

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

November 2025

Next Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, November 18, 2025

VICE PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

QST, from club VP KM4OZH yes Vice President. The President position is still vacant, contrary to what some have indicated.

In my first letter a quantity of my words were edited and words added, so I take no responsibility for what appeared in the newsletter. Future letters will contain information that I know about or of interest to me. If I sound annoyed, so be it. Due to my limited computer skills it seems I have neglected moderating certain emails. Thanks to John KG4NXT for helping out.



November 7th Theresa, John and myself visited Ken KN4DD in the hospital. I think Ken was surprised when we showed up but he seemed in good spirits. John helped him set up his phone to connect to the .97 repeater. Hope to hear him back on the Thursday night net. Ken has further knee surgery scheduled in December. Hope he is back upright soon.

Theresa, John and I are continuing to lighten the load in the club trailer. With the contents stowed in their current locations {the weight on its tongue hitch end}, i.e., the tongue weight, has been reduced from 475# to a maybe tolerable 325#. This should be of interest to those towing this rig.

Saturday November 15 rifle season for deer opens in Rappahannock County so I will be away for a few days, I will be back for the November meeting.

Now for the important things. At our November meeting we need to elect a new club President. At this time we still have no candidates, so please think about it. The club needs your support. Remember, I am not in the running.

Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 4293
Manassas, Virginia 20108-0728

OFFICERS

President:	Gil Thompson	KM4OZH	369-0431
Vice Pres:	Vacant		
Secretary:	John Heartney	KG4NXT	257-3566
Treasurer:	Jeff Porter	K9VEG	216-7734

DIRECTORS

George Tarnovsky	K4GVT	791-5956
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: 20251025

All comments and opinions are welcome either to the web site, where moderating issues may exist, or to me at km4ozh@gmail.com

.VP Gil KM4OZH 73



Sunshine Corner

Happy Birthday wishes to all of the following OVH club members with birthdays in November: Wayne / N7QLK, Kevin / KX4KU, Baofang / KK4JFK, Theresa / KG4TVM, Jerry / KR4EZZ, Butch / W4HJL, Greg / KM4CCG, Zachary / KQ4RIS, Jeff / WB4TT, Charlie / WA4YGI, James / KA4BOC, Paul / KO4GZR and Ken / K3KFB.



Sending healing thoughts to Ken / KN4DD, who is currently in Fair Oak Rehab to work on healing his knee after a very extensive surgery. The plan is for him to go home on Friday, November 14th.

Get well wishes to Al / KB4BHB who is in the hospital and he is hoping to go home on Monday, November 10th.

Special thank you to Gil / KM4OZH, John / KG4NXT, Sam / KQ4SL and George / K4GVT on their help with getting our club trailer in order. Hope to have a 3-ring binder at the November club meeting with photos to share!

John / KG4NXT provided radio support for the Fort Valley Endurance Race which was 50 miles on horseback. John was not on a horse but Duane / KK4BZ was on a horse traveling thru the woods.

OVH will again be providing radio communications for the annual Thanksgiving Turkey Trot. This event will be at the Freedom Center in Manassas at 8:30 am on Thanksgiving morning. The race usually runs for about an hour. If you are interested in bringing out your HT on Thanksgiving, November 27th, please let me know and I will copy you on race maps and info. We will be meeting at the Freedom Center at 7:30 am.

The OVH Club Trailer will be in the Manassas Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 6th, 2025. We are looking for someone with a vehicle to pull the trailer during the parade and also people to help decorate the trailer. Please reach out to me if you are interested or have questions, kg4tvm@hotmail.com We always have a great time at the parade! George / K4GVT [George@K4GVT.com] is looking for volunteers to provide radio support during the parade. Charge up that radio and come out and experience this event!

The OVH Holiday Party will be Saturday evening, December 13th starting at 6:00 pm. Location will be the Heartney Home, 10535 Cedar Creek Drive, Manassas. Please bring a covered dish to share. We will also be collecting new, unwrapped toys for Toys For Tots. Watch your mailbox for the party invite!

Looking forward to seeing Don WA2SWX/HC4DA and YL Edith at the end of November

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and they come thru the area for a visit!

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!
We will have the Thursday night net on
Thanksgiving!

Please make sure the club has your correct call
sign and mailing address on our web site in the
member's only section – w4ovh.net



Please send me your news, good, not so good and ham related info! kg4tvm@hotmail.com

The OVH Thursday night net at 8:00 pm is a great way to keep up with current events
and hear what everyone is 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 October 21, 2025:

Vice-President Gil / KM4OZH called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on October 21, 2025
in the training room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station. All present
stated their names and call signs.

