

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

November 2020

Next Meeting: November 17, 2020 online, details below.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings everyone,

It's hard to believe it's November judging by the weather we've been having. I know the bitter cold of winter is right around the corner and will probably appear suddenly rather than gradually; I know I will enjoy the mild weather for as long as we can keep it.

Although this will be published in the OVH Newsletter after Veterans Day, I'd like to take a moment to thank those who have served protecting our country - those who are currently defending, those who are no longer serving, and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Thank You.

Since my last letter, OVH was able to support JOTA this year; and from the reports it was a success. Thanks to John/KG4NXT for working with Rob/W4FSK in organizing the event under social distancing guidelines; and to Al/KB4BHB, Ken/KN4DD, and Ron/K3FR for assisting and showing the scouts the excitement of radio. A wonderful article about the event is published on the web site.

I'd also like to recognize Jeff/WB6UIE. Several months ago we were contacted by the XYL of a former member who has recently gone SK and needed help to dispose of his radio equipment. This was not the average collection from the average shack; there is a very large number of items, including a lot of repeater equipment. Jeff has been organizing and running an online auction; and it's been a large effort. Thanks Jeff.

The OVH Christmas Party is continuing as usual. We will have it on Sunday evening, December 6th at the Yorkshire Family Restaurant. It will be a potluck as previous years with the restaurant donating a turkey and ham; so please bring a dish to

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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

share. We will once again be doing a Toys For Tots drive and have been told a Marine will be in attendance; so please bring a new, unwrapped toy. The Marines have reported that donations are lower than usual; so if you can donate multiple toys that would be fantastic.

If you can't make the party, please consider making a Toys For Tots donation where you are able. Theresa/KG4TVM will put more information on the email reflector; and special thanks to Theresa again for organizing the party.

The OVH's next virtual (regular) meeting will be on November 17th at 7:30 at our usual URL location: <https://ovh.nq4t.com/meeting> We will have a presentation by Mark/WA4KFZ on some fox hunt attenuators he has designed and built.

Hope to see everyone at the upcoming meeting; and I really do hope to see everyone at the holiday party on December 6th. Also, don't forget to check-in to our weekly FM net every Thursday. Hope everyone has a good Thanksgiving.

73 Jay NQ4T

Sunshine Corner

Happy birthday wishes to Wayne / N7QLK, Kevin / KX4KU, Baofang / KK4JFK, Theresa / KG4TVM, Butch / W4HJL, Greg / KM4CCG, Jeff / WB4TT, Gene / KD4RHC, Charlie / WA4YGI and Joe / AB4QV

Save the Date – Sunday, December 6th for the OVH Holiday Party. Location – Yorkshire Restaurant, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

The JOTA event participated in by OVH members in October went very well - see separate report elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Happy Veterans Day to our military club members, thank you very much for your service.

Best wishes to our club members that have been dealing with health issues, hope you all are up and running at full speed soon.

Happy Thanksgiving to all our club members and their families, stay safe this holiday season!

Manassas Hamfest 2021 planning meetings have already started. Contact Don / WA2SWX and let him know how you can participate to make this a successful event.

Please mark your calendar for Winter Field Day in early 2021, on January 30th and 31st. Contact Don / WA2SWX, John / KG4NXT or Theresa / KG4TVM for more information on this event. More to be provided as the event gets closer.

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. Continue to send news or other items to me, email at kg4tvm@hotmail.com or telephone: 703-257-3566. !

Happy Thanksgiving!

73 Theresa KG4TVM



Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting held on October 20, 2020 Online:

The OVH regular meeting for October 2020 was held over the Internet using the Jitsi platform hosted by Jay / NQ4T at <https://ovh.nq4t.com/meeting>. The meeting began at 7:30 PM on October 20th and the Jitsi attendee counter counted 19 attendees. Because the meeting was being held virtually, OVH President Jay / NQ4T dispensed with the pledge and individual attendees saying their call signs.

OVH President Jay / NQ4T ran the meeting.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

Jay / NQ4T and John / KG4NXT presented a program on a kit called the Phaser. During the presentation, Jay made an FT8 contact with the phaser and shared the FT8 screen with attendees. Mark / WA4KFZ will put a paper he wrote explaining the theory on the email reflector.

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

Luther / WA3FMO gave the membership report. Four new members were voted in: Steve Elmore / KO4GQR; Douglas Linden / KO4GMA; Bill Bonilla / AF4LL; and Andrea Cumberland / KI4SXM. Luther also had four new read-ins to be voted on at the next meeting: David Greenhill / KO4HIR; David Curley / No callsign yet; Matthew Burdick / No callsign yet; and Tyssen Becker / W8ZM.

ARES report – no report.

Ken / KE2N, gave the repeater report. Ken visited the Novec site and found Novec had moved our cable from underground to an above ground feeder tray. He also found that our panel was not grounded and that several NOVEC dishes had ground wires that went into the shack but were not grounded. Ken found a contact at NOVEC and has discussed this with them. There was apparent lightening damage to some of our equipment include two computers. Ken is working on surge protector and a USB isolator to protect us in the future. The bridgecom will be returned for repairs and Ken has an RMA number.

