

October 2018

THE MONITOR

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

TOP HEADLINES

MARA and VARA Annual Corporate Meetings

Being corporations chartered by the Corporation Commission of the Commonwealth of Virginia, both MARA and VARA will hold their annual meetings in October to hold elections for officers for 2019. Members of MARA and VARA are urged to attend so that a quorum will be present.

VE Testing Schedule Changing for 2019

January 2019 will see the local Volunteer Examiner testing schedule move from a bi-monthly schedule to a quarterly schedule. The Monitor will continue to publish the testing session announcements, as well as the location. No word yet on whether or when the testing fee will change.

MARA Dues Change — Renewal at Old Rates Available Until Dec. 31

For the first time in its 27-year history, MARA annual dues are finally increasing, — but at only a small fraction of the inflation rate. The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc. (MARA) Board voted to increase the dues from \$12 per year to \$15 per year, effective January 1, 2019.

It is interesting to note that had dues kept pace with the overall inflation rate, the annual dues would presently be between \$28 and \$34, depending on which of the four primary inflation indices used.

The Board's resolution stipulated that any current member can renew their dues for 2019 at the old rate of \$12 per year **if and only if** payment is received by the Treasurer by December 31, 2018.

Additionally, the Board approved a one-time measure allowing current members to renew for **two** years (e.g., 2019 **AND** 2020) at the old \$12 rate, by paying for *both* years by December 31, 2018.

Members whose renewal is received after December 31, 2018, and new members whose first reading is after the upcoming December meeting, will pay the \$15 annual dues.

OCTOBER MEETINGS

Tuesday October 2 – VARA Annual Meeting: Hometown Grill and Buffet

The Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold it's annual corporate meeting on Tuesday, October 2, 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, to be followed by a program on DMR Digital Radio by special guest speaker KI4LLA.



Thursday October 4 – MARA Annual Meeting: Wood Grill in Harrisonburg

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its annual corporate meeting on Thursday, October 4, 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, and will include annual election of officers.



Thursday October 11 – PVARC Meeting: Tactical Walls in Luray

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular monthly meeting Thursday October 11 at the normal 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 100 Bike Race – September 2

The Shenandoah 100 took place this year on Sunday September 2, 2018. Thanks to KD9LA (David) for preparing very detailed course maps for us. They were very useful for us in terms of coordinating where to place various operators, and how to best travel between the different locations with minimal interruption for the event participants.

The Shenandoah 100 is a 100 mile mountain bike race over some very challenging trails and forest roads. Based upon a quick look at the course map, as well as the elevation view, clearly shows just how physically challenging this course can be for the riders. It is also challenging to cover the full course from a radio perspective. This year, we added the use of a cross-band repeater to help facilitate communications into some areas of the course where we had experienced problems in the past. Although the cross-band repeater provided some improvement, there were still several areas of the course where signals were difficult to copy. A special thanks to KA2LOZ & K4DJG, who set up, and then monitored the cross-band repeater from their post on top of the mountain near the picnic grounds south of Reddish Knob.

Our mission was successful. Other than some bumps and bruises, and a dislocated finger, we had no serious injuries reported to us. A front did move through the area mid-afternoon, which brought in some thunderstorm activity, but the race was not materially affected by weather. A special thank to Jeff Rinehart (W4PJW) for his several years of organizing our participation in this event, as well as his valuable counsel and assistance in helping me pull it off this year.

W4PJW (Jeff),
 N4ZFQ (Colin),
 WA4FJC (Gordon),
 N1QEQ (Bob),
 KA2LOZ (John),
 N4EYZ (Wayne),
 KJ4VVP (Glenn),
 KM4TDC (Larry),
 KK4ZRF (Scott),
 N4DSA (Roger),
 K4DJG (Bob),
 K4RMY (Bryan),
 KF4EMZ (Chandler & Son)
 N3GLZ (John).



John N3GLZ, coordinator) and Bob K4DJG

PUBLIC SERVICE REPORTS

Shenandoah 100 – An Exercise in Communicating From the Wilderness

Several of the public service events handled by radio amateurs in the Shenandoah Valley take place in the George Washington National Forest.

Most of the area is outside of cell-phone coverage, due to the proximity to the national Radio Astronomy Observatory. Also, there is no electrical service, no AC outlets, no telephone or internet cables, or any other utility infrastructure.

To complicate matters, many of these events are competitive (races), and take place on dangerous terrain, involving unimproved, rocky trails. Add to this mix the fact that the events take place rain or shine, and you can see the makings of dangerous situations. Event organizers take on serious responsibility in trying to ensure the safety of the participants.

When accidents, breakdowns, or other situations happen, the amateur radio community serves a critically-important function by enabling communication between the incident and the event officials, as well as contact with emergency services, first responders, rescue crews, aid stations, and other assistance.



Above: **Bob Van Fossen K4DJG, and John Chevalaz KB2LOZ, man Aid Station 5 at the Shenandoah 100 bike race Sep. 2.**

Below left: *If you look closely in the exact center of the photo, you can see the vertical antenna, hoisted into the tree via rope, used to communicate by Aid Station 5.*



Communicating in these areas is challenging.

