

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 3: 223.540 MHz;  
Port 4: 440.925Mhz 9600 Baud backbone / N3OH (SYSOP--BILL)  
<http://www.w4ovh.net>

# OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

## JUNE 2007

### Next Meeting: June 18, 2007

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to all, June is always a very busy month for the OVH, but at least the 2007 OVH Hamfest is now behind us.

Before I go any further, let me say "Thank You" to everyone who gave his/her time and energy to help plan, setup, work, and clean-up after this year's OVH Hamfest. This Hamfest would not have been a success without you, "Thank you all!"

This year's Hamfest was not a banner year for ticket sales, however indoor flea market sales were up. I attribute the lower than expected attendance and ticket sales to the bad weather, but initial reports are that the OVH broke even or slightly better. Our inside vendors were delighted with the sales they received. Despite the lower turnout, I'm optimistic that we have a premier event and next year will be better. One change we'll need to make is to insure the additional outdoor pavilions are available to the outdoor flea market vendors. This was a major complaint I received from some.

Memphis Amateur Supply, our major equipment vendor, was not able to attend due to a very serious illness. Instead they sent their banner, catalogs, and offered a discount and shipping on most phone orders if mentioning the OVH Hamfest when the order is placed. I talked to Marshall who indicated they have processed several orders to date, and would like to thank the club for the support. Additionally looking forward to attending the event next year! Doug (the owner) is still in ICU, I don't know what his status is. Lets hope and pray for a full recovery.

The OVH Meeting on June 18th will focus on the OVH Field Day event to be held on Saturday, June 23rd, and Sunday, June 24th, at the Nokesville Park. Please try to attend that OVH Meeting and plan to participate on Field Day itself, with setup, operating and/or take down.

Also, I am still hopeful of scheduling later this month the front panel CNC milling demonstration at my shop for Karl/W4KRL who won the CAD design contest in May; watch the OVH reflector for scheduling!

73 George K4GVT



# Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255  
Manassas, Virginia 20108

## OFFICERS

President:	George Tarnovsky	K4GVT	791-5956
Vice Pres:	Ruth Frock	KU4WH	331-1234
Secretary:	Wayne Phillips	N7QLK	393-8447
Treasurer:	Bill Ellis	WA4FIC	335-9935

## DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdell	W4HJL	369-2877
Art Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330
Charlie Dale	WA4YGI	361-3091

## WEEKLY NETS

Thursdays - 8:00 PM	JOHN H	257-3566
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## HAMFEST 2007

Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Charlie	WA4YGI	361-3091

## FIELD DAY 2007

George T.	K4GVT	791-5956
Butch B.	W4HJL	369-2877

## CLUB ROSTER

Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877
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## EDUCATION

Trish Wells	KI4PCM	335-1096
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## CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Meola	KI4AZX	393-6681
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## ARES AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	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	WA4FIC	335-9935
Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234

## GENERATORS

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

## HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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## HOME PAGE

Bill	N3OH	590-9562
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## JOTA

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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## LEGAL

Pete	KB4RME	369-2436
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## MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Joe Dobes	KI4OHR	369-2639
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## NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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## NEWSLINE

Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
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## PACKET

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N3OH	590-9562

## PROGRAMS

TBA

## PUBLICITY

Trish Rabe	KI4PCM	335-1096
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## QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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## REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Milt	N4SN	369-7265
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844

## REPEATER TRUSTEE

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
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## SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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## SUNSHINE

Jan	KE4TMW	257-0897
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## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N3OH	590-9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939

All telephone numbers listed above are for Area Code 703 unless otherwise noted.

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The OVH ARC meets at 7:30 p.m. local time every third Monday of the month at the NOVEC Tech Center on Wellington Road in Gainesville, Virginia. Prospective members or other interested persons are invited to attend. Local information can always be obtained, at any time, through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.97 & 224.660 Mhz. All are welcome. Up to date information about OVH activities and meetings is also available on the OVH web site at <http://www.w4ovh.net>.

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 or other source 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: W4ZB@RLAW.COM.

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

Last Rev: 05/17/2007

## Sunshine Corner:

Happy Birthday to our friends and fellow Hams this month: Robert/KC4TNC, Jan/KE4TMW, Steve/N4OGR, Wayne/AG4ZZ, Gene/N4HFW and Bob/K4HJF.

John/WA1STU's wife had a successful surgery and will be recovering at home for the next 10-12 weeks, with John taking leave to help out. Best wishes for a further successful recovery. Be sure to give John a call when you hear him on the repeater.

