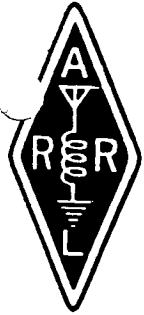


May '91



# 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

## 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.

\*\*\* FOOD PROVIDED BY PARK WEST LIONS CLUB \*\*\*

INDOOR EXHIBIT SPACE AVAILABLE FOR DEALERS AND MANUFACTURERS

GENERAL ADMISSION:  
\$5.00 per-person at gate  
No advance sales  
Gates open at 8:00 A.M.

TAILGATING:  
\$5.00 per-space in addition  
to general admission  
Gates open at 7:00 A.M.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS 1/2 MILE SOUTH OF MANASSAS  
ON ROUTE 234, TALK IN ON 146.37/97 AND 223.06/224.66 REPEATER

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- Ample room for tailgating - 25 acres.
- RV overnight parking available (No hookups)
- Building available for set-up from 2:00 P.M. until 10:00 P.M. on Saturday the 1st.
- Prior written approval for food vendors must be obtained from Hamfest Chairman.
- Door prizes of major brand radio equipment will be awarded at 3:00 P.M., also hourly prizes beginning at 10:00 A.M. for those present. You do not have to be present for the major prizes. Tailgating prize will be awarded at the 3:00 P.M. drawing.

Dealers' Information Call:  
Jack (K14VP) 703-361-5255

General Information Call:  
Jim (WD4OJY) 703-369-3940

Listen to the Newline Report at 8:00 pm Thursday evenings during  
the OVH Weekly Bulletin.

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### BATTERIES III

by

Harry (W4PVA)

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Continuing on the subject of batteries...

The battery made of a nickel-cadmium combination with a potassium hydroxide electrolyte is known as a NICAD. This is a remarkable device. It may be recharged many times and will have a relatively constant potential during discharge. The NICAD is more than competitive with other systems in terms of cost per hour of use. NICADs are not adversely affected by standing many months either charged or discharged. The original expense stems from the fact that these cells use expensive raw materials and complicated construction.

NICAD batteries are subject to several peculiarities. Amongst these are: memory effect, polarity reversal dendrites and overcharge.

#### Memory effect:

Memory effect is the characteristic attributed to NICAD cells wherein the cell retains the characteristic of previous cycling. That is, after repeated shallow discharges, the cell will fail to provide satisfactory full depth discharge. Some manufacturers products are fabricated to minimize this effect. However, a cell may be recovered by repeated deep discharges (not completely discharge) and full recharging even if this problem is encountered.

#### Polarity reversal:

When cells are connected in series to form a battery and completely discharged, small cell capacity differences will cause one cell to reach complete discharge before the remainder. Continued discharge (such as when an HT is left turned on over night) will cause the smallest cell to be charged backwards, i.e., its polarity to be reversed. Excessive internal gas pressure on the reversed cell can cause it to los capacity. But a proper recharge will bring all cells up in the correct polarity. BUT, when the battery is discharged (used) again one cell will have a smaller capacity and "die" first resulting in a battery terminal voltage reduction. There is no cure for this except replacement of the defective cell -- or the entire battery.

#### Dendrites:

Dendrites are small growths within the individual cells. These are somewhat similar to the stalactites and stalagmites found in underground caverns except that they are metallic in nature and, if they grow enough to contact between the positive and negative cell electrodes, they short circuit the cell and negate its value in the battery.

When radios had individual NICAD cells arranged in a bank, it was common to remove the shorted cell, charge a fairly large capacitor, and then discharge the capacitor through the defective cell (in a direction to charge the cell). The current surge would burn the dendrites free and, in most cases, allow reuse of the cell. Sometimes, several tries were needed to burn the dendrites free.

With the current battery packs, it should be possible to open the pack, find the defective cell and discharge a capacitor through the offender PROVIDED THIS WAS THE ORIGINAL PROBLEM!!!

