

Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society

August 2004!

Website: cvars.org

Edited by Bob Willey, KD7OWN



Official Record

No Executive Board Meeting was held this month due to lack of a quorum. Next board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 11th at 6:30 PM at John Jackson's Home in Chehalis.

Wake up!

Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming: WOW – What A Ride!

Swapmeet's A'comin!

Have you marked your calendars yet? Forget the darn calendar and just show up to the CVARS Swapmeet on Saturday July 31st at the Southwest Washington Fairgrounds in beautiful Chehalis, Washington!

John Ellingson, K7OSK, is the man in charge this year and has been working hard to bring about something new – a Hamfest tailgate party. Nope, we're not inside the building this year, we're under the open cover next to it. John has experienced this kind of Hamfest in other places and thought it would be fun to try here.

By the way, John is still looking for some volunteers to help out on Friday evening (5:00 PM – 8:00 PM) and Saturday morning. If you can help out, give him a call at 273-5929 or contact him by email at k7owk@boatanchor.com.

See you there on Friday evening and Saturday morning. Come on, don't be shy. We need your help!

Testing Available At The Swapmeet

Testing will be available on Saturday at 10:30 AM for those that want to upgrade or test for that new license. Bring photo ID or if upgrading, your original license or CSCE. Call Johnny Jackson, KQ7JJ for more info at 748-8932. Walk ins are welcome too!

Niagara Falls, NY

Stunt man Lucky Hinterman died while attempting to go over Niagara Falls in a barrel.

Brother and equipment manager Brent Hinterman took full responsibility for the tragedy. "I was in charge of getting the barrel all cushioned and reinforced. But my son had a soccer game, and in my book, family comes first." When asked if he considered his brother to be a member of the family, Brent said, "Well, I suppose that's one way to look at it."

July's CVARS Program

Did you enjoy July's club program? Tomas Hood, NW7US, spent about four hours on the road to visit our club but said he didn't mind – especially when we took him out to dinner!

Tomas is an amazing fellow, writing propagation articles monthly in four different amateur radio publications: Popular Communications, CQ Magazine, CQ VHF Magazine and Monitoring Times.

He has a seven page resume involving radio, propagation and computers. He lives in Brinnon Washington with his wife, Leigh, KD7TZR, and children, most of whom are amateur radio operators themselves!

If you get time, check out Tomas' webpage at hfradio.org. He would appreciate hearing any feedback from those that attended the club meeting. Although a longer evening than usual, he did a great job of educating us on propagation. It must be wonderful to know that much about the sun!

A Note To Ponder!

- I used to have a handle on life...but it broke off!
- Some people just don't know how to drive...I call these people "Everybody But Me!"
- Heart Attacks...God's revenge for eating His little animal friends.
- Some people are only alive because it is illegal to shoot them....for now.

August's CVARS Program

The program for August will be presented by our own John Ellingson, K7OSK. John will give us a presentation on the Dayton Hamfest. John

probably has more pictures and knows more about Dayton than most people from this part of the country.

If you don't plan on making the trip to Dayton anytime soon, or even if you do, come and see what John has to tell us.

September's CVARS Meeting

September will bring us another "famous" ham from the Pacific Northwest. Ward Silver, N0AX, is well known to ham radio circles. He authors the popular "Radio Puzzler" books full of ham radio puzzles, quizzes, humorous articles and word problems sprinkled with some vintage cartoons. His new book, "Ham Radio For Dummies" has just recently been released and has been getting great reviews. There is still time to order your copy from ARRL and have Ward autograph it at our meeting!

Ward won the 2003 Technical Writing Award from the ARRL Foundation for his contributions to QST Magazine. He also is an avid contester and has authored more than 200 articles for ARRL publications. In 2003, Ward started his popular "Hands-On Radio" series in QST. He is also the editor of the "Contester's Rate Sheet" and the "ARRL Antenna Design Course". Ward has written articles and product reviews for QST and penned the "Context Corral" and "Test Your Knowledge" columns.

Best of all, if you have had the opportunity to listen to his class on Antennas 101 at the Communications Conference, you will know he can reduce the most difficult antenna designs into simple language for us humans. Terry Neumann and I watched this class this spring and we were amazed at what we learned.

So mark your calendars and bring a book to autograph. See you in September!



Hillar Raamat N6HR Receives Awards

Our Friend, Hillar, who graciously gave our club two fine programs on DXing last year has been

given two very prestigious awards by the ARRL. Bill Moore, NC1L from the ARRL DXCC presented Hillar with two plaques – one for being on the DXCC Honor Roll and the other with the 5 band DXCC award. As Hillar said:

"What a nice emotional presentation to an 83 year old ham!"

Congratulations, Hillar, and well done!

Dates To Remember:

- July 30th – Swapmeet "prep" evening
- July 31 – CVARS Swapmeet, SWW Fairground, Centralia-Chehalis
- July 31st – Baw Faw picnic
- August 4th – CVARS General Meeting
- August 11 – CVARS Board meeting
- August 21/22 – Worldwide Lighthouse Weekend
- Sept. 1st – CVARS General Meeting
- Sept. 15 – LC ARES Meeting
- Sept. 18/19 – Washington State "Salmon Run".

Department Of Useless (contest) Information

By Hillar Raamat, N6HR

Well, maybe you sampled the IARU Contest recently. So What? A bunch of funny hams on both sideband and CW cluttering up the frequencies. Incessant "CQ Contest"...The F1 button on CW. Monotonous and repetitive "59 Zone 6" exchange...Doesn't take a moron to do that ...What for?

Well, one man's idiosyncrasies may be another man's meat. One man's QRM is another man's opportunity! It depends on the person. Lets face it – some of us enjoy being on the periphery of activities – like "support" of communications, being available for activities, participating in nets, etc, etc – and then there are some of us who want to get "in there". DO THE THING. Do the DXing, DO the contesting, DO the Field Day, i.e. – be in the 'SOUP'. So maybe you are one of them?

