

THE MONITOR

March 2018

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

PVARC Meeting March 8



The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular meeting on **March 8th** at 7:00 pm 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.



My apologies for missing this important information last month. EDITOR.

VARA Meeting March 6

The **Valley Amateur Radio Association**, will hold its **March 6th** 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 March 1

The **Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**, will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, **March 1st** 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.

Daylight Saving Begins!

Spring Forward!

Don't forget to turn your clocks **AHEAD** one hour on Sunday, **March 11th**.



From the President's Desk

Well, another month closer to retirement and full-time hamming!

I want to encourage all VARA members to come to the March club meeting on Tuesday, March 6. At this meeting, we will be voting on a resolution to dissolve the informal association we have all come to know and love, transferring all members and assets to the new corporation: The Valley Amateur Radio Association, Incorporated.

Your Board of Directors has been working hard on this project, and will continue the work if the voting is in the affirmative. We still have to apply for our 501(c)3 status, move checking accounts, take inventory of the club property, and so forth. (If you'd like to volunteer to help, we welcome your participation.)

In the meantime, don't forget the various contests coming up in March. I myself will be working the ARRL DX SSB contest the first weekend, the Idaho/Oklahoma/Wisconsin QSO Parties the second weekend, the Virginia QSO Party the third weekend,

and the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest the fourth week-

end,

If you aren't working the contests and aren't afraid of driving an hour or two (or three), you can go to the Charlotte Hamfest (March 9-10), the Vienna Hamfest (March 18), the Charleston Hamfest (March 24), or the Raleigh Hamfest (March 31). Both the Raleigh and Charlotte Hamfests are usually Class A events, and Vienna is usually decent, too. I've never been to Charleston, but I imagine it might not be bad either.

And don't forget the nets!

And please, if you find yourself anywhere near a radio, please turn it on! And give your call. You never know who might be listening!

See you at the meeting March 6.

David Fordham, KD9LA



ATTENTION VARA MEMBERS!

All members of the Valley Amateur Radio Association are encouraged to attend the March 6 meeting at the Hometown Grill and Buffet, just east of I-81 at Exit 222, at Route 250. At this meeting, we will be voting on the resolution brought up at the February meeting, which will implement the decision the club made in October to incorporate under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

If you haven't paid your 2018 dues yet and aren't exempt by virtue of having met the criteria for dues waiver by virtue of participation in the public service

events, go ahead and send your check in RIGHT NOW, so that you can vote on this important matter.

We are working on some great programs for future meetings, and might even be able to arrange a Saturday tour of the Greenbank Observatory, which contrary to popular rumor, is still in full operation under new ownership, but almost identical management. (How's that for miracles!)

See you March 6.

David Fordham, VARA President

Back on the Air

Big node (BIGND) is back on the air on Big Mountain, and ELKND is also on the air near Elkton Va, both on 145.57.

Mark-N4YSA,

Plan Ahead

Dayton Hamvention 2018

May 18–20

Green County Fairgrounds and Expo Center

[<hamvention.org>](http://hamvention.org)

Area Hamfests

Charlotte Hamfest	March 9-10	Vienna Hamfest	March 18
Charleston Hamfest	March 24	Raleigh Hamfest	March 31

Field Day Committee

For many years, the same small number of members of both MARA and VARA have worked together to make this activity a success. The current location at the Stokesville Campground is much easier to access with running water and flush toilets. This makes for much less work when compared to our former mountaintop and Todd Lake locations.

There is even firewood provided.

Without volunteers, activity such as this cannot succeed. Many if not all of the committee members have volunteered for Field Day for over 20 years. Several have volunteered for over 30 years. They are asking for your help. They usually meet April thru June, once a month for about an hour. Just a phone call to a committee member and volunteer to do one line item on our checklist would really help.

As has been the practice for many years, the Chairman/Woman rotates between MARA and VARA. It is MARA's turn to provide this years Chairman.

Another Opinionated One

VA QSO Party

The **Virginia QSO Party** is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, 17-18 March 2018.

See the VQP website for more information. http://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/QSOParty.htm

We have added an "Announced Operations" web page this year. If you are planning to participate, please email a picture and some information about your plans (QTH, band, mode, hours, etc.) and we will add you to the page.

CQ 160 CW And SB 2017 Contests

Results Of The CQ 160 CW And SB 2017 Contests

The Shenandoah Valley Wireless contest club had 7 entries in the CW contest, and 5 entries in the SB contest. Out of 117 world-wide entries, we placed 68th! Not bad at all! Here are the individual results:

CQ 160 CW Contest, January 2017

Call	Score	Q's	Mults	DX	Place In VA	Assisted?
W4PJW	55,571	390	51	10	2nd, Low Pwr	No
W4PFM	38,998	239	48	14	3rd, Low Pwr	No
N3JB	26,300	205	42	8	8th, Hi Pwr	No
KR4V	24,745	192	40	9	8th, Low Pwr	No
AD4TJ	3,276	66	19	2	14th, Hi Pwr	No
W4GRC	2,737	52	22	1	19th, Low Pwr	No
WS6X	153,090	755!!	55	26	5th, Hi Pwr	Yes

CQ 160 SB Contest, February 2017

W4ZAO	57,188	441	50	8	1st, Low Pwr	No
N4DSL	56,916	474	50	4	2nd, Hi Pwr	No
KB4OLM	47,190	382	48	7	2nd, Low Pwr	No
W4PFM	13,680	120	41	5	3rd, Low Pwr	No
N3JB	6,112	82	30	2	5th, Low Pwr	No

How well will we do this year? We shall see!

73, David AD4TJ, Manager, SVW Contest Club



Under the Weather

Hello VARA Members Here's an update on Diane Smiley

Good Morning to all

On Wednesday morning Diane had chest pains at the rehab center they sent her to the hospital they found a very small blood clot in her lung they keep her over night just to be safe, she is now back in the rehab center and doing good so far. She does have a larger blood clot behind her left knee they have her on blood thinners trying to get rid of both clots other than that she is doing ok. I don't think they will operate until the clots have been dissolved. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Pat Smiley

"Have a good day...Ray...KE4HVR



Digipeater Info

Thanks for putting your digipeater on the air. I wanted to address one comment regarding smartphone software modem app as well as add some other APRS info. I did some research into the current state of soundmodems on Linux, Mac OS X, Windows, Android, iPhone, Raspberry Pi, etc. Some modern soundmodems are able to decode about twice as many packets from the benchmark CD as older soundmodems.

original linux soundmodem: 450 packets
small sampling of hardware TNC's 550-900 packets

WX3in1 gets 960 (track 1)-981 (track 2) packets in separate test by mfg. This is a physical box (\$160) but it has a software modem inside (DSP) instead of an analog demodulator.

some modern soundmodems: 960 to 990 packets (now over 1000 for direwolf).

