

# OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

## September 2024

### Upcoming Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, September 17, 2024

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hello All,

As Hurricane Francine prepares to make landfall in Louisiana, if you will allow me, Hurricane Season (which ends December 1st) has been mild for the US this year. After predictions of a heavy 2024 hurricane season, this is only the second named storm hitting the mainland so far. And as always, I hope for a mild winter.

A reminder that September is National Preparedness Month. So, while the weather is warm and mostly dry, now would be a good time to inspect any tree-supported antennas or get a new one up.

Left on our 2024 To-Do List, we have the Manassas Christmas parade on December 7th at 10 AM and our annual OVH Christmas Party. Preparations have begun.

Back on September 7, 2024 the Ole Virginia Hams supported the SOWW 7th Annual Bike Ride. It was one for the books. At 74° it was like a spring day, although perhaps a bit breezy.

Best of all, we had no major injuries for the day, but a few non-emergency needs which were reported by the OVH and promptly dealt with.

We fielded 22 operators for the event. I'd like to give thanks to everyone that came out and supported this very worthwhile charity: Christopher / KN4IJF; Brian / WC4J; Thomas / W4PIO; Michael / KO4BCN; Andy / KJ4MTP; Greg / KM4CCG; John / KG4NXT; Scott / KQ4EOL; David / KG4GIY; Dianne / KI4FVV; Chip / NN4U; Jeremiah / K4HCO; Duane / KK4BZ; Bruce / KN4TS; Lori / KC0EWN; David / KK4ZUU;



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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:	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
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## FIELD DAY 2024 - CHAIRWOMAN

Cat <a href="mailto:otohime.1978@gmail.com">otohime.1978@gmail.com</a>	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 <a href="http://pwcares.org">http://pwcares.org</a>	email: <a href="mailto:kg4giy@arrl.net">kg4giy@arrl.net</a>	

## 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 <a href="mailto:andy@gamponia.com">andy@gamponia.com</a>	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](mailto:webmaster@w4ovh.net)

## EMAIL REFLECTOR — [w4ovh@googlegroups.com](mailto: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](mailto:paul@w4zb.com). Approx. Circ.: 170. Last Rev: 20240714

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Patsy / W4SFT; Chris / W3CUM; Erik / K4SOK; George / K4GVT; Robin / KJ4LWN and our guest operator: Frank Smith /, KT4LN – Chief of our EMTs – operating both at the Base Station and in the field.

I can share with you some of the numbers I have for this SOWW event:

- Funds raised: \$95,588 - to fund 38 Warrior family stays at the Warrior Retreat at Bull Run
- Number of riders in the SOWW event: 320 riders on four separate routes
- Number of volunteers assisting with the event: More than 165 volunteers
- Manpower hours expended for the event: over 1,400 hours
- NextPoint Group to be the presenting sponsor for the next year (September 6, 2025) event.

Another big tip of the hat to Andy / KJ4MTP, for organizing and running the ham radio part of this event again this year.

Additional thanks to Ken / KE2N, and Jason / N3JLT, for setting up the temporary links between the OVH and Bluemont repeaters and then standing by in case we needed maintenance. We have offered Jason space at our Mt. Pone location. It is my hope that next year, we will not be setting up temporary links, but using permanent ones.

A further article about this SOWW Bike Ride with some pictures appears later herein.

Next up is our monthly breakfast on September 14th at 8:00 AM. I hear it's the most important meal of the day. Originally developed by Byron / AK4XR, we get together every Saturday before our meetings at a table or two in the back of Yorkshire Restaurant for some good food and good conversation. Yorkshire Restaurant. 7537 Centreville Rd. Manassas.

Our next monthly meeting Tuesday, September 17, 2024. 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM EDT at the Buckhall VFD Hall, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas.

Upcoming new OVH member, Retired Admiral Robert (Bob) Shumaker / KQ4PSE will do a presentation on his POW experiences as one of the earliest and longest residents of the Hanoi Hilton, including the use by the POWs there of the tap code that he promoted for use. You are not going to want to miss this.

A reminder that the 78th Greater Manassas Christmas Parade will take place on Saturday, December 7th, 2024 @ 10 AM. Planning is underway, but we will need volunteer spotters. If interested and available, be sure to contact George / K4GVT via his email at [george@k4gvt.com](mailto:george@k4gvt.com)

Also, a reminder to check in to the OVH's Thursday night VHF/UHF FM repeater net at 8:00 PM each Thursday evening. Details about how to check in for that are on the OVH's web site: <https://w4ovh.net> This is a great way to stay in touch.

