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 OCTOBER 2005 Next meeting: October 17, 2005

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

(Editor)

# IARU EYES GLOBAL COORDINATION OF AMATEUR RADIO'S BPL/EMC RESPONSE

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Administrative Council will explore ways to improve the coordination of Amateur Radio's representation on electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) issues at national, regional and global forums. Meeting September 17-18 in Zurich, Switzerland, the Council also made further progress firming up plans to deal with Amateur Radio-related issues at World Radiocommunication Conference 2007 (WRC-07).

The Council requested the International Secretariat (ARRL)--in conjunction with the EMC advisor--seek ways to better harmonize Amateur Radio's EMC response at meetings and conferences. The study, prompted mainly by concerns about interference from broadband over power line (BPL), is to be completed by year's end. The objective is to recommend steps, subject to Council approval, to arrive at a more unified Amateur Radio position regarding BPL and EMC and to "maintain a favorable EMC environment for radio services."

At its October 2004 session, the Administrative Council adopted a resolution concerning potential interference to radio services from BPL systems. The Council resolved to urge member-societies to make national administrations and standards bodies aware of their obligations under the international Radio Regulations. Those rules, in part, call on administrations to "take all practicable and necessary steps to ensure that the operation of electrical apparatus or installations of any kind, including power and telecommunication distribution networks . . . does not cause harmful interference to a radiocommunication service."

A principal focus was on WRC-07 preparations. The Administrative Council affirmed the IARU's positions on agenda items. WRC-07 issues facing Amateur Radio include the possible identification of additional HF spectrum between 4 and 10 MHz for broadcasting, which could put pressure on other services. A possible international amateur allocation in the vicinity of 136 kHz is also on the agenda.

In other business, the Council established a small working group to develop an international emergency communications handbook for radio amateurs based on existing texts. The International Secretariat (ARRL) was requested to produce a brochure on Amateur Radio response to emergencies.

The Council thanked Bob Knowles, ZL1BAD, for his more than 20 years of volunteer service as IARU Monitoring System (IARUMS) International Coordinator. Knowles recently stepped down from the position, which he'd occupied since the inception of IARUMS.

Attending the gathering were IARU President Larry Price, W4RA; Vice President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA; Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ; Ole Garpestad, LA2RR; Don Beattie, G3BJ; Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T; ARRL International Affairs Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD; Dario Jurado, HP1DJ; Y. S. Park, HL1IFM; Chandru Ramchandra, VU2RCR; Yoshi Sekido, JJ10EY, and Recording Secretary Paul Rinaldo, W4RI.

#### The ARRL Letter, Vol 24, No 38

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

OFFICERS		<b>171 1 433 74 1</b>	221 1024	LEGAL Pete	KB4RME	369-2436
President:	Ruth Frock	KU4WH	331-1234			
Vice Pres : Secretary:	John Heartney	KG4NXT AC4PL	257-3566 393-8658	MEMBERSHIP CHA	IKMAN WAISTU	754-2378
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Charlie Dale		WA4YGI	361-3091	Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
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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 kb4of@arrl.net

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

# Minutes of the Ole' Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting September 19, 2005

Ruth/KU4WH called meeting to order at 2000 Eastern Time.

Following the **Pledge of Allegiance**, all present stated their names and call signs. There were **20 OVH members** and four guests present.

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

**Project Mend A House** sent a letter to **Bill/N3OH** thanking the OVH for the donation from our bake sale at the Hamfest. They invited us to their annual dinner on October 12<sup>th</sup> at the VFW. **Ruth/KU4WH** read the letter in full and also read the letter that Bill wrote to send with the donation.

**Ken/WB4ZOH** noted that Mend A House has been to his home to see what improvements can be made to make their home more accessible to **Charlotte/KG4QXO**. Ken also noted that Charlotte has been in INOVA Hospital and is being moved to Manor Care. Get well soon, Charlotte.

## Bill/N3OH read the Treasurer's Report.

The minutes of the August 2005 meeting were approved with no corrections. (Secretary's note – Phil/AC4PL thanks Theresa/KG4TVM for recording the minutes of the September 2005 OVH meeting in Phil's absence.)

## **PROGRAM**

Ruth/KU4WH showed a video by the Potomac Valley Radio Club on contesting.

Paul/N2PJ spoke briefly about JOTA and invited all to attend and participate on October 15, 2005.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**<u>REPEATERS</u>** – **Butch/W4JHL** – Butch is working on one of the amplifiers and hopes to have it working soon. We are still waiting on U.S. Tower to provide a schedule for the antenna replacement.

HOME PAGE - Bill/N3OH - The home page server is down, but Bill is working to have everything up and running soon.

<u>JOTA</u> – Paul/N2PJ – Paul is working to make arrangements for JOTA, but Paul will be on business travel on the actual day of the JOTA event (October 15, 2005). Butch/W4HJL will be the primary contact person for JOTA on the event date.

## OTHER BUSINESS

**Butch/W4HJL** attended a BPL meeting and received maps showing the new notching. Butch will be going out again to take measurements.

John/WA1STU noted that the Fall Convention for ECARS takes place this Saturday (September 24, 2005) in Alexandria.

The meeting adjourned at 2123 Eastern time.

# SUNSHINE CORNER

Congratulations to Elizabeth/KG4NXV, who is a National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalist, which means she is in the top 1/2 of 1% of all the students that took the PSAT test.

Great news! Brenda/WO4RKH is feeling better and has returned to work!

Happy Birthday to our friends and fellow Hams -- Keith/KM4AA, Phil/AC4PL, Doc/W1IMX, Ruth/KU4WH, Erv/KT4DS. Hope you each have a great day!

Get involved in community events -- lots of places you can use Ham Radio!

