

# THE MONITOR

January 2015

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

## **VARA Meeting: January 6th**

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

# **Special this month only!**

## **MARA Meeting: January 8th**

The **Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**, will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, **January 8th**, 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: January 9th**

The **Page Valley Amateur Radio Club** will hold its regular meeting on **January 9th** at 6:30pm at the Page County Sheriff's Training Room in Luray. All hams and their guests are invited.



**Don't forget to renew your club membership!**

Use the renewal form on page 21 of the Monitor this month to renew!

## MARA President's Column

From MARA president:

As we start a new year we have a couple of new members on the board, including a new vice-president Andrew, N4RCE, a new secretary, Herb, AA2BF and a new director, Foster, WF4O. Many thanks to each of you for offering to serve the club in this way, and I'm looking forward to working with them and Sheryl, KJ4DOC, and Bryan, K4RMY this year.

I'm one of the VEs that give tests for the club. The February session is always well attended, likely because the cold weather and short amount of daylight in the evenings tends to force us to stay indoors and study for new licenses or upgrades. Consider this to be a little arm twisting to get started hitting the books and taking

practice tests online so you are ready to join us in February.

If anyone has ideas for programs or would be interested in presenting a program about a subject related to ham radio that is of interest to you, let Andrew know as he is looking for programs for the club meeting.

Since the first Thursday, our normal club meeting night, is New Years Day, we have decided to hold the January meeting on the second Thursday, January 8. Please mark your calendars and remember the change. I hope to see a good crowd on January 8 for our first meeting of 2015.



## VARA President's Column

From VARA President

Greetings fellow hams and a very Happy New Year to all. Hope you enjoyed the holidays with family and friends and hope Santa brought you all those wonderful new toys for the ham shack.

This will start my 5th year as a ham and I would like to thank everyone for voting for me for President for the 2015 year. It was a long hard fought campaign and my opponents did everything they could to derail my chance to be your President. But you all turned out in mass to vote and by the slimmest of margins, I won. Now the work begins to keep the members and officers moving in the right direction.

I would like to thank all the 2014 officers for the great job they did and to all the members who helped VARA have a great year. I look forward to working with the 2015 officers-elect and making 2015 a memorable year for all members.

It's not too early to be thinking of all the events that we participate in and plan your time to help out. The first one of course is a very big event - Field Day - for those who may not know the VARA/MARA field day crew took first place in Virginia in the 2A category last year. I am very proud of all those who helped make this possible and would like to make it 2 years

in a row, but your help is needed to make that happen. So mark your calendars for the 3rd week in June to volunteer a few hours to make it happen.

If anyone has a topic to present or want to learn about, please let me know for the months to follow. I would really like to have someone present a program after each monthly meeting.

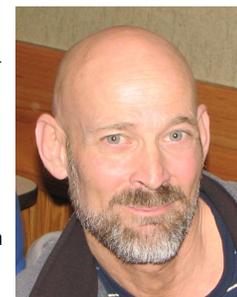
For the January meeting program I would like to suggest a small swap meet, Bring a few items you want to sell or trade and if everyone participated it would make a nice event to start the year and maybe find or learn about something you never seen before. Also in February don't forget about Frostfest in Richmond, it's the first event of the year and makes for a nice day event.

Thank you again for allowing me to be your President and I will work hard to keep the members and club heading in the right direction.

First meeting is January 6th, mark your calendar and don't forget to bring a few items and a dollar or two for the 50/50 prizes.

John Keller W4ZAO

President/VARA



## Getting It Right

**Some people enjoy finding faults in the work of others. We want to please these people as much as we want to please anyone else!**

**To give these people the same pleasure we want for all readers of the Monitor, we make sure that each issue is chock full of mistakes, typos, and sometimes plain wrong information.**

**How many errors can you find in this issue? We don't mind a count! Let us know what you find, and we'll either correct it or tell you to go jump in the lake!**

# Election Results

Congratulations to the successful rogues who beat out their competition. (hope they kept their clubs)

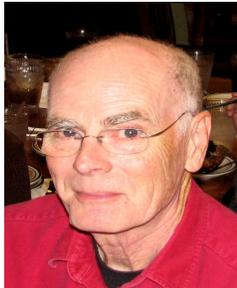
## MARA



Gerald Nauman,  
KN4FM



Andrew Pearson,  
N4RCE



Herb Slade,  
AA2BF



Sheryl Tonini,  
KJ4DOC



Bryan Daniels,  
K4RMY



Foster Farone,  
WF4O

## VARA



John Keller,  
W4ZAO



Ed Varner,  
N4EDI



David Tanks,  
AD4TJ



Greg Czerniak,  
W4GRC

## PVARC



Tim Ramey,  
AK4JC



Morgan Phenix,  
K4RHD



John Spillman,  
KT4CB



Paul O'Sullivan,  
KK4IRS



Gary Fisher,  
K6OZ



# Tech Corner



## 147.225 Repeater Update

The 147.225 (K4KLH) repeater is back on the air in a new location just West of Singer's Glen on Little North Mountain. It takes a community of hams and others to keep a repeater on the air. Kudos go to Blue Ridge Communications and Sam Lilly Sr. and Sam Lilly Jr. (N4SJR) for their gracious granting of a location in their electronics building and tower space on the mountain for the 147.227 to serve local ham communications. Neil Buckingham (W4KKL) provided the technical expertise and parts to rebuild and realign a 35 year old GE Master II. Neil spent many hours getting the repeater back in operation. The repeater needs to be tested and used by the hams in the valley. Its new location has a great view of the valley and hopefully it will provide excellent coverage and stay in working condition. Remember this repeater has a PL tone of 131.8. We will be listening for you on the mountain.

73

Kenny K4KLH (repeater trustee)

Ray K4NRA

Cater KG4PRP

Neil W4KKL (repeater tech.)

## Rockingham ARES Net repeater

As of January 12, 2015 the Rockingham ARES NET will begin to use the 147.225 (tone 131.8) K4KLH repeater again as the primary repeater for the Net. Please program this into your radios and HTs if you have removed it. The 147.225 repeater has been relocated to Little North Mountain and seems to have good coverage in the main area of the valley.

Bryan

K4RMY

Rockingham/Harrisonburg ARES EC

## Ham Radio and Engineers

It does seem to be the way people in the media view anyone who is "technical".

<http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=60P1xG32Feo>

## 224.500 Repeater Update

Yesterday (December 21) Brian KI4LLC, Kyle KK4WUE and I went to Lairds Knob (5 miles East of Harrisonburg) to install the 224.500- 131.8PL repeater. It is working much better now at Lairds than it was at Little North Mountain (where the 147.225 repeater is now located) Receive is working great. Working with HT from Churchville and base station from Buckingham county.

It was a good swap for both of us, seems like 225 is working much better at new site.

It is currently linked with 224.300- 131.8PL at Elliot Knob with plans to get it linked in with rest of KG4HOT repeaters in Rockbridge County and Albemarle County.

Jason, N4DSL

## A solution for Prolific USB to Serial adapters

Hello all. I subscribe to the N3FJP Users Group, and one of the postings I just received is below, as I thought it may help someone with their computer Serial to USB devices.

