

The OVH ARC Newsletter
OLE VIRGINIA HAMS' AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1255, Manassas, Va. 20108
OVH FM Repeaters - 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+ & 443.500+
OVH D-STAR Repeaters - W4OVH - 146.865- & 442.5125+
Web Site at <http://w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

July 2012

Next Meeting: Monday, July 16, 2012

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings to all. Most of you have already heard, but I am very sad to report that the OVH family has suffered a great loss. Mary Lu Blasdell / KB4EFP passed away on July 3, 2012.

From my own interactions with Mary Lu, it was clear that she was an incredibly capable and driven woman. When I first became a member of OVH some years ago, Mary Lu was there with answers to most procedural and club business questions. I cannot remember a time that Mary Lu was not able or willing to help, including even with most recently concluded Manassas Hamfest. She served in officer and other support positions with the OVH for more than 30 years.

There are so many stories I could share, but the most memorable was the year Butch / W4HJL, her husband, had his second heart attack. Because of his resulting medical issues, Butch was unable to make his annual trip to the Dayton Hamvention that year, but during the OVH Hamfest just a few weeks later, I saw Mary Lu at Butch's side helping him walk to the main building at the Fairgrounds. The scene of petite Mary Lu supporting Butch was one that I will never forget. That is that way she was, always supportive. Even during her long bout with Parkinsons, Mary Lu remained an active, interested and supportive OVH member. She will be sorely missed by everyone.

At the upcoming regular OVH meeting, we expect to receive the final results of the June OVH Manassas Hamfest, and to continue our critique and discussion about improvements which may be made for the 2013 Manassas Hamfest. During the second part of the meeting, we will review the recent ARRL / OVH Field Day and its results, which was very successful thanks to the organizational skills of Randy / WB7RAV and good participation by club members.

I hope to see you all at the upcoming OVH meeting, Monday July 16th, 7:30-PM.

73 George K4GVT



Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 1255
Manassas, Virginia 20108

OFFICERS

President: George Tarnovsky	K4GVT	791-5956
Vice Pres: Wayne Kline	AG4ZZ	791-2100
Secretary: Theresa Heartney	KG4TVM	257-3556
Treasurer: Gary Gilham	WG4ARC	932-1118

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

Thurs - 8:00 PM Local Time	JOHN/KG4NXT	257-3566
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HAMFEST 2012

Bruce	AB8CI	361-8873
Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490

FIELD DAY 2012

Randy	WB7RAV	393-1494
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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

David Meola	KI4AZX	393-6681
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ARES - EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

David Lane	KG4GIY	703-628-3868
	email: KG4GIY@ARRL.NET	
Prince William County ARES website	http://pwcares.org	

FINANCE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Ruth	KU4WH	331-1234
Gary	WG4ARC	932-1118

GENERATORS

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Al	KB4BHB	368-4794

HISTORIAN

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
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WEBMASTER — W4OVH.NET

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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EMAIL REFLECTOR — w4ovh@googlegroups.com

David Lane	KG4GIY	628-3868
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JOTA

Scott.	KB8NUM	365-2642
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LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
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MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Terry	KC4DV	571-292-1490
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NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
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NEWSLINE FOR THE WEEKLY NET

John H.	KG4NXT	257-3566
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PACKET

Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
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PROGRAMS

TBA

WINTER FIELD DAY 2011

Joe	KI4OHR	369-2639
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QUARTERMASTER

Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
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REPEATER CONTROLLERS

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Steve	N4OGR	361-0008
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
George	K4GVT	791-5956
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Russ	WB4HHN	368-6435
David	KG4GIY	628-3868

W4OVH / W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Keith	KM4AA	909-1512
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SCHOLARSHIP

Jim	W4JTP	392-0150
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SUNSHINE

Theresa (Acting)	KG4TVM	257-3556
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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

George	K4GVT	791-5956
Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
Alan	KD4KBX	330-8844
Bill	N4SV	590-9562
Butch	W4HJL	369-2877
Karl	W4KRL	802-1527
David	KG4GIY	628-3868
Bob	K4HJF	335-1939
Keith	KM4AA	909-1512

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 © 2012 by the Ole Virginia Hams.

