

The OVH ARC Newsletter
OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108
OVH FM Repeaters - 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+ & 443.500+
OVH D-STAR Repeaters - W4OVH - 146.865- & 442.5125+ (now temporarily out of service)

Web Site at <http://w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

September 2016

Next Meeting: Monday, September 19, 2016

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings one and all! I hope this message finds you well, and hopefully able to begin cooling down from the summer heat! Now is a good time to do a little antenna maintenance before the autumn chill.

A couple quick "thank you's" and "welcome" are in order. Ray Knight (KM4EKR) has graciously accepted the position of OVH Vice President; and Kristen Saul (NoCall) has accepted the position of Scholarship Chairman. Let's give both all our support for success.

As most everyone knows, we have had a bit of "repeater flu" with our .970 machine (and maybe the 442.200 as well as I write this??). Thanks to George, Butch, Byron, Bob, Al, Gil (K4GVT, W4HJL, AK4XR, K4HJF, KB4BHB, and KM4OZH respectively), for the continued work at the repeater shack and on the 2m repeater and repeater controllers, getting us ever closer to a top-notch system. That said, there's been a lot of traffic on the OVH private email reflector regarding replacement (vs. "band-aid" fixes) to the current systems. As some options may require a capital investment for the club, expect this to be discussed in depth at the next club meeting and decisions made timely. Either approach will also require replacing the back-up batteries as they're getting old and tired.

The Prince William Half-Marathon effort is going well, and I want to extend a big 'thank you' to the volunteers. At this time, we have 19 volunteers and should be able to make a good showing for an event hosting over 2,000 runners expected. As many know, a lot of effort has been put forth to see that we can communicate (isn't that what we do?) with each other over the entire course. Radio discipline is going to be essential. By the time this newsletter gets published, a communication plan should be in the hands of each volunteer (and thus why this column is a little shorter).



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Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President:	Wayne Phillips	N7QLK	393-8447
Vice Pres:	Ray Knight	KM4EKR	930-8222
Secretary:	Byron Dillon	AK4XR	222-2095
Treasurer:	Terry Erlacher	KC4DV	571-292-1490

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdell	W4HJL	369-2877
Arthur Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330
Charlie Dale	WA4YGI	361-3091
Bob Zaepfel	K4HJF	282-2451

WEEKLY FM REPEATER NET COORDINATOR

Thurs - 8:00 PM Local Time	JOHN / KG4NXT	257-3566
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HAMFEST 2017 - Chairman

Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
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FIELD DAY 2016 - Co-Chairs

Ken	KD4VA	753-7863
Byron	AK4XR	222-2095

CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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EDUCATION

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
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CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Open

ARES - EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	703-628-3868
	email:	KG4GIY@ARRL.NET
Prince William County ARES website		http://pwcares.org

FINANCE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490

GENERATORS

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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WEBMASTER — W4OVH.NET

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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BROADBAND HAMNET (BBHN)

Terryl	WA5NTI	445-2801
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EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
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JOTA - 2016

Open

LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	WA3FMO	361-4885
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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NEWSLINE FOR THE WEEKLY NET

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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PROGRAMS FOR MEETINGS

Jeff	WB6UIE	791-5916
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QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
Russ	WB4HHN	368-6435

W4OVH — TRUSTEE

Stu	W4PR	335-5267
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W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Bill	N4SV	590.9562
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
David	KG4GIY	628-3868

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The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Monday which is held in the Main Conference Room in the Manassas Public Works Building, 8500 Pubic Works Drive, Manassas, Virginia. Members, prospective members and other interested persons are invited to attend without obligation. Local information can also be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.970-, 224.660-, 442.200+ and 443.500+ MHz. The OVH's two D-Star repeaters on 146.865- and 442.5125+ MHz are temporarily off the air due to maintenance work beyond the OVH's control. Up to date information about OVH activities and its meetings is also available during the OVH's nets on its FM Repeater each Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. or on 80 meters (3710 KHz) LSB each Sunday night at 7:00 p.m. (8:00 pm in Summer) or through the OVH's web site at <http://w4ovh.net>

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Last Rev: 20160914

Mark (WA4KFZ) hosted another “Now What?” session with a very good attendance. Many questions were addressed covering subjects ranging from simplex to repeater operations, programming of hand-helds to wave theory. I even walked away having picked up a few pointers that I was fuzzy on, or just don’t recall having learned. Great job Mark!

