

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 2002**

**Next meeting: June 17, 2002**

**Committee Chairperson's!!!!**

**Need your input for the Newsletter. The deadline  
for submissions is the 5th of each month.!!!**

(Editor)

**Message From the President**

Greetings to All OVH Members:

The VE session at the Ham Fest was a great success. Ham radio now has 14 new Technicians, 3 new Generals, and 12 new Amateur Extras. The session was busy but went smoothly because of the help of the below listed VEs:

**Keith Bennington/KM4AA**

**Richard Chandler/N1BED**

**Howard Cunningham/WD5DBC**

**John Heartney/KG4NXT**

**Bill Hinely/K9ZD**

**Fred Jungblut/KG4RCB**

**Ruth Frock/KU4WH**

**If you have any ideas for future club functions or meeting programs, please contact me at 703-754-7913 or [K9ZD@arrl.net](mailto:K9ZD@arrl.net)**

**73, Bill/K9ZD**

**"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS"**

**Post Office Box 1255**

**Manassas, VA. 20108**

**OFFICERS**

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Vice Pres: Ruth Frock KU4WH 331-1234

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Art Whittum KW4AW 791-4330

John Fritsch N4YOB 791-5995

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Thursdays - 8:00 PM WB4ZOH (Ken) 361-3482

**MEMBERSHIP**

Charlotte KG4QXO 361-3482

**NEWSLETTER**

Steve KB4OF 368-6901

**NEWSLINE**

Ken WB4ZOH 361-3482

**PACKET**

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Bill N4WJN 590-9562

**PICNIC**

Ellie KF4NBO 361-8059

**HAMFEST 2002**

Jack N4YIC 335-9139

**FIELD DAY 2002**

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**GENERATORS**

Steve N4OGR 361-0008

**HISTORIAN**

T B D

**PROGRAM'S**

TBD

**PUBLICITY**

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**Q' MASTER**

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Milt N4SN 369-7265

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Steve N4OGR 361-0008

Alan KD4KBX 330-8844

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**SUNSHINE**

Jan KE4TMW 257-0897

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

Art KW4AW 791-4330

Alan KD4KBX 330-8844

Bill N4WJN 590.9562

## **HOME PAGE**

Bill N4WJN 590-9562

## **J.O.T.A. (Scouts)**

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Butch W4HJL 369-2877

Mike WV3H 753-9346

George KE2AM 791-7688

Jimmy WA2QEJ

Bill K9ZD 754-7913

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 [kb4of@arrl.net](mailto:kb4of@arrl.net)

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

## **OVH Meeting Minutes - May 20, 2002**

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Hinely / K9ZD at 2002

Twenty six members and seven guests were present.

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

Jack McDermott / N4YIC introduced the 2002 OVH Scholarship winners to club members and club President Bill Hinely, K9ZD presented them with \$1,000 checks. The winners were Brian D. Myhre of Thomas Jefferson High School and Miguel L.D. Guerra Potomac Senior High School.

Following the presentation of the scholarship checks, a break was taken for members to purchase their OVH shirts from Tom / KA4CSG and Marilyn / KA4JKW Phipps.

### **Committee reports:**

Weekly Nets - Ken / WB4ZOH - All is o.k.

Hamfest - Jack / N4YIC - Everything that is supposed to be done is done. Bring a baked item (a walk-around item). We need a few more volunteers. Buildings will be air conditioned this year. We amended our contracts so our liability does not extend to the parked RVs and other places around the fairgrounds. More volunteers are needed.

Field Day - Art / KW4AW - Field Day will be at the Nokesville Park this year. Directions and a map are on the website. We will have a pavilion with about 12 tables. We are cleared to stay overnight. We need to have a meeting just for field day before the next field day.

Education - Bill Hinely / K9ZD - The current class just finished, and several students will take their exams. A new class will probably started in the Fall. Friday before Hamfest there will be a session going for the Extra and General

FAR - Ruth / KU4WH - FAR is undergoing changes. Their financial situation is bad. Autocall magazine will cost more (to \$18 per year). It will have more content. It will still be issued every month still. Ruth asks that we submit articles if we have them.

