

OLE VIRGINIA TIMES

September 2026

Next Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, September 15, 2026

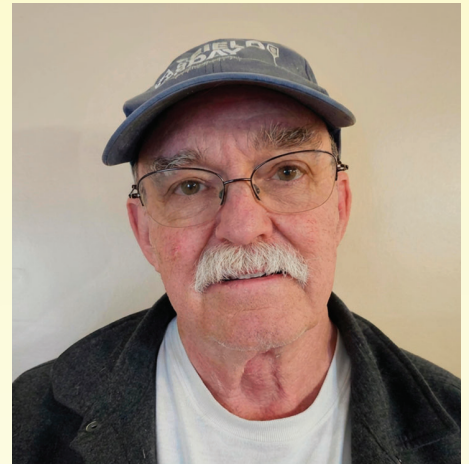
PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

At the September OVH meeting, George K4GVT will again be giving his Vehicle FOB attack presentation. He has presented it to the police here in Manassas, and elsewhere. Bring your friends and neighbors and see if your vehicle could be at risk. Here is George's description:

"Most of us have keyless entry systems for our vehicles. In this presentation, I will focus on a critical flaw that exists in most modern-day vehicles with a keyless entry system. This flaw was discovered many years ago by insiders in the automotive industry, but it is somewhat technically obscure. Because it costs a tremendous level of resources to change any system that is already in widespread use and is generally thought as working well, the flaw still exists today. That makes it very easy for someone with the know-how and some inexpensive equipment to get into a locked vehicle and drive it away without the vehicle's FOB key. After the

presentation we will have live demonstrations. This presentation is to alert all regarding this serious weakness and show you preventative methods to avoid the potential issue."

The OVH now has three 93 year old members. Each of Bob/KQ4PSA, Chick/KC1PIA and Al/KB4BHB are 1933 babies and recently had birthdays. We hope each lives to be 100!



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 / HC4DA	703-597-3211

DIRECTORS

George Tarnovsky	K4GVT	791-5956
Gil Thompson	KM4OZH	369-0431
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
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FIELD DAY 2026 - CHAIR

John	KG4NXT	703-789-6449
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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
Lynn	KX4HR	913-205-1742
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
Gil	KM4OZH	369-0431
Jeff	WB6UIE	791-5916
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 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. Approx. Circ.: 170. Last Rev: 20260910

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As this is written, the Willing Warriors race is this coming weekend on September 12th. Thanks to all of you who are providing the communications support.

Most of you know that George K4GVT has been chairing the Manassas Christmas parade event for several years. This year, George unable to do it because he will be visiting his daughter's family which is living in Korea where his son in law is a US flyboy. I am proud to announce that Rob / KR4EVV will be the Chair this year and George will be assisting as much as he can. Rob ran the tailgate at the Hamfest and did a bang up job.

I also urge you to come to the POTA and picnic on Sunday, September 20th at the Sky Meadows state park in Delaplane, Virginia. Also feel free to bring friends and family for the lunch. Details on OVH website, on the events column and later in this Newsletter.

Hope to see you at the upcoming regular meeting on Tuesday evening, September 15th.

73 John KG4NXT



Sunshine Corner

Happy Birthday wishes to all of the following OVH club members with birthdays in September: Gus / N4MLE, Bill / AF4LL, Scott / WB6EFW, Al / KB4BHB, Jim / WE4JJ, Ron / N4RDZ, Mark / WA4KFZ, Richard / N4HOS, Luis / KQ4GBC and Lori / KC0EWN.



I just recently went thru our membership list and compared it to the birthday list I have. There are quite a few members who I don't have birthday months for. So, if you don't see your name listed in your birthday month, please let me know at my email: kg4tvm@hotmail.com

At the upcoming regular OVH meeting on Tuesday, September 15th, George / K4GVT will again be giving his program on Vehicle FOB Relay Attack. George has done a lot of work on this presentation, looking forward to hearing it!

Buckhall VFD is having the last BBQ Chicken dinner for 2026 on Saturday, September 19th, starting at 11:00 am and going on until it sells out. Come on out and support this group that provides us our monthly meeting place!

Thanks to Mark / WA4KFZ and his VE team for another successful test session in August. Way to go guys!