I’ve taken some spare moments late at night, and when I could “be absent from the family”, working on a small antenna project. Even though it has been over the course of a couple months, in actuality, it’s really only taken a weekend’s worth of time. I’ve enjoyed the project, and I’ll show it after I’ve tested it. It has caused me to think about the likelihood of others in the club wanting to try their hand at scratch-building antennas. Let me know if you would like to compile “scraps” and have a gaggle session of building one weekend. Might even be a good “side show” during JOTA.

Please remember that the upcoming meeting is expected to be the last club meeting which our very well liked, energetic and active OVH member, Ron / N4RDZ, will be able to attend before he moves back to the Great Northwest (Seattle, WA area) at the end of this month.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the September 19th meeting, 7:30 pm at the Manassas Public Works, 8500 Public Works Drive, Manassas, Virginia.

Keep the thoughts / ideas coming to me at: N7QLK@ARRL.net.

73 Wayne N7QLK

Sunshine Corner:

Happy birthday wishes in September to Gus / N4MLE, Al / KB4BHB, Tim / KM4CCI, Maury / W4HYB, Ron / N4RDZ, Gary / WG4ARC, Mark / WA4KFZ, Steve / WB0AOD, Jim / W4HJH, Windora / KK4UYY and Floyd / K4ROG.

Thanks to our busy fellow hams for going up to the repeater site at Mount Pone and getting various work items there completed. Pictures follow later in the Newsletter.

End of summer and the club is still involved in many activities. Stay tuned to the reflector and the Thursday night net for updates!

The first ever Prince William County Half Marathon is being held on Sunday, September 25th. Wayne / N7QLK is leading the effort, we have many club members that will be providing radio communication on the date of the event. Happy to see quite a few of our newer members signed up to help. More on this at the September meeting!

Ron / N4RZ will be moving back to Seattle at the end of this month, but he expects to be at the upcoming meeting and to participate in the Half Marathon. Be sure to attend one or the other (or both) to give him your best wishes!

Please email me with your news! kg4tvm@hotmail.com

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting August 15, 2016:

OVH Club President, Wayne / N7QLK, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on August 15, 2016 at the main conference room at the Manassas City Public Works Building in Manassas, Virginia.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 29 OVH members and 4 guests present.

BUSINESS MEETING

Ballots were passed out for election of a Vice-President to fill the rest of the term of Clarence / K4CNM (SK). After the ballots were counted (see below), Ray / KM4EKR was elected.

Minutes from the July meeting were sent out in the August Newsletter. Motion to accept July's minutes after correction of Luther's call sign to his new one, WA3FMO, by Al / KB4BHB, Ray / KM4EKR seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's report – Terry / KC4DV gave the report. Motion by John / KG4NXT to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Mark / WA4KFZ, seconded the motion. Motion passed by vote of all members in attendance.

Presentation - By Terry / WA5NTI, on the PWC BBHN (Prince William County Broadband Ham Net). He presented a plan to the members to establish a backbone from one side of the county to the other. Terry then presented a motion which was amended. "The BBHN Committee moves the Club establish a bank account/fund to raise and collect monies to pay for the implementation, operation and maintenance of the Prince William County Broad Band Ham Network (PWC BBHN), such monies to be dispensed in accordance with expenditures approved by the club in accordance with PWC BBHN system needs presented by the PWC BBHN Committee." Sandy / KM4JUS seconded the motion. The motion as amended was voted on by those members in attendance and passed.

Membership – There were no new member application this month. Currently, there are 104 active (i.e., paid up) members. The lists of the currently active members can be view on the private Google Sheets spreadsheet, the address for which is available on Members' Only page on the W4OVH.NET web site.

