



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

NOVEMBER 1998

Next meeting: 16 November 1998

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

Message From the President

Greetings OVH;

Sometimes we need to take a little pause in life and look up with Thanksgiving, for we have a cornucopia not only with our turkey-laden tables but our country, our freedoms, and even our Club! A ham's healthy diet is harvesting new hams.

A big thanks goes out to Jack, N4YIC, and Charlie, WA4YGI, plus participating operators, for coordinating the Scouts Jamboree. *More inside.

You get it on the nets! If a Nissan performance is occurring during our meeting night, both club nets announce it. Be sure to tune in on Thurs/Sun nights at 8 o'clock for pertinent info. Thanks Lisa (KF4FJD) and Harry (W4PVA) from Jeff's (KF4JSV) suggestion.

So, take a pilgrimage to the Nov. 16th meeting. Frank, (K4EC) who is our Sec. Emergency Coordinator, will be giving a presentation on VA ARES/RACES organization and goals. Frank always gives a great informative program.

Upcoming fall/winter activities: 05 Dec.—Manassas Christmas parade faithfully led by Art, KW4AW, annually. Also on Dec. 5: ARES Institute, see Erv, KT4DS. 21 Nov.---VE Exams.

73 and here to serve YOU, See you Nov 16

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 W4PVA (Harry) 368-6050
Sundays - 8:00 PM KF4FJD (Lisa) 330-1473

HAMFEST 1999

Jack N4YIC 335-9139

FIELD DAY 1999

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. RFP.

Alan * KD4KBX 330-8844

FINANCE

Mike WV3II 753-9346
Pete KB4RME 369-2436
Mary Lu KB4EFP 369-2877
Jimmy WA2QEJ 791-2932
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 KD4KBX 330-8844

REPEATER TRUSTEE

Art KW4AW 791-4330

SCHOLARSHIP

Jack N4YIC 335-9139

SUNSHINE

Jan KF4TMW 257-0897

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Art KW4AW 791-4330
Alan KD4KBX 330-8844
Butch W4HJL 369-2877
Jimmy WA2QEJ 791-2932
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 OCTOBER 19, 1998

Cathy/AE4UM, opened the meeting at 8:01 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance, oral roll call and signing the attendance sheet. 16 members and 2 guests were present. The previous minutes and Treasurer's reports were approved unanimously. Cathy spoke of setting up a Santa Claus net and asked anyone interested in it to contact **Erv/KT4DS**. Also, she mentioned that **Dick/W2YE**, who spoke at the September meeting, is looking for volunteers to help with the QSL Bureau.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education – **Bill/K4WGR**, talked about obtaining materials to use in a class.

ARES – **Erv/KT4DS**, mentioned the **Marine Corps Marathon** being held on October 25. Also, he has been asked by the **Office of Emergency Services** to supply a list of communications gear needed for the **Emergency Operations Center**. Finally, he discussed the analysis of the **Nissan drill** which showed that the ham radio efforts worked well and impressively.

JOTA – **Jack/N4YIC**, discussed the **Jamboree On The Air** held at the **Urbana Swim Club**, which donated the room. **Charlie, Mary Lu and Don, Erv and Cathy, Jack, Jeff, Milt and John** provided gear, operations and support. Jack wants to approach the Swim Club about holding the event there each year. He also proposed establishing a Scouting Committee for OVH. **Charlie/WA4YGI**, seconded and the motion passed unanimously. **John/N4YOB**, volunteered to chair the committee. **Bill/N4WJN**, moved that the OVH offer a **\$125.00 donation** to the Urbana Swim Club as thanks. Seconded by **Charlie/WA4YGI**, and passed unanimously.

Hamfest – **Jack/N4YIC**, shortly expects to get the Fairgrounds contract for the year **2000 Hamfest**.

Scholarship – **Jack/N4YIC**, wants to know what funding will be available for the coming year.

Volunteer Exams – **Harry/W4PVA**, asked to be reimbursed for the room rental at **NVCC** for the November exams.

NEW BUSINESS

Ken Moen wants to be replaced as advertising head. **Cathy/AE4UM**, asked for anyone interested in helping to contact her.

PROGRAM

Dan/KC4OCG, spoke about **Skywarn**, which is the **National Weather Service (NWS)** severe weather spotters program. Spotters serve as the eyes and ears for the NWS, especially for ground conditions and for other situations that call for personal, ongoing observation, such as monitoring river levels at specific sites. He stressed the need for careful description of the situation as well as accurately providing the location. This is why Skywarn spotters take classes at NWS. Dan also mentioned that having a good area map is helpful for spotters and net control in providing incident locations when calling in or forwarding a report. He handed out maps with established radar coverage and noted how radar sites overlap as backup facilities to each other. The other map showed the repeater locations and frequencies used by Skywarn. The Sterling forecast office is responsible for a 10,000 square mile area. The 147.300 repeater covers about 75% of that but other sites are needed and used. He pointed out the mountains curtail NWS radar coverage and that reports from these areas are especially critical.

