### 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**

Renew your OVH membership now!

## February 2021

Next Meeting: February 16, 2021 - online, see below

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings everyone, Well, I was hoping we might get a winter this season without any of that nasty white stuff; but it seems like it's trying to make up for it with two storms almost back to back. Thankfully neither one is expected to be particularly nasty; a good reminder that it is, in fact, still winter here. The good news is that Spring is just around the corner although March can still pack a wintertime punch.

Getting the bad news out of the way first; the Hamfest Committee has made the very difficult decision to call-off the 2021 Manassas Hamfest in June. With large gatherings still being discouraged, or even restricted - even for those wearing masks, attempting to hold the Manassas Hamfest in June would be very risky for the OVH. It is unknown whether



we would even be able to use our recent and usual location in June which is controlled by the City of Manassas Park. Even if Manassas Park were to allow that, something no one would know until the last moment, what would the attendance be? The Hamfest is a rather large financial gamble for the club; it takes quite a bit of money and other resources to put it together and the necessary efforts to put it on must start many months in advance, usually in the Fall of the previous year, when they started for this one. A good turnout at the Manassas Hamfest makes it worthwhile; but the poor turnout during a still ongoing pandemic might prove to be a loss. We will "pick it up again" later this year and plan for a Manassas Hamtest in June 2022; by then, hopefully, the COVID pandemic will be over. I'd like to thank Don / WA2SWX and the Hamfest Committee for all of the work put in beginning in the Fall of 2020.

Now, some much more positive news; this year the OVH scholarship will be given in memory of Steve / N4OGR. At the meeting last month, there was a discussion whether or not the OVH could afford to continue giving the scholarship given the **Cont'd on Page 3** 

#### Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

#### Post Office Box 1255 Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS			EMAIL REFLECTOR	— w4ovh@googleg	roups.com
President: Jay Moore	NQ4T	571-316-4738	David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
Vice Pres: Jeff Fuller	WB6UIE	791-5916	TOTAL 9090		
Secretary: John Heartney	KG4NXT	257-3566	<u>JOTA - 2020</u> John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Treasurer: Don Meyerhoff	WA2SWX	597-3211		KG4NA1	297-3966
DIRECTORS			LEGAL Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
Don (Butch) Blasdell	W4HJL	369-2877	MEMBERSHIP CHAI		202 2401
Arthur Whittum	W1CRO	791-4330	Luther	WA3FMO	361-4885
Charlie Dale	WA4YGI	361-3091		WASTINO	301 4003
Bob Zaepfel	K4HJF	282-2451	NEWSLETTER	WAZD	75 4 0010
WEEKLY FM REPEATER	NET COORD	NATOR	Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
Thurs - 8:00 PM Local Time	JOHN /	257-3566	NEWSLINE FOR TH		
	KG4NXT		John.	KG4NXT	257-3566
HAMFEST 2021 - Chairma	n		PROGRAMS		
Don	WA2SWX	597-3211	Jeff	WB6UIE	791-5916
FIELD DAY 2021			QUARTERMASTER		
Byron	AK4XR	222-2095	Ray	KM4EKR	930-8222
CLUB ROSTER / DATABA			REPEATER CONTRO	OLLERS	
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330	John	KG4NXT	257-3566
			Ken	KE2N	753-8587
EDUCATION	1114 (1777)	010.000	George	K4GVT	791-5956
Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033	Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
CLUB EMERGENCY COO	RDINATOR		Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Open			Steve David	N4OGR KG4GIY	361-0008 361-3042
ARES - EMERGENCY COORDINATOR			Cat	KM4PBD	571-213-2179
David Lane	KG4GIY	703-628-3868	W40VH — TRUSTE	F.	
Buviu Buile		GIY@ARRL.NET			
Prince William County ARES			Wayne	N7QLK	571-237-0520
FINANCE			W4PVA — TRUSTE	E	
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330	Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033	SCHOLARSHIP		
Don	WA4KIZ WA2SWX	597-3211	Sandy Knight	KM4JUS	901-4664
GENERATORS	VVII 20 VV II	007 0211	SUNSHINE		
Byron	AK4XR	222-2095	Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794	TECHNICAL COMM		
	RDIBIID	500 1701	Ken	KE2N	753-8587
HISTORIAN Thomas	KG4TVM	257-3566	Andy	KJ4MTP	786-4651
Theresa			George	K4GVT	791-5956
WEB COMMITTEE — W4O			Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Kevin	KX4KU	540-445-5183	Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
John	KG4NXT	257-3566	Bob David	K4HJF KG4GIY	335-1939 628-3868
Ken	KN4DD	622-2638	Daγiu	1104011	020 0000
Web Committee "help request"	email: webmas	ter@w4ovh.net			

