

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/N3OH (SYSOP--BILL)
<http://www.w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

NOVEMBER 2005

Next meeting: November 21, 2005

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

(Editor)

SOFTWARE DEFINED RADIO PROGRAM NEXT MEETING

For our November meeting, we will have a software defined radio demonstration and Presentation. The hardware portion is about 1 inch by 2 inches and gets power from The computer USB port. There were only 800 of these \$23 kits available and our **Dwight/AI4II**, got four of them. I built one of them. Dwight built one. They are now sold out but a new version is in the design stage.

The sensitivity and selectivity of these radios is amazing. The tuning range is A function of the bandwidth available in your computer sound card.

Mark/WA4KFZ, will assist the presentation as a person knowledgeable in the Theory of software defined radio. Mark is an RF engineer.

Turning to the month just past, we had a number of noteworthy events.

Most importantly, the ARRL filed a petition with the **FCC** to shutdown **BPL** in Manassas. Three of our members are co-petitioners with the ARRL – **George/K4GVT**, **Butch/W4HJL** and **Bill South/N3OH**. This is an important step in preserving the future of our hobby and protecting the environment from RF pollution. George has been tireless in his efforts and meticulous in his record keeping and BPL interference maps. He has documented the duplicity of the BPL proponents. The main ARRL web page has More on this story.

In addition, the OVH did a fine **JOTA** program for the scouts. They tried **Sideband**, **CW** and **Digital** radio modes. We got a nice write up in the **Bull Run Observer** and a picture to go with it.

John/WA1STU, helped **Ken/WB4ZOH**, put up a new beam TV antenna on the roof in a restricted area. In addition to being a great TV antenna, it appears to have a low SWR on 2 meters and 440. Strange.

Turning again to the future, please remember the **OVH Holiday party** on **December 10th** at 6:00pm at 10535 Cedar Creek drive, Manassas, **Theresa/KG4TVM**, and myself are hosts. We are asking that you bring a dish for potluck supper and a new toy for the Marine Corps **Toys for Tots**.

See you there. 73, **John/KG4NXT**.

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, VA. 20108

OFFICERS

President:	Ruth Frock	KU4WH	331-1234
Vice Pres :	John Heartney	KG4NXT	257-3566
Secretary:	Phil Colling	AC4PL	393-8658
Treasurer:	Bill South	N3OH	590-9562

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdell	W4HJL	369-2877
Art Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330
Charlie Dale	WA4YGI	361-3091
John Zorger	WA1STU	754-2378

WEEKLY NETS

Thursdays - 8:00 PM	JOHN	257-3566
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HAMFEST 2005

Keith Bennington	KEITH	909-1512
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FIELD DAY 2006

John Z.	WA1STU	754-2378
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CLUB ROSTER

Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877
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EDUCATION

John Z.	WA1STU	754-2378
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CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Meola	KI4AZX	393-6681
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ARES AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042
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F.A.R. REPS.

Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234
Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877

FINANCE

Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877
Bill	N3OH	590-9562
Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234

GENERATORS

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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HOME PAGE

Bill	N3OH	590-9562
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JOTA

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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LEGAL

Pete	KB4RME	369-2436
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

John Zorger	WA1STU	754-2378
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NEWSLETTER

Steve	KB4OF	368-6901
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NEWSLINE

Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
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PACKET

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N3OH	590-9562

PROGRAM'S

TBA

PUBLICITY

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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Q' MASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Milt	N4SN	369-7265
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844

REPEATER TRUSTEE

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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SUNSHINE

Jan	KE4TMW	257-0897
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

John	WA1STU	754-2378
Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N3OH	590-9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
George	K4GVT	791-7688
Bill	K9ZD	754-7913
Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939

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@arrl.net

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

SUNSHINE CORNER

Happy Birthday to our friends and fellow Hams: **Butch/W4HJL, Charlotte/KG4QXO, Charlie/WA4YGI, Theresa/KG4TVM, Gene/KD4RHC, Ken/KM4UH, Tom/WA2QAL, and Joe/AB4QV.** Hope each of you has a GREAT DAY!!

From **David/KI4AZX** -- (I forgot it last month) -- I would like to thank the following people for coming out and helping to provide radio support for the **Tri-It-Now mini-triathlon** held in **August**: **John/KG4NXT, Theresa/KG4TVM, and Elizabeth/KG4NXV, Heartney, David Lane/KG4GIY, Al Dugas/KB4BHB, Steve/N4OGR and Jan Frick/KE4TMW, Craig Thomson/WA3UFY, and Keith Bennington/KM4AA.**

Time to give thanks for all Ham Radio gives us!

Thanks, and 73 de Jan/KE4TMW

OVHARC Repeater News:

Antenna Replacement/Maintenance

Our **NOVEC** representative reported that (once again) all the **contracts and insurance** coverage's are in place for the contractor (**United States Tower Services**) to perform the work we requested earlier this year. The US Tower rep is out of the office until Monday and is supposed to talk with NOVEC on Monday (November 7th). The **antennas** have been **procured** and are **on hand** to deliver to the contractor on-site when their tower team arrives.

