

The OVH ARC Newsletter  
"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.  
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108  
Repeaters - W4OVH - 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+  
OVH Nodes - Port 1: 145.030 Mhz; Port 3: 223.540 MHz;  
Port 4: 440.925Mhz 9600 Baud backbone / N3OH (SYSOP--BILL)  
<http://www.w4ovh.net>

# OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

## APRIL 2007

Next Meeting: April 16, 2007

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings. Spring is here; flowers, foliage, sneezing and wheezing. The grass will need frequent cutting. During this season, with all the wonderful things that require our attention, we should not forget spring thunderstorms. While you're outside, check on your flowers and shrubs and don't forget to check your antenna grounds. With the lightening season upon us, the last thing anyone wants is to replace our equipment or worse, because of a bad ground connection!

Here is a short checklist that might just save your shack and you!

- Check the ground connection(s) at your ground rod(s)
- Look for corrosion on the ground system (all interconnects)
- Replace or correct any loose or damaged connections
- Check for broken or frayed wires, replace as needed



In my case I have a #4 ground wire running from a ground rod at the bottom of the tower to the top. This cable makes electrical bond at each tower section and terminates with a flex braid jumper around the rotor. This insures a direct path shunting the rotor in the event of a strike. Additionally I terminated all coax cables in a NEMA enclosure with PolyPhasers before entering the premises. Don't forget the rotor control cable, it too is a path for destruction. I used Polyphaser MOV's on each of the rotor signal lines.

Potentially any wire from the tower is a path into your shack. Remember, grounding is not just for performance — it's a critical safety issue.

There are a lot of Club activities coming up in the next few months besides the regular meetings. Plenty of opportunities for everyone to get involved. Participate and have fun!

Hope to see you at the April 16, 2007 meeting at 7:30pm.

73, George, K4GVT

# Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255  
Manassas, Virginia 20108

## OFFICERS

President:	George Tarnovsky	K4GVT	791-5956
Vice Pres:	Ruth Frock	KU4WH	331-1234
Secretary:	Wayne Phillips	N7QLK	393-8447
Treasurer:	Bill Ellis	WA4FIC	335-9935

## DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdell	W4HJL	369-2877
Art Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330
Charlie Dale	WA4YGI	361-3091

## WEEKLY NETS

Thursdays - 8:00 PM	JOHN H	257-3566
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## HAMFEST 2007

TBA

## FIELD DAY 2007

George T.	K4GVT	791-5956
Butch B.	W4HJL	369-2877

## CLUB ROSTER

Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877
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## EDUCATION

Trish Rabe	KI4PCM	335-1096
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## CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Meola	KI4AZX	393-6681
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## ARES AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042
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## F.A.R. REPS.

Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234
Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877

## FINANCE

Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877
Bill	N3OH	590-9562
Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234

## GENERATORS

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

## HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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## HOME PAGE

Bill	N3OH	590-9562
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## JOTA

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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## LEGAL

Pete	KB4RME	369-2436
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## MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Joe Dobes	KI4OHR	369-2639
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## NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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## NEWSLINE

Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
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## PACKET

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N3OH	590-9562

## PROGRAMS

TBA

## PUBLICITY

Trish Rabe	KI4PCM	335-1096
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## QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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## REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Milt	N4SN	369-7265
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844

## REPEATER TRUSTEE

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
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## SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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## SUNSHINE

Jan	KE4TMW	257-0897
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## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N3OH	590-9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939

All telephone numbers listed above are for Area Code 703 unless otherwise noted.

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The OVH ARC meets at 7:30 p.m. local time every third Monday of the month at the NOVEC Tech Center on Wellington Road in Gainesville, Virginia. Prospective members or other interested persons are invited to attend. Local information can always be obtained, at any time, through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.97 & 224.660 Mhz. All are welcome. Up to date information about OVH activities and meetings is also available on the OVH website at <http://www.w4ovh.net>.

Permission is hereby granted for the reprinting of articles and quotations in this letter provided full credit is given to the OVH ARC and the author or other source of the article. Contribution of printed articles by both members and non-members is encouraged. The deadline for submissions is the 5th of each month. Submissions should be forwarded to OVH TIMES Editor: W4ZB@RLAW.COM.

