

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

August 2025

Next Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, August 19, 2025

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Greetings All!

The month of August is the halfway point of this, my last term as your Club President.

I have enjoyed serving, both as Vice President (one term) and President (four terms) of the Old Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club. But with what appears to be increasing medical issues, it is clear it will soon be time to step aside and make way for new blood and new ideas.

Accordingly, I am planning on finishing my term in February with our standard election cycle and not running for any club officer position after that. Additionally, I will be surrendering my duties as “A / V Guy” (audio/visual guy) at that time as well.

We are a 60+ year old club made up of over 100 members. With 6 months notice until the next election, I am asking you to use that time to mull over your plans for the next year and to have at least one of you step up for service.

With September only a few weeks away, I am reminded that while Hurricane Season officially starts on June 1st, here in the Mid-Atlantic region it unofficially begins for us in September. Now would be a good time to check your emergency communications equipment, supplies, including batteries. It would also be a good time to verify the integrity of both your antenna(s) and the guy wires.

You don't have to wait until our in-person meetings to see everyone again; you can come out this Saturday, August 16th at 8:00 AM for the resumption of our monthly breakfasts! Pioneered by Byron / AK4XR, way back in the olden days (2019), we get together on the Saturday immediately before our Tuesday meetings at a table or two in the back of



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) Blasdel	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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Yorkshire Restaurant for some good food and good conversation. Yorkshire Restaurant, 7537 Centreville Road, Manassas. We hope to see you there.

Next, our upcoming monthly regular OVH meeting will be on Tuesday, August 19th at 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM EDT, at the Buckhall VFD Hall, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas.

August's presentation will be by our own George / K4GVT, who will talk about Rocky Road Down Satellite Smartcard Hacking, a subject on which he is an world class expert. See image later in this Newsletter. If this subjects interests you, that you HAVE to attend in person. If you are not there, you will miss out.

The Warrior Bike Ride.

The OVH is supporting the 8th Annual Warrior Ride on September 6th, which is now less than a month away. We will need about 24 volunteer spotters in total to man this 60-mile bike ride. I know this is a lot of volunteers, but this is a very worthwhile charity and we really need the help. And a big thank you to those of you who have already volunteered and registered. This will be largely a mobile 50-watt radio event using both the W4OVH repeater and the Bluemont repeater. Some locations will be able to operate using hand-held radios, but that is only in very few locations very close to The Farm Brewery, which is the start/stop point. The event will be that Saturday morning from 0600 - 0800 starting (depending on your location through about 1400-1500 (2 - 3PM ending time). For additional information, please see Andy Gamponia, KJ4MTP's Reflector posting of July 21st 2025. To learn more or participate, go to <https://www.bikereg.com/volunteers-warrior-ride> and register. You can also contact Andy / KJ4MTP via email at andy@gamponia.com

A reminder to check in to the OVH's Thursday night VHF/UHF FM repeater net at 8 PM - details are on the OVH's web site: <https://w4ovh.net> This is a great way to stay in touch.

Questions, comments or war stories should be directed to my e-mail: kn4dd@arrl.net

73 Ken KN4DD



Sunshine Corner

Happy Birthday wishes to all of the following OVH club members with birthdays in August, Andy / KJ4MTP, Ken / KD4VA, John / KK4TCE, Karl / W4KRL, Stu / W4PR, Joseph / KO4TUX, Ronnell / KK4ZUR, Chick / KC1PIA, Duane / KK4BZ and Raymond / KK4AQR. Hope each of you have a great year ahead!



Congratulations to Wayne / N7QLK and wife Vicki on the birth of their first grandchild. Megan (Daughter) and Alexander (Son-in-Law) gave birth to a bouncing baby boy they have named Adam. Their daughter Lauren is also pregnant and will be due very soon. WOW, it will be like having twins in the house! Can't

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wait to see pictures of everyone!

Congratulations to our friends at the Shenandoah Valley ARC on their successful Berryville Hamfest earlier this month. John / KG4NXT and I were able to meet up with several OVH members on a beautiful Sunday morning in Clarke County.

Thanks to everyone that came out to our first club POTA event in July. We had several club members participating. Also had a few from the Heritage Hunt club stop by for a visit. Another successful event!

Willing Warriors Bike Ride will be on September 6th, several club members have signed up to provide radio communications along the bike route. There are still a few spots left if you can help out, please register as a ham radio volunteer at <https://www.bikereg.com/volunteers-warrior-ride> Thanks for your participation!

