



Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society

November 2003

Website: cvars.org

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Official Record Executive Board Meeting October 8, 2003

The CVARS Executive Board met on Wednesday, October 8th at President Kim Aiken's office at 205 S. Tower Avenue in Centralia. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

Present were: Kim Aiken, AC7YY, President; Bob Willey, KD7OWN, Vice President; Steve Pack, WB7VAS, Treasurer; Loyann Munyan, KC7KCJ, Secretary, Bill Hughes, KD7OWO, John Jackson, KQ7JJ and John Bertels, WA7LFJ, Board Members.

Treasurer's Report: A new membership roster was disseminated by Steve Pack. Steve also updated the board as to club fund balances after the successful Swapmeet.

Old Business: Kim Aiken added additional names to the list of possible people to contact next year concerning JOTA or Jamboree On The Air.

John Jackson was complimented on the great job he and Lisa from the BawFaw Repeater did on the brochures available at the Swapmeet. John will keep in touch with Lisa on this joint venture and keep the club informed.

Upcoming elections for the November general meeting were discussed. Steve has made some minor adjustments to the ballots to make them easier to use. Two election vote counters will be selected that are not running for office that will assist Steve in counting election returns.

New Business: Jim VanderMeer may have 3-4 people interested in ham licensing classes. The board decided to advise Gary Litterer to move forward with classes as quickly as possible.

Bob brought up an idea presented by Terry Neumann concerning the formation of an "Elmering Committee" where an Elmer could be assigned to new hams to assist them through classes, test preparation and any questions they might have. John Jackson was asked to head this committee. He will put together a list of Elmer volunteers and assigned Elmers as necessary.

The Christmas dinner came up for discussion. Bill Harwell, Committee Chairman, will be contacted by

Steve Pack for further information concerning what is needed for the dinner.

Having no further discussion to be brought before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Dues Are About Due!

Yup! It is that time of year again and that Treasurer guy has asked that I remind everyone loyal to the Chehalis Valley Radio Society that most of you paid for the year 2003 but 2004 is just around the corner. If you pay next year's dues now, you'll beat the crowd, look like you are not a procrastinator, and you will impress everyone with your "take charge" attitude! You know you will see this reminder again in the following months and feel really bad that you are one of the last to fork over your dues so just save yourself that pain and suffering and PAY UP!

Baw Faw Repeater Donations Needed Too!

Did you know that your CVARS dues don't include your BawFaw donations? Did you know it actually costs big dollars to keep BawFaw running? Well, shoot fire, where have you had your head buried in the sand? Of course it costs big bucks!

Anyway, it is also time for your BawFaw donations. Suggested donations are \$25 per household. Many of our CVARS members are on the board at BawFaw and you all use BawFaw so send in those donations now. If not, let's see you get your antenna up 3,110 feet! Check them out on the web at www4.localaccess.com/bawfaw.

Ron Wehnau, KE6KVE

Ron appeared at the September CVARS meeting and we had a chance to get to know him a little during the evening. Ron and his wife Barbara are Officers / Pastors at the Salvation Army in Centralia. He is into QRP (working the world with 5 watts or less) and he has a solar powered QRP station!

Well, I smell a definite program here so we all need to encourage Ron to come back to the November meeting so we can railroad....er, ask him to give us some info on this outfit. If you hear KE6KVE on the air, say hello.

Mark Your Calendar

Important Dates To Remember

- November 5th – CVARS general meeting
- November 12th – Executive Board Mtg.
- November 19th – ARES meeting, Chehalis
- December 3rd – CVARS Christmas dinner
- March 20/21, 2004 – Shoreline Communications Conference.

Lloyd Price, KA7KGA – Silent Key

Another CVARS member has slipped away. Lloyd Price, 78, passed away September 23rd at Providence Hospital in Centralia.

He was employed as a welder at Boeing and later was a heavy equipment operator and truck driver. After his disability in 1970 he became an active volunteer and helped form the first Civil Air Patrol Cadet program in Lewis County serving as Captain and Commander of the Centralia-Chehalis Squadron #46070.

