



Old

Virginia

Times

The OVH QCC Newsletter



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

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FEBRUARY 1990 ISSUE

FROM THE PRESIDENTS SHACK

It is now time for the OVH elections for 1990. The elections will be held during the next meeting.

On Friday the 26th of January, a Board of Directors and current Officers meeting was held. The following items were discussed.

1. Club purpose and objectives. The Club was organized for "educational and scientific study of electronics and communications" also "for public service."

I personally feel the Club also serves a social and mutual help objective. This is not at odds with the Constitutionally stated purpose -- it is simply an

extension thereof.

2. A number of comments were made concerning the use of the repeaters' autopatch. One of the comments had to do with the "inconsequential" calls home, i.e., "I'll be home in ___ minutes." It may be inconsequential to the monitoring ham, but of prime importance to the recipient of the call. Also, "Should I bring home a loaf of bread?"

About the only comment I have to say with regards to these two items is that the autopatch is of value only if it is used within the FCC guidelines.

3. Another item which was discussed was Club dues. The dues at the present time are so low they do not even cover

the cost of financing the Newsletter. I feel the dues are ripe for an increase of some amount. This matter deserves your full consideration and will probably come up at a future Club meeting. Any changes will be done by amending By-Law Number 6.

4. Another item discussed was the purpose of the Newsletter. It was the consensus of opinion that the Newsletter should serve as an upcoming Meeting reminder, a place for dissemination of Ham radio news items, a place for members to advertise for sale/wanted items, current Club activities, general Ham related activities and a summary of the last Club meeting.

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

A number of other items were discussed but were not really proper for discussion within the Newsletter.

I certainly thank all for the past cooperation and help received during the past year. I hope the same help and cooperation will be extended to the new Officers.

"73's"

Harry (W4PVA)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

John Fritsch (No Call)
Richard Haight (KC4MLD)
Ron Payne (W4SYOU)
Chris Reynolds (KC4NHT)
Glenn Weaver (K8JOI)
Judy Weaver (K8CNR)

Welcome to the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club. We look forward to seeing you at meetings and Club activities!

(Provided by Jim (WD4OJY))

NOVICE CLASS TO BEGIN

Chris Hushak (WA1ZXX) will teach a Novice class to begin in late February or early March. The class size is limited and a definite meeting schedule must be determined. Call Chris for details at 430-2877. (The Sparc Gap, January 1990.)

CONGRATULATIONS!!

(I am sure everyone will join with me in congratulating the following upgrades:

Butch (N6NSM) to Extra Class
Frank (KA9VSU) to Technician

ARTICLES FROM OUR MEMBERS

"QRZ CONTEST"

From N55N

What, if anything, does contesting have for you? The most important thing is "PROFICIENCY".

There are a great number of Hams out there that feel the only thing a contest does is create communications difficulties for those of us trying to run an organized net. I do agree with that rational to a degree. The real problem is not with the contest itself, but with the contest organizer. The courtesy we extend while on the air and the common sense we use is enough of a guideline for most of us so we do not set on a net frequency and call "CQ CONTEST". There are some though, who have no concept of a net and they should not be blamed, but simply and politely informed.

Now that I have covered the negative side, let's talk about the positive side.

How many of you are holding back on upgrading your license because the next step requires either 13 w.p.m. or 20 w.p.m? When I asked my last club that, the answer was nearly 60%. As you know, the only way to learn code is to practice code. A contest weekend that is for CW or Mixed mode is the best training ground around. I put this challenge to the Club: Spend at least 1 hour out of every 4 that the contest is on the air for the weekend working code, and you will be able to upgrade at least to 13 w.p.m. I got a bonus, I got two new Extras out of the group!!

You get so used to hearing the same call over and over again at a high rate of speed that you just end up knowing the pattern for those letters and numbers should like. I am sure that almost all of you could recognize CQ from 5 w.p.m. up to 35 w.p.m. with no problem. They are not just dots and dashes anymore, they are a specific sound pattern. That is what CW is all about. Specific Sound Patterns.

