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# Ole Virginia Times

The OVH ARC Newsletter

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"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

## PRESIDENT'S SHACK

If you have not been to a meeting lately and only have the Newsletter to keep you in touch, this article will let you know that I am still around! After a brief pause (writer's block), I am back.

The Hamfest went well but I will let the Chairmen expand on that in their letter!

Jack (KI4VP) and I sat in on a Novice/Tech Class last month. Jack gave an excellent pitch on Packet Radio with demo and all. I spent 20 minutes talking about the Club and Amateur Radio. to my great pleaser, most of the questions were about CW. It appears that our "No Code" participants do have a desire to learn Morse Code. I congratulate John (KC4VMW) on the excellent work he has done with the Novice/Tech Class. More information on future classes later.

Field Day preparations are going strong and that event is not far away!!!!

See you at the next meeting or on Field Day!!

"73"

Joe (AB4QV)

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

### New Members:

Jeff McWhirt (KC4RON)  
Dick Zborofsky (WA4PLS)  
Woody Carner (No Call)  
Deane Parker (No Call)

WELCOME!! WELCOME!! WELCOME!!

### Upgrades:

Jim Ward (KD4AUJ) -- to Tech (Plus)  
Jim McKinley (WD4OJY) -- to Tech (Plus)

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!

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## 1991 HAMFEST NOTES

The 17th Annual Manassas Hamfest and Computer Show has come and gone. It was, without question, another successful edition to a long standing tradition in OVH Hamfests.

When Pete and I learned we would share the Hamfest Chairmanship this year we were both a little apprehensive. Those feelings soon went away.

As with any endeavor, it's success or failure depends largely on the efforts of the people involved in its planning and in its execution. This year's Hamfest was not exception. Once we got involved with this year's team, there was never any doubt that the "fest" would be anything but a good one.

Pete and I would like to thank the members of the Club who came out Saturday and/or Sunday to pitch in and give the Club their time. Their enthusiasm and hard work are what made this year's hamfest a good one.

There are some special people we would like to thank, those few invisible folks who work behind the scenes between shows, to put together all the things which make the Manassas Hamfest such a memorable one:

Jeff (KB4IWD), who once again did an excellent job with the OVH Table; Ken (KM4UH), who not only handled the publicity again this year, but who also did the ARRL approval, the Club flier and mailing and saw to it that we were in the QST calendar in January; Mike (KC4IRL), for the FB job getting the prizes again this year (for less than last year); Mary Lou (KB4EFP), who updates the mailing list from all those tickets and who orders the tables and chairs we look forward to carrying each year; Joe (AB4QV) and the gang for doing such a good job with the PA system; Gene (N4HFW) for doing the Tailgate crew again this year; Randy (KA4UFF), for coming in at the eleventh hour to organize the main gate group; Butch (W4HJL), who takes care of the police, Lions Club, Boy Scouts, and who also makes sure all is ready each year for the "fest" to begin; Harry (W4PVA) for the "Talk-in" and Bernice (KA4SCA) and Lisa (KA4RKJ) for handling the Ladies Pavilion again this year (a sell out) (another first).

A Special "THANKS" must go to Jack (KI4VP), who started early on, doing the fliers, then the post cards, designing the tickets we used this year and supervising the printing. But most of all, to take up his spare time, he took on the job left by Joe (K4FPT), handling the commercial vendors. Thanks to Jack, we sold out over two weeks before the show (unheard of) and sold more tables than ever before, due largely to the canopy (another first) which was met with overwhelming enthusiasm from all the people who used it, especially from John Canode (N4MM), from the ARRL, who really enjoyed being outside.

There were so many of you who helped this year in the same way you do every year. Without you "fest" would never work! You did this year, the "fest" did ----and THANKS!!

"73"

Jim (WB4OJY) and Pete (KB4RME)

P.S. Thanks to Mother Nature, too!

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## REPEATER PROTOCOL

With so many new hams, it is probably a good time to discuss protocol for repeater use.

