

The OVH ARC Newsletter
"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108
FM Repeaters - W4OVH - 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+
D-STAR Repeater - W4OVH - 442.5125+
OVH Packet - Port 1: 145.730 Mhz, Port 3: 223.540 MHz - Sysop: Bill/N4SV
<http://www.w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

June 2011

Next Meeting: Monday, June 20, 2011

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to all. I hope everyone was able to participate in the OVH Hamfest. This year we had more commercial vendors asking for space than any previous year that I can remember. At the time of writing this we had 128 indoor spaces sold or spoken for. It's wonderful to see the vendors excited to attend. We will tally and report the success at the upcoming meeting.

Preliminary estimates are that Hamfest attendance was down slightly from last year, possibly due to rain shower forecasts which were inaccurate, but discouraged some from attending. There was no rain during the Hamfest, and no rain at all until very late in the afternoon. Special thanks to Bruce / AB8CI for chairing the Hamfest this year. Bruce provides a preliminary report later in this newsletter.

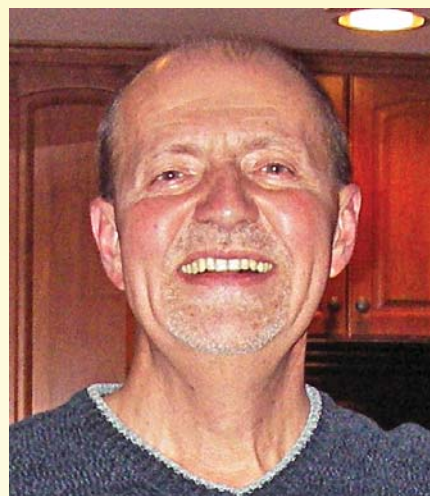
The "old timers" in the club, myself included, remember the old days of huge Hamfests. But that was then, and in recent years we have seen Hamfest attendance down, including at Dayton and Timonium, some others totally eliminated or discontinued. The OVH Hamfests continue to be the success it is because of all you who volunteer and work this event for the club. Please accept my personal THANK YOU for a job well done.

I hope many OVH members will attend to consider a very important vote. I will refrain from writing the details here, but be assured the issue requiring your vote is unprecedented in the history of the club. This issue will be at the top of the agenda, please make the time to attend, here the details and cast your vote.

Field Day 2011 is fast approaching on Saturday / Sunday, June 25th & 26. Some changes are in place, Randy / WB7RAV has several options to discuss as well as the final details before this fun event. I hope all will participate in the setup, ops, and tear down. Randy is looking for equipment, operators, and crew so please volunteer. I hope we can make this years Field Day one to remember.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming OVH regular meeting on June 20th!

73 George K4GVT



Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

| | | | |
|------------|------------------|--------|----------|
| President: | George Tarnovsky | K4GVT | 791-5956 |
| Vice Pres: | Wayne Kline | AG4ZZ | 791-2100 |
| Secretary: | Theresa Heartney | KG4TVM | 257-3556 |
| Treasurer: | Gary Gilham | WG4ARC | 932-1118 |

DIRECTORS

| | | |
|---------------------|--------|----------|
| Don (Butch) Blasdel | W4HJL | 369-2877 |
| Arthur Whittum | W1CRO | 791-4330 |
| Charlie Dale | WA4YGI | 361-3091 |
| Bob Zaepfel | K4HJF | 282-2451 |

WEEKLY NETS

| | | |
|---------------------|--------|----------|
| Thursdays - 8:00 PM | JOHN H | 257-3566 |
|---------------------|--------|----------|

HAMFEST 2011

| | | |
|-------|-------|----------|
| Bruce | AB8CI | 361-8873 |
|-------|-------|----------|

FIELD DAY 2011

| | | |
|-------|--------|----------|
| Randy | WB7RAV | 393-1494 |
|-------|--------|----------|

CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

| | | |
|--------|-------|----------|
| Arthur | W1CRO | 791-4330 |
|--------|-------|----------|

EDUCATION

| | | |
|------|--------|----------|
| Mark | WA4KFZ | 818-8033 |
|------|--------|----------|

CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

| | | |
|-------------|--------|----------|
| David Meola | KI4AZX | 393-6681 |
|-------------|--------|----------|

ARES AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

| | | |
|------------|--------|----------|
| David Lane | KG4GIY | 361-3042 |
|------------|--------|----------|

F.A.R. REPS.

| | | |
|------|-------|----------|
| Ruth | KU4WH | 331-1234 |
|------|-------|----------|

FINANCE

| | | |
|--------|--------|----------|
| Arthur | W1CRO | 791-4330 |
| Ruth | KU4WH | 331-1234 |
| Gary | WG4ARC | 932-1118 |

GENERATORS

| | | |
|-------|--------|----------|
| Steve | N4OGR | 361-0008 |
| Keith | KM4AA | 909-1512 |
| Al | KB4BHB | 368-4794 |

HISTORIAN

| | | |
|---------|--------|----------|
| Theresa | KG4TVM | 257-3566 |
|---------|--------|----------|

WEBMASTER — W4OVH.NET

| | | |
|------|------|----------|
| Bill | N4SV | 590-9562 |
|------|------|----------|

EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

| | | |
|------------|--------|----------|
| David Lane | KG4GIY | 361-3042 |
|------------|--------|----------|

JOTA

TBA.

LEGAL

| | | |
|-----|-------|----------|
| Bob | K4HJF | 282-2451 |
|-----|-------|----------|

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

| | | |
|-------|-------|----------|
| Steve | N0DWB | 349-1381 |
|-------|-------|----------|

NEWSLETTER

| | | |
|------|------|----------|
| Paul | W4ZB | 754-0910 |
|------|------|----------|

NEWSLINE

| | | |
|---------|--------|----------|
| John H. | KG4NXT | 257-3566 |
|---------|--------|----------|

PACKET

| | | |
|------|--------|----------|
| Alan | KD4KBX | 330-8844 |
| Bill | N4SV | 590-9562 |

PROGRAMS

TBA

WINTER FIELD DAY 2011

| | | |
|-----|--------|----------|
| Joe | KI4OHR | 369-2639 |
|-----|--------|----------|

QUARTERMASTER

| | | |
|-------|-------|----------|
| Steve | N4OGR | 361-0008 |
|-------|-------|----------|

REPEATER CONTROLLERS

| | | |
|--------|--------|----------|
| Keith | KM4AA | 909-1512 |
| Arthur | W1CRO | 791-4330 |
| Butch | W4HJL | 369-2877 |
| Steve | N4OGR | 361-0008 |
| David | KG4GIY | 361-3042 |
| George | K4GVT | 791-5956 |
| Alan | KD4KBX | 330-8844 |
| Russ | WB4HHN | 368-6435 |

W4OVH / W4PVA — TRUSTEE

| | | |
|-------|-------|----------|
| Keith | KM4AA | 909-1512 |
|-------|-------|----------|

SCHOLARSHIP

| | | |
|-----|-------|----------|
| Jim | W4JTP | 392-0150 |
|-----|-------|----------|

SUNSHINE

| | | |
|---------|--------|----------|
| Theresa | KG4TVM | 257-3556 |
|---------|--------|----------|

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

| | | |
|--------|--------|----------|
| George | K4GVT | 791-5956 |
| Arthur | W1CRO | 791-4330 |
| Alan | KD4KBX | 330-8844 |
| Bill | N4SV | 590-9562 |
| Butch | W4HJL | 369-2877 |
| Karl | W4KRL | 802-1527 |
| David | KG4GIY | 361-3042 |
| Bob | K4HJF | 335-1939 |
| Keith | KM4AA | 909-1512 |

All tel. numbers listed are for Area Code 703 unless otherwise noted, This is the official monthly publication of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc., a §501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio. Copyright © 2011 by the Ole Virginia Hams.

