

# OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

## September 2018

### Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 18, 2018

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Strange weather so far this month, it's been almost as hot as in mid-summer, and very wet. Hopefully, it will turn Fall-like soon. As I write this Hurricane Florence has been wreaking havoc on my life even though it now appears Florence will only have a minor impact in this area.

I think everyone know I install and service generators along with just about everything else. Well everybody has wanted their generators checked out before the big blow. And then some (last minute artists) wanted them installed, this week. Unfortunately, it's not going to happen, this week.

Whenever I talk to people about generators I like to ask them also about their communications plan. I mean they are thinking ahead about their power issues, but often they are not thinking about how to reach out to friends, family, emergency personnel when their cellphone and Internet services go down.

I like to tell them that that is the reason I became an Amateur Radio operator. I am sure we will hear about Hams operating from the areas hit by Florence in the aftermath and I know our local ARES was preparing just in case they are called upon to help out in PWC. Thanks to all the volunteers that will be helping out.

Thanks to David / KG4GIY for the reminder to update FLDIGI and Winlink software. Even if we are minimally affected by the hurricane we should still check our gear and check our homes. I have cleaned out my gutters that don't have the covers. I also filled up my gas cans in case I need to run my generator or chainsaw.

The last Mini-Tri of 2018 is being held this Sunday 9/16/2018. Thanks to Andy / KJ4MTP for organizing the OVH's communications support for the Mini-Tris this year. And thanks also to all the OVH volunteers who helped out. Also, the Prince William Half Marathon will take place on September 30th. Thanks to Wayne / N7QLK for organizing the radio communications and OVH support for the event. I am looking forward to

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# Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255  
Manassas, Virginia 20108

## OFFICERS

President: Byron Dillon	AK4XR	222-2095
Vice Pres: Jeff Fuller	WB6UIE	791-5916
Secretary: Sandy Knight	KM4JUS	930-8164
Treasurer: Don Meyerhoff	WA2SWX	597-3211

## 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 2019 - Chairman

Don	WA2SWX	597-3211
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## FIELD DAY 2019

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

## FINANCE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
Don	WA2SWX	597-3211

## GENERATORS

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

## HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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## WEB COMMITTEE — W4OVH.NET

Kevin	KX4KU	540-439-3289
Andy	KJ4MTP	786-4651
John	KG4NXT	257-3566

## 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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## JOTA - 2018

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

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Ken	KE2N	753-8587
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

Sandy Knight	KM4JUS	930-8164
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## SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Ken	KE2N	753-8587
Andy	KJ4MTP	786-4651
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
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 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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participating. Look to the OVH's email reflector for sign up information or email them to sign up - more volunteers are always welcomed.

I went to Iowa last week to pick up a towable boom lift that was being auctioned off by the state of Iowa. See picture to the right. It needed some work but I was confident I could repair it, and won the auction. It should make installing antennas a lot easier, along with the usual electrical, and security camera jobs. It includes a two-man bucket, not shown. I am wondering if it might find some uses during our Field Day activities in June 2019?



I hope everyone is stays safe and avoids the storm, I hope to see you at the upcoming OVH meeting on Tuesday, September 18th at 7:30 pm in the conference room at the Buckhall Fire Station, Manassas.

73 BYRON AK4XR

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## Sunshine Corner:

Wishing the following OVH club members a happy birthday in September: Al / KB4BHB, Maury / W4HYB, Ron / N4RDZ, Gary / WG4ARC, Mark / WA4KFZ, Steve / WB0AOD, Jim / 4HJH. I hope that you were able to enjoy a sunny cool day!

Our condolences to Art / W1CRO on the passing of his wife, Joyce, who was liked by everyone. We will miss seeing Joyce; she always had a smile and a wave for me. (More on page 7.)

The first planning meetings for the 2019 Manassas Hamfest took place on September 11th. Watch the OVH email reflector for notice of these meeting – all club members are invited to attend. Please contact Hamfest Chairman, Don / WA2SWX, to find out how you can help the club during this event. You can reach Don at [wa2swxdm@gmail.com](mailto:wa2swxdm@gmail.com)

A Mini-Tri event is coming up this Sunday, September 16th; and the Prince William Half Marathon events is coming up on September 30th. Both are a good way to break in those radios and learn about providing communication support using ham radio!

JOTA – the Jamboree on the Air will the Saturday, October 20th, more information will follow on the OVH email reflector.

