

# OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

## July 2022

### Upcoming Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, July 19, 2022

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Finally, our busy season is winding down. It's been a whirlwind for some time now.

On June 25th and 26th the OVH took part in ARRL Field Day 2022. Under the guidance of returning Field Day Chairman, Byron / AK4XR, we had our best Field Day in 20 years as measured by the club's Field Day claimed points score. The claimed 5,266 points this year!

On site preparation for Field Day started the day before, on Friday. Lines were shot in trees Friday afternoon, and many club members started showing up early Saturday to continue with the preparations, and we were "ready to go" long before the official start time. We also had the return of the Pot Luck Supper on Saturday; there was no shortage of food or camaraderie.

You can read more about it in the excellent article by John / KG4NXT later in this Newsletter as well as on the OVH web site: <https://w4ovh.net/ovh-field-day-best-in-20-years>

Back on the 4th of July, the OVH, lead by Wayne / N7QLK supported The Freedom Firecracker 5K Run and 1-Mile Fun Run Mini-Tri. It was short and sweet. We were there by 7:15 AM and gone by about 9:30 AM. And what a colorful group. Not as many in costume as for the Turkey Trot, but still quite imaginative.

Also back in the first week of July was the very popular 13 Colonies Contest. It ran from July 1st thru July 7th. We had many participants from among OVH members and I look forward to reading our stats from the 13 Colonies.



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# Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255  
Manassas, Virginia 20108

## OFFICERS

President:	Ken Brant	KN4DD	622-2638
Vice Pres:	Tony Ohe	KM4KLB	596-2508
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 2022 - Chairman

Don	WA2SWX	597-3211
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## FIELD DAY 2022

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 - volunteer needed!

## ARES - EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	703-628-3868
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email: [KG4GIY@ARRL.NET](mailto: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	W4RKU	540-445-5183
John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Ken	KN4DD	622-2638

Web Committee "help request" email: [webmaster@w4ovh.net](mailto:webmaster@w4ovh.net)

## EMAIL REFLECTOR — [w4ovh@googlegroups.com](mailto:w4ovh@googlegroups.com)

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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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

Open - volunteer needed!

## 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 2022

Ken	KN4DD	622-2638
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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 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](mailto:PAUL@W4ZB.COM). Approx. Circ.: 170. Last Rev: 20220713

You don't have to wait until our next monthly live meetings to see everyone again; you can come out this Saturday morning, July 16th at 8:00 AM for the resumption of our monthly breakfasts! Pioneered by Byron / AK4XR at the start of 2019 and put on pause for the pandemic, every Saturday before our regular monthly meetings we get together at a table or two in the back of Yorkshire Restaurant for some good food and good conversation. Location: Yorkshire Restaurant, 7537 Centreville Rd, Manassas, VA 20111. Menu: <https://www.yorkshirerestaurantmanassas.com/menu> Hope to see you there.

Next, our monthly meeting are now back on Tuesdays. More specifically, the July meeting will be on July 19th beginning at 7:30 PM. COVID masks are option. Location as usual: Buckhall VFD Hall, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas VA 20111

On Sunday July 24th the OVH will be supporting the Tri It Now – Summer Super Sprint at The Freedom Aquatic & Fitness Center, 9100 Freedom Center Blvd, Manassas, VA 20110. Volunteer spotters are needed. We will meet at the rally point on Sunday, July 24th by 7:30 AM and are expecting the event to run until approximately 12:00 noon. Our support for the Manassas Mini-Tri is also is a great way for our new hams to get acquainted their equipment and with our club members. All that is needed is an HT (hand-held VHF transceiver) and a desire to serve. If you are interested, please contact Andy Gamponia – you can reach Andy via email at: [andy@gamponia.com](mailto:andy@gamponia.com)

If you are itching for some Hamfest action, the Berryville Hamfest is just around the corner. I know a number of OVH members attend regularly, so you're sure to see some of us. It's just a few of weeks away, August 7th at the Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds in Berryville, Virginia. For more details, visit the website: <https://berryvillehamfest.com> and also look at the Flyer later in this Newsletter.

A reminder to all to check in to the OVH's Thursday night VHF/UHF repeater net at 8:00 PM. The details for that are on the OVH's web site: <https://w4ovh.net> This is a great way to stay in touch. We are still wrestling with intermittent repeater problems, so please be patient. On the plus side, we now know many places where the problem is not.

I would like to dedicate the rest of this letter giving thanks for two very important individual in our club.

