



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 2: 223.660 Mhz (SysOp Use Only)
Port 3: 223.540 MHz, Port 4: 440.925Mhz 9600 Baud backbone
BBS--BBSNVA/N4WJN (SYSOP--BILL)
<http://www.qsl.net/olevahams>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

FEBRUARY 2003

Next meeting: February 17, 2003

Need your input for the Newsletter. The deadline for submissions is the 5th of each month.!!!

(Editor)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The OVH Nominating Committee met recently and they have recommended the following slate of officers for the coming year. Elections will be held at this meeting --February 17, 2003. Nominations may be made from the floor, as long as the person being nominated has given their permission prior to the Election, and that the nominee meets the criteria as stated in the Bylaws. Election will be by Secret Ballot and the new officers will take over at the beginning of "New Business."

The following members of Ole Virginia Hams have agreed to run for office:

President:	Ruth Frock	KU4WH
Vice President:	Phil Colling	AC4PL
Treasurer:	Bill South	N4WJN
Secretary:	Charlotte Coghill	KG4QXO

We urge all members of OVH who are able, to attend this meeting and cast your vote for the new Officers. Then we can offer our cooperation, support and assistance to the incoming officers for the tasks ahead.

**“OLE VIRGINIA HAMS”
Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, VA. 20108**

OFFICERS

President: Bill Hinely K9ZD 754-7913
Vice Pres: Ruth Frock KU4WH 331-1234
Secretary: Phil Colling AC4PL 393-8658
Treasurer: Bill South N4WJN 590-9562

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdell W4HJL 369-2877
Art Whittum KW4AW 791-4330
Jack McDermott N4YIC 335-9139

WEEKLY NETS

Thursdays - 8:00 PM WB4ZOH (Ken) 361-3482

HAMFEST 2003

Jack N4YIC 335-9139

FIELD DAY 2002

Bill K9ZD 754-7913
Art KW4AW 791-4330

CLUB ROSTER

Blaine KB4RKL 369-2877

EDUCATION

Bill K9ZD 754-7913

CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Brian N8FK 257-9545

ARES AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David KG4GIY 361-3042

F.A.R. REP.

Ruth KU4WH 331-1234
Mary Lu KB4EFP 369-2877

FINANCE

Mary Lu KB4EFP 369-2877
Bill N4WJN 590-9562
Ruth KU4WH 331-1234

GENERATORS

Steve N4OGR 361-0008
Bill K9ZD 754-7913

HISTORIAN

Theresa KG4TVM 540-869-6635

HOME PAGE

Bill N4WJN 590-9562

JOTA

Paul N2PJ 330-0796

LEGAL

Pete KB4RME 369-2436

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Charlotte KG4QXO 361-3482

NEWSLETTER

Steve KB4OF 368-6901

NEWSLINE

Ken WB4ZOH 361-3482

PACKET

Alan KD4KBX 330-8844
Bill N4WJN 590-9562

PICNIC

Ellie KF4NBO 361-8059

PROGRAM'S

TBD

PUBLICITY

Steve N4OGR 361-0008

Q' MASTER

Jim N3ODZ 361-2543

REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Art KW4AW 791-4330
Butch W4HJL 369-2877
Milt N4SN 369-7265
Mike WV3H 753-9346
Steve N4OGR 361-0008
Alan KD4KBX 330-8844

REPEATER TRUSTEE

Art KW4AW 791-4330

SCHOLARSHIP

Jack N4YIC 335-9139

SUNSHINE

Jan KE4TMW 257-0897

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Art KW4AW 791-4330
Alan KD4KBX 330-8844
Bill N4WJN 590.9562
Butch W4HJL 369-2877
Mike WV3H 753-9346
George KE2AM 791-7688
Jimmy WA2QEJ
Bill K9ZD 754-7913

The OVH Times is the official publication of the "Ole Virginia Hams" ARC, a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio. The OVH ARC meets at 8:00 PM every third Monday of the month at the NOVEC Tech Center in Gainesville. Prospective members are invited.

Local information can always be obtained, at any time, through the usage of the OVH repeaters (146.97- & 224.660- Mhz). All are welcome.

