

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>

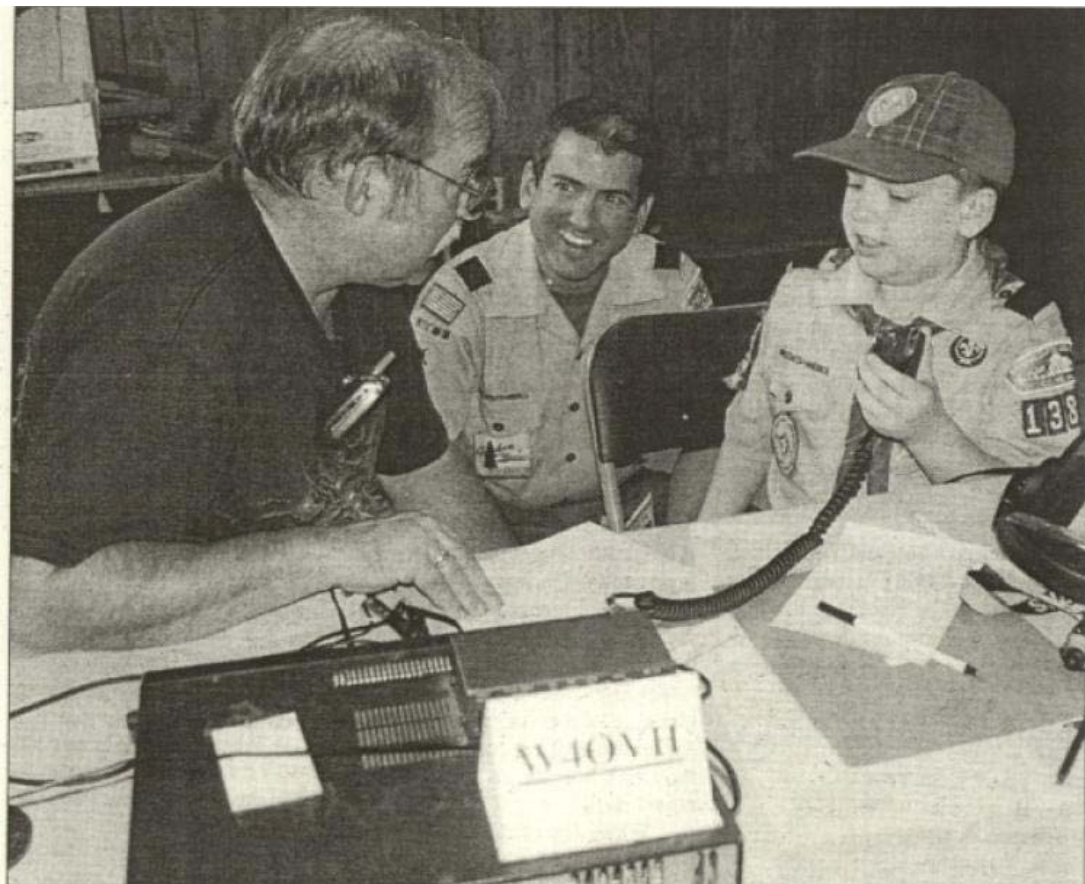
OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

DECEMBER 2005

Next meeting: December 19, 2005

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

(Editor)



Jane Fullerton Lemons / the Bull Run Observer

Cub Scout leader Bob Ruckle and his son, Taylor, listen as John Heartney of the Ole Virginia Hams amateur radio club shows them how to communicate with scouts across the country and around the world during the annual Jamboree On-The-Air.