Not that the test conditions were quite the same as hardware and software modems were tested separately.

There were, however, a lot of rough edges with many of the software modems. And if you have Apple hardware you should be acquiring some non-apple hardware if you want to use a softmodem (Mac/iPhone/iPad) or even a hardware TNC (iPhone).

Note that my focus is on software modems, not the front end APRS GUI applications.

From my understanding, there are now cell phone apps that actually can be used to receive and send APRS data. Of course you will need a 2 meter radio of some type and audio/control cables to receive and send the signal! I have not done this yet, so I don't know all the details, but it sounds interesting, mostly if you have a phone and radio!

Yes there are cell phone apps. APRSdroid (free or \$5) has been available on android for about 8 years. Do you need a radio? Not if you have a cellular data signal (or Wifi). With aprsdroid, you can report your position

over the radio or over the internet (i.e. using 2g/3g/4g cellular data where available).

Your location will show up on aprs.fi and similar sites. It may even be digipeated out the local 2M APRS digipeaters. Thus, this is something those doing public service events should think about using even if you don't have a hardware APRS setup and haven't connected your cell phone to your radio. You can also do it from a tablet if the tablet supports GPS (most do not unless they also are equipped for cellular data; you can use the GPS without a cellular plan). aprsdroid, unlike other programs, will also will let you use a bluetooth connection to an external TNC so you can even use it outside your vehicle without relying on cellular data.

Laptops and desktops can also use other software to access APRS and in some cases might be able to transmit position/weather/messages with or without a radio. Also, most devices with a web browser can see APRS position reports (but not send them) on APRS.fi and similar sites without installing any additional software.



Also, aprsdroid is available for a small fee \$5 in the google play store but you can also get it for free by legally downloading it directly from <https://aprsdroid.org/> In that case, you will be responsible for downloading updates yourself and remembering to reinstall it when you change phones. Once you have tried it, you can then switch to the play store version if you want to donate to support the developer. There is another program APRS Pro in the google play store that initially appears cheaper than aprsdroid but is actually bait and switch since APRS is actually available free and APRS pro wants much more money to actually make the app usable. Most users give it a one star rating.



Web views of APRS data are available from **APRS.fi**, **openaprs.net**, **findu.com**, etc.

There are a few problems with APRS software modem approach with a radio. aprsdroid uses the built in audio headphone jack instead of an external USB audio adapter. Any sounds your phone generates will be

interpreted by your radio as something to transmit. Without your callsign. Every time your phone rings, you get a text message, WHSV posts another news story, or other notification. Plus it isn't terribly compatible with your using your phone as a phone. The author doesn't put much effort into the software modem anymore, including improvements such as PTT over other audio channel or PTT over USB serial, USB audio, etc. that would fix this. Being open source, however, others are free to do so.

APRS on the iphone is apparently a very sad state of affairs. There are no open source or free APRS transmit apps on iOS. No apps can talk to a TNC. None do bluetooth. Only two can receive from or talk to a radio using a software modem. There is a free receiving option. It appears sending updates over the internet/cellular is going to cost you at least \$2 (send only) and sending them through your radio or receiving them through your radio is going to cost at least \$5 for an app that hasn't been updated in 4 years or \$16 (or \$9/year) for one that is maintained but nicks and dimes you for features; it is free for receive, though. There are iOS apps but while at least one will let you view APRS reports for free you have to pay to transmit. According to one comparison review of iphone apps, the best APRS app by far is to get a cheap android device and run APRS. And a low end used android or a prepaid android phone that has bypassed activation might actually be cheaper than at least one of the iphone software options (\$43). And there are some advantages to dedicating a device to APRS. But there are APRS options from \$2-\$7 on iphone. The best options, though, seem to be one that costs \$5 but hasn't been updated in 4 years or one that costs as much as \$43 (highway robbery for a phone app) to unlock all the features. If you want to use a software modem to transmit/receive over an actual radio will cost at least \$16 one time or \$9/year to transmit and \$43 for a full license of the same software that gets a one star review on android. APRS TX will let you transmit your position over the internet only; it does not receive, you will need another app for that. But that looks like the cheapest option for (licensed ham) SAG drivers who are stuck with an iphone and want to (sporadically) share their position with net control without any equipment using APRS. Here is the comparison of iphone APRS apps:
<http://n0ssc.com/posts/540-whats-the-best-iphone->

aprs-app

Note that a few prices have changed in the last few months. APRS TX has gone up to \$2 and PocketPacket has gone down to \$5. Neither APRS PRO nor pocketmodem seems to have been tested against the WA8LMF test CD, or if it has they don't want you to know the results. So, I would expect less than hardware TNC performance.

Mac OS X users can also use PocketPacket for \$5 for a software modem but it hasn't updated in 7 years. Other than that there don't appear to be soundmodem choices.

Linux users have long had the option to use either soundmodem software modem or a hardware TNC and AX.25 support is even built into the operating system kernel. You do need to configure some programs which send broadcast messages to not send them to the AX.25 network interface. Now, javAPRS is supposedly also an option with better poor signal performance but it is a web java nightmare. Dire Wolf runs on Linux, Raspberry Pi, or windows. Direwolf decodes twice as many packets as the old soundmodem from the test CD.

<https://github.com/wb2osz/direwolf>

Linux can also run the extmodem which is probably comparable to direwolf in performance.

Someone has a test CD with audio recordings of packet traffic for testing decoders.

<http://wa8lmf.net/TNCtest/>

And some of the different software decoders and hardware TNCs have been tested against it.

<http://www.qsl.net/kb9mwr/wapr/sound-card-packet.html>

<http://www.tapr.org/pipermail/aprssi/2010-December/034785.html>

<https://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=H0-014038>

The hardware TNCs were tested connected to a 2M transceiver (or used the built in one) while the audio was retransmitted from a service monitor through an attenuator so they took an extra trip through the radio. The software modems were likely tested straight from the CD. Also, the software modems use track2 and the hardware modems use track 1; however, since track1 is raw discriminator tap and track 2 has demphasis added, the two differences may partially cancel out as both tests have some extra radio parts in the loop, if not the same ones (modulator-

discriminator vs demphasis network). Note that much of the newer software was based on algorithms that worked well on that specific CD which may or may not necessarily be representative of general radio conditions.

