

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

June 2020

Next Meeting: June 16, 2020 online, details below.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings all,

Well I guess since it doesn't seem like too long since I wrote the last President's Letter, the flow of time is returning somewhat to normal. But, everyday life still hasn't gotten there yet, but at least we are a little more "free" than we have been for the last two months. I even managed to go back to work at the beginning of the month.

However, before we get too excited, there are still a few things that won't be occurring. For starters, the OVH will not be having it's Field Day at the Nokesville Park later this month. Though I'm sure many of us were hoping to be able to finally get together and do some things together again; we'll just have to wait a little longer. The other thing that won't be happening this year is the Berryville Hamfest in early August. I know a lot of OVH members make the trek out there, including myself; I bought my first HF rig there 5 years ago and earned my upgrade to Extra there 4 years ago. I've always enjoyed the drive and each day that I've spend out there; and I'm sure like many, I was hoping to be able to head up there in August. But it looks like we will have to wait until next year. It is sad, but with things the way they are, it's understandable.

Now to move on to better news; I'd like to thank the members of the Scholarship Committee, especially Sandy / KM4JUS for putting in the hard work of sorting through the 13 applications, apparently a record, and choosing this year's winner; Benjamin Jacob of Bristow. He'll be attending Virginia Tech this fall and is focusing heavily on engineering and robotics. There is some more information about him later in the Newsletter as well as some pictures of the small presentation ceremony;



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Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President:	Jay Moore	NQ4T	571-316-4738
Vice Pres:	Jeff Fuller	WB6UIE	791-5916
Secretary:	John Heartney	KG4NXT	257-3566
Treasurer:	Don Meyerhoff	WA2SWX	597-3211

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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 2020 - Chairman

Don	WA2SWX	597-3211
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FIELD DAY 2020

Byron	AK4XR	222-2095
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CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

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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
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email: KG4GIY@ARRL.NET

Prince William County ARES website <http://pwcares.org>

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Don	WA2SWX	597-3211

GENERATORS

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Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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WEB COMMITTEE — W4OVH.NET

Kevin	KX4KU	540-445-5183
Andy	KJ4MTP	786-4651
John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Ken	KN4DD	622-2638

EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
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JOTA - 2020

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

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Andy	KJ4MTP	786-4651
George	K4GVT	791-5956
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Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
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TWITTER & FACEBOOK ACCOUNT MODERATOR

Jeff	KM4FTK	830-4155
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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 © 2020 by the Ole Virginia Hams which holds its 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. 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 through the OVH's web site at <http://w4ovh.net>. Articles in this newsletter may be reprinted if credit is given to the OVH ARC and other source(s) noted. Proposed materials for publication, classified ads, notes about specific errors, complaints or the like are solicited. Forward such items to the Newsletter Editor: PAUL@W4ZB.COM. Approx. Circ.: 170. Last Rev: 20200310

a video will be posted on the web site. I'd like to congratulate Benjamin again on being chosen, and wish him the best of luck.

Our regular OVH June 2020 meeting will once again be online. Last month's meeting went extremely well thanks to the upgraded hardware and the problems that plagued April's meeting have been eliminated. I'd like to thank everyone for their immense support and patience as I worked out the bugs; and to welcome the new members. OVH's membership has not been hurt by the pandemic and it continues to grow. The online meeting will be at: <https://ovh.nq4t.com/meeting> again, at on our usual date (the third Tuesday in the month - June 16th) and at our usual local time that day, 7:30 pm. I will open the meeting room at 7:00 pm to allow those who haven't used our Jitsu setup before to stop by and get your user display name configured.

I hope to see everyone at the meeting and on the air during Field Day!

73 Jay NQ4T

Sunshine Corner

Happy birthday to our club members celebrating another year this month, June, 2020:
Jan / KE4TMW, Jim / KM4SXM, Steve / N4OGR, Derrick / KV4SH, Wayne / AG4ZZ,
Gene / N4HEW and Bob / K4HJF

It doesn't quite feel like June this year without live editions of the OVH's two major annual events: the Manassas Hamfest and the OVH/ARRL Field Day at Nokesville Community Park.

Don't forget the Virginia QSO Party Award Ceremony is this Saturday at 9 am online, this is always held at our Hamfest.

Happy Father's Day to all of the dads in the club.