Ole Virginia Hams Help Scouts Connect during 'Jamboree On-The-Air'. Check out last article in this newsletter. – Editor

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

OFFICERS

President:	Ruth Frock	KU4WH	331-1234
Vice Pres :	John Heartney	KG4NXT	257-3566
Secretary:	Phil Colling	AC4PL	393-8658
Treasurer:	Bill South	N3OH	590-9562

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdell	W4HJL	369-2877
Art Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330
Charlie Dale	WA4YGI	361-3091
John Zorger	WA1STU	754-2378

WEEKLY NETS

Thursdays - 8:00 PM	JOHN	257-3566
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HAMFEST 2005

Keith Bennington	KEITH	909-1512
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FIELD DAY 2006

John Z.	WA1STU	754-2378
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CLUB ROSTER

Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877
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EDUCATION

John Z.	WA1STU	754-2378
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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	N3OH	590-9562
Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234

GENERATORS

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512

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

John Zorger	WA1STU	754-2378
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NEWSLETTER

Steve	KB4OF	368-6901
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NEWSLINE

Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
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PACKET

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N3OH	590-9562

PROGRAM'S

TBA

PUBLICITY

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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Q' MASTER

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

Jan	KE4TMW	257-0897
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

John	WA1STU	754-2378
Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N3OH	590.9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
George	K4GVT	791-7688
Bill	K9ZD	754-7913
Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939

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
November 21, 2005

Ruth/KU4WH called meeting to order at 2003 Eastern Time.

Following the **Pledge of Allegiance**, all present stated their names and call signs. There were **16 OVH members** present.

BUSINESS MEETING

The **minutes of the October 2005 OVH meeting** were approved with no corrections.

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

PROGRAM

John/KG4NXT, **Mark/WA4KFZ** and **Dwight/AI4II** gave a presentation on the **Softrock40 Quadrature Sampling Detector (QSD)**. Thank you John, Mark and Dwight.

BUSINESS MEETING - CONTINUED

REPEATERS – **George/K4GVT** - The OVH repeater group was at the repeater sight last Monday. The 440 antenna has been replaced with a 440/1.2 antenna. All connectors were changed at the antennas. **Karl/W4KRL** built a new charging unit. All of the backup batteries are now fused independently, so they will be easier to service in the future.

MEMBERSHIP – **John/WA1STU** – **Patrick Innes/W4TQI** was voted into the Club unanimously. Welcome to the Ole' Virginia Hams, Patrick. **Kevin Utzy/KA4RNH** and **Barry Whitney/W4TQI** read in and will be voted on for membership into the OVH at the December 2005 meeting.

ARES – **David/KI4AZX** - David read a thank you letter from **David/KG4NXT** for everyone's help with various ARES events.

Steve/N4OGR – Steve noted that the **NIMS** class can be taken online. The reason for taking the NIMS class is that the County is pushing it. They (County officials) want everyone "to be on the same page if and when something happens." The Red Cross is interested in our input regarding ham radio for the new Red Cross building.

BPL – **George/K4GVT** - According to the BPL people, they found BPL noise on the amateur bands on readings taken on November 20, 2005. However, they claim that the notch is working. George responded noting the problems. There will be a BPL meeting coming up on December 6 at 10:00 a.m. at the Manassas Electric Company.

Ruth/KU4WH noted that the OVH Christmas party will take place on Saturday, December 10. **The Heartney's** have again graciously offered their home as the location for the party. Thank you John and Theresa.

50/50 - \$30 was collected, and **Theresa/KG4TVM** won and generously donated her winning back to the Club. Thank you Theresa.

The meeting adjourned at 2135 Eastern time.

SUNSHINE CORNER

Happy Birthday to our friends and fellow Hams: **Dianne/KI4FVV**, **Alan/KD4KBX**, **Ken/W5AOC** (90 this year!), **Charles/WA1FFX**, **Alman/KI4BXS**, **Samuel/WB4FGS**, **Bill/N3OH**, **George/N4XSL**. Hope each of you has a great day!

Put the Ham goodies on your wish list! Have a **great Christmas** and a **Happy New Year!!**

Thanks, and 73 de Jan/KE4TMW

ARRL, FCC Continue BPL "Interference Resolution" Database Debate



(Dec 2, 2005) -- The acting chief of the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) is standing foursquare behind the recently opened Broadband over Power Line (BPL) Interference Resolution Web site. The deadline for BPL operators to populate the database, provided by the United Power Line Council (UPLC) and the United Telecom Council (UTC), was November 19. In October, the ARRL took strong exception to limitations UTC, the site's administrator, has imposed on the number of allowable licensee searches and to the use of ZIP codes as the only search key. Acting OET Chief Bruce Franca defended the BPL database November 22.

