

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

July 2024

Upcoming Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, July 16, 2024

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hello Again Everyone,

Once again, our busy season is winding down, and it's been a whirlwind for some time now.

On June 22nd and 23rd the OVH took part in ARRL Field Day 2024. Under the able guidance of returning Field Day Chairwoman, Cat / KM4PBD, the OVH had another good Field Day weekend event. We had 15 participants and a preliminary total OVH score of: 3,336. I look forward to reading our official stats.



Despite the quite high temperatures (heat) & humidity outdoors at the event, preparation started the day before, on Friday, June 21st. Antenna lines were shot into the trees Friday afternoon. Gil / KM4OZH handed off the OVH Trailer to James / KQ4CAX, who delivered it safely to OVH's Field Day venue at Nokesville Park.

Participants started showing up early Saturday, and we were ready to go long before the official start time at 2:00 PM on Saturday.

The OVH also had our its first ever weather type balloon launch on Saturday afternoon which went up a little bit early, schedule wise. It rose quickly and was last seen heading due north. Carrying a solar powered radio set up for Weak Signal Propagation Reporter, (WSPR - pronounced "whisper"), the balloon was last heard by a station near St. Louis, Missouri. A big thank you to our project team: especially Bruce / KN4GDX; Bryon / AK4XR; Gil / KM4OZH and John / KG4NXT. After the balloon launch, we had our Pot Luck Supper, and there was no shortage of camaraderie.

While still talking about June, I would like to remind you that hurricane season each year runs from June 1st to December 1st. Now would be a good time to review

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:	Jeff Porter	K9VEG	216-7734

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

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: 20240506

Cont'd from page 1

your preparation plans and supplies. Even though the following article, “Family Comes First during Hurricane Preparation for Home and Station” was written in 2021, it is a good read for our new hams as well as a good refresher for our grizzled vets. You can find this article it at URL: <https://www.arrl.org/news/family-comes-first-during-hurricane-preparation-for-home-and-station>

Back on the 4th of July, the OVH supported with communications what used to be called “The Freedom Firecracker 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run”. This year, the sponsor rebranded the event at as “The IMDC Freedom Firecracker 5k and Sparkler 1 Mile”. The event was short and sweet. We were there by 7:30 AM and gone by about 9:30 AM. And what a colorful group!. Not as many in costume as during the Turkey Trot, but still quite imaginative. Many in patriotic shirts and shorts, as well as an abundance of grown women in colorful and sparkly tutus. The spotters were Al / KB4BHB; John / KG4NXT and yours truly, “the other Ken” / KN4DD. A few pictures from that event appear later in this Newsletter.

Also, back in the first week of July was the very popular “13 Colonies” Special Event – 2024 – radio contact contest. It ran July 1st thru July 7th. Always a popular event.

You don't have to wait until our in-person meetings to see everyone again; you can come out this Saturday, July 13th at 8:00 AM for the resumption of our monthly OVH breakfasts! Pioneered by Byron / AK4XR, way back in the olden days (2019), we get together on the Saturday immediately before our Tuesday meetings at a table or two in the back of Yorkshire Restaurant for some good food and good conversation. Yorkshire Restaurant, 7537 Centreville Road, Manassas. We hope to see you there.

Next, our upcoming monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, July 16th, at 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM at the Buckhall VFD Hall, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas. July's presentation will be by Donald Friend / WA4MCM, who is the owner of – WA4MCM kits which can be accessed at <https://wa4mcmkits.com> Donald's presentation will be on his remote antenna switch kits, his SWR/power meter kit and related topics.

If you are itching for some Hamfest action, the SVARC 73rd Berryville Hamfest is just around the corner. I know a number of OVH members regularly attend so you're sure to see some of us there. It's just a few of weeks away on August 4th at the Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds in Berryville. For more details, visit the hamfest website at <https://berryvillehamfest.com> and/or look at the flyer later in this Newsletter. /

A reminder to check in to the OVH's Thursday night VHF/UHF repeater net at 8:00 PM. How to do details for that are on the OVH's web site: <https://w4ovh.net> – a great way to stay in touch.

