



Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society

April 2005

Website: cvars.org

Edited by Bob Willey, KD7OWN

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Official Record

Executive Board Meeting March 9, 2005

The CVARS Executive Board met on Wednesday evening at the home of Steve Pack, WB7VAS. The meeting was called to order at 6:37 PM. Minutes from February's meeting were read and approved by the executive board.

Present were: Bob Willey, KD7OWN, President; Johnny Jackson, KQ7JJ, Vice President; Steve Pack, WB7VAS, Treasurer; and Toby Vice, KD7JPK, Board Member. Terry Neumann, KQ7K, was in attendance as a guest.

Treasurer's Report: Steve reported the club received dues from five members at March's general meeting. Ticket sales for the FT-60R are going well and the club should make a profit from the raffle.

Old Business: Mt. St. Helens was again in the discussion. Our special event station, W7A, is still scheduled for May 18th somewhere on the mountain but with recent events, the location has not been decided upon. Watch for further information in May's newsletter.

New Business: Terry Neumann, KQ7K and the club's 2005 Field Day Coordinator was present to give the board an update on FD plans. Terry is looking for shack captains (4) to set up time slots and scheduling for each band location. The shack captain will also schedule any guests wishing to use a particular band. Terry is also looking for an antenna coordinator and someone to help with a Gota Station. Volunteers should call Terry at 807-3145 or catch him at April's meeting.

Once again, several members are late with their dues. The by-laws state that dues "shall be payable by the January meeting and shall be delinquent by February 28th". The executive board voted to include a reminder sheet with April's newsletter. Anyone failing to pay dues will receive no further newsletters until such time as

dues are paid. Beginning in 2006, newsletters will not be provided to delinquent members after February 28th.

Finally, club member Art Williams, N7EIK, has advised the Veteran's Museum is planning its grand opening near July 4th or shortly thereafter. The club still plans to be a part of this opening with a special event station.

Having no further business to be brought before the board, the meeting ended at 8:30 pm.

Yeasu FT-60R Raffle Set For April 6th CVARS Meeting.

I know you've been patiently waiting to hand over your raffle ticket and claim that Yeasu FT-60R handheld portable radio or one of the nice second or third place prizes. Well, wait no more. Final tickets will be sold at April's CVARS meeting and we'll draw the winning tickets that very evening. I'd like to thank everyone who has participated in this raffle. We're going to be able to give away a nice radio, some great additional prizes and make a few dollars for the club as well. Special thanks to Steve Pack, WB7VAS for his hard work in making this event happen. Steve thought up the idea and has been supervising the event for the last several months.

And don't forget those great second and third prizes. Second prize is a "Nifty! HT Desk Stand" and a "Nifty! Quick Reference Guide" for the radio of your choice. The third place winner will receive a "Nifty! Quick Reference HF/VHF/UHF Bands Operating Guide. Want to know more about these great second and third place prizes? Check out their great website at www.niftyaccessories.com.

If you haven't bought enough tickets yet, don't worry as we'll have plenty available at April's meeting. Remember you don't have to be present to win but you

would have to trust that the radio doesn't get hijacked between club meeting and your house!



Remember!

The Communications Academy at Shoreline is scheduled for April 2-3rd. If you haven't signed up yet and paid your money, it is getting more expensive. Don't wait to pay at the

door as that is the most expensive of all.

Bill Harwell, AC7SR, our ARES Emergency Coordinator will be taking his van again this year and offers a free ride to anyone needing transportation

Classes are varied and interesting covering lots of interesting topics on ham radio. This two day event is not one to miss so sign up now and call Bill for a ride. See you there!

Important Dates To Remember:

April 2-3 – Communications Academy in Shoreline

April 16 – Yakima Hamfest

May 14th – Lewis County Bike Ride with ARES

May 18th – Special event station W7A celebrating Mt. St. Helens 25th anniversary.

May 21-22 – SAR conference in Leavenworth

June 25-26th – Field Day at Stan Hedwall Park

Daily Prayer

Dear Lord...so far today, I am doing all right. I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, cursed or eaten any chocolate. I have charged nothing on my credit card.

