

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+
Web Site at <http://w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

May 2012

Next Meeting: Monday, May 21, 2012

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings and I hope everyone is enjoying the wonderful spring we are having here in Northern Virginia.

The OVH has been very busy preparing for the upcoming 2012 Manassas Hamfest which will take place on Sunday, June 10th, for the 37th time this year. Flyer distribution has been occurring at a hectic pace. Vendor interest has been very good, and a contingent from the OVH will be at the Dayton Hamvention from May 18 to 20th to meet vendors and discuss the upcoming Manassas Hamfest in addition to the other activities.

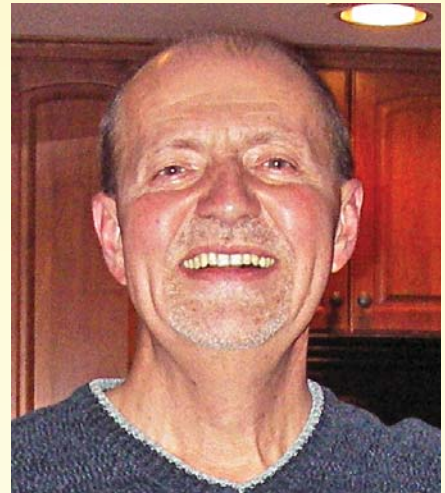
It is still the OVH's job to insure good attendance: to do that all of us should advertise the Manassas Hamfest to everyone, including friends and family and continue to work hard to put on a successful Hamfest again this year. I hope also that all OVH members will volunteer in some capacity. We will need many for setup and take down -- please mark your calendars for Saturday morning, June 9th, to help setup, and for Sunday, June 10th when the Hamfest takes place. More on this will follow.

June is always a very busy month for the OVH because Field Day (June 23rd – 24th this year) follows shortly after the Manassas Hamfest. The OVH Field Day Committee has met and looked over the Field Day site which we used last year which, unfortunately, will not be available this year due to heavy construction. However, Field Day Chairman, Randy / WB7RAV has proposed an alternative site and has made arrangements for our event. I hope all will be available to participate.

DV-Board status - I have been unsuccessful contacting Satoshi-san about the latest version software. However, I may be able to obtain alternative firmware updates at Dayton.

At the upcoming OVH, the main topic for discussion will be the upcoming Hamfest; please make time for the meeting, that's Monday May 21st, 7:30 PM.

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
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
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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 - 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
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EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
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JOTA

Scott.	KB8NUM	365-2642
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LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
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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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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 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>

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Sunshine Corner:

A very happy Spring Birthday to Chris / KI4POT, Bob / N4RL, David / KG4GIY, Bill / WA4FIC, Jack / N4YIC, Craig / WA3UFY, Blaine / KB4RKL, Susan / K3SSP, Jim / W4JTP, Bruce / AB8CI and John / KG4NXT.

Terry / KC4DV has taken over the Membership Chairman position from Steve / N0DWB who continues to be very busy with school.

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 April 16, 2012:

Vice President, Wayne / AG4ZZ called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm in the absence of President, George / K4GVT who was out of town. 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 26 OVH members and 7 guests.

No Program

BUSINESS MEETING

Richard Spencer / KG4GFW is the public information officer for the Virginia Section Prince William and Fauquier ARES; Richard introduced himself and let us know that he is available to help get the word out to the public about our events and he will work up press releases and get them to the paper; Richard can be reached at respencerpio@gmail.com

Minutes from the March meeting were approved as read.

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

Membership – Theresa / KG4TVM presented Norm / KK4HDL and Paul / KD8PQF for vote, approved; Tom / KB1FLK was presented for read in.

ARES – David / KG4GIY let us know that background checks for ARES now require a notary and he will notarize applications at club meetings; also asked for assistance a 24 hour run on the April 21st & 22nd; The county is having workshops in June and July for ARES more information to follow later.

Repeaters – Keith / KM4AA reported that the antenna for the 2-meter DSTAR is hooked up; still need to do more work on antennas and to schedule the roof work on the shed at NOVEC.

Training – Mark / WA4KFZ has no classes planned yet; Ken / KJ4VTP asked if a Skywarn class could be held locally, David / KG4GIY will check on this and post on the repeater.

Scholarship – Jim / W4JTP has sent out the application packets to the high school guidance counselors, no Applications have come in yet, but a flurry of applications are

Continued on page 4

expected by the end of the month.

Hamfest – Bruce / AB8CI reported that the Hamfest planning is moving forward normally without major issues; Wayne N7QLK is looking for volunteers to help with the security detail on Saturday afternoon and night; there will be no bake sale this year; Theresa / KG4TVM is coordinating with a tee shirt company; tickets are \$8 at the door.

Field Day – Randy / WB7RAV reported that the site for last year may not be available, but an alternate will be located. More information later.

