

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

September 2012

Next Meeting: Monday, September 17, 2012

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

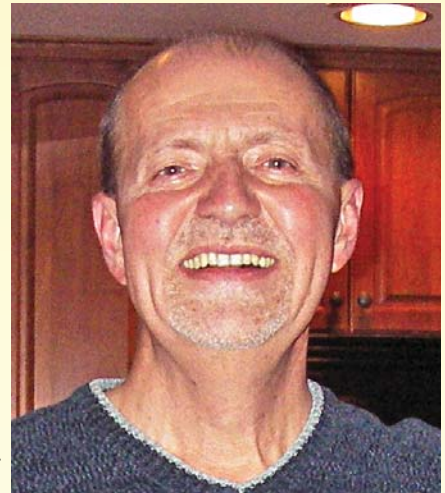
Greetings, as I write this, I can't help thinking back to eleven years ago - September 11, 2001. Each of us, I'm sure, remembers exactly where he or she was on the morning of 9-11. Ham radio played an important role that day when regular communications were jammed, but hams could still communicate and were a resource filling critical community needs. We are vital for any emergency, local, statewide, regional or national.

But one issue haunts us, tasks were plentiful for Hams. Most of us want to setup communications, antenna systems and provide the "missing link". Often, however the immediate needs are more mundane such charging batteries and providing instruction to none technical personnel, but these tasks are no less important than what we would like to do. If the existing communication means are functional and adequate, we should still jump at the opportunity to assist in any way possible. We are a vital personnel resource that should be ready to address any issue that arises, even if not technical or Amateur Radio related. That said, we should be prepared to employ Ham Radio if the need arises, but be prepared to help with anything. I believe this will make Ham Radio more valuable to any organization.

Another issue to be overcome is the lack of understanding by government bodies as to what Ham radio can do. We often have good opportunities to show the world who we are and what we bring to the table, but we don't always pursue those. Just the other day I had a contractor at my house, he noticed the tower and antennas, he asked what that is for. I began to tell him Ham Radio - his response was annoying, "oh Ham Radio, that Morse code thing" and laughed. I became defensive and began to tell him of our accomplishments; he left with a completely different attitude and even asked how he could get involved. I'm afraid there are many, many people like him. Exposure is the key to showing our worth to the public.

John Zorger / WA1STU will be giving a presentation on the ARRL's National Traffic System at the upcoming OVH meeting. I hope all can attend on Monday, September 17th 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 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
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>

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: 9/10/2012

Sunshine Corner:

Ending the summer with happy birthday wishes this month to Gus / N4MLE, Al / KB4BHB, Gary / WG4ARC, Mark / WA4KFZ, Jim / W4HJH and Floyd / K4ROG.

Our condolences to Jan / KE4TMW who lost her father who passed away at age 88 on August 25th, and also to Steve / N4OGR who lost his father-in-law.

With the great success in August of the joint efforts by the OVH and the Woodbridge Wireless Club at the Prince William County Fair under the sponsorship of the Prince William County 4-H to introduce the public to ham radio communications, the 4-H has solicited Terry / WA5NTI to provide an "Introduction to Ham Radio" presentation at this season's kickoff meeting for the twenty 4-H clubs in Prince William County. Several presenters will be needed, including hopefully one or more YLs/XYLs. If you are interested in participating, contact Terry / WA5NTI [email: 3t3@comcast.net] for full details; the 4-H kickoff meeting will be held in Manassas on Saturday, September 22nd.

Wayne / N7QLK is looking for some volunteers to assist him with a ham radio table and presentation at the upcoming Braemar Community event, 'Braemar Day', in the afternoon of September 22nd, near the Marstellar Middle School. Contact Wayne at email: w99phi@gmail.com or residence telephone: 703-393-8447 for full information.

Terry / KC4DV, Chairman for the 2013 OVH Manassas Hamfest is revving up the Hamfest Committee. The first meeting of that committee will be held on October 3, 1012 at Panera's on Liberia Avenue in Manassas at 7:00 PM (6:00 PM for dinner, but the meeting won't start until 7:00 PM). Volunteers are needed - be sure to attend if you wish to work on the inside of the preparation for the 2013 Hamfest.

Congratulations to George / K4GVT who has been married to the same woman, Ev, now for almost thirty years, despite George's competing great love for all things relating to ham radio. George and Ev are planning a second honeymoon to their original honeymoon location later this month.

