

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

SEPTEMBER 2007

Next Meeting: September 17, 2007

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings, hope everyone has had a good summer. It looks like fall is now quickly approaching. Now with cooler weather in the forecast, perhaps it's a good time for antenna maintenance in order to remain on the air during the winter season.

Remember, if help is needed, try putting out a call for help on the OVH email reflector. It's also a good place to recruit skilled labor and tools for the job. If you're going to attempt repairs or installation, it's better to have help than to place your self in harms way or do a job without help and the

proper tools. Please ask for assistance. It'll make the entire task easier, safer and much more fun.

Recently Art/W1CRO canvassed the OVH reflector for help to repair and upgrade his antenna systems, and many volunteers came forward and the job was done quickly, safely and correctly. [See some of the pictures below.] So if you're contemplating antenna work ask for help from your OVH Ham buddies!

On August 25th the Club held its Special Event Operation right on a boundary edge for the Manassas National Battlefield Park in the rear parking lot behind Strayer University. It was a wonderful event with many contacts and participants. I believe the count was 34 States, 122 Counties, 2 Countries, and 85 Grids. Please check the OVH web page for more details and pictures of the event. More follow about this below.

Update on the CNC design competition won by Karl/W4KRL: we are trying to get the milling demonstration scheduled shortly - mañana. As soon as we have a date, we'll email everyone on the OVH reflector. Everyone interested in watching the CNC machine manufacture this item will be welcome.

JOTA is coming up October 20th and 21st. Please try to participate and stay tuned for more details. Hope to see you all at the next OVH meeting on Monday, September 17th.

73 for now 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 2008

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

CLUB ROSTER

Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877
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EDUCATION

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
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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

Trisha Wells	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

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3556
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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: 09/09/2007

Sunshine Corner:

Hello everybody! I'm looking forward as your new Sunshine Corner coordinator/editor to providing up-to-date OVH club news to our members.

First, I would like to give a three cheers to Jan/KE4TMW for hosting the Sunshine Corner for so many years. Great job Jan!

Second, please feel free to send me your news by email to kg4tvm@hotmail.com or telephone to: 540-907-9783 or contact me at the meetings or club events.

And third, I am planning to put together individual and event profiles for the newsletter; if you have something that you would like to see or some suggestions, just let me know!

Happy Birthday wishes to Mary Lou/KB4EFP, Mark/WA4KFZ, Al/KB4BHB, Gary/WG4ARC, Phineas/KØKMA, Gerald/WW5W and Gus/N4MLE. Hope you all have a great day!

Also, welcome aboard to Phil/KI4WGC, our newest OVH member.

Best Wishes too for our kids who are starting or returning to college; by the time this goes to print they will have been back a few weeks, good luck with classes!

73 Theresa/KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting August 20, 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 26 OVH members present.

The minutes of the July 2007 meeting were approved.

Treasury report by Bill/WA4FIC: Balance is in good standing. Report approved. Discussion of locating a new storage facility.

Training: Mark/WA4KFZ is working on coordinating a General License Class at to be held at Strayer at some future time to be determined; Al/KB4BHB noted that Sky at Strayer is now in charge of requests to use Strayer's facilities. Brian/WC4J suggested purchasing a video package for about \$169, which subject was tabled.

Repeater: Art/W1CRO: all three repeaters are working; but the touch tone access on the 2 meter repeater is down. Joe/KI4OHR will update the information script about the repeaters for the net.

Membership report: Voted on Phil/KI4WGC - approved as a new member; welcome aboard Phil. Information for Jake/KI4SPX was read in.

ARES: The Marine Corps Marathon will take place on October 28th, about 70 volunteers are still needed, most to start at 0600 or earlier depending on assignment.

Steve/N4OGR - Manassas Park will be presenting its 2 hour "Refuse to Be a Victim" program, Wednesday at 6:30 pm at the new police station.

Sunshine Corner: Volunteers solicited, Theresa/KG4TVM volunteered and will start forthwith.

Program: Sean/AI4ID presented his analyzer/test equipment setup which is based upon a 8924C HP Mobile Station Test Set originally designed to do CDMA tests for cellular telephones. That set includes a spectrum analyzer, a signal generator, an oscilloscope, and AM/FM modulators and can perform signal to noise ratio with distortion "SINAD" tests. Sean recommends a good oscilloscope, multi-meter, and a spectrum analyzer for any (every) ham shack. The 8824C can handle up to 50 watts input (base station level). Sean demonstrated his equipment by performing a power test on a Yaesu HT, measuring 3.8 watts output. Sean also demonstrated the miniVNA vector network analyzer device which costs approx. \$300 and is available from a source in Germany. The miniVNA uses open source software and can function as a highly accurate antenna analyzer, and can plot output data to files or display data directly on a computer screen. Such devices are very handy for those who build their own antennas. Sean also demonstrated a TinyTrack 4 which has a TNC built in and does APRS.

