

THE MONITOR

August 2014

Published Monthly for members of the Amateur Radio Clubs in Virginia's Central Shenandoah Valley

Field Day News

In this issue!

PVARC Meeting: August 1st

The **Page Valley Amateur Radio Club** will hold its regular meeting on **August 1st** at 6:30pm at the Page County Sheriff's Training Room in Luray. All hams and their guests are invited.

VARA Meeting: August 5th

The **Valley Amateur Radio Association**, will hold its **August 5th** meeting at Hometown Grille & Buffet (Old Shoney's) at 30 Sanger Lane, Staunton, VA. Dinner starts at 6:00pm, and the general meeting begins at 7:00pm.

MARA Meeting: August 7th

The **Massanutten Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**, will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, **August 7th**, at the Wood Grill on Reservoir Street in Harrisonburg. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. Meeting starts at 7:30 PM. All hams and their families are invited and welcome.

Friday Luncheon: Hometown Grille and Buffet, Staunton

The Friday *weekly* casual lunch meetings are at Hometown Grille & Buffet (Old Shoney's) at 30 Sanger Lane, Staunton, VA at 11:00AM. Directions: I-81 to Exit 222, Richmond Rd. & Rte 250. Turn East, Hometown Grille & Buffet will be on the left across the street from Mrs. Rowe's.

School Daze

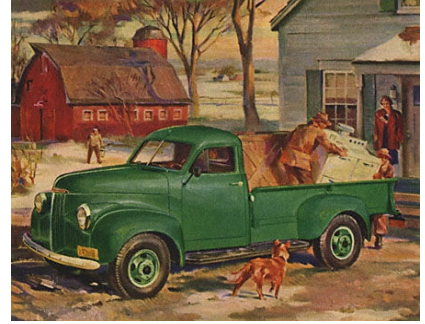
The first day of school opens on **August 25th**, the Monday before Labor Day. Keep a sharp lookout for the kiddies as they stumble to their respective schools and also the buses that will be lurking for the unsuspecting drivers.

Remember to STOP for school buses.



MOVING?

Don't forget! If you move, you must notify the FCC of your new mailing address AND the new physical address of your station within 30 days! If the FCC gets a mailing back from you with a forwarding address (or even worse, no forwarding address!) your license will likely be canceled. This means that you must test all over again to reinstate your license. Don't risk it: Notify the FCC of your new address promptly!

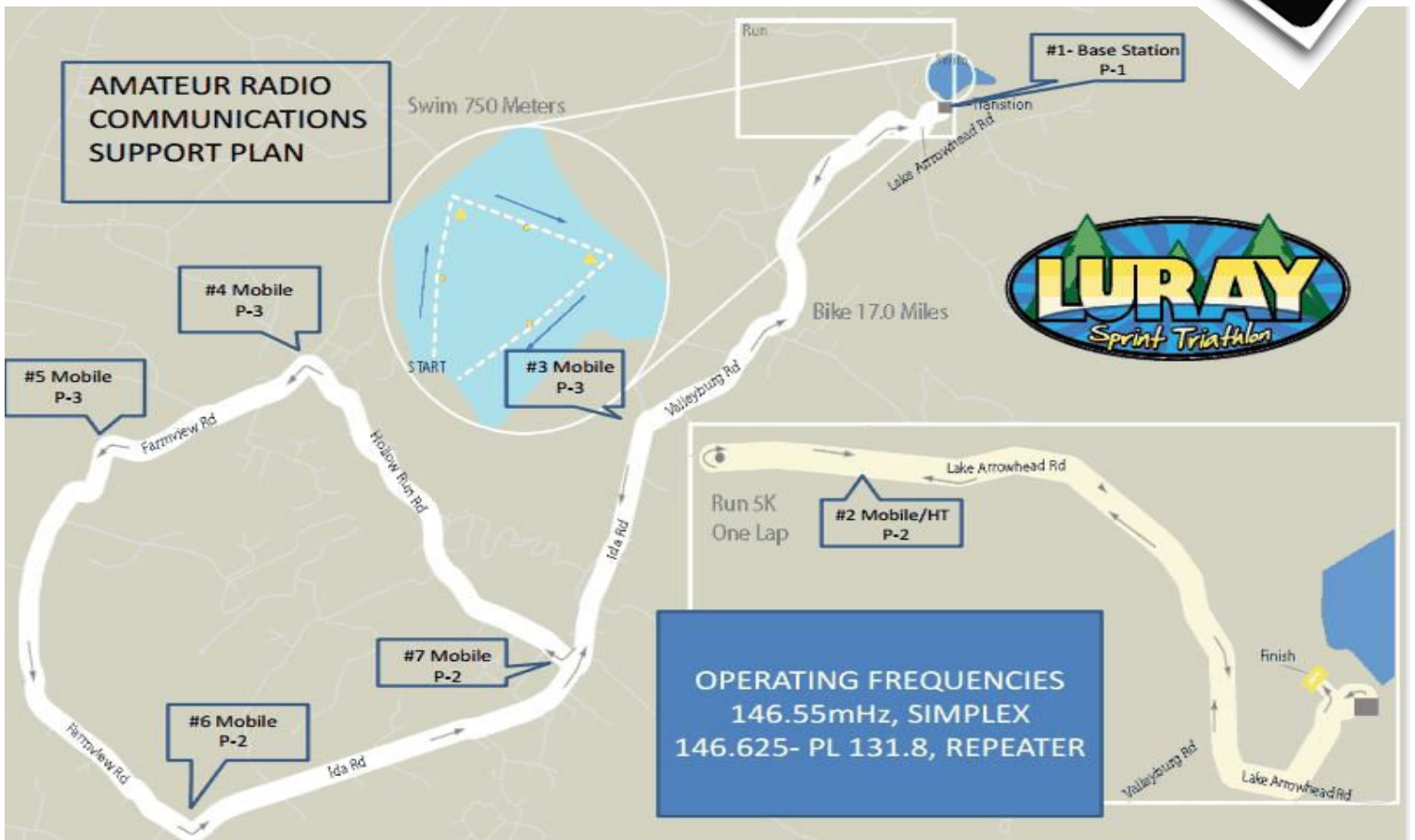


LURay Triathlon needs U!

