

THE MONITOR

December 2017

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



Let Every Day Be Christmas

By Norman Wesley Brooks

Christmas is forever, not for just one day,
for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away
like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf.
The good you do for others is good you do yourself.

Peace on Earth, good will to men,
kind thoughts and words of cheer,
are things we should use often
and not just once a year.

Remember too the Christ-child, grew up to be a man;
to hide him in a cradle, is not our dear Lord's plan.
So keep the Christmas spirit, share it with others far and near,



PVARC Meeting December 1st

The **Page Valley Amateur Radio Club** will hold its regular meeting on **December 1st** at 6:30pm at **Tactical Walls**. The address is: **611 Williams Avenue**. On the north end of Shenandoah, turn east from US Route 340 onto Williams Avenue, go through the gate, park along the right side of the building. The entrance is around the building to the right. All Amateurs, their families and friends are welcome.

VARA Meeting December 5th

The **Valley Amateur Radio Association**, will hold its **December 5th** 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 December 7th

The **Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**, will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, **December 7th** 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.

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.



Angel & I need a ride to and from the VARA Christmas party. If some can do this please contact me as soon as possible so I know if we have a way or not.

Robert Wilson, KI4GST

(540) 416-3490

They're coming to take you away

They're coming to take you away—They're coming to take you away— Those nice young men in their clean white suits— They're coming to take you away— If you don't pay your dues! So, use the form in the back of this issue to beat them off. [It's best though to mail them to the address shown for your club.]



Sale



Jane & I are moving to VMRC 12/28/17 . We've sold our house in Grottoes and are planning a "moving sale" for 12/1 & 2. As you can imagine I have a lot of things that won't fit in the apartment; a nice piano and other furniture. We are in the packing stage right now .

I have lots of hardware, transistors, capacitors, resistors, diodes, some tube sockets, etc. (sold tubes and tester on EBay), a Cushcraft vertical that I used on 20mtrs and if I can't use the G5RV there, it's available too; as well as many tools (hand and garden) a Garden Way cart--- a shed full! It will be a "Make me an offer" sale as all must go!

I will want to join the club early next year after we get settled. The trip to H-burg at night has not been an option for me but it shouldn't be too bad from VMRC.

73,

Vic Berger/W3TDU/AAR3DN

303 14th St Grottoes

For Sale Just In time for Christmas

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

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



Plan Ahead

FROSTFEST

The Mid-Atlantic's
Largest Winter Hamfest!

Welcome to Frostfest

We are officially kicking off Frostfest 2018!

The largest hamfest in the Mid-Atlantic will be held on **Saturday, February 3, 2018** at the Richmond Raceway Complex. Everything you need to know about Frostfest can be found here www.frostfest.com , and regular updates will also be made to our [Facebook page](#), and our [Twitter feed!](#)

Many of your favorite vendors are already committed, and there will be more to come. Get a table or two and sell your excess equipment.

We look forward to seeing you at Frostfest 2018!

Amateur Radio License Plates: Are You Breaking State Law? (Some of us are!)

Reprinted from *The Monitor*, January 2009

A letter was recently distributed to certain law enforcement officials asking for increased attention to the Virginia state code regulating use of Amateur Radio License Plates on motor vehicles.

Virginia code Title 46.2 Chapter 6, paragraph 46.2-738, and related regulations allow the issuance and display of amateur radio license plates ONLY on a vehicle

which is titled in the name of an actively licensed radio amateur, AND (here's the kicker) "has equipment permanently installed in the vehicle capable of receiving and transmitting on the amateur radio bands."

The letter was prompted by the discovery that a large number of amateur radio operators are driving vehicles that are in blatant violation of the law. In a recent check of 23 routine traffic stops involving vehicles registered with ham radio plates in the central part of the state, "21 of the 23 vehicles were not in compliance" with the law and did not have working amateur radio transmitting and receiving equipment permanently installed as required by the law.

The law applies to plates identifiable by the words "Amateur Radio" embossed and printed on the plate itself. (The law does not apply to vanity license plates with callsigns, only to real "Amateur Radio" plates.)

The letter advises that if the registrant of the vehicle bearing amateur radio plates is present in the vehicle (presumably when it is stopped for some other traffic infraction), the officer can require the demonstration "to the officer's satisfaction" that the equipment is working, is capable of both receiving and transmitting, and is permanently installed in the vehicle.

It goes on to say that handheld radios, handi-talkies, walkie-talkies and other portable gear is not considered permanently installed. Neither is a radio lying on the car seat, or on the floor.

