

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!

## March 2026

### Next Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, March 17, 2026

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

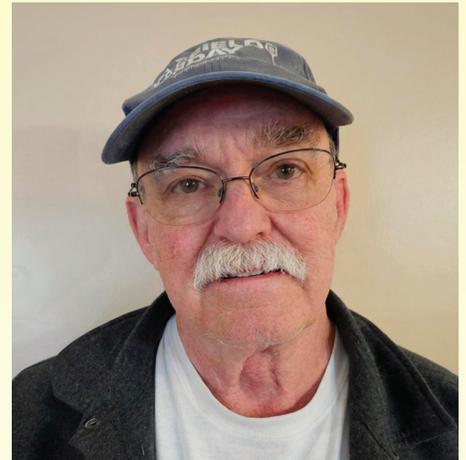
First, I want to congratulate Mark / WA4KFZ and other OVH members who successfully ran our first paperless, online VE session. The team consisted of Mark / WA4KFZ, Byron / AK4XR, Bruce / KN4GDX, Sam / KQ4SL, John / KG4NXT, Lynn / KX4HR, Ron / KK4DCZ and Theresa / KG4TVM.

Please welcome with me our new Web Committee member Lynn / KX4HR. He put the VE article on our web site and has been training with Kevin / W4RKU.

As you probably have seen on the OVH members only email reflector, a number of OVH members have worked the 3Y0K DXpedition to and on Bouvet Island, a snow and ice covered, isolated volcanic island in the far away Southern Ocean between South Africa and Antartica. For many years, this has been one of the rarest DX countries. I do not expect another DXpedition there in my lifetime – no one lives there except penguins. Duane / KK4BZ provided a interesting, long posting on the OVH members only email reflector about how he broke through the 3Y0K DX pileup three times for three FT8 QSOs. See, the article about that later in this Newsletter.

The Virginia QSO party is coming up in another week or so, on Saturday, March 21st. I urge everyone to participate. Our club has ranked high in the number of logs submitted for a number of years, and we would like to keep that up. We will be hosting the award ceremony at our upcoming Hamfest in June. You can participate even if your only equipment is a Baofeng HT, and you can submit a paper log. I will send a more detailed email about this on the OVH members only email reflector before the event.

We need to thank Theresa / KG4TVM for fighting the paperwork battle with Prince William County to get our Hamfest approved for Colgan High School. Some of the county



# Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Post Office Box 4293

Manassas, Virginia 20108-0728

## OFFICERS

President:	John Heartney	KG4NXT	789-6449
Vice Pres:	Gil Thompson	KM4OZH	369-0431
Secretary:	Lynn Timmons	KX4HR	913-205-1742
Treasurer:	Don Meyerhoff	WA2SWX	703-597-3211

## 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		

## HAMFEST 2026 - CHAIR

Theresa kg4tvm@hotmail.com	KG4TVM	703-257-3566
----------------------------	--------	--------------

## FIELD DAY 2026 - CHAIR

John	KG4NXT	703-789-6449
------	--------	--------------

## CLUB ROSTER / DATABASE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
--------	-------	----------

## VE COORDINATOR

Mark	WA4KFZ	818-8033
------	--------	----------

## 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
---	--------	----------

## WEB COMMITTEE — W4OVH.NET + Twitter & Facebook

Kevin	W4RKU	540-445-5183
John	KG4NXT	257-3566
Ken	KN4DD	622-2638
Lynn	KX4HR	913-205-1742
Web Committee "help request" email: <a href="mailto:webmaster@w4ovh.net">webmaster@w4ovh.net</a>		

## EMAIL REFLECTOR — [w4ovh@googlegroups.com](mailto:w4ovh@googlegroups.com)

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
------	--------	----------

## MANASSAS CHRISTMAS PARADE - OVH COORDINATOR

George	K4GVT	791-5956
--------	-------	----------

## LEGAL

Bob	K4HJF	282-2451
-----	-------	----------

## MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Luther	WA3FMO	361-4885
--------	--------	----------

## NEWSLETTER

Paul	W4ZB	754-0910
------	------	----------

## CHRISTMAS / YEAR END PARTY - CHAIRPERSON

Theresa.	KG4TVM	257-3566
----------	--------	----------

## PROGRAMS

John	KG4NXT	257-3566
------	--------	----------

## 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
Gil	KM4OZH	369-0431
Jeff	WB6UIE	791-5916
David	KG4GIY	361-3042
Cat	KM4PBD	571-213-2179

