

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

August 2018

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 21, 2018

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

I hope everyone is having a good summer and staying dry. With all the thunderstorms we have been having I hope everyone is practicing safe grounding and isolation habits.

August has been a relatively quiet one regarding Ham radio, at least for me.

I did take my radios with me on our drive to Georgia but didn't really use them any during the drive. I thought of using the APRS function of my Kenwood but didn't get the chance to set it up. There's something to be said about planning ahead but I didn't and the trip snuck up on me. At least I would have had them if we had had an emergency and we couldn't get through on our cell phones.

We took the trip to bring back an addition to the family

now known as K9PUPPY. See the picture to the left - look at those sweet eyes. This name was inspired by John / KG4NXT's name / callsign, K9DOG, for his dog.

The only thing that I am aware of that occurred during the month (I am sure other ham related things were going on that I was not aware of) that I missed was the Berryville Hamfest. It kind of snuck up on me again. I need to sit down with my calendar and the ARRL web site and get some of these Ham radio things on it. I really wanted to try the breakfast and lunch there and of course check out the ham gear.

I am grateful to the many people working to get the Internet access problem at Mt Pone corrected. I get to see the emails regarding the issue and the discussions between those involved. Look to the next club meeting to get the details and proposed solutions.

Cont'd on Page 3



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) Blasdel	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
----------------------------	---------------	----------

HAMFEST 2018 - Chairman

Don	WA2SWX	597-3211
-----	--------	----------

FIELD DAY 2017 s

Byron	AK4XR	222-2095
-------	-------	----------

CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
--------	-------	----------

EDUCATION

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

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
---------	--------	----------

WEB COMMITTEE — W4OVH.NET

Kevin	KX4KU	540-439-3289
Andy	KJ4MTP	786-4651
John	KG4NXT	257-3566

TWITTER & FACEBOOK ACCOUNT MODERATOR

Jeff	KM4FTK	830-4155
------	--------	----------

EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
------------	--------	----------

JOTA - 2018

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
------	--------	----------

LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
-----	-------	----------

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	WA3FMO	361-4885
--------	--------	----------

NEWSLETTER

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

NEWSLINE FOR THE WEEKLY NET

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

PROGRAMS

Jeff	WB6UIE	791-5916
------	--------	----------

QUARTERMASTER

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

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
-----	------	----------

W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
--------	-------	----------

SCHOLARSHIP

Sandy Knight	KM4JUS	930-8164
--------------	--------	----------

SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
---------	--------	----------

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

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 146.970-, 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.

Approx. Circulation - 170.

Last Rev: 20180817

The next thing that I need to talk about is something I really don't know how to address well. I have been on both sides of this problem and so I feel not well qualified to talk about it. We need to realize that not everyone has the same points of view on different topics and we need to respect them and not insult them. I have a temper (most of us do too) when I am pushed to my limits and can blow my top. I usually feel really bad right after I do it and apologize right then. I also know that people that are experiencing unrelated difficulties and or are in pain of some sort can get upset very easily. I don't know what the answer is, however, I just try to keep that in mind whenever responding to an outburst from anyone I have to deal with. All club members do not have to be close friends with (or even like) all other club members - that is just not possible due to human nature and the size of our club. Just always remember, that every club member is unique and a bit different from all others. The one thing that brings us all together is a sincere interest in ham radio. I guess general civility is the practice that would avoid most problems. Just be or try very hard to be polite to all other club members. At work we kid around a lot but we know each other pretty well. We are careful not to kid around with a new person on our job. Some people are sensitive to things said about them, so "Let us oft say kind words to each other."

Things to put on your calendar: There will be another Try-It-Now triathlon on September 16, 2018. And the Prince William Half Marathon is on the 30th of September. Andy KM4MTP is heading up the Mini-Tri communications and Wayne N7QLK is heading up the PWHM communications effort. Look to the reflector for sign up information or email them to sign up.

I hope everyone is doing well and staying cool and I hope to see you at the upcoming meeting on August 21st at 7:30 pm in the conference room at the Buckhall Fire Station, Manassas.

73 BYRON AK4XR

Sunshine Corner:

Hard to believe we are halfway thru August, not sure where the summer has gone!

Wishing these club members a happy birthday this month – Kristen / NoCall, John / KK4TCE, Matthew / KK4SYM, Stu / W4PR, Ronnell / KK4ZUR, Vern / K0LVS, Chick / KC1PIA, Duane / KK4BZ, and Raymond / KK4AQR.

Good to see several club members at the Berryville Hamfest at the beginning of August; the weather was beautiful and there was a nice crowd. Hope you all found something interesting to purchase.

I am still catching up from a very busy couple of months at work, if you have any news to report, please let me know.

