

January 2019

# THE MONITOR

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

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## TOP HEADLINES

### **VARA MEETING DATE CHANGE: January 8**

The Valley Amateur Radio Association monthly meeting will be held on the **SECOND TUESDAY** of January, due to the New Years Day Holiday. The January 2019 VARA Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 8th. See you there.

### **PVARC SOCIAL DINNER MEETING: JANUARY 17: Date and Place Change!**

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold a social dinner meeting on January 17th, at 6:30 pm at the Mama-Mia Italian cuisine restaurant towards the southern end of Shenandoah, Highway 340, number 701 on the **WEST** side of the highway.

### **2019 CLUB DUES NOW DUE**

Don't risk having to re-apply for membership. Renew your club dues **NOW** by using the renewal form at the end of this issue of the Monitor.

### **NEW VOLUNTEER EXAMINER TESTING SCHEDULE**

VE exams will be held on the **FIRST SATURDAY** of the **last month of each quarter**. The exams are scheduled for:

**Saturday MARCH 2**

**Saturday JUNE 1**

**Saturday, SEPTEMBER 7**

**Saturday, DECEMBER 7**

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# JANUARY MEETINGS

## Thursday January 3 – MARA Meeting: Wood Grill

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its January monthly meeting on Thursday, **January 2**, at the normal location: the **Wood Grill** at **1711 Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg**. Dinner starts shortly before 6:30 p.m. . Followed by the business meeting at 7:30 p.m. All hams and visitors are invited and welcome.



## Tuesday January 8 – VARA Meeting: Hometown Grill and Buffet

The Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc., will hold its January monthly meeting on **Tuesday, January 8**, 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.



## Thursday January 17 – PVARC Meeting: Mama Mia's in Shenandoah

The The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold a social dinner meeting on **January 17th**, at 6:30 pm at the **Mama-Mia Italian cuisine restaurant** towards the southern end of Shenandoah, Highway 340, number 701 on the WEST side of the highway.



# PVARC MEETING MINUTES

## **PVARC Secretary's Report – December 13, 2018 Meeting**

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

11 members were in attendance.

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

### **Old Business:**

Club Trailer: The trailer was moved by Tim KM4TGC in the nick of time to avoid a nearby structure fire. Additional keys have been located.

A discussion of the November meeting that was to have been an "eatin meetin" at a local restaurant (cancelled due to the ice storm) resulted in a motion passed to have it on the third Thursday of January. Look for email invitations to Mama Mia's in Shenandoah on January 17th at 6:30 PM

Technical assistance committee: Mark N4YSA helped Lonnie KN4HCF with analyzing an antenna installation

### **New Business:**

Will N4WIL reported on progress on installation of HF and VHF equipment in Valley Health facilities including PMH. Will expects continuing contact and further progress. Morgan K4RHD and Greg KW6GB are also involved.

News from Dave K4DPF of his intent to focus on other activities and depart from active participation in the club affairs led to Carry KM4WDX volunteering to take over management of the club website and Will N4WIL volunteering to be the custodian of the club call sign (with help from Gary K6OZ to do the paperwork).

Terms of office and candidate slate for a potential election at the January meeting will need to be sorted out. Gary K6OZ volunteered to begin the process

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM followed by an interesting "show and tell" by Mark N4YSA of his hand built 40 meter SSB/CW QRP transceiver using a kit from uBITX

Respectfully submitted by Gary Fischer K6OZ, PVARC Secretary

did not meet in November due to the ice storm on Nov 8 (and therefore there are no minutes).

Respectfully submitted by  
Gary Fischer K6OZ, PVARC secretary

# MARA MEETING MINUTES

## MARA Secretary's Report – December 6, 2018 Christmas Banquet

**General Meeting** called to order at Wood Grill, Harrisonburg, by President **Gerald Nauman (KN4FM)** at 7:33 P.M. There were 25 members and 15 guests present. Introductions were made all around.

