

July 2018

# THE MONITOR

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

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## Thirteen Colonies Special Event Station: K2B



**Eric Evans, K4NDN**, will be one of 10 Virginia stations representing our great colony in the 10th annual 13 Colonies Special Event as **K2B**.

This on-the-air event runs from 9:00 am Sunday July 1 (1300 UTC) until Midnight Saturday night, July 7 (actually 0400 July 8 UTC). The certificates for working this event are very impressive.

This is an annual operation, and has always been Evan's favorite event and he is honored to have been selected to represent Virginia this year. In addition to Virginia, the other 13 American colonies are also active, as is a station in Great Britain (GB13COL), and WM3PEN, a station at Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

Evan will be operating mostly FT8 on multiple bands depending on band conditions and propagation. All spotting for the event will be at [www.dxsummit.fi/](http://www.dxsummit.fi/)

Evan will also be randomly working SIMPLEX 146.550 If you want to schedule a 2M contact, drop him an email and he will do his best to accommodate you.

Here is a link to the event: [www.13colonies.net](http://www.13colonies.net) where you can get more information, as well as download a log sheet for your certificate.

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# JULY CLUB MEETINGS

## Tuesday July 3 – VARA Meeting: Hometown Grill and Buffet in Staunton

The Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its monthly club meeting on Tuesday, July 3, 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. Currently, there is no program scheduled.



## Thursday July 5 – 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 and some interesting history, presented by Jim Lehman, W4POL.



## Thursday July 12 – 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.



# PUBLIC SERVICE REPORTS

## Shenandoah Memorial Day Festival

Thanks to all who participated in communication for the Shenandoah Memorial Festival. We only got a little wet, and had a good time. (information provided by Mark Hensley, N4YSA)

Gene-KJ4HF0  
 Paul-KK4IRS  
 Tim-KM4TGC  
 Carrie-KM4WDX  
 Caisi-KN4DVY  
 Gwen-KN4COU  
 Gary-K60Z  
 Morgan-K4RHD  
 Mark-N4YSA



## VE Examination Session Report (*Yes it's public service too!*)

Thanks to all who helped with the June 9 Test Session:

Ray Ritchie K4NRM  
 Bryan Daniels K4RMY  
 Hugh Pettis K3EC  
 Gerald Nauman KN4FM  
 Jim Lehman W4POL

Our next test session will be August 11 at the Woodmen Life Building, 3045 John Wayland Highway, Dayton, Virginia. The sessions start promptly at 9:00 a.m.

# UPCOMING PUBLIC SERVICE



## HELP NEEDED: August 4 – Mountain Mama Bike Ride

The 2018 Mountain Mama Road Bike Challenge is scheduled to take place on Saturday, August 4th in beautiful Highland County, Virginia. The yearly event features 2 States, 3 Counties, 9 mountains, 105 miles, and over 10,000 feet of climb. The challenge features 4 courses of different ability levels, they include a 27-mile, 53-mile, 67-mile, and 100 mile rides. Mountain Mama features **six (6) fully stocked rest stops every 15-20 miles** along the routes. Ham radio volunteers provide communications support throughout the ride. Volunteers receive a moisture wicking event tee shirt, pre-ride breakfast, and post-ride meal.

Ham operators are needed to gather at the Highland County Public School (yes, there's only one!) in Monterey, Virginia, at 7:00 a.m. August 4, to be assigned locations and tactical callsigns. Any help you can offer, even only an hour or two, would be greatly appreciated. Please note that Monterey is approximately one hour drive west of Staunton on US Route 250.

You will need a 25- to 50-watt mobile radio with outside antenna for this ride. Most of the route is on mountainous terrain in the fringe coverage areas of the repeaters. Please pre-program the following frequencies into your radio before arriving:

- 147.180 (offset +0.600 MHz), PL tone of 100.7 Hz
- 147.345 (offset +0.600 MHz), no tone required

146.52 simplex frequency will only be used under special situations . Talk-in Saturday morning on 147.180 repeater.

If you can help with this ride, please, **PLEASE**, contact Butch Washer N5SMQ at [n5smqw4@gmail.com](mailto:n5smqw4@gmail.com) or Jerry WD4ITN at [WD4ITN@yahoo.com](mailto:WD4ITN@yahoo.com), if you have not already responded. Give them your shirt size along with the times you can help.



# UPCOMING PUBLIC SERVICE

## **HELP NEEDED: July 7 – Elkton Field Day Parade**

Amateur Radio Volunteers are needed for the **Elkton Field Day Parade July 7 3:30 pm**, we will meet at the Welcome Tent at the Car wash on 5th Street just off South of Spotswood Trail.

