

The OVH ARC Newsletter
"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108
Repeaters -- W4OVH -- 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+
OVH Nodes -- 145.030 Port 2: 223.660 (SysOp Use Only) Port 3: 223.540 MHz
BBS--BBSNVA/N4WJN (SYSOP--BILL)
<http://www.qsl.net/olevahams>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

JUNE 2001

Next meeting: June 18, 2001

Message From the President

Greetings to All OVH Members:

First of all, thanks to everyone who helped out with the Hamfest. I heard good comments from attendees. And a big thanks to Ruth (KU4WH), David Lane (KG4GIY) AND Susan (KG4JBD) for assembling and staffing the OVH Table at the Manassas Railway Festival. More on this later in the newsletter.

Field Day is coming up on June 23 and 24. We'll hold it at J.S. Long Park as usual. We need help with setup, take down, and transporting the generators and other gear from storage. We also need operations and people willing to talk to visitors. I have a list of what I hope we can have available for our Field Day stations later in the newsletter. If you can help in any way, please let me know.

Finally, if there is someone who qualifies for the Novice/Tech Plus station, please let me know.

73,

Jeff/KV4AP

**"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS"
Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, VA. 20108**

OFFICERS

President: Jeff Poulin KV4AP 361-5865

Vice Pres.: John Palcer K4KGU 540-347-3391

Secretary: David Lane KG4GIY 361-3042

Treasurer: Bill South N4WJN 590-9562

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdell W4HJL 369-2877

Art Whittum KW4AW 791-4330

John Fritsch N4YOB 791-5995

WEEKLY NETS

Thursdays - 8:00 PM KV4AP (Jeff) 361-5865

HAMFEST 2001

Jack N4YIC 335-9139

FIELD DAY 2001

Jeff KV4AP 361-5865

CLUB ROSTER

Blaine KB4RKL 369-2877

EDUCATION

Bill K4WRG 754-7913

CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Brian KE4NFK 257-9545

ARES AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

J.O.T.A. (Scouts)

John N4YOB 791-5995

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Susan Poulin KG4JBD 361-5865

NEWSLETTER

Steve Meade KB4OF 368-6901

NEWSLINE

Jeff Poulin KV4AP 361-5865

PACKET

Alan KD4KBX 330-8844

Bill N4WJN 590-9562

PICNIC

Ellie KF4NBO 361-8059

PROGRAM'S

TBD

PUBLICITY

Steve Frick N4OGR 361-0008

Q' MASTER

Jim N3ODZ 361-2543

REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Art KW4AW 791-4330

Butch W4HJL 369-2877

Erv KT4DS 335-1029

F.A.R. REP.

Ruth KU4WH 331-1234

Mary Lu KB4EFP 369-2877

FINANCE

Mike WV3H 753-9346

Pete KB4RME 369-2436

Mary Lu KB4EFP 369-2877

Bill N4WJN 590-9562

GENERATORS

Tommy KA4AFU 369-2741

HISTORIAN

T B D

HOME PAGE

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Blaine KB4RKL 369-2877

Milt N4SN 369-7265

Mike WV3H 753-9346

Steve N4OGR 361-0008

Alan KD4KBX 330-8844

Steve KB4OF 368-6901

REPEATER TRUSTEE

Art KW4AW 791-4330

SCHOLARSHIP

Jack N4YIC 335-9139

SUNSHINE

Jan KE4TMW 257-0897

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Art KW4AW 791-4330

Alan KD4KBX 330-8844

Bill N4WJN 590.9562

Butch W4HJL 369-2877

Mike WV3H 753-9346

Jimmy WA2QEJ

The OVH Times is the official publication of the "Ole Virginia Hams" ARC, a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio. The OVH ARC meets at 8:00 PM every third Monday of the month at the NOVEC Tech Center in Gainesville. Prospective members are invited.

Local information can always be obtained, at any time, through the usage of the OVH repeaters (146.97- & 224.660- Mhz). All are welcome.

Permission is hereby granted for the reprinting of articles and quotations in this letter, provided full credit is given to the OVH ARC, and the author of the article. Contribution of printed articles by both members and non-members is encouraged. The deadline for submissions is the 5th of each month. Submissions should be forwarded to OVH TIMES EDITOR: Steve Meade KB4OF, PO Box 1418, Manassas, VA 20108-1418, or to sameade@erols.com

Letters to the Editor and Classified Ads are accepted and welcome. Approx. Circulation - 170

Minutes of the OVH Meeting

21 May 2001

The meeting was called to order at 20:01 by President **Jeff Poulin/KV4AP**.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs.

Attendance: 22 Members and 9 Guests

In keeping with tradition, the May meeting started with the awarding of the OVH Scholarships. Art Whittum (KW4AW) acting for the OVH, presented scholarships to:

Joshua Plitt 9KD4TQX) of Stonewall Jackson High School. He has a 4.1 GPA and is graduating 18 of 435. Josh excels in mathematics and enjoys sharing his knowledge with others. Josh is the recipient of numerous achievement and civic awards and has volunteered countless hours of his time and talents to the community. Josh has been accepted into the honors program at Virginia Tech and will begin General Engineering studies at Virginia Tech's College of Engineering. He is also contemplating a Computer Science minor.

