

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 - Coming later in 2009: 442.5125+
OVH Packet - Port 1: 145.730 Mhz, Port 3: 223.540 MHz - Sysop: Bill/N4SV
<http://www.w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

April 2009

Next Meeting: April 20, 2009

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

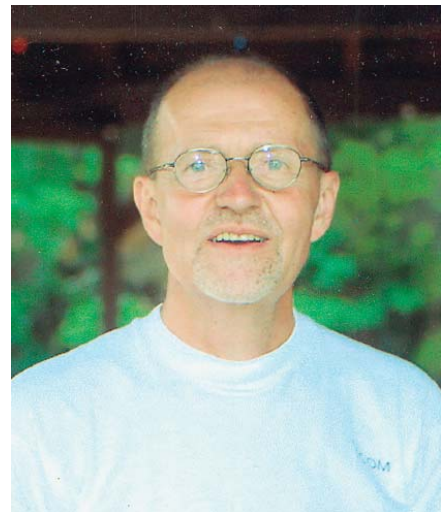
Greetings to all, lots of great things going on for OVH and its members right now. But before I get to that, it's that time of year for all of us examine our antennas systems for any surprises winter may have left for us.

Be sure especially to check all of your ground connections. With Spring comes lightning and that can be disastrous. We can't control Mother nature, but we can limit the likelihood and damage a nearby lightening hit can cause. Increase the odds that your equipment will survive a close by strike, and minimize your losses by taking the necessary precautions now. Check for corrosion, loose bolts, broken connections, anything that looks odd, rusty or worn out should be checked for both electrical and mechanical integrity.

The OVH now has a D-STAR frequency allocation and implementation of the 440 D-STAR repeater is now well underway. Through the generosity of Mark / WA4KFZ we have now acquired the D-STAR repeater. Keith / KM4AA and the D-STAR tech group are working out all the issues and assorted hardware to "get-er-done".

The DV Board project parts are coming in. So far I have in hand the PCB's and all of the "hard to get" devices. The software has been updated several times and looks very stable. Once all the parts are here, I'll arrange for the group builds to begin. I hoping to do this is the next two or three weeks. Of course, work has a way of taking top priority, which could push out the schedule. I'll keep the group posted.

The date of the OVH Manassas Hamfest on the second Sunday in June (June 14th) is fast approaching. Chris / KI4POT and Bruce / AB8CI have been doing a fantastic job getting all the details organized and in place. The Hamfest Committee too has been very busy handing out flyers at all the local Hamfests. Many commercial vendors have paid for their spaces in advance. Your help will be much needed to make this event a big OVH success!



Cont'd on Page 3

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President: George Tarnovsky	K4GVT	791-5956
Vice Pres: Wayne Kline	AG4ZZ	791-2100
Secretary: Wayne Phillips	N7QLK	393-8447
Treasurer: Joe Dobs	KI4OHR	369-2639

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 2008

Chris	KI4POT	361-3257
Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873

FIELD DAY 2008

Joe	KI4OHR	369-2639
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877

CLUB ROSTER

Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877
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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 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
Joe	KI4OHR	369-2639
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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WEBMASTER — W4OVH.NET

Bill	N4SV	590-9562
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EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042
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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

Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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NEWSLINE

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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PACKET

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4SV	590-9562

PROGRAMS

TBA

PUBLICITY

Trisha Wells	KI4PCM	335-1096
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QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844

W4OVH / W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3556
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

George	K4GVT	791-5956
Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4SV	590-9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939

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 © 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.

Approx. Circulation - 170.

Last Rev: 03/25/2009

Plans are also well underway for the big OVH / ARRL Field Day event this year which will be on June 27th and 28th. Joe / KI4OHR is chairman for that is looking for your support in setup, operations, and tear down. We're hoping to have personnel available operating the radios for all hours this year so please think about what shift you can help with. This is always fun with good ops, good friends, and a good opportunity to show your skills. Of course great food. Don't forget your family and friends are also invited to the Field Day picnic which will be held on Saturday, June 27th at the site. More details to come in the next two Newsletter and on the OVH reflector as we get closer to that event.

A heavy work schedule with a lot of out of town travel has forced Joe / KI4OHR to resigned from his position as OVH club treasurer. Everyone should thank Joe for the great job he has done for the club in that position. Of course, the club is now looking for a qualified volunteer to take over that important position. Please let one of the OVH officers or directors know if you are able to help out!

The regular OVH meeting this month will be on April 20th at 7:30 PM at the NOVEC Technical Center in Gainesville. During that meeting we'll be stuffing the envelopes for the mass mailing of reminder cards for OVH Hamfest. Hope to see you at there!

73 George K4GVT

Sunshine Corner:

Birthdays this month – Paul / N4PD, Joe / KI4OHR, Chris / KU4FT, David / KI4AZX, and Paul / W4ZB. Hope you all have a great day!

The Virginia QSO Party – John / KG4NXT and I worked the contest and had a great time! If you worked this contest don't forget to send in your logs!

