

# THE MONITOR

March 2017

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

## MARA Meeting: March 2nd

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, **March 2nd**, 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.

## PVARC Meeting: March 3rd

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular meeting on **March 3rd** 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.



## VARA Meeting: March 7th

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

*Why, faith and begorrah,  
Field Day is a' comin'*



## Daylight Saving Begins!

### Spring Forward!

Don't forget to turn your clocks **AHEAD** one hour on  
Sunday, **March 12th**.

[Sundials and moondials don't count]



March 2017

When looking for a solution on the Internet for your latest ham radio want, it's not unusual to find someone who has or is in the process of producing some new idea. Last year I went brave and ordered a custom-made interface for PSK31 to operate with my iPad. (I had dreams of being able to operate in the field on emergency power.) I really did not learn anything in the experience. This year it was locating a portable, affordable amplifier I could take with me into the field and use when conditions call for more power to break through the noise floor. Six things I've learned:

1. After thorough research, even then, you may never know the blatantly obvious until it arrives.
2. In niche markets, the options are few creating a gnawing doubt whether you're really purchasing the best product for yourself (also known as buyer's remorse).
3. Product reviews will have at least one comment that will increase your feeling that you WILL receive a lemon product made just before closing on Friday afternoon of a 3-day weekend or the first one on the first day back.
4. The friendly people who answer the phone or your email may not have any more of a clue of what's going on than you do.
5. The buying process adds that sense of wonder to the radio

experience, i.e., like I wonder why I keep doing this.



6. The old adage remains – buyer beware, and on occasion, your expectation may equal what you paid for (until you try it out and learn you have to order another part, cable, widget or thingamabob).

When you finally get it all together, a fellow ham or article will reveal what you should have really purchased instead.

Cheers to the journey and to the next project!

Our next MARA meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 2. The program is a mini-swap meet. We will be in the corner room for this.

If you plan to attend with your stuff, please be considerate to follow the following guidelines.

1. The manager of the Wood Grill asks us to use the Fire exit for that room for those bringing items in. Please do not carry boxes of radio gear through the dining area.

Let us also respect the Wood Grill by taking all of the radio gear when we leave so that no one would ever know we held a mini-swap meet there. We wish to remain in the good graces of their management.

**Andrew Pearson, N4RCE**

President, MARA



## The Opinionated One

The Opinionated One: The Valley's Finest Newspaper Tradition

Those of you who subscribe to the Daily News Record in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, or the Daily News-Leader in Staunton and Augusta County (and, I don't know, perhaps even the Waynesboro News Virginian, but I can't say for sure because I can't get home delivery of that paper so I don't read it very often), will hopefully recognize that this article is written in the finest tradition of those fine valley newspapers.

Given the quality of the writing and the spelling, and the grammar they uses in the articles found in those papers, not to mention the factuality of the information, and the made up words.

It is without a doubt a good way to make residence who read those papers and who also read the Monitor feel at home, by writing this article.

And if the writing quality weren't sufficient to bring fond memories to mind, the illustration and photograph which accompanies this article (see picture below) will definitely and positively expand the recognition of those who recognize the newspaper's traditions. All who know, will appreciate this.

All newspapers and similar publications, including the Monitor, occasionally have an error or two in them. But the valley newspapers have taken the art form to completely new heights. Awards should be given to those who are responsible.

One of the most common and easily recognizable characteristics of those papers – and a defining characteristic – is the maddening habit of not putting an entire article all together on one page. Rather, they make the reader turn to a very different page which often, once the reader gets to the

(continued on page 6)

# Field Day Planning Meeting

Good morning fellow hams, its that time of year again when the **VARA** and **MARA** Field Day committee members meet to put together the annual ARRL Field Day event.

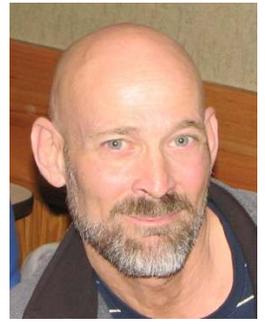
A member of VARA will be the committee chair this year which will be hard to fill after Bob N1QEQ did such a great job last year from MARA.

After much debate from the VARA club members last Tuesday and the many volunteers that wanted to be on the committee, it was decided that yours truly **John Keller W4ZAO** would be chairman of this years event.

I have decided to select March 1st (Weds) as our first meeting at 6:00pm at the Burger King in Mt Crawford. This has been the meeting location for many years and allows both committee members and others to meet in a central location.

The meetings usually last no more than an hour and since we only meet once a month, much has to be completed before Field Day weekend which will be **June 24 and 25, 2017**.

I look forward to try and fill the shoes of **Bob N1QEQ** and make Field Day another success.



To all committee members please be on time and bring paper /pen for notes etc.

If anyone has any questions, suggestions or comments, you can reach me at [eaglehiker@hotmail.com](mailto:eaglehiker@hotmail.com)

The Field Day meetings are open to everyone. so come on out and help support this years event.

