

Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society



cvars.org

December 2005

Edited by Bob Willey KD7OWN

Happy Holidays!

Will you be there? You simply CAN'T miss it! Mere mortals wait all year for this event. Yes, I'm talking about the annual CVARS Christmas party. This year, for the very first time, the Christmas party will be held at First Baptist Church, 1866 S. Market in Chehalis where our monthly club meetings are held.

Bob Majoros, KD7RTL, has been working hard on the preparations. The Christmas party is held each year instead of our normal December meeting. This means the party is scheduled for December 7th (the first Wednesday of the month) at 7:30 PM. Bob will have the doors open around 6:30 PM and could use all the help he can get to set up for the evening.

Just a reminder, this is a potluck dinner so bring a main dish, salad or dessert...or one of each! The more food, the more smiles! Bring the family and join the fun. This is usually a great event and promises to be even better this year. Don't miss the fun. Come early and stay late.

Election Results ...Election Results!

November's CVARS meeting is traditionally election month and election results are in.

For 2006, the following club members were elected:

President – Gerry Cuning, KN7VFO

Vice President – Johnny Jackson, KQ7JJ

Secretary – Bob Willey, KD7OWN

Treasurer – Steve Pack, WB7VAS

Board member – Loyann Munyan, KC7KCJ

Board member – Nicholas Bratina, KD7YUF

Executive Board member Jim VanderMeer, KC7ASV and Secretary Jon Jeschke, KD7SXV will be retiring from service at the end of 2005. Thank you for your great service to our club. Board members Toby Vice, KD7JPK and Jeff Mayfield, KE7ACE still have one more year to service on their term.

Thoughts From Your President

As my term as club president comes to an end and Gerry Cuning takes over, I want to thank everyone for your help and support during 2005. CVARS exists simply to support our hobby. The club will last only as long as members give of their time and energy. With your help, our club has grown and prospered. Thank you and keep up the good work!

Executive Board Meeting Notes

November's Executive Board meeting was held on the air after the November 6th CVARS net. On the air meetings have proven to be very popular. Join us when you can and check into the Sunday evening net as well! The meeting was called to order at 8:35 pm.

Present Were: Bob Willey, KD7OWN, President; John Jackson, KQ7JJ, Vice-President; Jon Jeschke, KD7SXV, Secretary; and Jim VanderMeer, KC7ASV, board member at large. Guests included Gerry Cuning, KN7VFO, newly elected President for 2006.

Vice-President's Report: John Jackson reminds everyone that there will not be a regular club meeting in December but we will use that date, December 7th, as our annual Christmas party. He is working on bringing a speaker for the NTS System in for January's meeting. As always, John could use your help in the form of program ideas for the coming months.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Pack reports that the club is in good shape as 2005 comes to a close. John Jackson ordered and received several study guides for both technician and general class license examinations so if you are in need of them, contact Johnny. President Bob Willey requested Steve prepare a treasurer's report for the new executive board before the first of the year.

Old Business: Bob Willey gave the election results from November's meeting. Congratulations to everyone elected. Plans for the annual Christmas party were finalized and board members will contact Bob Majoros to see if any assistance is needed for decorations or setup. Steve Pack made a motion to give a donation to the First Baptist Church again this year as a thank you gift for allowing the club to use their facilities for our meetings. The motion, seconded by Jim VanderMeer, called for a donation of \$100. With no discussion heard, the motion was unanimously approved.

New Business: CVARS has, for several years, offered licensing classes during the second weekend in October and March. The club is looking for an instructor willing to take on technician or even general level classes for March 11 & 12th. If interested, contact any executive board member. The board would like to hear your thoughts on these continuing classes. With very little participation, are they worth the time? Should the club suggest those wishing to license go to Olympia or Longview? Let us know what you think.

With no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Congratulations Art, N7EIK

Art and his wife celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary recently. Congratulations to you both and we hope you have many more wonderful years together.

Hazardous Duty

A pirate walked into a bar and the bartender said, "Hey, I haven't seen you in awhile. What happened? You look terrible."

"What do you mean?" said the pirate, "I feel fine."

"What about the wooden leg? You didn't have that before."

"Well, we were in a battle and I got hit with a cannonball, but I'm fine now."

"OK, but what about that hook? What happened to your hand?"

