available from the Apple App Store. An Android version is available on Google Play

and several other Android app repositories.

Greg at first was using a hybrid connection at the Wood Grill and finally was able to connect using Dave Fordham's cell phone.

MARA thanks Greg for his efforts and informative presentation.

Respectfully submitted by
Dennis Phillips, Secretary



MARA Treasurer's Report

March 21, 2014 - April 20, 2014

Beginning Balance March 20, 2014 (Last Report)		\$ 2,909.93
Add: March Meeting 50/50	\$ 13.50	
New Members (2)	24.00	
Membership Renewals (1)	<u>12.00</u>	
Total Deposits	\$ 49.50	
Less: SVEC (March)	\$ -22.85	
Bank Fee (March)	<u>-2.00</u>	
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ -24.85</u>	
Ending Balance as of April 20, 2014		\$ 2,934.58



Submitted by Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC, MARA Treasurer .

April 4th Meeting

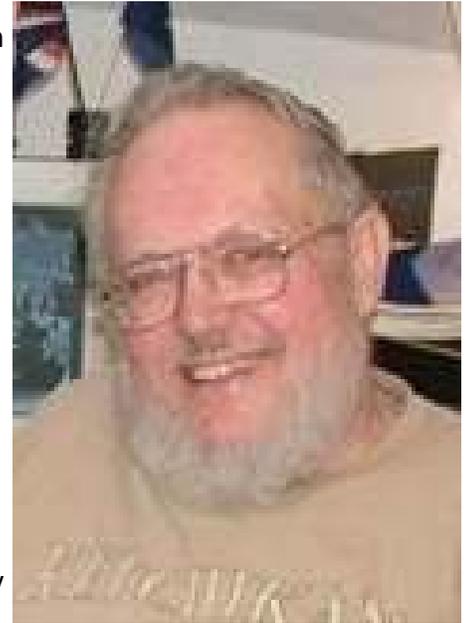
The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club held its monthly business meeting in the Page County EOC Training Room in Luray on this date. Bob Forrest/WO4MI, PVARC's President, called the meeting to order at 1830. He noted that seventeen of 26 members were in attendance, indicating a quorum was present to conduct club business. Two visitors were also present and introduced: Larry Miller/KB6VAA – Woodstock; and, John Hunsaker/KK4KVP – Edinburg.

Announcements: Bob/WO4MI briefly discussed the upcoming MARS Cross-Band Test scheduled for May 10, 2014. All military affiliated services (ARMY/Navy/USAF) will participate and amateurs are invited to work these stations by listening on specified MARS frequencies for a general call, and answering "cross-band" on amateur frequencies. He will be happy to pass on details to any interested members. A nice QSL Certificate will be sent to all amateur stations participating.

Larry Miller/KB6VAA requested PVARC to assist the Virginia Happy Trail Running Club (VHTRC) by providing communications in our segment of the upcoming MMT-100 Foot Race. The 100-mile run begins on Saturday, May 17th continuing overnight, ending on Sunday, May 18th. This is the 20th running of the VHTRC's rugged and demanding course over the rocky trails in the Massanutten Mountains in the George Washington National Forest in and through Fort Valley. There were 208 runners last year and more are expected this year. He thanked PVARC for helping in the past and asked for our continued support. In the subsequent question/answer phase it came to his attention that the 670 repeater was not in service (duly noted) but, the KQ4D might give the necessary coverage. There was also some discussion on the merits of using the local 220 MHz repeater with mobiles/portables. Mark/N4YSA, Page County EC and ARES Coordinator agreed to discuss alternatives with Larry prior to the event. Race course questions can be directed to Larry using email: lmiller@shentel.net. PVARC members are encouraged to contact Mark if they can assist.

It was announced that two of our members are having health problems: Geoffrey Phillips/WD4LYO is under hospice care at home. Visitors are welcome, but please

call his XYL (Susan) in advance. His telephone is: (540) 743-1493. It was also reported that Tony Zukas/W3ELE had been transported to the hospital and his condition was unknown. Sparky/KD4KL reported that Tony was now home and seemed to be FB. However, Sparky said that Tony's HF



antenna had fallen down and perhaps the Technical Assistance Committee could help get it back up in the air again. (Mark/N4YSA agreed to follow-up.)

