

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

September 2023

Next Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, September 19, 2023

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings Everyone,

Once again, it's half past September. After a short cool period last month, September heat came roaring back with a vengeance. Depending where you were in the greater Washington DC area, you experienced three to five days of back-to-back record-breaking heat paired with less than normal rainfall so far.

The good news, if you will allow me, Hurricane Season (which ends December 1st) has been mild for the US this year, with only one storm hitting the mainland so far. And as always, I hope for a mild winter.

Our flurry of activities is winding down too. Off of the top of my head, we have the last Tri-It-Now event in October, the Manassas Christmas parade on December 2nd and our annual OVH Christmas Party left on this year's To-Do List.

While I am on the subject of activities, let us not forget that September is National Preparedness Month. I recognize that we can't do it all, that as a society we are all interdependent. However, I do believe in being as self-sufficient as possible. So, while the weather is warm and mostly dry, now would be a good time to inspect any tree-supported antennas or get a new one up.

Next, I'd like to give thanks to everyone that came out and supported the 6th Annual Warrior Bike Ride on the 9th. It was one for the books.

This year's Bike Ride was wedged between two unexpected, strong thunderstorms about 12 hours apart. The first thunderstorm blew in the night before around 2 AM. While it soaked everything, there were only a few downed trees along the route on the morning of the Bike Ride. So, we were fortunate there.



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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:	Gil Thompson	KM4OZH	369-0431
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

JOHN	KG4NXT	257-3566
Thurs - 8:00 PM Local Time		

TAILGATE (HAMFEST) 2023 - CHAIRMAN

Don	WA2SWX	597-3211
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FIELD DAY 2023 - CHAIRPERSON

Cat otohime.1978@gmail.com	KM4PBD	571-213-2179
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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	628-3868
See http://pwcares.org	email: kg4giy@arrl.net	

FINANCE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
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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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

EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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MANASSAS CHRISTMAS PARADE - OVH COORDINATOR

George	K4GVT	791-5956
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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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CHRISTMAS / YEAR END PARTY - CHAIRPERSON

Theresa.	KG4TVM	257-3566
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PROGRAMS

Tony	KM4KLB	331-3705
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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

Andrea	KI4SXM	868-5363
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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
Gil	KM4OZH	369-0431

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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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 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. Approx. Circ.: 170. Last Rev: 20230316

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We fielded 26 operators for the event and only had one rider incident. A rider near the Aldie, VA rest stop reported being light headed and feeling faint. EMTs were dispatched and could not find our rider. Cat / KM4BPD, one of our two spotters at that location, self-dispatched to help. After nearly 20 minutes, it was determined that the rider had felt better on their own and resumed the ride without informing anyone.

And just like last year, a rival bike club held their ride on the same date & route, but in the other direction. Once again, there was a bit of confusion as the two groups intersected. But once again, I am happy to see there were no significant incidents.

The second thunderstorm rolled in just 12 hours later, about 2 PM. While the Bike Ride was indeed winding down by then, the partiers at The Farm Brewery at Broad Run and any stragglers still on the course, got soaked.

Bruce / KN4GDX did his inaugural stint as our Net Control and he did a fine job. I hope he comes back next year. We would like to recognize our volunteers: David / KD4DEE; Bruce / KN4GDX; Cat / KM4PBD; Byron / AK4XR; Thomas / W4PIO; Andy / KJ4MTP; Greg / KM4CCG; John / KG4NXT; Ken / KN4DD; James / KQ4CAX; Duane / KK4BZ; Bruce / KN4TS; Jay / NQ4T; Patsy / KO4SFT; Chris / W3CUM; Wayne / N7QLK; Jeffrey / K9VEG; Gene / N4HFW; Grant / KB3EMT; Erik / K4SOK; Marc / N1BED; Alan / KD5VEZ; Lynn / KX4HR; Robin / KJ4LWN and Harold, KN4IJY.

And a big thank you to our Guest Operator, Chief of our EMTs: Frank Smith / KT4LN.

Another big tip of the hat to Andy / KJ4MTP for organizing and running the whole ham show.

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

Our second to last Tri It Now - THE 14.06 was Sunday, September 10th @ 7:30 AM, @ The Freedom Aquatic and Fitness Center, Manassas. This is the 14.06 triathlon which is one tenth of iron distance and consists of a triathlon, duathlon, and aquabike.

Like the Warrior Bike Ride the day before, we were wedged between two rain events. It rained overnight, thankfully bringing the temperature down, and it didn't begin spritzing again until the Mini Tri had ended. The rain did nothing for the humidity, however. The events began at a pleasant 70 degrees, but with a dewpoint over 68°, there was enough humidity to have us sweating anyway.

I'm happy to report that we didn't have any incidents. However, the number of participants determined to create their own routes despite numerous signs and OVH spotters yelling directions, was impressive.

I would like to recognize our volunteers here: Andy / KJ4MTP; John / KG4NXT; James / KQ4CAX; Ken / KN4DD; Andrea / KI4SXM; Lynn / KX4HR; Theresa / KG4TVM and Al / KB4BHB. Some pictures later in this Newsletter.

