

# OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

## September 2022

Upcoming Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, September 20, 2022

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Well, it's half past September. Cooler weather and less humidity is on the way. I'm a big fan of that. The sun will be going down sooner too. I'm not much of a fan of that, however. And, to borrow a phrase from "The Game of Thrones," winter is coming.

Summer activities are winding down too. Off of the top of my head, we have two Tri-It-Now events, the Manassas Christmas parade and our annual OVH Christmas Party left on 2022's To-Do List.

While I am on the subject of activities, let us not forget that this is National Preparedness Month. I am a huge fan of being self contained and self reliant. I probably got that from my old man. As a kid, all five of us, including a dog and a parrot (with an unfortunate habit of doing wolf whistles), would load up into a 34 foot Airstream to live and go to school for months at a time wherever it was that my dad was assigned to. He was always saying how that Airstream was self contained and didn't need any external electrical or plumbing infrastructure.

I know there are purists out there saying we can never be truly independent. And I agree. As a society we are all interdependent. However, I do believe in being as self sufficient as possible.

So as a reminder, now is a good time to inspect any tree-supported antennas or get a new one up.

I'd like to give thanks to everyone that went out for the SOWW bike ride on the 10th.



**Cont'd on Page 3**

# 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
----------------------------	------------------	----------

## HAMFEST 2022 - Chairman

Don	WA2SWX	597-3211
-----	--------	----------

## FIELD DAY 2022

Byron	AK4XR	222-2095
-------	-------	----------

## CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
--------	-------	----------

## EDUCATION

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
------	--------	----------

## CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Open - volunteer needed!

## ARES - EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	703-628-3868
------------	--------	--------------

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
---------	--------	----------

## 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
------	--------	----------

## JOTA -

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
------	--------	----------

## LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
-----	-------	----------

## MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	WA3FMO	361-4885
--------	--------	----------

## NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
------	------	----------

## NEWSLINE FOR THE WEEKLY NET

John.	KG4NXT	257-3566
-------	--------	----------

## PROGRAMS

Jeff	WB6UIE	791-5916
------	--------	----------

## 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
-------	-------	--------------

## W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
--------	-------	----------

## SCHOLARSHIP 2022

Ken	KN4DD	622-2638
-----	-------	----------

## SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
---------	--------	----------

## 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

We fielded twenty–six operators for the event. Too many to list here. But a big tip of the hat to Andy / KJ4MTP for organizing and running the whole ham show side of that event. Another big tip of the hat to Diane / KI4VV as Net Control for the event. This Bike Ride was a bit chaotic compared to other years (possibly due to the full moon going on that day), but Diane was our rock. She was simply unflappable.

Additional thanks to Ken / KE2N and Jason / N3JLT for setting up the temporary links between the OVH and Bluemont repeaters during the SOWW Bike Ride and then standing by in case we needed maintenance.

If volunteerism is for you, there are a number of other local organizations that could use you such as CERT and ARES. These are just a couple of ways that you can make a difference in our community. While Mother Nature is not to be taken lightly, I am hoping the rest of Hurricane Season (which officially ends December 1st) and the subsequent winter will continue to be mild. The phrase “Hope for the best, but plan for the worst” has served me well for quite some time.

Our second to last of this the Tri It Now event for this year - THE 14.06 will be this Sunday, September 18th at 7:30 AM at The Freedom Aquatic and Fitness Center, Manassas. This is the 14.06 triathlon which is one tenth of the iron man distance and consists of a triathlon, duathlon, and aquabike. We have 7 of the 8 volunteers needed, as I write this. As always, to volunteer contact Andy / KJ4MTP by email: andy@gamponia.com

Next up is our monthly breakfast on September 17th at 8:00 AM. I hear it is the most important meal of the day. Originally developed by Byron / AK4XR, we get together each month on the Saturday just before our next regular meeting at a table or two in the back of Yorkshire Restaurant for some good food and good conversation. That restaurant is at 7537 Centreville Rd, Manassas, Virginia; you can find its Menu online at <https://www.yorkshirerestaurantmanassas.com/menu>

Our next regular OVH monthly meeting will be on Tuesday evening, September 20th, 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM EDT, at Buckhall VFD Hall, 7190 Yates Ford Road, , masks optional.

Starting that meeting off will be Ron / K3FR, who will present “Contesting and How to Run a Log During a Contest.” He should know. He’s been contesting for about 50 years.