Wayne/N7QLK, has returned safely from military duty in the Mideast for the third time, and will be resuming his duties as Secretary with the OVH. Welcome back!

Thanks to all of the OVH volunteers who assisted with the successful OVH Hamfest.

This monthly Sunshine Corner job is still open for a new volunteer! Someone please step forward to relieve me!

73 de Jan/KE4TMW

## Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting May 22, 2007:

George / K4GVT called meeting to order at 1930 Eastern Time.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 20 OVH members present.

### Business Meeting

The minutes of the April 2007 meeting were approved.

Treasury report: Bill/WA4FIC presented the report; balance is in good standing. Report approved.

Repeater: Butch/W4HJL and Art/W1CRO - repeaters are working. Spare receiver will be tuned so primary receiver can be repaired.

### Committee Reports:

Hamfest: Butch: more volunteers are still specifically needed to man the front gate and the rear gate (and tailgate) for the OVH 2007 Hamfest on Sunday, June 3rd. Club members will work on set up for the Hamfest on Saturday, June 2nd. We will meet at the McDonald's on Dumfries Road at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday then proceed to the Prince William County Fairgrounds afterward to set up the tailgate parking area, tables and chairs for the inside vendors, etc. The OVH Hamfest will start at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 3rd. Theresa/KG4TVM will be in charge of the bake sale so please plan to bring baked goods for the sale. Charlie/WA4YGI has purchased all of the prizes. Grand prize drawing will be at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday. After the clean up of the fairgrounds which will begin about 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, we will meet at Tony's Pizza in the Manassas Shopping Center for dinner. We can still you all available volunteers to make the Hamfest a success! [See some pictures related to this taken on June 2nd and 3rd below.]

Training: No report this month.

Membership Report: No report this month.

Public Service: David/KI4AZX is looking for volunteers to assist with communications on

beginning in the early morning on Saturday, June 10th, for the Manassas Mini-Triathlon at The Freedom Aquatic & Fitness Center, Manassas, Virginia. The sponsor of this event gives the OVH credit on its web site for assisting with communications so it is very important that volunteers with two meter handhelds step forward to help out. [See picture below.]

Field Day: George/K4GVT and Butch/W4HJL are in charge as co-chairs for Field Day which will be on Saturday, June 23rd and continuing on Sunday, June 24th, at the Nokesville Park, the same location as last year. More on the weekly nets on the repeater as this approaches. Final arrangements and plans will be a major topic for the next OVH meeting.

Scholarships: Jim/W4JTP: The OVH Scholarship Award Committee selected Ms. Darenae Evans of Osborne Park High School to receive the 2007 Harry D. Vorhauer Scholarship award. She will use this \$1,000 award to assist her in attending Spelman College in Atlanta for 3 years to receive a BS in Computer and Information Science and then 2 years more at Georgia Tech to complete a BS degree in Computer Engineering. We wish Darenae the best of luck as she embarks on her college career. Ms. Darenae Evans attended the May 22nd OVH Meeting with her family to accept the scholarship award. [See picture from the meeting below.]

New Business:

Brian/WC4J: Brian (tel: 703-965-6011) invites all interested OVH members to his house in Nokesville to operate during the June VHF QSO party which will occur during the weekend of June 9th. [See below for results and picture of antennas actually used.]

No 50/50 this month. Meeting adjourned: 20:35 EDT.

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## Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

### ARRL FIELD DAY

June 23rd/24th. Mark your calendar; this major, fun annual club event for all OVH members which is fast approaching. Contest rules, etc. at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/> Final details on OVH's plans for this event will be discussed the OVH meeting on Monday, June 18th.

### HAMFESTS

June 17th (Sunday - Father's Day). Frederick Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Frederick County Fairgrounds, Frederick, Maryland. Details at <http://www.qsl.net/k3erm/hamfest.htm>

June 22nd (Friday) - 24th (Sunday). Ham Radio - Friedrichshafen, Germany. If you find yourself in Europe over this weekend, you might consider attending this long standing (60+ years) Hamfest which is the Dayton Hamvention equivalent for Europe with more than 13,000 ham from all over Europe (and elsewhere) attending last year. Even the ARRL sends several representatives to it each year. Details in English are available at <http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/>

July 4th (Wednesday). Firecracker Hamfest, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania sponsored by The Harrisburg Radio Amateur Club (W3UU). Details at <http://hrac.tripod.com>

August 5th (Sunday). The 57th Annual Berryville Hamfest, Berryville, Virginia sponsored by the Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club. Details at <http://www.svarc.us/hamfest/>

