

THE MONITOR

November 2017

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

VARA Meeting November 7th

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

MARA Meeting November 2nd

The **Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**, will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, **November 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 November 3rd

The **Page Valley Amateur Radio Club** will hold its regular meeting on **November 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.

Weekly Friday Luncheon

The Friday **weekly** casual lunch meetings are at Hometown Grille & Buffet (Old Shoney's) at 30 Sanger Lane, Staunton, VA at 11:00AM. Directions: I-81 to Exit 222, Richmond Rd. & Rte. 250. Turn East, Hometown Grille & Buffet will be on the left across the street from Mrs. Rowe's.



Daylight Saving Time Ends

Fall Back

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour on Sunday, November 5th.



Safety First

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



From the Newsletter Editor: Club Dues are Now Due!

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



President's Corner

Flashback - January 2010, a tall skinny guy walks in to the monthly VARA meeting at the old Shoney's in Staunton and sits in the back of the conference room hoping to become a member of the amateur radio club, because he just received his technician ham license and wanted to learn how to get started in talking to the world.

Fast forward to Oct 2017 - The tall skinny guy has achieved far more than he ever imagined. The VARA club voted him in as a member, helped him pass his General and Extra class license, Jeff W4PJW volunteered to be his Elmer, the members elected him president for 5 years, and even was elected secretary of MARA for a year. He was vice chairman and chairman of Field Day, one of the biggest amateur radio events every year.

He has been coordinator of the Grindstone 100, Fall Foliage Bike Festival, and the VFW bike event.

With the help of fellow VARA members learned how to build antennas, design and construct a ham shack that has grown into a contest station he never would have imagined and now his passion.

The tall skinny ham has contacted 254 countries, has placed in the top 3 in many contests throughout the years. He has achieved 4 band DXCC, just 8 countries short of his 5th band.

That tall skinny guy is yours truly W4ZAO and it has been a great honor to have been your President this past year.

For those just joining the club and those who have been members for many years, I started off my letter to show how each and

every one of you molded one simple guy who just wanted to enjoy a new hobby, achieve his simple request and so much more. And along the way my fellow officers guided me thru protocol, my fellow committee members guided me thru the details of running an event and then there are those individuals who spent countless hours with answering my questions about every aspect of amateur radio, even getting phone calls at 1:00am after a 48 hour contest, sorry David AD4TJ and Jeff W4PJW.



I want to THANK each and every one of you for your friendship, your hours of volunteering for events, making the monthly meeting and those who put programs together to help fellow members learn more about our great hobby.

You as members of the club have a special gift and I hope you all know that any new or experienced ham walking into your club will be in awe of how a group of men and woman can change a life without them even knowing it.

I am proof of that! THANK YOU!

We have elected new officers for 2018 and I know your new president David KD9LA will be a great leader. Please continue to help your new officers and chairmen of events, along with showing your expertise to all who desire to learn amateur radio.

Again, THANK YOU for allowing me to be your president, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve the members of VARA!

John Keller W4ZAO, President VARA



Waynesboro Repeater Association Meeting

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QST

QST

QST

QST

Calling all Radio Amateurs. The Annual meeting of the **Waynesboro Repeater Association** will be held in the Large Basement Meeting Room of the Augusta County Public Library 1759 Jefferson Highway Fishersville, VA at 10:00 AM on SATURDAY November 11, 2017.

All local amateurs are cordially invited to attend. Talkin on 147.075 (+600) (tone 131.8)

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

73 **Gordon WA4FJC**

Valley Veterans Ride for Heroes

David Fordham, KD9LA

Yet another public service event has provided hams with one more opportunity to "play radio".

In the middle of September, the various veterans associations in the Valley, led by the local chapters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars association, sponsored the "Valley Veterans Ride for Heroes". This nice low-key bicycle event on September 9 was a fundraiser for the BoulderCrest Retreat Virginia, the nation's first private wellness center serving wounded active-duty, reserve and National Guard personnel, veterans, and their family members. The event offered a 25 mile ride and a 50 mile ride, both originating at Gypsy Hill Park in Staunton, and following country back-roads north through Spring Hill, Mt Solon, Natural Chimneys, Sangersville, up to Montezuma, Dayton, Bridgewater, and looping back through Mt. Sidney and Verona, before returning to Gypsy Hill Park.

Mobile ham radio operators not only provided communications for this ride, but also kept track of riders as they passed the various checkpoints, making sure that every rider was accounted for, along the entire route.

Additionally, the hams provided SAG (support and gear) service, primarily transporting disabled riders back to the starting point after they find themselves unable to continue due to fatigue, equipment problems, or other situations preventing them from finishing the ride.

Fortunately, few riders needed transport, and no actual emergencies arose. **Jeff W4PJW** transported the race director between the various aid stations and refreshment points, while **David KD9LA** served as net control from his base station in Weyers Cave, which although not on the actual route, provided good signals all along the route. Thanks to the **Waynesboro Repeater Association** of Virginia, and **Tim Miller KG4HOT** for the use of their repeater equipment.

The VFW association expressed great appreciation for the willingness of the hams to help the worthy cause, and also expressed admiration for the professionalism" of the amateurs.

