

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 - 442.5125+
OVH Packet - Port 1: 145.730 Mhz, Port 3: 223.540 MHz - Sysop: Bill/N4SV
<http://www.w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

October 2010

Next Meeting: Monday, October 18, 2010

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

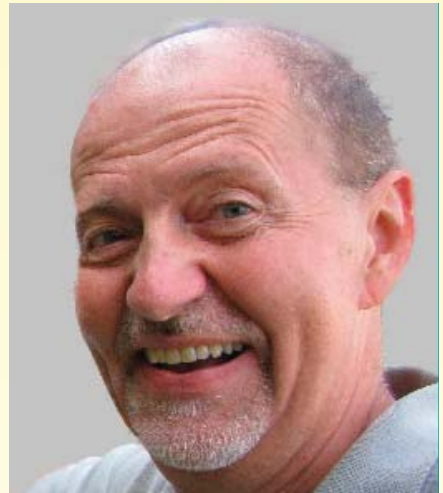
Greetings to all! Ev and I are planning already to host the OVH Holiday / Christmas party again in December, but we haven't picked the date yet. As in the past, this will be a potluck event, so everyone should bring a dish to share. We usually have lots of food and a great time, I hope you and your families can make it. I'll keep you posted.

This month has been an extremely busy one for me with travel and corporate visitors here; as a result, it has been impossible, unfortunately, for me to find any time to work on the DV Board project or to move it forward. Hopefully November will be better and I'll be able to schedule the remaining assembly of the boards / parts, including testing each board. I'll let you know the date(s) as soon as I am able.

I ask that some of you consider thinking about running for president of OVH at the next election in February. My work load has been increasing and making it more difficult for me to devote the needed time. Please give it your thoughtful consideration. I'll be asking each month leading up to the our elections.

I hope you all can make the upcoming OVH meeting on Monday, October 18th at 7:30 p.m. at the meeting room at the Prince William County Red Cross at 9930 Liberia Avenue, Manassas.

73 George K4GVT



Sunshine Corner:

Summer is over but the birthdays keep rolling along, Doc / W1IMX, John / W4ICX, Ruth / KU4WH, Keith / KM4AA, Bob / KC4TNC and Phil / AC4PL. Hope you all have a great birthday!

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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:	Theresa Heartney	KG4TVM	257-3556
Treasurer:	Gary Gilham	WG4ARC	932-1118

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdell	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 2010

Chris	KI4POT	361-3257
Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873

FIELD DAY 2010

John	KG4NXT /	257-3556
Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3556
Wayne	N7QLK	393-8447

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

WINTER FIELD DAY 2011

Joe	KI4OHR	369-2639
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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 tel. numbers listed 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. This edition of the OVH Times is Copyright © 2009 by the Ole Virginia Hams.

The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Monday of the month at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House at 9930 Liberia Avenue, Manassas, Virginia. 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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Last Rev: 02/18/2010

As expected from my announcement at the September meeting, I have sold a bunch but still have a large number of ARRL Handbooks collected by Harry / W4PVA for sale. A few remaining go back to the 1920's, 1930's, 1940's, 1950's and 1960's. There also are quite a few ones from more recent years. These are being offered at prices below those on eBay. Please contact me if you are interested in acquiring one or more. All proceeds will go to the OVH Scholarship Fund which is named after Harry.

Welcome home to Wayne / N7QLK who had been overseas for work for several months.

The OVH Club will have a booth setup at Girl Scout Adventure Day to be held on Saturday, October 16th at the Prince William County Fairgrounds. We have enough helpers lined up, but if you would still like to participate, give me a call. I will let you know how that turned out at the upcoming meeting!

Lots of events to plan for over the next several months, if you can help out or are willing to chair an event, please let us know.

Brian / WC4J is still looking for some help in removing antennas from his house in anticipation of relocating his QTH.

Just a reminder, the Thursday night net is going strong at 8:00 pm, please join us on the OVH repeater! If you would like to be a net control just let John / KG4NXT know.

Please send me your news to kg4tvm@hotmail.com or call 703-257-3566.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting September 20, 2010:

George / K4GVT called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Meeting was held at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House in Manassas, Virginia.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 24 OVH members and 3 guests.

Theresa / KG4TVM announced that the Club has acquired the collection of ARRL Annual Handbooks amassed by Harry / W4PVA (SK). A list of the books was passed around to the members, all the books are available for purchase at prices below eBay. After the October meeting, the remaining books will be put on the Internet for sale. All proceeds will go to the Scholarship Fund.

Joe / KI4OHR reminded us about Winter Field Day in 2011 will be on Saturday / Sunday on January 29 - 30, 2011. Joe is trying to get a DStar radio for the event which will start at 9:00 am local time on Saturday and go until noon on Sunday.

