

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

August 2012

Next Meeting: Monday, August 20, 2012

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to all. Finally we have some relief from the unusually hot weather and swelter this summer. While this summer has been one of the hottest on record, the OVH repeaters have so far sustained themselves during the thermal torment with only minor issues.

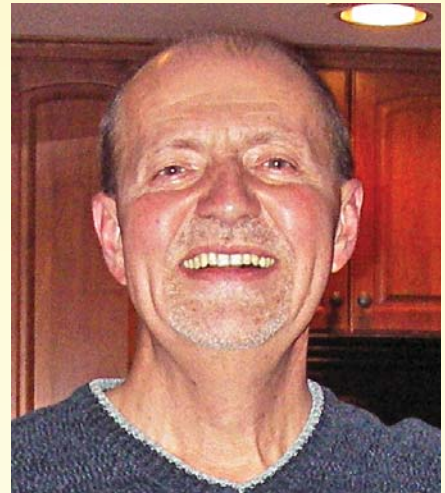
Things have not been quiet for the OVH. We are involved in several areas. A successful MiniTri event was held July 22nd, coordinated by David / KI4AZX. Thank you to David and the many volunteers!

The OVH has also been actively participating jointly in an "introduce the public to ham radio communications" event at the Prince William County Fair (August 10th – 18th) in conjunction with Prince William County 4-H. This event has now been ongoing for several more days as I write so be sure to get out the Prince William County Fair before it closes on Saturday evening to see it and participate. From the ham radio side, this has been a joint effort by the OVH and the Woodbridge Wireless Club from the southern end of Prince William County. Terry / WA5NTI initiated and became the able and dedicated lead for this extended event, coordinating with the Fair and the 4-H, and arranging for displays, the setup of HF and VHF FM operating stations, and coordinating a sizable number of volunteers. The OVH Thursday night net on August 16th will be run from the Fair. Terry will elaborate at our meeting, but some early reports of the success of this event appear later in this Newsletter. This event has given both clubs, as well as Ham Radio great exposure. The positive press as well as local recognition will only help Ham Radio.

At the upcoming regular OVH meeting, we expect to receive the final results of the June OVH Manassas Hamfest, and to continue our critique and discussion about improvements which may be made for the 2013 Manassas Hamfest.

I hope to see you all at the upcoming OVH meeting on Monday, August 20th at 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
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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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Approx. Circulation - 170.

Last Rev: 7/10/2012

Sunshine Corner:

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

The OVH and the Woodbridge Wireless Club have been jointly participating in a major ham radio event (introduce the public to ham radio communications) under the sponsorship of the Prince William County 4-H at the Prince William County Fair (August 10 - August 18) thanks to the leadership and tireless efforts of Terry / WA5NTI and the many other volunteers. This is ongoing and the OVH's Thursday night VHF Net on August 16th will be run from the Fairgrounds.

OVH member, Elizabeth / KG4NXV is now engaged to Nick Shimondle, a chemical engineer. Those who were at the antenna takedown party at the QTH of Arthur / W1CRO a year or two ago may have met Nick who assisted. A 2014 wedding is planned!

Paul / W4ZB added two grandsons at the end of July thanks to his older son, Karl, also a ham, and Karl's wife who had twins. Future ham twins?

The Sunshine Corner column is very short again this month; a replacement is needed for me and I will assist with the transition.

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 July 16, 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. 30 OVH members and 5 guests attended.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the June meeting were approved as read

Treasurer's Report – by Randy / WB7RAV standing in for Treasurer, Gary / WG4ARC; certain bills relating to the Hamfest still need to be paid and final results for the Hamfest reported.

Membership – Terry / KC4DV presented applications for Robert / KJ4EOR and John / KK4GWU to be voted on, both voted in unanimously.

ARES – Steve / N4OGR reported that there is an ARES meeting on Saturday from 9:00 am until noontime, donuts will be provided. Check with David Lane KG4GIY for more details.

Repeaters – Keith / KM4AA reported that the main Internet connection needed for the D-Star repeaters was lost; the system is now running on a temporary connection until the permanent repairs can be made.

Training – Mark / WA4KFZ will be starting a new Technician class soon, more details to follow.

Winter Field Day – George / K4GVT asked if the club is interested in participating in Winter Field Day again, some interest shown, agreed to bring it up again at a later date. A new chairman is needed for that.