1. No repeater can be a "rag chew machine" without some reasonable limits. The obvious purpose of any repeater is to facilitate contacts which are not otherwise possible. For this reason, a repeater should be used as a calling frequency with an immediate QSY to a **simplex** frequency.
2. One purpose of the repeater time (ours is 2 minutes) is to keep transmissions short. Resetting repeatedly in mid-transmission defeats this purpose, is unfair and could delay an **emergency** call.
3. The repeater carrier hang-in is long to ensure time for break-in traffic. Tailgating is unnecessary and unfair.
4. Recognize the breaking station and permit him/her to make his/her need or desire known **IMMEDIATELY**. Users of the 146.97 and 224.66 should be extremely courteous and cooperative in this aspect and it is much appreciated.
5. Before joining a QSO in progress, listen long enough to learn the topic of the conversation and the identity of some of the stations in the QSO. It will make your participation pleasant for everyone.
6. Use your call letters to break into a QSO. By strict interpretation of the rules, "break" is an unidentified initial transmission and therefore illegal. Reserve the use of "break" or "break-break" for priority or actual emergency calling.
7. "CQ" is the generally accepted method of initiating a QSO on all amateur bands, but is not used much on

repeaters in this area. "QRZ" means "What station is calling me?" and the statement that you are "monitoring 146.97" is, by strict definition, illegal. It is a one-way transmission.

- 8. Repeater DX-in is not illegal but careful consideration should be given to the time of day and length of time two or more repeaters are tied up. Talking to a neighbor through a repeater 50 miles away should be avoided whenever possible. If you are bring up two or more repeaters, try using low power!
- 9. Last, but just as important as the rest, most scanners are capable of receiving 2M as well as other ham bands. So when you are on the air, remember other people, both Ham and non-Ham are listening in! Many people have become Hams from listening on scanners. And, likewise, many have decided that Hams are not all their cracked up to be after listening to some of the different repeaters. Keep your transmissions cordial, helpful, courteous, and free of profanity! Everyone, including non-Hams will benefit! (Reprinted in part from The EPARC Key, Feb. 1991.)

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### FROM THE MIKE OF W4PVA

#### Severely Handicapped Ham Applicants:

The FCC recently promulgated information concerning the testing of severely handicapped persons which, as a result of their handicap, were unable to take and pass the 13 WPM and 20 WPM Code Exams (Elements 1B and 1C). Since the Codeless Technician exam procedures cover the 5 WPM (Element 1A) candidates, these handicapped persons were not included in the information. A severely handicapped person who by reason of the handicap cannot pass the code exam may apply for a waiver from the FCC. This applies to General Class and higher applicants.

The specified procedure, by the FCC, is for the applicant to furnish the examining team a note on the applicant's doctor's letterhead describing the situation. Also, the applicant must furnish a letter of request for waiver, addressed to the FCC. Both documents must be in the specified format. After furnishing these to the VE Team, the Team may administer the necessary written tests (the VE Team is authorized to administer the exam orally and write down the candidates responses). Upon

passing the necessary written exam, the 610 Form is forwarded, along with the two letters, to the FCC for action.

Since the applicant usually has at least a Technician License, the applicant is given a Certification of Successful Completion for the elements actually passed. The applicant must wait for FCC action BEFORE operating with the upgraded privileges. Only the FCC can accept and act upon the waiver. The FCC will respond to the waiver request by either sending an upgraded license or a letter of refusal.

In the event of FCC refusal, procedures are in place for handicapped applicants to be administered code tests in short increments and respond in the manner possible -- this of course includes orally wherein the VE Examiner may write down the response. This procedure can be followed without a formal code waiver request.

The objective is to make Amateur Radio accessible to the severely handicapped.

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AND

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### BATTERIES IV

by

Harry (W4PVA)

This time, several of the lesser known batteries (cells) will be discussed. (The words "cell" and "battery" are pretty much used interchangeably herein.)

#### Zinc Air Cell:

The zinc air cell is a primary battery which is relatively expensive. This cell has the highest capacity to volume ration with a relatively flat discharge curve. It has a more stable voltage at high currents than mercuric or silver oxide miniature batteries. These are primarily used for hearing aids and pagers. The battery remains inactive in storage and will remain that way until the removal of the air seal tab. Thus the word "air" in its name. The chemical system used to active the battery is "zinc-oxygen" and the nominal terminal voltage is 1.4V. The electrolyte used is an aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide.

#### Silver Oxide Cell:

The silver oxide cell has a high capacity to volume ration and is used in hearing aids, camera, watches, calculators and as reference voltage sources. The nominal terminal voltage of this cell is 1.5V (higher than the mercuric oxide cell). The chemical system used is zinc-silver oxide with an aqueous solution of potassium hydroxide or sodium hydroxide.

Lithium Cell:

A cell which I am not well versed in is the lithium cell. My understanding of this type of cell is quite limited with regards to a number of items. They are:

1. The lithium cell has a nominal terminal voltage of three volts.
2. They are expensive (very).
3. This cell has a shelf life in excess of five years (maybe 10 years).
4. Short circuiting of this type can result in the case cell exploding.

I suspect these types of cells are suitable for missile use because of the shelf life.

