

Dec. '90



# OLE Virginia Times

The OVH QRC 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

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

I would like to thank everyone for a wonderful 1990 and wish you all a Happy Holiday. This past year is now many fond memories. We may not have accomplished all that we set out to, but we now have a firm foundation for the years to come.

See you at the December 17th meeting.  
Stay safe over the holidays.

73's  
Joe (AB4QV)

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### MESSAGE FROM KEITH

On the 17th of November, the OVH conducted an ARRL VE scheduled testing session. I would like to thank the following VE's who participated in the examination:

- Harry Vorhauer (W4PVA)
- Mike Weber (WB8RDN)
- Mike Squires (N4REI)
- Stuart Gilman (KC0PR)

I also want to say thanks to Milt Warnock (N4SN) and Bob Spindle (WA4QYP) who came to

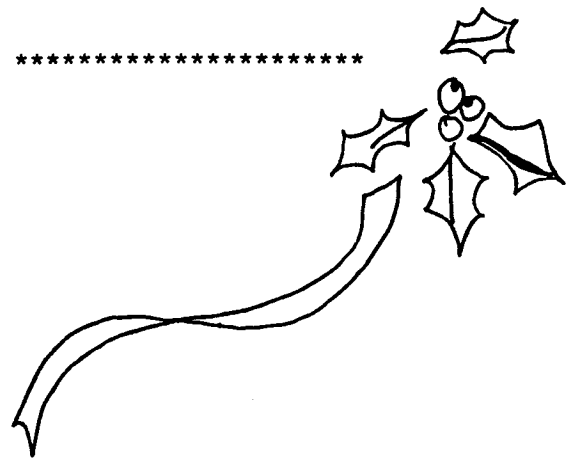
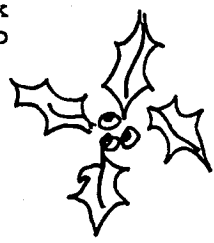
the exam, but because of only one room for testing and a relatively low candidate turn out, left before the testing session got under way. Thanks, its always best to have many rather than too few.

Anyways, as for the stats on this session, we had 18 people turn out, 12 of which accomplished an upgrade. We had 6 upgrade to technician, 2 upgrade to general and 4 upgrade to advanced. We issued 31 elements, of which 19 were passed. These numbers place us very close to the national average, however they can be misleading. Many people will take a code element at one session and the theory at another, and therefore they accomplish what they set out to, even though they don't upgrade. Other's will take elements until they fail one and, therefore, many times accomplish more than they set out to. It makes the pass/fail rate look artificially low.

Again, thanks to all, especially the candidates.

Keith (KM4AA)

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

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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ARRL Experiments:

The FCC has granted the ARRL a license to conduct experiments on the potential for interference from Amateur 220 Mhz operations to TV Channel 13. In disposing of the many petitions for reconsideration of the reallocation of 220 - 222 Mhz to land mobile use, the FCC said that it might consider making spectrum below 220 Mhz available to Amateurs if it did not interfere with television.

The experiment station, KF2XAA, will operate with up to 250 W on 216.0 - 216.85 and 217.15 - 220 Mhz using spread spectrum and "white noise" transmissions. The license authorizes 50 units of the Midland 13-509 transceiver and expires Jan. 1, 1991, although it may be renewed. Station KF2XAA is not authorized to communicate with regular Amateur stations, but is a self-contained operation that will communicate with units under its own license. - Portage ARC newsletter (Worldradio, Dec. 1990).

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Do You Know Where You Are?

When you are traveling down the highway on a nice sunny day, taking in the sights, looking here, there, hither and you, make notes of where you are.

The greenery looks wonderful in the summer and the snow on the trees in the winter can look beautiful. The sunrises and sunsets on the mountains are fantastic. You can see majestic mountain peaks in the distance with their topping of snow. We can see the water rushing under the bridges we pass over. We can see the Canadian geese flying to their nesting grounds. Sometimes we pass friends on the highway.