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 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: Steve Meade KB4OF, PO Box 1418, Manassas, VA 20108-1418, or to kb4of@arrl.net

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

Minutes of the Ole' Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club - January 20, 2003

President **Bill Hinely/K9ZD** called the meeting to order at 2001Z

Following the pledge of allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs.

HAMFEST: Jack/N4YIC: Jack updated everyone on the Hamfest. We are about where we should be with planning.

WEEKLY NETS: Ken/WB4ZOH: Ken gave everyone an update on the weekly net. Ken would like to see a few more people check in, but it is working quite well with the nets.

FIELD DAY: Bill/K9ZD: Bill and **Art/KW4AW** are getting ready for field day.

EDUCATION: Bill/K9ZD: Bill is getting a flyer ready to advertise the upcoming class that will start in March. We had some good coverage from the *Bull Run Observer*, which interviewed Bill and provided a good story on Bill and amateur radio.

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR: Brian/N8FK: Brian is looking for a new list of members with 4-wheel drive vehicles. He also needs information on emergency communications ability of those with 4WD.

ARES: David/KG4GIY: An upcoming event is the MS Walk in April.

If you want to join the **PW ARES**, go to www.qsl.net/pwcares.

David has been attending meetings of ECs in a "**coordination committee**." The idea is to get amateurs and communities more familiar with one another and to spread the word about the value of amateur radio operators. David noted that the following question was posed to him by community leaders, and asked us to ponder this question: "How do you alert your communicators (amateur radio operators) that their services are needed due to an emergency when the communications are down?" David asked that we give some thought to how do we answer that question.

ARES will have a table at the Vienna Winterfest.

We are in the process of putting together a list of cross-jurisdiction practices.

There used to be something called "**The Institute**." They are trying to get this going again. This is a class of sorts for emergency communications of various types.

Another big event during **September 5 - 7** is the "**DC Challenge**," which is a walk from Annapolis to DC. There is **another** upcoming **150-mile bike ride**. Details are forthcoming.

FAR: Ruth/KU4WH: There was no new news regarding FAR. However, **David/KG4GIY** noted that **Auto Call** has been improved. At the back of each issue, there is now a club roster with contact information.

FINANCE: Bill/N4WJN: The year-end balance sheet and current month were read. The financial report passed.

HISTORIAN: Bill/N4WJN and Ken/WB4ZOH: We put the OVH ARC on a list of names for any upcoming MARS lander missions.

MEMBERSHIP: Ken/WB4ZOH: We have three people to be voted on for **OVH membership**: **Mark Braunstein/WA4KFZ**, **Mark Cleveland/KG4JAM**, **Peter Jensen/KG4WAQ**. All three were voted in unanimously. Welcome to the Ole' Virginia Hams, Mark, Mark and Peter.

PACKET: Bill/N4WJN: Bill will have a list of possible future purchases for the packet sight.

REPEATERS: Art/KW4AW: We have an estimate on costs for the battery updates. Art also noted that he could have his gel cells up and running at the repeater site if needed. Art proposed that we have a price quote for backup batteries that will run out shortly. Art made a motion that we purchase the backup batteries for the 2M repeater. The motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vienna Winterfest: Jim/W4JTP: The Winterfest is coming up in Annandale at the Community College. There will be tailgating this year. This event takes place on February 23. This hamfest is put on by the Vienna Wireless society.

NATIONAL RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Tom/WA2QAL: The chartered train trips have not been announced. The trains will leave out of Union Station in DC. This will occur the first week in July.

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2002 OVH MEETING: The minutes were approved.

JOTA: We had a very nice letter of thanks from Cub Scout troop 1195 that was read aloud by Bill/K9ZD.

MEMBERSHIP: Ken/WB4ZOH: One new member was read in and will be voted on at the February OVH meeting: **Wayne Phillips/N7QLK**

Officer elections will take place at the February 2003 meeting of the Ole' Virginia Hams.

The meeting adjourned at 2143.

