

The OVH ARC Newsletter  
"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.  
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108  
Repeaters -- W4OVH -- 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+  
OVH Nodes -- Port 1: 145.030 Mhz, Port 2: 223.660 Mhz (SysOp Use Only)  
Port 3: 223.540 MHz, Port 4: 440.925Mhz 9600 Baud backbone  
BBS--BBSNVA/N4WJN (SYSOP--BILL)  
<http://www.qsl.net/olevahams>

# OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

## JUNE 2003

**Next meeting: June 16, 2003**

**Need your input for the Newsletter. The deadline for submissions is the 5th of each month.!!!**

(Editor)

## Greetings to all OVHers,

Once again, OVH had another **successful hamfest**. Many thanks to all of you who helped make the event a success. A **special hurrah** goes out to our hamfest chairman, **Jack/N4YIC** for organizing this event and doing all of the behind the scene negotiating. I hope that everyone had a chance to visit old friends and maybe even pick up a bargain or two as well as having some **pizza** at **Tony's** after the fest. The **next meeting** of the Ole Virginia Hams ARC will be held on Monday, June 16th at 8 PM at the **NOVEC Technical Center in Gainesville, VA**. At the meeting we will be **planning** our **Field Day** activities which will be held on the weekend of **June 28th** and **29th** at the **Nokesville Regional Park**. Please bring your ideas and suggestions for the event. Looking forward to seeing you there.

73 for now,

**Ruth/KU4WH**

**“OLE VIRGINIA HAMS”**  
**Post Office Box 1255**  
**Manassas, VA. 20108**

**OFFICERS**

President:	Ruth Frock	KU4WH	331-1234
Vice Pres:	John Heartney	KG4NXT	257-3566
Secretary:	Phil Colling	AC4PL	393-8658
Treasurer:	Bill South	N4WJN	590-9562

**DIRECTORS**

Don (Butch) Blasdel	W4HJL	369-2877
Art Whittum	KW4AW	791-4330
Jack McDermott	N4YIC	335-9139

**WEEKLY NETS**

Thursdays - 8:00 PM	WB4ZOH (Ken)	361-3482
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**HAMFEST 2003**

Jack	N4YIC	335-9139
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**FIELD DAY 2003**

Bill	K9ZD	754-7913
Art	KW4AW	791-4330

**CLUB ROSTER**

Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877
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**EDUCATION**

Bill	K9ZD	754-7913
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**CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR**

Brian	N8FK	257-9545
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**ARES AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR**

David	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
Bill	N4WJN	590-9562
Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234

**GENERATORS**

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Bill	K9ZD	754-7913

**HISTORIAN**

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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**HOME PAGE**

Bill	N4WJN	590-9562
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**JOTA**

Paul	N2PJ	330-0796
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**LEGAL**

Pete	KB4RME	369-2436
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**MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN**

Charlotte	KG4QXO	361-3482
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**NEWSLETTER**

Steve	KB4OF	368-6901
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**NEWSLINE**

Ken	WB4ZOH	361-3482
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**PACKET**

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4WJN	590-9562

**PICNIC**

Ellie	KF4NBO	361-8059
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**PROGRAM'S**

**PUBLICITY**

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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**Q' MASTER**

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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**REPEATER CONTROLLERS**

Art	KW4AW	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Milt	N4SN	369-7265
Mike	WV3H	753-9346
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844

**REPEATER TRUSTEE**

Art	KW4AW	791-4330
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**SCHOLARSHIP**

Jack	N4YIC	335-9139
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**SUNSHINE**

Jan	KE4TMW	257-0897
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**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Art	KW4AW	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4WJN	590.9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Mike	WV3H	753-9346
George	KE2AM	791-7688
Dwight	N4GSD	335-7726
Bill	K9ZD	754-7913
Karl	W4KRL	802-1527

The OVH Times is the official publication of the "Ole Virginia Hams" ARC, a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio. The OVH ARC meets at 8:00 PM every third Monday of the month at the NOVEC Tech Center in Gainesville. Prospective members are invited.

Local information can always be obtained, at any time, through the usage of the OVH repeaters (146.97- & 224.660- Mhz). All are welcome.

