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# Old 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 -- 146.97/224.66  
OVH Nodes -- 145.03/223.54  
BBS -- BBSHRG

May 1993 Issue

## From the President's Shack

As a counterpoint to what will probably be remembered in our Club's history as the long and boisterous Club meeting of April 1993, this month's Presidential message will be short and sweet.

First, I simply wish to thank all the Officers, Committee Chairmen, and Club Members who had the patient and perseverance to stay on until the end of the meeting while the Club struggled with the very difficult and complex question of what to do about the interference problem on the 220 MHz side of the Club repeater. The extra meeting time was needed to ensure that the decision to shut it down, while not the most popular one, represented the collective wisdom of the majority, distilled from more than an hour of oftentimes fractious and contentious debate.

Secondly, I urge everyone to try their best to make it to the May 18, 1993 Club Meeting, as this will be the last meeting prior to the Hamfest . . . where, traditionally, Hamfest assignments are "handed out" to civic-spirited volunteers like you and me.

See you then, and 73s,

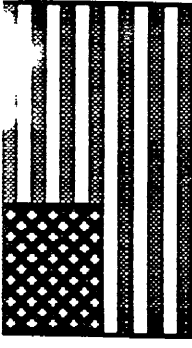
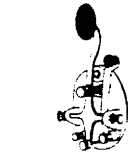
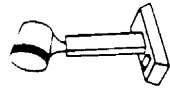
Butch (N6NSM)

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## Minutes of the April Meeting

The OVH April Meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m. There were 30 members and 4 guests present.

Tim (KB4NR) reported that the Technical Committee had been working on determining what or who was causing the interference to the Club's 220 MHz repeater. After much discussion, it was decided to



OLD VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

DIRECTORS

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

OFFICERS

President - Butch (N6NSM) 703-335-9352  
 Vice Pres - Jim (WD4OJY) 703-369-3940  
 Secretary - Ron (NV3S) 703-330-1213  
 Treasurer - Mike (WV3H) 703-368-0998,

REPEATER TRUSTEE

Art (W1CRO) 703-791-4330

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Harry (W4PVA) 703-368-6050

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tim (KB4NR) 703-494-2737  
 Jim (WA2QEJ) 703-791-2932  
 Mary Lou (KB4EFP) 703-369-2877  
 Pete (KB4RNE) 703-369-2436  
 Jeff (KB4IWD) 703-830-1150

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Butch (W4HJL) 703-369-2877  
 Tim (KB4NR) 703-494-2737  
 Bob (N4RL) 703-361-7335  
 Jim (WA2QEJ) 703-791-2932

REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Art (W1CRO) 703-791-4330  
 Tim (KB4NR) 703-494-2737  
 Milt (N4SN) 703-369-7265  
 Jim (WA2QEJ) 703-791-2932  
 Steve (KB4OF) 703-368-6901  
 Russ (WB4HHN) 703-368-6435  
 Butch (W4HJL) 703-369-2877  
 Mary Lou (KB4EFP) 703-369-2877

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Joe (AB4QV) 703-369-5636

1993 HAMFEST CHAIRMAN

Dan (KC4EWT) 703-709-0847  
 Ivan (KD4DFD) 703-818-2405

REFRESHMENTS

Rick (N4VZT) 703-791-5577  
 \*\*\*\*\*LOOKING FOR REPLACEMENT\*\*\*\*\*

PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN

Ken (KM4UH) 703-369-5287

MAIL LIST

Blaine (KB4RKL) 703-369-2877

CLUB PICNIC COMMITTEE

Bernice (KA4SCA) 703-791-3839  
 Mary Lou (KB4EFP) 703-369-2877

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Bernice (KA4SCA) 703-791-3839

PACKET COMMITTEE

Mike (WV3H) 703-335-2642  
 Woody (KD4DEG) 703-368-5180  
 John (KI4RO) 703-349-2650  
 Bill (N4WJN) 703-590-9562  
 Alan (KD4KBX) 703-330-8844

OVH WEEKLY NET

Harry (W4PVA) 703-368-6050

CLUB NEWSLETTER

Bonnie (N4QPB) 703-361-0008

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

John (N4YOB) 703-791 5995

SCHOLARSHIPS

Pete (KB4RME) 703-369-2436

E.A.R. REPRESENTATIVE

Alan (KD4KRX) 703-330-8844

1993 FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN

Bonnie (N4QPB) 703-361-0008

NEWSLINE REPORT

Pete (KB4RME) 703-369-2436

GENERATORS

Tommy (KA4AFU) 703-369-2741

HISTORIAN

Greg (N4RKV) 703-690-5949

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Jim (WD4OJY) 703-369-3940

separate the 220 MHz repeater from the 2 M repeater. Also, it was determined that the 220 MHz repeater may have to be shutdown until the problem is solved due to control operator concerns. A motion was made and seconded to do the above. The motion passed with all but 3 votes in the affirmative.

