

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/N4WJN (SYSOP--BILL)
<http://www.qsl.net/olevahams>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

APRIL 2003

Next meeting: April 21, 2003

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

(Editor)

Greetings to all OVHers,

The next meeting of the Ole Virginia Hams is on Monday April 21st at 8 PM in the NOVEC Technical Center in Gainesville, VA. At this month's meeting we will have a presentation given by George Corron, AF4JH of the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club on station grounding. If you know of anyone who would be interested in giving a presentation to the club at one of its upcoming meetings or have anything you would like to be discussed at a future meeting please email me at ku4wh@arrl.net or give me a call at 703-331-1234. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

73 for now,

Ruth KU4WH

Iraqi amateur operation reported (Apr 11, 2003) -- [The Daily DX](#) this week reported that Jim Dunkerton, KT4CK, of Tennessee, has been active from the Middle East on 15 meters SSB. On April 6, he was giving his location as somewhere in the desert of the Middle East, but the following day, he was identifying as YI/KT4CK and saying he was in the desert of Southern Iraq. *The Daily DX* says that John Shelton, K1XN, has confirmed that Dunkerton is--or has been--with the 101st Airborne, reported by CNN this week as being near Karbala in Central Iraq. Several stations have reported working or hearing YI/KT4CK between 1400 and 1600 UTC. SV1GRH spotted YI/KT4CK at 1438 UTC on April 7 on 21.312.5 MHz and noted that he was looking for US stations but, *The Daily DX* quoted SV1GRH as saying that YI/KT4CK was not getting many replies. Meanwhile, *The Daily DX* says Ed Giorgadze, 4L4FN, now is in the Middle East after wrapping up his North Korean (P5) operation. He has been in Turkey, very close to the Turkish/Iraqi border, for the last month and awaits his next UN World Food Program assignment--which could be inside war-torn Iraq.

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More Amateur Radio operation reported from Iraq (Apr 14, 2003) -- [The Daily DX](#) reports that several hams with the US military in Iraq have begun showing up on the amateur bands. Mark Smith, NG5L, of North Carolina, has been active from near Nasiriya as YI/NG5L on SSB, usually around 0500 UTC near 14.195 MHz, but he's been spotted during the past few days in Europe and North America on other 20-meter frequencies and at other times of the day. Smith's father, Tom, NG5S, who lives in Arkansas, confirms that his son, 26, is in Iraq with the 82nd Airborne Division. As reported earlier, Jim Dunkerton, YI/KT4CK, has been QRV on 15-meter

SSB between 1430 and 1600 UTC. He was last spotted by DL7JAN at 1541 UTC on April 14 on 21.260 MHz. YI/KT4CK has been seeking contacts with the US. Steve Toburen, KB0QHV, of Kansas is among other US amateurs deployed to Iraq, but it's not known if he's been on the air. The Daily DX reports that Bob Furzer, 9K2ZZ/K4CY, has apparently crossed into Iraq from Kuwait and has been on the air as K4CY/p or K4CY/m. ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, told The Daily DX that the DXCC Desk has made no decisions on whether any of these operations eventually will be approved for DXCC, especially since no civil authority is in place to authorize amateur operation. The amateurs apparently have permission from their commanding officers to operate, but some form of written authorization from a civil authority in Iraq likely would be required for DXCC credit.

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“OLE VIRGINIA HAMS”
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WEEKLY NETS

Thursdays - 8:00 PM WB4ZOH (Ken) 361-3482

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 Art KW4AW 791-4330

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TBD

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O' MASTER

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 Milt N4SN 369-7265
 Mike WV3H 753-9346
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 Alan KD4KBX 330-8844

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 Bill K9ZD 754-7913

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@arri.net

Letters to the Editor and Classified Ads are accepted and welcome. Approx. Circulation - 170

SUNSHINE CORNER

Congratulations to **Dwight/N4GSD**, who **passed** his exam for the **Extra** class license. **Good job, Dwight!**

Congratulations also go to **Matt/KG4UNL**, harmonic of **Karl/W4KRL**. Matt was awarded **second place** in **Engineering** at the **St. Timothy School Science Fair** in Chantilly for his entry "**Ham Antennas: The Best of the Best**". Matt built a **ground plane** and a **J-Pole** antenna and **compared** them to the **rubber duck** antenna that came with his hand-held 2-meter radio. His project was one of ten from his school selected to compete in the **regional science fair** at **Bishop O'Connell High School**. The regional fair was later canceled due to snow. Matt found that the **ground-plane more than doubled the range** of his rig compared to the rubber duck. The **J-pole was only slightly better** than the duck. He thinks the J-pole would have worked better with different dimensions.

