

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 2: 440.925Mhz 9600 Baud backbone / N3OH (SYSOP--BILL)  
<http://www.w4ovh.net>

# OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

## February 2008

### Next Meeting: February 18, 2008

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to all! As usual I hope everyone is well and keeping warm. Spring will be here before we know it, and with that spring storms will arrive. It's a good idea to think about how well your antenna grounding system has held up during the winter. Perhaps changes are in order to keep your systems secure from nature's awesome power, more on this next month.

I also hope your DirecTV raffle ticket sales are going well. Our DirecTV raffle ticket sales at Frostfest were lackluster. We only have two weekends left before the drawing takes place on Friday, February 29th. With that said, we'll be at the entrance to the Giant grocery at Wellington Station selling raffle tickets on Saturday and Sundays – on February 16th and 17th and again on February 23rd and 24th, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon on each day. We are also attempting to arrange use of other locations which have lots of potential raffle ticket purchasers walking by. If you can spend an hour or so manning a table, or any time at all, please email me – [K4GVT@comcast.net](mailto:K4GVT@comcast.net) – to coordinate. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated; remember too that 100% of the proceeds will go directly to the OVH.



Plans for the Manassas Hamfest on the second Sunday in June (June 8th this year) are now well underway. Several great commercial vendors have now committed to be there: KJI Electronics with new ham gear for sale, and Tarheel with their large Dayton Hamfest Convention style displays. This year we will also have expanded covered areas will be available at the Hamfest for exhibitors and tailgater in case we have rainy or inclement weather again – as occurred in 2007.

The OVH club officer elections will take place at our upcoming meeting and we will also be having a presentation by John Nagel of the Prince William Co. Police Crime Prevention Unit. I hope to see many of you there at the meeting on February 18th! 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 2008

George	K4GVT	791-5956
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877

## FIELD DAY 2008

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
Butch.	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

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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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, 5399 Wellington Branch Road, Gainesville, Virginia 20155. Members, prospective members and all other interested persons are invited to attend. Local information can also always be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.97 & 224.660 Mhz. Up to date information about OVH activities and meetings is also available on the OVH web site at <http://www.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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## Sunshine Corner:

New Babies! Congratulations to Charlie Dale, WA4YGI, and his wife Ellie, on becoming first time Grandparents – TWICE!!!! Twins Emily Ann and Robert Edward were born on January 14th. Very best wishes to the tired parents and grandparents!

A new Baby is on the way too for Chris/KI4POT, his wife and daughter Abby! A photo of Chris with his daughter at the 2007 OVH Christmas party appears to the right.

February Birthdays: Lloyd/N4OOM, Gary/WG4ARC, Roland/WB4NWG and Art/W1CRO, hope you all have a great day!

Some very sad news to report about OVH member, Alman Reames / KI4BXS, who passed away on February 2, 2008 after an unsuccessful battle with cancer. Our condolences to his wife Linda and their family. Remember Alman / KI4BXS in happier times in the picture to the right which shows him operating during the June 2007 OVH Field Day event.

Sunshine Corner Profile for Chris Allen / KI4POT – If you attended the January OVH Meeting, you heard about Chris describe his participation in the upcoming BikeMS Tour. On May 17th and 18th Chris will be riding his bicycle a total of 140 miles in Northern Virginia in this fundraising event for MS research. In addition to rigorous training to be qualified to participate, Chris must also raise money for through donations. Some more info about this from Chris: Training - As an avid cyclist, I have the base fitness, but I need to work on my eating and my neck/shoulder strength. Food intake is important when you're burning 800 calories per hour, you have to eat quite a bit before, during, and after the ride to keep your body from cannibalizing your muscle tissue. Road Bike Equipment I'm building up a new bike especially for longer rides such as this. Donations – it's very easy to go on line and make a donation at <http://www.nationalmssociety.org/goto/allencb>. If you do it at that URL, Chris will get credit too. Good luck Chris, we are all pulling for you!

73 Theresa/KG4TVM



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## Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting January 21, 2008:

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 28 OVH members present.

### BUSINESS MEETING

The minutes of the December 2007 meeting were approved.

