

The OVH ARC Newsletter
"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108
Repeaters - W4OVH - 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+
OVH Nodes - Port 1: 145.030 Mhz; Port 3: 223.540 MHz;
Port 2: 440.925Mhz 9600 Baud backbone / N3OH (SYSOP--BILL)
<http://www.w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

November 2008

Next Meeting: November 17, 2008

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to all. Now that the national and state campaigns and elections are over, we can focus back on our personal lives a bit more.

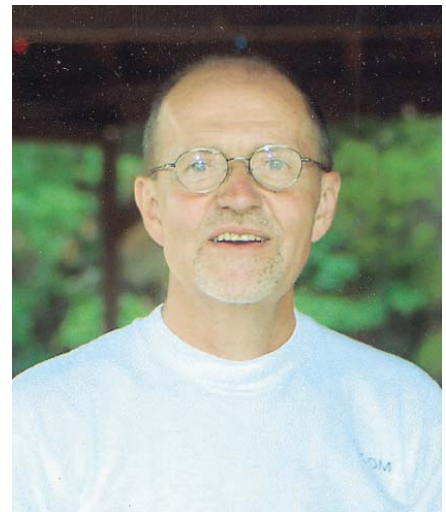
As I write this letter, I can't help but think of how blessed we citizens of the United States are to be empowered to elect people to serve us —-what a great country! These freedoms we have come to know as normal, expect and sometimes take for granted, however, didn't come without a cost. Many of our proud citizens gave their lives, blood, sweat, and tears so that our way of life could be secured.

Let's not forget to say "thank you" to our brave men and women in the armed forces, our veterans, and those men and women that gave the ultimate sacrifice so we and generations to come can live freely in this great land! Thanksgiving and the other upcoming Holidays and Year-end are always good times to remember and reflect on these freedoms.

As most of you already know, Ev and I will be hosting the annual OVH Christmas party again this year on Saturday evening, December 13th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at our home QTH. Be sure to mark that down on your calendars now! Spouse / significant others and children are welcome too. I'll forward directions in about week before the event along with a reminder about the collection for the Toys for Tots drive. As is customary, this will be a pot-luck event. Please think about what you would like to bring and share with your friends. If you are planning to attend, please let me know by email me with a headcount and what you plan to bring. This will greatly help us make sure we have enough room and insure that we'll have a wide range of food and refreshments. Last year we had a blast with more than 50 attendees; we are hoping for more of the same this year!

I also look forward to seeing all of you at upcoming monthly OVH meeting on Monday, November 17th at 7:30 PM at the NOVEC Technical Center in Gainesville, Virginia.

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: Wayne Phillips	N7QLK	393-8447
Treasurer: Joe Dobs	KI4OHR	369-2639

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdell	W4HJL	369-2877
Art Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330
Charlie Dale	WA4YGI	361-3091

WEEKLY NETS

Thursdays - 8:00 PM	JOHN H	257-3566
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HAMFEST 2008

Chris	KI4POT	361-3257
Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873

FIELD DAY 2008

Joe	KI4OHR	369-2639
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877

CLUB ROSTER

Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877
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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
Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877

FINANCE

Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877
Joe	KI4OHR	369-2639
Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234

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	N3OH	590-9562
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EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042
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JOTA

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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LEGAL

Pete	KB4RME	369-2436
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Joe Dobs	KI4OHR	369-2639
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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	N3OH	590-9562

PROGRAMS

TBA

PUBLICITY

Trisha Wells	KI4PCM	335-1096
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QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Milt	N4SN	369-7265
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844

W4OVH / W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3556
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N3OH	590-9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939

All telephone numbers listed above are for Area Code 703 unless otherwise noted.

The OVH Times newsletter 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. This edition of the OVH Times is Copyright © 2008 by the Ole Virginia Hams.

The OVH ARC meets at 7:30 p.m. local time every third Monday of the month at the NOVEC Tech Center, 5399 Wellington Branch Road, Gainesville, Virginia 20155. 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:

Birthdays in November – Wayne / N7QLK, Charlotte / KG4QXO, Theresa / KG4TVM, Charlie / WA4YGI, Butch / W4HJL, Gene / KD4RHC, and Joe / AB4QV. Best wishes to all for a terrific year!

