

The OVH ARC Newsletter
"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108
Repeaters - W4OVH - 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+
OVH Nodes - Port 1: 145.030 Mhz; Port 3: 223.540 MHz;
Port 2: 440.925Mhz 9600 Baud backbone / N3OH (SYSOP--BILL)
<http://www.w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

September 2008

Next Meeting: September 15, 2008

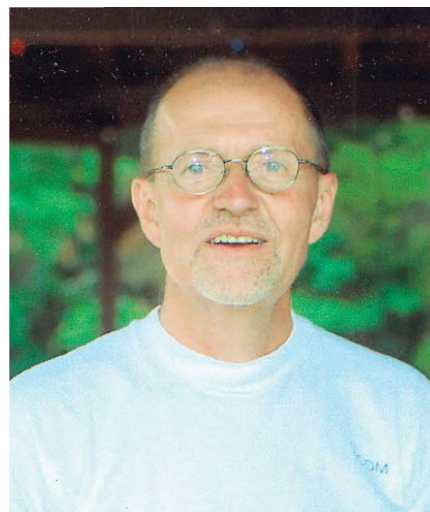
REMEMBER 9/11

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings again to all! I hope everyone survived the remnants of hurricane Hanna this past weekend without major issues. In my QTH's immediate area we had 5.15" of rain, lots of wind and some minor property damage.

I'd like to recount certain aspects of the recent OVH Special Event station operation held on Saturday, August 30th commemorating the Second Battle of Manassas. Special thanks to Al/KB4BHB who coordinated the event at the Signal Hill Monument, Signal Hill Park on Signal View Drive, Manassas Park, Virginia. The turnout was excellent; we had many members actively participate both in the station setup and in on-the-air operations. (See some of the pictures later in this Newsletter.) The Red Cross Communications vehicle played an important support roll and also helped in getting attention from folks on the road (thanks to Gary/WG4ARC). The camaraderie, smooth setup, good food (thanks to Theresa/KG4TVM) are what makes this type of event so meaningful. The publicly visible Special Event Station at the particular location at the Signal Hill Park drew attention from many citizens who were enjoying the Park; and a number of them stopped to find out what was going on and to discuss the event. The OVH operators made 230 contacts, including satellite contacts (thanks to Mark/WA4KFZ). This has resulted in a deluge of QSL requests. This event was very good exposure for both the Ole Virginia Ham Amateur Radio Club as well as for Ham Radio generally. To all that participated, well done!

I would like to take this opportunity to suggest that when we consider event operating locations, we keep in mind public exposure. At times it's challenging to find a site that fulfills location accuracy (for special events), public exposure, required space, and facilities. We all know that Ham Radio often has its share of negative hits in the local media; for example, the relatively recent BPL controversy in Manassas produced press coverage which raised public awareness of Ham Radio but in a somewhat negative manner. This August 30th Special Event Station operation, however, was just the opposite: we



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Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President:	George Tarnovsky	K4GVT	791-5956
Vice Pres:	Wayne Kline	AG4ZZ	791-2100
Secretary:	Wayne Phillips	N7QLK	393-8447
Treasurer:	Joe Dobs	KI4OHR	369-2639

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdel	W4HJL	369-2877
Art Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330
Charlie Dale	WA4YGI	361-3091

WEEKLY NETS

Thursdays - 8:00 PM	JOHN H	257-3566
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HAMFEST 2008

Chris	KI4POT	361-3257
Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873

FIELD DAY 2008

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
Butch.	W4HJL	369-2877

CLUB ROSTER

Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877
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EDUCATION

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
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CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Meola	KI4AZX	393-6681
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ARES AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042
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F.A.R. REPS.

Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234
Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877

FINANCE

Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877
Joe	KI4OHR	369-2639
Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234

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

Bill	N3OH	590-9562
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EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042
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JOTA

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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LEGAL

Pete	KB4RME	369-2436
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Joe Dobs	KI4OHR	369-2639
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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NEWSLINE

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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PACKET

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N3OH	590-9562

PROGRAMS

TBA

PUBLICITY

Trisha Wells	KI4PCM	335-1096
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QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Milt	N4SN	369-7265
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844

W4OVH / W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3556
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N3OH	590.9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
David	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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had good interaction with the citizens which is truly what Ham Radio needs. We should keep this in mind for upcoming events, keeping in mind how to foster favorable public exposure. These are great opportunities to enlighten the non-hams of our existence and in some cases show them Ham Radio is not only alive and well, but it is a necessity for communications when all else fails!

