

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 2013

Next Meeting: Monday, May 20, 2013

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hello to all and I hope this message finds you all healthy and well.

May is finally here and that means our Hamfest is just around the corner on Sunday, June 9th; so is Field Day on June 22 - 23rd. As a result, there will be no special program for the May meeting so we can focus on what still needs to be done for the Hamfest and Field Day. Under the able leadership of Terry / KC4DV, the 2013 Manassas Hamfest seems to be well organized and ready to go, but if you haven't yet volunteered for a work assignment at the Hamfest, please consider doing so now. It will help make our Hamfest even better.



Another item that has our attention is the three day Dayton Hamvention, on May 17, 18 and 19, in Dayton, Ohio, still the largest Hamfest in the world. For those of you who are making the trip, may you have safe travels and find lots of good deals. Even though you may be tired or hamfested out by Monday, May 20th, please plan to attend the regular OVH Meeting that evening. Those who weren't able to go would like to hear about what went on in Dayton.

I would also like to thank Clarence / K4CNM for organizing and leading the effort to map out the coverage of our repeaters based upon mobile field measurements. Clarence is still working on the data reduction, but has promised a report when that is completed. Thanks too to all who assisted Clarence in this endeavor.

As I mentioned in the April newsletter we have some pending projects for the club as well as some unfinished business, after the Hamfest I'd like to tackle the logo for the trailer, and finally get it done.

I hope all can attend the upcoming OVH meeting on Monday, May 20th at 7:30 PM!

73 Justin KJ4LAS

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President:	Justin Anderle	KJ4LAS	571-221-3423
Vice Pres:	Clarence Meese	K4CNM	791-6424
Secretary:	Theresa Heartney	KG4TVM	257-3566
Treasurer:	Terry Erlacher	KC4DV	571-292-1490

DIRECTORS

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

WEEKLY FM REPEATER NET COORDINATOR

Thurs - 8:00 PM Local Time	JOHN / KG4NXT	257-3566
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HAMFEST 2013

Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
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FIELD DAY 2013

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
Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
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

Luther	KJ4FDK	361-4885
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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NEWSLINE FOR THE WEEKLY NET

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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PROGRAMS

TBA

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
Russ	WB4HHN	368-6435

W4OVH / W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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SUNSHINE

Theresa (Acting)	KG4TVM	257-3566
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4K BX	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>

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: 4/22/2013

Sunshine Corner:

Happy birthday to David / KG4GIY, Bill / WA4FIX, Steve / N0DWB, Jack / N4YIC, Craig / WA3UFY, Susan / N4AAH, Susan / K3SSP, Terry / KC4DV, Jim / W4JTP, Robert / KJ4EOR, Bruce / AB8CI and John / KG4NXT – Best Wishes to you all!

Please keep positive thoughts for Alan / WA2GTT, who has suffered a stroke; Alan is making great progress and hopes to be home soon, likely by the time you read this. Also, we hope Ken / KJ4VTP is on the mend from his recent eye surgeries.

Tanya, daughter of George / K4GVT and Ev, graduated in May from James Madison University. Congratulations Tanya, we are all proud of you! On to the wedding planning!!

The Prince William Forest Park 24 Hour Long Distance Run took place on May 4th & 5th. Terry / KC4DV provided radio communications in the park for this event along with Joe / N0JAF, Chuck / KA3EHL, Tom / KJ4VHI and Rob / KJ4LWN under sponsorship by Woodbridge Wireless. John and I did get over to the Prince William Forest Park late on Saturday afternoon, but still in time to see the impressive communications setup. While we were there, we were lucky enough to get two small boys on the air for the first time, an experience that I am sure both will remember for a long time! Thanks to Terry / KC4DV for representing ham radio out there in the woods. While at the Prince William Forest Park John and I decided to hike thru the woods to enjoy the cool weather; imagine our surprised when a fast runner along the one of the trails turned out to be Wayne / AG4ZZ who was competing in the run. Wayne looked like he was fully prepared; we would like to hear from him on how this adventure turned out!

Special thanks are due to Mark / WA4KFZ for teaching another General Class! The VEC Exam was held on May 7th and we now have several more new hams radio operators! Thanks to our club members who assisted as volunteer examiners, Al / KB4BHB, Clarence / K4CNM, John / KG4NXT, Mark / WA4KFZ, and Steve / N4OGR. The blurry picture to the left shows our youngest applicant, Joshua, who passed his Technician test, with his proud dad and Steve / N4OGR.