Thanks to the following hams for taking a few hours of their Saturday to help: **John Chevalaz KB2LOZ**, **Gordon Batey WA4JFC**, **Greg Czerniak W4GRC**, **Glenn Mingo KF4VVP**, **Gary Van Fossen KI4FZV**, **Benny Cook N4BCC**, **David Tanks AD4TJ**, **Steve Ferguson N4PKJ**, **John Keller W4ZAO**, **Jeff Rinehart W4PJW**, and **David Fordham KD9LA**, net control.

Camp Still Meadows Horse Ride A Thon

Eleven local Hams participated in this public service event on Sunday Oct 1 at the Willow Spring Farm in Timberville.

Hams and riders enjoyed breakfast and a brief Sunday service. Twenty two horses and riders embarked from the farm on a beautiful crisp autumn morning for a ride of 8 or 16 miles along Little North Mountain and Supin Lick Ridge.

KI4BAQ (served as an excellent net control for the ride). Other hams scattered out along the route included **Al KW4AW** and wife **Elizabeth W3EAS**, **Gayle KU4XN** and wife **Gail KG4JFB**, **Kenny K4KLH** (at junction of ride), **Cheryl KJ4DOC**, **EC KG4KUR**, **Wayne KM4GPZ** and **Ray K4NRA**. Many of these amateurs have helped with this event for years.

146.550 simplex frequency was used to allow hams to test out their equipment not using repeaters. Radios worked to perfection and almost no relays were needed. Good test for real emergency situations.

All riders moved over the courses quickly because of the cool weather with no real incidents needing attention from the hams. After the ride the hams and riders enjoyed home made chili or vegetable soup cooked in big iron pots, grilled cheese, slices of pie and local cider.

Camp officials wish to thank the ham community for their valuable help on this event whose proceeds go to Camp Still Meadows to provide activities for children with physical and mental disabilities. Hope to see everyone again next year for this worthwhile event.

73 de **Ray K4NRA**



Shenandoah 500 Motorcycle Ride

September 30 and October 1, 2017

On Sept 30 and Oct 1, several hundred dual sport motorcycle riders took to the mountain roads of Augusta and Rockingham counties in a ride organized by the Washington Area Trail Riders (WATR) with communications support provided by valley ham radio operators. During the course of the two day ride, hams passed approximately 40 pieces of traffic. Thankfully, this year there were no major incidents and only one call to 911 that turned out to be a none issue, though there were a number of breakdowns each day and several minor injuries. The ride started and ended each day at Natural Chimney's Regional Park.

Net control **Bryan K4RMY** was located high atop Reddish Knob. Nine other hams were located around the course each day with the Shenandoah 500 SAG trucks; several others actually rode the course on motorcycles with the riders. Those hams included the following:

Ray KE4HVR, Rodney K4DOD, Gerald KN4FM, Fred KF4FC, Gayle KU4XN, Bob N1QEQ, Andrew N4RCE, John KB4LOZ, Glenn



N3USP, Peter KM4YIA and Tom KM4LHR were stationed with SAG trucks. On Saturday **Jason N4DSL** and **Brian KI4LLC** rode with the riders providing updates on the ride as well as several WATR members who had HTs with them and called in when needed. **Deeter, KI4STU** and **Caren, KG4IFR** manned the main station at Natural Chimney's and provided a relay to the organizers Saturday and Sunday. On Sunday **David, N4WDC** rode much of the course in his jeep. Also, several hams associated with the Clover Hill Fire and Rescue monitored the event and contacted Net Control as needed.

A BIG THANK YOU to all these volunteers for making the ride even safer this year by giving time over this weekend to assist when needed.

WATR gave each participant in the event a Shenandoah 500 T-shirt. Not all participants got a shirt because they ran out. **David, N4WDC** informed **Bryan K4RMY** that shirts have been ordered to take care of those that didn't receive one.

Thanks again to all who gave their time and talents to make this ride safe and success again this year.

Bryan K4RMY



Results of the CQ WPX SSB March 2017 Contest

The official results of the above contest are in!

Another outstanding effort from **John W4ZAO**, and **David KD9LA** also had a super effort from Weyers Cave!

In the Single Operator, All-Band, Low Power, Assisted category, John came in 1st in W4-land entries, 3rd in the US, 6th in North America, and 30th place World-Wide, with a score of 554,190 points, 594 QSO's, and 377 Prefixes. Time: 27.1 hours.

In the Single Op, All-Band, Low Power, Non-Assisted, category, **David KD9LA** came in 1st in W4-land entries, 6th in the US, 10th in North America, and 63rd place World-Wide, with a score of 388,048 points, 501 QSO's, and 307 Prefixes. In the Overlay category(limited to a single tri-band yagi and single element vertical or wire antenna) David was 1st W4-land, 3rd place US, 7th place North America, and 27th World-Wide. Time: 33.1 hours.

In the same category as David, **Paul W4PFM** did very well. He came in 11th in the W4 call area, 55th in the US, 77th in North America, and 277th World-Wide, with a score of 92,568 points, 236 QSO's, and 152 Prefixes. Time: 10.1 hours.

Ed KC4YHO, also participated in the same category, and had the following result: 55th in the W4 call area, 291st in the US, 319th in North America, and 986th World-Wide, with a score of 4,692 points, 56 QSO's, 51 Prefixes. Time: 5.4 hours.

