

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 3: 223.540 MHz;
Port 2: 440.925Mhz 9600 Baud backbone / N3OH (SYSOP--BILL)
<http://www.w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

NOVEMBER 2007

Next Meeting: November 19, 2007

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings, hope all are well. With frost on the pumpkin, with short days and long nights, what better thing to do than get on the air. The ARRL SSB / Phone Sweepstakes Contest this coming weekend will be an excellent opportunity to test out your setup. With winter fast approaching, check you antennas and cables. Ice and winds can easily bring down your comms. Check your systems for wear before the real cold weather and ice sets in.

On another note, Ev and I did some overseas traveling in the past weeks. I attended a seminar in Jerusalem and

the spouses were invited along. While I attended the seminar, Ev and other spouses were treated to tours of the Holy Land. I mention this because I would like to share with the club members at the upcoming meeting a short (10 minute) music video recorded by a video team showing the highlights of the trip. I hope to have it for the next meeting.

It's that time of year to be thinking about the holidays again. Please try to keep Saturday, December 15th open. That evening Ev and I will be hosting the OVH Christmas Party at our home at 8314 Morningside Drive, Manassas, Virginia beginning at 6:00 PM. If you don't already know the way there, you can find it and get directions using maps.live.com or maps.google.com.

If you (and/or) your family can make it, please bring your favorite dish. I'll email a list of things people are bringing (if they share it with me) as we get closer to the date. Already committed: Butch: Shrimp Platter; Brian: Baked Ham; Ev: Meatballs (Italian and Sweet and Sour), macaroni and cheese, ziti plus more.

Remember December 15th beginning at 6:00 PM. Hope you can join us.

73 for now. George / K4GVT



Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President:	George Tarnovsky	K4GVT	791-5956
Vice Pres:	Ruth Frock	KU4WH	331-1234
Secretary:	Wayne Phillips	N7QLK	393-8447
Treasurer:	Bill Ellis	WA4FIC	335-9935

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdell	W4HJL	369-2877
Art Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330
Charlie Dale	WA4YGI	361-3091

WEEKLY NETS

Thursdays - 8:00 PM	JOHN H	257-3566
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HAMFEST 2007

Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Charlie	WA4YGI	361-3091

FIELD DAY 2008

George T.	K4GVT	791-5956
Butch B.	W4HJL	369-2877

CLUB ROSTER

Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877
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EDUCATION

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
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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	WA4FIC	335-9935
Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234

GENERATORS

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

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

Joe Dobes	KI4OHR	369-2639
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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NEWSLINE

Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
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PACKET

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N3OH	590-9562

PROGRAMS

TBA

PUBLICITY

Trisha Wells	KI4PCM	335-1096
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QUARTERMASTER

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

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3556
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N3OH	590-9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939

All telephone numbers listed above are for Area Code 703 unless otherwise noted.

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The OVH ARC meets at 7:30 p.m. local time every third Monday of the month at the NOVEC Tech Center on Wellington Road in Gainesville, Virginia. Prospective members or other interested persons are invited to attend. Local information can always be obtained, at any time, through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.97 & 224.660 Mhz. All are welcome. Up to date information about OVH activities and meetings is also available on the OVH web site at <http://www.w4ovh.net>.

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 or other source 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: PAUL@W4ZB.COM.

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

Last Rev: 09/09/2007

Sunshine Corner:

Happy Birthday wishes to Butch/W4HJL, Charlotte/KG4QXO, Charlie/WA4YGI, Theresa/KG4TVM, Gene/KD4RHC, Ken/KM4UH, Wayne/N7QLK, Tom/WA2QAL, Joe/AB4QV and Kevin/KA4RNH.

Silent Key –Worth (Andy) Anderson/WB4ZIG passed away on September 28th at age 92. He was a regular check in the Thursday night OVH net for many years. His obituary in the October 19th Washington Post mentioned that he moved with his family to the Washington, D.C. area from West Virginia in 1927 and worked as a telegraph messenger while in high school in Arlington, had a great interest in ham radio and knew the Morse Code. He lived in the Fairfax Station area since the 1950's.

Get Well Wishes to John/WA1STU who is on the mend after surgery. Keep Ken/WB4ZOH in your prayers; he has been scheduled to have a pacemaker put in anytime now.

