

THE MONITOR

May 2017

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

VARA Meeting May 2nd

The **Valley Amateur Radio Association**, will hold its **May 2nd** 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. **Jeff Rinehart W4PJW** will be presenting a program on "Morse Runner" right after the May VARA meeting May 2nd. All hams are welcome to attend. This software helps CW operators increase their speed and other skills.

MARA Meeting May 4th

The **Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**, will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, **May 4th**, 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 May 5th



The **Page Valley Amateur Radio Club** will hold its regular meeting on **May 5th** 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.

STOP THE PRESSES!



Gwen Matter daughter of **Tim (KM4TGC)** & **Carrie (KM4WDX)** is now the newest and youngest General Class Amateur Radio operator in the area. **Gwen's call is KN4COU**, a three Ham household, how cool is that.

Congratulations Gwen! Welcome to Amateur Radio.

President's Corner

Greeting fellow hams! It's been awhile since I have put pen to paper to write some important and not so important words to you.

The contest's are over for the most part for me till fall and I just had my son and his family here for a week so now time to get ready for Field day and summertime jobs out in the yard.

First, I would like to thank all the members of the Field Day Committee for their expert help in getting this year's event in order. At the April 5th meeting, we had 11 members representing both VARA and MARA clubs. The committee has made some changes to this year's event and I am hoping that all Valley hams will make it a point to stop by during Field Day June 24 and 25th.

Another event coming up is the Dayton Hamfest , May 19-21, several local hams are driving up on Thursday and

some of us are leaving on Wednesday to attend Contest University, an all day event dedicated to those who enjoy contesting. If anyone has any questions about traveling up to Dayton or the events scheduled, drop me a line at eaglehiker@hotmail.com and I will try and help get the answers for you.

Since Spring has sprung it's time to check your towers, wires and antenna's from the winter elements and make sure connections, nuts and bolts and your structures are in good repair. Remember safety first and always have an extra person on hand if climbing towers or trees.

Til next month have fun, be safe and I hope to hear you on 10 meters!

John Keller W4ZAO, President VARA
Field Day Chairman



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/>

"Country Roads" MS Tour

I am looking for medically trained hams (EMT, First Responder even CPR). The event is called "Country Roads". It is an MS charity event that takes place on **August 26 - 27, 2017**. It is actually 2 separate tours on the same day starting at White Sulphur Springs, WV going to Cass, WV and back. One tour traveling along the highway the other up the Greenbrier River Trail. Typically we overnight at the 4H Camp in Anthony, WV on Friday night and in a State Park owned house in Cass on Saturday night, coming home Sunday when done.

To do this event the way I want to takes about 12 people total. I have 5 or so already so it should not be too hard to fill the slots. The general communications part of the event is handled by the club there.

I can be reached at: lvincen@vfmcd.com (540)280-3972 Text or Voice

Thanks, Lenny, N4LXP



Sale



Heathkit SB-104A, All Solid State Transceiver - Full Station \$395.00

Complete Heathkit SB-104A Station. Cosmetically, good. Consists of:

- SB-104A 100 watt HF transceiver with CW filter and Noise blanker
- SB-644A Remote VFO with manual - assumed working
- SB-604 Power Supply with internal speaker with manual
- HP-1144 Spare PowerSupply with manuals - assumed working
- Shure 444 Microphone - assumed working
- Drake TV-3300-LP Low Pass Filter with doc. - assumed working
- Heath Model SA-5010 uMatic Keyer with manual - condition unknown
- MFJ-941B Versa Tuner II - works
- power supply and accessory cables
- extender board
- Spare 85-1666-1 (G) board - condition unknown
- Spare 85-1580-1 (B) board - condition unknown
- Documentation
 - SB-104A Operation Manual
 - SB-104 Assembly Manuals
 - SB-104 to SB104A Modification Manual
 - schematics for the SB-104A.

Receiver works. S-meter does not. Transmitter does not
Power Supply: The power supply works. The spare power supply has not been tested
Except for recent tests, it has not been in service for an unknown time.

The entire suite is offered at \$395. **I will not split up the suite.**

Contact Pete Fundinger – AA4PF. 73deaa4pf@gmail.com 540-568-8615



The APEX Band

Dennis Phillips, WSVN News, 2010-2014



Most of you remember from my time in the valley at WSVN, that I have been a broadcast engineer and in 1968 was issued one of the old FCC First Class Radio Telephone licenses with a Ship's Radar Endorsement.

In the last few years generally, the AM Broadcast radio has fallen on hard times as the leading source for audio broadcasting. FM began to replace it in the late 1970s. Locally in the Valley, WSVN radio still does well due to a commitment to locally originated programming and the hilly terrain which is often not conducive to reliable VHF FM broadcast propagation over a wide market area.

The FCC has been interested in "reviving" some of the vitality of historic AM radio since the early 1980s. Several schemes have been tried. The first was AM Stereo, but that was hampered by the conviction that "the marketplace" should decide the engineering format. There were finally two contenders and the result was that no one would buy a receiver because they were unsure they could always receive the proper signal.

Next, a consortium of broadcaster decided on a standard for superimposing a digital signal over the AM signal. The receiver would select whichever was the most detectable signal. The standard is called IBOC (In Band on Channel-Digital). From an engineering point of view, the success was problematic since the digital information added artifacts to the AM sidebands (recall what happens when you heterodyne frequencies) and at night the IBOC signal tended to splatter across the bandwidth over a wide geographic area. A COFDM

standard, such as DRM, on a separate frequency would have been preferable.

