

The OVH ARC Newsletter
OLE VIRGINIA HAMS' AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 4293, Manassas, Va. 20108-0728
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

May 2024

Upcoming Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, May 21, 2024

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hello Everyone,

Well, with regard to the beginning of May, it sure looked like we were going to go directly summer. While I don't mind the warm days, I do like it cooler in the evenings. I sleep better in the cooler evenings, and I tend to think of it as "free air conditioning". Thankfully, we seem to have returned to seasonal weather.

Theresa, KG4TVM, is once again proving herself to be a force of nature. As if May and June aren't already the busiest months of our club's year, she has acquired a cache of very old OVH Newsletters, and has been scanning them into her computer and uploading them into our web site's Newsletter Archive. With John, KG4NXT, assisting with the scanning, our web site now has issues dating back to 1984. If you hadn't already gathered, Theresa is the Ole Virginia Hams' Club Historian. If you want to see what used to be, just go to "About the Club," then "Newsletters" and scroll down.

Our last Tailgate Party planning meeting of 2024 is this upcoming Thursday, May 16th. As usual dinner will be at 6 PM and the business portion will start at 6:30 PM. We meet at: Sam and Joe's Pizza, 9784 Center St. Manassas.

Our next OVH Monthly Breakfast get together will be on Saturday, May 18th @ 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM EDT at the Yorkshire Restaurant. 7537 Centreville Road. Manassas. While the Yorkshire Restaurant is now under new ownership, the same staff will take care of us. We usually have 8 to 10 people that show up; I hope to see you there.

The next regular OVH will be held on Tuesday, May 21st, in the training room at the Buckhall VFD. 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM EDT. 7190 Yates Ford Road. Manassas



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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
Bob Zaepfel	K4HJF	282-2451
Theresa Heartney	KG4TVM	257-3566

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: 20240506

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Our presenter at that meeting will be Tailgate Chairman . Club Treasurer, Don / WA2SWX who will talk about the Tailgate Party, assignments and the planning and work that is going into getting ready for that event. It will also be one of the last times we will get to see and talk with Don: the time left on his retirement countdown clock is growing quite short. So, come on out and talk with him one last time before he leaves us for his newly built house on the beach in Ecuador.

The month of June is always our busiest month of the year with two major club events:

- The Manassas Tailgate Party (in lieu of Hamfest) on Saturday, June 1st from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM EDT.
- Then the ARRL/OVH Field Day event will take place on June 22-23 at the Pavilion at the Nokesville Community Park.

Our Tailgate Party (in lieu of Hamfest) 2024 will be June 1st from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM EDT. This is effectively the OVH's 50th Hamfest. The Club is still in need for volunteers. Please contact Chairman Don via email: wa2swxdm@gmail.com or use the sign up sheet on the W4OVH.net web site. OVH Volunteers will need to be on site no later than 7 AM. This is the club's signature event and is our main source of revenue. Additionally, the Virginia QSO Party Award Presentations will take place at our Tailgate Party. Location information for the Tailgate Party: 9300 Signal View Drive, Manassas. The event will take place on the lot located on Signal View Drive across the street from Signal Hill Park.

Our second big event will be the ARRL/OVH Field Day. This event takes place from 2:00 PM on Saturday, June 22nd until 4:59 PM on Sunday, June 23rd at the Pavilion at the Nokesville Community Park.

Bruce / KN4GDX, has been researching, testing and leading our club efforts to launch a weather balloon during Field Day. He intends it to be solar powered and use the WSPR (Weak Signal Propagation Reporter) protocol. He has successfully completed a test flight with a smaller balloon. I don't know about you, but I am really looking forward to this.

I'm also pleased to announce that Prince William County, Coles District Supervisor, Yesli Vega will be our guest elected official for Field Day. Supervisor Vega is a military wife, mother, former police officer and a Prince William County Sheriff's Deputy who has dedicated her life to public service.

