

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

Renew your OVH membership now!

December 2024

Next Monthly Meeting: Wednesday, January 22, 2025

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hello to All Again,

As 2024 winds down, it is customary to review where we have been this year.

Last year was the first year without the Tri-It-Now mini triathlons. They would have started up last March (2024), but Ina Nenninger, owner and organizer of Tri It Now retired and moved away. I, for one, miss the activities, and our "new ham" members have lost a great way to wade in to our hobby.

I really believe the OVH needs to replace this activity. If any of you have any ideas, please contact me or any of the other officers.

In March we had the VA QSO Party and we performed quite well, yet again. A big nod to Gil / KM4OZH.

In April, our OVH Trailer got re homed. We had stored the trailer for a number of years in the City of Manassas yard for its Electric Utilities, taking it out for missions such as Hamfest / Tailgate Parties and Field Days. We were asked to move the trailer as the City was clearing out all non-city property to make room to store transformers for the new data centers being built. Gil / KM4OZH, came to our rescue and volunteered to take it for a while.

Also in April, 2024, OVH's own VE Session was held at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Clifton Campus. This was to be our last VE Session at this location, as that congregation sold that building. Not to worry though, a new location has been found.

A reminder that back in May, Theresa / KG4TVM, the OVH's Club Historian) and John / KG4NXT, added substantially to our web archive of old OVH Newsletters. They



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 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: 20240714

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acquired a cache of very old OVH Newsletters and scanned them into our web site's Newsletter Archive. Our web site now has issues dating back to 1984. If you want to see what used to be, just go to "About the Club – Newsletters" and scroll down.

In June, Don / WA2SWX and his team oversaw his last Hamfest / Tailgate Party. And another successful Tailgate Party, as we have come to expect from Don and his team. Don and his bride, Edith, have since retired and moved to a house on the water in Ecuador.

Don was also longtime OVH Treasurer & his retirement created a vacancy. Jeff / K9VEG, graciously stepped forward. He is proving to be both a capable and dependable replacement. We hope he continues for quite some time.

Over 2024, we continued to support our sister clubs' Hamfests, notably PVARC Ham Fest in Elkton, Virginia; Winterfest in Vienna, Virginia and Thawfest II (aka Hamfest at Ruckersville, Virginia).

Also in June, Cat / KM4PBD, came back to captain her helm for the second time as Field Day Chairwoman. Thank you for another successful Field Day. This year's Field Day also had our first weather balloon launch, armed with a solar powered radio set up for WSPR (Weak Signal Propagation Reporter – pronounced "whisper").

Back on the 4th of July, the OVH supported "The IMDC Freedom Firecracker 5k and Sparkler 1 Mile", formerly known as "The Freedom Firecracker 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run".

Also, back during the first week of July was the popular 13 Colonies Special Event – 2024.

Still in July, our Mt. Pone repeater shack suffered an \$1,100+ air conditioning failure. Byron / AK4XR; Jeff / K9VEG; Gil / KM4OZH and John / KG4NXT, were instrumental in getting this project through committee, purchased and installed. If not for their help, this would have cost significantly more, as we would have had to purchase (outside) professional installation. Without this help, our Thursday night nets would have been problematic at best, and nonfunctioning at worst. Thanks guys.

On September 7th, the Ole Virginia Hams supported the SOWW 7th Annual Bike Ride. 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. We helped them raise \$95,000+ as we kept a watchful eye on their participants. I'd like to give thanks to everyone that came out and supported this very worthwhile charity.

On Thanksgiving morning, the Ole Virginia Hams once again provided communications support for the 5k portion of the Prince William Turkey Trot (5k) & Mashed Potato Mile. Their motto: "Trot, Eat, Sleep." Thank you to our volunteers here.

On December 7, 2024 George, K4GVT, once again lead the Ole Virginia Hams in providing communication support for 78th Annual Greater Manassas Christmas Parade. Great job by George as usual. An article about event and some of the many pictures from it appears later in this Newsletter.

Our World Famous OVH Year End / Christmas Party / Holiday Party took place on December 14, 2024 this year at the Heartney residence in Manassas. A good assortment of

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Toys 4 Tots items were collected as usual. A good opportunity as usual for club camaraderie and a good time was had by all. See the article and some pictures later in this newsletter.

A big thank you to everyone.

Our first two regular OVH meetings in 2025 will be both on Wednesday evenings, rather than the usual third Tuesday evenings in each month, at 7:30 pm at the usual location, the Buckhall VFD Hall, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas. The January meeting will be on January 22, 2025 and the February meeting on February 19th. Our first Saturday morning informal breakfast meeting in 2025 will be on January 18, 2025 at 8:00 AM at the Yorkshire Restaurant, the usual place.

Another reminder: The annual ARRL Straight Key Night (SKN) returns on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, January 1, 0000 – 2359 UTC, which is 7:00 PM EST on December 31st. This promises to be a lot of fun for the novice (hint, hint, new members) as well as experienced CW operators - there is a surprising amount of activity on the HF bands. More info at <https://contests.arrl.org/skn>

Get ready to renew your membership. Your annual dues for 2025 will be \$25, and are due now. Please remember the new amount when you make your payment. See the mail in Flyer for renewing your club membership later in this Newsletter. Also, OVH's web site, W4OVH.net, allows you to renew online. In order for you to be eligible to vote in our upcoming February election, you will need to be current with your dues.