The FCC also contributed to the decline of AM by narrowing the bandwidth and then in the 70s and 80s packing the AM band by allowing "Daytime only" stations (such as WHPG 1360 and WKYC-AM 1300) to stay on at night. The 9-watt signal of WHPG and the 5-watt signal of WKYC-AM did little more, beyond about a 5-mile listening radius, than add interference to the band. We used to call the old Class 4s "graveyard frequencies" and packing the band expanding the land of the dead.

Today, the FCC had decided to not try to revive "AM radio" but is allowing the AM stations to add a low power translator on the FM band. WSVN now transmits its classic 550 AM programming on 92.1 FM. WHPG also has an FM translator as does WKYC AM.

Mostly forgotten to all but us engineer-types (I include you Hams in my engineering group) is the history of the FCC and big business trying to "fix" the broadcast characteristics of the AM radio band. (By the way AM is still the standard for all Aviation Radio due to the usefulness of AM at the line-of-sight and high frequencies.)

The final "fix" was fought, at first, by the business giants such as RCA, who rejected Edwin Armstrong's FM standard! His battles with the giants seemed to have led him to tragically commit suicide in 1954. He was an engineering master and visionary, having created the super heterodyne circuit in 1918 as well as the FM standard in 1933. If you are familiar with engineering math and Fourier analysis, you can appreciate why the Super Het replaced the regenerative receiver.

In 1937 the FCC allocated an Apex station band, consisting of 75 transmitting frequencies running from 41.02 to 43.98 MHz! They also had a wider bandwidth for higher audio reception. We all know that the higher the frequency the less susceptibility to static. This is the reason for the HF AM Tropical Broadcast Band as well as the VHF AM Aviation band.

These "Pinnacle" or Apex stations were not given permission to operate commercially, although they could retransmit the programming from their standard AM stations. Most operated under experimental licenses. With World War Two approaching and the shortage of

Charlotte, what happened to the Channel 1 on their TV set? All the old analog TVs began with Channel 2.

TV channel 1 used 44-50 MHz. The FCC moved the frequency range for Channel 1 around the lower VHF spectrum, causing confusion with viewers, broadcasters and manufacturers. The frequency was so low that during certain conditions, you would get skip and could get DX TV on that channel. (Think about the propagation characteristics of the 6 meter band) Finally, the FCC concluded there would be no Channel 1. And VHF TV channels would begin at Channel 2. The FM radio band was also moved to 88-106 MHz and then completed at 88-108 MHz.

Due to short spacing between stations on the same channels and unforeseen and misunderstood atmospheric conditions, there was interference. Lots of it. Especially in the Northeast. New TV spectrum had to be carved out to satisfy everyone.

Finally in 1952, the UHF TV band was created out of what was once surplus radio spectrum for the military. Until 1964, TV set manufacturers weren't required to include UHF TV on their sets. By including the UHF band in all TV receivers, it allowed that band to develop during the analog years, which ended in 2009.

Dennis Phillips, NS4K



The old FM radio Band from a 1940s receiver.

manufacturing materials causing the lack of commercial receivers, plus lacking much unique programming content, the FCC decided there was no need for a second AM broadcast band, so the Apex station assignments were ordered off the air by January 1, 1941. A few of the original Apex stations were converted into some of the earliest FM Broadcast stations on 42 to 50 Megahertz. Today the FM Broadcast band is 88-108 Megahertz.

This leads to my final engineering trivia. I was often asked by old timers, when I did TV engineering for WBTV in



Field Day Planning

VARA/MARA FIELD DAY 2017

Mark your calendars; take off work, cancel family reunions, weddings and anything else that you have planned for June 23, 24 and 25th!!!

It's time again for FIELD DAY and this year your committee representatives have some new and exciting changes in store for the 2017 event.

First, this year's event will be at the Stokesville Campground, the same as it was last year. There is camping available and it's a beautiful place to relax and enjoy the weekend with friends, family and radio fun. I have included the directions to the campground compliments of Jeff W4PJW in this issue of the Monitor.

For those new hams and those who have never attended here is a quick schedule of events.

Friday June 23rd - most people spending the weekend arrive and set up, around 2:00pm unpacking of equipment and placement of operation trailers and getting antenna's ready. At 6pm everyone is invited to a Pot Luck Dinner, bring a dish and this year one of the NEW changes is W4ZAO will be grilling a variety of items including hamburgers, hot dogs, steaks, fish and chicken.

Saturday June 24th - Everyone help's set up and prepare all the stations and, it's also a great time to learn about wire antennas, placement and safety. Field Day starts at 2:00pm and run's 24 hrs. We will need operators around the clock to operate SSB, CW and Digital, so I am asking

all Valley members to please help out and sign up for the many duties that are involved to make **Field Day** a success.

Sunday June 25th - Field Day operations til 2:00pm, then the dismantling of the equipment and cleaning up the area as we found it, before we leave.

Ok, enough emails, phone calls about what ARE the new changes to this year's Field Day event. Here is a taste of what your committee has worked so hard to make happen.

The Chairman W4ZAO will be cooking throughout the weekend, 2 grill's will be set up for the Pot Luck Saturday night dinner, breakfast of sausage and bacon, eggs and hash browns will be available Saturday and Sunday morning, Hot dogs and hamburgers will be available Saturday night as well.

We will be having DOOR PRIZES throughout the weekend, everyone will be given a ticket and YOU MUST be PRESENT to win. The list of prizes is growing daily so plan on attending this year's event! If we get the magic number of prizes we will be having a drawing every 2 hours. I can't wait to wake Benny N4BCC up at 3am and tell him he won a bag of transistors!!!

