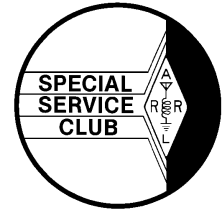




Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society



July 2004

Website: cvars.org

Edited by Bob Willey, KD7OWN

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Official Record Executive Board Meeting June 9, 2004

2005?

The CVARS Executive Board met on Wednesday, June 9th at the home of Steve Pack, WB7VAS in Chehalis. 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; and board members John Bertels, WA7LFJ; Jim VanderMeer, KC7ASV and John Ellingson, K7OSK.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Steve Pack passed around a new and updated club roster and remarked that the club has improved its ARRL membership numbers. He also reported that the jacket sales are completed and the club netted \$41.01.

Old Business: Bob Willey, KD7OWN, updated the board on plans to possibly operate from the new Veterans Museum when it opens in the fall. Bob is working on possible certificate and QSL ideas and will present them to museum director Lee Grimes.

Jim VanderMeer, KC7ASV, gave a report on Field Day preparations. A few items still remain to be done but things are moving forward. Jim still needs to hear from those that can provide radios, antennas and food for the potluck as soon as possible.

John Ellingson, K7OSK, updated the board on the Swapmeet scheduled for July 31st at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds.

New Business: Steve Pack, WB7VAS, brought up several ideas for an LXpedition for later this summer or fall. The board will be reviewing these ideas and will work with Steve to decide on an exact event and date. Steve also came up with several ideas for local club contests so this should be a fun fall!

Gary Litterer, K7PG, has requested the board solicit volunteers willing to help with licensing classes. Kim Aiken will be working on this project.

Having no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:22 PM.

Ken Dahl, K7TAG the Western Washington District 3 DEC and Bill Harwell, AC7SR, our very own local ARES Emergency Coordinator remind everyone that it is never too early to plan ahead. With that thought in mind, they have provided the dates for next years spring Communications Conference. Held at Shoreline Conference Center, this popular event is scheduled for April 2 and 3rd, 2005.

Unfortunately, due to increased facility costs, they may have to increase the cost of the conference to \$10 per day which is still a very reasonable fee.

Classes range from antennas 101 to APRS and everything in between. There is something for everyone, beginner or expert.

Mark your calendars now and avoid the rush.

"It's kind of fun to do the impossible!

- Walt Disney

Years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream.. Discover

- Mark Twain

Don Whittaker, KE7WV. SK

The club was notified by Janet Lucis, daughter of Don Whittaker, KE7WV that he became a silent key on May 26th.

Don has not attended club meetings in quite awhile but was active in club affairs some time back.

I did not have the privilege of knowing Don but hope some others did.

Good Day – Bad Day?

Communications Academy

In Latin, "dies mali" means "evil or unlucky days". Medieval calendars designated two days in each month as evil or inauspicious – bad days to start a journey, for instance, or to get married. Good days to call in sick, in modern terms. When "dies mali" entered English as "dismal" in the 14th century, it was a noun, but eventually it came to be used as an adjective, and the phrase "dismal days", although technically redundant, became common. "Dismal" as a general synonym for "gloomy or depressing" first appeared in the 17th century.

By now, I'm sure you're wondering which two "dismal days" to avoid each month, so here's the lowdown: January 1st and 25th; February 4th and 26th; March 1st and 28th; April 10th and 20th; May 3rd and 25th; June 10th and 16th; July 13th and 22nd; August 1st and 30th; September 3rd and 21st; October 3rd and 22nd; November 5th and 28th; and December 7th and 22nd. Just tell your boss that I said to stay home on those days. I'm sure he'll understand.



Field Day 2004

Well, another field day has come and gone. Great weather blessed us yet another year even though it was not quite as warm as last year. This year, WA7UHD was 5A – Western Washington, meaning of course, that we had five transmitters on line. All the bands available were covered but only a few were productive. 20 meters was the busiest by far but contacts were made on 40 meters, 15 meters, 80 meters and even some digital work. 10 meters was pretty bad but that's what we can expect for summer near the bottom of the sun cycle.