#### Overcharge:

Overcharging a NICAD can cause loss of capacity due to excessive gassing. Once overcharged, there is no cure for a resulting condition. Prevention is the way to go. The writer has found that using an electrical timer, such as many stores cell for appliances, will allow enough time for charging the battery and then a considerable period of time in which to remember to disconnect it from the charger.

73's

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THE HAMFEST IS ONLY 3 WEEKS AWAY!!!!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

**NOVICE PRIVILEGES**

by

Harry (W4PVA)

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The inception of a no code license has caused considerable consternation in regard to its effects on the Novice Class license.

The latest information I have leads to the following:

**A currently licensed Novice:**

The currently licensed Novice and Novice privileges are not affected in the least. When the currently licensed Novice is upgraded to technician, privileges will remain as the previous Technical Class, i.e., operating privileges will include (as an upgraded Technician) an 80 M sub-band, a 40 M sub-band, a 15 M sub-band, a 10 M sub-band, as well as frequencies above 30 Mhz. The 10 M sub-band will include both CW and fone (SSB).

When a currently licensed Novice upgrades to Technician, the candidate will be faced with a 35 question written exam ONLY. Upon passing it, a certificate will be issued to that effect and the new Technical may commence IMMEDIATE use of Technician privileges (including 2 M FM).

Of course, the Technician exam must be administered at a formal VEC session. The new technician is now a "Technician Plus" (+ code).

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**NOTE:** Any individual whom passed elements 2 and 3A (but failed the code) is now eligible for the Codeless Tech IF PASSING WAS WITHIN THE LAST 12 MONTHS. Anyone qualifying should contact me!

Harry (W4PVA)

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**NOVICE/TECHNICIAN LICENSING**

by

Harry (W4PVA)

\*\*\*\*\*

To become an amateur, one may enter amateur radio either through the grade of Novice or the grade of Technician (codeless Technician).

**To enter as a Novice:**

The candidate must pass the FCC specified code examination (known as element 1A) and the 20 question Novice examination (known as element 2A) before TWO licensed Hams of General Class or higher who qualify to the FCC rules regarding to age, non-relationship to the candidate and non-employment in the related industry. Upon passing, the candidate must wait until the FCC issues the license and the may commence operating after the license is in hand.

An FCC Form 610 is completed by the applicant and, after passing the above-listed exams, by the examiners. The Form should then be copied by use of a copier (both front and back) and then the original Form should be sent to the FCC, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania (as indicated on the Form). The prospective ham should retain the photocopies until the license issued and received.

**To enter as a Technician:**

The candidate must pass a written exam of 20 questions (as does the Novice) AND an additional 35 questions (known as element 3A) before a formal 3 examiner VEC accredited team. The examining team forwards a completed FCC Form 610 via the appropriate VEC to the FCC. A license can then be issued by the FCC.

**To upgrade from Codeless Technician to Technician (Plus):**

The codeless Technician must pass a 5 wpm code exam before a formal 3 examiner VEC team. An FCC Form 610 will be completed and forwarded by the examining team via the appropriate VEC to the FCC. A CSCE will be issued and the new Technician Plus can commence operating immediately with "HF" privileges so long as the CSCE, which will be issued upon passing the 5 wpm code, accompanies the old license.

**PSSSSSSSSSSSST --**

**The Ole Virginia Hams ARC Manassas Hamfest is ONLY three weeks away!!**

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**HAMFEST NOTICES**

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Spring Cleaning:

With the Hamfest approximately three (JUST THREE) weeks away, I want to remind everyone there will be an OVH tailgate table at the Hamfest!

The OVH tailgate table will be located just outside the large commercial building on the corner across from the food vendors. This table area will be staffed by myself and other OVH members to provide a place where you can drop electronic, computer, Ham radio and related items ONLY!!! These items will be displayed and sold for you while you work or shop elsewhere at the Hamfest.

All items left at the OVH tailgate table should be clearly marked with your Call, name and asking price. A log will be kept of all items let at the table and your "lowest price" if you are willing to accept less than the asking price.

