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 by September 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

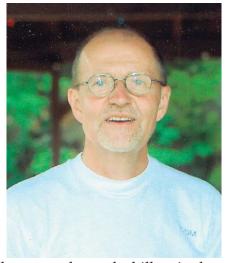
July 2009

Next Meeting: July 20, 2009

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings, what a June we had! If you're feeling anything like me, it was a very busy and successful month for the OVH.

First, the OVH Hamfest held on Sunday, June 14th at the Prince William County Fairgrounds was a great success with well over 2000 in attendance! Not only was the first commercial building sold out, but the second building was filled to capacity too. The outdoor flea market was quite busy too and also had a few more vendors than last year; subjectively I thought there was a higher quality of stuff, less "junk" being traded in the flea markets this year than in past years. At one point during the day when Hamfest attendance was a its peak,



the part of parking lot visible from the entrance gates was completely full, up to and over the hilltop in the distance! We haven't seen that for a number of years. Of course, the near perfect weather conditions during the Hamfest doubtlessly helped to get all of the attendee out. Several commercial vendors advised "next year I need more tables, it was very busy, great Hamfest, see you next year." Several verbally committed to come next year and asked that they reserve the same places.

Special thanks are due to the Hamfest co-chairmen, Chris / KI4POT and Bruce / AB8CI, who worked extremely hard for months on organization and preparation to keep all aspects of a complicated event like the Hamfest on track, laying the foundation for its ultimate success. Thanks are also due to everyone who participated with the Hamfest committee groups and tasks assigned, and, ultimately, in setup, operations and tear down. There was an enormous amount of "behind the scenes" efforts and many, many OVH members put in countless hours. Later in this newsletter are some of the many picture taken the Hamfest, together with a web link where you can view the full accumulated set (k4gvt.com/ovh_hamfest_2009).

Second, the OVH / ARRL Field Day 2009 held on June 27 and 28th at the Nokesville Park again this year was also a very successful, fun event for everyone who participated. How do I measure success and fun? Simply look at the pictures from Field Day 2009, some of which appear later in this newsletter (the full set is at k4gvt.com/field_day_2009), and you'll notice something: just about everyone in the **Cont'd on Page 3**

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255 Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS			JOTA		
President: George Tarnovsky	K4GVT	791-5956	John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
Vice Pres: Wayne Kline	AG4ZZ	791-2100	LEGAL		
Secretary: Wayne Phillips Treasurer: Joe Dobes	N7QLK KI4OHR	393-8447 369-2639	Pete	KB4RME	369-2436
DIRECTORS	111101111	200 2000	MEMBERSHIP CHAIR		
Don (Butch) Blasdell	W4HJL	369-2877	Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873
Art Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330	NEWSLETTER		
Charlie Dale	WA4YGI	361-3091	Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
WEEKLY NETS			NEWSLINE	WHED	101 0010
Thursdays - 8:00 PM	JOHN H	257-3566	John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
HAMFEST 2008			PACKET	110 11111	201 0000
Chris	KI4POT	361-3257	Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873	Bill	N4SV	590-9562
FIELD DAY 2008			PROGRAMS		
Joe Butch	KI4OHR W4HJL	369-2639 369-2877	TBA		
	WAIIOL	303 2011	PUBLICITY		
CLUB ROSTER Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877	Trisha Wells	KI4PCM	335-1096
	KD4KKL	309-2011	QUARTERMASTER		
EDUCATION	XXIA ATZIDIZ	010 0000	Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033	REPEATER CONTROL	I FRS	
CLUB EMERGENCY COOR			Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
David Meola	KI4AZX	393-6681	Art	W1CRO	791-4330
ARES AREA EMERGENCY	COORDINATOR	?	Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042	Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
EAD DEDC			David	KG4GIY	361-3042
F.A.R. REPS.	*****	224 4224	George Alan	K4GVT KD4KBX	791-5956 330-8844
Ruth Mary Lu	KU4WH KB4EFP	331-1234 369-2877			55U-0044
Mary Lu	КD4ЕГГ	509°2011	W4OVH / W4PVA — TRUSTEE		
FINANCE			Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877	SCHOLARSHIP		
Joe Ruth	KI4OHR KU4WH	369-2639 331-1234	Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
GENERATORS	KU4WII	551 1254	SUNSHINE		
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008	Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3556
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512			207 3330
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794	TECHNICAL COMMIT	TEE	
	IIDIDIID	000 1701	George	K4GVT	791-5956
HISTORIAN	TZCL 4FDY ZN E	055 0500	Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566	Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
WEBMASTER — W40VH.N	ET		Bill	N4SV	590.9562
Bill	N4SV	590-9562	Butch Karl	W4HJL W4KRL	369-2877 802-1527
EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com			David	W4KKL KG4GIY	361-3042
David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042	Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
				-	

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

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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.