In late June, I received an email from our Hamfest Chairman, Don / WA2SWX, who advised that while he would remain as OVH's Treasurer, he was hanging up his Hamfest Chairman's hat after four years. Don stepped into this role four years ago, while working both for the U.S. Treasury Department and teaching college courses at night. He still does this, but over the years his plate has grown even fuller. I and everyone else in the OVH really appreciates the effort Don has put into leading our team over the last four challenging years. I know Don has put in a lot of extra time, and that he has been truly inspiring and getting the most out of the skills and talents of our volunteers. Many people have expressed to me their appreciation of Don's efforts, particularly as deadlines loom. Looking back at these last years, it's clear that your hard work is paid off in tangible

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results. I'm very happy to see your leadership yielded such success! You've really proven your mettle as a very talented team leader, and while Don will be sorely missed as Hamfest Chairman, I'm looking forward to seeing what's next for Don.

Shortly after that email from Don, I received an email from Theresa / KG4TVM stating she was hanging up her "Sunshine Corner" web articles later this year. Like Don, she is not leaving the club, but is stepping back from this set of monthly duties. And thank goodness that Theresa is not leaving! As almost of you are aware, Theresa has been our indispensable "go to" person for just about everything in the Club. I don't think it is stretching it to say that without Theresa, the Ole Virginia Hams would be a very different place. I want to express my personal gratitude for the effort and extra time Theresa has always put into every project she has been involved with. There were several points where her excellent problem-solving skills and creativity allowed us to swiftly resolve issues that might have easily escalated into roadblocks. Theresa has done wonderful work in contributing her talents and to our club events, from the Sunshine Corner to taking it upon herself to teach me about the Scholarship Committee so that I could take it over. I know Theresa has been putting in a lot of extra time, above and beyond the call of duty, and this has truly helped to ensure that we meet deadlines on time. Her hard work is evident in our club's successes.

The club owes both Don and Theresa a tremendous debt and on behalf of Ole Virginia Hams and myself, I thank you both.

I hope to see all of you at the upcoming July monthly meeting! Questions, comments or war stories can be directed to my e-mail: KN4DD@arrl.net

73, Ken / KN4DD

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## Sunshine Corner

Happy birthday wishes to our club members celebrating this July: Jack / KN4HHQ, Ken / WB4ZOH, Philip / KI4WGC, Jeff / KM4FTK, Bruce / KN4TS, George / K4GVT, Sandy / KM4JUS, Rosalie (AKA Pinky) / KN4ZLY, Dwight / N4GSD, Mary / KK4GOW, Jeff / K9VEG, Richard / KJ4ZIH, Luther / WA3FMO, Tony / KK4YZK, William / WB4KLC and Stephen / KO4GOR. WOW that is a lot of birthdays and candles this month. ENJOY!

Congratulations to the club on a successful Field Day event. Special thanks to Byron / AK4XR and John / KG4NXT for pulling the event together. SUPER thanks to everyone that came out and operated! Article and photos are on our web site are at w4ovh.net and later in this Newsletter.

Grandchild count for Paul / W4ZB went up by 1 this month to 10, another grandson added.

POTA – John / KG4NXT has been hunting stations and activating a few parks. He just hit 500 contacts as a hunter – certificate is in the Newsletter. Anyone interested in doing Parks on the Air, if you have questions, please reach out to John at kg4nxt@arrl.net

Reminder – Berryville Hamfest is August 7th at the Clarke County Fairgrounds!

After 15 years of working on the Sunshine Corner, I'm going to hang up my Corner

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hat by the end of 2022. So the Club will need to find someone to step up and take over the Sunshine Corner. If interested, please contact me to discuss this important job for the OVH!

Sunshine Corner is on a short vacation after all of these recent very busy ham events! Hope everyone enjoyed the celebrations on the 4th of July, have a great summer!

Every Thursday at 8 p.m., we have the Thursday night net. Please join us, hear up-to-date information on club news as well as upcoming events.

73 Theresa KG4TVM  
kg4tvm@hotmail.com



## Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting held live on Wednesday, June 22, 2022:

OVH President, Ken / KN4DD, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on June 22, 2022 in the training room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs.

The minutes of the May 2022 OVH meeting were approved.

John / KG4NXT gave the Treasurer's report from figures supplied by Don / WA2SWX which was duly approved.

Luther WA3FMO gave the membership report, one new read-in: Alan Taylor / KD5VEZ who will be voted on at the next regular meeting. There were two applicants, read in at the last meeting, to be voted on, both of whom were voted in as new members of the OVH: Ken Foreman / KO4ZSY and Jim Rosseau / WI4EE.

