

The OVH ARC Newsletter
"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS" AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108
Repeaters -- W4OVH -- 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+
OVH Nodes -- 145.030 Port 2: 223.660 (SysOp Use Only) Port 3: 223.540 MHz
BBS--BBSNVA/N4WJN (SYSOP--BILL)
<http://www.qsl.net/olevahams>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES SEPTEMBER 1999

**Next meeting: 20 September 1999
Committee Chairperson's!!!! Need your input for the
Newsletter!!!
(Editor)**

Message From the President

Greetings OVH;

As fall weather gets underway, perhaps a "friendly" tropical system will provide us (and the entire East Coast) with much-needed precipitation. A ham's healthy diet: river ham-yakking.

All enjoyed the surprise outdoor birthday party **Steve/N4OGR** threw for **Harry/W4PVA** (who turned **Octogenarian**) at our Aug meeting. Great to see Harry's xyl **Vi** there, as well as a good **OVH** turnout. Tnx to **Jeff/KV4AP** and **yl Susan** for transporting the BDay couple.

Congratulations are in order for **Ruth/KU4WH** for obtaining her extra class!

We wish a speedy recovery to **Bob/KF4FJC** and hope he enjoys his member-signed musical card and tape.

The Ham technician classes scheduled for Tues. eves at **SJHS**, **HAVE BEEN CANCELLED**, and will resume in Spring of 2000.

Hoping to see all **OVHers** at the Sep 20th meeting. Our very own **Art/KW4AW**, Trustee and retiree, will discuss and demonstrate **Directional Finding** techniques. Come out to see how hams handle a fox hunt, etc.

Upcoming fall activities: **Nokesville Fun Run and Bike Tour** on Sat, Sep 25. Contact **Erv/KT4DS** if you can help with comms for this **PWC** park event. **JOTA(Scouts) Jamboree On The Air** coming up Sat, Oct 16. See **John/N4YOB** for details.

73 and here to serve YOU, See you Sep 20!

Cathy/AE4UM ☺

**"OLE VIRGINIA HAMS"
Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, VA. 20108**

OFFICERS

President: Cathy Whalen	AE4UM	335-1029
Vice Pres: Steve Frick	N4OGR	361-0008
Secretary: Lloyd DeLapp	N4OOM	791-4192
Treasurer: Bill South	N4WJN	448-2724

DIRECTORS

Don (Butch) Blasdell	W4HJL	369-2877
Art Whittum	KW4AW	791-4330
John Fritsch	N4YOB	791-5995

WEEKLY NETS

Thursdays - 8:00 PM	KV4AP (Jeff)	361-5865
Sundays - 8:00 PM	KF4FJD (Lisa)	330-1473

HAMFEST 2000

Jack	N4YIC	335-9139
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FIELD DAY 1999

Bill	N4WJN	590-9562
Wes	N5RTY	368-8544

CLUB ROSTER

Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877
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EDUCATION

Charlie	WA4YGI	361-3091
Bill	K4WRG	754-7913

CLUB EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Brian	KE4NFK	257-9545
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ARES AREA EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Erv	K14LJS	355-1029
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F.A.R. REP.

Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234
Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877

FINANCE

Mike	WV3H	753-9346
Pete	KB4RME	369-2436
Mary Lu	KB4EFP	369-2877
Bill	N4WJN	590-9562

GENERATORS

Tommy	KA4AFU	369-2741
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HISTORIAN

T B D

HOME PAGE

Bill	N4WJN	590-9562
Blaine	KB4RKL	369-2877

J.O.T.A. (Scouts)

John	N4YOB	791-5995
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

TBD

NEWSLETTER

Steve	KB4OF	368-6901
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NEWSLINE

Jeff	KV4AP	3615865
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PACKET

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4WJN	590-9562

PICNIC

Ellie	KF4NBO	361-8059
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PROGRAM'S

TBD

Q' MASTER

Jim	N3ODZ	361-2543
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Art	KW4AW	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Milt	N4SN	369-7265
Mike	WV3H	753-9346
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844

REPEATER TRUSTEE

Art	KW4AW	791-4330
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jack	N4YIC	335-9139
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SUNSHINE

Jan	KE4TMW	257-0897
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Art	KW4AW	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4WJN	590-9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Mike	WV3H	753-9346
Jimmy	WA2QEJ	

The OVH Times is the official publication of the "Ole Virginia Hams" ARC, a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Amateur Radio. The OVH ARC meets at 8:00 PM every third Monday of the month at the NOVEC Tech Center in Gainesville. Prospective members are invited.

Local information can always be obtained, at any time, through the usage of the OVH repeaters (146.97- & 224.660- Mhz). All are welcome.

