### 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+

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http://www.w4ovh.net

# OLE VIRGINIA TIMES JANUARY 2007

Next Meeting: January 15, 2007

Remember To Renew Your Annual OVH Membership! Do It By Mail Now Or At The Meeting — Details Inside!

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Welcome to the New Year.

First, I would like to thank all the OVHers who contributed toys for Toys for Tots. When we put them in the four foot high collection box at the Lake Jackson Volunteer Fire Station, we overflowed the box!

As we begin the new year, this is the first newsletter from our new editor, Paul, W4ZB. Thanks Paul. We also have a new net control for the OVH Thursday night net, Finny, KØKMA. Finny's debut was on January 4th and he did a fine job.

We should note that the local BPL struggle continues. At this time the ARRL has a letter to the FCC outstanding which questions the data for the Commission's conclusions. In addition, there is some indication that the ComTek notching has been eliminated since they got a favorable FCC ruling.

We will have the W4MQ program at the January meeting. Stan, W4MQ, is the Recipient of the ARRL Technical Innovation Award. He has made complete remote control of his station available on the Internet to registered users. You have to send him a copy of your license to get registered. I have gotten registered and have had SSB QSOs and one CW QSO. Dwight, AI4II, heard one of my SSB QSOs. I urge you to visit the http://w4mq.com web site and to download the software. You will then be able to ask better questions at the meeting. Al, KB4BHB, has also download the software.

Looking ahead to February, we will have elections and a program on D-Star which has been the subject of much discussion on the repeater.

See you at the January 15, 2007 meeting at 7:30pm. 73,

John, KG4NXT

### Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

### Post Office Box 1255 Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS			JOTA		
President: John Heartney Vice Pres: George Tarnovsky	KG4NXT K4GVT	257-3566 791-5956	John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
Secretary: Phil Colling	AC4PL	393-8658	LEGAL		
Treasurer: Bill South	N3OH	590-9562	Pete	KB4RME	369-2436
DIRECTORS			MEMBERSHIP CHAIRM	IAN	
Don (Butch) Blasdell	W4HJL	369-2877	Joe Dobes	KI4OHR	369-2639
Art Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330	NEWSLETTER		
Charlie Dale	WA4YGI	361-3091	Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
WEEKLY NETS			NEWSLINE		
Thursdays - 8:00 PM	JOHN H	257-3566	Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
HAMFEST 2007				***************************************	002 102.
TBA			PACKET	IID IIIDI	222 2244
FIELD DAY 2007			Alan Bill	KD4KBX N3OH	330-8844 590-9562
George T.	K4GVT	791-5956		110011	000 0002
Butch B.	W4HJL	369-2877	PROGRAMS TBA		
CLUB ROSTER					
Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877	PUBLICITY	TTT 170 C7 F	
EDUCATION			Trish Rabe	KI4PCM	335-1096
Trish Rabe	KI4PCM	335-1096	QUARTERMASTER		
		300 1000	Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
CLUB EMERGENCY COOF		200 0001	REPEATER CONTROLL	LERS	
David Meola	KI4AZX	393-6681	Art	W1CRO	791-4330
ARES AREA EMERGENCY	COORDINATO	$^{ m R}$	Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042	Milt	N4SN N4OGR	369-7265
F.A.R. REPS.			Steve Alan	N4OGR KD4KBX	361-0008 330-8844
Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234		шты	000 0044
Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877	REPEATER TRUSTEE	W4 CDO	F01 4000
FINANCE			Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877	SCHOLARSHIP		
Bill	N3OH	590-9562	Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234	SUNSHINE		
GENERATORS			Jan	KE4TMW	257-0897
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008	TECHNICAL COMMITT	EE	
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512	Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794	Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
HISTORIAN			Bill	N3OH	590.9562
Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566	Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
	11011 111	201 0000	George	K4GVT	791-5956
HOME PAGE			Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
Bill	N3OH	590-9562	Bob	K4HJF	335-1939

All telephone nmbers 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: 01/2007

### Sunshine Corner:

Welcome to our newest member, Finny/KØKMA -- it's great to have you!

Congratulations to our new newsletter editor, Paul/W4ZB -- thanks for your service!

Happy Birthday to our friends and fellow Hams! Ed/WD4AVU, Elizabeth/KG4NXV, Dan/K9POO, Alan/WA2GTT, Tom/K4OPS, Milt/N4SN, Chuck/W4XP, Barry/KI4IAK, and Woody/N4MQ. Hope each of you has a great day!