The projected work includes: **Replacing** the **440 repeater antenna**; **Replacing** the **control receiver antenna** with a newer antenna that will permit eventual **dual use** as a **link antenna** for a **remote receiver** site to the south of Manassas. In addition, a new **UHF Yagi** will be installed **pointed west** for another **future remote** receiver project. Finally, the **two meter** antenna will be **examined** and straightened if needed, the **phasing harnesses** will be tied down also. All antenna cables will be swept to determine condition. Connectors will be replaced if required.

In the meantime the **Technical Committee** will be reviewing plans to install a **temporary control** receiver **antenna** at the site. **Arthur/W1CRO**, has most of the materials for temporary installation already on hand.

220 MHz Interference

A while back some of us were discussing a possible **test** of **PACKET** on one or more of the repeaters. We had envisioned setting up an **"off-hours"** test (controlled so that everyone knew who was conducting the test and when). The plan was to announce the tests in advance to make sure repeater users didn't get surprised (or interrupted in a QSO) by the transmissions. And then known stations would participate to gather data on possible **PACKET** operations on a repeater during emergencies and other special events.

Well, magic happened and now we have had **packet transmissions** from an **unknown station** on the **220 repeater** for several days now. This has resulted in the **necessity** to **un-link** the 220 repeater from the other repeaters and **disable** the **220** repeater **transmitter**, except when we are trying to locate the signal. By the time you read this we hope the issue has been resolved, but one never knows in cases like this.

Signal-tracker fox-hunters involved are **Jim/WD4OJY; Chuck/W4XP; Steve/N4OGR; and Bill/N3OH.** Anyone else with **220 MHz PACKET** capability is welcome to join in - just e-mail **Arthur/W1CRO** for info.

Arthur/W1CRO

Meaningful Entry-Level License Privileges are Top Priority, ARRL Says



(Nov 1, 2005) -- The ARRL again has urged the FCC to provide meaningful operating privileges to entry-level Amateur Radio licensees, including access to HF, even if it doesn't want to create a new license class. Commenting in response to the FCC's July 9 *Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order* in WT Docket 05-235, the League also stood by its stance that the Commission retain the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for Amateur Extra applicants, but do away with it for General applicants.

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Nearly Every Day is "Casual Friday" Aboard ISS, Japan Youngsters Learn



(Nov 9, 2005) -- ISS Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, completed the 200th Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) school group QSO November 3. ARISS arranged the direct VHF QSO between 8J4ISS on behalf of the Kawachi Citizen's Committee for Youths in Japan and NA1SS onboard the ISS. McArthur told the participating youngsters that the climate aboard the ISS permits the crew to dress lightly.

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Indiana Seeking Ham Radio Volunteers in Wake of Killer Tornado



(Nov 8, 2005 [REVISED Nov 8, 2005 13:23 ET]) -- Indiana Section Emergency Coordinator David Pifer, N9YNF, has issued a call for Amateur Radio volunteers in the wake of a November 6 tornado that left 22 people dead and 200 injured. Several other people have been reported missing. The twister slashed a more than 40-mile swath through part of Kentucky and extreme southwestern Indiana in the early morning hours, wiping out a section of a trailer park in Vanderburgh County where 18 of the fatalities occurred.

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ARRL Certification and Continuing Education course registration



(Nov 8, 2005) -- Registration remains open through Sunday, November 20, for these ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (CCE) Program on-line courses: Emergency Communication Level 1 (EC-001) Antenna Design and Construction (EC-009), Technician Licensing (EC-010), Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006), Digital Electronics (EC-013) and Analog Electronics (EC-012). Classes begin Friday, December 2. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page or [contact](#) the CCE Department.

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Hurricane Wilma ARES/RACES Southern Florida activation praised



(Nov 8, 2005) -- ARRL Southern Florida Section Emergency Coordinator Jeff Beals, WA4AW, reports that all Amateur Radio support in the Southern Florida Section in response to Hurricane Wilma secured Monday, October 31. All out-of-area operator assistance was released the next day. "Some shelters and feeding stations were still in operation through the week, and many affected areas are still without power and telephone service," he told ARRL November 4. Beals said officials at the Broward and Palm Beach county emergency operating centers (EOCs) reported that Amateur Radio assistance was invaluable in conducting their tactical operations. In addition to volunteering to supplement communication at the EOCs, ham radio volunteers also assisted at American Red Cross shelters for hurricane evacuees and at staging areas. (Photo:

Ray and Daisy Crepeau, K1HG and KT4KW, handle traffic at South Florida Fairgrounds during the Hurricane Wilma activation.)

