



Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society

April 2004

Website: cvars.org

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Official Record

Executive Board Meeting March 10, 2004

The CVARS Executive Board met on Wednesday evening at the home of Johnny Jackson, KQ7JJ. The meeting was called to order at 6:55 PM.

Present were: Kim Aiken, AC7YY, President; Bob Willey, KD7OWN, Vice President, Steve Pack, WB7VAS, Treasurer; John Bertels, WA7LFJ, Board Member, Johnny Jackson, KQ7JJ, Board Member; John Ellingson, K7OSK, Board Member and Jim VanderMeer, KC7ASV, Board Member. Gary Litteer, K7PG was present as a visitor.

Treasurer's Report: Steve reported the club received renewals for five members and dues for one new member at March's general meeting.

Old Business: Elmering Committee – John Jackson reports he has sold two of the ARRL "Now Your Talking" books and will have them for sale at the March license class dates. Swapmeet Committee – John Ellingson reports the Swapmeet is set for July 31st with final insurance needs still to be met.

New Business: The Executive Board elected Jim VanderMeer as Field Day Coordinator. Jim will have the ability to appoint assistants as needed and will coordinate facilities, equipment, scheduling and food. The Board also discussed appointing a Public Information Officer (PIO) for the club. President Kim Aiken will do more research on this responsibility and will bring the information back to the board at a later date. Having nothing further for the board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Darwin Awards Story # 1

The "Darwin Awards" are out for this year and I couldn't pass up the chance to tell you about a few of them. The Darwin Awards commemorate those who improve our gene pool by trying to remove themselves from it.

1: A man in Alabama died from a rattlesnake bite. It seems that he and a friend were playing catch using a real, live rattlesnake as a ball. The friend at least recovered after being hospitalized.

The Importance Of Smoke

As Adopted By CVARS Members

Fundamentally, all electrical and amateur radio equipment depends on proper design and properly functioning circuitry. This according to our illustrious professor Jim, KC7ASV. These functions depend on the transmissions of charged ions by retention of the visible spectral manifestation known as "smoke" Yes, it is a little known fact but according to Mike, AC7UP, smoke is indeed the thing that makes electrical "thingys" work. Some have been fooled by hearing someone like Gil, N7PRJ talk about excited electrons and the like. Not so! Smoke is the key to all things electrical.

We know this to be true because every time Terry, KQ7K lets the smoke out of an electrical circuit (or police prisoner van-but that is another story) it stops working. This has been verified repeatedly through strenuous testing by others. For example, when Johnny, KQ7JJ placed a large copper bar across the terminals of a battery, copious quantities of "smoke" was liberated and he reported the battery soon quit functioning (Terry, that means it don't worky no more)

Kim, AC7YY, President of the Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Club, says the logic in all this is elementary and inescapable! His time as President of this club has shown him we, as a group, are generally far ahead of other clubs in this type of advance thinking.

Steve, WB7VAS, as Treasurer reminds us that smoke is very expensive. Just ask what it costs to put that smoke back into a ham rig after you have let it out. Steve has been smart enough to place numerous smoke detectors near his equipment so he will know the moment that tricky "smoke" tries to escape. Bill, AC7SR, our ARES leader has been known to request a Search & Rescue number and quickly put together a team to go looking for escaping smoke but, just in case, carries spare smoke in his "go bag".

Yes, "smoke" is important and vital to any ham radio equipment. It is sometimes difficult finding new smoke to replace that which has inadvertently escaped. Eric, KD7CAO, reminds us that while smoke rarely reaches his nose at 6' 64 inches, Staples does carry replacement smoke if needed.

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Importance Of Smoke – continued

Editor's note: I apologize to those fine CVARS members mentioned in this article but couldn't write this piece without thinking of many in our club. "Smoke" was carelessly adapted from "A Treatise on the Importance of Smoke" written by Joseph Lucas and found on the internet. Sorry Mr. Lucas!

Happy April Fools Day

Dates To Remember

April 3rd – Missouri QSO Party
April 7th – CVARS meeting 7:30 PM
April 10th – Japan International DX Contest
April 10th – Georgia QSO Party
April 14th – CVARS Board meeting 6:30 PM
April 17th – Yakima Hamfest
May 8th – Historic Lewis County Bike Ride
May 22/23rd – Search & Rescue Conference
June 18-20th – SEAPAC Hamfest, Seaside, OR
June 26/27th – Field Day

It's Corny But It's A Ham Joke

Two antennas met on the roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent!