Congratulations to our 2020 scholarship winner Benjamin, thanks to Sandy / KM4JUS for organizing and getting the awardee announced!

Silent key – Russ Stevens WB4HHN passed away on May 24th. Russ was a long time member of club. In the 70's, 80's, 90's and even later, Russ maintained an almost continuous watch (it seemed) on 146.97 and could be counted on almost always to answer a call ("Listening on 97") to the OVH's repeater. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers. RIP Russ.

Next Tuesday, June 16th at 7:30 pm will be our regular monthly OVH club meeting, again online Please join in if you are able.

Stay safe, if anybody needs help, please reach out, we need to stick together! Hope to see everyone in person soon.

Remember to check in at 8 pm on the OVH's Thursday night VHF/UHF repeater net - details are on the OVH's web site: W4OVH.NET That is a great way to stay in touch, especially now when many of us are subject to "social distancing!" Continue to send news or other items to me, email at kg4tvm@hotmail.com or telephone: 703-257-3566.



Happy Summer!

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting held on May 19, 2020 Online:

The OVH regular meeting for May, 2020 was held over the Internet using the Jitsi platform hosted by Jay / NQ4T. The meeting began at 7:30 PM on May 19, 2020 and ran more smoothly on Jay's new server than at the April meeting. The Jitsi attendee counter counted 22 attendees at its peak.

Because the meeting was being held virtually, OVH President, Jay / NQ4T dispensed with the saying of pledge of allegiance and with each members individually stating his or her callsign and anme. The minutes of the OVH April, 2020 online meeting as reported in the May, 2020 OVH Newsletter were approved.

Treasurer's report - no report.

Luther / WA3FMO gave the membership report. OVH voted in Chuck Spangler (no call yet) as a new member. Luther read in Ron Crowley / WB3LCV and Matt Tritle (no call yet) as new applicants for membership, both to be voted on at the June 2020 meeting.

Greg / KM4CCG gave the ARES report. Red Cross plans on using WINLINK. Events scheduled for June 20 is cancelled.

Repeater report – no report.

Mark / WA4KFZ gave the training report. There was discussion of virtual testing and that fact that the ARRL VEC does not have any guidelines for virtual testing at this time.

Scholarship – no report yet but Sandy / KM4JUS, not present, is actively working on it.

Hamfest report. No report. The 2020 Manassas Hamfest has been cancelled due problems posed by COVID pandemic.

Byron / AK4XR gave the field day report. A final decision has not yet been made, but it is likely that OVH will not have Field Day at Nokesville Park in June due to problems posed by the COVID pandemic. Various suggestions have been made. This situation will not prevent any OVH member from doing Field Day individually.

Kevin KX4KU gave the web committee report. There have been some problems with the VP Column and with the new membership form emails, but both problems are believed solved.

Theresa / KG4TVM gave the Sunshine report. Birthdays were reported.

Theresa / KG4TVM moved to adjourn the meeting, motion passed and meeting adjourned. .

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

June 13, 2020 (Saturday) - the OVH Manassas Hamfest - planned to be put on by the OVH, this year for the 46th time. THIS HAS BEEN CANCELLED FOR 2020 DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. For more info, see <http://manassashamfest.org> or <http://w4ovh.net/welcome-to-manassas-hamfest>.

June 26 - 28, Ham Radio - Friedrichshafen, Germany - the live version of this major European hamfest (almost as big as the Dayton Hamvention) has been cancelled due to COVID, but the DARC (the German equivalent of the ARRL), its main sponsor, is planning to hold many of the (many) seminars and exhibitors online. The the online details for that have are not yet been published, but should be available shortly at <http://darc.de> Many of the seminars will be in English or in English & German. This will be a chance to observe what is going on with ham radio in Europe without traveling!

August 2, 2020 (Sunday) - the Berryville Hamfest, the long-standing, perennial favorite for many OVH members to attend. THIS HAS BEEN CANCELLED FOR 2020 DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. Bummer. For more info, see <https://svarc.us/coronavirus-update-3-16-2020>

HAM RADIO RELATED:

June 27-28, 2020 - ARRL / OVH Field Day event at the Nokesville Virginia Park. This is a major OVH event each year. THIS HAS BEEN CANCELLED FOR 2020 DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. But all is not lost with this cancellation by OVH and also by many other ham radio clubs in the US and Canada. The ARRL Field Day will still go on. See, the ARRL's special modifications to the Field Day rules for this year at: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-rules> The new rules contain waivers (or the usual rules to allow Class D (home) stations to compete in Field Day by making contacts with other Class D stations, and for separate scores by individuals who submit logs and designate a particular club (e.g. OVH) to be aggregated into the club scores for that club. So - a lot of activity is still expected!

