

# OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

## October 2026

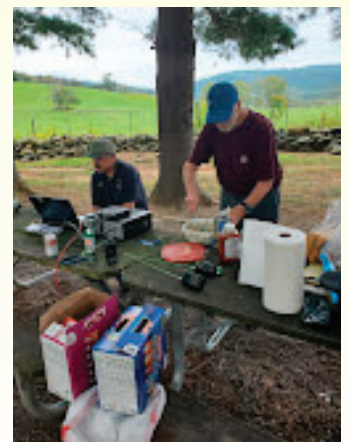
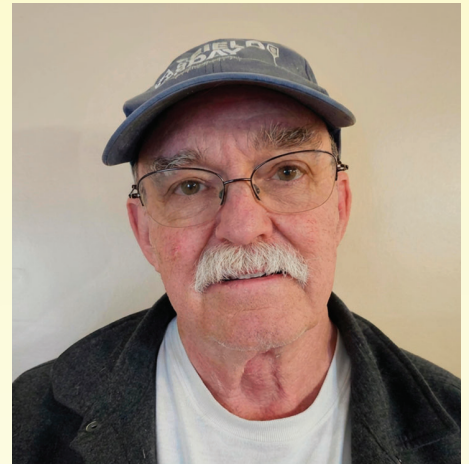
### Next Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, October 20, 2026

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

At our next regular OVH meeting on October 20th, we will have an Emergency Communications presentation by Bruce / KN4GDX. The main purpose of the presentation is to introduce members to the recently created R3Emcomm Digital Communications group (R3EC); and to discuss the technical focus of the group which includes HF and VHF digital messaging and FM voice nets. R3EC is focused on regional readiness and training on digital techniques, as well as national digital communications among Emcomm groups. R3EC includes BBS and File access services on both HF and VHF. R3EC members have access via HF across Eastern US; and via VHF from NoVA and parts of MD to the Charlottesville area. Training is provided through several knowledgeable digital communications veterans and is also supported through the testing facilities at the KN4GDX home QTH in Fauquier County.

Recently, on September 20th, the OVH had a Parks on the Air activation at Sky Meadows State Park. Mark / WA4KFZ attended and had no prior POTA activations. At the park, he registered with POTA, and successfully activated the park with 16 contacts. See, image from that event to the right.

On September 12th, many past and present OVH members participated in the Serve Our Willing Warriors Ride. They were Dianne / KI4FVV; Jack / WC4J; Gene / KN4JMB; John / KK4TCE; George / K4GVT; Greg / KM4CCG; Chris ; KN4IJF; David / KG4GIY; Andy / KJ4MPT; John / KG4NXT; Gene / N4HFW and Jerry / KR4EZZ. I asked for race



**Cont'd on Page 3**

# Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

## Post Office Box 4293

## Manassas, Virginia 20108-0728

### OFFICERS

|            |               |                |              |
|------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| President: | John Heartney | KG4NXT         | 789-6449     |
| Vice Pres: | Gil Thompson  | KM4OZH         | 369-0431     |
| Secretary: | Lynn Timmons  | KX4HR          | 913-205-1742 |
| Treasurer: | Don Meyerhoff | WA2SWX / HC4DA | 703-597-3211 |

### DIRECTORS

|                  |        |          |
|------------------|--------|----------|
| George Tarnovsky | K4GVT  | 791-5956 |
| Gil Thompson     | KM4OZH | 369-0431 |
| Bob Zaepfel      | K4HJF  | 282-2451 |
| Theresa Heartney | KG4TVM | 257-3566 |

### WEEKLY FM REPEATER NET COORDINATOR

|                            |        |          |
|----------------------------|--------|----------|
| John                       | KG4NXT | 789-6449 |
| Thurs - 8:00 PM Local Time |        |          |

### HAMFEST 2026 - CHAIR

|         |                    |        |              |
|---------|--------------------|--------|--------------|
| Theresa | kg4tvm@hotmail.com | KG4TVM | 703-257-3566 |
|---------|--------------------|--------|--------------|

### FIELD DAY 2026 - CHAIR

|      |        |              |
|------|--------|--------------|
| John | KG4NXT | 703-789-6449 |
|------|--------|--------------|

### VE COORDINATOR

|      |        |          |
|------|--------|----------|
| Mark | WA4KFZ | 818-8033 |
|------|--------|----------|