The question is if they had a child would they name it Aerial? If so, their marriage must be well grounded

(Groan!)

Broadband Over Powerline Comments

Filing deadline for comments on the FCC Broadband over Powerline (BPL) is set for May 3, 2004. The league suggests that we as hams write to the FCC to state our objections to the implementation of BPL. The dockets for the Notice of Proposed Rule Making are ET 03-104 and 04-37. Refer to these when you send your letter. Be polite and informative, not accusatory. State the facts. If you need more info check out the ARRL web page at www.arrl.net for further factual information. If you have questions contact our Section Manager, Ed Bruette. He is very well informed on this topic. You can reach him at ebruerre@silverlink.net and he will answer your questions. The FCC can be contacted at <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. – Terry. KQ7K

Hams Needed – Sign Up Now!

On the morning of July 4th the Centralia Police Officers Association will be having a 10K run/walk. They are in need of some volunteers. NO, you don't have to run. This is public service at its best. We will be providing radio communications support for the event. As of now, we are looking at needing 7-10 volunteers. If you have never done something like this before, come on out and we will team you up with a "professional volunteer". This is a great activity for everyone including those with new Technician licenses so come on down and let's have fun. I will be providing more details as they become available. Contact Terry KQ7K at 360-807-6187 for more information.

More Darwin Awards:

Story # 2: In Elyria, Ohio, in October, Martyn Eskins, attempting to clean out cobwebs in his basement, declined to use a broom in favor of a propane torch and caused a fire that burned the first and second floors of his house.

Story # 3: Paul Stiller, 47, was hospitalized in Andover Township, NJ, and his wife Bonnie was also injured, when a quarter stick of dynamite blew up in their car. While driving around at 2 AM, the bored couple lit the dynamite and tried to toss it out the window to see what would happen, but apparently failed to notice the windows of the car were closed!

Story #4: Overzealous zookeeper Friedrich Riesfeldt (Paderborn, Germany) fed his constipated elephant Stefan twenty two doses of animal laxative and more than a bushel of berries, figs and prunes before the plugged-up pachyderm finally let it fly, and suffocated the keeper under 200 pounds of poop! Investigators say ill-fated Friedrich, 46, was attempting to give the ailing elephant an olive oil enema when the relieved beast unloaded on him. "The sheer force of the elephant's unexpected defecation knocked Mr. Riesfeldt to the ground, where he struck his head on a rock and lay unconscious as the elephant continued to evacuate his bowels on top of him" Said flabbergasted Paderborn police detective Erik Dern. With no one there to help him, he lay under all that dung for at least an hour before a watchman came along, and during that time he suffocated. It seems to be just one of those freak accidents that "stuff happens."

New Hams & New Members Welcomed

The following new hams passed their testing during the second weekend in March. One year's CVARS membership comes with a successful score on the test. Be sure to welcome them and give them your congratulations!

- Jeff Mayfield, KE7ACE, Chehalis, Washington
- Eric Lawver, KE7ACF, Chehalis, Washington
- Donna Upton, KE7ACG, Onalaska, Washington
- James Beachboard, KE7ACH, Centralia, WA
- Evelyn Dailey, KE7ACI, Silverlake, WA

Brandon Upton, just barely missed a passing score, but has become a CVARS member and several members have expressed a willingness to help him prepare for the next opportunity so be sure to welcome him to the club and support his efforts.

Thought For The Day

Remember: If you can't be a good example, then you'll just have to be a horrible warning!

So You Want That QSL?

By Hillar, N6HR

Hey, you just worked XY0ZZ, broke the pileup and it's a new country and you wanted that QSL right N-O-W! ASAP! Yes? Dream on, fellow!

Like in anything else, there is a right way and a wrong way to go about getting that coveted QSL card, with variations. But – let me bring some examples and explain how to go about doing it the right way the first time!

PATIENCE is the operative word in QSLing. Also, research and knowledge are some of the required attributes to successful QSLing... And, QSLs – no matter what – will cost you some long green...

In the very basic sense, there are just three ways of getting that QSL: “direct”, or via a “QSL manager”, or via “the Bureau”. The ‘bureau route’ is the slowest (and the least expensive) but be ready to receive that QSL in about 2 or 3 YEARS! Yes, years!