## W4OVH — TRUSTEE

Gil	KM4OZH	369-0431
-----	--------	----------

## W4PVA — TRUSTEE

Arthur	W1CRO	791-4330
--------	-------	----------

## SCHOLARSHIP 2022

Ken	KN4DD	622-2638
-----	-------	----------

## SUNSHINE

Theresa	KG4TVM	257-3566
---------	--------	----------

## 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
---------	--------	----------

All telephone numbers listed above 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, education related especially to radio activities, electronics, computers, science and STEM subjects, and public service activities. Copyright © 2026 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. 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 Repeaters 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: 20260307

Cont'd from page 1

personnel have not been very responsive.

We also got our Field day application for Nokesville park approved. No more Ranger Hawkins hassle.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on Tuesday March 17. There will a program about how piezoelectric crystals are used in our ham radio equipment as well as in your cellphone and microwave oven.

73 John KG4NXT

## Sunshine Corner



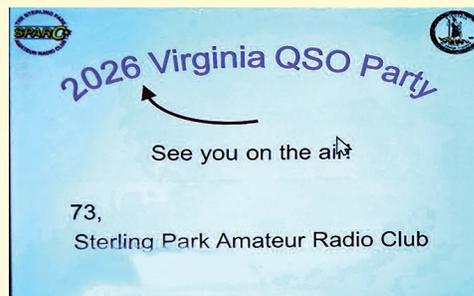
Happy Birthday wishes to all of the following OVH club members with birthdays in March: Noel / NW5N, Scott / KM4FID, Kate / KR4FRP, Gary / K4MRL, Jeff / N1SN, Michael / KO4BCN, David / KO4HIR, Michael / KO4HBU and Fred / N3KVV. Each of you enjoy your day!

Well I don't think winter is done with us yet, but hopefully soon!!!

Happy to hear that Butch / W4HJL is home recuperating, excellent news!

Vienna Winterfest is Sunday, March 15th. OVH will have a table set up to spread the word about our Hamfest in June. Please try to come out and support the Vienna group. George K4GVT will be there talking to the vendors to see if they will come to our event.

Virginia QSO Party is Saturday & Sunday, March 21st and 22nd. Great contest and hope you will consider participating, at home or mobile. Please remember to put the OVH on your log. Thanks to Gordon / NQ4K for the Zoom meeting presentation he prepared for us for our February meeting on the 2026 Virginia QSO Party! See images to the right.



Congratulations to Mark / WA4KFZ and the VE Team for a successful VE Testing Session in February. The next VE session date will be: April 18, 2026 (Saturday). Exam Start Time: 0830; Location: Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly, Virginia.



Manassas Hamfest 2026 – Moving right along with permits, etc.. We need club members to volunteer to help on the day of Hamfest, June 20, 2026 (Saturday). Also, we can use help spreading the word to other hams, clubs, possible vendors and tailgaters. If you belong to another club and would like to hand out flyers, please let me know and I will get those to you. Also, for vendors, if they want to reserve a table in advance, the Hamfest section on our website W4OVH.NET has a table reservation

Cont'd on page 4

**Cont'd from page 3**

section and PayPal button, thanks to John / KG4NXT for setting this up.

Field Day 2026 – Planning is underway for this on June 26th/27th; OVH is looking for overnight operators. Please contact John / KG4NXT at cell: 703-789-6449 or at email: kg4nxt@arrl.net with questions or to help out.

Please make sure the club has your correct call sign and mailing address in the member's only section at w4ovh.net

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



Thursday night net at 8 pm is a great way to keep up with current events and hear what everyone is up to with their radios!

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

---

## Minutes of the Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club Meeting held on February 18, 2026:

Vice-President Gil / KM4OZH called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on February 18, 2026 in the training room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station. All present stated their names and callsigns.

