

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

Renew your OVH membership now!

December 2013

Next Meeting: Monday, December 16, 2013

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

December is once again upon us and this is a very busy time for everyone - with the holiday season and our families. It is also a busy time of the year for the OVH.

This past Saturday (December 7th), there was a large turnout by OVH member volunteers to assist with communications during the annual City of Manassas Christmas Parade. See pictures later in the newsletter and special thanks to George / K4GVT for keeping the OVH volunteers coordinated with the City of Manassas during that event. This coming Saturday (December 14th) a group of OVH volunteers again will be assisting the City of Manassas Park with communications during its annual Parade of Lights.



Finally, on this coming Sunday evening, December 16th at 6:00 pm will be the annual OVH Year End / Christmas Party, being held again in a private room at the Yorkshire Restaurant. Plan to attend - this is a great club social event each year! All members and their families and friends of ham radio are invited. More details later in this newsletter and the last minute information for OVH members will be on the OVH email reflector.

With the end of each calendar year, the President must remind the membership to renew your memberships for the next year! To make this very easy to do, a mail in form is provided later in this newsletter. It is also possible to renew online. Go to the OVH Club web site (W4OVH.NET) and there to the OVH Membership Application tab to do that. No matter, how you do it, be sure to renew. We appreciate everyone's support and hope everyone is having fun! Still the Club depends upon the modest annual dues each year.

Also another reminder about the Ole Virginia Hams officer nominations **Cont'd on Page 3**

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
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HAMFEST 2014

Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
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FIELD DAY 2014

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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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 - 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
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WEBMASTER — W4OVH.NET

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
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JOTA

Scott	KB8NUM	365-2642
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LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	KJ4FDK	361-4885
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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NEWSLINE FOR THE WEEKLY NET

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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PROGRAMS

TBA

QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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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
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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SUNSHINE

Theresa (Acting)	KG4TVM	257-3566
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Bill	N4SV	590-9562
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
David	KG4GIY	628-3868

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 Repeaters 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: 11/16/2013

which will need to be submitted before the annual officer elections which are always held at the February meeting. You will need to be a member in good standing, with dues paid, to be able to vote at that meeting.

As always if there is any subject that you as club members would like to give a presentation on let me know and we can get you on the schedule.

I also hope all can attend the OVH Year End / Christmas Party this coming Sunday and also the regular OVH meeting on Monday, December 16th at 7:30 pm. I look forward to seeing you there!

73 Justin KJ4LAS

Sunshine Corner:

Happy Birthday wishes for December for Clarence / K4CNM, Ross / N4RP, Dianne / KI4FVV, Bill / N4SV, Mike / KI4SNE, Alan / KD4KBX, Paul / KD8PQF, Byron / AK4XR, Charles / WA1FFX and George / N4XSL. Baofang's callsign was listed incorrectly last month; it is KK4JFK.

Thanks to George / K4GVT and everyone that turned out to help at the City of Manassas' 2014 Christmas Parade on December 7th. It was cold but the really bad weather stayed away! George kept very busy with his camera and posted pictures (of most) of the OVH members who participated at: <http://k4gvt.com/ovh/Manassas%20Christmas%20Parade%202013> and still more pictures of the Parade itself at <http://k4gvt.com/Manassas%20City%20Christmas%20Parade%202013> Some of those pictures appear later in this Newsletter!

Steve / N4OGR is organizing the OVH volunteer who will assist with communications for the Manassas Park Parade of Lights on December 14th. Contact Steve if you'd like to participate. More on this in January's Newsletter.

I hope to see a great turnout for the OVH's Year End / Christmas Party, December 15th at 6:00 pm at the Yorkshire Restaurant, 7537 Centreville Road, Manassas, Virginia. Remember to bring a dish to share and a donation for **TOYS FOR TOTS!**

Wishing everyone a very happy and peaceful Holiday Season and looking forward to a busy 2014!

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

Theresa KG4TVM



Ole Virginia Hams Holiday Party
Sunday, December 15th, 6 p.m.
Yorkshire Restaurant 7537 Centreville Road, Manassas
Bring the family for an evening of fellowship and great food
Please bring your favorite holiday dish or dessert to share
Main entree and drinks will be provided
Donations of new, unwrapped toys will be collected for *TOYS FOR TOTS*
Need additional information, contact Theresa, kg4tvm@hotmail.com

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting November 18, 2013:

Justin / KJ4LAS called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Meeting was held at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House in Manassas, Virginia.

