

Volume 2, Issue 5
OVARC E-Mail

May
2010

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

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Club Repeaters

W9KXQ/R
(PL 103.5)

147.165+
224.440-

KB9EGI
442.925+

The Monthly Publication of the Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club

Bond County's StarCom (Public Safety Digital Radio System)

Allan Davis WB9YVE

Bob Lewis KC9BOZ

May 6, 2010 7:30 PM

**KC Greenville Learning Center
Greenville, IL**



Allan Davis WB9YVE, Bond County's 911 Coordinator and ESDA Director will be our guest. He will provide an up-to-the-minute look at the New StarCom Digital radio system currently in use in Bond County.



Some of the StarCom stack



Bob Lewis KC9BOZ will be on hand to acquaint us with the new "Digital Scanners" now available to listen to the StarCom system



A tour of the Bond County 911 PSAP (dispatch center where the StarCom system is in use) will round out the program for May.

Mark May 6, 2010 on your calendar now



MEETINGS TO PLAN FOR

June 3, 2010 Field Day Organizational & Planning meeting.

The June meeting will be used to finalize our plans for Field Day 2010 at Patriot's Park west of Greenville. Come prepared to participate.



July Meeting: There will be no July meeting due to Field Day just being completed and the Fourth of July Holiday Weekend.




ARRL The national association for AMATEUR RADIO™

The ARRL Letter

- Public Service
- Advocacy
- Education
- Technology
- Membership

The ARRL Letter is published Thursdays, 50 times each year. ARRL members may subscribe at no cost or unsubscribe by editing their Member Data Page as described at <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>.

To see the most current copy go to the following website:
The ARRL Letter (<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/index.html?issue=2010-04-29>)

If you are a member of ARRL, why not sign up for your weekly email copy?



REPEATER UPDATES

KB9EGI 442.925 Repeater site

The intermittent noise that appears on the 442.925 KB9EGI Repeater continues. We are working on a solution and hope to resolve the noise soon. Stay tuned for updates.

Meeting Location for May 6, 2010 Meeting

The May 6th meeting will be in the Kaskaskia College Center in Greenville (the building that used to be the location of the hospital thrift store just south of the Dairy Queen on Third Street).



Meeting location Kaskaskia College Greenville
Education Center 209 N. Third St. Greenville,
IL 62246
rear entrance
Future Dates this Location:

May 6, 2010—Room 118 Science Lab
June 3, 2010—To be announced



Pre-meeting “Eyeball QSOs” in progress. Are you in this photo??

