

May-June 2018

THE MONITOR

Published Monthly for Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Operators — Members of MARA, VARA, and PVARC

Im Memoriam: John Spillman, KT4CB, SK

It is with a heavy heart that I prepare this issue of the Monitor. For it was exactly five years ago this issue, back in June 2013, that John Spillman, KT4CB, took over the editorship of the MARA/VARA/PVARC Monitor.

As you probably know, John was on his way to a campground in Lake Tahoe, California, on April 26, when he lost control of his RV on a Nevada highway. After clipping a guardrail on the right shoulder, the vehicle traveled across both lanes of the roadway onto the left shoulder, where it overturned. John was pronounced dead at the hospital, and indications are he died from a heart attack rather than some other injury. He was 70 years old.

It is unknown whether he suffered the attack while at the wheel, hence losing control, or whether he accidentally lost control first and suffered the heart attack from the shock and surprise at the vehicle overturning.

In any event, John will be missed by his many friends, and the local ham community. To those of us who knew him via his Monitor editorship, he was a conscientious and caring individual. He was reportedly active in several other charitable and worthy organizations in addition to being a member of the local ham clubs.

John is survived by a brother Curtis Spillman in California, a sister Vivian, a daughter Rana, an ex-wife Blenda, and possibly other relatives. He was cremated in Nevada with his brother handling the arrangements.

We wish to thank John for his dedication in getting the Monitor out religiously each month, and doing a superb job of it.

73, John....

Submitted by David Fordham, KD9LA



JUNE CLUB MEETINGS

Tuesday June 5 – VARA Meeting: Hometown Grill and Buffet in Staunton

The Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its monthly club meeting on Tuesday, June 5 at the **Hometown Grill and Buffet** just north of Highway 250, 1 block east of I-81's Exit 219 in Staunton. The meal begins at 6:00 pm, the business meeting starts at 7:00 pm. A short program will follow.



Thursday June 7 – MARA Meeting: Wood Grill in Harrisonburg

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, June 7, at the normal location: the **Wood Grill** at **1711 Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg**. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. All hams and their families are invited and welcome. The business meeting will start at 7:00 p.m, followed by a brief program.



Thursday June 14 – PVARC Meeting: Tactical Walls in Luray

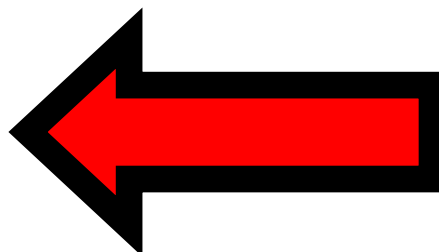
The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular monthly meeting at the usual location, Tactical Walls, in Shenandoah. The address is 611 Williams Avenue, Shenandoah VA 22849. Tactical Walls is a manufacturing facility with a nice meeting room that is just east of highway 340 in Shenandoah. Turn east off 340, go about one block and drive through the gate in the fence and around to the door on the right.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Camping at the MARA/VARA Field Day Site: Reservations **REQUIRED**

This year's Field Day activity will be held at the **Stokesville Campground**. If you have not already made and confirmed arrangements with Jeff Rinehart W4PJW, and **you plan to camp** – either the week before Field Day or during the activity itself – **you are urged to contact Jeff Rinehart by phone IMMEDIATELY at 540-294-0976.**



MARA/VARA Field Day Committee – Final Meeting on June 6



The Field Day Committee will hold its final meeting on June 6 to finalize the last few details of this year's event.

The meeting will be held at the Burger King in Mount Crawford, corner of US 11 and Highway 257 (Dinkle Ave).

The spreadsheet on the following 2 pages show the current status of assignments for Field Day tasks. Any discrepancies should be brought to the committee's attention before or by the June 6 meeting

MARA/VARA Field Day Sign-Up Sheet



At the VARA Meeting on June 5, and at the MARA Meeting on June 7, a sign-up sheet will be available for hams to “reserve” their favorite operating times at the station(s) of their choice.

Remember, Field Day is a great opportunity to “GET ON THE AIR” and experience the thrill of radio. You can sign up to operate the radio, or to be the logger who records the contacts in the computer. As long as either the operator or logger have a general class license or above, you can sign up for any station, any band, any time.

