

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+ (now temporarily out of service)
Web Site at <http://w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

May 2016

Next Meeting: Monday, May 16, 2016

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings one and all! If all the OVH activities this past month were food on a plate, most of us would have declined a second helping. Same will be the case for June – lots of stuff going on and lots to do!

OVH's first appearance at the Manassas Air Show on May 7, 2016 was a success! The Air Show brought out an estimated 15,000 visitors; this crowd size was slightly down from last year – due to several preceding days of rain and threatening low clouds early that Saturday morning which is believed to have discouraged visitors and even some vendors from appearing. Fortunately, the rain stopped early on Saturday morning, and the cloud bases rose high enough that the Air Show aerobatics and flight demonstrations could take place without restriction. Great 'thanks' go out to all who participated for the OVH, and especially Theresa, John, and Ed (KG4TVM, KG4NXT, and KK4PHP respectively) who primarily orchestrated the logistics and meeting attendance and coordinations to make this happen. We had a very good turnout of youngsters and adults at OVH's tent. The visitors variously showed interest in hearing Morse code; made inquiries into the licensing process; and expressed interest in using HF SSB; representative of several other civic groups inquired about possible future joint activities (e.g., the Civil Air Patrol, Community Emergency Response Team, etc.). I think the Manassas Air Show should be kept on OVH's planning calendar for future years. See some additional notes and photos later in this Newsletter.



Concurrently, there was the Cougar Elementary School 5K marathon in Manassas Park, with Steve / N4OGR spearheading that effort; and the OVH supported Woodbridge Wireless in the Prince William Forrest for the 24 hour run event, and also supported a MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System) exercise. All of this took place on the same day, Saturday, May 7!!

The OVH wrapped up the weekend on Sunday, May 8th, with support for the

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Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President: Wayne Phillips	N7QLK	393-8447
Vice Pres: Clarence Meese	K4CNM	791-6424
Secretary: Byron Dillon	AK4XR	222-2095
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 2016 - Chairman

Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
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FIELD DAY 2016 - Co-Chairs

Ken	KD4VA	753-7863
Byron	AK4XR	222-2095

CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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EDUCATION

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
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CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Clarence Meese	K4CNM	791-6424
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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 - 2016

Open

LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	WA3FMO	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 FOR MEETINGS

Jeff	WB6UIE	791-5916
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QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

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

W4OVH — TRUSTEE

Stu	W4PR	335-5267
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W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Bill	N4SV	590.9562
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
David	KG4GIY	628-3868

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The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Monday which is held in the Main Conference Room in the Manassas Public Works Building, 8500 Pubic Works Drive, Manassas, Virginia. Members, prospective members and other interested persons are invited to attend without obligation. Local information can also be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.970-, 224.660-, 442.200+ and 443.500+ MHz. The OVH's two D-Star repeaters on 146.865- and 442.5125+ MHz are temporarily off the air due to maintenance work beyond the OVH's control. 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>

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Mother's Day Mini-Tri, with 11 OVH members supporting this; and Terry (WA5NTI) coordinating a planning meeting for our upcoming Hamfest 4H Youth Lounge at Kristin Saul's home.

But that's not all! Mark / WA4KFZ hosted a "Now What?" seminar on May 10th, focusing on recent licensees who would like to learn "now what" to do with their new licenses.