Thanks to Jim VanderMeer, KC7ASV, for his hard work to bring it all together this year. Toby Vice, KD7JPK, did his magic with the Civil Air Patrol tents again. (man, those tents are heavy!) Eric, KD7CAO, gave everyone a light show with his florescent light antenna. The potluck dinner was great as always. About 30 hungry hams ate as much as they could and there was still plenty to give our friendly transient, Mr. Mosteller.

For those who didn't make it out to the park, you missed a great time. Field day is always hectic to set up and work to take down but the time in between, with friends and a glowing radio and static in the earphones is really special. See you all next year!

Contest Tip of the Month...

Serious contesters know the rest of us are anxious for the event to start and are usually sitting at the radio warming the tubes and adjusting the earphones just waiting for that "magic hour" to click over. Many experienced operators will find the "sweet spot" on a band 30 – 60 minutes before the contest begins and call "CQ" just to ragchew. Ragchew and keep their spot on the bands "locked" that is. Jump in early and find a spot.

Did You Know?

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are "limbs", therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, "Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg".

Submitted by Howard KB7RYJ

Summer Doldrums? Naw....

Well, the bands have turned to zilch! Naw! 15 meters has barely been open to South America and the lower end of 80 is about as noisy as the proverbial diathermy machine...

BUT – as the saying goes – one man's QRM is another man's opportunity! Just because you can't chat with your cousin in Iowa does not mean that you should shut down the waxworks! Reason – there are "little" contests around every weekend and one can have just as much fun dabbling in these. Your truly just got through with the US County Hunters Contest – not a serious effort for 4-5 hours or so, but 300+ QSOs are enough to smear up a few log pages. Have you ever tried that?

Such contests are on every weekend. Some of these are the various states QSO parties (like our Washington Salmon Run in September) but there are also lots of special event stations to be contacted. Try "worked all battleships"! (The WWII kind) Then for the more serious contesters are the "sprints" – 4-hour contest! But the gist is – with a modest antenna and 100 watts, one can have lots of QSOs and fun in these type of events. It is always fun trying for that elusive state for the ARRL WAS Award (DE, VT, MS seem to be the 'hard' ones from here).

Then there are always some 'garage' projects to work on. Like building a tuner from all the flea-mart parts. Or a spare power supply from a computer P/S. I just picked up a computer power supply for \$1 at a thrift store and resoldered it for a 12-volt 15 amp regulated power supply! That's 150 Watts-regulated! Nothing to it! Convert an old useless mouse into an iambic paddle! (the microswitches in these things are super!)

And now is the time to dig holes and pour concrete for that tower. Even 2-3 sacks are more than sufficient for a guyed 2-section dented watersprinkler pipes (available for next to nothing from any farmers irrigation supply store). A 3-inch into a 4-inch pipe will get you a 37 foot tower! No beam? Pour it anyway. You'll have the best 40 meter vertical in the neighborhood! You can add that TA-33 later! Remember, if you are not calling "CQ" or making contacts, no one will know you are on the air! As Barnum T. Bailey said: "It pays to advertise!" What W. C. Fields said on the same subject may not be printable... C u in the pileups!

73's, Hillar, N6HR

Where Will You Be On July 4th?



July 4th is a great holiday, don't you think? Good food, family fun and sometimes even good weather! I imagine most of you will be with your family watching

fireworks or taking it easy. But there are a few other events happening and even a few that need ham radio operators to make them successful.

Summerfest activities in Centralia are going to start off early in the morning with a run sponsored by the Centralia Police Department. They are asking for a few hams willing to be stretched out around the course with a 2 meter rig and monitor everyone's progress. This kind of activity really shows the public what we as "experienced communications technicians" can do. Since there are no fireworks early in the morning and the hotdogs won't be ready yet, how about coming on down and donating an hour or so? We would certainly appreciate your support and you might even get a chance to spread the word about this great hobby of ours. Call or see Terry Neumann, KQ7K, about the event as soon as possible or call him in the mornings at the Centralia Police Department at 330-7680.

What about the Parade? This year the Centralia-Chehalis parade will be held in Centralia starting at 4:00 PM in the downtown area. Terry is also looking for about three hams willing to help with the setup for the parade. Volunteer hams will be needed from about Noon -5:00 PM. They will help spot and setup parade entries and will just need to communicate with Terry over a 2 meter handheld. This is your chance to see the parade actually form up and be a part of the action. This is also the first time we've been requested by the City of Centralia for communications support. Lets do all we can to make sure it is not the last time they ask! So come on down and enjoy the holiday and ham radio all at the same time. I'll be there in uniform so give me a wave too. Call or see Terry Neumann, KQ7K at 330-7680 or at his home for more information. Have a happy and safe July 4th!