While the trails go to the mountaintops and summits, most of the aid stations and accidents are in valleys, ravines, “hollers”, drafts, and other low-lying areas, and radio signals are blocked by the mountains and hills, not to mention the vegetation, which itself hampers radiowaves when it is wet.

This challenge is seen as real fun to a small group of radio amateurs who take pride in preparing to communicate in the toughest of locations and in the worst conditions.

Batteries, generators, and solar panels provide power. Antennas are deployed in trees using hoist ropes, or placed on masts which can be field-erected. Radios designed for mobile or portable use are utilized. The power output required is in the 35 to 70 watt range, far more than generated by any hand-held radio. Cross-band repeaters are utilized to get the signal around mountains and other obstacles.

At the end of the day, when you’ve summoned an ambulance, perhaps saving a life but surely reducing suffering, or rescued a participant otherwise in distress, the effort is worth it. Being trained communicators, able to meet the challenge, is a big part of what ham radio is all about.

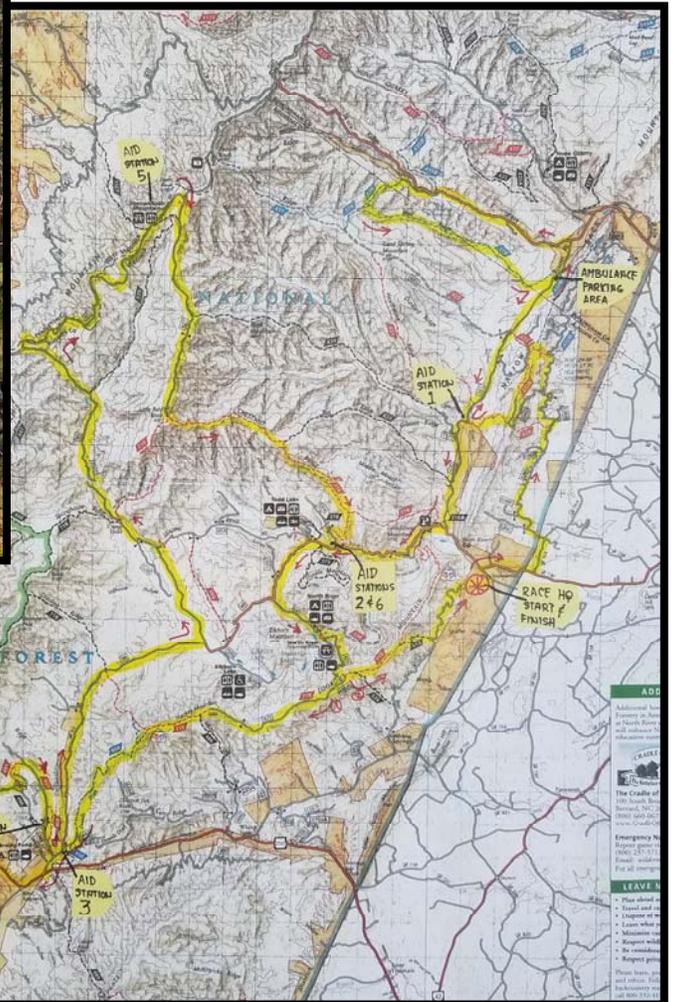
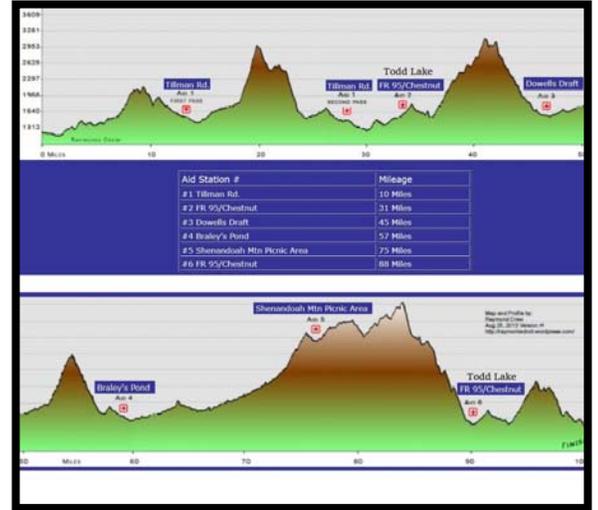
PUBLIC SERVICE REPORTS

Dangerous Territory

Right: The vertical elevation of the entire Shenandoah 100 bike race. If you look carefully, you can see that the aid stations are located at the bottom of the mountainous terrain.

Below left: Bob K4DJG, has an exemplary portable station, including chair, food, water, raingear, and even a shelter that can be deployed if necessary.

Below right: The map of the Shenandoah 100 course,. The only part of the map which is outside the George Washington National Forest is the bottom roght corner. The entire rest fo the map is essentiall forested land without power, utilities, or other communications. At the bottom left of the map, just above the orange area in the corner, is the location where a fatality occurred on this race, on this course, two years ago.