Repeaters --There was work done on the 146.970 machine, a temporary fix is in place for now, and work is continuing on the Mount Pone water tower location. .

Training - Mark / WA4KFZ will be holding a "What Next Class?" for all the new licensees and those interested on September 12, 2016, in the conference room at the Manassas Public Works building where we hold our regular OVH meetings. Mark also expects to be starting a new Technician class in October.

Scholarship - Kristian Saul (No Callsign), not present is considering becoming our next Scholarship chairperson. Wayne / N7QLK will speak with her and report back.

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Hamfest – Terry / KC4DV-found an error in his spreadsheet previously presented for the 2016 Hamfest results; when that error is corrected, it looks now as though the 2016 Hamfest did not make as much as previously reported. The net was down approximately \$489.00 from what the OVH made on the 2015 Hamfest. More details on that next month.

Field Day: nothing to report.

Web Sites - Paul / W4ZB reported they are working. Individuals who notice errors or have specific ideas or requests for corrections or additions, please send those to Paul via email.

JOTA - Coming up in October.

Sunshine Corner – Theresa / KG4TVM wished all those with birthdays in August a Happy Birthday. She reported that Jay / KM4JOJ recently upgraded to an Extra Class license. She also passed out cupcakes.

Election results - Ray / KM4EKR was elected as the OVH's new Vice-President for the balance of the current year.

4-H – Terry / WA5NTI, reported not much happening with 4-H right now.

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) - It was announced that the City of Manassas Park's CERT organization would be holding a class beginning September 14, 2016 at the Manassas Park Firehouse. To register contact Greg Gresham at manassasparkcert@gmail.com.

Also, the City of Manassas CERT organization will be holding its Fall CERT class beginning September 19, 2016. This will be a training opportunity to learn how to help yourself, family, and community in the event a disaster comes to our area. The full course will be an 11-week free training class to learn skills necessary to respond to a disaster. The course is one evening per week, taught mostly by professional emergency responders. For more information, please see the City of Manassas' CERT web page at <http://www.manassascity.org/953/CERT>, or contact David Bruce / KD4DEE at kd4dee@arrl.net

50-50 - \$22.00 was raised so the winner would receive \$11.00. Sandy / KM4JUS won the drawing and donated the funds she won back to the club..

Motion to adjourn by Butch W4HJL, seconded by Theresa KG4TVM, the motion passed.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

SPECIAL HAM RADIO EVENTS:

September 16-18, 2016 - The 35th Annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference, St Petersburg, Florida. This is a technically oriented meeting which addresses all aspects of digital communications. More info at <https://www.tapr.org/dcc.html>

Sunday, September 18, 2016 - Tri-It-Now (aka MiniTri) event at the George Mason University campus in Manassas. The OVH will be providing communications support again.

Saturday, September 25, 2016. The OVH will be providing communications

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support (similar to that for the MiniTri's - UHF/VHF handhelds - but spread out over a larger area) for the Prince William County Half Marathon event. Contact Wayne / N7QLK who is organizing the OVH volunteers. More info about the event itself and its other sponsors at <http://www.princewilliamhalf.com>

AMRAD meets monthly in McLean, Virginia - meetings usually consist of high level amateur radio related technical presentations on specific topics. Check the <http://amrad.org> web site for upcoming topics, and exact dates, times and places which have been changing around recently.

HAM RADIO OPERATING CONTEST EVENTS:

The ARRL has a Contest web page at its web site, but a much more comprehensive, up-to-date, and long range planning contesting calendar with links to the rules for the various events is maintained by WA7BNM at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal> If you get the radio contesting bug or just want to find out what and how much is going on, that is a good place to look!

PUBLIC SERVICE / TRAINING / ARES EVENTS

The City of Manassas Park's CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) organization will be holding classes beginning in the evening on September 14, 2016 at the Manassas Park Firehouse and continuing for a number of weeks. To register contact Greg Gresham at manassasparkcert@gmail.com.

