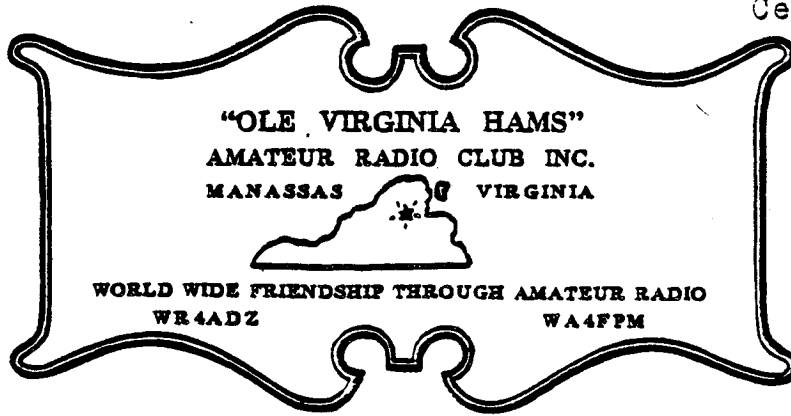


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March 1986

The February 1986 meeting of the OVHARC commenced at 8:00 pm, Feb. 17, 1986 in the meeting room of the NVEC building. There were 27 members, and 4 guests attending. 23 were ARRL members.

Program: Dr. Kerry Kingham (WA4BQM), an astronomer with the Naval Observatory gave an informative program about Halley's comet, and the origin of comets in general. A large portion of the time was spent on the many interesting questions brought up by members of the group. Kerry informed us that the Naval Observatory conducts tours every Monday night. It is located in Washington D.C. at 34th and Mass. Ave. Please call ahead of time for more information. (202) 653-1543.

While on the subject of celestial bodies, I should mention the "field trip" to Foxcroft school in Midaleburg, VA. This visit, thanks to Bruce (WD4ODM), was to see Halley's comet via the school's observatory. Unfortunately, on the morning we visited the school, Sunday, March 9 the sky was cloudy and only a few stars were visible. Larry Bohlayer, math instructor at Foxcroft gave the group of early risers (5:00am) a very interesting and detailed explanation of the operation of the telescope. We were able to see one star even though Halley did not show through the clouds.

Business: Dick (WD4AZG) noted that Boy Scout troop 1195 had sent a letter thanking the OVHARC for contributions last year.

New club officers are as follows: President - Dick Miller (WD4AZG), Vice President - Jack Gunsett (KI4VP), Treasurer - Lisa Miller (KA4RKJ), and Secretary - Randy Moler (KA4UFF).

A motion was made to give the past officers a letter of appreciation for a job well done.

Jim (WA2QBJ) gave the treasurers report, mucho bucks.

Five applications for membership were read: Blain Blazedell (KB4RKL), Margarette Lindsley (KB4IKU), Richard Kehrt (KA4NVY), Scott Davis (WD5HAK) and Joseph Tutino. These applications will be voted on at the March meeting.

Two applications were voted on at the February meeting. Pete Stekette (KB4RME) and Ed Marble (KB5LA).

1986 U. S. NAVAL OBSERVATORY TOUR INFORMATION:

**General Information:** The U. S. Naval Observatory carries on research in many areas of astronomy and support services. The primary functions of the agency as established by law, are to determine the positions and motions of the sun, moon, planets and principal stars, determine the accurate time, and produce the almanacs necessary for safe navigation at sea, in the air, and in space. The Observatory is located at 34th and Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20390, and is open to the public at limited times only. Parking is not allowed on the grounds, except for the elderly or physically handicapped. Please call ahead if a special parking permit is needed (202/653-1183).

**Tours:** The Observatory is open to the public every MONDAY night (except federal holidays) on a first-come, first-served basis to 140 persons (4 groups of 35). The Observatory's gate at 34th and Massachusetts Ave., NW will open at 7:30 p.m. while on Eastern Standard Time, and 8:30 p.m. while on Daylight Savings Time.

WHEN THE GATE OPENS, AVAILABLE PASSES WILL BE HANDED OUT ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS. NO PASSES WILL BE HANDED OUT BEFORE THIS. PLEASE CALL BEFORE YOU ARRIVE (202/653-1543). POLICIES SUBJECT TO CHANGE. (If tours are booked by the time you arrive, please try us again the following week. Reservations for GROUPS (up to 35 persons) will be taken AFTER MAY 1986: ALL passes until then will be given out to the general public).