But.... I will be getting out of bed in a minute and I think that I will really need your help then!

August Calendar Date

Here's an interesting item I've never attended but think it might be fun. On August 5-7, 2005 the Willamette Valley DX Club will hold their 2005 Pacific Northwest DX Convention at the Monarch Hotel in Portland Oregon. They will have technical sessions, a banquet and breakfast, door prizes and raffle prizes. Wayne Mills, N7NG from the ARRL will be present to check DXCC submissions with no restrictions on dates or bands.

Always fun to find a new opportunity to join other hams for some fun and learning. Mark your calendars now.

Tepid DXing

By Hillar Raamat, N6HR

The sunspots are getting as rare as muttonchops on a bald eagle! Egads! And with the A and K-indices approaching numbers like credit card interest rates, no wonder that DXers are hibernating! But – there has been lots of low-band activity – 160 meters showing peculiar one-way propagation patterns. The other morning here a Philippines and South Korean station were solid 579s on my inverted – L, but they couldn't hear anyone on the West Coast! About half-a-dozen guys with good stations calling – no dice! So at least I wasn't the only one wasting good electrons.

As you have heard by now the Peter I Island DXpedition finally fizzled out like a wet firecracker. The last ship that was contracted and was still afloat did not make the rendezvous point in Argentina. So the DXpedition gear will sit there in a container and wait for next winter's (2006) assault.

Well, at least the ham radio socials are up and plentiful! The Visalia International DX Convention April 15-17 will have Ms. Bharati Prasad of VU4RBI fame attending along with other noted DXers such as Martti Laine OHG2BH and numerous others. This affair will be followed by the Dayton Hamvention 20-22 April. In Dayton Ohio, of course. This is the largest ham social in the world with something for everyone from QRPers to EME Big Guns. Hara Arena will again be the venue. The hamvention will be followed by our own SEAPAC in Seaside Oregon from 17-19 June, followed by the ARRL Field Day. After the 4th of July parades, the IARU Contest will take place 9-10 July, followed by the RSGB Islands On The Air (IOTA) Contest 30-31 July. August will feature the Lighthouse activities and in September all Washingtonians will give out QSOs from our 39 counties during the Salmon Run Contest!

Now, how's that for a social schedule? If these don't turn you on, the German hams will also have their huge hamfest in Friedrichshafen and further east the Russians will have their annual hamfest in St. Petersburg (in August).

There are too many DXpeditions to list herewith, but keep checking the Penn/Ohio DX Bulletins for the latest info. Couple items: Rusty W6OAT has a lottery going for two hams to attend the Floreopolis Brazil WRTC for 2006. Buy a \$10 raffle ticket and you could be the winner of an all-expense paid trip to Samba-Land! And consider the persistence of the W4-ham who needed the VU4 as his LAST entity for DXCC #1 (all 335). He called up the W6YX station at Stanford Univ., jumped on an airplane, flew to Palo Alto, - worked the VU4 (!) and turned around and flew back! Mission accomplished! Now there is a real DXer! 73, Hillar N6HR



Welcome Home!

If you missed the welcome home ceremony in Centralia last week for our local soldiers, you missed a wonderful parade and social event.

You know these men and women didn't want to leave their families but did so anyway because that is what their country asked them to do.

Next time you meet a soldier, shake his hand and give him a "thank you!"

animals with pliers. Apparently the thief will recover....after the swelling goes away.

Chinese Proverbs

- Man who run in front of car get tired.
- Man who run behind car get exhausted.
- Man who drive like hell, bound to get there.
- Man who stand on toilet is high on pot.
- Crowded elevator smell different to midget.

Think You Know Everything?

- Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.
- There are more chickens than people in the world.
- Winston Churchill was born in a ladies' room during a dance.



The Darwin Awards

The Darwin awards salute the improvement of the human gene pool by honoring those who choose to remove themselves in really stupid ways!

