

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/N3OH (SYSOP--BILL)
<http://www.w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

APRIL 2006

Next meeting: April 17, 2006

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

President's Letter

Welcome to April. Last month, there were COMTEK sponsored BPL measurements on one part of Dumfries. COMTEK and the City have not released the results yet. Thanks to all active on the BPL front. Four members of our club appeared in front of the City Council. George, K4GVT, spoke against BPL.

The Technician class is in its final weeks and it is a very fine class indeed. One member has already passed his test and has checked into our Thursday night net – Joe , KI4OHR. Al, KB4BHB, invited the youngest member of the class and his father to Al's house to build a crystal radio. The radio worked fine.

On April 22, we will have a VE session for the class and any walk-ins. The VEs include myself, KG4NXT; Steve/N4OGR; Ken /WB4ZOH, Ruth/KU4WH and Brian, WC4J. We have high hopes for this class taught by John, WA1STU and Al.

If you have not attended one of the Thursday night eyeball QSO gatherings, you should do so. Dwight, AI4II, has moved the gathering to Barnes and Nobel from JavaRock, which is closing. It starts at 7:00pm. Good fellowship and good coffee. Recommended! As you drive home, don't forget to check into the OVH Thursday night net.

Finally, the OVH scholarship applications are due before the end of April. If you know some one who might qualify, please contact Jim Parsons, W4JTP, at w4jtp@AOL.COM.

For our April meeting, we will have kit builder Henry Weidman, K2BFY. Henry will be showing a very inexpensive frequency counter from the NORCAL grp club. Henry will also be showing a telegraph key he made from a putty knife which looks and feels very good. Henry will also show some of his altoids tins projects.

73 John KG4NXT

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, VA. 20108

OFFICERS

President:	John Heartney	KG4NXT	257-3566
Vice Pres :	George Tarnovsky	K4GVT	791-5956
Secretary:	Phil Colling	AC4PL	393-8658
Treasurer:	Bill South	N3OH	590-9562

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdel	W4HJL	369-2877
Art Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330
Charlie Dale	WA4YGI	361-3091
John Zorger	WA1STU	754-2378

WEEKLY NETS

Thursdays — 8:00 PM	JOHN	257-3566
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HAMFEST 2006

Keith Bennington	KM4AA	909-1512
Art Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330

FIELD DAY 2006

John Z.	WA1STU	754-2378
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CLUB ROSTER

Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877
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EDUCATION

John Z.	WA1STU	754-2378
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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
Art	W1CRO	791-4330

GENERATORS

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512

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

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	N3OH	590-9562

PROGRAM'S

TBA

PUBLICITY

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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Q' MASTER

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
John	WA1STU	754-2378

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

John	WA1STU	754-2378
Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N3OH	590-9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
George	K4GVT	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@arri.net

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

SUNSHINE CORNER

Happy Birthday to our friends and fellow Hams: **Worth/WB4ZIG, Barry/WA4HR, Brian/WC4J, Paul/N4PD, Morgan, David/KI4AZX, Paul/W4ZB, Cathy/AE4UM and Larry/KA4CTX.** Hope each of you has a great day!

Make your plans to help at the Hamfest! We need you!!!

Thanks and 73 de Jan /KE4TMW

LETTER FROM CHIEF OF POLICE

To all Business, Fleet and Inn Watch Coordinators:

I am writing to thank you for another year of crime fighting. The Prince William County Police Department is grateful for your commitment to our community and values your opinions and observations to assist us in shaping future crime prevention efforts.

As part of the Prince William County community, you are in a position to offer us valuable information to ensure that our perspectives and goals are in sync with the citizens we serve. This is accomplished through our annual survey of Watch Coordinators. Every reply is appreciated and closely evaluated for future planning.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed survey, which is designed to be completed and forwarded by email to the Crime Prevention Unit (mchilds@pwcgov.org), and return it by April 5, 2006.

Yours truly,
Charlie T. Deane
Chief of Police

Submitted by Steve, N4OGR

Minutes of the Ole' Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting – March 20, 2006

John / KG4NXT called meeting to order at 2000 Eastern Time.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 27 OVH members and two guests present.

