

# OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

## November 2019

### Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 19, 2019

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to all - November is here at last, and now with a blast of cold air!

It seems like the year is flying by. But wait, there are still things to do. We have our Breakfast Get Together this Saturday at 8:00 am at the Yorkshire Restaurant. The one time I thought I was going to be there by myself, six others showed up and we really had a blast. Ken (the other Ken) KN4DD, had me in stitches with his stories and humor. We meet in the same room that we have our Holiday party. Just walk to the back of the restaurant if you have never been there before. And feel free to bring your friends and or family. Breakfast is a good time for all.

The OVH has a several Christmas parades for which it provides communications supports each December. The first one and the biggest is the Greater Manassas Christmas Parade on the December 7th. George K4GVT organizes our support for that particular parade - which will be held for the 74th time next month. Volunteers are needed for the parade route, staging areas, and the judges stand. Breakfast is provided. The OVH club trailer will be in the parade again so Theresa KG4TVM is looking for some volunteers to help with decorating it. Ray KM4EKR will be towing the trailer in the parade. So if you would like to volunteer for either of these contact George K4GVT at [george@k4gvt.com](mailto:george@k4gvt.com) or Theresa KG4TVM at [kg4tvm@hotmail.com](mailto:kg4tvm@hotmail.com).

The second parade we support in December is the Manassas Park Light Parade. It will be on December 14th at 5:30pm. Meet at the Manassas Park Police station at 4:00 pm for pizza and drinks (non-alcoholic) and assignments. Volunteers keep traffic from entering the parade route. If you would like to volunteer contact Greg KM4CCG, at [manassasparkcert@gmail.com](mailto:manassasparkcert@gmail.com).



**Cont'd on Page 3**

# Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255  
Manassas, Virginia 20108

## OFFICERS

President:	Byron Dillon	AK4XR	222-2095
Vice Pres:	Jeff Fuller	WB6UIE	791-5916
Secretary:	John Heartney	KG4NXT	257-3566
Treasurer:	Don Meyerhoff	WA2SWX	597-3211

## 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
----------------------------	---------------	----------

## HAMFEST 2019 - Chairman

Don	WA2SWX	597-3211
-----	--------	----------

## FIELD DAY 2019

Byron	AK4XR	222-2095
-------	-------	----------

## CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
--------	-------	----------

## EDUCATION

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
------	--------	----------

## CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Open

## ARES - EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	703-628-3868
	email:	KG4GIY@ARRL.NET
Prince William County ARES website	http://	<a href="http://pwcares.org">pwcares.org</a>

## FINANCE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
Don	WA2SWX	597-3211

## GENERATORS

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

## HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
---------	--------	----------

## WEB COMMITTEE — W4OVH.NET

Kevin	KX4KU	540-445-5183
Andy	KJ4MTP	786-4651
John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Ken	KN4DD	622-2638

## TWITTER & FACEBOOK ACCOUNT MODERATOR

Jeff	KM4FTK	830-4155
------	--------	----------

## EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
------------	--------	----------

## JOTA - 2018

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
------	--------	----------

## LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
-----	-------	----------

## MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	WA3FMO	361-4885
--------	--------	----------

## NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
------	------	----------

## NEWSLINE FOR THE WEEKLY NET

John.	KG4NXT	257-3566
-------	--------	----------

## PROGRAMS

Jeff	WB6UIE	791-5916
------	--------	----------

## QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
-------	-------	----------

## REPEATER CONTROLLERS

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Ken	KE2N	753-8587
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042

## W4OVH — TRUSTEE

Wayne	N7QLK	571-237-0520
-------	-------	--------------

## W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
--------	-------	----------

## SCHOLARSHIP

Sandy Knight	KM4JUS	901-4664
--------------	--------	----------

## SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
---------	--------	----------

## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Ken	KE2N	753-8587
Andy	KJ4MTP	786-4651
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
David	KG4GIY	628-3868

All telephone numbers listed above are for Area Code 703 unless otherwise noted. This is the official monthly publication of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc., a §501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio. Copyright © 2019 by the Ole Virginia Hams. The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Tuesday at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station, 7190 Yates Ford Road, 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 operating with limited D-Star capabilities. Up to date information about OVH activities and its meetings is also available during the OVH's nets on its FM Repeaters each Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. or through the OVH's web site at <http://w4ovh.net>