Happy Birthday to these spring chickens – **David/KD4DEE**, **Brian/N8FK**, **Paul/N4PD**, **Cyril/K3DKR**, **Duffy/KD6RNE**, **Paul/N2PJ**, **John/KG4LAA**, **Paul/W4ZB**, **Mike/WV3H**, **Cathy/AE4UM**, and **Larry/KA4CTX**. I hope each of you has a great day!

Please volunteer for the Hamfest! You'll have fun, and help the club, too!

73 de Jan/KE4TMW

Repeater Happenings

Good news on progress.

Jack/N4YIC, **Butch/W4HJL** and **Karl/W4KRL** installed the charger panel today. The 2-m repeater finally has battery backup. The charger seems to work OK and the changeover between line power and battery power works. Karl made two changes in the 2-m power supply unit to isolate the GE Charger circuit from the battery and ensure that a bleeder resistor is in the power supply circuit when operating on line power.

The plan is to modify all four GE power supplies to account for removal of the GE charger and install a new changeover relay. This will make all four units interchangeable and compatible with the new chargers. Karl has the spare unit now to start the modification. When he gets done we can swap it with the present 2-m supply and he will then modify that one. We should also move the feed for the Link repeater controller over to the 2-m supply so that it will have battery backup too.

They made some measurements on output power for the 2-m and 70-cm machines. All measurements were made at the cavity output to the antenna:

Repeater	Forward Power	Reflected Power	SWR
2-m on line power	70 W	Not Measured	Not Measured
2-m on battery power	65 W	Reflected 1W	Calculated 1.28:1
70-cm	62 W	Reflected 4W	Calculated 1.7:1

Butch and Jack then made some adjustments to the 2-m receiver.

73, Arthur/KW4AW

At the April meeting, Jack will make a motion to buy two more batteries so that the 220 and 440 machines can be provided with backup power. We will buy the same type of battery as on the 2-m repeater. They cost about \$350 each.

Karl has drawn up the schematic for the GE MASTR power supply. It is a very straight-forward job to add a relay and make a few minor wire changes to hook up our battery with external charger. He already has the relays and only needs a few power resistors and diodes to finish the job.

Still more activity to be planned for repeater receiver adjustments to restore our coverage area.

73, Arthur/KW4AW as received from W4KRL

Jack/N4YIC, **Karl/W4KRL**, and **Matt/KG4UNL** installed a modified power supply on the 2-meter repeater on April 12. The modification replaced the old GE trickle charger with a relay that switches the repeater to battery power during power failures. They modified one of the spare supplies so that it can substitute for the regular supply in case it has a problem. They plan to modify the 440 supply and the other spare so that all four units will be identical and interchangeable.

Karl/W4KRL measured the repeater currents. At **full power (70 W)** the **two-meter** machine draws **19.8 Amps**. The **receiver** only draws **0.42 Amps**. At **20%** duty cycle the **battery** should be able to power the repeater for **36 hours**. **Jack/N4YIC** lined up the **2-m** and **440 repeater** cabinets with the large cabinet that holds the **220 machine** and the Link controller. This makes it much easier to work behind the repeater cabinets and is a big step along the path to clean up the layout of the equipment in the shack.

For those who would like to see what the shack looks like take a look at the **pictures** at www.dcm-va.com/W4OVH.

73, Karl/W4KRL

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting - March 17, 2003

President Ruth Frock/KU4WH called the meeting to order at 2004

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and callsigns. There were **23 OVH members** and **one guest** present.

The minutes of the February 2003 OVH meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bill/N4WJN - The Treasurer's report passed.

REPEATERS: Butch / W4HJL - Something happened with the receiver on the 2-meter repeater. The problem will be solved. Karl/W4KRL has been very helpful in getting the new battery and chargers installed. Thank you Karl for your efforts in updating the backup batteries for the OVH repeaters.

EDUCATION: Bill/K9ZD - The new technician license class starts next week. We have great interest this time, including interest by an entire family in taking the class.

HAMFEST: Jack/N4YIC - Things are going well. Jack **needs more volunteers** for the **gates** and for **tailgating**. Bill/K9ZD noted that **we need VE's** for the **VE session**. Several OVH members volunteered for the VE session.

MEMBERSHIP: Charlotte/KG4QXO - There were no new members to be read in or voted in this month.