Anyone that could help with the Luray Triathlon on **August 16 and 17**, please let me know if you can help on one or both days?

"73"

Mark-N4YSA



VARA President's Message

Greetings fellow radio operators and a hardy thank you to all those who came out and made the MARA/VARA joint Field Day and great success. Both the phone station and the cw station increased their respective number of contacts over last year. I would like to personally thank Herb, AA4BF for stepping up and taking on the job of Field Day Chairman. Herb did an excellent job of getting the rest of us organized. We also had a great gathering of folks for our traditional Friday evening supper.

The picture below was taken Friday night during our Field Day supper. Quite a crew!

I also want to thank Bob, N1QEQ for sharing with us during Field Day on how to construct a Moxon Beam. Not only did we get points for Bob's presentation, but we discovered that a good directional antenna does not have to be expensive. I am looking forward to building one.

Regarding Field Day, if you missed it, you missed a great time of fellowship and camaraderie. Our spirits were high and that is borne out by the great job each member did. And a special thanks to all those who stayed after the contest Sunday afternoon and helped take down

and put all our equipment away. In fact, David Metz made a special point of coming up the Field Day site to help us. Thanks Dave! The only mishap was a flat tire on Jeff's (W4PJW) trailer Sunday night when the president was taking the trailer back to Jeff's house. It was a lot of fun changing the tire and a special thank you goes out to Wayne, N4EYZ for helping me change the tire. Of course I planned it this way thinking that if I did a bad job of moving Jeff's trailer, he would never let me move it again. We will see if the plan worked.



I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting in August. We have a lot to discuss. See you there!

73, Greg, W4GRC ye old VARA President



Field Day with the Page Valley Amateur Radio Club



Dave Firestone K4DPF and guest operator

The Page Valley Amateur Radio Club set up for the annual ARRL Field Day for 2014 at Lake Arrowhead, the Town of Luray's beautiful recreation site about five miles east of town. The club operated using its club call sign of K4PMH in class 1A. Antennas for HF, 6m and 2m were strategically deployed. Power was supplied by a Honda emergency generator and a solar HF rig for additional points. About fifteen licensed hams participated, with the first three contacts made by 8-year old Brayden



Brayden McKay, youth operator on solar rig Field Day's made the first three contacts!

McKay, under the watchful eye of his grandfather, **Bob McKay/KI4VFP**.

The club started their set up early Saturday morning, beginning with an 80-m loop in the trees for the HF rig, responsible for most of the contacts. The solar-powered station fed a 20-m colinear dipole, while the VHF station fed a 2m vertical, a 2m beam and a 6m beam supported by a 35-foot portable tower and rotator.

Although Lake Arrowhead is in the lee of the



Tim Ramey/AK4CJ operator

valley from the 147.300 repeater and NVTN, a 75w signal helped to reach the hard-to-copy repeater at Bluemont, garnering us all the traffic passing points.

Overall, the club made 905 voice contacts and 529 CW contacts. The club earned additional points for passing traffic, visits by the county's emergency coordinator (served agency), a school board chairman (elected official), local news coverage, the ARRL digital message and more for a total of 5096 points. Several visiting hams took turns on the operator schedule, most notably **Brian/W3ATT** and **Ian/WOIMD**.



Morgan, K4RHD, The man who kept the grumbellies at bay.



Solar power rig demonstration K4RHD



2014 ARRL Field Day at



2014 ARRL Field Day at Lake Arrowhead



The station paused operating only for adjustments and operator changes. The grill and coffee pot ran non-stop, with snacks and burgers freely available, and Mulligatawny stew (until it was gone).

Most notably, everyone had an enjoyable time.

In 2013, the PVARC earned first-place honors in 1A VA and tenth in the US. Point tallies for this year were significantly higher than last year. Everyone went home pretty well worn out, but satisfied by a weekend well-spent, proving once again that the work and companionship pays off.

Many thanks for the efforts of all participants in the Field Day activities this year.



Tim Ramey AK4CJ and guest operator

USB-to-Serial Converter Problems?

Here is an interesting page I just ran across. Talks about serial to USB converters and the different chipsets.

<http://wa8lmf.net/ham/USB-Serial-Dongles.htm>

This link in the DXLabwiki has a number of USB to serial adapters that are user tested for the listed operating systems. Lots to choose from: <http://tinyurl.com/ngdmw4s>

Mountain Mama Bike Ride



HELLO TO ALL ONCE AGAIN

THE HIGHLAND CO MT MAMA BIKE RIDE COMING UP THE FIRST SATURDAY OF AUGUST. Time is closing in and I am late in sending out my 2nd

email in calling for help for the 2014 Mountain Mama Bike challenge.

So far I have gotten YES commitments from the following people:

**N5SMQ WD4ITN K4MRH N4PGS KJ4VVN KJ4VVP KF4UCI W4PJW
KJ4WRE**

I am hoping to hear from a few more to help out. If you are a YES and I don't have you listed, please let me know. All that are possibilities, if you could let me know which way it is leaning would be nice. There are some on the email list that I haven't heard from yet, so I'm just including yall in hopes of at least hearing from yall to say 'HI'. This year we will again be using the 147.180+100.0 tone and the 147.285+ 103.5 tone. Also have 146.535 simplex ready just in case it's needed. I would like to ask that if at all possible SAG's be there by 7am Saturday morning for assignments. Again for those not familiar with the Mtn Momma, it offers ride from 25, 50, 75 and 100 miles at the same time with overlapping routes. It is on the first weekend in August on Saturday Aug 2nd this year and starts at 8am from the Highland County High School in Monterey, VA.

In the past there has been camping allowed at the school and many have taken advantage of that(I just may be with yall this year!!)...

There may

also be some lodging available still at the Highland Inn and Montvalle Motel, now there is probably limited A/C at these locations so be aware of that. There are lots of other lodging in the area and you just need to ask. www.highlandcounty.org is the local chamber of commerce web site, it will give info on a lot of lodging and more info on the ride.

