

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

**Renew your OVH
membership now!**

December 2023

Next Monthly Meeting: Wednesday, January 17, 2024

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to All,

As 2023 winds down, it is customary to review where we have been this year. With the pandemic in our rear view mirrors for over two years now, we continue our return to normalcy.

The Ole Virginia Hams participated in, and oversaw the final season of the Tri It Now mini triathlon. We wish Ina Nenninger, owner & organizer, a happy retirement.

Don / WA2SWX and his team oversaw another successful Tailgate Party. He is also currently planning the 2024 Tailgate Party. It will be his last this time because his house on the water is ready for his well-deserved retirement. He says he will be leaving us before January 2025, possibly as early as this summer.

Cat / KM4PBD, took the helm for her inaugural run as Field Day Chairwoman, and a fine debut it was. She even took home an award for that. More on that later.

Andy / KJ4MTP, lead us through another successful Warrior Bike Ride. This year the OVH provided 25 volunteer spotters, with Andy running the show. We helped the SOWW Team raise over \$97,000.00 this year.

We experienced another bit of the changing of the guard this year, also. Wayne / N7QLK, will be leaving the club. Wayne was the traditional leader of the Prince William Turkey Trot (5k) & Mashed Potato Mile. This is the first year he didn't lead the OVH team. Wayne has finally retired and will be moving to Florida, with brand new knees as well. Talk about a new beginning. Also, Wayne was a W4OVH trustee. We will be making a replacement announcement for that position soon.

On December 2nd, George / K4GVT, once again lead the Ole Virginia Hams



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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) Blasdel	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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participation in the 77th Annual Greater Manassas Christmas Parade. The parade ran from 10 AM until 12 noon but many of the participants were there prepping from 6:30 AM on. We dodged a bullet, weather wise. I was afraid it was going to be a replay of last year, but the rain ended the day before, on December 1st. On the day of the parade, the AM fog burned off pretty early, and then it was just cloudy.

At this time, I would like to recognize those involved: Spotters: John / KG4NXT; Lynn / KX4HR; Greg / KM4CCG; Mike / KO4BCN; Byron / AK4XR; Gene / N4HFW and George / K4GVT. Net Control was David / KG4GIY.

Our OVH Trailer Team: Driver James / KQ4CAX with Decorators and Co-Pilots Daniela / KQ4IKQ and her husband Luis / KQ4GBC.

George / K4GVT, also roamed the parade route taking pictures, so check later in this newsletter for some of those pictures, but go to George's web site at <https://k4gvt.com/ovh/manassas%20christmas%20parade%202023/index.html> to see all of the those and the ones George has posted there.

A big thank you to all.

Our World Famous OVH Year End / Christmas Party was December 10th and once again was held at the Yorkshire Restaurant. We had a good turnout. I counted 40 people, but my count might be off, too. Several OVH club recognition awards were handed out.

Cat / KM4PBD – for her successful inaugural Field Day Chairwomanship;
Luther / WA3FMO – in recognition of his leadership of the Membership Committee for the past 10 years; Gil / KM4OZH – for his continued excellence in contesting and also his superior repeater support; and Byron / AK4XR – in recognition of his continued club dedication, exemplified as both Past President & Past Field Day Chairman.
Congratulations to all of this year's award winners, picture of each in order just below.



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Another thank you to Theresa / KG4TVM for organizing the party. Theresa coordinated with the US Marines, as usual, but, due to a scheduling mix up on their end, our pair of Marines were a no show. Not to be deterred, Daniela / KQ4IKQ and Luis / KQ4GBC quickly volunteered to get our Toys for Tots donations to a local firehouse that night to be included in that campaign. Thank you both, again.

Thank you to everyone to donated gifts to Toys 4 Tots, and thanks to everyone who came out to the party. Thanks too, to the Yorkshire Restaurant for again hosting us and providing us with the turkey and ham. It sure seems as if George / K4GVT, has become our resident photographer. See his party pics at: <https://k4gvt.com/ovh/christmasparty2023/index.html>

Get ready to renew your membership. Your annual dues are \$25 now. Please remember the new amount when you make your payment. See the mail in Flyer for renewing your club membership later in this Newsletter. Also, OVH's web site, W4OVH.net, allows you to renew online. In order for you to be eligible to vote in our upcoming February election, you will need to be current with all of your dues.

Now would be a good time to start thinking about nominees for club leadership positions. You might even decide to serve your fellow members as an officer. You will still need to be a member in good standing to be on the ballot.

