

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

August 2015

Next Meeting: Monday, August 17, 2015

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hello to all. Hopefully everyone is enjoying the dog days of summer. At least August so far is not as wet as June and July, and has not been as hot as usual.

An extended thank you to Bob / KJ4RDB for a very in-depth look at SWR calculations and how they are used with Smith Charts; good thing that wasn't on my General exam!

I am very proud to say that OVH has been active in supporting a number of local events recently. We have been visible at the Freedom Center mini-Tri events, coordination and planning courtesy of our VP, Clarence / K4CNM. Thanks to all of you who enjoy standing on street corners very early in the morning, calling out bib numbers and talking on a handheld radio.

And, because Clarence has a few extra hours in his week, he has been leading the Broad Band Ham Net (BBHN) workshops and activities in Prince William County. He conducted another well attended workshop on August 8th; another one will take place on August 29th.

To Terry / WA5NTI, thank you for heading and continuing OVH's support to the 4H club at the Prince William County Fair, on August 15th and 16th this year – contact Terry if you can spare a few hours to help a youngster make a North American QSO contact.

Looking ahead, we still have unfinished work. I have been contacted by members with thoughts regarding improvements to our website; potential volunteers for chairmanship of upcoming community events (some of these are a “first” for OVH); and vacancies to fill. I will be contacting staff and others for a post-analysis of our Hamfest and Field Day activities soon. As always, I invite new ideas and opportunities to market our hobby.

Keep the thoughts/ideas coming; email me @ N7QLK@ARRL.net. See you at the next regular meeting on August 17th at 7:30 pm in the main conference room at Manassas Public Works, 8500 Public Works Drive, Manassas, Virginia. Be safe.



73 Wayne N7QLK

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
----------------------------	---------------	----------

HAMFEST 2015 - Chairman

Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
-------	-------	--------------

FIELD DAY 2015 - Co-Chairs

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Ken	KM4ABL	753-7863
Byron	AK4XR	222-2095

CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
--------	-------	----------

EDUCATION

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
------	--------	----------

CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Clarence Meese	K4CNM	791-6424
----------------	-------	----------

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
---------	--------	----------

WEBMASTER — W4OVH.NET

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
------	------	----------

EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
------------	--------	----------

JOTA

Scott	KB8NUM	365-2642
-------	--------	----------

LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
-----	-------	----------

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	KJ4FDK	361-4885
--------	--------	----------

NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
------	------	----------

NEWSLINE FOR THE WEEKLY NET

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
---------	--------	----------

PROGRAMS FOR MEETINGS

Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
-------	-------	--------------

QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
-------	-------	----------

REPEATER CONTROLLERS

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

W4OVH / W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
-------	-------	----------

SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
-----	-------	----------

SUNSHINE

Theresa (Acting)	KG4TVM	257-3566
------------------	--------	----------

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

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

All telephone numbers listed above are for Area Code 703 unless otherwise noted. This is the official monthly publication of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc., a §501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio. Copyright © 2015 by the Ole Virginia Hams.

The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Monday. In July, 2014, and 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 Repeaters each Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. or on 80 meters (3710 KHz) LSB each Sunday night at 7:00 p.m. (8:00 pm in Summer) or through the OVH's web site at <http://w4ovh.net>

Articles and quotations in the OVH Times newsletter may be reprinted if credit is given to the OVH ARC and any other noted source. Proposed materials for publication including pictures, articles, letters to the editor, classified ads, notes about specific errors, complaints or the like are solicited from all readers. Forward such items to the OVH Times Newsletter Editor: PAUL@W4ZB.COM as soon as available at any time, but the cutoff deadline for the OVH Times each month (usually the second Monday of the month) may preclude publication/correction until the following month.

Approx. Circulation - 170.

Last Rev: 20150514

Sunshine Corner:

Happy birthday wishes in August to Kristen / NoCall, John / KK4TCE, Karl / W4KRL, Matthew / KK4SYM, Stu / W4PR, DC / WD4FOX, Serge / KK4ZUT, Jim / WD4OJY and Vern / K0LVS.

Congratulations also to Terry / KC4DV and Jeff / WB6UIE. both of whom are now new Grandfathers with new grandbabies to celebrate!

Special thanks to Clarence / K4CNM who conducted another very well attended BBHN Workshop meeting for several hours at the Prince William County Central Library on Saturday, August 8th. Emphasis was on BBHN applications with hands on hardware demos. Another BBHN meeting is planned for the same location towards the end of the month. Contact Clarence for more details, some of which are posted on the OVH web site.

The OVH and Woodbridge Wireless are cooperating again this year with 4H at the Prince William County Fair to present ham radio demonstrations for interested Fair attendees, especially youngsters. Volunteers are still needed to man the station at various times from Thursday through Sunday; the station will be operating during a National QSO Party SSB HF contest from 2:00 pm on Saturday until the Fair closes late that night. Extra operators are needed to help the guests and visitors make HF real radio contacts! Contact Terry / WA5NTI if you have a few hours and can assist. Those who can't make it to the Fair may wish to operate from home to provide contacts for the visitors at the Fair.

