



Nov. '90

Ole 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

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

I have included a questionnaire with this issue of the Newsletter. I often hear suggestions from Club members on how or what the Club should be doing. Here is your opportunity to express your feelings. 1991 is almost here and the time is upon us to create next years' budget. If you have ever heard me say "it's not in our budget for this year" then you can appreciate my concern for knowing what Club members want for 1991!

The questionnaire is designed to help members think and that is the reason for the space at the bottom for comments. This information will be used to gauge members interests and desires and allow the Club to better serve its members. Please, use it!

You can mail the questionnaire to the Club Post Office Box, hand it to a Club Officer or bring it to the December meeting. We will have extra questionnaires at that meeting in case you forget yours.

That's all for now!

73's
Joe (AB4QV)

HARRY'S HAPPENINGS

Light Emitting Diodes (L.E.D.s):

The LED requires a forward current in order to emit light. The average LED requires about 10 Ma current and this may be approximated by connecting a 1000 ohm resistor in series with the LED across a 12 Volt supply -- BUT, remember that a forward current must flow -- if the lamp doesn't light, reverse the connections.

Electrolytic Capacitors:

I had a bad experience several years ago while employed by an electronics firm. It was my task to electrically test equipment after it was built.

I hooked up this one piece of equipment, turned it on and viewed much sudden smoke -- it smelled terrible!

It seems that the electrolytic capacitors in it were hooked-up backwards.

The Polarity of Electrolytic capacitors MUST be observed when installing them -- otherwise, trouble results!! Quickly!!

Harry (W4PVA)

Remember, no club meeting in November

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

OLE VIRGINIA HAMS

Have You Bought Your First Computer Yet?

De
NS5N

Are you experiencing alot of anxiety over the planned purchase of a computer for your home or Ham Shack? Worried about the difficulty in using a new-fangled contraption and all the expense and accessories required? You're not alone.

Computers can be one of the finest additions to a home. The expense can be determined by what you would like your system to do. Of course, if you are like me, you have no idea what you want it to do as you have no idea what it can do!

You can use it for a simple calculator to balance your bank accounts, use it as a typewriter/word processor like I do with my small laptop, or with the addition of modems, printers and such, communicate with the world or your relatives. It can be an information storage bank for names, addresses and those important phone numbers. As an added bonus, you can even use it for Ham Radio!!!!

There is a plethora (big word for bunch) of software available out there, so you don't have to worry about punching in all of the information yourself. It can range from as little as 20 cents a program to thousands of dollars. Don't let the high end scare you. The only people that spend that kind of coin would be the big business types who require sophisticated programs for specific tasks.

Likewise, computers also run the low to high price range. You can pick up whole systems at times for sale for a hundred dollars or spend top dollar for all the power and capacity you could want.

I entered the computer arena with a small system with one 20K of onboard RAM. I'm guessing that if you've gone this far with the decision to purchase, you know the various buzzwords and what they mean. If not, keep reading about them and ask lots of questions before you spend your money. I liked my first system but realized soon that it did not have the speed or the storage capabilities that I wanted. The next step was a 64K system, then a 640K system and now that has been augmented with an additional 20M hard drive for speed and storage.

It is important to realize that this was MY requirements and MY upgrading decisions. I know several other users who are quite content with much smaller systems than mine

and mine is by no means as big as they can go. For the time being, it is as big as want it to be, so I am content.

To be quite honest though, the household uses three different computers. My wife's system is used almost 100% for family financial control and budget maintenance. She uses a laptop with a 20 M hard drive for speed of the complicated software required and for storage of a complete household inventory, rental property management, stock portfolio, three checking accounts, two savings accounts and five major loans. Talk about a handful!!!

As for myself, I do my composing on another laptop, but with 640K of storage and no hard drive. Since this is its primary usage,

J. EDGAR MCDERMOTT

DE NS5N

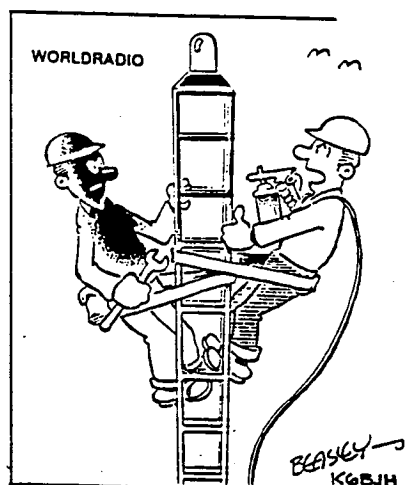
there is no real reason for speed or capacity. All of the articles are stored on a 3 1/2" disk. One of mankind's better ideas. This system is also being pressed into service for Packet Radio Communications. Another one of mankind's better ideas!!