On the immediate Friday just before Field Day (June 21st), we will be stringing the antenna wires and running power lines at: Nokesville Community Park, 12560 Aden Road, Nokesville. More about the park is at <https://www.visitpwc.com/listing/nokesville-park/1721/>

Come and be "Radio Active" during this Field Day event! Or, if you would rather watch, you could see HF, VHF/UHF and Digital modes in action. With so much to explore, the opportunities are endless. If you are new to The Hobby, make sure you are there for setup; then stick around and try to make a few contacts. Don't worry if you are inexperienced, there are plenty of members around to help you get those first few contacts.

Field Day is also a family event, we are pleased to tell you the Saturday night dinner is back. This is a potluck dinner, so please bring a favorite dish to share and dinner will be

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around 5 PM. This will be a rain or shine event as we will be under the big Pavilion. So come on out and get on the air!

Andy / KJ4MTP, is the coordinator for OVH's annual participation with 2024 SOWW Warrior Bike Ride. We provide communications support for these 3 simultaneous bike rides. The riders will embark on "Quarter Century", "Half Century" and "Century" bike rides. Those names derive from a metric (kilometers) distance of each bike ride. This event always occurs on the Saturday closest to 9/11. This year that will be Saturday, September 7th.

I expect Andy will be putting out a call for volunteers in the near future. You can check out their web site <https://www.willingwarriors.org> to see why it is a great opportunity for us to volunteer for a great cause.

A reminder to check in to the OVH's Thursday night VHF/UHF repeater net at 8 PM - details are on the OVH's web site: <https://w4ovh.net> This is a great way to stay in touch.

Questions, comments or war stories should be directed to my e-mail: kn4dd@arrl.net

73, Ken / KN4DD



Sunshine Corner

Happy Birthday wishes to the following OVH club members this May: John / KM4VCJ, David / KG4GIY, Bill / WA4FIC, Steve / N0DWB, Jack / N4YIC, Carl / KK4ZYZ, Craig / WA3UFY, Roberto / KM4RIE, Dick / KM4UXE, Susan / K3SSP, Bruce / KN4GDX, Don / WA2SWX, Robert / KJ4EOR, John / KG4NXT, Kenneth / KI4EOH and Lynn / KX4HR. Each of you enjoy your day!



Hard to believe our Tailgate event is only a few weeks away on June 1st. Don't forget the award ceremony for the Virginia QSO Party will be held during Tailgate; if you are getting an award, please make sure we get your photo for the next newsletter! Also, this will be the last ham event that Don / WA2SWX will chair, as he is moving with his YL Edith to Ecuador. Edith has been running the bake sale table for the last several years for us. Please stop by the club table to say good-bye and thanks for all their support to the club.

Congratulations to Everett / KJ4OLF, prior club member on his wedding in April to his bride Judy. Everett was a club member several years ago until he moved out of the area but he has come back to



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Hamfest and Field Days events. Wishing them both many happy years together!

Congratulations also to James / KQ4CAX on receiving his Warthog award with POTA. James was able to work five POTA spots in once day. Way to go! We have several club members that have been activating and hunting parks for POTA, if you are interested and want more info let us know at the meeting.

Field Day is coming up fast, one last planning meeting is happening on June 11th at Sam & Joe's, club calendar has details.

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, April 16, 2024:

OVH President Ken / KN4DD called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on April 16, 2024 in the training room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station. After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs.

Anthony / K8ZT gave a video presentation on the 10 worst antenna and what to do about them. We intend to put this presentation on the members only section of the OVH web.

The minutes of the March 19, 2024 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report – no report

Luther WA3FMO gave the membership report. There were no read-ins and no vote-ins.

ARES report. No report this month.

Repeater report. For the last two Thursday night nets, there has been an interference problem. Ken / KE2N is working on it. This appears to be a difficult problem.

Mark / WA4KFZ gave the training report. There was a successful VE session with 4 candidates and all of them got either a new license or an upgrade.

John / KG4NXT gave the Tailgate report. Theresa and John went to the Thawfest Hamfest to distribute Flyers. We sold Bob K4HJF's .ts-950sd and Sm-230 monitor with proceeds to the club. Thanks Bob.

