



OLE Virginia Times

The OVH ARC Newsletter



"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, VA 22110

NOVEMBER 1992

From the President's Shack

I was recently advised that the Scholarship Committee awarded four scholarships for CY1992. Jeffrey A. Geisler was awarded a \$2000.00 scholarship; Lawrence A Weyer III was awarded a \$1000.00 scholarship; and Eric Neiderer and John Cain were awarded \$500.00 scholarships. Congratulations to all the awardees. This is just one of the many ways the OVH, Amateur Radio Club, supports our community.

If you have been monitoring the repeater lately, you probably realized that there was a flurry of packet activity happening in our area. Mike (WV3H) and his committee have spent several weekends the last two months getting the site prepared for the new OVH packet node. Even with the poor weather conditions, Mike got some great support from the Club members. A hearty TNX to Mike and all those OVH members who were involved.

Also a special TNX to Woody (KD4DEG) for the care and feeding of the OVH packet system for the past 10 - 11 months. Woody kept the old system patched together and operational during the period we were selecting and preparing our new site.

Alan (KD4KBX) has volunteered to become the OVH representative to the Foundation for Amateur Radio (F.A.R.) replacing Mike (N4REI). TNX Mike for your contributions and

Alan for lending us a hand in this important activity.

Since there is NO meeting scheduled for the month of November, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members and their families a very Happy Thanksgiving.

PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY!!

73, John (N4YOB)

Minutes of the October 19, 1992 Meeting

The OVH October, 1992, Meeting was called to order at 8:13 p.m. There were 34 members and 1 visitor present.

Butch (W4HJL), Club Director, announced that the next Directors' meeting will likely be held within the January/February 1993 time frame.

The Technical Committee, through Tim (KB4NR), reported a problem with the secondary auxiliary decoder for the repeater phone patch. The decoder responds only intermittently and thus may have to be returned to ACC. Another problem is with the DVR tracks not recording. Overall, these were adjudged to be minor problems and will not affect the performance of the newly re-installed repeater.

NO MEETING THIS MONTH!!!!

Ole Virginia Times, Ole Virginia
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Minutes, continued:

Harry (W4PVA) announced the next OVH VEC Exams will be on Saturday, November 14, 1992 at 9:30 a.m. at the Northern Virginia Community College, Room 128 of the Main Building.

Dan (KC4EWT), 1993 Hamfest Chairman, announced that the Hamfest will be held on Sunday, June 6. A Hamfest meeting will be held at the Bob Evans Restaurant on Sudley Road on Friday, November 13th (time to be determined). Attendees are expected to pay for their own food and drinks. He asked for a volunteer to act as secondary Commercial Tables Chairman to assist Woody (KD4DEG) in handling phone calls. Dan's Assistant Hamfest Chairman is Ivan (KD4DFD).

Butch (N6NSM/4)
Club Secretary

Let's Welcome New Members

John (KD4OUZ)
Richard (KA2PLR)
Maureen (KD4SAV)
Shawn (No Call)

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

Packet Bursts

Sunday, October 25, dawned bright, windy, glorious, windy, chilly, windy and windy. Man was it windy! Especially on top of the water tank at the new node site. WV3H and KI4RO "volunteered" to shinny up the side of the tank and install the Diamond 3 element 5/8 wave 2M

antenna and the Ringo Ranger 220 MHz antenna, while the ground crew (W4HJL, KD4DEG, N4WJN, NV3S, NS5N, KD4KBX and KD4RHC) began work on the ground rods and the trench for th PVC which would allow the hard line to be brought in through the floor of the County's radio shack. The 2 M antenna had the hard line connected to it first and then we did some preliminary testing with N4WJN's 2 watt portable packet station. The results were very encouraging; KI4RO (Warrenton), W3LPL (Glenwood, Maryland), N4WJN (Manassas) and WA3TAI (Accokeek, Maryland) all on the first connect request! The site appears to be as good as we had hoped!

We then proceeded to finish digging (blasting?!!) to get the trench under the radio shack. With W4HJL's excellent guidance and supervision and KD4DEG's ground rod driver, we were able to make a very professional looking installation.

Having made the 2 M hard line run, we realized that we did not have enough left to make the 220 run. We secured the site and rendezvoused at W4HJL's for a quick cup of hot coffee.

