



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

PRESIDENT'S SHACK

Now that the summer is over and we prepare for fall and hopefully good propagation, it's also time to get involved in some of the OVH club activities. There are a number of committees which need participants, e.g., Packet, Education, Refreshments, Hamfest, Field Day, etc. So if you are a new member and want to meet some of those people that you have been talking to on the repeater, now is the time to get involved. If you are an old member, we need your expertise. Let's all make an effort to support the Club by getting involved in some committee activity.

Things are beginning to happen with our new Packet Committee. We recently received authorization to use one of the Prince William Water Authorities towers for installation of our packet station antennas and a place to house our equipment. We certainly appreciate the efforts of Mike (WV3H) and Woody (KD4DEG) for keeping the current packet station on the air and getting a permanent home for our new packet station. They will probably need some assistance when it comes time to move the current station so give them a hand if you can.

As most of the repeater users have noticed, the courtesy tone has been missing from our repeater, the last several weeks. After the last lightning strike, some major repairs were required. Since the DVR needed repair, it was also a good time to make some modifications and improvements. Thanks to Tim (KB4NR) and Jim (WA2QEJ) we were able to save the Club considerable maintenance costs. "SUPER JOB"!! It will be nice to hear that old tone again!!!!!!

Unfortunately, last month I was unable to attend the OVH meeting due to a business commitment and missed a very special event. Harry (W4PVA) was presented a Certificate of Appreciation by John Kanode (N4MM), ARRL Roanoke Division District Director. Harry also received an award, along with several gifts, from the OVH Amateur Radio Club for his unselfish contributions to the organization. Congratulations Harry!

EXPERIENCE A NEW ASPECT OF AMATEUR RADIO, JOIN AN OVH COMMITTEE!!!

John (N4YOB)

Minutes of the August Meeting

Called to Order at 8:15 p.m. There were 30 members and 4 visitors present.

Mike (WV3H), Packet Committee Chairman, reported that Prince William County approved the Club's request for the use of the county-owned water tower on Seymour by Chili's for a digipeater site.

Tim (KB4NR) Repeater Committee Chairman, reported that the existing repeater will be taken down on Friday, August 21 for repairs. A "Plain Jane" repeater, with no autopatch, DVR, touch tone pad test and other fancy features, will be installed in place while the controller is being repaired.

Harry (W4PVA) announced that the Joe Gibbs Youth for Tomorrow event is scheduled for October 10, a Prince William Park Authority Bike Tour is scheduled for October 11, and a Section Emergency Test is also scheduled for sometime in October. Ham volunteers are needed for all of these events. Anyone interested should contact Harry.

John Kanode (N4MM), ARRL Roanoke Division Director, presented Harry (W4PVA) with a Certificate of Merit from the ARRL for his invaluable contributions in admitting new hams into the hobby. This was followed by the presentation by Tim (KB4NR) of a plaque to Harry in recognition of his many years of devoted service to the OVH from his charter member days to the present. This was accompanied by an emotional and surprise presentation to Harry of gifts consisting of, among other things, a Quantum Ham Battery pack and a dual band VHF mobil antenna to replace the one he lost to vandals.

The meeting was Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Butch (N6NSM/4)
Secretary

Education Committee Report

The Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, inc., will sponsor an amateur radio course for interested individuals. The course will prepare the students to take the Novice or Technician exam. The course will be held in Room 3B of the Stonewall Jackson High School in Manassas. Classes will be held from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. every Tuesday night beginning on the 29th of September. Anyone who is interested or desires further information, please contact me at 703-791-5995.

John (N4YOB)

For Your Information

A Russian Newsletter:

Art (W1CRO) sent me a copy of the Soviet Ham Press Digest, a Newsletter from the Prometheus Amateur Association, in Donetskaya, Ukraine. The Newsletter is dated November 1991 -- it had been "bounced" around a bit. It contains an interesting interview and several notices regarding various awards available for Ham operators. If anyone is interested in seeing a copy (especially the "award chasers") I will bring several copies of it to the September meeting.

Thanks Art!