## Thanks, and 73 de Jan/KE4TMW

# Amateur Radio "Saved the Day" in Mississippi; Rita Recovery Continues in Texas



(Oct 7, 2005) -- Amateur Radio volunteers in Jasper County, Texas, continue to support mass-feeding operations by The Salvation Army, which has been coordinating with other relief agencies to provide meals to residents displaced by Hurricane Rita. Amateur volunteers will meet with Salvation Army personnel this weekend to discuss the need for Amateur Radio support beyond this weekend. Meanwhile, ARRL Alabama SM Greg Sarratt, W4OZK--who's been handling the intake of American Red Cross volunteers in Montgomery, Alabama--has been visiting ARC shelters along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Shelters there are in the process of closing down. In Gulfport, Amateur Radio volunteers

continue to support communication for the emergency operations center (EOC) in Harrison County, where they've been a mainstay since Hurricane Katrina struck in late August. <u>DOWNLOADED FROM ARRL WEB SITE</u>

# Spectrum Defense Fund 2006: Protecting Amateur Radio's Ability to Respond



(Oct 7, 2005) -- The ARRL officially kicks off its 2006 Spectrum Defense Fund campaign Monday, October 10, by once again emphasizing that Amateur Radio spectrum is one of our nation's most valuable assets. Amateur Radio and everything it accomplishes during disasters and emergencies would cease to exist without access to the range and variety of frequency it enjoys, says ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. <u>DOWNLOADED FROM ARRL WEB SITE</u>

# Vanity call sign processing hiatus continues



(Oct 6, 2005) -- As ARRL reported September 30, the FCC discontinued the processing of vanity call signs on or about September 23. The Commission's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau this week announced that, while it continues to accept new vanity call sign applications, these applications "will not be processed

until further notice." The FCC says the suspension of vanity processing is consistent with extended filing and regulatory deadlines it announced for hurricane-affected licensees under public notices DA 05-2406 and DA 05-2521, released September 1 and September 24, respectively. Because the filing extensions apply to Amateur Radio's two-year "grace period," they could adversely impact the vanity call sign system. "When processing is resumed, all pending vanity call sign applications will be processed consistent with the date order in which they were received," the FCC said October 5 in an alert on the Universal Licensing System (ULS) Web site.

DOWNLOADED FROM ARRL WEB SITE

# Amateur Radio Antenna "CC&R Bill" Reintroduced in Congress



(Sep 23, 2005) -- New York Congressman Steve Israel has reintroduced legislation that could make it easier for radio amateurs living in communities with deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) to erect suitable antennas.

# The K7RA Solar Update



(Oct 6, 2005) -- This week's Solar Update is being posted one day earlier than usual. Solar activity was down for the week. In fact we saw several days of no sunspots at all. October 1, 2 and 3 each had a daily sunspot number of zero. Sunspot numbers are slowly rising as sunspot 813 rotates to face Earth, but the average for the week dropped more than 18 points to 11.6. Sunspot numbers and solar flux may rise but probably not by much. As mentioned last week, we're waiting to see what the return of giant sunspot 798 will bring, but as that area shifts into view, only a few wisps are visible. This would indicate that

the area is magnetically much less complex than what came around the past two rotations.

# More than 100 Hams Still Volunteering in Hurricane-Hit States



(Oct 5, 2005) -- The Amateur Radio community has continued to respond to calls for volunteers to support communication for served agencies in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. Louisiana Section Emergency Coordinator Gary Stratton, K5GLS, says about 45 Amateur Radio volunteers are still on hurricane relief and recovery duty there. Volunteers initially thought to be needed for a FEMA operation in Louisiana were redirected to South Texas, however. DOWNLOADED FROM ARRL WEB SITE

# Pennsylvania Utility Cites Unfavorable Economics in Ending BPL Trial



(Oct 5, 2005) -- PPL Broadband announced this week that it's terminating its broadband over power line (BPL) experiment in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley. According to media reports, the company is citing the high cost of a full-scale BPL rollout and competition from cable and DSL service in the region as the reason for the shutdown. Approximately 300 households participating in the trial were said to be paying \$40 a month for the high-speed Internet service. Although interference was reported by Amateur Radio stations in some of PPL Broadband's BPL service area, PPL did not cite the interference problems as one of the reasons it dropped out of the BPL race.

# FCC announces effective dates for BPL information-collection requirements



(Oct 5, 2005) -- The FCC has announced retroactively the effective dates of certain rules containing new information-collection requirements applying to broadband over power line (BPL) system providers. These rules were included in the October 14, 2004, FCC Report and Order in the BPL proceeding, ET Docket 04-37, and and were

published in the Federal Register last January 7. The amendments to §15.615(a) through (e), which address the Access BPL Database, became effective July 22, 2005. Those rules require entities operating "Access BPL" systems to supply to an industry-recognized entity, information on all existing Access BPL systems and all proposed Access BPL systems for inclusion into a publicly available data base within 30 days prior to initiation of service. The Office of Management and Budget approved the information-collection requirements for §15.615(a) through (e) in July, effective as of February 7, 2005.

# Learning Takes Center Stage at Workshop for New Section Managers



(Oct 5, 2005) -- The focus was on achieving results through working with volunteers when 10 new ARRL Section Managers met at ARRL Headquarters September 23-25 for the annual Workshop for New Section Managers. ARRL staffers Steve Ewald, WV1X, Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, and Leona Adams organized the event and served as primary hosts during the weekend session. The main purposes of the event are to share ideas, to provide some basic administrative, management, leadership, and motivational training--

including working with served agencies--and to outline the functions of the SM and ARRL.

# AMSAT to hold annual meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



(Oct 5, 2005) -- The AMSAT-NA Annual Meeting of the Corporation will be held Friday, October 7, 8 PM EDT, at the Wyndham Pittsburgh Airport hotel, 777 Aten Road, near Pittsburgh International Airport and approximately 20 minutes from downtown. All AMSAT members are encouraged to participate. AMSAT President Rick Hambly, W2GPS, will present a report to the membership in accordance with Article III, Section 1 of the Bylaws. For the first time AMSAT will stream live audio of the meeting via the AMSAT Conference (Node 101377) on EchoLink. During the meeting the conference bridge will be configured as listen only. AMSAT-NA members may submit questions for the meeting in advance to Gould Smith, WA4SXM, who will compile them. In addition,

an attempt will be made to utilize EchoLink's "text chat" feature to take questions interactively. For members unable to attend in person or listen via EchoLink, the meeting will be videotaped and made available through the AMSAT Video News via the AMSAT-NA Web site. AMSAT-NA last month canceled its 2005 AMSAT Symposium and Annual Meeting, which had been set to take place October 7-9 in Lafayette, Louisiana.