**New Member Vote:** none

**New Member First Reading:** none

**The Secretary's Minutes:** approved as printed in the Monitor

**The Treasurer's Report:** approved as printed in the Monitor, after adding \$500 donation per Treasurer's email.

### Committee Reports:

**ARES: Bryan Daniels (K4RMY):** No report; (more to come)

**Repeater Committee: David Fordham (KD9LA): 145.130 repeater antenna:** Waiting for good weather to install.

**VE Committee: Gayle Shull (KU4XN):** The next regular test session will be at 9:00 A.M., Dec. 8, 2018, at Woodmen Life, 3045 John Wayland Hwy (Rt 42) in Dayton.

**Public Service Committee:** no report

### Old Business:

**Gerald:** All inventory of MARA items in storage has now been sold.

Concerns were raised about the cost involved in receiving ARES accreditation as proposed by the ARRL. Further discussions are planned.

**New Business:** none

**Announcements: Next meeting:** January 3, 2019. **Dues are due by December 31.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 P.M.

**Program: Gerry Brunk (K4RBZ)** presented a dramatic recitation from Luke 2:1-20 of the story of the birth of Christ, followed by Christmas carols accompanied by Gerry on harmonica and Ed Bontrager of Harrisonburg Harmonizer Barber Shop Quartets on guitar. All joined in the singing!

Respectfully submitted,

Herb Slade (AA2BF), Secretary

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# MARA TREASURER'S REPORT

Waldo Finding ...Four ...Oh? Waldo is holding the MARA Treasurer's report. Can you find him? (We couldn't. Maybe by next month...?)



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## VARA MEETING MINUTES

### **VARA Secretary's Report – December 4, 2018 Christmas Banquet**

The Valley Amateur Radio Association, Inc., held its Christmas Banquet on Tuesday, December 4th, 2018, in place of a regular meeting. It was held at the Waynesboro Golden Corral, at 7 pm. There were 28 members and family present. A Yankee Gift Exchange was the highlight of the evening.

A brief meeting was held to discuss 2 items:

Would it be agreeable that we reserve the restaurant (Golden Corral) for next year's Christmas Banquet, just at an earlier time in the evening? We agreed that would be a good idea, with a time of 5:30 pm or even 6 pm suggested. A vote was taken, and the result was in the affirmative.

Since January 1st, 2019, falls on the first Tuesday. would we want to consider moving the normal meeting date to the 2nd Tuesday, January 8th? Moved and passed.

Respectfully submitted, David AD4TJ, Secretary

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# MYSTERY HAMS: SILENT KEYS



## December Mystery Ham:

**Phyllis  
Haxton,  
N4VZC**

The December Mystery Ham was Phyllis Haxton, N4VZC, who passed away in October of 2015, after suffering through several months of poor health after sustaining major injuries in a fall. She and her husband Richard Haxton, KC3AN were officers of the MARA club They had been married for 65 years. Phyllis and Richard were always two of the first to volunteer for public service events, even into their 80's. She passed away at age 88, and had been on the air just the week before. Her husband is still active and living in an elder care facility in Hagerstown, Maryland. His address, in case you wish to send him a Christmas card, is 20009 Rose Bank Way, Apt 241 – Hagerstown, MD 21742. His phone number is active as of the date of this newsletter, and is 301-745-5403.



## January Mystery Ham:

**USNR (ret.)**

The January Mystery Ham passed away in April of 2014 at age 76. An active ham, he had worked over 100 countries and all 50 states. Born in 1938 in Staunton. he retired as Chief Petty Officer in the Naval Reserves as a Radio Electronics Specialist, and worked at Montgomery Wards as an electronics technician, prior to becoming visually impaired. He was an avid fan of the Baltimore Orioles and the Staunton Braves. He was known affectionately by his family as "Popal". He is shown here proudly wearing his VARA club nametag. He passed along his affection for ham radio to his son, who still lives in the Valley. Do you remember his call?

