

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

May 2018

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 15, 2018

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

What a month it has been since our last club meeting!

The OVH's participation at the Manassas Airshow May 5th went extremely well. The weather was almost perfect for an airshow – not too hot, light winds and a very high overcast; the forecast rains held off until after the Airshow was over. Overall attendance estimates for the Airshow were around 10,000. It was a great opportunity to get our club out into the public view and hopefully interest more folks people in becoming hams. A bunch of the club's new “how to contact us” business cards were taken. Thanks to the OVH volunteers for putting it all together and for the long hours they put in to make it successful. Check out the article on the Manassas AirShow later in this newsletter and on the club web site.

The OVH also provided communications support for the SOWW (Serve Our Willing Warriors) bike ride on Sunday May 6th. It was amazing how smoothly the radio assignments went thanks to the planning efforts of Andy / KJ4MTP. Lunch was amazing. I have to admit I didn't realize how far away my assignment was and had to hustle to get there before check in. Andy introduced me to Holly Crocker who was co-director of SOWW Bike Ride. They were very happy our club was able to help them with the event and they definitely want us back next year to help out. I think the tentative date for next year will be the 11th of May 2019.

I have been to recent planning meetings for some of the upcoming events like the Hamfest, the Airshow, some think just for the food which I have to admit is one reason to go, however I like to see the planning that is involved and see it come together. I am really impressed with the quality of planning which is reflected in the quality of our events. Hamfest has always been a great event, but the Airshow and the SOWW bike ride on the same weekend really impressed me with how great they turned out. Thanks to our committee



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Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President:	Byron Dillon	AK4XR	222-2095
Vice Pres:	Jeff Fuller	WB6UIE	791-5916
Secretary:	Sandy Knight	KM4JUS	930-8164
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 2018 - Chairman

Don	WA2SWX	597-3211
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FIELD DAY 2017 s

Byron	AK4XR	222-2095
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CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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EDUCATION

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
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CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Open

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
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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CO-WEBMASTERS — W4OVH.NET

Kevin	KX4KU	540-439-3289
Andy	KJ4MTP	786-4651

TWITTER & FACEBOOK ACCOUNT MODERATOR

Jeff	KM4FTK	830-4155
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EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
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JOTA - 2018

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	WA3FMO	361-4885
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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NEWSLINE FOR THE WEEKLY NET

John.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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PROGRAMS

Jeff	WB6UIE	791-5916
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QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Ken	KE2N	753-8587
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042

W4OVH — TRUSTEE

Stu	W4PR	335-5267
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W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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SCHOLARSHIP

Sandy Knight	KM4JUS	930-8164
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SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Ken	KE2N	753-8587
Andy	KJ4MTP	786-4651
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
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 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 146.970-, 224.660-, 442.200+ and 443.500+ MHz. The OVH's two D-Star repeaters on 146.865- and 442.5125+ MHz are temporarily 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 Repeater 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>

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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heads Kevin / KX4KU and Andy / KJ4MTP for the hard work they put in to get these two events organized. I can't say enough nice things about these two members.

We also held an appreciation dinner for Theresa Heartney / KG4TVM on Sunday evening May 6th at the City Tavern. It was well attended and was a great chance to get out and talk to the club members. After a fine dinner, Theresa was presented with a laser engraved plaque and a basket of bright flowers in appreciation for all the work she has done these many years in behalf of our club. I have only been in the club for 5 years but I have witnessed how much she does, a lot of it behind the scenes, and have wondered where she finds the time (she must not sleep is all I can come up with). See some pictures from that event later in this Newsletter.

Previously I have mentioned how I learn something new at every event I participate as a volunteer. Just talking to the other club members helps me with my radio knowledge and skills. I am proud to say after this last weekend I am now ready to enter the digital HF world again. I was able to get my radio to talk to my new computer so I am ready to enter the "new" FT8 world. Many thanks to Tony Ohe / KM4KLB for straightening me out.

The Dayton Hamvention will be later this month and a few of our club members will be attending. I wish I was one of them however this is my busy time of the year at work. I look forward to hearing about it from those that went.

Next month, June, is always the OVH's busiest month each year with two major club events: the Manassas Hamfest on Sunday, June 3rd, and the ARRL/OVH Field Day on Saturday/Sunday, June 23-24. Please save the dates for each and plan to attend each!

The next regular OVH will be held on Tuesday, May 15th, at 7:30 pm in the conference room at the Buckhall Fire Station, Manassas. Hope to see you there.