Sunday night the packet went out for hard line. By Monday night we were swimmin' in offers thanks to K3AKK, K8LF and KD4KBX.

KI4RO slipped out of work for a little while on Wednesday and picked up 50 feet of hard line which was donated by K3AKK for our node. For those of you who don't recognize the call, K3AKK, Dick, is Mr. DCA Node Stack himself. We had a very brief but informative chat and he provided me with a list of frequencies, nodes and PBBSS that is going to be of tremendous help in helping us to pick our 220 frequency.



Packet Bursts, continued:

So, you say, what's the status of the node? Well, WV3H has secured all the necessary TNCs, radios, computers and software and taken them to WA2QEJ's QTH. WA2QEJ has volunteered his metal working expertise to assemble the equipment into a ventilated, lockable, professional looking cabinet which was provided by W1CRO. We will be carrying the cabinet to the site very soon (November 1 or November 8). With the influx of hard line we now have enough line to connect the 220 antenna and that will be accomplished on Halloween weekend.

We've made tremendous progress on this project in a very short time. By mid November, the 2 M side should be fully operation on 145.03 MHz. We'll probably let that cook for a bit to ensure that it meets our expectations, as well as the County's. Then we will be turning on the 220 side.

So, get yourself a TNC and check it out!!!!

John (KI4RO)

P.S. Barbara (N3MWJ) made coffee, provided moral support and harassment!!!

Do you know the difference between government bonds and CB operators? Government bonds mature!

The doctor suggested I get a hearing aid, but I doubt it's necessary. At my age I've heard it all - on 40 meters.

Read the warranty when you buy a new rig, and remember: the bold print giveth; the fine print taketh away. (ARNS, Oct 1992)

Swap N Shop

For Sale:

Antenna Tuner (1), 300 watt, MFJ941D w/manual -- \$50.00

Radio Shack, field strength, SWR Meter, MICRONTA w/manual -- \$10.00

Cushcraft AV5 Vertical H.F., 2000 watt 10-80 M w/manual -- \$100.00

Contact: Alan (KD4KBX) at 703-330-8844 for any of the above.

Wilson 1405 HT 2 meter Crystal controlled (146.37/97, 147.84/24, 146.28/88, 146.52, 146.19/79) with charger, leather case. -- \$75.00

OBO Speaker mike 1 and 5 watts.

Contact: Joe (WB8TOC) or Maureen (KD4SAV) at 703-368-0823.

Need Repair:

We will repair your Commodore 64/128 computers. For more information, contact Joe (WB8TOC) or Maureen (KD4SAV) at 703-368-0823.

Don't Forget!!!

Dick (WD4AZG) is seeking volunteers for the trational Manassas Christmas Parade. The parade will be held on Saturday, December 5th. For further information contact Dick at 703-791-3839

Harry's (W4PVA) Corner

Question: Under what condition is a large VSWR desirable?

Answer: When the end of a long wire is brought into the shack. Of course an antenna tuner is used to reduce the mismatch to the rig and thus a low VSWR to the transmitter.

Almost all antennas have a large VSWR on the antenna proper. The major exception is a terminated wire - such as a beverage antenna.

Question: What is a CUBICAL QUAD antenna?

Answer: It is a full wavelength of wire arranged as a loop - a square loop (triangular forms have been used successfully).

It is my understanding that the QUAD came to be as a result of an attempt to use a yagi antenna with very high power. The way I heard it, the antenna was at high altitude (in the Andes mountains) and at first operation worked very well. But, when dark fell, one could see much corona at the ends of the antenna. This brought natives from far and near to view it. It also resulted in so much heating of the antenna conductor that it started melting and dripping off. Of course the thing went out of resonance then. Oh yes, they were using power on the order of fifty kilowatts or so -- on this commercial station.

The upshot of this was much head scratching and finally the QUAD - which really has no ends at high RF voltage points.

There has been a lot of speculation concerning gain figures, etc. To date, it seems like it is just a bit better than a yagi, having the same boom length and number of elements.

All in all, a good antenna, but a bit of a mechanical monstrosity. So big, in fact, that it is not very practical at frequencies lower than ten meters or so.

Fuses

Fuses are protective devices. They protect equipment and the user from the results of excessive electrical current. (As you know, excessive electrical current causes excessive heat which can burn up the protected equipment and premises.)

