

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+
Web Site at <http://w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

Renew your OVH membership now!

March 2014

Next Meeting: Monday, March 17, 2014

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hello to all and I hope this message finds you all healthy and well.

For the latter part of February and for month of March I think I'm not alone and saying no more snow. While it was nice watching the kids play in the white stuff, for adults it was a constant battle to keep up with everything - school closures, snow clearing and plowing, difficulties in travelling around.

On the OVH Club level I am pleased and honored to once again be elected as your President. Thank you all for the chance to serve the club and community. I also want to thank our other elected Officers for agreeing to serve the OVH. Hopefully, we will have another successful year.

E-mail traffic indicates HSMM-MESH networks are a technical subject of growing interest in the ham community. A useful e-book about such networks is available at <http://wndw.net/pdf/wndw3-en/wndw3-ebook.pdf> as well as another at <http://www.remoteamateur.com/> with lots of information on HSMM-MESH networks for those interested in learning more.

It's still early in the New Year and I remind the membership who haven't done so already, to please renew your memberships for 2014!

As always If there is any subject that you as club members would like to give a presentation on let me know and we can get you on the schedule.

I hope to see you at the regular OVH meeting on Monday, March 17th at 7:30 pm!

73 Justin KJ4LAS



Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President: Justin Anderle	KJ4LAS	571-221-3423
Vice Pres: Clarence Meese	K4CNM	791-6424
Secretary: Ron Zuber	N4RDZ	206-423-0602
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 NET COORDINATOR

Thurs - 8:00 PM Local Time	JOHN / KG4NXT	257-3566
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HAMFEST 2014

Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
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FIELD DAY 2014

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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EDUCATION

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
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CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Meola	KI4AZX	393-6681
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ARES - EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	703-628-3868
		email: KG4GIY@ARRL.NET
Prince William County ARES website		http://pwcares.org

FINANCE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490

GENERATORS

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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WEBMASTER — W4OVH.NET

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
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JOTA

Scott	KB8NUM	365-2642
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LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	KJ4FDK	361-4885
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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NEWSLINE FOR THE WEEKLY NET

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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PROGRAMS

Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
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QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Russ	WB4HHN	368-6435

W4OVH / W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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SUNSHINE

Theresa (Acting)	KG4TVM	257-3566
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Bill	N4SV	590-9562
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
David	KG4GIY	628-3868

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 © 2012 by the Ole Virginia Hams.

The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Monday each month at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House at 9930 Liberia Avenue, Manassas, Virginia. Members, prospective members and other interested persons are invited to attend. Local information can also be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.970-, 224.660-, 442.200+ and 443.500+ MHz or D-Star repeaters on 146.865- and 442.5125+ MHz. Up to date information about OVH activities and its meetings is also available during the OVH's nets on its FM Repeater 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>

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.

Approx. Circulation - 170.

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Sunshine Corner:

Happy Birthday wishes in March to Russ / WB4HNN, Lisa / NoCall and Jeff / N1SN.

Elections for Officers were held at our February meeting, congratulations to Justin / KJ4LAS as President, Clarence / K4CNM as Vice-President, Terry / KC4DV as Treasurer and Ron / N4RDZ as Secretary. Thanks to each for your time and effort, and special thanks to Ron for taking over as Secretary from me!

Silent Key – Very sorry to report the passing of Tommy Watts / KA4AFU, as the result of a car accident.

As Art / W1CRO and Steve / N4OGR let me know, Tommy had been very active in the club for many years until about 2000, he also participated in many of the club events. Thanks to Russ / WB4HNN for letting us know. Please keep Tommy's wife, Grace in your thoughts.

Don't forget to participate in the Virginia QSO party this coming weekend and then to turn in your logs the OVH as your club! Lots of fun each year.

Reminder – Thursday night net, every Thursday, 8:00 pm, on the OVH 146.97 FM repeater (and other linked FM repeaters), stop by and say hello. (More info: w4ovh.net “OVH Nets” tab)

If you have any news for the sunshine corner, good or bad please send me an email kg4tvm@hotmail.com or call me at 703-257-3566.

Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting February 17, 2014:

Justin / KJ4LAS called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Meeting was held at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House in Manassas, Virginia.

All present stated their names and call signs. There were 28 OVH members and 2 guests.

