

THE MONITOR

June 2014

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

Field Day

**The fourth full weekend in June.
Mark your calendars!**

June 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



VARA Meeting: June 3rd

The Valley Amateur Radio Association, will hold its **June 3rd** 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.

MARA Meeting: June 5th

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, **June 5th**, at the Wood Grill on Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. Meeting starts at 7:30 PM. All hams and their families are invited and welcome.

PVARC Meeting: June 6th

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular meeting on **June 6th** 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, 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.



June is the start of Hurricane season. Are you ready for it?



Silent Keys



Jim Newlen, KE4CAX 4/29/2014

Just wanted to let you know we lost Jim Newlen KE4CAX one of our VARA Club Members he passed away this afternoon. Jim had a heart attack and was in ICU at Augusta Health since Monday. His son is Scott Newlen, KI4QQZ, former president of VARA and currently both are active VARA members.

Here is the Obituary for Jim Newlen KE4CAX.

http://www.coffmanfuneralhome.net/memsol.cgi?user_id=1299806



Geoffrey Phillips, WD4LYO 5/9/2014

Geoffrey Phillips, WD4LYO, passed away on May 9, after a year-long battle with Cancer. His wife, Susan Phillips, says the family is planning a memorial on June 1st.

Thanks to Dave, K4DPF for keeping the club updated on his condition over the past few months; and for advising us of his passing. 73, Sparky/KD4KL, PVARC Secretary

MARA President's Message



June is here and the big event this month in ham radio, as we all know, is Field Day. I want to thank all those that have been working so hard to planning for MARA's and VARA's operation in this event. Unfortunately, I will be out of town on that weekend so I will not be here to help set-up, operate or tear down when it is over. I would like to encourage everyone to at least drop by and spend some time there, especially those that have never been to Field Day or participated. There will be someone to explain what it is all about and even give you a chance to operate. If you have never operate during Field Day, don't worry, the bands will be full of others that have not either.

Last month Jeff, W4PJW presented a good introduction for how to install a radio in your car. While there is a right way and wrong way for part of the installation (power and antenna cables for example), when it comes to where and how to mount your radio in your car the sky is the limit, do whatever makes sense to you and have fun. While Jeff did not mention this, remember if you have Ham call plates on your car you must have a permanently installed ham radio in your car. Thanks for the good job, Jeff.

This month Jim Lehman, W4POL will tell us about radio activity on the low frequency end of the band, I'm not exactly what frequency range he will talk about but it is the part of the band below the AM broadcast band. Jim has presented programs in the past and they have always been informative, I'm sure this will be interesting also.

I hope to see a good turnout on June 5 for the meeting at the Wood Grill Restaurant in Harrisonburg, 6:30 for dinner, 7:30 for the meeting.

73, Gerald,/ KN4FM

VARA President's Message

Allow me to ramble a bit this month, if I may. Do you remember the hay day of 2 meters? Do you remember when it seemed like everyone was on 2 meter FM and sometimes it was hard to break in and make a call? Do you remember when you could drive down the road and find someone to talk to any time of day? I do, and you may as well.

I remember the excitement of building a 2 meter FM receiver in the early 70's, and then buying my first 2 meter FM crystal controlled transceiver. It was a Regency HR-212 and it put out all of 15 watts. The unique thing about the Regency is that the receiver selectivity was so bad; I could listen to several repeaters at the same time (no joke).

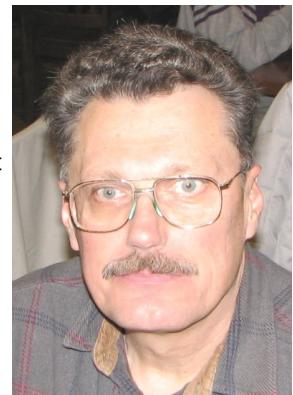
In the early days, Amateur radio repeaters came mostly from old commercial repeaters like Motorola that were modified for our purposes. If you did not have duplexers, you used two antennas and separated them as much as possible.

So what happened to two meter FM? Can we blame it all on the Internet? I don't think so. Let me state my case. First when the craze for 2 meter FM started, everyone and his brother were putting up repeaters. Not all of them were active, but they filled a void. It wasn't long before repeaters needed to be coordinated and it made good sense. Repeater interference was becoming a serious problem. It was not uncommon to work two repeaters on the same frequency at the same time. Sometimes you could even bring up three or four repeaters at the same time. As a result repeaters we toned our repeaters in order to further reduce interfering with each other. Although a good thing, I think it helped lead to the decline of 2 meter activity to some extent.

Let me explain. Last year I drove over 6,000 miles out west and back to Staunton, and never made a contact. Just recently I drove 1800 miles roaming around Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee. In fact, on my latter trip I did not even turn on the radio. Here is the point: almost every repeater owner tones his repeater. Well for those of us driving down the road, searching for the tone in not an option, thus no contacts.

Now let me suggest another reason why two meters is pretty quiet. Is it possible that there are too many repeaters? For example, I listen on 146.850, and Bob listens on 147.075. We both would like to talk to someone, but that someone is listening on yet another repeater. Maybe we need to link up more repeaters or get rid of some repeaters. Maybe we should do both. I would love to talk to someone while driving around, but that somebody isn't there. And yes, the Internet has had an impact on our hobby, but still there are other reasons as well that answer the question, "what happened to 2 meters?" Just a thought, take it for what it is worth.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the next VARA meeting. We have some things of importance to discuss. Field day is coming and other events are on the horizon.



73, Greg, W4GRC, President, VARA

Catch the Field Day "Bug"!

June 28-29, 2014

I've Got the
Field Day
Bug



Field Day Help Still Wanted

To you guys and gals from MARA and VARA

I am asking you to consider what you will agree to do to make our annual Field Day a success. As you know, FD involves Friday, June 27 for set-up and our famous potluck supper, followed by the 24-hour demonstration of Ham Radio Preparedness from 2:00 p.m. Saturday through 2:00 p.m. on Sunday. (June 28 - 29). We have permission to use the Todd Lake Leading Ridge area again this year (as we did in 2013).

I passed out participation signup forms at the May MARA meeting, with a request that those hams email me after considering what hours they would participate in whatever activities they chose. At the May VARA meeting, Pres. Greg Czerniak pointed out the need, and asked for a show of hands from those who planned to participate. A good number of hands went up, but we need to know what each one of you and the MARA folks are specifically volunteering



for. In particular, I urge all of you to plan to stay after the final horn blows on the contest, to take down, pack up, and clean up our site. Don't be among those who think, "Let George do it". It is discouraging to "George" to be counted on (and the few others who do stay to finish the job) by themselves, year after year.

We need help trailering FD equipment to the site and setting up on Friday afternoon (CW and Phone for sure, possibly Satellite), taking down, packing up, and cleaning upon Sunday afternoon, setting up and taking down the Welcome Center, and operating at the CW and Phone shelters during the contest. There are also opportunities to help as loggers for the operators, and to cover the wee hours of the morning in both categories.