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Gerritsen Convicted on All Counts in Radio Jamming Case



(Dec 9, 2005 [REVISED Dec 10, 2005 07:27 ET]) -- A US District Court jury has found Jack Gerritsen of Bell, California, guilty on six counts that included transmitting without a license and willful and malicious interference with radio transmissions. Gerritsen, 69, who briefly held the amateur call sign KG6IRO, will face sentencing March 6, according to the office of Debra W. Yang, US Attorney for the Central District of California. He could receive up to 15 years in federal prison.

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The K7RA Solar Update



(Dec 9, 2005) -- This weekend is the ARRL 10-Meter Contest. The event this year, the one in 2006 and perhaps in 2007 will probably all have very few sunspots, but as we've discussed in recent bulletins, sometimes 10 meters opens when we least expect it, even in the middle of the night or very early morning hours.

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W8STX is 2005 Allan Severson, AB8P, Memorial Award winner



(Dec 9, 2005) -- He had to wear a chef's hat like a dunce cap, hold a rubber chicken and suffer repeated assaults with a squirt gun, but Ohio Assistant Section Manager John Haungs, W8STX, took it all in stride. Haungs was first "roasted" then honored as the 12th recipient of the Allan Severson, AB8P, Memorial Award for 2005. Organizer of the ribbing, Ohio Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE ([left in photo](#)), presented the plaque to Haungs--still wearing the chef's hat--during the Cincinnati FM Club Christmas party on December 6. Named for the late Great Lakes Division Director, the Severson award formerly was known as the "Ohio Ham of the Year." Haungs was honored for his nearly 40 years of service to Cincinnati-area ham radio clubs, the Cincinnati Hamfest and the Great Lakes Division conventions held in the area. He also served a term as Ohio

Section Manager, and in 1983 he was inducted into the Greater Cincinnati Amateur Radio Association Hall of Fame. (Jim Kamphaus, N8SIM, Photo)

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ARRL Web site offers Winlink 2000 page



(Dec 9, 2005) -- The ARRL now has a [Web page](#) devoted to [Winlink 2000](#), the software and hardware system that links Amateur Radio to the Internet and allows sending and receiving e-mail messages via HF Amateur Radio. The League's new *Winlink 2000* resource page contains general information about *Winlink 2000*, including articles, reprints, links and other useful information. A worldwide radio digital messaging system, *Winlink 2000* also offers position reporting, weather bulletins and graphics, and emergency communication capabilities. It's already being used extensively by radio amateurs in the sailing and cruising communities as well as by recreational vehicle travelers, missionaries, scientists and explorers. The ARRL Board of Directors in 2004

encouraged the deployment within the Amateur Radio Emergency Service ([ARES](#)) of e-mail via Amateur Radio "as exemplified by *Winlink 2000*" to meet the needs of served agencies and others involved in providing disaster communications. Amateur Radio volunteers responding to help in the wake of Hurricane Katrina utilized *Winlink 2000* with great success.

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ARRL Honorary Vice President Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, honored



(Dec 8, 2005) -- The Quarter Century Wireless Association ([QCWA](#)) has honored ARRL Honorary Vice President Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, of Silver Spring, Maryland, with a special award plaque. QCWA President John Johnston, W3BE, made the presentation December 3 during the 34th annual meeting of The Green Mountain Repeater Association ([GMRA](#)). The QCWA recognized Turnbull--a past ARRL Vice President and Atlantic Division Director--for "exceptional contributions to Amateur Radio in general and for outstanding work in the selection of recipients for the QCWA [scholarship awards](#)."--Murray Green, K3BEQ

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World record claimed on relocated microwave band



(Dec 8, 2005) -- Brian Justin, WA1ZMS, who enjoys plying the microwave spectrum, is claiming a new world DX record for the 134 GHz band. Justin says the December 8 contact between W2SZ/4 (WA1ZMS operating) and W4WWQ (WA4RTS assisting) was possibly a first on that band for the US. The QSO between W2SZ/4 in FM07fm and W4WWQ in FM06hx (both in Virginia) spanned a distance of 60.1 km (approximately 37.3 miles). The mode was FSK CW. Justin says the previous 134 GHz DX record of 56.4 km was held by JA1KVN and JA1ELV. "The signal margin on both ends of our QSO was a few dB, so there is a chance we could better our DX," Justin said, adding that he first needs to check out some equipment issues. Justin notes that as a result of some microwave spectrum reshuffling the 134 GHz band last year replaced the 145 GHz Amateur Radio

allocation. The US was the last country to make the change, he said. Last year, the ARRL Board of Directors honored Justin as a recipient of the 2003 [ARRL Microwave Development Award](#), for his pioneering work in developing the Amateur Radio microwave bands above 30 GHz.