50-50 was won by **Paul Fleming** (no call sign yet)

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 PM.

Jeff Poulin/KF4JSV
Recording Secretary

SUNSHINE CORNER

Happy Birthday and many happy returns to these hams: --- Butch/W4HJL, Charlie/WA4YGI, Gene/KD4RHC, Ken/KM4UH, Joseph/KD2RO, and Joe/AB4QV.

Happy Thanksgiving to all! We count our blessings for our health, our friends and family, our hobby and all its enjoyment!

73 de Jan/KE4TMW

VOLUNTEER EXAMINER COOPERATIVE

(Retrieved from the ARRL Homepage and borrowed from FARA Toroid)

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)

14-Nov-1998

Sponsor: DULLES ARG --

Time: 08:45AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: MICHAEL (703) 450-2304

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: GALILEE UNITED METHODIST
20600 BROAD RUN DR, STERLING, VA

21-Nov-1998

Sponsor: LARC-3 VEC --

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: JOHN (301) 572-5124

VEC: Laurel VEC

Location: THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF LAUREL
384 MAIN ST, LAUREL, MD

21-Nov-1998

Sponsor: ALBEMARLE ARC -- Time: (No walk-ins)

PRE-REGISTER BY 11/17/98

Contact: JDGRAY@RLC.NET (804) 973-1094

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY
OBSER AUDITORIUM - GROUNDS OF UVA
EDGEMONT RD, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

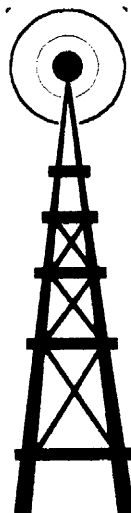
05-Dec-1998

Sponsor: UNSPONSORED -- Time: 09:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: JOHN (540) 543-2580

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location:
ST STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
115 N EAST ST, CULPEPER, VA



FOR SALE

Telex Hi-Gain HG-54HD Radio Tower
54-Foot Self-Supporting Crank-up in excellent
condition - complete with antennas & cable.

Asking Price: \$700.00

Contact: Sylvia Wayne (494-2737)
or Butch Blasdell (369-2877)

JAMBOREE ON THE AIR'98

It was the telephone call Cub Scout Pack 1195 leader **Kathy Leggett** made to **Mary Lu/KB4EFP** that got us started. Kathy reported that the Prince William County (PWC) Scouting authorities had split their organization into two groups, representing Eastern PWC and Western PWC. We understand the Eastern PWC group will be supported as needed by the **Woodbridge Wireless Amateur Radio Club**. As the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club (**OVH**) is the sole Amateur Radio Club in Western Prince William County, Kathy of course turned to us to support the circa 115 Western PWC Scouts for their **1998 Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)**. As you would expect, a group of our Club members quickly volunteered, and immediately began technical and logistics planning.

Among our 1998 JOTA volunteers, **Mary Lu/KB4EFP**, **Butch/W4HJL**, **Charlie/WA4YGI**, **Cathy/AE4UM**, **Erv/KT4DS**, **John/N4YOB**, **Jeff/KF4JSV**, **Milt/N4SN**, and **Jack/N4YIC**, some had JOTA experience from having previously hosted the Scouts in their own homes. This year, however, we thought it might add more excitement and be more fun if we hosted all the Scouts in a central location. After dismissing several potential JOTA sites for myriad reasons, we believed the **Urbanna Swim Club** would be an ideal location. Thanks to the efforts of **Charlie/WA4YGI**, also a member of the Urbanna Swim Club, we met with the Urbanna Swim Club Board of Directors and presented them with documents explaining what JOTA is all about, how important it is to the more than 400,000 Scouts who participate annually on the third weekend in October, and thoroughly briefed them on why OVH must be involved in it. Being a caring, community-oriented group themselves, the Board of Directors immediately and very generously opted to partner with OVH as JOTA co-sponsor and to waive their usual rental fee, allowing **Charlie/WA4YGI** and OVH use of the Swim Club facilities at no cost.

When Kathy Leggett told us that 12 Dens, each with 5 to 8 Scouts, looked forward to attending, although some of them had other commitments, we decided to set up 4 complete high frequency (HF) radio stations at the Swim Club. We told Kathy to arrange for 4 Dens to arrive at 9:00 a.m., 4 more at 10:00 a.m., and the final 4 Dens at 11:00 a.m. Having previously witnessed several cases of "**mic fright**," we also requested that she prepare 4 sets of cue cards with typical questions Scouts might ask each other; these proved quite useful.

