

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

JANUARY 1999

Next meeting: 18 January 1999
Committee Chairperson's!!!! Need your input for the
Newsletter!!!
(Editor)

Message From the President

Greetings OVH;

Like setting goals, resolutions take fortitude and sheer will. I Will upgrade, I Will dx, I Will answer that new call sign on 2m...I Will clean my ham shack?? (Threw that in for **KT4DS**). A ham's healthy diet is "hambarnating"-- resting up without letting up.

Harry/W4PVA was both honored/surprised at our Dec. meeting with an appreciation certificate plus token gift for all his helpful years of dedication to OVH. Also, with mild weather cooperating, attendees were treated to homemade goodies outdoors.

Ham classes started 5 Jan, Tues. eves at Stonewall Jackson H.S. See **Bill/K4WRG**, or **Charlie/WA4YGI** for details. Thanks guys! So spread the word to support this endeavor.

Ringin' in with the New Year will be Jan. **nominations** for the 1999 club officers. Besides candidates' openings, are a myriad of committees needing to be filled which support OVH's operations. It takes all of us to make it go!

Hoping to see all OVHers at the Jan. 18th meeting. This program by **Sergeant Bouton** of the PWC Criminal Justice Academy will give us insight into the "**Citizen Police Academy**." A learning experience is sure to be had at this one.

Upcoming winter activities: Relax with some good company on the air or try some new outdoor activity (chopping wood counts) as we receive a rest during the winter season.

73 and here to serve YOU, **See you Jan 18!**

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) Blasdell	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
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FIELD DAY 1999

Maury	W4HYB	331-2159
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CLUB ROSTER

Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877
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EDUCATION

Charlie	WA4YGI	361-3091
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CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Larry	KA4CTX	369-0425
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ARES AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Erv	KT4DS	335-1029
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F.A.R. REP.

Alan *	KD4KBX	330-8844
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FINANCE

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

GENERATORS

Tommy	KA4AFU	369-2741
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HISTORIAN

T B D

HOME PAGE

Frank	K3TRM	266-0852
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Bob Wikfors	KF4FJC	361-8059
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NEWSLETTER

Steve	KB4OF	368-6901
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NEWSLINE

Mike	WV3H	753-9346
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PACKET

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4WJN	590-9562

PICNIC

Ellie	KF4NBO	361-8059
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PROGRAM'S

TBD

PUBLICITY

TBD

Q' MASTER

Jim	N3ODZ	361-2543
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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
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jack	N4YIC	335-9139
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SUNSHINE

Jan	KE4TMW	257-0897
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

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

JOTA(Scouts)

John	N4YOB	791-5995
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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 DECEMBER 21, 1998

The meeting opened at 8:01 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance, oral roll call, and signing the attendance sheet. The previous minutes and current Treasurer's Report were accepted unanimously. Cathy/AE4UM announced that Keith/KM4AA is the new VE, Jeff/KF4JSV has taken over the Thursday night net, and Larry/KA4CTX is the club EC. Cathy presented Harry/W4PVA with a certificate proclaiming him to be Ham of the Century for all his many years of help and service to the OVH.

NEW BUSINESS

Charlie/WA4YGI reported that classes will begin on January 5, 7-9 PM in room 3A of Stonewall Jackson HS on Rixlew Lane. Refer those interested to Charlie or to Bill/K4WRG.

Harry/W4PVA thanked the members for his certificate. He also mentioned that a former member has lengths of coax and some steel cabinets to give away. If interested, contact Harry.

Cathy mentioned that in the past we donated to the ARRL to protect the ham bands and asked if we should do so again. Bill/N4WJN proposed donating \$150.00, Mary Lu/KB4EFP seconded and the measure passed unanimously.

Charlie/WA4YGI proposed donating \$100.00 to help defray costs of the club web site owner. Bill/N4WJN seconded and it passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Steve/N4OGR reported that we can send a check to the Red Cross and either leave the distribution to them or specify where it is to be used. He learned from the Red Cross that their greatest immediate need is in Prince William Country after they dealt with a number of house fires and the search after the recent helicopter crash. Jack/N4YIC suggested that any donation be made in person and to invite the local press to cover the event. Steve proposed donating \$150.00 for local use, Bill/K4WRG seconded and the proposal passed unanimously.

PROGRAM

The program had two speakers: NOVEC representative Greg Oberchain and PEPCO employee Mike Martin/K3RWF.

Greg discussed NOVECs "common sense" approach to safety and some causes of interference. He pointed out that many modern items controlled by computer chips with very low power requirements are especially susceptible to any variation from their power needs. Also, that interference can come from non-power sources such as phone lines and cable TV wires. In many cases, grounding the devices is the best solution as long as it is a good ground. He stressed that NOVEC is always willing to help with these matters and to contact them with any requests or questions. Regarding surge protectors, Greg said they have found those with a UL 1449 code to be especially effective. He cautioned against plugging UPSs into surge protectors.

