

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+ (now temporarily out of service)
Web Site at <http://w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

May 2017

Next Meeting: Monday, May 15, 2017

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hello to all and I hope this message finds you all healthy and well. It has been a roller coaster for weather so far this Spring. Now it is time to get active and prepare for an exciting and prosperous year. Let the OVH activities begin!!

First of all, the our May 15th meeting will be the last one for the OVH at the Manassas City Public Works Building for about a year. Manassas Public Works will be using that space to do computer training for some of the city employees for a year beginning in June. We are hoping to able to get back there for our meetings after that training program is over - it is a perfect place for OVH meetings.

On the negative, the OVH made a last minute decision not to participate in the 2017 Manassas Air Show event - most importantly, because we were unable to muster enough volunteers to assure that the OVH's planned booth (tent) and displays could be adequately staffed during the long day. Without enough folks at the booth to deal with the public (more than 10,000 attendees were expected), the OVH's presence would flopped and left a very poor impression. This happened partly because several of the OVH's most enthusiastic aviation supporters were out of town or unavailable on the event date; on the other hand, perhaps the OVH did not fully learn this from last year, this event is a major one which requires earlier commitments from OVH volunteers. Unfortunately, for the Airshow event itself this year, the weather did not cooperate at all, it rained through much of the day, public attendance was way down that much, with very little airshow flying. All in all, I think it was all a wash... (no pun intended) Wayne / K7QLK and John / KG4NXT need our thanks for their efforts.

Now it is time for the final push for the Hamfest on Sunday, June 4th, with set up on Saturday, June 3rd!! This has been the OVH's signature event for more than 40 years. This



Cont'd on Page 3

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President:	Ray Knight	KM4EKR	930-8222
Vice Pres:	Jeff Fuller	WB6UIE	791-5916
Secretary:	Byron Dillon	AK4XR	222-2095
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 2017 - Chairman

Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
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FIELD DAY 2016 - Co-Chairs

Ken	KD4VA	753-7863
Byron	AK4XR	222-2095

CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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EDUCATION

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
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CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Open

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
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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WEBMASTER — W4OVH.NET

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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BROADBAND HAMNET (BBHN)

Terry	WA5NTI	445-2801
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EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
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JOTA - 2016

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	WA3FMO	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

Jeff	WB6UIE	791-5916
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QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042

W4OVH — TRUSTEE

Stu	W4PR	335-5267
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W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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SCHOLARSHIP

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

George	K4GVT	791-5956
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 © 2016 by the Ole Virginia Hams.

The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Monday which is held in the Main Conference Room in the Manassas Public Works Building, 8500 Pubic Works Drive, Manassas, Virginia. Members, prospective members and other interested persons are invited to attend without obligation. Local information can also be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.970-, 224.660-, 442.200+ and 443.500+ MHz. The OVH's two D-Star repeaters on 146.865- and 442.5125+ MHz are temporarily off the air due to maintenance work beyond the OVH's control. 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>

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Approx. Circulation - 170.

Last Rev: 20170509

is the time for ALL of OVH members to get involved with the club!! There are positions that just may be the perfect spot. These range from the club table to the front gate. We are also looking for volunteers to assist with the loading and unloading of vendor vehicles. This is due to the fairgrounds not allowing vehicles in the buildings this year. If you haven't already committed to helping out, contact Terry / KC4DV and see what you can do!!

Our second big event in June will be Field Day on Saturday / Sunday, June 24 / 25!! The perfect opportunity to get out and be "radio active" (thanks, Mark / WA4KFZ). What better way than to get on the air and communicate. After all, isn't that what we do?? For all of the new members and those thinking about joining, this would be the time to see in action HF, VHF/UHF and Digital modes in action. There is so much to explore, the opportunities endless. Hope to see you there.

I hope everyone had a chance to watch the YouTube video from RSGB (UK) that Stu / W4PR shared. [URL later in this Newsletter.] If you haven't done so yet, please do.

Our VP, Jeff / WB6UIE, has secured meeting places for the OVH's June - September meetings, and is looking for more. Also, great work on the polo shirts. Thanks, Jeff.

