

July 2019

THE MONITOR

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

HEADLINES



**MARA — July Meeting
CANCELLED
For Independence Day**



See Page 5 for Public Service Opportunities in July

See Page 6 for Public Service Opportunities in early September

JULY CLUB MEETINGS

Tuesday July 2 – VARA Meeting: Hometown Grill and Buffet

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



MARA July Meeting Cancelled

The Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc., cancelled the July monthly meeting, due to the normal meeting date falling on Independence Day.

The next meeting of MARA will be August 1

Thursday July 11 – PVARC Meeting: Tactical Walls

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club June monthly meeting is **Thursday June 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.



DONNIE MOWBRAY, N4RAG, SK

Donald Preston (Donnie) Mowbray, Sr. N4RAG, passed away on Saturday, June 1, 2019. He was born February 2, 1949, in Harrisonburg and was the son of the late, Odell Preston and Frances Morris Mowbray. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Linda Mae Mowbray, N4RAE, SK, who passed away on April 26, 2013, as well as a son, Donnie Preston (Buck) Mowbray, Jr. who passed away on May 28, 2008. (Buck was originally N4RIQ, but later obtained the vanity callsign of Donnie's good friend Tom B. Jones, Jr., W3HMB, who became a silent key in 1996.)

For many years in the 1990s and early 2000s, Donnie and Buck maintained a set of repeaters on the 2-meter, 220, 440, and 6-meter bands. They were the trustees of the original 147.225 repeater on Laird's Knob, and the 146.895 repeater on Buck's Elbow mountain between Waynesboro and Charlottesville, as well as several more machines, most of which were linked, providing good coverage from Winchester to Charlottesville.

Living in Penn Laird for many years, at the time of his passing Donnie was a resident of Grottoes. He is survived by three daughters, Diana Sacra and husband, Scott, Melissa Smith and husband, Michael both of Grottoes, and Sherri Quiroga and Damien Gutierrez of Harrisonburg. He is also survived by two brothers, Danny Mowbray of Daytona Beach, Fl. and Gary Mowbray and wife, Ellen of Elkton; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Donnie's funeral service was conducted at 2 p.m., Thursday, June 6, 2019, at the Kyger Funeral Home in Harrisonburg.



THE EYES HAVE IT

Ed Varner, N4EDI, had retinal surgery on June 19 at U.Va. Medical Center, but is home, lying face down for a week or two.

Also, **Frank Prochaska, KN4ILH**, of Churchville is still out with the repair of his retina, which was damaged in an injury while playing with his daughter.

Keep these hams in your thoughts.



LOCAL CONTESTING

December 2018 ARRL 10-meter Contest Results Confirmed

As previously reported, three local hams placed well in the 2018 December 10-meter contest. **John Keller W4ZAO**, entered the single-operator, phone, low power category, and took first place in Virginia and the Roanoke Division, second place in the U.S. and North America, and 10th in the world. **Clint Campbell, KB4OLM**, entered in the single-op, phone, low-power, non-assisted category, and took first place in Virginia and the Roanoke Division, sixth place in the U.S. and North America, and 25th in the world. **David Tanks, AD4TJ**, entered in the single-operator, high power, CW, non-assisted category, and scored first in Virginia, third in Roanoke Division, 43rd in the U.S., 44th in North America, and 49th in the world. Congratulations to these contesters.

John Keller, W4ZAO, Takes Top Plaques in Virginia QSO Party



As previously reported, **John Keller W4ZAO** was presented with the two top plaque for his performance in the 2019 Virginia QSO Party in March. He took home the “championship” plaque for working the most cities and counties in Virginia of any station in the contest. He also won the high score in the Single-Operator, Phone, Low Power category.

146.625 BIG MTN REPEATER WORK



The Big Mountain Repeater Association (and all users of the 146.625 machine) greatly appreciate all the hard work of those on a recent work detail to Big Mountain. Those pictured are; **Bob McKay-KI4VFP**, **Gene Frazier-KJ4HF0**, **Tim Matter-KM4TGC** and not pictured **Mark Hensley-N4YSA**. *Photo by N4YSA*

BERRYVILLE HAMFEST: AUG 4

Mark Your Calendars! The Berryville Hamfest will be on Sunday, August 4 this year. This is one of the best ham-fests of the entire year, because of its proximity to the central Shenandoah Valley, as well as the huge shade trees which make the tailgating area surprisingly comfortable for August.

