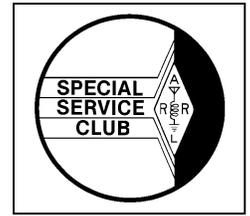


Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society



Website: cvars.org

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Official Record Executive Board Meeting September 10, 2003

The CVARS Executive Board met on Wednesday, September 10th at President Aiken's Office at 205 S. Tower Ave. in Centralia. The meeting was called to order at 6:40PM.

Present were: Kim Aiken, AC7YY, President; Steve Pack, WB7VAS, Treasurer; Loyann Munyan, KC7KCJ, Secretary; John Jackson, KQ7JJ, John Bertels, WA7LFJ, and Bill Hughes, KD7OWO, Board Members.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Pack advised the board that two members, Al, W7ZLR and Howard, KB7RYJ had paid their 2004 membership dues. \$36 in swapmeet table funds were also received. Treasurer's report was voice approved.

Old Business: John Jackson presented information concerning JOTA or Jamboree On The Air. He has found that this is a very large project and reports that local Scout organizations don't seem to know much about the event. Recommendations were to do nothing with the event this year but begin early in 2004 to educate the Scout organization and work towards next year's event. Motion to table and set up a committee in January for next year voice approved. This was followed by a review of the changes to the CVARS by-laws and introduction of the two new board members, John Jackson, KQ7JJ and John Bertels, WA7LFJ.

New Business: Gary Litteer, K7PG requested permission to hold a technician licensing class. Board approved holding a class if there were students interested in attending. Any costs must be pre-approved. President Aiken presented information from the BawFaw meeting. John Jackson will be working with Lisa of BawFaw on a CVARS/BawFaw tri-fold brochure. Jim, KC7ASV, Bill, AC7SR, Steve, WB7VAS and Kim, AC7YY were appointed to be the nominating committee for the upcoming elections.

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Presidents Corner

As members of Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society, we need to remember that the repeaters we use need our individual financial support. **Our club does not own or operate a repeater.** The repeater groups in the area provide us, as hams, a resource to use at our pleasure. These repeater sites require a substantial amount of money each and every year to keep in operation.

I want to encourage all our members to make or continue to make a contribution to the repeaters they themselves use. Without the basic financial support the repeaters we assume will always be available to use, won't be there when we want them the most.

CVARS Club President
Kim - AC7YY



2003 Simulated Emergency Test

This year's SET Drill is scheduled for Saturday, October 4th and should be fun, fun, fun! It's flood time and the waters are flowing for this drill. We will be working out of the City of Centralia's Emergency Operations Center at Centralia City Hall. All Scenarios will be based around real events that have occurred in past floods.

Lewis County is hit with a natural disaster every 4.2 years on average. These may be earthquakes, volcanoes, floods or even broken water reservoirs. If you're an ARES member, come and enjoy the fun. If you are not yet an ARES member...why not? Contact Bill Harwell, AC7SR for more information about this great organization. Be a volunteer.

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CVARS Swapmeet!

You already know about this event but everyone can use a reminder from time to time. The 2003 CVARS Swapmeet is ready to go and will be held on Saturday, September 27th at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds from 9AM - 1PM. Lots of great stuff always available so bring your money and buy some ham equipment. Remember, it's just money and you can't take it with you.

Talk in frequencies are 147.06 and 146.46 so give a call if you get lost. VE sessions by reservation. Admission is \$3 with tables \$20. For more information, contact Bill Harwell, AC7SR. I plan on bringing at least \$1,000 (my wife said \$25 but I'm hoping to stretch it just a little) so be prepared to beat me to a table!

Search & Rescue Conference Date Is Set

Mark your calendars for a very special event in 2004. Each year in Washington State, the annual Search & Rescue Conference is hosted by different counties. Next year, Lewis County will be hosting the conference. If you've never been to one of these you have to try it. Tents are set up and over one weekend, a wide range of SAR topics are taught covering everything from how to work around a helicopter to searching a homicide scene and working with search dogs.

The 2004 event is set for May 22 and 23rd (the weekend before Memorial Day). Bring your tent, camper, trailer or sleeping bag but don't miss this great training. If you think you're interested in this kind of fun, check out CVARS Amateur Radio Emergency Services group (ARES).

Another "Stupid Criminal" Story

It was recently reported that some Boeing employees on the airfield decided to steal a life raft from one of the 747s. They were successful in getting it out of the plane and home. Shortly after they took it for a float on the river, they noticed a Coast Guard helicopter coming towards them. It turned out that the chopper was homing in on the emergency locator beacon that activated when the raft was inflated. They are no longer employed at Boeing.

Olympia's Wild West Pro Road Rally

On September 6th and 7th, Olympia's Amateur Radio Club helped provide communications for a very large international road rally. Bill, AC7SR, Mike, AC7UP, Jim, KC7ASV, Brian, K7YOH, Steve, WB7VAS and Bob, KD7OWN went up to help from the CVARS club.

