

April '91



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

NOTE FROM THE VP TO ALL MEMBERS

This will be your last issue of the *Ole Virginia Times* if your dues are not paid.

The next Membership Roster will be updated at the end of April and will be available at the May Meeting.

NEW MEMBERS

Let's welcome this month's new members:

Tom Pike (KC4VMV)
Jim Hereford (No Call)

WELCOME!!!! WELCOME!!!! WELCOME!!!!

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL MANASSAS HAMFEST

AND COMPUTER SHOW
AN ARRL APPROVED HAMFEST

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 1991

PRESENTED BY THE OLE VIRGINIA HAMS A.R.C., INC.



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

CONDENSED MINUTES
FROM THE
MARCH 18, 1991, MEETING



Meeting called to Order at 8:05 p.m.

There were 28 Club Members present and 3 visitors/prospective members.

For the first time, the meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Everyone approved of the idea.

Membership Chairman tabled 4 Applications for Membership (they will be voted on at the April Meeting). Two new members were voted in.

Scholarship Committee Report was given by Mike (KC4IRL). There are to be four scholarships offered this year to eight area high schools. The designated amounts are \$2,000, \$1,000, \$500, and \$500.

Emergency Coordinator, Harry (W4PVA), requested new cards be printed for the emergency numbers such as 911, to be used for the autopatch feature of the repeater. He also requested that new rosters designate the class of license each member holds.

Steve (N4OGR) asked for information and articles for the Newsletter. Please contact Bonnie (N4QPB) or Steve with information.

Steve also reported that the Prince William County Communications Center is expecting the Ole Virginia Hams for a tour of their facility on March 30th, at 11 AM. They would like to have approximately 30 participants.

Education Committee report was given by John (N4YOB). The No-Code Technical Class will start Tuesday, March 19 at 7:30 p.m., at Stonewall Jackson High School. Volunteers would be appreciated to help out with some of the topics.

Rick (N4VZG) and Dick (N4YDP) are trying to form a net for the young Hams in the area. If anyone is interested, contact Rick.

Harry (W4PVA) brought up some new business -- April 14, Prince William County Park Authority is having a bike tour and volunteers are needed to help with the communications. In May, the Multiple Sclerosis 150 K bike tour will also need Ham participation. The American Red Cross will be having a Country Fair and they have also asked for Ham participation. Harry will have more on the above at the next meeting.

Meeting was Adjourned at 9:15 p.m.



YOU GOT AN HF RIG THAT WILL FIT IN THIS THING,
AND A MOBILE WHIP THAT WON'T KNOCK IT OVER?



Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

BATTERIES II

by

Harry (W4PVA)

Continuing on the subject of batteries...

After the last OVH Newsletter, the subject of "Wet Cell" vs "Dry Cell" was brought up in a verbal session. Therefore, it is felt that a few words concerning this should precede any new discussion.

Historically (and I would hate to date some of the material), the first electrochemical cells were made of an electrolyte liquid in a non-conducting container (glass?) and a couple of (dissimilar) metal plates partially immersed in the liquid, but not touching each other. (Note: If both plates are alike, no electrical action would occur.) A connection made to the two dissimilar plates will cause an electrical current to flow between them. Many early Hams made their own batteries by interconnecting cells of this type -- enough cells to total up to a desired output voltage. Mothers lost a number of canning jars when a budding Ham claimed them to make a battery!!!

Then, of course, an advance in the art came up with the idea of using a filler to hold the liquid and limit the spillage which could occur with a liquid filled container. This led to the word "Dry" and to current day cells.

If one were to dissect an ordinary flashlight cell, a moist material would be found therein. **WARNING: Do not open mercury cells -- the liquid mercury is a vortile poison.**

As a youngster, the writer took many carbon zinc batteries apart to obtain the carbon electrode -- a stick like item -- to write on sidewalks. Please be advised that many current batteries have a manganese dioxide electrode with a carbon center rod, but some others use such items as brass, etc.

Looking at the Alkaline Battery (Cell):

The alkaline cell has a steel outer shell, an insulating plastic film inside and then a shell of manganese dioxide carbon. Within this comes a woven fabric separator, then the electrolyte -- potassium hydroxide -- and usually a powdered zinc electrode with a brass current collector. Usually a nylon seal is used at the end of the battery case and all this is riveted together.