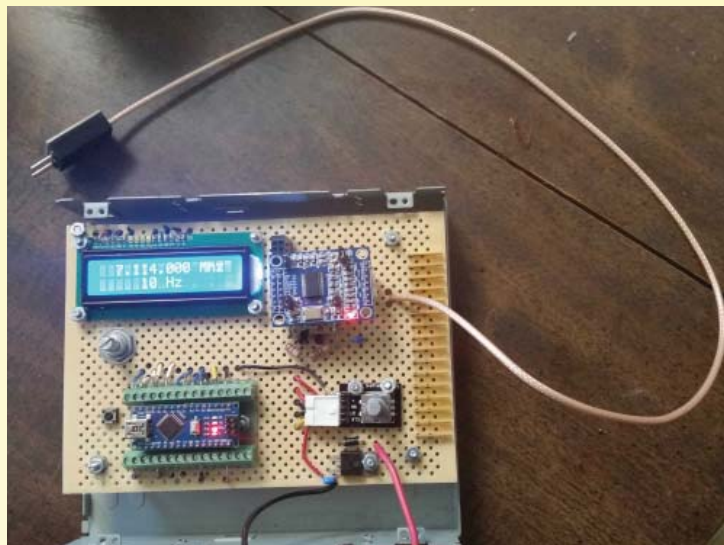
Ham Radio activities for OVHers this month will wrap up with the Dayton Hamvention in Ohio on May 20th-22nd. Several carloads for OVH members are going again this year so make inquiry and check on the OVH email reflector if you need a ride or a place to stay.

In other News, progress continues to made on the Mt. Pone repeater shed; its insulation has been completed and it is now ready to receive the equipment – although final connection to the electric service is still needed. The OVH has also now parted with its two old, behemoth generators; also, the club has acquired some used radio equipment which will be described at the upcoming club meeting on May 16th.

John / KG4NXT will make a presentation about his construction of an Arduino based digital VFO at the upcoming meeting. Turns out such a device is relatively low cost and straightforward to put together and provides an accurate frequency readout with good frequency stability. (See picture to the right.)

I hope to see everyone at the May 16th meeting. Don't forget, the meeting will be at the Manassas Public Works, 8500 Public Works Drive, Manassas, Virginia, starting at 7:00 pm, 30 minutes earlier than the regular start time.

73 Wayne N7QLK at email: N7QLK@ARRL.NET



Sunshine Corner:

Happy birthday wishes for May to David / KG4GIY, Bill / WA4FIC, Steve / N0DWB, Jack / N4YIC, Carl / KK4ZYX, Craig / WA3UFY, Susan / K3SSP, Terry / KC4DV, Jim / W4JTP, Don / KM4HRG, Eric / KK4NXU and John / KG4NXT

Very special thank you to the club members who have been working on the shed upgrades, See pictures later in the Newsletter that were taken by John / KG4NXT.

Another great turnout for the Ladies Choice Mini Tri on Mother's Day! We chased away the rain before the bikes hit the course! Thanks to Raegan and Caelan, my grandkids, for helping me at my post and for cheering on the participants while they completed the bike section of the course. Of course, I have to show my grandkids' pictures (to the right)!



The Manassas Air Show was also on May 7th, this

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past weekend, the rain threatened but stayed away! Special thanks to John / KG4NXT for attending the many airport meetings which preceded the event so that the OVH could participate. Also special thanks to Ed / KK4PHP and Wayne / N7QLK for pushing us to take this event on. Thanks also to John, Ed, Wayne and Al / KB4BHB, Sandy / KM4JUS, Ray / KM4EKR, Byron / AK4XR and Ron / N4RDZ for coming out and meeting with the public to promote ham radio during the event! Great job everybody!

This past weekend was a very busy weekend for other ham events, Steve / N4OGR was working the Cougar 5K run; Terry / KC4DV was handling communications at the Prince William Forest Park for the 24 hour run; and Clarence / K4CNM was participating in an all day MARS training exercise. Looking forward to hearing more about these events at the upcoming OVH meeting on May 16th.

It's crunch time for the upcoming Hamfest - which is very well planned at this point. But if you haven't done so already, please contact Terry / KC4DV to let him know how you can participate on June 18 and/or 19th to help the club out with this major event.

