

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

November 2021

Next Meeting: November 16, 2021 - Live & In Person!

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings All,

Well, if the temperature drop and time change wasn't enough of an indicator, we are firmly in fall and on the way to winter. I am certainly not a fan of the cold, and neither is my back. It's a good time to check on your tree supported antennas. The leaves are gone or almost gone and the bands are heating up.

The last Tri-It-Now of the year was last month. Thanks to everyone who has helped with these events this season. Ina has been very appreciative of what we do and I'm glad we have members who have helped make that happen. I have no doubt we will be called to help next year.

Thanks to everyone who went out to JOTA event last month. The club seemed to have a huge turnout to support, although reports said there wasn't much interest from the Scouts. Hopefully a few got interested and we were there to help. Thanks again to Theresa/KG4TVM for organizing and Rob/W4FSK for inviting the club out.

But don't let the cold weather let you think the club is ready to hibernate until spring, we do have another couple of events coming up to end the year out. The Christmas Parade is rapidly approaching! OVH will be providing comms support for the parade and the club trailer will be a part of it! Theresa/KG4TVM has already put a request out for volunteers to help decorate the trailer on the reflector, and George/K4GVT is looking for volunteers to work the parade.

The OVH Holiday Party is also rapidly approaching. It will be on December 12th at Yorkshire Restaurant beginning at 6:00 pm. I sadly missed last year due to my back being out (which lasted 6 months, spinal injuries are not fun); but I'm up



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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 -

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
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
Ken	KN4DD	622-2638

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: 20211110

and mobile this year so I'll be there.

Last month Ken/KE2N gave a wonderful presentation in measuring power levels. Thanks to Ken for doing this and everyone who came.

Our next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 beginning 7:30 at the Buckhall Firestation on Yates Ford Road. This month, Jeff/K9VEG will be giving a presentation on Parks On The Air. I hope to see you all there; and remember the Firehouse requires attendees to wear masks. This upcoming meeting will also be last regular meeting in 2021, the actual final meeting of the year, very brief, will during the December 12th OVH Christmas Party at the Yorkshire Restaurant. .

If you've got some time this Saturday morning (Nov. 13th), the OVH Breakfast is at Yorkshire Restaurant starting at 8:00 am. Hope to see you at breakfast or our meeting.

73, Jay/NQ4T

Sunshine Corner

Happy Birthday wishes to Wayne / N7QLK, Kevin / KX4KU, Baofang / KK4JFK, Theresa / KG4TVM, Butch / W4HJL, Greg / KM4CCG, Jeff / WB4TT, Gene / KD4HRC, Charlie / WA4YGI, James / N5TE, James / KA4BOL, Paul / K4GZR and Allan.

To all our Veterans, we thank you for your service,

The Manassas Christmas Parade will be on Saturday, December 4th. We will need some help decorating our club trailer for the parade and George / K4GVT needs volunteers to provide radio support during this event. George can be reached at george@k4gvt.com

The OVH the club Holiday Party on December 12th (Sunday) will be held at the Yorkshire Restaurant, 6 to 8 pm. This is a family event and we ask that you bring a covered dish to share. We will collect new and unwrapped toys for Toys For Tots and I have received confirmation that we will have 2 Marines attend our party!

Well, during our hamfest meeting this past Tuesday we received the news that Ray / KM4EKR and Sandy / KM4JUS are relocating out of state in January, WHAT! Ray has retired and they are moving on! Very best wishes to them both and we thank them for their service to ham radio and our club.

The next Manassas Hamfest to be held on June 4, 2022 – volunteers are needed both for planning and for the day of the event. Please reach out to Don / WA2SWX and let him know how you can help out. Don's email is wa2swxdm@gmail.com

If you are traveling over Thanksgiving, be careful out there.

Remember to check into the Thursday night net at 8 pm on the OVH's VHF FM repeater, 146.97 Mhz, and on several other OVH repeaters too. Details at the W4OVH.NET web site.

73 Theresa KG4TVM



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Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting held online on October 19, 2021:

OVH President, Jay / NQ4T, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on October 19, 2021 in the training room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station. After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and callsigns.

