

The OVH ARC Newsletter
OLE VIRGINIA HAMS™ AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108
OVH FM Repeaters - 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+ & 443.500+
OVH D-STAR Repeaters - W4OVH - 146.865- & 442.5125+ (now temporarily out of service)
Web Site at <http://w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

Renew your OVH membership now!

February 2017

Next Meeting: Monday, February 20, 2017

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings one and all, and I hope this message finds you all healthy and well.

The Richmond Frostfest has come and gone, and a thank you is owed to Terry / KC4DV for arranging a table, along with Ray / KM4EKR, Sandy / KM4JUS, and Theresa / KG4TVM for supporting. Up next, the Vienna Wireless Winterfest on March 19th in Annandale. It's close by and easy to attend.

Another "What Now?" session led by Mark / WA4KFZ was held on Monday of this week, with good interest in antenna building. Mark did an excellent job as usual in answering the questions of many of the attendees. From this, we may hear more check-ins on our weekly net???

It's time again for club elections and we will be voting at the February meeting for president and vice president; the newly elected officers will be seated at the March meeting. If you have the time, and want to serve the club it's a great way to give back to the club we all know and love.

On that note, I must remind the membership who haven't done so already, to please renew your memberships for 2017! To make this very easy to do, a mail in form is provided later in this newsletter. It is also possible to renew online. Go to the OVH Club web site (W4OVH.NET) and there to the OVH Membership Application tab to do that. No matter, how you do it, be sure to renew. We appreciate everyone's support as the Club does depend upon the modest annual dues each year from its members. You will need to be a member in good



Cont'd on Page 3

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President: Wayne Phillips	N7QLK	393-8447
Vice Pres: Ray Knight	KM4EKR	930-8222
Secretary: Byron Dillon	AK4XR	222-2095
Treasurer: Terry Erlacher	KC4DV	571-292-1490

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdell	W4HJL	369-2877
Arthur Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330
Charlie Dale	WA4YGI	361-3091
Bob Zaepfel	K4HJF	282-2451

WEEKLY FM REPEATER NET COORDINATOR

Thurs - 8:00 PM Local Time	JOHN / KG4NXT	257-3566
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HAMFEST 2017 - Chairman

Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
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FIELD DAY 2016 - Co-Chairs

Ken	KD4VA	753-7863
Byron	AK4XR	222-2095

CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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EDUCATION

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
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CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Open

ARES - EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	703-628-3868
	email: KG4GIY@ARRL.NET	
Prince William County ARES website	http://pwcares.org	

FINANCE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490

GENERATORS

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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WEBMASTER — W4OVH.NET

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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BROADBAND HAMNET (BBHN)

Terryl	WA5NTI	445-2801
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EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
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JOTA - 2016

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	WA3FMO	361-4885
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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NEWSLINE FOR THE WEEKLY NET

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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PROGRAMS

Jeff	WB6UIE	791-5916
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QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
Russ	WB4HHN	368-6435

W4OVH — TRUSTEE

Stu	W4PR	335-5267
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W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Bill	N4SV	590.9562
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
David	KG4GIY	628-3868

All telephone numbers listed above are for Area Code 703 unless otherwise noted. This is the official monthly publication of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc., a §501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio. Copyright © 2016 by the Ole Virginia Hams.

The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Monday which is held in the Main Conference Room in the Manassas Public Works Building, 8500 Pubic Works Drive, Manassas, Virginia. Members, prospective members and other interested persons are invited to attend without obligation. Local information can also be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.970-, 224.660-, 442.200+ and 443.500+ MHz. The OVH's two D-Star repeaters on 146.865- and 442.5125+ MHz are temporarily off the air due to maintenance work beyond the OVH's control. Up to date information about OVH activities and its meetings is also available during the OVH's nets on its FM Repeater each Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. or on 80 meters (3710 KHz) LSB each Sunday night at 7:00 p.m. (8:00 pm in Summer) or through the OVH's web site at <http://w4ovh.net>

Articles and quotations in the OVH Times newsletter may be reprinted if credit is given to the OVH ARC and any other noted source. Proposed materials for publication including pictures, articles, letters to the editor, classified ads, notes about specific errors, complaints or the like are solicited from all readers. Forward such items to the OVH Times Newsletter Editor: PAUL@W4ZB.COM as soon as available at any time, but the cutoff deadline for the OVH Times each month (usually the second Monday of the month) may preclude publication/correction until the following month.