Be thinking about your favorite time and operating mode, and be prepared to sign up for the time block of your choice at the June club meeting.

MARAVARA FIELD DAY

Thanks to the 2018 Field Day Committee and all the other hams who have helped organize this year's Field Day activity.

The final Field Day committee meeting will be held on June 6 at the Burger King in Mount Crawford.

MARA—VARA Joint Field Day Activity Assignments

	GOTA	SSB	Digital	CW	VHF/UHF
Who's in charge?	Bob Steere, N1QEQ	Kevin Numbers, KC8MTV	Fred Castello, KF4FC	Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW	Andrew Pearson, N4RCE
Station Call	K4MRA	W4XD	W4XD	W4XD	W4XD
Radio	751A Bob Steere, N1QEQ Needs external power supply	751A VARA Club Radio	Flex Radio Fred Castello, KF4FC	Radio Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW	6 Meters, TS2000/Club Radio Check poweroutput for 6 Meters VHF - Icom910, Bryan Daniels, K4RMY
Back up Radio	Club 751A				
Laptop			Laptop/Wayne Bowyer, N4EYZ		
Antenna	Windom/Bob Steere, N1QEQ	Extended Zepp Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW	Club windom / Check	Extended Zepp / Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW	6 M - Ray Ritchie, K4NRA VHF - Omni Ant., Bryan Daniels, K4RMY
Antenna Tuner	AT / Bob Steere, N1QEQ	Antenna Tuner, Bob Steere, N1QEQ			
ANT Launcher	Wayne Bowyer, N4EYZ / Ray Albers, K2HYD				
Power	Will run off of VHF/UHF Power	Sandy Mullins, K4PZC, LP generator and LP; reimbursement for LP	Ray Albers, K2HYD	Bennie Cook, N4BCC	Generator / Large one to power GOTA & VHF/UHF station, Bryan Daniels, K4RMY
Provide LP		Wayne Bowyer, N4EYZ			
Solar	Kevin Numbers, KC8MTV Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG - Backup				
Trailer	Camp Shelter	Scott Newlen, K14QQZ, pick up by Gordon Batey, WA4FJC.	Bob VanFossen, K4DJG; Alternate for driving it to FD site: Fred Castello, KF4FC,	Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW	Camp Shelter

MARA–VARA Joint Field Day Activity Assignments (*continued*)

Network	Jason Armenttrout, N4DSL / Sandy Mullins, K4PZC,			
Messages - 10 messages to send/deliver, and to the SM	David Tanks, AD4TJ			
Safety Officer	Fred Castello, KF4FC	John Keller, W4ZAO 5 fire extinguishers		
Friday Night Meal	Bring and share what you want to eat.			
Friday Night Host	Ellsworth and Jeanne Neff			
Reach out to new hams	Everyone!!!			
Social Media	Kristin Weaver, KM4PVM will organize but will not be at FD; Fred Castello, KF4FC, will add a few tweets & Pictures.			
Satellite	No			
Copying ARRL Messages		1 Digital Station Primary	2 CW Backup	
Elected Visitors				
George Hirshman	Bryan Daniels, K4RMY			
Public Officials	Jim Junkins, W4JLJ	Bryan Daniels, K4RMY		
Invitation to City/Town Mayors?				
Press Releases	Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG and Fred Castello, KF4FC			
Signage	Wayne Bowyer, N4EYZ/Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW			
Education	Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG, to offer code lessons			
Welcome Center Display	Set up			
Costco Run	2 3 lbs. / Coffee, etc.			
Donuts	Walmart/12 dozen			
Registering Station Locator with ARRL				
FD Operator Sign up sheets				
Coffee Pots in shelter	BRING YOUR TRAVEL MUG to keep hot coffee at your station			
Stokesville Observatory	Contact: Fred Evans, N4KYM			
Campground	All done-Thanks PJW!			

Meetings: March 14, April 4,
May 2, June 6

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGES

MARA President's Message: The Excitement of Digital Modes



How many of you have been trying some of the newer digital operating modes?

There are a lot of digital modes out there, and the software to try them is very cheap, as in FREE! I have tried WSJT-X and FLDIGI.