Lloyd enjoyed fishing, playing his organ, spending time with his children and grandchildren and, of course, ham radio. A sympathy card was signed by club members at the October meeting and sent to the family.



Keep The Code?

In case you missed the October general CVARS meeting, we had a great time. Each attendee spent a few moments telling how he or she became a ham, how long they had been a ham, and what they were interested in learning.

As a separate discussion, the question was put to the members present if the Morse Code should be kept as part of the ham licensing process. Interestingly enough, the vote was 18 to 3 in favor of keeping the code!

Who Ever Said Women Don't Enjoy Doing Laundry?

Dear Tide:

I'm writing to say what an excellent product you have. I've used it since the beginning of married life, when my mom told me it was the best.

In fact, about a month ago, I spilled some red wine on my new white blouse. My husband started to berate me about my drinking problem. One thing led to another and I ended up with a lot of his blood on my white blouse as well. I tried to get the stain out using a bargain detergent, but it just wouldn't come out. After a quick trip out, I stopped and got a bottle of liquid Tide with Bleach alternative, and all of the stains came out! They came out so well, in fact, that the DNA tests were negative! I thank you, once again, for a great product.

Well, gotta go. I have to write a letter to the Hefty bag people!

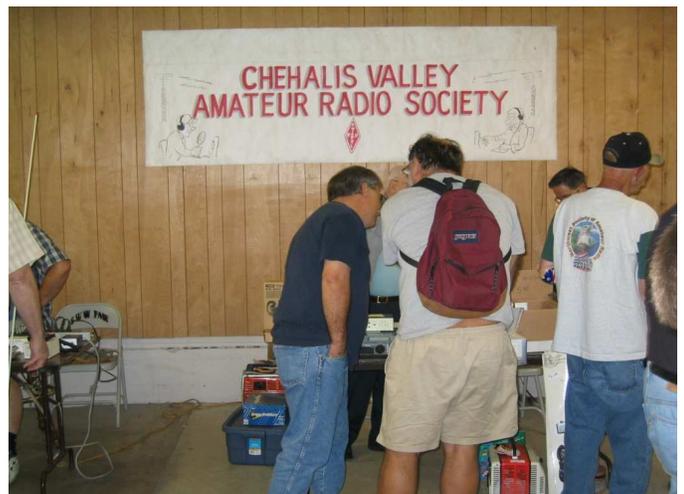
2003 CVARS Swapmeet!

Another successful Swapmeet has come and gone. Bill Harwell, AC7SR, did a fabulous job of organizing this year's event. All the tables were sold and attendance was up. Profits were up as well and the club cleared a little over \$300!

In addition, two new hams were tested and passed. Overall, it was a great day. Our friend Hillar Raamat, N6HR, brought a few gifts down to sell at the club table. Art Williams was out and about and it was good to see him looking well. The only bad news to the whole day was that I didn't win the big prize. As usual, Bill Harwell walked away with the radio at the end of the day. When you spend a small fortune on drawing tickets, I guess you deserve to win. Grumble, Grumble, Grumble.

Drawing winners were: Gil, N7PRJ-RD78 Antenna; Bill, AC7SR-ARRL handbook; Eric, KD7CAO-RD78 Antenna; Bob, KD7OWN-ARRL handbook; Toby, KD7JPK-Antenna book; Bill, AC7SR-Clock; and Bill, AC7SR (again!) Radio.

Some Swapmeet Photos - Thanks Bill



Just Remember
99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name!

