

Chehalis Valley Amateur Radio Society



cvars.org

December 2004

Edited by Bob Willey KD7OWN

Happy Holidays!

Will you be there? You simply CAN'T miss it! Mere mortals wait all year for this event. Yes, I'm talking about the annual CVARS Christmas party at the Virgil R. Lee building in Chehalis.

Bob Majoros, KD7RTL, has been working hard on the preparations. The Christmas party is held each year instead of our normal December meeting. This means the party is scheduled for December 1st (the first Wednesday of the month) at 7:30 PM. Bob will have the doors open around 6 PM and could use all the help he can get to set up for the evening.

Just a reminder, this is a potluck dinner so bring a main dish, salad or dessert...or one of each! The more food, the more smiles! Bring the family and join the fun. This is usually a great event and promises to be even better this year. Don't miss the fun. Come early and stay late.

Election Results ...Election Results!

November's CVARS meeting is traditionally election month and election results are in. First, let's all remember to thank Kim Aiken, AC7YY, for the fantastic job he has done as our President over the last two years. Under his leadership, the club has really prospered.

For 2005, the following club members were elected:

President – Bob Willey, KD7OWN

Vice President – Johnny Jackson, KQ7JJ

Secretary – Jon Jeschke, KD7SXV

Treasurer – Steve Pack, WB7VAS

Board member – Toby Vice, KD7JPK

Board member – Jeff Mayfield, KE7ACE

As Johnny Jackson has only served one year of his two year board position, a replacement will be named.

Exercise For Seniors

This exercise is suggested for seniors, to build muscle strength in the arms and shoulders. It is recommended that this exercise be done 3 days a week.

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface where you have plenty of room at each side. With a 5# potato sack in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, then relax. Each day you'll be able to hold this position for just a bit longer.

After a couple of weeks, move up to 10# potato sacks, then 50# sacks, and eventually to get to where you can lift a 100# potato sack in each hand and hold your arms straight out for more than a full minute.

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each of the sacks, but be careful!

How An Aussie Described Americans

You probably missed it in the rush of news last week but there was actually a report that someone in Pakistan had published in a newspaper an offer of a reward to anyone who killed an American...any American.

So an Australian dentist wrote the following to let everyone know what an American is.

An American is English, or French, or Italian, Irish, German, Spanish, Polish, Russian or Greek. An American may also be Canadian, Mexican, African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Australian, Iranian, Asian, or Arab, or Pakistani, or Afghan. An American may also be a Cherokee, Osage, Blackfoot, Navaho, Apache, Seminole or one of the many other tribes known as native Americans.

An American is Christian, or he could be Jewish, or Buddhist, or Muslim. In fact, there are more Muslims in America than in Afghanistan. The only difference is that in America they are free to worship as each of them chooses. An American is also free to believe in no religion. For that he will answer only to God, not to the government or to armed thugs claiming to speak for the government and for God.

An American is from the most prosperous land in the history of the world. The root of that prosperity can be found in the Declaration of Independence, which recognizes the God given right of each person in the pursuit of happiness.

An American is generous. Americans have helped out just about every other nation in the world in their time of need. When Afghanistan was overrun by the Soviet army 20 years ago, Americans came with arms and supplies to enable the people to win back their country!

As of the morning of September 11, Americans had given more than any other nation to the poor in Afghanistan.

Americans welcome the best. The best products, best books, best music, best food, best athletes. But they also welcome the least. The national symbol of America, the Statue of Liberty, welcomes your tired and your poor, the wretched refuse of your teeming shores,

the homeless, tempest tossed. These in fact are the people who built America. Some of them were working in the Twin Towers the morning of September 11, 2001 earning a better life for their families. I've been told that the World Trade Center victims were from at least 30 other countries, cultures and first languages, including those that aided and abetted the terrorists.

So you can try to kill an American if you must. Many have tried but in doing so you would just be killing yourself because Americans are not a particular people from a particular place. They are the embodiment of the human spirit of freedom. Everyone who holds to that spirit, everywhere, is an American.

From Eric, KD7CAO...

Good evening, CVARS! At the end of August I put out a poll on the CVARS Yahoo! Group to find out how many people were interested in Linux. I received a whopping 5 votes. OK, maybe it isn't whopping but a McDonald's Whopper costs about 5 bucks. OK, bad joke. Three votes were for the answer, "I am using Linux or a variant of Linux" and two votes were for the answer "What is Linux?"

In this email I am going to attempt a simple explanation as to what Linux is and how it can be used for Amateur Radio.