Raspberry pi users can use a soundmodem or get a Packet/APRS hardware TNC board (TNC-Pi) for \$40kit/\$65 assembled. Two (or more) boards can go on one pi. You can also install an LCD touchscreen on the pi. That same board could be used standalone but there is a version TNC-X (\$50 kit) meant for standalone use with bluetooth, USB, digipeater, and tracker options available. Although a Pi Zero W or Raspberry Pi 3 might be cheaper and/or better way to add some or all of those and more. You can get a pi zero W for around \$10, an audio board for \$8, and a pro-to board for \$10 if you don't want to solder your PTT transistor, base resistor, and jack to the audio board. Add an SD card and power supply. Note that the TNC-X/TNC-Pi was one of the better hardware performers in the TNC tests.

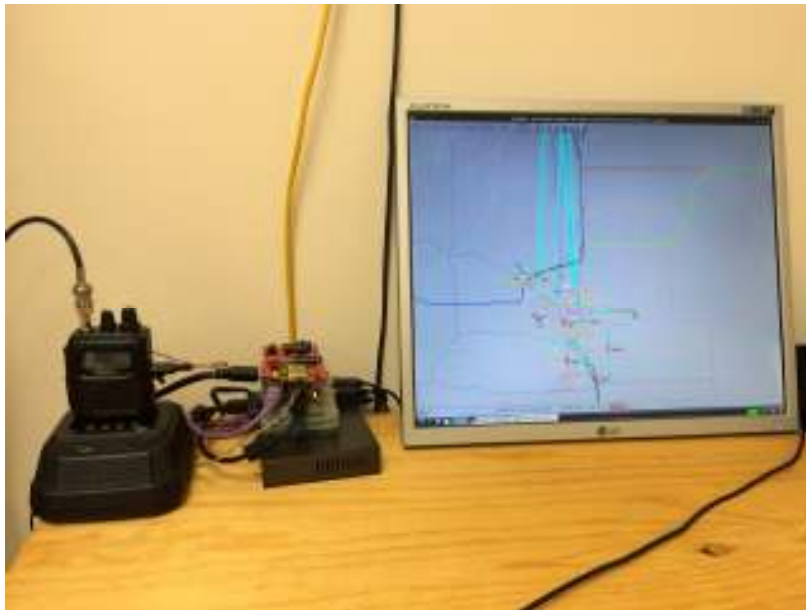
In the past, I had heard that hardware TNCs perform better at decoding but now I am starting to hear the opposite and some test results seem to be confirming it. So your money might be better spent on a rig interface that can do packet/APRS and many other digital modes. Especially since people are still designing TNCs in such a way that they don't double as rig interfaces. The following paper discusses decoding improvements, the results of which have been included in

aprsdroid and javAPRS.

<http://www.tau.ac.il/~stoledo/Bib/Pubs/QEX-JulAug-2012.pdf>

windows users can use dire wolf alone or in combination with a front end like the cross platform yaac. There are some other options such as AGWPE and UH7HO but those are dead end windoze only apps and you aren't going to be able to use them on Linux laptop/desktop, raspberry pi, beaglebone, pine64, odroid, wireless router with openwrt, etc. And dire-wolf appears to decode just as well as or better than the competition against the test CD.

On a related topic: For a receive only view of APRS positions, the free open source cross platform KDE Marble software (linux, mac, windoze) displays better quality maps than Xastir and can download map data and aerial/satellite imagery ahead of time for use offline such as during a public service event. Marble could be used with other software, such as Xastir, to transmit, if necessary. Marble can also be used for general mapping operations similar to google earth or google maps. You can overlay a single KML/KMZ



file (such as a bike ride route map) over the map like in google earth. However, if you want multiple KML file overlays, you need to create a KML file that references each file and you can't easily turn them on and off like you can in google earth.

Mark Whitis, AK4OL

New "Swap n Shop" for the Valley

The Waynesboro Repeater Association (WRAV) would like to announce the addition of a new link at it's web site. Swap and Shop, It is a free service providing a forum for the buying, selling or trading of amateur radio and related equipment and accessories. For more information visit www.qsl.net/wrav and click on **Swap & Shop**.

WRAV Officers Thx **Bob, N4JGO**

The Opinionated One- What's In A Name?

count again, dang it. One, two, three..."

Dock Abrams continued, "And it wasn't just Verman's younger brother Spitz Krabbliss called me up the other day. "My radio's not workin' right. I've done been through the troubleshootin' guide in the back of the manual, and it ain't no help a-tall."

"Never is," I replied. "What's the radio doin'?" "Well, half the panel lights have gone out. The thing gets too hot to touch even on low power. No one can hear my signal, even across the yard on high power. And the receiver volume is way low. I've tried changing antennas, feedlines, everything. I've isolated the problem to the radio itself. It's definitely the radio, nothing else."

"How old is this radio?" I asked.

"Just over a year old. The warranty expired last month, just before all this trouble started. Do you think these problems are all related to each other?" Spitz asked.

"Yep, definitely," I replied. "The good news is, it's a relatively simple problem to fix, and won't take too long. The bad news is, it might be kinda expensive."

"Okay," replied Spitz. "Tell me what to do."

"Well, first, place the radio on a clean, flat surface with plenty of light. Next, get your magnifying glass out, and look carefully at the front panel. What you're looking for is the word "Kenwood". Do you see it?"

"Yup, yup, there it is."

"Okay, here's what you do. Take a good look at that name. Then, drop your radio into a trash can, and go buy a radio that doesn't have that name on the front panel. In fact, make sure that name doesn't appear anywhere else on the radio, or on the manual either, for that matter. Got it?"

After solving Spitz's radio problem, it occurred to me that there's a lot to a name.

I remember one time back a number of years ago

when I lived in north Florida, my ham buddy "Cranky" Riley and I went together and bought a 20-year old used wood-and-canvas canoe to paddle around the Okefenokee Swamp, which was just a couple of miles from where we lived. Since a lot of other boat owners had painted names on their craft, Cranky suggested: "How 'bout we name our canoe, too!"

After some discussion we decided to name the canoe "Miss Susan", after our favorite science teacher back in Junior High School.

