

# OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

## November 2024

### Upcoming Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, November 19, 2024

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hello again everyone!

Last month's opening statement in the President's Letter had to do with OVH Vice President Gil / KM4OZH's remarkable performance in September's VHF contest, Limited Rover Class. Today, I am happy to report that Gil's performance can be found on page 75 of the December issue of QST magazine.

I am also pleased to announce that Mark / WA4KFZ, is working on scheduling our next VE Session. He has also told me he is planning on retiring this upcoming January after a long career. Well done, sir.

Earlier this week, November 11th, was Veterans Day. As you probably know, originally it was designated as Armistice Day in remembrance of World War I veterans. It has since evolved in the US to honor ALL veterans of our military services. So, I'd like to take a moment to thank all of our members who have served, and also all who are currently defending, those who have served, and especially the families of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Thank You.

This has been a November for the books so far - weather wise. Some record high temperatures and 38 days in a row without rain. Now that it seems that November is becoming more seasonable, the leaves are either dropping or have already dropped. So, unless you ran your end fed antenna through some evergreens like I did, it would be easier to inspect any tree supported antennas you might have now. After that, you could deal with those leaves.



# 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

## Cont'd from page 1

Our breakfast is this Saturday, November 16th 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.

Our next monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, November 19th in the Training Room at the Buckhall VFD Hall, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas at 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM EST.

Mark, WA4KFZ, will be providing the at our upcoming meeting on November 19th.

The November meeting will be the last official OVH meeting of the year.

The OVH's December Holiday Party which will be on December 14th will also our December monthly meeting. (More on that below.) So, no official business in December, just good times.

The 78th Greater Manassas Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2024 at 10 AM. The OVH is still needing some more volunteer spotters. OVH will be providing communications support for the parade as usual and the OVH club trailer will also be in the parade itself again! Theresa / KG4TVM, has volunteers to help decorate the club trailer and to drive it, as the OVH's float is in the parade. If you are available to be a spotter, please contact George / K4GVT, via e-mail [george@k4gvt.com](mailto:george@k4gvt.com)

The last event for the Holiday season this year will be, of course, the OVH's World Famous Holiday Party, which will be held in a new venue this year! The new location this year will be the Heartney home. **DO NOT GO TO THE OLD LOCATION.** The OVH Holiday Party will be Saturday, December 14th, 6 PM to 8 PM. If you need directions, you can e-mail Theresa at [kg4tvm@hotmail.com](mailto:kg4tvm@hotmail.com) or John at [jheartney@gmail.com](mailto:jheartney@gmail.com) For our new members, that means there will be no regular monthly meeting in December, only the Year End Party. Please bring a covered dish, ham and turkey will be provided by the club. Hopefully John / KG4NXT will make his venison chili for us. Bring your friends and family. And bring an unwrapped gift (or two) for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots. Theresa / KG4TVM, is in charge as usual. The OVH will receive the toys collected & will make sure they get to the Toys for Tots campaign. If you can't make the party, please consider making a Toys for Tots donation where you are able. And so, a great time is guaranteed for all!

Also, a reminder to check in to the OVH's regular Thursday night VHF/UHF FM repeater net at 8 PM. The details 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 following OVH club members this November: Wayne / N7QLK, Kevin / KX4KU, Baofang / KK4JFK, Theresa / KG4TVM, Butch / W4HJL, Greg / KM4CCG, Zackary / KQ4RIS, Jeff / WB4TT, Charlie / WA4YGI, James / N5TE, James / KA4BOL and Paul / KO4GZR, Allan / no call, and Ken / K3KBF. Each of you enjoy your day!



Condolences to Wayne / N7QLK, his mother passed away in October.

Condolences to Gene / N4HFW, his brother-in-law passed away this month.

Sending healing thoughts for quick and complete recoveries to the following: Butch / W4HJL. Paula YL of Ken / KN4DD and Ken / KE2N.

Happy Veterans Day to all our military, thank each of you for your service.

The Manassas Christmas Parade will be on Saturday, December 7th this year. The OVH will be providing radio and comm. support for this event as in past years. If you are able to help, please reach out to George / K4GVT via email to [george@k4gvt.com](mailto:george@k4gvt.com) who is organizing and coordinating the volunteers for this event again this year.