## Check Out the Contests

What floats your boat? RTTY ops have the Round-up January 5, CW ops have both the NA QSO Party January 12 and 160m contest January 25, SSB ops have their NA QSO party January 19, VHF ops have the January VHF contest January 19, Low-Banders have the 160m CW contest January 25, State hunters have the Montana QSO Party January 26, crazies have the Winter Field Day January 26... and there's a lot more not shown in this month's calendar. Oh, and don't forget the Richmond Frostfest February 2nd



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## JANUARY 2019

### January 3: MARA club meeting

January 5: Winston-Salem (NC) Hamfest

January 5: ARRL Kids Day on the Air

January 5-6: ARRL RTTY Roundup Contest

January 6: Page County ARES Net (146.550 simplex)

January 7: Rockingham County ARES Net (146.550 simplex)

### January 8: VARA Club Meeting

January 10: Augusta County ARES Net (146.850 repeater)

January 12-13: North American QSO Party CW weekend

January 13: Page County ARES Net (146.625 repeater, 131.8 tone)

January 14: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225, 131.8 tone)

### January 17: PVARC Social Dinner Meeting

January 19-20: North American QSO Party SSB

January 19-21: ARRL January VHF Contest

January 20: Page County ARES Net (146.625 repeater, 131.8 tone)

January 21: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225, 131.8 tone)

January 25-27: CQ 160-meter Contest CW

January 26: Montana QSO Party

January 26-27: Winter Field Day

January 27: Page County ARES Net (146.625 repeater, 131.8 tone)

January 28: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.225, 131.8 tone)

## FEBRUARY 2019

### February 2: Richmond Frostfest

February 1-3: Ten-Ten international 10m QSO Party - Phone

February 2: Minnesota and Vermont QSO Parties

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

February 4: Rockingham County ARES Net (147.55 Simplex)

### February 5: VARA Club Meeting

### February 7: MARA Club Meeting

February 7: Augusta County ARES Net (146.850 PL 131.8)

February 9-10: CQ WW WPX RTTY Contest

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

February 11-15: ARRL School Club Roundup

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

### February 14: PVARC Club Meeting

February 16-17: ARRL DX Contest CW weekend

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

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

February 22-24: CQ 160m Contest SSB

February 23-24: North American QSO Party RTTY

February 23-25: North and South Carolina QSO Parties

February 24: South Carolina QSO Party

February 25: North Carolina QSO Party

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

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

**Do You Do Dues? Yes, Dues are Due!**

**USE THESE  
HANDY RENEWAL FORMS  
TODAY!**

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**PVARC Membership Renewal Form**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALLSIGN: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE (If you want it in club records for emergency purposes, not the roster!): \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: (print legibly!!) \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER ARRL (Y/N) \_\_\_ REGISTERED ARES (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_ SKYWARN ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you available for Workday Daytime Emergency Call up? (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_

PVARC Members mail with \$12 to PO Box 245 Luray VA 22835-0245

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### MARA Membership Renewal Form

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALLSIGN: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE (If you want it in club records for emergency purposes, not the roster!): \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: (print legibly!!) \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER ARRL (Y/N) \_\_\_ REGISTERED ARES (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_ SKYWARN ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you available for Workday Daytime Emergency Call up? (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_

MARA members mail with \$15 to: MARA, PO Box 1882, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

### VARA Membership Renewal Form

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALLSIGN: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE (If you want it in club records for emergency purposes, not the roster!): \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: (print legibly!!) \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER ARRL (Y/N) \_\_\_ REGISTERED ARES (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_ SKYWARN ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you available for Workday Daytime Emergency Call up? (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_

VARA members mail with \$15 to: VARA, PO Box 2103, Staunton, VA 24402

**MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.**

President: Bryan Daniels K4RMY  
Vice President: Bob Steere , N1QEQ  
Secretary: Herb Slade, AA2BF  
Treasurer: Foster Farone, WF4O  
Board (exp 2019): Vacant  
Board (exp 2020): 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: Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW  
Secretary: David Tanks, AD4TJ  
Treasurer: Greg John Chevalaz, KB2LOZ  
Board Member (exp 2019): Ray LaFalce, L2ULW  
Board Member (exp. 2020): Wayne Bowyer, N4EYZ

<http://w4xd.com>

VARA meets the first Tuesday of each month except the January meeting will be Jan 8

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 EXCEPT January will be Jan 17, at Mama Restaurant 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.

Back issues are freely available on the MARA website starting a few months after publication.

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