FIELD DAY: Art/KW4AW - We need to get some interested people together to generate some new ideas. We have reserved the park in Nokesville for the 2003 Field Day.

WEEKLY NETS: Ken/WB4ZOH - We're having good activity and participation on the weekly nets.

ARES: David/KG4GIY - David asked that **we be prepared** for a **possible activation** in the **next few weeks**.

1. On **April 5** we have the **MS Walk**. The **location** for the walk is the **Manassas National Battlefield Park**. There will be a **briefing** at **8:30 A.M.** and the **walk starts** at **10:00 A.M.** David is **looking** for a few **more volunteers**.
2. **April 12** is the "**Bull Run 15.**" **Volunteers** are **needed** for that. Send an e-mail to the **Fairfax County Coordinator** if you are interested.
3. **May 24** is the **National Capital Emergency Coordinators Institute**. This is at the Lee Center in Alexandria.
4. We should **download** the **Radiogram Form**. This is for **NTS** traffic forms.

PACKET: Bill/N4WJN - We have some additions that will assist **ARES packet utilization**.

OLD BUSINESS: Tom/WA4QAL - **The National Railway Historical Society** convention is still on. Tom is involved with a planning meeting at the **Baltimore Amateur Radio Society** this Wednesday. Tom has directions for those interested. The meeting starts at 7:30.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ken/WB4ZOH - Ken asked that we create a **backup net manager** and a **pool** of other **volunteers**. **Teresa/KG4TVM** volunteered to the **backup Net Manager**. Several others at the meeting agreed to be in the pool of other volunteers.

Ken/WB4ZOH - Ken asked that someone be the main contact for **Amateur Radio Newsline (ARN)** for submitting our articles to ARN. **John/KG4NXT** agreed to do this. John is now the **primary** person on the **Newsline committee**.

SCHOLARSHIP: Jack/N4YIC - All letters have gone out to schools, and we need their letters in by May 1.

Bill/N4WJN - Bill suggested that we have a **standardized logo**, and requested that we have some ideas and help from someone with **artistic ability**.

The meeting adjourned at 2115

**T-MARC MEETING NOTES
TAKEN AT ANNUAL T-MARC MEETING
APRIL 6, 2003**

**BY
John Zorger WA1STU
Proxy Representative for The Old Virginia Hams**

Was suggested that clubs in the T-MARC area consider having their repeaters transmit PL tone all the time and that club members activate PL on their receivers. Going to hear a lot more about use of tone and CTCSS full time to fit more repeaters into T-MARC area.

Motion tabled for study.

Each paid membership will receive a logon and password for the T-MARC web page, was suggested that the logon and password be protected.

Two different groups presented two different digital band plans, neither group would accept the others plan, a motion was made and voted on to have the two groups meet and attempt to resolve the conflict. The two groups are to present the results of their meeting at the next T-MARC meeting.

At the January 2002 meeting several groups made application and paid monies to join T-MARC, for some reason their applications were not processed and their checks were never cashed, a motion was made, voted on and approved to make their application retroactive to include this year.

The membership voted to form two groups to analyze several different band plans and present the results at the next meeting. The prime group will present a new band plan for all frequencies above 70CM.

A motion was made, voted on and approved to purchase "errors and omissions" insurance for T-MARC.

A lot of time was spent discussing the issue of inactive repeaters, inactive repeater groups and the T-MARC database, a motion was made, voted on and approved to send letters to groups that have not renewed their membership, have frequencies that are not being used, and or have not updated their information in the database. Each group receiving a letter will have 45 days to respond. If these groups do not respond they will no longer be coordinated.

A motion was made, voted on and approved to have quarterly meetings with the primary meeting held in January of each year.

Other issues discussed:

Repeater operators were reminded about security issues of their physical equipment. T-MARC has received notices from several federal and state officials about securing equipment and not advertising locations of repeaters and links.

Each repeater operator should consider installing emergency power for his or her equipment.

Repeater trustees are responsible for keeping all their information up to date in the FCC database.

The latest database was passed out with two correction sheets to each member present. The database can be viewed on the T-MARC web page at www.t-marc.org.

The official meeting notes are to be posted on the T-MARC web page www.t-marc.org in the near future.

Respectfully submitted by

John Zorger WA1STU

12 April 2003

Thursday Night Net

Hi Folks

I hope we get more than 10 people this Thursday to check in. Maybe it's time for a radial bit o'surgery on the format for the net.

Looking at the email received this month, I've boiled the comments down, removed the vulgar language, and would like your opinion.