What a fun day. The weather was good (too good in fact as one race was cancelled due to fire danger) and everyone had a fun time. The rally basically runs small road race cars over various logging roads at very high speeds and, yes, accidents do happen. The hams monitor specific points on the course and keep track of

the cars as they go past. Loose one and somebody goes looking for it.

This year, there were 50 cars in the first run that most of us worked on Saturday. You can hear their engines straining as they approach your position and then in a cloud of dust, they roar by. If you are lucky enough to be on a corner, gravel and dirt fly in every direction.

Participants this year got a goody bag with stickers, key chains, tee-shirts and other great stuff just for showing up! Olympia does a great job working the communications at this event but it takes a bunch of hams to get the job done. These events are held a couple of times per year and Olympia is really good about letting our club know ahead of time when the events are scheduled.

Plan to participate on one of these road rally events next year. I know you'll enjoy it.

Happy October Birthdays

John Ellingson, K7OSK

Ralph Woodring, KC7UWC

Toby Vice, KD7JPK

Art Williams, N7EIK

(PS. - If I miss your birthday, it's because I don't have it. Let me know as we want to include you!)

Got An Item To Sell?

Time to get rid of that spare HT? Nobody would buy that old radio at the swapmeet? Well, this is your lucky day! Just call me up and let me know what you want to sell, trade or give away. Hey, the price for the advertising space is FREE! Don't be shy. They say there is a sucker born every minute (his mother must get tired of that) so let's get an ad in the newsletter. Feel free to contact via e-mail at kd7own@arrl.net or call me. -Bob

Did You Know?

In 1845 Boston had an ordinance banning bathing unless you had a doctor's prescription.

Hallmark says the top three holidays produce sales that amount to: Christmas, 2.6 Billion cards, Valentine's Day, 950 Million and Easter, 156 Million. By contrast, Nurse's Day sells only 500,000 cards. (Nurse's Day?...when do we get "Cop's Day?")

Ex-Lax has been America's best selling laxative since 1926. More than 600 million does are sold annually.

Do you remember the "Duncan Yo-Yo"? Did you know that Donald Duncan also invented the parking meter and created Good Humor ice cream on a stick?

Yo-Yo means "come back, come back" in Tagalog.

Pay Attention 2 Meters!

On a recent vacation to Idaho and Montana, my wife and I were scheduled to stay with a relative in Bonner's Ferry, Idaho. They had recently moved to their new house and we didn't know the address or even the name of the road they lived on. We were to call when we got into town and they would come get us. Bonner's Ferry is a small community of about 2500 people.

When we arrived, the phone was busy at their home. In fact the phone was busy for the next three hours (they has mistakenly (?) left it off the hook)

"No problem" says the ham bragging to his wife, Bonner's Ferry has 2 meter repeater and I proceeded to look up the frequency. "Can you really do that?" she asked obviously in awe of my amateur radio powers. Puffing out my chest (yea, I know, it will never match my stomach) I assured her someone would be able to help. After all, my Brother-in-law is a minister with seven kids. Somebody is bound to know him, right?

"Hello, Bonner's Ferry repeater, this is Bob, KD7OWN requesting some assistance with directions. Can anybody help me?"

Dead air...more dead air...and still more dead air. A group of three hams came on and chatted for a few minutes and when they were done, I tried again. Dead air. I never did get any help on that radio. Didn't even get anyone to answer!

You know my point here. We tell each other we don't need cell phones cause we have ham radios. Then when someone we don't know comes on the air, we suddenly become shy and won't communicate. I really could have used the help that night. Let's do our best to be professional communicators and help out the stranger. Thanks.

Good Web Sites To Look At:

John Jackson, KQ7JJ gave this website for me to try and it is very interesting and has some neat info. The site is <http://f6kim.free.fr/english/sommaire.html>. When you see the bar graphs talking about each band, click on them for some up to the minute DX cluster information for each band.

Another interesting webpage I ran across that's worth looking at is <http://www.2hamitup.us/>. This site is full of cool stuff but the most interesting is near the bottom of the site. Look for "The satellite Earth Viewer – Choose A Satellite" It lists almost every satellite known. You just click on one and then click on "view earth from Satellite" at the bottom. Up pops an almost real time view of the earth (some are night views and some are day views) in full color. Very beautiful!

If you run across an interesting website, ham radio or not, let me know.

Tiny Tracker II Auction:

Don't forget...I'll be auctioning off the Tiny Tracker II Kim Aiken donated at the next CVARS meeting. All proceeds go for future door prizes so be generous.

APRS Summer Gathering

For those APRS or "Automatic Position Reporting System" enthusiasts, this month was time for the annual "Summer Gathering". Kim, AC7YY and Steve, W7HDO made the weekend event and enjoyed every minute of it. Friday's arrival ended with a great BBQ dinner. Saturday was filled with discussions that included the following topics:

- State of the NWAPRS System
- APRS application updates
- Paul Verhage on ballooning events
- APRS trackers
- APRS satellite contacts
- Dinner and a movie!

Sunday included discussions and a repair/construction table. Our old friend Dave, K7GPS, the "big Kahuna of NWAPRS, presided over the get together making the trip from his new home in Medicine Lake, Washington. This year's event brought attendees from Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana and Canada. The weather was great and Kim says it was great to see old friends and meet some new ones.