No program this month, Justin / KJ4LAS asked for additional nominations from the floor, none were received, so the slate is as follows: President – Justin / KJ4LAS, Vice President Clarence / K4CNM, Secretary Ron / N4RDZ and Treasurer Terry / KC4DV. Art reminded everyone that they need to have their dues paid for 2014 to vote. Butch / W4HJL passed out ballots.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the January meeting were approved as read, motion by Steve / KB4OF, seconded by Terry / WA5NTI.

Treasurer's report – Terry / KC4DV gave the report, motion by Bob / K4HJF, seconded by Steve / KB4OF approved as presented.

Membership – Luther / KJ4FDK read in Ed / KK4PHP, Winnie / KK4UYY and Serge / NoCall – voting at the next meeting; motion by Luther / KJ4FDK to vote in Jim / AA4KG, approved.

Repeater – Keith / KM4AA. D-Star Internet access not working reliably but Keith will be working on the repeater this weekend.

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Training – Mark / WA4KFZ has 10 students in the current Technician class; he is trying to get future classes scheduled but is having trouble getting a response from the Red Cross, discussion followed with suggestions of who to contact at the Red Cross.

Hamfest – Terry / KC4DV reported on the Richmond Hamfest and spoke to several vendors there, discussed moving the date of future Manassas Hamfest, will follow up at a later date with more information, he has also received a draft of the contract from the fairgrounds. Everything is moving ahead well for the Hamfest this year, and another meeting will be held on the first Wednesday in March.

Field Day – John / KG4NXT will be having a planning meeting soon, does have the information on the ARRL website, work needs to be done on the generators since they haven't been used for Field Day for several years now, discussion followed.

Sunshine Corner – Theresa / KG4TVM announced the birthdays for the month.

Web Page – Paul / W4ZB reported that the page is working. Please submit any suggestions or observations for improvements or corrections to him via email.

4-H – Terry / WA5NTI showed the club two simple homemade CW (Morse code) keys that will be used for the Youth Lounge and asked for help in making more keys; also reported that Clarence / K4CNM was able to get a 1x1 call for the Youth Lounge and this will also be used at the Prince William County Fair this August; Clarence also designed the QSL card; Terry WA5NTI asked for a round of applause for Clarence's efforts for the 4H; John / KG4NXT asked that the 4H group be invited to the Saturday Night Potluck Dinner at Field Day

Budget – Art / W1CRO presented the budget for vote, discussion followed; motion to accept the budget as presented by Bob / K4HJF, seconded by Paul / W4ZB, approved

New Business – Art / W1CRO reported that George / K4GVT has volunteered to make the club badges without charge, Gary / WG4ARC will provide the badge making machine; Butch / W4HJL made a motion that Gary come in to one of the meetings to take pictures, seconded by Gene / N4FHW, approved

Election results – Butch W4HJL reported that voting was unanimous for the slate presented to the club, President Justin / KJ4LAS, Vice President Clarence / K4CNM, Secretary Ron / N4RDZ and Treasurer Terry / KC4DV

New Business – Theresa / KG4TVM reminded members about the Virginia QSO Party in mid-March; Terry / KC4DV reported that the club will have a table at the Vienna Hamfest at the end of the month; Terry / KC4DV asked if anyone has a ham radio video that could be used as a program at the monthly meetings; Terry / WA5NTI made a motion to make Terry / KC4DV a program director, seconded by George / K4GVT, approved.

On motion by Terry / WA5NTI, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT(S)

Sunday, March 30, 2014 - Mini-Tri event, OVH to assist with communications.

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HAMFESTS:

Saturday - April 5, 2014 - Timonium, Maryland - Maryland Fair Grounds - Hamfest. For more information, check out <http://www.gbhc.org>

Friday - Sunday - May, 16, 17 & 18, 2014 - Dayton Hamvention - Dayton, Ohio - held every year in mid-May and the biggest hamfest in the world. A group from the OVH always attends. For more information, go to <http://daytonhamvention.org> Note: if you're planning to go to Dayton, don't forget to also consider attending, the excellent all day Contest University program there on Thursday, May 15th. See below for more info about Contest University.

Sunday - June 8, 2014 - OVH Manassas Hamfest - being sponsored by the Ole Virginia Hams this year for the 40th time at the Prince William County Fairgrounds, Manassas, Virginia. See the Flyer later in this newsletter and also look at: manassashamfest.org and w4ovh.net (hamfest tab) This is a very big event for the OVH each year. Contact Terry / KC4DV for more information.