The Tri It Now - Mini Tri was held on Sunday, March 29th, chaired by David / KI4AZX, with Dianne / KI4FVV as net control. We had a great club turnout and this was another good event! Thanks to everyone who participated. See pictures later in this newsletter.

Our condolences to Art / W1CRO and his wife Joyce on the passing of Joyce's Mom.

Our Hamfest chairman, Chris / KI4POT, is a very busy guy; he is always looking for volunteers for the Hamfest so if you can help out please let him know. Now if you think dealing with Hamfest is tough, Chris will again be participating in the Bike MS Ride, this raises funds for MS research and awareness. Chris is looking for donations for his team and he has a special request this year. A member of his team by the name of Nikki is a senior in high school, she has been involved in this bike ride for years and because she will be going off to college in the fall this will probably be her last ride with the team. Nikki set a goal of \$100,000.00 when she started 8 years ago; she wants to have that amount raised by the time she graduates. Right now she has about \$11,000 to go to make that goal. Chris has already made his goal and is asking for donations to be made in Nikki's name. If you can help out with any amount at all it would be greatly appreciated, her page can be found at <http://main.nationalmssociety.org/goto/nikkibrand>. Good luck to Chris on the ride and best of luck to Nikki in making her goal, she sounds like an awesome young lady!

Congrats to John / KG4NXT for becoming a member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association.

Also special thanks to Mark / WA4KFZ for teaching the General License Class at the Nokesville Fire Station, and to the VEC examiner participants (Al / KB4BHB, John / KG4NXT, Steve / N4OGR and Russ / WB4HHN) on April 11th. Mark's efforts and that VEC examination session resulted in 2 new Technician licensees, 4 new General licensees, 1 new Amateur Extra Class licensee.

Continued on page 4

The Hamfest is coming on June 14th!!!! I will be working on the Bake Sale table (as usual) so I'm asking early for donations. We have had a terrific response in the past for bake goods, thank you very much for that support. This year's proceeds will be donated to the American Red Cross building fund and I'm trying to raise \$1,000. Along with the yummy things to eat, I will also be selling some of Al's KB4BHB wonderful woodworking projects and some other side items. If you have additional items to donate please let me know. Thanks again!

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 March 16, 2009:

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

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs.

George's wife, Ev, sent in delicious St. Patrick's Day cookies. Thanks Ev!

Minutes from the February meeting were approved with no changes

Treasurer's report by John / KG4NXT filling in for Joe / KI4OHR who was out of town on business.

Membership – Voted in Steve Bryant, NØDWB.

Repeater – Keith / KM4AA and Butch / W4HJL reported that the 220 repeater needs work and the building housing it needs some repairs.

Education – Mark / WA4KFZ is teaching a General class in Nokesville at the Fire House. There will be four sessions on Saturday mornings from 9-11 and the VE exam is scheduled for April 11th.

Scholarship – Jim / W4JTP needs the dollar amount for the scholarship this year so he can send out the letters to the schools. Butch advised that the Finance Committee will need to specify the amount and get back to Jim.

Hamfest – Chris / KI4POT reports everything is on schedule for this year; he is still (as always) looking for more volunteers.

Field Day – no report.

Sunshine Corner – Theresa / KG4TVM reminded everyone that the Virginia QSO Party is coming up this weekend, also she asked for donations to the bake sale at Hamfest.

Old Business – none

New Business – DSTAR - Keith / KM4AA let us know that OVH did receive its 440 frequency allocation for its D-STAR repeater which is coming. George spoke to the County and we will add A/C to the building to keep the equipment from heating up. George will be donating the coax, he is also looking for a 19" rack. George has also asked the County for a memo of understanding. The building is over at the water tower. Bill / N4SV is looking for recommendation on reducing space at the building for the packet equipment, we can remove the computer and reduce 2 ports. Motion by George / K4GVT to eliminate 440 packet and restructure packet, motion passed.

50/50 Drawing won by John / KG4NXT, John donated the winnings back to the club.

Motion to adjourn at 8:17 pm. Passed and meeting adjourned.

Below: some of the early morning OVH group at the Tri It Now - Mini Tri very early on the rainy Sunday morning of March 29, 2009.



Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

May 15 - 17, 2009 (Friday through Sunday), the Dayton Hamvention and ARRL National Convention: Dayton ARA, Hara Arena, Dayton, Ohio. Details at <http://www.hamvention.org>. This is the big one!

June 16, 2009 (Sunday) - OVH Manassas Hamfest. Mark you calendars for this now! You'll be hearing a lot more about it as it get closer. Check w4ovh.net for details or with Chris / KI4POT or Bruce / AB8CI. See also the "flyer" which is being circulated for this event which is included in the electronic version of this Newsletter. Set up for this by OVH Club members will be on Saturday, June 15th.

OPERATING CONTESTS

There are 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.

Where To Find Schematics and Manuals For "Old" Equipment!

Your editor recently discovered that his old (but low time in service) Astron RS-12A has turned into an instant fuse destroyer for the 3 amp inline power line fuse on that power supply. When a visual inspection inside the RS-12A's housing failed to reveal or even suggest (smoke traces, charring, etc.) the source of the problem, a search for a replacement for the long ago misplaced RS-12A schematic was undertaken. The good news: excellent sources of lots of "old" schematics were quickly located, including one for the RS-12A; the bad news: the source of the problem has not yet been determined and that RS-12A continues to have no use except as a fuse blower.