PUBLIC SERVICE REPORTS

Valley Veterans Ride for Heroes – September 8

Thanks to the hams who participated in the Valley Veterans Ride for Heroes which was held on Saturday, September 8. This event is sponsored by the local VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) and American Legion posts, and raises money for BoulderCrest, a retreat center for combat-wounded veteran and their families. Local hams provided both SAG support as well as communications stations along the route, relaying the progress of the first rider to come through, as well as the last rider in front of the “sweep” marshalls.

One accident required emergency services; an ambulance was dispatched to a downed rider who apparently missed the traffic warning diamond advising a 10 mph speed limit, and “wiped out” on the sharp curve at the bottom of the hill. Hams were able to locate the rider and arrived before the rescue squad, and were able to pinpoint the position, as well as ferry the rider’s equipment back to the event headquarters.

The event was not a race, it was a route with stops along the way for riders to learn from displays set up at the various VFS and American Legion post buildings in Sangersville, Dayton, Bridgewater, Verona, and other locations.

Thanks again to all who participated, and a special thanks to Greg W4GRC, who served to coordinate the communications with the event organizers, along with Bradley W4BVB and Gordon WA4FJC who helped with the emergency.

And as you can see in the photo, there was even a unicycle who completed the course!

HAMS HELPING WITH THIS EVENT:

W4GRC, Greg Czerniak, communications liaison with the event organizers

KB2LOZ, John Chevalaz, “Shadow” for the event manager

K2HYD, Ray Albers

HE4HVR, Ray Colvin

KU4XN, Gayle Shull

KJ4VVP, Glenn Mingo

AD4TJ, David Tanks

WA4FJC, Gordon Batey

W4BVB, Bradley Boyd

KD9LA, David Fordham, Net Control



UPCOMING PUBLIC SERVICE

October 5-7: Grindstone 100 Footrace

The Grindstone 100 running event will be held in Augusta and Rockingham counties on October 5-7, 2018. This is a 100 mile foot race that begins and ends at the Boy Scout Camp in Swoope Virginia. We have provided public service communications for this event for many years.

A mobile radio with at least 25 watts is a minimum requirement.

This event runs thru the night and on until Sunday morning. If you can assist please contact Gordon Batey, WA4FJC, via his email GPBATEY@wildblue.net with what times that you can be available.

There is a link to an on-line sign-up app where you can see the station locations and times which are in need of volunteer communicators. Many of these are vital to the safety and welfare of the runners. Contact Gordon his email GPBATEY@wildblue.net for information.



Shenandoah 500 Motorcycle Ride



On Saturday October 6th and Sunday October 7th, the Shenandoah 500 Motorcycle Ride will take place in Augusta and Rockingham Counties and areas of West Virginia.

In the past, members from VARA and MARA clubs have assisted with radio communications for this event. We will need 8-9 volunteers for various locations in the George Washington National Forest and other locations each day. Also, an assistant/relief net control will be needed on Reddish Knob each day for an hour or two.

Depending on locations, you could work from 2 to 5 hours during this event. It is very important to have us participate as nearly every year there are accidents that require emergency response. To participate, you will need a mobile 2M rig with at least 35-50W and a good mag mount mobile antenna or the ability to put up a mobile mast with a 2M antenna.

If you are interested in participating this year, please email Bryan K4RMY k4rmy@arrl.net.

UPCOMING PUBLIC SERVICE

October 7: Camp Still Meadows Horse Ride

Camp Still Meadows is a charitable organization dedicated to serving Special-Needs and handicapped children. Their annual fund-raiser is a horse ride through the mountains of the George Washington National Forest west of Timberville. Local ham radio operators provide communications support, summoning assistance and aid when a rider or horse needs help or is unable to complete the course.



As in years past, Ray Ritchie is the communications coordinator for the event. While the critical stations are presently staffed, additional help is always welcome if you are unable to participate in the Grindstone 100 or the Shenandoah 500 events. Ray's email is k4nra@verizon.net

October 20-21: Fall Foliage Bike Festival

Lenny Vincent, N4LXP, is the communications coordinator for the Fall Foliage Bike Ride this year. Hams in the valley have provided communications support for this event since its inception many years ago. Another relaxing event, ham operators stand by at assigned locations or patrol an assigned stretch of the course, which stretches across western Augusta County and parts of Rockingham and sometimes even Rockbridge counties, following backroads through the colorful autumn forests and farms. This is the 'granddaddy' of public service events, ideal for hams who enjoy riding through the countryside, being available to call for assistance when bikers encounter mechanical trouble or have accidents. To volunteer, contact Lenny at lennyv@n4lxp.com. Contact him early to obtain the day and time of your choice. Be sure to provide your callsign, name, whether you prefer stationary or mobile assignment. If you have worked a particular spot or assignment in the past and would like to repeat it, let him know, and he'll do his best to accommodate your preferences.



EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION

A4PF Activates Sunnyside Station for Hurricane Florence



Pete Fundinger, AA4PF, shared these photographs of the J-Pole antenna used at the Sunnyside Retirement Community operations center during an activation in preparation for the arrival of Hurricane Florence in early September.