Bonnie (N4QPB)

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

K3VOA:

The FCC has granted the Voice of America Radio Club station in Washington, DC, the call K3VOA. Although specific call signs for amateur stations have not been available for more than a decade, FCC Chairman Sikes made an exception for the VOA club in this, the 50th anniversary year of the VOA. (Worldradio, 8/92)

Eavesdroppings:

We had more contacts with mosquitoes than other Field Day stations . . . this was the first Field Day it didn't rain on our parade . . . after the Field Day contest ended we had a Club picnic with 12 turkeys for lunch, that's birds, not lids . . . we used the Armstrong motor for turning the beam, it does not require electricity, just calories . . . I don't want to be on the Field Day committee that has to figure out the score, that's work . . . we had a real Field Day outing in a real hay field . . . it was hard to get the no-code guys to work CW . . . I'd like to fix my beam but my wife hates tower work . . . we both wear hard hats-I told her it was so the sea gulls couldn't aim at her head . . . my mother played the steam calliope at Circus World Museum in Baraboo, Wisconsin-and she played CQ on it now and then . . . we combined the fourth and fifth in July . . . Dx has been poor since my beam blew down two years ago . . . I didn't know the difference between a corn-husker and an oyster shucker, but I do now thanks to GONJN . . . all alone at the keyboard here I sit and call CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ ETC
(Worldradio, 9/92)

Heard on the Party Line:

Physics is an electrifying subject; it teaches you what's Watt.

All the exercise some of us get these days is from plate modulation - moving food from plate to palate.

I don't mind a junior op knowing more than I did at his age. It's when one of them knows more than I do now that I get upset. (Amateur Radio News Service, 8/92)

Spectrum Protection Act:

See July QST for an update on HR-73 and S-1372, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act of 1991.

The bill must be passed before Congress adjourns in December to avoid dying.

177 members of the House are now co-sponsors - the article on page of the July QST shows who they are.

Please write to your Representatives supporting this legislation. Letters should be short and to-the-point. (Amateur Radio News Service, 8/92)

Nothing in this world can take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than unsuccessful people with talent. Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb. Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts. Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan "press on" has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race. (Calvin Coolidge)

Point Reyes, CA -- Safe Harbor for Historic Technology

...For starters, both the site, located on the windswept coast hours from San Francisco, and its customers, ships sailing the high seas, share a feeling of remoteness which includes a sense of camaraderie and purpose. And both, merchants plying the ancient trade of mariner and MCII employees who supply their long distance, must rely heavily on skill, duty and tradition to do their jobs.

Point Reyes is one of the last bastions of a time-honored mode of communication that serves as a crucial link between seafaring ships and the mainland. In a world of fiber optic lines, satellites and microwaves, this Northern California site transmits customer traffic a bit differently than you might expect. In Point Reyes, Morse Code still rules.

"They've been announcing the death of Morse Code for decades," laughs Station Manager Jack Martini. "They said radio would kill it in the 1930's and it would become obsolete when satellites began carrying transmission, but it's still here." The numbers prove Martini's point. The Morse Code operators at KPH (which are the official call letters for the facility) tap out close to 10,000 radio telegrams a month. An automated radio telex system in use at the site sends out an additional 20,000 messages per month.

A good portion of radio telegrams relayed to the ships are remarkably conversational. One might expect the messages to be cryptic, technical mandates dealing with navigational coordinates or such, but MCII operators like Telegraph Operator Ray Smith send out quite a few messages along the lines of "Pick up mail when docking in Anchorage," or "Payroll officer waiting for you in port." They're fun, nautical-type dispatchs that

give you insight to the workings of a hugh oceangoing vessel.

A cylindrical rack in the middle of the radio room holds messages printed on paper waiting to be sent to ships at sea. Periodically, one of KPH's two dozen radio operators will send out a list of ships (identified by their radio call-letters) that have messages waiting. When a ship responds, the operator pulls the waiting message from the rack and in a flash taps out a steady stream of Morse Code to the waiting vessel. Another system in use at Point Reyes, called ATOR, or Automatic Telex Over Radio, works a lot like a voice mail box. Messages for ships are stored in the ATOR system and retrieved automatically at the ship's convenience.

Personal computers humming alongside the old brass and stainless steel Morse Code keys seem a bit out of place in the radio room, but they are an important addition, keeping the operators linked together and assisting in transmission of messages. operators, some who have been conversing via Morse Code for more than 50 years, easily switch between technologies.

MCII's Point Reyes has seen a lot of come and go in its decade of operation. From semaphore to satellite, from Morse Code to microwave, the world of telecommunications has made many changes, but for all that changes, some things stay the same. For as long as there are messages to be sent and messages to be received, people like the employees of Point Reyes will be ready to take key in hand and send the dots and dashes heard around the world. (Submitted by Frank (KA9VSU) with permission from MCI).

