

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+

Web Site at <http://w4ovh.net>

# OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

## October 2013

### Next Meeting: Monday, October 21, 2013

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hello to all and I hope this message and this Newsletter finds you all healthy and well as the month of October is upon us once again.

As I write this we are still in the midst of the U.S. government shutdown which has been affecting amateur radio in a number of ways, some directly and some indirectly. Although VEC's are still able to administer FCC examinations during the shutdown, the partial shutdown of the FCC itself means the FCC is not currently accepting any paperwork or electronic filings - so for the time being no new ham radio operator or station licenses are being issued. Also, to my knowledge, the FCC is not currently accepting applications for vanity call signs. Regardless, we as operators need to remain ready for whatever happens and do so in a way that keeps us and those we care about safe.



I also know that a number of the OVH's members who work for the U.S. government or for contractors for the U.S. government are adversely affected by the shutdown due to furloughs and other uncertainties. Hopefully, this all will be over soon.

I would also like to apologize to the members for not being able to attend the last two OVH meetings due to my being very, very busy. I want to thank Clarence / K4CNM for doing a fine job filling in and for keeping things running in my absence.

I hope all can attend the upcoming OVH meeting on Monday, October 21st at 7:30 PM, and I look forward to seeing you there!

73 Justin KJ4LAS

# 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:	Theresa Heartney	KG4TVM	257-3566
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 2013

Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
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## FIELD DAY 2013

Randy	WB7RAV	393-1494
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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		<a href="http://pwcares.org">http://pwcares.org</a>

## 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

TBA

## 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
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4SV	590-9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
David	KG4GIY	628-3868
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939

All telephone numbers listed above are for Area Code 703 unless otherwise noted. This 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. Copyright © 2012 by the Ole Virginia Hams.

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>

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## Sunshine Corner:

Happy Birthday to our club members as they celebrate another year this October: Terry / WA5NTI, Doc / W1IMX, Simon / KB3QOA, Scott / KB8NUM, Ruth / KU4WH, Keith / KM4AA, Bob / KC4TNC and Phil / AC4PL.

Congratulations to Rick / KJ4ZIH on recently obtaining an upgrade to an Extra Class license!

Thanks to Wayne / N7QLK for getting the OVH a table at Braemar Day in September. I had a great time talking to the folks that stopped by to visit with us and also got to see a giant rabbit. See several pictures later in the Newsletter.

Also, thanks to Scott / KB8NUM for pulling together the JOTA event again this year. If you are in the area please be sure to stop by on Saturday, October 19th! Contact Scott and check the OVH email reflector for last minute information.

Terry / KC4DV as Chairman of the Hamfest Committee again is already actively leading preparations for the 2014 Manassas OVH Hamfest which will be held on Sunday, June 8, 2014. The first 2014 Hamfest Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, October 2nd. Everyone interested in assisting with the preparations and planning is invited to attend the next Hamfest Committee contact Terry / KC4DV or watch the OVH email reflector for updated information on the time and place for the next meeting.

Good luck to Terry / WA5NTI and his helpers while working with the 4H and their radio and electronics projects for 4Hers.

John / KG4NXT and I went to the Fall Festival in downtown Manassas on October 5th. We ran into Steve / N4OGR and Jan / KE4TMW in full radio gear working communications for CERT, good to see them!

Have a happy Halloween. It falls on a Thursday this year and we will have the usual VHF/UHF FM Repeater Net that night!

Please check in on Thursday evening, VHF/UHF OVH FM repeater net at 8:00 pm. Use the 146.97 FM repeater or other linked repeaters. More details at W4OVH.NET under the "OVH Nets" tab.

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

Thank you and 73!

Theresa KG4TVM

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## Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting September 16, 2013:

Clarence / K4CNM, OVH Vice President, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Meeting was held at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House in Manassas, Virginia. OVH President, Justin / KJ4LAS was not able to attend.

All present stated their names and call signs: 35 OVH members and 2 guests attended.

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## BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the August meeting were approved with the following change to the paragraph for New Business, it should have read that John Nagel is with Prince William County Police Department (not the Sheriff's Department); minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer's report – Terry / KC4DV gave the report; motion by John / KG4NXT, seconded by Charlie / WA4YGI approved as presented; Butch / W4HJL reported that Art / W1CRO has reviewed the budget and \$16,000 is the maximum available for the any antenna work.

