

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

October 2016

Next Meeting: Monday, October 17, 2016

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings one and all! I hope this message finds you well.

After numerous meetings, e-mail correspondence, and logistics planning, the first Prince William Half-Marathon has come and gone. It took place on Sunday, September 25th Eighteen OVH volunteers supported on the course on that day. There were over 2,000 runners ran on the 13 mile course. The participating OVH radio operators were approached a number of times to capture runner status during the race. (See picture below of Ron / N4RDZ and yours truly at the net control during the event.) The OVH was commended for its support, and especially appreciated for being able to step forward when the organizer's staff didn't know how to operate their hand-held radios - to help them get



those working; I suspect that they had the same challenges we faced with terrain/distance, but operating GMRS or FRS frequencies; it's all about preparation. I credit all who took the time before the event to ensure we could 'hit' the club repeaters, locate the reporting points along the race course,

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Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President:	Wayne Phillips	N7QLK	393-8447
Vice Pres:	Ray Knight	KM4EKR	930-8222
Secretary:	Byron Dillon	AK4XR	222-2095
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 2017 - Chairman

Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
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FIELD DAY 2016 - Co-Chairs

Ken	KD4VA	753-7863
Byron	AK4XR	222-2095

CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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EDUCATION

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
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CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Open

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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BROADBAND HAMNET (BBHN)

Terryl	WA5NTI	445-2801
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EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
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JOTA - 2016

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	WA3FMO	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

Jeff	WB6UIE	791-5916
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QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

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

W4OVH — TRUSTEE

Stu	W4PR	335-5267
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W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Bill	N4SV	590.9562
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
David	KG4GIY	628-3868

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 © 2016 by the Ole Virginia Hams.

The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Monday which is held in the Main Conference Room in the Manassas Public Works Building, 8500 Pubic Works Drive, Manassas, Virginia. Members, prospective members and other interested persons are invited to attend without obligation. Local information can also be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.970-, 224.660-, 442.200+ and 443.500+ MHz. The OVH's two D-Star repeaters on 146.865- and 442.5125+ MHz are temporarily off the air due to maintenance work beyond the OVH's control. 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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had the necessary equipment (vests, extra radios/batteries, etc.), and even test a cross-band repeater operation! OVH has been asked to support this event again next year, so we have a year to 'tweak' our operation. And, Ron / N4RDZ said that he'd come back from the Great Northwest to participate! Thank you to all who participated/supported in any way.

Our repeaters were essential in pulling off the support to the above mentioned half marathon. During the planning stage, and during the race, I thought a lot about our repeaters, their health, location, and service they provide. Our tech committee continues working on improving our current repeater operation. It has worked hard on the 146.970 machine, tuning the duplexer, adjusting sensitivity, etc. And soon, we will be looking at the recent acquisition of the Yaesu DR-1X joining the family of repeaters. This machine will be providing analog, C4FM modes, and Wires-X capability, is likely going to be the impetus for a class or two for many of us to fully understand these capabilities. Hint: who wants to volunteer for that?.

Looking ahead, right after the publication time for this newsletter, the OVH will be again supporting another JOTA (Jamboree-On-The-Air) on Saturday, October 15th. If you can monitor the repeater on the 15th and respond to some young Scouts, it would be appreciated.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if this resulted in a few young faces showing up for Mark's (WA4KFZ) next Technician class, which is scheduled for November 7th at the Public Works Building. A notice about that has already been sent out on the OVH's email reflector and public announcement Flyer for it is on the w4ovh.net web site

The final Mini-Tri of the year will also take place later this month: Mini-Try Du It will be on Sunday, October 23rd. Let's give David / KG4GIY and Ina our support for this traditional event. Contact David at KG4GIY@gmail.com if you can spare a few hours that morning.

See you at the October 17th meeting, 7:30 pm at the Manassas Public Works, 8500 Public Works Drive, Manassas, Virginia. Our guest, Sheila Clarke / KI4WKY will give a presentation of her artful antennas; check out the article highlighting her creations in the April 2016 QST.

Keep your thoughts and ideas coming to me at: N7QLK@ARRL.net.