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Last Rev: 03/25/2009

every picture is smiling! A comment made by a Ham Buddy of mine who saw the pictures was, "What's going on with you guys in Manassas? How come everyone's smiling?" Regardless of scores, and general operations, the fact that OVH members and the others who attended had a lot of fun together shows that we have a camaraderie and respect for each other that outweighs almost everything else. Another highlight for Field Day this year was the number of different operators, mostly youngsters, who made contacts at the GOTA station. Collectively they had great fun making and logging more than 100 HF contacts. You can see their enthusiasm in the pictures. At one point on Sunday two young lady GOTA operators who had also been around on Saturday "took over" the station when the unnamed control operator stepped away briefly because things seems "slow." By the time he returned in fifteen minutes the young ladies were calling CQ, dominating a frequency and making rapid runs of contacts completely on their own. They had made and logged more than 10 contacts in 15 minutes and had ear to ear grins because they were doing it completely on their own! Once again I find myself very thankful to the OVH members that can work hard together toward a common goal, succeed, and continue laughing and smiling. I'm very proud to say I'm a member of OVH.

The OVH D-Star repeater implementation project is progressing well and is on track to be operational on 440 MHz from Mt. Pone (near Manassas) by September. Keith / KM4AA provides a short status update on that later in this newsletter. On the D-Star related Digital Voice Board project, I expect at last to have all the parts by next week; then I'll kit them and hopefully we can begin the build sessions early in August.

The regular OVH meeting this month will be on July 20th at 7:30 PM at the NOVEC Technical Center in Gainesville. We'll be looking back at and reviewing Field Day and the Hamfest, but we'll also be looking forward to the Special Event Station to be held at the end of August, D-Star and other topics. Hope to see you at there!

73 George K4GVT

Sunshine Corner:

Birthdays this month: Ken / WB4ZOH, Steve / KB4OF, George / K4GVT, Dwight / AI4II, Brenda / WD4RKH, Ken / KB4BWM and Neal / KD7UHR. Here's hoping you all have and enjoyable day and get to do a lot of celebrating!

Great news at the Heartney house, I now have a new grandson born on June 26th!

Follow up on the OVH Hamfest – I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the bake sale; between the profits and what the club kicked in we were able to send a check for \$300 to the Red Cross Building Fund! I still have some non food items left, and looking for buyers, if anyone is interested please pass on my number I will deliver anywhere in Prince William County!

Field Day 2009 – To everyone who attended, thanks for coming out; I think all had a great time! Nice turnout for the Saturday night dinner and good selection of great food. Special thanks to Phil / AC4PL for working those grills again this year!

By the time this goes to print we will have had another Tri It Now Mini Try chaired by David / KI4AZX. If you missed it, don't worry; there will be one more this year. It's a well-run event always held early on a Sunday morning and you are done before noon. Come on out and give David a helping hand!

Upcoming on August 29th is Special Event Station operation, chaired by Al / KB4BHB, which commemorates the Second Battle of Manassas. It will be held over on Signal Hill Road across from the park entrance. This is an all day event so please come by and check it out!

Ryan Boone, our OVH Scholarship winner this year, was also the

Continued on page 4

recipient of NOVEC's Dollars for Scholars award. Way to go Ryan!

The Sterling Radio Club which puts on the Virginia QSO Party every March had some pretty cool looking certificates to hand out at our Hamfest to anyone who turned in a log. If you didn't get by to pick one up, they mailed them and you should have it by now. Let us know what category you were in and what place you received!

We are sad to report that a former very active OVH member and very active and enthusiastic ham operator, Al Picard / ex-K4IQH / W4ALP of Ocala, Florida died in May. Some of the old timers in the OVH - such as Butch / W4HJL - remember him well from the 1970's and are still actively in touch with other now widely dispersed former OVH members from those times. Some stories and remembrances about Al / K4IQH appear later in this newsletter.

The dog days of summer are here, so stay cool and watch out for those summer storms! 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 June 15, 2009:

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

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

Minutes from May meeting approved as read

Treasurer's report – Preliminary reports show we have made more this year on hamfest. Report approved as read.

Hamfest – George thanks Chris / KI4POT and Bruce / AB8CI for chairing the very successful event. Chris and Bruce both agreed to chair the committee for next year. George has also spoken to the fairgrounds people and the land will not be sold anytime soon, he is going to go out and measure all the buildings so they can better accommodate the tables next year.