Paul / W4ZB added another granddaughter at the beginning of September thanks to his younger son, Brian, also a ham, and Brian's wife. Another future ham?

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 August 20, 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. There were 29 OVH members and 1 guest.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the July meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report from Gary / WG4ARC, approved as read.

Continued on page 4

ARES- David / KG4GIY reminded ARES members to do the required classes found at www.pwcares.org

Repeaters – Keith / KM4AA reported that everything is up and running.

Training – Mark / WA4KFZ has scheduled a Technician License class which will start on October 2nd at the Red Cross Building; the VE testing session will be November 13th; full details are now posted on the OVH web site: <http://w4ovh.net> George / K4GVT thanked Mark for taking the time to teach these classes.

Hamfest – George / K4GVT asked for club members to help with the next hamfest, Terry / KC4DV will hold a hamfest meeting in October; George / K4GVT is working with commercial vendors again; Joe / KI4OHR will put out a request on the reflector for help with presentations and/or classes at hamfest.

Winter Field Day – George / K4GVT reminded the club that a chairperson is needed for this event

Sunshine – Theresa / KG4TVM report that Scott / KB8NUM will be needing help with JOTA in October; Theresa also asked if the club wanted to have a holiday party in December, discussion followed; all present were very interested in having the party the same as last year, Theresa will look into this and report back.

Before the break, George K4GVT announced that he has programmable nametags for \$12, \$2 from each Tag will go to the club, ARRL handbooks and a rig blaster were donated to the club, and these will be raffled off with the 50/50 tickets.

Break

Old Business - Field Day – Gary / WG4ARC reported that dinner was great; PWC Fair – George / K4GVT thanked Terry / WA5NTI for chairing the event; Terry reported that Woodbridge Wireless did participate and they provided the radios that were used; David / KG4GIY reported that Terry has been nominated for an ARES plaque for promoting ham radio; Terry / WA5NTI would like to put together a 30 minute block of time to do a presentation at the 4H club meetings; Al / KB4BHB reported that the club has 2 radios that don't work; George / K4GVT suggested Al present a proposal to the club; David / KG4GIY made a motion to have Al work up a cost proposal to present to the club; George / K4GVT tabled the motion until the next meeting; Justin / KJ4LAS asked if we have a list of equipment; Steve / N4OGR will update the list and forward to Butch / W4HJL for review; George / K4GVT asked for a list by the next meeting; Randy / WB7RAV asked Art / W1CRO about the Red Cross Radios, antennas still need to be tuned and the equipment checked out

New Business – Butch / W4HJL and George / K4GVT went to a meeting with Woodbridge Wireless about linking the repeaters during an emergency or at will, and reported same. Discussion followed, David / KG4GIY stated that as ARES Coordinator that this is something he has wanted to do for 11 years, and that the ability to link repeaters could be very valuable in an emergency; Randy / WB7RAV asked if there was a plan to link other counties, John / KG4NXT would be interested in linking the repeaters during the nets; George / K4GVT asked for a show of hands for those interested in the link between the 2 clubs – 24 were yes, 1 no and 1 abstained; David / KG4GIY asked for a repeater committee; Butch / W4HJL and George / K4GVT will attend the next meeting with Woodbridge Wireless and report back.

Cont'd on page 5

50/50 - \$17 to the winner. Mark / WA4KFZ asked if there is a problem with DStar, he had problems at the fairgrounds event, discussion followed.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:54 pm

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

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>

TRAINING / HAM RADIO LICENSING CLASSES

Beginning October 2nd - Free Technician Licensing Class, four evening sessions in Manassas to be followed by a VEC exam session. Full details at w4ovh.net or contact Mark / WA4KFZ at email: wa4kfz@cox.net See also the Flyer on the last page of this Newsletter.

SPECIAL EVENT / PUBLIC SERVICE

October 20th - JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) - Boy Scout event locally. Contact Scott / KB8NUM [email: scottminke@aol.com] who is coordinating this event and looking for volunteers to assist.

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.

Some Possibly Useful / Interesting Information

1. Finding again information that you previously remember seeing on the world wide web though google.com is often very difficult or impossible if the original source web site no longer exists, the URL has changed, or the information has been deleted from the original web site. When all else fails, be sure to try out the archive.org web site which archives information from many web sites; if your web site or URL of interest where the information was previously available is one of those which has been archived at archive.org, you should be able to find and look back in time to an archived earlier version of the web site to find the information you remember seeing previously. Quite amazing when it finds information no longer available anywhere else - which it often does. Try it out!

