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+ (temporarily - limited functionality)

Web Site at http://w4ovh.net

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

April 2018

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 17, 2018

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hello all. The club has been very busy this past month with the Vienna Winterfest, the Maker fair and the VE session, and will be very busy again in May and June.

I attended the Winterfest in late March, my first hamfest other than the Manassas Hamfest, and thoroughly enjoyed myself. Although I didn't purchase anything, I liked talking with the people that came by the OVH club table. We had a few items for sale at the OVH table that were donated and Terry / KC4DV had an amplifier to sell. People would stop by to look at the equipment and it gave us an opportunity to talk to them about our upcoming Manassas Hamfest.

Sandy / KM4JUS was busy talking to the vendors and signing them up for the Manassas Hamfest. I am not sure just when, but at some point Sandy and Theresa / KG4TVM



both left us to go to the Maker Fair which was taking place nearby at the same time. That left Terry / KC4DV, Tony / KM4KLB and me. We were starting to get worried since no one had yet purchased the donated equipment (old HP signal generators) which were very heavy and because we were told that the original owner did not want them back I started to picture having to lug the two units out to my car at the end because the owner who donated them did not want them back. We discussed possibly paying someone to take them but luckily a new prospect appeared. I told him I had been told that they did work last time they were plugged in many years ago, and he purchased both on a buy one, get one free deal.

In between all that excitement, Tony / KM4KLB, got me thinking about digital modes, more specifically FT8. I have the same type of radio as Tony so I asked what software he was using. I got a list from him and a follow up email later with the names which is good since my memory isn't what it used to be.

This is why I like volunteering to help at the different events. Good

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255 Manassas, Virginia 20108

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Secretary: Sandy Knight	KM4JUS	930-8164	JOTA - 2018		
Treasurer: Terry Erlacher	KC4DV	571-292-1490	John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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WEEKLY FM REPEATER NET				WASEMO	361-4889
	OHN / KG4NXT	257-3566	NEWSLETTER		
	JHN / KG4NAT	297-3966	Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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Prince William County ARES web	site http:/	/pwcares.org	<u>W4OVH — TRUSTEE</u>	W. DD	
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Andy TWITTER & FACEBOOK ACC	KX4KU KJ4MTP COUNT MOD	786-4651	Andy George Arthur	KJ4MTP K4GVT W1CRO	786-4651 791-5956 791-4330
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All telephone numbers listed above 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. Copyright © 2018 by the Ole Virginia Hams.

The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Tuesday at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station, 7190 Yates Ford Road, 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 146.860-, 442.200+ and 443.500+ MHz. The OVH's two D-Star repeaters on 146.865- and 442.5125+ MHz are temporarily operating with limited D-Star capabilities. 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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conversation and I learn lots of new stuff which is one reason why I joined the club.

Don / WA2SWX, John / KG4NXT, Ray / KM4EKR, Sandy / KM4JUS, and Theresa / KG4NXT were at the Maker Fair so the OVH was well represented there. There is a paragraph on the OVH web site about that. Getting the club out in the public view is what it is all about.

With Mark / WA4KFZ wrapping up another successful Technician class, OVH held a VE session on April 9th. I attended that session and can report that it was huge. I mean when it started out I thought, "wow we have a lot of VEs here", but I am glad they we all there since we filled the room we meet in and had an overflow group at two tables in the large room adjacent to the meeting room which is where we were grading the tests on the other side of that room. It was very successful with everyone attending getting a license or upgrade.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered for one or more of these events and thanks to Terry / KC4DV for organizing the Winterfest volunteers, Don / WA2SWX for organizing the Maker Fair volunteers and John / KG4NXT for organizing the VE Session.

The 2018 VA QSO Party was held March 17 and 18 and was excellent from what I hear. I failed to reserve those dates and was put to work on our never-ending jobs around the house. Since I was going to the Winterfest on Sunday, I had to compromise with the XYL. I did manage to squeak out a few contacts, at least enough to send in the log with OVH mentioned as my club.

If you haven't sent in your logs you have until April 15th so get them in.

Next month we have quite a few events. On May 5th we have the Manassas Airshow. Thanks to Kevin / KX4KU for organizing our participation. Also on the 5th is a 5K run that Greg is organizing volunteers to support. May 6th is the SOWW Bike Ride that Andy / KM4MTP, is organizing our participation. May 13th is the Try It Now (Ladies Choice) that Andy / KM4MTP will also be leading for our COMM support.

