

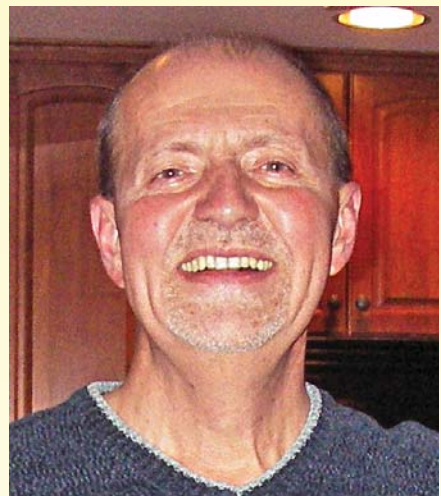
OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

April 2012

Next Meeting: Monday, April 16, 2012

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings, as a group we have been very busy preparing for the OVH Manassas Hamfest to be held on the second Sunday in June. Most recently Butch / W4HJL, Bob / K4HJF, and yours truly attended some of the other area hamfests. Our mission was to distribute OVH Hamfest flyers and connect with vendors; the vendor responses have been overwhelming but the attendances observed at these hamfests seem to be below what we've seen in recent years. I would venture to say some of these venues may not return. Case in point, the last Hamfest had no commercial ham radio dealers, whereas



in the recent past, they had big names attend. But we were fooled entering the parking lot, it was packed. Little did we know there was a gun show in the next building. This is not the first hamfest we have seen this at, it would appear that when the area previously occupied by the Hamfest is freed, the Gun shows come in. At least this is the impression.

We are gearing up for Dayton 2012 next month. We are planning to do the same distribution and push the OVH Hamfest at Dayton. If you haven't tried it yet, please check out the OVH Hamfest site, <http://manassashamfest.org/> Tell your friends they can now make easy ticket purchases online. This is for vendors as well as general admission. I hope all of you try this method for your own ticket purchases. This new web page dedicated to the OVH Manassas Hamfest came about through the hard work of Patty / KI4FQF with support from Gary / WG4ARC. Special thanks to both for taking this project on.

Antenna work has recently been completed at the Mt. Pone site; special thanks to Keith / KM4AA and the group for completing the job, sorry I couldn't be on hand to help; Keith will have more on this.

I also want to thank Gary / WG4ARC for taking time from his busy schedule to make the arrangements for OVH's trailer purchase; Gary also drove down to pick up the trailer and deliver it to Steve / N4OGR for modification which are now

Cont'd on Page 3

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
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 2012

Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873
Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490

FIELD DAY 2012

Randy	WB7RAV	393-1494
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CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
--------	-------	----------

EDUCATION

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
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CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Meola	KI4AZX	393-6681
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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
Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234
Gary	WG4ARC	932-1118

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
------	------	----------

EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
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JOTA

Scott.	KB8NUM	365-2642
--------	--------	----------

LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
-----	-------	----------

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Steve	N0DWB	349-1381
-------	-------	----------

NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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NEWSLINE FOR THE WEEKLY NET

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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QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Russ	WB4HHN	368-6435
David	KG4GIY	628-3868

W4OVH / W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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SUNSHINE

Theresa (Acting)	KG4TVM	257-3556
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4SV	590-9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
David	KG4GIY	628-3868
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512

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 © 2012 by the Ole Virginia Hams.

The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Monday each month at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House at 9930 Liberia Avenue, Manassas, Virginia. Members, prospective members and other interested persons are invited to attend. Local information can also be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.970-, 224.660-, 442.200+ and 443.500+ MHz or D-Star repeaters on 146.865- and 442.5125+ MHz. Up to date information about OVH activities and its meetings is also available during the OVH's nets on its FM Repeaters 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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completed. Keith / KM4AA and Steve emptied the contents of OVH's storage unit into the trailer were everything is well organized and available for our events. Thank you to all involved, this will be a big benefit to the OVH.

The DV-Board build project described last month is still pending and awaiting troubleshooting.