73 Wayne N7QLK

Sunshine Corner:

Happy birthday wishes in October to: Terry / WA5NTI, Doc / W1IMX, Robert / KK4MXU, Simon / KB3QOA, Ray / KM4EKR, Scott / KB8NUM, Ruth / KU4WH, Keith / KM4AA, Bob / KC4TNC and Phil / AC4PL. Each of you enjoy your day this month!

The very first Prince William County Half Marathon is in the books and I have to say I'm very proud of the OVH and its participation in providing radio communication along the route. So many runners/walkers hollered out a thank you for volunteering to me, so I know they really did appreciate that we were there if they needed us. Special thanks to Wayne / N7QLK for bringing this event to us and organizing it from start to finish. I believe the final count was about twenty of our club members that helped and everyone

was very much needed to pull this off in a successful manner. Great job!

Congratulations to Gil / KM4OZH on his upgrade to EXTRA! Way to go Gil!

JOTA – Jamboree on the Air with the Boy Scouts will be on Saturday, October 15th at the Braemar Clubhouse in Bristow - similar to the past several years. Setup for this will start before 8:00 am, event begins at 9:00 am - more info on the OVH email reflector!

Also the last Tri It Now Mini Tri for 2016 will be on Sunday, October 23rd. Please contact David KG4GIY if you can help, this is another fun event!

Well you heard it here, the 2016 OVH Holiday Party will be on Sunday, December 11th, more details at the October club meeting.

The 2017 Hamfest planning meetings have started, your help is needed! Keep an eye on the club email reflector and later in this Newsletter for more details.

Please try to check in to the Thursday night net. You will hear updates and information on events! How to do that is on the OVH web site at w4ovh.net. You will find us on the 146.970 and 443.500 FM repeaters at 8 pm every Thursday evening.

Please email me with your news! kg4tvm@hotmail.com

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting September 19, 2016:

OVH Vice President, Ray / KM4EKR, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on August 15, 2016 at the main conference room at the Manassas City Public Works Building in Manassas, Virginia. After the Pledge, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 32 OVH members and 2 guests in attendance.

Ray / KM4EKR mentioned that tonight's meeting would be the last for Ron / N4RDZ who has retired and is moving to the Seattle Washington area at the end of the month. Ron had been an active member helping out with many of the clubs activities for many years. His last planned activity will be to participate in the PWC Half Marathon "FunRun" on September 25th.

PRESENTATION: By Ron Develing for the PWC ½ Half Marathon "Fun Run" that the club is helping out. Mr. Develing outlined the Half Marathon's plans in detail and handed out route maps and other information.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes for the August OVH regular meeting were sent out in the September OVH Newsletter. Motion to accept the August minutes as so presented by John / KG4NXT, seconded by

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Sandy / KM4JUS, motion passed.

Treasurer's report – Terry / KC4DV gave the report. Motion by Ron / N4RDZ to approved the Treasurer's report as presented. Butch / W4HJL, seconded the motion. Motion passed by vote of all members in attendance.

Membership –There was one new member application this month: Andreas (Andy) Gomponia KJ4MTP who was present and was read in. He will be voted on during October's meeting.

Sunshine: Happy Birthday in September to: Ron / N4RDZ, Al / KB4BHB, Mark / WA4KFZ, Gus / N4MLE, Al / KB4BHB, Tim / KM4CCI, Maury / W4HYB, Gary / WG4ARC and Steve / WB0AOD, Jim / W4HJH, Windora / KK4UYY and Floyd / K4ROG.

Training: Mark / WA4KFZ held a very successful "What Next Class" for all the new licensees and those interested, on September 12, 2016, in the conference room at the Public Works building where we hold our meetings. It was well attended. Mark will also start a new Technician license class in late October or November, dates, etc. to be announced.