If you participate in a ham event or take your radio on vacation, please send me a photo for the Newsletter. And, please email me with your news! kg4tvm@hotmail.com Be sure also to check in on the Thursday night net. If you don't already know how to do that, go to <http://w4ovh.net> under the "Nets" tab for details.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting April 18, 2016:

OVH Club President, Wayne / N7QLK, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm on April 18, 2016. The early start time was due the pending volume of business. The meeting was held at the Manassas City Public Works Building in Manassas, Virginia.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 30 OVH members and 5 guests present.

Two Presentations: The first presentation was from Ina Nenninger who heads up the periodically occurring "Tri-it Now" triathlon events that OVH supports with communications on the course. The second presentation was by Stu / W4PR, on "Growing Ham Radio."

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the March meeting were sent out in the April Newsletter. Motion to accept March's minutes by Theresa / KG4TVM seconded by George / K4GVT, motion passed.

Treasurer's report – Terry / KC4DV gave the report. Motion by Stu / W4PR, to approve the report as presented, seconded by Jeff / WB6UIE, motion passed.

Membership –There were two new membership applications this month which Luther / WA3FMO (formerly, KJ4FDK) read in: Jeff Fischer / KB4MKL and Ken Jamrogowicz / KE2N. These applicants will be voted on at the May meeting.

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The following applicants for membership, having been read in during the March meeting, were then voted upon: Gil Thompson / KM4OZH, Jeffrey Porter / KM4QVT, Duane Martin / KM4RTB, Kit Farwell / No Call (yet), George White / NT4DX, and Harvey Ghesser / WB6TTF. All were voted in by the members in attendance. Congratulation to all and welcome aboard!

ARES – No report or update.

Repeaters - No changes. Next Friday George / K4GVT and Butch / W4HJL will be tuning and further testing out the replacement 2 meter FM repeater. At the Mt. Pone site, the disconnect for the OVH's new shed has been wired, but we will need to coordinate further with the Service Authority before the final electric service connection can be made. Plans are underway to complete the insulation of the shed before the end of April.

Training- Mark / WA4KFZ will be holding a “What Next” event for all the new licensees on May 10th. Keep an eye out on the OVH email reflector for further details.

Manassas Hamfest – Terry / KC4DV reminded us that there will be two more Hamfest committee meetings before the “Hamfest” on June 19th. The next meeting will be May 4th. Dinner at 6pm with the meeting starting at 7:00 pm. Location to be announced on the OVH email reflector. Everyone is invited to attend. .

Field Day - The OVH will be holding the ARRL / OVH Field Day at Nokesville Park again this year on June 25th and 26th. The application to the park has been submitted, approved and paid. Assignments have all been made. The next Field Day committee meeting will be May 11, 2016. Location to be announced on the OVH email reflector. All are invited to attend.

Sunshine Corner – Theresa wished all those with birthdays in March a Happy Birthday. On a sad note Ed Fleming's wife passed away.

Scholarship - No report

JOTA- no report

Web page - Paul / W4ZB reported that W4OVH.NET and MANASSASHAMFEST.ORG are both working. If anyone wants or needs something posted on W4OVH.NET, either on the public portion or on the Members' Only page, please provide it via email so it can be promptly posted. Please send other comments, queries or specific suggestions to Paul via email.

4-H – Terry / WA5NTI reported on the preparations to date for the Youth Lounge program to be held during the 2016 Manassas Hamfest. In brief summary: “On Track.”

OLD BUSINESS:

Selling old generators. There was discussion on prices for the generators, and John / KG4NXT was authorized to sell them if buyer(s) could be found.

NEW BUSINESS-

The Manassas Airshow will be held on May 7th at the Manassas Regional Airport with

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approximately 20,000 attendees expected. The OVH has been approved as a complimentary 501(c)(3) vendor / participant for the Airshow and will be participating this year for the first time. John / KG4NXT has been attending the weekly preparatory Airshow meetings at the Airport.

BREAK

50-50 - \$26.00 was raised so the winner would receive \$13.00. Theresa / KG4TVM, won the drawing and donated the funds back to the club for the Scholarship fund.

The May meeting presentation will be by John / KG4NXT.

