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+ (now temporarily out of service)

Web Site at http://w4ovh.net

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

January 2016

Next Meeting: Monday, January 18, 2016

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Renew your OVH

membership now!

Greetings to all and I hope this message finds you healthy and well after the holidays.

With the New Year now here, I remind all OVH member to renew his/her club membership for 2016. The club appreciates the support of all members, and the dues are quiet modest. A mail-in form for membership renewal is included with this newsletter; you can also pay online at http://w4ovh.net under the Membership Application tab. Additionally, paid dues at the February meeting are required to vote OR to run for office.

That said, OVH officer nominations are now being received; be thinking of the best candidates for our club and if you are personally interested, please volunteer. I assure



you, the club does not run itself; it takes volunteers to make everything run smoothly. You will also be amazed at how quickly the year will pass with all the club activities.

The OVH has been forced to move the 2016 Manassas Hamfest "to the right" one week, and it will be held on Sunday, June 19th, 2016 this year. Several members have objected to this, contending that may be detrimental because of possible conflicts with other events; Whether it will ultimately turn out that way is very questionable, because the move actually avoids a number of conflicts which vendors and attendees used to complain about. Regardless, given that the slight movement of the date by one week has already happened, we should be concentrating on the positive: to borrow a movie quote (Apollo 13), this could be our finest hour.....if we plan well, AND, get a good show of support.

For those OVH members who are interested in Public Emergency Preparedness and Services, you should consider attending the January 16, 2016 event at the Prince William County EOC. Contact David Lane / KG4GIY or pwcares.org for more information.

Two other upcoming events in which we are calling for volunteers are: the Makerfaire/

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Post Office Box 1255 Manassas, Virginia 20108

EMAIL DEELECTOR

OFFICERS

OFFICERS		
President: Wayne Phillips	N7QLK	393-8447
Vice Pres: Clarence Meese	K4CNM	791-6424
Secretary: Byron Dillon	AK4XR	222-2095
Treasurer: Terry Erlacher	KC4DV	571-292-1490
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		ATOR
Thurs - 8:00 PM Local Time	JOHN / KG4NXT	257-3566
HAMFEST 2016 - Chairman	n	
Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
FIELD DAY 2016 - Co-Chai	rs	
Ken	KD4VA	753-7863
Byron	AK4XR	222-2095
CLUB ROSTER / DATABAS	SE	
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
EDUCATION		
Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
CLUB EMERGENCY COOL	RDINATOR	
Clarence Meese	K4CNM	791-6424
		101 0121
ARES - EMERGENCY COC		
David Lane	KG4GIY	703-628-3868
Prince William County ARES		HGIY@ARRL.NET
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Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
GENERATORS	KC4DV	071 202 1400
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794
HISTORIAN		
Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
WEBMASTER — W40VH.M		
Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
- uu		101 0010

EMAIL REFLECTOR - w	40vh@googlegro	oups.com
David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
JOTA - 2016		
Open		
LEGAL		
Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMA	N	
Luther	KJ4FDK	361-4885
NEWSLETTER		
Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
		754 0510
NEWSLINE FOR THE WE		
John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
PROGRAMS FOR MEETIN	NGS	
Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
QUARTERMASTER		
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
REPEATER CONTROLLE	RS	
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
Russ	WB4HHN	368-6435
W4OVH — TRUSTEE		
Stu	W4PR	335-5267
W4PVA — TRUSTEE		
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
SCHOLARSHIP		
Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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SUNSHINE Theread	KG4TVM	257-3566
Theresa		207-3066
TECHNICAL COMMITTE	Е	
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Bill Bob	N4SV K4HJF	590.9562
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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 © 2016 by the Ole Virginia Hams. The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Monday which is held in the Main Conference Room in the Manassas Public Works Building, 8500 Pubic Works Drive, Manassas, Virginia. Members, prospective members and other interested persons are invited to attend without obligation. Local information can also be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.970⁻, 224.660⁻, 442.200⁺ and 443.500⁺ MHz. The OVH's two D-Star repeaters on 146.865⁻ and 442.5125⁺ MHz are temporarily off the air due to maintenance work beyond the OVH's control. Up to date information about OVH activities and its meetings is also available during the OVH's nets on its FM Repeaters 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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STEM expo later this month on the 23rd, at Battlefield High School. Some possible ideas include Hamfest youth lounge activities, BBHN Demonstration, or a GOTA station or possibly a satellite comms demonstration. Also just around the corner is the Manassas Air Show scheduled for May 7, 2016 at Manassas Airport which last year had about 20,000 visitors. The "rain day" will be May 8th. OVH is planning to try to participate in that this year because of the many synergies between a technically related hobby such as Ham Radio / Electronics and the many technically related facts of Aviation. Please be prepared to raise your hand at this month's meeting (or via email) to volunteer an hour or two for one or both of these events.

