

Volume 3, Issue 9
OVARC E-Mail

September
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

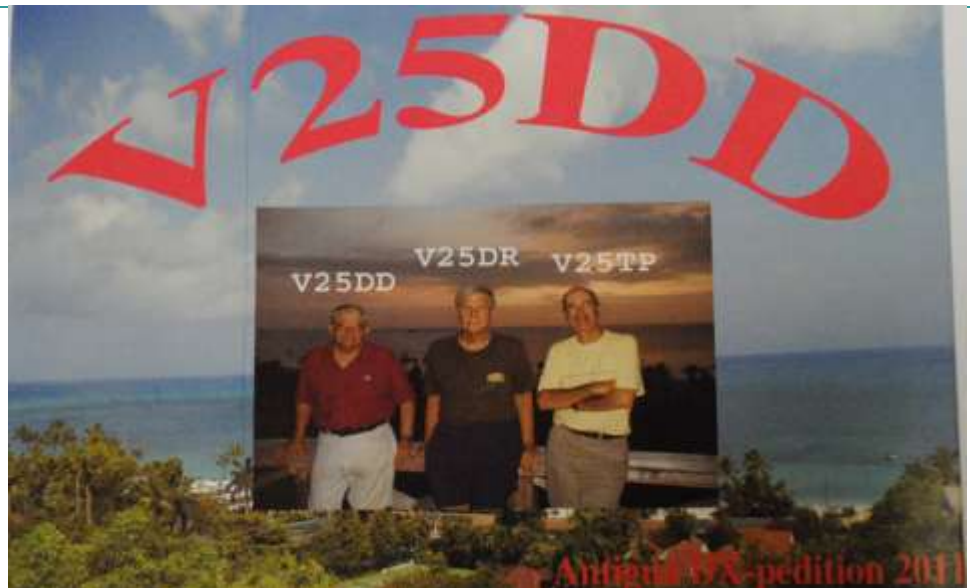
W9KXQ/R
(PL 103.5)

147.165+
224.440-

KB9EGI
442.925+

The Monthly Publication of the Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club

DX-PEDITION TO ANTIGUA BY DAVE DAVIS K9UK (V25DD)



Our own Dave Davis K9UK and his XYL along with 2 other amateurs provided an opportunity of many of us to work Antigua on several bands including six meters. Dave will be sharing some experiences of this amazing opportunity to operate from this beautiful part of the world. Hopefully you were one of the many hams that Dave or his teammates worked from Antigua and either have or will have your personal QSL Card as shown above. This DX-Pedition took place June 14-28, 2011 and some of his photos can be found on the OVARC webpage (www.ovarc.net/v25dd.html).



PLAN NOW FOR
September 1, 2011 7:30 PM



October , 2011

Fox Hunting & SET

November, 2011

**D-Star Hot Spot made simple
John W9KXQ**



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=2011-08-25>)
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



Linked repeater system is operational

The KB9EGI Repeater was used exclusively at the Bond County Fair to coordinate the Parade line-up. This is the first year that we have moved to the UHF system.

Location for September 1, 2011 7:30 PM Meeting

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:

September 1, 2011

October 6, 2011

November 3, 2011

December 1, 2011

(Annual Mtg. Christmas Dinner)

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 August 4, 2011

President Ken Norris KK9N called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM on Thursday August 4, 2011 in Room 106 of the Kaskaskia College Education Center on Third Street in Greenville. There were 16 people present when the meeting began, but more came during the meeting—mostly new elementary school hams and their parents.

The minutes of the June meeting were approved. There was no July meeting because it would have fallen so close after Field Day. Howard N9GEQ reported a balance of \$745.42. Our insurance was due August 1. There is a 30-day grace period. John W9KXQ will get an inventory list to Howard soon to submit to the new ARRL carrier. The treasurer's report was approved.

John W9KXQ reported that since our June meeting we have secured three brand new deep cycle batteries purchased by 911. John installed batteries for 911 in exchange for getting the batteries for our system. The 2 meter repeater is working.

