

THE MONITOR

November 2015

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

VARA Meeting: November 3rd

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

MARA Meeting: November 5th

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

PVARC Meeting: November 6th

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

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.



Daylight Saving Time Ends

Fall Back

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour on Sunday, November 1st.



Safety First

The Thanksgiving Holiday is one of the heaviest traveled holidays of the season. Please drive safely. Allow extra time to get to your destination and back if you are planning to travel – and by whatever means you plan.



From the Newsletter Editor: Club Dues are Now Due!

On the inside back cover of this issue you will find a club membership renewal form. Please make sure you renew your club dues **BEFORE** the end of the February meeting. The best bet is to **MAIL** your dues to the address shown for your club. **Don't forget! Please?**



MARA President's Column

At the October MARA meeting corporation officials (yes, MARA is a corporation, registered in the Commonwealth of Virginia) were elected for 2016. Many thanks to those that offered to serve. A new committee was also formed, a program committee, to arrange for programs at the monthly meeting. The committee consists of the Vice President, Bryan, K4RMY, Bob, W8HGH (who suggested the idea and offered to be on the committee), and Dave, KD9LA. If anyone has suggestions for programs, please contact one of the committee members, I'm sure they will welcome any suggestions or ideas for programs that would be

of interest to the club. Let's support the new officers and committee members in any way we can.

The annual December (Christmas) meeting will be on December 10, the second Thursday instead of the first Thursday due to a scheduling conflict with the Wood Grill Buffet. Suggestions for a program that will be of interest to our non-ham guest would be appreciated.

Gerald, KN4FM

President



MARA December Meeting

The MARA December meeting will be on **December 10**, the second Thursday instead of the usual first Thursday. The location will be the usual, the Wood Grill Buffet. The dinner will be at 6:30pm followed by a very brief meeting at 7:30. Hopefully there will be a program that will be of interest to our non-ham guest that will be present. Any program suggestions are welcome. Everyone is invited, we have reserved both rooms so we should have plenty of space.



Waynesboro Repeater Association Annual Meeting

QST QST QST QST

Calling all Radio Amateurs..

The Annual meeting of the **Waynesboro Repeater Association** will be held in the Basement Meeting Room of the Augusta County Public Library
1759 Jefferson Highway
Fishersville, VA

at 6:30 PM on MONDAY November 16, 2015

All local amateurs are cordially invited to attend.

Talk-in on 147.075 (+600) (tone 131.8)

Directions: Exit I 64 at Fishersville and go North on Tinkling Springs road to US 250. Turn West (left) and then Left at the next light. Enter the library at the doors on the US 250 side. Turn left inside and walk all the way to the far end and down the stairs, turn right and the meeting will be in the last room on the left. You may have to park in the rear of the building. See you there.

73 **Gordon WA4FJC**

Web site: www.qsl.net/wrav

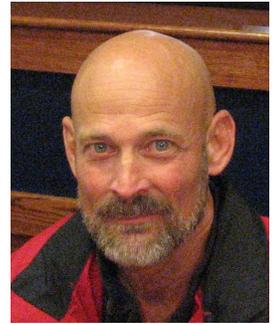
VARA President's Column

Hello fellow Ham's, wow October has been a very busy and exciting month and I hope November will be just a little slower so I can get some things done around the house before winter takes hold.

At the October meeting I asked for anyone who wanted to run or nominate someone for the slate of officers for 2016. I did not get any emails, calls or snail mail responses. I did contact this year's officers and with no responses from the other members this is the slate of officers for 2016 at this moment. If anyone wants to run or nominate someone, please get the information to me. The same officers this year have volunteered to run for re-election. Thank you to Ed, David, Greg and yours truly for your continued support to the club.

We had several community events that many of the VARA members participated in and all had exciting

situations that will be long remembered. Thank you all for volunteering your time and expertise to these events. You prove over and over that Amateur radio operators can and do provide the life line of communications no matter what the situation.



With winter approaching, it's time for CONTESTS!! I will be participating in many of them and hope to improve my scores from last year. I hope you too will try one or many, it's a great way to improve your memory, find new ways to improve your shack and see how long you can stay awake!!

Until next month, be safe and help someone in need.

John Keller W4ZAO
President

Greetings from Moscow...

By Donald Evans, N4EM

N4EM has opened a Packet Gateway from 145.730 to 14.105
N4EM-1/BBS N4EM-2/Gate N4EM-7/KA-Node N4EM-10/K-net (Luray)

After much tinkering, I finally have my packet station back up and running. I'm using a KAM XL with the VFH port set to 145.730 and the HF port on 14.105. Some of you old timers may remember this as Net 105. Yes, it is alive and well in the new century.

The first message I received was "Greetings from Moscow" and since then I continue to get good signal reports.

I'm hopeful the valley can make use of the gateway to 20 meters. I can operate it on 12V battery which is recharged by a 45 watt set of solar panels. Not sure how much up time I can get, but will be testing in the next few months.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions about how to make it better (n4em@arrl.net), and please do leave me a message on the pbbs (n4em-1) to let me know if you find it useful.

MSG#1 10/01/2015 15:11:50 FROM
RK3KPK TO N4EM
SUBJECT: Greetings from Moscow
PATH: N4EM

Hi,
My name is Andy, rk3kpk, qth is Moscow.
Packet : rk3kpk@cx2sa.sal.ury.soam
e-mail is lackly@yandex.ru
73!

MSG#4 10/04/2015 17:03:38 FROM C03LC TO
N4EM
SUBJECT: hello Donald
PATH: N4EM

hello friend, my name's Leonel from Cuba. I connected with your station first time and I wanted to congratulate you. It's doing good job. And is very very strong your signal here. So 73 and good luck, Leonel.

MSG#5 10/14/2015 12:11:59 FROM VE1AJF TO
N4EM
SUBJECT: See ur stn NET105
PATH: N4EM
Lately N4EM heard/seen FN750V better than many sigs consistently.
Gord Skiffington VE1AJF

GRINDSTONE 100

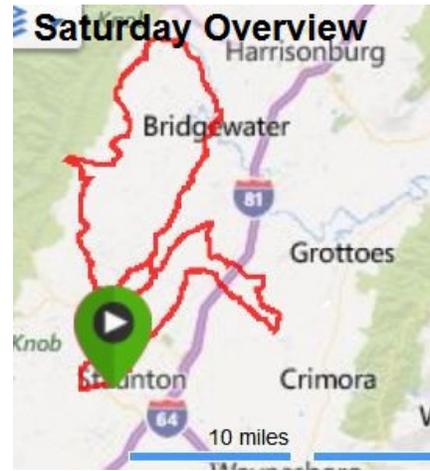
This year's running of the Grindstone 100 footrace started out with all the organizing, planning and signing up of volunteers as any other year, except for one little twist – Mother Nature had to throw the organizers and Amateur radio operators a curve ball and all best laid plans went by the wayside.

Just before the day of the event Hurricane Joaquin was heading toward the United States and the Forest



Service cancelled the permit for the race. The race organizer in a bold move requested to run the race the following weekend and the Forest Service approved his request. No one thought that would happen, but lo and behold everyone had just 6 days to get everything back on line and ready for the event.

