

The OVH ARC Newsletter
"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108

FM Repeaters - W4OVH - 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+ D-STAR Repeater - W4OVH - 442.5125+

OVH Packet - Port 1: 145.730 Mhz, Port 3: 223.540 MHz - Sysop: Bill/N4SV

http://www.w4ovh.net

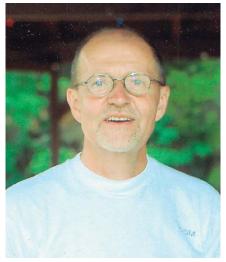
OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

February 2010

Next Meeting: Monday, February 15, 2010

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to all. This new year has become quite a weather machine - within the last week, one large, almost record setting snowstorm, followed by another, with trees and power lines down and roads blocked by fallen trees. Prince William County and Manassas public schools have been out all week; many in the area have had electric power outages, some for more than five days running. With all the snow, power outages, accidents, and disruptions to communications, it's good to have Ham Radio to keep in touch.



On January 30th and 31st, 2010 we had the first OVH winter Field Day event on the grounds of the Manassas Museum in Old Town Manassas. Joe / KI4OHR did an excellent job drumming up interest and coordinating the event with the support from the Prince William County Red Cross. Some picture of that event begin on page 8 below; more are at http://k4gvt.com/ovh_winter_field_day_2010. This too became quite a snow event as the pictures show. The close working relationship with the Red Cross was instrumental in the success of this Winter Field Day. Thank you to all that participated in this fun event.

At the last meeting we voted to move the regular OVH monthly meeting place from the NOVEC Technical Center to the new Red Cross Chapter House in Manassas at the same time (7:30 PM) on the third Monday each month. Thanks to the Red Cross for their generosity in providing this facility, and to Gary / WG4ARC for making us aware of this opportunity and assisting us in securing it. A copy of the Red Cross' proposed MOU with the OVH relating to this is on page 10 - 13 below.

The new location is at 9930 Liberia Avenue, Manassas, Virginia; there are several doors there which have "Red Cross" on or over them, so be sure to use the entrance marked with 9930, ask someone, or try all of the entrances until you find the right one! It is there. 9930 Liberia Avenue is in the shopping center at the North West corner of the intersection of Liberia Avenue and Wellington Road. If you don't know where that intersection is or how to get **Cont'd on Page 3**

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255 Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS			JOTA		
President: George Tarnovsky Vice Pres: Wayne Kline	K4GVT AG4ZZ	791-5956 791-2100	John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
Secretary: Wayne Phillips	N7QLK	393-8447	LEGAL		
Treasurer: currently vacant			Pete	KB4RME	369-2436
DIRECTORS			MEMBERSHIP CHAIR	MAN	
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 2010			PACKET		
Chris	KI4POT	361-3257		IZD AZDV	222 2244
Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873	Alan Bill	KD4KBX N4SV	330-8844 590-9562
FIELD DAY 2010				1145 V	550 5502
John	KG4NXT /	257-3556	PROGRAMS		
Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3556	TBA		
Wayne	N7QLK	393-8447	PUBLICITY		
CLUB ROSTER			Trisha Wells	KI4PCM	335-1096
Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877	QUARTERMASTER		
EDUCATION			Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033	REPEATER CONTROL	LERS	
CLUB EMERGENCY COOR	DINATOR		Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
David Meola	KI4AZX	393-6681	Art	W1CRO	791-4330
			Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
ARES AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR			Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042	David	KG4GIY	361-3042
F.A.R. REPS.			George Alan	K4GVT KD4KBX	791-5956 330-8844
Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234			000 0044
Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877	W4OVH / W4PVA — TR		
FINANCE			Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877	SCHOLARSHIP		
Joe	KI4OHR	369-2639	Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234	SUNSHINE		
GENERATORS			Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3556
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008			207 3330
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512	TECHNICAL COMMIT		
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794	George	K4GVT	791-5956
HISTORIAN			Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566	Alan Bill	KD4KBX	330-8844
		201 0000	Butch	N4SV W4HJL	590.9562 369-2877
WEBMASTER — W40VH.N		200	Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
Bill	N4SV	590-9562	David	KG4GIY	361-3042
EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4c	ovh@googlegroup	s.com	Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042			

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 © 2009 by the Ole Virginia Hams.

