

Volume 3, Issue 3
OVARC E-Mail

March
2011

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

March Meeting - Balloon Launching



**Re-
scheduled
from
Feb. 2011**

John Alber of Highland, IL will be giving a presentation on balloon launching.

His presentation will include designing, building, launching, and tracking balloons. John is an experienced pilot and has been involved in Greenville Airport activities for many years. You will find his presentation most informative and entertaining.

PLAN NOW FOR March 3, 2011 7:30 PM

Photos for this issue
provided by Larry KC9ITK

Important! 440 threat - Need your help!

SEE PAGES 5 & 10 FOR DETAILS

MEETINGS TO PLAN FOR

April 2011

**FOX HUNTING HAM RADIO STYLE
Radio Direction Finding (AKA Fox
Hunting). Plans for an OVARC
sponsored Fox Hunt later this
year.**

Program needed for May 2011



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?issue=2011-02-24>)
If you are a member of ARRL, why not sign up for your weekly email copy?



REPEATER UPDATES

W9KXQ 147.165 Repeater site

KB9EGI 442.925 Repeater site



All systems are working. Let's use our repeaters!

[EchoLink Node W9KXQ-R active on the 2 meter Repeater](#)

Location for March 3, 2011 7:30 PM Meeting

The March 3rd meeting will be at the Kaskaskia College Center in Greenville (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:

April 7, 2011

May 5, 2011

June 2, 2011

OKAW VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2011 OFFICERS



Ken KK9N, Cary W4GRN, Howard N9GEQ, John W9KXQ
President | Secretary | Treasurer | Vice President
(Photo by Charley KA9NQL)

Minutes Highlights for January 6, 2011 (February 3 meeting cancelled due to weather)

President Ken Norris KK9N called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM on Thursday January 6, 2011 in Room 106 of the Kaskaskia College Education Center on Third Street in Greenville. There were 15 people present.

The minutes of the November 4 and December 2, 2010 meetings were read and approved.

Howard Wise N9GEQ reported a balance of \$603.15. He was glad that John W9KXQ was not present to hear the report and find places to spend the funds.

Jim Thibeault KF4NGB reported that the next VE testing will be this coming Saturday in Highland. At the November testing two new hams passed their Technicians Class exam and one upgraded to General. One of those taking an exam drove from Decatur.

Announcements included that Winterfest is coming up January 29, that 2011 dues are due (\$25 to Howard, N9GEQ), that the ARISS contact for GES is now planned for May 2-8, and that an informational club database may be developed.

Ken KK9N asked the trivia corner question: If you answer a CQ from AO1F where would he likely be calling from? Several knew that Spain was the answer. AC6V has a large data base of locations of calls worldwide. Kris WB9SLM won the prize.

Ken KK9N presented a PowerPoint presentation overview of amateur radio—definition, amateur television, antenna building, automatic packet reporting system (APRS), amateur radio on the International Space Station (ARISS), certificates, balloon launches, contesting, digital modes (CW, PSK-31, RTTY, slow scan TV, EchoLink, Internet Radio Linking Project IRLP), DXpeditions, chasing DX, emergency response services (RACES, ARES), earth moon earth EME, meteor showers, fox hunting/ amateur radio direction finding, home brewing, mobile/ portable, nets, collecting QSL cards, QRP, satellites, severe weather spotting, vintage amateur radios, VHF/ UHF/ microwave, and socializing club activities. Members expressed interest in a program on fox hunting. Hope knows a fellow in Highland who recently launched a balloon and would probably present a program.

Mike NF9M announced that there will be an ARES training session on January 22 at a location to be determined.



OVARC Information

Repeaters

147.165, 224.440, 442.925

2011 Officers

President

Ken Norris KK9N

KK9N@ovarc.net

Vice-President

John King W9KXQ

W9KXQ@ovarc.net

Secretary

Cary Holman W4GRN

W4GRN@ovarc.net

Treasurer

Howard Wise N9GEQ

N9GEQ@ovarc.net

Repeater Trustees

John King W9KXQ

Don Stover KB9EGI

KB9EGI@ovarc.net

V.E. Team Coordinator

Jim KF4NGB

KF4NGB@ovarc.net

Net Manager

Clareen Dunn KB9BEB

KB9BEB@ovarc.net

Webmaster

John King W9KXQ

webmaster@ovarc.net

Website

<http://ovarc.net>

Urgent: HR607—Threat to Amateur Radio Spectrum February 23, 2011

Most of you have probably already received email message inserted inside this message. If this is the first time you have received it, I urge you to act on this spectrum protection issue as soon as possible. However, I want to add information that applies to all such email letter campaigns.