Membership – New application was read in by Bruce / AB8CI for Vernon Eubanks / KØLVS.

ARES – David / KI4AZX let us know there is a drill the 3rd Saturday in July and they need operators; this drill will be for 3 hours at different locations; let David know if you can attend.

Repeater – Butch / W4HJL reported that all is working, Joe / KI4OHR complained about the kerchunking on the repeaters.

Classes – Mark / WA4KFZ will hold a class in the fall. Hobby Hanger in Chantilly is interested in having a class at its location and Mark is working with them. Joe asked for an Arrow class to occur at Field Day.

Scholarship – Committee is done until next year.

Sunshine – Theresa / KG4TVM announced the June birthdays and thanked everyone for donating to the bake sale at Hamfest. Theresa made a motion that the club adds to the bake sale proceeds so that a check for \$300 can be sent to the Red Cross Building Fund. This was approved.

D-Star – George asked for volunteers to climb the water tower and we need to have A/C hooked up at the site. Keith / KM4AA gave a status report on the D-Star repeater. Continued on page 5

Break during the meeting.

Old Business – Al / KB4BHB reminded everyone about the special event station operation to be held on Saturday, August 29th, over at Signal Hill to commemorate the Second Battle of Manassas. Elizabeth / KG4NXV will work on designing the QSL.

New Business – Steve / N4OGR let us know that Gary / WG4ARC is selling his trailer for \$5500 and asked whether the club wants to look at purchasing it. It was suggested that Steve obtain more information on cost and get back to us at the next meeting.

Field Day – Joe / KI4OHR planning for W4OVH to be set up to operate as 3A during Field Day this year; members with trucks are to meet at the storage shed at 9:00 am to pick up equipment; general set up at the Nokesville Park site will start at 9:30 to 10:00 on Saturday, June 27th. Joe / KI4OHR will demo arrow antennas; Vernon / K \emptyset LVS asked if we have Band Pass Filters for all bands. Phil / AC4PL will be cooking. Joe / KI4OHR asked everyone to come prepared to the weather and bugs.

50/50 Drawing won by John KG4NXT and he donated it back to the club.

Motion to adjourn at 8:53 PM passed and meeting was adjourned.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

August 2, 2009 (Sunday) - the 59th Annual Berryville Hamfest in Clarke County, Virginia put on by the Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club. Check out http://www.svarc.us/hamfest for more details. This is a pleasant one hour drive from the Manassas area.

September 12 & 13, 2009 (Saturday and Sunday) - the Virginia Section Convention (Hamfest and Electronics Flea Market) in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Details at http://www.vabeachhamfest.com.

September 25-27, 2009 (Friday through Sunday) - ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference, Chicago, Illinois at hotel near O'Hare Airport, same as last year. Check arrl.org or tapr.org for details.

OPERATING CONTESTS / EVENTS

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.

Preliminary Results for OVH / ARRL Field Day 2009

The following statistics are final for actual contact scoring and includes 9 VHF-UHF and 1 satellite contact. Total contacts score based upon actual contacts = 760 points. "Bonus" items have not yet been scored.

W4OVH (3A VA)

CW 159 contacts

DIG 50 contacts (all PSK31)

PH 216 contacts OSO Points: 634

ARRL Sections worked - 57

W4PVA (GOTA - 3A VA)

(no CW at GOTA station)

(no DIG at GOTA station)

PH 126 contacts

QSO Points: 126

ARRL Sections worked - 43

Thanks to: Art / W1CRO

every night at 7:30, ham operators

www.bultrahobserver.com

Ham radio fest June 16-Popular hobby a vital voice link in emergencies

By NANCY JOHNSON Observer staff

ham radio operators.

e-mail, telephone connections were pedient way of getting the birth band and I were stationed in Santiago, Chile, I gave birth to twin boys. There were no cell phones or mail for good reason. The most exnews to my anxious parents was Forty years ago when my husspotty, and letters were called snail through local ham radio operators.

that stranger telephoned my parents allowing me to talk with them from A Santiago ham made contact with another ham in Chicago, and two! Over." Ever since, I have had in Connecticut with the good news, my hospital bed. "Two boys, mom, a soft spot in my heart for ham radio operators.

grounds, the Ole Virginia Hams sponsored the "Ham Fest," a selling and buying spree for thousands of ing local ham operator group that On June 16, at the Manassas Fair-So I was delighted to recently meet the Ole Virginia Hams, a thrivmeets in Manassas once a month.