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standing, with dues paid, to vote at the February meeting.

Andy / KJ4MTP is going to be soliciting for volunteers to assist with the first Mini-Tri of the season, the Tune-up Tri, on March 26th; let's help Andy in pulling this together.

Even though it's cold outside (hey, we haven't hardly had any snow this winter!!!), warmer weather isn't far away. A reminder of this is in hearing that we have our paperwork in for the Nokesville Park; the 2017 OVH Field Day location. Thanks Butch for taking care of this detail.

Finally, the paperwork has been submitted for Ole Virginia Hams to have a display at this year's Manassas Airshow—May 6th. Amateur radio fits the theme very well- Trades & STEM Expo.

Keep the thoughts/ideas coming: N7QLK@ARRL.net. Also, I hope to see you at our upcoming regular meeting on Monday, February 20th.

73 Wayne N7QLK

Sunshine Corner:

Happy birthday wishes in February to Roland / WB4NWX, David / W5DRR, Scott / KK4GWU, Gavin / KK4MXT, Dick / WN7S, Stephen / KK4UZC, Patty / KI4FQF, Norman / KK4HDL, Art / W1CRO and Katie / NoCall, best wishes for a warm, happy day!

Good to see a number of the OVH club members at the Richmond Frostfest during the first weekend in February. It looked like there was a great turnout!

Congratulations to OVH member Robert / KK4MXU who is now the President of the Buckhall Fire Department.

Congratulations also to Bill / KM4KWX and his family on the recent birth of his second grandchild.

Special thanks to our officers as their current term of office ends, Wayne / N7QLK, Ray / KM4EKR, Terry / KC4DV and Byron / AK4XR, great job!

The Hamfest and Field Day committee planning meetings are well under way, each having been held earlier this month; jump in and help make each of those annual activities another great event!

Please try to check in to the Thursday night VHF/UHF FM net. You will hear updates and information on events! How to do that is on the OVH web site at w4ovh.net. You will find us on the 146.970 and 443.500 FM repeaters at 8:00 pm every Thursday evening.

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone! Please email me with your news! kg4tvm@hotmail.com

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Informal Meeting -- January 16, 2016:

Our club President, Wayne / N7QLK was not present so club Vice-President, Ray / KM4EKR, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

After the Pledge, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 30 OVH members and 4 guests.

Presentation: By Jeff / WB6UIE on the nametags. The club selected a style of name tag using the reflector. A bunch of club members were helpful in coming up with the design. Jay / KM4JOJ, Andy / KJ4MTP, Mark / WA4KFZ, Bill / N4SV, and Kevin / KA4RNH. A motion to except the finished design was made by Jeff / WB6UIE and seconded by Butch / W4HJL. The motion passed. You can order your badge from the signman. The link is: <http://thesignman.com/clubs/ovhcart.html> Club shirts will be next and probably go through the same steps as the nametags.

Minutes: There were no minutes from December since it was our club's year end, holiday party.

Treasurer's report – Terry / KC4DV gave the financial report. Motion to accept the financial report from Stu / W4PR, with a second from Bob / K4HJF. The motion passed.

Membership –Three new individual applicants were read in: Harry Lippy / KC9TXL, Roberto Maldonado / KM4RIE and Harris Marwood / KL7RW. They will be voted on at next month's meeting.

ARES: Training at Prince William County EOC is upcoming during March. Check <http://pwcarea.org> for more details.

Repeaters: There will be an antenna party at Mt. Pone on Saturday. John / KG4NXT made a motion that we connect the new fusion repeater to the internet. The motion was seconded by Bob / K4HJF. The motion was voted on by the member present and it was passed. The new controller will be going in soon. That should fix the glitch with the 97 machine. The DSTAR will be connected at the NVEC site however the 5.0 GHz link is missing so it will be stand-alone till that is installed.