Bob/WO4MI asked for the Secretary & Treasurer's Reports:

The Secretary reported the minutes of last months meeting were printed in The Monitor and a motion was made to approve them as printed. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Treasurer provided the Secretary & President with an updated Excel spreadsheet. She reported the PVARC checking account (at the end of March) totaled: \$1,540.56. This is up from last month with money received for 2014 dues (+\$36.00) and book sale (+\$23.00) totaling +\$59.00 deposited to the PVARC account last month. The motion to approve the report was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Bob/WO4MI gave a status report on his ongoing meetings with hospital staff on installation of coax (240' LMR) for rooftop antennas for the new hospital. A lengthy remote control cable (120' to 200' depending upon routing) is required to connect the remote control head in the operations center with the radios nearer the roof. It appears that the planners **did not** make provisions for any of this in their building design. Some discussion of transmission line losses and various VHF/UHF and HF antenna configurations followed. Brain/W5YQ was persuaded to volunteer to advise Bob in his consultations with the hospital on possible alternatives/options. {Thanks, Brian!!}

Bob/WO4MI asked if there were any committee

reports.

Program Committee: Co-Chairmen - Zory/KB3VQC & Morgan/K4RHD: Announced that this evenings presentation entitled: BUSTING THROUGH A PILE UP & The DX Code of Conduct, will be given by Tim/AK4CJ using the EoC A/V link following the business meeting.

Field Day Committee: Morgan/K4RHD passed out a **2014 PVARC Field Day Equipment Check-List** to members, asking that they review it and be prepared to commit to providing necessary equipment, antennas, generators, batteries, etc at the next meeting. ARRL Field Day in June is "just around the corner!"

Old Business: Renewal of the ARRL Insurance policy for the club. Morgan/K4RHD reported that he had received the requested quote from the Hays Company. It was unchanged from our current year cost of \$300.00 to renew. There was no discussion and the call for a motion to renew was made and seconded. The vote was called. The tally was: 15 FOR, None

AGAINST & 1 ABSTENTION. The motion carried and the Secretary was asked to write the check, which Morgan would mail.

New Business: Sparky/KD4KL & Carol/KA4LAF announced that Krispy Kreme donuts were being made available as a PVARC fundraiser. A voluntary contribution to the "Kitty" will provide funds to continue the process, anything in excess of the cost of buying the donuts each month will go into the PVARC account.

There being no further business, Bob/WO4MI then called for a motion to adjourn at 1920. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed. Following a short recess to set up equipment (and get a Krispy Kreme), Tim presented his very interesting program, which was received with great enthusiasm by the membership.

Submitted by: Sparky Terry/KD4KL, PVARC Secretary

HamRadioNow video: Digital Solves All Your Problems

Larry Harrison K3JRR provides a link to HamNation, which, like Ham Radio Now, has a lot of interesting videos. Here is one in particular he thought the valley hams would find interesting.

<http://twit.tv/show/ham-nation/139>

I didn't have time to watch the entire video, but it looks like it has several diverse and interesting topics. This episode narrated by Gordon West covers some interesting features including getting started on ham TV, ham-based video aboard a home-made helicopter drone, mobile HF wiring, tips and techniques for connectors for RG-58 coax, ham radio's role in the Malaysian missing airliner, reconstruction of a spark-gap transmitter, the new Icom ID-5100 radio, etc.

The most interesting part that I found started about 48 minutes into the video, relating to wiring for HF operation in modern automobiles.

Enjoy.

David Fordham KD9LA, on behalf of Larry Harrison, K3JRR

Last November I was doing my normal evening 40 meter scanning and I had a nice QSO with a gentleman out of Missouri, K9EID. Nothing special, just the normal exchange chat. When we finished talking about a hundred screaming hams like a shark frenzy started calling this guy. He pick up one ham but cut their QSO short, saying he had some taping and prep work to do. That is when he mentioned for everyone listening to check out Ham Nation. He went on to talk about it. Sounded pretty interesting so while he was talking I brought it up on the internet. The episode I watched was very good. Even after he said he had to leave hams were still shouting his call. He was very polite and stayed on making contacts even though he said he had to go.

Bob N4JGO



Bruce Catlett, N4RVG



I'm sad to report that Bruce passed away April 6th at about 5:30. A memorial service will be held on April 26, at 3:30pm, at the Harrisonburg First Church of the Nazarene, 1871 Boyers Road, Harrisonburg.

OBIT:

MOUNT SIDNEY. Bruce Wayne Catlett, 64, passed away on April 6, 2014, at his residence. He was born in Wichita, Kansas, on July 1, 1949, to Fred and Ruth Catlett. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Phillip.

Surviving are his wife of 41 years, Georgiann, one daughter, Jill; two sons and daughter-in-laws, Todd and Diana and Chad and Lesa; five granddaughters, Amari, Madison, Alyssa, Abigail and Lillian; three sisters, Yvonne Bourbonnais, Ruth Ann Catlett and Jamie Catlett ; and his faithful canine companion, Snowy.