So, please, email me and specify times when you will sign up for operating and/or logging (when you get to the site), plus the times when you will be available to set up and take down mentioned above.

"Many hands make light work", and with your help, we can do it!

73,

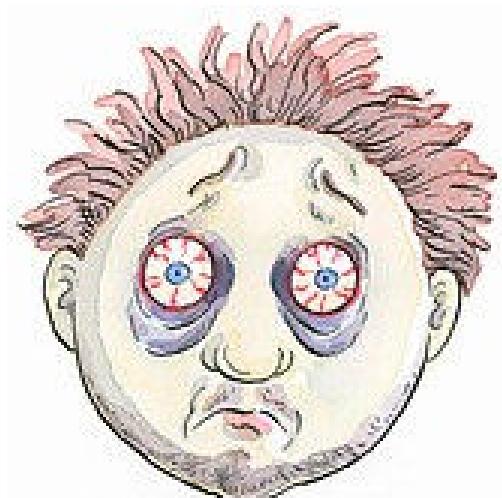
Herb Slade/ AA2BF, VARA/MARA Field Day Chairman

CAUTION!!!



**Field Day participation
may be hazardous to your
looks!
(Take a chance, you might be
surprised!)**

"That's the problem with calling "CQ Field Day" too long!"





Directions to the Field Day Site



The road to FD starts at the sharp turn on Rt. 42 about 3.5 miles south of Bridgewater. Go west on Rt. 747/613 towards Mt. Solon. Just follow straight ahead on the main road for 3.5 mi. There is a 4-way stop at Mt. Solon – continue straight ahead following the main paved road. The road number will change from 747 to 730 but just follow the main road and you will probably not even notice the number change. You will go through a one lane steel bridge at Stokesville – continue straight ahead for one mile after the bridge. You will come to a place where there is a sign that says 4 miles to Todd Lake turn left. You will now be on Forest Road 95 but still paved. If you miss this turn, the road changes to gravel – back up and try again. After 4 miles you will come to a sign on the right that indicates you to turn right to Todd Lake. You will go up a hill and at the peak of the hill (right at the entrance to Todd Lake) there is a dirt road to the left. Follow the dirt Leading Ridge road for less than half a mile and you will see the clearing on your right. It should take approximately 35 minutes from Bridgewater and 45 minutes from Churchville. If you know the area, you can cut the drive time from Churchville to 35 minutes. It sounds a bit complicated but in actuality, it's not that bad.

Thanks for supporting this club event.



Aerial view of Todd Lake Leading Ridge

MARA Secretary's Report

May 1, 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 38 people attended of which 13 were guests. Introductions were made all around.

New Members: Voting was done for Hugh Robertshaw, **KK4YGR** and Brian Downs, **W3ATT** and they were elected to membership A first reading was done for: Jim Clymer, **WS6X**, Eric Pults, **K9JEP**, Chis Shirke, **KI4BAQ** and Arnauld "Scotty" Scafidi **WB3FGH**

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

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

Reports by Committees

VE Committee: Testing Session will be June 14th at 9:00AM at the Woodman of the World Building on Route 42 North of Dayton

Public Service: David Fordham **KD9LA** informed that volunteers on quick notice could be used for Riverfest in Waynesboro for May 3rd.

ARES/RACES: Bryan Daniels **K4RMY** still needs people to register on the website so he can get an updated list.

Repeaters: 440 Working well

145.130 Dave Fordham advises to back off the microphone to get a clean signal. There are still issues with static.

147.315 Now up and running fine

147.225 is being repaired.

Old Business:

Field Day is the last weekend of June 2014 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. 10 people have volunteered to help. No firm location yet. They had their first meeting and more help is needed. This year there will be no GOTA station and not VHF-UHF operation. Contact Herb. His E-Mail is:

Herbslade@comcast.net

New Business: David Fordham KD9LA and others will be going to the Dayton Hamfest and leaving from Lexington.

Announcements: Andrew Pearson N4RCE is interested in forming a QRP interest group. Please contact him for exciting low power operation and challenges.

Motion to Adjourn: Seconded, passed.

The 50/50 Drawing: The pot was a total of \$25 and the split was worth \$12.50 and won again this month 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: Mobile Operation

Program: The topic was “Mobile Operation” and presented by Jeff Rinehart W4PJW.

Jeff defines “Mobile operation” as any radio operations that move. He offered tips and the official Motorola advice on battery connections. The ground should be bolted to the frame of the vehicle and not attached to the battery and only the positive side should be fused.

He showed a quarter wave end-fed antenna and suggested that it is an excellent mobile antenna.

Other examples on his Power Point were suggestion on where to mount radios, how to homebrew mounts and mounting speakers and microphone

holders. He made use of rubberized sheeting.
Some Hams get carried away with mobile operation!



Efficient Antenna mounting.

Respectfully submitted by Dennis Phillips, Secretary

MARA Treasurer's Report

MARA Treasurer's Report April 21, 2014 - May 20, 2014

Beginning Balance April 20, 2014 (Last Report)	\$ 2,934.58
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Add:	<u>\$.00</u>
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Total Deposits	\$.00
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Less: SVEC (April)	<u>\$ -23.17</u>
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Total Disbursements	<u>\$ -23.17</u>
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Ending Balance as of May 20, 2014	\$ 2,911.41
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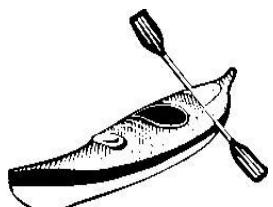
Submitted by Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC, MARA Treasurer

Thanks to all area amateurs that participated in the Riverfest 2014 run, paddle, bike event in Waynesboro on May 3, 2014. The following assisted: N1XP Roger, N4JGO Bob, KD4EHM Jered, KE4ASC Frank, K4OOD Josh, WA4ESI Tom, KI4FZB Gary, AA4RH Richard, KA4MTP Casey, and Jo Anna, Kristen and Kayli Weaver. It was a real fine turnout by local amateurs willing to assist with this public service event. The weather was fine. We were able to assist in the river take out location for other folks that did not arrive to as-

Riverfest Results

sist with the event. We were able to use the 147.075 Waynesboro repeater system for all communications. All activities were completed by noontime.

Thanks again.
Gordon WA4FJC



PVARC Meeting Summary – May 2, 2014

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 1840. Eleven members were present.

Announcements:

It was announced that **one of our members is continuing to have health problems: Geoffrey Phillips/WD4LYO** is undergoing hospice care at home. Visitors are welcome, but please call his XYL (Susan) in advance. His telephone is: (540) 743-1493.

(Secretarial Note: Geoffrey subsequently passed away one week later on May 9th.)