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 © 2021 by the Ole Virginia Hams which holds its regular monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. every third Tuesday at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas, Virginia except during the COVID pandemic (in 2020-2021) during which the monthly meetings are being held online. See the Newsletter for login details for monthly online meetings. 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  $146.970^{\circ}$ ,  $224.660^{\circ}$ ,  $442.200^{\circ}$  and  $443.500^{\circ}$  HMz. 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://wdovh.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: 20210127

uncertainty about the Manassas Hamfest this year. After some discussions and an initial seed money contribution from Art / W1CRO, the newly named Steve Frick / N4OGR scholarship was created for this year, 2021, to be funded from voluntary contributions from other club members. Information about how to donate went out on the club's closed email reflector and is on the website. Because of the timing of the deadline to donate is too close this publication date, I have not been informed of an amount, only that we'll be surprised!

Our next meeting, again an online virtual meeting, will be Tuesday, Feburary 16, 2021 at 7:30 PM at the URL: https://ovh.nq4t.com/meeting This month we plan to have a presentation from Gordon Miller / NQ4K about the upcoming Virginia QSO Party. I'm sure we'll also get some updates on the total amount on the scholarship. It's also that time of the year when we have elections / reelections for the Club leadership offices. John/KG4NXT (Secretary), Don/WA2SWX (Treasurer) and I (President) are seeking re-election. Ken Brant / KN4DD is seeking election as Vice President to replace our long standing Vice President, Jeff / WB6UIE. Of course, unlike every other year, our need to stay virtual will mean we cannot have paper ballots. Last minute candidates can be announced at the meeting, but the voting process may look more like our usual virtual meeting votes for the entire slate if there are no last-minute candidates. We are still feeling our way through some things in regards to having to go virtual. I am sure we will come to a solution that everyone will find acceptable given our circumstances.

Last but not least, I'd like to like to give a thank you to our outgoing VP, Jeff / WB6UIE, for his many years of service to the club in that position. While I am a little sad my time serving with him has been relatively short, Jeff's time devoted to OVH club has been greatly appreciated by all. He has undertaken taken a number of ideas and run with them and done a fair amount of behind-the-scenes PR work which brought us more recognition and more members. Everyone will miss his excellent monthly VP Column too. Thanks again Jeff.

A reminder to all members, please be sure to renew your membership by remitting 2021 dues online at W4OVH.NET or using the form at the end of this Newsletter. I do hope to see everyone at the February 16th online meeting.

73 Jay NQ4T

#### Sunshine Corner

Happy birthday in February to the following club members: Dick / WN7S, Harvey / WB6TTF, Jeff / WB6UIE, Art / W1CRO, Mike / KN4NDI, Tyssen / W8ZM, Scott / KN4ZMC, and Gerald / KN4NWT.

Winter Field Day was January 30th & 31st, 2021. John / KG4NXT and Don / WA2SWX were set up in Ccabin #5 at the Shenandoah River State Park. Thanks to those of you that popped in to visit and operate. We had a great weekend. John and I did leave Sunday afternoon, much earlier than planned due to the weather but it was still a good visit in the park. Please see the article John / KG4NXT posted on the club website about this event, and later in this Newsletter.

Happy retirement to Phil / AC4PL, best wishes on your next adventure!

