

The OVH ARC Newsletter
OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108
OVH FM Repeaters - 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+ & 443.500+
OVH D-STAR Repeaters - W4OVH - 146.865- & 442.5125+

Web Site at <http://w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

September 2013

Next Meeting: Monday, September 16, 2013

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hello to all and I hope this message finds you all healthy and well. Drive extra carefully in the morning and evening - schools are back in session and there are lots of youngsters out and about again.

It's hard to believe but the "9/11" attack on the U.S. occurred twelve years ago this week. Ham radio operators both in New York City and in Northern Virginia near the Pentagon provided vital communications assistance for emergency responders and others when cellular systems went down due to damage and overload, and the available radio frequencies were overloaded due to magnitude of the tragedy. That was an event that most of us remember vividly - exactly where we were and what we were doing - when we first learned of it, just as some of our older member remember the assassination of President Kennedy and the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. We should not forget it, and we should remain prepared.

The Virginia Beach Hamfest is coming up on September 14th at the Virginia Beach Convention Center and is the ARRL's Roanoke Division Convention. If you plan on going, drive safely.

Special thanks to Bill / N4SV who advanced funds and made a bulk purchase of ham radio maps for himself and a bunch of other OVH club members wanted them. He will be bringing them to the upcoming meeting to distribute; if you ordered one, remember to bring your money. . Remember

I hope all can attend the upcoming OVH meeting on Monday, September 16th at 7:30 PM, and I look forward to seeing you there!

73 Justin KJ4LAS



Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President:	Justin Anderle	KJ4LAS	571-221-3423
Vice Pres:	Clarence Meese	K4CNM	791-6424
Secretary:	Theresa Heartney	KG4TVM	257-3566
Treasurer:	Terry Erlacher	KC4DV	571-292-1490

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdell	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 2013

Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
-------	-------	--------------

FIELD DAY 2013

Randy	WB7RAV	393-1494
-------	--------	----------

CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

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

EDUCATION

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

CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Meola	KI4AZX	393-6681
-------------	--------	----------

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
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

HISTORIAN

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

WEBMASTER — W4OVH.NET

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

EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

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

JOTA

Scott	KB8NUM	365-2642
-------	--------	----------

LEGAL

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

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	KJ4FDK	361-4885
--------	--------	----------

NEWSLETTER

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

NEWSLINE FOR THE WEEKLY NET

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

PROGRAMS

TBA

QUARTERMASTER

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

REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Russ	WB4HHN	368-6435

W4OVH / W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
-------	-------	----------

SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
-----	-------	----------

SUNSHINE

Theresa (Acting)	KG4TVM	257-3566
------------------	--------	----------

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4SV	590-9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
David	KG4GIY	628-3868
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939

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 © 2012 by the Ole Virginia Hams.

The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Monday each month at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House at 9930 Liberia Avenue, Manassas, Virginia. Members, prospective members and other interested persons are invited to attend. Local information can also be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.970-, 224.660-, 442.200+ and 443.500+ MHz or D-Star repeaters on 146.865- and 442.5125+ MHz. 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: 7/10/2013

Sunshine Corner:

Happy Birthday to our club members celebrating another year at the end of the summer – Gus / N4MLE, Al / KB4BHB, Maury / W4HYB, Ron / N4RDZ, Gary / WG4ARC, Mark / WA4KFZ, Jim / W4HJH and Floyd / K4ROG.

School is in full swing again so please watch out for the kids and school buses.

Congratulations and thanks to Terry / WA5NTI for working with the 4H and having a ham radio communications setup at the Prince William County Fair in August. Thanks also to all of the other OVH members who assisted and participated. It was great to hear of all the club participation.

Please check in on Thursday evening, VHF/UHF OVH FM repeater net at 8:00 pm. Use the 146.97 FM repeater or other linked repeaters. More details at W4OVH.NET under the “OVH Nets” tab.

If you have any news for the Sunshine corner, whether good or bad, please send me an email at kg4tvm@hotmail.com or call me at 703-257-3566.

Thank you and 73!

Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting August 19, 2013:

Clarence / K4CNM, OVH Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Meeting was held at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House in Manassas, Virginia. OVH President, Justin / KJ4LAS was not able to attend.