At our first club meeting of the New Year on Monday, January 18th, David Bruce / KD4DEE will present information about the Manassas Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

The Richmond Frostfest Hamfest is coming up quickly in early February (Sat. Feb. 6th); a couple of carloads of OVH members usually attend so be sure to ask around if you need a ride.

I hope to see you all there, 7:30 pm at the Manassas Public Works, 8500 Public Works Drive, Manassas, Virginia on January 18, 2016.

Keep the thoughts and ideas coming to me at: N7QLK@ARRL.net.

73 Wayne N7QLK

Sunshine Corner:

Happy New Year to everyone!

Starting off the year with cake & candles – Justin / KJ4LAS, Elizabeth / KG4NXV, Randy / WB7RAV, Charles / W4XP, John / WA1STU, Milt / N4SN, Ed / WD4AVU and Woody / N4MQ

Happy to hear that K4GVT, George's grandson Evan is on the mend and feeling much better. Evan isn't a ham YET but he has attended many of our club events so I consider him one of our special friends. He was in the hospital right before Christmas and then on the 26th ended up back in the hospital for another 4 days. But he was a trooper thru it all.

We had a very light turnout at the December OVH meeting just before Christmas so I want to thank everyone again for the donations to Toys For Tots and for the very large turnout at our Year End, Christmas, Holiday Party. The fellowship and food are what it's all about!

Thanks to Gordon / NQ4K for attending our December meeting and presenting a program on the Virginia QSO Party! This contest is coming up in March.

On Saturday, January 23rd from 9 am to 5 pm, Alan / WA2GTT (SK)'s niece will be available for anyone to stop by to view Alan's ham & antique radio equipment, everything is being sold. Alan also had a huge workspace in the basement that is loaded with tools. The address is 8001 McLean Street in Manassas Park.

The ARRL has a special event for the entire year 2016 that started on January 1st - to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the U.S. National Parks. Our very own David / KK4ZUU was one of the earliest participants by setting up and operating at the Manassas Battlefield Park off of Groveton Road on January 1st. See pictures and short article later in this newsletter.

Congratulations to Ray / KM4EKR and Sandy / KM4JUS on their new home!

The first planning meeting for Field Day 2016 will be held this month, contact Byron / AK4XR or Ken / KD4VA, Co-Chairs for this event, to help or with questions.

The Hamfest Planning Committee meetings are in full swing for the 2016 Hamfest to be held on Sunday, June 19, 2016, please contact Terry / KC4DV and let him know how you can help. These meeting are usually held at a local restaurant on the first Wednesday evening each month, with dinner at 6:00 pm and the meeting at 7:00 pm. A picture from the January 6th Hamfest Planning Committee meeting is included here – unfortunately I wasn't able to get everyone who attended into the picture.

Be sure to check in on the Thursday night net, see http://w4ovh.net "Nets" tab for details.

73 Theresa KG4TVM email: kg4tvm@hotmail.com



Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting December 21, 2015:

OVH club President, Wayne / N7QLK, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. The meeting was held at the Manassas City Public Works Building in Manassas, Virginia.

After the Pledge, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 16 OVH members and 3 guests.

Presentation: The Virginia QSO party by Gordon / NQ4K.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the November meeting were sent out in the newsletter. Motion to accept November's minutes by John / KG4NXT. Ray / KM4EKR, seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's report – Wayne / N7QLK gave the report in Terry's absence, motion by Bill Ellis WA4FIC to approved the Treasurer's report as presented. Steve / WB0AOD, seconded the motion. Motion passed by vote of all members in attendance.

Membership –Luther / KJ4FDK, then read in an application by Chris Nelson / W0ELI. He then presented Don Meyerhoff / KM4HRG; Tony Ohe / KM4KLB ; and Richard (Dick) Jacob / NoCall, for a vote. All were voted in.

ARES – No report.

Repeaters- Shed at Mt. Pone will be set next week. Next step is to get the DSTAR up and running.

