

The OVH ARC Newsletter  
"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.  
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108  
Repeaters -- W4OVH -- 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+  
OVH Nodes -- 145.030 Port 2: 223.660 (SysOp Use Only) Port 3: 223.540 MHz  
BBS--BBSNVA/N4WJN (SYSOP--BILL)  
<http://www.qsl.net/olevahams>

# OLE VIRGINIA TIMES DECEMBER 1998

**Next meeting: 21 December 1998**

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

## **Message From the President**

**Greetings OVH;**

As the Holidays draw near, we envision electronic toys with bells and whistles (unlike sugarplums) dancing in our heads! Have a **Merry Christmas; Happy Hanukkah!** A ham's healthy diet is dxing the North Pole.

The **Manassas Christmas Parade** of Dec. 5th was festive with @18 hams aboard for the Santa event in Old Town. Thanks to **Art/KW4AW** and **Erv/KT4DS** for leading OVH in this one.

After 20+ years of dedication, **Harry/W4PVA** hands the Thurs. night net over to **Jeff/KF4JSV**. Also, **Keith/KM4AA** is taking over **VE**. **Thank you, Harry!**

So, take a sleigh-ride to the **Dec. 21st meeting**. **Mr. Obenchain** and **Mr. Martin** jointly will present our December program covering interference and grounding issues. Since both gentlemen are **NOVEC** employees at the Gainesville facility, this will bring us down to earth with our "club habitat".

Upcoming winter activities: Remember Jan. is time for **Club officer nominations**. Relax with some good company on the air or try some new outdoor activity as we receive a rest from the winter season. Lastly, **Happy New Year** to one and all.

**73 and here to serve YOU, See you Dec 21!**

**Cathy/AE4UM**

**"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS"**  
 Post Office Box 1255  
 Manassas, VA. 20108

**OFFICERS**

President: Cathy Whalen AE4UM 335-1029  
 Vice Pres: Charlie Dale WA4YGI 361-3091  
 Secretary: Jeff Poulin KF4JSV 361-5865  
 Treasurer: Larry Whitney KA4CTX 369-0425

**DIRECTORS**

Bob McCann N4RL 361-7335  
 Don (Butch) Blasdel W4HJL 369-2877  
 Art Whittum KW4AW 791-4330

**WEEKLY NETS**

Thursdays - 8:00 PM KF4JSV (Jeff) 361-5865  
 Sundays - 8:00 PM KF4FJD (Lisa) 330-1473

**HAMFEST 1999**

Jack N4YIC 335-9139

**FIELD DAY 1998**

Maury W4HYB 331-2159

**CLUB ROSTER**

Blaine KB4RKL 369-2877

**EDUCATION**

Charlie WA4YGI 361-3091

**CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR**

Larry KA4CTX 369-0425

**ARES AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR**

Erv KT4DS 335-1029

**F.A.R. REP.**

Alan \* KD4KBX 330-8844

**FINANCE**

Mike WV3H 753-9346  
 Pete KB4RME 369-2436  
 Mary Lu KB4EFP 369-2877  
 Larry KA4CTX 369-0425

**GENERATORS**

Tommy KA4AFU 369-2741

**HISTORIAN**

T B D

**HOME PAGE**

Frank K3TRM 266-0852

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN**

Bob Wikfors KF4FJC 361-8059

**NEWSLETTER**

Steve KB4OF 368-6901

**NEWSLINE**

Mike WV3H 753-9346

**PACKET**

Alan KD4KBX 330-8844  
 Bill N4WJN 590-9562

**PICNIC**

Ellie KF4NBO 361-8059

**PROGRAM'S**

TBD

**PUBLICITY**

TBD

**Q' MASTER**

Jim N3ODZ 361-2543

**REPEATER CONTROLLERS**

Art KW4AW 791-4330  
 Butch W4HJL 369-2877  
 Milt N4SN 369-7265  
 Russ WB4HHN 368-6435  
 Steve KB4OF 368-6901  
 Steve N4OGR 361-0008  
 Alan KL4KBX 330-8844

**REPEATER TRUSTEE**

Art KW4AW 791-4330

**SCHOLARSHIP**

Jack N4YIC 335-9139

**SUNSHINE**

Jan KE4TMW 257-0897

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Art KW4AW 791-4330  
 Alan KD4KBX 330-8844  
 Butch W4HJL 369-2877  
 George KE2AM 791-7688

**JOTA(Scouts)**

John N4YOB 791-5995

The OVH Times is the official publication of the "Ole Virginia Hams" ARC, 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 NOVEC Tech Center in Gainesville. 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 5th of each month. Submissions should be forwarded to OVH TIMES EDITOR: Steve Meade KB4OF, PO Box 1418 Manassas, VA 20108-1418. Or to sameade@erols.com