Training- There will be another "What next" session on February 13, 2017 in the same room we have our monthly meetings. The topic will be antennas. Ray / KM4EKR suggested Elmer sessions. There could possibly be another Technician class in April or May.

Scholarship: Kristin was unavailable so no further report.

Hamfest –The next planning meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 1st, the place will be announced over the reflector.

Field Day: The next planning meeting will be Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at a time and place to be announced on the email reflector.

Sunshine: Terry / WA5NTI, is at home. Kristin deserves a big round of thanks for all the work she has done at Terry's home to get it ready for his return.

Web Site - Paul / W4ZB was not in attendance at the meeting. Discussion took place about improving the OVH's web sites and other social media presences. A committee was formed from volunteers to include: Jeff / KM4FTK, Andy / KJ4MTF, Jeff / K9VEG, and Kevin / KA4RNH who will work with Paul / W4ZB.

50-50: Ray / KM4EKR won the 50-50 drawing he donated his share which was \$11.00 back to the club.

New Business: The next Tri-It-Now will be held on March 26, 2017. Andy / KJ4MTF will be heading up these club supported events. There will be 8 this year.

Membership dues for 2017 are due. Memberships must be current to vote in the elections next month.

\$57.00 was donated to the City of Manassas for the Santa mic (FRS radios)

Motion to adjourn by Sandy KM4JUS, seconded by John KG4NXT, motion passed.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS AND SPECIAL HAM RADIO EVENTS:

Sunday, March 19, 2017 beginning early morning - Winterfest, sponsored by Vienna Wireless, will be held again at the George Mason University campus in Annandale, Virginia. For more information and details, go to: <http://viennawireless.net/wp/events/winterfest> Please note that as of this writing, the "Flyer" on that web page is still for the 2016 Winterfest and has the 2016 date.

AMRAD meets monthly in McLean, Virginia - meetings usually consist of high level amateur radio related technical presentations on specific topics. Check the <http://amrad.org> web site for upcoming topics, and exact dates, times and places which have been changing around recently.

HAM RADIO OPERATING CONTEST EVENTS:

Saturday / Sunday, March 18-19, 2017 - The Virginia QSO Party sponsored by the Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club. This is an annual contest event which is very easy for newcomers to participate in. See, http://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2017_VQP/2017_VQP_Main.html Each year for many years now, many OVH members have participated and submitted scores; We are expecting to have a speaker from the Virginia QSO Party at our February meeting.

The ARRL has a Contest web page at its web site, but a much more comprehensive, up-to-date, and long range planning contesting calendar with links to the rules for the various events is maintained by WA7BNM at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal> If you get the radio contesting bug or just want to find out what and how much is going on, that is a good place to look!

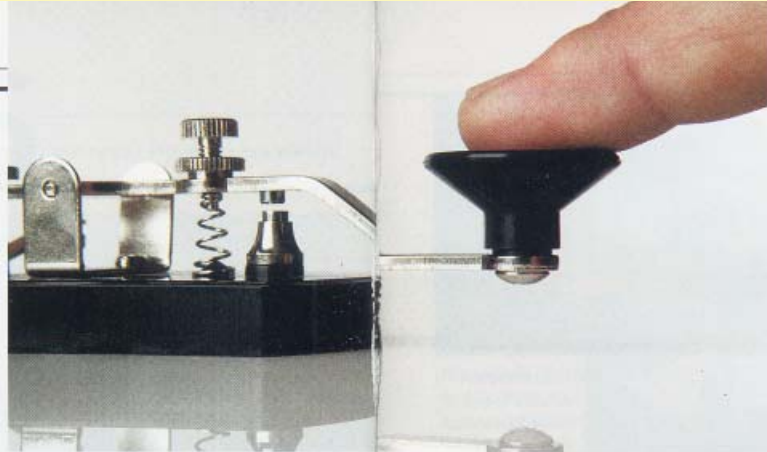
PUBLIC SERVICE / ARES EVENTS

Sunday, March 26, 2017 - early morning. The OVH is going to provide communications assistance during the Tune-up Tri, MiniTri event. Radio operators needed! Contact Andy / KJ4MTP at andy@gamponia.com for more information.