Members were reminded of the upcoming Maryland Computer & Hamfest to be held this year at the Howard County Fairgrounds on July 20th.

Brian/W5YQ reminded members of the Low Power, 2m FM simplex Sprint coming up soon. Details in QST. Lot's of fun!!

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 April) totaled: \$1,520.00 + Petty Cash: \$20.00, Donut Fund: \$2.47 (following purchase of donuts for this month's meeting), **CASH ON HAND: \$1,552.47**. The motion to approve the report was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Bob/WO4MI asked if there were any committee reports.

Education/Training Committee: Morgan/K4RHD reported on his discussions regarding the possibility of PVARC providing training to Page County High School students in ARES & Weather Warning. He will keep us informed as these talks continue.

Program Committee: Co-Chairmen - Zory/KB3VQC & Morgan/K4RHD: Noted that our presentation this evening would be by **John/KT4CB** who would discuss high powered, HF mobile installations and grounding.

Technical Assistance Subcommittee:

Co-Chairmen – **Mark/N4YSA & Paul/N4PJI** reported having assisted Larry/K3JRR with a power transformer replacement in an old Johnson rig (*anyone remember these old classic transmitters?*)



Field Day Committee: Tim/AK4CJ & Morgan/K4RHD reminded everyone ARRL Field Day (June 28th & 29th) is "just around the corner!" It was agreed that PVARC would operate in a 1-Alpha station configuration. Final plans will be discussed at the June 4th meeting. The following equipment commitments in support of field day activities were as summarized below:

Bob/WO4MI: 1) 746 Pro HF Transceiver (160m – 6m) w/ Rig Blaster interface and LDG automatic antenna tuner. 2) AC generator. 3) Extension cord.

Dave/K4DPF will provide: 1) TS2000 w/ Rig Blaster interface for the 6m station & will bring the club CPU with software loaded & a wireless router. 2) 6m antenna. 3) Extension cord.

Morgan/K4RHD: 1) Will bring a Kenwood 440S for backup. 2) Shelter for the AC generator. 3) AC generator. 4) 75W (2900) 2m rig.

Mark/N4YSA: 1) AC Generator Other (non-equipment related) commitments (extra points) toward the Field Day initiative were:

Morgan/K4RHD: 1) Media Announcement. 2) PIO Table. 3) Site Visit Invitation. 4) Education - Solar Power demonstration. 2) **Mulligatawny Stew!!** + Vegetarian menu items.

Tim/AK4CJ: 1) Site Visit Invitation.

Zory/KB3VQC: 1) Coordinate Saturday afternoon visit by Boy Scout troop.

Dave/K4DPF: 1) Generate 10 messages for transmission. 2) Generate message to ARRL SM for VA.

Mark/N4YSA: 1) Served Agency invitation.

New Business: **Carol/KA4LAF** asked if **Morgan/K4RHD** needed money to purchase food and serving items in advance of Field Day. Following a short discussion it was determined that the sum of \$200

would suffice. A motion was made, seconded and passed to give Morgan a check in that amount at the next meeting to offset his expenditures.

Old Business: Sparky/KD4KL & Carol/KA4LAF announced that Krispy Kreme donuts were being provided once again 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 the business meeting at 1940. A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed. Following a short recess to set up A/V equipment (and get a Krispy Kreme), John presented his very informative program, which was received with great enthusiasm by the membership as evidenced in the Q&A period afterward!

Submitted by: Sparky Terry/KD4KL,
PVARC Secretary

VARA Secretary's Report May 6, 2014 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association held its monthly meeting at the Hometown Grill and Buffet Restaurant in Staunton on May 6th. President Greg Czerniak, W4GRC, opened the meeting at 7 pm. 26 members and guests were present and introduced themselves. The 50/50 drawing winner was John Keller, W4ZAO, winning \$15.50.

ARES Report: David Tanks, AD4TJ, EC: The next net will be on the 2nd Thursday of the month, May 8th at 8 pm on the 146.850 repeater. Gordon Batey WA4FJC volunteered to be Net Control. David reminded us that Hurricane season starts June 1st.

Field Day: Greg said that Jim Cash KK4YGP, wanted to be on the committee. The next meeting date has not been set yet. 11 hands were raised when Greg asked how many were planning on being at Field Day this year. Herb Slade AA2BF, Field Day committee chairman, is still trying to get in touch with the Forest Service on whether we would be allowed to use the Todd Lake location again. A discussion was held on how many Field Day pins to order. It was decided to buy 35, as they could be purchased after Field Day if we did not have enough to go around. It was brought up about having Field Day at a more public location, but when we did the Weyers Cave location, with lots of publicity, very little interest was shown.

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. Wayne reminded us that when turning in dues to make sure he has a record of who you are.

Updates: Dayton Hamfest is this month, and the usual caravan of local hams will be taking off May 14.

Sam Gamble K4RTE, showed his homebrew CW transmitter that he is working on.

Jim Cash upgraded from Technician to General at the Dayton testing session. Congratulations! Gordon reported on the Riverfest event: had a good turnout of hams to help. Everything went well, and he thanked all that did help.

New business: Greg has been contacted by the director of the Bike Festival. The club voted to provide communications for them again this year. Greg noted that this event gives Amateur Radio a great deal of exposure to the general public of what we can do. David reminded all that any club member who helps out at this event gets their dues paid for the coming year, as we did for those that helped last year.

Bennie Cook, N4BCC, told us that the law about if you have amateur radio call license plates, that you must have a radio permanently installed in your vehicle, will not continue to be in effect as of July 1st of this year. David thought we should recognize John W4ZAO, for his feat of capturing 1st place in the 4th call area, All-Band, Assisted, Low-Power category, in the 2013 CQ WW DX SSB contest, using an Icom 706MKIIIG with no SB filters! With no other topics or business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

The program was given by Ellsworth, showing a video of a World-War II-era movie on spies and radio.

Respectfully submitted,
David Tanks / AD4TJ, VARA Secretary



This page originally held an article titled, "A Different Type of Stamp". The article was a full reprint of an article titled, "EKKO Stamps Recall "The Miracle", authored by Philip Mulivor, WW2E, appearing on the RadioWorld website. The original article can be found online at:

<http://www.radioworld.com/columns-and-views/0004/ekko-stamps-recall-the-miracle/332847>

In February of 2017, Mr. Mulivor notified MARA that the original article was copyrighted, and he formally objected to the full reprint without explicit permission. In response, the page has been removed from this issue. The full article may still be accessed on-line via several other locations, including the URL listed above.