Please send best wishes to Butch / W4HJL as he recovers from his medical procedure. He is home; give him a call if you have a minute! Continued on page 4

Unfortunate new, the Hamfest Committee has determined it is necessary to cancel the 2021 Manassas Hamfest again due to uncertainties relating to the continuing COVID pendemic. A lot of work was already done by that Committee beginning last Fall, and thanks to everyone who participated in that early work. There will be a Manassas Hamfest in June, 2022! In the meanwhile, an ad hoc group including most members of the Hamfest Committee are exploring the possibilities for a more limited Tailgate event this summer.

I am trying to update my records so I can make sure I have everybody's birthday, if you do not see yourself listed in the correct month for birthday wishes, please let me know. I will be sending out emails shortly to club members that I do not have, but feel free to email me, kg4tvm@ hotmail.com

Please remember the Thursday night net at 8 pm. Having issues with your radio equipment or need help with anything ham radio? This is a great forum to ask questions and hear the latest news on current club events.

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 online on January 19, 2021:

The meeting was held online using the Jitsi platform hosted by OVH President, Jay / NQ4T. Since we were meeting virtually, Jay dispensed with the pledge and the members saying their callsigns, and Jay ran the meeting.

Ron / K3FR presented a program on the 6 meter indoor Moxon that he designed and build. Ron discussed materials, tools, construction and rotation with many pictures. He also discussed the Moxon vs other antennas and its radiation patterns and results on the January VHF contest. Ron's presentation is available on the web after member logon. W4ovh.net >membership > presentations.

The minutes of the November and December meetings were approved.

Treasurer's report sent by Don / WA2SWXand read by Jay was approved.

Luther WA3FMO gave the membership report. There were two new read-ins: Michael Frachel / KO4BCN and Robert Punihaole, Jr / KJ4EOR. These applicants for OVH membership will be read in at the next meeting.

Greg / KM4CCG gave the ARES report. There was a meeting last Saturday. Possible virtual meeting will take place in the future.

Mark / WA4KFZ gave the training report. He discussed the impact of the FRN requirement on future VE sessions and the new FCC fees for hams.

Ken / KE2N give the repeater report. The repeaters are working fine except the 220

which is waiting for covid restrictions to relax before reinstalling it. Ken documented how to turn off the repeaters in case of abuse and this has been sent to the repeater controllers. He discussed Fusion logging on the 442 repeater and noted that he found someone using it with a callsign of 10 zeros. This has been blocked. Ken also showed us how to get repeater recordings on Broadcastify and noted that he recently added the K4GVT repeater.

Hamfest report. No report. Hamfest is believed to be in somewhat of a holding pattern based upon continuing uncertainties about the COVID pandemic.

Scholarship report by Sandy / KM4JUS. She normally does not start the process until February.

Field Day report by John / KG4NXT and Theresa / KG4TVM. Winter field day will be held January 30th and 31st the at Shenandoah River State Park. Cabin 5 has been reserved. All OVH club members are invited to drop in to participate. More info in the Sunshine corner of the OVH January newsletter.

Theresa / KG4TVM gave the Sunshine report. Butch / W4HJL is out of the hospital. Al / KB4BHB is also out of the hospital. Jan / KE4TMW is also out of hospital. Theresa will contact her about a charitable donation for Steve / N4OGR, SK when things settle down.

Kevin / KX4KU gave the Web Committee report. John / KG4NXT is writing many of the web articles. No currently known problems.

New business:

Wayne / N4HCR mentions concerns about: 1) the recent Washington Post article about ham radio; that he contacted the Post about the alleged misuse of ham radio during the January 6, 2021 event at the Capitol in Washington DC; and 2) the new \$35 filing fee which will be due to the FCC for ham license applications.

John / KG4NXT suggested that the club should cancel the 2021 OVH scholarship because we had no income in 2020 from the cancelled Manassas Hamfest and may not have any for 2021. After discussion, this matter will be sent to the budget committee and the board for decision.

The meeting was adjourned.