DOWNLOADED FROM ARRL WEB SITE

# FCC Orders License Revocation Hearing for Convicted Felon



(Oct 4, 2005) -- The FCC has issued an Order to Show Cause that initiates a hearing proceeding to determine if an Amateur Radio licensee now serving time on a felony conviction is qualified to remain an FCC licensee or should face license revocation. The Order, released September 29, involves the case of David Edward Cox, W50ER,

of Pride, Louisiana. Over the past several years, the FCC has been applying its so-called "1990 Character Order," initially intended to apply to Broadcast Service licensees, to Amateur Radio licensees and applicants. The FCC said Cox's multiple felony convictions "raise serious questions" about his character qualifications, and it's designated the matter for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge.

# Amateur Radio Hurricane Volunteers Needed in Louisiana, Texas



(Oct 4, 2005) -- There's a renewed need for Amateur Radio volunteers in Louisiana, while fresh volunteers are required in Texas. Louisiana Section Emergency Coordinator Gary Stratton, K5GLS, says FEMA--the Federal Emergency Management Agency--now is asking for Amateur Radio operators to support Hurricane Katrina damage assessment operations in and around Thibodaux. FEMA also needs to establish a communication link from Thibodaux to St Charles, Stratton says. <u>DOWNLOADED FROM ARRL WEB SITE</u>

#### Upcoming Special Events Downloaded from ARRL Web Site

## October

Oct 8-Oct 9, 0001Z-2300Z, Tampa, FL. St Joseph Hospital Amateur Radio Club, W4TCH. Breast Cancer Awareness. 28.475 14.250 21.300 7.238. QSL. Morris Bernstein, 6507 La Mesa Cir, Tampa, FL 33634.

Oct 8-Oct 9, 1200Z-2400Z, Carencro, LA. Acadiana Amateur Radio Association Inc, W5C. City of Carencro Centennial Celebration. 28.340 21.320 14.270 7.240. Certificate. Roland J. Guidry, NA5Q, 701 S Arenas St, Rayne, LA 70578-6311. <u>www.w5ddl.org/w5c</u>.

Oct 8-Oct 9, 1600Z-0300Z, Menlo Park, CA. 12<sup>th</sup> Month, Amateur Radio-Technology Day, N6T, Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. 14.240 14.044 7.240 7.044. QSL. David A. Cooper, 270 Redwood Shores Pky, PMB #41, Redwood City, CA 94065. www.fars.k6ya.org.

Oct 8-Oct 16, 1200Z-2100Z, Ellijay, GA. Ellijay Amateur Radio Society, W4A. 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Georgia Apple Festival. 18.120 14.235 7.235 3.860 up 20 kHz from low edge of Gen SSB 80 40 20 17 and 15 m. QSL. Dave Meadows, PO Box 1371, East Ellijay, GA 30539. www.qsl.net/w4hhh.

Nov 11, 1400Z-1800Z, Bellevue, NE. Strategic Air Command Memorial Amateur Radio Club, K0AIR and K0GRL. Veterans Day. 14.240 7.240 3.940. QSL. SACMARC, K0AIR/K0GRL, PO Box 1292, Bellevue, NE 68005-1292. www.sacmarc.org.

Oct 11-Oct 12, 1600Z-2359Z, Lewiston, ID. Lewis and Clark Amateur Radio Club, W7C. 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Discovery Corps encampment at Snake and Clearwater Rivers confluence. Gen portion 20-40 m bands 146.880. Certificate. TARC, 858 Harold Ave, Moscow, ID 83843-3539. <u>www.73se.com</u>.

Oct 15, 1700Z-2000Z, Hillsboro, MO. Jefferson County Amateur Radio Club, KB0TLL. Great Ozark Chili Cook Out. 147.075 14.250 7.245. QSL. Roy Nelson, KA0UMJ, 8080 Hwy 21, Hillsboro, MO 63050.

Oct 15, 1000Z-2300Z, New Concord, OH. Cambridge Amateur Radio Association, W8S. Ohio's S-Bridges. 14.260 7.235 7.245. QSL. Cambridge Amateur Radio Association, W8VP, PO Box 1804, Cambridge, OH 43725. <u>www.w8vp.org</u>.

Oct 15-Oct 16, 1400Z-2200Z, Dahlonega, GA. North Georgia Amateur Radio Club, W4QQ. Dahlonega Gold Rush Days. 14.260. QSL. NGARC, 150 Hickory Nut Trl, Dahlonega, GA 30533.

Oct 15-Oct 16, 1400Z-2200Z, Standish, MI. Ogemaw-Arenac Amateur Radio Society, K8OAR. Arrival of Polar Express at Standish Historical RR Depot. 21.350 14.270. QSL. OAARS, PO Box 4358, Prescott, MI 48756.

Oct 16, 1700Z-2359Z, Los Gatos, CA. Loma Prieta Amateur Radio Club, N2RDT. 16th anniversary of the Oct 17, 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake. 147.54 52.00 14.250 7.250. Certificate. David Katinsky, 25570 Radonich Rd, Los Gatos, CA 95033.

Oct 22, 1300Z-1900Z, Ferrum, VA. Franklin County Amateur Radio Club, W4FCR. Celebrating the 2005 Blueridge Folklife Festival. 146.520 50.150 14.300. QSL. Paul Johnson, KD4MB, 257 Lindsey Ln, Rocky Mount, VA 24151.

Oct 22, 1400Z-2200Z, Brainerd, MN. Brainerd Area Amateur Radio Club, W0UJ. BAARC celebrates 40 years of community service. 28.450 21.350 14.250. Certificate. BAARC, PO Box 801, Brainerd, MN 56401. <u>www.brainerdham.org</u>.