All through our college year we enjoyed our excursions deep into the Okefenokee. Cranky eventually got married, and sold me his half of our investment.

By this time, however, the old canoe began needing some serious maintenance. I took it to Dock Abrams, a local boat mechanic and owner of Dock's Boat Works. Dock promised to look it over and get back with me.

About two weeks later, I hadn't heard from him, when, on a Saturday morning, I went to the soda fountain at the Highlands Drug Store. The pharmacist, Mr. Tanner, was behind the drug counter, counting out some pills from a huge gallon container. He told me to have a seat, he'd be with me in a minute.

While I waited, in walks Dock Abrams. Mr. Tanner apparently didn't know Dock, because he looked up, said, "I'll be with you in one minute, sir." and went back to counting pills.

"Hi, Dock," I said. "How's Susan doing?" "I've got some bad news for you: Susan's done for," Dock began. "There's nothing I can do. I worked on her for two weeks solid, and tried everything I can think of, but she was just too far gone. I'm sorry."

"Oh, no. What am I gonna do without her?" I cried. "We've been together so long..."

Mr. Tanner looked over sympathetically and said, "Gee, son, I'm really sorry, too."

"I didn't think she was in that bad a shape. She was barely 27 years old. What was it that did her in, Dock?" I asked.

“Well, to start with, several of her ribs were cracked.”

“I guess that was from all the rocks and logs we hit her with,” I explained. Mr. Tanner looked up, raised his left eyebrow, shook his head and had trouble resuming his count.

“Her skin was cracked and peeling, too. In places, it just came off in my hand,” Dock continued. “It was split in a dozen places, and in others it was just rotting away.”

“Sheeesh,” said Mr. Tanner under his breath. Then he muttered a cussword and said, “Lost that. Her entire insides were completely eaten up with all kinds of worms.”

Mr. Tanner’s eyes popped and he made a funny noise down in his throat, — but he didn’t look up from his pills this time.

“Oh, one more thing,” Dock continued. “I found a big deep scratch on her right side, like maybe she’d been dropped ...”

“Well, Cranky and I did take her out last June, and when we were putting her in the back of Cranky’s pickup, we let her slip and she hit the pavement kinda hard. But that scratch probably came from one of those times when my Dad took her to Lake Folkston for one of those weekends with a dozen guys from his office, and they all ...”

I was interrupted by Mr. Tanner choking and suffering a lengthy coughing fit.

“Poor Susan,” I shook my head after Mr. Tanner had calmed down. “I’m sure gonna miss her. I really enjoyed the hours Cranky and I spent paddling her...”

There was the hissing sound of five thousand little pills hitting the floor and bouncing around. Then the empty gallon container rolled out from behind the drug counter. Mr. Tanner was nowhere to be seen.

“What do you want me to do with what’s left of her?” asked Dock Abrams.

“Why don’t you just keep her, Dock,” I suggested. “Maybe you can use her parts to help somebody else. It’s about time I got myself a new one, anyway.”

More funny noises came from somewhere back in a rear aisle of the drug room.

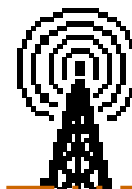
“Listen, I gotta go. Don’t worry about the root beer float, Mr. Tanner,” I called out. “I’ll come back some other time. Say, Dock, do I owe you anything?” I offered.

“Not a dime. Thanks for letting me have her. I’ll strip her down good and see what pieces I can use. I’ve already got a job in mind where I can use her ribs...”

From that day on, Mr. Tanner always looked at me funny. It wasn’t until years later that I realized that it might have had something to do with the name of a canoe.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!





How's DX

3W, Vietnam. HL1AHS and HL1LUA will be active as XV9HL from Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam from 26 February to 6 March. They will operate CW, SSB and digital modes on 160-10 metres. QSL via HL1AHS.

5V, Togo. John/N9MDH operates as 5V1JE until the end of May from Lome with a focus on the WARC bands and digital modes. QSL via N9MDH (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.

DA, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. Special event station DK200MARX is QRV during all of 2018 to celebrates Karl Marx's 200th birthday. Activity will be on all bands and modes. QSL via bureau.

EI, IRELAND. Special event station EI00MCV is QRV during all of 2018 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the sinking of Royal Mail Ship Leinster that took place on October 10, 1918. QSL via bureau.

EI, IRELAND. Special event station EI50AOM is QRV for the next several months to commemorate the Tuskar Rock Air Tragedy of 1968. QSL via EI2KA.

FY, French Guiana. Hartwig, DL7BC will be active again as FY/DL7BC/p from French Guiana on 12-26 March. He will participate in the BARTG HF RTTY Contest (17-18 March) and the CQ WPX SSB Contest (24-25 March) as TO2BC. QSL via home call, direct or bureau, and LoTW; logsearch and OQRS on Club Log.

G, England. The Welland Valley Amateur Radio Society will host a series of special event stations in 2018 to mark the end of World War I, and in remembrance of the millions who were killed or wounded. A total of twelve special call signs have been applied for and will be put on air during the year: GB1GW (January), GB1FWW (February), GB2GW (March), GB2FWW (April), GB4GW (May), GB4FWW (June), GB5GW (July), GB5FWW (August), GB6GW (September), GB6FWW (October) and GB8GW (November), plus GB0AD on 10-11 November to mark Armistice Day. See <http://www.qrz.com/db/GB1GW> for QSLling options and details about the certificates available for contacting the special call signs.

HA, Hungary. The Kiskunhalasi Varosi Radioclub (HA8KVG) celebrates its 50th anniversary with the callsign HA50KVG until the end of 2018. QSL via HA8KVG.

I, Italy. Ninety years ago the airship "Italia" crashed on the ice on its way back from the North Pole, and a small tent dyed red for maximum visibility was the only shelter for the survivors. Commemorating the role of radio (and amateur radio) in rescuing the Red Tent survivors, special callsign I11TR will be active from 25 May to 25 June. QSL via IZ1ETD, direct or bureau. [TNX IZ1ETD]

JA, JAPAN. Special event station 8J7HCB will be QRV from January 1, 2018 to May 31 to draw attention to the 100th Hiroasaki Cherry Blossom Festival. QSL direct to JK7LXU.

SP, POLAND. 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 Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend. QSL via bureau.

