

The OVH ARC Newsletter
"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
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<http://www.w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

OCTOBER 2007

Next Meeting: October 15, 2007

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings, now with summer officially behind us now, we can look forward to cooler weather. We OVH members can look forward to some very exciting opportunities and events during the remainder of 2007 and in 2008. Remember again to check and maintain your antennas before the fall winds and the winter weather arrives!

The 2008 Hamfest committee recommended a new date for this annual event. After careful and deliberate consideration, the decision was made unanimously to move the OVH Hamfest date to the second Sunday in June which will be June 8 in 2008. This resolves the unfortunate conflict which developed with the much larger Rochester N.Y. Hamfest and will allow a number of vendors who formerly attended our Hamfest to attend both Hamfests. Of course, this also raises several other conflicting issues; most importantly, many (of the thousands) of "regular" attendees at the Manassas OVH Hamfest are so used to it being on the first Sunday in June that we will need to make an extra effort to be sure they know it will henceforth be held on the second Sunday in June. Regardless of our efforts, some may still show up on the first Sunday in June!

Through a donation made to the club, we also now have excellent opportunities to sponsor two fund raisers under which 100% of the proceeds will go to the OVH. Butch/W4HJL will present the information and details about these opportunities to the OVH membership at the upcoming meeting on October 15th while I'll be in the Middle East on a business trip; unfortunately, I'll also miss the Northern California DX Association and (radio) Fox Hunting videos to be shown at the October 15th meeting thanks to Art/W1CRO.

Remember that JOTA is coming up October 20th and 21st. Please try to participate! I hope as many of you as possible will try to make upcoming OVH meeting on Monday, October 15th.

73 for now 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:	Ruth Frock	KU4WH	331-1234
Secretary:	Wayne Phillips	N7QLK	393-8447
Treasurer:	Bill Ellis	WA4FIC	335-9935

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdell	W4HJL	369-2877
Art Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330
Charlie Dale	WA4YGI	361-3091

WEEKLY NETS

Thursdays - 8:00 PM	JOHN H	257-3566
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HAMFEST 2007

Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Charlie	WA4YGI	361-3091

FIELD DAY 2008

George T.	K4GVT	791-5956
Butch B.	W4HJL	369-2877

CLUB ROSTER

Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877
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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
Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877

FINANCE

Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877
Bill	WA4FIC	335-9935
Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234

GENERATORS

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

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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HOME PAGE

Bill	N3OH	590-9562
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JOTA

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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LEGAL

Pete	KB4RME	369-2436
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Joe Dobes	KI4OHR	369-2639
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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NEWSLINE

Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
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PACKET

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N3OH	590-9562

PROGRAMS

TBA

PUBLICITY

Trisha Wells	KI4PCM	335-1096
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QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Milt	N4SN	369-7265
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844

REPEATER TRUSTEE

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3556
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N3OH	590-9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939

All telephone numbers listed above are for Area Code 703 unless otherwise noted.

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The OVH ARC meets at 7:30 p.m. local time every third Monday of the month at the NOVEC Tech Center on Wellington Road in Gainesville, Virginia. Prospective members or other interested persons are invited to attend. Local information can always be obtained, at any time, through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.97 & 224.660 Mhz. All are welcome. Up to date information about OVH activities and meetings is also available on the OVH web site at <http://www.w4ovh.net>.

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 or other source 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: W4ZB@RLAW.COM.

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

Last Rev: 09/09/2007

Sunshine Corner:

Welcome to our newest member voted in at the September meeting, Jake Guepe, KI4SPX.

****UPGRADE**** Russ/WB4HHN and his wife Patricia/WA4ODQ both upgraded to EXTRA!
AWESOME!!!

Silver Anniversary celebration for our leader, George/K4GVT and his lovely bride, Ev,
Congratulations!!

Congratulations also to Elizabeth/KG4NXV, after completing her freshman year of college at
Duke University, her class rank was 18 out of 296!!!! She is now a sophomore at Virginia Tech.

Here's hoping everybody in the October birthday club has a good day! Keith/KM4AA, Phil/
AC4PL, Doc/W1IMX, Robert/KC4TNC and Ruth/KU4WH.

Club Secretary, Wayne/N7QLK, has been shipped overseas for work again, this time for a 2
month deployment. Stay safe Wayne!