Membership – Luther / KJ4FDK presented the following applications for vote: Matthew / KK4SYM and Stephen, no call yet, Luther / KJ4FDK made a motion to accept all for membership, seconded by Steve KB4OF, all approved.

ARES – David / KG4GIY reported that there will be ARES training session this Saturday at 9 am.

Repeaters – Keith / KM4AA reported that there have been no changes

Training – Mark / WA4KFZ reported he has lost count of all the inquiries into his Technician Training Class will begins on October 1st; there is an unusual, increased level of interest.

Hamfest – Terry / KC4DV reported that the first 2014 Hamfest Committee and planning meeting will start October 2nd; Terry also reported he went to the Virginia Beach Hamfest in September and that there were only a small number of commercial vendors there.

Sunshine Corner – Theresa / KG4TVM announced the birthdays for the month.

JOTA – Scott / KB8NUM reported that the JOTA Boy Scout event will be on Saturday, October 19th from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm in the Braemar community area under the pavilion near the pool.

4-H – Terry / WA5NTI reported on the 4H radio/electronics project that will start on October 8th and will finish on December 10th, he gave us a review of what will be presented at the different sessions.

## PRESENTATION

Clarence / K4CNM presented his report on a number of possible alternative scenarios (each with separately projected cost estimates) for possible replacement and/or upgrades of the antennas used with the FM Repeaters presently at the NOVEC site; Clarence had a Powerpoint slide show prepared for his presentation, but the projector / video screen in the room being used for the meeting was not functioning so the slides could not be presented for everyone to see; nevertheless, Clarence presented the basic information orally to the meeting with a number of interruptions. Clarence also presented a color version of a repeater coverage map which he had prepared from the field observation data collected in April. Considerable discussion followed. John / KG4NXT asked that the discussion be closed for the meeting; Butch / W4HJL suggested that the Technical Committee and the Finance Committee get together to discuss this subject which involves interrelated technical and money issues, and prepare recommendations.

Because of the difficulties the in presentations (without a working projector), all of Clarence's Powerpoint Slides and his FM Repeater Coverage map will be posted quickly after the meeting for everyone to view and review on the "Members' Only" web page at W4OVH.NET. OVH Members

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will need to use their log in information on the “Members’ Only” link at the top of the “Club Member” web page at W4OVH.NET in order to get to that information. Those materials should be reviewed carefully by all members.

## BREAK

Clarence polled those present at the meeting about holding the year end Holiday / Christmas Party again this year; the group overwhelmingly continues to be in favor of that.

Old Business – Emmett / K2DJG brought up “image and presentation” issues and discussion again. Terry / KC4DV expressed his view that everyone involved did a great job at 4H during the County Fair and Terry / WA5NTI gave a report on what went on.

The 50/50 was won by Gene / N4HFW who donated his winnings back to the club.

Steve N4OGR sold an item from Ken’s estate and the money was donated to the scholarship fund, he also asked if anybody knows about applying for grant money and would our club qualify, discussion followed; Butch W4HJL as if we could have the presentation from Clarence during next month’s meeting

Meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm on motion by John KG4NXT, seconded by David KG4GIY.

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## Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

### HAMFESTS:

Sunday, October 27, 2013 - Westminster, Maryland - Mason-Dixon Hamfest. More information is at <http://www.qis.net/~k3pzn>

### UPCOMING 2014 OVH MANASSAS HAMFEST COMMITTEE MEETING:

Expected to be in early November - contact Terry / KC4DV and watch the OVH email reflector for updated information about the time and place. This will be the second advance preparation and planning meeting for the 2014 OVH Manassas Hamfest. All interested individuals are welcome to attend.

### VEC EXAM SESSION:

Tuesday, October 29, 2013 beginning at 7:00 pm at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House at 9930 Liberia Avenue, Manassas, Virginia. This Exam Session has been scheduled for the attendees of the October, 2013 Technician License Training Course, but will also be open to everyone else who wants or needs to take an FCC exam for any level of Amateur Radio Licence or for a license upgrade on a “walk-in” basis, space available. If you are not taking the Technician License training course, please contact Mark, WA4KFZ at [wa4kfz@cox.net](mailto:wa4kfz@cox.net) ahead of time to make sure that space will be available for you!