LU, Argentina. Celebrating Radio Club QRM Belgrano's (LU4AAO) 50th anniversary, special event station L50A is active until 31 May on various bands and modes, FT8 included. QSL via eQSL, bureau or direct. See <http://lu4aao.org/L50A.htm> for detailed information. [TNX LU5AG]

SU, Egypt. Jovica, E78A (ex JY9FC) has a new work assignment in Cairo, Egypt and will be active as SU9JT until the end of the year. QSL via Club Log's OQRS (to be activated when the cards are received from the printer), or via E73Y (direct or bureau). [TNX E73Y]

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

V3, Belize. Victor, WB0TEV (V31VP) and Michael, K5MDK (V31MK) will be active from Blackman Eddy in central Belize on 2-4 March, ARRL DX SSB Contest included. They will concentrate on 20 and 40 metres, with some 15m and 80m at times. Outside the contest they will operate SSB and RTTY. QSL V31VP via Club Log's OQRS, or via WB0TEV (direct or bureau); QSL V31MK via K5MDK (direct or bureau).

VK, Australia. The Gold Coast Amateur Radio Society (VK4WIG) will be active as V14GAMES from 1 March to 31 May to celebrate the XXI Commonwealth Games that will be held in Gold Coast City on 4-15 April.

YU, Serbia. Special call signs YT100SF and YU100WWI are active until 31 December to mark the 100th anniversary of the breakthrough of the Salonica Front and the end of World War I. QSL via LoTW or via YU1SRS (direct or bureau); log searches on Club Log.

Z6, Kosovo. Mome, Z32ZM will be active as Z68M from Kosovo between 22 February and 6 March. He will operate CW, SSB, RTTY, FT8 and JT65 on 160-10 metres. QSL via Club Log's OQRS for direct and bureau cards. [TNX OPDX Bulletin]

IOTA's

AN-001, div., Graham Land West (Adelaide Island) group.

Alan/ MWOYCC will be active from the Rothera Research Station/Adelaide Island and other locations until April 2018 as VP8DPJ. QSL only via eQSL.

AN-010, ANTARCTICA. Alex, UA1OJL will be QRV as RI50ANO from Bellingshausen Base on King George Island, IOTA AN-010, from January 1, 2018 to March 31. Activity will be on the HF bands using CW, SSB and various digital modes. QSL via RN10N.

AN-016, Antarctica, UA_ant. Nikolai, RW6ACM will be active as RI1ANL from Novolazarevskaya Station, Antarctica (AN-016) for one year starting sometime in March. In his spare time he will operate CW, SSB and digital modes on the HF bands. QSL via RN10N, Club Log's OQRS or LoTW.

AF-003, ZD8, Ascension Island. Andy, MOHLT will be working on Ascension Island (AF-003) for the next two years. He plans to be active as ZD8AC on 40-10 metres SSB. QSL via operator's instructions. [TNX The Daily DX]

AF-005, Cape Verde, D4. Egill, TF3EO is active as D44KF from Sao Tiago (AF-005), Cape Verde between 20 February and 3 March, and possibly a few other times over the year whilst working there. He operates QRP on 40-10, metres mainly CW and FT8. QSL via G3SWH's OQRS (instructions can be found on <http://www.g3swh.org.uk/methods.html>); all logs will be uploaded to both LoTW and Club Log in due course. [TNX The Daily]

AF-014, Madeira, CT9. Once again Rosel, DL3KWR and Hardy, DL3KWF will be active as CT9/DL3KWR and CT9/DL3KWF from Madeira (AF-014) from 8 March to 5 April. They plan to operate mostly CW with a focus on 12, 17, 30 and 60 metres (5351,5-5366,5 kHz, QX 5405 kHz). QSL via home calls (bureau preferred), LoTW and eQSL. [TNX NG3K]

AF-016, Reunion Island, FR. Alain, F1FJR will be active as FR/F1FJR from Reunion Island (AF-016) from 5 March to 15 May. He will operate FT8 on 80-10m. QSL via home call (direct or bureau), and eQSL. [TNX The Daily DX]

AF-108, Tigres Island, D2. The D2TI DXpedition to Tigres Island (AF-108) [425DXN 1374] is still going to happen. "As of now the initial team all had to pull out due to various reasons", DX World reported a few days ago. Nonetheless, "there is still a core team involved in this expedition", and they "will try undertake the activity sometime mid-March". Bookmark <https://dx-world.net/> for updates.

AF-021, Prince Edward and Marion Islands, ZS8. 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, 6W. 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 call sign.

AS-003 - Sri Lanks, 4S7. Nikolay, LZ1NK will be active as 4S7NKG from Weligama, Sri Lanka (AS-003) on 1-5 March. He will operate CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 on 40-10 metres. QSL direct to LZ1NK. [TNX The Daily DX]

AS-081, Namhae Island, HL. Look for Taka, JA8COE to be active as HL4/JA8COE/5 from Namhae Island (AS-081) on 9-11 March. He will operate SSB, CW and digital modes on the HF bands. QSL via JA8COE, direct or bureau, and Club Log's OQRS. [TNX MOOXO]

AS-001, Andaman Islands, VU4. John, G4IRN (VU3VXO) will be active as VU4G from the Andaman Islands (AS-001) from 23 February to 5 March. "The operating QTH is by the sea with clear take off to Europe, Africa, South America and long path USA. The intention is to mount vertical and wire antennas as close to the waters's edge as possible". He will operate mainly CW on 40-17 metres. QSL via Club Log's OQRS, LoTW or via home call. [TNX DX World]

AS-153, VU, INDIA. Members of the West Bengal Radio Club will be QRV as AU2WBR from Ganga Sagar Mela/Sagar Island, IOTA AS-153, from January 1, 2018 to March 31. QSL via VU2NRO.

EU-054, Favignana Island, I. IT9PPG and IT9WDC will be active as IF9A from Favignana Island (EU-054) on 20-25 March,

including an entry in the CQ WPX SSB Contest. QSL via IT9PPG. [TNX NG3K]

EU-064, Noirmoutier Island, F. Fabien, F4GYM and Chris, F4GTB will be active as F4GYM/p and F4GTB/p from Noirmoutier Island (EU-064) on 27-30 July. Joined by F4FGV, F4FVI, F5NQL and F6GCP, they will participate in the IOTA Contest as TM6N (CW and SSB). QSL TM6N via F4GYM (direct or bureau), Club Log's OQRS, LoTW and eQSL. [TNX Les Nouvelles DX]

EU-120, Isle of Wight, G. A team of Belgian operators (ON3DMR, ON4AFW, ON4AWT, ON4JW, ON6EF, ON6VJ and ON8WR) will be active as GB90SA from the Isle of Wight (EU-120) on 8-13 May. They will operate mainly SSB and digital on 160-6 metres with two stations. QSL via ON6EF, direct or bureau. See <https://hamradioexpedition.com/> for more information.