ARTICLES FROM THE MEMBERS

CW Fer U: True Proficiency

by -- Dan (KC4EWT)

CW is the best-kept secret in ham radio. The ARRL doesn't tell you, and discussions among hams often degenerate into religious squabbles before the secrets of CW are imparted. I am discovering some of these secrets myself.

Long before I became a ham, I was fortunate to have a ham friend (Rich, KB4N) who loved CW. More than that, he was a CW fanatic who owned out one mic. That's a bit extreme, but his appreciation rubbed off onto me before I could be influenced by opinions to the contrary. My most striking memory is watching Rich during a casual, 35 WPM QSO: the expression on his face was exactly like a concert pianist immersed in a performance. I wanted to feel his exhilaration someday for myself. (Not there yet, but trying).

Rich taught me that there's more to CW than simply learning the code. In the ARRL's training and reference material, there seems very little about CW proficiency beyond purely technical discussions of increasing code speed and basic use of prosigns. Perhaps this is why so many hams deny themselves its unique joy, why so many seem to miss the point.

CW is old technology, outmoded today by SSB, FM and digital modes. It's something you learn to get your ticket, acquire your privileges, or upgrade. It's a throwback to the time when your only other choice was static-filled AM. Right?

Well, yes, if you only take CW as far as the FCC requires. Let's look at some new, extended definitions of CW proficiency and see what happens:

Technical Level 1

1. Character proficiency - basic recognition of CW letters, numbers, punctuation, prosigns.
2. Procedure Level 1 - conducting a simple QSO, asking for fills (i.e., a "formula" QSO).
3. Language Proficiency - common abbreviations and customs.

Interpersonal Level 1

1. Asking questions to break the ice and proceeding beyond formula QSOs.
2. Procedural Level 2 - matching one's style with that of the other operator (e.g. code speed, use of AR/K vs. BK protocol); making QSOs more conversational by avoiding excess IDs and monologues.

Technical Level 2

1. Learning to copy whole words instead of characters.
2. Head copy - conducting a QSO by writing only the essentials and "copying" the rest in one's head. Facilitates conversational QSOs.

Interpersonal Level 2

1. Repeat business - working the same person more than once so that relationships begin to form over the air.
2. Leadership and encouragement - visit the Novice bands once in a while to help new hams improve their proficiency and encourage them to upgrade; dealing gently and kindly with lids elsewhere.

The ARRL promotes Technical Levels 1 and 2 and visiting the Novice bands. It doesn't deal with most of the interpersonal concerns, and that's where CW shines.

A lot of hams complain about "formula QSOs", where the exchange involves name, QTH, right, ant. If you don't use that exchange as a point of departure, you are in the same predicament as any other pair of people who meet for the first time. What do you say next? 73s are soon exchanged, and the QSO terminates. If, instead, you ask about the rig or the antenna, or make a comment about their region of the country, and a lot of hams start gushing.

For example, KB7JMO's QTH is Gillette, Wyoming. I commented that I've heard that is a beautiful area of the country, and he started telling me all about the Devil's Tower National Monument visible from his QTH. He sent me a picture post card of it. Travel the U.S. without standing up!

W8MVN operated QRP, and I asked whether his station is homebrew. Turns out he built the whole thing himself from scratch and runs off a battery charged by solar cells. (When did you last encounter a HB SSB rig?) He sent me a picture of his station mounted in a presentation case, block diagrams, a drawing of his antenna setup, specs for the power subsystem, and literature about the solar cells and battery. He's justifiably proud of his handiwork, and I'm glad I asked!

It's been enlightening to watch novices conduct their first QSOs. They'll get through the formula and then stop, wondering what to say next. It should be silly, but a quick question like "IS UR VERT ON GND OR UP IN AIR?" is enough to get both parties going again and leads to some nice QSOs instead of formula followed immediately by 73 and TNX QSO.

That we hams begin with a common interest and a significant intersection of knowledge is fortuitous. The ammunition is

there to break the ice if we use it. Although I don't begrudge No code Techs their rightful place, equals in the amateur community, I do feel a little sorry for them, because all they have is some theory and an HT. It is encouraging that many of them are learning CW to upgrade, and we can help by welcoming them and then dangling bunches of carrots in front of their faces.

CW is the great equalizer. You get only what the other person sends. You don't see their skin color nor hear their accent nor know their age or gender unless they tell you or you get to know them well enough to figure it out. If you think about that, it's rather refreshing. Instead of vocal inflections, you get a fist, and there's a lot you can communicate with how you send. (For example, consider the humorous and sometimes unintentional pause between "O" and "L" in "SOLID CPY"!)