The event takes place at the Clark County fairgrounds, 890 West Main Street, Berryville, Virginia. Gates open at 6:00 a.m., buildings open at 8:00 a.m.. Parking is \$10.00 per vehicle., and a spot in the tailgating area is an additional \$10. Breakfast is available for purchase starting at 7 am, and BBQ lunch starts at 11 am.

PUBLIC SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

July 6: Elkton Field Day Parade Line-Up Assistance

Mark Hensley, N4YSA, is spearheading the ham radio assistance with the lining up of the annual Elkton Field Day Parade this year.

This Event is scheduled for Saturday, July 6.

A 2-meter handie-talkie should be all that is needed for this event, so new hams who only have a hand-held radio are welcome and invited to “get their feet wet” with a public service event to serve the community.

Hams should meet at 3:30 p.m. at the corner of 5th Street and Spotswood Trail. After the line-up and parade begins, hams can move to the Field Day Grounds for a free dinner. Let Mark know if you can help: email n4ysa@gmx.com phone 540-578-1133



July 21-22: Bridgewater Parade Traffic Control Assistance

Ellsworth Neff, K4LXG, is heading up the organization and assignments for the Bridgewater Lawn Party traffic control effort this year.

This is a low-key, **relaxing** event. Hams are stationed at street closings, to inform auto traffic of why the streets are blocked off.

The event takes place in the early evenings of July 19-20. Hams usually show up at a central meeting point for their corner assignments, usually around 5:00 p.m.

A 2-meter handie-talkie is all that is reqwill do just fine for this event. The laid-back nature of the communication makes this an excellent event for a new ham to get used to participating in public service.

Contact Ellsworth if you can help: Email: cenk4lxg@comcast.net



UPCOMING PUBLIC SERVICE

September 1: Shenandoah 100 Bike Race

Shenandoah Mountain 100 - 100 mile backcountry mountain bike race in Virginia's George Washington National forest on singletrack, doubletrack, fireroads with a bit of pavement. There will be 650 bike riders in remote areas of the George Washington National Forest not covered by cell phones, so ham radio is the primary communications medium for safety purposes.

We will need approximately 15-20 amateur operators to assist with the Shenandoah 100 this year. Based upon the terrain, a full power 40-50 watt 2 meter or dual band (2 meter/70 centimeter) mobile radio will be needed. Most of the rest stations do not have HT coverage. We are attempting to make arrangements to use a temporary site for the MARA 147.315 repeater which hopefully will be located to one of the peaks which should adequately cover most of the race course. The race details are as follows:

Date: Sunday September 1, 2019 (Labor Day Weekend Sunday)

Time: The race starts at daybreak and runs until after dark. We will need operators between 8 Am until about 8 PM. You can assist part or all of this time, depending upon your availability.

Location: The Race Control point is the Stokesville Campground (Field Day Location)

Race information: <http://nuemtb.com/series/shenandoah-100-ultra-endurance-mountainbike-race>

Please respond if you are able to assist with this event. It is this very event that helps support our access to the Stokesville Campground for our Field Day event, so our participation is important to the club. If you are able to participate, please respond to me at n3glz@comcast.net. Please provide me with your name and callsign, along with voice contact information (cell phone number, telephone number) and email address, and the times you are available to be on-location on September 1st. Even an hour or two will be of help.

Thanks,
John Lasher, N3GLZ

September 7: Valley Veterans Ride for Heroes

In contrast to the other public service events coming up, the Valley Veterans Ride for Heroes is a charitable event intended to raise funds for Boulder Crest Retreat. After sixteen years of continuous war in Afghanistan and Iraq, our combat veterans, many of whom have deployed multiple times, and their families are paying a terrific price for their service to the nation. Boulder Crest Retreat, located in Bluemont Virginia in Bluemont provides the ideal environment to enable combat veterans and their families to recover, rest, recharge, and reconnect. In support of Boulder Crest Retreat's mission to turn "struggle into strength," the 12 VFW Posts of the central Shenandoah Valley are sponsoring the Valley Veterans Ride for Heroes bicycle ride event on September 7, 2019. Riders arrange sponsor donors, and donate their own money and time to the mission. During the ride, ham radio operators man strategic checkpoints, aid stations, and dangerous intersections to assist riders and provide communications between the ride officials, aid stations, and riders. This event requires a vehicle with an installed mobile 2-meter radio, one capable of 40 or 50 watts, into an exterior antenna, such as a mag-mount. Information on the ride itself can be found at: <https://valleyveteransride.wordpress.com/>

MARAVARA JOINT FIELD DAY

2019 Field Day Committee Meeting Participants



Back row, L-R:

Andrew Pearson, N4RCE
Wayne Bowyer, N4EYZ
Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW
Bob Moore, KN3Y
Bradley Boyd, W4BVB
Erika Kancler, K4NOV

Front row, L-R

Chris Shirkey, KI4BAq
Fred Castello, KF4FC
Virgil Trent, KN4SXI
Bryan Daniels, K4RMY
Ray Albers, K2HYD
John Keller, W4ZAO

“Thank You” from 2019 Field Day Chairman

I just wanted to THANK everyone who participated in Field Day 2019.