The letter does, however, say that if a working radio is in a mounting, and the mounting is permanently installed in the vehicle, the radio is in compliance even if the radio can be easily and quickly removed from the mounting.

The letter points out that the requirement for "permanent installation" applies to the radio, and not the antenna. It specifically

states that a magnetic mounted antenna or other removable antenna does not affect compliance. Further, the presence of a permanently-affixed antenna does not prove compliance, but "the absence of any visible antenna" is likely, but not necessarily, an indication of non-compliance.

Registration can be cancelled for vehicles not in compliance. However, the letter urges officers to use care and discretion. The letter ends with a reminder that amateur radio operators who are in compliance are valuable assets to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

The message should be crystal clear. The law says that if you have ham plates on your car or truck, you are required to have a working ham radio permanently installed in that vehicle. Period. You signed a statement saying that you understood that when you obtained your ham radio license plates in Virginia.



(A check with the Department of Motor Vehicles on December 30, 2008 by your editor confirmed that this requirement has been in effect since the very first ham radio license plates were issued in Virginia, and the requirement has never been changed or relaxed or waived.)

The source who provided the copy of the letter wishes to remain anonymous, but feels like hams need to be reminded of their obligation under the law. A quick "heads-up" should allow many of us to get

our vehicles into compliance without having to be reminded by an officer with blue lights and a badge.

While totally off the record, the source also mentioned that the closing paragraph of the letter (reminding officers that hams in compliance are valuable assets to the Commonwealth) might be a subtle hint that if a ham is caught in a minor infraction, maybe, just maybe, if the ham plays his cards right and is very polite and contrite and humble about it, the officer just might cut some slack on the ticket or fine for the other infraction.

Bottom line: never, ever argue with an officer!

Of course, if you don't have a working ham radio in your car when you're stopped for something else, well, ... you have now been warned! The chips may fall hard.

Take the hint: If you aren't in compliance, install a radio in your car, and make sure it's working!

V.O.I.C.E.

[VOCALISTS OFFERING INSPIRATIONAL COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT]

Presents

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A comedic benefit concert

Dec. 9th, 7pm | Dec. 10th, 3pm

At First Presbyterian Church

17 Court Square, Harrisonburg VA 22802

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The Opinionated One: A Ham Radio Phrasebook

Reprinted from *The Monitor*, January 2009

In past issues, the Monitor has provided a few definitions of individual terms used by hams. But here is a list of common phrases found in the hobby, along with their meanings.

“I’ll catch you further down the log.” First off, no one knows what a “log” is. There’s speculation that a “log” might be remotely related to the computer program called “logging software”, used exclusively by contesters and rabid DX chasers. But this view is in dispute, mainly because contesters and DX-chasers are usually on HF, and this phrase is more commonly heard at the end of VHF contacts. Plus, contesters never ever take the time to say something as lengthy as “catch you further down the log”. And DX-chasers have absolutely no plans to ever work this station again as long as they live once they get the QSL card. So the link between a “log” and “logging software” is somewhat questionable. So what does this phrase mean? It’s just a fancy way of saying, “I’ve arrived at my destination so I have to get out of the car now. Goodbye.”

“He’s listening up six, dummy!” This phrase is often heard on the HF bands, and the word ‘dummy’ is substituted for any of a large number of words describing the outcome of various cross-species mating experiments. This phrase is used right after a sincere ham logically “comes back” to a rare DX station who was calling CQ. What the ham didn’t realize was the DX station is actually busy playing a game of hide-and-seek. Often the person helping the DX station play hide and seek is a guy called a “list manager” and he’s the one who probably told you to “Up Six”.

“Your audio is a little low” This can mean one of two things. Either, “I’m too darn lazy to turn up the volume on my receiver,” or “you must have one of those new Yaesu radios that doesn’t let you adjust the modulation.”

“Yep, yep, fer shure, hi-hi”. Some old hams (most of whom are dead by now) believed that this phrase meant laughter. But it can’t possibly mean laughter, because it has never in history been preceded with anything funny. About the best we can guess is, this phrase means “You just said something really, really stupid, and I’m too polite to say so.”

“QSL to my manager in the callbook, and green stamps are appreciated.” This phrase is most commonly given by a rare DX station that you really need to qualify for the next level of DXCC. It means, “if you don’t send my friend in the Cayman Islands a twenty-dollar bill, all you’ll get back is your own QSL card with the annotation, ‘sorry, not in log’.”

