

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

January 2021

Next Meeting: January 19, 2021 - online, see below

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Happy New Year Everyone,

I hope everyone had a good holiday season and is having a good start to 2021. Winter has thus far been much more milder than some of the ones I recall in the past; although we haven't hit February yet. But there's hope we may get away with very little of that 4-letter word....snow.

It is with great difficulty and sadness that I report the passing of Steve / N4OGR. It was just a few days before he New Year that we learned that both he and his wife, Jan / KM4TMW had contracted COVID-19; and just after the New Year, we learned that Steve had succumbed to it. Both Steve and Jan had been at the OVH Year End party on December 6, 2020, but no one else there had COVID or contracted it shortly thereafter. Although I've only been in the OVH club for a few years, that in no way dampens the amount of sadness I feel over this tragic loss. The very first Manassas Hamfest that I worked at as a club member, I spent some time at the club's consignment table with Steve and Jan. I found it very hard to not like either one, and always looked forward to working the table with them every year. Having been with the club for several decades, there were many that knew him better than I; and several of their memories appear later in the Newsletter. My heart goes out to Jan and Steve's family for their tragic loss; and I wish Jan a speedy recovery. As of earlier this week she was still using supplemental oxygen while recovering from COVID pneumonia, but she was expecting to be off of that shortly.



Steve / N4OGR served for many, many years as the OVH's Quartermaster; it will be difficult to replace him. Hopefully, another club member will step forward now to take over the important Quartermaster appointed position. Please contact me to get appointed.

Moving on to more positive news; our first virtual meeting of the year is

Cont'd on Page 3

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
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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

happening this coming Tuesday (January 19, 2021) at 7:30 at <https://ovh.nq4t.com/meeting>
On the agenda is a presentation from Ron / K3FR on an indoor six meter antenna he has built. As someone who loves antennas, I'm looking forward to seeing what he's put together. We will also have some As usual, I will open up the meeting room up at 7:00 pm to give everyone time to join. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at nq4t@arrl.net .

Being the first of the year, that means it's time to annual pay dues for 2021 - which are very small relative to what you get back from the OVH each year if you are currently active in or interested in the ham radio hobby. You can renew via PayPal by a link on the "Members Only" page on the OVH website; or fill out the form in the back and mail it in. You'll need to be paid to participate in club elections, which happen next month. I will be putting my name on the ballot again this year and we have one position that is changing hands; but that doesn't mean you can't throw your hat in the ring as well, or recommend someone you think would be a good fit for the job. Bring it up at the next meeting or you can let me know and I will pass it along.

Though tragedy has struck the club early this year; that just means we have even more time for things to look up. I hope to see everyone (or many of you) at the online meeting on January 19th; and on the FM (and digital) Net every Thursday evening.

73 Jay NQ4T

Sunshine Corner

Happy birthday in January to the following club members: Justin / KJ4LAS, Elizabeth / KG4NXV, John / WA1STU, Ken / KE2N, Ed / WD4AVU, Ken / KN4HHO and Woody / N4MQ.

Congratulations to Wayne / N7QLK on finishing up all of his contacts needed for the Worked All States ("WAS") award sponsored by the ARRL! Achieving "WAS" takes real persistent and dedication!

Best wishes to Al / KB4BHB who has been in the hospital for surgery, he is doing much better now. Hoping for a quick recovery for Butch W4HJL who has also just had a surgery and is still in the hospital.

Very, very sorry to report that Steve / N4OGR passed away from COVID on January 2nd. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Jan / KE4TMW (who is still recovering from COVID pneumonia), and their family. Steve was very active in the OVH and very supportive of almost all OVH activities since the late 1980's and will be missed by everyone. More about Steve later in this Newsletter.

I (KG4TVM) am very HAPPY to report that I retired on December 31st what a great way to end 2020 and begin 2021!