Ken / KE2N gave a presentation on measuring RF forward and reverse power. He covered coupling, measurement and the math behind various methods. The power point slides were well prepared. In addition, Ken had many hardware examples on display and he passed many of those around the room after explaining them.

The minutes of the September OVH meeting were approved.

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

Luther WA3FMO gave the membership report. There were two new OVH membership applications that were read-in: Joseph Achtzener / KO4TUX and Rick Buongiovanni / N9SP. Both will be voted upon at the next regular meeting. Luther mentioned that we believe that Rick N9SP has previously been a member of the club but no database or other records could be located so we are reading him in.

Andy / KJ4MTP gave the ARES report. There will be a Turkey Trot at Quantico in November.

Ken / KE2N gave the Repeater Report. All the repeaters are working. There was a power output problem on the OVH 220 machine may have been a false alarm and Ken is monitoring it. The 440 repeater at Mount Pone is unlinked. Ken plans to replace the Arcom controller with 2 raspberry pi computers.

There was no training report.

Don / WA2SWX gave the Hamfest meeting report. The OVH / Manassas Hamfest is now firmly scheduled for June 4, 2022, locked in with Manassas Park. This date does not conflict with any listed Hamfests near us. The lease has a bigger and more private space for VE testing. Don plans to schedule another Hamfest meeting in the near future.

Ken / KN4DD gave the Web Committee report. Ken has not banned anymore countries. All is going well.

Theresa / KG4TVM gave the JOTA report. Our JOTA event had great OVH support but very few scouts.

Theresa / KG4TVM gave the Sunshine report. The Manassas Christmas Parade is December 4, 2021 and our entry has been confirmed. She will ask for help decorating the OVH trailer which will be in the parade. Gene / KN4JMB will pull the trailer.

The OVH Holiday party will be on Sunday December 12, 2021 at the Yorkshire Restaurant. Please bring new unwrapped Toys for Tots either to the November OVH meeting or to the Holiday party as you attend.

The 50/50 raffle has a gross of \$30. Andy / KJ4MTP won and received \$15.

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Old Business:

Andy stated that Ina had contacted him and expressed a lot of gratitude for OVH help with the Mini Tri events. The next one will be in March of 2022.

New Business:

Jeff / WB6UIE mentions that he has club polo shirts for sale.

Ken / KN4DD mentioned that he has received the Certificate of Appreciation from Serve Our Willing Warriors. Ken displayed the certificate and presented it to the Theresa as the club historian.

Andy recognized Ken KE2N for the repeater linking work he did for SOWW.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFEST AND VE SESSION TYPE EVENTS:

The COVID pandemic, although now winding down or ending, depending upon who you believe, regrettably, has STILL killed off many of the live Hamfest type events. No live full feature Hamfests are currently scheduled nearby in the near future.

December 12, 2021 at 6:00 PM, the OVH Christmas Party dinner at the Yorkshire Restaurant. The year end event for all OVH members and family.

June 4, 2022. Saturday at the Manassas Park Community Center venue, OVH Manassas Hamfest will be held again! Two Planning Meetings have already been held; the date is locked in for the Hamfest. Don / WA2SWX is chairman again (wa2swxdm@gmail.com).

HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS:

November 20-22, 2021 - ARRL Sweepstakes / SSB. This popular contest provides a great opportunity to nab contacts with elusive States and Canadian provinces.

December 3-5, 2021. ARRL 160 meter contest. This will provide an excellent chance to try out our low band (160 meters) capabilities, including long distance. Lots of activity.

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

December 4, 2021. Manassas Christmas Parade event. The OVH's trailer will be in the parade, and the OVH will be providing comm services. Organizer George / K4GVT needs more radio operators during this event. George can be reached at george@k4gvt.com.

Check the online Calendar on W4OVH.NET for information about upcoming OVH related events. Also, check the online Calendar maintained by David / KG4GIY at <http://pwcares.org> for the latest PWC ARES updates. Complete direct contact information for David also appears on page 2 of this Newsletter.

Two OVH Member Silent Keys WA1FFX and WA4AVU to report

Charles Michael Murphy “Charlie” a Retired Telecommunications Officer for the U.S. Department of State and know to OVH members as Charlie / WA1FFX, died peacefully surrounded by family on October 23, 2021 at Prince William Hospital in Manassas at the age of 82.