73, David AD4TJ

Messages: [1a A solution for Prolific USB to Serial adapters](#)

If you have a USB to Serial adapter which is based on the Prolific Chipset, you might want to try the fix at

USB\_Fix\_Instructions\_2.pdf - [Google Drive https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5oqPrAq58HANVdEdGJna2swQVE/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5oqPrAq58HANVdEdGJna2swQVE/view) before you toss the bath-water.

Possibly the best piece of information in this article is how to keep Windows Update from screwing with your drivers. That alone is worth the time to read the article.

Thanks to Cash Olsen, KD5SSJ, ARRL Tech Specialist, for his brief article in the December NM Section News about his troubleshooting and research and for the link above.. If there is enough interest, I can post the article here.

I am not advocating any particular flavor of USB to Serial chipset, just providing information some may find useful.

73- Doug, W5DET

Make	Model	Price	Make	Model	Price
Hallicrafters	S-38	\$75.00	Kenwood	TS-60S	6M \$500.00
Hallicrafters	S-38A	\$50.00	Kenwood	TS-520S	HF Base \$350.00
Hustler	Antenna	Super RM-20-S and Super RM-15-S \$100.00	MFJ	Super Hi-Q Loop	NIB \$350.00
Icom	IC-R9000	All Mode Wide Band Receiver \$3,500.00	MFJ	794B Tunable DSP	\$150.00
Icom	IC-2000	2m Mobile \$125.00	MFJ	906 6M Antenna	\$50.00
Icom	IC-3200	Dual Band Mobile \$50.00	MFJ	Deluxe Versa Tun-	\$75.00
Icom	IC-2700	Dual Band Mobile \$150.00	President	Washington	CB Base Station w/10m conversion kit \$100.00
Icom	IC-T7A	Handheld \$50.00	Woxun	KG-UVDIP	Handheld \$90.00
Kenwood	PS-430	Power Supply \$50.00	Contact:	<b>Russell Lockey</b>	<b>K5BFA</b>
Kenwood	PS-430	Power Supply \$50.00		<a href="mailto:rglockey@highspeedlink.net">rglockey@highspeedlink.net</a>	
Kenwood	SP-820	Speaker \$100.00			
Kenwood	TS-790A	2M-70CM All Mode Base \$750.00			



Astron VS-50M, 50 Amp Variable 2-15v Power Supply. w/ meters. Minor case scratches. \$175.00



Kenwood SW-2000 Through-type lighted SWR/Watt dual meter (200/2kw) range with SWC-3 Antenna Coupler & power cord. Lights work. \$120.00

SWC-3 specs - 1.8 - 54MHz;

HF-1000w AM/FM; 1500w CW; 2000w SSB;

6m VHF-300w AM/FM; 450w CW; 600w SSB.

Winkey USB, never used. \$50.00  
With manual



Contact John Spillman, KT4CB  
KT4CBVA@GMAIL.COM  
(540) 778-1332



A pic from the PVARC ARES meeting and antenna workshop on 29 November,

Patrick, KE4EI (left) holds a "spark-gap" Montgomery Wards steel measuring tape.

Bob WO4MI holds a very trick "software-defined" Dewalt DW03050 laser measure.

I guess they will both do the job.

Mark N4YSA was behind the lens and orchestrator of the fine event.

## IARU President Addresses ITU Telecom '14 In Qatar



**Qatar (12/10/2014)** - International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) President Timothy Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, highlighted the benefits of Amateur Radio during disasters in remarks at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Telecom World '14. The conference concluded on December 10 in Doha, Qatar.

Ellam told the participants that radio amateurs are already there — in 170 countries — and that

Amateur Radio operators do not need to rely on commercial networks, and have the technical skills to disseminate information during disasters.

One example was the response of Amateur Radio volunteers to Typhoon

Hagupit in The Philippines.

The 4-day international gathering in Qatar attracted some 3500 participants representing various fields of Information and communications technology. Speakers offered examples of how information technology is helping to save lives or mitigating the effects of natural disasters and climate change.

In his opening remarks, Brahima Sanou, Director of ITU's Telecommunication Development Bureau, offered some sobering statistics. "Between 2010-2012, 387 natural disasters occurred, on average each year, and they are on the rise," he said. "During that time, more than 1.2 million lives were lost and 40 percent of the world's population was affected."

Sanou pointed to the more than 500,000 Philippine residents who were displaced as a result of Typhoon Hagupit.

From SATERN issue Dec. 11, Used by permission from W. Feist, WB8BZH

## Philippine Amateur Radio Responds To Typhoon Hagupit

**IARU Region 3 (12/09/2014)** - Amateur Radio volunteers in the Philippines activated emergency nets on HF and VHF as Typhoon Hagupit — called Typhoon Ruby locally — raked slowly across the islands earlier this week, weakening as it went. Before the typhoon (hurricane) was downgraded to a tropical storm, though, upward of 3 dozen people died, many as a result of drowning. Authorities took advantage of advance weather warnings to evacuate up to 1 million residents from areas prone to storm surges and flooding, likely minimizing the death toll. More than half the population of Albay province was evacuated. The eastern island of Samar was hardest hit, although the typhoon caused far less damage than had initially been predicted.

"As Typhoon Hagupit entered its third day, ham operators continue to

provide essential traffic as the storm progresses

through Philippine territory," Philippine Amateur Radio Association (PARA) Chief Operating Officer Thelma Pascua, DU1IVT, reported over the weekend, while the storm was still raging. She had expressed confidence that all emergency traffic would be "adequately serviced." The typhoon made several landfalls before eventually exiting the Philippines.

Members of the Ham Emergency Radio Operations (HERO) — the PARA equivalent of the US Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) — monitored 7.095 MHz on HF and 144.740 MHz on VHF. Operators were able to support essential traffic as the storm progressed. The typhoon's unhurried pace enabled HERO volunteers to consolidate their communication assets. Advisories were sent to neighboring IARU member-societies — ORARI in Indonesia and JARL in Japan — steer clear of the 40 meter frequency the Philippines Amateur Radio Association (PARA) was using.

From SATERN issue Dec. 11, Used by permission from W. Feist,



PHILIPPINE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION



HAM EMERGENCY RADIO OPERATIONS

## On the Sick List

Let's keep these folks in our thoughts and prayers.



**Benny Cook, N4BCC:** broke his ankle on November 27th. (wasn't watching where he was running with the turkey, eh?)

**Joan Pitsenbarger, KF4CWR:** On December 13, Ray had to call the rescue squad for Joan. On Thursday, December 19th, she was transferred to skill care and seems to be doing better. Don't know how long she will be there (in AH)—started therapy today (December 19).



## Condolences

William Campbell (Clint {KB4OLM} Campbell's father) passed away on November 27.

# Plan Ahead



## Dayton Hamvention

**May 15–17, 2015**

Details at: <http://hamvention.org/>



# FROSTFEST

The Mid-Atlantic's  
Largest Winter Hamfest!