The fuse functions by melting when the rated current is exceeded. Exceeding the fuse rating can occur with a malfunction or with a user attempting to connect too many things to a circuit.

One characteristic of a fuse is that once in a while it will deteriorate. Thus the advice: if a fuse blows, try another one of the SAME rating. If the second fuse blows, find the problem and fix it. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD A FUSE OF LARGER RATING BE USED.

Two major types of fuses are available -- 1. the standard fast blow fuse; and 2. a slow blow type.

The slow blow type is designed to be used in circuits that have to withstand a surge of current (such as a motor starting), while fast blow fuses are for nearly all other uses.

Some automobiles use a "fusible link" to protect from short circuits in this battery powered system. Even though the fusible link is wirer, its size was chose so as to burn in two if too high a current was drawn from the battery. It should be replaced with a like item AFTER the cause of excessive current has been disconnected.

Fuses, continued:

Some industrial units use a cartridge type fuse. Cartridge type refers to the physical appearance of the device. It works the same as all types of fuses - a link of wire (usually made of lead) within the fuse melts when too much current flows.

Fuses are generally not repairable and must be replaced with a known good one.

Another device that acts like a fuse is the CIRCUIT BREAKER. A circuit breaker is a reusable device but it is more expensive and somewhat slower acting than a fuse. The most common house circuit breaker has a handle that flies to its center position when tripped (blown). It can be used as a switch by switching the handle to the off position, then resetting the breaker by throwing the switch back to the on position. Again, circuit breakers are safety devices and should NOT be replaced with larger rated units.

Oh, yes, I neglected to mention that in some electronic equipment, one might encounter a "pig tail fuse." This is nothing more than a standard fuse with lead wires attached by the manufacturer. It is intended to be soldered into a circuit and must be removed in the same way.

One must realize that it is not possible to cover all types of fuses in a short article of this type. There are many types of fuses but ALL work on the principal of a current in excess of the fuse rating causing the fuse element to melt, thus interrupting the electrical circuit.

The fundamental rule to follow is: First try a new fuse of the SAME rating, if that one blows, FIND THE PROBLEM AND FIX IT BEFORE GOING ON!!!

F.Y.I.

Union Station: Many an old railroad town had a "Union Station." Contrary to widespread belief, "Union" in the name had nothing to do with the Civil War's North. It meant the station had been build by more than one railroad company.

A microwave clothes dryer: More efficient, less costly - will soon be on the market in 1993, according to the business side.

Q. Where'd amateur radio operators get the "HAM" nickname?

A. From the initials of a magazine called "Home Amateur Mechanic." It devoted an entire issue to radio assembly in 1912.

(Excerpts taken from the Marion Dispatch, submitted by Rick (WD4GZB).