NA-016, Cayman Island, ZF. Dan, N6MJ will be active again as ZF2MJ from the Cayman Islands (NA-016) on 2-5 March, ARRL DX SSB Contest included. QSL via LoTW or direct to N6MJ. [TNX NG3K]

NA-016, Grand Cayman, ZF. Adrian, AA5UK will be active holiday style as ZF2AE from Grand Cayman (NA-016) on 1-4 March, and as ZF2AE/ZF8 from Little Cayman (NA-106) on 5-10 March. Activity on the HF bands will focus on the digital modes (FT8, RTTY, PSK and other modes upon request) with some SSB. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, or direct to AA5UK.

NA-021, Barbados, 8P. Dick, G3RWL will be active again as 8P6DR from Barbados (NA-021) from 20 March to 29 April. He will operate CW and RTTY on 80-10 metres. QSL via Club Log's OQRS, LoTW or via home call.

NA-073, Belize, V3. Iain, G4SGX will be active again as V31GX from Ambergris Caye (NA-073), Belize on 6-16 March. He will operate CW and possibly some FT8 on 80-6m, and will participate in the RSGB Commonwealth (BERU) Contest. QSL via Club Log's OQRS and LoTW, or via home call.

NA-100, Antigua, V2. Bud, AA3B will be active again as V26K from Antigua (NA-100) from 28 February to 5 March, including an entry in the ARRL DX SSB Contest. QSL via LoTW, Club Log's OQRS, or via AA3B (direct or bureau). [TNX NG3K]

NA-102, Guadeloupe, FG. Mike, OE6MBG plans to be active holiday style as FG/OE6MBG from Guadeloupe (NA-102) on 6-20 March. He will operate mainly SSB and CW with a focus on 80, 40 and "potential openings" on 10 metres for Europe. QSL via LoTW. [TNX DX World]

NA-102, Guadeloupe, FG. Jean-Pierre/F6ITD is going to sign as FG/F6ITD and T07D between Jan. 29 and March 15 from Guadeloupe (WW Loc. FK96Ih, ARLHS GUA-005, WLOTA 1121, DIFO FG-004, FFF-1000). He plans to operate with a focus on the low bands on SSB and FT8. QSL via LoTW, ClubLog OQRS or via direct.

NA-105, Sint Maarten, PJ7. PJ0DX is the duly authorized callsign for a new contest station located on Sint Maarten (NA-105). Operated by Pat I8QLS, Gino I8ULL, Gianluca IC8WIC, Nino IK8ENH, Marco KC9FFV, Marco PJ7MF/ FS4WBS and Pier W1NA, it will debut during the ARRL DX SSB Contest, with some activity (SSB and possibly CW) between 1 and 5 March. QSL via IZ1MHY and LoTW.

NA-106, Little Cayman, ZF. Adrian, AA5UK will be active holiday style as ZF2AE from Grand Cayman (NA-016) on 1-4 March, and as ZF2AE/ZF8 from Little Cayman (NA-106) on 5-10 March. Activity on the HF bands will focus on the digital modes (FT8, RTTY, PSK and other modes upon request) with some SSB. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, or direct to AA5UK.

NA-107, Martinique, FM. F5OZF, F5RXL, F6EXV and FM5WD are active as TO972A from Martinique (NA-107) until 2 March. They operate CW, SSB and digital modes, and will participate in this weekend's Coupe du REF (the French HF Championship). QSL via F5RXL, LoTW and Club Log. [TNX The Daily DX]

OC-024, Kiritimati, T32. Uli, DL2AH will be active as T32AH from Kiritimati (Christmas Island, OC-024), East Kiribati from 12 September to 1 October. He will operate SSB, RTTY and FT8 on 80-10 metres. QSL direct to home call. [TNX NG3K]

OC-032, Noumea, FK. Arnaud, FK/JG1XMV [425DXN #1397] will be active from IOTA group OC-033 between 21 February and 2 March, first from Lifou (until 26 February) and after that from Mare. He will then return to Noumea (OC-032) and be QRV until 3 March. QSL via JG1XMV (direct or bureau), LoTW and eQSL.

OC-032, New Caledonia, FK. Arnaud, JG1XMV will be active again as FK/JG1XMV from New Caledonia between 17 February and 3 March. He will operate SSB on 40-15 metres from Grande Terre (OC-032) Lifou (OC-033) and Mare (OC-033). Updates will be posted on qrz.com under FK/JG1XMV. QSL via JG1XMV (direct or bureau), LoTW and eQSL. [TNX NG3K]

OC-033, Lifou, Mare, FK. Arnaud, FK/JG1XMV [425DXN #1397] will be active from IOTA group OC-033 between 21 February and 2 March, first from Lifou (until 26 February) and after that from Mare. He will then return to Noumea (OC-032) and be QRV until 3 March. QSL via JG1XMV (direct or bureau), LoTW and eQSL.

OC-105, Mapun Island, DU. Dindo/DU1UD plans an activation of the most-wanted IOTA group of the Philippines for the first half of 2018. On his return home a visit to the Tawi Tawi Group (OC-174) is scheduled as well. More information to follow.

SA-036, Aruba, P4. K9NW, K9PG, W6LD and WE9V will be active as P40L from Aruba (SA-036) between 25 February and 9 March, ARRL DX SSB Contest included. QSL via WA3FRP. [TNX OPDX Bulletin]

SA-029, Ilha Cedro, PY. The Cabreuva DX Team will be active as ZV1C from Ilha Cedro (SA-029) on 17-18 March. Plans are to operate CW, SSB and FT8 on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres, plus 2m and satellite. QSL via PU2VCP, direct or bureau.

SA-071, Ilha Montao de Trigo, PY. Look for ZW2MT to be active from Ilha Montao de Trigo (SA-071) on 10-11 March. A Brazilian team (PP5BT, PY2AE, PY2DX, PY2LCD, PY2RMZ,

PY2VM, PY2VOX and PY2XYZ) will be QRV on 80-10 metres SSB, CW, FT8, PSK and RTTY. QSL via Club Log's OQRS, LoTW or via PY2RMZ.