The OVH ARC regular monthly meeting is at 7:30 p.m. every third Monday each month at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House at 9930 Liberia Avenue, Manassas, Virginia. Members, prospective members and other interested persons are invited to attend. Local information can also be obtained through the OVH's FM repeaters on 146.970-, 224.660-, 442.200+ and 443.500+ MHz or D-Star repeaters on 146.865- and 442.5125+ 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 on 80 meters (3710 KHz) LSB each Sunday night at 7:00 p.m. (8:00 pm in Summer) or through the OVH's web site at <http://w4ovh.net>

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Sunshine Corner:

Happy Birthday wishes this month to Steve / KB4OF, George / K4GVT, Michael KC4ZNO, Jake / KI4SPX, Brenda / WD4RKH, Kenneth / KB4BWM and Neil / KD7UHR.

The OVH had a very successful Field Day event on June 23 - 24th, thanks to Randy / WB7RAV who coordinated the event, and to all others who assisted and participated. More information about the just completed Field Day later in this Newsletter.

The OVH is very sad to report the recent death of Mary Lu / KB4EFP, who finally succumbed to Parkinson's Disease. Mary Lu was a long time ham radio and OVH supporter and officer and we all will miss her very much. Our condolences to her husband, Butch / W4HJL, one of the OVH's directors. More about Mary Lu later in this newsletter.

The Sunshine Corner column is very short again this month; a replacement is needed for me and I will assist with the transition.

Until someone steps forward as a replacement, please continue to send your news / comments to kg4tvm@hotmail.com or by telephone to 703-257-3566.

73 Theresa KG4TVM

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting June 18, 2012:

George / K4GVT called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Meeting was held at the Prince William County Red Cross Chapter House in Manassas, Virginia.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs. There were 20 OVH members and 1 guest.

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes from the May meeting were approved as read

Treasurer's Report - Gary / WG4ARC was not available, George K4GVT reported the income from hamfest, the amount was not final.

Membership - Theresa / KG4TVM read in Robert / KJ4EOR and John / KK4GWU as new member applicants.

Repeaters - Keith / KM4AA reported that the roof at the shed was replaced; thanked everyone who assisted with that work.

Hamfest - George / K4GVT reported that we need a new chairperson for next year, and expressed hope that Terry / KC4DV who was co-chair with Bruce / AB8CI for this year's hamfest would be willing and able to take that position. Terry is not at the meeting tonight; discussion followed; George thanked everyone for their help and participation the hamfest this year. There will be further discussion about the hamfest, including money issues and the final money results at the next meeting.

Scholarship - Theresa / KG4TVM read a thank you card from this year's OVH Scholarship winner, Luke Henry.

Theresa / KG4TVM gave everyone in attendance a raffle ticket and pulled tickets for hats from Yaseu and a T-shirt from Hip Ham Shirts.

Continued on page 4

Field Day – Randy / WB7RAV gave a rundown of the upcoming event, what is planned and what is needed. Location will be next to the Prince William County Central Library; 9 am setup for the tent on Saturday, June 23rd, the rest of setup (radios, antennas, generators, logging computers, etc.) begins as soon as the tent is up; operations will begin by 2:00 pm. Dinner will be at 6 pm and the Red Cross will bring the canteen. Radio operations will continue all night and into early Sunday afternoon before tear-down. Watch on the reflector and the VHF net for last minute details. Everyone is welcomed to attend. Discussion followed.

Winter Field Day and Sunshine Corner still need a chair person

50/50 won by Bill / N4SV.

