

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 4: 440.925Mhz 9600 Baud backbone / N3OH (SYSOP--BILL)
<http://www.w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

FEBRUARY 2007

Next Meeting: February 19, 2007

Renew Your Annual OVH Membership If You Haven't Done It Already!
Do It By Mail Now Or At The Meeting — More Reminders Inside!

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

It is the dead of winter and this is the last President's letter of my Presidency. It was the time of BPL and the bottom of the sunspot cycle. However, I feel elated and thankful – not dark and gloomy.

I want to thank you all for a great year. I have a lot of experiences to remember – such as running the VE session for last spring's class, my sudden co-chairmanship of Fieldday, a successful hamfest where our net went up. I want to thank Theresa, KG4TVM, and Al, KB4BHB for turning JOTA around 180 degrees. I also thank Al and Bill South for running the very successful and fun special event for the Battle of Bull Run. I feel that this is a year we did more with less. Thanks to Trisha, KI4PCM, for picking up the technician class.

I remember some of the meeting programs we had. I thank Wayne, AG4ZZ, for his lightweight balsa QRP presentation and Mark, WA4KFZ, for his satellite presentation. After hearing it, Santa brought me an Arrow antenna and I claim to have made a Satellite QSO.

I would like to thank George, K4GVT, for leading the BPL struggle. It is not over yet. I would also like to thank the other BPL complainants.

After a year at the helm, I would like to recognize the unsung heroine of the OVH, Mary Lu, KB4EFP. She is always helping in the background and it adds up to a whole lot of work with no limelight. Thanks, Mary Lu.

This month we have both OVH elections and a program on ICOM's non-proprietary D Link protocol. Both should be interesting.

Looking ahead to next year, I have appointed Al, KB4BHB, as chairman for the special event program. It was too good not to do again.

See you at the February 19, 2007 meeting at 7:30pm. 73,

John, KG4NXT

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President:	John Heartney	KG4NXT	257-3566
Vice Pres:	George Tarnovsky	K4GVT	791-5956
Secretary:	Phil Colling	AC4PL	393-8658
Treasurer:	Bill South	N3OH	590-9562

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 2007

TBA

FIELD DAY 2007

George T.	K4GVT	791-5956
Butch B.	W4HJL	369-2877

CLUB ROSTER

Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877
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EDUCATION

Trish Rabe	KI4PCM	335-1096
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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
Bill	N3OH	590-9562
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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HOME PAGE

Bill	N3OH	590-9562
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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 Dobes	KI4OHR	369-2639
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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NEWSLINE

Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
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PACKET

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N3OH	590-9562

PROGRAMS

TBA

PUBLICITY

Trish Rabe	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
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844

REPEATER TRUSTEE

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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SUNSHINE

Jan	KE4TMW	257-0897
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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
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939

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

The OVH Times is the official publication of the "Ole Virginia Hams" ARC, a non-profit organization, dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio. This edition of the OVH Times is Copyright © 2007 by the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

The OVH ARC meets at 7:30 p.m. local time every third Monday of the month at the NOVEC Tech Center on Wellington Road in Gainesville, Virginia. Prospective members or other interested persons are invited to attend. Local information can always be obtained, at any time, through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.97 & 224.660 Mhz. All are welcome. Up to date information about OVH activities and meetings is also available on the OVH website at <http://www.w4ovh.net>.

Permission is hereby granted for the reprinting of articles and quotations in this letter provided full credit is given to the OVH ARC and the author or other source of the article. Contribution of printed articles by both members and non-members is encouraged. The deadline for submissions is the 5th of each month. Submissions should be forwarded to OVH TIMES Editor: W4ZB@RLAW.COM.

Letters to the Editor and Classified Ads are accepted and welcome. Approx. Circulation - 170.

Last Rev: 01/2007

Sunshine Corner:

Happy Birthday to our friends and fellow Hams: Chuck/KE4JWY, Patrick/W4TQI, Bob/K2TV, Ro/WB4NWX, and Art/W1CRO. Hope each of you has a great day!

Volunteer for your Ham Club! There are many functions you can perform – this job is open right now!

73 de Jan/KE4TMW

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting January 15, 2007:

John / KG4NXT called meeting to order at 1930 Eastern Time.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 27 OVH members and three guests present.

PROGRAM

Stan Schretter / W4MQ gave a presentation on the remote control of a ham station via the Internet. Stan used a PowerPoint presentation with his laptop to give a very detailed explanation of how a ham radio station may be controlled over the Internet. After the break Stan worked with Brian WC4J, who supplied Internet access, to show how it all comes together. Thank you Stan for your very interesting presentation, and thank you Brian for your assistance in making a demonstration possible.