The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Monday of the month at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House at 9930 Liberia Avenue, Manassas, Virginia. 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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there, look it up ahead of time on maps.google.com or maps.yahoo.com. Neither of these online services shows the accurate location of the 9930 Liberia Avenue entrance, but both clearly show (in satellite view) the shopping center at the North West corner of Liberia Avenue and Wellington Road. Get into that shopping center using one of its entrances off of Liberia Avenue and then drive around until you find the 9930 door. Although we did hold a meeting at this same location to try it out in December (with a number of individuals reporting problems finding the location), the upcoming meeting on February 15th will be the first regular meeting at this new location.

The other very significant event at the last meeting was the extended discussion about whether to expand the OVH D-Star repeater system to include a 2 meter capability when a frequency allocation becomes available. There were strong opinions on both sides, but those in favor of the expansion prevailed when the vote was taken.

At the upcoming meeting, we'll be holding elections for club officers. We still have two vacancies (Treasurer and Secretary) that need to be filled. Please consider volunteering for one of these positions. Of course all positions are open to elections, but these two have no one running yet.

Update on D-Star DV Board building project: The A/D converter chip is still on backorder until some time later this month.

Be sure to pay your OVH dues (still only \$10.00) for the New Year if you haven't done that already. You can bring them to the meeting or pay them by mail using the transmittal form at w4ovh.net. Hope to see you all on Monday, February 15th 7:30PM at the Red Cross at 9930 Liberia Avenue, Manassas.

73 George K4GVT

Sunshine Corner:

Birthdays in February – Roland / WB4NWG, Patty / KI4FQF and Art / W1CRO, hope you all have a great day!

Condolences to Bob / K4HJF on the passing of his dad who was in his 90's and living in Florida.

Best wishes to Butch / W4HJL for a speedy recovery from his accident while shoveling snow.

I am sad to report the passing of Henry Ahalt / N4AZC, a long time member of the OVH. A more detailed note has been sent out on the OVH email reflector.

Congratulations to Joe / KI4OHR for an excellent job in chairing the club's first Winter Field Day at the end of January. Nobody can say they had it easy at the site because it was truly a winter weekend! Some pictures later in this newsletter.

Many events coming up – OVH Club elections, Vienna Hamfest, Virginia QSO Party just to name a few, grab a radio and join the fun!

Just a reminder, the Thursday OVH night net is going strong at 8 pm, please join us on any of the OVH analog repeaters!

Wayne N7QLK, John KG4NXT and Theresa KG4TVM are co-chairing Field Day 2010 to be held in late June. A planning meeting was held recently, more details at the meeting, any suggestions and/or requests – send me an email.

Please send me your news, kg4tvm@hotmail.com or 703-257-3566.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting January 18, 2009:

George / K4GVT called meeting to order at 1930 Eastern Time. Meeting was held at the NOVEC Technical Center in Gainesville, Virginia.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 29 OVH members and 3 guests.

BUSINESS MEETING

The minutes of the December 2009 meeting were approved.

Treasury report (temporarily taken on by Art / W1CRO): From 2008, went from black to red (2009).

John / KG4NXT thinks an additional \$1,000 was used for the scholarship fund.

Dave / KG4GIY thinks that in the past, he had suggested an increase in dues (to \$15), and was told that a change to the By-Laws would be required. Art read the By Laws which do not require that. Dave / KG4GIY suggested it again and recommended that it be discussed again next month. Joe / KI4OHR seconded the motion to revisit the subject next month, noting that even a \$2 increase is not asking too much. Dave / KG4GIY is tasking President to present the dues issue to the finance committee.

Art / W1CRO) - stated that we need to cancel DSL phone line with the telephone company; Karl / W4KRL - asked why the delay - basically OBE.

No additional action.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Bruce (AB8CI) - Read-ins for prospective new members: Justin Anderle / KJ4LAS; Roger Blinn / KJ4RDJ; Fred Paul / WD4ASP; Austin Walrabenstein / KJ4EOW; and David Bryant / KJ4EPF.

ARES: Dave / KG4GIY: Went over action plan (last done in 2003); finished quick reference guide (including radio); maps updated; added new AEC. Not a lot on the 2010 calendar (yet). Goals: more solid digital presence. Next ARES meeting is on the third Saturday in March (March 20th) the Prince William County EOC.

Fleetwatch: Steve / N4OGR: asked if we would like John Nagel of the Prince William County Crime Prevention Unit to present at March meeting. General consensus was yes.