Motion to adjourn by Sandy / KM4JUS, seconded by Al / KB4BHB, motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

UPCOMING HAMFESTS:

Fri. - Sun., May 20-22, 2016 - Dayton Hamvention. This is the biggest one worldwide (in Dayton, Ohio) each year. Several groups of OVH members usually go by car and even by private aircraft. Check around if you need a ride.

Sunday, June 19, 2016 - Manassas Hamfest. See flyer later in this Newsletter, also check out <http://manassashamfest.org> and <http://w4ovh.net> (Hamfest tab) for more info.

Fri - Sun. June 24 - 26, 2016 - Ham Radio Friedrichshafen - this Hamfest in Germany is almost as big as the one in Dayton! More info at <http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/ham-en/>

OVH COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

June 1 or 8, 2016, evening in Manassas, date, time and place to be announced for the Ninth Hamfest Committee meeting for the June 19, 2016 Manassas Hamfest. Check the OVH email reflector for more details. All are welcome to attend.

June 8 or 15, 2016, evening in Manassas, date, time and place to be announced for the Fifth Field Day Committee planning meeting for the June 25 - 26, 2016 ARRL / OVH Field Day event. See flyer later in this Newsletter. Check the OVH email reflector for more details and the time and place. All are welcome to attend.

SPECIAL HAM RADIO EVENTS:

Saturday, May 14, 2016, 10:00 am until 4:00 pm, another BroadBand Ham Net (BBHN) group meeting organized by Clarence / K4CNM at the Central Library in Manassas. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about the local area BBHN activities and scene, with tutorials, demonstrations, equipment swaps, etc. The last such BBHN meeting had about 25 attendees.

Thurs., May 19, 2016, 7:00 am - 5:00 pm, Contest University program, Dayton, Ohio, This is an excellent very full day program which takes place one day before the Dayton Hamvention begins. The program is by no means just about radio contesting; most topic areas presented concern optimizing ham stations including antenna systems, etc. and operations. Lecturers and teachers are among the most knowledgeable in the world. Highly recommended. Go to <http://contestuniversity.com> for info.

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Sat. / Sun., June 25 - 26, 2016 - OVH / ARRL Field Day Event at the Nokesville Community Park, Nokesville, VA. This is a major OVH Club event! See flyer later in this Newsletter. Plan to attend!

Third Thursday evening each month - AMRAD meets in McLean, Virginia - meetings usually consist of high level amateur radio related technical presentations on specific topics. Check the <http://amrad.org> web site for upcoming topics, and exact dates, times and places.

HAM RADIO OPERATING CONTEST EVENTS:

The ARRL has a Contest web page at its web site, but a much more comprehensive, up-to-date, and long range planning contesting calendar with links to the rules for the various events is maintained by WA7BNM at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal> If you get the radio contesting bug or just want to find out what and how much is going on, that is a good place to look!

PUBLIC SERVICE / TRAINING / ARES EVENTS

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

Insulation Installation Work At OVH's New Mount Pone Repeater Shed



To the left: at the May 4, 2016 Hamfest Committee meeting: Terry / KC4DV gives an OVH check to Kristen / (no call), OVH member and 4-H representative, for 4-H expenses for 4-H's participation in the Youth Lounge program at the 2016 Manassas Hamfest (6/19/2016). OVH liaison with 4-H, Terry / WA5NTI, looks on.

OVH at the 2016 Manassas Airshow

The Manassas Airshow has been put on between 10 am and 4 pm on a single day in May each year at the Manassas Airport for a number of years now. See, <http://manassasairshow.com> It has been sponsored and promoted by MARBA, an organization of businesses and non-profit and governmental entities located at the airport itself. In 2015 the event had approximately 20,000 visitors; there were fewer visitors this year (est. 15,000) because of rainy weather most of the week preceding Saturday, May 7th, and a not so good looking weather outlook on the early morning of May 7th. The first picture to the right shows the wet and rainy condition during OVH's initial exhibitor tent set up on Friday, May 6th - with a Marine Corp Osprey aircraft taxiing by in the background. The unfavorable pre-event weather discouraged a number of the pre-registered vendors / exhibitors from actually attending or participating at all and reduced the number of visitor attendees as well - although the weather did improve and did not inhibit the aerial portion of the Airshow at all on May 7th. See, 2nd picture to the right of an airplane performing aerobatic maneuvers with smoke on May 7th.