Now would be a good time to start thinking about nominees for club leadership positions. You might even decide to serve your fellow members as an officer. You will still need to be a member in good standing to be on the ballot.

Thank you all and Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to 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

73 Ken KN4DD



Very active OVH Member and also Treasurer, Jeff / K9VEG, recently, unexpectedly found a picture of himself on the front page of QRZ.com. See, the screen capture to the left! How did his picture get there? Jeff doesn't know but suspects QRZ.com simply picks pictures at random that QRZ.com users have posted on their individual web pages and puts them on its front page.

Sunshine Corner



Happy Birthday wishes to many following OVH club members in the last month of the year in December:

Tony / KM4KLB, Ed / KK4PHP, Jay / NQ4T,
Dianne / KI4FVV, Bill / N4SV, Kelly / (no call),
Byron / AK4XR, David / KK4ZUU, Marwood / KL7AW,
Matt / KE7EX and Russell / KQ4CAT. Each of you enjoy your day!



SK-(Silent Key) - Woody” N4MQ. Very sorry to report and sad news that George Woodworth (“Woody”) / N4MQ passed away on October 19, 2024. Woody has been a very long time member of the OVH with his well known QTH off of Catharpin Road in Gainesville. His doctor believes he suffered a massive, fatal heart attack at home while working on his ham radio equipment, doing something he always greatly enjoyed. As an Army Veteran, Woody will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery later. More info on that when received.



Woody’s daughter, Evy, is currently studying for her ham radio license and is planning on requesting her dad’s call sign. He will be missed by everyone who knew him.

A special thank you to Sam / KQ4SL and his son, Oliver, for pulling the OVH Club Trailer during the Manassas Christmas Parade. Both also helped to decorate the trailer and their truck!

Special thanks to everyone who came out for the OVH’s club Year End Holiday Party and walked in the door with food and donations for Toys For Tots! We had a huge donation to make this year and all the toys were dropped off at Buckhall Fire Department.

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

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

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Informal Meeting held on Tuesday, November 19, 2024:

OVH President, Ken / KN4DD, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on November 19, 2024 in the training room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station. After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and callsigns.

Mark WA4KFZ gave the presentation on the Nano VNA. He covered the usage, Does and Don'ts and Calibration. His slides are on the web site under presentation and include additional in-depth material not covered in the meeting presentation.

The minutes of the October 15, 2024 meeting were approved.

Jeff K9VEG gave the treasurer's and it was approved.

Luther WA3FMO gave the membership report. There was one vote-in and he was voted in: Steve Migel / KM4WVP. There was also one read-in, to be voted on at the next regular meeting: Wayne Lloyd / no call yet.

ARES report. No report this month.

Repeater report . Ken / KE2N submitted an email report which was read. All repeaters are working. A problem developed with the 5 GHz Internet link between the Mt. Pone and the NOVEC locations. Bit Ken has a software fix for it. One new member approved for DStar.

Training report: Mark / WA4KFZ advised he will try to set up a VE session for January. 2025.

Web Site Committee: Ken / KN4DD advised that attacks continue but the software defenses are holding. Many of the IP addresses for the attacker sources indicate the attacks are originating in Russia, but the sophisticated attackers often uses VPNs and other techniques to spoof IP addresses or otherwise conceal their real locations.

Field Day: no report.

Tailgate: a new chairman for this is still be sought.

Sunshine report: Theresa / KG4TVM gave the Birthdays and mentioned that Sam / KQ4IDK has volunteered to pull the OVH trailer during the upcoming Manassas Christmas Parade. Theresa needs volunteers to help decorate the trailer. The OVH is providing communications support for the parade again and George / K4GVT is still seeking additional volunteers for that. The OVH will have its Year End Holiday Party at the Heartney residence this year. It will be a Potluck so please plan bring something.

George / K4GVT reported that he is doing well on volunteers for communications support for the Manassas Christmas Paraded. Noah / KQ4IDI volunteered at the meeting. George mentioned the free, early breakfast on the day of the parade.

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Richard / N4HOS won the 50/50 raffle and donated his winnings to the club.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

The meeting was then adjourned.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

December and January 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

OVH MEETINGS / EVENTS

The OVH's first two regular meetings in 2025 will be both on the third Wednesday evenings, rather than the usual third Tuesday evenings in each month, at 7:30 pm at the usual location, the Buckhall VFD Hall, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas. The January meeting will be on January 22, 2025 and the February meeting on February 19th. Our first Saturday morning informal breakfast meeting in 2025 will be on January 18, 2025 at 8:00 AM at the Yorkshire Restaurant, the usual place.

HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS

Tuesday, December 31, 2024 (8:00 pm ET) until Wednesday, January 1, 2025 (7:59 pm ET) = New Years Day, Wednesday, January 1, 2025 (00:00 to 23:25 UTC) - ARRL Straight Key Night. This is not a real contest but a popular event celebrating Ham Radio Morse Code (CW) heritage. More info at <https://contests.arrl.org/skn> A good opportunity to make lots of slow speed contacts.

