

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

July 2016

Next Meeting: Monday, July 18, 2016

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings one and all!

I hope this message finds you all well...and hydrated! July is here, and along with the hot weather comes unstable air resulting in thunderstorms and lightening. Please be cognizant of those hazards, disconnecting that coax long before the storms arrive, and being aware of wind toppling antennas.

At our next meeting, we will have a brief discussion of the results and highlights of our Hamfest and Field Day events (read more details later in this newsletter). You might think that after June, things would begin to wind down...au contraire. I hope that many OVH members participated in the recent 13 Colonies Special Event; it was my first attempt and I made a clean sweep....all on an end fed! Standby as we may have a major 'customer' looking for communication support for an upcoming marathon - more details in the next couple weeks.

OVH is also making inroads in other areas. I'm happy to state that steady gains are being made with our repeater shack, giving us robust communications, thanks to the tradesmen within our ranks. In the Broadband Ham Net arena, Terry (WA5NTI) is leading the effort by coordinating with Woodbridge Wireless to continue the effort of building a county-wide net. Good job Terry; great initiative.

A number of chairman positions are open; in particular, the OVH Vice President and Scholarship chairman positions. As I mentioned in last month's column, we are looking for candidates to assume the position of OVH VP for the remainder of the year; Ray Knight and John Heartney have expressed interest. If you are also interested, let us hear from you; tentative elections at this month's meeting.



Cont'd on Page 3

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President:	Wayne Phillips	N7QLK	393-8447
Vice Pres:	Clarence Meese	K4CNM	791-6424
Secretary:	Byron Dillon	AK4XR	222-2095
Treasurer:	Terry Erlacher	KC4DV	571-292-1490

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdel	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 2016 - 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

Clarence Meese	K4CNM	791-6424
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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 - 2016

Open

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 FOR MEETINGS

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
Russ	WB4HHN	368-6435

W4OVH — TRUSTEE

Stu	W4PR	335-5267
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W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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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

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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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See you at the July 18th meeting, where we will present this year's scholarship to a deserving Prince William county student. Don't forget, the meeting this month will return to the normal start time, 7:30 pm, at the Manassas Public Works, 8500 Public Works Drive, Manassas, Virginia.

Keep the thoughts / ideas coming to me at: N7QLK@ARRL.net.

73 Wayne N7QLK

Sunshine Corner:

Celebrating another year – Happy Birthday during this July for OVH members: Steve / KB4OF, Ken / WB4ZOH, Philip / KI4WGC, Jeff / KM4FTK, George / K4GVT, Michael / KC4ZNQ, Dwight / N4GSD, Bob / KI4IST, Mary / KK4GOW, James / AA4KG, Jeff / KM4QVT, Richard / KH4ZIH, Luther / WA3FMO and Tony / KK4YZK.

Congratulations to the entire OVH family for another very busy and successful month of June. Tremendous round of applause for the all the effort that went into Hamfest, the Mini-Tri and Field Day!

Special thanks to Phil / AC4PL for his fantastic meals during Field Day!

Congratulations to Terry / WA5NTI who is serving as President of AMRAD.

On June 28th, Hunter Robert entered this world at a whopping 8 lbs, 13 ozs. The very proud grandparents, Ray / KM4EKR and Sandy / KM4JUS are over the moon for this little guy! Congratulations to the entire family!

If you participate in a ham event or take your radio on vacation, please send me a photo for the newsletter.

Please email me with your news! kg4tvm@hotmail.com

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting June 20, 2016:

OVH Club President, Wayne N7QLK, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm on June 20, 2016 at the at the Manassas City Public Works Building in Manassas, Virginia.

After the Pledge, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 28 OVH members and 2 guests present.

The President announced that due to all activities this past weekend with the Hamfest held yesterday and Field Day to be held next weekend, a shortened meeting will be held.

A moment of silence was held to remember Clarence Meese / K4CNM, SK

Continued on page 4

BUSINESS MEETING

Terry / WA5NTI agreed to be the new BBHN chairman due to the passing of the previous chairman Clarence / K4CNM.