I hope everyone will be able to attend the upcoming regular OVH meeting on Monday, September 15th 7:30 pm at the NOVEC Technical Center in Gainesville, Virginia.

73 George K4GVT

Sunshine Corner:

Birthdays in September – Gus / N4MLE, Al / KB4BHB, Gary / WG4ARC, Mark / WA4KFZ, Jim / W4HJH and Mary Lu / KB4EFP. Happy Birthday to ALL!!!

It was great to see all the OVH member participation at the Special Event on August 30th; special thanks to Al / KB4BHB for chairing this event and to all the others who helped out!

Welcome to OVH's newest member – Alan / K5AKG (formerly, KJ4FDG) of Bristow, Virginia.

Ken / WB4ZOH landed in the hospital right after the Special Event operation on August 30th where he had taken many pictures! Some of Ken's pictures appear later in this Newsletter. The good news: Ken got out of the hospital quickly and recovering well at home.

Good luck to the back to school crowd; by the time this is printed I'm sure all of you will be neck deep in homework and tests again.

Please try to check into the Thursday night net on 146.97 repeater at 8:00 p.m., it's always good to hear you on the air. Also, 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 August 18, 2008:

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

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 22 OVH members present.

BUSINESS MEETING

The minutes of the July 2008 meeting were approved.

Treasury report: Balance is in good standing. Report approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Joe / KI4OHR - New member nominee, Alan Gideon / K5AKG (formerly, KJ4FDG), voted on and approved. Welcome Alan.

ARES: Dave / KI4AZX: The next ARES training session is 09:00 on Saturday, September 20th at the Prince William County EOC. Antennas are up on Potomac Hospital in Woodbridge; Dave / KG4GIY will be announcing an antenna party for Prince William County Hospital in Manassas in the near future.

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Repeater: Butch / W4HJL - Planning to get PL on the 440 machine. Bill / N4SV (formerly N3OH) recommended linking the 144 MHz and 220 MHz repeaters as there has been no recent interference.

Training: Mark / WA4KFZ: PowerPoint slide package is prepared and Mark has volunteered to teach a Technician License Class beginning in late September.

Scholarships: No report.

Hamfest: Chris / KI4POT has volunteered to Chair again; Bruce / AB8CI volunteered to be Co-Chairman. Steve / N4OGR stated that there had been some confusion about who was entitled to “free meals” from the food vendor and who had actually obtained “free meals” from that vendor. OVH may suffer [in a diminished payment from the food vendor] because this situation was of poorly tracked; Bill / N4SV (formerly N3OH) recommended in the future that no OVH members be fed “for free” by the vendor.

Field Day: Joe / KI4OHR has volunteered to be Field Day Chairman in 2009.

Sunshine: Theresa / KG4TVM – Chris / KI4POT has a new a baby daughter -Congratulations Chris! A get-well card needs to be sent to Henry / N4AZC who is suffering from cancer.

W4OVH.net Webpage: Bill / N4SV (formerly N3OH): Working satisfactorily.

Packet: Bill / N4SV (formerly N3OH) - Currently, the dual band antenna not in use at present; discussion followed whether the feed line should be replaced.

PROGRAM

Gary / WG4ARC: Presented the proposed site plans for the new Red Cross Center in Manassas. He discussed the layout and features, and the support for OVH.

OLD BUSINESS

Special Event Station: Al / KB4BHB – the Special Event Station commemorating the Second Battle of Manassas will be held on Saturday, August 30th at the Signal Hill Park, Manassas Park, Virginia. This has been advertised in QST. Station setup will begin at 7:00 a.m; and on-the-air operation is expected from 8:00 a.m. until about 4:00 p.m. A banner and signage will be posted for visibility. All OVH members are invited to participate in the setup and with the operations.

NEW BUSINESS

Announcement: Prince William County has posted an ad to dispose of 50 computers on a pallet available for \$50 - no additional details.

50/50 for \$31: Winner was Ken /WB4ZOH.

No Mystery box raffle this month.

Meeting adjourned at 20:30.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

September 20-21, 2008. Virginia Section ARRL Convention, Virginia Beach, Virginia. More details at <http://vahamfest.net>.

October 5, 2008. CARAFest, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, Maryland. More details at <http://www.carafest.org>.

