

The OVH ARC Newsletter
"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108
Repeaters - W4OVH - 146.970 & 224.660 & 442.200+
OVH Nodes - Port 1: 145.030 Mhz; Port 3: 223.540 MHz;
Port 2: 440.925Mhz 9600 Baud backbone / N3OH (SYSOP--BILL)
<http://www.w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

March 2008

Next Meeting: March 17, 2008

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to all, the smell of spring is in the air, well at least for a couple days. With that fresh spring smell, this aroma will soon include ozone. If you haven't looked into the condition of your antenna grounding system, this is a good time to do so; failure to do so could be catastrophic.

Last year the K4GVT QTH survived a nearby lightening strike - one when the flash and boom happen simultaneously. I thought my nearby antenna tower had taken the hit, but when I checked outside I was unable to locate where the strike had hit and was pleased to learn that the lightning stroke return path had not been though any of my antennas. Inside the house, however, one TV "turned itself on" immediately after the strike and could not be turned off again; its front panel had been rendered inoperative. This winter while walking in the woods by my back yard, I notice a tall evergreen was missing its top, but then I found it on the ground with very visible signs of lightning strike scorching. That was one of the trees in which I had considered stringing one segment of my HF loop antenna boy am I glad I didn't!

The OVH held its first DirecTV system raffle on February 29th; pictures of the drawing event are available at <http://www.k4gvt.com/raffle/> and a few appear later in this newsletter. It turned out that the raffle winner (Jennifer Turnbull) had just had FiOS installed and no longer needed the system and asked that the award be transferred to seller. Congratulations to John/KG4NXT! Also thank all of you for your efforts in selling tickets and assisting in the sales. The total proceeds will be presented at the next monthly meeting by David/KG4GIY.

Entries for the second Front Panel design challenge were evaluated and Dwight/AI4II was declared "winner." Dwight's design is a panel for his 19" rack appears particularly well thought out and useful. As soon as we have a date, I will notify and invite all interested to observed the CNC milling process for Dwight's panel.

One final reminder if you haven't done it yet - please renew your annual OVH membership at the upcoming OVH meeting on St. Patrick's Day (March 17th) or use the form on the w4ovh.net web site and mail it in.

73 for now — George / K4GVT



Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President:	George Tarnovsky	K4GVT	791-5956
Vice Pres:	Wayne Kline	AG4ZZ	791-2100
Secretary:	Wayne Phillips	N7QLK	393-8447
Treasurer:	Bill Ellis	WA4FIC	335-9935

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdell	W4HJL	369-2877
Art Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330
Charlie Dale	WA4YGI	361-3091

WEEKLY NETS

Thursdays - 8:00 PM	JOHN H	257-3566
---------------------	--------	----------

HAMFEST 2008

Chris	KI4POT	361-3257
Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873

FIELD DAY 2008

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
Butch.	W4HJL	369-2877

CLUB ROSTER

Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877
--------	--------	----------

EDUCATION

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
------	--------	----------

CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Meola	KI4AZX	393-6681
-------------	--------	----------

ARES AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042
------------	--------	----------

F.A.R. REPS.

Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234
Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877

FINANCE

Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877
Joe	KI4OHR	369-2639
Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234

GENERATORS

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

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
---------	--------	----------

WEBMASTER — W4OVH.NET

Bill	N3OH	590-9562
------	------	----------

JOTA

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
---------	--------	----------

LEGAL

Pete	KB4RME	369-2436
------	--------	----------

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Joe Dobes	KI4OHR	369-2639
-----------	--------	----------

NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
------	------	----------

NEWSLINE

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
---------	--------	----------

PACKET

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N3OH	590-9562

PROGRAMS

TBA

PUBLICITY

Trisha Wells	KI4PCM	335-1096
--------------	--------	----------

QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
-------	-------	----------

REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Milt	N4SN	369-7265
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844

W4OVH / W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
-----	-------	----------

SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
-----	-------	----------

SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3556
---------	--------	----------

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N3OH	590-9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939

All telephone numbers listed above are for Area Code 703 unless otherwise noted.

