

# OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

## September 2025

### Next Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, September 16, 2025

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Hello All,

A reminder that September is National Preparedness Month. So, while the weather is warm and mostly dry, now would be a good time to inspect any tree-supported antennas or get a new one up.

Left on OVH's 2025 To-Do List, we have support for the Manassas Christmas Parade on December 6th at 10 AM and our annual OVH Christmas Party. Preparations have already begun for each.



Back on September 6th the Ole Virginia Hams supported the SOWW 8th Annual Bike Ride. It was warm 93°F and nice. The rain waited until the evening – well after the event was over.

A big thank you to new OVH member, Jerry / KR4EZZ, who not only attended his first Bike Ride as a spotter, but he wrote his first article as a contributor for our web page and this Newsletter, “My First Willing Warrior Ride” later in this newsletter.

Best of all, we had only a couple of minor injuries for the day: a report of someone falling and breaking their scapula. And another report of a woman who had low blood sugar, but the EMTs gave her something and she recovered quickly. We were done about noon and everyone was driving off by 12:35 PM.

I have the following statistics and interesting facts about this event for you: 1. 277 Cyclists; 2. 196 Volunteers of all types total; 3. more than 1,115 volunteer hours devoted to making this event a reality; 4. the event raised more than \$85,000 — a number that will allow hosting 35 new Warrior Guests at SOWW retreat! Your contributions directly support our mission to provide cost-free retreats for wounded, ill, and injured service

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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) 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 <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

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members, disabled Veterans, and their families; 5. the NextPoint Group returned as SOWW's Presenting Sponsor, and SOWW is very thankful for their continued support. 82 NextPoint employees attended and/or rode in the event. 6. Amazon partnered with us as a Premier Sponsor and over 50 participants for the ride; 7. SOWW also extend its deepest thanks to its sponsors and partners: NextPoint Group, Amazon, Lockheed Martin, BMRA, Agile Business Concepts, Micron, Reston Bike Club, Dale City Moose 2165, NOVA Cycleworks, A-1 Cycling, UVA Health, Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Balanced Arch Massage, Calluna's Lens, Freedom Property Management and Sales, Great Fall Fire Department, NAM Knights, and Image 360. Their support goes far beyond this single event, and it makes a real difference for our Warriors; 8. The Ole Virginia Hams fielded at total of 21 operators for the event (identified below).

Now, I would like to acknowledge and give thanks to everyone in the OVH who came out and supported this very worthwhile charity, including: Byron / AK4XR; John / WB8WTK; Frank / KO4FQW; Gene / KN4JMB; Chris / W3CUM; Duane / KK4BZ; Bruce / KN4TS; Greg / KM4CCG; Thomas / W4PIO; Scott / KQ4EOL; David / KG4GIY; Bruce / KNG4DX; Patsy / W4SFT; John / KK4TCE; Scott / KN4RPA; Jerry / KR4EZZ; Scott / KR4BNF; George / K4GVT; Evelyn, Assisting K4GVT; Dianne / KI4FVV as Net Control; Andy / KJ4MTP and Marc / N1BED. Another big tip of the hat to Andy / KJ4MTP, for organizing and running the whole ham part of this event. Additional special thanks to Ken / KE2N, and Jason / N3JLT, for setting up temporary links between the OVH and Bluemont repeaters and then standing by in case maintenance or reconfiguration was needed. We have offered Jason space at our Mt. Poné location. It is my hope that next year, we will not be setting up temporary links, but using permanent ones.

Next up is our monthly breakfast on Saturday, September 13th at 8:00 AM. I hear it's the most important meal of the day. Originally developed 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 Tuesday, September 16th at 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM ET at the Buckhall VFD Hall, 7190 Yates Ford Road, Manassas. Mark /WA4KFZ, will give a presentation on his recent trip to Germany and his Hamfest experiences there.

A reminder that the 79th Greater Manassas Christmas Parade will take place on Saturday, December 6, 2025 at 10 AM. Planning is underway, but we will need volunteer spotters. If you are interested and available, please contact George / K4GVT via e-mail at [george@k4gvt.com](mailto:george@k4gvt.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](mailto:kn4dd@arrl.net)

73 Ken KN4DD





## Sunshine Corner

Happy Birthday wishes to all of the following OVH club members with birthdays in September, Gus / N4MLE, Scott / WB6EFW, Al / KB4BHB, Jim / WE4JJ, Ron / N4RDZ, Bill / AF4LL, Mark / WA4KFZ, Richard / N4HOS, Luis / KQ4GBC and Lori / KC0EWN. Hope each of you have a great year ahead!