The meeting program was a briefing on the upcoming Virginia QSO Party provided by Gordon / NQ4K which took place by Zoom call to the meeting. The full briefing is still available online at <https://www.qsl.net/sterling/uf1.htm>

The minutes of the January 21, 2026 meeting were approved.

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

Membership report. Luther / WA3FMO gave the report. There was one new vote-in scheduled and he was voted in as a new OVH member: Rob Winterrowd / KR4EEV.

ARES report. No report this month.

Repeater report. Ken / KE2N gave the repeater report. The repeaters are all working. The OVH's 5 gig link from Mt. Pone to NOVEC is down which adversely impacts DStar.

Training report. Mark / WA4KFZ gave the Training report. There will be an all electronic VE session at the Centreville Public Library on February 28th.

Hamfest – Theresa / KG4TVM distributed Hamfest flyers and mentioned distributing them at HRO and at the Middle Peninsula Hamfest. She mentioned that sales tables can be reserved online.

Field Day report – John / KG4NXT reported that our Special Event application for the OVH's Field Day location has been approved with fees waived. Ranger approval still needed.

Website report. No report but web site is operating with no apparent problems.

**Cont'd on page 5**

## Cont'd from page 4

ELECTIONS. No additional nominations were received from the floor. Theresa/KG4TVM distributed the written ballots. The results were unanimous:

President: John KG4NXT

Vice President: Gil KM4OZH

Treasurer: Don WA2SWX/HC4DA

Secretary: Lynn / KX4HR

Theresa / KG4TVM gave the Sunshine report. Birthdays were mentioned. She mentioned that James / KQ4CAX had passed and that Butch / W4HJL was in rehab with an HT and intends to check-in to the Thursday night net. Al / KB4BHB is in Remington with his Son.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

The meeting was then adjourned.

---

## Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

### HAMFESTS:

March 15, 2025 (Sunday), Winterfest 2026 sponsored by Vienna Wireless in nearby Vienna, Virginia. See the Flyer later in this Newsletter for more info. OVH will have a table at the event.

May 15 - 17, 2026 (Friday through Sunday, the Dayton Hamvention in Xenia, Ohio. This annual hamfest continues to be one of the largest in the world, and attracts ham visitors from all over the USA, and Canada, and most of the rest of the world. If you are "into" ham radio, you should plan to attend this for at least a single full day at least once. Some hams from this area have gone to the Dayton Hamvention more than a dozen times. More info at [hamvention.org](http://hamvention.org)

### OVH RELATED EVENTS

April 18, 2026 (Saturday), OVH VE Exam Session, Start Time: 0830 at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Rd, Chantilly, VA 20151. Setup at 0800. Let any would be hams or hams looking to upgrade their licenses know about this.

June 20, 2026 (Saturday). The Manassas Hamfest 2026 is now scheduled. Save the date and plan to volunteer to assist the OVH in making this a successful Hamfest. A lot more info about this will be provided for OVH members on the OVH members only email reflector and for everyone on W4OVH.NET over the next several months.

June 27 - 28, 2026 - the ARRL / OVH Field Day. The OVH venue for this will again be at the pavillion at the local Nokesville Park. This is also an OVH family event, and all family members or other individuals interested or potentially interested in ham radio are invited to attend. There will be a pot luck dinner on Saturday. Portable / temporary ham radio stations will be set up and operated off of generator power. The operations will be in various modes on the HF bands (SSB - voice, CW - morse code, and digital modes) and FM on the VHF / UHF bands. The objective of the radio operation is to make as many two way contacts with other Field Day stations in the USA and Canada as possible during the event, and typically, hundred of contacts are will be made. There are also usually some other events such as technical lectures, fox (hidden radio transmitter) hunts and balloon launches. Save the date! Watch here for more info as the date gets closer.

**Cont'd on page 6**

## HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS

March 22 - 23, 2026 (Saturday / Sunday). The the annual Virginia QSO Party will take place. See, [https://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA\\_QSO\\_Party/2026\\_VQP/2026\\_VQP\\_Main.html](https://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2026_VQP/2026_VQP_Main.html) for details. This a very popular event for OVH members who have just a little or a lot of time to spend in the event; if you participate, be sure to show your OVH affiliation when submitting your paper or electronic log of your contacts.