Jim Thibeault KF4NBN reported that at the VE testing at Field Day we had one young lady upgrade to General. The next testing was at 10:00 a.m. the following Saturday in Highland.

Ken KK9N provided an update on HR607. There was strong support among the members present for a fox hunt perhaps in October at Patriot's Park.

Saturday, August 6, the Macoupin County ARC is sponsoring a hamfest at the Macoupin County Fairgrounds. Our club will be helping the Bond County Fair Parade line up Tuesday, August 9. The ARISS Sat-1 transponder was successfully launched yesterday from the ISS. Ken is looking for ideas for a program for our September meeting. Bob Heil's Ham Nation program is on Tuesday nights 8:00 pm CDT on TWIT-TV. Marc N9LIS presented John W9KXQ with an award recognizing his anniversary this coming week of 50 years since he got his first amateur radio license.

Ken KK9N asked the trivia corner question: From what grid square did the OVARC operate from for Field Day 2011? Jim knew it was EM58. The F6FVY web site can show the grid square of locations.

Our program was in two parts. Ken reported on our points for Field Day 2011. This year we totaled 2,216 points. Typically we earn 1600-1800 points. John and Jim made presentations of engraved mugs to participants. The second part of tonight's program was a video Ken showed about a Youth DX Adventure in Costa Rica in July 2010.

John W9KXQ sold 50/50 tickets. Jerry WB9NEY won \$5.00 and donated his winnings to the treasury. The meeting adjourned at 9:08.

Cary Holman W4GRN
Secretary



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>

YOUTH DX ADVENTURE AT AUGUST MEETING & FIELD DAY 2011 WRAP-UP

Ken, KK9N provided an overview and video of a Youth DX Adventure to Costa Rica involving several DX Contesters and 6 high school kids. The video was very informative and provided young and old alike a new perspective on teaching our young people about ham radio.

Ken also provided Field Day Stats (see below). The meeting was highlighted by the presentation of personalized coffee (hot chocolate) mugs for Field Day participants.

OKAW VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

FIELD DAY 2011

KK9N **"2A IL"** **W9KXQ**
GOTA STATION

Score Summary:

	CW	Phone	Total	
Total QSOs	192	309		
Total Points	384	309	693 x 2	Claimed Score = 1,386
* Includes GOTA Station 123 PH QSO's				
Bonus Points:				
100% Emergency power				200
Media Publicity				100
Set-up in Public Place				100
Site Visit by invited served agency official				100
Information Booth				100
Youth participation				100
Youth operators=5				
GOTA Bonus				80
Submitted via the Web				50
Total Bonus Points =				830
				TOTAL: 2,216



Jerry WB9NEY, Irene KC9SPA, Clayten, Marc N9LIS, Kris WB9SLM

Website to checkout



Mel Whitten, KØPFX

St Louis County, Missouri - EM48sr

15 August 11

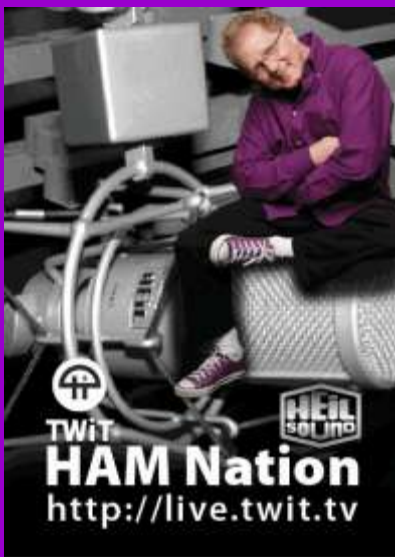
ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference - Coming Soon! Sept 16-17th in Baltimore, MD.

David Rowe, VK5DGR author of CODEC2 will be presenting CODEC2!!

Mel Whitten KØPFX, a well known “digital communicator” via Amateur Radio has a very interesting and informative website.

