

THE MONITOR

January 2017

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

VARA Meeting: January 3rd

The Valley Amateur Radio Association, will hold its January 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. All Amateurs, their families and friends are welcome.

MARA Meeting: January 5th

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

Two admission tickets to the Frostfest will be raffled off at the January MARA meeting!

PVARC Meeting: January 6th

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular meeting on January 6th at 6:30pm at Tactical Walls. The address is: 611 Williams Avenue. On the north end of Shenandoah, turn east from US Route 340 onto Williams Avenue, go through the gate, park along the right side of the building. The entrance is around the building to the right. All Amateurs, their families and friends are welcome.

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.

Time to Renew Your Membership

On the inside back cover of this issue you will find a club membership renewal form. Please make sure you renew your club membership before the end of the February meeting. Your best bet is to mail your dues to the address shown for your club.



Happy New Year!

PVARC President's Note

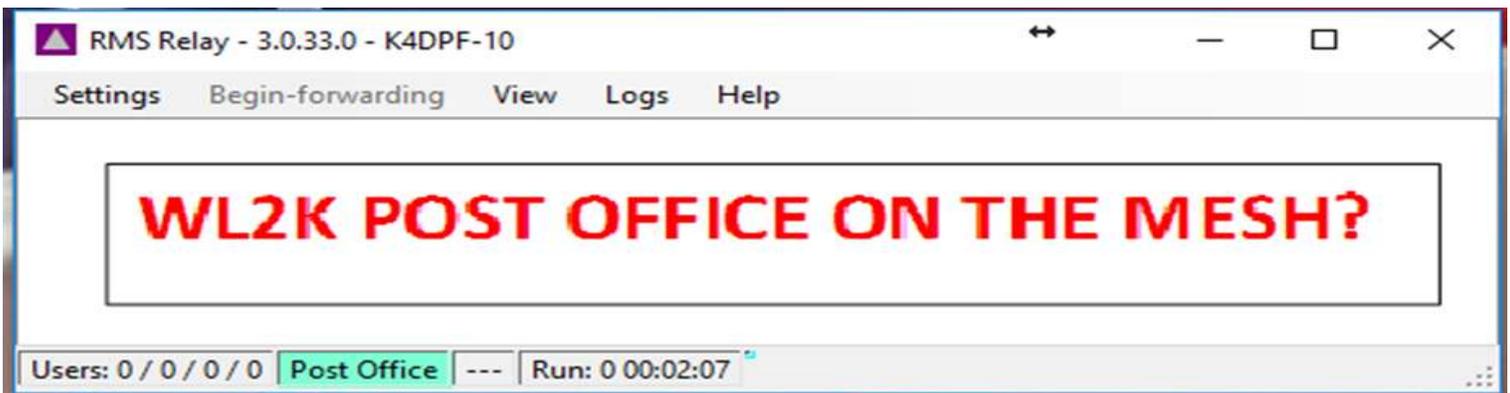
By Dave Firestone, K4DPF

As the newly elected President of Page Valley ARC I thought I'd at least start off well with a submission to the **MONITOR** as John has requested. Who knows whether I'll be able to submit one every month.

Let me begin by thanking the officers who served the club so well this past year: Our outgoing officers, **President Tim Ramey AK4CJ** and **Vice President Morgan Phenix K4RHD** as well as **Board Member Zory Glaser KB3VQC** whose terms expired in December. **Board Member Gary Fischer K6OZ** who has another year on his term, also graciously picked up the Secretary's responsibilities from **John Spillman KT4CB** during the year. We thank Gary for

agreeing to serve as Secretary in 2017. We all are pleased as well that **Juergen Lunkowitz W3LUV** will be returning as Treasurer again this year. In Zory's place on the board we thank **Tim Matter KM4TGC** for accepting the role of Board Member for a two year term. I'm very pleased to announce that **Gene Frazier KJ4HFO** will be serving as **Vice President** this year.

I will be relying heavily on the whole team this year as **PVARC** actively pursues new projects and services while it continues its steady growth. One of my objectives is to assure that the Board is involved in setting directions and approving items for presentation to the full membership. We're all looking forward to a great year together among the many facets of our beloved amateur radio hobby.



Article by Dave K4DPF and Bob KI4VFP

Did that question grab your attention? We hope so! We'd like to introduce you to several merging capabilities that promise to provide both intriguing, day-to-day amateur radio applications as well as supporting communications emergencies and public service opportunities.

First, let's talk about **WL2K**, or **Winlink 2000**. Combining amateur radio and internet networking capabilities, **Winlink** provides a global messaging network that typically supports daily messaging for fixed and maritime mobile stations via multiple HF and VHF modes, as well as a robust network providing emergency communications message

routing. A more in-depth description can be found on the Wikipedia site: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winlink> Also, check out the WL2K website where you can find details about the system and download software. In particular, here is a good page on the site to start learning about WL2K, including some video tutorials: http://winlink.org/content/winlink_book_knowledge

An important piece of software in the **WL2K** system is the **Radio Message Server Relay** program, or **RMS Relay**. This free (Okay, donations are always accepted) program manages connections and message data among various radio and internet

paths as part of the overall network. Notably, it stores messages locally for future forwarding should the intended internet or radio link be temporarily lost. **RMS Relay** has a built-in capability to serve as a stand-alone Post Office. It collects messages from participating ham stations for pickup by their addressees; similar in some ways to the packet bulletin board system (BBS) you may remember from some years back. Associated client software, **Winlink Express**, is easy to use and very similar in operation to well-known email clients such as Outlook Express or Mozilla Thunderbird. Indeed, we understand there is a configuration that would allow the use of such clients directly with **RMS Relay**, but we haven't pursued that, yet. The **RMS Relay/Winlink Express** configuration is the focus of our current application on our **Valley Digital Network (VDN)** mesh.

