

# OVARC NEWSLETTER

The Monthly Publication of the Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club

Volume 8 Issue 2  
February 2016

## Club Meetings

First Thursday of each month  
at 7:00 PM  
KC Greenville Learning Center  
(Kaskaskia College)  
209 N. Third St.  
Greenville, IL 62246

## Next Meeting

March 3rd 2016

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## Club Net

Each Sunday at 9:00 PM on  
147.165 PL 103.5  
Also on Linked Repeater  
System

## Club Repeaters

AD9OV/R  
147.165+ (PL 103.5)  
224.440- (PL 103.5)  
442.925+ (PL 103.5)



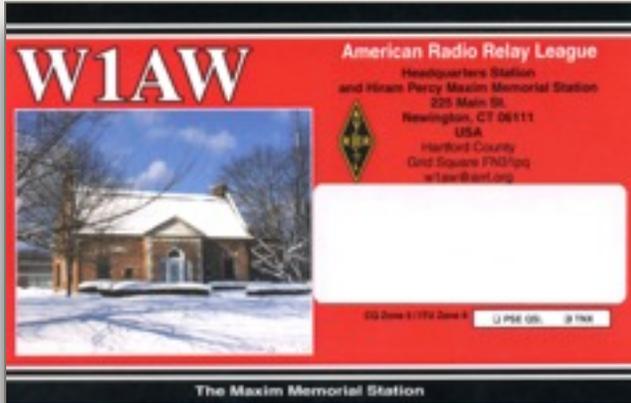
## A New Year & A New Format For Many Club Functions

The above pop culture image may be lost on some, however it's fitting for next meetings presentation and hopefully hints at things to come. There are lots of new things happening with the club this year from a new newsletter format (still a work in progress) to the formation of committees to plan and do work. It's an exciting time at OVARC and if you haven't volunteered or been "voluntold" by our illustrious leader KK9N (Ken) to join a committee, I'm sure those that did would be happy for the extra help. Find something that interests you and join in the fun. (Tim - KT9TR)

## Working DX & Successfully Receiving QSL Cards for Confirmation

Presented by OVARC Secretary Cary - W4GRN

Cary will be presenting his "tricks of the trade" for working DX stations and



successfully receiving a QSL Card for the effort. President Ken KK9N is asking that members bring some of your rare QSL cards to share with club members. This will be an opportunity to talk about those rare DX Stations you have worked.



### Jims Engraving

For all of your glass and ceramic engraving needs, in your home or business, as well as gift giving.

[www.JimsEngraving.com](http://www.JimsEngraving.com)

MEETING MINUTES  
February 4, 2016

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President Ken Norris KK9N called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 4, 2016 in Room 106 of the Kaskaskia College Education Center on Third Street in Greenville. Those in attendance signed the sign-in sheet. There were 18 people present. A quorum was found to be present. The meeting began with a welcome and introduction of the members & guests present.

#### **Secretary's Report**

Cary Holman W4GRN mentioned an edit that had been suggested to the minutes of the January meeting. Dennis W9DAW moved to accept the minutes as edited. Seconded. Motion passed.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Howard Wise N9GEQ reported a balance of \$ . Jim Thibeault KF4NGB moved to accept the treasurer's report. Seconded. Motion carried.

#### **Repeater Report**

Ken KK9N showed the new Yaesu System Fusion repeater that we have received. There are some issues between the analog and digital sides of the repeater. The new repeater will replace our current 440 repeater.

#### **Volunteer Examiner (VE) Report**

Dennis W9DAW reported that before tonight's meeting Carlos Hill passed his Technician exam. Carlos has already paid his dues to join our club. Dennis asked for input on the idea to hold testing by request only rather than scheduling testing before this meeting on the first Thursday of each month. We have plenty of local VEs to pull together a testing session when needed. Individuals interested in scheduling a test would be able to contact Dennis by email or phone. There was no objection. Dennis will notify W5YI and ARRL of this change.