Please email me directly at n5smqw4@gmail.com if you are interested in helping or have more questions before deciding. I am keeping a separate list of people that are interested.

Thanks in advanced for your interest and help...

Butch /N5SMQ



Edible LED's Anyone?

You may not work in your latest project, but they make good eatin'

<http://tinyurl.com/phlmx7m>



Radio Bursts Coming From Deep Space?

Arecibo, Puerto Rico (CBS TAMPA) – A succinct blip of radio waves detected from far beyond the Milky Way Galaxy amid deep space has left scientists saying they “really have no handle on” the mysterious “fast radio burst.”



Are You Protected?

We are deep into hurricane season. That includes severe weather, thunderstorms and lightning. Are you prepared for this? Have your 'go—bag' ready to go!





This is the first I have heard about this. Regardless of individual differences in opinion about his leadership I know we all wish him well and a speedy recovery.

Bob W8HGH

The following news is from K5FUV, Bill Kennamer. Feel free to pass this on to your DX friends and clubs.

"DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, was seriously injured in an automobile accident about two weeks ago. His neck was broken, leaving him paralyzed from his upper body down, with limited movement of his arms. Recovery will be difficult and slow, and is not expected to be total. Bill would like to hear from his friends. He is currently in the Mount Sinai Rehab Hospital in Hartford, but cards and well wishes should be sent to 92 Reservoir Rd, Newington, CT 06111".

Friday K5FUV, Bill Kennamer, and I visited Bill at the rehab hospital. We spent a few minutes with NC1L, Bill, who was extremely glad to see us. I gave him one of the ARRL Centennial Convention coins and told him how successful the event was going. He was very happy to hear the news and the greetings from his friends. Bill's sister-in-law Gina was there in the hospital and asked us to tell Bill's friends that he would love to hear from them. So if possible let's all show Bill our love and concern for our dear friend by sending him our QSL with good wishes. I know Bill and the family would greatly appreciate your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Bill Moore

92 Reservoir Road

Newington, CT 06111

73

Bernie, W3UR/1

Hartford, CT

Bernie McClenny, W3UR

Editor of The Daily DX, The Weekly DX and How's DX?

Two week trial - <http://www.dailydx.com/trial.html>

<https://twitter.com/dailydx>

410-489-6518



New Club Members



MARA: Carol Landes/WX4CPL, Don Landes/WX4C, Jim Clymer/WS6X, George Collins/KK4OLY and Chris Sharkey/KI4BAQ

PVARC: Patrick Sprague/KM4CGV (And a new Ham!)

ACTION ITEMS

ED note: Rtf document attached to email broadcast.

H.R. 4969: Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014

I just sent the following message to Congressman Goodlatte's office. I would urge all Hams to do the same. Feel free to use my message as a template. If you are unfamiliar with the bill, it is to help Hams that live in neighborhoods with CC&R's that wont allow even the smallest outdoor antenna. Read more about the bill here: <http://www.arrl.org/news/view/grassroots-campaign-underway-to-promote-co-sponsorship-of-amateur-radio-parity-act>

Michael E. Turner/K4MIC

(copy and past if the address didn't show up as a link.)

(Suggested verbage:)

Dear Congressman Goodlatte,

I am a constituent in your District and I want to bring an issue to your attention. I am a federally licensed Amateur Radio operator, one of 20,852 whom reside in Virginia. We provide communications support and participate in public service events on behalf of the community, during times of emergency by providing communications for local governmental agencies and non-governmental agencies (NGO) like the Red Cross and Salvation Army, communications support to the United States Military through their Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS), to our neighbors when mainstream communications break down, and to the future of telecommunications as we participate in the development of cutting edge technology in this digital age. We take our work very seriously.

We cannot do any of these things, which we do at no charge ever to anyone we help, without being able to place an outdoor antenna on our property.

Recently a bi-partisan Bill, H.R. 4969, was introduced by Mr. Kinzinger (R-IL) and Mr. Courtney (D-CT) which would extend the ability to properly negotiate with developments that have restrictions that routinely preclude Amateur Radio operators from putting up even a simple wire antenna in a tree that would never be seen by the community. We already have this ability with local zoning ordinances, but we need to extend this ability to operators living under land use restrictions. All we are asking for is a reasonable accommodation.

As your constituent, I am asking that you support the bill by signing-on as a cosponsor. Please contact Rep. Kinzinger's office to do so.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

(Your name)

(Your Call Sign)

Remote Controlled Aircraft

FAA Action Alert! **Please voice your comments ASAP**

In a nutshell the FAA is trying to limit our hobby by imposing heavy restrictions on our flying, especially "drones" and quadcopters that carry cameras. [Ed: radio controlled aircraft for hobby]

Please take some time and look over the information on the AMA website, and please send a comment to the FAA.

Please see the AMA website for more details. [ed: Academy of Model Aeronautics <http://www.modelaircraft.org/>]

You may want to check on the AMA website and voice your opinion to the FAA on this.

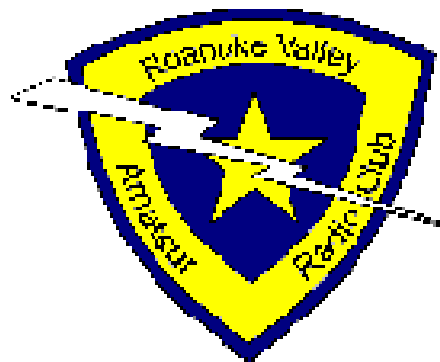
Durwood Humphreys

Sec/Treas SARC Club.