A group photo was taken and a program on near space balloon launches was given which Kim says was very interesting withy photos and telemetry charts. Speaker Paul Verhage had two "capsules" for examination.

Tony, N7MTZ presented information on a new tracker recently developed. The tracker is a combination of a Tiny Tracker III and a transmitter developed by Tony and a friend. He brought three prototype units, two packaged in altoid cans and one in a square box about the same size with a magnet on the bottom and an antenna on the top. The unit runs on a 9 volt battery and puts out 250mw. For more information, check out the web site at www.hivalueradio.com. Kim says it is not in production yet but looks like a great solution for a small tracker.



ARRL DXCC

For more than 60 years, the DXCC award has been one of the premier Amateur Radio goals of many hams. It all began with Clinton DeSoto's 1935 QST articles "How to count countries worked. A new DX scoring system". To date, there are 335 "countries" to work. Not all DXCC "countries" are countries in the traditional meaning of the word. Rather they are the distinct geographic and political entities which DXers seek to contact. For example, Alaska and Hawaii are both "Countries" apart from the USA.

There are all kinds of levels for this award. You can work your contacts on phone, CW, RITTY or mixed modes.

(continued on page four)

ARRL DXCC = continued

There is the Five-Band DXCC for working and confirming 100 current DXCC entities on each of five bands (80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters). There is the DXCC Challenge Award given for working and confirming at least 1,000 foreign contacts on any bands. For the DXCC "Honor Role" you must have at least 326 out of the 335 entities worked and confirmed!

ARRL provides a great tracking booklet for just \$4.00 called "The ARRL DXCC List".

Talking with foreign countries is one of the primary reasons most hams move on to higher license classes. Geography was never as fun in school as when you make a contact with the South Cook Islands and have that burning desire to find an atlas and see just where it is located. So come on and get started on your DXCC. It is only 100 countries away and three of them are USA, Alaska and Hawaii! Maybe you'll be the one to get one of the hardest one of all...N. Korea (last ham was kicked out about six months ago by their government). Anyway it's great fun and another excuse to play radio.

Is This Your Mother?

A medical student currently doing a rotation in toxicology at the poison control center was recently called by a very upset woman because she caught her little daughter eating ants. The medical student quickly reassured her that the ants are not harmful and there would be no need to bring her daughter into the hospital.

She calmed down and at the end of the conversation happened to mention that she gave her daughter some ant poison to eat in order to kill the ants. (no Mother's day card for this one!)

October Special Events You Just Can't Miss

Here are some special event HF stations that sound pretty interesting. Giv'em a try.

Anamosa, IA: Jones County ARC (call sign NØCWP) 1300Z-1700Z October 4th, 15th annual Anamosa Pumpkinfest, from the pumpkin capital of Iowa. 14.260, they will send you a certificate for contact.

Nowhere, IL: Iowa Radiosport Society, WØFUN, 1500Z-2000Z, October 11th, Annual Fram-A-Stam event and Toilet Seat Toss. 14.234 with a certificate.

Brevard, NC: Transylvania County Amateur Radio Club, K4HXZ, 1400Z-2100Z, October 31st. Halloween in Transylvania County. 28.335, 21.365, 14.295, and 7.237 with a certificate. (costume while on the air is optional)

(for further information, see page 99 of the October QST)

The Evergreen Intertie System – Kim, AC7YY

A great tool available to all listed amateurs is the Evergreen Intertie System. It is an interconnected group of repeaters operating in the VHF and UHF bands. They are "linked" by full duplex UHF radios. The current system runs north and south, between Salem, Oregon and Seattle, Washington. East and west, between Seattle and Montana.

The easiest access to the intertie from our area is through the Capital Peak Repeater, 145.470. A handout explaining the system and the required codes is available to all licensed amateurs by email to WA7HNN@Televar.com or by accessing the website at www.evergreenintertie.com. If you have questions regarding the system, the entire system is linked up each Wednesday night at 2000 hrs for the intertie information and technical net.

The system is very easy to use. Say you wanted to get hold of Dave, K7GPS in Spokane from your two meter mobile. You could do this. Access the 145.470 machine on Capital Peak, connect to the north-south trunk, connect to the east-west trunk and then connect the 147.380 machine in Spokane to the east-west trunk. That's it, and then make your call to Dave. When you've completed the call, you disconnect the links in reverse order.

The Evergreen Intertie System is just one more valuable tool available to the licensed ham operator. Try it. You never know when you might need its capabilities.

The Pweor of the Hmuan Mnid

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Nominations For Executive Board Positions

The nominating committee has done its work and has come up with a list of club members willing to serve on the board. Open positions include President, Vice President, Secretary, two one year board and two two year board positions. Elections will be held in November and additional nominations will be accepted in October. Those willing to serve include:

Kim Aiken	Bob Willey
Loyann Munyan	John Jeske
Doug Skaggs	Jim VanderMeer
Bob McDonald	Bob Majoros
John Jackson	Gary litteer