Another reminder: The annual ARRL Straight Key Night (SKN) returns on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, January 1, 0000 – 2359 UTC, which is 7:00 PM EST on December 31st. This promises to be a lot of fun for the novice (hint, hint new members) as well as experienced CW operators - there is a surprising amount of activity on the HF bands. For more information, please follow the link: <https://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>

No monthly breakfast this month, due to the Holiday Season. We will resume our breakfast on Saturday, January 13th at 8:00 AM.

As our Christmas Party on December 10th was also December's monthly meeting, our next monthly meeting will be in January. Please note our first meeting in 2024 will be on Wednesday, January 17th, NOT on the usual TUESDAY. That January 2024 monthly meeting will be at the usual location and the usual time: 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM EST at the Buckhall VFD Hall, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas. Our Program at the meeting will be about the CW Academy in presentation by Jeff Porter / K9VEG. For those already thinking ahead to February, the presentation at the February meeting will be about the upcoming VA QSO Party.

Also, a reminder to everyone to check in to the OVH's Thursday night VHF/UHF FM repeater net at 8 PM each week. The details for that are on the OVH's web site which is at: <https://w4ovh.net>

Thank you and Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you all.

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

73 Ken KN4DD



Sunshine Corner

Happy Birthday wishes to our club members celebrating during this December month: Tony / KM4KLB, Ed / KK4PHP, Jay / NQ4T, Dianne / KI4FVV, Bill / N4SV, Kelly (no call), Alan / KY4DN, Byron / AK4XR, Matt / KE7EX, David / KK4ZUU and Marwood / KL7AW.



Thank you to everyone that participated in the 77th Manassas Christmas Parade, great club support! George / K4GVT posted a link to photos from the parade, looked like everyone had a good time. Special thanks to James / KQ4CAX for pulling the OVH club trailer thru the parade as an entry. Thanks to Daniela / KQ4IKQ and Luis / KQ4GBC for decorating the trailer and riding in the parade with James / KQ4CAX.

OVH Holiday Party, well the weather was not great but it didn't snow so that is plus in my book. I am very grateful to the club members and significant others that came out for the evening. The fellowship and food were tremendous. Thank you to Yorkshire Restaurant for making their restaurant available to us for the party.

Because we have club members who are very generous with toy donations for Toys for Tots, we were able to collect over 50 toys this year. Due to a calendar error, the Marines didn't show up but Daniela / KQ4IKQ and Luis / KQ4GBC stepped up and drove the toys to the first department to drop them off.

The photo below does not show all the toys because they were piled on top of each other.



Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!
Send me your news for the Sunshine Corner!
73 Theresa / KG4TVM kg4tvm@hotmail.com



Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Informal Meeting held on Sunday, December 10, 2023:

The December, 2023 informal meeting took place during the OVH's Year End / Christmas Party. No minutes were taken.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS, VE SESSIONS AND OVH CLUB EVENTS:

Nothing scheduled nearby.

HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS:

Sunday, December 31, 2023, 7:00 PM EST through Monday, January 1, 2024 6:59 PM EST - ARRL Straight Key Night contest event. Go to <http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night> for more details and information.

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

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.

CITY OF MANASSAS - December 1, 2023 CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

On December 1, 2023 several local hams helped with the City of Manassas Christmas tree lighting. The helping hams are members of the local CERT the Community Emergency Reaction Team. The CERT team was present for safety and first aid and report to a police officer, This year Lt. Barahona

The tree lighting involves Santa arriving on a VRE train, then Santa gets on a hay wagon and goes to the grounds of the Manassas Museum. Santa then talks to the crowd and lights the tree, complete with artificial snow. After the tree is light, Santa goes to the ice skating ring and visits with children. While Santa is listening to the children's Christmas lists, there are free hayrides for everyone.

The safety concerns are keeping kids off the railroad track when

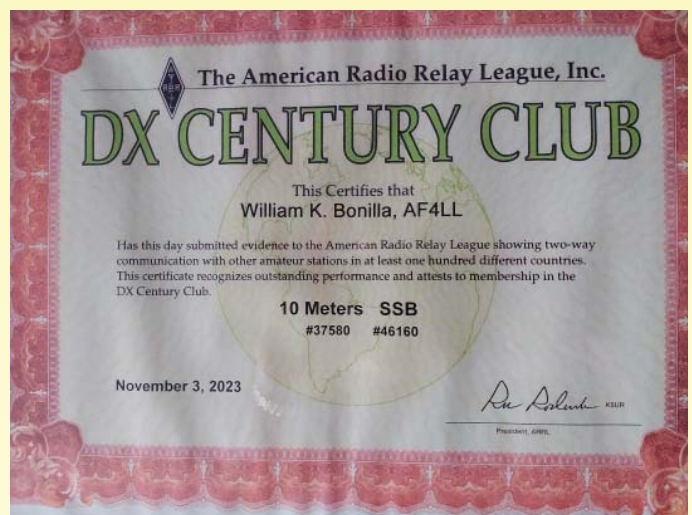


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trains are coming and also keeping the path of hay wagons clear. The Hams who participated were Erik / K4SOK, John / KG4NXT, and David / KD4DEE.

