

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+ (temporarily - limited functionality)
Web Site at <http://w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

October 2017

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 16, 2017

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

I hope everyone is getting ready for the fall and winter ham activities despite the unusually warm weather this Fall so far.

We have just finished with the Prince William Half Marathon and from what I have heard, and the report from Wayne / N7QLK about it later in this Newsletter, the radio communications support provided by the OVH volunteers all went very well.

With that being said, the time is approaching to start planning for the upcoming events. Very quickly coming up, we have the Marine Corp Marathon and a local Tri-it-Now, both happening on the same day on Sunday, October 22nd. Andy is looking for more volunteers to help with both.

Stayed tuned for more activities in November and December. We hope shortly to have a date set for OVH's annual Year End / Christmas Party in December to help with planning.

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers, each of the OVH members who have been in and out of the hospital recently. These include George / K4GVT, Butch / W4HJL and Jeff / WB4TT.

It seems like I take a week's vacation (which I did recently) and things start to fall apart! I decided to keep this short as I am not feeling that well, post-vacation.

A short reminder to those who missed the last regular OVH meeting. Our upcoming (and those meetings for the next 12 months or so) will be held at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station located at 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas on the third Tuesday evening of each month, starting at 7:30 pm. For many years until last month, the OVH's regular meetings have been held on the third Monday of each month.

Keep your thoughts and ideas coming to me at: RayKnight@Verizon.net

73 Ray KM4EKR



Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President:	Ray Knight	KM4EKR	930-8222
Vice Pres:	Jeff Fuller	WB6UIE	791-5916
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 2018 - Chairman

Don	WA2SWX	597-3211
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FIELD DAY 2017 s

Byron	AK4XR	222-2095
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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

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
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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CO-WEBMASTERS — W4OVH.NET

Kevin	KX4KU	540-439-3289
Andy	KJ4MTP	786-4651

TWITTER & FACEBOOK ACCOUNT MODERATOR

Jeff	KM4FTK	830-4155
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EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
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BROADBAND HAMNET

Terry	WA4NTI	445-2801
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JOTA - 2017

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.	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

W4OVH — TRUSTEE

Stu	W4PR	335-5267
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W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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SCHOLARSHIP

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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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 © 2017 by the Ole Virginia Hams.

The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Tuesday at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station, 7190 Yates Ford Road, 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 operating with limited D-Star capabilities. 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 wishes in October to Terry / WA5NTI, Doc / W1IMX, Robert / KK4MXU, Simon / KB3QOA, Ray / KM4EKR, Scott / KB8NUM, Ruth / KU4WH, Keith / KM4AA and Phil / AC4PL.

Sending sunshine and continued best wishes to Butch / W4HJL, George / K4GVT and Jeff / WB4TT, each of whom is still recovering from recent hospital stays.

Congratulations to the OVH and its members for providing radio communications support for The Prince William Half-Marathon that was held on October 1st., Thanks to those that answered the call to help. Special thanks to Wayne N7QLK for chairing this event and making sure the course was covered.

Even though 2017 is starting to wind down there are still many activities going on.

Next up is JOTA – Jamboree on the Air which is coming up Saturday, October 21st at the Braemar Swim Club. Several OVH members will be there setting up to work with the Boy Scouts from about 8 am until 2 pm. If you are in the neighborhood, please do stop by; if you are not in the neighborhood, please maintain a watch on the 146.97 repeater so that scouts can make radio contacts easily.

The next Freedom Center Mini-Tri will be on Sunday, October 22nd, early morning. Please contact Andy / KJ4MTP if you can help, this is a fun event and it's run very efficiently. This event conflicts with the Marine Corps Marathon this year.

Please see the Club Member Spotlight later for information about Duane / KK4BZ.

Happy Halloween later this month!

Please try to check in to the Thursday night VHF/UHF FM 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 8:00 pm every Thursday evening.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting held on September 19, 2017:

OVH club President, Ray / KM4EKR, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm in the conference room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas, Virginia. This was the OVH's first meeting at this new location which is expected to be our meeting location for the next 12 months or so.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were OVH 27 members and 3 guests in attendance.