Geep Howell WA4RTS got to work and contacted all the volunteers that had signed up for the week before and found that a large number of them could not participate due to other commitments. He put a call out to VARA members for assistance and within a couple of days, he was able to fill all the time slots that he needed to man the communications portion of the event. Jeff W4PJW, Bob K4DJG, Benny N4BCC and others helped him set up communications, trailers and tested repeaters and simplex frequencies to



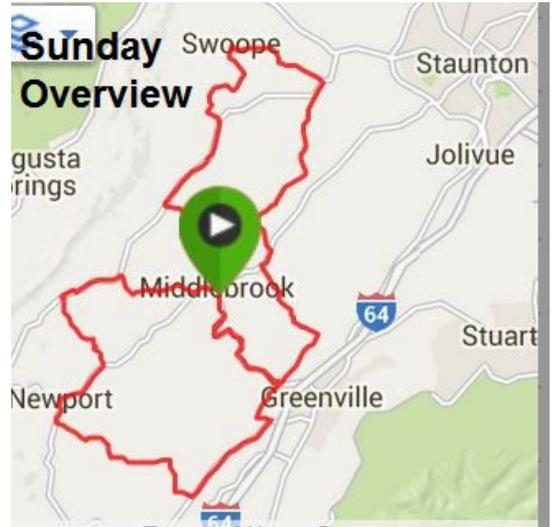
make sure all operators could relay the required information for the event.

Approximately 175 runners showed up to run the annual course and for 2 full days, stations called in reports and checked on runners. Many of the runners along with their support teams thanked the operators for their service. As with any event we are lucky to have a few new hams join the seasoned ones and 3 operators preformed with outstanding professionalism and earned praise from their peers. Scott KK4ZRF, TOM KM4LHR and John KB2LOZ were operating in their first community event as a new ham calling in reports like they had been amateur radio operators for years!!

It is with great pride that I recognize the following operators for this year's Grindstone 100 and THANK YOU all for your professionalism and dedicated service to the community.



Geep WA4RTS, Jeff W4PJW, Bob K4DJG, Benny N4BCC, Scott KK4ZRF, Tom KM4LHR, Glenn KJ4VVP, John KB2LOZ, Blake KF4TGA, Herb AA2BF, David KD4XX, Blake KF4TGA, Chuck N4TIU, Gordon WA4FJC, Matthew KD4UPL, Tim KM4FWL, David KV4JK, Richard KI4RIT and John W4ZAO



VETERANS DAY

November 10



CQ DX RTTY Contest Results

Jeffrey M. Rinehart W4PJW

I was on the air 14 hours out of the 48 hours possible and ran 100 watts as usual.

Band	QSOs	Pts	ZN	Cty	SP
3.5	77	101	7	10	28
7	64	125	12	25	25
14	89	226	13	42	15
21	40	91	9	23	6
Total	270	543	41	100	74

Score: 116,745



Here it is folks. Nothing to sneeze at.

Bnd	Q	Pt	Zn	Cty
10m	4	11	3	3
15m	25	51	12	14
20m	87	224	16	39
40m	71	132	8	23
Total	187	418	39	79

Score: 66,880 pts

Operated a total of 9 hrs to average 37.4 Q's/ hr. Not bad for 100 watts and a 4 band vertical. 10 meters was poor, and 15 didn't do anything until late. Tons of central and Eastern Europe, some SA and AL. Heard David get worked by a couple of stations. Could not get a run going for nothing, so H&P the whole contest. Worked DJ9IARU a couple times.

Butch
N5SMQ

Here are the stats on another part-time effort of mine:

Band	QSOs	Pts	Zones	Cty	SP
14	158	399	17	53	21
21	222	582	15	44	14
28	23	61	7	9	1
Total	403	1042	39	106	36

Score: 188,602
1 Mult = 2.2 Q's 404 QSOs

Equipment used: Kenwood TS-2000X(repaired after lightning strike)
Elecraft KPA-500 solid state amp
TA-33 HF beam at a whopping height of 20 feet!, N1MM+ software

Did not have time to get anything going for 40 and 80.

How did everyone else do?

73, David AD4TJ, RTTY Enthusiast!

How to Travel During a Winter Storm

If at all possible, you should not attempt to travel during a winter storm. If you absolutely must, however, follow these tips from the National Weather Service:

- Always have Emergency Supplies in the trunk of your car (see below).
- Keep your car's gas tank FULL.
- Always let someone know your destination, your route, any alternate routes you may take, and when you expect to arrive. If you don't check in at the expected time, they can send help along your routes.
- In addition to your mobile radio in the car, take along a hand-held for backup.
- As you drive, make mental notes of your progress, so if you become stuck you can report your exact location.

If you do get stuck,

- Stay with your car. No matter how tempting, do not, repeat, do not try to walk to safety during a winter storm.
- Radio your location and appraise the listener of your location and status. Ask the listener to check back with you on a set schedule. Run the engine while you are transmitting to avoid draining the battery.

- Start the car, and use the heater for about ten minutes every hour or so. Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow so that fumes don't back up into the car. Keep a window (on the opposite side of the car from which the wind is blowing) open a crack for fresh air. If you started with a full tank, you should have enough fuel to do this for at least 48-72 hours, long enough for rescuers to arrive.

- Leave the parking lights on while the engine is running so that you can be seen.
- As you sit, move your arms and legs to keep the blood circulating.

Always Keep an Emergency Kit in the Trunk of your Car. Make sure each car you drive has a disaster supplies kit containing:

- Blankets
- An Extra Set of dry Clothing wrapped in a plastic bag
- A shovel
- A supply of sand (water-softener salt is cheap and comes in bags) for weight and use as a traction enhancer.
- Jumper Cables
- Flares
- First Aid Kit
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- A small non-perishable food supply (candy bars, pop-top cans of Vienna sausage, crackers, or other non-perishables not affected by cold).
- A Brightly-Colored cloth to tie to the antenna if you get stuck.

From the NWS Skywarn Brochure



Sky Warn Winter Education: Measuring Snow



The SkyWarn program is not intended to provide regular, formal weather observations to the weather service. Rather, it is intended to provide reports of severe weather such as hail, heavy sleet, freezing rain, ice accumulations, and high winds. These phenomena should be reported immediately to the SkyWarn 1-800 number, or reported through the SkyWarn nets if activated during a blizzard or winter storm.

SkyWarn volunteers should avoid providing extraneous information such as snowfall and snow depth if they are not properly trained in how to measure such information.

Measuring snow is a serious business for official NOAA Cooperative Observers. These highly-trained individuals use very detailed and tightly-scheduled, carefully-controlled equipment and techniques to provide accurate and precise measurements for meteorologists and climatologists.

By contrast, however, most SkyWarn volunteers are not sufficiently trained or skilled at measuring snow to provide much useful weather data beyond reporting unusually severe conditions.

If properly trained, however, SkyWarn observers can enhance the usefulness of their observations by giving this information as a supplemental part of their severe weather report, or when requested by the activated SkyWarn net manager.

SEVERE WEATHER REPORTS

SkyWarn volunteers should report hail, heavy sleet, freezing rain, ice accumulations, and high winds. SkyWarn volunteers should become familiar with the difference between hail, which normally occurs during thunderstorms in the spring and summer, versus sleet, which often is much tinier, lighter, and occurs without thunder and lightning when the temperature is near or below freezing.

Freezing rain is rain that freezes once it contacts the cold surface of the ground or other objects.

Ice accumulation is measured by breaking off a piece of ice accumulating on an object, and measuring the thickness of the ice chunk to the nearest tenth of an inch. Ice accumulation measurements can be made once every three hours or when requested by SkyWarn net control.

When reporting the severe weather mentioned in the paragraphs above, SkyWarn volunteers should resist the urge to add extraneous information to their reports unless they know their measurements were taken in accordance with strict NOAA measurement techniques.

NOAA SNOW MEASUREMENTS

There are three measurements used by NOAA with respect to snow. The three measurements are made using different techniques.

The first measurement is called "Snowfall", the second is "Snow

Depth”, and the third is “Precipitation”. These three terms have very different meanings, and the numbers must be measured and reported correctly.