But do you know exactly where you are? How many people pay close attention to where they are when they are driving long distances?

Last week I stopped to call in an emergency on the way to work in Anchorage. But I wasn't paying any attention to any of the signs I was passing. I had to ask someone which off ramp we were closest to.

From this experience I will pay much closer attention to just where I am on the highway, if not picking out signs, then picking out landmarks. Emotions run high in an emergency and it is very easy to forget where you are or even the street you are on.

So, next time you go cruising down the highway, try to remember which signs you just passed and which ones are coming up.- ARNS -- (Worldradio, Dec. 1990)

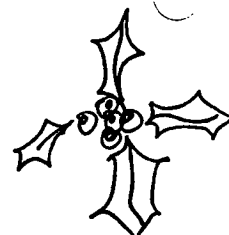
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Twass the Night Before Christmas on 20 Meters:

Twass the night before Christmas and all through the shack  
The signals had echoes; the aurora was back  
I was twiddling the knobs and tuning around  
Looking for rare DX but none could be found  
When all of a sudden a pile up so thick  
Caused me to question, "Could that be St. Nick?"  
Well I shifted the bandwidth and varied IF  
Then I switched in the filters but it made little diff  
Why can't I hear him I asked in a fit  
And I smiled when I discovered he was operating split  
He was working by districts: what a furious clip  
Santa was operating contest style just before his big trip  
I fired up the linear cause I wanted a shot  
It would take maximum power; everything I've got  
The two hard working triodes; they twinkled so bright  
As I got ready to call that jolly old sprite  
Just as the little green ready light started to glow  
St. Nick was saying "8th district stations get set to go"  
I stepped on the foot switch and yelled into the mike  
Then BANG, what happened? Who turned out the light?  
After finding the flashlight, I located the breaker  
It's a wonder in the darkness I didn't meet my Maker  
By the time I got the rig back on frequency  
Santa announced that he was ready to go QRT  
But I broke, said QRZed, will you take one more eight?  
Feeling certain that I simply was much too late  
But much to my surprise old St. Nick came right back  
WOJ he was saying, make it quick I must pack  
I must leave on my trip, it's a long one you know  
And I could tell by the flutter the band was starting to go  
Just as the propagation was beginning to flee  
Santa said "MERRY CHRISTMAS to all and a big SEVEN THREE."

(Worldradio, Dec 1990)

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**Amazing Trivia:**

The pictures of space, broadcast by the Voyager spacecraft, now outside the solar system, are transmitted a power level of 22 watts. The signals are traveling 4 1/2 billion kilometers through space to reach Earth. At a transmission rate of 9600 bits per second, each bit of transmitted signal is about 152 miles from its nearest bit.

The energy received at Earth by one radio telescope antenna is detectable at one millionth of one billionth of one watt. This power level is about one twenty billionth the energy of a small, digital, LCD wrist watch. (Auto-Call, Dec. 1990)

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**Calling Ex-MARS Operators:**

MARS officials have asked Paul Scipione, AA2AV (also Army MARS operator AAR2WH), to write a book on the official history of MARS operations during the Vietnam era (1964 - 73), the most active period in the 65-year history of MARS. Dennis Vernaccha, N6KI, and Scipione have interviewed 100 Vietnam-based and 50 US-based MARS operators, but there are thousands more who haven't been heard from. If you're a Vietnam-era MARS operator or know one, write Scipione for a questionnaire. Remembrances, photos and your present call sign and QTH will be compiled and listed in a special section of the book to help reunite old friends. Contact Paul Scipione, AA2AV, 5 Burr Drive, Metuchen, NJ 08840; tel 908-548-8096. (QST, Dec. 1990)

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**At the Front:**

The New Bern (North Carolina) ARC will sponsor a ham radio licensing class using ARRL materials. Not news? The Novice class will be conducted in Saudi Arabia, under the direction of US Marine Mark Bitterlich, WA3JPY, who asked for study materials "to relieve the boredom and inactivity of those serving in the 'sand pile.'" US amateurs are reminded that handling traffic to or from Saudi Arabia is not permitted in the ham bands; MARS stations are carrying the load. (QST, Dec. 1990).