Just a reminder, OVH's JOTA event this year will be on October 20th at the Urbanna Swim
Club from 10 am until 2 pm; if you have a chance please stop by and visit with the scouts!

See you next month! Please send news items to kg4tvm@hotmail.com.

73 Theresa/KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting September 17, 2007:

George/K4GVT, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on September 17, 2007.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were
18 members present.

The minutes of the August 2007 meeting were approved, no corrections.

Treasurer's Report – Club paid for a full year at the new storage facility, this is a substantial
savings over the previous location. Report was approved.

Hamfest: George/K4GVT reported that the OVH Manassas Hamfest committee has met and
the location at the fairgrounds will remain the same for 2008. The major change they have
made was to move the date to Sunday, June 8th – which is the second Sunday in June. As long
as anyone can remember, the OVH Manassas Hamfest has been on the first Sunday in June.
As a result it will be especially important to publicize this date change to the second Sunday
in June far in advance because many past attendees will expect the Hamfest to be on the first
Sunday in June “as usual.” The fairgrounds will also provide tables and chairs at a lower cost
than what we have been paying and we will be able to make use of all indoor and most of the
covered areas in the case of rain. A vote was taken to approve the change of the event date and
the change was approved.

Training: Mark/WA4KFZ is putting together a slide show for training and will set dates for classes
shortly. Brian/WC4J asked about purchasing a training video and this was tabled until January.

Repeaters: Art/W1CRO reported that after a work party on Monday, the repeater is back where it should be; phone patch also should work now!

Field Day – George is still looking for a chairperson. John/KG4NXT volunteered to chair this event.

ARES: Brian/WC4J gave members information about upcoming events; the MS Challenge Walk and Marine Corp Marathon, both are in need of a large number of volunteers.

Sunshine Corner – Theresa/KG4TVM reminded members to please forward their information to her at kg4tvm@hotmail.com or by phone at 703-257-3566.

JOTA: Theresa/KG4TVM asked for volunteers for the antenna party on Friday, October 19th and also on the day of the event, October 20th from 10 am to 2 pm.

OLD BUSINESS: Special Event Station in August, Al reported that the event was a success with 213 contacts and 2 countries. Art is printing certificates and Brian is printing stickers with contact information. Art/W1CRO has already received 42 QSL's. Al/KB4BHB, has volunteered to chair this event next year.

NEW BUSINESS: Mark/WA4KFZ asked about the tabled proposal to purchase a trailer. Steve/N4OGR, the chair to investigate that, was not present and has not yet reported.

MEMBERSHIP: John/KG4NXT reported on behalf of Joe, who is out of town. Jake/KI4SPX was voted in. No new applications to read in.

50/50 – Art won \$10 that he donated back to the club.

Art/W1CRO donated a light to clip on your hat and the drawing was won by Mark/WA4KFZ.

Art/W1CRO volunteered to bring two ham related videos to be shown at the October 15th meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm!

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

OPERATING EVENTS

ARRL Sweepstakes HF Contests. CW on Nov. 2nd and 3rd; Phone on Nov. 17 and 18th. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/novss.html>. Both of these are major fall contests with thousands of participants from all over the U.S. - a good opportunity for you to test out your HF station and to work any missing State still needed for the Worked All States (WAS) award.

PUBLIC SERVICE RELATED EVENTS

October 13th. American Diabetes Walk, beginning at Micron Computers on Goodwin Drive, Manassas. Six operators needed with HTs for simplex, meet at Micron at 09:00, should be over before noon. More details at <http://www.pwcares.org/> or contact David/KG4GIY at 703-628-3868.

October 20th and 21st. Jamboree on the Air (JOTA - see article at pg. 7 below). OVH will operate a JOTA station for local Scout participants again this year. More volunteers are always welcomed and needed. Contact Theresa/KG4TVM at 703-257-3566 or kg4tvm@hotmail.com for more details.