John Keller W4ZAO, President VARA



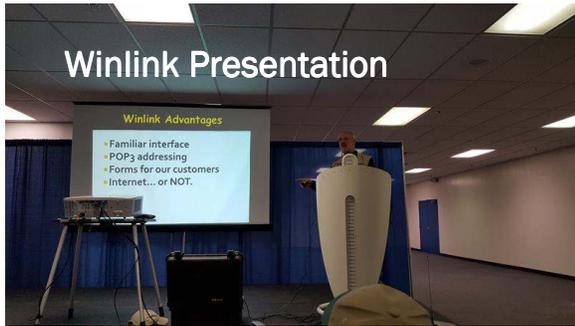
What you will look like after Field Day

Here's a 'round tuit' for those OP's that are considering participating in Field Day this year.



June 2017									
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
				1	2	3			
4	<b>Field Day</b>			8		10			
11				1	1	17			
18				19	20	21	22	23	24
25				26	27	28	29	30	

# Frostfest in Pictures





K4DPF  
Dave

And  
More  
Frostfest



KD9LA  
Dave

# Plan Ahead

**Dayton Hamvention** will be held May 19, 20 and 21, 2017 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center. For more information: <http://hamvention.org/about/hamvention/>

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## **Dayton Hamvention Opportunity**

One of my bucket list items has always been to go to Dayton, OH in May. A friend and I had made plans for this year and made pre-paid reservations for two rooms about eleven miles from the hamfest site. Unfortunately, my friend had to back out due to a work assignment. So, now I have a room available for three nights.... Since I'm planning on driving, you would be more than welcome to come with me. I'm planning on leaving from Page County early Thursday morning May 18 and returning on Sunday. I'm asking \$200 for the three nights; all you would need is your food and ticket. If you would like to join me, let's talk.

Dave K4DPF [k4dpf@arri.net](mailto:k4dpf@arri.net)

# Sale



## AMP-HF Ameritron al-1500

Al-1500 in very pristine condition. Estimate about 100-150 hours of on time. 2nd owner. This amp looks brand new and works to perfection! Smoke free surrounding.

Uses the Herculean 3CX1500A/8877 Eimac ceramic tube with its high power gain. This amplifier just loafs while you get over 1500 watts out to your antenna!

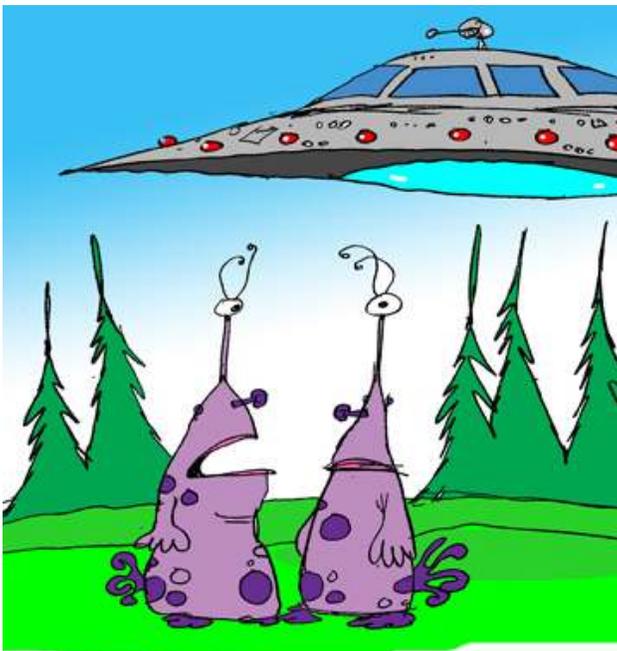
Includes original operations manual and I will include an additional moderately used 3CX1500A/8877 Eimac tube.

I have had it around 6 years, the original owner was an electrical engineer. 'Peter Dahl transformer.' I highly prefer that it be demonstrated at my home with my ICOM PRO III.

\$2500. Paul, W4RY <[brunkpw@yahoo.com](mailto:brunkpw@yahoo.com)>



STOCK PHOTO



*"The earth's atmosphere doesn't bother me, but I'm having trouble with the time change."*



Waiting for that rare DX.

## Icom IC-7100 Worldwide Recall

Icom sent out a letter to their customers regarding a worldwide recall of their new flagship, the IC-7100. At first the reasons for this recall were unclear, until I got hold of Chris Lougee.

Chris, Icom America's Vice President of Sales and Marketing, explained:

There proved to be three problems with this model which escaped our attention during development. The most urgent matter on our agenda is replacing the touchscreen by an upgraded model.

What's wrong with the current touchscreen?

Under normal circumstances, nothing. However, when a ham radio operator is picking his nose – and believe me, many do – the dried-out nasal mucus remains will be devastating.

I don't follow.

Nose-picking is the act of extracting nasal mucus with one's finger (rhinotillexis).

Some hams will automatically ingest the mucus (mucophagy), but many don't. Once dried-out nasal mucus is stuck onto the touchscreen, it is impossible to remove it without severely damaging the screen. We will replace the screen by a scratch-proof one. A mucus-proof one, if you will.

The second problem we need to know about?

To attract customers who never mastered the art of attaching an N-connector to a coax cable, we decided to use SO-239 for VHF/UHF. This decision also proved to be a bad mistake.

Why?