In closing this month, a short note: At the end of July, our former Treasurer and longtime Hamfest / Tailgate Chairman, Don / WA2SWX, along with his XYL / Edith are retiring and moving to Ecuador. The OVH appreciates and thanks yo again for you years of service to the Ole Virginia Hams ARC which have made a great difference. You both have been a tremendous asset to us. Your insight and your quick wit will certainly be missed. We will listen and watch for you on the air from Ecuador / HB9-land. Keep in touch with all of us. And please try to act surprised when we start asking to come and

Cont'd on page 4

Cont'd from page 3

visit you in February. Thank you and be safe.

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



Sunshine Corner

Happy Birthday wishes to these club members having birthdays this month: Jack/ KN4HHQ, Ken / WB4ZOH, Philip / KI4WGC, Jeff / KM4FTK, Bruce / KN4TS, George / K4GVT, Sandy / KM4JUS, Rosalie / KN4ZLY, Dwight / N4GSD, Mary / KK4GOW, Jeff / K9VEG, Richard / KJ4ZIH, Luther / WA4FMO, Tony / KK4YZK, Stephen / KO4GQR, William / WB4KLC and Barbara / (no call). Each of you enjoy your day in July! Belated birthday wishes to Daniela / KQ4IKQ, who celebrated a milestone birthday in June!



Condolences to Bill / AF4LL on the passing of his Grandmother in Kentucky. Bill has been one of our top Field Day operators and had to miss it this year to be in Kentucky.

POTA – Parks on the Air – Congratulations to Jeff K9VEG for obtaining his KILO award, this was for working a single POTA location with a 1000 QSO's. Congrats to John KG4NXT for his hunter award the ArgyroxiphiumSandwicense, this consisted of hunting 3000 unique POTA entities. Certificates included in newsletter. Way to go guys!!! Jeff and John are our local experts on all matters and questions relating to POTA..Images of these two awards for Jeff and John appear later in the newsletter.

Field Day – Congratulations to Cat / KM4PBD our chairperson for leading the organization of the OVH Field Day event again this year. Yes, we had hot (very hot) weather this year but it is summer time and that can happen some years! Great job by Cat for keeping us on track and making sure everything flowed smoothly!

The Field Day logs have been sent in by John / KG4NXT. And the balloon launch was a hit led by Bruce / KN4GDX who will be providing a later article about the balloon launch details. I have to also thank Daniela / KQ4IKQ and Edith for cooking for Saturday night's dinner, great job Ladies!

Sadly, we have to say goodbye to Don / WA2SWX and Edith (pix to the right) at the end of July as they move away to their new retirement home in



Cont'd on page 5

Ecuador. We will miss them both and we appreciate all of their efforts with the club.

This month, we are recognizing Bill N4SV. Bill was a very active local member of the OVH, holding the Treasurer and other OVH position for many years; he also participated in many, many local club events. Bill is still a member and you can still hear from him on the club reflector! I have to give a huge Thank You to Bill for sending me a whole thumb drive of club history that I am sorting thru. Here is what Bill sent about his ham adventures: (indented in blue below)

“After living in Manassas for 30 years, in 2017 my wife retired from her job and we decided to move back to her home state of Indiana. She wanted to be closer to her family and I was hoping our new place would have no HOA restrictions like I had to deal with in Virginia and a ham tower would be in my future. We found a place that we both liked and the bonus for me was the room to put up antennas and no HOAs. My goal was a small tower with HF and VHF yagis, and several wire antennas for the HF bands. The first few years I had just a single multiband wire antenna up in the trees, and it worked quite well on my modest station with only 100 watts. Over time I gathered what I needed to put up the tower and antennas I wanted, and finally in 2022, with a lot of help from my son and some dedicated ham friends from Virginia and Maryland, the tower went up. It’s nothing big or special, less than 50 feet total, but gets me on HF with a multiband yagi and some wire antennas, and also VHF and UHF, as I have always liked contesting on those higher bands with the K8GP Grid Pirates VHF/UHF contesting group.

