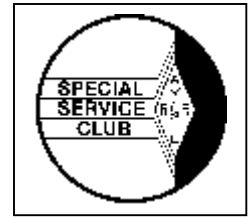


# Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society



Website: [cvars.org](http://cvars.org)

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## Official Record

### Executive Board Meeting April 14, 2004

The CVARS Executive Board met on Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at the home of Johnny Jackson, KQ7JJ. The meeting was called to order at 6:42 PM.

Present were: Kim Aiken, AC7YY, President; Bob Willey, KD7OWN, Vice-President; Steve Pack, WB7VAS, Treasurer; John Jeschke, KD7SXV, Secretary, and Board Members Johnny Jackson, KQ7JJ, Jim VanderMeer, KC7ASV, and John Ellingson, K7OSK.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Steve Pack reported the club had four new members and three renewals as of the regular CVARS general meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup>. This brings club membership to 63.

Old Business: Johnny Jackson, KQ7JJ, reported on the Elmering Committee. No new book sales since the recent classes. Johnny said approximately eight club members are currently being Elmered by various hams. He also reports the recent antenna party for Howard Mayhew, KB7RYJ, went well.

Jim VanderMeer, KC7ASV, Field Day Chairman, reported on the progress of this event. He is making good progress and will be calling on several members to assist (see requests later in newsletter). Jim is planning a "5A" setup and a potluck dinner!

John Ellingson, K7OSK, reported on the Swapmeet. He has the date, location and insurance set up and is working out the fine details of how this event will occur. It will be held again at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds but will be a "tailgate" type of Hamfest this year and will be held outside (but under cover). Those needing a table should contact John as soon as possible.

New Business: Ron Hill, W7NN and our speaker at the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, has expressed an interest in attending the Swapmeet as a vendor. Bob Willey and John Ellingson will make e-mail contact to be sure this happens.

President Kim Aiken asked for volunteers for the position of club Public Information Officer. Bob Willey, KD7OWN volunteered to try the position. Having no further business for the board the meeting was adjourned.

## Welcome

### New CVARS Members

Four new members joined the Chehalis Valley Amateur Society ranks at our general membership meeting on Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Please take time to welcome them to the club. They are:

- Jim Nodell, WB7BHN, Rochester
- Michaelle Fries, KD7LWM, Winlock
- Klaus Neubert, AC7MG, Olympia
- Adam Ferriss, KD7TQX, Tacoma

### The BedSpring Antenna

(also known as the BS Antenna)

contributed by Bonnie, KQ6XA from the hfpack Ham Radio Group at [hfpack@yahoo.com](mailto:hfpack@yahoo.com)

BedSprings are found everywhere you go, so it's not necessary to carry them around for instant use in temporary HF Portable installations. BedSpring Antennas are broadly resonant, and two of them can be used in what is known as the TBSD configuration (Twin BedSpring Dipole), a low loss broadband dipole. For contesting, stacked TBSD –BS Antennas are the proven performer, known by DXers as "Bunk Busters". Keep in mind, these are HORIZONTAL polarized antennas, and NO counterpoise is ever needed for the TBSD configuration!

For the homebrew enthusiast, a TBSD (Twin BedSprings Dipole) will load directly into 50 ohms perfectly with a low SWR on many ham bands just by moving the alligator clips to different contact points. For those really big QRO kilowatts, and better performance at lower frequencies, try the CKBSD (California King BedSpring) configuration. Use different lengths of clip lead wires or braid connected to a BNC (Bedspring N-tenna Connector). The BedSpring Antenna is flat out, the highest level of HF planer antenna engineering one can find in the average room. BS Antennas are known for their lack of noise and quiet receive properties. They are useful whenever the operator experiences frequent fading. BS Antennas have a colorful history. Many

BS Antennas are used by government agencies and they have even played an active role during wartime for the most sensitive undercover operations.

