

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 -- 145.030 Port 2: 223.660 (SysOp Use Only) Port 3: 223.540 MHz
BBS--BBSNVA/N4WJN (SYSOP--BILL)
<http://www.qsl.net/olevahams>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

JULY 2001

Next meeting: July 16, 2001

Committee Chairperson's!!!!

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

(Editor)

Message From the President

Greetings to All OVH Members:

Field Day 2001 was a wonderful time. About a third of our total membership turned out to participate which is outstanding. We had people learn new skills, try different modes and get their first taste of HF operating. We proved again that we can set up and function in case of real emergencies. OVH qualified for almost all the possible bonus points. There were families with young children, newcomers to the hobby and those with decades of experience to draw from. Even the weather cooperated. (I had serious doubts about that during the storms Friday night.) Fun, learning, operating and plenty of time to visit: all in all a great Field Day. My profound thanks to all the people who contributed to it!!!

73,

Jeff/KV4AP

**"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS"
Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, VA. 20108**

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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 OVH Meeting

18 June 2001

The meeting was called to order at 2005h by President **Jeff Poulin/KV4AP**.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs.

Attendance: 18 Members and 5 Guests

The Treasurer's report and the past month's minutes were passed.

Committee Reports

Repeaters: Art Whittum/KW4AW - Operational, working. Not all at 100%

Membership: Susan Poulin/KG4JBD - Michael Willis/KG4NXR, James (Doug) Stork/KG4NCH, John Leonard/KG4LAA, Robert Kelly IV/No Call were read in. **Nick Garner/KG4KFY** was voted in. Congratulations and welcome to the **OVH**.

Scholarships: Jack McDermott/N4YIC - Picture in the paper from the scholarships - thanks to **David French/N7FAN** and the others who took pictures.

Hamfest: Jack McDermott/N4YIC - Went well. Good press. Thanks to everyone for helping out. Made a little money to fund our activities. **VE session** was a hit - **SRO** - thanks **Ruth Frock/KU4WH** and **Keith Bennington/KM4AA**. Documentation is in for next years Hamfest to be **ARRL sanctioned**. Meeting is coming up for the out years beyond the two that we are signed for.

We received two thank you notes, one from **Josh** thanking us for selecting him for the scholarship. And also a thanks from the "**Signman of Baton Rouge**" as well. **Steve** really would like someone to take over **tailgate**. For next year we need a few new signs.

Classes: Bill Hinely/K4WRG - Class is now completed and only one of those who took the class and then the test didn't pass the test. Percentage of those who took the test and passed was not available.

Field Day: Jeff Poulin/KV4AP - **ARC** is loaning two transceivers to the **OVH** for **Field Day** (thank you **David French/N7FAN** for arranging that).

The Program: Getting Ready for Field Day.

The meeting was adjourned at 2130h The next meeting is **Monday July 16, 2001** at 2000h

SUNSHINE CORNER

Happy Birthday to our friends **Kenneth/WB4ZOH**, **John/N4YOB**, **Steve/KB4OF**, **Brenda/WD4RKH**, **Bernice/K A4SCA**, and **Dan/WB4KLC**.

Hope all are doing well -- have a great summer and make some contacts! **Contact ME** if you have any news for the **Sunshine Corner** -- upgrades, new licensees, harmonics (children), bumps and bruises, or worse! I can't put Sunshine in your life if I don't know what is happening. I can be reached on the phone at **703.361.0008**, on the **repeater**, or on email at ke4tmw@arrl.net.

Thanks, and 73 de Jan KE4TMW

Idle thoughts

The spring and summer months have been busy for the **OVH**. We've had the **MS Walk, Railway Days, Hamfest**, and **Field Day** in a short span of time. Our **special event operation** commemorating the **Battle of 1st Manassas** will take place on **July 21**. While these events have an element of **fun** (sometimes a **LOT** of **fun**), they still take time, endurance and dedication. And they are just the culmination of weeks or months of effort.