Repeaters: George / K4GVT: No report.

Training: Mark / WA4KFZ – Has received one inquiry for tech class. Joe / KI4OHR asked about an Amateur Extra Class - no plans at this time.

Scholarships: No report.

Hamfest: Bruce / AB8CI: Flyer printed. George / K4GVT suggested going to print. Discussed small kit prizes (winners will need to be present to win). Soliciting ideas for education-related ideas.

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Field Day: John / KG4NXT, Theresa / KG4TVM, and Wayne / N7QLK have begun planning for Field Day in June. ARRL has responded that the rules for 2010 will not be published until sometime in March; continue planning per 2009 rules in the meantime. Gary (WA4ARC) was given 'heads-up' for Red Cross support (to be followed-up with an official request). Suggestions for Educational Activities are requested. Planning on a 50/50 Scholarship Fund raffle.

Winter Field Day: Joe / KI4OHR is chairing the Winter Field Day to be held on January 30th an d31st, and still looking for participants to assist with setup of a heated tent (set up 10 am Saturday, January 30th; tear down 2 pm Sunday, January 31st. EM manager with Manassas City has agreed to allow the OVH and Red Cross to set up next to the Manassas Museum at no cost; Gary / WG4ARC (Red Cross) volunteered use of a heated tent. Gary / WG4ARC and Wayne / AG4ZZ will assist.

Sunshine: Theresa (KG4TVM) – No January birthdays reported; Our best wishes MaryLou!!

Webpage: Bill (N4SV) - webpage functioning. Web site will show new meeting site.

Packet: Bill (N4SV) - Looking for a new home.

D-star: Keith / KM4AA. Some users have had issues trying to use their DV-Dongle to the OVH gateway - they can connect but cannot transmit. The latest in this case was precipitated by an amateur in Greece, having made a bad entry during his registration process. Once this was corrected users could again operate. Thing to keep in mind is that the D-Star is a distributed system with global reach. As the administrators become more knowledgeable and aware, they will hopefully intervene when settings have not been completed correctly. My request to the member is that if you have a problem, let me know. It may not be your personal equipment or even the local gateway.

DV Build project: George / K4GVT: Waiting on A/D converter, after which building sessions will begin.

PROGRAM: No program.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

George / K4GVT: Reminder that next month, elections for board members will be held. Existing President and Vice President running again without opposition. Volunteers needed for the Treasurer and Secretary positions.

George (K4GVT) - Opportunity exists to use Red Cross Room – need concurrence to use (at some interval) & written agreement (MOU). Dave / KG4GIY - does RC provide guarantee of building availability? Gary / WG4ARC - RC guarantees 2 years with follow-on option. Mark / WA4KFZ - what limitations are there in the current location for radio operations? Gary / WG4ARC - two positions, only roof-mounted antennas. George / K4GVT - 15-60 persons can fit in RC room. Dave / KG4GIY requested motion to meet every other month between both sites. Discussion to schedule meetings using email Reflector / Newsletter / Web site. Gary (WG4ARC) - room will be set up, restaurants readily available. Gary-other than this room, NOVEC has no awareness of our existing.

Butch (W4HJL) - history-we tried to get an MOU in years past, endorse

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meeting at NOVEC every few months. Art (W1CRO) - we owe NOVEC a letter for our appreciation and permission for repeater antennas on their tower.

Dave / KG4GIY - we are extremely lucky that we have the tower space in this day/age of screaming needs. Suggest that we quietly keep them happy.

Bill / N4SV - what is the relation of the tower space vs. this room? Generally agreed that using the room vs. Red Cross, has nothing to do with the tower space.

John / KG4NXT recommended that a vote be taken.

Steve / N4OGR claims that there are numerous locations to hold meetings. Every other month for 12 months (until next January 2011): 13 yes, 17 nays, motion disapproved. Steve / N4OGR motion that we move altogether - 20 yeas, 10 nays.

Joe / KI4OHR) challenged that not all current attendees may not be current members. (currently paid). Next meeting and every meeting for next 12 months at RC. Send details to Dave / KG4GIY & Bill / N4SV for reflector posting.

Dave / KG4GIY presented a motion to approve MOU at next month's meeting. MOU should be posted on web site for review. Steve / N4OGR asked if posting it was a concern. Generally agreed that it wasn't. Motion for board to review MOU (ayes unanimous). George / K4GVT will send it out tomorrow.