Bruce was a US Air Force veteran, a graduate of West Virginia University, an honorary lifetime member of the Staunton-Augusta Rescue Squad and a dedicated member of the Harrisonburg First Church of the Nazarene.

Bruce was laid to rest in the late afternoon of April 6, at the beautiful Duck Run Natural Cemetery in Penn Laird.

A memorial service will be held on April 26, at 3:30pm, at the Harrisonburg First Church of the Nazarene, 1871 Boyers Road, Harrisonburg. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to LIVINGSTONE, First Church of the Nazarene, 1871 Boyers Road, Harrisonburg.

Wayne , N4EYZ

For those of you that knew Daniel James W4DLJ, his wife passed away.

Nell M. James

RICHMOND — Nell Carlton (McCormick) James, 88, widow of Daniel L. James Sr., died Saturday, April 12, 2014, at Sunrise at Bon Air, Richmond. She was born Jan. 22, 1926, in Halifax County, a daughter of the late Boulden Apple and Mary Emma (Carlton) McCormick. She was a member of Linden Heights Baptist Church.

Family members include two sons, Daniel Lee James Jr. of Bumpass and Barry Carlton James and wife, Jeanne, of Midlothian; a daughter, Melody Beisner and her husband, Daniel, of Ruckersville; four grandchildren, Megan T. James and her fiancé, Joe Emenheiser, Danell Beisner and her husband, Andrew Creasey, Lisa and her husband, Larry Friedkin and Jackie and her husband, Matt Sackett; and six great-grandchildren, Cameron Joseph and Marshall Elizabeth Creasey, Nicholas and Jordan Friedlin and Kyler and Alayna Sackett.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by two brothers; five sisters; and a grandson, Carlton Joseph Beisner, Feb. 4, 1996.

She was the last surviving member of her immediate family.

A graveside service will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, 2014, in Thornrose Cemetery by the Rev. Luke Smith.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service at Henry Funeral Home. Memorials may be made to Linden Heights Baptist Church, 371 Linden Drive, Staunton, VA 24401.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.henryfuneralhome.net.



Field Day

The fourth full weekend in June.

Mark your calendars!

W4PJW points out a correction. Field Day is always the fourth full weekend in June. It always has, and always will be. This is not necessarily the last weekend in June. So be advised. Field Day is always the fourth full weekend in June. And it never, **ever**, rains at Field Day.

Field Day Equipment Policy

Adopted by the MARA and VARA Clubs.

Be it understood that:

As a participant in Field Day operations, whether a club member or visitor, you are using equipment that may belong to someone else. Care for it as if it were your own.

No repairs or modifications, no matter how slight, shall be made to any equipment without the owner (or owner's designated representative) present.

Any apparent malfunction of the equipment shall be reported immediately to the owner.

Be it further understood that:

Equipment which is brought to the Field Day site and made available for use is done at the owner's discretion, and said equipment should be supervised by the owner or his / her designated representative.

Any damage to, or failure of, the equipment at Field Day will be the responsibility of the owner, and NOT that of the MARA or the VARA Club, or sponsors, organizers, participants, or management of the Field Day Activities.

Field Day Participation

Solicit at MARAVARA Meetings:
Who's going to

Who?

Clock Times

Operate the Phone Station (times willing)?

Log for the Phone Station (times willing)?

Operate the CW Station (times willing)?

Log for the CW Station (times willing)?

Supervise the GOTA Station (times willing - at least General Class)?

Operate the VHF/UHF Station (times willing)?

Log for the VHF/UHF Station (times willing)?

Prepare and deliver NTS and SEC messages during FD (Bonus)

Field Day Rogues Committee

NOT PICTURED: Josh Johnson, K400D Bob Minger, KK40LV George Collins, KK40LY Paul Boisen, KB30



Greg Czerniak, W4GRC



Bennie Cook, N4BCC



Wayne Bowyer, N4EYZ



Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG



Herb Slade, AA2BF



Rodney Good, K4D0D



MFJ-259 HF-VHF Antenna Analyzer

The subject analyzer comes with carrying case, AC Power pk. and manual. It covers 1.8 Mhz. through 170 Mhz.

It works fine and I will of course guarantee it.

I have a need for a UHF analyzer, is the only reason I'm selling it.

I'm willing to sell it for \$200.00 firm.

If interested please respond to my personal email.

Thank you...