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Pennsylvania ARRL member honored



(Dec 7, 2005) -- Carl Stevenson, WK3C, of Emmaus, Pennsylvania, has been named by *Scientific American* magazine a policy leader within the 2005 "[Scientific American 50](#)." The magazine's annual list, which appears in each December's issue, recognizes outstanding acts of leadership in science and technology during the past year. An ARRL Life Member, Stevenson is president and CTO of [WK3C Wireless LLC](#), which provides consulting services in the areas of wireless standards, regulatory affairs and design. His designation as a policy leader stemmed from his work in developing improved wireless networking standards. Stevenson said he was extremely honored to be recognized for his work in that field. Stevenson also has been named a recipient of the 2005 [IEEE](#) Standards Association ([IEEE-SA](#)) International Award, which he received in a December 4 presentation. The honor goes annually to an IEEE-SA member for extraordinary contributions to the advancement of the association's goals. IEEE-SA President Donald Heirman cited

Stevenson's "invaluable and continuing support . . . as a world leader in global standards development." Stevenson was recently elected to the IEEE Standards Association's Board of Governors for a two-year term that begins January 1. A fellow of the Radio Club of America and a senior IEEE member and chair of the IEEE 802.22 Working Group on Wireless Regional Area Networks, Stevenson has been involved in RF communications systems design and development for more than 35 years.

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New England, Canadian Youngsters Log Successful Space Contacts



(Dec 7, 2005) -- Youngsters in Alberta, Canada, and in Massachusetts, USA, learned more about the International Space Station and living in space recently by speaking directly via ham radio with ISS Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR. The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program arranged the contacts between NA1SS in space and VE6JBJ at the Ralph McCall School in Airdrie, Alberta, and, a few days later, with N1CSH at Hawthorne Brook Middle School in Townsend, Massachusetts. McArthur, 54, told a youngster at the Massachusetts school November 29 that he doesn't expect this mission--probably his last trip into space--to be particularly life-changing.

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ARRL Staff Member Bob Schetgen, KU7G, SK



(Dec 6, 2005 [[REVISED Dec 9, 2005 08:10 ET](#)]) -- The ARRL Headquarters staff is mourning the loss of Senior Assistant Technical Editor Bob Schetgen, KU7G, of Glastonbury, Connecticut, who died unexpectedly December 5. He was 54. An ARRL Life Member, Schetgen had worked at Headquarters for nearly 23 years. A member of the editorial staff for the past 16 years, he was perhaps best known as the editor of the "Hints & Kinks" column in *QST* and as managing editor of the League's technical and experimenter's journal *QEX*.

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ARRL Certification and Continuing Education course registration



(Dec 6, 2005) -- Registration remains open through Sunday, December 25, for these ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (CCE). Program on-line courses: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1 ([EC-001](#)) Antenna Design and Construction ([EC-009](#)), Technician Licensing ([EC-010](#)), Radio Frequency Interference ([EC-006](#)), Digital Electronics ([EC-013](#)) and Analog Electronics ([EC-012](#)). Classes begin Friday, January 6. To learn more, visit the

[CCE Course Listing page](#) or [contact](#) the CCE Department.

