



CQ CVARS...CQ CVARS...

Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society
October 2004 CVARS Newsletter!
Website: cvars.org
Edited by Bob Willey, KD7OWN

Official Record

Executive CVARS Board Meeting

The September 8th Executive Board meeting for the Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society was held at the home of John Jackson, KQ7JJ and was called to order at 6:40 PM by President Kim Aiken, AC7YY.

Present were: Kim Aiken, AC7YY, President; Bob Willey, KD7OWN, Vice President; Steve Pack, WB7VAS, Treasurer; and Board Members John Jackson, KQ7JJ and John Bertels, WA7LFJ.

Treasurer's Report: Updated by Steve Pack and voice approved by Executive Board members.

Old Business: Steve Pack suggested the club contact the new hams checking to see if they are interested in ARRL membership. He pointed out that not only does this benefit the new ham but the club as well. Discussion also covered the completion of several forms of brochure or information to be given out at testing dates after a successful completion of the licensing test.

New Business: Kim Aiken suggested the board begin asking if anyone is interested in helping to prepare this year's Christmas Party. It was decided to continue with the same format and location as last year. Kim will also be forming a nomination committee for elections to come.

John Jackson has nearly completed an updated version of the New Amateur Radio Information Guide for CVARS members and should have it available soon.

Discussion took place about possible general class testing but the board decided to see what interest there was in a CW class first.

President Aiken gave a presentation on JOTA (Jamboree On The Air). Scheduled for October 16th, this event will bring Scouts and hams together in a day long learning experience. Planned events include:

- HF stations for 40 and 20 meters
- Possibly PSK-31
- VHF Packet station
- IRLP / Echolink stations
- Fox hunts
- Hand held radio operations

- Morse code
- Antenna projects

The Board voted to approve the day as a CVARS event.

Kim will be calling club members looking for volunteers to assist in these projects.

Having no further business to be brought before the Executive Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:005 PM.

Woman's Perfect Breakfast

She's sitting at the table with her gourmet coffee.

Her son is on the cover of the Wheaties box.

Her daughter is on the cover of Business Week.

Her boyfriend is on the cover of Playgirl...

And her husband is on the back of the milk carton!

Marriage Seminar

While attending a Marriage Seminar dealing with communication, Tom and his wife Grace listened to the instructor. "It is essential that husbands and wives know the things that are important to each other." He addressed the man, "Can you describe your wife's favorite flower?" Tom leaned over, touched his wife's arm gently and whispered, "It's Pillsbury, isn't it?" The rest of the story gets rather ugly so I'll stop right here.

Ham Equipment For Sale...

Kenwood 520S / W the DJ5 Digital Readout. Microphone included along with the original manuals and box it came in. Works fine and is in great shape. Asking \$350.00 for it or possibly trade for a self supporting crank up/fold over tower, 60-75 feet high in very good shape. Contact Loyann Munyan, KC7KCJ

Eric Gildersleeve

Eric, KD7CAO, is finally in Texas and adjusting to a new school. He visited the Sunday evening club net last week and wanted to be sure everyone had his email address and yahoo IM information. It is:

eric@4gildersleeve.us

Yahoo! Hamkd7cao

Drop Eric a line and tell him how you're doing.

I'll bet even Texas gets lonely at times!

Of Sailing Ships & Sealing Wax

By Hillar Raamat, N6HR

The summer doldrums are diminishing and there is fresh action on the DX bands. The contest diehards are already lining up beaches, islands and mountain resorts for the end of October CQ Worldwide DX Contest. Meanwhile, there has already been some good action on the bands, workable from our corner of the world... Worked A71A in Qatar the other morning, YA0Y (Afghanistan) is in the log, Raman VU3DJQ activated Pamban Island in the Indian Ocean as ATØRI (IOTA AS-173) and the YO DX Contest end of August had some loud European signals as well.

The secret now – as the low in the sunspot cycle approaches – is to listen during “grey-line”! Signals otherwise weak and watery can pop up S7 to S9 for about 10-20 minutes and then vanish. And since the “grey-line” changes by 60 miles every day, every day new DX opportunities emerge. But the “DX Window” is short and you’ve got to be in there!