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

## MINUTES OF OVH MEETING NOVEMBER 16, 1998

The meeting opened at 8:04 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance, oral roll call, and signing the attendance sheet. The previous minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved unanimously.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Larry/KA4CTX** is now the club **EC**. **Art/KW4AW** said the **OVH** won't be a formal part of the Christmas Parade but we should use the event as a drill. Anyone interested in heading or participating in a Santa Claus net should contact **Erv/KT4DS**. The club needs a new head of advertising. See **Cathy/AE4UM** if interested. **Harry/W4PVA** mentioned that postal rates are going up a penny next year, which will affect **QSL Bureau** rates. He also mentioned the upcoming meteor shower. **Jay/NS5N** said the showers should enhance **F-layer** propagation.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Technical** - **Art/KW4AW** attended the **T-MARC** meeting ([www.T-MARC.org](http://www.T-MARC.org)) regarding band plans. The **OVH dues** are paid through 1999. Lightening zapped the 220-repeater controller. The **2-meter** machine will be down for a day or two when it is upgraded. Everything should be up and running with full service early next year.

**JOTA** - **Jack/N4YIC** displayed newspaper stories and photos about **JOTA** at the **Urbanna Swim Club**. He said **Cathy/AE4UM** sent copies of the coverage to the Swim club, requesting that they co-sponsor annually. The Swim club membership likes the idea and their board of directors is considering it.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Steve/N4OGR** asked if the **OVH** makes regular donations to the **Red Cross** for natural disaster assistance. **Mary Lu/KB4EFP** suggested, as part of the **Finance Committee**, no more than \$200.00. Steve will investigate how and where to make the donation.

### PROGRAM

**Frank Mackay/K4EC**, the **ARES Section Emergency Coordinator**, discussed how **ARES** (and **RACES**) came to be, how they are organized in **Virginia** and their involvement with various jurisdictions. Now retired, he was involved with emergency services for 35 years as a local and federal lawman and as a volunteer fireman.

The **Amateur Radio Emergency Service** was formed in 1935 as part of the **Communications Act of 1934** and **FCC** regulations. **ARES** participates with **FEMA**, **Red Cross**, **APCO**, **Salvation Army**, **Skywarn** and local events. Frank emphasized that as hams are not developing new technology today, activity in these emergency services helps justify our frequency allocations.

Frank, as **SEC**, appoints those under him. **Virginia ARES** has 3 operational areas and 15 districts. **PWC** is in **District 2**. He stressed that the local **EC**, staff and **ARES** members are the backbone of the efforts.

The **Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES)** was established in 1952 as part of the **Civil Defense** program. **ARES** and **RACES** became the same organization in **Virginia** in 1991.

Frank mentioned how important it is for **ARES** to have a good working relationship with **local Emergency Services** systems. He also spoke about how **Virginia ARES** is building a system of **linked repeaters** and is stressing increased use of **packet** and **HF PACTor** digital communications in its efforts.

**VA ARES website:** <http://aresva.org>

**e-mail:** [aresva@aresva.org](mailto:aresva@aresva.org)

**list server:** [va.ares@ares.org](mailto:va.ares@ares.org)

**Bill/N4WJN won 50-50**

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

**Jeff Poulin/KF4JSV**  
**Recording Secretary**

## SUNSHINE CORNER

Happy Birthday to our friends **Andy/KD4RHB**, **Alan/KD4KBX**, **Ken/W5AOC**, **Charles/WA1FFX**, **John/K4KGU**, **Samuel/WB4FGS**, and **Bill (packet man)/N4WJN**!

Congratulations to **Ruth**, formerly **KF4YYC**, now **upgraded** to Advanced **KU4WH**, and **Frank/K3TRM**, who has **upgraded** to **General** class! Good job, folks! (And thanks to **AE4UM**, who notified me of these great facts!)

Happy Holidays to all our members, and all hams. Spread peace, kindness, and joy to all you contact.

*73 de Jan/KE4TMW*

## VOLUNTEER EXAMINER COOPERATIVE

(Retrieved from the ARRL Homepage)

### BRING TO THE EXAM:

1. Picture identification (Minors bring parent with picture ID)
2. Completed FCC Form 610 (most VE Teams will supply at exam)
3. Original and copy of current FCC amateur radio license
4. Originals and copies of all active certificates of successful completion of prior exams
5. Exam fee (\$6.25)

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19-Dec-1998

Sponsor: MASSANUTTEN ARA  
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: BUCK MOWBRAY  
(540)289-5580  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: MASSANUTTEN VOC TECH CENTER  
PLEASANT VALLEY RD  
EAST BUILDING, RM 2  
HARRISONBURG, VA 22801

