

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+ (now temporarily out of service)  
Web Site at <http://w4ovh.net>

# OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

## November 2016

### Next Meeting: Monday, November 21, 2016

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings one and all! I hope this message finds you well. Happy post-Halloween.

Something about this time of year that makes me look forward to being by the radio...maybe those bitter cold winter nights? And as I think of those nights, I also think about our weekly net. Lately, I've heard a few new calls which give me hope that we are expanding our reach. It also causes me to ask, why should we check into the net?

One good reason is to see that we have our equipment configured properly—how many times have you heard someone not know how to set their offset or tone? Also, it allows us to check on the repeater's performance. I know many in the club also have taken the opportunity to see how well they can make the repeater with their handhelds from various locations. For anyone looking for experience "handling multiple stations/check-ins", this is a great opportunity.

As we approach that particular day to which we extend our many thanks, I'm thankful for the camaraderie of fellow HAMs in OVH. In particular, I'm very thankful of Sunshine, who stays on top of all the "social" aspects of our club. Over the years, Theresa (KG4TVM) has done a superb job of expressing Ole' Virginia Hams' support to families in times of crisis or elation; orchestrating social gatherings (aka, our annual Christmas Party); and tracking member birthdays- as we should hers, this month!! Happy Birthday Theresa!!

Ray / KM4EKR and Jeff / WB6UIE have done some extensive research for the purchase of callsign badges and embroidered T-shirts that give us/OVH recognition. Please look back



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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		<a href="http://pwcares.org">http://pwcares.org</a>

## FINANCE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490

## GENERATORS

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

## HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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## WEBMASTER — W4OVH.NET

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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## 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

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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 Repeaters 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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at last month's Ole' Virginia Times (pg. 8) for a quick update of designs being considered. Ray and Jeff will be soliciting for a group purchase of these items at an upcoming club meeting; I suggest that you be on the watch (i.e., bring money for the purchase).

Other items of note, I have some "things" for: KK4BZ, KM4KLB, KI4OHR, KK4JFK, KM4HRG, KK4YZK. If I see you at the next meeting, I'll know you read this column!!

Finally, just a reminder that our December "meeting" will be abbreviated and on Sunday, December 11th at the Yorkshire Restaurant (7537 Centreville Road) at 6:00 pm at the beginning of the OVH's Year End Holiday / Christmas Party. Please be sure to be there on time. The "OVH Meeting" will be brief and abbreviated because, rumor has it, that some spouses and family members will refuse to attend (all are invited to the Year End Holiday / Christmas Party if they have to attend a real OVH meeting. Keep watching the OVH email reflector for the latest information about the OVH's Year End Holiday / Christmas Party on December 11th. Somewhere in there will likely be something "venison." Don't forget, it's also a Toys for Tots event.

See you at the November 21st meeting, 7:30 pm at the Manassas Public Works, 8500 Public Works Drive, Manassas, Virginia. Our program will be a great presentation by Ken / KE2N, on C4FM and our new repeater's capabilities.

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

73 Wayne N7QLK

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## Sunshine Corner:

Happy birthday wishes in November to Wayne / N7QLK, Kevin / KA4RNH, Jim / KK4CWO, Baofang / KK4JFK, Theresa / KG4TVM, Butch / W4HJL, Greg / KM4CCG, Jeff / KB4MKL, Gene / KD4RHC, Charlie / WA4YGI and Joe / AB4QV.

Also, Happy Veterans Day to all our Veterans!

Please keep Terry / WA5NTI in your thoughts and prayers as he recovers from the effects of a stroke. He is welcoming visitors and details for that are on the OVH's email reflector.

Happy retirement wishes to Jan / KE4TMW, I bet she will not be missing that daily train ride commute.

Congratulations to George / K4GVT and his wife, Ev, on the birth of their granddaughter Addy in Texas. Congrats also to the proud parents Tanya and Alex in Texas!