Be sure to thanks all these club members for all they do. Also get out there and volunteer. There are plenty of opportunities and it will make you a better radio operator. You can't learn if you don't try.

The next regular OVH will be held on Tuesday, April 17th, at 7:30 pm in the conference room at the Buckhall Fire Station, Manassas. A highlight of the meeting will be a presentation on ARDF (Amateur Radio Direction Finding) by Larry / W8ANT. Hope to see you there.

73 BYRON AK4XR

Sunshine Corner:

Happy birthday wishes in April to the following club members: Harry / KC9TXL, Harry / KN4IJY, Brian / KK4CBS, Robert / KJ4SZJ, Jeff / KB4IWD, Gil / KM4OZH, Paul / N4PD, Joe / KI4OHR, Steve / KJ4YHA, Chris / KU4FT, Lillian / KK4MXY, David / KI4AZX, Paul / W4ZB, and David / KD4DEE. Also, special birthday wishes to Annemarie (George / K4GVT's mother in law), known to many of us as "Oma" (German for "Grandma") who is celebrating 85 years young!

I would say Happy Spring but every time I think it is Spring, here comes the cold weather again!

Because the March meeting was cancelled due to weather, April will Continued on page 4

be the first meeting that Byron / AK4XR, will run as President of the OVH.

Good to hear club members on the air for the Virginia QSO Party, please remember to turn in your logs (by April 15th) and fill in OVH for your club!

Congratulations to and special thanks to John / KG4NXT, and Don / WA2SWX, for putting together a great table representing the OVH at the Maker Faire event that was held on the George Mason University campus last month.

Good to see our club represented at the Vienna Winterfest, great job by Terry / KC4DV, and crew for staffing a table and handing out flyers. The picture to the right is from that hamfest, Byron / AK4XR and Tony / KK4YZK and if you look near the middle of picture in the next row is Sandy / KM4JUS talking to one of the vendors!



Sending best wishes to Butch / W4HJL, and Steve / KB4OF, as they both continue to recover from recent hospital stays.

Congratulations to John / KG4NXT for receiving a certificate for the CQ WPX Digital Award. He completed 300 digital contacts with different prefixes from all over the world.

Thanks to Andy / KJ4MTP for coordinating the OVH's participation in first Mini Tri of the year in March and the upcoming Mini Tri on May 19th!

Thanks to Kevin / KX4KU for coordinating the OVH's participation as an exhibitor on May 5th during the annual Manassas Airshow at the Manassas Airport. A planning meeting for that will be held on April 19th at Joe & Sam's Pizzeria, (6 / 7 pm) in Manassas, Contact Kevin / KX4KU for more info.

Hamfest – planning meetings are under way, please contact chairman Don, WA2SWX, to help with this event. His email is wa2swxdm@gmail.com

Field Day 2018 will be just a few weeks after Hamfest; please contact chairman Byron / AK4XR to get the details, his email is ak4xr@dillonelectric.com

Also, please check out the OVH's club web site (W4OVH.NET) and Facebook (W4OVH) and Twitter (W4OVH) pages for up to date information.

Please try to check in to the Thursday night VHF/UHF FM net. You will hear updates and information on everything going on! How to do that is on the OVH web site at http://w4ovh.net. You will find us on the 146.970 and 442.200 FM repeaters at 8:00 PM every Thursday evening.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting held on March 20, 2018:

The meeting was cancelled and not held due to a unexpected snow and ice storm. No minutes for that meeting which was not held.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS

May 18 - 20, 2018 (Friday - Sunday) - the Dayton Hamvention, the biggest Hamfest in the USA at the Greene County Fairgrounds, Xenia, Ohio. Groups of OVH members usually go; every ham should go - at least one time, even if just for one or two days. Save the dates. For more info, go to http://hamvention.org

June 3, 2018 (Sunday) - the Manassas Hamfest which is being put on for the 44th time by the OVH. The Flyer for the 2018 Manassas Hamfest is included at the end of the Newsletter. Also, more info at http://manassashamfest.org and at http://w4ovh.net (Hamfest tab). Plan to attend this OVH event!