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**ARRL Educational Workshop:**

An ARRL Educational Workshop will be held in Miami February 1, 1991, just before the Miami Hamboree. Instructors and teachers who use Amateur Radio in the classroom and wish to participate in this five-hour session should write to the ARRL Educational Activities Department for details. (QST, Dec 1990).

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**FROM THE TREASURER'S CHEST**

OVH 1991 Dues are due!!!!!!

Dues are \$6.00 per person and \$3.00 for each additional family member living at the same address.

Renew early to avoid the rush!!!

A new Membership Roster will be available at the December 17th meeting. Be there to get yours!!

Steve (N4OGR)

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THANK TO W7NLJ LEO  
THIS IS THE WORST MISMATCHED FEEDLINE I'VE EVER BEEN IN!



## OVH Weathernode

A Weathernode has been installed on the OVH Digipeater. The Weathernode records statistics concerning local weather conditions, and you can access that information from your own TNC and packet station. The Weathernode can store five days of data and can be queried of the data.

The information being collected by the Weathernode is:

- Outside Temperature (TF)
- Wind Speed (WS)
- Wind Direction (WD)

In order to use the Weathernode, connect to WA4FPM-1 or WA4FPM-3. Once connected, you will receive a prompt (WXN) from the Weathernode, indicating it is ready for your commands.

The commands available to you are:

- B(ye) Disconnect from the Weathernode
- H(elp) or ? Display a help table
- D(ata) Retrieve data
- DM(etric) Retrieve data in metric units
- HELP Display a complete list of all Weathernode commands.  
Most of these are for display only, you can not change them.
- HELP D Provides a full help description of the data commands.

If you specify "DATA" or "D" you will receive the values in US units, if "DM" is specified you will receive the values in metric units.

An example of requesting data is:

```
DATA [[sensor][n[step]] [START ddhhmm]]  
DATA - request the values in us units  
sensor - would be TF, WS, or WD  
n - is the number of samples you wish displayed  
step - is the increment between samples
```

**NOTE:** The Outside Temperature (TF) is sampled ever 5 minutes, the Wind Speed (WS) and Wind Direction (WD) is sampled every minute. So if you want hourly readings you would use a step of 12 for TF and a step of 60 for WS and WD.

**START** - this is a keyword that allows you to specify the earliest sample you want to see. You must then specify a start time in the format of ddhhmm, dd is the day (01 - 31), hh is the hour (00 - 23), and mm is the minute (00 - 59).

So if you issued the command "D TF 12 6 START 051230" you would receive the outside temperature 12 times starting on the 5th day at 12:30 with 30 minute increments. If you issued a command of "D" you would receive the latest data sampled for TF, WD, and WS.

If you have any questions about the Weathernode please leave a message for KI4VP on the OVH PBBS.

OVH Digipeater SYSOP, KI4VP

**Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**

The Ole Virginia Times is published monthly by the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, and is mailed free to members of the OVHARC. Permission is granted for use of material contained within this Newsletter, provided proper credit is given. This Editor will exchange Newsletters with other Clubs and Associations upon request. Newsletter deadline for submission of articles is the 5th of each month. The Newsletter is entered as First Class Mail at the Manassas Post Office, Manassas, Virginia.

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 OVH, Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Virginia 22110; or, give me a landline (361-0008 or 690-6547). If it is interesting to you, chances are it will be interesting to others!

73's

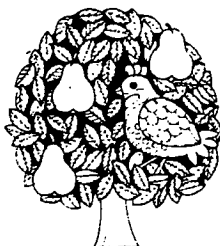
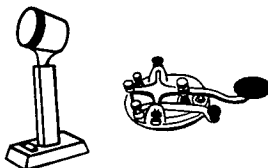
Bonnie (N4QPB)  
Editor

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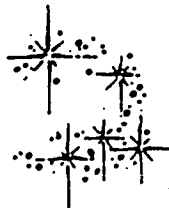
**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the OVHARC will be on Monday night, December 17th, 1990, at 8:00 p.m., in the basement Meeting Room of the Northern Virginia Electric Co-Op, 10323 Lomond Drive, Manassas, Virginia.