Neil W4KKL Email: neilw4kkl@comcast.net



Free for the Haulin'



I have 5 eight-foot sections of Rohn BX tower and an aluminum mast that I'd like to give away. The tower is disassembled and is located in Bridgewater.

Interested parties can email steven.tennyson@gmail.com

or call 540-908-1831.

Thanks, Steven Tennyson, KF4ZWK

Just in Time for Field Day!

Many hams are familiar with my solar trailer that has been used at Field Day for the last 9 years. It is currently for sale. I have removed the Outback Power equipment and batteries but all else remains including the 4 125 watt Kyocera solar panels on the roof. It's a 7 x 14 Pace CargoSport trailer with tandem axles and a GVWR of 7,500 pounds. It was ordered with many options. I have the build sheet if anyone is interested. I'll take \$3,000 for it as is or \$2,500 without the solar panels. Contact me at:

matt@huffmanelectricalsystems.com

or call 540-578-1907.

Matthew Huffman, President KD4UPL
Huffman Electrical Systems, Inc.
2072 Little Calf Pasture Highway
Swoope, VA 24479
540-578-1907



And...

I am looking for 2 Yaesu HT accessories. The first is a wall wart battery charger, the NC-34B. It has a 3/32" plug as the output. This came standard with a lot of HT's including the FT-411, 470, 530, 51, 41, 11, etc.

The other item I'm looking for is the FBA-14. This is a battery pack that holds 4 standard AA cells and goes with a Yaesu FT-51, 41, or 11.

If anyone has these old items laying around they would like to sell please let me know.

Thanks,

Matthew Huffman, KD4UPL
2072 Little Calf Pasture Highway
Swoope, VA 24479
540-578-1907

Mother's Day is celebrated in the honor of all mothers across the world. Mothers play a pivotal role in raising their kids. Since fathers are primarily breadwinners of the family, the responsibility of taking care of the family and household lies in the hand of the female.

You can take your mother out for dinner, gift her some valuables and shop for her to make her feel special and loved on Mother's Day. Mother's Day is an awesome time to show your love for someone who has spent her life in nurturing you and raising you. We all owe a lot to our mothers who labor hard to manage both family and their work. Mother's Day is a perfect day to make our mothers feel special.



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 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.

The **Old Dominion Emergency Net** meets every first and third Monday on 3.947 kHz at 6:30 pm local time. All hams are welcome!

Past April Fools Pranks from the engineering field:

<http://edn.com/electronics-blogs/anablog/4311370/Pranking-bosses-friends-and-competitors->

VE Testing Sessions

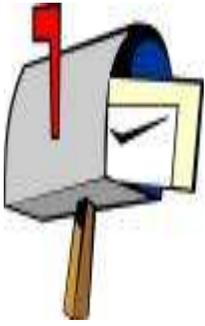
The next Volunteer Examiner Session is scheduled for **Saturday, June 14**, at the Woodmen of the World building on Highway 42 (John Wayland Highway) just north of Dayton Virginia. Sign-in starts at 9:00 am, followed immediately by testing. If you are an accredited VE and would like to help, contact Gayle Shull, KU4XN, at gshu7411@gmail.com.



Gayle Shull, KU4XN



Postage Usage Notes

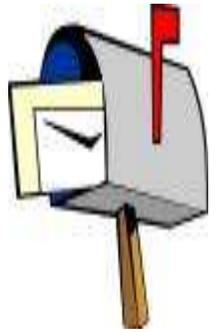


When mailing an envelope say a number 10 business size and it weighs less then ONE OZ. and is LESS than 1/4 inch THICK you can place a single unit of postage on it. But if you write on the envelope **DO NOT BEND** or **HAND CANCEL** then you must add an additional \$.21 service charge. If the envelope is over 1/4 inch in thickness it then becomes a parcel and requires additions postage. Additional information can be found here:

http://pe.usps.gov/text/dmm300/dmm300_landing.htm

Under sections 101 and 133.

73, Peter J. Mann, KF5RD OMISS letter k buro manager



To Ground or not to Ground in a Vehicle

Here is one guys thoughts on how to connect the negative power lead of a transceiver in a vehicle installation and if the negative lead should be fused or not. I am interested in hearing what others think.

Jerry, WD4ITN

http://www.w8ji.com/mobile_ground.htm

Plan Ahead

Dayton Hamvention® 2014
 Makers... The Future of Ham Radio
 May 16-18 2014

NORTHERN VIRGINIA'S LARGEST HAMFEST
Manassas Hamfest

AMATEUR RADIO, COMPUTER & ELECTRONICS SHOW



Sunday

June 8th, 2014





7P, LESOTHO, Operators HB9OCR, K5LBU, K5YY, K9APW, N5JR, G8APB and ZS6RJ plan to be QRV as 7P8MH, 7P8CF, 7P8YY, 7P8RL, 7P8JR, 7P8CP and 7P8RJ, respectively, from Roma in the Maseru district from April 22 to May 1. Activity is on 15 to 10 meters, and possibly 30 meters at night, using mainly SSB with some CW and RTTY. QSL to home calls.