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Southeastern VHF Society conference issues call for papers, presentations



(Dec 5, 2005) -- The [Southeastern VHF Society](#) has issued its first call for papers and presentations for its tenth annual conference, April 28-29, 2006, in Greenville, South Carolina. Papers and presentations are invited on the technical and operational aspects of VHF, UHF and microwave "weak-signal" Amateur Radio activities and applications. Suggested topics of interest include transmitters, receivers and transverters; RF power amplifiers; low-noise pre-amplifiers; antennas; test equipment; construction projects and station accessories. Other possibilities include contesting, EME, propagation, digital modes and techniques, satellites and amateur television. In general papers and presentations on topics such as FM repeaters and packet will not be accepted but exceptions may be made if the topic is related to weak-signal work. The deadline to submit papers and presentations is March 3, 2006. All submissions should be Microsoft *Word* .doc or Adobe *Acrobat* .pdf files. The page

format is 8-1/2 by 11 inches with a 1-inch bottom margin and 3/4-inch margins elsewhere. All content, including photographs, must be black and white (no color). Those submitting papers or presentations should indicate if they plan to attend the conference to present their papers or if they are submitting solely for publication in the conference *Proceedings*, which the ARRL will publish. Direct submissions, questions and comments to Technical Program Chair Jim Worsham, [W4KXY](#).

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Upcoming Special Events

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December, 2005

Dec 9-Dec 17, 1400Z-0100Z daily, Wheeling, WV. Northern Panhandle Amateur Radio Club, W8ZQ. Winter Festival Of Lights at Oglebay Park. General phone bands. QSL. Joe McCready, WB8CTC, PO Box 192, Blaine, OH 43909.

Dec 16-Dec 18, 0000Z-2359Z, Campeche, CA. Radio Club Cancun, XF3NN. DX pedition to Carmen Island IOTA NA-135. 28.460 28.085 21.260 14.085 . QSL. N6AWD, 6000 Hesketh Dr, Bakersfield, CA 93309. www.radioclub.cancun.com.mx/.

Dec 17, 1200Z-2200Z, Winston-Salem, NC. Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, W4NC. 75th birthday of The Forsyth Amateur Radio Club. 21.320 14.270 7.250. QSL. Ed Swiderski, KU4BP, 2105 D Fiddlers Ct, Winston Salem, NC 27107.
home.triad.rr.com/ku4bp/main.html.

Dec 17-Dec 25, 1300Z-2359Z, Bethlehem, NM. Valencia County Amateur Radio Association, KC5OUR. Celebrating the Christmas season from Bethlehem, New Mexico. 28.273 21.273 14.273 7.273. QSL. VCARA, PO Box 268, Peralta, NM 87042.
www.qsl.net/kc5our/.

Dec 23-Dec 24, beginning 0700Z, Dead Sea, Israel. Holyland DX Group, 4X411A. From Holyland squares M25BS and M26BS. 80-10 m CW and SSB. QSL. Shalom Barak-Bacalu, 4Z4BS, PO Box 43101, Tel Aviv 61430, Israel . www.4z51a.net/4z411a;
www.qrz.com/4x411a.

Dec 31-Jan 1, 0400Z-1600Z, West Memphis, AR. M&M Amateur Radio Club, KB5ZMU. Celebrating the coming of the New Year. 14.300 7.330 7.275 3.925. QSL. Marc Gwin, 1402 Stratford Dr, West Memphis, AR 72301.
<http://geocities.com/marca2gwin>.

January, 2006

Jan 1-Jan 31, 0000Z-2400Z, Brant Rock, MA. Fessenden Amateur Radio Society (W1FRV), AA1A/BO. 100th year commemoration of transoceanic 2-way communications. 18.075 14.055 10.118 7.055. QSL. RAF.NESCO, Box 686, Brant Rock, MA 02020. Participating stations use /BO suffix. www.radiocom.net/Fessenden/.

Jan 7-Jan 8, 1200Z-2100Z, Bethpage, NY. NLI Section, W2V. Ham Radio University 2006, our 7th annual day of education, at the ARRL NYC/LI Section Convention. 14.273 7.273. QSL. Phil Lewis, N2MUN, 22 Belle Terre W, Lindenhurst, NY 11757. www.hudson.arrl.org/nli/.

Jan 7-Jan 16, 1400Z-0000Z, Wall Township, NJ. Ocean Monmouth ARC, N2MO. From the historic Diana Site, to commemorate "Project Diana," the first ever successful moon bounce experiment. Gen and Nov/Tech subbands 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m. QSL. OMARC Inc, PO Box 267, Oakhurst, NJ 07755. www.omarc.org.