Roanoke Hamfest

Contact: starcitysteeler@cox.net
When: Saturday August 02 2014 at 08:00 AM
Ends: Saturday August 02 2014 at 02:00 PM
Location: William Byrd High School
Good times: VE testing sessions, vendors, flea market,
P Buckley Moss raffle, SAUSAGE BISCUITS

Web site: <http://www.W4CA.us>



Berryville Hamfest

64th Annual Berryville Hamfest
& Computer/Electronics Show
Sunday, August 3, 2014
Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds
in Berryville, Virginia
Always the first Sunday in August!
Presented by the Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club
Web site: <http://www.shenvalarc.org/>

Tri-State Amateur Radio Association



52nd Annual Ham Radio



“Hamfest” 2014

Saturday, August 9th 8:30 am to 1:00 pm

Christ Temple Church, Life and Health Center
2400 Johnstown Road
Huntington, WV
Talk-in 146.76/16 PL 131.8

Web site: <http://www.orgsites.com/wv/taraclub/>

58th Annual “Grand-Daddy of them All” | An ARRL Sanctioned Event
ARRL North Carolina State Convention



2014 SHELBY HAMFEST

LOCATION OF FAIRGROUNDS:
1751 E. Marion Street, Shelby, NC 28150

For General Information Call 980-295-5151
or email: chairman@shelbyhamfest.org

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

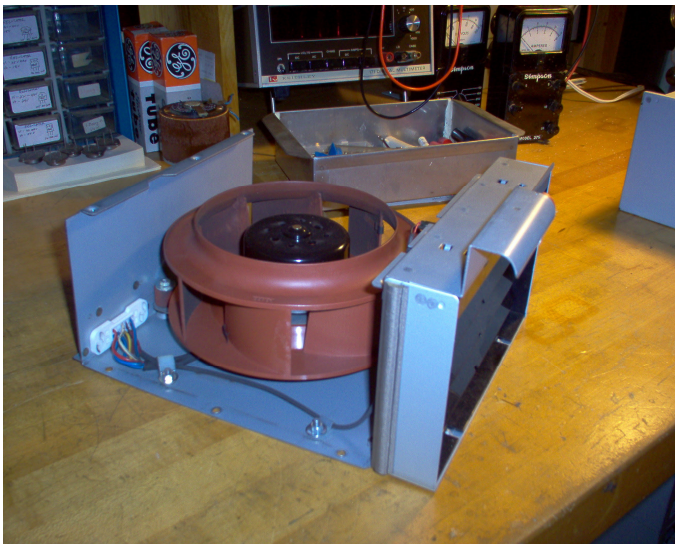
SATURDAY AUG. 30 & SUNDAY AUG. 31 | CLEVELAND COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS SHELBY, NC

Website: <http://www.shelbyhamfest.org>

I'm selling my Pulse 10U go box. Box is new, I've decided to go to a smaller size. Price is \$90.00 and includes two shelves.

Mike/ K4MRH (540) 292-2251

cojonme@hotmail.com



Cleaning out the shack again to make more room for new old stuff.

I have 4 squirrel cage type fans for sale. They will run anywhere from 6 to 13.8 volts DC.

They will require 2 resistors (I will give you those if you purchase) to be added for speed stability, these are high end fans that were used in a SANs system. I bought a whole chassis that had these installed. I only wanted the 19" rack pieces. I have pictures that tell all the tales at the below link.

SOLD I also have 12 capacitors for sale. They are 92uf rated at 580 VAC or 1090 VDC. I have the hardware for the terminals. They too can be seen at the below link. **SOLD**

The fans I would like \$5.00 for each.

P.S. I have already wired one fan with at terminal block (see pictures) but have not done the other 3. I will let the new owners can do that.

Bob/N4JGO

<http://personal.cfw.com/~dbcmc/>



VARA Secretary's Report

July 1, 2014 Meeting

Minutes of the VARA Meeting of July 1st, 2014

July 1st saw the meeting of **the Valley Amateur Radio Association** held at the Hometown Grill and Buffet Restaurant in Staunton. The meeting was brought to order at 6:59 pm by President Greg Czerniak W4GRC. 21 members and guests were present and introduced themselves. The 50/50 drawing was not held as the tickets were not present.

ARES Report: David Tanks, AD4TJ, EC: David reported that a hurricane was forming off the coast of Florida, with its path still unknown, but that we should be prepared just in case it came our way. The next net will be the 2nd Thursday of the month, July 10th at 8 pm on the 146.850 repeater. Steven Grant W4IIV volunteered to be NC. Thanks, Steve! He is always looking for Net Control operators.

Field Day: Greg noted that we had a safe and uneventful Field Day, with no accidents and just small problems with equipment. There were some new faces present, which is always good to see.

Secretary's report: David AD4TJ made a motion that the minutes be approved as printed in the newsletter; seconded and passed.

Treasurer's report: Wayne Bowyer N4EYZ gave the report for both May and June. 2nd and passed.

Updates: Greg talked about the Self-Reliance Demonstration event that is going to be at Expo on September 27th. He has offered us a table, for free, to use to set up a demonstration of Amateur Radio, from 9 am to 4 pm(we would not have to be there the whole time).

A vertical for HF was mentioned as a possibility, along with something for VHF. Greg said that this would be a good venue to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the public.

Greg reminded us of the Bike Festival in October, and the Mountain Momma Bike Race in August in Highland County. Also the Triple-Play in October was talked about.

Old Business: Steve W4IIV asked about the VARA Picnic; it is all set for the 1st Saturday in September, at the pavillion between the golf course and the Armory in Gypsy Hill Park. The menu was discussed; as last year, no meat will be provided; we will eat whatever everyone brings.

New Business: none.

David AD4TJ, mentioned upcoming events: The Berryville hamfest will happen on the 1st Sunday in August(as it is every year). There are several contests coming up in July: the 070 club 40 meter Firecracker PSK31 Spring on the 5th; for the 3rd weekend of July: DNC Digital Modes Contest, NAQP RTTY QSO Party, CQ VHF Contest(6 and 2 meters only). Wayne N4EYZ mentioned that the Roanoke hamfest is the 1st Saturday in August(usually the day before Berryville).

With no other topics or business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm. The program was given by David on message/traffic handling.

Respectfully submitted,
David Tanks AD4TJ VARA Secretary



MARA Secretary's Report July 3, 2014 Meeting

The July MARA meeting was called to order by **Gerald / KN4FM**, at 7:30 pm.

There were no new members to vote on and there were no perspective members for a first reading. The minutes for the June meeting and the treasurer's report were approved as printed in the Monitor.