Treasury report: Balance is in good standing. Report approved. \$330 taken in total for the Kenwood radio raffle. The ticket count was 198.

Committee Report: Training: Mark / WA4KFZ has made fliers for General Class. Depending on the size of the class, Red Cross can provide facilities; March 8th tentative start date. We need school contacts. Technician Class on hold from Brian / WC4J; putting together a class syllabus and has DVDs. He needs a volunteer to teach the class in the April/May timeframe.

Repeaters: Art/W1CRO: amplifiers have been replaced. There have been ideas for other remote sites, but no decisions to date. Anyone interested in assisting in managing the repeater, please contact Art. Joe/KI4OHR asked for the cost of a new repeater; Brian/WC4J stated that prices are in the \$3,500 range.

Scholarships: No report.

Membership report: Advertisement was published in the PWPulse; no responses so far.

ARES: Dave/KG4GIY: There are four events currently planned; check <http://pwcares.org> for more details.

Hamfest: Chris/KI4POT and Bruce/AB8CI volunteered to spearhead the effort. Brief discussion regarding availability of tables and sizes. Suggested that a committee meeting be held soon. Brian suggested that we participate at the Richmond Hamfest to push the raffle for the DirecTV system. Brian/WC4J will also attend the upcoming Vienna Hamfest.

DirecTV tickets, books of five tickets, were printed and distributed. All hardware and one year's service. The raffle drawing will held be on February 29, 2008. 100 tickets were handed out at the meeting.

Packet: Bill / N3OH will conduct slow-speed data training in the near future. This would benefit those in the emergency management field.

Field Day: John / KG4NXT stated that the park pavilion has been reserved. Suggested that now is the time to mail invites to local officials.

Sunshine Updates: Theresa / KG4TVM: Charlie Dale is a grandfather to twins! MS 150 bike tour is May 17-18, 2008. Support / donations are requested. Request more call ins to the OVH Net on Thursday nights on the OVH repeaters.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Dues: Please pay your OVH club dues and renew your OVH membership for 2008!

Special Event: Al/KB4BHB is looking into Strayer College's possible new requirements for use of its location the OVH Special Event Station commemorating the Second Battle of Manassas to be held on August 30, 2008.

Space Week: Joe/KI4OHR requests support for Space Week (the last week of April) at Bristow Elementary. All ideas, equipment offer(s), manpower, etc., contact Joe.

Nominating Committee nominations: President: George / K4GVT; Vice President: Wayne / AG4ZZ; Secretary: Wayne / N7QLK; and Treasurer: Joe / KI4OHR have offered their services and been nominated by the Nominating Committee.

Upcoming Events: Brian / WC4J: A 24hr endurance (marathon run) event is scheduled in Prince William County Forest during the weekend of April 26th and 27th. The NCS will be from the park cabin; and three other sites will require manning. If you wish to participate, contact Brian.

Upcoming Programs: Steve / N4OGR: a speaker from the Prince William County Police Department about Fleetwatch will be at the February meeting.

Presentation: Karl / W4KRL displayed and discussed Rigrunner panel which had been machined by the CNC milling machine owned by George K4GVT.

50/50 for \$13: Winner was Mark / WA4KFZ; all donated back to the club.

Kenwood Radio Raffle: public shuffling and drawing winner was Mark / WA4KFZ again!!!!!!  
Twice a winner!!!!!!

Meeting adjourned at 21:15.

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Two pictures from the January 21, 2008 Meeting:



Above, L to R: Treasurer, Bill/WA4FIC; President, George/K4GVT; Vice President, Ruth/KU4UH and Secretary, Wayne/N7QLK

To the Right: Mark/WA4KFZ, smiling after winning the Kenwood radio raffle right after winning the 50/50 raffle



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## Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

### OPERATING EVENTS:

March 15 - 17, 2008, Virginia QSO Party, 1800 UTC Sat. Mar. 15th - 0200 UTC Mon. Mar. 17th.  
For more info and the complete rules, Google "2008 Virginia QSO Party".

