

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

April 2024

Upcoming Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, April 16, 2024

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to all.

We start this month's letter off with the VAQP which took place on March 16th and 17th – almost a month ago. I hope everyone remembered to list the OVH as his or her club on the logs submitted to the VAQP sponsors. If you haven't yet submitted your VAQP logs, you have until April 15th, 2024.

A \$1.00 donation to help defray the costs of printing and mailing is encouraged. Submit your VAQP log entries by online portal or mail to: The VA QSO Party, Call Box 599, Sterling, VA 20167 or e-mail them to: vqp@verizon.net. If you have problems, please send an email to vqp@arrl.net.

Speaking of April 15th, I sure all remember again that Tax Day will be next Monday, April 15, 2024. No extra time to file this year without a penalty unless you file (mail) in to IRS and VaDofT automatic extension of time request forms IRS F4868 and Va F760IP. Make sure your rich Uncle Sam and VaDofT receives your timely and proper documentation!

At our last OVH monthly meeting on March 19th, David / KD4DEE provided the presentation, a talk about "CERT - Community Emergency Reaction Team". It was both enlightening and well received. Thank you, David.

It also seems that we at the OVH have our own internal "Emergency Reaction Team." In March, the OVH had its own emergency when we received a phone call from NOVEC stating that there were "several loose cables dangling from our antennas." Our Emergency Responders this time were: Byron / AK4XR; Gil / KM4OZH and John / KG4NXT, each of which immediately went to the NOVEC site. With the help of a tone generator provided by Byron, that team quickly determined that the cables identified by NOVEC were indeed those of OVH, but fortunately, were not cables in use. The OVH team



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

FIELD DAY 2024 - CHAIRWOMAN

Cat otohime.1978@gmail.com	KM4PBD	571-213-2179
--	--------	--------------

CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

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

VE COORDINATOR

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

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

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

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 END PARTY - CHAIRPERSON

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

PROGRAMS

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

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

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
Gil	KM4OZH	369-0431

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 © 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

recovered those cables from the shack, a small struggle in its own right. We were told by NOVEC that the cables at the top of the structure would be recovered by NOVEC at no cost to us – saving OVH thousands of dollars in tower climber fees. Thank you NOVEC, and a big thank you to our internal CERT team – Byron, Gil & John in this instance.

With just quarter of April done, on April 8th the big event was “The Eclipse.” While the eclipse was both entertaining and educational for adults and children alike, Amateur Radio was there in a myriad of ways. Our operators participated in scientific experiments and helped local communities deal with the crush of one-time visitors. We were prepared to assist with overloaded infrastructure such as highways and phone services.

According to the ARRL web site:

“... EmComm, Emergency communications groups, including those affiliated with the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®), will be active in the areas near totality. National Weather Service (NWS) offices are closely watching weather patterns in and around the eclipse path for any severe weather that could impact watchers and increase traffic.

.... ARRL partnered with Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI), a NASA citizen science project. NASA, in conjunction with the Super Dual Auroral Radar Network (SuperDARN), a collection of radars located at sites around the world, bounced radio waves off of the ionosphere and analyzed the returning signals. Their data will reveal changes in the ionosphere's density, temperature, and location”

Very impressive, if you ask me.

Saturday, April 13th will have lots going on that one day. First is Thawfest II at Ruckersville, Virginia – OVH has a table. If you can, you could head down there and devote some time supporting OVH's table. Details: Hamfest at Ruckersville, Virginia 22973, Admission \$10, Ruckersville Elementary School, 105 Progress Place, Ruckersville, VA 22968, talk-in 145.470 tone 151.4 negative offset. Web site: <https://thawfest.net>

Also, our monthly breakfast returns this Saturday, April 13th at 8:00 AM. Normally a favorite of mine, but I will not be attending this month, as I will be at our VE Session. We do get together every Saturday before our monthly meetings at a table or two in the back of Yorkshire Restaurant for some good food and good conversation. Yorkshire Restaurant, 7537 Centreville Rd.,

Lastly on April 13th, we also have scheduled OVH's own VE Session for April 13th, 2024. This VEC Session will be at: Lord of Life Lutheran Church, CLIFTON CAMPUS, 13421 Twin Lakes Dr., Clifton, VA 20124.

Our next regular OVH monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, April 16th at 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM EDT at the Buckhall VFD Hall, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas. Allen Graves / AG4VA is schedule to give a presentation / talk about “SOTA - Summits on the Air.”

The Virginia QSO Party Award Presentations with Gordon Miller / NQ4K, is expected to take place at our upcoming Manassas Tailgate Party (this year again in lieu of a Hamfest). More details when they become available.

