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+

Web Site at http://w4ovh.net



June 2023

Next Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, June 20, 2023

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hello Everyone,

The last few days in this, the first full week of June

certainly has been different. The Canadian wildfires combined with an unusually low jet stream for this time of year has given us days of very bad air quality. In fact, the Washington, DC area reached the worst air quality in the world on Thursday, June 8th. We even had our first ever "Code Purple" day.

And yet, in this bad luck, I think I see some good luck.

We have just completed a successful Tailgate Party. If that

bad air from those wildfires had reached us days earlier, I don't think we would have had a successful Tailgate Party. The turnout would have been much lower, if any at all. So, I choose to be thankful for the good weather we did have on Saturday the 3rd, securing our funding for yet another year. And again, I want to offer a huge heartfelt thank you to all of the 2023 Tailgate Party volunteers.

Once more we are proving that June is our busy season. With Tailgate over, next up was the Tri It Now – Manassas Mini Tri on June 11th at the Freedom Center. https://triitnow.com At this time, I would like to acknowledge our 7 volunteer spotters: Andy / KJ4MTP (as Lead, Coordinator and also Shadow); Greg / KM4CCG; John / KG4NXT; Ken / KN4DD; David / KG4GIY; Jerry / KN4DWT and John / KK4TCE

Then, on Saturday, June 17th at 8:00 AM, it will be our OVH Monthly Breakfast Get Together at the Yorkshire Restaurant, 7537 Centreville Rd, Manassas. We usually have 6 to 10 people that show up. We hope to see you there.

The next monthly meeting of the OVH will be held on Tuesday, June 20th @ 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM EDT at the Buckhall VFD Hall, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas.



Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Post Office Box 1255 Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS			
President: Ken Brant	KN4DD	622-2638	
Vice Pres: Gil Thompson	KM4OZH	369-0431	
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WEEKLY FM REPEATER NET COORDINATOR			
JOHN	KG4NXT	257-3566	
Thurs - 8:00 PM Local Time	montal	201 0000	
TAILGATE (HAMFEST) 2023 - CHAIRMAN			
Don	WA2SWX	597-3211	
FIELD DAY 2023 - CHAIRP	ERSON		
Cat otohime.1978@gmail.com	KM4PBD	571-213-2179	
CLUB ROSTER / DATABAS	W1CRO	791-4330	
Arthur	WICHO	791 4550	
EDUCATION			
Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033	
CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR			
Open - volunteer needed!			
ARES - EMERGENCY COORDINATOR			
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See http://pwcares.org	email: kg4	giy@arrl.net	
FINANCE Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330	
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Don	WA2SWX	597-3211	
GENERATORS			
Byron	AK4XR	222-2095	
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794	
TRI-IT-NOW & WARRIOR BIKE RIDE - CHAIRMAN x2			
Andy andy@gamponia.com KJ4MTP 785-4651			
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Kevin	W4RKU	540-445-5183	
John	KG4NXT	257-3566	
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Web Committee "help request"	email: webmast	er@w4ovh.net	

EMAIL REFLECTOR -	-w4ovh@googlegr	coups.com	
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MANASSAS CHRISTMAS PARADE - OVH COORDINATOR			
George	K4GVT	791-5956	
LEGAL			
Bob	K4HJF	282-2451	
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN			
Luther	WA3FMO	361-4885	
NEWSLETTER			
Paul	W4ZB	754-0910	
CHRISTMAS / YEAR EN	<u>D PARTY - CHAIR</u> KG4TVM		
Theresa.	KG41VM	257-3566	
PROGRAMS			
Tony	KM4KLB	331-3705	
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	
<u>W40VH — TRUSTEE</u>			
Wayne	N7QLK	571-237-0520	
W4PVA — TRUSTEE			
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330	
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SUNSHINE			
Andrea	KI4SXM	868-5363	
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George	K4GVT	791-5956	
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Bob David	K4HJF KG4GIY	335-1939 628-3868	
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HISTORIAN			
Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566	

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 © 2023 by the Ole Virginia Hams which holds its regular monthly meetings 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 were held online. The Newsletter will have login details for monthly online meetings if applicable. 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 can Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. or through the OVH's web site at http://wdvh.net Articles in this newsletter multi foredit 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@wdzb.com. Approx. Circ.; 170. Last Rev: 20230316

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And lastly for the last weekend in June, the ARRL / OVH 2023 Field Day will begin on Saturday, June 24th at 2:00 PM and will run overnight, concluding on Sunday, June 25th at 2:00 PM local time. Lots more details about Field Day in general at https://arrl.org/field-day

The local OVH Field Day will be under the big pavilion at the Nokesville Park, 12560 Aden Rd, Nokesville ,Virginia. If using GPS, you can punch in: 38° 41' 07" N -77° 34' 43" W, and ARRL Maidenhead Grid Square: FM18fq

The local OVH Field Day will take place rain or shine, because we will again be under the big pavilion. Come on out and tune in the world. If you are new to the hobby, I heartily recommend that you come out Saturday morning to help with the OVH Field Day set up. It is truly a learning experience, and time will pass very quickly, and before you know it, we will be ready.