The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Monday of the month at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House at 9930 Liberia Avenue, Manassas, Virginia. Members, prospective members and all other interested persons are invited to attend. Local information can also always be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.97 & 224.660 Mhz. Up to date information about OVH activities and meetings is also available on the OVH web site at <http://www.w4ovh.net>.

Articles and quotations in the OVH Times newsletter may be reprinted if credit is given to the OVH ARC and any other noted source. Proposed materials for publication including pictures, articles, letters to the editor, classified ads, notes about specific errors, complaints or the like are solicited from all readers. Forward such items to the OVH Times Newsletter Editor: PAUL@W4ZB.COM as soon as available at any time, but the cutoff deadline for the OVH Times each month (usually the second Monday of the month) may preclude publication/correction until the following month.

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Sunshine Corner:

A Very Happy Birthday this June to Jan / KE4TMW, Steve / N4OGR, Doris / KI4DAL, Wayne / AG4ZZ, Gene / N4HFW and Bob / K4HJF

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to the bake sale at Hamfest, more information to follow about how the Bake Sale did at the Hamfest!

Congratulations to our latest scholarship winner, Steve Asselanis, a senior at Osbourne Park High School, more information about Steve later in the newsletter. Thanks to Jim / W4JTP and the Scholarship Committee for their commitment to the OVH in finding the recipient this year!

Thanks to Mark / WA4KFZ and the VE examiners Al / KB4BHB, Bob / KC4TNC, John / KG4NXT and Ross / N4RP for another successful class and VE test session, 4 passes, 1 did not pass.

Don't forget our Field Day event on Saturday, June 25th and June 26th.

Happy Father's Day!!

Please send me your news to kg4tvm@hotmail.com or by telephone to 703-257-3566.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting May 16, 2011:

George K4GVT called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on May 16, 2011. Meeting was held at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House in Manassas, Virginia.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 23 OVH members and 4 visitors.

Scholarship – Jim W4JTP thanked Mary Lu for her help this year with the selection process, our winner is Steve Asselanis, a senior at Osbourne Park High School. WOW what an impressive young man!

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the April meeting were approved as read

Treasurer's report was given by Gary / WG4ARC; report was approved as read. Membership – Voted on Brian (callsign not received yet) who just passed his Tech exam, approved; Read in the following applications – Ray Helms / KK4AQR, Terry McCarty / WA5NTI and Everett Seamans / KJ4OLF

ARES – Steve / N4OGR reminded everyone about the MS150, Bo Pierce is asking for assistance on this event; Gary / WG4ARC reported that the City of Manassas is looking for help for the Civil War events on July 19-21.

Repeaters – George / K4GVT reported all are running and he is waiting for a quote on the tower work.

Training – Mark / WA4KFZ has 4 students in class, last class is Wednesday the May 18th with the VE session on May 25th.

Hamfest – Chris / KI4POT reported that everything is moving along, Gary / WG4ARC had the postcards sent out; Chris needs to do an audit of space with the Fire Department; George / K4GVT will not be in town for the Hamfest due to work commitments, he has 91 table spaces sold

Continued on page 4

so far; Theresa / KG4TVM asked for donations to the bake sale with proceeds going to the Red Cross Radio Room this year; Steve / N4OGR asked for help with parking tailgaters

Field Day – Randy / WB7RAV is working on details for Field Day.

Sunshine Committee – Theresa / KG4TVM reported the birthdays; also reported that a reporter from the Bull Run Observer did meet with John / KG4NXT and Randy / WB7RAV about ham radio. The article should run towards the end of May.

Web Page – Paul / W4ZB volunteered to take maintenance and enhancement of the OVH Web Page from Bill / N4SV. The transition to a new server should occur during the summer, most likely in July.