CONFERENCES

October 18th - 20th. The Microwave Update 2007 conference sponsored by the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club and held near Philadelphia, Penna. This perhaps sounds obscure, but this is a major, nearby East Coast meeting which attracts microwave enthusiasts, experts and vendors from all over the U.S. and even from other parts of the world. Details at: <http://www.microwaveupdate.org>

Update: OVH Newsletter PDF Files And Tips About Viewing Them

About 95% of the Ole Virginia Times monthly Newsletters are now sent out by email as PDF file attachments; the Newsletters sent by postal mail are limited to 8 pages due to postage charges even if the PDF Newsletters have more pages; each PDF Newsletter is posted and available for download on the OVH website shortly after it is sent out. The PDF Newsletter filesizes have increased considerably from under 100K to nearly 1 Mb over the last few months due mostly to more images and photos; also the resolutions of the embedded images have been increased in response to “complaints” that certain images which appear “good” on screen, nevertheless, print poorly due to inadequate printing resolution. This has contributed to the PDF filesize increases too, but so far no complaints have been received from readers using slow, dial-up Internet connections who experience longer download times.

Most readers use Adobe Reader, Adobe Acrobat or FoxIt Reader to view PDF files on screen. These have similar capabilities; FoxIt Reader loads faster than the Adobe viewer, but does not support the full PDF specification. FoxIt Reader’s non-compliance with the PDF specification are not important for viewing the OVH Newsletter PDF files. Following are tips about the best ways to use these viewers for on-screen viewing.

The Adobe viewers (i.e., the “free” Adobe PDF Reader and Adobe Acrobat). Use the full screen mode and shortcut keys for viewing PDFs easily in the Adobe viewer (in stand alone mode) with no need to use the mouse: Ctrl-L switches the viewer to full screen mode from normal display mode; ESC switches from full screen mode back to normal display mode; Ctrl-0 forces display of a full page; Ctrl-2 forces a page to display to the full width of the viewer window or a full screen; Ctrl+ and Ctrl- zoom in / out of whatever is displayed; Ctrl-Shift-N brings up a dialog box for a jump to a user specified page; END jumps to the last page, HOME jumps to the first page; and PgUp, PgDn and the Arrow keys operate intuitively. For the Adobe viewer in stand alone mode: be sure your web browser, PDF viewer and system file associations are configured so that PDFs downloaded over the web are not displayed in the PDF viewer within the frame of your web browser. Some browser configurations permit PDFs to be downloaded and opened in a stand alone PDF viewer in a single step; others require the PDF first to be saved manually and then opened in the PDF viewer in a second step. For a PDF file received as an email attachment or by other file transfer means: download and save the PDF file and then open it in your PDF viewer. The stand alone mode maximizes the screen space for viewing and allows direct access to all shortcut keys.

The “free” FoxIt Reader works similarly to the Adobe viewers. The main shortcut key differences are: Alt-2 switches FoxIt to full screen mode from normal display mode; Ctrl-2 forces display of a full page; and Ctrl-3 forces a page to display to the full width of the viewer window or a full screen.

Contributed Article: Is QRP A Handicap? by Phineas (“Finney”) Henshaw, KØKMA

Hello fellow OVH club members! I would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit this article to the OVH Newsletter. I have not been in amateur radio as many years as some, so some of the points and information will be “old hat.” Nevertheless, I hope you will find this useful.

The Real Meaning Of QRP?

I was in a discussion on USENET when this subject came up. Since I had a feeling that most people who use this term do not use it correctly, I decided to look it up on the ARRL website and found that QRP actually means “Shall I decrease transmitter power?”

WHAT??? The true meaning of QRP has nothing to

do with running low power at all. Another pertinent bit of information in FCC’s regulations: §97.313 Transmitter power standards. “(a) An amateur station must use the minimum transmitter power necessary to carry out the desired communications...”

Yeah, I know, it is just easier just to leave the power all the way up, or this is a free country, and as long as you do not get “BUSTED” who cares....RIGHT? Well notice there is no minimum power requirement. If I run .0005 watts and I make or maintain a contact, then I am operating normally, not QRP! As a matter of fact, I have done quite a bit of research, and I have YET to find a resource where the separation between “OPERATING QRP” and the signal QRP.

The Old CB Sideband Days

A lot of operators, including myself came from CB to amateur radio. Some of us do not care to admit it. Some of us used to freeband also. For those who do not know what "freebanding" is, I will not be the one responsible for telling you. In those days, there were things called DX clubs where CB operators imitate amateur radio operators. Some of these clubs are still in existence. Before you start pulling out the lynch to hang me, just hear me out. Many years ago, illegal amplifiers or export radios, were not as easily accessible as they are now. Most people had legal CB SSB radios like the Cobra 146/148GTL. Legal radios put out 4watts AM, and 12watts SSB. Now by law, it is illegal to talk past a certain distance on a CB, but that is another discussion. Due to this restriction of power, a lot of operators went to their antennas for better reception.