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Revised restrictions on 70 cm bear repeating



(Nov 8, 2005) -- In 2004, a revised Footnote US7 in [Part 2.106](#) of the *Code of Federal Regulations* went into effect, further expanding the 50 W maximum output power restriction in place for the 420-450 MHz band in the US Southwest. (The applicable Part 97 Amateur Service rule is §97.303, which incorporates §2.106 by reference.) "In talking to people at hamfests and other Amateur Radio meetings, I've found that very few people are aware of this rule," says Bill Kauffman, W5YEJ, of the New Mexico Frequency Coordinating Committee. While the previous version of §2.106(a), essentially covered the White Sands Missile Range area of New Mexico, language effective as of January 2004 expanded it to include all of New Mexico and Texas lying west of 104° W. The 70 cm band is a shared allocation in the US, and federal government users are primary. Amateur Radio, as a secondary occupant, may not cause interference to primary government stations and must tolerate any interference from government stations. Kauffman explains that the FCC acted at the request of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to protect sensitive receivers at various fixed and mobile locations on military bases. The 50 W restriction continues to apply to the entire State of Arizona as well as parts of several other states, including California, Nevada, Massachusetts, Alaska, North Dakota, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina. Exceptions to the power limit must be expressly authorized by the FCC after mutual agreement, on a case-by-case basis, between the FCC District Director in the applicable district and the Military Area Frequency Coordinator at the applicable military base.

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The K7RA Solar Update



(Nov 4, 2005) -- Conditions have recovered from zero sunspots, which lasted for five days. Average sunspot numbers rose nearly 10 points to 17.6 this week. Average daily solar flux rose just 1.2 points to 75.4.
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ARRL represented at USA Freedom Corps briefing



(Nov 4, 2005) -- ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, represented the League October 14 at a [USA Freedom Corps](#) post-Katrina briefing in Washington, DC. She was among representatives of some 120 representatives of nonprofit organizations attending the White House gathering. Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of USA Freedom Corps Desiree Sayle, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson, White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card and Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) CEO David Eisner were among those who addressed the briefing, which focused on hurricane recovery and reconstruction. CNCS grants subsidized

Amateur Radio emergency communications training for some 5500 completed courses as well as the League's "Ham Aid" program to assist Amateur Radio Gulf Coast hurricane volunteers with out-of-pocket expenses. Hobart said the team of Bush Administration representatives thanked nonprofits for their contributions and detailed plans to continue the Gulf Coast recovery effort, in which Amateur Radio volunteers continue to be involved. "The ARRL was able to talk with CNCS leadership about future funding for Amateur Radio," Hobart added.

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LF Experimentation by Radio Amateurs Continues Quietly



(Nov 3, 2005) -- Experimentation by radio amateurs on the nether regions of the radio spectrum continues quietly and largely unnoticed outside of the LF community. Since the FCC turned down the ARRL's 1998 petition to create an Amateur Radio "sliver band" in the vicinity of 136 kHz, some US amateur licensees have obtained FCC Part 5 Experimental licenses to research the possibilities of LF, including transatlantic and transpacific propagation. A few hams in Canada have obtained special permission from Industry Canada to operate on LF using Amateur Radio call signs. The latest noteworthy accomplishment was a QSO between US Experimental licensees. LF enthusiast Laurence Howell, KL1X--operating as WD2XDW--and John Andrews, W1TAG--operating as WD2XES--completed their LF contact October 29 on 137 kHz.

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Upcoming Special Events

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November

Through Feb 28, 2006, Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. The Rotary Club of Midrand, ZS100RI. HF/VHF/UHF. QSL. Via QSL manager Craig Bergsteedt, ZS6CKB, Halfway House, Midrand, Gauteng 1685, South Africa.

Nov 10-Nov 13, 1500Z-2000Z, Arlington Heights, IL. Armored Force Amateur Radio Net, KA9NLX. To honor the memory and efforts of military veterans. 18.095 14.325 7.283 7.030; conditions permitting 28.640 21.375 7.298. Certificate. John Paskevicz, 1423 North Ridge Ave, Arlington Heights, IL 60004.

Nov 11, 0400Z-2300Z, Nutley, NJ. Robert D. Grant United Labor Amateur Radio Association, N2UL. CQ Veterans Day. 28.420 14.260 7.260 449.975. Certificate. RDGULARA, c/o WA2VJA, 112 Prospect St, Nutley, NJ 07110-0716.

Nov 11, 1300Z-1900Z, Butler, PA. Butler County Amateur Radio Association, W3UDX. Celebrating Veterans Day from the Butler VA Hospital grounds. 14.280 7.250. QSL. BCARA, PO Box 1787, Butler, PA 16003. <http://qsl.net/w3udx>.

Nov 11, 1330Z-1930Z, Grand Rapids, MI. Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance, W8USA. Veterans Day from the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. 14.250 14.040 7.250 7.040. QSL. MARA, PO Box 670, Comstock Park, MI 49321-0670. www.w8usa.org.

Nov 11, 1500Z-2330Z, Baton Rouge, LA. USS *Kidd* ARC/Baton Rouge ARC, W5KID. Veteran's Day. General class bands, 14.250 to 14.320; CW QRP subbands 28.060 21.060 14.060 10.106 7.040. QSL. W5KID, c/o USS *Kidd* Museum, 305 S River Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. www.lsu.edu/brarc/USS_Kidd.htm.

Nov 11-Nov 12, 2200Z-2200Z, Philadelphia, PA. Warminster Amateur Radio Club, K3DN. Union League of Philadelphia. 14.300 7.250 3.800. Certificate. Tony Simek, N3YNH, Warminster Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 113, Warminster, PA 18974. www.k3dn.org.

