

The OVH ARC Newsletter
"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108
FM Repeaters - W4OVH - 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+
D-STAR Repeater - W4OVH - 442.5125+
OVH Packet - Port 1: 145.730 Mhz, Port 3: 223.540 MHz - Sysop: Bill/N4SV
Web Site at <http://w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

November 2011

Next Meeting: Monday, November 21, 2011

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to all, hard to believe November is almost over. Thanksgiving will be here soon and our thoughts will turn to family, friends, and great meals. With this Holiday season upon us I can only hope all will remember the less fortunate during this time of "overs" -- over eating, over spending, over indulging.

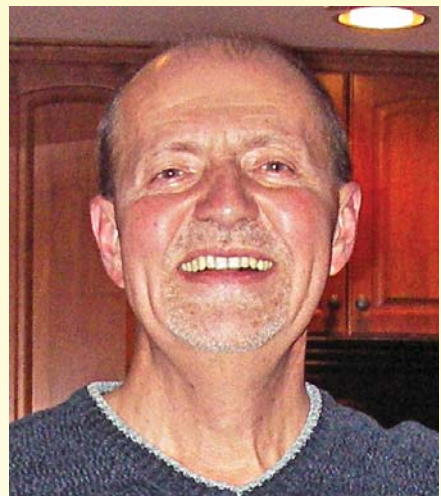
Please be alert when driving, this is the time of too much partying and dangers lurk! Please use caution when shopping, be aware of your surroundings to insure you and your loved one's safety.

The annual OVH Christmas / Year End Holiday party is fast approaching on Sunday evening, December 11th, thanks to the excellent efforts of . Theresa / KG4TVM to find a convenient location at which to hold the party. Further details are on pages 3 and 6 in this newsletter. I hope all can make it.

As almost all of you are aware the Ham community is one of sharing. We openly and unselfishly share parts, equipment, ideas, and time. This is what Hams have done from the beginning and I hope forever. In this geographical area, it seems that time is a highly guarded (and regarded) commodity. Sooner or later we all need help from someone else. For example, the OVH events would not be as successful but for the OVH volunteers, and I thank each and every one of you!

When asking for individuals to give their time to help you, please consider their needs as well. If you are planning a session which may require hours of support there should be refreshments made available to the helpers, some may not have eaten or on a hot day drinks would held your crew.

We have a very exciting presentation for the next meeting, Bob / K4HJF will bring in and discuss his HF amplifier project. Bob is not new to building amplifiers; he has built them from the ground up and with great success I might add. Bob has taken the same "roll your own" approach to his new project, meaning his own design from the case up. This will be a "not to miss" presentation. Bob has done a an absolutely wonderful job and I personally hope you find it inspiring enough that you will undertake such a project.



Cont'd on Page 3

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:	Theresa Heartney	KG4TVM	257-3556
Treasurer:	Gary Gilham	WG4ARC	932-1118

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 2012

Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873
Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490

FIELD DAY 2012

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 AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	361-3042
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FINANCE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234
Gary	WG4ARC	932-1118

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	361-3042
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JOTA

TBA.

LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Steve	N0DWB	349-1381
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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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PACKET

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4SV	590-9562

PROGRAMS

TBA

WINTER FIELD DAY 2011

Joe	KI4OHR	369-2639
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QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
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	257-3556
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

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	361-3042
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512

All tel. numbers listed 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 © 2011 by the Ole Virginia Hams.

The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Monday of the month at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House at 9930 Liberia Avenue, Manassas, Virginia. 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://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.

Approx. Circulation - 170.

Last Rev: 11/14/2011

I also remind everyone that we still need some volunteer(s) to step forward to serve as Membership chairman and also compile the Sunshine Column information for the monthly OVH Newsletter. Theresa / KG4TVM is doing these in the interim, but is very overworked and overloaded with everything else she does for the OVH. Please consider helping your club. Also, Officer elections are coming up fast, early next year, and we may have some vacancies that need to be filled.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting on November 21st!

73 George K4GVT

Sunshine Corner:

Birthdays during November - Wayne / N7QLK, Jim / KK4CWO, Theresa / KG4TVM, Butch / W4HJL, Gene / KD4RHC and Charlie / WA4YGI.

Best wishes to Butch / W4HJL who is recovering from some time in the hospital.

Congratulations to Joe / KI4OHR on his recent wedding and also for his June 2011 Field Day operation as a 1 Battery - 1 Operator Station which is listed in QST for December 2011.

The OVH Christmas / Year End Holiday party will be on Sunday, December 11th beginning at 5:30 pm. More details on page 6 below. Everyone, including spouses / significant others, are invited! It is Pot Luck again so plan to bring a dish; please also bring a new unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots.