### ARES - EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

|                                                                                                                       |        |          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| David Lane                                                                                                            | KG4GIY | 628-3868 |
| See <a href="https://pwcares.org">https://pwcares.org</a> email: <a href="mailto:kg4giy@arrl.net">kg4giy@arrl.net</a> |        |          |

### FINANCE

|         |                |              |
|---------|----------------|--------------|
| Theresa | KG4TVM         | 257-3566     |
| Mark    | WA4KFZ         | 818-8033     |
| Don     | WA2SWX / HC4DA | 703-597-3211 |

### GENERATORS

|       |        |          |
|-------|--------|----------|
| Byron | AK4XR  | 222-2095 |
| Al    | KB4BHB | 368-4794 |

### WARRIOR BIKE RIDE - CHAIRMAN

|      |                                                          |        |          |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| Andy | <a href="mailto:andy@gamponia.com">andy@gamponia.com</a> | KJ4MTP | 785-4651 |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------|

### WEB COMMITTEE — W4OVH.NET + Twitter & Facebook

|                                                                                                  |        |              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------|
| Kevin                                                                                            | W4RKU  | 540-445-5183 |
| John                                                                                             | KG4NXT | 789-6449     |
| Ken                                                                                              | KN4DD  | 622-2638     |
| Lynn                                                                                             | KX4HR  | 913-205-1742 |
| Web Committee "help request" email: <a href="mailto:webmaster@w4ovh.net">webmaster@w4ovh.net</a> |        |              |

### EMAIL REFLECTOR — [w4ovh@googlegroups.com](mailto:w4ovh@googlegroups.com)

|      |        |          |
|------|--------|----------|
| John | KG4NXT | 789-6449 |
|------|--------|----------|

### MANASSAS CHRISTMAS PARADE - OVH COORDINATOR

|     |        |          |
|-----|--------|----------|
| Rob | KR4EEV | 405-9564 |
|-----|--------|----------|

### LEGAL

|     |       |          |
|-----|-------|----------|
| Bob | K4HJF | 282-2451 |
|-----|-------|----------|

### MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

|        |        |          |
|--------|--------|----------|
| Luther | WA3FMO | 361-4885 |
|--------|--------|----------|

### NEWSLETTER

|      |      |          |
|------|------|----------|
| Paul | W4ZB | 754-0910 |
|------|------|----------|

### CHRISTMAS / YEAR END PARTY - CHAIRPERSON

|          |        |          |
|----------|--------|----------|
| Theresa. | KG4TVM | 257-3566 |
|----------|--------|----------|

### PROGRAMS

|      |        |          |
|------|--------|----------|
| John | KG4NXT | 789-6449 |
|------|--------|----------|

### THURSDAY NIGHT NET / REPEATER CONTROLLERS

|        |        |              |
|--------|--------|--------------|
| John   | KG4NXT | 789-6449     |
| Ken    | KE2N   | 753-8587     |
| George | K4GVT  | 791-5956     |
| Al     | KB4BHB | 368-4794     |
| Gil    | KM4OZH | 369-0431     |
| Jeff   | WB6UIE | 791-5916     |
| David  | KG4GIY | 361-3042     |
| Cat    | KM4PBD | 571-213-2179 |

### W4OVH — TRUSTEE

|     |        |          |
|-----|--------|----------|
| Gil | KM4OZH | 369-0431 |
|-----|--------|----------|

### W4PVA — TRUSTEE

|      |       |          |
|------|-------|----------|
| Jeff | WB4TT | 732-0285 |
|------|-------|----------|

### SCHOLARSHIP 2022

|     |       |          |
|-----|-------|----------|
| Ken | KN4DD | 622-2638 |
|-----|-------|----------|

### SUNSHINE

|         |        |          |
|---------|--------|----------|
| Theresa | KG4TVM | 257-3566 |
|---------|--------|----------|

### TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

|        |        |          |
|--------|--------|----------|
| Ken    | KE2N   | 753-8587 |
| Andy   | KJ4MTP | 786-4651 |
| George | K4GVT  | 791-5956 |
| Butch  | W4HJL  | 369-2877 |
| Bob    | K4HJF  | 335-1939 |
| David  | KG4GIY | 628-3868 |
| Gil    | KM4OZH | 369-0431 |

### HISTORIAN

|         |        |          |
|---------|--------|----------|
| Theresa | KG4TVM | 257-3566 |
|---------|--------|----------|