Again for those new to the hobby, once Field Day officially begins, we try to make as many contacts as we can in that 24 hour period, using phone, Morse code and various digital modes, including the new ones. We do this either singularly dedicated to one mode only or by using any combination of those modes. It's all up to you.

Saturday Evening will be our usual Pot Luck Dinner. Bring a favorite dish to share; dinner will be around 5:00 PM. After all, this is a family event. We will even have a Fox Hunt following the Saturday dinner, and of course all are welcome.

A reminder to check in to the OVH's Thursday night VHF/UHF repeater net at 8 PM - details are on the OVH's web site: https://w4ovh.net This is a great way to stay in touch.

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

73, Ken / KN4DD



Sunshine Corner

Happy Birthday wishes to our club members celebrating this June month – David/KQ4BDS, Dana/KM4TTP, Ron/K3FR, Jan/KE4TMW, Jim/KM4SXM, Robert/W4PHX, Gene/N4NHFW, Wayne/AG4ZZ, and Bob/K4HJF. Hope you all have wonderful birthdays with lots of candles!



Congrats & many kudos and thank you's to the OVH team and to all of our volunteers for organizing and holding a great Tailgate at Manassas Park on June 3rd. Special thanks to Matt/KE7EX and David/KG4GIY for stepping in for the Talk-in, and hope Jim/KA4BOL is getting better. Many thanks again for George/K4GVT for taking many great pictures, online at https://k4gvt.com/ovh/OVH_2023_Tailgate

New Member Updates: Luis/KQ4GBC and David/KD0ODS have made applications to become OVH member; hope to see them soon at our next OVH meeting.

Upcoming Events:

July 4, (Fun Run) 5k Run, morning of July 4 at the Freedom Aquatic & Fitness Center,

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thanks to Wayne/N7QLK for coordinating OVH participation and volunteers with this event.

Roanoke Hamfest, August 5, 2023. Info at https://roanokehamfest.info/

Berryville Hamfest, August 6, 2023 gates open 6am. Info: https://Berryvillehamfest.com

Goofing off: kudos to Al / KB4BHB for having the courage and taking the risk of being thrown off, to go for a bull ride on a mechanical bull when he is well past his mid-80s. Take a look at this. Unreal, but I'm sure Al was having a lot of had fun!

Reminder: our ARRL / OVH Field Day 2023 will take place at the Nokesville Park in Nokesville beginning at 2:00 pm on June 24,

until 2:00 pm on June 25. Potluck Diner will be on June 24 at 5:00 pm - please bring your favorite dish so we can share and enjoy. This is a family event too and there will be other activities. You may want to bring bug spray for hot days. More is on the OVH web site at: https://w4ovh.net and at the ARRL at https://arrl.org/news/gear-up-for-2023-arrl-field-day

The OVH's weekly VHF/UHF radio net is every Thursday at 8:00 pm. Please join us, to say hello and hear up-to-date club news. Go to the w4ovh.net web site for more details about how to participate. Having issues with your radio equipment or need help with anything ham radio? This is a great forum to ask questions and hear the latest news on current club events.

Andrea / KI4SXM is now doing the Sunshine Corner round up so please send her all of the information you would like to be included. Happy Ham'In!

73 Andrea / KI4SXM sunnybeach4us9@gmail.com

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Informal Meeting held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023:

OVH President Ken KN4DD called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on May 16, 2023 in the training room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station. After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and callsigns.

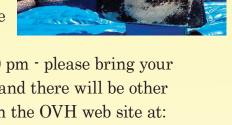
The program was a video of a stealthy backyard broadband antenna by Corey Ruth / KD3CR.

The minutes of the April 18, 2023 OVH meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report– no report. Don / WA2SWX was ill.

Luther / WA3FMOgave the membership report. There was one read-in: Ford C. Engelbrecht / KM4KJT to be voted on at the next regular meeting.