Minutes Highlights for April 1, 2010

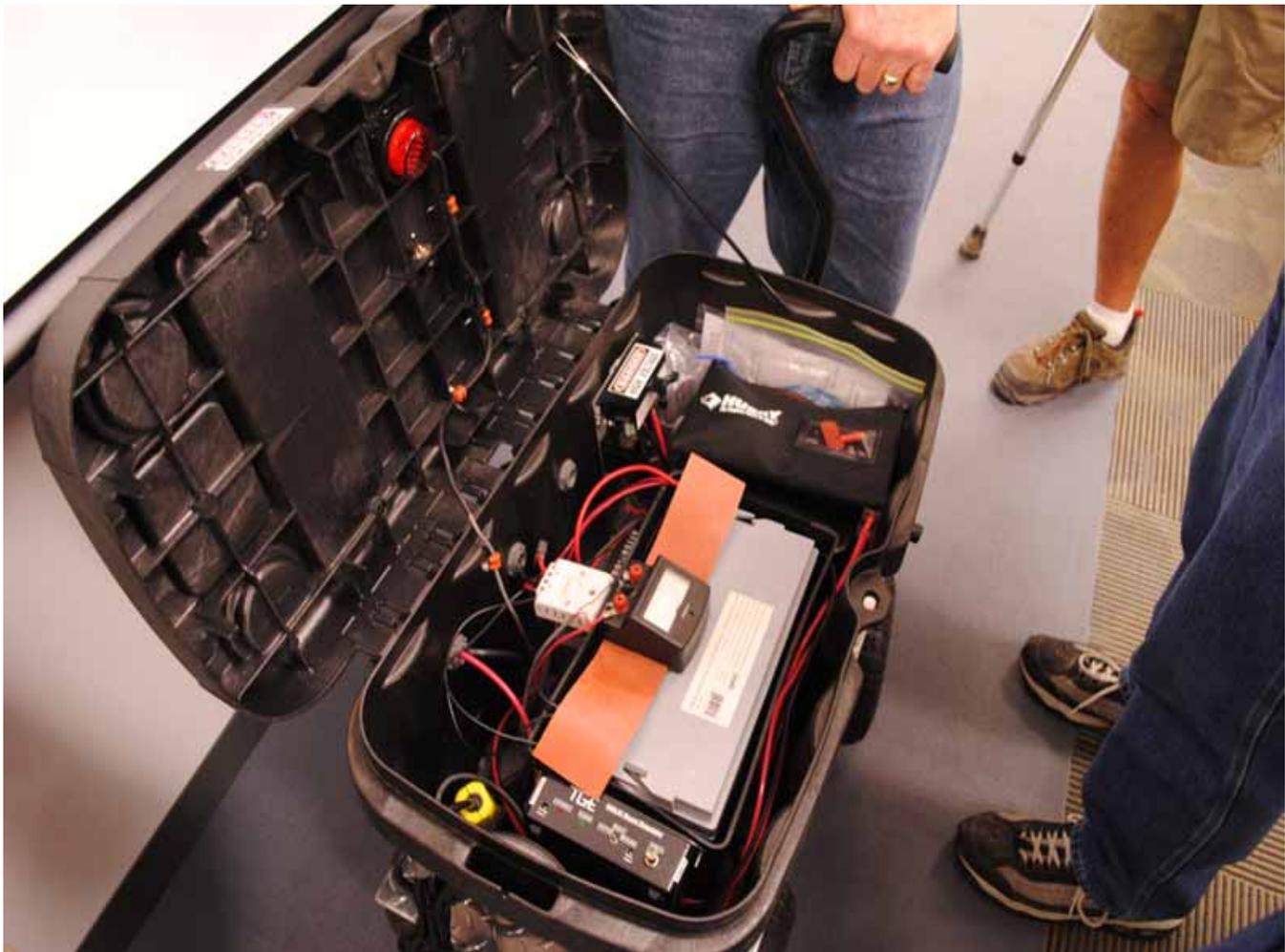
April 1, 2010 the Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club met in Room 118 of the Kaskaskia College Education Center on Third Street in Greenville.

Jim KF4NBG reported that VE testing continues the first Saturday of the month at the public library in Highland.

John W9KXQ reported on the continued problems with the 4442.925 repeater and reported on a new group of kids wanting to get the Ham license at the Greenville Elementary School.

Ken's Trivia Corner question regarding a new Federal bill recently passed, Jim KF4NBG did his homework and won the prize by answering the question.

Russ Kruse KD0EIA provided our program on Solar Power for the Ham Station. The May program will include a tour of the Greenville Police Department's 911 PSAP following Allan Davis WB9YVE & Bob Lewis' program on StarCom.



Russ KD0EIA shows off his "Powerwagon"



OVARC Information

Repeaters

147.165, 224.440, 442.925

2010 Officers

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Website

<http://ovarc.net>

"Solar Power For The Ham Station" by Russ Kruse KD0EIA



Russ Kruse KD0EIA from St. Charles, MO was our guest speaker at the April 1, 2010 meeting. His topic, "Solar Power For The Ham Station" included a very informative and informational PowerPoint presentation and live demonstrations of his "Power Wagon". Russ had some very informative handouts and was able to answer everyone's questions.

Russ has an interesting PowerPoint Presentation and will be bringing his

"Power Wagon" with solar panel for us to see. At the request of some of those present, Russ has made his PowerPoint available for download. Feel free to download and review it. It is available from the Club website under Newsletters. (www.ovarc.net/newsletters.htm).

Russ sent this note with the PowerPoint; "I just want to let you know I really enjoyed your club and all of the members I met.

Keep me posted on future meetings please, if I can break free I would love to drop in.

I have the Power Point attached for your website. Please acknowledge my name and contact information when using it. I would love for this to go further and be able to give more presentations on this."



Russ KD0EIA presenting John W9KXQ with book *Backwoods Solar Electric Systems*

Russ demos his "Powerwagon"





Ham Radio Never Sleeps by Jeff Davis, KE9V

The extended stay hotel room in Georgia that I have maintained for just a few weeks shy of one year now doesn't have wireless Internet, it offers a wired connection. That's not very practical given the assortment of gadgets and goodies that I carry along that like to take a sip from the WiFi from time to time, as well as tethering my laptop to only as far as the Ethernet cable will reach.

So I added a wireless router that permits me to do things like this...