WSJT-X can be used for four or five modes, including the newest mode (I think) which is FT8. It is a weak signal mode that has become very popular, but is only used to making contacts, it cannot be used for rag chewing.

FLDIGI is another piece of software, it is useful for a lot of modes that can and are used for rag chewing. It is also capable of operating CW, but don't depend on it if conditions are not real good. It does an excellent job of sending, but decoding a received signal is a hit or miss (mostly miss!) if the received signal is not very good. In addition to your existing radio and the software, you need a modem of some type and a computer, running Windows, Apple or Linux operating systems.

I have tried a couple of the available modes but I'm not anywhere near an expert. **There are many operators in this area who are using some of these modes so help is readily available.** Getting started is not difficult, set up and operating instruction are available on-line and with a little patience that is all you need to get going.

You may be asking, *why should we care about trying different operating modes*. Well, the current HF conditions are poor, as anyone that has tried HF recently knows. FT8 has generated a lot of interest as it is a weak signal mode and is doing very well in the current band conditions. According to the ARRL Letter for May 17, there were 2.3 million FT8 contacts uploaded to Logbook of The World in one month, which is 1.2 million more contacts than the same month last year. Obviously contacts for all other modes were fewer.

I have to wonder how many amateurs are active that would not be operating due to poor condition. Before you ask, these same mode are also used on the VHF bands, so there is no reason for anyone not to try them.

Gerald, KN4FM
President, MARA

The PVARC President's Message was not received in time for publication.

VARA President's Message: The New Modes versus Grumpy Old Men



“Why are old guys so grumpy all the time?” asked one of my college students recently.

Some people think the answer is physical discomfort. You expect arthritis, wheezing, hair loss, E.D., loss of muscle tone, spotty skin, and other physical ailments associated with having too many birthdays. But most of these can be dealt with gracefully.

No, the real answer is frustration. We are sick and tired of experiencing the needless waste going on in our world. I’m not talking about plastic water bottles, used blister packs, and uncountable pieces of working electronic equipment that are going in the land-fill every day only because you can’t buy replacement batteries or cartridges for them anymore — although that’s part of it. No, the real waste is time.

We spent hundreds, or perhaps thousands, of hours learning how to use complex technology, only to sit and watch that technology — and all our precious time spent learning it — become obsolete and completely disappear from view. We then have to re-learn the replacement technology, **to do the exact same things** we were doing before. And most frustrating is the knowledge that the new technology itself will be obsolete within a couple of years. After 10 or 20 iterations, of this foolishness, this cycle gets..., well,... **old**.

Fortunately, ham radio is one of the few hobbies where, once you learn how to do something, you can probably keep doing it the same way or nearly the same way — the rest of your life. Stop and think about it: With the possible exception of “spark gap”, practically every technology in ham radio is still being used by someone, somewhere, today.

Seriously: in ham radio, CW, invented around 1915 as the spectrum-efficient replacement for spark, is still widely used today. AM, which came into widespread use 90 years ago, is still in use today. RTTY, SSB, plain old FM, 1200-baud packet, Slow-Scan TV — all are still in use today in ham radio. Didn’t a famous man once say, “**If you want to keep your old ham radio modes, you can. Period.**”?

Some of us grumpy old hams may complain about all the new digital modes. JT-65, FT8, C4FM, DMR, Echolink, the list gets longer and longer every year as new modes are invented. **But the old modes are still there, too!** The new modes don’t replace, they supplement. They are something new to play with. And **you can continue using the old ones if you want to**. There are plenty of old geezers like me still using those old modes.

Amazingly, you can still buy a 1200-baud packet TNC. You still find an AM switch position on your brand new HF rig. Your new digital software-defined-radio can work modes you used in the 1950’s. You can still make contacts using the same tones of RTTY that were being used in the Korean War. IF you want to, that is.

Youngsters aren’t interested in old-men things. You probably never bothered to learn how to use your grandfather’s shaving brush and straight-razor... or how to place a person-to-person long distance call, or how to refill a fountain pen, how to replace a typewriter ribbon, unflood a carburetor, or tell time on a sundial adjusting for the date in the year.