Oct 22, 1430Z-1830Z, Randleman, NC. Tri-County Amateur Radio Club, NC4AR. 17<sup>th</sup> Annual NASCAR Days Festival. 14.268 7.268. Certificate. NC4AR, PO Box 747, Trinity, NC 27370. <u>www.qsl.net/nc4ar</u>.

Oct 22, 1500Z-2200Z, Chicago, IL. Metro DX Club, W9TY. Commemorating the Club's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. 21.320 14.320 7.250. Certificate. Metro DX Club, 5045 Oak Center Dr, Oak Lawn, IL 60453. <u>n9lah@arrl.net</u>.

Oct 22, 1400Z-2200Z, Palestine, TX. Palestine/Anderson County ARC, K5PAL. Hot Pepper Fall Festival. 14.260 7.260. Certificate. David Carnathan, 504 S Micheaux, Palestine, TX 75801. <u>www.pacarc.org</u>.

Oct 28-Oct 31, 1300Z-2100Z, Sycamore, IL. Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club, W9P. Commemorating Sycamore Pumpkin Festival. SSB 14.265 7.265 CW 14.042 7.042. Certificate. Bob Yurs, W9ICU, 1107 Commercial St, Sycamore, IL 60178. <u>www.kish-club.org</u>.

Oct 29, 1400Z-2400Z, Mountain View, AR. Stone County Amateur Radio Club, K5B. Annual Beanfest & Outhouse Races. 14.240 7.240. Certificate. Willy Peake, 600 Pepperbox Rd, Mountain View, AR 72560. <u>www.k5b.info</u>.

Oct 31, 1600Z-2400Z, Brevard, NC. Transylvania County Amateur Radio Club, K4HXZ. Halloween in Transylvania County. 28.335 21.365 14.295 7.237. Certificate. TCARC, PO Box 665, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768.

Oct 31-Nov 1, 0500Z-0500Z, Frankenstein, MO. Warrensburg Amateur Radio Club, W0O. All-Saints Day/Halloween. 21.378 14.315 7.233 3.943. QSL. Keith Haye, WE0G, 70 NW 601 Rd, Centerview, MO 64019-9228. <u>http://www.waarci.org/</u>. November

Through Feb 28, 2006, Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. The Rotary Club of Midrand, ZS100RI. HF/VHF/UHF. QSL. Via QSL manager Craig Bergsteedt, ZS6CKB, Halfway House, Midrand, Gauteng 1685, South Africa.

Nov 3-Nov 6, 0000Z-2400Z, Whitefish Point, MI. Stu Rockafellow Amateur Radio Society, N8F. Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald. 14.260 21.360 7.260 3.860. Certificate. Richard A. Barker, W8VS, 264 N East St, Brighton, MI 48116. <u>www.qsl.net/w8njh</u>.

Nov 4-Nov 7, 2000Z-0400Z, Split Rock Lighthouse (near Two Harbors), MN. Stillwater Amateur Radio Association, W0JH. 21.360 14.260 7.260 3.860. Certificate. Shel Mann, N0DRX, 1618 W Pine St, Stillwater, MN 55082. www.radioham.org.

**Nov 4-Nov 8**, Knokke-Heist , Belgium. UBA Section ONZ, OO4CLM. Canadian Liberation March/Canadian Week. SSB and CW 80 40 20 17 15 10 2 m bands. OO4CLM Special Event, Postbox 1006, B-8300 Konokke-Heist, Belgium. <u>www.on4clm.be</u>.

Nov 5, 1500Z-2000Z, Rocky Point, NY. Radio Central Amateur Radio Club, W2RC. 75th Anniversary of RCA Transatlantic Wireless Transmission. 14.260 14.050 7.260 7.030. Certificate. Radio Central ARC, PO Box 396, Centereach, NY 11720. www.rcarc.org.

Nov 5-Nov 6, 1300Z-2300Z, Moscow, PA. Northeast Pennsylvania Special Event Club, KV3T. 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of pioneer broadcast radio station, KDKA. 21.240 14.240 14.045 7.240. QSL. David Samsell, W3LOW, 923 Clearview Rd, Moscow, PA 18444. http://kv3t.tripod.com.

Nov 10, 0001Z-1200Z, St Petersburg, FL. N4MAA, W4Z. Field Radio Communications. 28.450 14.310 14.230 14.070. QSL. Mike Anderson, 452 43rd Ave NE, St Petersburg, FL 33703. <u>http://n4maa.us/</u>

Nov 10-Nov 13, 1500Z-2000Z, Arlington Heights, IL. Armored Force Amateur Radio Net, KA9NLX. To honor the memory and efforts of military veterans. 18.095 14.325 7.283 7.030; conditions permitting 28.640 21.375 7.298. Certificate. John Paskevicz, 1423 North Ridge Ave, Arlington Heights, IL 60004.

Nov 11, 0400Z-2300Z, Nutley, NJ. Robert D. Grant United Labor Amateur Radio Association, N2UL. CQ Veterans Day. 28.420 14.260 7.260 449.975. Certificate. RDGULARA, c/o WA2VJA, 112 Prospect St, Nutley, NJ 07110-0716.

Nov 11, 1300Z-1900Z, Butler, PA. Butler County Amateur Radio Association, W3UDX. Celebrating Veterans Day from the Butler VA Hospital grounds. 14.280 7.250. QSL. BCARA, PO Box1787, Butler, PA 16003. <u>http://gsl.net/w3udx</u>.

Nov 11, 1330Z-1930Z, Grand Rapids, MI. Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance, W8USA. Veterans Day from the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. 14.250 14.040 7.250 7.040. QSL. MARA, PO Box 670, Comstock Park, MI 49321-0670. www.w8usa.org.

Nov 11, 1500Z-2330Z, Baton Rouge, LA. USS *Kidd* ARC/Baton Rouge ARC, W5KID. Veteran's Day. General class bands, 14.250 to 14.320; CW QRP subbands 28.060 21.060 14.060 10.106 7.040. QSL. W5KID, c/o USS *Kidd* Museum, 305 S River Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. www.lsu.edu/brarc/USS\_Kidd.htm.

