

The OVH ARC Newsletter
"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108-1255
Repeaters -- WA4FPM -- 146.970- & 224.660- & -- **KT4ER** -- 448.325-
OVH Nodes -- 145.030 Port 2: 223.660 (SysOp Use Only) Port 3: 223.540 MHZ
BBS--BBSHRG/N4WJN (SYSOP--BILL)

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

AUGUST 1996

**Next meeting: 19 August 1996
NOVEC Basement Meeting Room**

**Committee Chairperson's!!!! Need your input for the Newsletter!!!
(Editor)**

Message From the President

Hey OVH;

I know it's hard to believe but is it possible that I overlooked something at the last meeting? Ask Rick/KU3M. I'll provide a little hint; something about field day.

We need more articles for the newsletter. Even though anybody can submit entries, I think our committee people need to submit articles to keep our membership informed on all matters (even on things that don't matter).

Hopefully, our tech committee will have a positive report for this meeting (or perhaps an article in the newsletter) concerning the noise on the 2 meter repeater. While I'm on this subject, and if their report does not say what I want to hear; I am going to call for a vote on activating the PL tone on the repeater input. So, come to the meeting prepared to discuss and vote on this issue.

Erv/KT4DS tells me that ARES registration doesn't seem as popular as most people believe it is. For you newly licensed hams, volunteering for emergency communications, which includes training by participating in public service events, is a great way to get introduced to almost all of the various operating modes, the diversity of amateur radio and why we are needed in the community.

I have saved the best for last - My special thanks goes to Lisa/KF4FJD who has requested the use of our repeater for a YL net. All the particulars will be presented at the meeting so come on out, show our support and get this voted in. Hubbies - encourage the YL's to attend this meeting.

TNX FER LISTENING.....73 es CUATM de **Erv/KT4DS**

Post Office Box 1255

"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS"

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, VA. 20108

OFFICERS

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

DIRECTORS

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Don (Butch) Blasdell W4HJL
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Bob Wikfors KF4FJC

1996 HAMFEST COCHAIRMAN

Jack N4YIC
Woody KD4DEG

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 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: Steve Meade KB4OF, PO Box 1418, Manassas, VA 20108-1418 or OVH TIMES EDITOR, PO Box 1255, Manassas, VA 20108-1255.

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

ARES/RACES

This month's special information page is on the National Traffic System (NTS). I hope everybody is involved enough such that in a disaster situation (RACES) that you can participate in the communications. Even though filling out a message looks easy, it is prone to many mistakes as it is relayed through the system. Because of radio propagation conditions, individual speech characteristics (accents etc.) many errors are made. Since accuracy is the most important element in traffic handling, we need to practice often enough to be sure we can pass traffic.

I should have a report at the August meeting on the NCAC SET which was conducted on 17 Aug. This event supersedes the ARRL SET scheduled for October (as far as NCAC is concerned).

Upcoming events are as follows:

Sat./Sun Sept. 7/8 MADDash Bike Trek. Mothers Against Drunk Driving - a 2 day bike ride from Manassas to Colonial Beach via Fredericksburg.
Sat. Sept 14 Northern Va. EMS Drill.
Sun. Sept 15 MS Half Marathon in Washington D.C.

That's all I have on these events. If anyone wants to volunteer for any/or all of them; Please let me know and I'll forward your info to the appropriate party.

Erv/KT4DS

SUNSHINE CORNER

Happy August Birthday to the following OVH hams: Stuart/KC0PR, DC/WD4FOX, Thomas/KE4PCV, John/N4MM, James/WA2QEJ, Ronald/AD4TB, Rick/KU3M, Jim/WD4OJY, Tom/KC4VMV, Charles/WA8YCK, Mark/N3HIG, Harry/W4PVA, and Bob/N4SCK.
Jan/KE4TMW

OLE VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
July 15, 1996

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 PM, with 28 members and 6 guests present for a total attendance of 34.