Minutes – Byron / AK4XR: There were no minutes for August because we did not meet as a result of the solar eclipse event and the related activities. July's minutes went out in the August newsletter. Bob / K4HJF made a motion to accept July's minutes, seconded by Al / KB4BHB, motion passed.

Continued on page 4

Treasurer's Report – Terry / KC4DV - Terry gave the report. Motion to accept by Mark / WA4KFZ, seconded by Andy / KJ4MTP, motion passed.

Membership – no report.

ARES: No info. available other than PWC ARES are tracking hurricanes Jose and Maria.

Training- Mark / WA4KFZ - Nothing scheduled yet, but still looking to schedule.

Scholarship - Sandy / KM4JUS proposed changing the annual Scholarship amount from \$1000 for one scholarship to two Scholarships (total \$2000), one for qualified licensed ham applicant for \$1250.00, and one for any other qualified applicant for \$750.00. After some discussion, further discussion was tabled until New Business.

Hamfest (2018) – As previously announced, Don Meyerhoff / WA2SWX, will be Chairing the Hamfest committee for the 2018 Hamfest with assistance as needed from Terry / KC4DV. He has all the information and the Hamfest is now firmly scheduled for Sunday, June 3, 2018 – the first Sunday in June.

Field Day (2018): No report.

JOTA - Theresa / KG4TVM reported this local (and national) Boy Scout event will be on Saturday, October 21st this year. They need people on the radio for the scouts to contact.

Sunshine - Theresa / KG4TVM, reported that the Eclipsepedition to South Carolina was a great event organized by Terry KC4DV. The decals will be going on the trailer one weekend soon. Rosalee introduce Peaches (a stuffed pig) as our proposed mascot.

Webpage – Kevin / KX4KU reported the web site is all up and running at W4OVH.NET. Still working on the sign-on system for the Members Only sections.

4H – No report.

Presentations- two this month: First - Fun Run Racing for the Prince William Half Marathon to be held on Sunday, October 1st. Rob Dulin described the event and the course and thank the club in advance for providing communications support for the event. Maps were handed out. Wayne N7QLK stated there would be testing of the repeater and reception around the course on the Saturday afternoon before the race.

Second - John / KG4NXT demonstrated the OVH Member Telephone Lookup App for Android phones that he has written. It's free, however, it is not available through the Android store, instead, John will install it on your Android phone upon request. It uses a central database so an Internet connection is required to use it.

New Business - Sandy / KM4JUS tabled the discussion on the change in scholarship until the budget committee can review it. Sandy also then brought up the question of the club involving itself in the Prince William County STEM program. Sandy will contact the STEM coordinator to get more information for the club. FYI apparently Haymarket has a STEM lab and Kathy LaMont is the contact person.

50-50- Kevin / KX4KU won the \$12.00 drawing and donated it back to the club.

Motion to adjourn by John / KG4NXT, seconded by Sandy / KM4JUS, motion passed.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

Sunday, October 22, 2017. Mason-Dixon Hamfest. This has been a good hamfest to attend in the past, but the online info (<https://k3pzn.net>) for it is very sketchy this year.

HAM RADIO RELATED EVENTS:

Saturday, October 21, 2017, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm - Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), Boy Scout event at local the Braemar Pool Pavilion. This will be the 60th annual JOTA event and the OVH is planning to support it as in past years; also, local operators on 2 meter FM who are not able to be at the event itself are needed to assure rapid two way radio contacts for Boy Scouts at the event. Contact Theresa / KG4TVM for more info.

Sunday, October 22, 2017, 6:30 am - 10:00 am, the Tri-It-Now event at which the OVH provides communications support. Contact Andy / KJ4MTP if you are able to assist.

Sunday, October 22, 2017 - Marine Corps Marathon. You need to be pre-registered to assist with this major event close to and partly in Washington DC.

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 / ARES EVENTS

Also, always check the online Calendar by David / KG4GIY at <http://www.pwcares.org> for the latest ARES 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.

OPERATIONS ON THE NEW 630 METER BAND?