Please make sure the club has your call sign, mailing address and other details correct. Go to our web site in the Member's Only section at w4ovh.net

Please check and make sure on the Members Only Log-In at W4OVH.net that the OVH has all of the correct and up-to-date information on file for you!

Remember that the OVH Thursday night VHF and UHF FM net is at 8:00 pm each Thursday evening. It 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 Meeting held on July 16, 2025:

OVH President, Ken / KN4DD, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on July 16th, 2025 in the training room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station. After the Pledge of Allegiance, all present stated their names and call signs.

Next, Alan Skerker / KC4ZA gave an excellent presentation on Artificial Intelligence which included links to AI ham applications. His slides and links are in the Presentations page on the Membership dropdown menu at the W4OVH.com web site. .

The minutes of the June 17, 2025 meeting were approved.

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

Luther / WA3FMO emailed the membership report which reported one read-in for Jerry Hiller / KR4EZZ.

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ARES: No report this month.

Repeaters. Ken / KE2N gave the Repeaters Report by email because of a car problem. All repeaters and web interfaces are working. Linux for the Wires x/Fusion interface was updated to provide new security features. One new DSTAR US Trust registration was processed this month. A lower level of interference on the 224.99 repeater was noted.

Training Report. The last “paper” VE session will be held July 26.

Tail Gate – skipped.

Field Day – skipped

Website report. Ken / KN4DD gave that report and advised sources with real or feigned Russian IP address have been very active again with attempted but so far unsuccessful attacks on the W4OVH.com web site.

POTA – Theresa / KG4TVM is working on a date in July to meet at Conway Robinson Park and other details for a POTA activation; Watch the club email reflector for more specific information.

Theresa / KG4TVM gave the Sunshine report..July birthdays were mentioned and she also announced a OVH’s upcoming POTA activation at Conway Robinson State forest will be on July 18. She also presented Gil / KM4OZH with an award for placing first in the rover category in the VAQP despite a deer attack on his car.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None

The meeting was then adjourned.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

Its late summer and August and September are not particularly good months for nearby Hamfests. Check the ARRL Hamfest Calendar for possible more distant ones. .

OVH RELATED EVENTS

Saturday, September 6th. OVH will be supporting the Willing Warriors Bike Ride with communications along and over the course, This will be largely a mobile 50-watt radio event using both the W4OVH repeater and the Bluemont repeater. The event will be on that Saturday morning from 0600 - 0800 starting (depending on your location through about 1400-1500 (2 - 3PM ending time. If you are able to help, please register as a ham radio volunteer at <https://www.bikereg.com/volunteers-warrior-ride> You can get additional information via email [andy@gamponia.com] from Andy / KJ4MTP who is coordinating ham radio support for this event.

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HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS

Saturday, September 13th (00:00 UTC) until Sunday, September 14th, 2025 (23:59 UTC) - the Worked All Europe (WAE) contest on SSB sponsored by the DARC. This is one of the major worldwide DX contests each year with lots of participation, which provides opportunities for operators in North America to work almost all countries in Europe during a single weekend on Phone. More info at: <https://www.darc.de/der-club/referate/conteste/wae-dx-contest/en/wae-rules>

See also, <https://www.arrl.org/contests> for the ARRL maintained Contesting web page, A lot is always going on. See, <https://contestcalendar.com> by WA7BNM and [NG3K.com](https://ng3k.com) for more!

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.



George / K4GVT will be giving a presentation on the subject shown in the image to the left at the August 19, 2025 OVH regular meeting. George is truly a world class expert and authority on this subject; To find out what it is all about, you will need to attend the meeting. Image to the left, courtesy of George.

July 26th, 2025 - OVH VE Session Summary Report

The OVH's July 26, 2025 VE session organized by Mark / WA4KFZ was very successful, and thanks should be given to thank all of the OVH volunteers (and St. Andrew Lutheran Church for making this possible).

Summary: a total of 9 candidates appeared for at least one exam. 11 exams were issued and taken. There were more candidate attendees at this session than usual because the OVH had cancelled the previously scheduled May 24, 2025 session due to conflict with Memorial Day weekend.

As a result of the exams, the following Licenses were earned: Extra: 1; General: 2; and

Technician: 6. One applicant passed both Technician and General. One applicant passed the Technician but, despite a valiant effort, did not pass the General exam.

