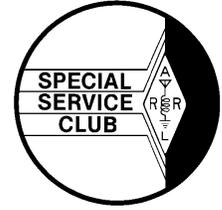




Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society

June 2005



Website: cvars.org

Edited by Bob Willey, KD7OWN

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Official Record

Executive Board Meeting May 11, 2005

The CVARS Executive Board met on Wednesday, May 11th at the home of John Jackson, KQ7JJ. The meeting was called to order at 6:37 PM.

Present were: Bob Willey, KD7OWN, President; John Jackson, KQ7JJ, Vice President and Steve Pack, WB7VAS, Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Steve Pack reports that he received dues from nine club members including a few ARRL renewals as well. Expenses out included dinner for our recent speaker from HRO and supplies, cake and plaque for Al Jorgensen's 50th anniversary party.

Old business: President Bob Willey brought the upcoming Mt. St. Helens special club event and plans were finalized. The club plans to be on the mountain from 9am-4pm on Wednesday, May 18th. Plans for field day were also discussed and all agreed everything seems on track for another great year's event. The Veteran's Museum request for special event coverage by the club was discussed. This event, scheduled for Saturday, July 2nd at the new museum presents a great opportunity to combine service to the community and ham radio. Bob Willey will be the point person for this event and will meet with the museum for more information.

New business: Kim Aiken, AC7YY, has requested that the club sponsor, again this year, the ham radio event in conjunction with the Boy Scout's annual trek to PeEII. Last year about 10 club members participated and the event was reported as plenty of fun for everyone. Executive board agreed this event was well worth sponsoring.

Bill Vodall, WA7NWP, has offered to sponsor the club's website on his host site at considerable savings. The club currently pays \$108 per year for a website but Bill's site will cost only \$30. The board approved the move and Steve Pack, webmaster, will make the necessary changes. Thank Bill for his support when you can.

Having no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:30 PM.

Toby's "Gin Pole"

Toby Vice, KD7JPK, ever the inventive and curious sort of person that he is, saw a need and filled it. He realized the club needed a "gin pole" – one of those very useful devices to assist in antenna tower building, so he designed and built one. The gin pole attaches to the tower as it is constructed to help raise the next tower section or the antenna as the tower increases in height. If you don't have one, life is much more difficult. Toby scrounged, begged and bought the materials and put it all together. The pole is about 10 ft. long, has a pulley and rope and is very light. Have a need? Call Toby....and tell him "Thanks".



July 4th 8K Fun Run & Summerfest Parade

Once again this year, the Amateur Radio Emergency Services is requesting a few good hams to help with the Centralia Police Department's 8k fun run. We will monitor runners and generally keep track of their progress. The event begins at 7AM on July 4th and will last about 60-90 minutes. Also, the Summerfest parade held during the afternoon on July 4th needs some hams to help with parade entry staging. This is an easy job and puts you up close and personal with all the parades floats, displays and fire trucks! Come on down and join the fun. Contact Bob Willey, KD7OWN at 736-9633 or at the police department at 330-7680. Thanks.

A Billion

Next time you hear a politician use the word "billion" casually, think about this:

A billion is a difficult number to comprehend, but one advertising agency did a good job of putting that figure into perspective. A billion seconds ago, it was 1959. A billion minutes ago, Jesus was alive. A billion hours ago, our ancestors were living in the stone age. A billion dollars ago was only 8 hours and 20 minutes ago, at the rate Washington spends it.

Death Bed Confessions

Jake was dying. His wife, Becky, was maintaining a candlelight vigil by his side. She held his fragile hand, tears running down her face. Her praying roused him from his slumber; He looked up and his pale lips began to move.

"Becky my darling" he whispered, "I have something to confess."

"There's nothing to confess," replied Becky, "Everything's all right, go to sleep."

"No, no. I must die in peace, Becky, I...I slept with your sister, AND your best friend!"

"I know, sweetheart," whispered Becky, "let the poison work."

DXing Is Just A Pot Of Luck These Days -by Hillar Raamat, N6HR

Hey, the FT5XO QSL's have hit the mailboxes! Hope their QSL was a new one for you. This microlite DXpedition to Kerguelen is now history, the participants having recovered from 'mal de mer' induced by the Good Ship MV Braveheart and last word was that no one wanted to see an ocean again- until the next DXpedition! We here in the Northwest had a pipeline to them on 30 and 40 meters! Europeans made out well on the higher bands (North-South propagation) and now with the QSLs out - everyone is happy!

But the next assault to the rare French Islands has been postponed. The TO5G group led by F5CW had to postpone their Glorioso DXpedition until October or November, reasons being lack of transportation (something about the French military security) and poor propagations forecasts. This may be good for us here in the Northwest, November being the best month for antipodal DX into the Indian Ocean. F5CW has a web site up and running - but it is in French, pardon moi!