Thanks to Gil / KM4OZH for becoming a new director for the OVH club!

Willing Warriors Bike Ride is Saturday, September 12th. OVH supports this event by having club members out on the bike course and providing radio communications. Thank you to the OVH club members that volunteering to be out on the course providing communications.

In August, several of us attending a memorial service for Ken / KN4DD's wife, Paula. Our sincere condolences to Ken on his loss. A group photo was taken, **Cont'd on page 4**

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in the photo to the left, left to right: Theresa / KG4TVM, Mark / WA4KFZ, Kevin / W4RKU, Ken / KN4DD, John / KG4NXT and Luther / WA3FMO. Special thanks to Luther's wife, Lisa for taking the photo, this is the first time we have met Lisa and hope to see her more often!



Another upcoming event on is the POTA – Parks on the Air – activation at Sky Meadows State Park in Delaplane, Virginia on Sunday, September 20th from 10 am until 1 pm in the picnic area. There is a \$10 per car fee to get into the park. If you already are involved in POTA, this is a state park so it would count for an activation if you have at least 10 contacts. If you are interested in learning more about POTA, this will be a great opportunity to get your questions answered. This is just one of many beautiful state parks in Virginia. Bring the family, this is a great park to wonder around in! The park address is 11012 Edmonds Ln., Delaplane, VA 20144. I have obtained a special use permit for us to use the park on September 20th for this event. We will be cooking hotdogs on the grill for lunch. Please email or call me to let me know if you are coming so I can make sure we have enough food, cell 703-257-3566 or kg4tvm@hotmail.com For more info on the park Sky Meadows State Park

The OVH has the following available for sale, contact kg4tvm@hotmail.com for more info or to see the equipment: 1. YAESU - HF Transceiver FT-1000 - Includes Operating and Servicing Manual; and/or 2. YAESU - VHF/UHF All Mode Tribander FT-726R - Includes modules for 70 cm, 2 meter, and 6 meter bands, also Operating & Tech Support Manuals.

Mark your calendars for: 1. Saturday, December 5, 2026 for the Manassas Christmas Parade, volunteers needed for the parade route and we need someone to pull the club trailer thru the parade; and 2. Sunday, December 6, 2026, OVH Holiday Party, new location, new time – more details at the September meeting!

Please make sure the club has your correct call sign and mailing address on our website in the member's only section – 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!

Happy end of summer!



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

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

General - President John Heartney / KG4NXT, called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm on August 18, 2026. The club meeting was held in the training room at the Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station. All present stated their names and callsigns. There were 10 attendees at the club meeting.

Program – George Stone / WA1JQC, gave a presentation on the National Traffic System (NTS). George is the Virginia Section Traffic Manager and presented what the NTS is, what it does, and how it functions. The concept of radiograms is the main message mechanism used by NTS and George challenged W4OVH club members to send 2 to 3 radiograms a month. Also, there is training available for the NTS.

Minutes - The minutes of the July 2026 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Theresa / KG4TVM gave the financial report for Don/WA2SWX.

Membership – Luther / WA3FMO had one item of business. Hasani Williams (no call yet) was voted into the club.

Repeater Report – No report.

Website Report – Lynn / KX4HR noted that the website is up and running and plug-ins are up to date.

Training – Mark / WA4KFZ, reported that he will provide better signs for the next VE session to be held in August. Mark noted that David Lane has ordered 5 tablets and will donate them to the club to replace the aging laptops.

POTA and Family picnic – Theresa / KG4TVM announced that there will be a family picnic and POTA on September 20, 2026 at Sky Meadows State Park. The cost will be \$10 per car to attend the picnic.

Sunshine Corner – Theresa / KG4TVM noted the birthdays for August. She also noted that a Fire Department BBQ chicken dinner will be held September 19 at Buckhall Volunteer Fire Department Station. Theresa noted that there are 4 Directors for the W4OVH club. Art's passing left a vacancy and Gil / KM4OZH, has volunteered to take a Director's position.

Christmas Parade – The Christmas parade is set for December 5, 2026.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Reminders about some upcoming events / calendar dates:

HAMFESTS:

No nearby hamfests scheduled in September / October.