Although JOTA is a two-day (Saturday-Sunday) event, we scheduled our participation for 8:00-12:00 Saturday morning, wanting to avoid interfering with Saturday afternoon college football games and Sunday religious services and professional football games.

We quickly arranged for ARRL Headquarters to send us a box of brochures for both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, an "**Archie**" Amateur Radio comic book for each visiting Scout, and some other helpful information.

On Friday, October 16th, we erected four temporary HF antennas (2 dipole and 2 vertical,) spread out around the Swim Club compound. We stocked the fridge with soft drinks and purchased a mountain of cookies. On Saturday morning, October 17th, we brought in and set up the **four HF radio stations**, connected the antenna coax cables, ran the ground wires to stakes, and started scanning the bands. Shortly after 9:00 a.m. the first wave of Scouts arrived; excited, eager, and itching to **TALK OVER THE RADIO**.

Well, it all proved to be a complete success and a really wonderful, worthwhile effort. Our Scouts got to chat with other Scouts in **Europe**, **South America**, and around the **U.S.A.** One or two groups even chatted with an Amateur Operator aboard a **commercial airliner** while the aircraft was at 37,000 feet altitude and 2,000 miles off our East coast; lots of "wide eyes" for that one. The central location proved to be a good idea, allowing Scouts who were not at the radios to mingle and meet Scouts from other Dens. They downed lots of soft drinks, ate a huge amount of cookies, and enjoyed the "**Archie**" comics. It became obvious they (and many of their parents as well) thought JOTA and Amateur Radio were exciting and a lot of fun. It became just as obvious that our club's radio operators had as much or more fun than the Scouts did.

When we had completed the event safely and without adverse incident, we carefully dismantled our equipment and antennas without causing damage to the grounds or building at the Swim Club.

When it was over we assured Kathy Leggett she could rely on OVH to support the Scouts JOTA event in the coming years, and we would look for a suitable and permanent venue in which to host it. We also decided to recommend establishing a standing "Scouting Committee" at our next OVH club meeting. **John/N4YOB**, being the nice fellow he is, offered to become our Scouting Committee Chairman.

So, to all of you club members who so generously gave of your time, talents, and equipment to help make this JOTA a day the Scouts will long remember, you have our most sincere thanks and appreciation. When you choose to sacrifice your weekend to help out a bunch of nice kids, and you do it well, you go to bed at night feeling real good.

See you all next October and we'll help **John/N4YOB** do it well.

Jack McDermott/N4YIC

Sterling Park QSL Bureau

Sterling Park QSL Bureau
Two Letter Prefix "4" Calls
Call Box 599
Sterling, VA 20167

The following information is provided for your assistance in using this ARRL QSL bureau. The ARRL supports the bureau for use by all amateurs and League membership is not required. These procedures will facilitate receiving your cards promptly, and help us do our job more efficiently. We encourage reproducing and distributing this information at training classes and club meetings.

The ARRL supports the bureau for use by all amateurs and League membership is not required. We only serve amateurs with two-letter prefix "4" calls. The Mecklenburg Bureau handles one-letter prefix calls (see address at bottom). If you live in the fourth call area, but don't have a "4" in your callsign, you should contact the Bureau serving your call area. See QST for addresses, or send a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) to ARRL for information. This Bureau is for INCOMING DX cards only. Outgoing DX cards must be sent directly to ARRL Headquarters (see address on reverse). The outgoing Bureau requires League membership and a fee for service. Cards for contacts within the continental U.S. must be sent direct.

To receive your DX cards sent via the Bureau, send us clasp-opening envelopes between 5 by 7 ½ and 6 by 9 inches ONLY. Acceptable envelopes are readily available in small packages at stores like Wal-Mart, K-Mart, and larger drug chains; and in boxes of 100 at Office Max, Staples, Office Depot, etc. Larger envelopes are too large for our files, and require additional postage. If necessary, we will accept 6 ½ by 9 ½ inch clasp envelopes provided they include the postal surcharge noted below. Standard (letter or legal size) envelopes get lost in the files, and don't take the larger DX cards. We recommend sending several envelopes at a time, but please don't send more than you might reasonably expect to receive in a year's time. Nonstandard and padded envelopes may be returned to you empty.

PRINT your callsign CLEARLY in the upper left-hand corner of each envelope. Address each envelope to yourself in the center. Affix postage for at least one ounce to each envelope. We will not accept dated meters for postage, as the Post Office expects them to be used when issued, not months later. If you expect a lot of cards, we recommend stapling additional postage to the top envelope. Use your postage wisely. At current rates, one ounce is 32 cents (although a one cent increase has been approved, and may be in effect when you read this), and each additional ounce is 23 cents. The postal surcharge for envelopes larger than 6 by 9 inches are 11 cents for the first ounce. Providing postage in increments other than these is a waste of your money. If postal rates increase you should send us add-on postage for each of your envelopes. We mail cards when the weight of cards equals the amount of postage on the envelope. Thus, three units of postage will require us to wait until three ounces of cards have arrived for you. One ounce is generally good for about 5-8 cards, including the weight of the envelope. We do not sell stamps or envelopes, so please don't send us money for these. (However, we do make this service available at selected hamfests).

