

The OVH ARC Newsletter
OLE VIRGINIA HAMS' AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 4293, Manassas, Va. 20108-0728
OVH FM Repeaters - 146.970- & 224.660- & 442.200+ & 443.500+
OVH D-STAR Repeaters - W4OVH - 146.865- & 442.5125+

Web Site at <http://w4ovh.net>

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

Renew your OVH membership now!

January 2025

Next Monthly Meeting: Wednesday, January 22, 2025

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Happy New Year to All,

A quick reminder: Due to MLK holiday creating a scheduling problem at the usual location for our regular monthly meeting, this month's meeting will be on WEDNESDAY, January 22nd, and NOT on the day before (Tuesday) at the Buckhall VFD Hall.

Thank you to everyone to donated gifts to Toys 4 Tots. I am told we collected more toys than ever before. Thank you also to everyone who came out to our annual Holiday Party. Thanks too, to the Heartney's for hosting us and providing us with the turkey and ham.

A huge thank you especially to Theresa, KG4TVM, who, after finding out that the Yorkshire Restaurant would not be hosting us this year, stepped back in at near last minute to turn out another excellent Holiday Party for our club.

If you took part in the annual ARRL Straight Key Night (SKN) on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, congratulations.

It's time to think about our Annual Dues, again. The amount is \$25.00 and the preferred method of payment is PayPal, if you can. Your other choices of payment could be, mailing it in, paying online or just bringing your payment to the monthly meeting. Renewal form and instructions are attached in the newsletter and the PayPal link can be found in the members section on the OVH's web site, <https://w4ovh.net>

OVH officer nominations are now being received for the upcoming officer elections for 2025; there will a vote for a new slate of officers for 2025 at the February, 2025 OVH meeting, also on a Wednesday (February 19th). So please be thinking of the best



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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 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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candidates for our club; if you are personally interested, please volunteer. I myself will be running for yet another term as OVH President, and am asking for your support.

Our first Tailgate planning meeting will be on the 14th of January at Sam and Joe's Pizza; 6 PM for dinner and 6:30 PM for business. Please remember we are doing another Tailgate Party in lieu of a Hamfest for June 2025. This is the OVH's only money making event for the year, so please plan and try to be involved.

Our monthly breakfast returns this Saturday, January 18th 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 Rd, Manassas.

Our next regular monthly meeting will be on WEDNESDAY, January 22nd (NOT on the previous day, Tuesday) at 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM ET, at the Buckhall VFD Hall, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas, Virginia.

John / KG4NXT, will be presenting an Update into the OVH's foray into mesh networks.

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. The details for that are on the OVH's web site: <https://w4ovh.net>

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

73 Ken KN4DD

Sunshine Corner



Celebrating the New Year and another trip around the Sun, please wish the following club members a happy birthday – Fred / WD4ASP, Cat / KM4PBD, John / KG4HZC, William / KN4YPG, John / KI4OWH, Justin / KJ4LAS, Elizabeth / KG4NXV, Erik / K4SOK, Joseph / KM4UYA, John / WA1STU, Ken / KE2N, James / KQ4CAX, Mark / KO4MBN, and OVH Club President, Ken / KN4DD.



So January is pretty quiet on the ham front but in the background, things are happening! The first planning meeting for Tailgate 2025 was held January 14th with first a dinner at Sam & Joe's to set the scene for a productive meeting; John / KG4NXT, Theresa / KG4TVM, Gil / KM4OZH, Byron / AK4XR, Jeff / K9VEG and Gene / N4HFW attended. Tailgate flyer and Volunteer sign up will be out soon, we will need lots of help the day of the event. It is not too



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late to come to future planning meetings! (Photo on previous page.) So, please mark your calendar for Saturday, June 7, 2025 for the 2025 OVH Tailgate event!

The first Hamfest of the year in our area will be on February 1st – the Middle Peninsula Hamfest in Gloucester, VA. John / KG4NXT and I are planning on attending (weather permitting); we will have an OVH table set up. If you have some items for sale this could be the place to get those items sold! Please contact John or Theresa if you would like to sell items at the table.

On Saturday, January 25th at 0800-1200 ET at the Saint Andrew Lutheran Church, 14640 Soucy Place, Centreville, Virginia, the OVH will be holding a VE Session. Mark / WA4KFZ will be running this VE session with help from other OVH VEs. Important to note: walk ins are welcome!

Winter Field Day this year will be on January 25th and 26th. See, winterfieldday.org for more info. Vienna Wireless will have a Cert tent set up for this event. More info about that at <https://viennawireless.net/wp/winter-field-day>

Don / WA2SWX in far away Ecuador has informed us he is now settling in and has become a member of the local ham club. The club callsign there is HC4MRC and he will be using that callsign for now.

Remember that the OVH Thursday night VHF/UHF FM net is at 8:00 pm each Thursday evening and 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!

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

Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Informal Meeting for December, 2024:

The OVH meeting for December, 2024 was held informally jointly with the year end Christmas / Holiday party. No formal notes were taken.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

January is not a big Hamfest month. Check the ARRL's contest calendars for more information and details at <http://arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>

Saturday, February 1, 2025. Gloucester, Virginia. The 2-25 Middle Peninsula Hamfest. Full details at <https://mparc.net> OVH will have a table at this Hamfest.

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: <https://Hamcation.com>

OVH EVENTS

Saturday, January 25, 2025 at 0800-1200 ET at the Saint Andrew Lutheran Church, 14640 Soucy Place, Centreville, Virginia, the OVH will be holding a VE Session for ham radio license exams. Walk-ins allowed. Spread the word about this to anyone you know who is seeking to obtain a ham license or license upgrade. Mark / WA4KFZ is coordinating this for the OVH, email: wa4kfz@outlook.com !

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

Friday, January 24, 2025 (22:00 UTC) to Sunday, January 26, 2025 (22:00 UTC), the CQ World Wide 160 Meter CW contest. This has been a major low band contest for many, many years. It was sponsored and run for 60+ years by the now defunct CQ Magazine (by its use of CQ's highly motivated and involved contesting editors). Fortunately, the CQ WW 160 meter contents are being continued thanks to the efforts and organization provided by contesters loyal o this 160 meter event despite the demise of CQ Magazine. Details for the CW and the SSB contests at <https://cq160.com>

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://pwcares.org> for the latest PWC ARES updates. Complete direct contact information for David / KG4GIY also appears on page 2 of this Newsletter.

RECENT ANTENNA WORK WITH PICTURES - John / KG4NXT



Before all the “big” snow came in early January, Al / KB4BHB mounted a new vertical antenna on a military fiberglass mast. John / KG4NXT and Gene / N4HFW were part of the crew that assisted Al. The antenna is guyed by two



lengths of parachute cord and an antenna bracket mounted on the soffit of Al’s house. The coax used was LMR 400. The PL-259 on the LMR 400 was damaged when John and Al attempted to ram it through a hole in the brick wall. A new connector was installed and the antenna works great. It will give Al good 440 Mhz capability for the upcoming Virginia QSO Party, the VHF/UHF contests and for 13 Colonies.



Gene / N4HFW had a problem getting into OVH’s 146.97 MHz FM repeater from his shack in his basement at this home QTH. To connect to the Thursday night net, Gene has been using an Android app to provide a link up via an Internet connection. To reestablish a direct

RF link to OVH’s 2 meter FM repeater, Gene located his mag mount 2 meter antenna and mounted it on his Weber grill for a ground plane next to his home, connecting the antenna into his basement shack. It works great.

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