See, <https://www.arrl.org/contests> for the ARRL maintained Contesting web page; see also, NG3K.com and <https://contestcalendar.com> by WA7BNM for more radio contesting 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.

---

### **Strategies to “break through” an FT8 mode pileup to make a rare DX contact!**

OVH member, Duane / KK4BZ recently posted several items on the OVH members only email reflector about the successful strategies he used to make three “rare” DX contacts on different HF bands with the 3Y0K DXpedition to Bouvet Island in Southern Ocean. Visit the web site: [3Y0K.com](http://3Y0K.com) for more information about that Dxpediton. Because Duane's basic approaches make good sense and are worthy of much wider dissemination, this introduction and Duane's email reflector postings are provided here.

The “how to get through a DX pileup problem” has been around for eons – almost since the beginning of ham radio when developing a ham radio station to make long distance two-way radio contacts became an objective for many with the real estate (for antennas) and other resources (know how, technical interests, time and money) needed to accomplish that. In its original meaning as a Morse Code abbreviation, “DX” simply meant “long distance.” As HF radio technology developed and improved by the mid-1930s, long distance ham radio contacts on the HF bands ceased to be unusual, in part because the number of ham station distributed around the world with then modern equipment had increased greatly.

In the late-1930s, the ARRL developed the DXCC award for hams who had confirmed contacts with 100 or more “countries;” the abbreviation “DX” then got a secondary meaning for an ARRL defined “country” for the DXCC award. The “country” rules for DXCC are complicated, but includes not only separate countries recognized under international law, but various islands, territories and political subdivisions that are geographically removed or distinct from other ARRL “countries.” The DXCC award has long encouraged “DX” country chasing by hams, including on different ham bands and using different ham modes (CW, SSB, digital), now for many years.

A “DX pileup” occurs when a group of hams (forming the “pileup”) are all attempting, repetitively, to contact a single station at the same time and for a period of time. The single station is the “DX station” in that situation; the group of hams attempting to contact the DX station can all hear the DX station, but often individual stations in the

## Cont'd from page 6

group cannot hear many or most of the other stations in the group; this means that members of the group forming the pileup interfere with one another when they are simultaneously calling the DX station.

So back to the 3Y0K Dxpedition to Bouvet Island, an uninhabited, ice covered, volcanic island, in the Southern Ocean, midway between South Africa and Antarctica. For many years Bouvet Island has been a very rare ARRL DXCC country, and when that rare DX station (which widely announced its plans in advance) gets on the air on a particular ham band and mode (CW, SSB, FT8, etc.) from Bouvet, there are hundreds or thousands of other ham station worldwide just waiting to make a two way contact. Hence, massive DX pileups. The 3Y0K web site offers specific guidance about how 3Y0K wants to deal with pileups to maximize its rate of contacts on the CW and SSB modes, but little is said about what to do for the FT8 mode, the subject of Duane's postings about what worked for him to get through the DX pileups to make FT8 contacts on three different bands.

### **Now for Duane's posting on the OVH members only email reflector with minor editing:**

Are you still trying to put Bouvet Island 3Y0K in the log? Does the wall of other transmissions seem to be insurmountable? If so, I have some observations from three successful FT8 QSOs with 3Y0K using my rather modest home station and particular strategies to break through the DX pileups.

I have to admit that my first successful QSO on 40 meters was the product of my persistence coupled with pure luck. For that, I was sitting with my radio dialed in to the 40 meter frequency 3Y0K had been using in the past, and 3Y0K was not on 40m, but 3Y0K then suddenly came on and I made the QSO before 3Y0K was spotted and the DX pileup formed. My second QSO, on the other hand, was the result of a deliberate strategy to break through the FT8 DX pileup and my third QSO later was confirmation (to me) that the strategy worked and was not just more good luck.

Following first are the details about my setup, what I did, and a general checklist summary of how to do use the strategy. I follow that with some specific note and suggestions to keep in mind if you are using some older radios.

