

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

DECEMBER 2004

Next meeting: December 20, 2004

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

(Editor)

Greetings to all OVHer's:

I just returned from the **Manassas Christmas Parade**, which is one of the main holiday events here in the city of Manassas. It was a fun event for families and it was great that OVH was there helping provide communications for this community activity. I would like to extend my appreciation to the club members who gave up their Saturday to help. I also would like to remind everyone of the **OVH Christmas Party** which will be held at the home of John and Theresa Heartney on the evening of Saturday, December 18th. Please bring a covered dish and come out to celebrate the holidays.

The next meeting of the Ole Virginia Hams will be held on Monday, December 20th at the NOVEC Technical Center in Gainesville, VA at 8 PM.

Hope to see everyone there and at the Christmas party on the 18th.

Happy Holidays to one and all

Ruth/KU4WH

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

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Don (Butch) Blasdel W4HJL 369-2877
 Art Whittum KW4AW 791-4330
 Charlie Dale WA4YGI 361-3091
 John Zorger WA1STU 754-2378

WEEKLY NETS

Thursdays - 8:00 PM RUTH 331-1234

HAMFEST 2004

David Lane KG4GIY 361-3042

FIELD DAY 2004

Brian WC4J 257-9545

CLUB ROSTER

Blaine KB4RKL 369-2877

EDUCATION

TBA

CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Brian WC4J 257-9545

ARES AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David KG4GIY 361-3042

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 Mary Lu KB4EFP 369-2877

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 Bill N3OH 590-9562
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 Keith KM4AA 909-1512

HISTORIAN

Theresa KG4TVM 257-3566

HOME PAGE

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JOTA

Paul N2PJ 330-0796

LEGAL

Pete KB4RME 369-2436

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

John Zorger WA1STU 754-2378

NEWSLETTER

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NEWSLINE

Karl W4KRL 802-1527

PACKET

Alan KD4KBX 330-8844
 Bill N3OH 590-9562

PICNIC

TBA

PROGRAM'S

TBA

PUBLICITY

Steve N4OGR 361-0008

O' MASTER

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REPEATER TRUSTEE

Art W1CRO 791-4330

SCHOLARSHIP

Jim W4JTP 392-0150

SUNSHINE

Jan KE4TMW 257-0897

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 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

Minutes of the Ole' Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting
November 15, 2004

Ruth/KU4WH called meeting to order at 2000 Eastern Time.

Following the **Pledge of Allegiance**, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 19 **OVH members** and three guests present, including **"Butch"/WB4LII**, **Al Dugas's (KB4BHB's)** son from North Carolina.

PRESENTATION

Dick Daniels from **AMSAT** gave a presentation, along with excellent digital pictures, on the building and launching of **Amateur Radio Communication Satellites**. He covered the satellites built in the 90's and the latest that were launched in partnership with **Space Quest** this past year, including the **ECHO** Satellite. For more information, we can look at **AMSAT's** web site.

- BREAK -

BUSINESS MEETING

MINUTES – The minutes of the October 2004 OVH meeting were approved with a minor correction.

TREASURER'S REPORT - The Treasurer's report (in **Bill's [N3OH's]** absence) was presented by **Ruth/KU4WH**.

REPEATERS – **Butch/W4HJL** - The repeaters are working well as reported by Butch.

MEMBERSHIP - **John/WA1STU** – The application of **Dwight Agnew/N4GSD** was read in, who wishes to be reinstated as a member.

WEEKLY NETS – **Ruth/KU4WH** – The Nets are going well. **David / KI4AZX** will be added to the list for the OVH net. Thank you David for your help with the OVH Net.

ARES – **Brian / NC4J** – We still need volunteers for the **Manassas Christmas Parade** on December 7th. Please contact Brian.

E.O.C. – **Steve/N4OGR** – **Prince William County** is in the process of setting up **operating positions** at the **County Complex** for Amateur Radio Operators.

CHRISTMAS PARTY – **Theresa/KG4TVM** - The **OVH Christmas Party** will be on **Dec. 18th** at the **Heartney** residence from **6PM to 10 PM**. Bring your favorite holiday "dish". Thank you John and Theresa for hosting the OVH in a Christmas/Holiday party.

HAMFEST COMMITTEE – **Butch/W4HJL** - The Officers and Directors met and came up with a plan for having a "Hamfest" by Committee". Some members have graciously volunteered to help out with important staffing positions and others are "considering" jobs. If we all pull together we can accomplish this and have a successful OVH Hamfest.

BPL – **Mark/WA4KFZ** - Mark had a letter that he drafted for the purpose of being sent to the **Washington Post** about BPL. It was perused by the Directors that were present at the meeting. Each OVH director will be given a copy and asked to approve it and sign it before it will be sent to the **Post**.

The **50/50** was won by **Theresa/KG4TVM**. Theresa generously donated her winnings back to the Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM

73s

Phil/AC4PL

SUNSHINE CORNER

Happy Holidays! Hope you were able to attend the **Christmas Parade** and the **Christmas Party**.