Or did you? Hams are well-known for their affinity for old legacy, antique, and out-of-date things, not just radios. In fact, that’s EXACTLY WHY you can still buy a TNC or switch your rig to AM. Some of us like the old ways, some like the new.

The key is to have fun using what you know, and ... only if you are so inclined — take advantage of the kids’ new modes. Learn something new and who knows, you might find it exciting. Almost every ham I know who has taken the time to learn something about the new modes has become hooked, and will never look back. It’s a lot more fun than simply being Grumpy.

David Fordham, KD9LA, VARA President

CLUB MEETING MINUTES

MARA Secretary's Report – April 5, 2018 Meeting

General Meeting called to order at Wood Grill, Harrisonburg, by **President Gerald Nauman (KN4FM)** at 7:30 P.M. 27 members and 4 guests were present. Introductions were made all around.

New Member Vote: None

New Member First Reading: Chris Shirkey (KI4BAQ renewal)

The Secretary's Minutes for last month's Monitor were **approved as amended**, regarding the Board Meeting and Repeater Committee notes. In both instances of the Public Works proposal, reference to "Harrisonburg / Rockingham" should have read, "Rockingham Cty".

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

Committee Reports:

ARES: Bryan Daniel (K4RMY): There will be a **meeting of ARES leadership** next week to discuss training classes. Input suggestions are requested.

Repeater Committee: Bob Van Fossen (K4DJG): The 444.600 Great Northern Mtn repeater has been converted to digital and analog modes, which will automatically relay in the mode of the caller.

VE Committee: Gayle Shull (KU4XN): The last session was "a little short" in volunteers. If you are certified, please show up at the next regular test session at **9:00 A.M., Apr. 14, at Woodmen Life, Rt 42 in Dayton.**

Public Service Committee: No report

Old Business:

Field Day Committee: Ray Albers (K2HYD) is the 2018 FD Committee Chairman. Others serving for MARA are Bryan D., Andrew Pearson (N4RCE), Bob Steere, and Ellsworth Neff (KG4LXG).

145.130 Repeater: The purchase of the professional antenna by MARA was discussed at a brief Board meeting, and it was decided to put it to a vote of the membership present at the meeting to follow. It was guaranteed that MARA will receive the necessary funds by donation or loan to cover the cost. It was moved, seconded, and passed to purchase the antenna. MARA's decision was needed within the week, for the deal with Rockingham Cty Public Service to go forward.

(Continued —)

MARA Secretary's Report – April 5, 2018 Meeting (continued)

New Business:

Foster Farone (WF40): We need a **budget** for ongoing costs. As it is, our FD expenses, guest dinners, etc. are variable, with no advance notice or limits on what should be set aside. **Foster will prepare** such a budget to present to the MARA Board for review and decision.

Bryan: Daniels (K4RMY) For Field Day, it would be desirable to **set up a “cloud-like” drop box account** available to anyone having spread sheets, past examples of ARRL log and bonus point submissions, specific sign-up sheets, and information. It could also be a repository for **other MARA documents**. It was noted that when David Fordham retires from JMU, the present MARA web page retires with him (It resides in a JMU server). **Bryan's motion was seconded and passed.**

Announcements:

David Fordham (KD9LA by email):

A special visit by hams to the **Green Bank Radio Observatory** can be arranged for a Saturday, at a probable cost of \$15 each. Due to some areas of “sensitive” technology, all participants on this tour must first pass a low-level clearance check, before showing up for the tour. This can be arranged in late May or June. Tour size is limited. For more details, talk to David or any of the MARA/VARA officers. Several MARA members expressed interest. A count is needed.

David Fordham (KD9LA (by email):

VARA is considering another **Weyers Cave ham fest** at the Community Center in late August or mid-September. If more than twenty tables sign up at \$10 apiece, we might be able to get the “huge” room. With a large number of tables rented, admission could be free. How many are really interested in renting a table? A count is needed.

Next meeting is May 3, 2018. Homebrew projects program to follow.

50/50 Drawing: **Nancy Ritchie (KG4JAZ)** won \$21.50. **Congratulations on your 1st time win !** \$21.50 went to the MARA treasury.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 P.M.