The OVH Times newsletter 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. This edition of the OVH Times is Copyright © 2008 by the Ole Virginia Hams.

The OVH ARC meets at 7:30 p.m. local time every third Monday of the month at the NOVEC Tech Center, 5399 Wellington Branch Road, Gainesville, Virginia 20155. Members, prospective members and all other interested persons are invited to attend. Local information can also always be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.97 & 224.660 Mhz. Up to date information about OVH activities and meetings is also available on the OVH web site at <http://www.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.

Approx. Circulation - 170.

Last Rev: 03/09/2008

Sunshine Corner:

March Birthdays – Bill/WA4FIC, Russ/WB4HHN, Jeff/N1SN, Henry/N4AZC and Garrison/K4MRL. Hope you all have a great day!

OVH Club support is needed for Chris Allen /KI4POT who will be riding his bicycle 140 miles to raise money for MS. To help, donate online at <http://www.nationalmssociety.org/goto/allencb>. Thanks to all who donate!

College Update – Elizabeth / KG4NXV will likely be in Houston this summer working for General Electric! More to follow...

The February OVH meeting always means elections! Very special thank to George/K4GVT, President, Ruth/KU4WH, Vice President, Bill/WA4FIC, Treasurer and Wayne/N7QLK, Secretary, our officers for the 2007 OVH Club year who all did an outstanding job! George and Wayne are staying on for 2008; Wayne Kline/AG4ZZ is our new Vice President and Joe Dobs / KI4OHR is coming on board as Treasurer for 2008. Thanks to George, the two Waynes and Joe for stepping up to keep the OVH club running smoothly!

Many OVH club events are coming up, please stay posted and also check the W4OVH.NET website. Upcoming shortly is the Minitri; David/KI4AZX is chairman for the Minitri and can always use more helpers; call David at 393-6681. Celebrate Springtime by participating in one of our OVH club activities, call or email the chairperson for the event and have fun!!!!

Don't forget to send me your news, good or bad so we know what is going on with our members, email kg4tvm@hotmail.com or call 257-3566. Hope to see you at the March 17th OVH meeting; if you can't make it, have a Happy St. Patrick's Day!

73 Theresa/KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting February 18, 2008:

George / K4GVT called meeting to order at 1938 Eastern Time.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 26 OVH members present.

BUSINESS MEETING

The minutes of the January 2008 meeting were approved.

Treasury report: Balance is in good standing. Report approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Joe/KI4OHR - No new members; The PW Pulse newspaper is carrying an OVH club membership announcement.

ARES: Dave/KG4GIY - Numerous events coming up; check out <http://www.pwcares.org> for more details. Next ARES training session is Mar 15th at 0900 at the County EOC.

Repeater: Art/W1CRO - Installed heater; otherwise everything checks out.

Training: Mark/WA4KFZ has made up fliers for the General Class to be given at the Manassas Red Cross facility. Classes are 9:00 – 11:00 am, Saturdays, beginning on March 8th. Additional details on W4OVH.NET website. The Technician Class to be put on by Brian/WC4J is on hold.

Scholarships: No report.

Hamfest: Chris/KI4POT – The Hamfest will be on the Second Sunday in June this year – June 8th, 2008. Looking for more volunteers, activities are moving along on schedule in all other respects. Tables are expected to be provided by the Fairgrounds this year without additional charges, but that still needs to be confirmed. Keith Johnson is POC for tables. Ham Equipment vendor KJI from New Jersey will attend this year. More volunteers are needed for the security detail - contact Brian/WC4J.

Field Day: John/KG4NXT - plans are ongoing, all is on schedule.

Sunshine: Theresa/KG4TVM – A motion was approved for the OVH club to donate \$100 in memory of Alman Reames / KI4BXS. Suggested that club members provide photographs and QSL cards for the Club records.