Articles and quotations in the OVH Times newsletter may be reprinted if credit is given to the OVH ARC and any other noted source. Proposed materials for publication including pictures, articles, letters to the editor, classified ads, notes about specific errors, complaints or the like are solicited from all readers. Forward such items to the OVH Times Newsletter Editor: [PAUL@W4ZB.COM](mailto:PAUL@W4ZB.COM) as soon as available at any time, but the cutoff deadline for the OVH Times each month (usually the second Monday of the month) may preclude publication/correction until the following month. Approx. Circ.: 170. Last Rev: 20191008

Our Year End Holiday / Christmas Party / December meeting will be on Sunday, December 8th at the Yorkshire Restaurant at 7537 Centreville Road, Manassas, Virginia 20111 beginning at 6:00 pm. Please bring a covered dish, ham and turkey will be provided by the club. Bring your friends and family. Also bring a new unwrapped gift for Toy for Tots. We will have a couple of Marines joining us for dinner that night that will take the gifts and donations to Toy for Tots. Please note: the party will be in lieu of our regular December meeting - there will not be another regular OVH meeting in December.

Happy Veterans Day and thank you for your service to those members that served or are currently serving. Our VP Jeff has an interesting article on the club website regarding a fellow ham that was serving in the military. Check it out at <https://w4ovh.net>.

Lastly, I hope everyone will have a Happy Thanksgiving. Be careful if traveling during the holidays — stay safe.

Finally, I hope everyone will be able to make the upcoming regular OVH meeting next Tuesday, November 19th! This club meeting and last one for the year the at 7:30 pm at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department on Yates Ford Road. There are usually a few of us having dinner at Primo Pizza off of Liberia Drive before the meeting. Feel free to join us around 6:00 pm.

73 BYRON AK4XR



---

## Sunshine Corner:

Happy birthday in November to the following OVH club members: Wayne / N7QLK, Kevin / KX4KU, Baofang / KK4JFK, Theresa / KG4TVM, Butch / W4HJL, Greg / KM4CCG, Jeff / WB4TT, Gene / KD4RHC, Charlie / WA4YGI and Joe / AB4QV

Special birthday wishes to Butch / W4HJL as he celebrates his 80th!!! Yipes.

Happy Veterans Day to our military, we do appreciate your service.

Congratulations to OVH member Rosalie fka WIFE and aka “Pinkie” on recently passing her Technician exam — her new Technician License call sign is KN4ZLY! .

JOTA was on a beautiful Saturday in October, very well attended by scouts and some OVH members, thank you to everyone who helped with the scouts. See pictures later in this newsletter.

The Greater Manassas Christmas Parade will be on Saturday, December 7th. Ray / KM4ER has volunteered to pull the OVH club trailer in the parade, thanks Ray! If you would like to help decorate, the trailer please let me know. George / K4GVT is otherwise coordinating the OVH’s participation in this event.

The club’s Year End Holiday / Christmas Party will be on Sunday, December 8th. Please watch your snail mail for details. Please do bring your family; this is a potluck dinner. We are also collecting new, unwrapped toys for Toys For Tots. I have received confirmation that we will have two Marines at our dinner!

Continue to send news or other items to me via email at [kg4tvm@hotmail.com](mailto:kg4tvm@hotmail.com) or telephone: 703-257-3566.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

## Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting held on Tuesday, October 15, 2019:

OVH President Byron / AK4XR called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on October 15, 2019 in the training room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and callsigns.

George / K4GVT gave a presentation on the lightning strike on his home that included powerpoint slides, photos and a run down of the devices damaged by the strike. George also brought a piece of the destroyed fiberglass antenna to pass around as show and tell.

The minutes of the September OVH meeting were approved as published.

Don / WA2SWX, presented the Treasurer's report and it was approved.

Greg / KM4CCG, gave the ARES report which included: 1) upcoming January ARES training; 2) Turkey Trot at Quantico; 3) Honor 8K Event; and 4) ARES/MARS 60 meter activity.

John / KG4NXT, gave the report on upcoming JOTA Event which will run on October 19 at Camp Snyder near Haymarket.

Ken / KE2N, reported that all repeaters and digital links were working fine. He also explained our repeater battery backup system. In recognition of his superb work with the technical committee, Ken was awarded a club polo shirt with his name and callsign.

Don / WA2SWX gave the Hamfest report. The first hamfest planning meeting of the 2020 season is set for October 22nd. Don has talked to Amelia about getting more indoor space for the 2020 event and that is going well.

Kevin / KX4KU gave the web site report and mentioned the consolidation of the club database by Ken / KN4DD.