Envelopes are filed by call; therefore, you must maintain separate envelopes for each individual call for which you could receive cards. We can not cross reference upgrades, vanity calls, family calls, etc. Remember that cards may come 5 or more years after the original contact. When you send in your envelopes, you may include a self-addressed postcard, which we will return to you to assure you that your envelopes have arrived safely.

Please don't request special services such as "mail monthly", mail in a certain order, ask us to mail other than first class, etc. Since the post office frequently returns overweight envelopes to us, we will not mail cards if sufficient postage is not available to mail them. We send out "last envelope" notices when applicable. Cards are typically mailed on monthly cycle. Please replenish your envelopes within two weeks of receiving a last envelope notice, or make sure you always have envelopes on file. Unclaimed cards are a major problem, and are not retained indefinitely. They may be destroyed or returned to sender without notice. Upon request, we will be glad to provide you with the status of your envelopes at the Bureau at any time (SASE for response appreciated, or will mail all cards currently on file for you. Be sure to include your callsign(s) and full address on any correspondence. You may also use the E-mail address below. Since all requests must be processed through the volunteer network and researched when time is available, please allow 4-6 weeks for reply.

If you move, be sure to notify us of your new address. Self-adhesive labels are preferred. We stamp our return address in the upper left-hand corner of each envelope under your call to ensure delivery (so don't enter yours). If your envelopes are returned to us by the Post Office for lack of a current address, and your Callbook address is also obsolete, your cards will likely wind up being destroyed.

BE PATIENT! Cards we receive from the foreign Bureaus are at least several months to many years old before they ever arrive here. Then they must be sorted by the letter following the "4", distributed to the appropriate letter manager, additionally sorted by call, put into proper envelopes, and mailed.

Nearly three dozen amateurs volunteer their time, and a portion of their shacks, to sorting and distributing cards and envelopes. If you think we do a good job, send us a "thank you" note, which will be forwarded to your letter manager. If you feel there is problem, send me a note or E-mail and I will look into it.

73 and Good DX

Dick Maylott/W2YE
Manager, Sterling Park QSL Bureau
E-mail RWMaylott@aol.com

Single-letter Prefix "4" Calls:
Mecklenburg ARC
Post Office Box DX
Charlotte, NC 28220

ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau:
ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau
225 Main Street
Newington, CT 06111

Submitted to Editor by Jeff Poulin/KF4JSV

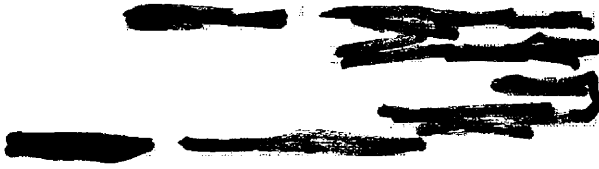
NEW LAWS AFFECT VIRGINIA MOTORISTS

RICHMOND -- A variety of new laws passed the 1998 General Assembly, Submitted by Don, WY2V

New license plates were authorized to represent 30 groups with special interests. Sponsors of these plates must collect 350 pre-paid applications before DMV will issue them.

These include: plates representing the National Speleological Society, employees of the Virginia Department of Transportation, the National Air and Space Museum Annex at Dulles Airport, Great Meadow, returned Peace Corps volunteers, the American Radio Relay League, aviation enthusiasts, the 1999 Bicentennial of George Washington, the American Automobile Association, the Tercentenary of the City of Williamsburg, persons once declared Missing In Action, the Wildlife Foundation of Virginia, the Virginia Wildlife Federation, Eastern Shore Tourism, the Fraternal Order of Police Associates, the Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary, the Richmond Braves, the Salem Avalanche, the Norfolk Tides, the Prince William Cannons, the Pulaski Rangers, the Lynchburg Hillcats, the Martinsville Phillies, the Danville Braves, the Bristol Tigers, the Loyal Order of Moose, supporters of credit unions, and the 250th anniversaries of the City of Alexandria and the counties of Chesterfield and Culpeper.

Obtained from FARA Toroid - Editor



FIRST CLASS MAIL



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

MEETING: NOVEMBER 16TH

8:00 PM

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

**PROGRAM: Virginia ARES/RACES Organization
By: Frank, K4EC (Sec. Emergency Coordinator)**

*** * * REMINDER * * ***

**Nov. 21st --- VE EXAMS (By OVH)
Dec. 5th --- Manassas Christmas Parade
Dec. 5th --- ARES Institute
(See inside for details)**