The OVH's efforts to attend the Airshow began in earnest in February with preparation and hand delivery on Feb. 25, 2016 of its application to participate as a Section 501(c)(3) vendor/exhibitor whose attendance would complement the Airshow itself. A copy of that application as filed is accessible

on the Members' Only web page at W4OVH.NET. The main proponents within the OVH for participating were the various OVH members who are also student, private, commercial or ATP pilots or otherwise interested in aviation activities and who recognized the synergies between ham radio / electronics and aviation activities. Getting approval as a 501(c)(3) organization was critical for the OVH to avoid otherwise prohibitive fees to participate. Once the OVH was approved in early April, it was required to have its representative present at multiple weekly morning pre-event planning meetings and to provide



its insurance certificate. Special thanks to Ed / KK4PHP and John / KG4NXT for attending those meetings and reporting on them.



The OVH exhibitor set up was battery powered with a backup generator and a backup solar panel array. A custom display was created and hand-outs were prepared, an HF SSB station was set up with a vertical antenna and there were two laptops operating to demonstrate Morse Code which is important for aviation where it is still required to be used to positively identify radio navigation facilities. The OVH members who were present at OVH's exhibit solicited and greeted walk by visitors, explained what amateur radio was about, answered questions, offered literature and demonstrated use of the equipment. The OVH exhibit was well manned (womaned??) throughout, and, as a result, may be able to get a more favorable location if the OVH participates again in 2017. A number of the visitors expressed great interest in ham radio, and representatives of other organizations (e.g., the Civil Air Patrol and the Citizen's Emergency Response Team) expressed interest in working with the OVH. More at the upcoming meeting.

GETTING READY FOR ARRL / OVH FIELD DAY - JUNE 25 / 26, 2016

The ARRL / OVH Field Day is always a major OVH event each year. It is very much a fun operating and social event for OVH members and their families and guests. This year it will be again held at the pavillion at the Nokesville Community Park where food (lot of it) will be provided by the OVH. The master cook for OVH again this year will be Phil / AC4PL. The OVH expects to have several operating HF stations (SSB/CW/Digital) at the Field Day site as well as a VHF/UHF station. During the twenty-four hour operating period, one of the main objects is to make as many two way contacts with other stations as possible. Because tens of thousands of other stations throughout the US and Canada will be active, the OVH usually is able to make many hundreds of two way contacts or more. In some past years contacts have been made with all States and all Canadian Provinces. Lots of operators are always needed so save the date and plan to attend sometime during that weekend, even if you can only make it for just an hour or two! The OVH Field Day will also include on an educational (electronics related) program by Ed / KK4PHP.

For those new hams who have not previously participated in a Field Day event, please be sure to go to the ARRL web site: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day> which provides a lot of overall information about Field Day at the national level. Download from http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2016/2016FD_packet.pdf the ARRL's official Field Day 45 page PDF packet which contains an almost overwhelming amount of detail. Fortunately, many of those details are not too important for newcomers, but be sure to read the overview materials starting on page 14 of the PDF materials. Newcomers to the hobby should ask other OVH members for more details about what the OVH does for its local Field Day event or check in past Newsletters available online at W4OVH.NET. Most important for now, save the date(s) and plan to attend at least part of the time!

STATUS AND IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE W4OVH.NET WEB SITE

Your current webmaster took over responsibility for W4OVH.NET web site in 2011; details about that, including some history and what was needed to transition the web site and what was expected to be accomplished, were reported in the July and August 2011 OVH Newsletters. Those Newsletter are available online at W4OVH.NET under the "About the Club" tab.

