

The OVH ARC Newsletter
"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108
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<http://www.w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

July 2008

Next Meeting: July 21, 2008

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings again to all! What a busy month June turned out to be! The OVH had a wonderful recognition dinner for Mary Lu/KB4EFP and Butch/W4HJL, a very successful Hamfest, and a great Field Day - all during the month of June.

OVH's 2008 Field Day operations were carried out at Nokesville Park in Nokesville, Virginia substantially as planned. A big round of applause is due to John/KG4NXT who did a super job as Field Day Chairman this year. The OVH operated in the 3A category, plus GOTA and Satellite.

We put up two towers, a huge wire loop, several dipoles and the Satellite antennas. With all that work and getting the equipment to the site,

installing it, taking it down, and putting it away with care for next

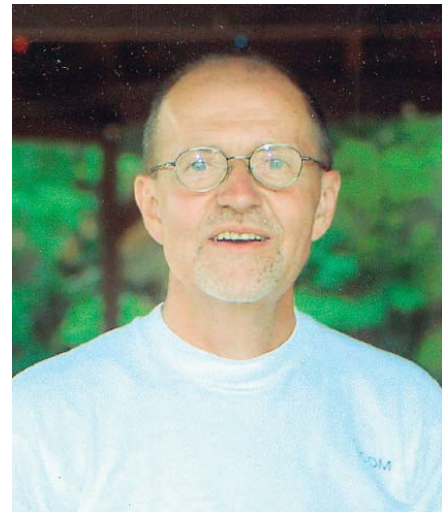
year (special thanks to Steve/N4OGR). We had a good turnout of operators although perhaps more could have come! Everyone who did come had lots of fun. Detailed results and our claimed 3A score appear later in this newsletter.

Bob/N4SCK and Judy/KC4WES deserve special thanks for keeping everyone well supplied with excellent food! We truly have real talent in many area in our club and a very good collective knowledge base for getting results efficiently with a team effort. The 2008 Field Day wouldn't have worked out so well without the enthusiasm of everyone who volunteered to help out and who participated.

During our Field Day this year I noticed we're perhaps lacking in one area - a safety officer who oversees everything. Importantly, no one was injured and there were no accidents (or even near accidents) this year despite the number of potentially dangerous activities (e.g. putting up and taking down towers) when accidents could easily occur. I suggest for next year we should consider having someone with a lot of experience specifically oversee safety issues as they arise, provide advice and make go/no go decisions about undertakings that could result in injury or property damage. This could help everyone to keep up our good safety record.

We can consider this initially at the upcoming meeting (July 21st) when we critique 2008 Field Day and get the final results on the Hamfest. One other subject relating to Field Day: several have

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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
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HAMFEST 2008

Chris	KI4POT	361-3257
Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873

FIELD DAY 2008

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
Butch.	W4HJL	369-2877

CLUB ROSTER

Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877
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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 AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042
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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
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WEBMASTER — W4OVH.NET

Bill	N3OH	590-9562
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EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042
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JOTA

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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LEGAL

Pete	KB4RME	369-2436
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Joe Dobs	KI4OHR	369-2639
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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NEWSLINE

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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PACKET

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N3OH	590-9562

PROGRAMS

TBA

PUBLICITY

Trisha Wells	KI4PCM	335-1096
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QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Milt	N4SN	369-7265
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844

W4OVH / W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3556
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Art	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N3OH	590-9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
George	K4GVT	791-5956
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.

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suggested that we consider other locations for our Field Day site next year, possibly somewhere where there might be more "walk in" visitors. We'd like to hear all views on this, keeping in mind that the Nokesville Park location has worked very well for us for several years now in most respects.

I look forward to seeing everyone at upcoming club meeting, Monday, July 21st, 7:30 pm at the NOVEC Technical Center in Gainesville, Virginia.

73 George K4GVT

Sunshine Corner:

Birthdays in July – starting off the month on the 1st with Ken / WB4ZOH and Steve / KB4OF, then we have Philip / KI4WGC, George / K4GVT, Mike / KC4ZNQ, Dwight / AI4II, John / N4YOB, Jake / KI4SPX, Brenda / WD4RKH and Ken / KB4BWM. Hope you all have a great birthday!

Month of June events recap – What A Month!!!! I think it's safe to say that there was something for everybody to do in June! Starting off with the dinner for Butch & Mary Lou, the 2008 OVH Manassas Hamfest, the Mini-Tri, the ARES events and last but not least OVH's 2008 Field Day! I have to say that I think it was wonderful to see our Club members come together in June for all of these activities.

Special thanks to Bob / N4SCK and Judy / KC4WES for taking such good care of us throughout the 2008 Field Day event - cooked and feed us the entire weekend! No one there could possibly have been hungry, outstanding job!