Mark / WA4KFZ gave a program on transmission lines. He touched on balanced and unbalanced lines, skin effect, common mode currents and baluns.

ARES: no report.

Repeater report: John / KG4NXT stated that there were ongoing efforts to find the problem with the 146.970 repeater. George / K4GVT will repair and tune the cavities as the next step. .

Training: no report.

Scholarship: no report.

Hamfest: no report.

Field Day: Byron / AK4XR advised the OVH need more night operators for the upcoming Field Day and we will be running Class 3A. Ron / K3FR will be doing the UHF/VHF station. Byron / AK4XR may bring some Boy Scouts for a Fox Hunt on

Saturday afternoon. The Saturday evening meal will be a potluck. We need a small microwave for the Sunday breakfast.

Web Site: Ken / KN4DD reported that here has been an uptick in “routine” Internet attacks via on the web site, no one particular country is the source of those attacks.

JOTA: the OVH will not do the Camp Snyder JOTA event later this year without a reasonable assurances that a reasonable number of Boy Scouts will attend the event.

Sunshine Report: Theresa / KG4TVM gave the report. She did the birthdays. There was also some discussion about retrieval of the Hamfest sign.

Old Business: None

New Business: Ken raised the issue of the need for operators for the Mini-Tri event that occurs on the same Sunday as Field Day.

Tony / KM4KLB discussed the website for volunteers for the upcoming SOWW on September 10.

Wayne / N4HCR announce that he had been appointed ARRL PIO.

The meeting was then adjourned.

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

### **HAMFEST AND VE SESSION TYPE EVENTS:**

The COVID pandemic is now winding down or has completely ended, depending upon who you believe. Hamfests are at last being held again.

Sunday, August 7, 2022 - the 71st Annual Berryville Hamfest, Berryville, Virginia, gates open at 6:00 AM. This is relatively close by and very popular for OVH members to attend. More info at: <https://berryvillehamfest.com>. See also, the Flyer later in this Newsletter. /

### **HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS:**

One of the biggest DX contests each summer is the Worked All Europe CW contest which this year will be on August 13 and 14. Numerous stations from all European countries are usually on. Go to <https://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste/wae-dx-contest/en/> for the contest rules and more details. This is a good opportunity to pick up “rare” EU countries.

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**

Sunday morning, early to mid-morning, July 24, 2022. OVH members will provide support for communications at the Tri It Now Summer Sprint at the Manassas George Mason University Campus and the Freedom Center Aquatic Fitness Center. Contact in Manassas. Contact Andy / KJ4MTP via email at [andy@gamponia.com](mailto:andy@gamponia.com) who is coordinating OVH participation.

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.

# Howell's Spectacular Thelypody



That  
**John Heartney**  
**KG4NXT**

has submitted proof of working  
**500** unique reference areas  
in the Parks on the Air program,  
this certificate is hereby  
presented in recognition of this  
outstanding achievement.

**500**

**Hunter Award**

Jason Johnston, W3AAX, POTA Coordinator

07/09/2022

Date

Photo: Photo: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services via Wiki Commons

## ARRL / OVH FIELD DAY (June 25 / 26, 2022) Round Up Notes and Pictures

These comments below are thanks to John / KG4NXT; John's full article is on the Club's W4OVH web site at <https://w4ovh.net/ovh-field-day-best-in-20-years>

For our 2022 Field Day, we claimed 5,266 points. As a reference, we claimed 2,648 in 2012 and 2,526 in 2021. We had terrific operators including Bill / AF4LL; Wayne / AG4ZZ; Ron / K3FR; Byron / AK4XR; Don / WA2SWX; Jim / KM4SXM; Mark / WA4KFZ and John / KG4NXT.

We also had a super under 18 YL operator – Sarah Peart – who made 19 FT8 contacts.

We had a very unusual antenna mount. Byron / AK4XR who brought his cherry picker and Gil / KM4OZH made an antenna rotator for it. This was used for the VHF station.

Some years, we have not been able to get an elected official for the bonus points. This year we got two: 1) Prince William Supervisor Victor S. Angry invited by Theresa / KG4TVM and Lynn F. Greene, member Manassas City Council invited by David / KQ4BDS. We also had an ARRL assistant section manager from Utah – Jerri / WJ3RI. Finally, we had Tobin, whose unit was operating as K4VDF for Field Day, invited by daughter Cat / KM4PBD, as a member of a served agency.

Our (old) chef Phil / AC4PL was not able to help out due to illness this year. Theresa did

the food planning and bought the food. Byron and Cat cooked dinner. Bill, AF4LL paid for the food we purchased. We also had lots of potluck food. Thanks to all who brought food for the potluck dinner.