Nov 11-Nov 12, 1400Z-2100Z, Topeka, KS. SCSWARC and KVARC, N0G. Veterans Day. 28.450 21.350 14.250 7.200. Certificate. Steve Hamilton, 2503 SW Carlson Rd, Topeka, KS 66614.

Nov 11-Nov 14, 2300Z-0600Z, San Antonio, TX. San Antonio Radio Club, W5SC. Coral-Gold II--San Antonio Radio Club's 86th birthday party. 21.360 14.260 7.260 3.860. QSL. Steve Cerwin, WA5FRF, 1619 CR 270, Mico, TX 78056. www.w5sc.org.

Nov 12, 1400Z-2200Z, Roseland, NJ. Roseland Amateur Radio Club, K2GQ. 60th anniversary of the Rosland ARC. 146.52 21.345 14.260 7.245. Certificate. Harvey Moskowitz, W2YWC, 7 Burlington Rd, Livingston, NJ 07039. www.qsl.net/k2gq.

Nov 12, 1400Z-2000Z, South Padre Island, TX. CHARRO Amateur Radio Club, W5CRC. "Return of the Snowbirds" to South Texas. 28.330 14.330 21.330. Certificate. Bob Austin, W5CRC, 107 W Park Dr, Brownsville, TX 78521. www.qsl.net/w5crc.

Nov 12-Nov 14, 1700Z-0200Z, West Trenton, NJ. Delaware Valley Radio Association, W2ZQ. 75th anniversary of the DVRA. 14.275 7.275 3.975. QSL. DVRA, PO Box 7024, West Trenton, NJ 08628. www.w2zq.com.

Nov 13, 1500Z-2200Z, Waterloo, IA. Five Sullivan Brothers Amateur Radio Club, W0FSB. Anniversary of the Loss of USS *Juneau* and the 5 Brothers. 21.240 14.240 7.240. Certificate. Five Sullivan Brothers ARC, 4015 Independence Ave, Waterloo, IA 50703.

Nov 19, 1500Z-2100Z, Guthrie, OK. Edmond Amateur Radio Society, K5EOK. Oklahoma Statehood Day in original State Capital Building. 21.375 14.275 7.275 3.875. Certificate. Edmond Amateur Radio Society, PO Box 48, Edmond, OK 73083. www.k5eok.org.

Nov 20-Nov 26, 1600Z-0400Z, Wilkes-Barre, PA. Murgas ARC, K3YTL. Centennial of Rev Joseph Murgas wireless overland transmission. 21.375 14.275 7.275 3.875. May request certificate or QSL. Murgas ARC, PO Box 1094, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702. www.qsl.net/k3vtl.

Nov 25, 1400Z-2200Z, Provincetown, MA. National Park Service, W1P. 107th anniversary of the loss of the Steamship *Portland*. 14.260 14.050 7.260 7.050. QSL. Marconi Cape Cod Radio Club KM1CC, Cape Cod National Seashore, 99 Marconi Site Rd, Wellfleet, MA 02667. www.nps.gov/caco/heritage/Portland.pdf.

Nov 26-Nov 27, 0000Z-2400Z, All Call Areas, USA. Ten-Ten International, W6OI. Celebrating 43 years and 75000 members. 28.340 28.400 CW and PSK. QSL. Jack Moore, K5CC, 371 Ridge Creek La, Bulverde, TX 78163. www.10-10.org. (Certificate for all call areas.)

Nov 26-Nov 27, 1400Z-2000Z, Plymouth, MA. Whitman Amateur Radio Club, WA1NPO. The first Pilgrim Landing at Plymouth, Massachusetts. 18.140 14.280 7.250 3.890. Certificate. Whitman ARC, PO Box 48, Whitman, MA 02382. www.wa1npo.org.

Nov 26-Nov 27, 1400Z-1900Z daily, The Villages, FL. The Villages Amateur Radio Club, K4VRC. The 10th anniversary of the Villages Radio Club. 147.000 14.275 7.250 3.940. Certificate. Ed Crowell, 1570 St James Cir, The Villages, FL 32162.

December

Dec 2-Dec 4, 0000Z-2400Z, Sacramento, CA. National Weather Service, Sacramento, W6S. Skywarn Recognition Day. 146.910. QSL. National Weather Service Office, 3310 El Camino Ave, Ste 228, Sacramento, CA 95821.

Dec 3, 0000Z-2400Z, Chicago, IL. National Weather Service, W9S. Skywarn Recognition Day. 20 40 80 m CW SSB PSK31 APRS echolink. QSL. William Wilson, 333 W University Dr, Romeoville, IL 60446.

Dec 3, 0000Z-2400Z, Grand Junction, CO. Western Colorado Amateur Radio Club, N0W. Skywarn Recognition Day, from the National Weather Service. 14.250. QSL. Al Acker, WA4HND, 1685 Mae Ct, Fruita, CO 81521. warc.ws.