First of all many of you are probably aware that Microsoft Windows is an operating system for your computer. It doesn't matter what version of Windows you have, whether it is the original Windows or Work Groups 3.11 or the problematic Windows XP, they are all just an operating system. The same is true for Mac OS X (no it is not OS ten©). Unix was a shell type operating system that used a DOS type environment. No it wasn't a Microsoft product, it was a program all of its own. Unix and Linux have similar characteristics, but for now I am going to discuss Linux because it is more prevalent, and more popular today.

There are several different builds (versions) of Linux on the market and the majority of them fall under what is called the GNU (I personally don't understand the acronym that they are using "Gnu's Not Unix") but simply it means open source or free to use and change. One of the flavors of Linux you may already be familiar with whether you know it or not is Redhat, Mandrake, Suze, or even Mac OS X. Yes, Mac OS X is using a Linux shell in which it operates, this makes it super powerful. A shell is basically the command information in which you get the information to transport from one place to another. Most people don't see anything except the GUI (Graphical User Interface) this is what Windows is or the main screen of Macs. Linux also has a GUI, several actually.

I personally use Mandrake. My version of Mandrake is Community 10.1, I purchased a DVD Rom with the software on it. I could have downloaded it off the internet, but it is nice to get a real copy and helps support the effort from time to time.

OK, so you are probably wondering how this affects you. Well because it is an opensource OS, it makes it easier for people to create programs that will work within the OS. Typically the majority of the programs for Linux are free as well. One example is a program called Xastir which is another version of the familiar APRS software.

I will leave you with one more piece of information. A couple of links that will get you to sites with ham radio software for Linux:

<http://radio.linux.org.au/>
<http://www.radio.org/linux/HAM-HOWTO.html>
<http://www.ac6v.com/software.htm#LIN>

Eric Gildersleeve KD7CAO
P.O. Box 307020
Denton, TX 76203-7020
eric@4gildersleeve.us



ARES Training Tip Of The Month

In a disaster such as a major earthquake, fuel will not be available because there will be no electricity to run the pumps. Emergency Communications members should always keep their vehicle's fuel tanks at least one-half full at all times. Keeping one or more five gallon cans 90% filled (leave room for expansion) with fresh fuel and safely stored is a good idea. Use the fuel and refill about once every six months. Spring and fall are good times to access your preparedness.

December On The HF Bands

- QRP Sprint – 0400Z-0600Z December 4th
 - ARRL 10 Meter Contest – 0000Z, Dec 11 to 2400Z, Dec 12th.
 - RAC Winter Contest – 0000Z-2400Z December 18
 - Skywarn Recognition Day – 0000Z-2400Z Dec. 4th (some great QSL cards in this event)
 - USS Kidd (W5KID) – 1500Z-2300Z, December 7th
- (For more information about frequencies, see the December QST, page 86 or go to the ARRL website)

Worth Pondering...

1. Does a clean house indicate a broken computer in it?
2. On electric toasters, why do they engrave the message "one slice"? How many pieces of bread do they think people are really gonna try to stuff in that slot?
3. Considering all the lint you get in your dryer, if you kept drying your clothes would they eventually just disappear?
4. How come we never hear father-in-law jokes?
5. If at first you don't succeed, shouldn't you try doing it like your wife told you to do it?
6. Is it true that the only difference between a yard sale and a trash pickup is how close to the road the stuff is placed?
7. How do those dead bugs get into those closed light fixtures?
8. Is there ever a day when mattresses are not on sale?

You Know You're A Redneck When...

1. You think fast food is hitting a deer at 65 mph.
2. You burn your yard rather than mow it.
3. You have the taxidermist on speed dial.
4. Your wife can climb a tree faster than your cat.
5. Your grandmother has "ammo" on her Christmas list.
6. You know how many bales of hay your car will hold.
7. You wonder how service stations keep their restrooms sooooo clean.
8. You consider your license plate personalized because your father made it.
9. You have a complete set of soup bowls and they all say "Cool Whip" on the side.
10. The biggest city you've ever seen is Wal-Mart.
11. You missed your 5th grade graduation because you were on jury duty.

2005 Communications Academy

Never too early to start planning for a fun weekend and the Communications Academy at the Shoreline Conference Center is indeed a fun weekend. The 2005 academy will be held on April 2-3. The class schedules are still being worked out but you will be able to find them at www.CommAcademy.org. Mark your calendars and prepare for a great time.

Propagation Forecasts

During the recent CQ Worldwide DX Contest, Hillar Raamat, N6HR sent some band forecasts with DX in mind. I thought they were interesting so will pass them on to you.

10 meters: In the evening-maybe a few signals. Work what you can but don't waste any time...Saturday noon the band opens to the Caribbean and around 2-3 pm to South America. About 4-5 pm you may hear a Japanese, Australian or New Zealand stations coming through.

