

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

November 2017

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 21, 2017

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to All,

I hope that everyone had a happy and safe Halloween. Oh, all of the left over candy.

Are your batteries charged?? Is your radio configured properly?? If not, then this may be the time to ensure they are. With the weather getting colder, and the recent hurricane season, this is the perfect time to check the functionality of them. For the newer members, don't hesitate to ask someone for assistance if you need it. Also, December 2nd is for those that are D-Star folks, stay tuned for updates.



I want to pass along some information from the ARRL Virginia Section Manager and suggest some “on the air” activities for you at the beginning of December: SKYWARN™ Recognition Day (SRD) will take place on Saturday, December 2nd from 0000 until 2400 UTC (this starts on Friday evenings in US time zones) as a Special Event. During the Event, ham radio operators will set up stations at National Weather Service (NWS) offices and contact other radio amateurs around the world. Participating Amateur Radio stations will exchange a brief description of their current weather with as many NWS-based stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 m bands and on the 70 cm band. Contacts via repeaters are permitted. SRD was developed jointly in 1999 by the NWS and ARRL to celebrate the contributions SKYWARN volunteers make to the NWS mission — the protection of life and property. Amateur Radio operators, which comprise a large percentage of SKYWARN volunteers, also provide vital communication between the NWS and emergency managers, if normal communications become inoperative. Just an idea if folks would like to be a part of it.

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President: Ray Knight	KM4EKR	930-8222
Vice Pres: Jeff Fuller	WB6UIE	791-5916
Secretary: Byron Dillon	AK4XR	222-2095
Treasurer: Terry Erlacher	KC4DV	571-292-1490

DIRECTORS

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

WEEKLY FM REPEATER NET COORDINATOR

Thurs - 8:00 PM Local Time	JOHN / KG4NXT	257-3566
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HAMFEST 2018 - Chairman

Don	WA2SWX	597-3211
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FIELD DAY 2017 s

Byron	AK4XR	222-2095
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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

Open

ARES - EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	703-628-3868
	email: KG4GIY@ARRL.NET	
Prince William County ARES website	http://pwcares.org	

FINANCE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490

GENERATORS

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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CO-WEBMASTERS — W4OVH.NET

Kevin	KX4KU	540-439-3289
Andy	KJ4MTP	786-4651

TWITTER & FACEBOOK ACCOUNT MODERATOR

Jeff	KM4FTK	830-4155
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EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
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BROADBAND HAMNET

Terry	WA4NTI	445-2801
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JOTA - 2017

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	WA3FMO	361-4885
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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NEWSLINE FOR THE WEEKLY NET

John.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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PROGRAMS

Jeff	WB6UIE	791-5916
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QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042

W4OVH — TRUSTEE

Stu	W4PR	335-5267
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W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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SCHOLARSHIP

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Bill	N4SV	590.9562
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
David	KG4GIY	628-3868

All telephone numbers listed above 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 © 2017 by the Ole Virginia Hams.

The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Tuesday at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas, Virginia. Members, prospective members and other interested persons are invited to attend without obligation. Local information can also be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.970-, 224.660-, 442.200+ and 443.500+ MHz. The OVH's two D-Star repeaters on 146.865- and 442.5125+ MHz are temporarily operating with limited D-Star capabilities. Up to date information about OVH activities and its meetings is also available during the OVH's nets on its FM Repeater each Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. or on 80 meters (3710 KHz) LSB each Sunday night at 7:00 p.m. (8:00 pm in Summer) or through the OVH's web site at <http://w4ovh.net>

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The OVH will be participating in the upcoming City of Manassas Christmas Parade and Manassas Park Christmas Parade - so watch out on the OVH closed email reflector for further announcements about these.

Lastly, a reminder that the OVH's regular December "meeting" will on Sunday, December 10th during the OVH's annual Year End / Holiday / Christmas Party at the Yorkshire Restaurant from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. I promise the meeting itself WILL be very short. Please bring an item for the "Toys for Tots" and a dish to share. More info later. .