“I fully retired soon after the tower went up, and have been able to keep my hand in both HF DX work and contests, and also VHF/UHF work. I joined a local DX club in 2019, the Northwest Indiana DX Club, and also discovered the FT8/FT4 modes that year. Both of these events have enhanced my DX progression and enjoyment, and earlier in 2024 I finally hit a couple of my DX goals, broke the 1000 contact level in the ARRL DXCC Challenge, then just a month ago made 5 Band DXCC (10, 15, 20, 40 and 80 meters) with endorsements for 12, 17 and 30 meters. Soon I’ll be upgrading my HF yagi to cover 5 bands, 10, 12, 15, 17 and 20 meters, and continue to have wire antennas for 30/40 and 80/160 meters. These will help me work towards new goals, breaking the 300 country level in the ARRL DXCC program (and hopefully, eventually the DXCC Honor Role), and eventually heading towards the 1500 then 2000 contact levels in the ARRL DXCC Challenge. As the bands co-operate I hope to eventually also make DXCC on both 160 and 6 meters as well.

“In addition to DX and contesting work I continue to be involved in the Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network, or AREDN. This is the use of off-the-shelf 2.5 and 5 GHz wireless access points, flashed with a special ham radio version of firmware, to create and extend the AREN network. While AREDN

was primarily developed to create a standalone, ham radio network to handle emergency traffic, the technology lends itself to everyday enjoyment of the hobby. Those interested in AREDN stand up all sorts of Internet-type of systems, from VoIP phone systems to web page servers and chat/text systems. Pretty much anything you can do on the Internet can be done in the AREDN networks, but like VHF/UHF packet radio from years ago, it requires hams to commit to stand up AREDN nodes so they can communicate with other AREDN nodes and extend the network.

“One aspect of the hobby I am starting to become interested in is Amateur Radio Satellites. With more than a little trepidation I made my first ham satellite contacts in 2023, with just an HT and an Arrow hand-held yagi. It isn't a part of the hobby that is easy, it's a real challenge to coordinate the satellite passes, knowing the ins and outs of Doppler shift, getting the correct up and down link frequencies, and knowing where to point the antenna during the pass. When I get more into it I hope to use my VHF/UHF station, which mostly has done terrestrial contest work, supported with special Sat software, to work the sats. I've discovered from some ham friends who know way more about the ham sats than I do that you don't necessarily need special antennas and AZ-EL rotors to work the sats. With a bit of work, and good, clear satellite passes, regular horizontal, and even vertical VHF/UHF antennas can be made to make sat contacts too.

“So for the foreseeable future I hope to continue to stay active in Amateur Radio, and enjoy other new, and old, aspects of the hobby. More details of my ham background and interests on my QRZ web page. Hope to work you all on the air.

“73, Bill South, N4SV”

Thanks Bill, good to hear from you and enjoy that tower!

I hope everyone had a safe and happy July 4th.

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

Remember to join in on the Thursday night OVH VHF/UHF FM net at 8:00 PM which is a great way to keep up with current events and hear what everyone is up to! Details are on the W4OVH.NET web site.

Everyone, enjoy the Summer!

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



Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Informal Meeting held on Tuesday, June 18, 2024:

OVH President Ken / KN4DD called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM on June 18, 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.

Allen / AG4VA gave a program on Summits on the Air (SOTA). He explained the program and what summits qualify. He also spoke about equipment. He is a three time "Mountain Goat" which is a SOTA award.

Jeff Porter / K9VEG was elected to the position of Treasurer by acclamation.

The minutes of the May 21, 2024 meeting were approved.

Don / WA2SWX gave the Treasurer's report and it was approved.

Luther WA3FMO gave the membership report. There were three read-ins: Seth Freiberg / WA0FZY, Jim Lamb / KB0HSA. And Samson Lytle / KQ4IDK,

There was one vote-in and he was voted in: Zachary J DiTrocchio / KQ4RIS.

ARES report: No report.

Repeater report (emailed from Ken / KE2N): All repeaters working normally. DSTAR Gateway working. Microwave link and Asterisk system working. Last week Jay / NQ4T did an overhaul of the conference node and DV Switch interface. Thank you Jay. The Wires-X PC needed re-booting due to a Windows update that was not apparent until actually doing the re-boot. (It may have been non-functional for some days). Ken / KE2N registered one more DSTAR user on the OVH Gateway.

Training Report by Mark / WA4KFZ: Mark asked if anyone needed mentoring.

Tailgate Report by Don / WA2SWX: Don thanked everyone for their help in having a successful tailgate event. This will be his last tailgate since he is moving to Ecuador.