We had a very nice turn out of hams and visitors and also several articles in the local papers this year. That is really great!!!

First I want to THANK all my fellow committee members who spent many hours organizing and getting prepared for this years event. I could not have done it without them.

Second, I want to THANK all the volunteers who came to the meetings and those who came out and set up and took down all the equipment. It was a lot of hot work with the weather being so nice, but everyone pitched in and Field Day 2019 was up and running.

Thirdly, I want to THANK all the new members who came out and volunteered or participated working the radio's etc. for the first time. I hope you came away with a great memory of your first experience and really hope you will do it again next year.

I also want to thank all the spouses who came out to join us for the potluck and also for giving up your husband/wife so they could participate and enjoy their hobby with their fellow hams.

In closing it was an honor to be this years Field Day Chairman and I sincerely THANK each and everyone of you for your expertise, suggestions and dedication to making Field Day 2019 a success.

John Keller W4ZAO
Field Day Chairman

MARA MEETING MINUTES

MARA Secretary's Report – June 6, 2019 Meeting

General Meeting called to order at Wood Grill, Harrisonburg, by **President Bryan Daniels (K4RMY)** at 7:33 P.M. There were 30 members and 5 guests present. Introductions were made all around.

New Member Vote: Mark Hensley (N4YSA) Unanimously approved. **Congrats, Mark!**

New Member First Reading: Scott Long (KJ4SIT)

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

The Treasurer's Report: approved as printed in the Monitor.

Committee Reports:

ARES: Bryan: 145.130 will now be the main ARES repeater. 147.225 will be used on the 5th Monday of the month. Also, Sentara RMH preparations for amateur radio access and service is still not finished due to problems with wiring the antennas.

Repeater Committee: no report

VE Committee: Gayle Shull (KU4XU): Hams upgrading to **General Class** will need to study from the **new manuals for exams** after July 1, 2019.

The **next regular test session** will be at 9:00 A.M., **August 31**, at Woodmen Life, 3045 John Wayland Hwy (Rt 42) in Dayton.

Field Day: Andrew Pearson (N4RCE): The final committee meeting will be on **Tuesday, June 11** 6:00 P.M. at the Mt. Crawford Burger King. **Remember the FD potluck dinner!**

Public Service Committee: Ellsworth Neff (K4LXG): Volunteers are needed for the **Bridgewater Lawn Party on July 19th and 20th**. Volunteer early so you can be assigned a position.

David Collins (N4WDC): The Shenandoah 500 Motorcycle Ride team is trying to decide between whether to schedule their event the last weekend in September (preferred) or the first weekend in October, depending on whether the Grindstone 100 repeats on the first week of October. The Shen 500 planners are concerned about the availability of communications volunteers on both weekends.

Old Business: none

New Business: Andrew: Proposal to **cancel the July 4 MARA** meeting. Moved, seconded, and passed. **Wood Grill must be informed.**

Announcements: Bob Dixon (W8HGH): FCC has given the **phone companies** the authority to **cut off robocalls** without advance warning. **Hooray!**

David Collins: There will be a US Islands.org **QSO contest 8/24/19.**

50/50 Drawing: \$13 won by **Bradley Boyd (W4BVD)** with \$13 going to the MARA Treasury.

Congrats, Brad!

Next meeting: 7:30 P.M. **August 1, 2019 (Note: July 4 meeting cancelled)** at Wood Grill, 1711 Reservoir St., Harrisonburg, VA. Dinner at 6:00.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Program: **Jim Junkins (W4JLJ)** presented a detailed description of the many activities, systems, and kinds of equipment used by the HRECC. There are an incredible number of interfaces that are handled by the Control Center, including the Emergency Alert System (with alerts directed to sites in the affected areas that sign up), the trunked radio system (with secured transmission), VA Communications Cache, and the Harris Radio Systems. Jim pointed out that ECC radios follow a P25 interoperability standard. He also indicated the size of the coverage among surrounding counties by pointing out that there are 11 radio sites in Harrisonburg alone. Jim handed out Informative brochures and some useful items for Go Kits.