HAM RADIO RELATED / PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS:

May 5, 2018, Saturday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Manassas Air Show event at the Manassas Airport. The OVH will be an exhibitor at the show. Contact Kevin / KX4KU for more information and to participate. The event web site is: https://www.manassasairshow.com

May 6, 2018, Sunday - OVH Comm support for the Serve Our Willing Warriors (SOWW) Bike Ride event. Contact Andy / KJ4MTP.

May 13, 2018 (Sunday morning, early!) - Tri-It-Now event (Ladies Choice) for which the OVH provides communications support. Contact Andy / KJ4MTP.

May 17, 2018 (Thursday) - Contest University program at Dayton, Ohio - a full day, intensive training sessions on many timely topics for advanced radio amateurs just before the Dayton Hamvention. Although the program overall has a contest focus, it includes a large amount of non-contest general and specific information about how to effectively improve any ham station. Highly recommended. Go to http://contestuniversity.com for more details about attending this.

AMRAD meets monthly 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 which have been changing around recently.

HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS:

The ARRL has a Contest web page at its web site, but a much more comprehensive, up-to-date, and long range planning contesting calendar with links to the rules for the various events is maintained by WA7BNM at http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal If you get the radio contesting bug or just want to find out what and how much is going on, that is a good place to look!

PUBLIC SERVICE / ARES EVENTS

Also, always check the online Calendar by David / KG4GIY at http://pwcares.org for the latest ARES 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.

VP's Corner

Jeff Fuller WB6UIE

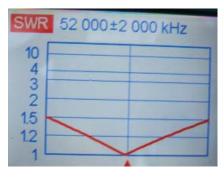
Spring is here at last (hopefully) and with it an opportunity to explore new trails, new modes and new frequencies. Like many of us, I've been stuck in my comfort zone on two meters for ARES and public service events. What about a backup in case one or more of our friendly repeaters goes off the air?

Six meters may be a good choice for that backup. It falls into an interesting part of the spectrum known as LVHF (low VHF) whose characteristics straddle those of of both HF and VHF. Its ability to diffract around obstacles gives it somewhat greater range than two meters. And under sporadic E conditions, paths of 1000 miles or more are common.

How to get on six meters? If you have a modern HF rig, chances are it already has 6 meters. If not, multiband VHF transceivers are available for about the price of a good handheld. For example

Signaturi, USB

Yaesu's FT-8900 offers FM in the 10,6,2 and 440 bands in a mobile package with selectable output powers of 5 through 50 watts. Adding a PVC shell, rubber feet, and modem (above) yields a compact voice and data package suitable for desktop, mobile, or backpack use.



Now for this month's history lesson. Many of us are familiar with the WWII contributions of hams to SIGINT, radar, and other technical fields. How many are familiar with a little known part of FCC called RID (Radio Intelligence Division)? Tasked with locating transmissions of enemy agents, RID established a network of fixed and mobile radio direction finders (right). You can learn more about RID in this fascinating history by George Sterling, W3DF "The History of the Radio Intelligence Division" (http://users.isp.com/danflan/sterling/ridhist.pdf)

What about an antenna? Some commercial four band choices are available but pricey. Since I already have a 2m/440 mobile, I decided to add a 6 meter vertical and splitter. For about \$15, I found a surplus 52 inch whip (just shy of 1/4 wave on six meters) with spring base. After adding a two turn inductor, it tuned up nicely (left).



http://users.isp.com/danflan/ sterling/ridhist.pdf)

Figure 65: Plot of bearings taken by RID monitoring stations showing the location of a clandestine transmitter in Washington, DC on December 9, 1941, two days after Pearl Harbor.

Want to learn more about direction finding and an interesting segment of our hobby known as ARDF? Join us for a presentation by Larry, W8ANT, at our April club meeting. Hope to see you there!

APRIL 2018 OVH VE SESSION RESULTS

After the online Technician Class given by Mark / WA4KFZ was over, the OVH held a VE session at the Buckhall Fire Station originally intended primarily for the attendees at Mark's online course, but also open to walk-ins from the public for all levels of amateur radio licences. A total of 23 candidates appeared for the examinations and everyone got at least one new license.

This VE Session produced 16 new Technicans, 3 new Generals and 4 new Extra Class Licensees. Three of the new Technicians took the General exam unsuccessfully.