Theresa / KG4TVM, gave the Sunshine Corner report. She reported that the application for the Greater Manassas Christmas parade has been submitted and that Ray, KM4EKR, will pull out trailer in the parade. She also announced that date of the OVH Year End Holiday / Christmas party will be on December 8th.

George / K4GVT, spoke on the communications support for the Greater Manassas Christmas Parade. George will attend the Manassas City planning meetings but will be out of town on the day of the event itself. Steve / N4OGR will run the event on the day of.

Wayne, N7QLK, reported on the very successful Prince William half marathon that the OVH supported. The organizers were very happy with us and want us back next year. Wayne also brought T-shirts and medals for the OVH participants.

George / K4GVT announced there is a new repeater in Herndon on 449.170.

The meeting was then adjourned.

## **Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:**

### **HAMFESTS:**

February 1, 2020 (Saturday) -The Frostfest Hamfest, Richmond, Virginia. This is one of the few, nearby mid-winter hamfests, and a major one, not too far away. A bunches of OVH members always go to this so ask around if you need a ride. More info: <http://frostfest.com/wp>

February 7-9, 2020 (Friday - Sunday), Hamcation 2020 at the Central Florida Fairgrounds, Orlando, Florida. More info at <https://www.hamcation.com> This is the biggest Florida hamfest; and the weather is warm or mild in Central Florida in February.

### **HAM RADIO RELATED:**

November 16, 2019 (Saturday morning) 8:00 an - Yorkshire Restaurant, Manassas - the monthly OVH club breakfast get together.

December 7, 2019 (Saturday morning) (very early for some) - The 74th Greater Manassas Christmas Parade. See <https://gmchristmasparade.org> for the event web site. Again this year, the OVH will have a trailer in the parade and also will be providing communications support - which means it will be a very early morning start for some OVH members. George / K4GVT is again organizing and coordinating the OVH's overall efforts with this event. Contact George ( email: [george@k4gvt.com](mailto:george@k4gvt.com) ) for details; watch and the OVH closed email repeater system for further announcements.

December 8, 2019 (Sunday evening) 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm Yorkshire Restaurant, Manassas - the annual OVH Year End / Christmas Party. This is one of the OVH's main social events during each year, members and their family members are invited to attend. The main courses (turkey and ham) will be provided by the OVH, attendees are each requested to bring a side dish to be shared with others, Pot Luck style. Also, if possible, please bring unwrapped gift(s) for the Toys for Tots collection for Christmas. Check with Theresa / KG4TVM who is again organizing and coordinating this and keep an eye on emails from the OVH closed email reflector system for last minute announcements.

December 14, 2019 (Saturday evening) 5:45 pm or earlier - the Manassas Park Light Parade. OVH members will again be participating and providing communications support. Keep an eye on emails from the OVH closed email reflector system for further announcements and details and/or contact Greg / KM4CCG at [manassasparkcert@gmail.com](mailto:manassasparkcert@gmail.com)

### **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 at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal> by WA7BNM. 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 / ARES EVENTS**

Check the online Calendar by David / KG4GIY at <http://pwcares.org> for the latest PWC ARES 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.

# VP's Corner

Jeff Fuller  
WB6UIE

The approaching holiday season and year's end are traditionally a time for reflection and giving thanks for our many blessings. This Veterans Day, let's take a moment to express thanks to our veterans - the young ones who are in harm's way today defending our freedoms, and those who have gone before, sometimes giving all.

I know my fellow vets and I have had those occasional days when we felt like just a small cog in a big machine and wondered if we were making a difference. In honor of Veterans Day, here's a story about a young service member who made a difference by using his ham radio skills as a springboard to help create one of America's WWII war winning capabilities.

Young Radioman Harry Kidder took an interest in ham radio while stationed with the U.S. Navy in the Philippines from 1914-25. Using equipment he built himself, he began working DX as 1HK. As he listened to the HF spectrum, Harry began hearing what sounded like Morse code, but with extra characters he didn't recognize. By correlating strong signals with known ship sightings, Harry soon realized that he had stumbled upon Japanese Navy communications. With much effort and some help from a shipmate's Japanese wife, Harry learned the Japanese character set and correlated it with what he was hearing.[1]

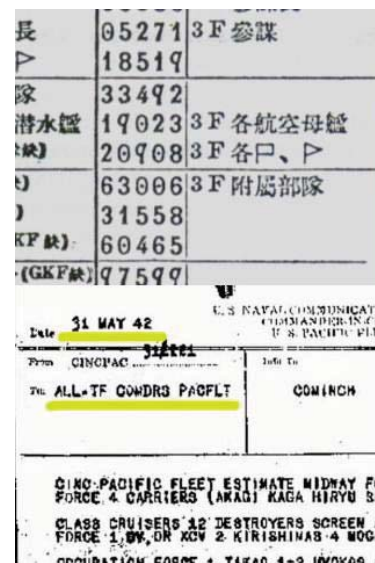
As Harry's Japanese Morse skills grew, he was able to copy traffic from major naval exercises and suggested to his chain of command that such intercept might have intelligence value. That earned him a set of orders back to the States, and, worse yet, to Washington, DC.