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**MAIL LIST**

**(WD4AZG)**

**703-79**

**CLUB PICNIC COMMITTEE**

**er (KA4SCA)**

**703-79**

**sdell (KB4EFP)**

**703-36**

**(WD4AZG)**

**703-79**

**EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE**

**(WD4AZG)**

**703-791-3839**

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN**

**(WD40JY)**

**703-36**

**991 HAMFEST CHAIRMEN**

**(WD40JY)**

**703-36**

**(KM4REI)**

**PO FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN**

**(N4QPB)**

**703-361**

**HISTORIAN**

**(N4RKV)**

**703-680**

**COMPUTER COMMITTEE**

**WD4AZG)**

**703-791**

**(N4SN)**

**703-369**

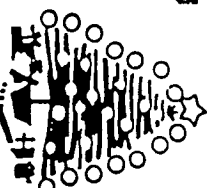
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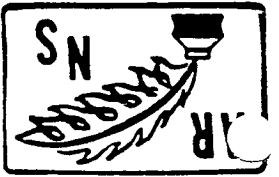
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**DON'T FORGET YOUR DUES FOR 1991**

**CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY**

<p><b>16</b> AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28.340</p>	<p><b>17</b> OVH CLUB MEETING</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b> NVFMA NET @ 2000 146.19/79</p>	<p><b>20</b> OVH NET @ 2000 146.97 224.66</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b> WOODBRIDGE NET @ 2100 28.440</p>
<p><b>23</b> AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28.340</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p> 	<p><b>26</b> NVFMA NET @ 2000 146.19/79</p>	<p><b>27</b> OVH NET @ 2000 146.97 224.66 ----- W1AW QUALIFIN RUN</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b> WOODBRIDGE NET @ 2100 28.440</p>
<p><b>30</b> AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28.340</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>1</b> ARRL STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT</p>	<p><b>2</b> NVFMA NET @ 2000 146.19/79 ----- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p><b>3</b> OVH NET @ 2000 146.97 224.66</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> WOODBRIDGE NET @ 2100 28.440 ----- VEC EXAM - GWJ/ DEPT OF STATE WASHINGTON, DC</p>
<p><b>6</b> AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28.340 ----- ARRL RTTY ROUNDUP</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b> NVFMA NET @ 2000 146.19/79</p>	<p><b>10</b> OVH NET @ 2000 146.97 224.66</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b> WOODBRIDGE NET @ 2100 28.440</p>
<p><b>13</b> AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28.340</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b> NVFMA NET @ 2000 146.19/79</p>	<p><b>17</b> OVH NET @ 2000 146.97 224.66</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b> WOODBRIDGE NET @ 2100 28.440 ----- VEC EXAM LAUREL, MD ----- ARRL VHF SWEEPSTAKES</p>

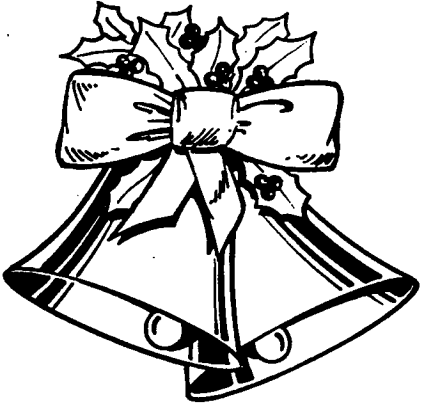
- NOTES:**
1. For more information on VEC testing, contact Harry W4PVA.
  2. The Powwow net meets daily at 2100 on 28.400.
  3. Richmond Frost Fest is 20th January



FIRST CLASS MAIL



Ole Virginia Hams A.R.C., Inc.  
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Manassas, VA 22110



DECEMBER



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!