There was a vote to find out what time our club meetings should start. It was decided to wait till 8:00 pm to allow late members a chance to vote.

Treasurer's report – Terry / KC4DV gave the report. Motion by Bob / K4HJF, to approved the Treasurer's report as presented. Terry / WA5NTI, seconded the motion. Motion passed by vote of all members in attendance.

Hamfest- Attendance was down slightly as was tailgating attendance. There will be a detailed report at next months meeting. The next Hamfest will be held on the first Sunday in June next year. The next Hamfest planning meeting will be in October.

Membership –There were 1 new member application this month. Luther KJ4FDK, read in: John Tittle / No Callsign, he will be voted on next month. The members in attendance voted in Richard / WN7S who was read in at the last meeting.

Field Day - Thanks to all the volunteers, see you at Nokesville Community Park. We will start setting up at 10:00 am on Saturday June 25th, and operations will continue non-stop until Sunday afternoon.

Continuing with the vote on the meeting start time. After the vote the meeting start time was shifted back to 7:30 pm for all future meetings.

Break

50-50- \$35.00 was raised so the winner would receive \$17.50. Dwayne KK4BZ, won the drawing and donated the funds back to the club.

Motion to adjourn by Terry / WA5NTI, seconded by Al / KB4BHB, the motion passed.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

UPCOMING HAMFESTS:

Sunday, August 7, 2016 - Berryville Hamfest, Clarke County Fairgrounds, by the Shenandoah Valley ARC. This a favorite with many OVH members. More info at: <http://shenvalarc.org/hamfest>

SPECIAL HAM RADIO EVENTS:

September 16-18, 2016 - The 35th Annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference, St Petersburg, Florida. This is a technically oriented meeting which addresses all aspects of digital communications. More info at <https://www.tapr.org/dcc.html>

Third Thursday evening each month - AMRAD meets 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.

Cont'd on page 5

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 / TRAINING / ARES EVENTS

Always check the online Calendar by David / KG4GIY at <http://www.pwcares.org> for the 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.

Pictures from the final planning meeting (6/15) before the 2016 Manassas Hamfest



Needless to say, the Hamfest has been a major event for the OVH each year since the first one was held in 1974, now more than 42 years ago!

This final meeting on 6/15/2016 before the 2016 Manassas Hamfest was preceded by eight earlier monthly meeting each month since October, 2015, all organized by Terry / KC4DV, Hamfest Committee Chairman. The Manassas Hamfest is a complicated event to organize and put on and these meeting are necessary for a smooth operation. The number of attendees at the final meeting shows how well the club members come together to support the Hamfest.

The Terry / KC4DV has done a great job for the past several years and has agreed to serve as Hamfest Committee Chairman again for 2017.

Just a few pictures from the 2016 Manassas Hamfest, including the Youth Lounge Activity

Although, attendance and tailgating activity (by number of tailgaters) was down slightly from 2015, the indoor vendors reported good sales and lots of interest; and the forums offered were well attended.



The Youth Lounge activity following the ARRL Youth Lounge outline was sponsored jointly by the OVH (and Woodbridge Wireless) together with the Prince William County 4-H. It was popular and well attended again this year. This year the 4-H separately promoted the event to its members and 4-H members who preregistered were given passes for “free” entrance to the Hamfest to visit the Youth Lounge. Since the Youth Lounge program has been part of the Manassas Hamfest now for several years, hams with younger children brought them to the Youth Lounge as well.