What I have in mind, in a vague sort of way, is some operating just for fun, probably in late October or early November. A simple, even minimal, set up in a local park or someone's backyard. Gel cell batteries for power and some wire thrown over a tree branch for an antenna. Just a few hours of fun and socializing. Show up only if you wish. If you have any thoughts on the matter, please let me know. Thanks.

Jeff/KV4AP

AO-40 Now in Long-Term, "Safe" Orbit

AO-40's new orbit should be good for at least the next 20 years, according to AMSAT-DL President **Peter Guelzow/DB2OS**, who heads the satellite's ground team. Following maneuvers to shift the satellite's orbit at perigee, AO-40 **perigee** now is "oscillating in a safe range between **810** and **1260 km**," Guelzow said.

AO-40's height at **apogee--58,971 km--**was unchanged by the orbital adjustment. The satellite's transponders remain off as ground controllers reorient the spacecraft. Still in question is whether ground controllers will be able to deploy the satellite's solar panels.

Ground controllers were able to change AO-40's orbit through successive "cold" firings of the onboard arcjet motor-- using only ammonia gas. The move raised AO-40 some 300 km higher than predicted, but it apparently depleted the spacecraft's ammonia supply. As a result, AO-40 likely will remain in its current orbit.

Stacey Mills/W4SM, of the ground team said it's "quite possible" that an ammonia leak accounted for the unexpected loss of ammonia. "If we did have a slow leak, it is very fortunate we did not wait any longer to use the remaining fuel," he said.

Mills said that AO-40's old orbital configuration, while stable, was too close for comfort at perigee.

"I sincerely hope that nothing else malfunctions for a long, long time, but this is, after all, **rocket science**," Mills said. "Nothing is guaranteed."

Ground controllers plan to fully test AO-40's momentum wheels prior to any decision to deploy the spacecraft's solar panels. The momentum wheels provide three-axis control of the spacecraft. If the momentum wheels are not operational, it's unlikely the solar panels will be deployed.

For more information on AO-40, visit the AMSAT-DL Web site, <http://www.amsat-dl.org/> or the AMSAT-NA Web site, <http://www.amsat.org>. AMSAT-DL now offers an AO-40 "**Quick Status**" page.

From ARRL Web site

IN BRIEF

* This weekend on the radio: The IARU HF World Championship, the FISTS Summer Sprint, the CQ Worldwide VHF Contest and the QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew contestcal/weeklycont.html> for more info.

* ARRL Audio News shifts to single audio format: Starting with the July 6 edition, ARRL Audio News will be available only in MP3 format, which is compatible with currently available media software, including RealPlayer. ARRL Audio News will continue to be available for playback directly from the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio>> or for Sprint are the weekend of July 14-15. See the ARRL Contest Branch page, <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/>> and <<http://www.hornucopia.com/>> downloading as an MP3 file. ARRL Audio News--a weekly Amateur Radio newscast--is available for personal or repeater playback without charge or special permission. ARRL Audio News will remain available as a dial-up telephone service at 860-594-0384. ARRL Senior News Editor Rick Lindquist, N1RL, produces the program. He said the change to MP3-only will mean consistently superior audio quality and eliminate the duplication of effort involved with producing the newscast in two audio formats.

* Outgoing QSL Service tops one million cards for 2001: The ARRL's Outgoing QSL Service Manager Martin Cook, N1FOC, reports that as of June 29, 2001, the service had shipped 1,041,316 QSL cards. This includes cards going to US incoming bureaus and cards sorted and mailed by contractor. "This is an increase of 135,456--15%--more cards than we had mailed at this time last year," Cook said. The Outgoing QSL Service handled 1,868,895 cards in 2000. For more information, visit the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service Web site, <<http://www.arrl.org/qs/qsout.html>>.