Charlie is survived by his Loving wife Claire of 61 years, three sons, two brothers, six grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. Charlie was born in Boston, Massachusetts where he graduated from Arlington High school in 1957 and joined the United States Air Force. After the Air Force, Charlie worked for the U.S. State Department for 33 years and was stationed with Claire all over the world. Eventually, they settled with their three boys in Manassas in 1979. Charlie was an accomplished Amateur Radio operator, often building his own rigs and electronic devices that would occupy various rooms of the house. He took his rigs to his many tours overseas and enjoyed collecting QSL cards from other “Hams” from all over the world. Tinkering with anything electronic was a passion and he once built his own television.



Edgar Maynard Fleming, Jr, known to most as Ed or Maynard and to OVH Members as WD4AVU, died on September 15, 2021 at age 79. He was born in January 1942, son of the late Virginia Pauline Hill Jackson and Edgar Maynard Fleming, Sr. He worked for Coca Cola for 23.5 years and Branch/Rexel Electric for 20 years until retiring in September, 2012. He graduated from High School in Buchanan County, Virginia and acquired his CDL license. He enjoyed Amateur Radio, belonging to the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club and having radio fun with close friends Russ, Bob and John. He was preceded in death by his wife Eleanor; he is survived by his two sons and his daughter; two brothers and one sister; three grandchildren and one great grandchild.



Some Possibly Interesting or Useful Information.

Roy Lewellen, W7EL, author of the antenna design software, EZNEC, is retiring at the beginning of 2022; most of his existing software products will then be available “free” but without further maintenance or support. For more information, go to EZNEC.com W7EL’s antenna software has been around since the 1990’s, constantly being enhanced. A limited, a version of it has been distributed with ARRL Antenna Handbooks for quite a few years now, and it has has used to created radiation and gain diagrams for many ham and other antenna. Roy / W7EL appeared regularly at the Dayton Hamvention and other hamfests to promote his product and answer questions. EZNEC has provided a relatively easy to use tool to hams to predict radiation patterns from custom antennas.

Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) 2021

On October 16, 2021, a group of OVH members went to Camp Snyder near Haymarket, Virginia to support the local Boy Scout JOTA operation. The OVH club members specifically supporting JOTA were Theresa / KG4TVM; Wayne / N7QLK; Ken / KN4DD; Bruce / KN4GDX; Andrea / KI4SXM; Rob / W4FSK; Mike / KO4BCN; Don / WA2SWX, John / KG4NXT and Ron / K3FR. Diana / KO4QJR was also there to help us. The day before, John, Bruce and Al / KB4BHB went there to set up the antennas for the event.



Although not physically present, we heard club member Bill / AF4LL talking to Scouts on 2 meter FM.

We had a wide variety of stations at Camp Snyder. Don had DStar. Ken ran 2 meter FM. Bruce had a digital voice station. John ran FT8.

We did not have as many Boy Scouts as usual. Likely COVID related concerns kept them home. The setup could have accommodated many more than showed up. .

Theresa cooked a lunch and had snacks for the OVH members at the event.

We started with good weather but a storm front was approaching around noon and we secured at that time.



June VHF Contests – Two OVH Winners – Compare & Contrast

By Ken (aka The Other Ken) / KN4DD, OVH VP (also posted at w4ovh.net)

This last June 12th thru 14th saw the ARRL June VHF Contests. The North American Contest began at 1800 UTC Saturday and ended 0259 UTC Monday.

The Ole Virginia Hams fielded two of the winners, Gil / KM4OZH and Ron / K3FR.

Both are Amateur Extras and “of a certain age.” Both started contesting almost immediately after licensing. While similar in their passions for both amateur radio and contesting, their approach is significantly different.

Ron is well seasoned, having acquired his Novice license in 1959. For this contest he used mostly FT8. By comparison, Gil is a relative newcomer, not getting first licensed just six years ago. Gil used SSB/phone.

Gil / KM4OZH :

Gil, KM4OZH, was first licensed in 2015. And as previously stated, gravitated to contesting shortly thereafter. He really enjoys roving contesting and for proof, one only need to look how his Mercedes is outfitted.