AHA! There's that word "mesh". So what's that all about? We're pretty sure you are familiar with WIFI; the wireless connection you probably have between your laptop, or a similar device, and the internet router you have in your home, workplace or you've seen at the local fast food outlet. You may also remember from your studies for your ham license that under Part 97 we share frequencies in the 2.4GHz range (and some other bands) with Part 15 users that include those frequencies used for WIFI. This overlap has allowed hams to adapt relatively inexpensive WIFI equipment like routers and active communication antennas for amateur radio applications. Over approximately the last ten years or so, hams have developed software that is "flashed" directly into these commercial devices creating individual "nodes". When two or more of these nodes are within range on the same WIFI channel and using the same SSID, the resident software automatically connects nodes and establishes routing among the connected nodes. This network is called a "mesh" because it adapts to changes in conditions as well as the availability of nodes, along multiple paths that might be visualized as a fishing net or mesh.

For the past few years a group of valley hams has been developing a local mesh network with the hope of establishing capabilities attractive for daily amateur radio use as well as supporting both emergency operations and public service events. The

network has come to be known as the **Valley Digital Network (VDN)**. Ultimately, the desire is to connect with adjacent counties, other regional networks and a large area backbone serving the North East Corridor. A central hub of our local network resides at the site of the **Big Mountain Repeater** with directional channels focused on Luray, Stanley, New Market, and Shenandoah/Elkton. We have experimented with several applications such as **MeshChat** and a file server. Tests between **Massanutten Peak** and **WD4VA** with the aim of providing connectivity to Fire/Rescue Stations at the southern end of our current area of operations have been conducted in the 5GHz band.

There are basically two versions of mesh network software in use around the country. One is the Broadband-Hamnet implementation and the other is the **Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network** version. We have chosen to focus on the **AREDN** installed on Ubiquiti equipment due to the wide range of available products, the ease of installing and maintaining the network firmware/software in nodes and the growing commonality with other networks in the region. Oh, and did we mention that the software is free and can be maintained remotely over the network itself?

A significant on-going development by **Jeff WD4VA** and **Loren N4LDR** is creating a set of tools to manage / coordinate the VDN and provide numerous applications for our use. They have established two redundant servers, created a Dashboard to monitor network operations, developed the ability to keep nodes current, and established a website and a Google group for information exchange. Additional potential applications include remote station control, repeater monitoring, scanners, etc...all available through the network. Current development efforts are on the application of the C.H.I.P. single board computer (currently costing only \$9.00) as a multi-application interface to the mesh network, which would include such capabilities as tunneling into the mesh through the internet as well as providing an access point to your node for your laptop, cell phone or tablet.

So....that brings us back to the Post Office. With the thought in mind of integrating several **WL2K**

functions into the **VDN**, we recently took the first step and configured two node sites with computers running **RMS Relay** in the stand-alone Post Office mode. A third Post Office is planned for the near future. Theoretically, as additional Post Offices come on line they will be automatically synchronized taking advantage of the significant redundancy inherent in the mesh concept. With a system of Post Offices, email type messages, including attachments, will be routed throughout the network and perhaps beyond by way of gateway nodes.

Amateur radio has so many facets. We all have our favorites and we tend to focus our attention and limited resources on them. Let us recommend that you check out digital mesh networking. You can find it in the literature under several references: **High Speed Multi-Media (HSMM)**, **Broadband-Hamnet**, and **Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network**

(**AREDN**) are just a few.

We hope to have additional articles on related topics in future **Monitors**. In the meantime, look into joining the net; we look forward to seeing a message from you in our Post Office mailboxes.

Here are a few additional sites for your information:

VDN Google Group (requires membership):
<https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups=#forum/aredn-vidn>

AREDN-VDN website (Under development):
<http://aredn-vidn.com/>

Broadband-Hamnet: <http://www.broadband-hamnet.org/>

Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (AREDN):
<http://www.aredn.org/>



Local Repeater News

The Monterey Repeater 147.180 (PL 100) is now linked again with the 444.775 (PL 151.4) at Bear Den Mt. The link has some white noise at the moment but is very usable. The **Highland County ARES Net** is held on the **1st and 3rd Thursdays at 8:30 PM** if anyone would like to join us.

73, **Jerry, WD4ITN**

The 53.15 repeater is back on the air from Thaxton Mtn. same site as the 147.105 repeater. It also has my new call sign, **K4LYL**.

I don't expect the coverage to be anything like the 53.01 in Lexington, because Thaxton is only 1,925 feet above sea level. Coverage probably about the same as the 147.105, maybe better from time to time, depending on conditions. No tone is required, carrier access. At least for now, unless we have problems. We have some desense between the two repeaters (not within each repeater), which I expected, since the antennas are only 8 feet apart horizontally. I will work on getting rid of that problem over the next few weeks, as long as the weather lets me get up there.

Larry, K4LYL (formerly **WB4JBJ**)

145.130 K4MRA MARA Repeater News

Pursuant to the motion approved at the **MARA** December meeting, a new Yaesu DX-1R repeater has been ordered to replace the aging Icom repeater on the **145.130** Massanutten Peak repeater site.

The repeater has shipped, and hopefully will arrive in time to be installed and activated on the mountain before the end of the year.

Plans call for the repeater to utilize the same input and output frequencies (145.130 output, input down 600 kHz) and the same PL tone (CTCSS 131.8 Hz) as the old repeater.