Well we are getting down to crunch time for the 2013 OVH Manassas Hamfest. Although almost all planning and preparation is completed, Hamfest Committee is still looking for more volunteers to help on the day of the big event, Sunday, June 9th and on the



Cont'd on page 4

setup on Saturday morning, June 8th. The Hamfest Committee has organized a number of forums and special events, the details of which are now available on the two hamfest web sites at manassashamfest.org and w4ovh.net (hamfest tab) and appear later in this Newsletter. It's still not too late yet to volunteer to help out with the Hamfest - please do commit to helping, because the more hands we have the more we can enjoy the day. Hamfest Chairman, Terry / KC4DV, will hold the final pre-Hamfest Hamfest Committee meeting on May 29th, plan to attend!

Don't forget to check-in to our Thursday Night Radio Net at 8:00 pm on the OVH's VHF & UHF FM repeaters! Details about how to participate are at the W4OVH.NET (Nets tab) web site.

Enjoy the Memorial Day holiday! If you have any news for the Sunshine Corner, good or bad please send me an email at kg4tvm@hotmail.com or call me at 703-257-3566.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting April 15, 2013:

Justin / KJ4LAS, President, 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, Justin / KJ4LAS asked for a moment of silence for the victims in the Boston bombing

All present stated their names and call signs. There were 23 OVH members and 1 guest.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the March meeting were approved as read with a motion from John / KG4NXT; Theresa / KG4TVM announced that she has received emails from the following members asking to be placed as inactive – Chris / KI4POT, Roger / KJ4RDJ, Bob / KC4TNC, Alan / K5AKG and Russ / WB4HHN.

Treasurer's report – by Terry / KC4DV approved as read, motion by John / KG4NXT and second by John / WA1STU.

Membership – Luther / KJ4FDK no report.

Repeaters – Keith / KM4AA reported that Butch / W4HJL and Art / W1CRO have been working on the repeaters; Clarence / K4CNM is planning a project to map the antenna / repeater coverage; Butch / W4HJL reported that one of the batteries is bad on the 440 UHF FM repeater, also the transmit side is running well but the receive side needs to be looked at; Terry / WA5NTI can hear the repeater but can't transmit through it.

Training – Mark / WA4KFZ has started the General class which is underway.

Scholarship – Jim / W4JTP reported that he hasn't received any applications yet for the scholarship but should have a recipient at the next meeting.

Hamfest – Terry / KC4DV reported on the last hamfest meeting, Andrea from the ARRL attended the last meeting to report on the Youth Lounge; next meeting will be May 8th and another meeting will be held at the end of May; George / K4GVT has spoken to several vendors, Eagle One will be back; Terry / KC4DV has seen some ticket sales on PayPal, that site is up and running.

Field Day – Keith / KM4AA has the logging software updated on the laptops.

Cont'd on page 5

Sunshine Corner – Theresa / KG4TVM congratulated John / WA1STU for becoming an ARRL Official Relay Station; John has also been listed for several months in the ARRL Public Service Honor Roll.

Web Page – Paul / W4ZB reported that the W4OVH.NET web page is working. He has been assisting the Hamfest Committee with modifications and updates needed at MANASSASHAMFEST.ORG for the upcoming 2013 Manassas Hamfest and is also keeping the Hamfest page at W4OVH.NET coordinated and up to date.

JOTA – Scott / KB8NUM will be organizing JOTA again this year during the third weekend in October. More details to follow at a later date.

Program – Terry / KC4DV gave a PowerPoint presentation on the assembly and initial use of his new Elecraft KX3; he will be using this new radio at the Prince William Forest Park 24 Hour Run in early May.

ARES – Steve / N4OGR reminded us of the Dulles Drill to be held on the third Saturday in May and also asked for volunteers in Manassas Park on May4th for the Chasing Cougars 5k event.

Break

50/50 - Clarence / K4CNM won and donated his portion back to the club.

New Business –John / KG4NXT made a motion to reimburse Butch / W4HJL for approximately \$600 for repairs to the 940 SAT Radio, motion seconded by John / WA1STU, approved with none opposed. Terry / KC4DV made a motion for the club to donate \$100 for the Youth Lounge at the Hamfest, motion seconded by Terry / WA5NTI discussion followed, approved with none opposed. George / K4GVT will be handing out flyer at the Dayton Hamfest the week before our May meeting. Clarence / K4CNM asked for club members to stick around after this meeting to discuss mapping the repeater coverage.