SA-099, Curacao, PJ2. Look for PJ2/DK50N to be active from Curacao (SA-099) on 14-27 March. He will operate CW, SSB, RTTY and FT8 on 80-6 metres. QSL via LoTW, Club Log's OQRS or via home call (direct or bureau). [TNX NG3K]



Contests & QSO Parties

For more details and information, go to:

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

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



- 11 WAB 3.5 MHz Phone
- 11-12 Wisconsin QSO Party**
- 12 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint
- 13-14 CLARA Chatter Party
- 14 QRP Fox Hunt
- 14 Phone Fray
- 14 RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW
- 14-15 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 16 QRP Fox Hunt
- 16 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 16 NCCC Sprint
- 17 Feld Hell Sprint
- 17 AGCW VHF/UHF Contest
- 17-18 CLARA Chatter Party
- 17-18 Russian DX Contest
- 17-18 Louisiana QSO Party**
- 17-18 Virginia QSO Party**
- 17-19 BARTG HF RTTY Contest
- 18 UBA Spring Contest, SSB
- 19 Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
- 19 Bucharest Contest
- 21 QRP Fox Hunt
- 21 Phone Fray
- 21-22 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 22 NAQCC CW Sprint
- 22 RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB
- 23 QRP Fox Hunt
- 23 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 23 NCCC Sprint
- 24 FOC QSO Party
- 24-25 CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB**
- 25 UBA Spring Contest, 6m
- 28 SKCC Sprint
- 28 QRP Fox Hunt
- 28 Phone Fray
- 28-29 CWops Mini-CWT Test
- 28 UKEICC 80m Contest
- 30 QRP Fox Hunt
- 30 NCCC RTTY Sprint
- 30 NCCC Sprint
- 31 UK/EI DX Contest, CW
- 31 Russian WW MultiMode Contest



VARA Secretary's Report

February 6, 2018 Meeting

The February meeting of the VARA club was opened at 7:01 pm by President **David Fordham KD9LA**. 35 members and visitors were in attendance. The usual introductions were made. The 50/50 drawing for \$20.00 was won by **Robert Wilson KI4GST**.

The first reading of the application of **Frank Prochaska KN4ILH** for membership was made. We voted in **Becky Numbers KJ8NQE** and **Susan Lasher KK4DQW**. Welcome!

The secretary's minutes, as printed in the newsletter, was seconded and passed.

Greg Czerniak W4GRC, gave the treasurer's report; seconded and passed.

ARES: David Tanks AD4TJ, EC for Augusta County, announced the Augusta County ARES Net will be held on the 2nd Thursday of the month; **Fred Evans N4KYM**, volunteered to be Net Control. The net will be on the 146.850 repeater at 8 pm. The ARRL has a program called ARES Connect; more info will be announced as it becomes available.

Field Day committee: the MARA club will select a Chairman this year. Field Day will be held again at the Stokesville Campground, on the 4th full weekend in June(23 and 24). Volunteers from our club for the committee are: Kevin **Numbers KC8MTV**, **Fred Castello KF4FC**, and **Wayne Bowyer N4EYZ**.

David KD9LA said the MARA website is www.mara.ws. The VARA website is www.w4xd.com.

Old business: none.

New business: Kevin would like to get more C4FM activity going; there are 7 local hams using it now, and would like to see more hams interested in using that new digital mode. A digital net is in the works.

Contests and Special Events: **David AD4TJ** brought

us up to date on those activities.



By-Laws discussion: **David KD9LA**, handed out the 5th revision of the By-Laws, as hammered out by the Board. A discussion of it ensued. David said that he believes the order of the process of becoming incorporated is, that at the next meeting, vote to dissolve the club in its present form, select 3 members to handle the disposition of the club's assets(which in effect is transferring them to the new club), then vote to organize as VARA, Inc, and transfer the assets.

After much discussion, the following changes to the 5th revision of the By-Laws were recommended by the club members:

1. Article 2, Section 1: strike out #2 and #3, and at the end of #1, insert a period after " communication " and remove " and " .
2. Article 2, Section 2: take out " Occupation of the applicant " .
3. Article 4, Section 2: change the 2nd sentence to read: " Regular Membership Meetings shall be held as determined by the Board. " .
4. Wherever " Monthly Meeting(s) " is mentioned, change it to " Regular Meeting(s) " .

We voted to take a vote to dissolve VARA at the March meeting, and to proceed with the incorporation of VARA and the transfer of assets.

David hopes to start having programs again, beginning with the March meeting, with a time limit of 15 minutes.

With no other business to discuss, and no program, we adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Tanks, AD4TJ, VARA Secretary

Happy
St. Patrick's
Day!

PVARC Secretary's Report

February 8, 2018 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President **Will Baukhages N4WIL** at 7:00 PM at Tactical Walls in Shenandoah. (Thanks to **Tim KM4TGC** and **Carrie KM4WDX** for the donation of the use of the facility!)

9 members were in attendance.

The Secretary's report and Treasurer's reports were approved with a correction to the Secretary's report as follows:

Correction to January Minutes: Will Baukhages call sign was incorrectly listed as KM4PVS, his old call sign. His correct call sign is N4WIL.

Announcements:

The club wishes to announce to all readers of the Monitor that the club meeting time and date have changed to 7PM on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Old Business:

Committee reports:

ARES: Mark N4YSA reported on continuing progress on the setup at the county building. The VHF antenna on the tower is working and an HF antenna is planned. **Dave K4DPF, Gary K6OZ and Bob W4RMF** reported on the interesting tour of the Virginia EOC in Rich-

mond.

Trailer: Mark N4YSA reported that the floor is painted and the ceiling insulation is 90% finished.

Field Day: The club members are encouraged to consider volunteering for Field Day Chairman.

Tech Support: Mark N4YSA reported on phone support to **Lonnie KN4HCF** to get his HF antenna up.

Web Site: Dave K4DPF said the website will be updated for new meeting time and date and the new officers.

Widows Assistance: Mark N4YSA reported that member **Anthony Zukas W3ELE** has passed away. Mark will attempt to contact the family regarding support.