Tower Climbing the Right Way

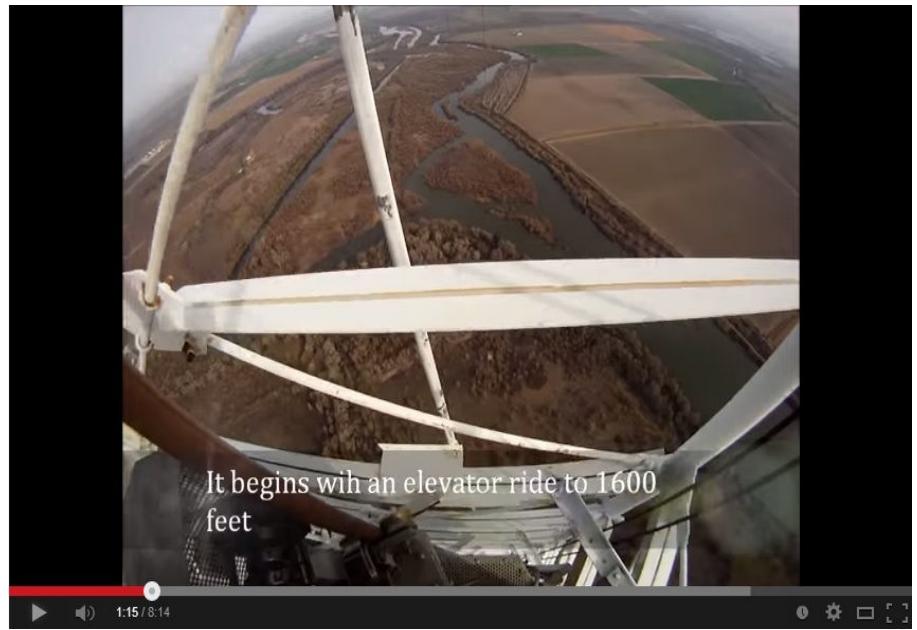
David Fordham, KD9LA

A few months ago, someone posted a video of a couple of guys "free-climbing" a 1700-foot tower. At the time I watched that, I was thinking to myself: "Free-climbing? Without being tied off? Those guys are absolutely insane".

Wayne Bowyer N4EYZ agreed. Wayne gave a couple of club meeting programs to VARA and MARA on the correct way to climb. Well...

Apparently some other tower industry people thought the same thing as I and Wayne did. They have made a video about the right way to climb a 1700 foot tower, and claim that the other guys mis-represented the tower industry. The zoom in and zoom out at the beginning of the video show how up these guys are. (Close the ads and view full screen for the full HD effect.)

Here is the new video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9b9LahabJlk>



Comments from a former “Climber”

Herb Slade, AA2BF

I used to climb towers for a living. In fact, Wayne Boyer was my mentor when I started, and often times was my crew chief. The owner of the company we worked for put his money where his mouth is, at that time meeting with over a hundred field workers (ground and climbing) every Monday to discuss "near misses" for an hour. We would tell our personal experiences during the past week, without being chastised, but to make everyone aware of the problem and what was learned from it. While I was there, the company had not had a

lost-time accident in the past six years. That was doing the job right!

I saw the same or similar video of the free-climbing tower team a few years ago, and it brought to mind the horror stories we had heard earlier, that needlessly cost lives by shortcircuiting safety. Those actions are a ticking bomb - it's only a matter of time before they will "getcha". I still climb at my present age (76), but only trees and an occasional ham tower. Those early lessons are still remembered.

Always “Safety First”

Ray, Colvin KE4HVR

ARRL member Jim Abercrombie, N4JA (ex-K4BMS), of Enoree, South Carolina, died May 14. He was 76. According to Charles Pennington, K4GK, Abercrombie was fatally injured as the result of a fall from his Amateur Radio tower.

Improving Your Mobile Signal

Russ Mumaw K3NLT

Joe's Quickie #85 (QQ Fall 2013) prompted me to share an approach that I have tried with my QRP mobile/portable operation to improve my radiated signal.

I call it an "off center fed dipole" because of the way it is set up and tuned for a specific frequency range and to match the impedance of my coax. There is the Hustler 54" mast and the wire connecting to the coax between the resonators and fed at the junction of the mast and lower resonator, thus the name. Someone else suggested calling it an "up and outer" since it is configured like the letter "L" as viewed from the side. (Photo 1)

Some time ago I read an article about a ham who rode his motorcycle to and from work regularly, and was checking into a phone net on 75 meters with a remarkably strong and consistent signal. There were photos of his setup on his mo-



1

torcycle, but the size of the photo was so small and the definition so poor it was difficult to see how his antenna was configured. With close examination of one photo, I thought I saw a homemade resonator that extended down from the platform on which he mounted the radio and the vertical part of his antenna. I deduced that since the ground plane of his bike is so small, this second resonator was acting like the other half of a dipole.

Since I have two resonators for seven of the HF bands that I had used in a compact horizontal dipole on our motorhome, I figured I had most of what I needed to try this out. I wanted to implement a similar configuration on the family vehicle. But because my wife said there could be no holes cut or drilled, and since there is a class 3 receiver for a trailer hitch already installed, I wanted to utilize that for some kind of mounting. I thought of a bicycle rack that I often see on the



2

back of cars, and began checking at various places for an inexpensive one. There were none to be had at a reasonable cost. I visited a local bicycle shop and asked if they might have a broken bike rack that I could try to use. They had one that I could purchase for the value of scrap iron.

I took it home and it fit my trailer receiver. (Photo 2) A friend who has a machine shop removed the broken part and welded a steel plate on the top of the vertical part of the rack. Onto this plate I mounted a Motorola "ball" body mount for the mast part of my design (photo 3) and a "CB mirror mount" installed right below the vertical mast for another resonator mounted horizontally. (photo 2) Notice there are two antenna mounts, each with 3/8" X 24 tpi., into which the mast and second resonator could be connected, one vertical and one horizontal, and both for the same band. The coaxial feed-line is wired so that the center conductor is connected to the vertical element of this antenna, and the outer braid is connected to the



3

horizontal resonator via a connection to the center pin of a PL259 plug. It is supposed to be a dipole, so to "cool" the RF on the outside of the coax, I added a "choke type" balun.

For tuning, the first step is to tune the two resonators to the same frequency. Then the tuning of the resonators are juggled so that the resonant frequency shows zero reactance or very close to it, (see photo 4) and eventually the impedance is 50 ohms, or very close to it, keeping the reactance still at "0". This will be the time consuming part of the tune-up, although not that much more time and the dividends are worth it. The instrument that I use is an Autek Vector Analyzer (which is less expensive and more versatile than the MFJ unit). In tuning like this, you will tune one of the resonators for a slightly different frequency than the other resonator. I found that tuning the upper, vertical resonator for a lower frequency (the tuning rod is extended



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farther out) than the lower horizontal resonator, I soon had the desired readings. (photo 5) This gives me a spread of about 100 kHz so that I can move around this frequency and still be in the reactance range that the tuner in my radio can handle. Please don't read this as indicating "I squared R losses", because the band width of the antenna



5

is very narrow, indicating low IR losses. This is only showing the limited range of the antenna tuner in my KX1 to give an acceptable match for the transmitter. In order to preserve the settings on each resonator, I marked the one on the vertical as "T" for top (photo 6) and the horizontal resonator "B" for bottom (photo 7). In fact I find that with the KX1 tuner, I can tune farther from resonance in the higher direction than I can tune in the lower direction. The tuner allows me to make excursions of approximately 30 kHz down and 70 kHz up and still be under 1.5:1 matched VSWR. I want to explore why this difference in symmetrical band spread and how the reactance is handled by the tuner. Per-



6



7

haps someone can explain that for me.