* New York cell phone law does not apply to Amateur Radio: The widely reported New York bill banning the use of hand-held cell phone while driving should have no affect on Amateur Radio mobile operation, according to ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD. "There is no ambiguity in the bill," he said. The bill, A.9280, was signed into law recently by Gov George Pataki, a former amateur. It requires cell phone users to use hands-free devices when calling. The measure specifies "mobile telephone" use, and defines a "mobile telephone" as a device used by subscribers to a wireless telephone service. That, in turn, is defined to specify a commercial two-way wireless telecommunications service that accesses the public switched telephone network. The bill also specifies "using" as holding the mobile telephone "to, or in the immediate proximity of, the user's ear." The new law will be phased in starting November 1. It calls for fines of up to \$100. The measure also calls upon the New York Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to study the effects of the use of mobile telephones "and similar equipment" in conjunction with the operation of a motor vehicle and report back to the legislature in four years. The full text of the measure is available

on the New York legislature's Web site <<http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A09280&sh=t>> . A similar measure requiring hands-free cellular telephones recently passed the Rhode Island legislature.

* Museum ship special event set for July 21-22: Amateur Radio stations aboard or associated with some 60 historic vessels will be on the air July 21-22 for the annual museum ship special event. The yearly outing is sponsored by the USS Salem Radio Club, K1USN, in Quincy, Massachusetts. Warships, submarines and various motorized vessels from WW II and earlier from the US and elsewhere will be on the air. All have a history and a story to tell. A certificate is available. Visit the USS Salem Web page <<http://www.qsl.net/k1usn/event.html>> for a list of participating ships, operating frequencies and certificate information.

* New York amateur antenna bill a step closer to passage: ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, says that New York's Amateur Radio antenna bill, Assembly Bill 1565, has been reported out of the Ways and Means Committee. Both A. 1565 and the companion bill, S. 2893, are in the Rules Committee, where they can immediately be brought to the floor before the 2001 session ends. Fallon says the legislative session resumes July 10. "The good news is that it's not over yet, but the bad news is that we have to continue to make the telephone calls, write the letters and send the e-mails," Fallon said. "We need to continue pushing for action on the bills." Fallon urged New York hams to continue sending the same message to Albany, "Please enact the Amateur Radio legislation." He said Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno bruno@senate.state.ny.us . House Speaker Sheldon Silver speaker@assembly.state.ny.us and Gov George Pataki gov.pataki@chamber.state.ny.us --a former ham (K2ZCZ) and a current ARRL member--each have the power to bring these bills to the floor for a vote. "We need to ask them to do so, now." Additional information on how to contact key lawmakers is available on the Hudson Division Web site, <<http://www.arrlHUDSON.org>>. "You may want to send

software-defined design, Ten-Tec will be able to incorporate changes much later in its production schedule than typically is possible with discrete-component design. Ten-Tec says almost all functions and features are stored in flash ROM. To add new features, users will download the latest software version from the Ten-Tec Web site. Ten-Tec invites suggestions for features to be incorporated in the new radio via e-mail, sales@tentec.com. Details on the transceiver are available on the Ten-Tec Web site, <<http://www.tentec.com/TT516.htm>>.

* July is IOTA Month: DXers who participate in the IOTA (Islands On The Air) program, sponsored by the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), know that July is IOTA Month. This is quite possibly the best month to work a new one, because so many people in the Northern Hemisphere go on IOTA DXpeditions at this time of year, especially during the RSGB IOTA Contest the last full weekend of the month. If you are just starting out in this DX award program you can easily work your first 100 IOTA counters and some of the more serious operators can work well over 200. This year's contest will be held on the weekend of July 28-29. For more information on IOTA, visit the RSGB's Islands on the Air Web site, <<http://www.rsgbiota.org/>>.

* French RAC Web site to close: Radio Amateurs of Canada has announced that it's closing "with regret" its French-language Web site. RAC said it attempted in vain for more than a year to find a volunteer with the time and skills to manage the French language pages on the RAC Web site. "Much of the information is no longer current, and we have therefore reluctantly decided that as of June 30 we will close down the French pages and replace them with links to other francophone sites," an RAC announcement said. "We apologize to those of our members who make use of our services in the French language." The RAC Web site is at <<http://www.rac.ca>>.

From ARRL Web site