

THE MONITOR

October 2014

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

MARA Meeting: October 2nd

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, October 2nd, 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: October 3rd

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular meeting on October 3rd at 6:30pm at the Page County Sheriff's Training Room in Luray. All hams and their guests are invited. Gary, K6OZ will be giving a presentation on Error Correction Codes.

VARA Meeting: October 7th

The Valley Amateur Radio Association, will hold its October 7th meeting at Hometown Grille & Buffet (Old Shoney's) at 30 Sanger Lane, Staunton, VA. Dinner starts at 6:00pm, and the general meeting begins at 7:00pm.

Weekly Friday Luncheon

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.



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

VARA President's Column

Greetings hamsters, well once it again the fall season is upon us. There are leaves to rake, adventures to take, and items that need to be attended to before the onset of winter. Speaking of adventures to take, I am writing this month's report from Mount Desert Island, ME. Perhaps you know it as Bar Harbor or Acadia National Park. In any event it is a beautiful place to watch the tide roll in.

First things first! Don't forget our VARA monthly meeting on the 7th of October at Home Town Cooking. Dinner is at 6:00 PM and our business meeting starts at 7:00 PM. I hope you can make it. The main topic of discussion at our meeting will revolve around the Fall Foliage Festival on October 18th and 19th.

Another item of importance to discuss is the need for folks to step up and serve as club officers. I have no plans to serve as your president for another year. We need some new blood. Folks, seriously have you seen the picture John has of me? Of course you have because John inserts it into my monthly report. Well I hate that picture! It makes me look like the meanest man on the planet. In fact, John, how about get-

ting rid of that picture? I must have a picture somewhere that makes me like a bit more human. The point is this: who wants to be the member of a club with a mean looking president? Please, let's get rid of that crab (me).

By the time you read this the Self Reliance Expo (September 27th will be history. I am looking forward to the event as I write and hope that I can report to you that our part in demonstrating Amateur Radio was a great success. Thank you to all of you who gave up a Saturday to help out.

That is all I have to share this month. See you at our meeting!

73, Greg, W4GRC



MARA President's Column

The October meeting is the annual business meeting for MARA as required by our by-laws. For those that may not aware, our club is a Corporation and as such we are required to follow the by-laws to remain in good legal standing in the state of Virginia. All members are encourage to attend this meeting at 7:30 on Thursday October 2 and participate as we elected the officers for 2015. Sheryl, KJ4DOC has agreed to offer her services as treasurer for another year, and I have agreed to offer my services as president for another year. In addition Bryan, K4RMY has one more year to serve as a director. We will be electing a new vice-president, a director (two year term) and a secretary. Dave, KD9LA had offer to serve as secretary for another year, however budget changes at the state level have changed his job requirements and he will not be able to attend many of the club meetings, therefore he feels that he cannot properly fill this position. Bob, N1QEQ and John, N4SYH are the nominating committee, but nominations from the floor are encouraged also.

There are several public service events in October and if can help in any of these I'd like to encourage you to help. October 3 - 5 is a busy time as there are three events that weekend. There is a 100 mile foot race and the 3rd - 5th, a motor cycle ride and the 4th and 5th and a horse ride on the 5th. The main job is to past informal traffic between net control and the rest stop or location where you are assigned.. Each event could use some additional help. A 2m mobile radio and a good antenna are required due to the area to be covered.



Fall Foliage Bike Festival

MARA and VARA clubs get lots of Public Service experience when helping out with the Fall Foliage Bike Festival. Dates this year will be **October 18 - 19, 2014**. It is not too early to start planning to volunteer this year.

One of the reasons the bike festival is so popular is because of the area where we live. The secret is out - Staunton is now listed as one of the 10 most "Idyllic and historic main streets across the USA". Click on the link in blue below.

If you are interested in being involved with the Bike Fest communications this year, contact your club president.

Jeff W4PJW

Check out a couple pictures from past rides.



[Idyllic and historic main streets across the USA](#)



Fall Foliage Bike Festival Needs help

It's that time of the year again, the leaves start to turn various colors and the cool wind of winter starts to approach, which means it's time for the Fall Foliage Bike Festival Oct 17-19. This event has been a great time to enjoy a few hours or all day in the fall colors of the Shenandoah Valley. The VARA and MARA clubs work together to assist in helping keep the cyclists going in the right direction.

For those of you who have not participated, it's a fun day to enjoy friendship with other hams and an easy few hours or day to get on the radio. All you need is an HT or mobile rig and drive to a location assigned by Net Control and enjoy the fall day and cyclists riding by. The event organizers provide lunch and a great t-shirt to say thank you!

The event has several courses the cyclists ride, all on paved roads and we need approx. 20 hams for Saturday and about 12 for Sunday. Anyone interested in helping is asked to email myself at

eaglehiker@hotmail.com or call me at 540-746-0425 to sign up, for those who have helped in the past and want a particular favorite spot, let me know and I will assign you to that area. We also need a couple of SAG drivers, willing to assist broken down bikes to get back to a checkpoint, A truck or SUV works great for that. I will be printing maps and directions over the next few days and will email them to you if interested. The event starts about 8:00am Saturday til 5:00pm and again on Sunday from 8:00am til about 4:00pm. This event draws about 700 cyclists and is a family event.

If interested please email or call me with name, call sign, shirt size and times willing to assist. I know both club members will make this event another great success as it has done in the past. Thanks in advance.

John Keller W4ZAO

Coordinator

Behind-the-Scenes of Success:

communications, a stellar demonstration of ham radio by our very own **Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG**, and **Bryan Daniels, K4RMY**, and demonstration of a K9 search and rescue unit.

Communications Cache Exercise

As ham operators, we are accustomed to preparing and working behind the scenes for emergencies. **Jim Junkins, W4JLJ** Director, Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center, invited members from our club ARES to participate in a behind-the-scenes experience with Virginia's emergency communications professionals in a recent Communications Cache exercise. The Communications Cache is a direct result from the lessons learned from 9/11 whereby Homeland Security works with states geographically to disperse radio caches for planned and emergent events. The state of Virginia has five teams strategically located across the Commonwealth of Virginia in Hampton Roads (City of Chesapeake / City of Hampton), Fairfax County, Harrisonburg / Rockingham County, Montgomery County (VA), and Lunenburg County. When activated through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) on an emergency deployment, the team will have the ability to be completely self sustaining for forty-eight (48) hours.

(For more information go to: <http://www.vacache.org>)

On Friday afternoon, September 5, five members from MARA Rockingham/Harrisonburg ARES joined Communications Cache Exercise at Riven Rock Park. The afternoon began with an overview of the exercise followed by a demonstration for setting up satellite

On Saturday, September 6, the exercise began in the early afternoon with the objective to set up communications in rural mountainous area to support multiple search and rescue operations.



The communications teams deployed into four different areas. Teams set up communication sites and tested equipment. As the exercise progressed, they communicated with the K9 search and rescue unit and passed related traffic necessary to locate different parties purposely lost in the nearby woods.

The exercise challenged teams to manage equipment failure, workout radio relays from changes in radio propagation due to terrain, lightening risks, and even one bear sighting. The exercise generated mutual respect among all the teams involved. Your ham radio team showed its agility to set up quickly and assist with communication while the teams set up more complex equipment. We watched with admiration their ability to manage multiple radio communications and systems simultaneously.

The training exercise went extremely well and reached its objective to educate us for emergencies. During the debriefing, everyone shared lessons learned from the exercise. In the context of ham radio, the exercise showed that redundant systems of



different complexities contribute significantly to the efficiency in emergency communications set up and operation. As ham operators, we were up and running in minutes upon arrival onsite and offering needed communication among the teams. We demonstrated amateur radio's agility.

