

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

October 2024

Upcoming Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, October 15, 2024

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hello All,

I'd like to start with "reflected glory".

Once again, our Vice President, Gil / KM4OZH, has brought home the glory of Second Place Nationally in the September ARRL UHF/VHF contest. Gil competes in the "Limited Rover" category, and this time he achieved his highest raw score ever – 14,960.

Gil has been licensed a relatively short time, compared to some of our more "seasoned" members, but he took to the technical and operational challenges of serious contesting very early in his ham radio career. His tenacity and resilience and yes, his creativity (have you even seen his car?) have served him well in his contesting, which shines a positive light on the OVH, as well. Way to go, Gil!



Be sure to read the more detailed article by John / KG4NXT on Gil's most recent accomplishment later in this Newsletter and also on the OVH's web site.

Next up, a big thank you to the ham volunteers in Florida and the Southeast, who are working hand in hand with FEMA after back to back major hurricanes, Helene and Milton. Some of you might remember I am from the Tampa / St. Pete area which was hit very hard. You might also go back and reread the "ARRL Letter of October 3rd, 2024", specifically, the "Ham Radio Serving Southeast US Recovery Efforts" article.

You don't have to wait until our next monthly meeting to see everyone again. Our next monthly breakfast will be on Saturday, October 12th at 8:00 AM. Pioneered 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 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:	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 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 Repeaters 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: 20240714

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The OVH's next regular monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, October 15th, 7:30–9:00 PM at the Buckhall VFD Hall, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas. This month's presentation will be by John / KG4NXT, on "Hamclock – Much More Than Just a Clock". For instance, did you know you can get a "Hamclock" to: provide real time space weather info – SFI, K, etc., show visual propagation maps by band, give live spots – can be POTA, SOTA or DX cluster and provide various map projections. This will be one educational talk, so be sure to come on out.

A reminder that the 78th Greater Manassas Christmas Parade will take place on Saturday, December 7, 2024 at 10:00 AM. Planning is underway, but volunteer spotters are still needed to help out. If interested and available, please contact George, K4GVT via email to george@k4gvt.com for more information.

Also, planning is underway for the OVH Year End, Holiday Party which is again being organized by Theresa / KG4TVM, More details for that shortly.

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

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 this October: Ray / KM4EKR, Rob / KC4VDN, Phil / AC4PL, Chris / KN4IJF, Richard / no call, Bruce / WD4PAC, Eric / KO4MBI and David / KY4MM. Each of you enjoy your day!



Happy to hear Wayne / N7QLK reports he made it thru the two recent hurricanes. Helene and Milton, in Florida. Hope that any club members or family members living in the areas that were hit made it thru ok.

Unfortunately, Page County cancelled their Tailgate on September 28th due to impending adverse weather from Hurricane Helene, we haven't heard of any additional dates but will let you know if we hear anything on this event being rescheduled.

Way to go Gil / KM4OZH for your successful September VHF contest, 2nd in the limited rover class. Congrats, to everyone else that participated, let us know how you did!

The Manassas Christmas Parade will be on Saturday, December 7th. The OVH will be providing radio support for this event as in the past; if you can help please reach out to George / K4GVT [email: george@k4gvt.com] who is organizing the volunteers. The OVH will also have the club trailer in the parade. We do have a need for someone that has a truck or SUV to pull the trailer thru the parade and we need help with decorating. If you can help with this, please let me know – kg4tvm@hotmail.com

Well I think the September meeting had a record number of attendees. We had a great program by new member, Bob / KQ4PSE about his adventures in the Hanoi Hilton during the Vietnam

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war; he was a prisoner for over 8 years. Bob is a retired rear admiral who is now a member of our club. Welcome Bob and thank you for sharing your story with us.



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

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Informal Meeting held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024:

OVH Vice President, Gil / KM4OZH, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on September 17, 2024 in the training room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station, Manassas, Virginia. After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs.

Bob Shumaker / KQ4PSE gave the program. He spoke about his 8 years as a POW in the Hanoi Hilton and the use of the Tap Code by the POWs there.