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October 26, 2008. Mason-Dixon Hamfest, Carroll County Amateur Radio Club, Westminster, Maryland at the Carroll County Ag Center. More details at <http://www.qis.net/~k3pzn>.

OTHER EVENTS / CONFERENCES:

September 26-28, 2008. ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference, Chicago (at a Holiday Inn very close to O'Hare Airport). More information at <http://www.tapr.org/dcc.html>. One of the most anticipated items on this year's DCC agenda will be the first public demonstration of the new WINMOR sound card software (see <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/08/26/10284/?nc=1>). That new software promises to be able to emulate the PACTOR III digital mode which, up until now, has required relatively expensive and proprietary dedicated hardware from its German developer / supplier, Special Communications Systems. See, <http://www.scs-ptc.com>. PACTOR III is currently the most robust HF digital mode supported by the Winlink system. See <http://winlink.org>.

Bird's Eye View in the August 2008 OVH Newsletter

OVH member, Kevin / KA4RNH, was the first one to identify correctly the Bird's Eye view in the August 2008 OVH Newsletter: the backlot at NOVEC headquarters on Lomond Drive, Manassas.

Searchable PDFs from QST from 1915 to 2004 Are Now OnLine!

The ARRL has just made available to its "Members Only" at <http://www.arrl.org> a full, searchable set of issues of QST from 1915 through 2004 in PDF file format. Topics, Authors, Words, etc. may be entered as search terms on ARRL's Technical Information Service (TIS) search page, resulting almost immediately in hyperlinks to PDF files of all QST articles (items) containing the particular search term. ARRL retains all copyright, but authorizes its members to read and print the articles for the individual member's personal use. This provides an extraordinary "free" [to ARRL members] treasure trove and resource of historical and technical information about ham radio from its beginnings. That this very large mass of material originally published in printed form has been made searchable electronically makes this resource that much more valuable for those seeking information no longer more need to pore through indices and tables of contents in stacks of old QSTs (or though multiple CD images) to find materials on topics of interest. The ARRL's leadership is to be commended for its enlightened decision to do this. No more excuses for anyone not having ready access to technical (and historical - recent and old) information about ham radio!

Other organizations have created similar extraordinary "free" resources. Although Google.com, for example, is a for profit business, its basic search engine [<http://google.com>] known to almost everyone (and available in many languages) provides an Internet facility for anyone to find useful information of all types, worldwide, almost instantly without charge. But Google also offers a lot more: Google Books (<http://google.com/books>) and Google Patents (<http://google.com/patents>), for example, are both extraordinary, no charge to use, resources mentioned in the recent OVH Newsletters.

Also well worth mentioning is the extraordinary "free" resource created by the Open Course Ware (OCW) program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) (<http://ocw.mit.edu>) which was first available publicly in 2002. OCW has the objective of making all of MIT's educational course materials available free, worldwide via the Internet, to anyone. No registration is required and no "credit" is given. Currently, MIT's OCW program has course materials online for more than 1,800 MIT courses from all of its departments; the downloadable materials online vary from course to course, but typically include, at minimum, reading lists, lecture notes and handouts, homework problem sets and examination problems (with solutions provided) for recent, actual courses as taught at MIT to its undergraduate and graduate students. Some of the courses offer videos of lectures and experiments; those are professionally produced and watching them is almost as good as attending an actual "live" lecture or demonstration. Check this out if you want to learn something of substance, refresh your knowledge or challenge yourself mentally!

The August 30, 2008 OVH Special Event Station



Some of the OVH crew at the Station at Signal Hill Park, Manassas Park, Virginia. (Photos by Ken / WB4ZOH)



**Making Contact with YV6PM
in Venezuela via Satellite**

Summary of the Contacts Made

Band	Mode	Number of Contacts
40 Meters	SSB	93
20 Meters	SSB	66
2 Meters	FM	65
2 Meters	FM / Satellite	1
Not Logged	SSB or FM	5
Grand Total All Contacts:		230

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Above:
AI / KB4BHB and John / KG4NXT operating HF SSB
at Signal Hill Park during the Special Event



To the Right:
Gary / WG4ARC with the Red Cross Truck
during the August 30, 2008 Special Event

Another Radio Tower (and Antenna System) for Butch / W4HJL



Salvaging / recovering the tower and
its components at its former location
for transport to W4HJL's QTH



Initial handling of the tower upon arrival at W4HJL's QTH

Cont'd



Completion of re-installation of the Tower with a new antenna system at W4HJL's QTH.