Keep your thoughts and ideas coming to me at: RayKnight@Verizon.net

73 Ray KM4EKR

Sunshine Corner:

Happy birthday wishes this May to OVH club members: John / KM4VCJ, David / KG4GIY, Bill / WA4FIC, Jack / N4YIC, Carl / KK4ZYX, Craig / WA3UFY, Richard / KM4UXE, Susan / K3SSP, Terry / KC4DV, Don / WA2SWX, Robert / KJ4EOR and last but not least, hubby, John / KG4NXT. Hope you all have a wonderful day!

Wayne / N7QLK was unable to make the March meeting, the first meeting with the OVH's new president, Ray / KM4EKR, presiding - so we went to Wayne! John / KG4NXT, Al / KB4BHB and your Sunshine Corner correspondent took an appreciation Plaque for his great work as OVH President to Wayne at his residence. See picture to the right.



John / KG4NXT and I just came back from a week in Washington State visiting John's daughter, Elizabeth / KG4NXV and her hubby, Nick / KG7SOM; it was great to see them! We had sunshine, clouds, rain and even some SNOW which is may be "normal" for that part of Washington State this time of the year, especially the clouds and rain! All of us were also able to catch up with Ron / N4RDZ and his significant



other, Cyn /KD7KSH. Ron reports he is enjoying his retirement but promises he will be back to this area for the Half Marathon later this year! See picture just above.

Congratulations to Kevin / now KX4KU (formerly, for many years, KA4RNH) on his new vanity callsign, a nice CW call which will save a millisecond over his old callsign each time it is sent!

Another Mini-Tri is coming up fast on Sunday, May 14th; please let Andy / KJ4MTP know if you can help with this event at which OVH members provide communications support! The Mini-Tri will start very early on Sunday morning, but it is also over early, by mid-morning.

HAMFEST – We are down to the final few weeks before the OVH Manassas Hamfest which will be held on Sunday, June 4th. More about that elsewhere in the Newsletter. If you have not yet volunteered to help, please do so!

Please try to check in to the Thursday night VHF/UHF FM net. You will hear updates and information on events! How to do that is on the OVH web site at w4ovh.net. You will find us on the 146.970 and 443.500 FM repeaters at 8:00 pm every Thursday evening.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting -- April 17, 2017:

OVH club President, Ray / KM4EKR, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm at the main conference room in the Manassas Public Works building on April 17, 2017.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 36 OVH members and 1 guest at the meeting.

Presentation - Karl / W4KRL gave a presentation on his Solar Powered Weather Station, which included handout and hardware in addition to slides. It is possible to purchase a kit of parts. Much more information online info at <http://www.w4krl.com>

Minutes: The Minutes of the March 2017 meeting went out in the OVH Newsletter for April 2017. Butch / W4HJL made a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by George K4GVT. The motion passed.

Treasurer's report – no report because the Treasurer was missing (not present) due to illness, Membership – Vote delayed till next month.

Scholarship- Kristin had to step down. Theresa KG4TVM has taken up the slack and applications have gone out.

ARES: Next meeting is in May. Check pwcares.org

Repeaters - Work is continuing to be done on them. Ken / KE2N is working on the line between Mt. Pine and NOVEC. Additionally, the 443.500 repeater antenna will be temporarily relocated while work is being done on the water tank.

Training- The technician class being conducted by Mark / WA4KFZ has started; the next class will be in early May. Mark is planning to do a "Now What" session online using Team Viewer.

Hamfest –The next planning meeting will be on May 2nd. There will also be a second meeting later in May. The Hamfest will be on Sunday, June 4th. Set up will be on Saturday, June 3rd. Additional volunteers (or longer sessions for volunteers) will be needed to assist indoor vendors with movement of their goods due to the new restrictions prohibiting use of motor vehicles within the buildings.

Field Day: No meeting was held last month everything on schedule, all essential positions filled.

Sunshine: Happy Birthday to Paul / W4ZB and Gil / KM4OZH. George / K4GVT's mother-in-law Uma had her 85th birthday. Butch / W4HJL's mother-in-law had her 99th birthday!

Webpage and Social Media Committee - Paul / W4ZB reported the two club web sites are continuing to work. The two Social Media sites (Twitter and Facebook) are up and running is up with links from the W4OVH.NET web site. Everyone should be sure to send items to be posted to Jeff / KM4FTK (jflading@gmail.com), OVH Social Media editor, for posting so that the content on those sites will remain current and up to date. Contributions and tips from OVH members are essential if these social media sites are to remain "up to date." The replacement OVH web page is currently being hosted online on a dedicated development site with a cryptic URL which will be changed to W4OVH.NET when it is ready to go live; work on the new site has barely begun; however, it may be up and running by the next meeting or it may take longer. Kevin / KX4KU (formerly KA1RNH) and Andy / KJ4MTP are leading the "hands on" new development effort.