Winter Field Day – Wayne / AG4ZZ reported that we need a new chair person.

Sunshine Corner – Wayne / AG4ZZ reported that we need a chair person.

Old Business – Theresa / KG4TVM gave the results of the 6 meter repeater questionnaire that was put out on the club reflector, not enough interest to move forward; George / K4GVT was still trying to get in touch with the person giving the repeater away.

New Business – Steve / N4OGR has been working on the inside of the club trailer; we need to decide what logos, artwork, etc to put on the outside; discussion followed with many different ideas; no decision made.

BREAK

Membership – Theresa / KG4TVM read in new applications for Margaret / KD0HZU and John / AL4U.

Theresa / KG4TVM reported that all of the ARRL handbooks that were given to the club by Harry / W4PVA (sk) have all been sold.

50/50 won by Gene / N4HFW - \$8

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

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> Amateur radio license exams will be give free of charge during the Hamfest. See <http://w4ovh.net> for details.

Sunday, August 5, 2012 - Berryville Hamfest, Berryville, Virginia. More information at <http://www.w4rkc.org/hamfest>

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 a 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: complete direct contact information for David now appears on page 2 of this Newsletter.

Spotlight on OVH Members

Randy / WB7RAV

I became interested in electronics while in grade school in Germany, and was looking for an opportunity to use electronics. I found the time to study the code portion during my last term in college, and was licensed as a Technician in April 1977. Later, I “upgraded” to Technician Plus and General.

I joined OVH in 2010. I haven’t belonged to a Ham Club before, but have used radios in the Air National Guard and the Civil Air Patrol.

I have a Yaseu FT2500M 2-meter radio, a Kenwood G-707 dual-band radio, Yaseu VX-5 tri-band handheld, and a Kenwood TS-120S HF radio. I’m still building a ham shack cleverly disguised as a Civil Air Patrol (CAP) command and communications room.

I chaired the 2011 Field Day for the OVH, and am currently working on the 2012 Field Day.

During the 1998 hurricane season, I was monitoring the Hurricane Net when Hurricane Mitch blew into Belize. While my signal was heard by the station in Belize, I was not the strongest at the time. But I was willing to be the go-between, if needed.

The OVH appreciates Randy chairing Field Day and his participation at events with the Red Cross.



Some Possibly Useful Information

1. Most hams, especially those interested in DX, are also interested in maps and online mapping sources. Perhaps best known or most used online sources are Google maps, Google Earth and Bing maps. See, google.com/maps google.com/earth and bing.com/maps But there are many more sources too: Nokia maps maps.nokia.com OpenStreetMaps openstreetmap.org and Yahoo <http://maps.yahoo.com> among many others.

2. Audio Spectrum Analyzer - Spectrum Lab. Look at <http://www.qsl.net/dl4yhf/spectra1.html> for a very up to date page by DL4YHF with a free, downloadable audio spectrum analyzer with a lot of ham radio applications. Those are explained comprehensively in English.

3. How to get rid of unneeded, hidden COMPORTs installed by USB drivers on Windows computers. The June 2012 issue of QST from ARRL offers two approaches for dealing with this pesky problem which can accumulate on “older” computers which have had many USB devices previously installed. Removing no longer needed hidden COMPORTS can make your computer run better or enable you to use a new USB device which otherwise may not install correctly. See, <http://rttycontesting.com/lagniappe/removehiddencomports.html> See also, <http://www.techspot.com/vb/topic145884.html> for another approach. These methods are worth trying if you encounter problems with USB driver installation or with keeping a USB device working.

4. WestMountainRadio.com now offers a DC power supply / power supply switcher which is remotely controllable over an Internet (or WiFi) connection and can be used to monitor and control DC power distribution. Google RigRunner 4005i for details. It is a bit pricey, but has lots of potential to solve problems at locations whenever remote control is needed.

5. Sealed Lead-Acid Batteries. Panasonic has an excellent downloadable Technical Handbook (in English) dealing with Sealed Lead-Acid Batteries. Go to <http://www.battery-service.de/daten/bleiakku.pdf> to get it. Worth getting if you are using or considering using such batteries.

6. PDF User Manuals for Consumer Electronics. You can usually find PDF User Manuals at the manufacturer’s web site; PDFs are easier to keep organized than paper manuals. If you have problems, try out User Manuals at retrevo.com

7. iPad Applications. Check out ElectronicToolsPro if you need tablet access to electronic component data.

Tucson Trip Report by Charlie / WA4YGI

I traveled to Tucson, Arizona during April 24th – 30th, 2012 to participate in my Navy NCVA (Naval Cryptographic Veterans Association) reunion. While there I also attended a meeting of that Association's HAM group which held a special operations visit to the Titan II Missile Museum site located about 15 miles south of Tucson near Green Valley.