Our newsletter editor **John KT4CB**, participated in the QRP category(unintentionally; he tuned up at the 5 watt level and did not turn it up to 100 watts when done! I believe he is now glad he did not remember to turn it up!) with this result: 2nd in the W4 call area, 10th in the US, 7th North America, and 28th World-Wide, with a score of 7,956 points, 60 QSO's, and 52 Prefixes. Time: 10.4 hours.

And, last but not least, I managed to get to the radio even with my injuries from my fall from a tree, with the following result, in the Single Op, All-Band, High Power, Non-Assisted category: 28th in the W4 call area, 157th US, 355th World-Wide. In the Overlay category, I placed 15th in the W4 call area, 68th in North America, and 153rd World-Wide, with a score of 35,816 points, 130 QSO's, 121 Prefixes(and no, I did not have trouble finding my microphone this time!). Time: 6.8 hours.

Congratulations to all!

73, **David AD4TJ**, Manager of the Shenandoah Valley Wireless contest club

P.S. If you are interested in joining the club, send me an email: ad4tj@yahoo.com

No dues, no meetings, just the fun of joining together and competing with clubs all over the world!

Happy Thanksgiving Day

A Proclamation

By the President of the United States of America

WHEREAS it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me "to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted; for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us), and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally, to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand, at the city of New York, the third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine.

G. Washington.

Going Somewhere? (How to Travel During a Winter Storm)

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

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

If you do get stuck:

- Stay with your car. No matter how tempting, do not, repeat, do not try to walk to safety during a winter storm.
- Radio your location and appraise the listener of your location and status. Ask the listener to check back with you on a set schedule. Run the engine while you are transmitting to avoid draining the battery.
- Start the car, and use the heater for about ten minutes every hour or so. Keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow so that fumes don't back up into the

car. Keep a window (on the opposite side of the car from which the wind is blowing) open a crack for fresh air. If you started with a full tank, you should have enough fuel to do this for at least 48-72 hours, long enough for rescuers to arrive.

- Leave the parking lights on while the engine is running so that you can be seen.
- As you sit, move your arms and legs to keep the blood circulating.
- Always Keep an Emergency Kit in the Trunk of your Car. Make sure each car you drive has a disaster supplies kit containing:
 - Blankets
 - An Extra Set of dry Clothing wrapped in a plastic bag
 - A shovel
 - A supply of sand (water-softener salt is cheap and comes in bags) for weight and use as a traction enhancer.
 - Jumper Cables
 - Flares
 - First Aid Kit
 - Flashlight and extra batteries
 - A small non-perishable food supply (candy bars, pop-top cans of Vienna sausage, crackers, or other non-perishables not affected by cold).
 - A Brightly-Colored cloth to tie to the antenna if you get stuck.

From the NWS SkyWarn Brochure



A local ham operator brought his 5-year-old son to the ham radio luncheon recently. While daddy was in line to order the meal, the little boy struck up a conversation with another ham who was already eating. When the ham introduced himself to the little boy, the kid's eyes got wide. "Have you ever heard your daddy talk about me?" the ham asked. "Yes," the boy nodded. "Daddy talks about you all the time," he continued, "and when I get big and get a job, I'm going to give you lots of money." This surprised the old timer, so he said, "well, that's very nice of you, but why would you want to give me money?" The little boy replied, "Well, daddy always says that you are absolutely the poorest ham radio operator he's ever heard on the air in his entire life!"

Opinionated One Redux: The Different Kinds of Hams

From the Sept 2001 issue of the *Monitor*

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

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

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

The Rene Descartes Ham: Rene Descartes was the philosopher who said, "I think, therefore I am." The RD Ham thinks he can communicate with nothing, so therefore he *does* communicate with nothing. Often referred to by the derogatory term, "QRP operator", the RD ham thinks he can work the world with 0.00015 watt. He puts together little teeny tiny things that fit inside the groove of your wedding ring and take all their power from the bottom cover of a dead hearing aid battery. A half-grown housecat rubbing against a coax switch generates more RF than all his transceivers put together, yet the RD ham expects stations in Franz Josef land to give him 5-by-5 signal reports. And he claims he gets them, too. For some unknown reason, almost all RD hams sport gray facial hair, and over a third of them live in or around Broadway.

The Loch Ness Ham: Named for the famous but elusive monster reportedly inhabiting a Scottish pond, the Loch Ness ham is one of the most common in the valley — assuming they really do exist, of course. The only eyewitnesses are VE team members. According to the reports, these Loch Ness hams studied hard for their license, and showed up for, and then passed, the VE test. But except for the VE team, no one has ever seen them, let alone heard them on the air. Investigators have extensively interviewed the witnesses, and most VE's seem reliable, intelligent, and sincere in their belief that they weren't dreaming, they really did witness someone or something passing the test. But if these elusive test passers exist, most of them apparently don't ever purchase a radio, let alone actually set it up, program it, or connect it to a power supply and an antenna. And of the few that do own a radio that is set up and connected to a

power supply and antenna, less than one out of twenty apparently ever actually transmit on it. The honesty and integrity of the VE team is bolstered somewhat by the fact that you occasionally see a ham license plate on a car or truck, bearing the call letters of one of these LN hams that no one has ever worked. But you never, ever, hear an LN ham on the air, leading skeptics to ask: "are they real?"

