

# OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

## September 2019

### Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 17, 2019

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hello Everyone!

It looks like much of September has flown by already. That's how it seems when you are busy and can't seem to get things done, because you are busy. There are a lot of unfinished projects around my house, vehicles that need some TLC, an antenna that needs to be put up, a tower that needs to be put up, so many things that keep getting postponed. I find I work better when I put things on a calendar so that I don't forget them.

Speaking of calendars, here's a couple of items to put on yours:

1. The last Mini Tri of the season is on September 15th, this Sunday. I know Andy / KJ4MTP has already put out a call for volunteers on the reflector. Why not sign up and meet up with us this Sunday morning?
2. The next OVH breakfast get together will be this Saturday morning at 8:00 am at the Yorkshire Restaurant. Come join us for good conversation and a great breakfast. I hear it's the most important meal of the day.
3. Our next regular OVH club meeting will be next Tuesday, September 17th at 7:30 pm at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas, VA 20111. We will have a show and tell on one of my favorite topics: Lightning. We have had a couple of club members who experienced the effects up close and personal. When I talk about an interest in lightning I am not exaggerating - well maybe embellishing a little. I thought about what I might do in retirement and designing, certifying, and inspecting lightning arresting systems is one thing that came to mind.
4. The Prince William Half-Marathon event is coming up on September 29th



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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:	John Heartney	KG4NXT	257-3566
Treasurer:	Don Meyerhoff	WA2SWX	597-3211

## DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdel	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: <a href="mailto:KG4GIY@ARRL.NET">KG4GIY@ARRL.NET</a>
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
Ken	KN4DD	622-2638

## TWITTER & FACEBOOK ACCOUNT MODERATOR

Jeff	KM4FTK	830-4155
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## EMAIL REFLECTOR — [w4ovh@googlegroups.com](mailto: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

Wayne	N7QLK	571-237-0520
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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 © 2019 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 Repeaters each Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. or through the OVH's web site at <http://w4ovh.net>

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and will a lot of fun. This is the 4th year for this Marathon and OVH has been there since the beginning. Wayne / N7QLK has been coordinating our participation since the first one. I know he has a volunteer sign up email on the reflector so sign up and join in the fun.

Be sure to check out the VP's Corner column on the OVH web page (W4OVH.NET) and later in this Newsletter. It is always interesting and informative. Thanks, Jeff / WB6UIE!

I know it is a couple of months away, however the Christmas / Holiday parades will be coming up. OVH participates in the both the Manassas City and Manassas Park parades. George / K4GVT is already looking for volunteers and we will need volunteers to help decorate the club trailer which is displayed in the parade along with someone that can tow the trailer in the parade. I know it seems early, but the entrance fee needs to be paid in October, so we need to know if we will have the volunteers sooner than later. Please let Theresa / KG4TVM, know if you would like to volunteer.

Have a safe and happy rest of September

Finally, I hope everyone will be able to make the upcoming regular OVH meeting next Tuesday; I look forward to seeing you there!

73 BYRON AK4XR

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## Sunshine Corner:

Happy birthday in September to the following club members: Gus / N4MLE, Al / KB4BHB, Maury / W4HYB, Ron / N4RDZ, and Mark / WA4KFZ.

Here we are now almost at the end of summer! Hard to believe but I have been largely out of the loop for the past two months due to a very heavy work load at the paying job I have. So I am behind in catching up with everyone.

Hoping that Jim / KM4SXM is feeling much better after his adventures the last few months, I am hearing he is back to work. Best wishes on continued recovery.

Summer storms were not very nice to club members this summer. George / K4GVT and Jay / KM4JOJ both had lightning strikes at their homes and lost equipment.

Thank you Ken / KE2N for your work on getting DStar up and running.

Hamfest and Field Day – we survived and did well with both events in June 2019. Tremendous thanks to Don / WA2SWX and Byron / AK4XR for chairing these events and pulling us all together. Special thanks to those club members that helped in anyway. Both events were very successful!

Very good to see several OVH members at the Berryville Hamfest in August, looks like that club had a nice turnout for their event.

Last Mini-Tri of the year will be this Sunday, September 15th, please contact Andy / KJ4MTP if you can provide radio support for a few hours on Sunday morning.

Coming right up will be the Prince William County Half Marathon on Sunday, September 29th. Contact Wayne / N7QLK if you can help with the race. Just to give you a little bit of information, the Marathon's web page does have the OVH listed as a Community Partner with a little write up on the club and a picture from the first

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marathon of Ron / N4RDZ and Wayne / N7QLK. The write up also has a link to the OVH's web site, pretty neat!

