

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

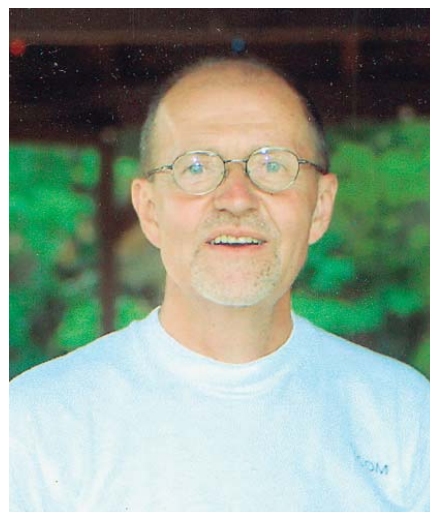
## September 2009

### Next Meeting: Monday, September 21, 2009

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to all, August has been quite an active month for OVH.

The OVH special event station commemorating the Second Battle of Manassas (Bull Run) took place on Saturday, August 29th, and was a wonderful event. We had lots of participation and some pictures from the event appear later in this Newsletter. Al / KB4BHB, John / KG4NTX, and Theresa / KG4TBM did an outstanding job of putting the event together and deserve special thanks. Also thank you to everyone else who was able to participate. A full set of the pictures are at <http://k4gvt.com/ovh/bsm2009>.



D-Star repeater project is moving along too. The new D-Star repeater "went live" over the first full weekend in September; true to Murphy's Law, some unexpected hitches and intermittent problems have since arisen. The engineering committee is actively working to determine the source of those problems and resolve them. All involved are hopeful that the unexpected problems with the Mt. Pone installation will be fully resolved by the end of the month. Those with D-Star capability can try the repeater on 442.5125 +5.

Keith / KM4AA deserves special thanks from everyone; he has done an outstanding job in coordinating and executing tasks needed to get the D-Star repeater in place and operating from its location on the Mt. Pone water tower in Prince William County near Manassas. This has been no small task and Keith has spent many hours using his considerable technical talents in planning, interfacing, programming, debugging and working to install the new D-Star repeater. This brings to the OVH and its member a truly state-of-the-art communications facility with features that, until recently, many never thought would be possible. I hope each of you has an opportunity to see for your selves the benefits that D-Star offers to ham radio.

Concerning the DV Board project for OVH members - great news! Satoshi-san

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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 Dobes	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

Joe	KI4OHR	369-2639
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	N4SV	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

Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873
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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	N4SV	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

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844

## W4OVH / W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
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## SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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## SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3556
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## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

George	K4GVT	791-5956
Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4SV	590-9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
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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in Japan who did the original technical development and has since been promoting this project from his web site has reinstated his web site and also has released a new firmware update for the DV-Board. I've emailed Satoshi-san and discussed the availability of more DV-Board blanks; he is waiting for a little more interest before ordering more boards. Those of you that early-on committed to building the interface are all set, I have those boards and am moving to scheduling the builds. I will be email you with the details and schedules for the build sessions.

With the D-Star repeater in place and operational, I am hoping that more OVH members will embrace this new and exciting technology. This next regular OVH meeting will be jam packed with interesting programs including Keith's D-Star presentation, and much more.

The regular OVH meeting this month will be on September 21st at 7:30 PM at the NOVEC Technical Center in Gainesville. Hope to see you at there!

73 George K4GVT

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## Sunshine Corner:

A very happy birthday to the following club members with birthdays in September: Gus / N4MLE, Al / KB4BHB, Gary / WG4ARC, Mark / WA4KFZ, Jim / W4HJH and Mary Lu / KB4EFP. Here's hoping you all have an enjoyable day and get to do a lot of celebrating!

Condolences to Bill N4SV on the loss of his dad.

Congratulations and thanks to Al / KB4BHB for chairing another terrific Special Event on August 29th to commemorate the Second Battle of Manassas (Bull Run). The weather held out for us but the HF bands were not at good as we had hoped for; nevertheless, everyone had a great time and there was good participation!

