

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

November 2013

Next Meeting: Monday, November 18, 2013

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hello to all and I hope this message finds you all healthy and well. It's already November and this past month has been a very busy one for OVH members in several different areas as you will see from the reports later in this newsletter.

For those interested in emergency communications, the recent Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines has caused massive devastation and is likely to be the deadliest such storm in recorded history. Doubtlessly, local amateur radio operators there are playing a major role with emergency communications. Please reflect on the massive upheaval that must be going on over there and keep an ear open for any health and welfare traffic that might need to be passed.

Another item I'd like to bring up is how we operate at meetings. The OVH uses the Robert's Rules of Order to facilitate our business which means once a motion is brought to the floor and seconded, it is up for debate and anyone may speak for or against the motion on the floor once recognized, but the discussion must be kept germane to the topic at hand and both the comments and any questions should be handled in a respectful manor. We haven't had any real issues with that but I'd just like to remind everyone.

In the case of complex or likely controversial matters to be brought up as motions, it is desirable that such motions to be carefully thought out and reduced to writing ahead of time and also run by other interested members before the meeting for comments, both positive and negative, and suggestions for improvement. The OVH is fortunate to have a membership with a very wide range of talents and capabilities, including some long term members who have a wealth of historical knowledge which can be drawn upon for invaluable insights. It is almost always useful for such members to be

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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 2014

Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
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FIELD DAY 2014

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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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		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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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
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Bill	N4SV	590-9562
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
David	KG4GIY	628-3868

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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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consulted in advance so that things will run more smoothly at a meeting.

As always if there is any subject that you as club members would like to give a presentation on let me know and we can get you on the schedule.

I also want to remind everyone that the OVH Holiday / Christmas Party has at last been scheduled for Sunday, December 15th starting at 6:00 pm at the Yorkshire Restaurant on Route 28, Manassas, the same place as the last several years. This is the big (non-radio) club social event each year and all OVH members and their family / guests are invited. The main course will be provided, but please bring a covered dish to share, and an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. Keep an eye on the OVH email reflector for more information. Many thanks to Theresa / KG4TVM for finalizing the arrangements for this. Hope to see you all there.

I also hope all can attend the upcoming OVH meeting on Monday, November 18th at 7:30 pm, and I look forward to seeing you there!

73 Justin KJ4LAS

Sunshine Corner:

Happy Birthday Wishes for November birthdays to Wayne / N7QLK, Kevin / KA4RNH, Austin / KJ4EOW, Jim / KK4CWO, Baofang / KK4JKF, Theresa / KG4TVM, Butch / W4HJL, Gene / KD4RHC, Charlie / WA4YGI and Joe / AB4QV.

Happy Veterans Day and thank you very much to our many Veterans for your service!

Congratulations to Mark / WA4FKZ for conducting another very successful Technician licensing class, the turnout at the VE exam was outstanding! Thanks to the VE team for doing such a great job.

Terry / KC4DV is highly organized and working very diligently with the Hamfest Committee which recently had its second meeting to pull together all of the details and loose ends for the 2014 OVH Manassas Hamfest. If you want to assist with this, please get in touch with Terry. The next Hamfest Committee meeting will be in early December.

I stopped by the Buckhall Fire Department to visit with Terry / WA5NTI, Clarence / K4CNM and Kristin / no callsign at a 4-H radio/electronics event. They are working with the kids and are doing a wonderful job getting them interested in radio. Interest is very high and it looks like they could end up having their own Technician licensing class for Mark!

Tremendous turnout of Boy Scouts at the JOTA event chaired by Scott / KB8NUM. Thanks Scott!

OVH Holiday / Christmas Party in early December – details to follow soon!

Have a happy Thanksgiving and mark your calendars to attend the OVH Holiday / Christmas Party on Sunday, December 15th at 6:00 pm at the Yorkshire Restaurant on Route 28 in Manassas. More info about that to follow on the OVH email reflector.

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

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting October 21, 2013:

Justin / KJ4LAS called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Meeting was held at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House in Manassas, Virginia.

All present stated their names and call signs. There were 30 OVH members and 3 guests.

Clarence / K4CNM gave an overview of the FM repeater antenna project, discussion followed, John / KG4NXT suggested we continue with committee reports and bring this back up after the break.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the September meeting were approved as read, motion by John / KG4NXT, seconded by Luther / KJ4FDK; Keith / KM4AA announced that the Technical Committee did meet as directed in the minutes; Justin / KJ4LAS announced that Keith / KM4AA is now the Technical Committee Chair.