Dec 3-Dec 4, 1400Z-2200Z, Baltimore, MD. Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club, W2W. Pearl Harbor Attack Anniversary--The use of Electronics. 21.242 14.242 7.242 3.925. Certificate and QSL. HEMARC, PO Box 1693 MS 4015, Baltimore, MD 21203. www.qsl.net/w3hem/.

Dec 7, 1500Z-2330Z, Baton Rouge, LA. USS *Kidd* ARC/Baton Rouge ARC, W5KID. Pearl Harbor Day. General class bands, 14.250 to 14.320; CW QRP subbands 28.060 21.060 14.060 10.106 7.040. QSL. W5KID, c/o USS *Kidd* Museum, 305 S River Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70802. www.lsu.edu/brarc/USS_Kidd.htm.

Dec 9-Dec 17, 1400Z-0100Z daily, Wheeling, WV. Northern Panhandle Amateur Radio Club, W8ZQ. Winter Festival Of Lights at Oglebay Park. General phone bands. QSL. Joe McCready, WB8CTC, PO Box 192, Blaine, OH 43909.

Dec 10, 0001Z-2359Z, Warrensburg, MO. Warrensburg Area Amateur Radio Club Inc, W0AU. 15 year anniversary of Warrensburg Area Amateur Radio Club. 28.370 21.378 14.270 7.250. QSL. Dennis Gedeon, KB0NHV, 1811 Hillside Ct, Oak Grove, MO 64075. www.WAARCL.org.

Dec 10, 1200Z-2400Z, Rutland, VT. Green Mountain Wireless Society, W1GMW. To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the club's founding. 14.240 7.240 7.050 3.840. QSL. Green Mountain Wireless Society, PO Box 84, Rutland, VT 05701. www.gmws.net.

Dec 10-Dec 11, 1400Z-0200Z, Nazareth, PA. Christmas City Amateur Radio Club, WX3MAS. Christmas Greetings from Nazareth and Bethlehem PA. 21.365 14.265 7.270 3.970. Certificate. Christmas City ARC WX3MAS, Graystone Building, Gracedale Complex, RR8, Nazareth, PA 18064. www.dlarc.org.

Dec 17, 1200Z-2200Z, Winston-Salem, NC. Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, W4NC. 75th birthday of The Forsyth Amateur Radio Club. 21.320 14.270 7.250. QSL. Ed Swiderski, KU4BP, 2105 D Fiddlers Ct, Winston Salem, NC 27107. home.triad.rr.com/ku4bp/main.html.

Dec 17-Dec 25, 1300Z-2359Z, Bethlehem, NM. Valencia County Amateur Radio Association, KC5OUR. Celebrating the Christmas season from Bethlehem, New Mexico. 28.273 21.273 14.273 7.273. QSL. VCARA, PO Box 268, Peralta, NM 87042. www.qsl.net/kc5our/.

ARRL Exam Session Search Downloaded from ARRL Web Site

[Need a Class? Visit The ARRL Amateur Licensing Class Search Page](#)

This page will help you find a US amateur license exam session near you.

Database last updated on Tue 08-Nov-2005

12-Nov-2005

Sponsor: MOUNT VERNON ARC

Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: JOHN L FORREST

(703)971-3905

Email: WZ4A@ARRL.NET

VEC: [Laurel VEC](#)

Location: FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH-PARK IN REAR

2723 KING ST

DOOR@INTERSECTION OF CHURCH

& ATTACHED SCHOOL BUILDING

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22302

12-Nov-2005

Sponsor: MARC VE TEAM

Time: 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: WILLIAM M TUCKER

(301)729-2544

Email: K3UEZ@QSL.NET

VEC: [Laurel VEC](#)

Location: ALLEGANY COUNTY EMER MGT BLDG

CONSTITUTION PARK

ARRANGE HANDICAP EXAMS

TALK-IN 146.88 PL 123.0

CUMBERLAND, MD 21502

12-Nov-2005

Sponsor: ANNE ARUNDEL RADIO CLUB

Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: ROBERT L ROSE

(410)437-8193

Email: AA3RR@KI3DS.ORG

VEC: [Laurel VEC](#)

Location: DAVIDSON FAMILY RECREATION CENTER

3789 QUEEN ANNE BRIDGE RD

WWW.W3VPR.ORG

REGISTRATION STARTS @ NOON

DAVIDSONVILLE, MD 21035

13-Nov-2005

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: TIMBROOK PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

231 E PICCADILLY ST

PRE-REGISTRATION URGED

WINCHESTER, VA 22601

19-Nov-2005

Sponsor: LAUREL ARC VEC

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: JOHN B CREEL

(301)572-5124

VEC: [Laurel VEC](#)

Location:

384 MAIN ST

LAUREL WOMEN'S CLUB

PRE-REGISTRATION PREFERRED

LAUREL, MD 20707

19-Nov-2005

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 LIBRARY

8133 SANDPIPER CIRCLE

REGISTRATION @ 1:00 PM

WHITE MARSH, MD 21162

22-Nov-2005

Sponsor: ARA RADIO CLUB

Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: ROBERT E LONG

(301)824-5132

Email: RJLONG61@MD.NET

VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#)