There are still many events upcoming through the end of this year with ARES and don't forget the Marine Corp Marathon at the end of October. If you are interested in participating just let the chairperson know, they will find a place for you and always need your participation!

Don't forget our weekly net on Thursday evenings starting at 8:00 pm, stop by and check in!

Please send your news for next month via email to [kg4tvm@hotmail.com](mailto:kg4tvm@hotmail.com) or telephone me at 703-257-3566.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

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## Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting August 17, 2009:

George / K4GVT called the meeting to order at 1930 Eastern Time on August 17th.

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

Call for corrections to last month's minutes: minutes accepted as written.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Treasurer's report by Butch W4HJL: 2009 YTD income: \$15,774.37; YTD

**Continued on page 4**

expenses: 14,832.14; current balances in bank accounts and CDs: (redacted).

Membership: Bruce / AB8CI - no new applications or actions needed this month

ARES / Dave / KI4AZX: now getting ready for possible impact in this area from hurricane Bill. July drill postponed to September, looking for operators for Saturday, September 19th from 08:00 to 13:00. Need not be a member to operate. Check with the Prince William County ARES web site ( <http://www.pwcares.org> ) for more and the latest information .

Repeaters (other than D-Star): Keith / KM4AA advised 2 meters is OK, some noise on 220 MHz and some sensitivity issues on the 440 MHz analog repeater.

Training: awaiting further planning and details from Mark / WA4KFZ.

Scholarship: Jim / W4JTP advised no activities currently or expected until early next year.

Hamfest: Bruce / AB8CI is still collecting feedback from this year's Hamfest. Future action: need 2010 flyers prior to the start of the January 2010 hamfest season. Some discussion of food and vendors ensued, nothing decided.

Field Day: Art / W1CRO is uploading logs to LOTW provided by the ARRL.

Sunshine: Theresa / KG4TVM announced several club member birthdays during August.

OVH Web Site / Packet: no report.

D-Star Repeater: Keith / KM4AA advised Bill / N4SV is updating the OVH web site with D-Star specific information. No packet is operational at this time pending computer replacement at the Mt. Pone site. AC power, rack space, a new antenna has been put up on the Mt. Pone water tower, good on 440, but not on 2 meters.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Al / KB4BHB: this is the last meeting before special event station; may need another HF radio, would appreciate loan thereof. Some discussion of who's bringing various items. Discussion of costs, motion to commit \$100 of club money to support special event station expenses, seconded, carried.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Gary / WG4ARC: provided a discussion of new building; will be 2-3 yrs to attach funding. Interim: the Red Cross secured a no-rent (utilities only) deal for a storefront space with two classrooms near the corner of Liberia and the Prince William Parkway for occupation sometime this Fall.

Art / W1CRO: suggested that the secretary or media relations person produce a media relations fax template to be used as an official OVH cover sheet when faxing materials to third parties relating to the OVH.

Meeting adjourned.

reported by Bruce / AB8CI this month.

## Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

### HAMFESTS AND CONVENTIONS:

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](http://arrl.org) or [tapr.org](http://tapr.org) for details. Some special sessions there on D-Star.

October 4, 2009 (Sunday). CARAFest, Columbia ARA: Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, Maryland. More information at <http://www.carafest.org>.

October 9-11, 2009 (Friday, Saturday and Sunday). AMSAT Space Symposium and Annual Meeting at a hotel at the relatively close by Baltimore Washington (BWI) Airport. You do not have to be an AMSAT member to attend some or all of the events. The featured speaker at the Saturday evening dinner will be Dr. Martin Collins, a curator in the Space History Division at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum. This great stuff for those with interests in ham satellites and aerospace! Tickets and registrations can be purchased online. More information about this is available at [amsat.org](http://amsat.org) as well as on the ARRL's web site.