#### **Announcements**

Ken has learned that the National Weather Service is shutting down the weather intertie system. They will no longer use amateur radio for weather spotting. *(THIS LAST STATEMENT NEEDS CORRECTION)* One of the repeaters that was part of the St. Louis area severe weather intertie was the 443.475+ machine (WD0EFP/R, 77.0 HZ CTCSS) at South Grand and I-44. That machine has been added to our linked system. This addition will provide coverage into our linked system from much of the St. Louis area. At future meetings we can discuss how we like having this machine as part of our linked system.

#### **Program Committee Survey**

Steve Ross KB9MKT, representing the program committee, distributed a survey of for program interests and ideas. We plan to send out the survey to other area amateurs for their program ideas. Steve asked that each of us to complete the survey tonight. Ken offered to distribute our survey at another club he plans to attend. Dan K9DNO and Cary W4GRN are the other members of the program committee.

#### **Special Events Committee**

John King W9KXQ, Rex Hubbard N7YTM, Rex's wife Lou KD9DFX, and Jim Thibeault KF4NGB have agreed to serve on the special events committee. They will be responsible for co-ordinating events like our fox hunt.

#### **S-1685**

Last night Ken attended the Macoupin County ARC meeting. At that meeting they urged members to support S-1685 for PRB-1 which expands reasonable accommodations for amateurs over neighborhood covenants. We will get a similar letter for our club members to send to our representatives.

MEETING MINUTES  
February 4, 2016

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(continued)

**Announcements**

Please pay your dues for 2016 if you have not done so already.

The Dayton Hamvention is May 20-22. Contest University is May 19.

Ken bought a Kenwood HT at Winterfest. It is available for sale for \$75. He also has a D-STAR HT for sale.

**Trivia Corner**

Ken Norris KK9N asked the trivia corner question: What year was regular Morse code communication between the United States and Europe established? The answer is that this communication was first made possible by a trans Atlantic cable in 1861. No one knew the answer.

The business meeting concluded at 7:38 pm.

**Program**

Ken KK9N presented a program on learning Morse code. Ken reviewed the history of the development of Morse code. The Koch method starts with learning two characters at high speed, and add more letters as the person develops proficiency. The Farnsworth method gradually reduces the length of time between characters. Many people start learning code using the Koch method and then progress to using the Farnsworth method. Another method is to learn the 100 most common words used in CW transmissions, learning to recognize those words—DE, RST, QTH, 73, TU etc. W6REC.com

There are a lot of computer software to help. Some of those are Just Learn Morse Code, Koch CW Trainer (g4fon), and Morse Runner (for contesting). ARRL's site has software available. There are also many apps for phones. Ken has used Morse Machine for Ham Radio, IZ2UUF, Morse Mentor, Morse Code Trainer, and more. The MFJ-418 can be set up to send you many choices. It costs about \$90 new. Online code practice is available through Ham University, CW Academy, LCWO, and RufzXP. ARRL offers on-air code practice. For frequencies and times visit [www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule](http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule). Another good way to learn is to listen to QSOs. And you can make CW contacts. They will slow down for you. To learn Morse code you must make the decision to learn and dedicate the time.

Several members brought their keys. Three major manufacturers are Vibroflex, Begali, and N3ZN.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Cary Holman W4GRN  
Secretary

# Member Spotlight - Cary Holman (W4GRN) Set To Retire After Spring 2016

Our very own W4GRN (Cary Holman) announces retirement at the end of the Spring 2016 Semester. Below is an article written by Stephanie Rodriguez for the Greenville College PAPHYRUS Student News.

Be sure to check out the whole article here: [http://papyrus.greenville.edu/2016/02/campus-profile-dr-cary-holman/?utm\\_content=buffer84fd4&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](http://papyrus.greenville.edu/2016/02/campus-profile-dr-cary-holman/?utm_content=buffer84fd4&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

Dr. Cary Holman, a communication professor at Greenville College, will retire after Spring of 2016. He contributed 36 years of teaching classes for public relations, speech and mass communications. Some of the classes he teaches are Broadcast Writing, Small Group Communication, Speech Communication, Interviewing and Mass Communication Issues. Surprisingly, Dr. Holman's favorite class is COMM 101 because he enjoys having new students each semester and helping them become better public speakers. Dr. Holman took over the Communication Department after Veronica Ross retired last spring. As the general manager for WGRN 89.5, the Greenville College radio station, he advises a group of students each semester on how to control, talk and manage the station.