Frostfest is now BIGGER AND BETTER! New and improved!!! We now have 10,000 square feet more exhibition space and everything is under one roof!

Frostfest 2015 will be in the Exhibition Hall at the Richmond Raceway Complex. Two hundred feet to the right of buildings we've used for years is our new space.

The Frostfest website at <http://www.frostfest.com> has all the details. One large floor of commercial vendors space, flea market sellers, and club tables! VE testing, forums, meetings, and presentations will be on the second floor (handicapped accessible, and no walking across a parking lot for license testing). A new and improved QSO Lounge, more ticket windows with easier access, and easier parking! More space on the main floor. Lots of good things!

You can get all the details at <http://www.frostfest.com>! Check it out! Hurry and get your tickets and tables! Saturday, February 7, 2015



**...And Another Reminder: Club Dues are Now Due!  
(What are you waiting for? a Round Tuit?)  
Renewal/Application form on page 21.**

## AREA REPEATERS

AS OF DECEMBER 2014

REPEATER	SHIFT	CTCSS	LOCATION
145.130	-	131.8	Massanutten Peak, east of Harrisonburg
145.170	-	151.4	Palmyra east of Charlottesville
145.190	-	118.8	Moorefield WV
145.210	-	141.3	Front Royal, High Knob, link to 6m 51.94 MHz
145.490	-	136.5	Amherst north of Lynchburg
146.625	-	131.8	Big Mtn, east of New Market
146.670	-	114.8	Massanutten Mtn west of Luray
146.685	-	100.0	Apple Orch. Mtn east of Buena Vista
146.700	-	131.8	Downtown Staunton
146.715	-	146.2	Mount Jackson, north of New Market
146.730	-	151.4	Carters Mtn, Charlottesville
146.760	-	151.4	Charlottesville Pantops Mtn, link to 146.895
146.790	-	110.9	Buckingham County
146.805	-	107.2	Covington west of Lexington
146.820	-	146.2	Shawneeland, Great North Mtn, west of Winchester
146.850	-	131.8	Hermitage north of Wboro
146.895	-	151.4	Bucks Elbow Mtn, east of Waynesboro, link to 146.76
146.925	-	151.4	Heard Mtn, Coveseville, Charlottesville
146.985	-	123.0	Moorefield, Branch Mtn
147.045	+	131.8	Elliott Knob southwest of Churchville
147.075	+	131.8	Bear Den Mtn east of Waynesboro
147.120	+	146.2	Culpeper, Clark Mtn, (Echolink 300136)
147.165	+	167.9	Warrenton (echolink 883791)
147.180	+	100.0	Monterey VA
147.225	+	131.8	Little North Mountain, west of Harrisonburg
147.285	+	103.5	Spruce Knob WV
147.300	+	100.0	Bluemont east of Winchester
147.315	+	131.8	Harrisonburg, EMU campus
147.330	+	100.0	Rockbridge, east of Buena Vista, occasional tone
147.345	+	none	Franklin WV
147.360	+	none	Stuarts Draft south of Waynesboro

## AREA REPEATERS

AS OF DECEMBER 2014

REPEATER	SHIFT	CTCSS	LOCATION
224.180	-	100.0	Apple Orchard Mtn east of Buena Vista
224.300	-	131.8	Elliott Knob southwest of Churchville
224.500	-	131.8	Laird's Knob, NE of Harrisonburg
224.580	-	136.5	Rockytop, east of Buena Vista
224.600	-	151.4	Charlottesville linked to 224.58
224.680	-	131.8	Hermitage north of Waynesboro
224.760	-	151.4	Bucks Elbow Mtn east of Waynesboro
442.350	+	123.0	Linden, east of Front Royal
442.400	+	127.3	Moorefield
442.475	+	77.0	Shenandoah County (?)
442.575	+	79.7	Madison, Blakey Ridge
442.650	+	100.0	Bedford, west of Amherst, Apple Orchard Mtn
442.725	+	107.2	Front Royal, High Knob
443.150	+	131.8	Lairds Knob NE of Harrisonburg, (Echolink 37200)
443.250	+	107.2	Fork Mtn, Culpeper
443.350	+	203.5	Big Mountain, east of New Market
443.500	+	103.5	Tobacco Mtn Lynchburg K4IJ link system
443.800	+	100.0	Buena Vista - Apple Orchard Mtn
443.900	+	151.4	Snow Mtn SE of Stanardsville
444.100	+	131.8	Elliott Knob southwest of Churchville
444.150	+	131.8?	Rockytop, east of Buena Vista
444.400	+	103.5	Moorefield, link to 146.985 moorefield
444.550	+	136.5	Wintergreen, Devils Knob
444.600	+	131.8	Great North Mtn, west of Mt Jackson
447.325	-	103.5	Moorefield
448.775	-	146.2	Shawneeland, west of Winchester, Great North Mtn

**If anyone has any changes or corrections,  
contact David Fordham at <fordhadr@jmu.edu>**

## Memories of Banquets Past 2012

### MARA Honors W3HXH with the One and Only Seven Diamond Award

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc. presented Richard Weaver, W3HXH, with the very first, the one and only, Seven Diamond Award.

The award was presented at the annual MARA Christmas Banquet at the Wood Grill in Harrisonburg on December 6, 2012.

Richard, who is 93 years old, has been an active and licensed ham radio operator for 73 years. The award recognizes Richard's seven decades of service to the community, and especially the ham radio community, at the local, state, and national levels.

Richard was the very first president of MARA, and has served in numerous other officer positions, including Secretary, Treasurer and Board Member. He has been instrumental in leading emergency communications efforts, serving as net control station, and has served in uncountable other leadership and participative roles over the decades. Dozens of hams name Richard as their first Elmer, helping them get started in the hobby.

After the presentation, Richard surprised the meeting attendees by playing a moving rendition of an old traditional hymn of thanksgiving, played on his miniature harmonica.

Richard was accompanied at the banquet by his wife Ginny (who incidentally was celebrating her 90th birthday on the date of the presentation) and his son Robert.

Photos by Paul Wyse, W4PFM



**Above:** MARA President David Fordham KD9LA presents the MARA Seven Diamond Award to Richard Weaver, W3HXH, accompanied by his wife Ginny.

**Below:** Richard on the harmonica, providing a proper and appropriate musical closing for the Banquet.



In past issues, the Monitor has provided a few definitions of individual terms used by hams. But here is a list of common phrases found in the hobby, along with their meanings.

**"I'll catch you further down the log."** First off, no one knows what a "log" is. There's speculation that a "log" might be remotely related to the computer program called "logging software", used exclusively by contesters and rabid DX chasers. But this view is in dispute, mainly because contesters and DX-chasers are usually on HF, and this phrase is more commonly heard at the end of VHF contacts. Plus, contesters never ever take the time to say something as lengthy as "catch you further down the log". And DX-chasers have absolutely no plans to ever work this station again as long as they live once they get the QSL card. So the link between a "log" and "logging software" is somewhat questionable. So what does this phrase mean? It's just a fancy way of saying, "I've arrived at my destination so I have to get out of the car now. Goodbye."

