

The OVH ARC Newsletter  
"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.  
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108  
Repeaters -- W4OVH -- 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+  
OVH Nodes -- 145.030 Port 2: 223.660 (SysOp Use Only) Port 3: 223.540 MHz  
BBS--BBSNVA/N4WJN (SYSOP--BILL)

<http://www.qsl.net/olevahams>

# OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

## AUGUST 2000

**Next meeting: 21 August 2000**

**Committee Chairperson's!!!! Need your input for  
the Newsletter!!!**

(Editor)

Message From One of the Directors

**Greetings to All OVH Members:**

Well it looks like we are coming upon the end of the summer. July was certainly a busy month for those folks involved with weather reporting. A lot of high wind and plenty of heavy rain to keep everyone busy. August has started off with some hot humid weather, and it looks like we have not seen the end of it. It also appears that the hams in the western states are keeping quite busy with all the fires.

Club activities have been somewhat quiet the past month. It appears that the next operating event that we will be involved in, is the Scout Jamboree On The Air. We are currently working on arrangements for the site. We hope that the Urbana Swim Club will allow us to use their facilities again this year. We will be looking for help to set-up and assist the Scouts when they begin operating.

I certainly hope everyone had an enjoyable summer, and we are encouraging everyone to make this month's meeting, Monday, 21 August. See You There!!

John Fritsch (N4YOB)

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

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Sundays - 8:00 PM

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The OVH Times is the official publication of the "Ole Virginia Hams" ARC, a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio. The OVH ARC meets at 8:00 PM every third Monday of the month at the NOVEC Tech Center in Gainesville. Prospective members are invited.

Local information can always be obtained, at any time, through the usage of the OVH repeaters (146.97- & 224.660- Mhz). All are welcome.

Permission is hereby granted for the reprinting of articles and quotations in this letter, provided full credit is given to the OVH ARC, and the author of the article. Contribution of printed articles by both members and non-members is encouraged. The deadline for submissions is the 5th of each month. Submissions should be forwarded to OVH TIMES EDITOR: Steve Meade KB4OF, PO Box 1418, Manassas, VA 20108-1418, or to sameade@erols.com

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

# Minutes of the OVH Meeting

17 June 2000

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM by **Art Wittum/KW4AW** acting as Chair.

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

The past month's minutes and current financial status were approved by the membership.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Hamfest: Jack McDermott/N4YIC** - Planning is under way for next year's Hamfest. Have to find a resolution to the issues of "unapproved" signs in the county and getting the county to come up with a procedure for "approving" signs like ours. We are planning to do VE tests again next year assuming that Keith is on board. We made money with the bake sale. Jeff wondered if was possible to offer a basic **Skywarn** class at next year's event.

**Membership: Jeff Poulin/KV4AP** - **Mac McMillian** of Lake Jackson (**call pending**) was voted in unanimously - welcome! **Worth Anderson/WB4ZIG**, **Michael Jacoby/N3MA**, and **Daniel James/AE4HS** were read in. Their applications will be voted on in August.

**License Classes: Bill Hinely/K4WRG** - Bill is setting up Technician classes to start in the first week of September in preparation for the **November VE tests**.

**Repeater: Art Wittum/KW4AW** - Everything up and running. Current interference being caused by pager sites. Art is planning to get ahold of the site manager and see what can be done to reduce it. 440 repeater is waiting on the alignment of the receiver. Output should be at 60 watts and is currently running 20-25 watts.

**ARES: Erv Whalen/KT4DS** - We are in the doldrums until September. Art and Erv helped out Manassas Park in cooperation with the Red Cross at the 4th of July celebrations. Perhaps next year, we will get more notice and be able to offer more support.

**Field Day: Butch Blasdell/W4HJL** - We did fairly well and the pavillion is reserved for next year. Thanks to all who came out.

**Program: Art Wittum/KW4AW** - Art presented everything you wanted to know about volt meters and were afraid to ask. For more detail, contact Art!

**John Fritsch/N4YOB** will chair the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.

## SUNSHINE CORNER

Happy Birthday to our fellow Hams: **Stuart/W4PR, Tom/KE4PCV, Jimmy/WA2QEJ, Roy/AC6JN, Bob/N4SCK, Jim/WD4OJY, Ronald/K4RM, Charles/WA8YCK**, and last but certainly not least, **Harry "The Voice of Manassas"/W4PVA**. Hope each of you has a great day!

Congratulations to **Jeff/KV4AP**, who was recently named **Net Manager** for the **Virginia Traffic Net**, which meets everyday at **1PM** on **3.907 MHz**. I know he'll do a great job!

73 de **Jan/KE4TMW**

### ARLX013 Lew "Mac" McCoy, W1ICP, SK

Amateur Radio legend and former ARRL Headquarters staff member Lew "Mac" McCoy, W1ICP, of Mesa, Arizona, died July 31 following a lengthy illness. He was 84.