SNOWFALL

Regardless of what you hear on the radio or TV, or what your neighbors say, it is completely meaningless to report that “the storm dumped eight inches of snow on the city over the weekend.” That is NOT “Snowfall”.

Snowfall is the amount of snow which accumulates on a flat, white, level surface (called a “snowboard”) placed out in the open (away from obstructions such as buildings, trees, fences, decks, and lawn furniture) between periodic manual “clearing” operations.

To measure snowfall, you must use a flat, unbendable, hard surface, and it must be painted white.

The surface does not need to be very large: a single 12-inch by 12-inch square-foot piece of plywood will do nicely.

The board must be placed on the ground, flat and level, before the snow begins to fall, it helps if you place a tiny

flag, wire, or other marker next to the board so you can find it once snow has covered it up.

To take a “Snowfall” reading, use a ruler or hard tape measure calibrated in tenths of an inch. Snowfall is always measured to the nearest tenth of an inch. Stick the ruler down in the snow until it hits the snowboard surface, and take the reading at the surface of the snow. Do not lift the snowboard to take the reading, as moving the board will cause the snow to settle slightly.

Once you have taken your reading, write it down (human memory is notorious for its failures), and then pick the snowboard up and wipe it clean. Place the clean snowboard back down very carefully in a new location on TOP of the surface of the snow so that it is level. If necessary move your flag or marker to the new location.

Do not replace your snowboard in the hole where it originally was located. The snow from around the edges of the hole will collapse or blow back onto the snowboard and cause error in your next measurement. Make sure the new location is level, flat, and away from obstacles such as buildings, fences, trees, etc.

Snowfall readings should be taken once every six hours, or when snow has accumulated on the board close to four inches.

If readings are taken more often than every six hours, add the readings together to get a single six-hour snowfall total.

For example, if it is snowing very hard, and you record 4.1 inches after 3 hours, clear your board, and you then record another 2.4 inches after another 3 hours, you will report a six-hour snowfall total of $4.1 + 2.4$ inches, or 6.5 inches of snowfall for that six hour period.

Snowfall does not have to be reported every six hours. You can report a daily total, but a daily total must be for exactly 24 hours.

Use the word “Snowfall” when reporting the 6-hour or 24-hour snow measured in this way. You are also free to add up the measurements during an entire storm for a “storm total snowfall”.

Snow packs down as it accumulates, the sun causes melting and evaporation (sublimation), and wind blows snow away. So you can readily see that “Snowfall” cumulatively measured every six hours during a snowstorm is quite likely very different from the depth of snow that will be on the ground at the end of that snowstorm. It is actually possible for a storm to drop 12 inches of SNOWFALL, and yet only six to eight inches

of snow will be on the ground at the end of the storm.

Be clear: “Snowfall” is not the same as “snow depth”.

SNOW DEPTH

Snow depth is the amount of accumulated snow on the ground at the time of your observation. Snow depth observations are taken once per day. The measurement of snow depth includes not only new snow from the current storm, but also includes any old leftover snow from previous storms, ice, melted and refrozen snow, slush, sleet, etc.

Snow depth should be measured in undisturbed areas that have not been walked on, trodded upon, or otherwise disturbed by man or animals. To measure snow depth, walk around the undisturbed area sticking your ruler into the snow and measure from the bottom of the snow to the top. On a hard surface such as a driveway or sidewalk, this will give you snow depth. On grass, however, snow tends to stick to grass blades, and thus the ruler will measure the snow depth plus the gap between the bottom of the snow to the actual ground. Be sure you are measuring only the depth of accumulated snow and ice.

Do not take measurements in obvious drifts or piles of snow which have gathered along the edges of buildings, trees, buildings, etc. Measure only in open areas away from obstacles. Make numerous measurements, and average them.

Snow depth is always reported rounded to the nearest whole inch. “Snow depth” is measured and reported only once per day. It is possible to have a 24-hour snowfall total of 16.2 inches, for example, but only have a snow depth of 10 inches due to packing, melting, etc.

Similarly, if there was snow on the ground already before a snow storm — perhaps weeks old — it is possible for a station to report a snowfall of only 1.1 inches, but a snow depth of 42 inches.

PRECIPITATION

Precipitation is the water equivalent, measured during the 24-hour observation period. Very few SkyWarn volunteers will be willing to go to the trouble of reporting precipitation. Precipitation measurements are the least necessary of the three measurements, but are still important for cooperative observer stations to provide a continuous set of observations for climatological purposes.

Precipitation measurements requires a special rain gauge with a special snow accumulation tube built to go along with the rain gauge, and involves melting the snow accumulating in the tube over the past 24-hour observation period.

An amateur weather observer can obtain an approximation of the precipitation figure by using a very large rain gauge which allows accumulating of snow through a large (more than six square inches) opening, and then carefully melting the snow inside to obtain a water equivalent reading.

But it must be emphasized that unless the observer uses the official weather service-approved equipment, such measurements will not have official standing with NOAA and should not be provided during SkyWarn Reports.

VIDEO AVAILABLE ON-LINE

A good and informative video on snow measurement for cooperative stations can be found online at:

http://madis-data.noaa.gov/snow_video.html

Let’s hope that we don’t have to measure too much snow this winter.

Lecher Wires Demo

I have heard about lecher wires for years to determine the voltage peaks and nulls in an open wire transmission line but just saw this demo.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbVbMR6jmSI>

73 Gordon WA4FJC

Gordon—thanks for a bit of history. Few hams have been exposed to Lecher wires as a real demo of wavelength. It reminded me of a professor at Madison College about 1974. He had retired from teaching electronics at Bronx School of Science in NYC, and moved to Harrisonburg to teach several years at MC. He was known as Dr. Siggys—he set up longwires down the hall, and had students determine the wavelength of a "push-pull brute oscillator" crudely tuned somewhere. As I remember the peaks & nulls were about 4 ft. apart.

Jim, W4POL

Hello Gordon,

I remember at Bridgewater College in the late '50s that Physics Professor Lowell Heisey had another ham buddy Mark Myers, K4SAC, and I demonstrate lecher wires for the physics class. He knew that we were both hams and would have fun demonstrating to the class. In fact, his son Curtis later got his ticket as a result of our demonstration. We used my Heathkit DX-100 feeding the lecher wires at low power into a dummy load on the higher HF (20 meters and up) ham bands. We also had a world of war surplus equipment given to the college by the government for our utilization. We were in the hallway in the Bowman Hall Science Building. We used my HO gauge model train track around 60 feet long as the lecher lines. We used a home-brewed detector made up of a micro-ammeter, germanium diodes and mica capacitors all mounted on an HO gauge flat-bed railroad car. Worked quite well. Those were the days!

Thanks for sharing and 73,
Ellsworth, K4LXG

MakeFaires by Barnes & Noble

Excellent opportunity for any interested ham group to "strut-their-stuff"

Barnes & Noble Bookstores

All Barnes & Noble bookstores are hosting MakerFaires at their stores November 6-8. For those who may not be familiar with the MakerFaire movement, it caters to electronic hobbyists and Do-It-Yourselfers (DIY). Many MakerFaire participants enjoy robotics and 3D printing, and MakerFaire fairs are a natural for STEM educational outreach (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math). Some of your local clubs may be hosting a booth or doing a demo or two at a B&N. One suggestion I heard was to supply parts and solder to help build a simple HDTV antenna. The recipient gets a take-a-way and learns more about Amateur Radio. More info at:

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/blog/announcing-the-barnes-noble-mini-maker-faire-november-6-8-2015>

Roger, N1XP

Safety Tips from Red Cross

Bitter cold temperatures and snow are hitting two-thirds of the country, exposing people to dangerously frigid weather and causing home heating systems to work overtime to keep everyone warm. The American Red Cross is urging people to use caution when heating their homes in these cold conditions and offers way to stay safe during the deep freeze.

