

# OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

**CORRECTED  
PAGE** August 2017

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 19, 2017

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hope everyone has had a good summer so far. The OVH will not be holding its regular meeting on Monday, August 21st due to the conflict with the Solar Eclipse event that day - more about that later in this Newsletter. Also, the September regular OVH meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19th at the Buckhall Fire Station, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas beginning at 7:30 pm. This is a new day of the week and a new location for the OVH's regular monthly meeting.

Many thanks to Andy for his continuing support of the several recent Tri-It-Now events. These are enjoyable events to assist with. If you would like to help out with a public service event early on a Sunday morning for couple of hours, you can't beat this. Also, don't forget the OVH will be providing communications support for the Prince William Half Marathon on October 1st. Contact Wayne / N7QLK and watch for further details about participating.

Well, the club has a clean trailer once again! Special thanks to Theresa for organizing this outing. The members that were there were, John, Dick, Terry, Sandy, and myself. Almost ready to decal the trailer, again thanks to Theresa. Looking forward to seeing it wrapped.

The new web site is up and running, and it looks fantastic!! Many thanks to Andy, Kevin and Paul for all of the long hours and hard work they all put into it. Special thanks to Paul for the years that he put into keeping the old site up and running.

Look, up in the sky, it's a bird. It's a plane, it's a solar Eclipse!! Many of our members are preparing to participate in one of the largest ionospheric events to happen in recent times. When else are you able to experiment with radio propagation? I hope that every club member of OVH has a chance to partake in this opportunity.

Keep your thoughts and ideas coming to me at: [RayKnight@Verizon.net](mailto:RayKnight@Verizon.net)

73 Ray KM4EKR



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# OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

**SUPERCEDED  
PAGE**

## August 2017

### Next Meeting: Monday, September 18, 2017

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hope everyone has had a good summer so far. If you follow the OVH email reflector or participate in the weekly VHF/UHF FM nets, you already know that the OVH will not be holding a regular meeting on Monday, August 21st. The reason: conflict with the Solar Eclipse event that day - more about event that later in this Newsletter.

Many thanks to Andy for his continuing support of the several recent Tri-It-Now events. These are enjoyable events to assist with. If you would like to help out with a public service event early on a Sunday morning for a couple of hours, you can't beat this. Also, don't forget the OVH will be providing communications support for the Prince William Half Marathon on October 1st. Contact Wayne / N7QLK and watch for further details about participating.

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Keep your thoughts and ideas coming to me at: [RayKnight@Verizon.net](mailto:RayKnight@Verizon.net)

73 Ray KM4EKR

**SUPERCEDED PAGE**



# 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) 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 2018 - Chairman

Don	WA2SWX	597-3211
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## FIELD DAY 2017 s

Byron	AK4XR	222-2095
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## CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

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

## 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	<a href="http://pwcares.org">http://pwcares.org</a>	

## 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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## CO-WEBMASTERS — W4OVH.NET

Kevin	KX4KU	540-439-3289
Andy	KJ4MTP	786-4651

## TWITTER & FACEBOOK ACCOUNT MODERATOR

Jeff	KM4FTK	830-4155
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## EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
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## BROADBAND HAMNET

Terry	WA4NTI	445-2801
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## JOTA - 2017

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.	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 © 2017 by the Ole Virginia Hams.

The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Monday which is held at a location in or near Manassas, Virginia which is announced and published in advance. 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 operating with limited D-Star capabilities. 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: 20170815

## Sunshine Corner:

Happy August birthday wishes to Kristen / NoCall, John / KK4TCE, Karl / W4KRL, Matthew / KK4SYM, Stu / W4PR, Serge / KK4ZUT, Ronnell / KK4ZUR, Vern / K0LV5, Duane / KK4BZ and Ray / KK4AQR

John KG4NXT and I attended the Berryville Hamfest and saw several OVH members there. Great hamfest weather and it looked like a nice turnout; the tailgate area was completely full. Did anybody win a door prize?

Special thanks to the following for their help with getting the trailer scrubbed – John / KG4NXT, Ray / KM4EKR, Sandy / KM4JUS, Dick / WN7S and Terry / KC4DV, great job!

Wishing my OM KG4NXT a happy 14th anniversary!

Congratulations and thank you to the web site committee, the new web page is up and running and looks incredible! I encourage everyone to get on the web and look it up <http://w4ovh.net>

Congratulations to Gil / KM4OZH and wife Betsy for their beloved Otis (an English Pointer) who achieved 6th place (US) for Pointer Agility.

