

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

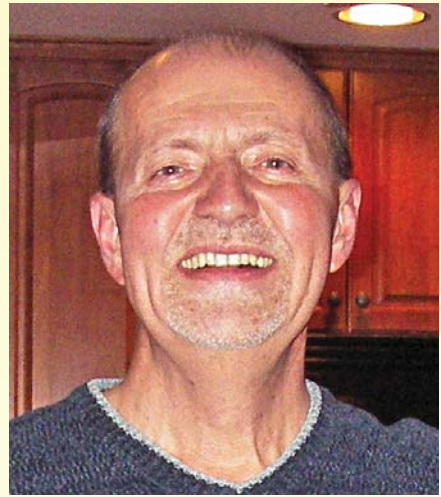
August 2011

Next Meeting: Monday, August 15, 2011

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to all, we have entered the last month of the extreme summer heat and I hope you all are taking care not to over do it and keep hydrated.

For all that participated in the 150 Year Anniversary of the Battle of First Manassas (Bull Run) Special Event Station on July 21st – 24th, thank you on behalf of the OVH. Special thanks to Gene / N4HFW and Mark / WA4KFZ who operated the 1x1 callsign station, W4C, during the record breaking hot weather. W4C made many more contacts than did the other special 1x1 callsign station, W3U, operating during this special event. Special thanks also to Bill / N4TS of AMRAD for organizing this. See report later in this Newsletter.



Later this month the OVH will again have its annual Special Event Station, W4OVH, in operation to commemorate the Battle of Second Manassas (Bull Run) on Saturday August 27th. Setup will start at 7:00 AM, with operations to start at 8:00 AM, SSB on 7262 KHz and 14262 KHz, and FM via the OVH repeater, 146.970 MHz. This is a fun event, volunteers / participants are needed both for setup and operations. A special QSL certificate will be provided to all who contact W4OVH during this special event. More info at w4ovh.net, from Al / KB4BHB and at the upcoming regular OVH meeting.

The OVH web site is now at its new hosting location although certain mechanics of the transition are still underway. Many thank to Bill / N4SV and Lee / N2LEE for their past work relating to the web site. There is a short article below about what changes we can expect during the next several months.

We are still trying to get a date for the antenna work to be done on the NOVEC tower. Once we have it confirmed with the vendor I will let everyone know. If you would like to see the site or observe the work being done, we can accommodate a few folks. This will most likely be done on a weekday since there is a labor surcharge for weekend work.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming OVH regular meeting on August 15th!

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

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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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

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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>.

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Approx. Circulation - 170.

Last Rev: 8/6/2011

Sunshine Corner:

Very happy birthday wishes to Karl / W4KRL, and DC / WD4FOX this month!

Bob / KC4TNC who has been very active in the club for a number of years will be leaving us this month to move back to Alabama. We will all miss Bob and hope to hear you on the air; some of us held a farewell party for him at a local restaurant on July 31, 2011 and presented him with a plaque to thank him for his many years of service. See Bob in picture.

Thank you to our club members who participated in the First Battle of Manassas CW150 event last month; that was certainly four solid days of brutal, high, record setting temperatures and humid weather at the Battlefield.

Happy 8th Wedding Anniversary to my husband John/KG4NXT.

Al KB4BHB will be looking for participants for the Second Battle of Manassas Special Event operation on Saturday, August 27th at the location just across from Signal Hill Park. More details at the upcoming meeting, on the OVH web site and on the OVH repeater Thursday night net just before the meeting. Please plan to come out to the this special event to participate; if you can't make it, at least call on the radio.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

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

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting July 18, 2011:

George / K4GVT called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM on July 18, 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 30 OVH members and 7 visitors present.

BUSINESS MEETING

As the first item of business, George / K4GVT updated the membership on the status of the action to have Keith / KJ4GUT expelled from the club; George sent him a letter on July 7, 2011 informing him of the proposed action based upon the motion approved at the June 18th meeting, and inviting Keith to appear at this meeting to offer reasons why he should not be expelled. No return communications have been received from Keith and Keith did not appear; no one desired further discussion and then ballots were passed out, collected and counted. By unanimous vote (30-0), Keith is expelled and removed from the club membership roster.

Minutes from the June meeting were approved as read.

Membership – Steve / N0DWB read in Jim Santore / KF4WSN and presented Floyd / K4ROG and Terry / KC5DV for vote, both were voted in unanimously; Brian / WC4J re-application for membership was discussed at length and a vote was taken, 15-16 against accepting his application. An announcement was made that Bob / KC4TNC will be moving back to Alabama within the next 30 days.