Nov 11-Nov 12, 2200Z-2200Z, Philadelphia, PA. Warminster Amateur Radio Club, K3DN. Union League of Philadelphia. 14.300 7.250 3.800. Certificate. Tony Simek, N3YNH, Warminster Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 113, Warminster, PA 18974. www.k3dn.org.

Nov 11-Nov 12, 1400Z-2100Z, Topeka, KS. SCSWARC and KVARC, N0G. Veterans Day. 28.450 21.350 14.250 7.200. Certificate. Steve Hamilton, 2503 SW Carlson Rd, Topeka, KS 66614.

Nov 11-Nov 14, 2300Z-0600Z, San Antonio, TX. San Antonio Radio Club, W5SC. Coral-Gold II--San Antonio Radio Club's 86th birthday party. 21.360 14.260 7.260 3.860. QSL. Steve Cerwin, WA5FRF, 1619 CR 270, Mico, TX 78056. www.w5sc.org.

Nov 12, 1400Z-2200Z, Roseland, NJ. Roseland Amateur Radio Club, K2GQ. 60th anniverary of the Rosland ARC. 146.52 21.345 14.260 7.245. Certificate. Harvey Moskowitz, W2YWC, 7 Burlington Rd, Livingston, NJ 07039. <u>www.qsl.net/k2gq</u>.

Nov 12, 1400Z-2000Z, South Padre Island, TX. CHARRO Amateur Radio Club, W5CRC. "Return of the Snowbirds" to South Texas. 28.330 14.330 21.330. Certificate. Bob Austin, W5CRC, 107 W Park Dr, Brownsville, TX 78521. <u>www.qsl.net/w5crc</u>.

Nov 12-Nov 14, 1700Z-0200Z, West Trenton, NJ. Delaware Valley Radio Association, W2ZQ. 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the DVRA. 14.275 7.275 3.975. QSL. DVRA, PO Box 7024, West Trenton, NJ 08628. <u>www.w2zq.com</u>.

Nov 13, 1500Z-2200Z, Waterloo, IA. Five Sullivan Brothers Amateur Radio Club, W0FSB. Anniversary of the Loss of USS *Juneau* and the 5 Brothers. 21.240 14.240 7.240. Certificate. Five Sullivan Brothers ARC, 4015 Independence Ave, Waterloo, IA 50703.

Nov 19, 1500Z-2100Z, Guthrie, OK. Edmond Amateur Radio Society, K5EOK. Oklahoma Statehood Day in original State Capital Building. 21.375 14.275 7.275 3.875. Certificate. Edmond Amateur Radio Society, PO Box 48, Edmond, OK 73083. <u>www.k5eok.org</u>.

Nov 20-Nov 26, 1600Z-0400Z, Wilkes-Barre, PA. Murgas ARC, K3YTL. Centennial of Rev Joseph Murgas wireless overland transmission. 21.375 14.275 7.275 3.875. May request certificate or QSL. Murgas ARC, PO Box 1094, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702. www.qsl.net/k3ytl.

Nov 25, 1400Z-2200Z, Provincetown, MA. National Park Service, W1P. 107<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the loss of the Steamship *Portland*. 14.260 14.050 7.260 7.050. QSL. Marconi Cape Cod Radio Club KM1CC, Cape Cod National Seashore, 99 Marconi Site Rd, Wellfleet, MA 02667. www.nps.gov/caco/heritage/Portland.pdf.

Nov 26-Nov 27, 0000Z-2400Z, All Call Areas, USA. Ten-Ten International, W6OI. Celebrating 43 years and 75000 members. 28.340 28.400 CW and PSK. QSL. Jack Moore, K5CC, 371 Ridge Creek La, Bulverde, TX 78163. <u>www.10-10.org</u>. (Certificate for all call areas.)

Nov 26-Nov 27, 1400Z-2000Z, Plymouth, MA. Whitman Amateur Radio Club, WA1NPO. The first Pilgrim Landing at Plymouth, Massachusetts. 18.140 14.280 7.250 3.890. Certificate. Whitman ARC, PO Box 48, Whitman, MA 02382. <u>www.wa1npo.org</u>.

#### ARRL Exam Session Search Downloaded from ARRL Web Site

This page will help you find a US amateur license exam session near you. 30 found within approximately 100 miles of 20109 Database last updated on Fri 07-Oct-2005.

#### 15-Oct-2005

Sponsor: LAUREL ARC VEC Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: JOHN B CREEL (301)572-5124 VEC: Laurel VEC Location: 384 MAIN ST LAUREL WOMEN'S CLUB PRE-REGISTRATION PREFERRED LAUREL, MD 20707

23-Oct-2005 Sponsor: RAPPAHANNOCK VE GROUP Time: 1:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: CURT R BARTHOLOMEW (540)720-2392 Email: <u>N3GQ@ARRL.NET</u> VEC: <u>ARRL/VEC</u> Location: PORTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY 2001 PARKWAY BLVD WWW.WW4VA.ORG/CLUB/EXAMS.ASP WALK-INS ONLY! STAFFORD, VA 22554

25-Oct-2005 Sponsor: MARYLAND MOBILEERS ARC Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: HAROLD L NICHOLS (410)757-0493 Email: WB4OGP@ARRL.NET VEC: Laurel VEC Location: HISTORICAL ELECTRONICS MUSEUM 1745 W NURSERY RD WWW.HEM-USA.ORG/ 2 ID'S REQUIRED! LINTHICUM HEIGHTS, MD 21090

