

The OVH ARC Newsletter
"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108
FM Repeaters - W4OVH - 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+
D-STAR Repeater - W4OVH - Coming later in 2009: 442.5125+
OVH Packet - Port 1: 145.730 Mhz, Port 3: 223.540 MHz - Sysop: Bill/N4SV
<http://www.w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

May 2009

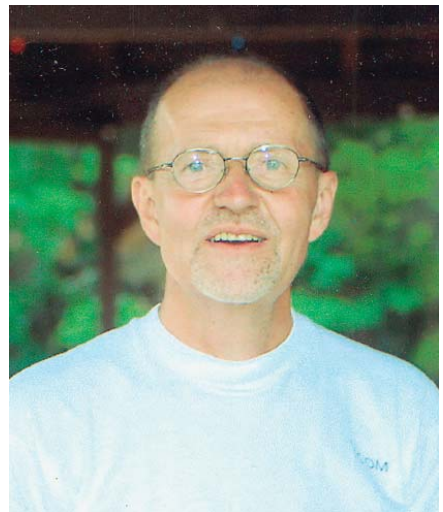
Next Meeting: May 18, 2009

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to all, OVH and general Ham activities continue to rise.

The OVH Hamfest is fast approaching, Sunday, June 14th, will be here before you know it. We have had an incredible number of indoor vendor spaces sold to date. The overflow has begun to fill the second building. This is great news for OVH since many other Hamfests have downsized or just closed down due to lack of participation.

Of course, we can't be successful unless YOU participate. We're hoping all the OVH members will be ready to help. Please keep an eye on the OVH reflector, Chris / KI4POT will be looking for volunteers for various important tasks from setup (on Saturday, June 13th) and during the Hamfest and take down on Sunday, June 14th. Please, please come out and volunteer, this is OVH's #1 fund raiser.



The Dayton Hamvention is being held on May 15th – 17th this year; several of us are driving out to the “mother of all Hamfests”. Not only will we be looking for “stuff,” we’ll take notes and report back our opinions on the crowd, vendors, and general health of the event. I recently spoke to the Dayton Hamfest chair who told me, so far they have sold over 20,000 tickets – well exceeding last years ticket sales; Dayton expect to have a capacity crowd this year. Even though the outdoor flea market has been placed differently from past years, I was told it makes more efficient use of the outdoor area.

The D-STAR 440 repeater to be installed for the OVH is being setup and interfaced on the workbench of Keith / KM4AA. Plenty of work is still needed and Keith and the group is looking for additional volunteers to assist in the installation and setup. Keith will let us know when he'll need our help.

Our thanks to Mark / WA4KFZ who provided the financing for this endeavor, and to Keith / KM4AA for driving this project and all the time and effort he has put into it.

Cont'd on Page 3

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President: George Tarnovsky	K4GVT	791-5956
Vice Pres: Wayne Kline	AG4ZZ	791-2100
Secretary: Wayne Phillips	N7QLK	393-8447
Treasurer: Joe Dobs	KI4OHR	369-2639

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
---------------------	--------	----------

HAMFEST 2008

Chris	KI4POT	361-3257
Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873

FIELD DAY 2008

Joe	KI4OHR	369-2639
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877

CLUB ROSTER

Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877
--------	--------	----------

EDUCATION

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

CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

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

ARES AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042
------------	--------	----------

F.A.R. REPS.

Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234
Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877

FINANCE

Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877
Joe	KI4OHR	369-2639
Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234

GENERATORS

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

HISTORIAN

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

WEBMASTER — W4OVH.NET

Bill	N4SV	590-9562
------	------	----------

EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042
------------	--------	----------

JOTA

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

LEGAL

Pete	KB4RME	369-2436
------	--------	----------

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873
-------	-------	----------

NEWSLETTER

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

NEWSLINE

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

PACKET

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4SV	590-9562

PROGRAMS

TBA

PUBLICITY

Trisha Wells	KI4PCM	335-1096
--------------	--------	----------

QUARTERMASTER

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

REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844

W4OVH / W4PVA — TRUSTEE

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

SCHOLARSHIP

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

SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3556
---------	--------	----------

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

George	K4GVT	791-5956
Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4SV	590-9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
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: 03/25/2009

June will be a very busy month for the OVH with Field Day on Saturday / Sunday, June 27th and 28th following just two weekends after the Hamfest! Joe / KI4OHR is chairman for Field Day and he is looking for your support in setup, operations, and tear down.

