

The OVH ARC Newsletter
"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
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<http://www.w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

JANUARY 2008

Next Meeting: January 21, 2008

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to all and Happy New Year! I hope all had safe and wonderful Holidays. Ev and I had a fantastic time hosting the 2007 OVH Christmas Party and really enjoyed opening our home to such a wonderful group of friends. I hope everyone who attended (about 54 at last count) enjoyed it as much as we did: great food, camaraderie, lots of stories and tales, just good fun and a few incredible Christmas wish lists. Perhaps Ev and I will be able to do it again next year.



With 2008 now beginning I remind you of two things: First, it's time again to pay your annual OVH dues and renew your membership! Renewal / dues information appears later in this newsletter and is also on the club website at w4ovh.net; you can renew and pay dues too at the upcoming meeting on January 21st. Second, nominations for the club officers for 2008 will occur at the January meeting; the OVH Nominating Committee will make its recommendations for open positions as usual, but you'll have an opportunity to nominate others who are willing to take on the challenges. I'll not be seeking another term as your OVH president; my reason: I don't think I will continue to have the time which I need to continue to do a good job due to work pressures and other increasing time constraints.

You will recall that Karl/W4KRL won the front panel design contest some months ago but due to time constraints and unresolved software problems with the CNC milling machine, we have not yet milled the panel. However, we think we've found workarounds for the "bugs" and Karl and I are now ready to try to mill the aluminum panel this coming Saturday, January 19th, at 1:00 p.m. at workshop at my QTH at 8314 Morningside Drive, Manassas, Virginia. All are welcome to come and observe for future reference or projects or just curiosity. Let me know (via email is OK) if you're planning to come.

Tickets to be sold for the first DTV raffle are now printed thanks to Butch/W4HJL and David/KG4GIY and will be distributed at the January 21st meeting. Please bring ideas for group sales too. [Contd on p. 3.]

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.

The OVH Times newsletter 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. This edition of the OVH Times is Copyright © 2008 by the Ole Virginia Hams.

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.

Approx. Circulation - 170.

Last Rev: 01/14/2008

[President's Letter, continued from page 1.]

Please remember too that the OVH 2008 Hamfest will be held on the second Sunday in June (June 8th) this year, rather than on the first Sunday in June as it has been for many years. The move has been made to eliminate reoccurring conflict with the Rochester, N.Y. Hamfest which drew away many good vendors and attendees. We're still looking for Hamfest committee volunteers.

Please plan to attend the OVH meeting on January 21st, hope to see you there. 73 for now!

George/K4GVT

Sunshine Corner:

Happy NEW YEAR to all!!! What a Christmas party we had at the QTH of George/K4GVT; some pictures from that event appear below and many more are George's website, k4gvt.com.

Missed one birthday in December: Dianne/KI4FVV, hope it was a good one! Starting off the New Year with birthdays this month are Dan/KG4CFQ, Elizabeth/KG4NXV, Chuck/W4XP, Milt/N4SN, Ed/WD4AVU, Harold/K4OPS and Alan/WA2GTT.

The Sunshine Corner presented its first appreciation award plaque at the December meeting to Mary Lu/KB4EFP who was not able to attend, her hubby, Butch/W4HJL, accepted it for her. The award is long overdue for Mary Lu and doesn't even begin to describe all the hard work Mary Lu has provided for the OVH for many years. Thanks again Mary Lu and hope to see you at the January meeting.

Also at the December meeting, Elizabeth/KG4NXV, home on break from Virginia Tech, presented members with Christmas cookies which she had hand decorated with their call signs! See picture to the left. Great job and thanks from everyone, Elizabeth!

If you were one of the lucky ones to receive ham equipment as a Christmas present, please send me an email kg4tvm@hotmail.com and I will list them in the next newsletter. Lots of events coming up this year, OVH elections, Hamfest and Field Day. The new Mini-Tri schedule is out too!

Hope 2008 is a great year for everyone!!! See you next month!

73 Theresa/KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting December 17, 2007:

George/K4GVT called meeting to order at 1930 Eastern Time.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and callsigns; present were 24 OVH members and two guests.

