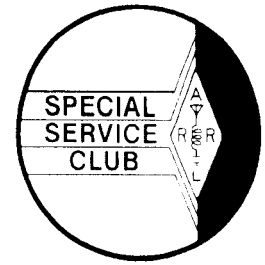




CVARS



March 2006

Website: cvars.org

Edited by Bob Willey, KD7OWN

Next CVARS Meeting:

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

First Baptist Church, 1866 S. Market Blvd, Chehalis

Doors Open 7:00 PM – Meeting Starts 7:30 PM

BawFaw Repeater

147.06+ PL Tone 110.9

Mt. St. Helens Repeater

145.43- PI Tone 110.9

Join us every Sunday evening at 8:00 PM on the Mt. St. Helens Repeater for the Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Net.

CVARS Swapmeet Date Set

John Ellingson, K7OSK, says the CVARS summer swapmeet date has been set. It will be held on Saturday, July 29th beginning at 9:00 AM at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds in Chehalis. An auction will be held at 10:30 AM.

Better Bring Your \$.25

President Jerry Cunning has put his foot down! The good news is that quite a few members at the last CVARS meeting were sporting their name tags. The bad news, for some, is that beginning with March's meeting, those members not wearing a name tag will be fined 25 cents.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, name tags can be purchased at Awards West on Kresky in Centralia for \$8.50 with your first name, call sign, city you live in and the CVARS logo. If you want your last name, it might cost a little more.

With new members almost every meeting, it is important to show support for your club and make it a friendly place for those seeking a new club. So make it happen or bring your quarter.

Dues WERE Due

If you haven't paid your 2006 dues, you're LATE! Yup, dues were due by the end of February. Remember, if you didn't pay your dues, this will be your last newsletter.

Executive Board Meeting

The Executive Board Meeting for the Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society was held Sunday, February 12th at the home of John Jackson. The meeting was called to order by President Jerry Cunning at 6:40pm.

Present were: Jerry Cunning, KN7VFO, President; John Jackson, KQ7JJ, Vice-President; Bob Willey, KD7OWN, Secretary; Steve Pack, WB7VAS, Treasurer and Jeff Mayfield, KE7ACE, board member.

Vice President's Report: John Jackson announced several new program ideas including the Tacoma Radio Club with their new screwdriver antennas for sale, Hillar and Elsie Raamat with their DXpedition program, a QSLing program by Ken Wages, KH6CQH and Ward Silver, N0AX. More details to follow as these are firmed up for later programs.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Pack, WB7VAS, gave a treasurer's report which shows the club is in pretty stable condition thanks to Steve's watchful eye.

Old Business: President Jerry brought up once again that we need someone to step forward and take the responsibility to be a field day coordinator. There was some discussion about not participating this year if no one wanted to help and it was decided to put the problem before the membership at the next meeting. The spring raffle's radio questions were solved and a decision was made on which radio to buy. Information later in this newsletter.

New Business: Club special events were discussed and beginning plans made. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Raffle's Ready...Bring Money

Oh yeah, it is that time again. The spring CVARS raffle is ready to roll. This year the club has purchased the Kenwood TM-D700A Mobile and some lucky club member will be the winner!

This little baby has advanced APRS, detachable control head, full dual-band operation and is set up with full digipeater functions. It is satellite packet ready and has a built in 1200 / 9600 bps TNC. WOW! Is this a honey of a radio. Nothing but the best. It is going to look pretty darn nice in my truck...oops, did I say that out loud?

Anyway, we'll have the radio for you to touch and feel next meeting. Tickets go on sale beginning at the March 1st CVARS meeting and go through July 5th when some lucky winner will walk away with a brand new mobile with all the bells and whistles. Tickets are \$2 each so bring your money.

Three Guys...

Three guys, a Canadian farmer, Osama bin Laden, and an American engineer are working together one day. They come across a lantern and a Genie pops out of it.