John / KG4NXT gave the Field Day report. Bruce / KN4GDX has tested the radio payload with a Mylar helium balloon and got many WSPR reports even though some of the antenna was still on the ground. Also, we passed out national traffic system message from to members at the meeting and then collected. We will send these messages on Field day to get bonus points.

Ken / KN4DD gave the web committee report. Web site attacks from Russia are up but the

software defenses are holding up fine. There was a problem with one of the plug in updates that prevented admin users from creating new posts. This update has been rolled back and we can post again. Ken is going to submit a bug report.

Sunshine report. Theresa / KG4TVM announced birthdays and other matters. Theresa said we still need more volunteers for tailgate and offered to put anyone on the list that volunteered.

Butch / W4HJL won the 50/50 raffle and donated her winnings to the club.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

The meeting was then adjourned.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

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 1:00 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 - June 22 and June 23, 2024 - ARRL and OVH Field Day. This is a major annual Ham radio 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. .

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

Impromptu Internal Business VE Session Produces 6 New Hams



During the same week when the OVH was holding its VE session on April 13th, George / K4GVT, our Christmas Parade Chairman (and a former OVH President), was at a Cisco business internal conference in Knoxville, Tennessee. George had three papers to present at the conference; but while there, he also set up some ham gear to demonstrate.



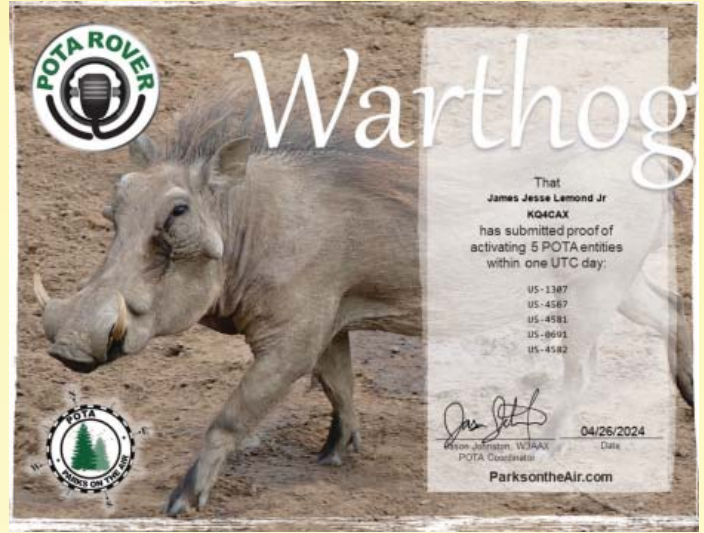
George's demo station was intended to attract candidates for ham testing at an impromptu VE Session that George and his team were also planning to hold for Cisco personnel only. When George first set this up, all bands were dead on the IC 7610. So George pulled the PL259 out with only the center conductor connected, and it tuned out the bands were alive. So, George had the guys on the ground take an ohm meter to check the resistance while he went up onto the roof. He checked the feed line, all good. Checked the G5RV, and there was no conduction to the other end.

George then removed the lightning suppressor, still open. But he found that the twin leads on both sides to be open. Inspecting the actual wire, he found both leads burnt open. Suspected a lightning hit. When George mentioned his findings to the building engineer, the building engineer reported that a few weeks before, all of the air handlers on the roof had shutdown during a big storm. Glad we didn't have more damage. The demo station attracted attention and the following days, George and his team gave a crash course for the Technician level ham test. They held their pretest class in the morning and did the VE session in the afternoon. They had 7 participants, 6 passed, one failed. But, looking on the positive, 6 new hams. One of the candidates who had a PhD in Electrical Engineering, was teased by fellow engineers that he couldn't pass the Technician test. Challenge accepted and of course, he passed. What a great way to get people to commit. Not too bad. George is looking forward to doing that again next year.