Happy New Year to all,

73 de Jan/KE4TMW

## Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting December 18, 2006:

John / KG4NXT called meeting to order at 1931 Eastern Time.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 19 OVH members and one guest present.

#### BUSINESS MEETING

John / KG4NXT noted that Paul / W4ZB has graciously volunteered to be the new OVH Newsletter Editor. Thank you Paul for your support.

John / KG4NXT noted that OVH member Wayne Phillips / N7QLK has just returned to the United States after his second tour of duty in the Middle East. Thank you Wayne for your unselfish sacrifice and dedication to the United States and all of the free people of the world, and for your help in the process of winning the War on Terror.

George / K4GVT noted that Art / W1CRO was scheduled for surgery today. The problem is that the batteries in Art's pacemaker are nearly depleted and need to be replaced. The other problem is that the surgeon who was scheduled to perform the operation also had a problem and could not make it. The good news is that Art is doing fine and the surgery has been rescheduled for this Wednesday (December 20, 2006). We all wish you well, Art. (Secretary's note – It has been confirmed since the December 2006 OVH meeting that Art's delayed surgery was successful, and Art is doing very well.)

BPL - George / K4GVT – George noted that the OVH has put out a tremendous effort regarding BPL. According to the FCC, the FCC has been to Manassas to investigate the complaints regarding BPL interference and claims that Comtec is "within specification." However, we have not seen any sign of the FCC in the area, despite the fact that FCC had promised that the OVH would be involved in the testing. We have requested FCC's supporting data, and according to the FCC we should receive that shortly. Unfortunately, all of the complaints are based on mobile data, and we don't have any complaints from fixed stations in Manassas. Bill / N3OH noted that the Part 15 rules were modified to indicate that mobile stations do not carry the same weight as fixed stations, under the assumption that a mobile station can move away from the interference. It appears that the FCC does not know when the BPL system is fully loaded. George and Bill also noted that if an amateur operator is operating

legally and making a legal transmission, a BPL subscriber has no recourse under Part 15 if interference occurs as a result of the Amateur's legal transmission. George requested that if we know an Amateur in the city of Manassas, whether or not that Amateur is an OVH member, that we let George know so we can contact that person to request help and support.

MEMBERSHIP - Joe / KI4OHR – A potential new member, Michael Henry / KI4SNR, who was in the OVH Technician class and just became licensed, was read in and will be voted on at the January 2007 OVH meeting. Phineas "Finny" Henshaw / KØKMA was voted into the OVH unanimously. Welcome to the Ole' Virginia Hams, Finny.

REPEATERS - Butch / W4HJL - The repeaters are working well. There are several projects regarding the repeaters that will get underway in January.

EDUCATION - Brian / WC4J – The have some new hams as a result of the Technician class, and a few more should be licensed shortly. Plans are underway for another class in the Spring of 2007. Thank you Brian for your help with OVH's amateur radio education efforts.

John / KG4NXT noted that you can use the internet to use an actual amateur radio station at www.W4MQ.com. Go to the website for information and to download the necessary software. We may have a presentation regarding this station at the January 2007 OVH meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Bill / N3OH – Bill read the Treasurer's report. Bill noted that at the end of his current term that expires in February 2007, that he will have been the OVH Treasurer for eight years, and needs to retire. Thank you Bill for your long and dedicated support as the OVH Treasurer.

The minutes of the November 2006 OVH meeting were approved with no corrections.

John / KG4NXT noted that OVH friend Ray Hinegardner passed away in October. His wife was at the OVH Christmas/Holiday party. Ray was not an OVH member, but he was a very good friend to many in the Club and he will be missed.

#### **BREAK**

Joe / KI4OHR introduced his daughter Rachel, who is a student at Cedar Park Elementary, to those present. Joe had a meeting with Rachel's science teacher, who is helping coordinate the ISS event. The application for a contact time with the ISS was received by the ARRL, but it might take up to two years to get a contact time. Hopefully things will work out regarding the ISS event. Regardless, there are many other activities that her school can do to promote amateur radio.

50/50 - \$38 was collected, and Theresa / KG4TVM won. Theresa donated her winning share of \$19 back to the Club and requested that it be applied to the Harry D. Vorhauer Scholarship.

Butch / W4HJL noted that OVH elections will take place at the February 2007 OVH meeting. Nominations should be completed some time around the January 2007 meeting. However, any member can be written in and voted on at the elections, with the exception of those running for President who must have been a member of OVH for at least one year and must have at least General class Amateur privileges.