So, keep this in mind while spring cleaning your shack, basement, garage, etc.

If you have questions, or would like to help at the OVH tailgate table, please call me at (703) 830-1150.

73's

Jeff (KB4IWD)

(ONLY THREE WEEKS??!!!! Oh no!!!!!!!)

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Ladies Pavilion -- Bake Sale:

Anyone interested in renting table space in the Ladies Pavilion should contact Bernice (KA4SCA) at (703) 791-3839.

Also, Bake Sale items are needed. Donations of brownies, cookies, individual slices of cake, cupcakes, muffins, etc. will be greatly appreciated. If you cannot bring the item to the Ladies Pavilion, contact Bernice.

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**FIELD DAY REMINDER**

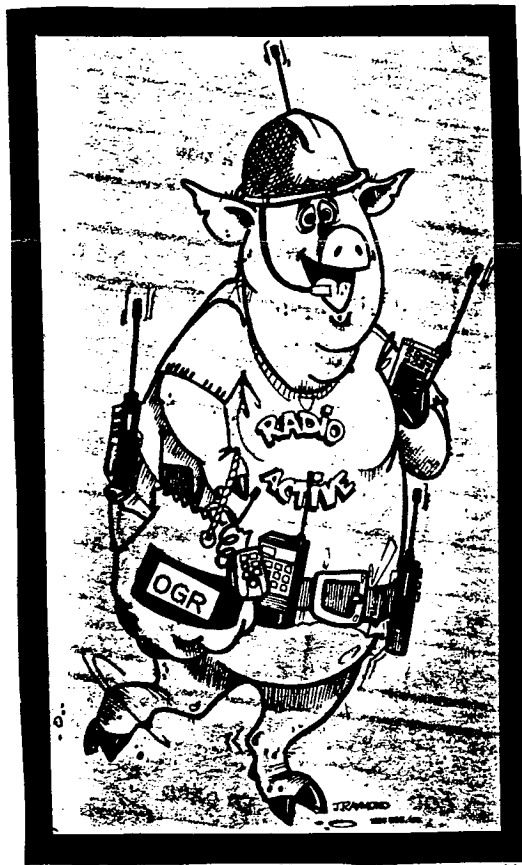
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Please remember, Field Day is June 22nd - 23rd. Once again, Prince William County has graciously agreed to let the Club use the James S. Long Park (the site of last year's Field Day) for our activities this year.

More information will be available at the May meeting!

Bonnie (N4QPB)

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**HAMFEST  
ADDICT**

And now, from the pen of our roving reporter:

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**CQ DX**

de

Jay (N5SN/CP6)

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Getting a reciprocal license in a foreign country has proven to be a unique experience. Fortunately, with a little bit of planning and insurance, quite a few pitfalls have been avoided. That and the fact that I decided to handle my paperwork in country rather than through the diplomatic channels and the mail!

I contacted the ARRL for assistance and they were most helpful and sent along the paperwork and instructions which were required for requesting a license here in CP land.

Most notably was the requirement for two copies of my current amateur license and two copies of the information page from my passport. No problems there. Also required was the completion of the correct governmental form for Solicitud De Licencia Por Reciprocidad. All of this was to be completed and sent to radio club Boliviano, Directorio Nacional, La Paz. The of course, wait the necessary 6 months and you will receive your license.

Since I hopefully have less than 6 months left here, but wanted to get on the air, I solicited an acquaintance, Carlos Vaca-Guzman or CP6TQ. he is an engineer for Industrias Electomatic here. They manufacture nearly all of the transformers (large and small) down here. With his help, we went to the Club (villa with a capital "V") and requested the proper paperwork and instructions. Guess what? I needed two copies of my license and two copies of my passport. Here's the good part. They had to be taken, along with the originals, to a Noticero Fe Publico (Notary Public) and verified to be true copies (15 minutes) then had to be returned to the club and where I was requested to fill in three 5 x 7 cards with my name and such, pay my \$55.00 membership fee to the Club and a call will be issued in 20 days. Because of my geographic location, it will be a CP6 call.