As of this writing, I am a rather frustrated tester. Since moving to Virginia, I am located on the ground floor of a three story apartment complex and my only windows face North. I am lucky to have comms on 2 meters.

I am looking for interested people within the Club that would like to donate their

"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS"

MINUTES OF MEETING FOR DECEMBER 1989

The December meeting of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 2000 hrs, December 18, 1989. There were 27 members and 8 non-members present. There was a quorum of members present.

Introductions were made immediately after opening the meeting. Harry announced that due to scheduling problems, there would be no speaker at this meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP: Two membership applications were voted on. KB4CVL and KB2CEV were voted in as new members. Ken Moan indicated that he would like to be replaced as the membership chairman.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Bonnie reported that the Christmas party was a success. The costs of the party are detailed in the financial report.

REPEATER: Tim reported that the repeater continues to function without any problems. Although there have been some complaints of noise and low sensitivity, these do not appear to be caused by malfunctions within the repeater.

1990 HAMFEST: Jim reported that there has been one Hamfest coordination meeting. The next meeting will be held in January.

FINANCE: The finance committee will meet early in January to assemble a proposed budget for 1990.

NOMINATIONS: A nominating committee will be formed for the elections to be held in February. Although the nominating committee will be seeking nominees for club offices, nominations from the floor are welcome. Please make sure if you nominate someone for a club office, that they are willing to accept that position.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Harry reviewed the FCC requirements for conducting an Amateur Radio Novice Class Test. Basically they are, any two hams, unrelated to the applicant, who are over 18 years old and hold at least a General class license, may conduct a Novice class test.

Harry also discussed a recent emergency test session held at Prince William Hospital. The test proved the ability of amateur radio to provide emergency communications in case of a normal communications outage. As a result, Harry has received permission from the hospital to erect a two-meter antenna on the hospital and will be coordinating location of the antenna and emergency station location.

The following membership applications persons were received and read:

KC4MLD - Rich	WA6YOU - Ron	K8JOI - Glenn
KA8CNR - Judy	KC4NHT - Chris	NOCALL - John

Steve reminded everyone that dues for 1990 is now due. Please make sure that your dues is brought to the next meeting or mailed to the club address ASAP.

Jim McKinley, WD4OJY volunteered to serve the membership chairman.

The Ole Virginia Times is published monthly by the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, and is mailed free to members of the OVNARC. Permission is granted for use of material contained in 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, ham 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 1288, Manassas, Virginia 22110; or, give us a handline (361-0008 or 890-8547). If it is interesting to you, chances are it will be interesting to others!

WORLD WIDE FRIENDSHIP THROUGH AMATEUR RADIO

MINUTES OF MEETING FOR JANUARY 1990

The December meeting of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 2000 hrs. January 15, 1990. There were 41 members and 12 non-members present. There was a quorum of members present.

Introductions were made immediately after opening the meeting. Harry announced the guest speaker for the evening, Nancy Draheim NK4U, who talked about the QSL Bureau and working as a QSL manager for a DX station. Nancy passed on a number of good pointers on how to improve your chances of getting that one badly needed QSL card back as quickly as possible.

Harry mentioned a problem he had encountered with his hand held transceiver and its internal memory battery. Symptoms such as loss of memory each time you shut off the hand held rig are a good indication of this situation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP: Welcome to the following six new members who were voted in:

KC4NHT - Phil
WA6YOU - Ron
KC4MLD - Rich

NOCALL - John Fritsch
K8BCNR - Judy
K8JOI - Glen

FINANCE/BUDGET: Tim reported that the budget committee met and has established a proposed budget for this year. The budget shows an anticipated income and expenditures which are very very close to each other. Details of the budget can be gotten from the club treasurer or the budget committee.

1990 HAMFEST: Jim reported that the fairgrounds are now reserved, and the Lyons Club has again agreed to provide the food service.

