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

Remember To Renew Your OVH Membership!

February 2009

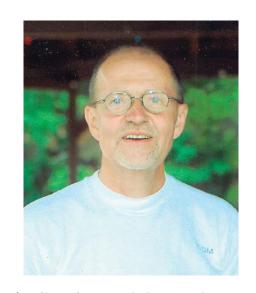
Download the renewal form at http://w4ovh.net or pay at the next meeting!

Next Meeting: February 16, 2009

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to all, with this very cold weather, I hope your amplifiers are on and keeping you warm. The New Year is well under way and OVH is out of the gate running. If you missed the January meeting, you really missed a very informative well done presentation by Steve / W4YHD on the HAARP project.

At this upcoming February meeting on Monday, we have several items on the agenda: foremost is the annual OVH election of officers. Please come and let your voice be heard. The other important issue is the OVH D-STAR repeater coordination and implementation. Mark / WA4KFZ has offered to "kick start" the D-STAR repeater procurement through a very generous donation;



"Thank you Mark!" We'll be asking the club membership to vote on funding the remaining monies needed to complete the project.

Most (or all) of you already know something about D-STAR, but even if you are already knowledgeable you should not miss this meeting. We will have demonstrate practical applications of D-STAR. One of the most interesting items is a DV board kit which allows Hams to convert most standard FM radios with a data port to D-STAR for under \$100. Bill / N4SV has been instrumental in getting this board moving within the club -- thank you Bill. You'll have a chance to see a completed DV board, as well as how a fully functional board may be interfaced to an FM radio, allowing you to hear for yourself the surprisingly good quality sound this board has to offer. For those interested in building the board, we plan to setup "assembly line" workshops and assist in the building, testing, and installation of the boards. Please try to make the meeting.

Arthur / W1CRO after many years as OVH's repeater trustee has relinquished the responsibility. I would like to personally thank Art for all the years of his diligent oversight of our repeaters. Our new repeater trustee is Keith / KM4AA, who has accepted the responsibility of OVH repeater trustee, thank you Keith.

Cont'd on Page 3

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255 Manassas, Virginia 20108

| OFFICERS | | | JOTA | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|----------|--------------------|----------------|----------|
| President: George Tarnovsky | K4GVT | 791-5956 | John H. | KG4NXT | 257-3566 |
| Vice Pres: Wayne Kline | AG4ZZ | 791-2100 | LEGAL | | |
| Secretary: Wayne Phillips | N7QLK | 393-8447 | | IZD 4DME | 000 0400 |
| Treasurer: Joe Dobes | KI4OHR | 369-2639 | Pete | KB4RME | 369-2436 |
| DIRECTORS | | | MEMBERSHIP CHAIR | | |
| Don (Butch) Blasdell | W4HJL | 369-2877 | Bruce | AB8CI | 361-8873 |
| Art Whittum | W1CRO | 791-4330 | NEWSLETTER | | |
| Charlie Dale | WA4YGI | 361-3091 | Paul | W4ZB | 754-0910 |
| WEEKLY NETS | | | NEWSLINE | | |
| Thursdays - 8:00 PM | JOHN H | 257-3566 | John H. | KG4NXT | 257-3566 |
| HAMFEST 2008 | | | | 110/11/11 | 20. 0000 |
| Chris | KI4POT | 361-3257 | PACKET | TID (TIDII | |
| Bruce | AB8CI | 361-8873 | Alan Bill | KD4KBX N4SV | 330-8844 |
| FIELD DAY 2008 | | | | N45 V | 590-9562 |
| Joe | KI4OHR | 369-2639 | PROGRAMS | | |
| Butch | W4HJL | 369-2877 | TBA | | |
| CLUB ROSTER | | | PUBLICITY | | |
| Blaine | KB4RKL | 369-2877 | Trisha Wells | KI4PCM | 335-1096 |
| EDUCATION | | | QUARTERMASTER | | |
| Mark | WA4KFZ | 818-8033 | Steve | N4OGR | 361-0008 |
| | | 010 0000 | REPEATER CONTROL | LERS | |
| CLUB EMERGENCY COOR | | | Art | W1CRO | 791-4330 |
| David Meola | KI4AZX | 393-6681 | Butch | W4HJL | 369-2877 |
| ARES AREA EMERGENCY | COORDINATOR | } | Steve | N4OGR | 361-0008 |
| David Lane | KG4GIY | 361-3042 | David | KG4GIY | 361-3042 |
| EAR BERG | | | George | K4GVT | 791-5956 |
| F.A.R. REPS. | | | Alan | KD4KBX | 330-8844 |
| Ruth | KU4WH | 331-1234 | W4OVH / W4PVA — TR | USTEE | |
| Mary Lu | KB4EFP | 369-2877 | Keith | KM4AA | 909-1512 |
| FINANCE | | | SCHOLARSHIP | | |
| Mary Lu | KB4EFP | 369-2877 | Jim | W4JTP | 200 0150 |
| Joe | KI4OHR | 369-2639 | Jim | W 45 1 P | 392-0150 |
| Ruth | KU4WH | 331-1234 | SUNSHINE | | |
| GENERATORS | | | Theresa | KG4TVM | 257-3556 |
| Steve | N4OGR | 361-0008 | TECHNICAL COMMIT | ree | |
| Keith | KM4AA | 909-1512 | Art | W1CRO | 791-4330 |
| Al | KB4BHB | 368-4794 | Alan | KD4KBX | 330-8844 |
| HISTORIAN | | | Bill | N4SV | 590.9562 |
| Theresa | KG4TVM | 257-3566 | Butch | W4HJL | 369-2877 |
| WEBMASTER — W40VH.NET | | | George | K4GVT | 791-5956 |
| Bill | N4SV | 590-9562 | Karl | W4KRL | 802-1527 |
| EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4o | | | David | KG4GIY | 361-3042 |
| David Lane | KG4GIY | 361-3042 | Bob | K4HJF | 335-1939 |
| Davia Banc | 1101011 | 501 5042 | | | |