All telephone numbers listed above for Area Code 703 unless otherwise noted. This is the official monthly publication of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc., a §501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio, education related especially to radio activities, electronics, computers, science and STEM subjects, and public service activities. Copyright © 2026 by the Ole Virginia Hams which holds its regular monthly meetings at 7:30 p.m. every third Tuesday at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas, Virginia. Members, prospective members and other interested persons are invited to attend without obligation. Local information can also be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.970-, 224.660-, 442.200+ and 443.500+ MHz. Up to date information about OVH activities and its meetings is also available during the OVH's nets on its FM Repeaters each Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. or through the OVH's web site at <https://w4ovh.net> Articles in this newsletter may be reprinted if credit is given to the OVH ARC and other source(s) noted. Proposed materials for publication, classified ads, notes about specific errors, complaints or the like are solicited. Forward such items to the Newsletter Editor: [paul@w4zb.com](mailto:paul@w4zb.com). Approx. Circ.: 170. Last Rev: 20261004

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pictures and got pictures from Jerry / KR4EZZ and Gene / N4HFW. There were 211 bike riders and the event raised over \$85,000 for veterans and their families.

Looking to the future, OVH will again do communications for the Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving day. We show up in the morning and are released by 11:30 am or thereabouts. So, you can participate and not miss Thanksgiving dinner. We need a few more volunteers so contact me at kg4nxt@arrl.net or Theresa at kg4tvm@hotmail.com.

We also will do communications for the Manassas Christmas Parade on December 5 and we will have the OVH holiday party on December 6. As a final note, my 13 colonies certificate finally arrived. See, the picture of it later in this Newsletter.

Hope to see you at the upcoming regular meeting on Tuesday evening, October 20th.

73 John KG4NXT



## Sunshine Corner

Happy Birthday wishes to all of the following OVH club members with birthdays in October: Scott / KR4BNF, Phil / AI5TD, Ray / KM4EKR, Rob / KC4VDN, Bruce / WD4PAC, Eric / KO4MBI, and David / KY4MM.



OVH member, Fred / N3KVV, was involved in bad accident in late September, and is now recovering at a rehab facility in Frackville, Pennsylvania after two major surgeries and one relatively minor one (heart pacemaker implant). Even if all continues to go well, he is likely to be there for at least a few months before he will be able to return home to his farm. Fred is Paul's (W4ZB's) older brother and is primarily responsible for getting Paul interested in electronics and ham radio as a young teenager many years ago; Fred attended at least half of the old style annual Manassas Hamfests at the PWC Fairgrounds from the late 1970s to the last one. He also has a very large collection of ham radio equipment which may ultimately be offered for donation to the OVH.

I just recently went thru our membership list and compared it to the birthday list I have. There are quite a few members who I don't have birthday months for. So, if you don't see your name listed in your birthday month, please let me know at kg4tvm@hotmail.com

Willing Warriors Bike Ride was Saturday, September 12th. Thanks to the OVH members who provided radio support for this wonderful event.

On Sunday, September 20th we held a POTA event at Sky Meadows State Park. The weatherman did not help our event at all, claiming we were going to be completely drenched. Guess what – we didn't have any rain the whole time we were at the park! Congratulations to Mark / WA4KFZ for activating his first POTA park. We are thinking about having another activation at the Manassas Battlefield during Support your Parks

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weekend on October 18th. We will put info out on the reflector closer to the weekend.

Watch the club email reflector for updated information on radios/equipment for sale by the club.

OVH officers and directors got together this month for a brief meeting to discuss the budget, Holiday party and 2027 Hamfest.

Thanksgiving Day, our help has been requested at the annual Turkey Trot held at the Freedom Center in Manassas. The race starts at 8 and is usually over in about 2 hours. We need 3 to 4 volunteers to be on the course. This event is very well run and they really appreciate us being there. Please let us know if you can help out, [kg4nxt@arrl.net](mailto:kg4nxt@arrl.net) or [kg4tvm@hotmail.com](mailto:kg4tvm@hotmail.com)

Saturday, December 5th – Manassas Christmas Parade, volunteers needed for the parade route and we need someone to pull the club trailer thru the parade. Rob KR4EEV is the club lead for the parade and he is having a planning meeting on Tuesday, October 13th at Hog Shack on Dumfries Road. Watch the reflector for updated info on the parade.