All present stated their names and call signs. There were 32 OVH members and 1 guest in attendance.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the July meeting were approved with the following change to the paragraph for ARES, it should have read that Steve / N4OGR reported that Christine McGuirk, stopped by the Field Day site and donated to the club a Zenith Transoceanic Shortwave Receiver from her father's estate; also the call sign for Jeffrey who was voted in at the July meeting was corrected to be WB6UIE; minutes were then approved as amended.

Treasurer's report – Terry / KC4DV reported that the bank used by OVH has new security features and he was unable to get the up to date balances for the meeting; he will get this information and pass it on in an email.

Membership – Luther / KJ4FDK presented the following applications for vote: Rick / KJ4ZIH, Gavin / KK4MXT, Robert / KK4MXU, Katie Saul and Kristin Saul; Luther / KJ4FDK made a motion to accept all for membership, seconded by John KG4NXT, all approved; the following new

Cont'd on page 4

applications were read in: Matthew / KK4SYM and Stephen / no callsign (yet).

ARES – Clarence / K4CNM spoke about the upcoming Marine Corp run to be held on September 7th, volunteers are still needed.

Repeaters – Keith / KM4AA reported that there have been no changes and he will have antenna maintenance information available at the September meeting.

Training – Mark / WA4KFZ will hold a Technician License training class on Tuesday evenings throughout October, beginning on October 1st, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm and continuing on the next three Tuesday evening during October. A VEC examination session, especially for those who attended the Technician class will be held on the final Tuesday evening in October, October 29th, but that VEC session will be open to the public and will provide testing for higher class licenses too. More details will be posted on W4OVH.NET very soon or contact Mark / WA4KFZ.

Hamfest – Terry / KC4DV reported that the first planning meeting for the June, 2014 OVH Manassas Hamfest will be held on Wednesday evening, October 2nd. Save the date - more details to be announced before then.

Sunshine Corner – Theresa / KG4TVM announced the birthdays, etc. for the month of August.

Web Page – Paul / W4ZB reported the OVH web site is working without problems; if anyone wants new or specific information posted there, send it to him in electronic form and it will usually be posted on the web site very quickly. Also, anyone who wants any corrections or changes made, please send him an email with the specifics so the changes or corrections can be made.

Old Business - 4-H – Terry / WA5NTI reported that there was a good turnout at the Prince William County Fair from the OVH and Woodbridge Wireless, Kristin Saul also gave a report from the 4H side and will put together an after action report, she appreciated all the participation, she would like to see a committee put together for youth and education; Terry / WA5NTI invited us to attend a 4H Leader kickoff on September 7th;

OVH Club Radio Station at Red Cross location – Clarence / K4CNM wants to get the OVH club radio station on the air at the Red Cross Building on Monday afternoons prior to club meetings, discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

Theresa / KG4TVM announced that it was time to start the Year End / Christmas Party - Holiday Party planning and would like members to think about places where the party could be held, will discuss further at the next meeting.

Steve / N4OGR let us know that John Nagel from PWC Sheriff's Office is leaving the area, someone new will be sending out the Alerts that we receive thru the reflector, Steve / N4OGR wanted to know if still want to receive this information and he received a resounding YES from everyone in attendance.

George / K4GVT offered some suggestions about the antenna work at NOVEC, discussion followed.

Cont'd on page 5

Clarence / K4CNM reported that the Marine Corp Marathon has 52 slots still open for radio operator assistance on October 27th; an All Hands Meeting for that event is scheduled for October 19th; you need to register and sign up in advance to volunteer and participate – Contact Clarence / K4CNM for more details.

Arthur / W1CRO requested that all active OVH member please look at the “Members Only” part of the OVH website and make sure your information is correct. If it is not correct in any respect, please notify Arthur / W1CRO via email so he can make the corrections in the master database from which that member information available at the “Members Only” web page is extracted.

BREAK

The 50/50 drawing was won by Bob / K4HJF who donated his winnings back to the Club.

Emmett / K2DJG – reported that he attended National Night Out and the PWC Fair, he wants the club to look at projecting our image and put more effort into drawing people into our events, discussion followed and Clarence / K4CNM will put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm on motion by John KG4NXT and seconded by Terry / KC4DV.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

Saturday, September 14, 2013 - Virginia Beach Convention Center - the annual Roanoke Division ARRL Hamfest. More info. at <http://www.vbhamfest.com>

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Saturday, October 19, 2013. JOTA Boy Scouts radio operation event. Contact Scott / KB8NUM who is organizing the local area activity which will be supported by the OVH for more details about time and place, etc.

