

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

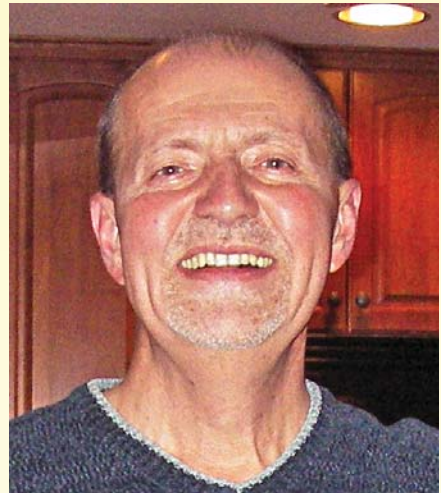
## July 2011

### Next Meeting: Monday, July 18, 2011

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to all. July heat is on full blast so please consider that before venturing outside to do any stressful work such as antenna projects.

I hope all of you enjoyed the OVH Field Day as much as I did. The new location offered some challenges, but the membership responded in record numbers, and consequently the OVH had a quite successful event. At the end of the day, even some of you that complained about the site change were pleased. That speaks volumes of the new site. My personal thanks to Randy / WB7RAV for coordinating this fun event, Gary / WG4ARC and the Red Cross for providing the supporting facilities which proved to be exceptional, and the numerous volunteers both OVH and the Red Cross for setup, operations, and tear-down. Personally, I found the site to be exactly what the OVH needed to boost public awareness of the OVH Club and Ham Radio in general. Most of the feedback received was very positive. We must remember the Field Day event has multiple purposes, including proving capabilities and generating public exposure. The old site at Nokesville is excellent for contacts but it is very difficult to promote much public awareness due to its out of way location. Pictures from the June 25 -26 Field Day event are posted at [http://www.k4gvt.com/ovh/field\\_day\\_2011](http://www.k4gvt.com/ovh/field_day_2011) and some are included later in this Newsletter; OVH Field Day was also reported in the local media (see below).



Coming up next week will be the 150 year anniversary events for the First Battle of Manassas (Bull Run) during the Civil War. OVH and some of its members will be participating.

At our next meeting there will be a final vote case for the expulsion motion presented at our last meeting. This will be the first issue on the table, I hope all that turned out at our last meeting will be able to attend. A two thirds majority vote will be needed to complete the motion. Please make time to attend this very important meeting.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming OVH regular meeting on July 18th!

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 NETS

Thursdays - 8:00 PM	JOHN H	257-3566
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## HAMFEST 2011

Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873
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## FIELD DAY 2011

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 AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042
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## F.A.R. REPS.

Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234
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## 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

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

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042
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## JOTA

TBA.

## LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
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## MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Steve	N0DWB	349-1381
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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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## 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

## 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
Arthur	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
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512

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. Copyright © 2011 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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## Sunshine Corner:

Happy Birthday to Steve / KB4OF, George / K4GVT, Michael / KC4ZNQ, Dwight / N4GSD, Brenda / WD4RKH, Richard / KJ4ZIH, Kenneth / KB4BWM and Neil / KD7UHR, stay cool with all these candles burning!

Thanks again to everyone who donated to the bake sale; there was definitely no shortage of great baked goods! Special thanks to Lisa Bryant for helping at the table!

Thanks to Wayne / AG4ZZ for taking the minutes at the June meeting, John and I were up on Skyline Drive for a few days and had a great time!

Congratulations to Elizabeth / KG4NXV for moving into her first house!

Congratulations to the entire OVH club for another successful JUNE! This is always such a busy month but we pulled off another successful Hamfest and Field Day.

Thanks to David / KI4AZX for chairing another Mini Tri on Sunday, July 10!

Al / KB4BHB will be looking for participants for the Second Battle of Manassas Special Event on Saturday, August 27, 2011 which again this year will be held at the location across from Signal Hill Park. Please plan to come out to the site or call on the radio.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable 4th of July!

Please send me your news to kg4tvm@hotmail.com or by telephone to 703-257-3566.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

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## Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting June 20, 2011:

George K4GVT called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on June20, 2011. 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 38 OVH members and 7 visitors.

### BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the May meeting were approved as read

George / K4GVT announced that the usual meeting order will be changed tonight to deal with important issues.

George / K4GVT brought up the issues relating to Keith / KJ4GUT and his proposed expulsion; one-third of the active members need to sign a complaint and the complaint served by mail before a vote to expel at the next meeting; the complaint was passed around for signatures, the requisite signatures were obtained, and the complaint will be mailed to give notice; at the next meeting an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the active member attendees will result in expulsion. A discussion followed voicing concerns and support for this action; a discussion followed on how to avoid this type of problem or situation in the future, no conclusions were reached and George / K4GVT moved to table the discussion until the next meeting.