Repeaters by George / K4GVT: The backup batteries no longer work and need to be replaced, Terry / KC4DV volunteered that he has a good source for battery replacements. The controller is being replaced. Six new cavities for the duplexer(s) have been donated by TRX along with all the hardware to connect them together. George made a motion to send the TRX representative who donated the equipment to the club a \$50.00 gift card, it was seconded by Ron / N4RDZ and the motion passed

Hamfest – Terry / KC4DV: The Prince William County Fairgrounds has changed its position on several issues, and the OVH will continue holding our next Hamfest there on Sunday, June 4th, 2017. The first planning meeting for the 2017 Hamfest will be held on October 5th at Tony's Pizza on Mathis Avenue, dinner at 6:00 pm, meeting at 7:00 pm.

50-50: Duane / KK4BZ, won the prize (half of \$19.00) and donated all of it back to the club.

JOTA: John / KG4NXT: the Jamboree on the Air event is coming up in October 15 at the Braemar Center in Bristow, same as in recent years. OVH is soliciting volunteers to assist; more to be provided on the OVH email reflector.

New Business: During the previous week a discussion on the reflector about the repeaters lead to a few members offering to donate money to replace equipment to purchase the Yaesu Fusion repeater. It was made aware that the current repeater itself was not the problem, only a controller had gone bad. However because of the special offer price of \$600 for the Yaesu Fusion repeater only until the end of September, and because it would not cost the club nothing due to the members donating the money for the repeater, it was suggested we purchase the Fusion repeater. A motion was made by Terry / KC4DV that the club purchase a Yaesu DR1 Fusion repeater to be used on 70 cm, Terry / WA5NTI seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Motion to adjourn by Ron / N4RDZ, seconded by Theresa / KG4TVM, motion passed.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

SPECIAL HAM RADIO EVENTS:

Saturday, October 15th, 9:00 am through afternoon, Boy Scout JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) event to be held at the Braemar Community Pavilion, Bristow, Virginia, setup begins before 8:00 am. Check the OVH email reflector or contact John / KG4NXT for more info or to participate.

Sunday, October 23rd, early morning to mid-morning - Tri-It-Now (aka MiniTri) event at the George Mason University campus in Manassas. The OVH will be providing communications support again. Contact David / KG4GIY for more info or to participate.

Beginning, Monday, November 7th, Mark / WA4KFZ will be presenting another free Technician Class Licensing course over four evenings at a location in Manassas during November and December. The course is intended to allow interested individuals to learn enough to pass the entry level Technical License exam. More details are in the Flyer later in this Newsletter, and you may also contact Mark directly at his email: wa4kfz@cox.net It is expected that an VEC Exam session will be scheduled for the convenience of the students once the course is underway.

Sunday, December 11, 2016 - the OVH Year End / Holiday / Christmas Party event will take place. Lots of fun for all members and their families. Save the Date. More info to follow.

AMRAD meets monthly in McLean, Virginia - meetings usually consist of high level amateur radio related technical presentations on specific topics. Check the <http://amrad.org> web site for upcoming topics, and exact dates, times and places which have been changing around recently.

HAM RADIO OPERATING CONTEST EVENTS:

The ARRL has a Contest web page at its web site, but a much more comprehensive, up-to-date, and long range planning contesting calendar with links to the rules for the various events is maintained by WA7BNM at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal> If you get the radio contesting bug or just want to find out what and how much is going on, that is a good place to look!

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.

From: George / K4GVT Recent 146.970 FM Repeater Improvements

Folks, I wanted to update you on the work done in late September, 2016 on the OVH's 146.970 FM repeater machine. First let me say thank you to Butch, Bob, Byron, John, Al, Gill and Jeff for all the time and effort spent and work done for the OVH to get this repeater working well and at a likely better site at Mount Pone. The several hours recently spent included the following: completed coax cable terminations into the building, set ground rods, placed lightning protection, and moved the 146.97 FM repeater and duplexers into the Mount Pone location. The 146.97 machine is now operational from Mount Pone, even though there is more to be done to fine tune, please try the machine and most importantly provide us with range feedback. Your input is crucial to the success of this project. I will keep you updated as more things get done. Some pictures from these efforts are on the following page.

Cont'd (Pictures) on page 7



Time for new OVH Club Nametags, Hats, Tee Shirts, etc?

Club Logo ?