Condolences to Joe / KI4OHR on the passing of his grandmother and also to Judy / KC4WES on the passing of her mom.

Our club has many veterans, Happy Veterans Day to them and thank you for your service!

Welcome to our newest member, Anthony Weaver, KJ4FZJ.

At the October meeting Doc / W1IMC let me know that his son Derrick broke his kneecap at work, OUCH! Derrick always helps us out at the OVH Hamfest in June! Hope you are on the mend Derrick!

Special Event – Skywarn Recognition Day is the first weekend in December at the National Weather Service in Sterling. Plan to stop in if you get a chance!

John / KG4NXT and I were fortunate to be able to spend the last weekend in October at Massanutten Resort. Of course, ham radio equipment just happened to jump in the car just before we drove off! John is in the picture to the right attempting some satellite QSOs / contacts while at Massanutten.

MARK YOU CALENDARS NOW for the evening of December 13th! George K4GVT and his wife Ev have announced that they will host the OVH Holiday Party at their home again this year beginning at 6:00 pm! More information will follow on the VHF net and the OVH reflector.

Also, please check into the Thursday night OVH Net on the 146.97 repeater at 8:00 p.m., it's always good to hear you on the air.

We'll have the Net on the Thursday evening of Thanksgiving as usual too! Happy Thanksgiving!

Please send your news (email) to kg4tvm@hotmail.com or telephone: 703-257-3566.

73 Theresa KG4TVM



Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting October 20, 2008:

Meeting called to order by George / K4GVT at 19:30. There were 28 members present.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved with no corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Club is in good financial condition.

Bill / K4RI (formerly N4SV and N3OH) introduced Kitty who is the proprietor of "Kitty's Kreations," a vendor at our last hamfest. She was present to show samples of a hat that had the club logo and were lime green in color. The cost of purchasing these hats with

Continued on page 4

the club logo and call sign is \$15.00 each. She also showed several options / possibilities for OVH club shirts which can have either of the OVH's logos embroidered on the shirt. The prices for shirts start at \$20.00. A decision on the shirt color and style will be made at the next regular meeting and more details about the choices, etc. for this will be posted on the OVH club website.

Membership: Anthony Weaver/KJ4FZJ was voted in as a new member of OVH. Congratulations Tony and welcome to OVH.

ARES: The Marine Corp Marathon will be this Sunday, October 26th and volunteers are desperately needed. Steve/N4OGR reported that antennas were recently installed at the Prince William County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and at the Prince William Hospital in Manassas.

Repeaters: Art/W1CRO reported that all of the repeaters are in working order. Some ducting propagation from afar is causing occasional interference on the 2 meter machine. There is some work still going on with the tone in and tone out modules.

Training: Mark/WA4KFZ reported that he is starting a new, four session, Technician class on October 25th at the Nokesville Volunteer Fire Department. A VE License Examination session will be held right after that four session class is concluded.

Hamfest and Scholarship: Nothing to report.

Field Day: Nokesville Park has been reserved for our next Field Day. More and earlier publicity must be generated for greater participation of both ham radio operators and visitors.

Web Page and Packet: Bill/K4RI reports that both are in working order.

Sunshine: Theresa/KG4TVM announced that the OVH Christmas Party will be held at the home QTH of George/K4GVT on Saturday evening, December 13th beginning at 6:00 p.m. All are invited.

Old Business: Al/KB4BHB announced that we have obtained permission to use the Signal Hill Park site again for next year's Special Event Station commemorating the Second Battle of Manassas.

Brian/WC4J announced that Skywarn Recognition Day will be held on December 6th at the National Weather Service Building in Sterling.

The 50/50 drawing was won by David / KI4AZX who donated his winnings of \$6.00 back to the OVH. A mystery box was raffled off and was won by Joe / KI4OHR.

