

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

Renew your OVH membership now!

January 2019

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 15, 2019

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and is recovered from all the festivities. We tend to overdo it so if you are like my family, you were probably looking forward to going back to work or school.

It being a new year I want to remind you to send in your membership dues. It completely slipped my mind and I just recently sent them in. I also wanted to mention that elections are coming up next month and you need to be a paid member to vote or to run for office.

Since I am also the Field Day chairman I wanted to mention that we will be holding our planning meetings starting next month. Check on the reflector for the upcoming meeting dates. We already have our location reserved thanks to Butch / W4HJL.

On the radio side, I have FT8 on my radio and computer working well. I stayed up late one night and tried to make as many contacts as I could. A little background, I am using an ICOM 7100 which has 100 Watts output on HF, into a vertical antenna which is attached to 10 ft of 2 inch conduit on my deck. I found that I could reliably make contacts into Canada to the north and the Dominican Republic in the south. No contacts on the other side of the pond as they say. I varied between trying to contact those calling CQ and calling CQ myself. I did have some one in Spain try to call me but was unable to complete the exchange, which surprised me since I spent a lot of my time trying to contact Europe with no success. I thought I might try another antenna if I can get my OCF Buckmaster back up. With the contacts I made I thought I better get them uploaded to Logbook of the World. The last time I used it, it was on another computer so after getting another certificate I thought, no problem I should be able to do this now. However, I found out that I had password protected it and since the other computer was remembering the password for me (which is now dead), I had no clue what it was. Oh I tried a few of my favorite passwords to use but no



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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	901-4664
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	http://pwcares.org	

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	901-4664
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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

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 © 2018 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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luck. Now running out of time I had to abandon my efforts for now. I want to publicly thank John / KG4NXT, Don / WA2SWX and Tony / KM4KLB for helping me with the FT8 and also with trying to get LotW working again. I did find out what to do to get it working. If you haven't tried FT8, I recommend it to all. It's strangely satisfying to work on getting something to work and the joy when it finally does.

I know I have mentioned this before, but as a reminder, starting on Saturday, January 12th we will be meeting at the Yorkshire Restaurant on the Saturday before our club meetings at 8:00 am for breakfast. It will be an opportunity to socialize and eat a great breakfast. I never get to talk to everyone I would like to at our meetings because of the time constraint and thought that this would be one way to get to talk to more club members. If you have time to join us on January 12th, please come and feel free to invite family and or friends.

The next regular OVH meeting will be on Tuesday evening, January 15th at 7:30 pm at the Buckhall Fire Station, Manassas. I hope to see all of you there.

73 BYRON AK4XR

Sunshine Corner:

Wishing Happy Birthday in January to OVH members, John / KI4OWH, Justin / KJ4LAS, Elizabeth / KG4NXV, Chuck / W4XP, John / WA1STU, Ken / KE2N, Ed / WD4AVU, Ken / KN4HHO and Woody / N4MQ. Hope you all have a great year!

Thank you again to everyone that contributed to the Toys For Tots at the party, I dropped off a whole carload of toys at the fire department on my way home from the party.

Please keep Fred / N3KVV (Paul / W4ZB's brother) in your thoughts, he is recovering from a very serious car accident in December but has been back home since just before Christmas.

The New Year, 2019, is looking to be even busier with the OVH testing out several new activities / events which will become regular events if there is enough interest and participation. First, Saturday morning breakfast meetings are planned for members to discuss ham radio and get to know each other better socially! Also, the OVH is promoting a new Slow Speed CW Net which will meet on Wednesday evenings on 3550 KHz. More information about each of these is on the W4OVH.NET web site and on the OVH closed email reflector.

Hamfest meetings continue underway, contact Don WA2SWX and let him know how you will be able to help the club get ready for this huge event Expect updated news about that at or by the January OVH meeting.

Everyone, it's time to renew your OVH membership now for 2019! Do it now before you forget! You can either use the mail in form at the end of this Newsletter or do it online at w4ovh.net. The club needs your continued support and collection of the modest annual dues shows your support!