Location: HAGERSTOWN SDA CHURCH
11507 ROBINWOOD DR
OPEN SESSION
MAY ALSO CALL 717-328-9862
HAGERSTOWN, MD 21742

22-Nov-2005

Sponsor: MARYLAND MOBILEERS ARC
Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: HAROLD L NICHOLS

03-Dec-2005

Sponsor: BALTIMORE ARC
Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: LORENZ W SCHAEFER
(410)247-0578
Email: N3WKE@ARRL.NET
VEC: [Laurel VEC](#)
Location: BARC MTG & TRAINING FACILITY
12360 OWINGS MILLS BLVD
PRE-REGISTRATION PREFERRED
MAY REGISTER FROM 1 TO 2 PM
OWINGS MILLS, MD 21117

03-Dec-2005

Sponsor: MASSANUTTEN ARA
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: GAYLE L SHULL
(540)434-0859
VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#)
Location: WOODMEN OF THE WORLD BLDG
STATE ROUTE 42
KN4FM@ARRL.NET (FREQ 145.130)
SIGN-IN 9:00 AM
DAYTON, VA 22821

04-Dec-2005

Sponsor: DCMARC
Time: 12:30PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: KENNETH L COURTNEY
(301)856-3005
Email: AA3NN@AOL.COM
VEC: [W5YI VEC](#)
Location: PALMER PARK REC CENTER
7720 BARLOW RD
PALMER PARK, MD 20785

04-Dec-2005

Sponsor: MARC VE TEAM
Time: 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: WILLIAM M TUCKER
(301)729-2544
Email: K3UEZ@QSL.NET
VEC: [Laurel VEC](#)
Location: ALLEGANY COUNTY EMER MGT BLDG
CONSTITUTION PARK
ARRANGE HANDICAP EXAMS
TALK-IN 146.88 PL 123.0
CUMBERLAND, MD 21502

10-Dec-2005

Sponsor: RICHMOND ARC/RAVE
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: PATRICK WILSON
(804)932-9424
Email: W4PW@COX.NET
VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#)
Location: NEW HANOVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10058 CHAMBERLAYNE RD
MECHANICSVILLE, VA 23116

10-Dec-2005

(410)757-0493

Email: WB4OGP@ARRL.NET

VEC: [Laurel VEC](#)

Location: HISTORICAL ELECTRONICS MUSEUM
1745 W NURSERY RD
WWW.HEM-USA.ORG/
2 ID'S REQUIRED!
LINTHICUM HEIGHTS, MD 21090

Sponsor: ANNE ARUNDEL RADIO CLUB

Time: 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: ROBERT L ROSE

(410)437-8193

Email: AA3RR@KI3DS.ORG

VEC: [Laurel VEC](#)

Location: DAVIDSON FAMILY RECREATION CENTER
3789 QUEEN ANNE BRIDGE RD
WWW.W3VPR.ORG
REGISTRATION STARTS @ NOON
DAVIDSONVILLE, MD 21035

10-Dec-2005

Sponsor: MOUNT VERNON ARC

Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: JOHN L FORREST

(703)971-3905

Email: WZ4A@ARRL.NET

VEC: [Laurel VEC](#)

Location: FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH-PARK IN REAR
2723 KING ST
DOOR@INTERSECTION OF CHURCH
& ATTACHED SCHOOL BUILDING
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22302

10-Dec-2005

Sponsor: SOUTHERN PA COMM GROUP VE TEAM

Time: 10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: CAROL KIRSCHMAN

(717)235-0273

VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#)

Location: SHREWSBURY BOROUGH HALL
35 W RAILROAD AVE
CAROL@NFDC.NET
KC6GMN@NFDC.NET
SHREWSBURY, PA 17361

11-Dec-2005

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: TIMBROOK PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
231 E PICCADILLY ST
PRE-REGISTRATION URGED
WINCHESTER, VA 22601

18-Dec-2005

Sponsor: RAPPAHANNOCK VE GROUP

Time: 1:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: CURT R BARTHOLOMEW

(540)720-2392

Email: N3GQ@ARRL.NET

VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#)

Location: PORTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY
2001 PARKWAY BLVD
WWW.WW4VA.ORG/CLUB/EXAMS.ASP
WALK-INS ONLY!
STAFFORD, VA 22554

01-Jan-2006
Sponsor: DCMARC
Time: 12:30PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: KENNETH L COURTNEY
(301)856-3005

Email: AA3NN@AOL.COM
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: PALMER PARK REC CENTER
7720 BARLOW RD
PALMER PARK, MD 20785

2005 ARRL Contest Calendar

Downloaded from ARRL Web Site

Date(s)	Contest	Links
November	12 - 13	ARRL EME 50 MHz - 1296 MHz Rules
	19 - 21	ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone) Rules
December	2 - 4	ARRL 160 Meter Contest Rules
	10 - 11	ARRL 10 Meter Contest Rules

November 2005 Contest Corral

Downloaded from ARRL Web Site

Nov 12-14

Japan International DX Contest--Phone, from 0700Z Nov 12-1300Z Nov 13 (see April *QST*, p 99, or <http://jidx.org/jidrxrule-e.html>).