At the upcoming meeting we will further consider 6-meter repeater project considered last month. There is a lot of interest in that, but it appears a shortage of individuals to undertake the work which would be required to make that viable and maintainable by the OVH which is already supporting six VHF and UHF repeaters.

I look forward to seeing you all at the April 16th meeting.

73 George K4GVT

Sunshine Corner:

Celebrating with a springtime birthday – Joe / KI4OHR, Chris / KU4FT, David / KI4AZX, Paul / W4ZB and Roger / KJ4RDJ.

The Sunshine Corner column is very short again this month; a replacement is needed for me. I have been very busy with other things at work and elsewhere, including for the OVH. I will assist with the transition and it does not really take that much time.

Until someone steps forward as a replacement, please continue to send your news / comments to kg4tvm@hotmail.com or by telephone to 703-257-3566.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting March 19, 2012:

George / K4GVT called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Meeting was held at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House in Manassas, Virginia.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 27 OVH members and 3 guests.

No Program

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the February meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report by Gary / WG4ARC, approved as presented.

Repeaters – Keith / KM4AA reported no changes, minor repairs being done, all six repeaters are operational.

Scholarship – Jim / W4JTP asked how many and how much for this year's scholarship, One scholarship for \$1,000 will be awarded; Jim will work on sending out the information to the schools.

Hamfest – Bruce / AB8CI reported that the hamfest has been certified with ARRL, Jeff & Susan won't be able to do talk in; George / K4GVT reminded us that door prizes will only go to the people who stay until the drawings; security will be handled by Wayne / N7QLK; the new hamfest web page at <http://manassashamfest.org> will be up soon.

Field Day – Randy / WB7RAV is working on a flyer for the event; Butch / W4HJL **Continued on page 4**

did not yet pay for the reservation of the pavilion in Nokesville as a back up; Joe / KI4OHR told us that the rules for the June 2012 Field Day are now posted on the ARRL web site.

Winter Field Day – George / K4GVT reminded us that we need a chairman for this event.

Sunshine Corner – Theresa / KG4TVM reported that Ken Miller passed away; Steve / N4OGR had the information from the family that they are requesting no flowers any donations go to the church or The Guide Dog Foundation for the blind in Pennsylvania; Theresa / KG4TVM made a motion for the OVH to donate \$150 to the Guide Dog Foundation, this was approved; Steve also let us know that Ken's wife is asking for help to take care of Ken's radio gear, Steve will let us know when she is ready to go thru the equipment; George / K4GVT asked for a volunteer to take over the sunshine corner, no takers so far.

Historian – Theresa / KG4TVM. Thanks Mark / WA4KFZ for being in the club spotlight for the month.

JOTA – Scott / KB8NUM announced the location of JOTA in October of this year, it will be at the Gainesville United Methodist Church.

Old Business – Keith / KM4AA asked about replacing the roof at the repeater; the estimate is \$300; Steve / N4OGR and Al / KB4BHB will coordinate the event, rip off the old singles and replace fascia, paint what is needed; Keith / KM4AA wants to put air conditioning at the shed the cost would be approximately \$900; Gary / WB4ARC is working on a grant that would cover the air conditioning; Randy / WB7RAV needs the parts for tuning the antennas for the Red Cross Building.

New Business – John / KG4NXT reminded everyone that there is a Mini Tri this Sunday at the Freedom Center; George / K4GVY announced that Watts Hill has a 6 meter repeater and will donate to us with spare parts, George / K4GVT thanked Richard / KI4KXJ for obtaining this information on the repeater; the parts do not include a duplexer, we would need a place to install this and maintain it, too big to fit at Mt. Pone, might fit at NOVEC, discussion followed; a questionnaire will go out on the reflector asking for opinions and volunteers; discussion was tabled until next meeting.

Break

Membership – Theresa / KG4TVM read in two new applications for Norm / KK4HDL and Paul / KD8PQF.

Slide presentation on the work by Steve / N4OGR and Keith / KM4AA for the club's new trailer; Steve / N4OGR needs help on moving the generators and will put a notice on the reflector when ready.

This past weekend was the DStar build at George's K4GVT lab, six club members participated, but there were some problems which still need to be troubleshot before the board become operational. Mark / WA4KFZ thanked George / K4GVT for organizing and sponsoring this.