Larissa Marple (no call), of Osbourn Park High School. She has a 3.723 GPA and is graduating 38 of 425. Larissa has earned acceptance into several scholastic honor societies, including the National Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society, and the National Youth Leadership Conference. Larissa is an accomplished musician and includes computer programming among her hobbies. She has donated many hours to the Girl Scouts and various other community organizations. Larissa has earned acceptance to the Virginia Tech College of Engineering and hopes to work for NASA after graduation.

Congratulations to our scholarship winners and we wish you the best of luck for the future.

The Treasurer's report and the past month's minutes were passed.

Committee Reports

Repeaters: Art Whittum/KW4AW – Butch (W4HJL) and Art visited the repeater site lately. The coaxial connections between the 146.970 repeater and its duplexer were changed for new cables and connectors. Transmitter power output and SWR is good.

The defective integrated Circuit Oscillator Module (ICOM) was replaced in the 440 repeater. The receiver now sounds like it is now on frequency. Unfortunately the 440 repeater is operating at reduced power. We measured 36 watts output and that was "max". Power output measured at the output of the duplexer was 36 watts with reflected power measuring 5 watts. That works out to a SWR of 2.188. Not good.

What this means is:

1. The 440 repeater PA has a problem
2. The antenna or coax has a problem

We'll have to investigate both and possibly require contracted assistance for the tower work for item 2 and the fix for item 1 is in progress.

Membership: Susan Poulin/KG4JBD. The following were voted in: Charlotte Coghill (no call) and Phil Colling (KG4MJR) . Welcome! Ken Coghill (WB4ZOH), as a past member, had his membership reactivated. Nicholas Garner (KG4KFY) was read in. His application will be voted on at the next meeting.

Section News: Jeff Poulin (KV4AP)

The Virginia Section Manager's office was voided by the ARRL Executive. This means that Lynn Gahagan (AF4CD) has been replaced as Section Manager by Carl Clements (W4CAC), the Section Traffic Manager. More details will follow.

ARES: David Lane/KG4GIY

Training is still scheduled for June 9th. David then went through a brief outline of what AREA is, what RACES is and what the difference between the two is. What follows is a brief synopsis.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) is a group of amateurs who have voluntarily registered their skills and equipment for duty in the public interest. Every licensed amateur is eligible for membership in ARES, regardless of affiliation.

The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is administered by the local, county and state emergency management agencies and provides radio communications for civil-preparedness only. RACES operations are regulated by the FCC and the emergency management agencies.

In Virginia, the ARES and RACES organizations have traditionally been melded, with members of the local ARES teams being certified for RACES operation by the local Emergency Coordinator.

For information on volunteering for ARES activities and qualifying for RACES, please contact David Lane, KG4GIY, ec, Prince William County at kg4giy@arrl.net or <http://www.qsl.net/pwcares/>

Presidential Initiatives: Jeff Poulin (KV4AP)

The display is ready for Railroad days on the 2nd. of June in Manassas. We will be offering to pass messages for people through the NTS at the presentation and we will be using HTs to demonstrate connectivity. The display will be up from 10 am to 4 pm.

The First Battle of Manassas Special Event Station is still on track for July.

We received a thank you from the Hospice of Northern Virginia for the donation in the name of Dick Miller (WD4AZG/SK).

Thank You: Bob McCann (N4RL) -- Bob just wanted to extend his thanks to the club for their support during his wife's illness.

American Red Cross: Keith Bennington (KM4AA) -- Keith briefly covered what Disaster Services does for the county and how the OVH can help the ARC meet its needs for communications during a disaster.

Hamfest: Jeff Poulin (KV4AP) for Jack McDermott/N4YIC

Rent has been paid and the insurance is in place.

There will not be any A/C

Tables, Chairs and the truck have been rented

Our friends from the Winchester Club are ready to do parking

We will have two police officers – one all day, the other starting at noon

Lake Jackson will staff the medical facility again.

We have permission to post signs in the City of Manassas

West Park Lions will do food.

There will be a FAR Rep, Virginia QSO Party, QSL Bureau, DXCC checking and an ARRL Table

The meeting was adjourned at 2130. The next meeting is 18 June 2001 at 2000 EDT.

Submitted: KG4GIY

SUNSHINE CORNER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our fellows Hams – John W4GTL, David N7FAN, Jan KE4TMW, Steve N4OGR, Michael N3MA, Gene, N4HFW, Pete KB4RME and Bob KF4FJC.

Happy Belated Birthday to Nick KG4KFY, who will be voted in at the June meeting. (I just know that we're going to vote him in, because he worked so hard for us all at the Hamfest, without even being a member).