Our thanks to Jim Junkins for his gracious invitation to include representatives from the amateur radio community to participate in this exercise. I also extend appreciation to **Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG, Rodney Good, K4DOD, Bryan Daniels, K4RMY, Bob Steere, N1QEQ, E.C. Showalter, KG4KUR and Gerald Naumann, KN4FM.**

All parties were "rescued." Exercise completed.

Andrew Pearson, N4RCE
Bryan Daniels, K4RMY



Here is a note from Wayne N4EYZ

Hopefully leaving UVA today (9/22) for AHC and their rehab dept. I'm doing pretty well. Pain is managed . I'll miss men's group again tonight maybe next week.

Good to hear from you Wayne!!!!!!!!!!

Thanks Ray for the update.



Silent Keys



Dale Godsie, (XYL of Norville Godsie, WA4UML)

A lot of local hams knew Norvell Godsie WA4UML that used to live in Staunton. Norvell's wife passed away.

<http://www.newsleader.com/story/life/announcements/obituaries/2014/09/14/dale-p-godsie/15641169/>

73...Ray...KE4HVR



Tech Corner



Testing Capacitors

I thought this would be news to a lot of home-brewers, and those who repair electronics. Seems that electrolytic capacitors(and others) have a much shorter shelf-life than I thought. Sounds like it is time to buy/build an ESR meter! It is a rather long email, but I wanted you to see where this all started, and the various replies.

73, David

----- Forwarded Message -----
Subject: Re: [Mw] uwave PLL brick

I found some 40 years ago that testing molded oil paper capacitors, especially the color coded **black beauties** used by Collins was a waste of time. So few passed my out of the circuit leakage test that ever since as a technical adviser to the Collins Radio Association my advice is to replace them all before bothering with troubleshooting. They are all leaky and will affect circuit operation. My out of circuit test is very tough and **orange drops** pass it easily. I used a 450 volt supply (or less for lower voltage paper capacitors) with the capacitor in series with the DC voltage probe of my Heathkit VTVM. That has 11 megohms input resistance. I start with the meter range above the supply voltage, then as the capacitor charges through the 11 megohms (power supply and meter common connected of course) I increase the meter sensitivity. If I can get to the 1.5 volt scale that is a really fine capacitor. Old **black beauties** tend to not get off the highest voltage scale. Other brands of molded papers from the 50s didn't do better. And its very hard to get them out for testing and to have enough leads to put them back.

Aluminum electrolytics are a weak point every where they have been used. The electrolyte eats away at the aluminum oxide film on the foil when there isn't voltage applied. Back in 1966 capacitor manufactures told us at Collins that storing new capacitors more than three years would require reforming them or they would fail from excess leakage. And VOA stored those transmitters several years while the worked to get funds to build spaces to install them.

I have modified my Heathkit capacitor checker so it has a power factor scale on the range through 1 mf capacitors, not just the big ones and I have found many a NEW miniature aluminum electrolytic when bought for a few cents did not pass my power factor test. It had leakage and high equivalent series resistance on the bridge. I prefer to buy only the highest available temperature rating and lowest available ESR though they will cost 26 times as much as the cheapest of miniature electrolytics and if I can inspect and read the date code, I prefer only electrolytics made in the past 12 months, nothing older. I have had a few blow up, one after reforming, and the mess that makes I seriously want to avoid. Think spraying the under chassis wiring with a mix of shredded foil and shredded crepe paper accompanied by and saturated with the conductive electrolyte.



The miniature electrolytics used in solid state gear for a few decades now I think will be worse

than the black beauties about leaking and about going open.



As a rule **disc ceramics** are pretty good, but not perfect and some have serious voltage and temperature coefficients, but not nearly as wild as some modern SMT components that will lose 85 to 90% of their capacitance when heated and with rated voltage applied. Many ceramics are also piezoelectric to add to the confusion when testing them. Sometimes the old age leakage can come from a porous coating that has absorbed moisture and dirt.

Same thing for **micas**, though the old molded postage stamp micas don't have a great reputation amongst those keeping old radios running. Dipped micas tend to be better but can fail too.

73, Jerry, K0CQ

On 8/14/2014 9:39 AM, Michael Sapp wrote:
Bill& Paul: A prior suggestion to Bill from an e-mail a few days ago....

If you have a in-circuit capacitor ESR meter, you might check all the larger value caps in the PLL brick, especially the tantalums and higher value ceramic caps. Those would be most suspect....especially around the PLL comparator circuitry or a B+ line feeding it....a leaky cap might cause that kind of voltage movement....

And Paul's suggestion....

my recommendation is that anytime you are working on a brick, take the bottom off and replace that tantalum capacitor BEFORE it fails. its the only one in there so it isn't hard to find.

LOL.....My suggestion was based on having worked on various 20~30 year old pieces of equipment, as I have not opened up a PLL brick in awhile. Yes, those tantalum's are well known to fail with age in all kinds of equipment---had a few fail in my Tek 465B O-scope.

I re-engineered a 1980s era Heath VLF converter a few years ago (just for fun) and all the .1uF disc ceramics in it were marginal at best. One of them could barely pass a 1Mohm DC resistance check. Several were under 10M-ohm. The performance of the converter improved considerably after the re-cap effort....

The service manual for the old HP430C calls for 500Mohm minimum on any of it's capacitors. I would rather see 1 or 2 Gigaohms. Having picked up an in-circuit 100 kHz ESR meter a year or so ago was a real eye opener. For smaller caps in the .01 to .1 range I test with the ESR meter to see if the given cap value comes reasonably close to what the capacitor value's reactance should be at 100kHz. With the ESR meter experience, I would pretty much assume a



20 to 30 year old ceramic, tantalum, or even a large electrolytic cap is an automatic candidate for replacement. I replace the .01~.1 range ceramic caps with **poly metal film**. I also test every new cap going into a project....



We had Bill's PLL brick on my SA and it was in the proper frequency range and locked for several hours. It started to wander during a field test and would give this quick .1sec freq pull (almost a chirp sound on a carrier) and go back to "almost lock" ---- just like a momentary dielectric breakdown effect.

In circuit ESR testing does not take that long to perform and is not invasive. Easy enough to use an online calculator for cap reactance determination and comparison.....once you have confirmed that no capacitor issues are present on a 20~30 year old piece of equipment, that narrows the range of other possible repair issues....

In the mean time Bill, replace that tantalum cap in the PLL brick !

73, Mike wa3tts

And some info on **tantalum** capacitors to keep in mind.
73, David AD4TJ

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Re: [Mw] FREQ WEST BRICK STABILITY - 10 ghz

Solid tantalums are very nice capacitors with a lot lower inductance than a foil based capacitor. But tantalums do not tolerate reversed polarity at more than a few volts or applied voltage a few volts above their rating. I would surmise that somebody applied +20 and the tantalum protected the rest of the polarity sensitive components.

A 100 uf aluminum electrolytic is a fine audio bypass, but a rotten RF bypass even if RF is defined as only 100 kHz. Its not effect at all at 100 MHz. Or 1 MHz.

73, Jerry, K0CQ

On 8/14/2014 7:05 AM, Paul Wade W1GHZ wrote:

One more thing with the bricks. I was repairing my spare transverter last nite. found no -20 volts to the brick, because it was shorted. Just like the last one, the tantalum cap across the input voltage had shorted out. It was nice enough to look charred, so it was obvious. I replaced it with a 100uf electrolytic.

My recommendation is that anytime you are working on a brick, take the bottom off and replace that tantalum capacitor BEFORE it fails. It's the only one in there so it isn't hard to find.

73
Paul



The following items are offered for sale from a silent keys estate.

1 PAKRATT PK 232 MBX Universal Data Controller. Asking \$60. All Funds go to the Waynesboro Repeater Association.



2 ICOM IC 756 HF transceiver. Works HF up thru 6 meters. Looks and sounds great. With an ASTRON SS-30M metered power supply. Asking \$700. All funds go to the XYL.