I look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming meeting on November 21st, 7:30 pm at the main conference room at the Buckhall Fire Station, Manassas.

Keep your thoughts and ideas coming to me at: RayKnight@Verizon.net

73 Ray KM4EKR

Sunshine Corner:

Happy birthday wishes during November 2017 to OVH members: Wayne / N7QLK, Kevin / KX4KU, Baofang / KK4JFK, Theresa / KG4TVM, Butch / W4HJL, Greg / KM4CCG, Jeff / WB4TT, Gene / KD4RHC, Charlie / WA4YGI and Joe / AB4QV.

Happy Veteran's Day to all of the OVH's present and former service members, thank you very much for your service.

Please continue to think and send positive thoughts to Butch / W4HJL as he continues his recovery; he is back in Fairfax Hospital again as of the date this is being written. Also, our condolences to Butch / W4HJL and his extended family on the passing of his very elderly mother-in-law at the end of October.

Condolences to Luther / WA3FMO and his family on the sudden passing of his mother-in-law in October.

Congratulations to Kevin / KX4KU for achieving the QRZ.COM milestone recognition award for having had 2-way contacts (logged in at QRZ.com) with other ham stations at least 250 U.S. Counties.

Paul / W4ZB became a grandpa again (#6) with his daughter Kelly's first child, a son. He also recently became an FAA certified flight instructor (CFI) after passing a day long, grueling series of ground and flight examinations with an FAA inspector.

Year End / Holiday / Christmas Party – This year it will be on Sunday, December 10th at the Yorkshire Restaurant, 7537 Centreville Road, Manassas, Virginia, starting at 6:00 pm until ????. Please bring a potluck dish to share. We will also collect Toys For Tots donations of new and unwrapped toys. This is a family event, so bring your significant other! Any questions, please contact me at kg4tvm@hotmail.com

Please try to check in to the Thursday night VHF/UHF FM net. You will hear updates and information on events! How to do that is on the OVH web site at w4ovh.net. You will find us on the 146.970 and 443.500 FM repeaters at 8:00 pm every Thursday evening.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting held on October 17, 2017:

OVH Club President, Ray / KM4EKR, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm in the main conference room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas, Virginia. This was the OVH's second meeting at this new location which is expected to be our meeting location for the next 10 months or so.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were OVH 26 members and 2 guests in attendance.

Minutes: The minutes for the September 2017 meeting went out in the Newsletter for October 2017. Al / KB4BHB made a motion to accept September's minutes, seconded by Wayne / N7QLK, motion passed.

Treasurer's report –Terry / KC4DV was not prepared and will be sending out the report via email.

Presentation - Theresa / KG4TVM was presented with a gift card to Michaels in recognition of all the work she has done and continues to do on behalf of the OVH. Wayne / N7QLK also presented mementos from the Prince William Half Marathon to all OVH members present who had helped out at that recent event.

Sunshine – Theresa / KG4TVM: 1. Happy birthday to our club President Ray / KM4EKR. 2. The OVH's Year End / Christmas / Holiday Party will be Sunday evening December 10, 2017 at the Yorkshire Restaurant. We will also be collecting toys for Toys for Tots. Please also bring a covered dish to share. Turkey and ham and beverages (fountain drinks) will be provided by the restaurant. All OVH members and their family members are invited. 3. Bill / N4SV, who will be leaving the area and moving to Indiana permanently before long, was presented with a plaque thanking him for his many, many long years of service to club in a very wide variety of officer and appointed positions with the OVH.

JOTA - The 2017 JOTA event will be held this coming Saturday, October 21st at the Braemar Pool Pavilion from 9 am to 2 pm. Lunch will be provided for everyone.

Membership - John Price / KI4OWH, was read in as an applicant for membership; his application will be voted upon at the November meeting.

ARES: ARES Training exercises will be held in November. See the PWCARES.ORG web site for details.