The original BS Antenna patent holder made some wild claims in the 1940s about it actually having "gain over an isotropic"! Many antenna designers at the time scoffed that it was just a ploy to land a cushy government contract. Since then, the BS Antenna has been the constant subject of both ridicule and speculation among the HF Portable community. One independent antenna expert, who prefers to remain anonymous but is known only by his initials, remarked "They're dreaming!" when interviewed about the BS Antenna's outrageous decibel claims for this article. Laughing all the way to the bank, the rich BS Antenna inventor led a comfortable soft life for a while until foreign competition slipped in. To keep afloat during the liquid antenna craze of the 1970s, the BS Antenna Company just couldn't be kept down, so they brought the inventor back out of retirement, and rebounded into the more profitable vertical antenna market. Here in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with the latest advancements in portable HF transceiver technology, the recent market for BS Antennas has sprung back with amazing gusto, with some manufacturers touting their use of "NASA technology" and "Swedish DX Techniques"

The BS Antenna should, of course, not be confused with the new BSh Antenna (BumperShoot Antenna). BSh Antenna technology, which originally was held under an umbrella of secrecy, is now out the door and running against the wind with stiff competition for BS. Although BumperShoot Inc. has weathered the legal storm of trademark dispute between its rival and become popular, there is still a great deal of brand "name recognition" for BS among the general public. In a recent ARPL poll, BedSpring's technology was firm with a 78% rating in the "Somewhat more broadband" category as opposed to BumperShoot's whimpy 20% standing (2% undecided). BS Antenna's aging inventor says that "BS will always win hands-down", but the slick spokesperson for BumperShoot will always carry it if there is a level playing field under adverse environmental conditions. The BSh Antenna inventor further comments, "While we admit that the BS Antenna has great low angle DXing properties, it always falls flat on its back when it tries to work skywave". The Vice President for Antenna Marketeering at BS Antenna Company is not about to take those kind of comments lying down, and says, "BS remains one of the most profitable technologies so far known in the antenna industry". It will be interesting to hear some field reports from operators on how well they do in "actual on-the-air DX and skywave QSOs" compared to some other famous antennas like the broadband LBA (LightBulb Antenna), the WFA (WindowFrame Antenna), the SDA (ScreenDoor Antenna) and of course...the controversial DRRR (Directly Driven Radiator Radiator). Perhaps all can be laid to rest then

## Life's Little Questions

- Who was the first person to look at a cow and say, "I think I'll squeeze these dangly things here and drink whatever comes out"?
- Can a hearse carrying a corpse drive in the carpool lane?
- If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why can't he fix a hole in a boat?
- If quizzes are quizzical, what are tests?
- If a man is talking in the forest, and no woman is there to hear him, is he still wrong?
- If corn oil is made from corn and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, then what is baby oil made from?

## Empourtint Datz

- May 5<sup>th</sup> – CVARS meeting, Chehalis
- May 8<sup>th</sup> – Lewis County Historical Bike Ride
- May 21-23 – SAR Conference, Lewis County
- June 16<sup>th</sup> – Kid's day on HF bands
- June 26-27 – Field Day
- July 4<sup>th</sup> – Centralia 10K run (need Ham Volunteers for this event)
- July 17 – Lewis County Sheriff's Day, Centralia

## CVARS Sunday Nite Net

I just wanted to remind everyone to take a few minutes and join our club's Sunday Night Net. It seems only a few "regulars" make it to this net but it certainly would be more fun if a few "new" voices could come by and say hello.

The net is scheduled for 8:00 PM local time on the Mt. St. Helens repeater, located at 147.43 (negative offset). If you need help programming your radio for this, don't be shy, ask anyone. Really, it takes just a few minutes to join in and give a few words about how your week has gone, so join us and give us a chance to talk to you. Who knows, you may even want to try being net control and Doug Skaggs is always looking for new helpers.

## Lewis County Historical Bike Ride

It is time, once again, for us to support the annual Lewis County Historical Bike Ride. This ride provides several different distances for bicyclists who love to put on the miles (usually anywhere from 20-100 in one day) and is great preparation for the yearly Seattle-To-Portland bike ride in July.

We as hams, provide important support services monitoring the bike riders as they pass and keeping track of their progress or emergency needs.

This is a great place, especially for those new hams, to learn about Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) and have some real fun too! If you're new to this event, we can pair you up with someone who "knows the ropes". The event is scheduled for Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup>. For more information, call Bill Harwell or email him at [ac7sr@arrl.net](mailto:ac7sr@arrl.net). See you there!

## Some HF Special Events

Here are a few HF special events or contest dates that sound like fun. A complete listing can be found in QST or on line at the ARRL web site.

- Conway, AR: Faulkner County Amateur Radio Club, W5AUU, May 1<sup>st</sup> – “Toad Suck Daze Festival”. Certificate available. 21.359, 14.250
- Baton Rouge, LA: USS Kidd Amateur Radio Club, W5KID, May 30<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day. 14.250 to 14.350. Certificate available.

