

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 1999

Next meeting: 20 December 1999
Committee Chairperson's!!!! Need your input for the
Newsletter!!!
(Editor)

Message From the President

Greetings OVH;

Be it meteorites or snowflakes showering us, we are ready for winter (via informative NWS classes). A ham's healthy diet: A "hamhold" of holiday guests.

The Manassas Christmas Parade was enjoyed by all with lots of OVH support. Thanks to everyone who braved the elements while serving our community with health & welfare comms. Thank you, Art/KW4AW, for heading up this annual event.

Hoping to see all OVHers at the Dec 20th meeting. Our own Harry/W4PVA will be speaking on: "A History? of Diodes, Tubes & Transistors." This will be a good one.

Will PANIC greet us 0000 Jan 2000? --not a chance if we work the Y2K Plan throughout our County, Cities, and other locales. Preparedness is our best defense, so an "on stand-by" mode is for all amateurs. See Erv/KT4DS for details.

Warmest Christmas Thoughts to All and A HAPPY New Year!

Upcoming winter activities: Frost & Winter fests are just around the snowdrifts. Meanwhile, a Santa nap sounds good in front of the old fireplace with the repeater purring in the background.

73 and here to serve YOU, See you Dec 20!

Cathy/AE4UM ☺

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

OFFICERS

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------|----------|
| President: Cathy Whalen | AE4UM | 335-1029 |
| Vice Pres: Steve Frick | N4OGR | 361-0008 |
| Secretary: Lloyd DeLapp | N4OOM | 791-4192 |
| Treasurer: Bill South | N4WJN | 448-2724 |

DIRECTORS

| | | |
|----------------------|-------|----------|
| Don (Butch) Blasdell | W4HJL | 369-2877 |
| Art Whittum | KW4AW | 791-4330 |
| John Fritsch | N4YOB | 791-5995 |

WEEKLY NETS

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------|----------|
| Thursdays - 8:00 PM | KV4AP (Jeff) | 361-5865 |
| Sundays - 8:00 PM | KF4FJD (Lisa) | 330-1473 |

HAMFEST 2000

| | | |
|------|-------|----------|
| Jack | N4YIC | 335-9139 |
|------|-------|----------|

FIELD DAY 1999

| | | |
|------|-------|----------|
| Bill | N4WJN | 590-9562 |
| Wes | NSRTY | 368-8544 |

CLUB ROSTER

| | | |
|--------|--------|----------|
| Blaine | KB4RKL | 369-2877 |
|--------|--------|----------|

EDUCATION

| | | |
|---------|--------|----------|
| Charlie | WA4YGI | 361-3091 |
| Bill | K4WRG | 754-7913 |

CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

| | | |
|-------|--------|----------|
| Brian | KE4NFK | 257-9545 |
|-------|--------|----------|

ARES AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

| | | |
|-----|-------|----------|
| Erv | KT4DS | 335-1029 |
|-----|-------|----------|

F.A.R. REP.

| | | |
|---------|--------|----------|
| Ruth | KU4WH | 331-1234 |
| Mary Lu | KB4EFP | 369-2877 |

FINANCE

| | | |
|---------|--------|----------|
| Mike | WV3H | 753-9346 |
| Pete | KB4RME | 369-2436 |
| Mary Lu | KB4EFP | 369-2877 |
| Bill | N4WJN | 590-9562 |

GENERATORS

| | | |
|-------|--------|----------|
| Tommy | KA4AFU | 369-2741 |
|-------|--------|----------|

HISTORIAN

T B D

HOME PAGE

| | | |
|--------|--------|----------|
| Bill | N4WJN | 590-9562 |
| Blaine | KB4RKL | 369-2877 |

J.O.T.A. (Scouts)

| | | |
|------|-------|----------|
| John | N4YOB | 791-5995 |
|------|-------|----------|

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

TBD

NEWSLETTER

| | | |
|-------|-------|----------|
| Steve | KB4OF | 368-6901 |
|-------|-------|----------|

NEWSLINE

| | | |
|------|-------|---------|
| Jeff | KV4AP | 3615865 |
|------|-------|---------|

PACKET

| | | |
|------|--------|----------|
| Alan | KD4KBX | 330-8844 |
| Bill | N4WJN | 590-9562 |