In the realm of DXCC entities, there are resident hams and there are visiting hams. The resident hams are usually listed in the Callbook and if the chap says “CBA” – that means QSL via the Callbook Address. If you don't have a callbook, punch up www.qrz.com and a section there lists all kinds of QSL information. Now, sending your QSL direct to a resident ham also implies that you also might want a reply QSL via direct mail. Yes? Can you imagine Ramon PZ5RA answering 1000 QSLs if he had to pay for all that postage? No way! So YOU include a self-addressed envelope and a ‘green stamp’ (\$1 US Dollar) – or an IRC – which stands for “International Reply Coupon”. An IRC allows the return of one envelope stamp at air mail rates from any country belonging to the International Postal Union. But alas! The \$1 – US ‘green stamp’ does not buy a return air mail stamp any more in lots of countries: Like Germany, England, Finland, Sweden, etc, etc. So better make it \$2. (Air mail postage from Germany to USA is \$1.85 – in euros!) As you can see, this ‘direct’ method can set you back lots of bucks in a hurry!

The second way is via a “QSL Manager”. This is common for most visiting hams – like contest stations and DXpeditionary visitors. These hams get a callsign for a limited duration and they operate and then they are gone – back home or someplace else. Recently some DXpeditions racked up tens of thousands of QSOs, and for someone like Martti EA8BH (alias OH2BH) it is nothing to make 3000 QSOs in one contest over a single weekend! Such stations all have QSL managers. That's where your QSL should go – if it goes anywhere else it will be lost forever! Again, www.qrz.com has a rather complete database of QSL managers. Like before, a “s.a.e.” is a must with appropriate postage. The good news is that lots of such DXpeditions stations have stateside QSL managers and so a “s.a.s.e.” (self addressed stamped envelope) will get you that QSL. For 37 cents return postage! Much easier on the pocketbook! Examples: PJ2T routes his QSLs through stateside QSL manager N9AG; ZD8Z goes to VE3HO (Canada – 60 cents); J37K goes to AC8G etc, etc. Stateside managers like W3HNC, KU9C, N2AU handle dozens of DXpeditions and contest stations.

The third way is “via the Bureau”. This is sort of a bulk mailing system. Here in the USA, you can package up to 75 QSLs in alphabetical order, add \$6 – and send it to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau in Newington. There the ARRL staff separates your cards into envelopes or boxes going to other countries and that sort of bulk mail goes out from ARRL every 90 days if not sooner (if the box to Japan (JA), for instance, is full – off in the mail it goes!) But it is ‘parcel post’ – not airmail! When it gets to the other bureau, the box is ‘unsorted’ and separated into whatever system the other country uses – and then it is forwarded to the individual ham. When that ham replies to your QSL, the reverse takes place! Thus a 2-year overall cycle is about average... There are some ‘caveats’ involved in this system, too. First, not all countries have QSL bureaus! So make sure the other country has a bureau! Second, some countries only distribute QSLs to members of their own societies. The German bureau, for instance, does NOT forward cards if the other ham is not a paid-up member of DARC. Ditto for the Italians! And for a few other countries. Your card will then ‘bounce’ – come back – after 2 or 3 years on the road! Bad show – as the Brits would say!

So in summary, make sure you know just where to send your QSL! If in doubt – don't send it – it will only end up as a firestarter for some b-b-q! If in doubt – ask the other station: “where to QSL?” (in CW vernacular, “QSL via?”). And check such sources as Pathfinder, K4UTE directory, QRZ.com or dozens of others. SEND YOUR QSL ONLY TO WHERE YOU GET AN ANSWER IN KIND! And above all – be patient! 73 – Hillar N6HR

Do You Think This Way?

- Sometimes you're the bug, sometimes you're the windshield.
- Why buy shampoo when real poo is still free?
- I'm so depressed...I went to the Dr. today and he refused to write me a prescription for Viagra. Said it would be like putting a new flagpole on a condemned building.
- And on the eighth day God said, “OK Murphy, You take over”.
- RAP is to music what Etch-a-Sketch is to art.
- Dogs come when they are called; cats take a message and get back to you.
- How do you say constipated in German?...“Farfrumpoopen”.
- Suppose you were an idiot, and suppose you were a member of congress...but wait, I repeat myself.
- Just what did man THINK he was doing when he discovered milk came from cows?

-From W3oz webpage-thanks!

Last Two Darwin Awards

Story # 5: When Gerald was pulled over by police for erratic driving, he decided it was better to flee from the stolen car on foot, rather than face possible jail time for a parole violation. This was the first of two successive mental lapses. Gerald's actual thoughts are unknown, but "may" have been something like this: "The officers are only suspicious and alert now...I'll make them hot, sweaty, tired and angry by leading them on a wild chase through dark alleys and fields."