Sunshine – Theresa / KG4TVM had no report. Butch / W4HJL thanked the

Continued on page 4

club for their support to his family and the luncheon following Mary Lu's service.

Old Business – George / K4GVT reported that Eagle One has advised it won't be attending the Manassas Hamfest next year. George suggested we talk to HRO about attending; Art / W1CRO suggested that post cards be sent to everyone once again next year; Joe / KI4OHR suggested promoting advance ticket sales and having product and operating demonstrations during the Hamfest, Joe volunteered to help with and coordinate the demonstrations; George / K4GVT reminded the club that we need a new chair person for the 2013 Manassas Hamfest; Terry / KC4DV who co-chaired in 2012 with Bruce / AB8CI volunteered to chair the 2013 Manassas Hamfest; Steve / N4OGR spoke to Corbin about the check due to OVH; Steve / N4OGR also advised the table rental payment has not yet been made and needs to be paid; Mark / WA4KFZ reported that everyone that came in and out of the back gate he talked with was happy with the event and suggested a Fox Hunt competition be held next year.

Break

Field Day – John / KG4NXT still likes the Nokesville site, Al / KB4BHB thinks the club should concentrate on setting up in an emergency situation, Randy / WB7RAV reported that the Manassas Park fire chief showed up Saturday afternoon and was impressed with the setup, Randy also reported that he chaired the event for the emergency management side of it; discussion followed

New Business – John / KG4NXT reported that there is the final Mini-Tri of the season Sunday at 7 am, David / KI4AZX is chairing this event; Mark / WA4KFZ suggested a donation in Mary Lu's name; motion was made to donate \$100 in Mary Lu's name to the research department the family listed in her obituary - passed; Randy / WB7RAV suggested we name the radio room at the Red Cross after Mary Lu; Art / W1CRO stated that there was a \$200 balance remaining on the luncheon held for Mary Lu; motion was made to reimburse Art the \$200 – passed

50/50 – \$5 won by Mark / WA4KFZ who donated it back to the club.

Mystery Box donated by Randy / WB7RAV won by John / KG4NXT. OVH collected \$13.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:55 pm

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

Sunday, August 19, 2012 - Westminster, Carroll County, Maryland tailgate fest. More info at <http://qis.net/~k3pzn>

Saturday, September 15, 2012 - Virginia Section Hamfest, Virginia Beach, Virginia. More information at <http://vbhamfest.com>

CONFERENCES / SPECIAL MEETINGS

Sept. 21-23 - ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference, Atlanta. <http://tapr.org/dcc.html>

OPERATING EVENTS AND CONTESTS

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!

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.



**Amateur Radio Relay League
Virginia Section
Press Release
8/1/2012**

Contact: Thomas Fournier Jr.
Phone: 202-487-0407
E-Mail: tomfournierpio@gmail.com

"HAM Radio Works, come check it out!"

Public Demo of Emergency Communications August 10-18, Prince William County Fair – at the 4-H Booth.

Prince William County, VA – Local Amateur Radio Clubs, in coordination with the Prince William 4-H organization, will demonstrate the capabilities of today's Amateur Radio at the Prince William County Fair.

Despite the Internet, cell phones, email and modern communications, every year whole regions find themselves in the dark. Tornadoes, fires, storms, ice and even the occasional cutting of fiber-optic cables leave people without the means to communicate.

In these cases, the one consistent service that has never failed has been Amateur Radio. These radio operators, often called "hams", provide backup communications for everything from the American Red Cross to FEMA and even for the International Space Station. Your local "Hams" will join with the Prince William 4-H Organization at the Prince William County Fair to show their emergency capabilities August 10-18.

Over the past year, the news has been full of reports of ham radio operators providing critical communications during unexpected emergencies in towns across America including the derecho and earthquake here in Virginia, the Colorado wildfires, winter storms, tornadoes and other events world-wide. When trouble is brewing, Amateur Radio's people are often the first to provide rescuers with critical information and communications. During the Prince William County Fair, the public will have a chance to meet and talk with

local ham radio operators and see for themselves what the Amateur Radio Service is about as they hold a public demonstration of emergency communications abilities.

Their slogan, "When All Else Fails, Ham Radio Works" is more than just words to the hams as they prove they can send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, internet or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis.

