



The OVH ARC Newsletter
"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108
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BBS--BBSNVA/N4WJN (SYSOP--BILL)
<http://www.qsl.net/olevahams>



OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

SEPTEMBER 1998

Next meeting: 21 September 1998

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

Message From the President

Greetings OVH;

It's back-to-school times for a lot of folks so we need to practice our "ABTs"....ALWAYS squelch gossip; BE courteous on the air; TRANSMIT the upside of hamming to others. A ham's healthy diet is leaving the QTH for an OVH meeting.

The Club's backyard picnic in September at the Blasdell residence was GRRREAT! Scrumptious food, wx cooperative, plus a great time had by all. Thanks Butch and Mary Lu for sharing your home with the club! Prince William Co's Fall Bike Tour went over with a bang as we had plenty of ham support for our fun-filled public service event. Thanks to Larry, KA4CTX, for heading up this one.

It's progress to see new faces at the meetings; nice to see old ones (Elmers), but Totaltastic if everyone would..... Come out for the Sept. 21st meeting. Dick, W2YE, will be giving a presentation on the QSL Bureau. It is always a pleasure to have Dick, who hales from Sterling, give us an enlightening program.

Upcoming fall activities: Sept.22-- HAZMAT Drill: contact Erv, KT4DS, to support this practical opportunity. NWS classes in: Flash Flood Sept 23 (Wed) 7-9; Basic II Sept 24(Thurs), 7-9:30. Considering our fickle weather, all training is of immense value plus offered to us at no charge. Call (703)-260-0106 to register.

73 and here to serve YOU, See you Sept. 21
Cathy/AE4UM

"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS"
 Post Office Box 1255
 Manassas, V.A. 20108

OFFICERS

President: Cathy Whalen AF4UM 335-1029
 Vice Pres: Charlie Dale WA4YGI 361-3091
 Secretary: Jeff Poulin KF4JSV 361-5865
 Treasurer: Larry Whitney KA4CTX 369-0425

DIRECTORS

Bob McCann N4RI 361-7335
 Don (Butch) Blasdell 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. REP.

Alan * KD4KBX 330-8844

FINANCE

Mike WV3H 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

Ken KM4UH 369-5287

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 KE4TMW 257-0897

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Art KW4AW 791-4330
 Alan KD4KBX 330-8844
 Butch W4HJL 369-2877
 Jimmy WA2QEJ 791-2932
 George KE2AM 791-7688

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
AUGUST 17, 1998

Cathy, AE4UM, called the meeting to order at 8:04 PM. Members participated in the Pledge of Allegiance, an oral roll call and signing the attendance sheet. There were 16 members and 3 visitors present.

Our program for the evening was entitled "When a Repeater Goes Down" and was presented by Ed Harris, KE4SKY, AEC for Fairfax ARES. It was very informative and covered the reasons we need simplex operations especially for emergency preparedness. He stated that if amateurs take repeater systems for granted and depend on them, ARES and RACES are less able to respond when the repeaters go down during icing or power failures. Local and regional ARES response plans should stipulate where simplex is appropriate and learn to operate without repeaters. This could include using the repeater output frequencies on simplex or the normal 146.52 or 146.55 frequencies. He also discussed power needs and mobile rig operation vs. H.T. operations.

Other sources of information are available on the web: <http://www.aresva.org> and <http://www.t-marc.org>.

The minutes of the July 1998 meeting were approved as they appeared in the August Newsletter. The Treasurer's Report was read by Larry, KA4CTX, and approved by unanimous consent.

Cathy, AE4UM, read a card from Sylvia Wayne thanking the club for its support and concern for her. She also read a letter from the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation thanking the club for its donation in Tim, KB4NR's name.

It was announced that the OVH picnic will be at Blasdell's QTH on Sept. 12th at 4 PM - please bring a covered dish and a lawn chair if you have one.

Larry, KA4CTX, already has about 8 or 9 volunteers for the Sept. 19th bike ride, but can always use more help. If anyone is interested in participating, please call Larry.