Between the breakfast, the Tri-It-Now and our live and in-person upcoming OVH regular meeting; I hope to see every one of you at one, or all of them.

A reminder: the 76th Greater Manassas Christmas Parade will take place on Saturday, December 3rd, 2022 beginning at 10 AM. Planning is already well underway, but we need more volunteer spotters. If interested and available, please contact George, K4GVT via email: [george@k4gvt.com](mailto:george@k4gvt.com)

Also, a reminder to check in to the OVH’s Thursday night VHF/UHF repeater net at 8 PM. The details for that are on the OVH’s web site: <https://w4ovh.net> This is a great way to stay in touch.

**Continued on page 4**

I am happy to report that our team of dedicated technologists have outlasted and outsmarted our latest OVH repeater issues. As a former computer field engineer I can readily attest to the fact that intermittent problems are the most difficult to find and correct. A big thank you to the entire team for your dedication and hard work.

Questions, comments or war stories can be directed to my e-mail: KN4DD@arrl.net

73 Ken KN4DD

## Sunshine Corner

Happy birthday wishes to our club members celebrating this September – Gus / N4MLE, Scott / WB6EFW, Al / KB4BHB, Jim / WE4JJ, Maury / W4HYB, Ron / N4RDZ, Bill / AF4LL, Mark / WA4KFZ, Steve / WB0AOD, Kyle / No Call, and Lori / KC0EWN. Happy wishes for a great year.

Several of our club members have been participating in Parks on the Air (POTA).

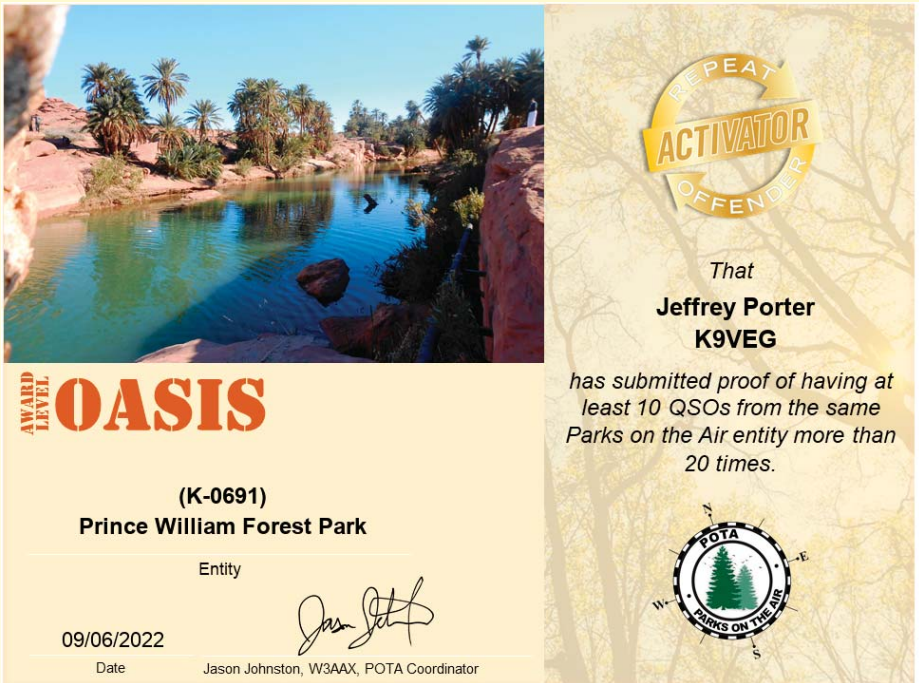
Recently, Jeff / K9VEG has received a certificate (image to the right) for activating at the Prince William Forest Park twenty times. Jeff is planning to try to get 1,000 QSO's from that same park. Good luck Jeff!

POTA – for more info, check out Parks on the Air at <https://parksontheair.com> You also can request more information about POTA at an OVH meeting or on the closed OVH email reflector.

James / KQ4CAX, a new OVH member as of August, just upgraded to an Amateur Extra license in a separate sitting after getting his Technician & General just a very short while ago, Amazing! His USAF technical and communication industry background explains that, but so does his love of continuing learning!

Please watch the OVH email reflector and OVH's web site at W4OVH.net for info about upcoming events. At the upcoming meeting, I will have more information on the Manassas Christmas Parade and our club Holiday Party, both in December.