Kenneth / K4VFK gave an excellent presentation on DRM including the underlying
TDMA modulation, talk groups and available hardware. Links will be made available on
the OVH web site.

The minutes of the September 16, 2025 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 as a new OVH club member: Philipp Stuppert / KJ6GZZ.

ARES report. No report this month.

Mark / WA4KFZ gave the Training report. He had a second OVH practice session with
the Exam Tools software. The current government shutdown is affecting VE sessions
because no new FRNs are being issued until the shutdown ends.

Hamfest –John / KG4NXT will not chair this in 2026. Theresa / KG4TVM has made
great progress in securing Colgan as site for the hamfest with indoor and outdoor spaces
for June 21, 2026. We still need an insurance certificate and a county permit.

Field Day – need a new chair.

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

Theresa / KG4TVM gave the Sunshine report. The October OVH member Birthdays were

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mentioned. Theresa also mentioned the ongoing efforts to clean out the club trailer. The OVH wants to sell the tower to someone who will actually make use of it.

Ken / KE2N gave the Repeater report. All repeaters and web interfaces are working. The 220 MHz repeater has been working well until the recent rains. After running some tests, we suspect the 224 repeater's problems may be water in the antenna or coax. Five new DSTAR US Trust registrations are pending.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Vice-President Gil / KM4OZH suggested having a special election in at the November meeting to fill the office of President. This was made into a motion and passed.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

There are few nearby Hamfests in the Fall. The Winterfest 2026 is scheduled for 3/15/2026 in Vienna, Virginia - more later. Check the ARRL Hamfest Calendar for possible more distant ones.

OVH RELATED EVENTS

December 6, 2025 - Saturday morning: OVH participation in and communication support for the 78th annual Manassas Christmas Parade. Contact George / K4GVT [George@K4GVT.com] who is again coordinating the OVH's communication support efforts to support this. Theresa / KG4TVM is coordinating the OVH's trailer pull during the Parade - and is still looking for a driver with a suitable vehicle to pull the trailer in the Parade.

December 13, 2025 - Saturday evening: OVH annual Year End Holiday Party. Put this family event on your "hold the date" list. The OVH Holiday Party will be Saturday evening, The Year End Holiday Party will start on December 13th at 6:00 pm at the Heartney Home, 10535 Cedar Creek Drive, Manassas. Please bring a covered dish to share. We will also be collecting new, unwrapped toys for Toys For Tots. Watch your mailbox for the party invite!

HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS

The Fall and early Winter is prime time for radio contesting events on the HF amateur radio bands. See, pages 65 - 83 of the November 2025 issues of QST for a Special Section about Contest Season 2025/2026. Upcoming in November are the ARRL Sweepstakes Contests on CW and Phone, and the CQ Worldwide DX Contest on CW. In December, the ARRL's 160 Meter Contest, the ARRL's 10 Meter Contest and the ARRL's Rookie's CW Contest will all take place. In January, 2026, the CW Worldwide 160 Meter CW Contest will take place along with many other radio operating contests.

See also, <https://www.arrl.org/contests> for the ARRL maintained Contesting web page, A lot is always going on in November, December and January which are always big HF contesting months. See, [NG3K.com](https://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 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.

Some Possibly Interesting or Useful Information / Recollections

1. Slides from Presentations at OVH Monthly Meetings. OVH members, particularly those who have missed monthly meetings, should be sure to check out the pdf format Slides posted on the club web site, W4OVH.net. To find those slides there, first log in at W4OVH.net using your user name or email address and OVH password. Then go to the Membership Menu pull down, and click on the Presentations item. That will take you a large number of PDF files (and some Powerpoint files) of slides used in presentations given at OVH monthly meetings. On a recent visit to that site, your editor found KC4ZA's slides on Ham Radio AI (Artificial Intelligence) developments from the July 2025 meeting and N4VKF's slides about DMR repeaters from the October 2025 meeting particularly useful and interesting.