### OPERATING CONTESTS

August 11th (Saturday) / 12th (Sunday) - the WAEDC CW Contest. This very popular and very long running CW contest is probably the best one all year for making contest contacts with amateur radio stations throughout Europe. Details at <http://www.waedc.de/>

## Remembering The Importance Of Civility And Courtesy In The OVH And In This Hobby

The following brief extracts from the talk given by Riley Hollingsworth, FCC Special Counsel, during the FCC Forum at the 2007 Dayton Hamvention should be kept in mind, especially if / when / the next time you are peeved or annoyed (or worse) by “interference” from a contest or DXpedition on the bands:

To the testers: be more courteous. You are responsible for the frequency you are operating on and realize that’s true even when you operate split. All frequencies are shared.

To those who don’t like testers: lighten UP!! Contests are short lived. Use the WARC bands. Wash the car. Cut the grass. Learn from the testers - and this applies to you Traffic net folks too - learn from the testers - they pass information a lot faster and more efficiently than you do. Testers are some of the best radio operators on planet Earth. If the testers operated at the same pace as some of the emergency traffic nets, the contest would be over after the first few dozen signal strengths were exchanged!

To those of you who don’t like DXpeditions: Lighten UP! If a group of people want to spend a lot of money to go to a rock or sandbar in the ocean, live in a tent and swat flies and scorpions for a week and talk over Ham radio 24 hours a day, SO WHAT: LET THEM DO IT!! DXpeditions, too, are short lived, and such operation must be important to SOMEONE - Scarborough Reef drew over 50,000 contacts didn’t it - and weren’t half of them CW, by the way? Nobody would have even known about it had it not been published in popular radio magazines.

## Awarding Of The OVH’s 2007 Harry D. Vorhauer (W4PVA†) Scholarship

Ms. Darenae Evans of Osborne Park High School attended the May 22, 2007 OVH Meeting with her family to accept the OVH’s \$1,000 scholarship award for 2007.



Left to right: Jim/W4JTP presenting the \$1,000 check to Darenae Evans, Darenae’s mother, sister and father, and George/K4GVT.

## Follow-Up: Manassas Mini-TriAthlon Communications - June 10, 2007

A number of OVHers participated in providing public service communications at the Manassas Mini-TriAthlon event on Saturday, June 10, 2007. The picture below shows three of them:

Other OVH members who also participated: David/KI4AZG, Butch/W4HJL and Joe/KI4OHR.

There were only two biker casualties during the event. Butch spotted one of them immediately and called him in; the other was out of visual range, but was spotted by the Campus Security Police shortly after he fell; had a few more of OVH "regulars" who were out of town for the weekend been there, OVH would have been first to call that in too.

The Manassas Mini-TriAthlon deserves full support from us because it credits the OVH Club on its web site as providing the needed public service communications for its events which is good public relations for the Club. See [http://triiitnow.com/manassas\\_mini\\_tri.htm](http://triiitnow.com/manassas_mini_tri.htm).



Left to Right: Karl/W4KRL, Art/W1CRO and Keith/KM4AA.

Not only should we support the public service communications aspect, but at least a few OVHers should consider entering as participants. What does that entail? First, swimming 250 yards in a swimming pool; next, riding a bicycle for 4 miles, and finally, running 1.4 miles to the finish line. Check out the web site above for how to enter as a participant in the next event in August! It doesn't sound too hard, does it?

Note: your editor's younger son (KE4RTL) in graduate school in California entered the Northern California Ironman Competition in 2005 and finished in the top 30% for his weight class for those (relatively few starters?) who finished. That event: first, swim 2.4 miles in open water in a bay; next, ride a bicycle for 112 miles; and finally, run the marathon distance of 26.2 miles to the finish line. That sounds extremely difficult, if not almost impossible for anyone who is the very least bit "out of shape!"

## A Particularly Interesting Vendor/Exhibitor ( W1TP ) At The Hamfest

One of the most interesting exhibitors (and vendors) at the 2007 OVH Hamfest for your editor was Tom/W1TP who was set up under one of the small covered pavilions next to the Commercial Building. His exhibits included old telegraph keys, telegraph equipment used by the landline and railroad services from the mid-1800s forward and an Enigma (encryption/decryption) machine used by the German military during World War II; Tom was also selling CDs/DVDs containing various booklets/books/text and images about that "old" equipment. In case you missed him, Tom maintains an excellent web site ( <http://w1tp.com> ) with lots more information about and images of this old equipment, and where you can purchase his CDs/DVDs online.