The Fraser Crane Ham: The FC ham is named for the pretentious star of the TV show Fraser, a fellow who wants everyone to believe he is humble and modest, while at the same time taking great pains to ensure they recognize his genius. The FC Ham starts out a conversation: "Yep, I worked Zero Charlie Nine Zulu last night. Snagged him on the first call. This makes the third time I've worked the Zirconium Islands. I sure hope this group sends the QSL quicker than those guys who did the Rowan and Martin Reef expedition last year. Yep, my new 400-foot tower is sure turning out to be worth the effort. I bounced a microwave signal off of someone's birdbath in Florida this morning and worked a Quebec Seven Delta station in the Andromeda Archipelago. He was mobile using homebrew with a four-day-old piece of spaghetti as an antenna and he gave me a 20-over-9 report..." You get the idea.

The Homer Simpson Ham: This is hands-down the most common type of ham in the valley that is on the air. Most of us who own and use transmitters are HS Hams. We use the repeaters and expect someone else to drive up 60 miles to the mountaintop in the snow within ten minutes of it going off the air. We work one hour at one public service event every twelve years but proudly tell everyone how much valuable public service hams provide. We passed the code test in 1971, and that exam was our last CW "contact". We can't copy the ID from our local repeater, even after hearing it 60 thousand times. And many of us have trouble even when it's using the voice synthesizer! And when it comes to radio theory, most of us can't even figure out how to get the cover off our radios. Heck, some of us have to get help to change the battery on our HT! We don't know the name of the antenna connector on our rubber duck. We have no clue as to how to go about working a ham satellite, copying RTTY, working television, how to configure a packet station, or even how to put on an Anderson PowerPole. When our radios don't work, even when the problem is user error, all we can say is, "Duh".

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

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

— submitted by the *Opinionated One*

SkyWarn Winter Education: Measuring Snow

The SkyWarn program is not intended

to provide regular, formal weather observations to the weather service. Rather, it is intended to provide reports of severe weather such as hail, heavy sleet, freezing rain, ice accumulations, and high winds. These phenomena should be reported immediately to the SkyWarn 1-800 number, or reported through the SkyWarn nets if activated during a blizzard or winter storm.

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

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

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

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

SEVERE WEATHER REPORTS

SkyWarn volunteers should report hail, heavy sleet, freezing rain, ice accumulations, and high winds.

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

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

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

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

NOAA SNOW MEASUREMENTS

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

The first measurement is called “**Snowfall**”, the second is “**Snow Depth**”, and the third is “**Precipitation**”. These three terms have very different meanings, and the numbers must be measured and reported correctly.

SNOWFALL

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

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

To measure snowfall, you must use a flat, unbendable, hard surface, and it must be painted white. The surface does not need to be very large: a single 12-inch by 12-inch square-foot piece of plywood will do nicely. The board must be placed on the ground, flat and level, before the snow begins to fall. It helps if you place a tiny flag, wire, or other marker next to the board so you can find it once snow has covered it up.

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

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

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

Snowfall readings should be taken once every six hours, or when snow has accumulated on the board close to four inches. If readings are taken more often than every six hours, add the readings together to get a single six-hour snowfall total.

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

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



Use the word “Snowfall” when reporting the 6-hour or 24-hour snow measured in this way.

You are also free to add up the measurements during an entire storm for a “storm total snowfall”.

Snow packs down as it accumulates, the sun causes melting and evaporation (sublimation), and wind blows snow away. So you can readily see that “Snowfall” cumulatively measured every six hours during a snowstorm is quite likely very different from the depth of snow that will be on the ground at the end of that snowstorm. It is actually possible for a storm to drop 12 inches of SNOWFALL, and yet only six to eight inches of snow will be on the ground at the end of the storm. Be clear: “Snowfall” is not the same as “snow depth”.

SNOW DEPTH

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

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

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

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

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

PRECIPITATION

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

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

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

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

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



Sale



Hy-gain Ham IV Rotator and Control Box. Excellent Condition. \$140.00

Alpha-Delta DX-DD 80 - 40- Meter shortened dipole. Very good condition. Has all insulators and traps and SO-239 coax connection. \$25.00

Mosley TA-33M HF Beam antenna. 20-15-10 meters. Excellent condition. Elements are all still assembled. Install 9 bolts in the boom clamps and it is ready to go up in the air. \$150.00

Contact Gordon WA4FJC

gpbatey@compuserve.com

Brand new, never used,

Daiwa CN-801 HP3 Cross Needle SWR & Power Meter., 1.8 – 200 MHz, peak and average power. I won this at SEDCO and have never hooked it up. \$100.

Yaesu MTU-160 u-Tuning Unit. \$225.

Richard Wilkins, KR4V, 540-433-5277



TS-440S/AT with ATU, hand mike, no filters, with IC-10 chip installed for computer control, original paper IM, \$350

TH-22AT HT, spare batteries, dual desk charger, antennas, paper manual \$25

MFJ949C Manual tuner 30/300W. 10-80m, working, \$100

MFJ989C manual tuner 3KW, with wall wart, 10-80m, working \$200

Realistic PRO-2096, DC cord, AC Cord, programming CD with cable \$150

AL-811h Amp, with box, 2 spare tubes, \$500

Kenwood HC-10 world clock, \$75

No room in RV for these.