Mike, GM4SUC, the organizer of the International Lighthouse weekend of 21/22 August has summarized that 360 lighthouse/lightship stations from 51 countries were on the air this year! 8 were on from Wales, England, but the USA number was down to 45 from last years 72 participants. Here ICARC was on the air from the Admiralty Head Lighthouse (US Lighthouse #002).

The World Radio Team Championship (WRTC) will be held in Floriopolis Brazil in 2006. The last WRTC was held in Finland. It will be interesting to see what the world’s best contest operators can score during the LOW in the sunspot cycle! Oms PY5EG has a web site started at www.wrtc2006.com.

Thor, TF4MMJ, sent pictures of his new rhombics in Iceland – one pointed to Europe and another to the USA! 600 feet per leg on 65 foot poles. Wow! That should melt some local ice! September will be the time for the Washington State Salmon Run – the ONE contest where you can eat your trophy! So go for the score and the box of salmon! And if you are a riddy type, stand by for the end of the month RTTY contest. Oil up that model 26!

C u in the pileups, Hillar, N6HR

At The Nursing Home...

A little old lady was running up and down the halls in a local nursing home. As she ran, she would flip up the hem of her nightgown and say “Supersex.”

She walked up to an elderly man in a wheelchair. Flipping her gown at him she said, “Supersex.” He sat silently for a moment or two and finally answered, “ I’ll take the soup.”

-Thanks to the Olympia OARS Newsletter.

How To Clean A Toilet...

1. Put both lids of the toilet up and add 1/8 cup of pet shampoo to the water in the bowl.
2. Pick up the cat and soothe him while you carry him towards the bathroom.
3. In one smooth movement, put the cat in the toilet and quickly close both lids. You may need to stand on the lid.
4. The cat will self agitate and make ample suds. Never mind the noises that come from the toilet, the cat is actually enjoying this.
5. Flush the toilet three or four times. This provides a “power-wash” and rinse.
6. Have someone open the front door of your home. Be sure that there are no people between the bathroom and the front door.
7. Stand behind the toilet as far as you can, and quickly lift both lids.
8. The cat will rocket out of the toilet, streak through the bathroom and run outside where he will self dry.
9. Both the commode and the cat will be sparkling clean.

- Sincerely, The Dog
(Thank you Hillar, N6HR)

QSO Party Info For October

California QSO Party – First weekend in October.

Illinois QSO Party – Third weekend in October.

Pennsylvania QSO Party – Second weekend in October.

Western Washington DX Club

The Western Washington DX Club (WWDX) is one of the largest and most active radio clubs on the West Coast and has been around since 1952. WWDX members are licensed amateur radio operators who have an interest in DX (distance) communications and radio contest operating.

Membership in the club runs \$25 which includes their newsletter, the Totem Tabloid. They have some great information on the web at www.wwdxc.org.

Anybody interested in DXing should take a look at this club. The price is right and they are located in our own back yard!

October’s Contest Dates

- Oceania DX Contest, Phone – 0800Z, October 2 to 0800Z, October 3rd.
- 10-10 Day Sprint – 0100Z – 2359Z, October 10th.
- YLRL Anniversary Party – 1400, October 13 to 0200 Z, October 15th.

October's Contest Dates – Continued

- W/VE Islands QSO Party – 1600Z, October 23 to 2359Z, October 24th.
- CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB – 0000Z, October 30 to 2400Z, October 31

PSE QSL OM TNX

If you do any CW work, you'll have heard something similar to this. It says "Please QSL, Old Man, Thanks". Just to help you out, I've listed a few QSL tips below to help you get that valuable card, DX or stateside.

1. When mailing abroad, one of the best methods is to use a #10 business-size, security lined envelope with a pre-printed business return address; a slightly smaller #9 security return envelope that fits inside without folding; crisp, new \$1 or \$2 bill (flat, no wrinkles); and filler sheets cut up from scrap computer printouts to confuse anyone who tries to "candle" the envelope to see what is inside.
2. Always take time to make the card legible. Information that cannot be read, cannot be confirmed. Almost all DX stations keep their log information in UTC (Zulu, GMT) time. Be sure to submit your information using the UTC time format.
3. If you're sending from or to a humid area, either buy envelopes that have a strip that is removed to seal the envelope, or put a piece of wax paper between the glue edge of the envelope and whatever it might touch. Don't use a pen that smears with water. What can't be read, won't be delivered.
4. When sending the return envelope, put the folded end of the return envelope on the bottom of the mailing envelope. This will prevent it from being sliced when the mailing envelope is opened by machine or letter opener. Always make sure your callsign is on the Information Side of the qsl card. This prevents the manager from having to turn the card to find the call sign and possibly make an error with your call.