Sunday, October 27, 2013. Marine Corps Marathon - Radio Operators still needed. You must be registered and signed up in advance to participate. Check with Clarence / K4CNM for details.

TECHNICAL LECTURE / SEMINAR:

Thursday, September 19, 2013 beginning at 7:30 PM - AMRAD meeting, McLean, Virginia - Topic: Printed Circuit Board Fabrication for the Ham Radio / Electronics Experimenter - Mark Braunstein / WA4KFZ. More details about time and place at AMRAD.ORG

OPERATING CONTESTS:

There are many operating contests almost all of the time. The excellent web site maintained by WA7BNM at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> lists most of them!

PUBLIC SERVICE / TRAINING / ARES EVENTS

Check the online Calendar by David / KG4GIY at <http://www.pwcares.org> for latest 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.

Analysis of Ham Radio Data to determine how many active DXers there are worldwide?

Michael Wells / G7VJR in the U.K. maintains a blog [g7vjr.org] which recently presented an interesting analysis of ham radio QSO data to estimate the number of active DXers there, and where groups of them are clustered or located.

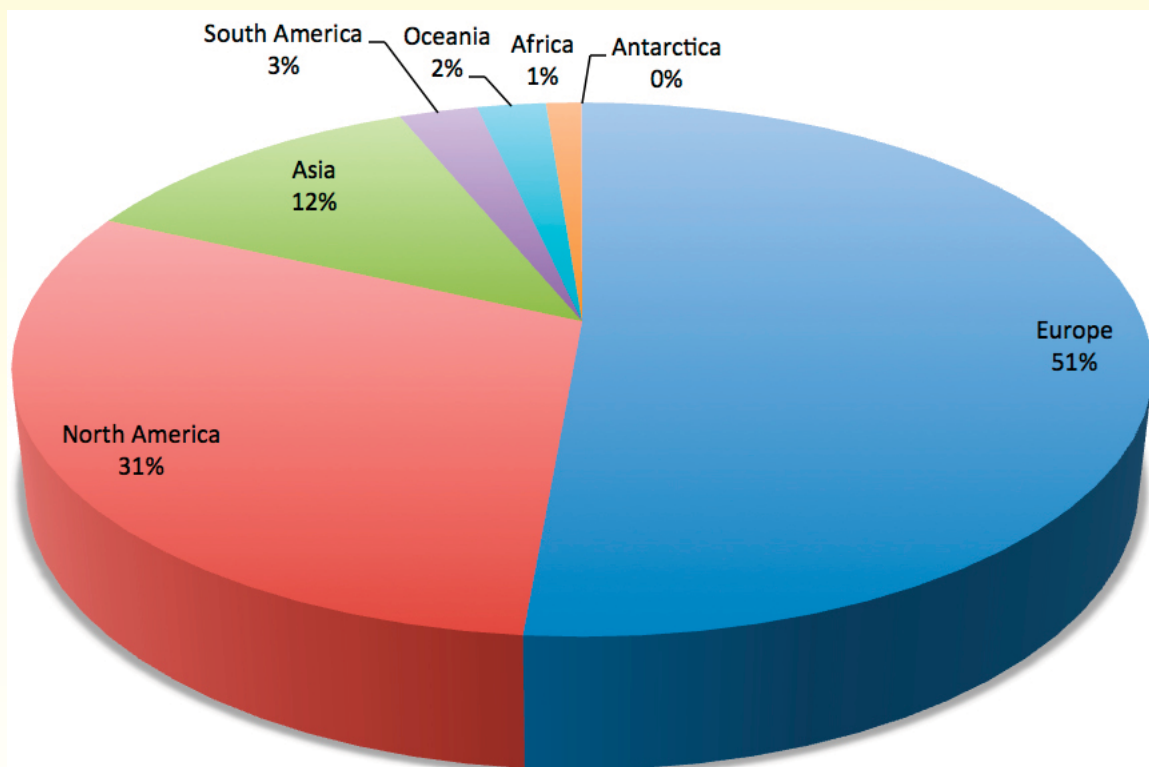
“A question that comes up in the context of DXpeditions is just how many uniques are there out there? We’re aware that there are at least 50,000 (a record set by T32C in 2011) but can we estimate the full size of the population?”