Some Pictures from the 2016 OVH/ARRL Field Day



Cont'd on page 8



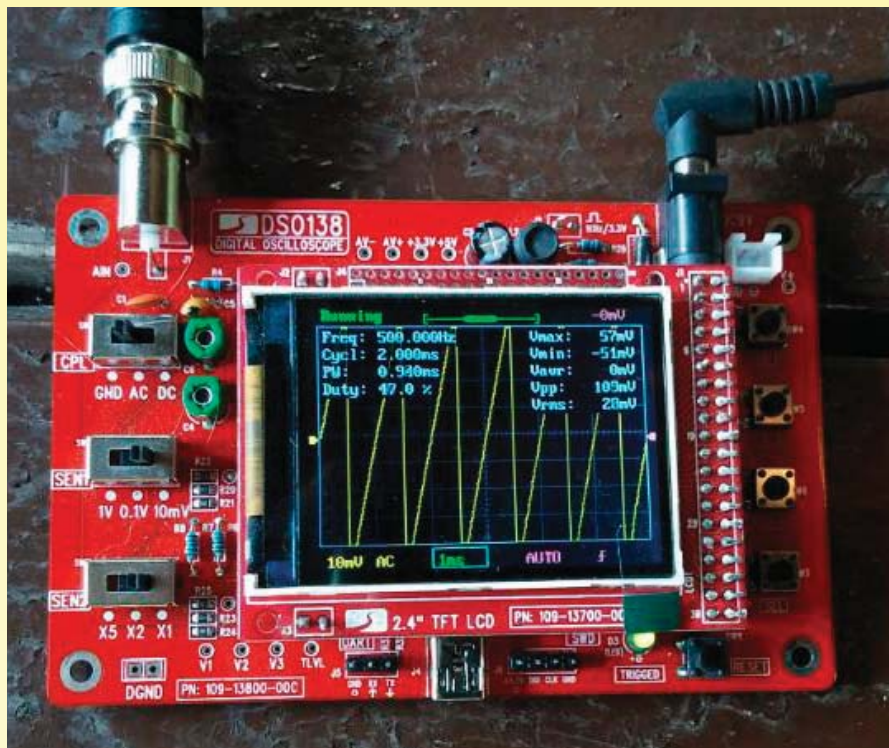
For Field Day extra points this year, the OVH had an educational activity about oscilloscopes, especially inexpensive (cheap) ones, presented by John / KG4NXT. who demonstrated both a “build it yourself” oscilloscope and a software oscilloscope that used a laptop sound card as its A/D (analog to digital) converter.



The “build it yourself” oscilloscope was based upon the “DSO 138” device which has been described in QST and is available via its Internet vendor (Google: DSO 118) for about \$40 in kit form with the surface mount components already mounted.