Signal reports on the air have been greatly gratifying, to say the least! Most QSO reports have been that my signal does not seem like the average mobile. There is no flutter or rapid QSB as is often the case with many mobiles, and then when I tell them I'm QRP at 5 watts or less, they almost seem to want to question my veracity. One QSO where I was describing my antenna the other operator thought I meant it was a full sized off center fed dipole and wondered how I could use it mobile. Perhaps I should try to think of another way to describe it.

If you are wondering about operating while in motion with the horizontal resonator extending back several feet, I inquired of a friend in the Harrisonburg Police Department,

and he advised that it must be "red flagged" if over two feet. (YMMV) Since I am primarily planning to use this as an effective antenna in a portable mode, this is not a problem. It is quite unsafe to be a "distracted driver" in today's world on high speed highways, so unless my wife is driving, I will not be operating mobile.

I am also in the process of using this scheme on my backpack frame for pedestrian mobile operation. I am hopeful that I will find similar benefits with this design compared to having a "ground wire" dragging along behind! When warm weather comes again, I expect to try this mode out more fully. November weather is not as conducive to that mode of walking and operating as is the weather in May and June.

Working the Pileups

If you intend to work DX and want to have more than a little success you will have to learn a few techniques. You might want to call them tips or tricks, but it is just simple common sense when you think about it. No matter how much power you are running and how huge your antenna you will not make the contact if you are calling at the wrong time in the wrong place. See, I told you it was simple.

So, how do you find out the right place and time to call? By **listening**. When you come across a pileup the first thing you need to do is listen to what is going on. Do you even need the station for a 'new one', or is it the same station you worked 30 minutes ago, but with a different operator? You can learn so much by listening; is there a QSL manager and who is it, is the operator working stations on his frequency or operating split, is he working anyone or just certain areas? It probably will not do you any good to make a call from the states if the DX is working Europeans, but you may hear several comments like 'lid' or 'Europe only'. These are not terms of endearment.

Split Operation Most rare DX and nearly all DX'pedition operation is split. If there is a large pileup that is the only way for anyone to get through. Anything more than just a few stations calling on the same frequency makes it next to impossible to pick out callsigns. Working split is simple, the DX transmits on one frequency and listens on another, often changing frequency. Some operators take a couple calls before moving on, some move after every call. If the pileup is large and you are low power, meaning anything less than a kilowatt to some people, split is probably the only way you have a chance. Even then it may be slim, depending on the size of the crowd.

The first thing you have to do is determine where the DX is listening. On SSB the operator will usually announce the listening range once in a while, such as 'listening 205 to 215'. Pay attention! That is where he is listening and calling him on 200 probably will not get you a contact. The reason he is listening there is because he wants the noise of the pileup away from the frequency he is calling on so everyone can hear him, thereby giving

him some control of the situation. You may find people calling outside the announced range, and sometimes they are getting through. If that is so then

make your call there also. The DX is making the rules and he works them where he wants them. The main thing is keeping the callers off of his transmit frequency.

On CW the operator will usually only say 'up', but if you tune up



you will find the crowd and be able to judge the boundaries. The pileups on CW tend to be closer to the DX and not spread out as wide. There is an added bonus in working CW in that a lot of hams don't use it. That cuts out some of the competition right from the start. It also seems to me that CW pileups tend to move along faster. You'd be amazed at how fast some operators can work stations.

Regardless of the mode, if it is split you need to find out what the split is, and start listening. Some hams will sit on the same frequency and just keep calling. If you have a big signal that may work, but if you are low power you need to take a more active approach. When the DX goes back to a station try to quickly find that station when he gives his report. You have to be quick because it may just be a short 'thank you, 599 also' or just '59 tu' on CW.

Most modern radios have two VFO's, usually A and B. For me it is simpler to set A on the DX and use B to tune around to find where he is listening. When the DX calls a station I just push the A/B button to switch over to B and quickly hunt the lucky ham sending his report back to the DX. If I find him I make a mental note of the frequency and switch back to the DX to find out the call of the next station. If I find the second station I have an idea of how far the DX moved to find a clear call, or if he moved at all. Finding a pattern lets you know where you should make your call the next time around. If you call and don't get through, listen and find the ham that did get through. Was he on your frequency? If so you have the pattern right, just got beat out. If he was somewhere else you need to adjust your target for the next call. If you are consistently on the right frequency when you make your call, sooner or later you'll probably get through.

Is it easy with low power? No, not in the least. Will you get frustrated? Yes, most definitely. When VP6DI, Ducie Island, came on the pileups were huge. Several nights I sat here and listened as signals got stronger and stronger. Almost without fail, just when the signals were good here in North Carolina, the operators would all break for mealtime. When they came back 30 or 45 minutes later they were often down to S2 or S3. Did I call anyway? Sure, the only alternative was to give up on a new one. Did I get through? Not on SSB. After several night of hopeless calling on 20 meter SSB I finally found them on 15 meter CW. As I remember it only took a few calls to get through. I only made that one contact, but that was all it took to get a new one.

Transceive Operation This is when you and the DX are on the

same frequency. Although it is more likely to happen with common DX, sometimes you will find semi-rare and rare stations using transceive when they first come on. It doesn't take long for the pileup to grow and then they will usually go split. It goes without saying that you want to be the one to hear the DX make his first CQ. If you are that lucky it will be the best chance you have of snagging him without having to fight it out in a pileup. I was lucky to hear A41LZ calling CQ late one night and nabbed him with the first call. Even though signals were only 55 both ways we had a nice short chat. When we ended the QSO there were several stations calling him, and I am sure the pileup grew quickly. I got the easy QSO by tuning around and listening. It also helped to know that 20 meters opened up to the Middle East in the middle of the night for me.

Tailending This is kind of like tailgating in the radio world. First thing, make sure the station you are trying to work takes tailenders. If he does not then you do not want to upset him by doing it. Also, if you are going to do it, do it right. It works at times, but can be a little tricky. What it all boils down to is making your call to the DX just as the station he is currently working finishes the QSO. If the DX is moving fast and the exchange both ways is a simple 59(9), and other stations are tailending, then it is safe to try with a condition or two. First you have to be able to hear the DX **and the other station** so you are sure not to interfere with their QSO. When the other station is signing clear with the DX you drop your call in. Some people will drop their call while the other station is still signing clear, but I like to aim for just after he finishes. I just want to be sure he is really through before I call.