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 lot -, these are very good places to look!

PUBLIC EVENTS / 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.

TURKEY TROT – 2024



TROT...EAT...SLEEP!

On a wet and cool Thanksgiving morning, the Ole Virginia Hams (OVH) once again provided communications support for the 5k portion of the Prince William Turkey Trot (5k) and the Mashed Potato Mile. Their motto: Trot, Eat, Sleep. It had rained all night but stopped by morning, leaving us cool, damp and cloudy in time for the foot races.



The race itself went off without incident, starting at 8:30 am. Communications support by the OVH was over by 9:15 am. Like Halloween, many participants wore costumes and made it a very colorful event. It also may have been a Prince William County record for attendance: more than 1,800 runners registered. The OVH volunteers were: John / KG4NXT; Al / KB4BHB. David / KG4GIY, with Ken / KN4DD and Theresa / KG4TVM as backups.

OVH at the 78th Manassas Christmas Parade on 12/7/2024

It was cold, very cold at 7:00 am on December 7, 2024 when OVH member volunteers finally assembled near the parade location in Manassas, Virginia to provide



communications and other support the 78th annual Manassas Christmas Parade. The OVH volunteers first met at Chick-A-Fil for breakfast.



George / K4GVT, was the liaison and photographer. Sam / KQ4SL, pulled the trailer with his son,

Oliver. Theresa / KG4TVM, got our trailer entered as a parade float and she also took the lead in decorating the trailer. Dianne, KI4FVV, was net control.



George visited all of the OVH members at their locations. When he reached City Hall, he located Noah / KQ4IDI and John / KG4NXT. George asked them if they needed anything and John replied “Beer.” George showed up with a foaming beer 45 minutes later.



OVH members supporting the 78th Manassas Christmas Parade in 2024 included David / KG4GIY; Byron / AK4XR; Theresa / KG4TVM; John / KG4NXT; Gene / N4HFW; Michael / KO4BCN; Dianne / KI4FVV; George / K4GVT and Noah / KQ4IDI.

The 2024 OVH Year End Holiday / Christmas Party

The OVH’s Year End Christmas / Holiday party this year was held at the home of John / KG4NXT and Theresa / KG4TVM in Manassas this year. The Yorkshire Restaurant location may be available again next year.

The OVH members who attended included: Al / KB4BHB, Ken / KN4DD, Cat / KM4PBD, Luis / KQ4GBC, Daniela / KQ4IKQ, Gus / N4MLE, Byron / AK4XR and his XYL Jane, Bill / AF4LL and his friend Dana, Ron / K3FR, Jeff / WB5UIE and Pinky / KN4ZLY. Byron and Jane brought a large number of stuffed animals for Toys for Tots. .



There was a great abundance of food. Theresa cooked a turkey and a Ham and John made venison chili as usual. There were many tasty dishes brought by the party goers since it was a potluck. Daniela entertained everyone with her story and pictures of how she had learned to gut, skin and dress a deer. She also cooked the deer that was being served: field to table.



The recipients of the yearly awards presented at the party were: Cat / KM4PBD who got the OVH lifetime achievement award for her work chairing Field Day for the past 2 years, managing the vendor areas at tailgate, for net control on Thursday nights and helping with other club events; and Ken / KN4DD who receive an award for his outstanding leadership as OVH President for 3 years.

Last but not least, many Toys for tots items were collected, with very generous with their donations. As already noted, Byron and Jane brought a large number of stuffed animal donations. John and Theresa took all the Toys for Tots items to the Buckhall Volunteer fire station collection point the next day.



REMINDER



Yes, it is that time of year again!!!! Below is the 2025 Renewal Application.

Please fill out the form below (for database), attach your check and mail to the address below or drop off at a meeting. Be sure to update all information, including your e-mail address, telephone number(s) and nine digit ZIP. Note: please check online at <https://w4ovh.net> for ways to do this renewal online.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION "OLE VIRGINIA HAMS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB" for 2025

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CALL SIGN: _____

Home Tel: _____

Cell Tel: _____

Work Tel: _____

EMAIL: _____

BIRTHDAY: _____

ARE YOU PRESENTLY AN ARRL MEMBER? (YES/NO)

ARE YOU A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER: (YES/NO)

MAY YOUR TELEPHONE NOS. BE LISTED IN THE "Members Only" OVH ROSTER? (YES/NO)

WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT LICENSE CLASS? _____

Dues are **\$25.00** per year and payable on January 1, 2025. Dues for each additional family member living at the same mailing address are \$12.50. Dues for a full time student at the college undergraduate or at lower level [list school attended and grade or level: _____] are only \$12.50. Dues must be current to be eligible to vote in the February 2025 election of officers for 2025.

AMOUNT ENCLOSING: _____

NAME AND CALL OF FAMILY MEMBERS:

Name: _____

Name: _____

Call: _____

Call: _____

Return to: **Treasurer, OVH**
P.O. Box 4293
Manassas, VA 20108-0728