Permission is hereby granted for the reprinting of articles and quotations in this letter, provided full credit is given to the OVH ARC, and the author of the article. Contribution of printed articles by both members and non-members is encouraged. The deadline for submissions is the 5th of each month. Submissions should be forwarded to OVH TIMES EDITOR: Steve Meade KB4OF, PO Box 1418, Manassas, VA 20108-1418, or to [kb4of@arri.net](mailto:kb4of@arri.net)

Letters to the Editor and Classified Ads are accepted and welcome. Approx. Circulation - 170

## Minutes of the Ole' Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting - May 19, 2003

President Ruth Frock/KU4WH called the meeting to order at 2005 Eastern daylight time.

Following the **Pledge of Allegiance**, all present stated their names and call signs. There were **30 OVH members** and **five guests** present. Thanks to all who attended for an **excellent turnout** at the May 2003 OVH meeting.

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** Jack/N4YIC - The annual scholarship of **\$1,500** was awarded to **Jason P. Burroughs of Osbourn High School**. **Congratulations** Jason; we all wish you well on your upcoming college education.

**FLEETWATCH:** Steve/N4OGR – Steve introduced **Prince William County Master Police Officer Steve Varvaro**. Officer Varvaro is the **Fleetwatch Coordinator**. Fleetwatch is important to us as Hams because we are mobile. Officer Varvaro **encouraged us to call** if we **suspect something**, and not to worry about being wrong or bothering the police. **Thank you** Officer Varvaro for your presentation to the Ole Virginia Hams.

### **Break**

The **minutes** of the **April 2003** OVH meeting **passed** with no corrections.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Bill/N4WJN - The Treasurer's Report passed.

**REPEATERS:** Art/KW4AW - The **noise** that we hear **on the 2M repeater** frequency is **not caused** by the repeater. We have trouble at this time of the year because of "**tropospheric ducting**." This happens because of the change in **weather patterns** that happen during the **spring and fall seasons**.

**EDUCATION:** Bill/K9ZD - The **class is going well**. There are **two classes to go**, and those attending **should** be ready to **take the exam** at the **Hamfest**. There have been **six students** that have **attended every session**, and a **few others** who have **attended most** of the **sessions**.

**FIELD DAY:** Bill/K9ZD – All looks good for Field Day, but **we need operators for the stations**. **Phil/AC4PL** volunteered to bring the **food and drinks**.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Charlotte/KG4QXO – There was **one** member to **vote in** - **Dennis Wilson/KD4WGN**. Dennis was **voted in** **unanimously**. **Welcome** to the Ole' Virginia Hams, Dennis.

**ARES:** David/KG4GIY – This is **hurricane season**, so **be sure** that **your gear is ready**. **The Institute** will occur on **May 24**. **Skywarn Training** for **Basic 1** and **Hurricane** is **Saturday, June 21**. In late September or early October, there will be a **Regional Emergency Test**. This will **cover Washington DC** and the **surrounding VA and MD** Counties. More information will be forthcoming. **Bob Tyson** will be a **third AEC** for Prince William County. Bob is with the **Woodbridge Wireless** club.

**FAR:** Tom/WA2QAL - Instead of individual volunteers for the **FallFest**, **FAR** is going to **ask clubs** to **provide volunteers**.

**Weekly Nets:** Ken/WB4ZOH - Ken introduced **Dave Boyd/N3ICN** who checked into the net last week. Dave is **bicycling across America** and has a rather unique bike that is **complete with an amateur radio station**. **Good luck** in your adventure, Dave.

**Hamfest:** Jack/N4YIC - We are where we should be in the planning process. We need some help both Saturday and Sunday.

### **Old Business**

**Bill/K9ZD - Field Day** - Bill can handle the purchase of **pins** and **t-shirts** if we would like. **Bill will** send an **email** to all club members asking if we **want to order something**.

**Tom/WA2QAL - National Railway Historical Society** is coming up the **first week in July**. Tom could **use some more** volunteers. There will be a **train leaving** from **Union Station** in DC.

**Bill/N4WJN** – Bill showed some **sample club logos** and **asked** for **input**.

**Steve/N4OGR** - We took **inventory** of who **had keys** to the **storage shed**.

**Mark Bronstein/WA4KFZ** – Mark is **looking for volunteers** for the **DARE program** on **June 14**. It would be nice to show some of the **new amateur radio technology** that **might interest young people**.

The **meeting adjourned** at 2140 Eastern Daylight time.