The advantage of the alkaline cell over the carbon zinc cell is that it has a better discharge rate, can supply a higher current and will give better low temperature performance. It is more economical than the carbon zinc cell in that it costs less in a per hour use on high current drains.

Battery Designations:

Originally radio batteries were designated as: "A", "B" and "C" batteries (this was in the era of vacuum tubes).

The "A" battery was a battery used to light up the radio tube filament. It had to sustain a relatively high current at a low voltage.

The "B" battery was a battery which was used to supply tube plate (anode) voltage. It had to supply a relatively high voltage at a fairly small current.

The "C" battery was used to bias the tube grid voltage. This was a fairly small voltage at almost no current.

The result was a differing structure for each. "A" batteries were usually made of No. 6 cells with each cell about 6" tall and 2 1/2" in diameter with either screw or Fahnstock wire clips for connectors and the weight of each was about 2 pounds.

"B" batteries were usually made of enough, self contained, cells to supply 45 or 90 volts and, guessing from past experience, the dimensions were 15" long, 5" high and 3" thick with a corresponding weight of near 30 pounds.

The "C" battery was, in many cases, a small battery of the equivalent weight and size of a couple of flashlight cells.

Needless to say, a radio with all of these batteries was hardly portable!

Currently batteries carry designations reflecting their size and shape:

- AAA - Small penlight size
- AA - Penlight size
- C - Small flashlight size
- D - Flashlight size
- * - Lantern battery (6V)
- * - Transistor radio battery (9V)

* All of these batteries have an individual manufacturers number which varies with the manufacturer.

Carbon Zinc and Alkaline batteries are made to be physically interchangeable but have differing capabilities -- these will be compared in a future article.

**TOUR OF THE OWENS
OPERATIONS CENTER**

On Saturday, March 30, 1991, the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club was invited to tour Prince William County's communications center located at the Owens Operations Center. At 11:00 a.m. on a brisk cool day, 12 Club Members showed up to participate in a very informative and interesting tour of these facilities. Sam Somers (WB4FGS), Communications Engineer for the County, was our guide. After explaining the basic concepts of the facility, we were split into two groups and give a very thorough tour of the facility. The group I was with first toured the Fire/Rescue Dispatching area. The personnel on duty at the time were extremely helpful in answering all of the questions put to them from our group. The computer setup, which has only been in operation for a month, is immense; it saves time for the dispatcher by having the information needed right there, making the dispatching job a little less hassled than it used to be when they had to hunt for the information.

The next area toured by my group was the receiving area for the 911 incoming calls. Again, computers played a major part in helping the operators with the incoming calls. Once a call has been received by the operator, it is sent, via computer, to either the Police Dispatcher or the Fire/Rescue Dispatcher, or, if necessary, to both. The personnel in this area were also helpful in answering questions and supplying information.

The final area toured by the group was the Police Dispatcher area. Again, all of the personnel on duty were helpful in answering questions and in explaining their computer setup and how they handled incoming calls and dispatching.

After the tour, both groups returned to the Conference Room where Sam gave us further information with regards to the radio receiving sites for Prince William County. There are three primary sites with four secondary sites. These sites cover all of the County.

While visiting the Emergency Operator area, the personnel could not stress enough the following points:

1. If you dial 911 by mistake, please do not hang up, let the operator who answers the call know you made a mistake. If you don't, you may find a policeman at your door checking to see if

you have an emergency. At the least, you will have the Emergency Operator return your call to see if you have an emergency. If you just hang up after accidentally dialing 911, the computer has already registered your telephone number and address. As the Emergency Operator has no way of knowing if you have an emergency or not, she/he will try to call you back to find out, if they cannot reach you, a police unit will be sent to your house to see if you need help. Not only is this an embarrassment to you, but it takes a unit off of the "Available" listing. If a real emergency came up while the unit was enroute to your house because you dialed 911 by mistake and then hung up, the person whom really needed that unit may have to wait until another one can get to their location. Please, be considerate, if you dial 911 by mistake, just let the Emergency Operator know, don't hang up!