"I will give each of you one wish, which is three wishes says the Genie."

The Canadian says, "I am a farmer, my dad was a farmer, and my son will also be a farmer. I want the land to be forever fertile in Canada.

Pooooof! With the blink of the Genie's eye, the land in Canada is forever made fertile for farming.

Osama bin Ladin was amazed, so he said, "I want a wall around Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran so that no infidels can come into our precious state."

Pooooof! Again, with the blink of the Genie's eye, there was a huge wall around those countries.

The American engineer asks, "I'm curious. Please tell me more about this wall".

The Genie explains, "Well, it's about 5000 feet high, 500 feet thick and completely surrounds the countries. Nothing can get in or out...it's virtually impenetrable."

The American engineer says, "Fill it with water."

Pooooof!

Mike & Key Hamfest

If you have the spring blahs, you had better mark your calendar for Saturday, March 11th and plan on being in Puyallup for the 25th annual Mike & Key Amateur Radio Club electronics show and flea market. It all begins at 9am at the Western Washington Fairgrounds with two floors with 44,000 square feet of exhibition area and over 300 tables. Radio gear, computers, parts, club information, snacks and free parking. How can you beat that? Licensing exams will be offered as well. This is a great way to get rid of the spring blahs so lets go!

Windex is a medicine?

Yup! You know sometimes I just get the sudden urge to run around naked.

But then I just drink some Windex. It keeps me from streaking!

Thoughts For The Day...

When does a woman care for a man's company?
When he owns it.

How many men does it take to wallpaper a bathroom?
Three, if you slice them very thinly.

Why do men get married?
So they don't have to hold their stomachs in anymore.

What's the difference between men and government bonds?
Bonds mature.

Why do men buy electric lawnmowers?
So they can find their way back to the house.

How do you get a man to do sit-ups?
Put the remote control between his toes.

2006 Communications Academy

This year's Communications Academy is scheduled for the weekend of April 1-2nd and will be held in a different location this year at the Criminal Justice Training Center in Burien. Registration should be open as this newsletter gets to you and you will save some money if you sign up early. This event is always fun and everyone seems to learn something new. You don't want to mow the lawn yet anyway so sign up and we'll see you there.

Field Day

Over the years the club has had some pretty generous members who have been willing to step up and organize Field Day. Last year, Terry Neumann, KQ7K did a fabulous job and everyone had a great time.

So far this year, no one has been willing to step up and help. While Field Day is not hard work, it does take some organization and this event doesn't happen by accident. Someone makes it happen. How about stepping up and taking on part of these responsibilities? Can you organize the potluck? Can you help by arranging for the park? Let Jerry know if you can work to do part of this event and let's make it happen.

How Firefighters Know If It's Dangerous.

Eric Gildersleeve, KD7CAO passed this on. When responding to a possible Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) spill, firefighters need to know just how serious the situation is. Since police officers ALWAYS get there first, this is a simple formula for them to tell:

1. Police officer standing / patrol car running: Not hazardous.
2. Officer unconscious / car running: Toxic fumes
3. Officer unconscious / car stalled: Oxygen displacing chemical.
4. Officer / car melting: Acidic chemical.
5. Officer / car on fire: Extremely flammable.

On The Radio In March

There are a couple of great HF contests coming in March. Summer is coming and you'll wish you had spent some time on the radio back in March so here's your chance.

- ARRL International DX Contest – 0000Z March 4th – 2359 March 5th. This is a really good contest for anyone looking for that few countries needed for your DXCC award. Fun AND easy!
- Russian DX – 1200Z March 19 – 1200Z March 20th. Some of these Russian stations are difficult to get and now is your chance.
- CQ WW WPX – 0000Z March 25 – 2359Z March 26th. CQ Magazine's World Wide Worked All Prefix Contest. Another great contest for another great award. Fun and easy to do.