“I’ll QSL via Bureau, for sure”. This is generally said by a ham who doesn’t even plan to print QSL cards, let alone actually fill one out or mail it. It’s simply one more way of saying, “Goodbye”.

“@%\$&, (expletive), #@!*+&! , @%!\$&*# , (expletive)” This phrase often includes liberal use of excretory and reproductive slang ter-

minology. Literally translated, this phrase actually means “The band-switch on your HF rig is now set to the 75-meter phone band.”

“Is this frequency in use?” This phrase is used by courteous hams on the HF bands 2 seconds before they kick on their 1500-watt amplifier to begin a three-hour ragchew with their neighbor across town. Protocol demands that before asking, “is this frequency in use?”, the ham must turn the volume on his receiver all the way down to zero so in the likely event someone says, “yes it is”, the ham can still claim the channel by explaining, “I asked six times and never heard anyone come back.”

“We’re actually finished, old man, just give us half a minute to say our seventy-three’s”. This phrase is the standard reply to a polite request to move up or down the band a few kilohertz to accommodate a fifty-member net, or a sked with a crystal-based wilderness station on battery power. Translated, this phrase means, “We’ll be here at least another half-hour, and by then the skip will have changed and the frequency will be occupied by two megawatt stations in Brazil who only speak Portuguese.”

“Just the Charlie Zulu station, the station ending in Charlie Zulu only, all others please stand by, just the Charlie Zulu, Charlie Zulu only please.” If you’ve ever listened to a pileup, you’ll recognize that this phrase obviously means, “stations whose prefix begins with A, K, N, or W, please call now.”

“You’re not quite into the machine old man, try standing up a little higher on the ladder,” can mean one of four things. 1.

“You’re silly to try to work a repeater using a handheld inside a metal automobile.” 2. “You’re silly to try to work this repeater from 90 miles away.” 3. “You’re silly to be using such an old radio with a bad microphone connector and such an old antenna with a ratty old crushed-up and kinked coax cable.” Or, more often than not, 4. “This repeater’s acting up again, but we’re too polite to mention it because if we do, the repeater owner might tell us to go up the mountain and fix it ourselves.”

“I snagged VP7 on my second call.” This means, “I called nine hours a day for six days, and then on the last day of the DXpedition, I got lucky and he came back to me after only two hours.”

“It never rains at Field Day.” This is the first part of a phrase whose remainder is never spoken because everyone who’s been to Field Day knows what the rest of the phrase is. For those of you who haven’t, the remainder of the phrase is, “... if you’re in the Sudanese Desert, but man oh man does it pour at Field Day up at Flagpole Knob, and you should see the lightning bolts, and the wind, and the bugs. But hey, it’s really a lot of fun spending hours and hours in the cold wet rain watching two other hams in a little makeshift trailer call ‘CQ Field Day’ till they’re more hoarse than last year’s Kentucky Derby winner.”

“This is the SouthCars net. This net meets daily to serve mobile



stations.” This means, “If you’re mobile, don’t bother waiting around to check in, because this is really a ragchew net for retired old men at high-powered base stations in Tampa, Huntsville, and Indianapolis who lost their driver’s licenses over sixteen years ago shortly after their 80th birthday.”

“This is the MidCars net. This net meets daily to serve mobile stations...” This means, “If you’re mobile, don’t bother waiting around to check in, because this is really a ragchew net for old men (plus one woman) at high-powered base stations in Detroit, Waukegan, Louisville, and Des Moines so they can compare intimate details of their recent medical procedures.”

“This is the EastCars net. This net meets daily to serve mobile stations...” This means, “If you’re mobile, don’t bother trying to check in, because this is really a ragchew net for old men at high-powered base stations in Boston, Pittsburgh and Syracuse who take five hours trying to determine which one of them is go-

ing to be net control for the next 30 minutes.”

“I’m using a Kenwood 450 putting out 50 watts into a wire antenna at 30 feet.” What a lie. He’s using a Pro-III and a kilowatt amp into a \$1400 beam on a 150-foot tower, but wants to impress you with what a good operator he is. (The giveaway is the fact that he’s actually transmitting a fairly decent signal but yet he’s claiming that he’s using a Ken- wood.)

“I’ll be happy to take a look at it. Maybe I can fix it for you, but it might be next week before I can get around to it.” This means, “We’ll both forget that you ever gave it to me and that it has an intermittent problem, and I’ll end up sell- ing it for \$45 to some sucker at Berryville four years from now.”