A couple of nights ago I woke up at 2am and couldn't get back to sleep. After a few restless minutes I picked up my iPod Touch and thought maybe listening to something might help me get back to sleep. After checking my email, I browsed to the WinSystem site and clicked on their [audio link](#). After a few seconds of negotiation the stream began smack in the middle of The Insomniac Net, which was apropos given my situation.

A few things...

The [Western Intertie Network](#), or WinSystem is a network of over 70 FM repeaters, mostly located in California. I say "most" of them because the entire system is linked via IRLP and there are additional repeaters that belong to the system scattered over multiple states and in other countries.

It's an impressive network that makes amateur communication throughout California easy and affordable for users. Of course, like any such widespread system, it can attract those worthless few who enjoy creating interference, but generally speaking, this is a well-behaved and very friendly bunch of hams.

[The Insomniac Net](#) is one of the most popular repeater nets I've ever happened across. It's a 26 year-old net and the control stations are all well-seasoned and quite good at handling the crowd and keeping things moving which is a good thing, because with over a hundred check-ins, seven nights a week, the opportunity certainly exists for things to drag.

Each night there is a different net control operator. Generally, they have three or four trivia questions with 2 multiple choice answers. Roll call of the regular night owl members is called, then a special call for visitors and guests is presented.

And of course, IRLP is the [Internet Radio Linking Project](#), a now decade old technology for linking disparate repeaters via the Internet.

The WinSystem is permanently linked to IRLP [Reflector 9453](#) and the audio from the system is live streamed over the Internet 24 hours a day.

Back to my story...

As I lay in bed at 2am, listening to the streaming audio from dozens of ham radio stations all over the West Coast, and some of them in their automobiles cruising the Interstate, I couldn't help but wonder if the early pioneers of FM repeaters ever had anything like this in mind when they were dreaming up the original systems?

Lucky for me, I was snoring again by 3am. It's only on nights like these that I have the opportunity to either listen to, or check into the Insomniac Net, but I think it's rather amazing to think that even while we all need to sleep, ham radio never does...

Posted on March 20, 2010 at 9:33 am by [Jeff, KE9V](#) · [Permalink](#)

WorldRadio Online

WorldRadio is now on-line including back issues to its February 2009 debut. The online monthly publication takes the place of its predecessor the newsprint version. Check out the May 2010 issue for up to date articles. These are downloadable. Stop by and give it a try. (<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/WorldRadio.html>)



Regular Events

Club Meetings

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

If the Weather Net is Active

Regular Net will not be held!

Visit Us on the
Web!!!

<http://ovarc.net>

Net Control Schedule



Clareen, KB9BEB
is our Net Manager.
The Okaw Valley
ARC holds a
weekly net at 9:00
PM on Sunday eve-

nings. The net control stations
are on a rotating schedule.

May 2 WB9SLM—Kris
May 9 N9GEQ—Howard
May 16 KA9NRW—Hope
May 23 KB9BEB—Clareen
May 30 NO NET MEMORIAL DAY
June 6 KA9NRW—Hope

Net Control Schedule can be
found at www.ovarc.net/calendar

OVARC

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@arrl.net

*Articles, New Items,
Corrections, etc.*



Ham Radio with GES Fourth Graders

Members of OVARC have been spending afternoons at Greenville Elementary School (GES) helping Donna KC9LEG with the study program leading to several more new ham radio operators from this NASA Explorer School. This year, not only club members but 5th grade students who obtained their license a year ago have been on hand to help the prospective hams study for their exam. The helpers included Delaney KC9PBB, Taylor KC9PPE, Kayla KC9PPF, and Helen KC9PPG. The OVARC VE Team administered tests on Thursday April 29, 2010 with 9 new ham radio operators. The Team finished testing this group on Friday April 30 with 2 more new Hams. This has been a very successful after school project which has resulted with more young amateurs in our ranks.



Some of the Class of 2010 as they were studying



Hope KA9NRW & Taylor Studying for exam



Kayla KC9PPF during study session



Cameryn with her Grandpa John W9KXQ holding her Certificate 04-29-10



FCC News: FCC seeks Comments on Newly Proposed Rules for Amateur Radio Operators and Emergency Drills.

