

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

May 2021

Next Meeting: May 18, 2021 - online, see below

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings Everyone: Well not only has Spring arrived but it's often reminded us that summer is just around the corner. If leaving the cold of winter behind for the next few months wasn't good enough news; things are starting to return to normal and we've got a number of events and activities coming up.

I was honored to join a few OVH members to present Jan / KE4TMW with a plaque that commemorated everyone who donated to Steve / N4OGR's memorial scholarship. George / K4GVT did a great job engraving and putting it together; and he along with John / KG4NXT, Theresa / KG4TVM, Ray / KM4EKR, Sandy / KM4JUS, and myself presented it to Jan earlier this month. Pictures and an article are on OVH's web site and later in this Newsletter. Thank you once again to all the members who donated. Scholarship chair, Sandy / KM4JUS, should be announcing the winners soon.



Thanks very much to the OVH VE team members and everyone else who ran the successful VE session at the Nokesville Park on May 8th. It's always good when the club can get some new people on the air and hopefully in the membership. John / KG4NXT wrote a more detailed article on the club web site which also appears later in this newsletter.

Special thanks to Ken / KE2N for his initiative and work in getting the OVH's repeaters at the NOVEC yard back up and running. A lightning event took out a fair bit of equipment at the site and knocked both our 220 machine and D-Star gateway off the air. Ken worked on getting the PC hardware replaced and getting the 220 machine to Bridgecom for repair. He, John / KG4NXT, and Gil / KM4OZH reinstalled the equipment and made some modifications to hopefully prevent this in the

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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:	Ken Brant	KN4DD	622-2638
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 2021 - Chairman

Don	WA2SWX	597-3211
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FIELD DAY 2021

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

Byron	AK4XR	222-2095
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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WEB COMMITTEE — W4OVH.NET + Twitter & Facebook

Kevin	KX4KU	540-445-5183
John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Ken	KN4DD	622-2638

Web Committee "help request" email: webmaster@w4ovh.net

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

Ray	KM4EKR	930-8222
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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

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-, 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 Repeaters 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: 20210222

future. Thanks to all three for getting our infrastructure back up.

If you're missing the lack of hamfests during the upcoming season, well here's some good news; SVARC has announced that they are going forward with The Berryville Hamfest. It will be August 1st at the usual spot in Berryville; and the few times I've gone I've always seen a number of OVH members as this fantastic venue.

That news however should not however detract from OVH's Tailgate, which is rapidly approaching! We're just a couple of weeks away from the big event on June 12th at Signal Hill in Manassas. The event has also been reported in QST so it has somewhat wider publicity than expected. If you haven't signed up to help out, please do so. This may not be as big of an event as the OVH's Manassas Hamfest (canceled again for 2021 due to the COVID pandemic), but we still need club members help to make it successful. A signup list was sent out on the reflector; but if you can't find it, then send me a note at nq4tango@gmail.com and I'll get it to you. See also, the Tailgate event flyer later in this Newsletter.

If you've been missing getting out there with your radio, the Tri-It-Nows are starting back up at the end of June. They're fun and easy events that are simplex operation. I'll post more information as I get it.

Our next virtual meeting is on May 18th at 7:30pm at <https://ovh.nq4t.com/meeting> - Tony / KM4KLB has drawn up diagrams of the tailgate layout, and will be giving a brief presentation of the layout to give everyone a chance to see it before hand.

I hope to see everyone there.

73, Jay/NQ4T

Sunshine Corner

Happy Birthday wishes in this May to: John / KM4VCJ, Terry / KC4DV, Jack / N4YIC, David / KG4GIY, Bill / WA4FIC, Carl / KK4ZYX, Craig / WA3UFY, Roberto / KM4RIE, Dick / KM4UXE, Susan / K3SSP, Bruce / KN4GDX, Don / WA2SWX, Robert / KJ4EOR, and John / KG4NXT.

Happy Mother's Day to all our moms – club members and family members.

VE Session on May 8th went well; we have a new General and 5 new Techs, congratulations to everyone. Thank you to the VE's that attended to get the test graded. Pictures are on the OVH website, w4ovh.net

Condolences to Jay / NQ4T, his grandfather passed away last week.