You maybe asking, Why do I bring this up? or "What does this have to do with Amateur Radio?" It has everything to do with it from a case stand point. Most of the SSB CBers have no idea about propagation, or sunspot cycles, they just get on the radio and try to make contacts no matter how bad the conditions are. Back before the internet, the flood of export radios and illegal amplifiers, people were talking all over the world on LEGAL CB radios with stock equipment, even during low parts of the sunspot cycles. As amateur radio operators, we should be that much better. I am on QRZ.COM and Eham.net reading about operators that cannot make contacts with a 100 watt radio. Has cheap amplification made our brains smaller? I will address my theories in the next section.

Antennas Antennas Antennas

Here we go again. As we deal with antenna, space, and mobile operating restrictions, compromised antennas are becoming the normal operating practice. I remember when I got back into Amateur radio, I went out and bought an IC706 and some Hustler coils to put in my van. I could not make contact with anyone, even though I had the antenna tuned properly and putting out 100 watts. As a matter of fact, I made more contacts on my stock Ranger 2950DX then I did on my 706. Instead of checking my antenna installation, I bought a 500 watt amplifier. This got me more contacts, but I was constantly burning up antennas. I also gained a bunch or RF on some bands. So bad that I was getting nasty signal reports! My van turned into a money pit for radio equipment, until I made a contact on 12 meters. It was an oldtimer named Andy, and he hangs out on 24.975. Here I am talking to him running 500 watts, and he was talking to me on 10 watts. After talking with this long winded gentleman, I was on a quest to fix my antenna system. Counterpoise was the problem! I ran a wire around my luggage rack to the shield of my coax, and the rest of history! After I started getting good signal reports, I tossed the amp, and have not used one in the mobile since. I bet you are asking yourself "Why did the 2950 work better than the 706?". Simple! The antenna I used

on the 2950DX was a 102" whip on a ball mount that was firmly grounded to the frame of the van. My HF antenna was attached to a magmount on the roof of the van.

The moral of this story is if you want to make more contacts, fix the antenna instead of buying more radio equipment. I learned this lesson the hard way! I am not going to get into different antennas and theory, but you get the idea. When running at lower power, spending time on the antenna is key to making regular contacts. Some entertaining reading about this subject: <http://www.hfpack.com/antennas/>

They did a field test of many different types on portable antennas. I always thought the results were kind of fixed, but their findings are interesting to say the least. The articles in the link reflect the drastic impact an antenna makes on a radio system. Also notice that shorter the antenna, the worse the result. Any antenna will work. I once talked on a doorknob dipole on ladder line through a tuner inside a house to a station 70 miles away on 6 meters. However, the other station was running a multi element beam with a pre-amp, and 30 ft boom. That guy might have heard me even if I did not have an antenna.

Digital Modes

Not having a lot of power is a good excuse to learn how to use a digital mode like CW, PSK, or one of many other types on digital modes. You would be pleasantly surprised on how well and how regular you can make contacts running 1 watt on a digital mode. I am not about to state my views on the "SSB vs CW" discussion. I am just stating this fact to make to article complete.

Final Comments/Tips

QRP is not special operating, nor is it a handicap. The real problem is how we are using are brain, and our motivation. It is up to you to determine if I have made a good case for my argument. I am always operating portable, and lower power stations on a regular basis, and make regular contacts. Just like anything else, the reward of hard work is a good result. Having 100 watts, even 1500 watts is nice, but this does not mean you need that kind of power. The most power I have in my station is 20 watts PEP. This works for me because I am always living in a restricted place. Here are a few rules I go by when operating.

1. Choose a quiet frequency. It is totally possible to get an S9 signal with 1 watt. However if the frequency has an S9 noise level, and you have no way to boost your power, then it is time to go else where.

2. Never force people to work your station as a weak signal. Lets face it, even if you are running 1500 watts, if propagation does not allow the contact, then the party is over! Instead of trying to get people to pull you out, just try a different frequency or band.

3. Call CQ. Someone somewhere can always pickup your signal if they are in the right place.

4. Listen first. Signal reports are a sure sign of propagation. If you hear 2 station talking mobile to mobile running 100 watts, and you can hear them both S9, there is a good chance they will hear you also. Stations running beam antennas are almost always good contacts when running low power.