Motion to adjourn by John / KG4NXT at 8:35 pm

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

Friday - Sunday, May 17 - 19, 2013, Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, Ohio. For full details, go to <http://hamvention.org>

Sunday, June 9, 2013 - The Manassas Hamfest will be put on by the OVH for the 39th time. Reserve this date. More information will follow.

Sunday, August 4, 2013 - Berryville, Virginia Hamfest by the Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club. Relative close by and a good hamfest. More info. at <http://w4rkc.org/hamfest>

OPERATING EVENTS / CONTESTS:

Saturday - Sunday, June 22-23, 2013 - ARRL / OVH Field Day - exact location to be determined in Manassas or Manassas Park. This is a major fun club event. Save this date. For more info, check back here on the OVH Reflector, also contact OVH Field Day Chairman, Randy / WB7RAV.

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

continued on page 6

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. Complete direct contact information for David appears on page 2 of this Newsletter.

Picture Below: gearing up for the Youth Lounge activity at the 2013 OVH Manassas Hamfest. The Youth Lounge which will follow a format developed by the ARRL is being sponsored by the OVH in association with the Prince William County 4-H Clubs. Terry / KC4DV is handing an OVH check to 4-H Clubs Director. More information about the Youth Lounge activity appears on the Hamfest Schedule later in this Newsletter and on the web: W4OVH.NET (Hamfest Tab).



Left to right (on left):

Kristin Saul
4H Leader,

Andrea Hartlage
KG4IUM,

Terry Erlacher
KC4DV,

Linda King, Prince
William County 4H
Director,

Gavin Saul
KK4MXT.

Photo taken by
Terry / WA5NTI
at the Youth Lounge
Planning Meeting
on May 1, 2013.

Some Possibly Interesting / Useful Information

1. NOVEC, the Electric Co-Op which provides electric service in much of Prince William County, has recently been sending out flyers advertising the availability of a new Internet service for its customers. Is this offering another BPL system? Nope, it's a satellite based system - see, novecnet.com for more details.

2. "Green" electric powered airplanes? A group based in Switzerland has produced an experimental airplane covered with solar cells which is intended to make a non-stop around the world flight. Its wingspan is wider than a 747's., but it can barely carry two individuals. It flies at very low speed. It is currently making its way across the USA on test flights. An interesting demo project [solarimpulse.com], but not very practical and it seems to be getting quite a bit of "assistance" from the US government despite the sequester. Wonder who is paying for it?

3. New, very small, custom programmable, and very low cost computers are attracting the interest of ham radio and electronics experimenters. The tiny Raspberry Pi device runs Linux variants and essentially has the capability of a laptop. The tiny Arduino computer board system has less "power", but is much easier to adapt to software control of hardware devices and add-ons. Karl Berger / W4KRL described both the hardware and software aspects of an Arduino project he is working on at the May9th AMRAD meeting: a touch screen controller for a miniVNA (Vector Network Analyzer) for ham antenna adjustment. Karl's system is almost working. Karl provided an excellent list of Arduino related hardware and software references and sources, a copy of which is on the next page.

Adventures with the Arduino – Reference List

by Karl Berger / W4KRL

Arduino Hardware Sources

Official Arduino Site: <http://arduino.cc> - IDE download, basic hardware, example projects, support forums

adafruit industries: <http://adafruit.com/> - microcontrollers, shields, excellent tutorials for each product

SeeedStudio: www.seeedstudio.com - microcontrollers, shields, prototype supplies

Sparkfun (mail order): www.sparkfun.com - microcontrollers, shields, parts

Radio Shack Stores: local sources for starter Arduino kits, shields, parts, prototype supplies www.radioshack.com

Micro Center, local source in Vienna, Virginia for Arduino, Seeed Studio and Sparkfun items, prototype supplies, books www.microcenter.com

eBay.com - many foreign vendors with low cost shields and sensors, savings are well worth the wait for shipment

Touch screen - <http://stores.ebay.com/womarts> - 2.6-inch preferred, 3.2-inch not compatible with IDE version 1+

Stackable headers - <http://stores.ebay.com/NooElec> - hard to find headers, male-to-male & male-to-female jumpers

List of shields: <http://shieldlist.org/> - large, incomplete links to shield suppliers

Arduino Tutorials and Software

Ladyada (Limor Fried): <http://www.ladyada.net/learn/arduino/> - excellent place to start