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

#### HAMFEST TYPE EVENTS:

The COVID pandemic, regretably, 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 Manassas Hamfest for June, 2021 has just been cancelled after several months of Hamfest Committ preparation work due to the continued pandemic uncertainties. There will be a Manassas Hamfest in June 2021, 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 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 web site. If you get the radio contesting bug or just want to find out and how much is going on - a lot is going on, that is a very good place to look!

#### PUBLIC SERVICE / ARES EVENTS

Check the online Calendar on W4OVH.NET for information about upcoming OVH related 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.

#### **CLUB MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

#### THURSDAY NIGHT NET CONTROLLERS

Every Thursday night at 8 p.m. The Ole Virginia Hams holds their weekly net. This happens on the club repeater at 146.970 MHz. Due to the hard work of the technical committee and technology, you can also hear the net (all MHz) at 443.50, 443.500, 53.490, 224.400, and 448.225, DMR at 448.325, TG315148, Echolink 522458 and Broadcastify.com.

The net has been active for over two decades; the current net chairman is John / KG4NXT. John has been recruiting other club members as net controls and putting together rotating schedules since 2005. Each Thursday the net starts and a script is read by that night's net control. A recorded ARRL Audio News is transmitted; this covers a wide variety of ham news. Anyone listening is given a chance to call in with announcements, ask for information, sell ham equipment or ask for technical help. Then the net moves on to asking for check-ins and comments.

The club memvers helping as net controller are (in order in the photo on the following page: Al / KB4BHB, Gil / KM4OZH, Jeff / WB6UIE (photo), Cat / KM4PBD, John / KG4NXT and Wayne / N7QLK. These club members have made a commitment to be there for us on Thursday evenings and they make sure the net goes smoothly. Also in the photo, Gil's ham mobile.

All club members are encouraged to listen in and check in to say hello. If you are interested in becoming a net control or have questions about the net, please contact John at kg4nxt@arrl.net

**Cont'd from page 6:** Thanks to our net controllers in the image below for providing this service to our club members!



More remberances of Steve / N4OGR: a club member provided the pcture below which was taken during the Saturday morning setup, the day before the 2014



Manassas Hamfest. Steve and XYL Jan/KE4TMW were alway there, both during the Saturday morning setup and the big Manassas Hamfest event itself the next day beginning very early in the morning... Steve was always there for the OVH and others.

#### OVH Winter Field Day - January 30 and 31, 2021

After a pause of about 10 Years, OVH operated Winter Field Day this year at a cabin in Shenandoah River State park, which qualified us for a bonus of 1500 points. A number of OVH members participated including" Don / WA2SWX, Theresa / KG4TVM, Jimmy / WD4OJY, Cat / KM4PBD, Ron / K3FR, Gil / KM4OZH, Duane / KK4BZ and

John / KG4NXT, a very good turnout! Al / KB4BHB tried to reach us on 40 Meter phone but we could not hear him and he could not hear us.



Cont'd on Page 9

Theresa cooked a wonderful rib dinner for everyone with just baked cornbread. There were only 4 ribs left over.

After dinner, Duane / KK4BZ appeared and worked us on 50, 144, 440 and 900 Mhz. It was John's first time on 900 mhz. Duane was operating 'Outside' class from his car and that

was for additional bonus points for him.

On Sunday morning,
John / KG4NXT made a
number of digital contacts
on 40 Meters using the
JS8CALL mode. We
then looked at the snow
outside and the forecast
for more snow and freezing
temperatures and decided it
was time to head for home.

73 John KG4NXT





Ron / K3FR on constructing and using on indoor 6 m.Moxon Antenna

## Goals of the K3FR antenna project

- Horizontally polarized
- 6 meters directional with gain
- Good bandwidth (50.0 MHz to 52.0 MHz for < 2:1 swr)</li>
- Low cost, simple materials, simple tools
- Integrate with existing Cushcraft A270-10S (5 el each on 2m & 70cm)
- Turning radius less than 65" (2 el Yagi = 66" turning radius)
- 50 Ohm coax feed

Note: Ron / K3FR's full presentation during the January 2021 OVH meeting used a total of 25 Slides. Just parts of several of them are presented here. If you want to look at or review all of the slides, go to the OVH's web site at W4OVH.NET Once there, go to the Membership menu and then to the Presntations submenu. You will need to log in as the Presentations items are only avaoilable to OVH members; of course, you can contact Ron directly too. .

