



# Old Virginia Times

The OVH ARC Newsletter



"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.  
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, VA 22110

Repeater: WA4FPM -- 146.97  
WA4FPM -- 224.66

Digipeater: WA4FPM-1 -- 145.09  
WA4FPM-3 -- 223.40

## NOVEMBER 1989 ISSUE

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

The OVH will soon sponsor a Volunteer Examination for Ham License. It will be at the Northern Virginia Community College (Manassas Campus) in room MS001 at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 18th. Some questions concerning the exams have been raised and I will try to answer a few. The code exam will be given by playing a code tape. 20 WPM will be given first, with 13 and 5 WPM, respectively, following. The tapes will use the Farnsworth system where the individual letters are

sent at a fast speed (I think it is 18 WPM), but are spaced so the effective speed is correct. Also, one is required to answer 7 of the 10 questions correctly to pass. But, if less than 7 are answered correctly, the Examiner will check the copy for one full minute of perfect copy. If one minute is found, the exam is graded as passed (this is 65 letters for General Class or 25 consecutive letters for Novice Class.) Also, a number or punctuation is counted as two letters. The written exam,

as of November 1st, is based upon the updated FCC rules. If one takes several exams (elements), each must be passed to commence the next one. Non-programmable calculators are permitted. At least 74% correct is required to pass a written exam.

Stray thoughts: The code exam is a fill-in-the-blank exam. The written exam is multiple choice. A re-test can be given at this exam PROVIDED a second version of the exam is available.

Listen to the Westlink Report at 8:00 pm Thursday Evenings during the OVH Weekly Bulletin.

second 610 form and fee will be required!

Bring at least two (2) sharpened pencils and a pen with you. A photocopy of your current license is required.

There is no fee for Novice only testing positive identification of candidates is required.

Good Luck to All Candidates!

**DON'T FORGET:**

**THERE WILL BE NO MEETING THIS MONTH!!!**

See you at the December Meeting!!!!!!!

73's  
Harry (W4PVA)

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

George Gautney (N4SMP) for upgrading to Extra Class!!!

**FROM THE SPEAKER MIKE OF  
OUR ROVING REPORTER —  
BILL ELLIS (WA4FCI)**

**"GIVE ME YOUR MONEY!"**

Well, here we go again. The Government needs more money to operate the FCC and notably the Amateur Radio Licensing comes under item one on the hit list. So, it's time to start putting a price tag on the old ticket. Time to dig deep...real deep to come up with those desperately needed doubloons and gold sovereigns you ham lubbers have salted away. Yep! It is bail out time again!!!!

The system does not work as it is, and they want more money from you and I to make the situation even worse. It is like beating a dead horse!

But, alas ... we are not the "issuing authority to operate an Amateur Radio Station". We, you and I, are being caught by the short wires in the urinating contest in downtown Washington, D.C.

I believe, personally, that if this new licensing fee plus passes into law, this will do the utmost harm to Amateur Radio in the United States and to our visiting portable or reciprocal licensing program amateur radio operators.

It looks like we have brought having an amateur radio license down to the "Almighty Dollar" and ... get this...if you should happen to screw up on your forms...you might as well date and sign the check, leaving the amount blank for the FCC to fill in after they have totalled up the bill!!!!

The most it has ever cost me to operate overseas these many years as an amateur radio operator has been a firm handshake or a bottle of J.W. or a fee no larger than 5 USD. What a slap in the face we are proposing to hand out!!!!!!

**NOTICE!! NOTICE!!  
NOTICE!!!!**

The Third Annual OVH Christmas Gathering will be held on Saturday, December 16th, 1989! Unfortunately — space is VERY LIMITED — we only have room for 15 couples!!

So please let me know, as soon as possible, by dropping me a note at the below address, that you would like to attend!

Bonnie V. Frick  
246 Kent Drive  
Manassas Park, VA 22111

Directions and details will be in the next Newsletter!

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF THE DX PacketCluster COMMANDS:

EW USERS SHOULD TYPE:

SET/NAME xxx(your first name)

--EXAMPLE: SET/NAME Bill

SET/QTH xxx(your last name, address, & telephone)

--EXAMPLE: SET/QTH HARRISON, 3582 Forestdale, Dale City, VA 703/680-6260

SET/LOCATION (wait for prompt...your lat/long info)

--EXAMPLE: SET/LOCATION (prompt) 38 47 N 77 19 W

BYE.....TO DISCONNECT FROM AND EXIT THE PACKETCLUSTER.