OVH RELATED EVENTS

Sunday, September 20, 2026, 10 am to 1 pm - POTA – Parks on the Air – activation event at the Sky Meadows State Park in Delaplane, Virginia in the picnic area. There is a \$10 per car fee to get into the park. If you already are involved in POTA, this is

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a state park so it would count for an activation if you have at least 10 contacts. If you are interested in learning more about POTA, this will be a great opportunity to get your questions answered. This is just one of many beautiful state parks in Virginia. Bring the family, this is a great park to wonder around in! The park address is 11012 Edmonds Lane, Delaplane, VA 20144, and it is relatively close by, about a 50 minute drive from Manassas. OVH has a special use permit to use the park for this event, cooking hotdogs on the grill for lunch. Please email or call Theresa / KG4TVM if you are coming so she can make sure there will be enough food, cell 703-257-3566 or kg4tvm@hotmail.com

Saturday, December 5, 2026 early morning for the Manassas Christmas Parade, OVH volunteers needed to provide communications for the parade route and we also need someone to pull the club trailer thru the parade. More details to follow.

Sunday, December 6, 2026 - OVH Holiday Party, new location and new time this year – more details to be forthcoming, but save the date now.

HAM RADIO OPERATING / CONTEST EVENTS

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

September 12, 2026 (Saturday), the Ninth Annual Willing Warriors.- Warrior Ride on bicycles, headquarters / starting points at The Farm Brewery at Broad Run, Virginia. The bicycle courses are 9 miles or 21 miles on gravel roads. OVH members (and others) provide communications support for the event. The page is live at <https://www.bikereg.com/volunteers-warrior-ride> -- go there to register as a ham volunteer or contact OVH member, Andy Gamponia at (703) 786-4651

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.

OVH VE Exam Session on August 15, 2026

The OVH completed another VE session on Saturday, August 15, 2026. This was an opportunity for two of the VE team members to learn to use the new ExamTools system.

The successful exam session was also an opportunity to use our newly printed yard signs. A total of four signs were placed along the parking lot to direct applicants to the rear entrance of the Chantilly Regional Library. A fifth sign was placed on an easel indoors to direct applicants to the exam room.

A total of four candidates took the Technician Class exam. Three passed and (sadly) one failed. It was gratifying to have two youth candidates attend our session. Getting kids



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involved is so important in keeping our hobby vibrant and relatable in our technology-driven world.

We have been conducting exams using three old laptop computers running Linux Mint with the Google Chrome browsers set to “kiosk mode.” Kiosk mode ensures that browser stays locked to the ExamTools web site, preventing candidates from going out to the internet and seeking assistance during the exam.

Having seen how slow and bulky the laptop computers were to use, David Lane, KG4GIY has graciously donated five Android X109 tablets for use in future exams. The tablets can be locked in kiosk mode as well. Transporting the tablets will be so much easier than lugging the laptop computers around. Thank you, David, for your generous contribution to the club!

Thanks to the VE team for helping out: Byron / AK4XR, David / KG4GIY, Bruce / KN4GDX, Lynn / KX4HR and David / KY4MM. --- Mark / WA4KFZ



Some Possibly Interesting or Useful Information

The first digital amateur radio mode was International Morse Code sent by on-off keying of a radio transmitter.

International Morse Code evolved from the original land line, telegraph line, American Morse Code developed in the 1830s based upon the English alphabet, and became an international standard created by the International Telegraph Union (ITU) in the mid-1860s. Most of the push for development of the International Morse Code occurred in Europe led by a German engineer, Friedrich Gerke, who simplified and improved the efficiency of the original American Morse Code system as a source encoding system for converting arbitrary sequences of letters, numbers and a limited set of symbols into unique code sequences of on-off keyed symbols of different lengths (i.e., sequences of dits and dahs and spaces, sometimes referred to as dots and dashes and spaces) that could be manually decoded and written down reliably by trained human operators if sent at relatively low speeds, e.g. 30 words per minute or less. By the 1870s, many types of electro-mechanical machines had been invented which could convert inputted code sequences of on-off keyed symbols of different lengths into printed sequences of letters, numbers and symbols corresponding to the inputted code sequences, thereby eliminating the need for a trained human operator who could copy “code” and transcribe it. Such electro-mechanical machines were complex and expensive but worked well in controlled landline telegraph environments.