9A, CROATIA: The 90th anniversary of the Zagreb radioclub is celebrated on the air with the special event callsign 9A90Z until the end of the year. An award is available. QSL via 9A3JB, LoTW/eQSL.

http://www.rkz.hr/pages/award_zagreb90_en.htm

F, FRANCE: Jean, F5UM, Francois, F8DHN, Alain, F4CZH, Gabriel, F4GMD, Philippe, F4GFX, Raymond, F5ADR, and Claude, F5AYZ will remember Jean Moulin of the French Resistance During WW2 with the special event callsign TM9JM until June 25. He is remembered today as an emblem of the Resistance, owing mainly to his role in unifying the French resistance under de Gaulle and his courage and death at the hands of the Gestapo. QSL via F6KEH.

<http://f6keh.free.fr/>

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

HA, Hungary: Jaszszentlaszlo celebrates 140 years - the local radio amateurs from the club station HA8KUX will operate the special event callsign HG140JLO until the end of the year, from both Jaszszentlaszlo (WW Loc. JN96vn) and Szeged (WW Loc. KN06bg). OPs are Feco, HA8KW, Feri, HA8ZE, Sanyi, HA8RG, and Tomi, HA8RT. They are all CW en-

thusiasts, but will also work some SSB. QSL via HA8KW, eQSL. <http://www.ha8kux.com/>
<http://www.hamlog.eu/HG140JLO>

HI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Juergen, DL4SDW, will be QRV from the Dominican Republic from April 18 to May 15, signing DL4SDW/Hi3. The QTH is in Villa Gonzales in the northern part of the country. Operation will be on HF with 100W and wire antennas, mainly in CW. QSL via h/c, bureau preferred.

HP, PANAMA: To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914, special event station HO100CANAL will be QRV from April 19 to August 25. Activity will be on all HF bands. QSL direct via HP1DBK.

JA, JAPAN: From April 20 to January 31, 2015, the amateur radio club Zushi (JA1YUU) will celebrate its 60th anniversary on the air with the special call 8J1ZC.

PA, NETHERLANDS: The 30th anniversary of the "Diplom Interessen Gruppe" in the Netherlands will be celebrated with the special callsign PI30DIG during the year. Activity periods include March 22 to April 18; September 1 to 28 and finally December 3 to 31. The call will also be active in all DIG activities (QSO Party, Roundtables). A diploma is also available, see <http://www.dig-pa.net/>. QSL requests for PI30DIG via ClubLog.

S0, WESTERN SAHARA: Arseli, EA2JG, reports that Naama, S01A, has obtained a license for 60m and he's looking for US stations on 5403.5kHz. QSL via EA2JG.

OPERATION APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT. The following operation is approved for DXCC credit: Mellish Reef, VK9MT, 2014 operation.

CQ Magazine on the Ropes?

Subscribers to CQ magazine know that their paper issues have been running several MONTHS behind schedule, making them pretty much useless. Speculation about the possible demise of the magazine is rampant, which would be a shame because of the really good contests they sponsor.

Fortunately, it looks like "CQ" as an institution will be around for a while. The paper magazine, well, that's still up in the air right now, but they are promising changes -- most specifically the fact that CQ magazine was underwriting and subsidizing Popular Communications, and other magazines which are apparently not supporting themselves and are likely going to disappear very soon, if not already, so that CQ will survive.

Thanks to Larry Harrison, K3JRR, for links to HamRadioNow videos. Here is a lengthy, but quite informative, youtube interview with the managing editor of the magazine giving detailed information about the situation.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ok7RfQStPjg&list=UUxqXFK9ETC5CWEddD-HpqA>

David Fordham KD9LA

DXCC status Crimea (update of DXMB 1878):

According to Rule 4:

- A QSL with a call sign issued by the administration of Ukraine and showing the entity name as Ukraine counts as Ukraine.
- A QSL with a call sign issued by the administration of Russia and showing the entity name as Russia counts as Russia.
- A QSL that satisfies neither condition does not count for either entity.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/crimea-is-not-a-new-dxcc-entity>