Welcome to all the new members, I am missing birthday information for quite a few, if you don't see your name listed in the newsletter for the correct month, please let me know. Just need the month and day, don't need the year!

Please try to check in to the Thursday night VHF/UHF FM net. You will hear updates and information on everything going on! How to do that is on the OVH web site at <http://w4ovh.net>.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

# Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting held on Tuesday, August 21, 2018:

OVH President Byron / AK4XR called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on August 21, 2018 in the main conference room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station, Manassas, Virginia.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their name and call sign. There were OVH 29 OVH members and 1 guest were present.

Membership report was presented by Luther / WA3FMO – three new members were voted in: Chip / KC1PIA, John / KN4NTD, and Christopher / KN4NXZ. Member applicant, Mark / KN4OGC was read in and will be voted upon at the next regular meeting...

July Meeting Minutes: Sandy / KM4JUS made a motion to accept the July meeting minutes, as written by Ray KM4EKR, and reported in the August 2018 OVH Newsletter with no changes. Charlie / WA4YGI seconded and minutes were approved.

Training Report – Mark / WA4KFZ had to cancel the planned and scheduled ‘Now What’ session. A Tech Class will be scheduled for late September.

ARES – There are activities at Quantico on August 25th. The next ARES monthly meeting will be on September 15th.

Manassas Park CERT will start a new training class in mid-September.

Art / W1CRO presented Treasurer Report. Further details will be posted for OVH members on the OVH’s members only web site.

Andy / KJ4MTP presented information related to Internet connection issues at Mt Pone. Bandwidth and Cost are some items to be considered. Andy has discussed our account with Verizon and Comcast. A number of options were presented to the club. Andy will research fiber connections at NOVEC. Bob / K4HJF made a motion to give power to Andy and Kevin / KX4KU to investigate NOVEC options and to make a decision to move forward. John / KG4NXT seconded. The motion was approved.

Treasurer. Elections were held to fill the now vacant Treasurer position until February 2019. Dick / KM4UKE and Don / WA2SWX expressed interest in running for that office and told the members a little about themselves and why each was running for Treasurer office. Congratulations to Don / WA2SWX who was elected Treasurer.

OVH Meeting location will remain at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station on the third Tuesday evening each month for the foreseeable future.

Sunshine – Happy Birthday wishes to those with August birthdays.

The first 2019 Hamfest Committee meeting will be in September, date to be announced.

JOTA – Scout event at Camp Snider in Haymarket on the 3rd Saturday in October.

Presentation by Jay / NQ4T about his Field Day adventures in California near the Nevada line.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

## Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

### HAMFESTS

October 7, 2018 - Sunday - The CARAfest (Columbia Amateur Radio Association Hamfest) at the Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, Maryland. Go to <http://www.carafest.org> for more information.

### HAM RADIO RELATED:

September 14-16, 2018 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, The 37th Annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference. Its hard to believe this is the 37th DCC conference, but it is. These conferences which are held in different part of the USA each year began in the very early 1980's when packet radio first came onto the ham radio scene; they have gotten bigger and bigger over the years as ham digital communications have evolved. Proceedings are published each year if you are unable to attend but if you have any interest in digital communications, you should try to attend one or more as part of your ham radio experiences.

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 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

September 16, 2018, Sunday - very early morning. OVH will provide communications support for the Try-It-Now triathlon at Freedom Center. Contact Andy / KJ4MTP for more details.

September 30, 2018 - Prince William Half Marathon - beginning at Jiffy Lube. More details will be forthcoming shortly. This will be the third year during which the OVH has provided communications support for this event. Contact Wayne / N7QLK for more info.

Also, always check the online Calendar by David / KG4GIY at <http://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.

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### Some Possibly Interesting or Useful Information

1. HF/VHF/UHF/Microwave propagation and Earth/Space radio links are all affected by radiation from the Sun, the ionization state of the Earth's atmosphere and many other factors. The US GPO has published a very readable book on the Sun Earth System which is also available as a free PDF download. The book provides good and reasonable technical explanations, but without requiring rigorous physics/math background prerequisites to read it. Get the PDF at [http://ilwsonline.org/publications/SES\\_Book\\_Interactive%20508.pdf](http://ilwsonline.org/publications/SES_Book_Interactive%20508.pdf)

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## VP's Corner

Jeff Fuller  
WB6UIE

In keeping with September being national emergency preparedness month, along comes one of the largest hurricanes in recent memory. At this point, it looks like the impact on our area will be limited to a few inches of rain and some gusty winds. However, for those south of us who are in the path of Hurricane Florence, the impact will likely be devastating.