Membership – Joe / KI4OHR reported he has no new applications and no one to vote in. Joe is working on putting a new member packet together.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the August meeting were approved as read

Treasurer's report was given by Gary / WG4ARC, report was approved as read.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ARES – David / KG4GIY reminded us that the Marine Corp Marathon is the end of October and set up starts at 3:00 am; Keith / KM4AA told us that the Marathon will be on DStar this year; David / KG4GIY also reminded us that we are still in hurricane season.

DStar and FM Repeaters – Keith / KM4AA has been working on patches for the DStar software; George / K4GVT and Butch / W4HJL did get up to the NOVEC site for needed maintenance work. (See pictures later in this newsletter.) Anne Arundel received back their duplexer which had been on loan to the OVH; emergency backup batteries have been tested; there is still more work to be done.

Training – Mark / WA4KFZ will be conducting a Tech License Class in mid October at the Red Cross Building, please send him names & telephone numbers of anyone interested in attending.

Hamfest – George / K4GVT is still looking for a chairperson for the June 2011 Hamfest.

Field Day – Also needs a chairperson for June 2011 Field Day.

Sunshine Corner – Theresa / KG4TVM announced the birthdays for the month; welcome home to Wayne / N7QLK; the Second Battle of Manassas Special Event Station was another great success this year as reported in the September 2010 OVH Newsletter. Al / KB4BHB thanked Gary / WG4ARC for providing the food. Thanks to Paul / W4ZB for the good job on the newsletter.

Break

OLD BUSINESS

Theresa / KG4TVM reminded everyone about Girl Scout Adventure Day which will be held on October 16th at the Prince William County Fairgrounds. Still need people to be at OVH's booth during the day. Contact Theresa if you can help out.

Randy / WB7RAV will be up on the roof of the Red Cross Building next Saturday to get the final antenna up; then the radio room will be setup and ready to use.

Art / W1CRO asked about the donated ICOM 751, Al / KB4BHB will pick the ICOM 751 radio up from George / K4GVT and work on cleaning it up.

NEW BUSINESS

Al / KB4BHB asked about the club working on the 150 Anniversary of the First Battle of Manassas for next year, he suggested that someone needs to chair this event; Al / KB4BHB will send National Park contact information that he has to George / K4GVT.

Art / W1CRO asked if a club member with an analyzer can help Ken / KJ4VTP get his antenna optimized to work on 40 and 80 meters along with the higher frequency bands.

Gary WG4ARC asked about the club logo, he is looking for a copy; Gary WG4ARC wants the club to consider purchasing a trailer to store our equipment, our lease is almost up at the storage unit.

Bob / N2DMC one of our visitors for the evening showed us his tower video that was taken in North Carolina, great views!

Drawing – Mystery box was donated by Art / W1CRO and won by Gene / N4HFW. \$16 was collected by the Club for this. Art also donated an ARRL Wire

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Antenna Book and an ARRL Vertical Antenna Book. Separate drawings were held for each of these; each was won by Keith / KJ4GUT. \$9 was collected for each book.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

Sunday, October 24, Mason-Dixon Hamfest Westminster, Maryland sponsored by the Carroll County Amateur Radio Club. This is the 24th year for this hamfest. More info at <http://www.qis.net/~k3pzn>

OPERATING EVENTS AND CONTESTS

November 6-8, 2010. ARRL's Sweepstakes Contest, CW.

November 20-22, 2010. ARRL's Sweepstakes Contest, Phone.

The ARRL's Sweepstakes Contests have lots of participants and provide an excellent opportunity to complete "Worked All States" or even work all States in one weekend. Complete information is available on the ARRL's web site.

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

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.

Report by Keith / KM4AA on the recent T-MARC Meeting

The most recent T-MARC meeting took place on October 3, 2010 during at the CARA Hamfest. This was a short meeting to install the new T-Marc officers and for a report on the ongoing coordination activities. There were 2 FM repeater coordinations, one in SW Virginia and the other in West Virginia. No new 2 meter allocations for either FM or D-Star repeaters have issued in the DC Metro area.

