

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 -- 145.030 Port 2: 223.660 (SysOp Use Only) Port 3: 223.540 MHz
BBS--BBSNVA/N4WJN (SYSOP--BILL)
<http://www.qsl.net/olevahams>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

APRIL 2002

Next meeting: April 15, 2002

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

(Editor)

Message From the President

Greetings to All OVH Members:

Steve Frick/N4OGR, arranged the following program for this month's meeting:

The program for the April meeting will be a "**Fleet Watch**" presentation. Officer Leake will be the speaker and it will last about 30 min. Fleet Watch is a community watch type of program where, for instance, utility companies, already in the neighborhood checking meters and doing repair work, can report suspicious activity through their 2-way radios to their dispatcher who can relay it to the police. Hams can do the same thing, reporting directly to the police through the autopatch. In other words, extra eyes and ears! Several years ago this program was presented to the club, and this will be a refresher, plus good info for our new members. It should be an interesting program for all!

Ruth Frock/KU4WH, arranged to have **Marilyn Phipps/KA4JKW**, give a presentation on embroidering polo shirts. Club members can have their call sign or other symbols or logos embroidered on these shirts.

If you have any ideas for future club functions or meeting programs, please contact me at 703-754-7913 or K9ZD@arrl.net

73,

Bill/K9ZD

"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS"

Post Office Box 1255

Manassas, VA. 20108

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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 sameade@erols.com

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

Field Day 2002

Field Day 2002 starts at 1800 UTC on **Saturday, June 22nd** and runs through 2100 UTC **June 23rd**. A Field Day packet is available for download from the ARRL web site. I have one and have started getting ready. Although the **OVHARC** plans our usual fun time at J. C. Long Park – where we have the pavillion reserved (Thanks **Mary Lu**) – it will be a little different this year. New rules and more chances for people to participate.

Instead of the traditional "**Novice Station**", we have the opportunity to set up a "**GOTA Station**" – that is: "Get On The Air. It is to allow Novice, Technician and generally inactive hams a chance to **Get On The Air**. Non-licensed people can participate in the GOTA station as long as a control operator is present. We can capture up to 400 QSOs with this station – and if we do – it's worth an extra 100 bonus points. Neat way to go. The kicker is: any one person maxes out at 100 QSOs – so at least four people would get to operate the GOTA ... of course, we can double your fun by reducing the number of contacts made by individuals – 50 QSOs for eight people, etc.

This station will not count against our traditional "two station HF set up." So we can operate "**TWO ALFA**," include a transmitter operating the bands above 50 MHz AND operate the GOTA station. Of course, we can always add an HF transmitter if there are enough volunteers, but we have gotten along fine with only two main rigs on HF so far. It's a matter of support.

Once again, we'll be able to garner extra points for publicity, public participation, traffic handling, non-traditional mode demonstrations (**ATV, APRS, packet**, etc).

I'll have more information ready for the April meeting – see you there!

Contact for Field Day information and to volunteer for set up and operations is: **Arthur Whittum/KW4AW**. 703.791.4330 or kw4aw@ieee.org or kw4aw@n4wjn.#nova.va.usa.noam.

Estate Sale Items

Model Number	Description	Serial No.	Price
IC-275H	ICOM VHF All Mode Transceiver	01652	\$550.00
HM-12	ICOM Microphone and pwr cable		p/o IC-275H
Archer	Dynamic headphones (8 ohm)		
VoCom 2CO25-CHG	VHF Amplifier 2W/25W		\$35.00
Astron RS- 4A	Astron 4 amp Power Supply	0	\$25.00
Astron RS-7A	Astron 7 amp Power Supply	9506386	\$35.00
Archer 273-1650	AC Adapter 3/4.5/6/7.5/9V 300 ma		\$8.00

Larsen NM-MM	Larsen mag mount	\$20.00
Larsen NM-150	Larsen VHF 5/8 w antenna	\$15.00
DAIWA	Coaxial Switch A/B UHF fittings	\$18.00
SPN4139A	DC Adapter 12 Vdc 300 ma	\$7.00
GE RT9541 B	DC Adapter 6.0V@200 ma or 7.5V @100 ma	\$8.00
ICOM BP-20	Clamshell battery pack for IC-02	offer?
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Generic	Data Switch 1 X 4	\$5.00
Generic	Data Switch 1 X 2 w/ RJ-11 adapters	\$5.00
T-Bar	Data Switch 1 X 2	\$5.00
Allied GD-30	KnightKit Grid Dip Oscillator	\$15.00
Ten-Tec TW-24	Project box - Enclosure (New)	\$2.00

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Steve/N4OGR

Repeater News

Not much to report for this month. We are fortunate to have had a relatively trouble-free session again. If anyone experiences interference or suspects we are encountering problems with intermodulation products, please don't hesitate to contact a control operator or kw4aw@ieee.org to report what it sounds like, when it occurred and for how long. If you can determine whether or not you can hear it on the input frequency of the repeater – and provide your location at that time – it'll help also. Several times in the past we have experienced trouble with other signals that took months to track down. The more complete the information obtained, the easier it gets.

73, Art/KW4AW

Old Virginia Hams to Provide Communications for National Railway Historical Society Convention?

By Tom Podlesak/WA2QAL

At our February meeting, I proposed to our club that we consider providing communications for the 2003 National Railway Historical Society Convention, to be held in Baltimore in July 2003. Since we were running late and I did not have time to fully explain what was entailed in this effort, I was asked to submit this article to the newsletter, to more fully explain what was going on.