JOTA – We were fortunate to have a beautiful fall day for JOTA on October 15th. The Boy Scout participation level at the event was down slightly from last year but we still had a good turnout, each Scout was given one on one, individualized attention from our club members. A few pictures from the event appear later in this Newsletter.

Year End Holiday Party – Sunday, December 11, 2016 beginning at 6:00 pm at the Yorkshire Restaurant, 7537 Centreville Road. Manassas. This will again be a fun event for all OVH members and their families! Please plan bring a favorite dish to share. We will also be collecting new, unwrapped toys as donations to the Toys For Tots Campaign. Plan to attend! Further and last minute details will be on the OVH email reflector.

The 2017 Hamfest planning meetings have already started and the second one occurred earlier this month. Details for the next meeting in early December will be on the OVH email reflector. Your help is needed! Contact Terry KC4DV if you can lend a hand, or simply show up at the meeting!

Manassas and Manassas Park will be having parades for the holidays and they are both looking for our help with radio communications during the event. Keep checking the reflector for updates.

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 8:00 pm every Thursday evening.

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

73 Theresa KG4TVM

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## Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting October 17, 2016:

OVH club President, Wayne / N7QLK, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm in the main conference room at the Manassas Public Works Building.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 32 OVH members and 5 guests in attendance.

PRESENTATION: by Sheila / KI4WKY, and Mel / KI4WKZ, Clark. Sheila talked about and demonstrated her “Crazy Antennas” she created for the Vienna Wireless club’s contest. Very decorative and they work. See the April 2016 QST for an article all about it called “Artfull Antennas”

### BUSINESS MEETING

Sunshine: Happy Birthday to: Ray / KM4EKR, Doc / W1IMX, and Terry / WA5NTI. JOTA was held October 15, the club was represented by Wayne / N7QLK, John / KG4NXT, Theresa / KG4TVM, Al / KB4BHB and Byron / AK4XR. Gil / KM4OZH passed his extra class test. The OVH’s Year End Holiday / Christmas Party and combined December Club meeting will be held at the Yorkshire Restaurant on Sunday, December 11th - more details to follow.

New Business: Theresa presented the proposed Artwork designs for the club **Cont’d on page 5**



trailer. A motion was made by Terry KC4DV, to have the commercial outfit that did the designs make the artwork and lettering for the trailer. Sandy KM4JUS seconded the motion. There was an amendment to have the vinyl for the trailer to be the type that will last 10 years. The motion passed.

Minutes from the September's meeting were sent out in the October OVH Newsletter. Motion to accept September's minutes, by Bob / K4HJF, seconded by George / K4GVT, motion passed.

Treasurer's report –Terry KC4DV first thanked all those that donated money to purchase the Yaesu DR1 repeater and then gave the treasurer's report. Motion by John / KG4NXT, to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Theresa / KG4TVM, seconded the motion which passed by vote of all members in attendance.

Wayne / N7QLK, thanked the Technical Committee and all those that helped out with the recent work at the Mt. Ponc repeater site.

Membership – There were no new member application this month. Andreas (Andy) Gomponia / KJ4MTP who was read in last month was voted on. While Andy waited outside the meeting room Luther WA3FMO made a motion that he be admitted to the club as a member. Butch W4HJL seconded the motion which passed.

Quartermaster: Steve / N4OGR asked that serial numbers of all new equipment be reported to him for entry into the clubs equipment log record system.

ARES:- no report.

Repeaters: George / K4GVT reported the 146.970 FM repeater has been relocated and is now working well at the Mt Ponc location. A new repeater controller is still to be installed. He mentioned the need for shelves for the rack. Terry / KC4DV advised he would check on some he had. George was checking on some commercial antennas from Carolina Microwave that would be tuned to our repeater frequencies which cost about \$1000.00. He also mentioned that to expedite the installation of the new Yaesu DR1 repeater, it should be temporarily installed at the NOVEC site. He also thanked Ken / KE2N for bench testing the new repeater. Motion to accept the report from Bob / K4HJF and seconded by Wayne / N7QLK.

