

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+ (temporarily - limited functionality)
Web Site at <http://w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

August 2020

Next Meeting: August 18, 2020 online, details below.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings everyone,

I find it hard to believe it's already August. For as long as March and April dragged on, I was sure summer would drag on even longer. Perhaps being extra busy at work and cramming in a radio project or two helped. But here we are, looking at the middle of August and hopefully leaving all the heat and humidity behind before long.

Of course, we are heading into an active hurricane season. We've already had a close encounter with one storm; but with the way they're forming I'm sure we'll have an encounter or two before the year is out. Right now would be a great time to check up on your batteries and emergency communications equipment; make sure they're charged and ready. But also don't forget to think about your antenna; if you have a tree-hung antenna like I do; you might want to do a post-summer inspection to make sure it will survive a storm.

Our VE team has scheduled a VE session! On August 15th at Nokesville Park our VE team will be holding an exam session with social distancing precautions. With the sudden interest in our hobby during the pandemic, test sessions have been in short supply with a bit of demand. A big thanks to our VE team for planning this session together. Hopefully the weather will behave so the team will have a successful and safe session.

Though it's been difficult to make future plans; I've always said it can't hurt. That's why I'm happy to announce that preparations for Hamfest 2021 have already begun! Don/WA2SWX has been kind enough to pick up the chair for one more year and will start announcing planning meetings soon.



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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

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 2020 - Chairman

Don	WA2SWX	597-3211
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FIELD DAY 2020

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	540-445-5183
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
Cat	KM4PBD	571-213-2179

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

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

We also have an event to support coming up. Though moved from its original date due to the COVID pandemic, the Serve Our Willing Warriors bike ride is scheduled for September 26, 2020. Andy/KJ4MTP will be needing numerous volunteers over this very large course that covers parts of three counties. To volunteer you will need to visit <https://www.bikereg.com/volunteers-warrior-ride> and sign up. The difficult terrain will make operators with full mobile rigs (external antennas and 50 watts) in high demand.

I'd also like to thank John/KG4NXT and Al/KB4BHB for doing a little "club publicity" as well as helping out two area hams recently get antennas up in the air. Thank you both for getting these gentlemen on the air and spreading a little OVH goodwill.

We also have a new repeater controller. Cat/KM4PBD recently started duties as a net control and has proven more than capable and willing to handle the task. Congrats Cat.

Our next meeting on August 18th at 7:30 pm will once again be virtual and happen at our usual meeting address: <https://ovh.nq4t.com/meeting> - more information will be put on the closed OVH email reflector and the OVH web site. If you've never joined one, contact me at nq4t@arrl.net and I'd be glad to help get you going.

In the meantime, everyone stay safe and don't forget to check in to the weekly net on the OVH repeaters. I hope to see everyone at the virtual meeting on the 18th.

73 Jay NQ4T

Sunshine Corner

Happy birthday in August to OVH members: John / KK4TCE, Karl / W4KRL, Stu / W4PR, Ronnell / KK4ZUR, Vern / K0LVS, Chick / KC1PIA, Duane / KK4BZ and Raymond / KF4AQR.

If you are a new member and you do not see your birthday listed in a correct month, please shoot me an email (kg4tvm@hotmail.com) and let me know. The on line applications don't have a space for this information.

The OVH held a VE Session outdoors at the Pavilion at the Nokesville Community Park on August 15th in response to the increased local interest in ham radio and demand for VE testing sessions. A total of thirteen applicants appeared at the VE session. Ten of them passed the Technician exam, and three of them did not. One of them also passed the General exam. John / KG4NXT was the lead organizer. Special thanks to all of the VEs and others who assisted: Tony / KM4KLB, Ken / KN4DD, Wayne / N7QLK, George / K4GVT, Steve / N4OGR, Jim / KM4SXM, Al / KB4BHB, John / KG4NXT. Butch / W4HJL secured the Nokesville Park venue for this even and yours truly (KG4TVM) attended to assist, take pictures (some pictures next month), and cook lunch. However, everything went so efficiently, all examinations were finished and graded by 10:00am, and that was too early for lunch so there was no free lunch! The VE package was mailed off to the ARRL by 10:30am. A great success!

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!" Stay safe, if anybody needs help, please reach out, we need to stick together! Hope to see everyone in person soon. 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 July 21, 2020 Online:

The OVH regular meeting for July, 2020 was held over the Internet using the Jitsi platform hosted by Jay / NQ4T. The meeting began at 7:30 PM on July 21st. The Jitsi attendee counter counted 25 attendees at its peak.

Jay / NQ4T ran the meeting. The minutes of the June 2020 OVH meeting were approved.