For Sale – For Sale – For Sale

Our friend Hillar Raamat, N6HR, has a few items of interest for sale:

- A 14-el Cushcraft 144 MHz antenna. \$75.
- HamKeyer (el. Keyer) with Autronic single-lever paddle. \$99.95 for both!
- What's left (about 4 elements) of a KLM 15 meter monobander. 3" boom. \$75.
- Couple low-pass KW HF filters - \$20 each.
- A "dead" RF deck. The upper part of a BTI KW=linear (about the same as a Henry 2K RF deck). You can resurrect it with a 3-1000A tube (that's what went west...). Some mechanical socket work required to convert it to a 4-1000 tube. A good winter project! \$100 (have manual someplace) (you need one of these 'blast-furnace' 4-1000 sockets seen at most flea markets to convert to a 4-1000A)
- An original ICOM 706. \$399 including a power supply. Have a bunch of extras for it – a dash extension cord, CW filter, PSK 31 attachment, a Linear interface...etc. Comes in an aluminum suitcase and is highly transportable. (it is/was my DXpedition rig) In good shape!

Sorry, no American Express! I can deliver most of this stuff but I'm not as fast as the UPS. For more information call (360) 678-3408 or email hraamat@whidbey.net.

Last of the "Dumb Crook" Stories!

Until I can find more, this is the last of the dumb crook stories for awhile. Supposedly they're all true! In 2002, a man wanting to rob a downtown Bank of America in San Francisco walked into the branch and wrote "this iz a stickup. Put all your munny in this bag." While standing in line, waiting to give his note to the teller, he began to worry that someone had seen him write the note and might call the police before he reached the teller's window. So he left the Bank of America and crossed the street to the Wells Fargo Bank. After waiting a few minutes in line, he handed his note to the Wells Fargo teller. She read it and, surmising from his spelling errors that he wasn't the brightest light in the harbor told him that she could not accept his stickup note because it was written on a Bank of America deposit slip. She suggested he go across the street to the Bank of America. The crook did as he was told but was met by police on his arrival. The teller at the Wells Fargo Bank simply called the cops and had them meet him at the Bank of America!

Finally, the Ann Arbor News crime column reported that a man walked into a Burger King in Ypsilanti, Michigan and flashed a gun and demanded cash. The clerk turned him down because he said he couldn't open the cash register without a food order. When the man ordered onion rings, the clerk said they weren't available during the breakfast hour. The man, frustrated, walked away without a cent.

Happy November Birthday

Jim Kruger, KK7AB



Society of Amateur Radio Astronomers

Searching the web for interesting sites about Amateur Radio, I came across the Society of Amateur Radio Astronomers. It is an international society of dedicated hams who teach, learn, trade technical information, and do their own observations of the radio sky. Their information says the group is a scientific non-profit group founded for the sole purpose of supporting amateur radio astronomy. Organized in 1981, today they have hundreds of members worldwide. Their website is a little technical but covers some interesting topics including SETI, the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. Their website is <http://www.qsl.net/SARA/>.

Bicycle Mobile Hams of America

Here is another interesting group of hams using Amateur Radio in a different way. BMHA, the Bicycle Mobile Hams of America got its start when a "Stray" in the June 1989 QST magazine asked to get in touch with hams who operate their radios while bicycle-mobile. Twenty-five hams responded to that initial request, filled out a questionnaire and received a summary of the collected data.

In April 1990, the now formed club put on a forum at the Dayton HamVention and played to a packed house. They ended up adding another 54 names to their mailing list. They have been asked back to Dayton eight times for additional forums and now have a huge membership.

Their website has information on equipment, bike trips, antennas and operating tips. While many of you may not be into biking-mobile, it certainly is an interesting idea. I wonder if anyone is interested in setting up a Krispy Kreme Donut Ham Club?

November is Election Month!

Don't forget. Elections will be held at November's general membership meeting. We will be voting for President, Vice President, Secretary, two board members who will serve one year and two board members who will serve two year terms. Steve Pack, WB7VAS, has been especially busy preparing ballots and working hard to make the election as easy for you as possible. Give him a special thanks when you see him.

The Executive Board works hard to move our club forward. Your vote is important. The club is only as important as its members. Vote!



ARES SET Drill Saturday, October 4th

The Amateur Radio Emergency Services annual SET Drill has come and gone once again. What a fun day for everyone involved.