We initially assumed that users would still use a good quality coax cable, but instead they used low quality, high-loss RG-58

which they salvaged from the time they were on CB. Immediately complaints rolled in about bad reception and bad signal reports. We will exchange SO-239 for N, and hand out a free instruction set on how to attach these connectors properly and which cable to use.

Sounds like a good idea to me. You mentioned that there were three problems. Did I miss one?

Yes, the design. Many owners complained about the fact that the radio looks almost identical to an alarm clock. On a few occasions this resulted in the total destruction of the control head.

Sorry Chris, but this sounds a bit implausible to me.

It sounded implausible to us too at first. The problem only occurs after many hours of contesting. Contesters generally fall asleep in their shack, hear the alarm clock at 6.00 am, want to silence it, but hit the Icom control head instead. Not much was left of the ones we got back for repair.

I hope D-Star still

works as advertised?

Yes, D-Star works great. You still sound like a [Dalek](#), but that's a feature, not a bug, haha!

Any idea how much time all of this will take?

All radios will be sent back to Japan, refitted and tested by our nasal mucus experts. The control head will be encased in stainless steel. Turnaround time will be up to three months. We're very sorry for the inconvenience caused.

Apologies accepted. Thank you for all the information, Chris, and hope to meet you again.

Thank you too, Hans. I love your blog! Have a great day!



# NAQP - Results and Comments

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All right y'all, here's my little bit!

QSO's

15-1 - MT

20-23

40-26

80-117

Total:167 Operated 4hrs 15 mins

Score: 8,684 Average rate: 39/hr

States worked:

MD NY VA NC OH IN PA IL WI NJ TX CA MI TN MO NH AZ CO FL GA OK SC WA WV AL CT IA KY MA MT SD WY & DC

Canada:

MB NB ON

DX:

V51WW Namibia

8P5A Barbados

Strangest Name: Bubbles VE9AA

Saw a peak rate of 75/hr twice on 80M for a few minutes.

Worked KD9LA, W4ZAO from the team, hope I didn't miss anyone.

I had 2 guys try to recruit me to join the PVCC.

I use a TS-450, old Hustler 4-btv vertical ground mounted with 10-25' radials for 10-40m and a 80m homemade Double Bazooka at 30'. Logged with N3FJP, N1MM wouldn't cooperation or I did something wrong...

N5SMQ BUTCH



Nice going John, nice to work you on 80. My remote set-up surprised me. I put in less than 2 hours but found out that I could even run on this contest. I normally just tune up and down the band and work what I hear but last evening I found a hole on 75 meters and ran for an hour. That was fun. I had one minute with 3 q's, 10 minutes with 2,1 q's per hour and 1 hour averaging a q a minute. That was a treat!

Here are the results.

Band	QSOs	Pts	Sec
3.5	77	77	25
7	8	8	4
Total	85	85	29

Score: 2,465

1 Mult = 2.9 Q's

73

Paul, W4PFM



Congrats, John, you certainly outperformed me. By an impressive margin, too.

I was in it primarily to catch my last four states for WAS: AR, NE, RI, and DE. Alas, I got \*none\* of those four states. I heard one Arkansas station but he was responding to a W6 run, and I didn't want to hijack the W6s frequency, so I tuned up 15 khz and called "CQNA Arkansas" hoping to catch the Arkansas station as he passed by, but apparently he was moving down the band rather than up.

But I had a lot of fun... if you had a quarter as much fun as I did, you had fun too.

My results:

160 – no antenna, and not enough room for one, and my G5RV won't tune it anyway.

80m - 61 QSOs, 24 states/provinces

40m - 53 QSOs, 27 states/provinces

20m - 42 QSOs, 19 states/provinces

15m- 2 QSOs (yes, two! count'em... 2 QSOs in a cumulative total of almost 2 hours on the band)

10m - nothing, nada, wasted almost a cumulative total of at least 45 minutes tuning up and down listening to static, eight tries, at various times across the contest period. Never even heard so much as a carrier tone.

Total of 158 QSOs, total 72 multipliers. Total points: 11,304 in 9 hours of operating.

I worked Manitoba, Prince Edward Island, Ontario, and Alberta.

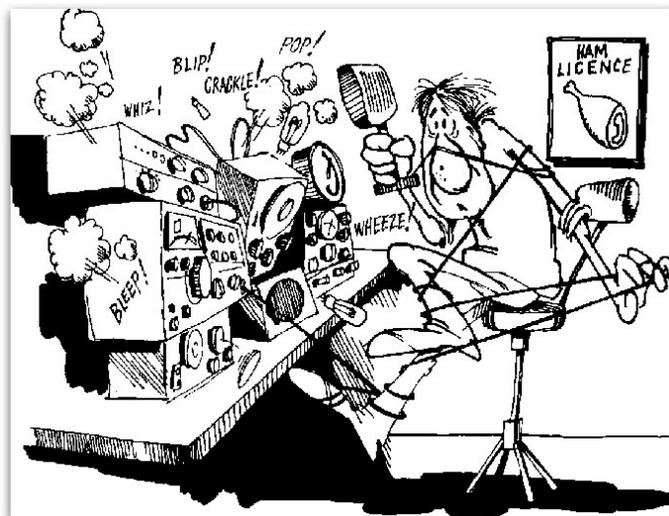
My multiplier count included 8P, KP2, VP9, YV, and ZF. I also worked Belgium (OQ4), Italy (I4), England (M3), Panama (HP1), and Cuba (CO3), but apparently they didn't even count as a QSO, even though those stations were calling "CQ NAQP" said they were in the contest.