Check it out here:

<http://melwhitten.com/>



“HAM Nation” is a weekly HD video webcast about Ham Radio.

It is hosted by

Bob Heil K9EID & Leo Laporte W6TWT

Tuesday Evenings 8:00 PM CDT

twit network

<http://live.twit.tv>



www.jimsengraving.com

ILLINOIS ARES SSB HF NET 3.905 MHZ LSB

W9FX calls a net 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.



ARES HF Digital Net September 11, 2011

The Illinois ARES HF Digital Net meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 5:00pm local time. The mode used is **Olivia 16/500** and the frequency is **3.590 (dial) USB**

Regular Net Control:
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)
 209 N. Third St.
 Greenville, IL 62246

If the Weather Net is
Active

Regular Net will not be held!

Net Control Schedule



Claren, 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.

Sept. 4—NO NET LABOR DAY
Sept. 11—Kris WB9SLM
Sept. 18—Howard N9GEQ
Sept. 25—John W9KXQ
Oct. 2—Claren KB9BEB
Oct. 9—NO NET COLUMBUS DAY
Oct. 16—Hope KA9NRW
Oct. 23—Kris WB9SLM
Oct. 30—Howard N9GEQ

Visit Us on the Web!!!

<http://ovarc.net>

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@ovarc.net
 Articles, New Items,
 Corrections, etc.



GES Ham Radio Club Activities

7 operators from Greenville Elementary School join the OVARC Field Day activities. 5 of the students have their license



Emily KC9UBI with her cup

Thanks to Jim's Engraving for providing the cups.

These members all made 5 or more QSO's on the GOTA station at Field Day and were presented cups (L-R) Anne KC9UBD, Alexis, Cameryn KC9SHF, Clayton, Kaitlynn KC9SHZ, Lawton KC9SHY & John W9KXQ



My View from Here! John W9KXQ

August is just about ready for the history books and Amateur Radio is alive and well. As Hurricane Irene struck the East Coast this weekend I was reminded of how important our hobby is to emergency services. I listened to some of the Hurricane Weather net that was available on IRLP. This was a test of a very well organized network of amateur radio operators and National Weather Service groups to keep communications channels at the ready.

August started out with a very busy schedule for OVARC including our participation in the Bond County Fair Parade, our August Club meeting where we presented many of our members with personalized commemorative Field Day cups provided by Jim's Engraving (KF4NBG). I enjoyed the opportunity to recognize the GES hams as well as other members for their work on Field Day. Field Day is our opportunity to test our emergency preparedness and still have fun with our hobby. If you missed participating this year, you can start to plan now for the 4th weekend of June 2012. It will be here before you know it. This was followed up by an opportunity to be involved in the West-Central Illinois Hamfest with 3 of our young hams participating in a Forum.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Marc N9LIS, Jim KF4NBG, Ken KK9N and others who were responsible for my being recognized at the August meeting for 50 years as a Ham Radio Operator. OVARC was formed in 1974. That works out to 37 of these 50 years being a member of this awesome club. Local clubs such as ours are what make or break Amateur Radio. As September and October are upon us, please make the effort to get involved with the activities OVARC or your area club.

In October, we have a Fox Hunt scheduled including a special one for our young hams. This will be a fun opportunity to learn with these young hams about this fascinating facet.

Don't forget, I am still looking for some "how did you get interested in Amateur Radio" notes from you. Send them to me (W9KXQ@ovarc.net) **73 from up here!**

GES Ham Radio Club Activities

August 2011



Kaitlynn KC9SHZ, Emily KC9UBI and Cameryn KC9SHF participated in the ISS Forum at the West-Central Hamfest August 6, 2011 at the Macoupin County Fairgrounds.



Cary W4GRN, Kaitlynn KC9SHZ, Emily KC9UBI, Ken KK9N, Cameryn KC9SHF, John W9KXQ all participated in the ISS Forum at the Hamfest. A 30 minute video of the forum is being prepared by Marc N9LIS.