Theresa / KG4TVM thanked everyone who donated to Toys for Tots. We had a tremendous response. Thanks go to all who contributed.

The meeting adjourned at 2023.

### Selected Amateur Radio News from the ARRL RSS feed on January 8, 2007

[Editor's Note: having trouble "reading" the ARRL's RSS feed? If so, get the Firefox 2.0 free browser download from http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/ Its RSS reader really works – no complicated adjustments needed.]

### California Radio Amateur Has Role in Rescue at Sea

A radio amateur from California played a significant part in an international effort to rescue a US sailor attempting to single-handedly circumnavigate the globe. Miguel "Mike" Morales, KC6CYK, of Riverside, told ARRL he was able to contact fellow radio amateurs in Chile to obtain and relay reassuring information to the family of Ken Barnes, whose 44-foot ketch Pivateer was foundering off South America. A Chilean trawler, Polar Pesca 1, rescued Barnes from his disabled vessel on January 5. Upon learning of Barnes's predicament on January 2, Morales said he contacted the sailor's fiancée, Cathy Chambers, offering to see if he could make radio contact with Chile.

### FCC Presses Two Utilities to Resolve Power Line Noise Complaints

The FCC has asked utilities in Oklahoma and Illinois to try harder to resolve longstanding power line noise complaints from Amateur Radio licensees. Special Counsel in the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth recently contacted Oklahoma Gas & Electric (OG&E) Company and Exelon Corporation (ComEd) in Chicago to follow up on the unrelated cases.

### Special event to commemorate "Project Diana" moonbounce experiment

The Ocean Monmouth Amateur Radio Club (OMARC) will sponsor a special event operation Sunday and Monday, January 14-15, to commemorate "Project Diana," the first successful moonbounce experiment undertaken by the US Army Signal Corps in January 1946. Using the club's N2MO call sign, the special event station will go on the air from the historic Project Diana site at the InfoAge Learning Center at Camp Evans, off Marconi Road in Wall Township, New Jersey. Several radio amateurs were members of the Project Diana team. The OMARC operation will include ALE, CW, PKS31, RTTY and SSB on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. The OMARC Web site has more information and photos relating to Project Diana (click on the "Diana site + directions" link). An article on Project Diana appeared in the May 1946 QST.

### "Hello" Amateur Radio Special Event Puts Brant Rock Back on the Air

In 1906, Canadian experimenter Reginald Fessenden transmitted a program of voice and music -- in essence the world's first radio broadcast -- from Brant Rock, Massachusetts. In 2006, Amateur Radio special event W100BO/W1F helped to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Fessenden's accomplishment as part of the ARRL "Hello" campaign finale December 29-30. Among those on hand for the occasion was the grandson of Fessenden's assistant George Stein -- George A. Stein, NJ3H. Steve Barreres, K2CX, headed the Peconic Amateur Radio Club (PARC) W100BO/W1F team.

### Floyd Koontz, WA2WVL, wins December QST Cover Plaque Award

The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for December is Floyd Koontz, WA2WVL, for his article "The Horizontal EWE Antenna." Congratulations, Floyd! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the January issue by January 31.

### ARRL Audio News: Jan 5, 2007; Vol 26 Number 1

ARRL Audio News--OPEN--In this edition . . .;
ARES volunteers help in snowstorm's wake; HF
digital transmission from W1AW caps yearlong
"Hello" campaign; ARRL Audio News ID--Satellite
Update--BREAK; Youngsters in Japan speak via
ham radio with ISS; Huntsville to host Global
Amateur Radio Emergency Communications
Conference 2007; Alan Kaul, W6RCL, SK; ARRL
Audio News--IN BRIEF/CLOSE

#### Heard about YouTube.com?

Check out the Hello presentation on Amateur Radio: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fw2byLEjeSw

### FCC Releases Report and Order in "Morse Code" Proceeding

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 19, 2006 -- The FCC has issued the complete Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code" proceeding, WT Docket 05-235. The R&O follows fast on the heels of the Commission's December 15 public notice announcing the elimination of the Morse code exam requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes. The R&O also addresses the ARRL's request to eliminate the disparity between "Tech Plus" licensees (Technicians with Element 1 Morse credit) and Technician licensees -- present and future -- who have not passed a Morse code test.