Don't forget the OVH's Thursday night VHF/UHF net at 8:00 pm each week. Please join us!



73 Theresa KG4TVM  
[kg4tvm@hotmail.com](mailto:kg4tvm@hotmail.com)

# Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting held live on Wednesday, August 17, 2022:

OVH President, Ken / KN4DD, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on August 17, 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. Seventeen members were present.

John KG4NXT gave a program call Digital Update. It covered the QDX transceiver, FT8 on Android and Peanut. That is a program to do some Dstar, DMR and Fusion. The presentation slides will be posted on the members only part of the OVH web site.

The minutes of the July 19 2022 OVH meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report was approved.

Luther WA3FMO gave the membership report. There were no new read-ins and two vote-ins. Sean Morris / KO4ZTO and James Lemond, Jr / KQ4CAX were both voted in. Welcome to them to the OVH!

David / KG4GIY gave the ARES report. He mentioned that the SOWW Bike Ride, the ARES Training, Manassas City Preparedness, the Marine Marathon and the November Turkey Trot were all upcoming events in the relatively near future. .

Repeater report from Ken / KE2N was read aloud: (1) the 2 meter and UHF DSTAR repeaters and gateway are working; (2) the 146.97 and 224.66 FM repeaters are working, as is the microwave link between Pone and NOVEC; (3) the 442.200 Fusion repeater is working in both analog and C4FM mode and the Wires-X gateway is working; (4) the K4GVT/L 443.500 in-band link is available and used for net operations; and (5) the "Supermon" web page is back up thanks to NQ4T, see, <https://supermon2.nq4t.com> Some RF cabling has been replaced for the 146.97 repeater, but it has not fixed the long-standing noise problem, so the machine is still in split-antenna mode. A spectrum analyzer has been installed to help analyze the situation. It is planned to replace the repeater itself with a spare unit from K4GVT. The replacement unit has undergone testing at KE2N to verify proper operation.

Training: no report.

Ken / KN4DD gave the Scholarship report. Decisions about 2023 have yet to be made.

Don / WA2SWX gave the Hamfest report. Don is stepping down from chairing the Hamfest after four years. He and Ken are writing up document to help the next Hamfest chair.

Byron / AK4XR gave the Field Day report. Byron is also retiring as Field Day chair.

Ken / KN4DD reported on the club website, mentioning web site attacks. He and Kevin are looking at removing some Wordpress plugins, hopefully to make the web site more secure. There have been no successful hacks or breaches due to our software defenses.

John / KG4NXT gave the JOTA report. We do not have adequate assurances that a reasonable number of Scouts will attend the event this year so, at this point, we do not

plan to participate in the JOTA event.

Theresa / KG4TVM gave the Sunshine report in written form which Ken / KN4DD read. Theresa is retiring at the end of 2022 and a new Sunshine Corner person is needed.

50-50 raffle had total of \$21 and was won by Andrea / KI4SXM. She graciously donated her winnings to the club.

Old Business: None

New Business: Peter / K5PTR was introduced as a visitor.

Jeff / WB6UIE mentioned that shirts and badges are available from him. This is for the benefit of new members.

The club voted to have a Holiday Party again in December.

The club voted to participate in the Manassas City Christmas parade.

The meeting was then adjourned.

---

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

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

The COVID pandemic has wound down or has completely ended, depending upon who you believe. Hamfests are being held again, but only one nearby one to report this month.

### **HAMFESTS:**

Sunday, October 2, 2022, 7:00 AM and later, Columbia ARC Hamfest at Howard County Fairground, Maryland. More info at <https://www.carafest.org>

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

There are lots of on the air operating contests in the Fall each year.

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**

Saturday, September 18, 2022 - Tri-it-Now event - see the President's Letter above for more info. Contact Andy / KJ4MTP [ email: [andy@gamponia.com](mailto:andy@gamponia.com) ] if you are able to participate.

Sunday, October 30, 2022. Marine Corps Marathon event. OVH members will assist with communications again this year. Contact David / KG4GIY at [kg4giy@gmail.com](mailto:kg4giy@gmail.com) for more info.