PICNIC

| | | |
|-------|--------|----------|
| Ellie | KF4NBO | 361-8059 |
|-------|--------|----------|

PROGRAM'S

TBD

Q' MASTER

| | | |
|-----|-------|----------|
| Jim | N3ODZ | 361-2543 |
|-----|-------|----------|

REPEATER CONTROLLERS

| | | |
|-------|--------|----------|
| Art | KW4AW | 791-4330 |
| Butch | W4HJL | 369-2877 |
| Milt | N4SN | 369-7265 |
| Mike | WV3H | 753-9346 |
| Steve | N4OGZ | 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 |
| Bill | N4WJN | 590-9562 |
| Butch | W4HJL | 369-2877 |
| Mike | WV3H | 753-9346 |
| Jimmy | WA2QEJ | |

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

OVHARC W4OVH REPEATER NEWS

Another reasonably good month of operation. No major failures incurred. The folks at **MobilComm** paging visited their site during the mid-part of November and installed a new filter in their transmission line. This has almost eradicated our pager interference problem. But we are still experiencing occasional "**burps**" from that area when conditions are "wet" (rain, early morning dew, etc.) It is unlikely that we will be able to do much more - except to initiate PL when things get to noisy.

During the week of 20 November we experienced some **unauthorized users** on 146.370/146.970 MHz. Apparently, a Korean family obtained two (or more) **VHF** hand-helds and were using them as if they were FRS units. They may have had the instruction manuals because it seems that they were able to turn on the 100 Hz tone on both units. On several occasions, a control operator attempted to contact them without success. No transmissions or activity have been observed since 23 November.

Starting on 30 November 1999, we have been experiencing occasional short bursts of a "musical" data burst - 1 to 2 minute intervals in the morning hours around sunrise. This is a new signal type. The bursts start precisely on the minute as timed by comparing to **WWV**. It could be local to the site. We will continue to monitor and investigate to find the source. Anyone noticing improper activity or interference on any of the repeaters should notify a control operator by telephone or e-mail - **don't use the repeaters**.

73, Art/KW4AW

"YL Wish List

In The Stocking:

Rocks & Blue Whizzers*

In General:

A clean ham shack

Out-of-state:

All pager systems moving to Md.

Under The Tree:

FT-90R Dual Band Transc.

(Yaesu)

*Source: Meteor Scatter Lingo"

Cathy/AE4UM

Out-of-town:

Full-blown packet network

Out of this world:

Global PEACE to all Hams!

OVHARC Christmas Parade Support Success

The 54th Annual Greater Manassas Christmas Parade was held on Saturday, December 4, 1999. The first parade units started at 1030 EST and Santa Claus arrived at the reviewing stand at 1315 EST. 108 parade units participated, including the US Marine Corps band. We had a first (almost) - no units were observed violating the "no throwing gifts from the floats" rule ... until Sheriff Stofferegan's boat went by. Oh well, I'm sure Rick Ratcliff will take care of that. The weather cooperated fully and we had good luck - no emergencies.

Net Control was located near the old DMV building on Mathis Avenue and check-points were spread along the parade route. Initial coordination, prior to parade start, was accomplished on 146.370/146.970 MHz. The net was shifted to 146.475 MHz, simplex, with tactical call signs for parade support. Nineteen club members participated in the support effort.

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Net Control | Milt (N4SN), Alan (WA2GTT) and David Lane |
| Parade Staging Area | Ruth (KU4WH), Jim (WD4OJY), Brian (KE4GKH) and Keith (KM4AA) |
| Checkpoint A | Brian (KE4NFK) and Jim (WA4LTO) |
| Checkpoint B | Larry (KA4CTX) and Chris (KG4CKK) |
| Checkpoint C | Roy (AC6JN) and Doc (W1IMX) |
| Checkpoint D | Mary Lu (KB4EFP) and Butch (W4HJL) |
| Checkpoint E | Lloyd (N4OOM) and Harry (W4PVA) |
| Checkpoint F | John (N4YOB) and Art (KW4AW) |

Many thanks to all the folks who participated and made this annual event a success.

73, Art/KW4AW

SUNSHINE CORNER

OVH members send their encouraging thoughts and prayers to **Jeff/KV4AP** and **Susan**; Susan's father recently had a stroke.

Happy December birthdays to: **Andy/KD4RHB**, **Alan/KD4KBX**, **Ken/W5AOC**, **John/K4KGU**, **Samuel/WB4FGS**, **Bill/N4WJN**, **George/N4XSL**, and **Richard/KE4TMV**.

Have **Happy Holidays**, and an **uneventful New Year's Day!**

73 de **KE4TMW** Jan

Updates to OVH WEB!

More updates to the **OVH WEB**, just in time for the Holidays! Lots of good stuff added to the **Swap Shop**, and some new links on the **Ham Links** page. Check it out at <http://www.qsl.net/olevahams>.

Happy Holidays, and an **Uneventful Y2K!**

73, de **Bill N4WJN**

FOR SALE OR TRADE

Mobile HF Antenna: Anixter-Mark Tribander, Model HW-3. Covers 10-15-20 meters. No traps needed. Six feet in length. 3/8 X 24 thread mount. \$20.00 or trade.

Mobile VHF Antenna/Mount: Larsen magnetic mount Model LM-MM with LM-150 antenna (5/8 wave for 2 meters). \$20.00 or trade.

Mobile VHF/UHF Antennas with Mount: Larsen magnetic mount Model LM-MM with LM-150 antenna (5/8 wave for 2 meters) and LM-UHF antenna (collinear for 440). \$30.00 or trade.

VHF Antennas: Two Hustler Model SF-2 5/8 wave 2 meter antennas. 3/8" x 24 stud mount. \$5.00 each or trade.

FARINON VHF Amplifiers (2 each): These were originally used in radio-link service. They can be modified to provide MUCHO watts for your two meter SSB rig. With "or equal" manual and final amplifier tubes. Each amplifier comes with its own self-contained, hernia generating power supply and huuuuuumungeous fan. As is. \$50.00 each or trade.

Power Supply. Most of a what appears to be a home-brew high voltage power supply. Has not been tested. Diode bridge circuit has 32 by-passed, equalized diodes. Contains eight 80 mfd/ 450 Vdc electrolytic capacitors in series parallel arrangement. Has time delay relay control and relay. Plus a fairly good-sized transformer. Weighs less than 40 pounds in 19" rack mount chassis. \$\$ 30.00 or trade.

Rack Panels. Various height standard relay rack panels. Some with holes, some without. Come look. Take away. Free.

TEKTRONIX Oscilloscope, Model 543B, Serial Number 000176. With 1A2 Dual Trace plug-in unit and roll-around Scope Cart. Although this is a boat anchor, it

73,
Art, KW4AW

A New Ham's View of EME

As a new ham, I am in the process of discovering where my interests in amateur radio lie. Since I have only been licensed for about 18 months, many different ways of operating are new to me and usually pique my interest to learn more. Several months back a presentation given at an OVH meeting about EME introduced to me to this new and quite exotic mode of operating. When I saw was required in terms of antennas (W5UN's antenna array, among other things) and other operating equipment I was shocked. Due to the location of my QTH, my home ham shack is somewhat limited (due to antenna restrictions) and operating on some modes where large external antenna arrays were required was going to be out of the question. So I temporarily put EME on the back burner until a couple of months ago when I got into a conversation with a couple of hams on 448.325 repeater on the way home. They introduced themselves to me as Terry (K8ISK) and Chuck (W4XP) and told me they were part of a VHF/UHF contest group formally called "The Delmarva VHF and Microwave Society" but nicknamed the "Grid Pirates". The Grid Pirates Contest Group is the result of Ken Ramirez's, N4UK, search for a way to activate rare Maidenhead Grid Squares during various V/U/SHF and Microwave band contests.

Moonbounce is another one of the modes that the Grid Pirates like to operate on especially during the ARRL International EME contest. After talking with Terry and Chuck on that fateful day, I received an invitation to join them during the ARRL EME contest to get an up close and personal view of this rather exotic mode. A brief description of what EME is follows.