General Information:

Any two dissimilar metals in contact with an electrolyte constitutes an electrical cell; and, if the metals (electrodes) are also in electrical contact -- a shorted cell. The result will be an electrical action (electrolysis) wherein one electrode will deteriorate. Painting the surfaces will protect against this action, but insulate the conductors from each other.

It has been a practice of some vessels to fasten a metal block - I think it was zinc, but it may have been something else - to the outside of the wood hull. This block (with sea water electrolyte) formed a battery with the propeller, steering control (usually bronze). The two electrodes were connected internally. The resultant electrolyte action cause the block to slowly disintegrate while plating the propeller, etc. Thus using battery action to lengthen the life of the propeller and steering control (rudder).

Please note -- all these cells described above are primary cells and recharge should not be attempted.

Any new battery information will be published when the information is received! Until then, this will be the last article regarding batteries.

"73"

Harry (W4PVA)

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**INFORMATION ON VE EXAMS**

On Saturday, June 8, 1991, the Ole Virginia Hams sponsored the VE Examinations given at the Northern Virginia Community College, Manassas Campus. There were 45 individuals as candidates, 80 elements were taken, 59 exams were passed resulting in "upgrades" as follows:

Technician	17
Technician +	11
General	2
Advance	2
Extra	1

Upgrades included candidates which came in without a license but passed their exams. The Examiners were:

Gene (AI4W)	Keith (KM4AA)
Bob (WA4QYP)	Ron (WA6YOU)
Mike (N4REI)	Butch (N6NSM)
Stu (KCOPR)	Harry (W4PVA)

All in all, a successful operation!

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WE CAN'T USE A RADIO TRANSMITTER BUG -- THE F.C.C. TOOK OUR FREQUENCY AND SOLD IT TO SOME SHIPPING OUTFIT!

TV: A device designed for afternoon and/or evening naps as well as to test a radio amateur's TVI skill.

## FIELD DAY INFORMATION

With the passing of the Hamfest, thoughts, hopefully, are turning to Field Day. Yup, its that time again. Field Day set up will start at approximately 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 22 at the James S. Long Park.

This year, we are going to go with 5 stations, in addition to the Packet and the Novice stations. Two of the 5 stations will be for CW on HF, two will be for phone and one will be for VHF (CW and phone).

Volunteers to work the stations from midnight on Saturday through the wee hours of Sunday morning are needed. If you are available during that time, please come on out!

A call for help is being extended this year to the YL's of Club Members to send or bring a dessert/snack to share with all. These desserts/snacks really help out during the wee hours of Sunday morning! Any contributions in this area will be greatly appreciated not just by me, but by all who partake!!! Please contact me at 361-0008 or 690-6547 if you can help in this area.

To get to James S. Long Park:

### FROM THE MANASSAS AREA:

Take Route 234 to Route 15. Turn left on Route 15. Go approximately one mile and the park will be on your left.

### FROM THE GAINESVILLE AND WARRENTON AREAS:

Take Route 15. James S. Long Park will be on the right side, approximately 3 miles after you cross over Route 66.

Talk-in will be on the repeater!

If you have any questions, please call me at 361-0008 or 690-6547! Look forward to seeing you there!!!!

Bonnie (N4QPB)

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## SWAP - N - SHOP

### For Sale:

Icom U2AT with case, extra battery (BP-22), charger and DC converter. \$185.00  
Contact: Joe (AB4QV) 703-369-5636

## 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

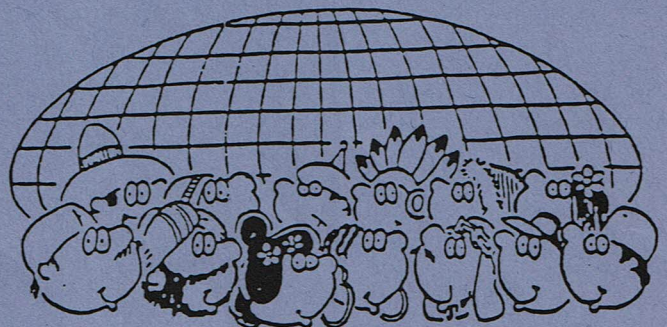
Bonnie (N4QPB)  
Editor

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## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the OVHARC will be on Monday night, June 17th, 1991, at 8:00 p.m., in the basement Meeting Room of the Northern Virginia Electric Co-Op, 10323 Lomond Drive, Manassas, Virginia.