The Prince William Half-Marathon is coming up on October 1; please contact Wayne / N7QLK if you can provide radio support for this event.

Quick recovery wishes to Butch / W4HJL who has spent some time in the hospital.

Safe travels to everyone on vacation; send us pictures!

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](http://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

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

OVH club President Ray / KM4EKR called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Community Room of the Central Library on Mathis Avenue, Manassas, Virginia.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were OVH 26 members and 4 guests in attendance.

Minutes: The minutes went out in the club newsletter. Byron / AK4XR made a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by Sandy / KM4JUS. The motion passed.

Special Visitor- Terry / KC4DV introduced Robert Kreiser / WL7GK, all the way from Fairbanks, Alaska.

Treasurer's report – Terry / KC4DV gave the report. Motion to accept by Butch / W4HJL, seconded by Bob / K4HJF, passed.

**Continued on page 4**

Presentations - three presentations of them: The first was a recap of the recent OVH Field Day event; , the second was on the Field Day event in California attended by Jay / KM4JOJ, and the third was on the status of the work on OVH's new web site – expected to go live in early August.

Possible new meeting place - Ray / KM4EKR mentioned that the Buckhall Fire Station would allow us to use their conference room for the OVH's regular meetings, however it would mean that the meetings would have to be on every third Tuesday instead of every third Monday of each month.

Membership – We had two membership applicant to vote on: Gerald Manley / KN4DWT and James Funkhouse / NV4VA. Luther / WA3FMO made a motion we vote them in, Theresa / KG4TVM, seconded the motion, motion passed. Welcome to the new members.

ARES: The next event is planning for the Marine Corps Triathlon within the next week. Look for information on the OVH's email reflector about signing ups. The ARES next meeting is at the Prince William County EOC on August 26th, and next after that on September 16th.

Repeaters – All reported working.

Training - Mark / WA4KFZ will be holding another Technician License training classes in the Fall, dates, times and places to be determined. We had some visitors that were interested in getting their licenses so Mark introduced himself to them. Discussion about mentors (Elmers) for new licensees, which brought up the “Now What” sessions that Mark has held in the recent past. Mark is looking at new ways to teach including using Team Viewer.

Scholarship - Sandy / KM4JUS will be contacting schools and STEM programs beginning in August and September.

Hamfest – Don Meyerhoff / WA2SWX, will be Chairman of the Hamfest Committee for the 2018 Manassas Hamfest.

Field Day: We did very well this year thanks again to everyone that stepped up to take on the different tasks that got to Field Day. Thanks to everyone that came out and operated. We actually did better then last year. There were some challenges but they were overcome with team work. Thanks again to Chef Phil / AC4PL for catering the event for us. Dinner was fantastic with many members and their families partaking of the feast.

Sunshine - Theresa / KG4TVM wished a Happy Birthday to Luther / WA3FMO, and Sandy / KM4JUS. She also mentioned that the Mini Tri went well.

Webpage- It's up and running. Kevin / KX4KU and Andy / KJ4MTP, presented the new webpage and its new features.

Membership - Luther / WA3FMO read-in a last minute membership application from Robert Singleton / W4PHX who has been a ham since the mid-1960's.

Old Business – none.

New Business - There is a 14 week CERT training class beginning in mid-September. Contact Greg / KM4CCG for more information. It's free.

**Cont'd on page 5**

Prince William Half Marathon - October 1st. 15 volunteers will be needed. Wayne / N7QLK is again coordinating OVH's providing of communications support for this event. Al / KB4BHB and John / KG4NXT will drive the route and test repeater reception.

Our next meeting will be at the McCoart Center Developmental Services Building. Check the reflector on Thursday night's net.

Motion to adjourn by Al / KB4BHB, seconded by Duane / KK4BZ, motion passed.

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## **Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:**

### **HAMFESTS:**

Labor Day - long weekend - September 1-3, 2017 - for three days! The 61st Annual Shelby Hamfest / ARRL North Carolina Convention, Shelby, NC. More info at <http://shelbyhamfest.org>

### **SPECIAL HAM RADIO RELATED EVENTS:**

Saturday, October 1st - Prince William Half Marathon. The OVH will again be providing communications support for this event. Contact Wayne / N7QLK for more info.

Saturday, October 21, 2017, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm - Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), Boy Scout event at local the Braemar Pool Pavilion. This will be the 60th annual JOTA event and the OVH is planning to support it as in past years; also, local operators (not at the event itself) on 2 meters are needed to assure rapid radio contacts with boy scouts at the event. Contact Theresa / KG4TVM for more info.