Cont'd from page 3

Speaking of our Manassas Hamfest, we are replacing it with the Manassas Tailgate Party once again for 2024. The Tailgate Party will be held on Saturday, June 1st, 2024. Planning is well underway, as is 2024 Field Day planning. Both committees could use some extra help. If you have the time and inclination, we'd love to see you there.

Looking slightly further into future, the 7th Annual SOWW Warrior Bike Ride will be happening again on September 7th, 2024 this year; again, numerous volunteers will be needed for this very large event. If you are able to help, please save the date. Additional information on the event and where to sign up will be passed along when I get it.

Also, a reminder to check in to the OVH's Thursday night VHF/UHF repeater net at 8:00 PM. The details for that are on the OVH's web site: <https://w4ovh.net>

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

73 Ken KN4DD



Sunshine Corner

Happy Birthday wishes to the following OVH club members this April: Harry / KC9TXL, Harry / KN4IJY, Brian / KK4CBS, Gene / KN4JMB, Gil / KM4OZH, Paul / N4PD, Joe / KI4OHR, Lillian / KK4MXY, David / KI4AZX, Paul / W4ZB, David / KD4DEE, Mark / KN4OGC and Paul / KO4UOO. Each of you enjoy your day!



Condolences to Greg / KM4CCG, his mom passed away in March.

Thank you very much to Gil / KM4OZH for letting us park our club trailer at his home. The City Yard let us know that we needed to move the trailer and Gil stepped up! Thanks to James / KQ4CAX for transporting the trailer to Gil's, John / KG4NXT and Al / KB4BHB for providing support the day of the move.

Eclipse – I know Bill / AF4LL was out of state taking in the eclipse and circulated an image on the OVH's member email reflector, anybody else have an interesting experience that day?

Saturday, April 13th is THAWFEST in Ruckersville, VA. John / KG4NXT and I will be holding down an OVH club table at this event. We have some equipment to sell and we will be promoting our Tailgate event for June 1st. In addition, Jeff / K9VEG is coming by to see us, so if you are in the area or want to take a nice ride come on by!

The Virginia QSO Party was on April 10th, - there is still time to get your log submitted by April 15th if you haven't done so. Please make sure to list the OVH as your club on the log, looking forward to seeing the results and the award ceremony will take place at the OVH tailgate event.

We have several club members that have experienced some medical issues lately, some in the hospital and others at home. They prefer not to have it announced so

Cont'd on page 5

please keep a good thought for everyone!

Tremendous thank you to those that have already volunteered to help at the Tailgate event! We still need more volunteers for parking, general admission, tailgate and traffic control. If you can spare an hour or two, please let us know. I can be reached at 703-257-3566 or email kg4tvm@hotmail.com . This is a big event for our club and we really need quite a few helpers to pull it together on the day of the event.

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.

Don't forget about our Thursday night net at 8:00 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 Tuesday, March 19, 2024:

OVH President Ken / KN4DD called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on March 19, 2024 in the training room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station. After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and callsigns.

David / KD4DEE gave a presentation on the Manassas CERT. The slides including contact info will be posted on the web. Greg / KM4CCG is the contact for Manassas Park CERT.

The minutes of the February 22, 2024 meeting were approved.

John / KG4NXT read the Treasurer's report from Don WA2SWX and it was approved.

Gil / KM4OZH gave the membership report provided by Luther / WA3FMO. There was one vote-in and he was voted in as a new OVH member: Jonathan Bradley / KQ4NPB/

ARES report. No report this month.

Gil / KM4OZH read the Repeater report provided by Ken / KE2N. All repeaters are working fine. Two new DSTAR users were registered. There was a discussion of the 2.4 gigahertz link between Mont Pone and NOVEC.

Ken / KN4DD gave the training report. There will be a VE session April 13 at Clifton.

John / KG4NXT gave the Tailgate report. There will be a planning meeting next week. Don / WA2SWX, Theresa / KG4TVM and John / KG4NXT went to the Vienna Winterfest Hamfest to distribute Flyers. Bob / K4HJF has donated a kenwood ts-950s digital radio to the club and it is for sale on our Hamfest tables.

John / KG4NXT gave the Field Day report. There will be a planning meeting next week. The educational activity will be a balloon launch with a WSPR radio payload. Bruce / KN4GDX had pictures of a prototype of the radio payload and the pictures were passed around. Byron / AK4XR will provide a regulator. Also, Prince Willam Supervisor Yesli Vega has accepted our

Cont'd on page 6

invitation to Field day.

Ken / KN4DD gave the web committee report. Attacks from China are down. Ken blacklisted Bangladesh but they still did 23 thousand attempted attacks. Our software is successfully repelling the attacks.