Congratulations to Wayne / N7QLK on his daughter's college graduation!

Congratulation to Duane / KK4BZ, he will be taking care of Father of the Bride duties in June. Best wishes to the bride & groom.

Congratulations to Jack / KN4HHQ for receiving his WAS (Worked all States) Award Certificate from the ARRL. To earn this, one must have confirmed contacts with ham stations in each of the 50 states - which takes considerable persistent effort.

The Steve / N4OGR Frick Memorial Scholarship – applications for this in are in and being reviewed. We had such a wonderful turnout for donations from **Continued on page 4**

OVH member, that we put together a plaque and presented that to Jan / KE4TMW on May 6th. George / K4GVT, John / KG4NXT, Jay / NQ4T, Sandy / KM4JUS, Ray / KM4EKR and myself drove over to Jan's house and presented her with the plaque. George / K4GVT obtained the plaque and did all the engraving for it. The plaque was beautiful and Jan really appreciated it. Pictures are on the OVH website and later in this Newsletter. Thank you to everyone that donated to this.

HOT TOPIC - Tail Gate Event, Saturday June 12th. We do need many hands the day of the event to help. We will be reaching out to club members but feel free to call or email us if you are available – kg4tvm@hotmail.com, kg4nxt@arrl.net or wa2swxdm@gmail.com

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. Having issues with your radio equipment or need help with anything ham radio? The Thursday Night net is a great forum to ask questions and hear the latest news on current club events. 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 April 20, 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 call signs, and Jay ran the meeting.

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

Quin / K8GS and Tom / WA9TDD gave a presentation on 10 meter operation. Quin and Tom have their own Youtube channel but presented to us live during our virtual meeting..

The minutes of the March 2021 meeting were approved.

Luther WA3FMO gave the Membership report. There were two read ins of new membership applicants: Eric Waller / KO4MBI and Mark Baker / KO4MBN, voting on each for membership at the May meeting .

ARES report. No report.

Ken / KE2N gave the repeater report. Ken reported that a trip to NOVEC is scheduled to repair lightning damage and restore the 220 repeater and DStar capabilities.

Mark / WA4KFZ gave the training report. John / KG4NXT has scheduled at May 8th VE session at Nokesville Regional Park.

Sandy / KM4JUS gave the scholarship report. The scholarship committee plans to give out two Steve Frick Scholarships this year but had only received two applications so far. The application deadline is still May 1, 2021.

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Jay / NQ4T mentioned that there will be no Manassas Hamfest again this year due to the COVID pandemic and OVH's need to use publicly owned / controlled facilities for that, but in lieu of the Manassas Hamfest, there will be a Manassas Tailgate Event on June 12. There is a planning meeting for that scheduled for April 21.

Byron / AK4XR gave the Field Day report. There will be a virtual field day planning meeting scheduled. Details on the web.

Theresa / KG4TVM gave the Sunshine report. We have a number of upcoming events including VE session, the Tailgate Event and Field day.

Ken / KM4DD gave the web committee report. Ken will now be giving the report instead of Kevin. No known problems on the web site.

New business: Jay reported that the OVH will be supporting the Mini-Tri events again when they start up again. Andy / KJ4MTP will be the lead. Also, the Serve Our Willing Warriors ride will be held September 11th. K3FBI will be having a special event to support law enforcement on May 9 to 15. Wayne / N4HCR reported that he will be on two panels on April 25 at the virtual Arrl Virginia Section convention.

The meeting was adjourned.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFEST AND VE SESSION TYPE EVENTS:

The COVID pandemic, regrettably, has killed off many of the live hamfests type events for the time being. No live Hamfests are currently scheduled nearby until early August, but the OVH Manassas Tail Gate Event will be held on June 12th. See below.

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

The OVH Manassas Hamfest for early June, 2021 was been cancelled after several months of active Hamfest Committee preparation work due to the continued pandemic uncertainties. There will be a Manassas Hamfest in June 2022, date and more details to be announced.

June 12, 2021 (Saturday) 8:00 am - 2:00 pm - the OVH Manassas Tail Gate Event will be held in the field across Signal View Drive from the Signal Hill Park which is at 9300 Signal View Dr., Manassas Park, Virginia. Further info available at the W4OVH.NET web site and on the Flyer later in this Newsletter.

