

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>

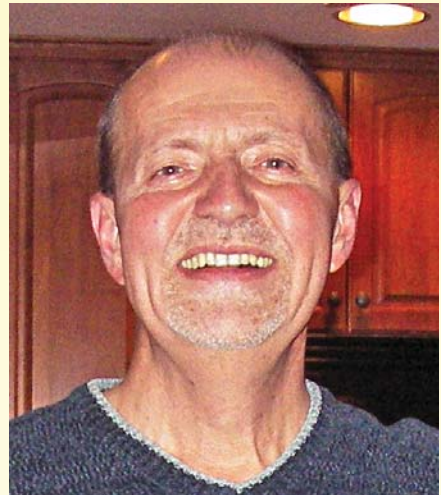
OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

September 2011

Next Meeting: Monday, September 19, 2011

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to all, and let us be glad we all made it through mid-September. In latter part of August and earlier this month we had some severe and unusual problems with mother nature. First, part of the county had unusually heavy hail storms which dented up vehicles, damaged trees and houses, etc.; then we had a 5.8 scale earthquake which shook up the area but fortunately caused only limited damage locally - telephone and cellular line were out or overloaded for several hours; then we had Hurricane Irene which was forecast to blow directly through, causing us to cancel the Special Event Station which had been planned for August 27th, but fortunately for us, that storm drifted to the East and wasn't too bad locally; finally, we had heavy rain remnants of a tropical storm over several days which damaged local bridges and roads and caused flooding, bad enough that local schools were cancelled for a day. We all were lucky to miss devastation from these events, but if we reflect on their rapid succession, we should all give much more consideration to our emergency preparedness.



As president of the OVH, I have to be definitive and have a thick skin on occasion. Something that has bothered me recently, however, is the bombardment campaign of negative emails I received relating to a membership vote at the July meeting. Most of the recent email complaints, including quite a few from members who did not even attend that meeting, made reference to a particular member who voiced his strong but considered, organized and serious opinions, some based upon hearsay and second hand information, at length in urging a negative vote as his ultimate conclusion.

Under Robert's Rules of Order, that member had the right to speak and be heard in a respectful manner on that matter before the meeting, without interruption or disruption, even if others attending disagreed with his remarks or conclusions. Those other also had a right to speak and be heard and to vote according to their own conclusions when time for the vote came. The members at that meeting who were disruptive and tried several times to shout down the speaker because they disagreed with his opinions or second hand information and sought to challenge

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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) Blasdell	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
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HAMFEST 2011

Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873
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FIELD DAY 2011

Randy	WB7RAV	393-1494
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CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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EDUCATION

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
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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
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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
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WEBMASTER — W4OVH.NET

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042
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JOTA

TBA.

LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Steve	N0DWB	349-1381
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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NEWSLINE

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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PACKET

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4SV	590-9562

PROGRAMS

TBA

WINTER FIELD DAY 2011

Joe	KI4OHR	369-2639
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QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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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
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3556
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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>.

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him on that basis were wrong, and those disruptions and interruptions had to be stopped! We have all learned how to evaluate the sources and qualities of information we receive, including opinion and second hand information, before reaching conclusions. In fact, all of us routinely rely upon opinion, incomplete information and second hand information from hopefully reliable sources in the most important matters in our lives such as choices of spouses or significant others, money or investment decisions, education, medical care, legal matters, politics, religion, etc. There is nothing to indicate that all in attendance did not know how to evaluate what they heard - so we must presume that the ultimate vote - split almost even at 50% - far short of the two-thirds required for approval by the OVH's ByLaws was a considered and proper vote.

Although it is rare that an applicant is not approved for membership, it has happened before; when it does, there are usually good reason(s), at least in the minds of those one-third plus at the meeting who vote negatively. Such a negative vote, however, does not prevent an applicant from participating in many club activities as a non-member and re-applying at a future time. We all know from life that things don't always go our way. In our club as in many other endeavors, that can happen because others have a right to hold different opinions and reach different conclusions, but if we want to continue, we should and need to respect them even if we don't agree. If we choose to participate in the club, we have an opportunity to influence the opinions of others and to be influenced by them as well.

At the upcoming OVH regular meeting on September 15th, Terry / WA5NTI will be presenting a program on his HF antenna analyzer. I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting!

73 George K4GVT

Sunshine Corner:

Ending the summer with birthday wishes – Gus / N4MLE, Al / KB4BHB, Gary / WG4ARC, Mark / WA4KFZ, Jim / W4HJH, Mary Lu / KB4EFP and Floyd / K4ROG.

Our condolences to Bob / N4RL on the passing of his wife, Miss Ida, at age 83. See picture. Bob would always mention her on the net when he checked in. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of this very special lady.