1. Change the name to "The Ole Virginia Hams Forum"
2. Drop the repetitive script used at the beginning of the net
3. Start with an open call for all to check in - don't use a formal check in method
4. Call for any and all announcements, bulletins
5. Call for buy & sell items
6. Call for who need technical assistance
7. Call those who have checked in for comments, if any
8. Drop the newslines
9. Drop the VE Session information
10. Drop the DX information
11. Drop the "topic" or "comment" for the net

I really would like for all to review this and comment on Thursday, and/or email me with YOUR suggestions for a "makeover". Perchance we can generate more activity Thursday night.

73, Ken/wb4zoh, wb4zoh@arri.net

ARRL Bulletin 26 ARLB026

SB QST ARL ARLB026

ARLB026 **FCC Proposes to Hike Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Fee**

The FCC proposed March 26 increasing the regulatory fee to apply for, renew or reinstate an Amateur Radio vanity call sign from \$14.50 to \$16.30 this fall. The Commission included the new fee in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2003" (MD 03-83), released today. The closing date for comments on the new fee schedule is April 25. Reply comments are due by May 5.

"We estimate that 9800 applicants will apply for vanity call signs in FY2003," the FCC said in its NPRM. That's up by 800 from FY2002. It expects to collect revenues of nearly \$160,000, an increase of almost \$30,000 from FY2002.

The FCC NPRM also seeks comments on its efforts to review, streamline and modernize its fee assessment and collection processes and procedures. "We welcome comments on a broad range of options in this regard," the FCC said. Areas of particular interest include suggestions for improvement in the agency's electronic payment system.

Interested parties may comment via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) on the web at, <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. Enter "MD 03-83" in the "Proceeding" field. Electronic comments by e-mail also are welcome.

Space Bulletin 010 ARLS010

SB SPACE ARL ARLS010

ARLS010 **NASA Selects Expedition 7 Crew**

NASA named veteran Russian cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko, RK3DUP, and veteran NASA astronaut Ed Lu, KC5WKJ, as the International Space Station's Expedition 7 primary crew April 1. Malenchenko, the crew commander, and Lu will be the first two-person ISS crew and the first to travel to the space station on a Russian Soyuz TMA-2 spacecraft. Plans call for an April 26 launch from Kazakhstan.

Russian cosmonaut Alexander Kaleri, U8MIR and NASA astronaut Mike Foale, KB5UAC, are the back-up crewmembers for Expedition 7.

Originally scheduled to return in March aboard the space shuttle Atlantis STS-114 mission, Expedition 6 Commander Ken Bowersox, KD5JBP, Flight Engineer Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB, and NASA Space Station Science Officer Don Pettit, KD5MDT, will return to Earth aboard a Soyuz craft in May. They have been in space since November 23.

The fresh crew will remain in space until October, when a new crew will be sent up. NASA has said that until the space shuttle returns to flight-ready status, Russian Soyuz vehicles will handle ISS crew rotations. Additional unmanned Russian Progress cargo rocket flights have been scheduled to keep the ISS well stocked.

IN BRIEF

Amateur Radio moonbounce beacon helps set up Arecibo radiotelescope: For the second time in two years, the world's largest radiotelescope received calibration assistance from the nonprofit SETI League, a group comprised primarily of radio amateurs. On April 14, scientists from California's prestigious SETI Institute began two weeks of astronomical observations from the [Arecibo Observatory](#) in Puerto Rico. But before they could start looking for intelligently generated signals from the stars, they used The SETI League's low-cost, high-tech Amateur Radio moonbounce beacon (W2ETI) to calibrate their gear. The beacon aims a stable microwave signal at the moon, and the weak echoes give radio astronomers on Earth a precise source against which to check the operation of their equipment. The amateur scientists built the beacon two years ago with a \$5000 grant from the American Astronomical Society. Since then, a number of SETI League members around the world have used it to calibrate their amateur radiotelescopes, and professional searches have found it useful as well. "Before you can search for the *unknown*," said SETI League executive director Paul Shuch, N6TX, "you have to make sure you can receive and recognize the known." A [photo essay](#) documenting the entire moonbounce experiment is available on the SETI League Web site. SETI scientists seek to determine through microwave and optical measurements whether humankind is alone in the universe. Since Congress terminated NASA's SETI funding in 1993, The SETI League and other scientific groups have been attempting to privatize the research.