The new 630 meter ham band (472 - 479 KHz) is opening shortly for ham radio digital communications modes. To operate on this band, however, you must first submit a notification of proposed operation, and then wait for 30 days for objections, if any. The notice may be given online, without charge, and the procedure to do so is set out in http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2017/db0915/DA-17-893A1.pdf. See also, https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-17-33A1.pdf. It is expected that most of the new ham operations will use the newer digital modes, with some CW. No reason not to submit an application now!

What will propagation and operations be like in that new band? Hams, generally, have not had access to frequencies in that range for nearly a century when those frequencies were dedicated to ship to shore, ship to ship CW communications and LF radio beacon. A few hams have already experimented (<http://500kc.com>)

As a young ham operator in southwestern Connecticut in the early 1960's, your editor used to copy CW traffic for proficiency practice on 500 kc/s (since redesignated as KHz units) and close by frequencies using a converted WWII ARC radio receiver, the BC-453. Being close to New York harbor, it was possible to hear and copy loud ship and shore station traffic around the clock. In the evenings, coastal stations (and ships) from Puerto Rico, Florida, East Coast up to Newfoundland could be copied routinely; sometime at night German and English coastal stations could be heard and copied. Long distance contacts will be possible!

Post-Mortem on the 2017 Prince William Half-Marathon

After a Jimi Hendrix rendition of the Star Spangled Banner, and the sound of an air horn on the early morning on Sunday, October 1, 2017, the second Prince William Half-Marathon got underway.

Eighteen OVH members were positioned at strategic locations along the 13.1 mile course, providing much-needed radio communications support to the Prince William Half Marathon organization. Throughout the nearly 4 hour event, race officials regularly checked in at the OVH's net control table to inquire of runner status; each time, they walked away very satisfied having received timely updates.



The OVH's support this year was improved over last year's in several ways. The 146.970 FM repeater having been relocated from NOVEC to the Mt. Pone location greatly improved coverage. During the testing/dry run session on Saturday afternoon before the day of the Marathon, Derek / KV4SH, along with a number of members scattered across the course, tested power settings of their HTs using the repeater and operating simplex. Derek's data provided the confidence that either mode could be used during the race as needed. A white board at the net control station where the current situation was posted as called in, enhanced the race organization's awareness.

A much deserved "thank you" goes out to each volunteer: Don / WA2SWX; Luther / WA3FMO; Terry / KC4DV; Al / KB4BHB; Duane / KK4BZ; Jay / NQ4T; John / KG4NXT; Theresa / KG4TVM; Byron / AK4XR; David / KG4GIY; Joe / KI4OHR; Steve / N4OGR; Jan / KE4TMW; Cat / KM4PBD; Greg / KM4CCG and Derek / KV4SH. These "thank you's" also extend to those who initially raised a hand in support, but had to drop out due to last minute personal circumstances. Finally, a much deserved apology goes out for the erroneous call signs, email addresses, and accidental late-night phone calls.

The exact date for the 2018 Prince William Half Marathon has not yet been set, but the overall event was a great success, and there will be another one next year. Until next year, 73 Wayne / N7QLK.

VP's Corner

Jeff Fuller
WB6UIE

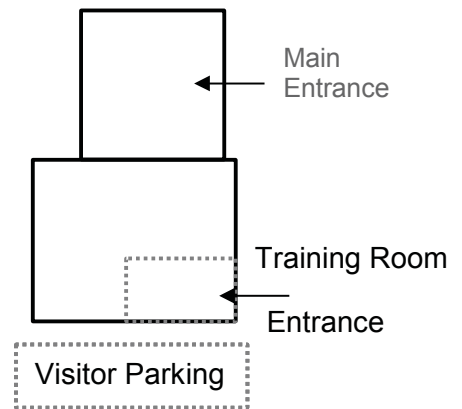
How many of you have mentioned your amateur radio hobby to family and friends? If so, I'll bet you've heard comments like "Does anyone still do that?", and "That's so out of date. Everyone has cell phones and Internet now."