Permission is hereby granted for the reprinting of articles and quotations in this letter, provided full credit is given to the OVH ARC, and the author of the article. Contribution of printed articles by both members and non-members is encouraged. The deadline for submissions is the 5th of each month. Submissions should be forwarded to OVH TIMES EDITOR: Steve Meade KB4OF, PO Box 1418, Manassas, VA 20108-1418, or to sameade@erols.com

Letters to the Editor and Classified Ads are accepted and welcome. Approx. Circulation - 170

Sunshine Corner

Happy news from the **Massie** household -- a **new harmonic!** **Christopher Alan** arrived Wednesday, August 18, 1999. He weighed **8 pounds 2 ounces**, and was **21 inches** long. He's a real cutie! **Alan/KD4KBX**, **Zanka** and **Larissa** are all happy, but tired!

Please keep **Bob/KF4FJC** and **Dick/WD4AZG**, and their families, in your good thoughts and prayers, as both have been ill for some time.

Happy OVH birthdays to: **Mary Lu/KB4EFP**, who always keeps the club together; **James/W4HJH**; and **Gus/N4MLE**.

Congratulations to **Ruth/KU4WH**, who has upgraded to Extra! **You go, girl!**

73 de **Jan/KE4TMW**

PUBLIC SERVICE

I doubled my **ARRL** message count for 1999 during a **recent test** (9/1/99). That is to say, I sent two messages to **Erv** at the **Prince William County Emergency Operations Center** (actually, he wrote them and sent them to me via **packet** on Tuesday. I sent them back on Wednesday via **FM-voice** on a pre-arranged schedule). This is a long way around to commenting about the availability of **ARRL** publications and information.

Before the test exercise, I visited the **ARRL web site** (as I do from time to time) and downloaded a copy of the **ARES Field Resources Manual** and the **Public Service Communications Manual**. They contain some "**good scoop**" for anyone participating in, or interested in participating in, public service events. So if you are curious about things like "**CHECK 24**", "**HXC**" and "**ARL SEVENTEEN**", or wonder why there are two organizations (**ARES/RACES**) drop by the **ARRL** site and take a **FREE** read. Other manuals and instructional material are available too - and they don't take up much space on a hard drive! All the public service events supported by the **OVHARC** provide a great opportunity for everyone to practice and sharpen communication skills - the books and manuals give a good foundation for "**what, why and how**". Practice these and be ready for "**who and when**".
(**Art/KW4AW**)

VIRGINIA BEACH HAMFEST!

This great annual Hamfest is just around the corner! It's on **Saturday and Sunday, the 18th and 19th of September!** You don't want to miss this one, with all the fine dealers, exhibitors, and tail-gaters.

Also, there will be excellent forums, and other special activities, such as the Saturday evening banquet, movies for the kids during the show, and the "**Ladies Activity Room**". Of particular interest will be the presence and program participation of such notables as **ARRL's Rick Palm**, **FCC's Riley Hollingsworth**, and **AMSAT's Barry Baines**.

Amateur Radio Examinations will be given from **3-5 PM on Saturday**, pre-registration required by Thursday Noon to **W4RTZ** ((757) 898-8031) or **KF4OW**, (email: kf4ow@amsat.org)

Your families will surely want to accompany you to Virginia Beach. The area's Neptune Festival & Air Show will be that weekend, and the Virginia Air and Space Center, with its Ham Radio Exhibit and "world record"

Satellite Station is just a place you won't want to miss. For that weekend, they are offering a two-for-one Admission for Hams.

Looking forward to seeing you all next month at the Virginia Beach Hamfest! See the latest information on our web site: www.vahamfest.com

OVHARC REPEATER NEWS Part 1

Just to give everyone an update on repeater happenings. All three repeaters are on line at this time (07 August 1999). We have linked the 220 MHz and 440 MHz repeaters for testing and will unlink them in the near future. Most of the time we will be running each repeater separately. Thursdays and Sundays, we'll link them all together for the nets.

The two meter repeater has CTCSS tone access capability which is activated when needed. The access tone is 100.0 Hertz. The two other repeaters will be equipped with CTCSS tone access and all repeaters will have CTCSS tone transmit capability installed before the year is out (unless the trustee gets a job before then).

We do NOT have a Digital Voice recorder (DVR) or "voice mailbox" attached to the new controller. A DVR is on the "wish-list". So far, you can use emergency autopatch, rapid-dial autopatch and plain old autopatch. Time of Day (A10), time and temperature (*80) and DTMF tone pad test (*5 plus keys to test) are also available to all members.

We have received the crystal modules for the new GE MASTR II 440 Repeater and can now proceed with repair and tune up for that unit. When finished, it will replace the little Kenwood repeater we are using now. Expect to see a little more range when that happens, since we'll be doubling our power output.

Say "Thanks" to Butch - W4HJL and Mike - WV3H for their help over the last few months. It was critical to keeping things on air in several instances. Also a big "Thanks" to Steve - N4OGR for his contributions in providing some much needed cooling and air handling at the site.

We still have a few gremlins lurking about and we will be tracking them down and stomping on them as time goes on.

If you have any questions or comments about the OVH repeaters, squeak and be greased at kw4aw@ieee.org.