"The fastest way to turn a crisis into a total disaster is to lose communications," said Allen Pitts of the ARRL. "From the earthquake and tsunami in Japan to tornadoes in Missouri, ham radio provided the most reliable communication networks in the first critical hours of the events. Because ham radios are not dependent on the Internet, cell towers or other infrastructure, they work when nothing else is available. We need nothing between us but air."

The area's local Amateur Radio Clubs will demonstrate Amateur Radio capabilities in Building C on the Fairgrounds, and invite the public to come and see ham radio's new capabilities and learn how to get their own FCC radio license before the next disaster strikes.

Amateur Radio is growing in the US. There are now over 700,000 Amateur Radio licensees in the US, and more than 2.5 million around the world. Through the ARRL's Amateur Radio Emergency Services program, ham volunteers provide both emergency communications for thousands of state and local emergency response agencies and non-emergency community services too, all for free. To learn more about Amateur Radio, go to www.emergency-radio.org. To learn more about Prince William 4-H, go to www.pwcgov.org/4-H.

The public is most cordially invited to come, meet and talk with the "hams". See what 4-H and modern Amateur Radio, working together, can do. They can even help you get on the air to meet new friends and learn about people around the globe!

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**Official ARRL
PRESS RELEASE
for the
August 10 - 18, 2012
Ham Radio Event
at the
Prince William
County Fair
at
Manassas, Virginia**



**Some of the
OVH attendees
at the last
planning meeting
before the
Prince William
County Fair
ham radio event**

**Terry / WA5NTI
showing a visitor
how to make a
contact using
SSB on the 15
meter HF band at
the Prince William
County Fair**



**The visitor
returns another
day to make PSK
contacts on the 20
meter HF band**



Mark / WA4KFZ demonstrates ham radio communication via VHF/UHF satellite using handheld equipment and a manually pointed directional antenna at the Prince William County Fair.

Visitors at the Prince William County Fair learning about ham radio



Logbook for some of the HF ham radio contacts made during the Prince William County Fair note: DX contacts!

DATE	FREQ	MODE	POWER	TIME	STATION WORKED	REPORT SENT	REPORT REC'D	TIME OFF	QTH	COMMENTS NAME	QSL VIA	QSL S I R
8/12	14.070	PSK		2223	HKAGSL	599	599	2225	Guillermo	Colombia	OP	K2B
		PSK		2234	DK4WO	599	599	2240		Germany		
		PSK		2241	G4HB1	599	599	2245	Frank	Manchester, England		
		PSK		2248	PE1BQE	599	599	2253	AON,	Netherlands		
		PSK		2255	UT5AJ	599	599	2257		Ukraine		
		PSK		2300	ZW1AK	599	599	2302	Eugene,	Belarus		
		PSK		2305	CO7WT	599	599	2307	Paivel	Cuba		
		PSK		2313	T1QRC	599	599	2315	Quardo	Costa Rica		
		PSK		2319	RIAY	599	599	2320	Serge,	Russia		
		PSK		2323	2m0NW	599	599	2325	Kevin	near Glasgow Scotland		
		PSK		2331	CU2AO	599	599	2334	Carlos,	Azores		
		PSK		2339	SQ7LRE	599	599	2340	Maciek,	Poland		
		PSK		2345	LZ2570	599	599	2347	Plev	Bulgaria		
8/14	14.070	PSK		2352	EC4Y5FB	599	599	23	Luis,	San Fernando Chile		
		PSK		2359	IK6CVI	599	599	0002	Giuseppe,	ITALY		
		PSK		0014	CO8WZ	599	599	0016	Ruben	Santiago Cuba		
		PSK		0016	CO2MS	599	599	0019	Manuel,	Havana Cuba		
		PSK		0020	CO2RU	599	599	0024	Isquierdo	Havana Cuba		
		PSK		0029	NS1C	599	599	0042	Bob	Port Charlotte FL	OP	K2LB
		SSB		1848	PI4CC	599	599	1849	Antiquilla	Flores		
		SSB		1850	K0QBZ	599	599	1853	Lizbeth,	NB	Bob	
		SSB		1857	AD7Z/M	599	599	1859	Tampa,	FL	DAVID	
		SSB		1859	N0EX/M	599	599	1901	Lizbeth,	NB	DAVID	
		JFD		2117	2012L	59	59	2124	Olympic	London 2012 Special Event Station	OP	G1LR
		JFD		2135	KA2V2K	57	57	2139	Polm	Florida		