HOME FIRE SAFETY – Seven times a day, someone in this country dies in a home fire. Heating fires are the second leading cause of these fires which occur more often as cold weather sets in and people turn on their heating system. The Red Cross has launched a [nation-wide campaign](#) to reduce the number of home fire deaths and injuries by 25 percent over the next five years

Heating a home can be expensive. Almost half of the families in the United States use alternate heating sources such as space heaters, fireplaces, or coal or wood stoves to cut costs while staying warm. These supplemental heating sources can be dangerous if not used properly. The Red Cross offers the following safety tips on how to prevent heating fires:

- Keep all potential sources of fuel like paper, clothing, bedding, curtains or rugs at least three feet away from space heaters, stoves, or fireplaces.
- Don't leave portable heaters and fireplaces unattended. Turn off space heaters and make sure any embers in the fireplace are extinguished before going to bed or leaving home.
- Place space heaters on a level, hard and nonflammable surface (such as ceramic tile floor), not on rugs or carpets or near bedding or drapes. Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
- When buying a space heater, look for models that shut off automatically if the heater falls over.

- Never use a cooking range or oven to heat your home.
- Use a glass or metal fire screen to keep your fire in your fireplace. Make sure it's large enough to catch sparks and rolling logs.
- Have wood and coal stoves, fireplaces, chimneys, and furnaces professionally inspected and cleaned once a year.

WINTER STORM SAFETY – Wear layers of lightweight clothing to stay warm during cold weather, as well as gloves and hat. Other safety steps include the following:

- Bring pets indoors. If that's not possible, make sure they have enough shelter to keep them warm and that they can get to unfrozen water.
- If you lose power, go to a designated public shelter to stay warm.
- Avoid driving in sleet, freezing rain, snow or dense fog. If you have to travel, keep a disaster supplies kit in the car.
- Check on your elderly neighbors. Help those who may need special assistance, including people with disabilities and children.
- Before tackling strenuous tasks such as shoveling snow, consider your physical condition.
- Know the signs of hypothermia - confusion, dizziness, exhaustion and severe shivering. If someone has these symptoms, they should get immediate medical attention.
- Watch for symptoms of frostbite including numbness, flushed gray, white, blue or yellow skin discoloration, numbness or waxy feeling skin.

– American Red Cross



Prelude to the Fall Foliage Bike Festival

Date: Tue, 22 Sep 2015 15:13:56 -0400
Subject: Bike Festival radio support
From: wa3eoq@gmail.com
To: eaglehiker@hotmail.com

Hello John,

I'm planning on riding in the Shenandoah Fall Foliage Bike Festival (based in Staunton) in mid October. Their web site states that the Valley Amateur Radio Assn provides radio support. However, the link provided takes you to the SVARC in the Winchester area. I thought this was sort of weird and asked one of their members about supporting the ride; they know nothing about it.

Is your VARA the club that supports this ride? If so, I'd like to know the frequencies you'll be using. Also, if VARA is in fact the correct club, you may want to contact the webmaster for the ride and get the link corrected. It's under the Routes tab.

73,
Howard
WA3EOQ

Thanks for information. I was not informed that the information was on their website. I will email you the freq in the next couple of days and check out the info on their site and get it corrected.

John keller w4zao
President vara

Date: Thu, 15 Oct 2015 16:01:13 -0400
Subject: Re: Bike Festival radio support
From: wa3eoq@gmail.com
To: eaglehiker@hotmail.com

Hi John,
What frequency/repeater will VARA be using for the Bike Festival?
Thanks.
Howard
WA3EOQ

On Thu, Oct 15, 2015 at 6:26 PM, John Keller <eaglehiker@hotmail.com> wrote:

Hi Howard, we will be using the following:
Saturday- 146.850 primary 131.8 tone on all repeaters
147.225 + secondary
146.490 simplex

Sunday - 147.045 + primary
147.075 + secondary
146.490 simplex

Are you helping out this weekend or just want to listen in on the event? John W4ZAO

From: Howard Reynolds <wa3eoq@gmail.com>
Date: 10/15/2015 7:46 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: John Keller <eaglehiker@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: Bike Festival radio support

Hi John,
Thanks for the info. My wife, myself and a few friends from Western MD will be riding in the event, most likely in the 35 mile ride on Saturday. I'll have my HT along in case assistance is needed by anyone along the route.
Howard
WA3EOQ

From: Howard Reynolds <wa3eoq@gmail.com>
Date: 10/18/2015 9:33 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: John Keller <eaglehiker@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: Bike Festival radio support

On Thu, Oct 15, 2015 at 7:49 PM, John Keller <eaglehiker@hotmail.com> wrote:

Ok,Howard,thats great. Give me a call,as I will be operating NET control. Be safe..John W4ZAO

Hi John,
Really had a nice ride on Saturday and met several of your team while riding the Green route. As you know, the Ham network came in very handy as one of my group's riders needed SAG assistance. She had injured her leg earlier in the week but tried to ride anyway. However, she found out early on that it wasn't going to work and had to drop out only about 4 miles into the Green course. A call to your network brought two SAG vehicles to help within minutes. Before I made the radio call, a cell call to the race coordinator's number in our orientation package was not answered and went to a full mailbox! So Ham Radio saved the day (again).

All this will definitely be put in the survey.

Thanks again for covering the event.

Howard
WA3EOQ

Fall Foliage Bike Festival 2015

Autumn is in the air and with the leaves turning colors it was time again for the Shenandoah Fall Foliage Bike Festival . This year marked the 25th anniversary of the event and the VARA and MARA members stepped up once again to provide the communications for the event.

With 5 routes for the Saturday ride, one being 100 miles long, and 6 routes on Sunday, with one being 100 miles, the Valley hams once again proved that they can communicate anywhere while also providing SAG for those who needed a much needed lift to a rest stop or to the bike shop to get their bikes back on the course.

Jeff W4PJW provided the race director Dave Walsh with transportation around all the courses and to provide updates on traffic issues and other important information. Saturday proved to be a very busy day with over 25 flat tires, a call for an ambulance for an injured woman and many SAGS for tired riders and a call to the Sheriff's office for a not so friendly doggy chasing the riders.



Sunday on the other hand was uneventful and was welcome by all the volunteer hams as most had worked an 8 hour day on Saturday and also on Sunday.

The festival organizers provided the hams with a free lunch and a beautiful long sleeve shirt for their service.



The following hams once again proved that in a community event and I know in an emergency situation can always be counted on to provide communications when asked. THANK YOU all for volunteering and making my job as NET control operator much easier (if I could only learn to key a mike properly).

I hope you all had a great time and enjoyed the beautiful weather we had and the scenery wasn't bad either.

Benny N4BCC, Bob K4DJG, Jeff W4PJW, John KB2LOZ, Gordon WA4FJC and his granddaughter, daughter and son-in-law, Charlie N4LNU, Ed N4EDI, Glenn KJ4VVP, Gary KI4FZV, Steve KI4CGI and wife, Rodney K4DOD, Ellsworth K4LXG, Bryan K4RMY, Ray KE4HVR, Greg W4GRC, Tom KM4LHR, E.C. KK4KUR, Scott KK4ZRF, Richard AA4RH

John Keller W4ZAO



PVARC Treasurer's Report

21 September 2015 to 20 October 2015

Beginning Balance	21 September 2015		916.25
Income	Dues	84.00	
	Donations	<u>671.00</u>	
	Total Deposits		755.00
Expenses	Misc	<u>0.00</u>	
	Total Disbursements		0.00
Ending Balance	20 October 2015		1,671.25



Submitted by John Spillman, KT4CB, Treasurer

PVARC Secretary's Report

Friday October 2, 2015

The **Page Valley Amateur Radio Club** held its regular monthly meeting at the Page County Sheriff's Training Room in Luray. The Vice-President, **Morgan Phenix, K4RHD** brought the meeting to order at 1630Hrs. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Nine members and seven guests were in attendance. Introductions were made all around. No 50/50 drawing occurred.