ARES report. Jeff / WB6UIE reported that there would be an exercise next weekend.





Repeater report: Ken / KE2N gave the repeater report. Everything is working fine. Ken has registered / KQ4IDK as a new DStar station on W4OVH.

Tailgate report. John KG4NXT reported that we sent an email blast to over 1,300 people in the Hamfest database and about 50 in our vendor list. Theresa / KG4TVM hand addressed flyers to about 50 new and upgraded Virginia hams. Also, there will be ARRL card checker at tailgate as well as VAQP awards.

Field Day report. We have a joint Tailgate / Field Day planning meeting on May 23th. ARRL radiogram forms were filled out at the meeting for the bonus points. Theresa / KG4TVM has emailed PWC supervisors and the state Attorney General and Lt. Governor to try to get an elected official to visit. Theresa has sent public release statements to three local online Newspapers.

Web Committee report. Ken / KN4DD advised that there had been a remarkable rise in SQL injection attacks on the W4OVH.net web site but that the software defenses had held.

Sunshine report. Andrea / KI4SXM did call outs for the Birthdays in May and Mother's Day. She congratulated Jeff / K9VEG on his recent POTA award and Gil / KM4OZH and Jay / NQ4T on winning VAQP plaques during the recent Virginia QSO Party event.

Wayne / N4HCR won the 50/50 raffle which had a total of \$21.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

The meeting was then adjourned.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFEST, FIELD DAY, VE SESSION TYPE AND HAM LEARNING EVENTS:

June 23 – June 25, 2023, Friday-Sunday, Hamradio - Friedrichshafen, Germany, the largest Hamfest in Europe, attendees from more than 60 countries, including the USA and from the ARRL' This multiday hamfest event is almost as large as or perhaps larger than the annual Hamvention in Xenia, Ohio, More info at https://hamradio-friedrichshafen.de An ideal venue for a Hamfest in a idyllic location, and worth at least one trip there via Munich or Zurich.

June 24 - June 25, 2023. (Saturday - Sunday) the OVH / ARRL Field Day event at the Nokesville Park in Nokesville. This is a major annual OVH club event and family members are invited too. More info elsewhere in this Newsletter and at the W4OVH.net web site, and about Field Day in general at the ARRL.org web site.

August 6, 2023 (Sunday) beginning at 6:00 am, the Berryville Hamfest in Berryville, Virginia. Lots of info about this major, close-by Summertime Hamfest at https://Berryvillehamfest.com

HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS:

The ARRL maintains a Contest web page at its web site at ARRL.org, 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. If

you get the radio contesting bug or just want to find out and how much is going on - a lot is going on, these are very good places to look!

PUBLIC SERVICE / ARES EVENTS

July 4, 023 (Fun Run) 5k Run, morning of July 4th at the Freedom Aquatic & Fitness Center, contact Wayne/N7QLK for more info.

Also check the online Calendar on the OVH's web site at 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.

The 2023 OVH Tailgate Party - June 3, 2023 - by Ken / KN4DD

With the Tailgate Party weekend behind us, it is time to take a look back at our Tailgate Party 2023. While we await the official numbers from our Treasurer & Tailgate Chairman Don / WA2SWX, I call it an unqualified success. It was our second ever Tailgate Party and I can say we have earned more than two and a half times our seed money.

I have long held that "Good luck happens when preparation meets opportunity". We were certainly well prepared. Led by Don in his fourth outing as Tailgate / Hamfest Chairman, it was as close to a turnkey operation as he could make it. Your OVH Tailgate Committee met three times in 2023 to bring this together.

With the Corona virus days receding in the rearview mirror, our most pressing concern was the weather. And here again, we got lucky. Tailgate setup day was the day before and was a blistering 93° at IAD. The day of the Tailgate Party was a comfortable 85° and mostly cloudy. Even the forecast evening rain was a no show, no doubt blown away by the evening winds.

Our flyer said we would run from 8 AM till 2 PM, and yours truly arrived a little after 7 AM. Even at that early hour there were many vendors either setting up or already setup. And quite a few customers, too.



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We had plenty of volunteers for traffic control, but ran out of five dollar bills before 8 AM, so yours truly was dispatched. Our expected money changing service no longer provided that service, and banks typically don't open on Saturdays before 9 AM. I remembered there is a chain of banks whose ATMs allow you to pick your dominations, so I withdrew over \$200 in five dollar bills. And yes, if you are wondering, Don reimbursed me.

Our friends from the Virginia Defense Force were in attendance and looked impressive in their dress uniforms.