HELP.....TO RECEIVE HELP INFORMATION.

?.....TO RECEIVE HELP INFORMATION.

SET/ANSI.....TO SPECIFY THAT YOUR COMPUTER IS ABLE TO ACCEPT  
ANSI ESCAPE SEQUENCES.

SHOW/AN.....TO DISPLAY ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE ON THE PACKETCLUSTER.

SHOW/CONF.....TO DISPLAY THE PACKETCLUSTER CONFIGURATION.

SHOW/DIR.....TO DISPLAY A LIST OF ACTIVE USERS AND CURRENT MEMBERS

SHOW/DX.....TO DISPLAY THE LAST 5 ENTRIES FROM THE DX LOG.

SHOW/DX JA.....TO DISPLAY THE LAST 5 JA STATIONS LOGGED.

SHOW/DX 28.....TO DISPLAY THE LAST 5 28 MHZ LOG ENTRIES.

SHOW/DX/20.....TO DISPLAY THE LAST 20 DX LOG ENTRIES.

SHOW/DX/11 14....TO DISPLAY THE LAST 11 14 MHZ LOG ENTRIES.

SHOW/HEADING JA..TO DISPLAY BEAM HEADING TO JAPAN.

SHOW/MEETING.....TO SEE INFO ON THE NEXT PVRC MEETING

SHOW/MEMBER.....TO SEE INFO ON PVRC MEMBERSHIP

SHOW/MUF JA.....TO DISPLAY THE MUF TO JAPAN.

SHOW/NEEDED.....LIST MEMBERS NEEDING QSO WITH A SPECIFIC DXCC COUNTRY.

SHOW/NOTICE.....TO DISPLAY THE NEW USER NOTICE.

SHOW/OBLAST.....TO DISPLAY RUSSIAN OBLAST INFO.

SHOW/QLS.....TO SHOW QSL MANAGER INFO - THIS DATABASE RESIDES ON  
ANOTHER NODE AND TAKES CONSIDERABLE TIME TO COMPLETE.  
PLS BE PATIENT!

SHOW/QLSNEW.....TO LEARN HOW TO PLACE NEW QSL INFO INTO THE DATABASE.

SHOW/QLS SUBS.....TO SEE A LIST OF LOCAL SUBSCRIBERS TO THE QSL DATABASE.

SHOW/SUN EA.....TO DISPLAY SUNRISE/SUNSET TIME FOR SPAIN.

SHOW/SUN.....TO DISPLAY SUNRISE/SUNSET TIME FOR UR LOCATION.

SHOW/USERS.....TO SEE WHAT OTHER STATIONS ARE ON THE NET.

SHOW/WWV.....TO DISPLAY WWV PROPAGATION FORECAST ENTRIES.

A (ONE LINE ANNOUNCEMENT - LIMIT TO 49 CHARACTERS)<RETURN>

TO SEND AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL USERS ON THE NET.

EXAMPLE: A 6m is open to KH6 & 2m is opening to W6I<RETURN>

EXAMPLE: A Did anyone hear what frequency TL8WH QSY'd to?<RETURN>

A/xxxxx (ONE LINE ANNOUNCEMENT - LIMIT TO 49 CHARACTERS)<RETURN>

TO SEND AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL USERS ON THE xxxxx NODE.

DX (FREQ) (CALLSIGN) (NOTES)<RETURN> TO REPORT A DX STATION HEARD.

EXAMPLE: DX 28500 TL8WH QSL VIA N4AXR<RETURN>

T (CALLSIGN) (MESSAGE)<RETURN> TO SEND A QUICK ONE LINE MESSAGE TO  
ANOTHER STATION LOGGED INTO THE NET.

EXAMPLE: T KK4XO Hello Bill...How's DX tonight?<RETURN>

T (CALLSIGN)<RETURN> TO ENTER INTO THE TALK MODE TO ANOTHER  
STATION LOGGED INTO THE NET. THIS WILL ALLOW YOU TO TYPE MORE THAN  
ONE LINE OF TEXT TO THE OTHER STATION. THIS IS A ONE WAY MODE. THE  
OTHER STATION MUST DO THE SAME TO TALK BACK TO YOU. WHEN FINISHED,  
EXIT THE TALK MODE BY TYPING /EXIT<RETURN>.