NOMINATIONS: A nominating committee proposed the following slate of officers for next year:

President - Joe Tutino
Vice-President - Harry Vorhauer
Secretary - Ken Moan
Treasurer - Steve Frick

Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor prior to voting in February. Please make sure if you nominate someone for a club office, that they are willing to accept that position.

EMERGENCY REACTION: Harry reported on an emergency response activity club members participated in recently. Although not exactly an unannounced emergency, the Prince William Hospital required emergency communications to support a scheduled phone outage. Hams responded and were located in several strategic areas of the hospital to assist in passing immediate information from various wards, labs and sections of the hospital. Several valuable lessons were learned. Overall, the hospital was very pleased with our response and support.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Nancy announced that Ham License Examinations will be held in Vienna the day before the Vienna Frostfest. For further information contact Nancy at EEB.

Steve reminded everyone that dues for 1990 is now due. Please make sure that your dues is brought to the next meeting or mailed to the club address ASAP.

Eight new applications were read to be voted on at the next meeting:

N4WUY - Craig
WA4YGI - Charlie
N4USI - Mike
N4XTQ - Dan

AA5NU - David
NOCALL - Aaron
KA5RII - Art
KC4IPL - Bob

Joe Tutino announced that John Kanode will be the guest speaker at the February meeting. John will just have returned from an ARRL meeting, so should have some very up-to-date information for us.

Congratulations to Aaron Steketee who won the 50/50 tonight.

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

GENERAL INTEREST

Sarex - 1990:

Space Shuttle Columbia is scheduled for a ten day mission to be launched in the evening of April 26, 1990. Dr. Ron Parise (WA4SIR), a Payload Specialist, has been cleared by NASA to operate voice and packet during this flight. By coincidence, the commencement of WA4SIR's operation coincides with the 1990 Dayton Hamvention and consideration will be given to linking these two major ham radio events.

Space Shuttle Atlantis is scheduled for a five day mission to be launched on June 4th, 1990. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Ken Cameron (KBSANP), the pilot, has been authorized to operate voice, packet, slow-scan and fast-scan amateur television. This flight will coincide with the 1990 ARRL National Convention in Kansas City Missouri.

Both of the above flights will use the amateur 2 meter band.

As the orbital track of both missions will be at an inclination of approximately 28.5 degrees, this will put most of the United States out of range during the times when the astronauts are visible. AMSAT-NA plans to establish ground station networks to relay communications. The operations command station, W5RRR, at the Johnson Space Center will be contacted directly by control stations set up by AMSAT. Amateur

satellites. commercial satellite channels, shortwave links and other tele-communications facilities will be used to provide real-time hookup. Communications will be broadcast by a specifically designated station and repeated to WA3NAN at the Goddard Spaceflight Center near Washington, DC. and W6VIO at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

These locations and WIAW will be coordinating stations. They will broadcast on most amateur frequencies including 75, 10, 20, 15 and 10 meter SSB, 24 hours a day, during the missions. Using this as their source, numerous VHF and UHF repeaters will be able to re-transmit their material for local dissemination.

A prime objective of both missions is school participation. A pre-flight videotape, showing the astronauts explaining their equipment, an orbital tracking map and an informational packet explaining the SAREX program and amateur radio in general, plus a suggested curriculum will be available. Each astronaut will make at least one transmission on NASA video and audio circuits to show their stations and a Post-Flight video tape will be made available to all clubs and schools which take part.

In addition, a Teleconference Radio Net to feed most amateur repeater stations in the US is planned. The repeaters will permit easy access to schools and youngsters attending them.

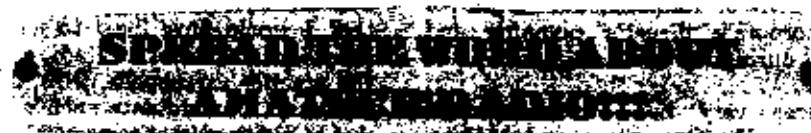
With the help of amateur radio clubs and members with hand-held equipment, students will be invited to share directly in the flights....they may even be able to talk directly to the astronauts. This project will be co-sponsored by the ARRL and AMSAT-NA. ARRL is lead organization for information, education and support, AMSAT-NA is lead for technical operations. (W5YI Report, January 1990, provided by Art KA5KII.)

