

B.J. '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                      Digipeater: WA4FPM-1 -- 145.09  
          WA4FPM -- 224.66                      WA4FPM-3 -- 223.40

\*\*\*\*\*

## UPDATES

\*\*\*\*\*

### Technician -- No Code:

Pat Gibson (KD4EJD)  
Dave Gibson (KD4EJE)

## CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

### Novice Class:

The OVH Novice Amateur Radio Class got off to a great start on the 17th of September with an enthusiastic group of students. With the turn-out we have, it certainly appears that there continues to be an active interest in Morse Code. Currently, we have 15 students registered for the course. Our youngest student is seven years old, with the oldest being \_\_\_????

Mary Lu (KB4EFP) is teaching the code portion of the class and I am doing the theory. Any one interested in stopping by and visiting with the class is welcome to do so. It's a good way to meet our up and coming Hams and given them an opportunity to find out what amateur radio is all about.

John (N4YOB)

\*\*\*\*\*

# ARTICLES FROM THE MEMBERS

\*\*\*\*\*

## "... LISTENING 97"

de

Andy (W4NSU)

^^  
^^

Technology is great, but it's the operator that can help make the difference. Let's remember and make the most of it!!!

73

Andy (W4NSU)

The technology of today brings us many fancy features in our hand-helds, transceivers, and repeaters. Several of the features many of us have grown accustomed to include the "Battery Saver", "Automatic Scanning", and protection against the "Ker-chunking" repeater. But these features (great as they are) bring their own new problems to light that we as operators must address.

How many times have you been listening to our repeater and heard "...L listening 97" or maybe "from W4NSU". Who is listening 97? Who is being called? You did not hear the complete transmission. The first portion of the call has been cut off. Guess what, it's the technology that's causing you to miss the first part.

The "Battery Saver" on your new hand-held turns off your receiver for a period of time when it does not detect a signal. Instead of listening all the time, it listens only a fraction of the time conserving the battery the rest of the time. Maybe you have programmed your transceiver to scan all local repeaters looking for a signal. Your receiver was simply listening to another frequency when the call was transmitted. Sometimes it is the repeater that requires a carrier for several seconds before assuming a signal is present and turns the repeater on (a form of ker-chunk prevention).

In each case, the net result is that often the first part of the transmission is lost. Once we recognize the problem we can take steps to minimize it and maximize the communication exchange. We don't have to get fancy here. It's simple to fix but often hard to break long time habits. How about, instead of saying "W4NSU listening 97" say "This is W4NSU listening 97, W4NSU listening 97."

The words "This is" may often get us past a receiver turning back on. Saying things twice allows the listener to make sure. Identifying the repeater helps the receiving person to identify on what repeater the call came in on and is very important when scanning multiple frequencies. It's not perfect, but every little bit helps.

\*\*\*\*\*

## MOBILE RADIO INSTALLATIONS

de

Art (W1CRO)

^^  
^^

As some of you know, I don't like to settle for "just one radio" in the car. My last venture into multiple radio installations was around 1985 when I installed rigs for CB (Channel 9 monitoring and assistance), 28 MHz SSB, 144 MHz FM, 440 Mhz FM and a scanner to keep me current on road and weather conditions. The transition to a 1988 Day... curbed the grandiose ideas - I had to settle for 144/440 Mhz FM operation because I am loathe to drill holes in nice looking cars. All my installations took advantage of existing holes in firewalls, trunk-lid antenna mounts and "thru-the-glass" VHF-UHF antennas (settle for less than optimum results if you can compensate for lousy antennas with increased transmitter power). I was able to temporarily install a Kenwood TS-440/SAT for "low-band" HF this way.

During the "Daytona Period" I tried to get SOMEONE (anyone) at Chrysler to give me some factory approved guidance on mobile radio installations. Nothing. I knew that GM had a Service Bulletin for mobile radio installations but I couldn't remember the reference number. So I used common sense - stay away from areas of sensitivity: route the power cables away from engine control modules (ECMs), keep the RF cables away from electronic (digital) dashboards and ECMs, keep the antennas away from a direct path with your (or your passengers') head.

Now I'm a GM owner. This time I pressed the issue with the local dealership. After ONLY 1-1/2 months, the guys came through with the Service Bulletin. I'd like to share selected sections with you.

O.J. '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

\*\*\*\*\*

## UPDATES

\*\*\*\*\*

### Technician -- No Code:

Pat Gibson (KD4EJD)  
Dave Gibson (KD4EJE)

## CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

### Novice Class:

The OVH Novice Amateur Radio Class got off to a great start on the 17th of September with an enthusiastic group of students. With the turn-out we have, it certainly appears that there continues to be an active interest in Morse Code. Currently, we have 15 students registered for the course. Our youngest student is seven years old, with the oldest being \_???