PROGRAM

Phil Wherry / AI4JF, of the Vienna Wireless Society, gave a fascinating presentation on recent amateur radio experiments involving weather balloons done by members of the Vienna Wireless Society. Vienna Wireless has now launched three balloons. Typical payloads included an HT, a GPS, one or two cameras, and marshmallow "Peep," known as the "Peeponauts." Complete information regarding these weather balloon / amateur radio experiments and dozens of excellent photos can be found at www.viennawireless.org. Thank you Phil for your excellent presentation.

BUSINESS MEETING

Bill / N3OH read the Treasurer's report.

The minutes of the February 2006 OVH meeting were approved.

REPEATERS – Art / WICRO – Art is working on a receiver and a tone module.

HAMFEST – Art / WICRO – So far everything is either on or ahead of schedule. We need volunteers to staff the gates and for security. We would like for three teams to mark tailgate spaces. We will contact Mt. Vernon ARC regarding VE session. The Hamfest Committee had a meeting last week. George / K4GVT noted that the Red Cross will bring their communications van. In return, Art noted that we will provide the Red Cross with a table. George listed some of the vendors that will be present.

MEMBERSHIP – John / WA1STU – Joseph Dobes, who is one of the students in the class, was read in for membership.

EDUCATION – John / WA1STU – The class is going well. We expect for students to take the exam on April 22. John Thanked AI / KB4BHB and John / KG4NXT and everyone else who has helped for their help with the class.

FIELD DAY – John / WA1STU – John asked us for our ideas for field day. Otherwise, we'll do it all John's way! There was a general consensus that we should use fewer stations this year, though the details have not yet been finalized. We'll have Field Day at Nokesville Park.

HARRY D. VORHAUER SCHOLARSHIP – Jim / W4JTP – We are looking for candidates. The deadline for application is the end of April. John / KG4NXT read a thank you card from Alexa Jones, who won the Harry D. Vorhauer Scholarship last year and is now a student at Virginia Tech.

ARES – David / KG4GIY – David thanked everyone who participated in the Patriot Challenge in January. Steve / N4OGR is working with Manassas Park officials, and we will have a slot at their new facility. We will also have two slots with PW County. ARES has become much more visible in PW County. Upcoming events include a national marathon on March 25, the NCAC Institute on April 22, ARES training on May 20, a triathlon on June 25, a mini triathlon on June 4, and an MS walk on the Battlefield on April 1. The PW County ARES website has more details on these and other events.

NEW BUSINESS

Bill / N3OH – We will have a special event on August 26. This will be near the Groveton section of the Battlefield. More details will be forthcoming.

Bill / N3OH will try to put up a winlink station with the help of the "Davids" - KG4GIY and KI4AZX.

50/50 RAFFLE – \$31 was collected, and Phil / AC4PL won. Phil donated his winning share back to the Club.

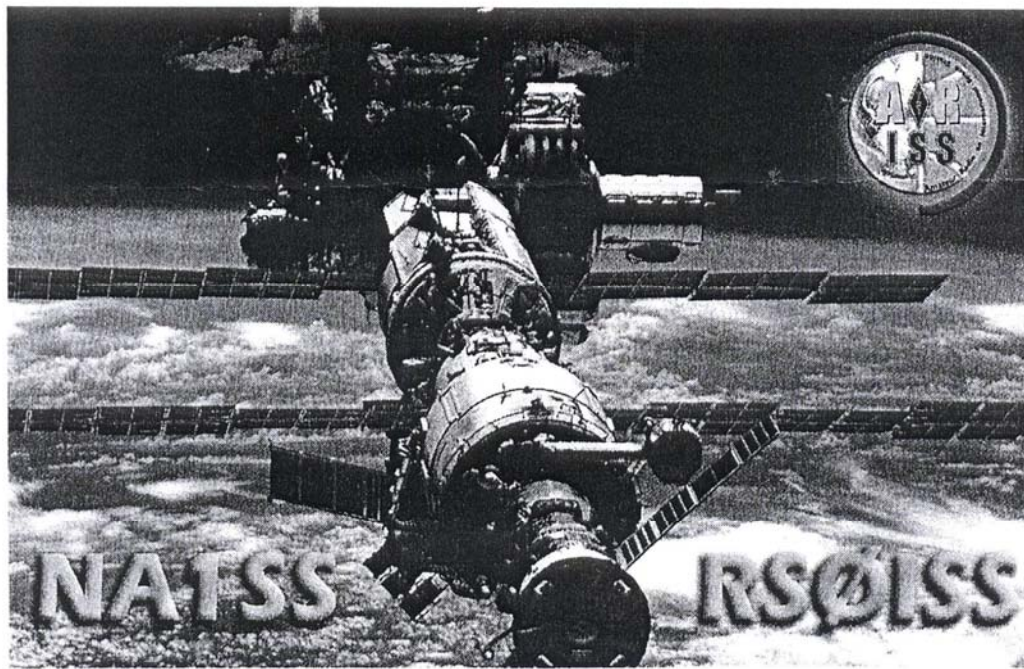
The meeting adjourned at 2135 Eastern time.