Fortunately, the storm's track took it south of our area, But Pete was all set up and prepared for the worst-case scenario which might have cut normal communications infrastructure to the facility.



Pete's station was set up safely inside the sturdy building with emergency power available. To test the system, Pete has made numerous local contacts using this equipment.

160m CONTEST WINNERS

Bennie Cook, N4BCC Wins Plaque in CQ WW 160m DX Contest



Congratulations to **Bennie Cook, N4BCC**, for winning **FIRST PLACE** in the US and first place in North America in the Assisted Low Power category in the CQ World Wide 160-meter DX Contest.

And congratulations to **John Keller W4ZAO** for winning First Place in the U.S. in the Low Power UnAssisted category.

And congratulations to **Clint Campbell, KB4OLM** for winning 2nd place in the U.S. in the Lower Power Unassisted category in the contest.

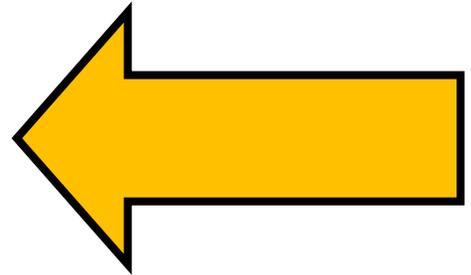
Bennie N4BCC is shown above displaying the first place plaque presented by CQ magazine.

AMAZON SMILES ON VARA

VARA Members Urged to Use Amazon Smile for Amazon Purchases

VARA members who purchase goods and services from Amazon can now generate revenue for the club by registering with the Amazon Smile program.

Every time a registered user buys something from Amazon through the Amazon Smile program, Amazon will donate 1/2 of 1 percent of the purchase price to VARA. The donation does not increase or decrease the price you pay — your purchase is made at the same price as if you had ordered via the normal Amazon website.



If you already have an Amazon account., registering is quick and easy and only needs to be done one time. Simply go to smile.amazon.com, enter your Amazon account ID and password, then select the Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc., from the list of authorized charities, and save your selection. You are done!

Once you are registered, each time you go to purchase something from Amazon, log in to the Smile.Amazon.com website instead of the normal Amazon.com website., and make your purchase like you normally would. In fact, if you forget and go to the Amazon.com website, it will remind you and ask whether you want to make your purchase through the [Smile.Amazon](https://Smile.Amazon.com) program.

If you are an Amazon Prime customer, you probably order a lot from them (free shipping!), and the 1/2 of 1 percent can add up to a nice donation to VARA, helping out the club's treasury., and not costing members a penny.

MYSTERY HAM

Here is a photo taken of a local amateur radio operator who was seen at a local restaurant recently. A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, this ham was active in two different clubs in the Shenandoah Valley. Do you recognize him?



ANNOUNCEMENTS

145.130 Repeater Antenna Delivered – Work to be Scheduled

The long-awaited new antenna for the K4MRA 145.130 repeater has been delivered. Larry Harrison, K4JRR has provided the mounting brackets and clamps, and Project Manager Mark Hensley, N4YSA, is assembling the crew for installation. While the work can proceed with the existing volunteers, one more tower crewman would make the work go much faster. Scheduling is flexible. Thanks to **Mark N4YSA, Larry K3JRR, David KD9LA, Bob N1QEQ, Wayne N4EYZ, and Mike KJ4KWD** for volunteering to help. If you can help, or would like to come up on the mountain peak to watch, contact Mark at n4ysa@gmx.com



145.290 Repeater on the Air at Bear Den

Just a reminder of the new Yaesu Fusion repeater on the air from Bear Den Mountain east of Waynesboro.

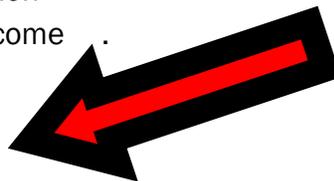
This repeater has great coverage both in the central Shenandoah Valley and on the Charlottesville side of the Blue Ridge. It is using a 2-meter Diamond X30A antenna at 25 watts.

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 .

VE Exams – Saturday October 13

The Volunteer Examining Committee will hold VE Exams for all classes of ham radio licenses on Saturday, October 13, starting at 9:00 a.m. sharp, at the Woodmen of the World building on Highway 42, north of Dayton, Virginia, south of the Harrisonburg South Walmart. Candidates must bring two forms of identification, including a picture ID, and the testing fee of \$15.



K4LXG HONORED BY VFN



Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG, was recently honored by the Virginia "Fone" Net (VFN), which presented him with a nice plaque commemorating his induction as a Life Member. Ellsworth has been licensed as a ham almost 65 years, and has served numerous leadership positions and participated in uncountable activities in the local amateur radio community. He is also recognized as an Elmer Extraordinaire by many local hams,

VARA ESTATE SALE

Items from the Estate of Silent Key Ron Burch, W4ZEE

All items are sold as-is, where is, with pickup in Waynesboro. This estate sale is being handled by Al Bonck, N3JB. Proceeds will go the VARA club. Prices are set to move these items quickly.