Further Notes by Keith / KM4AA about the OVH D-Star Repeater Site

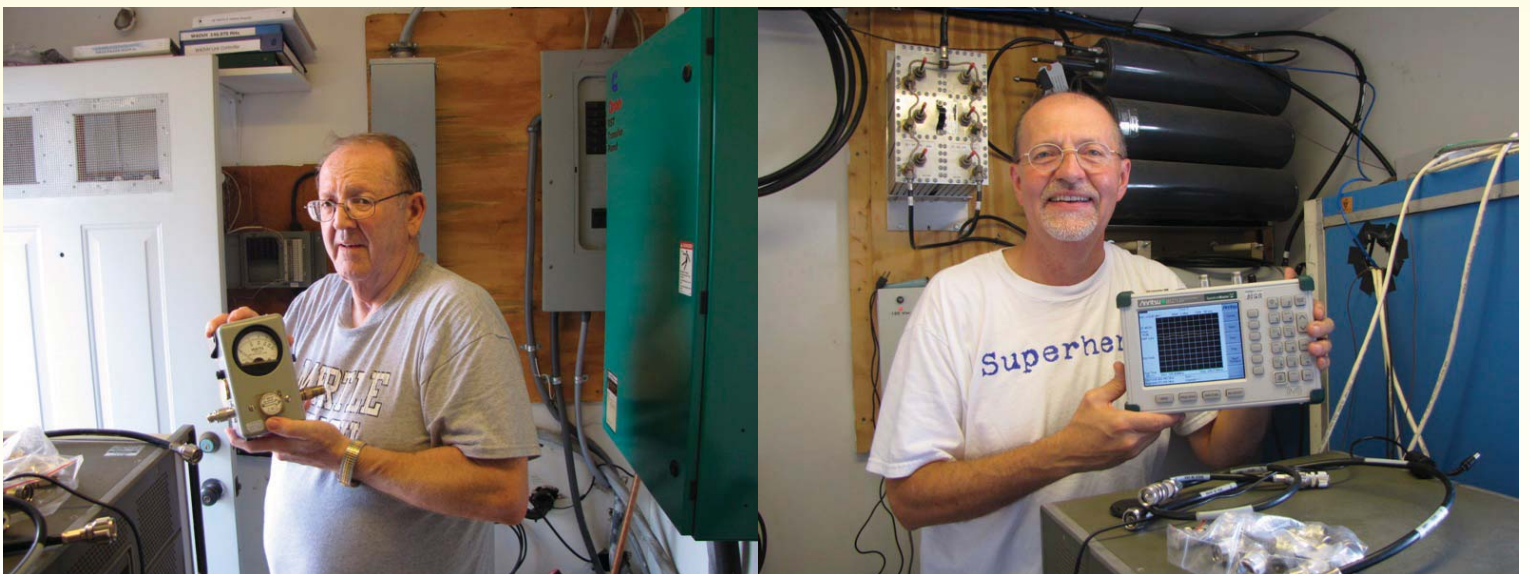
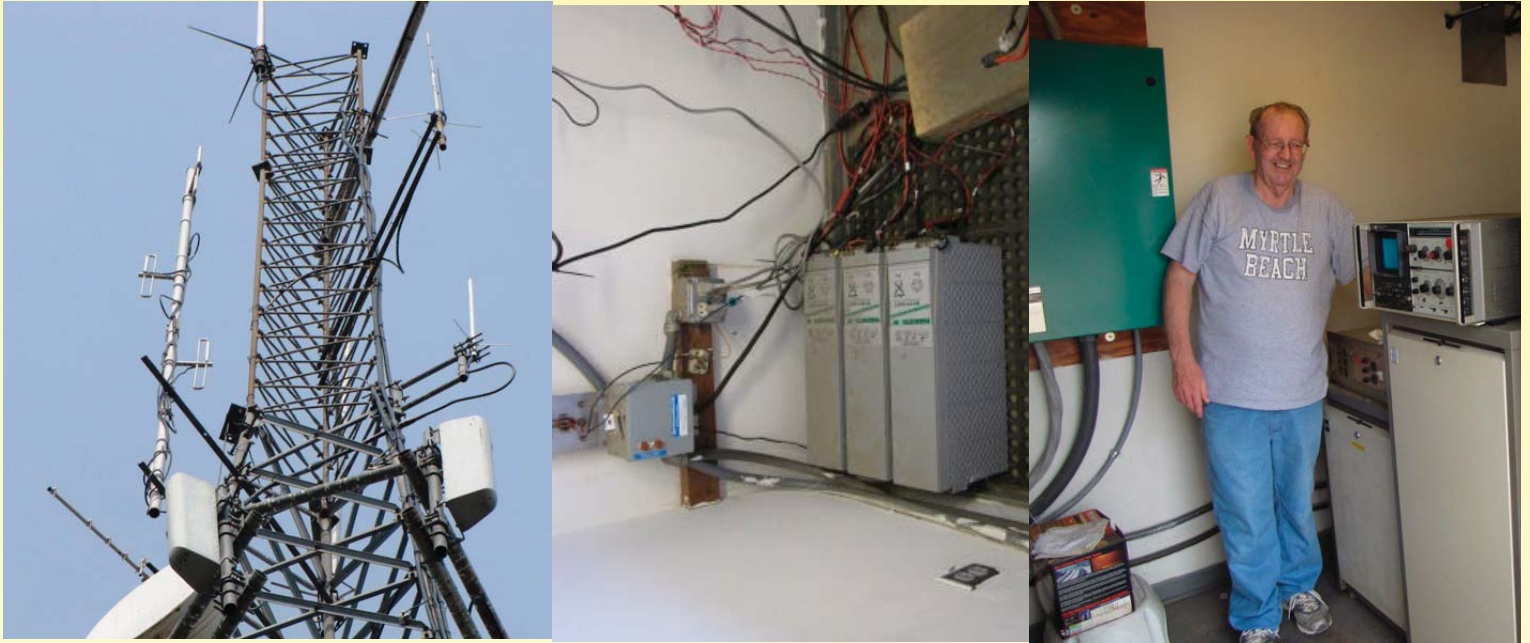
This brings up the status of the OVH Club request to T-Marc for a 2 meter allocation for a new D-Star repeater. In the two years since the OVH put in its request for such an allocation, no new D-Star repeater allocations have been made for any new 2 meter D-Star repeaters in this area; it is unclear from the recent T-Marc meeting when T-Marc will make further 2 meter allocations for D-Star repeaters in this area.