Bill N4SV will donate a 6 meter antenna to the club

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

Saturday, August 4, 2012 - Vinton, Virginia - Roanoake Hamfest. More info at <http://w4ca.com>

Sunday, August 5, 2012 - Berryville Hamfest, Berryville, Virginia. More information at <http://www.w4rkc.org/hamfest>

SPECIAL TRAINING EVENT:

Tuesday, July 17, 2012 at 8:00 PM to 9:30PM. The ARRL is hosting an online webinar about the 2012 hurricane season and Amateur Radio preparations and response. The program will include presenters from the National Hurricane Center (NHC) and WX4NHC (the Amateur Radio station at the NHC), the VoIP Hurricane Net, the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) and the ARRL. Webinar registration is open to everyone, but will be of particular interest to those amateurs in hurricane-prone areas. To participate, you will need a computer with a high speed Internet connection. To register, go to <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/472855454>

OPERATING EVENTS AND CONTESTS

There are many operating contests almost all of the time. The excellent web site maintained by WA7BNM at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> lists most of them!

PUBLIC SERVICE / TRAINING / ARES EVENTS

Check the online Calendar by David / KG4GIY at <http://www.pwcares.org> for latest updates. David maintains a comprehensive calendar for upcoming events at that web site. Complete direct contact information for David appears on page 2 of this Newsletter.

ITU / UN - ongoing and upcoming Power Grab for control of the Internet

The International Telecommunications Union, originally established in 1865 as an international organization to regulate international telegraph operations, is now an agency of the United Nations; the ITU will be holding another World Telecommunications Conference at the end of 2012. Amateur radio operators know about the ITU because it is the source for international frequency allocation agreements which provide the basis for the ham radio frequencies we use; its activities in that arena are benign. But what the popular press has not reported is the current manipulation of the ITU, almost unopposed by the USA so far, to take over and gain control of the Internet by ITU regulation, a development that has many foreboding and ominous implications. A June 17, 2012 WSJ article reported about this, see <http://tinyurl.com/6mk8q3c>. See also, <http://wcitleaks.org> for a web site referred to in the WSJ article for pertinent ITU source documents. Scary stuff. Why is the US and FCC not actively opposing this?

Spotlight on an OVH Member

Terry / KC4DV

I was first licensed in 1976 in my hometown of Cedar Rapids Iowa as WN0SPX at the age of 16. In 1980 I upgraded to advanced class and held the call sign of KC5DV for over 30 years. Last June I changed my call sign to KC4DV and I joined the Ole Virginia Hams in May 2011. I also belong to Vienna Wireless Society and Woodbridge Wireless.

I got interested in ham radio as a twelve year old after reading a novel, about a young ham who saved his town from a flood by using Ham Radio. In the winter of 1975 I attended a Novice Class at the Red Cross Chapter in Cedar Rapids and took my Novice exam in early 1976.

