

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

MARCH 2005

Next meeting: March 21, 2005

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

(Editor)

NEW QST COLUMN AIMS TO TAKE MYSTERY OUT OF MODERN HAM GEAR

A new QST column, "Getting to Know Your Radio" debuts in the April edition of QST. Author and ARRL Product Review Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, says the column "basically talks about what all those knobs do" on modern equipment.

"The idea is to acquaint users with the typical features of modern radios." Hallas says there was a time when radio receivers were pretty easy to understand--in some cases not all that much different from the broadcast set in the kitchen or living room--so most new amateurs could quickly learn their way around the front panel. It's a new world now.

"It's fair to say that modern transceivers have come a long way since the boat anchors of the 1950s and earlier," he says. "Many transceiver makers seem to sell their wares by claiming the most and newest features." As a result, modern ham transceivers can be pretty intimidating, making operation daunting for newcomers and veterans alike.

The first installment of "Getting to Know Your Radio" will cover the now-popular--and common--passband tuning feature. Hallas says a column on audio compression systems is in the works.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO

The North American Sprint (RTTY), the RSGB Commonwealth Contest (CW), the AGCW QRP Contest, the Oklahoma and Wisconsin QSO parties, the UBA Spring Contest (CW) and the NSARA Contest are the March 12-13 weekend. The RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship (CW) is March 16. JUST AHEAD: The 10-10 International Mobile Contest, the BARTG HF RTTY Contest, the SARL VHF/UHF Contest, the Russian DX Contest, the CLARA and Family HF Contest, the Virginia QSO Party, the UBA Spring Contest (6 meters) and the 9K Contest Club 15-Meter Contest are the weekend of March 19-20. The RSGB 80-Meter Club Championship (SSB) is March 24. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.

Both Items From The ARRL Letter, Vol 24, No 10

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) Blasdel	W4HJL	369-2877
Art Whittum	KW4AW	791-4330
Charlie Dale	WA4YGI	361-3091
John Zorger	WA1STU	754-2378

WEEKLY NETS

Thursdays - 8:00 PM	RUTH	331-1234
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HAMFEST 2005

Keith Bennington	KEITH	909-1512
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FIELD DAY 2004

Brian	WC4J	257-9545
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CLUB ROSTER

Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877
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EDUCATION

TBA

CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Brian	WC4J	257-9545
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ARES AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David	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

Paul	N2PJ	330-0796
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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

PICNIC

TBA

PROGRAM'S

TBA

PUBLICITY

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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O' MASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Milt	N4SN	369-7265
Mike	WV3H	753-9346
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

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N3OH	590-9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Mike	WV3H	753-9346
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
February 21, 2005

Ruth/KU4WH called meeting to order at 2000 Eastern Time.

Following the **Pledge of Allegiance**, all present stated their names and call signs. There were **24 OVH members** and **5 guests** present.

BUSINESS MEETING

MINUTES – The minutes of the January 2005 OVH meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT - **Bill / N3OH** – Bill presented the Treasurer's report.

REPEATERS – **Butch/W4HJL** - The repeaters are working well. **Art/W1CRO** noted that there is some noise at certain times on the 220 machine. We have some repeater projects coming up this Spring.

EDUCATION – **John/WA1STU** - We are in the process of putting together a Technician course. It will probably be on Saturday morning for three hours each time. We're working on getting a place. As soon as we have that, we'll get going. We're shooting to start on April 2.

HAMFEST – **Ruth/KU4WH** – We had a meeting last Thursday. Everything is on track at this point. The fairground is set and we have sent letters to potential vendors.

MEMBERSHIP – **John/WA1STU** – **Bob Gustavis/KI4ILS** and **Joy Lee/KI4GZZ** were read in and will be voted on at the March 2005 OVH meeting.

ARES – **David/KG4GIY** – There was an ARES staff meeting on February 5, which was well attended. ARES is going to have a bi-monthly training meeting. The next meeting will be March 19. The next training session will be in May. The MS Walk is on April 9. Set up at 7:30 at The Battlefield. April 23 is the NCAC Institute. www.ncacdc.com is the website for more information on the NCAC Institute. The next ARES meeting will be on May 23. March 15 is Tornado Preparedness Day.

CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR – **Brian/WC4J** – Brian is going to take inventory of our Club equipment and the status of that equipment. **Ruth/KU4WH** noted that we have been contacted about us participating in another mini triathlon like we did last Fall.

PACKET AND HOMEPAGE – **Bill/N3OH** – Bill had a failure updating the web server. The old system is back and access to the webpage should be fine.

HISTORIAN – **Theresa/KG4TVM** - Theresa asked us to bring things for **Harry's (W4PVA's)** memory book. **Bruce Keller/W4ODM**, who is a former member of the OVH now living in Florida, relayed story to Theresa via E-mail about using a Cessna Skyhawk to help talk people into the OVH Hamfest. Theresa read Bruce's account of the "airborne talk-in" with Harry, and all present enjoyed the story and memory immensely. **Steve/N4OGR** gave us an update on getting Harry's callsign and his conversations with Harry's family members.

HARRY D. VORHAUER SCHOLARSHIP – **Jim/W4JTP** – Letters will go out this week for potential recipients of the Harry D. Vorhauer Scholarship.

OVH CLUB OFFICER ELECTION – **Brian/WC4J** was nominated from the floor to be the Club President. **Dwight/AI4II** was nominated from the floor to the Club Vice President.

BREAK

OVH CLUB OFFICER ELECTION RESULTS – The current Club officers were all elected to another one-year term to go through the OVH meeting in February 2006 – **President** – **Ruth Frock/KU4WH**, **Vice President** – **John Heartney/KG4NXT**, **Treasurer** – **Bill South/N3OH** and **Secretary** – **Phil Colling/AC4PL**.

AUTOCALL – **David/KG4GIY** – We can get some free publicity in AutoCall.

50/50 – \$23 was collected, and **Brian/WC4J** won and donated his winnings back to the Club. Thank you Brian.

The meeting adjourned at 2116 Eastern Time.

73's Phil/AC4PL

SUNSHINE CORNER

Happy Birthday to our friends and fellow Hams: **Jeff/N1SN**, **Russell/WB4HHN**, and **Noel/NW5N**. We hope each of you has a great day!

Start thinking about how you want to assist at the Hamfest. It's your Club -- do your part!

Thanks, and 73 de Jan/KE4TMW

MEETING PROGRAM FOR APRIL

The program for the April OVH meeting will be a Fleet Watch refresher and update. Several months ago Rich Buchholz, Crime Prevention Coordinator- Prince William County, asked if OVH were interested in helping with a new Program, called Commuter Lot Watch. At a meeting, consensus indicated we were interested. Prince William County's Crime Prevention Unit is now implementing Commuter Lot Watch.

The lots we have agreed to cover are:

Airport VRE (Broad Run) Located adjacent to, and just north of, Manassas Airport, access via Piper Lane from route 28.

Portsmouth Commuter Lot Located on Portsmouth Rd. behind Portsmouth Station Shopping Center near Sudley Rd. (234) and behind NOVEC.

Here is what was on the flyer sent to me:

COMMUTER LOT WATCH

Prince William Fleet Watch

What it is!

Commuter Lot Watch is an added feature to the existing Fleet Watch Program in Prince William County. It utilizes existing Fleet Watch members who can drive through particular Commuter Lots (Park & Rides) that are on or near routes that their vehicles normally travel in the course of a typical business day. They will adopt one or more of these lots and drivers will drive through them as they pass by and watch for any suspicious activity that they would then report to the police.

The Program is not meant to detract from the efficiency of conducting a business, but is intended to encourage drivers to adopt a sense of ownership over their assigned lots and drive through them when they pass by and time permits.

Guidelines to Follow

Drivers are not expected, nor are they encouraged, to physically intervene. They should assume the role of a good witness and reporting party who contacts the police via their two-way radios back to their company, or by cell phone.

What is Suspicious Behavior & Activity in a Commuter Lot?