Letters to the Editor and Classified Ads are accepted and welcome. Approx. Circulation - 170.

Last Rev: 03/9/2007

## Sunshine Corner:

Welcome to our newest members, RJ/K8WTF and Chris/KI4POT – it's great to have you!

Happy Birthday to our friends and fellow Hams this month: RJ/K8WTF, Brian/WC4J, Joe/KI4OHR, Paul/N2PJ, Morgan/KI4OWG, David/KI4AZX, Paul/W4ZB and Gene/N4HFW.

Our gratitude is due to our recently elected officers: George/K4GVT, Ruth/KU4WH, Wayne/N7QLK and Bill/WA4FIC. The transition has gone very smoothly so far thanks also to the active support and continued helpful involvement of the former officers: John / KG4NXT, Phil / AC4PL and Bill / N3OH.

Joe / KI4OHR is continuing to recover from leg fracture. Take it easy and have a full recovery! Congratulations on your success in scheduling the upcoming Cedar Point Elementary ARISS event!

Pick your volunteer position for the upcoming Hamfest, and let the lead person know! It's your Club, and your Hamfest! Also, this monthly Sunshine Corner job is open for a new volunteer!

73 de Jan/KE4TMW

## Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting March 19, 2007:

George / K4GVT called meeting to order at 1934 Eastern Time.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 22 OVH members present.

### BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes. The minutes of the February 2007 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report. Bill/WA4FIC presented the report: balance is in good standing. Report approved. George/K4GVT offered the 2007 budget for review.

Repeaters. Butch/W4HJL and Art/W1CRO advised the repeaters are all working, "all looks good, we're cranking."

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Hamfest: Butch/W4HJL: We still need a bake sale volunteer, also more tailgate volunteers. Committee-wise, we look good. Butch will send list of names of volunteers to date.

Field Day: Need volunteers (Butch/W4HJL so far). Al/KB4BHB & John (KG4NXT): Bucket of rope from last year may have poison ivy and should be disposed of (gray plastic rope). Plenty of rope is available for this year's Field Day event.

Membership Report: Two read in last time: Robert Ayers (RJ) / K8WTF and Chris Allen / KI4POT. They were voted in unanimously. Welcome to RJ and Chris!

Training: General class - Mark / WA4KFZ indicated that he would spearhead a General class. Mary Lu / KB4EFP offered a PowerPoint package for any Tech Class to be scheduled.

Scholarships: \$1,000 allocated for scholarships this year. Jim/W4JTP sent out notices to local High School counselors.

Meeting Programs: Please submit your specific suggestions for future programs to George/ K4GVT. There may be a future presentation of a J-pole being soldered-up during the meeting.

Old Business:

Bill/N3OH is preparing for a Second Manassas / Second Bull Run special event operation on 25 August 2007. Details will be forthcoming on the W4OVH web site. Brian/WC4J will offer his trailer again. Al/KB4BHB present a proposed Certificate for stations making contacts with the special event station. That Certificate was made up by Elizabeth/KG4NXV who is John's/ KG4NXT's daughter. The special event setup location this year will be at Strayer College, right at the boundary of the Manassas National Battlefield Park. Will need to use our own generator.

New Business and Announcements:

David/KI4AZX: Mini Tri-Athalon, this Sunday (March 25th) at the Freedom Center. More volunteers please! Event begins at 6:30 am. [Postscript: this event was completed successfully; more details at the April meeting.]

QST will be carrying announcements for the Manassas Hamfest to be held on Sunday, June 3, 2007 thanks to Butch/W4HJL.

Bill/N3OH will edit the W4OVH web site pages to provide a listing of the paid-up vendors for the upcoming Manassas Hamfest. Dave/KI4AZX to provide the data.

Steve/N4OGR asked if everyone was happy with the reflector? No negative comments received.

ISS contact from Cedar Point Elementary tentatively scheduled for April 17th to be made by a telebridge to a ground station in Australia which will make the live radio contact with the ISS. Concerns: security of the antennas left overnight. Volunteers and suggestions are needed to "sell" ham radio to the kids. Suggestions include a D-Star demo, fox hunt, moon bounce, ATV, and/or APRS. [Postscript: more up-to-date information about this appears below.]