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

Approx. Circulation - 170.

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. Last Rev: 02/08/2009 On Saturday, February 7th we attended the Richmond Hamfest to meet vendors and hand out flyers for the OVH Hamfest. There was much interest and commitment to attending the OVH Hamfest on the second Sunday in June. We were told the Frederick ARC (FARC) Father's Day Hamfest has been canceled. Additionally we heard the Rochester Hamfest and ARRL Atlantic Division Convention has moved and to one day rather than several. Dayton has also reduced it's outdoor flee market area. I personally feel saddened by this.

We have noted the decline in attendance at Hamfests in recent years. However, keeping an optimistic view, this could very well mean that the OVH Hamfest will become the primary annual summer Hamfest event in the Washington area. I ask of the all of you to do everything you can to make the OVH Hamfest the success it's been in past years. Tell your friends, talk it up on the bands, I look at this as an opportunity to revitalize, rather than minimize!

I also look forward to seeing all of you at upcoming monthly OVH meeting on Monday, February 16th at 7:30 PM at the NOVEC Technical Center in Gainesville, Virginia. Also, if you haven't already paid your dues to renew your OVH membership for 2009, please use the form at w4ovh.net or the one later in this newsletter or you may pay up at upcoming meeting; you'll need to be paid up to vote in the election! See you there!

73 George K4GVT

Sunshine Corner:

Birthdays this month – Roland / WB4NWG, Patty / KI4FQF and Art / W1CRO. We hope you all have a great day!

WOW that was a tremendous program at the January meeting which Steve Floyd / W4YHD presented on the HAARP Research Station in Alaska.

Welcome to our new members Chip / KD7UHR and Burnett / KJ4EOY.

Congrats to George / K4GVT for being appointed as the Chairman of the Technical Committee and also to Keith / KM4AA as new Trustee for the Club Repeater and Station Licenses. Many thanks to Art / W1CRO for handling both positions for so many years.

Don't forget the annual club election of officers will take place at the upcoming February meeting. Our current club officers, George / K4GVT, Wayne / AG4ZZ, Joe / KI4OHR and Wayne / N7QLK have each done a terrific job this past year and each is standing for election again!

Good luck to all of our college students; by now all will have been back from winter break for a few weeks and hitting the books very hard!

The Hamfest planning meetings have started, there are many slots to fill for our OVH's big weekend in June, so please volunteer. Chris / KI4POT is the Chairman and he will be happy to find a spot for you!!

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 January 19, 2009:

George / K4GVT called meeting to order at 1930 Eastern Time.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs: 28 OVH members and 2 guests were present.

Continued on page 4

BUSINESS MEETING

The minutes of the December 2008 meeting were approved.

Treasury report: Balance is in good standing. Report approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: One new member, Burnett Deyerle / KJ4EOY was voted-in and approved.

ARES: ARES was in 'standby' for support on January 20th during the Presidential Inauguration.

Repeater: Keith / KM4AA is the new Trustee of the Repeater and Club Station Licenses.

Training: Mark / WA4KFZ - A possible General-level training class may be held in February at the Nokesville Fire Department, Station 25.

Scholarships: No report.