Contact Gordon, WA4FJC at gpbatey@compuserve.com OR 540-248-2732.



Kenwood TM-271A 2 meter 60 watt transceiver \$100

Mirage BD-35 2m/440 FM amplifier 1 to 7 watts input 45/35 watts output (2m/40) Great for HT. \$100



Both items have seen only slight use and are in great shape. I've upgraded my equipment and no longer need them. I wanted to give someone local the chance before I put them on ebay.

Thanks - Foster, WF40 email: wf4o@arrl.net





Grindstone needs Help!

October 3, 4 and 5

Hundreds of footrace participants from all over the U.S. and even one entry from Hong Kong, China, will scurry through the valleys and up the mountain trails from the Boy Scout Camp near Swoope to points north of Reddish Knob, turn around and return by the same route. They will cover 100 miles running all night Friday night, all day Saturday and all night again Saturday night ending early Sunday morning back at the B.S. Camp.



This IS a race and the terrain is grueling. The name Grindstone reveals that this race is run on Stones and it is a Grind. Just think - running (not walking) up to the top of Elliot Knob and several other mountain peaks along the route. Most of the race takes place at night, in the woods, not on established fire trails or forest roads, but on foot trails. Runners will be sharing the trail with rocks and potholes famous for twisting ankles. We know they will also have to share with all kinds of wildlife which may include bears, bear cubs, deer, and coyotes. Toward the conclusion of this 100 mile race, it is common for these runners to get disoriented and wander off course. In past years searches have had to be launched to find these wayward participants.

It is our job to help keep track of the runners. The ham radio aspect of this race is sponsored by the radio group from Lynchburg. They do several of these events every year and this one just happens to be here in our area. Every year they look to local hams to man many of the aid stations along the course. This event happens in the woods along mountain ridges and off the main roads. There is no cell phone coverage and since the course covers so many miles, ham radio is the obvious choice for communications.

Each runner wears a number and at each of the 15 aid stations, their entering and departure times are recorded by race staff. This data is presented to the ham radio operator who communicates the information back to net control. This way the runners are tracked so that if one of them doesn't make it to the next aid station we know about it and the staff can take appropriate action. We do not make any decisions or collect any data. We are not expected to make any kind of judgment calls. We just communicate accurately the data we are given. Our primary concern is the safety of the runners.

The Lynchburg hams set up a portable 2 meter repeater in the paved parking lot on top of Reddish Knob. All communication takes place through the repeater to net control

which is primarily run from the B.S. Camp at Swoope. The only daytime assignments we have are during the day on Saturday. The night time assignments are hard to fill since most of us want to sleep at night. We do have a few daytime assignments to fill however, and I will try to schedule any volunteers during your preferred time. But we desperately need volunteers who will take assignments beginning around 2am or so and running as long as you can stay with us. Friday night into Saturday morning and Saturday night into Sunday morning are times when we especially need volunteers.

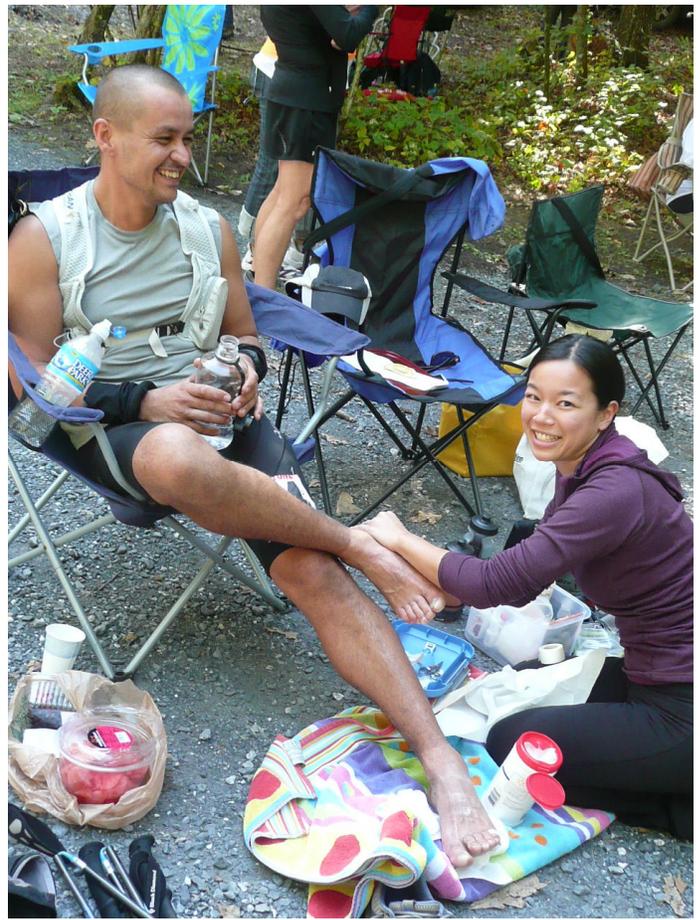
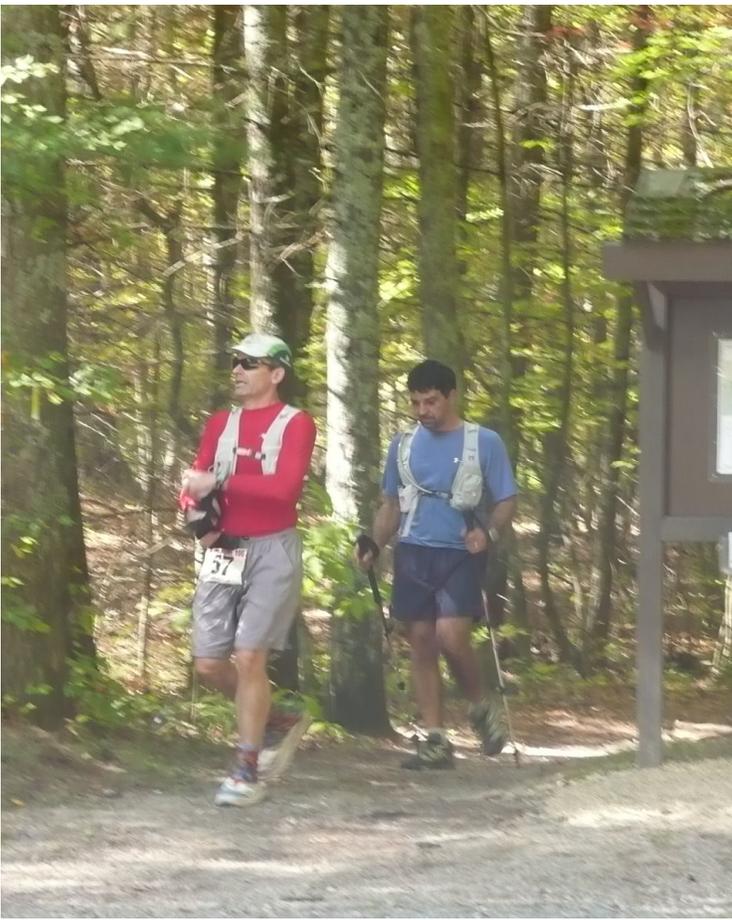
Each aid station is staffed by race personnel and is accessible by road. We use our vehicles for our shelter. You will need to provide a way to keep warm and your own food. There is NO bathroom facility at any aid station so you are on your own there too. This is good practice for any ARES type call-up. The fact that we are in remote locations without food or shelter support is just what may very well happen during an emergency situation. You provide your own radio and a way to provide power. Most stations will require a 30 - 50 watt radio with enough power to run for many uninterrupted hours. A couple of the stations can be run with a hand held but you will still need power for extended periods, so connecting the radio to a battery source will be necessary. Just like during an emergency call-up.