We will be having a campfire this year so that everyone can sit around and visit and enjoy cooking marshmallows and singing radio melodies. (Ok, I just threw the melody thing in for laughs)

More to come in the June Monitor, Mark your Calendars, Plan on Being at FIELD DAY!!!!



GOTA Station Rules

INFORMATION ON OPERATOR ELIGIBILITY FOR FIELD DAY GOTA STATION

SEVERAL QUESTION HAVE BEEN ASKED REGARDING WHO CAN OPERATE THE GOTA STATION DURING FIELD DAY. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FROM THE 2017 FIELD DAY RULES.

SECTION 4.1.1.2

THE GOTA STATION MAY BE OPERATED BY ANY PERSON LICENSED SINCE THE LAST FIELD DAY (2016), REGARDLESS OF LICENSE CLASS. IT MAY ALSO BE OPERATED BY A GENERALLY INACTIVE LICENSEE. NON-LICENSED PERSONS MAY PARTICIPATE UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF AN APPROPRIATE CONTROL OPERATOR. A LIST OF OPERATORS AND PARTICIPANTS MUST BE INCLUDED ON THE REQUIRED SUMMARY SHEET TO ARRL HQTRS.

Field Day Directions Cutout

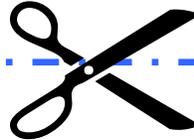
-Directions to the MARA/VARA Field Day site begin at the sharp turn on Rt. 42 - 3 miles south of Bridgewater.

Proceeding south on Rt. 42 from Bridgewater you will turn right at the sharp turn on to Rt. 747. If you are coming north on Rt. 42 from Churchville you will see a sign with flashing yellow lights just before you turn left on Rt. 747.

Go west on Rt. 747/613 towards Mt. Solon. Just follow the main road. After 3.4 miles you will come to a 4-way stop at Mt. Solon – continue straight ahead following the main paved road. There are no left or right turns after you leave Rt. 42.

The road number will change from 747 to 730 but just follow the main road and you will probably not even notice the number change. Continue straight at the 3-way stop. When you come to a one lane steel bridge - **You Have Arrived**. Turn left up the drive by the yellow house just **Before** you cross the bridge.

Note that **when you leave the site** – follow the Exit signs in the Campground and turn right at the paved road. You make no more turns till you get to Rt. 42.



Field Day 2016 Results

Results For Field Day 2016 for MARA/VARA and Page Valley ARC's

The results for the 2016 Field Day were printed in December 2016's QST.

Our 2 local clubs did very well! Here are the figures:

	W4XD(MARA/VARA)	K4PMH(Page Valley ARC)
QSO's	1,962	824
Score	7,428	3,600
Participants	49	18
Entry Category	3A	1A
Place in VA in Category	2nd of 9	1st of 4
Place in Roanoke Division in Category	2nd of 26	1st of 8
Place in US/VE in Category	13th of 326	12th of 132
Place in VA in All Categories	5th of 77	12th of 77
Place in US/VE in All Categories	90th of 2,696	398th of 2,696

As a note of interest, I looked at the largest xxA entry:

WOGQ Cedar Valley ARC of Iowa: 21A 1878 Q's, 7,532 points, 50 participants

So the W4XD operation, with only 3 transmitters, did almost as well as this 21 transmitter operation!

73, David AD4TJ



CQ WPX Contest Results Reported

The CQ WPX SB Contest of March 2017 found the Shenandoah Valley Wireless contest club active with 6 members entering logs:

John KT4CB, John W4ZAO, Paul W4PFM, David KD9LA, Ed KC4HYO, and David AD4TJ. Here are their comments and results:

W4ZAO's Results:

Well another contest done and I need a long rest from 4 of them in the last 5 weeks. I know a few other local hams were in the contest, so I thought I would start off the thread with my results.

1.8 5
3.5 64
7 179
14 268

21 85 Total: 601 QSO's Score: 573,024 points

Don't forget to put " Shenandoah Valley Wireless" in the club line. See everyone at Field Day 2017 in June!!

And here is Dave KD9LA's report:

The bands were much, much better than I expected, especially 20m.

160m: no antenna

80m: 131 QSOs

40m: 147 QSOs

20m: 179 QSOs

15m: 56 QSOs

10m: Nothing but hiss, no signals anywhere on the band that I could hear at any time I checked.

513 total contacts, 317 prefixes, claimed score of 417,172 points.

Off time: 14 hours 52 minutes , operating time 33 hours 8 minutes.

74 DXCC entities across all four bands. Notables ones were Cyprus, Sicily, Cueta Melilla, Morocco, Madiera Islands, Cape Verde islands, Suriname, Asiatic Russia, Bulgaria, Romania, Malta, Montserrat, and the Azores, along with tons of Caribbean Islands.

Here is Paul W4PFM's report:

I operated 10 hours in the WPX contest. I only operated 40, 80 and 160 bands as I only had my inverted V as a usable antenna operating remote. I ran 100 watts. I worked 37 countries and 13 Zones. Was surprised at the distorted signals on the bands making for difficult copy. I worked KD9LA which was the first entry for David in my log. Also worked W4PJW and Glendon N4ALS. I worked one other from the valley but forgot the call; sorry. Highlight of the contest was working CN2AA 8 minutes before the end of contest for country 62 on 160! Never expected to work a new one on Top Band using phone! This was also a new top band zone! Number 19.

Band QSOs Pts WPX Pt/Q

1.8 19 36 8 1.9

3.5 95 243 60 2.6

7 133 391 90 2.9

Total 247 670 158 2.7 Score: 105,860 points

And here is John KT4CB's effort:

OK, here are my stats for the contest. 1st contest since '98(VAQSO party doesn't count as a contest). I did not intentionally set out to run the contest at 5w. But, I tuned up at 5W and forgot to up the power after I started. I did not want to tempt the propagation gods by changing in mid-stream, so I left everything like it was and ran 5w through out the contest.