OVH HAPPENINGS

November 16 - December 27, 1992



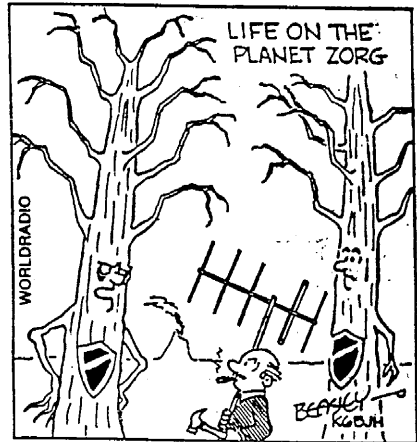
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Nov 16 2000 OVH MEETING CANCELLED	Nov 17	Nov 18 2000 NVFMA NET 146.790 MHZ 2100 FARA NET 147. 165 MHZ	Nov 19 2000 OVH NET 146.970 MHZ 	Nov 20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE VEC TEMPLE HILLS	Nov 21 VEC HAMPTON VEC LAUREL VEC HERNDON	Nov 22 1600 WIAW QUAL RUN 1700 10-10 EAGLE NET 28.340 MHZ
Nov 23 ARRL SWEEPSTAKE...	Nov 24	Nov 25 2000 NVFMA NET 146.790 MHZ 2100 FARA NET 147. 165 MHZ	Nov 26 2000 OVH NET 146.970 MHZ 	Nov 27	Nov 28 ARRL SWEEPSTAKES	Nov 29 1700 10-10 EAGLE NET 28.340 MHZ
Nov 30 VEC ANNAPOLIS	Dec 1	Dec 2 2000 NVFMA NET 146.790 MHZ 2100 FARA NET 147. 165 MHZ	Dec 3 2000 OVH NET 146.970 MHZ 	Dec 4 CALENDAR DEADLINE	Dec 5 VEC VIRGINIA BEACH VEC MIDDLETON VEC GERMANTOWN CHRISTMAS PARADES	Dec 6 1700 10-10 EAGLE NET 28.340 MHZ HOLIDAY/ET LAROUND VEC LANDOVER
Dec 7 2200 WIAW QUAL RUN VEC TEMPLE HILLS	Dec 8 FARA MEETING	Dec 9 1900 MARC NET 74.450 MHZ 2000 NVFMA NET 146.790 MHZ 2100 FARA NET 147.165 MHZ	Dec 10 2000 OVH NET 146.970 MHZ 	Dec 11 VEC CULPEPER	Dec 12 VEC OVH BRALFANT VEC DAYTONSVILLE VEC HARRISONBURG VEC RICHMOND	Dec 13 1700 10-10 EAGLE NET 28.340 MHZ
Dec 14 VEC SALSBERG	Dec 15	Dec 16 2000 NVFMA NET 146.790 MHZ 2100 FARA NET 147. 165 MHZ	Dec 17 2000 OVH NET 146.970 MHZ VEC TOWSON	Dec 18	Dec 19	Dec 20 1700 10-10 EAGLE NET 28.340 MHZ
Dec 21 0900 WIAW QUAL RUN 2000 OVH MEETING	Dec 22	Dec 23 2000 NVFMA NET 146.790 MHZ 2100 FARA NET 147. 165 MHZ	Dec 24 2000 OVH NET 146.970 MHZ 	Dec 25 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	Dec 26	Dec 27 1700 10-10 EAGLE NET 28.340 MHZ

NEXT MEETING

PLEASE NOTE: No meeting will be held during November -- repeat -- NO MEETING WILL BE HELD DURING NOVEMBER!!!!

The next meeting will be held Monday evening, December 21, 1992, at 8:00 p.m., in the basement Meeting Room of the Noerthern Virginia Co-Op at 10323 Lomond Drive, Manassas, Virginia.

We Look Forward To Seeing You There!!!!



WATCH THIS WERD LITTLE EARTHLING -- HE JUST TRIED TO NAIL THAT ANTENNA ONTO THE TOP OF MY HEAD!

RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR THE OLE VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
1993

DATE: _____

NAME: _____

CALL SIGN: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

ARE YOU PRESENTLY AN ARRL MEMBER: _____

DO YOU WANT YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER LISTED IN THE OVH ROSTER: _____

YOUR PRESENT LICENSE CLASS: _____

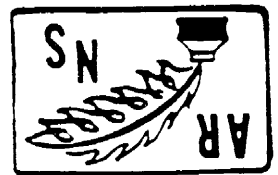
Dues are \$6.00 (for each additional family member, living at the same mailing address, the dues are \$3.00)

AMOUNT YOU ARE SENDING: _____

NAMES OF ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS (IF ANY): _____

Please fill in all of the above-requested information (please PRINT) and return to the attention of the Treasurer, OVH, P.O. Box 1255, Manassas, VA 22110

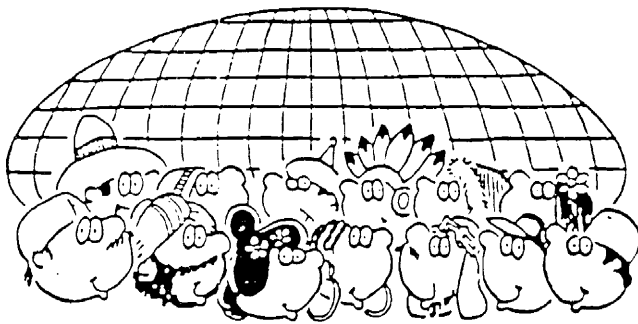
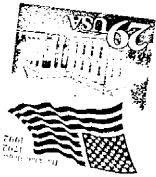
TREASURER'S INITIALS: _____
DATE SENT TO MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN: _____
DATE RECEIVED BY MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN: _____



FIRST CLASS MAIL



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



WORLD WIDE FRIENDSHIP THROUGH AMATEUR RADIO



NOVEMBER