Congratulations to **John/KG4NXT**, who has been **certified** as reaching **DXCC**. At the last OVH meeting, ARRL card counter **John Thomason/K5VG**, of Woodbridge Wireless counted John's QSL cards and was over 100. What a great Christmas present.

Happy Birthday to our fellow Hams: **Alan/KD4KBX**, **Ken/W5AOC**, **Charles/WA1FFX**, **Samuel/WB4FGS**, **Bill/N3OH**, and **George/N4XSL**. Hope each has a **GREAT birthday!**

Bob McCann/N4RL, former club director, is in Fairfax Hospital after a triple-bypass operation. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

Happy New Year! Hope to see you next year!

73 de Jan/KE4TMW

Fisher House & Operation Helping Hands

Fisher House is an organization that provides homes for family members of wounded soldiers near major military and VA medical centers – like Ronald McDonald House for Soldiers!

We are offering the opportunity to provide Gift Albums to the servicemen and their families during their stay at Fisher House, especially during the holidays.

Our goal is to provide 500 Gift Albums by the deadline of December 21, 2004. Gift Albums, priced from \$24 to \$54, are similar to a gift certificate. The recipient chooses one item from more than 45 gift selections, and the item is redeemed via: telephone, online or mail.

The gift is sent directly to the recipient at no additional cost. To help, contact us to purchase one or more Gift Albums. Each album is labeled with the name of the person or business (or organization, like OVH) that donated the gift and is then sent to Fisher House Foundation which will distribute the albums to the hospitalized troops and their families.

Email jansteve@bwwonline.com or call 703-362-0008

Thanks and 73 from Steve OGR and Jan TMW

SEASON'S GREETINGS

The Heartneys are having an
OVH Family Holiday Party

DATE: Saturday, December 18, 2004

TIME: 6:00 P.m. to 10:00 P.m.

PLACE: 10535 Cedar Creek Drive,
Manassas

Call (703) 257-3566 if directions are needed

Please bring your favorite holiday dish!

We will be taking donations for the Toys For Tots Campaign. Everything donated will be delivered in the name of OVH. For donations, please bring a new, unwrapped toy. Thank you!!!

happY holidays

IN BRIEF

All IN BRIEF Items from The ARRL Letter, Vol 23, No 48

* This weekend on the radio: The ARRL 10-Meter Contest, the Fall NA Meteor Scatter Rally and the Great Colorado Snowshoe Run are the weekend of December 11-12. JUST AHEAD: The Russian 160-Meter Contest is December 17. The OK DX RTTY Contest and the RAC Winter Contest are December 18. The MDXA PSK DeathMatch, the Croatian CW Contest, the Stew Perry Topband Challenge and the International Naval Contest are the weekend of December 18-19. The RAEM Contest and the DARC Christmas Contest are December 26. ARRL Straight Key Night is January 1, 2005 (UTC). See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> for more info.

* ARRL Certification and Continuing Education course registration: Registration for the Technician Licensing course (EC-010) remains open through Sunday, December 12. Classes begin Friday, December 24. With the assistance of a mentor, EC-010 students learn everything they need to know to pass the FCC Technician class license examination. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Web page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/> or contact the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Program Department cce@arrl.org.

* Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course registration: Registration for the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level II on-line course (EC-002) opens Monday, December 13, 1201 AM EST, and remains open until all available seats have been filled or through the December 18-19 weekend. Class begins Friday, December 31. Thanks to our grant sponsors--the Corporation for National and Community Service and United Technologies Corporation--the \$45 registration fee paid upon enrollment will be reimbursed after successful completion of the course. Radio amateurs 55 and up are strongly encouraged to participate. During this registration period, seats are being offered to ARRL members on a first-come, first-served basis. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Web page <http://www.arrl.org/cce>. For more information, contact Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, cce@arrl.org; 860-594-0340.

* ARRL holiday greeting cards still available: For the first time, the ARRL is offering holiday greeting cards for those radio amateurs on your list. It's not too late to order 20 cards/envelopes for just \$9.95. These colorful greeting cards feature a design based on the December 2004 QST cover composed by ARRL Graphic Designer Sue Fagan. The Santa Claus illustration and type design by Harry R. Hick, 1ESS, appeared on the December 1954 cover of QST. The message on the front reads "Season's Greetings to All." The inside is blank for you to add your own message or personal greeting. Order Item # 9536 via the ARRL Web catalog <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=95366>.

* Louis F. Linden, KI5TD, wins November QST Cover Plaque Award: The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for November is Louis F. Linden, KI5TD, for his article "Winlink 2000 in the Jungle." Congratulations, Lou! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award--given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue--is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page, <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/QSTvote.html>. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the December issue by December 31.

* Foundation For Amateur Radio solicits scholarship applications: The Foundation for Amateur Radio Inc (FAR) <http://www.amateurradio-far.org/>, a non-profit organization headquartered in Washington, DC, plans to administer more than 55 scholarships for the 2005-2006 academic year to assist radio amateurs. Awards range from \$500 to \$2500. FAR invites Amateur Radio licensees now enrolled in or accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school to compete for these scholarships. Preference in some cases goes to residents of specific geographical areas or to those pursuing certain programs of study. FAR encourages Amateur Radio clubs--especially those in Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin--to announce these scholarship opportunities at meetings, in newsletters, during training classes, on nets and on Web pages. Additional information and an application form is available by sending a letter or QSL card postmarked prior to April 30, 2005, to FAR Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738. The Foundation for Amateur Radio is an IRS 501(c)(3) organization.

