

Volume 6, Issue 4
OVARC E-Mail

April
2014

E-Mail Newsletter



Just a Reminder...

CLUB MEETINGS

First Thursday each month
at 7:30 PM
KC Greenville Learning
Center
(Kaskaskia College)
209 N. Third St.
Greenville, IL 62246

CLUB NET

Sun. 9:00 PM - 147.165

[Linked Repeater System](#)

The Monthly Publication of the Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club

"Show & Tell"

**Members & Friends are invited to
bring in a piece of software that
works for you!**

Program Moderated by Tim K9XWX

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Club Repeaters

W9KXQ/R
(PL 103.5)

147.165+
224.440-

KB9EGI
(PL 103.5)
442.925+

The April meeting will be a chance to show off that special piece of software that you are using in your shack. You may have a project attached to the software, so come prepared to share with all of us. We will have Internet available and a projector, so get it working on your laptop and bring it along. You can just bring the program on a USB memory stick our Moderator will display and share it with the group.

Next Meeting
April 3, 2014

7:30 PM

MEETINGS TO PLAN FOR

May Meeting

May 1, 2014

**"Micro-Controllers
in the Shack"**

June Meeting

June 5, 2014

**Field Day 2014
The Plan**

The word is getting out!



Thursday, March 20, 2014 John W9KXQ along with Greenville Chief of Police Lou Lorton joined the monthly meeting of the Southern Illinois Police Chief's Association in Highland, IL where John shared Amateur Radio's concern with the new Electronics Communications Devices law that exempts the use of Licensed Amateur Radio Operators while operating their radios while driving. The photo to the right was received by John from W9NJM's son who is a Police Officer for a Metro-East Police Department with the note, "now I am getting your emails at work"! Sometimes "THE PLAN" really works. Additionally, the Illinois Association of Chief's of Police included the information on presented at this meeting in the weekly Newsletter ILACP Alert Bulletin that went to their members statewide. You can download [the letter](#) seen in the screenshot and the [Illinois Law PA 98-050](#).

John also included a copy of his Amateur Radio License so that Law enforcement could see what one looks like.



REPEATER UPDATES

Linked repeater system is operational

W9KXQ 147.165 & 224.44 Repeater

KB9EGI 442.925 Repeater site



APRS Digipeaters [W9KXQ-15](#) & [W9KXQ-8](#) are on line. W9KXQ-8 antenna was damaged in storm on Thursday 02/20/14. [Photos before and after](#). This antenna is at 180 Ft.

Meeting Location



Regular Meeting location:
Kaskaskia College
Greenville Education Center
209 N. Third St.
Greenville, IL 62246
rear entrance

Future Dates:		
April	3	2014
May	1	2014
June	5	2014
No July Meeting		
August	7	2014



March Meeting Highlights



JAPAN'S FUJI SATELLITE

The March Program provided us with an overview of the basics of “how to work the Amateur Radio Satellites.” The presentation included a review of the key components required to make these Amateur Radio contacts. Ken KK9N provided a list of the Amateur Radio Satellites that are still operational. The program wrapped up with a “birds eye view” of EME (Earth-Moon-Earth) operation.

It's time for the W5KUB.COM live webcast of Gigaparts' Ham Radio

Join W5KUB.com for a live, online webcast of the Gigaparts Ham Radio Day on Saturday, March 29th in Huntsville, Alabama. To join the broadcast go to <http://W5KUB.com> where the fun begins! W5KUB will feature interviews of vendors and attendees.



HAM RADIO Jim Thibeault KF4NBG *Jim's Engraving*
www.jimsengraving.com



www.jimsengraving.com

Minutes Highlights for March 6 , 2014



President Ken Norris KK9N called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday, March 6, 2014 in Room 107 of the Kaskaskia College Education Center on Third Street in Greenville. There were 12 people present.

The minutes of the February 6, 2014 meeting were approved. Ken presented a treasurer's report that as of February 25 our balance was .

John W9KXQ reported that he and Marc N9LIS cleaned connections on our 2 meter repeater. That has cleared up the audio on the repeater. John recommends replacing those connections with power poles.

Dennis W9DAW reported that the next VE testing will be this coming Saturday in Highland. No one showed up to be tested in February. March 22 the Mormons will test in O'Fallon at their church.