Winter Field Day will be on January 30th and 31st. John / KG4NXT, me (KG4TVM) and Don / WA2SWX and Don's XYL, Edith, will be in Cabin #5 at Shenandoah River State Park for Winter Field Day. The park is located on Route 340 just south of Front Royal, Virginia. We will be set up for Winter Field Day for the entire weekend. Please feel free to drop in and visit with us. Please email me (kg4tvm@hotmail.com) or call 703-257-3566 with any questions. The URL for the park is: <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/shenandoah-river> If you can give me a quick call or email and let us know you are coming it would be appreciated!

Continued on page 4

Planning meetings for the 2021 Manassas Hamfest are underway. Contact Don / WA2SWX and let him know how you can help make this a successful event.

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. !

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting held on December 6, 2020 During the Holiday Party:

An abbreviated meeting was held at the Yorkshire Restaurant during and as part of the annual OVH Year End Holiday Party.

Theresa / KG4TVM ran the meeting. Theresa announced three Club awards for 2020. There was an Appreciation award for Jeff / WB6UIE who has been doing an outstanding job as OVH Vice President, an Appreciation award for Jay / NQ4T who has been doing a superb job as OVH President since February 2020 in these difficult COVID times, and a Life Time Achievement award for his many ham radio activities and achievement to John / KG4NXT.

It was moved and seconded that two new applicants for OVH membership who had been read in during the November 2020 online meeting be voted in: Paul Potter / KO4GZR and Kyle Ahmadi / No Callsign yet. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFEST TYPE EVENTS:

The COVID pandemic, regrettably, has killed off almost all live hamfests for the time being. Nothing is scheduled nearby.

The Frostfest Hamfest at Richmond, Virginia which would normally occur in the beginning of February has already been cancelled for 2021, but it also has already been scheduled for 2022 - for February 6, 2022.

April 24, 2021 - Saturday - 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, ET, the ARRL Virginia Section Convention for 2021 being put on by a ZOOM conference, being sponsored by the Vienna Wireless Association. See, <https://viennawireless.net/wp/events/winterfest> for more info and detail.

The Dayton-Hamvention which would have taken place in May, 2021 has been cancelled again for 2021 due to Covid uncertainties.

The OVH is still planning to put on the Manassas Hamfest as a "live" event in June - but this too could change. Date and more details to be announced.

HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS:

Hams active on the HF bands report that DX conditions are improving noticeably.

The ARRL has a Contest web page at its web site, but a much more

Cont'd on page 5

comprehensive, up-to-date, and long range planning contesting calendar with links to the rules for the various events is maintained at <http://contestcalendar.com> by WA7BNM. This is a new URL for this one as of January, 2021. If you get the radio contesting bug or just want to find out what and how much is going on, that is a very good place to look!

PUBLIC SERVICE / ARES EVENTS

January 16, 2021 - Saturday- at 9:00 am: PWCARES will have its January 2021 training session on WebEx. If you are not currently a member of the ARES cadre and want to find out what ARES is all about, or just curious about how we do things, please drop a note to David / KG4GIY at kg4giy@gmail.com and he will add you to the announcement.

Check the online Calendar on W4OVH.NET for information about upcoming OVH related 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. This was mentioned here last year (in 2020), but it now appears to be fully implemented. All of the ARRL's periodical are now available online for all ARRL members as those various periodical publications are issued: QST, On The Air, QEX and NCJ. This is a great idea and makes ARRL membership even more valuable. See, <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-magazines> However, this will probably end up costing ARRL subscription fees from its loyal readers of QEX and NCJ who can now obtain online copies as part of their ARRL memberships. Both QEX and NCJ have been excellent publications for many years, but with relatively small subscriber bases due to their specialized coverages: Advanced technical and experimenter topics for QEX and Contesting, including maximum station design for NCJ, but a just few thousand subscribers for each who had been paying additional charges of about \$30 for QEX and NCJ each year to read about these topics not always covered in QST. "On The Air" is a new magazine oriented towards beginners or newbies in amateur radio.