I ran a short database analysis against Club Log’s records for QSOs made after 1 January 2012. How many unique callsigns are worked in each continent?

Update: The answer is pretty interesting. Based on feedback from when I first posted this table, I’ve extended it to show the number of uniques declines when you require more than 1 logged QSO, and even more when over 5 logged QSOs are needed to consider a callsign valid. [The rationale for this is simply that if a callsign only appears once or just a few times, it is likely that the callsign may have been logged incorrectly because DXers tend to be persistent.]

CONTINENT	1+ LOGGED QSOs	2+ LOGGED QSOs	6+ LOGGED QSOs
Europe	269,000	132,000	77,500
North America	157,000	82,000	46,000
Asia	73,000	33,000	18,000
South America	17,300	7,800	4,000
Oceania	13,400	6,400	3,500
Africa	7,800	3,400	1,800
Antarctica	151*	63	37

The sample size is 24 million QSOs. Counting just unique callsigns appears to me to strongly emphasize problem QSOs. That’s a trend which should be expected to get worse with a bigger sample, since that would mean there will be more unique errors in the data. For example, if the size of the sample doubled to 48 million QSOs then the 1+ QSOs column would inflate a lot, and the others would increase too. It’s probably best to focus on the 6+ column, above. That means that likely over 50 people have the call in their log worldwide; small enough to catch very short operations but large enough to avoid one-off mistakes.”



continued on following page

The countries are grouped by continent as per normal ARRL conventions (followed strictly by Club Log). Allow for special events, contest calls, temporary callsigns, as well as logging errors. It's striking that individual logging errors must be a substantial source of uniques in the average log. Is there another explanation for the difference between 151 and 37 Antarctic stations when we require not one, but 6+ references to the call? In the context of 24 million QSOs, noise is significant. I suppose that some callsigns will get busted more than others, too – and the more prefixes there are in a continent, perhaps the more error-prone that continent becomes?

Here are the top 30 DXCC entities by population (using the 6+ QSOs filter and again working from 1 January 2012 through April 2013):

USA	40809		Canada	2974		Austria	1157
Japan	11340		Asiatic Russia	2628		Switzerland	1034
Germany	11010		Netherlands	2354		Hungary	1013
European Russia	8216		Czech Republic	1897		Argentina	945
Italy	8074		Sweden	1798		Scotland	887
England	7750		Brazil	1682		China	854
Spain	4822		Belgium	1605		Denmark	842
Ukraine	4665		Australia	1545		Norway	808
France	4029		Romania	1235		Croatia	801
Poland	3903		Finland	1228		Greece	756

* * * * *

A few observations from this: DX contest and DXpedition logbook data is increasingly computerized, and available for analysis; the QSO data used in the study is based solely upon HF band DX activity; modest and relatively simple computer data analysis techniques can be readily applied to “mine” interesting statistical data. The 29 countries in the table above should be the easiest counties to contact (“work”) from the USA on the HF bands; presumably, the active ham DXer population in each country is some fraction of the total ham population in that country. Until quite recently, China used to be a very rare DX country with very few active ham radio operators at all, but no longer - ham radio is now viewed and recognized in China a valuable hobby to be fostered and developed.

Some Possibly Useful or Interesting Information

1. Web site by WA2WVL - specializing in wire antenna info, check out: <http://www.wa2wvl.com>
2. Web site by W9XT - check out his ham radio and his electronic pages: <http://w9xt.com>
3. Web page by N1LO with extensive textual information about Towers: <http://www.qsl.net/n1lo/towers.txt>
4. The Reverse Beacon Network - we've mentioned this here before, still getting better - a great resource for checking out HF propagation as well as your own HF signal at distant locations. To check out your own signal, you need to be able to send CW, but you could send it using an automated method. Check out <http://reversebeacon.net>
5. EDN (Electronic Design News) publication about LEDs (light emitting diodes). Check out the web page at <http://electronicdesign.com/components/understanding-led-application-theory-and-practice>
6. EDN article, references and sources for “free” and very low cost software design tools for circuit and circuit board design. Check out <http://tinyurl.com/EDN-EE-designTools>