Saturday, December 3, 2022 - Greater Manassas Christmas Parade for the 76th time. Keep this date on your calendar. The OVH will be participating again this year with coordination by George / K4GVT, email: [george@k4gvt.com](mailto:george@k4gvt.com)

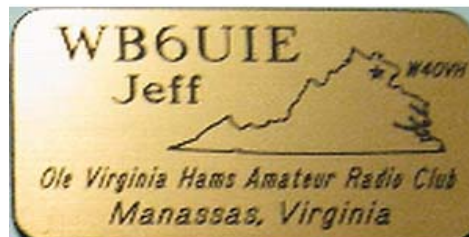
Check the online Calendar on W4OVH.NET for information about upcoming OVH related events. Also, check the online Calendar maintained by David / KG4GIY at <http://pwcares.org> for the latest PWC ARES updates. Complete direct contact information for David also appears on page 2 of this Newsletter.

# Club Polos and Nametags

*Jeff Fuller*  
*WB6UIE*

It seems our recruiting efforts have been paying off with record attendance at our last meeting. Welcome aboard to all our new OVH members.

With a number of club activities approaching, this would be a good time to order club nametags and polos if you don't already have them.



You can order your nametag directly from:

<http://www.thesignman.com/clubs/ovhcart.html>

I have a number of polos in stock. If you'd like to purchase one, email me with your size and I will bring it to the next club meeting.



## Available sizes

Men's and Womens: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL

## Prices

<u>Size</u>	<u>Price</u>
S-XL	\$26.00
2XL	\$28.00
3XL	\$30.00
4XL	\$32.00
5XL	\$34.00

(Polos are 100% cotton, so you may want to order a size larger.)

**Cont'd on page 8**

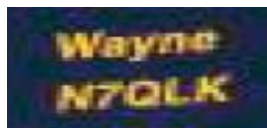
Cont'd from page 7

If you would like to personalize your polo with name and callsign, you can have it embroidered locally by Sloper's Stich House:

10560 Associates Court  
Manassas, Virginia 20109

<https://stitchhouse.com/>

I suggest printing out the photo below to show correct placement and font. The thread color is Madeira 1171.



Two lines to be added.

73,

Jeff  
WB6UIE

*WB6UIE (at) arrl dot net*



Some slides from John / KG4NXT's Presentation at the August 2022 OVH Meeting. (The full set of slides is available on the members-only web pages at W4OVH.NET)

## Digital Update

John KG4NXT 8/16/22  
QDX and Android FT8 and Peanut

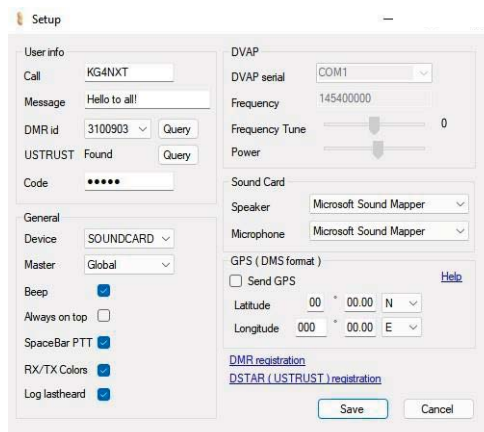
### QDX – kit \$69 board – \$20 enclosure

- 4 band 80 40 30 20. One guy has 60 M working
- 5 watts – build for 9v or 12v power supply
- Band switching and tr/rcv under cat control
- Built in 24 bit sound card
- All SMD already mounted – assemble only through
- Some toroids to wind
- Signal generation with out single sideband

### Benefits of QDX digital signal ger

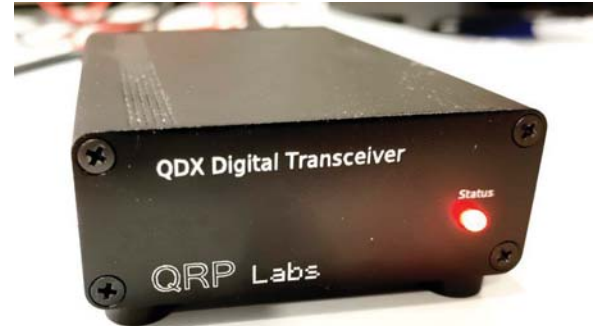
- No unwanted sideband to suppress
- No residual carrier to suppress
- Less IMD or intermodulation
- Ability to use high efficiency amplifier
- Cheaper because of lower parts count
- CONS
- Not useable for phase shift keying like PSK31 or tones modes like WinLink. Not useable on CW shape cause clicks.