Old Business – Al / KB4BHB reminded us about the Special Event in August at the Signal Hill location; George / K4GVT apologized for not controlling last month's meeting better and he resolves to carry copies of the OVH by-laws, the OVH Constitution and Robert's Rules of Order to each meeting.

New Business – Gary / WG4ARC asked why we get people's money at time of application, discussion followed; Steve / N0DWB asked if membership applications can go to him and then he will bring the check to the meeting

AMRAD – Bill / N4TS has two locations at the Manassas National Battlefield Park for the Civil War special event operations; callsign for the OVH effort will be W4C; Gene, Keith & Mark volunteered to help Bill / N4TS with the event. Callsign for the Amrad effort will be W4U.

Bill / N4SV has set up a flea market in the room next to our meeting all items are free but feel free to make donations to the club.

BREAK

50/50 - George / K4GVT won and donated his winnings back to the club, total collected \$8.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

CONFERENCES:

Friday to Sunday, September 16-18, 2011. ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference, to be held in Baltimore, Maryland this year. This is the 30th such conference. More information at <http://tapr.org>

HAMFESTS:

Sunday, July 17, 2011. BRATS Hamfest, West Friendship, Maryland. More info at <http://bratstv.org>

Sunday, August 7, 2011, Berryville Hamfest, Berryville, Virginia. More info at <http://svarc.us>

SPECIAL OPERATING EVENTS AND CONTESTS

Saturday, June 25, 2011 - Sunday, June 26, 2011, ARRL Field Day. This is a big event each year and is especially so for the OVH which puts on its own Field Day effort, with family and friends invited. Mark your calendars for this and plan to attend and participate.

Thursday - Sunday, July 21, 22, 23 and 24, 2001. AMRAD along with the Ole Virginia Hams, will be operating special event stations at the Manassas National Battlefield Park to commemorate the Battle of First Manassas (also known as First Battle of Bull Run). AMRAD's Special Event Call will be W3U and OVH's Special Event Call will be W4C. Operating QRP with CW, PSK-31 and SSB. Frequencies and more info to be posted on www.amrad.org.

Continued on page 5

There are many operating contests almost all of the time. The excellent web site maintained by WA7BNM lists most of them! See <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

PUBLIC SERVICE / TRAINING / ARES EVENTS

Check the online Calendar by David / KG4GIY at <http://www.pwcares.org> for latest updates. David maintains a comprehensive calendar for upcoming events at that web site.

2011 OVH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

The winner of the Ole Virginia Hams Harry P. Vorhauer Scholarship this year is Steven Asselanis, a senior at Osbourn Park High School.

With a GPA of 4.105 GPA Steve is ranked 45th of a class of 600 students. As you might expect, he's a member of the school's National Honor Society and Tri-M Honor Society, the math and chess teams, and Osbourn Park's It's Academic team.

But perhaps Steve's biggest interests are robotics and music. As a member of OP's FRC Robotics team, he helped create code that instructed its robot to perform specific tasks. He's also build parts of the robot, including soldering and splicing wires (Sounds like he'd make a good ham, eh?)

Last summer, he attended the Siedenbergl Summer Scholars Program at Pace University in New York City, where he and 23 other rising seniors created a robot out of LEGOs and programmed it to compete in item-selection game.

Throughout his time in high school, Steve has been part of OP's marching and pep bands, playing the mellophone and French Horn. He's been selected to participate in the All-County and All-District bands, as well as West Virginia University's Honor Band.

Taking advantage of the dual enrollment program at Northern Virginia Community College, Steve has taken courses in PC, microcomputer operating systems, and software design. And last year, he was among the few juniors invited to OP's Senior Awards Ceremony, where he was presented with the Xerox Award for Innovation and Information Technology.

This fall, Steve will take his interest in computers and robotics to the Rochester Institute of Technology, where he'll major in computer engineering. As he stated in his application, "I hope to become a computer engineer so that I can integrate all of my passions into one career. One day, I hope to start a business that showcases my skills and abilities, and become a competitive firm in the computer industry."

