

"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC

Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 22110

Repeaters -- WA4FPM -- 146.970/146.370 & 224.660/223.060 -- KE4HCT -- 448.325/443.325(New - Not Operational)

OVH Nodes -- Port 1: 145.030 Port 2: 223.660 Port 3: 223.540 MHZ

BBS--BBSHRG/N4WJN (SYSOP--BILL)

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

APRIL 1995

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COMMENTARY FROM THE OVH CHIEFTAN

Erv, KD4DFB - President of the Club

Hey OVH!

Thanks for the great turnout and participation at the March meeting. The April meeting will include a vote count on the proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. Please take part in the voting process. If you cannot come to the meeting and haven't mailed your ballot, ask someone to bring it for you. I'm available to help collect ballots if necessary.

Spring is my favorite time of the year. New growth shoots forth with all the exuberance of youth and old growth blossoms with the wisdom of experience. Let's combine these traits of all God's creations and apply them to amateur radio activities within the Club.

There has been talk of getting more involved with ARES type and other public service activities. Put on your thinking caps, talk it up and see if we can generate enough interest to support these and/or other activities lying yet dormant but within our grasp.

I would also like to see us *REALLY* "HAM IT UP" at Field Day this year. With all the new talent we have in our membership, it could be a very educational, fun and rewarding experience for all.

Thanks for listening...

73 and CUATM...

Erv/KD4DFB

"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS"

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, VA. 22110

OFFICERS

President:	Ervin Whalen	KD4DFB
Vice Pres:	Ivan Reeder	KD4DFD
Secretary:	Charlie Dale	WA4YGI
Treasurer:	Joe Tutino	AB4QV

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Bob McCann	N4RL
Don (Butch) Blasdell	W4HJL
Tim Wayne	KB4NR

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Chuck Ahalt	KE4JWY
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1995 HAMFEST CHAIRMAN

Scott Bellefeuille	KE4HCT
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WEEKLY VHF NET CONTROL

Thursdays - 8:00 PM - 146.97 & 224.660 Mhz

Harry Vorhauer	W4PVA
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The OVH Times is the official publication of the "Ole Virginia Hams" ARC and is published on a monthly basis. The OVH ARC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio. The OVH ARC meets at 8:00 PM every third Monday of the month, at the Northern Virginia Electric Coop, located at 10323 Lomond Dr., Manassas, VA. Prospective members are invited.

Local information can always be obtained, at any time, through the usage of the OVH repeaters (146.97 & 224.660 Mhz). All are welcome.

Permission is hereby granted for the reprinting of articles and quotations in this letter, provided full credit is given to the OVH ARC, and the author of the article. Contribution of printed articles by both members and non-members is encouraged. The deadline for submissions is the 9th of each month. Submissions should be forwarded to OVH TIMES EDITOR:

Scott C. Bellefeuille KE4HCT
2170 Logmill Rd.,
Haymarket, VA 22069

Letters to the Editor and Classified Ads are accepted and welcome. Approx Circulation -170

FAR TO AWARD

56

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer 56 scholarships for the academic year 1995 - 1996, to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over 75 local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds five of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual Hamfest. The remaining 51 are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from \$500 to \$2000 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Clubs, especially those in Delaware, Florida, Maine, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Wisconsin, are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, on their nets, during training classes, and in their newsletters.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 1995, from:

*FAR Scholarships
6903 Rhode Island Avenue
College Park, MD 20740*

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

The Editor

The View From Here... The Top Of The Tower

It's that time when we, as OVH Club members, have to decide on some important matters regarding the proposed changes to the Club Constitution and the Bylaws.

I must admit that I personally voted in favor of the changes, but that I found a few items I didn't quite agree with. I voted "yes" because I thought it was in the best interests of the club itself. My personal feeling is that we need these changes to bring the current operation of the club up to the current times. What things am I speaking of? Well, lets try to determine why it takes a new applicant three months or more to be voted in as a new member. Why is it, that it's almost like "pulling teeth" to have a quorum at each monthly club meeting? Why are our dues rate set so low, that the dues alone can't even support the production of the Club newsletter? And if this is the case for the Club newsletter, how does the Club itself conduct it's business, in regards to finances? Think about it. Vote and do what's in the best interests of the Club, and put your personal feelings aside for the time.

Speaking of the Club Constitution and Bylaws, I can't help to mention a area that appears to be quite "gray". I briefly mentioned this last month, but didn't discuss the matter. I hope some of you took the time to review the "written word" of the Club and have some of the same questions I do.

First, let me openly say that I believe the OVH Club has some fine Board of Directors and that I have no personal interest in becoming one (I have my hands full now being the newsletter Editor!). Yet, I do have some experience in being a current NVFMA board member and I'm not totally in the dark about this matter.

I seem to have questions "pop out" all over when I review Section 6. Board Members, in the OVH Constitution. Nowhere have I been able to find stated as to how many directors serve on the board. Is this recorded somewhere else?

I firmly believe in the concept that a organization should "elect" it's board of directors, and that these directors should reflect the feeling and desires of the members. I look upon the section that discusses terms of office and I see words like "serve so long as they

remain in good standing", "are not incapacitated by prolonged physical disability", "remain within reasonable proximity of the Club", and "maintain a level of activity within the Club sufficient to be reasonably conversant with it's activities". This sounds pretty much like "life" to me... when it comes to what's the term of office. Fine, yes we do need continuity in the Club.

Bear in mind that when a directors position becomes vacant, the remaining board must submit a name to the membership, and the membership must vote with a 2/3 majority to install that person. However, can we expect and demand that the Club membership of ten, fifteen and maybe twenty years past, to be able to foresee the Club's feeling and desire. Specifically, is it really fair to that director, to expect he or she to "change with the times"? Is it really fair to the membership of one era, to live with the feelings and desires of another membership era? Do you see the discrepancies in conducting business in this manner?

A suggestion...the membership needs to be in a more current position to reflect it's desire onto the board. The board needs to understand this position, and bear in mind that the bottom line is "that for the good of the Club". Would it not be unreasonable to make the board positions a elected position, by the membership, every four to seven years? Staggering the positions along a seven year cycle would certainly maintain the concept of continuity. Well, OVH, what do you think? It's your club too.

Ah, yes, remember that ole patriotic saying from "way back" in Boston? "No decision making without representation!" Well, it was close anyway.

In ending, let me say to all the OVH Club members, that I brought forth this discussion not to discredit or cause any ill will toward any Director or Club member. But to simply instill a thought of change, a change that will make the OVH a better club in it's own. Also, remember that I seek change not for the sake of change, but change for the better of the Club! There will come a day when the reigns of the OVH Club will be turned over to a new era of amateur radio operators.

The EDITOR

AutoPatch Use On The WA4FPM Repeater

From The Voice Of Manassas

The new access code for the Repeater is now activated! As a review, the following information has been compiled for the benefit of the Club membership.

The AutoPatch has a number of features. These features include time information, touch tone pad test and a number of speed dial numbers.

*Time information may be had by using the code "0 8"

*Touch tone pad test is had by entering "5" followed by the other numbers that you wish to test.

*Note - The * on your pad is recorded as a "S" and the # as a "P".

*The speed dial numbers are accessed by prefixing the desired number with a *.

* Note - be sure to tell the agency contacted that you are on the radio. Remember, THE NUMBER 911 IS RESERVED **FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY** AND SHOULD NOT BE USED OTHERWISE.

AUTOPATCH USES

FOR EMERGENCY USE:

Listen to see if the machine is in use. If so, and your traffic is of an emergency nature, break in at a pause and ask the users to allow you to make the EMERGENCY call. If not of an emergency nature, wait until the channel is clear.

FOR NON-EMERGENCY USE:

1. Listen to determine that the channel is clear.
2. Announce your intent (Including your call sign).
3. Enter the AutoPatch access code and **without** letting up on your mike button, enter the number you are calling.
4. Now let up on you mike button and listen. The machine will announce the number you entered.
5. If this number is correct, "kerchunk"the machine once **immediately**. If the number is not correct, do nothing and the machine will reset itself. You may then try again.
6. The machine will now dial up the number.
7. Let the party that you called, know that you are on the air and they will have to take turns in speaking with you. Go ahead with your call.
8. To hang up after your call is completed, key your rig and press the # button.
9. Key your rig and identify as required by FCC regulations.

Notes - The AutoPatch has it's own timer and you must observe it's one minute limit, by keying your rig once each minute during AutoPatch operation. It is suggested that only Prince William County calls should be initiated on the AutoPatch.

Harry/W4PVA

QST DE W1AW

FROM ARRL HEADQUARTERS
NEWINGTON CT APRIL 5, 1995
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS

PETITION THREATENS W1AW

A PETITION FOR RULE MAKING BEFORE THE FCC WOULD ELIMINATE ALL ONE-WAY TRANSMISSIONS SUCH AS CODE PRACTICE AND INFORMATION BULLETINS ON THE AMATEUR BANDS BELOW 30 MHZ, INCLUDING THOSE FROM W1AW.

THE FCC HAS ASSIGNED FILE NUMBER RM-8626 TO THE PETITION, WHICH WAS FILED BY FREDERICK O. MAIA, W5YI, PUBLISHER OF THE COMMERCIAL NEWSLETTER THE W5YI REPORT. THE PETITION SEEKS TO ELIMINATE THE RULES THAT PERMIT ONE-WAY INFORMATION BULLETINS AND MORSE CODE PRACTICE IN THE AMATEUR BANDS BELOW 30 MHZ. THE EFFECT OF THE PETITION WOULD BE TO SILENCE W1AW BULLETIN AND CODE PRACTICE TRANSMISSIONS, AMONG OTHERS.

MAIA CALLS THE FCC RULE THAT PERMITS CERTAIN ONE-WAY TRANSMISSIONS ON THE AMATEUR BANDS "A VERY PERMISSIVE CATEGORY AND TAKEN IN ITS BROADEST CONTEXT, PERMITS JUST ABOUT ANYTHING TO BE TRANSMITTED THAT IS EVEN REMOTELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE AMATEUR SERVICE."

MAIA SAYS THAT CODE PRACTICE IS NOW AVAILABLE ON COMPUTER SOFTWARE, AND INFORMATION BULLETINS ABOUT AMATEUR RADIO CAN BE HAD ON VARIOUS COMPUTER ON-LINE SERVICES.

COMMENTS ON THE PETITION MAY BE SENT IN THE FORM OF A LETTER TO THE SECRETARY, FCC, WASHINGTON, DC 20554. THE FILE NUMBER, RM-8626, SHOULD BE SHOWN PROMINENTLY AT THE TOP. AN ORIGINAL AND FIVE COPIES IS PREFERRED, BUT SINGLE COPY COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

A COPY SHOULD ALSO BE SENT TO MR. MAIA'S LAWYER, RAYMOND A. KOWALSKI, KELLER AND HECKMAN, 1001 G STREET NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20001. THE DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS ON THE PETITION IS MAY 4, 1995.

MARCH 24, 1995

FCC NOW ACCEPTING CLUB & MILITARY LICENSES

EFFECTIVE NOW, THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR NEW CLUB AND MILITARY RECREATION STATION LICENSES. CALL SIGNS WILL BE ISSUED BY THE FCC FROM THE GROUP D CALL SIGN BLOCK, BASED ON THE APPLICANT'S CALL DISTRICT.

SPECIAL FCC FORM 610-B MUST BE USED TO APPLY, AND APPLICATIONS MUST BE SENT TO THE FCC'S GETTYSBURG LICENSING FACILITY, 1270 FAIRFIELD RD, GETTYSBURG PA. 17325-7245.

FORM 610-B CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE ARRL/VEC FOR AN SASE.

MARCH 21, 1995

VANITY CALL CHANGE SOUGHT

THE ARRL HAS PETITIONED THE FCC FOR PARTIAL RECONSIDERATION OF ONE ASPECT OF ITS PROPOSED VANITY CALL SIGN PROGRAM.

THE LEAGUE HAS ASKED THAT THE COMMISSION REQUIRE THAT AMATEURS REQUESTING VANITY CALL SIGNS IN ELIGIBILITY "GATES" OTHER THAN GATE ONE SPECIFY CALL SIGN CHOICES IN THE CALL SIGN REGION OF THEIR THEN-CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS. (GATE ONE IS FOR APPLICANTS FOR A PREVIOUSLY HELD CALL SIGN OR THE CALL SIGN OF A DECEASED RELATIVE.)

THE LEAGUE SAID THAT, REINFORCED BY THE COMMENTS OF A NUMBER OF AMATEURS, IT BELIEVES THAT THE HISTORY OF CALL SIGN REGIONS AND THE NATURE OF AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNICATION INDICATE THAT CALL SIGN REGIONS SHOULD BE RETAINED FOR VANITY CALL SIGN APPLICANTS. "AMATEURS ARE IN GENERAL MOST SUPPORTIVE OF THE USE OF CALL SIGNS AS A QUICK MEANS OF DETERMINING THE GENERAL LOCATION OF A STATION," THE LEAGUE SAID.

THE LEAGUE ALSO SAID THAT, BECAUSE SOME CALL SIGN REGIONS WOULD HAVE FEWER AVAILABLE CALL SIGNS THAN OTHERS, ALLOWING AN "OPEN FIELD" WOULD DEplete THE CALL SIGN POOLS IN SOME REGIONS, ULTIMATELY DEPRIVING SOME APPLICANTS WHO WANT A CALL SIGN IN THEIR OWN REGION THE OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN ONE. THE ARRL CITED IN PARTICULAR THE LIMITED CALL SIGN BANKS IN PUERTO RICO (KP4), ALASKA (KL7), AND HAWAII (KH6), AS EXAMPLES.

THE ARRL SAID THAT OTHERWISE IT FULLY SUPPORTS THE COMMISSION'S VANITY CALL SIGN PROPOSAL, AND THAT IT BELIEVES SUFFICIENT TIME IS AVAILABLE TO CONSIDER THE LEAGUE'S PROPOSED CHANGE BEFORE THE FCC IS READY TO OPEN GATE TWO, THE FIRST THAT WOULD BE AFFECTED.

APRIL 3, 1995

MORE CALLS FOR SOME AREAS

ACCORDING TO A NEW FCC FACT SHEET, AN ARRL REQUEST FOR CALL SIGN RELIEF FOR AMATEURS IN HAWAII, ALASKA, AND PUERTO RICO HAS BEEN HONORED.

THE "AMATEUR STATION SEQUENTIAL CALL SIGN SYSTEM" FACT SHEET DATED FEBRUARY 1995 REPLACES ONE DATED JUNE 1991 THAT IS REFERENCED IN THE FCC'S RECENT VANITY CALL SIGN REPORT AND ORDER.

THE NEW FACT SHEET INCORPORATES CHANGES THAT THE LEAGUE ASKED FOR IN NOVEMBER 1993, EXPANDING THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMATEURS IN ALASKA, HAWAII, AND PUERTO RICO TO OBTAIN CALL SIGNS THAT REFLECT THEIR GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION.

ACCORDING TO THE NEW FACT SHEET, CALL SIGNS IN ALASKA (REGION 11), AL, KL, NL, AND WL ARE NO LONGER LIMITED TO THE NUMERAL 7. ANY NUMERAL, 0 THROUGH 9, IS AVAILABLE. THE CALL SIGNS KL9KAA THROUGH KL9KHZ ARE RESERVED FOR ASSIGNMENT TO US PERSONNEL STATIONED IN KOREA.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

Lightning Protection for Ham Radio Stations

Part II

Reprinted From The PolyPhaser BBS, The PolyPhaser Corporation, Minden, NV.

(Continued From The March OVH Times)

No one should even think about using a non-conductive structure for an antenna support. The lightning problems will be costly to fix. Nothing short of copper plating the pole should be considered a real fix. Only conductive towers or metal poles should be used for mounting antennas high in the air. If either have sliding contacts (crank up towers and push up poles), the joints should be jumpered using short sections of galvanized strap and all stainless steel clamps. Normal (self support and guyed) towers will not need such jumpers. Guyed towers are the best for lightning if the guy anchors are grounded properly. Because the anchors are located away from the tower base, some of the strike energy will traverse the guy to ground, even though the guy wire(s) are very inductive. The more the strike energy is divided, the less there is to go to the equipment.

Copper should never touch galvanized material directly without proper joint protection. Water shedding from copper contains ions which will wash away the galvanized cover of a tower. Stainless can be used as a buffer material. Beware, stainless is not a very good conductor. If used to buffer copper to galvanized, the surface area of the contact should be large and the stainless thin. Joint compound should also be used to cover the connection so water can not bridge across the dissimilar metals.

Ground mounted vertical antennas are just like a ground mounted tower. If the antenna or tower is mounted on a roof, the inductance to ground will be very significant. Voltages in the order of several hundreds of thousands of volts will be present. To get the inductance down, increase the surface area and number of down conductors.

Lightning has a large magnetic field associated with its typical 18,000 ampere pulse(s). This can and will couple to all conductive materials. To prevent this coupling galvanized sheet steel may be used. This will attenuate the mag field pulse by about 10dB. Distance is the other means to limit coupling. The mag fields drop at one over the distance squared. For roof mounted antennas and towers, the multiple down conductors can be spread over the roof and brought down to ground at multiple locations. This will mean that the ground system will have to be completely around the building (perimeter ground). This will reduce mutual coupling between down conductors and provide a low, unsaturated section of the perimeter to absorb the conducted surge. The mag fields will also be divided and will in theory cancel in the middle of the building. This will minimize coupling to wires inside the building.

Since the tower is a conductor and is grounded, coax lines should be grounded to the tower. Tower and the coax line(s) will share as much strike energy as possible. If coax grounding kits are not installed, more energy could traverse the coax than the tower or because of the inductance (smaller surface) the large inductive voltage drop may cause arcing between the coax line(s) and the tower. This can cause pin holes in the coax for water to enter. This can also happen if the coax line(s) are isolated from the tower. Strike voltages are present on a tower that can jump as much as two feet! The rule is to at least ground the coax lines at the top and at the bottom for towers smaller than 150 feet tall. Notice the word "bottom". Since the tower has some inductance, leaving the tower at a point above ground will allow some of the strike current to continue on the coax line (both center and shield) to the equipment. Once at the equipment, the current will follow the chassis to the safety ground. This will elevate the equipment cabinet to deadly voltages. Deadly for both people and the equipment.

In order to protect the equipment, always ground the coax line(s) at the very base of the tower. Rotor control lines should be protected with the protector grounded to the tower or to a designated single point ground plate. The lines, coax and control, should be placed in EMT (metal) conduit which is grounded only at the tower base end. This will act as a faraday shield for the mag fields. The next step is to provide a single point ground plate where all the I/O protectors for the equipment will be placed. This is best located near ground to keep the inductance low. However, if this requires the plate to be too far from the equipment (more than 10 feet or so) and if the mag fields of the strike can couple easily to the interconnecting wires and cables, then it should be located close to but not on any one piece of equipment. (If a rack of equipment is used, the plate can be a rack panel provided all I/O protectors are present and the only ground connection is to the panel and not to any other piece of equipment.)

(Continued On Page 7)

(Lightning Protection -Continued From Page 6)

The grounding of this plate or panel is very important. A low inductance path to ground is a necessity. Only copper strap should be considered. Since strap is flat, the susceptibility to mag fields is only towards its edges. To prevent coupling, the strap should be oriented with the flat side towards the tower. The plate should also be oriented with the flat side to the tower. Coax lines should not have extra turns in them. Even though this may seem like a good idea because lightning does not like to go around corners, the added inductance can also act as a transformer coupling more energy onto the line. Route all ground straps and grounding conductors so that they have a gentle bending radius. Sharper than 8" radius will add unwanted inductance to the desired ground path. Even for conductors buried in the ground, try to prevent any additional sharp bends.

In the equipment room, all pieces of equipment must be bonded together with low inductance strap. This must be bonded to the single point plate. The plate is then grounded to the earth ground system. Power, telephone and coax line protectors must be present (if used) on the plate. Additional protectors may be used to protect the entrance locations for the power and telephone lines. This will provide added protection for other jointly used equipment (answering machines, appliances etc.)

Remember that equipment damage can happen in either of two ways: From a strike down the road incoming on the power/telephone lines or from a strike to the tower where the ground system is not adequate and the entire ground system rises. In this latter scenario, protectors fire and dump strike energy onto power and phone lines (any line leaving the area of elevation). If the protectors are spread out from each other, they cannot work in unison to keep voltage levels within a tolerable range for equipment survival.

Extra separation between the struck tower and the equipment also gives additional time for the ground system to disperse the strike charge into the ground. This together with the added inductance of the coax lines helps buffer the energy from entering the equipment area.

Coax protectors should be units that have dc blocking. This provides a high pass filtering which prevents the low frequency energy of lightning from continuing to the equipment. It is picked off and diverted to the ground system in a controlled, preconceived fashion. This dc blocking ensures the operation of the protector regardless of the input circuitry of the equipment.

Did you know that dc continuity units will not work on receivers and shunt fed duplexers! This is not a well known fact. The shunt to ground inside a receiver (coil to ground for static draining) prevents the low frequency lightning energy from being conducted by the protector. The coil shunts the energy to ground alright but it is at the wrong place. It is not at the low inductance path to ground, it is inside the radio. If the coil can't handle this energy (half the coax surge energy is on the center pin and half on the shield), it will open up and now the current through the coil translates to a large open voltage source, capable of arcing just about anywhere it pleases. The absolute best protector not only dc blocks the center pin energy but also the shield. This type protector prevents the shield energy from continuing to the equipment chassis. There is a limit to the protector's withstand voltage and if proper single point grounding is exercised, the voltage will not exceed this 10kV level.

Lightning protection can be summed up simply: You have control of the lightning strike energy and not Mother Nature. Once control is lost, all can be lost.

Thanks go to PolyPhaser for a terrific discussion on this topic of "Lightning Protection"! Stay tuned! We will carry another installment on "Lightning Protection" from PolyPhaser in the very near future!

* Note - If anyone has any questions about some of the products from PolyPhaser, contact Jack/N4YIC. Jack has placed a few of their products into his tower installation, at his home QTH. Thanks Jack, for bringing this information to our attention! **The Editor/KE4HCT**

More QST De W1AW

(MORE CALLS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

IN THE CARIBBEAN (REGION 12), KP3, NP3, AND WP3 (OR 4) CALL SIGNS WILL INDICATE THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO (EXCEPT DESECHEO ISLAND).

IN HAWAII AND THE PACIFIC (REGION 13), AH7, KH7, NH7, AND WH7 (OR 6) CALL SIGNS WILL INDICATE HAWAII EXCEPT THAT THE LETTER K FOLLOWING THE NUMERAL 7 WILL INDICATE KURE ISLAND.

SYSTEMATICALLY ASSIGNED CALL SIGNS IN GROUPS A (AMATEUR EXTRA CLASS) AND C (GENERAL, TECHNICIAN, AND TECHNICIAN PLUS CLASS) FOR ALASKA, HAWAII, AND PUERTO RICO USING THE TRADITIONAL NUMERALS (7, 6, AND 4, RESPECTIVELY) HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED.

THE NEW FACT SHEET ALSO DESIGNATES GROUP D CALL SIGNS FOR CLUB AND MILITARY RECREATION STATIONS, APPLICATIONS FOR WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMISSION SINCE MARCH 24, 1995.

IT IS NOT KNOWN IF THE FCC HAS YET ISSUED ANY CALL SIGNS UNDER THESE NEW GUIDELINES.

APRIL 5, 1995

SAREX FREQUENCY CHANGES

SPACE SHUTTLE FLIGHT STS-71, TO BE LAUNCHED IN JUNE, IS THE FIRST TO FEATURE A DOCKING BETWEEN THE SHUTTLE AND THE RUSSIAN MIR SPACE STATION. SPECIAL SHUTTLE AMATEUR RADIO EXPERIMENT (SAREX) VOICE FREQUENCIES WILL BE USED.

THE SPECIAL FREQUENCIES ARE: DOWNLINK: 145.84 MHZ WORLDWIDE AND UPLINKS: 144.45 AND 144.47 MHZ WORLDWIDE.

SAREX AND MIR AMATEUR RADIO STATIONS NORMALLY SHARE THE SAME DOWNLINK FREQUENCY, WHICH WOULD CAUSE INTERFERENCE ON THE STS-71 MISSION. BECAUSE OF THIS AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM USING PARTICULAR FREQUENCIES DURING PREVIOUS SAREX MISSIONS, THE SAREX WORKING GROUP HAS MADE THESE CHANGES FOR STS-71. THE NEW FREQUENCIES WERE CHOSEN AFTER MUCH DELIBERATION TO MINIMIZE INTERFERENCE BETWEEN SAREX, MIR, AND TERRESTRIAL STATIONS.

MOST SAREX OPERATIONS ARE SPLIT FREQUENCY, WITH A DOWNLINK (ASTRONAUTS TRANSMITTING TO EARTH STATIONS) AND AN UPLINK (EARTH STATIONS TRANSMITTING TO ASTRONAUTS). LISTEN TO THE DOWNLINK AND TRANSMIT ONLY WHEN THE SHUTTLE IS IN RANGE AND ASTRONAUTS ARE ON THE AIR.

MIR OPERATIONS ARE SIMPLEX AND REMAIN ON 145.55 MHZ.

BEFORE TRANSMITTING, LISTEN TO THE SAREX UPLINK TO AVOID INTERFERING WITH OTHERS, AND LISTEN FOR THE ASTRONAUTS' INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT FREQUENCIES THEY'RE USING. THEY WON'T FAVOR A SPECIFIC UPLINK, AND YOUR ABILITY TO WORK THEM WILL BE "THE LUCK OF THE DRAW."

IF THESE SPECIAL SAREX FREQUENCIES PROVE ACCEPTABLE, THEY WILL BE USED FOR FUTURE DOCKING MISSIONS. IF YOU HAVE COMMENTS, SEND THEM TO AMSAT'S FRANK BAUER, K3HDO, AT HIS CALLBOOK ADDRESS, OR TO THE ARRL EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS A STRONG CHANCE THAT STS-70 WILL FLY BEFORE STS-71. IF SO, STS-70 WILL USE THE REGULAR SAREX FREQUENCIES.

MARCH 28, 1995

ENFORCEMENT SAID "DISMAL"

THE ARRL HAS TOLD THE FCC THAT ITS RECENT TRACK RECORD IN AMATEUR SERVICE RULES ENFORCEMENT HAS BEEN "DISMAL."

IN COMMENTS ON AN FCC PROPOSAL TO ADOPT A STANDARDIZED SCHEDULE OF MONETARY FORFEITURES (FINES) FOR RULES VIOLATIONS IN ALL SERVICES, THE LEAGUE SAID THAT WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN ONLY A FEW CASES IN THE AMATEUR SERVICE WHERE PROMPT ENFORCEMENT ACTION WAS NEEDED "BADLY AND QUICKLY," THE NECESSARY ACTION DID NOT TAKE PLACE "DESPITE REPEATED (FCC) PROMISES."

THE ARRL SAID THAT THE COMMISSION HAS PROBABLY ARRIVED AT A REASONABLE FORFEITURE SCHEDULE BUT THAT ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHEDULE IS "THE MORE PRESSING MATTER." THE LEAGUE SAID THAT AT ISSUE WERE WHETHER THE FINES WERE SUFFICIENT TO (1) CAUSE RECIPIENTS TO NOT VIOLATE A PARTICULAR RULE IN THE FUTURE, AND (2) DETER OTHERS FROM VIOLATING THE SAME RULE.

THE ARRL SAID THAT THE FORFEITURE PROCEEDING (IN CI DOCKET 95-6) SHOULD BE FAR BROADER, TO INCLUDE A REVIEW OF THE OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF MONETARY FORFEITURES AS AN ENFORCEMENT TOOL, GIVEN THAT AS PRESENTLY USED SUCH FORFEITURES ARE OFTEN EITHER IGNORED OR CONTESTED.

THE LEAGUE SAID THAT IN THE FEW CASES OF AMATEUR RULES VIOLATIONS IN RECENT YEARS, FCC PROMISES OF ACTION HAVE GONE UNKEPT AND THE PROBLEMS PERSIST VISIBLY. THE ARRL SUGGESTED THAT FORFEITURE AMOUNTS FOR AMATEUR RULES VIOLATIONS BE ADHERED TO (INSTEAD OF GREATLY REDUCED) AND THAT COLLECTION EFFORTS BE CARRIED THROUGH.

MARCH 30, 1995

2 AMATEUR SATELLITES LOST

TWO AMATEUR SATELLITES WERE LOST WHEN THEIR LAUNCH VEHICLE EXPLODED. THE ISRAELI-BUILT GURWIN-1 TECHSAT AND THE MEXICAN UNAMSAT WERE PART OF THE PAYLOAD OF A RUSSIAN SS-25 ROCKET ORIGINALLY BUILT TO CARRY BALLISTIC MISSILES AND RECENTLY CONVERTED TO LAUNCH SATELLITES. THE REUTERS NEWS AGENCY SAID THE ROCKET, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED FROM RUSSIA'S PLESETSK COSMODROME, CAME DOWN IN THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST, IN THE SEA OF OKHOTSK, ON MARCH 28. BOTH SATELLITES WERE DESIGNED FOR PACKET RADIO REPEATER USE.

THANKS TO MILT/N4SN & W1AW

LOCAL CLUB NEWS

Newly Proposed OVH 440
Repeater
Takes A Hit...But Keeps On
Ticking!

After last month's club meeting, when the 440 Repeater Committee Chairperson outlined the "real" costs of getting the machine on the air, many were very disappointed. The 440 Committee has strived to keep the 440 project at a bare minimum budget (almost like zero!), to keep it in line with the general feeling that the club should not touch it's savings to fund the project.

Scott/KE4HCT, addressed the club members with his finding that the project, at this particular point in time, required a excess amount of finances to finish the project. It was with this information that he advised the club members that he could not openly request, in good feeling, that particular sum of money. Thereby, side lining the project to take it back into committee to decide on other equipment and funding alternatives.

A few days later, some very remarkable things transpired regarding the project. Fellow OVH and NVFMA member, Bob/N4SCK, loaned out the use of some canisters, possibly a good set of "duplexers". This was a major expense item for the project, if the "duplexers" had to be purchased new. Bob/N4SCK, also loaned out a "notch filter" for the system. The word is still "out" on the condition of the canisters. Also, Mike/KB4CVL (NVFMA member), along with Bob/N4SCK, committed to supplying the needed

amount of 7/8" hard line for the project! Not only did the NVFMA supply some of the critical hardware, but the NVFMA also contributed some important technical information regarding the set-up of the new machine.

Our sincerest "thanks" go out to these NVFMA guys and to the NVFMA organization itself.

The project is still alive, and appears to be back on track again!

1995 OVH Field Day
At Long Park Again

Rick/KU3M, has announced that the 1995 OVH Field Day will be held again at Long Park, located on James Madison Hwy. (Rt.15), near Haymarket.

Rick had announced earlier his desire to look at some other alternative locations, but with the official "go-ahead" from the Park Authority... Long Park is pretty darn hard to beat in the way of accommodations and set up.

For those OVH'ers who haven't been out to Long Park, there are facilities (I call them "reading rooms"!), barbecue stands, running water, plenty of good access and open manicured grass to camp out on! This is not to mention the beautiful area and sights out there. One can't help but to have a good time there.

Did I forget to mention "all the food you'll ever want" is there also?

I'm sure Rick/KU3M, would like to get some interest and willing

volunteers started now.

So mark your calendars now and come watch "Butchie" and the gang flip hamburgers!

1995 OVH Hamfest
Just Around The Corner!

Last month at the club meeting, a sign up sheet was passed around for Hamfest. However, it appears everyone forgot to bring a pen or forgot how to sign their name! Not one name was registered.

Yes, this is the major fund raiser for the club and "yes" we really would like all club members to "lend a hand" and do their patriotic duty by donating only a couple of hours! I'm not one to panic, but I am the Hamfest Chairperson this year...and I'm real determined to see this through as a success.

Should I mention that I am paid to carry a firearm and handcuffs, and that I am very well trained in both? Should I mention that I know where all of you live and probably can find the car you drive to work everyday? Should I mention that I'm about 20 tickets short this month, and that I want my free toaster? Have you ever been awakened out of a sound sleep at 3:00 am, by blaring sirens and air horns?

Am I really that type of person who would do such things? You've got to ask yourself a question... "well, how lucky do you feel?"

"Have a nice day"....and sign up!

The *Editor/KE4HCT*

OLE VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
MINUTES OF MEETING
MARCH 20 1995

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 PM, with 32 members and 5 guests present for a total attendance of 37.

The meeting was presided over by Club President, Erv/KD4DFB and was opened with the pledge of allegiance, oral roll call and the signing of the attendance list. Club Secretary Charlie/WA4YGI was absent and the minutes were graciously taken by Club Vice President Ivan/KD4DFD.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Joe/AB4QV read the Treasurers report, Erv/KD4DFB moved that it be accepted as read. The motion was seconded and the report was accepted into the record, without objection.

Erv/KD4DFB, reporting for Rick/KU3M, Chairman of the Field Day committee, stated that the paper work to reserve the park was on hand.

Erv/KD4DFB, also reported that the Education Committee had made all the arrangements for both the Tech/no code theory class and the Novice CW class. They will begin 4 & 6 April at Stonewall Jackson HS Rm 3A 7-9 PM. Each Tuesday and Thursday respectively.

Harry/W4PVA, Emergency Communications Committee, reported that the Prince William County Bike Tour will be held in Nokesville on 4 Apr 95. The registration will be 8-9 AM, and the ride from 9:30-noon. He still needs Ops to provide

communications support. Give Harry a call if you can help.

Tim/KB4NR, reporting for Jimmy/WA2QEJ, stated that the Technical Committees checkout of the new repeater controller was okay, except for some minor program changes.

Chuck/KE4JWY, Membership committee, read in requests for new memberships from: Warren Bain/N4MWU, Andrew Jezioro/WA2ONG and Joel/KC4MHT. New members voted in were: James Shelton/no call, Nicholas Ballano/KE4VOQ and William Holt/KK3T

Scott/KE4HCT, reporting on the Hamfest stated that Fairground rental would be the same as last year. See Doc/WA6HAO, to sign up to help with ticket sales. The next Hamfest committee meeting will be on 22 March.

Scott also reported that the March Newsletter was two pages shorter due the inclusion of the new membership cards.

There was no report from the Computer committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Scott/KE4HCT, reported that the new 440Mhz repeater (443.325/448.325) is proposed to be in operation by 1 June 95. The Committee recommendation is not to install a UPS due to the expense. There are still many items to be purchased, the committee will reconsider the

need and means of procurement. He also stated that they may install a "bare bones" unit to test effectiveness. Next meeting will be on 22 March.

NEW BUSINESS

Erv/KD4DFB, on behalf of the Board of Directors and Club Officers, presented the recently proposed amendments to the Constitution/Bylaws. Copies were passed out to those in attendance and will be mailed to all other members, before the April meeting. He requested that the members mail in their votes/comments before the next meeting.

Scott/KE4HCT, advised that the Dogwood Half-Hundred Hike needs operators for the April 29 event. See Scott if you can help.

PROGRAM:

Sam/WB4FGS, presented a very interesting and informative program on the Prince William County Communications facilities and capabilities.

The 50-50 drawing was won by Paul N2CNX.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04PM.



Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Dale, WA4YGI
Secretary

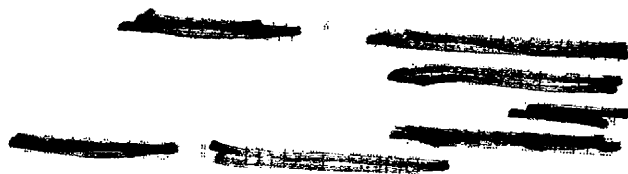


OLE VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

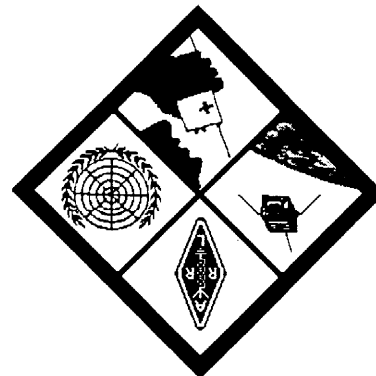
April 17 - May 28, 1995



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
April 17 8:00 PM MEETING OLE VIRGINIA HAMS 8:00 PM NET-WDBG WIRELESS- 147.240 V23.18 9:00 PM NET-HERNDON RG/145.31 ARRL Spring Sprint 144mhz	April 18 7:00 PM OVH No-Code Class 8:00 PM NET-CULPEPPER ARA/147.12 9:00 PM NET-MT VERNON/ 146.655	April 19 8:00 PM NET-NVEMA/ 146.79 9:00 PM NET-FAUQ. ARA/ 147.165	April 20 7:00 PM OVH Novice Code Class 8:00 PM NET- OVH-146.970/ 224.66 MHZ VEC - TOWSON,MD	April 21  James Monroe (1758)	April 22 10-10 International Net/Spring CW QSO Party Friendship Contest	April 23 9:00 PM CAPITAL AREA ARES NET/146.91 GW Parkway 15K - ARES MS Walkathon, Rcton - ARES
April 24 8:00 PM NET-WDBG WIRE LESS-147.240 V23.18 9:00 PM NET-HERNDON RG/145.31	April 25 7:00 PM OVH No-Code Class 8:00 PM NET-CULPEPPER ARA/147.12 9:00 PM NET-MT VERNON/ 146.655 ARRL Spring Sprints 222 Mhz VEC - ANNAPOLIS, MD	April 26 8:00 PM NET-NVEMA/ 146.79 9:00 PM NET-FAUQ. ARA/ 147.165 WIAW Qual Run	April 27 7:00 PM OVH Novice Code Class 8:00 PM NET- OVH-146.970/ 224.66 MHZ Ulysses S. Grant (1822)	April 28  James Monroe (1758)	April 29 DOGWOOD 1/2 HUNDRED New Moon VEC - Spotsylvania, VA DAYTON HAMFEST - Ohio	April 30 9:00 PM CAPITAL AREA ARES NET/146.91 9:00 PM NET-AMSAT/146.835 VEC - HAGERSTOWN, MD Kent Is. Hamfest
May 1 8:00 PM NET-WDBG WIRE LESS-147.240 V23.18 9:00 PM NET-HERNDON RG/145.31	May 2 7:00 PM OVH No-Code Class 8:00 PM NET-CULPEPPER ARA/147.12 9:00 PM NET-MT VERNON/ 146.655	May 3 6:30 PM OVH Hamfest Mtg 8:00 PM OVH 440 Mtg 8:00 PM NET-FAUQ. ARA/147.165 VEC - WARRENTOWN WIAW Qual Run ARRL Sprg Spts 432	May 4 7:00 PM OVH Novice Code Class 8:00 PM NET- OVH-146.970/ 224.66 MHZ	May 5 Cinco de Mayo	May 6 Apple Blossom Parade, Winch - ARES Hurricane NANA Exercise - ARES	May 7 9:00 PM CAPITAL AREA ARES NET/146.91 1st Quarter VEC - LANDOVER, MD
May 8 8:00 PM NET-WDBG WIRELESS- 147.240 V23.18 9:00 PM NET-HERNDON RG/145.31 Henry S. Truman (1884)	May 9 7:00 PM OVH No-Code Class 8:00 PM NET-CULPEPPER ARA/147.12 9:00 PM NET-MT VERNON/ 146.655 *OVH Times Cut-Off*	May 10 8:00 PM NET-NVEMA/ 146.79 9:00 PM NET-FAUQ. ARA/ 147.165	May 11 7:00 PM OVH Novice Code Class 8:00 PM NET- OVH-146.970/ 224.66 MHZ	May 12	May 13 VEC - ALEXANDRIA, VA VEC - CULPEPPER, VA ARRL Spring Sprints 902.1296 & 2304 mhz American Lung Bkathon - ARES	May 14 9:00 PM CAPITAL AREA ARES NET/146.91 Full Moon Mother's Day VEC - HAGERSTOWN, MD ARRL Spring Sprints 902.1296 & 2304 mhz
May 15 8:00 PM MEETING OLE VIRGINIA HAMS 8:00 PM NET-WDBG WIRELESS- 147.240 V23.18 9:00 PM NET-HERNDON RG/ 145.31	May 16 7:00 PM OVH No-Code Class 8:00 PM NET-CULPEPPER ARA/147.12 9:00 PM NET-MT VERNON/ 146.655	May 17 8:00 PM NET-NVEMA/ 146.79 9:00 PM NET-FAUQ. ARA/ 147.165	May 18 7:00 PM OVH Novice Code Class 8:00 PM NET- OVH-146.970/ 224.66 MHZ	May 19	May 20 Armed Forces Day VEC - LAUREL, MD MS 150K Bkathon - ARES ARRL Sprg Spts 50	May 21 9:00 PM CAPITAL AREA ARES NET/146.91 Great Gm. 10K - ARES Hagerstown Hamfest
May 22 8:00 PM NET-WDBG WIRE LESS-147.240 V23.18 9:00 PM NET-HERNDON RG/145.31 ARRL Sprg Spts 50	May 23 7:00 PM OVH No-Code Class 8:00 PM NET-CULPEPPER ARA/147.12 9:00 PM NET-MT VERNON/ 146.655 VEC - GLEN BURNIE, MD	May 24 8:00 PM NET-NVEMA/ 146.79 9:00 PM NET-FAUQ. ARA/ 147.165	May 25 7:00 PM OVH Novice Code Class 8:00 PM NET- OVH-146.970/ 224.66 MHZ WIAW Qual Run	May 26 VEC - PENTAGON	May 27 CQ WW CW WPX CONTEST	May 28 9:00 PM CAPITAL AREA ARES NET/146.91 ARCI QRP Hoot Owl Sprint MD FM Hamfest



FIRST CLASS MAIL



DULLES F&DC *201* 04/13/95 18:20 #4

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

NEXT OVH MEETING APRIL 17, 1995

STARTING TIME: 8:00PM

*** Note of Reminder - Don't Forget Your Bylaws Ballots!**
AT THE BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM, LOCATED AT
NOVEC,
ON LOMOND DR.
SEE YOU THERE!