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) is coming up on October 19th. We will be working with the scouts for this event. Rob / W4FSK will be presenting a program at the September meeting on this. We will be set up at Camp Snyder in Haymarket, if you are available, please stop by or call on the radio.

The 18th Anniversary of the 9/11 Attack has just gone by. Let none of us forget any aspect of that and what still needs to be done.

We are coming up on the last quarter of 2019 but there are still many events coming up, stayed turned to the monthly Newsletter, the club's web site (W4OVH.NET) or check into the Thursday night FM net on the repeater on 146.97 at 8:00 pm for updates.



If you do not see your name listed in the birthdays for the appropriate month, please let me know so we can wish you a happy birthday! Send news or other items to me via email at kg4tvm@hotmail.com or telephone: 703-257-3566.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

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## Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting held on Tuesday, August 20, 2019:

OVH President Byron / AK4XR called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on August 20, 2019 in the training room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs.

Al / KB4BHB and John / KG4NXT presented a program on crystal grinding and the X-CHECKer kit by QRPme.com.

The minutes of the July 2019 OVH Meeting as reported in the Newsletter were approved without amendment.

Treasurer report by Byron / AK4XR (in the absence of Don / WA2SWX): balances reported; treasurer's report approved.

Membership report by Luther, WA3FMO: James Richey / KJ4MBI was voted in as a new OVH Member.

ARES report by Greg / KM4CCG: There will be a split meeting between PWC EOC and Manassas Park preparedness night.

Repeater Report by Ken / KE2N: DStar is back and working again! Also, there are reports of weak receiver on the DStar 440 repeater which will be investigated.

Training Report by John / KG4NXT: There will be a VE session on October 26 at the public works training room.

Field Day Report: no report.

IT Committee report by Kevin / KX4KU: Ken / KN4DD has finished his self-training on

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WordPress and now has all admin privileges on the OVH web site. Meeting on web issues will be held in September.

Sunshine Report: no report.

Prince William Half Marathon report by Wayne / N7QLK: The upcoming 4th Marathon race event will be on Sunday, September 29th. We need OVH volunteers to provide communications support. Contact Wayne. A signup sheet was passed around during the meeting.

Byron / AK4XR, reported that the tarp was scuffing the corners of the OVH trailer. He threw out the idea of a carport type shelter for the trailer. Wayne / N4HCR, moved that Byron go forward and come back with a specific proposal. The motion passed.

The meeting was then adjourned.

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## **Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:**

### **HAMFESTS:**

Sunday, October 6, 2019, gates open at 6:00 am for tailgators, 8:00 for public - CARAfest hamfest put on by the Columbia (Maryland) Amateur Radio Association at the Howard County (Maryland) Fairgrounds, West Friendship, Maryland. More information at the CARAfest web site: <http://carafest.org> and in their hamfest flyer below.

### **HAM RADIO RELATED:**

Friday - Sunday, September 20 - 22, 2019, Detroit, Michigan - the 38th Annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference ("DCC"). Years ago and originally, the DCC was focused on amateur packet radio systems and operations, but in more recent years, it has included many presentations on and relating to many of the "new" digital HF modes, customized ham radio related computer systems (e.g., using the Raspberry Pi), etc. Many of the most active ham participants in those particular activities attend from around the US and from around the world, and there is always something new to learn. The location of the DCC moves all around U.S., each year so if Detroit is too far away for you, check it out next year. Lots more information at <https://www.tapr.org/dcc.html>

### **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 at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal> by WA7BNM. 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**

Sunday morning early, September 15, 2019 - another Mini-Tri event at the George Mason Campus in Manassas. The OVH will again be providing communications support for the MiniTri there. Contact Andy / KJ4MTP and see info on W4OVH.NET about how to participate.

Sunday morning, September 29, 2019, early through midday - the OVH will again be providing communications support for the Fourth Prince William Half Marathon event

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for the 4th year in a row. Please save the date and plan to volunteer. Wayne Phillips, N7QLK at (571) 237-0520 or at w99phi@gmail.com is again coordinating the OVH's participation in this event. Check the OVH closed email reflector 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.