More in the September Newsletter

Some Possibly Useful / Interesting Information

1. Arthur / W1CRO points out that legally regulated ham radio is now 100 years old - this month. This is based upon President Taft having signed into law the Radio Act of 1912 on August 13, 1912; that law required the use of officially assigned Callsigns as well as the use of continuous wave signals only (spark gap transmitters were banned) above 200 meters, that is, on frequencies below 1.5 Mhz. At that time in 1912, frequencies above 1.5 Mhz were thought to have little or no value or practical use, and were open to experimenters!

2. At least 9 OVH members attended the Dayton Hamvention this year - George / K4GVT, Stuart / W4PR, Gene / N4HFW, Keith / KM4AA, Terry / KC4DV, Butch / W4HJF, Paul / W4ZB, Russ / N4RP, and Paul / N4PD. George had with him his usual large group from New York (and New England) as well as his son, Chris, from the California.

3. N4RP and W4ZB also attended the Contest University session at a large hotel in downtown Dayton - held on the Thursday, the day before the Hamvention started up. See, <http://contestuniversity.com> This one day program is already being scheduled for the same day (one day before the Dayton Hamvention starts) next May, and is so popular that a version of it is also being given in Germany at the Friedrichschafen Hamfest, the biggest in Europe, which is comparable in size to the Dayton Hamvention. The Contest University session provides a large quantity of reading material and seminars and tutorials on topics relating to contesting and how to set up and optimize a high performance ham radio station on the HF bands.

4. The lecturers on technical subjects are world class experts and most have engineering backgrounds and know what they are talking about. Several operate their own web sites to share technical information or are closely affiliated with groups such as the Potomac Valley Radio Club - which provide high quality technical information on web sites. See, for example, <http://k3lr.com> (antennas); <http://nc0b.com> (receiver testing); <http://k7nv.com> (antenna structures, electrical and mechanical aspects); <http://w8wwv.com> (miscellaneous topics); <http://pvrc.org> (technical and contesting topic online webinars). During much of the Contest University full day, several specialized lectures and seminars are being presented at the same time so one must be selective. Most of the attendees are very enthusiastic and informed operators. Highly recommended; and your editor plans to attend this again in May, 2013.

5. The last (previous) time your editor attended the Dayton Hamvention was in the mid-1990's; the basic Hamvention format had not changed much, but the equipment offerings by the indoor exhibitors and in the fleamarket outdoors had changed considerably. Indoors - it is evident that a wide range of hardware equipment and devices for implementing software defined radios are now on the scene - although they are not yet in widespread use in the ham radio community. But SDRs are coming just like SSB equipment superceded AM, and semiconductor equipment replaced vacuum tube equipment 40, 50 and 60 years ago. Outdoors in the fleamarket area, one vendor was selling professionally constructed 13 Kw HF amplifiers - for export only - he said, remarking that he had just sold several to a buyer from Brazil.

6. Last month's Newsletter provided information about the MetEd web site, pointing out several online courses there for hams interested in learning more about weather for Skywarn or more about radio propagation. For those interested in Skywarn, a copy of the Federal Meteorological Handbook No. 1 - Surface Weather Observations and Reports - is essential reading. It can be obtained free (in PDF format) at <http://www.ofcm.gov/homepage/text/pubs.htm> where various other meteorological handbooks are also available.

7. The powers to be at the ARRL have decided that Ontario, Canada (also known as VE3 land) has gotten large enough that the ON (Ontario) section designation for contest purposes now needs to be split into 4 new sections: GTA (Greater Toronto Area), ONS (Ontario South), ONN (Ontario North) and ONE (Ontario East). This change will be effective with the fall ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, Field Day, etc., etc. - wherever section designators are exchanged - and will cause confusion for the uninformed or unwary.

8. Having trouble interfacing older radios with RS-232 connections to newer computers which usually no longer provide RS-232 ports? You might want to consider a universal converter device, the Green Heron Radio Boss, designed specifically for the ham radio market, see <http://www.greenheronengineering.com/proddetail.php?prod=RadioBoss>