Mary Lu (KB4EFP) is teaching the code portion of the class and I am doing the theory. Any one interested in stopping by and visiting with the class is welcome to do so. It's a good way to meet our up and coming Hams and given them an opportunity to find out what amateur radio is all about.

John (N4YOB)

\*\*\*\*\*

# ARTICLES FROM THE MEMBERS

\*\*\*\*\*

## Mobile Radio Installations, Continued:

- "To eliminate voltage spikes, do not tie into existing ground connections." (Comment: make you own to the automobile frame.)
- "Install an in-line fuse holder on the power wire as close to the battery as possible. Only use fuses of the correct amperage..." (Comment: fuse BOTH SIDES!!)
- "Twist the lengths of the power and ground wires together, as much as possible to reduce magnetic interference."
- "Route wires away from all existing harnesses. Pay particular attention to all ECM, ignition and radio wiring."
- "If a device is powered by tapping into an existing circuit, the power feed ... must be of equal or numerically higher gauge size than that of the source circuit. This will help insure adequate failure mode protection." - (Example: if the wire you are tapping into is #18 AWG, the use #18 AWG or #20 AWG or smaller - use common sense: if you are pulling 2 amperes of current on transmit, find a heavy duty wire to tap into ... I-E/R doesn't give anyone a break - hot wires only give you trouble.)
- "Locate transceiver for remote radios on driver's side of trunk as near to the vehicle body as possible."
- "The antenna should be a permanent-mount type located in the center of the roof or center of the rear deck lid. Glass mounted antennas should be kept as high as possible in the center of the rear window or windshield ..."
- "Each vehicle model and body style reacts to radio frequency energy differently. When dealing with an unfamiliar vehicle, it is suggested that a magnetic-mount antenna be used to check the proposed antenna location for unwanted effects on the vehicle. Antenna location is a major factor in these effects."
- "Always use a high quality coax ( at least 95% shield coverage) routed away from the Engine Control Module (ECM) and other electronic modules."
- "It is important that the antenna be tuned properly and reflected power be kept to a minimum (VSWR < 2:1)."

- "The power lead should be brought through a grommet on the driver's side firewall. For trunk-mounted transceivers, the cables should continue on along the driver's side door sills, under the rear seat, and into the trunk through the rear bulkhead. If the battery is located on the passenger side, battery leads should cross the vehicle in front of the engine. All attempts should be made to maintain as much distance as possible between radio cables and vehicle electronic modules and wiring."

- An interesting note: In the section on wire routing the Bulletin states: "... For police vehicles, radio power leads should be routed in the conduit provided with the option package." This indicates, to me, that if you have a heavy duty shielded twisted pair cable, it might be the best option for power hookup.

Finally, if you buy a new car, and you want to enjoy your hobby, press the salesman for info on installing your ham gear. Some models coming out may not be the "best in the west" when it comes to shielding - and may not tolerate the RF environment we introduce with our equipment.

After re-reading this, one thing didn't come through clearly: both negative and positive power lead should go straight to the battery terminals and be fused (both leads) right at the terminals.

Art (W1CRO)

\*\*\*\*\*



I THOUGHT HERB'S TOWER WAS TALLER THAN THAT?

\*\*\*\*\*

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

\*\*\*\*\*

## COST OF SCREW-UPS IS UP:

Like any other government agency, the FCC is looking for ways to increase revenues. A time-honored way is to make money with forfeitures. Under the *Communications Act*, the FCC has authority to impose "monetary forfeitures", that is fines for rules violations. Legislation has enabled the FCC to increase its fines, and the agency recently developed a new list of violations and dollar values associated with them.

On August 1, 1991, the FCC released a Policy Statement (FCC 91-217) that sets forth the FCC's standards for assessing fines under this statutory authority. The FCC said that its policy statement is intended to "...aid our enforcement efforts by making clear in advance the likely consequences of violations." There is now ample incentive for vigorous enforcement of FCC rules. Every FCC field office could become a profit center!

We have listed "base amounts" intended to "provide guidance to the public regarding the forfeitures that can be expected in connection with specific violations." The FCC is free to adjust the amount up or down depending on the nature, circumstances, extent and gravity of the violation and the degree of culpability, history of prior offenses and ability to pay. These amounts are anywhere from five to eighty percent of the statutory maximum which the FCC may impose depending on the situation.