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**

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.

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## **LOCATION FOR OVH REGULAR MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2017**

Reminders: there will be no OVH regular meeting on August 21, 2017 due to the conflict with the Solar Eclipse event which is of great interest to many OVH members.

The next regular OVH monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at the Buckhall Fire Station, 7190 Yates Ford Rd, Manassas, Virginia 20111 beginning at 7:30 pm. Please note that this is a new day of the week for the OVH's regular meeting and it is also a new location slightly south of the City of Manassas, about 10 minutes in traffic from the Central Community Library location.

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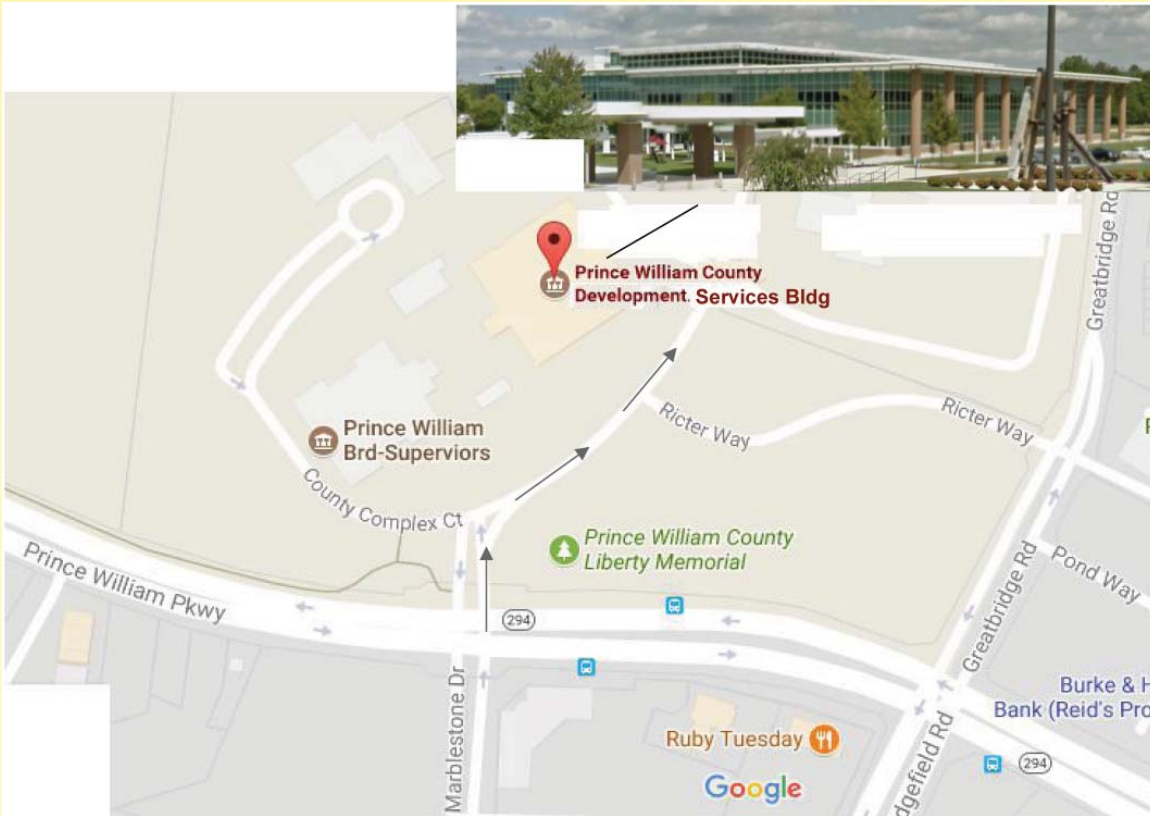
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## LOCATION FOR OVH REGULAR MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

Reminders: there will be no OVH regular meeting on August 21, 2017 due to the conflict with the Solar Eclipse event which is of great interest to many OVH members. The next regular OVH monthly meeting will be held on September 18, 2017 and will be in Room 107 in the McCoart Center Developmental Services Building, Prince William, Virginia. This location is mid-county, about 8 miles south of Manassas at/near the Prince William County Government Center so allow yourself extra time to get there on time. A close-up map of how to find the Developmental Services Building near the Prince William County Government Center is on the following page. The OVH is still looking more a "permanent" meeting location closer to Manassas.