Theresa Heartney, an avid group member, said, "It is a giant als and locals will buy, sell and trade flea market, where both profession-

a licensing testing location, where of the local group, eight people passed the test at a recent testing Fire Department, and a ham radio It is also a big social event and ing ham radio manuals, can be tested for the Federal Communicasession at the Nokesville Volunteer aspiring ham operators, after studying to George Tarnovsky, president will be added to the other emertions Commission licenses. Accordgency fire equipment.

in the area, the Virginia ham radio group serves as a vital means of communication during emergencies both large and small. "Every time situation, the infrastructure can go gency personnel count on hams to and technical skills to establish With more than 100 members there is an emergency or weather down, and local officers and emerprovide the equipment, personnel



George Tarnovsky and John and Theresa Heartney take part in the Ole Virginia Nancy Johnson / the Bull Run Observe Hams radio operating group that meets monthly.

situations. Recently members of Ole Virginia Hams helped with communications at a mini-triathlon

at the Freedom Aquatic & Fitness Center. Heartney said they were stationed along the route and reported

Heartney recounted the time in 2004 when Hurricane Isabel caused around the area. Ham operators went to the shelters and established communications between shelters Ham operators also provide emergency shelters to open all to help coordinate the relief effort. communication," Tarnovsky said.

needed services in non-emergency

neers and housewives belong to Ole Virginia Hams. Ham radio clubs are

Young and old, lawyers, engi when various competitors passed.

join together in a "Traffic Net," where people send messages to others in the net-on the cars with ham "People think of us as an older technology," Tarnovsky acknowledged. "But behind every technical advance are ham engineers." He pointed out the ham radio community has actually launched its own satellite, and now worldwide contacts can be made by bouncing sigantennas poking up.

where he made contact through a John Heartney recalled a recent vacation in Olympia National Park satellite connection with a blind man in California.

nals off the satellite.

The exchange of cards and call letters verify all ham contacts. Don Blasdell, a long-term member, has made contact with more than 350 countries. "I still have over 100 was in high school," he said. "The nice part is that I have been to many "My wife is a ham and my two sons are hams. It's a wonderful hobby." cards from contacts I made when I of the countries." Blasdell said,

fun hobby and it's still alive and Tarnovsky concurred, "It's a

NOVEC building in Manassas. All are welcome. More information is Ole Virginia Hams meets the third Monday of the month at the online: www.W40VH.com.

policies," Tarnovsky said. Club

technical issues and government

knowledge. We communicate about

ing. "We share ideas, projects and

all about experimenting and teach-

visit schools and youth clubs. And

fronic and technical skills; members

members also teach children elec-

From the Bull Run Observer - June 5, 2009

Status update on the OVH 440 MHz D-Star Repeater

The implementation of the new OVH 440 MHz D-Star repeater is progressing on schedule and is expected to be fully operational by September. The general OVH membership, especially those not directly involved, may not appreciate fully how many different issues and problems must be addressed and solved to accomplish this. Much of the work leading up to new D-Star repeater actually is going on over the air daily and by work taking place in the homes of dedicated OVH volunteers working on this project.

This may seem indirect but OVH's and its members' long standing and unselfish support of community and public service activities is involved with this D-Star project. Such involvements pay dividends that are hard to measure, but are certainly there; they are responsible for OVH having two prime radio site locations. The one on NOVEC's main communications tower off of Lomond Drive has been used the existing OVH FM VHF and UHF repeaters for many years; the other at the Mt. Pone water tower site near the intersection of Ashton Avenue and Sudley Manor Drive has been the location of the OVH packet site for years too; it is there on that water tower where OVH's new 440 MHz D-Star repeater will be located. These excellent locations—which would be costly as commercial sites—have been made available to the OVH gratis because of OVH's community and public service operations. So my hat goes off to all of those club members keeping amateur radio and OVH as one of the organizations worthy of this generosity.

Now for an update on the current status of the 440 D-Star repeater project: OVH has acquired all major pieces of equipment and the equipment is being configured. Some hardware construction and some software configuration is still on-going. Tasks still being worked on and the leads on each include:

- Power source and harness Karl . W4KRL
- Coordination with the county water authority George / K4GVT
- Packet system reorganization Bill / N4SV
- · Antenna installation exact date and crew TBD
- Install DSL for internet access Keith / KM4AA working on with Verizon
- Install network linking to NOVEC exact date and crew TBD
- Finalize configuration of D-Star equipment and install TBD

These are the major steps still to be undertaken, but work is progressing nicely and we expect to meet our deadlines for a fully working and functional 440 MHz D Star repeater in September.