Time on: 11 hours 17 min.

3.5 21

7 25

14 24 Total Q's: 70 Score: 11,682 points

And from Ed KC4HYO:

SINGLE-OP, NON-ASSISTED, Low Power Software : N1MM Logger+ 1.0.6091.0

Band QSOs Pts WPX Pt/Q

14 17 0 17 0.0

14 24 41 21 1.7

21 17 40 15 2.4

Tot al 58 81 53 1.4 Score : 4,293 points

Rig : Icom 751A

Antennas :Cushcraft 20m Mono Bander, and a Cushcraft Mini Beam for 15m up about 50ft.

DX Worked: Bahamas, Canada, Bermuda, Alaska, Uruguay, Porto Rico, French Guiana, Brazil, Netherlands, Colombia, France, Japan, Hong Kong, Germany, Pakistan.

I won't tell anyone that I am not a experienced tester, however you can guess that by my score. I only did S&P off and on during the day and evening, and only the 20 and 15 meter bands. I am happy about my world-wide coverage which included some really good countries. Also had good coverage of the US, which included a lot of the West Coast. I have to thank **Jeff W4PJW** for helping me get set with the N1MM contesting program. He has also helped me get the RTTY into N1MM, setting up macros and preparing the logs for export. So my hat is off to Jeff for spending some hours on the phone with me. Maybe some day I will come up with some big scores?

And **David AD4TJ's** stats:

Equipment: TS-2000X, KPA-500 at 400 watts(when it worked), triband HF beam at 20 feet, short top-loaded vertical for 40/80 (short, meaning 13 feet), N1MM+ software.

Bands were in decent shape; surprised 20 had so many signals! Frustrated that I could easily hear Europeans on 40 but could not get them to hear me. The Elecraft amp worked most of the time, but towards the end kept shutting down. 1 station said my audio was awful; changed to the hand mike and got better results. Discovered(by accident) that N1MM+ can change the freq. on the radio without me having to turn the dial, by using the up/down arrow buttons. How convenient!

3.5 = 1; 7 = 23; 14 = 112; Total Q's: 136, Points = 317, WPX = 125 Score: 39,625 points

Time On: 7 hours; CATEGORY-OVERLAY: TB-WIRES

So for the contest club competition here is the total claimed score:

1,151,656 points!! I'm impressed!

Looking back at the 2016 results for the COMBINED CW and SSB contests(of which we had no entry for the CW contest), we would have placed 36th out of 52 US contest clubs! All the more impressive!

73, **David AD4TJ**, SVW Contest Club Manager

CQ WW RTTY Contest of September 2016

Bennie Cook N4BCC and David Tanks AD4TJ entered the above contest. Here is how they did.

	Q's	Score	Category Entered	Placed in 4th Call Area
Bennie:	118	22,873	Low Power All Bands Assisted	5th out of 10
David	248	66,125	Low Power All Bands Non-Assisted	8th out of 41

73, David AD4TJ

The 2017 VA QSO Party and the Shenandoah Valley Wireless Contest Club Effort

For this year's QSO Party the contest club had many logs submitted; we should easily be able to move from next-to-last place to at least a place or two higher.

Here are the operators who submitted logs containing SVW on their entry:

W4ZAO John, W4PJW Jeff, N4BCC Bennie, W4GRC Greg, W4PFM Paul, N1QEQ Bob, KD9LA Dave, N4EDI Ed, KI4STU Deeter, KF4FC Fred, K4DJG Bob, WA4FJC Gordon, and myself AD4TJ David.

The raw claimed score for the club is 217,628 points. This compares to last year's score of 177,980 actual points.

The big contributors to the club's score are:

John: 82,304 points with 540 Q's

Jeff: 69,324 points with 453 Q's

Bennie: 22,272 points with 216 Q's

Paul: 19,740 points with 205 Q's

Greg: 16,206 points with 165 Q's

2015's QSO totals for Augusta County were 1789; 2016's totals were 2511. I assume this does not include cities, such as Staunton, Waynesboro, etc.

Can't wait to see how we did this year!

73, David AD4TJ

Blast from the Past . . .

From *The Monitor*, June 2008, page 3

The Phillips Code

It was one of those great "AHA!" moments. Circulating around the Internet as "Only great minds can read this" floated across my screen. You may have seen it:

"fi yuo cna raed tihs, yuo hvae a sgtrane mnid ... "

Of course I could read the scrambled and garbled text. Then came comprehension. A great light dawned in this Old Timer's CW consciousness. This little exercise from some researchers at Cambridge University reveals the secret of copying highspeed CW plaintext. That is, the CW op doesn't need ALL the letters in a word to recognize it, much less in correct order -- just enough letters (initial and terminal) to fit it to its context for a fully transcribed text. I have known and marvelled at highspeed ops who could copy plain text English 60-65 WPM. I personally clocked one at 68 WPM, the highest setting we could get on a Boehme keyer. Awesome.

I knew that such high speed ops had to slow down significantly to receive and transcribe five-letter cipher groups. Such coded texts preclude subliminal recognition of content; every letter has to be accounted for individually -- there is no "context" of meaning in raw cipher traffic. So the 60 WPM high speed press op, for example, had to brake down to 35-40 WPM to handle five-letter code groups. Many high speed ops could comfortably copy press ten to twenty words behind transmission. No problem remembering context and meaning as the plaintext words flow across the page. (I've known and seen shipboard ops copy press for the ship's newspaper directly on mimeograph stencils.)

