



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.w4ovh.net>



OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

FEBRUARY 2004

Next meeting: February 16, 2004

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

(Editor)

THE VIENNA WIRELESS "WINTERFEST"

On Sunday, Feb. 29, 2004, the 28th annual Winterfest will bring hams and equipment vendors together for a full day of fun! Winterfest 2004 will be held at the Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus. Several amateur radio clubs will be on hand to provide information about the ham radio hobby, getting started, where to find instructional help for earning the amateur radio license and much, much more!

And, if you're ready to take the test, a credentialed VE Examination Team will be on hand Saturday, February 28th, so that you can earn that new license or upgrade. Dealers in communications equipment, new and used, antennas, cabling, parts and supplies will also be on hand to help you find the hard-to-find. And there will be several informative seminars to bring you up-to-date on the latest in the amateur radio hobby.

For more informatin on Winterfest, and to reserve a vendor table, please visit . . .

<http://www.viennawireless.org>

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

OFFICERS

President:	Ruth Frock	KU4WH	331-1234
Vice Pres:	John Heartney	KG4NXT	257-3566
Secretary:	Phil Colling	AC4PL	393-8658
Treasurer:	Bill South	N4WJN	590-9562

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdel	W4HJL	369-2877
Art Whittum	KW4AW	791-4330
Charlie Dale	WA4YGI	361-3091
John Zorger	WA1STU	754-2378

WEEKLY NETS

Thursdays - 8:00 PM	RUTH	331-1234
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HAMFEST 2004

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042
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FIELD DAY 2004

TBD

CLUB ROSTER

Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877
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EDUCATION

Bill	K9ZD	754-7913
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CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Brian	N8FK	257-9545
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ARES AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David	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	N4WJN	590-9562
Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234

GENERATORS

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Bill	K9ZD	754-7913

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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HOME PAGE

Bill	N4WJN	590-9562
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JOTA

Paul	N2PJ	330-0796
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LEGAL

Pete	KB4RME	369-2436
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

John Zorger	WA1STU	754-2378
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NEWSLETTER

Steve	KB4OF	368-6901
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NEWSLINE

Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
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PACKET

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4WJN	590-9562

PICNIC

Ellie	KF4NBO	361-8059
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PROGRAM'S

PUBLICITY

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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O' MASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Art	W1CRO	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	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	N4WJN	590.9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Mike	WV3H	753-9346
George	KE2AM	791-7688
Bill	K9ZD	754-7913
Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939

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

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 16, 2004. 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:	John Heartney	KG4NXT
Vice President:	Dwight Agnew	N4GSD
Treasurer:	Bill South	N4WJN
Secretary:	Phil Colling	AC4PL

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.

Minutes of the Ole' Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting Jan. 19, 2004

The meeting was called to order by **President Ruth Frock/KU4WH** at 2001 Eastern time.

Following the **Pledge of Allegiance**, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 24 members present.

PROGRAM

Wayne/AG4ZZ provided OVH a presentation on "The Joy of QRPing."

If you want build your own QRP rig, you need good vision, good lighting, good magnification and very tiny fingers. You can throw a QRP rig and a small battery in your backpack. Several vendors are coming out with QRP rigs. Power can be adjustable by the power supply. You need a real antenna that is pretuned to be effective. The better the antenna, the better your results, especially if you lower your power. Biggest threat is QRM and powerful signals booming in on top of you. Another problem is the conditions themselves (propagation). When you think about QRP, think about the power and think about the receiver. Sometimes it's better to wait for someone to call CQ and respond rather than to call CQ yourself.

BUSINESS

MEETING

MINUTES: – The minutes of the December 2003 OVH meeting were approved as published.

TREASURER'S REPORT: **Ruth/KU4WH** – The Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

REPEATERS: **Art/W1CRO** – The two-meter repeater is not receiving well because of the cold and it is too cold for the repair crew to go and find out what is wrong with it. The 440 repeater will be linked with the two-meter repeater until the weather allows repairs to be made.

EDUCATION: **Bill/K9ZD** - Classes for 2004 are getting ready to go. Classes start March 17 running to May 26, from 7 to 9 pm at Stonewall Jackson High School.

HAMFEST: **David/KG4GIY** - As Jack would say, we are where we need to be. We need folks to do some of the important jobs still. **John/KG4NXT** has volunteered to head up the front gate and **Brian/N8FK** has stepped up for the overnight security shift. It is not too early to think about what you want to do to help out! It is our hamfest - help make it a good one again this year!

