

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

October 2015

Next Meeting: Monday, October 19, 2015

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hello to all, and I hope this message and Newsletter finds you well. I noticed that many of the leaves are already off my trees and I am now able to get a better look at my antenna; may I suggest you do the same before it gets too cold for casual work outside? The meteorologists are predicting a colder than usual fall / winter this year because the fall has been so warm so far.

October is another very busy month for us! OVH is again supporting the Boy Scout's local JOTA event this coming Saturday, October 17th, at the Braemar Pavilion. This event will be a great opportunity to stimulate new interest in our hobby by youngsters and their parents. Then, the very next day, Sunday October 18th, early in the morning, we'll again be supporting another Mini-Tri event at the George Mason University - Manassas campus. This is always a good event to dust off those HTs and get some fresh air...and sometimes, a free participant T-shirt! A week later, the annual Marine Corps Marathon will take place, and a number of volunteers from the OVH will be participating in providing communications for that event! Look for more details about these events in this newsletter. In addition to these events, Mark (WA4KFZ) is currently preparing another batch of potential licensees as the "VE crew" stands ready for the November test session.



Also, this month (and part of last month), many OVH members have been taking time to operate as K2H in support of the ConvoyOnTheAir Special Event; I suspect that QSL cards and certificates will be displayed/compared at a future club meeting.

So, speaking of 'future', The OVH's annual Christmas/Year End party is in the 'near future' - as this goes to press, there is still some uncertainty about the exact date - which should be announced during the upcoming meeting along with other details. Be sure to save that date as Christmas/Year End party is one of the club's major social events each year.

Also, the Committee for the 2016 Manassas Hamfest, the 42nd such Hamfest, has

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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) Blasdell	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 2015 - Chairman

Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
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FIELD DAY 2015 - Co-Chairs

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

CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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EDUCATION

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
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CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Clarence Meese	K4CNM	791-6424
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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
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WEBMASTER — W4OVH.NET

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
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JOTA

Scott	KB8NUM	365-2642
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LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	KJ4FDK	361-4885
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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NEWSLINE FOR THE WEEKLY NET

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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PROGRAMS FOR MEETINGS

Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
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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
Russ	WB4HHN	368-6435

W4OVH — TRUSTEE

Stu	W4PR	335-5267
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W4PVA — TRUSTEE

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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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

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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 Public 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>

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already had its first planning session, and there will be many more, one each month. Details of when and where will be posted on the email reflector. Plan to attend - even if you don't have a lot of time to learn how this event is put on by the OVH and its volunteer members each year. Please consider offering an hour or two of your support for our upcoming Hamfest, our hobby depends on these events.

Finally, I am looking for two volunteers to help relieve some heavy burdens. First, we need someone who can backfill / backup for our Membership Chairman, Luther / KJ4FDK. This volunteer should be able to receive a lot of support, as there is a lot of historical knowledge from within our ranks. Second, we are looking for a volunteer for the position of Programs Chairman; he/she too should be able to receive support from within our ranks for "finding" topics of discussion/presentations/and guest presenters at our regular meetings.

Keep the thoughts/ideas coming; email me at N7QLK@ARRL.net. I hope to see you at the next regular meeting on October 19th at 7:30 pm in the main conference room at Manassas Public Works, 8500 Public Works Drive, Manassas, Virginia. Be safe.

73 Wayne N7QLK

Sunshine Corner:

Very happy birthday wishes this October to Terry / WA5NTI, Doc / W1IMX, Robert / KK4MXU, Simon / KB3QOA, Scott / KB8NUM, Ruth / KU4WH, Keith / KM4AA, Bob / KC4TNC and Phil / AC4PL

Condolences to Everett / KJ4OLF on his dad passing away recently.

October will be / has been a very busy month for the OVH members with the first 2016 Manassas Hamfest Committee meeting, Convoy on the Air activities, the JOTA event and a Mini Tri - lots of opportunities for each of us to use radio related skills!

JOTA - Jamboree on the Air will be this coming weekend on Saturday, October 17th. See the flyer about it later in this Newsletter and try to participate if you have some time, How will it go? We will provide an update at the upcoming October 19th meeting.

Lillian / KK4MXY reports she is working hard on her studies at Fordham University at Lincoln Center in New York City. No VHF/UHF radio yet although her 14th floor dorm room has a decent south facing view of various Manhattan towers. (See "roughly stitched together" images taken through her window.)