Mike Martin/K3RWF is a PEPCO interference investigator. His vehicle is equipped to detect interference from many sources and on many different frequencies. The truck itself is a diesel to avoid ignition noise. He recounted how finding sources of interference has improved over the years and showed examples of modern day solutions. Mike finds that many times the problems are caused by wooden power poles that shrink as they dry out, leaving gaps between the wood and metal attachments. This can lead to induced voltages that arc across the gaps causing noise. The investigators now have devices that can pinpoint the arcing, which is helpful since the gaps can be as small as the width of a piece of paper.

Both presentations were well received and the speakers answered many questions from the members.

Bill/K4WRG won 50-50.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Jeff Poulin/KF4JSV
Recording Secretary

SUNSHINE CORNER

Happy New Year to all at OVH! I hope each of you has a great year in our shared hobby.

Happy Birthday to our friends Francis/W4IWZ, Alan/WA2GTT, Milt/N4SN, Lisa/KF4FJD, Ellie/KF4NBO, John/NQ4Q, Woody/N4MQ, and John/WA1STU.

73 de Jan/KE4TMW

Communications Support for the 53rd Annual Manassas Christmas Parade

(Editor's Note: This was intended for last month's issue. Somehow, it slipped through the "cracks")

Erv Whalen/KT4DS, took charge of developing support for the event this year. Going down to the wire, we ended up with a fully staffed event. For those of us opposed to the concept of "winter equals cold," Mother Nature cooperated by providing a light rain before the parade to provide a little humidity and almost perfect temperatures throughout the event. Almost all of the 116 final entries were present. A few last minute cancellations did not mar the overall effect: the parade kicked off on schedule at 1030 EST on 05 December 1998. Three hours and fourteen minutes later, Santa Claus crossed the finish line.

The weather was nice and no serious incidents were reported. Three minor incidents of candy being thrown from moving vehicles were reported to parade officials (two of the entrants were cautioned directly). Although it seemed almost as though a "ho-hum-gee-whiz" atmosphere developed, only one serious accident or incident would have placed a totally different frame around the otherwise peaceful picture. We were in the right place at the right time and we were ready.

We used **tactical call signs** this year, and should continue to practice this mode of identification. It's a lot easier to remember a place or entity, rather than who might be staffing a particular location. With a **collinear vertical 2 meter whip** at NCS, **hand-held** communications from the judges stand was a little "scratchy" sometimes, the other checkpoints came in fine (**mostly mobile rigs**, also). So, perhaps next year we could try a mast mounted vertical; just a thought.

As in the past, we started **coordinating net** set-up on 146.97 MHz through the OVHARC W4QVH repeater. Then we **shifted** to 146.475 MHz **simplex** just prior to parade start up. NCS monitored 146.475 MHz simplex, 146.97 MHz repeat and maintained a **cellular telephone** for back up.

Ruth/KU4WH and Jay/NS5N covered the parade marshalling area and "kept track" of Ricky Ratcliffe, the Parade's "Commanding General." David/KD4DEE and Brian/KE4GKH provided back up at the NCS and staging area after we were told that parade communications were available in the **Police Chief's vehicle**.

The checkpoints were staffed by: Lisa/KF4FJD and Ellie/KF4NBO; Jeff/KF4JSV and Frank/K3TRM; Matt/KC4ZPM and Doc/W1IMX; Mary Lu/KB4EFP and Butch/W4HJL; Bob/KF4FJE and Harry/W4PVA; and Erv/KT4DS and Cathy/AE4UM. Charlie/ WA4YGI and Art/KW4AW were at NCS.

Thanks to all who supported this exercise. All participants are invited to provide comments to Erv or Art regarding ways we could improve this function or use it more fully for emergency training.

Art/KW4AW

AN XYL's VIEW

Are OVH's programs teaching embroidery and other ladies' fancy needlework? Not so, as Daisy Chain also refers to wiring wiring that needs a solid connection. We also learned that Elec. Co.'s generate sound waves, not harmonics (as I mistakenly thought). Finally, Mr. Obenchain says if we document our problems to NOVEC, with patient query, end results should be pleasant--not a blown fuse!

And wouldn't Erv love a new diesel truck to control that noise level? -- maybe next Christmas! With a scope that would almost fit in my purse, **Mr. Martin's (N3RWF)** gorgeous truck was Loaded, Loaded, Loaded!

As was his dynamite program on interference with lots of hands-on demos plus down-to-earth handouts. Thank you, gentlemen, for going the "**second mile**" for our club.

Non-tech-y always inoperable, **AE4UM**.