All present stated their names and call signs. There were 23 OVH members.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the October meeting were approved as read, motion by John / KG4NXT, second by Art / W1CRO

Treasurer's report – Terry / KC4DV gave the report, motion by John / KG4NXT, second by Art / W1CRO approved as presented

Membership – Luther KJ4FDK presented the following application for vote: Derrick / KV4SH, Luther / KJ4FDK made a motion to accept for membership, second by Bill / WA4FIC, approved

Training – Mark / WA4KFZ reported on VE Exam, and that he is working towards the February/March time frame for the next class for Technicians, his is also considering running another General class. Mark also reported he gave a presentation to a team on Lego Robotics and that that team won its competition.

Hamfest – Terry / KC4DV has the Prince William County Fairgrounds secured for the 2014 Hamfest; he reported that Ron / N4RDZ has been a great help with the vendors. The next hamfest committee meeting will be on Wednesday, December 4th in Old Town Manassas.

Field Day – John / KG4NXT advised that the paperwork for Nokesville Park has been completed for the 2014 June Field Day thanks to Butch / W4HJL. Ideas on the education elements for Field Day are being solicited.

Sunshine Corner – Theresa / KG4TVM announced the birthdays for the month and gave the details for the holiday party

Alan / WA2GTT has voltmeters that he will give to any new ham or hams in training; he also has some miscellaneous parts; if you need anything get in contact with him.

Web page – Paul / W4ZB reported that renewal for annual OVH dues will be possible online later this week; there is also a new interactive repeater coverage map and slides from a presentation on Printed Circuit Boards given by Mark / WA4KFZ at a recent AMRAD meeting.

4-H – Terry / WA5NTI reported on several classes held at the Buckhall Fire Department, several members of Woodbridge Wireless have helped with the satellite section of the class, the next classes will be on December 3rd & 10th on Emergency Communication and Preparedness Planning. Terry is looking for three more hams to help at the December 10th meeting. Clarence / K4CNM reported that they have 8 4-H children who are very interested in the materials being presented.

New Business – John / KG4NXT reported that the next Mini Tri event will be on March 30, 2014.

Motion to adjourn at 7:59 pm by Terry / WA5NTI, second by Bill / WA4FIC.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENT(S)

Saturday, December 14, 2013 - OVH members will assist Manassas Park with communications for its Parade of Lights program. More volunteers welcomed. Contact Steve / N4OGR for more info.

Sunday, March 30, 2014 - Mini-Tri event, OVH to assist with communications.

OVH YEAR END HOLIDAY / CHRISTMAS PARTY:

Sunday, December 15, 2013 - OVH Holiday / Christmas / Year End Party, starting at 6:00 pm at the Yorkshire Restaurant on Route 28 (7537 Centreville Road) in Manassas. All OVH members and families / guests are invited. Main course will be provided, but plan to bring a covered side dish to share, and also an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. Plan to attend - always lots of fun for everyone. Watch the OVH email reflector for the latest or last minute information.

HAMFESTS:

Saturday - February 1, 2014 - Frostfest (Virginia State Convention), Richmond, Virginia sponsored by the Richmond Amateur Telecommunications Society. This is the biggest mid-winter hamfest in the mid-Atlantic. More info at <http://www.frostfest.com> A group from OVH always goes.

Sunday - February 23, 2014 - Vienna Wireless' Winterfest at NVCC Annandale Campus. Check out <http://www.viennawireless.org/winterfest.php> and the flyer later in this Newsletter. Close by and always easy to attend.

Saturday - April 5, 2014 - Timonium, Maryland - Maryland Fair Grounds - Hamfest. For more information, check out <http://www.gbhc.org>

Friday - Sunday - May, 16, 17 & 18, 2014 - Dayton Hamvention - Dayton, Ohio - held every year in mid-May and the biggest hamfest in the world. A group from the OVH always attends. For more information, go to <http://daytonhamvention.org> Note: if you're planning to go to Dayton, don't forget to also consider attending, the excellent all day Contest University program there on Thursday, May 15th. More info at contestuniversity.com

Sunday - June 8, 2014 - OVH Manassas Hamfest - being sponsored by the Ole Virginia Hams this year for the 40th time at the Prince William County Fairgrounds, Manassas, Virginia. See the Flyer later in this newsletter and also look at: manassashamfest.org and w4ovh.net (hamfest tab) This is a very big event for the OVH each year. Contact Terry / KC4DV for more information.

OPERATING CONTESTS:

January 1, 2014 [0000 - 2359 UTC] ARRL Straight Key Night on HF - low key fun on New Years Eve and New Year's Day. More info at <http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>

Saturday / Sunday - March 15 / 16, 2014 - the Virginia QSO Party sponsored by the Sterling Park ARC. More info at http://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2014_VQP/2014_VQP_Main.html It's not too early to start planning for this one.