Secretary's Report: **John, KT4CB** asked that the report as published in the **Monitor** be accepted. It was approved and seconded as published.

Treasurer's Report: Temporary Treasurer **Morgan, K4RHD** gave the treasurer's report. It was approved and seconded as given. He mentioned he had not brought the receipt book or the 50/50 tickets with him.

Committee Reports:

Web site: **Morgan, K4RHD** mentioned the web site was looking good. **John, KT4CB** announced to the new members about the web site and the URL to get to it.

Education and Training: **Morgan, K4RHD**, Morgan to represent club at World of Work Career Expo for 7th graders in Winchester on October 21st and 22nd.

Program Committee: **Zory, KB3VQC, Morgan, K4RHD:** Nothing to report.

Emergency Communications Committee: **Mark, N4YSA** explained to the membership activation of **ARES** occurred earlier in the day and was the reason the equipment in the room was on and being monitored. The activation would continue through the night and into the next day. The three Rescue Squads in Stanley, Luray and Shenandoah would be manned by 0800Hrs on Saturday by **ARES** members from within the club.

Old Business:

Nominations for Treasurer to replace **Paul, KK4IRS** was put forth with no takers. After a explanation given to the membership on the need to replace the current treasurer,

er, **Morgan, K4RHD** nominated **John, KT4CB** who accepted the nomination. The nomination was seconded, and the vote was unanimous to accept him as Treasurer. Also an Assistant Treasurer position was discussed and accepted by the membership. It was filled by **Juergen Lunkowitz, KC3DWU**. Morgan will finalize any funds received at the current meeting, provide receipts to the specified members for dues and donations, and complete the Treasurer hand-over by next meeting.

New Business:

A vote on membership for **Joseph Bowman, No Call, Marvin and Gail Hearell, AD4VA & KG4DGG** respectively, **Juergen Lunkowitz, KC3DWU, Robert Shehane, KM4LHR** and **B Snellinger, KM4CKD** was unanimous to accept them for membership.

Paul, KK4IRS made a motion to support 100% the KQ4D repeater in the amount of \$500.00 from current and future donations. Seconded and approved. A side note that was mentioned – without the 146.625 repeater, there would be no coverage for the Page Valley area.

A lively open discussion for funding followed. The need for donations were detailed in that we need \$250 for Field Day for 2016; \$300 for liability Insurance due by March 1st and funds in the range of \$2,000.00 for an EMCOMM trailer need was discussed.

Matching donation commitments from Pioneer Bank for \$1,000 with no expiration date and from another undisclosed source with the expiration date of 31 DEC 2015 was mentioned.

A discussion of raising dues to \$20/year was brought up and tabled after being discussed; no motion to increase dues presented at this time.

With no more business to discuss, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted, **John Spillman, KT4CB**, Secretary



MARA Secretary's Report

Thursday October 1, 2015

Meeting called to order at Wood Grill, Harrisonburg, by President **Gerald Nauman, KN4FM**, at 7:33 p.m. 24 members and 5 guests were present. Introductions were made all around.

New Members: Robert (Tom) Shehane (KM4LHR) and Donald Hurst (KM4MVA) were voted in unanimously. Welcome, Donald and Tom!

The Secretary's Minutes for last month's meeting were approved as published in the Monitor.

The Treasurer's Report for September was approved as published in the Monitor.

Committee Reports:

ARES: Jim Junkins (ECC Director) says ARES should "be ready to jump" from Sunday night through Tuesday A.M., using 147.335, 145.130 and 146.625 repeaters, plus several 2-meter simplex frequencies. Sign ups requested if willing to help.

Repeaters: A new Yaesu D1X 440MHz analogue/digital (P25) repeater, at the bargain price of \$500, has been ordered by Lawrence Harrison (K3JRR) and Bob VanFossen (K4DJG), to replace the existing 440 repeater when received. The sale price is conditional on the unit being put in service for at least one year.

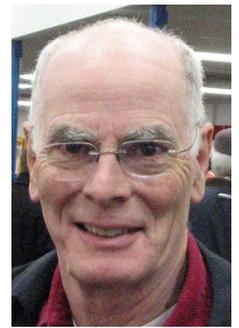
Volunteer Examiner (VE) Committee: No report.

Public Service: the Shenandoah 500 motorcycle event was cancelled by the Washington National Forest Service because of the recent heavy rains. Secretary's note: The Grindstone 100 event was also canceled, but was rescheduled and held on the next weekend.

Announcements: The December MARA meeting will be held on the **2nd Thursday, Dec. 10**, at Wood Grill in Harrisonburg. Both rooms are reserved.

Gayle Shull says DMV still won't accept a printed ham license for application for a call sign vanity plate., but insists on a letter from the FCC instead. We should write Sen. Obenshain

to explain the problem and request his influence to remove that restriction, at least for hams who are still holding valid printed FCC licenses.



Old Business:

Club Clothing: Latest information from **Bryan Daniels (K4RMY)**, Re Club polo shirts: We need at least 5 more orders at the time of this meeting, to meet the agreed-upon price.

The minimum initial order for this price is 25. MARA will pay the total cost for the initial order, with individuals paying up front, or as the shirts they ordered come in. Sign up with Bryan right away, if you haven't already!

Repeater Donations: **David Fordham (KD9LA)** moved that MARA donate \$50 each to six local, privately owned repeater groups. Motion was seconded and carried.

New Business: The Nominating Committee (Gerald Nauman and David Fordham) presented its slate of officers for 2016: President: **Andrew Pearson (N4RCE)**, Vice President: **Bryan Daniels (K4RMY)**, Treasurer: **Foster Farone (WF4O)**, Secretary: **Herbert Slade (AA2BF)**, and Board Member: **Jim Franklin (W4SIU)**

These ran unopposed, and were elected unanimously.

Program Committee: Herb Slade moved that a program committee be formed, to share the responsibility with the Vice President for finding post-meeting MARA programs. The Vice President would also act as facilitator. After discussion, motion was seconded and carried. Bob Dixon (W8HGH), who made the suggestion, has volunteered to be the first on this committee! Thanks, Bob.

50/50 Drawing: \$25 collected, with \$12.50 won by Teri Henderson (KT4UO). \$12.50 went to the MARA Treasury.

Motion to adjourn: Passed at 8:23 p.m.

Program: No program

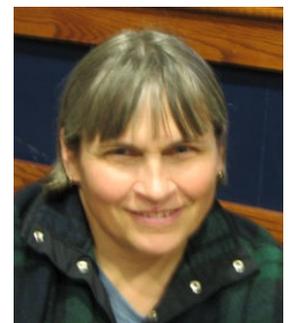
Respectively submitted, **Herb Slade, AA2BF**, Secretary

MARA Treasurer's Report

MARA Treasurer's Report
September 21, 2015 - October 20, 2015

Beginning Balance September 20, 2015 (Last Report)		\$ 2,005.14
Add: October 50/50	\$ <u>12.50</u>	
	Total Deposits	\$ 12.50
Less: Annual Insurance	\$ -216.00	
Bank Fee (Sept)	-16.00	
SVEC (Sept)	<u>-22.14</u>	
	Total Disbursements	\$ <u>-254.14</u>
Ending Balance as of October 20, 2015		\$ 1,763.50

Submitted by Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC, MARA Treasurer



VARA Secretary's Report

October 6, 2015, was the date that the VARA club had their monthly meeting. President John **Keller, W4ZAO**, opened the meeting at 7:01 pm, and asked that the 22 people present introduce them-selves. There was no 50/50 drawing.