2. If you do dial 911 because of an emergency, please answer all of the questions put to you by the Emergency Operator. DO NOT try to pre-guess their questions. This takes valuable time away from their sending help to you as they have specific questions which they must ask to ascertain exactly what sort of equipment needs to be dispatched to your location. These questions are for your benefit.

Sam closed the tour with a brief discussion of what does the future hold for communications, not only of the Police/Fire/Rescue, but also for Amateur Radio? Spectrums are running out and with all of the personal communications' requests for spectrum allocations, what can we expect in the future.

It was a fantastic tour and for those of you who missed it for one reason or another, perhaps we will be invited back at a later date. If we are I encourage all who can to attend. The tour was great, the personnel at the Owens Operations Center were extremely helpful and informative, the Center, itself, is amazing, and Sam is a great tour guide!!

73's

Bonnie (N4QPB)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Samuel F. B. Morse Code Proficiency Code Certificate Program:

Sharpen your pencils for the first run of the Samuel F. B. Morse Code Proficiency Certificate program April 27 from W1AW. The ARRL will help celebrate the birth of Samuel Morse with a bicentennial anniversary certificate, a special one-time memento of this historic occasion. The program will be similar to the popular Golden Jubilee of DXCC, We the People WAS and the ARRL Diamond Jubilee Award.

Once a month, ...from April 27, 1991, through March 31, 1992, W1AW and W6OWP/W6ZRJ will transmit a special Samuel F. B. Morse Bicentennial Code Proficiency run. The code speeds will be 10-60 WPM in increments of 5 WPM. Therefore, you'll have an opportunity to qualify for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55 and 60 WPM. Each speed will be sent for five minutes. You only need one minute solid copy to qualify at a given speed.

A unique thing about this program is that the applicants will self-certify their proficiency. This will also reduce the processing time for the certificate.

Transmission dates from W1AW during 1991 will be:

- Apr 27 - Sat at 2300 UTC or 1900 EDST
- May 24 - Fri at 2000 UTC or 1600 EDST
- Jun 26 - Wed at 1300 UTC or 0900 EDST
- Jul 27 - Sat at 2300 UTC or 1900 EDST
- Aug 27 - Tue at 2000 UTC or 1600 EDST
- Sep 25 - Wed at 1300 UTC or 0900 EDST
- Oct 27 - Sun at 2400 UTC or 1900 EST
- Nov 26 - Tue at 2100 UTC or 1600 EST
- Dec 26 - Thur at 1400 UTC or 0900 EST

(Check QST for additional dates and times through March 1992.)

For more information see the April 1991 Issue of QST. (QST, April 1991.)

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, April 15th, 1991, 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!

**SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT
AMATEUR RADIO!!!**

OLE VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

OFFICERS

President - Joe Tutino (AB4QV) 703-369-5636
 V. P. - Steve Frick (N40GR) 703-361-0008
 Secretary - Mary Lou Blasdell (KB4EFP) 703-369-2877
 Treasurer - Jimmy Lascaris (WA2QEJ) 703-791-2932

DIRECTORS

Bob McCann (N4RL) 703-361-7335
 Tim Wayne (KB4NR) 703-494-2737
 Butch Blasdell (W4HJL) 703-369-2877

REPEATER TRUSTEE 703-791-4330
 Art Whittum (W1CRO)

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR 703-368-6050
 Harry Vohauer (W4PVA)

MAIL LIST

Dick Miller (WD4AZG) 703-791-3839

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tim Wayne (KB4NR) 703-494-2737
 Jim Lascaris (WA2QEJ) 703-791-2932
 Mary Lou Blasdell (KB4EFP) 703-369-2877
 Steve Frick (N40GR) 703-361-0008

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Butch Blasdell (W4HJL) 703-369-2877
 Jim Lascaris (WA2QEJ) 703-791-2932
 Tim Wayne (KB4NR) 703-494-2737
 Bob McCann (N4RL) 703-361-7335

CLUB PICNIC COMMITTEE
 Bernice Miller (KA4SCA) 703-791-3839
 Mary Lou Blasdell (KB4EFP) 703-369-2877

OVH WEEKLY NET

Harry Vohauer (W4PVA) 703-368-6050

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Bernice Miller (KA4SCA) 703-791-3839