### UPCOMING HAMFESTS

Feb. 24, 2008. Vienna Wireless Winterfest, Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus. More information at <http://www.viennawireless.org>

March 29 - 30, 2008. Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest at the Timonium Fairgrounds, Timonium, Maryland. Hours: 6:00 am - 5:00 pm on Sat., Mar. 29th, 6:00 am - 3:00 pm on Sun., Mar. 30th. Complete info at <http://www.gbhc.org/>

### OTHER EVENTS / DEADLINES

March and April, 2008 Deadlines - FAR Scholarship Applications. FAR (the Foundation for Amateur Radio) ham radio related scholarships for college / university courses. Complete details for applications and eligibility are at <http://amateurradio-far.org>

### UP-TO-DATE INFO ABOUT OTHER CONTESTS / OPERATING EVENTS

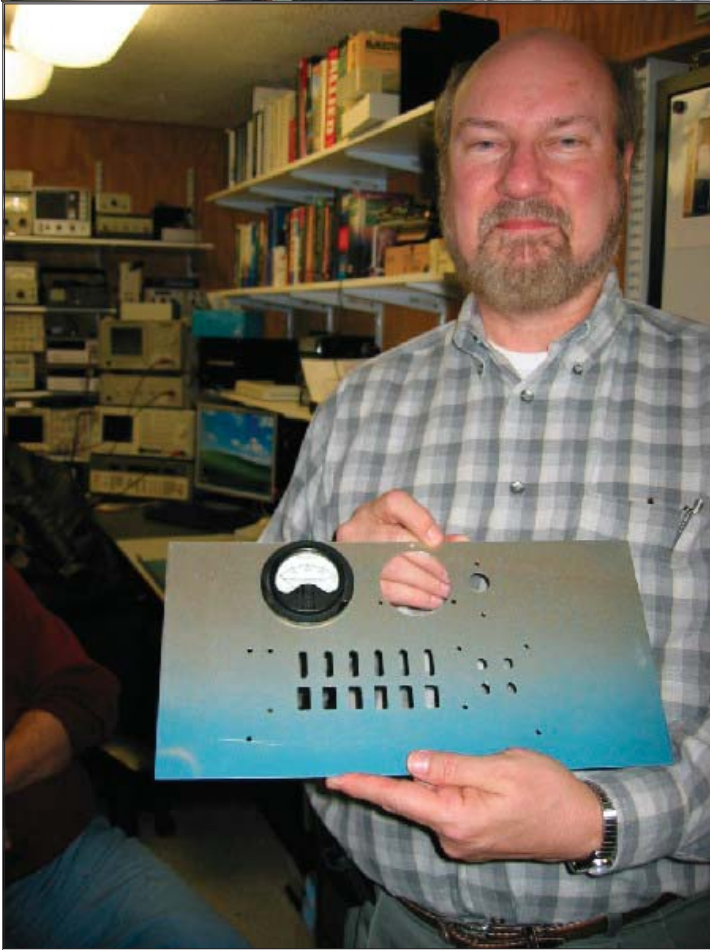
WA7BNM maintains an excellent Contest Calendar website at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>.  
The ARRL's operating events / contest calendar web page is at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/> This includes a link to ARRL's Special Event activities listings at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>

## Follow up – More Old Stuff, Old Technology, Old Reference Sources

Last month your editor pointed out that the oldest ARRL Handbook (1926) notes, without further explanation, that LID is a Morse code term or abbreviation meaning “poor operator.” Several explanations were offered for where that term may have come from, but none are definitive. A whole series of PDF format, old references sources touching on this and related topics can be found using the search facility at <http://google.com/books>. Google has been scanning many, many old books in libraries on which copyrights have expired from the 1800’s through the 1920’s and making the scanned copies available in PDF files which may be downloaded without charge. Here is a short list of some of the titles available, with year of publication: 1893 Electric Transmission of Intelligence; 1896 The Electric Telephone; 1897 Electric Telegraphy; 1902 A History of Wireless Telegraphy; 1902 Electric Waves; 1908 Principles of Electric Wave Telegraphy; 1909 Wireless Telegraphy and High Frequency Electricity; 1909 Wireless Telegraphy Wireless Telephony; 1917 Practical Wireless Telegraphy; 1918 Operator Wireless Telegraphy and Telephony and 1920 Electric Oscillations and Electric Waves. Find out how a spark gap transmitter was made, for example, and how antennas were designed in the very old days? Lots of very interesting stuff here going back to the beginning of our hobby and even earlier. Remember, the ARRL was not founded until 1914! Enjoy!