Odds & Ends

NIST Radio Station WWV now on 25 MHz

<http://www.nist.gov/pml/div688/grp40/www.cfm>

Mellish Reef QRT due to WX

It's official: <http://dx-world.net/2014/vk9mt-mellish-reef/>

Guide to HF Propagation.

http://www.qsl.net/w2vtm/hf_solar.html

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 AGCW QRP/QRP Party | 10-11 VOLTA WW RTTY Contest |
| 1 NRAU 10m Activity Contest | 10-11 CQ-M Int'l DX Contest |
| 2 NCCC Sprint Ladder | 10-11 50mHz Sprint Sprint |
| 3 Microwave Spring Sprint | 17-18 EU PSK DX Contest |
| 3 QRP to the Field | 17-18 His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW |
| 3-4 ARI Int'l DX Contest | 22 NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint |
| 3-4 IN QSO Party | 23 NCCC Sprint Ladder |
| 3-4 New England QSO Party | 24-25 CQ WW WPX Contest, CW |
| 3-4 10-10 Int. Spring Contest - CW | 24-25 Baltic Contest |
| 6 ARS Spartan Sprint | 25 SARL Digital Contest |
| 9 NCCC Sprint Ladder | 25-26 MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint |
| 10 FISTS Spring Sprint | 30 NCCC Sprint Ladder |
| 10-11 EUCW Fraternalizing CW QSO Party | |

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.



Many dual band radios include a feature called cross-band repeat. This is a very useful feature but there is a lot of confusion surrounding the principal as well as the legality.

The first thing to keep in mind is that a cross-band repeater is just what it

says: a repeater from one

band to another. You cannot set up one of these radios as a standard 2 meter or 70 cm repeater. You **MUST** use two bands.

The most common configuration of dual-band rig is by far a 2 meter/ 70 cm radio. There have been radios of other combinations made over the years. Currently, the Yaesu FT-8900 will allow cross-band repeat between any of 4 bands.

Why would you need this function? Suppose you're on an ARES activation and the net is set up on 146.490 simplex. Your task is to shadow the fire chief. So, you grab your 2 meter HT and proceed to follow him around outside providing communication. If the net control station is high and in the clear he will likely hear you but your signal will probably fade in and out as you move around. Now, suppose the fire chief goes inside the metal fire house. Now your HT is shielded from the outside and you have no signal. This is where a cross-band repeater set up comes in handy.

With the mobile rig outside in your vehicle set for 146.490 on the 2 meter side and the 70 cm side set on a proper simplex frequency of your choosing you are free to range all over the property with your 70 cm HT. You can run extremely low power and will have an excellent receive because you're listening to your mobile

rig, not the net control station.

I often work in Highland, Bath and Pendelton counties where I have no cell phone service. I can still talk to my wife at home on amateur radio. (She has a license.)

I set up the mobile rig in my work truck to a repeater that I can work and my wife can also work from our house. I then carry a small 70cm HT in my pocket. I can be in a basement or crawl space and still easily receive the output of the mobile rig in the truck. I can transmit thru that rig back to the repeater and talk back home. The little radio I carry in my pocket only puts out 340 mW and runs on 3 AA batteries.

Most of the time I operate as described with all transmissions going thru the mobile rig.

Sometimes this can create a problem. If you are monitoring a repeater with a squelch tail you cannot transmit until the squelch tail drops.

Here's why:

As long as the repeater is transmitting your mobile rig is receiving. As long as the mobile rig is receiving it's retransmitting on the other band. As long as that band is transmitting it won't be able to receive your HT's signal.

To get around this problem, if you can hear the repeater directly on your HT, you can set things up so the mobile cross band repeater only works one direction. You would receive the 2 meter repeater directly on your HT. When you transmit from your HT you would do it on your 70 cm simplex frequency to be repeated thru your mobile cross band repeater. In this way it acts more like a remote power booster. Since the mobile rig isn't transmitting back to you the squelch tail problem is solved.

Some mobile rigs allow you to set this with a menu. Some you have to get creative. On my Icom rigs I can set up the 2 meter side to the repeater input instead of the normal input/

output pair.

Of course the best solution for this problem is for all ham operators to be in the habit of letting the repeater squelch tail drop. I may write a letter to our editor on that subject some time.

So, you say, I want a radio that will do cross band repeat; which one do I buy?

As far as I know, any radio capable of cross-band repeat must be capable of displaying 2 frequencies at the same time. Most dual band rigs do this but there are exceptions. The Icom 207, 208, 880, and 706 come to mind as NOT having this capability. Yaesu FT-7800, FT-7900, and FT-857 are also one-band-at-a-time dual banders and will NOT have this capability. The Kenwood TM-G707 is another example that will NOT cross-band repeat.