05-Nov-2005 Sponsor: BALTIMORE ARC Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: LORENZ W SCHAEFER (410)247-0578 Email: <u>N3WKE@ARRL.NET</u> VEC: Laurel VEC Location: BARC MTG &TRAINING FACILITY 12360 OWINGS MILLS BLVD PRE-REGISTRATION PREFERRED MAY REGISTER FROM 1 TO 2 PM OWINGS MILLS, MD 21117 06-Nov-2005 Sponsor: ARA RADIO CLUB Time: 12:30PM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: ROBERT E LONG (301)824-5132 Email: <u>R]LONG61@MD.NET</u> VEC: <u>ARRL/VEC</u> Location: HAGERSTOWN SDA CHURCH 11507 ROBINWOOD DR PRE-REGISTRATION PREFERRED MAY ALSO CALL 717-328-9862 HAGERSTOWN, MD 21742

06-Nov-2005 Sponsor: DCMARC Time: 12:30PM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: KENNETH L COURTNEY (301)856-3005 Email: <u>AA3NN@AOL.COM</u> VEC: <u>ARRL/VEC</u> Location: PALMER PARK REC CENTER 7720 BARLOW RD PALMER PARK, MD 20785

12-Nov-2005 Sponsor: MARC VE TEAM Time: 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: WILLIAM M TUCKER (301)729-2544 Email: <u>K3UEZ@QSL.NET</u> VEC: <u>Laurel VEC</u> Location: ALLEGANY COUNTY EMER MGT BLDG CONSTITUTION PARK ARRANGE HANDICAP EXAMS TALK-IN 146.88 PL 123.0 CUMBERLAND, MD 21502

12-Nov-2005 Sponsor: ANNE ARUNDEL RADIO CLUB Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: ROBERT L ROSE (410)437-8193 Email: <u>AA3RR@KI3DS.ORG</u> VEC: <u>Laurel VEC</u> Location: DAVIDSON FAMILY RECREATION CENTER 3789 QUEEN ANNE BRIDGE RD WWW.W3VPR.ORG

REGISTRATION STARTS @ NOON DAVIDSONVILLE, MD 21035 12-Nov-2005 Sponsor: MOUNT VERNON ARC Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: JOHN L FORREST (703)971-3905

 Email: WZ4A@ARRL.NET

 VEC: Laurel VEC

 Location: FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH-PARK IN REAR

 2723 KING ST

 DOOR@INTERSECTION OF CHURCH

 & ATTACHED SCHOOL BUILDING

 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22302

13-Nov-2005 Sponsor: WARS & NSDXA Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: ALAN R MOECK (540)869-1117 Email: <u>WA2RPX@ARRL.NET</u> VEC: <u>ARRL/VEC</u> Location: TIMBROOK PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING 231 E PICCADILLY ST PRE-REGISTRATION URGED

19-Nov-2005 Sponsor: LAUREL ARC VEC Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: JOHN B CREEL (301)572-5124 VEC: Laurel VEC Location: 384 MAIN ST LAUREL WOMEN'S CLUB PRE-REGISTRATION PREFERRED LAUREL, MD 20707

WINCHESTER, VA 22601

19-Nov-2005 Sponsor: AERO ARC Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: PATRICIA E STONE (410)687-7209 Email: <u>AC3FAC3P@YAHOO.COM</u> VEC: <u>ARRL/VEC</u> Location: WHITE MARSH LIBRARY 8133 SANDPIPER CIRCLE REGISTRATION @ 1:00 PM WHITE MARSH, MD 21162

22-Nov-2005 Sponsor: MARYLAND MOBILEERS ARC Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: HAROLD L NICHOLS (410)757-0493 Email: WB4OGP@ARRL.NET VEC: Laurel VEC Location: HISTORICAL ELECTRONICS MUSEUM 1745 W NURSERY RD WWW.HEM-USA.ORG/ 2 ID'S REQUIRED! LINTHICUM HEIGHTS, MD 21090

03-Dec-2005 Sponsor: BALTIMORE ARC Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: LORENZ W SCHAEFER (410)247-0578 Email: N3WKE@ARRL.NET VEC: Laurel VEC Location: BARC MTG &TRAINING FACILITY 12360 OWINGS MILLS BLVD PRE-REGISTRATION PREFERRED MAY REGISTER FROM 1 TO 2 PM OWINGS MILL*S*, MD 21117

#### 03-Dec-2005

Sponsor: MASSANUTTEN ARA Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: GAYLE L SHULL (540)434-0859 VEC: <u>ARRL/VEC</u> Location: WOODMEN OF THE WORLD BLDG STATE ROUTE 42 KN4FM@ARRL.NET (FREQ 145.130) SIGN-IN 9:00 AM DAYTON, VA 22821

#### 04-Dec-2005

Sponsor: DCMARC Time: 12:30PM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: KENNETH L COURTNEY (301)856-3005 Email: <u>AA3NN@AOL.COM</u> VEC: <u>W5YI VEC</u>

Location: PALMER PARK REC CENTER 7720 BARLOW RD PALMER PARK, MD 20785

## 04-Dec-2005

Sponsor: MARC VE TEAM Time: 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: WILLIAM M TUCKER (301)729-2544 Email: <u>K3UEZ@QSL.NET</u> VEC: Laurel VEC

**Location:** ALLEGANY COUNTY EMER MGT BLDG CONSTITUTION PARK ARRANGE HANDICAP EXAMS TALK-IN 146.88 PL 123.0 CUMBERLAND, MD 21502

#### 10-Dec-2005

Sponsor: ANNE ARUNDEL RADIO CLUB Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: ROBERT L ROSE (410)437-8193 Email: <u>AA3RR@KI3DS.ORG</u> VEC: <u>Laurel VEC</u> Location: DAVIDSON FAMILY RECREATION CENTER

3789 QUEEN ANNE BRIDGE RD WWW.W3VPR.ORG REGISTRATION STARTS @ NOON DAVIDSONVILLE, MD 21035

#### 10-Dec-2005

Sponsor: MOUNT VERNON ARC Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: JOHN L FORREST (703)971-3905 Email: <u>WZ4A@ARRL.NET</u> VEC: Laurel VEC

Location: FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH-PARK IN REAR 2723 KING ST DOOR@INTERSECTION OF CHURCH & ATTACHED SCHOOL BUILDING