The minutes of the August 20, 2024 OVH meeting were approved.

John / KG4NXT gave the treasurer's report which had been emailed by Jeff / K9VEG and it was approved.

Luther WA3FMO gave the membership report. There were two vote-ins and they were both voted in: David Fox / KQ4TTJ and Bob Shumaker / KQ4PSE. There was one read-in: Sean Duvall to be voted on at the October meeting.

ARES report: No report this month.

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Repeater report: No report this month..

Training report by Mark / WA4KFZ. A VE session is set for September 21, 2024 with pre registration required for individual. So far, no one has pre-registered.

Web committee report emailed in by Ken / KN4DD was read by Gil. Cyber attacks on the OVH web site have increased but so far the software defenses are holding. Ken and Kevin / KX4KU are working to tweak the web site our defenses.

Field Day 2025 – no report.

Tailgate 2025 – No chairman for that yet and a volunteer is needed for that. John / KG4NXT reported that Don / WA2SWX advised the OVH should work on securing the lease for the Tailgate location with Manassas Park now. Acting as President, Gil appointed John to make that happen.

Sunshine report by Theresa / KG4TVM. She mentioned the 91st birthday of Al / KB4BHB. She has also submitted the application for the Manassas Christmas Parade. She has been assured that we will not be charged a fee. Also, she has been working on securing the venue for the Year End Holiday Party but does not yet have a deal worked out with the Yorkshire restaurant.

Theresa won the 50/50 raffle which had a pot of \$40. She 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:

There a number of smaller hamfests within a 200 mile radius during October and November. Check the ARRL's contest calendars at <http://arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar> for more information and details.

HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS:

During the first and third weekends in November will be the ARRL's Sweepstakes Contest, on CW only during the first weekend and then on Phone only during the third weekend. These contests are on the HF bands only. The object of each is to contact as many stations as possible (with a constest exchange) in as many US and Canadian sections as possible. Because of the activity levels, these contests provides a good opportunity to contact rare states for the Worked All States (WAS) or the comparable Canadian award. Full details at <https://arrl.org/sweepstakes>

See, <https://www.arrl.org/contests> for more information and details about other contests on the ARRL maintained Contest web page, A 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

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lot -, these are very good places to look!

PUBLIC SERVICE / ARES EVENTS

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.



To the left is a image of the sky showing the Northern Lights also known as the Aurora as visible in Haymarket, Virginia on September 10, 2024. The Northern Lights are not regularly visible in Virginia The photographer was Theresa's / KG4TVM's son. .

To the right:

Vice President,

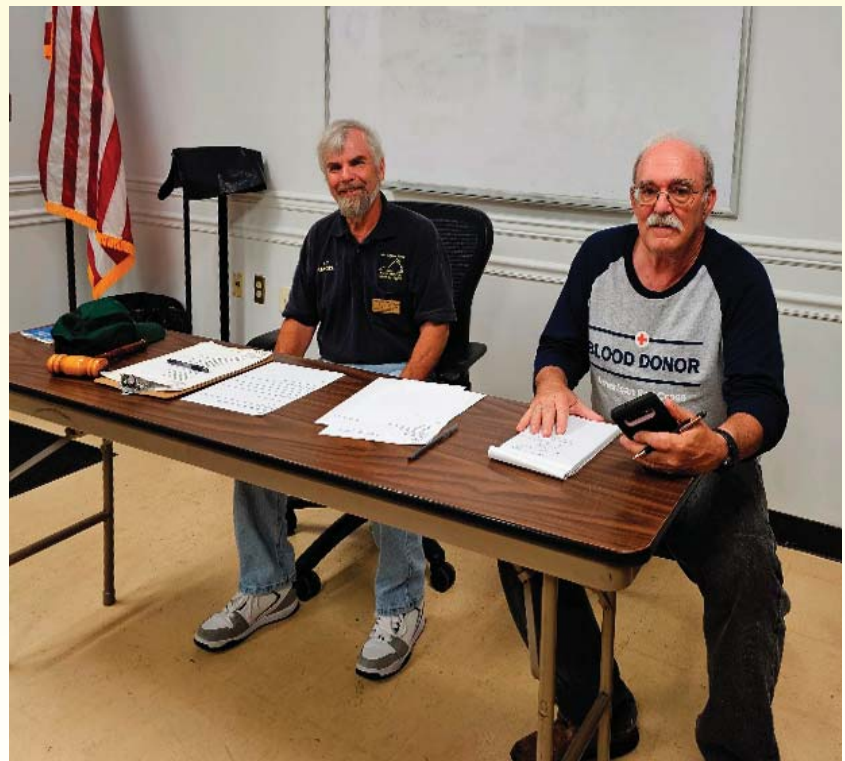
Gil / KM4OZH

and

John / KG4NXT, Secretary

at the September, 2024

OVH Regular Meeting



POW Radios

Jeff Fuller

WB6UIE



Our nation honors the sacrifices of our Prisoners of War and Missing Action (POW/MIA) each year on the third Friday in September. The courage of our service members in surviving harsh living conditions, brutal interrogations, and starvation rations is legendary. This story will cover a lesser known and fascinating portion of their bravery and ingenuity - radios secretly built and operated by American and Allied prisoners right under the noses of their captors.

POW radios got their start as WWII Axis compounds began to fill with downed Allied aviators, hungry for news about the war's progress. Some had military radio training. Others had been hams before the war. For a moment, imagine yourself as one of those prisoners. You're injured, on short rations, and living in primitive conditions. How will you find parts for even a basic receiver? And, of course, the design will be yours (no references or tube manuals). Since consequences of discovery by your captors will be severe, your design must also be small and concealable.

Powerful BBC broadcasts beamed across the Channel made crystal radios practical for European POWs. Builders needed a little creativity for the diode, some wire, a pilfered earphone, and a good hiding place. Of course the German policy of assigning POWs to work details did make the challenge a little easier. Radio parts just seemed to disappear from the repair shop now and then.



This crystal radio, hidden in a soap dish, belonged to a U.S. airman interned in Stalag 17-B. (Credit: *Just Collecting News* 2017-05-30) [1]

Japanese camps, on the other hand, were thousands of miles from the nearest Allied broadcasters, making crystal radios impractical. Designers needed to come up with something fairly simple with lots of gain - like a one tube regen.

British prisoners from the fall of Singapore soon scored a success. Late one evening they carefully posted lookouts, since mere possession of a radio was grounds for execution. They fired up their set and felt a surge of adrenaline as the chimes of Big Ben rang out from its earphone. At last, news about the war. The announcer began detailing the hops harvest in Kent [2]. What ?? Where was the war news bulletin? The announcer droned on about growing hops for nearly an hour until the signal slowly faded into a shifting ionosphere. The POWs concluded that if the BBC could devote that much time to hops, things must be going ok back home. Hopefully, future listening sessions were more productive ...



Shangi Gaol (Singapore) PoW camp radio concealed in a teak beam

Credit: "Wireless for the Warrior - Volume 4 Supplement Chap. 212 - 1 [3]

American POWs held by the Japanese in the Philippines weren't just interested in the latest war news. They feared that once MacArthur's troops hit the beach, the Japanese would execute them to cover up the atrocities they had committed. A radio could provide enough early warning to carry out an escape plan.

Army Captain Russell Hutchison, interned in the notorious Cabanatuan camp, came up with a clever design hidden in a cutaway portion of a canteen (below). The little 12SK7 regen pulled in stations as far away as San Francisco. When not in use, it was stored in its canvas pouch, looking like any other GI canteen. Upon rotating out of the camp, Hutchison passed the radio on to another Army officer, William Gibson. When the radio's 12SK7 burned out, Gibson put his ham skills to work and redesigned it for a 6J7. Gibson found it easier to obtain parts once the Japanese made the mistake of assigning him to the radio repair shop. [4]

The original canteen radio was lost in the chaos of the raid by U.S. and resistance forces which freed the prisoners on 30 January 1945. Replicas built by hams have been the subject of several articles and homebrew contests. [6], [7]

It should be noted that in spite of the brutal mistreatment of prisoners in the camp, no one gave up the radio. Yet another reminder that our freedoms are not free.



