

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

## November 2009

### Next Meeting: Monday, November 16, 2009

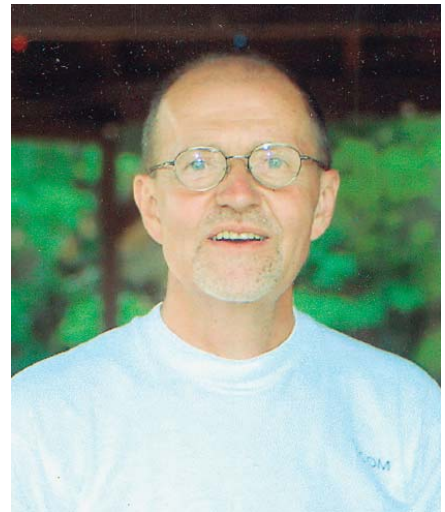
#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to all, hope everyone is well and preparing for the ever-fast approaching Holiday season.

For the OVH this and next month will be very busy. We have good news regarding the D-Star repeater. ICOM received our D-Star repeater and placed it into service at there location for test purposes. Initial test results proved the repeater was functioning without any issues.

After much dialog with the technician, I concluded the receiver was not being exercised adequately to reproduce the fault. The D-Star information was bridged using the Internet from their local D-Star repeater to our transmitter. This was a fine test for the transmitter, but did nothing for testing the receiver. I asked how they test the receiver, he mentioned occasionally he would transit on an HT and monitor the repeater. This obviously was not enough of a test for the receiver. Explaining againt the problem and diagnosis procedures we did here, the technician commented, "since you did quite a lot of testing (this included local loop-back), I'll swap out your receiver with my test unit and return the repeater to you". Even though the root cause was not determined, I was pleased that a module exchange (shotgunned) will get the repeater back to us operational.

We are anticipating the repeaters arrival by Friday, November 13th. We hope to place it back into service the weekend after its arrival. I have heard many comments regarding the poor audio on our temporary D-Star solution. Let take a moment to explain what we did. We took two ID-800's and a standard analog repeater controller and bridged the received analog output to the transmitter analog input. What this meant to us was we could continue to have a D-Star repeater operational and range test the machine. The downside to this interface is that the audio quality is not as good as bridging direct digital D-star information. Consequently the audio quality suffers. This was meant to be temporary and I believe it



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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) 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

## 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>.

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.

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served its intended purpose. I know we're all anticipating the repeaters return, I'm personally very excited to have the repeater placed back into service. Thank you all for your tolerance and testing of the machine.

Ev and I received some RSVP's regarding the OVH Christmas party. I hope everyone will be able to attend this fun event with good friends and good food. Please let me know how many you be bringing and your choice of dish to share with others. I would like to remind you last year there was so much choice and great food, I hope this year will be as successful.

The regular OVH meeting this month will be on November 16th at 7:30 PM at the NOVEC Technical Center in Gainesville. Hope to see you at there! Happy Thanksgiving to those who can't make the meeting!

73 George K4GVT

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## Sunshine Corner:

Birthdays - starting the holidays with a birthday are Wayne / N7QLK, Theresa / KG4TVM, Butch / W4HJL, Gene / KD4RHC, Charlie / WA4YGI and Joe / AB4QV.

Happy Veterans Day, our club has many retired military members, thank you for your service!

Welcome to our newest member, Luther Miller KJ4FDK.

Congrats to Bob KC4TNC, he just received his VE Badge.

Mark WA4KFZ wrapped up a Tech class at the Nokesville Fire Dept and on Saturday, Nov 7th, our VE Team held a testing session. John / KG4NXT, Steve / N4OGR, Al / KB4BHB, Bob / KC4TNC, Ross / N4RP and Mark / WA4KFZ were all there to administer the test. Way to go!

Saturday, December 12th is the date for our club party at the Tarnovsky's home; please be sure to RSVP to George / K4GVT as soon as possible, hope to see you there.

Wayne / N7QLK, John / KG4NXT and Theresa / KG4TVM will be co-chairing Field Day 2010; a planning meeting will be held in January, any suggestions and/or requests – send me an email kg4tvm@hotmail.com.

Happy Thanksgiving, enjoy the holiday! We will be having the Thursday night net on Thanksgiving, if you are traveling home or just relaxing after that big meal, stop by and say "Hello".

Please send your news for next month via email to 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 October 19, 2009:

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 18 OVH members, no guests.

### BUSINESS MEETING

The minutes of the September 2009- were approved.

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Treasury report: No corrections. Report approved.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: No report. Bruce / AB8CI asked about reading in Luther Miller III / KJ4FDK. Voted in.

ARES: No report. Steve / N4OGR: Volunteers to support the Oct 25th Marine Corps Marathon are sought; 1.2 GHz D-Star will be used. Manassas Park Parade of Lights will be on December 12th, requirements not finalized.

Repeaters: Art / W1CRO: Might get over and look at the 2m and 440m receiver next week.

Training: Mark / WA4KFZ - a Tech Class course is scheduled at the Nokesville FD (older station) beginning on October 24th. There will be two 4 hour classes (two Saturday mornings) followed by the VE session; flyer to follow. A VE training course on November 7th. Bob / KC4TNC is a new VE.

Scholarships: No report.

Hamfest: Bruce / AB8CI: Need flyers ready to go by January. George (K4GVT) spoke with Virginia BBQ which will not support, says Corbin will support with "Porky Tators." KJI plans to attend. Need to meet to plan.

Field Day: John / KG4NXT), Theresa / KG4TVM, and Wayne / N7QLK will co-chair for this event. Joe / KI4OHR volunteered as the Winter Field Day chairman; those interested in participating please contact Joe.

Sunshine: Theresa / KG4TVM – Announced October birthdays. Ross Primrose's new call is N4RP. Condolences to Paul / W4ZB for the passing of his mother. George / K4GVT is hosting the Christmas party (on December 12th beginning at 6:00 PM which coincides with the Manassas Park Christmas parade. Please provide George with a headcount including family members.

Webpage: Bill / N4SV: webpage functioning.

Packet: George / K4GVT: checked on it earlier in the week, October 12th; all appeared to be working. Need to confirm that 2m phone patch is dropped.

George / K4GVT: D-Star is up and running temporarily (and is not currently tied into the Internet). There is some latency. George offered ICOM calendars. Special Event Field Day certificates are forthcoming.

## PROGRAM

George / K4GVT demonstrated a D-Star communication. Art (W1CRO) discussed antennas, and how to tune a dipole w/ capacitance or inductance. Auto-tuners should be located as close to the antenna as possible.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

## NEW BUSINESS

Bruce / AB8CI asked about when the move to the new Red Cross building is suppose to happen. George / K4GVT had no answer.

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50/50 for \$17 total received: Winner was Theresa / KG4TVM - donated back to the club.

There was no Mystery Box raffle. George / K4GVT volunteered to re-instate this event at the next meeting; mystery as to who was the last winner.

Meeting adjourned at 20:40.

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## Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

### OVH CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY:

December 12, 2009 (Saturday) beginning at 6:00 PM at qth of George / K4GVT. Contact George and read elsewhere in this newsletter for more information. All are welcome! Lots of fun for everyone.

### HAMFESTS:

February 6, 2010 (Saturday) - Virginia State Convention (Richmond Hamfest): Richmond Telecommunicatins Society, Richmond Raceway Complex, 600 E Laburnum Avenue. More information, including directions: <http://www.frostfest.com>.

February 28, 2010 (Sunday) - VWS Winterfest: Vienna Wireless Association. Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, Virginia. More information, including directions: <http://www.viennawireless.org/winterfest.php>

### OPERATING EVENTS AND CONTESTS

November 21 - 23, 2009 (Saturday - Monday) - ARRL Sweepstakes (Phone / SSB) Contest. More info and rules at [arrl.org](http://arrl.org). Always lots of activity on this one, a good opportunity to pick up any "missing" states for the Worked All States (WAS) certificate.

November 28 - 28, 2009 (Saturday - Sunday) - CQ Worldwide DX (CW) Contest. More info and rules at [cq-amateur-radio.com](http://cq-amateur-radio.com). Always lots of DX activity on this one, a good opportunity to pick up some new countries, check to see how well you are getting out to DX locations and to enjoy (?) high speed CW with good operators on the other end of the contact!

There a 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.

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## Ham Radio Related Videos

It takes a lot of know how and time and effort to shoot and then edit a good instructional video. However the basic tools (e.g., digital video cameras, video editing software) required to do that are now available at relative modest cost.

The ARRL is now following that trend and has its own "channel" working on [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) with very good quality videos posted. Search there for ARRLHQ to find its existing videos, doubtlessly more of a like or improving quality will be forthcoming.

The PVRC also has a series of excellent webinar, instructional videos online. Checkout [pvrc.org](http://pvrc.org) to see what is available. The PVRC's material is very high quality. Enjoy!

## More D-Star Reference Materials

Last month we mentioned a number of “good” sources of technical information about the D-Star system, D-Star equipment and how D-Star works. Two more have been located:

First, Chapter 4 in the ARRL’s publication: ARRL’s VHF Digital Handbook is devoted entirely to D-Star; for those interested in learning more about D-Star, that publication available online from the ARRL is worth purchasing just for that single chapter which contains excellent technical explanations.

Second, a relatively new German language publication in the large, 96 page “CQ DL Spezial” series format has lots of new information about D-Star, especially implementations in Europe. Now available online from [darcverlag.de](http://darcverlag.de) or [funkamateure.de](http://funkamateure.de). Look for: “SDR und D-Star” [Software Defined Radio and D-Star]. Your editor picked up two copies, one is for loan out.

## Some Nearby Antique / Old Radio Museums and One in Nevada

Your editor’s brother, Fred / N3KVV, recently returned from a driving trip by van to the West Coast. He reported that he visited a “old radio” museum in Virginia City (near Reno) in Nevada for several hours, and was very impressed with the ham radio collection. The owner / curator was there and he had a custom tour. Check out: <http://www.radioblvd.com> and visit there next time you’re in the Reno area!

There are number of much closer “old radio” museums, each with ham radio sections or emphasis, based on a quick Internet search:

Bowie, Maryland	<a href="http://www.radiohistory.org/">http://www.radiohistory.org/</a>
Bloomfield, New York	<a href="http://www.antiquewireless.org/">http://www.antiquewireless.org/</a>
Ashville, North Carolina	<a href="http://www.saradiomuseum.org/">http://www.saradiomuseum.org/</a>
Huntington, West Virginia	<a href="http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~postr/MRT/">http://oak.cats.ohiou.edu/~postr/MRT/</a>

On a recent trip to Florida, your editor had a chance for a short visit to the aviation museum known as “Fantasy of Flight” in Polk City [on I-4 between Orlando and Tampa]. What caught my attention inside the B-17 there was the Radio Operator’s position which included a brand new looking, complete set of the “old” ARC-5 MF and HF transmitters and receivers, all mounted together, secure, ready for use.

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## Computer Networking and Port Forwarding

Anyone working with computers these days needs to learn how to set up networks, and then, as things become more sophisticated - especially to use of remote control / remote access or VPNs (virtual private networks), how to set up “port forwarding” though routers. This is black art stuff for most ordinary mortals, and the “experts” who have figured out how to do it often aren’t telling. Fortunately, there are some sources with understandable explanations, check out: <http://www.portforward.com/>. Maximum PC mag recently had a good tutorial about “routers”: <http://www.maximumpc.com/print/8224>. Read and learn some expert “secrets.”

## A Killer Kite Antenna

We all know that hams sometimes do crazy and innovative things. DL6IQ has published on his web site some detailed information, mostly in English, about his Killer Kite Antenna system, and also about how to take photos using a digital camera carried aloft with a (big) kite. His web site can be found at <http://www.mydarc.de/DL6IQ>. For more information on these topics, follow his links for Kite Aerial and Kite Aerial Photography. A kite antenna of that type might be suitable project for Field Day next summer. Following are some of the images from DL6IQ's web site to stimulate your interest.