Treasurer's report – Terry / KC4DV gave the report, motion by John / KG4NXT, seconded by Steve / N4OGR approved as presented.

Membership – Luther / KJ4FDK presented the following application for vote: Steve Moore / WB0AOD, Luther made a motion to accept for membership, seconded by Steve N4OGR, approved; read in Derrick LaHousse – no call or license, but now KV4SH with an Extra Class license.

Repeaters – Keith / KM4AA reported that there was a problem with the server for D-Star but that everything is now back in order and working.

Training – Mark / WA4KFZ has 25 students in his ongoing Technician class and expects a big turnout for the VE Session later this month.

Hamfest – Terry / KC4DV advised that the next Hamfest Committee planning meeting will be held on November 6th at Panera on Liberia Avenue, Manassas at 7:00 pm.

Field Day – John / KG4NXT has volunteered to chair the June 2014 Field Day event; Butch / W4HJL has made the reservation for the event at the Nokesville Park.

Sunshine Corner – Theresa / KG4TVM announced the birthdays for the month, Joe / KI4OHR has been in a car accident, thanks to Scott / KB8NUM for running a very successful JOTA event.

JOTA – Scott / KB8NUM has volunteered to chair JOTA for 2014, had a great turnout this year at which two boy scouts were able to finish their merit badges.

4-H – Terry WA5NTI reported on the 4H project and had photos from the first two classes, Kristin / no callsign gave a report on what each class will cover and also thanked Terry / WA5NTI and Clarence / K4CNM for their assistance.

Old Business – Terry / WA5NTI asked about adding new members to the website, Clarence / K4CNM sends a traffic message on the NVTN once a new ham is voted in; Emmett / K2DJG attended Centreville Day and reported there were 80 vendors; Gavin / KK4MXT thinks we need to

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be announced when we are in attendance at an event.

New Business – George / K4GVT announced that the Manassas Christmas Parade will be held on December 7th this year and the City of Manassas has requested the OVH's assistance; he needs at least 12 people to work the event; Art / W1CRO gave a description of the parade route; Theresa / KG4TVM announced that we will have a holiday party, details later; Terry / WA5NTI asked about new club badges.

BREAK

50/50 won by John / KG4NXT.

FM Repeater Antenna Project – Clarence / K4CNM reviewed his report from the last meeting which has been online on the members only page on the OVH web site since the September meeting and went over the various options. Motion by Clarence / K4CNM to replace all three FM repeater antennas on the NOVEC Tower at the same time with a cost not to exceed \$21,500, seconded by Keith KM4AA, lengthy discussion followed including other technical alternatives not yet considered, how the club could pay such amount given lesser limits on OVH funds potentially available, possibility of special assessments for club members to raise funds to pay for this project, possibility of OVH obtaining grant moneys given that the FM repeater capability service as an back up system for public emergencies, etc. After the discussion, when the motion finally came to a vote, the motion was defeated: 21 no, 4 yes.

George / K4GVT made a motion to switch the 146.97 FM repeater and the DSTAR repeater, but withdrew his motion after brief discussion; Art / W1CRO suggested trying to see if we could install a 2 meter FM remote receiver on Mt. Pone and to feed receive signals to the FM repeater at the NOVEC site to see if that would improve the coverage of the 2 meter FM repeater; George / K4GVT made a motion to temporarily link 146.97 FM receiver to a remote 2 meter FM receiver on Mt Pone and temporarily disable the 2 meter D-Star repeater on Mt. Pone for testing, seconded by Terry / WA5NTI, one opposed, approved.

Motion to adjourn by John / KG4NXT, seconded by Mark / WA4KFZ.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

OVH YEAR END SOCIAL EVENT / HOLIDAY / CHRISTMAS PARTY:

Sunday, December 15, 2013 - OVH Holiday / Christmas / Year End Party, starting at 6:00 pm at the Yorkshire Restaurant on Route 28 in Manassas. All OVH members and families / guests are invited. Main course will be provided, but plan to bring a covered side dish to share, and also an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. Plan to attend - always lots of fun for everyone. Watch the OVH email reflector for the latest information.

OPERATING CONTESTS:

Saturday / Sunday - November 16/17, 2013 - ARRL SSB 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 the Worked All States achievement award. More info at <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

Information about many other operating contests almost every weekend can be found on the WA7BNM's web at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal>

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NEARBY TECHNICAL TOPIC MEETING:

Thursday, November 21, 2013 - 7:30 pm - AMRAD meeting - at the Dolly Madison Library, 1224 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean, Virginia - Topic: 100 Years of Amateur Aerials. More info at <http://amrad.org>

NEXT 2014 OVH MANASSAS HAMFEST COMMITTEE MEETING:

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

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.