FIELD DAY: **Brian/N8FK** – The park in Nokesville is secured.

MEMBERSHIP: **Charlotte/KG4QXO** is stepping down as Membership Chair, being replaced by **John/WA1STU**. Thank you Charlotte for your help as Membership Chair the last two years.

FAR: **Ruth/KU4WH** – There is nothing to report. A new contest coming up – the **Mid-Atlantic QSO party** on May 8 and 9.

WEEKLY NET: **Ruth/KU4WH** - Thanks for all who are helping out with the weekly net. The new rotation list has gone to those who have indicated interest.

CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR: Brian/N8FK - Not much is going on at the moment. A **bike ride** coming up in early spring.

ARES: David/KG4GIY – Brian/N8FK is recognized as an **Official Emergency Station**. **Jeff/N1SN** is recognized as an **Official Emergency Station** and an **Official Relay Station**. **Congratulations** Brian and Jeff.

The **MS Walk** on the **National Battlefield** is set for the **17th of April**. A **call for volunteers** will go out in late February. If you want to sign-up to help in advance, drop a E-mail to **David/KG4GIY** (kg4giy@arrl.net).

The Dulles Drill is set for **May 8th**. The following has been sent to all **ARES** members, as well as **OVH** members:

On Saturday, May 8, 2004, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) will be having a disaster drill at the Dulles International Airport. This drill is a full dress rehearsal for a real event and will happen rain or shine. The Amateur community has again been invited to participate in this drill.

This is the first drill since the events of September 11, 2001 and as a result, security concerns are in place. Because of this, the names of Amateurs who wish to participate, must be submitted to MWAA in advance of the drill. The drill is open to all amateurs. If you wish to participate, please send me (**David/KG4GIY**) an email indicating that you wish to participate, and include your full name, current call sign and a contact number where you can be reached.

If you wish to participate, you might want to consider that most of the communications work is manning the transportation buses from the "crash site" to area hospitals. This means that you should possess or have access to a dual-band (2/440) mobile radio (capable of greater than 5 watts output), an antenna(s) with the ability to be mounted/secured to almost any surface (metallic, non-metallic, mirror mount), and a power source for a minimum of 3 hours of operation (assume 35% duty cycle at full output wattage). Because personal vehicles will not be permitted beyond the staging area, all gear must be "portable." Transportation will be provided from the staging area to the work areas. It is advisable to bring a dual-band (2/440) HT as well, also with a minimum of 3 hours of power as well. Some of the work may involve shadowing officials or providing communications for agencies that do not have their own.

There will also be a limited need for packet operators. If you have a portable packet station that meets the voice requirements, please let me know as well.

I would like to submit the list of volunteers to the **Loudoun County EC** by Tuesday, February 17, 2004 so that he can combine it with the lists from the other jurisdictions and submit it as a unified whole.

This promises to be an exciting and educational drill and I hope you will take advantage of the training opportunity.

We will also be supporting the Hospital during this exercise.

NEW

BUSINESS

Ruth/KU4WH – The OVH elections take place next month and the same cast of characters are running again for the same positions

John/KG4NXT - Newline is in trouble financially. Do we want to send them money? Put it on the list of things for the next term.

Art/W1CRO – Art nominated the existing slate of officers. Motion carried.

Brian/N8FK - Brian nominated **Dwight/N4GSD** for Vice President. Motion carried. Dwight's name will be added to the ballot

George/KE2AM – George was contacted by Jim at **Woodbridge Wireless Inc.** about linking the repeaters. **Do we want to link the repeaters?** The technical committee is to take it under consideration.

Charlie/WA4YGI - Bob Weaver is still the point of contact at Urbana for **JOTA** this year.

Meeting adjourned at 2142 Eastern time.

73s Phil/AC4PL

SUNSHINE CORNER

It was great to see **Ken/WB4ZOH** at last month's meeting. I'm glad he is recovering so well!

Happy Birthday to our friends and fellow Hams – **Chuck/KE4JWY**, **Lloyd/N4OOM**, **Robert/K2TV**, **Ro/WB4NWG**, **Art/W1CRO**, and **Dennis/KD4WGN**. I hope all have a great day!

Volunteer for Hamfest! It is YOUR CLUB -- do YOUR PART!

