

The OVH ARC Newsletter
"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108
FM Repeaters - W4OVH - 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+
D-STAR Repeater - W4OVH - 442.5125+
OVH Packet - Port 1: 145.730 Mhz, Port 3: 223.540 MHz - Sysop: Bill/N4SV
<http://www.w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

March 2010

Next Meeting: Monday, March 15, 2010

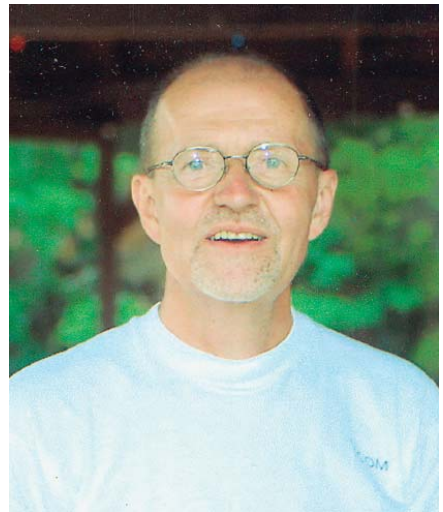
PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings, on behalf of your elected officers, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of our members for your vote and confidence in our ability to do a good job for the OVH. I personal note, I am very excited to be your president again. I know most of you personally, I can say I'm very proud and honored to be at your service again - thank you.

With the snow melting fast it's time to start thinking about what toll this winter has had on our antennas and feedline. But most important please check your ground systems. With spring showers coming, we can expect electrical storms delivering dangerous lightning. It's worth the effort to verify that grounding systems are in place. Remember, it's not only performance, it's safety. We should all apply good engineering when placing, repairing and installing grounding apparatus.

The last parts (the A/D converter) needed for the DV board (D-Star adapter) project was due and promised in February, but it is still on back order, and latest information is that it will be shipped at the end of this month. Once those parts arrive, we can begin the building.

The next few months will be busy for all of us preparing for the OVH Hamfest and Field Day, both in June. I hope each of you will volunteer in one way or another to help make the OVH Hamfest Virginia's biggest and best. The Memorandum of Understanding between the OVH and the Prince William County Red Cross has been signed (with minor revision), the signed MOU is duplicated on pages 7-9 below. A few members have not yet paid their \$10 renewal dues for 2010; if you haven't done that yet, bring \$10 the upcoming meeting or pay them by mail using the transmittal form at w4ovh.net. Hope to see you all on Monday, March 15th at 7:30 p.m. at the meeting room at the Prince William County Red Cross at 9930 Liberia Avenue, Manassas.



73 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:	Theresa Heartney	KG4TVM	257-3556
Treasurer:	Gary Gilham	WG4ARC	932-1118

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
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HAMFEST 2010

Chris	KI4POT	361-3257
Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873

FIELD DAY 2010

John	KG4NXT /	257-3556
Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3556
Wayne	N7QLK	393-8447

CLUB ROSTER

Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877
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EDUCATION

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
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CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Meola	KI4AZX	393-6681
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ARES AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042
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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
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WEBMASTER — W4OVH.NET

Bill	N4SV	590-9562
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EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042
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JOTA

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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LEGAL

Pete	KB4RME	369-2436
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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NEWSLINE

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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PACKET

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4SV	590-9562

PROGRAMS

TBA

WINTER FIELD DAY 2011

Joe	KI4OHR	369-2639
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PUBLICITY

Trisha Wells	KI4PCM	335-1096
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QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844

W4OVH / W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3556
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

George	K4GVT	791-5956
Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4SV	590-9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939

All tel. numbers listed 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. This edition of the OVH Times is Copyright © 2009 by the Ole Virginia Hams.

The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Monday of the month at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House at 9930 Liberia Avenue, Manassas, Virginia. 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.

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Last Rev: 02/18/2010

Sunshine Corner:

Birthdays in March – A very happy birthday to Russ / WB4HHN and Jeff / N1SN. Hope you have a terrific day!

Wishes for a speedy recovery to Butch / W4HJL, hope that ankle mends quickly!