Packet and Website: Bill/N3OH will replace the Packet radio and TNC when the weather improves; performance dropped off. Website – working well except when power outages.

PROGRAM

Fleetwatch: Prince William County Police Officer, John Nagel, presented the County's Fleetwatch Program, and handed out brochures, information pamphlets, and reporting forms. Points of interest discussed included: Automobile catalytic converter thefts are on the increase; PWC police try to respond, but depends on priorities and available units at the time; Unattended/unlocked cars (warming up) are a major problem (easy targets of theft); the PW County Crime Alert notification website is at <http://www.pwcgov.org/services/enotifications/subscribe.asp>; John Nagel (the County) offers training in: terrorism and Highway Watch (a national program), each can be presented in a program of 1 hour to 1 day in length; tours can be scheduled for the new PW County police station on Wellington Road; 80% of the county's crime is opportunistic. Keep alert and don't give criminals a chance!; and call in all suspicious activity at commuter lots or elsewhere!

OLD BUSINESS:

Second Battle of Manassas Special Event (August 30th) – Al/KB4BHB will scope out use of Signal Hill for activities; Strayer may not approve with a large payment.

Space Week (last week of April) and Kids' Day July 21st Joe/KI4OHR is looking for support at Bristow Elementary, ideas, equipment offer(s), etc., please contact Joe.

Direct TV raffle drawing to be held on Friday, February 29, 2008. Additional books of raffle tickets to be sold were handed out.

Winterfest put on by Vienna Wireless will be this weekend - Feb 24th at NOVA's Annandale Campus.

Annual Dues – all laggards must pay up!!

NEW BUSINESS:

Results of the annual W4OVH officer elections: Elected for 2008: President: George Tarnovsky / K4GVT; Vice President: Wayne Kline / AG4ZZ; Treasurer: Joe Dobs / KI4OHR and Secretary: Wayne Phillips / N7QLK.

24 hour endurance event in Prince William County Forest (April 26/27) Brian (WC4J) is looking for more volunteers; NCS is in cabin; three other sites need manning; contact Brian.

50/50 for \$39: Winner was Butch / W4HJL who donated all back to the OVH Club.

Mystery Box raffle generated \$21: Winner was Mark / WA4KFZ.

Meeting adjourned at 21:05.



The newly elected or re-elected 2008 OVH Officers, left to right, in the picture to the left taken at the February 18, 2008 OVH Meeting:

Wayne/AG4ZZ, new Vice President

Joe/KI4OHR, new Treasurer

George/K4GVT, re-elected President

Wayne/N7QLK, re-elected Secretary

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

OPERATING EVENTS:

March 15 - 17, 2008, Virginia QSO Party, 1800 UTC Sat. Mar. 15th - 0200 UTC Mon. Mar. 17th. For more info and the complete rules, Google "2008 Virginia QSO Party". Brian/WC4J is looking for more operators to help out at his Nokesville QTH for a big push to beat his station results from last year; contact Brian if you have time or want to participate at WC4J; otherwise, plan to operate from your home QTH.

June 28 - 29, 2008, OVH Annual Field Day event at the Nokesville Park. Be sure to mark this on your calendar; it is always a major OVH event and will be so again this year. ARRL 2008 Field Rules and early info is online through <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/02/08/101/?nc=1>. John/KG4NXT is heading up organization for this event this year.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

March 29 - 30, 2008. Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest at the Timonium Fairgrounds, Timonium, Maryland. Hours: 6:00 am - 5:00 pm on Sat., Mar. 29th, 6:00 am - 3:00 pm on Sun., Mar. 30th. Complete info at <http://www.gbhc.org/>

June 8, 2008. OVH Manassas Hamfest, Prince William County Fairgrounds, 10624 Dumfries Road, Manassas, Virginia. More information at <http://w4ovh.net> and at the upcoming OVH meetings. Volunteers and helpers are needed, contact Chris/KI4POT or Bruce/AB8CI.

