

The OVH ARC Newsletter
"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108
FM Repeaters - W4OVH - 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+
D-STAR Repeater - W4OVH - 442.5125+
OVH Packet - Port 1: 145.730 Mhz, Port 3: 223.540 MHz - Sysop: Bill/N4SV
<http://www.w4ovh.net>

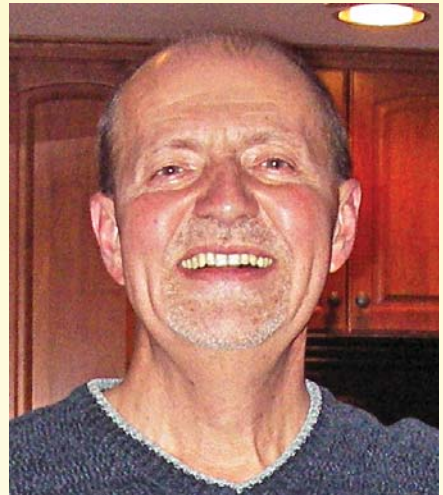
OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

October 2011

Next Meeting: Monday, October 17, 2011

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to all. As Keith / KM4AA announced at the last meeting, the OVH has at last received good news regarding the 2M D-Star allocation: T-MARC has assigned a 2M frequency for the OVH. Any 2M allocations in this area are extremely hard to get and we should consider ourselves very fortunate to receive this allocation. Extra thanks to Keith / KM4AA who has been pursuing this diligently on OVH's behalf for a lengthy period of time. You will recall that at the January, 2010 OVH meeting the membership voted to acquire a 2 meter D-Star repeater to complement the 440 Mhz D-Star repeater, knowing that it was uncertain when a 2M allocation might become available.



The Board of Directors kept has funding for this project available in the 2011 budget, but that funding amount was just recently was redirected towards the antenna work needed for the FM repeaters on the NOVEC tower, more below. This does not pose a problem, although it may delay purchase of the 2M D-Star repeater slight, with a reallocation of the funding in the 2012 budget. This 2M D-Star repeater will go on Mt. Pone tank / tower location next to the 440 Mhz D-Star and will provide very nice coverage that I expect will be beyond the current 2M FM coverage. This is the better location which provides clear line of sight for considerably distances in almost all directions. I am very excited about this and looking forward to its implementation. Meanwhile, the expected NOVEC tower work with the replacement antennas for the FM repeaters is at the mercy of the NOVEC contractor whose crews are tied up out working on very large projects of the area. We could have them come back early to do the work if the need for it became critical, but only for a substantially higher hourly rate. This does not seem justified as the existing FM repeater antennas are still working, although not as well a the replacements will work. I will keep all informed.

The Holidays are fast approaching, some ideas regarding the OVH Christmas party have been thrown around, but we will need to lock this down quickly before we miss opportunities for a venue. Expect this to be on the agenda at the upcoming meeting on October 17th.

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Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President:	George Tarnovsky	K4GVT	791-5956
Vice Pres:	Wayne Kline	AG4ZZ	791-2100
Secretary:	Theresa Heartney	KG4TVM	257-3556
Treasurer:	Gary Gilham	WG4ARC	932-1118

DIRECTORS

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

WEEKLY NETS

Thursdays - 8:00 PM	JOHN H	257-3566
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HAMFEST 2011

Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873
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FIELD DAY 2011

Randy	WB7RAV	393-1494
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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

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
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FINANCE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234
Gary	WG4ARC	932-1118

GENERATORS

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

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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WEBMASTER — W4OVH.NET

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042
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JOTA

TBA.

LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Steve	N0DWB	349-1381
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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NEWSLINE

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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PACKET

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4SV	590-9562

PROGRAMS

TBA

WINTER FIELD DAY 2011

Joe	KI4OHR	369-2639
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QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Russ	WB4HHN	368-6435

W4OVH / W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3556
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4SV	590-9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512

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The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Monday of the month at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House at 9930 Liberia Avenue, Manassas, Virginia. Members, prospective members and all other interested persons are invited to attend. Local information can also always be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.97 & 224.660 Mhz. Up to date information about OVH activities and meetings is also available on the OVH web site at <http://www.w4ovh.net>.