A lot of our members who have been sick this winter, hope everybody is feeling better and back to normal! Spring is right around the corner at last.

Welcome to our newest members voted in during the February 2010 meeting: Justin / KJ4LAS, Roger / KJ4RDJ, Fred / WD4ASP, Austin / KJ4EOW and David / KJ4EPF.

Special thanks to George / K4GVT, Wayne / AG4ZZ, Wayne / N7QLK, Butch / W4HJL and Art / W1CRO for taking such good care of us in 2009. Butch / W4HJL and Art / W1CRO co chaired as Treasurer until the position was filled in February. Great job!

New officers for the OVH Club year 2010 elected at the February meeting: George / K4GVT President, Wayne / AG4ZZ Vice President, Gary / WG4ARC Treasurer and Theresa / KG4TVM Secretary. Looking forward to a great year!

The Virginia QSO party starts on March 20th; tune up those radios and get on the air for this event which is always fun!

Just a reminder, the Thursday night net is going strong at 8:00 pm on the OVH repeaters. Please join us! Also, if you would like to be involve with net control, let John / KG4NXT know.

Wayne / N7QLK, John / KG4NXT and Theresa / KG4TVM are co-chairing Field Day 2010 to be held in June. More details at the next meeting. Contact any of the co-chairs with suggestions or requests.

Please send me your news, kg4tvm@hotmail.com or 703-257-3566.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting February 15, 2010:

George/K4GVT called the meeting to order at 19:30 pm. Meeting was held at the new location at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House, 9930 Liberia Avenue, Manassas, Virginia.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 25 OVH members and 5 guests.

BUSINESS MEETING

The minutes of the January 2010 meeting were placed on hold for changes, revisions / corrections are to be made and voted on at the March meeting before being posted on the w4ovh.net website.

Treasurer's Report given by Art / W1CRO, approved as given.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP: Bruce / AB8CI reported a new application by Randal Cohen / WB7RAV, Randal was read in as a prospective new member. The following applications that

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were read in last month were voted on and approved as new OVH members: Justin Anderle / KJ4LAS; Roger Blinn / KJ4RDJ; Fred Paul / WD4ASP; Austin Walrabenstein / KJ4EOW and David Bryant / KJ4EPF.

ARES: David / KG4GIY – next meeting of the EOC is March 20th. New requirement from the FCC that a person already employed as a paid or volunteer first responder is not eligible to participate as an amateur during drills, status is not required to be verified; several members had questions about this but there appears to be some grey areas, John / KG4NXT stated that CQ Magazine has filed a protest to this requirement; ARES will have a uniform when responding to an event; Drill on May 8th at Dulles Airport (this event happens every 3 years).

REPEATER: Keith / KM4AA – the NOVEC tower repeaters are working, still items to work on such as the PL Tone. DSTAR is running, a patch to the D-Star software was applied on Saturday; John / KG4NXT has the D-Rats program and is looking for people to participate; Al / KB4BHB asked if phone patch is still working and it is.

TRAINING: Mark / WA4KFZ is talking with the Nokesville Fire Department to coordinate a call, more details to follow at a later date.

HAMFEST: Chris / KI4POT – Flyers are printed and George / K4GVT handed out a stack to the HRO in Delaware; George / K4GVT also has several vendors interested in coming including ICOM; Chris / KI4POT is working on a Google account for our Hamfest information, the address is W4OVHhamfests@gmail.com. Advance payment on the fairgrounds is due in March; Bruce / AB8CI wants to hear from club members on what they want from Hamfest or suggestions / ideas. George / K4GVT has two vendors that are willing to supply our tickets at a price of \$93 for 3000 tickets.

FIELD DAY in June: John / KG4NXT advised that Wayne / N7QLK is out of the country for work for at least two months; John and Theresa / KG4TVM are continuing to work on preparations for the event; John has some ideas for the education part but is going to review rules before making decisions.