September 18th: Mini-Tri (a big one) on and around the George Mason University, Manassas campus, Contact David / KG4GIY at kg4giy1@verizon.net soon if you are planning to participate. This is a good opportunity to exercise the HT.

The City of Manassas' CERT organization will be holding its Fall CERT classes beginning in the evening on September 19, 2016 and extending for eleven weeks. The full course will teach you skills needed to respond to a disaster and will be taught mostly by professional emergency responders. For more information, contact David Bruce / KD4DEE at kd4dee@arrl.net or go to the City of Manassas' CERT web site at <http://www.manassascity.org/953/CERT> .

PWCARES will hold a training on Saturday, September 17, 2016 at 0900 at the EOC, which will be focused on preparing for the SET on October 1, 2016.

Always check the online Calendar by David / KG4GIY at <http://www.pwcares.org> for the latest updates. David maintains a comprehensive calendar for upcoming events at that web site.

Complete direct contact information for David appears on page 2 of this Newsletter.

SOME POSSIBLY USEFUL OR INTERESTING INFORMATION

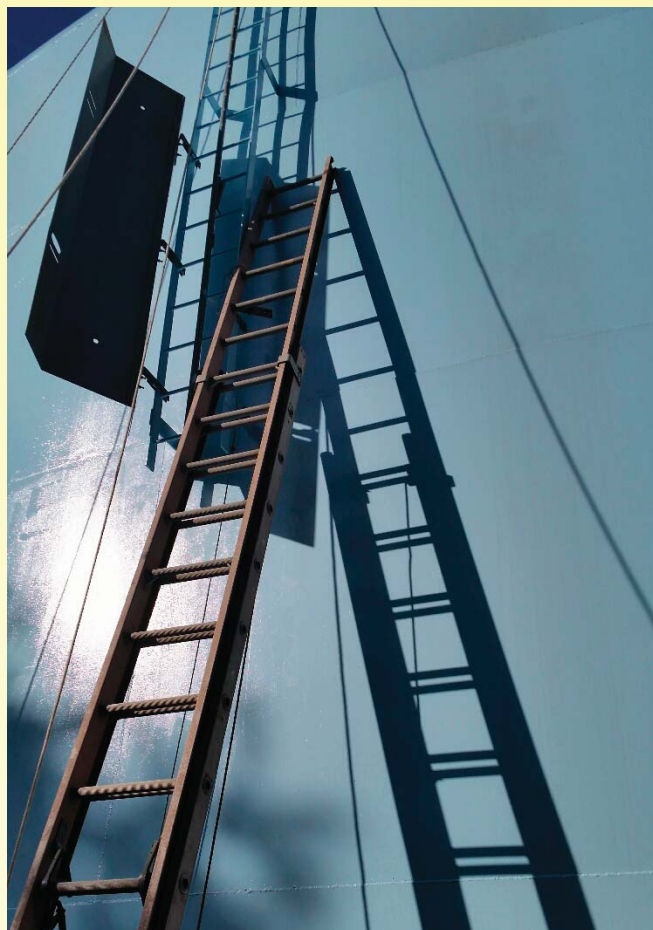
1. Ham Radio Tower Related Items For Sale. Long time OVH member Jack / N4YIC has an assortment of ham tower related items for sale at very good prices. Pick up only. All items are located in Stephens City, Virginia - near Winchester where Jack has resided for more than a few years now, while always maintaining his active OVH membership. If you're looking to build a tower or get spares for a tower, check out Jack's Flyer at http://w4ovh.net/HmItmsFrSale/20160914_N4YIC_HamGearForSale.pdf

2. The 2017 Dayton Hamvention. The August 2016 OVH Newsletter advised of the just announced new venue for the 2017 Dayton Hamvention and raised questions about the adequacy of the Xenia County Fairgrounds. A YouTube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FXXI18G0QA0> answers a lot of those concerns and questions..