Please try to check in to the Thursday night VHF/UHF FM net at 8:00 pm. You will hear updates and information on everything going on! How to do that is on the OVH web site at <http://w4ovh.net> and you can now also check in either by radio or via Internet connection.

Well it is just a matter of time before we have a big snowstorm, so stay safe out there.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting held on Sunday, December 9, 2018:

During the OVH's 2018 Year End Party on December 9, 2018, no formal meeting was held. Therefore, there are no meeting minutes to report.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

Saturday, February 2, 2019 - Frostfest in Richmond, VA. More info at <http://frostfest.com>
Several groups from the OVH usually drive down so ask around if you need a ride.

Friday - Sunday, February 8 - 10, 2019 - Orlando Hamcation, Orlando, Florida. A bit of a way away from Northern Virginia but this is the second largest hamfest in the USA after the Dayton hamfest. And the weather in Orlando is usually sunny and mild to warm during February! More information at <http://hamcation.com>

HAM RADIO RELATED:

January 12, 2019 at 8:00 am, Saturday at the Yorkshire Restaurant, 7537 Centreville Road, Manassas - breakfast for OVH members. This is the first one of a new type social "event" for OVH members; it is intended to provide a face to face venue at which members will be able to converse informally and get to know each other better. If there is enough interest, it will become a regular event held on the Saturday morning each month just before the OVH's next regular meeting. Check the W4OVH email reflector and web site for updates.

Wednesday evenings at 19:00 on 3550 KHz - OVH Slow Speed CW net. First session was held on January 9th, thanks to organizers, Jeff / K9VEG and Don / WA2SWX. A few unexpected problems were encountered, but the plan is to continue to hold this every Wednesday; 13 WPM or slower. Check the W4OVH email reflector and web site for updates.

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 locations for the meetings 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

January 19, 2019 at 9:00 am, Saturday, training session for the Prince William County ARES at the EOC. See <http://pwcares.org> for more details.

Check the online Calendar by David / KG4GIY at <http://pwcares.org> for the latest PWC 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.

VP's Corner

Jeff Fuller
WB6UIE

As we enter the new year, I'm reminded of a quote my faculty adviser kept posted on his wall: "We are surrounded by insurmountable opportunity." Opportunities abound at OVH for programs, projects, and people.

Based on your inputs, here are some ideas for programs and projects. I've added a couple of threads (links) to tug on for each so you can explore them further online.

- (1) Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF)
<http://www.arrrl.org/direction-finding>
<http://www.homingin.com/>
- (2) Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS)
<http://www.arrrl.org/aprs-mode>
- (3) Digital Modes
<http://wb8nut.com/digital/>
- (4) Morse Code
<http://www.arrrl.org/learning-morse-code>

Jeff, K9VEG, has established a weekly CW net for those interested in polishing their skills. See the OVH reflector for details.

- (5) 6 and 10 meter FM and Digital

Anyone interested in exploring the acres of unused RF spectrum there for mobile, portable, and emergency use?

Interested in giving a presentation or chairing a working group in any of these areas? Let me know and I'll add you to the schedule.

How about an opportunity to add your new energy and fresh ideas to OVH leadership? You can toss your hat into the ring at the January meeting when we put together the club officers slate for our annual February election. January's meeting will be a busy one as we assemble the slate and vote on a number of important issues. Hope to see you there!



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Happy_New_Year_Linux_card_2019.jpg



National Guard member with DF antenna

Some Possibly Interesting or Useful Information

1. Most OVH members are registered on the OVH closed email reflector and, therefore, are familiar with the PCARA Update newsletter from the Peekskill / Cortlandt (NY) Amateur Radio Association which is circulated regularly over the OVH email reflector. PCARA is the amateur radio club in New York where George / K4GVT used to live; its Newsletters - which have some excellent writers - are also available through the PCARA's web site, <http://pcara.org> A recent article in the January 2019 PCARA Update, "Making the ARRL Great Again!" is well worth reading or re-reading - many of the thoughts and ideas set out there are applicable to the our club, the OVH, too.