So we celebrated two birthdays in the last couple of weeks for the two oldest members of our club, both in their early 90s and born the same year, so special shout out to Chick / KC1PIA and Al / KB4BHB. See, photo of both having cake at Al's house!



Thanks to everyone that helped at the Willing Warriors Bike Ride on September 6th and hope to see some photos soon!

Thanks to George / K4GVT for giving the program at our August meeting and thanks for bringing half his neighborhood. It was a great turnout for the program!

We had a nice surprise at the August meeting, Ron / N4RDZ who is a club member and lives in Washington State was in the area and decided to attend our meeting! It was great to see him, it has been a few years!

This is a short Sunshine Corner this month, John / KG4NXT and I are out of town for awhile, see you when we get back!



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

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## Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting held on August 19, 2025:

OVH Vice President, Gil / KM4OZH, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on August 19th, 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.

George / K4GVT gave an excellent presentation on Satellite hacking include hardware

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that he built and sold. Links will be made available on the OVH web site.

The minutes of the July 16, 2025 meeting were approved.

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

Luther WA3FMO gave the membership report with two new read-ins: Thomas Dean / KR4EJP and Kate Duvall / KR4FRQ, both to be voted on at the next meeting. There was one new vote-in and he was voted in as a new member of the OVH: Jerry Hiller / KR4EZZ.

ARES: No report this month.

Repeater report by Ken / KE2N; All repeaters and web interfaces are working. Two new DSTAR US Trust registrations were processed this month. After running some tests, we suspect the source of 224 MHz repeater's problems may be water in the antenna or coax.

Mark / WA4KFZ gave the Training report. He helped with a live computer based VE session in Stafford using the Exam Tools software. He plans an OVH practice with this software.

Tail Gate Report: John / KG4NXT will not chair this again in 2026. Theresa / KG4TVM is actively exploring Colgan as a hamfest site with indoor and outdoor spaces with a possible June 21, 2026 date.

Field Day – need a chair for 2026.

W4OVH.com Web site. No report this month, but the web site is functioning well.

Theresa / KG4TVM gave the Sunshine report. Birthdays were mentioned. Theresa mention the Page Valley hamfest which will be held on September 6th– which is same day as the Willing Warriors bike ride event.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Mark discussed the possibility of using an a web page on the OVH web site to collect VE fees.

The meeting was then adjourned.

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## **Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:**

### **HAMFESTS:**

It is late Summer, early Fall and September and October are not particularly good months for nearby Hamfests. Check the ARRL Hamfest Calendar for possible more distant ones. .

### **OVH RELATED EVENTS**

None in the short term.

### **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

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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 in November and December, big contesting months. See, [NG3K.com](https://www.ng3k.com) and <https://contestcalendar.com> by WA7BNM for more info!

## PUBLIC EVENTS / PUBLIC SERVICE / ARES EVENTS

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.

OVH member, Don / WA2SWX, now residing in Ecuador, now also has a new Ecuadorian Call Sign: HC4DA. His license notes he is USA citizen!

		
Agencia de Regulación y Control de las Telecomunicaciones		
REGISTRO PARA LA OPERACIÓN DE RADIOAFICIONADO		
MEYERHOFF DONALD FRANK		
APELLIDOS Y NOMBRES		
GENERAL	HC4DA	
CATEGORÍA	DISTINTIVO DE LLAMADA	
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CENSA DE IDENTIDAD o CIUDADANÍA / PASAPORTE	NACIONALIDAD	
QUITO		
LUGAR DE EXPEDICIÓN	FECHA DE EXPEDICIÓN	FECHA DE EXPIRACIÓN
		
	Firmado digitalmente por: LUIS FERNANDO ICAZA	
	ICAZA	
	Fecha documento con Firmado: 25/09/2025 11:00	
COORDINADOR TÉCNICO	HABILITANTES (SUBROGANTE)	

	
Agencia de Regulación y Control de las Telecomunicaciones	
DECLARACIÓN DE SUJECCIÓN - OPERACIÓN DE RADIOAFICIONADO	
YO, MEYERHOFF DONALD FRANK, EN MI CALIDAD DE RADIOAFICIONADO, EN CUMPLIMIENTO DE LO DISPUESTO EN EL ARTÍCULO 41 DE LA LEY ORGÁNICA DE TELECOMUNICACIONES, DECLARO EN FORMA EXPRESA QUE ME SUJETARÉ A LO DISPUESTO EN EL ORDENAMIENTO JURÍDICO VIGENTE, NORMATIVA CORRESPONDIENTE Y RESOLUCIONES QUE EMITA LA ARCTEL.	
f), ..... c.c./pasaporte: 0152773602	
INSCRIPCIÓN EN EL REGISTRO PÚBLICO DE TELECOMUNICACIONES: Tomo ..... folios .....	