The Sunshine Corner is brief this month because John and I have been away and have just gotten back from a west coast vacation visiting Elizabeth / KG4NXV and Nick / KG7SOM in Washington State. Of course, John / KG4NXT carried a suitcase full of "light weight" portable ham equipment both ways, and he did some operating too! To the right: John and Nick attempting to receive a satellite signal using a handheld directional antenna.



Good luck to all of those going back to school! Later this month Lillian / KK4MXY will be starting out as a freshman at Fordham University (Lincoln Center campus) in New York City - a bit different environment from Western Prince William County. Her dorm room is on the 14th floor with a view down a Manhattan street canyon, with Central Park on one end and the Hudson River on the other. She may take a 2-meter handheld.

Please do check into the Thursday night VHF/UHF FM repeater net which starts at 8:00 pm local time. More details on the W4OVH.NET web site under the "Radio Nets" tab!

73 Theresa KG4TVM email: kg4tvm@hotmail.com

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting

July 20, 2015:

President Wayne N7QLK called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and led the club in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Meeting was held at the Manassas Public Works Building main conference room.

All present stated their names and call signs. There were 27 members and 3 guests present.

Minutes from the June meeting were sent out in the newsletter, motion by Al / KB4BHB to accept the minutes as printed, seconded by Mark / WA4KFZ. Motion Passed.

Treasurer's Report – Terry / KC4DV gave the report, and then presented a detailed report on the financial results of the 2015 Hamfest. Motion by Bob / K4HJF to accept the report, seconded by Al / KB4BHB. Approved as presented.

Membership – Loren (Jay) Moore was read-in at the meeting. We will vote on his membership at the August meeting.

ARES – No report. Clarence / K4CNM reported that there had been an exercise held at the PWC EOC last weekend. If you are interested in attending any of the ARES training sessions or just want more information, go to <http://pwcared.org> or <http://pwc.ares.org>

Repeaters – Stu / W4PR volunteered to serve as the new Club Trustee.

Training – Mark reported that there was nothing new to report, and he is focusing on the Class to be given in the Fall.

Scholarship – Nothing to report till Spring 2016.

Field Day – It was reported that we earned around 2600 points this year which was just slightly less than we earned last year.

Sunshine Corner – Theresa / KG4TVM wished everyone with a birthday in July a Happy Birthday and read off a very long list of names. So if your birthday was in July we hope it was a happy one. Also we have two new granddads. Terry KC4DV, and Jeff WB6UIE.

Theresa made a motion that we increase the check we donate from the Hamfest Bake Sale to \$300.00. The money goes to charity, which this year is Prince William Serves so we just added \$111.00 to round the check out to \$300.00. Bob / K4HJF seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Web Page – Working, but no report as Paul / W4ZB was not at the meeting.

Presentation- Smith Charts by Bob Anderson / KJ4RBD.

Because of the length of the presentation there was no 50-50

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Terry W5NTI and seconded by Alan WA2GTT, motion passed.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

September 12, 2015, Saturday. Virginia Beach Hamfest. Info at <http://www.vbhamfest.com> The web site suggests this may be bigger / more successful than reported last year. The event will take place at the Virginia Beach Convention Center.

EVENT AT THE 2015 PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY FAIR - CONTESTS:

August 15 - 16, 2015, Saturday afternoon into the wee hours of Sunday. National QSO Party SSB HF Contest. This starts at 2:00 pm EDT on Saturday. OVH members who can't make it to the Prince County Fair are urged to participate to provide contacts to the Special Event Station at the Fair. Find details about the National QSO Party at <http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf> The OVH is participating with Woodbridge Wireless and the 4-H in sponsoring and operating a ham radio demonstration at the Prince William County Fair. Contact Terry / WA5NTI to coordinate with the events at the PWC Fair. See also Terry's 8/6/2015 message on the OVH Email Reflector.

SPECIAL HAM RADIO SEMINARS / EVENTS:

August 29, 2015 - Saturday - Noontime until 4:00 pm - BBHN Workshop at the Bull Run Regional Library Community Room, 8051 Ashton Avenue, Manassas. See BBHN info below and contact Clarence / K4CNM for more info or details. Watch the OVH reflector for any changes.

October 9 - 11, 2015 (Columbus Day Weekend), Digital Communications Conference sponsored by the ARRL and TAPR - being put on for the 34th year near Chicago, Illinois this year. For more info, check out <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.

PUBLIC SERVICE / TRAINING / ARES EVENTS

August 15 / 16, 2015 - Saturday / Sunday. Special event station will be operating at the Prince William County Fair with the 4H with assistance from the OVH and Woodbridge Wireless. Operator volunteers are still need - contact Terry / WA4NTI.

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.

The August 8, 2015 PWC - BBHN Workshop

This workshop, organized by Clarence / K4CNM was well attended and focused on practical ham applications which can be run over a BroadBand Ham Network system. Presentations, Q&A discussions, equipment demonstrations and hands-on help with updating firmware, etc. took place.