Ken again reminded us to pay our 2014 dues. The Dayton Hamvention is coming up May 15-18. Several OVARC members will attend Contest University on May 15. Twelve are planning to eat steak together on Friday night, the 16th. We have reserved a suite with a king size bed, a couch, and a roll-away bed.

Tim K9XWX will lead the next meeting. We will have a computer programs round table. Everyone should bring a list of programs that they like to use.

The St. Louis Suburban RC will hold an event March 28. Several ARRL officials will attend. Has anyone been operating any of the ARRL 100th anniversary stations? Several have heard them, but no one present has worked them. The ARRL website has information.

Field Day is coming up. Plans are beginning. We need a GOTA control operator. John has done it for the last 6-7 years and would like some relief. Dennis W9DAW agreed to do that. The main pavilion is reserved, but we may be able to use a new enclosed building. Jim KF4NBS has a 6500-watt generator we can use.

Ken showed samples of name tags that a fellow at the Lebanon hamfest made. The fellow who makes them offered to give us a group rate.

Ken asked the trivia corner question: What is an LEO Satellite and what is their orbital distance from earth? Jim knew that the answer is low earth orbit, 99-1,200 miles from earth.

What is the mystery antenna that was pictured in this month's OVARC newsletter? It is a log parabolic antenna. The photo is of an antenna on an apartment building in Kuwait.

Ken presented a program about working satellites. OSCARs—Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio have been up since 1972. Most have fallen. OSCARS have been launched from the ISS. Those satellites orbit about a month. Ken passed around a list of the 15 most popular OSCARs that are currently operational. You will need a circularly polarized receiving antenna to work them. Any dual band radio can be used (to receive on one band and transmit on another band). Software is used to track the orbit of the satellite and adjust the receiving frequency to account for Doppler shift. Several different types of antennas can be used.

Amateurs can also work EME—Earth à Moon à Earth. Amateurs send their call sign beamed at the moon and listen for their signal to bounce back—a successful EME (moon bounce) transmission. It takes 2.7 seconds for a signal sent from earth to bounce off the moon and return to earth. There is so much loss that it takes a powerful amplifier and very high gain antenna to work EME.

Cary Holman W4GRN, Secretary



OVARC Information

Repeaters

147.165, 224.440, 442.925

2014 Officers

President

Ken Norris KK9N
KK9N@ovarc.net

Vice-President

Tim Rapp K9XWX
K9XWX@ovarc.net

Secretary

Cary Holman W4GRN
W4GRN@ovarc.net

Treasurer

Howard Wise N9GEQ
N9GEQ@ovarc.net

Repeater Trustees

John King W9KXQ
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V.E. Team Coordinator

Dennis W9DAW
VEteam@ovarc.net

Net Manager

Clareen Dunn KB9BEB
KB9BEB@ovarc.net

Webmaster

John King W9KXQ
webmaster@ovarc.net

Website

<http://ovarc.net>

2014 OVARC Officers



Ken KK9N, President



Tim K9XWX, VP



Cary W4GRN, Sec.



Howard N9GEQ, Tres.

CONTEST CORNER

[Contest Website](#)

CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB

0000Z, Mar 29 to 2359Z, Mar 30

[Rules found here](#)

[DX Code of Conduct](#)

Home

Your Remote S-Meter

Ham Search

Ham Forum

The S-Meter Website allows you to check your signal and listen to others on remote receivers. There are thousands of pages of ham radio information. You can download malware-free radio-related design software.

[Click Here](#)

Website to checkout- 

Like Us on Facebook



[Facebook Field Day Photos](#)

[OVARC Facebook Page here](#)



Wednesday Evenings
8:00 PM CDT
twit network <http://twit.tv>

A Video Webcast about Ham Radio.

Just a reminder!

Take a minute and pull your ham license out of your wallet or off the wall and check the expiration date. If it expires in 2014, put a note on your calendar 90 days early to remind yourself to renew.
(Thanks to Jay W0PS)



Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club Inc.
Board of Officers 2014

Tim K9XWX serves as VP and a Director

Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club Inc.
Board of Directors 2014

Front Row: Howard N9GEQ-Treasurer
Back Row: Cary W4GRN-Sec. Ken KK9N Pres.