Hopefully, sometime after Dayton, we should be back on track to complete to get the rest of the DV board parts together and get builds completed and so that everyone who signed up will be ready to get onto D-Star. It's just taking longer than expected due to work assignments on my part.

The regular OVH meeting this month will be on May 18th at 7:30 PM at the NOVEC Technical Center in Gainesville. Hope to see you at there!

73 George K4GVT

Sunshine Corner:

Birthdays this month: Chris / KI4POT, Bob / N4RL, David / KI4GIY, Jack / N4YIC, Craig / N4WUV, Craig / WA3UFY, Blaine / KB4RKL, Susan / K3SSP, Jim / W4JTP, Bruce / AB8CI and John / KG4NXT. WOW that's a lot of candles and cake for this month, hope you have a great birthday!

John Fritsch / N4YOB (picture to the right), a good friend and a long time OVH member and supporter passed away from cancer on April 19th. His final position held was Director of the OVH. Before cancer took over, John was there to help at all the major club events. Rest in Peace John, Semper Fi.

Congratulations to Tanya Tarnovsky, daughter of George / K4GVT! Tanya was one of twelve students honored at an Education Honor Roll Breakfast and the Prince William County Chamber of Commerce presented her with a \$1,000 scholarship for Academic Achievement. Tanya will be graduating from Osbourn Park next month and will be attending James Madison University in the fall. Way to go Tanya, I know Mom and Dad are very proud and so are we!



Congratulations to Elizabeth / KG4NXV on completing her Junior year at Virginia Tech and for being employed this summer!

Let me know if you have a student graduating this year!

Nancy Johnson from the Bull Run Observer came out to Tony's Pizza on Thursday, May 7th and interviewed several of us for an article on the Manassas Hamfest which should be printed prior to June 14th!

Hamfest is coming!!!! Volunteers are still needed, please contact Chris / KI4POT or Bruce / AB8CI if you can step in and help! This is our biggest event and all hands are needed! I will be working on the Bake Sale table, so I'm asking for donations of bake goods. We have had a terrific response in the past for bake goods, thank you very much for that support. This year's proceeds will be donated to the American Red Cross building fund and I'm trying to raise \$1,000. Along with the yummy things to eat, I will also be selling some of the wonderful woodworking projects by Al / KB4BHB and some other side items. If you have additional items to donate please let me know. Thanks again!

Field Day is also right around the corner, Joe / KI4OHR is the chairperson; he's back in town and on top of all of preparation work needed for this so please let him know if you will be available to operate at Field Day.

Continued on page 4

Happy Mother's Day to all our Moms, where would we be without them?!

Please send your news (email) to kg4tvm@hotmail.com or telephone: 703-257-3566.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting April 20, 2009:

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 21 OVH members present, and one guest.

BUSINESS MEETING

The minutes of the March 2009 meeting were approved. Al / KB4BHB introduced Ross Primrose / AJ4LL.

Treasury report: Butch / W4HJL read the balance and reported that all is in good standing. A 2009 Budget is available for the asking. Report was approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Bruce / AB8CI: One potential new member-Ross Primrose / AJ4LL was visiting, and John / KG4NXT introduced him (again); Russ / WB4HHN was mistakenly referred to instead of Ross / AJ4LL in the April 2009 Sunshine Corner in the April 2009 OVH Newsletter.

ARES: Steve / N4OGR: There are numerous events coming up - Manassas Park Tudor Elementary May 2nd - 5K run volunteers needed; also, volunteers needed for the MS 150 on the first weekend in June. Next ARES training session is May 16th at 0900, at the County EOC; check out <http://www.pwcares.org> for more and latest details.

Repeater: Art / W1CRO: A couple of instances of ducting interference. Otherwise, all is well. The D-Star 440 repeater project is moving along – the equipment has been purchased and software is being loaded; a DSL line for the repeater is being investigated.