As a member of the ARRL Headquarters staff from 1949 until 1978, McCoy gained a national and international reputation primarily for his articles in QST and his early work to combat TV interference. "He became a hero of all the Novices and beginners because his stuff was so down to earth and easy to read," said retired ARRL Communications Manager George Hart, W1NJM, a good friend.

ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, described McCoy as "one of a kind" and "versatile." Sumner said McCoy "left his mark on future generations of amateurs as QST's 'Beginner and Novice' editor." When FM repeaters came along, Sumner said, McCoy made it his mission to educate his ARRL colleagues about their potential.

An ARRL Life Member, McCoy was first licensed as W9FHZ and later became W0ICP. He arrived at ARRL Headquarters in 1949 to fill the job of assistant communications manager for phone. He went on to work in the Technical Department where he was able to take advantage of his ability to explain technical concepts in simple terms.

McCoy earned a reputation as a tireless traveler and goodwill ambassador for Amateur Radio. He first started hitting the road in the early 1950s after TVI had become troublesome for amateurs and soon became the League's TVI expert. McCoy toured the country demonstrating TVI cures for hams and TV service personnel alike.

ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, credited McCoy with providing the foundation for the ARRL's current RFI expertise in helping hams to deal with interference to consumer equipment and interference to hams from other sources. McCoy also was well-known for one of his projects, "The Ultimate Transmatch," an antenna tuner he described in a July 1970 QST article.

After leaving the ARRL Headquarters staff, McCoy continued as a QST contributing editor. He subsequently was a major contributor to other Amateur Radio publications, including CQ.

During his active years on the air, McCoy was an avid DXer with more than 300 countries confirmed. More recently, he was active in the Quarter Century Wireless Association, had

served as QCWA president and a board member and had just been elected again to the QCWA's Board of Directors, something his daughters never got to tell him before he died.

McCoy's first wife, Martha, died in 1998. Survivors include his wife, Clara Gibbs McCoy, and his daughters, Marsha Ashurst, W1HAQ, and Sharon Armann, ex-WN1GQR, as well as grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In accordance with McCoy's wishes, there will be no funeral. The family is planning a memorial service for McCoy in early December.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting memorial donations in Lew McCoy's name to Hospice of the Valley, 1510 E Flower St, Phoenix, AZ 85014-5656. Condolences may be sent to the family care of Marsha Ashurst, PO Box 2260, Lakeside, AZ 85929.

## **Stafford Amateur Radio Assn Hamfest**

Just to let you know that the world doesn't end with the FARfest and Virginia Beach. The guys down at Stafford are going to try one too. Here's the web page for info.

<http://www.n4nw.org/Hamfest.htm>

It'll be on Saturday, October 14th from 0800 - 1500. Admission is FREE. tailgate slots rent for \$ 5.00. As far as I know, this is their first try. For those of you wondering how far it is, I can make it to Garrisonville Road from my house in 30 minutes.

**73, Augie/KW4AW**

## **DETERMINING COMPASS BEARINGS**

How do YOU figure out which way to point an antenna? Well, since we are at 38 degrees Latitude, the sun will always be to the south of us, so you could set up a sun dial, and, when the sun hits "local apparent noon", see which way is due South (hint: the shadow will point North). Then go from there (90 degrees one way is East, 90 degrees the other is West, etc.). There is a North arrow on the "plat" showing your house and lot. That can be used as a reference. You say that your Garmin hand held has it all - yes, a GPS receiver with LCD readout probably has a compass rose, and that can be used. Then we have the venerable magnetic compass. Just hold it level and see where the needle spins ..... almost. Correct the reading for deviation and variation, THEN you have the bearing. Here's the scoop.

### **Magnetic Compass Information**

Compass error = variation plus deviation.

Variation arises because the magnetic north pole and the true or geographic north pole are not the same.

Deviation is caused by metal objects located around the compass (e.g., knives in pockets, metal pens in pockets, etc.)

Variation changes from year to year and from place to place.

The process of adjusting for both deviation and variation is called "correcting the compass."

The process of finding a magnetic bearing from a true bearing is called "uncorrecting the compass."

TO FIND THE **MAGNETIC** BEARING IN A CHARTED AREA:

IF VARIATION IS WEST, ADD IT TO THE TRUE BEARING TO FIND THE COMPASS BEARING.

IF THE VARIATION IS EAST, SUBTRACT IT FROM THE TRUE BEARING TO FIND COMPASS BEARING.

TO FIND **TRUE** BEARING IN A CHARTED AREA:

IF VARIATION IS WEST, SUBTRACT IT FROM THE COMPASS BEARING TO FIND THE TRUE BEARING.

IF VARIATION IS EAST, ADD IT TO THE COMPASS BEARING TO FIND THE TRUE BEARING.