Committees reports:

ARES: Starting in August there will be ARES training on the net so that the net will again qualify as an ARES net.

VE: Next test session is August 9.

Public service: Bridgewater parades on July 18 and 19.

Repeaters: Nothing to report.

Announcements:

Hamfests at **Vinton on August 2** and **Berryville on August 3**.

Bob / K4DJG, has a hat that was left at Field Day, see him it is yours.

Shenandoah Vally QRP Club has started, contact Russ, K3NLT, for information.

Old Business:

Herb / AA2BF, reported that Field Day scored 13 SSB points, 1892 CW points and 890 bonus points. There were 33 VHF contacts.

Nobody volunteered to fill the Secretary position.

New Business: None

50/50 drawing won by Jay / W4QDC, \$8.50 to him and to the club.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Due to technical problems with the projector, the scheduled program was not presented and is rescheduled for the August meeting.

Submitted by **Gerald/KN4FM** as recorded by **Foster/WF4O**.



MARA Treasurer's Report July 3, 2014 Meeting

MARA Treasurer's Report
June 21, 2014 - July 20, 2014

Beginning Balance June 20, 2014 (Last Report)			\$ 2,888.54
Add:	\$.00	
Total Deposits			\$.00
Less: April – June Monitor Printing/Mailing	\$	-150.27	
Bank Fee (June)		-2.00	
SVEC (June)	\$	<u>-22.38</u>	
Total Disbursements			\$ <u>-174.65</u>
Ending Balance as of July 20, 2014			\$ 2,713.89



Submitted by Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC, MARA Treasurer

PVARC Secretary's Report

July 1, 2014 Meeting

PVARC Meeting Summary – July 11th, 2014

The **Page Valley Amateur Radio Club** held its monthly business meeting in the Page County EOC Training Room in Luray on this date. **Bob Forrest/WO4MI**, PVARC President, called the meeting to order at 1835. Fourteen members were in attendance.

Announcements: **Patrick Sprague/KM4CVG** was re-introduced, for the second time – but this time as the valleys' newest ham operator! He is to be congratulated, along with **Harold Hall/KK4SYN** (a.k.a. "Double H") who has upgraded to General Class.

Bob/WO4MI called for the Secretary & Treasurers Reports: The Secretary reported the summary minutes for last months meeting were printed in The Monitor. A motion was made to approve them as published. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Carol/KA4LAF, PVARC Treasurer, reported the PVARC checking account (at the end of June) totaled: \$1,540.56; with \$32.00 in Petty Cash & \$18.48 in the Donut Fund. The total Cash on Hand is \$1,591.04. A check in the amount of \$200.00 will be given to **Morgan/K4RHD** this evening, as previously approved, to reimburse him for Field Day food expenses. The motion to approve the report was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Bob/WO4MI asked if there were any committee reports.

Technical Assistance Committee: **Mark/N4YSA & Gene/KJ4HFO** reported they had assisted **Larry/K3JRR** by replacing a transformer in his Hallicrafter radio and repairing a cord for his amplifier.

Education Committee: **Morgan/K4RHD** reported on his ongoing discussion with Bruce Snelling on the possibility of sponsoring or assisting in the formation of a Ham Radio Club at Page County High School. He will keep us informed.

Widow's Assistance Committee: **Morgan/K4RHD** reported no new activity in the past month. He is will be expects to be working on two "estate sales" shortly; one for **Geoffrey/WD4LYO** (SK) and possibly one for Jack **Russell/W9NCJ** (SK).

PVARC Website: **Dave/K4DPF** reports he has started work on a revised web site. The basic elements are done. Noted it is a work in progress and will demo after the meeting if desired and time permits.

ARRL Field Day Committee: "After Action Report" by co-chairs: **Tim/AK4CJ & Morgan/K4RHD**. Overall, an outstanding success summarized in a PowerPoint presentation. 529

CW QSO's & 905
Phone QSO's totaling

1,434 QSO's multiplied by our POWER Multiplier (x2) resulted in 3,926 QSO points. We got additional bonus points for: The Public Information table (100 pts); Educational Activities (100 pts); Elected Official Visit (100 pts); Served Agency Visit – Cpl Sours from PCSO & Jeff Hensley, Page County Emergency Services (100 pts); and, Youth Participation (20 Bonus Points). Our final score of 5,096 points is up 1,352 points over last years score (3,744)!



In his final remarks **Tim/AK4CJ** thanked **Morgan/K4RHD** for being Field Day co-chair; everyone who brought equipment; and very special thanks to the set-up/tear-down crew. As a final observation he thought it would be helpful next year if the Page County ARES could arrange to call the net & pass traffic during Field Day. Other suggestions were: Provide cabling for automatic frequency change for the '746 transceiver; and, perhaps do a "dry run" a week before FD to ensure all cables, equipment, etcetera are ready. A suggestion to "consider a different site location to a more public location" was discussed, but not favorably received.

NEW BUSINESS: It was announced that a recent ARRL newsletter encouraged amateurs to comment on HR 4969 pertaining to proposed changes in the Restricted Covenants Antenna issue. Further info is available on the ARRL web site.

Zory/KB3VQC & John/KT4CB brought up FCC proposed limits on "drones." Recognizing that many amateurs are also users of radio control aircraft on 50 MHz and above, members might be interested in following up on pending proposals. While not actually a radio spectrum issue (at this time) it could affect future operations.

OLD BUSINESS: **Bob/WO4MI** announced that the Nominating Committee would be comprised of the four sitting officers since all have expressed an interest in stepping down. Again, if anyone is interested in stepping forward to fill the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer please let us know. Help PVARC grow, consider running for one of the leadership positions.

There being no further business to come before the members, **Bob/WO4MI** called for a motion to adjourn @ 1935 which was made/seconded and passed.