JOTA – The JOTA Boy Scout event takes place in the Fall; no report at this time.

4H- Go for Hamfest. The club usually donates money to 4H for prizes at the Hamfest; no motion.

Manassas Airshow Event – The OVH has been approved as an Exhibitor and for operating radio receivers but not transmitting at the Airshow which is scheduled for May 6th (rain date, May 7th). The Airshow will be a good way to attract new members, and OVH members attending should wear our new nametags and shirts for recognition. There will be more meetings and maps for the vendors. Some things the OVH can demonstrate at the Airshow: Morse code and Software Defined Radio (SDR). More volunteers for this event are needed to make the OVH's presence at it viable.

New Business: Conference room. The OVH will be losing its conference room location in the Public Works building for the indefinite future – at least a year – after the May meeting on May 15th, 2017. The OVH has done nothing wrong; Manassas Public Works simply requires the room at the OVH's scheduled time for a new training program will go on for at least one year starting in June. Ray / KM4EKR solicited ideas for alternative meeting locations. Send him any suggestions, including contact information. Some suggestions were: the Library, American Legion, VFW and volunteer fire stations, Churches.

Mini-Tri - There will be another Mini-Tri event on Sunday morning, May 14th. Andy / KJ4MTP will again be coordinating OVH's participation to provide communications support for the event.

Bill / N4SV – Springtime shack cleaning, Bill brought a lot of some "good stuff" to give away.

50-50: The OVH raised \$19.00 from tickets; Sandy / KM4JUS won and donated her half to the club.

New Business- It was suggested that, if we don't get any scholarship applications that we roll it over to the next year. There was more talk about the Airshow: John / KG4NXT and Theresa / KG4TVM doing the Morse code demonstration, bringing old and new technology with an example of old technology being a crystal set.

Motion to adjourn by Butch / W4HJL, seconded by Bob / K4HJF, the motion passed.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

Friday / Saturday / Sunday - May 19 - 21, 2017, Dayton Hamvention to be held this year for the first time at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center a short distance southeast of Dayton, Ohio. Go to: <http://hamvention.org> for more information. For many, many years this has been the biggest Hamfest in the Western Hemisphere; it promises to continue that but some are skeptical about the new location. As usual, a group of OVH hams are planning to attend.

Sunday - June 4, 2017. The Manassas Hamfest. Check out: <http://manassashamfest.org> and also <http://w4ovh.net> under the Hamfest tab - for complete information. This is coming up very quickly! All club members should plan to attend; and all should plan to volunteer for some duties during this major event which provides a lot of the funding for OVH activities during each year. Contact Terry / KC4DV at chairman@manassashamfest.org

SPECIAL HAM RADIO EVENTS:

Thursday / May 18, 2017 - Contest University, Dayton, Ohio - one day before the start of the Dayton Hamvention. This is a very intensive, very full day program for the advance radio hams. Highly recommended. Go to <http://contestuniversity.com> for full information.

Saturday / Sunday - June 24 / 25, 2017. OVH's annual OVH / ARRL Field Day to be held event at the Pavilion at the Nokeville Park. This is a major club combined operating and social event; all members should plan to attend at least some of the time. Excellent food will be provided, there will be an educational program and everyone (including non-ham) will have an opportunity to make radio contacts on the HF bands (using several different operating modes) with other Field Day stations located all over the USA and Canada. Byron / AK4XR is chairing this event again this year and is very well organized for it - be sure to save the date(s).

AMRAD meets monthly in McLean, Virginia - meetings usually consist of high level amateur radio related technical presentations on specific topics. Check the <http://amrad.org> web site for upcoming topics, and exact dates, times and places which have been changing around recently.

HAM RADIO OPERATING CONTEST EVENTS:

The ARRL has a Contest web page at its web site, but a much more comprehensive, up-to-date, and long range planning contesting calendar with links to the rules for the various events is maintained by WA7BNM at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal> If you get the radio contesting bug or just want to find out what and how much is going on, that is a good place to look!

PUBLIC SERVICE / ARES EVENTS

Sunday / May 14, 2017 - early. OVH will again be providing communications support for the Mini-Tri event at the Freedom Center, Manassas. Contact Andy / KJ4MTP who is coordinating the OVH's participation.