Emergency Coordinator - Brian / KE4NFK - Nothing new at this point. August 10 is the date for the Skywarn picnic

ARES Emergency Coordinator - David / KG4GIY - David is still signing up people. RACES is having a statewide drill on June 1. Dave again asked that we get an arrl.net e-mail address. Field Day is an ARES event. Dave thanked those who helped with the MS bike rides and walk.

Treasury report - Bill / N4WJN- the Treasurer's report passed.

Membership - Charlotte / KG4QXO- We voted on Dwight Agnew (KG4SUL) - and a reinstatement of Al / KB4BHB. Dwight Agnew / KG4SUL was voted in. Welcome to OVH, Dwight.

Repeaters - Art / KW4AW - Art explained some of the details of our repeaters to our guests.

Packet - Bill / N4WJN - Bill explained our packet operations to our guests. Bill encouraged us to use packet more. David / KG4GIY noted that packet is almost dead in California according to section manager there. Instant messaging and e-mail have caused its demise. We need to use it, or we might lose it.

The minutes of the April 2002 meeting were approved.

National Historical Railway Society - Baltimore - website - [www.starspangledrails.org](http://www.starspangledrails.org) - Tom Podlesak / WA2QAL updated us on this event - This will occur in July 2003. The Society will love to have us. This is a six day event, so many hams will be needed. It became apparent that there will be many details to be worked out, and that with the event over a year away, there was time to work out those details.

The meeting adjourned at 2150.

### **SUNSHINE CORNER**

**Congratulations to Nick/KG4KFY**, who passed the **Extra** exam at **Dayton**, and to **Ken/WB4ZOH** and **Brian/KE4NFK**, who passed the **Extra** exam at the **Manassas Hamfest!** **Congratulations to Steve, N4OGR** for passing his **EXTRA** exam at the Mr. Vernon ARC Exam session. Also **Dwight KG4SUL** and **David KG4GIY** who passed the General written and Extra written. **Good job, all!**

**Birthday** wishes go out to **John/W4GTL**, **David/N7FAN**, **Steve/N4OGR**, **Jan/KE4TMW**, **Michael/N3MA**, **Gene/N4HFW**, **Pete/KB4RME**, and **Bob/KF4FJC**. Hope each one has a great birthday!

Please keep **Bob/KF4FJC** in your thoughts and prayers. He recently came out of the **hospital** again, and is still having trouble with his leg healing properly.

Hope to see you at **Field Day!**

**Thanks, and 73 de Jan/KE4TMW**

### **FIELD DAY 2002**

At the **Nokesville Community Park**. **Set-up starts** during the morning hours of **Saturday, 22 June**. The **OVHARC** will have a **picnic** there at **1800 EDT!** Come one, come all. Field Day will continue through to **Sunday, 23 June** and we start **taking down** the site at **1400 EDT**. More info on **Thursday Night Nets** and final status at June meeting.

Call **Arthur/KW4AW 703.791.4330** or [kw4aw@arrl.net](mailto:kw4aw@arrl.net) to get on the list for operators. we can use all kinds: **CW/digital, Phone** and **other modes**. Also can use loggers to help out the ops. So if you are a little hesitant about picking up a mike or key and "going to town" on the circuit: try logging for an operator, it'll make his/her life easier and give you some now insights into "running a list" or "snaring a contact."

**Cheers, Art/KW4AW**

### **Computer Needed for PACKET**

For many years I've been using an old relic 386SX 16MHz computer for my **PACKET** endeavors. Alas, today the 15-inch color monitor finally died. The computer itself has been telling me occasionally on bootup that it has problems.

Therefore, I am hoping to purchase an old 386SX, 386, or 486SX 486 computer and color monitor. I really don't need anything fancy. Actually, right now I could do with just another color monitor if it has the small 9-pin connector on it. But, I would prefer to purchase a complete system to load my **PACKET** stuff onto.

Probably I could purchase one at our Hamfest but, frankly, I never have much free time to browse at the Hamfest. All you nice folks keep bugging me with problems to sort out...Ha.