1. Always avoid emotional statements regardless of how strong you may feel about a particular issue. The saying "You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar." should be the guiding principle in your email letter to your elected representatives. Do not make threats or call anybody names - this is totally counterproductive.

2. I encourage you to personalize your letter, but please keep item #1 in mind.

3. Do not send your letter directly to your representative via the U.S Postal Service. It will be delayed as much as eight (8) weeks for detailed inspection for anthrax contamination and other nasty things. Then your letter will arrive with a lot of other non-related mail and will have far less impact. If you want to send a paper letter, please mail it to our paid lobbyist, John Chwat .

4. Please send your email letters to our lobbyist, John Chwat. He will print them and deliver them in person to your elected federal representatives.

A couple of key points to remember when discussing our opposition to HR 607:

A. We understand and support the principle that Public Safety and First responders should have the D-Block frequencies.

B. Our opposition to the bill stems from the inclusion of the 420-440 MHZ Amateur allocation as part of the proposed "frequency swap".

Time is of the essence on this request, as HR 607 is gathering steam in Congress. Please send your email letters ASAP.

Continued on Page 10

Website to checkout



<http://www.6meterdxgroup.com/6meterdxgrouphome.php>



New General Class Question Pool Released

December 7, 2010

ARLX008 NCVEC Releases New General Class Question Pool

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) released the new General class (Element 3) question pool on Tuesday, December 7. This new question pool -- including graphics and diagrams -- will become effective for all General class examinations administered on or after July 1, 2011; it will remain valid until June 30, 2015. The current General question pool that became effective July 1, 2007 will expire June 30, 2011. The new General pool contains 457 questions, from which 35 are selected for an Element 3 examination. The current Technician class question pool that was effective July 1, 2010 is valid through June 30, 2014. The current Amateur Extra class pool that was effective July 1, 2008 is valid until June 30, 2012.

WorldRadio ONLINE

<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/WorldRadio.html>



Cary W4GRN & Charley KA9NQL during their SKYPE Coffee break with John W9KXQ. Dave K9UK forgot to show up this day. Where was Dave??
(photo courtesy of Prof. Deloy Cole)



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.

- Mar. 6 W9KXQ—John**
- Mar. 13 KB9BEB—Clareen**
- Mar. 20 KA9NRW—Hope**
- Mar. 27 WB9SLM—Kris**

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



Greenville Elementary to have a ARISS contact sometime during the week of May 2 to 8, 2011.

Charlie Sufana AJ9N, ARISS mentor for Greenville has contacted our group and we are planning for the long awaited ARISS contact. OVARC has been involved from the beginning with this project. We will keep everyone up-to-date as to the actual date and time. It will be during the school day and we will want as many members there as can make it.



<<<<ISS024-E-013398 (5 Sept. 2010) --- NASA astronaut Col. Doug Wheelock KF5BOC, Expedition 24 flight engineer, uses a ham radio system in the Zvezda Service Module of the International Space Station.



My View from Here! John W9KXQ

It is hard to believe that my time in Mesa, Arizona is about to come to an end. It seems like I just left Greenville and here I am about to return home after a great "vacation". There have been many highlights of my stay here. I have enjoyed several chats with some of you in IRLP as well as being able to check into the Net via our EchoLink Node W9KXQ-R. This past Sunday (Feb. 20th) my daughter Kim KA9NQK, my granddaughter Cameryn KC9SHF and I were able to check in using my "Smartphone" and the EchoLink App for droid. It

is amazing what is going on with this technology. I have been able to take in a local hamfest and visit with a dear friend and fellow ham David Miller N6DSM and his XYL Scotty KE6KPB in Prescott, AZ. David and I hiked about a mile up to a forest observation tower near 8,000 ft. that was built in the 1930s. I will include photos and a bit more history next month.