The meeting was presided over by Erv/KT4DS, and was opened with the pledge of allegiance, oral roll call, and signing of the attendance list. Erv welcomed members and guests.

The minutes for the June meeting were accepted without objection. Joe/AB4QV, read the Treasurer's report, which was accepted without objection.

Erv thanked those members who assisted with communications coverage for the recent bike ride. He also thanked Rick/KU3M, for his work as the Field Day chairman, as well as Rick/KE4TMV, and Rita/KE4TMU, for their planning of the Field Day food provisioning.

Erv also mentioned that RACES had been activated for one day during the recent passage of hurricane Bertha.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Frank/KF4KKN, gave a report on the Club Homepage project. KD4SO has offered to help host the club's World-Wide-Web homepage using facilities at George Mason University. Frank solicited input for the page, which he said could include announcements, news, letters, for-sale ads, or links to other amateur radio-related sites.

Lisa/KF4FJD, gave the Membership Committee report. The following applicants were voted members: Frank Aiello/KF4KKN, Cy Fedor/K3DKR, John Jester/KF4KKI, Eric Lambert/KF4HGG, Michael Scott/KF4CJH, Jerry Teets/KF4KKP, and Aida Willis/KF4KKO. Applications were read from Sonya Moore/WH6CRA and Thomas Moore/W7KMA.

Erv mentioned that licensees whose ZIP codes had changed on July 1 will have to file a form 610 to update their license, the FCC will not do this automatically. Harry/W4PVA, brought a small supply of forms for those in need.

Joe/AB4QV, read a letter from the American Cancer Society, who thanked the club for its donation. The amount was raised by the hamfest bake sale and was matched from the club treasury.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Erv/KT4DS gave the FCC's mailing address for form 610, as it does not appear on the form itself.

Lisa/KF4FJD, read in an application for membership that had been received during the break. The applicant was Jason Norton, awaiting callsign. [Jason's callsign, KF4KVJ, was issued on July 16]

Erv announced that the ARES National Capital Area Council will conduct a Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on August 17 and that he would make additional information available during the weekly net. He also reported that the ARRL will conduct an SET on October 12 and 13.

The 50-50 drawing was won by Rita/KE4TMU, who donated her share to the club.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50PM

Respectfully Submitted

Ivan/KT4DZ
PROGRAM

Harry/W4PVA gave a short presentation on voltage converters from years past. He also discussed the QST article regarding the commercial attempt to take over the 2m and 440 bands for their Low Earth Orbiting (LEO) satellites. There will be an OVH form letter attached to the next Newsletter for all to work up a proper response as suggested by the ARRL.

The 50/50 was won by **Charles/KF4FJF**.

Respectfully Submitted
Charlie/WA4YGI

NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM (NTS)

(From the 'ARES Field Resources Manual' published by ARRL)

Prepared by Erv Whalen/KT4DS

The National Traffic System (NTS) is designed to meet two principal objectives; rapid movement of traffic from origin to destination, and training amateur operators to handle written traffic and participate in directed nets. NTS operates daily, and consists of four different net levels -- Area, Region, Section, and Local -- which operate in an orderly time sequence to effect a definite flow pattern for traffic from origin to destination.

Local Nets

Local nets are those which cover small areas such as community, city, county, or a metropolitan area, not a complete ARRL section. They usually operate at VHF (typically 2-meter FM) at times and on days most convenient to their members. Some are designated as emergency (ARES) nets that do not specialize in traffic handling. Local nets are intended mainly for local delivery of traffic. Some NTS local nets operate on a daily basis, just as do other nets of the system to provide outlets for locally-originated traffic and to route the incoming traffic as closely as possible to an actual destination before delivery -- a matter of practice in a procedure that might be required in an emergency. Most local nets and even some section nets in smaller sections are using repeaters to excellent effect. Average coverage on VHF can be extended tenfold or more using a strategically located repeater, and this can achieve a local coverage area wide enough to encompass many of the smaller sections.