Jay had a small presentation about the recent Fox Hunt held by Woodbridge Wireless. Jay / NQ4T, Ray / KM4EKR and Mark / WA4KFZ participated in the hunt. Jay explained that the fox hunt was held over a wide area requiring cars to travel the distance. It required compass triangulation and there were multipath problems giving false directional paths to the fox. Jay also discussed attenuators. Jay and Mark put up diagrams of attenuators.

Luther / WA3FMO gave the membership report. Scott / WB6EFW was read in, to be voted on at the next meeting. Bruce / KN4TS and Kenneth / KI4EOH were voted in as new OVH members. Welcome to each of them!

ARES report. No report this month.

Ken / KE2N, gave the repeater report. Fusion is working fine and the DStar repeaters are also working fine but the DStar gateway is resting. There was a discussion about the need to register and update on the gateway. Ken mentioned the possibility of adding another computer to take part of the DStar functions.

Mark / WA4KFZ give the training report. He has spoken with a Scott Peterson who contacted him via the OVH web site contact form. Mark recommended that Scott take online training and Mark offered to be a online mentor. There was mention of an outside VE session somewhere on the parkway but the address was not clear and there was no point of contact given.

Don / WA2SWX gave the Treasurer's report which was approved.

Kevin / KX4KU gave the web committee report. Everything is working and all web committee members are contributing.

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

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

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After the meeting, a number of the meeting attendees stayed online, and there was an online discussion of the future of ham radio led by Wayne / N4HCR

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

The COVID pandemic, unfortunately, has killed off all nearby live hamfests for this summer season.

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!

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PUBLIC SERVICE / ARES EVENTS

September 26, 2020 - Willing Warriors - Bike Ride, Broad Run, Virginia and along the riding route - ham radio volunteers are needed along the route. Andy / KJ4MTP is again coordinating the ham radio part of this activity. Volunteers with handhelds are solicited. Contact Andy or go to the event web site: <https://www.bikereg.com/volunteers-warrior-ride> or <https://www.willingwarriors.org/bikeride> for more information.

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://pwcared.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.

Some Possibly Interesting or Useful Information

1. As bad as the COVID pandemic has been for everyone, it has forced just about everyone to become more adept with online (Internet) communications in order to better “stay in touch,” to communicate and/or to work / coordinate with others remotely more efficiently and effectively. Fortunately, available Internet bandwidths have improved for many of us so that video is now practical. Also low or very low cost technologies and systems are now available to allow these improvements. The OVH has been able to adapt to holding its regular monthly meetings online using the freeware Jitsi conference system, with many OVH attending regularly. The interactions of a live meeting are not there, but online meetings are still much better than no meetings at all.

2. The ARRL has recently opened an online Learning Center which is already off to a very impressive start. Go to: <http://www.arrl.org/ARRL-Learning-Network> This “Learning Network” provides links to live (and then recorded) webinars on a wide assortment of ham radio topics of interest. The ARRL is soliciting Speakers/Presenters - which is a great idea. While the ARRL’s staff is devoted to ham radio, it by no means possesses the collective expertise and experience of its members. Among the hundred thousand plus active hams (just in the USA) are many who are much better positioned to prepare substantive webinar content on particular subjects. Fortunately the ARRL is taking advantage of the willingness of many to provide content at low or no cost.

Very good and low cost software tools are also available to enable such video content to be created now, but still a lot of time and effort is required. Zoom and various TechSmith and Adobe products quickly come to mind as industry standard tools that your editor is routinely using for business purposes: these have steep learning curves, but are quite low cost considering the value of one’s time that must be spent whenever creating good content. “Freeware” tools also exist.

Hopefully, the ARRL will use its resources to exercise good quality control over what ends up on ARRL’s Learning-Network and will develop a good content indexing / search system so what is there can be found easily. Very much worth checking this out if you haven’t looked already!

Recent webinar subjects available at the ARRL’s Learning-Network for online viewing include: 1. Introduction to Computer Logging (KG5VK); 2. Introduction to Digital FM Modes (WA5RR); 3. HF Wire Antennas (NG7A); 4. Fun with Digital Signal Modes FT4 and FT8 (K8ZT); and 5. Relay Stations and the Art of Traffic Handling (K8AMH) and quite a few others.

This ARRL webinar resource will certainly become a very valuable one for self-learners; it will enable newcomers to the hobby to “get up to speed” much more quickly, old-timers who no longer have the enthusiasm and energy of newcomers will be able to review “the latest” about aspects of the hobby (e.g., antennas and propagation) that only change slowly and to become familiar with the latest aspects too. However, I predict this will not eliminate the need for ham radio printed material.