## My First Willing Warrior Ride Event On 9/6/2025 with Pictures - Jerry / KR4EZZ

At first I was not going to go to the brewery where the SOWW was to start, but instead just go directly to my assigned station, as the schedule had me down to be there at 9:15. But I decided it might be nice to see things start. At the brewery, I was told the station (Evergreen Country Club) was set up ahead of time and they were waiting for me. So, I took off for Evergreen.

Got there and saw a tent, with two EMPs (from the Great Falls Fire Department) and two nurses (from UVA Haymarket Hospital on Heathcote and from Prince William) sitting underneath. A bit later, a couple adults and teens from Aldie Methodist Church came by, bringing water and snacks for the riders. Later, several more EMTs showed up.

The first rider came by at about 9:30 am, but that rider just turned around and kept going. The first to stop was at about 9:45 am. According to the ops plan, the first riders were estimated to arrive about 10:15. The Evergreen site was set back a bit from the road, so some riders perhaps just did not see us, or they just wanted to get done and drove on, as it was about 6.5 miles back to the end point at the brewery.

A very nice lady who organized everything stopped by at one point. She had brought me a sandwich, which I appreciated. I don't eat wheat, but the insides were tasty.

We heard a report of a rider falling and breaking their scapula, but that was not at or near Evergreen. But then there was another report of a woman who seemed to have :disappeared;" but she eventually turned up as the last rider to stop at the Evergreen Station, arriving with low blood sugar (40). The EMTs gave her something and she quickly recovered and continued on. We were done about noon and everyone was driving

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off by 12:35. On the way back to the brewery, the traffic was slow and following her. When she road into the brewery there were a bunch of people cheering her on finishing her ride.

Overall, it was a good, sunny day and the rain did not show up. It did get warm later. I could connect well early on to Net Control, but later there were issues being heard. A fellow from a nearby station could not be heard at his location, but could when he visited us. Must have something to do with reaching, or not, the repeater. It was pretty noisy at times, so I plugged in my earpiece. I had issues being heard when I used it's speak button. I'll attribute some of the difficulty to operator error. When I got back to the brewery, I picked up a wrist band and got a coke with my ticket. There was some sort of presentation going on. I had a look, but was too tired to stay and just headed home.

A few from images from the SOWW event below. Jerry / KR4EZZ





## Recollections about how I first got interested in Radio - from 70+ years ago

When looking at a childhood residence address in Woodbury, New Jersey on Google Maps recently, one of the “street views” (to the right) your editor (W4ZB) saw revived his recollections about how he first got interested in shortwave and ham radio, five to seven years before he first got his novice ham license in 1961 while living in Connecticut. I grew up and lived in that house there through age 9 with my brother, OVH member, Fred / N3KVV, my sister and my parents until the very end of 1955, when the family moved to California for a year, before then moving back East to Connecticut near New York City at the end of 1956.

My interest was stimulated initially when my father purchased an “Ocean Hopper” kit from Allied Radio in Chicago in 1954 to assemble with a soldering iron and hand tools with my brother who was two years older than me. Allied Radio was then a major retail supplier of radio and electronic parts, including Knight kits. My father had often spoken about how he had constructed a one-tube AM radio receiver that worked with earphones from a schematic had found in a dictionary in about 1930 when he was child so this project was of great interest to his two sons. The Ocean Hopper is an old time, simple three tube regenerative receiver that could receive radio signals from the AM band up to the mid-HF bands including on the 80 and 40 meter ham bands, with manually changeable tuning coils.

The Ocean Hopper kit went together quickly once it arrived and was immediately receiving high power AM broadcasting stations from nearby Philadelphia. This was magical for my brother and me, and we both began trying to figure out how this radio receiver actually worked. The components shown in the schematic diagram could be readily identified to the actual parts in the receiver itself as it had been put together, but that did not answer the questions about how each of those parts actually made the receiver work as a radio receiver. Finding and trying to understand answers to those initial questions started a life long interest in radio for me and my brother who has told me recently he still has that original Ocean Hopper receiver!

Why the picture of the house? My brother and I quickly learned that we needed an outdoor wire antenna to improve reception for weaker HF AM transmissions on the ham and shortwave bands. My brother's room where the Ocean Hopper was located was on the third floor and we decided to run a wire antenna out one of his windows (shown) to the Sycamore tree by the street (still there). I still remember climbing up that tree with many thick branches that made it easy to climb once you got up on the first branches to anchor that wire antenna. We then could receive shortwave AM stations and quickly learned that an active 80 meter AM ham station was regularly on the air from just two blocks away. - W4ZB