ARRL / OVH FIELD DAY:

Saturday/Sunday - June 28 / 29, 2014 - Save the Date! Check with John / KG4NXT for more info.

TRAINING / SEMINAR EVENTS:

Second Thursday evening each month, AMRAD meetings, McLean, Va. - see amrad.org for details.

Thursday - May 15, 2014 - Dayton, Ohio. Contest University. This training / tutorial / seminar event is held one day before the start of the Dayton Hamvention each year so that the trip to Dayton, Ohio can include both events. Much of the material presented by the world class lecturers at Contest University is directed towards optimizing the performance and operation of HF ham radio stations. As such it is oriented to more advanced or experienced hams, and is an intensive full day program with meals provided. The program and the lecturers change each year. Worth attending if you operate on HF. Much more information at <http://contestuniversity.com> Two OVH members attended this program in 2012 and 2013.

OPERATING CONTESTS:

Saturday / Sunday - March 15 / 16, 2014 - the Virginia QSO Party sponsored by the Sterling Park ARC. More info at http://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2014_VQP/2014_VQP_Main.html It's not too early to start planning for this one.

Information about many other operating contests almost every weekend and each month can be found on the WA7BNM's excellent web at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal>

NEXT 2014 OVH MANASSAS HAMFEST COMMITTEE MEETING:

Wednesday - April 2, 2014 - contact Terry / KC4DV and watch the OVH email reflector to confirm the date and for updated information about the time and place. This will be the 7th advance preparation and planning meeting for the 2014 OVH Manassas Hamfest. All interested individuals are welcome to attend.

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. Complete direct contact information for David appears on page 2 of this Newsletter.

Some Possibly Interesting or Useful Information

1. Windows XP Computers. In April (next month) Microsoft will discontinue update and support services for its very popular Windows XP operating system which first became available early in the last decade. There are a lot of computers around which still run very well which use Windows XP; and there is also a lot of ham radio software applications in use which are designed to run on the Windows XP operating system. Does this matter? What does it mean? System security updates for Windows XP will no longer be available from Microsoft, but Microsoft chose not to allow Internet Explorer 9 or later versions run under Windows XP. If you still use Windows XP, don't use Internet Explorer at all - instead, use a modern, up to date browser (Chrome, Firefox, Opera, etc.) for all Internet surfing, and use normal precautions to avoid virus infections. You should already be doing this because Internet Explorer 8 (and earlier versions) are obsolete and not safe to use. In particular, never open an email attachments from an unknown or questionable source; avoid visiting sketchy web sites or clicking on buttons on such sites, and avoid installing (untested) software from questionable sources. If you plan to visit sketchy web sites or install software from questionable sources, always use a virtual (Windows XP) machine first for testing; then, if something unexpected happens (e.g., a virus infection) before testing is completed, you can simply delete the virtual machine. If you plan to continue to use Windows XP, be sure to have a copy of David Karp's "Windows XP Annoyances" book to educate yourself handy. With some care, Windows XP will continue to run well long after Microsoft terminates its support. And don't discard or abandon your Windows XP application software: the newer Windows 7 and Windows 8 operating systems support (most) application programs which were designed for Windows XP.

2. Apple iPad Tablets. Apple has long claimed its computers (including its tablets) are superior to Windows based systems because they have fewer software breakdowns. This, of course, is bogus marketing hype. Your writer recently encountered an Apple "Genius" at the Fair Oaks' Apple store who asserts insistently that iPads, unlike Windows or Android products, don't have "files" or use any filesystem. [What a "true believer" can convince himself is "true"!] iPads work quite well most of the time, but can and do experience software breakdowns and lockups. Whenever that happens, be sure to shut down the operating system and then restart it - i.e., reboot the operating system. That will often fix the problem, but to learn how to do that effectively you must dig deeply into Apple's sparse product documentation and discussions on Apple user forums - because Apple tries to hide the fact that software breakdowns and lockups do occur with its systems.

3. Ham Equipment Manuals. Often user and repair manuals and schematics for older ham equipment are misplaced or equipment is acquired at a hamfest without a manual. A good source "free" downloadable manuals for older ham radio equipment is <http://bama.edebris.com/manuals> A newer source which also has many such manuals is <http://qrzcq.com/page/manuals> Most of us prefer downloadable manuals to be in the well known PDF format, but both of these sites have some manuals available only as DJVU files. What's that? Don't despair! Converters for DJVU to PDF format files are available online.