Steve/N4OGR: National Night Out will be on Saturday, August 4, 2007 if we'd like to support it again.

Bill/N3OH: Upgrading the web server; should anyone notice, it is slow.

50/50: \$29 was collected; Butch/W4HJL won and donated all back to the Club. Thanks Butch.

The meeting adjourned at 2024 Eastern time.

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## Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

### HAMFESTS

May 18th – 20th. The Dayton Hamvention. Details: <http://www.hamvention.org>

June 3rd. The Manassas Hamfest. This is moving along, but more volunteers to help with this are welcomed and still needed! Volunteer and pitch in. Contact Butch/W4HJL.

### PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY ARES/RACES

April 14th. MS Walk Manassas. Details at [pwcares.org](http://pwcares.org) or from KG4GIY.

### OVH MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2007

Please be sure you've renewed your OVH membership for 2007 if you haven't done that already. Do it now or at the meeting on April 16, 2007. The renewal form is available on the Club website.



## The Upcoming ARISS Contact For Students At Cedar Point Elementary School, Bristow, Virginia

Joe/KI4OHR, George/K4GVT and others have made arrangements for the students at the Cedar Point Elementary School in Bristow, Prince William County, Virginia to make live voice contact via amateur radio (through a telebridge linkup) with amateur radio station NA1SS on board the International Space Station (ISS) on orbit on Tuesday afternoon, April 17, 2007 EDT. Here are the details as of now, but be sure to be at the April 16th meeting and to check the OVH email reflector for any last minute changes!

Which astronaut will be operating from NA1SS during the contact with the kids at Cedar Point Elementary? Charles Simonyi, KE7KDP. Who is he? Read <http://www.technologyreview.com/Infotech/18047/> and look at his website at <http://charlesinspace.com> currently being updated almost continuously. Very interesting character who is a billionaire too! The Technology Review article will help identify the woman in the picture (if you don't recognize her) who travelled to Baikonur, Kazakhstan to watch the launch on April 6th which has carried Charles to the ISS.



How will the telebridge linkup work? A terrestrial voice link will be established from the Cedar Point Elementary School to the telebridge uplink station of Tony/VK5ZAI located at grid: PF93VD, about 150 miles down the coast from Adelaide, South Australia - almost on the other side of the earth from here. VK5ZAI will provide the actual radio link to and from NA1SS during the scheduled contact which coincides with an almost overhead (82 deg. maximum altitude) orbital pass of the ISS over VK5ZAI's QTH.

What type of setup does VK5ZAI have? Impressive! See below and <http://www.electric-web.org> for details.



When will this happen? The ARISS contact is scheduled to start midafternoon, at 3:05 pm EDT, April 17th. The maximum duration of the contact will be about 10 minutes if all goes well. The contact will be simulcast via Echolink and IRLP conferences and by web sites to be further designated. Hopefully, the OVH members participating directly will be able to record the full contact for replay at the May or June OVH meetings.

More basic info? Check out <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/reference/radio/> , <http://www.arrl.org/ARISS/> and <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/>.

Latest status. The vehicle launched from Baikonur on April 6th successfully linked up with the ISS on the afternoon of April 8th. If all continues to go well, this ARISS contact event should happen as scheduled.

George / K4GVT and Joe / KI4OHR should continue to have the latest information. Contact either if you are able to participate directly. Attend the OVH meeting on April 16th and then check the OVH email reflector for the latest, last minute updates. This is a great opportunity for publicity for the OVH Club and Ham Radio.

## Front Panel / Chassis CAD/CAM Design Challenge from George / K4GVT

To demonstrate the potential of modern CAD/CAM techniques for the design and fabrication of homebrew panels and chassis, George proposes the following challenge to all interested OVH members:

1. Download the free Front Panel Express software from <http://www.frontpanelexpress.com>.
2. Design the panel / chassis for your project using that CAD software.
3. Save and send the .FPD CAD software file output to George at [k4gvt@comcast.net](mailto:k4gvt@comcast.net).
4. Also provide a project description and state when the finished panel / chassis will be needed.
5. George will judge the entries and pick a winning panel / chassis. His decision is final
6. The winner will provide the raw material for fabrication on George's CNC mill.
7. All interested OVH members can come to George's shop to observe the CNC fabrication.
8. The winner gets his panel / chassis made by George for only the cost of the raw material.
9. Submit the CAD file, description and time constraints to George by April 30, 2007.