At present, the simplest and most basic BBHN networks are made by modifying the firmware in certain off the shelf, low cost, Linksys WiFi routers, and then allowing two or more of such modified routers to connect together automatically via RF (on UHF ham frequencies) to create a digital network over relatively short distances (e.g., tens to hundreds of feet) typical of familiar computer network

Cont'd on page 6

based WiFi systems. More complex systems involve routers and repeaters connected via RF over longer distances (e.g., systems located at high elevations or on high towers) using highly directional antennas, higher RF power and more sensitive receivers to interconnect with other stations located, say, one to fifty miles apart.

The mechanics of how to make the firmware modifications to a Linksys router which is capable of being converted to BBHN network use is not overly complex when demonstrated hands-on. However, the need to do that just to get started creates a high entry barrier for newcomers because a lot of documentation is sketchy or written for users who have already gotten past the high initial learning curve. Fortunately, the PWC - BBHN group now has a cadre of local experts who know how to do that and are willing to share their knowledge during workshops with hands-on demos. For the future, we should expect that a much wider range of WiFi router platforms (in addition to the current limited set) will be convertible to BBHN network use.

Given that one can set up a (basic or complex) BBHN network, what can you then do with it? This was the focus of the August 8th workshop. The bottom line is that within the speed and dataflow limits between particular connection points in a particular BBHN network, almost any application that can be done over a more familiar internet connection can be accomplished over a BBHN network connection.

Some of the application examples demonstrated at the August 8th workshop included: 1. connecting a NAS hard-drive file storage device so that digital computer files could be stored, accessed and retrieved remotely using computer(s) connected to the BBHN network; 2. implementing the HamChat application so that users at remote computers connected to a BBHN network can communicate among themselves via a text based chat window system; 3. observing and controlling remotely located ipVideoCameras connected over a BBHN network; 4. creating an Internet gateway to a BBHN network so that BBHN users connected to the BBHN network can have access to the Internet (through a remote gateway) for full Internet services such as web browsing, ftp, email, etc.; 5. creating a BBHN “access point” so that the BBHN network can be accessed using and from an iPhone, iPad or conventional WiFi device; and 6. establishing a dialup ipTelephone system (using freeware ipPhone software) over the BBHN network with low cost ipTelephones located various BBHN connection points.

The demonstrators at the workshop provided varying levels of documentation, some of which has now been posted on the OVH web site at W4OVH.NET. Bill / N4SV who is particularly knowledgeable about ipTelephone systems stated he will do a write up about them, including low cost sources for telephones and using the open-source freeware software such as ASTERISK (Google: RASPBX).

Interesting stuff! Plan to attend the next PWC-BBHN Workshop on August 29th to learn more!

A Few More Pictures From the 2015 OVH Manassas Hamfest

Some of OVH's Ticket Collectors / Checkers

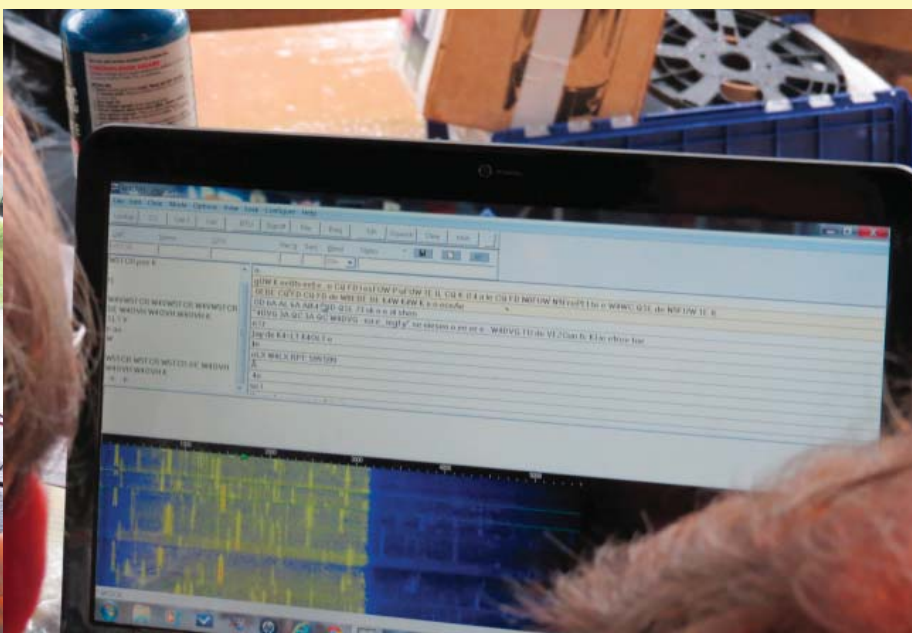


Cont'd on next page



A Few More Pictures From the 2015 OVH / ARRL Field Day Event at the end of June

Making PSK - Digital Mode Contacts!



Making CW - Morse Code Contacts



Worst of the flooding from the very heavy downpour
- fortunately it drained away in 20 minutes or so

Cont'd on next page