Again, this Sunshine Corner column is quite brief this month; the OVH is continuing to look for a new volunteer to compile the information which appears in this column each month. The ideal person is someone active in the club, who knows some or many of the other members and is good at keeping his / her ear to the ground to pick up information to be reported. I am continuing to function as acting Sunshine Corner chairperson, but someone please step forward to relieve me! It's really not that much work, but it does take some persistence and an ability to compile the information in a timely manner for the Newsletter. I'll help with the transition.

The OVH club also has several other committee chair openings, now would be a great time to volunteer and start on January 1st! The OVH is also looking for chairs for Publicity, Membership and JOTA. Also, the annual officer elections will be in February; it is time for you to let someone (everyone) know if you are interested in running for office: President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer.

For now, please continue send your news / comments to kg4tvm@hotmail.com or by telephone to 703-257-3566.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting October 17, 2011:

George K4GVT called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Meeting was held at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House in Manassas, Virginia.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 24 OVH members present.

Theresa KG4TVM gave a recap on Girl Scout Adventure Day held on Saturday, October 15, 2011 at the Prince William County Fairgrounds and thanked everyone who participated.

Terry / WA5NTI spoke about his antenna party that was rescheduled for Saturday, October 22nd at his home.

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Bob / K4HJF gave a pre-presentation, including photos, about his home built high power HF amplifier and VHF amplifier projects; Bob reported that he is wrapping up the construction of each of those amplifiers, expects to have them finished before the next meeting and will bring one or both to the November meeting at which he will give a presentation about them.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the September meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report by Gary / WG4ARC, approved as presented.

Membership – Theresa / KG4TVM presented the application for Emmett Greenleaf to be voted on; it was voted on and Emmett was voted in.

ARES – no report.

Repeaters – Art / W1CRO reported all repeaters are currently working well.

George / K4GVT reported that he contacted the antenna contractor for NOVEC who quoted a price of the replacement antennas needed by the OVH FM repeaters when the work by that contractor is performed at the existing FM repeater site at NOVEC on Lomond Drive. That contractor's quote was in the \$3,000 to \$5,000 range so the OVH will purchase the antennas separately at a lower cost; George also asked for the estimated labor cost but hasn't received a reply yet.

George announced that the City of Manassas has offered to allow the OVH to install a 70 cm FM repeater with a suitable antenna on top of the very tall Water Tower in Old Town Manassas. George has offered to donate his personal repeater (with its allocation, 443.500 MHz) to the OVH for that purpose; the repeater would be installed in the existing equipment shed by that Water Tower which is higher than the NOVEC (FM Repeater) tower and will probably provide better 70 cm repeater coverage in Manassas, Prince William County and beyond.

Art also asked George to discuss the 2 meter DStar situation; George has offered to make a non-interest bearing loan to the OVH if or as needed so that the OVH can proceed with its acquisition of a 2 meter DSTAR repeater before the end of this calendar year; the loan will be paid back in early 2012 when the funds (previously approved) are allocated by the OVH Finance Committee in the OVH's 2012 budget. This will allow the 2 meter DSTAR repeater project to proceed without delay and without risking loss of the 2 meter DSTAR allocation under the "use it or lose" policy of TMARC; Keith / KM4AA is ready to proceed with the 2 meter DSTAR implementation; the OVH already has permission to put additional antennas as needed (i.e., 2 meter DSTAR) at the existing 70 cm DSTAR site. The 2 meter DSTAR repeater will go into the same equipment shed as the existing 70 cm DSTAR repeater.

Training – Mark / WA4KFZ will be holding a General class at the Red Cross Building.

Terry KC4DV is looking for individual interested in participating in a study group for the Extra Class license at his residence.

Hamfest 2012 – Bruce / AB8CI volunteered again to chair the 2012 Hamfest this year but he knows he will need extra assistance because his travel schedule (already known) won't allow him to actually attend the Hamfest. Terry / KC4DV volunteered to assist Bruce as co-chair; George / K4GVT will work on the vendors; Bruce advised that we will still use the fairgrounds and asked that we consider forming a committee to search for future venues; contract with the Fairground has not been signed yet, but Fairground charges are expected to be the same as in 2011.

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Field Day 2012 – Randy / WB7RAV reported that Field Day site in Manassas Park used in 2011 will still be there in 2012 and he will again chair the June 2012 Field Day event.

Winter Field Day 2012 – Joe / KI4OHR advised George / K4GVT that he is still up for chairing this event as long as Gary can provide a heated tent again; but this will be the last year that Joe will chair the event.