Road Trip for the Blasdells! – The oldest son of Butch/W4HJL and Mary Lu/KB4EFP was married on October 20th in New Morgan, Pennsylvania. Best wishes to the newlyweds!

Special Thanks to the JOTA crew for another great event – Al/KB4BHB, Phil/AC4PL, Joe/KI4OHR, Dwight/AI4II, Butch/W4HJL, Mary Lu/KB4EFP, Wayne, Ruth/Ku4WH, Craig/WA3UFY, Brian/WC4J, Art/W1CRO, John/KG4NXT and Theresa/KG4TVM.

Listen for the special announcement at the November meeting concerning the Holiday Party!!

Please send me your news, via email kg4tvm@hotmail.com or telephone 703-257-3566.

Everyone have a Happy Thanksgiving!! See you next month!

73 Theresa/KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting October 15, 2007:

Ruth/KU4WH, Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM on October 15, 2007.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 21 members present. The minutes of the September 2007 meeting were approved without corrections.

TREASURER'S REPORT – by Bill/WA4FIC.

JOTA – John/KG4NXT gave an update, the event is this Saturday, October 20th from 10 am to 2 PM at the Urbanna Swim Club. We will be using W4OVH callsign; the antenna party is Friday at 9:30 am.

ARES – David/KG4GIY thanked the club for its support during the past year at the different events. There are a few more events this year, including 10/20 Marathon Briefing in DC, pre-registration is required, October 24th is last drill of the year at the Health Department; October 28th is the Marine Corp Marathon and November 17th is the end of year meeting. Anyone be interested in working at the Marine Corp Marathon should contact David/KG4GIY or Steve/N4OGR as soon as possible. Also, please mark your calendars for July 12, 2008 when the Lake Anna Drill will take place at which Prince William County will participate.

OLD BUSINESS – Steve/N4OGR reported that OVH received a Certificate of Appreciation for participating at National Night Out, the event will be held next year at the same location. Also, the club's new storage shed is located at Manassas Transfer near the Manassas Airport.

PROGRAM – First Part: Art/W1CRO showed a video from the Northern California DX Association.

EDUCATION - Mark/WA4KFZ is continuing to work on the slides for the classes.

REPEATER – Butch/W4HJL and Art/W1CRO replaced the 440 amplifier and 2 meters is running well. David/KG4GIY asked if other members were interested in repeater maintenance and about documentation for the repeater setups. Butch/W4HJL responded that the Repeater Committee is open to members with time, technical know-how and interest, and that that Committee has all needed documentation.

HAMFEST – Reminder that the new date is June 8th; the Committee is working on getting the word out to the ham community about the new date. David/KG4GIY suggested getting the word to the QSO Party and ECARS. Ruth/KU4WH suggested that the Mt. Vernon Club which conducts the VEC exams be specifically notified of the change.

NEW BUSINESS – Butch/W4HJL reported on behalf of George/K4GVT who was overseas on business, that George/K4GVT has donated two DirecTV Systems, each with one year prepaid service plans once activated. Butch proposed that the club wanted to sell raffle tickets for one of the systems, with the other to be raffled off at the Hamfest in June. Brian/WC4J made a motion to start selling tickets for one of the systems now and sell tickets at the hamfest for the other system. This motion was seconded and approved The club's cost will only be for the tickets. Another motion was made that Butch/W4HJL and David/KG4GIY find out the cost of 249 tickets and report at the next meeting. This motion was approved with one opposed.

BREAK

PROGRAM – Second Part: Art/W1CRO showed a video of a simulated emergency test/drill in Massachusetts.

MEMBERSHIP – Joe/KI4OHR: no new applications to report.

SUNSHINE CORNER - Theresa reported that there are clouds in the corner this month, Worth "Andy" Anderson (WB4ZIG) passed away at the age of 92. Andy used to be a regular on the Thursday night nets. It was also reported by Joe/KI4OHR that John Zorger/WA1STU is having back surgery on Thursday. Brian reported that Mike/N3NVF has been diagnosed with liver cancer; Mike has traveled from Berryville to help out OVH with parking at the OVH Hamfest for several years.

EMAIL REFLECTOR – David/KG4GIY reported that AOL addresses are bouncing; he post a work around on the reflector as soon as one is found.