- (1) Wayne wanted to make a few bucks by selling stolen scrap metal. He sneaked into a demolition site and surveyed the area for valuable hunks of debris. His eyes fastened upon what appeared to be a 3" thick copper pipe. That would fetch a fine fee, but it was too heavy for him to budge it. He hauled a few lesser chunks of metal away and returned with sturdy bolt cutters. It was then, when he attempted to sever the pipe that he was shocked to discover that it was actually an aluminum cable carrying 11,000 volts of power. Jail time costs were not needed.
- (2) A Croatian man was killed while trying to open a hand grenade with a chainsaw. He wanted to retrieve the explosive to make firecrackers for the New Year's holiday.
- (3) Police said a Kansas man was struck and killed by a train after his vehicle broke down on the interstate. His attempts at repairing his car failed and he had stepped away from the busy freeway to call for help. When the train engineer spotted him standing on the tracks holding his cell phone, he had his other hand covering the other ear to apparently block that loud, noisy train whistle.
- (4) A 24-year old supermarket shoplifter stuffed a pair of live lobsters in his pants and sprinted for the door but he never had the chance. The violated crustaceans brought the thief to his knees in front of startled cashiers when they fastened their powerful claws around some very delicate parts. Doctors were able to remove the

Welcome New Members!

The Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society was honored with three new members at March's general meeting. We welcome Dick Morrison, K7KFM of Chehalis, a 48 year ham; Don McDougall, W6OA, of Winlock, a ham since June of 1954 and Doug Vincent, KE7AOF of Mossyrock who has been a ham 11 months. Make Dick, Don and Doug welcome when you see them next. It is always nice to have new club members.

Did You Know?

A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds (!)
Almonds are a member of the peach family.
Al Capone's business card said: "furniture dealer".

Mt. St. Helens Special Event, W7A

CVARS will be hosting another great special event station on May 18th. Some of you who are old enough may remember the little shake-up on Mr. St. Helens in 1980. You remember that....mud slides, plenty of ash, and the attempt to grow trees flat instead of standing upright.

For the 25th anniversary of this unique Northwest event, the club has applied for and received special event callsign W7A. With recent events on the mountain, we are not sure just where we will be on the 18th but we will be somewhere up there.

Plan to come and share the day. Dress for cool weather, bring your own radio, food and drink and you should be able to operate, if possible, from your own vehicle as there are no warm central facilities for us. We have some special event QSL cards available for your contacts and would sure enjoy your company. Take the day off and come along. They won't miss you at work anyway! We will keep update information available on the website.

Elmers Needed

Kim Aiken, AC7YY, our Elmering Coordinator is looking for any hams willing to share their knowledge with others. Do you have a special interest in one area or another? Someone is always looking for a little tutoring. You need not be an expert, just be willing to share a little information. Share what someone else did for you. Help another ham learn more about this great hobby. Call Kim at 880-5512

Frightened Taxi Driver

A passenger in a taxi leaned over to ask the driver a question and tapped him on the shoulder. The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb and stopped just inches from a large plate glass window.

For a few moments everything was silent in the cab and then the still shaking driver said "I'm sorry but you scared the daylight out of me."

The frightened passenger, apologized to the driver and said he didn't realize a mere tap on the shoulder could frighten him so much. The driver replied, "No, no, I'm sorry, it's my fault. Today is my first day driving a cab. I've been driving a hearse for the last 35 years."

Congratulations To The New Ham

Al Dittrick conducted the club's spring technician license class March 16-19th. Several prospective hams participated but only one was brave enough to take the test on Saturday, March 19th. As it happens, she was Al's wife. Welcome to new ham Jenny Dittrick and welcome to the club.

Also thanks to VE's John Jackson, Gary Litteer, Dick Morrison, Bob Willey and VE Coordinator Steve Pack for the great testing session. If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Examiner, contact Steve Pack.

Redneck Church

You know your church is a redneck church if... the baptismal pool is a #2 galvanized washtub.

You know your church is a redneck church if... the collection plates are hub caps from a '56 Chevy.

You know your church is a redneck church if ... "thou shalt not covet" includes hunting dogs too.