Photo by Riley Hannula



Photo by Riley Hannula

**Remember to congratulate  
Cary on his retirement  
announcement the next  
time you see him!**

# Illinois ARRL Section Manager News

By Tom Ciciora — KA9QPN

## HB5961--DISTRACTED DRIVING

The following is a point of information only. No action needs to be taken at this time. I want you to hear it here first.

HB5961 has been introduced to the Illinois House as of the 11th by Rep. Avery Bourne. The express purpose of the bill appears to be to strip out any exemptions for two-way radio operation while mobile from the Distracted Driving statute. I have contacted Ms. Bourne, asking for the rationale behind the proposal. Our SGL Charlie Richey K9DUE is also at work on this. This has just been introduced and has yet to be referred to committee.

Again, no action needs to be taken by the general group yet. If this proceeds to committee, we'll be asking for appropriate and rational comments against the measure from you all. Just stay tuned and rest assured that we are on this.

73-- Tom KA9QPN

SM--Tom Ciciora KA9QPN

ASM/SRM--Ron Morgan, KB9NW

ASM/SEC--Brad Pioveson, W9FX

ACC--Scott DeSantis KB9VRW

SGL--Charles Richey, K9DUE

STM--Roy Eades, KA9MZJ

PIC--Fritz Bock, WD9FMB

TC--John Dinella, WA9IL

OOC--Tim Childers, KB9FBI

ASEC--Curtis Williams, W5DTR

ASEC--Kelly Robertson, KC9FVK

ASEC--Pat Ryan, KC6VVT

ASEC--Pat Stowell, N9PN

ASEC/Digital Ops--Danny Pease NG9R

DEC: Region 2--Lloyd Sherman KB9APW, Region 3--Dale Marzano N9JH, Region 4--Neil Ormos N9NL, Region 6--Gary Shanks KA9FAJ, Region 7--OPEN, Region 9--John Van Sandt N9YRX, Region 8--Curtis Williams W5DTR, Region 11--Bruce Talley WA9APQ

From the top...

\*\*Both the K5P and VP8 operations are history. Hopefully, all who wanted to got them both in the log. The weather bedeviled the VP8 operation through the entire event. We forget that, even though it's summer in the Southern Hemisphere, the VP8 area of operations is Antarctica for all intents and purposes. And, as I've said before: Mother Nature is a mean lady and will do her very best to kill you if you don't take her seriously.

\*\*Next up: P5. Maybe. With Short Round being more unstable than Caligula, it remains to be seen if this will come to pass.

\*\*The Amateur Radio Parity Act has been reported out of a House subcommittee, where it now goes to the full Committee. Our opponents will become more vocal and more strident as we go along. This is not the time to be complacent. If you have not made that communication to your Member of Congress, it's way past time and you need to get cracking. If you have written, it's high time for a follow up, either to ask for support again or to offer a thank you for support. A properly placed thank you is a hedge against poor memory recall if the HOA lobbyists visit your Congressperson. Thank you for your efforts.

\*\*Remember that we cannot suggest a quid pro quo: "vote for this and I'll vote for you" or vice versa, either implied or plainly stated. That is a violation of Federal law, and we want to come off as pure as Caesar's wife here.

(continued on next page)

(Continued) Get informed...

\*\*Nearly unnoticed was the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding between the League and the American Red Cross. As in the previous MoU, the new document expressly rules out background checks for hams who are not registered ARC volunteers. For those who came in late, the background check issue was the cause of much gnashing of teeth and rending of garments when it first surfaced some years back. It was rendered moot by the previous MoU and remains so.

\*\*Hopefully, you took some time to participate in the School Club Roundup this past week. If there was ever an activity that we need to foster 100%, it's the growth of school Amateur Radio clubs. In them rests our long-term future. And, it's a wonderful fit with the current emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). We Do That!