This feature is not limited to mobile rigs. My Yaesu FT-530 HT does a good job as a cross-band repeater. I believe the Icom W32A will also do this. There are probably other HTs. It's even more important with an HT, given their smaller heatsink size to limit transmit power as much as possible. Even with a mobile rig, you want to set the power output as low as necessary while still able to maintain communication. This not only helps keep the radio cool but is an FCC requirement for any amateur station.

Other legal issues can also arise. There are many interpretations of the rules concerning control point, station ID, and repeater rules. Every station is required to have an operator at the control point or be remote controlled. It seems to me that if I can leave the fire station or other building I'm in and be physically at my mobile rig to shut it down within 3 minutes I'm "at" the control point. Trust me, I could cover a lot of ground in 3 minutes if my radio was

locked down in transmit and I didn't want it that way.

Every transmitter must ID its output. Kenwood is the only manufacturer that I'm aware of that offers a built in CW IDer. The problem with their design is that it transmits your ID on both sides of the radio every 10 minutes. This means that if you're just monitoring a repeater your call will be transmitted over the repeater every 10 minutes. It could go right over important traffic if you're involved with a net or something.

There are small CW IDers that can be connected to a mobile rig to provide an ID function.

Some will say that the HT and the mobile rig constitute one station and that your ID, spoken over the HT qualifies as the ID for the link frequency and need not be transmitted from both radios individually.

Some rigs will even allow the HT to remotely control the mobile rig. My own Icom IC-2340 and IC-2350 will do this with an optional DTMF decode module. The Kenwood TM-V71A will allow remote control without an additional module as will most Alinco rigs including the DR-635. You must be careful when using a remote control feature. FCC rules do not allow repeater control on frequencies below 225 Mhz.

To add even more possibilities to this feature consider an Icom 901, Kenwood 742/642, or Yaesu FT-8900. These rigs can allow your little HT to cross-band to 6 meters or even 10 meters on FM. This could possible allow you to work DX thru your 70cm HT while relaxing in your hammock or hiking along a remote trail. So, dust off those manuals and pull out those HT's. See how easy it is to turn your mobile rig into a repeater and greatly enhance your communication ability.

Matthew Huffman, KD4UPL

QST QST QST QST QST QST

Greetings to all,

Area hams have once again been invited to assist with the communications of The RiverFest 2014 event. This will consist of a several mile run, a canoe/kayak paddle down the South River and a several mile bike ride out into Augusta County and back into the city of Waynesboro.

This event will begin at 10 AM on Saturday MAY 3, 2014. If you can assist with this event please send me an email or otherwise contact me letting me know that you will be there. We should meet on the Arch Avenue Kroger parking lot in downtown Waynesboro at 9:30 am on MAY 3.

I would anticipate utilizing the 147.075 repeater and possibly 146.49 simplex.

The RiverFest web site is at:

www.riverfestwaynesboro.org <<http://www.riverfestwaynesboro.org/>>

This site still contains information on prior years event but I understand that the routes are the same as last year but just in May instead of April as in the past.

This is usually a fun in the spring sun event and we will be finished by about noon time.

Let me know if you can assist.

73 Gordon WA4FJC

GPBATEY@compuserve.com

**ARES NEWS**

Page County ARES held its monthly training on March 29, at the Page County Sheriffs Office Investigation Training Room, with our speaker being Jeff Hensley Page County Fire/EMS. Jeff spoke on a few different topics from the status of the new ECC to the ability of the local Amateur community to interact with Page Fire/EMS and ECC.

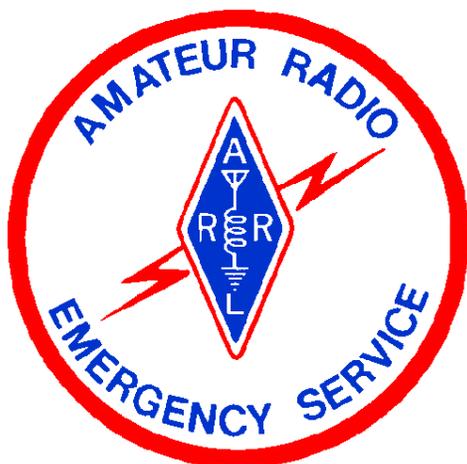
Jeff fielded a short Q and A which was especially enjoyed by all in attendance. A special thanks to Jeff for taking time to meet with Page ARES, it is an indication that we are heading in the right direction. I hope to see everyone at our next training on April 26, at 10:00am, at the Page County Sheriffs Office Investigations Training Room, we will be discussing the upcoming Luray Triathlon .