What major benefits have been achieved from that transition: 1. switching the hosting of the web site to piggy back on a professional hosting service has all but eliminated web site reliability issues. Uptime is now so close to 100% that no downtime complaints about W4OVH.NET have been reported by OVH members to your webmaster since 2011; when web site down does (very rarely) occur, correcting it no longer depends upon one individual or his ability to locate and replace defective hardware, defective or unreliable Internet connections or to reboot or replace defective software. The professional hosting service monitors and detects such problems very quickly after they occur and uses enterprise level back up and replacement server techniques to overcome them almost immediately. 2. new workflow procedures have been implemented so that updates about current club events, dates, information, etc. can be made very easily and quickly on the home page and updated live on the web site within minutes, with an ability to backtrack if needed; the workflow procedures were developed with ease of maintainability in mind. 3. several well established Javascript libraries were adapted to the web site so that certain special features would be easy to implement and activate quickly as needed (e.g., very flexible pop ups and highly zoomable images). 4. a simple Members' Only web page system with a user name and password required for access was set up - to allow OVH confidential information to be posted online and accessed directly by OVH members; 5. procedures were set up so that club officers could securely update online material directly, bypassing the webmaster; however, only one officer so far has ever used that facility. 6. items requested to be put online on the web site and forwarded to the webmaster for that purpose are routinely put online quickly, within days or faster depending upon urgency; 7. summary updated information about the OVH has been written, kept up to date, and is readily accessible on the web site; 8. a comprehensive internal directory structure was created for the web site in anticipation of a major revision which would eliminate the web site's obsolete frames structure. 9. all specific changes to the web site or its content which have been requested of the webmaster have been

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considered and implemented if warranted, or if not implemented for good reasons stated.

What has not be accomplished or achieved yet: 1. most importantly, the web site's obsolete frames (and related directory) structure has not yet been replaced. Why is that? Your webmaster spent considerable time and effort in the Fall of 2011 and in early 2012 working on a specific scheme for revisions to eliminate the inherited frame and directory structure. Then, when the proposed changes were submitted to the then president for his comments, no comments at all were received for months - when some comments were eventually received after repeated requests, the momentum for making those needed changes had been long lost, and your webmaster, a volunteer, was tied up with other matters and had become complacent and familiar with continuing to use the obsolete web site frame structure. This may seem like poor excuses but momentum and continuity is important for accomplishing complex tasks. Your webmaster estimates that making the needed conversion to a non-frames structure will still require several days of concentrated work with minimal interruptions. Currently, your webmaster does not have such time; looking back, the then proposed changes in early 2012 should simply have been made when the momentum to do so was there without waiting and waiting for comments. Those changes still need to be made and eventually will be made. 2. a second important objective that has not been accomplished is to find someone else in the OVH willing to serve as a backup or alternate webmaster - this is unfortunate because it is not good practice in an organization of any size to have just one individual who knows "how an important process works." What if that one individual suddenly becomes unavailable? Of course, all OVH members are volunteers - and all of us have many other demands on our time, engeries and talents; further, a minimum set of web programming and computer related skills are needed to function as a webmaster, and some or many OVH members may not have those skills which require time and effort to acquire. 3. although mentioned several times, including in OVH Newsletters, no OVH member has yet requested access to dedicated, personal web space at W4OVH.NET for learning or for custom web uses for amateur radio related activities; this is perplexing: the value of web technologies for communications has been obvious (and used by me hands on) almost since web sites first became available.