Tronixstuff: <http://tronixstuff.wordpress.com/tutorial/>, - many hardware interface examples

C++ Tutorials and Online References

C++ Language Tutorial Juan Soulie —www.cplusplus.com/doc/tutorial/ - clearly written, worth printing the pdf

C& C++ Programming - <http://www.cprogramming.com/> - many links to C++ resources

Books

Ham Radio for Arduino and PICAXE, ed. L L Klotz, Jr. www.arrl.org - Excellent source of ham project ideas

Arduino Cookbook, Michael Margolis- many project ideas, shows how to interface with wide range of hardware

Problem Solving with C++, Walter Savitch - clearly written, many well explained examples, any edition is worthwhile

Project Ideas

SWR scanner with graphic display
Station battery Amp-hour monitor
Audio switching
Cooling fan controller
Transistor curve tracer
Emergency generator protection

Data logger to SD card
Final amp power supply sequencer
Beacon controller
APRS messaging and mapping
Repeater controller
Time domain reflectometer cable tester

**Forums / Special Events / VEC Sessions / Demos
scheduled during the OVH Manassas Hamfest
on Sunday, June 9, 2013 at the
Prince William County Virginia Fairgrounds**

TIME*	EVENT / DESCRIPTION	LOCATION**
8:00 – 10:30	VEC License Examination Session walk-in licensing exams given for all classes of ham radio licenses. Check web site for more VEC details. Bring proper documents and be ready to start your exam(s) before 10:30 am	VEC Exams
9:00 – 9:50	National Traffic System Forum / Presentation / Q&A by John Zorger / WA1STU	Forum Barn
10:00 – 10:50	Amateur Radio Satellites – how to work them Forum & Demonstration by Wayne Phillips / N7QLK	Forum Barn
11:00 – 11:50	DSTAR – how to use D-STAR and how it works Forum / Presentation / Q&A by Mark Braunstein / WA4KFZ	Forum Barn
10:00 – 10:50	Virginia QSO Party Results Discussion and Awards Ceremony	Show Barn
12:00 – 12:50	Fleet Watch – what it is / how it works / how hams help Forum / Presentation / Q&A by John Nagel, CPS, Crime Prevention Unit of the Prince William County, Virginia Police	Forum Barn
All Day	Ole Virginia Hams – Hamfest Sponsor Table Turn in you ticket stubs here for the prize drawings	Building #2
All Day	Youth Lounge Demonstrations & projects – radio and science related – and a place for youngsters to hang out, sponsored and staffed by the Prince William County 4H Club & the Ole Virginia Hams	Youth Lounge
All Day	ARRL 4th Call Area QSL Bureau QSL Card checking and verification	Building #2
All Day	Civil Air Patrol HF Equipped Truck On Display for Inspection and Q&A, Several Demos Planned	Near front entrance to Building #1

* Start times shown are exact except for “All Day” events are ongoing all day.

** Locations indicated are identified on the aerial view map on the following page.

Hamfest Address: Prince William County Fairgrounds
10624 Dumfries Road
Manassas, Virginia 20112

Hamfest Web Sites:
manassashamfest.org and
w4ovh.net (Hamfest tab)

continued on following page

Locations for the Forum / Special Events / VEC Exams / Demos at the 2013 OVH Manassas Hamfest at the Prince William County Fairgrounds



Some of the attendees at the April 15, 2013 OVH meeting during the presentation by Terry / KC4DV about his new Elecraft KX-3

NORTHERN VIRGINIA'S LARGEST
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 9, 2013

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 1st)
Setup 2-10 PM Saturday

GENERAL ADMISSION

\$10* per person at gate
(Cutoff date for \$9
advance Sales May 1st)
Gates open at 7 AM

TAILGATING

\$10* per space (admission extra)
(Cutoff date for \$9
advance Sales May 1st)
Gates open at 6 AM
Setup 2-10 PM Saturday

* Online ticket sales and vendor registration at www.manassashamfest.org

For our Most Current Vendor List and Ticket Sales Visit our Webpage:

www.manassashamfest.org:

PRIZES

- Door prizes hourly beginning at 9 AM for those present
- Major & Tailgate prizes awarded at 2 PM

INFORMATION

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

ACTIVITIES

- Check our web page (below) for list of activities

www.manassashamfest.org

Dealer Info: George (K4GVT) vendors@manassashamfest.org

General Info: Terry (KC4DV) chairman@manassashamfest.org

VE Testing: David (KG4GIY) vetesting@manassashamfest.org