

Summary Information for New Visitors to the W4OVH.NET web site of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc. (“OVH”)

Further details are available elsewhere on the W4OVH.NET web site

1. The OVH is a local amateur radio club based in western Prince William County (Manassas), Virginia, currently with more than 100 active members; the membership is concentrated in the Prince William County and the Manassas area, but the club has members from surrounding counties and more distant locations, including other states. The OVH is more than 50 years old and is affiliated with the ARRL, the national amateur radio organization which is 100 years old.
2. Almost all active OVH members hold amateur radio licenses although a few do not; the club assists members without licenses to obtain them, and for members with starter licenses to upgrade them and improve their knowledge and skills as amateur radio operators. The club has active training and mentoring programs for newcomers to amateur radio and others interested in radio, electronic communications and electronics. The ages of OVH members range from high school to recent retirees and senior citizens, both male and female.
3. The OVH and many of its members provide organized, volunteer communications support for public events such as Parades, Walks and Races, Emergency Services, Red Cross events, Disaster Training events, Boy Scout and Girl Scout events, 4H Club events and the like. The OVH also gives out one or more college scholarship each year to a graduating high school senior(s).
4. The OVH has a pool of experienced members who are experts in most of the many facets of this multi-faceted hobby, including: electronics, setting up a amateur radio station, amateur radio communications via satellites, mobile operation from automobiles, boats and aircraft, antenna design, long distance and world-wide communications, digital keyboard modes of communication, VHF/UHF/Microwave communications, Morse code proficiency and operations, radio contest operating, contacting amateur radio stations in foreign countries, building hardware electronic devices including radio transmitters, receivers, and accessories and radio repeater systems, software development and operations, computer systems, etc. A subgroup of the members have pilot licenses and fly airplanes. Most members are available to assist others in learning and enjoy doing so.
5. The OVH maintains and operates six open VHF and UHF radio repeaters located in Manassas and Western Prince William County. The club uses these repeaters to hold weekly radio nets among its members and others who wish to participate on Thursday evening each week; these repeaters also support the club’s public service activities and also serve the general ham radio community by facilitating local area VHF and UHF communications.
6. The OVH sponsors and puts on the Manassas Hamfest each year in June, and has been doing so since 1974. This event which is a radio/electronics/computer swap meet, with commercial vendors, and other activities, attracts thousands of visitors each year, some from as far away as Texas.
7. The OVH holds monthly meetings in the Manassas, Virginia area on the third Monday of each month beginning at 7:30 PM at at the Manassas City Public Works building, 8500 Public Works Drive [near the intersection of Portner Ave. and Breedon Ave.], Manassas, Virginia. The OVH also publishes a monthly newsletter for its members and maintains this web site at W4OVH.NET for its members and for general information about the club, including some “Members Only” pages. The OVH also maintains a closed, “Members Only” email reflector system for quickly disseminating information.
8. The OVH and many of its members also participate in late June each year in the national Field Day event in which the club sets up temporary radio stations run by emergency power, and makes two way radio contact with other stations all over the U.S. and Canada. The club also holds an annual year end Christmas / Holiday party for members and their families.
9. If you are interested in joining the OVH, a membership application and related information is on the W4OVH.NET web site; if you have questions, contact the OVH’s membership chairman, Luther Miller, at Tel: 703-361-4885 or email to WA3FMO@ARRL.NET
10. For other information, you may write to the club at OVH, PO Box 1255, Manassas, VA 20108 or contact its President, Ray Knight, at Tel: 703-930-8222 or email to RAYKNIGHT@VERIZON.NET