Out of the 50 U.S. states, I worked 37 at least once. I did not get IA, ND, NE, SD, RI, DE, AR, MS, HI, AK, ID, NV, and UT. (I wasted quite a while trying to snag NV, MS, ID, and ND, but they never heard me before fading away. I even hung around for 10-15 minutes each hoping the band would come back... no luck.)

My FT-847 was putting out just under 100 watts on 20m, and 85 watts on 15m, 40m, and 80m. My G5RV and remote tuner tuned up perfectly on 20m, and did reasonably well (1.5 to 2.2 SWR) on the other bands, resulting in the transceiver folding back the power a bit on those bands. The G5RV flat top was 33 feet off the ground. I had 75 feet of coax, plus the Diamond meter and MFJ T-tap power injector (to power the remote tuner), in the line.

The noise on the 80 and 40 was tremendous through the entire contest. My Heil Clear-Speech speaker couldn't touch it, the filters and slope adjustments didn't touch it, and I spent the whole time tinkering with the attenuator, RF gain, AF gain, tone control – everything I could think of to pull the stations out of the noise. Everybody on the air was commenting on it. The power limit also didn't help. But I had fun.

David KD9LA



## Blast from the Past (Dayton Hamvention Travelcade)

On Friday, at the agreed-upon lunch time pow-wow at the top of the ramps

The annual pilgrimage to the Dayton Hamvention began on Thursday, May 18, at 7:30 am at the Redwood Restaurant. Over a dozen hams ate there and got gas before hitting the road west on I-64. The group traveled in a caravan which resembled the final stretch of the Indianapolis 500. In the front position for much of the race was Geneva "Leadfoot" Suter, XYL of **Jay W4QDC**, driving a tidy green Toyota speedster capable of land velocities that would make any NASCAR enthusiast drool.

Jay and Geneva were followed closely (perhaps a little too closely?) by **Jason Armentrout N4DSL** and **Matthew Huffman KD4UPL** in a scaled-back Peterbilt wannabee. These two good looking single guys, with their Oxleys, great hair and wide smiles, appeared as though they were cruising through the chick-infested neighborhoods of Beverly Hills 90210. The popular phrase "babe magnet" would have applied, except that for some reason, babes seemed to be in short supply in West Virginia and Ohio this year. Perhaps it was the mild winter ... oh.well...

Next in the line-up came **Richard Wilkins KR4V**, and his XYL **Pamela KC4HYT** in their self-contained living apparatus. At the West Virginia welcome station, Richard and Pamela gave free tours of their luxurious mansion-on-wheels, including the marble hot tub, the big-screen TV, the teak patio, and the master-bedroom's walk-in closet equipped with disco ball lighting.

**Bob Gay KE4BOB** was driving a sporty little Volkswagen which unfortunately was suffering from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome and had to be pushed by hand up some of the West Virginia hills. He said something about a diesel vacuum, but hey, we've seen Orecks and Hoovers which ran faster than Bob's Jetta.

**Bob Van Fossen K4DJG** and his XYL Laura were in his mobile intelligence center, equipped with navigation and communication consoles which are serving as prototypes for the next generation Space Shuttle. Bob also had what looked like a covered-up keg of moonshine attached to his rear bumper. (It turned out to be his go-cart covered in a tarp!)

**Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW** rode alone, which was good because every five minutes Jeff tried, vainly, to make contact on 40-meter HF mobile with **Neal Buckingham, WA4KKL**. It was later learned that Neil, a professional radio systems designer, technician, and installer, was having — get this! — radio problems!

Neil and his wife Peggy had a several-hour head start. They waited for the group at the Bob Evans lunch stop at Interstate 64 and WV Route 34. While their mobile mansion had more

rooms than Richard and Pamela's (including a bowling alley and indoor pool upstairs), it lacked the most important feature: an engine! Neil's manor house had to be pulled along by a separate vehicle. Luckily, Neil and Peggy had brought one along, just for such a purpose.

**Gerry Brunk K4RBZ** and his XYL Shirley were also in the caravan. Gerry's vehicle served as the wildlife lookout, spotting deer, rabbits, and lots and lots of bull from the other cars in the convoy.

**David Fordham KD9LA** and **Richard Huttinger AA4RH** brought up the rear, which is entirely appropriate, if you happen to know these two guys.

The caravan disbanded somewhere just east of Dayton, with the various vehicles going their individual ways to the hotels. (Rumor has it that the Jetta ended up in a dumpster outside a Hooters off I-70.) outside the Mendelson tent, the gang was paid a surprise visit by none other than **George Brunk, WB4IXG**, who apparently was in town as part of his band's 75th re-union tour.