Training - Mark / WA4KFZ: after the Marine Corp Marathon, I will be looking to hold Technician License Training classes online using TeamViewer or a similar online system.

Quartermaster – Everyone who has possession of any OVH club property, please provide details for it to Quartermaster, Steve / N4OGR who is creating an online database to track the OVH's property / inventory.

4H – No report.

Scholarship - Sandy / KM4JUS proposed that the OVH continue with the normal \$1,000 that we give out but offer an additional \$250 if the awardee holds an Amateur Radio license. Steve / N4OGR seconded the proposal. The motion passed.

Web Site – The Wordpress based web site is up and running at <http://w4ovh.net>. Andy / KJ4MTP and Kevin / KX4KU are currently working on the database for Member Only login, and expect to be sending out login information to members, hopefully before the November meeting.

Repeaters - Ken / KE2N was appointed to the repeater committee along with Andy / KJ4TMP. Last weekend they got the NOVEC half of the link to the Mt Pone up and working. ICOM gave the club G3 software for our DSTAR setup. John / KG4NXT donated a computer and software. There may be a presentation in November about these efforts.

Eclipse-pedition- Terry / KC4DV presented Mark / WA4KFZ and Jeff / K9VEG with awards for participating in the event in South Carolina which was organized by Terry.

Break-

50-50 – Mark / WA4KFZ won the drawing and donated his winnings back to the club. The pot was \$12.00.

Hamfest – Don / WA2SWX will be Chairing the Hamfest Committee for the 2018 Manassas Hamfest. Terry / KC4DV went through the Fair Grounds contract with him. Next Hamfest Committee planning meeting will be on November 6th. Party Rentals is locked in to provide chairs and tables. 4H will be there.

New business - the Manassas Christmas Parade will be on December 2nd. Terry / KC4DV, made a motion to have the Club trailer included in the parade. Sandy / KM4JUS, seconded the motion. There is a \$95.00 fee. They were going to try to get a reduction in the entry fee. The motion passed.

Try it now-There will be another Try It Now this Sunday, October 27th. David / KG4GIY, is going to run it because Andy / KJ4MTP will be at the Marine Corps Marathon. This last Try It Now for 2017 will be a duathlon.

Motion to adjourn by John / KG4NXT, seconded by Al / KB4BHB. The motion passed, meeting adjourned.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS

February 3, 2018 (Saturday) - early morning through mid afternoon - The Richmond Frostfest at the Richmond Raceway Complex in Richmond Virginia. This is the big winter hamfest in Virginia and a bunch of separate cars with OVH members usually drive down from the Manassas area - so ask around if you need a ride. Save the date for now.

HAM RADIO RELATED / PUBLIC SERVICE / OVH CLUB EVENTS:

December 2, 2017 (Saturday) - Greater Manassas Christmas Parade - being put on this year

for the 72nd time. See, <https://gmchristmasparade.org> This is a big event each year especially for families with small children. Volunteers from the OVH will not only be providing the usual communications support along the parade route this year, but also the bright red OVH trailer with its new logo decals will be in the parade itself for the first time. Volunteers are needed for pre-parade prep work on the trailer at 10:00 am on Nov. 25th at the storage yard where the trailer is kept. The parade starts at 10:00 am on Dec. 2nd, but the set up and final preparations by OVH's volunteers will need to begin quite a bit earlier that morning. Check in at the upcoming OVH regular meeting, on the OVH's email reflector and on the Thursday night 2-m FM Nets for many more details. You may also contact Theresa at kg4tvm@hotmail.com to get more information.