The OVH will also have the club trailer in the Christmas 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 via email to [kg4tvm@hotmail.com](mailto:kg4tvm@hotmail.com)

The OVH Year End Holiday Party will be at a new location and new night this year: Saturday, December 14th at the Heartney Home in Manassas from 6 to 8 pm. This will be a potluck dinner so please bring a covered dish to share. We will also be collecting new, unwrapped toys for the Toys for Tots drive. Any questions or additional information needed, please reach out to Theresa via email at [kg4tvm@hotmail.com](mailto:kg4tvm@hotmail.com) or telephone at 703-257-3566

Don't forget there will be no regular club meeting in December, just the Year End Holiday Party on December 14th!

Wishing our club members and families a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

The OVH Thursday night VHF/UHF FM net at 8 pm each Thursday is a great way to keep up with current events and hear what other active OVH members are up to with their radios! Details are on the W4OVH.NET web site.



Please send me your news, good, not so good and ham related info! [kg4tvm@hotmail.com](mailto:kg4tvm@hotmail.com)

73 Theresa / KG4TVM [kg4tvm@hotmail.com](mailto:kg4tvm@hotmail.com) Tel: 703-257-3566

# Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Informal Meeting held on Tuesday, October 15, 2024:

OVH Vice President, Gil / KM4OZH, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on October 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.

The minutes of the September 17, 2024 meeting were approved.

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

Presentation: John / KG4NXT gave the presentation on HamClock. Slides relating to that will be posted on the OVH web site.

Luther / WA3FMO gave the membership report. There was one vote-in and he was voted in: Sean Duvall

There was also one read-in: Steve Migel / KM4WVP to be voted on at the next regular meeting.

ARES Report. No report.

Repeater Report . No report. .Ken / KE2N is currently in the hospital.

Training Report: Mark / WA4KFZ gave the training report. He is trying to set up a VE Session in November, time and place to be announced.

Web Committee Report. Gil / KM4OZH gave the web committee report as emailed from Ken / KN4DD. Cyber attacks continue but the Wordpress software defenses are holding.

Field Day 2025: no report.

Tailgate Event 2025: No Chairman appointed yet. John / KG4NXT reported that the OVH has leased the field venue for June 7, 2025 for this.

Sunshine Report. Theresa / KG4TVM gave the Sunshine Report. The OVH is confirmed for the Manassas Christmas Parade for its trailer as a float. She is looking for volunteers to help decorate the trailer. We are doing communications for the parade again and George / K4GVT needs volunteers. Theresa is continuing to work on details for the Year End Holiday Party, details to be announced soon.

Daniela / KQ4IKQ won the 50/50 raffle and donated most of her winnings to the club.

Old Business: None

New Business: John / KG4NXT mentioned that the OVH is planning to put a Meshtastic node on Mt Pone at no cost to the club.

The meeting was then adjourned.

## Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

### HAMFESTS:

November and December are not big Hamfest months. Check the ARRL's contest calendars at <http://arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar> for more information and details.

Friday - Sunday, February 7 - 9, 2025, Orlando, Florida. HamCation - one of the biggest hamfests on the East Coast. Hams travel to it from all over the US and the world. More info at: [Hamcation.com](http://Hamcation.com)

### OVH EVENTS:

Saturday, December 14, 2024 - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, the OVH Year End Holiday Party at the Heartney Home in Manassas. This will be a potluck dinner so please bring a covered dish to share. We will also be collecting new, unwrapped toys for the Toys for Tots drive. Any questions or additional information needed, please reach out to Theresa via email at [kg4tvm@hotmail.com](mailto:kg4tvm@hotmail.com) or telephone at 703-257-3566

### HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS:

During the third weekends in November will be the ARRL's Sweepstakes Contest, on Phone only. This contest is on the HF bands only. The object of each is to contact as many stations as possible (with a contest exchange) in as many US and Canadian sections as possible. Because of the high 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](http://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 EVENTS / PUBLIC SERVICE / ARES EVENTS

Saturday, December 7, 2024 at 10:00 AM in Manassas. The 78th Greater Manassas Christmas Parade will take place in downtown Manassas, Virginia. The OVH is planning to operate its trailer as a float in the Parade. Contact Theresa via email at [kg4tvm@hotmail.com](mailto:kg4tvm@hotmail.com) to help out with that. Also, the OVH will again be providing communication support to the Parade, and is seeking more volunteers to assist with that. Contact George / K4GVT who is coordinating the comm support for the parade at [george@K4GVT.com](mailto:george@K4GVT.com) General info at: [gmchristmasparade.org](http://gmchristmasparade.org)

Check the online Calendar on the OVH's web site at [W4OVH.NET](http://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.