Front Row: Howard N9GEQ, John W9KXQ
Back Row: Cary W4GRN, Ken KK9N

ILLINOIS ARES SSB HF NET 3.905 MHZ LSB

The net is called at 1630 local time on the **first** and **third** Sunday of every month. They are called by Sections and Bond County is in Section or Region 8

Bond County will be called and someone who is an ARES member, or ARES volunteer can check into the net. Every HF station in Bond County is invited if they would like to come on-board. Multiple pathways into your county with information is the goal.



WINLINK 2000



OFFICIAL DIGITAL MODE OF ILLINOIS ARES

Sometime during the week prior to the weekend of the 2nd Sunday Tim will post a message to the Illinois ARES Digital Working Group list with information specific to that month's test. subscribe here:

Illinois ARES Digital Mailing List

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IL_ARES_DWG

Tim McDonough, N9PUZ

IL ARES Assistant SEC - Digital Operations

Sangamon County, Springfield, IL



Regular Events

Club Meetings

First Thursday of the month
at 7:30 PM,
KC Greenville Learning
Center
(Kaskaskia College)



If the Weather Net is
Active

Regular Net will not be held!

OVARC Website

<http://ovarc.net>

Linked Repeater System

Net Control Schedule



Clareen, KB9BEB is our Net Manager. The Okaw Valley ARC holds a weekly net at 9:00 PM on Sunday evenings. The net control stations are on a rotating schedule.

April 6—W9KXQ—John
April 13—KB9BEB—Clareen
April 20—NO NET—Easter
April 27—K9XWX—Tim
May 4—WB9SLM—Kris
May 11—KK9N—Ken
May 18—W9KXQ—John
May 25—NO NET—Memorial Day

[Download 2014 Schedule here](#)

OVARC Inc.

P.O. Box 3
Greenville, IL 62246
Club Information, Dues,
Event Notices,
Ideas for Programs, etc.

E-Mail Newsletter

John King W9KXQ, Editor
Email: W9KXQ@ovarc.net

Articles, New Items,
Corrections, etc.



2014 Activities



W9KXQ-8 APRS Digipeater Antenna

Photo by W9KXQ-Nov. 2013



Photo by KC9BOZ-Feb. 2014



My View from Here! John W9KXQ



Spring is here! At least that is what the calendar says. It is time to turn our focus to repairing, or upgrading our antenna systems. Before you tackle one of these projects, I would suggest that you get a container of your favorite drink, a pencil and paper, and set down to plan out your project. Things to consider; can I afford it; can I do with out it; can I get everything required for the project; and can I get enough help to safely imple-

ment my plan? I am sure that there are many other things to consider, however, just having a plan is the first step, whether it is your antenna or some other project. Spring brings with it its own kind of weather related activities including Field Day and storms. If you haven't already, it is time to get your hand held radios charged and ready for the spring storms. Your repeater team will do its best to keep our club repeaters up and operational. Our UHF (KB9EGI) repeater gets very little use, but it is a first class repeater with good range and backup power. We are fortunate in that this repeater shares its site with the Bond County 911 Starcom Radio System complete with a backup generator.

As a reminder, when the storms start coming our way, the National Weather Service station WX0STL in St. Charles, MO will activate the weather net utilizing our [Linked Repeater System](#). When this occurs, it is a good time to also monitor our 442.925 MHz UHF Repeater. Local reports can be handled on this repeater and then forwarded to the NWS on the Linked Repeater System. This keep our 2 meter repeater system available for use by all. In the past, we have sometimes forgot about this UHF repeater, but I encourage you to start monitoring it. With the price of the Chinese radios dropping to below \$39, it would be a worthwhile investment to have one as a backup to our "older" radios. If your current radio does not monitor 2 frequencies at the same time, the Chinese radio is a inexpensive means to monitor our systems.