Training- Mark / WA4KFZ It was reported that we do not have access to use the smart board in the conference room.

Scholarship- No report

Hamfest – Terry / KC4DV will have at planning meeting for the 2016 Hamfest on January 6, 2016. Still looking for more volunteers. More details to come out on the reflector.

Field Day - There will be two Co-chairmans for 2016 OVH / ARRL Field Day Event Ken / KD4VA and Byron / AK4XR. Planning meetings begin in January. Check the reflector for time and date TBA.

Sunshine Corner – Theresa / KG4TVM wished Clarence / K4CNM and Byron / AK4XR a Happy Birthday along with everyone else whose birthday is in December. The toys collected at the Holiday Party filled two of the boxes at the Lake Jackson Firestation. Theresa / KG4TVM made a motion that a donation be made to the scholarship fund for \$200.00 in Alan's name. Alan's estate has equipment and tools to sell off. Bob and Butch are doing an inventory for the family. Lastly, Theresa wished everyone a "Wonderful Holiday".

JOTA- no report.

4-H – no report

Break

Old business: Hamfest volunteers and Field day chairman: Ken Dahl / KD4VA and Byron Dillon / AK4XR will be co-chairs for the 2016 OVH / ARRL Field Day event.

New Business - Clarence / K4CNM was looking for custodians for the 1X1 call sign N4H to be use at the Hamfest, Field Day, and the Prince William County fair. The volunteer custodians are: Luther / KJ4FDK for the Hamfest; Byron / AK4XR for Field Day; and Bob / K4HJF for the PWC Fair.

February's Presentation will be on the Mini Tri's that we support.

50-50: Ray KM4EKR won the drawing and donated the cash back to the club but kept the can of Holiday Button Mix (nuts).

Next months presentation will be on CERT.

There will be a Maker presentation at the "STEM Expo" on January 23, 2016 keep an eye out for a message from Ed / KK4PHP on the reflector.

Ron / N4RDZ made a motion to adjourn; Steve / WB0AOD seconded it. The motion passed.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

UPCOMING HAMFESTS:

Saturday, February 6, 2016, Richmond Frostfest Hamfest in Richmond, Virginia. More info online at http://frostfest.com First "local a" Hamfest of the year - a couple of carloads for OVHers usually drive down to Richmond for this early in the morning so ask around if you need a ride.

Sunday, March 20, 2016 - Vienna Wireless' Winterfest at the close by George Mason University Annandale Campus in Fairfax County. OVH usually has a table at this Hamfest.

OVH HAMFEST COMMITTEE MEETING:

Early February 2016, evening in Manassas, date, time and place to be announced for the Fifth Hamfest Committee meeting for the June 2016 Manassas Hamfest which will take place on June 19, 2016. Check the OVH email reflector for more details, date, time and place. All are welcome to attend.

SCIENCE FAIR TYPE TECHNICAL RELATED EVENT:

Expected Date: Friday, January 23, 2016, at the Battlefield High School, Haymarket, Virginia: The HayMaker STEM Expo. Contact Ed / KK4PHP for information and watch the OVH's email reflector for more details.

SILENT KEY (Alan / WA2GTT) - ESTATE SALE / SELL OFF:

Saturday, January 23, 2016, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, at 8001 McLean Street, Manassas Park. Niece of Alan / WA2GTT (SK) will be selling off Alan's Ham Radio and Antique Radio equipment as well as his tools. A spreadsheet listing should be available at the OVH's January 18, 2016 meeting.

SPECIAL HAM RADIO EVENTS:

Third Thursday evening each month - AMRAD meets in McLean, Virginia - meetings usually consist of high level amateur radio related technical presentations on specific topics. Check the http://amrad.org web site for upcoming topics, and exact dates, times and places.

HAM RADIO OPERATING CONTEST EVENTS:

Saturday/Sunday - March 19 - 20, 2016 - The Virginia QSO Party. More information and all of the details at http://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2016_VQP/2016_VQP_Main.html This is a fun radio contest event each year and a very easy for any of us to participate in.

The ARRL has a Contest web page at its web site, but a much more comprehensive, up-to-date, and long range planning contesting calendar with links to the rules for the various events is maintained by WA7BNM at http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal If you get the radio contesting bug or just want to find out what and how much is going on, that is a good place to look!

PUBLIC SERVICE / TRAINING / ARES EVENTS

Saturday, January 16, 2016, beginning at 9:00 am will be a major ARES training event at the Prince William County EOC. Get further details from David / KG4GIY.