That exhibit brought back to your editor some long "forgotten" memories of his first exposure as a young child (early 1950's) to railroad Morse Code in a rail depot in an out of the way, very small village known as Good Spring in central Pennsylvania where my father had lived until he went off to school. The depot master was a relative, it was very cold inside except right next to a very hot coal stove surrounded by men in chairs engaged in "boring" talk about the "old days" while my brother (much later, N3KVV) and I played in a nearby alcove at a desk which looked out over the railcar

loading platform. The desktop and the wall next to it had odd looking devices which we learned later that day were the Morse Code equipment used to communicate to the adjacent rail depots/stations along the Reading Railroad track.

Suddenly, the Morse sounder on the desk began clacking loudly and my brother and I jumped back as the depot master sprang up from his chair and came over the desk, threw a knife switch mounted on the wall, and began clacking back by manually sending code using a telegraph key. This landline telegraph “contact” by railroad Morse Code consisted of clacking back and forth to coordinate the arrival of steam engine pulling several box cars which arrived about 45 minutes later. My brother and I were very impressed by all this interesting stuff. W1TP’s display at the Hamfest included some old telegraph equipment which looked like the stuff we saw operated that day many year ago.

Why wasn’t that railway coordination done by telephone or teletype in the early 1950’s? I don’t know except I do remember that at that time that small village still had only one party line which served everyone who had telephone service. I remember well that the telephone had to be hand cranked to ring out to originate a call through an live operator; my brother and I when visiting used to pick up the handset at random to see if people were talking (often they were) which aggravated my grandmother who always warned that listening in would annoy her neighbors and that no secrets could be kept if discussed over the telephone. Many years later my father told me that when he was growing up the telegraph at that railway depot had functioned as the village telegraph office through which telegrams were sent and received when quick communications were needed with the outside world.

If this brings back memories too or if you are interested in the history of this type of old/obsolete telegraph equipment, be sure to check out W1TP’s web site.

## More On Computer Aided Design (CAD) Software Tools For Ham Radio Uses

Last month we briefly discussed some computer aided design (CAD) ham radio related tools. Due to the shortage of space this month, the follow up discussion is very limited.

PC Board Layout software. First, CAD software with related PCB manufacturing services: 1. ExpressPCB - info at <http://expresspcb.com> - “free” PCB layout software with piece charges for small runs of relatively small sized PCBs designed with that software; 2 .PCB123 - info at <http://pcb123.com> - “free” PCB layout software, piece charges for runs (small or large) of customized PCBs (wide range of sizes) designed using the software. Second, CAD software without PCB fabrication (either homebrew the PCB fabrication or find a custom fabricator which can work with the CAD output files): 1. FreePCB - info at <http://freepcb.com> - The FreePCB CAD “freeware” appears very capable; and 2. Eagle - info at <http://cadsoft.de> - a professional CAD product with a limited version available as a “free” download. Again, your editor asks you to please send in information about your experiences with these PCB design tools and related PCB fabrication so that that information can be shared.

Antenna Modelling / Designer Update. At the 2007 Dayton Hamvention W7EL announced “major” updates for each of his EZNEC antenna modelling programs. Details at <http://eznec.com>

Your editor would appreciate receiving information about your experiences with other specific, ham radio related CAD and analysis tools, especially “freeware.” Most sought is information about: SPICE and other Circuit Simulation / Design software; Spectrum analysis / measurement software; Transformer / Electromagnetic Field analysis / design software; Filter Design software; Feedback Control (Digital / Analog / Mixed) System design and stability / controllability analysis software; Propagation and Link Margin Prediction (HF, VHF/UHF and microwave) software; and Structural Design (Static and Dynamic) Analysis (e.g., for tower and guying design) software.

# The 2007 Manassas Hamfest — A Few Photos In The Commercial Building



To the left: before any setup.



To the right and below:  
during the Hamfest.



## Last Minute Flash: WC4J — June 2007 ARRL VHF/UHF Contest Results

OVH Operators at WC4J: Brian/WC4J, Bill/N3OH, Ruth/KU4WH and Wayne/AG4ZZ.

Band	QSO's	Mults
6 m	126	36
2 m	65	16
1.25 m	21	9
70 cm	23	9
23 cm	2	1

Totals and summaries:

237 QSO's, 285 QSO Points, 71 Multipliers (i.e., Grid Squares), Final Score: 20,235 and Total Operating time: 17 hours. Great Job by all involved, with special thanks to Brian/WC4J!