A huge round of applause to the OVH VEs who made this possible. David / KG4GIY, Ken / KN4DD, James / KM4SXM and James / KQ4CAX. A special shout out to Byron / AK4XR who showed up early in the morning to see if an additional VE was needed, but feeling under the weather, he headed back home. Get well Byron and hope to get you off the “injured reserve” list soon.

Lessons Learned: Bring a stack of \$5 bills!! Everyone, except the last candidate, showed up with only \$20 bills and we were short on \$5s needed to make change. Thanks to our VE team, they dug deep into their pockets and scrounged up enough \$5's to keep the registration process running.

Conclusion: All of us must bid farewell to the trusty paper, blue template and bubble sheet type VE exams. All future VE exams will be electronic versions based upon the ExamTools platform. The ARRL has started the process of moving all future exams to the ExamTools system. The reduction in paperwork is well worth the effort. The OVH plans to get our VE team up to speed on the new system. Stay tuned for further announcements.

73 Mark / WA4KFZ – OVH Ham VE Liaison -- email: wa4kfz@outlook.com

The 13 Colonies Special Event takes place at the beginning of July each year. See, <https://www.13colonies.us> for full information. Below is an image of the



certificate John/KG4NXT received for participating in 13 Colonies earlier this summer. While the objective is to contact a station in each of the original colonies during the event, anyone can participate, even with a modest ham station; it is not a competitive “contest.”

OVH's July 18, 2025 POTA Activation of Conway Robinson State Forest

On July 18, 2025 OVH conducted a club POTA (Parks On The Air) activation at Conway Robinson State Forest in Gainesville, Virginia. That State Forest is on the north side of Lee Highway (Route 29) just west of the Manassas National Battlefield Park. The OVH also invited members from the Heritage Hunt Amateur Radio Club and two of them came. Several pictures taken during the event appear below on this page.

The OVH had two separate stations running for this POTA. The first, provided by John / KG4NXT used an end fed half wave in the trees and was powered by Lithium batteries. The second provided by George / K4GVT used a portable DeltaLoop antenna and was powered by batteries with solar cells. This was George's first POTA activation and it was successful with 13 contacts. John also successfully activated with 20 contacts.

In addition to the radio operating, there were good opportunities for socializing. Theresa / KG4TVM brought coffee and donuts. The OVH members attending were George / K4GVT, James / KQ4CAX, Al / KB4BHB, Theresa / KG4TVM, Jerry / KR4EZZ, Sean Duvall, and John / KG4NXT. The Heritage Hunt members attending were Don / W2SBI and Bob / KM4IAJ. Big Thanks to Theresa for coming up with the idea for this POTA event and then organizing it.



Impressions of the 2025 Berryville Hamfest

This year the Berryville Hamfest held on Sunday, August 3, 2025 seemed better than ever. See the pictures taken below on this page. The ARRL State convention for Virginia was held at the Berryville Hamfest for the first time in 2025. Overall attendance was very good and the Hamfest's tailgate area almost ran out of parking area.

There were many odd things for sale as well as, it seemed, almost any radio that had ever been made. John / KG4NXT got a Waffle House t-shirt from 2019 that had a graphic of a Waffle House with the words "Proudly Serving Ham Radio Operators".

A lot of OVH members, both active and inactive, attended, including: Bill / AF4LL, Mark / WA4KFZ, John / KK4TCE, Ed / KK4PHP, Karl / W4KRL, David / KD4DEE, Gil / KM4OZH, Ron / K3FR, John / KG4NXT and Theresa / KG4TVM. Click on the picture to get a slide show of pictures from the hamfest.