73 de Jan/KE4TMW

BPL Clearinghouse Info On OVH WEB

If you are a ham who is concerned about what BPL (Broadband over Power Lines) is, and how it will affect Amateur radio, SWL, emergency service, time standard and other HF reception, please go to <http://www.w4ovh.net/> and check the BPL Facts link on the main page.

If you know of any additional links that discuss BPL, please forward those in an e-mail to BPL@W4OVH.NET
Bill South/N4WJN/OVH WEBmaster

[echolink] DAYTON HAMVENTION ECHOLINK-VOIP FORUM

We are pleased to announce that the Dayton Hamvention Committee has approved the first Echolink-VoIP Forum to be held at the 2004 Dayton Hamvention. The Echolink-VoIP forum will include a historical perspective of Internet Linking, a presentation of the different VoIP Systems, discussion of future trends and a question and answer period. The forum will take place on Sunday May 16 from 8:30-10:30 AM in Room 2 of the Hamvention. The forum will be moderated by Terry, G4CDY and Jim, WB2REM. At this time we are happy to announce that Jonathan, K1RFD the developer of Echolink and Dave Cameron, VE7LTD the creator of IRLP will be participating on the panel. This is an event not to be missed!!

If you have suggestions for this forum feel free to contact Jim, WB2REM at wb2rem@amsat.org.
Forwarded by Art/W1CRO

League Files "A Plan for the Next Decade" with FCC



(Jan 28, 2004) -- The ARRL has filed a *Petition for Rule Making* asking the FCC to amend its Part 97 rules to complete the Amateur Service restructuring the Commission began in 1999 but left unfinished. The League wants the FCC to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra (see "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access"). The ARRL says its petition follows in the footsteps of changes in Article 25 of the international *Radio Regulations* adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003. Among those changes, WRC-03 deleted the Morse testing requirement for amateur applicants seeking HF privileges and left it up to individual countries to determine whether or not they want to mandate Morse testing. While several countries--including Germany, the UK and Australia--already have dropped their Morse testing requirements, the ARRL

emphasized in its petition that Morse code is not the primary issue at hand.

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ARRL Emergency Communications Course registration



(Feb 6, 2004) -- Registration opens Monday, February 9, 12:01 AM Eastern Time (0501 UTC), for the Level II Emergency Communications on-line course (EC-002). Registration remains open through the February 14-15 weekend or until all seats are filled--whichever occurs first. Class begins Tuesday, February 24. Thanks to our grant sponsors--the Corporation for National and Community Service and the United Technologies Corporation--the \$45 registration fee paid upon enrollment will be reimbursed after successful completion of the course. During this registration period, approximately 60 seats are being offered to ARRL members on a first-come, first-served basis. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education ([C-CE](#)) Web page and the C-CE Links found there. For more

information, contact Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, <mailto:dmiller@arrl.org>, 860-594-0340.

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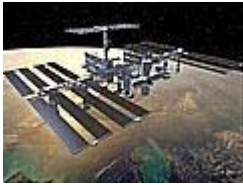
Broadband Over Power Line on FCC's February 12 Meeting Agenda



(Feb 6, 2004) -- The FCC will consider a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* concerning changes to its Part 15 rules as they apply to so-called "access" Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems when it meets February 12. Last April the Commission issued a *Notice of Inquiry (NOI)* in ET Docket 03-104 on the subject of BPL--a form of carrier current communication. The Commission's *NOI* sought input on the amendment of Part 15 regarding new requirements and measurement guidelines for access BPL, which uses exterior power lines to distribute broadband content and provide Internet access. Issuance of an *NPRM* would mark the next step in the FCC's BPL proceeding.

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It's Musical Chairs Again for Next ISS Crews



(Feb 6, 2004) -- After replacing the commander of the next International Space Station crew less than a month ago, NASA and its ISS partners now have announced the assignment of an altogether new crew. The Expedition 9 crew now will consist of astronaut Mike Fincke and cosmonaut Gennady Padalka, RN3DT. Padalka, 45, will serve as Expedition 9 commander and *Soyuz* commander, while Fincke, 36, will be the NASA ISS science officer and flight engineer. They have been training together as a space station crew for nearly two years, NASA said. Their experience as a team was cited as a primary reason for the personnel shift. The

Expedition 10 crew assignments also will change.

