

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.w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

SEPTEMBER 2003

Next meeting: September 15, 2003

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

(Editor)

Greetings to all OVH'ers,

This month's **club meeting** will be held on **Monday, September 15th** at the **NOVEC Technical Center**. The **meeting's main focus** will be on **the future** of the **Manassas Hamfest**. I am sure many of you have seen the email activity over the past few days concerning **falling attendance** at many of the local hamfests, which has been **occurring** over the **past couple of years**. Please **bring** your **ideas** on how to keep **our hamfest healthy** for many years to come. All aspects of the hamfest will be put forth for a meaningful and thorough discussion. We will also be **establishing** a **hamfest committee** so the planning work can begin as soon as possible **for the 2004 fest**.

Also **Karl/W4RK**, will be giving a **presentation** called: "**A Vacation Station**" on how to **put together** an **all band station** that can be taken **anywhere** by car, plane or train. As someone who likes to do HF in a portable mode I know I will learn something new about how to **make those trips more enjoyable** and I hope you will too.

Finally I would like to let everyone know that **OVH** is now **hosting its own web site** and would like to express my appreciation on behalf of the club to **Bill/N4WJN**, for making this project a reality. In case you don't know our new URL is <http://www.w4ovh.net>.

Hope everyone is **enjoying** the **cooler weather** and I am **looking forward to seeing all of you** on **Monday the 15th**.

73 for now,

Ruth/KU4WH

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

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 Vice Pres: John Heartney KG4NXT 257-3566
 Secretary: Phil Colling AC4PL 393-8658
 Treasurer: Bill South N4WJN 590-9562

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 Art Whittum KW4AW 791-4330
 Jack McDermott N4YIC 335-9139

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 Art W1CRO 791-4330

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PUBLICITY

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 Mike WV3H 753-9346
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Jack N4YIC 335-9139

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 Karl W4KRL 802-1527

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

Minutes of the Ole' Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting – August 18, 2003

The meeting was called to order by President **Ruth Frock/KU4WH** at 2000 Eastern time. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and callsigns. There were **17 members** and **four guests** present.

MINUTES: The minutes of the **July 2003 OVH meeting** were **approved** with **minor corrections**.

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

ARES: **David/KG4GIY** - We need about **120 people** for the **Marine Corps Marathon**. It's on **October 26** and details are on the **ARES website**. There is a **March of Dimes motorcycle ride**, with details also on the **ARES website**. **October 4** is the **simulated emergency test**. Several counties are **participating**. This may become a **statewide event**. It will also take place throughout **DC, VA and MD**. Everyone is **encouraged to participate**. **October 12** is the **diabetes walk**. We have not yet been contacted, but please put that date aside. **Volunteers are needed** for the **50-mile MS walk** on **September 5 - 7**. **FARFest** is on **Sept 6 and 7** and **David** will be **making a presentation**. The **next Institute** will either be on **September 8 or 15**. **September 10** is the **ARES Set Briefing**.

REPEATERS: **Butch/W4HJL** - We still have some **interference problems** that are **being worked out**. We're going to **make some hardware changes**. The **new batteries** are all **up and running**.

EDUCATION: **Bill/K9ZD** - We have a flier for the **new class**. The class **starts on October 8** and goes for **ten weeks**. We hope to have a **VE session following the class**. **Thank you Bill** for your efforts with **amateur radio education**.

MEMBERSHIP: **Charllote/KG4QXO** - **Four members** were **voted in:** **David Meola/KI4AZX**, **Larry Sned/KI4AFQ**, **Barry Barton/WA4HR** and **Gerald Robison/WW5W**. All were **voted in unanimously**.

WEEKLY NETS: **Ruth/KU4WH** - **Ruth thanked all** who have **volunteered** to be **rotating weekly net operators**. Please forward requests to **Ruth**.

PACKET/HOMEPAGE: **Bill/N4WJN** - Nothing new on the packet side. **We are moving the web page onto a new server**.

JOTA: **Ruth/KU4WH** – **JOTA will take place on October 18 and 19**.

... Break ...

Mark/KG4JAM gave a very interesting **presentation on APRS**. **Thank you Mark** for your very interesting presentation.

50/50: **Phil/AC4PL** won the 50/50 drawing. A total of **\$20** was **collected**, **\$10** of which went to the **Club**.

The meeting **adjourned** at **2130** Eastern time.

Submitted by **Phil/AC4PL**

SUNSHINE CORNER

Congratulations to **John/KG4NXT** and **Theresa/KG4TVM**, who legally became **Man** and **XYL** on August 6, 2003. They **honeymooned** at **Yellowstone** and the airport **baggage searchers** thought John's **30-meter dipole** was a **terrorist device!**

Late-appearing sunshine -- **Happy Birthday** to **Matt/KG4UNL**, whose birthday was missed in **August**. Hope your day was great!

Welcome to these **new members** voted into the club -- **David/KI4AZX**, **Gerald/WW5W**, **Barry/WA4HR** and **Larry/KI4AFQ**.