Ham Radio Contact With The International Space Station

At about 3:30pm (20:30 UTC) on 22 March 2006, I was relaxing with a nice cup of fresh coffee while monitoring the International Space Station (ISS) as it passed more than 250 miles above my Frederick County, Virginia residence. I was observing ISS movement on my computer screen with the help of a satellite-tracking program I use, and listening on one of my Ham radios to American astronaut William (Bill) McArthur making contacts with a number of Ham radio operators in the USA and Canada. McArthur, whose personal Ham call sign is KC5ACR, was using the call sign NA1SS, which is assigned to ISS and commonly used by astronauts.

At 3:34pm, after conducting a flurry of contacts, McArthur asked if any other Hams desired to make a contact with ISS. Using my call sign, N4YIC, I called McArthur. He immediately responded: "N4YIC, hello there." I replied: "Hello, Bill. This is Jack near Winchester, Virginia. Thank you for this contact, and let me wish you God Speed on your expedition." Bill thanked me, gave me a signal report, and our contact concluded, just moments before ISS passed over the horizon and out of radio range.

Pictured below are both sides of the "QSL" card I later received confirming our radio contact.



The International Space Station (ISS) is a common project of many nations in Europe as well as Canada, Russia, Japan and the USA. When fully constructed the ISS will consist of about 70 major components and hundreds of smaller ones that are to be launched into space by the year 2010. Some of the major components are:

- **Zarya**, also called Functional Cargo Block (FCB—acronym from the Russian term) – includes the energy block, contingency fuel storage, propulsion and multiple docking points.
- **Zvezda**, also called Russian Service Module – provides life support and utilities, thrusters and habitation functions (toilets and hygiene facilities).
- **Canadian Mobile Servicing System** – includes a 55-foot robot arm with 125-ton payload capability as well as a mobile transporter that can be positioned along the truss for robotic assembly and maintenance operations.
- **US, European and Japanese Laboratories** – together provide 33 International Standard Payload Racks with additional science space available in the two Russian Research Modules.
- **The Amateur Radio station** – which is frequently used to allow ISS crews and visitors to talk with school children and fellow amateurs around the world.

To: N4YIC					
From	Day	Month	Year	UTC	MHz
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA1SS	22	MAR	2006	2034	145.8
<input type="checkbox"/> RS01SS					
Mode: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Voice <input type="checkbox"/> Packet <input type="checkbox"/> SSTV <input type="checkbox"/> APRS <input type="checkbox"/> Repeater <input type="checkbox"/> SWL					



Astronaut Bill McArthur KC5ACR/NA1SS

Using just basic Ham equipment, I've previously been fortunate enough to make voice contact with Russian cosmonaut Sergey Krikalev, and American astronaut Shannon Lucid, while they were aboard the Soviet Space Station, MIR. I've also sent email messages to other Hams via the computers on board MIR while it passed overhead.

So, if you find yourself bored and lacking a good hobby, you should consider contacting your local Ham radio club. Ham radio is still exciting and very rewarding in many respects. In fact, some of your radio contacts could be, like this one was, **"right out of this world."**

Jack McDermott
Amateur Radio Station N4YIC
Stephens City, Virginia