August 1, 2021 (Sunday) - Gates open at 6:00 am. Berryville Hamfest. This is always a summertime favorite for OVH members to attend. It is nearby and promises to be the usual full fledged Hamfest. More info about it in the Flyer (below) and at <https://svarc.us/hamfest>

HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS:

June 26 - June 27, 2021 - ARRL / OVH Field Day event to be held at the Nokesville Park in Prince William County near Nokesville, Virginia. This is the OVH's traditional location for the its Field Day activities in recent years. Save these dates and check back for more details. Field Day is always a major OVH event for its members.

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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 relatively 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://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.

The Steve Frick Scholarship

Steve Frick N4OGR, a long time and very active OVH member, because a silent key in January 2021 due to Covid 19. Covid also shut down what has been the OVH's major fund raising source - the Manassas Hamfest in 2020 and 2021. Funds raised from the Hamfest supported the scholarship which the OVH awarded each year for many years. That scholarship has been known since 2005 as the Harry Vorhauer (W4PVA) scholarship, in memory of Harry, also a very active ham and OVH member until his passing in December, 2004.

In order for the Club to continue giving out its annual scholarship, the Club established the Steve Frick Scholarship to be funded by donations earlier this year. The fund raised over \$4000 which will be awarded to two recipients this year and next year. Most of the donations came from OVH club members but some also came the square dancers group that Steve N4OGR and his wife, Jan KE4TMW, actively belonged to.

To memorialize Steve and the scholarship fund, George K4GVT donated a very nice blank plaque. George has recently retired and is starting an engraving business so he provided the engraving services. Those consisted of a separate engraving job for each donor and another engraving job for the top of the plaque. There is also a photo of Steve at the top of the plaque.

Jan, Steve's widow, was unaware of the plaque. OVH members appeared on her doorstep, and OVH President, Jay NQ4T, delivered the plaque to her. Jan cried and also noted that the photo on the plaque was a good likeness of Steve.

The Steve Frick Scholarships will be awarded for this year as soon as the scholarship committee makes its selections.



Repair of Damages from a Lightning Strike at OVH's Repeaters at the NOVEC Tower Location

Last year, NOVEC rearranged the AC power feed to the OVH's repeaters at the NOVEC tower location. Partly because of that, when lightning struck the NOVEC tower right next to our repeater shack, some of the OVH's equipment was damaged and put out of service. Here is the damage that Ken / KE2N assessed::

- The DStar gateway computer had failed (power supply)
- The mini-PC we were using for 224.66 Asterisk had failed (judged not repairable)
- The USB audio interface for 224.66 had failed
- The aux port on the 224.66 repeater had failed.
- The existing AC power surge arrester (20+ years old) had both of its “healthy” lamps off

Ken found the reasons why we suffered lightning damage to be as follows: What I observed was that NOVEC had re-arranged our power feed since my last visit. The feeder cable, previously underground, was now in a plastic conduit running in an overhead cable tray, adjacent to various large cables coming down from the microwave dishes on the tower. NOVEC's cables and our feeder run in opposite directions, so that current induced in our feeder cable is opposite in polarity to current coming down from the tower and our coax cables. And the new panel feeding our equipment had no grounding electrode connection. The only ground source was at the far end of the aforementioned cable tray. When Ken spoke with NOVEC about changing this feed arrangement, but NOVEC was disinclined to make any changes.

As a result of this, the OVH's DStar was no longer connected to the Internet and hams could not register for DStar on W4OVH because of damage to the DStar computer. In addition, our new 220 Bridgecom repeater was damaged and had to be sent to the factory in Missouri for repairs. The COVID-19 virus pandemic complicated access and delayed the start of the repairs.