If you think you are up to the challenge, please contact me. You don't need to be a member of any club or even ARES to participate. All that is required is a 2 meter radio with a good antenna and a willingness to serve. No special skill is needed - just a desire to be part of a group doing something good for the community.

Thank you, Jeff W4PJW w4pjw@arrl.net

text or call 540-294-0976

see also: <http://www.eco-xsports.com/events/grindstone/>



Bike Shenandoah

I would like to thank the following hams for their help at this event:

Norman, KA4EEN; Chris, KI4BAQ; Gayle, KU4XN; EC, KG4KUR and Bryan, K4RMY. Their help at the rest stops was greatly appreciated. Also thanks to Lois, AJ4JI who gave me a break at lunch and confused Bryan when she responded to his call.

We managed to keep track of 73 riders, 15 in the 100 mile ride, 28 in the metric century ride and 30 in the 30 mile ride. Keeping up with this many riders can be confusing, and when they skip a rest stop things can really get messed up but somehow we all managed to keep up with who was where.

Gerald, KN4FM



VARA Secretary's Report

On September 2, 2014, the **Valley Amateur Radio Association** met at the Hometown Grill and Buffet Restaurant in Staunton. We were brought to order at 6:59 pm by President **Greg Czerniak W4GRC**. 21 members and guests were present and introduced themselves. The 50/50 drawing winner was **Dave Fordham KD9LA**, winning \$9.00.

ARES Report: David Tanks, AD4TJ, EC: David reported that will not be here to run the net on the 2nd Thursday of the month, September 11, so asked for a volunteer; **Dave KD9LA** volunteered. The net will begin at 8 pm on the 146.850 repeater. David reminded us that it is almost the peak of hurricane season, so keep your equipment ready in case of a need. In times of bad weather tune to the 146.850 repeater for call-up notices.

Greg reminded us of the Self Reliance Expo event to be held at Expoland on the 27th of this month. The event begins at 9 am and runs to 4 pm. We (Greg, David, **Wayne Bowyer N4EYZ**, and **Gordon Batey WA4FJC**) will be there around 8 am and set up our display, radios, antennas, and the VARA banner. Greg suggested that Dave bring it up at the MARA meeting to see if anyone there would be interested in helping out. We will be on HF(40 meters to 10 meters), and 2 meters.

Secretary's report: David AD4TJ made a motion that the minutes be approved as printed in the newsletter; seconded and passed.

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

The annual VARA picnic will be this Saturday the 6th, at noon, at the pavilion nearest the golf

house in Gypsy Hill Park. **Ray Colvin KE4HVR** and **Nancy KE4PHP** will be there approx 11 am to set up tables and chairs. David said that some XYL's had suggested that the club provide the meat for the picnic, so it will be less of a burden. After some discussion, fried chicken from the BP station in Stuarts Draft should be bought (we figured 30 pieces would be enough);



David said he would take care of ordering it, and **Bennie Cook N4BCC** said he would pick it up. After more discussion, we also decided to buy some Peck's bbq; 2 quarts were decided on, and Wayne will pick it up. Of course, the club will pay for it, reimbursing them. **John Lasher N3GLZ** said he would pick up buns. Voted and passed.

Greg said that Bike Shenandoah is September 20th; 3 rest stops will be activated this year, with 5 or 6 hams needed to man those rest stops.

The Bike Festival is October 18 and 19, Greg said. Jeff's trailer can be used but he won't be here. Greg said he thought we could get along without a trailer. Greg said that **John Keller W4ZAO** had told him that he would coordinate the event, but has not heard anymore from him since.

David reported on upcoming contests/special events: The ARRL's September VHF contest is the 13th and 14th; the weekend of the 27th and 28th is the CQ World-Wide RTTY contest.

The club voted on the membership application of **Berry Grant KC4DUA**; he was accepted as a new member.

The application of **Nick Smaltino KC2YJQ**, from Staunton, was read for the 1st time. Welcome Nick!

Greg reminded us that anyone who works the Bike Festival will have his dues for the next year paid by the club, as an incentive to help out on this huge event.

Bob Carlstrom WD4JEL has his 60 foot tower and HF triband beam for giveaway; **Dan Hale KC8TEN** said he was interested.

Old business: none.

New business: club officers and nominations: with no volunteers for a nominating committee willing to serve, the committee will consist of the current officers.

Dave asked if it was too early to consider discussing a Christmas Party; Greg said no. He thought we should consider having it somewhere other than the usual meeting place. Dan said that a club he had been in out west used club monies to buy a radio as a prize. Greg said that last year we had gone together with MARA and had a banquet. Dave said that MARA would again be inviting us to attend theirs.

Programs were discussed.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.

There was no program.

Respectfully submitted, **David Tanks AD4TJ** VARA Secretary

New Members

Greetings new member and Welcome to the ?Club!

New VARA members: Barry Grant, KC4DUA Nick Smaltino KC2YJQ

New MARA members: Pete Fundinger, AA4PF



MARA Secretary's Report

On September 4, 2014, the meeting was held at the Wood Grill Buffet in Harrisonburg, and was called to order at 7:30 p.m. There were 32 members and 7 guests present. Introduction were made all around.

New Members: A first reading was made for **Peter Fundinger, AA4PF**, formerly of Chesterfield, Virginia. There were no second readings or votes required.

The Secretary's minutes, taken by **Andrew Pearson N4RCE** at the August club meeting, were not printed in the Monitor and were unavailable for distribution, and thus were not submitted for approval.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as printed in the Monitor.

Committee Reports:

ARES/RACES: K4RMY reported on the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Emergency Communications Center training drill this coming Friday and Saturday, September 5-6. The classroom training will take place Friday followed by a field exercise Saturday simulating a missing person search in the Rawley Springs area. **Elsworth, K4LXG**, added that the Virginia section of the ARRL is planning a major Simulated Emergency Test for October, with a planning meeting in Roanoke this week.



Volunteer Examiner (VE) committee: **Gayle KU4XN** reported that the next VE Session will be held October 11. He reminded everyone that VE accreditation is now completely on-line at the ARRL website.

Public Service: **Gerald KN4FM** reported that the Bike Shenandoah event will be held September 20 near Dayton. Those volunteering to help included **E.C. KG4KUR**, **Chris KI4BAQ**, **Elsworth**

K4LXG, **Bryan K4RMY**, **Gayle KU4XN**, **Norman KE4EEN**, and **Gerald KN4FM**.

Triple-Play Event: the 500-mile motorbike ride will be held on October 4 and 5 as in past years., K4RMY will be net control on Flagpole Knob. Volunteers include **Gayle KU4XN**, **David KD9LA**, **Bob N1QEQ**, **Bob K4DJG**, and **Gerald KN4FM**. The Camp Still Meadows horse ride also takes place that weekend, headed by **Ray K4NRA**, with help from **Chris KI4BAQ** and others who have arranged to work with Ray. Repeater Committees: **David KD9LA**, **Gerald K4RBZ**, and **Bob K4DJG** reported that all three club repeaters are up and running well.

Announcements: The Virginia Beach Hamfest is next weekend. -- Also, **September 27** is a Self-Reliance Fair at the Augusta County Expo Center, free admission to the public. The VARA club from Staunton is handling a public demonstration of ham radio at that fair. -- Also, the 443.350 repeater on Big Mountain uses a PL tone of 203.5 Hz. **Old Business:** **David Fordham KD9LA** was appointed Secretary by the Board, effective with the September 4 2014 meeting, to complete the term of **Dennis Philips** who moved to Florida. The Board position left vacant by **David KD9LA** was filled by **Bryan Daniels, K4RMY**.

New Business: **John Botemiller N4SYH** and **Bob Steere N1QEQ** were named as a nominating committee to investigate and develop a slate of officers for submission at the club's annual meeting in October. Other New Business: The club will again hold its Christmas Banquet at the usual December meeting night at the Wood Grill, inviting spouses and families and guests. We have both room reserved. K4RBZ is in charge of arranging a program.