Copying five-letter code groups behind is tougher. There is no "meaning" to recall while pounding the mill. Although I have friends who could copy four or five groups behind (i.e., 20-25 characters), the best I could do in my salad days was one to two groups (or five to ten letters) behind.

Years later, a psychology prof explained this exhibited a typical short-term memory "bin" of the mind. That's why we can easily recall 7-digit telephone numbers but have difficulty with the 10-digit ones or commercial 9-digit zip codes.

Wait -- there's more! More than a century ago telegraphy was our only mechanism for transmitting news and messages across the land. Electricity beat out the Pony Express in just one year when the transcontinental railroad came along in 1867. The telegraph flourished with avidly sought-after sports and political news, all usually charged at a unit cost-per-character. High speed telegraphers (such as Thomas Edison) made bundles of money for Western Union, Postal Telegraph and other companies producing hand-written messages at speeds of up to 30-35 WPM. Exactly as the 20th century's high speed radiotelegraphers could do with plaintext press as noted above.

In 1879 Walter J. Phillips developed a "telegraphic shorthand" to speed up transmission times and economize on per-character cost. Mr Phillips' code embodied one to four letter abbreviations for roughly 10,000 common English words. (Did you know your own English storage bin recognizes about ten times that number?) In Phillips Code, for example, "MST HV IMT AR TO OU TGM O YA" is written out as "Must have immediate answer to our telegram of yesterday" -- a saving of 49% of per-character charges, and a freeing up of 33% more available circuit capacity.

By century's end (1900) the Phillips code was in common use by skilled telegraphers across the land. When typewriters came into general use, telegraphers knowing Phillips Code abbreviations would directly transcribe text into plain language as heard on the sounder. Although telegraphic and radio circuits were advanced with the machinery of 20th century electro-mechanical technology (e.g. teletype, ticker tape), brass-pounding old timers still used it through WW-2 on both military radio and LL circuits if they found a knowledgeable partner on the other end and the text was unclassified plain English.

Morse telegraphy, including HF CW, has indeed faded away into a dim and distant past. Phillips Code itself occupies a small niche in the annals of American communications technology. Yet we as amateur radio operators occasionally using CW Morse code on the air employ some vestiges of this long-forgotten Phillips Code: ES for "and" and TT for "that." Two from ten thousand is a tiny remainder and minuscule percentage indeed, but maybe as with the South, Mr Phillips' English language code Will Rise Again!

Hugh Pettis, K3EC



MARA Secretary's Report

MARA Secretary's Report – April 6, 2017

General Meeting called to order at Wood Grill, Harrisonburg, by **President Andrew Pearson (N4RCE)** at 7:33 p.m. 21 members and 5 guests were present. Introductions were made all around.

New Member Vote: **Wayne Bowyer (K4EYZ)**. Welcome, Wayne!

New Member First Reading: none

The Secretary's Minutes for last month's meeting approved as published in the Monitor, with the following correction to the ARES Committee Report, which should have stated: "...there were **5 ARES members that qualified for ARES Level III**...Everyone starts out at Level 1 and works up to Level III". My apology, Bryan! – Secretary AA2BF

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

Committee Reports:

ARES: **Bryan Daniels (K4RMY)**: A "quick drill" on Tornado Awareness was held on 3/28 with 8 participants. We need more Level II ARES members.

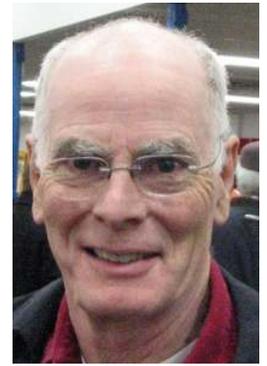
Repeater Committee: The **147.315 EMU repeater** is still rarely active.

VE Committee: **Gayle Shull (KU4XN)**: The **Committee** could use **more examiners** to handle exams. Next test regular session will be at **9:00 A.M., April 8**. Testing is at **Woodmen Life, Rt 42** in Dayton.

Public Service Committee: July 14 – 15 is the annual **"Tractor Parade"** in **Bridgewater**. Communication Volunteers?

Field Day Committee: **Andrew Pearson** emphasized a **change by the Committee** to promote the weekend as a

"fun" activity. There will be a **campfire both nights**, and **everyone will be given a raffle ticket** when they arrive. **Prizes** will be awarded every 2 daylight hours, with the final **big prize** awarded at **3 p.m. on Sunday**. **Herb Slade (AA2BF)** passed out signup sheets again, for **FD participation plans**.



Old Business: none

New Business: A motion was made, to donate the same amounts to each area **repeater committee** as was done last year. Motion was withdrawn until next **MARA** meeting, in keeping with the dates we have made these donations in past years.

Elsworth Neff (K4LXG) reported that when he hit and killed a deer running out recently, he was unable to report the accident on any of three repeaters. "Shouldn't someone be monitoring the repeaters so people can find out what needs to be done on such occasions?"

50/50 Drawing: **\$11.50** was won by **Bod Dixon (W8HGH)**, who **donated his share** to the club. **\$23.00** will go to the **MARA treasury**. **Thank you, Bob!**

This money, along with \$12 MARA dues from **Scotty Scafidi (WF3FGH)** was held by **Herb Slade** for Treasurer **Foster Farone**, who was unable to attend.

Time Adjourned: 8:00 p.m.

Program: **Andrew Pearson** demonstrated the **Buddipole** collapsible, multiband **antenna**, including setup for vertical and horizontal polarities. It amazed us to see how compact and light it is when stored in its sleeve pack – very useful for back-country setup at hilltop QTHs.