Training- The Technician class will start on November 7th and end on December 12th. A VEC examination session will follow on Monday, December 19th at 7:00 pm.

Webpage: Paul / W4ZB reported the OVH's web sites continue to work with no outstanding comments or complaints. Please email any suggestions.

Hamfest – The next Hamfest Planning meeting will be Wednesday, November 2nd at 7:00 pm at Sammy & Joes Pizza. Look for the notice on the OVH email reflector.

4H: Terry / WA5NTI mentioned the Buckhall 4H was starting up again. They will be putting a dipole antenna up. Email Terry WA5NTI to help out.

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BBHN: Terry / WA5NTI has done some modeling of the routes for the backbone and they will be looking to try out the two hardest points to connect. The BBHN committee will be talking to the Service authority about installing equipment on the water towers.

REMINDERS: The Christmas parade will be coming up. There is a mini-try next Sunday.

50-50: Newest member Andy / KJ4MTP, won \$11.00

Motion to adjourn by Wayne N7QLK, seconded by Ray / KM4EKR, passed and meeting adjourned.

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## Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

### SPECIAL HAM RADIO EVENTS:

The Technician Class Licensing course being taught by Mark / WA4KFZ is on-going at this point. A VEC Exam session for the attendees at the course who will be taking the Technician Class exam will be held in the early evening on December 19, 2016 in Manassas. The VEC session will also be open to the public (i.e., individuals who did not attend the classes) for the Technician exam as well as all other amateur radio exams on a space available basis. Contact Mark directly at his email: [wa4kfz@cox.net](mailto:wa4kfz@cox.net) for more information.

Sunday, December 11, 2016, beginning at 6:00 pm - the OVH Year End / Holiday / Christmas Party event will take place at the Yorkshire Restaurant, 7537 Centreville Road, Manassas, Virginia. This is a major OVH social event and lots of fun for all members and their families who are invited. Save the Date and plan to attend. Check for further information at the upcoming OVH meeting and on the OVH email reflector.

Saturday, February 4, 2017, 8:30 am through afternoon, in Richmond, Virginia, the Frostfest - Hamfest. This has been the Mid-Atlantic's largest winter hamfest for many years and many OVH members drive down to Richmond to attend; if you haven't gone before, ask around and you can get a ride with someone. More info at <http://frostfest.com>

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

Saturday, December 3, 2016 - City of Manassas Christmas Parade event. The OVH will again be providing communications support for the City of Manassas Christmas Parade using the OVH's VHF and UHF FM repeaters. OVH volunteers who are able to participate will need to meet on Saturday December 3rd 7AM at Tommy's Place located at 8910 Mathis Ave, breakfast

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will be provided. A total of at least 12 volunteers are need, but more can be used to work and provide communications throughout the parade route. The parade will be over at around noontime. We'll be operating on 443.500 to please make sure your CTCSS on your handheld is set to 110.9 for this repeater. Still more volunteers are solicited! Contact George / K4GVT via email at George@K4GVT.com for more information and to participate. Thanks.

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.

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### A Few Pictures from the JOTA - Boy Scout Radio Event on October 15, 2016





## Two Pictures from the October 17, 2016 OVH Meeting - Guest Speaker, Sheila / KI4WKY of Vienna Wireless demonstrating her “Artful Antennas” described in QST for April 2016



### Some Possibly Interesting Or Useful Information

1. RFI problems / interference with your radios from household equipment in your residence? This seems to be an increasing problem for all active ham radio operators. It most often results when the household equipment manufacturer skips during equipment design to save on parts and assembly costs. Surprisingly, a treadmill with large motors did not produce any noticeable RFI. The disassembly images and notes suggest how RFI problems should be addressed; see <http://degood.org/hamradio/treadmill.html>