73 BYRON AK4XR

Sunshine Corner:

Happy birthday wishes in May to the following club members: John / KM4VCJ, David / KG4GIY, Bill / WA4FIC, Jack / N4YIC, Carl / KK4ZYX, Craig / WA3UFY, Dick / KM4UXE, Susan / K3SSP, Terry / KC4DV, Don / WA2SWX, Robert / KJ4EOR and John / KG4NXT

I posted a note on the OVH's closed email reflector about Gene / KD4RHC who is currently at Manassas Health & Rehab; if you have a few minutes to stop in and say HI, it would be greatly appreciated.

I also posted about the passing of Jeff Noel / K4ZKU. Jeff went way back, if not the very beginning or pretty close to the beginning of the OVH. He was a director for many years. Jeff passed away at the end of January.

Congratulations to Kevin / KX4KU for organizing the OVH's participation in the Manassas Airshow event this year, very well done! The almost perfect weather on May 5th for the event helped too. See a short article about that later in this Newsletter.

Congratulations to Andy / KJ4MTP on pulling together volunteers for the Warrior Ride! See, the article about that event at <http://W4OVH.NET> Andy is also

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coordinating the OVH's participation upcoming Mini Tri on May 19th! Contact him if you can assist.

Many other events coming up, we do need your assistance; please volunteer to help us out!

Manassas Hamfest – planning meetings are still underway, please contact chair Don / WA2SWX to help with this event. His email is wa2swxdm@gmail.com

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

Many, many thanks to everyone that came to my dinner last Sunday, it was incredible! Special thanks to Bob / K4HJF for planning this. See two pictures below from the event.



Sunshine corner will be on a break in June, be back with you in July! Please come by the club table at hamfest and say Hi!

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.

Also, please check out the OVH's club web site (W4OVH.NET) and Facebook (W4OVH) and Twitter (W4OVH) pages for up to date information. Also, be sure to monitor emails originating from the OVH's closed email reflector system on which all members may post.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting held on April 17, 2018:

OVH President Byron / AK4XR, called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on April 17, 2018 in the main conference room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their name and call sign. There were OVH 18 members and 3 guests present.

Minutes: There were no minutes for March 2018, due to inclement weather and the meeting was cancelled.

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Guest Presenter: Larry Wright / W8ANT discussed issues about deliberate interference on the airwaves in Northern Virginia, including the many ways Ham Radio operators can assist local and federal authorities to identify those involved with the interference. There are upcoming events which include Fox Hunts to learn how to track signals and find items (and people), which is scheduled for April 29th, at a park in Jefferson, W.Va. More information can be found at <http://www.midatlanticportableoperatorassn.wordpress.com>. Larry will also be at the Hagerstown Hamfest on May 5th and the Manassas Hamfest on June 3rd.

Treasurer's report by Terry / KC4DV: A payment was made for the Prince William County Fairgrounds for use of those facilities by the upcoming Manassas Hamfest. A motion to accept report by Ray / KM4EKR and seconded by Jay / NQ4T, motion passed.

Sunshine report by Theresa / KG4TVM: Numerous birthdays in April; Butch / W4HJL is at home recuperating from more surgeries.

Upcoming events include the Manassas Airshow on May 5th; Dulles Emergency Training on May 5th; Cougar 5K Run on May 5th; Warrior Bike Ride on May 6th; Thank You dinner for Theresa / KG4TVM on May 6th.

Repeaters report: the club needs more bandwidth and may need to contact Verizon.

Scholarship report by Sandy / KM4JUS: Seven applications were received and are being reviewed by the Scholarship Committee; the plan is to present the award at the May or June meeting.

Manassas Hamfest report by Don / WA2SWX: There may be a new presenter RFinder, who is giving away copies of their database. Otherwise, everything is moving on schedule. More volunteers are needed for the Hamfest itself.

Field Day by Byron / AK4XR: need someone to run VHF during Field Day on June 23-24.

Web Page is up and running.

JOTA – no report

4-H at the Manassas Hamfest: Youth Lounge will focus on Radio Wave propaganda.

Membership report by Luther / WA3FMO: Read in Robert Bethman (no call) and Gene Stefaneici (no call). Luther made a motion to vote in Chris Barnes / KN4IJF, Robert McGregor / KG4EHL, and James Gsetjin (no call), seconded by Bill / WA4FIC. Motion passed.

There was discussion regarding Ham Radio equipment of Milt Warnock N4SN. Some members will meet with Milt's family and possibly identify items that could be sold at the upcoming Hamfest.

Andy / KJ4MTP won the 50/50 drawing and donated his half to the club (\$15)

2018 Budget presentation was made by Terry / KC4DV: to date, 77 members have paid their dues for 2018; this is disappointing: at this time last year, 105 members had paid up. The club may want to consider moving CD from Capital One to Wells Fargo. Motion

was made by Ray / KM4EKR and seconded by Dick / KM4UXE to accept the budget report as presented. Motion passed. Note: a copy of the 2018 Budget Report is now posted on the Members' Only portion of the OVH's web site.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

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 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

June is just around the corner, and with it one of amateur radio's signature events - Field Day. For OVH members, it's a tasty BBQ, family get together, and a chance to have some fun outdoor hamming. And, of course, a chance to hone our emergency communication skills.