Hamfest: No report except that an initial meeting has taken place and everything is moving along on schedule.

Field Day: Joe / KI4OHR is coordinating to invite the Manassas mayor.

Sunshine: Theresa / KG4TVM announced January birthdays (Dan / K9POO, Elizabeth / KG4NXT, Charles / W4XP, Milt / N4SN, Ed / WD4AVU, Woody / N4MQ, Alan / WA2GTT and Harold / K4OPS).

Packet: Bill / N4SV: the OVH web site is working; packet is down on the 2 meters.

Technical Committee: George / K4GVT has taken the position as the new Chairman.

PROGRAM:

Steve Floyd / W4YHD provided an informative presentation on the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP). Steve was responsible for the design and layout of the facility located in Gakona, Alaska. The Ionospheric Research Instrument (IRI) is a high power, multi-element transmitter and antenna array system capable of "power beaming" HF into the ionosphere for ionospheric research and development of related communications and surveillance systems. The Gakona, Alaska location is optimal because of its proximity to and within the earth's Northern Hemisphere's auroral oval which is centered approximately about the earth's northern geomagnetic pole; the earth's magnetic field lines are primarily vertically oriented to the surface of the earth within the auroral oval which accounts for the differences in high latitude ionospheric effects as compared to mid- and tropical latitude ionospheric effects. The antenna array consists of 180 crossed dipole antennas mounted on 85' towers covering 36 acres. It is capable of producing 3.6 MW of radiated power in the 2.8-10 Mhz range ("Can you hear me now?"). The array is capable of linear, left or right, and circular polarization; FM, AM, and pulse modulation from DC to 30 kHz. Its high power signal, when modulated at ELF frequencies, is capable of stimulating the ionosphere within the auroral oval to, generating re-radiating ELF transmissions which can be used for submarine communications and deep earth investigations, among other potential uses. The amplifiers in the transmitters are tube driven (720 total), capable of full load to dead short, something solid state systems cannot do. When operating at full array power, the facility's power requirements exceed what the local commercial power grid is capable of delivering. Thus, four of the five 3,600 hp diesel generators at the site are needed to generate 10.4 MW of power, at which power level about 500 gallons of diesel fuel are consumed per hour. The Gakona, Alaska facility is not the only HAARP like facility, but it is the most powerful in terms of radiated energy (ERP). Continued on page 5 OLD BUSINESS: None addressed.

NEW BUSINESS: the OVH Nominating Committee will circulate a list of those running for officer positions at the February meeting before that meeting. (See below on this page.)

50/50 for \$11: Winner was Ken /WB4ZOH. No Mystery Box raffle this month.

Meeting adjourned at 22:03.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

February 22, 2009 (Sunday) - Vienna Wireless Winterfest at Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus, Annandale, Virginia. Details at: http://www.viennawireless.org/winterfest.php. See also the "flyer" included in the electronic version of this Newsletter.

OPERATING CONTESTS

There are lots of operating contests during February. The web site maintained by WA7BNM lists almost all of them! Check out http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/ for more.

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.

OTHER ITEMS TO REMEMBER:

Right Now: renew your annual OVH Membership using the form at http://w4ovh.net, the form included later in this newsletter or at the February 16th OVH Meeting. The \$10 annual dues hasn't increased in many, many years!

OVH Nominating Committee

Nominees For Offices At The February 16, 2009 OVH Regular Meeting

The OVH Nominating Committee met and recommends that the following slate of officers be re-elected to the respective offices indicated for the upcoming club year. The election will be held at the regular OVH club meeting to be held on February 16, 2009.

Nominations may also be made from the floor during the February 16th meeting as long as the each nominee from the floor has given his or her permission prior to the election and each nominee otherwise meets the criteria required by the OVH's Bylaws for the office sought. The election will be by Secret Ballot and the new officers will take over at the beginning of "New Business" during the meeting.

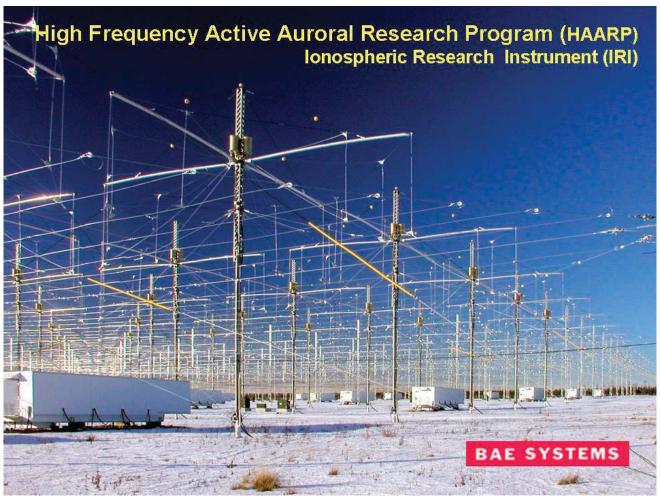
The following members of Ole Virginia Hams have agreed to stand again for the offices indicated:

President: George Tarnovsky / K4GVT Vice President: Wayne Kline / AG4ZZ Treasurer: Joe Dobes / KI4OHR Secretary: Wayne Phillips / N7QLK

All OVH members are urged to attend this meeting and cast your vote for the new officers. Then we can all offer our cooperation, support and assistance to them for the tasks ahead.



Steve Floyd / W4YHD giving his presentation about HAARP at the January 2009 OVH Meeting



Two more slides shown by Steve Floyd / W4YHD during his presentation about HAARP:

Completed HAARP 180 Element Array



6 New HAARP 20 kW Transmitters Installed In A Shelter Building



Some Follow Up Thoughts & Notes About The January 2009 OVH Meeting Program

Steve Floyd / W4YHD kindly provided several of the slides which he used during the his presentation about HAARP which have been included on the two preceding pages of the electronic version of this Newsletter.

If you haven't done so yet, check out the HAARP web site at http://www.haarp.alaska.edu/ which contains a lot more information about HAARP, the polar region ionosphereic and on HF radio propagation.

Steve / W4YHD has been responsible for the design, layout and operation of the current HAARP facilities, but not for the scientific / engineering research conducted using those facilities - which are separately planned and conducted by the users of the facility. Nevertheless, Steve did remark about several of the scientific / engineering type experiments and investigations which he knew had been conducted using HAARP. Terms such as Auroral Zone, Solar Wind, Geomagnetic Fields, Magnetosphere, Upper Atmospheric Chemistry, Solar Radiation, Ionospheric Probing with Sounders (Ionograms); and High Latitude Ionospheric Effects were mentioned.

The amateur radio literature is sparse on the types of scientific experiments and investigations for which the HAARP facility is well suited. Hams are mostly (or solely, if at all) interested in the operational, practical or engineering aspects of HF radio propagation (through the polar regions). Only a relatively small subgroup of ham operators are interested in the scientific details and the literature about the complex, multidisciplinary "science" involved.

Pertinent books with details for those with scientific curiosity are: The High-Latitude Ionosphere and its Effect on Radio Propagation - R. Hunsacker and J. Hargreaves (2003); USAF Handbook of Geophysics and The Space Environment - A. Jursa (1985); The Upper Atmosphere and Solar-Terrestrial Reslations - J. Hargreaves (1979); An Introduction to the Ionosphere and Magnetosphere - J. Ratcliffe (1972); Physics of the Upper Atmosphere - J. Ratcliffe (1960); Introduction to the Space Environment - T. Tuscione (1988) and Ionospheric Radio - K. Davies (1989). A number of these books are in print; those that are not can be obtained online through bookfinder.com. All are recommended reading for the scientifically curious!

Another Free Ham Publications Online Now: World Radio

The original publisher of World Radio, the ham magazine printed on newspaper like paper which arrived every month like clockwork for many years, has retired and ceased publication of the print edition. The good news for the ham community is that the publisher sold out to CQ Magazine which states it intends to continue to publish World Radio, but no longer in print form, but only a free, online PDF publication. To subscribe, go to http://cq-amateur-radio.com and follow the links for a free online subscription to World Radio. Lots of good content - do it now!

French humor about Italians (?):



Clip from the French language show / version of "Millionaire."

Which Italian scientist was a radio pioneer?

Source and Disclaimer

Page 34, Issue No. 18 of Ham Radio Magzine (French language edition) available through http://ham.france.free.fr which is now up to Issue No.19 (weekly). Worth looking at even if you don't read French! The English language version now up to Issue No. 2 is available at http://www.ham-mag.com. No offense intended for anyone!

Message from Keith / KM4AA - New OVH Repeater Trustee

Most of you know that has been a recent transition of the OVH repeater trustee. Art / W1CRO held this position for a long time - longer than many of us have been amateur radio operators or members of the OVH club. Art has unselfishly administered this function on behalf of the club bring his skills, talents, knowledge, and wisdom to provide to the Manassas and surrounding community a service in support of furthering Amateur Radio and the many community related events.

As the new Trustee of the OVH Repeater System / Station Licenses, I would like to take a moment to briefly talk to the points of how our local repeater is used and how it contributes to its constituent community.