If you get a chance, ask **Gerry K4RBZ** where he got his Yaesu world map. Ask **Jeff W4PJW** how easy it is to find the cute little girls giving out the Icom hats. Get **Dave KD9LA** to tell you about the fellow who was selling lightning arrestors "under the influence". Ask Richard AA4RH about the tuna-tin QRP rig that requires a real can opener! Ask Bob K4DJG about how easy it is to maneuver around 28,000 convention attendees in a motorized cart! Ask Jay W4QDC about the impromptu game of musical chairs held at the Old Country buffet. Ask **Richard KR4V** about the Dr. Jekyll Mr. Hyde personality change that happens when **Dave KD9LA** gets really hungry! These hams will be glad to share their knowledge and experiences with you!

Some great bargains and show specials were obtained by most of the hams who went. You can buy everything, including the kitchen sink at Dayton. You can buy a yellow Civil Defense Geiger Counter for \$10. You can buy over 60 million surplus Motorola business band walkie-talkies at various prices. You can buy things that look like they've been IN the landfill for at least two years. You can buy all kinds of assorted hardware for \$1 per pound! You can buy a Heath HW-101 or parts for a Collins S-Line. After enjoying your oriental massage at booth 519, you can buy a pair of Drake twins (no, sorry, Jeff, they weren't the ones handing out the Icom hats!)

Some of the group returned to the valley Sunday, but sadly, many couldn't tell directions and ended up in Indiana, Illinois, and other states west. Really! No Fooling. Just ask 'em!



## Appreciation for Repeater Owners, Operators, Trustees, Technicians

A huge "thanks" is due to all the many dollars, and many hours of blood, sweat, and tears, that have been put in over the years by all the trustees and technicians who have put, and are keeping, our local repeaters on the air.



## 'The VHF/UHF DX Book', 2017 Replica Edition

Please forward and share the news: (forwarded by Dave, AD4TJ)

'The VHF/UHF DX Book', 2017 Replica Edition, is now available for free download.

[http://www.trpub.net/html/dx\\_book.htm](http://www.trpub.net/html/dx_book.htm) (with an underscore, not a space)

'The VHF/UHF DX Book' was written in the early to mid-1990s by a team of experienced VHF/UHF DXers and equipment developers, in an effort to pass on our knowledge and stimulate further developments. But eventually the book went out of print, and information of lasting value became trapped on the printed pages.

To keep that information alive for future generations of VHF/UHF DXers, a digital replica of the Second Printing (1995)

has now been released as a free download, by kind permission of the copyright owner TRPublishing and its proprietor Trevor Preece.

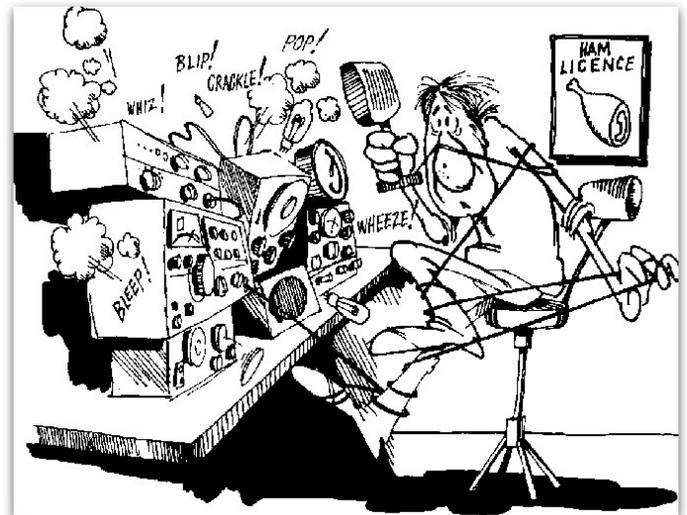
As with all older books, the challenge for the reader is to separate the parts that are of lasting value from other parts that have become dated. But we make no apology for that; even the outdated parts remain an accurate snapshot of VHF/UHF DXing in its heyday.

–  
**Roger Blackwell GM4PMK**

[www.marsport.org.uk](http://www.marsport.org.uk)

73, David AD4TJ

Thanks Dave for the link.



## The Opinionated One, Continued

(continued from page 2)

the new page, it can't be found all the time.

Thus, the bears indeed do this in the woods. Hartford also appears to be in the line-up, and Chamberlain insists that he'll win the next one, regardless of whether the starting team is approved by the Elkton Mayor or not.

The Senate concurs, and studies show that over 90% of Craigsville residents feel that they don't have an opinion in the matter, although a quick poll shows that local industries supporting the awarding of rights to the new expenditure, given NASA's previous dealings with the Staunton City Council on the parking garage issue in past years.

(Moe, Curly, Groucho, and Spongebob contributed to this article.)

# MARA Secretary's Report

## MARA Secretary's Report

February 2, 2017

General Meeting called to order at Wood Grill, Harrisonburg, by President Andrew Pearson (N4RCE) at 7:30 p.m. 27 members and 9 guests were present. Introductions were made all around.

New Member Vote: none

New Member First Reading: Eric Evans (K4NDN)

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

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

### Committee Reports:

**ARES: Bryan Daniels (K4RMY):** The Rockingham.ARES.org web page has been redesigned and is up to date.

**Repeater Committee: David Fordham (KD9LA):** The 145.130 repeater will be used for the next Rockingham ARES check-in, to test its facility for those who would check in.

**VE Committee: Gerald Nauman (KN4FM):** Next test session will start at 9:00 A.M., Feb. 11 (2nd Saturday of even months).