This year, Gil found himself in the newly created "Rover" category. Gil flipped and flopped between his new and old categories, not to mention our Buckhall VFD meeting & following Gordon, NQ4K to Heritage Hunt. Not too stalker-y, Gill. As I said, both have very entertaining stories if you can get them aside at some time.

Edith (Mrs. WA2SWX) and her grandson, DJ, manned our snack table once again. We had homemade treats as well as store bought items for sale. It was quite a bounty and it sold well. Thank you for the time and effort in making these fine snacks as well as transporting them safely & selling them.

All of you please take a bow.

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The event peaked around 10:30 AM and then started winding down. The last of us left about 1 PM-ish.

The provided link will take you to George, K4GVT's photographs and an aerial video of Tailgate 2023. They are always a treat. A big thank you to George / K4GVT and Everett / KJ4OLF for most or all of the photos, the full collection of which is online at https://k4gvt.com/ovh/OVH_2023_Tailgate Others who took photos during the event may send them to George who will put them online.

I end this article with a bittersweet note. Our Tailgate / Hamfest Chairman Don, wants to retire from this position after 4 years. From good years, to COVID years to recovery years, each year under Don's stewardship, the OVH prospered, and increasingly so. I really hope he changes his mind for next year. If not, he has left some big shoes to fill.

A huge thank you to Don.



OVH VE SESSION - Saturday, May 27, 2023



The OVH sponsored a successful VE session on Saturday, May 27, 2023 with a total of six candidates appearing for an examination. Everyone who took an exam passed! We minted two brand new Technician Licensees, upgraded two Techs to General Class and two others to Extra Class.

In a first for the OVH VE crew, we tested a legally blind ham Dominic / KD4MEZ. Bruce / KN4GDX read him the

questions aloud. In order to help, the ARRL had sent us two versions of the Extra Class exam that did not have diagrams. Hard to blind. See, picture to the right

read a diagram when legally blind. See, picture to the right.

The VEs who attended were: Al/KB4BHB; John/KG4NXT; Mark/ WA4KFZ; Jay/NQ4T; Bruce/KN4GDX; Sean/KO4TZO; David/ KY4MM; Ken/KN4DD and Andy/KK4ADQ. A good turnout.

Special thanks for Ken/KN4DD for securing us a free room to use for the VE Session at his Lord of Life church in Clifton.



Some Possibly Interesting or Useful Information

1. ARRL Field Day has been a very popular and well attended operating event since the 1930's. It is a fun event because anyone can participate in it: whether from a home or mobile station or by setting up in a temporary field location which was the original purpose. Temporary field locations to simulate emergency type operations was the one of the early purposes. These could be single op stations or two operator stations or multi-operator club type stations. Whether you are experienced with Field Day or a newbie, it is worth getting and skimming or reading the ARRL's Field Day package for 2023. You might want to look through some old QST's from previous years to read stories about participants in Field Days past. The OVH for many, many years has sponsored an OVH Club Field Day event at the same time as the ARRL Field Day. This allows OVH hams to participate in making contacts as part of a club group activity, but also for club members (and their family members) to socialize on a face to face basis, and enjoy a Pot Luck dinner and other activities. Be sure to plan to attend the OVH Field Day event at the Nokesville Park on June 24 - June 25th.

2. More about some memorable ARRL Field Days from 50+ years ago. Much of this text has been copied, with some revisions from an item which appeared in the OVH Newsletter for June 2019. Back in those old days (early 1960s) before the proliferation of VHF/UHF repeaters in the early 1970s, local ham clubs like the OVH were not very common. (Editor)

Participate in Field Day and you will not only have a lot of fun, but may end up with some life long memories. In my second and third years as a ham (in 1962 and 1963 after finishing 10th and 11th grade), having learned that Field Day was as a massive and fun operating event in 1961, I teamed up with other local hams my age - a different one each year so we could go all out to set up and operate Class B stations during Field Day.

In 1962 and 1963 I was still in high school and living in southwest Connecticut (about 37 miles from New York City) with a K1 callsign.