We had lots of bonus points. Here is a list of the bonus points not already mentioned: Tony / KM4KLB for section manager and 10 formal messages; Ron / K3FR for copying the ARRL bulletin message; Wayne / AG4ZZ for natural power QSOs with power provided by solar panels; Theresa / KG4TVM for the information table, social media, and media publicity; Wayne / N7QLK got our safety officer points; Byron / AK4XR and Cat / KM4PBD did the educational activity with a Fox Hunt; and Byron also got a youth participant for bonus points.

Just a few of the many Field Day pictures from the web site follow below:





## The preferred digital mode for future Field Day operations: FT4 or FT8? Some post-Field Day 2022 comments by two OVH experts:

Mark / WA4KFZ on the closed OVH email reflector:

One suggestion for next year: I ran 80m FT8 during the night shift (10PM-5AM). This was my first time running the Field Day configuration of the WSJT-X software. While the program works well with the N3FJP logging software, the mode itself is not optimal for working a lot of stations in a Field Day setting. I ran into multiple instances where other stations didn't complete the full exchange, causing the logging software to not register a "completed" QSO. Sometimes I was waiting several minutes for a station to reply because they were running down the list of other contacts they needed to acknowledge (a bit like the fox and hound mode of operation used by DXpedition groups). If we run the same station next year, I would recommend using FT4/FT8 and operating on 20m the entire time. This would leave 80m and 40m "interference free" from the digital modes and allow SSB/CW contacts to rack up more points in the same period of time. One advantage of FT4/FT8 is that it's a weak signal mode. The processing capability of the digital mode should help overcome the reductions in signal strength due to 20m propagation at night.

Responding remarks by Ron / K3FR:

If you were running WSJT-X in the FD mode (either FT4 or FT8) then, if you called the station, you were sending your outbound data i.e. K3FR W4OVH 3A VA to call him. Then, all the other station needs to send is W4OVH K3FR R 1D VA and you need to respond K3FR W4OVH RR73 or W4OVH K3FR RRR. Nothing more is required though some ops do send a 73. I will agree that if the other station received multiple responses to his last CQ or QRZ then, yes, it is painful waiting for him to go down his list. This is where FT4 is more merciful but that is a choice you can make. Nothing is different to the QSO script as far as WSJT-X is concerned.

If you are confident enough, you can call another station and get into the battle from the other end of the cannon. That way, you could be working two or three stations "at the same time" just like the phone and CW guys do while waiting for the other station to send his message to you. A good operator on the other end will just keep to his list and expect your response at the appropriate time. Remember that you are seeing all the signals and decodes in the passband of your receiver at the same time. Note, you cannot have FD and Fox/Hound active at the same time.

The new Digi contest was a good warmup for FD, coming three weeks prior. It allowed me to develop the rhythm for FD. This digital contesting is still quite new and we are ever learning what can and cannot be done to complete a valid contact in minimum time.

My hope for next year is to have the Icom 9700 running with the Icom 7100 in a Single Operator 2 Radio (SO2R) configuration so that I can concentrate on 6 meters and keep an active monitor on 2 meters at the same time. That way, I should not miss any enhanced or active periods on either band. It is possible to do the same for the low bands and get into a Zen state where you're participating two simultaneous contacts for extended periods of time, doubling your actual rate. There is a lot of automation and support for that built into N1MM+ where it is actually orchestrating two instances of WSJT-X at the same time and controlling the interleaving to only use one transmitter at a time. I don't expect to get there in this lifetime.

Editor's note: worth keeping this discussion of points by these OVH experts in mind for the future!



The Shenandoah Valley  
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

ARRL APPROVED HAMFEST



# 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Berryville Hamfest

## Sunday, August 7, 2022

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

- GATE OPENS AT 6:00 AM • VENDOR BUILDINGS OPEN BY 8:00 AM



**ADMISSION FEE \$10.00 per person, children under 16, free**

- ADDITIONAL \$10.00 FOR A TAILGATE 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))

Country Ham &  
Eggs Breakfast  
starting at 6:00 AM

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

Grand Prize: HF Rig  
Other great prizes &  
gift certificates  
drawn every hour



**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,  
[WB3GXW@arrl.net](mailto:WB3GXW@arrl.net);

[www.berryvillehamfest.com](http://www.berryvillehamfest.com) for detailed info, FAQ, contact form  
Contact Mick W8BE at [vendor-coordinator@berryvillehamfest.com](mailto:vendor-coordinator@berryvillehamfest.com)