\*\*I'm gratified at the apparent lack of negative responses to the recent dues increase. Of course, I hasten to add that my contacts on the matter have been (by and large) with long-time supporters of the League. I imagine that I'd find the usual hoots and hollers if I were to descend into the mess of the other "brick through the window" forums on line, where much of the criticism is written by folks who have never had any intention of supporting the League. If I need a headache that badly, I've got a four pound sledgehammer under my work-bench in the garage.

Around the Section...

\*\*I had the distinct pleasure of speaking to the Kankakee Amateur Radio Society at their recent meeting. The requested topic was the organization and requirements for an ARES® group. We discussed how the League provides a name and written guidelines in the form of the ARES® Manual. I took the position that because all emergencies are local, any organization needs to be tailored to the locality. I suggested that any potential Served Agencies be identified and approached as to what their supplemental communications needs might be. We discussed the requirement of NIMS courses to be eligible to work with governmental entities. And, I stressed the importance of forming relationships with Served Agencies, so as to make certain that everyone has both a common expectation and ability to meet that expectation. In the discussion during the Q&A, it became obvious that KARS was already doing many of those things, and they were surprised that there wasn't "more". Really: there's not. The ARES® registration forms are for the benefit of the local Emergency Coordinator, so he/she has a handle on the resources available in his area of responsibility (the Emergency Management folks call it "resource typing"). After my customary semi-stern injunction against the black BDU/old squad car types, we called it an evening. I had a very enjoyable time, and the audience seemed to as well.

\*\*I go where I'm invited, if I can make it in a reasonable drive. (hint hint)

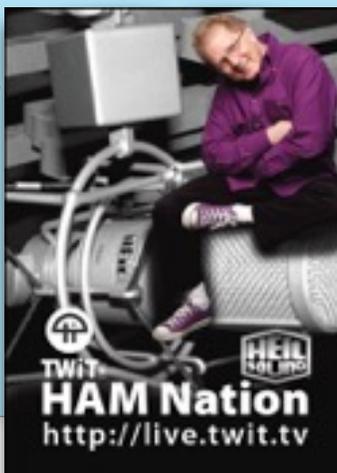
Ye Olde Traffic Report DE KA9MZJ...

Illinois Side Band Net - Net Manager WB9QPM Daily on 3905 at 1800 local time QNI 348 QTC 51 Sessions 31

Illinois Phone Net - Net Manager K9GYI M-F on 3857 at 1645 local time Sunday on 3940 at 0800 local time QNI 25 QTC 18 Sessions 26

North Central Phone Net – Net Manager K9HEZ M-F on 3912 at 0700 local time QNI 314 QTC 5 Sessions 21

Illinois CW Net (ILN) Net Manager WB8SIM Daily on 3838 at 1915 local time QNI 62 QTC 6 Sessions 22 KF9ME and W9NXM reporting



## Ham Nation

Wednesday Evenings

8:00 PM CDT

twit network <http://twit.tv>



## **OVARC Information**

*Repeaters*  
147.165, 224.440,  
442.925

### **2016 Officers**

President  
Ken Norris KK9N  
[KK9N@ovarc.net](mailto:KK9N@ovarc.net)

Vice-President  
Tim Rapp KT9TR  
[KT9TR@ovarc.net](mailto:KT9TR@ovarc.net)

Secretary  
Cary Holman W4GRN  
[W4GRN@ovarc.net](mailto:W4GRN@ovarc.net)

Treasurer  
Howard Wise N9GEQ  
[N9GEQ@ovarc.net](mailto:N9GEQ@ovarc.net)

Repeater Trustees  
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[KB9EGI@ovarc.net](mailto:KB9EGI@ovarc.net)

V.E. Team Coordinator  
Dennis W9DAW  
[VEteam@ovarc.net](mailto:VEteam@ovarc.net)

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[KB9BEB@ovarc.net](mailto:KB9BEB@ovarc.net)