Additional design constraints: panel / chassis size must not be larger than 19" x 7" x 0.125", the raw material is preferably aluminum, any hardness. Ask George in advance if you propose to use any non-aluminum material.

All OVHers will have an opportunity to learn hands-on about modern CAD/CAM techniques, and their utility for fabricating homebrew panel / chassis projects. Hopefully, this will stimulate and motivate some additional homebrew construction projects. If possible, George (with some help from some others) will create a short movie or a PowerPoint video/slide show of this activity to be shown at an OVH meeting.

Here's your chance to have some professional quality homebrew project components made for almost nothing!

## Up To Date DX Information — Can't Get Enough / Need More?

If the DX bug has got you or is getting you, many excellent resource are readily and easily at hand:

1. Up to the minute DX-Cluster information is now widely available by Telnet from many sources all around the world. No longer any need to set up a VHF / UHF packet radio link to get up to the minute DX-Cluster info. How to do this: start Telnet by typing telnet <ENTER> into the Run dialog box or at a CMD window prompt. [Type ? at the Telnet prompt for "help" with Telnet commands.] Be sure your computer is connected to the Internet. Then, for example, type `o dxc.w3lpl.net <ENTER>` at the Telnet prompt to connect to the W3LPL DX-Cluster. Provide your call sign in response to the login prompt, and you will be logged on. Type `help <ENTER>` at the DX-Cluster prompt to learn about the DX-Cluster commands. Those commands are very easy to use once learned. Better yet, Google DX Cluster Commands to locate and download a DX Cluster Command help manual to study and learn from offline. Google DX Cluster Telnet to locate addresses for the many DX Cluster Telnet sites around the world.
2. Go to one of many excellent web sites such as <http://www.ng3k.com> and check out and follow various DX related hyperlinks. Google DX information to find still more DX sites if this is not enough.
3. Subscribe to one of the daily or weekly DX newsletters delivered in PDF files by email. See, for example, <http://www.dailydx.com> and <http://www.dxpath.com>.

You'll quickly experience DX information saturation or overload if you follow any of these suggestions!

## List The Launch Sites For The Amateur Radio Satellites To Date

The first Amateur Radio Satellite, OSCAR I, was launched in December, 1961 when your editor was a relatively new General class operator. Despite the primitive capabilities of OSCAR I, that was a exciting achievement by a dedicated group of Radio Amateurs because it occurred barely four years after the very first artificial earth satellite (Sputnik I) had been placed in orbit. Since 1961 many, many more Amateur Radio Satellites have been launched from various fixed launch sites around the world, achieved orbit and operated for at least a few orbits. So far no Amateur Radio satellite has been put into orbit using a mobile launch system such as Pegasus. I can remember the names and locations of 8 different fixed launch sites from which these various Amateur Radio satellites were successfully launched. Is that all? Who can list the names and locations of all of the launch sites? No guessing or making up satellites which weren't launched, didn't exist, or which failed to achieve orbit or to operate for at least a few orbits. Open book permitted. Email your list to the editor. Answers and a ranking of the submitters with the most accurate / complete listings next month.

## Ham Radio Atlas On The Web Is Also Available (Inexpensively) On DVD

Darek / SP6NVK in Poland has set up a web site at <http://hamatlas.eu> which includes a compilation of many maps and other materials relating to ham radio around the world. Send him \$15 via PayPal and you'll receive a DVD with several gigs of data, everything on the web site in about two weeks. Nothing to lose because you get to see before you buy. Inexpensive and recommended even if you have a high speed Internet connection. Loading lots of data off a DVD or from a hard drive is faster!