* FCC denies petition seeking to require licensed radio repairers: The FCC has turned down a June 2003 Petition for Rule Making filed by Dale Reich, K8AD, of Seville, Ohio, asking the Commission to permit only licensed commercial radio operators to maintain and repair radios operating under Part 90, 95 and 97 rules, which would have included the Amateur Radio Service. The FCC's December 1 Order denied Reich's latest petition for failing to demonstrate that such a requirement would be in the public interest or that unauthorized radio modification is enough of a problem to require such action. The Commission also deemed Reich's petition "procedurally defective" because he failed to provide text for the various modifications to the five FCC rule parts his petition covers. The FCC last year denied a similar petition from Reich requesting the Commission to require licensing of technicians who program frequencies for radios operating under Parts 90, 95 and 97.

* Amateur Radio to have no role in 2005 Rose Parade: The Tournament of Roses Radio Amateurs (TORRA) <http://torra.us/> will not be providing any support for the New Year's Day 2005 Rose Parade in Pasadena, California. The traditional event precedes the Rose Bowl college football game. Although TORRA and the Tournament of Roses were unable to agree on 2005 Amateur Radio communication support arrangements, TORRA initially intended at least to provide some Amateur Television coverage. Now, the group now says the Tournament of Roses has decided not to use ATV either. A November 17 statement from the TORRA Steering Committee to TORRA members outlined the chain of events that led to the eventual disconnect, beginning with the Tournament's reallocation of building space after the 2004 event and the consequent removal of TORRA's equipment from the net control position and ATV storage facilities. While TORRA and Tournament personnel did sit down to explore the role of Amateur Radio and changes necessary for 2005, TORRA eventually concluded that "there was still too much to do and not enough time to do it" for a successful operation. TORRA announced November 22 that ATV coverage was out as well. TORRA indicated it will meet with Tournament officials in January "to restructure our role and the communication services we provide." Amateur Radio has had a communication support role in the Tournament of Roses parade since the 1970s. "We have a longstanding relationship with the Tournament of Roses, and both organizations wish to maintain that relationship," the November 17 TORRA letter said.

* Guinness World Records recognizes high-speed telegraphy achievement: Guinness World Records Ltd has recognized the high-speed telegraphy achievement of Andrei Bindasov, EU7KI. "On 6 May 2003 Andrei Bindasov (Belarus) transmitted 216 marks of mixed text per minute during the 5th International Amateur Radio Union World Championship in High Speed Telegraphy in Belarus," the Guinness database listing states. Witnessing the accomplishment in Minsk were HST International Referee Oscar Verbanck, ON5ME, Region 1 Executive Committee member Panayot Danev, LZ1US, and IARU Region 1 HST Coordinator Oliver Tabakovski, Z32TO. Bindasov says he received the official certificate from Guinness November 24. Bindasov also sent 271 letters per minute and 230 figures per minute during those phases of the 2003 HST competition <http://www.qsl.net/yo4kca/hstrules.htm>.

Online Club

Well folks, yep another online club you to can join: <http://www.qsl.net/kb3lfc/index.html>

It's the North American QRP CW Club! Well anyways it does have a contest this month that looks fun, the straight key sprint on Dec. 16th. Yep, it's a week night contest, now that seems different?

NAQCC WEEKNIGHT 80-METER SPRINT With a STRAIGHT KEY BONUS

RULES:

Work stations only once. Operate QRP (<5 watts) CW only, 80 Meters. Any type of key or computer keying can be used, but users of straight keys are awarded a bonus. Suggested frequencies: 3.560 + or - and 3.710 for slow speed. Call: CQ NA. Work: QRP, QRPp or QRO stations. Exchange: RST - SPC (State Province or Country) - NAQCC Nr. (non-Members send power level).

Date and time: Thursday, Dec. 16, 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. Eastern. (0130 to 0330 Zulu -- GMT Dec. 17. QSO Points: Member, 2 points. Non-member, 1 point. Multipliers: States and Canadian Provinces - 1 multiplier each. North American Countries (excluding USA and Canada) - 2 multipliers each. Countries outside NA - 3 multipliers each. Extra Bonus: If you use a straight key for all your contacts, multiply your final score by 2. Example: If you are in the USA and work 20 stations your base score is 20 points. Three stations are NAQCC members, add 3 points. Total 23 QSO points. In the 20 QSO's are 9 states and 2 provinces for 11 multipliers. There are stations from Mexico and Cuba for 2 X 2 = 4 multipliers. There are a German and Canary Island station for 2 X 3 = 6 multipliers. That's a total of 21 multipliers X 23 QSO points = 483 points = final score. If you used a straight key, you then multiply that by 2 = 966 points.

Dwight/N4GSD and forwarded to the editor by Mary Lou/KB4EFP