Submitted by: **Sparky Terry/KD4KL**, PVARC Secretary

Countdown to W4DXCC

September 26, 2014 - MainStay Suites and Conference Center, Pigeon Forge, TN



The W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention is the South East's largest and best attended ham radio event for 10 years running. Located at the MainStay Suites in Pigeon Forge Tennessee **September 26-27th**. A full schedule of popular presenters speak on DX and Contest subjects throughout the main convention with prize drawings between presenters, drinks and snacks included. Major equipment manufacturers are on hand to demonstrate new products and answer your equipment questions face to face. A banquet rounds out the day where the grand prizes are drawn.

The Convention is just a easy drive from Virginia.

A full range of shopping for the family is located nearby along with water parks, go cart tracks and Dollywood for the kids. Bring the family for a wonderful weekend full of Fun.

Check out the WEB site for more details, filling fast, book early www.W4DXCC.com

We look forward to seeing you attend this year.

Thank You in advance, 73

Dave Anderson, K4SV
W4DXCC by SEDCO Inc
www.W4DXCC.com

National Lighthouse Day August 7

August 7 is National Lighthouse Day. It was on this day in 1789 that Congress first approved an Act for the establishment and support of lighthouses. Two hundred years later, Congress made August 7th the official day in celebration of the history and purpose of lighthouses across America.

For centuries lighthouses have served as a beacon of light, guiding ships safely to a harbor in fog or in a storm. To celebrate National Lighthouse Day, visit a local lighthouse near you or donate to a lighthouse preservation society.



How Long Has It Been Since You Checked Into One of the Nets?

Don't forget: The local ARES groups hold regular nets to let you check out your radio equipment, antennas, and other station gear. Take advantage of these opportunities to get signal reports and get to know the other local hams.



The **Page County ARES Net** meets the first Sunday nights on the local 147.550. the remaining alternate between (2nd and 4th Sundays) on the 146.67 repeater (PL 114.8) and (3rd and 5th Sundays) on the 146.625 (PL 131.8) repeater, at 8:00 pm local time.

The **Rockingham County ARES Net** meets Monday nights at 8:00 pm local time, the first Monday on 146.55 simplex, all other Mondays on the 147.225 repeater (PL 131.8).

The **Augusta County ARES Net** meets the second Thursday of each month at 8:00 pm local time, usually on the 146.850 repeater (PL 131.8).

The **NVTN (Northern Virginia Traffic Net)** meets daily on the 147.300 (PL 131.8) repeater at 7:30 pm local time.

The **Old Dominion Emergency Net** meets every first and third Monday on 3.947 kHz at 6:30 pm local time. **All hams are welcome!**



How's DX

TA - **TC10SWAT** is the callsign that the TC Special Wireless Activity Team will be using throughout 2014 to celebrate their 10th anniversary. As usual with TCSWAT operations, all of the QSOs will be confirmed automatically via the bureau, LoTW and eQSL; direct requests go to TA1HZ (cards will be printed in January 2015). Information on the anniversary award can be found on www.qrz.com/db/TC10SWAT [TNX TA1HZ]

LA, Norway: **LM2T75Y** celebrates the 75th anniversary of the NRRL club in Trondheim (LA2T). QRV all year long on HF in lots of modes. QSL via LA2T, LoTW.



PA, Netherlands: The international ham club "Whisky Oscar" (**PI4WO**) celebrates its silver jubilee all year long with the special event call **PA3SWO**. QSL via PI4WO. <http://www.whiskyoscar.com>

SP, Poland: Popes John Paul II and John XXIII will both be canonised on April 27. The special event station **HF2014JP** draws attention to this event on the bands until August 31. QSL via SP4ICP, eQSL.

SP, Poland: **SN150SZ** will operate until November 30 to remember the 150th birthday of the writer Stefan Zeromskiego (1864 - 1925). QSL via SP7PCA.

HA, Hungary: Jaszszentlaszlo celebrates 140 years - the local radio amateurs from the club station HA8KUX will operate the special event callsign HG140JLO until the end of the year, from both Jaszszentlaszlo (WW Loc. JN96vn) and Szeged (WW Loc. KN06bg). OPs are Feco, HA8KW, Feri, HA8ZE, Sanyi, HA8RG, and Tomi, HA8RT. They are all CW enthusiasts, but will also work some SSB. QSL via HA8KW, eQSL. <http://www.ha8kux.com/> <http://www.hamlog.eu/HG140JLO>



LZ, Bulgaria: The Radio Club Blagovestnik continues to honour one Bulgarian saint each month with the following calls in 2014:

LZ1375PRB	January	LZ1950SAS	February
LZ1246SIT	March	LZ1808SNS	April
LZ1555WNS	May	LZ1816PAS	June
LZ1810PPW	July	LZ1680MTS	August
LZ37MP	September	LZ1375IKA	October
LZ1164SIM	November	LZ1784SMH	December

All QSOs count towards the awards "All Bulgarian Saints - 2014" and "St. Teodosii Tyrnovski". QSLs via bureau, LoTW.

EA - King Juan Carlos of Spain (EA0JC) will end his reign on 18 June, and leave monarchy to his son Felipe. In celebration of the event, Spanish amateur radio operators are allowed to use special prefix-

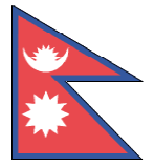
es from 18 June to 18 September. EA stations can use AMO followed by their usual call area number (e.g. EA4XYZ becomes AM04XYZ), EB stations can use ANO (e.g. EB8XYZ becomes AN08XYZ) and EC stations can use AOO (e.g. EC9XYZ becomes AO09XYZ). [TNX URE]

FK - The website for the **TX4A** DXpedition to Matthew Island (**OC-218**) [425DXN 1198] is now up and running at <http://tx4a.yolasite.com>. Cezar (VE3LYC) will be joined by Bob(KD1CT), as PA3EXX is no longer available for the trip. They plan to be active from the island for four days between **1 and 9 September**, and to maintain one station on the air around the clock, operating on 40-10 metres CW and SSB. The team will meet in Noumea two days before leaving to the island. Sailing is supposed to take 2-3 days each way, depending on wind and currents. Dan, W4DKS (dan.sullivan [at] verizon.net) will be the pilot station for the operation. QSL via VE3LYC, direct or bureau; logsearch and OQRS on Club Log. This will be a very difficult and very expensive project. The team is looking for financial support from groups and individuals who wish to assist in defraying some of the costs. PayPal donations can be made through the website.