- The greatest use the repeater sees in the daily operation is by those of us who slug it out on the road as we make it to and from our work places. These users have enough on their mind contending with traffic and thinking about other activities of the day. Their primary interest is to have a well behaved and operationally effective repeater system, without odd behavior or confusing noises, to facilitate ad hoc communication with other users.
- The repeater also serves the public communities of Manassas City, Manassas Park, Prince William County and the surrounding areas in events such as JOTA and the Triathlon held regularly at George Mason. While these are not the only public service events, it can easily be seen how the repeater system combined with our operator skills to use it at such public events contributes to a better community. The repeater system, of course, is (almost) always available as a potential primary or backup resource for use in emergency situations, whether personal or public.
- The repeater also serves our own ham community by supporting events such as the Hamfest, Field Day and the weekly Thursday night local OVH Net. Its coverage provide new ham in this area and those coming to our area for the first time a first glimpse of us in the Manassas and surrounding area by their observations of our on the air interactions and the professionalism we show.
- An aspect often over looked but mentioned by the FCC as one of the reasons for amateur radio is experimentation and the furthering of the understanding and use of radio. At this time George / K4GVT is one of the few of use doing this actively in conjunction with use of the repeater. George, as many of you know, has set up his own repeater, obtained coordination and cross linked it into the OVH system.
- Much of the technology used in the existing repeater system has not changed greatly over the past 30 to 40 years; however, the OVH is about to embark into expansion of the system to include D-Star capabilities. This will be a new adventure and learning opportunity for all of us into new ways to improve communications through radio.

The operations of the OVH repeater system must be monitored and maintained to the FCC's satisfaction by those who have taken the responsibility to be control operators. However, merely or barely meeting the letter of the FCC's requirements does not always provide an environment that those of us who use our repeater regular wish for and have come to expect. What I speak of is need at all times for a respectful, courteous and considerate manner by each of us whenever we use the OVH repeater system.

Let us not forget those who have been serving and have elected to continue to uphold our values in the performance of being control operators for the OVH repeater system. We all need to fully support them in their continuing work:

Art / W1CRO Butch / W4HJL George / K4GVT David / KG4GIY Steve / N4OGR Alan / KD4KBX

You will notice that Milt / N4SN is no longer on this list. Over the years our lives change and the ability or time to devote to a service then also changes. Milt has provide his service for many years for which he deserves our many thanks and great appreciation, but he has elected recently to step away from these responsibilities. However, all of us will be thankful if he has the time or chooses to activate the PL tones or correct a repeater linking problem!

A few last notes. As your new Trustee I know I can count on all of you to let me know when there is a desire to use the OVH repeater system as a part of an event, whether for support to public or amateur radio related events. Also, of course, if you would like to use the repeater for experiments or to further your understanding of technology or improving communications, please let me know before adapting the system you set up to linking into the OVH repeater system. Finally, as a responsibility of everyone, please let me or any of the control operators know and give us as much detail as you were able to obtain, if you witness inappropriate use of the OVH repeater system.

More Giant Antennas — this time from Finland — a 160/80M Beams at 300 ft up!



To the Left is

Tower 7 at the Finnish Contest Superstation Radio Arcala

Tower Height: 100 m = 330 ft

80 Meter Beam at 90 m = 300 ft

160 Meter Beam at 80 m = 270 ft

More info at: www.radioarcala.com

To the Right is

Super collector LA6NCA (Norway) with just some of his WWII German military radio equipment collection

More information and many more pictures at:

http://www.laud.no/la6nca/radio/



REMINDER



Yes, it is that time of year again!!!!! Below is the 2009 Renewal Application.

Please fill out the form below (for database), attach your check and mail to the address below. Be sure to update your e-mail address or other information.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION "OLE VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB" 2000

Manassas, VA 20108



THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA HAM RADIO FAIR

- Ham Radio, Electronics, and Computer Parts, Pieces, and Paraphernalia
- Licensing Exams—Walk-ins Invited! (9AM to noon on February 21st)
- Large Indoor Exhibit Area
- QSL checking for WAS, DXCC, VUCC until Noon
- 150 Paved Tailgate Spaces
 (\$15 for one space—includes one admission)
- Improved and expanded loading dock!
- FREE! On-Site Parking

FEATURING

License Exams On Saturday February 21st!

TAILGATING!

Tailgate area opens at 6AM on Sunday, February 22^m

Sunday, February 22, 2009

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:** www.viennawireless.org/winterfest.php

Table Sales and General Information - Dennis WA4QMSWinterfest2009@viennawireless.org
(703) 534-2081

Book Your Tables Online!

2008-11-20