Hopefully all our club members and families survived the 5.8 Richter scale earthquake on August 23, 2011 and its aftershocks and, of course, Hurricane Irene. We did have to cancel our long planned Second Battle of Manassas Special Event Station commemoration on August 27th while Hurricane Irene blew through Prince William County; overall, however, we fared pretty well.

Thanks to Steve / N0DWB and his wife Lisa (no call sign yet) for setting up a table at Chick-Fil-A on Liberia Avenue on September 10th for their Remembrance Day Event.

Girl Scout Adventure Day this year will be on Saturday, October 15th at the Prince William County Fairgrounds. Again, this will be an all-day event and we could use some help with our table during the course of the day. If you are interested or can help out, please let me know. Thanks!

I expect this will be my last Sunshine Corner report; I have enjoyed bringing club news, events and highlights to this corner. I hope and expect another club member will pick up the reins and keep the corner running, if you are interested please let me know.

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

73 Theresa KG4TVM



Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting

August 15, 2011:

George / K4GVT called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM on August 15, 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 21 OVH members and 3 visitors.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the July meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report by Gary / WG4ARC, approved as presented.

Membership – Steve / N0DWB read in Jim Stocks / KK4CQWO, Lisa Bryant (no call sign yet), and Steve Hailey / KI4FQD. Steve / N0DWB also presented an application for Jim Santoro / KI4WSN to be voted on. Membership in attendance voted Jim in; Steve is going back to school and will not be able to continue as Membership chair.

ARES – Steve / N4OGR did not have a report this month, Gary / WG4ARC reminded everyone that there is a race at Quantico on September 17th.

Repeaters – Art / W1CRO reported that another 2 meter repeater located in Pennsylvania has been causing interference recently and he will be researching this; Art also reported that if you are listening on 2 meters and hear another repeater you are getting the other repeater direct. The NOVEC repeater site will be getting an air conditioner that was donated to the club.

Training – Mark / WA4KFZ reported that he will have a General class late September or October, more details to be announced shortly; Joe / KI4OHR asked about an Extra Class class, Mark will give that some thought and get back to us.

Hamfest – George / K4GVT is going to sign a new contract with the Prince William County Fairgrounds for next year's Manassas Hamfest, Sunday, June 10, 2012. The charges will be the same as in 2011.

Field Day – Randy / WB7RAV let us know shortly whether we have the same site available for next year; George / K4GVT has tabled the discussion until next month when we will go over questions, comments, etc.

Winter Field Day – Joe / KI4OHR will be coordinated with Gary / WG4ARC on the availability of the heated tent for Winter Field Day to be held at the end of January, 2012.

Sunshine Corner – Theresa KG4TVM announced the birthdays and explained that next month will be her last Sunshine Corner, and is asking for someone to take over the slot.

Website – Paul / W4ZB was not present due to travel on the West Coast but reported that he is working on the site, and looking for some others to assist or serve as reviewers.

OLD BUSINESS

Mark / WA4KFZ thanked Gene / N4HFW for his work on the CW150 event;

Gary / WG4ARC, Steve / N4OGR and Randy / WB7RAV have been working on a trailer for the OVH, Gary had a presentation, this would take the place of our storage shed, show of hands for the color of the outside of the trailer with most hands showing for RED; motion to approve up to \$3500

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for the purchase of a storage trailer, approved by 19 votes, -0- negative votes.

Break followed by more Old Business

Al / KB4BHB gave us a special event reminder for August 27th, setup at 7:00 am, operate from 8:00 am until 2 or 3 pm.

Theresa KG4TVM reminded us about Girl Scout Adventure Day this year will be on October 15th.

NEW BUSINESS

Emmett "Doc" is interested in getting his license and antenna, he has a radio, gave us an outline of his work and ham experience.

Lisa Bryant explained the event at Chick-Fil-A on Liberia Avenue on Saturday, September 10th in remembrance of September 11th, she will have a table set up with Steve / N0DWB from 1 – 5 pm.

Terry / WA5NTI has a new antenna analyzer and has volunteered to come to your home QTH and hook up your antenna, Terry will do a presentation at the September meeting.

50/50 – Terry / WA5NTI won \$10.00

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 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:

Saturday, September 17, 2011. ARRL Roanoke Division Hamfest, Virginia Beach, Virginia. More information at <http://www.vbhamfest.com>

SPECIAL OPERATING EVENTS AND CONTESTS

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.



Chris, one of the sons of George / K4GVT, who resides and works in Southern California, recently was included in a write up on the PC World magazine web site which identified him along with about a dozen others as one of the preeminent computer / chip hackers of the entire world.