So, why a contest? Have you ever done a competitive thing? Played baseball on a team? Done a real one-to-one competition like playing chess? Or tennis? Participated in track? Maybe 100 meter hurdles? Slalom? Skeet shooting? Bowling? (hey – no golf!) OK, so what was your batting average?

Well, ham radio offers the same kind of opportunities. To see how good you are and how good you can be. In Europe, it is called "Radiosport Competition" – foxhunts, club competitions (in Europe mostly VHF/UHF). The ultimate in the last decade or so has been the World Radiosport Team Competition (WRTC) which was started right here in Seattle for the 1990 Goodwill Games. Fifty pairs of the best ham radio competitors vied for the "gold". Since the Seattle WRTC, competitions have been held in Slovenia, Finland, USA (San Francisco) and the next one will be in Brazil.

But why this madness? Does it make a ham a better operator? The answer is YES! In Spades! Marginal communications can be read a 'clear' – copying through the QRM or auroral echo or backscatter or QRN is the final outcome and clear copy. Why? You develop an 'inner

ear' filter which does not depend on how much interference is cluttering up the essential information. Partial copy becomes 'solid' copy – ones brain becomes a PSK31 filter!

Yes! It takes training! Endless hours of practice. Being 'in' there. Shouting away. Copying thru the noise. Missing the information and trying again. "Pse Agn!" And then logging the information! Whew!

So – are you still sitting on the periphery? The water too cold? Put your toes in – heck – put your whole foot in! You might like the feel of the current!
73, Hillar N6HR

Did You Know?

In George Washington's day, common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the "Ace of Spade". To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't "playing with a full deck". Thanks Howard, KB7RYJ

5 Tips To Being A Better Ham...

1. Curiosity is what started ham radio and curiosity is what keeps it advancing. Know your hobby. Passed your Tech test and comfortable where you are? Don't be. Read, Ask Questions and Keep on Learning.
2. Volunteer for some facet of the hobby that interests you. It could be ARES, or Field Day cooking or anything. But you get real joy when you volunteer so Do It!
3. Elmer a new ham. Someone most likely Elmered you. Where would you be if every question you ever asked about the hobby was turned aside with a "don't bother me". Just say a few words of encouragement to a new ham. It makes all the difference.
4. Try something new. Did you read Hillar's contesting article earlier in this newsletter? Try contesting. Try PSK 31. If you want to try contesting, call me this fall and we will get together for a contest at my house and I bet there are others that will help. Get bit by a bug! Life is too short to miss out on the fun.
5. CW holding you back from a higher license class? From HF fun? Shame on you! Code can be learned. Don't let it decide how much fun you have in your hobby. There are a dozen ways people learn code. Find the one that works best for you and get it done! There is a whole world out there.

More Of Life's Little Questions...

- Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They're both dogs!
- Why is it that when someone tells you there are over a billion stars in the universe, you

believe them, but if they tell you there is wet paint somewhere, you have to touch it?

- If electricity comes from electrons, does morality come from morons?
- Why do they call it an asteroid when it's outside the hemisphere, but call it a hemorrhoid when it's in your rear end?



Did You Catch It?

In the August 2004 QST magazine, on page 13, is a blue colored block called "It's Just My Job". This is a great story and mentions our own ARRL Western Washington Section Manager Ed Bruette, N7NVP helping out a fellow ham! Well done Ed, and thanks for helping.

Couple Of QSO Parties Here!

In August there are several great QSO parties. These are fun and easy to grab and really help if you are looking for that particular state for Worked All States or are hunting counties. They are listed in QST on page 95 and include the North American QSO Party and the New Jersey QSO Party on August 21/22nd; Ohio and Hawaii QSO Parties on August 28/29th and don't forget to start planning for Washington State's own QSO party, better known as the "Salmon Run" on September 18th and 19th. Get those 80 meter antenna tuned up or build a new NVIS antenna to grab our own "local" counties. How about a "Worked All Washington Counties" award?

Only In Church...

A Sunday school teacher asked her children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

3 year old Reese calls'em as he sees'em: "Our Father, Who art in heaven, Harold is His name... (OK, Harold is as good a name as any other!)"

Who's Your Elmer?

Terry, KQ7K, came up with a great idea recently. He encourages everyone to write a few short paragraphs for the newsletter about your favorite "Elmer". Most everyone has or had

one. What did your Elmer do that made ham radio special for you? So, come on, send in a short piece about your Elmer. Isn't it about time he or she got a little credit? Send to Bob at kd7own@arrl.net. Thanks.

Support Our Troops

Close your eyes and picture in your mind the soldier at Valley Forge, as he holds his musket in his bloody hands. He stands barefoot in the snow, starved from lack of food, wounded from months of battle and emotionally scarred from the eternity away from his family surrounded by nothing but death and carnage of war. He stands though, with fire in his eyes and victory on his breath. He looks at us now in anger and disgust and tells us....

I gave you a birthright of freedom born in the Constitution and now your children graduate too illiterate to read it.

I fought in the snow barefoot to give you the freedom to vote and you stay at home because it rains!

It's the soldier, not the poet, who gives you the freedom of speech.

It's the soldier, not the campus organizer, who allows you to demonstrate.

It's the soldier, who salutes the flag, serves the flag, whose coffin is draped with the flag that allows the protester to burn the flag!

Support our troops.



P.O. Box 304
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I left my family destitute to give you the freedom of speech and you remain silent on critical issues, because it might be bad for business.

I orphaned my children to give you a government to serve you and it has stolen democracy from the people.

It's the soldier, not the reporter, who gives you the freedom of the press.