DON'T DO IT BECAUSE IT WON'T WORK:

Remember the good old days when, if you needed a dummy load, it was as handy as the nearest light socket? Well, that won't work any more. Transistors don't like light bulbs. The early transistor rigs would protest by burning up the finals which would at least make your billfold swear never to do that again.

Now the designers have gotten a little smarter. They have added SWR protection circuits to detect anything above an SWR of 2 to 1. This circuit will then cut the drive to the finals back to a point where the power dissipated in the transistors will not burn them up.

Now see what happens when you try to use a light bulb as a dummy load. The SWR protection sees the cold filament of the light bulb as a dead short with a very large SWR. The SWR protection sees



this large SWR and cuts back the drive to the final transistors to the minimum and you don't get enough power out to light the light bulb. The light bulb filament never gets any hotter and the filament resistance stays at zero.

You could easily convince yourself that your rig isn't capable of any output and the finals are zapped. This is usually not the case because as soon as you connect the rig to a 50 ohm load, the SWR protection circuit allows full drive to be sent to the finals and you're back in business. (Jim KD3S, Maryland Radio Center Newsletter, Jan. 1990)

ICOM JOINS COMPUSERVE:

ICOM is now providing new product announcements, Service Bulletins, ICOM "Tech Talks" and "Radio News" via CompuServe. ICOM's Marketing Technical Support Manger, Bill Everette (K7RIE) (Used ID # 76702, 753) is your CompuServe Contact. Anyone can subscribe to CompuServe and access Hamnet, message center #14 (where the ICOM information is). It is not necessary to be an Amateur Radio Operator. All you need to do is call (800) 848-8199 and ask for Rep #48. They will send you a free introductory membership packet which includes a \$15.00 usage credit. The minimum cost is \$6.50/hr and the only equipment required is a modem and a terminal or computer. CompuServe is a local call from most areas. (Maryland Radio Center Newsletter, Jan 90.)

KENWOOD TS440S/AT TIP:

If you find the tuner in your TS440S will not tune, be sure the RF output control is turned up a little, otherwise the tuner will not get enough RF to do its' job! (Maryland Radio Center Newsletter, Jan 1990.)

TRANSMATCH BONDING:

If you have ever had difficulty, or found it to be impossible, to secure a good match with your antenna tuner ---especially when using a random length of wire for an antenna---then try bonding the ground lug of your rig directly to that of the tuner with a heavy gauge, separate ground wire. The braid from a discarded piece of RG-8 cable serves very nicely in the application.

Our group learned of the importance of NOT relying upon the interconnecting coax cable for ground during a recent Field Day; the 40-meter Bobtail antenna we were attempting to use could not be tuned until we "bonded" the system this way. (ARNS, 12/89.)

NOTICE!!! NOTICE!!!

The location for the VEC Exams scheduled on February 24th, 1990, in Vienna, has been changed. The new locations is:

**Vienna Firehouse
Corner of Center Street
and Cherry Street**

This is one block South of the Vienna Community Center.

Registration is from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. with Exams beginning at 9:00 a.m. sharp!!!

Please make a notation of this change.



MY NEIGHBOR ALWAYS LETS ME KNOW IF I'M BOTHERING HIS TELEVISION

Make a difference—
VOLUNTEER

SWAP AND SHOP

NEXT MEETING

FOR SALE: For all of the below, please contact Greg (WB3IZJ) at (703) 335-1993

The next meeting of the OVHARC will be held on Monday night, February 19th, 1990, at 8:00 p.m., in the basement Auditorium of the Northern Virginia Electric Co-Op, 10323 Lomond Drive, Manassas, Virginia. Not only will elections be held at this meeting, but John (N4MM), ARRL Director, will be our featured program speaker for the evening. We look forward to seeing YOU there!!!

Come out and support your Club by voting!!!!