The 50/50 drawing was won by **Brenda Hill KK4UNK**, a \$38 pot was split with \$19 going to the club treasury. Members were reminded that the tip is no longer included in the bill.

The business meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. and was followed by an interesting program on mobile power distribution by **John Spillman, KT4CB**.

Respectfully submitted, **David Fordham, KD9LA**

Thr Radio Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is

CONSIDERATE...He/[She] never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others

LOYAL...He/[She] offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, the IARU Radio Society in his/[her] country, through which Amateur Radio in his/[her] country is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...He/[She] keeps his/[her] station up to date. It is well-built and efficient. His/[Her] operating practice is above reproach.

FRIENDLY...He/[She] operates slowly and patiently when requested; offers friendly advice and counsel to beginner; kind assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the marks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...Radio is a hobby, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC...His/[Her] station and skills are always ready for service to country and community.

- adapted from the original Amateur's Code, written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928

Simulated Emergency Test Coming October 4th

Hi Jerry,

Glen has put together a website with info on the SET. More info will be forthcoming in the next week or so.

<http://www.w4ghs.org/Hurricane-Echo.html>

If you would, please sign up so we know who to expect on the air. You can sign up on Glen's SET webpage or use the google forms link below.

Also feel free to distribute and circulate as you see fit.

Hello,

This is just a quick heads up that the Virginia section ARES will be hosting a SET. The planned start of exercise will be **Saturday, October 4th** at 9AM and the end of exercise 3PM. All ARES/RACES groups are encouraged to participate. Participate as much as you can during the planned exercise duration.

More details are being developed and will be forthcoming in the next few days. Registration for the SET is encouraged.

A list of participating groups and individuals will be circulated periodically as we approach the SET. This information may be used to develop messages or inform other elements of your local SET activity. Below is a registration link using google forms. Please advise me (**Chris W4VX**) at w4vx@w4vx.org of any difficulties with registration.

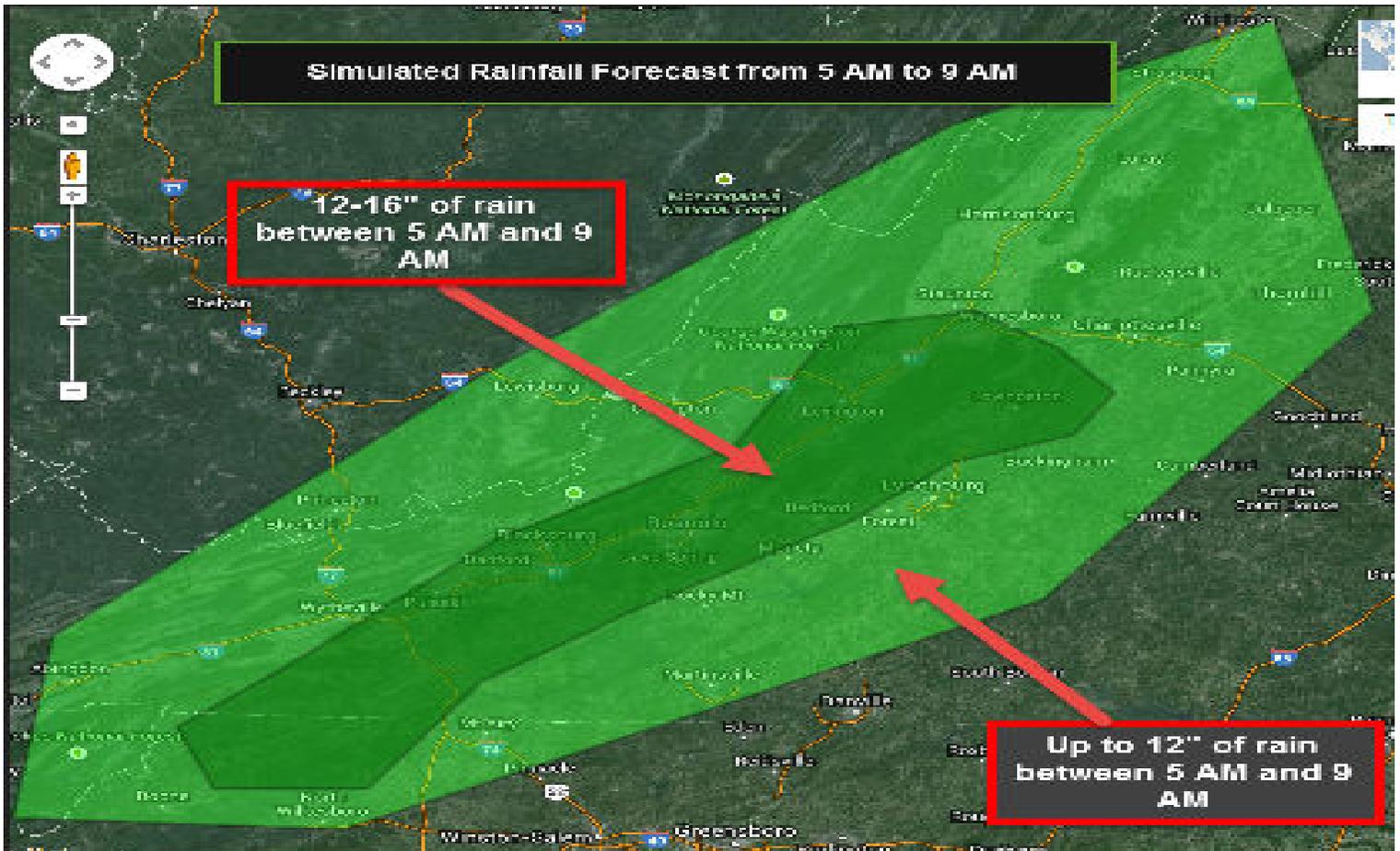
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/12BfiBek2NBz2hOPOYUbtbdOphBY7uJ8uAnfZgz8FOE/viewform?c=0&w=1&usp=mail_form_link

Simulated Hurricane Echo

What to Expect in the Western Area of Virginia

2014 Scenario Description: A hurricane, Hurricane Echo, will impact the eastern portion of Virginia starting Saturday morning, October 4th, 2014 at 5AM. By 9AM power, telephone and internet outages are widespread east of a north/south line through Richmond. Tidal surges capable of significant coastal flooding in the eastern portion of Virginia from the North Carolina border north to Maryland including the northern portions of the Chesapeake Bay and estuaries. Category 1 strength winds, locally intense thunderstorms and tornadoes will occur throughout the day.

West of Richmond, rainfall of 12" to 16" will fall by 9AM. This will cause area river and lake/pond flooding. Flooding will be comparable to historical disastrous levels in the Piedmont, mountain and south central regions of Virginia. It is expected that the storm effects will begin to subside by 12PM and have moved through the region by 3PM local time. Hurricane Echo will cause power, telecommunications and data outages throughout the Commonwealth. These conditions will lead to a communications emergency and amateur radio will be critical to an effective response and recovery phase of the simulated disaster.



PVARC Secretary's Report

On September 5, 2014 the **Page Valley Amateur Radio Club** met at the Page County Sheriff's Training Room in Luray.

Bob, WO4MI called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. There were 13 members and one guest present.

Announcements: **John/KT4CB** agreed to be actinf secretary this month since Sparky and Carol are out of state.

Secretary's Report: Minutes accepted as amended in the Monitor with the callsign of Zory corrected to KB3VQC.

Treasurer's Report: Read by **Bob, WO4MI** and accepted as read.

Committee Reports:

Education/Training Committee: Chair – **Morgan/K4RHD**, Chief Instructor: **Phil/KQ4D**. Nothing to report.

Membership Committee: Co-Chairs **Charlie/KG4ALT**. Nothing to report.