And anybody who's read Idea Man, the book by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, will see a lot of parallels between him and Steve. We have no doubt that Steve will accomplish everything he sets out to do, and more.

On hand to see Steven receive his well-deserved scholarship were his parents, Dino and Olympia, and sister, Maria.

Thanks to the Scholarship Committee—Jim / W4JTP (chair), Mary Lu / KB4EFP, and Ruth / KU4WH—for evaluating this year's applications and making another outstanding selection.



Hamfest and Field Day in offing for local radio operators to ham it up

By STACY SHAW
Observer staff

John and Theresa Heartney of Manassas regularly ham it up. The Manassas couple is part of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Inc. John Heartney caught the bug in high school and took up the hobby in 2001. He is the club's webmaster. When he and Theresa married, in 2003, she joined the group. She's the club's historian.

Ham radio operators have a Federal Communications Commission license.

"Mostly people talk to each other. Music isn't allowed," John Heartney said. It isn't a one-way broadcast. Ham radio is more like a live chatroom, where two or more people connect and hold a conversation over the airwaves.

Ole Virginia Ham club members meet over the airwaves every Thursday at 8 p.m. Members discuss their week and make plans for the group. "We talk to a person from Bristow but generally to people

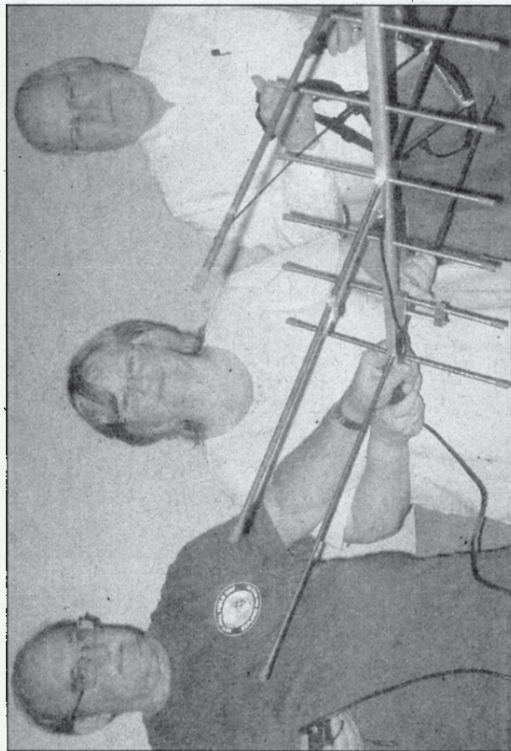
around Manassas. Sometimes, you can hear out to Fairfax," he said.

In this age of Internet, mobile phones, text messaging and Skype, it is no longer difficult to communicate over long distances, but Ole Virginia Ham members still enjoy the challenge of ham radio. "You need a technique. There's some skill involved too," he said. "I'm a computer programmer, so I'm into that sort of thing."

Communicating farther out can be a challenge, but the higher the licensure, the more bandwidth a person is allowed. Then, there are the antennas. Ham enthusiasts may have several antennas around their homes and cars.

Ham broadcasters also calculate weather conditions, sunspots and stratospheric conditions to optimize connections.

Hams can win points, in contests, by broadcasting long distances. Contacting Hawaii, which is the most-difficult state to reach via ham radio, is considered a coup. When hams make contact with far-



John and Theresa Heartney and Randy Cohen, Ole Virginia Ham members, hold a ham radio antenna.
Stacy Shaw / the Bull Run Observer

off places, the person on both sides of the connection usually sends a post-card. "You send your card, if it's a special event or a country or state you've never been to," Theresa Heartney said. The colorful post cards include the broadcaster's sign

or name, location and a picture or photo. She said she and John collect ham postcards. "It's becoming a lost art too. You see them less often," she said.