"We were in another battle. I boarded a ship and got into a sword fight. My hand was cut off. I got fitted with a hook. I'm fine, really."

"What about that eye patch?"

"Oh, one day we were at sea and a flock of birds flew over. I looked up and one of them pooped in my eye."

"You're kidding," said the bartender, "you couldn't lose an eye just from some bird poop."

"It was my first day with the hook."

2005 10 Meter Contest

This year's 10 meter contest will be held December 10-11th. With conditions being fairly poor on the 10 meter band of late, this could be a difficult contest at best but remember, 10 meters can be a "local" band too. Just because you can't hear 99% of the country doesn't mean you can't find local club members or neighbors calling "CQ 10 Meters" during the contest. There are points to be had, qsl cards to be sent and 'bragg' in rights' to be claimed locally. So get in there and work'em.

Kayaking Accident

The day after his wife disappeared in a kayaking accident, an Anchorage man answered his door to find two grim faced Alaska State Troopers.

"We're sorry, Mr. Wilkens, but we have some information about your wife," said one trooper.

"Tell me! Did you find her?" Wilkens shouted.

The troopers looked at each other. One said "We have some bad news, some good news, and some really great news. Which do you want to hear first?"

Fearing the worst, an ashen Mr. Wilkens said, "Give me the bad news first."

The trooper said, "I'm sorry to tell you, sir, but this morning we found your wife's body in Kachemak Bay."

"Oh my God!" exclaimed Wilkens. Swallowing hard, he asked, "What's the good news?"

The trooper continued. "When we pulled her up she had two 25-pound king crabs and six good-size Dungeness crabs on her."

Stunned, Mr. Wilkens demanded, "If that's the good news, what's the great news?"

The trooper said, "We're going to pull her up again tomorrow."

THE DX BEAR - SHE'S ARISING!

By Hillar Raamat, N6HR

Ahhh, so good to hear DX pileups again! The bands are awakening for the winter and it is nice to hear all kinds of DX again, albeit mostly on the lower bands. The CQ Worldwide Phone contest is still THE major contest of the year with over 150 DXCC entities participating in this years bedlam. Only Zone 39 was the rare one until the Russian Antarctic station R1ANN showed up! Wow, did he ever have a pileup! The other Russian station R1ANT was in Zone 13 (same as Argentina).

Meanwhile several DXpeditions are going on. After the huge successful assault on Kure by K7C and Co., two of their antennas are now on Palmyra as KH7U/KH5 and KH6ND/KH5.

Kimo has been handling the SSB end while Mike is handing out CW Qs. Then several JAs activated Temotu Province as H40HL and they have been on the air both SSB and CW. And VK9CG on Christmas Island has been workable on many bands. Likewise several african stations have been active but we here in the Northwest have had a hard time breaking the East Coast Electronic Curtain. Next up will be the CQ Worldwide CW contest on 26/27 Nov.

A new contest is being organized called the "7QP" - the Seventh Area QSO Party. The first will take place 6/7 May of 2006 and the counties of the eight states of the 7-Land will be the multi-pliers. Already the county hunters and DXers are checking their counties-needed lists. Lots of mobiles have promised to be on county lines for dual QSOs. Hey, this will be the time to work the hinterlands of Montana and Wyoming while the bears are barely coming out of hibernation!

So keep checking the bands - especially 30/40/80/160. The noise is down and all kinds of stations are workable. However, 10 and 12 are limited to pretty much of a North-South path so here we can work Jay at VY1JA and wait for someone to go to Clipperton! That's the North and South for us here in WA!

And keep checking the DX Summit - <http://oh2aq.fi/DXS>
C u in the pileups, Hillar N6HR

Longevity

Married men live longer than single men do, but married men are a lot more willing to die.

Remember...

Every calendar's days are numbered.

Amateur Radio College Classes

Centralia College, East, has scheduled classes titled "Amateur Radio For Emergency Preparedness" for January 23 - March 27th. The fee is \$31. Participants will learn how to set up radio equipment and study topics required to earn the FCC Technician license, thereby enabling them to serve the crucial role of ham radio operator using basic frequencies. For more information check the web at www.centralia.ctc.edu/CCE.