Other members are busy and involved in our hobby. Check out Dave K9UK's DXPEDITION on page 10.

Mike KC9RPF & Mike NF9M are busy with the Bond County ARES program. If you are not on their email list please contact one of them and get on the list. They are working on implementing WINLINK, another excellent ham radio/Internet application developed just for us.

Spring is just around the corner and it will be time for contests, and antenna repairs and additions. I am planning some changes at the W9KXQ QTH. When you are involved in these projects remember to "measure twice, cut once!"

During the first week of March, I will be operating HF mobile along with my APRS W9KXQ-1. Kim KA9NQK will be helping me with the drive. Hope to see you on 20 or 40 Meters. 73 for now!

PRO-197 39,000-Channel Digital Desktop Scanner



Has your scanner suddenly grown silent? Would you like to be in the loop again and know what's going on in the area? Scanners are back, at the Shack. New, pre-programmed digital scanners are now in stock. And now get \$50.00 off the suggested retail price while supplies last.

**603 East Harris Ave
Greenville, IL 62246
(618)664-3353**

Will-o'-th'-Wind

Visit Marc N9LIS to get this special price.

You can also check out Marc's website for Office Supplies and special prices on printer inks and printers.

www.will-o-th-wind.com



Marc N9LIS



Jim KF4NBG offers these etched & lighted glass call sign plaques with your name and call included. It also offers many other items including cups and personalized keepsakes. Check out Jim's website for more details.

www.jimsengraving.com



Irene KC9SPA Holding one of Jim's Cups

MIDWEST 4 METER DX GROUP

ANTIGUA DXPEDITION

W9DB, K9UK and W9AEH will operate holiday style from Antigua, St. John, and Square BOTTED June 14 to June 25.



W9DB - V25DB

W9DB as V25DB will concentrate on 8 meters 800CW on 30.115 MHz.



K9UK - V25UD

K9UK as V25UD and W9AEH as V25TF will operate 80-10 meters 300CW 498.11.

QSL's Can be sent to home operator call signs



Further information will be updated
W9AEH V25TF K9UK V25UD W9DB V25DR

Our own David Davis K9UK is a part of this DXPEDITION.

http://www.6meterdxgroup.com/Antigua_DXpedition.html

Continued from Page 5

A new bill, "Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011" in the U.S. House of Representatives (HR 607) includes provisions to auction off a portion of the 70cm band allocated to amateur radio. The ARRL is asking hams to contact their representatives and ask them to oppose this bill.

More information on the bill and how to communicate with your representative can be found at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/spectrum-management-bill-threatens-amateur-frequencies>

There is also a sample letter and information on how to identify your representative on the website.

<http://www.arrl.org/sample-letters>

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ARRL Central Division
Director: George R Isely, W9GIG
w9gig@arrl.org

Ken's Trivial Corner



What type of transmission is indicated by the term NTSC? Is in in use today in the USA?

The answer and a prize for the winner will be given at the March 3, 2011 meeting.

By Ken Norris KK9N



Dues for 2011 due January 1, 2011

Dues for 2011 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 62246

Your short article or news item could have been read here!



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

**General Class Questions Changes
July 1, 2011**

**Saturday
March 5, 2011 10:00 AM**

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.

New Hams

KC9RPF	Mike Huff
KC9SHF	Cameryn Gan
KC9SHG	Travis Neer
KC9SHW	Cody Finley
KC9SHX	Logan Hilmes
KC9SHZ	Kaitlynn Smith
KC9SIA	Josh Brannon
KC9SIB	Tyler Bryant
KC9SIC	Maddy Balducci
KC9SID	Allison confer
KC9SIJ	Alex Moeller
KC9SIK	Justin Rieke
KC9SHY	Lawton File
KC9SPA	Irene Seale

HamFests

Dayton Hamvention-May 20-22. 2011

www.hamvention.org



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



<p>March 2011 Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club</p>	<p>Inside This Issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming ISS Contact • January Meeting Highlights • Threat to 440 Amateur Radio Band • March Meeting Balloons • 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>Learn new technologies for fun</i> • <i>Worldwide Friendships</i> • <i>A Fun Hobby!</i> 	