The best site for "free" old schematics is: <http://bama.sbc.edu/> (mirrored at <http://bama.edebris.com>). It may take a while to get a working FTP connection due to heavy use and low limits on the number of simultaneous ftp connections allowed. Manuals are sometimes available too. Heathkit manuals (and schematics) are no longer available there, but can now be purchased at <http://www.d8apro.com/>.

Old Radio Shack Catalogs!

Many old-timers will recall when Radio Shack used to sell many of the main line ham radio equipment (Hammerlund, Hallicrafters, National Radio, Gonset, E.F. Johnson, Drake, etc.) in the 1950's and 1960's. That store has actually been around since the late 1930's when it started up in Boston. A group recently has made a considerable effort to scan in and put many of the old, printed annual color Radio Shack Catalogs online. This provides an interesting historical record of consumer related electronics products as well as older ham radio products. Those interested should check out <http://www.radioshackcatalogs.com/>

HF Antenna Related Web Sites And Information!

N6LF has been conducting many systematic experiments and studies with lower band (160, 80 and 40 meter) HF antennas (especially verticals) and carefully documenting his results in a professional manner. Check out <http://antennasbyN6LF.com> for a lot of information about: instrumenting antennas and feed systems and antenna grounding systems.

W5UN has posted a lengthy video showing how he erected an 160 meter vertical antenna using the falling derrick method at <http://www.w5un.net/160%20Meter%20Vertical%20Erection.wmv>. This video makes the whole process look quite simple. The images (in the video) are worth thousands of words.

Lightening Protection - Recent Articles in QST And Other Information!

George / K4GVT has again reminded us (see President's letter on page 1) of the need for good grounding for antenna systems to minimize lightening damage risks. This is "close to the heart" subject for George who has experienced lightening strike damage. Those who have their 2008 QSTs might wish to review the two part Lightening article by W4QEJ in the February 2008 QST (beginning at page 40) and in the April 2008 QST (beginning at page 30). One year ago, the April 2008 OVH Newsletter at page 9 set out a comprehensive bibliography of "free" materials relating to lightening protection. That reference source is still available on the OVH web site (W4OVH.net).

How To Locate Broadcast TV (now HDTV) And FM Stations!

Interest has renewed in how to predict what broadcast TV stations should be receivable with acceptable signal strengths and in which direction to point a directional TV antenna to obtain an acceptable received signal. This is happening because all broadcast analog TV stations are converting to HDTV only which is scheduled (now) to be completed in June, 2009.

An excellent web site with this information is at <http://tvfool.com>. It is possible at that site to generate custom lists of available broadcast TV stations (both analog and HDTV) and reception tables (with antenna pointing directions, expected received signal strengths, etc.) for user specified, exact locations. In in this area, this is very useful, for example, to assess whether it may be worth the effort to put up a new or a rotatable TV antenna to receive local HD TV broadcasts which are not available via alternative cable or satellite TV systems.

An affiliated (same source) web site [<http://fmfool.com>] contains similar information about broadcast FM radio stations. Although acceptable FM radio reception is much easier to obtain (than TV) with simple antennas, the information at <http://fmfool.com> suggests that quite long range FM reception should be possible with directional, rotatable antennas. Interesting!

VIRGINIA'S OLE FASHIONED 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)



The 2nd Sunday in June — Rain or Shine!

Sunday, June 14, 2009

Prince William County Fairgrounds

New Expanded Indoor Covered Area For Your Comfort

10624 Dumfries Road, Manassas, VA 20112-2720 (Route 234) - TALK-IN 146.97- 224.660- 442.200+

INDOOR EXHIBITOR SPACE

8-foot tables: \$25 each

with chairs & electricity
(\$20 if reserved by May 1)
Setup 2-10 PM Saturday

GENERAL ADMISSION

\$6 per person at gate

No Advance Sales
Gates open at 7 AM
Free Parking

TAILGATING

\$6 per space (plus admission)

Gates open at 6 AM
Ample Room—25 acres
Setup 2-10 PM Saturday

VE TESTING — Contact David, KG4GIY (kg4giy@arrl.net) for more details

PRIZES

- Door prizes hourly beginning at 9 AM for those present
- Major & Tailgate prizes awarded at 2 PM (You need not be present to win)

INFORMATION

- ARRL Roanoke Division Officers will be attending
- Virginia Section Manager's Forum
- 4th Call Area QSL Bureau Representatives will be present
- DXCC QSL Card Checking will be available
- "Virginia QSO Party" Awards Ceremony
- Food Vendors must have prior written approval from Hamfest Chairman

Our Featured Vendors:



Directions/Details/Hotel Info at our Web Site <http://www.w4ovh.net>

Dealer Information: George (K4GVT) • Tel: 703-791-5956 • Email: k4gvt@comcast.net

General Information: Chris (KI4POT) • Tel: 703-361-3257 • Email: KI4POT@gmail.com