Congratulations to Rachel, daughter of Joe / KI4OHR, daughter who graduated from Cedar Point Elementary, she will be attending Marstellar Middle School in the Fall.

Congratulations also to Bob / N4SCR who has successfully upgraded to Extra!

Bruce / AB8CI has a new Ham Radio Operator at his home; his son David is now KJ4EPF. David passed the licensing examination during the 2008 OVH Hamfest, WAY TO GO!!!!

Hope everyone had a Patriotic Fourth of July; watch out for the dog days of summer now coming up on us!

Please send me items for next month: kg4tvm@hotmail.com or 703-257-3566.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting June 16, 2008:

George / K4GVT called meeting to order at 1930 Eastern Time.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. Twenty-two (22) OVH members were present.

BUSINESS MEETING

George / K4GVT noted that pictures from the recognition dinner for Mary Lu / KB4EFP and Butch / W4HJL have been posted on K4GVT's website.

George / K4GVT: BPL- Update. The City of Manassas is now looking into using BPL for remote reading of its utility meters.

The minutes of the May 2008 meeting were approved.

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Treasury report: Balance is in good standing. Report approved. No final figures yet for the Hamfest results.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Joe / KI4OHR - no new membership applications to report.

ARES: David / KG4GIY - There are numerous events coming up; check out [http:// pwcares.org](http://pwcares.org) for all details. The next ARES training session will be on July 19th at 09:00 at the Prince William County Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Repeaters: Art / W1CRO - All checks out and working.

Training: Brian / WC4J has put his proposed Technician Class on hold. He needs a volunteer to assist him in conducting the class (tentatively two Saturdays), contact Brian.

Scholarships: A 'thank you' letter was received from the 2008 recipient, Benjamin White.

Hamfest: The Bake Sale netted \$246. An estimated total of \$1,683 was received. Brian / WC4J suggested club match with \$400 – for a charity: the American Red Cross building fund. Motion passed. Special thanks to Chris / KI4POT and to Bruce / AB8CI. Generally, vendors were pleased that the Hamfest was moved to the to the second Sunday in June, avoiding conflicts with the Rochester, New York hamfest. Many vendors expressed desire to return next year. More complete report next month.

OVH Field Day: John / KG4NXT - summarized the plans: At Nokeville Park again this year on June 28th and 29th, set up on Saturday morning, take down on Sunday afternoon. Lots of volunteers needed, especially for set up and take down and to operate. Bob / N4SCK and Judy / KC4WES will fill in with cooking and food for Phil / AC4PL who will not be available. Will have a GOTA station, a Satellite station and a Solar powered station. Plan to check in on the Thursday night net on June 26th for last minute details.

Sunshine: Theresa / KG4TVM - Announced June birthdays - Happy birthday each of you!

Packet and W4OVH.net website: Bill / N3OH – all going well when there is electric power.

PROGRAM

Brian / WC4J presented a fox hunting video. He also is willing to assist anyone interested in hosting a fox hunt event.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

No 50/50; No Mystery box.

Meeting adjourned at 21:05.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

Sunday, August 3, 2008. Berryville, Virginia - Berryville Hamfest put on by the Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club. Go to <http://www.svarc.us/hamfest/> for more info.

September 20-21, 2008. Virginia Section ARRL Convention, Virginia Beach, Virginia. More details at <http://vahamfest.net>.

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OPERATING EVENTS:

Saturday, August 30th, 2008, OVH Special Event Station commemorating the Second Battle of Manassas. More details to follow on this.

OTHER EVENTS:

Thursday, August 14th, 2008, 7:30 PM at the Dolley Madison Library in McLean, Virginia. Greg Le Sage, N6LYU, will give a talk on propagation and the ionosphere, how and why radio signals reflect. This is a regular AMRAD meeting at which someone who is usually a technical expert on a given topic is invited to speak. Non-members may attend without obligation. More information, including details about the location, at: <http://amrad.org>.

UP-TO-DATE INFO ABOUT OTHER CONTESTS / OPERATING EVENTS

WA7BNM maintains an excellent Contest Calendar website at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>. The ARRL's operating events / contest calendar web page is at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>. This includes a link to ARRL's Special Event activities listings at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>

Just a few images from the 2008 OVH Manassas Hamfest:



Measuring and Preparing Areas for Outdoor Vendors Before the Hamfest

Inside the Main Commercial Building just before the Vendors arrived



Vendor ready to unload



Inside the Main Commercial Building during the Hamfest

Note: more photographers needed for the 2009 Hamfest!

