

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

## SEPTEMBER 2000

**Next meeting: 18 September, 2000**

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

(Editor)

Message From One of the Directors

### **Greetings to All OVH Members:**

The summer has come and gone. Fall is almost here and the year will be gone before we know it.

Well done, to Art, for getting the 440 Repeater up and running. I know he has spent many hours on this endeavor. A special thanks to George, KE2AM, for his engineering support on this 440 project.

This month's meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup>, will include voting on new members, gathering support for J.O.T.A., the Boys Scouts annual Jamboree on the Air, (which will take place in October) and a grab bag of parts and pieces of electronic equipment available for "adoption." Some club members are still working on building QRP equipment just for fun.

Come to the meeting and get together with other hams in the area and find out what Ole Virginia Hams has on the "burner" for the next few months of the year.

Butch Blasdell W4HJL

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

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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](mailto:sameade@erols.com)

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

# Minutes of the OVH Meeting

21 August 2000

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 PM by John Fritch (N4YOB) acting as Chair.

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

**Attendance:** 21 Members and 2 guests

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

## **Committee Reports:**

**Hamfest:** Bakesales monies are outstanding.

**Repeater:** Art Whittem (KW4AW)

440 is still not on-line, but the gear works off line. No progress has been made on a new power supply/modem/battery on the 2m repeater yet.

**Packet:** Bill South (N4WJN)

Bill requested the club cover repairs on the radio, belonging to him, that is used as a primary packet node upto the budgeted limit. Funding was approved. Bill mentioned that the costs for getting into packet are coming down rapidly and demonstrated "the world's smallest" packet radio station - a Kenwood HT with a built in TNC and an HP handheld CPU. Joe (N6GDX) mentioned that he was trying something similar with a 3Com Palm.

**ARES:** Erv Whalen (KT4DS)

Prince William County Bike Tour is the 30th of September and all support is requested. Brian (KE4NFK) is heading up the recruiting. There are 3 routes - 8 mile walk and a 13 and 20 mile ride. Setup is scheduled to start around 7:30 am, and is scheduled to start at 8:00 am

License Classes: Bill Hinely (K4WRG)

There were some discussions about whether there was interest or desire to hold a class during the fall. There is a desire and we will be holding a class to start around October 1st.

**JOTA:** John Fritch (N4YOB)

Scheduled for the 21st and 22nd of October. We did four radios last year and expect to have that this year.

**Membership:** Jeff Poulin (KV4AP) - James Daniel, Worth Anderson, Michael Jacoby were voted in! Welcome! David Worthington (WW4MM) and Susan Poulin (KG4JBD) was read in and will be voted on at the next meeting.

## **New Business**

Art (KW4AW): N4BXA has some NICAD battery packs available. Also Art brought in a WWII era manual of Z signals. Just to let us know that there are more to Q signals than what we thought we knew. There were some pieces missing in last months kit, and he has them.

Bill (N4WJN): Bill brought up the issue of new OVH shirts. We need a logo, and whether to put it on the front, back, embroidered or silkscreened. Comments and suggestions to Bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM. Don "Butch" Blasdell will chair the next meeting.

## **PARKS ARE WAITING FOR OUR RADIOS**

How many times have we all driven our vehicles passed a pretty site in a park, and wondered what it would be like to be operating an HF station from that exact spot? Some of you may think that it would take too much time to set up a station, that it would be just too much of a bother. Others may think that the HF equipment is just too expensive to obtain. Not so!

On Friday morning of the 4th of July weekend, I took my QRP station (Norcal40, Emtech tuner, Norcal QRP dipole, MFJ paddles and battery; all of which fit into my undersized motorcycle bag) with me to Gettysburg National Park, and set up an operating station on Little Round Top. It took only 10 minutes to set up the station on a stone wall about 60 feet from the famous 20th of Maine's monument. During the next hour, I made four CW contacts reaching operators in PA, MI and MD with only 3 ½ watts. I think the most interesting was the groundwave QSO with W3MNE, who was 35 miles to the southeast of me. I had fun time expressing to the other operators that I was located at that exact location where Joshua Chamberlain made his well known bayonet charge to save the Union on the 2nd day of the 3 day battle. (Guess I should have picked up a few Civil War postcards to be used as QSLs.) After I finished transmitting, it took only 8 minutes to place everything back into my bag, and off I went to ride around the remainder of the battlefield.