My home station is a power supply, a modern transceiver, and a wire antenna draped in the trees. The antenna is most important, but it is not fancy -- a 134 ft off-center fed dipole wire hung relatively low at about 30 or 40 feet with portions of each end in the trees touching branches. Gain is not as good as a single band dipole but I can hop freely between all the ham bands from 160 to 6 meters using only the internal tuner of the transceiver. The radio I used were first a Flex 6400M and then an Icom IC-7300. The radio matters mostly for points 1 and 2 below.

Two factors make completing a QSO with 3Y0K difficult for us here in Virginia -- limited propagation and competition from thousands of other amateur stations trying to contact them. I have learned that my limited antenna without lots of gain and low power means that I have to work with the propagation I have -- I cannot beat it by overpowering it. For contacts with Bouvet Island at this time of year, I see opportunity for favorable propagation conditions predicted most days only from 2300-0700 UTC and only 30m and 40m (and a for a fewer number of hours on 60m.) Some days there are also a couple of hours of okay predicted propagation on 20m. Note that predictions are not absolute and there are lots of "micro windows" that are opportunities even when the

## Cont'd from page 7

general prediction says no. It never hurts to listen. The propagation predictions can help you decide how long you want to listen. Propagation is the one factor that you cannot do anything about except understand what it is and guide your investment in time.

The thousands of other hams out there transmitting, on the other hand, is something you can actually use to your advantage. This is where the deliberate strategy comes in. Or at least here is my theory and I have 2 Qs in the log based on it. I was just listening to the FT8 decodes and trying to determine the pattern of where 3Y0K was selecting the stations to make the exchange. In FT8, the only choices you really have are how much power you are going to transmit and what the audio frequency is for your transmission. My radios are capable of 100 watts, but due to the high duty cycle of FT8 transmissions I use 67 watts max. That is plenty and for the last successful QSO I actually dialed it down to 40 watts. By just listening to 3Y0K, I discovered that they were having a hard time decoding signals, but when they did the signals were usually pretty strong. They would often go multiple cycles with the same station before completing or abandoning the QSO, all the while reporting signal strength greater than negative single digit dB or even greater than zero dB. This is consistent with my mental model of thousands of hams yelling for a contact, all in the same constrained space of audio frequencies.

I was reading the 3Y0K.com web site and found they have really good equipment. Their radios are Icom IC-7610. That is when the light bulb came on! The biggest difference running FT8 between my 7300 or 6400 and my old IC-746 is bandwidth. The 7300 can decode signals from 100 Hz to 3600 Hz -- this is the "audio frequency" range in which you decode signals and in which you choose your transmit frequency. The Flex 6400 has an even greater range. The older IC-746 range was only capable of going up to about 2000 Hz. Above that the 746 was deaf. I do not know precisely what the range is for the IC-7610 that the Bouvet team is using, but it is certainly a lot greater than my 7300. Back to the pileup of people transmitting to Bouvet. They were all in the "normal" range of about 1000 Hz to 2500 Hz. They were not spread out so they interfered with each other. My emerging theory was to take advantage of the wide range of the 3Y0K radios and get above the noise of overlapping signals. To be specific, on 30 meters I saw 3Y0K transmitting 3 streams at 508 Hz, 568 Hz, and 628 Hz. Signal strength was about -15 dB for my decodes of them. The many hams transmitting looked like a solid wall up to about 2500 Hz tapering off to a few over 3000 Hz. I set my transmit frequency at 3200 Hz and in less than 10 minutes my 67 watts and wire antenna successfully put 3Y0K in the log. Yeah!!! What to do next? Let's try it again. I saw 3Y0K spotted on 80 meters using FT8. Propagation predictions on 80 meters clearly said "no way", but it never hurts to listen. I dialed in their frequency, got reliable decodes at about the same -15 dB, set my transmit audio frequency 200 Hz above the highest hunter trying to contact them, dialed down my power, and in an even shorter amount of time completed another successful QSO.