SUNSHINE CORNER

Happy Birthday to our friends who were born in **January** and **February** – **Chuck/KE4JWY, Lloyd/N4OOM, Ed/WD4AVU, Elizabeth/KG4NXV, Robert/KA4NES, Alan/WA2GTT, Robert/K2TV, Tom/K4OPS, Cheri/KB5QZJ, Ro/WB4NWX, Milt/N4SN, Art/KW4AW, Ellie/KF4NBO, Lisa/KF4FJD, Woody/N4MQ, and John/WA1STU.**

Good wishes to **WB4NWX Ro's wife Doris**, who had hip surgery -- hope she is up and back to normal soon. Good wishes also to **Ruth/KM4UH**, who had surgery on her foot -- glad to hear she's up and about!

Felicitations to **Theresa/KG4TVM** and **John/KG4NXT**, who are engaged to be married! We wish you all happiness!

Congratulations to **Duffy/KD6RNE**, who upgraded to **Extra**, and **Wayne/KG4URN**, who passed his code test and upgraded to **General!** Good job, guys!

Dwight, formerly **K9ERF**, has changed call sign to **N4GSD** -- **Nuts 4 German Shepherd Dogs!**

Thanks go to **John/KG4NXT** and **Blaine/KB4RKL** for their assistance with my computer difficulties! The computer is slowly recuperating from its 'illness'.

Have a great February! **Happy Valentines Day** to all!

73 de Jan/KE4TMW

Repeater Happenings

Butch/W4HJL, and **Steve/N4OGR**, visited the repeater site recently and started preparations to relocate and remount all three sets of duplexers on the walls. Starting with the relocation of the two meter duplexers (which are the biggest) and then the 220 and 440 to follow. This will entail resizing (shortening) the hardline coaxial cables, re-grounding them all at the point of entry into the shed and refitting the connectors. The shed isn't that big and the space freed up by the relocation will be valuable. The 440 repeater was reconnected to a separate 20Amp circuit during that visit also.

The new battery for 2 meter back-up power has been ordered, thanks to **Karl/W4KRL**. It should be arriving on scene any day now. Well ... maybe next week. But it'll be here soon. Plans are to take it on up to site and swap out the old one as soon as time and people permit.

Augie, kw4aw@ieee.org

Estate Auction

Mrs. Elaine Koslov, the widow of a former amateur radio operator, telephoned recently to inform us that a rather large number of important amateur radio books are soon to become available to the interested public.

Mrs. Koslov stated that her late husband was an avid collector and this collection will soon be offered by Waverly Auctions (Since 1977, Fine Books, Prints, Autographs, Manuscripts, Maps, and Atlases.) Current information regarding the upcoming auction may be obtained at the Waverly Internet web site: <http://www.waverlyauctions.com> or from:

Mr. Dale Sorenson
Waverly Auctions
4931 Cordell Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20814

Tel: 301/951-8883
Fax: 301/718-8375

Mrs. Koslov has been assured that, in continuing a long-established courtesy, we would convey this message to all our club members and others via our Monthly Newsletter and our Weekly Radio Net.

No additional information regarding this auction is available as of this writing; however, if you wish, you are welcome to direct any questions you may have to Mrs. Koslov at 703-893-9102.

Jack McDermott/N4YIC, N4YIC@arrl.net

Can We Help The D.A.R.E. Kids?

A large group of police officers and other interested, caring volunteers, who devote a lot of their time and talents to helping young kids avoid the perils of involvement with illegal drugs, have asked the "Ole Virginia Hams" (OVH) amateur radio club members to assist them in hosting their annual D.A.R.E. (Drug Addiction Resistance Education) event.

These D.A.R.E. volunteers, with the generous cooperation of Keith Johnson, general manager of Prince William Fairgrounds, have tentatively selected Saturday, June 14, 2003 as the date to host literally hundreds of kids at the Prince William Fairgrounds. There are numerous fun activities planned for the kids: games, clowns, learning projects, even an animal petting zoo. An earnest and important effort will be made to let these kids see and learn that police officers are caring, friendly, approachable, and willing to help them.

It was suggested at a recent D.A.R.E. planning meeting, which some of our OVH club members attended, that these kids would be thrilled to observe and perhaps partake in various aspects of an amateur radio demonstration. We told these assembled volunteers we would discuss possibilities at our club meetings and forward our findings to them via Keith Johnson.