9N, NEPAL. Joël, F3CJ, is planning a Mountain Manaslu trek in Nepal between September 23rd and November 5th. He will operate from the following areas:

- September 24th-October 6th** -- Kathmandu; Radio activity
- October 7-23rd** -- Ascension Manaslu (8164 meters); Mountain activity
- October 24th-November 4th** -- Kathmandu; Radio activity His callsign is pending, and he has requested **9N7CJ**. QSL via F3CJ. For more details and updates, visit his blog at: <http://f3cjnepal.wordpress.com>

VP5, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS. Operators Georg/DK7LX and Phil/G3SWH will be active as VP5/G3SWH from Grand Turk Island between **October 1-9th**. Activity will be on 80-10 meters (no 160/ 60/ 6m) using two stations with wire antennas and operating CW only. Phil states, "This DXpedition is fully funded by the operators and we have not sought any sponsorship. Grand Turk is one of the Turks Islands and counts as **NA-003** for IOTA purposes. The IOTA Web site indicates that it is needed by over 60% of IOTA participants." There will be a log search facility which is subject to a decent Internet connection and will be updated daily at: (*) <http://www.g3swh.org.uk/vp5-g3swh.html>



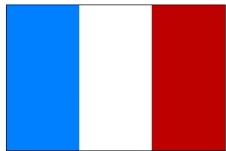
The log will also be uploaded to the ARRL's Log Book of the World (LoTW) and Club Log. QSLs will be available via G3SWH's OQRS facility at <www.g3swh.org.uk/decision.html> (preferred), direct via snail mail with adequate return postage or via the RSGB bureau. **Please note that IRCs are NOT accepted.** There is more information available at the above Web page (*) which will be updated from time to time.

TX5, CHESTERFIELD ISLANDS (And Other New Caledonia IOTAs). The "Les Nouvelles DX" is reporting that Michel "Mic" FK8IK, will be sailing with some non-radio amateur friends between **November 1-30th**. They plan to set sail



This month's bulletin was made possible with information provided by NC1L, QRZ DX, The Weekly DX, The OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX News, The Daily DX, DXNL, Contest Corral from QST, the ARRL Contest Calendar and WA7BNM web sites. Thanks to all.

on November 1st from Noumea, New Caledonia, and head towards the DXCC entity Chesterfield Islands (**OC-176**) first. Their voyage will take some 100 hours (about 4 days) and expect to arrive at Chesterfield on November 5th. Look for Mic to use the callsign **TX5C** which is a reissued callsign that was used during the last Clipperton DXpedition (March 2008) -- this will probably confuse some logging programs. They will depart from Chesterfield on **November 10th**, and sail next toward the New Caledonian's D'entrecasteaux Reefs (**OC-058**). This trip will take 80 hours to reach the reef on **November 14th**, and Mic will be active as **TX5E** until he departs on November 18th for Belep Islands (**OC-079**). This will be his last island, and Mic will operate as **TX5B** starting about **November 21st** for three days before heading back to Noumea on **November 24th**. The return trip is expected to take 4 days (November 28th). Between each leg of the trip, Mic will use the callsign **FK8IK/MM**. Operations from each island will be on **40-10 meters** using 100 watts into a vertical antenna (homemade) and an antenna tuner. Modes will be CW and SSB. **ADDED NOTES AND REMINDERS.** Mic will be the sole operator, so please have a little patience. Also, the **TX5C** operation will only count for the Chesterfield Islands (FK/C), and the **TX5B & TX5E** will only count for New Caledonia for DXCC purposes.



PA7O, THE NETHERLANDS (Special Event).

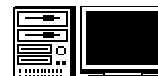
Members of the PA7OIMG team are busy with the preparations of their activities to take place between **September 12-21st**. Activity is to commemorate/celebrate the 70 years of freedom when the "Operation Market Garden" paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division (AA - All American) landed in the Nijmegen region on September 17th, 1944, and the region was liberated after four years of German occupation. During 10 days, they will activate the special event callsign **PA7OIMG**, and try to work as many amateur radio operators across the world. For more details about the event, visit their Web site at: <http://www.pa2p.nl/pa7oimg>

Monthly Propagation Charts Available

Monthly propagation charts between four USA regions and twelve overseas locations are at <http://arrl.org/propagation>.

Contests & Special Events

- 1 NCCC Sprint Ladder
- 2 TARA Grid Dip Shindig
- 2 European HF Championship
- 2-3 North American QSO Party, CW**
- 2-3 10 - 10 Int'l Summer Contest, SSB
- 2-3 ARRL August UHF Contest
- 3 RSGB RoPoCo CW
- 3 SARL HF Phone Contest
- 5 ARS Spartan Sprint
- 7 QRP Fox Hunt
- 8 NCCC Sprint Ladder
- 9-10 WEA DX Contest, CW
- 9-10 MD-DC QSO Party**
- 13 NAQCC Straight Key/ Bug Sprint
- 14 QRP Fox Hunt
- 15 NCCC Sprint Ladder
- 16-17 SARTG WW RTTY Contest
- 16-17 ARRL 10GHz and Up Contest
- 16-17 North American QSO Party, SSB**
- 17 ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY
- 21 qrp Fox Hunt
- 22 NCCC Sprint Ladder
- 23-24 OH QSO Party**
- 23-25 HI QSO Party**
- 28 QRP Fox Hunt
- 29 NCCC Sprint Ladder



A New Entity?

Herman get you rig warmed up! Crazy things do happen don't they! <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/28308329>

Islands Lost to DXCC - KH1, KP1, KH3, KH5, KH5K and KH7K

Interesting article in the June issue of QST by W4YO on why some US Islands will no longer be available for DXCC. Part 1 of a 2 part series is on P. 30. The list contains KP1, KH1, KH3, KH5, KH5K & KH7K. More unobtainium entities that we won't get to work. I doubt if they will ever be removed from the current DXCC list in our life time, just because!!!!