John, KT4CB

kt4cbva@gmail.com (540) 860-1332



VARA Secretary's Report

Minutes For October 3, 2017

The Valley Amateur Radio Association's Oct. 3rd meeting was brought to order at 7 pm by president **John Keller W4ZAO**. Everyone introduced themselves as usual. The 50/50 drawing for \$9.00 was won by **Fred Castello KF4FC**, who donated it back to the club..

ARES report: **David Tanks AD4TJ**, EC for Augusta County amateurs, reminded us that it is still hurricane season until December 1st. The next net will be the 2nd Thursday of the month, and asked for a volunteer for Net Control as he would be unavailable; **Greg Czerniak W4GRC** said he would do it, with the net to be held on 146.490 simplex.

Secretary's report: David made a motion that the minutes be accepted as printed in the newsletter; seconded and passed.

Treasurer's report: **Greg Czerniak W4GRC** read his report; motion made, seconded, and passed to accept the report.

The coordinators for the Veteran's Bike Ride, Melissa Patrick and Randall Wolf, thanked those who helped with their event, and gave out gift cards for those that helped.

Upcoming Events: John: the Grindstone 100 foot race is October 6-8; all slots are filled except one. The Fall Foliage bike ride is October 21-22. Lots of hams are needed to cover this event: approx 20 for Saturday, and 12 for Sunday. As we did last year, we voted to waive dues for 2018 for those who help out at least 4 hours for the Fall Foliage event.

New members: the applications of **Jim Menard KN4FJG**, **Tom Endress KJ4TOM**, **Ray Lafalce K2ULW**, and **Mary Lafalce N2QBQ**, were read for the 1st time, and will be voted on next month. We voted in as new members: Steve **Ferguson N4PKJ**, **Pat Morgan AK4VQ**, and **Kevin Numbers KC8MTV**. Welcome!

Christmas Banquet: the Golden Corral in Waynesboro was able to accommodate us on December 12th, from 6 to 9 pm. It was suggested that we do the Chinese gift exchange as we had done several times before, with amounts no larger than \$10.00 to be spent on a gift. It was agreed that we would do that.

Next month will be on election night; that should have no effect on the meeting, so we will keep that date for the regular meeting.

New business: John said the nominating committee of **Greg, Ray Colvin KE4HVR** and **Fred Evans N4KYM**, had not had anyone contact them regarding an interest in the offices of President,

Vice President, and Treasurer. David has agreed to continue as Secretary. John asked for volunteers for the empty offices; no one raised their hands, so John said that a couple of people had something to say. Greg told us that we need to change the way the treasury is handled; the account has been in his SS number since he took the office. He says we should be incorporated to protect our officers. He would continue as Treasurer only if we took steps to incorporate.

A motion was made to begin the process of incorporation; seconded. Discussion: **David Fordham KD9LA** told us of what MARA did 26 years ago; they incorporated; there is corporate insurance(called an Umbrella policy)that can be purchased (\$110.00/year), that protects the officers and the club; and a charter has to be drawn up and passed, with a \$75.00 annual fee for that. The charter has some requirements(they can mirror what MARA has). The dues for each year will be tax-deductible since we would be a non-profit organization. A vote was taken to start the process in 2018; passed. David Fordham expressed an interest in being President if we incorporate, and if others step up and take over 6 of the jobs that John has done; the following volunteered to take a specific activity:

Bike Festival: **Lenny Vincent N4LXP**.

Grindstone: **Gordon Batey WA4FJC**.

VFW Bike: **Greg Czerniak W4GRC**.

VARA Picnic: **Ray Colvin KE4HVR**.

Shenandoah 100: **Jeff Rinehart W4PJW**.

Christmas Party: To Be Determined.

David said that he will accept the nomination for President since so many volunteered. **Bennie Cook N4BCC** was nominated for Vice President. A vote was taken, and all were approved. Thanks for your willingness to serve! John thanked the nomination committee for their work.

Gordon announced the annual Waynesboro Repeater Association meeting will be Saturday, November 11, 10 am, in the basement of the Augusta County Library in Fishersville.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 7:38 pm.

Kevin gave a talk on Digital Radio: Fusion, C4FM, and Wires-X.

Respectfully submitted, **David AD4TJ**, VARA Secretary



MARA Secretary's Report

MARA Secretary's Report – Oct. 5, 2017

General Meeting called to order at Wood Grill, Harrisonburg, by **President Andrew Pearson (N4RCE)** at 7:33 p.m. 22 members and 5 guests were present. Introductions were made all around.

New Member Vote: James Withrow, Sr., Chad Emswiler (W1GOT), unanimously approved. **Welcome, James and Chad!**

New Member First Reading: none

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

The Treasurer's Report for last month approved as published in the **Monitor**.

Committee Reports:

ARES: Bryan Daniels (K4RMY): 168 hours of ARES activity were recorded in the previous month. The **propagation test of 9/9** near Bergton previewed the Shenandoah 500 event. The **147.225 repeater was iffy**, but worked, but **6 meters worked better**. On race day, **144.690 was the main net control freq.**, operating from Reddish Knob lookout.

Repeater Committee: David Fordham (KD9LA) announced that during the first or second week of Nov., **David, Bryan, and Mark Hensley (N4YSA)** plan to set up the 145.130 digital repeater on Massanutten Peak and move its antenna to the opposite side of the tower, making it accessible to Afton Mtn. hams.