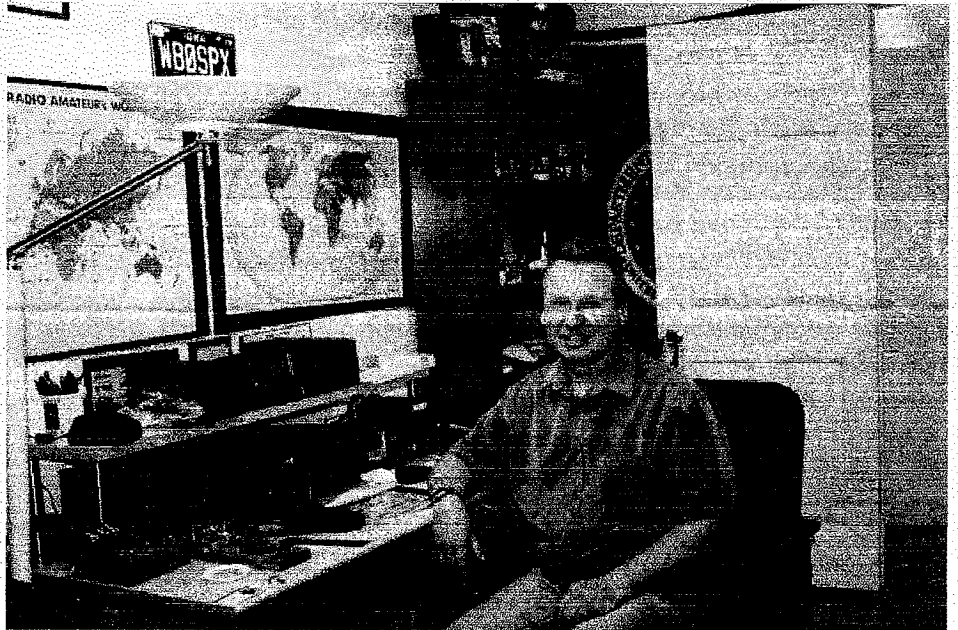
For HF, I use a Yaesu FT-950 and the Drake C line twins. My antennas are a Hustler 6-BTV vertical with 60 radials and a horizontal V for 40 and 15 meters. For VHF/UHF repeater use I have a Yaesu FT-8800R and a Kenwood TH-D72. I

recently acquired an ICOM 910H and am interested in terrestrial and satellite UHF/VHF SSB, CW and FM. I use a Yaesu FT-7900R in my car.

Last year I participated in the Manassas 2011 Hamfest on the tailgate parking crew; this year I was co-chairman of the Manassas Hamfest with Bruce / AB8CI. I also supported the Marine Corps Marathon last fall which was very inspiring and fun.

Field Day, my son was born during the 1982 Field Day! The 10 meter contest is also one of my favorites.

Feel free to email me at kc4dv@arrl.net



Some Possibly Useful Information

1. The MetEd web site provides free education and online training resources for university atmospheric scientists and students, individuals interested in learning more about meteorology, weather forecasting, and related geoscience topics, and the operational forecaster community. See, <https://www.meted.ucar.edu> for more information. A free, online registration is required in order to take any of MetEd's lengthy list of online courses. The typical course module is very substantive and will require several hours to complete. Downloadable reading material is usually also provided.

2. MetEd has recently offered two course which should be of interest to ham radio operators who want to expand their knowledge of radio propagation: Space Weather Basics (Second Edition) and Space Weather Impacts on Aviation (radio). There are several other courses of potential interest to hams interested in Skywarn, including Skywarn Spotter Training, The Role of Skywarn Spotters, and Skywarn Spotter - Convective Basics.

3. David / KG4GIY who adminsters the Linux Journal's virtual hamshack (<http://linuxjournal.com/ham>) has recently authored an article on the rapidly changing desktop (<http://linuxjournal.com/content/rapidly-changing-desktop>). Well written. Read it for a lot of good insight about how computer usage and systems are rapidly evolving.

4. At least 10 OVH members attended the Dayton Hamvention this year, and 2 OVH members attended the all day Contest University program in Dayton, Ohio just before the Dayton Hamvention. Because of space limitations agoam this month, reports and information from Dayton from those attendees will appear in the August 2012 OVH Newsletter.

Remembering Mary Lu / KB4EFP

We are sad to report another silent key in our OVH community. Mary Lu Blasdell, KB4EFP, died on Tuesday, July 3, 2012, from the debilitating effects of Parkinson's Disease at age 72. Her health slowly declined over the past six years, making it impossible for her to continue an active role in amateur radio or the OVH. Still, many of us recall her selfless spirit and endless energy in support of our club and hobby. In times past Mary Lu was the OVH Secretary and for many years was very active in Hamfest planning and execution. And we recall the many issues of the club Newsletter that she faithfully composed and published.

She came from a ham family – her father John and her uncle Duke were amateur radio operators as was her husband of 49 years, Butch, W4HJL, who is also well known to everyone in the club and everyone who ever had anything to do with the club as a friend and resource for amateur radio matters and a helping hand for just about anything or anyone in need. One of Butch's and Mary Lu's sons, Blaine, is also licensed but currently inactive.