Testing is at Woodmen Life, Rt 42 in Dayton.

**Public Service Committee:** No Report.

Old Business: Bob VanFossen (K4DJG): The roof repair at the

440 repeater shelter on Great Northern Mtn will be completed

after Easter, since following the last repair visit, it is not leaking anymore and the weather will be better.

**New Business: Bob Steere (N1QEQ):** It's VARA's turn to chair the Field Day Committee this year.

The Stokesville Campground has "cleared" us for 2017 Field Day, but we will not be permitted to camp there before the Monday preceding FD weekend (June 23 - 25). MARA members will be Bob Steere, Andrew Person, and Herb Slade. Late report: John Keller (W4ZAO) of VARA will be Chairman.

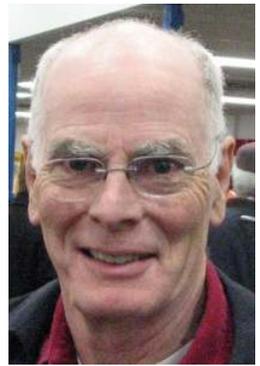
**50/50 Drawing: \$17.50** was won by Roger Pience (N1XP), who donated his share to the club. \$35 went to the MARA treasury. Thank you, Roger!

Time Adjourned: 7:49 p.m.

**Program:** An extensive video was viewed, "A History of Collins Radio". Many interesting facts about the visionary founder and the inventions his company developed for the communications industry (not to mention Ham Radio) were introduced in this documentary.

Next month: Swap (or sell) meet on March 2nd.

Respectively submitted, Herb Slade, AA2BF, Secretary



# MARA Treasurer's Report

January 21, 2017 to February 20, 2017

Opening Balance		<u>\$ 1,100.58</u>
Income: Memberships	\$ 312.00	
50/50	\$ 35.00	
<b>Total Income:</b>	<u>\$ 347.00</u>	
Expenses: Electric	\$ 22.32	
Club Storage	\$ 360.00	
VA SCC Corp Filing	\$ 26.95	
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<u>\$ 409.27</u>	
<b>Balance February 20, 2017</b>		<u><b>\$ 1,038.31</b></u>



Submitted by Foster Farone, WF40  
MARA Treasurer

# PVARC Secretary's Report

tabled to allow further committee and board research and discussion

## February 3 , 2017 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President **Dave Firestone K4DPF** at 6:36 PM at Tactical Walls in Shenandoah. (Thanks to **Tim KM4TGC** and **Carrie KM4WDX** for the donation of the use of the facility!)

9 members and 2 guests were in attendance

The Secretary's report and Treasurer's report were approved

### Old Business:

**Dave K4DPF** reminded the members of Frost Fest on Saturday Feb 4, including a "Winlink Wednesday Meet and Greet" meeting at 11AM,

Dave K4DPF updated the members on the state legislature distracted driving bill (Dave will draft a letter and distribute)

Dave K4DPF is looking for a member to accompany him to the Dayton hamfest

Dave K4DPF reported on the January PVARC Board Meeting Juergen W3LUV, treasurer, reported the club insurance is paid and in force (renews in Spring)

The subject of purchasing a transceiver for the club was

### New Business:

A discussion of electing another At Large Board Member was opened and it was agreed to take nominations from the floor at next meeting

A discussion of finding a new Field Day Chairman was opened and Bob KI4VFP offered to fill that role if no one else offers

A discussion of program topics and time guidelines included results of a survey of topics taken by **Juergen W3LUV** ... digital modes and related subjects were high on the list

A discussion of a proposed "letter of intent" to document the club's support for the "Valley Digital Network" uncovered a couple of potential issues that need more research (**Dave K4DPF** offered to do the research)

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM, followed by doughnuts and various discussions including welcoming our guests and acquainting them with Amateur Radio.

Respectfully submitted by **Gary Fischer K6OZ**,

PVARC Secretary



## PVARC Treasurer's Report

Feb 13th, 2016

<b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$3,710.41</b>
Donations	\$50.00	
Dues	\$60.00	
50/50	\$0.00	
<b>Total Deposits</b>		<b>\$110.00</b>
Misc	\$0.00	
<b>Total Disbursements</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Ending Balance</b>		<b>\$3,820.41</b>

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

# VARA Secretary's Report

Due to circumstances beyond his control, the MARA Secretary's report has not been submitted. Wishing you a speedy recovery , Dave.

John, KT4CB, Newsletter Editor



## On The Mend



Finally got released at 4:45 PM yesterday from UVA. I have a back brace I will have to wear for 3 months. I have to go back for a follow-up visit in 2 weeks. If x-rays show good progress then I may avoid surgery. Thanks for all the prayers, messages, and offers of help. What a great bunch of guys!

73, David AD4TJ



### K4MRH, Mike

For those who know Mike K4MRH he is at AMC room 222. He had an angioplasty today and is scheduled for a pace maker.

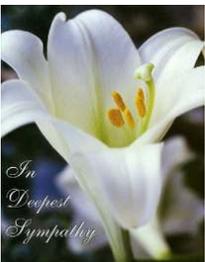


### KE4NNV, Ray

Just let everyone know, Ray ke4nnv, had a pace maker implanted at Augusta Health, I spoke with Joan his wife this evening and she said he did great, and was already feeling better..



