

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

June 2014

Next Meeting: Monday, June 16, 2014

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hello to all and I hope this message finds you all healthy and well following the strenuous activities with the 40th Manassas Hamfest.

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate the OVH club and all of its active members on another outstanding Hamfest. Terry / KC4DV did an incredible job as chairman of the Hamfest committee. Also, the ability of Ron / N4RDZ to think on his feet and his flexibility insured that the vendors had maximum visibility.

We were blessed with good weather and good attendance, but I'd also like to thank all of the many OVH members (and others) who volunteered their time and effort in the many different aspects of putting on a sizeable Hamfest to make all of this happen so well. Without the work that everyone put in we would have not been nearly as successful.

I would also like to congratulate Mark / WA4KFZ on successfully selling everything on the consignment table. I'd also like to thank all the VEs that administered the tests and a special congratulation goes to Gavin / KK4MXT on passing the upgrade examination to get his General class license.

At the upcoming meeting regular OVH meeting on June 16th beginning at 7:30 pm we will spend some time on a post-Hamfest discussions - so the 41st Hamfest can be even better next year. We will also focus on the very quickly upcoming OVH / ARRL Field Day event to be held on Saturday / Sunday, June 28 and 29th. This is one of the most fun club event each year. All should plan to participate and visit during this two day event, even if just for an hour or two. Watch the email reflector and the OVH web site for further details.



Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President:	Justin Anderle	KJ4LAS	571-221-3423
Vice Pres:	Clarence Meese	K4CNM	791-6424
Secretary:	Ron Zuber	N4RDZ	206-423-0602
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 2014

Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
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FIELD DAY 2014

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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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 - 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

Scott	KB8NUM	365-2642
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LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	KJ4FDK	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

Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
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QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Russ	WB4HHN	368-6435

W4OVH / W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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SUNSHINE

Theresa (Acting)	KG4TVM	257-3566
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
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 each month at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House at 9930 Liberia Avenue, Manassas, Virginia. Members, prospective members and other interested persons are invited to attend. Local information can also be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.970-, 224.660-, 442.200+ and 443.500+ MHz or D-Star repeaters on 146.865- and 442.5125+ MHz. 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>

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.

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Sunshine Corner:

Happy Birthday wishes in June to Jan / KE4TMW, Emma (no call), Steve / N4OGR, Doris / KI4DAL, Wayne / AG4ZZ, Gene / N4HFW and Bob / K4HJF.

WOW, another Hamfest on the books. We were very lucky to have had nearly perfect and beautiful weather – so much so that almost all tailgate flea marketers wanted just to be outside! Special thanks to our Hamfest Chairman, Terry / KC4DV and his many assistants and helpers. I spent most of my time at the club / drawing table and had many, many attendees tell me they really enjoyed attending the Hamfest this year. I look forward to hearing everyone's reports at the June 16th meeting.

Congratulations to our 3 newly married couples – Tanya & Alex Roy, Elizabeth & Nick Shimondle and Zachary & Caitlan Dillon. I haven't seen pictures from the Dillon wedding but there is a pretty impressive YouTube video of the mother & son dance!

To the right is a picture of Elizabeth / KG4NXV at her "location wedding" in Scotland last month!

Now that Tanya is wed, George / K4GVT will, we hope, find time to return to his ham radio activities! A picture of Tanya after the wedding with proud father George on the far right, including a number of the hams who attended the wedding, at a scenic location on one of the bluffs overlooking the Hudson River at West Point appears below.

Now, the next big OVH event will be Field Day later this month. This is one of most fun Club events of the year. Don't forget about the pot luck supper on Saturday evening! It's also not too late to sign up to volunteer for Field Day, contact John at kg4nxt@arrl.net for Field Day information. Check out the OVH web site, the OVH email reflector, and the Thursday evening OVH VHF/UHF FM repeater net for last minute details about Field Day.

If you have any news for the Sunshine Corner, good or bad, please send me an email kg4tvm@hotmail.com or call me at 703-257-3566.

Theresa KG4TVM



Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting

May 19, 2014:

Justin / KJ4LAS called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Meeting was held at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House in Manassas, Virginia.

All present stated their names and call signs. There were 20 members and 5 guests.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the February meeting were approved as read and amended, motion by Butch / W4HJL and seconded by Bob / K4HJF.

Treasurer's Report – Terry / KC4DV gave the report, motion by Terry / WA5NTI and seconded by Bob / K4HJF approved as presented.

Membership – Luther / KJ4FDK reported no new applicants this month. Membership voted in Andrew / KK4ZUZ unanimously.