SUNSHINE: Theresa / KG4TVM announced several February birthdays – Roland / WB4NWX, Patty / KI4FQF and Art / W1CRO. Butch / W4HJL fell on ice and broken his ankle, he will be finding out very soon if he has to have surgery; Dianne / KI4FVV asked if Butch and Mary Lu needed any support, George / K4GVT let us know that the help has been offered and will get back to us if needed; longtime club member Henry Ahalt / N4AZC passed away February 9, 2010, Theresa made a motion to donate \$100 in Henry's name to his church, this was seconded and passed.

WEB PAGE: Bill / N4SV just updated information about Hamfest, please let him know if something is missing.

PACKET – Bill / N4SV reports sadly that packet operation by the OVH is now dead.

Art / W1CRO reminded everyone of the 2010 Virginia QSO Party on March 20th; also the Raleigh Hamfest is on April 3rd (tickets \$8). The Vienna Wireless Hamfest is Feb 28th; TMAPC members are expected to vote on changes to the TMAPC By-Laws and repeater changes at a TMAPC meeting during that hamfest.

Art / W1CRO passed out the ballots for officers.

BREAK

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ELECTIONS – Ballots were collected and counted with the following results – President: George / K4GVT; Vice President: Wayne / AG4ZZ; Treasurer: Gary / WG4ARC and Secretary: Theresa / KG4TVM. George thanked everyone for voting and gave a Presidential Speech.

OLD BUSINESS: Art / W1CRO reported that the MOU with the Prince William County Red Cross is being modified and will be signed, it will be distributed via email and the next newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS: Joe / KI4OHR thanks everybody for participating in Winter Field Day and thanked the Red Cross for their assistance in the setup and tear down; Joe wants to make this an annual event. Joe is requesting a \$200 budget this will be reviewed by the finance committee. AL / KB4BHB asked about the cost to do the June Field Day, it was reported that 2009 the cost was \$372.65 and 2008 was \$283.54.

50/50 was not held due to no tickets.

MYSTERY BOX: George / K4GVT will have one at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 21:39 p.m.

CORRECTIONS to the Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting January 18, 2010 as circulated in The Ole Virginia Times - February 2010 via email on February 11, 2010:

1. Correct the heading for those Minutes to read: “Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting January 18, 2010”

2. Correct the paragraph beginning: “John / KG4NXT highlighted the recent net activity ...” to read as follows: “John / KG4NXT highlighted the recent net activity, the capability of the existing system, and stated that the club wouldn’t gain much additional capability above existing (2m/440 fm); lastly, with the struggle making money at the hamfest, we can probably expect harder times ahead - do we want to make this expenditure? Requests we vote no. Dave / KG4GIY - if we’re basing our usage on repeater use, we may want to turn off our repeaters altogether.”

Only a revised version of the The Ole Virginia Times - February, 2010 with these corrections made is to be posted on the OVH Club web site at w4ovh.net.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

March 27 and 28, 2010 (Saturday and Sunday) - 2010 Greater Baltimore Hamboree & Computerfest at the Maryland Fairground, Timonium, Maryland, just north of the Baltimore beltway (Rte 695) off of Interstate 83. More information, including directions: <http://www.gbhc.org>.

April 3, 2010 (Saturday) - RARSFest 2010 at the North Carolina State Fairground, Raleigh, N.C. More information, including directions: <http://www.rars.org/hamfest>

OPERATING EVENTS AND CONTESTS

March 20 and 21, 2010 (Saturday and Sunday) - 2010 Virginia QSO Party. More information and rules at: http://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2010_VQP/2010_VQP_Rules.html.

There are many other operating contests almost all of the time. The excellent web site maintained by WA7BNM lists most of them! See <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

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PUBLIC SERVICE / TRAINING / ARES EVENTS

Check the online Calendar by David / KG4GIY at <http://www.pwcares.org> for latest updates. David maintains a comprehensive calendar for upcoming events at that web site.

Notes by Keith / KM4AA - T-MARC meeting held at the Vienna Wireless Hamfest.

Summary: Almost everyone expected that T-MARC would adopt a new 2 meter bandplan at its February meeting during the Vienna Wireless Hamfest, but that did not happen due to questions raised by T-MARC members which require further study; as a result, a new proposed 2 meter bandplan will not now be published sometime before the scheduled October 2010 T-MARC meeting; those will be debated by the T-MARC members at that meeting, and will then come to a vote at the February 2011 T-MARC meeting. As a result, no allocation for a 2 meter D-STAR repeater for the OVH will be possible until after the February 2011 T-MARC meeting.