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



Memorial Day

Remember our Veterans 29-MAY



PVARC Secretary's Report

PVARC Minutes for April 4, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President **Dave Firestone K4DPF** at 6:30 PM at Tactical Walls in Shenandoah. (Thanks to **Tim KM4TGC** and **Carrie KM4WDX** for the donation of the use of the facility!)

17 members and 4 guests were in attendance

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

Old Business:

Committee reports:

Field Day: Chairman **Bob KI4VFP** reported that Morgan reserved the shelter, Internet at the lake is working, and a list of items for volunteers to bring will be forthcoming

Tech Support: **Mark N4YSA** reported there will be some further work on Sunday on the broadband hamnet facilities and also gave a summary of the ARES "fox hunt" ... "we had a lot of fun and learned a lot about what we didn't know". Next one will be in Warren County.

Training: **Zory KB3VQC** reported that he was given an opportunity to do some unusual contesting training at the "Goat Farm" facility in Orange County. **Gary K6OZ** reported on an offer from DX Engineering to present some training via Skype.

Website: **Dave K4DPF** reported the list of officers has been updated, member list is next.

Luray Festival of Spring: **Patrick KE4EI** reported that the application has been submitted. The secretary will prepare a sign-in sheet, brochures are in hand, and Patrick is bringing the popup pavilion ... May 13th, 8:15 setup. A motion was approved authorizing the purchase of up to 6 Baofeng handhelds for new member promotion (pass the test and get a free radio).

Bylaws: planned review by the board has not happened but is still intended.

New Business: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 PM, followed by doughnuts, chocolate cake, and the grand opening ("unboxing") of the club's new Kenwood TS-590SG Transceiver

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

MARA Treasurer's Report

March 21, 2017 to April 20, 2017

Opening Balance

\$1,061.25

Income: Memberships \$ _____
50/50 \$ _____
[March meeting to be included in next report.]

Total Income: \$ _____

Expenses: Electric \$22.06

Total Expenses: _____ \$22.06

Balance April 20, 2017

\$1,039.19



Submitted by Foster Farone, WF40, MARA Treasurer

Oops! Did you forget to renew for 2017? 2017 Dues have not been received from:

N1XP	KM4MVA	N4DAI	KM4GPX	N4SJR
KT4UO	KD7JCQ	W4QDC	KJ4DNZ	W4TMZ

VARA Secretary's Report

VARA Minutes for April 2017

At 7 pm President **John Keller W4ZAO** opened the April 4th 2017 meeting of the **VARA** club. A whopping 36 members and guests were in attendance! The usual introductions were made. The 50/50 drawing of \$14.00 was won by **David Tanks AD4TJ**.

ARES Report: David asked for a volunteer to run the **ARES** net on the 13th, the 2nd Thursday of the month. **Fred Evans N4KYM** volunteered. Thanks Fred! John mentioned the possible bad weather that was predicted for the next 2 to 3 days.

Field Day: John reminded us that the next Field Day committee meeting would be the next night(Wednesday the 5th) at 6 pm at the Burger King in Mt. Crawford. Anyone may attend to listen or give their input. We will have 3 HF stations: Sideband, CW, and Digital, so we will be in the 3A Class(again) this year.

Gordon Batey WA4FJC reminded us of the Frequency Measuring Test on the 5th.

David made a motion that the Secretary's report be accepted as printed in the Monitor. Seconded and passed. He also thanked **Ray Colvin KE4HVR** for taking notes while he was recovering from his accident(falling out of a tree).

Greg Czerniak W4GRC read his Treasurer's report; motion made, seconded and passed.

Dayton Hamfest: John asked for a show of hands on how many would be going to the event this year: 4 or 5 hams indicated they would be going. The usual plans for a caravan were mentioned.

Contests and Special Events: David brought us up-to-date on the most interesting of those events.

The first reading of 2 membership applications was made: **Sheri Miller KM4JLZ**, and **Norville " Ike " Godsie W4UML**, both from Staunton.

The Christmas Banquet: **Lenny Vincent N4LZP** talked to several restaurants; the only 3 that could keep the cost to \$20 or less were Mrs. Rowe's, Kathy's, and the Clocktower. John asked if he could get more details on meals they would offer. He will do that, and we will discuss it again next month.

New Business: None.

Lenny is looking for medically-trained/EMT hams for an event in West Virginia on or near Labor Day weekend.

With no further business to discuss, and no program to present, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted by **David Tanks AD4TJ**



Silent Keys



24-APR-17 Bryan Kayton, KF4EAY from Rice passed away yesterday (23-APR-17). Many of us knew Bryan from the evening VA Mid-State 2 Meter Traffic Net for which Bryan was the only net control every night for quite a while.

Please keep his wife Caryn, his sons, and all of his family in your thoughts and prayers. **Larry - K4LYL**

Forwarded by Ray, KE4HVR





How's DX

3W, Vietnam: Peter/DF7DQ will be operating holiday-style from South Vietnam between the 1st and 10th of May with the call 3W9DQ on CW and digital modes. QSL via DF7DQ, 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.

9A, Croatia: Jan/PA4JJ will be operating holiday-style as 9A/PA4JJ between April 10 and May 30, mostly on digital modes. QSL via PA4JJ (d/B), LoTW, ClubLog OQRS. http://www.pa4jj.nl/html/9a_pa4jj.html

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 W3HNK.