The Museum site has an available old Discone or Conical Monopole antenna. This antenna is a no gain broadband antenna and the SWR is typically 2:1 over the full range of 6 MHz to 30 MHz. See picture to the left.



The Green Valley Amateur Radio Club (GVARC) sponsors and maintains the coax lead line to the antenna. Craig / WA3UFY, a member of OVH and the GVARC was our interface. (Craig is standing in the blue shirt and hat to the left.) Craig is also a member of the NCVA and was my host during the visit. He and his wife live in Green Valley and very graciously put me up, played tour guide, transportation provider and anything else I needed, GREAT folks, they made my visit.

While on site for the HAM event we toured the Titan II missile site which is the only “open to the public” such site remaining in the U.S. The unarmed Titan

II missile is still in the silo as if it were active as it was during the 1963 to 1982 time period. We toured several areas of the site including the control room, which was down 6 levels and really took me back to the 1960-70 time frame. The entire Museum site is very impressive; if you get to Tucson don't miss it.

Earlier this year, Arizona celebrated its centennial (February 14, 1912 to February 14, 2012) as a state known as the Valentine state. The GVARC had held a special event station on February 14, 2012 which Butch / W4HJL and I (WA4YGI) had worked on 20 meters. During my April visit I attended a GVARC group breakfast/coffee meeting with Craig who introduced me to several GVARC members. While there I presented my QSL card and received a nice Centennial certificate.



Manassas Hamfest Amateur Radio License Exam Information

The Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, sponsor the Manassas Hamfest, will offer the three Amateur Radio Exams (Technician, General, and Extra) on Sunday, June 10, 2012 during the Manassas Hamfest at the Prince William County Fairgrounds.

Information you need to know:

There will be no charge or fee to take an exam; time permitting, you may take more than one exam.

The exams will be available on a walk up basis only from 0830 EDT until 0930 EDT or later at the examiner's discretion only. Get there on time! The exam session will conclude by 1100 EDT.

The actual testing will be conducted in the Ladies Auxiliary building on the fairgrounds property where the Manassas Hamfest takes place. There will be a direction marker to and on that building; also Hamfest gate personnel will point out the location of that building. The exams will be administered by the Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club VE Team under authority of the Laurel VEC.

Hamfest and VE Talk-in will be on the W4OVH repeaters: 146.97, 224.66 and 442.200 MHz.

If you are planning to take an exam, be sure to bring with you:

- Picture ID issued by a Government agency
- FCC FRN number OR your Social Security Number [SSN can only be used if the FCC has NEVER issued an FRN to you]
- Your current ORIGINAL license (i.e., the document you received in the mail from the FCC) AND A PHOTOCOPY of the license
- The ORIGINAL and a PHOTOCOPY of any earlier License or other proof for which you seek Grandfather credit.

There are no facilities to photocopy near the site and you will be unable to take the exam (or receive a successful upgrade) without the relevant paperwork.

If you have any questions, please contact David A. Lane, KG4GIY by email or by telephone at 703-628-3868 prior to the Hamfest.

Some More Possibly Useful Information

8. Running old DOS applications. Some old DOS programs still work extremely well, but haven't been updated or replaced by equivalent programs which run under Windows. Also most DOS based computer hardware is obsolete and difficult to replace when it fails; few users still maintain operating DOS computers. So what other approaches are available if, for example, you want to run ARRL's MicroSmith © 1992, an excellent, interactive DOS program for Smith Chart, Impedance and Transmission Line calculations? One approach that works with a computer running Windows XP is to first install Microsoft Virtual PC 2004 which runs under Windows XP. Next, install the DOS operating system to run under Microsoft Virtual PC 2004, and finally install the DOS programs to run under that virtual DOS PC which runs in a window under Windows XP. This works extremely well; programs such as ARRL's MicroSmith work perfectly. However, the DOS operating system to run DOS programs cannot be installed under another, otherwise very powerful and capable, virtual machine: VMware Desktop (Versions 6+) because DOS is obsolete and no longer supported. Still another approach is to install the self-contained DOS BOX system. Go to <http://dosbox.com> for the free download, information and instructions about how to use this system which includes a DOS operating system emulator. Another alternative is available from <http://freedos.org> which also includes a DOS operating system emulator, which can be installed on a bootable CD.

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

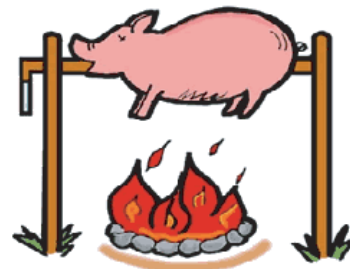
\$8 per space (plus admission)
Gates open at 6 AM
Ample Room—25 acres
Setup 2-10 PM Saturday

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

Our Featured Vendors:

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