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

Daniela / KQ4IKQ won the 50/50 raffle and donated her winnings to the club. This is the third time she has won the 50/50 raffle.

Old Business: Theresa mentioned that the Yorkshire Restaurant has been sold. Although we might still be able to have our Holiday party there, she asked members to send her info on possible alternate venues.

New Business: None

The meeting was then adjourned.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

Saturday, April 13, 2024 - Thawfest II at Ruckersville, Virginia – where OVH will have a table. Full details at <https://thawfest.net>

Friday - Sunday, May 17 -19, 2024. Dayton Hamvention at the Green County Fairground in Ohio. This is a long playing event and biggest hamfest in North America; it is worth attending at least time during your ham career. Details at hamvention.org.

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.

LOCAL VEC SESSION:

Saturday, April 13, 2024 - VE Session all license levels at the: Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Clifton Campus, 13421 Twin Lakes Dr., Clifton, VA 20124, 8 am to Noon.

HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS:

Thursday, May 16, 2024. Contest University program in Dayton, Ohio. This full day event, just before the Dayton Hamvention which is close by, provides a long day of excellent schooling for hams particularly interested in building or using a high performance ham radio station on the HF banks and contesting. The programs presented are always excellent and are taught by an assortment of the most knowledgeable ham operators, contesters, DXers in the world. Full info available at CONTESTUNIVERSITY.COM where links are provided for review of some material from past years.

Saturday / Sunday - June 22 and June 23, 2024 - ARRL and OVH Field Day. This is a major annual Hamradio event in North America (USA and Canada) each year. The OVH event will be at the Nokesville Community Park again this year, part a family social event for OVH members and guests and part a ham radio operating event during which radio contacts are made with other ham radio Field Day stations all over North America and others throughout the world. Save the date. .

Cont'd on page 7

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. Another very good web site for info is NG3K.com. If you have the radio contesting bug or just want to find out how much is going on - a lot -, 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.

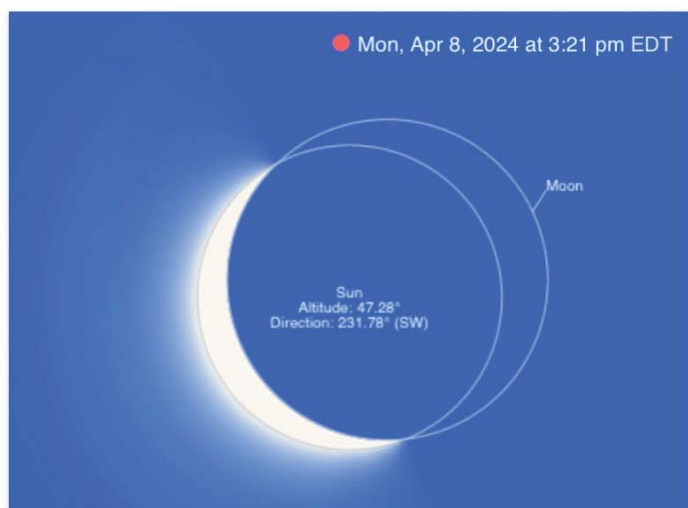


OVH's Trailer Forced to Move!

The OVH trailer has enjoyed a number of years of "free" parking in the Manassas City Utility Yard, but we recently were advised that trailer had to be moved elsewhere quickly because the City was clearing out all non-city property to make room to stage large transformers needed during data center construction.

Thankfully, Gil / KM4OZH quickly offered to take the trailer in at his residence for now. On April 5th, James / KQ4CAX with his truck for hauling, Al / KB4BHB and John / KG4NXT moved the trailer to Gil's place. Backing it in to Gils place was quite a chore but it got done. The trailer is now parked at Gil's home. See pix.

April 8, 2024 — Total Solar Eclipse — Manassas



Above: predicted local Eclipse maximum on 4/8/2024 at Manassas. To the right, an image of the Eclipse taken at that same time [ISO 16, 29mm, f 1.8 1/1100 sec] on an iPad Pro through high thin clouds at nearby Catharpin, Virginia - no filters or special camera equipment used.

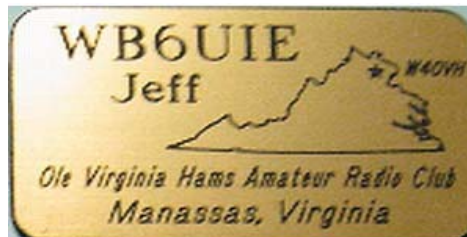


Club Polos and Nametags

Jeff Fuller
WB6UIE

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:

<https://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.)