Program: **Andrew N4RCE** gave a brief explanation of Field Day, and what is done together with VARA to make it a fun weekend on the last full weekend in June.

Respectfully submitted,
Herb Slade (AA2BF), Secretary

MARA Secretary's Report – May 3 2018 Meeting

General Meeting called to order at Wood Grill, Harrisonburg, by **President Gerald Nauman (KN4FM)** at 7:35 P.M. 20 members and 5 guests were present. Introductions were made all around.

New Member Vote: Chris Shirkey, **KI4BAQ** was voted into membership.

New Member First Reading: Victor Verger, **W3TDU**.

The Secretary's Minutes: Due to the tragic death of **John Spillman**, the Monitor was not published in May. The Secretary's minutes for the April meeting will be published together with the May meeting minutes by **David Fordham (KD9LA)**, in June.

The Treasurer's Report was read aloud by **Foster Farone (WF40)**. A motion to approve the report was made, seconded, and **approved**.

Committee Reports:

ARES: No report.

Repeater Committee: **David Fordham** reported that the donations needed to pay for the **professional antenna for the 145.130 repeater have been received**. **John Bottemiller (N4SYH)** reported a possible problem with the planned orientation of the new repeater on the tower.

Bryan Daniels (K4RMY) will be doing tests on the tower situation before the new repeater is installed.

VE Committee: **Gayle Shull (KU4XN): 4 Generals and 2 Techs** were licensed at the last session. The next regular test session will be at **9:00 A.M., June 9**, at **Woodmen Life, Rt 42** in Dayton.

Field Day Committee: **Andrew Pearson (N4RCE)** reported that everything is going well.

Public Service Committee: David said lots of events will be coming up in the Fall (See the MARA website: MARA.ws). **Gerald Neumann (KN4NM)** noted that the Bike Shenandoah event will need volunteers, and wondered if the Massanutten Mountain event will be on the same weekend.

Audit Committee: **Rick Adams (KJ4IND)** reported that the committee's work has been completed.

Old Business:

Bob Steere (N1QEQ) has had no contact from the two sites that were approached for holding a ham radio demonstration. There doesn't seem to be any desire to have it.

Bryan K4RMY reported that the **Internet drop box** promised at the last meeting is operational.

(continued —)

MARA Secretary's Report – May 3 2018 Meeting (continued)

Greenbank Radio Observatory tours have all been booked through May, and June is NG. Our tour will have to be next year, if we pursue one.

New Business:

Bob Steere pointed out that **MARA pays \$360 a year** for storage of Field Day stuff, much of which has not been used in years. Should we sell the items that can be used, and scrap the rest? (An individual has expressed interest in a rotor that works). **Bryan** moved that we do a complete **inventory** and **advertise** the better things on Valley Hams, junking the rest. The motion was seconded and carried. Bob will help with the inventorying.

Monitor Editorship: As noted above, **David** will prepare a pared down version of the **Monitor** to be **published in June**. He said there is a VARA member who would “consider” taking over the job, if no one else does.

Next club meeting is June 7, 2018.

50/50 Drawing: **Ray Albers (K2HYD)** won \$10.00 of the \$20.00 collected. The rest went to the MARA Treasury. **Congratulations, Ray**

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 P.M.

Program: Among “home brew” items shown, **David KD9LA** showed a coax and rope winding machine made out of plywood and right-angle book shelf braces. **Gerald KN4FM** showed a square tubular 6-meter antenna made out of lawn chairs, with a gamma match tuned by sliding an internal tube between parts of the square. He also showed a box with battery attachments, fuses, and a voltage meter. **Herb AA2BF** explained a coaxial trap intended for a 160m dipole.

Respectfully submitted,
Herb Slade (AA2BF), Secretary



VARA Secretary's Report – April 3, 2018 Meeting

The **April 3, 2018 Valley Amateur Radio Association's** meeting at the Hometown Grill and Buffet in Staunton was opened at 7 pm by president **David Fordham KD9LA**. 45 members and guests were in attendance(the most that I can recall ever being at a VARA meeting). The usual introductions were made. The 50/50 pot of \$22.00 was won by **Bob Paquette KB1CGH**, a visitor. A 2nd drawing for a mystery box was won by **Angie Nash KM4FAI**.