John King W9KXQ 50 Years as a Ham Radio Operator

At the August 4, 2011 meeting John, W9KXQ was presented with one of Jim's Engraving's (KF4NBG) most prestigious Call Sign Displays. Marc N9LIS, Jim KF4NBG & Ken KK9N were able to surprise John with this very special gift commemorating John's 50 years as a licensed Amateur Radio Operator. John shared with those present his gratitude for the recognition.

John was first licensed as KN7QLL in 1961 at the age of 14. He earned his Novice license at that time and later (1 year exactly) obtained his Technician license and the call K7QLL. Over these 50 years, John has held several call letters and has held every class of amateur license except the Conditional class. Those license classes were, Novice, Technician, General, Advance, Extra.

On March 11, 1998 he obtained his Amateur Extra Class license and has held his current call W9KXQ since 1968.

Ken's Trivial Corner



In Radio Direction Finding (Fox Hunting) what is the most basic non-metallic object you can use to determine signal direction?

The answer and a prize for the winner will be given at the September 1, 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



BOND COUNTY FAIR PARADE

I want to pass along my thanks to all the guys that helped with the Bond County Fair parade again this year. For some of us that is the only time we get on the air anymore. It is a great help the have communications all around the track to get things lined up and when someone is looking for something. This was my 35th year with the parade only missing one, and I think the radio club has been there every year. I really appreciate they guys coming out and helping. Hope to see them again next year.

Allan, WB9YVE

Bond County ETSB/ESDA

Allan L. Davis

9-1-1 Coordinator

EMA Director

Vanity Call Sign Fee To Go Up in September

The Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Program fees will be increase by \$.90 (from \$13.30 to \$14.20) effective September 9, 2011



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 September 10, 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

KC9UBC	David Bare
KC9UBD	Anne Ennen
KC9UBE	Harley Feaster
KC9UBF	Jackie Forys
KC9UBG	George Timmermann
KC9UBH	Katelyn Thomason
KC9UBI	Emily Unterbrink
KC9UDN	Chloe Matute
KC9UDO	Brandon Reeves

David KC9UBC joins sister Helen KC9PPG & George KC9UBG joins brother Matt KC9PBD

HamFests

20th Annual Halloween Hamfest
Kirkwood, MO—Oct. 29, 2011



IL Section Manager

Thomas Ciciora, KA9QPN@arrl.org

Central Division Director

George "Dick" Isely, W9GIG@arrl.org

Central Div. Vice Director

Kermit Carlson, W9XA@arrl.org

From Heathkit Website



HEATHKIT IS BACK In The Kit Business!

“In late August, Heathkit will debut their new line of Do-it-Yourself kits for common around-the-house items. The first kit will be a Garage Parking Assistant (GPA). The Garage Parking assistant kit lets you build your own system that uses ultrasonic sound waves to locate your car as it enters the garage. The system signals to the driver using LED lights mounted on the wall when the car is detected and in the perfect spot for parking.

The GPA-100 kit consists of two primary assemblies - The LED Display in kit form and the pre-assembled ultrasonic range module. The kit will include everything you need to complete the project except a soldering iron and hand tools.

Next on the market will be a Wireless Swimming Pool Monitor kit followed by many more. Heathkit wants to continue to bring to its customers interesting, unique Heathkit products. Heathkit is interested in learning what types of products kit builders would like to build. Kit builders can submit their suggestions through this website using the Contact Us email.”

<http://www.heathkit.com/>

September 2011

**Okaw Valley Amateur
Radio Club**

Inside This Issue:

- West Central Illinois Hamfest
- August Meeting Highlights
- 50 years in Amateur Radio
- ARES Nets
- Heathkit is back!



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

Contact us at

<http://ovarc.net>

P.O. Box 3
Greenville, IL
62246

Amateur Radio Is...

- *Community Service*
- *Emergency Communications*
- *Learn new technologies for fun*
- *Worldwide Friendships*
- *A Fun Hobby!*