**"He's listening up six, dummy!"** This phrase is often heard on the HF bands, and the word 'dummy' is substituted for any of a large number of words describing the outcome of various cross-species mating experiments. This phrase is used right after a sincere ham logically "comes back" to a rare DX station who was calling CQ. What the ham didn't realize was the DX station is actually busy playing a game of hide-and-seek. Often the person helping the DX station play hide and seek is a guy called a "list manager" and he's the one who probably told you to "Up Six".

**"Your audio is a little low"** This can mean one of two things. Either, "I'm too darn lazy to turn up the volume on my receiver," or "you must have one of those new Yaesu radios that doesn't let you adjust the modulation."

**"Yep, yep, fer shure, hi-hi"**. Some old hams (most of whom are dead by now) believed that this phrase meant laughter. But it can't possibly mean laughter, because it has never in history been preceded with anything funny. About the best we can guess is, this phrase means "You just said some- thing really, really stupid, and I'm too polite to say so."

**"QSL to my manager in the callbook, and green stamps are appreciated."** This phrase is most commonly given by a rare DX station that you really need to qualify for the next level of DXCC. It means, "if you don't send my friend in the Cayman Islands a twenty-dollar bill, all you'll get back is your own QSL card with the annotation, 'sorry, not in log'."

**"I'll QSL via Bureau, for sure"**. This is generally said by a ham who doesn't even plan to print QSL cards, let alone actually fill one out or mail it. It's simply one more way of saying, "Goodbye".

**"@%\$&, (expletive), #@!\*+&! , @%!\$&\*#, (expletive)"** This phrase often includes liberal use of excretory and reproductive slang terminology. Literally translated, this phrase actually means "The band-switch on your HF rig is now set to the 75-meter phone band."

**"Is this frequency in use?"** This phrase is used by courteous hams on the HF bands 2 seconds before they kick on their 1500-watt amplifier to begin a three-hour ragchew with their neighbor across town. Protocol demands that before asking, "is this frequency in use?", the ham must turn the volume on his receiver all the way down to zero so in the likely event someone says, "yes it is", the ham can still claim the channel by explaining, "I asked six times and never heard anyone come back."

**"We're actually finished, old man, just give us half a minute to say our seventy-three's"**. This phrase is the standard reply to a polite request to move up or down the band a few kilohertz to accommodate a fifty-member net, or a sked with a crystal-based wilderness station on bat-

tery power. Translated, this phrase means, "We'll be here at least another half-hour, and by then the skip will have changed and the frequency will be occupied by two mega-watt stations in Brazil who only speak Portuguese."

**"Just the Charlie Zulu station, the station ending in Charlie Zulu only, all others please stand by, just the Charlie Zulu, Charlie Zulu only please."** If you've ever listened to a pile-up, you'll recognize that this phrase obviously means, "stations whose prefix begins with A, K, N, or W, please call now."

**"You're not quite into the machine old man, try standing up a little higher on the ladder,"** can mean one of four things. 1. "You're silly to try to work a repeater using a handheld inside a metal automobile." 2. "You're silly to try to work this repeater from 90 miles away." 3. "You're silly to be using such an old radio with a bad microphone connector and such an old antenna with a ratty old crushed-up and kinked coax cable." Or, more often than not, 4. "This repeater's acting up again, but we're too polite to mention it because if we do, the repeater owner might tell us to go up the mountain and fix it ourselves."

**"I snagged VP7 on my second call."** This means, "I called nine hours a day for six days, and then on the last day of the DXpedition, I got lucky and he came back to me after only two hours."

**"It never rains at Field Day."** This is the first part of a phrase whose remainder is never spoken because every- one who's been to Field Day knows what the rest of the phrase is. For those of you who haven't, the remainder of the phrase is, "... if you're in the Sudanese Desert, but man oh man does it pour at Field Day up at Flagpole Knob, and you should see the lightning bolts, and the wind, and the bugs. But hey, it's really a lot of fun spending hours and hours in the cold wet rain watching two other hams in a little makeshift trailer call 'CQ Field Day' till they're more hoarse than last year's Kentucky Derby winner."

**"This is the SouthCars net. This net meets daily to serve mobile stations."** This means, "If you're mobile, don't bother waiting around to check in, because this is really a ragchew net for retired old men at high-powered base stations in Tampa, Huntsville, and Indianapolis who lost their driver's licenses over sixteen years ago shortly after their 80th birthday."

**"This is the MidCars net. This net meets daily to serve mobile stations..."** This means, "If you're mobile, don't bother waiting around to check in, because this is really a ragchew net for old men (plus one woman) at high-powered base stations in Detroit, Waukegan, Louisville, and Des Moines so they can compare intimate details of their recent medical procedures."

**"This is the EastCars net. This net meets daily to serve mobile stations..."** This means, "If you're mobile, don't bother trying to check in, because this is really a ragchew net for old men at high-powered base stations in Boston, Pittsburgh and Syracuse who take five hours trying to de- termine which one of them is going to be net control for the next 30 minutes."

**"I'm using a Kenwood 450 putting out 50 watts into a wire antenna at 30 feet."** What a lie. He's using a Pro-III and a kilowatt amp into a \$1400 beam on a 150-foot tower, but wants to impress you with what a good operator he is. (The giveaway is the fact that he's actually transmitting a fairly decent signal but yet he's claiming that he's using a Kenwood.)

**"I'll be happy to take a look at it. Maybe I can fix it for you, but it**

might be next week before I can get around to it.” This means, “We’ll both forget that you ever gave it to me and that it has an intermittent problem, and I’ll end up selling it for \$45 to some sucker at Berryville four years from now.”

“Where the blue-blazes is Wilda?” Phrase heard at the VARA club meeting every month where KB4OLM is in attendance. It means, “where the blue-blazes is Wilda?”

From the January 2009 issue of *The Monitor*

## The Opinionated One — Are You a Qualified Valley Ham?

**10 years ago**

In order to become a CPA in the Commonwealth of Virginia, you not only have to pass the national CPA examination, you also have to pass a second, state -designated exam, and have a full year’s experience working in the field. This is to ensure that you are really qualified to practice public accounting in Virginia.

Why don’t we have a two-stage testing procedure for hams? Think about it. In addition to the national FCC VE exam, shouldn’t prospective radio amateurs be required to take a second exam after practicing for a year, to make sure they are qualified to be a real ham here in the valley?

Below are my ideas for a local test. See how well you score...