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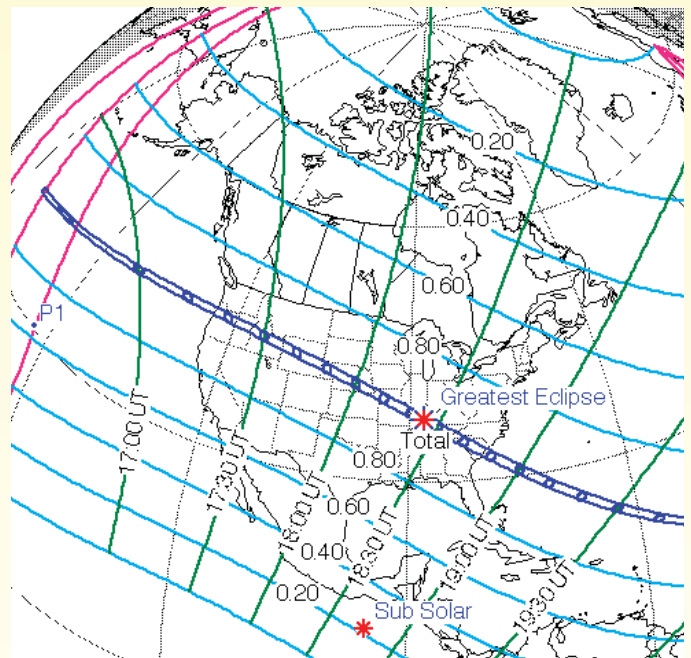
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For the September 18th Meeting:  
 a map showing the location of the  
 Development Services Building  
 at the  
 Prince William County Government Center

## The Upcoming Total Solar Eclipse Over Parts of the USA - August 21, 2017

The upcoming total solar eclipse over parts of the USA will take place on August 21, 2017 over a path from Oregon to South Carolina from about 17:15Z to about 18:50Z [that is, 1:15 pm to 2:50 pm - Eastern Daylight Time.] The ground path of the total eclipse is shown in the drawing to the right. Such total solar eclipses with paths that span the continental USA are quite rare; however, the width of the total eclipse path is quite narrow and will be hundred of miles from the Manassas, Virginia at its closest point at about 2:42 pm EDT on August 21st. Nevertheless, a partial eclipse should be visible from the Manassas area at about that time with the sun more than 75% covered by the Moon. One's ability to visually see the event will depend upon the weather and the sky (cloud) conditions at that time - be sure to use eye protection. From start to finish, the entire local event observable from the Manassas area will take place in less than 20 minutes.



Ham operators are particularly interested in the eclipse because well known daytime state of the ionosphere (ionization of gas molecules in the ionosphere is caused by incoming solar radiation) will change when the sun is blocked by the Moon. The daytime ionization state of ionosphere normally dissipates very rapidly (ions recombine with electrons) after the sun goes below the horizon because direct solar radiation is no longer received to sustain the ionization state.

The rapid changes in the ionization state during the eclipse will affect radio propagation, particularly on the HF and lower bands. Following a 1999 total solar eclipse in Europe, a ham operator (PA3BSH) in the Netherlands

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published a report ( <https://misan.home.xs4all.nl/eclipse.htm> ) which summarized the observation made by many hams in Europe. The ham RBN system [ <http://reversebeacon.net> ] has been specially configured to generate useful reports of HF CW operations during the eclipse. Several OVH members are planning to travel to total eclipse locations in South Carolina to operate and participate in making scientific observations during the event. For those who can't travel or operate, the effects of on the ionosphere will be observable locally in this area. See, <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/2017-total-solar-eclipse/how-to-hear-the-solar-eclipse/>

In the early 1960s as a young ham operator, your editor recalls several similar disruption events in the ionosphere which occurred as a result of atmospheric nuclear weapon tests which were still then taking place with some regularly. While the physical causes were somewhat different, the effects were dramatic - abrupt HF propagation blackouts which remained in effect for hours. See, <http://www.abomb1.org/atmosphr/> and for a comprehensive discussion of the effects of atmospheric atomic weapons testing on radio propagation, see Chapter 10 the US Government publication: The Effects of Nuclear Weapons [ available online at <https://www.fourmilab.ch/etexts/www/effects> ] at [https://www.fourmilab.ch/etexts/www/effects/eonw\\_10.pdf](https://www.fourmilab.ch/etexts/www/effects/eonw_10.pdf)

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## **THE NEW OVH WEB SITE at <http://w4ovh.net>**

Because the development of the new WordPress based OVH web site had progressed to a point that it could be made “live” at <http://w4ovh.net> to replace the “old” OVH web site at the same URL, the switch over took to the new OVH web site took place in early August, 2017 - right after the Internet domain name registration for W4OVH.NET had been renewed. Special thanks to Kevin / KX4KU and Andy / KJ4MTP who did almost all of the developmental work for the new OVH web site and who are now assuming responsibilities to maintain and improve and keep the new web site updated as its new co-webmasters. Retiring OVH webmaster, Paul / W4ZB, since 2011 will continue to be available to assist if needed.