Webmaster  
John King W9KXQ  
Website  
<http://www.ovarc.net>

# **Net Information**

## **Okaw Valley ARC Weekly Net**

The Okaw Valley ARC holds a weekly net on the Linked Repeater System at 9:00 PM on Sunday evenings. Net Control Stations serve on a rotating basis. They control our "informal Net and take announcements and check-in at appropriate times. All licensed Amateurs are invited to check-in. The net observes holidays throughout the year. [[See Net Schedule Here](#)]

## **Illinois ARES SSB HF Net Information**

Frequency - 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 and Clinton Counties are in Region 8. When Region 8 is called any station from Bond or Clinton County who is an ARES member, or ARES volunteer can check into the net. Every HF station is invited if they would like to come onboard. Multiple pathways into your county with information is the goal.

## **W9VEY Memorial Net**

The W9VEY Memorial Net meets on Mondays at 8:30 PM on the 146.82 MHz Repeater located in Gillespie, Illinois. Mike Funk WA9RUM Net Control Operator. This Net has been on the air since 1976.

## **General Contact Information**

### **General Mailing Address**

OVARC Inc.  
P.O. Box 3 Greenville, IL 62246

### **Newsletter Editor**

Tim Rapp KT9TR  
Editor Email: [KT9TR@arrl.net](mailto:KT9TR@arrl.net)  
Please send emails regarding articles, new items, corrections, etc

### **Okaw Valley ARC Website**

[www.ovarc.net](http://www.ovarc.net)

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# Emergency Communications

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Letter From:

Brad Pioveson - W9FX  
Illinois ARES Section Emergency Coordinator

It's that time of year, again. We live in turbulent times, about that there is no doubt. The biggest threat we all face, however, the threat most likely to directly affect us in the near term is from severe weather events. One can reasonably assume that we Illinoisans will be impacted by severe weather in 2016. While severe storms can pop up in any season, spring is statistically the season in which we see the majority of tornadic/severe thunderstorm events. IEMA will be having it's annual 'statewide tornado drill' on 1 MAR, just around the corner. While we will not be spooling up a Section ARES HF net for this, there are some ARES jurisdictions, notably, Lake County, that will be holding local ARES drills on that date.

Thursday's national news depicted the devastation of dozens of homes and vehicles caused by the major storm system that swept across the southern US, first, and, then made it's way as far north as D.C. What Mother Nature has in store for us this year is anybody's guess. We've seen some pretty 'interesting' (I use that term in the sense that the old Chinese curse intends, i.e., 'May you lead an *interesting* life') weather over the last decade. Derechos, insanely heavy rain fall amounts leading to massive flooding events, tornados, microbursts, just to name a few.

Being prepared for severe weather events goes far beyond just having your HT battery charged and a couple of granola bars in a 'go bag.' I strongly encourage those of you who are reading this to take a frank inventory of your emergency supplies and your plans should the unthinkable happen to your family.

A press release from IEMA regarding severe weather preparedness appears, below.

Be safe!

73,

Brad, W9FX  
Illinois SEC

# Emergency Communications(Continued)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 26, 2016

## CONTACTS:

Patti Thompson [217-836-0742](tel:217-836-0742)  
[patti.thompson@illinois.gov](mailto:patti.thompson@illinois.gov)

## **IEMA Urges People to Prepare for Severe Weather**

### ***Contest will promote use of weather alert radios to receive warnings***

SPRINGFIELD – With communities throughout Illinois still recovering from severe storms and record and near-record flooding in late December, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) is joining with the National Weather Service (NWS) and local emergency management agencies in efforts to help people stay safe when severe weather threatens.

Those efforts include an online contest sponsored by IEMA and the Illinois Emergency Services Management Association (IESMA) that offers Illinois residents a chance to win a weather alert radio. The 'Weather Alert Radios Save Lives' contest will begin on Feb. 28, the first day of Severe Weather Preparedness Week in Illinois, and continue through March 31.

"We can't stop severe weather from occurring, but we can help people better understand severe weather hazards and how they can stay safe when storms threaten their area," said IEMA Director James K. Joseph. "A key to being prepared is having a way to receive warnings issued by the National Weather Service. Weather alert radios can provide you with these alerts day or night, even when you're sleeping."

