

CHEHALIS VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY



August 2005!

Website: cvars.org

Edited by Bob Willey, KD7OWN



Official Record

No Executive Board Meeting was held this month due to a change in July's general meeting date. Next board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 10th at 6:30 PM at John Jackson's Home in Chehalis.

DXpedition To The Pribilof Islands

Our friends Hillar and Elsie Raamat, who have brought our club several wonderful lectures on their DXpedition adventures are at it again. (Don't worry, I already told them to take lots of pictures as they could expect to be asked for a future presentation)

Hillar, N6HR and Elsie, N7YX will be on the Pribilof Islands in Alaska for the Islands On The Air (IOTA) contest scheduled for July 30/31st. Their call will be KL7/N7YX. Hillar says the island is not served by regular airlines services but at least they've been told they don't have to strap their gear on to the pontoons!

If you are at all interested in contests, the IOTA contest is a good one with stations operating from all sorts of interesting places. Wonderful QSL cards. So get on the air and see if Hillar or Elsie are still alive after their trip to the frozen north!

What is IOTA?

Created in 1964 by Geoff Watts, a leading English short wave listener and taken on by the RSGB in 1985, IOTA is an amateur radio activity designed to encourage contacts with island stations world wide. The oceans' islands have been grouped into some 1200 IOTA groups by reason of geography. 18 separate certificates are currently available for island chasers plus some darn nice QSL cards.

Main IOTA frequencies are 14.260MHz, 28.560, 21.260, 18.260, 7.055 and 3.7MHz but IOTA stations can be found almost anywhere during the annual contest.

To understand the IOTA program better, you should purchase the IOTA Directory, a 130 page manual on the event or check the web for IOTA.



Chehalis Veteran's Museum

In the photo above, Bob Willey, KD7OWN and Howard Mayhew, KB7RYJ talk with WWII vet Tom "Tomcat" Nelson at the grand opening of the Chehalis Veterans Museum on July 2nd. "Tomcat" survived Pearl Harbor only to be blown off his ship in the South Pacific. He was subsequently "rescued" by the Japanese Navy and spent the next three years in a Japanese prisoner of war camp. After the war, he became a ham radio operator, although no longer active.

For the grand opening, the 20,000 sq. foot building was packed and the traffic jam extended back to Wal-Mart. Marty veterans proudly wore their uniforms and everyone had a story to tell. Our own Art Williams, N7EIK, was on hand working in the museum store. If you haven't seen Art's woodwork art, you are really missing something.

CVARS members set up around 9am and by 11am we were listening to some beautiful bugle music. It was amazing how many hams stopped by to say hello and tell us of their war stories. Most were trained during WWII and we are losing those American heroes daily.

Membership in the museum is \$20 and it is worth twice as much. Lee Grimes, the creator, says: "They Shall Not Be Forgotten". Amen.

This'll Make You Feel Better

Think a gallon of gas is expensive? Check out these prices:

Diet Snapple 16 oz \$1.29 = \$10.32 per gallon
Ice Tea 16 oz \$1.19 = \$9.52 per gallon
Gatorade 20 oz \$1.59 = \$10.17 per gallon
Brake fluid 12 oz \$3.15 = \$33.60 per gallon
Vick's Nyquil 6oz \$8.35 = \$178.13 per gallon
Pepto Bismol 4 oz \$3.85 = \$123.20 per gallon
Whiteout 7 oz \$1.39 = \$25.42 per gallon
Scope 1.5 oz \$0.99 = \$84.48 per gallon
And this is the real kicker...
Evian water 9 oz \$1.49 = \$21.19 per gallon
FOR WATER!

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

While this isn't ham related, it is a fascinating story.

The idea for honoring the unknown dead originated in Europe after WWI. The first country to honor its unknown warriors from WWI was Great Britain. While on the Western Front, Reverend David Railton thought of arranging for a body of one unknown serviceman to be transported back to England and buried with full honors.

In the United States the idea caught on and was approved by Congress on March 4, 1921. The body of an unidentified soldier, killed in France was laid to eternal rest at Arlington National Cemetery. Since that time, an unknown American service member has been laid to rest from each war.