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

Check the online Calendar on the OVH web site, W4OVH.NET for information about upcoming events.

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.

OLE VIRGINIA HAMS ARC'S 2020 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

On Tuesday, June 9, 2020, OVH President, Jay Moore / NQ4T, and OVH Scholarship Chair, Sandy Knight / KM4JUS, presented the 2020 Harry D. Vorhauer Scholarship award of \$1,000 and a certificate to 2020 high school graduate Benjamin Jacob of Bristow, Virginia. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, Jay & Sandy presented the award and certificate to Benjamin outside his home.

Benjamin was one of thirteen scholarship applicants who submitted a completed application. He had just graduated from Battlefield High School in Haymarket, Virginia and will be attending Virginia Tech, School of Engineering, beginning in the Fall.

Benjamin has been involved in numerous robotics and other STEM school classes and activities for many years; his application also showed that he had been involved in leadership roles at school and in his community. He stood out the best from all other applicants.

OVH wants to congratulate Benjamin and wish him well in his continuing education.

Sandra Knight / KM4JUS

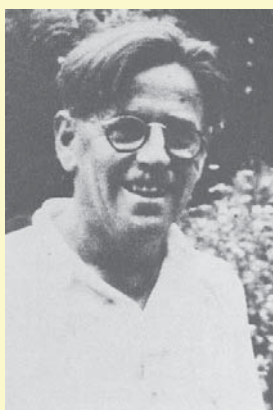


VP's Corner

Jeff Fuller
WB6UIE



June brings sweltering heat to northern Virginia and a chance for hams to adapt to a new version of Field Day. This month's ham radio history takes us to the steaming heat of the WWII Solomon Islands and the story of a young ham who used every bit of his Field Day skills to keep his gear up and running while reporting on enemy forces and dodging Japanese patrols.



Paul Mason



<https://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/AAF/IV/maps/AAF-IV-2.jpg>

Sydney Australia native Paul Mason became interested in amateur radio during his school days, becoming proficient at Morse and building his own transmitter in 1936[1]. Thanks to his work as a plantation manager before the war, Paul had good knowledge of the Solomons and their inhabitants.

His background made Mason a perfect candidate for a program set up by Australian Naval Intelligence in 1940. Observers, called Coastwatchers, were stationed among the northern islands to warn of approaching hostile forces. When Japanese troops landed on the islands in 1942, courageous Coastwatchers packed up their radios and melted into the jungle.

With no military radios available, Coastwatchers relied on commercial equipment made by Australian company Amalgamated Wireless Australasia, or AWA [2]. Their sets from the company's Teleradio 3 series were originally designed as base stations for remote Australian settlements. The 3BZ model featured a tunable receiver covering 200KHz - 30MHz and a 13 watt AM/CW crystal controlled transmitter. These, along with an antenna tuner and speaker/power supply were housed in sturdy steel cabinets. Portable power came from lead acid batteries and a generator to recharge them.



Teleradio 3BZ with receiver, transmitter, and power supply.

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Coastwatchers had to minimize transmission time to evade hostile direction finders and periodically changed location to avoid Japanese patrols. As you can imagine, moving such a station wasn't a small operation. To the Coastwatchers advantage, Japanese mistreatment of the natives guaranteed a steady supply of load bearers and antenna climbers along with a network of scouts. Covert resupply missions by submarines and PBY Catalina flying boats helped them endure their harsh jungle environment.

Periodic radio reports from Coastwatchers were instrumental in helping the Allies keep tabs on Japanese positions and troop movements and were often timely enough to call in air strikes on vulnerable targets. Their native networks helped rescue downed aviators as well as PT-109 survivor and future President John F. Kennedy.

One of Paul Mason's reports effectively turned the tide during the battle for Guadalcanal. Hoping to catch U.S. amphibious forces at their most vulnerable point while offloading men and supplies, the Japanese launched a large formation of bombers. Mason spotted them enroute and alerted U.S. forces in time to set up an ambush by carrier planes, turning the tables on what could have been a disaster.