5. When portable, location and elevation matters. Think about where you are going to setup your low power portable station. It make all of the difference in the world!

6. Use the correct power source. Often we cheat ourselves out of a few watts of power because we are operating our radio at a lower voltage than we should. If you are running on batteries, keep in mind the battery may say 12V DC, but when a load is put on it, the voltage can go down to as low as 9.5V DC. That could mean a 25% power loss if not more. Always do some research on the battery/power supply you are using, and determine what the power curve is for the supply/battery. When you are running 100 watts, a 25% loss

is not bad(75 Watts), but at 5 watts it is a lot worse! Power supplies can also generate noise which may effect you transmit and receive.

7. Spend money and time on the antenna, not radio equipment.

8. Use some finesse in pileups! There is no way you are going to compete against QRO stations, but this does not mean you will not be heard. Wait till the pileup stops, and slide in your call at the end of it. You will be surprised how well this works.

9. Become a better shortwave listener. This a valuable tool when it comes to learning how well your antenna works.

10. Use balanced antennas when ever possible. They just work better!

I hope you have enjoyed reading this article as much as I have enjoyed writing it. My goal is to entertain, inform and educate.

Peace and 73 Finney KØKMA

From the ARRL: 2007 Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) will celebrate its 50th year this year when it gets on the air October 19-21. Normally a 48 hour event, this year's JOTA will be 50 hours long in recognition of the anniversary. The fun begins at 2200 (local time) October 19 and ends at midnight (local time) October 21.

An on-the-air operating event sponsored by the World Scout Bureau, JOTA was founded in 1958 by Les Mitchell, G3BHK. It has grown to become the largest international Scout event. More than half a million Scouts and Guides in more than 100 countries participate in JOTA, involving as many as 10,000 Amateur Radio stations.

The event relies on the Amateur Radio community and

local hams for its success. Getting Boy and Girl Scouts (including Cubs and Brownies) on the air to talk with other Scouts around the world provides a great opportunity to expose youth to Amateur Radio. Some troops and clubs team up to make a big splash with lots of activities, radios and antennas, offering a variety of modes to experience. For others, JOTA provides an opportunity to coach a smaller group of Scouts and to just have fun talking on the radio. Scouts usually enjoy communicating by speaking into a microphone, but some radio amateurs are able to provide other modes, such as slow-scan TV or amateur TV, satellites, packet radio, RTTY or even EME! More details are at <http://www.arrl.org/scouts/jota>.

Health and Safety Topics - Ham Radio Related?

OSHA (the Occupational Safety and Health Administration) is routinely criticized for its bureaucratic mandates of health and safety rules and procedures which initially are viewed by businesses (and sometimes workers too) as unnecessary, impractical or non-competitive. Yet over time, most OSHA mandates become well accepted workplace standards which are widely recognized as justified and needed for good safety and health reasons. But good health and safety procedures for the workplace are also applicable outside of the workplace. The OSHA web site at <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/> lists a wide variety of health and safety tips under a large number of topic areas. Several directly pertain to activities associated with ham radio and are recommended reading. Just two will be mentioned here.

1. Set up your station (and computer) operating position ergonomically to avoid backaches, carpal tunnel syndrome, fatigue, etc. See, <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/computerworkstations/>.