23-Dec-1998

Sponsor: CARROLL COUNTY ARRL VE TEAM  
Time: 07:30PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: JAMES A NITZBERG  
(410)374-9233  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: PRE-REGISTRATION URGED  
FIRE TRAINING CENTER  
1345 WASHINGTON RD  
WESTMINSTER, MD 21157

26-Dec-1998

Sponsor: BOUMI TEMPLE ARC  
Time: Call for time and walk-in info  
Contact: LOUIS J BUSBY  
(410)378-2771  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: PLEASANT VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH  
BARTON ROAD  
PORT DEPOSIT, MD 21904

30-Dec-1998

Sponsor: CHARLES COUNTY ARC &  
Time: 7:00 PM (No walk-ins)  
Contact: JEAN A DELANCY  
(703)902-5800  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: BRYANTOWN-ZEKIAH SWAMP VES  
CHARLES COUNTY GOV'T COMPLEX G  
REGISTER BY 8PM 12/29  
OEP OFFICE  
LA PLATA, MD 20646

09-Jan-1999

Sponsor: AERO ARC  
Time: 10:30AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: PATRICIA E STONE  
(410)687-7209  
VEC: ARRL/VEC  
Location: TOWSON MOOSE LODGE #562  
640 MYLANDER ROAD  
BALTIMORE, MD 21203

09-Jan-1999

Sponsor: MOUNT VERNON ARC  
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
Contact: JOHN L FORREST  
(703)971-3905  
VEC: Laurel VEC  
Location: LEE DISTRICT PARK  
TELEGRAPH RD & ROSE HILL DR  
FRANCONIA, VA 22310

## SAVING NICKEL-CADMIUM BATTERIES

Have you ever put your NiCad battery on charge and forgot to take it off soon enough? I experienced this problem with my hand held rig's batteries and after a bit of thought came up with a method to preclude the problem. I went to the local Radio Shack and bought an AC light timer – the kind that is used to turn lights on and off when you are not at home. The one I got was stock number 61-1068 and it cost less than ten dollars. I removed three of the cam control tabs – the two ON and one OFF tabs – and plugged it into the AC outlet. Then I plugged the NiCad charger into the timer, set the timer so that it would turn OFF after the desired interval. And turned the timer control switch to be ON.

Now I had a timed charger that would turn off at the proper time interval, even if I forgot to! No more over-charging my HT batteries to death.

A ten-dollar appliance is considerably cheaper than a new set of batteries!

The above was submitted by **Harry/W4PVA** who has also submitted it to **QST** as a possible **Hints & Kinks** article.

### The ARRLWeb Extra News

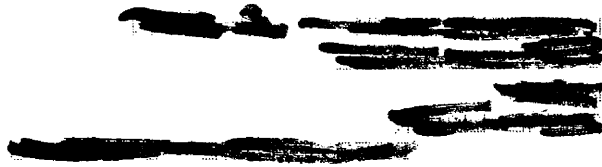
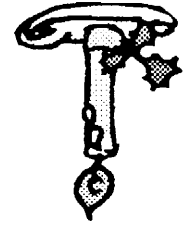
Downloaded from the ARRL Members Only WebZine

**Live SSTV Transmitted From Mir (December 16, 1998)** -- For the first time, live SSTV images have been transmitted from the Russian Mir space station. SSTV equipment was transported to the spacecraft earlier this fall and put on the air December 11. Several amateurs reported copying the images from space on 2 meters, but plans call for the SSTV transmissions to move to 70 cm.

**FCC Acts in Alleged Exam, License Fraud Cases (December 15, 1998)** -- The FCC's Compliance and Information Bureau has acted in several Amateur Radio cases it inherited from the days when it shared enforcement duties with Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. In all of the cases the FCC said it appeared that individuals attempted to obtain an Amateur Radio license or upgrade by fraud misrepresentation.

**ARRL Announces New Award for Professional (December 15, 1998)** -- The Golden Antenna Professional Journalism Award has been created to honor the best news story that reflects the enjoyment, importance, and public service value of Amateur Radio.

**Sputnik 41/RS-18 Now QRT (December 15, 1998)** -- The second mini-Sputnik satellite, Sputnik 41, went silent on or about December 11, according to reports. The little satellite, also known as RS-18, was launched by hand from the Russian Mir space station during a November 10 space walk by cosmonauts Gennady Padalka and Sergei Avdeyev.



FIRST CLASS MAIL



Ole Virginia Hams, A.R.C., Inc.  
Post Office Box 1255  
Manassas, VA 20108

**MEETING: DECEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>.**  
**8:00 PM**

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA ELECTRIC COOP**  
**Gainesville Technical Center**  
**5399 Wellington Road**  
**Gainesville, Virginia**

**PROGRAM: "Interference and Grounding"**

**NOVEC Employees: Mr. Obenchain and Mr. Martin**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!**  
**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**