Old Business:

Club shed: Steve/N4OGR reported on further research: most storage facilities charge about \$150/month, except for Manassas Transfer, located near the Manassas Airport/DMV office which offers the same size storage as OVH has at its present location, but for one-half the price at the present location. Recommended moving before the end of month when the current contract expires then. Motion approved. Treasurer or Mary Lu will provide the necessary check to secure the new facility for a one year term.

Special Event Operation – Saturday, August 25th – to commemorate the Second Battle of Manassas which occurred 145 years ago. Details are on the OVH website. Al/KB4BHB is coordinating this Special Event. Brian/WC4J will provide his trailer, etc. again this year. The location this year will be right at the edge of the Manassas National Battlefield Park – at the rear parking lot behind Strayer University.

Brian/WC4J: Reminder that it's hurricane season. Be prepared to operate with emergency power.

New Business:

JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) - October 20th. Theresa/KG4TVM will chair this with John/KG4NXT. Recommend 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Joe/KI4OHR volunteered to assist with the setup.

Bill/N3OH advised that that Kitty, one of the exhibitors at the 2007 OVH Hamfest, will embroider all clothing items with the OVH Club logos; she can also do just about any other kind of artwork requested. Check with Bill for further information, he will see if Kitty can speak at a future meeting.

2008 OVH Hamfest: George/K4GVT recommended getting started on the planning for the 2008 Hamfest right away – to start by September. Discussions regarding sales and presentations. Bill/N3OH pointed out that the Rochester Hamfest date move on top of the long standing OVH Hamfest date on the first Sunday in June following the Dayton Hamfest date move a few years ago is the primary reason the OVH Hamfest has had reduced attendance; he recommended moving the event to another date or possibly another location. George/K4GVT recommends not changing the venue, but that a committee to be chaired by him be formed immediately to study the issues and make recommendations to the Club. Volunteers for the committee were requested. Brian/WC4J suggested that a list of committee members be designated by the September OVH meeting be provided and that the first meeting be held by October 07. The following volunteers were immediately accepted for the committee: Bill/N3OH, Butch/W4HJL, Chris/KI4POT, Steve/N4OGR and Bruce/AB8CI, and George/K4GVT will be in touch with each to schedule the initial committee meeting.

A raffle for a TR-110 10 meter SSB transceiver donated by Walt Short netted \$78 for the Club. The winner was Bill/N3OH.

50/50 for \$41: Winner was Jake/KI4SPX.

Meeting adjourned at 21:10.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS

September 15th and 16th. Roanoke Division Convention, Virginia Beach, Virginia sponsored by Tidewater Radio Conventions. Details at <http://www.vahamfest.com/>

October 7th. CARAFest 2007, Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, Maryland. Details at <http://www.carafest.org>.

PUBLIC SERVICE RELATED EVENTS

September 28th, 29th and 30th. MS Marathon (50 mile) Walk - starts in Rockville, Maryland and ends at the Capitol. Volunteers who can help out with communications are needed; free food and as rest area is provided by the sponsor. Contact Brian/WC4J at wc4j@wc4j.com for details.

October 20th and 21st. Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). OVH will be operating a JOTA station for local Boy Scout participants again this year. More volunteers are always welcomed and needed. Contact Theresa/KG4TVM for more details.

CONFERENCES

September 28th - 30th. The 26th Digital Communications Conference sponsored by TAPR and the ARRL, being held this year in Hartford, Connecticut. Details at <http://www.tapr.org>. This is the big one for anyone interested in the latest and upcoming digital developments pertaining to ham radio; attendees have an opportunity to talk with the most knowledgeable experts on the subjects.

October 18th - 20th. The Microwave Update 2007 conference sponsored by the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club and held near Philadelphia, Penna. This perhaps sounds obscure, but this is a major, nearby East Coast meeting which attracts microwave enthusiasts, experts and vendors from all over the U.S. and even from other parts of the world. Details at <http://www.microwaveupdate.org>

OVH Special Event Day – August 25, 2007 – A Short Follow-Up Report

The OVH Special Event Day commemoration of the 145th anniversary of the Second Battle of Manassas occurred on Saturday, August 25, 2007 and was a very successful OVH Club event despite the record, very high heat and humidity that day. The OVH set up and operated from the rear parking lot at Strayer University, Manassas, Virginia [9990 Battlefield Parkway, Manassas] which is right on the boundary of the Manassas National Battlefield Park and from which part of the actual battlefield is visible.

Al/KB4BHB deserves special thanks from everyone for chairing and heading the coordination for this event, also thanks to Bill/N3OH for working with Al jointly as coordinator and arranging to have this Special Event Operation listed on the ARRL's Special Events web page and in QST for August 2007. Thanks also to Brian/WC4J who brought his trailer, with generator, fuel for the generator, radios and logging computers. Most of the operations occurred from the trailer between 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, mostly on the following HF SSB: 7.262, 14.262, 21.362 and 28.462. Thanks, of course, also to Strayer University for allowing the OVH to use its facilities, and to everyone else who participated or helped out.