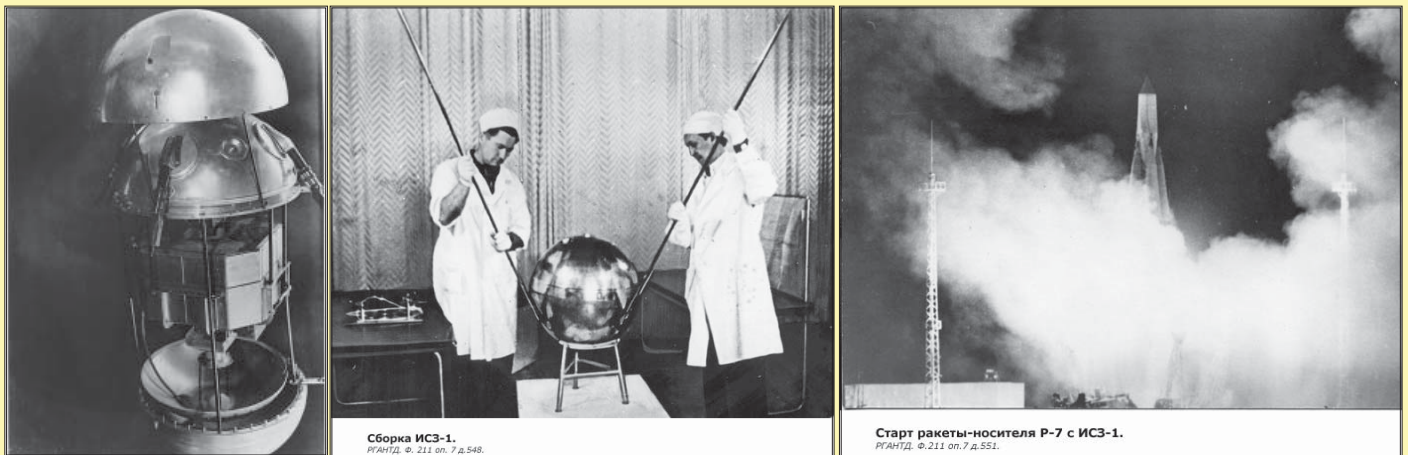
2. Avoid over-radiating yourself with RF! See, <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/radiofrequencyradiation/>. Drilling down through the links at this URL will lead to the FCC's near-field RF radiation standards applicable to ham radio. See also, the ARRL web page on this topic: "RF Radiation and Electromagnetic Field Safety" at <http://www.arrl.org/news/rfsafety/hbkrf.html>.

Remembering Sputnik 1 - 50 Years Ago

The ARRL recently posted several web pages about the USSR's launch of Sputnik 1 fifty years ago in early October 1957. See <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2007/09/28/03/>. Your editor was in the 6th grade at the time and not yet a radio ham, but he and his brother had a shortwave receiver and tried to hear its 20 MHz signal on that receiver during Sputnik I's short life - without success. A nearby ham, Howard Moffit, W1DG (SK), the father of a school buddy, a Georgia Tech EE graduate and an engineer with Radio Free Europe in New York, was able to hear it on his well equipped home station and invited us over so we could hear it live too. That was exciting! But so was the USSR's successful launch of the first man-made earth orbiting satellite - a great engineering and scientific achievement to be admired, despite the Cold War worries and tensions of that time!

The ARRL has also posted downloadable 30 minute MP3 files (15 Mb each) made from original October, 1957 tape recordings by Philip Ewald, W4EWR (SK) of Sputnik 1's 20 Mhz signals. These MP3 files are downloadable, respectively, at: http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2007/10/04/1/Sputnik_01.mp3 and http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2007/10/04/1/Sputnik_02.mp3. Those record the real stuff!

The ARRL's 09/28/2007 web article noted above is jointly authored by two US and Russian hams, KK5DM and RA3DNC, and includes links to some original source sites in Russia such as <http://rgantd.ru/>, a (Russian language) Russian State Archive Site for Scientific and Technical Documents, especially for matters relating to the USSR's Space Programs. This may be a bit intimidating if you can't read Russian, but check out <http://rgantd.ru/elcatalog/photocat.htm>, another page at that same site which has hyperlinks to more than 3,000 space program photographs through the mid-1970's. You might not be able to read the Russian language captions, but many images can be understood without the captions; and you won't find that historical material on NASA's site.



L to R: 1. Exploded view of Sputnik 1, 2. Assembling Sputnik 1; 3. R-7 Rocket launching Sputnik 1.

What Are Some Russian Hams Up To Today?

Ham Radio has always been quite popular in Russia, even in the "old days" of the USSR when almost all "on the air" activities were restricted to "club stations;" the enthusiasm for the hobby there is not unlike in the US in many respects; and Russia, of course, has always had many first class ham operators. Check out the following three web videos posted by UA9FBV and RA9FTM, a father and son team based in Perm. 1. <http://blip.tv/file/208466/> - putting up a very big HF quad antenna at RA9FTM's rural station outside of Perm; 2. <http://blip.tv/file/208466/> - activities by RA9FTM in Perm and at his rural station during the winter 2007 Russian DX contest; and 3. <http://blip.tv/file/409981/> - activities of the RW9FWB contest team during the Russian VHF/UHF Field Day in July 2007. If you've travelled in Russia, watching these carefully will surely refresh recollections of things you have seen; regardless, you'll learn something new! DSL or better needed!