Next time, I'll tell you about Tom (AA9BJ) of Sheboygan, Wisconsin. We didn't discover this until our friendship was firmly established, but we never would have met without CW. I'll also pass along some of our discussions of CW psychology and YL hams.

Until then,

73 ES GUD TIMES DE
KC4EWT!!



PHD Associates
"THINK COMMUNICATIONS"

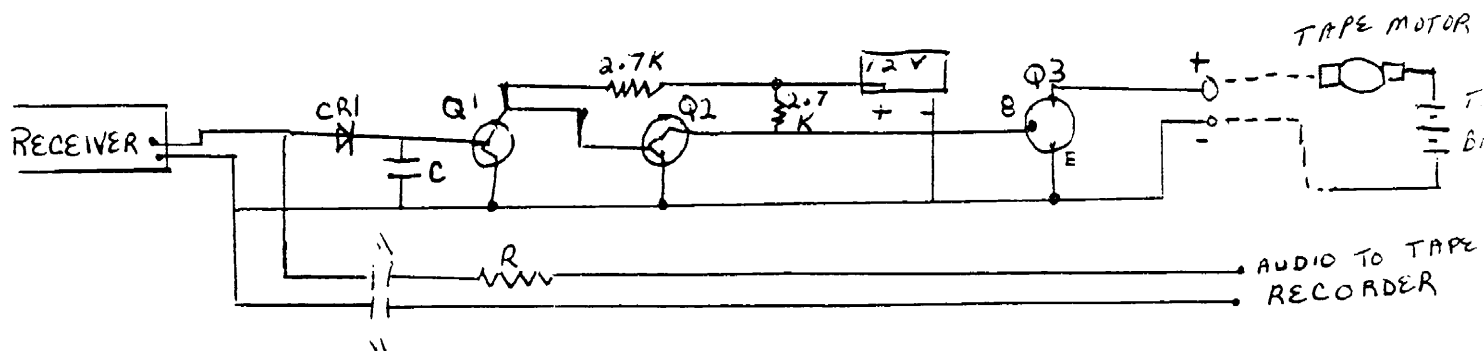
1106 ROLLINS PLACE
LEESBURG, VIRGINIA 22075-4336

(703) 777-6949

Tape Recorder to Transmitter

by Harry (WPVA)

I recently attended a public service function as Net Control Station and so as to have a record of all that transpired I constructed a device that would run my tape recorder each time someone transmitted (this so as not to run out of tape during an all day event). provisions were incorporated so as to not lose any of a transmission. It worked well and gave us a record of those things that required us to contact the first aid people. See diagram with notes below:



NOTES:

1. The value of C is selected to set the "run time" of the tape recorder so that it doesn't stop during speech pauses. (You can try values between 1000 and 7000 mfd.)
2. The value of R is selected to prevent overdriving the tape recorder amplifier.
3. The MJ1000 is a power darlington (Q3) - in my case a free sample!
4. CR1 can be almost anything a 1N4311 was used.
5. (Q1, Q2) 2N21222 transistors were used because they were in my junk box.

Operation:

Received audio is sent to the tape recorder mike jack and also rectified by CR1. The rectified signal is stored in C and discharged through Q1. Q1 and Q2 drive Q3. Q3 uses power from the recorder battery to ground (and run) the recorder motor.

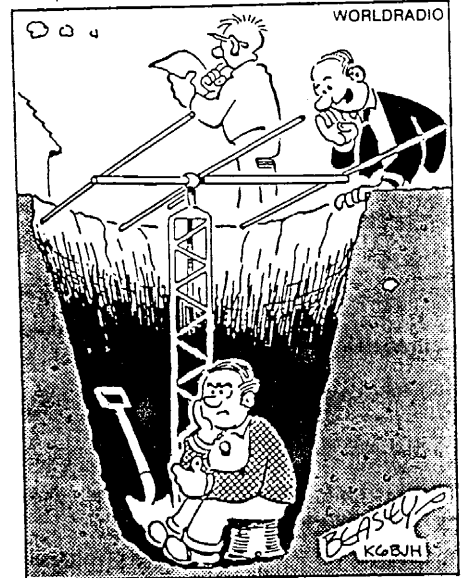
I.E. Received audio triggers the tape recorder with C storing enough to keep the motor going between speech words. Audio to the recorder if fed via the two capacitors.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club will be Monday Evening, September 21, 1992, 8:00 p.m. in the Basement Meeting Room of the Northern Virginia Electric Co-Op, 10323 Lomond Drive, Manassas, Virginia.