VE Committee: Gayle Shull (KU4XN): Next regular test session will be at **9:00 A.M., October 14, at Woodmen Life, Rt 42** in Dayton.

Public Service Committee: Bryan: The Shenandoah 500 motorcycle race ran on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. Only one accident resulted in serious injury from the race (a broken collarbone), and a concussion from a spill. Also, a BMW went off the approach road, that had to be pulled back. The Reddish

Knob lookout was populated by many diverse groups of fraternities, bikes, motorcycles and Mennonite families enjoying the early Fall clear sky.

Free Gas cards were given to the communications volunteers by the race sponsors, **thanks to David Collins (N4WDC)**, a member of that committee.

The **Fall Foliage bike ride** will be held on **10/21 (Rockingham County)**, and **10/22 (August County)**.

Old Business: None

New Business: Bryan reported that the **Nominating Committee** has the agreement of the following members to be nominated for 2018 MARA positions:

President: Gerald Nauman (KN4FM)

Vice President: David Fordham (KD9LA)

Treasurer: Foster Farone (WF40)

Secretary: Herb Slade (AA2BF)

Board Member: Rick Adams (KJ4IND)

At Large Board Member: Andrew Pearson (N4RCE). There being no other nominations from the floor, this slate was **elected** by vocal acclamation.

Next Meeting: November 2.

50/50 Drawing: Of \$22 in tickets sold, **\$11** was won by **Gerry Brunk**, with \$11 going to the MARA treasury. **Congratulations, Gerry!**

Time Adjourned: 8:09 p.m.

Program: Andrew Pearson gave a quiz on ham radio firsts and inventions.

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



MARA Treasurer's Report

September 21, 2017 to October 20, 2017

Opening Balance		<u>\$855.85</u>
Income:		
	Memberships	\$108.00
	50/50 – October Meeting	\$11.00
	Total Income:	<u>\$119.00</u>
Expenses:		
	Electric	\$22.50
	Total Expenses:	<u>\$22.50</u>
Balance October 20, 2017		<u>\$952.35</u>

Submitted by Foster Farone, WF40, MARA Treasurer

PVARC Secretary's Report

Page Valley Amateur Radio Club October 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President **Dave Firestone K4DPF** at 6:38 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 1 guest were in attendance.

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

Old Business:

Committee reports:

EMCOM/Public Service: **Gary K6OZ** and **Tim KM4TGC** attended the county preparation meeting for Hurricane Irma and introduced the club to the new county emergency official Woody Brown. He was appreciative and said he looked forward to meeting with us in the future. **Mark N4YSA** has sent an email to the Sheriff regarding the training room and the use of the training room equipment.

Web site: **Dave K4DPF** reports both the club and the ARES web site operating systems have been updated.

Trailer: The new trailer has arrived! Thanks to **Gene KJ4HFO** for picking up the trailer and to all

those who made a special donation to the purchase funds!

Dave K4DPF reported on the Board Meeting held at his house on Sept 7. Final details of the trailer purchase were put in place. Purchase of a computer projector was deferred indefinitely due to cost and other alternatives. Nominations for officers were discussed.

New Business:

Nominations for officers were discussed. Officers with expiring terms are as follows: Board Member **Will KM4PVS** and Vice President **Gene KJ4HFO** indicated willingness to serve again if elected. President **Dave K4DPF** declined to serve again (Thanks for your service Dave!) and nominations are open. Treasurer **Juergen W3LUV** declined to serve again (Thanks for your service Juergen!) and **Carrie KM4WDX** accepted a nomination for this position. Secretary **Gary K6OZ** has not yet made a decision. Nominations need to be in place at November meeting, elections (by affirmation or otherwise) will be at the December meeting.

A trailer outfitting committee was formed: **Dave K4DPF**, **Mark N4YSA**, **Tim KM4TGC**, **Will KM4PVS**, and **BH KM4CKD**. The club Board will oversee.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 PM, followed by a presentation of Winlink by **Dave K4DPF** (in preparation for an ARES meeting on the same subject scheduled for the following morning).

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

New PVARC Trailer

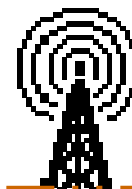


Silent Keys



October 6, 2017: Clayton Towers, K4RHQ





How's DX

4S, Sri Lanka: Peter/DC0KK returns to Sri Lanka to avoid the European winter. He plans to stay from Nov. 1 until March 25 next year. QRV as 4S7KKG from Moragalla (WW Loc. MJ96xk) with better antennas than last time. QSL via DC0KK (d/B), LoTW.

5X - UGANDA: Kazuo, 5X2B is QRV from Kampala until July 2019. Activity is on 30 to 12 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL direct to JA1PBV.

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

9Q, DEM. REP. OF THE CONGO: Fernando, EA4BB (ex-9Q5BB, D2BB, ST2BF, TU5JL, TZ6BB, Z21BB), is now active as 9Q6BB from Kinshasa (eastern part of the country) for up to the next 3 years. Activity has been on 20/17 meters using CW. Operations are QRP using an Elecraft KX2 w/5w into a Vertical telescopic whip 5.2m antenna. QSL via W3HNK.

CE9, Antarctica: Raj/VU3LBP remains active from the Antarctic station Bharati (WAP IND-04, WW Loc. MC80co) until November 2017. QSL via I1HYW.