Questions, comments or war stories can be directed to my e-mail: [KN4DD@arrl.net](mailto:KN4DD@arrl.net)

73,

Ken, KN4DD

# Sunshine Corner



Happy Birthday wishes to these club members this September: Gus / N4MLE, Scott / WB6EFW, Al / KB4BHB, Jim / WE4JJ, Maury / W4HYB, Ron / N4RDZ, Bill / AF4LL, Mark / WA4KFZ, Kyle / no call, Lori / KC0EWN and Richard / N4HOS- Each of you enjoy your day!



Condolences to Kevin / KX4KU on the passing of his mother.

My apologies for the short Sunshine Corner this month, many of you have met my mom over the course of the last year or so. She passed away on September 6, 2024 and I have been tied up with the funeral arrangements. She was thrilled to meet you all and very entertained by all our ham radio stuff.

The hams in Page County Virginia are holding a Tailgate this month on September 28, 2024 in Elkton (near Luray) Virginia. Please consider visiting, they put on a great show! More info about that later in this Newsletter



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.

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

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## Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Informal Meeting held on Tuesday, August 20, 2024:

OVH President, Ken / KN4DD, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on August 20, 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.

Andy / K1RA from Fauquier County gave a presentation on TinyGS and LoRaMeshtastic. His slides were very comprehensive and his delivery was quite good. David from FARA (Fauquier County Amateur Radio Association) offered some Meshtastic nodes at cost. Andy's slides, including contact information, are on the OVH web site.

The minutes of the July 16, 2024 meeting were approved.

Jeff / K9VEG gave the Treasurer's report and it was approved.

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Luther / WA3FMO gave the membership report. There were two read-ins: David Fox / KQ4TTJ and Bob Shumaker / KQ4PSE.

David / KG4GIY gave the ARES report. He reported on the Manassas Park National Night out. He mentioned a number of upcoming events including the Willing Warrior Ride, the upcoming ARES training, the Marine Marathon and the November Turkey trot.

John / KG4NXT gave the Repeater report .The new A/C unit at Mt. Pone was installed and has brought the CPU temperatures down to an acceptable range.

Mark / WA4KFZ gave the training report. He asked if anyone needed mentoring and also asked for places for VE training.

Ken / KN4DD gave the web committee report. Cyber attacks on the w4ovh.net web site originating from Russian IP addresses appear to have greatly diminished.

Theresa / KG4TVM gave the Sunshine report. She mentioned the upcoming 91st birthday of Chick KC1PIA. She wanted the club to approve doing the Manassas Christmas Parade again at no cost to the club. Ken / KN4DD stated that the club was doing the Christmas Parade. Theresa also mentioned that Yorkshire Restaurant has been sold and that she is talking with the new owners about having the Club Holiday party there on December 7th.

No 50/50 raffle because of the shortness of time.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

The meeting was then adjourned.

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## **Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:**

### **HAMFESTS:**

September 28, 2024 (Saturday) [rain date: Sunday, 9/29/2024) - Page Valley Amateur Radio Club - Hamfest / Tailgate event - 7:00 to 1:00 PM in Elkton, Virginia. See, the Flyer for this event later in this Newsletter.

October 6, 2024 (Sunday), CARA Fest - Hamfest at the Howard County (Maryland) Fairgrounds, West Friendship, Maryland. More info available at <https://carafest.org>.

### **HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS:**

For the latter part of September and into October, there are a large number of separate State level, State QSO parties on various weekends, including for the following states: NJ, IA, TX, NH, ME, CA, NV, AZ, PA, SD, NY and IL. See, <https://www.arrl.org/contests> for more information and details for each of these. A great chance to contact these states on CW or SSB.

The ARRL maintains a Contest web page at its web site at [ARRL.org](https://www.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

September 7, 2024 - early morning until mid-afternoon. The 7th Annual Warrior Ride to be held locally, volunteers needed for communications support and spotters. See the President's letter earlier in the newsletter for more details.

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.

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### THE 7th SOWW Event

By John / KG4NXT as told to "The Other Ken" / KN4DD

Willing Warriors is a privately-funded 501 (c)(3) charitable organization offering cost-free getaways from the hospital environment where Warriors and their families can come to relax, spend quality time together, and reconnect. Their programs include more than 40+ cost-free educational and recreational activities, including seminars that address the issues of dealing with PTS and TBI.

The big SOWW fund raiser is their Annual Warrior Bike Ride. This event is based out of The Farm Brewery at Broad Run, where the event both begins & ends. Local hams (called spotters) provide communication across the race courses spanning Loudoun, Fairfax and Prince William counties.