BUSINESS MEETING

The minutes of the December 2006 meeting were approved following one minor correction.

The MMARC Timmonium Maryland hamfest will be on January 29. John / KG4NXT noted that the Vienna Wireless hamfest (Winterfest) is also coming up.

Nominating Committee – Butch / W4HJL – The following slate of candidates have been nominated to be OVH Officers for the annual term beginning on February 19, 2007: President: George Tarnovsky / K4GVT, Vice President: Ruth Frock / KU4WH, Secretary: Wayne Phillips / N7QLK, Treasurer: Bill Ellis / WA4FIC. Additional nominations can be made at the February 2007 meeting. Dues must be paid in order to vote.

Repeaters – Art / W1CRO – Art is going to check the repeaters soon to try to determine the cause of some noise that has been heard recently. Otherwise the repeaters are working well.

Paul / W4ZB was announced as the OVH Newsletter Editor and Publisher. Thank you Paul for taking on this task. It was also announced that new Club member Phinneas / KØKMA “Finny” has volunteered to be a Thursday night net controller. (Secretary’s note – After the January 2007 OVH meeting, events occurred regarding Finny’s job that unfortunately for OVH took him to Ohio. OVH wishes Finny the very best. Finny did serve as the OVH Thursday-night net controller once, and did an excellent job.)

Hamfest – Butch / W4HJL – We still need a Chairman for the Hamfest.

ARES – David / KG4GIY – David noted the following upcoming events: This Saturday is an

OC meeting, Training on March 17 and May 19, drill (validation exercise) on January 21, Vertex (or a Hurricane drill in NOVA) which will probably occur in April, Dulles Drill is May 5 in which 150 operators are needed. David also reminded members that they will be required to take the 100 and 200 Incident classes to be able to work the shelter during an Emergency. For more information and details, contact the PW County ARES website at www.pwcares.org.

Steve / N4OGR also noted that May 5 is the MS150, and approximately 100 hams are needed for this two-day event.

Sunshine – Steve / N4OGR – There is no news to report. Jan / KE4TMW has been the head of the Sunshine Committee for several years and has requested that someone else step up and take on this responsibility.

NEW BUSINESS

Art / W1CRO, on behalf of Bill / N3OH, suggested the possibility of donating to QSL.net and VanityHQ.com. A motion was made to donate \$100 to each organization. The motion to donate \$100 to QSL.net was approved. The motion to donate \$100 to VanityHQ.com was denied.

Joe / KI4OHR made a motion to donate \$100 to the Amateur Radio Newslines. OVH has made donations to AR Newslines previously and transmits (in accordance with AR Newslines policy) selected portions of the weekly AR Newslines during the OVH Thursday night net. The motion was approved.

50/50 – \$21.00 was collected, and Art / W1CRO won. Art requested that his winning share be added to the Harry D. Vorhauer Scholarship. Thank you Art.

The meeting adjourned at 2058 Eastern time.

Reminders about some upcoming events:

HAMFESTS

February 18 – Frostfest in Richmond, details at www.frostfest.com. Anyone going this weekend should contact Mary Lu about distributing flyers for the June OVH Hamfest.

February 25 – Winterfest in Annandale, details at www.viennawireless.org. A flyer for this follows.

OPERATING CONTESTS

February 17 & 18 - ARRL International DX Contest CW. Brian, WC4J, is looking for operators. Details at www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/intldx.html and www.arrl.org/contests.

March 17 & 18 - Virginia QSO Party - Phone/CW/Digital, OVH had a speaker about this last year. Join in again this year. details at www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/QSOParty.htm.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY ARES/RACES

March 17 TBA Bi-Monthly Training (Vertex/Dulles Drill). Details at pwcares.org or from KG4GIY.

OVH MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please be sure to renew your membership if you haven't done that already. Do it now or at the meeting on February 19, 2007. The mail in form for this is included below.

Selected Amateur Radio News from the ARRL RSS feed on February 14, 2007

[Editor's Note: having trouble "reading" the ARRL's RSS feed? If so, get the Firefox 2.0 free browser download from <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/> Its RSS reader really works – no complicated adjustments needed.]

"Cellular Telephone" Bills Pose Potential Problems for Ham Radio Operation

Bills aimed at thwarting "driving while cellular" and "driving while distracted" behavior have been introduced in several states, and most are worded broadly enough to proscribe Amateur Radio mobile operation. ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, so far has catalogued 10 active pieces of legislation. Bills introduced in Montana and New Mexico have been sidelined for now, but related measures -- more than one in some states -- remain alive in Georgia, Oregon, Texas, Vermont, Washington and Wyoming. Henderson reports that ARRL Field Organization volunteers and members called the League's attention to the various pieces of pending legislation, none of which specifically exempt Amateur Radio mobile operation.