Art - KW4AW

UPCOMING HAMFESTS

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html>

"Borrowed from the August FARA Toroid"

September 18-19: Virginia State Convention,
Virginia Beach, VA
Art Thiemens, AA4AT
(757-484-2857) 2836 Greenwood Rd.,
Chesapeake, VA 23321
E-mail: thiemens@pinn.net

E-mail: Al_Brown@ix.netcom.com
E-mail: amateur_radio@hotmail.com
<http://www.amateurradio-far.org>

September 26: Foundation for Amateur Radio,
Bowie, MD -
Al Brown, KZ3AB 301-490-3188
8645 Tower Blvd., Laurel, MD 20723

October 24: Carroll County ARC,
Westminster, MD -
Steve Beckman, N3SB 410-876-1482
2145 Bethel Rd., Finksburg, MD 21084
E-mail: k3pzn@qis.net
<http://www.qis.net/k3pz>

OVHARC REPEATER NEWS Part 2

The repeaters have been relatively trouble-free over the last month.

The **442.200** Repeater went off-line for a day in August - gremlins struck again. A number of voltage measurements were taken before disturbing the equipment or resetting it. Then, when nothing could be identified as a cause, the equipment was "power cycled" and it returned to normal operation (sound familiar? Like re-booting Windoze). We will continue to chase this down.

An interfering signal vaguely reminiscent of the **152.240/158.100** pager **intermodulation** problem of 1996 - 1997 reappeared on **146.370** on Friday, 27 August 1999. Naturally, that's the input frequency for our 2-meter repeater. We activated the **100 Hz** tone access to minimize the aggravation. If you can't access 146.370/146.970 MHz, check to see if you have **PL** activated on your rig. Also, if you are in the vicinity of the old **Manassas Bakery** on Route 28 and the interference is present, see if you can copy the signal on 146.370 and drop a line to **Art, KW4AW** (kw4aw@n4wjn.nova.va.usa.noam or kw4aw@ieee.org) with your findings or comments.

The **223.060/224.660** MHz Repeater seems to be behaving itself.

Both the **RLC-3 Controller** and the telephone modem have been placed on an **uninterruptible power supply** as temporary measure to coast through minor power outages. A set of regulator circuits is being built to connect them to the main battery back-up unit at the site. As soon as we finish this little task we plan to:

- (1) Expedite development and installation of circuitry for the tone-receive and tone-transmit capability in each repeater.
- (2) Complete refurbishment and checkout of the **GE MASTR II UHF** Repeater to be installed for **447.200/442.200** MHz.

Our **NOVEC** hosts are reviewing the site wiring and acting to ensure we have access to the emergency generator near the **Repeater snack**. This is to enable our full participation and support in **emergency** activities within Prince William County and Northern Virginia.

We have not experienced any new (unidentified) interference nor have we been identified as an interference source, even though a substantial cellular radiotelephone installation has been completed recently just below our antennas. **Within reason, good installations CAN co-exist**. Thank goodness, it wasn't a pager installation though.

(Art/KW4AW)

OVH WEB SITE

Check the **OVH WEB** site for the **July Meeting minutes**, at <http://www.qsl.net/olevahams/>. They are on the "OVH Meetings" link frame on the left. Also check the **BBSNVA** on packet.

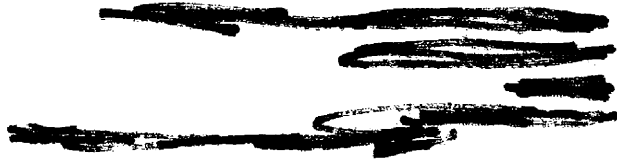
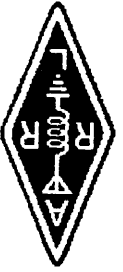
Also, if there is any new and/or updated information that should be added on the main page's "Announcements" area, let me know...things like licensing classes, bike events, ???

I have added more **Field Day pictures** (thanks to **Wes/N5RTY**) and also the club's final results for Field Day (also thanks to Wes) to the OVH WEB site. Also, a permanent OVH **Hamfest link** has been added, per Jack's request, with **Manassas 2000** information already in there.

As a note, the various forms that are the OVH WEB site do not work properly with most newer versions of popular browsers (I.E and Netscape versions 4.x and above, AOL). If you need to submit information about e-mail address updates or equipment for sale, simply include the information asked for into the body of an e-mail addressed to olevahams@qsl.net. When I get more time, I will modify the forms so they will function properly.

Also I have received some **feedback** on what links members would like to see on the OVH WEB site. If you have any ham-related WEB pages that you think others will find interesting, include those links in an e-mail. I'll try to incorporate them on a new "**Interesting Links**" page. All for now!

73, de **Bill N4WJN**



FIRST CLASS MAIL



Ole Virginia Hams, A.R.C., Inc.
Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, VA 20108

MEETING: SEPTEMBER 20TH
8:00 PM
NORTHERN VIRGINIA ELECTRIC COOP
Gainesville Technical Center
5399 Wellington Road
Gainesville, Virginia

“Directional Finding Techniques”
Presented by:
ART / KW4AW
(OVH Repeater Trustee)