Not mentioned here yet, but again, a special thanks to Mark / WA4KFZ for getting us moving on this project and enable the club to move forward on it. Also special thanks are due to Steve / N4OGR for providing a professional ventilation system which will keep the equipment cool once installed. Last but not least, a special thanks to David / KG4GIY for technical help with the black art of gateway hardware and software configuration.

Feel free to ask any questions at the upcoming OVH meeting on July 20th. 73 Keith / KM4AA

Silent Key Stories about former OVH member, Al Picard / ex-K4IQH / W4ALP

[Ed note: these are "lifted" directly from emails exchanged by some of Al's long time friends.]

Two stories I will always remember about Al and smile when I think of them......

The Old Virginia Hams were going to put on their very first Hamfest [Ed note: about 1976] - since it was uncertain if we would make enough money to even break even, every possible way to save money was used...

For the food booth many of the Hams volunteered their wives to work in the kitchen.

It was a terrible job for the ladies had to spend the day before the Hamfest cleaning up the area at the Fairgrounds and it was a very difficult task... then on the day of the Hamfest they worked in extreme hot/humid/smoky conditions that are hard to imagine.

Continued to the following page

Al was one of those who volunteered his wife... he said Doris would be glad to help. Problem was, he never checked with her and only told her of her "duties" until the day before the Hamfest.

For those of you who have been married a long time, you know wives do not get angry... but boy do they get even...

Al's wife, Doris, had her revenge... she belonged to a local garden club and one of their projects was to beautify a triangle piece of property where three roads came together... they bought roses and other shrubs to plant there but someone needed to break up and prepare the hard packed Virginia red clay.

Doris spoke up and said her husband had just bought a new rototiller and she knew he would be happy to do it for them.

Al spent a hot two day weekend in the oppressive heat with traffic on all sides of him trying to break up that soil... he might as well been trying to break up the asphalt as the dirt it was so dry/hard.... he realized Doris had gotten her revenge.

The next story involves his new rototiller...

I must tell you we had a guy in the Radio Club who worked for the power company. One of his jobs was if you called and complained about how high your electric bill was and started to make a fuss he would show up at your house with all sorts of razzle dazzle test equipment and show you just how much electricity you were actually using. By the time he was thru with you, you felt lucky your bill was not HIGHER.

Let's call him "Sam"... now Sam was well trained and very experienced in dealing with irate customers... he could disarm someone who was angry and he also would not take any guff from anyone... he had great people skills in handling irate people...

We saw the rototiller in Al's front yard with a FOR RENT sign next to it... we knew Al was picking up a few bucks renting the rig out.

We decided to have some fun with this... "Sam" called Al's home but unfortunately Al was not at home so he spoke with Doris.

Doris was one of the nicest ladies you could ever meet and Sam really raked her over the coals.

He pretended to be a city business permit inspector and asked her if they had a business license for the renting of the rototiller.

Doris was really caught off guard by his abrupt, business like manner as he read her chapter and verse of the city code on equipment rental and the license required... of course all of this was coming off the top of Sam's head but it sounded pretty impressive.

Doris said they were not trying to make money off of the tiller, just help people in their gardens...

Sam asked her if they did not in fact CHARGE MONEY for this alleged help they offered to others...

Doris admitted they did...

Sam told her a license was required and there was a \$500 a day fine for each day they had been renting the tiller without a license.... and their report and records indicated they had been renting the unit for some 27 days... (again off the top of Sam's head).

Of course you can imagine Doris was in a state of panic by now for Sam was grinding her down and showed no mercy....

She asked how did they get caught... Sam said their neighbor had turned them in.

This was a big mistake for Sam did not know there was some serious bad blood between Al, the neighbor, and the neighbor's hippie son who liked to hang an American Flag upside down.

Realizing that if Al came home and Doris told him the neighbor had turned them in Al might do something rash...

We went over to confess to our prank.

Al was home by then and invited us in... they were pleasant but the air was so thick one could cut it with a dull knife.

We confessed... Al thought it was funny as all heck but poor Doris did not see the humor...

Al pointed out to us that we were now subject to a super prank so he could get even... Sam and I lived in fear for what might happen during the next 3 years until we both moved out of the area.

Al liked to say the best revenge he had was watching us watch him... wondering what would he pull...

We will miss you Al...

A few pictures relating to the 2009 OVH Manassas Hamfest held on June 14, 2009 Many more images are at http://k4gvt.com/ovh_hamfest_2009





Below: a lot was going on outside too with near perfect weather for the Flea Market



Just a few images from the 2009 OVH / ARRL FIELD DAY event - June 27 & 28, 2009 Many, many more pictures are at http://k4gvt.com/field_day_2009