Information about many other operating contests almost every weekend and each month can be found on the WA7BNM's excellent web at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal>

Cont'd on page 6

NEXT 2014 OVH MANASSAS HAMFEST COMMITTEE MEETING:

Wednesday - to be in early January - contact Terry / KC4DV and watch the OVH email reflector for updated information about the time and place (Tony's Pizza, 9108 Mathis Avenue, Manassas). This will be the fourth advance preparation and planning meeting for the 2014 OVH Manassas Hamfest. All interested individuals are welcome to attend.

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.

Some pictures from the December 7, 2013 City of Manassas Christmas Parade

First, a few of the OVH Volunteers at the event:



continued on the following page

And, a few pictures of the City of Manassas' Christmas Parade itself:



Some Possibly Useful or Interesting Information

1. Many individuals who obtain a beginner ham license will want to upgrade to a higher licence with more privileges and those who have had a higher privilege license for some time (or many years) may want to check to determine if they still know enough to pass the current exam. The prospective upgraders too want to know if they are ready to take the new exam with a prospect of success. In either case, this is easy to do - all of the current VEC FCC examination questions and answers are available for free. Check out <http://nvec.org>
2. Last month we gave a video link for a local (near Leesburg) drone flyby video of K4VV's HF antenna system. Not to be outdone, Tim / K3LR who maintains a mammoth HF antenna system a multioperator station on the Pennsylvania-Ohio border just south of Interstate 80 in Pennsylvania now has a drone flyby video of his antenna system on YouTube too. To see K3LR's antennas, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMzdTQzJjSc>
3. Many young hams get interested in the design of electronic circuitry, whether just out of curiosity, to better understand how their equipment works or to modify or improve their equipment or to create new accessories for it. Some get interested enough to study that and related subjects in school and/or to make a career from it. Manufacturers of components for electronic circuits want to make sales and, therefore, tend to make technical and design information on their products readily available to designers. The component manufacturing firm, Analog Devices, is one of those and has a wide selection of "free" technical data and design publications available on its web site. If you're interested, look at <http://www.analog.com/library/analogdialogue> There you will find many items, including: specific product literature, application notes for specific products, eBooks (in PDF format) and eNewsletters on a wide variety of related subjects, an EngineerZone (engineering forums), lists of Frequently Asked and Rarely Asked Questions, and much more. Quite a collection of materials, much of which is not particularly specific to Analog Devices' products.
4. The Reverse Beacon Network system (<http://www.reversebeacon.net/>) has been mentioned here a number of times as a real innovation for real time (and near real time) monitoring of worldwide HF propagation conditions on the ham bands. The basic principles of operation are quite simple: a diverse group of hams located all around the globe who participate in the system have broadband HF receivers which listen to the HF CW (Morse Code) ham bands. The output of each receiver is processed locally by a software program known as the CW Skimmer [available at dxatlas.com] which measures the signal strength and frequency of each CW signal received and automatically decodes and processes basic information being sent via Morse Code (specifically the station identification, which is then used to determine the station location) in each signal. This processed information at specific receiving sites is then forwarded via the Internet to central RBN aggregation points which are accessible to public users who log in to obtain access to the aggregated data which becomes available on the RBN servers usually with only a very slight time delay. Not satisfied with the additional delays and effort of having to manually access and interpret the HF propagation data publicly available on the RBN servers, a New Zealand ham, ZL2HAM, has developed a program (ViewProp) which can be custom setup to automatically analyze the real time HF propagation conditions and paths in a given locale to other distant points and display that information in an intuitive and easy to grasp form on a global atlas. This is extremely innovative and powerful; check out <http://zl2ham.wikispaces.com> for more information and details. ViewProp uses the DX Atlas software product also available at dxatlas.com for its global mapping system. Because the basic RBN system itself functions automatically (with minimal human intervention, except when repairs, fixes and upgrades are needed) and is also quite extensive in its geographical coverage, the ViewProp system reportedly can be used by an operator at a given location to transmit several simple, short HF CW test signals, and then sit back and view the output for his/her ViewProp display to determine at which distant locations his/her signal is actually being heard at adequate signal strength to allow for real contacts (whether on CW, SSB or digital modes). It is possible to determine very quickly whether a particular HF band currently supports propagation to particular distant locations or is "dead".
5. HF propagation mysteries - partial explanations. Many factors which affect HF propagation are well known, but how it all really works is still shrouded with a lot of mystery, complex physics and earth and solar science. A presentation at the Huntsville Hamfest earlier this year: http://solarscience.msfc.nasa.gov/presentations/20130817_Hamfest.ppt has helpful explanations. Not too technical and worth looking at if you want to improve or test your understanding.
6. Jim Brown / K9YC maintains a web site with a large number of ham radio "how to do it" technical articles which he has authored. Go to <http://k9yc.com/publish.htm> Very solid stuff, the latest is on short vertical antennas.