- ICOM 706-MKII-G with manual, HM118 hand mike, SM-20 desk mike and AT-180 Auto Antenna Tuner. Requires 12 volt DC power supply. Looks as new. Works Great. Asking Price: \$800.
- TigerTronics SignalLink USB sound card. Asking Price: \$80
- Astron RS-20A Power Supply Asking Price: \$100
- Astron RS-35A Power Supply. Asking Price: \$120
- Radio Shack TRC-488 40 channel CB, Looks New. Asking \$40
- ICOM SP-20 Speaker; Looks New. Asking \$100
- WARC-band Trap Dipole antenna,with SPIRO Traps and Balun. 31 feet 8 inches long. For 10, 18 & 24 Mhz. Asking \$60

Contact Al at margeal@comcast.net. He will respond by October 5.

FOR SALE

Complete 2-Transceiver HF Ham Radio Station – In Whole or In Part

All items are in perfect working order as far as I can tell, but sold as is. All items from smoke-free environment. Inquire via QRZ email address. Images available for any of these items.

1. Yaesu FT-950 transceiver \$ 750. Includes internal antenna tuner and Yaesu MD-100 desk mike, full manual.
2. Elecraft K2/10 transceiver \$ 580 10 watts. Options include SSB, internal battery, internal antenna tuner. With K2 manual. Includes 12 volt, 8 Ah sealed lead acid battery for portable use (ExpertPower; will not ship this battery)
3. Ameritron AL811-H amplifier \$ 650 Four 811A tubes. I bought this new in 2009, and it has had very little usage, probably less than 10 hrs. With manual.
4. Palstar AT1KP 1200 watt, manual differential antenna tuner \$ 330 Great tuner, with manual.
5. Cubex 2-element 5-band Skymaster Mk II quad (20m, 17m, 15m, 12m, 10m). \$ 300. This 'giveaway' price means you must disassemble it and pick it up in Lexington. Includes Yaesu G100DX A rotator and controller. Includes homebrew 33 ft. tilt-over pole support (with cable winch).
6. Fiberglass collapsible mast, 7 sections of 4 ft. each, total extension to approx. 24 ft. Exceptionally sturdy and fully adjustable for height. Adjustable hand clamps on each section, total weight 12.3 lb. From mgs4u.com Believe this is model MK-4 Heavy Duty mast. \$ 110.
7. Fiberglass collapsible mast. Two 6 ft. sections originally from a pole saw. Extension approx. 11 ft. Fiberglass is faded, but structurally in good shape. Collapses to approx. 6.5 ft. Good mast for camping and QRP operation! \$ Free.
8. Horowitz and Hill: The Art of Electronics. 1980 version, 700+ pages. The best reference to digital and analog circuitry that I know of. Jacket is a little ragged and there are a couple of sections with yellow high-lighter, but overall the book is in good condition. \$8 + shipping.

Will not ship the FT-950 or the AL811H. Happy to meet you in Lexington, Staunton, or Waynesboro. I also occasionally get to Harrisonburg and Roanoke.

Contact David DuPuy, AC4BN, Lexington Virginia, at dupuy41@gmail.com

FOR SALE

Astron RS-35A Power Supply

Larry Burns, KM4TDC, has for sale one Astron RS-35A 12-volt DC power supply, including power cord, in good condition, for \$100. Contact larry.burns12@gmail.com



LDG IT-100 AutoTuner

Larry Burns, KM4TDC, has for sale an LDG Autotuner IT100 set up for Icom, for \$50. Contact larry.burns12@gmail.com



Dual Band Transceivers

I have 3 Icom dual band mobile radios for sale:

An IC-2340H with microphone, manual, mounting bracket, power cord, and optional DTMF decoder board so the radio can be remote controlled. I use this radio nearly every day. It's only minor problem is that 1 or 2 segments of the 2 meter memory number display are out. I'd like to get \$200 for this radio.

An IC-2350 with microphone, mounting bracket, and power cord. I used this radio a lot when I had it installed in my work truck. Now that I don't have that job anymore it is surplus. It has one minor problem; pressing the 70cm volume control is supposed to break the squelch on the repeater input frequency as a "monitor" function. This no longer works. I'm asking \$175 for this radio.

A second IC-2350 with microphone, mounting bracket, and power cord. This radio appears to work just fine in every way except it only puts out 18 watts on 2 meters on the high power setting. (It's supposed to be 50 watts). The 70cm side puts out a full 35 watts. I'm asking \$100 for this radio.

I can supply pictures if somebody wants them. I figure most people can look up what these are online if you're not familiar with the model numbers. They are all 2m/70cm and do cross-band repeat. I have used 2 of these for years in that service in my work trucks. Anybody that's heard me on the air in the last 5 years or more was likely hearing one of these radios.

If I can't sell them locally I'll probably try Ebay but I thought I'd go this route first.