The third system is a full-blown desk version with dual 360K 5 1/4" drives, 20M hard drive and a dual port serial card with a 2400B Modem for worldly trips and a quality printer. The hard drive is not so much for speed with this system but rather for storage. All of our general use programs are stored there since we do not need them in the laptops while on the road.

There you have it! Several different applications and many more not even thought of yet. I'm sure that your decision to make the grand purchase will be governed by your own thoughts and needs, but rest assured, there is definitely a place in the home for the computer.

73's

NS5N



I TOLD YOU WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO WORK ON THE SAME LEVEL!

Results of the Prince William Hospital
Antenna Test:

On Saturday, October 20th, 1990, the new antenna system installed at Prince William Hospital, Manassas, Virginia, was used for the dual function of:

1. An emergency test to copy with the National Section Emergency Test (SET); and,
2. To determine condition and coverage area available in case of an emergency.

Two, sequential, tests were conducted. The first was a two way contact between stations located within Prince William County. Initial contact was through use of the Ole Virginia Hams repeater station on a frequency of 146.33/.97 Mhz. This was followed by a test to determine if the station contacted through the repeater could be similarly contacted by direct transmission (simplex operation). Sixteen stations were contacted through the repeater and ten of these were contacted via simplex operation.

The second test was a check of repeaters which could be reached with communication quality. Twenty-one repeaters (each with its own coverage area) were contacted. The total area covered was basically from Roanoke, Virginia, through Fredericksburg, Virginia, east of Andrews AFB to approximately the Pennsylvania State line and then just over the West Virginia State line. Not bad!

73's

Harry (W4PVA)

DID YOU KNOW?

Days are short in winter and long in summer because cold contracts and heat expands -- very simple! (Worldradio, 9/90)



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Local Ham Activities:

Nov. 17 -- VEC Exams

9:00 am at the Manassas Campus of the Northern Virginia Community College - Room MS001

Nov. 17 -- Scouting for Food

Collection at the Manassas Armory and the Manassas Northern Virginia Electric Co-op Building.

For more information about the above, contact Harry (W4PVA) at (703) 368-6050.

Dec. 1st -- Manassas Christmas Parade

For more information, contact Dick Miller (WD4AZG) at (703) 791-3839.

New 10 Meter Net:

Arlington Top-Ten 10-10 Net

When? Sundays, 0900-1030 & 1900-2000, Eastern Time.

Where? 29.200 MHz, USB

Why? 10-10 International wants hams to start communicating at the high end of Ten Meters.

Net Control: AB4YP

See you Sunday Morning!!

Provision for new test procedures for the handicapped or the disabled:

Provision for new test procedures for the handicapped or the disabled to allow volunteer examiners more flexibility in administering exams was announced by the FCC on June 15.

Given a physician's statement attesting to the handicap or disability, examiners may be able to substitute a Morse sending test for one in receiving, to allow spoken instead of written copy, and to use a Morse code recognition exam. More details on this will be forthcoming. (Worldradio, 9/90.)

SWAP AND SHOP

For Sale:

1. MAGNAVOX CM80 MONITOR -- \$40.00

12" Monochrome (green) composite monitor (color compatible). With manufacturer's data and interconnecting cables for C64, C16, Plus 4 and Atari computers; also cable for Commodore 128. Used as a color compatible monitor with an AT286 until I could afford a real color monitor. Original box.

2. SEAGATE (ST-4036) 30 MEGABYTE HARD DRIVE (MFM) [no bad tracts] and WDXT-GEN HARD DRIVE CONTROLLER CARD -- \$140.00

Upgraded and do not need it any more. Installation manual, and XT/AT Advanced Diagnostics Disk or Seagate Disk Manager to get you going.

3. GRAPHICSMITH MONOCHROME PRINTER CARD -- \$25.00

Removed from AT when I went to color monitor. Supports Monochrome display (720 x 348), parallel printer and light pen. In box with User's Manual.

4. DELUXE RS-232 INTERFACE -- \$25.00

For VIC-20, C64, C128, SX64 and Plus 4 Computers. Used for packet TNC interface. Good for 300, 1200 and 2400 baud. Original box and User's Manual.