Ten Meters SSB - WAS and DXCC Awards

OVH member, Bill / AF4LL, aka Mr. Ten Meters, has recently completed qualifying for the Ten Meters only, SSB mode only, WAS (for contacting a station in each of the 50 states) and DXCC (for making contacts with at least 100 different countries) awards. All of Bill's contacts for these awards were made from August 2020 until recently and all contacts made using 90 watts or less or RF, with wire or short vertical antennas. Congratulations!



A few pictures from 77th Manassas Christmas Parade (12/2/2023) - tnx George / K4GVT

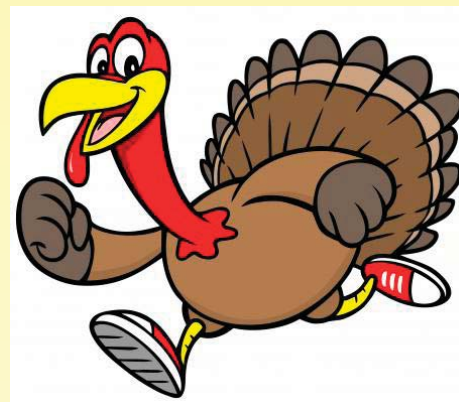


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OVH at the Thanksgiving Morning PWC Turkey Trot event.

On Thanksgiving morning, OVH did communications support for the 5k portion of the Prince William County Turkey Trot (5k) & Mashed Potato Mile. Their motto: Trot, Eat, Sleep. It was a near perfect morning for a couple of foot races. Perhaps a bit cool and breezy with 44° temperatures at 8 AM, but it was still sunny, fair and clear. In short, excellent weather. It also may have been a PWC (Prince William County) record, attendance wise. We had over 1,400 runners that day. The race itself went off without incident, I'm happy to report. It started @ 8:30 AM and was over for us by 9:15 AM.



Much like Halloween, many participants were in costume. We had a few cowboys. We had some children in Princess garb. We had both children & adults in tutus. And what Turkey Trot would be complete without many people in turkey costumes – a full furry brown pajama suit, complete with colorful wings, tail & a head mask? The participants made it a very

colorful event. We did notice a large number of participants whose philosophy was "Walk, don't run". Nevertheless, we all got home in plenty of time for Thanksgiving dinner.

I'd like to recognize our OVH volunteers: John / KG4NXT (as shadow), Al / KB4BHB and yours truly, Ken / KN4DD. Wayne / N7QLK, is usually our lead sled dog for this event, but he was recovering from knee surgery. Last, but certainly not least, I want to say congratulations to our own Ken / KE2N. You might remember that way back in 2021, Ken placed 2nd in his category. "A personal best", he said at that time. Then came the stroke. Since then, Ken has been a model of perseverance and tenacity. This year was his first year back for this event. While he did not run in the 5k, he did complete the entire one miler as a walker, another milestone step in his recovery. Way to go, Ken!



KB / KN4DD

A few pictures from OVH's 2023 Year End / Christmas Party - 12/10/2023



REMINDER



Yes, it is almost that time of year again!!!! Below is the 2024 Renewal Application.

Please fill out the form below (for database), attach your check and mail to the address below or drop off at a meeting. Be sure to update all information, including your e-mail address, telephone number(s) and nine digit ZIP. Note: please check online at <https://w4ovh.net> for ways to do this renewal online.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION “OLE VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB” for 2024

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CALL SIGN: _____

Home Tel: _____

Cell Tel: _____

Work Tel: _____

EMAIL: _____

BIRTHDAY: _____

ARE YOU PRESENTLY AN ARRL MEMBER? (YES/NO)

ARE YOU A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER: (YES/NO)

MAY YOUR TELEPHONE NOS. BE LISTED IN THE “Members Only” OVH ROSTER? (YES/NO)

WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT LICENSE CLASS? _____

Dues are now **\$25.00** per year and payable on January 1, 2024. Dues for each additional family member living at the same mailing address are \$12.50. Dues for a full time student at the college undergraduate or lower level [list school attended and grade or level:
_____] are \$12.50.

AMOUNT ENCLOSING: _____

NAME AND CALL OF FAMILY MEMBERS:

Name: _____

Name: _____

Call: _____

Call: _____

Return to: **Treasurer, OVH**
P.O. Box 1255
Manassas, VA 20108-1255