“Where the blue-blazes is Wilda?” Phrase heard at the VARA club meeting every month where KB4OLM is in attendance. It means, “where the blue-blazes is Wilda?”



MARA Treasurer’s Report

October 21, 2017 to November 20, 2017

Opening Balance		<u>\$952.35</u>
Income: Memberships	\$120.00	
50/50 – November Meeting	\$28.00	
Total Income:		<u>\$148.00</u>
Expenses: Electric	\$22.33	
Total Expenses:		<u>\$22.33</u>
Balance November 20, 2017		<u>\$1,078.02</u>

Submitted by Foster Farone, WF4O, MARA Treasurer

VARA Secretary's Report

VARA Minutes For November 7, 2017

The Valley Amateur Radio Association's November 7th meeting was brought to order at 7 pm by president **John Keller W4ZAO**. 24 members, guests, and visitors were present. Everyone introduced themselves as usual. The 50/50 drawing for \$11.50 was won by **Ed Varner N4EDI**.

ARES report: **David Tanks AD4TJ**, EC for Augusta County amateurs, reminded us that there are only a few more days until the hurricane season is over. The next net will be the 2nd Thursday of the month, and asked for a volunteer for Net Control as he may be unavailable; **Fred Evans N4KYM** said he would do it; the net will be held on the 146.850 repeater.

John thanked all who helped with the Fall Foliage Bike Festival; lots of hams volunteered, and everything went smoothly (Sunday had zero sags needed). He received a check from them for a donation to the club in appreciation of our efforts.

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.

John reminded us that anyone who had helped out at least 4

hours in the Fall Foliage Bike Festival would have their dues waived for 2018.

New members: we voted on the following hams, since their applications were read last month: **Jim Menard KN4FJG**, **Tom Endress KJ4TOM**, **Ray Lafalce K2ULW**, and **Mary Lafalce N2QBQ**; all were accepted. Congratulations!

Christmas Banquet: will be held at the Golden Corral in Waynesboro, on December 12th, from 6 to 9 pm. We will be doing the Chinese gift exchange as we had done several times before, with amounts no larger than \$10.00 to be spent on a gift.

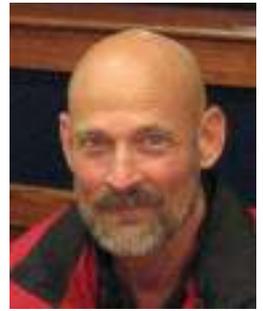
John said a tentative date for the annual club picnic was September 15, 2018. Everyone thought that would suit so it was agreed to make it the official date.

David brought us up-to-date on Contests and Special Event stations.

John thanked everybody for their friendship and their support during his tenure as President for the last 3 years.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was closed at 7:22 pm.

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



MARA Secretary's Report

MARA Secretary's Report – Nov. 2, 2017

General Meeting called to order at Wood Grill, Harrisonburg, by **President Andrew Pearson (N4RCE)** at 7:30 p.m. 25 members and 7 guests were present. Introductions were made all around.

New Member Vote: none

New Member First Reading: none

The Secretary's Minutes for last month's meeting: Advised to remove entry about 440 repeater cost. Approved as otherwise published in the **Monitor**. Note: Secretary has arranged with Monitor Editor, **John Spillman (KT4CB)** to delete the entry from the archived October meeting minutes.

Other Note: Nobody noticed the date listed for last month's meeting, which was 900 years in the future! **Neither did your Secretary, Hi!**

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

Committee Reports:

ARES: Bryan Daniels (K4RMY): MARA ARES "survived through active support in ARRL" (Secretary's notes). **A National ARES drill is planned for Nov. 6, including 60 meters**, but the **HRECC doesn't have 60m capability**. No other info.

Repeater Committee: no report

VE Committee: Gayle Shull (KU4XN): Two Generals and one Technician passed their tests at the October VE session. Next regular test session will be at **9:00 A.M., December 9**, at **Woodmen Life**, Rt 42 in Dayton.

Public Service Committee: no report

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Next Meeting: December 7

50/50 Drawing: Of \$28 in tickets sold, **\$14** was won by **Elizabeth Small (W3EAS)**, who donated her share to the MARA treasury for ARES projects. **Thanks, Elizabeth!**

Time Adjourned: 7:45 p.m.

Program: Herb Slade gave a PowerPoint presentation of his experience at the August 21 Solar Eclipse. He used a DSLR camera coupled with his homemade reflector telescope, to take pictures of the 2 ½ minutes of totality at Sweetwater, TN. He noted that there will be another one crossing the US in 2024! He just might chase that one, for three in a lifetime!