Some Possibly Useful Items of Information / Thoughts

1. Remember Peter W. Dahl Co. of El Paso, Texas which made custom and specialized high power transformers, including especially for the ham market? It's founder, Peter Dahl / K0BIT, recently died. Harbach Electronics in Ohio still manufactures and can supply many of Dahl's designs. For more information, look at <http://www.harbachelectronics.com>

2. Want to learn more about digital voice techniques for use of over radio? Mel Whitten / K0PFX has created an excellent web site which explains a lot of the options, and a provides a lot of practical information: <http://melwhitten.com> N1SU also has another web site [n1su.com] with information about practical digital voice techniques.

3. Is Heathkit coming back into business again? Some recent news reports indicated that Heathkit may be coming back. Unknown if it will offer ham radio related kits again. For those who don't remember Heathkit, check out their virtual web site: <http://www.heathkit-museum.com/> Also, be sure to check out <http://www.heathkit-museum.com/ham/hvmtx-1.shtml> if you'd like to see some of Heathkit's old ham equipment and descriptions from the 1950's, 1960's (and later) when the shack of every active ham included at least one item of Heathkit equipment.

4. What kind of zoning do they have in Prince William County? In Manassas? Will there be a problem with the local government putting up an antenna? How does one find out? [Note: this discussion does not consider consensual restrictive subdivision covenants, if any.] One way is to take a trip to the local Planning (Zoning) Office, but it is always best to prepare by checking things out independently first. That used to require a trip to a local library where copies of hopefully current local Zoning Ordinances and similar local regulations could be found. Now such items are available online and kept up to date. Check out <http://www.municode.com/library/ClientListing.aspx?stateID=46> to see what is currently available for various localities in Virginia. For other States, look at <http://www.municode.com>

5. Ham radio applications for tablet computers. Like it or not, tablet computer which operate primarily with touchscreen interfaces are already here and lots more are coming - even if you are still thinking, I don't need that or NEVER for me. Your editor picked up an iPad2 earlier this year after learning of a particular "must have" non-ham application which required the iPad. Even as a long time APPLE product (and APPLE) hater since at least 1987, I had to admit that the versatility and convenience of that iPad with that particular App was an "eye opener" and made the acquisition very worthwhile, notwithstanding some problems. What is most interesting is to note at this point, however, is that some reasonable and useful ham radio applications are starting to appear for iPad and Android based tablets. Several different ham radio related applications will illustrate some of what is available. First, DX Cluster monitors which operate in real-time using WiFi or wireless connections to the Internet. This is not too surprising because Internet DX Cluster feeds have been available via Telnet, etc. for quite a while and it is nice to be able to peak and see what is going on on the bands; non-hams glancing over your shoulder are perplexed and think you may be using a proprietary ticker of stock, options or futures trading tips. Second, real-time ham radio satellite tracking applications. Anyone who has used (or tried to use) ham satellites will recognize this application as a natural because, to be successful, you need portable, up to the moment accurate directions and rise and set times for the satellites. A tablet with a GPS can also provide accurate compass (and true) directions and time. Third, manuals for ham radio hardware, especially "how to program" manuals for modern radios. I found a helpful FT-857 manual for the iPad. Of course this also is straightforward: the iPad (and other Tablets too) can download and read a document (e.g. a PDF of a manual) from a web site and store it on the Tablet. You can also easily load a user created document onto a Kindle eBook reader.

Will Lightsquared become another Solyndra for the Administration / FCC?

From the Washington Post - Cecilia Kang: September 9, 2011 reporting on hearing held:

GOP decries FCC's conditional approval of LightSquared wireless plan

Republicans questioned Thursday why the Federal Communications Commission fast-tracked an initial approval for a company — well-connected among Democrats — to provide cellphone service through satellites, a technology that other agencies say disrupts Global Positioning System devices, hurricane-tracking systems, and military and commercial airlines.

The FCC gave a crucial green light for Reston-based LightSquared in January without a full commission vote, despite warnings from companies and federal agencies that the satellite network would harm communication systems crucial to national security and public safety, GOP lawmakers said.

But the FCC has defended its process, saying it has led to better understanding of a promising technology.

At a House hearing Thursday, Republicans criticized the FCC for not using its own engineers to examine whether LightSquared's technology posed interference issues. The agency relied on tests run by the company and the GPS industry.

Separately, in a letter, Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa) said the FCC has refused to answer his questions or hand over e-mails and other correspondence between LightSquared and the agency.

"Persistent stonewalling only raises more questions and heightens suspicion regarding the FCC's actions," Grassley, the ranking Republican on the Judiciary Committee, said in a statement. "Without transparency, and with media coverage of political connections in this case, there's no way to know whether the agency is trying to help friends in need or really looking out for the public's interest."

The FCC has told Grassley his committee does not oversee the agency and such requests should come from the appropriate lawmakers on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has yet to look into the matter.

An FCC spokeswoman added that the agency granted expedited approval for plans in January only on the condition that the company resolve interference problems with GPS providers and other technologies.