Field Day report by John / KG4NXT: The final Field Day planning meeting was on held on June 11th. The balloon launch will be just before the 5:00 pm dinner. Setup at 10 am Saturday.

Web Committee report by Ken / KN4DD: Unsuccessful software / Internet based attacks from Russia and elsewhere continue,

Sunshine report: No report this month.

The winnings of the 50/50 raffle were donated to the club.

Old Business: None

New Business: We will support a 4th of July race in the morning. We could use some more volunteers. No other new business.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

Sunday, August 4, 2024, 6:00 am until 2:00 pm, The 73rd Annual Berryville Hamfest sponsored by the Shenandoah Valley ARC. This is close by (within an hour drive from the Manassas area) and very popular with and usually attended by many OVH members, and many other hams and ham and computer related vendors each August. It has approx. 1500 paid admissions with indoor and outdoor vendors) See, the Flyer for this later in this Newsletter for more information.

HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS:

August 10 - 11, 2024 - Saturday / Sunday. Worked All Europe CW contest. This is always a very popular August contest - all European countries will be on if you are collecting them for DXCC. Info at: <https://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste/wae-dx-contest/en/wae-rules>

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.

Pictures from the IMDC Freedom Firecracker 5k and Sparkler 1 Mile Event



Recent POTA (Parks On The Air) Awards



1000 **KILO AWARD**
ACTIVATOR

That
Jeffrey Porter
K9VEG

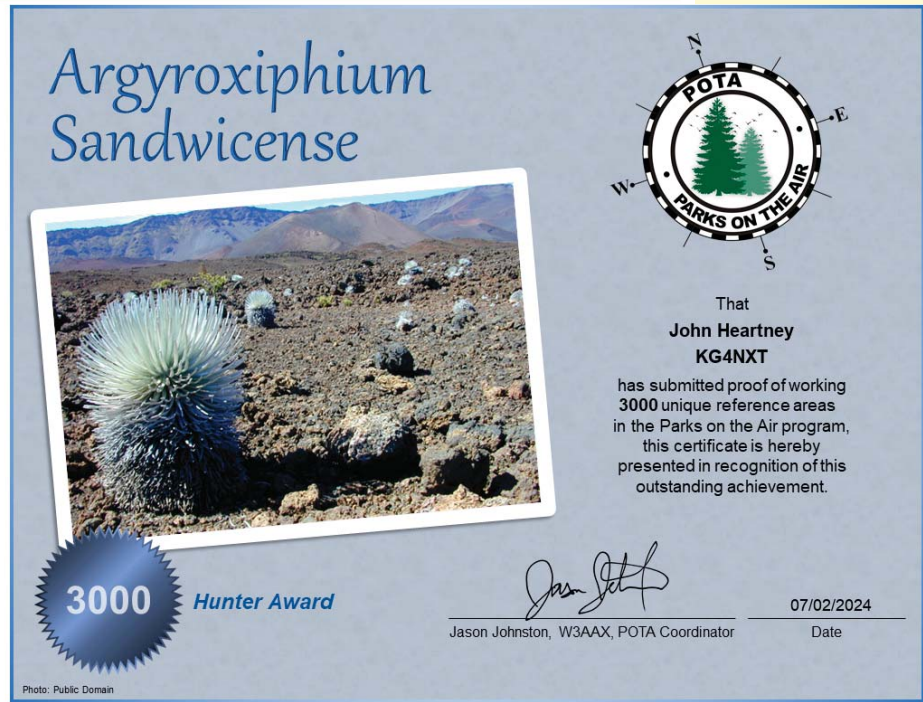
has submitted proof of
one thousand QSOs from the
same Parks on the Air entity:

(US-0691)
Prince William Forest Park


04/22/2024
Date

Jason Johnston, W3AAX,
POTA Coordinator

Image credits: Fort Jefferson, Dry Tortugas National Park by Joe Parks via Wikimedia Commons; Yosemite National Park by Jon Sullivan via Wikimedia Commons; Arches National Park by Flicka via Wikimedia Commons; Great Smoky Mountains National Park by National Park Service via Wikimedia Commons



Argyroxiphium Sandwicense



3000 **Hunter Award**

That
John Heartney
KG4NXT

has submitted proof of working
3000 unique reference areas
in the Parks on the Air program,
this certificate is hereby
presented in recognition of this
outstanding achievement.