PROGRAMS:

First, Mark (WA4KFZ) gave a slide presentation his visit to ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut earlier in the Fall and his operation of the W1AW station there. Next, George/K4GVT



played a DVD showing highlights of his recent business trip with his wife, Ev, to Israel and gave an brief talk about that trip.

BUSINESS MEETING

The minutes of the November 2007 meeting were approved. Joe/KI4OHR noted that page 2 in December OVH Newsletter had some errors which should be corrected.

New Members – Joe/KI4OHR reported that Scott/KB8NUM had applied, his application was read-in.

Repeaters – Butch/W4HJL– the repeaters are working but there is some maintenance to be performed when the weather is warmer. Joe/KI4OHR noted the tones now work the receiver.

Hamfest – George/K4GVT– nothing new to report.

Scholarships – No report.

ARES / Public Service – Steve/N4OGR – Fleetwatch will be presenting again at the February meeting. Steve also noted that May 5 is date for the MS150, and approximately 100 hams are needed for this two-day event.

Training: Mark/WA4KFZ – Mark is almost ready to begin a General License Class in late February or early March, either in Nokesville or at Strayer, consisting of eight 2 hour sessions on weekends, details and location to be determined and classes still to be scheduled.

Sunshine – Theresa / KG4TVM – Mary Lou/KB4EFP is recognized for her past contribution and continuing support to OVH and presented with a plaque, accepted by her husband, Butch/W4HJL in her absence. Special thanks from everyone to George/K4GVT and Ev for hosting a very memorable the OVH Club Christmas party in his home on Saturday, December 15th.

JOTA – Theresa/KG4TVM issued patches for all those who assisted or participated.

NEW BUSINESS

Ticket for the first DirecTV raffle need to and are being re-printed; it was suggested that tickets be sold in front of Walmart on Saturdays. The drawing for the raffle will be in February.

50/50 – \$20 was collected; Craig/WA3UFY) won the drawing and donated all back to the club.

A total of \$85 more was collected for the Kenwood HF transceiver raffle. The final sale of tickets for this raffle will be at the next meeting on January 21st at which the winner will be drawn.

The meeting adjourned at 20:58 Eastern time.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

OPERATING EVENTS

January 26th - January 27th. CQ Worldwide 160 Meter CW Contest. This starts on Friday evening local time (EST) and continues through Sunday, and is the most popular 160 Meter contest, with great opportunities for working 160 Meter DX. Details and more information at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/> Remember that DX possibilities and opportunities on the 160 Meter band are greatest the low point of the 11 year Sunspot Cycle - which is right where we are right now. 160 Meter DX conditions will not be as good as they are this winter for another 11 years! Brian/WC4J indicates he is looking for CW operators to help out him out with this.

OVH'S RAFFLE OF KENWOOD TS-430S HF TRANSCEIVER TO BE CONCLUDED

Jan. 21, 2008. The OVH will conclude its raffle of its Kenwood TS-430S HF transceiver at its next regular Monday evening meeting, January 21st. The last tickets will be sold at that upcoming meeting, after which the winning ticket will be drawn; the ticket holder must be present at the meeting to win! Further details at w4ovh.net.

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

Feb. 2, 2008. Virginia State Convention at the Frostfest, to be held this year at the Richmond Raceway Complex, 600 E. Laburnum Ave, Richmond, VA. Details: <http://www.frostfest.com>

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

OTHER EVENTS / DEADLINES

March and April, 2008 Deadlines - FAR Scholarship Applications. FAR (the Foundation for Amateur Radio) administers a large number of ham radio related scholarships for college / university courses. Different scholarships have different eligibility requirements; many are open to hams in this area; some are worth thousands of dollars. College is (very) expensive these days and these should not be overlooked as potential source of funds. Details at <http://amateurradio-far.org>