ARRL Web registrants top 100,000 mark: ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, announced April 15 that the number of ARRL members [registered](#) to access members-only features on the ARRL Web site surpassed the 100,000 mark. "The number goes up and down, so it may drop back below 100,000," Sumner noted, "but the trend is inexorably upward." ARRL members registered on the Web site have ready access to such popular features as the *QST* "Product Review" index and archive, the *QST/QEX* index search and to expanded ARRL contest results. While registering, members also have an opportunity to sign up for e-mail delivery of *The ARRL Letter*, W1AW bulletins, and other material.

Field Day IEEE 802.11b stations qualify for bonus points: Field Day 2003 stations may take advantage of existing rules for the operating event to pick up bonus points by operating IEEE 802.11b equipment under Amateur Service rules. "This would be eligible for a 100-point demonstration mode bonus under Rule 7.3.10," says ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. Field Day stations that operate IEEE 802.11b equipment under Part 97 rules during Field Day are encouraged to mention the fact in any publicity they disseminate. For more information on IEEE 802.11b protocol operation on Amateur Radio, visit the [High-Speed Digital Networks and Multimedia](#) page on the ARRL Web site.

Ham Radio 2003 set for late June: The Ham Radio 2003 exhibition--better known in the US simply as "Friedrichshafen"--will take place June 27-29, 2003, from its new location near the Friedrichshafen Airport near Lake Constance in Germany. Complete information on Ham Radio 2003 is available on the DARC [Ham Radio 2003](#) page.--*Hans Berg, DJ6TJ/DARC*

K6KPH on the air for International Marconi Day: The Maritime Radio Historical Society's K6KPH will participate April 26 in the annual International Marconi Day commemorative event. International Marconi Day takes place each year on a weekend close to the birthday of wireless pioneer Guglielmo Marconi. The event is organized by the Cornish Amateur Radio Club, which will offer awards to stations in various categories. Details are on the [club's Web site](#). K6KPH uses the original transmitters, receivers and antennas of famous former RCA coast station KPH on the West Coast. The transmitters are located in Bolinas, California, at the transmitting station founded in 1913 by the American Marconi Company. The receivers and operators will be at the KPH receiving station about 20 miles north at Point Reyes, California. K6KPH operating frequencies will be 7050, 14,050 and 21,050 kHz. K6KPH also may use 3545 kHz if conditions warrant. K6KPH will begin operations on April 26 at 1700 UTC. Commercial practices and procedures will be used as much as possible to give amateurs the experience of working a real coast station. K6KPH QSLs and reception reports go to Denise Stoops, PO Box 381, Bolinas, CA 94924-0381. KPH and K6KPH are operated by the [Maritime Radio Historical Society](#) in cooperation with the Point Reyes National Seashore, part of the US National Park Service.

New England QSO Party set for first weekend of May: The 2003 running of the New England QSO Party (NEQP) is set for Saturday and Sunday, May 3-4. During the first running of this region-wide QSO party, all 67 counties in the six New England states were on the air and 260 operators--split evenly between New England and non-New England stations--turned in logs for the event. Complete rules are on the [NEQP](#) Web site along with expanded results and scores from the 2002 contest. Some changes this year: The 2003 event will use 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters only, dropping 160 meters as well as VHF/UHF bands. Two hours have been added on Saturday night and two hours have been deleted from Sunday morning. New England stations must copy the county and state of New England stations they work. Also, the limit of 20 DX countries for New England stations has been deleted. **NOTE:** A typographical error in May *QST* gives the wrong 10-meter SSB frequency. The correct frequency is 28.380.

Shuttle fleet could be back in service before year's end: NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe told a congressional panel this week that the nation's shuttle fleet could return to flight before the end of the year. The space agency head thinks the independent investigation board looking into the shuttle *Columbia* disaster is just weeks away from recommending hardware and procedural improvements necessary to make the remaining three space shuttles safe to fly. O'Keefe said NASA managers and engineers are pursuing solutions to failures the investigation board already has pinpointed. A Russian *Soyuz* vehicle will transport a new two-person crew--Yuri Malenchenko, RK3DUP, and Ed Lu, KC5WKJ, to the International Space Station later this month. The current all-ham crew will return via the *Soyuz* that's now attached to the ISS. NASA's shuttle fleet remains on the ground as the space agency continues the *Columbia* investigation. The February 1 tragedy claimed the lives of seven astronauts, three of them Amateur Radio licensees.--*AMSAT News Service; NASA*

All above *IN BRIEF* items downloaded from ARRL Web Site 4/16/2003 10:38 PM