December 2 (0000 - 2400 UTC) [Friday evening and most of Saturday], 2017 - Skywarn Recognition Day - special event ham radio operations are planned from some (many?) of the NOAA's 122 Weather Forecast Offices throughout the USA. You can find information (it is somewhat sketchy for a special event) at <http://www.arrl.org/skywarn-recognition-day> Also, the locations of each of the 122 WFO offices are in a table on Wikipedia - "Weather Forecast Office"

December 10, 2017 (Sunday) 6:00 pm to late (?) - at the Yorkshire Restaurant, 7537 Centreville Road, Manassas, Virginia. This is the OVH's Annual Holiday /Year End / Christmas Party to which all OVH members and family members are invited. A big turn out is expected as usual! Please bring a potluck dish to share. The restaurant will provide turkey, ham and softdrinks. We will also collect Toys For Tots donations of new and unwrapped toys. This is a family event, so bring your significant others! Any questions, please contact Theresa at kg4tvm@hotmail.com

December 10, 2017 (Sunday) - City of Manassas Park - Parade of Lights - 5:45 pm to 8:00 pm. This event, unfortunately, conflicts time wise with this year's OVH Year End Party. Nevertheless, a number of dedicated OVH volunteers are planning to participate in it. Check the OVH's email reflector for the latest information.

AMRAD meets monthly in McLean, Virginia - meetings usually consist of high level amateur radio related technical presentations on specific topics. Check the <http://amrad.org> web site for upcoming topics, and exact dates, times and places which have been changing around recently.

HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS:

Mid-November through mid-November is the time of the year for the first set of 160 meter band MF radio contests. Three 160 meter band contests based in Europe and the big ARRL 160 meter band contest are coming up shortly. Follow the link below for WA7BNM for more details. On cold winter nights on the 1.8 Mhz to 2.0 Mhz bands, it is possible to make transatlantic contacts at night and during the gray line period with relatively low power. Lot of fun to try and to succeed.

The ARRL has a Contest web page at its web site, but a much more comprehensive, up-to-date, and long range planning contesting calendar with links to the rules for the various events is maintained by WA7BNM at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal> If you get the radio contesting bug or just want to find out what and how much is going on, that is a good place to look!

PUBLIC SERVICE / ARES EVENTS

Also, always check the online Calendar by David / KG4GIY at <http://www.pwcares.org> for the latest ARES updates. David maintains a comprehensive calendar for upcoming events at that web site. Complete direct contact information for David appears on page 2 of this Newsletter.

VP's Corner

Jeff Fuller
WB6UIE

The approaching holiday season and year's end are traditionally a time for reflection and giving thanks for our many blessings. This Veteran's Day, lets take a moment to express thanks to our veterans - the young ones who are in harm's way today defending our freedoms, and those who have gone before, sometimes giving all.

In honor of Veteran's Day, here's an account of some brave WWII vets who put their electronic knowledge and amateur radio skills to work in an amazing example of extreme homebrew. It begins in 1941 with Wendell Fertig, a recent college graduate on his first job as a mining engineer in the Philippines. Having earned an Army Reserve commission through ROTC, Fertig soon found himself called to active duty as war clouds darkened in the Pacific. Within months Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, followed shortly afterward by an invasion of the Philippines.

American and Filipino forces fought bravely, trying to hold out for reinforcements which never came. Their surrender order came in May of 1942, followed by the tragic Bataan Death March. Fertig, along with a number of other American and Filipino officers, ignored that order and melted into the jungle to form guerrilla resistance units.

Their rapid evacuation left Fertig's group on the southern island of Mindanao with little equipment and no radio communications. He needed a way to link up with other resistance groups and to contact General MacArthur's headquarters. Fertig was not a ham, but was able to use his engineering knowledge together

with that of several Filipino tech school grads and radio amateurs to put together a working HF station. They did so by scrounging parts from old broadcast receivers and a broken projector and attempting to duplicate a schematic from a correspondence school textbook. (How many of us could do something like that today ...?) After much tinkering, they managed CW contact with a Navy station on the U.S. west coast.[1]

Navy operators at first ignored Fertig's messages, thinking he must be a Japanese deception. After finally authenticating him from family info in the States, contact was arranged with MacArthur's headquarters in Australia. They assigned Fertig command of Philippine resistance forces on Mindanao and began covert supply via submarine. Fertig's radio network soon spanned the major islands and was a regular source of intel for U.S. forces planning their invasion.