During the subsequent foot chase, Gerald attempted to dissuade officers from the pursuit by firing a 9mm Ruger semiautomatic handgun blindly over his shoulder. This was the second illustration of a potential mental deficiency. "Officers are running behind me. They have guns. I have a gun! They have eyes in the front of their heads, so they can see to aim at me. I don't have eyes in the back of my head, so I'll fire wildly behind me and see what happens!"

Unfortunately, Gerald appears to have been one of those folks who can't chew gum and walk at the same time. Or at least he couldn't flee and fire at the same time. While discharging the weapon over his shoulder, Gerald managed to shoot himself in the head with his own gun, bringing the chase to a sudden conclusion. Four shots were fired, none by the officers, who found Gerald's pistol next to his fallen body. Gerald was transported to a local hospital where he expired the following day.

Story # 5: A man tried to commit a robbery in Renton, Washington. This was probably his first attempt, as suggested by the fact that he had no previous record of violent crime and by his terminally stupid choices as listed below:

1. The target was H&J Leather & Firearms, a gun shop.
2. The shop was full of customers, in a state where a substantial portion of the adult population is licensed to carry concealed handguns if public.
3. To enter the shop, he had to step around the marked Police car parked at the front door.
4. An officer in uniform was standing next to the counter, having coffee before reporting to duty.

Upon seeing the officer, the would-be robber announced a holdup and fired a few wild shots into the air. The officer and a clerk promptly returned fire, removing him from the gene pool. Several other customers also drew their guns, but didn't fire. No one else was hurt.

(Aw, they make my job so much more interesting)

CVARS Net Operators For April

Sunday, April 4th – Steve Pack, WB7VAS
Sunday, April 11th – Open (sign up with Doug)
Sunday, April 18th – Bob Willey, KD7OWN
Sunday, April 25th – Loyann Munyan, KC7KCJ

Most of May is still open. Let's help Doug out and be prepared to sign up for an evening next meeting. Seems like the same people are doing all the work.

April's Program

Ron Hill, W7NN, has earned just about every DX award known. He gave a great presentation on the subject at a recent Olympia Amateur Radio Society meeting I attended along with Steve Pack and Johnny Jackson recently so I asked if he could come and speak to our group as well.

Ron is also the owner of "Hamstuff" and produces ham items such as QSL card boxes, signs, hats, and those great "specialty" CVARS clocks we auctioned off recently. If you are thinking you too want one of those great clocks, Ron will be on hand to take your order. I don't know what he will be bringing in the way of business items but he is sure to have something interesting. Check out his line of Amateur Radio items at his website www.hamstuff.com.

Thanks For The Antenna Party

Howard Mayhew, KB7RYJ, needed a little help with his antenna recently due to the length of the mast and the additional eight foot antenna on the end.

On Saturday March 27th, several CVARS members went to assist him with a short antenna party. Howard says those helping were John Jackson, KQ7JJ, Gary Litteer, K7PG, Jeff Mayfield, KE7ACE, Bob Oliverio, KA8COP, and Terry Neumann, KQ7K.

The group chatted a little before and after the antenna raising while having donuts and coffee. Howard says he had too many donuts left over and is still eating them. (I KNEW I should have gone to that party – umm, donuts) Howard wants to pass along his thanks for a job well done. Good Job guys. Next antenna party needs to be Al Jorgenson so keep a few hours available if you can.

CQ WPX Contest Is Over But.....

CQ WPX in March was the last of the BIG contests for this spring but, as Hillar, N6HR reminds us, that just gives us all a breather to get a little more metal into the air before the big one come in the fall. That will be the Mother of all SSB contests and is called the CQ Worldwide Phone Contest held on the last weekend in October. Last year some 160 + countries were on the air looking for you!

Meanwhile there are smaller contests to hone your vocal shouting skills starting with Field Day followed July 1st by the Canada Day Contest, The IARU (International Amateur Radio Union) comes on July 10/11th and the IOTA (Islands On The Air) contest at the end of the month. Hillar is lucky. He lives on IOTA NA-065! Some people have all the luck. Hillar and Elsie just sit tight and let the pileups come to them!

So tune the antennas, plant some tower and steal a decent radio so you'll be ready when they come again. AND, don't forget the LXpedition here in beautiful Lewis County. Hmmm.....what will it be this year?

Unusual QSL

I received my first "R" rated QSL card today. I'm going to have to change my simple QSL cards! Wanta see it? Hmmm...it's from Dutch Sint Maarten and I don't think I can show it to you (blush). 73's Bob