SWAP & SHOP

**YOUR FOR SALE ITEM
COULD GO HERE !!!**












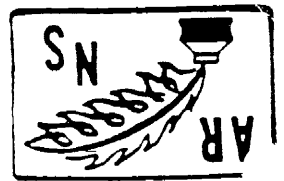
YOU'LL BE GLAD TO KNOW YOUR TOWER NOW CONFORMS TO THE COMMUNITY'S MAXIMUM HEIGHT LIMITS --- WHAT IS IT YOU HAMS SAY, "HAPPY DX-ING?"



THE OVH CALENDAR

September 20 - October 31, 1992

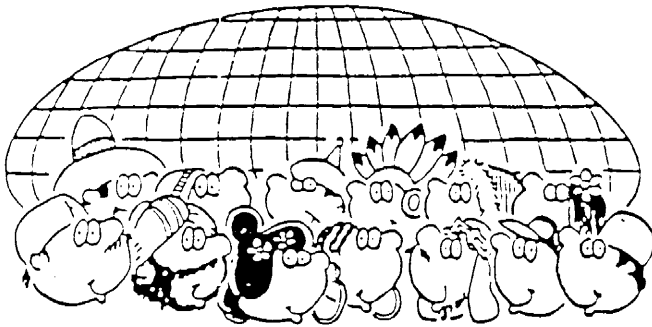
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sept 20 1700 10-10 EAGLE NET 28.340 MHZ VEC VIRGINIA BEACH VIRGINIA BEACH HAMFEST ARRL ROANOKE DIVISION ARRL 10GHZ	Sept 21  2000 OVH MEETING	Sept 22 <i>Autumn begins</i>	Sept 23 2000 NVFMA 146.790 MHZ	Sept 24  2000 OVH NET 146.970 MHZ	Sept 25 2000 CQ WW RTTY CONTEST  NEWSLETT- ER DEADLINE	Sept 26 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">CQ WW RTTY</div>
Sept 27 1700 10-10 EAGLE NET 28.340 MHZ VEC ANNAPOLIS, MD <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">CQ WW RTTY</div>	Sept 28 <i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	Sept 29	Sept 30 2000 NVFMA 146.790 MHZ	Oct 1  2000 OVH NET 146.970 MHZ	Oct 2	Oct 3
Oct 4 1700 10-10 EAGLE NET 28.340 MHZ NSSN'S BIRTHDAY	Oct 5	Oct 6	Oct 7 2000 NVFMA 146.790 MHZ <i>Yom Kippur</i>	Oct 8  2000 OVH NET 146.970 MHZ	Oct 9 VEC CULPEPER, VA	Oct 10 0830 OVH BREAKFAST W1AW QUAL-RUN VEC ALEXANDRIA/ RICHMOND/ HARRISONBURG/ WILLIAMSBURG VEC DAVIDSON, MD <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">DXPO-92 COLLEGE ...</div>
Oct 11 1700 10-10 EAGLE NET 28.340 MHZ COLUMBIA ARC HAMFEST <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">DXPO-92 COLLEGE ...</div>	Oct 12 <i>Columbus Day</i> (Observed)	Oct 13	Oct 14 1930 MARC NET 28.450 MHZ 2000 NVFMA 146.790 MHZ	Oct 15  2000 OVH NET 146.970 MHZ	Oct 16	Oct 17 VEC LAUREL MD <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">ARRL SET</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">BSA JAMBOREE</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">ARRL EME</div>
Oct 18 1700 10-10 EAGLE NET 28.340 MHZ CUMBERLAND CO.PA. HAMEST <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">ARRL SET</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">BSA JAMBOREE</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">ARRL EME</div>	Oct 19  2000 OVH MEETING	Oct 20	Oct 21 2000 NVFMA 146.790 MHZ	Oct 22  2000 OVH NET 146.970 MHZ VEC TOWSON, MD	Oct 23	Oct 24 W1AW QUAL-RUN <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">CQ WW DX PHONE</div>
Oct 25 1700 10-10 EAGLE NET 28.340 MHZ <i>Daylight</i> <i>Savings--set</i> <i>back 1 hour</i> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;">CQ WW DX PHONE</div>	Oct 26	Oct 27	Oct 28 2000 NVFMA 146.790 MHZ VEC GLENBURNIE, MD	Oct 29  2000 OVH NET 146.970 MHZ	Oct 30	Oct 31 <i>Halloween</i>



FIRST CLASS MAIL



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WORLD WIDE FRIENDSHIP THROUGH AMATEUR RADIO



1992