Well ... if you've been following the news about the hurricane aftermath in Puerto Rico, you'll know that two weeks after the storm most of the power is still out and less than 30 percent of the cellular network is working. The Red Cross went directly to ARRL and requested a deployment of 50 hams with equipment to support the relief effort. That "Force of Fifty" is now in place and providing communications support for hospitals and other key nodes [1]. So ...keep those batteries charged and remember that we still have a very viable emergency support role.

Join us this month for a presentation by Terry, KC4DV, about his Eclipsepedition covering the recent total solar eclipse. Hope to see you there!



<http://www.arrl.org/puerto-rico-caribbean-recovery-2017>



Yates Ford Road

A brief reminder from our hosts at the fire station. Please use the outside entrance directly into the Training Room rather than the main fire station entrance.

November 5th



Adapted from <https://xkcd.com/673/>

1. <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-and-local-volunteers-in-puerto-rico-working-together-in-storm-recovery>

OVH Social Media / Web Site Updates - Kevin / KX4KU

The social media presences of the OVH on Facebook (<http://facebook.com/W4OVH>) and on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/W4OVH>) have been up and running since Spring with hyperlinks to them on the OVH's web site (<http://w4ovh.net>). The OVH's social media accounts, of course, can also be most easily and readily accessed using cellphone or tablet based Facebook and Twitter apps.

For the club and its members to achieve the most from these social media accounts requires that timely and updated information / news items be pushed out regularly on them. No one wants to look at stale or out-dated content; social media accounts without regular new content do not and will not attract repeat or regular visitors. Fortunately, the OVH's social media presence moderator, Jeff / KM4FTK (email: jflading@gmail.com) is prompt and attentive to getting submitted materials out on these social media accounts. However, Jeff cannot be expected to originate a continuous stream of items. To all OVH members: please remember to send to Jeff all information, items, pictures, etc. – anything that you have that might be appropriate for publication on the OVH's social media accounts. Every little thing shows that the Club and its members are active and having fun in our amazing ham radio hobby!

The new W4OVH.NET web site too has been up and functioning since mid-August, replacing the former, frames based w4ovh.net web site of many years. We have almost completed work archiving the former web site so that the historical content on it (which was last updated in early August, and will no longer be updated) will be accessible through a hyperlink on the new web site. We are still working on getting a “Members Only” login process implemented in a way which will allow a customized access for each OVH member; that turns out to be a bit more complicated than we had thought due to convoluted database related procedures within the Wordpress system so there has been some unexpected delay and frustration in those efforts; still we feel it is better to take the time to do it right the first time. Once the basic processes are in place we then can move forward not only with logins but with others participating actively in the creation of new content on the OVH's web site - one of our goals. Other than the logons, everything is in running / working reliably and as planned and expected.

If you have constructive comments or suggestions, please let Kevin / KX4KU at krutzy62@gmail.com or Andy / KJ4MTP at andy@gamponia.com know; or you may use the contact form on the web site itself!

Spotlight on OVH Member - Duane / KK4BZ

Many of you have met OVH member, Duane / KK4BZ (email: martindh@iname.com), formerly KM4RTB, of Catharpin Road in Gainesville, also a horseman / horse owner. He has become a very active OVH club member, and he has managed to incorporate ham radio into his horse riding interests and activities – which include operating “horse mobile” – a form of mobile ham radio operation which is much rarer than bicycle, motorcycle and even aeronautical mobile. Duane operated horse mobile during the Virginia QSO party in March, 2017 giving many he contacted their first ever “horse mobile” QSO. Duane regularly participates in endurance horse rides and welcomes other OVH members to participate in those events. The riders use Baofeng HT's to communicate during the events.



The “local” endurance rides are hosted by Old Dominion Endurance Rides, a 501c3 non-profit; Duane is currently on its board. Old Dominion performs significant conservation and trail maintenance and provides free educational clinics with a fun bunch of members. Its web site is at <http://olddominionrides.org> and its up-coming rides are listed in the calendar there. There are three big rides each year, the “No Frills” in April, the “Old Dominion” in June, and “Fort Valley” in October (20 and 21 this year). The base camps for two of those are near Front Royal and the other is near Bayse, Virginia, but each of the races cover a lot of ground throughout the course; all three rides are in mountainous terrain; that makes communications more technical and difficult, but the scenery is beautiful. Contact Duane to learn more!