**Phil/AC4PL**

## SUNSHINE CORNER

Welcome to **Dennis/KD4WGN**, our newest member!

**Congratulations** to those who **passed their tests** -- even though I don't know who you are!

**Happy Birthday** to our friends – **John/W4GTL**, **Steve/N4OGR**, **Jan/KE4TMW**, **Michael/N3MA**, **Gene/N4HFW**, **Pete/KB4RMW**, and **Bob/KF4FJC**. Hope your day is **GREAT!**

In case you haven't heard somewhere else, **Butch/W4HJL** is **home** from the **hospital**, and even **made a visit** to the **Hamfest!** He's **recuperating** from a **triple bypass** -- if you can, **call, visit or drop him a line!**

**73 de Jan/KE4TMW**

### Harry Vorhauer/W4PVA in Hospital

Received several emails between 6/7/03 and 6/9/03 pertaining to Harry from **Jan/KE4TMW**, **Steve/N4OGR**, and **Art/KW4AW**. This will be a cooperative article borrowing from all. - **Editor**

Harry went for tests at Charlottesville, his red blood count was very low, so they changed his medication. He made it up the stairs to the house when he got home, but after a few hours, fell when he tried to move between two spots. He could not get up himself, and his wife and daughter were unable to assist him to get up, so in accordance with his wishes, they covered him with a blanket and he spent the night on the floor. (Sounds like Harry huh, not wanting anyone to fuss over him.)

Next morning, they called his doctor who told them to call 911 and get him to the emergency room. Once all tests were done, they found he was quite weak due to lack of red blood cells, and also had pneumonia. Since then, the drugs they've been giving him have also affected his blood sugar.

So, the pneumonia is either gone or almost gone. The red blood cell count is coming back. (This is a long-term condition; Harry gets periodic transfusions. If you're able to donate blood, you might want to designate in Harry's name.) Harry is getting stronger, and has good upper body strength. He can get around using a walker.

As some of you know he suffered a compression fracture to a vertebrae some time ago and it has not been a fun recovery. Harry says that it hurts pretty bad, and bad enough he can't stand up straight, but it is not the primary focus right now, and they'll work on it after they get these other things fixed.

Harry thinks they'll let him out the middle to end of this week. If you can visit, I'm sure he'd greatly appreciate that. He's got lots of good stories to tell, and likes to know what others are up to. For any of you who haven't met Harry – he's one of the original "Ole Virginia Hams".

### Repeater News

The repeater controller was reprogrammed just prior to Hamfest. A "Hamfest" trailer was inserted for random IDs; the Net Mode was extended to 2130 from 2100 on Thursdays, ten-digit dialing was tested and then fixed, and the rapid dial numbering was tested (if you have rapid dial access, try it and let KW4AW know if it works or not. If it fails, it will be corrected).

During the first full week of June we started experiencing some kind of broadband noise interference on the two-meter repeater. It appears to be associated with the lovely rainfall we have been subjected to lately. That gives us the whole world to track down for source. Bear with us as we monitor, isolate and eradicate this latest aggravation. In the meantime, if things get bad, Control Operators may disable the two-meter transmitter (leaving the receiver enabled for monitoring). If two meters doesn't respond to your transmissions, try 220/440, they should be operational and have Auto-patch access. 100 Hz access is not provided.

**73, Arthur/KW4AW**

## Another Manassas Winner



Ruth Frock, President of the “Ole Virginia Hams” amateur radio club in Manassas, presented a \$1,500 scholarship check to Jason Burroughs of Osborn High School. Jason, termed “an extremely talented computer scientist” by Mr. Craig Dill, his computer science teacher, has been accepted at Virginia Tech to major in the computer sciences and minor in mathematics.

Jack McDermott/N4YIC, [patnjack@erols.com](mailto:patnjack@erols.com)

## ... HAMFEST 2003 ...

Well, on Hamfest day at 0500, I quietly departed my residence on Deward Court, headed for the Fairgrounds. At 0630, my wife Pat answered the telephone. An impatient voice exclaimed: “Well, I’m here on Deward Court and I don’t see any Hamfest. What gives?” My lovely wife directed him to the Fairgrounds, then drifted back to sleep for a few more hours. Lucky rascal, eh? It did indeed turn out to be a wonderful day for a Hamfest, cool, partly cloudy, and windy. Windy is a good thing because, as you know, there is usually no shortage of hot air at most Hamfests.