2. With contemporary home brew electronics equipment design, it is essential to fabricate a custom Printed Circuit Board (PCB) for firm mounting and interconnection (wiring) of the various component parts once a design has been verified and before the successful design can be mounted (and kept together) and used as part of a larger project. In former times, hams routinely attempted to make their own custom PCBs; that was a difficult undertaking in and of itself and required practice and expertise for success; now days, a large number of custom PCB fabrication firms offer their services and software tools needed to layout an original PCB board at such low cost that it no longer makes much sense to do it on your own. See, <http://www.edn.com/electronics-blogs/all-aboard-/4442575/2/No-one-best-PCB-fab-house> for a recent survey of the offerings of PCB fab houses.

3. Remote Operation of Ham Radio Stations. This is a topic of increasing interest among hams. For one group the need or desire for remote operation is driven by home owner use restrictions which prevent installation of satisfactory antennas where they reside. For another group, the need for remote operation is driven by a simple desire to “share” the operation of a superior ham station with relatively close by friends or associates. For still another group, the need for remote operation is driven by a desire to have ham equipment that is spread out over or throughout a single general location be operated from a single point of control. Finally, and there is not much of this yet, it will be possible in the future to participate from the DX operator side in a DXpedition operation from your residence using remote control equipment operating over the Internet. Hams and other creative minds have been working on ways to operate remotely for many years. Good or reasonable results are now available with well designed commercial equipment. The Elecraft offers a Remote Operation add-on system for its K3 line; the Swedish company RemoteRig (<http://remoterig.com>) has been perfecting and improving its offering which are now readily available in the U.S.



## SOTA = Summits On The Air

Your editor recently ran into a relatively close by (in Virginia) ham operator, Chuck / K4QS, who handles the SOTA program for Virginia and is quite passionate about the SOTA program. See <http://www.sota.org.uk> for basic information about SOTA; for the “local” information for Virginia, see <http://sota-w4-va.hamradio.me> In recent years past, Chuck has promoted SOTA at the Richmond Frostfest.

The basic idea of the SOTA program which originated in the UK -- similar to the IOTA (Islands On The Air) [see, <http://rsgbiota.org>] program - is for ham radio participants either to contact portable ham stations operating from prequalified geographical summits (mountains), OR to take a portable ham station to activate a local (SOTA qualified) Summit and then contact others looking for SOTA contacts. Many SOTA participants engage in a combination of these activities. Unlike qualified IOTA Islands [see the Islands directory at <http://rsgbiota.org>] to which the activator travels by boat or airplane carrying ham equipment usually to operate from a hotel or guest lodge, qualified SOTA Summits are almost always much more difficult to reach; usually the SOTA activator must hike and hand carry all elements of a portable ham station, including antennas, to get to a Summit before setting up and operating; if the SOTA activation is to continue for more than one day, the activator must also carry camping equipment and other supplies. As a result of these basic differences, most qualified Summit activations (unlike for IOTA Islands) are by low power station operating on CW (Morse Code). Upcoming SOTA activations are pre-announced on Internet web sites to promote this special event type activity. IOTA does something similar.

Of course, there are some real SOTA enthusiasts in the US and elsewhere who take things to an extreme. An example of one of them is Steve, with callsign wG0AT in Colorado who has a set of transport trained goats which he uses to help him climb to the 14,000+ foot mountain summits in Colorado carrying heavy loads of radio equipment and camping supplies for Colorado summit activations. Usually, wG0AT makes up videos of his 14,000+ foot Colorado Summit activations and puts them on YouTube. To find some of Steve’s videos, Google: YouTube.com wG0AT

Chuck / K4QS is quite a multitasking guy who flies 757s and 767s on transatlantic routes for a major airline for his main livelihood; for recreation, in addition to his long interest in ham radio, he flies gliders (sail planes), runs long distance and hikes. He has a well equipped ham station at his home QTH near Fredricksburg, Virginia.