WWV SFI=xxx,A=xx,K=xx,FORECAST<RETURN> TO REPORT WWV PROPAGATION  
INFORMATION HEARD AT 18 MINUTES AFTER THE HOUR.

EXAMPLE: WWV SFI=216,A=06,K=03,LOW-HIGH // LOW-UNSETTLED<RETURN>

DI/A.....SHOW DIRECTORY OF ALL MAIL.

DI/N.....SHOW DIRECTORY OF NEW MAIL SINCE LAST LOG ON.

DI/O.....SHOW DIRECTORY OF "OWN" MAIL. (MAIL ADDRESSED TO YOU OR FROM YOU)

R 165.....READ MAIL ITEM #165.

DE 165.....DELETE MAIL ITEM #165.

REPLY 165..SEND A REPLY TO MAIL ITEM #165.

THE FREQUENCY THAT HAMS FORGOT  
BY  
JAY / N55N

When was the last time you listened to 146.52 MHz? I mean really listened to it! Do you even have it programmed in to your radio or scanner? For those of you that do, thank you very much. For those of you that don't, you're causing the death of simplex communications.

Back before the time of really reliable repeaters and the fantastic repeaters handbooks that are available, the most populace place on the Amateur bands was 146.52 MHz. You could find someone there at least once an hour and sometimes for several hours at a time. This is a thing of the past.

Since my return to the States in 1982, I have amassed a great many miles on the road. One of the greatest pleasures I derive from this "drive is the company of two way communications. Many of the miles I have traveled have been with someone on the other end of the ether. One thing has become startling true. People just don't listen to simplex any more. This is easy to understand. With the handy dandy frequency guide, you can plan a trip from "A" to "B" and play musical repeaters all the way. Hard to beat really.

But look at the other side. How many times have you come to the next "frequency change" and found so much traffic or trash on the machine that your schedule gets blown out the window along with any chance of a "direction assistance"?

People are courteous enough to switch to simplex when they realize they are within range of each other. No complaints there. But as soon as they QRT, they switch back to a repeater frequency and down the road they go.

One gentleman I had a QSO with in Washington had the ideal setup. He had an MCW unit outboard of his 2 Meter unit which sent "CQ DE \*\*7\*\*" about every 5 minutes. We met each other in a mountain pass and had a fine "Eyeball QSO" at the other end. (I've just recently found the schematic for the unit he used.)

I have driven from California to New Jersey and Washington to Texas to Virginia and in all of those miles I have only heard or made contact with 5 stations.

It seems a little silly to have 800 channels on a radio and only use the ones that can be spread 600 KHz.

J. Edgar McDermott  
N55N

## GENERAL INTEREST

### **New Amateur's Code Adopted:**

Sure, amateurs are required to abide by the rules and regulations of Part 97, but most also subscribe to an even higher standard: the time-tested "Amateur's Code." The Code, written by League Counsel Paul Segal, W9EEA, in 1928, was recently updated by the Board of Directors. Please share this new version with your fellow amateurs:

### **The Radio Amateur is:**

**CONSIDERATE ...** never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

**LOYAL ...** offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

**PROGRESSIVE ...** with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

**FRIENDLY ...** slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

**BALANCED ...** radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

**PATRIOTIC ...** station and skill always ready for service to Country and community. (ARFRL Field Forum, October 1989 Issue.)

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### **AMATEUR RADIO IN BALLOONS PRESENT DAY PHENOMENON**

Another recorded success using Amateur Radio in balloons was recently announced from

Knoxville, TN. An unmanned balloon was sent aloft that had a voice synthizer on the two meter beacon that reproduced the voice of astronaut Neil Armstrong and the famous words he spoke as he stepped upon the moon. The balloon flew to a height of 90,000 feet. After 1 1/2 hours in flight, the balloon burst and it took 30 minutes for it to safely parachute to earth. Once the balloon burst, a Civil Air Patrol plane tracked its descent and kept the package in sight until the ground crew could salvage the package which was in a 70 foot high tree. Knoxville plans to launch another one in about two months. (BNT, Nov. 1989).