15 meters: Work Japanese stations in the evening. Mornings 9-noon you will probably hear the European stations. By noon try the North Africans, Spain, Tunisia, maybe a Morocco or Ascension Island. Pick up the Caribbean and South American stations in the afternoon switching back and forth from 10 meters to 15 meters.

20 meters: the bedlam band! Daytime, this band is wide open. In the evening work Japanese, Australian, New Zealand and Hawaiian stations. (remember Hawaii is considered a DX locations)

40 meters: This is a tough band for DX. DX like to call around 7.030 – 7.100. We here in the US can not transmit there. We answer from 7.150 to 7.250 working split. US stations are available. This band opens from about 8 pm to early morning.

80 meters: The DX will be on from 3.750-3.820. There will be Russians below 3.600 (again a split

option) but it takes a good antenna to hear and work them. From 9pm on there is a chance to work the Caribbean and South American stations. Early mornings, grab the Japanese stations.

Remember...if you hear DX but can't raise them, wait an hour and try again. The propagation will usually change in some direction. This was written in an email to me in late October so some conditions may have changed. The best way to know the bands is to be on the bands all the time. Good hunting.

The Big 10 Meter Contest is Just Around The Corner!

The 2004 ARRL 10 Meter Contest is scheduled for 0000Z December 11 – 2400Z December 13th. The 10 meter contest is another of the "biggies" and usually the propagation is pretty good. United States stations simply give a signal report and your state so it would sound like " your 59 – Washington". This is usually a fun contest as 10 meters is a big band with plenty of room for DX and stateside contacts. If you don't want to "contest", just grab a few DX contacts or listen for those states you need for a Worked All States award.

Yup!...It's A Blonde Joke

Two bowling teams, one of all blondes and one of all brunettes charter a double-decker bus for a weekend bowling tournament in Atlanta.

The brunette team rides on the bottom of the bus while the blondes ride the top level. The brunette team down below is partying and having a great time when one of them realizes she doesn't hear anything from the blondes upstairs. She decides to get up and investigate. When the brunette reaches the top, she finds all the blondes frozen in fear staring straight ahead at the road. The brunette asks, "What's going on up here? We're having a great time downstairs!" One of the blondes looks up at her, swallows hard and says, "Yeah, but you've got a driver!"
- Thanks Doug, KC7TPK

SKN Not RST

It is almost time for "Straight Key Night". Every New Years Eve beginning at 0000Z January 1st and running to 2400Z (4PM New Years Eve until 4PM New Years Day locally) we break out the straight key and slow way down to try CW the ole fashioned way. This is a great time to try CW as most people will be working slowly and no one expects perfection so you can hide your inexperience and no one will know! In your QSO's, instead of sending RST before sending the signal report send the letters SKN to indicate your participation in "Straight Key Night". Relax, take it easy and have some fun. Everyone else is trying to make those fingers work too!

A Test For Those Kids Of The 50s & 60s

1. When the Beatles first came to the U.S. in early 1964, we all watched them on the _____ show.
2. The story you are about to see is true. The names have been changed _____.
3. What takes a licking and keeps on ticking?
4. After the twist, the mashed potatoes, and the watusi, we "danced" under a stick that was lowered as low as we could go in a dance called the _____.
5. Get your kicks on _____.

Dear Pets

- The dishes with the paw prints are yours and contain your food. Other dishes are mine. Placing a paw print in the middle of my plate does not stake a claim nor do I find it aesthetically pleasing in the least.
- The proper order is to kiss me, then go smell the other dog's rear end. I can't stress this enough..
- Rules for non-pet people: (1) they live here, you don't; (2) If you don't want their hair on your clothes, stay off the furniture and (3) to you it's an animal but to me he is an adopted son who is short, hairy, walks on all fours and is speech challenged. Deal with it.

Red Skelton Said It Best...

- Two times a week, we go to a nice restaurant, have a little beverage, then comes good food and companionship. She goes on Tuesdays. I go on Fridays.
- I take my wife everywhere, but she keeps finding her way back!
- We always hold hands. If I let go, she shops!
- She got a mudpack and looked great for two days. Then the mud fell off.
- I married Miss Right. I just didn't know her first name was "Always".
- I haven't spoken to my wife in 18 months. I hate to interrupt her.
- She has an electric blender, electric toaster and electric bread maker. Then she said she had so many gadgets and no place to sit down so I bought her an electric chair.

Thank You!

May the best of wishes follow you and those you love throughout this holiday season. We should never be so busy at this time of the year to forget our many blessings. Give a warm smile or a friendly wave to someone less fortunate.. Tell someone you love how special he or she is in your life. Squeeze your children and grand children while you can. Enjoy the season. I enjoy writing your newsletter very much and hope it brings just a little bit of joy to your day.
Happy holidays. 73's Bob, KD7OWN