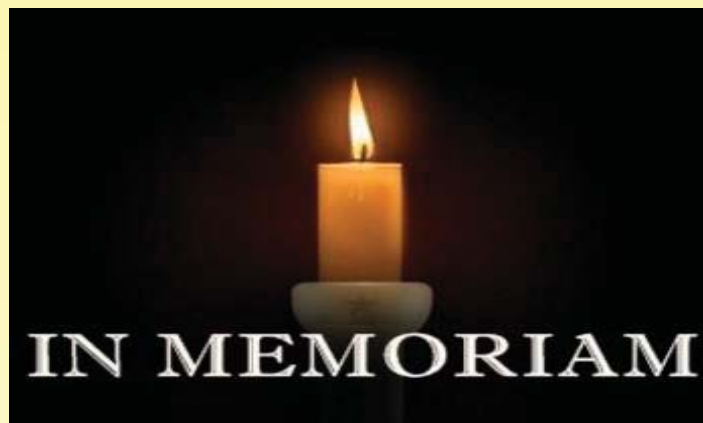


Ham radio will play an important role, both in support of local responders and in handling message traffic out of area. Info about HF traffic net times and freqs will appear on ARRL and ARES web pages. As always, two things to keep in mind when supporting any emergency. First, make sure that you and your family are safe. Second, **do not self deploy**. Begin by contacting your local Emergency Coordinator (EC), state what resources you have available, and he or she will let you know how you can best provide support. EC for Prince William County is David, KG4GIY. You'll find his contact info on the PWC ARES web page (<http://www.pwcares.org>), along with a wealth of information about training and disaster preparedness.



Those of us who joined Boy Scouts in our youth remember the Scout motto - "Be prepared". (Yes, postage really was 4 cents in those days ...) Today's young Scouts will have an opportunity to experience ham radio's role in preparedness while enjoying contacts with fellow Scouts all over the world the weekend of October 19<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>. Known as JOTA, or Jamboree On the Air, it's one of Scouting's largest annual events.  
(<https://www.scouting.org/jota/>)

This year's JOTA for local Scouts will be held at Camp Snyder in Haymarket (<https://www.ncacbsa.org/outdoors/camp-william-b-snyder/>). Volunteers are needed as control ops for their HF station. Want to help these youngsters experience the magic of ham radio? Join us at our September meeting for a presentation by Rob Hoitt, W4FSK, of the Camp Snyder Amateur Radio Club. Hope to see you there!



Joyce Therese Whittum, age 77, of Manassas, VA passed away Thursday, August 30, 2018 at the Novant Health Prince William Medical Center.

She was born on March 30, 1941 in Dorchester, MA the daughter of the late Alexander and Clara Belle (LeFleur) James. She was a member of All Saints Catholic Church.

Survivors include her husband, Arthur R. Whittum; one son, John S. Whittum and wife Wendy of Ft. Morgan, CO; five grandchildren, Michael, Philip, Christopher, Thomas, Jacob; one great grandchild on the way.



Our hearts and prayers go out to Art W1CRO and family.

RIP Joyce.

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### **Some Possibly Interesting or Useful Information - Contd from page 5.**

2. Many hams still know and enjoy using Morse code - which originated in the 1840's for wire telegraph use, even though Morse is no longer required for a ham radio license. What systems did Morse beat out? <https://spectrum.ieee.org/telecom/standards/morse-codes-vanquished-competitor-the-dial-telegraph> presents a historical look back at the other competing systems which were around when Morse prevailed.

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## **Maidenhead Grids, Logbook of the World and ARRL automated Grid Contact Rankings (John / KG4NXT)**

Ham radio divides locations throughout the world into Maidenhead grids (spherical rectangles) defined by bounding lines of Latitude and Longitude. For example, Manassas, Virginia is in Maidenhead grid square FM18. Of course, the world is also divided too by different callsign sequences for each country.

If you look up your own callsign at QRZ.com, you can find your Maidenhead grid square in the detail tab. Various other Maidenhead grid applications are available online which also will calculate an exact Maidenhead grid location in 4 or 6 symbols from input of your latitude and longitude coordinates.