Sunday, December 6th – OVH Holiday Party, new location, new time – card and invite will be mailed in November. Location is Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department, same place where we have our monthly club meetings. We will be in the big room next to the training room. This is a family event, please bring a dish to share. The club will provide turkey, ham, sodas, water and paper products. See you at 7190 Yates Ford Road, 5 pm to 7:30 pm., wear some holiday sparkle! RSVPs are appreciated but not required at [kg4tvm@hotmail.com](mailto:kg4tvm@hotmail.com)

Please make sure the club has your correct call sign, mailing address, etc. in the member's only section at [w4ovh.net](http://w4ovh.net)

Please send me your news, good, not so good and ham related info! [kg4tvm@hotmail.com](mailto:kg4tvm@hotmail.com)

Thursday night net at 8 pm is a great way to keep up with current events and hear what everyone is up to with their radios!

Happy Halloween to everyone!



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73 Theresa / KG4TVM   [kg4tvm@hotmail.com](mailto:kg4tvm@hotmail.com)   Tel: 703-257-3566

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### Some Possibly Interesting or Useful Information

Ham radio repeater (using digital voice) innovation using AI! The October 2026 issue of Funkamateurl (funkamateurl.de) describes an experimental D-STAR repeater system setup in Germany that combines human speech language recognition and translation AI systems (for English, German, Japanese, French, Spanish and Dutch) in the basic D-STAR system to enable hams speaking in any of those different languages to have actual voice QSOs through the repeater with each ham in the QSO only "hearing" the QSO partner(s) speaking in that ham's preferred language regardless of the language actually being spoken by the QSO partner(s). Main problems being worked on: performance falls off or may fail with fast talkers in any language, and time delays are uneven / difficult to predict when switching between speakers because the time needed to express a given idea orally varies in different languages.

# Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting held on September 15, 2026:

**General** - President, John Heartney / KG4NXT, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on September 15. The club meeting was held in the training room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station. All present stated their names and callsigns. There were 16 attendees at the club meeting.

**Program** - George / K4GVT, gave a presentation on the vulnerabilities of keyless entry systems commonly used on vehicles today. His presentation was excellent and focused on the theory of operation as well as a device that was legally designed by George while working for an outside firm. This was followed by a live demonstration in the parking lot using vehicles from W4OVH club members, with their permission, of course. This was the second time George presented his program this year and was brought back by popular demand.

**Minutes** - The minutes of the August 18, 2026 meeting were approved with one minor correction to membership.

**Treasurer's Report** – Theresa / KG4TVM, gave the financial report and it was approved.

**Membership business** – Donald Warf / KR4OUS, Technician class, applicant was read into the membership. His interests are SSB, and he has been Manassas CERT member. Glen Williamson / KR4EJX, General class, was voted in as a new OVH member. His interests are packet radio, CW, digital communications, cyber security, 3D printing, photography, and cars.

**Repeater Report** – No report.

**ARES** – No report.

**Website Report** – Lynn / KX4HR, noted that the website is up and running and plug-ins are up to date.

**Training** – Nothing to report.

**Sunshine Corner** – Theresa / KG4TVM, noted the club now has three 93-year-old members. This is truly amazing. Therese gave out a flyer for a chicken barbecue that will occur at the Buckhall fire department on September 15.

**POTA and Family picnic** – Theresa / KG4TVM announced that there will be a family picnic and POTA on September 20, 2026, at Sky Meadows State Park. The cost will be \$10 per car to attend the picnic.

**W4OVH Holiday Party** – Theresa / KG4TVM, announced that the W4OVH Holiday Party is set for December 6, 2026, and will be held at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department.

**Christmas Parade** – Theresa / KG4TVM, announced that the Christmas parade is set for December 5, 2026.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm to the parking lot and where George / K4GVT, gave a live demonstration on keyless entry systems.

## Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

### HAMFESTS:

No nearby hamfests scheduled in October or early November.

### OVH RELATED EVENTS

Saturday, December 5, 2026 early morning for the Manassas Christmas Parade, OVH volunteers needed to provide communications for the parade route and we also need someone to pull the club trailer thru the parade. Rob / KR4EEV will be in charge this year with assistance from George / K4GVT who will not be able to attend due to travel. More info to follow.

Sunday, December 6, 2026 - OVH Holiday Party, new location and new time this year – more details to be forthcoming, but save the date now.

### HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS

See, <https://www.arrl.org/contests> for the ARRL maintained Contesting web page; see also, NG3K.com and <https://contestcalendar.com> by WA7BNM for more radio contesting info!