Training: Mark / WA4KFZ: The General licensing class concluded with a VE session. Mark would like to offer a Tech licensing class in the near future once a location is secured.

Scholarships: Jim / W4JTP: Information has been sent to all county high schools; applications then flood in a the last moment.

Hamfest: Chris / KI4POT – The OVH Hamfest will be the Sunday in June – June 14th this year. Coordination continues. Tables have been reserved (100), and sales to vendors continue - (56 table spaces sold so far). Looking for volunteers, otherwise all activities are moving along. Fliers mailed. Overnight security for vendors is paramount. Theresa / KG4TVM is requesting items for the bake sale.

Field Day: Joe / KI4OHR - Plans are ongoing, and the next planning meeting is May 7th at Tony's Pizza in the Bull Run Plaza Shopping Center.

Sunshine: Theresa / KG4TVM - Announced the April birthdays.

Packet: no input, no problems noted.

Continued on page 5

PROGRAM

Club members assisted in labeling and stamping the postcard Hamfest announcements mailouts.

OLD BUSINESS

AI / KB4BHB: Second Battle of Manassas Special Event Station (same site) still in the planning stage. More information to follow.

NEW BUSINESS

Art / W1CRO: Recommended discussing Field Day policies, procedures, and how-to's during the June club meeting. The motion was approved.

50/50: No drawing. Mystery box: No drawing.

Meeting adjourned at 19:58, however, work on the postcard Hamfest announcement mailouts continued until completed.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

May 15 - 17, 2009 (Friday through Sunday), the Dayton Hamvention and ARRL National Convention: Dayton ARA, Hara Arena, Dayton, Ohio. Details at <http://www.hamvention.org>. This is the big one!

June 14, 2009 (Sunday) - OVH Manassas Hamfest. Mark you calendars for this now! You'll be hearing a lot more about it as it get closer. Check w4ovh.net for details or with Chris / KI4POT or Bruce / AB8CI. See also the "flyer" which is being circulated for this event which is included in the electronic version of this Newsletter. Set up for this by OVH Club members will be on Saturday, June 13th.

OPERATING CONTESTS / EVENTS

June 27 - 28, 2009. (Saturday and Sunday), the ARRL / OVH Field Day at the Nokesville Park. This is one of the most "fun" events of the year. Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

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

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.

From the ARRL:

FCC Releases Unredacted BPL Case Studies after ARRL FOIA Request

Earlier this month, the FCC released the redacted portions of the studies on which they relied with regard to its Broadband over Powerline (BPL) rulemaking in 2004 after ARRL filed a Freedom of Information Act request on March 31 for the studies. In October 2007, the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit heard ARRL's case against the Commission, stating, among other things, that the FCC not only withheld the internal studies until it was too late to comment, but had yet

to release portions of studies that may not support its own conclusions regarding BPL. The FCC claimed that the studies were "internal communications" that it did not rely upon in reaching its decision to adopt the BPL rules. In its April 2008 ruling, the Court ordered the FCC to release the studies.

In its decision, the Court agreed with the ARRL that the FCC had failed to comply with the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) by **Continued on page 6**

not fully disclosing for public comment the staff studies on which it relied and that “there is no APA precedent allowing an agency to cherry-pick a study on which it has chosen to rely in part.” Writing for the three-judge panel of Circuit Judges Rogers, Tatel and Kavanaugh, Judge Rogers summarized in the Court’s decision that “The Commission failed to satisfy the notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (‘APA’) by redacting studies on which it relied in promulgating the rule and failed to provide a reasoned explanation for its choice of the extrapolation factor for measuring Access BPL emissions.” The Court concluded that “no precedent sanctions such a ‘hide and seek’ application of the APA’s notice and comment requirements.”

Judge Tatel agreed with Judge Rogers, saying, “[I]n this very case the Commission redacted individual lines from certain pages on which it otherwise relied...there is little doubt that the Commission deliberately attempted to ‘exclude [] from the record evidence adverse to its position’”

After almost a year after the Court’s decision, the FCC had done “literally nothing” about releasing the complete studies. When President Obama came into office in January 2009, new Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) guidelines were put in place. Using these new guidelines, the ARRL filed an FOIA request on March 31 for the studies. The FCC responded to the FOIA request and released the unredacted studies the last week of April.