2. The FT8 mode with the Version 2 software which permits contest exchanges has become very popular. The documentation and software are FT8 Ver. 2 are at: <https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjsx.html> To use the FT8 software for the HF bands, you will be need a computer and an HF SSB transceiver.

3. The FT8 system automates a sophisticated Forward Error Correction (FEC) type coding scheme. A forward error correction coding scheme is process by which a predetermined type of redundancy is encoded by a mathematical process onto the transmitted information sequence to form the transmitted symbol sequence; because the receiver knows the transmitter's FEC encoding scheme, the receiver is able to decode the received symbol sequence which may contain errors (relative to the transmitted symbol sequence) to recover the exact transmitted information sequence by using a reverse mathematical process, notwithstanding the errors which were introduced during transmission between the transmitter and the receiver. During the decoding process, the receiver can identify and correct errors up to a certain rate or absolute level of errors depending upon the particular FEC scheme being used; if the errors exceed that rate or level, the receiver will determine a decoding failure has occurred and issue an appropriate error message. A true FEC scheme does not use or rely upon any automatic feedback (i.e., reverse transmission) from the receiver to the transmitter to notify the transmitter of the state of the receiver's decode attempt - the receiver either decodes successfully or fails and that is it. Ham operation with FT8 is not strictly a true FEC scheme because the parties to a QSO may request a do over or repeat if an attempted decoding fails - to complete the QSO.

4. Need a programmable audio recorder to for up to 48 continuous hours of audio (or even longer with a larger SD memory card)? The January 2019 issue of the ARRL's National Contest Journal (and an upcoming QST article?) provides details about how to build one using a Raspberry Pi 3 for \$100. The author, Bill / AJ8B, provides more details are at his web site at <http://aj8b.com>

5. Want to learn the basics about circuit simulation which has been part of professional circuit design workflow for some time now? National Instruments offers a "free" online version of its MultiSim product at <http://multisim.com> This online version of MultiSim has limited capabilities (e.g., each circuit is limited to 25 components) but, nevertheless, it offers enough capability to provide a useful learning experience.

6. Have a love-hate relationship with your iPad or iPhone? One of the most time-wasting and frustrating aspects of using the many useful productivity iPad (or iPhone) apps while moving about has been the difficulty in later transferring working files between apps or to or from laptop or desktop computers (especially Windows or Linux computers) for further work on or to print them. Apple seems to have purposefully made this a difficult exercise, likely to lead many of its users to purchase additional Apple "services" such as iCloud, to force them to use the kludgy iTunes program, or to purchase Apple "Air" printers. A few iOS revisions ago, Apple did enable a facility to transfer files between different apps - but that only works if the apps involved have been updated.

Other iPad/iPhone app vendors have offered various apps which purport to allow file transfers between an iPad (or iPhone) and external computers or printers. Your editor has tried many of them with disappointment. Most tried either didn't work or were difficult and time-wasting and/or require installation and use of a program on the external computer to work. The good news: I recently discovered the suite of Readle iPad apps - PDF Explorer, Documents, PDF Converter, Scanner Pro & Printer Pro - all of which work in a simple, straightforward manner to overcome all of these artificial

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Some Possibly Interesting or Useful Information - Contd from page 6.

impediments created by Apple. I truly feel like an idiot for not tried these Readle apps sooner - the likely reason for that, misguided frugality. These Readle apps are just slightly more expensive than many other paid iPad apps. *Just slightly*. Use them only a few times to do file transfers between apps or to /from external computers or printing (on *any* network printer) and then consider how much time and aggravation you have saved. You get an almost instant payback. Highly recommended!

7. An interesting U.S. government web site with a lot of science and technical publications which may be downloaded in PDF format for free is <https://nap.edu> This is the National Academies Press web site related to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. If you are doing research in a particular area [e.g., Earth and Life Science, Engineering and Physical Sciences, Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, Health and Medicine, Transportation, Policy and Global Affairs and Military Science] spend some time searching and looking around and don't be deterred by the offers to sell printed copies of the publications. Remember, you tax dollar likely paid for most of these reports and books - which is why the PDFs are downloadable for free. While the prices for a printed copy is reasonable for what is probably a "print on demand" service, there is little need for a printed copy when a PDF is available for free.