North Dakota News Bulletin

Montana and North Dakota recently got hit with their first blizzard of the season. The following text is from the county emergency manager in western North Dakota:

Weather Bulletin

The Northern Plains just recovered from a historic event – may I even say a “Weather Event” – with a historic blizzard of up to 24 inches of snow and winds to 50 mph that broke trees in half, stranding hundreds of motorists in snow banks, closed all roads, isolated scores of communities and cut power to thousands.

George Bush did not come...

FEMA staged nothing...

No one howled for the government...

Nobody demanded \$2000 debit cards...

No one asked for a FEMA trailer house...

No news anchors moved in!

We just melted snow for water, sent out caravans to pluck people out of snow engulfed cars, fired up wood stoves, broke out coal oil lanterns and put on extra clothes. Even though a category “5” blizzard of this scale has never fallen this early...we know it can happen and how to deal with it ourselves.

Everybody is fine.

Thank you for asking.

Two-way Radios & Scanners For Dummies

Our friend Ward Silver, N0AX, has another book out just in time for Christmas. **Two-way Radios and Scanners For Dummies** covers different types of radios available. The book includes characteristics of the different services and how to get a license if needed. Scanning and shortwave listening are covered as well as public safety systems, military radio and aviation channels. The book concludes with an extensive technical section on installation, batteries and principles of elementary radio and electronics. Ward says there is something in this book for even the experienced ham. The book is available on line and in bookstores at prices from \$15 to \$22.

Men Are...

Men are like bananas...the older they get, the less firm they are.

Men are like chocolate...sweet, smooth and they usually head right for your hips.

Men are like government bonds...they take sooooo long to mature.

Men are like lava lamps...fun to look at but not very bright.

Men are like parking spots...all the good ones are taken and the rest are handicapped.

John Stewart, KD7CAL, SK

John Stewart, long time member of the Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society passed away November 13th in Longview. John's wife, Barbara, passed away in 2002. John remarried in 2003 and moved to the Longview area. He was a member of the BawFaw Repeater Group and an avid wood carver of exceptional talent. John was 69.

Always Good To Be Quick On Your Feet

An older couple had not been out together in quite some time. One Saturday, as the wife was finishing the dinner dishes, the husband stepped up behind her. “Would you like to go out, girl?” he asked.

Not even turning around, the wife quickly responded, “Oh, yes, I'd love to!”

They had a wonderful evening and it wasn't until much later that the husband finally confessed that his question had actually been directed to the family dog lying on the kitchen floor. Men aren't just hunters and gatherers. We survive by being quick witted. (sometimes)

A DXpedition...What It Takes

By Ward Silver, N0AX

Here I am, back from the K7C expedition (to Kure) which involved sailing 2700+ miles in a relatively small boat with 18 other people. Let me just say that you get to know your fellow travelers fairly well under such circumstances.

Of course, the expedition has generated pages of statistics, breakdowns, graphics, logs, rates, and so forth but the real story that doesn't often make it into the magazines or convention programs is the one of how individuals work together to make it happen. On-the-air operation gets the most attention, but it takes a long time of dealing with innumerable details before (and after) the expedition in order for the actual operating to ever have a chance of taking place.

The stars of DXing and contesting are often those you see in photographs with the headphones on, bent over the keyboard, filling the log. What it takes to be such an OM or YL is much more than just operating prowess. One must be multi-talented and be able to carry the mental and physical load. There isn't much room on the successful contest teams or expeditions for prima donnas or excessively specialized operators.

Members should be able to change a tube, plan an antenna raising, take apart a radio (and get it back together), navigate to the site, lay out an antenna farm, tell a joke, compute a score, build a tower, dispense medicine, control a pileup, take orders, give orders, cooperate, act alone, analyze propagation, wash dishes, fix the logging software, cook something, operate efficiently, and yield the chair graciously. No specialization allowed.

I found all of these traits in my companions out there at the remote end of the Hawaiian Islands, closer to Japan than North America and during our voyages out and back. What made K7C appear in your receivers was much more than just radios and antennas. It was a combined human effort reaching back many months and which will continue for months yet.

If there was a load to be hauled, it go hauled. If there was a mast to push up, it got pushed up. Hole to dig? Dug. Dishes to wash or generator to refuel? Say no more. Pileup to corral? Consider that shift filled. That intense focus, day in and day out, created for me a sense of disorientation on return to civilization. As we sailed back along Oahu's southern shore (on schedule, it must be said) in the early morning, all of us stood quietly along the port rail, taking in the island with its hotels,

marinas, and modern life. Our travels ending, it was time to reload all of our regular daily concerns and constraints. Even though the trip back was rough, I'm sure most of us felt at least a fleeting temptation to turn that boat around and head back out to another exotic location where we could once again put our shoulders to the proverbial wheel together.