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



PVARC Secretary's Report

KK4IRS offered to donate some antenna tower sections

November 3, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President **Dave Firestone K4DPF** at 6:35 PM at Tactical Walls in Shenandoah. (Thanks to **Tim KM4TGC** and **Carrie KM4WDX** for the donation of the use of the facility!)

11 members and 1 guest, **Jim KN4FYT**, were in attendance

The Secretary's report was approved. Treasurer's report deferred until next meeting.

Announcements:

The ARES meeting for November will be held on the following Saturday November 4

The club has a new licensee ... unable to be present at this meeting ... celebration next meeting

Old Business:

Committee reports:

Tech Support: Support was given to Larry KJ4TJZ to put up an HF antenna

Field Day: Watch for December QST results !

Trailer: **Tim KM4TGC** reported on a meeting held to plan trailer outfitting and also progress gathering materials such as insulation, paint, paneling, desks and storage, batteries, etc.. **Paul**

AREDN Meshnet: **Bob KI4VFP** reported on his successful efforts to install several antennas on the grain silos near the Luray Library ... with connectivity to Big Mountain and coverage for the downtown area in the direction of the courthouse and south along 340

Nominations for officers: Secretary **Gary K6OZ** and President **Dave K4DPF** expressed their desire to transition out but would serve again if necessary. Other positions have at least one candidate.

New Business:

Discussion of the possibility of the club sponsoring VEC sessions. Further investigations will be made.

Discussion of the possibility of making the AREDN meshnet activities a formally sponsored club activity

Discussion of the level of attendance at club meetings and ways to improve it including changing meeting times and locations. Agreed that a poll of the members should be taken.

President **Dave K4DPF** announced plans to hold a club board meeting before Thanksgiving

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM, followed by a very interesting video presentation of the "History of Collins Radio"

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

PVARC Technical Assistance Team in Action

photo of PVARC Technical Assistance Team installing an HF Longwire antenna for **Larry-KJ4TJZ**, pictured are **Dave-K4DPF**, **Larry-KJ4TJZ**, **Gene-KJ4HF0**, **Bob-KI4VFP** and taking the photo **Mark-N4YSA**. **Mark-N4YSA**





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.

5H - TANZANIA: Charles, NK80 will be QRV as 5H3DX from Zinga from November 5 to December 5. Activity will be in his spare time on 40 to 10 meters using CW, PSK and FT8. QSL to home call.

5T, Mauritania: Fawaz/A92AA and Obaid/A61M will be active as 5T1A and 5T1R respectively from Nov. 20 until Dec. 20. Together with Ahmad/5T2AI they are going to activate Tidra Island (AF-050) between Dec. 1 and 7 as 5T5TI. QSL for 5T1A and 5T1R via A92AA.

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.

FY, French Guiana: Hartwig/DL7BC will be operating as FY/DL7BC and FY/DL7BC/p between Nov. 26 and Dec. 7 while helping his friend Bruno/DH1BL setting up antennas. QSL via h/c (d/B), ClubLog, LoTW. <http://www.qslnet.de/member1/dl7bc/>

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 Jaroslawiec Lighthouse, ILLW

PL-0014, during the International Light-house/Lightship Weekend. QSL via bureau.

TA - TURKEY: Nuri, TA3X is QRV with special event call TC630MECCA until January 14, 2018. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY, SSTV and PSK63. QSL to home call.

V3, Belize: Uwe/DG8NCO will be on a EME DXpedition to Belize from November 26 to December 10. His callsign for this first ever EME activity from Belize will be V31EME. QRV on 2m and 70cm. QSL via DG8NCO (d/B).

V6, Micronesia: Sho/JA7HMZ uses the callsigns V63DX and V6A (in the contest) from Pohnpei Island (OC-010, Zone 27) during his stay from November 24 to December 1. QSL via JA7HMZ (d).

VU, India: The special event station AU2JCB (OP Datta/VU2DSI) will remember the scientist Jagadish Chandra Bose, born on November 30, 1858, from November 23 to December 11. Activities will take place on 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m and 10m on SSB. QSL via VU2DSI (d).

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-017 -3B9, Rodriguez Island: Olof/GOCKV will be active holiday-style from Rodriguez Island (AF-017, zone 39) between Nov. 23 and Dec. 12. QRV as 3B9HA on HF, with a focus on CW, low bands, and some FT8. QSL via M00XO, LoTW.