Emergency power plays an important role in our preparedness. For multi operator fixed stations, that power usually comes from a gasoline generator. Mobiles can work as long as the engine can keep the battery charged.

What about a scenario where you need to forward deploy with emergency services? Vehicles can get close, but fallen trees and other obstacles mean you'll need to carry your gear on a pack frame a mile or more to reach a good comms location. You could go with the ham's traditional choice for this scenario - sealed lead acid gel cells. After hefting a few of these in my battery collection, I started looking for something a little kinder to my aging body.

I found a solution in a relatively new battery technology known as Lithium Iron Phosphate or Life Po (LiFePO_4). Higher energy density makes the Life Po much lighter than a similar gel cell. For example a 12 volt 12Ah Life Po weighs 3.5 pounds, compared to 8.4 pounds for its gel cell cousin.

Life Po does have its down sides. An internal controller ensures cell balancing and safe charging but prevents paralleling batteries for higher capacity. And there's cost. A 12Ah Life Po costs about \$125 compared with \$34.99 for a similar gel cell.



A backpack radio on a surplus pack frame. A small shelf holds the battery and allows the pack to stand upright.

I'll close by inviting everyone to this year's signature OVH event, the Manssas Hamfest to be held on Sunday June 3. We'll have some interesting presentations, including a wireless weather station demo, a tutorial on software defined radio, and the Virginia QSO Party awards ceremony. Hope to see you there!



<https://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=H0-014835>

Some manufacturers like Bioenno (above) offer a Life Po line designed for mobile and amateur radio applications.



The battery is a good fit for the main compartment in a waist pack..



The front pocket holds a Rig Runner for fuses and power distribution.

OVH at the 2018 Manassas Airshow

Members of the Old Virginia Hams (OVH) participated in the Manassas Airshow again this year, on May 5, 2018 at the west ramp area at the Manassas Airport (KHEF) by setting up a booth under an awning tent to show off some of the many activities in amateur radio to the attendees. Despite dire forecasts of heavy rain, the weather was almost perfect for the Airshow: light winds, moderate temperatures and high overcast clouds. The rain did not begin until after the Airshow ended at 4:00 pm. It is estimated that there were about 10,000 attendees at the Airshow this year. The Manassas Airshow web site is at: <https://www.manassasairshow.com>

There is much cross over between air enthusiasts and amateur radio. The club saw this as an opportunity to introduce the amateur radio hobby to those who may not fully understand the various aspects and opportunities in the hobby. This public outreach was also provided a chance to not only educate but to make the community aware of our club and what we do.

The club displayed five different items:

- A homemade crystal radio using soda cans as capacitors, made by Al, KB4BHB
- SDR CW radio built by John, KG4NXT
- 2 meter Fox and hound, build using a Raspberry Pi made by John, KG4NXT
- A live FT8 demonstration using John's ICOM IC-7610 and Kevin's, KX4KU, AlexLoop
- An Fldigi Morse code demonstration using two laptops.

The OVH's table also had display boards and handouts for visitors, and small toy plane whistles and gliders for the kids.

The soda can crystal radio seemed to attract the most visitors and many kids liked hearing their name in Morse code. People also asked questions about the various displays including what they did and how they work. The location also helped traffic as it was near the visitors near the entrance to the show. We also got to experience a great airshow with fascinating demonstration flights of various aircraft new and old.



L to R: Wayne, Ray, Sandy, Theresa, John & Kevin

Thanks to the all of the club members who participated in this event which required a long day at the airport. Members and the show were John and Theresa Heartney, KG4NXT and KG4TVM respectively, Ray and Sandy Knight, KM4EKR and KM4JUS respectively, Wayne Phillips, N7QLK and Kevin Utzy, KX4KU. Other club members who assisted in the planning were Don Meyerhoff, WA2SWX and Paul / W4ZB.

Of course, there were many other booths and other activities going on during and throughout the 2018 Manassas Airshow; A number of images of fly-by aircraft (including the P-51, Harrier & F-22) expertly captured by Andy / KJ4MPT are now on the OVH web site: <http://w4ovh.net>

NORTHERN VIRGINIA'S LARGEST

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

GENERAL ADMISSION

\$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: vendors@manassashamfest.org

General Info from Don / WA2SWX: chairman@manassashamfest.org

VE Testing / Exam Information: vetesting@manassashamfest.org