Locals plan to ham it up at radio field day at Nokesville Community Park

By JAMES IVANCIC
Observer staff

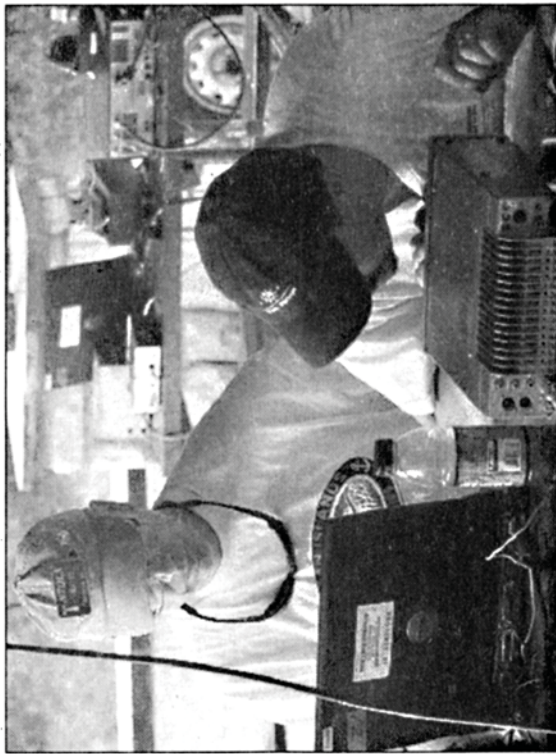
John Heartney became hooked on talking to people over a ham radio set when he was a high school student. He's 56 and still has the bug.

He's the past president of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, a group of like-minded people who annually hold a public event that is part competition and part demonstration to introduce people to what being a ham radio operator comprises.

This year's two-day Ride the Waves Field Day is being held from 2 p.m., June 28, to 2 p.m., June 29, at Nokesville Community Park at 12560 Aden Road. The "hams" will set up antennae and radio equipment and compete against other clubs for points awarded for the number of contacts they make and for other achievements.

The event has a serious purpose, Heartney said. "We demonstrate our emergency capability by doing it in the field," he explained. They can work out the kinks by practicing setting up and operating under emergency conditions in case their skills are ever needed in a disaster.

Visitors who drop by the club's field day in Nokesville will



Wayne Phillips, left, and David Meola participated in last year's Ole Virginia Hams field day. Courtesy photo

see "lots of antennae, lots of gear," Heartney said. One member will bring a satellite system that costs \$50,000. Another member will bring a Red Cross emergency communications van that has a satellite dish, enabling 35 conversations at once.

There will be antennae-building demonstrations, and visitors can take a turn talking to someone on the air. They can bring some food to share during the club's potluck supper in the park, scheduled for 6 p.m. on June 28.

Heartney figures there will be

been a woman president of the Ole Virginia Hams, Ruth Frock.

Working the radio is a passion. "It's still a thrill for me," Heartney said. "To find a satellite rising and contact somebody in Canada, I still enjoy it."

Starting out in ham radio operation requires a Federal Communications Commission license, Heartney said. Learning Morse code is no longer required. The initial equipment outlay to get started costs \$300 or less. A person can buy a basic "handy talky" piece of communication equipment and a couple of antennae. It would be possible to reach some-

body in Maryland and Pennsylvania with that basic set, Heartney said. If you get hooked, equipping your car for ham radio is the next step. For someone really into ham radio, "top-end" equipment can cost \$10,000, according to Heartney.

Digital signal processing is the latest thing in ham radio. "It takes 10 seconds to boot up and is part computer, part traditional radio," Heartney said.