Although the new repeater is capable of the Fusion digital operation, the repeater will initially be configured for analog output only. The machine has the capability to auto-sense the input signal, and we may configure it for both digital and analog input, but the output will be standard analog for the time being.

David Fordham, KD9LA

Plan Ahead

FROSTFEST

The Mid-Atlantic's
Largest Winter Hamfest!

Welcome to Frostfest **We are officially kicking off Frostfest 2017!**

The largest hamfest in the Mid-Atlantic will be held on **Saturday, February 4, 2017** at the **Richmond Raceway Complex**. Everything you need to know about Frostfest can be found here www.frostfest.com, and regular updates will also be made to our [Facebook page](#), and our [Twitter feed!](#)

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.

Discounted Group Rate: Courtyard Marriott Richmond, \$89/night. [Hotel Reservation Link](#) Pre-Show "Meet & Greet" will be held in the hotel lobby, Friday @ 7:30pm.

We look forward to seeing you at Frostfest 2017!

Two admission tickets to the Frostfest will be raffled off at the January MARA meeting!

FREE



FREE

I'm getting out of the amateur radio game and would like to give my Yaesu 2900 and mobile antenna free to a good home.

thank you. **Bob Hume W4TMV**. Can be reached at **540-434-0288**.

FREE



Another reminder to renew

Please make sure you renew your club membership before the end of the February meeting. Your best bet is to mail your dues to the address shown for your club. Renewal form on last page of this newsletter.



Opinionated One

The Different Kinds of Hams

Reprinted from *The Monitor*, Sept 2001

Much has been written about the different kinds of amateur radio operators. You can classify hams based on their license class, whether they use CW or phone, or even whether they experiment with exotic and far-out modes like moonbounce, meteor-scatter, or trying to use the Outback repeater system.

But this month, I'm going to clue you in to the *real* way to classify ham operators. It has to do with which celebrity they most resemble. Once you know what to look for, you can easily identify exactly which class a valley ham belongs in.

The McGyver Operator: If you believe the ARRL propaganda, the age of the average U.S. ham today is quickly approaching somewhere around 92, so most of you will remember **McGyver**, the secret agent who could patch together a solution for almost any problem. The **McGyver ham** is the same way. The **McGyver Ham** loves to tinker around with stuff. He is always building something, modifying something, or taking something apart to see if he can make it better. You can recognize a **McGyver ham** because his soldering iron hasn't been turned off since the 1970's energy crisis. His workbench is larger than his XYL's kitchen. He owns enough electronic parts to rebuild the avionics on a fleet of Boeing 787's and still have enough left over to stock the Mendelson's tent at Dayton. If you ever need a part for your 1964 LaFayette Short Wave Y-1, the **McGyver ham** can either (a) find you the right part in his junkbox, or (b) he'll put one together for you using a mayonnaise jar lid, two 25k resistors, a diode, and copious amounts of solder. And it will work, too.

The Rene Descartes Ham: **Rene Descartes** was the philosopher who said, "I think, therefore I am." The RD Ham thinks he can communicate with nothing, so therefore he **does** communicate with nothing. Often referred to by the derogatory term, "QRP operator", the RD ham thinks he can work the world with 0.00015 watt. He puts together little teeny

tiny things that fit inside the groove of your wedding ring and take all their power from the bottom cover of a dead hearing aid battery. A half-grown housecat rubbing against a coax switch generates more RF than all his transceivers put together, yet the RD ham expects stations in Franz Josefland to give him 5-by-5 signal reports. And he claims he gets them, too. For some unknown reason, almost all RD hams sport gray facial hair, and over a third of them live in or around Broadway.

The Loch Ness Ham: Named for the famous but elusive monster reportedly inhabiting a Scottish pond, the **Loch Ness** ham is one of the most common in the valley — assuming they really do exist, of course. The only eyewitnesses are VE team members. According to the reports, these **Loch Ness** hams studied hard for their license, and showed up for, and then passed, the VE test. But except for the VE team, no one has ever seen them, let alone heard them on the air. Investigators have extensively interviewed the witnesses, and most VE's seem reliable, intelligent, and sincere in their belief that they weren't dreaming, they really did witness someone or something passing the test. But if these elusive test passers exist, most of them apparently don't ever purchase a radio, let alone actually set it up, program it, or connect it to a power supply and an antenna. And of the few that do own a radio that is set up and connected to a power supply and antenna, less than one out of twenty apparently ever actually transmit on it. The honesty and integrity of the VE team is bolstered somewhat by the fact that you occasionally see a ham license plate on a car or truck, bearing the call letters of one of these LN hams that no one has ever worked. But you never, ever, hear an **LN ham** on the air, leading skeptics to ask: "are they real?"

The Fraser Crane Ham: The **FC ham** is named for the pretentious star of the TV show Fraser, a fellow who wants everyone to believe he is humble and modest, while at the same time taking great pains to ensure they recognize his genius. The **FC Ham** starts out a conversation: "Yep, I worked Zero Charlie Nine Zulu last night. Snagged him on the first call. This makes the third time I've worked the Zirconium Islands. I sure hope this group sends the QSL quicker than those guys who did the Rowan and Martin Reef

expedition last year. Yep, my new 400-foot tower is sure turning out to be worth the effort. I bounced a microwave signal off of someone's birdbath in Florida this morning and worked a Quebec Seven Delta station in the Andromeda Archipelago. He was mobile using homebrew with a four-day-old piece of spaghetti as an antenna and he gave me a 20-over-9 report..." You get the idea.