Secretary's report: **David Tanks AD4TJ**, Secretary, noted that someone had seen a mistake was noted from last month's minutes, in that it was **Gordon Batey WA4FJC** who had volunteered to contact a lady ham in West Virginia concerning Fox Hunts, not **Mark Whitis AK4OL** as published in the minutes. The correction was approved; the minutes were accepted as corrected.

Treasurer's report: **Greg Czerniak W4GRC**, Treasurer, read the report; accepted and passed.

ARES: **David AD4TJ**, EC, said the next net would be April 12; since no one volunteered to be Net Control, he said he would take it; frequency to be determined.

Field Day: **Fred Castello KF4FC**, committee member, reported that things are progressing well, and everything is coming together.

An **Audit Committee** is needed by the end of the year; let the Board of Directors know if you are interested in helping in that way.

The Asset Distribution committee: consisting of **Jeff Rinehart W4PJW**, **Greg Czerniak W3GRC**, and **Wayne Bowyer N4EYZ**; have **not yet met** to go through the contents of Jeff's shed, as it has been too cold. There is a database set up to record items. **David KD9LA** noted that we should be officially incorporated by the next meeting (May 1).

Contests and Special Events: **David AD4TJ** brought us up-to-date on those.

Old Business:

Local swap fest: tentatively set to be held at the Weyers Cave Community Center, \$15.00 for a table. It has not been brought up to the MARA club yet.

Greenbank Tour update given by **David KD9LA**.. Schedules are busy this summer.

No New Business to be discussed.

With no other business to be discussed, the meeting was **adjourned** at 7:23 pm.

Ellsworth Neff K4LXG showed off a home-made lamp of his, part of which was an old transmitting tube.

David AD4TJ presented a program on **basic FT8 operating**.

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

VARA Secretary's Report – May 1 Meeting

The **May 1st 2018 Valley Amateur Radio Association's** meeting at the Hometown Grill and Buffet in Staunton was opened at 7 pm by president **David Fordham KD9LA**. 34 members and guests were in attendance. The usual introductions were made.

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of **John Spillman. KC4CB**, the newsletter editor, who passed away unexpectedly.

The **50/50 pot** of \$11.00 was won by **Frank Prochaska KN4ILH**. A second drawing for a mystery bag was won by **Ellsworth Neff K4LXG**(turned out to be candy bars).

Secretary's report: David Tanks AD4TJ, Secretary: the minutes were sent out via email due to John's passing. No corrections were noted, so they were seconded and accepted.

Treasurer's report: Greg Czerniak W4GRC, Treasurer, read the report; accepted and passed.

ARES: David AD4TJ, EC, said the next net would be May 10th; **Fred Evans N4KYM** volunteered to be Net Control. We will use the **146.850** repeater this time.

The **Asset Distribution committee**: consisting of **Jeff Rinehart W4PJW**, **Greg Czerniak W3GRC**, and **Wayne Bowyer N4EYZ**, have plans to go through the contents of Jeff's shed to categorize the VARA equipment stored there.

Field Day: the next committee meeting is **May 2nd**; anyone is welcome to come and listen as plans are made.

The **MARA** May 3rd meeting is the **Show And Tell** event.

Swap Meet: will be late August or fall due to the Weyers Cave Community Center being booked up all summer.

No more info on the **Greenbank tour** is available.

Contests and Special Events: **David AD4TJ** brought us up-to-date on those.

May 19 and 20 is the **Massanutten 100 Mile Run**.

New business: none.

With no other business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.

A **program on remote ham operating** was presented by **Paul Wyse W4PFM**.

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



PVARC Secretary's Report – April 12, 2018 Meeting

Page Valley Amateur Radio Club April 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Gene Frazier KJ4HFO 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!)

8 members were in attendance

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

Treasurer Carrie KM4WDX was unable to attend but had Tim KM4TGC relay information that the Amazon Smile account has been approved and that the Trailer title and the club insurance are in work

Old Business:

Committee reports:

Trailer: Tim KM4TGC reported the floor is painted and sanded and epoxied. We need a battery box and a desk installed. The club resolved to have Tim apply club graphics to the outside of the trailer.