Seekrit Antenna Tips

By Ward Silver, N0AX

Seekrit Antenna Tip #1: Matching is not the same as radiating. You will see many antennas advertised to work on everything from 160 meters to ultra-violet light. They may present a reasonable match on most of those frequencies, but the on-air performance is frequently ho-hum. Multi-band antennas are generally somewhat of a compromise on the lowest and highest bands for which they're rated, with some exceptions.

Be prepared to trade convenience for performance.

Seekrit Antenna Tip #2: The plain old dipole is hard to beat in bang for the buck. On HF, you can make a dipole for every band and still have spent less than you would for a new commercial antenna. Home Depot's rolls of THHN stranded wire are one of the best deals going. You can use electric fence insulators and bailing twine – they work great! On VHF, the equivalent is the ¼ wave ground plane. All it takes is an SO-239, some brass or copper wire, and a soldering iron to whip up a simple ground plane!

Things It Took 40 Years To Learn:

1. Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.
2. Never lick a steak knife.
3. Never be afraid to try something new. Remember that a lone amateur built the Ark. A large group of "professionals" built the Titanic.
4. Men are like fine wine... They start out as grapes and it's up to the women to stomp the crap out of them until they turn into something acceptable with which to have dinner.

Youse Look'in Fer Ham Classes?

Ham classes are scheduled for October 5th-9th. Class times will run from 7-9:30PM, Tuesday – Friday and 9AM-3PM on Saturday. Testing will be done at 3PM on Saturday, October 9th. Class size is expected to be around 10 people so get your application in as soon as possible. For more information, call Al Dittrick at 785-3624 and reserve a seat. Morse code is not needed for the test or to get your license. Al will advise the location of the classes when you call.

"Military Wisdom"

Stolen... swiped... borrowed from OARS

- "When the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is not our friend." – *US Marine Corps*
- "If the enemy is in range, so are you." – *Infantry Journal*.
- "Try to look unimportant; they may be low on ammo." – *Infantry Journal*.
- "It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed." – *Air For Manual*.
- "A slipping gear could let your M203 grenade launcher fire when you least expect it. That would make you quite unpopular in what's left of your unit." – *Army's Magazine of Preventive Maintenance*.
- "Aim Towards Enemy." – *Instruction Manual for US Rocket Launcher*.

Elections Are Coming!

Yup, its just about that time again. Several important positions are up for grabs. President, Vice-President, Treasurer and several Board positions must be voted upon.

My time as Vice-President is almost at a close. The main job of Vice-President is to arrange for monthly programs for the club. I've enjoyed the challenge of finding and arranging interesting speakers. Special thanks to Hillar Raamat for his great DXpedition shows, Thomas Hood for the great presentation on propagation and Ward Silver for Antennas 101. And a very special thanks to those club members brave enough to stand up and elmer their fellow hams.

Now it is time for one of you to take the opportunity to bring your own special interest to the programs. Is there someone out there has some ideas for new programs? It is time to step up to the plate and get yourself elected!

Yup, elections are coming. How about you? Don't be shy. No club runs itself. We need you!

Newsletter For November...

November's newsletter will look a little different. I will be gone back to Indiana for most of the month and have not been able to talk anyone into doing a substitute newsletter,. Sooooo... a shortened version of the newsletter will come your way. We'll be back to normal in December.



Great Truths That Children Know:

- No matter how hard you try, you cannot baptize cats.
- When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- You can't Trust dogs to watch your food.
- Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
- Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.

Hiram Percy Maxim

So who was this guy hams think of a the "Godfather" of Amateur Radio? Well, he was born September 2, 1869 and is considered the founder of the American Radio Relay League and had the callsign W1AW. He was a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a Mechanical Engineer. He created the ARRL in 1914 because he saw a need to build a group of "relay" stations to pass Amateur radio messages. His father was Sir Hiram Stevens Maxim, the inventor of the Maxim Machine Gun. He died February 17, 1936 from a throat infection at age 66. His wife died 9 days later and they are interred in Hagerstown, Maryland. Now you know!