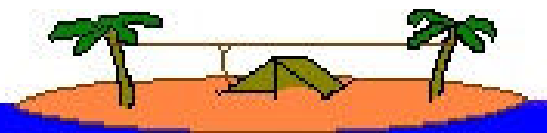
IOTA's

OC-196. Trevor, VK3ATX, will once again be active as VK3ATX/P from **Gabo Island** (ILLW AU-0080) August 16-17th. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL via his home callsign direct. For more details and updates, see: <http://vk3atx.net>

OC-233. Tony, VK3VTH, will once again be active as VK3VTH/7 from



King Island between **August 14-17th**. Activity will be on 40/20 meters using SSB. He will also be in the **International Lighthouse/ Lightship Weekend**, from Currie Lighthouse (**AU-0016**), August **16-17th**. QSL via VK3VTH, direct or by the Bureau. Bureau cards will be sent for all QSOs immediately after the activation.



Calendar of Local Events

August

- 1 PVARC Club Meeting
- 1 Friday Luncheon
- 2 Mountain Mama Bike Ride
- 2 Vinton [Roanoke] Hamfest 2014
- 3 64th Annual Berryville Hamfest
- 3 Page County ARES (147.550 Simplex)
- 4 Old Dominion Emergency Net [3.947]
- 4 Rockingham County Net [K4NRA]
- 5 VARA Club Meeting
- 7 MARA Club Meeting
- 7 National Lighthouse Day
- 8 Friday Luncheon
- 9 52nd Annual Hamfest 2014 [Huntington, WV]
- 10 Page County ARES Net (146.670, PL-114.8)
- 11 Rockingham County Net [KG4KUR]
- 15 Friday Luncheon
- 16-17 Luray Triathlon
- 17 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL-131.8)
- 18 Rockingham County Net [K4RBZ]
- 18 Old Dominion Emergency Net [3.947]
- 20 Deadline for September submission*
- 22 Friday Luncheon
- 23 WV State Convention and Hamfest [Weston, WV]
- 24 Page County ARES Net (146.670, PL-114.8)
- 25 Rockingham County Net [K4RMY]
- 25 1st Day of School, K-12
- 26 Page Valley ARES Class
- 29 Friday Luncheon
- 30 Shelby Hamfest [Shelby, NC]
- 31 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL-131.8)

September

- 1 Old Dominion Emergency Net [3.947]
- 1 Rockingham County Net []
- 2 VARA Club Meeting
- 4 MARA Club Meeting
- 5 PVARC Club Meeting
- 5 Friday Luncheon
- 6 VARA Picnic
- 7 Page County ARES (147.550 Simplex)
- 8 Old Dominion Emergency Net [3.947]
- 8 Rockingham County Net []
- 12 Friday Luncheon
- 14 Page County ARES Net (146.670, PL-114.8)
- 15 Rockingham County Net []
- 15 Old Dominion Emergency Net [3.947]
- 19 Friday Luncheon
- 20 Deadline for October submission*
- 21 Page County ARES Net (146.625, PL-131.8)
- 22 Rockingham County Net []
- 26 Friday Luncheon
- 27 Page Valley ARES Class
- 28 Page County ARES Net (146.670, PL-114.8)
- 29 Rockingham County Net []



VE Information

The next Volunteer Examiner Session is scheduled for **Saturday, August 9**, at the Woodmen of the World building on Highway 42 (John Wayland Highway) just north of Dayton Virginia. Sign-in starts at 9:00 am, followed immediately by testing. If you are an accredited VE and would like to help, contact Gayle Shull, KU4XN, at gshu7411@gmail.com.

Gayle Shull, KU4XN



The club newsletter, the Monitor, is provided free of charge monthly to all members of all three clubs via email distribution, in PDF format. However, it is the individual club members' responsibility to notify the newsletter editor directly of all changes in email address. Electronic back issues will be provided free to members on request.

Elderly, disabled, or special-needs members may make special arrangements with their respective club officers to receive a hardcopy of the Monitor via U.S. mail in lieu of the electronic PDF version. However, the hardcopy requires additional production and delivery time and is not guaranteed to arrive before the scheduled monthly club meeting dates.

Members not receiving the electronic Monitor in a timely fashion (e.g., before their monthly club meeting) should notify the newsletter editor promptly to investigate and resolve the problem with distribution. Members who are using the latest update version of Adobe Reader and experience trouble opening the Monitor email attachment can contact the newsletter editor for assistance.

Club Information

MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.

President: Gerald Nauman, KN4FM
Vice President: Gerry Brunk, K4RBZ
Secretary: Dennis Phillips NS4K
Treasurer: Sheryl Tonini, KJ4DOC
Board (exp 2015): David Fordham, KD9LA
Board (exp 2014): 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: Greg Czerniak, W4GRC
Vice President: Jeff Rinehart, W4PJW
Secretary: David Tanks, AD4TJ
Treasurer: Wayne Bowyer, N4EYZ
Program Manager: Al Bonck N3JB

<http://w4xd.com>

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

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

Visitors are always welcome

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

VARA, Wayne Bowyer
802-B Randolph Street
Staunton, VA 22401

PAGE VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

President: Bob Forrest W04MI
Vice President: Mark Hensley N4YSA
Secretary: Mike "Sparky" Terry, KD4KL
Treasurer: Carol Terry KA4LAF
Board Member: Geoffrey Phillips WD4LYO
Board Member: John Spillman KT4CB

<http://www.k4pmh.org>

PVARC meets the first Friday of each month at the Page County Sheriff's Training Room in Luray, VA.

The meeting begins at 6:30 pm

Visitors are always welcome.

Dues (\$12 per year) should be mailed to:

Sparky Terry
PO Box 649
Luray VA 22835-0649

The Monitor is published monthly by MARA, Inc. 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.

Clubs differ in their policies regarding paper copies. 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.

Since the clubs derive their revenue from memberships, the Monitor is not to be made regularly available on a timely basis to individuals who are not club members. Occasional complimentary current copies are provided to prospective members free of charge.

Clubs may also formally decide to provide complimentary copies at club expense to various constituencies. Contact your respective club officers for more information.

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