This is a short, fun event, it takes **less than 2 hours**, afterward we can go to the Field Day Grounds for a **free chicken dinner**. All amateur radio operators are welcome to help with this event. Just send an email to **Mark Hensley, N4YSA**, at [n4ysa@gmx.com](mailto:n4ysa@gmx.com) and let him know if you can help.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **New Digital Repeater on the Air from Bear Den Mountain**

Kevin, KC8MTV, announces that he now has a new Yaesu Fusion repeater on the air from Bear Den Mountain east of Waynesboro. This repeater has great coverage both in the central Shenandoah Valley and on the Charlottesville side of the Blue Ridge. It is using a 2-meter Diamond X30A antenna at 25 watts presently. The frequency is 145.290 MHz, offset is down 600 kHz, PL of 131.8. The repeater is currently in AUTO mode, so you can work it with analog FM transceivers, or digitally using a Yaesu fusion-capable (C4FM) radio. Signal reports are always welcome .

## **Berryville Hamfest Coming up**

Mark your calendar for Sunday, August 5: The Berryville Hamfest!

## **Public Service Opportunities Abound**

One of the most fun aspects of ham radio is actually playing with the radio! Check the calendars for the MANY public service opportunities for you to spend a couple of hours having fun over the next four months, and HELPING YOUR COMMUNITY while having fun.

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# PVARC FIELD DAY

Page Valley Amateur Radio Club members gathered for 2018 Field Day in the Modern Woodmen pavilion at Lake Arrowhead Park, a short drive from Luray. Sixteen club members, fourteen of which are also ARES<sup>®</sup> members, shared honors at CW, SSB, and digital modes. As in past years, the club operated as a 1A entry in the contest portion of the event. The club gained special points with solar powered communication, eleven pieces of traffic passed, W1AW bulletin received, information table and news releases, as well as a lone elected official who signed in. Weather and band conditions contributed to somewhat fewer than past years' accomplishments, but more than 1,000 contacts were logged in the 24-hour event. Members made the quickest break-down ever, as a major thunderstorm bore down on the site. Dismantling the wire loop antenna and a portable mast and VHF beam took fewer than fifteen minutes. Field Day continues to be an event which draws the club together in so many good ways.

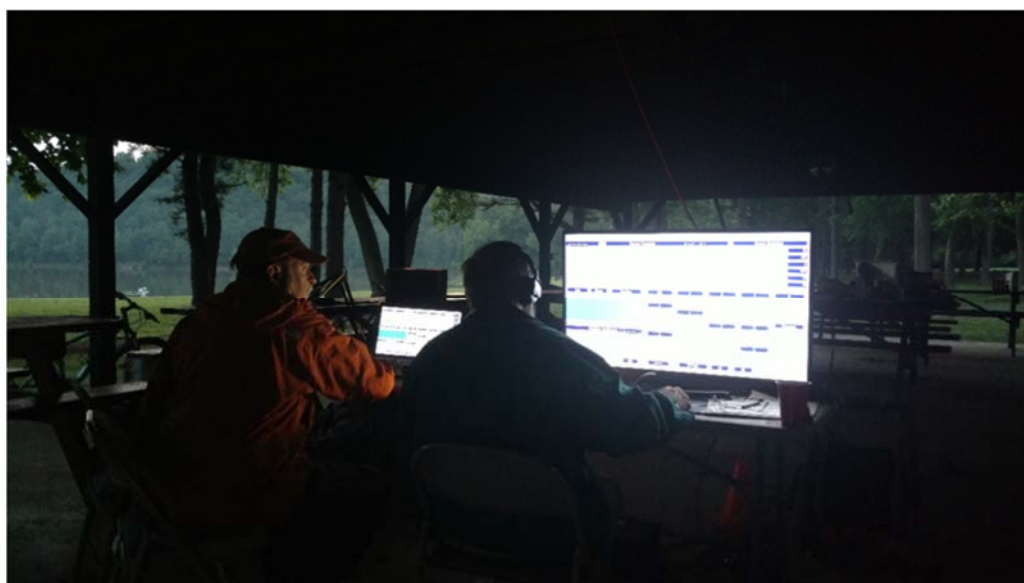
*Right:  
Carrie KM4AWDC, on the mic,  
with Dave K4DPF logging*



## PVARC Field Day ( *continued* )



The NIGHTHAWKS, Gary K6OZ and Tim KM4TGC





# CLUB MEETING MINUTES

## MARA Secretary's Report – June 7, 2018 Meeting

General Meeting called to order at Wood Grill, Harrisonburg, by President Gerald Nauman (KN4FM) at 7:30 P.M. There were 23 members and 7 guests present. Introductions were made all around.