1. Ritron RT-154 4 ch. VHF Handi-talkie crystallized on RCC radio-telephone service.
2. Lear-Siegler ADM-1: computer terminal.
3. Texas Instruments "Silent 700" portable data terminal with paper.
4. Teac AN-80 audio noise reduction unit with manual.
5. Panasonic FV-100 color video recorder w/tape.
6. Motorola "Pageboy II" tone pager w/charger & manual.
7. 2 - "Voice of the Theater" PA speaker cabinets; 300 watts per cabinet power rating; JBL speakers installed.
8. Yamaha R-350 motorcycle w/shop manual and spare parts.
9. Regency U-34 Micro-com 25 watt UHF mobile w/manual.
10. G.E. Custom MVP 300 watt UHF mobil w/manual.
11. Telemation industrial Black and White TV camera.
12. Motorola "Flexar" UHF base station with manual.

NO REASONABLE OFFER REFUSED!!!

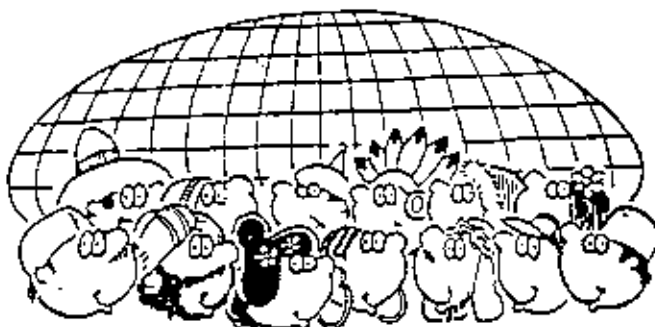
**Kenwood TS 440S AT
Included, Filter, MB 430,
VS 1, Astron RS 35 P/S
Dale, N4EDE 368-5210**

73's



Thought for Today!!

A philosopher once wrote that, "Delay is always dangerous, and circumstances never entirely favorable for any undertaking. If we wait for the perfect time, we shall never undertake anything."



WORLD WIDE FRIENDSHIP THROUGH AMATEUR RADIO

MANASSAS HAMFEST

JUNE 3, 1990

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

18 AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28340	19 OVH CLUB MEETING	20	21 NVFMA NET @ 2000 146.19/79	22 OVH NET @ 2000 146.97 224.66	23 W1AW QUALIFYING RUN	24 WOODBRIDGE NET @ 2100 28.440 ----- VEC EXAMS VIENNA WIRELESS VIENNA, VA
25 AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28340 ----- WINTERFEST VIENNA, VA	26	27	28 NVFMA NET @ 2000 146.19/79	1 OVH NET @ 2000 146.97 224.66	2	3 WOODBRIDGE NET @ 2100 28.440 ----- VEC EXAMS RICHMOND, VA COLLEGE PARK, MD
4 AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28340 ----- VEC EXAMS PENTAGON ARC PENTAGON	5 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	6	7 NVFMA NET @ 2000 146.19/79	8 OVH NET @ 2000 146.97 224.66	9 W1AW QUALIFYING RUN ----- I/A INTERNATIONAL CW DX CONTEST MAR 9-11	10 WOODBRIDGE NET @ 2100 28.440 ----- WISCONSIN OSO PARTY MAR 10-11
11 AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28340	12	13	14 NVFMA NET @ 2000 146.19/79	15 OVH NET @ 2000 146.97 224.66	16	17 WOODBRIDGE NET @ 2100 28.440 ----- BERMUUDA CONTEST MAR 17-18
18 AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28340 ----- VEC EXAMS BRATS BALTIMORE, MD	19 OVH CLUB MEETING	20 W1AW QUALIFYING RUN	21 NVFMA NET @ 2000 146.19/79	22 OVH NET @ 2000 146.97 224.66	23	24 WOODBRIDGE NET @ 2100 28.440 ----- VEC EXAMS LAUREL, MD

- NOTES:**
1. For more information on VEC testing, contact Harry W4PVA.
 2. The Powwow net meets daily at 2100 on 2^o 190.