50/50 – Emmett won \$5.00

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

Saturday, April 14, 2012 - 57th Year for the York Pennsylvania Hamfest - the oldest one in the area and not too big. Details at <http://yorkhamfest.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/2012-York-Hamfest.pdf>

Friday, May, 18, 2012 - Sunday, May 20, 2012, Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, Ohio. More information at <http://hamvention.com>

Sunday, June 10, 2012 - Manassas Hamfest, Prince William County Fairgrounds, Manassas, Virginia. More information at <http://w4ovh.net> and <http://manassashamfest.org>

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CONTESTING - TUTORIAL

Thursday, May 17, 2012 - Dayton, Ohio - one very full day - Contest University program, just before the Dayton Hamvention. More details and registration at <http://contestuniversity.com>

SPECIAL OPERATING EVENTS AND CONTESTS

Saturday, June 23 - Sunday, June 24, 2012 - ARRL / OVH Field Day. Lots of fun, mark this on your calendar, expected to be same place as last year.

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

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. Note: updated and complete direct contact information for David now appears on page 2 of the Newsletter.

Spotlight on OVH Members

Bruce / AB8CI

I was licensed in 1996, in Michigan. For several years, I was a member of the Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club, just north of Detroit. If you're ever in that area, check into 146.64/100, "the friendliest repeater in town." (Okay, not saying much for Detroit.) Shortly after moving to Virginia in 2006, I joined the OVH. I was also active in the Pentagon Amateur Radio Club for a few years when I worked in that installation.

I've been into AM DXing since childhood (Dad had a big multiband receiver that came free with a set of encyclopedias and required about 30 D cells). In the early 90's, I got interested in shortwave listening, and was referred to an older ham from church, Phil, WB8EBW ("W B 8 empty bottle-o-whiskey"). Phil got me started, sold me my first rig, helped me string up a dipole, and coached me through my first contacts. Phil's key went silent a few years ago; I still miss him.

I have a pretty bare-bones station. An Icom 746 Pro and a couple of scanners are in the "shack;" SWL receivers, handhelds, etc. are sort of distributed throughout the rest of the house. Antennas are a DXE multiband (HF) vertical and a 2-meter Ringo Ranger. A Kenwood dual-bander is in the mobile shack. Chris, KI4POT, gave me a National NC-173 receiver with the stipulation that I not give it back.

I've co-chaired the OVH Hamfest for the past few years, which, to extent that I'm capable of understanding, is sort of like giving birth. I've also attended a couple of field days and service events.

I'm not a big contester, but the November Sweeps and (Summer) Field Day are among my favorite ham events. My main interest is just chatting with people in faraway places. I worked Armed Forces Day from the Pentagon MARS station a couple of times, which was a lot of fun.

The best way to get ahold of me is e-mail: ab8ci@comcast.net. I can speak authoritatively on any subject.

Thanks to Bruce for his service to ham radio and The Ole Virginia Hams, he served as co-chairman of the OVH Manassas Hamfest for several years and as the chairman for our Hamfest this year!



Pending FCC Inquiry Which Could Lead To An Override Of Certain Private Restrictions on Outdoor Ham Radio Antennas

IMPORTANT: for everyone affected by Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions (“CC&R”) or Home Owner Association (“HOA”) restrictions on outdoor antennas or ham radio operations in deeds and other documents affecting use of land and residential property.

The FCC has been directed by a law to conduct a study on how CC&R and HOA restrictions adversely affect ham radio operations, especially ham radio based emergency communications. The FCC announced its formal inquiry earlier this month.

CC&R and HOA type restrictions affecting outdoor ham radio antennas, etc. have become very common in the past 40 years, and affect many homeowners and renters in areas such as the City of Manassas and Prince William County, Virginia. Restrictions of these types potentially affect almost every ham radio operator.

In 1985 the FCC’s adopted PRB-1 which announced and explained the basis for Federal preemption of certain state and local laws restricting certain outdoor ham radio antenna systems and operations. This has been helpful for ham radio enthusiasts. See <http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/index.htm?job=prb-1&id=amateur&page=1> for detailed information on PRB-1. Many have heard about this.