Treasurer's report was given by Gary / WG4ARC; report was approved as read; Theresa / KG4TVM



Continued on page 4

explained that the proceeds of \$193 from the Manassas Hamfest bake sale were designated for the Red Cross Radio Room, Theresa made a motion for the club to add funds to the \$193 and make the donation a total of \$250, this was passed.

ARES – David / KG4GIY has shifts still available for the upcoming First Battle of Manassas CW150 event and would like to be able to double up some of the locations with more volunteers. ARES will be using the OVH repeaters during the CW150 event. The next big event will be a marathon in September, more details at the next meeting and on the Prince William County ARES web site.

Repeaters – Keith / KM4AA reported noise on the 2 meter machine around 3 PM; Art / W1CRO reported that the noise will go away when the repeater cools off; Keith reported that the temperature in the shed yesterday was 107 and everything was running fine; discussion followed on the temperature for the equipment; Keith / KM4AA and Steve / N4OGR will work on looking into air conditioning the shed. Al / KB4BHB asked if the ARES use of the OVH repeaters during CW150 will move off the air for the regular 8:00 PM OVH Thursday Net on the repeaters and was advised that that could not be determined for sure until that Thursday evening, although it was expected the ARES operations for the day would be concluded before 8:00 PM.

Training – Mark / WA4KFZ reported nothing new at this time but he will probably hold a General Licensing class in September.

Hamfest – George / K4GVT advised that the OVH is still waiting for a check from the caterer.

Winter Field Day – Joe / KI4OHR had no report.

Sunshine Corner – Theresa KG4TVM announced the birthdays and that Elizabeth KG4NXV will be going out to sea on a sub for a week.

Website – Paul / W4ZB reported that the site is still in transition from its hosting location at Bill/N4SV's QTH to its new hosting location; David / KG4GIY asked to have links added for other club activities.

Old Business – Al / KB4BHB reminded us about the Second Battle of Manassas Special Event operation to be held on Saturday, August 27th on Signal Hill Road across from Signal Hill Park, the same place as for the past several years.

New Business – Theresa / KG4TVM announced that we have been invited back to Girl Scout Adventure Day on Saturday, October 15th at the Prince William County Fairgrounds, more information to follow Closer to the event; David / KI4AZX asked for volunteers to help with the MiniTri on August 7th. Dianne / KI4FVV asked about background checks, discussion followed, George / K4GVT tabled the discussion until next month.

Break

50/50 – Bill / KJ4VTH won \$9.00

Field Day – Randy / WB7RAV is still looking for some of the logging sheets and the sign in sheet from Field Day; if you accidentally picked them up please get them to Randy; Randy reviewed some of the items that needed to be addressed; Mark / WA4KFZ reported that the battery backup for the logging computers failed during the night and there were no user manuals available for the radio for reference as needed; Keith KM4AA will download PDF manuals for the radios for future use. Everyone who attended gave comments.

Steve / N4OGR asked about the committee to consider and make recommendations for purchase (or no purchase) of a trailer for the club; Steve / N4OGR is chair; Keith / KM4AA, Randy / WB7RAV and Gary / WG4ARC volunteered to be on the committee.

On motion made and seconded, meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM

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>

SPECIAL OPERATING EVENTS AND CONTESTS

Saturday, August 27, 2011. OVH Special Event Station operation near the Signal Hill Park to commemorate the Second Battle of Manassas. Contact OVH member Al / KB4BHB for more info which is also on the OVH web site (w4ovh.net), and later in this Newsletter.

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.

REPORT ON OVH's SPECIAL EVENT OPERATIONS WITH AMRAD AT THE MANASSAS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK Thursday - Sunday, July 21, 22, 23, and 24, 2011

The Ole Virginia Hams (W4C) and AMRAD (W3U) operated special event stations on the Manassas National Battlefield Park on Thursday through Sunday, July 21 through 24, 2011 as part of the commemoration of the 150 anniversary of the Battle of First Manassas (also known as First Battle of Bull Run). There were numerous visitors to the Park from 8 AM to 8 PM each day for the official events. Record or near record setting high temperatures and heat indexes occurred each day which caused attendance at the main events to be somewhat lower than expected. The OVH's 2 meter FM repeater was dedicated to ARES operators who were providing public service through organized nets and operators throughout the Manassas area in connection with the main events. The main events included a large scale reenactment of a scene from the battle. See an AP image from the reenactment (from the Washington Post) to the right.