Currently, one of the highest honors a soldier can be assigned to is as the Tomb Guard. Specially trained and selected soldiers guard the tomb 24 hours a day, every day of the year. Guards walking their post walk 21 steps before turning signifying the twenty-one gun salute. At the end of the 21 steps, he turns and faces the tomb for 21 seconds and turns for 21 more steps. The guard is changed every 30 minutes during the summer and every hour in the winter. The tomb has been guarded every minute of every day since 1937.

For the first time, remains of an unknown soldier were identified in 1998. A Vietnam Unknown Soldier was exhumed on May 14th and his identity was confirmed by DNA testing as Lt. Michael Joseph Blassie, who was shot down near An Loc, Vietnam in 1972. It has been decided that the crypt that contained the remains of the Vietnam Unknown will remain vacant.

A visit to Arlington National Cemetery is one of the most moving experiences we as Americans can have. For more information check out the web at www.tombguard.org.

Thanks to Howard Mayhew, KB7RYJ for the basic information about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier that led to an interesting evening of research. May they rest in peace.

From 0 to 200 in 4 seconds!

The couple had been debating the purchase of a new automobile for weeks. He wanted a new truck. She wanted a fast little sports-like car so she could zip through traffic around town.

He probably would have settled on any beat up old truck, but everything she seemed to like was way out of their price range.

"Look!" she said, "I want something that goes from 0 to 200 in 4 seconds or less, and my birthday is coming up. You could surprise me."

For her birthday, he bought her a brand new shiny bathroom scale.

Visiting hours are from 1pm - 4pm for those who are interested.

Stress Reliever

Just in case you've had a rough day, here's a stress management technique recommended in all the latest psychological texts. The funny thing is that it really works.

1. Picture yourself near a stream.
2. Birds are softly chirping in the cool mountain air.
3. No one but you knows your secret place.
4. you are in total seclusion from the hectic place called "the world."
5. The soothing sound of a gentle waterfall fills the air with a cascade of serenity.
6. The water is crystal clear...
7. You can easily make out the face of the person you're holding underwater.
8. See, you're smiling already.

Mars Spectacular

Johnny Jackson, KQ7JJ, came across an interesting article about an event due to occur in August.

This month and next (July and August) Earth is catching up with Mars in an encounter that will culminate in the closest approach between the two planets in recorded history. The next time Mars may come this close is in 2287. Due to the way Jupiter's gravity tugs on Mars and perturbs its orbit, astronomers can only be certain that Mars has not come this close to Earth in the last 5,000 years but it may be as long as 60,000 years before it happens again.

The encounter will culminate on August 27th when Mars comes to within 34,649,589 miles of Earth and will be (next to the moon) the brightest object in the night sky. It will attain a magnitude of -2.9 and will appear 25.11 arc seconds wide. Through a modest 75 power magnification, Mars will look as large as the full moon to the naked eye. Mars will be easy to spot. At the beginning of August, it will rise in the east at 10 pm and reach its azimuth at about 3 am.

No one alive will ever see this again, so drag you spouse, children and grandchildren out into the warm August evening. Enjoy.

Lighthouse & Lightship Weekend

The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend is close at hand scheduled for 1300Z-2100Z August 20-21, 2005. Recommended frequencies are: 14.260 and 7.260 but, like the IOTA contest, you will find them all around the band. Look for some weak signals as most of the lighthouse operators are working 100 watts mobile around the Great Lakes but their QSL cards are beautiful.

An Oldie but a Goodie...

One Sunday morning just before church service, the minister noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church, staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names with small American flags mounted on either side of it.

The seven year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the minister walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, "Good morning, Alex."

"Good morning, sir," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Sir, what is this?" he asked the minister. The minister said, "Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly they just stood together in silence, staring at the large plaque.

Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear, asked, "Which service, the 9:45 or the 11:15?"

For Sale...For Sale...For Sale...