On to serious matters. The parking area was a mess; we were denied perhaps one third of our usual parking spaces, which were filled with heavy equipment and trucks awaiting an auction. Being forewarned, we had made arrangements to park vehicles at the nearby Armory compound and the road leading into the Fairgrounds. Keith Johnson, the new General Manager of the Prince William Fairgrounds confided that he is still learning how things are done properly, apologized for all the confusion, and promised there definitely will not be a repeat of the parking fiasco in the future. On the plus side, Keith granted us use of a nicely equipped building on the Fairgrounds, at no additional cost, to conduct our very successful VE test session. This was quite an important gesture because, just prior to Hamfest, we were suddenly denied use of a nearby school we had been relying on for this purpose. Moreover, Keith let us use twenty-five Fairgrounds-owned tables, and we were able to sell every one. Surely you noticed that both of our air-conditioned buildings were absolutely wall-to-wall with vendors. “Completely sold out” has such a nice ring to it.

Conversely, our attendance was down somewhat, not unlike most other Hamfests. As luck would have it, there was one of those huge “Market Pro” computer shows in Chantilly competing with us throughout Hamfest weekend. Heck, even the famous Dayton “Hamvention,” the biggest of ‘em all, reported their 2003 attendance was down 10% from their 2002 attendance, which was down 5% from their 2001 attendance, etc. Overall there is an unfortunate and steady

downward trend in Hamfest attendance nationwide, begging the attention of someone with good marketing skills.

Still, it was a wonderful Hamfest and I believe we earned a profit. The Wikfors family hosted their nice charity coffee and bake sale again. Mike Baptist, N3NVF, and the Winchester volunteers once again deftly handled the huge vehicle parking effort for us, despite the aforementioned troubles. Many, but not too many, club members struggled through the Saturday setup, and Sunday teardown. This resulted in high numbers of sore, seldom-used muscles, as evidenced by the number of exaggerated moans and groans we heard, but high spirits prevailed.

So, once again the "Ole Virginia Hams" managed to organize and host a nice family-oriented event for our community and visitors. Even Butch Blasdell, W4HJL, on the mend from a serious triple-bypass operation, managed to visit for a little while and say hello to many old friends. All of you who participated in the various aspects of our 2003 Hamfest should be proud of your contribution. It is a generous person who sacrifices his or her entire weekend so that others can enjoy a festival such as ours.

There are a number of important issues to be addressed regarding the future of our Manassas Hamfest, and I plan to present these to club members in separate correspondence for discussion and decisions.

"Time flies when you're having fun," it is said. I've been associated with the Manassas Hamfest for the past eight or nine years. Now, however, I find I can no longer devote the time necessary to organize the Hamfest properly. Another club member must assume these duties. I will remain available to assist the new chairperson any way I can.

I've learned some things about Hamfests these past years, and feel confident that I've made a few worthwhile contributions. Most of all, though, I enjoyed being associated with you club members. You've heard me say that I'm a person who believes in giving back to the community. Well, it's a distinct pleasure to be associated with so many people who so obviously feel the same way.

Thank you for a great 2003 Hamfest. God bless you one and all.

Respectfully, **Jack McDermott/N4YIC**

## **ARRL, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO INK STATEMENT OF AFFILIATION**

ARRL and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/> will sign a Statement of Affiliation (SoA) at the League's 2003 National Convention later this month in Texas. The convention will be held June 20-22 at the Arlington Convention Center in conjunction with Ham-Com <http://www.hamcom.org>. Since both ARRL and DHS view community disaster preparedness and response as top priorities, they will pledge mutual support for Citizen Corps--a community-based training and outreach initiative that brings together volunteers and first responders.

"This is all part of the bigger picture of getting emergency communications, aligned with what our government needs," said ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, who will sign the SoA on the League's behalf. "Amateur Radio stands ready to serve the country as needed in times of emergency."

Chief Operating Officer of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate Ron Castleman will represent the DHS at the signing and serve as the lead speaker during the ARRL Forum, Saturday, June 21, at 10 AM. The forum will take place in an unnumbered room that's to the right of the Ham-Com registration area, not in Room M5 as originally scheduled.

Programs under the Citizen Corps umbrella are aimed at helping communities prevent, prepare for and respond to terrorism, public health issues and disasters.