Sunshine Corner – Theresa / KG4TVM announced the birthdays for the month; John / KG4NXT finally received his Worked All States operating award; Theresa also announced that the OVH is looking for several committee chairs.

Website – Paul / W4ZB reported that he is continuing to work on major revisions to the W4OVH.NET web site, most of which are not live yet.

BREAK

50/50 – Won by Emmett - \$10.

Old Business – Mark / WA4KFZ asked about the club purchasing a trailer; George / K4GVT advised that Brian / WC4J is being evicted (again) and needs help in taking down his antennas.

New Business – Christmas / Year End OVH Party? Theresa / KG4TVM volunteered to find a location in early December!

Upcoming Event: the Manassas Park Christmas Parade will be on December 10th this year. Contact Steve / N4OGR for more information. Announcements:

Announcements: Gary / WG4ARC will be moving to the Red Cross Regional Office in Fairfax so he won't be in the Manassas office on a regular basis in the future. Your chances of finding Gary in the Manassas office on an unscheduled walk-in basis in the future are very low. George / K4GVT has a high power amplifier for sale.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

Saturday, February 4, 2012, Virginia State Convention, also known as Frostfest 2012, to be held in Richmond, Virginia, more details at <http://frostfest.com>

TRAINING SESSIONS:

General Class license training course given by Mark / WA4KFZ at the Red Cross Center in Manassas, Virginia, four Tuesday evenings, at 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm, beginning Nov. 22, 2011 and ending on Dec. 13, 2011. VE examination will be scheduled for attendees shortly after Dec. 13th. See Mark's Flyer on the last page of this Newsletter for more details, also at <http://w4ovh.net>

SPECIAL OPERATING EVENTS AND CONTESTS

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

PUBLIC SERVICE / TRAINING / ARES EVENTS

Saturday, December 10, 2011, Manassas Park Christmas Parade. Contact Steve / N4OGR for more info.

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.

Some Possibly Useful Information

1. CQ Magazine and its related publications are going to digital PDF editions, but still keeping, for now, print editions. The additional cost of a digital edition will be nominal if you already subscribe to a print edition. Starting soon, World Radio Magazine which was acquired by CQ several years ago and since has been available each month as a free PDF download, will start charging a subscription again. More details at <http://cq-amateur-radio.com> Check your subscriptions.

2. Ever want to operate on a Low Frequency near 500 KHz? Years ago, those frequencies, just below the the AM broadcast band, were busy with Ship to Shore CW traffic; all large vessels at sea and maritime service shore stations were required to monitor 500 KHz, the emergency calling frequency, around the clock. Then, much superior and lower cost satellite based communications systems became available and the maritime users abandoned these low frequencies; the FCC has since granted special experimental licenses to a number of U.S. hams to try out those low frequencies. See <http://500kc.com>. Recently, the European CEPT has recommended without dissent that an 8 KHz band between 472 KHz and 480 KHz be made available for the European amateur radio services, with transmitter outputs limited to 5 watts. Narrow band digital modes, including CW, are expected to be authorized. Will the FCC follow for U.S. hams soon thereafter?

*The Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club
will hold its Christmas/Year End Holiday Party on*

Sunday, December 11, 2011

5:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the

*Yorkshire Restaurant
7537 Centreville Road,
Manassas Park, Virginia*

*Please be sure to use the Side Entrance
for the Event Room reserved for this Party.*

*This will be a Pot Luck event again this year so
please bring your favorite holiday dish to share*

*Everyone, including spouses and
significant others, are invited to attend!*

*The OVH will also be collecting new,
unwrapped toys for the U.S. Marines'
annual Toys for Tots campaign*

Please RSVP

via email to: KG4TVM@HOTMAIL.COM

or by Telephone to: 703-257-3566

Several OVH members participated at the October 15, 2011 Girl Scout Adventure Day at the Prince William County Fairgrounds.



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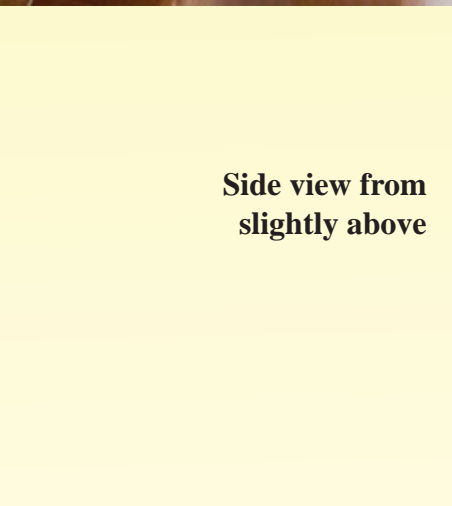
Teaser photos for the upcoming presentation about his new homebrew High Power HF Amplifier by Bob / K4HJF at the November 21, 2011 OVH Meeting