Humor In Uniform

After an overnight flight to meet my father at his latest military assignment, my Mother wearily arrived at Rhein-main Air Base in Germany with nine siblings and me – all under age 11. Collecting our many suitcases, the ten of us entered the cramped customs area. A young customs official watched our entourage in disbelief. "Ma'am," he said, "do all these children and all this luggage belong to you?"

"Yes, sir," my Mother said with a sigh. "They're all mine."

The customs agent began his interrogation: "Ma'am, do you have any weapons, contraband or illegal drugs in your possession?"

"Sir," she calmly answered, "if I'd had any of those items, I would have used them by now."

The official allowed us to pass without opening a single suitcase.

Contesting...Give It A Try

One of the easiest ways to make lots of contacts with other hams is a contest. You don't have to be clever or make conversation. You just throw out your call sign and the other station does the rest!

Many of us are nervous when calling "CQ". We aren't sure who, if anyone, will answer. Will I be able to hear them? Do they really want to talk to me? What will I say? Will they know I haven't done this very much?

Contesters on the other hand, don't care about any of this. They want to give you a signal report or their county or their state, and get the same information from you and move on.

Don't know how to score the points? Forget about points. Just work the station, copy down the callsign, time (in UTC) and frequency so you can send for a QSL card and let the points go.

Each contest wants you to give different information. Usually, it is your name, a signal report (59 if you want to be lazy) and one other thing – either a sequential number representing the number of contacts you have had in the contest (go ahead and lie, put in 500 and blow their socks off) or your county or maybe just your name

and state. When you tune in for a few minutes and listen to a few exchanges, you'll know what is wanted and it is never complicated.

Contests are a great way to get QSL cards. Just remember to send yours and a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope (SASE) for them to send their card back to you. Contests are an easy way to collect all 50 states for a Worked All States award. Contests are also an easy way for you to evaluate how well your radio and antenna are working. Can they hear you in New York? From my home in Centralia, Texas and Florida are very easy to get. Maine is not (I think there is only one ham in all of Maine).

The ARRL International DX contest and the CQ World Wide Worked All Prefix contest are two of the best and easiest to work. AND, this is a great time of the year for propagation for these contests.

So come on, give one or both a try. Nobody will yell at you. Nobody will laugh at you. You got into ham radio to talk on the radio so how come you don't? Give these contests a try and let me know how you did. I'd love to hear from you. I'll be on there for all three contests. If you hear me call a station, jump right in there after me. At least you'll know he is listening to Washington State!

Because I'm A Man

Because I'm a man, when I lock my car keys in the car, I will fiddle with a coat hanger long after hypothermia has set in. Calling AAA is not an option. I will win.

Because I'm a man, when I catch a cold, I need someone to bring me soup and take care of me while I lie in bed and moan. You're a woman. You never get as sick as I do, so for you, this is no problem.

Because I'm a man, I think what you're wearing is fine. I thought what you were wearing five minutes ago was fine, too. Either pair of shoes is fine. With the belt or without it, looks fine. You're hair is fine. You look fine. Can we just go now?

This has been a public service message to help women better understand men.

Fair Haired Women's Joke (Can't call it a Blonde joke anymore)

Two blondes (sorry, can't help it) were reading their daily newspapers and one of them sees a headline that says: "Two Brazilian soldiers killed." She thinks for a minute, and then whispers to her friend... "Psssst, how many is a brazilian?"

WARNING!

Thou shall be expected to wear thy name badge at the next CVARS meeting or pony up thy 25 cents. Thee have been warned!

Only In America

When NASA first started sending up astronauts, they quickly discovered that ball-point pens would not work in zero gravity. To combat this problem, NASA scientists spent a decade and \$12 billion developing a pen that writes in zero gravity, upside-down, on almost any surface including glass and at temperatures ranging from below freezing to over 300 C.

The Russians just used a pencil.