The Statement of Affiliation will call on ARRL and DHS to collaborate in several areas, including raising public awareness of Amateur Radio as a public safety resource and providing training and accreditation for Amateur Radio emergency communications. The DHS and the League also will work together to promote formation and assist Citizen Corps councils in education, training and volunteer service opportunities that support first responders, disaster relief organizations and community safety efforts.

A schedule of Ham-Com/2003 ARRL National Convention programs is available on the Ham-Com Web site <http://www.hamcom.org/programs/Programs.pdf>.

The ARRL Letter, Vol 22, No 23

## IN BRIEF

- This weekend on the radio: The VK-ZL Trans-Tasman Contest (CW), the IARU Region 1 Field Day (CW) and the QRP TAC Sprint are the weekend of June 7-8. JUST AHEAD: The ARRL June VHF QSO Party, the ANARTS World Wide RTTY Contest, the Portugal Day Contest, the World Wide South America CW Contest, the Asia-Pacific Sprint (SSB) and the West Virginia QSO Party are the weekend of June 14-15. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info.
- ARRL Certification and Continuing Education course registration: Registration for the ARRL Antenna Modeling (EC-004) course opens Monday, June 9, 12:01 AM Eastern Daylight Time (0401 UTC) and will remain open through Sunday, June 15. Class begins Tuesday, June 17. Those interested in taking an ARRL Certification and Continuing Education (C-CE) course in the future can sign up to be advised via e-mail in advance of registration opportunities. Send an e-mail to [prereg@arrl.org](mailto:prereg@arrl.org). On the subject line, indicate the course name or number (eg, EC-00#) and the month you want to start the course. In the message body, provide your name, call sign, and e-mail address. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Web page <http://www.arrl.org/cce> and the C-CE links found there. For more information, contact Certification and Continuing Education Program Coordinator Howard Robins, WIHSR, [hrobins@arrl.org](mailto:hrobins@arrl.org).
- ARRL Emergency Communications course registration: Registration is closed for the Level I ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications on-line course (EC-001) that begins June 17 and is sponsored by the United Technologies Corporation. Registration opens Monday, June 9, 12:01 AM Eastern Daylight Time (0400 UTC), for the Level II Emergency Communications on-line course (EC-002). Registration remains open through the June 14-15 weekend or until all available seats have been filled--whichever comes first. Class begins Tuesday, June 24. Thanks to United Technologies Corporation, the \$45 registration fee paid upon enrollment will be reimbursed after successful completion of the Level II course. Approximately 75 seats are being offered to ARRL members on a first-come, first-served basis. To learn more, visit the ARRL Certification and Continuing Education Web page <http://www.arrl.org/cce/> and the C-CE Links found there. For more information, contact Emergency Communications Course Manager Dan Miller, K3UFG, [dmiller@arrl.org](mailto:dmiller@arrl.org); 860-594-0340.
- FCC corrects comment, reply comment dates in BPL proceeding: The FCC says comment and reply comment deadlines in its Broadband over Power Line (BPL) Notice of Inquiry (ET Docket 03-104) published May 23 in the Federal Register were incorrect. In a correction issued June 3, the FCC announced that comments from the public in this proceeding are due on or before July 7, 2003. Reply comments are due on or before August 6, 2003.
- NorCal, NJQRP merge to form American QRP Club: The NorCal QRP Club and the New Jersey QRP Club have joined forces, effective June 4, to form The American QRP Club. A larger, more comprehensive single journal, The Homebrewer, will replace QRPP and QRP Homebrewer. The new club already has begun to consolidate kitting operations as well, and a new Web site <http://www.a-qrp.org> is in the offing. Continuing will be the two QRP forums, Atlanticon and Pacifcon, and the NJQRP and NorCal will continue to plan and execute their respective forums, funded via the American QRP Club. Detailed information is available on the American QRP Club's temporary Web site <http://www.njqrp.org/a-qrp/index.html>.
- Vote on QST Cover Plaque award: The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for May was Allen Baker, KG4JJH, for his article "The Black Widow—A Portable 15 Meter Beam." Congratulations, Allen! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award--given to the author--or authors--of the best article in each issue--is determined by a vote of ARRL members. Voting takes place each month on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/qstvote.html>. Cast a ballot for your favorite articles in the June issue of QST. Voting ends June 30.

**All IN BRIEF items from The ARRL Letter, Vol 22, No 23**