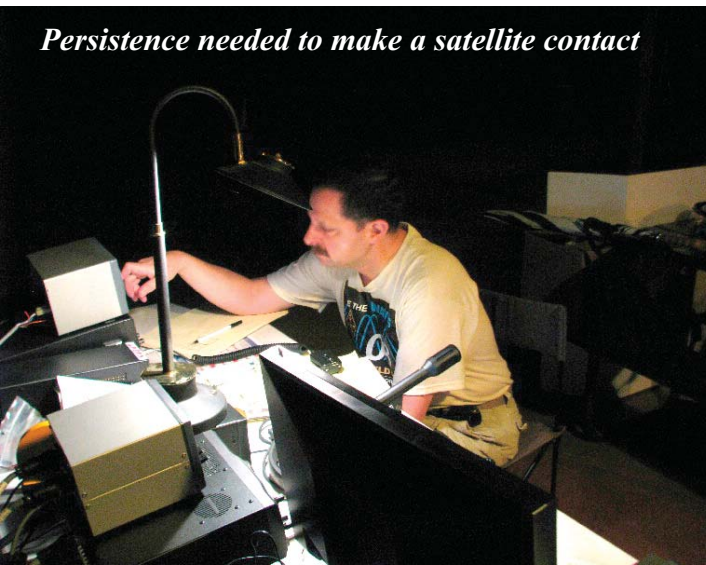
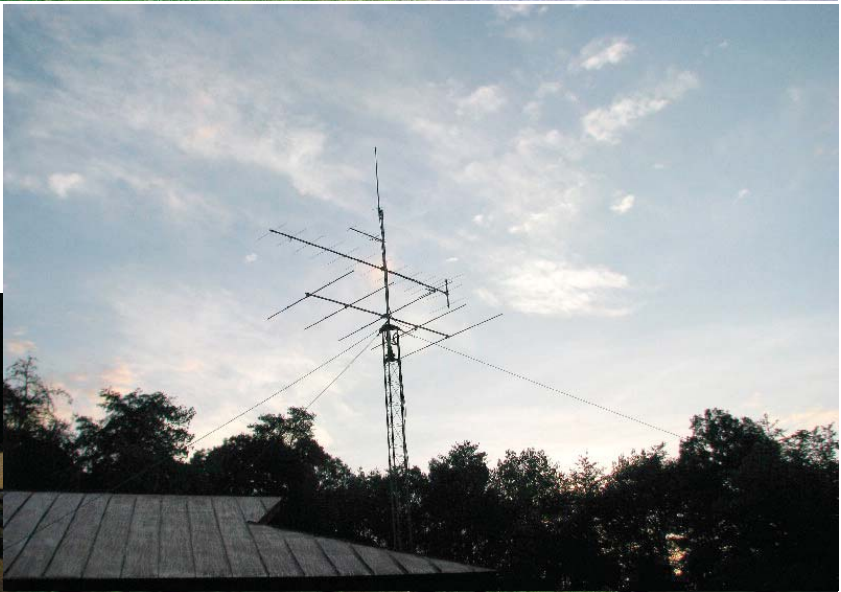
To learn more about ham radio, join the Virginia Hams at the two-day field event or contact Heartney at 703-257-3566 or at kg4nxt@aol.net.

The article reprinted on this page appeared in the June 27, 2008 issue of the Bull Run Observer newspaper which is delivered to about 45,000 residences in Bristow, Broad Run, Gainesville, Haymarket, Nokesville, Catharpin, Manassas and New Baltimore in Prince William County and Fauquier County - just before OVH's 2008 Field Day Event

Images from OVH's 2008 Field Day Event - June 28th & 29th, 2008:



VHF and UHF antenna arrays



Some more images from 2008 OVH Field Day:



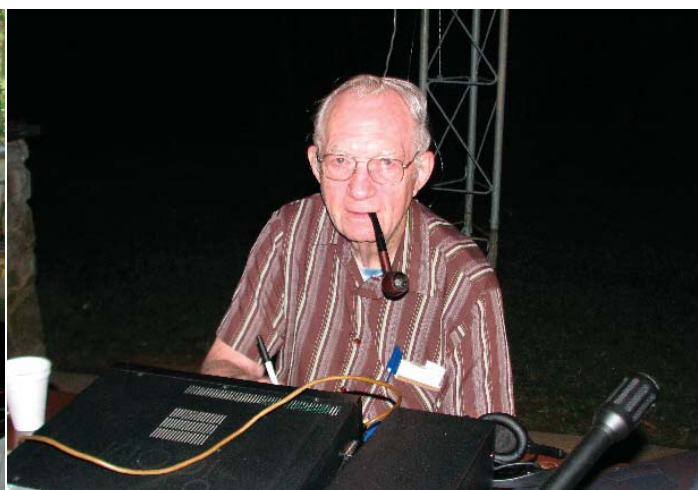
The Satellite Station Set up During Daylight



SSB (voice) operation on HF Bands



Morse Code (CW) Station Operation During Daylight



CW Operation At Night



Red Cross was there!



Solar Cell Arrays for the Solar Powered Station!



Part (1/2) of the Cooking Crew

2008 OVH Field Day Results:

Club/Group Name: Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Call Used: W4OVH

GOTA Station Call: W4PVA

ARRL Section: VA Class: 3A

Participants: 29

Power Source(s): Generator, Battery, Solar

Bonus Points:

100% Emergency power	300
Media Publicity	100
Set-up in Public Place	100
Information Booth	100
NTS message to ARRL SM/SEC	100
Formal NTS messages handled - No.=2	20
Satellite QSO completed	100
Natural power QSOs completed	100
Site Visit by invited elected official	100
Site Visit by invited served agency official	100
Youth participation	60
Youth operators=3	
Youth participants=3	
GOTA Bonus	0
Submitted via the Web	50
Educational activity	100
Total Bonus Points	1,330

Score Summary based on Contacts:

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total
Total QSOs	281	0	260	
Total Points	562	0	260	822

Power Multiplier: 2X

Claimed Score based on Contacts: 1,644