In 1962, we managed to get hold of a generator and a Baker tent and to locate another non-ham teenager (who lived close by) who had access to a sailboat (owned by his father who was a ham with two letter W1 callsign), sailed out, made a "blind" call and introduce ourselves and get permission from the owner of Sheffield Island, Connecticut in Long Island Sound to set up and operate from there during the upcoming ARRL Field Day. This ended up being quite an adventurous and logistical undertaking for two 16 and 17 year old hams (with a non-ham sailboat sailor) but we succeeded in making hundreds of HF radio contacts with other Field Day participants all over the USA and Canada by operating during most of the 24 hour period. We sailed to the island, moored the boat to trees, unloaded all of our equipment and supplies and then set up in the woods, putting wire antennas into the short trees. We survived a very heavy and windy thunderstorm in our Baker tent in the middle of the night during the event, but we continued to operate. We also managed to talk with our parents via telephone hookups using PhonePatch connections from local hams (who made the PhonePatch calls) while we contacted to them on HF using AM voice mode.

The owner of the island who had a large residence with docks about 200 yards away eventually came through the scrubby woods on the island to take a look at our set up on the Saturday evening to see what we were doing. He was astounded to see what we had set up and our handwritten radio contact log sheets and see what our small, self contained operation was doing - making contact after contact, mostly on CW (Morse Code), with some AM phone, with other stations, many at quite long distances away all over the US and Canada. He then brought some of his house guests over to see what we were doing. What a bunch of fun that was! The other (older) ham who participated with me in that operation has also been a life long ham operator, he now resides in Florida. He later joined the Navy, spending a lot of time in remote parts of Alaska, flying on Navy aircraft in the Arctic and on many flights in international airspace along the coast of Asiatic Russia, with many opportunities to use his electronic and radio operator skills. After he retired from the Navy he worked for many years in Silicon Valley before retiring to Florida. The non-ham sailor on that adventure, who was always very mechanically inclined and talented but who had a mental block against learning the Morse Code (then required for a ham license), also later joined the Navy; after leaving the Navy and completing college in Ohio, he moved out west to Colorado, where he took up flying and maintaining (small) airplanes, eventually operating a small airport in western Colorado for many years before he retired. He now lives in Arizona.

The next year, in 1963, our Class B Field Day set up was less ambitious logistically. We found a remote location on high terrain deep in the woods near the Mianus Reservoir in the northern part of Stamford, Connecticut. We could partially drive into the woods over an overgrown trail so we drove off the paved road and into the woods as far as we could go, then parked, and carried all equipment and supplies in for another hundred yards and set up in a small clearing. As fearless and somewhat brash youngsters that we were, that year we skipped trying to figure out who owned the land or getting permission because the location seemed and in fact was quite remote. The Field Day operations went well as in the previous year, although my friend, the other operator, was not an avid CW operator but preferred using AM phone. Still we made many contacts everywhere on CW and AM phone on HF. What was different was we had a borrowed low power 2 meter AM transceiver (a Heathkit 2M "lunchbox" AM set) and were quite amazed to find that we could easily make 2 meter contacts from our Connecticut location to Long Island, New York City and even into Northern New Jersey using a homemade hand held and hand pointed short yagi antenna.

Very memorably, we had a surprise visitor in the wee hours on Sunday morning - a uniformed police officer who had followed our tire tracks in the dark from the edge of the paved road to our parked car in the woods and then hiked in further using a flashligh towards the sound from our generator to find out who we were and what we were up to. Apparently, someone driving by on the paved road on Saturday night had seen flickering lights deep in the woods, heard sounds and reported to the police that some strange activity might be going on. We explained to the officer what were doing, he at looked our campsite, inspected our radio contact logs and asked questions about how we were making such distant radio contacts which we demonstrated to him. We openly admitted we had no permission from the landowner and didn't even know who owned the land - fortunately he didn't know either, the landowner had not complained and our campsite and set up was tidy. He checked at our IDs which showed we were from a nearby town, and, fortunately for us, concluded we were not troublemakers and advised us for the future to get advance permission from the landowner and to be sure to leave the site in the woods as we had found it. What memories! The other ham who participated with me in that in 1963 has also been a life long ham operator, He got a BSEE from MIT, joined the Navy and worked on early AWACS systems; after the Navy, he took up teaching, later got advanced degrees and became a college lecturer. He resides in Massachusetts.

Ole Virginia Hams



2:00 PM Saturday, June 24, 2023 through 2:00 PM Sunday, June 25, 2023

Nokesville Park, 12560 Aden Road, Nokesville, VA

Rain or Shine! We will be under the big pavilion. Come on out and get on the air!

The Saturday night dinner is back! Bring a favorite dish to share, dinner around 5 pm! This is a family event!

Fox Hunt following the Saturday dinner, all are welcome!

Any questions; please see our webpage at <u>www.w4ovh.net</u> or Facebook Ole Virginia Hams – W4OVH