Thanksgiving on Combat Outpost Cherkatah, Khowst province, Afghanistan (U.S. Army)



Filipino guerrillas

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippine_resistance_against_Japan#/media/File:Pajota_%27s_Guerrillas.jpg

1. Schmidt, Larry. "American Involvement in the Filipino Resistance Movement on Mindanao ..." Master's thesis, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, 1982.

What about Morse Code?

Many new OVH members / hams wonder, sometimes out loud, whether they will ever want to or be able to learn, use or develop proficiency with the Morse code. Also known as CW, Morse code is a historical communications mode used especially with radio on the HF ham bands. Knowledge and proficiency with CW was eliminated as a ham license requirement quite a few years ago now, but CW operations persist and are still widely used and enjoyed by many. One of the advantages of CW is that it can often get through at lower power, when voice communications cannot and it can be used conversationally. Really? Those who never develop basic CW proficiency are missing out on a lot -- or one could say, perhaps they don't even know enough to know how much fun they are missing out on! Some have convinced themselves that they lack certain genes and absolutely cannot learn CW - yet those same individuals routinely perform much more complex and demanding tasks such as touch-typing on a keyboard, listening to and comprehending spoken language, etc. Previous articles in the OVH Newsletter have suggested ways that anyone willing to put out some effort can to learn basic CW skills. [Google- site:w4ovh.net CW training -to find them.] Kevin / KX4KU has kindly written an article (below) for club members about his recent experiences with the CW ops program to increase his CW proficiency. Enjoy!

My Experiences with the CW ops Program So Far -- Kevin / KX4KU

CW ops (<http://cwops.org>) is a club of enthusiastic CW operators with the goal ... “to bring together Amateur Radio operators who enjoy communicating by Morse Code (CW).” The activities of CW ops include: weekly CWT mini-contests held on Wednesdays, which are three one hour contests that are open to all.

To promote CW and increase the number of active CW operators around the world, CW ops has also created CW Academy which has its goal to teach conversational CW as distinct from CW as used in radio contesting. CW Academy is a free, no charge, volunteer program to help beginners and experienced operators who want to learn and improve their CW speed and proficiency. CW Academy provides three levels of classes:

- Level 1 for beginners and operators whose code speed is 10 wpm or less
- Level 2 for intermediate operators who can operate comfortably at speeds between 11 and 15 wpm
- Level 3 for advanced operators who can operate at speeds of between 16 and 20 wpm.

CW Academy meetings are held online via Skype for beginners, and for intermediate and advanced on the air (more about this below). CW Academy sessions are held three times a year for two months, two times a week - a quite intense program.

I always wanted to learn and become proficient with Morse code; because I haven't had resources for an elaborate ham station, Morse code seemed like one of the best ways to get more effective QSO power per watt of radiated RF with a more limited station. When I got my first ham license in the 1980s, I had had to learn to copy Morse code to about 13 – 15 wpm; I did that on my own, but I never had really operated with or sent CW as is necessary to gain proficiency. As a result, when I contacted the fine folks at CW ops in April of this year, they suggested I start at Level 2. I said “sign me up” but then I learned I was on a waiting list to begin training 8 months later in January, 2018 due to a high demand for the program, and the relatively limited number of trainers. (CW ops is always looking for more volunteer trainers.) So I just kept practicing and improving my CW proficiency on my own, but then in August I was advanced to a new class beginning in September. Hooray!

A short while later, I received an email package from my advisor, basically a welcome packet that notified me of classmates and provided instructions on how to set up Skype for the sessions. I had to order a new video camera to get ready; fortunately, I was already paying Comcast for enough Internet bandwidth. The advisor's package also included a set of documents to review (instructions, theory of CW, basics of sending CW, etc). I also needed an electronic (iambic) keyer and a keyer paddle as CW ops does not teach straight key or non-iambic keyer sending. Having previously played around with many set ups but never having gotten proficient using them, it turned out fortunately that I already had everything else I needed.

