

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

Renew your OVH membership now!

February 2024

Upcoming Monthly Meeting: Wednesday, February 21, 2024

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

After a wetter than normal January, we have been dealing with slightly above average temperatures during the first ten days of February. Those of you who know me, know that I am not a fan of the “s” word (snow). So, I look at the recent rain and think “at least it’s not snow”.

Still thinking of winter, I am reminded of the great American philosopher, Yogi Berra, who once said “it ain’t over, till it’s over”. He was talking about winter, wasn’t he?

Speaking of spring like weather, now would be a good time while we still have “see through trees” to get out there and check those antennas. Better now (and easier) than when the foliage returns.

IMPORTANT for everyone to note now: we have a date change again for the OVH regular monthly meeting this month: it will be on Wednesday, February 21st (NOT on the regular third Tuesday in the month). It will return to the third Tuesday next month (March 2024), more below. ALSO IMPORTANT: the OVH now has a new mailing address (see above).

Our monthly breakfast returns this Saturday, February 17th at 8:00 AM. Pioneered 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.

Next up is the PVARC HamFest 2024. Once again, the Ole Virginia Hams has a table there and we will be handing out flyers for our June Tailgate Party. The HamFest takes place on February 17th 2024 and is held at: VFW Post 9292, Elkton, 13958 Spotswood Trail, Elkton, VA 22827, Talk-in: 146.625 – Tone: 131.8. Overflow parking and shuttle



Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 4293

Manassas, Virginia 20108-0728

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) 2024 - CHAIRMAN

Don	WA2SWX	597-3211
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FIELD DAY 2024 - CHAIRWOMAN

Cat otohime.1978@gmail.com	KM4PBD	571-213-2179
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CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
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VE COORDINATOR

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

WARRIOR BIKE RIDE - CHAIRMAN

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

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
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QUARTERMASTER

Open - volunteer needed!

THURSDAY NIGHT NET / REPEATER CONTROLLERS

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Ken	KE2N	753-8587
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794
James	KQ4CAX	628-5186
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
Cat	KM4PBD	571-213-2179

W4OVH — TRUSTEE

Gil	KM4OZH	369-0431
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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
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 © 2024 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: 20240217

Cont'd from page 1

services provided. More information at <https://sites.google.com/view/pvarc/home> And if you didn't know, it is sponsored by the Page Valley Amateur Radio Club.

A personal ask, if I may: While OVH has a table at each to give out our Tailgate Party flyers, a table full of only flyers is not as exciting as it could be. If you have some gear you'd like to sell or books and magazines you'd like to sell or give away, please consider using our tables at these Hamfests. It would certainly help draw in attendees to our tables, and you might sell some stuff. WIN – WIN. If this sounds interesting, please contact our Tailgate Party Chairman: Don/WA2SWX in advance. Don can be reached at wa2swxdm@gmail.com

Of course, the big thing is the election of OVH Officers which occurs at the regular monthly meeting each February. That's right, it's now time once again to decide who is going to sit at the front table. We have a full slate on the ballot this year. Gil / KM4OZH is on the ballot for Vice President, John, KG4NXT and Don, WA2SWX will be running again for their respective positions of Secretary and Treasurer; and I am asking for another year as your OVH club President.

Please remember that your dues need to be paid in order for you to vote in the elections and our new annual amount is \$25.00 this year. Dues can be renewed online at W4OVH.NET or using the mail-in sheet, later in this Newsletter.

Important: as already noted above the OVH's regular monthly meeting for February 2024 has been changed to Wednesday, February 21st (instead of the Tuesday). This is due to the Federal Holiday (President's Day) the needs of other higher priority users (than the OVH) to use the meeting locations at the Buckhall Fire Department venue. (We are subject to bumping and got bumped by one day again!) The regular monthly meeting will return to the third Tuesday in March (on March 19th).

The February meeting will be at the Buckhall VFD Hall, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas at 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm on WEDNESDAY, February 21st.

At the meeting, Gordon / NQ4K will give a presentation about the Virginia QSO Party. And Gil / KM4OZH, has promised to try again this year to pin Gordon down on his (Gil's) areas of concern. We look forward to that. The 2024 Virginia QSO Party will be held during the weekend of 16-17 March 2024. Saturday, 16 March, 1400 UTC – Sunday, 17 March, 0400 UTC and Sunday, 17 March, 1200 UTC – 2400 UTC.