I think 23 candidates is probably a record for an OVH VE session.

This would not have been possible without lots of help from our OVH VEs who conducted and supervised the exams: Al / KB4BHB, Byron / AK4XR, Luther / WA3FMO, Steve / N4OGR, Tony / KM4KLR, Kevin / KX4KU, Wayne / N7QLK, Jeff / KM4FTK and John / KG4NXT. Theresa / KG4TVM made handouts including an OVH membership application and she also took some pictures.

A very successful VE Session!

John / KG4NXT

Some Possibly Interesting or Useful Information

- 1. The "new" FT8 mode has become very popular for HF digital communications. The latest software to run FT8 is available as a free download at https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjtx.html where basic instructions are also available. Fortunately, a lot of video tutorials are easily found online with a Google search. Another very good textual tutorial is available at http://www.g4ifb.com/FT8_Hinson_tips_for_HF_DXers.pdf
- 2. Knowing how to solder is an essential ham radio skill for everyone who does not want to be strictly an appliance operator relying upon others for help and customization of a typical ham station. Sooner or later it becomes necessary to solder wires, connectors and other electrical components to customize. For those who want to build kits or develop their own electronic circuits, soldering is essential. Learning how to solder properly and quickly requires some training and practice after the basic elements of soldering are understood. A good "soldering" tutorial appears at https://learn.adafruit.com/adafruit-guide-excellent-soldering/common-problems This is worth looking at to improve your skills even if you already know how to solder.
- 3. Interested in trying your hand with constructing an very inexpensive, low power (10W) multiband ham SSB/CW kit transceiver for the HF bands? If so, you should consider the micro Bitx HF radio kit which has been attacting a lot of attention. Price of the kit, about \$125. Do a Google search to find out more, including availability and sources. If you purchase one of these kits, you will have a good opportunity to use your soldering and assembly skills. Reports so far are mostly quite favorable and the low price seems almost unbelievable. One useful blog post is at: http://qrper.com/2017/03/micro-bitx-a-homebrew-general-coverage-ssbcw-qrp-transceiver/ See also the blog post at http://qrznow.com/new-all-band-ssbcw-micro-bitx-now-available/
- 4. Contest University Session coming up at Dayton, Ohio. This full day program will be given one day before the start of the Dayton Hamvention. See, https://www.contestuniversity.com/2018-course-outline/ Your editor has previously attended several sessions and reports that the programs have always been excellent, the topics are not limited to ham radio contesting, but includes all aspects of HF station and operating optimization.
- 5. What is ADIF? Answer: Amateur Data Interchange Format. ADIF is an open standard for exchange of data between ham radio software packages available from different vendors. See, http://adif.org All modern logging programs use ADIF and can provide ADIF compliaint output log data. The sponsors of most major ham radio contests now require that participant logs be submitted in electronic form compliant with the ADIF specification.
- 6. If you use an AC Generator, be sure to read the following page with tips about Generator usage.

Generator use tips - N2KZ

[After the wind and snows of March brought down many a tree and wire, Karl explains the care and feeding of gas-

oline generators. -Ed.]



Honda EU2200i inverter generator.

Aren't generators the greatest invention on Earth? Keep yours running safely! Nothing is worse than a cold house, a cold, cold shower and zero communication with the outside world. Never ever operate a generator indoors. Plenty of ventilation outside is a must. Keep exhaust far, far away from any air intake

into your home. Use of carbon monoxide sensors is always a good investment.

Take care of your friend: When was the last time you changed the oil? Take a look at your owner's manual and give preventative maintenance a try! The last thing you want is a blown engine in the middle of a snowstorm. Consider how many hours you are actually logging on your generator. One week of continuous use is 168 hours. Suggested oil change periods could be as little as 100 hours. Heed the warning! Don't seize your machine!

Pouring gas

Don't splash. It is dangerous and stinky. Getting gas odor out of a pants leg or a good coat is difficult at best. Use a wide and tall funnel to catch even small spit splashes. Never fill a five-gallon container with more than about four gallons. The first full gulps of a pour can be wide and uncontrollable. Go as



2-quart funnel.



5 gallon gasoline safety can.

slowly as possible and always use two hands. Be in control! Also, fight the wind. Position your body to block wind gusts to stop gas from taking flight and making a mess.