The Packet Committee reported that the Node was operating fine and had been operating for over 53 days without a problem. John (KI4RO) reported that bill's (N4WJN) 2 meter BBS radio was broken. It would cost \$150 to repair and since he provided a valuable service to the Club with his packet BBS, it was motioned, seconded, and passed that the club pick up the cost of the repairs to his radio.

Harry (W4PVA) announced that there would be a VEC session on Saturday, June 12 at the NOVA campus.

The Field Day Committee Chairman, Bonnie (N4QPB), reported that she sent a letter to the Prince William County Park Authority for the same site we had last year. A Field Day Committee meeting will be held sometime in mid-May.

Butch (N6NSM) reported that the Club is in need of a new Refreshments Chairman and no one has so far volunteered. If you are interested in providing this MOST ESSENTIAL service, please contact Butch ASAP.

Meeting was Adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Ron (NV3S)  
Secretary

Let's Welcome the New Members

James Hawk (N3ODZ)

Ted Gausmann (N4QDD)

Russell Henley (KD4UWW)

Drew Denkhous (KD4WBC)

WELCOME!! WELCOME!! WELCOME!!

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Hamfest Notes

The Manassas Hamfest and Computer Show is fast approaching. Don't forget to get your ham radio and computer items ready for sale at the OVH tailgate table. Please mark each item with your name, call sign, and asking price. Make a list of the LOWEST price you will take for each. The tailgate table will be located in the tent next to the OVH prize drum and will be open from 6:00 a.m. Sunday, June 6, until 3:00 p.m.. Please remember: all unsold items MUST be picked up from the table staff no later than 3:15 p.m. Any items left 3:15 p.m. will be considered abandoned and treated as such, unless prior arrangements have been made.

For information, please call me!

Jeff (KB4IWD)

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FIELD DAY IS COMING

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# Ham Festers

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At the imminent (May 17) general OVH meeting, we will accept (solicit, request, cajole, nay, even beg for) volunteers for specific tasks before and at the Manassas Hamfest and Computer Show to be held Sunday, June 6, 1993, at the Prince William County Fairgrounds. If ever we wanted to see your shining face at an OVH meeting, this is then.

As you have read here before, we will establish shift schedules for Hamfest Day to ensure that those who do volunteer may plan their day and, if they are nice, maybe even pretend to be a festering ham. The damage is thus and simultaneously both limited and distributed.

If you do not show up at the OVH meeting to claim your shift, you may be relegated to the Dreaded Bathroom Detail. Ha, ha. Really, if you can't make the OVH meeting but can make one or both Hamfest days, please call Dan-KC4EWT at 709-0847 and advise him of your availability.

Of course, everyone and their relatives, from closest to most distant, are expected to show up on Saturday for the Big Set Up. Your efforts shall be rewarded with breakfast at one of the region's fine, er,

fast eating establishments; seemingly endless and gushing streams of cold, sweaty soft drinks; and last but not least, hearty pats on the back and generally kind words, all courtesy of Your Ham Club.

If you stay throughout the Big Let Down on Sunday afternoon, you shall again be rewarded with a feast of culinary delights, paid for once again by an eternally grateful OVH. Said delights are most likely to consist of pizza or other pseudo-Italian-but-really-from-China-courtesy-of-Marco-Polo cuisine and your favorite liquid refreshment, so long as Pizza Hut serves it and we don't have to carry you out.

The greatest personal reward is, however, the sense of satisfaction you are guaranteed by helping to pull this thing off. Come on out and show your support for this most rewarding public service activity. It really is a lot of fun, great for your constitution, and for those of you who are new members, this is the best way to establish and cement gratifying and long-lasting relationships with your fellow OVHammers.

73 ES CU THERE YALL DE KC4EWT

## What's New

Solar power technology has advanced considerably in the last few years and is now a viable option for radio use. There are many solar panels available but with all of them, you need a charge controller to regulate the power between the solar panel and your radio equipment.

A good charge controller is the M-8 or M-16 charge controller by Sun Selectors. These charge controllers are electronic devices that are designed for use with today's thin film or polycrystalline solar panels. The M-8 is a 6-8 amp max controller and the M-16 is a 15 amp controller.