Moon bounce has been described as the ultimate long path DX. It allows you to literally work the world on the VHF and UHF bands. Not too long ago, EME might have been beyond the reach of many hams. However, this is no longer the case. There are thousands of active stations working EME on all bands from 50 MHz to 10 GHz. EME signals are considered the weak signal of the weak signal work. As a result of this, almost all contacts are made with CW (being a CW operator that really interested me). Some of the larger EME stations will sometimes use sideband but this is the exception, not the rule. Also EME signals exhibit a phenomenon known as the Doppler shift since the moon moves in relation to the earth. At moonrise, a 2 meter EME signal may shift in frequency by as much as 350 Hz. The Doppler comes slowly down, reaching zero when the moon is passing your longitude (due south or due north azimuth heading) then starts to shift in a negative direction going down in frequency by as much as 350 Hz by moonset. Always tune with the RIT when looking for an EME station to contact due to the Doppler effect. Because signals are almost always weak and not always out of the noise, almost all contacts are made with accurately timed transmit and receive sequencing (unlike other modes of contacting other stations). Also some of the other conditions necessary to help in successful moonbouncing including the tradeoffs involved with the sky/sun temperature and earth/moon distance. To operate successfully on moonbounce a lower sky/sun temperature and a close moon/earth distance are desirable. EME can not be operated during a new moon and there is no difference in signal strength during the other phases of the moon. I would have thought that during a full moon the signal would be the strongest but that is not the case.

So with this as a brief background let me tell you about my trip up to Terry's QTH up on Bull Run Mountain to witness this mode. Since Terry's house was up on Bull Run Mountain (elevation 1000 ft) and my car is not exactly a mountain vehicle I contacted a good friend of mine, Bob Raevis KT4KS, and asked him if he was interested in going up on Bull Run Mountain to witness EME in action. He readily agreed to travel up the mountain with me. Since both of us operate on CW almost exclusively seeing another way to send CW was a very interesting prospect. So on the evening of October 30th Bob and I headed up to Bull Run Mountain. Terry immediately showed us the standard 22 element KF 10 Yagi array (complete with azimuth and rotating rotors) attached to one of the two refurbished school buses that the group houses all of their equipment. We were going to be witnessing 430 MHz moonbounce so we got a look at the equipment used for this: Kenwood TS850S transceiver, a computer complete with contesting software programmed with the call signs of all known EME stations as well as a computer program that calculates the position of the moon to permit the antenna array to be adjusted. Just as the moon was rising over the mountain, RIT adjustments had to be made to allow for the Doppler shift. After the RIT is set, it is tested by listening for the 2 second delay echo (because the round trip distance for a radio signal bounced off the moon is about half a million miles, it takes slightly over two seconds for the signal to complete its trip). It was very neat to hear your own CW signal come echoing back at you.

While we were there, Terry made about a half dozen contacts to stations not only in the US but also to DX locations like Germany, Finland and South Africa. The CW signals are indeed extremely weak and it takes intense concentration to copy all of the information needed for a legal contact. Because of the weakness of the signals, all of the information is sent multiple times (at least 10 times) so the station at the other end can copy. Bob and I both had trouble copying some of the incredibly weak signals since both of us are used to the signals generated on 40 meter CW. After this experience I promise not to ever complain about the QRM on 40 meters again!!

After staying for a couple of hours we headed home. I truly enjoyed getting a chance to see what moonbounce was all about. Many thanks again go out to Terry Price (K8ISK) for allowing a couple of strangers come up and observe his operating position. I would recommend a visit to the Grid Pirates web site (www.qsl.net/dvms_k8gp) to get a closer look at all of their operating equipment and the history of their group (you can even schedule a contact with the group on their web page as well). Finally a big thank you to my partner in crime Bob (KT4KS) who did a superb job as both chauffeur and secretary (not to mention friend and companion). I would recommend that if any of you get the chance to see an EME station take the time to see what it is all about. After that I promise that you won't think of the moon in the same way again.

Ruth/KU4WH

HAMFESTS 'n SUCH

As previously reported, we have guaranteed use of the Prince William County Fairgrounds for a Hamfest on 4 June, 2000. Moreover, we recently signed a contract for guaranteed Fairgrounds use on 3 June, 2001. This contract contains an option, which we intend to exercise in due course, for guaranteed Fairgrounds use on 2 June, 2002.