Section Nets

Coverage of the section may be accomplished either by individual stations reporting in, by representatives of NTS, local nets, or both. The section may have more than one net (a CW net, a VHF net, and an SSB net, for examples). Section nets are administered by an appointed Section Traffic Manager (STM) or designated Net Managers (NM). The purpose of the section net is to handle intra-section traffic, distribute traffic coming down from higher NTS echelons, and put inter-section traffic in the hands of the amateur designated to report into the next-higher NTS (region) echelon. Therefore, the maximum obtainable participation from section amateurs is desirable.

Operation During Disasters

When a disaster situation arises, NTS is capable of expanding its cyclic operation into complete or partial operation as needed. ECs in disaster areas determine the communications needs and make decisions regarding the disposition of local communications facilities, in coordination with agencies to be served. The SEC, after conferring with the affected DEC's and ECs, makes his recommendations to the STM and/or NTS net managers at section and/or region levels. The decision and resulting Action to alert the NTS region management may be performed by any combinations of these officials, depending upon the urgency of the situation. While the EC is, in effect, the manager of ARES nets operating at local levels, and therefore makes decisions regarding their activation, managers of NTS nets at local, section, region and area levels are directly responsible for activation of their nets in a disaster situation, at the behest of and on the recommendation of ARES or NTS officials at lower levels.

To all OVH members one more time:

This form letter is an example to use when drafting your personal letter to the FCC. Please feel free to use all or only portions, but do write a letter regarding this very important matter ASAP. TKS & 73.

Office Of The Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

or via E-mail to: wrc97@fcc.gov

Ref. No. ISP-96-005 - Advisory Committee Informal Working Group 2A.

I am writing to urge you to reject the proposed reallocation of two frequency bands (144 - 148Mhz and 420 - 450Mhz) from the Amateur Radio Service (Hams) to the little LEOs industry. Both are already used extensively for satellite services, moonbounce and extended-range terrestrial operations requiring extremely sensitive receivers and high levels of effective radiated power. Of all the frequencies allocated to Hams in the US, these are the most critical as they are considered the backbone of local public service activities.

Ham radio has a long and honorable public service tradition of providing communications in emergencies of all descriptions, local, regional and national. Even in this era of PC's and cellular telephones, this continues to be true. No one with the slightest background in radio communications could possibly believe that a mobile-satellite service could be introduced into either band without disrupting existing and future public service and other amateur operations.

In a major emergency, commercial telecommunications facilities that are still capable of operation are often overloaded, and ham radio volunteers fill the gap. The mainstay of these efforts is almost always the VHF and UHF networks that have been built and maintained by Hams.

Hams routinely provide public service communications for non-emergency events as well, events like the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington D.C. and similar local community events nationwide. Here again, the VHF and UHF spectra are the key to supporting these activities.

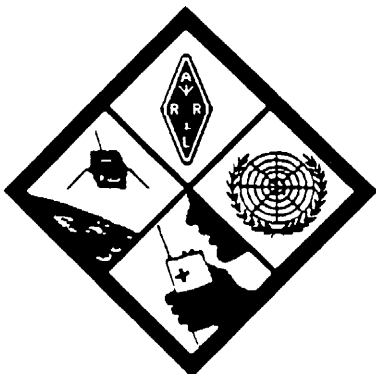
The Ham VHF/UHF networks are also the main communications support structure for voice and data traffic passing on a worldwide basis. The US Amateur service would literally be out of touch with the rest of the worldwide community if these bands were to be reallocated.

So, you can readily see that these two bands are critically essential to not only the Amateur radio enthusiast, but to the general public as well. We therefore request that you reject this reallocation and we thank you for your attention and consideration.

Respectfully,

Name, town or city, and telephone no.

Ole Virginia Hams A.R.C., Inc.
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Manassas, VA 20108



FIRST CLASS MAIL

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