Bill Fenn / N4TS of AMRAD spearheaded the organization of these two special ham radio operations during the main events. The Manassas National Battlefield Park Administrator approved a special use permit and the FCC issued the two 1x1 special event call signs. The two stations were set up in two different locations in the Manassas National Battlefield Park; no electric service was available, nor were gasoline generators permitted so all stations operated off of batteries, usually QRP. W4C used temporary wire antennas strung up in trees for HF operations, and handheld antennas for VHF / UHF operations. Both stations operated on HF on the 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands, SSB, CW and PSK31 modes. Some operations were also conducted by W4C on FM on 2 meters and via the AO-27 satellite, and also through the OVH's 70 cm DSTAR repeater.

Total QSOs during the special event operation: W4C - 119, W3U - 52. The “South” wins again! Curiously, neither of W4C’s operators, Gene / N4HFW and Mark / WA4KFZ regard themselves as from the South although each has lived in this area in the “South” for many years.

Some pictures from the W4C station / operation:



This large 12V Marine Battery supplied power for Gene / N4HFW, operating HF to the right.



Above: Mark / WA4KFZ getting ready for an AO-27 Satellite Pass. Right: Operating HF SSB, CW and PSK31.

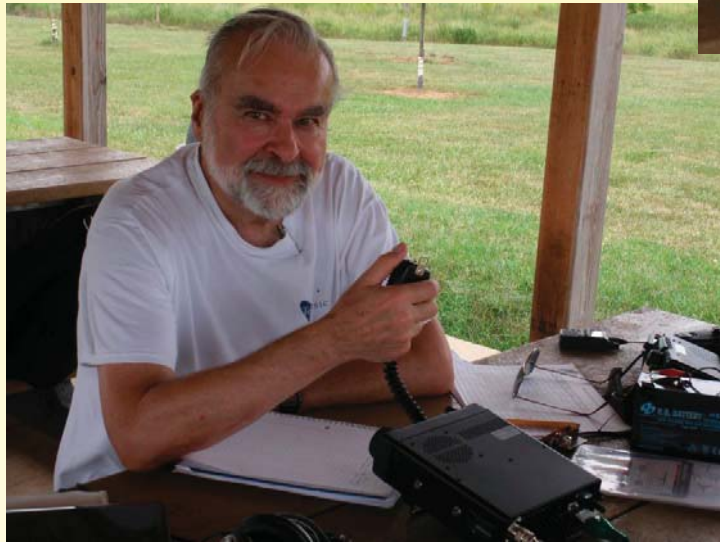


To the left, two reenactors who wandered by W4C.

Next page, a few of the W3U crew.

Continued on next page

Some pictures from the W3U station / operation from AMRAD:

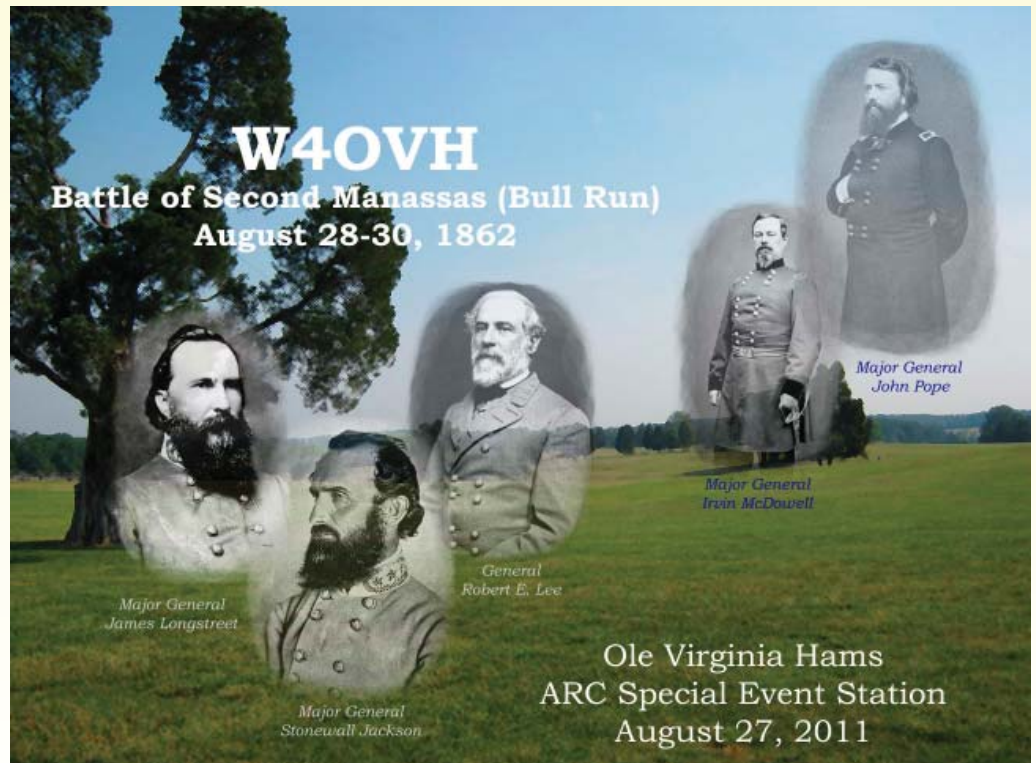


Above left: Bill / N4TS
Above: Paul / W4RI
Left: Dick / W3HWN

To the right:

The Special QSL Certificate to be provided to stations contacting the OVH Special Event Station on Saturday, August 27, 2011 to commemorate the Battle of Second Manassas (Bull Run).