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### **Some Possibly Interesting or Useful Information**

1. Last month this column was a "special" which focused on lightning, especially those aspects that affect ham radio installations and personal safety. Bad Karma. The weather Gods must not have liked those remarks and sought immediate retribution: since then I have experienced two very close by lightning strikes at my QTH and three electrical power outages triggered by nearby thunderstorms. Normally, we experience only one or two power outages per year, and a very close by lightning strike which causes property damage within the house about once every 10 years. The first very close by lightning strike destroyed our in house DSL modem and the underground telephone line feeding the DSL signal. Voltage or current transients circulated within the wired Ethernet network within the house, taking out two Ethernet switches and one of four VOIP modems, and partially damaging our business PBX system, and several of the telephone extensions from it. After some partial repairs / replacements, the second strike event occurred, causing further transients on the wired Ethernet network and more damage to the PBX system. That system - which has worked flawlessly for 10+ years - is still not fully repaired and working yet. Fortunately, almost everyone now has pocket cellular telephones so we have been able to can limp along with the main telephone system not working properly. Fortunately there was no damage to ham equipment as none was connected to transmission lines to outdoor antennas.

2. Despite the close by lightning events at my QTH since last month, I will further tempt fate by recounting briefly the most spectacular lightning damage event that I witnessed. It occurred at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in March, 1987 during the launch of Atlas-Centaur 67 carrying a Navy FLEETSATCOM satellite payload. AC-67 successfully left the launch pad in stable, controlled flight and entered the overcast above at about 12000 feet AGL; at 14000 feet AGL still in the clouds, a cloud to vehicle lightning strike occurred, which caused a single bit flip in the bit sequence running through the onboard guidance computer; fortuitously, that single bit flip caused the guidance computer almost immediately to command a full yaw deflection of the rocket motor gimbal even though AC-67 was still accelerating at full thrust. Range safety immediately noticed the deviation from the telemetry, but the destruct command it sent was unneeded - AC-67 had already tumbled and was breaking apart into pieces from the acceleration forces. I was in the launch command center when this happened and saw the numerous displays there suddenly flat-line or go blank; the mood of everyone there changed from jubilant to very somber in an instant. There was no explosion, and AC-67's pieces fell into the sea not far offshore. The vehicle guidance computer itself, a 1960 design with 1960's hardware, was recovered intact. I had an opportunity to inspect it a few months later at the contractor's facility near Los Angeles where it was being analyzed; the physical and electrical damage was minimal. Exactly how that particular fortuitous bit flip occurred was never determined, but there was no doubt that it was caused the lightning strike in the clouds. As a result of that failure, the cloud and weather launch criteria were significantly changed and new launch pad structures were built to bleed off electrostatic build up. Experts theorized that the high temperature and violent rocket exhaust during ascent created an ionization trail to the ground, increasing the potential difference between the vehicle and the surrounding environment during ascent, facilitating lightning discharge. That single lightning strike caused a loss of more than \$400,000,000 in an brief instant. Google: Atlas-Centaur 67 to find out more about that.

# VP's Corner

Jeff Fuller  
WB6UIE

As we begin National Preparedness Month, Hurricane Dorian devastates much of the Bahamas and begins its sweep up the east coast of the U.S. Fortunately, it looks like northern Virginia will escape most of its wrath. We may not be as lucky next time. Now is a good time to check your emergency supplies. Do you have enough food and water for you and your family to last several days? You can find information about recommended emergency kit contents at <https://www.ready.gov>

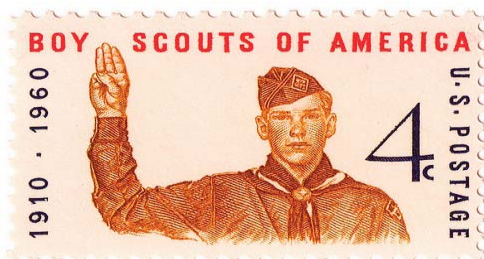


In addition to the damage caused by their high winds and wind driven water, hurricanes often spawn tornadoes and systems of violent thunderstorms extending many miles inland from the eye. The resulting power outages can last for days. Do you have backup power for your radios and essential items? If you plan to rely on batteries, please be sure to charge and store them safely.

For those with generators, remember to service and run them periodically.



Two OVH members recently received an up close and personal lesson from another weather hazard - lightning. Fortunately, both escaped without injury. Their shacks didn't fare as well. Damages ranged from downed towers to blown house wiring and computers. Join us at this month's meeting for their stories and photos.



<https://www.jotajoti.info/>

October 18-20 marks an important event for Scouting - Jamboree on the Air/on the Internet. It's a chance for young Scouts to experience ham radio first hand. Hear more about JOTA/JOTI and how you can participate from resident Scout Master Rob Hoitt, W4FSK, at our September meeting. Hope to see you there!