The meeting was concluded and adjourned at 20:35.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

OVH's HOLIDAY / CHRISTMAS PARTY:

December 13, 2008 - Saturday beginning at 6:00 pm at QTH of George / K4GVT - the annual OVH Holiday Party. MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THIS NOW! More details will follow.

TRAINING AND ARES EVENTS

Check the online Calendar by David / KG4GIY at <http://www.pwcares.org> for latest updates.

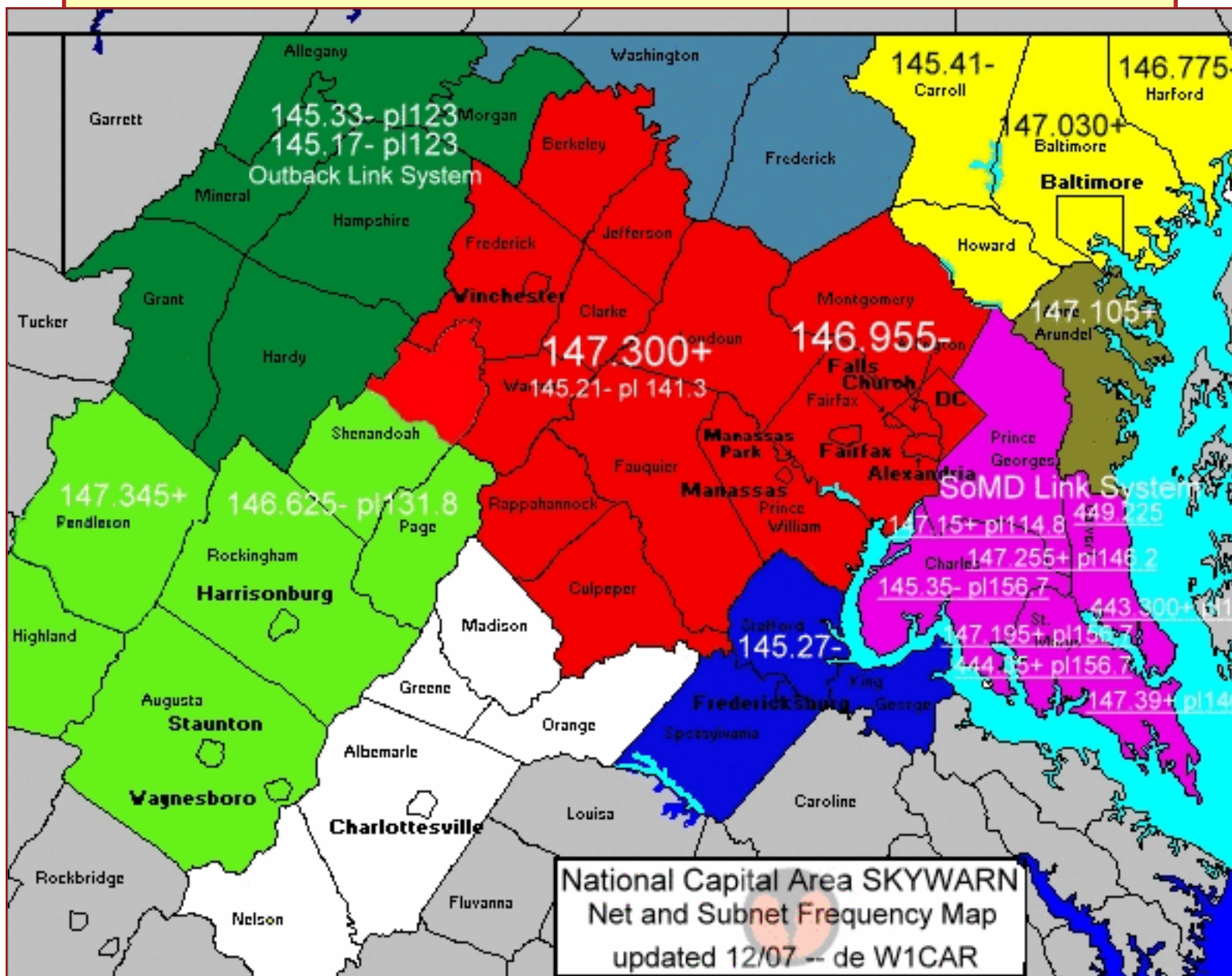
OTHER EVENTS:

December 6, 2008 - Skywarn Recognition Day to be held at the National Weather Service Forecast Office, 43858 Weather Service Road, Sterling, Virginia 20166.