The Homer Simpson Ham: This is hands-down the most common type of ham in the valley that is on the air. Most of us who own and use transmitters are **HS Hams**. We use the repeaters and expect someone else to drive up 60 miles to the mountaintop in the snow within ten minutes of it going off the air. We work one hour at one public service event every twelve years but proudly tell everyone how much valuable public service hams provide. We passed the code test in 1971, and that exam was our last CW "contact". We can't copy the ID from our local repeater, even after hearing it 60 thousand times. And many of us have trouble even when it's using the voice synthesizer! And when it comes to radio theory, most of us can't even figure out how to get the cover off our radios. Heck, some of us have to get help to change the battery on our HT! We don't know the name of the antenna

connector on our rubber duck. We have no clue as to how to go about working a ham satellite, copying RTTY, working television, how to configure a packet station, or even how to put on an Anderson Power-Pole. When our radios don't work, even when the problem is user error, all we can say is, "Duh".

The Mother Teresa Ham: Unlike the other kinds of hams already discussed, these hams are in short supply in the valley. There are only about a half-dozen of them. They are the brave souls who shoulder the burden any time there is real work to be done. They are the few who sacrifice, time and time again, tirelessly and selflessly, to man the marathons, the bike rides, the parades and lawn parties, the fund raisers for MS and MD and MTV. These are the hams who, week after week, volunteer to serve as net control because no one else will step forward. These hams will be put on the fast-track to sainthood after they become Silent Keys.

You can probably think of many other kinds of hams. For example, do you know any Oprah Winfrey hams? Michelle Bachmann hams? Or how about Bill O'Reilly hams?

— submitted by the *Opinionated One*



Silent Keys



Don (Mac) Mc Grath, KZ1A, passed away last week.

Jack Wine, KC4OVC, of Verona passed away in October.

Jack's obituary was in the Staunton paper: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/newsleader/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=182163915>

My sincere condolences to their families. Editor.

The Opinionated One –

(from *The Monitor*, October 2002)

“A Dozen Things I Wish They’d Invent:”

Number one: A soldering iron that will melt solder onto a PL-259 connector’s casing and the coax braid, but without simultaneously melting through the center conductor insulation.

Number two: A wire stripper that will strip wire for more than six times. All the strippers I’ve ever purchased worked great for half a dozen times, and then started shredding, nipping, and scraping instead of stripping.

Number three: Tools that don’t disappear into thin air. I know you’ve experienced this too. You’re sitting down at your workbench using your pointy-nose pliers and you set them down to adjust your glasses or something, and when you reach for the pliers, they’ve disappeared into thin air. They are nowhere to be found. You pick up and look under everything on the bench and the pliers simply aren’t there anymore. You can’t possibly have dropped them, and you haven’t gotten up from your chair, but the pliers are gone. Two weeks later they mysteriously reappear in your toolbox in the garage.

Number four: A Kenwood radio with illumination that doesn’t go dark. I guess this is asking too much. Yaesu, Icom, Alinco, Azden, and Standard all make radios with panels and dials that stay lit for years and years and years. In fact, I’ve got an Icom radio that dates from before Marconi made his first transmission and the panel lights still light bright! But Kenwood radios always go dark — or worse yet; half of the display goes dark! — about 30 minutes after the warranty expires! Always.

Number five: Kenwood panel light bulbs that you can replace without a scanning electron microscope and nanometer tweezers! And heaven help you if you need to solder the thing in! Your best bet is to wire-

wrap a sewing needle to the tip of your soldering iron. But make sure it is a sharp needle! And don’t use a straight pin: the eye of a needle is a great place to hold the bulb until you are ready for it!

Number six: A battery that will transmit a message just before it goes dead. Don’t you hate it when someone’s battery gives out right in the middle of their transmission and the listeners don’t have a clue what happened to the poor sap? Wouldn’t be nice to have the battery interrupt the transmission and say, “this turkey’s battery is about to give out on him, so don’t worry when his signal disappears in about five seconds. Four. Three. Two...”

Number seven: A beeper built inside those little teeny tiny screws that hold HT cases together! Every time I open an HT case (for example, to install the barometer unit inside my VX5R), I always drop one of those little microscopic screws into the carpet. It would be nice if I could go to a base unit somewhere and press the “Page” button, like I do when I lose my cordless phone. The remote unit begins beeping and you can then follow the sound to find the missing screw.

Number eight: Schematic diagrams which are readable. Lately, the schematics which come with my ham equipment have used teeny tiny illegible writing. I finally gave up trying to read the numbers and designations with a magnifying glass, and put the thing under a microscope. Know what I discovered? It’s illegible because the writing is smaller than the fibers in the paper! Obviously the radio manufacturers have hired those guys who used to work at circuses writing the book of Psalms on a grain of rice!

Number Nine: A ham catalog with actual selling prices in dollars and cents instead of the maddening price of “Call!”

Number ten: A microphone that can tell the difference between your hand and your behind, so that when you sit on the microphone in the car, it doesn’t transmit you singing along with your Ray

Conniff tape over the wide - area repeater or the MidCars net.

Number eleven: A squelch knob. The old radios used to have these, so when the static came up, you could easily twist the knob and turn up the squelch. Nowadays, the squelch is turned up by holding down the function key while pressing the menu key, turning the selector knob to option 36B, "set squelch", which is abbreviated by "LRVNT" or something like that,

then you press "Set", then hit Enter twice, hold the function button down for two seconds and press the PTT key to save the setting, and then press function again while holding down the "D" key to exit the menu. Why can't they just go back to putting a squelch knob on the radio?

Number twelve: A mag mount antenna that retracts automatically when you enter a carwash.