2. The FCC now charges for new and renewal ham radio licenses. It has issued ambiguous regulations and statements about the bases for these new charges. No one can really tell what they mean. This has a lot of hams grouching because we have gotten used to paying just nominal charges to the FCC for our ham radio licenses for which the real processing costs are nominal. However, the administrative bureaucratic state within the FCC has flexed its muscle, recognizing its ability to use "small" license fees as a creeping way to raise operating funds to support its bureaucracy independently of appropriations from Congress, regardless of what the FCC is actually doing or the actual costs of the licensing services provided. Few of us have yet felt the FCC's new ham radio "bite" which also affects other licensed services much more heavily. An example: earlier this month, your editor renewed an expiring ten year aircraft radio license - which is only required if the aircraft flies outside US airspace, i.e., into foreign airspace such as in Canada. The FCC keeps no record of the equipment on board and does little to monitor or regulate aircraft radio use. Due to technical improvements and applicable FAA regulations, there is no real need for the FCC even to be involved anymore. Ten years ago this FCC license cost \$25 and the FCC mailed a printed license. Now the FCC charges \$170 [a \$70 "application" fee, and a \$100 "processing" fee]. I submitted my application online (re-certifying the exact details provided ten years earlier - which the FCC kindly provided so I did not have to input them again) on a Saturday afternoon with a credit card to pay the \$170. Early the following Monday morning, a FCC "form" email arrived advising my application had been carefully reviewed and was granted, and providing a link to an "Official Copy" of the renewed license - nothing would be sent by postal mail. Cannot you just imagine all of the busy elves at the FCC working over the weekend to carefully review that application? What BS! What are we in for next with the newly emboldened bureaucratic state?

Pinkie's Corner

Rosalie Fuller

An Annual Column

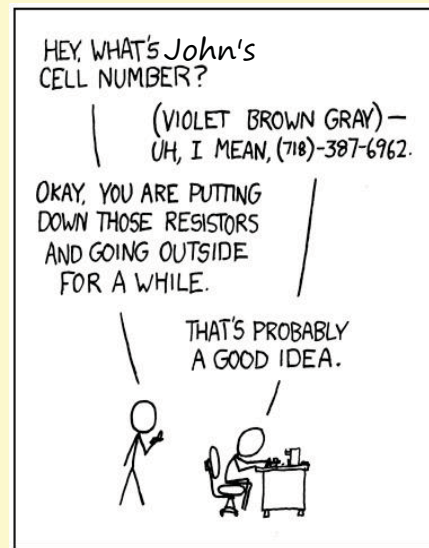


Hello everyone! Pinkie here! It's been a long time since I wrote to my fellow "hams". I have missed everyone! Our activities have been limited this year as we all weather the COVID crisis.

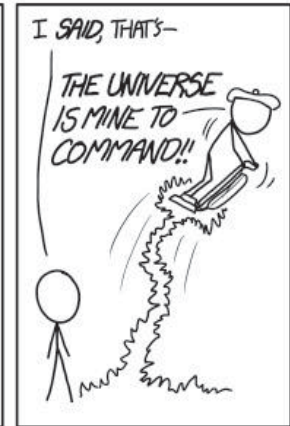
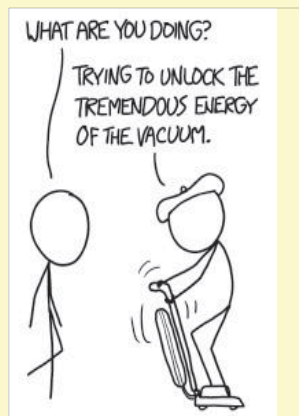
I sensed that Jeff was experiencing a little too much cabin fever being cooped in his basement workshop (right), so I sent him outside with Peaches to watch for Santa! Peaches finally complained that she was freezing, and so they came inside! (Peaches was so disappointed that she didn't see Santa!)

Hmm ... I needed a project to keep Jeff from going claustrophobic in the Bat Cave. Aha! Where's that vacuum cleaner that needed fixing?