### PUBLIC EVENTS / PUBLIC SERVICE / ARES EVENTS

Check the online Calendar on the OVH's web site at W4OVH.NET for information about upcoming OVH related events. Also, check the online Calendar maintained by David / KG4GIY at <http://pwcared.org> for the latest PWC ARES updates. Complete direct contact information for David / KG4GIY also appears on page 2 of this Newsletter.

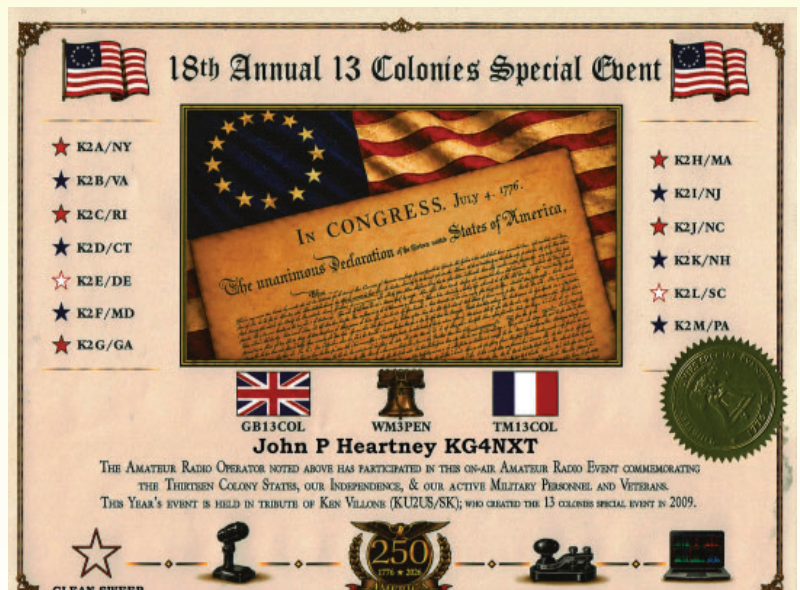
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### The 13 Colonies “contest” event in July 2026

The “13 Colonies” ham radio “contest” event occurs in early July each year. The object is for each ham radio station participant to work each of the special event stations in each of the 13 original colonies. For example, this year, the Virginia special event station was K2B. If you work them all of the 13 Colonies, you have a “Clean Sweep”. Three bonus stations were also available this year: one at the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, a station in Great Britain and a station in France.

OVH member, Don / WA2SWX / HC4DA got a sweep from his QTH in Ecuador this year. He did not submit his log until July 21 but his certificate arrived 2 month before that of John / KG4NXT. Other OVHers known to have participated include Al / KB4BHB and Wayne / N7QLK.

The certificate for participants this year was much better done than in previous years and included a bright gold seal. See, the “Clean Sweep” certificate received by John / KG4NXT.



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## Some More Possibly Interesting or Useful Information

This continues from last month's discussion about ham radio digital modes; I had intended to continue here first with further discussion of the "pure" digital modes, previously referred to as Morse Code and what are now the keyboard to keyboard (or computer to computer) type ham digital modes; but the AI innovation using D-STAR (vocoder digital voice) repeater mentioned above on page 4 of this Newsletter and an article in the November 2026 QST (see below) has caused me to shift emphasis in the following to discussion of ham radio related digital voice systems.

How are analog (e.g. microphone source voice) signals digitized? There are two basic approaches which are quite different and serve different purposes today.

The original and still widely used "brute force but effective" approach from about (now) 100 years ago (see, Wikipedia: Nyquist-Shannon Sampling Theory; Harry Nyquist and related) is based on the fundamental idea that a bandlimited analog signal (such as an analog voice signal) can be exactly reproduced from just a continuous time sequence of (very narrow, essentially zero duration) samples of the value of the analog signal values taken at intervals corresponding to at least twice the bandwidth limit. (See also, Wikipedia: Claude Shannon; Information Theory, and related.)

How is such a continuous sequence of analog values then converted to "digital?" There are many basic ways to do that, but one of the simplest to conceptualize (and the one discussed here) is by assigning a digital number corresponding approximately to each analog value in the continuous sequence of sampled analog values. For example, if one uses eight bit digital values, there are 256 possible values that can be represented by each eight bit digital sequence. If the magnitude of the continuous value range of the sequence of analog values is scaled to fit within 256 possible digital values, then the sequence of analog values can be approximated by a sequence of eight bit digital values. However, because the sequence of digital values can (mostly) only approximate the actual exact analog values, an average error will be introduced known as the quantization error during the digitization process, i.e., the digital encoding of the analog values. The level of the quantization error can be controlled (minimized) within practical limits by increasing the bit size of each digital value; for example, use of a 16 bit digital value will allow quantization for 65,536 possible analog values, which will allow a much more precise approximation of each analog value. These types of conceptually and relatively simple system are often referred to as pulse code modulation or PCM type systems.