Always check the online Calendar by David / KG4GIY at <http://www.pwcares.org> for the latest updates. David maintains a comprehensive calendar for upcoming events at that web site. Complete direct contact information for David appears on page 2 of this Newsletter.

A brief article in *Scientific American* for Feb. 2017 suggests you can learn and develop Morse Code proficiency without conscious effort! Anyone agree?

Below: more repeater “antenna work” at the Mount Pone site on January 26, 2017



TECHNOLOGY

Learn Morse Code, Semi-consciously

Wearable computers delivering tactile cues may offer a way to learn manual skills without paying much attention

Learning Morse code, with its tappity-tap rhythms of dots and dashes, could take far less effort—and attention—than one might think. The trick is a wearable computer that engages the sensory powers of touch, according to a recent pilot study. The results suggest that mobile devices may be able to teach us manual skills, almost subconsciously, as we go about our everyday routines.

Ph.D. student Caitlyn Seim and computer science professor Thad Starmer of the Georgia Institute of Technology tinker with haptics, the integration of vibrations or other tactile cues with computing gadgets. Last September at the 20th International Symposium on Wearable Computers in Heidelberg, Germany, they announced that they had programmed Google Glass to passively teach its wearers Morse code—with preliminary signs of success.

For the study, 12 participants wore the smart glasses while engrossed in an online game on a PC. During multiple hour-long sessions, half the players heard Google Glass’s built-in speaker repeatedly spelling out words and felt taps behind the right ear (from a bone-conduction transducer built into the frames) for the dots and dashes corresponding to each letter. The other six

participants heard only the audio, without the corresponding vibrations.

After each run of game playing, all the players were asked to tap out letters in Morse code using a finger on the touch pad of the smart glasses; for example, if they tapped “dot-dot,” an “i” would pop up on the visual display. The brief testing essentially prompted them to try to learn the code. After four one-hour sessions, the group that had received tactile cues could tap a pangram (a sentence using the entire alphabet) with 94 percent accuracy. The audio-only group eventually achieved 47 percent accuracy, learning solely from their trial-and-error inputs.

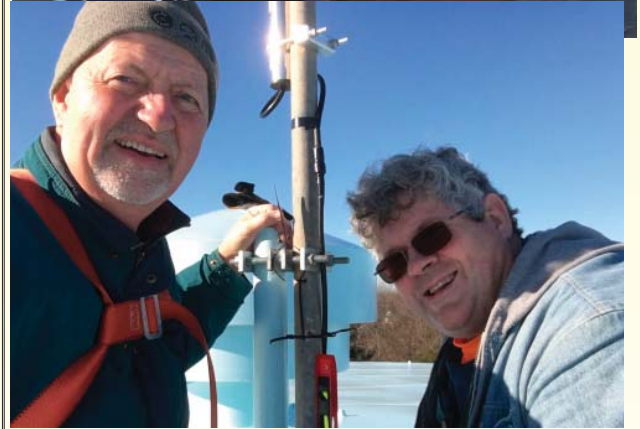
The work shows that “it is possible to teach a system of typing without the user paying much attention to it,” Starmer says. Passive haptic learning could help users quickly master new text-entry methods for accessory keyboards or an eyes-free, Morse code-like system of taps on a smart watch, he adds, noting: “That might really change how people use mobile and wearable devices.”

The results are also “exactly congruent” with other effects of passive haptic learning that the researchers have found in past studies, Seim says. For example, the group has developed computing gloves that deliver vibrations to the fingers to teach the “muscle memories” for playing a piano song or typing Braille.

Although it was small scale, the experiment demonstrates how wearable computers could permit users to “go about your daily business—and while you do that, you can get information to actually learn things,” says Paul Lukowicz of the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence, who was not involved in the study. Now if only listening to Mandarin in your sleep could impart fluency.