5. CW/RTTY/ASCII/PACKET SET-UP -- \$200.00

The following items make up a complete dedicated CW/RTTY/Packet Control System:

VIC-20 with power supply, TV Modulator (modified for separate video and audio outputs) and keyboard dust cover. Commodore 1530 Datasheet with cable for VIC-20. VIC-1525 Graphics Printer with VIC-20 cable. Microlog AIR-1 CW/RTTY plug-in module for VIC-20. MFJ-1274 Packet TNC Controller with cable and terminal program for VIC-20. Also throw in VIC-20 "Six-Pack" includes Personal Finance 1 & 2, Loan/Mortgage Calculator, Home Inventory and Expense Calendar programs (all Basic).

6. A friend of mine has some "stuff" left from an estate. Anyone looking for anything on the below list, contact me.

- a. Browning MD-33 (#138) TV Monitor
b. GE LS-3 Loudspeaker
c. RCA Radiola III (Type R1) 220-550 M Rx
d. Hickok 533-BM Tube Tester
e. KAAR Series 25E 500 - 5500 kHz + XTAL rx

- f. KAAR Series 96 XTAL TX
g. KAAR Model 8813 XTAL RX
h. KAAR Model 8034 Power Supply
i. Ballantine Model 300 VTVM
j. Forway TS-117/GP (#50) Wavemeter
k. Forway 4464-PP-61 Test Set
l. Weston Model 571, Type 3A Output Meter

LOOKING FOR:

Missing part of a Tube Tester (Hickok Model 533BM) Roll Chart...between 6F-- and 10A--. Need to borrow roll or Tech Manual to copy.

For all of the above, contact Art Whittum (WICRO) at 703-791-4330 (7pm - 9pm weekdays or anytime during weekends).

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

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!

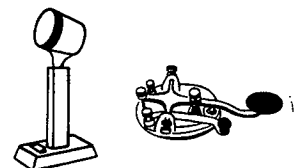
73's

Bonnie (N4QPB)
Editor

NEXT MEETING

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

We look forward to seeing you there!



OLE VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

OFFICERS

President - Joe Tutino (AB4QV) 703-369-5636
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SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

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OVH WEEKLY NET

Harry Vohauer (W4PVA) 703-368-6050

1990 HAMFEST CHAIRMAN

Jim Lascaris (WA2QEU) 703-791-2932

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 Milt Warnock (N4SN) 703-369-7265
 Jim Lascaris (WA2QEU) 703-791-2932
 Steve Meade (KB4OF) 703-368-6901
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 Mary Lou Blasdell (KB4EFP) 703-369-2877
 Jack Gunsett (K14VP) ---
 Digipeater

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Jim McKinley (WD4OJY) 703-369-3940

CLUB NEWSLETTER

Bonnie Frick (N4QPB) 703-361-0008

1990 FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN

Bonnie Frick (N4QPB) 703-361-0008

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Greg Brunacci (N4RKV) 703-680-6425

F.A.R. REPRESENTATIVE

Mike Squire (N4REI) 703-754-4875

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Mike Feher (N4FS) 703-361-8318

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Tommy Watts (KA4AFU) 703-369-2741

NEWSLINE REPORT

Jack Gunsett (K14VP) 703-361-5255

PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN

Greg Brunacci (N4RKV) 703-680-6425

1991 QUESTIONNAIRE

- 1) WHAT PAST ACTIVITY WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE REPEATED IN 91?
Example: Special Event Station.

- 2) WHAT NEW ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU LIKE THE CLUB TO SPONSOR IN 91? Example: Adopt a High School.

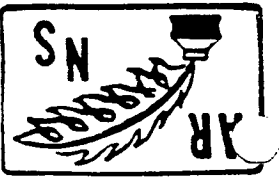
- 3) IS THERE A PROGRAM OR SPEAKER YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE AGAIN IN 91?

- 4) ANY NEW IDEAS FOR MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMS/SPEAKERS?

- 5) LIST ANY NEW EQUIPMENT YOU WOULD LIKE THE CLUB TO PURCHASE IN 91? NOTE: Personal equipment excluded.

- 6) DO YOU HAVE A DESIRE TO UPGRADE AND IS THERE ANYTHING THE CLUB CAN DO TO HELP? Example: Code practice on 2M or at monthly meetings.

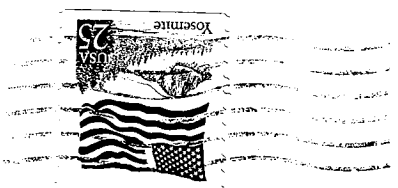
COMMENTS:



Remember, no club meeting in November



FIRST CLASS MAIL



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NOVEMBER