Also, always check the online Calendar by David / KG4GIY at <http://www.pwcares.org> for the latest ARES 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.

VP's Corner

Jeff Fuller WB6UIE

As many of you are already aware, the May meeting will be our last one at the current location. NOVEC, who had been kind enough to lend us their conference room, needs to reclaim that space for use as a computer training lab. I was able to reserve the Community Room at the Manassas Central Library for our June and July meetings. It's located at 8601 Mathis Avenue, not too far from NOVEC. Meeting time will be 7-8:30 pm based on available reservation slots.



The library is a good short term fix, but for a variety of reasons won't work long term. Ray and I are busy knocking on doors of Prince William County public conference rooms, schools, churches, and a number of other organizations in search of a new meeting place.

If you have any suggestions, please email us. We'll keep you posted on our progress.



Jeff and Ray hustle to find a new OVH meeting spot.

Polos? ... Polos? ... What happened to the polos? Unfortunately, the vendor let us down. The first order arrived two weeks ago, and they were clearly not of the correct embroidery color and had some typos. I sent the entire shipment back and am working with the vendor (same one who does polos for the ARRL online store) to correct the problems.

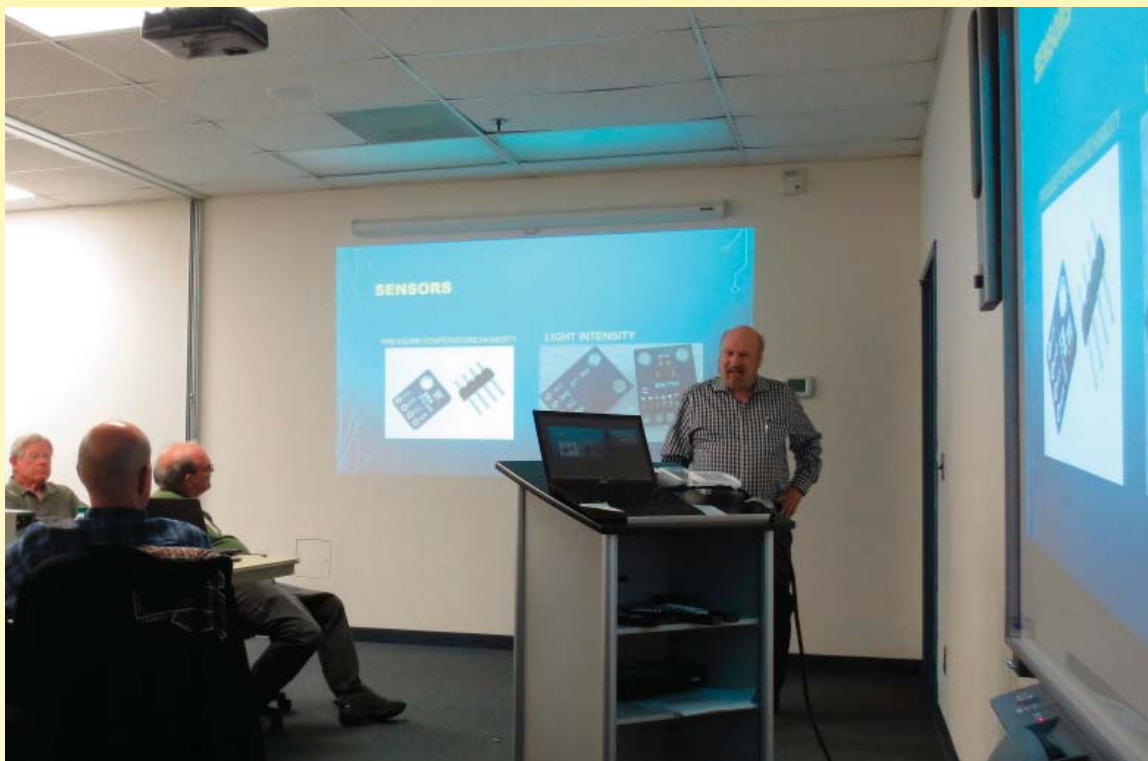
With both the Manassas Hamfest and Field Day, June is shaping up to be a busy month. We still have some slots open on the assignment roster (on the Google drive), so please help in these areas if you can. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

73,

Jeff

Update: for its August 2017 and September 2017 meetings, the OVH has reserved and expects to use conference rooms (Room 202 for August 21, 2017 and Room 107 for September 18, 2017) at the McCoart Center Developmental Sciences Building, Prince William, Virginia. More details later.