How does the OVH club web site compare to other ham radio club web sites in this area? Look at some of the others (e.g., Fauquier Amateur Radio Club, Loudoun Amateur Radio Group, Woodbridge Wireless, AMRAD, Vienna Wireless, and Sterling Park ARC) and decide for yourself. Look at the amount of content, the site organization and your ability to find information you are seeking when accessing that site. Without being critical of anyone else, I offer the following observations. One of these others also uses an obsolete frame structure (like W4OVH.NET), but has much less content, and does not even have its own web domain. Three of these others utilize highly structured blog template platforms (which are difficult to modify or adapt) and each of those has relatively limited content online. One of the others has a lot of content and a modern, non-frames structure with a lot (perhaps too many) access options to easily find information.

The ManassasHamfest.org web site is another example; that was developed by a former OVH member using a proprietary WYSWYG web developer application - after the first year of its use, the individual who had created it walked away from the site, declined to modify or update it or provide the WYSWYG data and the application used; while that site is pleasing to view and effective for its limited but important use, all content on it is force fitted and positioned absolutely by complex CSS/HTML code; it is time consuming, very touchy and difficult even to make minot modifications as are needed several times each year to update it. After the first year of its use, your webmaster reluctantly accepted responsibility to update and maintain it even though much of the content is duplicated on the W4OVH.NET site. The Hamfest chairman no longer fiddles with it since he took it down completely last year when attempting one "simple" modification. IMHO, that type of web site design is too constrained and difficult to maintain and is not suitable for the general OVH club site.

What is or should be done now? Constructive and specific suggestions for improvements are sought from everyone. Please let me hear from you! If there is interest, I would be happy to lead a 'web site improvement' committee to hold meetings to flush out ideas or consider new web design(s). If someone wants to volunteer as an assistant or backup webmaster for W4OVH.NET, I would be most grateful. If OVH members are interested in learning about web site design and maintenance, I would be happy to tutor on how to use HTML, CSS, Javascript and simple PHP code as well as how to manipulate and adapt images and graphics to web sites.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA'S LARGEST

Manassas Hamfest



AMATEUR RADIO & MAKER TECHNOLOGY SHOW

An ARRL-Approved HAMFEST Presented By:

The OLE VIRGINIA HAMS Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

(Featuring Youth Lounge Activities for the Youngsters Attending!)



Sunday, June 19, 2016

Prince William County Fairgrounds

Large Outdoor and Covered Pavillion flea market areas, two indoor air-conditioned buildings, several covered buildings and ample parking

10624 Dumfries Road - Route 234 - Manassas, Virginia -- Talk-In Repeaters on 146.97- and 442.200+

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
(Age 18 and younger: no charge)
(*See web sites for prepayment discounts before 5/31/2016)
Gates open at 7 AM

TAILGATING (admission is extra)

Outdoor Spaces: \$10* per space
Covered Pavillion: \$15 per space
(*See web sites for details about online prepayment discounts before 5/31/2016)
Gates open at 6 AM

* 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
- Check our web pages (below) for the most up-to-date information

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

Dealer Info from George / K4GVT: vendors@manassashamfest.org

General Info from Terry / KC4DV: chairman@manassashamfest.org

VE Testing / Exam Information: vetesting@manassashamfest.org

ACTIVITIES

- Flea Market & Vendors - all day
- VEC License Exams: 8:00 AM - 10:30 AM
- "Maker" group technology demonstrations
- 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
- BroadBand Ham Networks ("BBHN") Forum
- Virginia QSO Party Awards and Forum
- More Forums to be announced, check web sites

YOU ARE INVITED! AMATEUR RADIO EVENT—OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

2016 ARRL FIELD DAY

Saturday & Sunday— June 25th & 26th 24 hours starting at 2 pm

Nokesville Park

12560 Aden Road, Nokesville VA

EDUCATION ACTIVITY

POT LUCK DINNER—SATURDAY 5 PM, BRING A DISH TO SHARE

FAMILY EVENT

CO-CHAIRS— Byron AK4XR & Ken KD4VA

ak4xr@dillonelectric.com & kd4va@kwd.com

www.w4ovh.net

**THE OLE VIRGINIA HAMS
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