1. You have actually seen, in person, with your own eyes: Bill KE4FM, Bob W3MMC, Donnie N4RAG, or Dee W4PNT. (3 points each)
2. You know where the 146.67 repeater is located. (1 point)
3. You’ve actually worked the 146.67 repeater (1 point). Or the 146.70 repeater (1 point). Or the 147.18 repeater (3 points).
4. You are at the Field Day Site more often than you are at ham club meetings. (3 points)
5. You’re familiar with the FCC rule that lets you engage in a full five-hour-long QSO without once transmitting your callsign, — as long as you are on the 147.225 repeater after 10 pm. (5 points)
6. You’ve actually been to Bob’s Knob. (2 points)
7. You have even used the two-seater at Bob’s Knob. (10 points)
8. You know that KE4ASC can read and write, regardless of what all the guys in the Staunton club say. (1 point)
9. You knew that there was a Waynesboro Repeater Club before you read about it in this issue of the Monitor. (1 point)
10. You’ve worked Dale Enterprise for DXCC credit (subtract 1 point)
11. You’ve finally realized the guys in Woodbridge are always out of stock in what you came for, and even if they do have it, they aren’t interested enough in selling it to you to make it worth your drive over there to get it. (2 points)
12. You know that N4DSL has experimented with more advanced communications technology in the last year than AT&T’s Bell Labs did in the last quarter century, — and he still isn’t even old enough to buy beer. (2 points)
13. You know what the “EME” stands for in K4EME’s call. (1 point)

14. You’ve eaten at Burger King on East Market Street between 11 am and 1 pm on a weekday (1 point)
15. You’ve eaten at the L&S Diner and parked beside the big green dump truck in the far lot. (2 points)
16. You had the macaroni and cheese at the L&S Diner and went all afternoon without eating a Tums (10 points).
17. You’ve eaten at both Kathy’s restaurants. (2 points)
18. You received an invitation to join WB4YEX on a contest camping trip. (2 points — but subtract 10 points if you went.)
19. You’ve connected to “The Cluster” more than ten times in the last week (5 points)
20. You get all happy and excited when you hear a hurricane is coming ashore near Virginia Beach (1 point)
21. You spent more time maintaining your RV last year than the total time you’ve been on the bands since 1970. (2 points)
22. You have your hair (what little there is of it) cut at Charlie Suter’s in Bridgewater (2 points)
23. You know the frequency of a 440 repeater you can hit from the valley. (5 points — plus 2 extra if you know the PL!)
24. You do “Bike Virginia” every year, even though you don’t have a clue as to what its real name is nowadays. (3 points)
25. When KA4EEN checks into the Monday night ARES net with an announcement, you know, exactly, word for word, what he’s going to ask for. (5 points)
26. You get patriotic emails from W4DLJ every day. (5 points)
27. You have no idea what the difference is between ARES and RACES, but you are smart enough to realize that discussing it in public will start an argument faster than having the United Nations ordain a gay bishop to stop NRA members from buying handguns to perform abortions on Rush Limbaugh’s doctor under a confederate battle flag at a pajama party hosted by Michael Jackson at the White House on Janet Reno Day (25 points)

Add up your points. If you score between 85-100 points, you are a real valley Ham. If you score 75 to 85 points, you need to get on the local repeaters more often. If you score 50-75 points, you should come to a club meeting every now and then. Less than 50 points, you really ought to move to Northern Virginia!

From the January 2004 issue of *The Monitor*

# PVARC Secretary's Report

**December 5th**

The **Page Valley Amateur Radio Club** held its monthly business meeting in the Page County EOC Training Room in Luray on this date. **Bob Forrest/WO4MI**, PVARC's President, called the meeting to order at 1830, asking that all rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. Fourteen members and two visitors were present. The two visitors were introduced: **Brian Downs W3ATT** from Basye; and **Eric Pults K9JEP** from Mount Jackson. Both were known by several of our members, from Field Day or other venues, and were warmly welcomed. Hope they will come again!

**Announcements:** **Pat/KE4EI** reported the SKYWARN net would be active this evening as a special event, urging SKYWARN members to check in, giving call sign + local weather.

**Zory Glaser (KB3VQC)** reported that at the joint holiday meeting of MARA & VARA (held the previous evening), PVARC member **John Spillman (KT4CB)** was recognized for his outstanding service as Editor of the *Monitor*, by the previous *Monitor* Editor, **Dave Fordham, KD9LA** and received a sustained round of applause from the attendees and guests at the dinner meeting. With that announcement, the group gave **John Spillman, KT4CB** a standing round of applause for his outstanding service as Editor of the *Monitor*.

**Zory** announced that the National Electronics Museum will host a special event station commemorating Pearl Harbor Day this weekend using the call sign W2W beginning today (Friday). QSL confirmation in the form of a nice certificate will be sent to those requesting one. Specific frequencies/times were listed in the current QST. Asked if he was going to operate, Zory responded that he was scheduled Sunday from 1000 to 1400 local. He also mentioned that the Baltimore Ham-fest, formerly held at the old Maryland fairgrounds will change its venue next year. He understands it will probably be on the grounds of a Baltimore County-area fire department, about 20 miles away from the MD State Fair Grounds in Timonium. The date has been set, but he could not remember the exact date. The old Ham-Fest was a 2-day weekend event, and had lots of vendor support (which has been dropping off in the past few years). He mentioned that the event will primarily be "tailgating", and will be limited to about half of "1 day". {Editor's note: Details on the BARC Father's Day hamfest website: <http://w3ft.com/hamfest.htm>}

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

The Secretary reported the minutes of last month's 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. **CASH ON HAND: \$1,392.04**. 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 discussion with local science teacher Burrous Snellings about the possibility of sponsoring an amateur radio club in the Page County school district. They both agree that it would be a worthwhile endeavor consistent with current initiatives to encourage young people to enter scientific, technical, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs. However, there were many associated issues to be considered, such as: adequate/secure space for equipment; obtaining radio equipment (HF & 2m with associated antennas, to begin with); committed volunteers to install and maintain equipment and act as mentors to club members to name a few. In the following discussion it was determined this was a very worthwhile program and members seemed willing to donate time and equipment to

support the activity. {This item was tabled for further study and discussion.}



**Widows Assistance Committee:** **Morgan/K4RHD** reported that equipment previously reported as possibly being available for club/school usage had been given to a family friend instead and is no longer available.

**Technical Assistance Subcommittee:** Co-Chairmen – **Mark/N4YSA** & **Paul/N4PJI** - Paul reported having assisted PVARC member **Larry/K3JRR** who lives in Criders, VA - by working on several antenna problems.

**New Business:** Election of Officers for Calendar Years 2015 & 2016. The slate of officers submitted to the membership last month was reintroduced; and, further nominations from the floor were called for by the President.

**For President:** **Tim Ramey/AK4CJ** – No nominations from the floor. **Elected**

**For Vice President:** **Morgan Phenix/K4RHD** – No nominations from the floor. **Elected**

**For Secretary:** **John Spillman/KT4CB** – No nominations from the floor. **Elected**

**For Treasurer:** **Zory Glaser/KB3VQC** graciously (& happily) stepped aside when **Paul O'Sullivan/KK4IRS** was nominated from the floor.

**For Treasurer:** **Paul O'Sullivan/KK4IRS** – No further nominations from the floor. **Elected**

**To PVARC Board of Directors:** **Gary Fischer/K6OZ** - No nominations from the floor. **Elected**

Following the election an Audit Committee was established consisting of **Zory/KB3VQC** and **Gary/K6OZ**. They will get together during the month of January, 2015 and report back at the scheduled February meeting.