ARES report: David Tanks AD4TJ, EC for Augusta County, reminded us that hurricane season was just about over, but we still need to be prepared. The monthly net would be held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, on the 146.850 repeater, with Net Control to be determined.

Secretary report: David AD4TJ, asked that the minutes be approved as printed in the newsletter; seconded and passed.

Treasurer's report: John gave the report for treasurer **Greg Czerniak W4GRC**; seconded and passed.

Events: John reminded us that the Grindstone 100 is this coming weekend, Oct. 9 and 10th, and that more volunteers are needed, as the event was postponed from the previous weekend due to the heavy rainfall, and some hams who had volunteered for that weekend could not reschedule to help out this weekend. The club was asked that the club call of W4XD be allowed to be used for the Grindstone event(by Geep Howell WA4RTS, from Lynchburg, who is heading up the hams and communications for the event). Seconded and passed.

November Frequency Measuring Test

ARRL (and non-ARRL) Frequency Measuring Tests

November 2015 Frequency Measuring Test Format and Schedule

The format for the Frequency Measuring Test (FMT) is a simple single-frequency exercise on 40/80/160 meters with a single transmitting station - K5CM - centrally located in Oklahoma.

Measure the transmitted frequency and report your results at the website provided by WA7BNM: www.b4h.net/fmt/.

If you used a "vintage" method or equipment to measure the transmitted frequency, be sure to begin the description portion of your results with "Vintage".

The FMT will begin on 40 meters near 7064 kHz at 10:00 PM EST on Wednesday evening November 11 in North America (0300 UTC, November 12th, in Europe). You may need to tune around to find the FMT signal if necessary for K5CM to avoid

Fall Foliage Bike Festival: is the weekend of Oct. 17 and 18, with about 700 bikers expected to participate. The route has been moved back to the Stokesville area.

The club Christmas Banquet was discussed; after some discussion on the options available, the club voted to hold a joint banquet with MARA, if they would have us again.



Officer elections: John reminded us that officer elections will be next month, and asked if those holding present offices would be willing to serve again; **Ed Varner N4EDI**, agreed to be Vice President again, and David agreed to serve as Secretary for another year. President and Treasurer will be determined at the November meeting.

Contests: David reported that the Japanese Amateur Radio Teleprinter Society(JARTS) RTTY contest is the weekend of 17 and 18; the South Dakota QSO Party is the same weekend; the ARRL School Club Roundup is the week of the 19th; and the CQ WW SB Contest is the weekend of the 24th.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Geep Howell WA4RTS, from Lynchburg, gave a talk on the history of the Grindstone 100 , and the plan on covering the footrace this year.

Respectfully submitted,

David Tanks AD4TJ, VARA Secretary

interference or interfering with other contacts.

40 Meters near 7064 kHz
10:00 call up (3 min)
10:03 key down 2 min)
10:05 end announcement

80 Meters near 3598 kHz
10:15 call up (3 min)
10:18 key down (2min)
10:20 end announcement

160 Meters near 1840 kHz
10:30 call up (3 min)
10:33 key down (2 min)
10:35 end announcement

Results must be submitted by 0300 UTC on November 15, at which time the results will be published at the website.

Ham Radio Etiquette

This article was copied from the November 2003 Grounded Grid newsletter, Wichita, Ks, and was written by Bob McHugh (N4BM).

Congratulations on your new ham license.

We understand that getting on the air can be a bit intimidating. Don't worry; we all were new hams once. Take the time to listen to the various repeaters. In general, following these simple guidelines go a long way toward making you sound like a seasoned pro. When you talk on the radio, talk like you were talking to someone across the table, not across town or across the country. Use English and avoid jargon as much as possible. Q-codes are really a Morse code short hand. They have their place when voice communications are marginal. Say, "My wife" rather than the "xyl". Avoid falling into the habit of using cuteness.

"Roger Roger", "QSL on that". Speak like you were talking to someone face to face. Key the mike, AND THEN start to talk. Don't start speaking as you key the mike.

A number of repeaters have a short delay before transmitting. If you start speaking too soon, your first few words may not be heard. Also, make sure you have finished talking before you un-key the mike. Give your call sign clearly, and slowly. You worked hard to get your call, so say it clearly and proudly.

Avoid phonetics unless you are asked to do so. When using phonetics, use standard phonetics: "Alpha, Bravo, Charlie"... etc. Trying to decipher "King Charlie Zero Jam-



boree Xylophone Freeloader", for KCØJXF is difficult.

If you are listening and would like to have a conversation, just give your call sign. You can add "monitoring", or "listening", but there isn't any real reason to. Using the term "CQ" on a repeater is generally discouraged.

When you wish to communicate on a frequency, listen for a while before talking, there may be a conversation in progress. If you want to join into a conversation, just give your call between transmissions rather than using the term "Break Break". You will be acknowledged and allowed into the conversation. If you want to talk to a certain person, call him using his call several times, then your call several times.

Many hams have their radios scanning several repeaters. If your call to someone is too short, the scanner may not pick it up. People are not always at the radio when called, so give them time to get to the radio. If you have an emergency, give your call and say "emergency" rather than using "Break Break". Saying "emergency" will make it clear why you are interrupting and it will also get more attention from those just listening.

Make sure you ID according to the rules, but avoid over ID'ing. If you are using a repeater system,

the repeater has a timer so that it can ID every 10 minutes. Whenever you hear the repeater ID, that is a good time to send yours. There is no need to send your call sign, and then say "For ID". Your call sign IS your ID.

The term "73", is pronounced "Seven Three". It is a Morse code term that has found its way into voice communications. The term means "Best Regards" so saying "Seventy Threes" or "Seven Three's" is a bit like saying "Best Regardsss". The term "88" is pronounced "Eighty-Eight" and means "Hugs and Kisses", so be careful who you send "88" to.

It is generally frowned upon to "Ker-chunk" a repeater. That means keying up your radio for just a moment so that the repeater transmits, usually you hear the "courtesy beep" afterwards. This is also annoying to the repeater owners and control operators.

If you want to make sure you are transmitting okay, make sure you give your call sign. (When you push the push to talk button, you are making a transmission. Remember, to follow the 10 minute rule for identifying your transmissions.)

Have fun. These are just a few pointers to help you sound like an old pro. Enjoy the hobby and remember, no matter what happens on the air, always be nicer than the other guy. Joining a local radio club and having access to the clubs repeater will make the hobby more rewarding. You will make many friends.

Do not be afraid to ask questions. We were all just beginners at one time.



November 3rd



Page County Va. ARES Frequencies

<u>Repeaters</u>	<u>Simplex</u>
146.625 131.8	Page ARES Channel 1 146.55
146.670 114.8	" " 2 146.40
443.350 203.5	" " 3 146.45
	" " 4 146.50
	" " 5 147.45

ARES Contacts

Mark Hensley	EC	N4YSA	540-578-1133	n4ysa@gmx.com
Morgan Phenix	AEC	K4RHD		phenix@centurylink.net
Bob Forrest		AEC	WO4MI	wo4mi@arrl.net

Call Up Procedure

Call up for the Page County ARES members will be via 146.625R & Page ARES Channel 1. 146.55 simplex. You will be advised of the emergency and you assignment. In the event of power loss, inclement weather or other emergency, monitor the Call up frequencies at the top of the hour.