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



Local Ham is Winner in 2013 ARRL 10-M Contest

Our own Past Officer and MARA member **Sandy Mullins/K4PZC**, placed first in the Roanoke Division for Single-Op, Phone Only, Low Power . That also placed him first in the Virginia Section. He also placed 6th in the **Top Ten—US** for Single—Op, Phone Only, Low Power. **Scott Tuthill/K7ZO** contacted him for permission to use his soap box in part for his opening phrase on page one of the article.

"This was my 11th win for this entry class in this contest," says Sandy.

Congratulations, Sandy!

The expanded results are on the ARRL web site.

The 10-M contest is the second full weekend of December. It starts 0000 UTC Saturday; and runs through 2359 UTC Sunday (**December 13-14, 2014**)



Men In Black {Cars}

Subject: a funny conversation between a mobile radio ham and a "civilian". Not sure, but it may be a true story. Or one that has been embellished a bit.

Enjoy the 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 mislead 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".



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

Don't forget: The local ARES groups hold regular nets to let you check out your radio equipment, antennas, and other station gear. Take advantage of these opportunities to get signal reports and get to know the other local hams.



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!





Alpha Amplifiers and TEN-TEC Merge Under RF Concepts Banner

LONGMONT, Colo.- May 9, 2014 - Announcing today the merger of Longmont, Colorado -based RF Concepts LLC / Alpha Amplifiers and Sevierville, Tenn.-based TEN-TEC Inc., RF Concepts Chairman Michael Seedman, AA6DY, declared the union the perfect combination of amateur radio brands. The merger creates a multi-million-dollar company with products that span QRP transceivers to full-legal-limit amplifiers and establishes an organization with the size and scale to continue to innovate into the next decade and beyond.

RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers has been building amplifiers continuously since the early 1970s and has put more than 13,000 amplifiers in the hands of demanding amateur radio operators. Alpha Amplifiers are considered "the finest line of linear amplifiers in the world" by the ham community. TEN-TEC, founded in 1968, produces top-of-the-line receivers, transceivers, amplifiers and tuners and is known worldwide for the reliability and performance of its products.

"For more than 40 years, Alpha Amplifiers and TEN-TEC have shared a reputation in the amateur radio market for offering exceptionally well-engineered, American-made products backed by extraordinary customer service," said Seedman. "Alpha Amplifiers is known for 'key down performance,' and TEN-TEC is known for pushing the boundaries of transceiver performance and capabilities.

"The merger of these brands under the RF Concepts banner makes perfect sense," added Seedman, "not only in terms of creating a powerful product line, but also in terms of positioning our company for the future. This merger more than doubles the size of our business allowing us to invest more capital in innovative engineering and customer-driven product development."

RF Concepts' operations will now be shared between its Longmont Colorado facility and its Sevierville Tennessee facility. The company is currently seeking a new operations facility in the Sevierville area to more efficiently house factory operations, part of the engineering resources, and technical and customer support services. The Colorado facility will house engineering resources, technical and customer support services, and much of the front-office operations.

Both Jim Wharton, NO4A, who in January of this year took the

reins of TEN-TEC upon the retirement of founder Jack Burchfield, K4JU and Ken Long, N0QO, who has been overseeing the operations at Alpha Amplifiers will be Presidents of their respective group, working together to build a strong, innovative company.

"Ken and I have spent quite a bit of time discussing our short-and long-term focus over the last few weeks and I feel our responsibilities are very clearly defined.", said Wharton.

"Jim and I have a lot of work to do to make sure the merging of these two brands goes as smoothly as possible." added Long.

The merger announcement comes just days before one of the signature amateur radio events in North America-the Dayton (Ohio) Hamvention-where more than 75,000 hams are expected to converge on the Hara Arena Complex to discover the latest innovations in amateur radio. Both Alpha Amplifiers and TEN-TEC will operate separate booths at this years show (May 16 - 18). Both booths will feature new products and special offers to commemorate the merger. At booths 209-210 in the North Hall, Alpha Amplifiers will be demonstrating the soon-to-be released DreamTuner 4040 Automatic Antenna Tuner, a graphically based, 4KW Autotuner. At booths 458-450 in the East Hall, TEN-TEC will unveil the Patriot, an open source, arduino-based SSB transceiver.

About RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers

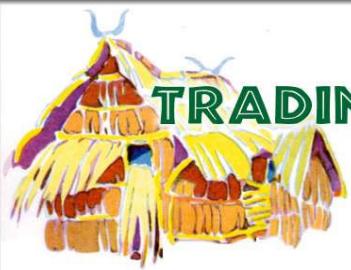
RF Concepts/Alpha Amplifiers manufactures high-end linear amplifiers for ham radio enthusiasts. Based in Longmont, Colo., the company is known worldwide for its quality amplifiers. Alpha Amplifiers have been continuously manufactured in the United States since the early 1970s.

About TEN-TEC

TEN-TEC Inc. was founded in 1968 to provide beautifully engineered, well-crafted, well-supported and high-performing products to the amateur radio market. For 46 years the Sevierille, Tenn.-based company has passionately designed, crafted and tested premium products which have earned the company a solid reputation and loyal brand followers throughout the world.

Ken Long
303-473-9232

(Thanks Don.)



TRADING POST



The Quad with a U-100 Rotor to turn it. Both for \$150... A couple of cheap fence Top-Rail pipes and you have a beam and rotor!

It is set up and operating . Come work it and take it with you.

Alliance TENNA-ROTOR U-100 Antenna Rotator Rotor & Controller

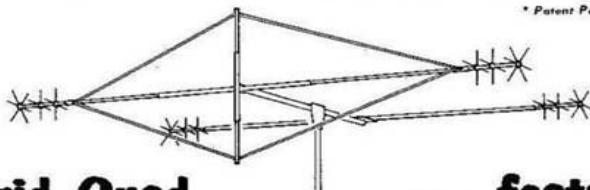


Here is the final call on these for the Monitor. I am selling some goodies really CHEAP for Valley Hams. My home phone is 540-433-0514. I live across from JMU in Harrisonburg.

E-Mail dphillips2009@comcast.net

NS4K, Dennis Phillips

Hi-Q Hybrid Quad Hotter than a firecracker !