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Last Rev: 9/13/2011

I remind everyone that we need some volunteers to step forward to serve as Membership chairman and also compile the Sunshine Column information for the monthly OVH Newsletter. Theresa / KG4TVM is doing these in the interim, but is very overworked and overloaded with everything else she does for the OVH. Please consider helping your club. Also, Officer elections are coming up fast, early next year, and we may have some vacancies that need to be filled. More at the upcoming meeting.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting on October 17th!

73 George K4GVT

Sunshine Corner:

Happy birthday wishes this month to Doc / W1IMX, Ruth / KU4WH, Keith / KM4AA, Bob / KC4TNC and Phil / AC4PL.

Our apologies to Jim Santore / KF4WSN whose name and callsign was shown erroneously in the August 2011 meeting minutes as a new member due to transcription errors. Lets all welcome Jim to the OVH as a new member!

Congratulations to John / KG4NXT who finally received his Worked All States (WAS) pin.

Girl Scout Adventure Day this year will be on Saturday, October 15th at the Prince William County Fairgrounds. Again, this will be an all-day event and we could use some help with our table during the course of the day. If you are interested or can help out, please let me know. Thanks!

This column is very brief this month - as the Club is continuing looking for a new volunteer to compile the information which appears in the Sunshine Corner column each month. The ideal person is someone who has been active in the club for at least a couple of years, knows some or many of the other members and is good at keeping his / her ear to the ground to pick up information to be reported. I am continuing to function as acting Sunshine Corner chairperson, but someone please step forward to relief me! It's really not that much work, but it does take some persistence and an ability to compile the information in a timely manner for the newsletter. I'll help with the transition.

For now, please continue send your news / comments to kg4tvm@hotmail.com or by telephone to 703-257-3566.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting September 19, 2011:

George K4GVT called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Meeting was held at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House in Manassas, Virginia.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 21 OVH members and 6 visitors.

Program – Terry / WA5NTI who is one of our newer members (but a ham for many years) gave presented a program on the new RigExpert Antenna Analyzer model AA-54 which covers 0.1 to 54 MHz that he recently purchased; Terry has been to several members homes to hook this up to the antennas and feedline, obtain readouts on a laptop and interpret the results. He has offered to help other club members as needed; Art / W1CRO has used it at his QTH and presented a Powerpoint slide report on the antennas at his QTH.

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BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the August meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report by Gary / WG4ARC, computer was down and he couldn't print out the report.

Membership – Theresa / KG4TVM, as acting membership chairperson, read in Emmett Greenleaf who is working on getting his old call sign back. Jim Stocks / KK4CWO, Lisa Bryant (no call sign yet!) and Steve Hailey / KI4FQD were all voted in. Theresa asked for club members to volunteer chairing this committee.

ARES – Steve / N4OGR reminded us about the Marine Corp Marathon will be on Sunday, October 30th this year. If you want to volunteer, you need to do so soon because you will be required to attend two training meetings.

Repeaters – Keith / KM4AA reported that at last and unexpectedly the OVH has been approved for a 2 meter D-Star frequency allocation; no new membership vote is needed to authorize the purchase of a 2 meter D-Star repeater, but the Board of Directors or the Budget Committee will need to allocate fundings. Keith also advises that 2 meters FM repeater is working well; George / K4GVT advised that the major FM repeater antenna and related work at the NOVEC tower won't be before October, the estimated cost will be somewhere in the \$167 to \$3,625 range. The reason for the high figure is that NOVEC requires OVH to use its tower work contractor only and the OVH will need to pay for that contractor's charges.

Training – Mark / WA4KFZ is ready to teach a General Class it just needs to be scheduled with the Red Cross for availability on the classroom.

Scholarship – Art / W1CRO brought boxes of magazines and other ham related items to the meeting, club members are welcome to them, please make a donation to the scholarship fund if there is something you want.

Sunshine Corner – Theresa KG4TVM announced the birthday, thanked Steve N0DWB and Lisa for setting up a table at Chick-Fil-A for their September 11th remembrance day, offered condolences to Bob / N4RL on the passing of his wife; also asked for a new volunteer to chair the Sunshine Corner.

Website – Paul / W4ZB reported that work is progressing on the “new” web site at W4OVH.NET, and that it will look very different when made live sometime in the next several months. Anyone willing to assist with site redesign, coding or backup person for him, please let him know.