On a sadder note, Ina Nenner, owner & organizer of Tri It Now has decided to call it a career. She has informed us that the Tri It Now Season Wrap Up on October 15th, will be the final event and both she and her company will retire.

The OVH has provided spotters to the Tri It Now organization since 2012, and we as a club are better for it. They will be missed by both their participants and our club spotters.

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Alexander Graham Bell once said “When one door closes, another opens.” We here at the Ole Virginia Hams wish Ina and her family well as their new future begins.

Next up is our monthly breakfast on September 16th at 8:00 AM. I hear it’s the most important meal of the day. Originally developed by Byron, AK4XR, we get together every Saturday before our meetings at a table or two in the back of Yorkshire Restaurant for some good food and good conversation. Yorkshire Restaurant, 7537 Centreville Road, Manassas.

Our next monthly meeting Tuesday, September 19th at the Buckhall VFD Hall, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas at 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM EDT. We will have a video “Everything you need to know about Lithium Batteries” presented by Marcel Stieber / AI6MS.

A reminder that the 77th Greater Manassas Christmas Parade will take place on Saturday, December 2nd @ 10 AM. Planning is underway, but we will need volunteer spotters. If interested, please contact George, K4GVT via e-mail at 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.

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 month Gus / N4MLE, Scott / WB6EFW, Al / KB4BHB, Jim / WE4JJ, Kyle / NoCallSign, Maury / W4HYB, Luis / KQ4GBC, Ron / N4RDZ, Mark / WA4KFZ, Lori / KC0EWN and Bill / AF4LL. Hope you all have wonderful birthdays with lots of candles!



Special Happy Birthdays to: Chick / KC1PIA who had a birthday at the end of August when he turned 90 and also to Al / KB4BHB (pix to the right) who also had his 90th birthday earlier this month. This is really awesome. Glad you smiling hope you gets lots of gifts and fun stuff.



Congratulations Corner: Many thanks again of the OVH Volunteers that helped out with the Willing Warriors Bike Ride on 9/9/2023. Ken / KN4DD mentioned each by name in the President’s Letter.

Also, a Big Shout Out for all the OVH Team below who helped out on Sunday September 10, 2023 at the TRI-IT NOW event held at George Mason University. The

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President's Letter also mentioned each by name. Fun times, and all went well, except some riders and runners ended up off course several times and needed help to get rerouted to the course. Thanks to Andy / KJ4MPT for bringing the doughnuts. Two pictures from that event appear below - thanks to Theresa / KG4TVM.



Kudo's to John / KG4NXT who received a special certificate from the POTA organization for having achieved 2000 POTA activations at National and State parks, Truly awesome. Hope to see more pictures of the parks visited and you and your gear.

Kudo's also to Gil/KM4OZH as a rover in the VHF Contest this past weekend for achieving status again as a national level contest competitor. Little birdie told me that he was running up to Pennsylvania and down to southern Virginia to collect multiplier grids and make more and more contacts. Gil gives many thanks for the OVH pileup Sunday evening which helped out. Even with poor VHF propagation conditions resulting in a lower multiplier count, each 6m or 2m contact was worth 49 points and 220 or 440 worth 98 points. So every additional contact makes a difference. Gil advises he achieved a personal best claimed score of 11,319. Wahoo!!

TriItNow at the George Mason University campus, Manassas, on Sunday, 9/10/2023 was a great success, with no emergencies, only bikers and runners off course. (LOL)

Season Wrap up for TriItNow this year will be on October 15th. See <https://triiitnow.com> and email to Andy Gamponia (andy@gamponia.com) to sign up.

James / NV4VA has just had surgery. OVH wishes him well, including a speedy recovery.

Byron / AK4XR has just lost a very close family member this past Sunday morning; OVH and all its members extend their deepest sympathies and condolences.

NET NIGHT: Every Thursday at 8 PM, we have the club's weekly net. Please join us, say hello and hear up-to-date information on club news. See W4OVH.NET web site for details. 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.



Please send me your news for Sunshine Corner. Happy Ham'In! and Enjoy the amazing solar activity and the remaining summer!

73 Andrea / KI4SXM sunnybeach4us9@gmail.com

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Informal Meeting held on Tuesday, August 15, 2023:

OVH President Ken / KN4DD called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on August 15, 2023 at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station, Manassas in the usual meeting room.

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

John / KK4TCE gave a presentation on Winlink covering VHF, HF, downloading, registration, configuration and support. His slides are available on the members page of the club website.

The minutes of the July 17, 2023 OVH meeting were approved.

Don WA2SWX gave the Treasurer's report and it was approved.

Luther WA3FMO gave the membership report. There was three read-ins: Luis Ramos / KQ4GBC; Daniela Ramos / KQ4IKQ; and Paul Giovanni / KO4UOO.

There were two vote-ins who were voted in as members: Russell Garner / KQ4CAT and Phillipp Stuppert / KJ6GZY.