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

John Fritsch (N4YOB) 703-791-5995

REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Art Whittum (W1CRO) 703-791-4330
 Tim Wayne (KB4NR) 703-494-2737
 Milt Warnock (N4SN) 703-369-7265
 Jim Lascaris (WA2QEJ) 703-791-2932
 Steve Meade (KB4OF) 703-368-6901
 Russ Stevens (WB4HHN) 703-368-6435
 Butch Blasdell (W4HJL) 703-369-2877
 Mary Lou Blasdell (KB4EFP) 703-369-2877
 Jack Gunsett (KI4VP) --
 Digipeater 703-361-5255

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

OPEN

Bonnie Frick (N4QPB) 703-361-0008

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Jim McKinley (WD40JY) 703-369-3940

CLUB NEWSLETTER

Bonnie Frick (N4QPB) 703-361-0008

1991 HAMFEST CHAIRMEN

Jim McKinley (WD40JY) 703-369-3940
 Pete Stekettee (KM4REI) 703-369-2436

REFRESHMENTS

Rick Buongiovanni 703-791-5577

1991 FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN

Bonnie Frick (N4QPB) 703-361-0008

F.A.R. REPRESENTATIVE

Mike Squire (N4REI) 703-754-4875

SCHOLARSHIPS

Mike Hawley (KC4IRL) 703-335-1550

GENERATORS

Tommy Watts (KA4AFU) 703-369-2741

NEWSLINE REPORT

Jack Gunsett (KI4VP) 703-361-5255

PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN

Greg Brunacci (N4RKV) 703-680-6425

HISTORIAN

Greg Brunacci (N4RKV) 703-680-6425

COMPUTER COMMITTEE

Dick Miller (WD4AZG) 703-791-3839
 Milt Warnock (N4SN) 703-369-7265
 Tim Wayne (KB4NR) 703-494-2737

CALENDAR FOR APRIL AND MAY

14 AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28.340 RALEIGH, NC HAMFEST	15 OVH CLUB MEETING	16	17 NVFMA NET @ 2000 146.19/79	18 OVH NET @ 2000 146.97 224.66	19	20 WOODBRIDGE NET @ 2100 28.440 VEC EXAMS LAUREL, MD
21 AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28.340 CARROLL, CO HAMFEST	22	23	24 NVFMA NET @ 2000 146.19/79 SKYWARN BASIC CLASS	25 OVH NET @ 2000 146.97 224.66	26 DATYON, OH HAMVENTION	27 WOODBRIDGE NET @ 2100 28.440 DATYON, OH HAMVENTION WIAW QUALIFYING RUN
28 AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28.340 VEC EXAM HAGERSTOWN, MD DATYON, OH HAMVENTION	29	30	1 NVFMA NET @ 2000 146.19/79	2 OVH NET @ 2000 146.97 224.66	3	4 WOODBRIDGE NET @ 2100 28.440 VEC EXAMS COLLEGE PARK, MD
5 AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28.340	6 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	7	8 NVFMA NET @ 2000 146.19/79	9 OVH NET @ 2000 146.97 224.66	10	11 WOODBRIDGE NET @ 2100 28.440 VEC EXAMS ANNE ARUNDEL SKYWARN BASIC CLASS
12 AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28.340	13	14	15 NVFMA NET @ 2000 146.19/79	16 OVH NET @ 2000 146.97 224.66	17	18 WOODBRIDGE NET @ 2100 28.440 VEC EXAMS LAUREL, MD ARMED FORCES DAY



1. For more information on VEC testing, contact Harry W4PVA.
 2. The Powwow net meets daily at 2100 on 28.400.

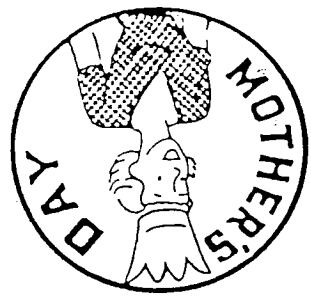


SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 1991

AND COMPUTER SHOW
AN ARRL APPROVED HAMFEST

MANASSAS HAMFEST

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL



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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

LAST ISSUE UNLESS
DUES ARE PAID!

ARRL
1430 R STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004-4242
PHONE (202) 739-1200
FAX (202) 739-1201
WWW.ARRL.ORG