Randy Cohen, another Ole Virginia Ham member, is not a fan of collecting points. "If it's about the points, it's 'make the contact and get off,'" Cohen said. "But, some people also like to be rag-chewing on the radio."

Local hammers can use an antenna on Mount Weather in Winchester to attempt contacts with radio operators in neighboring states. Keeping it local is good, too. There is a Virginia contest challenging operators to contact as many counties as possible. Hams also show their skill by bouncing their signal off the moon and trying to make contact wherever it lands.

There is also a public service aspect to Ham radio, which can broadcast when phone lines are down. The Red Cross uses them, and hams often volunteer their services.

Until recently, Ham radio operators were required to know Morse code. "It's the simplest way to send radio signals, because you're just turning the signal on and off," John Heartney said.

The Ole Virginia Hams plans to bring its members together for three summer events: Hamfest, Field Day and a commemoration of the Second Battle of Manassas.

Hamfest helps the Ole Virginia Hams earn money for their yearly scholarship and update their radio equipment. The scholarship goes to a local graduating high school senior with scientific and technical interest and high academic achievement; if he or she is a ham radio enthusiast, that's even better.

The June 12 Hamfest, at the Prince William County Fairgrounds, starts at 7 a.m. The event offers equipment for sale and a place for radio operators to gather.

Field Day, a June 25 national event, is a time for ham radio operators to set up in fields and broadcast to each other. The Ole Va. Hams will hold its Field Day at Davis Ford Crossing Shopping Center on Liberia Avenue, beginning at 2 p.m. and lasting for 24 hours.

The group will also commemorate the Second Battle of Manassas on Aug. 27 on Signal Hill Road across from the park entrance from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. as a way of spreading information about the battle and conversing about the Civil War.

The Heartneys said they enjoy being in such an exclusive club and having fun.

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club meets the third Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Red Cross Building in Davis Ford Shopping Center in Manassas. More information about the group is online at www.w4ovh.net.

ARTICLE
APPEARING
IN THE
BULL RUN
OBSERVER
JUNE 3, 2011
EDITION
ON PAGE 41

SPECIAL EVENT WITH AMRAD
AT THE MANASSAS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK
Thursday - Sunday, July 21, 22, 23, and 24, 2011
(from <http://www.amrad.org>)

July 21, 22, 23 and 24 - AMRAD, along with the Ole VA Hams, will be operating a special event station on the Manassas National Battlefield Park on Thursday through Sunday, July 21 through 24, 2011 to commemorate the Battle of First Manassas (also known as First Battle of Bull Run). AMRAD's Special Event Call will be W3U and OVH's Special Event Call will be W4C. Operating QRP with CW, PSK-31 and SSB. Frequencies to be posted on www.amrad.org.

The Park Administrator has approved a special use permit for this event. We need to provide him with the name of people who will be operating the station along with the make, model and license plate number of their automobile. Once he has this information the permit will be issued.

Operations of the stations will have to be during the hours that the park is open on each day (Sunrise to Sunset). This means we should be on the air from 8 AM to 8 PM. Any one who is interested in participating, please email me their information and when they feel they can operate the Special Event Station. Bill Fenn, N4TS, bfenn@cox.net

Preliminary Hamfest Results - 6/15/2011

Fellow OVHers:

Many thanks to all of you who contributed to our successful 2011 Hamfest. We literally couldn't have done it without everyone doing their part. I especially want to thank those of you who changed your plans at the last minute and contributed your time and effort to fill in for the missing security detail.

We made money for the club, although not as much as last year, mainly due to reduced tailgate vendor turnout and a reduction in overall turnout. Gary will provide a more detailed report at a future club meeting.

Regardless of the financial aspect, I consider the event a success, and I hope you do too, as we once again provided a venue for hams in the region to come together for buying, selling, socializing, VE testing, awards, barbecue, etc., all without any major problems.