- Icom IC720A All band transceiver
- Icom IC515 Power supply
- MFJ Versa Tuner 3 Kilowatt series roller inductor model MFJ 989B
- Heathkit keyer
- Key
- Butternut antenna
- Headset
- Miscellaneous gear, parts, etc.

Contact Art Williams, N7EIK. At 736-7358 for more information. Art would like to sell all the equipment as a package if possible and is asking \$550. The Butternut antenna is standing and anyone buying it will need to take it down. This would be a nice HF station for someone who needs it.

A Few Quips...

- Every time I get in an elevator, the operator says the same thing to me: "Basement?" – Rodney Dangerfield
- It's good to be back in New York but the crime situation has gotten bad. When I was getting off the airplane, the pilot was putting "the club" on the steering wheel. – John Mendoza
- Any sufficiently advanced bureaucracy is indistinguishable from molasses.

- What a life. When I was a kid and asked my Dad if I could go ice skating, he told me to wait until it gets warmer. – Rodney Dangerfield

This Has Got To Be DX!

Northwest Angle Amateur Radio Club will host a Special Event 1400Z August 12 – 2100Z August 13, 2005 using frequencies 14.240, 9.960, 21.350 and 7.200, honoring the activation of the northernmost amateur radio club in the contiguous 48 states. They will be using callsign NW0AA. SASE to Dan Whipple, 11726 Norway St., N.W. Coon Rapids, MN 55448 for QSL.

Computers

At a recent computer expo, Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated, "If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25.00 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon."

In response, GM issued a press release:

If GM had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics:

1. For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash twice a day.
2. Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car.
3. Occasionally, your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this.
4. Occasionally, executing a maneuver such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to *reinstall* the engine.
5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was more reliable, five times as fast, and twice as easy to drive – but would run on only five percent of the roads.
6. The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single "This car has performed an illegal operation" warning light.
7. The airbag system would ask, "Are you sure?" before deploying.
8. You'd have to press the "start" button to turn the engine off.

Remember

The BawFaw picnic follows the CVARS hamfest.

Chehalis Valley ARS proudly presents the 8th Annual



PACIFIC NORTHWESTS LARGEST INDOOR/OUTDOOR HAM RADIO ELECTRONIC TAILGATE SWAPMEET

COMMERCIAL VENDORS – FREE ADMISSION*

Saturday, July 30, 2005 - 7:00 am to 1:00 pm

Southwest Washington Fairgrounds, Chehalis, WA

General Admission - \$5 at 7:00am, \$4.00 at 8:00am \$3.00 at 9:00am
FREE AFTER 10:00am • Vendors, \$10.00 for one car space and one admission. Additional spaces are \$5.00 each. Vendors are welcome all morning as long as there is space available.

This a California style tailgate only Swapmeet. It is going to be outside and under cover. No early setup* At 7:00am, the doors open for EVERYONE.

All for one and all for one. It was a lot of fun last year.

Talk in 147.06 (PL110.9) & 146.46 Simplex

License Exam @ 10:30 am • Radio Gear • Door Prizes • Commercial Vendors
• Computers • Most anything electronic is allowed •

See www.cvars.org/swapmeet.htm

Driving Directions: Take I-5 Exit 79, go east to the "T", turn left and follow it about three miles. Turn left onto Exhibitor Street, go one block to the "T", turn left, go 100 feet then turn right into fairgrounds south parking lot. Turn right into the parking lot. (there is a gun show going on also) General admission vendors, go straight ahead and follow the signs. We will sign you in and you will be ready to enter at 7:00

If you need a table, the cost is \$6.00 each the day of the show. .

Set up for Commercial Vendors only, Friday night at 6:00pm until 8:30. Saturday 6:00am to 7:00am.

*There is still a table cost if you don't have your own.

Number of tables needed _____ @ \$6.00 each. Vendor spaces _____ @ \$10.00 each with one admission.
Additional Spaces _____ @ \$5.00 each

Total Amount Remitted: \$

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____

Mail to: Chehalis Valley ARS; P.O. Box 304; Chehalis, WA 98532.

Pre-registrations will receive an extra door prize ticket with each registration.

Questions, please email John at k7osk@boatanchor.com 360-791-7934