Widow's Assistance Committee: Chair – **Morgan/K4RHD**, Nothing to report.

Program Committee: Chair – **Zory/KB3VQC & Morgan/K4RHD**. **Gary, K6OZ** will be giving a presentation on Error Correction Codes in October.

Technical Assistance Subcommittee: Co-Chairs **Mark/N4YSA & Paul/N4PJI**. **Mark, N4YSA** assisted Sparky in removing his antennas and coax from his home ans surrounding trees.

ARRL Field Day Subcommittee: Co-Chairs **Tim/AK4CJ & Morgan/K4RHD**. Nothing to report.

Website Development:

Dave/K4DPF. Dave reported he has a working website on his desktop, soon to be live. He mentioned he would like photos of the members on the site.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Sparky has obtained a smaller mail box at the Luray Post Office for exclusive use by **PVARC**. Previously he had been receiving PVARC mail at his personal mail box which he is vacating as part of his move out of the area. Retaining the old, larger box (and number) would cost \$120 (6 months). Our new (smaller) box will cost \$29 (6 months). The new **PVARC** address is: **P.O. Box 245, Luray, VA 22835-0245**. Pioneer Bank and ARRL have been notified. The membership approved the change and agreed to reimburse him for the expenses.

With no other business to report, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Immediately following the business meeting, refreshments were served and **Brian/W5YQ** presented a interesting program on db and it many variations.

Respectfully submitted by **John Spillman/KT4CB** Acting interim secretary...



MARA Treasurer's Report

August 21, 2014 - September 20, 2014

Beginning Balance August 20, 2014 (Last Report)		\$ 2,628.98
Add: New Memberships (7)	\$ 84.00	
Donation (Town of Bridgewater 50/50 (May - September))	300.00	
	<u>77.50</u>	
Total Deposits		\$ 461.50
Less: May Speaker - Meal	\$ -14.00	
2014 Field Day Expense	-9.78	
July - Sept Monitor Printing/Mailing	-139.53	
Annual Insurance Premium	-216.00	
Bank Fee (August)	-2.00	
SVEC (August)	<u>-22.04</u>	
Total Disbursements		\$ <u>-403.35</u>
Ending Balance as of September 20, 2014		\$ 2,687.13



Submitted by **Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC**, MARA Treasurer



How's DX

4W, TIMOR LESTE (Update). The same group who was active as VK9X/K7CO now plans to be active as 4W/K7CO between October 19-31st. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using CW and SSB, as well as participate in the CQWW SSB Contest (October 25-26th). The current team of operators are Jon/K7CO, Christian/K7CXN, Ed/VE4EAR and John/9M6XRO. Four other operators are checking their schedules and finalizing plans in order to commit to the team. QSLs will be available via an OQRS on ClubLog. For more details and updates, watch: <http://www.nielsen.net/4w/>

J3, GRENADA. Harry, AC8G, (and possibly others) will be active as J37K from Saint Georges between October 24-26th. Activity will include the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 25-26th), signing J3A and as a Single-Op/ High-Power entry (unless others join). QSL J37K via AC8G and J3A via WA1S.

KH6, HAWAII. Jim, N6TJ, will be active as KH6LC from Lloyd's, KH6LC, QTH at Keaau during the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 25-26th) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via LoTW, or direct to WA6WPG.

J7, DOMINICA. Operators Janusz/SP9FIH and Kazik/SP6AXW will be active as J79L and J79* (still pending), respectively, close to the village of Calibishie (NA-101, WW. Loc. FK95HO) between October 19-26th. Their main goal is to participate in CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 25-26th) as two Single-Op/Single-Band stations (one on 40m and the other on a higher band) and to work as many stations as possible from Asia before the contest. Outside of the contest, activity will be on 80-6 meters. QSL J79L via SP9FIH. QSL route for Kazik is pending at this time. For more details and updates, see: <http://www.j7.dxpeditons.org>

P3, CYPRUS. Mark, MODXR, will be active as P3F from Cyprus during the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 25-26th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/High-Power entry. QSL via the MOURX.. QSL via XQ4CW.

EU-109. Operators **Nobby/G0VJG, Dave/EI9FBB, Richard/G7GLW and Charles/ MOOXO** will be active possibly as MOUKI/p from Farne Islands between **October 6-7th**. From the MOOXO Web page: "This short operation may also include participation in the SSB Field Day contest. The team is aiming for Longstone Island, dependent on weather, (keep an eye on QRZ.com links for updates). They will be using multi-band Dipoles & vertical antennas and hope to give this IOTA to as many chasers as possible in the short time frame." QSL via MOOXO, by the OQRS for direct and Bureau. **Bureau cards MUST be requested via OQRS only. Do not send via the RSGB Bureau, they may not receive them.**

EU-110. Members of the Verona DX Team Group will be active as 9A/IQ3VO from Porer Rock (IOCA CI-090, MIA MC-313) between **October 18-21st**. Operators mentioned are **Walter/I3VJW, Ampelio/IK3JBP, Mauro/IK3SCB, Flavio/I3JRF, Marco/IW3ICK, Roberto/IZ3JKI, Cale/ IW3ILP and Luca/IU3BXI**. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, JT65A and PSK31, with two stations on the air. They also plan to be active with one station on 6 meters (WW Loc. JN64WS) using CW, SSB, MS, JT65A and EME. For EME and MS operations, skeds can be made through the ON4KST's Chat Web site. This operation will also count for the Porer Lighthouse (CLHA CLH-111, ARLHS CRO-014, WLOTA 0240). QSL via IQ3VO, the ARI Bureau is preferred. For more information and updates, see: http://www.ari.verona.it/forumnew/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=3569

EU-128 -DL - Stefan, DF8HS will be active from Fehmarn Island (EU-128) from 29 September to 24 October. QSL via bureau. [TNX rsgbiota.org]

EU-171. A group of German operators will be active as 5Q7Y from Jegindø Island between **August 30th and October 6th**. Operators mentioned are Heinz/DC5WW, Max/DF2MX, Robert/DK2RO, Anton/DL8AW and Thilo/ DL9NB. Activity will be on 160-6 meters. QSL via DL8AW. For OQRS requests, pictures and more information, visit the Web site at: <http://www.5Q7Y.de>

EU-191. (NEW) Members of the Romanian Radio Club Association (ARR) will activate Fericirii Island for the first time as YPOF between **August 22nd and October 30th**. The group's plan is to have several expeditions to this non-inhabited island of cormorants, black pelicans, scrapping gullping, egrets and gray herons. Operators mentioned are Dan/YO9FNP, Daniel/YO3GA and Petrica/YO9RIJ. Activity will be on the HF bands (which the IOTA frequencies). QSL via YO9FNP.

OC-046. FO, FRENCH POLYNESIA. Heinz, DF1YP, will once again be active as **FO/DF1YP** from Moorea Island (**OC-046, WLOTA 0465**) between **October 12th and October 8th**. Activity will be holiday style mainly on 20 meters on SSB. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau.

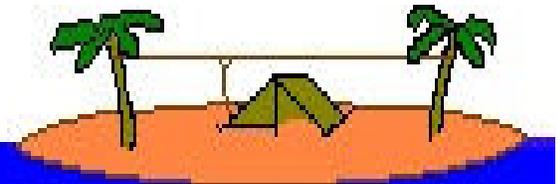
OC-022. YB - Gabor, HA3JB will be active as YB9/HA3JB from the islands of Lombok (**OC-150**) and Bali (**OC-022**) between **25 Octo-**

IOTA's

AS-151 BY - Look for Zhang BA3AX/2, Wang BA3CE/2 and Lu BD3AE0/2 to be active from Juhua Island (AS-151) on 2-5 October. They will be QRV on 20-10 metres. QSL for all callsigns via BA3AX, direct or bureau.[TNX BA3AX]

AF-040. Markus, DJ4EL, will be active as 5Z4/DJ4EL from Lamu Island, Kenya, between **October 4-19th**. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using SSB. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau. QSL also via the LoTW.