## BPL Interference Denial Falsity Is Exposed During Power Grid Failure

“A lightning induced power failure in an Australian community has provided graphic proof that Broadband Over Powerline communications can be the source of massive interference to High Frequency communications. WIA [Wireless Institute of Australia] newsman Justin Giles-Clark, VK7TW, joins us from South Hobart [Tasmania, Australia] with the details:

“On the morning of 17 February 2007 a lightning strike caused the loss of power in the Mt Nelson area. With power and BPL systems non-operational, background noise level measurements were taken around the QTH of VK7HCK and VK7HK.

“Measurements were taken on 20 meters using Owen VK1OD's field strength measurement software. Comparisons between the previous noise floor measurements taken in January, March and July 2006 and measurements taken with no power and no BPL, show a noise floor that is between 10.9 dB (12 times lower) and 12.6 dB (18 times) lower than the previous noise floor measurements taken outside the BPL Trail area.

“The most likely explanation for the lower measured noise floor level is the lack of power in the previously BPL enabled area. This would mean that all mains power devices including BPL equipment would have ceased to operate and therefore ceased to emit any contributory radio frequency noise.

“The key conclusion from this report is that the interference caused by BPL emission levels has been grossly understated. The complete report is available on the VK7 BPL Watch Page located at <http://www.vk1od.net/fsm/> and <http://reast.asn.au/vk7bplwatch.php#NoiseFloor>.” (Source: WIA)

Note: Tasmania, known to hams as VK7-land, is an island about 200 miles south of the southeast corner of mainland Australia. Can these “acid test” circumstances which occurred on Tasmania be replicated in Manassas? Of course! Simply require the BPL system operator to switch off all BPL devices for brief periods, and take careful noise floor measurement at preselected locations during the ON and OFF conditions. Has this been done (required of the BPL system operator) in Manassas yet? No. Why not?



## Some More Thoughts About Lightning Protection, Etc.

George/K4GVT offers some very good comments earlier about the need for good ground and lightning protection for antennas and lead in wires and cables. This is a very important subject when outdoor antennas or relatively tall outdoor structures are involved. Even though the likelihood of having a nearby, problem causing, lightning strike or being directly struck by lightning seems quite improbable and is, indeed, a “hit or miss” matter, the consequences can be disastrous or even deadly. Not making an effort to understand the problem and not paying careful attention to means to mitigate the risks is tantamount to playing Russian roulette. The good news: lots of helpful resources are readily available.

First, the ARRL provides an excellent Lightning Protection web page with links to downloadable PDF versions of prior QST articles and other resources at <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/lightning.html>. This site is highly recommended for practical, hands-on information which is immediately usable.

Second, the ARRL's Technical Information Service (TIS) Database Search Engine lists many references (refs) for the following search terms: Lightning - 115 refs, EMP - 32 refs, and Grounding - 392 refs. All of these references are either to QST Magazine, published monthly since 1915, or to Ham Radio Magazine, which was published monthly from 1968 - 1990 and concentrated on providing technically related but practical articles. All of the back references are now available on CD.

Third, DOD publishes many Technical Manuals, some very extensive, which address various aspects of Lightning Protection, Grounding, Bonding and closely related topics. Many of these can be located by Internet Google search and downloaded in PDF format for free. The following specific Technical Manuals (and others too) provide lots of good reading material on these subjects: MIL-Handbook 419A (Grounding, Bonding and Shielding for Electronic Equipment and Facilities), TM 5-811-3 (Electrical Design, Lightning and Static Electricity Protection), TM 5-690 (Grounding and Bonding in C4ISR Facilities), TM 5-811-7 (Electrical Design, Cathodic Protection), TM 5-684 (Facilities Engineering - Electrical Exterior Engineering), TM 5-683 (Facilities Engineering - Electrical Interior Engineering) and MIL-Handbook-1004-6 (Lightning Protection). The DOD materials usually are very practically oriented, and only infrequently require math knowledge beyond basic algebra.

Certainly no one needs to read even much of all of these materials in order to take basic precautions as suggested by George/K4GVT. But these materials are readily available if you want to learn more. A better technical understanding is usually better, but is ultimately no guaranty of anything. You can still suffer a catastrophic lightning strike - even without outdoor antennas or involvement in any Ham Radio related activity. Take reasonable precautions but don't let the possibility of a lightning strike deter you from having fun with Ham Radio.