For practical, very high fidelity digital recording of audio signals, sampling is done at more than twice the maximum bandwidth rate (e.g., to compensate for bandwidth limiting filter imperfections or assumptions), and using larger and larger digital word lengths (e.g. greater than 16 bit) to minimize the quantization error. The problem or trade-off in using those approaches to achieve very high fidelity digital recording of audio signals is that the digital bit rate needed to represent (or recreate) the original analog signal increases both with the sampling rate and the bit length of each digital value; and there are practical limits (due to imperfections in human hearing perception) on how far "high fidelity" really needs to go. Standard audio CDs record using 16 bit digital words (providing approximately a 96 db dynamic range) and 44.1 kHz sample rate (twice an assumed bandwidth limit of 22.05 kHz). Because the bandwidth of most normal human speech is 4 kHz or less (or certainly 8 kHz or less), many "satisfactory" voice signal sampling standards were limited 8 kHz (or 16 kHz).

These PCM type systems still required relatively high bit rates to digitize human

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speech and then reconvert it to an analog form as compared to what could be achieved with a completely different approach - referred to generically as the vocoder or linear predictive encoder / decoder approach which was first developed in the late 1930s. The current state of vocoder / linear predictive coding system technologies are excellent example of how improvements in "source encoding" techniques (as distinct from "channel encoding" techniques) to eliminate "information source" redundancy would likely eventually be discovered per Claude Shannon in his brilliant 1948 paper, "The Mathematical Theory of Communications." See, Wikipedia: Claude Shannon; Information Theory; and Vocoder.

The vocoder approach for human speech does not use the "brute force but highly effective" method of sampling an analog signal at the Nyquist rate and then digitizing the analog samples to minimize the quantization error to a desired level, but instead, takes advantage of innate structures and characteristics of human speech, by extracting (and digitizing) a minimum set a speech parameters and characteristics, and then digitizing (encoding) them for digital transmission. At the receiving end, the vocoder approach extracts the speech parameters and characteristics from the digital code sequences received, and then uses those to recreate the human speech sounds using circuitry that mimics the processes by which human speech is created.

Many of the early vocoder systems, including into the 1960s, sounded robotic to point that it might not be possible for the listener to the decoded output from a vocoder system even to recognize the voice sounds sufficiently to identify a particular speaker who was well known to the listener; nevertheless, the content of the voice sounds could be understood by the listener even though it was often robotic sounding and interrupted or interfered with by odd squawks and other non-speech like sounds. Of course, once it was recognized that vocoder systems could function effectively and at much, much lower transmission bit rates than Nyquist rate sampled systems, enormous research resources were put into developing vocoder based digital voice systems.

The end result of that is that by now, vocoder (linear predictive coder) systems have improved greatly and are very widely used for many (if not most or almost all) modern digital speech based systems. One of the factors / consequences of the massive and rapid improvements in vocoder based digital speech systems is that many of the different vocoder systems now in use are only compatible or usable with one, or just a few, particular vocoder implementations because the implementations depend upon proprietary hardware (integrated circuit) devices or software. This may eventually change as more and more vocoder systems are now being implemented in software.

Some examples pertinent to ham radio: D-STAR from its inception almost 20 years ago has been a vocoder based system. See, Wikipedia: D-STAR. Same for DMR and System Fusion systems, as well as most modern cellular telephone systems which now offer sufficient voice sound fidelity that speaker recognition problems are now a thing of the past.

A group of highly technically oriented hams is currently working diligently to develop open standards for HF digital voice systems (based upon vocoder type approaches), mostly with software implementations, which may ultimately be adopted for HF radio operations to replace existing SSB voice operations. Ham SSB voice operations on HF have flourished since the early 1960s when HF operations using AM voice became obsolete due to the proliferation of ham SSB equipment and operators. For these current ham radio developments, see, <https://freedv.org> and also, the article, "Radio Autoencoder," in QST for November 2026 at pages 30-33.

More next month about ham radio digital modes, particularly the "pure" digital modes, Morse Code and what are now the keyboard to keyboard (or compute to compute) type ham digital modes.