The National Railway Historical Society is the largest organization of railroad aficionados in the U.S. It holds a convention each year; this year's convention is in Arizona. The 2003 convention is to be held in Baltimore, from the June 30 to July 6, 2003. It is part of a larger celebration called America on Track. America on Track is co-sponsored by the City of Baltimore and CSX Transportation, one of the largest railroads in the U.S. America on Track celebrates the 175th anniversary of the beginning of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad began on July 4, 1828, with a ceremony in Baltimore presided over by Charles Carroll of Carrollton, at that time the sole surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence. This is going to be a large celebration; the City of Baltimore expects 2 million visitors for the festivities in late June-early July.

I am a member of the National Railway Historical Society (NRHS), the Washington Chapter of the NRHS, which is sponsoring the convention, and the convention committee. At our monthly convention meeting in February, the question of communications came up. I volunteered to approach the OVH and have us consider providing communications for the convention. The details are as follows.

What the NRHS appears to want is an executive net. They will have three nets on "business band" walkie-talkies, staffed with convention volunteers. They need a net to tie together the three nets. That's where we hams come in.

There will be three venues for these three nets, and we would have to have a station at each venue, where we could relay messages between the three smaller nets. The first venue is the convention hotel, the Wyndham Inner Harbor. The second would be accompanying a bus caravan to various sites, such as museums. The third would be on the chartered train.

Each site presents challenges. In the brief discussion at the last meeting, the question was raised as to whether or not it would be possible to install an antenna on the roof of the Wyndham hotel. At the March convention meeting, I made such a request to the convention hotel committee. I asked that the antenna be a beam. The bus caravan is perhaps the simplest, in that it should be possible to include a member's radio equipped vehicle in the group of vehicles. The train is the big challenge.

When I'm asked the question, "What do you people do at your conventions?" I say, "I and about a thousand close friends charter a train and go joyriding." This is not far from the truth. A train will be assembled, from a variety of sources, and a series of daylong excursions will be held. Two questions arise. The first is where do we put the station. The answer will be, by and large, in the NRHS Washington Chapter's 1923 Pullman car, the *Dover Harbor*. One or more staterooms will be reserved for convention business, and we should be able to set up in one of these. Power is no problem; both 110 and 220 VAC are available, either as train central power or off the *Dover Harbor's* 39 kW diesel generator. Antennas may be a problem. I erroneously assumed that the car roof is non-metallic; it is steel. There is a row of ceramic insulators installed along the centerline of the roof. The car originally had a broadcast receiving antenna mounted along these insulators, and we are welcome to use them. The car is 90 feet long. The car is normally maintained every Saturday at its siding in Jessup, MD. We have been invited to visit some Saturday, to look over the car. It should be noted that some trips might not include the Dover Harbor, so

an alternative site for the station would need to be established. In these instances, the Dover Harbor would be parked in Baltimore and available for our use as a net control station. What the alternatives will be is yet to be determined, which leads to the next question, "Where are these excursions going?"

This is quite complicated, in that there are many details to firm up. They range from what railway equipment is available, to the appeal of a certain route, to the cooperation of the owners of the track the excursions will pass over. For the sake of discussion, I assumed, as a worse case, that one trip will depart Baltimore, go to Point of Rocks, MD (where US 15 crosses the Potomac River), up the Potomac River to Harpers Ferry and Martinsburg, WV, continue on to Cumberland, MD and end up in southwestern Pennsylvania, on top of the 3000 foot high Sandpatch Summit, the highest pass traversed by a railroad east of the Rockies. They will be other excursions.

We will need to provide personnel from July 1 to July 6. Tentative plans call for excursions on the 1st and 2nd, events in Baltimore on the 3rd and 4th and excursions on the 5th and 6th. Additional help from Baltimore area hams will probably be needed. It has been suggested that we supply the NRHS with names of Baltimore area clubs and the NRHS make a formal invitation to these clubs. I broached this with the NRHS and they are agreeable to this. The question of dry runs over excursion route was also raised; this does not look very probable.

I believe this covers everything for now. The NRHS is enthusiastic about our helping them and I believe several of our people were very interested in this service activity. I will discuss it further at the March meeting.

SaudiSat 1-A (SO-41) Now Available for Amateur Use

SaudiSat 1-A (SO-41) now is reported open for Amateur Radio communication. According to information received by AMSAT-NA President Robin Haighton, VE3FRH, SO-41 has been configured for FM voice repeater operation.

Turki Al Saud, director of the Space Research Institute in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia--the satellite's sponsoring agency--told AMSAT-NA that SO-41 will automatically enable its UHF transmitter over Saudi Arabia and the US for approximately 20 minutes each pass. The spacecraft reportedly is configured for Mode J, with a VHF uplink of 145.850 MHz and a UHF downlink of 436.775 MHz. The spacecraft will operate in this mode intermittently, as power and spacecraft experiments permit, the announcement said.

SO-41's downlink RF power is 1 W with left-hand circular polarization. The uplink antenna--located atop the spacecraft—is linear in polarization. Experiments and software development continue with SaudiSat 1-B (SO-42), and that satellite is not yet available to amateurs.

SaudiSat 1A and 1B were launched along with TIUNGSAT-1 on September 26, 2000, from the Baikonur Cosmodrome, aboard a converted Soviet ballistic missile. Both satellites have been in various stages of commissioning since then. **ARLS004**

Dues Reminder

If you haven't paid your dues, this will be your last newsletter. Also, the new autopatch code for the repeater is being mailed with this newsletter. If you did not receive the new code, it probably means you haven't paid your dues.

Editor