In addition to Butch, Mary Lu left her mother and two sisters and her six adult children and three grand children behind. The many Blasdell friends and associates and the amateur radio community came forward in great numbers in honor and support as the family drew together to deal with its sadness and loss and with the myriad details that must be examined after a death.

On Monday morning, July 10th, a person we knew as a Mom, homemaker, wife, CCD teacher, piano teacher, tax preparer, Newsletter editor, a ham radio operator and a friend was laid to rest in a gently rolling meadow at Quantico National Cemetary. Goodbye Mary Lu – we salute you.



ARRL / OVH 2012 Field Day Event Wrap Up

Held Saturday / Sunday - June 23th -24th

The Board of Supervisors for Prince William County, Virginia proclaimed a week period ending on June 24th to be Amateur Radio Week as a prelude to the ARRL Field Day and related local radio club events.

June 19, 2012

PROCLAMATION

Proclaim – June 18-24, 2012 – Amateur Radio Week

WHEREAS, Prince William County has licensed Amateur Radio operators who have demonstrated their value in public assistance by providing emergency radio communications; and

WHEREAS, these Amateur Radio operators donate these services free of charge to the County, in the interest of the citizens of the County, as well as the world; and

WHEREAS, these Amateur Radio operators are on alert for any emergency, local or worldwide, and practice their communications skills during the American Radio Relay League, Inc.'s Field Day Exercise; and

WHEREAS, this year's Amateur Radio Field Days will take place on June 23-24, 2012;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors does hereby proclaim the week of June 18-24, 2012 as amateur Radio Week and calls upon all citizens to pay appropriate tribute to the Amateur Radio operators of our County.

BOARD OF COUNTY SUPERVISORS



Corey A. Stewart
Chairman

The OVH Field Day event went substantially as planned due to the excellent planning by Randy / WB7RAV, with perfect weather. The only slight hitch was that some of the Red Cross personnel who were expected to attend the event were unexpectedly diverted to Prince Georges County, Maryland, with equipment, to assist residents there of an apartment building which had been destroyed by a microburst storm or mini-tornado late on Friday.

Nevertheless, set up of the Red Cross supplied, air conditioned tent and large generator on Saturday morning went forward without missing a beat. When a shortage of portable chairs and table was noticed, arrangement were made immediately to borrow such items from the local VFW hall. The set up of the radio equipment and computer loggers was then quickly accomplished so that all stations could be on the air by 2:00 PM **Continued on next page**