Nominations invited for Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2007 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year (YHOTY) Award. The award recognizes a radio amateur 18 years old or younger who has used ham radio to significantly contribute to the benefit of Amateur Radio, to the state of the communications art or to the community or nation. Nominations are being accepted for Amateur Radio licensees living in the 48 contiguous United States, Puerto Rico and the 10 Canadian provinces. Nominations and supporting materials must be submitted before May 30, 2007, on an official application. Download a nomination form or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to 2007 Young Ham of the Year Award, c/o Newsline, 28197 Robin Ave, Santa Clarita, CA 91350. Nominations may be made online using a Web form, but supporting materials must be submitted separately. Presentation of the 2007 YHOTY Award will take place in August at the Huntsville Hamfest in Alabama, site of the 2007 ARRL National Convention. There's more information on the YHOTY Web site.

BPL Study Bill Gains Cosponsors

A bill in the US House of Representatives calling on the FCC to study the interference potential of

broadband over power line (BPL) technology and report its findings back to Congress has gained two cosponsors, US Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR), reports. They are US Rep Steve Israel (D-NY) and US Rep Ron Paul (R-TX). One of two radio amateurs in the House, Ross submitted the "Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007" (HR 462) on January 12. Last year, the US House passed a telecommunications bill, HR 5252, containing language that Ross proposed requiring the FCC to study the interference potential of BPL systems. The study requirement did not make its way into the final version of the bill, however. In a letter to his House colleagues inviting additional cosponsors, Ross emphasized that his primary goal is to minimize BPL's interference potential.

Radio Amateurs Sprinkled among Future Space Station Crews

NASA and its International Space Station partners have announced the expected ISS crew complements for the next two years, and the list includes several Amateur Radio licensees. The crew members comprise three ISS expeditions represent four space agencies. Assignments include the first long-duration station flight for a Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, JAXA, astronaut and the second long-duration station flight for a European Space Agency, ESA, astronaut.

My Adventures in Bikin

You never know when the skills that you learn as an Amateur Radio operator will come into play in your work life. I was working in the Marshall Islands in 1954 when I experienced first-hand one of the most terrifying yet awesome things I have ever seen in my life -- the detonation of the first hydrogen bomb.

ARRL Audio News: Feb 9, 2007; Vol 26 Number 6 is available at www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/

If this isn't enough, the Amateur Radio Newsline audio feed is available at www.arnewline.org.

Follow up notes for the talk / demo by W4MQ at the January 2007 OVH meeting

1. Two QST articles (November 2001 and November 2002) authored by W4MQ with K6WR about the Internet Remote Base system are available as free PDF file downloads in the Members Only area of the ARRL website.
2. Check out the W4MQ.com website for more information. Also check out HB9AZT's website at radiohill.ch.

Cool Website of the Month?

A page on a website [<http://f6fvv.free.fr/qthLocator/fullScreen.php>] put up by F6FVY allows the user to zoom in on a Google Map to the center location designated by a [6 unit] Grid Locator which the user inputs by a form OR to determine the [6 unit] Grid Locator for a particular location which the user click on with his mouse on the displayed Google Map. You will need a DSL or better connection to use this effectively.

Challenge to OVH Member Programming Gurus!

Why not add a comparable page with this same functionality to the OVH website, but adapted to start up with a display of a map of the Eastern part of North America or the Washington, D.C. area instead of Europe as on F6FVY's webpage?

Considerations: 1. Google will issue OVH a needed "license key" for non-commercial use to interactively use Google Maps for no charge with a registration and 2. F6FVY states that his Javascript code [embedded in his webpage] may be reused or modified without charge as long as he is noted as its author. What else is needed? Almost nothing: a simple PHP routine will be needed to convert a [6 unit] Grid Locator received through a webpage form to latitude and longitude coordinates [the formulas to do that are well known]. The Guru will also need to figure out how to use the published Google Maps API to make a few minor adjustments [e.g. for the initial map displayed]. The amount of "work" needed to do this is very limited: simple testing reveals that the functionality on F6FVY's webpage is still present when that page is called up from a local computer! Who is smart enough to do this?

Some Thoughts About Morse Code

Anyone in the OVH who still wants to learn or improve proficiency in Morse Code should consider the following resources:

1. The ARRL's Learn CW webpage: www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/learncw/
2. The classic book by William G. Pierpont, N0HFF, now available as free PDF file download from www.raes.ab.ca/bookmain.html : The Art and Skill of Radio Telegraphy.
3. W1AW over the air Code Practice sessions which are best received in this area on 1.8175, 3.5815 and 7.0475 Mhz. Details and times are at www.arrl.org/w1aw.html.
4. ARRL provides [www.arrl.org/w1aw/morse.html] text files [for the text] and MP3 files [for the CW sounds] at speeds from 5 wpm to 40 wpm of W1AW Code Practice sessions.
5. OVH club members willing to help / mentor about learning CW.