ARRL is now running a contest to see who can contact and confirm the most Maidenhead grid squares. Contacts are confirmed through the ARRL run Logbook of the World (LOTW) online system. If you have confirmed two way contacts (QSOs) through the LOTW this year, you will be automatically ranked. Detail info about LOTW is available at <http://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world>

Currently, the easiest way to accumulate Maidenhead grid squares contacts is by using the new FT8 mode. If anyone wants or needs assistance in installing FT8 and getting it working at his or her ham station or with getting set up to log QSOs using the ARRL's Logbook Of The World system, please contact John / KG4NXT who will assist.

OVH Member Jeff / KM4FTK, has been very actively and diligently working this contest and has recently been ranked as 10th in Virginia with 776 unique grids confirmed in 3338 QSOs, a lot of contacts. Congratulations Jeff!!!

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### **Some Possibly Interesting or Useful Information - Contd from page 7.**

3. William Shockley was a coinventor at Bell Telephone Laboratories of the first form of the transistor in 1947, for which he and his coinventors were later awarded the Nobel Prize. This was one of the break through technical developments of the 20th Century - which, among other things, lead to the demise of vacuum electron tubes which were widely used in ham radio equipment from the time of World War I through the 1970's. That invention of the transistor also led to massive research efforts into other solid state technologies, and hence, quickly to other types of transistor technologies and many other solid state devices. The first, relatively simple, integrated circuits capable of mass manufacture were invented about 10 years later (1958); larger (and very large) scale integrated circuits, including the first microprocessors, followed within another 10 years. IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers) recently created a historical web page about Shockley which can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/ShockleyLabsHist> This web page provides an informative quick history.

4. The IEEE has also been developing web pages for many years which record and summarize the history of many facets of electrical engineering, electronics, computers, electronic systems, etc. in a very readable manner. These are suitable for members of the general public who have interest in particular topics (e.g. amateur radio related topics) but lack sufficient technical knowledge or depth to read about those topics in the original technical literature. The web site at <http://theinstitute.ieee.org/tech-history/technology-history> is where to find those, and you can spend many hours reading through the information there.

5. The Radio Amateur's Handbook for 2019. The Handbook has gotten thicker and thicker each year but later this year the ARRL is finally coming out with a long overdue version of the Radio Amateur's Handbook - a boxed set of the text broken down into six separate volumes. For those who like to the read paper copy, it will no longer be necessary to haul around a single very thick and heavy - telephone book like volume. This multivolume paper set will still come with a PDF version so it will still be possible to load the PDF version on an iPad or other tablet and to carry it around in that manner for reading on the go. Go to <http://arrl.org> for ordering information.



## Mini LiFePO4's

Jeff Fuller WB6UIE

If you've joined us in supporting Tri It Now and larger events, you've probably realized that the medium power setting on your HT (typically around 2 Watts) isn't quite enough to provide reliable comms over the entire course. This is especially true if you're using the short ducky antenna which came with it. How to improve coverage?

Going with a larger antenna and/or adding a "tiger tail" counterpoise is one solution. Bill, K5AE has an excellent video on the topic at <https://youtu.be/BztTRFxsxNs>

Or, you can up the power to 5 watts. This usually means buying a larger battery for your HT if you want a useful amount of talk time. If you've tried that option, here's hoping you've had better luck than I did. Most of my my Li and NiMH choices seldom lived up to their advertised capacity and usually developed memory and other antisocial behaviors shortly after purchase ...

Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO4) is relatively new addition to the ham radio battery market. It offers over twice the energy density at a fraction of the weight of a comparable gel cell. And, it retains charge over long periods and has no memory effect. The tradeoff? LiFePO4's cost several times as much as a gel cell of the same capacity.

Until recently, LiFePO4's were offered primarily as drop in replacements for lead acid batteries. Bioenno, does offer a line of mini 12 volt LiFePO4's via Ham Radio Outlet. I chose the 4.5 Ah model (right), added a fused cable, and put it in my MOLLE vest pouch just below my HT. Adding a short cable to the HT's Ext 12v port and a headset provides a hands free 5 Watt setup with hours of talk time.

The first on air test went well. I had no trouble reaching all stations on the Tri It Now course from inside the pool area.

## New Type Batteries For Hand-Held Transceivers



MOLLE vest with HT and battery



My 4.5 Ah mini LiFePO4 and fused cable. (The battery came with Power Pole output connector.)