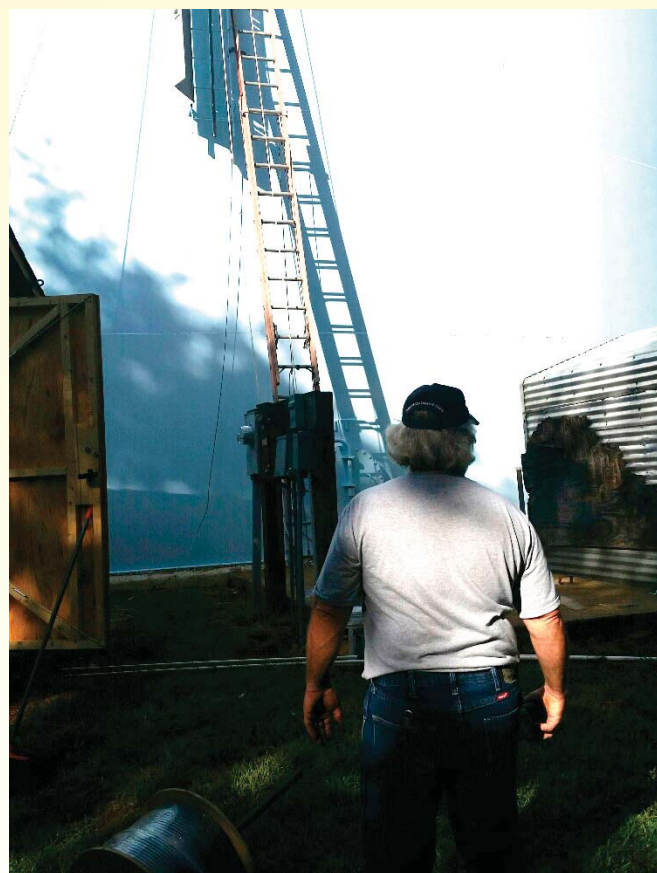
Some of the Attendees at the "What's Next" Seminar by Mark / WA4KFZ on 9/12/2016



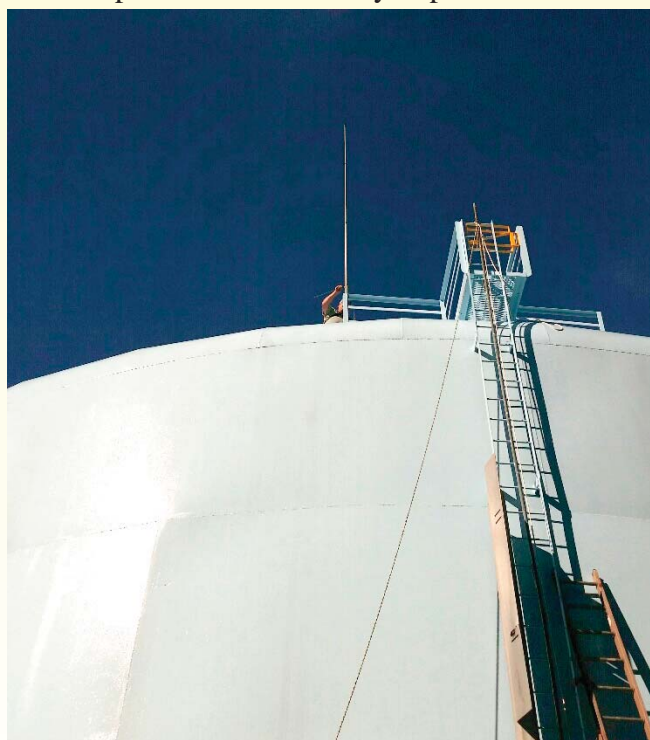
The ground Ladder next to the climbing Ladder on the Mt. Pone Water Tank, early Sept. 2016



Byron / AK4XR getting ready to climb the Mt. Pone Water Tower to install new antennas for the OVH Repeaters