73 & see you at Monday's meeting,

Bruce / AB8CI

Some other useful (?) bits of information

1. Need to package a battery system to weather proof it or to prevent spillage or leakage for emergency or portable use? See, <http://w1pns.wordpress.com/2011/05/11/weatherizing-sort-of-a-battery-for-portable-qrp-ops/> That web site provides W1PNS's experiences and how to do information for doing just that.

2. Need information on how to minimize RFI? Go to <http://www.audiosystemsgroup.com/publish.htm> and look for the detailed information in PDF files provided there by K9YC about keeping RFI out of equipment and minimizing its impact.

3. Need information how to evaluate video displays, LCD monitors or projectors for purchase or use? Then go to <http://displaymate.com> and look at the evaluation information posted there. The information on the many separate web pages there about the factors to be considered is comprehensive. Good too are the explanations which are comprehensible and make sense.

VE Testing Results at the Hamfest - 6/12/2011

David / KG4GIY coordinated with the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club VE Team for VE testing at the 2011 Manassas Hamfest

The results of the VE examinations at the Hamfest on 6/12/2011:

Number of Applicants Tested = 24

Number of Elements Administered = 27

New Licensees = 4 (all techs)

General Class Upgrades = 11

Extra Class Upgrades = 6

No Elements Passed = 3

Thank you and OVH for again inviting our team to manage the VE Exam function at the OVH Manassas Hamfest. Please give consideration to asking us to manage the VE function at next year's hamfest.

John / WZ4A and the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club VE Team

Further Follow Up: LIGHTSQUARED, GPS and the FCC

One of the fundamental ideas behind independent Federal agencies such as the FCC is that such agencies will develop special technical expertise and knowledge relating to specialized technical areas, and then be able to apply that specialized technical knowledge for the benefit of the public largely free of political influence in performing the mission of the agency. Unfortunately, such agencies never operate completely free of political influence for their Commissioners are usually political appointees, and Congress controls their budgets. The misuse of political influence in these agencies is not, historically, limited to any particular party. Remember BPL?

The still developing Lightsquared saga exemplifies how the misuse of political influence by the current administration backed up by big money can override technical reality to push a flawed technological decision as part of a massive money making scheme. The technical flaw with the Lightsquared system is that it would widely interfere with and render unusable well deployed and widely used GPS systems and equipment, affecting hundreds of millions of users. That that is inevitable is not due to obscure scientific reasons, but rather to very straightforward reasons which are certainly well known to the FCC's technical and engineering staff. So why did the FCC ignore its technical and engineering staff and approve Lightsquared's technically flawed application with lightening speed in January? The real story on why that happened is still not out. Where is Eric Holder when he is really needed?

Fortunately, the GPS community, private industry, DOD, Government GPS users, emergency services, private user groups, and others affected immediately rallied strongly against the Lightsquared system which threatens to destroy GPS. Although Lightsquared publicly claims there are technical ways to avoid the disabling interference, virtually all compatibility tests conducted to date demonstrate that disabling interference occurs. The technical evidence of interference is overwhelming, and that alone is almost certain to require the FCC to reverse itself.

What about the big money behind Lightsquared? According to the Wall Street Journal, Lightsquared has been floated and financed primarily by a private hedge fund run by Phillip Falcone; further, according to the WSJ, the sophisticated investors in that hedge fund have been bailing out *en masse*, presumably because they now see the writing on the wall for Lightsquared due to the disabling interference and incompatibility with GPS. According to the WSJ, the redemptions from the hedge fund have been so rapid that the redemptions are not being paid out in cash, but instead in illiquid rights to Lightsquared equity shares.

Meanwhile, if you read the Washington Post, you have seen Lightsquared's repetitive full page advertisements which make no mention of the GPS problems, but which promise that Lightsquared will create 15,000 new jobs per year in the new green economy and make 4G available to everyone. Really?

For more follow up, Google: Lightsquared GPS Interference FCC Falcone