**Old Business:** **Tim/AK4CJ** summarized ARRL Field Day results culminating in 1430 QSO's giving us top billing in Virginia in the 1A category. Full results are published in *QST*. He also reported that **Mark/N4YSA** will report formally next month on his search for 3/16" Dacron line for next year's Field Day event, but did say that he (Mark) could obtain the line at a cost of \$40.99 + \$5.00 shipping.

**Dave/K4DPF** discussed some of the problems he has been having with database development for the PVARC website and could use some help. Give him a call if you can assist.

Before closing the meeting, it was brought to the attention of the members that the January meeting falls on the day after New Years Day, suggesting that we hold it on **January 9<sup>th</sup>** instead. Following a brief discussion it was agreed. There being no further business, **Bob/WO4MI** then called for a motion to adjourn the business meeting at 1925.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed. Members and guests were invited to stay for an audio/visual presentation entitled: DX of the Year.

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

# MARA Secretary's Report

**December 4th**

The meeting was held in conjunction with the annual Christmas Banquet, at the usual meeting location at the Wood Grill on Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg. Members of the Valley Amateur Radio Association from Staunton (and their guests) had been formally invited to attend, along with all MARA members, families, and guests.

President **Gerald Nauman KN4FM** called the meeting to order at approximately 7:40 pm. There were 60 MARA members and 26 visitors present, including members of VARA, spouses, and other guests. Introductions were made all around.

The November Secretary's Report and the November Treasurer's Report were individually approved as published in the December issue of the Monitor. There were no first readings of membership applications, and there were no second readings/votes on member candidates from the last meeting.

The only committee report was a reminder of the Volunteer Examiner session coming up next Saturday.

## Announcements:

A list of equipment available for purchase from **Russell Lockey K5BFA** was circulated.

A certificate of appreciation was presented to **David Fordham KD9LA**, who is rotating off the Board and has served as interim Secretary for 2014.

Recognition and Appreciation was given to **John Spillman KT4CB** for the fine job in editing the club newsletter, the Monitor.

Recognition and Appreciation was also given to the Volunteer Examiners without whom the VE program and local licensing activity would not be possible.



Hams were asked to make sure the restaurant had added the tip to the bill, and additional tips on the table would be appreciated, given that Christmas is coming up.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

Following a club tradition at the annual Christmas Banquet, no 50/50 drawing was collected or held.

The meeting as adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

**Zorey Glaser, KB3VQZ**, a member of the Page Valley Amateur Radio Club, attempted to give a program on the history of ham radio awards, but technical difficulties prevented the presentation of the program.

Respectfully submitted, **David Fordham, KD9LA**



Photo by Robert Wilson, KI4GST



**LOTW NEWS.** The ARRL Web page reported last week: The ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) online "card-less" contact-confirmation service this week recorded a new milestone — 100 million QSL records out of some 630 million uploaded contacts. To read the complete press release, go to: <http://www.arrl.org/news/view/arrl-s-logbook-of-the-world-tops-100-million-qsl-records>

## How's DX

**FM, Martinique:** Gerard/F2VX and Bernard/F9IE are going to pay FM5WD and his station on Martinique a visit between Dec. 11 and **January 8**. QRV signing FM/homecalls on 160-6m on SSB and CW. There is also the possibility of a short visit to J6/St. Lucia. QSL via homecalls (d/B).

**KH8, AMERICAN SAMOA.** Nobu, JAOJHQ, will be active as AHOCO/KH8 from American Samoa between **January 7-12th (2015)**. Activity will be mainly on 30/17/15 meters using mainly SSB with some CW. QSL via JAOJHQ, direct or by the Bureau.

**ON, Belgium:** Members of the Radioclub of G.T.M. in Kruikebe commemorate the Battle of the Bulge with the call ON7ONUTS between Dec. 16 and January 14. QSL preferred via ClubLog-OQRS, ON4CFB (d/B). <http://on7kec.be/on7Onuts/>

**TY, Benin:** Wynand, ZS6ARF, will be active as TY2CD until 2018. He hopes to set up a station on HF to work on CW, SSB, and digital modes. QSL via LoTW, ZS6ARF (d).

**VU, India:** Two special event stations are going to celebrate the birthday of Swami Vivekananda (12 Jan 2015). He was a Hindu monk and scholar. He was the first Hindu to speak at the Parli-

ment of the World's Religions in 1893 in Chicago. Manju, VU2SMS, operates AU1SV until **31 Jan. 2015**, QRV on 40, 20, 15, and 10m on SSB and PSK31. AU5SV will be operated during the same time by Suhas, VU2SMN, on 40-10m. QSL AU1SV via VU2SMS (d), AU5SV via VU2SMN (d).

**XW, LAOS.** Bruce, 3W3B (HSOZCY/XU7ADF/XW1B/AA4XR), who lives in Da Nang, announced that he will be active as XW4XR from Vientiane between December 15th and January 2nd (2015). Activity will be on 80-10 meters using only CW and RTTY. He is expected to return again to Laos during late January, between the 15-23rd. QSL via E21EIC and LoTW.

**ZS1 & V5-African Tour by G3RWF:** Nick, G3RWF, plans a 5-week long tour through Southern Africa, planning to get on the air on the high-bands solely on CW according to the following schedule: Dec. 11 to 14 as 7P8NH from Lesotho, Dec. 11 to January 5 as ZS1/G3RWF, and finally from Jan. 6 to 13 as V5/G3RWF. QSL via OQRS, G3RWF, LoTW.

## IOTA News

**AF-003 - ZD8, ASCENSION ISLAND.** Marko, N5Z0, will be active as ZD80 from Ascension Island between **November 17th and January 2nd**. Activity will be mainly in contests. His activity in the CQWW DX CW Contest will be Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via OH0XX.

**AF-005; D4, Cape Verde - Leeward Islands:** Harald/DF2WO will be active on HF on CW and SSB as D44TWO holiday-style from Praia, Santiago Island between **Dec. 12 and Jan. 8**. QSL via M00XO.

**AF-019. (Correction - Not AF-109) Miran, S500,** will operate as IG9/S500 from Lampedusa Island, QTH Punto Alaimo (WW LOC JM65HM) until end of **January**. Miran will participate in both SSB and CW CQWW Contests as I09Y team member in Multi/Multi entry from ZONE 33. All QSLs for IG9/S500 via his home callsign by the Bureau, direct with SASE + 2 USDs or Clublog's OQRS. Cards will be ready to print soon into 2015, LoTW later.

**AF-090 - 5R, MADAGASCAR.** Eric, F6ICX, will once again be active as 5R8IC from Saint Marie Island (**AF-090**) between **January 3rd and January 12th**. Activity will be holiday style on all HF bands operating mainly CW, but some SSB, RTTY, and PSK63, using a FT450 with 100 watts into various GPs or Inverted-Ls and a Hexbeam for 20-10 meters. There will be no online log during his activity. QSL via his home callsign (QRZ.com). Logs will be uploaded to ClubLog and LoTW.

**AN-005 - VKO, Macquarie Island:** Rod/VK6MH begins a 6-month stint on Macquarie Island (AN-005, WW Loc. QD96lm) at the end of October and hopes to get on the air as VK0MH. Logs will be uploaded to

ClubLog and LoTW as often as possible. QSL via N3SL.