"In summary, we believe that the public interest will be served by revising the Amateur Service rules to eliminate the telegraphy testing requirement," the FCC concluded in the R&O, released today. "We also believe that these rule changes will allow Amateur Service licensees to better fulfill the purpose of the Amateur Service and will enhance the usefulness of the Amateur Service to the public and licensees."

The FCC took the opportunity in the R&O to act on the League's Petition for Partial Reconsideration in the "omnibus" proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, to retain the 3620-3635 kHz segment for automatically controlled digital stations. "We conclude that the expansion of the 75 meter band should not be so limited," the FCC said. "We agree with the ARRL, however, that the Commission did not intend to reduce the amount of spectrum available for automatically controlled digital stations."

To rectify the "unintended consequence" of the rules adopted in the omnibus proceeding, the Commission amended §97.221(b) to authorize 3585 to 3600 kHz for automatically controlled digital stations.

Finally, the Commission said it would conform the Amateur Service rules to reflect that the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) has reduced from two to one the number of Amateur Radio license classes.

The Commission is amending §97.301 "to authorize Amateur Extra class privileges to all individuals who have been issued a CEPT radio-amateur license by their country of citizenship, and who satisfy other requirements in the Commission's rules."

#### No Effective Date Yet

Today's R&O spells out the specific Part 97 changes going into place once the new rules go on the books and indicates that the effective date will be 30 days after the document appears in the Federal Register. Publication likely will occur in January, with the new rules going into effect in February.

### Reprising the History the Morse Decision

Delegates at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) effectively eliminated the international requirement to demonstrate Morse proficiency to gain access to HF bands, the FCC recounted in discussing how it reached its decision in the Morse issue. A dozen and a half petitions for rule making — most calling on the Commission to simply eliminate the Morse requirement — in the wake of WRC-03 gave rise to the "Morse code" proceeding. A flurry of comments followed.

"The record reflects a division of views in the Amateur Radio community regarding this proposal," the FCC's R&O said. "Many of the comments from individual Amateur Radio operators support eliminating the telegraphy proficiency requirement." Others suggested dropping the requirement for General applicants while keeping it for Amateur Extra applicants, the FCC noted.

"Others argue that the present telegraphy examination requirements should be maintained because any reduction in these requirements will be detrimental to the Amateur Service while providing no long-term benefits," the Commission continued.

The FCC proposed in 2005 to drop the Morse examination requirement altogether, although the ARRL was among those who felt the Commission should retain it for Amateur Extra class applicants. The FCC remained unconvinced.

"We nevertheless believe that the public interest is not served by requiring facility in Morse code when the trend in amateur communications is to use voice and digital technologies for exchanging messages," the FCC said. "Rather, we believe that because the international requirement for telegraphy proficiency has been eliminated, we should treat Morse code telegraphy no differently from other Amateur Service communications techniques."

The Commission said its reasoning "applies equally" to both the General and the Amateur Extra class licenses. "We are not persuaded that the Amateur Extra Class being the highest license class is a sufficient reason alone to retain a requirement that we conclude is otherwise inappropriate and unnecessary." At the same time, the FCC said, its action doesn't preclude Amateur Radio licensees of any class "from pursuing and/or continuing to pursue Morse code proficiency should they so desire."

The FCC said its rules don't require applicants to pass practical examinations to demonstrate proficiency in non-telegraphy communications techniques, and it feels the current regime of written examinations is "sufficient to determine whether a person is qualified to be issued an Amateur Radio operator license."

### No Special Advantage to Retaining the Morse Requirement

In today's R&O, the FCC cast aside arguments that Morse ability is advantageous in emergency communication situations. "The Commission previously addressed the essence of this argument and concluded that most emergency communication today is performed using voice, data, or video techniques," the FCC said. The Commission also turned away assertions that retaining a Morse code requirement would help in keeping out the bad apples.

"The record is devoid of a demonstrated nexus between Morse code proficiency and on-the-air conduct," the FCC observed. "As a result, we concur with the observation that 'maintaining the code requirement does not purge Amateur Radio of bad operators. Education and self-policing does."

The Commission further reiterated its belief that the ability to demonstrate increased Morse code proficiency doesn't necessarily indicate an applicant's ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art. "A number of commenters agree that the Morse code requirement 'keeps individuals that would enhance the hobby from getting a license,' and that there is 'no relationship between an individual's knowledge of Morse code and that individual's knowledge of radio regulations and practices and skills necessary to operate an amateur station."