There have been numerous smaller DXpeditions, mostly by ham community vacationers using 100 watts into verticals category, some barely workable and some not. The east coasters are having a ball, but these DX emanations to the west of the Rockies have been rather anemic...

I ran across an interesting software program generated by National Bureau of Standards and the Naval Observatory. The output is - much simplified-as to how much power a DX station has to radiate to effect a QSO. The "fixed" inputs are your and the DX station's geographical QTH, antenna gains of both stations and your receiver sensitivity. The 'variables' are the daily WWV Solar Flux and A and K indices. And the 'output' is a dB chart - the ordinates being UTC time of day and the operating frequency. I plugged in some numbers - me and a VU from Calcutta. Yaip! With current WWV numbers the Calcutta station had to transmit almost 3 KW to have a readable signal here on 17 meters! (Trans-polar). The same data for a Brazilian from Sao Paulo only required a transmitting power of 40 watts (Trans-equatorial). This program superimposed on some mercator-projection world map (like Geoclock) is almost enough for a man to take up some other hobby! Like glassblowing...Ughh!

Some upcoming social DX events include the IARU Contest in July, the Pacific Northwest DX Convention in Portland, the International Lighthouse/Lightship Activities weekend (August) and our own Washington State Salmon Run in September. So stay tuned for further DX filterings...
73, Hillar N6HR

Something To Ponder...

- Although the United States has just 5 percent of the world's population, it has most of the world's lawyers at 70 percent!

More Darwin Awards... You know you love'em



When his 38-caliber revolver failed to fire at his intended victim during a holdup in Long Beach, California, would be robber James Elliot did something that can only inspire wonder. He peered down the barrel and tried the trigger

again. This time it worked!

An American teen was in the hospital recovering from a serious head wounds received from an oncoming train. When asked how he received the injuries, the lad told police that he was simply trying to see how close he could get his head to a moving train before he was hit.

A man who shoveled snow for two hours to clear a space for his own car during a blizzard in Chicago returned with his vehicle to find that a woman had taken the space. Understandably, he shot her.

The chef at a hotel in Switzerland lost a finger in a meat-cutting machine and, after a little hopping around, submitted a claim to his insurance company. The company suspecting negligence, sent out one of its men to have a look for himself. He tried the machine and lost a finger. The chef's claim was approved.

A man walked into a UniMart, put a \$20 bill on the counter, and asked for change. When the clerk opened the cash drawer, the man pulled a gun and demanded all the cash in the register, which the clerk promptly provided. The man took the cash from the clerk and fled, leaving the \$20 bill on the counter. The total amount of cash he got from the drawer...was \$15. (If someone points a gun at you and gives YOU money, has a crime been committed?)

Remember...

People who live in glass houses should frolic in the basement!

Boy Scout Night 2005

Kim Aiken, AC7YY, asks that I remind everyone about the June 21st Boy Scout event in PeEll. Many of you participated in this fun event last year. The scouts hike from Chehalis to PeEll and spend the night. CVARS hams set up various stations and show the scouts what a wonderful hobby we have.

Unfortunately this year, Kim will be unable to make the event due to some health issues and therefore has asked Bob Willey, KD7OWN to organize the event. Kim suggests club members set up an HF station, an echolink connection on BawFaw, a psk 31 and digital station. In addition, several hams with handheld portables are needed to let the scouts experience VHF communications around the park.

Please consider giving some time on the evening of the 21st of June for this very special event. Call or contact Bob at 736-9633 (home number), 330-7680 (work number) or email at kd7own@arrl.com. Thanks.

Can You Be A Contester?

In response to an email asking if one could really be a contester with only a simple vertical or dipole antenna, our friend Ward Silver, N0AX and author of "Ham Radio For Dummy's" replied in this way:

"You bet! Contesting is a game you mostly play against yourself – am I getting better, did I get through the pileups quicker, etc. etc. It doesn't matter whether you have a huge tower or bedsprings for an antenna. It also helps to have a friend in a similar situation and challenge each other. I only had a 15' high 40-meter dipole as a kid but had a great time competing against my compatriots in Sweepstakes and the like. It's great fun! Another thing you can do is to operate from portable locations like campgrounds or parks and make a mini-expedition out of it. There are tons of variations. The important thing is to get on, do your best, and keep improving your skills. You'd be amazed at how fast you improve after a few hours of competitive operating!"
So quit stalling. Try contesting. I think you'll enjoy every minute. Just another facet of amateur radio.

Five Tips For A Woman

1. It is important that a man helps you around the house and has a job.
2. It is important that a man makes you laugh.
3. It is important to find a man you can count on and doesn't lie to you.
4. It is important that a man loves you and spoils you.
5. It is very important that these four men don't know each other!



Remember...
Field Day is scheduled for
June 24-25
And Don't You Forget It!

Australian Jokes Now!