Field Day: Will N4WIL is working on getting the club radio interfaces setup and we still need to book the field day site at Lake Arrowhead

Web Site: Dave K4DPF will look at setting up a link to Facebook

Gary K6OZ will look into getting a survey for club meeting time and date accomplished

New Business:

Two members volunteered to staff a table at the Elkton Spring Fair on Sat May 12 from approx 2 PM to 8 PM.

Gary K6OZ will get the box of pamphlets from Morgan K4RHD.

Discussion of needed accessories for Field Day. Dave K4DPF will work on an integrated headphone and speaker setup and obtain a good heavy duty foot pedal. Tim KM4TGC graciously donated funds for these items.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM, followed by a video explanation of a TDOA transmitter geolocation system, developed by Stefan Scholl DC9ST, that uses inexpensive RTL-SDR receivers and Raspberry Pi computers.

Respectfully submitted by Gary Fischer K6OZ, PVARC Secretary



The PVARC Secretary's Report from the May meeting was not received in time for publication in this month's Monitor.

FOR SALE

Icom 756: \$500

Gerry Brunk K4RBZ, is offering an Icom 756 HF transceiver (not the “Pro” edition), in good working condition. The only known issue is some lines across the display. The lines do not obscure the readout. The transceiver can be used with Ham Radio Deluxe, making the issue moot. Contact Gerry at 540-383-5722 or email brunkger@edu.edu



Homebrew HF, About 450-watts out, Best Offer



HF amp for sale. This amp originally belonged to Tom Eutsler KB4ONZ. It was gone through and checked out a little over a year ago. It was in service about a year ago and working great. I believe it is somewhere around 450 watt amp. It uses two 572B tubes. I have had a few people interested in it so I am offering it to the highest offer. Email me with your offer. I will sell to the highest offer. I will consider delivery depending on the location. Jerry WD4ITN, email wd4itn@yahoo.com

W4PFM: Moving Sale – Lots of Stuff and All Must Go

Paul Wyse, W4PFM, is liquidating his extensive home station and electronic paraphernalia. He has offered a nice operating desk with copper strap along the back (for grounding), an MFJ Deluxe Versatuner II, a crank-up tower, 6-meter beam, HiGain Ham-M rotator, remote coax switch, and many other items. Email Paul at paul.wyse@gmail.com

3 Hustler KW Series Resonators: \$20 each

Howard Zehr, L4LXY, has three Hulster KW series resonators, \$20 each. Email Howard at zehrhj2@gmail.com

2017 CONTEST RESULTS

Congratulations to the following local hams on their achievement in the following official contest results.

September 2017 CQ WW DX CW Contest

The Shenandoah Valley Wireless contest club participated in the above contest. The club placed **19th out of 36 US contests clubs**, with a combined score of 1,243,674 points!. **Jim Clymer, WS6X scored 807,708 points**, with 1064 WSO's, 66 zones, 171 DX countries, and 111 states and VE provinces (how did that happen? -ed.). **Jeff Rinehart W4PJW scored 144,943 points**, with 330 QSO's, 44 zones, 96 countries, and 53 states and provinces. **Butch Washer N5SMQ scored 22,200 points**, 117 QSO's, 24 countries, 36 states and provinces, **Fred Castello KF4FC scored 87,815 points**, 269 QSO's, 43 zones, 85 countries, and 65 states and provinces. **David Tanks AD4TJ scored 181,008 points**, 398 QSOs, 46 zones, 111 countries, and 59 states and provinces. **It should be noted that Jim WS6X scored first place in the contest in the single-operator low power unassisted category!**

October 2017 CQ WW DX SB Contest

Three local hams entered the above contest with the following results: John **Keller W4ZAO, in the Single Operator Low Power All Bands Assisted category, came in 1st place in the 4th call area, 5th place in the entire US** (out of 307 entries), **and 41st place world-wide** (out of 947 entries in that category!). Great job, John! **Ed Varner N4EDI, came in 3rd place** in the 4th call area in the Single Operator Low Power 20 meter-only Non-Assisted category, . **David Tanks AD4TJ, in the Single Operator High Power All Bands Non-Assisted category, came in 20th place in the 4th call area.**

JARTS 2017 Japanese RTTY Contest

David Tanks AD4TJ participated in this contest, as a Single Op, High Power entry. In North America, in the Single Op, High Power, All Band, category, he came in 57th of 88 entries making 153 QSO's for 381 points, with 66 multipliers, for a score of 25,146 points.