MARA Treasurer's Report

November 21, 2016 to December 20, 2016

Opening Balance		<u>\$1,407.55</u>
Income: Memberships	\$168.00	
	Total Income:	<u>\$168.00</u>
Expenses: Electric	\$22.17	
Repeater Purchase 444.600:		
K3JRR Larry Harrison \$250.00	\$500.00	
K4DJG Bob Van Fossen \$250.00		
Guest Meals	\$117.04	
	Total Expenses:	<u>\$639.21</u>
Balance December 20, 2016		<u>\$936.34</u>



Submitted by **Foster Farone, WF40** MARA Treasurer

PVARC Treasurer's Report

Dec 7th, 2016

Beginning Balance		\$3,540.41
Donations	\$26.00	
Dues	\$120.00	
50/50	\$0.00	
Total Deposits		<u>\$146.00</u>
Misc	\$0.00	
Total Disbursements		<u>\$0.00</u>
Ending Balance		<u>\$3,686.41</u>

Submitted by **Juergen Lunkwitz , W3LUV**, PVARC Treasurer

MARA Secretary's Report

MARA Secretary's Report – December 1, 2016

General Meeting called to order at Wood Grill, Harrisonburg, by **Vice President Bryan Daniels (K4RMY)** at 7:31 p.m. 27 members and 36 guests were present.

Prior to the General Meeting, a brief **MARA Board meeting** was convened at 7:00 p.m.

A proposal was put forth by **David Fordham (KD9LA)**, to reimburse **Bob VanFossen (K4DJG)** and **Larry Harrison (K3JRR)** \$250 each, for the full title of **MARA** ownership of the current 444.600 repeater. A second part of the proposal was that **MARA** would reimburse **David Fordham** \$600 in early 2018 or earlier, if the Board so decides. This would be to cover his proposed “below cost” purchase of the replacement 145.130 Yaesu repeater. The proposal was amended and **unanimously passed** after removing the “or earlier” language.

Board members present:

Bryan Daniels (K4RMY)
Foster Farone (WF4O)
James Franklin (W4SIU)
Bob Steere (N1QEQ)
Herb Slade (AA2BF), and
Andrew Pearson (N4RCE, agreed in absentia)

The General Meeting: Bryan Daniels reviewed the



VARA Secretary's Report

Instead of a regular meeting in December, the **VARA** and **MARA** clubs held a joint Christmas Banquet at the Wood Grill Buffet in Harrisonburg on Thursday, December 1st. In attendance from the VARA club were 11 members with/without their wives.

After the meal we were entertained by Jerry Brunk

Board meeting's discussion and vote on the repeater reimbursement proposal, asking for ratification by the MARA membership of the Board's decision. This was done by verbal assent.

New Member Vote: None

New Member First Reading: None

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

The Treasurer's Report for November was published in the **Monitor**.

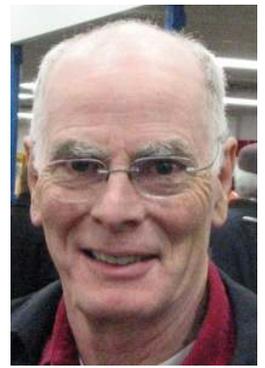
No Committee Reports, Old or New Business, Announcements, or 50/50 Drawing.

Time Adjourned: 7:42 p.m.

Program: The **Eversole Road Quartet** presented a festive round of Christmas songs and familiar quotations from the Christmas story. We and our guests, in turn, roundly applauded our appreciation for their gift.

The **quartet for the evening** included **Wayne Hostetler, Bernard Martin, Michael Beckler, and the leader, our own Gerry Brunk (K4RBZ)**. They were accompanied by their wives, Kathy Hostetler, Joan, Martin, and Kathy Beckler **Thank you, Fellas!**

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



and his fellow singers who performed several Christmas songs.

Respectfully submitted,

David Tanks, AD4TJ,

VARA Secretary



PVARC Secretary's Report

Page Valley Amateur Radio Club December 2, 2016 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President **Tim Ramey AK4CJ** at 6:34 PM at **Tactical Walls** in Shenandoah. (Thanks to **Tim KM4TGC** and **Carrie KM4WDX** for the donation of the use of the facility!)

13 members were in attendance

The Secretary's report and Treasurer's report approved

New Business:

Election of Officers: **President Tim Ramey AK4CJ** opened the floor for nominations for 5 positions. The nominations and votes went very smoothly and the new officers are:

President Dave Firestone K4DPF,

Vice President Gene Frazier KJ4HFO,

Secretary Gary Fischer K6OZ,

Treasurer Juergen Lunkwitz W3LUV,

Board Member Tim Matter KM4TGC.

Patrick Sprague KE4EI suggested putting out

a donation tin for the hosts' costs.

Morgan Phenix K4RHD announced **John Spillman KT4CB** has a new book published and available on Amazon. (John is editor of the *Monitor!*, and the book is "A Life's Journey in Prose, Songs and Short Stories")

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 PM, followed by doughnuts and an in depth presentation by **Zory Glaser KB3VQC** on the planning and makeup of well thought out "go kits".

Respectfully submitted by **Gary Fischer K6OZ,**
PVARC Secretary



Presentation on "Go-Kits" by Zory Glaser, KB3VQC

Page Valley ARC Officer Line Up for 2017–2018



New Officers for 2017-2018: Left to right: Treasurer—Juergen Lunkwitz, W3LUV; Secretary and Board Member—Gary Fischer, K6OZ; President—David Firestone, K4PDF; Board Member—Tim Matter, KM4TGC; Vice President—Gene Frazier, KJ4HFO,

New Year Celebration around the world



New York



Paris, France



Helsinki, Finland



Sydney, Australia



Stockholm, Sweden



London, England



Pirates on the Air

Per-Einar, LA7DFA, states that he has not used his Jan Mayen callsign, JX7DFA, since September 2002.