The OVH Emergency Communications Trailer

OVH members and attentive followers of the email traffic on the OVH email reflector (which is only available to active OVH members) are aware that, at last, the OVH's trailer has had the custom made vinyl lettering and decals applied to it. Getting that step accomplished involved much more than an minor amount time, effort and hassles; that effort thankfully was led by Theresa / KG4TVM who pressed on simply to get the job done as it needed to be. See the two image below of the trailer with lettering / decals applied - which are (purposely) at a distance.



Theresa deserves appreciation and praise for getting this delayed project to its current stage - the vinyl lettering and decals applied. As the vinyl was being applied, however, it was realized that regrettably several "errors" had been made in certain details of the lettering on certain of decals. These are not visible in the above images, but can be seen on live inspection. Those "errors" need to be remedied; Jeff / WB6UIE has volunteered to lead the effort to get those corrected by paint-over or other appropriate means shortly. Thanks Jeff!

The good news is that the OVH's emergency communications trailer at last has professional looking, identifying lettering on it. The next and more important step now will be for the OVH to shift its attention from the outside of the trailer to the inside. In other words, we need to make sure that the OVH has equipment and trained operators ready carry out its mission - Emergency Communications.

Multipurpose Mobile Dual Band Antenna - Duane / KK4BZ

Here are two images of a multipurpose mobile dual band antenna I have been using. It works well at highway speeds, but I need to lay it over at an angle to reduce stress on the mast. I tried using the mast separated from the antenna as a hiking stick, but it is a bit awkward (too long) and I do not assess it as practical



for more than a few miles. It is just about perfect for use while sitting in the portable chair. I have since fashioned a clip to hold the speaker mic on the mast next to the HT. I found that the antenna was unstable with a mast more than 10 feet in length. Works great sitting in the place of an umbrella in a patio table.



Android Cellphone App for OVH Member Telephone Number Lookup

John / KG4NXT has developed an App which can be used with Android based cellphones (but not iOS based Apple cellphones) for lookup of telephone numbers of OVH members. A great software demonstration project! John gave a short presentation about the App at the September 19, 2019 OVH regular meeting. Two of his slides follow. The first slide (just below) describes the basic features and operation of the App.

OVH Phone Lookup

- 1. Android Phone only
- 2. Gets data from central database so new member updated on all phones at once.
- 3. Several members have been using for months
- 4. Security – not in app store. Installed on OVH member's phones only one at a time by KG4NXT.
- 5. Does need internet or wi-fi to connect to central database
- 6. Needs only partial: 1) call; 2) first name; 3) last name. Auto wildcarded

The second slide (below) describes the software tools and systems, all available online at no cost, that John used to develop this App. John hosts the database on a server located at his residence.

OVH PHONE LOOKUP

To add to an android phone:

1. Phone must enable developer options and USB debugging under dev options.
2. My laptop needs to find a device driver for your phone.
3. Laptop compiles and downloads to your phone on USB cable.
4. You run the app on phone (with internet) and attempt a phone call. It does not work but you get a change to enable phone permissions for the app. Now it works.

• TOOLS used:

- 1. Android Studio – 2.3.1 download for free.
- 2. Udacity online self study app for free (some other classes not free)
- 3. MySQL database on Ubuntu
- 4. Apache web server on Ubuntu
- 5. NO-IP to resolve to web service address.

The App has been in use by several OVH members; the users report the App works well, the only complaints are that sometimes the database provides erroneous information. That is not a defect in the App itself but rather reflects errors in the club database which is not synchronized with John's database server. Query: since the database itself is quite small and to make the App less vulnerable to partial system failures, why not consider storing the database itself on each cellphone and have each cellphone (when there is connectivity to the server's database) query the server whether the database been updated, and, if so, download the new database to the cellphone?