### OPERATING EVENTS AND CONTESTS

There are 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

September 19, 2009 (Saturday) - ARES event. The Prince William County ARES will be conducting its training exercise known as "Where's Waldo," a full deployment exercise which will begin around 0730 Saturday morning, and end about 14:00 that afternoon. Operators will be stationed in public locations such as parking lots as well as the Emergency Operations Center Communications Annex at Prince William County Government Center, and the "Radio Room" at Prince William Hospital. The goal is to test communications and tracking ability in the event of a deployment of the Strategic National Stockpile. More details are available on the Prince William County ARES web site ( <http://www.pwcares.org/html/waldo-sec.html> ) or contact David / KI4AZX or David / KG4GIY. Still room for more operators, including home based operators, who can or may want to participate.

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.

### Announcement of new D-Star Repeater Availability - September 7, 2009

We've had a busy weekend. The D-Star equipment has been installed at the repeater site and is operational. However, as with any new installation, there are some, shall we say, lackluster performance issues. We are investigating and taking measures to rectify. The repeater is at low power still while we take those steps. However, many of you may be able to work through it. This may take a couple of weeks, as all of us have real occupations and can only devote weekends to servicing efforts. Please keep in mind, the FM repeaters that are in operation throughout Northern Virginia have had many years of continual attention to bring them to the service level you see today.

I want to thank everyone who has assisted in the efforts to prep the site and the gear for this repeater. The names are too numerous to list without the possibility of accidentally overlooking someone. The club's support and the support of its membership is greatly appreciated.

Keith / KM4AA

## A few pictures relating to the Special Event Station - August 29, 2009

Many more images are at <http://k4gvt.com/ovh/bsm2009/>.