Happy Birthday to our friends born in **September**: -- **Mary Lu/KB4EFP**, **Al/KB4BHB**, **Robert Kelly IV**, **Gerald/WW5W**, and **Gus/N4MLE**. Hope each of you has a great day!

Talk up the **new Ham class** starting **Wednesday evenings, October 8!** Speak with **Bill/K9ZD** for more information.

73 de Jan/KE4TMW

ARRL Contest Calendar

Date(s)	Contest	Links
September 13 - 15	ARRL September VHF QSO Party	Rules
	20 - 21 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	Rules
October 18 - 19	ARRL International EME Competition	Rules
November	1 - 3 ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW)	
	15 - 16 ARRL International EME Competition	Rules
	15 - 17 ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone)	
December	5 - 7 ARRL 160 Meter Contest	
	13 - 14 ARRL 10 Meter Contest	

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Upcoming Hamfests

Dates	Type	Event and Contact	Location
20-21 Sep 2003	*	Virginia State Convention Tidewater Radio Conventions http://www.vahamfest.com Contact: Mr. Lynn Lilla, W9DJQ 848 Stacey Place Virginia Beach, VA 23464 Phone: 757-479-1597 Email: lynn.lilla@cox.net	Virginia Beach, VA Div: Roanoke Sect: Virginia

Type Key:

- * = ARRL Convention
- ** = ARRL Convention pending Executive Committee approval
- + = ARRL Hamfest
- x = non-ARRL Hamfest

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Upcoming Virginia Exam Sessions

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14-Sep-2003

Sponsor: BEDFORD ARC
Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: JUDY S FRIEL
(434)525-6142
Email: BEEWOOD@JUNO.COM
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: BEDFORD CENTRAL LIBRARY
321 N BRIDGE ST
MEETING ROOM
BEDFORD, VA 24523

14-Sep-2003

Sponsor: WARS & NSDXA
Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: ALAN R MOECK
(540)869-1117
Email: WA2RPX@ARRL.NET
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: LORD FAIRFAX COMM COLLEGE
US ROUTE 11
PRE-REGISTRATION URGED
MIDDLETOWN, VA 22645

20-Sep-2003

Sponsor: UNSPONSORED
Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: CHARLES F CHRISTIAN
(276)565-1548
Email: AF4MUCFC@BELLATLANTIC.NET
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: PENNINGTON RESCUE SQUAD BLDG
200 N KENTUCKY ST
PENNINGTON GAP, VA 24277

21-Sep-2003

Sponsor: ROANOKE VE TEAM
Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: RAYMOND W CRAMPTON
(540)992-2844
Email: RCRAM@RBNET.COM
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: AMERICAN RED CROSS
352 CHURCH AVE SW
ROANOKE, VA 24016

21-Sep-2003

Sponsor: AB4M
Time: 1:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: CHARLES L BEARD
(434)832-7651
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: CENTRAL VIRGINIA COMM COLLEGE
ROOM 2504 - AMHERST BLDG
3506 WARDS RD
LYNCHBURG, VA 24502

21-Sep-2003

Sponsor: VIRGINIA BEACH ARC
Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: JOHN F ERRINGTON
(757)430-3948
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: VIRGINIA WESLEYAN COLLEGE
VA BEACH HAMFEST LOCATION
1584 WESLEYAN DR
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUESTED
NORFOLK, VA 23502

Upcoming Maryland Exam Sessions

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20-Sep-2003

Sponsor: LAUREL ARC VEC
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: JOHN B CREEL
(301)572-5124
VEC: [Laurel VEC](http://LaurelVEC)
Location:
384 MAIN ST
LAUREL WOMEN'S CLUB
PRE-REGISTRATION PREFERRED
LAUREL, MD 20707

27-Sep-2003

Sponsor: AERO ARC
Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: PATRICIA E STONE
(410)687-7209
Email: AC3FAC3P@YAHOO.COM
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: WHITE MARSH PUBLIC LIBRARY
8133 SANDPIPER CIR
PRE-REGISTRATION PREFERRED
WHITE MARSH, MD 21162

Astronaut John Grunsfeld, KC5ZTF, New Chief Scientist at NASA



(Sep 4, 2003) -- NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe has picked veteran astronaut, astronomer, and astrophysicist John M. Grunsfeld, KC5ZTF, as the agency's new chief scientist at NASA Headquarters in Washington. He succeeds astronaut Shannon Lucid. Grunsfeld played an integral role in two space shuttle servicing missions to the Hubble Space Telescope. As chief scientist, he'll work to ensure the scientific merit of the agency's programs. "John has a deep interest in astronomical science and has the hands-on experience to back up what he has taught in the classroom," said O'Keefe. "With his background in physics and astronomy, John is a natural selection to direct NASA's important space-based science objectives." An astronaut since 1992, Grunsfeld is a veteran of four shuttle flights. He holds master's and doctoral degrees in physics from the University of Chicago. Grunsfeld was selected as a NASA astronaut in 1992. Lucid--a recipient of

the Congressional Space Medal of Honor--served two years in the job. She will return to the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston to assist the agency's return-to-flight efforts. One of Lucid's most important tasks was to work with the offices of Biological and Physical Research, Earth Science, Space Science, and Space Flight to develop a comprehensive plan for prioritization of research onboard the International Space Station.--NASA

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BPL Advocates' Comments Lack Technical Substance, ARRL Reply Comments Say



(Aug 21, 2003) -- The ARRL says Broadband over Power Line (BPL) proponents failed in their comments to the FCC to substantiate their claims that the technology will not cause widespread interference. In reply comments filed August 20--the FCC's deadline to receive comments in the proceeding, ET Docket 03-104--the League said that if the FCC is going to rely on industry statements in making decisions on BPL deployment, the industry should back up its assertions with technical studies and hard data and make these public.