Needless to say, my next stop was at the radio store to look at the Yaesu 747GX. Looks like a new radio in the offing. I am not sure what the propagation is like from here, but I will

try to check in on the American Eagle Net (28.340 MHz) one Sunday and see what I can hear. With any luck (and propagation) I might be able to provide some DX for those of you which are looking for CP. Of course, I'll wait till I get back home to have the cards printed, but I will QSL 100% all contacts. I would like to work some CW contacts on the rarer bands if I can get access to a certain B&W Folded Dipole. As long as I use my own radio, my friends here have no problem with me using their antennas when they are not in use.

Of course, I will be doing follow-ups on CP6AA, Radio Club Santa Cruz De La Sierra. I have been asked to take pictures and the Presidente for Directorio Del Radio Club Boliviano lives here and has opened the doors. (Nice repeater on a 500 foot tower at the Club, too!)

Well, I don't want to give away too much about the club at this time. Besides, Bonnie would rather have two letters to print instead of one. (Right Bonnie?) I'll ask Steve if this part was edited! Hi ... Hi!! Next time, hopefully, pictures and words!

73's for now .....

J. Edgar

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**SWAP N SHOP**

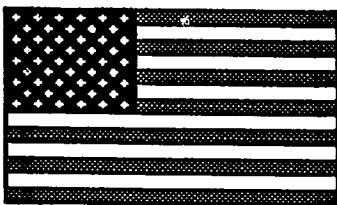
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TS440S with 1.8 & 500 Hz Filter and Mobile Mike, PS52 Heavy Duty Power Supply, AT250 Auto Antenna Tuner and SP34 Speaker -- \$1350.00. Contact Stu (KCOPR).

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**YOUR FOR SALE ITEM**

**COULD GO HERE !!!**



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FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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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 his 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.

The 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.)

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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

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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!

Bonnie (N4QPB) Editor

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NEXT MEETING

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The next meeting of the OVHARC will be on Monday night, May 20th, 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 Hamfest plans and notices will be given at this meeting. We look forward to seeing YOU there!

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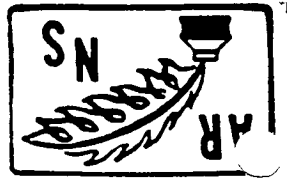
Make a difference— VOLUNTEER

## CALENDAR FOR MAY AND JUNE

<b>19</b>	AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28.34 ----- WHEELING, WV HAMFEST	<b>21</b>	NVFMA NET @ 2000 146.19/79	<b>23</b>	OVH NET @ 2000 146.97 224.66	<b>24</b>	WIAW QUALIFYING RUN	<b>25</b>	WOODBIDGE NET @ 2100 28.440 ----- CQ WM-WPX CW CONTEST ----- SPRING SPRINT 50 Mz
<b>20</b>	<b>OVH CLUB MEETING</b>			<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28.34 ----- HOWARD COUNTY HAMFEST</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28.34 ----- MANASSAS HAMFEST</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28.34 ----- JUNE VHF QSO PARTY</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>AMER EAGLE NET @ 1700 ON 28.34 ----- VEC EXAMS ----- LAUREL, MD FREDRICK, MD HAMFEST</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>WIAW QUALIFYING RUN</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>OVH CLUB MEETING</b>								

**NOTES:** 1. For more information on VEC testing, contact Harry W4PVA.

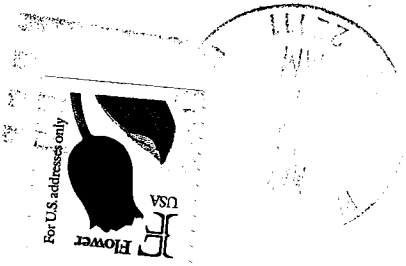
2. The Powwow net meets daily at 2100 on 28.400.



FIRST CLASS MAIL



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