In a hobby that often lionizes the lone wolf, how satisfying it is to achieve success by relying on the efforts of the team; most assuredly greater than the sum of its parts. I hope that all my readers will get a similar opportunity to excel in the company of as fine a group of compatriots as I've been privileged to enjoy.

73, Ward N0AX

Reprinted from the Contester's Rate Sheet

There I was...

I was driving down a lonely Colorado country road one cold winter day when it began to sleet pretty heavily. My windows were getting icy and my wiper blades were badly worn and quickly fell apart under the strain. Unable to drive any further because of the ice building up on my front window, I suddenly had a great idea.

I stopped and began to overturn large rocks until I located two very lethargic hibernating rattlesnakes. I grabbed them up, straightened them out flat and installed them on my blades and they worked just fine.

What?

You've never heard of... wind-chilled vipers?

Storm Statistics

November 5th's big storm generated the following information on Steve Pack's automated weather station south of Chehalis:

Time	Speed	Gusts
5 pm	11 mph	30 mph
6 pm	15 mph	26 mph
7 pm	22 mph	40 mph
8 pm	8 mph	5 mph
9 pm	2 mph	5 mph

Another weather spotter in Centralia also reported gusts to almost 40 mph and a spotter in Yelm reported gusts that were 42 mph to 54 mph. (Thanks Steve).

Hazardous Materials Data Sheet - Women

Physical Properties:

- Body surface normally covered with film of powder and paint.
- Boils at absolutely nothing – freezes for no apparent reason.
- Found in various grades ranging from virgin material to common ore.

Chemical Properties:

- Reacts well to gold, platinum and all precious stones.
- Explodes spontaneously without reason or warning.
- The most powerful money reducing agent known to man.

Common Use:

- Highly ornamental, especially in sports cars.
- Can be a very effective cleaning agent.

Hazards:

- Turns green when placed alongside a superior specimen.
- Possession of more than one is possible but specimens must never make eye contact.

Grin and Groan (mostly groan)

A frog goes into a bank and approaches the teller. He can see from her nameplate that her name is Patricia Whack.

"Miss Whack, I'd like to get a \$30,000 loan to take a holiday."

Patty looks at the frog in disbelief and asks his name. The frog says his name is Kermit Jagger, his dad is Mick Jagger and that it's okay, he knows the bank manager. Patty explains that he will need to secure the loan with some collateral. The frog says, "Sure. I have this," and produces a tiny porcelain elephant, about an inch tall, bright pink and perfectly formed.

Very confused, Patty explains that she'll have to consult with the bank manager and disappears into the back office. She finds the manager and says, "There's a frog called Kermit Jagger out there who claims to know you and wants to borrow \$30,000, and he wants to use this as collateral." She holds up the tiny pink elephant. "I mean, what in the world is this?"

(you're gonna love this)

The bank manager looks back at her and says...

"It's a knickknack, Patty Whack. Give the frog a loan. His old man's a Rolling Stone."

(okay.. you're singing it aren't you? Yeah, I know you are.....)

Indian Knowledge

An old wild west fort is about to be attacked. The wily old general sends for his trusty Indian scout. "You must use all your thirty years of skill in trying to estimate the sort of army we are up against here."

The trusty Indian scout lies down and puts his ear to the ground. "Heap large war party," he says, "maybe three hundred braves, four chiefs, two on black stallions, two on white stallions. All have war paint. Many, many guns. Medicine man also with them."

"Good grief!" exclaims the general, "You can tell all of that just by listening to the ground?"

"No," replies the Indian, "I can see under the gate."

Skywarn Recognition Day

The annual Skywarn Recognition Day will be held on December 3rd running on the GMT clock, meaning from Dec. 2 at 4 PM to Dec. 3 at 4 PM Pacific Time. There are usually plenty of stations on the air for contact and they give out some great QSL cards. Catch'em now.

Remember...

During this holiday season, please remember our men and women who protect our American freedom and are far away from home. Happy Holidays to you and yours.