This can evolve into an excellent opportunity for us to introduce amateur radio to, and possibly spark an interest in, the younger set during this one-day event. We might set up and announce our D.A.R.E. presence on certain of the surrounding VHF/UHF Radio Repeaters to let the kids chat. Perhaps someone can set up an HF station or two and let the kids chat with or observe a conversation with someone in, say, Europe or South America, etc. (We have had excellent and exciting results doing this while hosting our annual Boy Scout "Jamboree On The Air" event.) Maybe someone can demonstrate PACKET, Radio Teletype (RTTY,) Satellite Communications, PSK-31, or any of the other interesting communications modes we commonly operate.

We have been extended an invitation and opportunity to join in and help these kids, and to make another meaningful contribution in our community. Thus, once again we are asking for some kind soul to come forward and volunteer to plan and coordinate this effort. If we can do this amateur radio "show 'n tell," and the response from the kids is as favorable as we expect it will be, perhaps we can consider making it our club's annual contribution to the D.A.R.E. campaign.

So, if you can spare a day out of your busy life to get involved with and for these kids, please volunteer to organize this effort for our club. You are most welcome to use our OVH Radio Repeaters, Newsletter, Weekly Radio Net, etc., to recruit other volunteers to assist you. Our club's equipment and other resources will be made available for your use. Moreover, various club members will be available to provide information and guidance based on their own previous experiences. Incidentally, an abundance of excellent D.A.R.E. background information is available at their web site: <http://www.dare.com>

If you can be our club's representative and organizer, please contact Keith Johnson at the Fairgrounds on 703/368-0173. He will put you in contact with the D.A.R.E. planners. You may also contact **Jack/N4YIC** at 703/335-9139, Email N4YIC@arrl.net with any questions you might have.

Jack McDermott/N4YIC, N4YIC@arrl.net

IN BRIEF:

All following articles from The ARRL Letter, Vol 22, No 06

This weekend on the radio: The North American Sprint (CW), the Six Club Winter Contest, the CQ/RJ WW RTTY WPX Contest, the Asia-Pacific Sprint (CW), the Dutch PACC Contest, the YL-OM Contest (CW), the FISTS Winter Sprint, the OMISS QSO Party, the RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest (CW) and the QRP ARCI Winter Fireside SSB Sprint are the weekend of February 8-9. The ARRL School Club Roundup is the week of February 10-15. JUST AHEAD: The ARRL International DX Contest (CW) and the YL-OM Contest (SSB) are the weekend of February 15-16. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

School Club Roundup 2003 is February 10-14: School Club Roundup (SCR) 2003 takes place February 10-14. The event is sponsored by the Council for the Advancement of Amateur Radio in the New York City Schools, the ARRL and its Hudson Division Education Task Force. The idea of SCR is to foster contacts with and among school radio clubs, and the annual operating event is a great way for new or inexperienced operators to get on the air in a low-pressure contest environment. Operators are encouraged to take some time to chat beyond the contest exchange. Award certificates will be issued for separate Elementary, Middle/Intermediate/Junior High School, High School and College/University levels for USA and DX entries. SCR rules are available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/scr.html>.

ARRL Certification and Continuing Education course registration: Registration for the ARRL Level II Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (EC-002) and Antenna Modeling (EC-004) courses opens Monday, February 10, 12:01 AM Eastern Standard Time (0501 UTC). Registration will remain open through Sunday, February 16. Classes begin Monday, February 17. A new service now allows those interested in taking an ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) course in the future to be advised via e-mail in advance of registration opportunities. To be included, send an e-mail to prereg@arrl.org. On the subject line, include the course name or number (eg, EC-00#) you'd like to take. In the message body, provide your name and call sign and the month you want to start the course. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Web page <http://www.arrl.org/cce> and the C-CE links found there. For more information, contact Certification and Continuing Education Program Coordinator Howard Robins, W1HSR, hrobins@arrl.org.