Karl Berger / W4KRL giving his presentation about his Internet of Things Weather Station during the April 17, 2017 OVH Meeting. Karl's slides are posted on the OVH's web site at <http://w4ovh.net> Additional information about the Weather Station project, including how to purchase a low cost kit of parts for it are available at <http://w4krl.com>.



Karl's weather station project uses the "free" online Matlab based and provided analytics through the <http://thingspeak.com> web site - which is worth exploring to find out what facilities are available there and what can be done there for very low cost. His project also uses <http://aprs.fi> web site.

Some Possibly Useful or Interesting Information

1. Matlab is a commercial product used by engineers and scientists for complex computation, graphics display of results, etc. See, Matlab.com ThingSpeak.com is a Matlab provided service. An open source, freeware product with many of the same feature and capabilities as Matlab is Octave. See, Octave.org The Octave system can also be used with the "free" GNU Graphics to provide similar displays of data to Matlab.
2. Those interested in scientific and engineering complex computation should consider learning about Python which is open source, freeware. An excellent prepackaged Python system known as Anaconda will run on just about any computer platform are available through <http://continuum.io> A basic Python system includes substantial computational capabilities, but also can be easily enhanced by loading the freeware, readily available Numpy and Matplotlib libraries.
3. There are numerous resources online for learning Python. Some of the best for systematic learning are available through the MIT OCW ("Open Course Ware") program. To find those, Google: MIT OCW 6.0001 6.00SC 6.00 and/or 6.001.
2. The RSGB (UK) appears to be way ahead of the ARRL right now in producing short videos to stimulate interest in Amateur Radio. See, <https://youtube.com/watch?v=SH90tgAcV6g> Thanks to Stu / W4PR. This is definitely worth watching.
3. The ARRL sponsored Field Day event in 2017 will take place in the latter part of June. Field Day has been an ARRL event since prior to World War II. Those who have not participated before or who want to learn more about it, should look at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day> where the ARRL has full explanations and downloadable PDF files with the latest Field Day Package.
4. The Contest University ("CU") program given at Dayton, Ohio each year provides an excellent training process for more advance radio amateurs. CU has recently begun to post online slides used by various of its instructors / lecturers. See, <https://www.contestuniversity.com/files/> There is an enormous amount of material there for study.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA'S LARGEST

Manassas Hamfest



AMATEUR RADIO & MAKER TECHNOLOGY SHOW

An ARRL-Approved HAMFEST Presented By:

The OLE VIRGINIA HAMS Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

(Featuring Youth Lounge Activities for the Youngsters Attending!)



Sunday, June 4, 2017

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 - Route 234 - Manassas, Virginia -- Talk-In Repeaters on 146.97- and 442.200+

<p>INDOOR EXHIBITOR SPACE 8-foot tables: \$30* each with chairs & electricity (\$25 if reserved by May 1st) <i>Setup 2-10 PM Saturday</i></p>	<p>GENERAL ADMISSION \$10* per person at gate (Age 18 and younger: no charge) (*See web sites for prepayment discounts before 5/15/2017) Gates open at 7 AM</p>	<p>TAILGATING (admission is extra) Outdoor Spaces: \$10* per space Covered Pavillion: \$15 per space (*See web sites for details about online prepayment discounts before 5/15/2017) Gates open at 6 AM</p>
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* Online ticket sales and vendor registration at <http://manassashamfest.org>

For our Most Current Vendor Info, Lists 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
- Check our web pages (below) for the most up-to-date information

ACTIVITIES

- Flea Market & Vendors - all day
- VEC License Exams: 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM
- "Maker" group technology demonstrations
- ARRL style Youth Lounge programs all day for youngsters - by the OVHARC and 4-H
- Maker Robotics Corral and Demos
- Amateur Radio Satellite Forum
- BroadBand Ham Networks ("BBHN") Forum
- Virginia QSO Party Awards and Forum
- More Forums to be announced, check web sites

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

Dealer Info from George / K4GVT: vendors@manassashamfest.org

General Info from Terry / KC4DV: chairman@manassashamfest.org

VE Testing / Exam Information: vetesting@manassashamfest.org