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

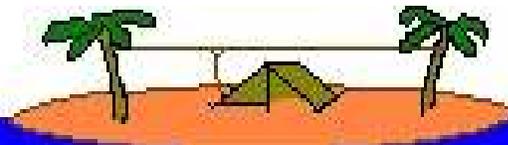
This month's bulletin was made possible with information provided by NC1L, QRZ DX, The Weekly DX, The OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST, the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

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.

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.



Contests & QSO Parties

For more details and information, go to:

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

- 1 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 1 QRP Fox Hunt
- 1 NCCC Sprint
- 1-3 ARRL 160-Meter Contest
- 2 Wake-Up! QRP Sprint
- 2-3 TOPS Activity Contest
- 2-3 EPC Ukraine DX Contest
- 3 Ten-Meter RTTY Contest
- 3 SARL Digital Contest
- 5 ARS Spartan Sprint
- 6 QRP Fox Hunt
- 6 Phone Fray
- 6-7 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 7 QRP ARCI Topband Sprint
- 7 NRAU 10m Activity Contest
- 8 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 8 QRP Fox Hunt
- 8 NCCC Sprint
- 9-10 ARRL 10-Meter Contest
- 9-10 SKCC Weekend Sprintathon
- 9-10 International Naval Contest
- 9-10 AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO Party
- 10 QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint
- 10 CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run
- 11 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint
- 13 NAQCC CW Sprint
- 13 QRP Fox Hunt
- 13 Phone Fray



- 13-14 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 15 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 15 QRP Fox Hunt
- 15 NCCC Sprint
- 15 Russian 160-Meter Contest
- 15 AGB-Party Contest
- 16 OK DX RTTY Contest
- 16 Feld Hell Sprint
- 16 Padang DX Contest
- 16-17 AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO Party
- 16-17 Croatian CW Contest
- 17 ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW
- 18 Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
- 20 QRP Fox Hunt
- 20 Phone Fray
- 20-21 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 21 NAQCC CW Sprint
- 22 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 22 QRP Fox Hunt
- 22 NCCC Sprint
- 24 RAEM Contest
- 26 DARC Christmas Contest
- 27 SKCC Sprint
- 27 QRP Fox Hunt
- 27 Phone Fray
- 27-28 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 29 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 29 QRP Fox Hunt
- 29 NCCC Sprint
- 30 RAC Winter Contest
- 30-31 Stew Perry Topband Challenge
- 31 Original QRP Contest
- 31 Bogor Old and New Contest





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)



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

A good time to upgrade!

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

December

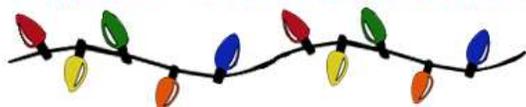
- 1 Friday Luncheon
- 1 PVARC Club Meeting**
- 3 Page County ARES Net (146.550 Simplex)
- 4 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 kHz)
- 4 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.550 Simplex)
- 5 VARA Club Meeting**
- 7 MARA Club Meeting**
- 8 Friday Luncheon
- 9 VE Testing
- 10 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 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)

January

- 1 New Year's Day**
- 1 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 kHz)
- 1 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.550 Simplex)
- 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 (146.225, PL 131.8)
- 11 Augusta County ARES Net (146.850, PL131.8)
- 12 Friday Luncheon
- 14 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)
- 15 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.225, PL 131.8)
- 15 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 kHz)
- 19 Friday Luncheon
- 20 Deadline for February newsletter submission***
- 21 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)
- 22 Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225, PL 131.8)
- 26 Friday Luncheon
- 28 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)
- 29 Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225, PL 131.8)



MERRY CHRISTMAS!!



Happy New Year!

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.

Articles in the Monitor may be quoted with attribution. Being a publication of an IRS 501(c)3 educational organization, the Monitor may occasionally use copyrighted material under the Fair Use Provisions of copyright law.

Copyright notices must be respected.

Renew Your Club Dues HERE!

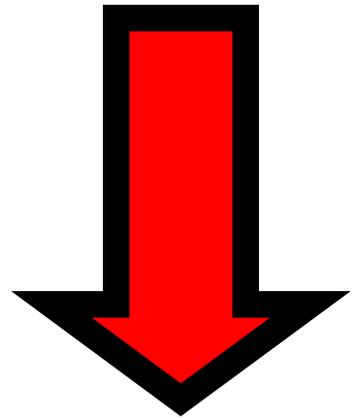
RENEW

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: 540-860-1986

Email: kt4cbva@gmail.com

Return Service Requested

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