In March, the [FCC released](#) a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* (Docket #10-72) that proposed to amend the Part 97 rules -- specifically 97.113(a)(3) -- governing the Amateur Radio Service. The new rules would provide that, under certain limited conditions, Amateur Radio operators may transmit messages during emergency and disaster preparedness drills, regardless of whether the operators are employees of entities participating in the drill. On April 22, a [summary of the NPRM was published in the Federal Register](#) and the FCC is seeking comments on it. (From the ARRL Letter for April 29, 2010)

ARRL Field Day : 2010 Field Day Packets Now Available

It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for ARRL Field Day, June 26-27, 2010! ARRL's flagship operating event -- always held the fourth full weekend in June -- brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun. Field Day packets are now [available for download](#) and include the complete rules (including changes for 2010), as well as other reference items such as forms, ARRL Section abbreviation list, entry submission instructions, a Frequently Asked Questions section, guidelines for getting bonus points, instructions for GOTA stations, a kit to publicize your event with the local press and more.

(*Courtesy ARRL Letter*)



Ken's Trivial Corner

What is the difference between a duplexer and a diplexer? The answer and a prize for the winner will be given at the May 6, 2010

meeting.

By Ken Norris KK9N



**Dues for 2010 due
January 1, 2010**

**Dues for 2010 are \$15.00
per member per year.**

**You can pay Howard N9GEQ at club
meetings or send a check made pay-
able to Okaw Valley Amateur Radio**



Dayton Hamvention D-STAR linking announcement

Hamvention just got approval from the D-Star reflector owner and we will be linking the **W8BI** to the **30-B** reflector over the Hamvention® weekend.

We did the same thing last year, with a different reflector. A reflector allows everyone that is linked, either via a repeater or over the internet to communicate with everyone else that is linked. Here's the announcement, feel free to punch it up.

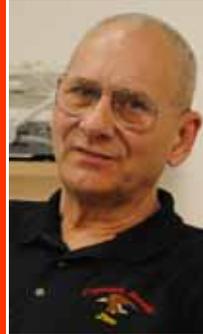
With the permission of the reflector owner, the W8BI DStar gateway will be linked to the 30-B reflector during Hamvention® weekend.

If you would like to follow the D-Star activity in Dayton over Hamvention® weekend, please use a linked repeater or link your DV Dongle to the 30-B reflector.

Please do not link directly to the W8BI gateway.

Direct any questions to this group or Mark Erbaugh [microenh@hughes.net] (from Southgate Amateur Radio Club)

**Dayton Hamvention 2010
May 14-16 2010**



Testing Opportunities

**Jim Thibeault KF4NBG
OVARC VE Team**

Louis Latzer Memorial Library
1001 9th St.
Highland, IL 62249
Contact Jim KF4NBG
(618)-488-6411

BecomeAHam@yahoo.com

**Technician Class Questions Change
July 1, 2010**

**Saturday May 1, 2010 10:00 AM
No summer Test Sessions Planned**

Courtesy call or e-mail appreciated. Two forms of ID required (one with photo). If upgrading, original, plus

Members Upgrade

Marc Seale N9LIS to Amateur Extra

**Dennis Warren KA9YTV to
Technician**

New Members to the Club

**Please Welcome:
Dennis Warren KA9YTV who upgraded to
Technician at our April test session.**



IL Section Manager

Thomas Ciciora, KA9QPN@ARRL.org

Central Division Director

George "Dick" Isely,
W9GIG@ARRL.org

Central Div. Vice Director

Howard Huntington, K9KM@ARRL.org

A Google Calendar has been added to our website. Click on **Calendar of Events** from our main webpage www.ovarc.net.

You can park your browser on www.ovarc.net as you can access QRZ.com from the main page.

QRZ callsign lookup:

Callsign lookups provided by qrz.com



Club Events Calendar
Includes Net Controls & V.E. Testing

Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club							Print	Week	Month	Agenda
Today	January 2010									
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat				
27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1	2				
3	4	5	6	7	8	9				
NET 9:00 PM Local Spm NC KA9NRW						10am V.E. Testing				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
NET 9:00 PM Local Spm NC WB9SLM										
17	18	19	20	21	22	23				
NET 9:00 PM Local Spm NC N9GEQ										
24	25	26	27	28	29	30				
NET 9:00 PM Local Spm NC W9KXQ						Winterfest 2010				
31	Feb 1	2	3	4	5	6				
NET 9:00 PM Local Spm NC KB9BEB						10am V.E. Testing				

<p>May 2010 Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club</p>	<p>Inside This Issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • StarCom-Digital Public Safety • Solar Power wrapup • GES Ham Radio Operators • And Much More... 	
<p>Want to become a Ham Radio Operator??? Contact us at http://ovarc.net P.O. Box 3 Greenville, IL 62246</p>	<p>Amateur Radio Is...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Community Service</i> • <i>Emergency Communications</i> • <i>A fun way to learn new technologies</i> • <i>Local and International Friendships</i> • <i>A National Resource!</i> 	