There are reports of a new problem in Australia. Some of the kangaroos have developed a thirst for revenge against the traffic that keeps knocking them down. Drivers have reported that they'll pass a herd of roos that are hopping along peacefully, but as soon as they've passed them, the kangaroos suddenly change direction and veer maniacally towards the vehicle. The driver then has to swerve and drive by as quickly as possible to escape the rampaging marsupials.

Needless to say, all drivers are being urged to keep an eye on their veer-roo mirror at all times.



Disaster Preparedness Begins Before the disaster!

1. Know or learn how to secure your home's water heater before an earthquake tips it over spilling what might be your only source of uncontaminated water. Make it secure – make it safe.
2. If you have an electric garage door opener, know how to open it without power. You might need that car before the power comes back on.
3. If you are driving during an earthquake, slowly pull over to the side of the road and stop. Avoid overpasses, power lines and other hazards. Stay inside the vehicle until the shaking stops.
4. Don't call 911 just to let them know there has been an earthquake. They already know. Stay off the phone and turn on your battery powered radio. Stay calm, protect yourself and your family. Shelter in place if you are safe.
5. Try this game: take stock of what emergency supplies you can locate in 5 minutes. Now try limiting yourself to half your house. How many emergency supplies could you lay your hands on if you needed to? Small stashes of emergency supplies in several rooms is better than one large pile somewhere in your home you can't get to.

Friends

Me and you is friends...
You smile, I smile...
You hurt, I hurt...
You cry, I cry...
You jump off a bridge...
I gonna miss you!

Friends At Your Funeral

One friend asked a simple question of another friend: "When you're in your casket and friends are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?"

The first friend thought for a moment then said: "I would like them to say, 'LOOK, he's moving!'"



Mount St Helens

As you can see by the photograph above, it was a dark and stormy day! 25 years to the day after the devastating Mt. St. Helens eruption, Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society was on the mountain amid heavy rain, dark clouds and 30mph winds.

At the 4,000 ft Johnston Ridge Observatory little could be seen of the mountain but that didn't stop us or any of the other anniversary tourists. The special event team, consisting of John and Jill Jackson, Steve Pack, Ralph Javins, N7KGA, and Bob Willey had the antennas up and "W7A" was on the air.

Both 2 meters and HF were in pretty good shape. Between 9am - 3pm just under 100 contacts were made thanks in many cases to the local CVARS members who made sure they found us on 10 meters, 20 meters, 40 meters and 80 meters plus BawFaw.

Special event QSL cards will be going out to each and every caller as soon as all addresses are compiled.

By the way, Ralph Javins, N7KGA, read about the club's event in QST and called asking to be included as no other amateur radio club was apparently going to "be on the mountain". Ralph traveled from his home in Bothell to run 80 meters for us using his solar powered rig to make about 25 contacts. Thanks Ralph!

Points To Ponder

- Shouldn't we be thankful that wrinkles don't hurt?
- The older you get the tougher it is to lose weight because by then your body and your fat are really good friends.
- If you can smile when things go wrong, you probably have someone in mind to blame.
- How long a minute is depends on which side of the bathroom door you are on.

Field Day 2005

Field Day 2005 arrives on June 24-25th this year. Mr. Terry Neumann, KQ7K, will be our master of ceremonies and is still looking for a few good volunteers to make the event perfect. A "Food Captain" is still needed, according to Terry. This volunteer will coordinate the potluck meal that has been so popular over the last few years. You don't have to bring it all, just let others know what to bring. So if you don't have an assignment yet, call Terry or see him at the meeting and volunteer.

Just a reminder, tent captains have been named for each frequency and if you want to work a certain time on a certain frequency, you will need to see that tent captain. Terry will have the name at the June meeting so you can sign up.

Don't miss Field Day this year. It should be great!

Yup...More Redneck Jokes

You're probably a redneck if :

- you've been married three times and still have the same in-laws.
- You wonder how those service stations manage to keep their restrooms so clean.
- Your junior prom offered daycare.
- You think the last words to the Star Spangled Banner are "Gentlemen, start your engines!"
- You lit a match in the bathroom and your house exploded right off its wheels.
- You have to go outside to get something from the fridge.
- You need just one more hole punched in your card to get a freebie at the House of Tattoos.
- You can't get married to your sweetheart because there's a law against it.

ATTENTION!

SEAPAC – SEAPAC – SEAPAC - SEAPAC
June 17-19
Seaside, Oregon

Things NEVER said by a Redneck...

- I'll take Shakespeare for \$1000, Alex.
- Duct tape won't fix that.
- You can't feed that to a dog.
- Wrasslin's fake.
- Too many deer heads detract from the décor.
- I just couldn't find a thing at Walmart today.
- I've got it all on the C-drive.
- My fiancé, Bobbie Jo, is registered at Tiffany's.
- Checkmate.
- Nope, no more for me, I'm driv'in tonight.
- Hey, here's an episode of "Hee Haw" that we haven't seen!
- I thought Graceland was "too tacky".