## What is a Moxon antenna?

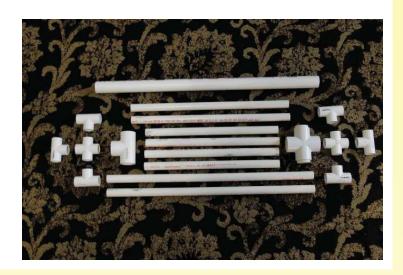
- A 2 element Yagi (reflector and driven element)
  - The frontal lobe is broad 70° to 80°
  - The f/b ratio is quite good 25+dB but ...
  - It will not win a gain contest 9dB to 11dB (comparable to a small Yagi)
- The ends of the elements are bent back toward each other
  - Increases inter-element coupling
  - Mechanically shortens the elements
  - And, physically narrows the antenna (smaller turning radius)
  - Helps achieve a 50 Ohm feed point impedance through capacitive loading
- Note, there is little to be gained by adding director elements

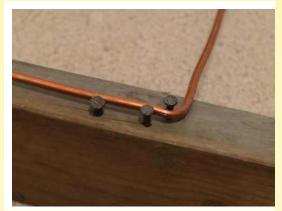
## How do I support this much wire

- A lot of people use an "X" frame but there were issues:
  - Use of fiberglass arms
  - Needs a solid center support
  - The angles are not 90° or 45°
- I had seen a skeleton frame using PVC tubing in a YouTube video.



PVC Frame parts to support the wire.





Details of the feed point connection and element end spacers.





Just about ready. You must make the last reflector bend after inserting the wire in the frame.



# Worm's eye view (just to be fair). Note the short tuning stub silhouetted by fan blade on left.



You may also tune the antenna by expanding the width a bit. That requires re-bending the wire.

## How's it working for me? As of 1/14/21:

- Since November 1, 2020
- Using FT8 and MSK144 on 50 MHz

Total QSOs 119
Calls 97
Grids 52
States 25
Canadian Prov. 2

• DX Entities 3 (US, Canada, & Mexico)

- YES, I have made two random meteor scatter contacts (ME & KS) on 6!
- Best DX: DL92 (XE2YWH) 2863 km (1779 mi) via Es.
- Based on best DX, I may be able to work 43 states via MS or single hop Es.
- Jan 2021 ARRL VHF contest: 73 QSOs, 19 grids (6m stats)

## Goals of the K3FR antenna project

- √ Horizontally polarized
- √ 6 meters directional with gain
- ✓ Good bandwidth (50.0 MHz to 54.0 MHz for < 1.7:1 swr)
- ✓ Low cost, simple materials, simple tools
- ✓ Integrate with existing Cushcraft A270-10S dual band Yagi
- ✓ Turning radius less than 65", actual: 44"
- √50 Ohm coax feed

## 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

IU	71 ZUZ I			
NAME:	CALL SIGN:			
ADDRESS:				
	Call Tale			
	Work Tel:			
	EMAIL:			
	DIDTUDAV:			
ADE VOLLEDGESENTLY AN ADDI MEMBERS (V	BIRTHDAY:			
ARE YOU PRESENTLY AN ARRL MEMBER? (Y				
ARE YOU A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER: (YES/NC				
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 Jar	nuary 1, 2021. Dues for each additional family			
member living at the same mailing address are \$				
undergraduate or lower level [ list school attende				
2	ou and grade of level.			
] are \$10.00.				
	AMOUNT ENCLOSING:			
NAME AND CALL OF FAMILY MEMBERS:				
N.	G 11			
Name:	Call:			
Name:	Call:			
D. C. T. OVIII				
Return to: <b>Treasurer</b> , <b>OVH</b>				

Manassas, VA 20108-1255

P.O. Box 1255