**New Member Vote:** Victor Berger (W3TDU) was unanimously confirmed. Welcome, Victor!

**New Member First Reading:** none

**The Secretary's Minutes:** Accepted as corrected. Secretary's note. The minutes I submitted had Gerald Nauman's name and callsign as shown above, which are correct.)

**The Treasurer's Report:** Foster Farone (WF40) passed out paper reports for 3/21 – 4/20 and for 4/21 – 5/20, as well as a list of donations for the Antenna Fund (for the 145.130 repeater). A motion to approve the report was made, seconded, and approved.

### Committee Reports:

**ARES:** Bryan Daniels (K4RMY): A Section leadership meeting will be held June 20. He requested to be informed if anything needed to be brought up. Discussions about emergency band plans and a possible simulated emergency exercise are on the agenda.

**Repeater Committee:** David Fordham (KD9LA): The 145.130 is still functional, while construction of the new antenna has been postponed pending resolution of an issue with the tower. The new **KC4MTV 145.290 Yaesu Fusion repeater** is now operational at Bear Den on Afton Mountain.

**VE Committee:** Gayle Shull (KU4XN): He appreciates the VEs' efforts. The next regular test session will be at 9:00 A.M., June 9, at Woodmen Life, 3045 John Wayland Hwy (Rt 42) in Dayton.

**Field Day Committee:** Bryan Daniels K4RMY passed around signup sheets for operating preferred times. Bob Steere (N1QEQ) will head up the GOTA station. "The more, the merrier for those not active in the previous year, adults or children, licensed or unlicensed".

**Public Service Committee:** David Fordham KD9LA distributed "The Magnificent Seven" things we must know about your ham radio, *without the manual*:

How to:

- Select the Active Side of a dual band radio
- Set the Squelch Level
- Change between Memory and VFO mode
- Change between Simplex and Offset
- Operate in Reverse ("listen on the input")
- Set your Tone (and change its frequency)
- Lock and Unlock your controls

(continued—)



## MARA Secretary's Report – June 7, 2018 Meeting (continued)

**Bryan K4RMY** noted that the “triple play” weekend Oct 5 – 7 will include the Grindstone 100, the Motorcycle 500, and the Still Meadows horse ride. Volunteers will be needed for communications, including net control for Saturday (or all events). Call Bryan to volunteer.

**Old Business:** It was decided that the offered ham radio demonstration for kids should be shelved indefinitely, since there doesn't seem to be any desire on the part of the kids organization to have it.

**New Business:** None

### Announcements:

**Gerry Brunk (K4RBZ)**'s email address in the last newsletter should be emu.edu, not edu.edu. Gerry also announced that **Neil Buckingham (WA4KKL)**'s wife passed away June 5.

**David Fordham KD9LA** announced that **Paul Wyse (W4PFM)** had the highest score in the Virginia QSO Party contest. David presented Paul with a certificate. Congratulations, Paul!

**Pete Fundinger (AA4PF)** outlined directions to avoid a known malware vulnerability in certain routers, by cycling its AC power and changing its password. It was suggested that we should call our router manufacturers to see if our routers may be affected.

**Next meeting** is July 5, 2018.

**50/50 Drawing:** Gayle Shull won \$14.50 of the \$29.00 collected. The rest went to the MARA Treasury. Congratulations, Gayle!

**Meeting adjourned at 8:02 P.M.**

**Program:** **Paul Wyse W4PFM** explained how he has controlled his Harrisonburg station from his second home in Bradenton, Florida. With special thanks to **Jason Armentrout (N4DSL)** and the Denzel Amateur Radio Club (N4FRE), he chose the RCFORB Radio Hams method. This has no hardware to buy, no knobs to turn, doesn't have a computer at the remote end, and works on all modes. The control station is where the operator is, while the remote is the fixed rig. He can even remove the front control panel from his rig for convenience. He says this system can be used by other hams, too (e.g., clubs). Paul gave his talk “on the eve” of moving permanently to Bradenton. Thanks and 73, Paul!

Respectfully submitted,  
Herb Slade (AA2BF), Secretary

## **VARA Secretary's Report – June 5, 2018 Meeting**

At 7:01 pm the meeting was brought to order by President **David Fordham KD9LA**. There were 31 VARA members and guests in attendance. The usual introductions were made. It was noted that **Steve Davis KI4CGI** would be having rotator cuff surgery soon. The **50/50 drawing** for \$17.00 was won by **Tom Benson WA4ESI**. He also won the 2nd chance drawing for a mystery bag.

The **secretary's report/reports** were voted on to be accepted as printed in the newsletter( thanks to David KD9LA for composing/printing/emailing it ).