Another pretty site that has seen my QRP station was Old Towne Manassas. I think we have all driven passed the single red caboos train car located in the park at the center of the town, but how many of you have ever stopped there? On a late Sunday morning, both Ruth KU4WH and I met to set up a dipole between a tree and a sign in that very park, running the feed line into the gazebo that's located across from the caboos. (For photos of the caboos and gazebo, see: <http://www.casa-pw.org/pictures.htm>. The two of us then proceeded to make several CW contacts via our 40M and 20MQRP rigs, while sitting in the gazebo located along Old Towne's main drag Center Street. I think it only took 10 minutes to set up, and another 10 minutes to pack everything up after we were all through. While QRP operators seem to constantly harp on the low power aspect of their QRP rigs, I think the real benefit is that these stations are easily carried, quick to set up, inexpensive, and thus great to set up for short term use where you would not otherwise drag your Dxing/Contesting station to. The antennas and feed line may be very flexible insulated wire, whose ends may easily be tossed into a tree for elevation. No stiff/bare copper wire (for the dipole), no coaxial cable (for the feed line), and no slingshot (for the tossing) is desirable, let alone necessary. My rig, tuner and battery are individually very small, as no single element is larger than the size of two fists adjacent to one another. The cost of my equipment was minimal (\$120 rig, \$50 tuner, \$1 antenna, free battery), and I've seen less expensive rigs out there than mine.

Any one of you can be doing the same thing if you like, even if it's in the local park down the street. The propagation is good, the outdoors is wonderful, and the temperature is perfect for operating the straight-key/paddles. Of course, if you don't have HF privileges, it only takes 3-6 weeks (of 20 minutes a day) for most students to successfully pass the 5 wpm CW test. (Incidentally, I know someone who will sell her MFJ Morse Code Tutor for \$50.) Then, you may as well take a couple more multiple choice tests to obtain an Extra Class license. Any club member who has any questions regarding the general nature of this hit and run HF operating style may call me anytime. For technical questions though, you may want to consult your ARRL handbook, or one of our more technically oriented club members (like Frank AA4SZ or Tom N4BV). I'm not too sure about my next site of operation, but you can be pretty sure that it will have come and gone before you have read this small item.

Regards, Bob KT4KS/QRPer

## **SUNSHINE CORNER**

Happy Birthday to our Ham friends born in September: Mary Lu, KB4EFP and Gus, N4MLE.

Welcome to our new members, Andy WB4ZIG, Dan AE4HS and Mike N3MA! We hope you enjoy our club, as we do.

Welcome too, to Susan KG4JBD, who hasn't been voted in yet, but will be at our September meeting, I'm sure! Nice to have another YL in the group.

Be watchful as the kids go back to school and enjoy the end of summer and the beginning of fall. Be sure to fit in some Ham activities!

73 de Jan KE4TMW

## **NOTE FROM W4PVA**

I wish to thank those that have helped me with chores I am at risk in attempting. Especially in light of an article in the July issue of QST (copied below). Thanks also to those that could not but wanted to give a hand.

73 and good dx  
Harry, W4PVA

## **PRIDE BEFORE A FALL**

My 2-meter FM buddies and I just lost a good friend. He was an older, widowed engineer who enjoyed ham radio very much. It was his main contact with the world outside his home. Despite his disabilities, he lived alone and was proud of being able to care for himself. Perhaps that pride was his undoing. Despite many offers of assistance, this ham wanted to install new antennas alone. Last March he slipped and fell off the roof to his death. He was found by a shaken neighbor, who informed us along with the police. We all love our radio hobby, but it's not worth dying for. If you have any doubts about your ability to climb on your roof or tower, please ask for assistance from your fellow amateurs. And all of you able-bodied operators: offer to assist seniors and the handicapped. They'll benefit from the association and so will you.

Thomas A. Stough, W0UFC, Thousand Oak, California