So, this message is addressed to a lot of people. I'm confident at least one of you has an old, ragged, slow, computer system you've been promising yourself to get rid of. I'll be pleased to pay any reasonable price and will pick up the system from you as well.

Love to hear from you at your convenience.

**73, 88, etc., Jack McDermott/N4YIC**

## **HAMFEST LINES: THINGS YOU WILL AND WON'T HEAR OR SAY AT A HAMFEST**

**by Clinton Herbert, AB7RG From eham.net**

- "Gee, I wish there were more computer junk here." - If there were anymore, you couldn't walk.
- "Boy those hotdogs were cheap!" - Yeah, if you're Donald Trump.
- "\$3.50 for a small Pepsi? What a deal!" - Perhaps for Bill Gates.
- "No, I don't need any more wire for antennas." - Not possible.
- "No, I didn't disconnect my antennas before I left." - What ham doesn't disconnect their antennas when leaving the house for more than a day, even if the forecast is clear and sunny?
- "Who was Marconi?" - That would be like asking, "What was Hiram Percy Maxim's callsign?" or "How do you calculate the length of a half-wave dipole?"
- "Does anybody have a CB radio for sale?" - An obvious joke and you would likely get into a fight.
- "Hey, those 11-meter amplifiers work great!" - See above...
- "I'm not putting any more antennas on my car." - This is true only if there isn't any room left.
- "No, I don't have my callsign on my car's license plate." - You will hear this only from a ham who is afraid his ham buddies will see that rusted out old Nash Rambler he's driving.
- "I never have any RFI problems." - If a ham said this, his/her antenna would have to be a dummy load.
- "I never have any TVI complaints." - If a ham said this, he/she doesn't have any neighbors. (What a nice thought!)
- "Free Collins Gear!" - If so, it's either stolen or an obvious ploy to get everyone over to the booth. This would also work to clear out the concession stand line!
- "I don't think that it will fit in my car." - Another impossibility; after all, if the price is right a ham will tie it to the roof and/or the hood to get it home.
- "I threw out my junk box." - No ham will ever do this. It might get done for you, however...
- "(Your Callsign), please come up to the podium and pick up your new HF radio. You just won the raffle." - Well, it hasn't happened to me yet!
- "Radio Shack Rules!" - One too many drinks from the concession stand.
- "Great! More Motorola surplus parts!" - Only said if a ham just tripped over another box of it.
- "No, there's nothing here that I want or need." - A physical impossibility for any known ham.
- "I swear this is the last (radio/antenna/other accessory) that I will ever buy!" - Perhaps Ham Radio's biggest lie of all!

**The above brought to the editor's attention by Ruth/KU4WH**

### **Your Average "Stealth Silo" Project**

Having retired after a very interesting and rewarding 32-1/2 year career with the Central Intelligence Agency, the word "stealth" tends to catch my eye when reading. Thus, while perusing the Prince William County "Extra" section of the Washington Post newspaper early Sunday morning, May 26, 2002, something "stealth" got my attention.

It seems the Prince William County, Virginia Planning Department recently issued an update on planned homes, office buildings, shopping centers, and "other" developments. Among the nine construction projects approved for the Gainesville, Virginia area in April 2002, this interesting "other" development is listed:

## **Projects Approved – Gainesville, Virginia**

### **April 2002**

Item 9. Spring Stealth Silo, 14004 Shelter Lane, Gainesville. Special use permit to install a radio link consisting of a 12-by-108-foot stealth silo.

Clearly the Prince William County government and the commercial firm funding this project view "stealth" through different optics than does the Central Intelligence Agency. In the CIA we (almost) never experienced the excitement of having one of our stealth projects mentioned in the Sunday Washington Post. Moreover, our engineers, even after a really terrific night on the town, would never have seriously proposed a stealth project that would eventually stand 108 feet high.

Nonetheless, this is going to be a communications-related stealth silo, and it has captured my curiosity. I shall visit Gainesville periodically to check on the construction progress of this project. Typically, I would include pictures in a follow-up article for our club readers. However, I wouldn't be surprised if there are no pictures to take because, after all, this is going to be a stealth project.