James / KQ4CAX earns the POTA Warthog Award

On April 26, James / KQ4CAX earned the Warthog award from Parks On The Air (POTA). He got that by activating 5 parks in a single UTC day. His Parks were Prince William Forest Park, Leesylvania, Capt. John Smith Chesapeake, Star Spangled Banner, and Washington-Rochambeau. Some of these parks were co-located. John / KG4NXT is also a Warthog. Thanks to Theresa / KG4TVM for planning the expedition. See two pictures at the top of the following page/

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OVH Presence at Thawfest II



OVH had a table at Thawfest II in Ruckersville, Virginia on April 13, 2024. The first priority was to distribute OVH Tailgate flyers for the OVH's upcoming Tailgate event on June 1st. Theresa / KG4TVM was able to distribute almost all of those flyers. The second priority was to sell the Ts-950sd HF radio and the SM-230 monitor that Bob / K4HJF



had donated to the club. We had taken them to two previous hamfests but had not found a buyer. At Thawfest, we WERE able to sell them. Jeff / K9VEG also put one of his radios on the table and was able to sell it. Other OVH members at Thawfest included Bruce / KN4GDX, John / KG4NXT, Ron / K3FR and Woody / N4MQ.

Some Possibly Interesting or Useful Information

MFJ Enterprises in Starkville, Mississippi will be shutting down soon after more than 40 years of operation according many Ham radio news reports and a statement by owner, Martin F. Jue, K5FLU. MFJ has been a source of many, many innovative and relatively low cost ham radio related products for many, many years in the US and overseas. Over the years, MFJ also acquired other smaller, well established, mostly ham radio related businesses such as Hy-Gain, Cushcraft, Mirage, Ameritron, and Vectronics when those businesses became available and successfully continued those businesses. It is unfortunate that MFJ apparently has not found a buyer or someone else with the savvy and resources to take over and continue those businesses; its shutdown will leave a noticeable gap in the ham radio equipment supplier market. Of course, Martin / K5FLU, a long dedicated ham who has turned 80 is entitle to retire.

HF Propagation - Ionospheric K-Index hits 9 on May 10, 2024

Ken / KE2N put a notice out on the OVH email reflector on May 10th that the Ionospheric K-Index was at 9 - a very high value. That immediately caught my attention, and I wanted to understand what that meant, but knowing that HF Propagation is a very complex technical topic and my recollection of many of its details had faded, I wanted to find a quick tutorial to refresh and update my knowledge, rather than dig into old technical books. A quick web search revealed an extraordinary web site:

<https://qsl.net/4x4xm/HF-Propagation.htm>

which was just what I was seeking; I highly recommend it. See to the left.

One of the aspects of this very unusual ionospheric / solar event on May 10th was that the resulting ionospheric aurora was visible at southern latitudes where auroras can only very rarely be seen. Unfortunately it was overcast locally, but OVH member, Bill / AF4LL, provided an image of the aurora which he took in Kentucky, below.



Practical Approach

- Real-time Band Activity**


Recorded hams' activity
- Recent propagation conditions**

[Real-time MUF map by KC2G](#)



Forecasting MUF for a 3,000 Km path, i.e.
View HF Bands' Conditions at a glance
- MUF and f_oF₂ Real-time Maps**


Recent MUF and Solar Indices
- Tools & Applications**
- Recent Reports**

Propagation Indices: SFI, SN, A, K
[Space Weather Online](#) NOAA, ESA
[Recent Blackout on HF](#)



Current & Recent Solar Events
- Observations**

Recent [Solar observations](#)
Recent [Solar Wind reports](#)
[Space Weather: ACE project](#)
- Predictions / Forecasts**

Predicted [Sunspots and 10.7cm Flux](#)
[Space Weather Predictions](#)
[Blackouts Predictions](#)
[Forecasted Space Weather](#)

Theory-based tutorial

Introduction

- [HF Radio Propagation](#)
- [Forecasting Propagation Conditions](#)
- [Real-time Band Conditions](#)
[DX Clusters](#) [PSKR](#) [WSPR](#) [WebSDRs](#) [Beacons](#)