Understandably then, Gil prefers FM & SSB while mobile. And, unlike contesting from a base station, Gil has the added challenges of driving, PTT and logging.

When I asked Gil why he contests, he told me that among other things, he viewed this contest as “practice for the VAQP”. When asked what was needed for success in contesting, Gil replied “operator skill, radio & antenna – in equal amounts.”

In preparing for the contest, Gil, of course mentioned, “know the rules”. But he seemed to put most of his effort into the multiplier lists and their effect on his route planning.

He was dealing with 4 bands with different contest point weights. E.g. 2m & 6m were each one point (@ 150w) and 1.25m & 70cm were two points each (@ 100w) per contact. He wanted to get as many grids as possible too.

He began just 4 minutes after the start of the contest making contacts before starting the road trip. After wearing them out, he began his drive. His route includes stops at Amissville, Louisa, Chester Gap and heading north on Rt 522 towards



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McConnell Mountain, before heading back. Aside from the drive itself, you would expect the time consumers would be pulling over in a suitable place, setting up antennas & the switching itself between radios & bands. Gil does not have automatic switching in the car.

Perhaps unexpected would be the “looky-loo” tourists and the occasional law enforcement officers. All of the local LEOs had their curiosity satisfied quickly, but the local citizenry was such a time drain that Gil fashioned a sign explaining what he and his odd-looking car were doing, so as not to take time from contesting.

After all that driving, Gil finally stopped contesting at 10:59 PM on Sunday. I asked him about staying up for all of those hours and he said that he “could go all night on adrenaline and contacts”.

He told me he tried to arrange for some club contacts, but was only able to do very few.

I am hopeful that next year, more of the club will turn out to make contact with our contesting club members.

Ron / K3FR :

As mentioned earlier, Ron was first licensed in November of 1959 and began contesting shortly after.

Contesting has changed a lot since 1960 when paper logs and check sheets were the standard until today, where integrated, all digital contesting, is the norm. Now we have single operator, two radio (SO2R - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Single_operator_two_radios) and single operator, two VFO (SO2V) contesting as well as both assisted/non-assisted classes of participation.

Despite the changes that have occurred, the operator is still the focus and the primary limitation to performance.

Ron has some tips If you are new to contesting or just thinking about getting into it.

Before the contest, Ron suggests everyone prepare for the contest:

- 1) Know the rules (of this contest), the exchanges, the multiplier lists, the propagation patterns and expectations.

Continuing, Ron says:

- 2) Know your equipment and software. By that he means to make sure you have the proper devices and software for this specific contest. Then make sure they are well maintained and all up to date. That means firmware as well as software. Remember, your radio has firmware that needs updating also, not just your computer. And have spares, if possible.

Additional tips:

- 3) Despite what many would say, these are sporting events. So, your physical and mental condition is going to play a big part in how you do. Be well rested, fed, and stay hydrated. Caution, do not overeat and stay away from adult beverages, as both can make you sleepy. Plan your rest periods to fit in with low activity and/or reduced propagation.

Lastly, Ron tells us:

- 4) You don't need the best equipment to do well. I have always had what would be

considered an average station and antennas. Lately, I use a very compromised indoor station in a very compromised location.

The key then, is in how I use my station. I set realistic goals for myself. For instance, I was working to make 200 contacts in 100 grids for the June 2021 VHF Contest. My actual performance was (raw/final) was 215/191 contacts and 92/88 grids. I consider that I achieved my goals.

Setting goals will do two things: i) it gives you a yardstick by which to measure your performance at any point in the contest; and ii) it defines a pace and schedule for your activity.

Design a band plan to maximize your scoring potential.

Practice sending the exchange when you have spare time (traffic jams).

Have a second receiver monitoring conditions on your next bands.

In closing, why does Ron contest?

“Contesting exercises my ability to communicate under less than optimum conditions. Radio sport expands my operating performance. True confession, I passed the Amateur Extra 20 wpm code test in December 1963, less than two weeks after I had operated in the ARRL CW Sweepstakes contest (it was two weekends then). I am certain that I would not have made it without that recent contest practice.

Finally, contesting is FUN. So, if you aren't a tester, test the waters. If you are already into the action, set up your goals and see what you can really do.”