Last Saturday, September 7, 2024, was a beautiful day for a bike ride with a daily high of only 74° that afternoon. The morning ride was cooler, breezy and with no humidity. Additionally, the variable clouds all day kept the riders cool and in the shade as the day wore on.

The SOWW bike ride consists of four courses which run more or less concurrently. The four courses and the number of 2024 participants was as follows:

Metric (58 miles)    Half Metric (30 miles)    Gravel Route    13 Miler

We had a total of 320 riders on those 4 separate routes. The routes were each color coded, spray painted onto the streets at strategic intervals & every intersection. The riders were aided by the spotters and the Prince William County Police Department, who were stationed at key intersections. At the designated points the shorter rides were directed to loop back towards the start/stop point.

Due to the wide area and terrain, the entire course could not be served by just one repeater. As he has done in previous years, Ken / KE2N, devised a method of linking the OVH 146.970 repeater to the Bluemont 147.300 repeater. Ken and Jason / N3JLT, trustee of the Bluemont repeater, worked together and made these repeaters available to SOWW.

At the end of the event, the hams were released when all returning bikers had passed

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by their (the spotter's) station. Our spotters returned the event signs and cones back to the brewery. Most hams got a nice lunch and a beer and a t-shirt, but not everyone. Unfortunately, they had run out of t-shirts and both the volunteer tent and the lunch table had closed early, before all of the spotters had returned.

I can share with you some of the numbers I have:

- Funds raised: \$95,588 for 38 Warrior family stays at the Warrior Retreat at Bull Run
- Number of riders in the event: 320 riders on four separate routes
- Number of volunteers assisting with the event: Over 165 volunteers
- Manpower hours donated for the event: over 1,400 hours
- NextPoint Group to be the presenting sponsor for the event next year on 9/6/2025

We would also like to recognize the ham radio operators working the event along with their positions: 1. Chip / NN4U / Romeo 1; 2. Greg / KM4CCG / Romeo 2; 3. Tom / W4PIO / Romeo 3; 4. Duane / KK4BZ / Romeo 4; 5. Chris / KN4IJF / Romeo 5; 6. John / KG4NXT / Romeo 6; 7. Jeremiah / K4HCO / Romeo 7; 8. Scott / KQ4EOL / Romeo 8; 9. David / KG4GIY / Romeo 9; 10. George / K4GVT / Romeo 10; 11. David / KK4ZUU / Romeo 11; 12. Erik / K4SOK / Romeo 12; 13. Chris / W3CUM / Romeo 13; 14. Rob / KJ4LWN / Romeo 14; 15. Bruce / KN4TS / Romeo 15; 16. Dianne / KI4FVV / Net Control; 17. Andy / KJ4MPT / Shadow; 18. Mike / KO4BCN / Evergreen Rest stop; 19. Brian / WC4J / Aldie Rest Stop; 20. Patsy / W4SFT / Middleburg Rest Stop; 21. Lori / KC0EWN / Airmont Rest Stop; and 22. last, but certainly not least, our guest operator Frank Smith / KT4LN.

Frank was our Chief of EMTs – operating both at the Base and in the field.



Once again, another big tip of the hat to Andy / KJ4MTP, for organizing and running the whole ham show.

Additional thanks to Ken / KE2N, and Jason / N3JLT, for setting up the temporary links between the OVH and Bluemont repeaters and then standing by in case we needed maintenance. We have offered Jason space at our Mt. Poné location. It is my hope that next year, we will not be setting up temporary links, but using permanent ones.

Finally, thank you to everyone, and I hope to see you back year, September 6th, 2025.



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# Ham Fest - Tailgate Extravaganza

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Annual PVARC Hamfest is scheduled for the last Saturday in September

**Page Valley Amateur Radio Club's biggest little hamfest is moving to the fall and changing location.**

The PVARC Tailgate Extravaganza will be held September 28 (rain date Sept. 29), 2024 from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Jr OUAM Park, 900 Shenandoah Avenue, Elkton, Virginia. This is an outdoor event. Bring your own tables.

Location 38.41812, -78.62024

Talk-in: 146.625 tone 131.8 \* Free Parking \* Handicap Accessible \* Refreshments

QSL card checker, SkyWarn, Programs for HAMS and non-Hams

Admission: \$5 \* Space Fee: \$15 (Setup @ 6:30 am)

For PVARC paid, active members, admission is free, and members set up for free.

Pre-registration is not necessary but if you would like to reserve a spot please email [bsnellings@gmail.com](mailto:bsnellings@gmail.com) with "hamfest" in the subject line.