Not sure if we ever officially resolved the club logo issue. Here are the two I found on our web page.



A suggestion ...

Here's a modified version of the second logo. It's simple and small enough to fit easily on standard tag sizes. And, many vendors already have state outlines in stock.



Ray / KM4EKR and Jeff / WB6UIE have been investigating possible sources for new, consistent OVH Nametags, Hats, Tee Shirts to brand the OVH to identify its members during public events. In doing that, they note that the Club lacks a formal logo.

In the past, some have suggested that the ham riding a pig logo (far left) should not be adopted because it could suggest the Club's purposes and objectives are not serious - even though that logo is surely just intended in good fun. However, the logo is "branding" and even a suggestion that the OVH's purposes are not serious could have subtle negative impacts when OVH deals with governmental and other public

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Club Name Tags

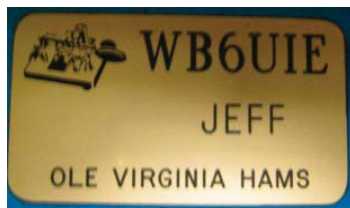


Ham Stuff

Ham Stuff is a small family business
- easy to work with and rapid response (days).

The Sign Man is a much larger operation with a wider selection. (They have the ARRL official name tag contract.) On the other hand, they were much less responsive (3 weeks ARO).

Following up on Ray's suggestion that we need more club recognition at events, I've ordered sample name tags from two web vendors, Ham Stuff and The Sign Man. Both are stock designs with one optional line to which I added "Ole Virginia Hams".



The Sign Man

service oriented groups. Perhaps other OVH club branding logos should be considered too? What do you think?

Jeff has identified two well established sources (to the left) for ham radio oriented club name tags and other ham related branding items.

Various other online sources also exist for custom nametags, tee shirts, hats, etc. Google: custom nametags, custom plastic photo-id, custom tee shirts, custom hats, etc.

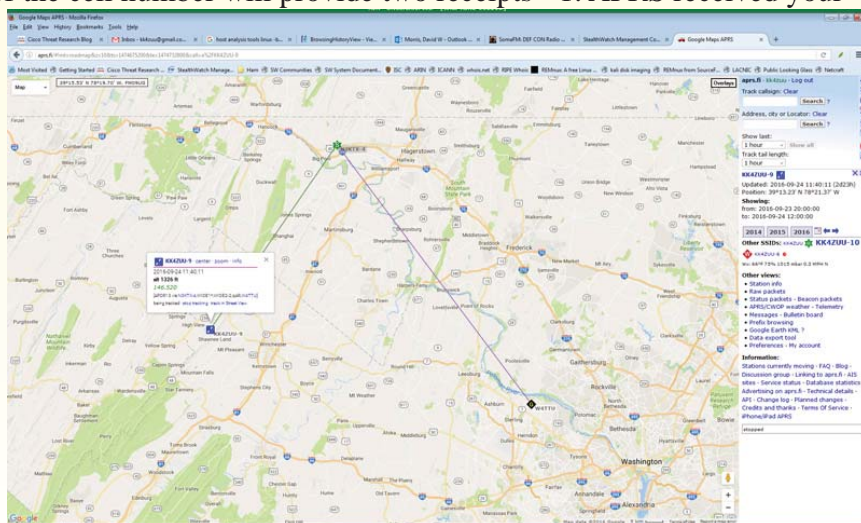
If enough OVH members are interested, Jeff will approach various sources to solicit volume purchase discounts, etc. for the OVH