—Ingfei Chen

PRECEDING PAGES: JERIC CARTER; GUY IMAGES (top left); CAROL MULLER/REUTERS (top right); MEXI OXFORD (middle left); PHOTOFEST (middle right); THIS PAGE: GETTY IMAGES



To the left: partial panoramic view from the top of water storage tank at Mount Pone where the new repeater antennas are located.

W4OVH.NET web site - content providers: who are they now and who will they be?

At the 2/15/2017 initial meeting of the OVH web site improvement working group there was considerable discussion about ways to improve and update the W4OVH.NET web site [everyone present agreed that the web site needs to be improved, reorganized and given a more “up to date” look], but almost no discussion about what the content should be on that web site or who will actually provide “new” content and how the existing content should be revised, updated and reorganized [which needs to be done]. Several attendees contended that the group should concentrate initially on proposing technical changes to make it easier to add content [rather than on the “content” issues themselves] because once it is easier to add content to the web site, most OVH officers (as well as directors and any others who desire to add content) will then originate new content and add and update it routinely for all to see. Is this wishful thinking? Who specifically will these new OVH content providers be? Some may be relatively new OVH members, but how many new content providers will there be overall? In fact, only limited new content has been proffered during the past six+ years by OVH members other than by the OVH’s webmaster / editor; further, since mid-2011 all proffered new content (or revisions to existing content) for the web site offered by anyone associated with the OVH has been promptly added; no technical difficulty has prevented or delayed the adding of all proffered content.

For some brief background and history about this, please look in the past OVH Newsletters: for August 2011 at p. 8, for February 2016 at p. 5, and for May 2016 at p. 5 and at pp. 9-10; all available on the OVH’s web site. Since August 2011: no OVH member has requested the web space offered at W4OVH.NET to add content or that a link be added at W4OVH.NET to his/her own web site or social media account(s); no officer or director requested an ability to directly update information at W4OVH.NET [two (only one at present) have done so in the Members Only area for the Members Directory, but each only after webmaster cajoling]; all proffered web content has been added. Given this actual history, it would be very helpful for the working group to have all proposed or expected new content providers identify themselves, identify the type of content expected to be originated for the web site or linked social media, how he/she prefers that that content be displayed, and how frequently he/she will update that content. Please send that info to the webmaster / editor who will post your emails in the Members Only area and print a summary in the next OVH Newsletter. This information will be helpful to the web site improvement working group.

Some Possibly Useful or Interesting Information

1. “WIRES” capabilities of the new OVH repeater: although the OVH’s new WIRES-X repeater is still not fully operational, those who intend to use it will need to spend some time learning and reviewing how to use its capabilities effectively. The November 2016 meeting presentation slides by Ken / KE2N posted on the W4OVH.NET web site provide a very good starting point. One of the online PDF references buried within Ken’s presentation [https://www.hamoperator.com/Hamoperator/WiRES-X_Bible/WiRES-X_Bible.html] sometime referred to as the “WIRES-X Bible” is worth special attention for learners.

2. The likelihood of “in shack” RF is always an issue, particularly when transmitting at higher power levels. Who hasn’t gotten a mild, but startling “hot” RF burn or “shock” just from touching some metal object near his / her operating position while transmitting? In-Shack RFI also can play havoc with computers in your station. There are many actions one may take to try to minimize this problem, and a lot has been written about solution approaches. A recent long blog posting on the FlexRadio web site contains a very good discussion of the problem and ways to minimize in-shack RFI. Look at: <http://tinyurl.com/ShackRFifixes>

3. Your editor is still looking for a new home for a complete 20 volume set of the McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology - 1997 Edition; large size books, 30” of shelf space, excellent condition. This an very good primer and technical reference resource for all of the many topics presented; despite being 20 years old, virtually all of the comprehensive technical info is still valid. Reason for disposing of it: acquired a more recent Edition. If interested, contact the editor. Will give away to a good home, *i.e.*, to someone who may be able to make good use of it; if anyone offers to buy it, the proceeds will be donated to the OVH.