Some Pictures from the local JOTA Boy Scout Radio Event on October 19, 2013



continued on the following page



Picture to the right is from the October 29, 2013 4-H Meeting about Radio and Electronics. Five OVH Members are in the Picture - two without Callsigns yet, plus other eight other enthusiastic attendees!



Pictures from the OVH VEC Examination Session on October 29, 2013



**Above:
Registration
for Examinees**

**To the Right:
Waiting for the
Exams to Start**



Summary of this VEC Session

Number of Examinees: 26

Number of Exams Administered: 28

All Examinees, except one, passed an Exam.

Derek, now KV4SH, took three examinations and went from no license to Extra Class in a single sitting.

Presentation on Ham Radio to First Lego League Group

On Sunday, October 20, 2013, Mark / WA4KFZ gave talk to a group of kids participating in the First Lego League Challenge about ham radio and emergency communications. Mark was invited by an adult who was then taking Mark's Technician Class course along with his son.

The group's project is part of the First Lego League robotics competition and its theme this year is "Nature's Fury" and natural disasters. The group was interested in learning what ham radio could offer for providing communications capabilities in conjunction with a robot-controlled alerting system. Mark discussed the types of equipment hams use for communications,

including

DSTAR and FM repeaters, satellites, and HF, the capabilities of such equipment and ham training for emergency communications. The kids asked Mark to evaluate their robotics project and offer his "expert" opinion as someone who works in the radio engineering field.

More info: <http://www.firstlegoleague.org/challenge/2013naturesfury>



Communications Help for the 2013 Marine Corp Marathon

Several OVH members participated in providing communications services during the 2013 Marine Corps Marathon event on October 27, 2013.

Clarence / K4CNM and Gavin / KK4MXT provided a station at mile marker 23 on South Clark Street, a few hundred feet north of 23rd Street in Crystal City, Arlington, Virginia. They set up a battery operated portable station under a canopy using a dual band roll-up Slim Jim Antenna up about 20 feet. Most of the time HTs were used to contact net control, no runner incidents there this year.

Mark / WA4KFZ worked at the Medical 'A' tent (MED

A) located at the Iwo Jima memorial. Operator

space there was shared with Navy corpsmen and other military personnel who managed the runner's medical database. Medical activity was rather quiet this year - apparently the good weather meant fewer runner incidents. The equipment used: Icom IC-91AD handheld (DSTAR digital voice mode) with Mirage BD-35 dual-band amplifier, 7AH battery, and a

homebrew dual-band J-pole antenna. All medical communications at the Marine Corp Marathon use either DSTAR voice or digital modes.

Terry / KC4DV participated from a location near the Pentagon.



Some Possibly Useful or Interesting Information

1. Interested in learning about electronic circuit simulation? Try out one of the free downloadable SPICE products. See, <http://tinyURL.com/FreeSPICESimulators> and <http://www.linear.com/designtools/software/#LTspice>
2. Want to see a nearby mammoth ham radio HF antenna system in Loudoun County up close without any traveling? First use Google maps or bing.com maps in aerial and/or Bird's Eye view using coordinates: 39.1533, -77.6060 for the exact latitude / longitude of K4VV's station which is just northwest of downtown Leesburg. Zoom in and out and study those views carefully. Next, look at the flyby video taken using a video camera carried on a miniature helicopter posted at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5hz_xRCz4w Very impressive!
3. Looking to improve your Morse code proficiency with free software? First, try out Morse Runner which is downloadable from <http://dxatlas.com> Morse Runner is CW contest simulator. Next try RufzXP which is available at <http://rufzxp.net> The predecessor to RufzXP was a very popular German DOS program (Rufz) which was converted to run on XP and computers with later operating systems. If the name seems strange and you want to remember it, this might help: Rufzeichen means CallSign in German! The verb "rufen" (ruf) means to call - similar to the sound that dogs make when they call out or bark! Practice with either of these programs is certain to improve your CW (Morse code) copy speed!
4. A new RTTY (Radio Teletype) program? HF RTTY has been popular with hams since the 1950's but has been software based for many years - very few mechanical Teletype machines are still in use. Many excellent programs are available, but check out a new one from G2YYD at <http://www.rttycontesting.com/downloads/downloads.html>