My First Meteor Scatter Contact During the August Perseids Meteor Shower

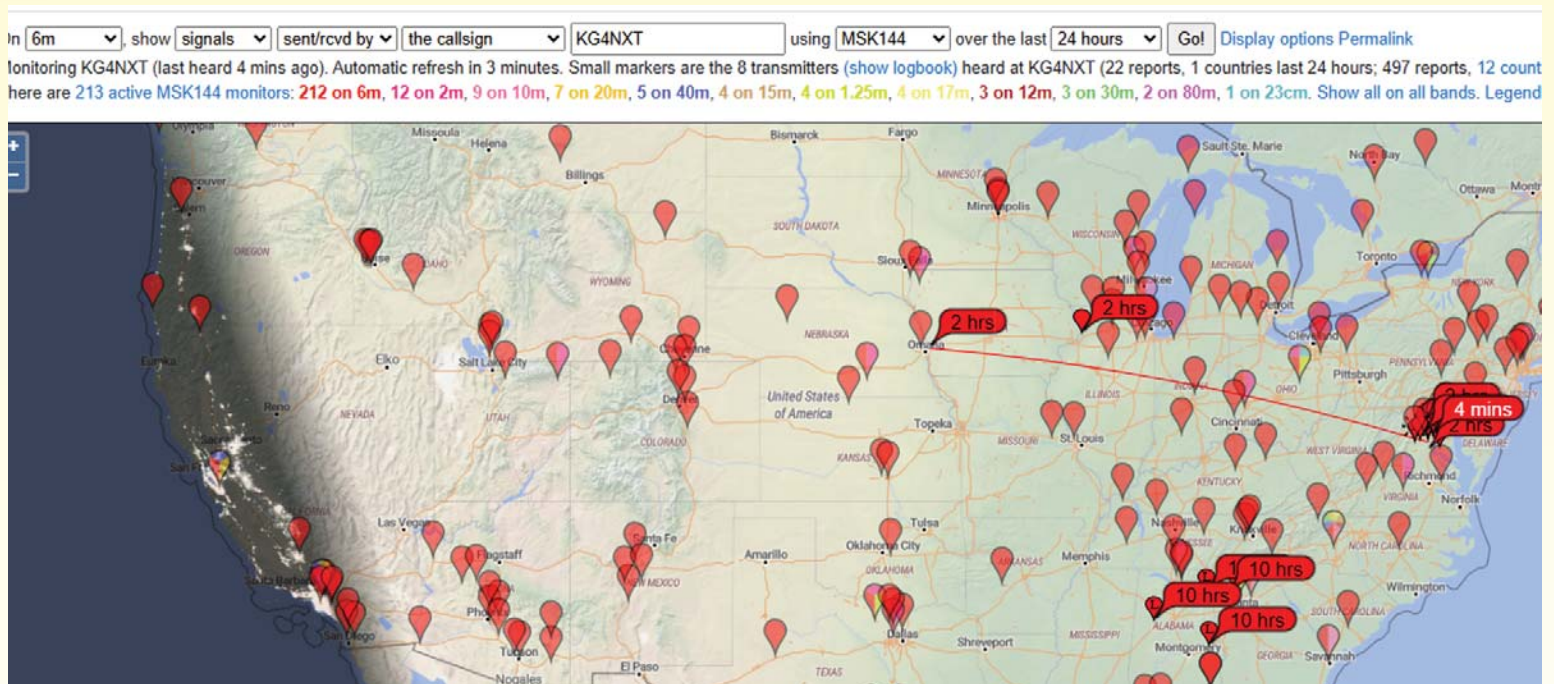
by John / KG4NXT

I was first licensed as a young ham operator in 1964 in Iowa but now, 61 years later, I have just had my very first Meteor Scatter contact during the August 2025 Perseids meteor shower. Bruce / KN4GDX helped as did Rich / K1HTV of the Fauquier Amateur Radio Association for their help. Thanks to both!

Most radio skip occurs when our RF signals bounce (i.e. are scattered or reflected) off of an ionized layer of gas molecules in the part of the earth's upper atmosphere known as the ionosphere. The gas molecules in that atmospheric layer have been ionized by high energy radiation from the sun. For meteor scatter, on the other hand, the ionization of gas molecules is provided by energy from very high speed meteors that have entered the upper atmosphere and is being dissipated as the meteors burn up from the heat caused by collisions with gas molecules. Meteor scatter caused ionization is very short lived because recombination to a non-ionized state occurs in the gas molecules once the ionization energy source (meteor burn up) ceases

On the evening of August 10, 2025, I made my first meteor scatter contacts. I used the MSK144 mode of WSJT-X on 6 meters - 50.260 MHZ bouncing off the ionized meteor paths caused by the Persieds meteor shower.

The stations I worked were AB4GA and WA4CQG, both in Alabama. I was also heard in Iowa and Illinois. See below the screen capture from the PSK Reporter system.



Psk Reporter showing KG4NXT meteor scatter heard in Iowa, Illinois and Alabama.