Respectfully submitted,

MARA TREASURER'S REPORT

MARA Treasurer's Report – May 21, 2019 to June 20, 2019

Opening Balance		<u>\$ 3,180.29</u>
Income: June 50/50	\$ 14.00	
	<u>Total Income:</u>	<u>\$ 13.00</u>
Expenses		
Guest Meal (ECC Program)	\$ 13.00	
: Electric	\$ 21.39	
Field Day Camp Site Rental (1/2)	\$ 250.00	
	<u>Total Expenses:</u>	<u>\$ 284.39</u>
Balance June 20, 2019		<u>\$ 2,908.90</u>

Submitted by Foster Farone WF4O
MARA Treasurer

PVARC MEETING MINUTES

PVARC Secretary's Report – June 13, 2019 Meeting

Page Valley Amateur Radio Club June 13, 2019 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!)

9 members were in attendance

The Secretary Gary K6OZ reported no minutes were taken at last month's informal meeting and the Treasurer Carrie KM4WDX reported the latest balance and expenditures

Old Business:

Technical Assistance Committee: Mark N4YSA helped Scott KJ4Sit put up a Windom antenna. Bob KI4VFP refurbished two antennas taken out of service at the KQ4D/N4YSA repeater (146.625)

The Field Day preparation checklist was reviewed and several action items assigned.

Gary K6OZ reported the club station license has been renewed and trusteeship transferred to President Will N4WIL

New Business:

Discussion of a potential informal "Eatin Meetin" for August centered on Aug 3 at the Junior Order in Elkton. Stay tuned for developments.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM, preceded by an interesting presentation by Bob KI4VFP of his homebrew combination radio suite, voice recorder, and satellite dual band antenna and the details of satellite operating techniques and several recent contacts.

Respectfully submitted by
Gary Fischer K6OZ, PVARC Secretary

VARA MEETING MINUTES

VARA Secretary's Report – June 4, 2019 Meeting

At 7:02 pm the meeting was brought to order by **President David Fordham KD9LA**. 37 hams and visitors were stuffed into the meeting room. The usual Introductions were made. The 50/50 drawing for \$25.00 was won by **Ed Varner N4EDI**. Other items donated by **John Keller W4ZAO** were won by: **John Lasher N3GLZ**, **Pat Morgan AK4VQ**, **Jim Menard KN4FJG**, **Al Bonck N3JB**, **Tom Benson WA4ESI**, and **Erika Kancler K4NOV**. Another drawing, a Dayton hat donated by David Thomas WD30 was won by Tom WA4ESI.

A membership application for **Charlie Garner WA4ITY** was read, and will be voted on at the next meeting.

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

Treasurer's report: **John Chevalaz KB2LOZ**, gave the report; he noted that now we have purchased \$300.00 for insurance for the club: \$200.00 general liability, and \$100.00 automobile rider coverage; motion made, seconded, and passed without any negative votes. As a note, this coverage applies to club-sponsored/sanctioned events, not to an event where we are helping out another ham organization on an individual basis.

ARES® report: **David Tanks AD4TJ**, EC, announced that hurricane season started June 1st. The next net will be June 13th at 8 pm; Jim Menard volunteered to be Net Control, on the 146.850 repeater. All hams are welcome to check in. David KD9LA mentioned that the Rockingham County ARES® main net repeater has been changed back to 145.130, since the repairs/upgrades have been completed.

Old business: David (KD9LA) is still waiting to hear back from the Skywarn class coordinator on exactly when the class may occur. And we are still in need of someone to head up the Valley Ride For Veterans.

New business: Should the club stop meeting for the summer months? Nay was the vote. **Lenny Vincent N4LXP** will be activating as many SOTA(summits on the air) locations as he can June 21-22. **Ellsworth Neff K4LXG** announced that they are looking for help for the Bridgewater Lawn Party parade July 21-22. **John Lasher N3GLZ** reported that the Shenandoah 100 bike event is September 1(Labor Day Sunday); John is heading that up. Thanks, John! **Jeff Rinehart W4PJW** mentioned that the reason we get the use of the Stokesville Campground for Field Day is because we support the Shenandoah 100 bike ride.