The amounts listed are for a single violation or a single day of a continuing violation. For the Amateur Radio Service and services other than broadcasting, cable TV or common-carrier (such as telephone or cellular), the fines and violations are listed below. (Of course, not all fines apply to the Amateur Service but most do.) The fines for broadcasters, cable operators, and common carriers are higher.

\$8,000 - Misrepresentation/lack of candor; Failure to comply with prescribed lighting and marking; Construction and/or operation without authorization; Unauthorized substantial transfer of control; Violations of distress/safety rules; False distress communications.

\$7,500 - Failure to permit inspection; Violation of operator services requirements; Malicious interference; Failure to respond to Commission communications.

\$7,000 - Importation or marketing of

unauthorized equipment.

\$6,000 - Exceeding authorized antenna height.

\$5,000 - Exceeding power limits; Unauthorized emissions; Using unauthorized frequency; Transmission of indecent or obscene material.

\$4,000 - Unauthorized discontinuance of service; Construction or operation at unauthorized location; Failure to engage in required frequency coordination.

\$3,000 - Failure to file required forms or information.

\$1,000 - Failure to give station ID; Failure to make required measurements or conduct required monitoring; Failure to maintain required records.

\$ 500 - Miscellaneous violations.

(W5XI Report, Aug 1991.)

\*\*\*\*\*

## ARE YOU DAMAGING YOUR COMPUTER JUST BY TURNING IT ON?

How you turn on your computer system can make a difference. Since most computer systems are very sensitive, you should be aware of the steps needed to properly turn on your system.

What applies to one system doesn't necessarily apply to all of them. On some computer terminals, you turn the screen on first and then the CPU (central processing unit). On other systems, the opposite is true. You turn the CPU on first and then turn on the screen.

Consult your user's manual for specific startup directions for the system you're using. Be safe rather than sorry!!! (Creative Secretary's Letter, Sept. 1991.)



\*\*\*\*\*

# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

\*\*\*\*\*

"A Pauper's Plea, or Gimme a Break" -- Ann Landers Column

Dear Sir: In response to your request that I send a check, I wish I could, but the present condition of my bank account makes it virtually impossible. My shattered financial condition is due to federal laws, state laws, county laws, city laws, corporation laws, liquor laws, mother-in-laws, in-laws and outlaws.

Because of these laws I am compelled to pay a business tax, a school tax, a poll tax, a gas tax, a light tax, a cigarette tax and, of course, there is always that inevitable income tax. I also must buy a business license, car license, hunting license, truck license and dog license.

I am required to contribute to every charitable, fraternal and maternal organization which the genius of man is capable of putting together for the purpose of extracting as much money as possible from every person, living or dead, who has a mailbox and a city address.

I am told that for my own safety, I am compelled to carry life insurance, property insurance, liability insurance, burglar insurance, tornado insurance, accident insurance, termite insurance, unemployment insurance, old-age insurance, hurricane insurance and fire insurance.

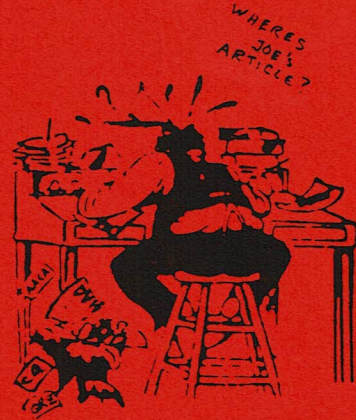
My business is so closely supervised by the government that it is no easy matter for me to figure out how much is mine and how much belongs to Uncle Sam.

I have been inspected, expected, suspected, disrespected, rejected, examined, re-examined, informed, required, summoned, fined and commanded until I have provided an inexhaustible supply of money for every known need, desire, hope and dream of mankind.

I can tell you honestly that, except for the miracle that happened just yesterday, I could not enclose this check. However, the wolf that has become a stationary fixture at our front door just had pups. I sold them this morning and here is the money I owe you. Yours truly - Mr. Any Person, USA.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Check your license expiration date.**



\*\*\*\*\*

## EDIT FROM THE EDITOR

\*\*\*\*\*

I have enjoyed working as the Editor of the Newsletter for the past five years. But as of this edition, I really wonder whether an Editor is necessary. According to the Webster, Second College Edition of the New World Dictionary of the American Language, the definition of Editor is "1. a person who edits. 2. the head of a department of a newspaper, magazine, etc."

The only editing which I do, on a regular basis, is to the articles I receive from Harry (W4PVA) and Jay (NS5N). Once in a while I do receive articles from other members, and they are GREATLY APPRECIATED, but they are few and far between.

This Club has several committees (check the Organizational Listing at the end of this Newsletter) and a membership of 100+!!!!!!! Surely, each Committee has something to report at least once a year! What is really sad is that out of the 100+ membership, I only receive articles from approximately FIVE individuals! Is everybody soooooo busy they can't write/dictate a small article for the Newsletter?