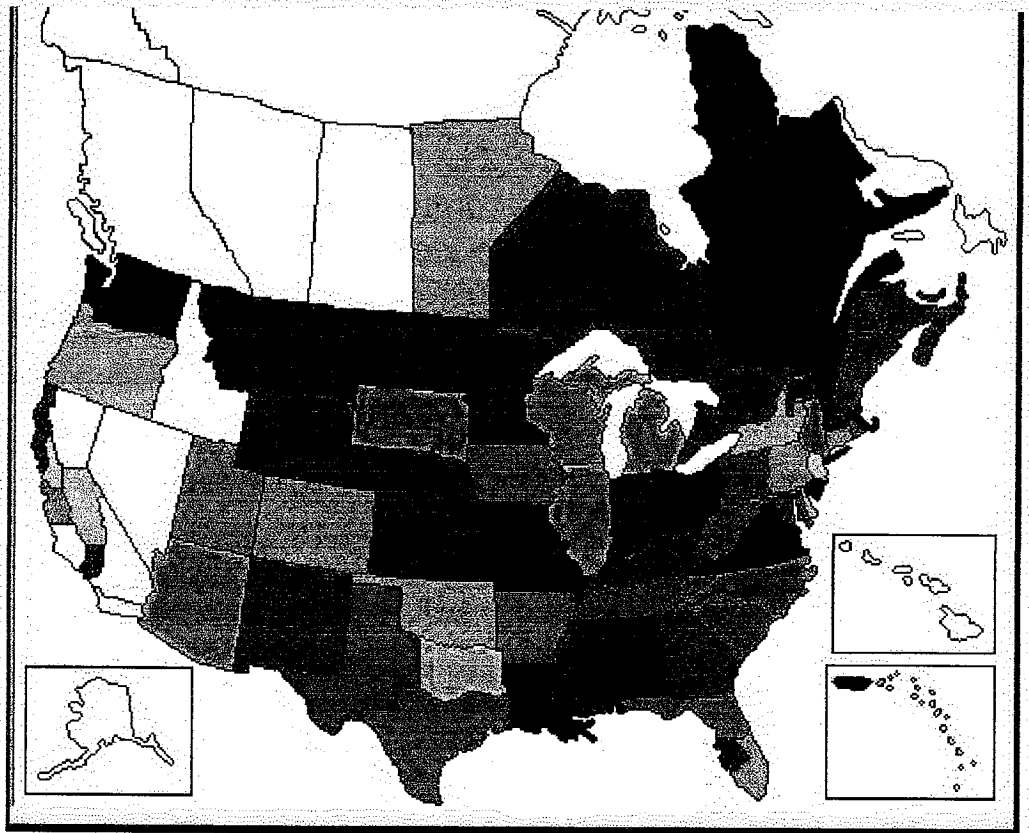
local time. For the HF bands, two separate G5RV antennas were strung up in the trees. The CW station provided by Wayne / AG4ZZ operated on gel battery power (with solar cell assist), with a maximum power of 5 watts. The SSB (and GOTA SSB) radio transmitters operated at higher power. A 6 meter beam was set up for VHF operation.

Field Day Radio Operating Results (special thanks to Keith / KM4AA for these tabulations from the computer logs):

Total W4OVH Contacts made, all modes (CW, SSB and Digital), by band, 2A operation: 160 meters - 1, 80 meters - 318; 40 meters - 202, 20 meters - 134, 15 meters - 15; 10 meters - 2, 6 meters - 2 and 1.25 meters - 1.

Operators of the W4OVH station as identified by initials or callsign log in on the computer logging system: MDB, JLW, W4ZB, AG4ZZ, SAM, SCG, JPH, MW, KJ4OLF, KED, KE4TMW, KJ4VTP and W1CRO.

Note: a number of the actual W4OVH operators operated under log-ins by other W4OVH operators, and cannot be specifically identified from the computer logs used for this tabulation. Additionally, a large number of OVH Field Day attendees assisted with support functions or socialized and did not actually operate radios to make contacts!



Total W4PVA GOTA station contacts (SSB, all bands): 15.

The OVH's Field Day station, W4OVH, made contacts with other Field Day stations located in 46 of the 50 states of the United States as well as in Puerto Rico and in several of the provinces of Canada. See colored areas on the map which show the locations of the other Field Day stations actually contacted by W4OVH.

The OVH's final claimed Field Day score was 1798 points, with bonus points claimed for Emergency Power, Media Publicity, Public Location, Info Booth, Natural Power, and Visit by Officials. Some additional activities which we did not do, but which would have resulted in additional bonus points: originate / handle NTS message(s), W1AW Field Day message, Satellite operation and GOTA Maximum (bonus if 20 or more stations contacted by same operator).

Aside from Field Day radio operating, many attendees and participants came for the food - lunch and dinner were provided from the Red Cross van on Saturday, and socializing. A good time was had by all. In all the OVH did very well, the main point for the OVH and all participants was to have fun, to attract public attention and to demonstrate we can field deploy and operate, making two way radio contacts with many other distant stations. We did all of that but we can still do better next year!

Selected pictures from the 2012 Field Day event on the following page.

Continued on next page