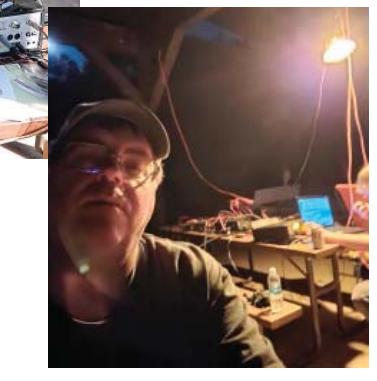
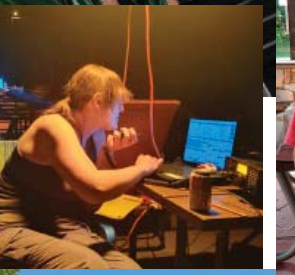
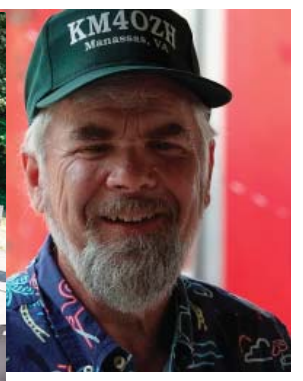
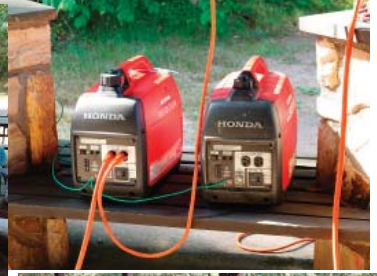
07/02/2024
Date

Jason Johnston, W3AAX, POTA Coordinator

Photo: Public Domain

A Few Images from the 2024 OVH Field Day Event - June 22 - 23, 2024





More pix at <https://k4gvt.com/ovh/fieldday2024>



Shenandoah Valley
Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

ARRL Virginia State Convention



73rd Annual Berryville Hamfest

Sunday, August 4, 2024

Clarke County Ruritan Fairgrounds
890 W. Main St., Berryville, VA

- GATE OPENS AT 6:00 AM • VENDOR BUILDINGS OPEN BY 8:00 AM



Admission \$10.00, children under 16, free

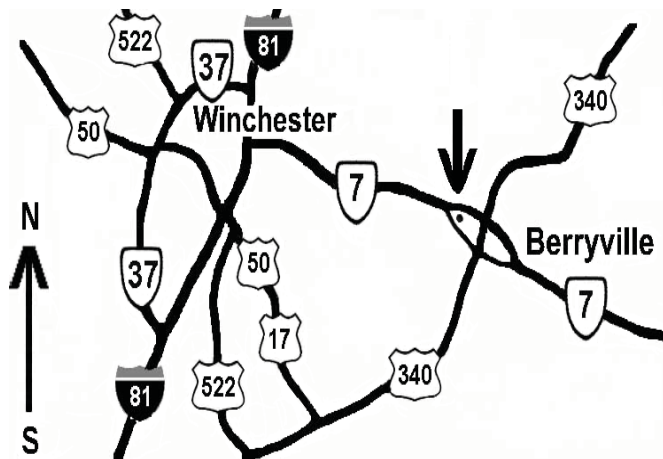
- Tail Gate Spaces are \$10 each (First come, first served)
- Online Indoor Vendor Table Registration at berryvillehamfest.com
- Ruritan Beef & Chicken BBQ Dinner / Sugar Creek Ice Cream
- \$15.00 FOR A CAMPER SPACE~~ RURITAN RULES: **NO Pets, Pornography, or Weapons**

Country Ham &
Eggs Breakfast at
7:00 AM

Prizes given each
hour through 1PM

Prizes:

- HF Rig
- VHF Rig
- VHF Hand Held
- Gift Certificates



VE Exams will be given by the **Laurel Amateur Radio Club VE Team of the LARC VEC** at the Clarke County High School. Walk-ins are welcome. Testing begins at 12:00 noon. A photo ID, FRN, and email address are required. For more information, contact John Creel, WB3GXW@arrl.net;

Only 10 minutes from I81

For more information go to

berryvillehamfest.com