CC&R and HOA restrictions, on the other hand, however, are private consensual restrictions to which PRB-1 in most instances has no applicability. And it was uncertain whether the FCC had authority to override CC&R and HOA type restrictions by regulation or to what extent it could so. In the mid-90’s when small satellite TV and other satellite based systems became widely available, but their use was blocked by then typical CC&R and HOA type restrictions, Congress enacted legislation which authorized the FCC to override CC&R and HOA restrictions and allow certain outdoor antennas, particularly small satellite dishes, to be placed, notwithstanding CC&R and HOA restrictions. That regulatory action did not specifically relate to ham radio antennas. The FCC’s current inquiry is focused specifically on ham radio emergency communication capabilities and how those are adversely affected by CC&R and HOA restrictions on outdoor antennas.

The ARRL is putting together a coordinated response, and is looking for factual information from ARRL members (as well as from non-members of the ARRL) who are affected by restrictions on outdoor antennas or other aspects of ham radio operations at their residence(s) to use in that response.

ARRL needs input **QUICKLY** and if you have pertinent information to provide, **PLEASE DO SO!** A possibility exists that as a result of this inquiry PRB-1 may be extensively revised and reissued or other new regulations issued to **OVERRIDE** certain private CC&R and HOA restrictions on outdoor ham radio antennas, etc., particularly those useful for emergency communications. This would be beneficial for all ham radio enthusiasts because the use of outdoor antennas, once put up, would not be restricted to emergency communications only.

More details are available from the ARRL: <http://www.arrl.org/ccr-study-information> An ARRL form usable for you to provide your information is at: <http://www.arrl.org/ccr-regulations> Please be sure to read the information at the above ARRL links before providing your information to the ARRL.

Some Possibly Useful Information

1. The Potomac Valley Radio Club (pvrc.org) offers an ever expanding set of recorded and online webinars covering a wide range of topics relating to DXing and Contesting. See <http://www.pvrc.org/webinar/webinars.htm> for the full current listing: which includes radio propagation - theory and studies, specific contests, station setups, specific DXpeditions, antennas, digital mode contesting, ham related software and Contest University. Lots of stuff to learn!

2. 73 Magazine. Wayne Green, W2NSD/2 published 73 Magazine monthly from 1960 to 2003. An scanned and OCR’ed archive of all issues of 73 Magazine, with a searchable index, are now available at archive.org. 73 was best known for its ham radio construction and technical articles, and for Wayne Green’s strident editorials. If you enjoyed them then, you can still find them now. A good ham radio related resource with 40+ years of content.

SIX METER REPEATER PROJECT - YES, NO OR MAYBE?

The following survey appeared on the OVH email reflector after the March 2012 meeting:

“As discussed at the March, 2012 OVH meeting, the club has the opportunity to acquire a six meter repeater. The purpose of this survey is to find out if the majority does or does not want the repeater and who would be willing to designate some time to the project.

Please email your comments/suggestions to Theresa at kg4tvm@hotmail.com by April 6th so they can be reviewed prior to the April club meeting. Thanks for your participation.

1. Are you interested in having a 6 meter repeater?
2. Are you able to assist in picking up the equipment from the present location in Prince William County?
3. Are you able to assist in setting up the equipment?
4. Suggestions/Comments on where to locate the repeater?
5. Do you have space available for storage until the equipment can be installed in the permanent location?
6. Will you be able to assist in maintaining the repeater once it is operational?”

At the meeting on March 2012, a lot of interest was shown for a six meter repeater, but also a lot of unknowns and problematic issues about getting one set up initially and then maintaining it. On the positive side, a six meter repeater would be a new band for an OVH repeater, adding capability. On the other hand, the OVH is currently supporting six different repeaters on three other bands, most of which are lightly or very lightly used except during nets. On the negative, a six meter repeater project would require a very large amount of time and effort for planning, testing and just to get the repeater up and running initially. The current repeater committee is already fully committed with maintenance of six repeaters at present, and the additional effort required for installing and maintaining a six meter repeater might prove overwhelming. Also, it appears that none of the three existing locations for OVH's repeaters could accommodate the addition of a six meter repeater which means a new repeater location would have to be secured along with a sponsor to pay for the electric service.