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!**

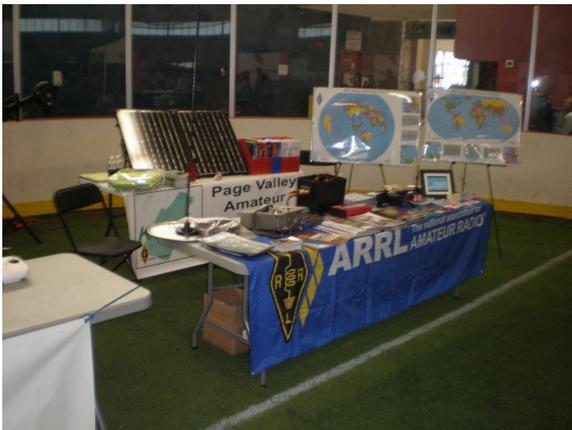
The **VSBN (Virginia Sideband Net)** meets daily on 3.947 kHz at 6:00 PM local time. **All hams are welcome!**

Worlds of Work Expo

By Morgan Phenix, K4RHD

Winchester, VA—over 2,500 7th graders from the LFCC service region middle schools attended the Worlds of Work Expo on the 20th and the 21st of this month.

Some got on the air, courtesy of the Bluemont repeater, WA4TSC, and local hams who answered our call.





Operations Approved for DXCC Credit

The following operations have been approved for DXCC Credit: Chesterfield Islands, TX3X, 2015 operation; Albania, ZA1KS, 2015 operation.

How's DX

LZ - Bulgaria: The Bulgarian Radio Club Blagovestnik (LZ1KCP) offers a new All Saints 2015 award, honouring Bulgarian Saints with the following special event calls:

January - LZ290MB	February - LZ550SI
March - LZ386SKI	April - LZ883PI
May - LZ102SIB	June - LZ293MA
July - LZ429PS	August - LZ250MM
September - LZ129WNLS	Oktober - LZ130SAK
November - LZ259PA	Dezember - LZ362MT

LZ290MB honours the memory of the martyr Boniface. QSL via bureau, LZ1KCP (d).

EI, Ireland: EI90IARU celebrates IARU's jubilee until the **end of the year**. QSL via EI6AL (d/B), ClubLog.

HI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. Brian, ND3F, will be active as HI3W (pending) from Dominican Republic between **November 23rd and December 3rd**. Activity will be on the HF bands and including the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 28-29th) as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. QSL via his home call sign.

JT - Special event station JV150ITU is active **until 31 December** from Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the International Telecommunication Union. QSL via LoTW or direct to JT1CD. [TNX JT1CD] [za2ee.htm](#)

OK, Czech Republic: OL750CB celebrates the 750th anniversary of Ceske Budjovice on the air and with an award until the **year's end**. QSL via bureau, eQSL.

OM - SLOVAK REPUBLIC, Special event station OM200TC is QRV during 2015. QSL via operators' instructions.

S5, Slovenia: Van, S59AV, celebrates his 30 years in amateur radio with the call S530AZV until the year's end. QSL via S59AV (d/B).

ST. HELENA, ZD7. Oliver, W6NV will be QRV as ZD7W from

October 15 to **November 2**. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via operator's instructions.

AUSTRIA, OE. Members of the Vienna International Amateur Radio Club are QRV as 4U7OVIC until the **end of the year** to commemorate the United Nation's 70th anniversary. QSL via 4U1VIC.

CHAD, TT. Pierre, HB9AMO plans to be QRV as TT8AMO beginning mid-month and lasting until the **middle of November**. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW with some SSB. QSL direct via MOURX.

BENIN, TY. Nicolas, F8FQX is QRV as TY2SN for the next three years. Activity is on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL direct via IZ1BZV.

5Z - Kenya - Look for Manfred/DK1BT, Wolf/DL4WK, Sigi/DL7DF, Reiner/DL7KL and Frank/DL7UFR to be active from Kenya as 5Z4HW on 4-18 November. They will operate CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31 on 160-6 metres with two stations. QSL via DL7DF, direct or bureau, and LoTW "within six months after the DXpedition". OQRS and further information on [www.dl7df.com](#).

DL_ant - Neumayer III - A couple of amateur radio operators will be working at the German Antarctic station Neumayer III and be QRV in their spare time. Felix, DL5XL will operate mainly CW as DP1POL (QSL via DL1ZBO, direct or bureau, and LoTW) from November through February 2016; Marcus, DL1MH will operate mainly SSB as DPOGVN (QSL via DL5EBE) from December to February 2017. [TNX DX World]

IOTA News

AF-003 - ZD8 - Oliver, W6NV will be active as ZD8W from Ascension Island (AF-003) **between 6 November and 4 December**, including an entry in the CQ WW DX CW Contest. QSL via W6NV and LoTW. [TNX NG3K]

AF-004—ED8, CANARY ISLANDS. An international contest

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.

team will be active as ED8X from Tenerife Island (IOTA AF-004, DIE S-012, WLOTA 1276, EAA TF) during the CQWW DX CW Contest (**November 28-29th**) as a Multi-Single entry. Operators mentioned are Alexey/RA1A, Vladimir/RW1A, Krasimir/K1LZ, Paul/K1XM, YL Charlotte/KQ1F, Velimir/K3JO, Andrey/LZ2HM, hoigonjav/JT1CO, Ionut/YO9WF and Tiberiu/YO9GZU. QSL via LoTW or RN3RQ.

AF-090 - Sainte-Marie Island - 5R - Once again Eric, F6ICX will be active as 5R8IC from Sainte-Marie Island (AF-090) **from 1 November to 12 December**. He will operate mainly CW, with some RTTY, BPSK and SSB on 40-10 metres. QSL via F6ICX, direct or bureau, and LoTW. Logsearch and OQRS on Club Log.

EU-063—JW - Erik, LA2US will be working on Hopen Island (**EU-063**), Svalbard from the **first week of June for six**

months. "When work and other tasks permit" he will operate CW as JW2US, Around the IOTA frequencies or at the lower band edges. QSL via LA2US (OQRS for bureau and direct cards on Club Log), LoTW and eQSL.

OC-035 - Vanuatu - YJ - Barry, VK2BJ will be active again as YJOB from Port Vila (OC-035), Vanuatu on **2-16 November**. He will operate CW and SSB on 80-6 metres. QSL via VK2BJ (direct only), LoTW and eQSL. Logsearch on Club Log. [TNX DX World]

OC-148, OC-151, OC-241—IOTA TOUR. Adhi (Bimbo), YB3MM, will activate the following islands in the Nusa Tenggara Timur Region as YB3MM/9 **between November 18-23rd: Timor Island (OC-148), Rote Island (OC-241) and Savu Island (OC-151)**. There is a possibility some other operators may join Adhi on this trip. See QRZ.com for QSL info.

Contests & QSO Parties

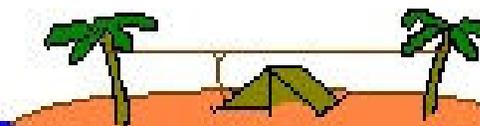
For more details and information, go to:

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

- 1 High Speed Club CW Contest
- 3 ARS Spartan Sprint
- 4 QRP Fox Hunt
- 4 Phone Fray
- 4 UKEICC 80m Contest
- 4-5 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 5 NRAU 10m Activity Contest
- 6 QRP Fox Hunt
- 6 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 6 NCCC Sprint
- 7 IPARC Contest, CW
- 7-8 SKCC Weekend Sprintathon
- 7-8 Ukrainian DX Contest
- 8 IPARC Contest, SSB
- 8 EANET Sprint
- 8 DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest
- 7-9 NA Collegiate ARC Championship
- 7-9 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW
- 11 QRP Fox Hunt
- 11 Phone Fray
- 11 RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB
- 11-12 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 13 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 13 QRP Fox Hunt
- 13 NCCC Sprint
- 14-15 WAE DX Contest, RTTY
- 14-15 10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital
- 14-15 JIDX Phone Contest