How's DX

5Z, Kenya: Sila/AKOSK is going to operate as 5Z4/AKOSK between the **22nd and Jan. 6** from Taveta on 80-10m (SSB only). QSL via homecall, LoTW, ClubLog.

6W, Senegal: 6W1SU is Ronald (VE3REV), who has moved to Dakar, Senegal since August and will remain there **for two or three years**. He plans to be active on 80-6 metres, "currently operating phone only but hoping to tackle CW later". QSL via MOURX's OQRS (www.mOurx.com/oqrs/) for direct and bureau cards. See www.qrz.com/db/6W1SU for more information.

9Q, DEM. REP. OF THE CONGO. Fernando, EA4BB (ex-9Q5BB, D2BB, ST2BF, TU5JL, TZ6BB, Z21BB), is now active as 9Q6BB from Kinshasa (eastern part of the country) for up to **the next 3 years**. Activity has been on 20/17 meters using CW. Operations are QRP using an Elecraft KX2 w/5w into a Vertical telescopic whip 5.2m antenna. QSL via W3HMK.

HF800, POLAND: (Special Event). Members of the Polish Amateur Radio Union (PZK) and from the Piastowski Klub Krótkofalowców in Opole, will activate special event station HF8000 **between January 1st and March 31st, 2017**, to celebrate the 800th anniversary of Opole. Activity will be on 80-10 meters as well as 30/17/12 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via SP6PAZ, direct or by the Bureau.

SP, Poland: HF2017HNY remains on the air until the **end of January**, operated by a team around SP2PBM. QSL via bureau, SP2PBM (d).

TF, ICELAND. Alex, PY2SEX/ PY1KS/DL1NX/CT7ANB, will be active as TF/DL1NX from Iceland between **January 20-26th**. Activity will be holiday style and QRP on 80-10 meters using a KX3 and Buddipole. QSL card information will come later, but LoTW will be 100% confirmed.

XW, LAOS. Bruce, 3W3B (HSOZCY/XU7ADF/XW1B/AA4XR), who lives in Da Nang, will once again be active as XW4XR from Vientiane between **January 3-15th, 2017**. Activity will be on 80-10 meters using CW, RTTY and JT65. QSL via E21EIC and LoTW.

UA, Russia: The Miller DX Club conducts a Russian New Year 2017 Marathon **between Dec. 25 and Jan. 14** with the following special calls: RA17NY, RC17NY, RK17NY, RM17NY, RO17NY, RT17NY, RU17NY, RW17NY, and RZ17NY. QSL via RQ7L (B) and ClubLog OQRS. <http://ny2017.hamlog.ru/>

ZV - Couves Island: PU2KFL, PU2UTY and PU2LEW will be active as ZV2CV from Couves Island (DIB-SP022) between **January 7-8th, 2017**. Activity will be on 80/40/ 20 /15 /10/2 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via PY2XIZ, direct, by the Bureau or LoTW.

IOTA's

AF-021; ZS8, Prince Edward and Marion Islands: David/ ZS1BCE will be stationed on Marion Island until May 2018 and plans to operate during his spare time as ZS8Z on HF. QSL via ZS1LS.

AF-078. Carabane Island Vlad, UA4WHX, is now QRT from the Gambia and is currently active as 6W/UA4WHX/p from Carabane Island, Senegal. Activity has been on 17 meters using CW and SSB (possibly Digital modes). As always, his length of stay unknown at this time. QSL via his home callsign.

AF-090 - 5R - Sainte-Marie Island: Eric, F6ICX will be active again as 5R8IC from Sainte-Marie Island

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.

(AF-090) from 6 November to 4 February 2017. He will operate mainly CW with some RTTY, BPSK and SSB on 80-10 metres. QSL via F6ICX and LoTW; logsearch and OQRS on Club Log when he returns home.

AN-001— div., Graham Land West (Adelaide Island) group: Alan/ MWOYCC will be active from the Rothera Research Station/Adelaide Island and other locations **until April 2018** as VP8DPJ. QSL only via eQSL.

AN-016— DP1, ANTARCTICA: It has been reported that Felix, DL5XL, will once again be active as DP1POL from the German Neumayer Station III (AN-016, WWFF DLFF-022, WW Loc. IB59UH) **between November 2015 and February 2017**. Activity will be on all HF bands using mainly CW and possibly some SSB and Digital modes. QSL via DL1ZBO or LoTW. ADDED Felix does have a FaceBook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/dl5xl?fref=ts>

ADDED NOTE (de DL5XL): There will also be a ham radio operator on the next wintering team at Neumayer Station III. Daniel, DL1SU, works as an electronics engineer at the base. He plans to use the club callsign DPOGVN from **December 2016 to February 2018**. QSL cards for DPOGVN will be handled by Dominik, DL5EBE, direct or via the Bureau.

AS-013 - 8Q, MALDIVES. Rolf, DL8AZ, will be active as 8Q7AZ from Meeru Island (AS-013), North Male Atoll, between **January 2-11th, 2017**. Activity will be holiday- style/spare-time on 40-10 meters using SSB. Radio is an ICOM IC-7300 w/100w into an Aerial 51 by Spiderbeam (6 Band OCF inverted V); quarter-wave vertical for 40m by DL1DN and a portable telescopic GFK pole 10m by DX-wire. QSL via his home callsign.