Meetings will start soon for Hamfest 2019, how can you help the club at this event?

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 Tuesday, July 17, 2018:

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

After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their name and call sign. There were 24 OVH members and 3 guests present.

The general Treasurer Report for July will be posted in the members only section of the web page.

June Meeting Minutes: Theresa / KG4TVM, made a motion to accept the June meeting minutes with no changes. Al / KB4BHB seconded and minutes were approved.

Membership report was presented by Luther / WA3FMO – 2 new applicants, Bruce / KN4GDX and Mike / KN4NDI, were voted in as new OVH club members.

ARES Report was presented by Greg / KM4CCG – The Marine Corp Marathon Program Office is having a Triathlon / 12 K run on Saturday August 25, 2018. The event starts around 0700.

Training Report – The scheduled “Now What training session that Mark / WA4KFZ had planned has been postponed. He will provide information at a later date.

Web Page Report – Web site working but Kevin KX4KU was in the hospital, but is now home.

JOTA – event in October – no report.

4-H – no report.

Repeaters- Ken KE2N reported the air conditioning system needs cleaning and new filters.

Jeff, WB6UIE mentioned club polo shirts are available, and to see him for more info.

The planned program by Jay / NQ4T about his Field Day experiences in eastern California was not possible due to projector compatibility problems. Jay’s program will be presented next month (August 2018) assuming those problems can be resolved.

New Business: PW Half-Marathon will be held September 30, at Jiffy Lube. More info to follow.

There was no a 50/50 drawing.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS

September 8, 2018 (begins at 9:00 AM until afternoon) Saturday - The Virginia Beach Hamfest. This hamfest, a 3.5 hour drive away, has shrunk greatly in size over the past several years. For more info, see <http://virginiabeachhamfest.com>.

Cont'd on page 5

HAM RADIO RELATED:

September 14-16, 2018 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, The 37th Annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference. Its hard to believe this is the 37th DCC conference, but it is. These conferences which are held in different part of the USA each year began in the very early 1980's when packet radio first came onto the ham radio scene; they have gotten bigger and bigger over the years as ham digital communications have evolved. Proceedings are published each year if you are unable to attend but if you have any interest in digital communications, you should try to attend one or more as part of your ham radio experiences.

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 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

August 25, 2018 - Saturday - beginning about 07:00 - Triathlon / 12 K run sponsored by the Marine Corps Marathon Program Office. Comm support. Contact Greg / KM4CCG for more info.

September 16, 2018, Sunday - very early morning. OVH will provide communications support for the Try-It-Now triathlon at Freedom Center. Contact Andy / KJ4MTP for more details.

September 30, 2018 - Prince William Half Marathon - beginning at Jiffy Lube. More details will be forthcoming shortly. This will be the third year during which the OVH has provided communications support for this event. Contact Wayne / N7QLK for more info.

Also, always check the online Calendar by David / KG4GIY at <http://pwcared.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.

Some Possibly Interesting or Useful Information

1. The FT8 digital HF mode which started out in 2017 in Version 1 (with successive upgrades) and has become extremely popular is about to be enhanced and revised to Version 2. This new version will be easier to use for contest type QSO exchanges, while retaining FT8's basic features. It is to be released this Fall for testing and will initially be backwards compatible with FT8 Version 1; eventually, however, backwards compatibility in Version 2 for Version 1 will be removed.

2. FT8 (Ver. 1+) Release Notes are at https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/Release_Notes_1.8.0.txt

3. The FT* (Ver. 1) system was described in detail in two QST articles in the Fall of 2017:
October 2017 QST: http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/Work_the_World_part1.pdf and
November 2017 QST: http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/Work_the_World_part2.pdf

Cont'd on page 8

VP's Corner

Jeff Fuller
WB6UIE

To those of you who, although new to both our hobby and the club, have already volunteered for ARES, TriItNow, and several other public service events, a hearty Welcome Aboard!

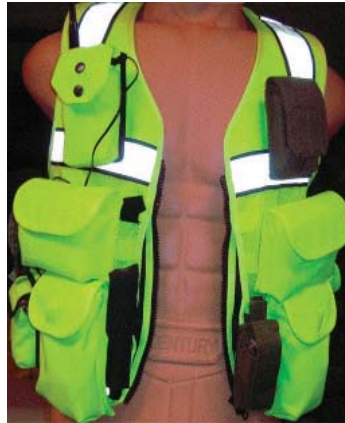
By now you're no doubt familiar with the yellow mesh ARES vests. They're great for making you nice and visible to race participants and traffic while you're out there with your HT. But .. where are the pockets? Where will you put your gear should you deploy in support of a real emergency?

Here's one solution. It's a rugged vest with MOLLE loops from Canadian company *Duty Apparel*.