Also, the Vienna WinterFest is upcoming early next month, Vienna Wireless Society's 48th WINTERFEST will be on Sunday, March 10th, 2024 for a traditional Hamfest. Tailgating and the Indoor Market Fair: Opens at 8 AM and closes at 2 PM local time which will be EDT. So you don't miss out, please note that local Daylight Saving Time in 2024 starts on Sunday, March 10th. So, you need to remember to "Spring Ahead" and get up and get started an hour earlier on Sunday, March 10th, if you want to be there before or when the doors first open.

Cont'd on page 4

Winterfest – The National Capital Area Ham Radio Fair will be held this year at the Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna, Virginia; more information is online at <https://viennawireless.net/wp/events/winterfest> The Talk-in: 146.520 MHz FM SIMPLEX and via Club Repeaters K4HTA @ 146.685(-) CTCSS – 110.9 Hz K4XY @ 448.375(-) MHz.

OVH's involvement with the Tri-It-Now mini triathlons would have started up again in March, but Ina Nenner, owner and organizer of Tri It Now has retired and moved away. I, for one, will miss the activities, and our "new ham" members have lost a great way to wade in to our hobby. I hope we can find a way to replace it.

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>

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

73 Ken KN4DD

Sunshine Corner

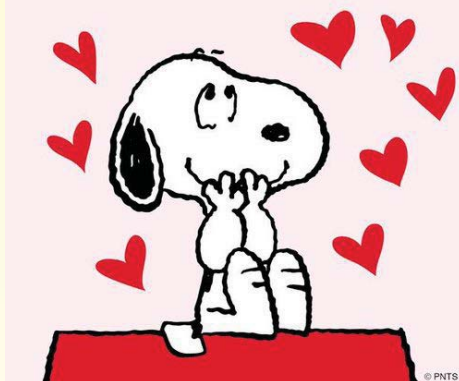
Happy Birthday wishes to these club members this February: Dick / WN7S, Harvey / WB6TTF, Jeff / WB6UIE, Art / W1CRO, Mike / KN4NDI, Tyssen / W8ZM, Scott / KN4ZMC and Gerald / KN4DWT. Enjoy your birthdays!



IMPORTANT REMINDER – February club meeting will be the Wednesday, February

21st (not on the Tuesday) due to another meeting at the firehouse on our regular night. Hope to see you there!

Happy February!



Thanks and best wishes to Wayne / N7QLK who has been our club trustee for years. Wayne has now relocated to sunny Florida; we will miss him but he has been able to check in thru the internet to our Thursday night net.

Congrats and thanks to Gil / KM4OZH, our new club Trustee. Gil has been instrumental in keeping our repeater running smoothly!

Please make sure you let us know if you move or change your call sign, so we can stay up-to-date with your information!

Tailgate and Field Day planning meetings are in full swing. The events are successful when we have a great club participation. If you can help at Tailgate, please contact Don / WA2SWX, for helping at Field Day, please contact Cat / KM4PBD.

The Elkton, Virginia Hamfest is Saturday, February 17th. John / KG4NXT, Don / WA2SWX and I are planning to attend. The OVH has have a

Cont'd on page 5

club table and we will be handing out Tailgate Flyers.

Don't forget about our Thursday night net at 8 pm, good way to keep up with current events and hear what everyone is up to!

Please send me your news, good, not so good and ham related info for this column!

73 Theresa / KG4TVM kg4tvm@hotmail.com Tel: 703-257-3566

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Informal Meeting held on Wednesday, January 17th, 2024:

OVH President, Ken / KN4DD, called the January meeting to order at 7:30 pm on January 17, 2024 in the training room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station. After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and callsigns.

The minutes of the November 21, 2023 OVH regular meeting were approved.

Gil / KM4OXH read the emailed Treasurer's report from Don / WA2SWX; it was approved.

Luther WA3FMO gave the membership report . There were two read-ins for new applicants for membership: Edward Hodapp /KQ4DPP and Richard Williams / K0ADY, both to voted upon at the next meeting. There were two applicants to be vote upon and both were voted in: Barbara Cummings / No Call yet and Chris Cummings / No Call yet.