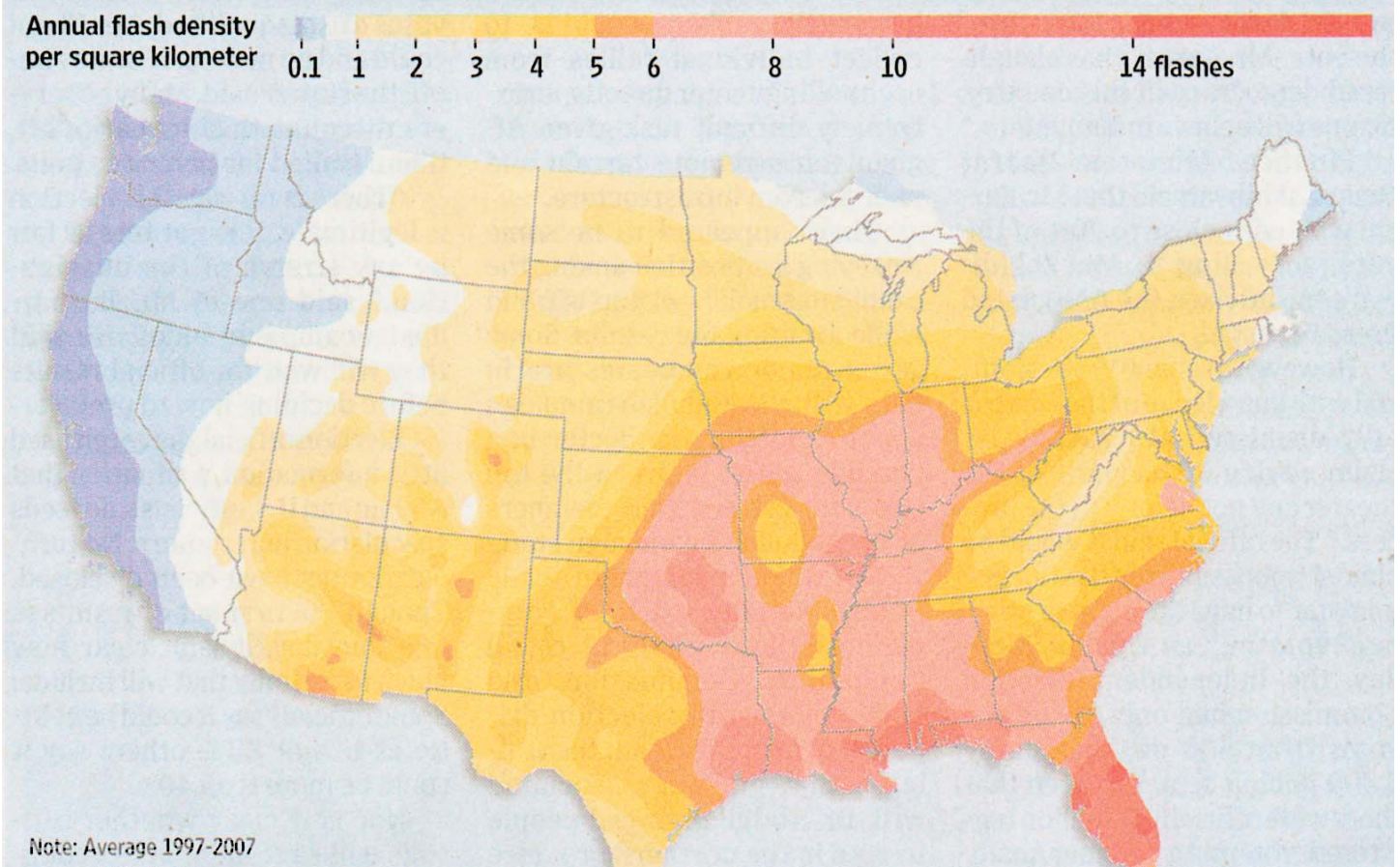




## Where is lightning most likely to strike in the USA?

(Image source: Wall Street Journal, August 25, 2009)

### Strike Zones | Cloud-to-ground lightning in the U.S.



## Help With Repeater RF Troubleshooting at the Mt. Poné Site - September 14, 2009

**FLASH:** Folks, the Engineering / Technical Committee needs your help right now!

We have temporarily placed and activated an analog repeater at Mt. Poné in lieu of the D-Star repeater (which is still there, but temporarily off-line). This is for test reasons and we need your signal reports. If you have 440 FM capability, please program 442.5125 + offset with CTCSS of 100hz. We would like to get reports of signal strength from users from all over the area. Most important is signal consistence as we believe we are chasing some type of intermittent problem relating to the antenna or feed line. Your reports of repeater status and signal strength will be most valuable. After a few days, we should be able to determine whether the problems we have been experiencing are D-Star equipment related or antenna system / RF issues. Please report to Keith / KM4AA or George K4GVT. Intermittent problems are the most difficult to isolate and your help is needed and will be most appreciated.

**BUY NOW** hype - low price D-Star radios - recently on the OVH email reflector!

George / K4GVT: Check out the prices for the ID-800H-\$379.00 and the ID-91AD-\$369.00 at the web site of gigaparts.com. The proprietor there orders these units from Icom directly and carries no stock at his store. Currently: \$100 instant rebate and \$20 mail-in rebate. These prices / rebates expire 09/30/2009 so hurry and get yours the prices are very good on both of these.

Bill / N4SV: Wow!, that is a great price on the ID-800H, George. As an owner of one of them I can say it is a great dual band mobile or home-use radio, even if you used it only for analog repeaters. But the big advantage is that it also does DSTAR OUT OF THE BOX, no additional modules to buy. It has a nice compact size (identical form factor to the Icom ID-208H), small remote head, but still has about the largest font size on the display of just about any mobile radio I've seen...great for those of us who might have a bit of a problem seeing those smaller displays on other radios. Thanks for the heads up on this George, it would be great to see a lot of club members take advantage of this price discount.

George / K4GVT: Bill, I ordered a second unit for experimenting with D-star remote links.

**An expensive D-Star radio from ICOM - not yet available in the USA!**



The ICOM-9100, now available in Japan, operates on all HF bands as well as the 50 MHz, 144 MHz and 432 MHz out of the box. A plug-in D-Star module is available as is a plug-in RF module for operation on 1.2 GHz.