## Equipment Needs For Field Day

Jim VanderMeer, this year's Field Day Coordinator is looking for equipment and volunteers for Field Day. This year, Field Day will be June 26-27 and will be held again at Stan Hedwall Park in Chehalis.

Jim is working towards a “5a” Field Day so he will need at least five radios. In addition, he can use a few antennas, coax and logging programs.

If you have equipment available or are able to volunteer your time, contact Jim at [jvandermeer2003@yahoo.com](mailto:jvandermeer2003@yahoo.com). Come join the fun. There will be some slight changes to this year's event so join the group for some fun!

## The Positive Side Of Life

-provided by Steve Pack, WB7VAS

- Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.
- Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?
- If Walmart is lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?
- Some mistakes are just too much fun to only make once.
- We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names and all are different colors...but they all exist very nicely in the same box.
- A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.
- How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.

## The May General CVARS Meeting Program

May's “Cinco de Mayo” program, appropriately enough, will be presented by Mr. Dave Chappell of Centralia. Dave is not a ham radio operator but is still worth listening to. Dave is a “weather enthusiast” and has his own web page on local weather (check out <http://mywebpages.comcast.net/dchappell/weather/wx.htm>). In a former life, Dave has been both a police officer and a politician, He speaks fluent Spanish and is a high school teacher in the area.

Dave will talk about weather resources available publicly on the Internet, weather forecasting, weather charts and how to read them and some basic physics of common Pacific Northwest weather phenomena. Should be fun!

## Inscription In Lobby of Children's Hospital:

“We have not succeeded in answering all your problems. The answers we have found today only serve to raise a whole set of new questions. In some ways we feel we are as confused as ever, but we believe we are confused on a higher level and about more important things.”



## DX Thoughts

By Hillar Raamat, N6HR

Isn't it surprising that DX is sometimes much louder than the locals and that you can work them with a wire antenna and 100 watts? But, as you've heard before, you can only work what you can hear. – and that's where better antennas come in. Even a so-so beam is good for 6 db anytime – and that's a whole S-Unit gain. A scratchy signal suddenly becomes readable!!! And a good beam will allow you to break pileups like nuttin'!

But some 'sleuthing' also always helps. Scanning the band is super, but be sure to work every strong signal that you can hear. The propagation changes every 20-30 minutes on ALL bands! What might have been a mediocre signal 20 minutes ago all of a sudden becomes LOUD – or has vanished completely! That's what makes the contesting fun-new stations pop up constantly. Moral: don't chase mediocre signals! If they get louder, they are easier to work – if they have vanished – you were chasing a dead horse in the first place! Other stations are on from that some 'new country'! You'll work them! You ask why?

Hams spend lots of bucks to go to odd places for the contest, dragging gear and antennas along – and they will be in that contest 48 HOURS! That's why they went there! In the DXpeditions Elsie and I have been on – we have easily spent \$1 for every QSO we have made if we consider our travel costs. 2000Qs? – Heck we spent that much on the airfare! Working Rick K7NK on 75 meters from J3A was worth \$5! Working N7LE, etc from 6Y6L was about \$1 apiece ( we made over 7000 Qs from there)...And it's worth every penny to give hams a 'new one' from whoever operates from anywhere! That's the 'payback'!

One of these days you may be doing the same thing. Even from Hawaii it's a load of fun to be on the “DX end” of things. You'll have a pileup of Jas (Japan) like you have never heard in your life! With 100 watts and a wire out of the condo window! A long wire on to the fence of the tennis court makes you a superstation!

One other thing... our military men and women are getting on the air from Afghanistan and Iraq with their callsigns – YA8G ( a K7 from Ft. Lewis) was easily workable the other morning look for us Washingtonians! George K7YMA is on from Iraq as Y19YMA, so go listen for them and work them! They appreciate a 'back home' QSO! OK – yours truly and N7YX (Elsie) are off to Visalia for the International DX Convention so we'll report on the DX happenings from there next time!

C u in the pileups!