Jan 21-Jan 22, 1300Z-2300Z, Moscow, PA. Northeast Pennsylvania Special Event Club, KV3T. Remembering the Knox Coal Mine Disaster. 21.240 14.240 14.045 7.240. QSL. David Samsell, W3LOW, 923 Clearview Rd, Moscow, PA 18444. <http://kv3t.tripod.com>.

Jan 28, 1400Z-2100Z, Punxsutawney, PA. Punxsutawney Area Amateur Radio Club, K3HWJ. Commemorating Groundhog Day 2006. 14.240 7.240 7.125 147.390. Certificate. Mike Miller, N3HBH, 1097 Wishaw Rd, Reynoldsville, PA 15851. www.qsl.net/k3hwj.

Jan 28-Jan 30, 1400Z-0200Z, Wilsona Gardens, CA. BioRem RAC (Edwards AFB), AL7LS. Jan 27, 1967 release of *Hot Rods to Hell* filmed at Wilsona Gardens. Packet on 14.105 7.105 3.740. Certificate. Bruce Rossi, 2127 Sierra Stone Ln, Las Vegas, NV 89119.

ARRL Exam Session Search

Downloaded from ARRL Web Site

This page will help you find a US amateur license exam session near you.

Database last updated on Sun 11-Dec-2005

14 found within approximately 100 miles of 20109

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: AA3NN@AOL.COM

VEC: ARRL/VEC

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

Ole Virginia Hams Help Scouts Connect During ‘Jamboree On-The-Air’

From The BULL RUN OBSERVER – October 19, 2005

By JANE FULLERTON LEMONS Observer Staff

Provided to Editor by Mary Lu Blasdel

Cub Scouts from the Linton Hall area chatted with colleagues across the country and around the world Oct. 15 with the help of local amateur radio operators during the annual Jamboree On-The-Air (JOTA).

The boys, members of Cub Scout Pact 1384, were able to communicate with other scouts in about 25 states and a dozen foreign countries, from Norway to Scotland to Puerto Rico during the event.

“We show them the radios and all of the equipment,” explained Ruth Frock, president of the Ole Virginia Hams, an amateur radio organization based in Manassas. “Then they get to talk to scouts all over the country and all over the world. We hope this gets them interested in the hobby.”

The local get-together at the Urbana Swim Club of Manassas was part of an annual two-day event for Boy and Girl Scouts and guides worldwide. It is, according to organizers, an opportunity for individual scouts to get the feeling of belonging to a worldwide organization.

“It’s like an Internet chat room,” said Frock, “but they’re using radio waves”.

The first JOTA was held in 1958. The Manassas amateur radio club has been working with local scouts for the past 13 years, said Don “Butch” Blasdel, a longtime member of the Ole Virginia Hams along with his wife, Mary Lou.

His goal is to introduce the youngsters to a hobby with passionate participants who frequently play a vital role in communications during emergency situations. For instance, when Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast recently, amateur radio operators, including members of the Ole Virginia Hams, were able to help coordinate emergency responders when the lack of electricity was hampering their efforts.

“Hopefully, they’ll see the advantage of amateur radio,” said Blasdel. “They learn communications and how to talk to other people.” But, he added, they also learn electronics, science and geography.

At the local JOTA event, scouts had the opportunity to communicate both on the air and digitally. They also observed demonstrations of an even older form of communication, Morse code.

“You should see them,” said Al Dugas as he tapped out Morse code messages for another club member to translate. “Their eyes light up when they give me a word and, we sent it, and they see we’ve communicated without talking.”

Dugas, a member of the ham radio club helps scouts build their own crystal radios, which use no batteries or electricity, a step toward earning a radio merit badge. Such educational aspects of the hobby are not lost on members of the Ole Virginia Hams, who would like to pass the skills to a new generation of ham radio operators.

“One of the things we’re trying to do is get more active with the schools,” said Blasdel, “because it’s a great hobby and because it teaches [students] communication skills.”

For more information about the Ole Virginia Hams, contact Frock at 703-331-1234 or go to www.w4ovh.net.