SoftRock Kits / SDR Experimentation

The AMRAD newsletter for January/February 2007 includes a seven page article by Terry Fox, WB4JFI titled: Sound Cards, SoftRocks and SDRs. It presents a wealth of ideas, test results, resources and new information. Contact one of the OVH members who belongs to AMRAD [amrad.org] for a copy.

WINTERFEST!®

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA HAM RADIO FAIR

- Ham Radio, Electronics, and Computer Parts, Pieces, and Paraphernalia
- Licensing Exams—Walk-ins Invited!
(Saturday, February 24, 9AM at the same site)
- Large Indoor Exhibit Area
- QSL checking for WAS, DXCC, VUCC until Noon
- 150 Paved Tailgate Spaces
(\$15 for one space—includes one admission)
- FREE! On-Site Parking
- Bring a Friend!

FEATURING

**Icom D-Star Digital Radio
Demonstration**

TAILGATING!

Tailgate area opens at 6AM

Sunday, February 25, 2007

**Northern Virginia Community College
Annandale Campus
8333 Little River Turnpike
Annandale, VA**

Indoor Exhibit Area Opens to Public at 8AM

\$6.00 per person

Talk-In 146.91- Courtesy of the NVFMA



**Vienna Wireless Society
PO Box 418
Vienna, VA 22183**

**For More Information:
<http://www.viennawireless.org>**

General Info—Jim W4JTP
winterfest2007@viennawireless.org
(703) 392-0150

Table Sales—Len KG6ZR
tablesales2007@viennawireless.org
(703) 366-3979

Book Your Tables Online!

2004-12-20

Renew Your OVH Membership Now!

Print and mail in the following form with your check for \$10.00 now or bring the filled-in form with your check or cash to the February 19, 2007 OVH meeting.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION
“OLE VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB”
2007

NAME: _____ CALL SIGN: _____
ADDRESS: _____ TELEPHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____
BIRTHDAY: _____

ARE YOU PRESENTLY AN ARRL MEMBER? (YES/NO)
ARE YOU A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER? (YES/NO)
DO YOU WANT YOUR PHONE NO. LISTED IN THE OVH ROSTER? (YES/NO)
WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT LICENSE CLASS? _____

Dues are now **\$10.00** per year and payable on January 1, 2007
Dues for additional family members **living at the same mailing address** are **\$5.00**

NAME AND CALL OF FAMILY MEMBERS: _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSING: _____

Name: _____ Call: _____
Name: _____ Call: _____

Return to: Treasurer, OVH
P.O. Box 1255
Manassas, VA 20108

Follow up on the note about Best Practices For Viewing PDF Files

Several comments were received including recommendations for use of the “free” PDF reader from foxitsoftware.com. The FoxIt PDF Reader is also capable of full screen mode viewing of PDF files as described in that note for Adobe Reader [and Acrobat] although the FoxIt Reader uses [requires] different keychords for that functionality.

The “free” and the licensed version of FoxIt PDF Reader has one undisputable and pronounced advantage over the “free” Adobe PDF Reader: it starts up and initializes much faster than Adobe Reader. The Adobe products [both Reader and Acrobat] include a lot of bloatware [rarely, if ever, needed or used] features which cannot be turned off and which very much slow down start up and initialization. However, the Adobe products are strictly compliant with the published PDF specifications; the current version of the FoxIt Reader product [at least the licensed version tested by your Editor] does not appear to be and it gives no “warning” message when it cannot comply with that specification. Current versions of the PDF specification permit use of layers within PDF pages; PDF files created by applications which used the multilayer features during initial file creation are now not uncommonly encountered; good practice during PDF file creation is to merge down no longer needed separate layers used during initial file creation [to an earlier version PDF file specification], but content creators do not always do that. Limited testing by your Editor revealed that the current licensed version of the FoxIt Reader does not always properly display multilayer PDF pages, and provides no “warning” of any problem, sometimes even when a particular layer is not being displayed at all. This deficiency was first observed in FoxIt Reader when it failed to display a scanned handwritten overlay over a textual document; the Adobe products either displayed the page properly or gave a “warning” message that there might be a problem because the PDF file was based on a later PDF file specification. Conclusion: do not use FoxIt Reader for “mission critical” application unless you have verified that the PDF files to be viewed conform to one of the older PDF file specifications (e.g. Versions 1.3 or 1.4) which you are sure FoxIt Reader can display properly.