Uh oh ... I should have been warned when I saw his fascination with the news about the guy in the jet suit near LAX. Please send him home when he lands.



Adapted from: <https://xkcd.com/227/>



Adapted from: <https://xkcd.com>

Seriously, I have especially missed our monthly meetings. Perhaps things will get back to normal next year. In the meantime, I wish everyone a very safe, healthy, and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Pinkie, KN4ZLY, signing out!

VP's Corner

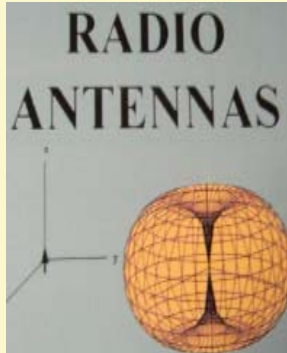
Jeff Fuller
WB6UIE

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. Here are some of them for the coming year.

How about a position on the OVH leadership team? We'll put together the slate this month with voting to follow in February.

Unfortunately, it looks like the ongoing pandemic will curtail our traditional outdoor activities for a while. No worries. Ham radio also excels as an indoor sport.

I still have some sets of antenna books from the club lending library to be checked out (Thanks Art!). Winter weather may not be the best for putting up HF antennas. What about that new VHF design you've been thinking about? Or that new circuit idea? Try it out and send us a write up for the club newsletter.



It has been an honor and a privilege serving as OVH Vice President. Together we've forged our way through new meeting places, new club attire, and a new Hamfest location. We've shared the joy of welcoming many new members aboard, and the sadness of some final goodbyes. After four years, it's time for me to move over and let someone new take a turn. Although this will be my last column as VP, Pinkie and I look forward to remaining active in the club and its many activities.



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

OVH Ballot

President

VP

Treasurer

Secretary



By Robert Havasy - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=21953854>

In memory of Steve Frick N4OGR

Also affectionately known as OGR

June 18, 1950 to January 2, 2021

Steve has been a member of the OVH for decades! He has handled everything from the newsletter, programs for club meetings, ARES, Christmas parades, Field Day, outfitting the club trailer, club Vice President, Ham fest committee member, Quarter Master and all around friend to many.

Our hearts go out to his wife, Jan KE4TMW.

RIP Steve, we will miss you.



More about Steve / N4OGR on pages 9 and10

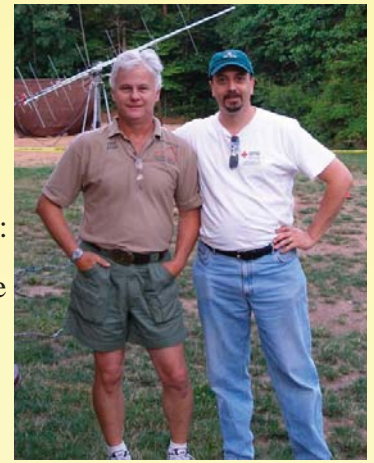
FURTHER REMEMBERING STEVE / N4OGR

So many who knew Steve / N4OGR have written notes about Steve on the OVH email reflector & elsewhere that it is not possible to include all of them. Following are a few of the notes, also pictures from 2002 through 2020, images in approx. time order, from top downward:

I put together a some of the many pictures of Steve / N4OGR; there are so many I'll be adding as I find them. The date in the title represent the picture dates only. After looking



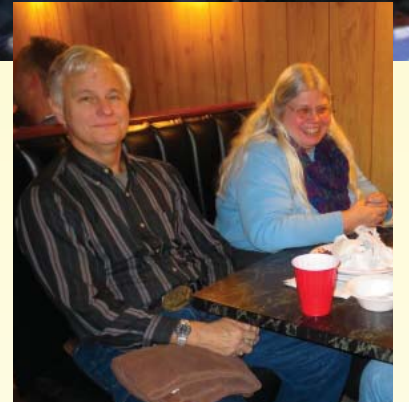
through my albums, I realize how important and significant Steve was to the OVH and all of us. Words can't express my sadness! This online picture archive for N4OGR Steve (k4gvt.com) is at <https://k4gvt.com/ovh/n4ogr> - George / K4GVT