New Business:

The club discussed plans for future meeting presentations and agreed that the presentation at the next meeting will be a show and tell of several member's Software Defined Radios.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM, followed by lively discussion of a variety of topics

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



MARA Treasurer's Report

January 21, 2017 to February 20, 2018

Opening Balance		<u>\$1,400.00</u>
Income: Memberships	\$228.00	
50/50 – February Meeting	\$13.00	
Total Income:		<u>\$241.00</u>
Expenses: Electric	\$22.58	
State Corp. Commission	\$25.00	
Total Expenses:		<u>\$47.58</u>
Balance February 20, 2018		<u>\$1,593.42</u>

Submitted by Foster Farone, WF40, MARA Secretary

MARA Secretary's Report

MARA Secretary's Report – Feb. 1, 2017

General Meeting called to order at Wood Grill, Harrisonburg, by **President Gerald Nauman (KN4FM)** at 7:33 P.M. 22 members and 6 guests were present. Introductions were made all around.

New Member Vote: None

New Member First Reading: None

The Secretary's Minutes for last month 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): Bryan has registered the **Rockingham ARES** with ARRL. ARRL membership is not necessary to be a member of ARES. **Ron Telsch (K3YE0)** is the new **DEC**. He is also **EC** for **Rockbridge Cty**. He has sent a list of **sign-ups for District 15** (Augusta, Highland, Rockbridge, and Rockingham). Bryan requests us to let him know which **FEMA classes** we have taken.

Repeater Committee: David Fordham (KD9LA): The **145.130 repeater** is active. Matthew Huffman (KD4UPL) has suggested starting a **C4FM digital net**.

VE Committee: Gerald N.: The next regular test session will be at **9:00 A.M., Feb 10**, at **Woodmen Life, Rt 42** in Dayton.

Public Service Committee: No report

Old Business: Bob Steere (N1QEQ): Rockingham/Harrisonburg **Boys and Girls Club** has about 7 clubs in the area. The Simms Center club is "stacked up" for any ham radio demonstration, but queries to the others has gotten one positive response already, for later in warmer weather. Bob will be checking out the possible antenna arrangements.

Old Business: David Collins (N4WDC): announced that last Fall's motorcycle 500 event tee shirts have

arrived. He will be picking up the shirts for the support participants.

New Business:

Audit Committee: Bryan D. suggested Rick Adams for this post, for which at least two will be needed (TBD).

Field Day Committee: This year is MARA's turn to Chair the FD committee. Bryan D. and Andrew Pearson (N4RCE) volunteered to serve, but not as Chairman. **Herb Slade (AA2BF)** and **Bob Steere (N1QEQ)** will help out during the event but declined to serve on the committee, noting that it is time for others to step up. (Note: Herb will provide the detailed info needed to maximize the FD bonus points, and other samples of documentation needed for log submission to ARRL).

Announcements: Frostfest on Saturday, Feb. 3.

The program for May is homebrew projects; get ready!

Next meeting is Mar. 1, 2018.

50/50 Drawing: \$13 won by **Carol Landes (WX4GP0)**. \$13 balance went to MARA. Congratulations, Carol!

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Program: Kevin Numbers (KC8MTV) Described several features of the **System Fusion digital C4FM repeater** (like the Yaesu145.130 repeater). Among these were: 1) ability to simultaneously support digital, FM & analog, 2) carrying call sign, lat & long, and voice simultaneously over a 12 kHz BW, 3) digital voice quality maintains full clarity up to the point that the signal is lost, and 4) Now with a **WIRES-X node** (like the one at Kevin's shack), people could do international digital DX through the C4FM repeater.

Respectfully submitted,
Herb Slade (AA2BF), Secretary





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	W4RMF		w4rmf@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)



Many thanks to the VEs that helped with the February test session, **Ray, K4NRA; Jim, W4POL; Jason, N4DSL; and Bryan, K4RMY**. These sessions would not be possible without their help. Four candidates attended, and two earned technician class licenses, and one earned a general class license. Congratulations to them, and hope they keep studying for their next license class. We would like to see a large turnout for the April 14 test session.

Gerald, KN4FM



Get Involved!

Don't forget: The local ARES groups hold regular nets to let you check out your radio equipment, antennas, and other station gear. Take advantage of these opportunities to get signal reports and get to know the other local hams. **All 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 **VSNB (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

March

1 MARA Club Meeting

2 Friday Luncheon

4 Page County ARES Net (146.550 Simplex)

5 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 kHz)

5 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.550 Simplex)

6 VARA Club Meeting

8 PVARC Club Meeting **** NEW TIME AND DAY ****

9 Friday Luncheon

9-10 Charlotte Hamfest

11 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)

12 Augusta County ARES Net (146.850, PL131.8)

12 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.225, PL 131.8)

15 Ide's of March

16 Friday Luncheon

17 St. Patrick's Day

18 Vienna Hamfest

18 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)

19 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 kHz)

19 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.225, PL 131.8)

20 Deadline for April newsletter submission*

23 Friday Luncheon

24 Charleston Hamfest

25 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)

26 Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225, PL 131.8)

30 Friday Luncheon

30 Good Friday

31 Raleigh Hamfest



April

1 EASTER

1 Page County ARES Net (146.550 Simplex)

2 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 kHz)

2 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.550 Simplex)

3 VARA Club Meeting

5 MARA Club Meeting

6 Friday Luncheon

8 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)

9 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.225, PL 131.8)

12 PVARC Club Meeting **** NEW TIME AND DAY ****

12 Augusta County ARES Net (146.850, PL131.8)

13 Friday Luncheon

14 VE Testing

15 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)

16 Old Dominion Emergency Net (3.947 kHz)

16 Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225, PL 131.8)

20 Friday Luncheon

20 Deadline for May newsletter submission*

22 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)

23 Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225, PL 131.8)

27 Friday Luncheon

29 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL 131.8)

30 Rockingham County ARES Net (146.225, 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 2018): Rick Adams, KJ4IND
Board (exp 2017): 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: David Fordham, KD9LA
Vice President: Benny Cook, N4BCC
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:

V.A.R.A.
P.O. Box 130
Staunton, VA 24402

PAGE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

President: Will Baukhages, KM4PVS
Vice President: Gene Frazier, KJ4HFO
Secretary: Gary Fischer, K6OZ
Treasurer: Carrie Matter, KM4WDX
Board Member (exp 2018): Tim Matter, KM4TGC
Board Member (exp 2017): Dave Firestone, K4DPF

<http://www.k4pmh.org>

PVARC meets the second Thursday of each month at Tactical Walls at 611 Williams Avenue in Shenandoah, VA.

The meeting begins at 7:00 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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Return Service Requested

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