ARES – No Report

Repeater – Keith / KM4AA, had a question about George's repeater which seems to be timing out on the link. It keeps dropping out more and more often. Keith will get with George and see what can be done when George K4GVT returns after Tanya's wedding.

Training – Mark / WA4KFZ – Report by email, nothing new to report.

Scholarship – No Report.

Hamfest – Terry / KC4DV - Steve / N4OGR needs volunteers for work with parking tailgaters. Club consignment table is also in need of volunteers to assist Theresa / KG4TVM throughout the day. Next and final Hamfest committee meeting will be May 28th, 6pm dinner and 7 pm meeting at Panera's on Liberia Avenue. Looks like we will be selling to sections of Rohn towers at the consignment table.

Field Day – John / KG4NXT (and Theresa / KG4TVM) are on vacation and attending Elizabeth's wedding in Scotland's but everything seems ready. Steve / N4OGR reported he had checked out the generators and they are working fine. However they are old and heavy. The club should consider selling these and buying new lighter and state of the art generators for emergency power. No action was taken. Steve will return to the club with all the information on new generators and their costs at the next meeting.

Sunshine Corner – No report.

Web Page – Paul W4ZB reported that the Club web site (W4OVH.NET) as well as the Hamfest only web site (MANASSASHAMFEST.ORG) are both up and running.

4-H / Youth Lounge – Terry / WA5NTI reported that Woodbridge Wireless will be helping with the Youth Lounge during the Hamfest. Also an older ham has contacted Terry and wants to donate his station and but does not want his equipment sold. His station consists of HF, VHF and UHF equipment some receive only as well as a liner amp. Need to find a location to make a training facility first. Give Terry a shout if you have any ideas. Windora / KK4UYY will check to see if Capitol Area BSA can provide location. The Youth Lounge is ready to go for Hamfest when the special call, N4H, will be active.

Break – No 50-50 tickets sold.

Terry / KC4DV provided a video by Gordon West on HF mobile antennas.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Terry / WA5NTI and seconded by Al KB4BHB. All voted to approve. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

July 17 - July 19 (Thursday - Saturday) - ARRL Centennial National Convention in Hartford, Connecticut. A few OVH members may be attending although it is not necessary to attend all days. This will be a big event celebrating the ARRL's 100th year!

August 3, 2014 (Sunday) - Berryville, Virginia Hamfest. Always a mid- summer favorite for OVH members within an hour's drive. More info at <http://www.shenvalarc.org/hamfest>

ARRL / OVH FIELD DAY:

Saturday/Sunday - June 28 / 29, 2014 - Save these dates for what is always one of the most "fun" OVH club operating and social events during each year. The event location is returning to the pavillion at the Nokesville Community Park again this year. Check with John / KG4NXT, Chairman for more details, and look for more in this OVH Newsletter and in the June issue for more info.

TRAINING / SEMINAR EVENTS:

Second Thursday evening each month, AMRAD meetings, McLean, Va. - see amrad.org for details.

OPERATING CONTESTS:

Information about many other operating contests almost every weekend and each month can be found on the WA7BNM's excellent web at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal>

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.

Report on Low Power Portable Operating in Scotland, England & Ireland

John / KG4NXT and Theresa / KG4TVM recently travelled in Scotland, England and Ireland.

John did some investigation ahead of time and learned there is a CEPT Reciprocal treaty that makes it easy to operate in those countries which have agreed to the treaty. This now includes most all of Europe, including Scotland, England and Ireland. To be legal to operate in those countries, you need 1) an original copy of your US FCC ham license, 2) proof of your US citizenship – your passport qualifies for that, and 3) a copy of the FCC Public Notice about the CEPT which contains the information in English, French and German. Extra Class and Advanced Class licensees get full reciprocal operating privileges; General and Technician licensees get limited privileges. More information is available at <http://www.arrl.org/cept>

For the trip, John carried his HT, and his 5 watt FT-817 with an LDG autotuner for the 817. In order to match up an end fed random wire antenna, John also carried the 9:1 un-un. (How to make this 9:1 un-un device will be an educational activity at Field Day.)

Elizabeth / KG4NXV got married in a 13th century castle near Edinburg, Scotland. John and Theresa had a room in the 4th story in the Castle, a lot of steps to climb because there are no elevators, but good for ham radio contacts. After dusk, John dropped a 40 foot random wire out of the castle. The castle walls are about 6 feet thick, made of stone but very little metal. John was able easily to good SWR matches on the 15, 20 and 40 meter bands. John had a SSB contact with Portugal on 15 meters with a 59 signal report - the best signal report he had ever gotten using the 817. John also operated from the 3rd story of a hotel in Edinburgh where one of the Harry Potter books had been written. From there, John was able contact a station near Moscow. John tried out his HT in Scotland and could trip some repeaters but made no repeater contacts.