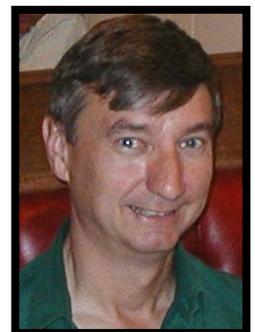
Announcements: the Manassas Hamfest has changed to June 15th, and has also changed the location (will be at the Manassas Park Community Center). Also we were reminded to leave a tip for the waitresses.

Special Events and Contests: David AD4TJ brought us up-to-date on the important ones.

With no other comments or business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

John W4ZAO gave a program on Field Day.

Respectfully submitted, David Tanks, AD4TJ, VARA, Inc. Secretary



MYSTERY HAMS: SILENT KEYS



**June
Mystery
Ham:**

**Joe Moomaw,
W4XD**

The June mystery ham was Joe Moowaw, W4XD, a radio amateur for more than 60 years. He passed away November 3, 2003. He mentored many local hams in the art of contesting. An accomplished CW op, he could accurately copy in his head at speeds well above 35-words-per-minute, while still carrying on a pleasant conversation with those in the room. He was one of the early organizers of the Field Day operations in the valley. After his passing, the VARA club decided to honor his legacy by obtaining his callsign, W4XD (which is DX backwards) as the club's call. If the callsign sound familiar, it is because W4XD is used as the joint MARA/VARA Field Day callsign to honor this outstanding Elmer.



**July
Mystery
Ham:**

**Charter
Member of
MARA**

The July mystery ham was born in 1947 in West Virginia. He was a "junior", named for his father, who was also a ham (KC4YAR). Our mystery ham passed away May 23, 2016 in Winchester at age 68. Owner of a construction company, he was a mason and member of the Masonic Lodge in Mt. Jackson, a member of the Eagles Aerie in New Market, and a member of the Gold Wing Chapter R motorcycle club in Harrisonburg. Along with N4YET, N4DAI, and KS4SP (now KN4U), he helped with the incorporation of the Massanutten Amateur Radio Association in 1992. He was also instrumental in setting up what today is the MARA repeater site on Great North Mountain near Bayse. Remember his call?

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 2019

- July 1: Rockingham ARES Net (146.55 simplex)
- July 2: VARA Monthly Meeting
- July 4: Independence Day (NO MARA Meeting)
- July 6: Elkton Parade Public Service Event
- July 7: Page Valley ARES Net (146.625)
- July 8: Rockingham County ARES Net (145.130)
- July 11: PVARC Monthly Meeting
- July 11: Augusta County ARES Net (146.850 or as announced)
- July 13-14: IARU HF World Championship Contest
- July 14: Page Valley ARES Net (146.625)
- July 15: Rockingham County ARES Net (145.130)
- July 19-20: Bridgewater Parade Public Service Event
- July 20-21: CQ Worldwide VHF Contest
- July 20-21: North American QSO Party RTTY weekend
- July 21: Page Valley ARES Net (146.625)
- July 22: Rockingham County ARES Net (145.130)
- July 28: Page Valley ARES Net (146.625)
- July 29: Rockingham County ARES Net (146.130)

AUGUST 2019

- August 1: VARA Monthly Meeting
 - August 3-4: 10-10 Summer 10-meter contest SSB weekend
 - August 3: Salem (Roanoke) Hamfest
 - August 4: Berryville Hamfest
 - August 4: Page County ARES Net (146.625)
 - August 4: North American QSO Party CW weekend
 - August 5: Rockingham County ARES Net (146.55 simplex)
 - August 6: MARA Monthly Meeting
 - August 8: PVARC Monthly Meeting
 - August 8: Augusta County ARES Net (146.850 or as announced)
 - August 11: Page Valley ARES Net (146.625)
 - August 12: Rockingham County ARES Net (145.130)
 - August 17-18: North American QSO Party SSB weekend
 - August 18: Page Valley ARES Net (146.625)
 - August 19: Rockingham County ARES Net (145.130)
 - August 24-25: Hawaii, Kansas, Ohio QSO Parties
 - August 25: Page Valley ARES Net (146.625)
 - August 26: Rockingham County ARES Net (145.130)
-

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): Rick Adams, KJ4IND
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 (\$15 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: 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 at the Hometown Grill and Buffet off Richmond Road 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 2019): B.H. Snellings, KM4CKD
Board Member (exp 2020): Tim Matter, KM4TGC

<http://www.k4pmh.org>

PVARC meets the second Thursday of each month at Tactical Walls, 611 Williams Ave, 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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