2017 August CW NA QSO Party

The Shenandoah Valley Wireless contest club had 3 entries for this event. **Jim Clymer WS6X**, worked 300 QSOs, 93 multipliers, for 27,900 points. **Jeff Rinehart W4PJW** worked 176 QSOs, 77 multipliers, for 13,552 points. , and **David Tanks, AD4TJ** worked 154 QSOs, 66 multipliers, for 10,164 points. Together the club placed 68th out of 88 clubs in the U.S., with a combined score of 51,616 points.

2017 ARRL 160m Contest

Four local hams entered this contest. In the single-operator low power category, Jeff Rinehart W4PJW, worked 443 QSOs and 61 multipliers, scoring 54,778 points, placing 6th in the Division and 58th in the U.S. (out of 343 entries). David Tanks AD4TJ, worked 183 QSOs, 45 multipliers, scoring 16,605 points. Paul Wyse W4PFM, worked 155 QSOs, 51 multipliers, scoring 15,810 points. In the single-operator high-power category, Al Bonck N3JB, worked 230 QSOs, 59 multipliers, scoring 27,848 points.

Ham Calendar – Upcoming Activities – Mark Your Calendars for your Favorite Events!

JUNE 2018

June 3: Manassas Hamfest

June 3: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)

June 4: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.55 Simplex)

June 5: VARA Club Meeting

June 7: MARA Club Meeting

June 9: VE Exams

June 9-11: ARRL VHF QSO Party

June 10: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)

June 11: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 PL 131.8)

June 14: Augusta County ARES Net (146.850 PL 131.8)

June 14: PVARC Club Meeting

June 17: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)

June 18: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 PL 131.8)

June 22-24: ARRL Field Day

June 24: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)

June 25: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 PL 131.8)

June 30: Harrisburg (PA) Firecracker Hamfest

JULY 2018

July 1: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)

July 2: Rockingham County ARES Net (146.550 simplex)

July 3: VARA Club Meeting

July 5: MARA Club Meeting

July 13-15: IARU HF World Championship Contest

July 8: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)

July 9: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 PL 131.8)

July 18-20 (tentative): Bridgewater Lawn Party Public Service Event

July 12: Augusta County ARES Net (146.850 PL 131.8)

July 12: PVARC Club Meeting

July 14-15: North American QSO Party RTTY

July 14-15: CQ WW VHF Contest

July 15: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)

July 16: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 PL 131.8)

July 22: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)

July 23: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 PL 131.8)

July 28-29: RSGB Islands-On-The-Air Contest

July 29: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)

July 30: Rockingham County ARES Net (145.130 PL 131.8)

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
Board (exp 2019): 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
Board Member (exp. 2018): John Keller, W4ZAO
Board Member (exp 2019): Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW

<http://w4xd.com>

VARA meets the first Tuesday of each month at the Hometown Grill and Buffet off Richmond Rad in Staunton, Virginia

Dinner starts at 6:00 pm,
the business meeting starts at 7:00 pm

Visitors are welcome

Dues (\$15 per year) should be mailed to:

VARA
PO Box 2103.
Staunton, VA 24402

PAGE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

President: Will Baukhages, N4WIL
Vice President: Gene Frazier, KJ4HFO
Secretary: Gary Fischer, K6OZ
Treasurer: Carrie Matter, KM4WDX
Board Member (exp 2018): Tim Matter, KM4TGC
Board Member (exp 2019): Dave Firestone, K4DPF

<http://www.k4pmh.org>

PVARC meets the first Friday of each month: even-numbered months at Tactical Walls, 611 Williams Avenue in Shenandoah, Virginia

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

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Contact the president of your respective club for information on paper copies.

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