ARES report: No report this month.

Repeater Report by Ken / KE2N: All systems are currently working. Two new DStar users have been registered on the OVH D-Star system. The 146.970 repeater will be linked to the 147.300 repeater for the Serve Our Willing Warriors event. There was a discussion about Jason / N3JLT and the approved but not yet completed extensions to the OVH repeater site for the 147.300 repeater.

Training report. No report this month.

Tailgate report. No report this month

Field Day report. No report this month.

Web Committee Report by Ken KN4DD. Ken is continuing to deal with the 'demon plug-ins' issues. Several (Russian source?) attacks were foiled by the web site software. A repeating Chinese (source?) attack has occurred that Ken can not read, but is being foiled by the web site software.

Sunshine report. No report this month.

James / KQ4CAX won the 50/50 raffle and donated his winnings to the club.

Old Business::

Andy /KJ4MPT discussed the upcoming Serve Our Willing Warrior bike ride and the need for a few more volunteers. He thanked Theresa / KG4TVM for her help recruiting volunteers.

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New Business:

The OVH voted to have the club trailer enter the Manassas Christmas parade again this year. Theresa will handle the application. James offered to pull the trailer.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFEST, VE SESSION TYPE AND HAM LEARNING EVENTS:

October 1, 2023 - Sunday - CARA Fest by the Columbia (Md.) Amateur Radio Association in West Friendship, Maryland. See, <https://carafest.org> for details.

October 22, 2023 - Sunday - Carroll County MD Hamfest in Westminster, Maryland. See, <https://k3pzn.net/hamfest> and Flyer later in this Newsletter for more details. Note to check carefully because both the web site and the Flyer show “2022” rather than “2023” per the ARRL Hamfest listings. A bad mistake for an important event like this - better proofreaders needed!

HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS:

October 14, 2023 - Saturday - Solar Eclipse QSO Party (SEQP) which is a typical ham radio contest for those who wish to make tens, hundreds or even thousands of CW, SSB and digital mode QSOs on 160-6 meters during the 2023 and 2024 American solar eclipses. Each QSO will become one of millions of data points which will help researchers studying ionospheric variability. See <https://www.hamsci.org> for more information.

December 17, 2023 - Sunday - Rookie Roundup which is a contest aimed at Amateurs licensed for three years or less. This six-hour event is held three times per year (April, August and December). The December event is CW only. Rookies can contact anybody, while “Old Timers” make contact only with Rookies. See <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup> for more info.

The ARRL maintains a Contest web page at its web site at [ARRL.org](http://www.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

October 15, 2023 Sunday TRI_IT_NOW: See <https://www.triitnow.com> for more information; also, email andy@gamponia.com to sign up to participate with the OVH.

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 KG4GIY also appears on page 2 of this Newsletter.



AI / KB4BHB during a recent POTA activation of the Theodore Roosevelt Island park in the District of Columbia which is accessible from a parking area and footbridge off of the GW Parkway in Arlington, Virginia. John / KG4NXT and Bill / AF4LL also participated in this event.

Note: a wire antenna extends from AI up to and then down to the base of the large tree in the foreground. The large statue of Teddy Roosevelt is visible in the background.



Carroll County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
A nonprofit, equal opportunity organization

Mason-Dixon HAMFEST

October 22, 2022

TYPO?
This should be
2023 ??



Location: Masonic Lodge 46 Monroe St.
Westminster MD

Vendor Set-up: 6 am

Gates Open: 7 am - noon

Donation:

Outside Vendors/tailgaters \$10

General Admission \$5

Talk in: CCARC Repeater, 145.41 MHz, - 0.600 MHz

Food provided by Masonic Lodge Auxiliary.
Limited electricity is available.

Policies:

1. Overnight stays are allowed.
2. Tables are not provided. Extension cords are not provided.
3. Closing is 12:00, noon. All vendors must be clear of the spaces by 1 pm.
4. See the attached Parking Guidelines for additional information.
5. All spaces first come, first served.
6. No weapons, pornography, or pets.
7. **Due to limited space, preregistration is strongly recommended.**
8. This is an outside-only hamfest.

For additional information or to preregister for space email ccarc.k3pzn@gmail.com



Parking Guidelines

Due to limited parking, the following guidelines will be used to ensure a safe and enjoyable hamfest experience.

1. General admission parking is in the regular spots on the left of the image and in the parking lot below, as labeled. Please park from back to front to ensure sufficient tailgater space is available.
2. Tailgater parking/setup begins on the right side of the building in the spaces closest to the front. Tailgaters will fill in, moving towards the back of the building.
3. Electricity – one outlet – is available on the long side of the building. Tailgaters requiring these spaces should preregister.

Note to All

The Carroll County Amateur Radio Club, Inc, a nonprofit, equal opportunity organization, is grateful to the Door to Virtue Masonic Lodge, #46, for permission to use their facility for our hamfest.

Please be respectful of the facility and endeavor to leave it as you found it.