1. Persons hanging around for no apparent reason.
2. A person seeming to act as a lookout while another person is in or near a vehicle.
3. Persons walking with a tool or tools in hand.
4. Persons walking from one car to another, while carrying property, particularly if the car they go to is illegally parked.
5. Persons who enter or leave on foot by other than the established entrances or exits.
6. The sound of glass breaking or people screaming, or car alarms.
7. Broken glass on the ground in the vicinity of a car.
8. Car doors standing open.
9. Window glass missing from a car.
10. Persons walking around who are bleeding or otherwise injured.
11. Anything that seems out of the ordinary for a commuter lot.

How to Report Suspicious Activity

Follow the established Fleet Watch guidelines and training. Try to give a good description within the lot where the activity is taking place. Identify yourself as a Fleet Watch member.

Emergency call: 911 Non-Emergency call: 703-792-6500

Prince William County Police Department Crime Prevention Unit

COMMUTER LOT WATCH
LOT PATROLLED BY
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY
FLEET WATCH

The program for the April OVH meeting will be about Fleet Watch Programs including Commuter Lot Watch.

73 de Steve/N4OGR

FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Chief Stepping Down (Mar 14, 2005)



John Muleta, chief of the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, has announced plans to leave the Commission at the end of March. In thanking him for his service to the Commission, FCC Chairman Michael Powell called Muleta "a faithful and tireless public servant" who's leaving behind "a strong and commendable legacy in the wireless field that will have long and enduring impact on global communications." Muleta, who has headed the WTB since February 2003, has a 20-year history in the communications sector as an engineer, businessman and lawyer. Muleta previously served at the FCC from 1994 until 1998 in various capacities within the former Common Carrier Bureau.

Downloaded from ARRL Web Site

Norwegian Club Stations Gaining Access to 5 MHz Frequencies (Mar 13, 2005)



The Norwegian Post and Telecommunication Authority has granted permission to Norwegian Amateur Radio club stations to operate on eight 60-meter spot frequencies from April 1, 2005, until December 31, 2007. Five of the channels are the same as those available to US radio amateurs. Permissible modes are upper sideband and CW with a maximum transmitter power of 100 W. The channel center frequencies 5280, 5290, 5332, 5348, 5368, 5373, 5400 and 5405 kHz (the USB "dial frequency" would be 1.5 kHz lower for each channel). The Norwegian authorization was granted on a non-interference-basis. Channels that coincide with the [US allocation](#) are 5332, 5348, 5368, 5373 and 5405 kHz.--RSGB via NRRL HF Traffic Manager Tom Segalstad, LA4LN.

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Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course Registration (Mar 11, 2005)



Registration for the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level II on-line course (EC-002) opens Monday, March 14, at 1201 AM EST and will remain open until all available seats have been filled or through the March 19-20 weekend--whichever comes first. Class begins Friday, April 1. Thanks to our grant sponsors--the Corporation for National and Community Service and the United Technologies Corporation--the \$45 registration fee paid upon enrollment will be reimbursed after successful completion of the course. Act now! This is the final year of the grant-subsidized classes! Radio amateurs 55 and up are strongly encouraged to participate. During this registration period, seats are being offered to ARRL members on a first-come, first-served basis. To learn more, visit the [ARRL Certification and Continuing Education](#) Web page. For more information, contact Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller,

K3UFG, cce@arrl.org; 860-594-0340.

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"Oppositions" to BPL Petitions For Reconsideration Due by March 23 (Mar 11, 2005)



Opposition comments ("oppositions") to the various petitions for reconsideration of the the FCC's October 14, 2004, *Report and Order (R&O)* adopting new Part 15 rules governing BPL will be filed by Wednesday, March 23, in the two BPL-related proceedings--ET Docket 03-104 and ET Docket 04-37. A 10-day period to file replies to oppositions will follow. Petitions for reconsideration have been filed by BPL industry groups and proponents as well as by the ARRL and other organizations and individuals concerned about BPL's interference potential. All petitions for reconsideration are available for viewing via the FCC's [Electronic Comment Filing System](#) (ECFS). Those wishing to file oppositions to specific petitions may use the ECFS to do so, but comments *supporting* one petition or another are not welcome, ARRL General Counsel