## ALEXANDRIA, VA 22302

10-Dec-2005 Sponsor: SOUTHERN PA COMM GROUP VE TEAM Time: 10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: CAROL KIRSCHMAN (717)235-0273 VEC: <u>ARRL/VEC</u> Location: SHREWSBURY BOROUGH HALL 35 W RAILROAD AVE CAROL@NFDC.NET KC6GMN@NFDC.NET SHREWSBURY, PA 17361

#### **10-Dec-2005 Sponsor:** RICHMOND ARC/RAVE

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: PATRICK WILSON (804)932-9424 Email: <u>W4PW@ARRL.NET</u> VEC: <u>ARRL/VEC</u> Location: NEW HANOVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 10058 CHAMBERLAYNE RD MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23116

### 11-Dec-2005

Sponsor: WARS & NSDXA Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: ALAN R MOECK (540)869-1117 Email: WA2RPX@ARRL.NET

VEC: <u>ARRL/VEC</u> Location: TIMBROOK PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

231 E PICCADILLY ST PRE-REGISTRATION URGED WINCHESTER, VA 22601

#### 18-Dec-2005 Sponsor: RAPPAHANNOCK VE GROUP Time: 1:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: CURT R BARTHOLOMEW (540)720-2392 Email: N3GQ@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: PORTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY 2001 PARKWAY BLVD WWW.WW4VA.ORG/CLUB/EXAMS.ASP WALK-INS ONLY! STAFFORD, VA 22554

01-Jan-2006 Sponsor: DCMARC Time: 12:30PM (Walk-ins allowed) Contact: KENNETH L COURTNEY (301)856-3005 Email: <u>AA3NN@AOL.COM</u> VEC: <u>ARRL/VEC</u> Location: PALMER PARK REC CENTER 7720 BARLOW RD PALMER PARK, MD 20785

# 2005 ARRL Contest Calendar

Downloaded from ARRL Web Site

Date(s)		Contest	Links
October	22 - 23	ARRL EME 50 MHz - 1296 MHz	<u>Rules</u>
November	5 - 7	ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW)	<u>Rules</u>
	12 - 13	ARRL EME 50 MHz - 1296 MHz	<u>Rules</u>
	19 - 21	ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone)	<u>Rules</u>
December	2 - 4	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	<u>Rules</u>
	10 - 11	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	<u>Rules</u>

# October 2005 Contest Corral

Downloaded from ARRL Web Site

#### YLRL Anniversary Party--SSB, 1400Z Oct 14-0200Z Oct 16.

**Worked All Germany**--CW/SSB, sponsored by The Deutscher Amateur Radio Club, 1500Z Oct 15-1459Z Oct 16. Frequencies: 80-10 meters, work German stations only. Categories: SOAB (HP >100 W, LP, QRP <5 W in Mixed only) CW or Mixed Mode, MS, SWL, packet spotting allowed for all classes. Exchange: RS(T) and serial number or DOK code. QSO points: 3 pts/QSO. Germans count DXCC/WAE countries per band. Score: QSO points × first letters of DOK codes (Germans use DXCC entities or WAE countries) counted once per band and mode. For more information: www.darc.de/referate/dx/fedcg.htm. Logs due Nov 20 to wag@dxhf.darc.de or to WAG Contestmanager, PO Box 12 09 37, D-01010 Dresden, Germany.

**JARTS WW RTTY Contest**, sponsored by the Japanese Amateur Radio Teleprinter Society, 0000Z Oct 15-2400Z Oct 16. Frequencies: 80-10 meters. Categories: SOAB (HP >100 W, LP), MO, SWL. Exchange: RST and age (Multiop sends 99, YL may send 00). QSO points: own continent-- 2 pts, diff cont--3 pts per QSO. Score: QSO points × DXCC entities + JA, W, VE and VK call areas counted once per band. For more information: <a href="https://www.edsoftz.com/JARTS">www.edsoftz.com/JARTS</a>. Logs in Cabrillo format due Nov 30 to <a href="https://www.edsoftz.com/JARTS/2005/log\_submit\_form.php">www.edsoftz.com/JARTS/2005/log\_submit\_form.php</a> or <a href="https://www.edsoftz.com/JARTS/2005/log\_submit\_form.php">jarts2005@edsoftz.com/JARTS/2005/log\_submit\_form.php</a> or

Asia-Pacific Sprint--CW, sponsored by the Asia-Pacific Sprint Contest Committee, 0000Z-0200Z Oct 16. Frequencies (MHz): 14.030-14.050 and 21.030-21.050. Categories: SO <150 W only. Work Asia-Pacific stations only. Exchange: RST and serial number. Special QSY rule. Score: QSOs × WPX prefixes counted once only. For more information and AP country list: <u>http://jsfc.org/apsprint</u>. Logs due 7 days after contest to apsprint@jsfc.org (Cabrillo format encouraged; no paper logs accepted).

#### RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest--CW, 0700Z-1900Z Oct 16.

Illinois QSO Party--CW/Phone, sponsored by the Radio Amateur Megacycle Society (RAMS). 1700Z Oct 16-0100Z Oct 17. Frequencies (MHz): 160-2 meters, CW--50 kHz above band edge, Phone--3.890, 7.290, 14.290, 21.390, 28.390; Novice/Tech--30 kHz above edge of segment. Categories: SO, MS, Mobile. Work stations in each county, county line contacts count for 1 QSO from each county. Exchange: RS(T) and S/P/C (IL stations send county). QSO points: Phone--1 pt/QSO, CW--2 pts. Score: QSO points × IL counties (IL stations use states + IL counties + VE provinces + up to 5 DXCC entities). Count additional DX for points, but not multipliers. For more information: http://my.core.com/~jematz/rams.html. Logs due Nov 14 to jfunk@fossnorthamerica.com or to RAMS, c/o John Matz, KB9II, 7079 West Ave, Hanover Park, IL 60133.

**Bill Windle QSO Party**--CW, sponsored by First Class Operator's Club (FOC), from 0000Z-2359Z Oct 15. Frequencies: 160-10 meters, 6 and 2 meters. Call "CQ BW" from 15 to 45 kHz above band edge;open to all hams, not just FOC members. Exchange: RST and name or FOC number, if member. Report total QSOs with FOC members, counted once per band, FOC members report total QSOs and total FOC QSOs. For more information: www.firstclasscw.org.uk. QSO totals due Oct 23 to KZ5D@aol.com.