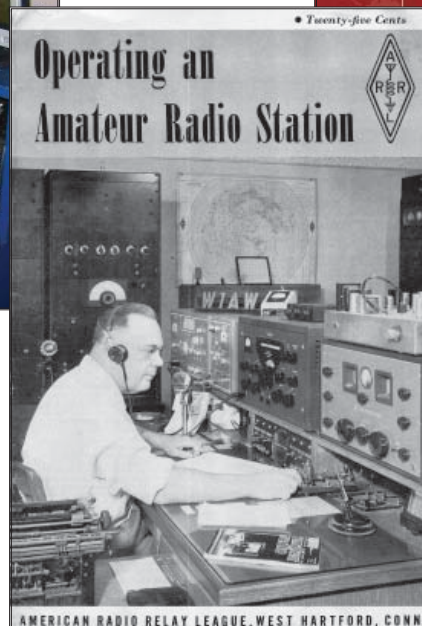
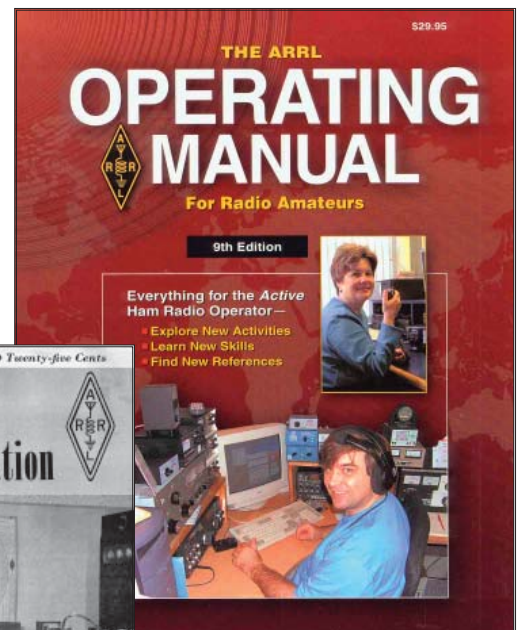
GET UP-TO-DATE INFO ABOUT OTHER CONTESTS AND OPERATING EVENTS

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>

Below:

Mark/WA4KFZ visiting at W1AW in October, 2007.



To the right - W1AW 46 years earlier!

Cover of the ARRL Operating Manual - 1961 Edition showing an operator at W1AW.

Note: the 1961 Operating Manual was "free" upon request by mail to ARRL members; non-members had to pay 25¢ to get a copy.

Above:

Cover of the 2007 edition of the ARRL Operating Manual.

The price for this current edition is \$29.95 plus sales tax and shipping!

Follow up – Origin of the term LID?

In worldwide ham usage for many years LID has meant “poor operator” such as one who transmits without listening first, one who sends poorly formed CW, or any operator who is intentionally obnoxious or who creates unnecessary interference. The oldest ARRL Handbook (1926) notes, without further explanation, that LID is a Morse code term or abbreviation meaning “poor operator.” In current usage, LIDs are not restricted to CW operators, but may also include “poor operators” using the voice, digital or other modes.

AI/KB4BHB offers an explanation for the term which is attributed to WAØDC [at ac6v.com]: “My granddad was a railroad telegrapher. He said that the term lid came from operators who would put the lid of a Prince Albert tobacco tin on the sounder so they could copy the code easier. It was a practice that was frowned on by operators who did not have to do this and it became the slang used for bad operators. They would also say that such an operator had a “tin ear.” While this tobacco tin anecdote from the landline telegraph era may be correct, Europeans, particularly those in the large German ham community, “know” LID to simply be an acronym based upon an English language phrase. The Kurzwellen DX Handbuch by DL2VFR, also available as the Shortwave DX Handbook from the ARRL, states that LID means “low intelligence dummy.” Another book, Using Morse Code - Minimal Equipment, Maximum Results (Morsen - Minimaler Aufwand Maximale Moeglichkeiten) by DL2OBF states that it stands for “lousy incompetent dummy.” Who / which is correct?

Pictures of a few of the 54+ attendees at the 2007 OVH Christmas Party



Invitation to the January 19th ARES Training Session from David/KG4GIY

I invite our non-ARES friends to attend the next ARES training which will be Saturday, January 19, 2008 from 0900-1200 at the Prince William County EOC (Owens Building, County Gov't Centre).

The expected agenda: 1) Upcoming events (and there are a bunch already); 2) Action Plan review; 3) Field Day prep and scope; 4) What we would like to train/practice, both at the Cadre level and working with PWC; and 5) Digital operations (packet, APRS, d-star, digital voice).