New Business – Terry / KC4DV announced that he wants to upgrade to Extra Class and would like to host a study group at his home for anyone that would like to attend, please contact him at KC4DV@arrl.net if you are interested.

Break

Old Business – Al / KB4BHB reported that because of Hurricane Irene coming thru the Manassas area the Second Manassas Special Event in August was cancelled; nevertheless, he is planning it again next year.

50/50 – Jim / KK4CWO won \$7.00 and made a donation to the scholarship fund.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

Sunday, October 23, 2011. Mason-Dixon / Westminster, Maryland Hamfest, 700 Agriculture Center Drive, Westminster, Maryland. More info at <http://www.qis.net/~k3pzn/>

TRAINING:

Check with Mark / WA4KFZ about his upcoming General License training course to be given at the Red Cross Center in Manassas.

SPECIAL OPERATING EVENTS AND CONTESTS

ARRL Sweepstakes Contests, CW and SSB in November. See, <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes> for more details. These are excellent contests for individuals wanting to find activity in rare and distant states to complete contacts for the Worked All States award.

There are many operating contests almost all of the time. The excellent web site maintained by WA7BNM lists most of them! See <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

PUBLIC SERVICE / TRAINING / ARES EVENTS

Check the online Calendar by David / KG4GIY at <http://www.pwcares.org> for latest updates. David maintains a comprehensive calendar for upcoming events at that web site.

Some Possibly Useful Items of Information / Thoughts

1. Terrain Profiles using the HFTA program. This program and how to use it to create antenna / propagation terrain profiles has been described in recent versions of the ARRL's Antenna Handbook. For more information, Google: HFTA terrain profile Also, you can download the current user instructions in PDF format from: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Product%20Notes/Antenna%20Book/HFTA.pdf>

2. Ham Radio links on the Internet. There have been lots of these around for quite a while. An interesting one which recently came to your editor's attention by K1MK is at <http://www.qsl.net/k1mk/>

3. Computer / Telephone Hackers and Ham Radio. A supposed infamous computer / telephone hacker and Federal fugitive from the 1990's who ultimately served years in a Federal Lock Up has written another book which was recently featured on BookTV (www.booktv.org) which appears on a CSPAN channel on weekends. The latest book is "Ghosts in the Wires: My Adventures as the World's Most Wanted Hacker" by Kevin Mitnick. Turns out Kevin is also a long time ham radio operator who is currently licensed according to QRZ.com and the FCC's database. He is now thoroughly rehabilitated and operates as a white-hat hacker and expert on computer and telephone security who has testified before Congress on those subjects. The book describes his use of modified ham radio equipment as part of his hacking toolkit as well as "what really happened" in many of his misreported escapades. The fact that the statutes of limitations have run out allow for a "tell all." Interesting and captivating read, but be forewarned, his experiences described could make anyone become very concerned (paranoid) about the abilities of Federal prosecutors to go after someone (anyone) with a steam-roller. Book is available on amazon.com; your editor will lend his copy.