NEW BUSINESS: Bill/N3OH reported that the Technical Committee has an extra/surplus Kenwood TS 430S in good working condition which has a value in excess of \$300; that Committee has decided to raffle it at the November and December club meetings; the winning ticket holder must be present to win; raffle tickets will be sold for \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00 only at the OVH club meetings. Motion by Butch/W4HJL to sell tickets at the upcoming November, December and January meetings, with the drawing in January; the winning ticket holder must be present at the January meeting to win. Approved. Bill/N3OH advised he will make up the difference between the actual raffle ticket sales and \$300 (if needed) by purchasing additional raffle tickets himself for the difference.

50/50 – Bill/N3OH won and donated the proceeds back to the club.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 PM.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

OPERATING EVENTS

Nov. 17th - 18th - ARRL Sweepstakes SSB/Phone Contest. This is a major Fall HF contest with thousands of participants from all over the U.S. - a good opportunity to test out your HF station and to work any missing State still needed for the Worked All States (WAS) award. Details are at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/novss.html>. Brian/WC4J is planning an all out, 24/7, multi-operator, single transmitter effort to work all 80 sections during this contest; he is looking for operators who want to participate / help out at his station in Nokesville. Contact wc4j@wc4j.com or telephone: 703-965-6011. Chris/KI4POT is going deer hunting in a National Forest on Saturday but is taking his FT-817 along and may be operating from his tree stand or his tent using a wire antenna in the trees; no hunting is allowed after dark or on Sunday so listen for Chris!

OVH FUND RAISING RAFFLE OF KENWOOD TS-430S - NEXT THREE OVH MEETINGS

Nov. 19 and Dec. 17, 2007 and Jan. 15, 2008. The OVH will be raffing off a Kenwood TS-430S during its next three regular Monday night monthly meetings to support the OVH general fund; tickets will be sold at the upcoming meetings on Nov. 19th and Dec. 17th and on Jan. 15th, 2008. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Jan. 15th meeting and the ticket holder must be present at the meeting to win! Further details and information at w4ovh.net.

ARES / PUBLIC SERVICE

November 17th. An ARES training session will occur on Saturday morning. Contact David/KG4GIY or go to <http://pwcared.org> for more information.

Extracted / Edited From the ARRL Website: WRC-07 Almost Over - Expected Results Affecting Ham Radio Frequency Allocations

As the International Telecommunication Union's 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07) in Geneva headed toward its fourth and final week, the proponents of additional allocations to HF Broadcasting conceded defeat and accepted that there will be no additional allocations made to HFBC at this conference. The slim possibility of a 5 MHz allocation to the Amateur Service also evaporated late Friday evening, according to IARU Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ.

Amateur Radio Allocations

A footnote specifically authorizing administrations to allow amateur stations to use spot frequencies in the 5 MHz range was considered Friday evening (Geneva time) at the Sub Working Group level as one of the last items of business concerning the 4-10 MHz range. The footnote failed to attract sufficient support and was withdrawn from consideration by its sponsor, the European regional organization (CEPT). This has no effect on the administrations that have authorized amateur operations under the no-interference provisions of Radio Regulation 4.4.

On a more positive note for radio amateurs, a secondary allocation of 135.7-137.8 kHz to the Amateur Service was approved on first reading in Plenary on Friday afternoon,

November 9. This marks the first time since allocations to radio services began that the Amateur Service has had an allocation below the medium wave broadcasting band. The effective date is not yet set, but is likely to be the date of entry into force of the Final Acts of the Conference. Of course, amateurs must wait until their own administrations authorize the new allocation before they can use it. Some administrations, while not wishing to block the international allocation, have indicated a reluctance to implement it in their countries because of various interference concerns.

Future WRCs

Work continues on the agenda for future WRCs, tentatively scheduled for 2011 and 2015. There are many more proposals for agenda items for the next conference than can be accommodated, so only those with broad support are likely to be included. Committee work on the future agendas is scheduled for completion early next week.

Members of the core team of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) continue to attend the relevant meetings and work the halls on behalf of the amateur and amateur-satellite services. Support from numerous members of national delegations remains a vital component of this effort.