Useful use of qrp APRS - David / KK4ZUU - from the OVH email reflector

I provide this brief story about APRS qrp connections I made on a recent camping trip with my son at the Cove Mountain Campground near Gore, Virginia while testing a minimal 5 watt qrp APRS setup from that challenging location. This may be of general interest. I planned to test sending a basic text to my wife's cellphone (she was at home) using APRS because I knew we would be outside of normal cellphone coverage. In preparation for the trip, I checked aprs.fi to determine possible nearby APRS stations and I knew the closest N3KTX-4 was about 35 miles to the north. Because the Cove Mountain Campground is in a narrow valley, probably at least 300 feet below the two nearby mountain ridge lines, I wasn't sure if N3KTX-4 or anyone else could be heard from the campground. The good news: I could hear its APRS packets with my Yaesu FT-60 and 5/8 Hustler mag mount antenna setup and could decode them on my Android tablet using aprsdroid and a bluetooth TNC (mobilinkd TNC2) connected to the HT. The bad news: no APRS station could hear me transmitting with 5 watts! Later, we drove up to a nearby shooting range outside of the valley; while driving, I used the aprsdroid to cause my APRS position to be transmitted and I listened carefully for the special audio (answerback alert) that another APRS station had heard my APRS packet. Near the top of the climb, BONG went the audio alert; after parking at the shooting range, I checked aprsdroid and learned that my APRS packet had indeed been received by N3KTX-4 35 miles away. I then used aprsdroid to text my wife using the TO address (callsign): SMSGTE, and for the message text I used: @###-###-#### (Note: adding a ? at the end of the cell number will provide two receipts - 1. APRS received your msg, and 2. msg was delivered to recipient.)

When I returned home I used the aprs.fi to determine how my aprs packet had made it onto the Internet. From the generated map, I saw my position (kk4zuu-9), the aprs station that heard my packet via RF, and the aprs igate (W4TTU) in Sugarland Run that finally sent my aprs traffic to aprs.fi over the Internet. This is interesting technology!

Next time you go somewhere without cellphone service, you might find this ham radio approach useful. 73 David KK4ZUU





The Birmingham News/Hal Yeager

Become a Ham Radio Operator

Get Your Technician Class License!

- Get on the air with Amateur Radio!
- Communicate across the country and around the world!

The Technician Class license is the first step in getting into the exciting world of Amateur Radio. Since the FCC has removed the Morse code testing requirement, getting your license is now even easier and faster!

The Ole Virginia Hams will be sponsoring a Technician Class training course beginning **November 7, 2016**. This course is **FREE** and open to all. Students provide their own course materials. Seating is limited, however, so sign up early!

Course textbook:

“The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual,” 3rd edition
 (for tests beginning July 1, 2014)
Published by ARRL – The National Association for Amateur Radio
 (formerly the American Radio Relay League)

The course will combine self-study with class instruction. Four (4) two-hour sessions will be held.

Session 1: Introduction, Equipment Definitions	Session 2: Basic Electricity, Signals and Waves
Session 3: Antennas, Transmitters, etc.	Session 4: Repeaters, Data Modes, Safety

Location: City of Manassas, Public Works Facility, 8500 Public Works Drive, Manassas, VA 20110

Date: Monday, November 7, 2016 (4 sessions: 11/7, 11/14, 12/5, 12/12)

Time: Monday evenings, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

For more information:

Refer to The Ole Virginia Hams web page at www.w4ovh.net or contact Mark Braunstein, WA4KFZ at wa4kfz@cox.net for more details.

Sponsored by:

The Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
 PO Box 1255
 Manassas, VA 20108
www.w4ovh.net

The rare flying airplanes, a B17 and a Ford Trimotor, below, are expected to arrive at Manassas Regional Airport (KHEF) sometime on Monday, October 17th and will be there to view for the balance of the week. These restored aircraft still have some of the original radios / electronics from the 1930's and 1940's.



Now Boarding

October 20-23 | Manassas Regional Airport

Don't miss your chance to fly on a historic WWII B-17 bomber or experience the golden age of aviation on a Ford Tri-Motor.

For more information or to book a flight in advance, call 800-359-6217.

Hosted by EAA Chapter 186

<p>Ford Tri-motor Rides Available Thursday 2-5 p.m. Friday through Sunday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Adults \$75/Children \$50)</p>	<p>B17 Rides Available Friday through Sunday 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (\$435 EAA Members/\$475 Nonmembers) Ground tours available daily 2-5 p.m. (\$10 Individual/\$20 Family)</p>
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BOOK in Advance and SAVE!

B17.org
FlyTheFord.org



Thanks to EAA186.org for this information!