George / K4GVT distributed cost sheet for the proposed 2 meter D-star repeater-

Keith (K4MAA) explained that OVH is third in line for a repeater allocation. If we turn it down, it's permanent. Butch / W4HJL asked if that pertained to the 1.2 GHz (no).

Dave / KG4GIY — do we have to do anything with the gateway controller? No answer. Dave / KG4GIY - what advantage do we have by putting up a stack? George / K4GVT this allows us to provide better coverage for Manassas down I-81, Dumfries.

Butch / W4HJL provided rationale, stating that we promised that we wouldn't bother water company's repeater (harmonic). Dave / KG4GIY - there are more 2m D-Star repeaters than regular analog 2m repeaters. He summarized the various repeaters around. Dave / KG4GIY agreed that it may be many years before an allocation may become available; Skywarn is pushing the D-star move as well.

Butch / W4HJL -what is the main goal for the repeater? Dave / KG4GIY -primary weather reporting systems (among other purposes).

Neal / KD7UHR - is this within the club's charter? George - yes.

Karl / W4KRL - questioned whether we have valid arguments.

Dave / KG4GIY - existing repeaters are very old school and can be readily repaired or swapped out; D-Star equipment can be sent back to ICOM, but configuring the D-star equipment is light-years ahead; the current FM equipment is showing its age. Is \$3,000 too much to spend? The new blood is D-star; if we don't use it, what are we going to go to invite new folks?

Karl / W4KRL - what digital speeds will be provided above existing? John / KG4NXT - basically none.

Joe / KI4OHR moved that we approve 2m D-Star repeater.

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John / KG4NXT highlighted the recent net activity, the capability of the existing system, and stated that the club wouldn't gain much additional capability above existing (2m/440 fm); lastly, with the struggle making money at the hamfest, we can probably expect harder times ahead - do we want to make this expenditure? Requests we vote no. Dave / KG4GIY - if we're basing our usage on repeater use, we may want to turn off our repeaters altogether.

Al / KB4BHB - why do we need a repeater if according to Dave / KG4GIY there are so many available?

Keith / KM4AA - having 2m/440 allows for data and voice simultaneously.

Chris / KI4POT - if we vote 'yes', how much time are we allowed to react? Answer: about 6 months.

George / K4GVT - why are we holding on to the money when one of the club's main objectives is for advancing our hobby?

Steve / N4OGR asked Justin / KJ4LAS why he got into amateur radio Response: We are asked as a young person, why do we want to talk to old people? He went on to explain that it's a step beyond CB, etc. Neil / KD7UHR - got into amateur radio to get into additional infrastructure.

Chris / KI4POT - interested to be in the less-technical stuff.

Joe's / KI4OHR motion was seconded pending allocation of funds per Keith.

George / K4GVT took count - 18 yeas, 10 nays; motion approved.

Reminder: Vienna Wireless Winterfest, 28 February, 2010 at Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale.

50/50 for \$11 total received: Winner was Mark / WA4KFZ - donated back to the club.

Mystery Box drawing (\$8) - winner was George / K4GVT.

Meeting adjourned at 21:38.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

February 6, 2010 (Saturday) - Virginia State Convention (Richmond Hamfest): Richmond Telecommunicatins Society, Richmond Raceway Complex, 600 E Laburnum Avenue. More information, including directions: http://www.frostfest.com.

February 28, 2010 (Sunday) - VWS Winterfest: Vienna Wireless Association. Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, Virginia. More information, including directions: http://www.viennawireless.org/winterfest.php

OPERATING EVENTS AND CONTESTS

There a many operating contests almost all of the time! The excellent web site maintained by WA7BNM lists most of them! See http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/

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.

Selected Pictures from the OVH Winter Field Day - January 30 - 31, 2010 held on the grounds of the Manassas Museum, Manassas, Virginia





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LOCAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE

Ole Virginia Hams,

A voluntary community, emergency and public service communications organization

AND

Prince William County Chapter of the American Red Cross

I. Introduction

The Prince William County Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Amateur Radio Club Ole Virginia Hams representing public service-oriented radio amateurs within this area, have agreed to enter into this local agreement which have formed the basis of this memorandum of understanding.