VP's Corner

Jeff Fuller
WB6UIE



As 5G and other new commercial wireless systems deploy, competition for scarce radio spectrum will become intense. As stewards of a good chunk of that spectrum, it will be up to hams to justify our allocations. Some are saying that new technology will make our traditional emergency communications role obsolete. So, what else do we bring to the table? How about our long and proud history as a springboard for youngsters who went on to landmark careers as engineers, Nobel laureates, and astronauts? Here are some examples.

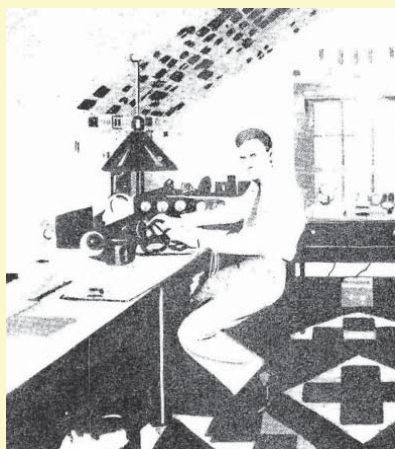
Edwin H. "Howard" Armstrong W2XMN

Armstrong grew up in suburban New York at the turn of the century and was fascinated by wireless technology. By age 14 he had filled his bedroom with wireless gear and erected a 125 foot antenna on his parents property (no HOAs in those days). He was soon accepted at Columbia University where he received his electrical engineering degree in 1913. After serving as a Signal Corps officer in WWI, he went on to an illustrious career during which he invented the superhet receiver and FM.



Armstrong in his Signal Corps uniform.

Art Collins W0CXX



Art took an early interest in emerging wireless technology. Licensed at the age of 14, he assembled his own station in the attic of his family's Midwestern home and soon gained recognition by relaying comms from a 1925 arctic expedition. As his knowledge progressed, Art recognized frequency stability as a major problem with radios of that era and started a small company in his basement making and selling high stability transmitters.

Art's company, Collins Radio, grew into a major supplier of radios for arctic expeditions and the military. His high stability VFOs later made volume production of single sideband (SSB) radios a reality and Collins became the gold standard for HF radio communications equipment.

15 year old Art Collins in his ham shack.

<https://worldradiohistory.com/Archive-Catalogs/Collins/Collins-First-50-Years.pdf>

The KWM-2 HF transceiver (right) was considered the gold standard of its era.



<https://rigreference.com/rigs/2528-collins-kwm-2>

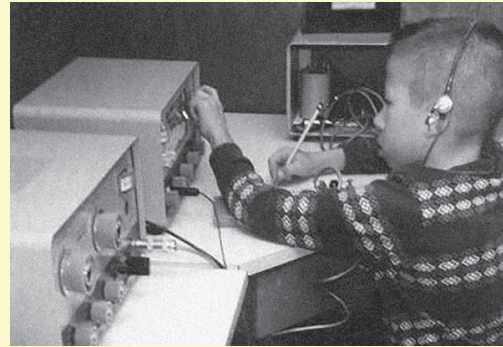
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Steve Wozniak WA6BND



Apple Computer co founders
Steve Wozniak (L) and Steve Jobs.



Young Steve Wozniak in his shack. Official website
<https://en.24smi.org/celebrity/41305-steve-wozniak.html>

Both men credit neighborhood hams who helped them assemble their first Heathkits with sparking a childhood interest in electronics. Wozniak went on to get his license and explore the airwaves. They later joined forces to found Apple Computer and launch the personal computer revolution.

Dr. Joe Taylor K1JT

Princeton Professor and Nobel Laureate (Physics 1993)



First licensed as a teenager, Joe Taylor's interest in amateur radio led him to radio astronomy, a career in astrophysics, and a Nobel Prize in physics. He is well known in ham radio circles as the creator of a series of weak signal modes which have taken the community by storm.

WSJT-X: FT8 and Beyond

**Joe Taylor
K1JT**

Ham Radio
Friedrichshafen
June 21-23, 2019

<https://www.dx-world.net/keynote-speech-joe-taylor-k1jt-wsjt-x-ft8-and-beyond/>



Bob Behnken, KE5GGX,
recently returned from the first
manned space flight of the
SpaceX Dragon Crew Capsule.

All of these superstars share a common thread. Each had a mentor, or "elmer" in ham speak, who helped them get started - someone to help assemble that first Heathkit, put together their first station, or help raise that first antenna.

Elmering remains one of ham radio's most important contributions. OVH has a strong tradition of outreach with our support of activities like JOTA and youth science fairs. Opportunities for in person elmering may be limited while we endure the health crisis. However, with remote learning underway, many teachers will be looking for online content for their virtual classrooms. Suggestions welcome.