Presently, we have an excellent location for the OVH's 70 cm D-Star repeater which also supports a packet digipeater. As far as I can tell, though, there has not been much (or any significant) use of the digipeater for quite some time. At the upcoming OVH Club meeting I would like to entertain possible new or additional uses for the existing D-Star site which do not adversely affect the current 440 D-Star repeater use or its possible future expansion to a 2 meter D-Star repeater. Two possibilities are:

- an APRS I-gate. The D-Star system already contains software to support an I-Gate; we have network connectivity and we have the hardware. This would be a no cost option to add.
- a 1.2GHz D-Star repeater. The 1.2GHz band has limited use and a new allocation for that band would happen fairly quickly. Unlike FM, D-Star would permit someone who obtains 1.2 GHz equipment to cross connect to the 440 machine or other D-Star repeater. Going this route would help promote expanded use of frequencies and technology.

I intend to bring this subject up at the upcoming OVH meeting.

A few pictures of work / workers at the (NOVEC) repeater site of the OVH's FM repeaters
September, 2010



Some Notes About Ham Radio Contesting / Radiosport.

One of the many interesting facets of ham radio is participation in various on-the-air contests or radiosports. One large contest, the ARRL's annual Field Day event held on the last weekend each June, is well known to active OVH members, and attracts the occasional operators who are no match for dedicated contesters, but who still can have lots of fun. The OVH organizes its annual Field Day to attract all members, including non-ham family and friends, just to have fun.

A very large number of operating contests occur worldwide each year. The web site maintained by WA7BNM manages to list most of them! See <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>

Hams who are not interested in radio contesting can be annoyed by the disruptive impact on the bands of the "big" contests which can take over the bands when they occur. Smaller contests occur almost every weekend, and can create minor or limited disruptions for those not interested.

There is a extensive and very active group of radio contesters at any given time who are attempting to construct the biggest, best and most capable stations and to hone their operating skills and techniques to satisfy their competitive urges to win particular contests. The more serious and dedicated (and sometimes, obsessed) contesters, in their urges to create the best and most competitive stations, significantly advance the radio art by customizing and optimizing radio hardware, accessories, antenna systems and software to support their interests.

The ARRL has published a bimonthly magazine known as the The National Contest Journal for many years. See <http://www.arrl.org/ncj> and <http://www.ncjweb.com/> This is written by contesters and presents much more than the latest contest scores. Much of it is relates to operating and contest techniques, the latest hardware improvements, antennas systems, and software advances. The ARRL also has a twice monthly newsletter "Contest-Update." See, <http://www.arrl.org/contest-update-issues>

Many web sites are devoted to contesting and radiosports. One of the most comprehensive sites is <http://contesting.com> which also hosts active reflector mailing lists devoted to specialized topics such as towers (for antennas), the Top Band (160 meter band), amplifiers, propagation and RTTY. Another comprehensive site is <http://radio-sport.net> which assembles up to date, contest related news items from many sources, worldwide. Some sites are devoted to specialized contesting modes (*e.g.*, RTTY) such as <http://rttycontesting.com>

The competitions among the most serious contesters are organized and occur at the international level. Last summer, the WRTC 2010 contest was held near Moscow, Russia. Selected, highly competitive teams from around the world assembled near Moscow, and spent time operating equivalent stations which were set up specially for the contest. See, <http://www.wrtc2010.ru> which includes links to many albums of photographs. One of the participants on one of the teams from the U.S. at the WRTC 2010 was Randy / K5ZD who has created a set of PowerPoint slides which provides great detail about what went on. See, <http://www.k5zd.com/articles> (WRTC 2010). The scope of the logistics involved in WRTC 2010 is amazing and demonstrates the dedication of those involved.

Some contesters spend large sums of money and huge amounts of time in these pursuits. See, <http://www.k3lr.com> Others organize into more broadly based clubs devoted to excellence. See <http://pvrc.org> which also hosts superb webinar videos devoted to advanced ham radio topics.