### Peanut – windows setup



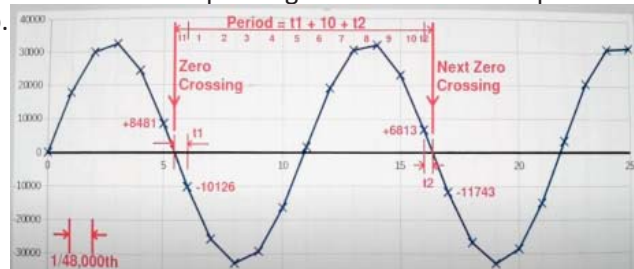
### QDX transceiver from QRP labs

- Q'D'X is qrp-labs offering for digital 'd'



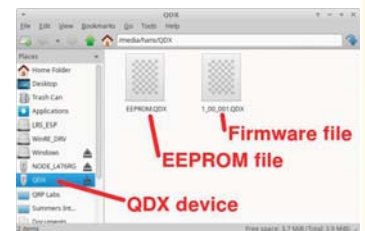
### QDX digital signal generation–NO SSB–NO FFT

- FT8 and many digitals mode are only 1 tone at a time. Therefore, Hans samples the incoming audio and adjusts the on board frequency generator on the fly. No mixer. No balanced modular. No filter for the unwanted sideband. A pure signal which can be amplified by a class D amp.



### USB: Firmware update

- QDX appears as a USB Flash drive. Simply download the file and drag it across
- Benefits:
  - No hardware
  - No software
  - No drivers
  - Easy, anyone can do it
  - 256-bit AES encryption



### FT8 on Android

- Google Play store – search for FT8 Radio by Dhiru Kholia
- Github <https://github.com/kholia/DigitalRadioReceiverSupport/tree/master/NewApp>
- This is a work in progress – still lots to do and not all radios are supported – check on the github page above
- Does work with QDX and IC-7300

# How to Renew your Amateur Radio License

There are several ways to renew an amateur radio license. You can renew a license 90 days before it expires or within two years after it expires without retaking or passing any kind of test. Under some circumstances, you can also renew an amateur radio license (retaking and passing the Technician license test) if your license has been expired for more than two years. Adapted from <https://hamradioprep.com/renew-ham-radio-license>

**Two options exist if you are within 90 days of the license expiration date for your license or if it has already expired but for less than two years:**

**Option 1. Renew online via the FCC's website.** The easiest way to renew your license is by using the FCC License Manager System 90 days or less before your license expires. Point your web browser to <https://www.fcc.gov/universal-licensing-system>.

- Click on Filing -> File Online, and then sign in to your FCC account. If you don't already have an FCC account, you'll have to set one up.
- Enter your FCC Registration Number (FRN) and password into the appropriate text boxes, and then click "SUBMIT."
- On the "My Licenses" page, click the "Renew Licenses" link. You will then be able to select which license you want to renew.
- You will be prompted by the FCC's system to make a payment of \$35 to renew your license for the new 10-year term. The FCC began collecting license fees on April 19, 2022, in accordance with federal law set by Congress. You will have 10 days to make payment to the FCC before it removes your renewal application.

**Option 2. Renew via completed FCC forms, etc. sent to the FCC via postal mail.**

You can renew by mail by sending FCC Forms 605 and 159 directly to the FCC. Download Form 605 for the renewal by going to <https://www.fcc.gov/fcc-form-605> and fill it out. You also will need to include Form 159 for your payment. Download Form 159 with instructions here: <https://www.fcc.gov/licensing-databases/fees/fcc-remittance-advice-form-159>. Form 159 must accompany your \$35 payment for the renewal. Include your check with both forms and mail to: FCC, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg PA 17325-7245. It may take that FCC office several weeks to process your license renewal.

**Only one option exists if your license is expired for more than two years, retaking the Technician license test with a VEC is required to renew it.:**

If your amateur radio license has expired for more than two years, no matter the class of license you held, must take and pass the Technician license again with a VEC, and also present documented proof to the VEC of your former license. Note: Because your expiration date is part of the public FCC ULS database, you may receive letters or emails offering to assist you in renewing your license for a small fee plus the FCC renewal fee. While this may be convenient, you can do it yourself for only the FCC renewal fee.