Always check the online Calendar by David / KG4GIY at http://www.pwcares.org for the 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.

Progress at Mt. Pone

Good news. The new shed which is needed as a dedicated housing for the OVH's D-Star Repeaters and other equipment was delivered to the Mt. Pone site earlier this month. See image to the right which shows Butch / W4HJL and Bob / K4HJL posing in front of the new shed which is in front of the newly painted "Robin's Egg Blue" water tower. Next steps will be to insulate the shed, get HVAC installed in it, and get a hook up to the nearby electrical power source. After that, running transmission lines, installing antennas, and reinstalling the 2m and 70cm



D-Star repeaters. Have patience! It will probably be a few more months until this is all completed.

Using the OVH's Closed E-Mail Reflector System

The OVH closed email reflector (w4ovh@googlegroups.com) is a benefit of OVH membership and is available to all members in good standing. The email reflector automatically forwards incoming messages from registered OVH users to all OVH members who have email address(es) registered with the OVH's E-Mail Reflector Administrator, David Lane / KG4GIY. Incoming emails from email addresses which are not registered to OVH members are not forwarded. This system allow rapid dissemination of messages to the OVH membership, most of whom are registered users. Further information about how to use the e-mail reflector is on the club web site at http://w4ovh.net.

Questions come up from new OVH members from time to time about how to get registered: to get registered, someone (usually the Secretary or Membership chair) has to notify David / KG4GIY to confirm that you are now an OVH member so your email address can be added to the master list of authorized email addresses for the system. Occasionally, this breaks down. If you have never sent a message to David / KG4GIY to get registered, please contact the Membership chairman and have him send David a note so you can be registered. This solves two problems - first, that will ensure that you are a member in good standing and second, that will provide the email address to be added to the authorized user list for you to use. That will saves a number of back and forth emails to get you set up.

Occasionally, incoming message to the reflector are automatically flagged by the system as spam. What can you do? If you have always been able to send to the reflector and a message you sent doesn't show up, drop David / KG4GIY a note. Odds are it got caught in the spam detector. Depending on a number of variables, it could be days before Google tells David that it is hung up. If you inform David directly, he can go in and release the message - as soon as he is near a PC that is.

Of course, if your machine or email account is compromised and you start spamming the list or a topic gets beyond the focus of Amateur Radio or degrades into unwelcome territory, the Administrator has the latitude to suspend, moderate, or terminate your immediate access. Such problem situations are very rare.

If you have any other questions about the email reflector, send them to KG4GIY@ARRL.NET

"National Parks On The Air" Activation by David / KK4ZUU on January 1, 2016

The ARRL is sponsoring a "National Parks On The Air" activity throughout 2016 to commemorate

the 100th anniversary of the U.S. National Park system. See, http://www.arrl.org/NPOTA Not to be left behind at all, OVH member David / KK4ZUU decided to activate the Manassas National Battlefield Park on January 1, 2016.

Following is David's account, which some pictures taken by Theresa / KG4TVM:

"This morning I was surprised by John and Theresa Heartney who showed up as a surprise to see if I needed help setting up my NPOTA activation. We tried to setup a concept 1" PVC antenna support 20 feet tall, it flexed itself to the ground and I decided to rig my trusty dipole instead. John and Theresa were QSO #1 and #2 to start me off on 2m.

"I ended up operating the way I do at home, I used my fishing pole and a weight to hang the far end of my Chameleon EMCOMM II antenna about 25 feet up a tree and I suspended the balun end 10 feet off the ground on my (shortened) PVC stand about 20 feet from my vehicle. I have hung this antenna at home using just about the same equipment about 5 times in a year, the cold just made it take a bit longer.

"I spoke to another ham that stopped by for a while, I showed him that I could blanket the East Coast using 40m and JT65 on my 'L' power setting on my IC-7200 (250 milliwatts). I showed him the pskreporter website, he was surprised how far a digital signal would go. I put the plans to operate digital away, I decided to operate SSB 'today'.

"I spotted myself via dxsummit on 6m [50.128, 1744 hrs GMT], after 30 minutes of silence and no takers (propagation) I moved/spotted myself on 10m (28.406, 1813 hrs GMT) and had an immediate QSO...then silence for the next 30+ minutes of calling CQ.