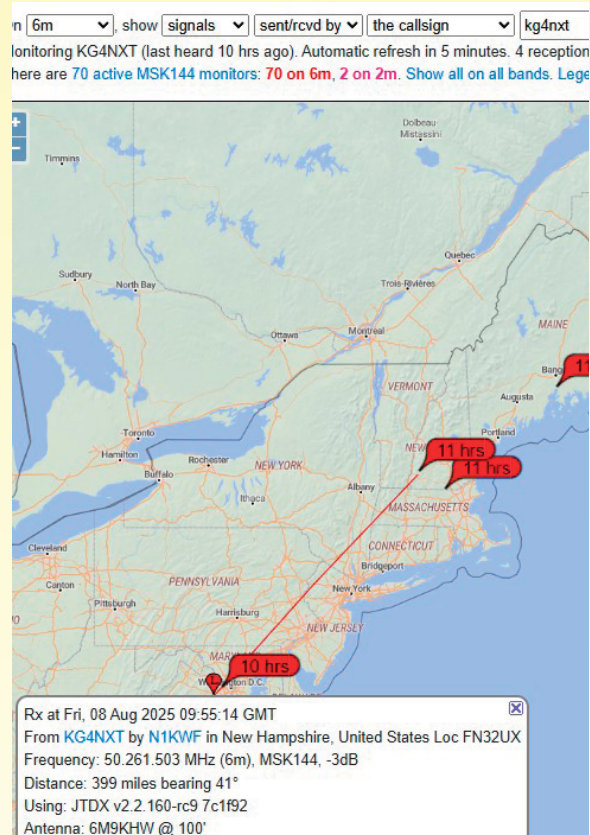
Here the description from Rich / K1HTV of how the MSK144 mode came into use for meteor scatter contacts: The Perseids meteor shower is a 24 hour a day shower. Unlike many other showers, it does not set. The problem is that the guys playing with meteors

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tend to operate in the late evening hour or again at dawn. In my 60 plus years of doing meteor showers, I've made 2-way Perseids contacts at all hours of the day. In the old days we would set up skeds using Snail mail. The skeds were CW, but when SSB came around, we found that mode to be a better way to take advantage of the short bursts. Then in 2001, Joe Taylor, K1JT, introduced MSK441 as a component of his WSJT in 2001, the name was changed to MSK144 when it was added to the WSJT-X program. With MSK144 being far superior to SSB, almost all M/S work is now done using this digital mode. It takes only milliseconds to send an MSK144 packet containing calls and grids, or calls and reports, or the calls and rogers, or calls and 73 messages. It's a lot faster than SSB. .

If you have WSJT-X working and can operate on the 6 or 10 meter bands, you are almost there for trying out meteor scatter. Example: select the MSK144 mode and the 6 meter band. The center frequency for meteor scatter is 50.260 for 6 meters and 28.145 MHz on the 10 meter band. Select odd (meaning uncheck the even box). If you log to the Internet on WSJT-X, the data will be used for scientific study. If nothing seems to be happening, just let your radio go overnight or for an extended period of time. You may have to adjust your computer's "sleep" settings so it stays awake. There are lots of hams on the PSK Reporter network so you are likely to get picked up by someone at a distance. See screen capture to the right where my station was heard in New Hampshire!

Most people are on meteor scatter at 6 am plus or minus 3 hours even though, as Rich / K1HTV noted, the Perseids can be worked all day during their peak (August 9 -14). One of my Perseids meteor scatter contacts was with WU5X in Alabama around noontime. You may hear also some local fellows hams on ground wave on MSK144 and work them too. but that is not meteor scatter unless the station is between 400 and 1200 miles from you. 73 -- John / KG4NXT



More Information about Ham Radio Meteor Scatter Operations

If the John's write up about his first meteor scatter contact (above) has peaked your interest, there are many other places to look for more information. One very good online source is HAMSCI.ORG which holds a M-S QSO Party. See <https://hamsci.org/msqp-rules> The peak of August Perseids meteor shower is now past, but there will be another MSQP in December [December 12-13] during peak of the Geminids meteor show. To find another useful PDF summary, Google: site:hamsci.org filetype:pdf meteor scatter 2025 workshop The OVH's local, inhouse experts who can help you get started include Bruce / KN4GDX, Mark / WA4KFZ and John / KG4NXT.