HF operations will be SSB on 7.262 MHz and 14.262 MHz; FM on the 146.970 Repeater..



The OVH Web Site - Transition Status and Future Enhancements / Improvements

The OVH web site has been around since the late 1990's serving as a publicly available and easy to access resource for basic information about the OVH and Club activities. It was originally set up and hosted on QSL.NET. Later and for many years until late July, Bill / N4SV hosted it on a server in his home QTH using his high speed COMCAST line for connectivity to the Internet with the needed domain registrations and DNS services provided gratis by Lee / N2LEE through his firm, 3DNet, Inc., in Herndon, Virginia. Bill / N4SV and Lee / N2LEE deserve out thanks from all of us for keeping the OVH web site running for many years.

During late July the hosting location for the OVH web site was moved from the Windows server at Bill / N4SV's QTH to a hosting location on a 1and1.com server provided gratis by Paul / W4ZB. The essentials of this *initial* move were simple: 1. all active files and directories on Bill / N4SV's server were copied to the Apache based server at the new hosting location; 2. the DNS servers for the several OVH domains were modified to point to the new hosting location; and 3. minor revisions were made to some of the web pages to eliminate the more obvious aspects which will not work (without fixes or modifications) at the new hosting location. Two main advantages / improvements should result just from the change in hosting location. First, 1and1.com, a professional firm, is now responsible for all aspects of hardware and software maintenance of the actual web server and maintaining its connectivity to the Internet; future web site outages should be minimal and of very brief duration, not dependent upon the availability of a single individual to fix. Second, the speed of access to the OVH web site, including downloads from the web site, should be greatly improved due to higher speed Internet connectivity.

The term "domains" has been used several times. The OVH web site now uses three distinct domains which makes it almost foolproof to find the site: W4OVH.NET, W4OVH.COM and W4OVH.ORG. Put any one of these domains into your web browser (note: the prefix "www." is *not* needed in your browser) and you will end up at the OVH web site which is actually a single set of files and directories at a single web server location. As part of the transition still underway, the registrations for the two domains, W4OVH.NET and W4OVH.COM will be transferred to OVH's ownership; the W4OVH.ORG domain is already owned by the OVH.

Now that the hosting of the OVH web site is at a new server location (and the domains registrations are being transferred to OVH), what comes next? Many things, but it may take several months before the initial set of major changes being worked on are made live / publicly accessible on the OVH web site. A first very major set of changes will be to eliminate the frames and directory structure of the existing OVH web site and replace those structures with more modern CSS, Javascript and directory structures which will be easier to maintain and expand in the future. This will be done without eliminating existing web site content, particularly the historical content. Hopefully, site navigation features will also be improved as part of these changes. Keep in mind that the OVH web site content is regularly indexed by Google and other search engines and also by archive.org.

A major part of the planning for these changes is to establish and document procedures for implementing and testing changes which will be made in the future. Why is that important? Several reasons: 1. your new webmaster wants to find at least one backup webmaster who is qualified to follow documented procedures so that the making of web site changes quickly, when needed, will no longer depend upon the availability of just one individual; 2. it is anticipated that various club officers or responsible individuals with needs to modify particular web site content pertaining to a particular subject area (e.g., Hamfest, Field Day, Special Event, etc.), once qualified with using the procedures, will be given passwords and login details so that they can initiate and make changes in particular areas without risk to the web site as a whole; 3. it is anticipated that individual Club members who are interested and qualified to follow procedures will be provided with individual web space on the OVH web site for posting personal ham radio related web pages. 4. members-only web pages (requiring a login as on the ARRL site) can be created if there is a need.

Also high on to-be-done list: 1. improve / automate the updates procedures for membership information, including who is current (and not current) with club dues; 2. making it easier those involved to obtain / share new member application data, and for new members to submit applications online (checks still mailed in); 3. procedures to inhibit email address harvesting by spambots. In a still applicable OVH reflector posting about web site complaints some time ago, David / KG4GIY noted: stop whining and take some action to help out. Ideas for improvement or offers to help out are solicited.- please email to: PAUL@W4ZB.COM