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Rear view from slightly above



Side view from slightly above



Top view

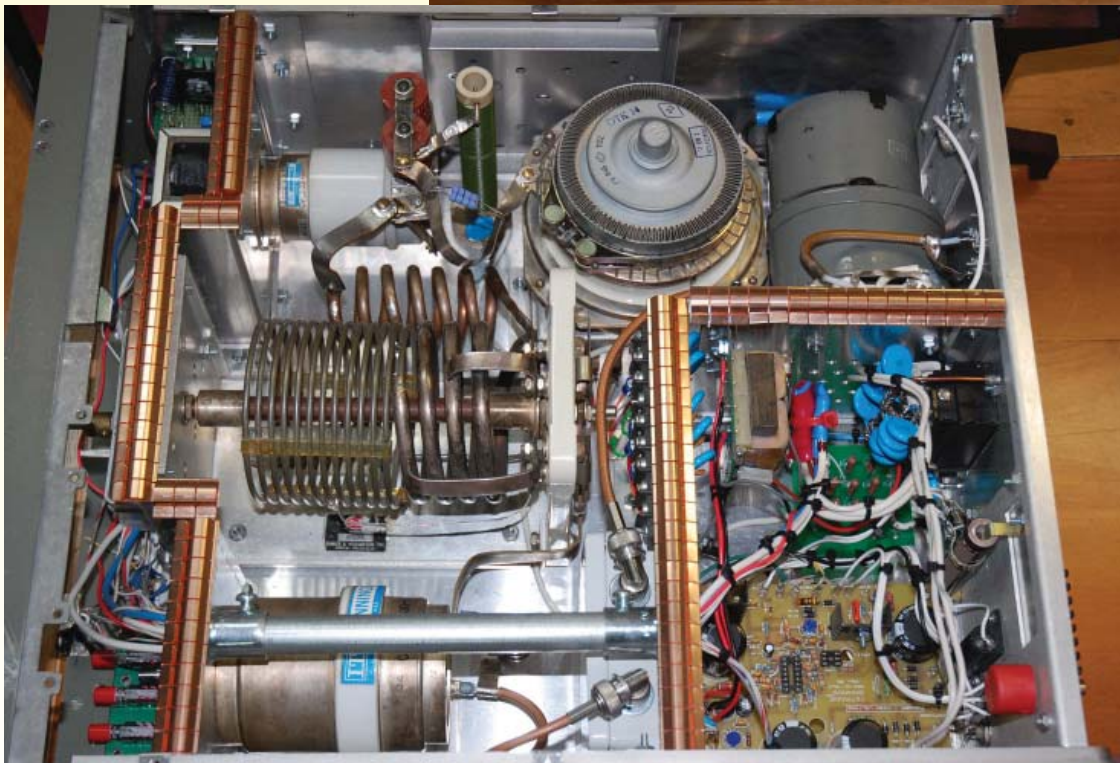
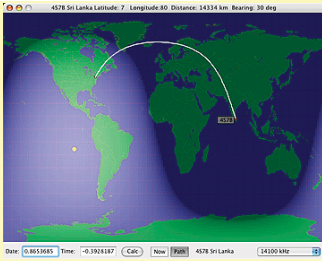


Image: DX Toolbox™
www.blackcatsystems.com



Get Your General Class License!

Tired of only being able to operate on 2 meters?

- Get on the high frequency (HF) bands!
- Communicate across the country and around the world!

Your Technician Class license was a great introduction to the world of Amateur Radio, but now it's time to move up to "the big leagues." Since the FCC has removed the Morse code testing requirement, getting your General Class license is now even easier and faster!

The Ole Virginia Hams will be sponsoring a General Class training course beginning **November 22, 2011**. 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 General Class License Manual," 7th edition
(for tests beginning July 1, 2011)
Published by ARRL – The National Association for Amateur Radio
(formerly the American Radio Relay League)

The course will combine self-study with instruction in the theory portions of the test (usually the most difficult material for new students):

- Chapter 4: Components and Circuits
- Chapter 5: Radio Signals and Equipment
- Chapter 6: Antennas
- Chapter 7: Propagation

Location: American Red Cross Training Center, 9930 Liberia Ave., Manassas, VA 20110
(Davis Ford Crossing Shopping Center)

Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2011 (4 weeks, ending December 13, 2011) VE session: to be announced.

Time: Tuesday evenings, 7:00PM -9:00PM

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