-73 Hillar n6HR



**Pssst**

## **Wanna Buy A CVARS Club Jacket?**

Well, maybe you have seen some of your fellow club members sporting those stylish and quite prestigious CVARS club jackets and said to yourself, "Self, you gotta get you one of those". Here is your chance. It has been almost four years since the club placed an order. The number of jackets ordered will determine the cost per jacket. Here is the cost breakdown:

- 1-3 jackets = \$55 per jacket
- 4-6 jackets = \$49 per jacket
- 7-12 jackets = \$44 per jacket
- 13-24 jackets = \$41 per jacket

**Size S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X**

**\*add \$2.50 for 2X and \$4.50 for 3X**

This cost includes \$5.00 per jacket to help support your club. This cost also includes your name and/or callsign. You should give some thought to having your callsign put on your jacket. If you are going to keep your callsign forever you might want to have it included. If you are planning to upgrade and change your callsign or take advantage of the vanity program you might not want to have it put on.

Orders will be taken at the May 5<sup>th</sup> club meeting. If you want a jacket, be prepared to place your order and pay for it at the meeting. Steve Pack, the club Treasurer will take the money and place one order in order to save some money. Don't miss this opportunity!  
De KQ7K 73 es tnx Terry

## **Mt. St. Helens Repeater News**

Bill Harwell, AC7SR, the "head guy in charge" of the Mt. St. Helens Repeater says he is ready to place the tone board on the repeater. When this tone board is installed, you will need a PL tone of 110.9 plugged into your 2 meter radio to access the repeater. This may be installed by the time you receive the newsletter. Programming the PL tone ahead of time won't cause any problems, so dig out those manuals and figure out how to plug the tone in so you won't miss the Sunday evening net!

## **Country Wisdom?**

- Keep skunks and lawyers at a distance.
- A bumble bee is faster than a John Deere tractor
- Don't skinny dip with snapping turtles.
- Never lay an angry hand on a kid or an animal. It just ain't helpful.
- Teachers, Moms and hoot owls sleep with one eye open.
- Forgive your enemies. It messes with their heads.
- Two can live a cheap as one if one don't eat.
- Don't corner something meaner than you.
- Man is the only critter who feels the need to label things as flowers or weeds.
- Don't go hunting with a fellow named Chug-a-lug
- Every path has some puddles
- Don't wrestle with pigs: You'll get all muddy and the pigs will love it.

## **This Makes Sense!**

The Ten Commandments display was removed from the Alabama Supreme Court building. There was a good reason for the move. You can't post Thou Shalt Not Steal, Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery and Thou Shalt Not Lie in a building full of lawyers and Politicians without creating a hostile work environment!

## **Looking For Some Weekend Fun?**

### **Try A QSO Party!**

QSO Parties, on the ham bands, happen almost every weekend throughout the year. Most every state in the union has one and several others combine states.

If you are hunting counties, this is a great way to find those remote ones. If you just enjoy a quick contact with another ham and maybe a QSL card, QSO parties are a sure bet. Any way you look at it, it is always fun to say "hello" to a fellow Amateur in another state.

A QSO party happens when a majority of hams in one State get together and give as many contacts as possible from that State in one weekend. We in Washington have one too. We call ours the "Washington Salmon Run" and it occurs on the third weekend in September.

So if you're looking for a fun and easy contact any weekend, look around for a QSO party. Below are listed just a few to get you started. More info can be found in QST under "Contest Corral".

- Indiana QSO Party – May 1-2, frequencies: 7.230, 14.250, 21.300, 28.450
- New England QSO Party – May 1-2, frequencies: 7.280, 14.280, 21.380, 28.380
- Mid-Atlantic QSO Party – May 8-9, frequencies: 160-10 meters, 50 kHz from bottom of band segment for operating mode.
- Oregon QSO Party – May 8-9, frequencies: 3.850, 7.250, 14.250, 21.350, 28.450
- US Counties QSO Party – May 15-16, frequencies: 3.880, 7.240, 14.275, 21.340, 28.340
- Great Lakes QSO Party – May 29-31, frequencies: 3.870, 7.260, 14.270, 21.370, 28.450

(by special request for Steve Pack, WB7VAS)

## **Blonde Joke For The Month!**

A guy is hanging upside down from the rafters at a factory when a blonde coworker walks by.

"What are you doing?" she asks.

"I need a few weeks off," explains the man. "I'm pretending to be nuts."

Just then the boss walks by and sees the man dangling from the ceiling.

"What are you doing?" asks the boss.

"I'm a light bulb," answers the guy.

"You're going crazy. Take a vacation."

The man jumps down to leave and the blonde starts to follow him.

"Where are you going, young lady?" the boss asks.

"Home," she replies. "I can't work in the dark!"

73's and have a good month. Bob, KD7OWN

**1-3 jackets**