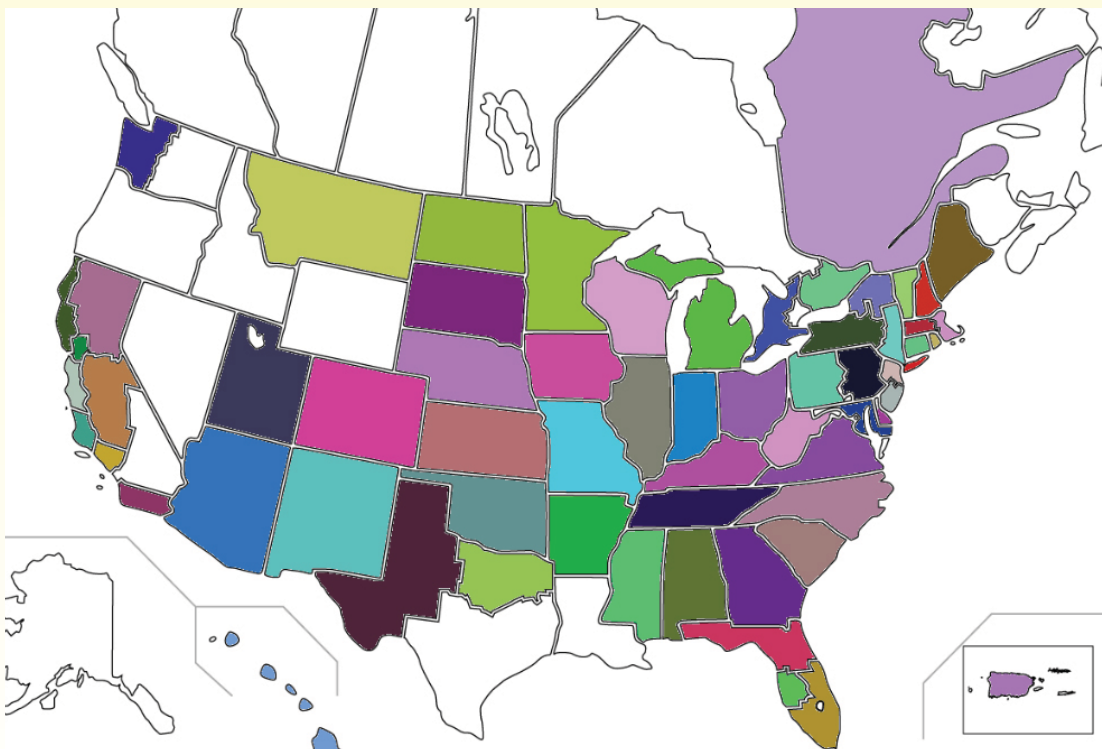
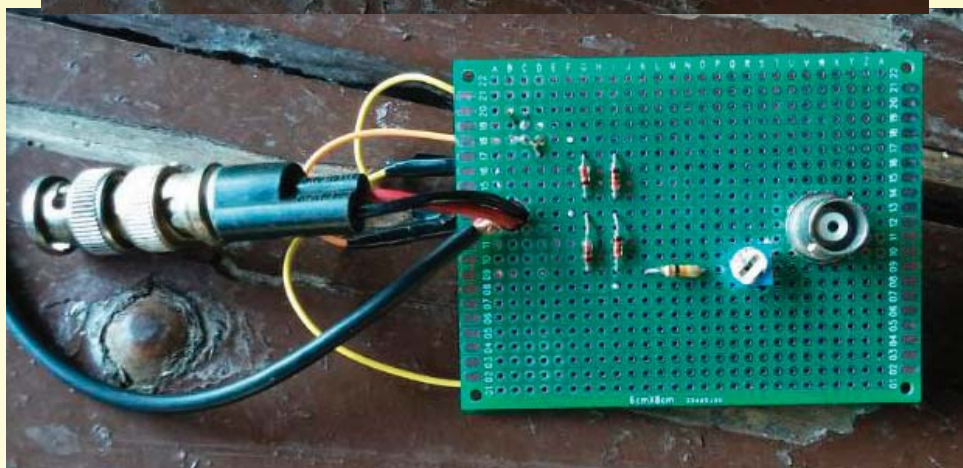
The software oscilloscope using a computer’s built in soundcard is based upon the Soundcard Scope software which is available as a free download from https://www.zeitnitz.eu/scope_en.

Continued on page 9



The educational project demonstration also included demonstration of a variable voltage limiter from QST so that the sound card would not be smoked (i.e., burnt out) if an excess input voltage were applied to it.

In order to show the oscilloscope functions, John used a signal generator on his android phone connected via the earphone jack to the oscilloscopes and showed square, sine and sawtooth waveforms.



The colored areas on the map to the left denote the USA and Canadian States / Provinces / and ARRL Sections in which other stations were located that were contacted by W4OVH during the 2016 Field Day event

Cont'd on page 10

W4OVH - 2016 Field Day Score Summary. as submitted to the ARRL

Call Used: W4OVH No GOTA Station. ARRL/RAC Section: VA

Class: 4A Participants: 28 Club/Group Name: Ole Virginia Hams

Power Source(s): Generator, Battery, Solar Power Multiplier: 2X

Bonus Points:

100% Emergency power	400
Media Publicity	100
Public Location	100
Public Information Table	100
Formal message to ARRL SM/SEC	100
W1AW Field Day Message	100
Formal messages handled - No.=10	100
Natural power QSOs completed	100
Site Visit by invited served agency official	100
Youth participation	20
Youth operators=1	
Youth participants=1	
Submitted via the Web	50
Educational activity	100
Social media	100
Safety officer	100
Total Bonus Points	1,570