DXCC Honor Roll deadline looms: The deadline for the next DXCC Honor Roll list is rapidly approaching. DXCC Honor Roll applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2003, for operators to appear in the next list, which will appear in August QST. The DXCC Honor Roll list includes only current entities; deleted entities do not count toward Honor Roll. With the addition of Ducie Island in 2002, the minimum number of entities required for Honor Roll is 326. For Number One Honor Roll, the total is 335 current entities. Plaques remain available for anyone currently or previously on the Honor Roll. Order forms are available on the DXCC Web site <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/>. On a related note, the DXCC Desk has finished entering September DXCC applications, and all but a handful (ones requiring special attention) are on their way back to members. "With the 75,000 cards postmarked September 30 out of the way, we expect to make a significant reduction in the processing time in the weeks ahead," said ARRL Membership Services Department Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG.

Viewing and commenting on petitions the FCC puts on public notice: Members of the amateur community (and the general public) may comment via the Web or e-mail on any Petition for Rulemaking that the FCC has put on public notice and assigned a rulemaking (RM) number. Visit the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) page <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>, which includes detailed instructions. To view a petition and/or any comments filed, click on "Search for Filed Comments" on the right-hand side of the page and enter the RM number in the "Proceeding" field. You must enter "RM" in upper-case letters and include the hyphen followed by the appropriate five digits. To file comments, click on "Submit a Filing" on the right-hand side of the ECFS page or see the instructions on how to file comments via e-mail. A typical comment period runs 30 days from the date the FCC puts a petition on public notice.

Yugoslavia becomes Serbia-Montenegro: Yugoslavia's parliament has voted to formally abolish that nation and replace it with a new country called Serbia-Montenegro, which were the two remaining Yugoslav republics. In accordance with a deal arranged by the European Union and aimed at keeping the two republics together, Serbia and Montenegro will continue to share a capital--Belgrade--and a joint administration for defense and foreign affairs. The new arrangement will have little immediate impact on Amateur Radio. For DXCC purposes, Serbia and Montenegro will be considered a single entity--at least for the time being--and amateurs there are expected to continue using YU/YT prefixes. The situation could change in three years when residents of the two republics would be allowed to vote to stick together or go their separate ways. Yugoslavia was established in 1918 as the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. DXCC criteria are available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/rules.html#sji>.

School's Special Event Gets Special Attention After *Columbia* Disaster

A special event at Challenger Junior High School in Mira Mesa, California, January 28 to commemorate the anniversary of the shuttle *Challenger* disaster took on added dimension February 1 after the shuttle *Columbia* and crew were lost over Texas.

During the annual special event--which is in its 16th year--students ask the hams they contact to reminisce about the *Challenger* catastrophe. The school, which enjoyed a SAREX (Space Amateur Radio EXperiment) direct ham radio contact in 1991, was named after the lost shuttle *Challenger*, which carried the first schoolteacher, Christa McAuliffe. The ham radio advisor at the school is Science and Information Technology Teacher Frank Forrester, KI6YG. The event is sponsored by the [Escondido Amateur Radio Society](#).

After the *Columbia* disaster, the Challenger JHS students wrote essays that were put in a time capsule to be opened in 2013 by the first of the school's students to be born after the *Columbia* tragedy. "Its been very busy at Challenger since the *Columbia* tragedy with most of the local TV stations having made pilgrimages to interview our students," Forrester said. "They wrote reflective essays, and tried to make meaning of this event." Forrester hopes the process will help students to make better connections with historical events.

San Diego ARRL Section Manager Kent Tiburski, K6FQ, reports that a 10-minute television news feature was rebroadcast several times by KUSI in San Diego, which covered the special event.

Forrester now hopes his students can one day enjoy a contact with the crew of the International Space Station. He believes the experience would rekindle his students' interest in world events, space exploration, and science.

UPCOMING AMATEUR RADIO EXAMS

From the ARRL Web Site

16-Feb-2003

06-Apr-2003

08-Jun-2003

Sponsor: RAPPAHANNOCK VE GROUP

Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: CURT R BARTHOLOMEW

(540)720-2392

Email: N3GQ@ARRL.NET

VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#)

Location: PORTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

2001 PARKWAY BLVD

[HTTP://WWW.N4NW.ORG/EXAMS.HTM](http://WWW.N4NW.ORG/EXAMS.HTM)

STAFFORD, VA 22554