This year's scenario was a simulated flood in the Centralia area. The ARES EC/RO, Bill Harwell, had to set up an emergency radio station at the Centralia Emergency Operations Center at City Hall and deploy his volunteers to various locations throughout the area. ARES members worked through 16 different scenarios ranging from checking the airport for an overdue aircraft to an injured radio operator in the field. Over the course of the day, hams were deployed to 18 different locations to check potential danger points and high water.

The field hams weren't the only ones tested. Our EC/RO had a busy day as well working through his own tests. Ten scenarios were handled by Bill alone. They included such things as a disabled antenna, a lost ham, a simulated fire at his house (thereby requiring him to "be gone" from the EOC for a short period of time), and a request for 10 additional ARES members. We even made him prepare and eat a "MRE" (military Meal Ready to Eat).

Everyone did a super job and were very professional. All scenarios were handled correctly and without loss of life. If you participated in this drill, you can be proud of the job you did! If you didn't participate, why not? ARES doesn't run on its own - it takes volunteers. Get involved and take ham radio to another level.



Oxymoron's & The American Language

English is a wonderful language in that it lends itself to all kinds of twists and interpretations. Here are some two liners that are "Oxymoron's". Lets start with some easy ones:

- Easy payments
- Military Intelligence
- Jumbo shrimp
- Rap music
- Tight slacks
- Sanitary landfill
- Temporary tax increase...

Proceeding to more advanced concepts, you might recognize these:

- Government organization
- Almost exactly
- Political science
- Clearly misunderstood
- Small crowd
- Microsoft Works
- Working vacation
- Twelve-ounce pound cake
- Childproof

-- From our friend Hillar Raamat, N6HR

CVARS E-Mail Address

Hey! There is a new e-mail address for the Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society. It is info@cvars.org. Give it a whirl.

How Many Hams In The USA?

Don't you just love statistics? Well, these might interest you anyway.

According to QRZ.com, there are 684,355 Amateur Radio Operators in the good ole USA. Buckmaster, on the other hand says that as of October 13, 2003, there are 682,182. I don't know who is right or wrong but Buckmaster provides some additional statistics that are interesting: In those 682,182 hams the license classes breakdown as follows:

- 104,470 Extra Class
- 82,410 Advanced Class
- 141,053 General Class
- 321,325 Technician + Class
- 32,924 Novice Class

There are 22 postal zip codes for Lewis County. They are Centralia, Chehalis, Mossyrock, Morton, Napavine, Winlock, Toledo, Vader, Adna, Cinebar, Curtis, Doty, Ethel, Galvin, Glenoma, Onalaska, Packwood, Pe Ell, Randle, Salkum and Silvercreek. (whew!) All of these zip codes start with a "985" or a "983" zip code prefix. According to Buckmaster, there are 1,913 hams in the "985" prefix and 3,630 hams in the "983" prefix for a total of 5,543 hams.

What states have the most hams? What states have the least? How does Washington State rank? Well, the top five states that have the most hams are (in order) California - 99,845, Texas - 42,363, Florida - 39,680, New York - 31,675 and Ohio - 30,190. Washington State ranks sixth with 24,689.

The states with the least hams are Wyoming-1,647, South Dakota-1,601, North Dakota-1,579 and Delaware with 1,391 hams. Rhode Island which seems about the hardest state to get has 2,313 hams but none are ever on the air!

So, armed with these glorious facts, you should at least feel smarter. You certainly look smarter to me! Thanks to Terry, KQ7K for the question which led to the research for this piece.

Congratulations New Hams!

Gary Litter, K7PG, has worked his magic once again during the weekend licensing class he presents. This last weekend, four new hams passed their examinations. They are: James W. Webster of Centralia; Nicholas and Lisa (Nicholas' mom) Bratina of Toledo and Joshua Burch of Longview. Congratulations to all the new hams and we hope you become CVARS club members. Remember, your first year's dues are free! Come and see what it is all about. Great Job, Gary!

ARLHS Lighthouse Christmas Lights

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 20th and check out the "Lighthouse Christmas Lights" special event. They send out great QSL cards!