Score Summary:

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total	
Total QSOs	214	6	266		
Total Points	428	12	266	706	Claimed Score = 1,412

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)
160m						
80m	41	100			78	100
40m	131	100	2	100	102	100
20m	42	100	4	100	36	100
15m					2	100
10m						
6m					37	100
2m					11	100
TOTAL	214		6		266	

The OVH Does The 13 Colonies Special Event - by John / KG4NXT

The 13 Colonies special event contest held July 1st - 6th, 2016 had a special event Call assigned for each of the original 13 colonies. For example, the call for Virginia was K2B. Several operators share this call – much like during the Convoy On The Air event. The challenge was to work as many of the special stations as possible. There were also two bonus stations, one was WM3PEN, which got you a Liberty Bell on your certificate and the other was the UK station GB13COL.

For the first time this year, one of our OVH members ran the special event station for Virginia. This was David / KK4ZUU. David also broke new ground in the contest – he is the first ever to make contacts with all 13 colonies during the contest using only the JT-65 digital mode. I bet the original Patriots of the 1776 time period would never have imagined something like that? To use JT-65, David had to modify one of the standard JT-65 messages to include the required exchange information. Look on David's QRZ page for more details. Two OVH members worked David on JT-65 to get a K2B Virginia contact – John / KG4NXT and Jay / KM4JOJ. David also offered to schedule contacts for OVH members who still needed Virginia.

Many of us participating found that Maryland (K2F) was the last one we needed and the most difficult to find. We shared information and we all eventually worked him.

The OVH members that I know participated were Wayne / N7QLK, Al / KB4BHB, Terry / KC4DV, Byron / AK4XR, John / KG4NXT, David / KK4ZUU, Jay / KM4JOJ and Tony / KM4KLB. This was the first time participation for Jay and Tony. If I missed any OVH member that participated, my apologies. Hope to hear all OVH members on next year.

There are a number of good stories. No one could get Maryland to hear us on 40 M until conditions changed and Wayne gave a shout and make the contact. Some of the stations were on CW a good deal of the time and Jay found this a motivation to start studying Morse (CW). Learning Morse is certainly worthwhile for contesting type activities: for example, CW contacts are worth twice as much as voice contacts during Field Day, and CW contacts are often easier to make when conditions are poor or there is a lot of interference.

Some Possibly Useful or Interesting Information

1. All hams who operate on the HF bands are interested in propagation conditions because those determine what other stations you may be able to contact at a distance. The VOACAP program is currently deemed to be the most useful for making HF propagation predictions, but it is quite challenging in terms of getting the software to work and proper parameters inputted to set up it up for a custom use. The German Contest Station, DR2W [web site: <http://dr2w.de>] is now offering very useful and somewhat customizable propagation HF predictions with excellent graphics (based upon VOACAP) at <http://dr2w.de/dx-propagation> Check these out!

2. You will note on the <http://dr2w.de/dx-propagation> web page that credit is given to Python programs written by HZ1JW which are used to produce the propagation predictions through the VOACAP program. If you are interested in learning more about that, check out <http://www.qsl.net/hz1jw/pythonprop> which is HZ1JW's software web page. There, HZ1JW modestly describes his creative and innovative work: pythonProp is a collection of Python 3 scripts designed to create voacap input (.dat) files and plot the resulting predictions. The package makes use of the matplotlib library (voaAreaPlot also requires the basemap toolkit.)

3. Python, of course, is a programming language. See, <http://python.org> and Google: Python to find much more information about Python. Many online materials, books, manuals and tutorials are available if you wish to become more familiar with Python. The Open CourseWare program at MIT offers a free online course on how to learn programming in Python which includes lecture videos, notes, homework problems and solutions and other materials which were used in actual an freshman level course. [Google: MIT OCW Python to find that course. [<http://ocw.mit.edu/courses/electrical-engineering-and-computer-science/6-189-a-gentle-introduction-to-programming-using-python-january-iap-2011/>]] Dig in, learn something and enjoy!