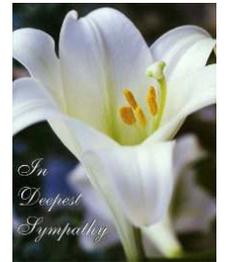
## Silent Keys



### Mark Wayne Brown, KE4HVS

The Waynesboro paper contained an obit for KE4HVS, Mark Wayne Brown. Further info on [www.mcdowfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.mcdowfuneralhomeinc.com)

73 Gordon WA4FJC





## 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		<a href="mailto:wo4mi@arrl.net">wo4mi@arrl.net</a>

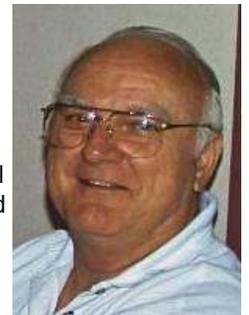
### Call Up Procedure

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.

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

Thanks to **Ray, K4NRA**, **Jim, W4POL**, and **Bryan, K4RMY** for their help at the VE test session on February 11. There were seven candidates, resulting in two new Technician class and five new General class hams. Everyone passed the test they planned to take making it a very successful test session.

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](mailto:gshu7411@gmail.com)  
Gerald, KN4FM



## Get Involved!



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



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.

**LZ, Bulgaria:** Nasko/LZ1YE celebrates his 45th year on the air with the call LZ45YE throughout the year. QRV on HF on SSB, CW, and digital modes. QSL via LZ1YE (d/B). The Headquarter of the Thracian Rose Club operates with the call LZ73TRC during 2017. QSL via LZ1YE (d/B). Members of the Thracian Rose Club are going to direct our attention to the 114th Roses Festival with the call LZ114RF until July 31. QSL via LZ1YE (d/B).

<http://www.trcdx.org/>

**OH, Finland:** Finnish hams will be using the prefix **OF** during 2017 to celebrate their country's 100 years of independence.

**OM, SLOVAK REPUBLIC:** Special event station OM42KY-SUCE is QRV until the end of June 2017 during the context of the 42nd ARDF Kysuca Cup that will be held on June 16 to 18. QSL via OM3CND.

**XE, Mexico:** The radio club Queretaro (XE1RCQ) commemorates the ratification of the Mexican Constitution 100 years ago with the call 6EOC until April 30. QSL via XE1EE (d/B).

**YV, Venezuela:** The Asociacion de Radioaficionados de Venezuela (ARV) celebrates its 50th anniversary with the special call YV50ARV until the year's end on HF (CW, SSB, digital modes). QSL via YV5DTA/W4DTA, LoITW.

## How's DX

**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/](http://www.mourx.com/oqrs/) for direct and bureau cards. See [www.qrz.com/db/6W1SU](http://www.qrz.com/db/6W1SU) for more information.

**6W, Senegal & J5, Guinea-Bissau:** Peter/HA3AU is going to put Senegal and Guinea-Bissau on the air between Jan. 20 and March 5. He will be active as 6W2SC and J5UAP. QRV mainly on 20-10m (CW), other bands and modes via skeds. There may be options for IOTA or WWFF activation in Senegal. QSL via HA3AU (d), [LoTW](http://LoTW).

<http://cqafrika.net/>

**9H, MALTA:** Special event station 9H2017EU is QRV until June 2017 to mark the 2017 Maltese European Union Presidency. QSL direct to 9H1SP.

**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.

**DL, Germany:** Operators of the club station DLOVBG from the railway museum Vienenburg (DOK H09) will be working with the special event call DROHARZ (special DOK 25HSB) during 2017 to mark the 25th anniversary of the return of the narrow gauge Brocken Railway (1141m asl). QSL via DF7AA (d/B).

**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

## 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 QRO 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.

**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.

**AS-015 - WEST MALAYSIA, 9M2:** Rich/PAORRS will be active again as 9M2MRS from Penang Island until the end of January 2018. QRV on 40-10m (CW, RTTY, JT65, JT9, and some SSB).

This month's bulletin was made possible with information provided by NC1L, QRZ DX, The Weekly DX, The OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST, the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

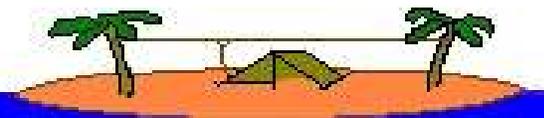
QSL via PAORRS (d/B), ClubLog, LoTW, eQSL.

**NA-008 - CANADA, VE:** Members of the Eureka Amateur Radio Club station VYOERC will be QRV from Eureka, Ellesmere Island, IOTA NA-008, beginning January 22 until early April 2017. Activity will be when conditions allow. QSL direct to M00XO.

**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 TO7D 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.

**OC-019 - KH6, Hawaiian Islands:** Andy/VE7AHA will be paying Big Island (USi HI-025S, WLOTA 0065) a visit from Jan. 14 until March 11 and sign KH6/VE7AHA during that time. QSL via h/c (d), LoTW.