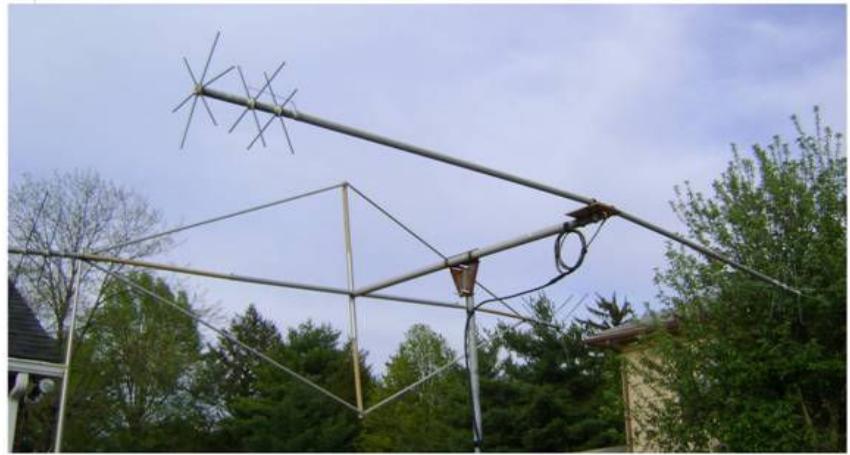


the Hybrid Quad

A BRAND NEW IDEA FOR SUPERIOR REFLECTOR OPERATION. A HIGH Q QUAD REFLECTOR ELEMENT USING MINI-PRODUCTS NEW MULTIBALD HIGH POT LOADING™ PROPERLY PHASED WITH A LINEAR DRIVEN ELEMENT FOR MAXIMUM GAIN AND MAXIMUM FRONT TO BACK RATIO. HERE IN ONE SMALL PACKAGE IS PERFORMANCE NEVER BEFORE THOUGHT POSSIBLE WITH MINIATURE ANTENNAS.

....featuring

- FOUR BANDS - 6, 10, 15, 20 METERS
- HIGHER GAIN
- HIGHER FRONT TO BACK
- MORE BANDWIDTH
- TURNING RADIUS - 74 INCHES
- LIGHTWEIGHT - 15 LBS.
- WIND SURVIVAL - 75 M.P.H.
- 50 OHM FEEDLINE
- 1200 WATTS P.E.P.
- PACKAGED FOR FPO SHIPMENT



The TB6EM!

The was built like a battleship, and HEAVY, over 100 pounds! Everything that could possibly fail was reinforced, and then reinforced again! It's a heavy beast. You need to turn it with a Tail Twister. The performance has to be heard to be believed! It never failed to pull out the WEAKEST DX that others nearby simply couldn't hear. You can't work 'em if you can't hear 'em, and the Telrex certainly can hear them! And, it will do so, year after year after year! Man, I wish that company was still in business! There is simply NOTHING out there today to compete! NOTHING!

All documents come with it... \$100. Probably the aluminum alone is worth that much!

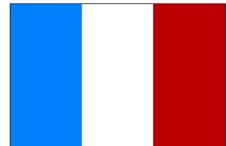


How's DX

7Q - Remco, PA3FYM will be active as 7QNL (yes, that's correct) from Malawi from **18 May to 9 June**, including an entry in the CQ WW WPX CW Contest. He plans to be QRV on 80-10 metres (maybe also 6m) CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via PA1AW; logsearch on Club Log. See www.malawihf.org for further information.



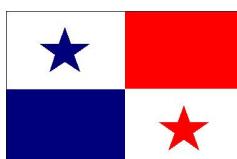
C6 - Jay, K2TTT will be active holiday style as C6ATT from New Providence Island (**NA-001**), Bahamas on **7-21 June**. He will be QRV on 40-6 metres. QSL via K2TTT. [TNX NG3K]



F, France: TM14WPEX operates in the contest of the World Philatelic Exposition until May 11. QSL via F8DYD. F, France: Mickael, F4GBW, has been participating in contests these past 5 years with the call TM5GBW and continues to do so during the following weekends: May 10/11, May 17/18, May 24/25, May 31/01, **June 07/08, June 13 - 15**. QSL via home-call.

HA, Hungary: HG20JASZ celebrates the heritage of the Jasz people, originally a nomadic tribe which settled in Hungary in the 13th century. The call draws attention to the 20th Jazygian's World meeting and to the restoration of Jasz land and privileges in 1745 by the Austrian Empress Maria Theresia. QRV until **July 31**, QSLs automatically via the bureau, direct via HA7NK.
<http://jaszvilagtalalkozo.hu/index.php/fotogaleriak/jaszbereny-2013-06-21> <http://hargita.awardspace.com/hunstoria/h6karpaten.html>

HP - Jose, HP2AT will be active as 3E100PC from **1 June to 31 August** to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Panama Canal. QSL via LoTW or direct to HP2AT.



I, Italy: The ARI section in Trento (IQ3TN) celebrates its 80th anniversary this year, being the oldest ham club in Italy. II3TN celebrates on the air from May 1 to July 31 on all bands in SSB, CW, and digital modes. QSOs count towards the 80 Years of Radio - A.R.I. Trento Award. QSL via IQ3TN.
<http://www.aritn.it/portal/default.aspx>

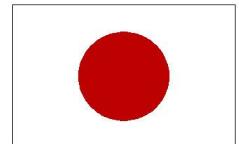
I, Italy: Guglielmo Marconi was a Senator in the Italian Senate in 1914. Radio amateurs from the ARI section in Bra (province Cuneo) mark this jubilee until the end of the year with the call IY1GMS. QSL via IK1SPR,

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.

online log at: <http://www.precis.it/>

J7, Dominica: Walter, HB9MFM, returns to Dominica holiday-style from April 21 to June 8. QRV as J79WTA on 160-10m in SSB and digital modes, running 500W, a dipole, and a spider beam. QSL via h/c.

JA, Japan: 8N2HHH operates in the context of the Hamanako Flower Expo and the 31st Japan Parks and Urban Green Fair in Shizuoka (JCC 1801). QRV March 1 to **June 16** on all bands and modes.



LZ1555WNS May
 LZ1810PPW July
 LZ37MP September
 LZ1164SIM November
 LZ1784SMH December
 QSLs via bureau, LoTW.

OJ0 - Pasi, OH3WS will be active as OJ0W from Market Reef (EU-053) on 2-7 June. He will operate CW and some SSB on the HF bands. On 31 May and 1 June he will be QRV as OH0/OH3WS from the Aland Islands (EU-002). QSLs via OH3WS, direct or bureau. [TNX NG3K]

PY - Twenty-seven special stations (one for each Brazilian State plus the Federal District) with ZX14 and ZY14 prefixes will be active from **1 June to 30 July** to celebrate the 2014 FIFA World Cup, which will be held in Brazil from 12 June to 13 July: ZX14AM, ZX14BA, ZX14CE, ZX14DF, ZX14MG, ZX14MT, ZX14PE, ZX14PR, ZX14RJ, ZX14RN, ZX14RS, ZX14SP, ZY14AC, ZY14AL, ZY14AP, ZY14ES, ZY14GO, ZY14MA, ZY14MS, ZY14PA, ZY14PB, ZY14PI, ZY14RO, ZY14RR, ZY14SC, ZY14SE, ZY14TO. All of the QSOs will be confirmed automatically via the bureau; direct cards via PT2AA (LABRE, Caixa Postal 4, Brasilia - DF, 70351-970, Brazil). Information on the award "Brazil Land of Football", sponsored by the Liga de Amadores Brasileiros de Radio Emissao (LABRE, Brazil's IARU society), can be found at www.labre.org.br

SP, Poland: SN85KKK celebrates the 85th anniversary of the radio club in Krakau. QRV until June 30, QSL via SP9PKR.