### SPECIAL EVENTS:

Saturday, October 19, 2013. JOTA Boy Scouts radio operation event. Contact Scott / KB8NUM who is organizing the local area activity which will be supported by the OVH for more details about time and place, etc.

Sunday, October 27, 2013. Marine Corps Marathon. Clarence / K4CNM has the details.

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## OPERATING CONTESTS:

Saturday / Sunday - October 19 - 20, 2013 - Worked All Germany contest, SSB and CW. The largest national contest in Europe. More info at <http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/wag/en>

Saturday / Sunday - November 2/3, 2013 - ARRL CW Sweepstakes Contest, begins Saturday afternoon and continues through Sunday evening local time, maximum time on the air is 24 hours. This HF contest is a great way to test your station and work on or finish up Worked All States achievement award. More info at <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

Saturday / Sunday - November 16/16, 2013 - ARRL SSB Sweepstakes Contest, similar to CW Sweepstakes except for dates. More info at <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

There are also many other operating contests almost all of the time. The excellent web site maintained by WA7BNM at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> lists most of them!

## PUBLIC SERVICE / TRAINING / ARES EVENTS

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

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### A few pictures from the Braemar Day Event - September 21, 2013



Giant Rabbit (next to a chicken for size) mentioned above!

## Information / Notes about the OVH Web Site - W4OVH.NET

1. Additional materials from the September 16, 2013 OVH meeting relating to several possible scenarios for OVH FM Repeater Antenna improvement / refurbishing and roughly estimated costs for each scenario were added to the “Members Only” web page. This information is accessible through the “Members Only” link at the top of the “Club Members” web page which reached by clicking on the “Club Members” tab at W4OVH.NET.
2. The “Members Only” OVH Club membership rosters were updated as of September 27, 2013. Go there for the most up-to-date and complete information on the current OVH members and how to contact each. The three rosters are collated by LastName, CallSign and FirstName to make finding anyone very easy.
3. Searching for specific content - text or pictures - on the W4OVH.NET web site. A question has been raised whether it is possible to search for specific text or image content on the OVH web site. The answer is Yes - this can be done using facilities at Google.com (and probably also at Bing.com). Here's how to do it with Google:

Text Search using <http://google.com>

put into the search text box there the specific text to be searched followed by a space followed by site:w4ovh.net

Text Search Example: Dayton site:w4ovh.net

Image Search using <http://google.com/imghp>

put into the search box there descriptive text for the image to be searched followed by a space followed by site:w4ovh.net

Image Search Example: field day site:w4ovh.net

How does this work? Google periodically, weekly or more often, searches through all public hyperlinks at W4OVH.NET and then builds (or rebuilds) an updated index of the text and images retrieved. When using Google to search for text or image content, the use of the search limiter “site:w4ovh.net” (as shown above) limits and restricts Google's search only to content obtained at or indexed from the W4OVH.NET web site. Google determines image content either from text data which appears in an image (and which has been analyzed by OCR) or by words (e.g., those likely to be a caption for or descriptive of the content) which appear on a web page near a particular image. These techniques work very well to locate specific content at W4OVH.NET. Try them!

4. OVH FM Repeater Coverage Map based upon the April, 2013 field measurement. Clarence / K4CNM led the effort in April, 2013 to compile usability information on OVH's 146.97 and 442.20 FM Repeaters, and then prepared a color map showing repeater coverage at various measurement points. Two different resolution versions that large map are available in PDF format on the “Members Only” web page. A somewhat lower resolution map which is resizable, zoomable and scrollable appears on the Repeaters web page accessible through the “Repeaters” link at W4OVH.NET.

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### Some Possibly Useful or Interesting Information

1. Wayne Green / W2NSD, very much an entrepreneur and ardent supporter of ham radio, died last month in his 90's. He was a former editor of CQ Magazine for several years in the late 1950's but will best be remembered by older hams as the publisher of “73 Magazine” from 1960 to about 2003. He always had strong editorial opinions and was a strong writer who would write editorials which went on and on and sometimes seemed like rants. However, his opinions and prognostications about ham radio often proved to be correct.