On April 21, 2021, Ken / KE2N, Gil / KM4OZH and John / KG4NXT went to NOVEC to make the necessary repairs. Gil comes from a family of electrical contractors and helped with installing and routing the grounding wires. Here is what was done:

- Added a bonding connection between our antenna incoming common-ground bus bar and the ground terminals on the power panel (3x#10 cu).
- Added a high-capacity surge arrester to a spare breaker at the power panel
- Reinstalled the DStar Gateway PC which has a new ATX power supply
- Installed a new Raspberry Pi with new USB audio interface for Asterisk linking
- Inserted two Ethernet isolator devices in the local LAN
- Inserted one USB isolator device for the USB audio interface.
- Re-installed the 224 repeater, which were repaired and checked out by Bridgecom

As a result of this, we now have our DStar back on the Internet and the 220 repeater is back and will be linked up for the Thursday night net. We thank Ken for his able team help in getting us back and also preparing us for the next lightning strike.

Two images of this work in the OVH repeater shack near the NOVEC Tower site are on the following page.

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Repair work underway in the OVH repeater shack at the NOVEC Tower - L: Ken / KE2N, R: Gil / KM4OZH - article on page 7.

The May 8, 2021 VEC Examination Session at the Nokesville Community Park

On May 8, 2021, OVH held a VE session in the Pavilion at the Nokesville Community Park. Our Volunteer Examiners were Al / KB4BHB, Ken / KN4DD, Mark / WA4KFZ, Tony / KM4KLB, Ray / KM4EKR, George / K4GVT and John / KG4NXT. OVH members Theresa / KG4TVM and Eric / KO4MBI also assisted.



Six applicants appeared for examination and each earned a new or upgraded license. Five now have new Technician licenses, and Harry / KN4IJY who is an OVH member now has a General license.

One new twist for this VE session was that all applicants had to have a FRN. One can no longer come to a VE session to be examined with just a social security number. Surprisingly, all applicants complied with the new rule and came with an FRN. Ken / KN4DD was prepared to assist anyone who showed up



without an FRN, but no takers. The FCC will soon start charging \$35 to applicants for a new license or license upgrade, but this has not started yet. The charge will be applicable only to those who pass the test.

**The Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club
Is happy to announce they are hosting a
Ham Radio Tail Gate Party**



**Saturday, June 12, 2021
8 am to 2 pm Rain or shine**

Across from Signal Hill Park in Manassas Park, VA

38° 45.2710'N, 77° 26.2800'W

**Signal Hill Park address is 9300 Signal View Dr. Manassas Park – the field is located on
Signal View Drive across the street from the park entrance**

**The field is on the east side of Signal View Drive just past the National Monument for the First
Battle of Manassas**

**Admission \$5 per person over 18
\$20 per vehicle to set up and sell
All attendees will park in the field**

More information www.w4ovh.net



The Shenandoah Valley
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



ARRL APPROVED HAMFEST

PLEASE WEAR A MASK

70th Annual Berryville Hamfest

Sunday, August 1, 2021

Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds
890 W. Main St., Berryville, VA

- GATE OPENS AT 6:00 AM • VENDOR BUILDINGS OPEN BY 8:00 AM
- ➔ **DONATION \$10.00, children under 16, free**
- ADDITIONAL \$10.00 FOR A TAIL-GATE SPACE (First come, first served)
- INDOOR VENDOR TABLES BY RESERVATION (see below)
- SPECIAL HOTEL PRICE: HAMPTON INN (1204 Berryville Ave, Winchester [540-678-4000](tel:540-678-4000))
- \$15.00 FOR A CAMPER SPACE~~ **RURITAN RULES: NO Pets, Pornography, or Weapons**

Country Ham &
Eggs Breakfast at
7:00 AM

Ruritan's famous
chicken & beef
barbecue from
11:00 AM

Grand Prizes:
HF Rig; VHF Rig;
Power Supply;
and hourly drawings



VE Exams will be
given by the **Laurel
Amateur Radio Club
VE Team of the LARC
VEC** at the Clarke
County High School.
Walk-ins are welcome.
Testing begins at 12:00
noon. A photo ID,
FRN, and email address
are required.
For more information,
contact John Creel,
WB3GXX@arrl.net;

Download this flyer and vendor table forms from: <http://www.svarc.us/hamfest>
For more vendor information, contact: Elizabeth W4EHC, John WD4GEK, Mick W8BE
BerryvilleHamfest@gmail.com ☐ Phone: 540-436-3818 ☐ If no answer: 540-333-0837