Next, John operated from his brother's London townhouse to show ham radio to his 9 year old niece. Conditions were not very good and the antenna system was not very good, but John was able to contact a station in Wales. That was not great DX but impressed his niece.

In Ireland, John operated from the ground floor of a bed and breakfast. That was his worst antenna location since the antenna was only about 5 feet high. Nevertheless, he was able to contact a station in England and got a 53 signal report.

Overall, John was pleased with the operating possibilities and experience. Nothing more than the normal hassles and inconveniences occurred with airport security.

Air Conditioning Installed in the NOVEC Repeater Shed

The NOVEC repeater shed next to the NOVEC antenna tower on Lomond Drive houses three of the OVH FM repeater systems as well as various NOVEC commercial radio systems. Special thanks to Steve / N4OGR and Bryon / AK4XR who recently installed an air conditioning unit for the shed which will keep the shed cooler in the summer and help maintain a higher equipment reliability. Two pictures below.



A Few Pictures from the 40th OVH Manassas Hamfest - June 8th, 2014



Left - Almost filled Parking Area - Lots of Attendees

Below and below left - view of some Youth Lounge activities and Special Event Station: N4H demo for some kids



Below (left & right) - Busy Indoor Vendors



Below & right - Outdoor Flea Market Activities



ARRL / OVH Field Day - June 28 / 29th at the Nokesville Community Park

Planning for the OVH Field Day event on June 28 /29 is almost complete by the Field Day Committee led by John / KG4NXT, Chairman. The event is returning to the Pavillion at the Nokesville Community Park this year - see the Google Maps aerial view image by Clarence / K4NCM, below, with an overlay of HF antenna locations with feedlines to the covered Pavillion.



Field Day has been promoted and sponsored by the ARRL each year (WW2 years excluded) since the late 1930's. See, <http://www.arrl.org/field-day> for more info. More here next month about the upcoming OVH Field Day!

More recollections of past Field Days. Your editor's second "in the field" Field Day was in 1963 when he teamed up with a high school ham friend, Ken / K1YWL [now AK1Q], located a generator, a pavillion tent, use of a car and found an "out of the way" wooded site in an "abandoned" apple orchard near the Mianus Reservoir in Connecticut to operate from as a 2 operator Field Day station. Unlike in his 1962 Field Day operation [described in last month's newsletter], in 1963 we had some SSB equipment to use; SSB was then a relatively new ham mode, but it was much more effective than AM for voice operations. This was good because K1YWL preferred voice operations and ham SSB use was then growing very rapidly and replacing AM for voice operations. We also managed to borrow a Heathkit Twoer from another high school ham buddy - a 5 watt, crystal controlled vacuum tube AM transmitter with a super-regenerative receiver in a "lunch box" type box which operated on the 2 meter band. With a homemade short, hand rotatable yagi antenna for 2 meters, the Twoer turned out to work quite well and we made 20+ contacts with it, mostly with stations on Long Island across Long Island Sound from our high ground. Low power, crystal controlled AM operation was then still very popular on 2 meters; at that time, 2 meters had no FM repeaters and almost no FM operations. That year the two of us made about 200 contacts on CW, SSB and AM and had a great time. Because of our relatively "remote" location off of a lonely, seldom travelled road in a relatively unpopulated area, we had not been able to determine who owned the land or get permission from any landowner for our operation. [The truth: we were teenagers and had not tried very hard.] Whether someone reported our low profile operation or a patrolling police officer spotted our lights back in the woods, I don't remember, but I do remember we had a late night "visit" by a police officer which startled us initially. But after talking with us to find out what we were doing, inspecting our setup and getting our identification information, the police officer departed, allowing us to continue our operation.

THE OLE VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

WELCOMES YOUR ATTENDANCE

THIS YEAR AT

NOKESVILLE PARK FOR 24 HOURS

FIRST RADIO CONTACT AT 2 PM SATURDAY

GET ON THE AIR!

www.w4ovh.net

GOTA STATION

EDUCATION ACTIVITY - END FED ANTENNA

POT LUCK DINNER - 5 PM SATURDAY

PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE

NOKESVILLE PARK - 12560 ADEN ROAD, NOKESVILLE VA
AT THE PAVILION, NEAR THE BACK OF THE PARK

ENJOY THE FELLOWSHIP AT THIS FAMILY EVENT!



More information contact

John KG4NXT at

kg4nxt@arrl.net

or

703-789-6449