Some will remember that Wayne Green was such a strong supporter of the late Senator Barry Goldwater / K7UGA in the 1964 Presidential Election that a memorable 73 Magazine cover shortly **continued on following page**



before that election had a picture of the White House with a large HF triband antenna on its roof and a large caption reading: “A Ham in the White House?” That election, however, was won by President Lyndon Johnson who was re-elected after the mainstream media press attacked Senator Goldwater as a warmonger with misquotes about possible use of nuclear weapons against North Vietnam. A very different time.

After publication of 73 Magazine ceased, Wayne Green put all of the issues (about 518 total) into the public domain; today they be found and downloaded for free at archive.org [ <http://archive.org/details/73-magazine> ]. This is a lot of interesting reading, much of which is still pertinent today! Your OVH Newsletter editor wrote and submitted an technical article to 73 Magazine in the early 1960’s which was accepted and later published and for which he received \$80 - quite a while ago when \$80 was worth a lot more than it is today.

2. Once you upgrade your ham license to General or Extra Class, you access to all of the HF ham bands, large portions of which are still only available for CW (Morse Code) and other digital modes. Although variations of CW have been around for more than 150 years and CW is still widely used on the HF ham bands, demonstrated proficiency in CW is no longer a requirement for a ham radio license. If you are interested in learning, however, check out the free CW training programs available at <http://lcwo.net/> and <http://g4fon.net/> It is possible to teach yourself this basic skill in 15 to 30 hours of time spread out over several weeks; it’s not really that difficult if you can find the time and once you learn the basics, your skill level will increase rapidly with on the air use.

3. Do you have a favorite text editor? Think you know all about text editors? Check out [texteditors.org](http://texteditors.org) before you try to answer this question. This site provides information about hundred (maybe thousands) of text editors.

4. At the July 2013 OVH meeting, Terry / WA5NTI gave a presentation about JT65A mode; Joe Taylor / K1JT, the software author (and a Nobel laureate) recently created a presentation about his related WSJT mode software and how that can be used. Go to [http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/W9DXCC\\_2013\\_K1JT.pptx](http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/W9DXCC_2013_K1JT.pptx) to see K1JT’s Powerpoint slides for his recent presentation.

5. All hams are interested in Antennas and develop various levels of expertise in dealing with Antennas if they construct a station and are active radio operators. Fortunately, there is wealth of technical, practical and “how to do it” literature available in printed form as well as on the web.

Impedance matching is always an issue with an antenna system and an understanding of impedance matching becomes important once one goes beyond replicating simple and well known designs. For many years Smith Chart techniques have facilitated impedance matching calculations and design. Some interesting and helpful information on that topic is available at <http://www.antenna-theory.com/tutorial/smith/chart.php> This particular web site also has other useful information [ <http://www.antenna-theory.com> ].

Grounding systems and arrangements are also important for most Antenna systems and radio shacks [i.e., station operating rooms]. Poor grounding arrangements can result in “hot shacks” [RF radiation in the shack], inefficient operation due to power losses, and increased lightning strike hazards as well as other conditions. A lot of helpful information on these topics are available at [http://www.w8ji.com/station\\_ground.htm](http://www.w8ji.com/station_ground.htm) This particular web site [ <http://www.w8ji.com> ] also has a large amount of other useful information on ham radio topics.

6. The Vienna, Austria based Documentary Archives for Radio Communications [ <http://dokufunk.org> ] which has been mentioned here before continues to increase its collections of amateur radio related materials, many of which are available online. The site is in English (and German), and includes a substantial ham radio collections including large QSL card collections and videos; most recently <http://dokufunk.org> has added Powerpoint slides and other recordings from many of the presentations at the 2013 Friedrichschafen Ham Radio Convention; that is the largest annual Hamfest in Europe and just slightly smaller (in attendance each year) than the annual Dayton Hamvention. New at the web site and particularly interesting to look are the slides by Tom Perera / W1TP about the ENIGMA machine. W1TP has been an exhibitor at the Manassas Hamfest and is almost always at Dayton Hamvention. There is lots of other stuff to see too - definitely worth visiting. Enjoy!