Following here is a checklist summary of my lessons learned and guiding principles to make FT8 QSOs with a rare DX station such as 3Y0K on Bouvet Island using relatively modern radio equipment such as described above:

1. Listen for the DX station (3Y0K in this case) and do NOT transmit unless you can reliably hear and decode them using FT8. You cannot complete a QSO unless you can hear them. The worst thing that can happen is that you are transmitting and they are

**Cont'd on page 9**

## Cont'd from page 8

receiving and replying to you, but you don't hear them replying to you. They will get mad and never answer you again.

2. Make sure you can reliably hear them before you transmit, (Does this sound like a repeat of number 1?), and when you do transmit ensure you can hear them during your receive cycles. Some people use Fox/Hound mode (I do not except for Super Fox mode which is the BEST ever!) and get their clock out of sync with the DX and end up transmitting when the DX transmits. You will never make a successful FT8 QSO transmitting at the same time they transmit.

3. Analyze all of their decodes and try to see what they are seeing. Ideally, they will have multiple FT8 F/H streams going and only 2 transmissions for each callsign. Then you can pick a clear frequency and they will probably get to you in turn. But if there are lots of repeats and incomplete QSOs, particularly if they are reporting strong signal strengths, then suspect mutual interference and try to get out of the noise. This is actually when it is an advantage to you.

4. Select a transmit audio frequency away from the crowd. Don't be afraid to go above 3000 Hz. Use the capabilities of their excellent radios to your advantage.

5. Stop transmitting and listen for a cycle or two every 3 or 4 minutes. Look for emerging interference that you could not see because you were transmitting. And you do not know what they are seeing on their end, so change audio frequency every once in a while even if you do not see anyone else transmitting on your audio frequency.

6. Make sure your computer clock is synchronized well with the DX station. For weak signals, or to get them to decode you in crowded conditions, every partial second counts. For 3Y0K, if my TD with them is more than  $-0.5/+0.5$  seconds I will change my computer clock. Doesn't matter what the real or most accurate time is. Just synchronize with them. Sometimes that means turning off automatic network time synchronization and setting the time manually. 3Y0K seems to have a good time source, but remote DXpeditions do not always have good time sources and not every station within the same expeditions always uses the same time. It is like propagation - work with what you are observing about their signal that you receive.

7. Only transmit when you can hear and decode 3Y0K.

8. Be patient!

9. Remember, making this rare DX contact is supposed to be "fun" endeavor.

But what if you are using older radio equipment? Having written out all of the above details involving my specific radios and setup with a relatively modern transceiver in March 2026, I think it might be helpful to share my ideas about what should work if you are using an older radio as a supplement. The basic strategy already outlined above should still work, but using an older radio will take a little more work.

My first HF radio was a Kenwood TS-570S that I used with a Signalink for FT8. Then I used an Icom IC-746, also with a Signalink. (I still use that setup for 2m FT8.) Those older radios do not have the bandwidth to **\*\*simultaneously\*\*** see both the 3Y0K transmission and the "top" of the audio frequencies used by all the other stations calling them.

So following here is how I use those radios to contact weak stations during a DX pileup.

**Cont'd on page 10**

## Cont'd from page 9

I will give the strategy then numbers with an example for typical 3Y0K operations.

1. Set the radio RF frequency to the spotted DX frequency and make sure you can reliably decode them. If the DX audio frequency is low, say below 500 Hz, turn your radio RF frequency down by 1 KHz to put their audio frequency in the range of 1000-2000 Hz. This is because for older radios the sensitivity falls off a bit outside of this sweet spot. This is exactly the same thing and reason for using the “Fake it” setting in WSJT-X for the split transmit setting. You do not have to do this as long as you can reliably receive and decode them. Write down your RF frequency (R1) and their audio frequency (Af).

1.a. Make sure you are using “Fake it” for split transmission operation!!!

2. Tune your radio RF frequency down in 1 KHz steps until you see the top of the pileup in the audio range of 1000-2000 Hz. Pick an audio frequency about 200-300 Hz above the pileup. This is where you want to transmit your audio signal, up where you are clear of the pileup noise. Write down the RF frequency (R2) and your selected audio frequency (Tf).

3. Tune your radio RF frequency back down to the RF frequency at the end of step 1 (R1). Set your receive audio frequency to the DX station (Af) and ensure you can reliably decode them.

4. Set your FT8 audio transmit frequency to the number you chose in step 2 **\*\*PLUS\*\*** 1000 Hz for each 1 KHz you raised your radio RF frequency to get there (Ta). The goal is to set your radio receive frequency to reliably decode, but transmit higher than you can actually see with the radio set to the lower receive frequency. This makes the setup the same as would be for a radio that could see the full audio frequency range at once.

5. Example: 3Y0K is transmitting on 14090 KHz with audio frequencies 313, 373, and 333 Hz. You see them weakly with your radio at 14090 KHz, but better at 14089 KHz where their audio frequency is 1313 HZ. Write down R1=14089 KHz and Af=1313 Hz. Tune up until the top of the pileup is seen in the 1000-2000 Hz window. Typically, the world is transmitting up to 2900 Hz from the base RF frequency. So you tune to 14091 KHz and see the top of the pileup at 1900 Hz. You choose your audio transmit frequency to be 2200 Hz (1900 + 300 Hz) for that RF frequency. Write down R2=14091 KHz and Tf=2200 Hz. Tune your radio RF frequency back to R1=14089 KHz and set your receive audio frequency back to Af=1313 Hz. Confirm you are decoding 3Y0K reliably. Set your transmit audio frequency (Ta) to 4200 Hz. Start calling. Here is the math:

$$Ta = Tf + 1000 \times (R2 - R1)$$

$$Ta = 2200 + 1000 \times (14091 - 14089)$$

If your radio had the sensitivity and bandwidth to just use the DX frequency (such as my IC-7300), the settings would be RF at 14090 KHz and the audio frequency for FT8 transmit at 3200 Hz. This is relying on their radio to have a bandwidth of at least 3200 Hz, well within the actual capability of their IC-7610 radios.

6. Don't forget to stop transmitting every few minutes and tune your radio RF frequency back up to R2 to check to make sure you still have a clear window in which to transmit.

73 Duane KK4BZ

# REMINDER



Yes, it is that time of year again!!!! Below is the 2026 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 2026

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, 2026. 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.

NAME AND CALL OF FAMILY MEMBERS:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSING: \_\_\_\_\_

Call: \_\_\_\_\_

Call: \_\_\_\_\_

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



## INDOOR HAMFEST & TAILGATE EVENT

Saturday, June 20th, 2026

[Charles J. Colgan Sr. High School](#)

13833 Dumfries Rd, Manassas VA 20112

Colgan is a state-of-the-art High School in Prince William County that was opened in 2016, we will be using doors #33 and #34  
Please watch for signage at the school

GENERAL ADMISSION  
DOORS OPEN AT 8 AM  
\$10.00 PER PERSON  
OVER 14

INSIDE VENDORS  
DOORS OPEN AT 7 AM  
\$25 PER TABLE  
INCLUDES 1 SIX FOOT  
ROUND TABLE, 1 CHAIR & 1  
ADMISSION TICKET  
ADDITIONAL TABLES \$20  
PER TABLE

TAILGATE  
SET UP AT 7 AM  
\$15 PER PARKING SPACE  
DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY  
ADMISSION TICKETS

VA QSO  
PARTY AWARDS

Watch for updated  
information and vendor  
list at [www.w4ovh.net](http://www.w4ovh.net)

ARRL TABLE

DOORS CLOSE  
AT 12:30 PM



**OLE VIRGINIA HAMS  
AMATEUR RADIO  
CLUB**

**invites the public to  
attend the 2026  
Field Day Event**

**24 Hour Event  
starts 2 pm June 27th  
thru 2 pm June 28th**

**Nokesville Park  
12560 Aden Road  
Nokesville VA  
At the big pavilion  
past the baseball  
fields**

**Rain or Shine!**

**More Info:  
[www.w4ovh.net](http://www.w4ovh.net)**

**Balloon Launch on  
Saturday Afternoon**

**Saturday evening  
Pot Luck Dinner at 5  
pm - bring a dish to  
share**

**This is a family event**

**All are welcome!**