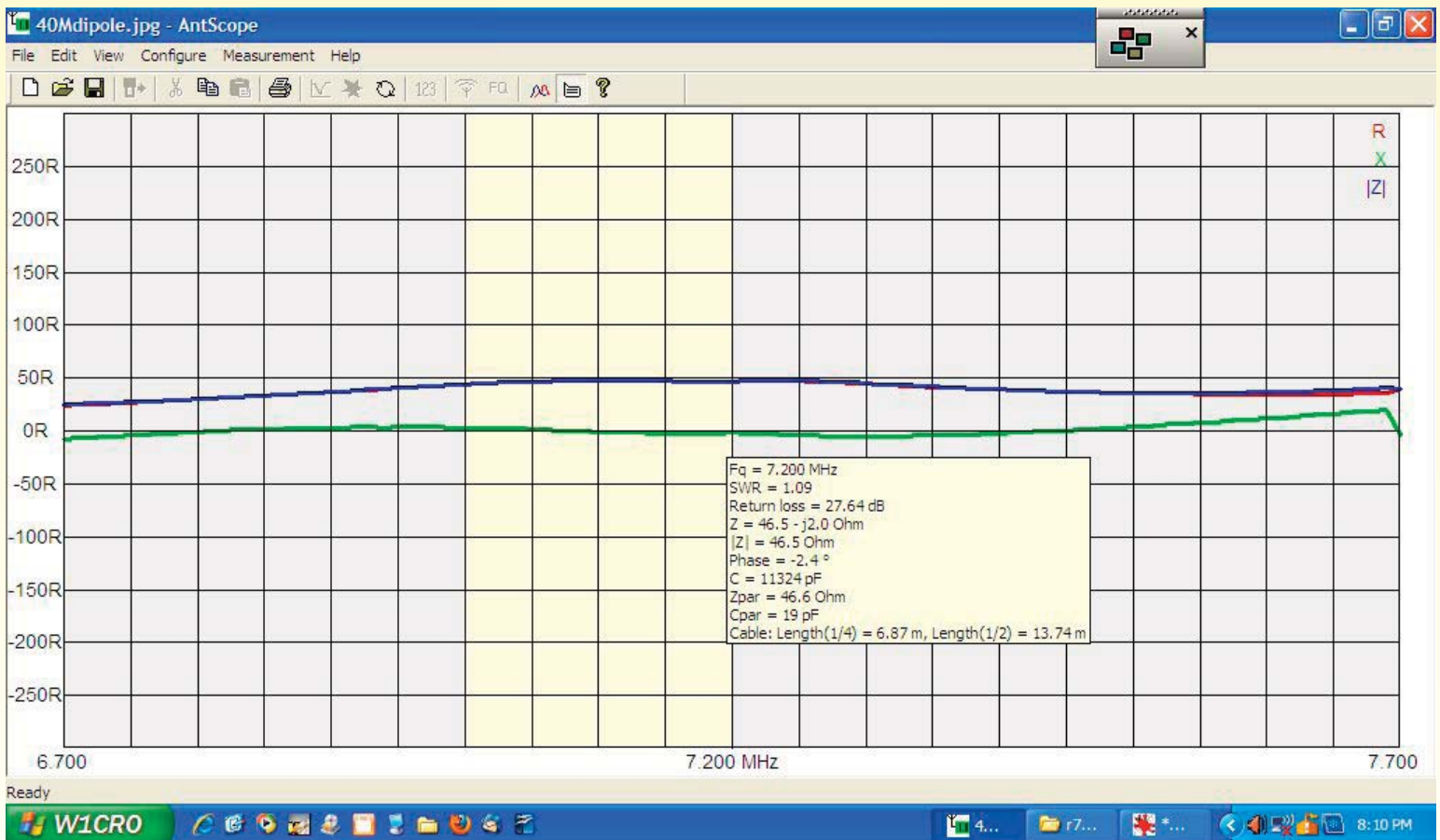
4. All OVH Members recall, many with very personal anecdotes, the events of "911". The scope and magnitude of the physical devastation caused by that attack is revealed in a set of recently declassified photos in a Powerpoint format. Google: 911_Aerial_Photos.Recently_Disclassified.pps to find this posted online on a publicly accessible GoogleDocs link. Worth looking at to remember.

Talk / Presentation by Terry / WA5NTI and Arthur / W1CRO at the September, 2011 OVH Meeting

Terry/WA5NTI recently acquired a RigExpert Antenna Analyzer model AA-54 which covers 0.1 to 54 MHz; as with many new electronic ‘toys’ he could not resist using it and helping others with it. The device is used to characterize and tune antennas and feedline systems. The AA-54 Analyzer is useful for tuning single or multi element/multi band antenna to resonance (SWR measurement for 50 and 75-Ohm systems), comparing characteristics of an antenna before and after specific events (rain, hurricane, etc.), making coaxial stubs or measuring their parameters, cable fault location, and for measuring capacitance or inductance of reactive loads as a preliminary step to lumped or variable feedline tuning devices. The AA-54 Analyzer is battery operated with internal memory and a readout, but also can be connected to a PC via USB cable. It can be used as standalone device or through a PC which can be used to dump accumulated measurement data to a spreadsheet. As a result, it can be used at the antenna (e.g. at the top of a tower) or inside the shack at the coax end of the system. More technical info is available at <http://www.rigexpert.com> and <http://www.rigexpert.com/index?s=aa54>