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ARRL Certification and Continuing Education course registration



(Feb 5, 2004) -- Registration for the ARRL Antenna Modeling (EC-004) courses opens Monday, February 9, 12:01 AM Eastern Time (0501 UTC). Registration remains open through Sunday, February 16. Classes begin Tuesday February 17. Those interested in taking an ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) course in the future can sign up to receive advance notification of registration opportunities. To take advantage, send an e-mail to prereg@arrl.org. On the subject line, indicate the course name or number (eg, EC-00#) and the month you want to start the course. In the message body, provide your name, call sign, and e-mail address. Please do not send inquiries to this mailbox. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education ([C-CE](#)) Web page and the C-CE Links found there. For more information, contact [Certification and Continuing Education Program Department](#).

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Amateur Radio Antenna Bill in Play in Vermont



(Feb 5, 2004) -- Vermont amateurs are hoping their state will be the 21st to adopt Amateur Radio antenna legislation based on the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1. A bill in the Vermont House, H.602, not only would incorporate the essence of PRB-1's stance that local governments must "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio communication with "minimal practicable regulation," it would include a schedule of minimum regulatory heights for antenna structures. Sponsored by Rep Ira Trombley of Grand Isle, H.602 has been referred to the House Local Government Committee.

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AO-40 Command Team Plays the Waiting Game



(Feb 3, 2004) -- Ground controllers for the now-dark AO-40 satellite are waiting for something to break aboard the spacecraft. Specifically, they want one of the cells of the main battery bank to open up and "unshort" the power bus. That open circuit then could mean the command team would be able use the auxiliary batteries--now tied in parallel with the main battery bank--to restart the satellite. The command team hypothesizes that a failure within the main battery is clamping the bus voltage low. The command team meanwhile continues to signal the satellite to turn off the main batteries and turn on the auxiliary batteries and the 2.4

GHz "S2" downlink transmitter.
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Future of Amateur Radio among Hamboree forum topics



(Feb 3, 2004) -- A roundtable discussion on the future of Amateur Radio will be among the forums at the 44th Tropical Hamboree and Florida State Convention Saturday and Sunday, February 7-8, sponsored by the Dade Radio Club of Miami. Participants in the Saturday, 3:30 PM, roundtable will include ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth, [International Amateur Radio Union](#) President Larry Price, W4RA, *CQ* Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, and Gordon West, WB6NOA. Alan Gauzens, WA4ATF, will moderate. Hollingsworth also will conduct an FCC forum at 2 PM Saturday. Other activities include a 10:30 AM Saturday public relations forum with ARRL Southern Florida Section Manager Sherri Brower, W4STB, Moseson and West. The ARRL forum will be Sunday, 10 AM, with

ARRL Southeastern Division Director Frank Butler, W4RH, Vice Director Sandy Donahue, W4RU, Brower, and West Central Florida SM Dave Armbrust, AE4MR. Amateur Radio at The National Hurricane Center will be the theme Sunday, 1 PM, for [WX4NHC](#) Amateur Radio Coordinator John McHugh, KU4GY, and his assistant Julio Ripoll WD4R. The ninth annual Amateur Radio Hurricane Conference takes place Saturday at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, just a few blocks west of the Hamboree. There is no charge, but attendance is extremely limited. ARRL's Dan Miller, K3UFG, will conduct an ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications course *seminar* on Friday in conjunction with the Hamboree. In addition to the flea market, other events include ham radio examinations and fox hunting. For more details, visit the [Hamboree](#) Web site.

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FCC Goes After Alleged 10-Meter Scofflaws



(Feb 2, 2004) -- The FCC is working on at least two fronts to eliminate unlicensed operation from the 10-meter band. Earlier this month, FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth sent warning notices to two shipping companies regarding reports to the Commission that some of the companies' vehicles may be the source of illegal radio transmissions on the amateur band. One of the companies, UPS, has offered its full cooperation.

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Last Year's Youngest General Now This Year's Youngest Extra



(Jan 29, 2004) -- An Oregon girl considered a year ago as the youngest General class licensee in the US now may be the country's youngest Amateur Extra ticket holder. Seven-year-old Mattie Clauson, AD7BL (ex-KD7TYN and ex-KD7SDF), of Roseburg passed her Extra examination January 14 during a Valley Amateur Radio Club ARRL-VEC volunteer examination session in Eugene. The FCC granted her new ticket and an Extra-appropriate call sign on January 20.

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