SKYWARN

Basic information about the local Skywarn system as it involves ham radio is available at noaa.gov, more specifically at: <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/lwx/skywarn/skywarn.htm>. More info at <http://147300.com>.

The two meter radio frequency map for this area for Skywarn - per the noaa.gov website mentioned above:

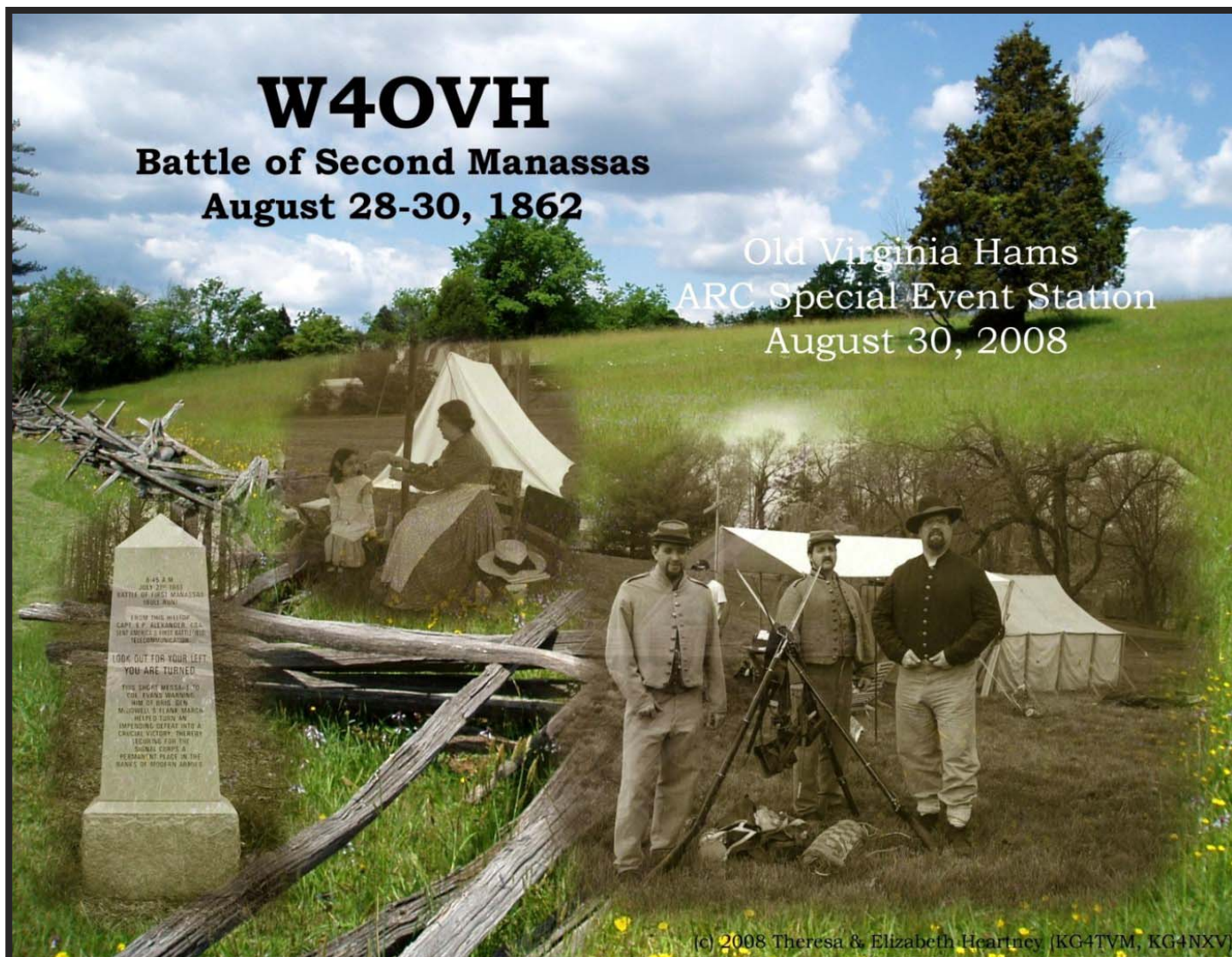


FREE - Online Ham Magazine: Ham-Mag

Several ambitious and very energetic hams in France are now publishing a Free, online Ham Radio Magazine known as Ham-Mag at : <http://ham.france.free.fr/> . The editor is Vincent / F5SLD. The only problem you will see there — if you can't read French — is everything is in the French language as is the publication itself. Nevertheless I recommend you check it out. Click on "Anciens numéros" [past copies] to go to a page where you can download PDF files of recent editions simply by clicking on the Cover page images there.

Ham-Mag is very nicely illustrated with lots of pictures of ham radio related material, historical and how to do articles, and info about ham operators / stations in France and Europe; because a picture is truly worth a thousand words, you'll be able to learn just by "looking" even if you can't understand much (or any) of the text. If you like it, you can subscribe [click on "Abonnement"], and PDF files will show up regularly in your email!

The Special QSL card for the August 30, 2008 OVH Special Event Station :



Everyone who contacted the W4OVH Special Event Station on August 30, 2008 who has requested a QSL card to confirm that contact should have received one of these cards by now. The collage of images for this special QSL card were put together by Theresa / KG4TVM and Elizabeth / KG4NXV.

Are HF Antennas Used By Hams In Russia Bigger Than Here?