RE M I N D E R



Yes, it is that time of year again!!!! Below is the 2014 Renewal Application.

Please fill out the form below (for database), attach your check and mail to the address below or drop off at a meeting. Be sure to update all information, including your e-mail address, telephone number(s) and nine digit ZIP

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION "OLE VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB" 2014

NAME: _____ CALL SIGN: _____
ADDRESS: _____ Home Tel: _____
_____ Cell Tel: _____
Work Tel: _____
EMAIL: _____
BIRTHDAY: _____

ARE YOU PRESENTLY AN ARRL MEMBER? (YES/NO)
ARE YOU A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER: (YES/NO)
MAY YOUR TELEPHONE NOS. BE LISTED IN THE "Members Only" OVH ROSTER? (YES/NO)
WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT LICENSE CLASS? _____

Dues are now **\$20.00** per year and payable on January 1, 2014. Dues for each additional family member living at the same mailing address are \$10.00. Dues for a full time student at the college undergraduate or lower level [list school attended and grade or level: _____] are \$10.00.

NAME AND CALL OF FAMILY MEMBERS: AMOUNT ENCLOSING: _____
Name: _____ Call: _____
Name: _____ Call: _____

Return to: **Treasurer, OVH**
P.O. Box 1255
Manassas, VA 20108-1255

WINTERFEST!™

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA HAM RADIO FAIR

- Ham Radio, Electronics, and Computer Parts, Pieces, and Paraphernalia
- Large Indoor Exhibit Area
- QSL checking for WAS, DXCC, VUCC
- 150 Paved Tailgate Spaces
(\$15 for one space—includes one admission)
- Improved and expanded loading dock!
- FREE On-Site Parking

TAILGATING!
Tailgate area opens at 6AM on
Sunday, February 23rd



When: Sunday, February 23, 2014

**Where: Northern Virginia Community College
Annandale Campus
8333 Little River Turnpike
Annandale, VA
38.833216° N, 77.236872° W**

Cost: \$7.00 per person

Indoor Exhibit Area Opens to Public at 8AM



**Vienna Wireless Society
PO Box 418
Vienna, VA 22183**

**General Info – Jack, AI4SV
Winterfest2014@viennawireless.org
(314) 266-8426**

<http://www.viennawireless.org/winterfest.php>

**Table Sales – Doug, AK4AO
tablesales2014@viennawireless.org
(703) 698-6158**

NORTHERN VIRGINIA'S LARGEST

Manassas Hamfest



AMATEUR RADIO, COMPUTER, & ELECTRONICS SHOW

An ARRL-Approved HAMFEST Presented By:
The "OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
(A non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio)



Sunday, June 8, 2014

Prince William County Fairgrounds

Large outdoor flea market area, two indoor air-conditioned buildings, several covered buildings, and ample parking

10624 Dumfries Road, Manassas, VA 20112-2720 (Route 234) - TALK-IN 146.97- 442.200+ D-Star 442.5125+

INDOOR EXHIBITOR SPACE

8-foot tables: \$30* each
with chairs & electricity
(\$25 if reserved by May 1st)
Setup 2-10 PM Saturday

GENERAL ADMISSION

\$10* per person at gate
(Cutoff date for \$9
advance Sales May 1st)
Gates open at 7 AM

TAILGATING

\$10* per space (admission extra)
(Cutoff date for \$9
advance Sales May 1st)
Gates open at 6 AM
Setup 2-10 PM Saturday

* Online ticket sales and vendor registration at <http://manassashamfest.org>

For our Most Current Vendor List and Ticket Sales Visit our Web Pages:

<http://manassashamfest.org> and <http://w4ovh.net>

PRIZES

- Door prizes hourly 9 AM to 1 PM (be present to win)
- Major & Tailgate prizes awarded at 2 PM

INFORMATION

- ARRL Roanoke Division Officers attending
- Virginia Section Manager Forum & other Forums
- 4th Call Area QSL Bureau Representatives
- DXCC QSL Card Checking will be available
- Virginia QSO Party Awards Ceremony
- Youth Lounge activities for Youngsters

ACTIVITIES

- Check our web pages (below) for the most up-to-date information
- Flea Market & Vendors - all day
- VEC License Exams, 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM
- "Maker" group activities & presentations
- ARRL style Youth Lounge programs all day for youngsters - by the OVHARC and 4-H
- D-STAR Operating and Q&A Forum
- Amateur Radio Satellite Forum
- National Traffic System Forum

<http://manassashamfest.org> and <http://w4ovh.net>

Dealer Info: Ron (N4RDZ) vendors@manassashamfest.org
General Info: Terry (KC4DV) chairman@manassashamfest.org
VE Testing: David (KG4GIY) vetesting@manassashamfest.org