EU-175; CU3-7, Azores, Central group: Mek/SP7VC will be operating as CU2/SP7VC from the Azores **between Dec. 27 and Jan. 3**. QSL via h/c. <http://www.sp7vc.pl/>

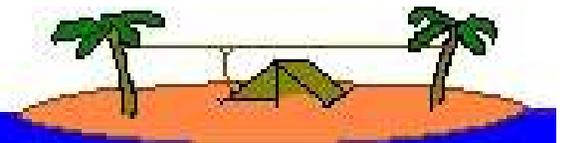
NA-016 - ZF, CAYMAN ISLANDS. Pete, K8PGJ, will be active as ZF2PG on the Sunny Grand Cayman Islands (NA-016) during the week of **January 14-22nd, 2017**.

This includes an entry in the North American QSO Party. LoTW will be utilized and direct QSLs go via his home callsign. The daily operating schedule will be posted on QRZ.com.

NA-102 - FG/T07, GUADELOUPE. Jean-Pierre, F6ITD, will once again be active as FG/F6ITD from Guadeloupe and one of its islands **between January 19th and March 9th (2017)**. Island mentioned is La Desirade Island (IOTA NA-102, Lighthouse GUA005 and French Flora Faune FFF 1000). Activity will be on all HF bands (160-6m) using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. Look for him to use the callsign T07D during some contests. Radio equipment is a FT-450D + Tokyo 550 Power 500w. QSL via his home callsign, direct or LoTW (preferred). Logs will be uploaded to ClubLog and LoTW.

NA-108—J6, ST. LUCIA: Bill, K9HZ, will once again be active as J68HZ from his villa at Labrelotte Bay, Castries, St.Lucia (NA-108, WLOTA L-1336) **between December 17th and January 2nd**. Activity is usually on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. He states, "Will try to fill some band-mode slots for WAS and DXCC. Particularly looking for AK and MT in the USA to complete 8BWAS." His equipment will consist of an Elecraft K3, a 3 element beam for 20-6 meters and wire antennas for 160-30 meters. QSL via his home callsign. He does use the LoTW, ClubLog and eQSL.

OC-151. Flores Island: Leo, YC9MLL, reports that he will be active again from the Flores Island, probably **between January 21-22nd and 24th, 2017**, and a few days before and after, July 11-12th, 2017. He states on QRZ.com, "I will be transmitting near the towns of Bajawa and Soa (January 2017) and later (July 2017) in Maumere and near Labuanbajo and hopefully also in the town of Ruteng." On his QSL Manager's (MOOXO) Web page, he states, [edited] "I will be running 100W mostly on 21 MHz around the IOTA calling freq. or at any clear freq. near it. I will try to operate split for better results. I have also 14 MHz segment in Indonesia so I may also try that band, and 7 MHz also if I have a long bamboo pole available. It was not previously planned to be there, but it is a great surprise to be allowed to be back." Charles, MOOXO, states, "I am mailing out a 12m



Spiderbeam Pole to Leo so I hope this will be better than his 'bamboo pole.'" QSL via M00XO - Bureau requests ONLY via M00XO's OQRS.

OC-009; T8, Palau: Ryosei/JH0IXE will be back at the VIP Guest Hotel on Koror Island (OC-009, WW Loc. PJ77fi) from Dec. 26 until Jan. 6. QRV with the call T8CW on 80-6m (CW, SSB, RTTY, JT65, PSK31). QSL via JA=FOX8B), JH0IXE (d), LoTW.
<http://t8cw.idou.net/Tetsuya/JA7XBG> will be active from the same place between the 25th and 30th as T88GA. QSL via JA7XBG (d), LoTW.

OC-031 - JD1, Ogasawara: Hiroyuki/JG7PSJ is going to pay Chichi Jima Island (OC-031, JCG 10007, JIA 10-110, WLOTA 2269, WW Loc. QL17cc) a visit from the

23rd until Jan. 1. QRV as JD1BMH on 160-10m 8CW, SSB, RTTY). QSL via bureau, JG7PSJ (d).
<http://sapphire.es.tohoku.ac.jp/jd1bmh/>

SA-072. Poldros Island : A group of Brazilian operators will be active as ZZ8P from Poldros Island (WWFF PY24, DIB MA 03) **between January 14-18th, 2017.** Operators mentioned are Robert/PT2GTI, Daniel/PT7BI, Junior/ PS8DX, Jesus/PS8ET and Ilo/PS8JIF. Activity will be on various HF bands using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via PT2GTI, direct, by the Bureau, ClubLog or LoTW.

Contests & QSO Parties

For more details and information, go to:

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

31/1 ARRL Straight Key Night

- 1 AGB New Year Snowball Contest
- 1 SARTG New Year RTTY Contest
- 1 AGCW Happy New Year Contest
- 1 AGCW VHF/UHF Contest
- 3 ARS Spartan Sprint
- 4 QRP Fox Hunt
- 4 Phone Fray
- 4-5 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 4 UKEICC 80m Contest
- 6 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 6 QRP Fox Hunt
- 6 NCCC Sprint
- 7 PODXS 070 Club PSKFest
- 7 Kid's Day Contest**
- 7-8 WW PMC Contest
- 7-8 SKCC Weekend Sprintathon
- 7-8 Original QRP Contest
- 7-8 ARRL RTTY Roundup**
- 7-8 EUCW 160m Contest
- 8 DARC 10-Meter Contest
- 8 Midwinter Contest
- 11 QRP Fox Hunt
- 11 Phone Fray
- 11-12 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 11-12 AWA Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest
- 13 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 13 QRP Fox Hunt
- 13 NCCC Sprint
- 14 Old New Year Contest