ARES report: no report this month.

Repeater report: as emailed in by Ken / KE2N and read. OVH's Ethernet switch failed at NOVEC, impacting OVH's DStar and 220 repeaters. The switch was replaced and everything is now working again. Ken registered four more for DSTAR users.

Wayne / N7QLK had been our repeater trustee but has now retired and is moving to Florida. President Ken / KN4DD has appointed Gil / KM4OZH as replacement trustee for W4OVH.

Tailgate report. Don / WA2SWX has called planning meeting for January 24.

Field Day report. Butch / W4HJL has reserved the Nokesville Community park. We may have to pay this year but not sure how much.

Ken / KN4DD gave the web committee report. No China attacks this month but many others on our web site but our software is successfully repelling the attacks.

Sunshine report. Theresa / KG4TVM announced birthdays and other matters.

Jeff / K9VEG gave the presentation on CWops. He explained about their organization, class structure and head copy philosophy.

Gene / N4HFW won the 50/50 raffle and donated his winnings to the club. Thanks Gene.

Old Business: None; New Business: None

The meeting was then adjourned.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

Sunday, March 10, 2024.- The 48th Winterfest by the Vienna Wireless Association. More info and details at <https://viennawireless.net/wp/events/winterfest> and above in this newsletter. OVH will have a table at this event, and because it is close by in Vienna, Virginia, many OVH members usually attend.

Saturday, June 1, 2024, 8:00 am until 2:00 pm, The OVH Tailgate Party event (in lieu of the Manassas Hamfest). See, <https://w4ovh.net/event/2024-ovh-tailgate-party-in-lieu-of-hamfest> and be sure to save this date.

HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS:

Saturday / Sunday - March 16 and March 17, 2024. The Virginia QSO Party - a major local event and contest event in for stations in Virginia. Many OVH members participate and submit logs as OVH members. See the OVH members only email reflector and web site for more info. The official web site is http://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/QSOParty.htm

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 <https://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://pwcared.org> for the latest PWC ARES updates. Complete direct contact information for David KG4GIY also appears on page 2 of this Newsletter.

Slide Presentation about CWops and CW ACADEMY at the January 2024 OVH Meeting

A few of Jeff / K9VEG's slides and then some more comments about CW (Morse Code):

CWops is a CW club. Founded in 2010, our goal is to bring together Amateur Radio operators who enjoy communicating by Morse Code (CW). CWops encourages the use of CW in Amateur communications, and it supports CW activity through planned events.

CWops is international in scope, membership and management. Its focus is the use of CW, whether for contesting, DXing, or rag chewing.

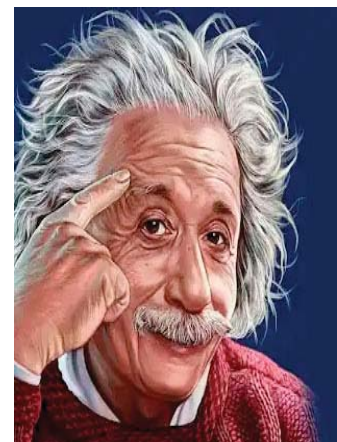
CWops offers classes for new operators through its CW Academy.

CWops holds a High Speed CWT contest every Wednesday at 1300 – 1400z and 1900 – 2000z, and every Thursday at 0300 – 0400z and 0700 – 0800z.

We also have a "giving back" program, where CWops members volunteer to get on the air and look for opportunities to QSO at a moderate speed (15-20 wpm). This is open to everyone.

How can I learn CW through the CW academy?

- You don't have to be an Einstein to learn CW.
- You only need a few tools and the will to learn.
- Learning CW can be done at any age.
- Class sizes are fairly small, 3-6 students usually.
- Classes are FREE!