This Newsletter is a CLUB Newsletter! As the Editor I can only do so much! The rest is up to you!

Bonnie (N4QPB)

\*\*\*\*\*

# 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 25th of each month for inclusion in next month's Newsletter. 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 (703-361-0008). If it is interesting to you, chances are it will be interesting to others!

73

Bonnie (N4QPB)  
Editor

\*\*\*\*\*

# NEXT MEETING

\*\*\*\*\*

The next meeting of the OVHARC will be on Monday night, October 21st, 1991, at 8:00 p.m., in the basement Meeting Room of the Northern Virginia Electric Co-Op, 10323 Lomond Drive, Manassas, Virginia.

Looking forward to seeing **YOU** there!!!!

**YOUR FOR SALE ITEM**

**COULD GO HERE !!!**





**OLE VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**



**DIRECTORS**

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

**REPEATER TRUSTEE**

Art Whittum (W1CRO) 703-791-4330

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Tim Wayne (KB4NR) 703-494-2737  
 Jim Lascaris (WA2QEJ) 703-791-2932  
 Mary Lou Blasdel (KB4EFP) 703-369-2877  
 Steve Frick (N4OGR) 703-361-0008  
 Pete Stekette (KM4REI) 703-369-2436

**OVH WEEKLY NET**

Harry Vohauer (W4PVA) 703-368-6050

**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 Blasdel (W4HJL) 703-369-2877  
 Mary Lou Blasdel (KB4EFP) 703-369-2877  
 Jack Gunsett (K14VP) ---  
 Digipeater 703-361-5255

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

Mike Hawley (KC41RL) 703-335-1550

**NEWSLINE REPORT**

Jack Gunsett (K14VP) 703-361-5255

**OFFICERS**

President - Joe Tutino (AB4QV) 703-369-5636  
 V. P. - Steve Frick (N4OGR) 703 361-0008  
 Secretary - Mary Lou Blasdel (KB4EFP) 703-369-2877  
 Treasurer - Jimmy Lascaris (WA2QEJ) 703-791-2932

**EMERGENCY COORDINATOR**

Harry Vohauer (W4PVA) 703-368-6050

**MAIL LIST**

Dick Miller (WD4AZG) 703-791-3839

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Butch Blasdel (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 Blasdel (KB4EFP) 703-369-2877

**SUNSHINE COMMITTEE**

Bernice Miller (KA4SCA) 703-791-3839

**EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE**

John Fritsch (N4YOB) 703-791-5995

**PROGRAM CHAIRMAN**

OPEN OPEN OPEN OPEN OPEN

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN**

Jim McKinley (WD40JY) 703-369-3940

**CLUB NEWSLETTER**

Bonnie Frick (N4QPB) 703-361-0008

**1992 HAMFEST CHAIRMAN**

OPEN OPEN OPEN OPEN OPEN

**REFRESHMENTS**

Rick Buongiovanni 703-791-5577

**1992 FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN**

OPEN OPEN OPEN OPEN OPEN

**F.A.R. REPRESENTATIVE**

Mike Squire (N4REI) 703-754-4875

**HISTORIAN**

Greg Brunacci (N4RKV) 703-680-6425

**GENERATORS**

Tommy Watts (KA4AFU) 703-369-2741

**COMPUTER COMMITTEE**

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

**PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN**

OPEN OPEN OPEN OPEN OPEN

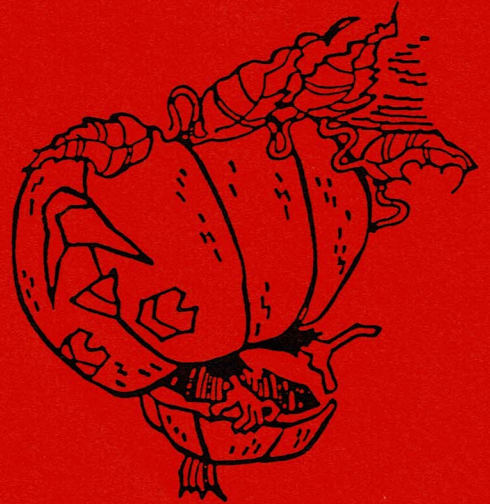
Make a difference—  
**VOLUNTEER**





IS HERE!!  
**FALL**

**OCTOBER**



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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

~~DR. (BUTLER) BASSIET - W4HGL~~  
~~DUPLICATE 01/01/02~~  
~~977 LONDON AVE~~  
~~MANASSAS, VA 22110~~