Chris Imlay, W3KD, has pointed out. He says radio amateurs may file oppositions on any petition with which they have specific issues, but commenters should support their points with facts and statements. "All statements should be specific to one or more arguments in a reconsideration petition with which the person filing an opposition disagrees," Imlay explained. "They should not simply say, 'I oppose this petition.'" **Downloaded from ARRL Web Site**

Reminder From AMSAT Concerning 2 Meters (Mar 11, 2005)



Once again satellite operators would like to bring to the attention of the amateur community that operation in the 145.800 to 146.000 MHz range is restricted to satellite operations only. This is because there are several satellites that use this frequency range as their *input* to the satellite. Output comes in the 70 cm satellite subband. This is called Mode J. Says John Hennessee, N1KB, of the ARRL's Regulatory Information Branch, "The users of this subband usually don't know they are causing interference, because the downlink is in the 435 MHz range." If you happen to monitor local hams having FM simplex QSOs in the 145.800 to 146.00 MHz segment, please ask them to QSY off the satellite subband. FO-29's SSB transponders are rendered useless when these strong FM signals hit the bird. Your help is greatly appreciated.--Bruce

Paige, KK5DO, AMSAT

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Amateur Radio is "Poster Child" of Homeland Security Grantees Gathering (Mar 11, 2005)



Amateur Radio earned high marks and frequent praise during a gathering of Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS) homeland security grant recipients. ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, and Field and Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, represented the League at the series of meetings March 2-5 in Washington. ARRL--a special volunteer program--was the recipient of a 2002 CNCS grant to

subsidize Amateur Radio emergency communications courses, now available on three levels. The League was among 29 CNCS homeland security grantees attending. **Downloaded from ARRL Web Site**

ARRL Represented at National Severe Weather Workshop 2005 (Mar 11, 2005)



Three ARRL representatives attended the National Severe Weather Workshop 2005, held March 3-5 at the Reed Center, Midwest City, Oklahoma. Sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the NSWW is a national forum for emergency management and media to exchange needs and ideas on severe weather safety. Oklahoma Section Manager John Thomason, WB5SYT; Assistant SM Eddie Manley, K5EMS, and (from ARRL Headquarters) Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, staffed an ARRL exhibit and responded to questions. **Downloaded from ARRL Web Site**

New TrustedQSL Software Released For Logbook Of The World (Mar 11, 2005)



Version 1.11 of the *TrustedQSL* software used with ARRL's *Logbook of the World* system now is available. *Windows*, *Linux* and *Mac OS X* users are encouraged to update their systems. The new version fixes a serious bug that affected *Linux* and *Mac OS X* versions of the software. This bug caused users' saved certificate (.P12) files to be corrupted. *Linux* and *Mac OS X* users are strongly advised to install the new version of the *TrustedQSL* software and save all existing certificates into .P12 files. Older .P12 files saved from these systems should be discarded.

Windows users of the *TrustedQSL* software should update to the new version, in part because the updated *Windows* version of the *TQSL* program now signs log data much faster. Instructions for downloading and installing the software are available on ARRL's [LoTW](#) Web page. **Downloaded from ARRL Web Site**

Echo Team Establishes AO-51 Operations Group (Mar 10, 2005)



AMSAT-NA has announced that the Echo (AO-51) Command Team has set up an AO-51 Operations Group to help monitor the satellite and develop operational schedules. Members were selected based on their interest and participation in the varied modes available via Echo and on their active membership in an AMSAT organization. Current members are Mike Kingery, KE4AZN; Drew Glassbrenner, KO4MA; Clare Fowler, VE3NPC, and Roy Welch, W0SL. The AO-51 Operations Group invites users' requests or suggestions on the Echo schedule, preferably before the team begins work on the next schedule. The team typically starts setting

up the next schedule two weeks before the end of the previous month. Contact the AO-51 Operations Group via e-mail ao51-modes@amsat.org.--AMSAT News Service **Downloaded from ARRL Web Site**

New Feature Begins In April QST

No fooling. The April issue of QST marks the inauguration of a new semi-monthly two-page article for less experienced readers, Getting to Know your Radio, by Joel Hallas, W1ZR.