The original radio transmitters used by ham, military and commercial stations in the very early 1900s were spark gap based transmitters, and the original International Morse Code by radio was sent using on-off keying of spark gap transmitters by hand by manual operators. After active device vacuum tubes (i.e., triodes and greater) were developed and became available commercially in the early 1900s, it became possible easily to generate frequency stable, continuous wave (CW) radio frequency transmitters; CW transmitters were so technically superior than the older spark gap type transmitters, that further use of spark gap transmitters quickly died out and was banned by late 1920s (early 1930s). The use of vacuum tubes devices has now almost entirely been replaced by active semiconductor based devices since the 1950s, except for high power RF (and a few other specialized) applications.

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But ham operators have used the CW mode (now meaning, International Morse Code) without interruption to communicate via radio since the early 1900s.

International Morse Code as used by radio hams has been sent almost exclusively by manual on-off keying by the operator (or by use of punched tape readers) of CW transmitters until relatively recently (e.g. the 1970s, with the start of the microprocessor age when keyboard devices started to be used instead of hand keys, CW bugs, and electronic keyers). Likewise, until relatively recently (the 1970s, with the emergence of microprocessors, when automatic decoders were first used) virtually all received International Morse Code by radio hams was copied and transcribed manually (on paper or in the operator's head) by the code proficient ham operator.

This original digital mode (International Morse Code) is still in widespread, although diminished use, in ham radio today. However, Morse Code now only has very limited uses any longer in military communications and has all but died out completely in commercial uses, replaced more efficient communications systems.

What has caused this? The simple answer: the development and deployment of more efficient and effective digital modes. I will concentrate initially in the following on the second digital mode used in ham radio - the radio teleprinter, also referred to as the teletype.

Mechanical teleprinters with typewriter like keyboards and typewriter like printers were first developed in the early 1900s for use on wired, landline telegraph circuits. With those types of systems, when the operator pressed a key on the local keyboard, the symbol corresponding to the pressed key would print locally and also remotely on the remotely connected teleprinter. Key pressing on the keyboard could be accomplished by the operator typing, or by use of a prepunched paper tape fed through a tape reader. These types of systems were very complex mechanically and expensive but worked well in up to the 50 to 100 word per minute speed range. A big advantage was that the operator needed minimal special training beyond being able to use a typewriter like device.

By the 1920s, the original mechanical teleprinters had improved greatly and the transmission media being used with them had expanded for commercial and military uses to include the use of shifting audio tones (e.g., AFSK) over standard audio frequency switched wired telephone lines, and the use of frequency shift keying (FSK) over CW radio frequency (RF) circuits. The use of mechanical teleprinters / teletypes expanded tremendously during the 1920s and during World War II, but hams were not allowed to first use teletypes with AFSK until the late 1940s and with (FSK) until the early 1950s. Hams then provided a good secondary market for surplus and obsolete commercial and military teletypes, and ham radio teletype (RTTY) operations began to flourish.

Your writer, as a young ham in Connecticut in early 1962, got his first mechanical teletype machine, a Model 26 from the late 1930s, via a CQ Magazine classified ad from a ham in Ohio who had then had the machine for about five years. In the early 1960s good published information existed about how to get an RTTY ham station up and running; using that I was able to get that machine hooked up to transmit FSK on HF with a modified VFO, and to receive with a homemade FSK decoder for the receiver and a teletype printer control circuit in about two months time. Over the next two years I eventually worked most of the States and about 50 countries on two way RTTY QSOs on the HF bands.

To be continued next month: how ham RTTY evolved from the 1960s, to include ARQ modes, with teletypes being replaced by computer keyboards, screens and printers, the introduction of software based packet radio systems, and other advanced digital communications modes such as PSK31, CLOVER, PACTOR, up to the present; and how all of these advances in digital communications are consistent with Claude Shannon's initial, insightful Information Theory revelations of late 1940s, helped along by the evolution of semiconductors based devices and the emergence of low cost computer and software systems.