II. Purpose

This agreement between the local Ole Virginia Hams, Amateur Radio club and the Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross establishes a framework of cooperation and a close working relationship with volunteer radio amateurs organized under the authority of the ARRL Emergency Coordinator and officials of the Prince William County Chapter of the American Red Cross. It is intended through joint cooperation of the local resources available to both signers, the public will best be served under disaster, emergency or public service-related situations. This document is not meant to be considered legally binding; it is a statement of cooperation between these two parties.

III. Organization

The Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio club, provides Emergency Services that consists of Federally licensed radio amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes pursuant to Federal Communications Commission Rule 97.1 (a) which states that a "fundamental purpose" of the Amateur Radio Service is: "Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications."

The American Radio Relay League, Inc., comprising more than 134,000 radio amateurs in the U.S., sponsors the ARRL Field Organization. More than 25,000 amateurs are registered as members of this national field organization which is divided into 73 geographical sections. The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) is one segment of the ARRL's commitment to serving the public in time of need. Local ARES® groups are established components within ARES®.

The ARRL Virginia Section leadership within the Amateur Radio Emergency Service is exercised by the Section Emergency Coordinator (appointed by the elected ARRL Section Manager), with the Section Emergency Coordinator appointing District Emergency Coordinators and Emergency Coordinators within the section.

The local Emergency Coordinator is the key person within the ARRL Field Organization to provide an ARES response in a given locale.

The Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Emergency Coordinator provides this service for the club to its local community.

The Prince William County Chapter of the American Red Cross is a community chapter of the National Capitol Region which provides services in Prince William County, Loudoun County, Fairfax County, Arlington County, Prince Georges County, and Montgomery County. It also services the cities of Manassas, Manassas Park, and the District of Columbia.

This is under the National Red Cross direction and coordination.

IV. Recognition

The Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross recognizes that the Amateur Radio Emergency Service is the ARRL sponsored emergency/public service-oriented communications organization.

ARES serves more than 25,000 licensed U.S. radio amateurs nationwide and can be of valuable assistance in providing critical communications during emergencies and disasters when normal lines of communications are disrupted.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service recognizes Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross as the local Disaster Response agency under it's Congressional Charter and as the local governments provider of mass feeding and shelter to Prince William County, Manassas, and Manassas Park.

V. Principles of Cooperation

So that communications resources of the Amateur Radio Emergency Services may be coordinated and utilized to the fullest advantage during disasters, emergencies and public service-related situations, and to the extent permitted or required by law and regulation, the local Amateur Radio Emergency Service group and the Prince William County Chapter of the American Red Cross have agreed that each organization will:

• Encourage on-going liaison with the other, urging members of both organizations to develop increasingly effective communication and cooperation.

- Work with each other for developing emergency plans, training exercises, and a heightened state of preparedness.
- Work with each other in times of disaster or emergency to meet the needs of the public.
- Ole Virginia Hams will provide assistance to maintain the radio equipment installed for disaster use at the Prince William Chapter, and train operators to staff these radios when needed, in times of disaster.
- American Red Cross Prince William Chapter will provide meeting space for the Club on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Anna Mae Davis Training Center, located in the Chapter House.
- American Red Cross Prince William Chapter will provide training space for the Club at the Anna Mae Davis Training Center, located in the Chapter House, as possible.
- Each party will, at the same time, work within its own lines of authority and respect the lines of authority of the other.
- Distribute copies of and publicize this agreement through channels to its own members, and to other organizations, both public and private, which may have an active interest in disaster relief.
- Establish a mutually acceptable means of identification for volunteers under this agreement which may be honored by local law enforcement agencies at their discretion during disasters and emergencies.
- Understand that either signee to this document may have similar local agreements with other disaster assistance-related agencies/organizations.

VI. NOTIFICATION

Each party will provide the other emergency contact information to reach each other when needed in a disaster event.

VII. Implementation

This memorandum shall take effect upon its signing by authorized representatives of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club and representatives of the Prince William County Chapter of the American Red Cross. This memorandum may be amended by mutual agreement of both Parties and will remain in effect until terminated. The Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio club President and the club Emergency Coordinator and the authorized representative of Prince William Chapter of the American Red Cross will periodically review this agreement and coordinate such revisions as may be necessary. Upon 90 days written notice, this memorandum may be terminated by either party.

Date	
	Karen Wayne, Executive Director Prince William American Red Cross
Date	
	George Tarnovsky , President Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club