If you haven't sent in your comments yet, please do so so that this matter can be addressed at the upcoming meeting.

Continued --- Some More Possibly Useful Information

3. Terrain Analysis - survey, topographical maps with elevation information. We are becoming increasingly dependent upon Google. The Google Earth application, when zoomed in, can provide very helpful and useful estimates of ground elevations. Taking readings along straight lines radiating from a point location allows one to compute the lowest effective sight angle to the horizon. These capabilities can be useful for a antenna siting study or for attempting to predict radio propagation to the horizon. Google “google earth” for more information. An alternative approach is to use a topographical map. See <http://bmproto.esri.com/WorldTopoMap/WorldTopographicMap.html> which provides a zoomable topographical map; if the map access parameters are set up properly, clicking at points on the map will provide ground elevation information.

4. Incandescent light bulbs are on the way out, now being replaced by CFL and LED type lighting sources. But did you know that LED lights can cause RF interference? Check out <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8zMhjXcmoA> for more information. Recommend that you test LED lights to be used around radios so you select only low or no RF noise types.

5. K5LXP has designed and built an elaborate remotely controlled Coax Cable Switcher for use with switching multiple antennas. See <http://www.qsl.net/k5lxp/projects/CoaxSwitch/CoaxSwitch.html> for pictures, comments about commercially available devices and further links for K5LXP's design details.

6. Elimination of RF Noise from whatever sources is always a matter of concern for active hams. A compendium of very good information addressing most facets of this problem is available free from the Naval Postgraduate School. Go to: <http://edocs.nps.edu/npspubs/scholarly/TR/2007/NPS-EC-07-002.pdf> to download a copy.

VIRGINIA'S OLE FASHIONED

Manassas Hamfest



AMATEUR RADIO, COMPUTER & ELECTRONICS SHOW

An ARRL-Approved HAMFEST Presented By:
The "OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
(A non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio)

Sunday, June 10, 2012

Prince William County Fairgrounds

Large outdoor flea market area, two indoor air-conditioned buildings, several covered buildings and ample parking

10624 Dumfries Road, Manassas, VA 20112-2720 (Route 234) - TALK-IN 146.97- 442.200+ D-Star 442.5125+

INDOOR EXHIBITOR SPACE

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

GENERAL ADMISSION

\$8 per person at gate
\$7 Advance Sales
Gates open at 7 AM
Free Parking

TAILGATING

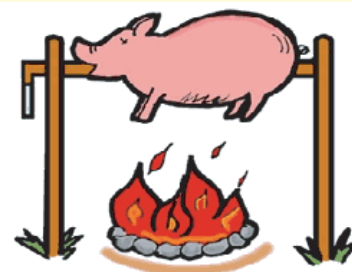
\$8 per space (plus admission)
Gates open at 6 AM
Ample Room—25 acres
Setup 2-10 PM Saturday

PRIZES

- Door prizes hourly beginning at 9 AM for those present
- Major & Tailgate prizes awarded at 2 PM
(Winner MUST be present during drawing)

INFORMATION

- ARRL Roanoke Division Officers will be attending
- Virginia Section Manager's Forum
- 4th Call Area QSL Bureau Representatives will be present
- DXCC QSL Card Checking will be available
- "Virginia QSO Party" Awards Ceremony



Our third year featuring
Corbin's Pulled Pork & their specialty
The Porky Tater

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EAGLE 1 COMMUNICATIONS CB & Amateur Radio • E Z HANG
RADIO WORKS • SATELLITE HEADQUARTERS • SAUDERELECTRONICS.com

Registration & Information

www.manassashamfest.org

Dealer Info: George (K4GVT) vendors@manassashamfest.org
General Info: Bruce (AB8CI) chairman@manassashamfest.org
VE Testing: David (KG4GIY) vetesting@manassashamfest.org