The charge controller's main function is to take the variable 13 - 18 volts produced by the solar panel, and regulate the output to 13.8 volts DC. Once the batter has reached it's fully charged capacity, the M-8 will disconnect the panel's incoming voltage and indicate ready. It will also briefly switch the solar panel's charging voltage off, which allows the battery to basically catch it's breath. Technically it allows the battery to rest and chemically comes to a brief halt.

The M-8 and M-16 charge controllers by Sun Selectors are available through local retail solar panel dealers. I purchased my panel and controller from Hutton Communications in Norcross, Georgia (800-741-3811). I have been impressed with the M-8 charge controller, it's so reliable you can set it and forget it. Someday I hope to acquire enough solar panels to require a M-16, 15 amp controller.

Next month I'll review the Texel CD-Rom Drive.

Packet Bursts

So, you say you've been on vacation for the last week or two and you really want to catch up on your packet reading? How should you attack this problem? You know if you simply connect to the board and enter "L" you're going to have to sit in front of your terminal for at least a half hour waiting for all the messages to scroll by! Wouldn't it be nice if you could get some control over the BBS and "calm it down" a little bit?

Well, there is a way for you to gain control; through variations on the "L" command. The first you should probably do after connecting to the board is "LM". LM stands for List Mine. This will show you all messages that the board has which are specifically addressed to you. Read your messages send some replies if you choose to and then, of course, don't forget to kill them.

The next "L" command you should probably use is L@. The @ stands for at. This command comes in handy if you're interested in seeing specific messages addressed to specific distribution lists. All packeteers in OVH are part of a distribution list called OVH. You would enter L@ OVH to view all message titles which were addressed to OVH members while you were out of town.

Another good "L" command is LA. LA followed by a number will show you the oldest N messages on the board. For example, LA 20 would show you

the oldest twenty messages currently on the board. Now take the number of the twentieth oldest message on the board, add one to that number and then add twenty to that number and use the L # # command to see the 21st oldest message through the 41st oldest message. For example, you enter LA 20 and see that the oldest message on the system is 100 and since you asked for the oldest 20, you'll see the contents of messages 100 through 119. By adding 1 to 119 (for 120) and adding 20 to that (140) you can enter L120 140 to see contents of those messages. By re-doing this little trick, you'll be able to control the listing and view 20 message titles at a time and you will be in control of the board. (I chose 20 because that is what my software is capable of displaying on one screen - modify your needs.)

Finally, if you choose to check the newest messages instead of the oldest, you can use the LL command followed by a number. so you might enter LL 20 to see the newest 20 messages. Then, using the same technique (only backwards) that we used with the LA command, you could go through the messages on the board from newest to oldest instead of from oldest to newest.

I hope this information has been helpful and that it has shown you how you can gain control of the BBS.

YOUR FOR SALE ITEM  
COULD GO HERE !!!

Ole Virginia Times  
May 1993 Issue

From the Newsletter Editor

For information regarding the  
Newsletter, please contact:

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Swap N Shop

Wanted: MFM Hard disk controller  
w/floppy drive controller for a  
Seagate drive Model #ST-251 -- A  
Seagate ST-22M is the recommended  
card.

I would also be interested in a  
terminating resistor for a Seagate  
ST-251.

Contact: Jim (WD4OJY) at 369-  
3940 - evenings or on Packet -  
either direct or via N4WJN.

Bonnie Vogel-Frick  
246 Kent Drive  
Manassas Park, VA 22111  
Home #: 361-0008  
Home #: 357-0897  
Work #: 536-1384

The deadline for articles  
appearing in the June Issue of  
the Newsletter will be May 25,  
1993.

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Next Meeting

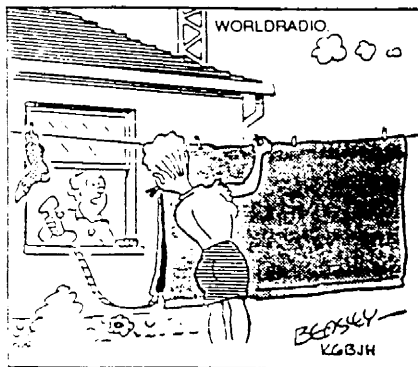
The next meeting of the Ole  
Virginia Hams Amateur Radio  
Club will be on May 18, 1993,  
in the Basement Meeting Room  
of the Northern Virginia  
Electric Co-Op, 10323 Lomond  
Drive, Manassas, Virginia.  
The meeting starts at  
approximately 8:00 p.m. and  
all are welcome.

ATTENTION CLUB MEMBERS!

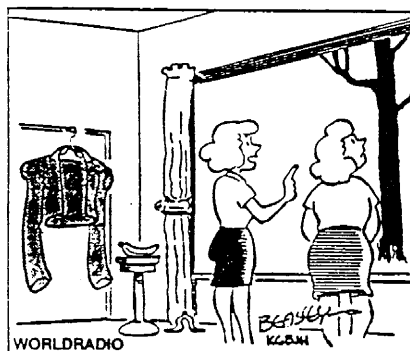
Please plan on attending this  
meeting as "requests" for  
volunteers will be made for  
vacant positions/duties for  
the Hamfest.

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MAKE PLANS FOR FIELD DAY !!!



DON'T TAKE THAT ELECTRIC BLANKET OFF  
THERE YET-- IT RESONATES ON 40 METERS!



GOODNESS, HOW DID YOUR HUSBAND MANAGE TO  
TIE THAT ANTENNA WIRE SO HIGH IN THAT TREE?

# MANASSAS HAMFEST

AMATEUR RADIO AND COMPUTER SHOW  
AN ARRL APPROVED HAMFEST



**SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 1993**

**PRESENTED BY THE OLE VIRGINIA HAMS A.R.C., INC**

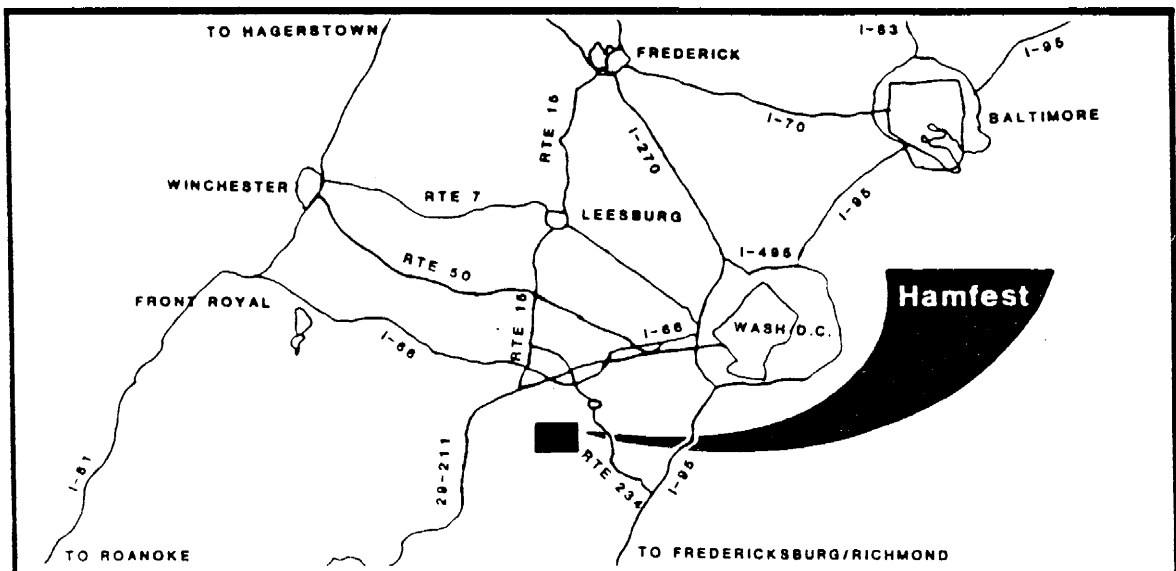
**\*\* FREE PARKING \*\* TALK-IN ON 146.37/97 & 223.06/224.66 \*\* HOURLY PRIZES \*\***

**INDOOR EXHIBIT SPACE AVAILABLE FOR DEALERS AND MANUFACTURERS  
\*\*\* FOOD PROVIDED BY THE PARK WEST LIONS CLUB \*\*\***

**GENERAL ADMISSION:**  
\$5.00 Per-person at gate  
No advance sale  
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 MILES SOUTH OF  
MANASSAS ON ROUTE 234**



## GENERAL INFORMATION

- Ample room for tailgating - 25 acres.
- Commercial building is available for set-up from 2:P.M. until 8:00 P.M. on Saturday the 5th.
- Prior written approval for food vendors must be obtained from the 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 3:00 P.M.
- RV Overnight parking available

**Dealer's Information Call:**

Woody (KD4DEG) 703-368-5180

**General Information Call:**

Manly (KR4EER) 703-369-2877

The "Ole Virginia Hams" would like to take this opportunity to introduce our Club to you.

This non-profit club is organized exclusively for the educational and scientific study of electronics and communication, and to provide amateur communication services for public service. The "Ole Virginia Hams" are associated with the American Radio Relay League and the Foundation for Amateur Radio.

The Club operates a Repeater, (WA4FPM) on the 2 meter frequency of 146.37/97 Mhz and on 220 Mhz at 223.06/224.66. The Repeater is located at the Northern Virginia Electric Coop Building, 10323 Lomond Drive, Manassas, Virginia. Our Repeater operates on a 24-hour basis and is equipped with sufficient battery power to operate at low power for 24 hours should the main commercial power fail. Under normal operating conditions, the repeater allows for two-way communication coverage of Prince William County, some of Loudoun County plus some of Fauquier County and even Washington, DC.

Some of the activities the Ole Virginia Hams are involved with:

- \* Provide Training Classes
- \* Provide Scholarships for students in Manassas, Manassas Park and Prince William County
- \* Own, operate and maintain a communications repeater on the Northern Virginia Electric Coop tower that can be used for emergency communications in time of need
- \* Sponsor and produce the Annual Manassas Hamfest and Computer Fair to promote Amateur Radio and to give an opportunity for other amateur radio operators to visit Manassas. (The Hamfest and Computer Fair is the Club's sole fund-raising event--it provides the funds for the other community-service activities.)
- \* Provide communications, free of charge, for charitable groups--Bike-a-thons, Walk-a-thons, the Annual Christmas Parade, Joe Gibb's Youth for Tomorrow Fair, and many others. The list grows each year.
- \* Participate in Red Cross emergency preparedness drills and similar programs held within Prince William County and surrounding areas.
- \* Participate in the world-wide Amateur Radio Field Day -- an exercise in emergency communications preparedness with amateurs across the United States, Canada, etc.

The "Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club" holds its meetings on the third Monday of every month (except November) at 8:00 PM, in the meeting room of the Northern Virginia Electric Coop Building, 10323 Lomond Drive, Manassas, Virginia. We cordially welcome all visitors.







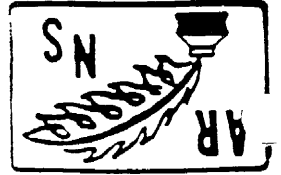
# OLE VIRGINIA HAMS EVENTS



May 16 - June 19, 1993

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 16	May 17 8:00pm OVH Meeting	May 18 7:30pm Novice/ Tech Training	May 19 8:00pm NVFMA Net 146. 79/224.10	May 20 8:00pm OVH Net 146.97/ 224.66 Ascension Day	May 21	May 22 9:00pm ARES Net 146.91
MS 150K Bikathon					ALA 150 Mile Bik...	
May 23	May 24	May 25 7:30pm Novice/ Tech Training	May 26 8:00pm NVFMA Net 146. 79/224.10	May 27 8:00pm OVH Net 146.97/ 224.66	May 28	May 29 9:00pm ARES Net 146.91
ALA 150 Mile Bik...						
May 30 Pentecost	May 31  Memorial Day (Observed)	June 1	June 2 8:00pm NVFMA Net 146. 79/224.10	June 3 8:00pm OVH Net 146.97/ 224.66	June 4	June 5 9:00pm ARES Net 146.91
June 6  MANASSAS HAM-FEST	June 7	June 8	June 9 8:00pm NVFMA Net 146. 79/224.10	June 10 8:00pm OVH Net 146.97/ 224.66 Corpus Christi	June 11	June 12 9:00pm ARES Net 146.91 VEC MANASSAS
June 13	June 14 Flag Day	June 15	June 16 8:00pm NVFMA Net 146. 79/224.10	June 17 8:00pm OVH Net 146.97/ 224.66	June 18	June 19 9:00pm ARES Net 146.91

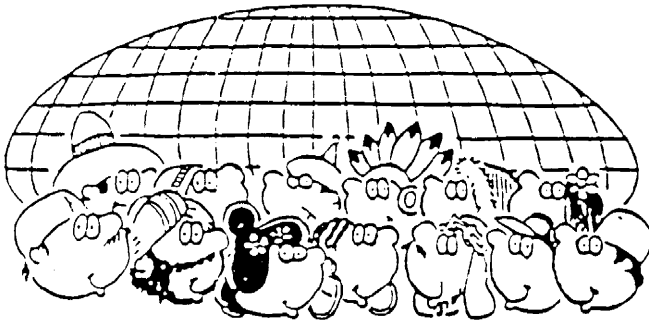
**\*1993 MANASSAS HAMFEST JUNE 6TH\***



FIRST CLASS MAIL



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



WORLD WIDE FRIENDSHIP THROUGH AMATEUR RADIO



# MANASSAS HAMFEST

## SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 1993