A look at the unredacted studies show that the FCC knew BPL was not a point source, but these same studies in redacted form show just the

opposite -- information proving BPL was not a point source was deleted. In one study concerning Main. net’s BPL system, the FCC clearly disregarded information provided by a BPL provider’s Chief Technical Officer, considering the point -- “[i]f distance scaling were based on distance to the pole ground wire rather than the nearest part of the BPL system, measurements would have passed with 1 dB margin at the selected quasi-peak measurement location.” The FCC redacted a statement made by its own FCC staff that labeled the CTO’s comment as “invalid,” yet retained the comment.

Another unredacted study from 2003 in Allentown, Pennsylvania, plainly showed that BPL was not a point source, noting: “NOT A POINT SOURCE. Emissions exhibit no noticeable decay 230 m down from the coupler.” In the redacted version, this information was deleted, but all other information, including a graph, was left intact.

A study regarding Access BPL showed the same thing, but all information had been redacted from the file, leaving just a blank page. The unredacted study concluded that “The tested overhead PLC devices do not act as point sources. Emission from line shows virtually no decay 230 m from coupler. Differential two-wire signal injection affects the polarization of radiated emissions from overhead devices.”

“Comparing the redacted and unredacted documents will take some time,” ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said, “but these three sets of pages...show exactly what prompted Judge Tatel to say what he did. We are continuing to analyze all the documents and we’ll see just what has been going on.”

What’s happening with BPL?

As noted in the above article, the ARRL only earlier this month received the redacted technical papers from the FCC relating to BPL which the Court of Appeals ordered turned over more than a year ago. No wonder the FCC didn’t want this technical material turned over: it contradicts the “no interference” position which the FCC took! For more details, see <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/08/10811/?nc=1> where you can download PDF files which compared the redacted and unredacted materials.

On April 16, 2009, the Washington Post reported in an article titled: “Manassas Preserves Broadband Program - Funds to Continue While Service Is Studied” that the City of Manassas is now funding (by subsidies from taxpayer money, i.e., taxes collected) the money-losing BPL service in Manassas. Verizon and Comcast already offer [better] Internet services [DSL, Cable and FIOS] which do not radiate interference throughout the City. If you missed this article, it is still available [free] online at washingtonpost.com.

VIRGINIA'S OLE FASHIONED 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)



The 2nd Sunday in June — Rain or Shine!

Sunday, June 14, 2009

Prince William County Fairgrounds

New Expanded Indoor Covered Area For Your Comfort

10624 Dumfries Road, Manassas, VA 20112-2720 (Route 234) - TALK-IN 146.97- 224.660- 442.200+

INDOOR EXHIBITOR SPACE

8-foot tables: \$25 each

with chairs & electricity
(\$20 if reserved by May 1)
Setup 2-10 PM Saturday

GENERAL ADMISSION

\$6 per person at gate

No Advance Sales
Gates open at 7 AM
Free Parking

TAILGATING

\$6 per space (plus admission)

Gates open at 6 AM
Ample Room—25 acres
Setup 2-10 PM Saturday

VE TESTING — Contact David, KG4GIY (kg4giy@arrl.net) for more details

PRIZES

- Door prizes hourly beginning at 9 AM for those present
- Major & Tailgate prizes awarded at 2 PM (You need not be present to win)

INFORMATION

- ARRL Roanoke Division Officers will be attending
- Virginia Section Manager's Forum
- 4th Call Area QSL Bureau Representatives will be present
- DXCC QSL Card Checking will be available
- "Virginia QSO Party" Awards Ceremony
- Food Vendors must have prior written approval from Hamfest Chairman

Our Featured Vendors:



Directions/Details/Hotel Info at our Web Site <http://www.w4ovh.net>

Dealer Information: George (K4GVT) • Tel: 703-791-5956 • Email: k4gvt@comcast.net

General Information: Chris (KI4POT) • Tel: 703-361-3257 • Email: KI4POT@gmail.com