2. HF Frequency Measurement of signals at long distance. Ken / KE2N recently posted several items about his results in a recent ARRL FMT (Frequency Measuring Test) on an HF band on the OVH members only email reflector. Ken's FMT measurement was off by 1.2 Hz; it was 1.2 Hz high! Good or bad? For practical ham radio purposes that is quite good (unless one is attempting to operating at a band edge - see below), but more precise measurements are possible. One of the limiting factor that make more precise measurements difficult on the HF bands are the small frequency shifts and frequency dispersions that occur naturally as a result of multipath propagation / ionospheric reflections occurring over large swaths (volumes) of the ions (and gas molecules) moving at high speeds in the ionosphere. The detailed steps needed to minimize the effects of those types of error sources (in a frequency measurement setting) are complex but quite fascinating to those seek to understand the physics involved. As Ken noted, regular ARRL FMTs have been around for many, many years, probably predating World War II. In the 1950s and 1960s I recall many hams seeking precision FMT results often used military WWII surplus frequency calibration sets which were still quite expensive because those sets were then still in demand for commercial and industrial uses. Check out the ARRL's web page at fmt.arrl.org for more basic information.

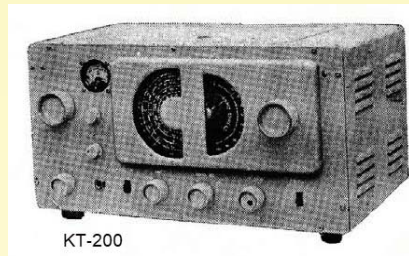
3. FCC Official Violation Notice - "Out of Band." I still recall receiving an official FCC "out of band" Violation Notice as a new General class ham in 1961. Of course, the violation was unintentional, but my (supposed) 40 meter CW signal originating in Connecticut in the wee hours of the morning had been picked up by an FCC monitoring station in Texas which had immediately issued an official violation notice: my CW signal had been heard and measured in Texas on 6,999.7 KHz. The violation notice that arrived by postal mail in an official

envelope demanded a prompt response, threatened the possibility of a monetary fine of \$1,000 or more and even a license revocation if I were to ignore it.

I took that Violation Notice very seriously; initially I was quite concerned about what might happen. I did not want my new General license to be revoked, and, as a 15 year old, I lacked any ability to pay such a Federal fine. What had happened and what did I do? At that time (1961), CW DX from Europe and South America at night clustered at the low end of the 40 meter band which had its lower band edge (as it still is) at 7,000.0 KHz. Many of the US stations which wanted to and did work that CW DX were also clustered at the low end of that band. My transmitting frequency was determined by the VFO setting in the Heathkit Apache (TX1) I had put together. The TX1 was mechanically very solid and its VFO had reasonably good repeatability, but its VFO dial lacked any precise calibration. For receiving I was using an old Lafayette KT-200 HF receiver which my brother (Fred, now N3KVV) had assembled as a Lafayette Radio kit a year or two earlier. The KT-200 had two adjustable frequency selection dials, each of which was much less stable mechanically and electrically than the single VFO dial in the TX1.



TX-1



KT-200

What had I been doing to determine the lower edge of the 40 meter band? Foolishly and, indeed, rather carelessly - as I quickly learned and figured out when I sought advice from my nearby ham mentor, Radio Free Europe engineer, Howard / W1DG, who had given me my Novice exam, I had been estimating the band edge (7,000.0 KHz) simply by listening for “zero beats” against other received ham signals by depressing the TX1’s spotting switch. Implicit in that “zero beat” approach was the dangerous assumption that the particular ham signals being used for comparison (calibration) were themselves within the 40 meter band, and not below the lower band edge. I concluded later such a flawed assumption was the most likely cause for my violation. Additionally, my simple “zero beating” approach, even when very carefully performed, could not be used reliably to measure a frequency with much more than about 10 Hz precision. The simple reason: the human ear cannot detect (hear) low frequency audio sounds (beats) below about 20 Hz; therefore, a true “zero beat” could only be estimated (guesstimated) as the approximate mid-point over a 40 Hz range, 20 Hz either side of the true zero beat.

So what did I do? I wrote back to the FCC with an explanation much as above, plus an explicit apology for being 300 Hz “out of band,” a promise to use much more care in the future, including staying a “safe” distance away from every band edge. I also advised the FCC that I had just purchased a (Knightkit X-10) Crystal Calibrator to enable more precise frequency checking and calibration in the future. By carefully adjusting the X-10’s crystal frequency with its adjusting capacitor (once the kit was assembled), and “zero beating” the X-10’s 200th harmonic against the 20.000 MHz signal received from WWV, I could obtain a calibration accuracy for the X-10’s 70th harmonic at 7.000 MHz of about 5 Hz. There was no practical need ever to be that close to the lower band edge of the 40 meter band. Off went my written response to the FCC in Texas by mail. I kept checking the mail; but the FCC never wrote back. Lesson learned with anguish. I was very careful afterwards, and never received another “out of band” violation notice.



X-10