A2 - Botswana: Nobby, GOVJG and a large group of operators will be active again as A25UK (<http://www.a25uk.com/>) from Botswana from 25 April to 5 May. They will operate CW, SSB and RTTY on 160-6 metres with up to five stations. QSL via M0OXO's OQRS (<http://www.m0oxo.com/>) and LoTW. [TNX DX World]

DA - FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY: Special event station DM150HSM celebrates the 150th anniversary of the University of Applied Sciences at Mittweida and is active until the end of June. Activity is on the HF bands using mostly SSB, and some CW and PSK. QSL via KOMIT.

DL, Germany: Operators of the club station DL0VBG 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).

DL, Germany: DM200LFS (special DOK 200LFS) commemorates the 200th birthday of Louis Ferdinand Schoenherr, a German inventor of power looms. The special event station will be on the air until the end of February 2018. All QSOs count as a "joker" and 10 points for the KIDS award, supporting SOS Children's Villages in Saxony. QSL via eQSL, LoTW, bureau. <http://df0che.darc.de/dm200lfs.php>

DM150HSM celebrates the 150th anniversary of the University of Applied Sciences at Mittweida. QRV until the end of June on HF, mostly on SSB with some CW and PSK. QSL via DKOMIT. <http://www.global.hs-mittweida.de/~dkOmit/Joomla/>

J2, Djibouti: Dane/S53T will be staying in Djibouti until the end of 2019 and has now received his operating permit with the call J28ND. Right now he works with a low power rig and vertical antennas. QSL via S57DX.

JA, Japan: 8J1IP draws attention to the 100th anniversary of the Inokashira Park. QRV until June 30, QSL via bureau. The Katayanagi Institute of the University of Tokyo celebrates its 70th anniversary on the air with the call 8J1YAC until the end of March 2018. QRV on 160m-70cm on CW and SSB. QSL via bureau, JE1XUZ (d).

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 OM42KYSUCE 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.

S5, Slovenia: S5100LIONS celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Lions Club International until the end of 2017. QSL via S53DOX.

YV, Venezuela: The Asociacion de Radioaficionados de Venezuela (ARV) celebrates its 50th anniversary with the special call YV5OARV until the year's end on HF (CW, SSB, digital modes). QSL via YV5DTA/W4DTA, LoTW.

IOTA's

AF-005—D4, Cape Verde: Harald/DF2WO plans to operate from Santiago Island (**AF-005**) between May 3 and June 8 on 80-6m, signing D44TWO. QSL via M0OXO.

AF-006 - VQ9: Jim, ND9M is going to be active again from Diego Garcia (**AF-006**), Chagos. His VQ96JC license is valid until July, but he will try and get VQ917JC, as he has used "year-specific special calls every year starting in 2007". Plans are to be QRV for about three hours during his evenings, as he has to commute between his ship and his operating location on the island, then set up and break down each time. He operates mainly CW, with some SSB and digital modes. QSL via home call. [TNX OPDX Bulletin]

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-038 - E3 - Zorro, JH1AJT will visit Eritrea again on 19-29 May. He will be joined by Franz DJ9ZB, Champ E21EIC and Dima RA9USU, with planned activity as E31AA on 160-10 metres CW, SSB, RTTY. Zorro also plans to be QRV as E39DI from the Dahlak Archipelago (**AF-038**) "for a few days" and with a focus on the low bands. This IOTA group was last

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.

activated in 1999. QSL for both callsigns via JH1AJT. [TNX NG3K]

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

AS-079 - JA - Take, JI3DST will be active as either JS6RRR and JI3DST/6 from Miyako Island (AS-079) from 26 April to 9 May. He will be QRV on 80-6 metres SSB, CW, RTTY, JT65 and FM. QSL via bureau (preferred) or direct. [TNX JI3DST]

EU-008 - GM - John, 2EOGUA will operate holiday style as 2MOGUA from the Isle of Mull (EU-008) from 22 April to 2 May. He hopes to be active "on HF, 2m & 70cm from various locations". QSL via home call (direct or bureau), eQSL and LoTW. [TNX rsgbiota.org]

EU-053 - OJO, MARKET REEF. Pasi, OH3WS, will once again be active as OJOW from Market Reef (EU-053) between May 6-7th. Activity will be on 20-6 meters using CW and SSB. Pasi will try 60m on both CW and SSB, listen on 5354 kHz. QSL via his home callsign.

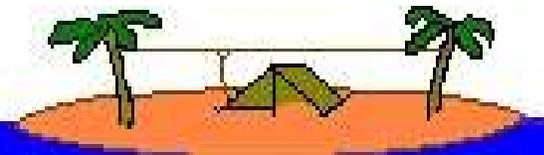
OC-073 - JD1, MINAMI TORISHIMA. Take, JG8NQJ, will once again be

active as JG8NQJ/JD1 from Marcus Island in the Minami Torishima (OC-073, JCG 10007) group between mid-May and mid-July. He is usually there to work on the island's weather station. Activity will be limited to his spare time. He will be mainly on 17 meters but will also on 20/15/12/10/6 meters using CW and RTTY. QSL via JA8CJY or by the Bureau via JG8NQJ.

OC-098 - E5_nc: Cezar, VE3LYC plans to be active as E51LYC from Pukapuka Atoll (OC-098), North Cook Islands on 9-23 May. This IOTA group was last activated more than 22 years ago. He will operate CW and SSB on 40-10 metres. More information is expected in due course. [TNX DX World]

OC-130 - DU: Marc, ON5SM will be active again as DU9/ON5SM from Cagayan de Oro on the island of Mindanao (OC-130), Philippines from 4 April to 24 May. He will operate SSB, digital and SSTV on 80-6 metres. QSL via home call, direct or bureau. He will not use LoTW or Club Log. [TNX The Daily DX]

SA-004 - HC8, GALAPAGOS ISLANDS (Update). Tim, LW9EOC, will be active as HC8/LW9EOC from Isabela island, Galapagos Islands (**SA-004**), between May 15-29th. Activity will be on 160-6 meters, with a focus on 30/17/12m, using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via his home callsign, direct or LoTW.