Butch, W4HJL, gave the Technical Committee Report (originated from Art). Alan, KD4KBX and Mike, WV3H, have been programming the new Link-Comm Controller. It is operational at Alan's house with 440 Repeater on line, but coverage varies. George, KE2AM, has Erv's Mitrek radios for examination and opinion and will be reporting on them soon. They will be used for ARES purposes. Art, KW4AW, has the old RC-850 controller for repair and will continue rehab on it. After they finish the 220 repeater, will connect it to the new Link-Comm also. After finishing the 220 and 440, will do the DVR and 2 meters.

Steve, N4OGR, made a motion to donate \$300 to "Newline" as they are in dire need of funds to continue. It was seconded and approved.

Lisa, KF4FJD, "read" in the application from Paul Fleming (no call) - it will be voted on at the next meeting. The club voted on Ruth Frock's (KF4YYC) application and she was welcomed as a new member.

Larry, KA4CTX, won the 50/50.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM

Submitted by: KB4EFP

SUNSHINE CORNER

Congratulations are in order for **Harry/W4PVA**, who was gifted with a new great-granddaughter last month! Let's see, that's a great-grand-harmonic?? And **Harry** and **Vi** also celebrated their 56th anniversary on August 13th!

Congratulations are also in order for **Jim/WD4OJY**, who upgraded to General, and **Ruth/KF4YYC**, who upgraded to Technician Plus. Good job, guys!

OVH members are sad to see **Jimmy/WA2QEJ** leave for New York State, but hope the sun shines warmly on him in his new home.

Happy Birthday to these hams: **Mary Lu/KB4EFP**, **James/W4HJH**, **Kevin/KF4AZY**, **Maury/W4HYB**, **Gus/N4MLE**, and **Dan/W4DKS**.

73 de **Jan/KE4TMW**

CHASING DX PLUS 10 DX TIPS FOR THE LITTLE PISTOL by **Denis/W4DC**

I have operated from apartments, townhouses, and many places with less than optimum stations. Even today, I still don't have a tower. Many of us are in this LITTLE PISTOL category. This does not mean you can't work DX very effectively even today. Jack, AA3KX, a relatively new DXer and WWI member has worked over 200 countries from his townhouse. So it can be done. Here are 10 tips to increase your chances to work DX as a little pistol.

- 1) **TRAIN YOUR EARS.** DX signals are usually weaker and sound unstable or fluttery at times. Train your ears to hear DX. Practice working stations with faint signals. Listen, listen, listen.
- 2) **WFWL.** Work First Worry Later. If you hear an exotic or strange station calling CQ, work them first while everyone else is looking up the call sign on their computer.
- 3) **BE THERE WHEN EVERYONE ELSE IS NOT.** DX doesn't sleep, so vary your operating to different times of day and night. Sunrise and sunset are good times.
- 4) **CONTEST.** If you only operate during DX contests, you can rack up a pretty good DX count. CQWW, CQWPX and ARRL DX contests are really good ones. Also, be on before and after the contest as well.
- 5) **TIMING.** As they say, timing is everything. This is also true when working DX. Time your call when the big guns aren't calling. This takes practice.
- 6) **DON'T RELY ON THE PACKET CLUSTER.** Tune the bands yourself. You will be surprised what's on that doesn't show up on the packet cluster until much later (too late for the little pistol).
- 7) **CHECK THE HIGHER BANDS.** Low power signals can compete with the big boys on the higher HF bands when they're open - 10 Meters especially.
- 8) **TRY CW.** Since CW is the less used mode, it usually will have less competition, and it's also more effective in marginal situations.
- 9) **STAY CURRENT.** Get DX publications and read the DX news so you know when to be on to catch the rare ones.
- 10) **UPGRADE.** Upgrade to use the upper portions of the band where much of the DX hangs out.

From September *WIRELOOSE* (Woodbridge Wireless ARC)

Guatemala commercializes 70cm

Reports from Guatemala indicate that commercial land mobile stations are currently being licensed in the 430-440MHz band.

This is against International Radio Regulations and because of this, these stations may cause harmful interference to stations in the amateur-satellite service operating between 435-438MHz.

According to Art Feller/W4ART, Hams experiencing interference from what appears to be a Guatemalan land mobile station should gather as much information as possible about the intruder. This should include the call sign, frequency, emission type, and if possible, the content of its transmission. Also, note the date, time, and call signs of the other amateur station you are attempting to communicate with. Report all of this information to your national IARU member society so that a formal complaint may be lodged through appropriate diplomatic channels.