Mark / WA4KFZ gave the training report. He has been contacted on the website regarding training. Mark makes himself available for training/ mentoring questions.

Hamfest report. There was a Oct 8 hamfest planning meeting. The space at Manassas park has been secured for 2021 and we still have the prizes we bought for 2020.

Kevin / KX4KU gave the web committee report. Everything is working. The website is getting about 1300 visits per month which is good.

Theresa / KG4TVM gave the Sunshine report. The OVH holiday party is scheduled for December 6. She contacted the Marines and there is a great shortage of toys for toy for tots. Please bring new unwrapped toys to the holiday party. In addition, we will be having winter field day at Shenandoah River state park on January 30-31 and all are welcome to visit and operate.

There was two new business items:

1. John / KG4NXT reported that he check on our physical meeting space at Buckhall and they asked us to call back in the new year. John gave them our meeting info and asked them to reserve the 3rd Tuesday for all months in 2021.

2. Mark / WA4KFZ advised that an ARDEN conference would be held on Zoom. Mark encouraged those interested to attend.

The meeting was adjourned.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFEST TYPE EVENTS:

The COVID pandemic, unfortunately, has killed off all live hamfests. Nothing scheduled nearby. The Manassas Hamfest is planned to take place as a “live” event in in June.

OVH ACTIVITIES / EVENTS:

Sunday, December 6, 2020 - 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. OVH Year End / Christmas Party the Yorkshire Restaurant in Manassas.

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

The Manassas Christmas Parade for 2020 - which would have been its 75 time - has been cancelled for this year due to COVID. Plans are that it will take place again in 2021.

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.

JOTA at Camp Synder - Scouts on the Air - October 17, 2020 - John / KG4NXT

On Saturday, October 17, OVH ran Jamboree-on-the-Air (or JOTA) at Camp Snyder in Haymarket, Virginia. One of our members, Rob / W4FSK was our liaison with the scout camp and was also in charge of the camp that day. We had a troop of boys, a second one of girls and a third troop of Muslim boys. Rob estimates the OVH volunteers worked with about 50 scouts and their leaders, just at Camp Snyder. The scouts that made contacts were given signed contact cards that they can then use for partial credit for several merit badges.

John / KG4NXT brought his IC-7610 so we could have a digital station and both Al / KB4BHB and “The Other Ken” / KN4DD brought their 2 meter mobile stations. The digital station ran FT8 and worked European, Caribbean and US stations. Looking at PSKReporter, the digital station was also heard in Antarctica and the Philippines. After Al’s station suffered a malfunction, Ken / KN4DD ran a 2 meter FM station out of his truck and was very popular. He had his scouts contact Gil / KM4OZH at his farm in Amissville, VA via the 97 repeater. Gil had rigged a speaker on top of his car so he could do farm work but also hear when he was needed. When Gil became unavailable due to his work, Ken also contacted another JOTA group in Centreville which was run by Jim (KN4ELI). When there were no scouts lined up outside his truck, Ken talked to the scouts in Centreville. Ken also had scouts in his truck talk directly to the scouts in Centreville. This was a form of “self preservation” as there was about 30 scouts there, mostly Girl Scouts.

There was one Girl Scout interest in sideband. Ron (K3FR) changed the FT8 setup to sideband and worked with her for over a half hour.

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AL (KB4BHB) arrived early at 8 AM and helped with setup.

Theresa (KG4TVM) made a hotdog lunch for OVH volunteers and also took the photos below.

We had several OVH members that volunteered to help but were unable to do so. George (K4GVT) needed to be home to meet contractors. Don (WA2SWX) had his DMR and hotspot packed up but had to take his dad to the hospital at the last minute. Wayne (N7QLK) had volunteered for a late afternoon spot but the schedule changed at the last minute and we asked him to stay home.



VP's Corner

Jeff Fuller
WB6UIE

The approaching holiday season and year's end are traditionally a time for reflection and giving thanks for our many blessings. This Veteran's Day, lets take a moment to express thanks to our veterans - the young ones who are in harm's way today defending our freedoms, and those who have gone before, sometimes giving all.



Thanksgiving on Combat Outpost Cherkatah, Khowst province, Afghanistan (U.S. Army)

American servicemembers have a proud history of being able to adapt, innovate, and overcome during the most challenging of circumstances. This Veteran's Day I'll cover a fascinating but little known part of that history - radios built by front line combatants and prisoners of war eager for the latest war news. Known collectively as "Foxhole Radios" their circuits embody a unique combination of clever innovation and elegance. ("Foxhole" refers to the fighting holes used by the GIs.)

Concerned that local oscillator radiation might give away a unit's position, WWII regulations forbade front line soldiers from building vacuum tube radios. But GI innovation soon prevailed. Credit for the original Foxhole Radio goes to Private Eldon Phelps who reportedly assembled his prototype on the beach head at Anzio in 1944. Its circuit is that of the simple crystal radios many of us built as youngsters. The clever part is the use of a rusty razor blade and safety pin contact to perform the same AM detector function as a crystal diode. Add an inductor made from scrap wire, an antenna, and a high impedance headset and the radio is complete.