Baw Faw News

If you didn't get the Baw Faw Bugler or didn't get time to read it, you are missing quite a bit of good information. To begin with, the Baw Faw Picnic has been scheduled for July 31st at Borst Park. Yup, this is the same day as our Swapmeet but there is plenty of time for both. Hit the Swapmeet in the morning and get yourself over to the picnic for some great food.

The "Coffee Stop", back in March, cleared \$621.56 and gave away lots of coffee, tea and cookies. Everyone who gave some time to this event should pat themselves on the back. Good job!

Finally, take a look at the Baw Faw website. The site is still under construction but see what you think and let them know if you have suggestions. Website location is <http://bfrg.home.comcast.net/index.html>. You can email the group at bfrg@comcast.net.

What about Brass Monkeys?

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon, but how to prevent them from rolling around the deck? The best storage method devised was a square based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem...how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a "monkey" with 16 round indentations. But, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make "Brass Monkeys." Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, "cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey." (and all this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn't you?) -de Howard, KB7RYJ

The Lone Ranger...

The Lone Ranger and Tonto walked into a bar and sat down to drink a beer. After a few minutes, a big tall cowboy walked in and said "Who owns the big white horse outside?"

The Lone Ranger said, "I do, why?"

The cowboy said, "I just thought you'd like to know that your horse is about dead outside!"

The Lone Ranger and Tonto rushed outside. Sure enough, Silver was about to die from heat exhaustion. The Lone Ranger got some water and soon Silver was starting to feel a little better. The Lone Ranger turns to Tonto and said, "I want you to run around Silver and see if you can create enough of a breeze to help cool him down."

Tonto said, "Sure, Kemosabe" and begins running circles around Silver. Unable to do anything except wait, the Lone Ranger returns to the bar to finish his drink. A few minutes later, another cowboy struts into the bar and asks, "Who owns that big white horse outside?"

The Lone Ranger stands and says, "I do, what's wrong with him this time?"

The cowboy looks him in the eye and says, "Nothing, but you left your Injun running." (OK, some of the jokes are better than others....deal with it!)



Try this code learning trick!

Spend about 30 minutes each evening listening to code. Not code tapes but real code on the radio. Find a slow code station that you can somewhat understand. When you can copy pretty well, push yourself to listen to a higher speed - one that you can only copy about one word in every three or four. Keep pushing yourself, you'll get faster every day. Then try to copy only in your head. Writing everything slows you down.

Important Dates...

July 4th – Summerfest Fun Run & parade.
July 7th – CVARS regular meeting 7:30 PM
July 10th – IARU HF World Championship
July 10th – UK DX Contest
July 14th – CVARS Board meeting
July 17th – Museum Ships Weekend event (HF)
July 21st – ARES Group Meeting – PUD Bldg.
July 24th – IOTA (Islands On The Air) Contest

Special Events...

July 3rd – Hannibal ARC, W0MTL, National Tom Sawyer Days, 21.350, 14.250, 7.250. Certificate available

July 3rd – Ft. Missoula, MT, Lewis and Clark Expedition, 21.365, 14.265, 7.265. QSL and certificate available.

July 8th – Austin, TX, Naturist Amateur Radio Club, Annual Nude Awareness Celebration. 21.365, 14.265, 7.265. Certificate (and maybe photos?) available.

July 17th – USS Kidd ARC. Museum Ships Weekend. 14.250 to 14.320. QSL available. (more stations have plans to be on the air for this event.

God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Now that I'm 'older', here's what I've discovered:

- My wild oats have turned into prunes and All Bran.
- I finally got my head together; now my body is falling apart.
- If all is not lost, where is it?
- It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.
- Some days you're the dog; some days you're the hydrant.
- Kids in the backseat cause accidents. Accidents in the back seat cause kids.
- If God had wanted me to touch my toes, he would have put them on my knees.
- It's not hard to meet expenses...they're everywhere.
- The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.
- These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter...I go somewhere to get something and then wonder what I'm here after.
- Its hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.



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