Dismay with the new orders evaporated as Harry was called into the intel spaces and read into a program known to very few people at that time. He was to stand up a school house to train Navy and Marine Corps operators to copy Japanese naval communications. Needing a secure space with easy antenna access, Harry had a concrete block house built on top of the Navy Department building on Constitution Avenue. His graduates, some recruited from the ranks of active duty hams, became known as the On The Roof Gang. They went on to operate a number of intercept and DF sites quietly installed across the Pacific to monitor the expanding Japanese empire. Intercept from these sites fed the voracious cryptanalysis effort against Japanese naval systems. Success against those systems played a pivotal role at Midway, the Yamamoto shutdown and numerous other victories in the Pacific war.

Harry Kidder retired as a Chief Petty Officer in 1942. This year he was one of four people inducted into the NSA Cryptologic Hall of Honor.[2] Well done Chief!



Thanksgiving on Combat Outpost Cherkatah, Khowst province, Afghanistan (U.S. Army)



Japanese naval code JN-25 and U.S. Navy intel report based on its solution.

1. Whitlock, Duane. **The Silent War against the Japanese Navy**  
Naval War College Review Vol 48 Nr 4 Autumn 1995

<https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3253&context=nwc-review>

2. **Four Cryptologic Giants will be Inducted into the Cryptologic Hall of Honor**

<https://www.nsa.gov/News-Features/News-Stories/Article-View/Article/1916180/four-cryptologic-giants-will-be-inducted-into-the-cryptologic-hall-of-honor/>

## OVH VEC Session - October 26, 2019 — by Membership Chair Luther / WA3FMO

The OVH held a very successful VE (Volunteer Exam) session on 10/26/2019 for prospective new hams. First, thanks to the GREAT VE Team: Al / KB4BHB, Chick / KC4PIA, Jeff / KM4FTK, Tony / KM4KLR, Gene / KN4JMB, Ray / KM4EKR and Steve / KB4OF.

A total of ten applicants appeared for one or more examinations administered by the VEC team with the following results: for Element-2 Technician: 7 passed; for Element-3 General: 4 of the new technicians immediately upgraded to General.

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS to new technician Rosalie Fuller !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Luther / WA3FMO

---

## OVH at the Camp Snyder JOTA Event - October 19, 2019 — by John / KG4NXT

On October 19, 2019, the OVH supported the JOTA [Jamboree On The Air] Scout event at Boy Scout Camp Snyder in Haymarket, Virginia. Modes operated included: DStar, 2 meter FM, FT8, HF SSB and QRP SSB on a loop. Boy Scouts contacted Germany, France, Portugal and Belgium as well as many stations in the U.S. using the OVH temporary station set up. We also had an oscilloscope on display and Morse code keys with sound for the Scouts to try out.

Duane, KK4BZ, was on horseback in the battle field and worked many of our scouts on 2 meters - horseback mobile - a very rare type of mobile ham station!

Scout Leader Rob / W4FSK, an active OVH member, was the OVH's sponsor at Camp Snyder. We got a scout lunch of hot dogs and baked beans. Participants included Rob / W4FSK, Al / KB4BHB, Don / WA2SWX, Duane / KK4BZ, Theresa / KG4TVM, Cat / KM4PBD, Bruce / KN4GDX and John / KG4NXT. We had wonderful fall weather. Some pictures from this JOTA event follow below.



Cont'd on page 8

# More pictures from the Camp Synder JOTA Event - October 19, 2019:





## October 2019 — OVH Member “Shoot Out” at the Fairfax Rod & Gun Club

On October 12, 2019, several OVH members went target shooting together at the Fairfax Rod & Gun Club. Because use of that club’s facilities is only open to its members and their guests, two OVH members who are also gun club members sponsored the rest of the OVH members as guests. Thanks very much George / K4GVT and Phil / AC4PL for that and to Cat / KM4PBD who proposed the event and then organized it.