Joseph said 14 flood-related fatalities occurred in 2015, the highest annual number since records have been kept, according to the NWS. All of the fatalities were the result of vehicles traveling on flooded roadways. Illinois also experienced 69 tornadoes in 2015, which resulted in two fatalities and 27 injuries.

"Recent storms in Illinois and across the Midwest have proven how quickly flooding can develop at any time of the year," said Chris Miller, warning coordination meteorologist with the NWS office in Lincoln. "We can't stress the dangers of flooding enough, particularly for motorists. Driving into a flooded area with any type of vehicle can be deadly. The best advice is simply 'Turn around, don't drown!'"

The weather alert radio contest will be available on the Ready Illinois website at [www.Ready.Illinois.gov](http://www.Ready.Illinois.gov) beginning Feb. 28 and will run through March 31. A total of 100 weather alert radios will be awarded to randomly selected participants who register after reading information about the radios and successfully completing a five-question quiz. Winners will be announced in April. The radios were purchased by IESMA as part of an effort to increase the use of the devices in communities throughout Illinois.

"IESMA's mission is to help protect the lives and property of the people we serve, and we're proud to partner with IEMA on efforts that enhance the safety of people throughout the state," said IESMA President Curtis Hawk. "This contest highlights a key component of preparedness – having a way to receive warnings from the National Weather Service. The weather alert radios awarded through this contest will help protect many people. We are proud to again sponsor this important program."

IEMA and the NWS developed a *Severe Weather Preparedness Guide*, which provides information about tornadoes, severe storms, lightning and flooding along with recommended actions to take before, during and after each of these weather events. It is available on the Ready Illinois website at [www.Ready.Illinois.gov](http://www.Ready.Illinois.gov).

Preparedness tips and information are also available through the Ready Illinois Facebook Page ([www.facebook.com/ReadyIllinois](http://www.facebook.com/ReadyIllinois)) and Twitter Page ([twitter.com/ReadyIllinois](https://twitter.com/ReadyIllinois)).

**Testing Opportunities**

Dennis Warren W9DAW - OVARC VE Team Manager

Contact Dennis W9DAW (618)-292-9638 [VETeam@ovarc.net](mailto: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.

**Reminder: Dues for 2016 due January 1, 2016**

Dues for 2016 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

**Net Schedule**

March 6 - WB9SLM - Chris

March 13 - KK9N - Ken

March 20 - W9KXQ - John

March 27 - No Net - Easter

April 3 - KT9TR - Tim

**Ken's Trivia Corner (KK9N)**

What does DXCC stand for and what do you have to do to qualify for the first award?

*Will-o'-th'-Wind*  
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*Custom*  
**FRAMING**

603 E. Harris Ave. Greenville, IL 62246 618-664-3353 [will-o-th-wind.com](http://will-o-th-wind.com)

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# Friends of OVARC

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(I'm still working on the final structure so this space is to list the supporters of the club)



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## Owl Creek Gazette

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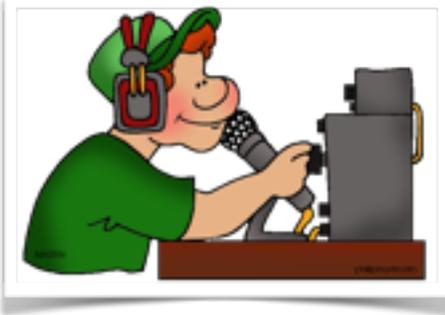
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## The Amateurs Code

- The Radio Amateur is -

**CONSIDERATE** - Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

**LOYAL** - Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

**PROGRESSIVE** - With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station, and operation beyond reproach.

**FRIENDLY** - With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

**BALANCED** - Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

**PATRIOTIC** - With station and skill always ready for service to country and community.



## Amateur Radio Is...

- Community Service
- Emergency Communications
- Learning New Technologies
- Worldwide Friendships
- A Hobby Without Borders!

Want to become a Ham Radio Operator

Contact us at [OVARC@ovarc.net](mailto:OVARC@ovarc.net)

P.O. Box 3 Greenville, IL 62246