"I really did not get my operations 'going' until I spotted myself on 20m (14.285 mhz) at 1900 hrs GMT [2 pm EST] on dxsummit.fi. Within 2 minutes I was being called by 10+ stations at a time for about 30 minutes until another person decided they wanted the frequency and took it over. That was fun while it lasted, being chased vs chasing. QSY.







"I moved to (20m) 14.265 mhz [1933 hrs GMT], spotted myself again and

called CQ. I picked up 14 contacts in about 30 minutes. This time a net started up, no one checked for the frequency to see if it was inuse. QSY again, they were trying to pass traffic so I moved again...

"By this time it was 3:15pm EST. The park closes at dark so I moved to 40m (7.233 mhz). I worked about 17 people in 30 minutes, again it was an initial rush of ten people and then seven stragglers. Then...wait for it....another operator in the NPOTA event out west took over my frequency (this is why I prefer to run digital modes 90% of the time!).

"I noticed the winter sun was less than 15 degrees off the horizon so I went QRT at 3:45 pm EST and packed up my operation to head home.



"In summary, I worked 3@2m FM, SSB: 1@10m, 36@20m, and 17@40m. I learned a lot, and I know some things to change the next time.

"I will activate another park, when it's warmer and I can sit outside of my vehicle."

A few editorial observations about this: David's description makes this all sound quite easy - which it probably was for someone as well organized and knowledgeable as David, particularly with a few very knowledgeable, unexpected helpers too! The trick to successful and "easy" portable operating is always careful planning ahead so that you will have everything you need with you in the field. David's use of Internet based spotting networks (originally known as DX cluster servers on 2m packet) was also a great idea in this situation; a large number of operators worldwide are always watching those, particularly operators looking for DX or unusual contacts, and it is a good way to attract an incoming "pile-up" for this type of operation. Use of the psk reporter web site to check propagation conditions with JT65 is also a great idea as it gives one certainty that the band(s) are really open even though relatively few signals are actually being heard! Some other OVHers should try this!

More Notes about Learning Morse Code and Increasing CW Code Copy Speed

The ARRL still provides excellent Morse Code practice transmissions on the HF bands. The text for these transmissions are from recent issues of QST magazine. http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule lists the schedules for these on the air transmissions. The best frequencies in this area in the evenings recently for these transmissions from W1AW are 1.8025 MHz on the 160 m band and 3.5815 MHz on the 80 m band. In addition to these over the air code practice transmissions, ARRL also offers freely downloadable code practice audio in MP3 files with different CW code speeds and text files with the letters, words, numbers, symbols and text for each MP3 file. This allows one, with a little effort, to set up a very useful system to increase one's CW copy speed. Download and print some text files corresponding to particular MP3 files. Then play an MP3 audio file while watching (i.e., following along) with the corresponding printed text. After a while doing this at initially a higher CW speed than you can comfortably copy, you will find that your CW copy speed will increase! Why: by following the MP3 CW sounds and associate those sound with the letters will increase. Eventually, your CW copy speed will notch up. At that point, you can begin practicing again at a higher CW speed. MP3 files with speeds from 5 wpm up to more than 35 wpm are available!

REMINDER



Yes, it is that time of year again!!!!! Below is the 2016 Renewal Application.

Please fill out the form below (for database), attach your check and mail to the address below or drop off at a meeting. Be sure to update all information, including your e-mail address, telephone number(s) and nine digit ZIP

	2016
NAME:	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
ADDRESS:	
	Cell Tel:
	Work Tel:
	EMAIL:
	BIRTHDAY:
ARE YOU PRESENTLY AN ARRL ME ARE YOU A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER MAY YOUR TELEPHONE NOS. BE LI WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT LICENSE	R: (YES/NO) STED IN THE "Members Only" OVH ROSTER? (YES/NO)
living at the same mailing address are	able on January 1, 2016. Dues for each additional family member \$10.00. Dues for a full time student at the college undergraduate d grade or level:] are \$10.00.
living at the same mailing address are	\$10.00. Dues for a full time student at the college undergraduate d grade or level:] are \$10.00.
living at the same mailing address are	\$10.00. Dues for a full time student at the college undergraduate d grade or level:] are \$10.00. AMOUNT ENCLOSING:
living at the same mailing address are a or lower level [list school attended and	\$10.00. Dues for a full time student at the college undergraduate d grade or level:] are \$10.00. AMOUNT ENCLOSING:

Manassas, VA 20110-1255

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