HF propagation basics

- [HF Propagation Modes](#)
- [Impact of the Sun](#) (preface)
- [The Ionosphere](#) (preface)

Propagation Factors & Conditions

- [The Role of The Ionosphere](#)
 - [Ionospheric Layers](#)
 - [Ionospheric Instability](#)
 - [Skywave multi-refractions](#)
 - [Significant frequencies](#)
 - [Long range skywave](#)
 - [NVIS Propagation](#)
- [Regional HF Conditions](#)
 - [The MUF](#)
 - [Ionosonde](#)
 - [Ionogram](#)
 - [Ionospheric Clouds](#)
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 - [Current propagation maps](#)
- [Total Electron Content \(TEC\)](#)
- [Greyline propagation](#)
- [Global HF Conditions](#)
 - [Banners & Widgets](#)
 - [Solar Indices: SSN, Solar Flux](#)
 - [Geomagnetic Indices K, A](#)
 - [Forecast solar flux 10.7cm](#)

The Sun & Space Weather

- [Solar Influence](#)
 - [Regular Solar Emission](#)
 - [Solar Activity](#)
 - [Sunspots](#)
 - [Solar Storms](#)
 - [Solar Cycle](#)
 - [Current Solar Events](#)
- [Space Weather](#) Illustration
 - [Space Weather Explained](#)
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* [Search](#) (abc) * Search the entire website

The Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club

Is happy to announce they are hosting a

Ham Radio Tail Gate Party

Saturday, June 1st, 2024

7 am to 1 pm

Across from Signal Hill Park in Manassas Park

General Admission \$5 per person over 14

\$20 per vehicle to set up (includes one admission ticket)

All attendees will park in the field

38° 45.2710'N, 77° 26.2800'W

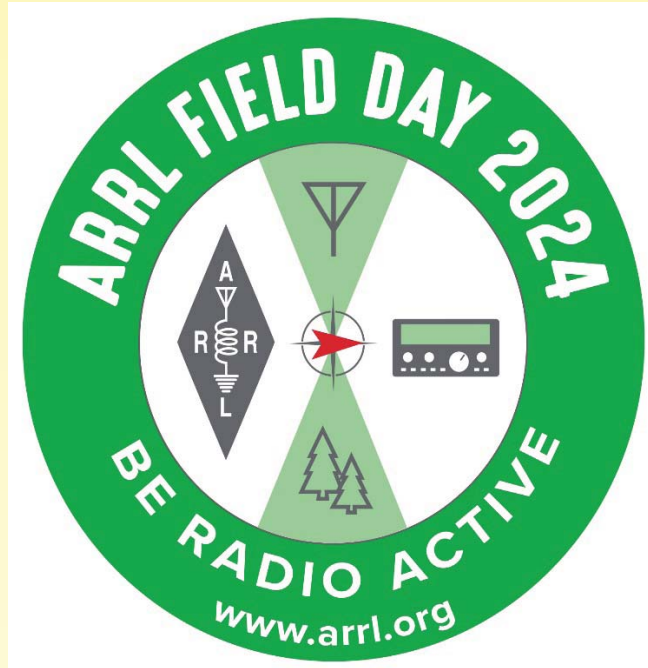
Signal Hill Park address is 9300 Signal View Dr. Manassas Park – the field is located on Signal View Drive across the street from the park entrance

The field is on the east side of Signal View Drive just past the National Monument for the First Battle of Manassas

More information www.w4ovh.net



Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club



2:00 PM Saturday, June 22nd- 2:00 PM Sunday, 23rd

Nokesville Park, 12560 Aden Road, Nokesville, VA

Rain or Shine! We will be under the big pavilion. Come on out and tune in the world!

Saturday Night Pot Luck Dinner! Bring a favorite dish to share, dinner around 5 pm! This is a family event!

Balloon Launch following the Saturday dinner, all are welcome!

Any questions; please see our webpage at www.w4ovh.net or Facebook Ole Virginia Hams – W4OVH