AS-200. Kenji, JA4GXS, will be active as JA4GXS/5 from Shodo Island (Kagawa Prefecture) between **October 13-15th**. Activity will be on 40-17 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via JA4GXS, direct or by the Bureau.



ber and 7 October. He will operate CW, SSB and RTTY on the HF bands, and will participate in the CQ WW RTTY DX Contest. QSL direct to via home call; OQRS on www.ha3jb.com

OC-086. KHO, MARIANA ISLANDS. Operators Kit/JA1NVF (AHOJ), Ed/KH2L, Jun/WHOV, Zorro/JH1AJT (KHOWF), Seiji/JH6RTO (AHOR), Yutaka/JF1LZQ (WS2Y), Miho/JJ2VLY (WS2M), JH1BXY, Hiromi/JA4DND and Ruu/JA7MSQ will be active as W1AW/KH0 from Tinian Island (OC-086) as part of the ARRL Centennial celebrations between October 8-21st. Activity should be 160-10 meters. QSL via W1AW or LoTW.

OC-019-KH6 - Jeff, VA3QSL will be active holiday style as KH6/VA3QSL from Maui (OC-019) on 27 September-3 October and from Hawaii (OC-019) on 4-10 October. He will operate SSB, CW and possibly digital modes on 40-6 metres. QSL via home call and LoTW. [TNX VA3RJ]

OC-150. YB - Gabor, HA3JB will be active as YB9/HA3JB from the islands of Lombok (**OC-150**) and Bali (**OC-022**) between **25 October and 7 October**. He will operate CW, SSB and RTTY on the HF bands, and will participate in the CQ WW RTTY DX Contest. QSL direct to via home call; OQRS on www.ha3jb.com

OC-196. Trevor, VK3ATX, will once again be active as VK3ATX/P from **Gabo Island** (ILLW AU-0080) **October 16-17th**. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL via his home callsign direct. For more details and updates, see: <http://vk3atx.net>

OC-218. (Update/Change) Operators Cezar/VE3LYC and Bob/KD1CT will attempt to operate from Matthew Island for 4 days between **October 1-9th**. They will maintain one station on the air around the clock, operating on all bands from 40-10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via VE3LYC, direct or by the Bureau. A OQRS will be available from ClubLog. For more details and updates, see: <http://tx4a.yolasite.com>

OC-222. YB - Imam, YB4IR and Din, YB8RW will be active as YB4IR/8 and YB8RW/p from Obi Island (OC-222) on **7-13 October**. QSL YB4IR/8 via home call (OQRS on Club Log) and LoTW; QSL YB8RW/p via YB9BU. [TNX DX World]

OC-233. Tony, VK3VTH, will once again be active as VK3VTH/7 from **King Island** between **October 14-17th**. Activity will be on 40/20 meters using SSB. He will also be in the **International Lighthouse/ Lightship Weekend**, from Currie Lighthouse (**AU-0016**), **October 16-17th**. QSL via VK3VTH, direct or by the Bureau. Bureau cards will be sent for all QSOs immediately after the activation.

NA-001, C6-New Providence Island - Phil, G3SWH and Georg, DK7LX will operate CW only as C6AYS from New Providence Island (NA-001) on 9-11 October after their VP5 activity from Grand Turk Island [425DXN 1205]. QSL via G3SWH, direct or bureau (OQRS on www.g3swh.org.uk) and LoTW. [TNX rsgbiota.org]

NA-104. V4, ST. KITTS. John, W5JON/V47JA, informs OPDX that he will once again be active as V47JA from his vacation home in Calypso Bay, St. Kitts (NA-104, WW Loc. FK87SG), located 200

feet from the Caribbean Sea, between September 29th and November 12th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters (incl. 60m) using SSB. He will also be active during the CQWW DX SSB Contest (October 25-26th) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. Equipment is a Kenwood TS-590S and Elecraft KPA500 Amplifier. Antennas include: 31', 10-40m Vertical, and 35', 40/80m Top Loaded Vertical; and newly added, shortened 160m dipole and 3 element Yagi for 6m. Also, XYL Cathy, W5HAM, will occasionally operate as V47HAM. ALL QSLs go to W5JON direct or via LoTW. NO Bureau QSLs.

SA-086. (Update) The Chilean team, who was expected to be active as XR2T from Damas Island (WLOTA-0029) between April 16-20th, has now announced they will be active sometime around October 6-12th. Operators mentioned are:

CW - Nicolas/XQ1KZ, Carlos/XQ1CR, Dercel/CE3KHZ, Alfredo/XQ3WD and Danilo/XQ4CW

SSB/RTTY - Marco/CE1TBN, Jose/CE1KR, Domingo/CE1DY, Pablo/CE1UMY, Claudio/XQ1FM, Mauricio/CE2WUI, Julio/CE3OP, Juan/CE3RBJ, Sergio/CE3WDH, Chris/CE3TAM, Juan/CE3RBJ, Rodrigo/CE4KCA and Juan/CE5PHI

Their main aim of this DXpedition will be to work the greatest possible number of unique callsign, thus offering a possibility to Little Pistols and QRP stations. Activity will be on all bands using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via XQ4CW.

Contests & QSO Parties

- 2 SARL 80m QSO Party
- 3 German Telegraphy Contest
- 3-5 YLRL DX/NA Anniversary Contest
- 4 TARA PSK Rumble Contest
- 4 EU Autumn Sprint, SSB
- 4-5 CA, NJ QSO Party
- 4-5 Oceana DX Contest, Phone
- 4-5 Russian WW Digital Contest
- 4-5 15-Meter SSTV Dash Contest
- 7 ARS Spartan Sprint
- 10 **10-10 Int'l** 10-10 Day Sprint
- 10 NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder
- 11 EU Autumn Sprint, CW
- 11 **FISTS** Fall Sprint
- 11-12 Makrothen RTTY Contest
- 11-12 Oceana DX Contest, CW
- 11-12 Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB
- 11-12 AZ, PA QSO Party**
- 12 North American Sprint, RTTY
- 15 NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint
- 18-19 **10-10 Int'l** Fall Contest, CW
- 18-19 NY, SD QSO Party**
- 18-19 Stew Perry Top Band Challenge
- 18-19 Worked All Germany Contest
- 19 Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW
- 19-20 IL QSO Party**
- 20-24 **ARRL** School Club Roundup
- 25-26 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB



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.

Repeater News

Greetings,

I plan to attempt to activate sub audible tone on the 147.075 repeater on Bear Den Mountain today. I suggest adding a tone of 131.8 to your 2 meter radio that uses this repeater.

73 Gordon WA4FJC

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 Sundays on the 146.625 (PL 131.8) repeater, at 8:00 pm local time.

The **Rockingham County 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!**

The **VSBN (Virginia Sideband Net)** meets daily on 3.947 kHz at 6:00 PM local time. **All hams are welcome!**

A “Ham-to-English” Dictionary

There are Russian-to-English Dictionaries. There are French-to-English Dictionaries. There are even Japanese-to-English dictionaries. Why not a “Ham-to-English” dictionary? It’s not like the general public can understand our jargon without help. I mean, let’s get real. What does the average housewife, gas station attendant, or trial lawyer know about “G5RV”, “gain”, “DXCC” or “feedlines”?

To get started, here are some handy definitions for a few terms used by Valley hams.

Rig: As in, “I can’t wait to try out my new rig.” *Noun.* Any piece of ham equipment that costs more than a thousand dollars. A \$189 HT is not a rig. Neither is a \$269 mobile dual bander. But an FT-DX-5000, now **that** is a rig! A rig does not have to actually be a radio. For example, rigs with the name Kenwood on them primarily serve as filler material for cardboard boxes sent back and forth between hams and the Kenwood repair facility.