ARRL International EME Contest, 0000Z Oct 22-2400Z Oct 23, 50-1296 MHz (see Aug QST, p 91).

**USI W/VE Islands QSO Party**--CW/Digital/SSB-sponsored by the US Islands Awards Program from 1600Z Oct 22 to 2359Z Oct 23. Frequencies: 160-6 meters. Categories: W/VE-phone, W/VE-CW/Digital, as Non-Island, Island, or Island Rover, plus DX and SWL. Exchange: RS(T), island name and USI or CISA number (S/P/C for non-island stations). Non-island stations work island stations only. Work stations once per island per mode. QSO points: island-- 5 pts, non-island--1 pt. Score: QSO points  $\times$  states + provinces. For more information: www.eng.mu.edu/usislands/usvetest.html. Logs due Nov 30 to wa4ja@arrl.net or to WA4JA, John Almon, 105 Flintlock Dr, Franklin, TN 37064-2351.

**QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party**--CW, sponsored by QRP ARC International, 1200Z Oct 22-2400Z Oct 23, operate 24 hrs max. Frequencies (MHz): 1.810, 3.560, 3.710, 7.040, 14.060, 21.060, 28.060. Categories: SOAB, SO-High Band (20-6), SO-Low Band (160-40). QSO points: member QSOs--5 pts, non-member on same cont--2 pts, non-members on diff cont--4 pts. Score: QSO points × S/P/C × Power Multiplier (< 55

 $mW \times 20$ , <250  $mW \times 15$ , <1  $W \times 10$ , <5 W output ×7, >5  $W \times 1$ ). For more information: <u>www.qrparci.org</u>. Submit entry form via contest Web site. Logs due Nov 23 to <u>contest@qrparci.org</u> or ARCI Fall QSO Party, c/o Jeff Hetherington, VA3JFF, 139 Elizabeth St W, Welland, ON L3C 4M3, Canada.

**CQ Worldwide DX Contest**--SSB, sponsored by *CQ Magazine*, 0000Z Oct 29-2400Z Oct 30. (CW is 0000Z Nov 26-2400Z Nov 27). Frequencies: 160-10 meters. Categories: SOAB and SOSB (HP >100 W, LP, QRP <5 W), MS, M2 (new), MM. MS have 10 minute rule. Exchange RS(T) and CQ zone. QSO points: same cont--1 pts (NA stations count 2 pts), diff cont--3 pts. Stations in the same country may be worked for zone credit only. Score: QSO points  $\times$  CQ Zones + DXCC entities and WAE countries counted once per band. For more information: www.cqww.com. Logs due Dec 1 (Jan 15 for CW) to ssb@cqww.com (CW logs to cw@cqww.com) or to *CQ Magazine*, 25 Newbridge Rd, Hicksville, NY 11801.

**4th Annual Fists Coast to Coast Contest**--CW--sponsored by FISTS Northwest Club, K7FFF, 0000Z-2400Z Oct 30. Frequencies: 80-10 m. Categories: SOAB, MS, (QRP/QRO). Exchange: RST, name, state or DX prefix, and FISTS number or power. QSO points and scoring depends on number of times club is worked. For more information: <u>www.tomochka.com/k7fff</u>. No logs required; just send total score and list of clubs contacted to <u>FistsC2C@vahoo.com</u> within 30 days of the contest.

10-10 International CW/Digital Contest, 0001Z Oct 29-2400Z Oct 30. Logs due Nov 15 (see Aug QST, p 85 or www.ten-ten.org).

#### **Broadband Online in Manassas**

Tory N. Parrish Potomac News Thursday, October 6, 2005

Manassas' 37,000 residents now have another option for high-speed Internet service.

Last year, the city partnered with a commercial company to become the first in the country to begin implementing citywide broadband-overpowerline service -- high-speed Internet service through an electrical connection, rather than phone or cable lines.

That rollout is complete.

"It is no exaggeration to say that Manassas now has the distinction of being plugged into the Internet in a way that is truly unlike any other city in America," said Joseph E. Fergus, chief executive officer of Chantilly-based Communication Technologies Inc. (ComTek), at a Wednesday morning press conference announcing the completion of the project.

The city partnered with ComTek in 2004 to implement BPL service citywide.

Manassas, which contributed \$400,000 to the \$2 million project, provides the utility staff to install and maintain the technology, while ComTek owns and operates the BPL network.

BPL service, which is \$28.95 in Manassas, is often touted as being less expensive than other types of Internet service.

Manassas city officials are touting better reliability and portability, and a new automated monitoring of utility systems.

"Before, we've always relied traditionally on the citizens to call in and advise us that their power was out," said Utilities Director John D. Hewa.

BPL has the potential to lessen traffic congestion in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area by increasing telecommuting work options, said Congressman Frank Wolf and American Public Power Association President Alan H. Richardson.

Some opponents of the service have included local ham radio operators who say the service interrupts their radio transmissions, and telecommunications companies who say city utilities forming such partnerships unfairly limits competition.

Public-private partnerships provide another choice for customers, Richardson countered.

Manassas is expected to receive 10.5 percent of the revenue generated from residential customers and 21 percent of the revenue generated by commercial customers, said Hewa, who added that the city is projected to recoup its \$400,000 investment after four years.

Out of the 12,500 households and 2,500 businesses in Manassas that have access to BPL, 700 customers have purchased it and 95 percent of those are residential.

"We believe in the coming months ... we'll reach a 10 percent penetration rate or higher throughout the city ... those are very favorable when you're a third entrant into the market," Hewa said.

More marketing will increase those numbers, say Comtek and city officials, who say BPL service is gaining about 100 net new customers monthly.

"It's going to take some time," said Mayor Douglas Waldron.

Tory N. Parrish can be reached at (703) 368-6570.

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