You know your church is a redneck church if ... the choir is known as the "OK Chorale".

You know your church is a redneck church if ... high notes on the organ set the dogs to howling in the room.

You know your church is a redneck church if ... when the pastor says, "I'd like to ask Bubba to help take up the offering," five guys and two women stand up.



2005 Search & Rescue Conference

Last year's SAR conference was in beautiful Lewis County. If you missed it, too bad, it's over! BUT, this year's conference will be held

in Leavenworth in Chelan County on May 21-22nd, 2005. What a wonderful place to go play radio and learn some Search & Rescue techniques. Camping is available and it will be a fun time for everyone. For more information, check the website at www.chelansar.org or contact Sgt. Bruce Long at 509-667-6999, x 1709. Chelan County in May is the best time to visit.

Eric Gildersleeve, KD7CAO

Mike Payne reports that Eric has made the Dean's List for Academic Excellence last quarter. Way to go, Eric. Keep up the good work. Wish you were here instead of attending college in Texas but we'll look forward to seeing you next visit.

Prayers For Dale

John Ellingson reports that long time CVARS member, Dale Jones, AA7XX, is not doing well. He has had a couple of small strokes and has lost control of his right side. He is resting OK but is on morphine for the pain. Please include Dale in your thoughts and prayers.

Communications Academy 2005

It is not too late to attend the 2005 Communications academy in Shoreline, near Seattle scheduled for April 2-3rd. This is a great place to learn everything from basic antenna design to APRS to weather spotting. You can still sign up on the web or just pay at the door. If you need a ride, Bill Harwell, AC7SR, is once again taking his van to the event and just needs a call to include you. This is always a fun event so come on along.

Yup, Another Blonde Joke

Homer walked into a sports bar around 9:50pm. He sat down next to this blonde at the bar and stared up at the TV. The 10:00 news was on and the news crew was covering a story of a man on a ledge of a large building preparing to jump.

The blonde looked at Homer and said, "Do you think he'll jump?" Homer said: "Yup, I bet he'll jump."

The blonde replied, "Well, I bet he won't."

Homer placed \$20 on the bar and said, "You're on!"

Just as the blonde placed her money on the bar, the guy did a swan dive off of the building, falling to his death.

The blonde was very upset and handed her \$20 to Homer, saying, "Fair's fair. Here's your money."

Homer replied, "I can't take your money, I saw this earlier on the 5:00 news and knew he would jump."

The blonde said, "I did too, but I didn't think he would do it again."

Al Jorgensen's 50th Year Celebration, Barbeque and Antenna Party

April is Al Jorgensen, W7ZLR's 50th year as a ham radio operator and it is time to celebrate this very special event.

On Saturday, April 30th, everyone is invited to Al's house for a barbeque and potluck. We'll also be doing some antenna work to get Al back up on HF and replace some coax to get him back on 2 meters.

So plan on bringing your tools, some willing hands and a potluck dish. Festivities begin at 11am.

We'll have maps to Al's house available at April's CVARS meeting. In case you don't make it to the meeting, here are directions to Al's house:

From I-5, take the Onalaska exit (Hwy 508) (Exit 71) east to Onalaska. Drive through Onalaska and about one mile beyond on Hwy 508 to Jorgensen Road (on the right at the gas station). Al's house is 479-A on Jorgensen Road. We'll try to remember to have a sign up to help everyone find the place.

Still Think You Know Everything?

- The average person falls asleep in seven minutes.
- In most advertisements, the time displayed on a watch is 10:10.

Mean Old Man!

An old man and woman were married for many years even though he was a mean old cuss. His screaming and yelling could be heard deep into the night. The old man would shout "When I die, I will dig my way up and out of the grave and come back and haunt you for the rest of your life!" Neighbors feared him and believed he practiced black magic. To everyone's relief he died of a heart attack. His wife had a closed casket funeral and went out to party as if there was no tomorrow.

"Aren't you afraid he will dig his way up and out of the grave and come back to haunt you?" the neighbor asked.

"Let him dig." said the wife, "I buried him upside down."