Hamfest – George / K4GVT apologized for being out of town and missing Hamfest; Bruce / AB8CI announced that the planned security fell through at the last minute but, thankfully, others stepped in immediately and security went well without problems; tailgating was down possibly

**Continued on page 4**

due to the forecasted rain that did not occur; indoor vendors were up; please email ideas for improvements for next year's Hamfest to Bruce; Gary / WG4ARC announced that profits were up from last year to date \$4219 profit with some funds still coming in from the food vendor; bake sale went well with \$150 going to the scholarship fund; no guarantee of fairground availability for 2012; Chris / KI4POT stated that fairground expenses are up and they may charge for camping next year; Steve / N4OGR notified the club that Corbin the food vendor complained about the bake sale selling sandwiches; another meeting will be set up to discuss Hamfest further.

Field Day – Randy / WB7RAV advised permission was declined for the OVH to use the lot by Arby's on Liberia Avenue; as an alternative, backup, OVH expects to obtain permission to use the lot in Manassas Park along Centreville Road between Sheetz and Conner Drive near the main Prince William County Library, the usage documents will be signed by Thursday; to maximize exposure at this new location OVH will use the big Red Cross (air conditioned) tent, Bob / KC4TNC will check the site for RF noise levels, 2 HF stations will be operated plus a GOTA station.

Break

Treasurer's report was given by Gary / WG4ARC; report was approved as read.

ARES – David / KG4GIY needs help for the Sesquicentennial events at five sites, a minimum of 30 people are needed each day; please contact David or [www.pwcares.org](http://www.pwcares.org); VEMA will be sending an observer to evaluate our performance at this event; parking will be off site and volunteers will stage at David's house; he will provide transportation and antennas; next ARES meeting is July 16th at the EOC.

Membership – Steve / N0DWB read in Floyd Callahan / K4ROG, Terry Erlacher / KC5DV, Jack Cochran / WC4J; voted in Raymond Helms / KK4AQR, Terry McCarty / WA5NTI and Everett Seimens / KJ4OLF.

Repeaters – Keith / KM4AA announced that the 2 meter RX has been deaf we have a replacement; the repeater link is temporarily down and is being worked on.

Training – Mark / WA4KFZ thanked those who helped with the hamfest training session, one goal is to have a general class in the fall.

Sunshine Committee – Wayne / AG4ZZ read the Sunshine report from Theresa, birthdays, thanks for the bake sale and Hamfest help

Old Business – Al / KB4BHB reminded us about the Special Event on Saturday, August 27th 2011 at the Signal Hill location.

New Business – Brian / WC4J announced packet is running APRS, looking for transmitter sites.

No 50/50 tonight

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm

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## Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

### CONFERENCES:

Friday to Sunday, September 16-18, 2011. ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference, to be held in Baltimore, Maryland this year. This is the 30th such conference. More information at <http://tapr.org>

### HAMFESTS:

Sunday, July 17, 2011. BRATS Hamfest, West Friendship, Maryland. More info at <http://bratstsv.org>

Sunday, August 7, 2011, Berryville Hamfest, Berryville, Virginia. More info at <http://svarc.us>

**Continued on page 5**



## SPECIAL OPERATING EVENTS AND CONTESTS

Thursday - Sunday, July 21, 22, 23 and 24, 2011. AMRAD along with the Ole Virginia Hams, will be operating special event stations at the Manassas National Battlefield Park to commemorate the Battle of First Manassas (also known as First Battle of Bull Run). AMRAD's Special Event Call will be W3U and OVH's Special Event Call will be W4C. Operating QRP with CW, PSK-31 and SSB. Frequencies and more info to be posted on [www.amrad.org](http://www.amrad.org).

Saturday, August 27, 2011. OVH Special Event Station operation near the Signal Hill Park to commemorate the Second Battle of Manassas.

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.

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## SPECIAL EVENT WITH AMRAD AT THE MANASSAS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK Thursday - Sunday, July 21, 22, 23, and 24, 2011 ( from <http://www.amrad.org> )

**July 21, 22, 23 and 24** - AMRAD, along with the Ole VA Hams, will be operating a special event station on the Manassas National Battlefield Park on Thursday through Sunday, July 21 through 24, 2011 to commemorate the Battle of First Manassas (also known as First Battle of Bull Run). AMRAD's Special Event Call will be W3U and OVH's Special Event Call will be W4C. Operating QRP with CW, PSK-31 and SSB. Frequencies to be posted on [www.amrad.org](http://www.amrad.org).

The Park Administrator has approved a special use permit for this event. We need to provide him with the name of people who will be operating the station along with the make, model and license plate number of their automobile. Once he has this information the permit will be issued.