Worked All Europe DX Contest (WAEDC)--RTTY, from 0000Z Nov 12-2359Z Nov 13. Same rules as WAEDC Phone and CW, except everyone works everyone. QTC can only be exchanged between continents (see August *QST*, p 94, or www.waedc.de).

OK/OM DX Contest--CW, sponsored by the Czech Radio Club (CRC) from 1200Z Nov 12-1200Z Nov 13. Frequencies: 160-10-meters. Categories: SOAB-HP (>100 W), SOSB-HP, SOAB-LP, SOSB-LP, SOAB-QRP (<5 W), MS, SWL, packet spotting allowed for all categories. Exchange: RST plus serial number or OK/OM district. QSO Points: EU to OK/OM--1 pt, non-EU to OK/OM--3 pts. Score: QSO points × OK/OM districts (OK/OM stations use WPX prefixes) counted once per band. For more information: <http://okomdx.radioamater.cz>. Logs due Dec 1 to okomdx@erk.cz or OK-OM DX Contest, CRK, PO Box 69, 113 27 Praha 1, Czech Republic.

CQ WE (Western Electric)--CW/Phone/Digital, from 1900Z Nov 12-0500Z Nov 14. Frequencies: 160-70 cm (no repeater contacts). Categories: SOAB (Bell and non-Bell). Exchange: Call, name, Bell location, Years of Bell service (non-Bell send ZZ and 1). QSO Points: equal to years of service. Score: sum of QSO points × location codes for each mode (locations counted once only). For more information: <http://cqwe.cboh.org>. Send logs to cvauffe@columbus.rr.com or Carl L. Yaffey, K8NU, 435 Walhalla Rd, Columbus, OH 43202.

Nov 19-21

North American Collegiate ARC Championship—Phone--This is a competition based on Sweepstakes results between club stations at institutions of higher education beyond the high school level. Clubs enter Sweepstakes in any of the valid entry categories. Separate champions will be determined for CW, Phone and Combined scores. For more information: www.collegiatechampionship.org

LZ DX Contest--CW/SSB, sponsored by the Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs from 1200Z Nov 19-1200Z Nov 20. Frequencies: 80-10-meters with 10-minute mode change rule. Categories: SOAB (CW, Phone, Mixed), SOAB-QRP Mixed, SOSB-Mixed, MS-Mixed, SWL. Exchange: RST + ITU zone or 2-letter LZ district. QSO Points: same continent--1 pt, different cont--3 pts, LZ station--10 pts. Score: QSO points × ITU zones + LZ districts counted once per band. For more information: www.qsl.net/lz1fw/contest. Logs due 30 days after the contest to lzdx@yahoo.com or BFRA, PO Box 830, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria.

RSGB 1.8MHz Contest--CW, from 2100 Nov 19-0100Z Nov 20 (see Feb *QST*, p 102). For more information: www.rsgbhfcc.org. Logs due 16 days after the contest to 2nd160.logs@rsgbhfcc.org or RSGB--G3UFY, 77 Bensham Manor Rd, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 7AF, England.

Nov 26-27

CQ World Wide DX Contest--CW, from 0000Z Nov 26 to 2400Z Nov 27 (see *Oct QST*, p 101 or <http://cqww.com>).

CQ Worldwide DX Contest--SSB, sponsored by *CQ Magazine*, 0000Z Oct 29-2400Z Oct 30. (CW is 0000Z Nov 26-2400Z Nov 27). Frequencies: 160-10 meters. Categories: SOAB and SOSB (HP >100 W, LP, QRP <5 W), MS, M2 (new), MM. MS have 10 minute rule. Exchange RS(T) and CQ zone. QSO points: same cont--1 pts (NA stations count 2 pts), diff cont--3 pts. Stations in the same country may be worked for zone credit only. Score: QSO points × CQ Zones + DXCC entities and WAE countries counted once per band. For more information: www.cqww.com. Logs due Dec 1 (Jan 15 for CW) to ssb@cqww.com (CW logs to cw@cqww.com) or to *CQ Magazine*, 25 Newbridge Rd, Hicksville, NY 11801.

4th Annual Fists Coast to Coast Contest--CW--sponsored by FISTS Northwest Club, K7FFF, 0000Z-2400Z Oct 30. Frequencies: 80-10 m. Categories: SOAB, MS, (QRP/QRO). Exchange: RST, name, state or DX prefix, and FISTS number or power. QSO points and scoring depends on number of times club is worked. For more information: www.tomochka.com/k7fff. No logs required; just send total score and list of clubs contacted to FistsC2C@yahoo.com within 30 days of the contest.

10-10 International CW/Digital Contest, 0001Z Oct 29-2400Z Oct 30. Logs due Nov 15 (see Aug *QST*, p 85 or www.ten-ten.org).

In Katrina's Wake, Ham Radio Triumphs **By David Maliniak, AD2A**

A few months ago, NBC's Tonight Show staged a race between a pair of ham-radio operators with Morse-code keys and a couple of kids with text-messaging cellphones to see who could communicate faster. The hams won hands down, proving, in the minds of some, that old technology could hold its own against new. In recent days, ham radio was put to the test again by Hurricane Katrina. This time, however, lives were at stake.