D4, CAPE VERDE: Zoltan, HA5PP, will be active as D4P from Cape Verde Island during the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 25-26th) as a Single-Op entry. QSL via LoTW.

JD1 - MINAMI TORISHIMA: Take, JG8NQJ will be QRV as JG8NQJ/JD1 beginning October 15 and will be here for two months. Activity will be in his spare time on the HF bands using CW and RTTY. QSL direct to JA8CJY.

ON - BELGIUM: Special event station OP36CLM will be QRV from October 16 to November 15 to commemorate the liberation of the town of Knokke by Canadian forces in November 1944. QSL via ON3AIM.

SP, Poland: HF700LUB celebrates the 700th anniversary of the city Lublin until August 2018. QSL via SP8AB. POLAND, SP. Special event station HF700LUB is QRV until August 2018 to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the city Lublin. Activity is on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via SP8AB. In addition, look for 3Z20ILLW to be QRV from the Jaro-

slawiec Lighthouse, ILLW PL-0014, during the International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend. QSL via bureau.

TC10, TURKEY: (Special Event). Look for the following 10 special event callsigns to be active between October 20th and November 20th: TC10A, TC10E, TC10M, TC10U, TC10S, TC10T, TC10F, TC10K, TC10L and TC10R. Activity is to commemorate the 79th anniversary of the death of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the Turkish Republic. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via LoTW, direct or eQSL. Three diplomas will be available (Bronze, Silver, Gold). See details at: <http://tadx.org/10nov/index.php?page=rules>

TK, CORSICA: (Update). Look for "Team Charlie" (TeamC) to be active as TKOC from Sant Ambroggio, Corsica, during the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 25-26th) as a Multi-2 entry. QSL via S50C. Operators mentioned are Patrick/TK5EP, Marko/S50P, Boris/S53BB, Boris/S53CC, Vinko/S53F, Matija/S53MM, Sine/S53RM, Robert/S53WW, Simon/S53ZO, Goran/S5500, Branko/S57C, Janko/S57L and Ivo/S57VW. Look for operators to be active before and after the contest (between November 20-29th) using their own personal callsigns. For details and updates, watch: <https://www.facebook.com/TKOCHARLIE>

VP9, BERMUDA: Tony, VE3RZ, will be active as VE3RZ/VP9 from Bermuda between November 20-27th. Activity will be on various HF bands using mostly CW, some SSB and the Digital modes (RTTY, FT8). He also plans to be in the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 25-26th) as a Single-Op/All-Bands/Assisted/Low-Power entry. QSL via VE3RZ, LoTW or ClubLog.

Z3, Macedonia: The Radio Club Nikola Tesla (Z37M) celebrates its 70th anniversary with the callsign Z370M until the year's end. QSL via LZ1JZ (B), LoTW, eQSL.

IOTA's

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

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

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.

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.

NA-021 - 8P, BARBADOS: Ernest, J69AZ, will once again be active as 8P9JB from Barbados (NA-021) between December 13th and January 2nd, 2018. Activity will be on 80-10 meters QRP. QSL via his home callsign direct.

NA-078 - Magdalena Island: Operators Manuel/XE2IC, Manuel, Jose-Felix/XE2I and Antonio/XE2HVF will be active as XF1IM from Magdalena Island between November 25th and December 3rd. Activity will be on 160-10 meters. QSL via XE2IC direct.

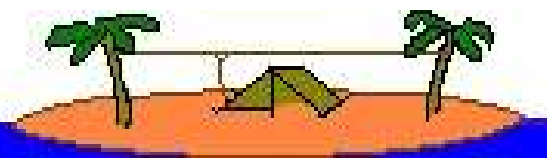
NA-102 - FG, Guadeloupe: Philippe/F1DUZ is going to put Sainte-Anne (NA-102) on the air as FG4KH from Oct. 17 until Nov. 6. QRV on HF and SSB, FT and JT65, and on 2m and 70cm. QSL via F1DUZ (d/B).

NA-104 - V4 - ST. KITTS AND NEVIS: Bill, W5JON will be QRV as V47JA from Calypso Bay, IOTA NA-104, from October 15 to November 7. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters, including 60 meters, using SSB. This includes being an entry in the upcoming CQ World Wide DX SSB contest. QSL direct to home call.

SA-006 - PJ4, BONAIRE: Operators John/K4BAI, Eric/K9ES and Chuck/AD4ES will be active as PJ4/homecall from the "PJ4G Radio House" on Bonaire (SA-006, WLOTA LH-1279) between November 22-28th. The trio plans to be active during the CQWW DX CW Contest (November 22-26th) as a Single-Op/Single-Band entries as follows: 40m - K4BAI as PJ4A, 80m - K9ES as PJ4E, and AD4ES as PJ4I possibly on 20 meters or another band. QSL PJ4A and PJ4/K4BAI via K4BAI. QSL PJ4E and PJ4/K9ES via K9ES. QSL PJ4I and PJ4/AD4ES via AD4ES. Check out the "PJ4G Radio House" at: <http://www.pj4g.com>

SA-040 - Rosario Islands: Operators Martin/LU9EFO and Camilo/HK3TU will be active as HK1/LU9EFO and HK3TU/1 from Rosario Islands sometime in November. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via F4BHW.