## Initial Results With Google Maps By Programming Guru, Morgan/KI4OWG!

OVH Member, Morgan/KI4OWG has figured out how to duplicate the functionality of F6FVY's website at <http://f6fvy.free.fr/qthLocator/fullScreen.php> mentioned in the February 2007 OVH Newsletter, adapting the scheme of F6FVY's webpage to this geographical area. Morgan's current demo page is at <http://www.morgman.com/ovhqth.php>. After showing his software prowess by accomplishing that initial step, Morgan has offered to explain the “how-I-did-it” to those OVHer who want to learn or enhance their understandings of current software approaches involved! Understanding software matters is increasingly important in all aspects of this hobby, but remains “black art” for many; how user web form input interacts with web server PHP and the Google Maps API to provide the functionality in this demo illustrates many powerful ideas which have much broader application. Some relatively “simple” enhancements appear possible to greatly improve the usefulness of the current demo web page over that originated by F6FVY.



## Congratulations To Karl/W4KRL On His Recent Technical Publication

Congratulation to OVHer, Karl/W4KRL on his recent three page technical article titled: Expanded Scale Battery Voltmeter which appeared in the AMRAD Newsletter for Nov.-Dec. 2006. In the article, Karl provides a half page of equations to explain a relatively simple appearing circuit schematic diagram. If you ever need to know how to make a "standard" analog meter have a bunched up scale such as on a battery charger, ask Karl or get a copy of his article. He's the local expert on that subject!

From the ARRL's website:

### ARRL, National Public Safety Telecommunications Council Ink Pact

NEWINGTON, CT, Mar 26, 2007 -- The ARRL and the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC) have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA). The League is an NPSTC member organization, and the MoA culminates efforts begun in 2003 to formalize the relationship between the two organizations.

"This agreement promotes the concept of strength in unity," the MoA says. "Speaking with one unified voice provides a clear and strong message from the public safety community." The MoA also aims "to promote a consensus input decision-making process." The NPSTC has been among the organizations that have asked the FCC to thoroughly explore the potential of broadband over power line (BPL) technology to interfere with public safety and other licensed radio systems.

A federation of public safety organizations, NPSTC serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information for effective public safety telecommunications in the US and abroad.

Under the ARRL-NPSTC pact -- signed earlier this year -- the ARRL designated Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, to be the League's primary representative to the Council (ARRL

Atlantic Division Vice Director Tom Abernethy, W3TOM, is the alternate representative). Rinaldo will participate in NPSTC meetings and serve on committees and working groups. The League also has agreed to provide "other expertise, advice and resources" to further the goals of the MoA and in support of the NPSTC Charter and to promote NPSTC as "the collective voice of public safety telecommunications."

NPSTC agrees to provide a National Support Office that will, among other things, coordinate its outreach activities and provide "national level technical assistance to the public safety telecommunications community."

In addition to the ARRL, the Council's 13 member organizations include the American Red Cross, the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials -- International (APCO), the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Association of State Telecommunications Directors.

NPSTC this year is celebrating its 10th anniversary. The Council will mark "10 Years of Progress" during its Committee & Governing Board Meetings June 11-13 in Denver, Colorado.

### WiFi In The Future? / D-Star? / Something Else Unspecified?

Unusually spirited exchanges have just erupted on OVH email reflector about the merit or lack of merit of using WiFi / D-Star / and other unspecified future digital technologies in the Ham Radio environment. Due to lack of time and space at this last moment your editor refrains from any comment except to note that many of the participants sound quite knowledgeable and informed, but also sometimes stubbornly opinionated. Some of the comments have an air of "I know I'm right but I don't intend to explain the bases for my conclusions and opinions in any detail beyond the little information I dribble out in each exchange." Most of us are involved in these activities to have fun, to try to learn something or improve our skills, to have enjoyable experiences interacting with others with like interests and to help others. Self proclamations of superiority, annoying others by lack of civility and provoking discord don't belong here. Those who know should be willing to explain, teach or help others with lesser knowledge; those with lesser knowledge who are interested should be able use the opportunity to learn. Everyone will learn something if civility is maintained in all interactions. More about the "merits" next month.