OVH participants and operators at the Special Event Station operating under the callsign W4OVH included: Bill/N3OH, Al/KB4BHB, Dwight/AI4II, John/KG4NXT, Butch/W4HJL, Brian/WC4J, Mark/WA4KFZ, Wayne/AG4ZZ, Steve/N4OGR, Keith/KM4AA, George/K4GVT, Theresa/KG4TVM, Joe/KI4OHR, Ruth/KU4WH and some others. Total number of contacts made: 213 on 40 meters and 20 meters (mostly SSB, some CW), Satellite and 2 meter FM. The contacts were located in 34 States/Provinces, 122 Counties and 85 Grids in the United States and Canada according to official log keeper, Brian/WC4J.

A few images follow on the next page; more are posted at: <http://www.k4gvt.com/2ndmanassas/index.html>.

A few images from the August 25, 2007 Special Event:



L to R, Top to Bottom: Bill/N3OH at one operating position in the trailer; Al/KB4BHB at another operating position in the trailer; Bill and Al during initial antenna setup; Keith/KM4AA untangling wires during antenna setup; WC4J's trailer, generator and tent at the edge of the parking lot next to the Battlefield Park; other ops [N4OGR, WC4J, WA4KFZ (back to camera), K4GVT and AI4II] relaxing. .

OVH also participated in the National Night Out ("NNO") event at the Prince William County Government Complex on August 4, 2007.

Thanks to
Art/W1CRO
for the
NNO pictures
to the right!



Sean/AI4ID giving his presentation and demo during the August 2007 OVH meeting:



Antenna Raising / Improvement Party at the QTH of Art/W1CRO — September 8, 2007:



Ground advisors & supervisors (L to R, above): Butch/W4HJL, Art/W1CRO, AI/KB4BHB and Brian/WC4J



Rooftop helpers (L to R, above): Bill/N3OH, George/K4GVT, John/KG4NXT and K4GVT and David/KG4GIY

Radio Antenna Engineering - Now Available As A Free PDF Download

David Platt/AE6EO confirmed about two years ago that McGraw-Hill's copyright had expired on its 1952 570 page hardbound classic: Radio Antenna Engineering by Edmund A. Laport, a Fellow of the IRE (Institute of Radio Engineers), a Chief Engineer at RCA and also a ham radio operator. He then borrowed a good copy from a local university library, made a high quality scan of the entire work from beginning to end and put all of the scanned pages into a single PDF file which he has now made available for download at <http://snulbug.mtview.ca.us/books/RadioAntennaEngineering/> This is a large download, about 26 Mb, but well worth it. A well worn copy of this classic goes for \$150 or more if you can find one [e.g., on bookfinder.com]. The book, although not ham radio oriented, contains a wealth of information [about MF and HF antennas, transmission lines, propagation, matching networks, etc.] and is quite readable due to its large number of charts, tables, pictures and diagrams which "simplify" the engineering math and put the results into practical context, much of which is directly applicable to our hobby. Get it, read or skim through it and save on it on your electronic reference shelf. Highly recommended!

NATO Weighs In On The BPL Interference Problem

NATO, by its Research and Technology Organization, very recently (June 2007) issued an excellent Technical Report: HF Interference and Tools (TR-IST-050) which addresses the problem of interference to HF radio systems from BPL (and DSL) systems which distribute high speed digital signals over wired lines and connections designed primarily for other purposes. This complete NATO Technical Report is available as a downloadable PDF file, about 10 Mb, at: [http://ftp.rta.nato.int/public/PubFullText/RTO/TR/RTO-TR-IST-050/\\$\\$TR-IST-050-ALL.pdf](http://ftp.rta.nato.int/public/PubFullText/RTO/TR/RTO-TR-IST-050/$$TR-IST-050-ALL.pdf) This Report contains detailed technical discussions and models relating to all aspects of the BPL systems interference problem at HF. In discussing the FCC's regulations for BPL systems, the Report correctly notes [at pg. 4-2] that the FCC's recommendation of a 40 dB/decade signal attenuation with distance "was not been confirmed by measurements carried out by other organisations." This is polite, bureaucrat-speak that the FCC's recommendation is technically unverified [by anyone and likely invalid]. Curiously, this exact point is a one of the compelling technical reasons set out in the ARRL's legal briefs filed with the U.S. Court of Appeal for the District of Columbia for the pending Petition for Review of the FCC's BPL actions. Get the NATO Report if you want to be technically well informed about HF BPL interference issues.

ICOM Movie About HF Contest Station Operations!

ICOM has released on-line a professionally produced 15 minute movie about HF Contest Operation. Check out: http://fp8.adhost.com/icomamerica/IRN/V5/IRN_5_full.wmv You'll need a high speed connection to view this! DSL works fine for this.

Good Operating Practices - Excellent Checklist And Discussion!

Mark/ON4WW in Belgium has posted on his web site an excellent checklist with a lengthy discussion of Good Operating Practices. This is carefully written by someone with lots of ham experience, a good understanding of radio operation and psychology. The author has definitely "been there, done that." The web page is so well done that it has been translated into several languages - besides American English - by volunteers. Check out: <http://www.on4ww.be/op.html> and read it / study it carefully! Everyone of us can learn something from this.