OTHER EVENTS / DEADLINES

March and April, 2008 Deadlines - FAR Scholarship Applications. FAR (the Foundation for Amateur Radio) ham radio related scholarships for college / university courses. Complete details for applications and eligibility are at <http://amateurradio-far.org>

UP-TO-DATE INFO ABOUT OTHER CONTESTS / OPERATING EVENTS

WA7BNM maintains an excellent Contest Calendar website at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>. The ARRL's operating events / contest calendar web page is at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/> This includes a link to ARRL's Special Event activities listings at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>

OVH members John/KG4NXT and Al/KB4BHB assisting Boy Scout Troop 581 with Radio and Electronics during the Troop's Merit Badge day in February, 2008.



OVH member Brian/WC4J is now providing worldwide DX Cluster information via Internet telnet connection to anyone who can access his site at <telnet://dxc.wc4j.net> using the AB5K software; standard telnet commands should be used for initiating a connection through log on using your callsign, and then standard DX Cluster commands may be used extract DX Cluster information, to post DX spots of the like. Brian's system appears to be tied into worldwide DX Cluster feeds as compared to the system, for example, also accessible via telnet at [w3lpl.net](telnet://w3lpl.net) which appears to restrict its DX spots to those originating in the (East Coast) USA.

Selling OVH raffle tickets for DirecTV system #1 at the Vienna Wireless - Winterfest



Theresa/KG4TVM and Brian/WC4J



Bill/N3OH, Scott/KB8NUM and Brian/WC4J



Almost ready for the DirecTV System #1 Raffle Ticket Drawing - Manassas Mall - evening February 29, 2008

Who recognizes the high school age ham operator in the picture to the right who is today an active OVH club member? Who is he? Further, who can identify the equipment being used in the picture? What is it? In what year was this picture taken?



Another Reminder — Renew Your Annual OVH Membership!

Please remember to renew you annual OVH membership. A form for that may be downloaded from <http://w4ovh.net>, and mailed in with your check. You may also renew at the upcoming OVH monthly meeting on March 17th. .

Several Ham Radio Items for Sale Locally as of March 12, 2008

Joe / KI4OHR and I visited a local area woman who has several ham radio related items for sale.

Alinco DX-70T
Kenwood TM-211A
Radio Shack HTX100
CDE rotor control box
Pyramid 12v 22amp power supply
MFJ 941E Versa tuner II
MFJ 1700B Antenna / rig switch box

I only tested the DX-70T. It transmits and receives, but it needs work; all controls are somewhat oxidized; the microphone is a modified desk mike which is not working. The owner was a smoker, and everything smells of smoke and may have a smoke film on it. Except for the DX-70T, the equipment is untested and in most cases needs clean up and possibly other work too. If you are interested please send me your bid price for specific items and I will pass those on to the seller.

73 George K4GVT

Some Interesting / Elaborate Ham Radio Web Sites By Local Area Hams

Following is a list of several somewhat elaborate ham radio web sites authored by hams in the Washington, D.C. metro area. The emphasis of each of these site is on DXing, Contesting and/or construction information. Three are by hams in Fairfax County or Prince William County.

<http://www.k4so.com/> - K4SO - Nokesville, Virginia

<http://www.w3yy.com/> - W3YY - Clifton, Virginia

<http://n3oc.dyndns.org/> - N3OC - Maryland

<http://www.selectsa.com/wx3b/> - WX3B - Maryland

<http://cliftonlaboratories.com/> - K8ZOA - Clifton, Virginia

K8ZOA's site includes a lot of electronics construction type information. Enjoy! If you know of some similar sites which others might be interested in viewing, please send the URLs to the editor.

“Free” Sources of Weak Signal and Signal Analysis Software

Following two web sites offering “free” weak signal / signal analysis software for ham type applications, with emphasis on digital processing of baseband (audio) signals:

<http://weaksignals.com/> - I2PHD Lots of “weak signal” software / info

<http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/> WSJT home page

Those interesting is working with digital modes should explore these sites and the high quality software which is available on them.