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FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System Back In Business



(Sep 8, 2003) -- The FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System ([ECFS](#)) once again is operational after being down for much of the September 6-7 weekend and over the two weekends prior to that. An ECFS staffer said a major software upgrade finally was completed this past weekend after problems cropped up during two earlier weekend efforts to make the swap. The staff member said the software upgrade should make the system work faster. "Our database of filings is so incredibly large it's hard to move all the old system to the new system," the staff member said. ECFS typically undertakes upgrades and maintenance over weekends, because the system tends to be most active during weekday business hours. On the other hand, the staffer acknowledged, individual Amateur Radio operators are more likely to use the system to file their comments or conduct searches on evenings and weekends. "We get a lot of comments from Amateur Radio operators," he said. Those trying to comment on amateur-related proceedings during one of the shutdowns would have encountered a generic "System Error" message, which advises that the ECFS "was unable to process your comment." Users who get this error message should try again later. Current issues attracting attention from the amateur community include seven Morse code-related petitions for rulemaking and the Broadband over Power Line (BPL) *Notice of Inquiry* (ET Docket 03-104), which has attracted nearly 4600 postings. The BPL proceeding continues to gather comments even though the last filing deadline was August 20. Comments on the first crop of Morse-code related petitions--RM-10781 through RM-10787--are due by September 29. The FCC invites anyone who experiences persistent ECFS problems to contact the [ECFS Help Desk](#) or call 202-418-0193 during business hours (weekdays, 8 AM until 5 PM Eastern Time).

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Texas, Colorado Students Learn Astronaut's View on Life in Space



(Sep 5, 2003) -- Lack of gravity, the safety of space travel, solar flares, future human space flight endeavors and the relationship between wrestling and astronauts were among topics Texas and Colorado youngsters recently explored via ham radio with astronaut Ed Lu, KC5WKJ. Lu was at the controls of NA1SS aboard the International Space Station for an August 28 chat with students at Incarnate Word Academy in Houston, Texas, and a September 3 QSO with elementary, middle and high schoolers in Boulder Colorado--most of them from Boulder High School where Lu once was a coach.

Both contacts were arranged via the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program.

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ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Course Registration



(Sep 4, 2003) -- Registration for the ARRL Antenna Modeling (EC-004) course opens Monday, September 8, 12:01 AM Eastern Daylight Time (0401 UTC). Registration will remain open through Sunday, September 14. Class begins Tuesday afternoon, September 16. Those interested in taking an ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) course in the future can sign up to be advised via e-mail in advance of registration opportunities. To take advantage, send an e-mail to prereg@arrl.org.

On the subject line, indicate the course name or number (eg, EC-00#) and the month you want to start the course. In the message body, provide your name, call sign, and e-mail address. Please do not send inquiries to this mailbox. To learn more, visit the [ARRL Certification and Continuing Education](#) Web page and the C-CE links found there. For more information, contact Certification and Continuing Education Program Coordinator [Howard Robins, W1HSR](#).

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ARRL Emergency Communications Course registration



(Sep 5, 2003) -- Registration opens Monday, September 8, 12:01 AM Eastern Daylight Time (0401 UTC), for the Level II Emergency Communications on-line course (EC-002). Registration remains open through the September 13-14 weekend or until all seats are filled--whichever occurs first. Class begins Tuesday, September 23. Thanks to United Technologies Corporation, the \$45 registration fee paid upon enrollment will be reimbursed after successful completion of the Level II course. During this registration period, approximately 75 seats are being offered to ARRL members on a first-come, first-served basis. Those interested in taking an ARRL Certification and Continuing

Education (C-CE) course in the future can sign up to be advised via e-mail in advance of registration opportunities. To take advantage, send an e-mail to prereg@arrl.org. On the subject line, indicate the course name or number (eg, EC-00#) and the month you want to start the course. In the message body, provide your name, call sign, and e-mail address. Please do not send inquiries to this mailbox. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education ([C-CE](#)) Web page and the C-CE Links found there. For more information, contact Emergency Communications Course Manager [Dan Miller, K3UFG](#), 860-594-0340.

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ARRL Gets Second-Year Grant for Emergency Communications Training



(Sep 4, 2003) -- The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has renewed funding to subsidize the cost of ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level I training for another year. The grant of nearly \$180,000 covers the second year of a three-year award. The goal of the second-year grant--which runs September 1, 2003, through August 31, 2004--is to provide basic training

for about 1700 more Amateur Radio emergency communicators.

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