I can't even put into words how devastating this news is; I am sad, of course, and angry, this damned virus has taken away way too many good people, and to hear it has taken away a longtime friend and all around great person like Steve, I am truly heart broken. I had known Steve for over 30 years, he was one of the first people I spoke to, in person and over the air, after I first got my ham ticket back in 1989 and joined up with OVH. He was congenial, knowledgeable about ham radio in general and OVH in particular. But mostly he was just an all-around great person. He was friendly, outgoing



and always willing to go the extra mile in any situation. Just writing this and thinking back on the previous 30+ years brings more than a few tears to my eyes and a significant pain to my heart. It's just not something I can wrap my head around, that OGR is not with us any longer...the words just don't exist to describe the emptiness I feel. To Jan, my most profound and deepest sympathies, I hope you find some solace in friends and family to make it thru



this devastating time. I close by saying, as many others have, RIP Steve "OGR" Frick, to say you will be missed is a grand understatement. The tears flow freely as I close this thought, as I say I will miss OGR with all my heart and soul... - Bill / N4SV



I had known Steve since the late 1980s. We spoke daily on the radio back then and we became close friends. I must admit abusing that friendship in a way that neither of us had imagined. My wife Susan and I bought a home in Manassas not far from Steve. My

More about Steve / N4OGR on page 10





needs were simple. I had planned to erect up to five 100ft plus towers on the property. During the first 3 months there, three 125ft and taller towers went up due in large part to the help of a neighbor up the block and Steve who lived a few miles away. The remainder of the towers were up by year's end in no small way due to the help of friends, and especially Steve. Working with anyone with the nerve to climb to 150ft above the ground is a rare. Some would don a climbing belt and after a climb to 15 or 20 feet would have an irresistible urge to return home and re-arrange their sock drawer. Steve took to it like a duck to water. Most remarkable and much appreciated was Steve's work ethic. No doubt he practiced this in his everyday trade but to work with someone at heights and that can take care of themselves, use proper care, and work comfortably without being a liability to themselves or to me was indeed rare and most appreciated. I never had to worry about Steve while on a tower and we looked out for each other when working on them. - *Mike Ryan / K4CVL Palmetto, Florida, former OVH member*

Our prayers are with Jan in this difficult time. Steve was a delightful soul and he will be missed. - *Jeff / N1SN and Susan / K3SSP*

Damn. I feel terrible. With all they went through to get him back on his feet. Seems unfair. Poor Jan. Thank you Theresa for delivering the sad news. - *Kevin / KX4KU*

My thought and prayers go out to everyone over this loss. I will remember him for all the work from past field days and hamfests. - *Bob Friend / KC4TNC*

This is so sad, especially after all that Steve went through regarding his heart transplant. Jan, I am so sorry for your loss. Steve was a great guy and a great member of the club. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time. - *Mark WA4KFZ*



My thoughts and prayers for Jan and their family as well as for those who knew Steve better than I did. I had only met them at the dinner; he was a pleasant table mate. - *Ron / K3FR*



Terrible news for the new year. He will be missed. - *David A. Lane, KG4GIY, EC/RO Prince William County ARES@/RACES* Steve never met a dumb question - he made everyone feel valued. He excelled in soft skills like community outreach and mentorship. - *David / KG4GIY and Dianne Lane / KI4FVV*

I'm so sorry to hear that - *Phil Colling / AC4PL*

My heart felt crushed just now. - *Arthur / W1CRO*

Everyone in the OVH will miss Steve / N4OGR!

REMINDER



Yes, it is that time of year again!!!! Below is the 2021 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 2021

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, 2021. 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:

Name: _____
Name: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSING: _____

Call: _____
Call: _____

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