Cont'd on page 7

Students are grouped into one of four levels:

- **Beginner** – Limited or no prior experience with Morse Code
 - **Class Objectives:**
 - Learn Morse Code characters (letters, numbers, and some punctuation)
 - Learn to head copy and send Morse Code
 - Learn on-air protocols of a basic QSO
 - Use skills for on-air basic QSOs
 - Learn Morse Code to 6 wpm plus
- **Fundamental** – Familiarity with Morse Code characters. Operating at 6 wpm plus and desire to increase proficiency
 - **Class Objectives:**
 - Increase head copy and send skills using Instant Character Recognition
 - Increase skills for on-air conversational QSOs
 - Introduction to contesting skills
 - Learn Morse Code to 10 wpm plus
- **Intermediate** – Operating 10 plus wpm and desire to increase proficiency for contests, DX, and ragchews
 - **Class Objectives:**
 - Increase copy and send skills by use of contesting tools
 - Increase head copy skills
 - Recognize words as sounds
 - Increase on-air experience with various types of QSOs
 - Learn Morse Code to 20 wpm plus
- **Advanced** – Operating 20 plus wpm and desire to increase proficiency for higher-speed on-air activity
 - **Class Objectives:**
 - Increase head copy and send skills for higher-speed on-air activity
 - Increase on-air experience with various types of higher-speed QSOs
 - Increase contesting skills to 30 wpm plus
 - Recognize phrases as sounds
 - Learn to copy from behind
 - Increase overall skills to become considered for CWops membership

Editor comment:
I was not at the January 2024 OVH meeting and, therefore, did not see Jeff's slide presentation (only fragments of those slides are shown here). Nevertheless, I am certain Jeff's presentation might well have motivated some of the "I wish I knew CW" hams of today who were at that meeting to take steps to learn Morse Code to a practical proficiency level. All slides are on the Members-Only web page at W4OVH.net.

You will need:

- A fairly high speed internet connection (at least 5 Mbs).
- A computer to get on a video call with.
- A paddle key and a device to produce sound with it (Side tone from a rig, a Morserino, or some other side tone generator).
- Time- Like any skill, practice is essential. Classes meet twice a week for 8 weeks. Practice is essential, so you need to carve out 30-60 minutes a day.
- Perseverance- The jumbo size can.
- Enroll in the appropriate CW Academy class.

- Don't listen to slow code. Listen to code with a character speed of at least 20 WPM or faster. Turn the actual speed (Farnsworth) down as far as you like, but listen to the individual characters at a high speed. This will teach you to identify the character by its sound, not by counting dits and dahs.
- If you have a sheet of paper that depicts the code as dots and dashes corresponding to letters, shred it.
- Practice sending as much as you practice copy skills.
- It's not 1941. There is a plethora of software to help you. Wordlist trainer and Morse code ninja are two good ones as well as LCWO.net. These are browser based tools.
- Don't write it down. Head copy is way harder, but you won't develop the crutch of paper and pencil. In the long run, you will be a much better operator if you embrace head copy.
- Take a class. Use the power of a study group. You will get more out of it than you can possibly get by self study alone.

Some further Editor comments: I learned Morse Code many years ago initially to pass the then required 5 word per minute code test for a Novice ham license by listening to a "teach yourself" Morse Code record on an audio record player and "on the air" Morse code traffic, including ARRL code practice transmissions, using an HF and LF radio receiver. Not long before that I had learned to touch type on a typewriter in junior high school; once getting over the initial steep learning curve for copying Morse code (just like initially learning to touch type), I recognized that touch typing and copying Morse code were quite similar and neither required any "special talents or skills" to learn: speed and proficiency could and would increase rapidly simply with practice and actual use. **NO SPECIAL SKILLS REQUIRED!**

Because CW code tests for all ham radio licenses were eliminated in the 1990's, most new ham radio operators now come into ham radio hobby without having learned any Morse code. Many new hams express a desire to learn CW after observing the efficiency of CW operations during a club Field Day event, for example, but are nevertheless deterred by mistaken beliefs that special skills and/or massive amounts to time are required to learn CW to a level of practical proficiency. Jeff / K9VEG's presentation shows that a simple, structured way now exists to learn CW with help from others who are willing to devote time to teach how to learn it. I would encourage everyone to study Jeff's slides on the Member-Only web page at W4OVH.NET and take advantage of the approaches to learning that Jeff suggests.

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: _____ CALL SIGN: _____
ADDRESS: _____ 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.

NAME AND CALL OF FAMILY MEMBERS: AMOUNT ENCLOSING: _____
Name: _____ Call: _____
Name: _____ Call: _____

Return to: **Treasurer, OVH**
P.O. Box 4293
Manassas, VA 20108-0728