SA-093 - Titumate Island: Martin/LU9EFO and Camilo/HK3TU are planning to activate Titumate Island (SA-093) during November as HK4/LU9EFO and HK3TU/4 on 160-6m. QSL via F4BHW.



Contests & QSO Parties

For more details and information, go to:

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

- 1 Phone Fray
- 1 UKEICC 80m Contest
- 1-2 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 2 NRAU 10m Activity Contest
- 3 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 3 NCCC Sprint
- 4 IPARC Contest, CW
- 4-5 Ukrainian DX Contest
- 4-6 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW**
- 5 ARRL EME Contest
- 5 IPARC Contest, SSB
- 5 EANET Sprint
- 5 High Speed Club CW Contest
- 7 ARS Spartan Sprint
- 8 QRP Fox Hunt
- 8 Phone Fray
- 8-9 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 10 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 10 QRP Fox Hunt
- 10 NCCC Sprint
- 11-12 WAE DX Contest, RTTY
- 11-12 10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital
- 11-12 JIDX Phone Contest
- 11-12 OK/OM DX Contest, CW
- 11-12 SKCC Weekend Sprintathon
- 11-12 Kentucky QSO Party**
- 11-13 CQ-WE Contest
- 12 North American SSB Sprint Contest
- 13 RSGB 80m Autumn Series, Data
- 13-14 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint



- 15 QRP Fox Hunt
- 15 Phone Fray
- 15-16 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 16 NAQCC CW Sprint
- 17 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 17 QRP Fox Hunt
- 17 NCCC Sprint
- 17 YO International PSK31 Contest
- 18 Feld Hell Sprint
- 18 RSGB 2nd 1.8 MHz Contest, CW
- 18-19 SARL Field Day Contest
- 18-19 LZ DX Contest
- 18-19 All Austrian 160-Meter Contest
- 18-19 REF 160-Meter Contest
- 18-19 SARL Field Day Contest
- 18-19 LZ DX Contest
- 18-19 All Austrian 160-Meter Contest
- 18-19 REF 160-Meter Contest
- 18-20 ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB**
- 19 Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment Party
- 20 Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
- 22 SKCC Sprint
- 22 QRP Fox Hunt
- 22 Phone Fray
- 22 RSGB 80m Autumn Series, SSB
- 22-23 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 24 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 24 NCCC Sprint
- 25-26 CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW**
- 29 QRP Fox Hunt
- 29 Phone Fray
- 29-30 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 29 UKEICC 80m Contest
- 30 RSGB 80m Autumn Series, CW





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 October testing:

Jim Lehman, W4POL

Gerald Nauman, KN4FM

E.C. Showalter, KG4KUR

Brian Daniels, K4RMY

This session we issued 1 tech and 2 general license.

Our next session will be **December 9, 2017**. 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 Amateurs 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 Amateurs are welcome!**

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

The **VLN (Virginia Late Net)** meets daily on **3.947 MHz** at 10:00 PM local time. **All Amateurs welcome!**

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

Calendar of Local Events

November

- 2 MARA Club Meeting
- 3 PVARC Club Meeting
- 3 Friday Luncheon
- 4 PVARC ARES Training
- 5 Page County ARES Net (146.550 Simplex)
- 5 Daylight Saving Ends
- 6 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.550 Simplex)
- 6 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 kHz)
- 7 VARA Club Meeting
- 7 Election Day
- 11 Veterans Day
- 10 Friday Luncheon
- 12 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)
- 13 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.225, PL 131.8)
- 13 Augusta County ARES Net (146.850, PL131.8)
- 17 Friday Luncheon
- 19 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)
- 20 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 kHz)
- 20 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.225, PL 131.8)
- 20 Deadline for December newsletter submission*
- 23 Thanksgiving
- 24 Friday Luncheon
- 26 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)
- 27 Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225, PL 131.8)

December

- 1 Friday Luncheon
- 1 PVARC Club Meeting
- 3 Page County ARES Net (146.550 Simplex)
- 4 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 kHz)
- 4 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.550 Simplex)
- 5 VARA Club Meeting
- 7 MARA Club Meeting
- 8 Friday Luncheon
- 10 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)
- 11 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.225, PL 131.8)
- 14 Augusta County ARES Net (146.850, PL131.8)
- 15 Friday Luncheon
- 17 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)
- 18 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 kHz)
- 18 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.225, PL 131.8)
- 20 Deadline for January newsletter submission*
- 22 Friday Luncheon
- 24 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Day
- 25 Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225, PL 131.8)
- 29 Friday Luncheon
- 31 New Year's Eve
- 31 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)



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: Gerald Nauman, KN4FM
Vice President: David Fordham, KD9LA
Secretary: Herb Slade, AA2BF
Treasurer: Foster Farone, WF4O
Board (exp 2017): Rick Adams, KJ4IND
Board (exp 2016): Andrew Pearson, N4RCE

<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!

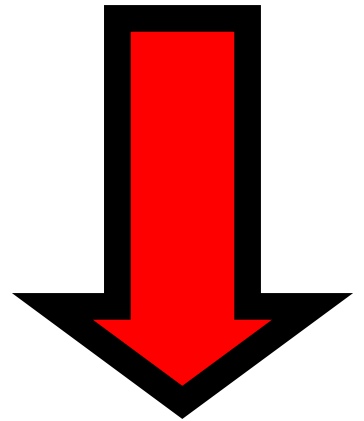
RENEW

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

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