Consider your refill habits. Always turn off your generator and let it cool off when refilling its gas tank. My generator will run about 15 to 18 hours

on four gallons of gas (one jug full.) I chose to refill before and after work in a 12-hour cycle. Try to never completely run out of gas. Dirt and other sediment will clog your fuel path, resulting in rough operation or failure.

Weatherproofing your generator

This is a difficult problem. If you use a tarp or a plywood shelter over your generator, consider how far snow and rain could blow into your hut. Never ever block the air intake or the exhaust pipe. Make sure your roof cannot blow away. Check your installation regularly. Water into the control electronics of your generator means quick and certain generator death. Tie and secure your installation firmly. Make every effort to stay as dry as a bone.

House connections

The safest method includes a full set of cutover switches isolating your generator from the usual neighborhood grid. Plugging your generator's output straight into a wall outlet without grid isolation — "backfeeding" — is a terrible idea for so many reasons. Even the use of cascaded multi-strips and long extension cords is a bad idea. Stay within electrical code and avoid fires,

wiring overloads and other catastrophic trouble. Very important: always ground your generator!

Also, remember most generators do not have very accurate regulation. They produce alternating current at give-or-take 60 cycles per



Honda EM6500SX portable generator with electric start.

second. Don't be surprised if your AC-powered analog clocks sway way off time during generator operation.

Finally, lock up your generator and gasoline to protect against theft. I use a tough thick wire rope with a heavy-duty hidden hasp clasp padlock attached to a tree and my deck. Losing your generator or your gas containers can be devastating! When all is said and done, cover your generator with a tarp or a fitted cover. Don't forget to test run your generator at least once a month to ensure good operation when you need it most. Store your gasoline in a safe and dry place with good ventilation. Make sure the gasoline container caps are on tightly. Keep your lights on and protect your investment!

- Karl, N2KZ

Manassas Hamfest



AMATEUR RADIO & MAKER TECHNOLOGY SHOW

An ARRL-Approved HAMFEST Presented By:

The OLE VIRGINIA HAMS Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

(Featuring Youth Lounge Activities for the Youngsters Attending!)



Sunday, June 3, 2018 Prince William County Fairgrounds

Large Outdoor and Covered Pavillion flea market areas, two indoor air-conditioned buildings, several covered buildings and ample parking

10624 Dumfries Road - Route 234 - Manassas, Virginia -- Talk-In Repeater on 146.97-

INDOOR EXHIBITOR SPACE 8-foot tables: \$30*each with chairs & electricity (\$25 if reserved by May 1st) Setup Noon – 8 PM Saturday \$10*per person at gate
(Age 18 and younger: no charge)
(*See web sites for prepayment discounts before 5/15/2018)
Gates open at 7 AM

TAILGATING (admission is extra)
Outdoor Spaces: \$10*per space
Covered Pavillion: \$15 per space
(*See web sites for details about online
prepayment discounts before 5/15/2018)
Gates open at 6 AM

*Online ticket sales and vendor registration at http://manassashamfest.org
For our Most Current Vendor Info, Lists and Ticket Sales Visit our Web Pages:
http://manassashamfest.org and http://w4ovh.net

PRIZES

- Door prizes hourly 9 AM to 1 PM (be present to win)
- Major & Tailgate prizes awarded at 2 PM

INFORMATION

- · ARRL Roanoke Division Officers attending
- Virginia Section Manager Forum & other Forums
- 4th Call Area QSL Bureau Representatives
- DXCC QSL Card Checking will be available
- Virginia QSO Party Forum and Awards
- Check our web pages (below) for the most up-to-date information

ACTIVITIES

- Flea Market & Vendors all day
- VEC License Exams: 8:00 AM 11:00 AM (\$15.00 Fee per Examinee at the VE Exams)
- ARRL style Youth Lounge programs all day for youngsters - by the OVHARC and 4-H
- Maker Robotics Corral and Demos
- Amateur Radio Satellite Forum
- BroadBand Ham Networks ("BBHN") Forum
- "Maker" group technology demonstration
- More Forums to be announced, check web sites

http://manassashamfest.org and http://w4ovh.net

Dealer Info from Sandy / KM4JUS: General Info from Don / WA2SWX: VE Testing / Exam Information:

vendors@manassashamfest.org chairman@manassashamfest.org vetesting@manassashamfest.org