Another planning meeting for the 2016 Manassas Hamfest Committee will be held in November at a time and place to be announced. Announcements will be made at the OVH regular meetings and on the OVH email reflector. The club and that Committee can use your assistance! You don't have to be a formal member of the Committee to participate; all OVH members and others interested are invited to attend. For newcomers, this is an opportunity to find out how this major event is planned and put on each year, this year will be for the 42nd time.

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 September 21, 2015:

OVH President, Wayne / N7QLK called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Meeting was held in the main conference room at the Manassas City Public Works Building in Manassas, Virginia.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 16 OVH members and 5 guests present.

Presentation. George / K4GVT gave a talk with slides about the Blackhat Defcon conferences which deal with computer hacking and hackability and Internet / computer network security.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the August meeting had been sent out in the September OVH Newsletter. Motion to accept as sent out by Terry / WA5NTI, seconded by Alan / WA2GTT, approved.

Treasurer's report – Terry / KC4DV gave the report, motion by Butch W4HJL, seconded by Al / KB4BHB approved as presented.

Membership – Terry / KC4DV presented an application from Judy Colovus and presented Kevin Colovus to be voted on, application for Kevin was approved. It was also mentioned that we need to come up with a welcome packet for new members.

ARES – Clarence / K4CNM reported that there was a meeting the previous Saturday.

Training – Mark / WA4KFZ will start a Tech class on Monday October 5th, Printed fliers were delivered to Hobby Hanger.

Scholarship Committee - too early for a report.

Hamfest – Terry KC4DV will hold the first planning Committee meeting for the 2016 Hamfest on October 7th. Everyone interested is invited to attend. More details to be provided on the email reflector.

Field Day 2016 - needs a chairman.

Sunshine Corner – Theresa / KG4TVM reported that Steve / N4OGR might receive a new heart (by transplant) soon. Al / KB4BHB, made a motion was made that the club send a donation to the memorial for Terry / KC4DV's brother who passed away. It was seconded by Terry / WA5NTI. Motion passed.

JOTA event - to be held on Saturday, October 17th at the Braemar Swim Club Pavilion from 0900 – 1500 EDT, with setup around 0700 EDT. For those who cannot attend in person, please consider operating your station from your home QTH to provide contacts.

Website(s) – Paul / W4ZB reported all working. Specific inputs for improvements / modifications are being solicited from OVH members as noted in the September OVH Newsletter.

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4-H – Terry / WA5NTI reported that Linda King of the Prince William County 4-H was retiring so we are in “wait and see mode” for now. We did operate during the Prince William County Fair in August during the first two days of the Fair.

Repeaters - Painting of the water tank at Mt. Pone has been completed at last. We are awaiting permission to reinstall the D-STAR antenna and put up a small equipment building at the site. Hopefully, the OVH's D-STAR repeaters will be back in operation soon.

BREAK

50-50 Contest - Theresa won the 50-50 and donated the winnings to the club.

Mini-Tri Event - early morning, Sunday, October 18th, at the GMU campus in Manassas. More OVH operators can be used.

Convoy-on-the-Air - Left for San Diego on Saturday, September 19, 2015 and should arrive October 17, 2015. OVH will be operating a special event station K2H everyday till they arrive. Time slots are available if you want to help out. Contact Clarence / K4CNM for more info.

Just a reminder that our Holiday - Christmas / Year End party will be in December, date and details to be announced at the next meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Butch / W4HJL, seconded by Al / KB4BHB, passed and meeting adjourned.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

OVH HAMFEST COMMITTEE MEETING:

Early November ??, 2015, evening in Manassas, date, time and place to be announced for the Second Hamfest Committee meeting for the June 2016 Manassas Hamfest. Check the OVH email reflector for more details, date, time and place. All are welcome to attend.

SPECIAL HAM RADIO EVENTS:

October 17, 2015 - Saturday. JOTA Boy Scout activities at the Braemer Center, Bristow, Virginia, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The OVH will be presenting Ham Radio including an operating ham station. Check with John / KG4NXT [kg4nxt@arrl.net] or Theresa / KG4TVM [kg4tvm@hotmail.com] and the JOTA event flyer on the following page for more information.

October 18, 2015 - Sunday. Mini-Tri at GMU Manassas Campus - OVH provides communications support. Contact Clarence / K4CNM for info / details about participating.

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

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.