April's meeting is our first attempt at getting more of you involved in the meeting programs. It will be more fun if more of you participate. Our next meeting is Thursday April 3rd and on Sat. April 5th, Dennis W9DAW will be testing in Greenville. **For Now— from up here! 73!**

Then & Now

The Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club begin helping young kids obtain their ham radio license in 2008. Recently, a photo was posted on Facebook that caught the attention of our editor. A search of our photo archives provides this look of "Then & Now"



W9KXQ & Meghan KC9PAG
2008



Meghan KC9PAG
2014



Lindsey KC9OYI &
Hannah KC9OYJ 2008

Hannah KC9OYJ
2014



Meghan KC9PAG & Lindsey KC9OYI
2014

They have Driver's licenses now



LEWIS & CLARK RADIO CLUB HAMFEST 2014

SATURDAY – **APRIL 26, 2014** - 07:00 to NOON

LOCATION: "RIVER BEND ARENA"
LEWIS & CLARK COMMUNITY COLLEGE
GODFREY, ILLINOIS

LARGE INDOOR FACILITIES COMMERCIAL VENDORS
FLEA MARKET TABLES \$12.00 EACH
Early vendor access Friday 6-9PM and Saturday 5:30AM



FOR RESERVATIONS & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT
LEWIS AND CLARK RADIO CLUB HAMFEST COMMITTEE
email: hamfest@k9ham.org Jacques KN9O at 618-401-5558

LEWIS & CLARK COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY
25 MILES NORTH OF DOWNTOWN ST. LOUIS ON U.S. ROUTE 67,
JUST NORTH OF ALTON, ILLINOIS.

[AREA MAP](#) [DRIVING DIRECTIONS](#)

Once you are on campus just look for the signs directing you to the
Lewis & Clark Radio Club Hamfest.

TALK-IN WILL BE ON K9HAM REPEATER 145.230(-) PL 79.7



Ken's Trivia Corner (KK9N)

“What BASIC stand for? Who Invented it and in what year was it written?”

The answer and a prize for the winner will be given at the April 3, 2014 meeting



Dues for 2014 due January 1, 2014

Dues for 2014 are \$25.00 per member per year, second family member is \$10. Student dues \$5 per year

You can pay Howard N9GEQ at club meetings or send a check made payable to Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club P.O. Box 3 Greenville, IL



Testing Opportunities

**Dennis Warren W9DAW
OVARC VE Team
Manager**

April 5, 2014

Contact Dennis W9DAW
(618)-292-9638
VETeam@ovarc.net

**Kaskaskia College
Greenville Education Center
209 N. Third St. Greenville, IL 62246**

Courtesy call or e-mail appreciated. Two forms of ID required (one with photo). If upgrading, original, plus copy of both license and any Certificates of Successful Completion (CSCE's) are required.



World Radiosport Team Championship
2014
July 8-14, 2014

The World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) is held every four years and consists of approximately 50 two-person teams of amateur radio operators competing in a test of operating skill. Unlike most on-the-air competitions, all stations are required to use identical antennas from the same geographic region, eliminating all variables except operating ability.

WRTC2014 will include 59 competing teams from 29 qualifying regions around the world. This will be the largest and most competitive WRTC ever!

<http://www.wrtc2014.org/>

New Hams

None

A Note from Tom Ciciora KA9QPN

“There were no challenging nomination petitions received at HQ for the next SM term. Consequently, I was declared 'reelected' for a new two year term starting on 1 July, 2014”.

Hamfests

AES Superfest

April 5, 2014



IL Section Manager

Thomas Ciciora, KA9QPN@arri.org

Central Division Director

George “Dick” Isely, W9GIG@arri.org

Central Div. Vice Director

Kermit Carlson, W9XA@arri.org

NASA Earthrise 45th Anniversary



Published on Dec 20, 2013

“In December of 1968, the crew of Apollo 8 became the first people to leave our home planet and travel to another body in space. But as crew members Frank Borman, James Lovell, and William Anders all later recalled, the most important thing they discovered was Earth.

Using photo mosaics and elevation data from Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO), this video commemorates the 45th anniversary of Apollo 8's historic flight by recreating the moment when the crew first saw and photographed the Earth rising from behind the Moon. Narrator Andrew Chaikin, author of *A Man on the Moon*, sets the scene for a three-minute visualization of the view from both inside and outside the spacecraft accompanied by the onboard audio of the astronauts.” (from YouTube website)

Thanks to Jay W0PS for Sharing this 7 minute video. You can watch it [here](#), or [download the video here](#). The video is in the public domain.

**Want to become a
Ham Radio
Operator???**

Contact us at
OVARC@ovarc.net

P.O. Box 3
Greenville, IL
62246

Amateur Radio Is...

- *Community Service*
- *Emergency Communications*
- *Learn new technologies for fun*
- *Worldwide Friendships*
- *A Hobby without borders!*

**April 2014
Okaw Valley Amateur
Radio Club**