"The process we set up has been tremendously successful, yielding a deeper understanding of the

issues by both LightSquared and the GPS industry," said Tammy Sun, an FCC spokeswoman.

Responding to criticism that the agency didn't use its own engineers to test for interference, an FCC official said the agency believes that "companies are in the best position to understand their own technologies." The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the FCC process is ongoing.

Agency officials, including Chairman Julius Genachowski, have touted the ambitions of LightSquared, a \$14 billion venture financed by billionaire Philip Falcone, saying the company will create thousands of jobs as it erects cell towers and brings cellular and high-speed Internet service to remote areas. The venture also seemed to support the Obama administration's goals to spread mobile broadband service to more Americans.

While the FCC considered LightSquared's plans, Falcone donated huge sums to the Democratic Party and met with White House officials — facts reported in July by the Center for Public Integrity's iWatch News.

When asked whether the White House influenced the FCC on LightSquared's waiver, White House spokesman Eric Schultz said: "The Federal Communications Commission is an independent agency with its own standards and procedures for considering these types of decisions, and we respect that process."

Within the FCC, a senior official said the chairman's office didn't seek enough input from the agency's five-member commission when it moved forward in January on the conditional approval for LightSquared.

The approval was "a fait accompli," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to speak publicly.

Officials from other agencies have said LightSquared's technology, if allowed to become fully operational, would pose grave problems.

The Federal Aviation Administration said LightSquared's plan would cost billions of dollars to retool navigation systems — and could even lead to the deaths of as many as 800 people over a decade through airplane accidents, according to an internal FAA report.

Continued on next page

The Defense Department said the precision of its drones and other technology would be harmed by devices on LightSquared's network that would crowd out signals for the military's GPS technologies.

The satellite network could also disrupt hurricane tracking, according to industry officials and GOP lawmakers who held a Science, Space and Technology Committee hearing on LightSquared on Thursday.

Committee Chairman Ralph M. Hall (R-Tex.) wanted to know the FCC's next steps.

"Although the FCC has stated it will not allow LightSquared to begin commercial service without first resolving the interference issue, nothing actually prevents the FCC from moving forward at this point," he said.

Democrats at the hearing noted that nothing has been finalized and expressed confidence that the FCC would ultimately consider all the facts before the

satellite system is fully launched. Ranking Democrat Eddie Bernice Johnson (Tex.) said: "The LightSquared proposal to build a nationwide broadband network in the frequencies that sit next to GPS has provoked enormous controversy. However, I do not believe that the FCC would make a decision that compromises GPS services."

But GOP lawmakers and members of a coalition formed by the GPS industry also noted that the spectrum used by LightSquared was never intended for cellphones. The FCC in 2002 granted a licence to LightSquared, then known as SkyTerra, on the condition that its primary business would be to provide services for satellite phones.

This is a case where "sufficient homework was not done" by the FCC, Scott Pace, director of the Space Policy Institute at George Washington University, said at the hearing.

During the BPL debacle, the FCC used its own engineers and then suppressed and refused to release the FCC engineer's results when they demonstrated that interference would occur - which was contrary to the conclusion the politicians wanted to hear. In the present situation, when fast-tracking Lightsquared's application, the FCC relied (just) upon testing by Lightsquared. Why?

Google: Lightsquared FCC Hearings Solyndra for more.

Some More Possibly Useful Information

1. How to minimize the impact of Lightning / Lightning Strokes? A comprehensive, free, downloadable PDF manual about Lightning and Surge Arresters and related subjects is available at <http://epcos.com>
2. A custom collection of ham radio notes, papers and documentation written up by someone who knew what he was writing about is at <http://www.k0to.us/HAM/ham.htm>
3. Curious about how thunderstorms can create surface winds that can destroy towers and other structures, get the free Powerpoint slides at: <http://lubsvrconf.org/files/lombardo.ppt>
4. If you are trying to identify or locate cross references for Surface Mounted Devices (SMDs), go to: <http://chip.tomsk.ru/chip/chipdoc.nsf/vc1!readform&view=smd&cat=B&start=501&count=500> This web site is in Russia, but almost all information is in English. Very useful information at this web site.
5. Looking for an updated list of the various regions and political subdivisions within Russia for DXing or contesting purposes, go to: <http://rdxc.org/asp/pages/regions.asp> This is the web site of the Russian DX Contest and has the latest information in excellent English (and Russian).
6. For another personal ham web site gone wild, with solid technical information, details and explanations, go to: <http://w8ji.com> Many topics covered there.
7. Do you need a relatively small telescoping tower? Such items are still available, with many variations and for many purposes. See, <http://www.rohnnet.com/rohn-telescoping-masts>
8. Trying to design a tower, guy wires, etc., small or large. Be sure to check out K7NV's excellent technical notebook of design details and suggestions at <http://k7nv.com/notebook>