Thanks for your interest. Matthew Huffman, KD4UPL, telephone 540-578-1907 or email at matt@huffmanelectricalsystems.com

FOR SALE

QRO 2500DX HF Amplifier

I still have my QRO 2500DX amp for sale.

The amp is in very nice condition - no dents or scratches and has never been used for contesting. Used in a smoke-free environment. Tubes are in good condition

A spare set of NOS GU74b/4CX800A tubes is included. I used the spares for about a month to be sure they were good, and then removed them and stored them.

The 2500DX uses vacuum relays for full QSK. This is a very heavy well-built amp. See the eHam reviews. Reason for selling - bought SPE solid state amp.

Price is \$2000 firm - cash or PayPal. Watt meter not included. NO SHIPPING. Location is Harrisonburg, VA. Richard Wilkins, KR4V Email: rl_wilkins@comcast.net



WANTED TO BUY

M2 Orion 2800P Rotator

On my 70 cm EME array, I have a couple of degrees of slop that has developed on the rotor system. Also seems to freeze up during very cold weather. I am looking for a direct replacement as a spare so I can just switch out the old rotor for repair without having a long down time. I have a thrust bearing that takes the vertical weight of the array, around 500 pounds, so changing it out should not be too hard.

The rotor I am looking for is the older M2 Orion 2800P in good working shape.

I do not need the controller, but if the price is right, it would always be good to have a spare of the controller also. Any leads to where I may find one, please let me know!

I think I paid around \$1400 for this rotor new, but now the new ones are running about \$1000 more!

Best regards, Cowles K4EME, email: candrus@mgwnet.com

MARA BOARD BUSINESS

MARA Board Meeting Minutes – September 6, 2018 Board Meeting

The MARA Board met at 7:00 p.m. at the Wood Grill in Harrisonburg, called to order by President Gerald Nauman, KN4FM, with board members present: David Fordham KD9LA, Herb Slade AA2BF, Foster Farone WF4O, Andrew Pearson N4RCE, and Rick Adams, KJ4IND.

The Board reviewed the corporation’s physical inventory of equipment, and agreed to have a silent auction for the items listed in the inventory. Each item may be bid on by anyone. If no one else bids on a given item, it is sold to the bidder for his price. If more than one bidder bids on an item, another round of new bids is taken. Up to 3 rounds will be allowed, with the item going to the single bidder in the last round. If there are still others bidding in the 3rd round, it goes to the highest bidder in that round.

The board also decided to raise the annual dues to \$15, beginning Jan. 1, 2019. However, members paying their dues before December 31, 2018 may renew at the \$12 rate. Also, members may opt to pay ahead for another year (maximum, e.g., 2020 membership dues.) at the current rate of \$12 per year if payment is received prior to December 31, 2018.

The Board approved taking **147.315 repeater** temporarily out of service to run tests on Old Bald Knob (See Repeater Committee notes in General Meeting minutes).

The Board meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

MARA Audit Committee Report – Fiscal Year 2017

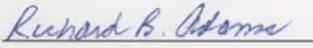
Date: April 15, 2018

We the undersigned, being named as the 2017 Audit Committee for the Manssanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., have performed a detailed examination of the organization’s financial records we were provided for the period of January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017.

In our opinion, the records present fairly the financial position of the organization as of December 31, 2017. During our review, we discovered no evidence that would cause us to suspect material error, fraud, or other discrepancies with the financial management or record keeping.

The records indicate the organization’s financial balance of the December 31, 2017 is \$1,324.00

Audit Committee Members


Richard Adams (KJ4IND)


Bryan Daniels (K4RMY)

MARA MEETING MINUTES

MARA Secretary's Report – September 6, 2018 Meeting

General Meeting called to order at Wood Grill, Harrisonburg, by **President Gerald Nauman (KN4FM)** at 7:31 P.M. There were 29 members and 6 guests present. Introductions were made all around.

New Member Vote: **Bradley Boyd (W4BVB)**, unanimously approved. Welcome, Bradley!

New Member First Reading: **Shane and Ian McGary** (no calls yet)

The Secretary's Minutes: August report approved.

The Treasurer's Report: August report approved.

Committee Reports:

ARES: Bryan Daniels (K4RMY): There is an initiative among Valley hospitals to have ham radio on site for emergency use, when regular communication channels are down. It is the Northwest Region Healthcare Coalition. Bryan spoke to **Greg Butler (KW6GB)**, who is an adviser to the coalition concerning questions about the equipment, its setup, and its operation. He told Bryan that the coalition wants to use Win Link. He also said several hospitals from Winchester south are in the coalition, but **not Sentara RMH**. Bryan pointed out that Sentara RMH has had ham equipment in place for a number of years, which it purchased through a government grant before it moved from its former Harrisonburg location. There have been problems with RMH administration, getting access to that equipment. Among present concerns, the coalition needs to discuss what hams will be running the stations during times of need. Bryan hopes to have an update at the next MARA meeting

Repeater Committee: David Fordham (KD9LA): The new antenna for the 145.130 repeater has not been received in the expected timeframe, and no explanation has been forthcoming about its status. (Ed. Note: Subsequent to this meeting, David learned that, due to backlog, our repeater antenna had not been constructed yet, but should be done and delivered by about 9/25).