Soldier with a Foxhole Radio at Anzio in 1944.



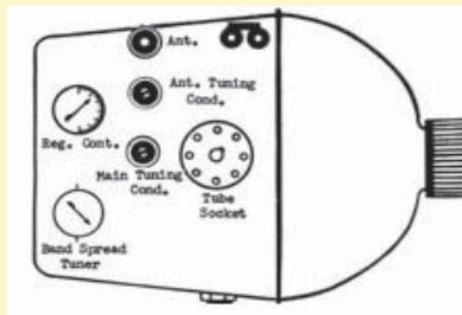
Foxhole Radio circuit. [1]

1. Hugo Gernsback "Foxhole emergency radios" in Radio-Craft magazine, Radio-Craft Publications, Inc., Vol. 15, No. 12, September 1944, p.730 <https://worldradiohistory.com/Archive-Radio-Craft/1940s/Radio-Craft-1944-09.pdf> 3

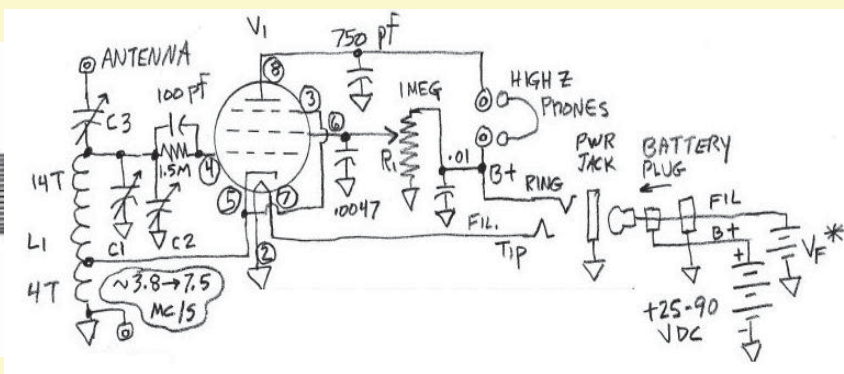
American and Allied prisoners of war shared the same hunger for news and soon came up with their own Foxhole Radio designs. For a moment, imagine yourself as a WWII POW. You're injured, on short rations, and living in primitive conditions. How will you find parts for even a basic receiver? And, of course, the design will be yours from memory (no references or tube manuals). Since consequences of discovery by your captors will be severe, your design must also be small and concealable.

The German policy of assigning POWs to work details did make the challenge a little easier. Radio parts just seemed to disappear from the repair shop now and then.

Japanese camps, on the other hand, were notorious for their brutality. Those in the Philippines were among the worst. Disease and starvation were rampant. Imagine trying to assemble a radio under those conditions. Shown below is a clever design by a POW in one of those camps. Its one tube regenerative circuit was concealed in a GI canteen. Stowed by day in its canvas pouch, it looked just like any other issue canteen. At night, POWs used it to search for news of MacArthur's pending invasion.



Canteen Radio [2]



N6CC Single Tube Regen [3]

A replica receiver built by N6CC based on POW descriptions.

Punishment for possessing a radio in one of those camps could range from severe beatings to execution. In spite of brutal mistreatment by suspicious guards, no one gave it up. Another reminder that freedom is not free.

2. The K0NR Radio Site: "POW Canteen Radio" November 2015

<http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/2015/11/pow-canteen-radio/>

3. N6CC web site: "Canteen Shortwave Radio Receiver" November 2017

<https://www.n6cc.com/canteen-radio-receiver>

4. Milione, "Building a Foxhole Radio"

LIMARC (Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club) presentation Nov. 2013

<https://studylib.net/doc/5325191/foxhole-radio-limarc-power-point-presentation-by-ron-milione>

ANTENNA PARTY FOR BUTCH / W4HJL - October 20, 2020

On October 20, 2020, the OVH had an “antenna party” for Butch / W4HJL at his QTH to assist in fixing up his antenna systems. Butch has a crank up/down tower. On the to-do agenda for the day: 1) replace the tower rotor because control box because it no longer showed direction; 2) some of the elements in the HF beam antenna are no longer in in same plane as the rest due to wind damage - straighten those out; 3) add a 6 meter beam to the antenna. A few pictures from the antenna party appear below.

The crew consisted of Gil / KM4OZH, George / K4GVT, George’s brother in law, Tom Schweinfurth, Dick / WN7S, Al / KB4BHB, Bob / K4HJF and John / KG4NXT. Butch cooked us all a fine lunch for everyone who came to helpout. The replacement rotor did not have mounting holds in the right place so the decision was to field repair the old rotor and grease it up instead - the field repair was handled most ably by Gil. There was a lot of banter. At one point, George said “I am just trying to be as much of a wiseass as the rest of you.” The 6 meter beam was assembled and had fine SWR on the ground but the SWR rose when the tower was cranked up again. It will be worked on further testing and Butch was very pleased overall.