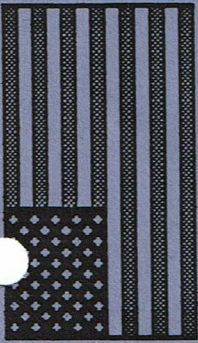
Please plan on attending as there will be further information regarding the upcoming Field Day event!



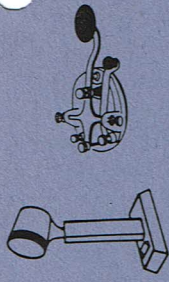
WORLD WIDE FRIENDSHIP THROUGH AMATEUR RADIO

# June 16 - July 27

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>June 16</b> 1700 -- Amer Eagle Net on 28.340	<b>June 17</b> 2000 -- OVH CLUB MEETING <u>-----</u>	<b>June 18</b>	<b>June 19</b> 2000 - NVFMA Net on 146.19/79	<b>June 20</b> 2000 -- OVH NET on 146.97 and 224.66	<b>June 21</b>	<b>June 22</b> 2100 -- Woodbridge Net on 28.440 <u>FIELD DAY</u>
<b>June 23</b> 1700 -- Amer Eagle Net on 28.340 <u>FIELD DAY</u>	<b>June 24</b>	<b>June 25</b>	<b>June 26</b> 2000 -- NVFMA Net on 146.19/79 WIAW QUALIFYING RUN	<b>June 27</b> 2000 -- OVH NET on 146.97 and 224.66	<b>June 28</b>	<b>June 29</b> 2100 -- Woodbridge Net on 28.440 W.VA. ARRL State Convention Canada-USA Grid Square Roundup
<b>June 30</b> 1700 -- Amer Eagle Net on 28.340 Canada-USA Grid Square Roundup	<b>July 1</b> Canada-USA Grid Square Roundup	<b>July 2</b> Canada-USA Grid Square Roundup	<b>July 3</b> 2000 -- NVFMA Net on 146.19/79 Canada-USA Grid Square Roundup West Coast Qualifying Run	<b>July 4</b> 2000 -- OVH NET on 146.97 and 224.66 Canada-USA Grid Square Roundup	<b>July 5</b> Canada-USA Grid Square Roundup DEADLINE FOR INCLUSION OF ARTICLES IN NEWSLETTER! !	<b>July 6</b> 2100 -- Woodbridge Net on 28.440 Canada-USA Grid Square Roundup VEC Exams -- GW University
<b>July 7</b> 1700 -- Amer Eagle Net on 28.340 Canada-USA Grid Square Roundup	<b>July 8</b>	<b>July 9</b>	<b>July 10</b> 2000 -- NVFMA Net on 146.19/79	<b>July 11</b> 2000 -- OVH NET on 146.97 and 224.66	<b>July 12</b>	<b>July 13</b> 2100 -- Woodbridge Net on 28.440 VEC Exams -- Chesapeake, VA VEC Exams -- Anne Arundel Co. MD
<b>July 14</b> 1700 -- Amer Eagle Net on 28.340	<b>July 15</b> 2000 -- OVH CLUB MEETING <u>-----</u>	<b>July 16</b>	<b>July 17</b> 2000 -- NVFMA Net on 146.19/79	<b>July 18</b> 2000 -- OVH NET on 146.97 and 224.66	<b>July 19</b>	<b>July 20</b> 2100 -- Woodbridge Net on 28.440
<b>July 21</b> 1700 -- Amer Eagle Net on 28.340	<b>July 22</b>	<b>July 23</b>	<b>July 24</b> 2000 -- NVFMA Net on 146.19/79	<b>July 25</b> 2000 -- OVH NET on 146.97 and 224.66	<b>July 26</b>	<b>July 27</b> 2100 -- Woodbridge Net on 28.440



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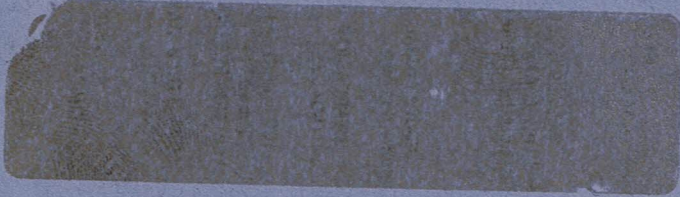
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**NEWSLINE REPORT** 703-361-5255  
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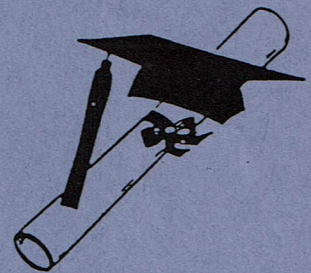
FIRST CLASS MAIL



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

JUNE

1991



Field Day