For Hams living in the United States, reports go to the ARRL.
W4ART, *Newsline/September Worldradio*

FCC to act on licensing decline

Volunteer Examiner Coordinators have learned that the FCC plans to take action to stimulate growth in Amateur Radio.

The FCC appears to believe the decline in Amateur Radio interest and licensing is bad for the service. As a result, D'wana Terry, Chief of the Wireless Division, confirmed that the FCC would soon be issuing a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking intended to streamline the service and eliminate any unnecessary rules used in governing Amateur Radio.

Terry told the VECs that she was very limited in what she could say about the NPRM. This is because the FCC is still preparing it. Ms. Terry did say that the recommendation would include both a discussion of current problems and specific proposals on how the FCC plans to deal with them.

Ms. Terry did acknowledge that one of the things the FCC is looking into is a reduction in the Morse code exam speed. This, as a way around the allegedly abused 13 and 20 words-per-minute handicapped applicant code examination waivers.

No date has been set for the release of this internally generated NPRM. But it could come as early as the end of August, if not before.

Once that document is made public, it may not reach every Ham in time to comment. This is because the FCC intends to issue it under the so-called "fast track" initiative.

Its not known if the FCC will allow the sixty days requested by the VECs. As reported last week, this rule making will be under the fast-track. That means expedited handling of it by the Commission.

Newsline/WB4NOA/September Worldradio

World's lowest power DX contact

By Jeff Grudin, AC6KW

Back in December, there was a Dxpedition to Mongolia. I tried hard to work them but failed. I knew I would have to work hard and long to try again to work that country. There are only a few active Hams there, so I would have to wait for another Dxpedition.

The other day I had some time off work and decided to make a trip to HRO to check out some of the new rigs. I was sitting down at an IC756 and playing around on 20 Meters. The band conditions were terrible, with only a few signals on the spectrum scope. Tuning up and down the band I found mostly U.S. stations.

A guy sat down next to me to check out the new Kachina computer rig. After tuning around for a while, he told me that he was planning on buying a new rig to take home with him. He asked if I was a Ham, and for my call sign. I shook his hand and gave him my call.

Then he gave me his. . . JT1YB, he told me that he was part of the December Dxpedition in his country.

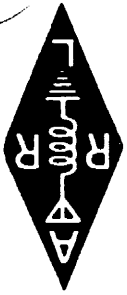
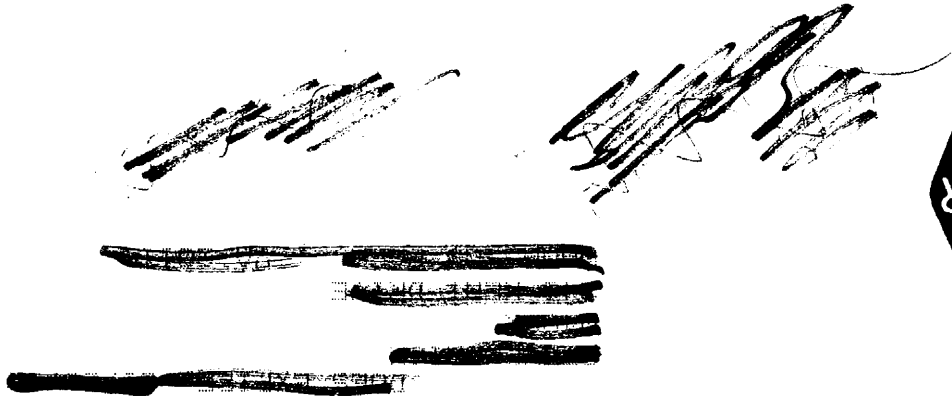
I worked a Mongolian with 0 watts and an antenna the length of my arm. It was a fun QSO without the pressure of a pileup to deal with!

From September Worldradio

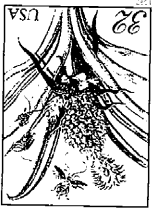
Virginia Hamfest

The Virginia Beach Hamfest and Computer Fair will be held on 19-20 September at the Pavilion Convention Center. For information, email: hamfest@exis.net;
web: www.vahamfest.com

From September Worldradio



FIRST CLASS MAIL



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

MEETING: SEPTEMBER 21ST

8:00 PM

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

PROGRAM: Presentation: QSL BUREAU

Guest: W2YE