The series is designed to acquaint new hams with the operation of some of the more obscure functions and features of modern radio equipment. Author and ARRL Product Review Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, says the column "basically talks about what all those knobs do" on modern equipment. "The idea is to acquaint users with the typical features of modern radios." This month's topic--Passband Tuning.

Club News Email from Norm Fusaro/W3IZ w3iz@arrl.org February 25, 2005

Make Field Day Plans Now

Now is a good time to start thinking about ARRL Field Day. Always the last full weekend in June, this year the event is June 25 & 26. It's never too early to start planning.

Field Day is by far one of the largest on air activities that hams participate in. It is also the number one club activity among ARRL Affiliated Clubs. It is no wonder that this is so when you look at all the many ways that you can have fun with Field Day. Some groups go at it as if it were a big contest while others take it to the wilderness.

While emergency preparedness is the focus of the event many clubs and groups use Field Day to solidify social bonds. Field Day becomes a huge cookout, camping trip and radio event rolled into one.

Make sure that your club is familiar with the new rule changes and bonus points.

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2005/rules-fd-2005.html>

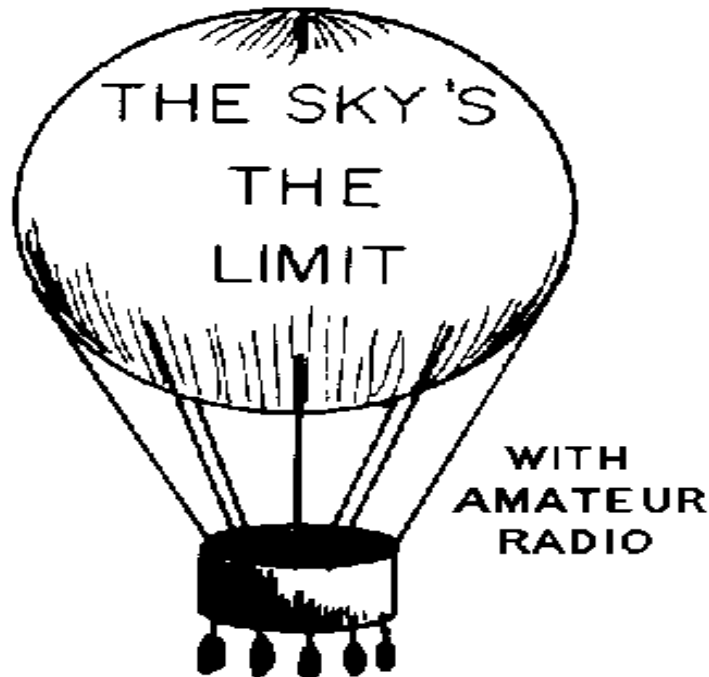
Club News Email from Norm Fusaro/W3IZ w3iz@arrl.org February 25, 2005

New Public Service Announcements

Following up on the introduction last month of two new audio public service announcements promoting Amateur Radio to the general public, the ARRL is now offering video PSAs. Follow this link for full story and downloads.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/02/04/2/?nc=1>

Club News Email from Norm Fusaro/W3IZ w3iz@arrl.org February 25, 2005



**HAM RADIO CLASS
Technician License**

**Learn about Radio and Electronics
Talk across the State from Your Home or Car
Become an emergency communication operator
Listen to (and maybe talk to) the International Space Station
Meet many new and interesting friends on and off the Air**

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NOCHARGE - NO MORSE CODE NEEDED

**WHEN: Saturdays from 9:00 AM to Noon
April 2 to May 7, 2005**

**WHERE: Strayer University
9990 Battleview Parkway
Manassas, VA 20109**

**WHO: Call John Zorger 703-754-2378 or
Call John Heartney 703-257-3566**

Take Sudley Rd. (Rte 234) north to the light at Battleview Parkway (Cracker Barrel Restaurant is on the corner) just past I-66 and turn right. Go nine tenths of a mile, and Strayer University is the last building on the left.

DIRECTIONS: