

"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC

Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 22110

Repeaters -- WA4FPM -- 146.370/146.970 & 223.060/224.660 & -- KT4ER -- 443.325/448.325

OVH Nodes -- Port 1: 145.030 Port 2: 223.660 (SysOp Use Only) Port 3: 223.540 MHZ

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

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

NOVEMBER 1995

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Prince William County Police Dispatcher Pam Mollenaur addresses the OVH Membership at the October program concerning Emergency Communications

COMMENTARY FROM THE OVH CHIEFTAIN

Erv, KT4DS - President of the Club

Hey OVH;

Last month I forgot to say anything about Halloween. So "BOO" and don't let the Ghost of fall thunder storms get your gear. And now - back to the present; Happy Thanksgiving to all and thank God for America. Remember - no turkeys, just Hams for this years feasts!

We now have a brand new real life working 440 machine. Thanks Scott. The new machine is in its infancy but will be growing into a full grown machine in due time. Let's hope the users of it grows as well.

Now back to the future - Dick. WD4AZG will be heading up our participation in the Manassas XMAS

Parade this year. Stay tuned on the Thurs. Bulletin and come to the meetings for more on this event.

For you long term thinkers, remember that club officers will be voted in at the Feb 96 meeting; so start figuring on who you want for the next set of fearless leaders. Talk it up with your fellow club members and make sure the Nominating Committee knows of your preferences. Your club officers do make a difference (at least Scott and I believe this).

TNX FER LISTENING....73 es CUATM de Erv

"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS"

Post Office Box 1255
 Manassas, VA. 22110

OFFICERS

President: Ervin Whalen KT4DS
 Vice Pres: Ivan Reeder KT4DZ
 Secretary: Charlie Dale WA4YGI
 Treasurer: Joe Tutino AB4QV

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 Tim Wayne KB4NR

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Chuck Ahalt KE4JWY

1996 HAMFEST CHAIRMAN

Scott Bellefeuille KT4ER

WEEKLY VHF NET CONTROL

Thursdays - 8:00 PM - 146.97 & 224.660 Mhz
 Harry Vorhauer W4PVA

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 KT4ER
 2170 Logmill Rd.,
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 Or *KT4ER@N4WJN.NOVA*

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

**OVH Club Nominations
 Draw Near !**

It's that time of the year again OVH'ers! Once again we need to start thinking about a new slate of OVH Officers to run the Club for the new year. We here at the OVH Times (me, myself and the mouse in my pocket!) wanted to stir a little interest and excitement your way! We want you to become involved!

We want you to speak out and voice your preference as to who should run the program at OVH. We want you to lend a helping hand to the Nominating Committee and provide them with some names of folks who you think might do a great job running this terrific club. Not too worry if the folks you write down are not aware of your suggestions, heck, it might even give yourself a chance to let someone know that you "yourself" might just be interested in a club officer slot! You provide some names and let the Nominating Committee do the leg work! Lets do something new and exciting, as opposed to do doing "business as usual"!

If you think that some of the previous years' Club Officers should return in the same office, or maybe in a different role...then go ahead and put their names down! You need to be involved in this process because there will be some changes coming down this new year. Just you wait and see!

Take a moment or two and fill out the below form and send it to the OVH Nominating Committee at the following address. Or better yet, just bring it to the next Club meeting and hand it over to the President.

To: *The OVH Nominating Committee*
P.O. Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 22110
 RE: *Suggestions For The 1996 Slate Of OVH Officers*

President: _____
 Vice-President: _____
 Secretary: _____
 Treasurer: _____

Feel free to place more than one name in each slot.

Thank you for your time and effort in this matter.
The Editor/KT4ER

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

Happy Thanksgiving OVH!

I have to let you all know what a terrific time I've been having tuning into the OVH 80 meter net on Sunday nights, around 7 PM, at 3.813 Mhz. This little group gets together on a weekly basis and appears to be made up of current local OVH'ers and current or former OVH'ers that are no longer in the area. In this group is our very own "Doug Hill" of weather - Milt/N4SN, Butchie/W4HJL, Walt/N4SW in Raleigh, N.C., Gordan/W4IQA in Springfield, VA, Al/K4IQH in Ocala, FL, and Jeff//K4ZKU in Nokesville, Paul/N4PD and myself. Now granted, I don't really know a lot of these folks, but I have learned a great deal about the OVH Club of the past. Thanks to a couple of these folks, namely Walt, you all have a tremendous surprise coming in the next couple of months! Believe me, it's a real winner of a surprise because it takes us back to 1977! My, have things changed since then...huh, Harry? Oh, this is going to be a good one! Well, I can't let the cat out of the bag now... can I folks? So, you're just going to have to wait a bit, but believe me, it's well worth the wait!

Speaking of weather, did you know that OVH has it's own "weatherman" available for the asking, just about any ole time of the day? Think I'm kidding? Nope, not one bit! Yes, you can call the "Doug Hill" of OVH at almost anytime and he'll give you the most up to date and matter of fact weather report that you've ever heard! Who is this OVH'er? Why, it's Milt/N4SN of course! Just try him. I know he won't let us down

at any time.

You know, just the other day I heard something on the 2 meter repeater that pretty much confirms why I believe and enjoy in a full service amateur radio club, such as the OVH. One Club member had a bit of a family emergency involving the local Emergency Room and this event took place during the day time, a time that typically doesn't have a lot of active amateurs on the air. Well, how wrong I was...not only were there some OVH'ers around, but several who indeed lent a "helping hand" to the Club member. By the time a couple of phone calls were made and the situation abated, it was quite clear that these OVH'ers would have assisted any other ham who was in the local area and needed help. I think those OVH'ers should be commended for their quick response and immediate action. Mary Lu/KB4EFP, Milt/N4SN and Harry/W4PVA were those OVH'ers who made the decision to get involved and help. On behalf of the OVH Club, let me extend to you all a "Thank You" and "What A Class Act!". These folks definitely present the OVH Club in a fine light!

And I guess this pretty much brings me to an end. In light of the above and the fact that we are on the verge of the Holidays, I surely presume that it is indeed time to "give thanks". Happy Holidays and if you know where I can obtain 16 MB of RAM very cheap...let me know! Hey, Santa! I've been a pretty good boy this year...well, most of the time!



OVH Club Members Listen To The October Club Program Speaker

You see, I can be very objective at times and sometimes not very controversial! Yea, but I sure do miss stirring up the pot! Take care all.

73 de The Editor



W4HJL - JOTA "My name is...is...what am I suppose to say now Mr. Blasdel?"

NOVEMBER CLUB PROGRAM

FEATURE PRESENTATION!!!

Mr. Dick Daniels of AMSAT Dick will talk about Phase 3 and present a slide show about AMSAT!

Don't forget, the meeting starts at 8:00 PM!

QST de W1AW

From ARRL Headquarters
 Newington CT October 17, 1995
 To All Radio Amateurs

FCC Field Office Restructuring Plan Approved

The FCC has approved a field office restructuring plan that it says will improve operations and save money. The plan, submitted to the Commissioners by FCC Chairman Reed Hundt on August 17, would automate the FCC's network of airwave monitoring stations and reduce the number of field offices and field personnel in the Compliance and Information Bureau (CIB).

The plan also will improve public information services by establishing a new toll-free national call center, the FCC said. The Commission's field enforcement activities would be maintained at current levels.

The plan would close nine separate attended high frequency monitoring stations, and three additional monitoring sites within FCC field offices. Technological advances permit the replacement of these monitoring stations with a national automated monitoring network by the summer of 1996, the FCC said, and "overall, monitoring capacities will be enhanced." One facility in Laurel/Columbia, Maryland, will remain as the network central station.

The new FCC Call Center would, for the first time, enable the public anywhere in the United States to call one toll-free number to reach the FCC for information or to report complaints. The Center will handle this function more efficiently, and with greater convenience to the public, than is now possible in the dispersed field offices, the FCC said.

The FCC said that, under the plan, authorized staffing in the CIB will decrease by about one-third by the beginning of FY 1997. The CIB plan will require an investment of 5 to 7 million dollars in equipment and personnel in fiscal years 1996 and 1997 and the Commission estimates it would save more than 8 million (in current dollars) annually thereafter.

Hundt said, "The CIB restructuring plan will enable us to enforce the rules that govern the nation's airwaves better and cheaper. We will also be able to provide information services to the public better and cheaper."

As is required for all major FCC reorganizations, the CIB restructuring plan must be reviewed by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. At the same time, the FCC will begin required negotiations with the union that represents FCC employees. More information is in November 1995 QST, page 92.

October 20, 1995

Morse Speed Change Denied

The FCC has denied three requests to lower the Morse code requirement for the General Class Amateur Radio operator license.

The requests, in the form of letters, came from three Technician-Plus class licensees. All three asked that the 13 wpm Morse code requirement for the General Class license be lowered to 5 wpm. Two of them also asked that the Technician-Plus operator license class be eliminated and that holders of Technician-Plus licenses be granted General Class operator privileges.

In an Order released October 19, 1995, the FCC said "The current amateur service license structure and examination requirements were developed in accordance with the expressed desires of the amateur

service community through numerous rule making proceedings that generated many thousands of comments.

"The amateur service community indicated on each occasion that it strongly desires to preserve communications by telegraphy. After considering the views expressed in those proceedings, the Commission adopted the rules that are codified in Part 97" (of the FCC Rules).

"The requesters have not presented sufficient evidence to justify revisiting these matters at this time," the FCC said.

NOVEMBER 1, 1995

1996 VE Test Fees Set

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1996, THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE REIMBURSEMENT FEE FOR AN AMATEUR OPERATOR LICENSE EXAMINATION WILL BE 6.07 DOLLARS. THE FCC SET THIS AMOUNT BASED ON THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1994 AND SEPTEMBER 1995 AND IT WILL BE AN INCREASE FROM THE CURRENT 5.90 DOLLARS.

VOLUNTEER EXAMINERS AND VOLUNTEER EXAMINER COORDINATORS MAY CHARGE EXAMINEES FOR OUT OF POCKET EXPENSES INCURRED IN PREPARING, PROCESSING, ADMINISTERING, OR COORDINATING REEXAMINATIONS FOR AMATEUR OPERATOR LICENSES. THE AMOUNT OF ANY SUCH REIMBURSEMENT FEE FROM ANY ONE EXAMINEE FOR ANY ONE EXAMINATION SESSION, REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF ELEMENTS ADMINISTERED, MUST NOT EXCEED THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE FEE.

OCTOBER 24, 1995

More Gear For MIR

GERMAN COSMONAUT THOMAS REITER, DP0MIR, AND HIS TWO RUSSIAN CREWMATES, HAVE INSTALLED A 70-CM BAND TRANSCEIVER ABOARD THEIR MIR SPACE STATION, ACCORDING TO JOHN MAGLIACANE, KB2BD, IN SPACENEWS. THE MAIN 70-CM BAND FREQUENCIES ARE:
 VOICE: 435.725 MHZ (UPLINK), AND 437.925 MHZ (DOWNLINK).
 PACKET: 435.775 (UPLINK) AND 437.975 MHZ (DOWNLINK).
2-METER FREQUENCIES ARE:
 VOICE: 145.200 MHZ (UPLINK) AND 145.800 MHZ (DOWNLINK).
 PACKET: 145.550 MHZ (UPLINK) 145.550 MHZ (DOWNLINK).

ARRL NOTE: THIS VOICE UPLINK FREQUENCY IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR USE IN AREAS WHERE REPEATER OUTPUTS OPERATE ON THE SAME OR ADJACENT FREQUENCIES, AND WILL BE SUBJECT TO INTERFERENCE FROM REPEATERS WHEN MIR IS IN RANGE OF NORTH AMERICA.

THERE HAS BEEN NO 9600 BAUD PACKET RADIO ACTIVITY YET, SINCE THE HIGH SPEED TNC WILL NOT ARRIVE AT THE MIR SPACE STATION UNTIL LATER, SPACENEWS SAID.

MOST ACTIVITY FROM DP0MIR HAS BEEN IN TALKING WITH SCHOOLS, MAINLY IN GERMANY.

THE THREE MEN ABOARD MIR WERE SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO EARTH IN MID-JANUARY, BUT THAT REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN EXTENDED INTO MID-FEBRUARY.

November 10, 1995

FCC Issued Call Sign Update

The following is a list of the FCC's most recently issued call signs as of November 1.

District	Group A <u>Extra</u>	Group B <u>Advanced</u>	Group C <u>Tech/Gen</u>	Group D <u>Novice</u>
4	AE4NK	KT4FO	++	KF4EKP

++Either all call signs in this group have been used or no new call signs have been recently issued in this district.

Courtesy Of W1AW & Milt/N4SN

Local Club News

OVH Hams Help Out In The Boy Scout JOTA

Four OVH Hams participated in this year's Boy Scout JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) in the local area and in Great Britain. The OVH Hams that took part here locally were: Charlie - WA4YGI, Jack - N4YIC, and Butchie - W4HJL. In Great Britain, Mike - G0VEZ, made contact with the OVH folks here with his Scouts.

It appeared that the activity was a smashing success for all involved! It was noted that there was a slight problem with the Scouts when it came to stepping up to the mic and saying a few words! Apparently the scouts weren't too sure about talking to someone a considerable distance away that they weren't familiar with and couldn't possibly see!

A big "Well Done, Guys!" goes out the above noted OVH Hams who donated their time, equipment and patience.

Concern For The Weekly OVH Net

Harry - W4PVA has expressed some concern for the recent trend in the lack of "check-ins" for the OVH Thursday Night Net. It is unknown as to what may be causing the lack of "check-ins" for the net. It has been suggested that the recent tightening of the repeater squelch, thus reducing the ability of some Hams to reach the machine, may be a critical factor. There is also the possibility that there are simply less hams involved in the net.

Harry also noted that a considerable amount of time goes into the preparation phase of the net, which Harry, himself, does on his own free time. Harry mentioned that if the current trend continues, a decision may need to be made in the near future to re-evaluate the need for the Weekly Net.

The OVH Weekly Net has become a "pillar" of Amateur Radio dedication for the OVH Club. Many other area Hams, who are not OVH members tune into the net, to hear Harry's show of information and commentary.

It would definitely be a sad day if this OVH Weekly Net discontinued. Support

Harry and the OVH Club by making it a point to "check-in" at the completion of the net. And if you haven't heard Harry's wit and humor on the net, well...you're missing out on something truly entertaining.

OVH 2 Meter Repeater Nears Time For Repairs

Repairs of the OVH 2 Meter Repeater have not been made at this time, according to the Technical Committee. A snag developed when the project was just about to jump off, or should we say "go up the NOVEC tower". A insurance technicality grounded the antenna replacement project for the present time. However, The Technical Committee folks have advised that they have just about worked out the paperwork problems and should be ready to climb the NOVEC tower and replace the existing antenna with a new Cushcraft monster vertical. The work is scheduled for the next week or so, weather permitting.

OVH 440 Repeater Has New Radio And Controller

Mark - KB4KRO, has come through again for the OVH Club and donated a 100 watt GE Master Executive radio and a more powerful controller, which will provide squelch tail, courtesy tone and several other features.

The 440 Repeater is currently up and running on about 8 watts. The controller is on loan until the old 2 meter controller can be replaced with the new controller that the club purchased last year for the 2 meter repeater.

The new equipment is being readied at this time by Art - W1CRO of the Technical Committee. It is expected that greater sensitivity and more coverage will be realized once the equipment is in place.

In other related 440 news, the RENEX 440 Repeater at Independent Hill is no longer. This now leaves the OVH 440 Repeater one of the main UHF repeaters in the western part of Prince William County. RENEX has apparently been sold and the repeater moved to a location south of

Fredericksburg.

OVH VEC NOV 25 !!!

OVH will sponsor a Test Session on Saturday, November 25 at the Northern Virginia Electric Coop (located at 10323 Lomond Dr., Manassas, Va.). The starting time is 9 AM and there is a fee of \$5.90 for all test elements. Walk-Ins are accepted and talk-in will be on 146.97. This is a ARRL affiliated test session.

OVH To Help In The Annual Manassas Christmas Parade

Word has it that Dick Miller - WD4AZG will once again lead the OVH in a public service venture for the Annual Manassas Christmas Parade (At a boy dick!), to be held the first weekend in December, December 2nd. All OVH Club members are encouraged to participate in this public service for our community. Please feel free to contact Dick and register for a position along the parade route. It was a fun time last year.

Oh by the way Dick, I hope someone mentioned to you that you are leading this program! At least that's what I heard at the last club meeting.



Tim/KB4NR, OVH Board Of Directors member, asks a question at the October Program

DX/Contesting & Field Day

Contesting

**"CQ SS CQ SS CQ SS DE
KU3M"**

By the time this goes to press the results of the 62nd running of November Sweepstakes will be in the record books. For those not familiar with this event here is summary. The contest runs the first and third weekends of November. The first weekend is dedicated to CW and the third to SSB. The object of the contest is to earn a "Clean Sweep" by working as many US amateurs in the 77 ARRL/Canadian sections as possible in 24 hours. This is by far the best operating event of the year.

DX News

Heard Island

The long awaited Heard Island expedition has been put on hold temporarily. The ship that was supposed to carry the crew to the island was found to be unsafe to travel. The operators did not lose

any equipment or experience any personal injuries, just a financial loss. Watch the ARRL DX Bulletins for further updates

160/80/40 Meter DX season

With the sunspot cycle at the bottom, this is the time to look seriously at 160-40 meters for those new countries. Check these bands at sunrise and sunset. Optimum conditions normally occur at our sunrise, with opening lasting from 1100Z - 1330Z. On 40 meters, listen between 7040 and 7090 for DX stations. Most of them will announce a frequency above 7150 where they will be listening for US calls.

DX on the Internet

For those with access to the World Wide Web, connect to "<http://ve7tcp.ampr.org>". The VE7TCP home page has lots of information on DX'ing, Contesting, Software, and Packet Radio. The page also contains links to other pages dedicated to

DX'ing and contesting.

Field Day

Plans are under way for Field Day '96. I'm at new sites for this years event. Two places are currently under consideration, Nokesville Community Park on Aden Road, and Stonewall Jackson High School. The final selection of a site will be made in late in December. If we choose one of the county parks the application needs to be submitted as soon as possible to guarantee us a spot. Anyone with other ideas please give me a call.

This years' event will have FOOD, and lots of it. I have been warned already that this is the number one priority!

Rick/KU3M

Editor's Note -

Thanks Rick for the DX Input! I'm sure we all enjoyed it and hope that you will continue to give us a good dose each and every month!



WA4YGI - JOTA "Please Mr. Dale. I don't think I want to do this!"



W4HJL - JOTA "So, Scout Boy, you want to be a Amateur Radio Op. do you...not too worry!"

LIGHTNING PROTECTION

There are three general reasons given for grounding a station.

1. Improved RF performance.
2. Elimination of stray RF in the shack.
3. Electrical safety.

Of these three reasons, only the latter has merit except under special conditions. Lets look at them one by one and see where the truth lies.

1. Improved RF performance.

This is usually a reason claimed for needing a good ground. It is actually false except with antennas that must work against ground, and even then the ground needs to be at the antenna feedpoint and not at the transmitter (unless the transmitter *is* the feedpoint, as can be true with some random longwire antennas). A balanced antenna, such as a dipole, yagi, quad, etc. is ground independent. It does not need a ground connection to work. It will in fact work in free space, with no ground connection present at all. Many verticals, longwires, and some other asymmetric designs need to work against a ground reference. That ground reference, however, doesn't necessarily need to be a connection to Earth. A counterpoise, radials, or the like can serve just as well, or better, than an Earth connection. And that connection needs to be under the antenna, and not back at the shack.

2. Elimination of stray RF in the shack.

This is often a reason given for a RF ground connection to Earth. However, this is like taking aspirin for a brain tumor. It may suppress the symptoms to some extent, but it doesn't address the real underlying problem. The real underlying problem is a station design or layout fault. If the equipment has poor Faraday shielding, or if the feeder currents aren't well balanced, or if station interconnections create daisy chains or ground loops, then there will be stray RF in the shack. Grounding one or more cabinets may actually create more circulating currents which can *increase* the problems of stray

RF. In some cases, attachment to a good RF ground will reduce stray RF problems at some frequency, but may increase problems at another frequency. This is not the proper approach to dealing with stray RF. The preferred approach is to eliminate the *cause* of the stray RF.

3. Electrical safety.

This is the *real* reason for an effective grounding system for the shack. There are two different hazards that an effective grounding system will solve. One is ordinary electrical shock hazards. In the US, the National Electrical Code is the standard that addresses this. One of the cardinal rules of the NEC is that *all ground connections must be bonded together*. If you fail to do this, you can have a shock hazard between cabinets connected to different ground references. So the myth that you need to keep utility and RF grounds separate is not only false, it can be a safety hazard. (There are a couple of *very* specialized circumstances where the Code permits isolated grounds, but as a general rule, failing to bond all grounds together is a major Code violation.) The second reason for an effective grounding system is for lightning mitigation. This can be a difficult problem and must be approached with care. A single mistake can be very costly. Lightning is RF, and like any other RF, download inductance is a primary concern in setting up a grounding system. Lightning surges also represent peak currents on the order of 8,000 amperes (with occasional so called "super bolts" going up to 200,000 amperes). These discharges only last for microseconds, so the average power is low, but the peak power is intense. It only takes a slight amount of inductance in a download to generate a potential difference of tens of thousands of volts between one end and the other. If these potentials are allowed to express themselves between equipment cabinets, devastating damage can occur to sensitive electronic components. There are two concepts you must apply to your station ground system as your first lines of defense against these potentials occurring across your equipment. The first concept is that of a single point ground, and the second is called ground window technique. Single point grounding is simple in

concept, but often subtle in execution. Basically, all connections to Earth must be interconnected at a single common point, and all connections from equipment that needs a ground termination must run to that single point and to *no other connection with Earth*. Daisy chained connections are strictly prohibited. Every connection to the single point must be straight and direct from the equipment requiring the ground connection. Ground "busses" are a serious no-no despite their being touted in amateur literature. They form instant ground loops for the equipment, and at the high currents present in a lightning discharge, they can cause thousands of volts to express themselves across the various cabinets connected to the "ground" buss. Don't do this.

The idea here is that because everything is forced to a single potential, that of the single point, *whatever it is*, no current can flow through the equipment. Zero potential difference results in zero current flow. It's those damaging currents you are trying to control. You don't want the path *to* ground to be *through* any of your equipment. Rather, you want the path to ground to be through the single point, and only through the single point. Note well that "ground" is *not* zero volts, and will not *be* zero volts in any sense except a *relative* one during equipment operation or during a lightning strike. This doesn't matter if your layout topology is correct. All "ground" is supposed to be is a *common* potential for everything in the system to reference against. Use of a single point connection *enforces* this single common potential, whatever it may be at any given instant.

When you start thinking about the many "ground" potential interconnections in your station, achieving a true single point ground system seems a daunting task. This is where the related idea of a ground window can help. The purpose of the ground window is to *short out* any possible ground loops in your system at the station entry point.

A ground window is simple in concept, and simple in execution. Basically, it is a physically small conductive plate through which *every* cable that enters or leaves your station must pass. Every cable that is supposed to be at "ground" potential is bonded directly to this plate as it passes through. Every conductor that is not supposed to be at "ground" potential is bonded to the plate via an appropriate suppressor device. (A book could be written on that subject alone.) Then the plate is connected to your single point ground by a heavy low inductance strap conductor. Now any large potential difference that tries to express itself across cables connected to various cabinets in your shack will find itself shorted out at the ground window. Note carefully that *every* cable must pass through the ground window plate on its way in or out of your shack. That includes *power*, telco, CATV (if present), and any network wiring as well as the usual antenna feeders, rotator control leads, etc. If only *one* wire bypasses the ground window, the protection it offers is lost. Don't run extension cords to power outlets that don't pass through the ground window. It can cost you everything you own in a strike, including your life. Now since you've taken great pains to do this protective grounding system right, you'll find that it makes an excellent general purpose RF grounding system as well. This is not to say that you'll generally *need* a general purpose RF ground for the shack if you've done your homework on antenna feeds, Faraday shielding, and the like, but you'll have one anyway. And if you've done the job right (which requires attention to a level of detail I haven't fully addressed here), your station will be able to work even during the worst thunderstorms, and even during direct strikes, without damage or interruption. Proper grounding is a specialized, but well understood, part of the protective process that radio and television stations, commercial and military two way, and *amateur* radio stations should understand and apply.

Gary Coffman/KE4ZV

OLE VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
October 16, 1995

The meeting was called to order at 8:00PM, with 27 members and 1 guest present for a total attendance of 28.

The meeting was presided over by Club President, Erv, KT4DS and was opened with the pledge of allegiance, oral roll call and the signing of the attendance list. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes from the September meeting, all were in favor and the minutes were accepted as submitted via Packet and the Newsletter.

PROGRAM

Police Dispatcher and Trainer Pam Mollenaur presented this month's program. She gave a very informative briefing on the Prince William County Police and Emergency Communications capabilities. Pam advised us as to exactly what emergency operators are looking for when answering emergency numbers such as 911, and what the process is when emergencies are in progress. She also answered many questions from the floor. Overall an excellent presentation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TREASURER

Joe, AB4QV read the treasurers report, Erv, KT4DS moved that it be accepted as read, the motion was seconded and the report was accepted into the

record without objection.

TECHNICAL

Art, W1CRO, advised that although the new 440 machine is up and running we need a new ID'er. He is working on the new 2M repeater but still having difficulty with DTMF tone recognition. Art said he hopes to have that problem solved and the new machine in place soon so the old machine can be used on the 440 repeater, which will solve the ID'er problem. Art also advised that our new 2M antenna is here but before we can install it we have to have proper insurance coverage for anybody who climbs our towers. This requirement is being taken care of by Pete, KB4RME, and hopefully our new antenna will be up before the November meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

Erv, KT4DS, read in: Jeff Rash, KF4CQD. Voted in was: Charles Zinn (No call).

SUNSHINE

Steve, N4OGR, speaking for Jan requested that members advised Jan or Rita via packet through Steve as well as by phone, for all Sunshine committee requirements, just so they don't miss anything.

OLD BUSINESS

Harry, W4PVA, announced that the next OVH VEC testing will take place at NOVEC on Nov. 25th rather than at NOVA, due to cost. Also Harry advised that Net participation on Thursdays was dwindling and requested that members check-in more often.

NEW BUSINESS

Erv, KT4DS announced that it is not too early to start thinking about Christmas Parade support and that anybody interested should contact Dick, WA4DZG.

Bill, N4WJN, advised that sponsors of the Marine Corp Marathon were looking for Packet Ops (APRS), and that anybody interested should contact Don, KD4WGV, on packet.

Butch, W4HJL, advised that the club was again assisting the local Boy Scout Troops with their annual Jamboree On The Air (JOTA). Several club members will assist with Scouts visiting their Shacks for contacts on Saturday 21 October.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Jeff, KS4TL.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

Respectfully Submitted
Charlie, WA4YGI
Secretary

OLE VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

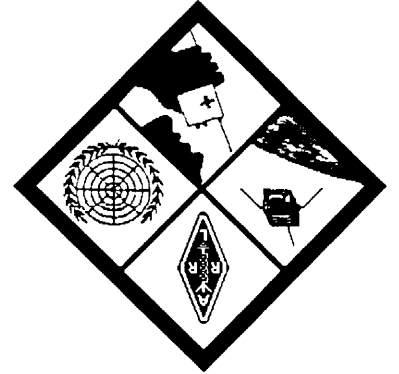
November 20 - December 31, 1995



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
November 20 8:00 PM MEETING - OLE VIRGINIA HAMS 8:00 PM NET-WDBG WIRELESS-147.240/223.18 9:00 PM NET-HERNDON RG/145.31 ARRL SSB Sweepstakes	November 21 8:00 PM NET-CULPEPPER ARA/ 147.12 9:00 PM ET-MT VERNON/ 146.655	November 22 8:00 PM NET-NVFMA/ 146.79 9:00 PM ET-FAUQ. ARA/ 147.165 New Moon	November 23 8:00 PM NET-OVH-146.970/ 224.66 MHz Franklin Pierce (1804) Thanksgiving	November 24 Zachary Taylor (1784)	November 25 VEC - MANASSAS, VA CQ WW DX CW Contest	November 26 8:00 PM DISTRICT 1 ARES NET 145.21 9:00 PM CAPITAL AREA ARES NET/146.91 VEC - Hagerstown, MD CW Contest
November 27 8:00 PM NET-WDBG WIRELESS-147.240/223.18 9:00 PM NET-HERNDON RG/145.31	November 28 8:00 PM NET-CULPEPPER ARA/ 147.12 9:00 PM ET-MT VERNON/ 146.655	November 29 8:00 PM NET-NVFMA/ 146.79 9:00 PM ET-FAUQ. ARA/ 147.165 1st Quarter	November 30 8:00 PM NET-OVH-146.970/ 224.66 MHz	December 1	December 2 Manassas Christmas Parade ARRL 160 M Contest	December 3 8:00 PM DISTRICT 1 ARES NET 145.21 9:00 PM CAPITAL AREA ARES NET/146.91 VEC - Landover, MD QRP ARCI Holiday Sprint
December 4 8:00 PM NET-WDBG WIRELESS-147.240/223.18 9:00 PM NET-HERNDON RG/145.31	December 5 8:00 PM NET-CULPEPPER ARA/147.12 9:00 PM ET-MT VERNON/146.655 Martin Van Buren (1780)	December 6 8:00 PM NET-NVFMA/ 146.79 9:00 PM ET-FAUQ. ARA/ 147.165 Full Moon	December 7 8:00 PM NET-OVH-146.970/ 224.66 MHz	December 8	December 9 *O'H Times Cut-Off* VEC - Alexandria, VA ARRL 10 M Contest	December 10 8:00 PM DISTRICT 1 ARES NET 145.21 9:00 PM CAPITAL AREA ARES NET/146.91 M Contest
December 11 8:00 PM NET-WDBG WIRELESS-147.240/223.18 9:00 PM NET-HERNDON RG/145.31	December 12 8:00 PM NET-CULPEPPER ARA/ 147.12 9:00 PM ET-MT VERNON/ 146.655	December 13 8:00 PM NET-NVFMA/ 146.79 9:00 PM ET-FAUQ. ARA/ 147.165	December 14 8:00 PM NET-OVH-146.970/ 224.66 MHz	December 15	December 16	December 17 8:00 PM DISTRICT 1 ARES NET 145.21 9:00 PM CAPITAL AREA ARES NET/146.91
December 18 8:00 PM MEETING - OLE VIRGINIA HAMS 8:00 PM NET-WDBG WIRELESS-147.240/223.18 9:00 PM NET-HERNDON RG/145.31 Hanukkah	December 19 8:00 PM NET-CULPEPPER ARA/ 147.12 9:00 PM ET-MT VERNON/ 146.655	December 20 8:00 PM NET-NVFMA/ 146.79 9:00 PM ET-FAUQ. ARA/ 147.165	December 21 8:00 PM NET-OVH-146.970/ 224.66 MHz New Moon	December 22 Winter begins Andrew Johnson (1808)	December 23	December 24 8:00 PM DISTRICT 1 ARES NET 145.21 9:00 PM CAPITAL AREA ARES NET/146.91 Santa Net at Hospitals
December 25 8:00 PM NET-WDBG WIRELESS-147.240/223.18 9:00 PM NET-HERNDON RG/145.31 Christmas	December 26 8:00 PM NET-CULPEPPER ARA/ 147.12 9:00 PM ET-MT VERNON/ 146.655	December 27 8:00 PM NET-NVFMA/ 146.79 9:00 PM ET-FAUQ. ARA/ 147.165	December 28 8:00 PM NET-OVH-146.970/ 224.66 MHz 1st Quarter Woodrow Wilson (1856)	December 29 Andrew Johnson (1808)	December 30	December 31 8:00 PM DISTRICT 1 ARES NET 145.21 9:00 PM CAPITAL AREA ARES NET/146.91 New Year's Eve RAC Canada Winter Contest ARRL Straight Key Night



FIRST CLASS MAIL



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Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, VA 22110

NEXT OVH MEETING NOVEMBER 20, 1995

STARTING TIME: 8:00PM

Meeting Location:

AT THE BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM, LOCATED AT THE
NORTHERN VIRGINIA ELECTRIC COOP,
10323 LOMOND DR., MANASSAS, VA.

TALK-IN 146.97 & 224.66

SEE YOU THERE!