Congratulations to Brian, who passed his test for General Class!

Thanks to all who helped out at the Hamfest. Hope to see you again at Field Day, along with others who can make it!

Keep in your thoughts our friends Bob KF4FJC, John N4YOB, Butchie W4HJL, Alan WA2GTT, Ida (wife of Bob N4RL) , Steve N4OGR and Harry, W4PVA, each with some sort of health challenge. May they each improve quickly and know of our support! Maybe it's time to start an "Aches and Pains Net"!

Make it a good Ham summer – make contacts, talk to others about the hobby and have a safe time.

Thanks, and 73 de Jan KE4TMW

MANASSAS RAILWAY FESTIVAL

This is a big thanks to Ruth (KU4WH), David (KG4GIY), and Susan (KG4JBD) for their efforts at the June 2 Manassas Railway Festival. Susan assembled the displays and materials and answered questions. David put up the banner and helped tie down the displays (a bit windy for a while). Ruth helped to explain how railroad hardwire telegraphy lead to modern communications. The display attracted a lot of attention. Historic Manassas Inc. sent OVH a letter of thanks and indicated that a new attendance record was broken with 31,000 visitors. Hamfest flyers and OVH brochures were distributed. What seemed like endless questions about amateur radio were answered. It was a long and busy day that resulted in publicity for the Ole Virginia Hams.

Jeff (KV4AP)

FIELD DAY 2001

Field Day is on June 23 and 24 this year. Aside from the usual help we need for set up and take down of gear, here is a list of stations and gear I hope to have.

HF: SSB and CW

* 2 or 3 radio (one of which can be the Novice/Tech Plus Station).

Club has one HF rig available

*Antennas for each (The Club has at least a dipole and a tribander)

Note: I don't know how to put up the tribander.

* A tuner for each rig

* Microphones and keys for each rig.

PSK/RTTY STATION: I will supply the set up.

QRP Corner (CW only, battery powered): I can supply this setup. Others are welcome.

VHF/UHF STATION: (6/2 meters, other bands are welcome)

Rigs

Antennas/tuners

PACKET STATION:

Computer / cables

Radio

TNC

Appropriate antenna

Except for the QRP station, all power will be supplied from our generators.

We also need people. We need operators and people to greet visitors and explain what we're doing. (These functions are not exclusive). And for Technician Class members, remember that

you will have full access to the HF bands using the club call sign. There's no need to be on site the entire time. Perhaps a few hours late at night would suit your schedule.

The Club will provide food (burgers, hot dogs, chips, soft drinks, etc.) for a Saturday supper and after take down on Sunday afternoon. Please come by and bring your family.

I'll have further information in a separate em-mail and we'll discuss matters at the next meeting. Please let me know as soon as possible if you can help.

Thanks and 73,

Jeff (KV4AP)

703-361-5865 OR KV4AP@ARRL.NET

Hamfest 2001

Well, we did it again. We managed to conduct a great Hamfest on a great day. The weather outlook was a little scary for a while, but on Sunday morning everything turned out just right, and stayed that way all day.

Despite competing with a couple other Hamfests, and a number of local events, more than 2,000 visitors came to our Hamfest this year and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Several called on the Talk-In frequencies, as they were departing, just to convey a special thanks to our club members for hosting such an enjoyable event.

Ruth/KU4WH and Keith/KM4AA conducted a VE license testing session and hosted more than forty candidates. A nice mix of new vendors attended this year, selling popular items at reasonable prices. A number of vendors later told me they did quite well and will plan to return next year. It was also reassuring to have our two "anchor" vendors, the "Ham Radio Outlet" and "The Radio Works" in their usual places. They alone draw a good number of visitors from the far reaches. There were three vendor no-shows; stuff happens.

Our famous tailgate/fleamarket area was booming, as usual. Visitors found treasure and nearly-treasure items at rock-bottom prices in there. Our two golf cart "boat anchor taxi" drivers earned more than a few grateful smiles by ferrying treasure-laden visitors to their vehicles to unload "boat anchors," then back to the fleamarket for another run at treasure hunting.

The Wickfors family volunteered their services to sell coffee and pastries again this year. The club will now match their earnings and the sum will be donated to a charity of the Wikfors'

choosing. David/KG4GIY, Erv/KT4DS, and their teams of smiling faces managed the ticket selling and greeted visitors at the gates.

Mike/N3NVF and his Winchester volunteers handled the huge vehicle parking effort. They also assisted Steve/N4OGR, Jan/KE4TMW, and their team with the tailgate/fleamarket parking.

Regrettably, space precludes acknowledging every volunteer, but once again our club members came together to organize and host a wonderful family-oriented event. No doubt we earned a little money to cover our annual expenses and augment our scholarship fund. But more, our collective efforts provided for an annual festival where people from all walks of life with a common interest in things technical converged to buy, sell, and socialize. Our visitors sincerely appreciated our hard work, and you should all feel proud of your individual contributions.

Thanks for a great Hamfest.