The new OVH web site provides a substantial face lift and modern look; it is more dynamic and visually appealing and has added many new features which should be beneficial for OVH and increase its utility for OVH members and others who access the site. Some of the highlights are:

1. The new web site is based on the “posts” paradigm which is now the paradigm of choice at many major web sites. The latest “post” of information will always appear on the home page at the top with the previous “posts” being pushed down in a stack. This allows the most recently added information or updates to be viewed first without losing the older information which can still be viewed.
2. Importantly, this “post” paradigm also potentially allows many possible contributors to “post” items to the web site without any need to know very much about how web sites work or about constructing web pages. Exactly how this will work in practice and who will be allowed to “post” without review is still being considered due to the possibility that improper content could be published which could be damaging to the OVH. The primary issue is who will undertake to generate new content which is appropriate to appear on the OVH web site. Certainly OVH officers and others with specific club responsibilities should be allowed to post directly if they chose to do so because those individuals routinely originate information which is pertinent to the club and its members. Unique member logins will be required for all posters of information.
3. Another new and very useful features is the “event calendar;” by looking at the event calendar, one can see at a glance what important events are coming up and further details about them. It is just a start and we can expand that to include other events that the members choose to feature.
4. Another new and very interesting feature is the photo gallery section of the web site which features pictures of club activities in one place, with the possibility of easily adding more pictures in groups. Overtime this gallery will build and we will be able to showcase the activities of the club in hopes of attracting new members as well as a photo history of the club. Over the years it will be fun to look back at how we were. Some experience may needed with how this administered before the club can best determine how to deal which some issues which will inevitably arise: What if a member wants a particular posted picture removed? Should the

pictures be annotated with text for “history” purposes? What type of annotations are appropriate? What about member “privacy” concerns? How are details to be handled?

5. Members Only web page(s). This does not yet exist as on the “old” OVH web site, and priority is being given to getting a Members’ Only web page working. All active OVH members should be allowed easily [with a password] to access the Members’ Only web pages which contain club confidential information of interest to all members such as full listing of the current club members with their full contact information, club financial information, etc.

6. Member Logins. The OVH officers, directors and others with specific club responsibilities will need member specific logins with privileges to post in particular areas of the web site. Some other members (who are not officer, directors or other with specific club responsibilities) may desire or need logins with particular privileges in order to post information in particular areas on the web site.

7. OVH Club History. The club historian, Theresa / KG4TVM, has a large quantity of printed information about the rich history of the OVH going back many years. She, with the help of others, is or will be working to digitize that information so it can be posted on the new OVH web site.

8. Archive of the old web site as it stood at the time of the transition to the new web site. This is expected to be done in the near future because there is content on the “old” web site which is not on the new web site. For example, the Loudoun County Amateur Radio Club (<http://k4lrg.org>) found a simple way to do that for its very extensive “old” web site when its long term webmaster passed away.

9. Tweaking of menu color schemes. Currently, the dark blue on dark gray menus are almost impossible to read once a menu item is selected; this is most troublesome on menus with multiple selections available.

10. The OVH’s Twitter and Facebook pages have now been up and running since May. Links to them are on the new web site. Special thanks to Jeff / KM4FTK for that; Jeff also serves as the moderator for both of those sites - please send new content you would like posted on the OVH’s Twitter and/or Facebook pages to Jeff. New content is needed continuously so those sites do not become stale.

All OVH club members are urged to visit the new web site and provide feedback about it with specific, constructive comments, preferably in written form. Additional features can and likely will be added based upon utility, feasibility and long term maintenance considerations. The new web site is hosted by a reliable commercial firm and is expected to be up and available 99.999% of the time without human intervention by the webmasters or others except for content updates and web site enhancements or changes.

**Diagram to the right:  
Current callsign prefixes for  
the Provinces and Territories  
of CANADA to our north**