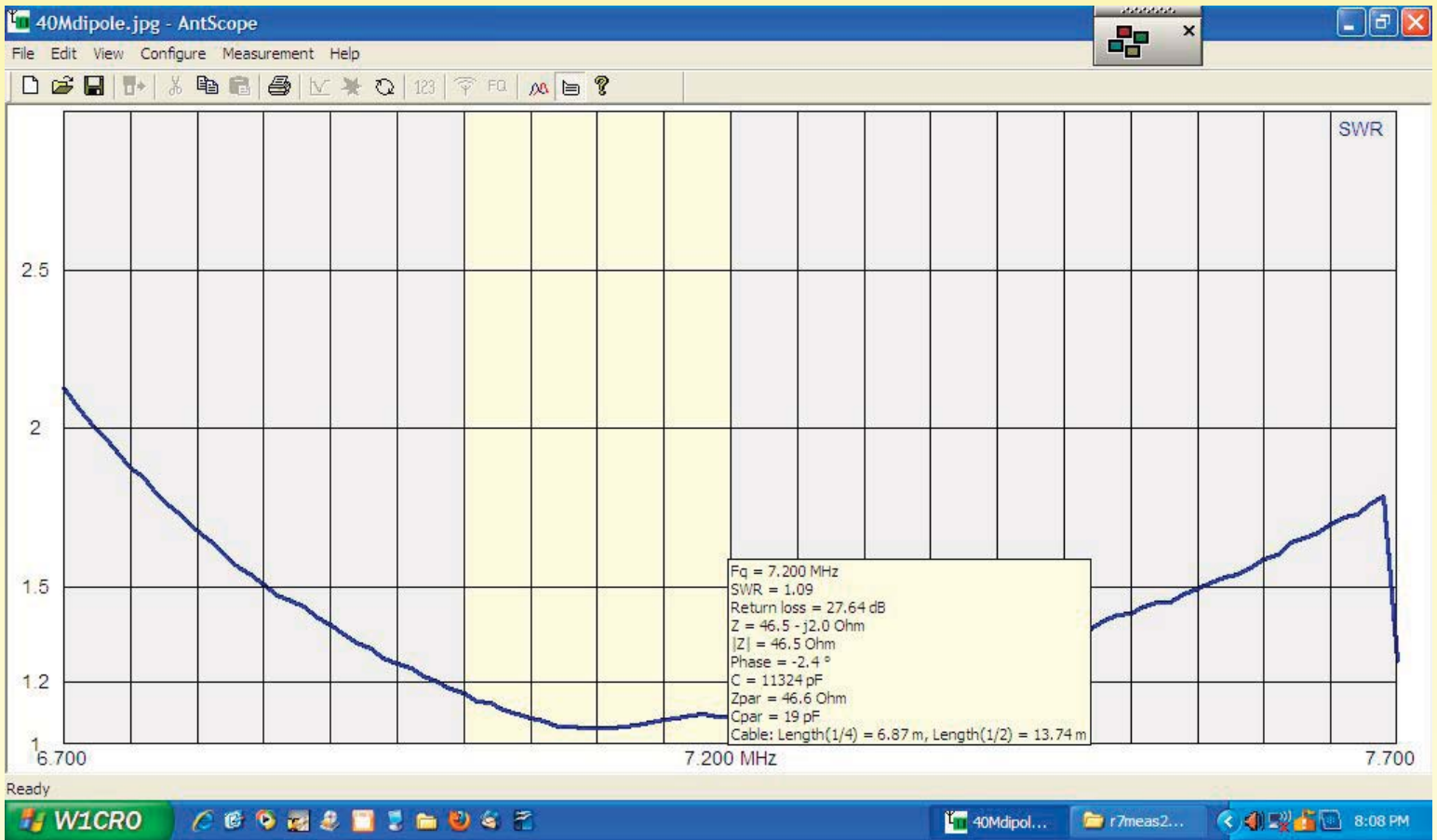
As of the September, 2011 OVH meeting, Terry had already helped Ken/KJ4VTP and Arthur/W1CRO. He also offers to assist other OVH members upon request, contact Terry at 3t3@comcast.net or cellular: 703-402-1066.