A replica of the canteen radio receiver constructed by David W. Cripe, NM0S, was an Ozarkcom 2012 overall 'Homebrew' contest winner.

*Credit: Wireless for the Warrior
Vol 4 Supplement Chapter 203 [5]*

References and further reading

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<https://news.justcollecting.com/the-secret-pow-camp-radio-that-inspired-a-hollywood-classic/>
2. "Construction of Radio Equipment in a Japanese POW Camp"
Lieutenant Colonel R. G. Wells
<http://www.zerobeat.net/drakelist/powradio.html>
3. "Shangi Gaol (Singapore) PoW camp radio concealed in a teak beam"
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<http://www.wftw.nl/203%20PoW%20radio%201%20canteen%20v1%2000.pdf>
4. Thompson, G. "The U.S. Army in WWII, Technical Series, The Outcome"
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6. Sammons, Tim. "Canteen Shortwave Radio Receiver"
N6CC - Navy 6 Combat Comms 1 Jan 2011
<http://www.n6cc.com/canteen-radio-receiver/>
7. Witte, Bob: "POW Canteen Radio"
The K0NR Radio Site 25 Nov 2015
<https://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/2015/11/pow-canteen-radio/>

Our Gil / KM4OZH, is in second place in the nation!

October 8, 2024 by John Heartney

Gil, KM4OZH, always competes seriously in the ARRL VHF/UHF contests. This September, he achieved a personal best and placed 2nd nationwide in posted raw scores in the Limited Rover category!. In this category, he had to be mobile and was limited to the 6M, 2M, 220 MHz and 440 MHz bands. On the road he mostly operated FT8 and mostly FM on his return to Manassas.

At one point, Gil was about to quit. He was in a new grid and needed to change his grid in the WSJT-X program for FT8. He kept typing in the new grid number, but nothing changed. He put out a call for help on the Warrenton repeater and got no help. He then got in touch with Ron, K3FR, and Ron was able to reach Andy, K1RA.

Andy found the problem.

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Gil had increased the font size in the application on his laptop so he could read it easier as he drove. However, the increase in font size had caused the application's OK button to go off screen. After a quick adjustment, Gil was back in business.

Gil usually does a circuit in Pennsylvania, but the propagation forecast had showed that state as all black, meaning very poor propagation. Gil had noticed that the Virginia Beach was all red, meaning excellent propagation. With only 2 hours of sleep, Gil drove towards the southeast and stopped in Williamsburg. There were no new stations. Gil had chased propagation and the propagation had changed. Gil did not have internet in his car. He will probably have it next contest.

Despite these setbacks, Gil accumulated lots of multipliers and then came back to Manassas on Sunday. He received a lot of help from both OVH club members and FARA club members. Each station that worked him on each of the 4 bands gave Gil 330 points. The 220 and 440 contacts count more than the 2M and 6M contacts.

Here is the honor roll of OVH member stations that helped Gil make more contacts and the number of contacts that each made with Gil. Stations with more than 4 contacts worked Gil in more than one grid.

AK4XR	4
K3FR	4
KE2N	4
KG4NXT	4
KG4TVM	4
KK4BZ	10
KK4ZUU	2
KM4GDX	2
KG4CAX	2
W4HJL	2
WB4TT	16



Raw Scores

Limited Rover	
78,625	1. KG9OV/R
71,706	2. <u>KM4OZH/R</u>
38,376	3. W5OC/R
5,304	4. AA2SD/R
4,465	5. N6GP/R
4,046	6. N5ZY/R
3,906	7. K8JH/R
3,751	8. KF8QL/R
3,120	9. KA7RRA/R
2,700	10. KD6EFQ/R

Gil never stops improving. For the January contest, Gil will have a new 220 amp and upgraded 440 antenna. He believes that there are two high spots in other grids that stations in Manassas might be able to hit with an HT. Lets help Gil again next contest in January. He is still aiming for the top spot.