David also said if the Forest Service will allow us to make tests with the 147.315 repeater for coverage from Old Bald Knob, it may be feasible to use it for the net control location during the Grindstone 100 event weekend. He is exploring this.

VE Committee: Gayle Shull (KU4XN): The last VE session was well attended, but no one came to be tested! The next regular test session will be at 9:00 A.M., Oct. 13, at Woodmen Life, 3045 John Wayland Hwy (Rt 42) in Dayton. The committee has decided to change VE dates to the second Saturday every 3 months, starting in March 2019. The last VE date under the current schedule will be Saturday, December 8.

Public Service Committee: Gerald KN4FM: The following events needing volunteers for communications take place in the next month:

Sept. 8 Valley Ride for Heroes sponsored by the VFW

MARA Secretary's Report – September 4, 2018 Meeting (*continued*)

Oct. 6, 7 Shenandoah 500

Oct. 5 – 7 Grindstone 100 (Needs Net Control for Sat-Sun, as well as at aid stations)

Oct 7 Camp Still Meadows Horse Ride (Volunteers covered)

Oct 20, 21 Fall Foliage Ride

Old Business: (See Board Meeting minutes for proposed sale of storage inventory.)

New Business: The Nomination Committee for October elections will be **Bob Steere (N1QEQ)**, **Andrew Pearson (N4RCE)**, and **Herb Slade (AA2BF)**

Announcements: Next meeting: October 4, 2018. the David Fordham reminded us that a quorum is needed to be present for the voting for officers for 2019. (ED Note: MARA Bylaws define a quorum as the lesser of 20 members in good standing or 50% of members in good standing).

50/50 Drawing: Chris Shirkey KI4BAQ won \$12.50, with \$12.50 going to the Treasury. Congrats, Chris!

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 P.M.

Program: David Fordham described actual terms for numerous “thingies” in a humorous way, leading up to male and female electrical connectors and genderless Anderson Power Poles and their usefulness.

MARA Treasurer's Report – August 21, 2018 to September 20, 2018

Opening Balance		\$	919.91
Income:	Memberships	\$	24.00
	50/50 – September Meeting	\$	12.50
	Total Income:	\$	36.50
Expenses:	Electric	\$	22.99
	Liability Insurance Premium	\$	266.00
	Total Expenses:	\$	288.99
Balance July 20, 2018	Balance July 20, 2018		\$ 667.42

Submitted by Foster Farone WF40

MARA Treasurer

PVARC MEETING MINUTES

PVARC Secretary's Report – September 13, 2018 Meeting

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

7 members and 1 guest were in attendance.

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

Old Business:

Committee reports:

EMCOM: Mark N4YSA and Dave K4DPF reported that we have 6 members that have agreed to support operations during Hurricane Florence if necessary and the ARCC has been checked out. Dave made 4 Winlink contacts from the ARCC using VHF. Some discussion of plans for an HF antenna at ARCC ensued. Members were encouraged to check the 146.625 repeater on the hour for activation messages.

Website / Social Media: Dave K4DPF solicited reports on the functionality of the website link to Facebook and some successful real time troubleshooting took place. Will N4WIL has posted additional material to the Facebook page.

Further discussion of the draft survey for club meeting date time concluded with general agreement on the additional desired contents. Gary K6OZ will proceed with the survey

Club station: A discussion begun in the last meeting was continued and concluded the best location is Tactical Walls (with thanks, once again, to Tim KM4TGC and Carrie KM4WDX for the donation of the use of the facility)

Club computer: Will N4WIL reported that the additional memory for the club computer was purchased and installed.

New Business:

A discussion of a possible presentation topic for the next meeting included a suggestion from Will N4WIL that he will contact Greg KW6GB to see if he will re-present a presentation he gave to the Pentagon ARC.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM and was followed by a presentation by Will N4WIL of MMANA antenna modeling software. The lively technical discussion was enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted by Gary Fischer K6OZ, PVARC Secretary

VARA MEETING MINUTES

VARA Secretary's Report – September 4, 2018 Meeting

The meeting of VARA, Inc, was brought to order by President David Fordham KD9LA, at 7:02 pm. 24 members, visitors, and guests were present. The usual introductions were made. The 50/50 drawing for \$13.00 was won by Scott Lawson, KK4ZRF. A second drawing was won by Al Bonck, N3JB, who won a mystery bag.

A vote was taken on the membership application of Philip Jackson KM4VWA; passed. Welcome, Philip!

The inventory of the club's property was completed, and a list will be sent to the secretary for keeping with the club's official papers. A big thank you for the club members who served on that committee.

ARES: David Tanks AD4TJ noted that the next net will be September 13th, at 8 pm, on 146.490, with Net Control to be determined. There are several storms forming off the coast of Africa, that bear keeping an eye on for possible hurricane development. The ARES members were reminded to send your man-hours to David after each Public Service event.