## Contests & QSO Parties

For more details and information, go to:

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

- 1 QRP Fox Hunt
- 1 Phone Fray
- 1 UKEICC 80m Contest
- 1-2 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 2 NRAU 10m Activity Contest
- 3 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 3 QRP Fox Hunt
- 3 NCCC Sprint
- 4 Wake-Up! QRP Sprint
- 4-5 ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB
- 4-5 Open Ukraine RTTY Championship
- 5 UBA Spring Contest, CW
- 5 DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest
- 5 SARL Hamnet 40m Simulated Emerg Contest
- 5 NSARA Contest
- 6 RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data
- 7 ARS Spartan Sprint
- 7 AGCW YL-CW Party
- 8 QRP Fox Hunt
- 8 Phone Fray
- 8-9 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 8-9 AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest
- 10 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 10 QRP Fox Hunt
- 10 NCCC Sprint
- 11 AGCW QRP Contest
- 11 QRP ARCI Spring Thaw SSB Sprint
- 11-12 AWA John Rollins Memorial DX Contest
- 11-12 RSGB Commonwealth Contest
- 11-12 SARL VHF/UHF Analogue/Digital Contest
- 11-12 South America 10 Meter Contest
- 11-12 F9AA Cup, SSB
- 11-12 SKCC Weekend Sprintathon
- 11-12 Oklahoma QSO Party**
- 11-12 Stew Perry Topband Challenge
- 11-12 EA PSK63 Contest
- 11-12 QCWA QSO Party**
- 11-12 TESLA Memorial HF CW Contest



### 11-12 Idaho QSO Party

- 12 North American Sprint, RTTY
- 12 UBA Spring Contest, 2m
- 12 WAB 3.5 MHz Phone

### 12-13 Wisconsin QSO Party

- 15 QRP Fox Hunt
- 15 Phone Fray
- 15 RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW
- 15-16 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 16 NAQCC CW Sprint
- 17 QRP Fox Hunt
- 17 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 17 NCCC Sprint
- 18 AGCW VHF/UHF Contest
- 18 Feld Hell Sprint
- 18-19 Russian DX Contest

### 18-19 Virginia QSO Party

### 18-19 Louisiana QSO Party

- 18-20 BARTG HF RTTY Contest
- 19 UBA Spring Contest, SSB
- 20 Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
- 20 Bucharest Contest
- 21-22 CLARA Chatter Party
- 22 SKCC Sprint
- 22 QRP Fox Hunt
- 22 Phone Fray
- 22-23 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 23 RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB
- 24 QRP Fox Hunt
- 24 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 24 NCCC Sprint

### 25 FOC QSO Party

- 25-26 CLARA Chatter Party
- 25-26 CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB
- 26 UBA Spring Contest, 6m
- 29 QRP Fox Hunt
- 29 Phone Fray
- 29-30 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 29 UKEICC 80m Contest
- 31 QRP Fox Hunt
- 31 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 31 NCCC Sprint



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

## Calendar of Local Events

### March

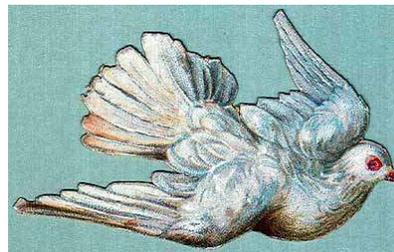
- 2 MARA Club Meeting
- 3 PVARC Club Meeting
- 3 Friday Luncheon
- 5 Page County ARES Net (146.550 Simplex)
- 6 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.550 Simplex)
- 6 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 kHz)
- 7 VARA Club Meeting
- 9 Augusta County ARES Net (146.850, PL131.8)
- 10 Friday Luncheon
- 12 Page County ARES Net (146.670, PL 114.8)
- 13 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.225, PL 131.8)
- 17 Friday Luncheon
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 18-19 VA QSO Party
- 19 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)
- 20 Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225, PL 131.8)
- 20 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 kHz)
- 20 **Deadline for April newsletter submission\***
- 24 Friday Luncheon
- 26 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)
- 27 Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225, PL 131.8)



### April

- 1 APRIL FOOLS DAY
- 2 Page County ARES Net (146.550 Simplex)
- 3 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.550 Simplex)
- 3 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 kHz)
- 4 VARA Club Meeting
- 6 MARA Club Meeting
- 7 PVARC Club Meeting
- 7 Friday Luncheon
- 9 Page County ARES Net (146.550 Simplex)
- 10 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.550 Simplex)
- 13 Augusta County ARES Net (146.850, PL131.8)
- 14 Friday Luncheon
- 14 Good Friday
- 15 TAX DAY
- 16 EASTER
- 16 Page County ARES Net (146.670, PL 114.8)
- 17 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.225, PL 131.8)
- 17 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 kHz)
- 20 **Deadline for May newsletter submission\***
- 21 Friday Luncheon
- 23 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)
- 24 Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225, PL 131.8)
- 24 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 kHz)
- 28 Friday Luncheon
- 30 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



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, 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**  
**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 Tactical Walls at 611 Williams Avenue in Shenandoah, 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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## **MARA/VARA/PVARC**

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Stanley, VA 22851

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Email: kt4cbva@gmail.com

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**Return Service Requested**

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