Arranging that ambush and several airstrikes catapulted Mason to the top of the Japanese most wanted list. They redoubled their efforts to find him and added dogs to some of their patrols. As his capture appeared imminent, the Allies directed Mason to a remote portion of the coast where he was safely extracted by submarine. Mason and several other Coastwatchers were awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for their actions during the battle for Guadalcanal.

So, as you hone your abilities to innovate, adapt, and overcome during this year's Field Day, remember Paul Mason and his jungle radio station. And be glad that the only hostile patrols you'll be evading will be the mosquitoes.

References and further reading

- 1. Behind Enemy Lines: An Amateur Radio Operator's Amazing Tale of Bravery**
Reg Hardman, VK4XH, and Carmody Sagers, KD5ZON
ARRL web site:
<http://www.arrl.org/news/behind-enemy-lines-an-amateur-radio-operator-s-amazing-tale-of-bravery>
- 2. Extracts from the VMARS News Sheet**
A Publication of the Vintage Military Amateur Radio Society
https://secure.toolkitfiles.co.uk/clients/22828/sitedata/files/NS_Extracts_Jan14.pdf
- 3. THE 3BZ COAST WATCHERS WIRELESS SET**
VK2DYM'S Military Radio and Radar Information Site
<https://www.qsl.net/vk2dym/radio/3BZa.htm>

Some Possibly Interesting or Useful Information

1. The award ceremony for the Virginia QSO Party, - which usually takes place at the Manassas Hamfest - will occur this year online on Saturday morning, 9:00 am on June 13, 2020. If you want to participate in that on-line video conference, send an email to vqp@verizon.net right away. Internet connection details will be provided before the ceremony.

2. In the Reminders About Upcoming Events column above, I mentioned that many of the hamfest seminars and exhibitor presentations for the 2020 Ham Radio hamfest (Friedrichshafen, Germany) are supposed to be online on June 26 - 28th. This was announced in a DARC newsletter yesterday, some of the presentations have already been recorded, but as of this writing, the details for login for that - still two weeks in the future - have not yet been published by the DARC (<http://darc.de>). If this does take place, it will be an excellent opportunity for OVH members to find out and observe what is going on with ham radio in Europe without traveling there and also see some live product reviews. Many of the presentations will be in English only or English / German as at the live event - so don't be deterred if you don't know much or any German!

3. Ligado. Check the FCC online dockets to find out what Ligado is about. More than a month ago the FCC, with almost no advance public notice - in a manner similar to what happened with its Lightsquared approval some years ago during the early Obama administration - gave Ligado approval to implement a terrestrial wifi system on frequency bands adjacent to the bands used by the US's GPS satellites. The likelihood of disruption of GPS for all GPS users appears paramount as it was with the very similar Lightsquared proposed network for which the FCC eventually revoked its approval. The NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Agency) has filed a petition with the FCC to revoke the Ligado approval on behalf of DOD, DOT, FAA and other Federal agencies. Bipartisan Congressional action is also underway and likely because this affects everyone who uses or depends upon GPS. Is this the result of a push by embedded "deep state" staff at the FCC or is something else strange or untoward going on there?

4. Contest University ("CU"). This has been an excellent ham radio resource for quite a while now at <http://contestuniversity.com> but until this year, one had to go to Dayton, Ohio or to Europe to attend one of its full-day, live sessions to find out everything about what CU was teaching in a given year, not easy to do every year. Then, a few years ago, CU began publishing the Powerpoint slides on its web site - so if you couldn't attend, at least you could look at those - but without benefit of the lecturer's commentary or the Q&A during the live presentation. Although CU was started by a group of the top ham radio contesters (and contest and DX addicts) to spread their knowledge and know-how, the "Contest" part of the name has been somewhat misdescriptive from the beginning. Top contesters and DXers have top performing stations - and knowing how to create a top performing station - which is lot of the subject matter presented at CU - is something many hams who are not avid contesters or DXers are very interested in.

This year, with the live Dayton Hamvention and CU cancelled due to COVID, the CU decided to create video of all of their presentations and make them available to everyone "free" online. Total length of the videos is more than 10 hours - which is more than one could have seen by attending a live session because some of the topic were presented live at the same time but in different rooms. I haven't yet looked at any of the 2020 stuff, but I know most of it will be top quality; I base that opinion upon having attended several live CU full-day programs in Dayton, Ohio.