4. Online Ham Webinars. Mentioned before here is the relatively new <http://wwrof.org> web site which has been accumulating a large archive of ham webinars: <http://wwrof.org/category/webinar-archive> Most of these are not simple Youtube videos, but are carefully prepared lectures or presentations on current ham topics, mostly technical in nature.

5. Polar Region Radio Propagation. NASA has an aurora prediction site at <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ovation/> This site may be useful for hams interested in long range HF and MF radio propagation which transits polar regions (e.g., East Coast to/from Japan, China, etc.).

6. Tuning a Vertical Antenna subject to high RF Fields. An interesting paper has been published on methods and procedures for tuning a vertical (transmitting) antenna which is subject to high RF fields from other sources (e.g., other nearby broadcast transmitters). See http://arraysolutions.com/images/Tuning_160m_Vertical.pdf This is worth study if you have that problem.

7. Mobile Ham Radio. One of the best web sites for information about mobile operation continues to be <http://k0bg.com/> which addresses almost all issues involved in setting up a mobile station. Highly recommended.

RE M I N D E R



Yes, it is that time of year again!!!! Below is the 2014 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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION "OLE VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB" 2014

NAME: _____ CALL SIGN: _____
ADDRESS: _____ Home Tel: _____
_____ Cell Tel: _____
Work Tel: _____
EMAIL: _____
BIRTHDAY: _____

ARE YOU PRESENTLY AN ARRL MEMBER? (YES/NO)
ARE YOU A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER: (YES/NO)
MAY YOUR TELEPHONE NOS. BE LISTED IN THE "Members Only" OVH ROSTER? (YES/NO)
WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT LICENSE CLASS? _____

Dues are now **\$20.00** per year and payable on January 1, 2014. Dues for each additional family member living at the same mailing address are \$10.00. Dues for a full time student at the college undergraduate or lower level [list school attended and grade or level: _____] are \$10.00.

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

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

NORTHERN VIRGINIA'S LARGEST

Manassas Hamfest

AMATEUR RADIO, COMPUTER, & ELECTRONICS SHOW

An ARRL-Approved HAMFEST Presented By:

The "OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

(A non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio)



Sunday, June 8, 2014

Prince William County Fairgrounds

Large Outdoor and Covered Pavillion flea market areas, two indoor air-conditioned buildings, several covered buildings and ample parking

10624 Dumfries Road, Manassas, VA 20112-2720 (Route 234) - TALK-IN 146.97- 442.200+ D-Star 442.5125+

INDOOR EXHIBITOR SPACE

8-foot tables: \$30* each
with chairs & electricity
(\$25 if reserved by May 1st)
Setup 2-10 PM Saturday

GENERAL ADMISSION

\$10* per person at gate
(Cutoff date for \$9
advance Sales May 1st)
Gates open at 7 AM

TAILGATING (admission is extra)

Outdoor Spaces: \$10* per space
Covered Pavillion: \$20 per space
(*See web site for prepayment discounts)
Gates open at 6 AM
Setup 2-10 PM Saturday

* Online ticket sales and vendor registration at <http://manassashamfest.org>

For our Most Current Vendor List and Ticket Sales Visit our Web Pages:

<http://manassashamfest.org> and <http://w4ovh.net>

PRIZES

- Door prizes hourly 9 AM to 1 PM (be present to win)
- Major & Tailgate prizes awarded at 2 PM

INFORMATION

- ARRL Roanoke Division Officers attending
- Virginia Section Manager Forum & other Forums
- 4th Call Area QSL Bureau Representatives
- DXCC QSL Card Checking will be available
- Virginia QSO Party Awards Ceremony
- Youth Lounge activities for Youngsters

ACTIVITIES

- Check our web pages (below) for the most up-to-date information
- Flea Market & Vendors - all day
- VEC License Exams, 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM
- "Maker" group activities & presentations
- ARRL style Youth Lounge programs all day for youngsters - by the OVHARC and 4-H
- D-STAR Operating and Q&A Forum
- Amateur Radio Satellite Forum
- National Traffic System Forum

<http://manassashamfest.org> and <http://w4ovh.net>

Dealer Info: Ron (N4RDZ) vendors@manassashamfest.org
General Info: Terry (KC4DV) chairman@manassashamfest.org
VE Testing: David (KG4GIY) vetesting@manassashamfest.org