- 14-15 AWA Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest
- 14-15 UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest
- 14-15 North American QSO Party, CW**
- 15 NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB
- 15 NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW
- 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 LZ Open Contest
- 21 WAB 1.8 MHz Phone
- 21-22 Feld Hell Sprint
- 21-22 Hungarian DX Contest
- 21-22 North American QSO Party, SSB**
- 21-23 ARRL January VHF Contest**
- 25 SKCC Sprint
- 25 NAQCC CW Sprint
- 25 QRP Fox Hunt
- 25 Phone Fray
- 25 UKEICC 80m Contest
- 25-26 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 27 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 27 QRP Fox Hunt
- 27 NCCC Sprint
- 27-29 CQ 160-Meter Contest, ~~CW~~
- 28 Montana QSO Party
- 28-29 REF Contest, CW
- 28-29 BARTG RTTY Sprint
- 28-29 UBA DX Contest, SSB
- 28-29 Winter Field Day





Page County Va. ARES Frequencies



Repeaters		Simplex			
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. **All hams are welcome!**



The **Page County ARES Net** meets the first Sunday nights on the local **146.550 simplex**, the second Sunday on the **146.670 (PL 114.8)** repeater, and 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 **146.550 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 **VSN (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



1 New Year's Day

1 Straight Key Night

- 1 Page County ARES Net [146.55 Simplex]
- 2 Rockingham County ARES Net [Simplex]
- 2 Old Dominion Emergency Net [3.947 KHz]
- 3 VARA Club Meeting
- 5 MARA Club Meeting
- 6 PVARC Club Meeting
- 6 Friday Luncheon
- 8 Page County ARES Net [146.670, PL 114.8]
- 9 Rockingham County ARES Net
- 10 Old Dominion Emergency Net [3.947 KHz]
- 12 Augusta County ARES Net [146.850 , PL 131.8]
- 13 Friday Luncheon
- 15 Page County ARES Net [146.625, PL 131.8]
- 16 Rockingham County ARES Net
- 20 Friday Luncheon
- 20 **Deadline for February newsletter submission***
- 22 Page County ARES Net [146.625, PL 131.8]
- 23 Rockingham County ARES Net
- 27 Friday Luncheon
- 29 Page County ARES Net [146.625, PL 131.8]
- 30 Rockingham County ARES Net



February

2 Groundhog Day

- 2 MARA Club Meeting
- 3 PVARC Club Meeting
- 3 Friday Luncheon
- 5 Page County ARES Net [146.55 Simplex]
- 6 Rockingham County ARES Net [Simplex]
- 6 Old Dominion Emergency Net [3.947 KHz]
- 7 VARA Club Meeting
- 10 Friday Luncheon
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 12 Page County ARES Net [146.670, PL 114.8]
- 13 Rockingham County ARES Net
- 13 Augusta County ARES Net [146.850 , PL 131.8]
- 14 **Valentine's Day**
- 14 Old Dominion Emergency Net [3.947 KHz]
- 17 Friday Luncheon
- 19 Page County ARES Net [146.625, PL 131.8]
- 20 Rockingham County ARES Net
- 20 **President's Day**
- 20 **Deadline for March newsletter submission***
- 24 Friday Luncheon
- 26 Page County ARES Net [146.625, PL 131.8]
- 27 Rockingham County ARES Net



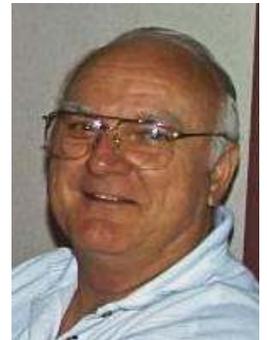
VE Testing (No, we're not talking about Canada)



Thanks to those who came to help with the Dec. testing. We had no one show for testing. A first. **E C Showalter KG4KUR Ray Richie K4NRA Mike Turner K4MIC Terry Hinderson KT4UD Mark**

White AK4OL Ellsworth Neff K4LXG Jim Lehman W4POL

Our next testing will be held **December 10th.** with **Gayle, KU4XN** in charge at the Woodmen Life building on Highway 42 (John Wayland Highway) Dayton, Virginia. Sign-in starts at 9:00 am, followed immediately by testing. Bring your ID, your original license and a copy of same. The fee is \$15.00. If you are an accredited VE and would like to help, contact **Gayle Shull, KU4XN** at gshu7411@gmail.com



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 are available on the MARA website: <<http://mara.ws>>

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 updated 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: Andrew Pearson, N4RCE
Vice President: Bryan Daniels, K4RMY
Secretary: Herb Slade, AA2BF
Treasurer: Foster Farone, WF4O
Board (exp 2017): James Franklin, W4SIU
Board (exp 2016): Bob Steere, N1QEQ

<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, W4GRG

<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: Dave Firestone, K4DPF
Vice President: Gene Frazier, KJ4HFO
Secretary: Gary Fischer, K6OZ
Treasurer: Juergen Lunkowitz, W3LUV
Board Member (exp 2018): Tim Matter, KM4TGC
Board Member (exp 2017): Gary Fischer, 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!

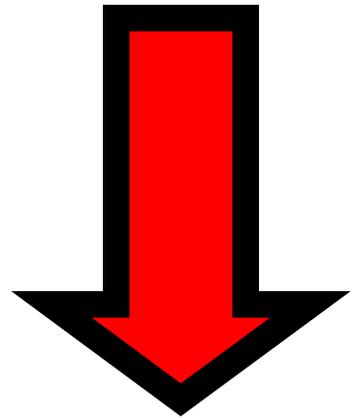
RENEW

RENEW

RENEW

RENEW

RENEW YOUR CLUB MEMEBERSHIP!



Check the box next to the club for which you are renewing

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:

VARA
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: 540-860-1332

Email: kt4cbva@gmail.com

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