**AN-016-CE9, Antarctica:** Felix, DL5XL, is now back on Neumayer III (AN-016, WW Loc. IB59uh), staying until the end of February next year. QRV as DP1POL mainly on CW, but also SSB and RTTY. QSL via DL1ZBO (d/B), LoTW.

**AS-031 Chichijima Island** JD1, OGASAWARA. Harry, JG7PSJ, will once again be active as JD1BMH from **Chichijima Island (AS-031)** between December 28th and **January 10th (2015)**. Activity will be on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via the Bureau to JD1BMH or direct to JG7PSJ. Visit his Web page for more details at:

<http://sapphire.es.tohoku.ac.jp/jd1bmh>

Also, on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/jd1bmh>

**AS-049 JA** - Take, JI3DST will be active as JI3DST/6 from Kuchino Island (AS-049) from 27 December to 4 January. He will operate SSB, CW and possibly digital modes and FM on 160-10 metres. QSL via home call (bureau preferred). [TNX JI3DST]

**NA-016 - ZF, CAYMAN ISLANDS.** Henning, OZ1BII, will be active as ZF2EE from George Town, Cayman Islands (NA-016) between **November 27th and January 1st**. Activity will be on 160-10 meters, including the 30/17/12m bands and mainly CW using an Elecraft K3 w/100w into Cushcraft R6 vertical and a 110 ft Long Wire. He plans to be in the CQWW DX CW Contest (January 29-30th) as a Single-Op entry. QSL via OZ1BII.

**NA-146 FJ, ST. BARTHELEMY.** Gene, N9SW, will once again be active as FJ/N9SW from St. Barthelemy (NA-146) between January 17-25th (2015). Activity will be holiday style on 40-6 meters (possibly 80m) and

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.

mainly CW. QSL via his home callsign.

**EU-009.** Col, MMONDX, will be active as MMONDX/P from the **Orkney Islands** between **January 16-18th (2015)**. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL via IW7EGQ.

**OC-054—FW, WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS.** Jean-Jacques, FW5JJ, is back on Wallis Island (OC-054) after a few months holiday on Corsica as TK5JJ. He is expected to be on Wallis for 2 years (possibly longer). Activity is on the HF bands and 6 meters. Also, FW5JJ is now operating on 144 MHz EME and has made his first FW-F (Wallis to France) QSO with F6BK1 in Bordeaux, France. Jean-Jacques will also be installing 160 and 80 meters antennas soon. QSL direct only via F5RXL (OQRS). Check out the pictures on QRZ.com.

**SA-005 - CEOZ, JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLAND.** Felipe, CE5WQO, will be active as CEOZ/CE5WQO from Juan Fernandez Island (SA-005) between **January 19-27th**. He informs OPDX that this will be a vacation, so operations will be holiday style on 160-10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. Equipment will be an Icom IC-746Pro + Icom PS 125 with a Yaesu FL-2100z amp (600w) into a W8AMZ G5RV antenna and 2 element yagi for 10m. **PLEASE NOTE:** Felipe would like to know which bands and modes the HAM community needs for CEOZ. Also, if any one wants to sponsor a better antenna, to please contact him so he can receive any package at his address in Miami, FL. QSL via KA3LKM (w/2 IRCs or greenstamps).

**Dino Island No longer an Island** November 30th - The IOTA Committee has been made aware that **Dino Island** no longer meets the requirements laid down for qualification for IOTA and has decided that it should be withdrawn from **EU-144 with effect from 1 January 2015**. The distance separating the island from the mainland has reduced as the beach area gradually encroached into the channel and is now significantly less than the required 200 meters. Credit will continue to be given for contacts with Dino made before 1 January 2015. The Committee has agreed to regard the following additional islets as counting for EU-144: Isca Maggiore, Isca Minore, Furmiculi Rocks, Godano and Mantineo - see the Italian Islands Award (IIA) list at <http://www.ari.it> for the exact locations.

**E5, COOK ISLANDS (North and South).** Andy, E51AND, informs OPDX "Cook Island's RESIDENT hams will be allowed a special 1x1 callsign in the form E50x for use during the 50th anniversary of Self Governance in 2015. Visitors to the island will be issued a callsign in accordance with current practice in the form E51xxx. The special call is available for use at the operator's discretion ONLY during the period January 1st, 2015 to December 31st, 2015."

Andy adds, "There are only 7 resident licensed hams in the entire country - 15 TINY islands in 2.25 MILLION square kilometres of the Pacific!" Look for the following callsign to be active [no licenses issued yet, but they have verbal confirmation and expect the licenses next week]:

#### In the North Cooks Islands:

**E50W** - Warwick Latham, E51WL, on Penrhyn Atoll AKA Tongareva Atoll (**OC-082**). Warwick is mainly active on 6 and 10m and 10m WSPR.

#### In the South Cooks Islands:

**E50A** - Andy Duncan, E51AND, on Rarotonga Island (**OC-013**). He has 160-10 meters capability and operates on SSB and QRS CW. Andy is hoping to make at least one portable operation during the year either to Palmerston Atoll (**OC-124**) or Pukapuka Atoll

(**OC-098**). Both are difficult and expensive to reach (esp Puka) with VERY uncertain in/out transportation . . . RSGB IOTA will be notified if it comes together.

**E50B** - Bob Walker, E51BQ, on Rarotonga Island (**OC-013**); SSB.

**E50D** - Desmond Clarke, E51DD, on Aitutaki Island (**OC-083**). Des' antennas were recently destroyed in a Category 5 Cyclone, but he hopes to be on the air in the New Year with a Butternut vertical mainly on the low bands.

**E50J** - Jim Ditchburn, E51JD, on Rarotonga Island (**OC-013**); SSB.

**E50K** - Kat Cheval, E51CK/E51KC, the only resident YL on Rarotonga Island (**OC-013**); SSB. Kat is rarely on due to the "instant on" and overwhelming pile-ups she routinely experiences - multiplied exponentially when a YL gets on the air. Kat is also the XYL of Andy, E51AND.

**E50V** - Victor Rivera, E51CG, on Rarotonga Island (**OC-013**). Activity will be on SSB; he does have 6 meters capability.

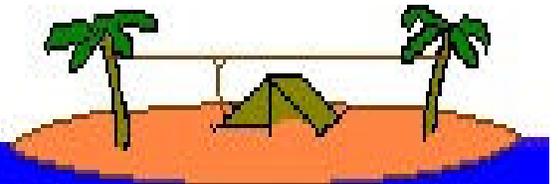
**ADDED NOTES:** Andy, E51AND, states [edited], "NONE of the residents are DXers/Contesters, but rather more 'rag chewers' LOL - and none of us (except possibly E50W) have digital mode capability - so be patient with us!!! LOL... It is noteworthy that the islands are VERY isolated, internet bandwidth is VERY limited and very expensive, and tech support unheard of . . . so, at the moment, none of us use LoTW or eQSL - though I (Andy) am working on getting DX Lab up and running and connecting to LoTW -sure could use an Elmer though!!!! LOL - IF I can make it work, E50A and E50K will have LoTW and eQSL capability at some time in the New Year."