# The HamClock Presentation by John / KG4NXT at the October 2024 OVH Meeting - Some Follow Up and Summaries

You should refer to John's slides, including PDFs, of his presentation that are now on the OVH web site (W4OVH.net) under Membership - Presentations.

HamClock was originated by Elwood Downey, WB0OEW, who first published an article about HamClock in the October 2017 issue of QST. A copy of that article can be downloaded from <https://clearskyinstitute.com/ham/HamClock/QST-HamClock.pdf>

HamClock has been an ongoing project with many contributors to the project. WB0OEW maintains a web site with a large amount of information about it. An up to date PDF info listing is at <https://www.clearskyinstitute.com/ham/HamClock/HamClockKey.pdf>

A recent in depth article about creating a HamClock appears in a 124 page issue of a slick PDF by the Surrey (British Columbia) Amateur Radio Club at pages 46-52 which can be found at: <https://www.calameo.com/read/0076654746ade7e23a716> You will need to go page by page to page 46 to get to the beginning of the HamClock article.

This does not appear to be simple or easy project for a novice with electronics assembly or software in that it involves the integration of microcomputer (Raspberry Pi) and other interface hardware components with various software components that interact with and control the hardware to create a working HamClock with impressive capabilities. The good news is that working software components have already been programmed and tested and work, but the software can also be customized by those with skills and ambition. Also, good news is that the cost of the hardware components needed for this project are quite modest. The project offers a great potential learning experience.

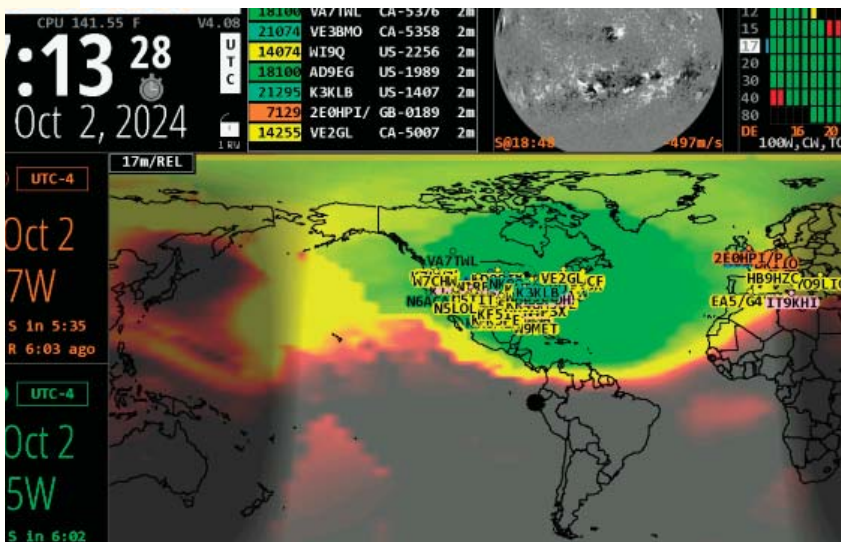
Below are parts from a few of John's slides relating to his HamClock presentation.

## Much more than a Clock !

- Real time space weather info – SFI, K , etc
- Visual propagation maps by Band
- Current time – local, UTC, and one more
- Live spots – can be Pota , Sota or dx cluster
- Different map projections

## What does it cost ?

- Software is free
- Hardware need is any raspberry pi that has wifi - Amazon listed a raspberry pi zero w for \$19.99
- You will need an 8 GB mini sd card – Amazon had 2 pack for \$7.99



Estimate Propagation between two points

1. Select band on VOACAP DE-DX pane
2. Your location will be set in DE
3. SET DX'S location by clicking or by entering lat-long
4. Select mode – SSB, CW, FT8 etc
5. Map with colors + zoom
6. Colors green 80 – 100 % ; yellow 40-60 % - red or black – less than 20%