The gun club has several ranges; we were at one that had a 220 yard rifle range as well as a pistol range and a .22 rifle range. The 220 range had reactive steel plate targets that fell over when hit. The much shorter distance pistol range also had reactive steel circles that could be reset at the pull of a rope. George / K4GVT brought his tracking point rifle. That rifle has a computer assisted sight which determines the range and computes the ballistics. The rifle fires when it has a solution on the selected target. In addition, a second person can see what the shooter sees by linking the rifle’s wifi to an iPad display. Fun was had by all. Pictures follow below.



## Some Possibly Interesting or Useful Information

1. Last month we briefly addressed the history of the American Morse code and the International Morse code developed from it. Everyone (at least all hams) know of the American inventor, Samuel Morse, who originated the American Morse code and built and demonstrated the first operating telegraph lines in the USA. But few (including hams) knew of Friedrich Gerke who extended and adapted Morse's American Morse code into the International Morse code which has been in use for radio communications since radio's earliest days - in the late 1890s.

2. Practical radio communications were first demonstrated in the late 1890s - just a very few years before amateur radio experimenters and operators arrived on the radio scene. But who was the first to demonstrate radio communications, and when? Before attempting to answer that directly, we need to look back a bit earlier in time. Radio communications are based upon electromagnetic waves (at radio frequencies) which travel (propagate) through space at the speeds close to the speed of light. A rather complete mathematical description of electromagnetic waves was first postulated by James Maxwell in the late 1850's and published in the mid-1860s. But the actual existence of electromagnetic waves which conformed to Maxwell's theories had not yet been demonstrated - and were disputed by other established scientists; further, the mathematical constructs Maxwell had used to set out his theory were unfamiliar and awkward then and still today. Oliver Heaviside who was very interested in the practical and theoretical aspects electricity and magnetism and their interrelation devoted himself in the 1870s and 1880s to simplifying Maxwell's mathematical explanations; he is largely responsible for the well known modified forms of Maxwell's Equations which have been used by engineers and physicists since then.

3. In the late 1880s, experiments being conducted by Heinrich Hertz in Germany demonstrated the basic accuracy and validity of Maxwell's theory of electromagnetic waves. See, *Electric Waves* [in English] 1893 by Heinrich Hertz at <https://books.google.com/books?id=8GkOAAAAIAAJ&hl=en> for a downloadable eBook. For a time (and still), electromagnetic radio wave were referred to as Hertzian waves, and indeed, Hertz had demonstrated that electromagnetic waves could travel between points separated by short distances. But when first asked about their practical uses, Hertz reportedly answered: Nothing, I guess. He was mistaken!

4. Many others were intrigued by the possibilities of radio. Best known in the West is Guglielmo Marconi who, by the late 1890s, had demonstrated that radio communications could take place over distances of several miles, and is generally regarded as the inventor of practical radio. Marconi continued on and became very prominent in the development of radio through the mid-1930s. On the other hand, in 1895, Alexander Popov, in St. Petersburg, Russia constructed a Hertzian type, broadband radio receiver device which reliably detected electromagnetic radiation from nearby (visible) lightning strikes - a real innovation at the time. Thereafter, Popov was prominent in the early development of radio in Russia. As a result, Russians regard Popov as the inventor of practical radio. When I visited the Polytechnic Museum in Moscow on a trip there in the late 1990s, there were many exhibits about Popov, including photographs (dated in the late 1890s) of horse drawn Russian Army wagons which were said to carry operational mobile radio communications equipment. I was very skeptical because of the dates shown, but there can be no doubt that Popov was an accomplished Russian scientist in his day.

5. I did not know the name Popov until the late George Kinal, ex-K2MBU (later W3HPF) described him to me in early 1969 as the "official" Russian inventor of radio. At the time, George and I were working together as electrical engineers on classified projects at a defense contractor. A few days after he joined the company after serving out his commission in the US Army as a communications systems engineer, I walked into his office and overheard him speaking in what I thought was Russian (I know a little) on the telephone. This was in the midst of the Cold War, so I asked him how he spoke Russian so well; George corrected me, saying I was close, but that he had been speaking Ukrainian with his father. George then told me he had been born in the Ukraine in 1943; his father, a Ukrainian physician, with anti-Soviet inclinations, had been conscripted by the German Army which needed doctors and was allowed to keep his family with him while he served. The Kinal family moved slowly westward with the German Army retreat, including in horse drawn wagons, and after the war, the family emigrated to Yonkers, NY where George had grown up and his father practiced medicine. That short background explained George's remarks about Popov. George, an accomplished engineer and one of the original founders of AMSAT, is missed by all who knew him.