News from Art/W1CRO Regarding TMARC

I attended the “annual” meeting of TMARC (The Middle Atlantic FM and Repeater Council) as trustee for W4OVH on Sunday, November 3rd at the Historical Electronics Museum [<http://radiohistory.org>].

This was the first formal TMARC meeting in several years, its primary purposes were: a. to explain TMARC-related events over last several years (including the treasurer’s report); and b. to elect officers to reconstitute the TMARC leadership (TMARC had no officers going in to the meeting).

The following also occurred:

1. The board of directors is to examine the current repeater database and recommend all changes needed to get it functional again, and report back to the new officers by the first of the year. This will enable discussion at a general TMARC membership meeting which was scheduled for February 10, 2008 at the Historical Electronics Museum. The TMARC monthly status report will be reinstated.
2. No dues are being collected or applied at this time; the newly elected board will consider the need and form for dues and make recommendations.
3. TMARC will review and consider the needs for 900/1200 MHz band plans; also the need for provision for D-STAR and ATV repeater modes.

One other note: prior to the meeting TMARC mailed out 450 notices to repeater owners within TMARC’s geographical territory so that its database could be corrected and made current. 75 notices were returned “could not deliver” - and this was using the FCC database for addresses! TMARC is still working to get notices to everyone of record.

More on D-STAR - on youtube.com

D-STAR systems based upon equipment manufactured by ICOM continue to receive a lot of attention in the ham radio community and press - both praise and criticism. How well does it work? Will it be practical without a very widespread and presumably very expensive deployment similar to cellphone tower deployment? Is its plug-together interoperability approach for station call up and digital file (stream) transfers likely to be around for a long time? Who will pay for it?

Several D-STAR users/proponents who have already invested and deployed and, thereby, become familiar with D-STAR’s capabilities have produced short videos now posted on youtube.com. The following three are informative and worth watching, but keep the producers’ biases in mind!

D-STAR introduction -- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x1XpiR9-WWM>

Amateur Radio Emergency Service using D-STAR -- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8dUJp0rc0g>

Icom D-STAR system using NJ6N’s D-CHAT -- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v--nSTCSO64>

Watch these - expand your thinking! What alternative automatic station interconnection and digital file / stream transfer techniques are [or are likely to be] competitive with D-STAR?

More On Ham Radio / Radio in Russia

RCC, a Russian radio firm located in central Moscow, has, with the help of numerous hams and other donors, created a new and very large museum of World War II era radio and telegraph equipment, mostly of Russian, German and U.S origin. Why so much U.S. stuff? The U.S. supplied massive amounts of equipment to Russia. Many pictures from the collection are online at http://rkk-museum.ru/index_eng.htm; follow the links. Also, if you ever get to Moscow, be sure to visit the Polytechnical Museum too which has a broad collection of early radio equipment. Info [mostly in Russian] about that at <http://polymus.ru>.

What's Not Right About this "Sputnik I Era" Picture?



The 50th Anniversary of Sputnik I last month received press attention worldwide (and in the OVH Newsletter). German television ARD picked up on the "ham radio" angle and presented the image (to the left) in its program as showing an actual German ham operator in his 1957 station he used to listen to the "hi hi ... hi" transmissions from Sputnik. Hmm? Something clearly visible in the picture did not yet exist as of October, 1957! What is that?

Riley Hollingsworth Is Staying On at the FCC For At Least A While Longer

During the past month, Riley Hollingsworth, FCC Special Counsel who has been involved professionally at the FCC in Ham Radio enforcement issues for many years, and is also a well known promoter of good ham radio practices, announced he was going to retire. Then he announced he had changed his mind - he still had some things he wanted to accomplish. This brings to mind his "Ten Personal Suggestions for Amateur Radio Operators" - from the ARRL Newsletter for 9/1/2000:

1. Be proud of what you have and let your feelings be known. Let the public know what you are, what Amateur Radio is, and why it's valuable. Let your feelings be known to Congress, to the FCC, to the media, to your states and to emergency agencies. Sprint does. AT&T does. Motorola does.
2. Operate as if the whole world is listening. It is!
3. Take nothing for granted. Bill Gates can't, and you can't either.
4. You're at a crossroads now. An old Chinese philosopher (or my grandmother--I can never remember which!) said, "Be careful what you wish for. You may get it." Seize the moment, and make this your finest hour. Ham radio has been at a crossroads before and has thrived. Continue that tradition.
5. Make sure that, on your watch, Amateur Radio never becomes obsolete.
6. Teach the new licensees all you know. We've needed numbers for a long time.. Respect this wonderful legacy known as Amateur Radio that our mentors and Elmers gave us. Every time you key the mike or hit the key, think about what a legacy you were given and your duty to pass it on.
7. Enjoy ham radio. Celebrate it. But realize it comes with responsibility. Every gift of lasting value always does.
8. Stay away from arrogant, negative operators who know all the answers. They just haven't thought of all the questions. Encourage them to take their anger and hate to the Internet. Every minute they are on the Internet is a minute they aren't on Amateur Radio.
9. Never allow Amateur Radio to become the audio version of The Jerry Springer Show.
10. You may not always agree with the League, and that's fine. But I'm standing here before you tonight talking about enforcement because they never gave up. Take care of the one voice you have. You must never doubt that a small group of dedicated people can change the world. They just did.

K4ZDH

Interesting “Amateur Radio” Related Online Video Site

The web site <http://amateurlogic.com> has a series of informative and educational, ham radio, electronics and Internet-related videos on it. The typical video is 30 to 60 minutes in length and is produced to “professional standards,” notwithstanding what the site name might suggest. The site operators (based in Mississippi) have been producing a new video every month or so for several years now; as a result the site offers a small but diverse collection of topics from which to choose.

The most recent (October, 2007) video includes an interview with Martin Jue, K5FLU, the founder of MFJ Enterprises, the well known ham radio manufacturer, which recently enjoyed its 35th anniversary in that business. Over the years, MFJ has taken over, continued and expanded the ham radio related businesses of Ameritron, Hy-Gain, Mirage and Vectronics.

Recommended site for good information, well presented.

More About BPL - Updates

1. A three judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia heard oral argument on the ARRL v. FCC controversy over BPL regulation on October 23rd according to the ARRL's web site [<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/10/25/102/?nc=1>]. The official biographical information source for Federal judges [<http://www.fjc.gov/public/home.nsf/hisj>] does not indicate that any of the judges had any special technical, engineering or scientific background or training - which is not required for any judge; the academic credentials of each judge are impressive and their intelligence and sophistication must be presumed. So? The judges are thoroughly capable of understanding the legal issues and arguments; the apparent lack of technical background, however, makes it less likely that any will have independent views or judgments on the factually based technical issues involved in the controversy. The FCC's position on technical issues is normally accorded great deference [if disputed] so a lack of technical background might tend to favor the FCC; on the other hand, the ARRL's legal briefs exposed the technical flaws in the FCC's position - although the FCC continued indirectly to dispute that. Two of the judges were appointed by President Clinton, one by the current President. What does this mean? If or to the extent the controversy might be viewed as having a political aspect associated with the current administration, this might favor the ARRL's position; however, it is very unclear how or why any such perceived political aspect might play to a particular judge's political alignment. Let's hope that the judges work hard on this to reach the “correct” result.

2. The NTIA came out with a further report addressing BPL interference issues just a few days before October 23rd [<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/osmhome/reports/2007/bpl2007.html>]. Certain conclusions in that NTIA report - differing from those in the detailed NATO report earlier this year - appear to “change position” from those in the prior NTIA report and appear now to “side” with the FCC's position in the BPL controversy with the ARRL. Is the timing for this report and the NTIA's apparent “change in position” simply fortuitous? Most certainly not. Should it matter legally in the BPL controversy between ARRL and the FCC? No. Will it? Who knows? Let's hope that if the judges who are deciding the dispute become aware of the extra-record NTIA report, they will also become aware of the NATO report and be able to appreciate that true technical experts [providing “honest” opinions and conclusions] should not - in the particular area of technology involved in the BPL controversy - have such unresolved disagreements.

3. Several OVH members appear in a now dated youtube.com Internet video apparently copied from a cable “Channel 8 News” program. Go to <http://youtube.com/watch?v=R6sYD3C0jo8> to see “The Truth About BPL.” Look for George/K4GVT, Butch/W4HJL and Bob/K4HJF; each appears and speaks on camera.