We also received confirmation that the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) has sanctioned our 2000 Hamfest. We have our flyers already prepared and printed for the 2000 Hamfest and we will begin distributing these in January at the nearby Hamfests. We have already received address labels from ARRL for use in sending Hamfest flyers to amateur radio clubs in nearby States.

SMALLER = BETTER

Some very interesting viewpoints regarding Hamfests surfaced in a recent survey conducted by the South Eastern Repeater Association. From data received it becomes clear that, at least in the southeastern United States, small Hamfests dedicated primarily to flea-marketing and ham radio testing are the most popular. Highlights:

- * 60% of those surveyed are more likely to attend a one-day Hamfest than any other kind of show.
- * 60% also said that all one-day shows should be held only on Saturday.
- * 72% say the starting time should be an early 8 a.m. local time.
- * Least popular are full-fledged conventions with manufacturers' representatives and mega-displays. Only 39% said they cared for these types of shows.
- * Also, an overwhelming 64% said that no matter what kind of show it is, they usually head home between 1 and 2 p.m.
- * In the area of forums, radio clinics, and other such activities, 54% said these are not important to them. Only 33% attend these activities on a regular basis, with another 36% dropping by once in a while.
- * On the other hand, 79% say that having ham radio examinations available at a Hamfest or convention is one of the most important services that a show can render. 62% said that exams should be held in the morning.

We will discuss these topics at a future club meeting.

Jack/N4YIC patnjack@erols.com

List of Equipment From the Estate of E. Glenn Snyder/WB4LMX

A list of equipment from the estate of E. Glenn Snyder/WB4LMX was too large to go into this month's newsletter. The full list is being emailed to Bill South wbsouth@erols.com for possible display on the club's Web Page.

Editor

T-MARC Annual Meeting

The Anne Arundel Radio Club hosted The Middle Atlantic FM and Repeater Council (T-MARC) annual meeting on December 12th. Their club house is somewhat like the OVHARC "digs" back in the late 70's at the Manassas Park Community Center. The AARC also provided buffet style sandwiches (make your own), condiments, chips, soft drinks and coffee. Neat. And much appreciated by all the attendees. Interesting to note that only two Virginia repeater reps attended: Frank Mackey, K4EC and Art Whittum, KW4AW.

As appropriate for a business meeting, we had the minutes from last year's meeting, a treasurer's report and committee reports. The OVHARC dues were paid for the Year 2000, so we are up to date.

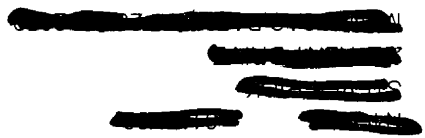
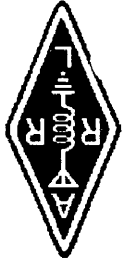
A review of the existing T-MARC six meter band plan, along with differing "neighbor" band plans, was presented by Gary Hendrickson, K3DTN, for discussion and further investigation/refinement. A Band Planning Committee will be addressing as many of the issues as possible between now and next year's meeting. There are many considerations in forming a plan like this - existing practices for repeaters, simplex, international assignment differences, new modes (digital and digital-voice), wide area coverage, etc. The committee will also be considering questions about other bands with weak signal satellite work, digital TV and any other new modes as well. This of course in the world of 50 MHz and Above.

Election were held with the following results:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| President | Larry D'Anna WA3KOK |
| VP for Technical Ops | Bill Conaway, W8HNT |
| VP for Public Relations | Dave Prestel, W8AJR |
| Secretary/Treasurer | John, (?) WA3MWN |
| Director | Van Ailer, K3CZ |
| Director | Bob Curry, KC3VO |
| Director | Art Whittum, KW4AW |

So, wondering about T-MARC? What does "it" do and where and when and to whom? Check out the web site at: <http://www.T-MARC.org/>

73,KW4AW



FIRST CLASS MAIL



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

MEETING: DECEMBER 20TH
8:00 PM
NORTHERN VIRGINIA ELECTRIC COOP
Gainesville Technical Center
5399 Wellington Road
Gainesville, Virginia

Program: Harry/W4PVA
"A History of Diodes, Tubes & Transistors"

Upcoming: Y2K Plan for Pr. William County
Preparedness is important – plan to help out!!
CONTACT: ERV/ KT4DS FOR DETAILS