JOTA

JAMBOREE ON THE AIR

Saturday, October 17th

Braemar Swim Club

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Boy Scout Troop 581 will be set up

Scouts will provide lunch to volunteers

This is a world-wide event
If you can't come out to the swim club
we do need Hams on the air
to answer calls from the scouts

More information – John KG4NXT@arrl.net or
Theresa KG4TVM@hotmail.com



SOME POSSIBLY USEFUL INFORMATION / THOUGHTS

1. Although knowledge and proficiency with Morse Code also known as “CW” (which stands for “continuous wave” signalling) is no longer required for any ham license, historically in this hobby which is now more than 100 years old it was required for all ham licenses. CW is still widely used on the HF ham bands for routine QSOs as well as in contest type exchanges (e.g. during Field Day, etc.); CW is also regularly used in other specialized and sophisticated ham radio activities such as EME (earth-moon-earth or moon bounce) communications. Obtaining a knowledge of Morse Code will enable one to learn about and be exposed to diverse facets of the ham radio hobby which would not be otherwise accessible.

With some initial guidance and some persistent effort, perhaps about 15 minutes a day for a few weeks, it is possible for just about anyone to learn and develop a modest proficiency with Morse Code. Making that effort will not only open up a lot of new activities for a new ham operator on the HF bands, it will also enable the use of very simple, low cost, but very effective transmitting and receiving equipment which can easily be home constructed (home brewed) from basic electrical and electronic components by just about anyone.

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Morse Code skill is, in fact, no more difficult for anyone to acquire and demands no more persistence to master initially than learning to “touch type” (i.e., without looking at the keys) on a keyboard at a modest rate of speed. Similar to increasing “touch typing” skill and proficiency, once one gets over the initial learning curve (difficulty) with Morse Code in converting dit and dah sound sequences to letters and symbol sequences in your brain, one’s proficiency and speed will rapidly increase with practice and use.

Many of the old-timers in the OVH taught themselves Morse Code years ago by listening to CW courses on records played on record players and also by listening to ARRL code practice broadcasts on the HF ham bands. Today, such records are no longer available, but there are now plenty of equivalent taped and MP3 file CW learning courses available online or very modest cost. Additionally, there are now many computer programs and smartphone and tablet applications for CW learning. And, the ARRL still broadcasts code practice sessions almost every evening. The CW Operators Club [<http://cwops.org>], among others, has been running good tutoring and mentoring programs for CW learners online in recent years, but if you are really interested in learning CW or would like exploring what is needed to begin learn, it would probably be easier and more efficient for you to just ask one of the old-timers in OVH club.

2. As though there is not already plenty of information about ham radio online, CQ Magazine recently increased its online blog presence at <http://cqnewsroom.blogspot.com> Check it out! CQ Magazine continues today to be a major US ham radio publisher after more than 70 years.

3. Terry / WA4NTI and others in the OVH report success and usefulness with the Mobile Radio modeling software for predicting / estimating actual point to point VHF/UHF radio paths over real terrain paths. That free (for ham radio use) software is available from its author at <http://www.ve2dbe.com/english1.html> and there are a number of other web sites such as <http://radiomobile.pe1mew.nl> which explain how to and provide tips about making effective use of the Mobile Radio software.

A Lot of Radio Operations (but no ham radio operating)

This past weekend, your editor flew a P210N airplane from Calgary, Alberta back to the USA (first stop in Montana for CBP inspection) and from there east back to Manassas. The weather and visibilities were unusually good almost all of the trip so the flight was flown at much lower altitudes (i.e., closer to the ground) than usual and many pictures were taken out the windows as various sights and landmarks passed by. Because it was required that aircraft and ATC radio watches be maintained almost continuously, there were lots of radio communications, but with only one ham on board, there was no time for ham radio ops to give out QSOs with some very “rare” counties. Of the airplane’s comm/nav/sat/radar/radio related controls / displays, about 80% are visible in the picture to the right which was taken during flight in South Dakota.

A number of the pictures taken out the windows during the flight are on the following page:

1. looking northeast about 30 miles southeast of Great Falls, Montana,
2. passing by Devil’s Tower National Monument in northeast Wyoming,
3. going by Mount Rushmore, South Dakota,
4. crossing the Missouri River, Nebraska into Iowa, 15 miles



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south of and looking towards Sioux City, South Dakota, 5. heading eastward, about to cross the Mississippi River, Iowa to Illinois, near Nauvoo, Illinois, 6. crossing the Ohio River looking south, Ohio to West Virginia, about 30 miles south of Wheeling, West Virginia, and 7. entering Virginia (looking southeast) about 10 miles north of Woodstock, Virginia. A lot to see of America the Beautiful in one weekend!

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.