Contests & QSO Parties

For more details and information, go to:

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

- 1 AGCW QRP/QRP Party
- 1 RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB
- 2 ARS Spartan Sprint
- 3 Phone Fray
- 3 432 MHz Spring Sprint
- 3-4 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 4 MIE 33 Contest
- 4 NRAU 10m Activity Contest
- 5 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 5 NCCC Sprint
- 6 Microwave Spring Sprint
- 6 FISTS Spring Slow Speed Sprint
- 6-7 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW
- 6-7 SBMS 2.3 GHz and Up Contest and Club Challenge
- 6-7 F9AA Cup, PSK
- 6-7 ARI International DX Contest
- 6-7 7th Call Area QSO Party**
- 6-7 Indiana QSO Party**
- 6-7 Delaware QSO Party**
- 6-7 New England QSO Party**
- 10 Phone Fray
- 10 RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data
- 10-11 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 11 NAQCC CW Sprint
- 12 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 12 NCCC Sprint
- 13 Jakarta DX Contest 40m
- 13 FISTS Spring Unlimited Sprint



- 13-14 50 MHz Spring Sprint
- 13-14 HPC World Wide DX Contest
- 13-14 SKCC Weekend Sprintathon
- 13-14 VOLTA WW RTTY Contest
- 13-14 CQ-M International DX Contest
- 13-14 Arkansas QSO Party**
- 13-14 MARAC County Hunters Contest
- 13-14 Portuguese Navy Day Contest
- 14 WAB 7 MHz Phone
- 14 UA2 QSO Party**
- 15 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint
- 17 Phone Fray
- 17-18 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 19 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 19 NCCC Sprint
- 19 Slobozhansky Sprint Contest
- 20 UN DX Contest
- 20 Portuguese Navy Day Contest, Digital
- 20 Feld Hell Sprint
- 20-21 NZART Sangster Shield Contest
- 20-21 Aegean RTTY Contest
- 20-21 His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW
- 20-21 EU PSK DX Contest
- 20-21 Baltic Contest
- 22 Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
- 24 SKCC Sprint
- 24 Phone Fray
- 24-25 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 25 RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW
- 26 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 26 NCCC Sprint
- 27-28 CQ WW WPX Contest, CW**
- 28 SARL Digital Contest
- 28 QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint
- 31-6/1 CWops Mini-CWT Test





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.

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



Thanks to the VEs who helped with the **February 11** test session. Gerald Nauman, KN4FM, Ray Richie, K4NRA, James Lehman, W4POL, Bryan Daniels, K4RMY. They issued two Tech, and Five general licenses.

Thanks to the VEs who helped with the **April 8** testing. Ray Richie, K4NRA, Ronald May KN4U, Robert VanFossen K4DJG, Gerald Nauman KN4FM, Bryan Daniels, K4RMY, Ellsworth Neff K4LXG, and James Lehman W4POL. Thanks to these who gave their time to continue the testing for the Amateur Radio community.



The next session is on **June 10th**. 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
GAYLE, KU4XN

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!**

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

Calendar of Local Events

May

1 May Day

- 1 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.550 Simplex)
- 1 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 kHz)

2 VARA Club Meeting

4 MARA Club Meeting

5 PVARC Club Meeting

- 5 Friday Luncheon
- 7 Page County ARES Net (146.550 Simplex)
- 8 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.550 Simplex)
- 11 Augusta County ARES Net (146.850, PL131.8)
- 12 Friday Luncheon

13 Luray Festival of Spring

14 Mother's Day

- 14 Page County ARES Net (146.670, PL 114.8)
- 15 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.225, PL 131.8)
- 15 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 kHz)
- 19 Friday Luncheon

20 Deadline for June newsletter submission*

- 21 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)
- 22 Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225, PL 131.8)
- 22 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 kHz)
- 26 Friday Luncheon
- 28 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)

29 Memorial Day

June

1 MARA Club Meeting

2 PVARC Club Meeting

- 2 Friday Luncheon
- 4 Page County ARES Net (146.550 Simplex)
- 5 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 kHz)
- 5 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.550 Simplex)
- 6 VARA Club Meeting
- 8 Augusta County ARES Net (146.850, PL131.8)
- 9 Friday Luncheon
- 10 VE Testing
- 11 Page County ARES Net (146.670, PL 114.8)
- 12 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.225, PL 131.8)

14 Flag Day

- 16 Friday Luncheon
- 18 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)

18 Father's Day

- 19 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 kHz)

20 Deadline for July newsletter submission*

- 22 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 kHz)
- 23 Friday Luncheon

24-25 FIELD DAY

- 25 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)
- 26 Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225, PL 131.8)
- 30 Friday Luncheon



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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Renew Your Club Dues HERE!

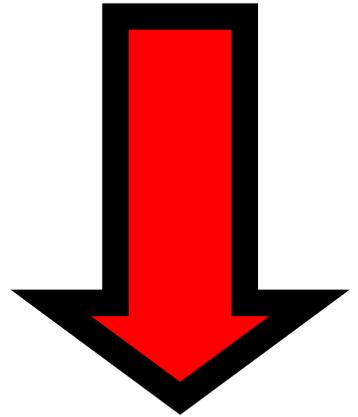
RENEW

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

Return Service Requested

MARA

VARA

PVARC