T-Marc Meeting – Winterfest Feb. 28, 2010

Frequency Coordination – The proposed changing of the 2 meter band plan in the T-Marc coordination area to allow for additional D-Star repeaters was tabled. Some concerns had been forwarded to T-Marc, and T-Marc needs time to consider these before issuing a new proposed line up.

WEB Hosting – T-Marc has moved to a new web hosting. This makes no change in the URL, the URL will point to a new IP. Users should see no change in material posted on the web page.

T-Marc Meetings – The plan is to have one meeting held during the Winterfest hamfest in Annandale, VA., and one during the CARA hamfest in Howard County, MD., per year.

T-Marc Bylaw's

Question regarding Article 3 Section 5

Use Roberts Rules of order as mandate or guide on meeting proceedings. Discussion left this as to have Roberts Rule's as a guide.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the changes to the bylaws in their entirety. Motion was passed.

Board Members – Current board was willing to serve another term. Vote was held and passed to keep current board. Board members serve year to year.

Treasury – Spent \$299.31 last year and received \$500.00 from ARRL for the T-Marc area frequency listing. Hence reason why members have no annual dues.

Floor Opened to Discussions

Topic about the progression towards narrow band FM and digital modes. Would FCC mandate this as it has done for commercial services. The view at this time is that FCC has no desire to mandate usage in this manner. FCC will rely on ARRL and the frequency coordinating bodies to work amongst themselves to come to an agreeable band plan.

Topic about Confederate reenactment requesting a nationwide 220 pair be set aside with exclusivity for their use. The reasoning is so that in the event of an emergency they would not need to be concerned with the possibility of interference. They were asked to use the existing 220 repeater builders pair (223.800) and to report back on how this served their purpose at the October T-Marc meeting.

The MOU as signed with the Red Cross.

LOCAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.,
A voluntary community, emergency and public service communications organization

AND

Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross

I. Introduction

The Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club representing public service-oriented radio amateurs within this area, have agreed to enter into this local agreement which has formed the basis of this memorandum of understanding.

II. Purpose

This agreement between the local Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club and the Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross establishes a framework of cooperation and a close working relationship with volunteer radio amateurs organized under the authority of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club and officials of the Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross. It is intended through joint cooperation of the local resources available to both signers, the public will best be served under disaster, emergency or public service-related situations. This document is not meant to be considered legally binding; it is a statement of cooperation between these two parties.

III. Organization

The Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club provides Emergency Services that consist of Federally licensed radio amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes pursuant to Federal Communications Commission Rule 97.1 (a) which states that a “fundamental purpose” of the Amateur Radio Service is: “Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.”

The Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club emergency coordinator provides this service for the club to its local community.

The Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross provides Disaster Relief services for Prince William County, the cities of Manassas, Manassas Park, and Quantico Marine Corps Base, under its Charter, direction and coordination of the American National Red Cross and the National Capitol Region.

IV. Recognition

The Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross recognizes that the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club is an emergency/public service-oriented communications organization.

The Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club can be of valuable assistance in providing critical communications during emergencies and disasters when normal lines of communications are disrupted.

The Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club recognizes Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross as the local Disaster Response agency under its Congressional Charter and as the local government's provider of mass feeding and shelter to Prince William County, Manassas, and Manassas Park.

V. Principles of Cooperation

So that communications resources of the Ole Virginia Hams may be coordinated and utilized to the fullest advantage during disasters, emergencies and public service-related situations, and to the extent permitted or required by law and regulation, the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club and the Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross have agreed that each organization will:

- Encourage on-going liaison with the other, urging members of both organizations to develop increasingly effective communication and cooperation.
- Work with each other for developing emergency plans, training exercises, and a heightened state of preparedness.
- Work with each other in times of disaster or emergency to meet the needs of the public.
- Ole Virginia Hams will provide assistance to maintain the radio equipment installed for disaster use at the Prince William Chapter, and train operators to staff these radios when needed, in times of disaster.
- American Red Cross Prince William Chapter will provide meeting space for the Club on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Anna Mae Davis Training Center, located in the Chapter House.
- American Red Cross Prince William Chapter will provide training space for the Club at the Anna Mae Davis Training Center, located in the Chapter House, as possible.