The secretary's report was accepted as printed in the newsletter.

Ray Colvin KE4HVR gave us details on the VARA picnic of the 15th; the club will provide 2 meats(fried chicken and BBQ), plates, utensils, napkins, and cups. Eat at noon.

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

We are now enrolled in the Amazon Smile program. Kevin Numbers KC8MTV, noted that the club he had been in received a substantial amount of money from the program, due to members and their families and friends using Amazon Smile when they purchased items. Lenny Vincent N4LXP said that once you are set up with the program, if you accidentally go to Amazon instead of Amazon Smile, that you will see a pop-up message asking if you wouldn't rather go to Amazon Smile instead.

The Shenandoah 100 bike race: Jeff Rinehart W4PJW gave a report on it.

Valley Veterans Ride For Veterans: Greg said that a group of members will meet at the Hometown Grill at 6 am September 5th; others may check in with Dave KD9LA who will be Net Control on 147.075 from his home. Randall Wolf, race director, thanked us ahead of time for helping out. They are expecting around 50 or so riders, down from the potential of 100, due to the poor weather being predicted.

Fall Foliage Bike Festival: Randall said that basically the course is the same as last year; he will come to the October meeting to give us last minute details.

The Shenandoah Valley 500 Motorcycle race is the same weekend as the Grindstone 100 Foot Race; the MARA club will be covering that event(the 500).

Announcement: Al Bonck N3JB and Gordon Batey WA4FJC, are helping the widow of Ron Birch, SK, disperse his ham radio equipment; it will be brought to the picnic to be offered to the VARA membership; then anything that is

VARA MEETING MINUTES

VARA Secretary's Report – September 4, 2018 Meeting (continued)

left will be offered to others via the valley groups.

VARA name tags: Dave asked that anyone who is in need of one let him or Greg know in the next 48 hours, and the club will buy the members the first one. The order will be placed later this week.

Ray Lafalce K2ULW, mentioned that on the VARA website, it seems that the members info is not being updated; Greg said that if their email address is not on the application then he has no idea of how to send them. Dave said that Fred maintains the mailing list for VARA; if he is not given the info, then he can't do anything else.

Gordon has a TA-33 hf beam for sale.

New business: Kevin has his Yaesu Fusion Repeater operational from Bear Den Mountain, on 145.290. It is a digital and analog repeater, with good coverage.

Dave is looking for someone to help head up the Christmas Party this year; Ray said he would check with the Golden Corral(with the understanding that there will be heat in the room), the first or second Tuesday in December if possible.

Weyers Cave mini ham/swap fest: Dave is looking at March, as most weekends are reserved at the Community Center.

Nominating Committee: October is our month to come up with a slate of officers for next year. He asked for volunteers; Kevin, Becky Numbers KC8NQE, and Ray Lafalce volunteered.

Ray asked if everyone got their free credit report once a year?

With no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David AD4TJ, VARA Secretary

Right: Valley veterans Ride for Heroes,
Public Service September 8.



UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 2018

- October 1: Rockingham County ARES Net (146.550 simplex)
- October 2: VARA Club Meeting**
- October 4: MARA Club Meeting**
- October 5-7: Grindstone 100 Public Service Event**
- October 6-7: Northern Virginia Trail Riders Shenandoah 500 Public Service Event**
- October 7: Camp Still Meadows Horse Ride: Public Service Event**
- October 7: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)
- October 8: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 PL 131.8)
- October 11: Augusta County ARES Net (146.850 PL 131.8)
- October 11: PVARC Club Meeting**
- October 13: VE Exams**
- October 13-14: South Dakota QSO Party
- October 14: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)
- October 15-19: ARRL School Club Roundup Contest
- October 15: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 PL 131.8)
- October 20-21: Fall Foliage Bike Festival Public Service Event**
- October 20-21: 10-10 International Fall Contest CW
- October 21: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)
- October 22: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 PL 131.8)
- October 27-28: CQ Worldwide DX Contest SSB Weekend
- October 28: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)
- October 29: Rockingham County ARES Net (145.130 PL 131.8)

NOVEMBER 2018

- November 1: MARA Club Meeting
 - November 3-4: ARRL DX CW November Sweepstakes
 - November 4: Page County ARES Net (146.550 simplex)
 - November 5: Rockingham County ARES Net (146.55 simplex)
 - November 6: VARA Club Meeting
 - November 8: Augusta County ARES Net (146.850 PL 131.8)
 - November 8: PVARC Club Meeting
 - November 10-11: 10-10 International Fall Contest Digital Weekend
 - November 11: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)
 - November 12: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 PL 131.8)
 - November 16-18: ARRL DX Phone Sweepstakes
 - November 18: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)
 - November 29: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 PL 131.8)
 - November 24-25: CQ World-Wide DX Contest CW Weekend
 - November 26: Page County ARES Net (146.625 PL 131.8)
 - November 27: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225 PL 131.8)
 - November 30: ARRL 160-meter Contest
-

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 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, Inc.

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 second Thursday of each month 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.

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

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