<https://www.dutyapparel.com>

Their compatible MOLLE pouches are ideal for your HT, water, and other gear from your ARES go kit (right). The rear panel needed for ARES ID (top right) is easily added either from an old vest or custom made (see Andy's).

This month's meeting will feature Jay's presentation of Field Day in the California Sierras. Don't worry - we'll bring the HDMI cable this time. I'll look forward to seeing you there!



Duty Apparel MOLLE vest with pouches.



Rear panel added.



The 2018 Thirteen Colonies Special Event -- OVH Member Involvement

byline: John / KG4NXT

The 13 Colonies special event is a contest for hams to contact special event stations in each of the 13 colonies. Appropriately, the contest ran from July 1 to July 7, which includes Independence Day. Each state has a special 1 by 1 call. For example, This year, Virginia was K2B. The idea is to contact all Thirteen stations for a 'sweep. The contest is on all bands and all modes. This was the 10th year the contest has run.

For the Ole Virginia Hams, the first known sweep was by Gil / KM4OZH, who finished his in two days. Other OVH members participating were Al / KB4BHB, Wayne / N7QLK, John / KG4NXT, and David / KK4ZUU.

(If any one was missed in this listing, contact KG4NXT.) To be noted is that all local OVH members are in a good position to work this contest because we are located approximately in the middle of all of the 13 original colonies.

To the right is the 2018 Thirteen Colonies Certificate received by OVH member, Al / KB4BHB. On



it, you can see the colonies he worked and also see that he worked a bonus station WM3PEN, which is represented by the Liberty Bell at the bottom of the certificate. The flag icon tells us that Al is a military veteran.

We owe special thanks to OVH member, David / KK4ZUU, who operated as one of the Virginia colony stations, K2B. David has always made an exceptional effort to help any OVH member that needed K2B. He has been available for 2 Meter FM contacts for technicians who wish to participate. David loves to work digital and in 2017 was the first station to offer JT-65 contacts for the 13 colonies event. This year he did FT8. Thanks David.

To the left is a night photo of David's impromptu 80 meter antenna which he used for the Thirteen colonies special event. It was put together from a mobile Hustler SS three foot rod, a Hustler 80m high power coil (for bandwidth, later use), and about 30ft of 18gauge bare copper wire. An LDG AutoTuner was used to assist with tuning.

Cont'd from page 5 – Some Possibly Interesting or Useful Information:

4. More info. about the forthcoming FT8 Version 2 is on the ARRL web site at: <http://www.arrl.org/news/significant-changes-in-store-for-ft8-and-msk144-with-wsjt-x-version-2-0>
5. Need another Transmission Line Calculator? You should consider getting the one written by DH2MIC which is available at <http://dh2mic.darc.de/tlc> Don't be frightened off because that page is mostly written in German. Click on the "ZIP-Archiv" hyperlink on that page to download a ZIP file. You must then extract the contents of the ZIP file into a known location on your computer. The files with "-e." in their file names are the English language files, and DH2MIC's written English is excellent. Click on the extracted file `tlc-e.htm` which will then load that local html page into your web browser to activate the Transmission Line Calculator which uses the Javascript interpreter provided by your web browser. Be sure to download DH2MIC's guide at <http://dh2mic.darc.de/tlc/tlc-e.pdf> in English. Enjoy.
6. DH2MIC's web page also provides a link to a free PDF download of the 1962 printing of the IT&T Radio Engineer's Handbook. This 1962 printing (a later edition can be purchased) contains a mammoth amount of information about RF - almost all of which is still 100% valid. This book used to be a very sought after text for technically inclined hams. (Your editor has had a printed hardcopy of it for many years.) Get the PDF of it at http://www.tubebooks.org/Books/itt_ref_4.pdf Enjoy.
7. Another interesting web site which had a lot of excellent technical information and details about RF topics is <http://www.g3ynh.info/zdocs> Take your pick of just about anything there to learn something new or improve your knowledge.
8. Interested in modern circuit design? If so, you almost certainly already know about Analog Devices and its many products. Perhaps less well known is the fact that Analog Devices' "Analog Dialogue" publication has been around now for more than 50 years. It is available free, as are the its archives of past issues back to 1967. YGo to: <http://www.analog.com/en/analog-dialogue.html> for more info and you can also subscribe there for free.

Jay's new HF Antenna

The former HF antenna used by OVH member, Jay / NQ4T, blew down in the windstorms of Spring 2018; as a result, Jay was unable to participate in the recent 13 colonies contest. Since then, he put up a doublet (see image to the right) and is now back on HF with a vengeance. With 100 watts from an IC-7300, he has worked Oman on FT8 and Moscow, Russia on SSB.