2. Think you know everything about coax cable, how it is constructed and how its performance deteriorates over time as it is flexed? At http://www.westpenn-wpw.com/pdfs/coax_construction.pdf you will find basic information on how coax is constructed. <http://docs.commscope.com/Public/Coax101.pdf> is a paper which describes how coax shielding and attenuation changes as the coax is mechanically flexed back and forth over time.

3. The CQ Contest mailing list at CONTESTING.COM includes searchable archives of more than 20 years of textual mailing list threads. Go to <http://lists.contesting.com/mailman/listinfo/cq-contest> and then use the searchable archive link. You do not need to join the mailing list to use this facility. These (and related) archives contain a treasure trove of technical information pertinent to high performance HF stations.

Spotlight on an OVH Member

Charlie / WA4YGI

I became interested in ham radio through a work associate in the early 1960's. I commuted to work with him and he had an old Gonsett Communicator 6M mobile rig and I caught the bug. I finally got my licence and have been a ham since 1965; and a member of OVH since 1993.

I have also been licensed and operated in Nicaragua (YN1CJD), Congo (9Q5JF) and England (G0OML). I was also a member of the MARS (Military Amateur Radio Service) for many years operating on several Air Force bases around the world.

I also ran ham stations in several U.S. Embassies. Operations for MARS and Embassy ham stations mostly consisted of running phone patches for service members and Embassy personnel. These were the days long before cell phones and the Internet when overseas calls were not only very expensive, but also sometimes difficult or impossible to arrange, even with hours of delay.



I am currently operating under restricted conditions due to HOA regulations against exterior antennas. My shack consists of an Elecraft K3 transceiver operating into two dipoles located in my attic. The dipoles are a 20M dipole oriented to radiate east/west, and a G5RV multi-band dipole radiating north/south. I also have an ICOM735, IC-449A, IC-V8000, IC229H and a Yaesu FT411. UHF/VHF rigs operate into a Diamond X50 also located in my attic.

I have participated in all of the OVH Hamfests from 1993 thru 2009 acting as prize chairman and working the OVH main table. I also participated in all OVH field days for the same period mostly operating the CW positions. I also served as OVH Secretary and Vice President for several years, and am currently serving on the OVH Board.

I will always remember operating the ham station in the US Embassy in Leopoldville, (now Kinshasha) Congo, formerly the Belgian Congo in 1964/5 during the Stanleyville crisis. It was a time of rebellion and horrific acts against the general population, foreigners and US missionaries in country. I worked many hours running phone patches back to the States for the missionary folks.

I also clearly remember working the MARS station on Clark AFB, Philippines 1967-1970 running phone patches for service members out of Vietnam, very trying times.

Feel free to contact me at CharlieD435@hotmail.com or by telephone at the number on page 2 of this Newsletter.



The Birmingham News/Hal Yeager

Become a Ham Radio Operator

Get Your Technician Class License!

- Get on the air with Amateur Radio!
- Communicate across the country and around the world!

The Technician Class license is the first step in getting into the exciting world of Amateur Radio. Since the FCC has removed the Morse code testing requirement, getting your license is now even easier and faster!

The Ole Virginia Hams will be sponsoring a Technician Class training course beginning **October 2, 2012**. This course is **FREE** and open to all. Students provide their own course materials. Seating is limited, however, so sign up early!

Course textbook:

“The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual,” 2nd edition
 (for tests beginning July 1, 2010)
Published by ARRL – The National Association for Amateur Radio
 (formerly the American Radio Relay League)

The course will combine self-study with class instruction. Four (4) two-hour sessions will be held, with a Volunteer Examiner (VE) licensing session to be announced.

Session 1: Introduction, Equipment Definitions	Session 2: Basic Electricity, Signals and Waves
Session 3: Antennas, Transmitters, etc.	Session 4: Repeaters, Data Modes, Safety

Location: American Red Cross Training Center, 9930 Liberia Ave., Manassas, VA 20110
(Davis Ford Crossing Shopping Center)

Date: Tuesday, October 2, 2012 (4 sessions, ending November 6, 2012)

Time: Tuesday evenings, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

For more information:

Refer to The Ole Virginia Hams web page at www.w4ovh.net or contact Mark Braunstein, WA4KFZ at wa4kfz@cox.net for more details.

Sponsored by:

The Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
 PO Box 1255
 Manassas, VA 20108
www.w4ovh.net