Dress for outdoor weather; telescope domes are neither heated nor cooled. During cloudy weather, observations are NOT made. In the event of especially severe weather, tours will be cancelled. The recorded message (202/653-1543) will tell of cancellation by 5 p.m.

Visitors will be shown a variety of astronomical objects depending on the time of year, the time of month, and sky conditions. In all likelihood, Halley's Comet will NOT be observed on the night tours. Before perihelion on February 9th, it will be dim and its tail will not be visible. After perihelion, it will be too low in our sky for our telescopes, and city lights will obscure our view. For further information on Halley's comet, you may order the Naval Observatory's book on the subject entitled "A Magnificent Old Conflagration" from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 (Stock # 008-054-00121-1, \$1.25)

There are no age restrictions for our night tours, however it is not recommended for very young children, and those children attending should be mature enough to comprehend the content of the tour.

FOR INFORMATION ON PLACES IN THE WASHINGTON AREA OPEN DURING THE DAY TO THOSE INTERESTED IN GENERAL ASTRONOMY, AND INFORMATION ON AREA PLANETARIUMS, PLEASE WRITE, OR CALL 653-1541. Other places in the area which hold nighttime observations include the University of Maryland Observatory (301/454-3001) and the National Capital Astronomers organization (301/320-3621). We also recommend visiting the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum, area planetariums and NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center. A list of local planetariums is available by writing us or calling 202/653-1541 during business hours.

A taped message on current night sky information is available from the Smithsonian on 202/357-2000. Precise Naval Observatory Master Clock time is available locally by dialing 653-1800; long distance on 900-410-TIME (includes an ATT toll charge). Comet Halley information will be available on 202/653-0258 until May 1986.

Tim (KB4NR) reported that due to the inclement weather no changes had been made to the repeater. The new software which was ordered is not ready yet but Tim was sent "interim" software. Again nothing was changed.

Tim also spoke for the computer committee, which recommended that the club purchase a Kaypro PC computer, for use with the newsletter, hamfest and other events, as of this writing the computer and a Diablo D-60 printer have been purchased.

Odds and Ends Have you been requested to "QSL via Yasme"? If so, send your QSL to the Yasme Foundation, P.O. Box 2025, Castro Valley, CA 94546.

ARRL bulletin NO 13A

From ARRL headquarters Newington CT Feb. 13, 1986

To all radio amateurs

The Commission has initiated a rulemaking proceeding, Docket 8663, to determine whether examination credit should be given for Amateur Radio operator examinations coordinated by volunteer exam coordinators, VECs under part 97 of the rules. This action was taken in response to a petition for rulemaking filed by Robert C. Scupp. Presently, credit can be given for only the telegraphy examination elements. The commission also inquired whether it is necessary to continue to require filing of an application for license each time a person takes an examination. The possibilities for expanding the use of the certificate of successful completion of an examination will also be explored. Comments are due by April 30, 1986 and reply comments by May 31, 1986. Details will appear in QST.

A copy of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in PR Docket 86-63 may be had from ARRL HQ for an SASE bearing 39 cents postage.

The Melapur Amateur Radio Club has approximately 1400 test equipment manuals which they are offering for sale at very reasonable prices. For more information contact Hank (K4BFJ) or Art (W1CRO).

The next meeting of the OVHARC will be March 17, 1986 at the NVEC building at 8:00pm. Mike Ingram who is with the enforcement section of the FCC will speak. Sounds like a good program, see you there.

APRIL 5, 1986

WILLIAMSBURG AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

CONTACT ANDREW SWANSON, 259 NOTTINGHAM RD., WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23185

APRIL 20, 1986

BALTIMORE RADIO AMATEUR TV SOCIETY (LAUREL VEC) (WALK-INS)

INFORMATION: GEORGE FREED, 12108 VELVET HILLS DRIVE,  
OWINGS MILLS, MD 21117 (301/354-5588)

NOTE: ALL EXAMINATIONS REQUIRE THAT YOU SUBMIT:

COMPLETED FCC FORM 610

COPY OF YOUR CURRENT AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE (BRING ORIGINAL)

SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED BUSINESS SIZE ENVELOPE

FOR ARRL VEC EXAMS, YOU MUST ALSO SUBMIT A \$4.25 CHECK MADE  
OUT TO ARRL/VEC