8. The 160 Meter band. Ever try out 160 meters for local communications? Almost all HF transceivers now support the 160 meter band - so most of us have the possibility of getting on the 160 meter band. That band is just above the AM broadcast band, running from 1800 Khz to 2000 KHz; the deterrent for most for getting on 160 meters is the need for a satisfactory antenna system - because of the long wavelength length!

As a young ham in the early 1960's in Connecticut, you editor constructed a 50 watt CW / AM transmitter for use on 160 meters. (I still have it.) Back then, the 160 meter band ham allocations were divided into 50 KHz segments geographically, and each segment shared the segment only with distant LORAN A navigation transmitters; because the LORAN A system required transmission of high power, pulsed signals, LORAN A pulses could almost always be heard on the 160 meter band; after LORAN A was discontinued, the ham allocations were expanded to the full 200 KHz band it is today.

I built that 160 meter transmitter for two distinct reasons: first, for local contacts with nearby hams 24/7 using groundwave propagation, and second, for medium and long distance contacts when the propagation conditions permitted (at sunset and at night). I used different transmitting antennas depending upon the mode of operation: for local groundwave contacts (within a 10 to 15 mile radius), I simply loaded up a long wire antenna connected to a 300 ohm line which came into my shack in my bedroom. That worked very well for that purpose, day and night. For longer range contacts, I used a base loaded 75' vertical which required set up - I had to go outside to manually change the matching network at the base of the antenna which was mostly used on 40 and 80 meters. The longwire antenna worked very well for local (10 to 15 mile) radius groundwave contacts. Indeed, in that time period, long before 2 meter repeaters came on the scene, mobile ham operations on 160 meter AM were common; many mobile stations were worked. Several nearby local hams and I used to communicate regularly on 160 meter AM. We used that so much that we found that we could operate full duplex voice - just like a telephone - by transmitting on 160 meter and 10 meter AM at the same time. One station would transmit on 160 meters and the other on 10 meters; the shortwave receivers we used were not desensitized or blocked by the local simultaneous transmission at the far other end of the HF ham bands. Both bands (160 meters and 10 meters) were light populated most of the time. We operated full duplex voice for quite a bit until one evening another older local ham broke in and advised that such full duplex voice operation violated the FCC's rules. We stopped using full duplex voice after looking up and reading the FCC's rules.

My reason in mentioning this is that everyone should be aware that the 160 meter band is very good for local groundwave communications with simple wire antennas loaded up to accept power from a transmitter. Groundwave signals can be very strong (loud) 24/7 within a 10 to 15 mile radius. K6MM recently published a write up on a stealth 160 meter antenna. See, <https://k6mm.com/antennas/160M-QST.pdf> You possibly might want to consider 160 meters for local communications, including for the OVH's slow CW net.

REMINDER



Yes, it is that time of year again!!!! Below is the 2019 Renewal Application.

Please fill out the form below (for database), attach your check and mail to the address below or drop off at a meeting. Be sure to update all information, including your e-mail address, telephone number(s) and nine digit ZIP

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION "OLE VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB" for 2019

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

CALL SIGN: _____
Home Tel: _____
Cell Tel: _____
Work Tel: _____
EMAIL: _____
BIRTHDAY: _____

ARE YOU PRESENTLY AN ARRL MEMBER? (YES/NO)

ARE YOU A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER: (YES/NO)

MAY YOUR TELEPHONE NOS. BE LISTED IN THE "Members Only" OVH ROSTER? (YES/NO)

WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT LICENSE CLASS? _____

Dues are now **\$20.00** per year and payable on January 1, 2019. Dues for each additional family member living at the same mailing address are \$10.00. Dues for a full time student at the college undergraduate or lower level [list school attended and grade or level:
_____] are \$10.00.

NAME AND CALL OF FAMILY MEMBERS:

AMOUNT ENCLOSING: _____

Name: _____
Name: _____

Call: _____
Call: _____

Return to: **Treasurer, OVH**
P.O. Box 1255
Manassas, VA 20108-1255