- Each party will, at the same time, work within its own lines of authority and respect the lines of authority of the other.
- Distribute copies of and publicize this agreement through channels to its own members, and to other organizations, both public and private, which may have an active interest in disaster relief.
- Establish a mutually acceptable means of identification for volunteers under this agreement which may be honored by local law enforcement agencies at their discretion during disasters and emergencies.
- Understand that either signer to this document may have similar local agreements with other disaster assistance-related agencies/organizations.

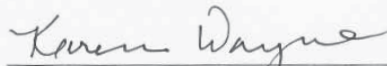
VI. NOTIFICATION

Each party will provide the other emergency contact information to reach each other when needed in a disaster event.


VII. Implementation

This memorandum shall take effect upon its signing by authorized representatives of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club and representatives of the Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross. This memorandum may be amended by mutual agreement of both Parties and will remain in effect until terminated. The Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club President, and the club emergency coordinator, and the authorized representative of Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross will periodically review this agreement and coordinate such revisions as may be necessary. Upon 90 days written notice, this memorandum may be terminated by either party.

Date 12-19-09


 Karen Wayne, Executive Director
 Prince William American Red Cross

Date 2-19-2010


 George Tarnovsky, President
 Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club

Date 19 Feb 2010


 Arthur R. Whittum, Director
 Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club

Using an Emergency Generator with an Oil Heating Unit without a Transfer Switch

During the February 2010 snowstorm, electric power from NOVEC was out for five and a half days at your editor's QTH before it came back on. After coming back on for several hours it then went off again for two hours. After a few hours it then went off again for about 6 more hours. This occurred because many of the feeder power lines run through heavily wooded areas, and the heavy, wet snow caused many cedars and pines to bend over and break, some falling on power lines and blocking roads. The NOVEC folks did an excellent job coping with these very difficult conditions and restoring power.



During a prior three day power outage in May of 2008 our small 1.5 Kw generator had barely been able to keep



the refrigerators and freezers operating to avoid food spoilage and also required the small gasoline tank to be refilled every two hours. Because of that, I picked up a slightly used 6 Kw generator at the June 2008 OVH Manassas Hamfest, with the idea of installing some special wiring and connectors in the house to be fully prepared for the "next time." Unfortunately, those great ideas went onto the long to-do list of pending and uncompleted projects.

A day and a half into this recent outage, the indoor house temperature was in the high-40's. Time for some self help. I shoveled a wide path through the deep snow from the garage to and along the walkway behind the house; the big generator was wheeled out and relocated behind the house under a tarp where it was started up. Next a series of long extension cords were run through windows into the house from a distribution panel at the generator. Refrigerators, lamps, computers, and other appliances were then simply disconnected from wall sockets and plugged in to the lines from the generator. POTS / DSL worked, but no TV until 6 days after NOVEC retored power. the satellite TV antennas were buried in deep snow on the roofs and neither system worked until the snow had melted down.

Restoring heat using the generator was a greater challenge because all heating systems were "hard wired" and two heating zones run off of heat pumps which could overwhelm the generator. Fortunately, another zone works off an oil burner furnace, and that was selected. The simple work-around for not having a transfer switch for the oil burner: cut through the #12 wiring on the line between the emergency cut-off switch and oil burner, install a three prong plug on the cut end connected to the oil burner controller unit, and then plug that plug into an extension cord from the generator. See the picture. (A socket was installed on the other cut end and a mini-extension-cord was made so the original "hard wired" power connection could be restored.) Worked perfectly - a few hours later the indoor temperatures were back to livable ranges.



Other tips: have lots of gasoline containers and fill them up before a storm, also have siphons and funnels to transfer gasoline to / from vehicle tanks. High priority project: prewire a similar set up for the 240V lines to the well pump and to the electric water heater. "One flush per toilet" gets "old" very fast; so does no water or hot water.