Dimitrovgrad is a small city of about 120,000 population about 60 miles north of Samara, one of the larger cities in the Russian Federation. The web site for the Dimitrovgrad Club Station RW4LYL (<http://rw4lyl.ru>) is mostly in the Russian language, but the link for "Antennas" there is in English (not Russian: **АНТЕННЫ**). If you've ever been interested in large HF antennas, take a look at what that club shows on its "Antenna" page! The club seems to have a particular interest in the 160 meter band; it has a short video showing how the club put up a large vertical for that band: <http://rw4lyl.ru/images/vert/vertical.wmv>. That vertical, made of welded steel tubing, is cranked up using the so-called "Falling Derrick" method, a technique described thoroughly at <http://n6rk.com>. Where did the cubical quad antennas at the Dimitrovgrad station come from?

At least one Russian firm, R-Quad (<http://quad.ru>), offers very large HF cubical quad antennas for the Russian ham market: it has a wide variety of models (click "**АНТЕННЫ**") but its RQ-84 (see next page) has a 21 meter boom, 4 elements for 7 MHz, 6 elements for 14 MHz, 8 elements for 21 MHz and 10 elements for 28 MHz.



To the left is a picture of R-Quad's Model RQ-84 cubical quad antenna for the HF ham bands.

The Details:

- a 21 meter boom
- 4 elements on 40 meters
- 6 elements on 20 meters
- 8 elements on 15 meters
- 10 elements on 10 meters

Go to <http://quad.ru> for more information

HF Radio Propagation As Described in QST in 1927

“Smart” readers of the OVH Newsletter, i.e., those who (think they) understand HF Radio Propagation were asked last month to identify errors (i.e., what we now can recognize as errors) which appear in the first three pages of the July, 1927 QST article by Chester W. Rice titled: “Short-Wave Radio Transmission and Its Practical Uses” - Part I. That Part I article as well as the follow up Part II article in QST for August, 1927 can be now be downloaded in PDF file(s) from the ARRL's website by ARRL members without charge.