- 14-15 OK/OM DX Contest, CW
- 14-15 Kentucky QSO Party
- 15 Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment Party
- 14-16 CQ-WE Contest
- 16 Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
- 18 QRP Fox Hunt
- 18 Phone Fray
- 18-19 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 19 NAQCC CW Sprint
- 20 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 20 QRP Fox Hunt
- 20 NCCC Sprint
- 20 YO International PSK31 Contest
- 21 Feld Hell Sprint
- 21-22 SARL Field Day Contest
- 21-22 LZ DX Contest
- 21-22 All Austrian 160-Meter Contest
- 21-22 RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz Contest, CW
- 21-23 NA Collegiate ARC Championship, SSB
- 21-23 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB
- 25 SKCC Sprint
- 25 Phone Fray
- 25 UKEICC 80m Contest
- 25-26 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 26 RSGB 80m Club Sprint, CW
- 27 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 27 NCCC Sprint
- 28-29 ARRL EME Contest
- 28-29 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW





N4VZC, Phyllis Haxton, 6 October 2015

Hugh Pettis, K3EC in Staunton, just relayed to me that Richard Haxton, KC3AN, reports that his wife Phyllis, N4VZC, became a silent key early this morning around 3:00 a.m.

Phyllis and Richard both were very active in the valley amateur radio community, and almost always were the first to volunteer for public service events. I have worked many events with them. One of their favorites was the Camp Still Meadows horse ride coming up next weekend. Phyllis served as secretary for MARA at one point. Richard had been checking into the Sunday night Augusta County Mercury Net regularly until just a couple of weeks ago.

Many of you know that Phyllis has been in declining health for the past couple of years following major injuries from a fall down the stairs. They have been at Brookdale in Staunton (formerly Emeritus) for about six months now. I last visited Richard 2 weeks ago and he said at the time that he didn't think Phyllis would last much longer.

There is no word yet on the scheduling of services, but since they lived in Harrisonburg for many years, it might be held there. If anyone hears anything about the date or time, please reply.

Thanks to Hugh for this QST. By Dave, KD9LA

A Tribute

Phyllis Haxton, N4VZC 1927 – 2015

Phyllis, a long-time member of the Bible Fellowship Net, one always paired with husband Dick, KC3AN, at Bible Hamfests from our earliest years, passed on to Glory October 2, after years of lingering and severe illness. She suffered a serious fall in 2007 from which she never fully recovered. But, she soldiered on through 2009, to wrap up 128 study session check-ins with us. Her Isaiah 52:7x100 certificate was presented to her at 1999's Bible Hamfest (BHF-29,

Ashboro, NC, in May). Among her contributions to the BFN were several Bible Hamfest video recordings, including the entire BHF-22 at Newport News in 1992 (no. 61 in my video library). She and Dick were our hosts at the 2005 Bible Hamfest (no. 35) at Massanetta Springs VA.

Despite frequent moves over the years of the BFN, from Maryland to Virginia she and Dick were always active in the local amateur radio scene Phyllis was one of the rare YL ops on the Harri-

sonburg, VA, local 2M emergency net (ARES) as well as our 75m BFN. Folks so associated with Phyllis and Dick on the air were well represented at her memorial service October 9, at First Presbyterian Church in Harrisonburg. Gerry, K4RBZ, Paul, W4PFM, and myself with our XYLs flew the BFN banner. Children and grandchildren were present at the Memorial including son Calvin and daughter Audrey who appear as youngsters in our 1976 BFN group photo of BHF-6 at Camp Hebron, PA,

What Scripture best accompanies Phyllis in our hearts and minds now? Proverbs 31:10 springs to mind:

“An excellent wife who can find? She is more precious than jewels.”

Over so many past years, Phyllis has been precious to so many – never to be forgotten, and treasured for an eternal fellowship in Him whose return (with her in hand) is an absolute certainty.

Hugh, K3EC

FROSTFEST

The Mid-Atlantic's
Largest Winter Hamfest!

We are officially kicking off Frostfest 2016! The largest hamfest in the Mid-Atlantic will be held on Saturday, February 6, 2016 at the Richmond Raceway Complex.

www.frostfest.com is the place to find all the information about this great hamfest! Sales are open!

Many of your favorite vendors are already committed, and there will be more to come. Get a table or two and sell your excess equipment. Check out all the details at www.frostfest.com

Cabling Problems

<http://arstechnica.com/gadgets/2015/09/help-there-is-a-seething-mass-of-snakes-under-my-desk/>

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

Calendar of Local Events

November

- 1 Page County ARES Net (146.55 Simplex)
- 2 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 KHz)
- 2 Rockingham County ARES Net (KU4XN)
- 3 VARA Club Meeting**
- 3 ELECTION DAY**
- 5 MARA Club Meeting [Elections]**
- 6 PVARC Club Meeting**
- 6 Friday Luncheon
- 8 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL-131.8)
- 9 Rockingham County ARES Net (K4LXG)
- 10 VETERANS DAY**
- 13 Friday Luncheon
- 15 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL-131.8)
- 16 Rockingham County ARES Net (WF4O)
- 16 Old Dominion Emergency Net [3.947]
- 20 Deadline for December newsletter submission***
- 20 Friday Luncheon
- 22 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL-131.8)
- 23 Rockingham County ARES Net (K4RBZ)
- 26 THANKSGIVING**
- 27 Friday Luncheon
- 28 Page Valley ARES Class
- 29 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL-131.8)
- 30 Rockingham County ARES Net (KA4EEN)



December

- 4 PVARC Club Meeting**
- 4 Friday Luncheon
- 6 Page County ARES Net (146.55 Simplex)
- 7 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 KHz)
- 7 Rockingham County ARES Net (K4NRA)
- 10 MARA/VARA Christmas Banquet ?**
- 11 Friday Luncheon
- 13 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL-131.8)
- 14 Rockingham County ARES Net (KN4FM)
- 14 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 KHz)
- 18 Friday Luncheon
- 20 Deadline for January newsletter submission***
- 20 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL-131.8)
- 21 Rockingham County ARES Net (K4MIC)
- 21 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 KHz)
- 24 CHRISTMAS EVE**
- 25 CHRISTMAS DAY**
- 26 Page County ARES Class
- 27 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL-131.8)
- 28 Rockingham County ARES Net (K4RMY)
- 31 NEW YEARS EVE**

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

Thanks again to those who helped with the Oct. test session.

GERALD NAUMAN	KN4FM
E.C.SHOWALTER	KG4KUR
JIM LEHMAN	W4POL
TERI HENDERSON	KT4UO

We had six for testing and all earned a license or upgrade.

Our next test session will be **December 12 2015** at 9:00 am at the woodmen LIFE building RT. 42 Dayton VA.

Looking forward to serving the valley.

GAYLE, 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: 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: John Spillman, KT4CB
Board Member: Zory Glaser, KB3VQC
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.

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Renew Your Club Dues HERE!

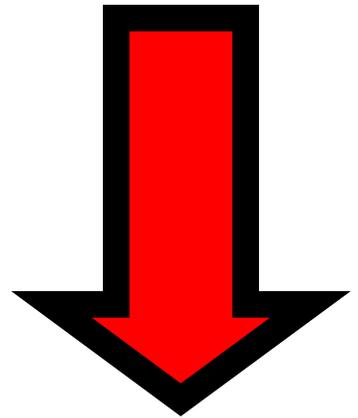
RENEW

RENEW

RENEW

RENEW

**RENEW YOUR CLUB
MEMEBERSHIP!**



Membership Renewal Form

NAME: _____ CALLSIGN: _____ CLASS: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ WORK PHONE: _____ CELL 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) _____

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

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

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

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

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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