Karl/W4KRL, the June 2007 winner of K4GVT’s Front Panel Design challenge had his aluminum panel milled on George’s CNC milling machine on January 19, 2008 at last! Following are several pictures taken during that event at the QTH of George/K4GVT.





To the left: Karl with the finished product from the milling machine when it was through.

George/K4GVT has announced a second design challenge and Karl/W4KRL, who is not going to enter again, has offered to assist potential entrants. Any designs to be submitted must meet the following criteria:

- a) Use flat aluminum, max dims: 1/8" x 18" x 8."
- b) Use the [frontpanelexpress.com](http://frontpanelexpress.com) "free" design software for the layout.
- c) Use metric dimensions only because the conversion software has problems with English units.
- d) Design your project, save the file and email it to George/K4GVT by March 1st.
- e) The winner must supply the raw aluminum for the winning design (K4GVT can help).
- f) Some time in March George will invite all interested to watch the panel production.

All are welcome to enter this design competition!

## More BPL Nonsense - This Time from the NTIA

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration issued a report on January 31, 2008 on broadband developments: [http://www.ncs.gov/library/tech\\_bulletins/2007/tib\\_07-01.pdf](http://www.ncs.gov/library/tech_bulletins/2007/tib_07-01.pdf). This is worth reading for those attempting to keep up BPL developments.

The ARRL has issued a scathing attack on the BPL statistics which are presented as "fact" in NTIA's report but lack factual basis. See, <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/02/06/100/?nc=1>. Worth reading.

## Please Renew Your OVH Membership Now!

Print and mail in the following form with your check for \$10.00 now or bring the filled-in form with your check or cash to the January 21, 2008 OVH meeting.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION OLE VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2008

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL SIGN: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
BIRTHDAY: \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU PRESENTLY AN ARRL MEMBER? (YES/NO)

ARE YOU A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER? (YES/NO)

DO YOU WANT YOUR PHONE NO. LISTED IN THE OVH ROSTER? (YES/NO)

WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT LICENSE CLASS? \_\_\_\_\_

NAME(s) / CALLSIGN(s) For Additional Family Members:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues are \$10.00 and are payable on January 1, 2008.

Annual Dues for additional family members living at the same mailing address are \$5.00 each.

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_ Mail to: Treasurer - OVH, P.O. Box 1255, Manassas, VA 20108

### Forty Meter Moonbounce

Last month the HAARP project conducted moonbounce experiments on frequencies just below and just above the forty meter HF band. Before the experiments started, HAARP invited the amateur radio community to participate by listening and then submit reception reports. HAARP received several hundred reports from the ham community and is analyzing the data. The HAARP web site at <http://www.haarp.alaska.edu/> contains a lot of information about HAARP and the effects of the ionospheric on HF radio propagation.

Randy/K7AGE, a prolific poster of excellent ham radio related tutorial type materials on youtube.com, has done it again by producing an excellent video of his reception of direct and moonbounce signals from HAARP during these experiments. Check out <http://youtube.com/watch?v=L5E2ntIxAsc>. That video shows and describes the equipment K7AGE used for his reception and signal processing of both the terrestrial signals from the HAARP transmitter as well as the long delayed signals from the HAARP transmitter which were reflected from the moon's surface. K7AGE was able to receive terrestrial and moonbounce signals on each of the two frequencies used near the forty meter ham band used during the experiment.

The practical effects of the ionosphere on reflecting back terrestrial source HF signals as needed for long range HF radio communications have been fairly well understood by radio engineers since the 1950's even though many aspects of the physical mechanisms (physics) which controlled those interactions were still poorly understood. By the late 1950's a large worldwide network of ground based ionosounding stations existed which continuously probed the ionosphere and made their data available for HF radio propagation prediction. By the late 1960's, numerous so-called topside sounding experiments - probing the top side of the ionosphere from sources outside the ionosphere had been conducted from satellites. The information gained from those experiments allowed the physics of the ionosphere to be much better understood, but a lot is still poorly understood.