Once the classes began in September, they met on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with homework assignments between classes in both sending and receiving. CW ops provided send drills and pangrams

Cont'd on page 9

for sending and mp3 files for receiving practice. The students reviewed their homework and demonstrated their sending levels via Skype during each session. One learning exercise that became particular fun every week was having the class build a sentence: the first student would start a sentence with one word, then the next student would send the next, then the next student would add a word, and so on until someone finally ended the sentence with a period (di-dah-di-dah-di-dah). Boy did we come up with some crazy stories! At the end we all received certificates, with encouragement to go to Level 3. Some students chose to sign up for level 3, some wanted to wait; I was of the mindset that I didn't want to stop my progress, so I will begin level 3 in January 2018.

Take always and what I learned and want to pass on:

- The first and foremost, there is NO MAGIC FORMULA! You have to work to train your brain, muscle memory, hands, etc. to do this. It is not too hard, but it does take persistent and regular work, just like a physical workout program. You must dedicate time each day to listening and sending. CW Academy assists like a trainer, with hints, encouragement and the motivation. But ultimately you have to do work yourself.
- It is amazing these classes are free. The advisors / instructors get nothing other than giving back to the amateur radio community; their rewards are hearing that their past students have gotten their coveted CW Ops member number (you need to be nominated and sponsored). Many thanks to Ron / VE3FXX in London, Ontario for his time commitment and patience.
- My CW copying speed is around 20 wpm now. My sending lags – more work needed, funny thing now is that if I now hear someone sending CW at just 10 wpm, I think it is way too slow and even harder to copy!
- Only knock on my class, not my advisor's fault, and from what I have picked up, it is not the norm, but most of those in my group did not want to practice on air. Anyway, my group would get together a half an hour before and practice over Skype. But this was less than desirable. In some ways it made my life easier because my station is not at my home but I would be more than willing to go there if we had a schedule. [Note: just using Skype is actually somewhat like the way the military used to train CW operators for the initial skills - using audio and hand keys only, no radios, just in a classroom; tuning and adjusting radios, copying CW over noisy radio channels with fading and interference, and using break-in are distinct skills developed after the trainee already knew basic Morse code well.]
- After each semester there is a special mini-CWT that is held in honor of graduating students. CW ops asks that speeds be no more than 20 wpm to encourage new students to participate. I went in thinking I was now a real hotshot CW operator, but emerged with the realization that I still had a ways to go (I did make 6 – 8 contacts in two sessions). It was much harder over the air with everything happening faster (it seemed) in real time. More on-the-air practice definitely will help. Hopefully my level 3 classmates will be more interested in on-air schedules and next time I will feel much better.

I look forward to more training and to using CW on the air regularly. CW ops provides a very positive and rewarding experience. Anyone looking for more info, please contact me directly - Kevin / KX4KU.

A New Approach For Ham License Training Tutorials, What's Next Sessions, Etc.

During the past month, Mark / WA4KFZ has conducted a series of online tests with groups of OVH volunteers as Guinea Pigs to determine whether particular, low or no cost online training webinar type software can be used effectively over the Internet from residences for presenting ham license training tutorials / lectures, What's Next sessions and the like. This approach offers many advantages for the everyone - most importantly, travel time to and from fixed location is avoided, allowing potentially more time for training and better attendance.

Based upon the tests, Mark is now planning to use the uberconference.com software system for a real training session in the near future. This system operates through web browsers on any modern Windows, Mac, Linux or Tablet or Phone, Android or iOS, platform; the webinar student log in and are identified. The attendees can see the instructor's computer screen(s) showing PDF files, Powerpoint slides, drawings, movies, etc., the instructor can use a drawing utility to mark up his computer screen while speaking to all the attendees. The instructor's audio is played over the attendee's computer speaker or via a dial up telephone connection. The students can communicate with the instructor via a text chat window or the instructor can selectively allow student audio. This will be interesting!