Operations of the stations will have to be during the hours that the park is open on each day (Sunrise to Sunset). This means we should be on the air from 8 AM to 8 PM. Any one who is interested in participating, please email me their information and when they feel they can operate the Special Event Station. Bill Fenn, N4TS, [bfenn@cox.net](mailto:bfenn@cox.net)

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## W4OVH Web Site - Transition Status

Bill / N4SV has served as webmaster for the OVH web site for 13+ years site while hosting the site from a web server at his residence. The main URL has been W4OVH.NET but the OVH has also acquired the domains W4OVH.COM and W4OVH.ORG; if either of those other URLs are accessed, the user is automatically redirected to the OVH web site at W4OVH.NET. Lee Love / N2LEE has been providing supporting domain registration and DNS services gratis for the OVH through his Internet company, 3D Net, Inc. in Herndon, Virginia for many years. Bill and Lee are to be thanked for their long service for the OVH relating to the web site. Paul / W4ZB is taking over as webmaster from Bill shortly; as this is being written, the hosting location of the OVH web site is in the process of being transitioned from the web server at Bill's residence to a new hosting location provided by 1and1.com which is also being provided gratis for the OVH; the domain registrations are also being changed to OVH's name. The change of hosting location should be transparent to users, and Paul will take over responsibility as webmaster once that is completed. Substantive changes to the OVH web site will be made monthly once the hosting location change is completed.

## From the Manassas Patch:

### Local 'Hams' Reach out to Community and Beyond

Members of the local Virginia Ole Hams Amateur Radio Club set up shop in Manassas Sunday with the goal of showing how its radio network would operate in an emergency situation.

By Aaron Koepper

Amateur radio operators, or “hams,” hope to be the network that keeps communications going in the event of a natural disaster that knocks out phone systems and other forms of mass communication.

To that end, the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club held their 2011 field day between the Central Community Library on Mathis Ave. and Sheetz gas station in Manassas Sunday to see how many radio operators they could find like themselves. The radios, which used 100 watts of power or less, and ran off a 28-gallon gasoline generator from 2 p.m. Saturday to 1 p.m. Sunday are designed to simulate natural disaster conditions, according to club president George Tarnovsky.

Between those times, they logged contacts with over 800 other hams in North America, from as far south as Puerto Rico to as far north as Wisconsin.

The club could set up a network to relay messages after a disaster, according to club member Randy Cohen, who organized the field day.

“[In theory] We can’t talk to Richmond right now, but we can talk to maybe Norfolk,” Cohen said. “So we contact somebody in Norfolk and have them call Richmond to tell them ‘here’s the damage report for that disaster, and here’s what we need.’”

Cohen said the club has 75 members in the Manassas area and 150 members total. According to its website, the OVH operates four repeaters—radios that rebroadcast signals with a higher power so they can reach longer distances, according to the website.

All the equipment used at the field day is personally owned and relies on no pre-existing infrastructure to work, according to club president George Tarnovsky.

“These antennas are literally a string of wire,” Tarnovsky. “We run from that tree to that tree and then run a string of coaxial cable to the radio and we’re on the air.”

“Hams” used several different types of antennas Sunday to reach contacts: a dipole antenna, a single string of wire designed to broadcast on specific frequencies, beam antennas, designed to operate medium and high frequencies and filter out interference, and finally a satellite antenna that allows hams to communicate through specific satellites orbiting the Earth.

Terry Erlacher, an operator, watched the satellite radio, which was out of range of the satellites orbiting the Earth for a period of Sunday morning. Erlacher said finding other operators on the satellite was unpredictable.

“This band is very sporadic,” Erlacher said. “It’s either very dead or suddenly come to life.”

Erlacher said he became interested in radio when he went to college because it was the only other form of communication available at the time to the public besides the phone system.

“It’s a way to communicate with your peers,” Erlacher said.



Ken Dohl (left) and Lillian Diamond (right) use microphones and headsets to search for other operators and log successful contacts in the computers next to them. Credit Aaron Koepper



# OVH / ARRL 2011 Field Day Result from Keith / KM4AA

Below are the numbers claimed giving us a score of 1654 points. We had a couple of items that hurt us. One was someone decided to change the GOTA station without coordinating with the laptops used for logging, costing us about 181 contacts on Phone. Another was that the Public Information Display Boards, although at the site, were never set up. There are some more minor points, I'll try to remember at the next club meeting.

Mode :	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	Power	QSOs	Power	QSOs	Power
160	0	150	0	150	0	150
80	10	150	0	150	0	150
40	91	150	0	150	0	150
20	129	150	0	150	22	150
15	38	150	0	150	0	150
10	7	150	0	150	0	150
6	0	150	0	150	168	150
2	0	150	0	150	1	150
GOTA	0	150	0	150	86	150
<b>Totals</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>CW</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Dig</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>Phone</b>

Some Pictures from 2011 OVH Field Day:





