

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

## December 2009

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

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to all. The Holiday season is now in full swing. This is a very joyous time of the year. The bell ringers are out, the needy are hoping for your generosity. Most of us are truly blessed, please don't forget as you go shopping for that perfect gift, there are others that are less fortunate.

With this said, please be alert for while there are those that need your help, there are also those that will take advantage of you at every opportunity. While shopping be aware of your surroundings; when walking to your car, have your keys ready long before reaching your vehicle. Observe who is near your vehicle, Too many times we hear about robberies and abductions at malls and shopping centers. Please be alert and we can all have a wonderful safe Holiday season.

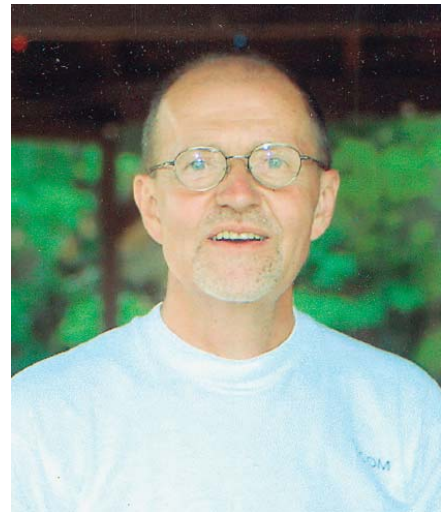
On December 12th the OVH had its Annual Holiday party. It was wonderful to see so many friends gathered together for an evening of great food, stimulating conversations, and just plain fun. The head count varied from sixty-five to seventy-five, and regardless of the count, it was quite well attended.

We had several folks operating the ARRL's 10 meter contest during the party and some nice contacts were made. By the time you read this, some pictures of the event will be available at [http://www.k4gvt.com/ovh\\_christmas\\_09/](http://www.k4gvt.com/ovh_christmas_09/). Some of those images appear later in this Newsletter. Ev and I enjoyed hosting the party again this year and hope everyone had a great time.

I would like to remind all the annual OVH club elections are again fast reproaching; the club is in need of someone to fill the treasurers position which is vacant at present; please consider volunteering, your help is most needed.

Please see my last minute update on page 7 below about Mary Lu.

**Cont'd on Page 3**



**NOTE: NEW MEETING  
PLACE THIS MONTH!**

# 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: currently vacant		

## 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
---------------------	--------	----------

## 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
--------	--------	----------

## EDUCATION

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
------	--------	----------

## CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Meola	KI4AZX	393-6681
-------------	--------	----------

## ARES AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042
------------	--------	----------

## 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
---------	--------	----------

## WEBMASTER — W4OVH.NET

Bill	N4SV	590-9562
------	------	----------

## EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042
------------	--------	----------

## JOTA

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
---------	--------	----------

## LEGAL

Pete	KB4RME	369-2436
------	--------	----------

## MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873
-------	-------	----------

## NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
------	------	----------

## NEWSLINE

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
---------	--------	----------

## PACKET

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4SV	590-9562

## PROGRAMS

TBA

## PUBLICITY

Trisha Wells	KI4PCM	335-1096
--------------	--------	----------

## QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
-------	-------	----------

## 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
-------	-------	----------

## SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
-----	-------	----------

## SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3556
---------	--------	----------

## 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.

The OVH Times newsletter 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 NOVEC Tech Center, 5399 Wellington Branch Road, Gainesville, Virginia. The December 21, 2009 meeting will be held 7:30 p.m. at 9930 Liberia Ave., Manassas. 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.

Approx. Circulation - 170.

Last Rev: 12/16/2009

The upcoming OVH regular meeting to be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday December 21, 2009 will be held at the new Prince William County Red Cross location which is in the shopping center at Prince William County Parkway and Liberia Avenue, Manassas - rather than at the regular NOVEC Technical Operations Center in Gainesville. To gain entrance to the meeting room at this new location on the 21st, please use the entrance door at 9930 Liberia Avenue, Manassas, Virginia. Hope very much to see you at there! Happy Holiday to all who cannot make the meeting.

73 George K4GVT

---

## Sunshine Corner:

Birthdays - a very happy birthday to the following club members: Ken / W5AOC, Trisha / KI4PCM, Dianne / KI4FVV, Mike / KI4SNE, Bill / N4SV, Charles / WA1FFX and George / N4XSL.

By the time we have our December meeting our annual OVH Club holiday party will be over. I know everyone will have had great time. HUGE thanks to George & Ev for hosting this event again this year and opening their home to the club! Also thanks to everyone who contributed to the Toys for Tots campaign.

Get well wishes to Bob K4HJF who is recuperating from surgery.

Please keep good thoughts for Mary Lu / KB4EFP and the rest of the Blasdell family. Mary Lu has been in the hospital since December 2nd and is having a rough time of it. More information to follow.

Wayne / N7QLK, John / KG4NXT and Theresa / KG4TVM will be co-chairing the Field Day event in June 2010; a planning meeting will be held in January, anyone with suggestions or requests, please send me an email! [A suggestion: how about a Killer Kite Antenna at Field Day as described, with source references and pictures, in the November 2009 OVH Newsletter?]

A very happy Holiday to the entire OVH family! See you at the December meeting or next year!

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

---

## Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting November 16, 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, two guests.

### BUSINESS MEETING

The minutes of the October 2009 meeting were approved.

Treasury report: No corrections. Report approved.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: No report.

**Continued on page 4**

ARES: No report. Steve / N4OGR: Manassas Park parade (Dec 12th) of lights same night as the OVH Christmas party; begins 1730, looking for volunteers. Touring the display this year will cost \$10/vehicle.

Repeaters: George / K4GVT all is working.

Training: Mark / WA4KFZ – The Tech class was conducted at the Nokesville FD on the 24th of October. No headcount was reported; however, many positive comments were received.

Scholarships: No report.

Hamfest: George / K4GVT would like to get together to generator flyers for January hamfest. Bruce / AB8CI: Need flyers ready to go by January. George / K4GVT spoke with Virginia BBQ which will not support; Corbin will support with his new “Porky Tator”. KJI plans to attend.

Field Day: More info in January. John / KG4NXT, Theresa / KG4TVM, and Wayne / N7QLK will co-chair this event in June, 2010. Joe / KI4OHR will chair a Winter Field Day to be held on January 29th and 30th, 2010. Looking for a grassy site. Gary / WG4ARC of the Red Cross volunteered a tent. Gary / WG4ARC and Wayne / AG4ZZ have volunteered to assist. The ‘rougher’ the conditions, the greater the point count; those interested in participating at the end of January, please contact Joe.

Sunshine: Theresa / KG4TVM – Announced November birthdays - Wayne N7QLK, Theresa KG4TVM, Butch W4HJL, Gene KD4RHC, Charlie WA4YGI and Joe AB4QV.

Christmas cards handed out. George K4GVT is hosting the Christmas party on December 12th at 6:00 pm, which coincides with the Manassas Park Christmas parade. Please provide George with a headcount including family members. Don’t forget, the ARRL’s 10m contest being held concurrently.

Webpage: Bill (N4SV) webpage functioning.

Packet: No report.

George / K4GVT: D-Star is up and running (courtesy of Mark / WA4KFZ. George commented that users need to hesitate with the microphone prior to talking due to initial synchronization and switching delays. Repeater is on low power.

Gary / WG4ARC: December 4th at 9:00 am will be a take down party for the three old antennas at the old Prince William County Red Cross building at 9317 West Street, Manassas. The next OVH meeting will be held at the new Prince William County Red Cross location in the Davis Ford Shopping Center at 9934 Liberia Avenue, Manassas. Use the door at 9930 Liberia Avenue to gain entrance to the meeting room.

## PROGRAM

No program.

## OLD BUSINESS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

OVH will participate in the Manassas (First Bull Run) Celebration. George / K4GVT has a contact with the city for coordination; more details to follow.

**Continued on page 5**

Reminder: Vienna Wireless Winterfest will be on February 28, 2010 at the Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, Virginia.

50/50 for \$13 total received: Winner was Mark / WA4KFZ - donated back to the club.

Mystery Box provided by George / K4GVT: Received \$8. Theresa / KG4TVM was the winner.

Luther Miller / KJ4FDK introduced himself.

It was noted that the roster/email address list needs to be updated and on the Reflector.

Meeting adjourned at 20:14.

---

## Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

### 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

January 29 - 31, 2010 - CQ 160 Meter CW Contest. SSB Contest is a month later. More info at <http://cq160.com>. If you've never operated on the 160 meter band, check these out and see how that band can really light up with activity.

January 29th and 30th, 2010. Winter Field Day. Check with OVH member Joe / KI4OHR for more information.

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.

---

## More D-Star Information and low cost Ham Radio Related DVD Videos

D-Star radio - how it works and how well it works and what it can really do is still a bit a mystery for those who have not yet tried or experienced it on a "hands on" basis. Several professionally produced, but low cost DVDs relating to D-Star are available for purchase online at <http://arvideonews.com>. That website also includes a downloadable PDF file of a recent QST article: "Operating D-Star" by KN4AQ.

The arvideonews.com website also is offering an array of low cost DVDs about other aspects of ham radio: digital voice on HF, standing wave ratio, various Forums at recent Dayton Hamventions, and more.



A few pictures from the 2009 OVH Holiday Party (December 12, 2009) hosted by George / K4GVT and family. More at [http://k4gvt.com/ovh\\_christmas\\_09/](http://k4gvt.com/ovh_christmas_09/)



Continued on page 7



### Flash Update about Mary Lu / KB4EFP

Friends, I spoke with Butch this morning, December 17th, for an update about Mary Lu. She has been moved to INOVA Mt. Vernon Hospital, 2501 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306 where she will undergo physical therapy. Visitation is limited to the immediate family, and they are limited to specific hours.

Butch has also now gone through training as Mary Lu's primary caregiver in anticipation of her return home in Manassas. They ask for nothing, but we need to offer Mary Lu and Butch our full support in the weeks to come as they go through these difficult times. This is a time for us to give back to these two people that have been so instrumental in support of the OVH and its membership. They have been great friends for all of us for many, many years.

I would like to put together a list of volunteers that can assist then in running errands, providing some meals, and assisting Butch in any way possible or needed. If you can and have time or a specific time that you can help, please email me with the information, I'll compile a contact list for Butch.

Please continue to keep them in your prayers and thoughts.

73 George K4GVT

From the ARRL's web site:

## Major Computer Publication Devotes January 2010 Issue to Amateur Radio

December 9, 2009

Hams indeed are technical and creative people, consummate MacGyvers. In the past few months alone, George Smith, AA2EJ, won the Nobel Prize for Physics. Computerworld published John Edwards' article titled "Want to Bone Up on Wireless Tech? Try Ham Radio." Diana Eng, KC2UHB, has had her articles published in Make Magazine. Computer giant Hewlett-Packard published a Real Life article "Behind the Voices of Ham Radio." Steven Sande, KC0EZH, wrote "5 Mac Applications for Ham Radio Fans" for TUAW -- a Web site that calls itself "the unofficial Apple Weblog." APRS systems were the theme of Joe

Murphy's, N4PAT, video podcast. Popular Mechanics' Glenn Reynolds endorsed Amateur Radio in crises, referring people to the ARRL for information.

Now 2010 is just about here. To kick off the new year, computer magazine Linux Journal has come out with an entire issue dedicated to Amateur Radio and the creative uses of open source computer programs. This 80 page issue features Tux, the Linux mascot on its cover wearing a pair of headphones, holding a microphone -- and even sporting an Emergency Coordinator badge around his neck -- hooked up to an HF **Continued on page 8**



transceiver. The issue has headlines on the cover such as “Amateur Radio and Linux -- Open Source for the New Generation,” and “Get Started with Amateur Radio,” and includes articles like “When All Else Fails -- Amateur Radio, the Original Open-Source Project” by David Lane, KG4GIY.

You might wonder, “What is the connection between Amateur Radio and Linux?” The editors at Linux Journal answer that question, saying that “Linux may be the only O/S out there with

***Emergencies may get all the attention in the press, but lately, the technological side of Amateur Radio has been showing up a lot in places that are read by the people who make next year’s trends.***

issue -- what did I think? I said something to the effect of ‘Did you see my post this morning?’”

Shortly thereafter, Lane posted on the ARRL’s PR e-mail reflector to see if there was any interest in such an issue. “I was buried in positive responses,” he said. “This was near the end of October and any articles we were going to run with had to be in hand the first week of November. But the Amateur Radio community came through -- I forget now how many articles we received, but it was enough that we had some options, eventually choosing three articles to run in the issue. Within two weeks, we put a magazine together with a focus on Amateur Radio!”

Lane said that there is now a “virtual ham shack” on the Linux Journal Web site, as well as a forum where radio amateurs can get together and discuss the “hot topics” of Amateur Radio. “The folks at the Journal have tasked me with keeping the focus on them and keeping them ‘lively,’ so any help is appreciated,” Lane told the ARRL. “In recognition of Linux Journal’s efforts, I have awarded them the Prince William County (Virginia) ARES®/RACES Challenge Coin. This recognition is a way of rewarding members of Prince William County ARES®/RACES who have gone above and beyond the call of duty or for those that

have aided the cause of Amateur Radio.” Lane is the Emergency Coordinator for Prince William County.

Linux Journal can be found on newsstands now. While some articles in the issue can be read online by the general public, most are available only to subscribers.

*Allen Pitts, WIAGP, is the ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager. S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, is the ARRL News Editor.*



an AX.25 packet radio protocol driver, and it’s had it since forever. So blow the dust off your license and start reading.”

Lane -- who blogs for Linux Journal on open source issues -- told the ARRL that the same day he posted “Open Source Ham -- Is That Like Free Range Chicken?” on his blog, he was chatting on Internet Relay Chat (IRC) with Linux Journal publisher Carlie Fairchild: “She said they were thinking of doing an Amateur Radio-focused

***Congratulations to very active OVH member, David / KG4GIY, for this good work!***