4. How to improve your HF station and operations: check out <https://www.contestuniversity.com/videos> on the Contest University web site for videos in this subject area, excellent material by world class presentators.

REMINDER



Yes, it is that time of year again!!!! Below is the 2017 Renewal Application.

Please fill out the form below (for database), attach your check and mail to the address below or drop off at a meeting. Be sure to update all information, including your e-mail address, telephone number(s) and nine digit ZIP

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION "OLE VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB" for 2017

NAME: _____ CALL SIGN: _____
ADDRESS: _____ Home Tel: _____
_____ Cell Tel: _____
Work Tel: _____
EMAIL: _____
BIRTHDAY: _____

ARE YOU PRESENTLY AN ARRL MEMBER? (YES/NO)
ARE YOU A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER: (YES/NO)
MAY YOUR TELEPHONE NOS. BE LISTED IN THE "Members Only" OVH ROSTER? (YES/NO)
WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT LICENSE CLASS? _____

Dues are now **\$20.00** per year and payable on January 1, 2017. Dues for each additional family member living at the same mailing address are \$10.00. Dues for a full time student at the college undergraduate or lower level [list school attended and grade or level:
_____] are \$10.00.

NAME AND CALL OF FAMILY MEMBERS: AMOUNT ENCLOSING: _____
Name: _____ Call: _____
Name: _____ Call: _____

Return to: **Treasurer, OVH**
P.O. Box 1255
Manassas, VA 20108-1255

NORTHERN VIRGINIA'S LARGEST

Manassas Hamfest

**OUR
43RD
YEAR**

AMATEUR RADIO & MAKER TECHNOLOGY SHOW

An ARRL-Approved HAMFEST Presented By:

The OLE VIRGINIA HAMS Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

(Featuring Youth Lounge Activities for the Youngsters Attending!)



Sunday, June 4, 2017

Prince William County Fairgrounds

Large Outdoor and Covered Pavillion flea market areas, two indoor air-conditioned buildings, several covered buildings and ample parking

10624 Dumfries Road - Route 234 - Manassas, Virginia -- Talk-In Repeaters on 146.97- and 442.200+

INDOOR EXHIBITOR SPACE

8-foot tables: \$30* each
with chairs & electricity
(\$25 if reserved by May 1st)
Setup 2-10 PM Saturday

GENERAL ADMISSION

\$10* per person at gate
(Age 18 and younger: no charge)
(*See web sites for prepayment discounts before 5/15/2017)
Gates open at 7 AM

TAILGATING (admission is extra)

Outdoor Spaces: \$10* per space
Covered Pavillion: \$15 per space
(*See web sites for details about online prepayment discounts before 5/15/2017)
Gates open at 6 AM

* Online ticket sales and vendor registration at <http://manassashamfest.org>

For our Most Current Vendor Info, Lists and Ticket Sales Visit our Web Pages:

<http://manassashamfest.org> and <http://w4ovh.net>

PRIZES

- Door prizes hourly 9 AM to 1 PM (be present to win)
- Major & Tailgate prizes awarded at 2 PM

INFORMATION

- ARRL Roanoke Division Officers attending
- Virginia Section Manager Forum & other Forums
- 4th Call Area QSL Bureau Representatives
- DXCC QSL Card Checking will be available
- Virginia QSO Party Awards Ceremony
- Check our web pages (below) for the most up-to-date information

ACTIVITIES

- Flea Market & Vendors - all day
- VEC License Exams: 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM
- "Maker" group technology demonstrations
- ARRL style Youth Lounge programs all day for youngsters - by the OVHARC and 4-H
- Maker Robotics Corral and Demos
- Amateur Radio Satellite Forum
- BroadBand Ham Networks ("BBHN") Forum
- Virginia QSO Party Awards and Forum
- More Forums to be announced, check web sites

<http://manassashamfest.org> and <http://w4ovh.net>

Dealer Info from George / K4GVT: vendors@manassashamfest.org

General Info from Terry / KC4DV: chairman@manassashamfest.org

VE Testing / Exam Information: vetesting@manassashamfest.org