SV - Laci, HA0HW will be active as SW8WW from Thassos Island (EU-174) from 22 May to 3 June, including an entry in the CQ WW WPX CW Contest. Hw



will be QRV on 40-6 metres mainly CW, with some SSB and RTTY. QSL via HA0HW, bureau preferred. Logsearch and OQRS on Club Log. [TNX rsgbiota.org]



TK; Corsica Island: EU-014; Julien/F4FJZ spends the next months until October on Corsica and will get on the air as TK4QL. QRV mainly /m on 10, 12, 15, and 17m. QSL via F4FJZ (d).

V4 - Once again John, W5JON will be active as V47JA from St. Kitts (**NA-104**) from **25 June to 6 August**. He will operate SSB on 160-6 metres, and will participate in the IARU HF World Championship, CQ WW VHF and RSGB IOTA Contests. His wife Cathy (W5HAM) will also operate occasionally as V47HAM. All QSLs via W5JON (direct only) and LoTW. [TNX NG3K]

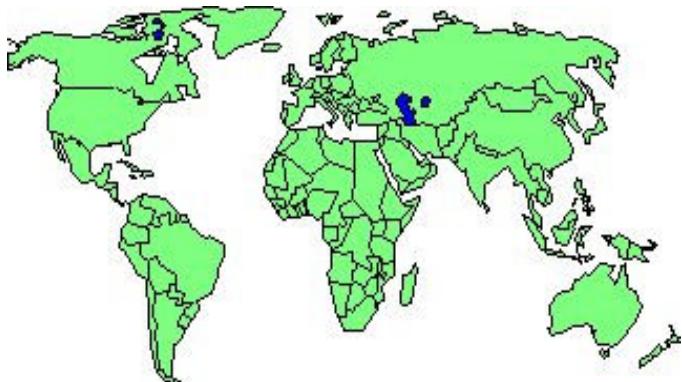
YO, Romania: A number of special event stations are using the YP25 prefix during 2014 to commemorate 25 years from the Romanian Revolution of 1989. QSL via operators' instructions.



ZA - A team of ten Belgian operators will be active as ZA/ON6NB from Albania on 6-15 June. They will operate SSB, CW, PSK and RTTY on 80-6 metres with four stations. QSL via ON4ANN, direct or bureau. Website at

<http://users.telenet.be/on4ann/ZA/index.html> and log Search on Club Log. [TNX NG3K]

NA-079. Dan, AK4PX, will active from the Dry Tortuga Islands (WW Loc. EL-84) between **June 14-16th**. He uses an Icom IC-703 into an EARCH end fed antenna and Buddistick antenna. QSL via LoTW or direct (see QRZ.com).



6 Meter Dxpedition

NA-024; J3, Grenada (6m Op!). Dave, W9DR, will be active as J38DR from Grenada (NA-024) between **June 19th and July 1st**. This will be a 6 meter only DXpedition. Dave will be on the north shore of the island (Grid Square FK92EF) for a great launch angle to North America and Europe over the Atlantic Ocean. Also, South America will be workable too. Operating frequencies will be 50.115 MHz SSB, 50.115.6 MHz CW and a breakable Beacon on 50.115.6 MHz running during no stations heard. He states, "Again, I will be using a FlexRadio SDR-1500 driving my HB solid state water-cooled amplifier into a 5 element 6 meter Yagi. Please submit your confirmation request (QSL) to W9DR home address. I hope to work many 6 meter operators."



QSL bureaus:

See the IARU's list of national QSL bureaus, their addresses and current working status: <http://www.iaru.org/qsl-bureaus.html>

Contests and Special Events

- 3 ARS Spartan Sprint
- 5 NRAU 10m Activity Contest [All modes]
- 6 NCCC Sprint Ladder
- 7 Wake-up! QRP Sprint
- 7-8 10-10 Int'l Open Season PSK Contest
- 7-8 VK Shires Contest
- 7-8 SEANET Contest
- 7-8 AL QSO Party
- 11 NAQCC Straight Key / Bug Sprint
- 14 Asia-Pacific Sprint, SSB
- 14-15 Portugal Day Contest
- 14-15 GACW WWSA CW DX Contest
- 14-15 REF DDFM 6m Contest
- 14-16 ARRL June VHF Contest
- 19 NAQCC Straight Key / Bug Sprint
- 21 Kid's Day Contest
- 21-22 All Asian DX Contest, CW
- 21-22 AGCW VHF/UHF Contest
- 28-29 His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB
- 28-29 Ukrainian DX Digi Contest
- 28-29 ARRL FIELD DAY**

Please see the **ARRL** and **WA7BNM** contest web sites for details.

RARE IOTA (AS-145)

AS-145. Operators Choon/E20HHK, Suwikkrom/E23CAL, Teerawat/HS3NBR and Damrongsak/HS8GLR will be active as **E20HHK/P** from Nu Island in the Southern part of Thailand between **June 7-8th**. **AS-145** is a rare IOTA in Thailand and was last activated this year in April by some of the same operators. QSL via E21EIC.



Calendar of Local Events

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 D-Day
- 6 PVARC Club Meeting
- 6 Friday Luncheon
- 8 **Manassas Hamfest**
- 8 Page Cty ARES Net
- 9 Rockingham Cty ARES Net [WF4O]
- 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]



July

- 1 VARA Meeting
- 3 MARA Meeting
- 4 **INDEPENDENCE DAY**
- 4 PVARC Meeting
- 4 Friday Luncheon
- 6 Page Cty ARES Net [147.550 Simplex]
- 7 Rockingham Cty ARES Net [?]
- 7 Old Dominion Emergency Net [3.947]
- 10 Augusta Cty ARES Net
- 11 Friday Luncheon
- 13 Page Cty ARES Net [146.670,PL-114.8]
- 14 Rockingham Cty ARES Net [?]
- 18 Friday Luncheon
- 20 **Deadline for August submission***
- 20 Page Cty ARES Net [146.625 PL-131.8]
- 21 Rockingham Cty ARES Net [?]
- 21 Old Dominion Emergency Net [3.947]
- 26 Page Cty ARES Training Class
- 25 Friday Luncheon
- 27 Page Cty ARES Net [146.670,PL-114.8]
- 28 Rockingham Cty ARES Net [?]



Sunday

June 8th, 2014

NORTHERN VIRGINIA'S LARGEST HAMFEST
Manassas Hamfest
AMATEUR RADIO, COMPUTER & ELECTRONICS SHOW

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.

Club Information

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: 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

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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