--

Mark Hensley-N4YSA

EC Page County ARES

540-578-1133



LIFE WITH THE GENERATOR!

I really figured we would escape the power outage as it was Monday morning and we still had service that is till 08:32! That started the FIVE days with the 6500 watt generator that was bought in January 2007. Up till this time the only run time on the generator was to power the amateur radio for communications drills. I set in up behind the Ford van (under the carport) between the garage door. I had stocked piled 20 gallons of gasoline in four red "jerry cans". Along the way I came up with another can for a total of 25 gallons of gasoline. The fuel usage was FIVE gallons each twelve hours.

The first thing I found out about "life with the generator" was PLANNING, PLANNING and more PLANNING! First thing you MUST have plenty of extension cables of the RIGHT size! I had four cables and needed six. One 65 footer ran the furnace (a life saver), and the heaviest cable of 25 feet ran the freezer for the last two hours of each twelve run. The rest of the time it ran the refrigerator. Another cord of 50 feet ran the one lamp and the TV/Satellite system. Got to have our TV! And the longest cable ran to the amateur radio room where it powered the HF/VHF/light and TV. No reason to run the internet as COX cable was pulled from the pole four houses south of me.

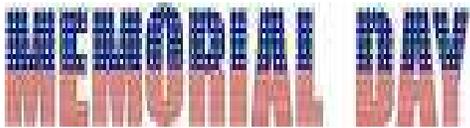
I run the generator for twelve shifts with 8 A.M. and 8 P.M. as the refuel times. The first night (Monday) I was advised to chain the generator up so it would not be stolen! I did just that. Big logging chain around the rear axle of the van that the generator sat behind. For the first three days I was the only one on the street with a generator. On the fourth day when I shut down for refueling I could hear another one running down the street. My good friend Lee, K5LEE who himself went thru TEN days without power in January 2007 reminded me in a e-mail just before the power went out to have OIL (remember the planning part?) on hand for oil changes. I always have oil on hand for the other powered equipment. So I did my first oil change Wednesday at the 8 A.M. refueling. Slipped an old cookie sheet under the frame and opened the oil drain while I refueled the generator. Added what I figured was enough oil, checked the dipstick and restarted the generator. It ran THREE minutes and quit! I rechecked the dipstick and YEP the low oil switch DOES work! Added the rest of the quart of oil and it ran fine the rest of the day and was ready to do another oil change when the power returned thanks to the men from PSO stationed in Shreveport, LA! Thanks guys!

Peter Mann, KF5RD



May

- 1 MARA Club Meeting
- 2 PVARC Club Meeting
- 2 Friday Luncheon
- 3 Waynesboro Riverfest
- 4 Page Cty ARES Net
- 5 Rockingham Cty ARES Net [K4RMY]
- 5 Old Dominion Emergency Net [3.947]
- 6 VARA Club Meeting
- 9 Friday Luncheon
- 10 Augusta Cty ARES Net [147.075]
- 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]
- 19 Old Dominion Emergency Net [3.947]
- 20 Deadline for June submission***
- 23 Friday Luncheon
- 25 Page Cty ARES Net
- 26 MEMORIAL DAY**
- 26 Rockingham Cty ARES Net [K4LXG]
- 30 Friday Luncheon
- 31 Page County ARES Training Class

**June**

- 1 Page Cty ARES Net
- 2 Rockingham Cty ARES Net [K4NRA]
- 2 Old Dominion Emergency Net [3.947]
- 3 VARA Club Meeting
- 5 MARA Club Meeting
- 6 PVARC Club Meeting
- 6 Friday Luncheon
- 8 Manassas Hamfest
- 8 Page Cty ARES Net
- 9 Rockingham Cty ARES Net [WF40]
- 12 Augusta Cty ARES Net
- 13 Friday Luncheon
- 15 FATHER'S DAY, KID'S DAY**
- 15 Page Cty ARES Net
- 16 Rockingham Cty ARES Net [KU4XN]
- 16 Old Dominion Emergency Net [3.947]
- 20 Friday Luncheon
- 20 Deadline for July submission***
- 21 First Day of Summer**
- 22 Page Cty ARES Net
- 23 Rockingham Cty ARES Net [KG4KUR]
- 27 Friday Luncheon
- 28 Page Cty ARES Training Class
- 28-29 FIELD DAY**
- 29 Page Cty ARES Net
- 30 Rockingham Cty ARES Net [K4RMY]



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.

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 Secretary: Dennis Phillips NS4K
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 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: Geoffrey 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

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