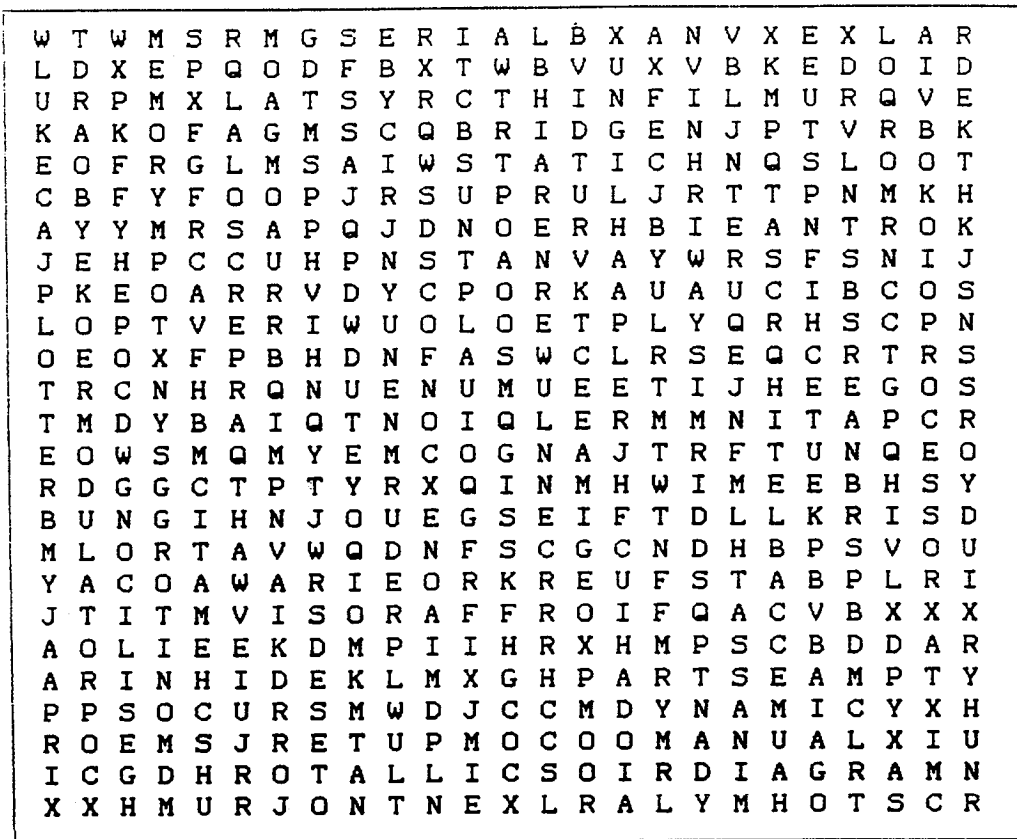
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### **THE SOLAR FLARES ARE COMING** by Dr. Gerhard Schilling, AI6I

Solar Cycle 22 began in September 1986 and solar activity is rising more rapidly than in all records dating back to 1755 A.D.



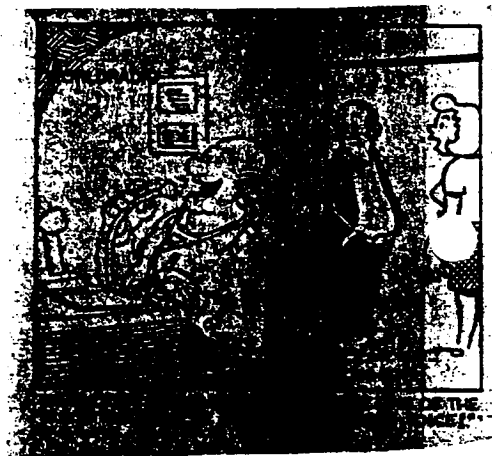
Try Your Luck!



WORDS IN THE PUZZLE

- |           |          |            |           |             |
|-----------|----------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| ANTENNA   | DRAM     | MEMORY     | POWER     | SILICON     |
| BRIDGE    | DYNAMIC  | MICROWAVE  | PRINTER   | STATIC      |
| CABLE     | ENGINEER | MODULATOR  | PROCESSOR | TECH        |
| CAPACITOR | EPROM    | MONITOR    | PVC       | TEFLON      |
| COIL      | FLOPPY   | MOUSE      | RECTIFIER | THICKFILM   |
| COMPUTER  | GROUND   | MYLAR      | RESISTOR  | THINFILM    |
| CRYSTAL   | IC       | OSCILLATOR | ROM       | TOOLS       |
| DIAGRAM   | INDUCTOR | PARALLEL   | SCHEMATIC | TRANSFORMER |
| DIODE     | KEYBOARD | PARTS      | SCOPE     | TRANSISTOR  |
| DISK      | MANUAL   | PLOTTER    | SERIAL    | WIRE        |

Sent in by Greg (N4RKV)!  
Thanks, Greg!!!!



# CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

<b>19</b> AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28.340 BALTIMORE, MD	<b>20</b> ** NOTE ** NO CLUB MEETING IN NOVEMBER	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> NVFMA NET @ 2000 146.19/79	<b>23</b> OVH NET @ 2000 146.97 224.66 ----- HAPPY THANKSGIVING	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> WOODBRIDGE NET @ 2100 28.440 ----- VEC EXAMS LAUREL, MD CO WORLD WIDE CONTEST, CW
<b>26</b> AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28.340 PENTAGON, ARC STAFFORD, VA CO WORLD WIDE CONTEST, CW	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> W1AW QUALIFYING RUN	<b>29</b> NVFMA NET @ 2000 146.19/79	<b>30</b> OVH NET @ 2000 146.97 224.66	<b>1</b> 160 METER CONTEST	<b>2</b> WOODBRIDGE NET @ 2100 28.440 ----- VEC EXAMS COLLEGE PK., MD 160 METER CONTEST
<b>3</b> AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28.340 160 METER CONTEST	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>6</b> NVFMA NET @ 2000 146.19/79	<b>7</b> OVH NET @ 2000 146.97 224.66	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> WOODBRIDGE NET @ 2100 28.440 ----- VEC EXAMS GERMAN TOWN, MD 10 METER CONTEST
<b>10</b> AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28.340 10 METER CONTEST	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> W1AW QUALIFYING RUN	<b>13</b> NVFMA NET @ 2000 146.19/79	<b>14</b> OVH NET @ 2000 146.97 224.66	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> WOODBRIDGE NET @ 2100 28.440 ----- CLUB XMAS PARTY
<b>17</b> AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28.340	<b>18</b> OVH CLUB MEETING	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> NVFMA NET @ 2000 146.19/79	<b>21</b> OVH NET @ 2000 146.97 224.66	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> WOODBRIDGE NET @ 2100 28.440

NOTES: 1. For more information on VEC testing, contact Harry W4PVV.  
 2. The Powwow net meets daily at 2100 on 21.00.

On this basis we can expect a very high amplitude with smoothed sunspot numbers of about 200 and 10.7 cm solar flux near 250. The values could even exceed the largest previous Cycle 19, which peaked in 1958.

Observations of other precursor phenomena lead to somewhat smaller values. But all current prediction methods indicate Cycle 22 will reach peak sunspot numbers well above average by 1990. Be prepared for fantastic DX, but also for major geomagnetic storms and frequent communication blackouts.

This information is based on the latest analyses by scientists at the NOAA Space Environment Laboratory. (Worldradio, October 1989.)

#### TREASURER'S CHEST

The OVH is an ARRL affiliated Club and, as such, your Club can receive a rebate for each ARRL renewal or new membership which is paid for through the Club. There is no extra charge, in fact, you save the 25 cents postage!

If you are not a member of the ARRL, or need to renew your membership, help out your Club by signing up or renewing through the OVH. See Ken Moan (KM4UH), Membership Chairman, or myself, Steve Frick (N4OGF).



#### Manassas Christmas Parade

The Christmas Parade will be held on December 2nd, 1989. Anyone wishing to help with communications, please contact Dick Miller (WD4AZG) at 791-3839.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the OVHARC will be held on Monday night, December 18th, 1989, at 8:00 p.m., in the basement Meeting Room of the Northern Virginia Electric Co-Op, 10323 Lomond Drive, Manassas, Virginia.

"73's"

**DON'T FORGET ----- THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN NOVEMBER!!!!**



## CLUB OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

### DIRECTORS

Bob McCann (N4RL)  
Tim Wayne (KB4NR)  
Mike Feher (N4FS)  
Butch Blasdell (W4HJL)

### OFFICERS

President - Harry Vohauer (W4PVA)  
V. Pres - Joe Tutino (KB4VHK)  
Secretary - Ken Moan (KM4UH)  
Treasurer - Steve Frick (N4OGR)

### OVH WEEKLY NET

Harry Vohauer (W4PVA)

### REPEATER TRUSTEE

Art Whittum (W1CRO)

### EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Harry Vohauer (W4PVA)

### REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Art Whittum (W1CRO)  
Tim Wayne (KB4NR)  
Milt Warnock (N4SN)  
Jim Lascaris (WA2QEJ)  
Steve Meade (KB4OF)  
Russ Stevens (WB4HHN)  
Butch Blasdell (W4HJL)  
Mary Lou Blasdell (KB4EFP)  
Jack Gunsett (KI4V) - Digipeater

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tim Wayne (KB4NR)  
Jim Lascaris (WA2QEJ)  
Al Picard (K4IQH)  
Lisa Miller (KA4RKJ)  
Steve Frick (N4OGR)

### TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Butch Blasdell (W4HJL)  
Jim Lascaris (WA2QEJ)  
Tim Wayne (KB4N)  
Bob McCann (N4RL)

### SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Bernice Miller (KA4SCA)

### REFRESHMENTS

Woody Woodworth (N4MQ)

### FIELD DAY 1990 CHAIRMAN

Bonnie Frick (N4QPB)

### PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Jeff Barr (KB4IWD)

### CLUB NEWSLETTER

Bonnie Frick (N4QPB)

### HISTORIAN

Greg Brunacci (N4RKV)

### F.A.R. REPRESENTATIVE

Mike Squires (N4REI)

### PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN

Greg Brunacci (N4RKV)

### 1990 HAMFEST CHAIRMAN

Jim Lascaris (WA2QEJ)

### GENERATORS

Tom Watts (KA4FU)

### COMPUTER COMMITTEE

Dick Miller (WD4AZG)  
Milt Warnock (N4SN)  
Tim Wayne (KB4NR)

### MEMBERSHIPS

Ken Moan (KM4UH)

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Mike Feher (N4FS)

### MAIL LIST

Dick Miller (WD4AZG)

### WESTLINK REPORT

Jack Gunsett (KI4VP)

### EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

Dick Miller (WD4AZG)

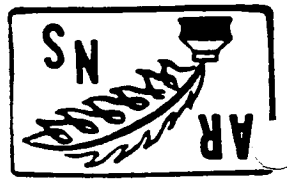
### CLUB PICNIC

Bernice Miller (KA4SCA)  
Mary Lou Blasdell (KB4EFP)

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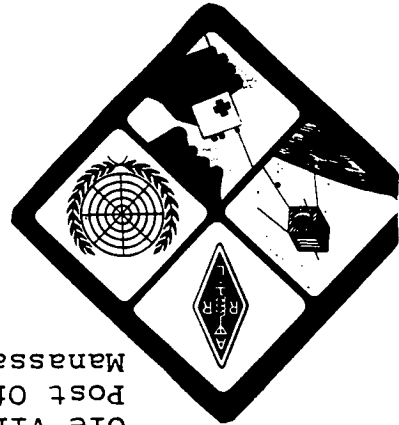
We are always looking for interesting items for the Newsletter. If you see articles, have shack tips, items for sale, items wanted, brain teasers, etc., please send them to the Newsletter Editor, c/o Ole Virginia Hams, Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Virginia 22110; or, give us a landline (561-0008 or 690-6547). If it is interesting to you, chances are it will be interesting to others!

WORLD WIDE FRIENDSHIP THROUGH AMATEUR RADIO

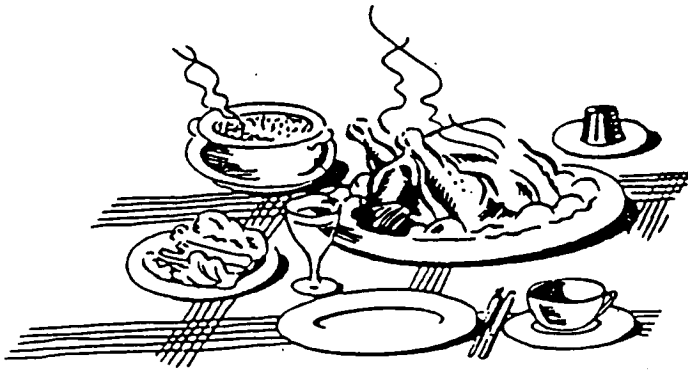
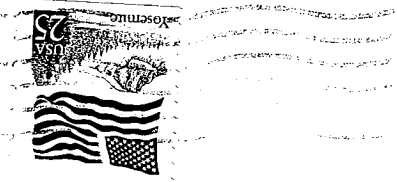


Remember, no club meeting in November

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Ole Virginia Hams A.R.C., Inc.  
Post Office Box 1255  
Manassas, VA 22110



# NOVEMBER