Kerchunk: As in, “Be real careful with my new \$3000 rig and don’t drop- ... *kerchunk*.” *Noun.* The sound made by James’ new rig when it hit the floor of Bob’s field day trailer.

For I.D.: As in, “This is KG4JOE for ID.” This is an abbreviation. Ham radio is full of abbreviations. This one stands for, “I don’t care what Bob or the other ham radio police say about redundancy. I have to say KG4JOE for ID because I’m not done talking yet and I don’t want the other clowns in this conversation to think I’m signing out,

because that’s exactly what they’ll do if I just say ‘KG4JOE’.”

QSY: As in, “Let’s QSY over to 147.225.” *Verb.* Another ham abbreviation. This one means, “Forget 147.225. Let’s get back together again right here on this frequency in about ten minutes, because by that time I’ll have given up trying to figure out how to change the PL on this radio.”

PL: As in, “Why are there so many PL tones anyway.” *Noun.* An invention created for the sole purpose of weeding out the bozo’s who can’t figure out how to work their radios. If you don’t have a masters degree in Chinese trigonometry and a doctorate in Advanced Puzzle Theory, you will never be able to figure out how to set the PL frequency on a modern radio. Thus, you are effectively weeded out off the VHF and UHF airwaves ...unless you are like W4ZAO, who **did** happen to stumble across the instructions, buried on page 674 of the manual under the heading “Additional Features”. To help prevent the accidental discovery of PL settings, the ham radio manufacturers have agreed among themselves to each list PL as something totally different in their manuals’ index. One calls it “PL” and lists it under P. Another calls it “tone access” and lists it under T. The third calls it CTCSS, found under C. I still haven’t figured out what the other three manufacturers call it! And heaven help you if you try to set the PL tone by using the labeled buttons on the rig’s control panel. A few months back, Ray tried to set a PL tone without the manual in front of him. The next thing he knew, his rig was locked into scan mode, the on-

off switch no longer worked, and the radio’s display panel turned a pretty shade of blue and said, “Unable to find DLL, Windows caused a System Fault at \$R2D2”! To this day, that radio is still in scan mode. He uses it as a scarecrow in his garden.

XYL: As in, “My XYL said no.” *Noun.* A safety device, widely used by ham radio operators to prevent the uncontrolled transfer of money from their wallets & bank accounts to the cash drawers of ham radio dealers.

“Hi-Hi”: As in, “Just wait till his XYL finds out how much he spent on his new rig, hi-hi.” Some hams are under the mistaken impression that hi-hi means laughter, — sort of a pseudo “ha-ha” with a French accent. It doesn’t. If hi-hi meant laughter, you would at least occasionally hear hi-hi preceded with something funny, such as “Ellsworth working CW? Hi-hi, hi-hi, hi-hi.” But you don’t. Hi-hi is never preceded with something funny. No one knows what “hi-hi” really means. So it is used like a squelch tail beep, meaning “back to you”.

Fine Business: As in, “fine business on whatever it was that you just said.” *Adjective.* This is an abbreviation for “ok”. It is also a code word meaning, “None of my ancestors married their brothers or sisters.” If your ancestors **had** married their brothers or sisters, instead of ‘fine business’ you would say, “Yupp, yupp, I heard thay-utt, I heard thay-utt, I shore did.”

<censored> As in, “who the <censored> writes these instructions, anyway?” *Noun* This little short word means, “I’ve just spent six hours rub-

bing the skin off my fingertips by tightening all 12,375 screws, nuts, and bolts on this new 35-element beam, and now I discover the boom is on upside down!” It is also used to describe directions which were written using a Japanese-to-English dictionary and which say things like, “To construct: yes before first. Considerate quickly. Place a minutely gentle after a quadrant insertion during the counterclockwise. Caution: Assure the utmost extremely that you do not this. Warranty voided then.”

<censored> As in, “Holy <censored> !!”. *Expletive.* This word has several different meanings, depending on the context in which it is used. For example, if the situation is one where you are a ground crew member of a tower-raising party, you might energetically shout this word to the ham standing at the 75-foot level of the tower, in which case the word means, “Wow, Jeff, that 10-pound sledge hammer you just dropped missed my head by an eighth of an inch. Now I’ve got to go change my underwear!” In a different situation, it might mean, “How the heck did I get way out here in the front yard?” right after you let your fingers brush against the live contacts of your amp’s 600-volt power supply. If this word is repeated numerous times rapidly in succession, it generally means, “I knew I should’ve double-checked the polarity of that power cord before I plugged it into my new \$3000 rig!”

There are many other terms out there in Shen-Valley ham-land which need defining, but we’ll stop here by popular demand.

***Deadline for newsletter articles is the 20th of the preceding month of publication.**

Calendar of Local Events

October

2 MARA Club Meeting
3 PVARC Club Meeting
3 Friday Luncheon
5 Page County ARES (147.550 Simplex)
6 Old Dominion Emergency Net [3.947]
6 Rockingham County Net [K4NRA]
7 VARA Club Meeting
10 Friday Luncheon
11 VE Testing
12 Page County ARES Net (146.670, PL-114.8)
13 Rockingham County Net [KG4KUR]
13 COLUMBUS DAY
17 Friday Luncheon
18-19 Fall Foliage Bike Festival
19 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL-131.8)
20 Rockingham County Net [WF4O]
20 Old Dominion Emergency Net [3.947]
20 Deadline for November newsletter submission*
24 Friday Luncheon
25 Page Valley ARES Class
26 Page County ARES Net (146.670, PL-114.8)
27 Rockingham County Net [KA4EEN]
31 Friday Luncheon
31 HALLOWEEN

November

2 Page County ARES Net (147.55 Simplex)
3 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 KHz)
3 Rockingham County Net (K4RMY)
4 VARA Club Meeting
4 ELECTION DAY
6 MARA Club Meeting
7 PVARC Club Meeting
7 Friday Luncheon
9 Page County ARES Net
10 Rockingham County Net (KU4XN)
11 VETERANS DAY
14 Friday Luncheon
16 Page County ARES Net
17 Rockingham County Net (K4RBZ)
17 Old Dominion Emergency Net [3.947]
20 Deadline for December newsletter submission*
21 Friday Luncheon
23 Page County ARES Net
24 Rockingham County Net (KG4KUR)
27 THANKSGIVING
28 Friday Luncheon
30 Page County ARES Net



VE Testing (No, we're not talking about Canada)

Thanks to those who helped with the Aug. 9 test session:

Ray Richie, K4NRA
Gerald Nauman KN4FM
Foster Ferone WF4O
Robert Van Fossen K4DJG
James Lehman W4POL
Bryan Daniels K4RMY

We gave four tests and issued 1 extra license.

Our next testing will be held **Oct. 11.** 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.

Thanks again to these who gave their time to make this work.



Gayle Shull, KU4XN

The club newsletter, *the Monitor*, is provided free of charge monthly to all members of all three clubs via email distribution, in PDF format. However, it is the individual club members' responsibility to notify the newsletter editor directly of all changes in email address. Electronic back issues will be provided free to members on request.

Elderly, disabled, or special-needs members may make special arrangements with their respective club officers to receive a hardcopy of the Monitor via U.S. mail in lieu of the electronic PDF version. However, the hardcopy requires additional production and delivery time and is not guaranteed to arrive before the scheduled monthly club meeting dates.

Members not receiving the electronic Monitor in a timely fashion (e.g., before their monthly club meeting) should notify the newsletter editor promptly to investigate and resolve the problem with distribution. Members who are using the latest update version of Adobe Reader and experience trouble opening the Monitor email attachment can contact the newsletter editor for assistance.

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:

PVARC
PO Box 245
Luray VA 22835-0245

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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