A first new OVH repeater antenna is up and secured - early Sept. 2016



SOME MORE POSSIBLY USEFUL OR INTERESTING INFORMATION

RTTY Contesting - a big one, the CQ WW RTTY Contest is coming up on Sept. 24 - 25, 2016 on the HF bands. Go to <http://www.cqwwrtty.com> for more details. What is RTTY Contesting? RTTY, of course, stands for Radio Teletype which has been an authorized mode for ham communications since the early 1950's. Back then, in fact until the late 1980's, almost all RTTY operations on the HF ham bands required a real Teletype machine as one of the components of the station. Beginning in the late 1980's ham RTTY operation went digital - thanks to the proliferation of DOS based personal computers, and the ingenuity of hams who wrote computer programs to emulate Teletype machines. RTTY ham operation in the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's on the HF bands was mostly for keyboard to keyboard QSOs and DX chasing. Ham Radio RTTY contesting became popular in the early 1980's and then increased immensely once computer controlled RTTY operation became well established by the early 1990's. Computerized operation meant hams no longer needed to tend complex Teletype machines with their distinct oily odors to operate RTTY. RTTY contesting continues to be very popular with many thousands of active participants worldwide, and is a well defined and well populated activity in the amateur radio domain.

Back to the old days: Teletype machines using the 5-unit Baudot code were complex mechanical devices which were first developed prior to the 1920's and were in widespread use through the mid-1960s on dedicated and switched communications wire circuits. Dial up ASCII based Teletypes then took over by the late 1970s. In the 1950s sending a telegram meant going to Western Union Offices which used Teletypes. On wired circuits, what was typed on the keyboard on the local Teletype would print on that machine as well as on the remotely connected machine. Because typing was often slow, punched paper tape systems were used to store pre-typed messages which could then be sent at "high speed" through an auxiliary tape reader. Teletype machines printed either on paper tape or on a 8.5" wide continuous roll of paper. "High Speed" with the old Teletypes meant about 50 wpm (later to 100 wpm), extremely slow by today's standards for viewing text on a computer screen or saving text into a computer file. To find pictures of some of these old Teletype machines, Google: images teletype machine.

Later, and especially during WWII, Teletype machines were adapted for communication over HF radio circuits; such HF operations became the basis for ham radio HF RTTY operations later. Teletypes had always provided an asynchronous, bistate switched output (Mark and Space), which allowed for automatic self-synchronizing with another connected machine. That facet of the signal design enabled Teletypes to be readily adapted for RTTY: a two state FSK modulation was used with the Mark state sending on the Mark frequency and the Space state sending on the Space frequency. The original standard HF FSK frequency shift was 850 Hz, later, beginning in the mid-1960's transitioning slowly to a 170 Hz frequency shift standard as equipment frequency stability improved. To receive and decode RTTY FSK signals, one only needed a radio receiver with filters for the Mark and Space frequencies or a discriminator which could separately detect the Mark and Space signals and convert those into a switched output to control the Mark or Space state of the local loop which controlled the printing on the local Teletype machine itself. The switches in the Teletype's keyboard were in series in the local loop. These systems worked quite well and were readily adapted to ham radio in the 1950's when surplus Teletype became available and affordable.

The 5-unit Baudot code Teletype system only allowed capital letters from the 26 letter alphabet to be sent, along with 10 numerals and an assortment of punctuation and other special characters. The mechanical printing mechanisms were extremely slow by today's standards - about 50 words per minute was standard - although later, higher speeds up to about 100 wpm were possible. While these limitations were far below norms for computer communications in the late 1980's (and today), these speeds were, in fact, much faster than could be regularly achieved with ham CW (Morse Code) operation. When computer based systems replaced Teletype machines in ham operation in the mid-1990's, the earlier RTTY standards as they had evolved through the 1970's persisted (and were used during the transition when Teletype and computers were both used) and are still used today.

If you want to learn more about modern ham HF RTTY operations, RTTY contesting and how to set up an HF RTTY ham radio station, look at: <http://rttycontesting.com> and <http://aa5au.com> and Google: RTTY stations, contesting, software, equipment, etc. to find many links with a lot more useful information.