Fatal Accident Study

The National Transportation Safety Board recently divulged they had covertly funded a multi-state project with auto makers where black box voice recorders were installed in 4-wheel drive pickup trucks and SUVs in an effort to understand the last 15 seconds of a fatal accident.

The board was surprised to find the recorded last words of drivers in 49 of the 50 states were all the same: "Oh, (I can't print that word here so you'll have to guess).

Only in Alabama were they different. There, the final words were:

"Hold my beer, I'm gonna try somethin!"

March's CVARS Program

Vice President John Jackson, KQ7JJ, has arranged to have members of the Radio Club of Tacoma as March's program. In last month's newsletter, it was mentioned that the radio club is building screwdriver antennas for sale. They run around \$150 which covers parts and a little into their club treasury.

On March 1, RCT members will be down to show off their antenna, explain how it is made and how it works and offer them for sale. According to their information, the antenna tunes from 80 through 10 meters, has a high Q and handles 200 watts. The antenna weighs in at about 6 lbs, less the 103 inch whip they recommend you attach.

They say no matching network is required and the antenna are tuned by adjusting the length to match transceiver output frequency using an external SWR meter or internal transceiver meter.

Mounting hardware is not included and whips and interconnecting wire is not included either. The base of the antenna fits into a 2 inch pipe. These sound like great antenna. Johnny says they will bring a few for sale if anyone wants one. Come and enjoy learning a little more about screwdriver antennas on March 1st.

For Sale...For Sale

Our friend, Hillar Raamat, N6HR, will be down soon to give another great DXpedition presentation. But until then, he has a few items for sale. He can be reached at hraamat@whidbey.net.

- Two hard fiberglass suitcases-or boxes-or crates or pelican type cases-previously used to pack Alpha amps for DXpeditions. \$15 apiece.
- Two vacuum relays. Replacements for Ten-Tec Titan SK circuit. 24 V coils. Switch your rhombies! Fast! Real fast! \$20 each.

- MFJ Model 1026 "indoor antenna". \$10 – good for basements or attics.
- Variacs! A pair of smaller ones good for filament transformers on expensive tubes. One brand new with AC meters. \$15 for both.
- Antenna elements with lots of antenna hardware. Used to be a KLM 6-element 10 meter "Long John" L-A-R-G-E box of antenna hardware! How about \$10?
- Several breadslicer variable capacitors. Will throw one of them in with any purchase – like free!

Ah, The Pacific Northwest

An observant woman died one day and found herself waiting in the long line at the Pearly Gates for judgment. As she stood there, she noticed that some souls were allowed to march right through the pearly gates into heaven but others were led over to Satan who threw them into the burning pit.

But every so often, instead of hurling a poor soul into the fire, Satan would toss one into a small pile off to one side. After watching Satan do this several times, the woman's curiosity got the best of her so she strolled over to find out what the devil was doing.

"Excuse me, Prince of Darkness," she said. "I'm waiting my turn for judgment, but I couldn't help wondering why are you tossing those people aside instead of flinging them into the fires of hell with the others?"

"Ah, those..." Satan said with a groan. "They're all from the Northwest and they're too wet to burn!"

Last Reminder...

Name tags...yup, I've mentioned it a few times now. If you don't have an official name tag, tape a paper one just for this meeting to your body somewhere.

Remember...

If you haven't paid your 2006 dues, this will be your last newsletter. If you don't know if you've paid your dues see Steve Pack, Treasurer. If you need to pay dues, clip out this handy information form and make the job easier for "Guido" Pack.

CVARS Membership Application	
<input type="checkbox"/> New	Date: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	ARRL Member? _____
Call Sign: _____	License Class: _____
Name: _____	
Address: _____	
City, State: _____	
Home Phone: _____	
Day Phone: _____	
Email: _____	
Annual Dues: \$15 individual or family	
If family membership, please attach above info for each family member.	
Send to: CVARS, POB 304, Chehalis, 98532	