Arthur / W1CRO provided a series of slides which demonstrated the initial efforts he had made to characterize several of his antenna / feedline systems with plots from the AA-54. Several of the plots appear below:

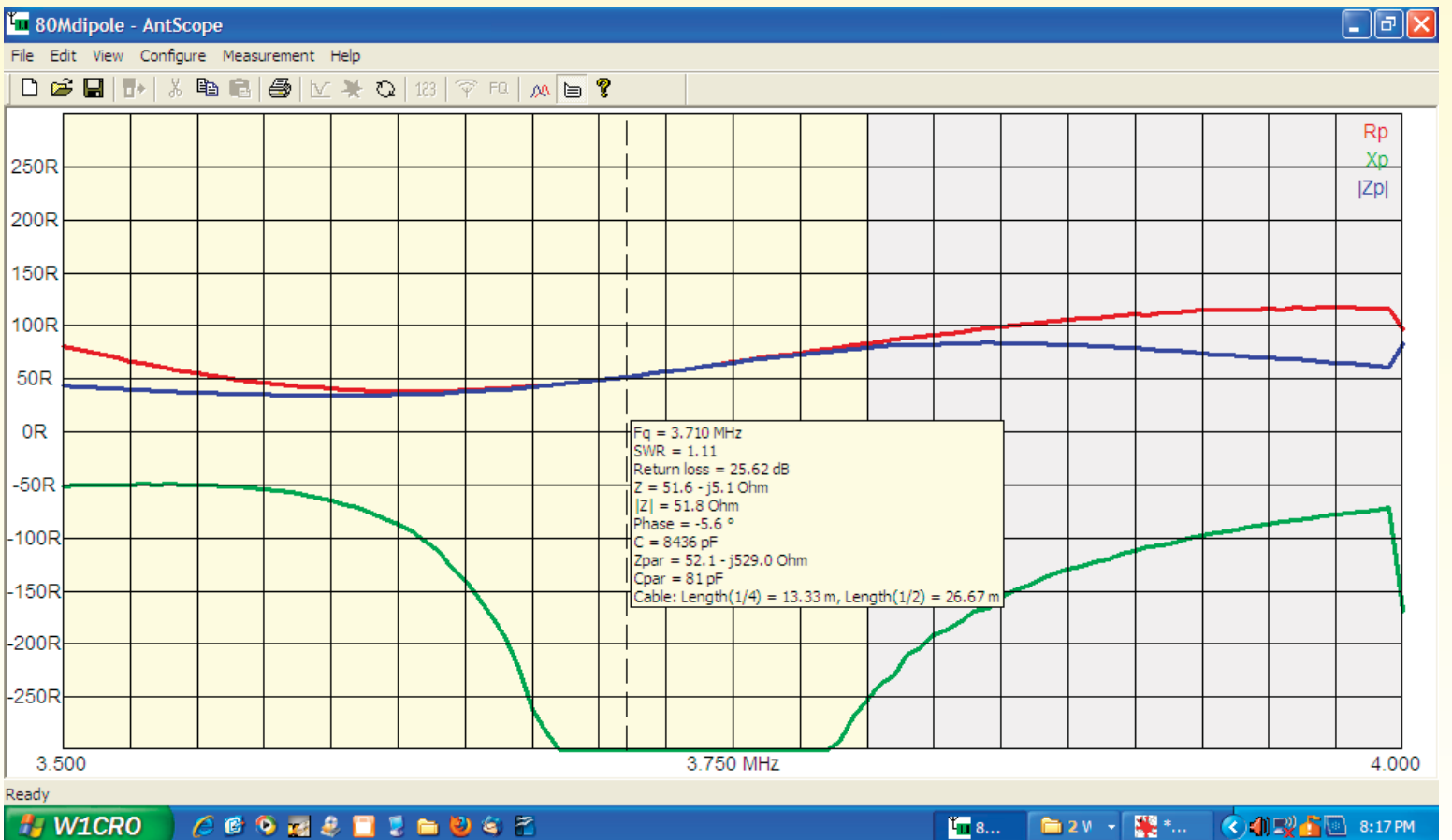


Analyzer Plot for W1CRO 40 meter dipole complex impedance showing “R”, “Z” and “X”

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Analyzer Plot for W1CRO 40 meter dipole showing VSWR with point selected at 7200 kHz for details



Analyzer Plot for W1CRO 80M dipole complex impedance showing R, Z and X. Point selected at 3710 kHz for details

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