No comments were received from anyone! Did anyone have a chance to look at those articles? Does this mean no one in the OVH thinks he / she understands HF Radio Propagation? No — among the HF operators are many who have an excellent working knowledge of HF propagation. Was everyone just too wrapped in the second half of October with the political campaigns and the elections to give any attention to this?

These articles from 81 years ago (the year of Lindberg's solo flight from New York to Paris) show how solid was the understanding of the basic physics of radio (electromagnetic wave) propagation and of the types of communications that could be accomplished on HF frequencies. But many of the theories / ideas of why things worked as they had been observed widely missed the mark (compared to what we know today) due to a lack of accurate information about the Earth, its atmosphere, the Sun and their interactions as they affect the physical mechanisms of HF propagation.

Again, “smart” readers - what are the main problems with discussion in the first three pages of the Part I article? Best answer(s) and more discussion of HF propagation - if there is interest - next month.

EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) Communications - Technoport

The local Washington area Microwave Theory and Techniques (MTT) chapter of the IEEE invited Dr. Allen Katz, K2UYH to speak on this topic for two hours on November 12th to an audience (which included many hams) who filled a large meeting room at MITRE in McLean, Virginia.

Many of you will remember K2UYH as a past longtime VHF/UHF Editor (VHF/UHF column) for CQ Magazine, and very active in ham EME activities since the 1960's. He also publishes online: the free "432 and Up EME Newsletter" accessible at: <http://www.nitehawk.com/rasmit/em70cm.html> where back archived issues of that long running publication are also available. Al / K2UYH became an IEEE Fellow in 2000 for his contributions to Microwave Linearization Technology.

Two OVH members attended the meeting. Your editor made a two-way EME contact with KP4BPZ at Arecibo, Puerto Rico in July, 1965 when the very large antenna at that facility (picture to the right) was briefly made available for testing on the ham bands. The very high gain Arecibo antenna, of course, made it relatively "easy" although nothing about UHF EME was particularly "easy" 40+ years ago.



Today, according to Al / K2UYH, there are several thousand EME capable stations around the world. Most of the activity is on 2 meters, 1296 MHz (23 cm), and the 432 MHz (70 cm) bands (in that order), but there also is activity at 10 GHz and

on several other microwave bands. K2UYH reported that these days, in the evenings and on weekends, when the Moon is above the horizon, there are usually a dozen or so active and workable stations on 2-meters at almost any given time. Most of the activity on 2-meters uses the WSJT - JT65 digital signal processing mode and software. The band with the next most activity is 23 cm where a lot of the activity is on SSB. K2UYH reported that during a recent EME operating test, he easily worked 60 different stations on 1296 MHz (all on SSB) on one weekend day. K2UYH reports there is lots of activity; it sounds like it may be easier to make contacts via EME reflection more regularly (when the moon is above the horizon) that via low earth orbit satellite transponder. Working all States and Working all Continents is possible; there are many active EME operators outside of the United States, particularly in Europe.

The most interesting information from was that with modern equipment (e.g., available receivers with very low noise figures compared to what was possible years ago), it is now possible regularly to make contacts with other modestly equipped ham stations using quite simple antennas (e.g., long yagis or relatively small yagi arrays) and relatively low transmitter power (100 watts). Some of K2UYH's slides showed typical equipment at modestly equipped ham stations; a number of active operators travel around and set up temporary portable stations out of their automobiles or small vans. Mark / WA4KFZ took lots of notes.

Lots of information is available on the Internet about all facets of EME operation:

Be sure to look at K2UYH's site at <http://www.nitehawk.com/rasmit/em70cm.html> mentioned above.

K7XQ has an excellent site with lots of info and links: <http://www.elite.net/~k7xq/k7xq.html>

SM3CEW in Sweden has a good site at <http://www.sm2cew.com/>

So does DL3EBY (Germany) at <http://www.dl4eby.de/> which includes a listing of 800+ EME stations.

If you want to consider 2-meter EME, you need to learn about WSPR / JT65 right away; fortunately there is lots of information available about that free, open source, high performance digital signal processing software at <http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/> and from lots of other sources as well.

Who in OVH is interested?