## Contests & QSO Parties

For more information, go to:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

- 1 ARRL Straight Key Night
- 1 SARGT New Year RTTY Contest
- 1 AGCW Happy New Year Contest
- 2 QRP Fox Hunt
- 2 NCCC Sprint Ladder
- 3-4 WW PMC Contest
- 3-4 ARRL RTTY Roundup
- 3-4 EUCW 160m Contest
- 4 ARRL Kids Day
- 9 NCCC Sprint Ladder
- 10-11 North America QSO Party, CW
- 11 NRAU Baltic Contest
- 11 DARC 10-m Contest
- 11 NRAU Baltic Contest, SSB
- 11 Midwinter Contest
- 16 NCCC Sprint Ladder
- 17 LZ Open Contest
- 17-18 Hungarian DX Contest
- 17-18 North American QSO Party, SSB
- 23 NCCC Sprint Ladder
- 23-25 CQ 160-m Contest, CW
- 24-25 REF Contest, CW
- 24-25 BARTG RTTY Sprint
- 24-26 ARRL January VHF Contest
- 30 NCCC Sprint Ladder
- 31 UBA DX Contest, SSB



# THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME -:- -:- -:- by Hatlo



## 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 146.550 simplex, the remaining 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!**

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

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

## Calendar of Local Events



## February



### 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY

- 2 Friday Luncheon
- 4 Page County ARES Net (146.55 Simplex)
- 5 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 KHz)
- 5 Rockingham County ARES Net ( K4LXG)
- 6 VARA Club Meeting**
- 8 Augusta County ARES Net
- 8 MARA Club Meeting**
- 9 PVARC Club Meeting**
- 9 Friday Luncheon
- 11 Page County ARES Net (146.625/131.8)
- 12 Rockingham County ARES Net (KN4FM)
- 16 Friday Luncheon
- 18 Page County ARES Net (146.625/131.8)
- 19 Rockingham County ARES Net (K4RMY)
- 19 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 KHz)
- 19 Martin Luther King Day**
- 20 Deadline for February newsletter submission\***
- 23 Friday Luncheon
- 25 Page County ARES Net (146.625/131.8)
- 26 Rockingham County ARES Net (KA4EEN)
- 30 Friday Luncheon



- 1 Page County ARES Net (146.55 Simplex)
- 2 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 KHz)
- 2 Rockingham County ARES Net ( K4NRA)

### 2 Ground Hog Day

- 3 VARA Club Meeting
- 5 MARA Club Meeting**
- 6 PVARC Club Meeting**
- 6 Friday Luncheon
- 8 Page County ARES Net (146.625/131.8)
- 9 Rockingham County ARES Net ( WF40)
- 12 Augusta County ARES Net**
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday**
- 13 Friday Luncheon
- 14 Valentine's Day**
- 15 Page County ARES Net (146.625/131.8)
- 16 Rockingham County ARES Net ( K4LXG)
- 16 President's Day**
- 20 Friday Luncheon
- 20 Deadline for February newsletter submission\***
- 22 Page County ARES Net (146.625/131.8)
- 23 Rockingham County ARES Net ( KN4FM)
- 27 Friday Luncheon



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



Thanks to those who helped with the December 12th test session:

Thanks to the VEs who helped with the session DEC. 13.

GERALD NAUMAN, KN4FM                      BRYAN DANIELS, K4RMY  
JIM LEHMAN, W4POL                          E.C. SHOWALTER, KG4KUR  
FOSTER FARONE, WF40

The exam session produced 5 technician and 2 Extra licensees Congratulations!  
Our next testing will be held **Feb 14, 2015** 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](mailto: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.

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# Club Information

## MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.

**President:** Gerald Nauman, KN4FM  
**Vice President:** Andrew Pearson, N4RCE  
**Secretary:** Herb Slade, AA2BF  
**Treasurer:** Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC  
**Board (exp 2015):** Bryan Daniels, K4RMY  
**Board (exp 2016):** Foster Farone, WF4O

<http://mara.ws>

MARA meets the first Thursday of each month at Wood Grill Buffet on Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Dinner begins at 6:30 pm,  
the business meeting begins at 7:30 pm

**Visitors are always welcome.**

Dues (\$12 per year) should be mailed to:

MARA  
PO Box 1882  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

## VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

**President:** John Keller, W4ZAO  
**Vice President:** Ed Varner, N4EDI  
**Secretary:** David Tanks, AD4TJ  
**Treasurer:** Greg Czerniak, W4GRC

<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, Greg Czerniak  
418 Oriole St.  
Staunton, VA 24401-1661

## PAGE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

**President:** Tim Ramey, AK4CJ  
**Vice President:** Morgan Phenix, K4RHD  
**Secretary:** John Spillman, KT4CB  
**Treasurer:** Paul O'Sullivan, KK4IRS  
**Board Member:** Open  
**Board Member:** Gary Fisher, K6OZ

<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.

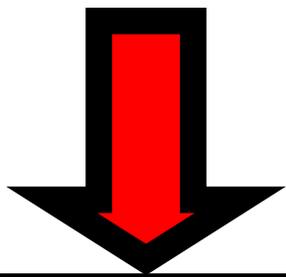
Back issues are freely available on the MARA website starting a few months after publication.

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.

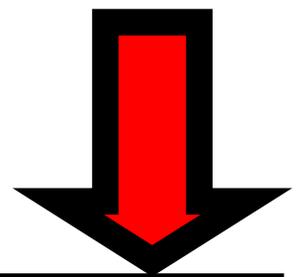
Clubs may also formally decide to provide complimentary copies at club expense to various constituencies. Contact your respective club officers for more information.

Articles in the Monitor may be quoted with attribution. Being a publication of an IRS 501(c)3 educational organization, the Monitor may occasionally use copyrighted material under the Fair Use Provisions of copyright law.

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# RENEW



## Membership Renewal Form

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALLSIGN: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE (If you want it in club records for emergency purposes, not the roster!): \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: (print legibly!!) \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER ARRL (Y/N) \_\_\_ REGISTERED VA ARES (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_ SKYWARN ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you available for Workday Daytime Emergency Call up? (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_

**MARA members mail with \$12 to: MARA, PO Box 1882, Harrisonburg, VA 22801**

**VARA members mail with \$15 to: VARA, Greg Czerniak, 418 Oriole St., Staunton, VA 24401-1661**

**PVARC members mail with \$12 to: PVARC, PO Box 245, Luray VA 22835-0245**

**Checks, Money Orders or exact change would be greatly appreciated.**

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**Members not renewing by the end of the February meeting will be dropped from the active mailing list, and may experience significant delays in being restored to the list once dues have been paid.**

**MARA/VARA/PVARC**

c/o John Spillman  
168 Bosley Drive Ext.  
Stanley, VA 22851

Phone: 540-778-1332  
Email: kt4cbva@gmail.com

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**Return Service Requested**

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**MARA**  
**VARA**  
**PVARC**