The **treasurer's report** was given by **Greg Czerniak W4GRC**: read, seconded and accepted.

3 membership applications were read for the first time: **Gordon McConnell W4/M3ZTO**, **John Glover KN4ILI**, and **Erika Kancler KN4MQE**.

The **VARA Asset Distribution committee**: consists of **Greg Czerniak W4GRC**, **Wayne Bowyer N4EYZ**, and **Jeff Rinehart W4PJW**. The club's monies were transferred to the new non-profit organization of VARA, Inc. The equipment will be inventoried next week.

**ARES**: David Tanks AD4TJ, **EC**: the next net will be June 14, the second Thursday of the month as usual. The net will be held on 146.490 simplex; Net Control to be determined.

**Field Day**: Sign-up sheets were distributed for each of the 4 stations. The last committee meeting is June 6th. There will be no networking of the computers this year.

**David KD9LA** passed out Virginia QSO Party certificates: **Gordon Batey WA4FJC**, **Bennie Cook N4BCC**, **David AD4TJ**, **John Keller W4ZAO** won 3 plaques!( that is the first for anyone! ). Also **Ed Varner N4EDI**.

Upcoming activities: the **Valley Veterans Ride is September 8**; **VARA picnic is September 15**; **Grindstone 100 foot race is October 6-7**; **Fall Foliage Bike Festival is October 20-21**.

**Old business**: none.

**New**: there is a one-time fee of \$600 for the 501(c)(3) application; the club voted to pay for it.

**David AD4TJ** brought us up-to-date on Contests and Special Event stations.

With no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.

David KD9LA then presented a program on " The Magnificent Seven ": 7 things you should know about your radio before you go on an ARES/Public Service event.

Respectfully submitted,  
David AD4TJ, VARA Secretary

## **PVARC Secretary's Report – May 2018 Meeting**

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club's May meeting did not achieve a quorum, thus no official association business was conducted.

## **PVARC Secretary's Report – June 14, 2018 Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by President **William Baukhages N4WIL** at 7:13 PM at Tactical Walls in Shenandoah. (Thanks to **Tim KM4TGC** and **Carrie KM4WDX** for the donation of the use of the facility!)

There were 7 members in attendance

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

### **Old Business:**

Committee reports:

**Trailer:** Needs some work on shelves. ARES stickers are in work.

**EmComm:** Some more progress on the ARC on Court Street. Need help on Elkton Field Day Parade

**Field Day:** Thorough discussion of plans and progress for field day including  
List of supplies and persons responsible

Bonus points for youth participation, social media, official visits, W1AW bulletin

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

### **New Business:**

Discussion of some interference, probably unintended, on the 146.625 repeater

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM

Respectfully submitted by Gary Fischer K6OZ, PVARC Secretary

## MARA Treasurer's Report

May 21, 2018 to June 20, 2018

Opening Balance	Opening Balance		\$ 1,222.79
Income:	0/50 – June Meeting	\$	<u>14.25</u>
	Total Income:	\$	14.25
Expenses:	Electric	\$	<u>22.72</u>
	Total Expenses:	\$	22.72
Balance June 20, 2018	Balance June 20, 2018		\$ 1,214.32

Submitted by Foster Farone WF40  
MARA Treasurer

## Missing the 2018 MARA/VARA Field Day Report

The interim newsletter editor is on a 3-week business trip to Colorado and is assembling this newsletter in the evenings in hotel rooms. As of press time, no one had submitted ANY information on the results of the 2018 MARA/VARA joint field day activity to the newsletter editor. Hopefully, someone will send an email or photos or something for publication in the August issue.



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

### 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 7: **Elkton Field Day Public Service Event** (see article on page 5)

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)

### AUGUST 2018

**August 2: MARA Club Meeting**

August 4-5: North American QSO Party CW

**August 4-5: Mountain Mama Public Service Event (Monterey, Virginia)**

August 3-5: 10-10 International Summer Contest SSB

**August 5: Berryville Hamfest**

August 5: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)

August 6: Rockingham County ARES Net (146.550 simplex)

**August 7: VARA Club Meeting**

August 9: Augusta County ARES Net (146.850 PL 131.8)

**August 9: PVARC Club Meeting**

**August 11: VE Exams**

August 12: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)

August 13: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 PL 131.8)

August 17-19: North American QSO Party SSB

August 17-19: International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

August 19: ARRL Rookie Roundup RTTY

August 19: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)

August 20: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 PL 131.8)

August 25-26: Hawaii QSO Party

August 26: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)

August 27: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 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

The Monitor is published monthly 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.

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

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