**73, Jack McDermott/N4YIC**

### **Hamfest 2002**

Sure, we got a little sunburned, and a few aches and pains, but what the heck, right? Our newly air-conditioned Fairgrounds buildings provided welcome respite from the hot sun. However, because their doors were kept closed all day (for the first time) it may be that not all our guests realized the buildings were in use, and some may have missed visiting our indoor vendors. We'll have to rectify this next year; perhaps signs at the entry gates, or an oral reminder from our ticket sellers. John/N4YOB installed/retrieved all our "HAMFEST" signs again this year. And, yes, that was Joe/AB4QV way up that pole installing our public address system speakers. Yea guys!

Our Volunteer Examiner (VE) testing session was clearly popular, and has obviously become a Hamfest "draw." Bill/K9ZD, club president and VE liaison, reports there were 36 candidates at the session. Well done, and hearty congratulations to all who participated and were successful. Let's hope that a good number of these happy folks scooted over to our Hamfest and bought a new radio after the VE test.

The bake sale by the Wikfors family did very well, as usual, and we appreciate their time and efforts. The club will now match the bake sale earnings and a donation will be made to a charity of the Wikfors' choosing. By the way, we overheard guests calling on the repeaters just to thank Susan/K3SSP for doing such a wonderful job as Hamfest "Talk-In." We advised guests to use Exit #44 from I-66 and had police officers at the Fairgrounds entrance by 6:00am to keep traffic flowing smoothly. This route appears to have worked out quite well. Mike/N3NVF and his Winchester volunteers did their usual excellent job directing vehicle parking for us.



Our famous tailgate/fleamarket area was booming again this year. Typical for a hot day, the fleamarket started early and ended early. If you hadn't found your treasure/junque by 1:30pm, you were probably out of luck. Our thanks to Steve/N4OGR, Jan/KE4TMW, Nick/KG4KFY and all their helpers for spending two long days in the hot sun to organize and manage the large tailgate crowd efficiently. On Saturday afternoon we observed that a significant number of Hams from the "3938 KHz Group" had arrived at the Fairgrounds from near and far for a social gathering prior to the Hamfest. Charlie/WA4YGI confidently managed the prize table for us again.

Bill/KS4II conducted the "Virginia QSO Party" awards ceremony in the "Show Barn" again this year. As usual, we provided courtesy tables for a number of organizations. Carl/W4CAC, our Virginia Section Manager, gave a 30-minute talk to a group assembled in the "Show Barn." Carl has asked that his presentation become a scheduled part of our annual Hamfest; we can discuss this proposal at a future club meeting.

David/KG4GIY, who, in addition to lifting 16 tons of 8-foot tables, and Doc/W1IMX and their helpers kept things flowing smoothly at the gates. Nearly all our ticket sellers looked to be done "medium-well" from the sun by the time we opened the gates to all latecomers.

The Hamfest crowd and the vendors were noticeably on the "thin" side, an unfortunate but real trend at nearly all Hamfests nowadays. We need to devote some club meeting time during the next year to discuss these aspects. We do not yet have information regarding overall revenue, but we are confident we earned a little money to cover our annual expenses and augment our scholarship fund. Many thanks to Bill/N4WJN for counting three truckloads of one-Dollar bills.

Space precludes acknowledging every volunteer's contribution, but you are all very much appreciated. Without question, hosting a Hamfest requires a great deal of hard work by many talented individuals. Thus, once again we came together as a club of caring volunteers to present a rather nice public event for our community and visitors. You should all be proud of our accomplishment. Thanks for another great Hamfest.

### **Scholarship Presentations**

**Bill Hinely, President of the Manassas "Ole Virginia Hams" Amateur Radio Club, presents \$1,000 scholarship checks to:**

**Potomac Senior High School's Miguel Guerra. Guerra's scholastic efforts resulted in a superb GPA of 4.354 and a class standing 4<sup>th</sup> out of 341. Computer Science will be Guerra's major in the School of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of Virginia this fall.**



**Thomas Jefferson High School's Brian Myhre (below). Myhre, an Eagle Scout and accomplished musician, has extraordinary academic and technical credentials. He will begin his engineering studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) this year.**