#### Eliminating the Technician Disparity

The FCC also reviewed how it changed its mind

regarding requests to eliminate the distinction between Technician and so-called "Tech Plus" (Technician with Element 1 Morse credit) licensees. In its Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in the proceeding, the FCC said it wanted to maintain the status quo. The League was among those asking the Commission to reconsider.

"Based on our review of our rules, we agree," the FCC explained in its R&O. "Consistent with our decision herein to eliminate the Morse code requirement, we are eliminating this disparity by amending Section 97.301(e) to afford Technician and Technician Plus licensees identical operating privileges."

The rule revision will mean Technician and socalled "Tech Plus" (Technician with Element 1 Morse credit) licensees will get voice and telegraphy privileges in four HF bands that are identical to those of Novice class licensees. "In eliminating this disparity between Technician and Technician Plus licenses, we are simplifying the Amateur Service licensing structure and promoting regulatory parity," the FCC said.

### No Additional Changes

The FCC again denied requests -- including one from the ARRL -- to create a new entrylevel Amateur Radio license along the lines of the old Novice ticket. Pointing out that the rules it's adopted grant Technician licensees additional operating privileges in four HF bands, the Commission said it didn't see any need for additional changes. The FCC also declined the League's request to grant Novice and Technician licensees voice and image privileges in certain segments 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters.

"Our action today giving Technician class licensees the same privileges as Technician Plus class licensees does effectively provide some of the relief ARRL seeks because Technician class licensees now have voice and digital privileges in the 10 meter HF band," the FCC said.

The Commission expressed concern that giving Novice and Technician holders voice privileges on other HF bands "would be a disincentive for these licensees to improve their knowledge and skills and attain a higher class license."

#### Web Site Resource

The ARRL is posting all information relevant to the FCC's actions in WT Docket 05-235 on its Web site.

### Please Renew Your OVH Membership Now!

Print and mail in the following form with your check for \$10.00 now or bring the filled-in form with your check or cash to the January 15, 2007 OVH meeting.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION "OLE VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB" 2007				
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ADE VOLLEDEGENELY AND ADDI MEMBERS (A	BIRTHDAY:			
ARE YOU PRESENTLY AN ARRL MEMBER? (Y	,			
ARE YOU A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER? (YES/N				
DO YOU WANT YOUR PHONE NO. LISTED IN				
WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT LICENSE CLASS?				
Dues are now \$10.00 per year and payable on January 1, 2007 Dues for additional family members living at the same mailing address are \$5.00				
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Name:	Call:			
Return to: Treasurer, OVH P.O. Box 1255 Manassas, VA 20108				

### Best Practices Tips For Viewing PDF Files

About 95% of the Ole Virginia Times monthly newsletters are now sent out by email as PDF file attachments. This means that many (most) recipicients probably try (struggle) to read those PDF files on a computer screen. Unfortunately the Adobe PDF reader has had a inconvenient or poor user interface from its very beginning and Adobe for unknown reasons has not done much to teach its tens of millions of users how to best user that reader to view PDF files on screen. Following are tips about the best ways to use the Adobe PDF Reader. If you haven't been using these techniques, be sure to try them.

Use the full screen mode and shortcut keys for viewing PDFs easily in the free Adobe PDF Reader (in stand alone mode) with no need to use the mouse: Ctrl-L switches the PDF Reader to full screen mode from normal display mode; ESC switches from full screen mode back to normal display mode; Ctrl-0 forces display of a full page; Ctrl-2 forces a page to display to the full width of the PDF Reader window or a full screen; Ctrl-+ and Ctrl-- zoom in / out of whatever is displayed; Ctrl-Shft-N brings up a dialog box for a jump to a user specified page; END jumps to the last page, HOME jumps to the first page; and PgUp, PgDn and the Arrow keys operate intuitively. For PDF Reader stand alone mode: be sure your web browser, PDF Reader and system file associations are configured so that PDFs downloaded over the web are not displayed in the PDF Reader within the frame of your web browser. Some browser configurations permit PDFs to be downloaded and opened in a stand alone PDF Reader in a single step; others require the PDF first to be saved manually and then opened in the PDF Reader in a second step. For a PDF file received as an email attachment or by other file transfer means: download and save the PDF file and then open it in your PDF Reader. The stand alone mode maximizes the screen space for viewing and allows direct access to all shortcut keys. These tips also work when Adobe Acrobat is used as the PDF Reader.