I am trying to locate someone to give us a "state of D-Star" in the metro area update (there has been some interesting traffic about that recently) and also someone to talk about conventional packet in this area. If you know an expert who could give us a quick overview, please pass the information on!

David A. Lane, KG4GIY
EC/RO Prince William County ARES[®]/RACES
Tel: 703-628-3868

Prince William County ARES Website:
<http://www.pwcares.org/>

Some Interesting Ham Radio Related Videos

1. Those who remember the days when vacuum tubes were ubiquitous in ham radio equipment probably never saw a triode vacuum tube being fabricated and assembled by hand. Claude Paillard, F2FO, has now posted video at http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x3wrzo_fabrication-dune-lampe-triode_tech which shows just that. The scene titles are in French but the 15 minute video is so well produced that it can be easily followed even by those who do not read French. If you can read French and are interested you should also check out F2FO's website [<http://paillard.claude.free.fr/>] where he has written, accumulated and posted a large quantity of information, including technical details about fabricating vacuum tubes.

2. The youtube.com website now includes many ham radio related videos, but some of the most well produced on assorted "how to do it" topics are those posted by Randy, K7AGE. Search for K7AGE to find them. Topics of particular interest: setting up a Bluetooth Audio Interface, Using the AO-51 Satellite, Remote Control of a station, several on Using PSK-31, and a tour of W1AW at ARRL headquarters.

Some Updates on Ham Radio Related Mapping

1. Early last year your editor mentioned the Google Maps webpage set up by F6FVY and challenged OVHers to replicate it locally which Morgan/KI4OWG was able to do on his website. Enhancements to the Google Maps API have allowed F6FVY now to significantly improve his webpage's ability to display grid locator location areas. When / if you check out <http://f6fvy.free.fr/qthLocator/fullScreen.php> you will now notice that when you input a 2, 4 or 6 character Maidenhead grid locator to be located, the zoom level of the display is automatically scaled for best viewing, boundary markers for the particular grid being located are overlaid and the actual grid location is centered on the display. These visualization feature enhancements are remarkable and make this webpage much more useful for finding grid locations!

2. Do you need to create a printable electronic azimuthal map centered on your QTH? Do you need to calculate bearings or distances to DX locations? If so, visit the webpage <http://dvi.elcom.cz/ok2pbq/prog/main.php> by OK2PBQ which provides these facilities online. Very slick! Will or can some OVHers replicate this locally?

3. An Irish ham, EI8IC, has assembled and posted at <http://www.mapability.com/ei8ic/> a large amount of ham radio related mapping information: numerous DX callsign location maps and overlays; IOTA island bearing / distance calculation table generators; KMZ files for use with Google Earth to facilitate rapid location of IOTA islands, etc. Check it out!

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

Links For A Few Ham Radio Contest Superstations

Lots of Contest Superstations now have their own websites which show their equipments, antenna systems, operators, and often much more. One in Western Pennsylvania is K3LR at <http://www.k3lr.com>. Another one in Morocco in North Africa is CN2R at <http://cn2r.net>. If you're interested in contesting or improving your station, check these out!

Add-ons for the Firefox Web Browser

The open source community for the Firefox web browser [available at getfirefox.com] provides many very useful and free add-ons at the Firefox web site. So many add-ons are there that it is almost impossible for one to determine where to start or what to do. A few tips might help. All of the Add-ons at the Firefox web site are easily downloaded and then installed, uninstalled and even temporarily disabled when installed using the Tools - Add-ons menu on Firefox; as a result there is little risk in trying out ones that might be useful; if you find that a particular Add-on is not useful or doesn't work to your satisfaction, simply uninstall and delete it. A few Add-ons which your editor has found to be useful: "View Cookies" adds a Cookies tab to the Tools - PageInfo display which allows one to view live all cookies associated with each web page viewed; "Tab Mix Plus" adds to the context menu allowing the user to control whether a particular hyperlink will open in a new tab instead of a new browser instance; "JSView" adds to the View menu to facilitate immediate viewing of CSS and Javascript loaded by a webpage being viewed; and "IE Tab" allows a web page to be display within the Firefox browser window using the Internet Explorer DLLs and browser engine. You can find these by searching for the Add-on "name" at the Firefox browser web site. Make your life easier by trying out a few!