In the world of design engineers and electronics in general, change is essential. Designers work diligently to make the fruits of their labors obsolete almost before they see daylight. The turnover in technology is sometimes like a flood, with old being washed away by new over and over. Often, the new beats the heck out of the old. But there are times when old isn't necessarily bad; in fact, sometimes old works when new doesn't. And then we're glad that old is still around, or at least we should be.

Wireless technology, while relatively new to many consumers, is of course not new at all. A few (very) old-timers remember the original "wireless" of radio. The revolution wrought by the pioneers of wireless changed the world then, and the technology behind that revolution has been re-invented and re-applied time and again. Its pre-eminent incarnation today is our near-ubiquitous wireless communications infrastructure, which has freed us from the shackles of landlines and made our mobile lifestyles possible. Technology truly is great stuff.

Until, of course, a monster hurricane comes along to render it nearly useless. Here we see a scenario in which a flood literally swept away the new. As Hurricane Katrina's fury hammered the Gulf states on August 29, the communications infrastructure took a devastating hit. Telephone service, including wireless, became at first intermittent and then unusable in many localities. Where there was phone service, 911 switchboards were often unreachable due to the massive volume of calls. The response of local authorities, now termed "confused" by deposed FEMA chief Michael Brown, wasn't helping much. The Gulf Coast was about to descend into darkness, chaos, and, worst of all for many, silence.

But proponents of the old were at the ready. The "old," in this case, is ham radio. In the eyes of the "man on the street," ham radio has a pretty stodgy reputation. Aren't hams still using Morse code? Don't some of them use radios with tubes, for goodness sake? What the "man in the street" probably doesn't know is that it was amateurs who advanced the radio arts early in the 20th century. Down through the decades, amateurs have embraced (and often driven) all of the innovations in wireless technology, up to and including all digital modes and the Internet. But many have stayed in touch with their roots, which is good old-fashioned analog HF operation. And while amateurs have a longstanding tradition as innovators and experimenters, they also have a mandate that comes with their licenses: to be ready, willing, and able to provide emergency communications whenever and wherever they're needed.

As Katrina bore down on the Gulf region, amateur radio operators, under the aegis of the American Radio Relay League's (ARRL's) Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), prepared to swing into action with emergency networks that would run health-and-welfare traffic into and out of the disaster zone. As early as the Monday following the storm, hams throughout the hurricane zone were putting emergency stations on the air. In one instance, hams were instrumental in the rescue of 15 people clinging for life to a New Orleans rooftop. Meanwhile, in Alabama, amateur SKYWARN weather nets kept the National Weather Service apprised of conditions throughout the state. In hard-hit sections of Mississippi, hams running off generators and with makeshift antennas were the only means of communication, getting word to out-of-state friends and relatives concerning their loved ones.

There were numerous other instances of hams helping those who were not simply inconvenienced by the storm, but whose lives were in imminent danger. Now that things have calmed down in the Gulf region, many of the emergency nets have stood down. But hams continue to serve the public in the many areas that are still without power or phone service.

As our nation collects itself in the aftermath of the Katrina disaster, President Bush has promised federal reviews of what went right and what went wrong. One of the findings of those inquiries should be that the federally-instituted Amateur Radio Service, which functions under the licensing authority of the FCC, stood tall when the country needed it.

Amateur radio currently faces various threats to its existence. Chief among those is the advent of broadband-over-powerline (BPL) technology, which, if broadly adopted, has the potential to cause widespread interference to HF communications, not just for amateurs but for other services that use the HF spectrum.

Amateurs and the ARRL have made a lot of noise about BPL, asserting that it could seriously hamper their efforts and those of relief agencies such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army, in the event of a disaster such as Katrina. It's rumored, though, that the same FCC commissioners who have given their blessing to BPL field trials will now take a much harder look at the technical issues concerning BPL and its interference potential in the HF spectrum. Let's face it: The federal government didn't handle the emergency in the Gulf very well; it'd be prudent for it not to sanction a technology that could impede one of the few things that actually worked.

Many readers of this newsletter are amateur radio enthusiasts. If you are, and if you haven't already done so, consider writing your congressman to express your concern about the future of the Amateur Radio Service, especially in light of its outstanding efforts in recent days. Remind your elected representatives that a vibrant and unimpeded Amateur service can and will be a lifesaver when disaster strikes. Also, consider how you yourself might help. What if a hurricane, tornado, or earthquake ravages your area? Are you prepared to get on the air without relying on the mains to handle emergency traffic? Get in touch with your local amateur-radio club and find out how you can pitch in.

Your cell phones and wireless routers are indeed great stuff, but so is a good old HF transceiver. We shouldn't always be in such a hurry to let the flood of new technology wash away the old. The geek down the block with all the antennas on his property could turn out to be your best friend someday. Because sometimes, old trumps new.

You can e-mail David Maliniak at dmaliniak@penton.com.

FROM ELECTRONIC DESIGN MAGAZINE brought to the Editor by Mary Lu/KB4EFP & Butch/W4HJL