

OVARC NEWSLETTER

The Monthly Publication of the Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club

Volume 8 Issue 3
March 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

April 7 2016

In This Issue

- 2 - Next Months Program
- 3 - Meeting Minutes
- 5 - How Siri Works
- 6 - Flashback
- 8 - Ken's Trivia Corner

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)



Storm Season 2016

With the start of Spring comes the start of the severe weather season in the Midwest. This is the time of year many of us HAM's get energized, after all it's what brought us into the hobby to begin with. As we amateur storm chasers get our gear and vehicles ready for the chase, there are plenty of things the less adventurous can do to help out. Amateur radio operators are a great source of "Ground Truth" for the national weather service and understanding basic observation and reporting techniques can be a big help in providing the information meteorologist need to predict the next phase of the storm and more importantly provide real world data to clarify what their radar is telling them. The internet is full of great websites to learn how to observe and report weather conditions to the National Weather Service and to your local authorities and emergency response agencies. The National Weather Service has a great page to get you started. >>> [Here](#) <<<

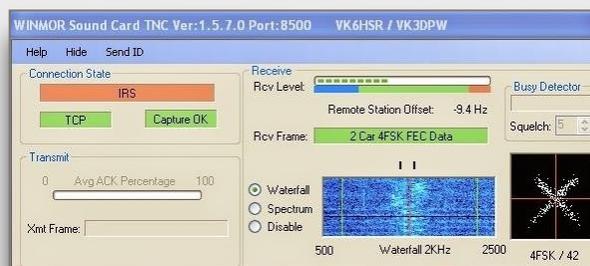
<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/training/wxspot.php>

Stay Safe and Be Prepare
(Tim - KT9TR)

RMS Express - A Useful Tool?

Presented by John King - W9KXQ

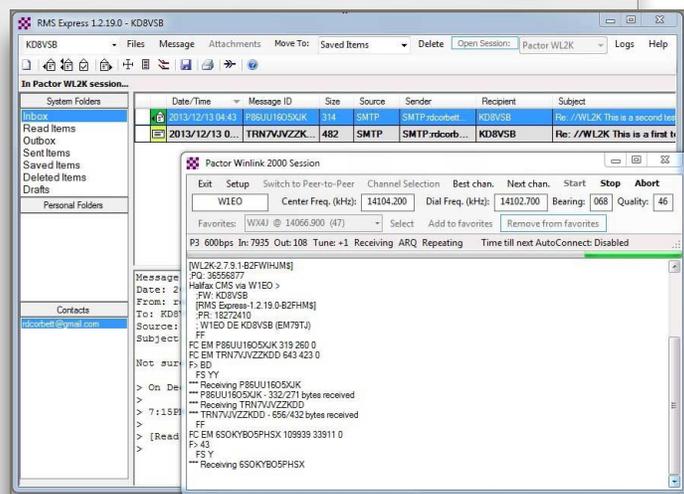
John will be providing a RMS Express “Refresher” using Broadband-Hamnet & 2 Meters for communications and access to the “real E-Mail” world. John will be including the use of the forms available for EmComm use (Emergency Communications).



GENERAL MESSAGE (ICS 213)

1. Incident Name:	<input type="text"/>		
2. To (Name/Position):	<input type="text"/>		
3. From (Name/Position):	<input type="text"/>		
4. Subject:	<input type="text"/>	5. Date: 2015-10-19Z	6. Time: 12:20:32Z
7. Message:	<input type="text"/>		
8. Approved by:	<input type="text"/>	Position / Title:	<input type="text"/>

Submit



Jims Engraving

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

www.JimsEngraving.com

MEETING MINUTES
March 3, 2016

President Ken Norris KK9N called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM on Thursday March 3, 2016 in Room 107 of the Kaskaskia College Education Center on Third Street in Greenville. Those in attendance signed the sign-in sheet. There were 15 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

The minutes of the February 4, 2016 meeting were reviewed as published in the OVARC newsletter. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Howard Wise N9GEQ emailed a reported a balance of \$x,xxx.xx.

Repeater Report

There was no repeater report. Ken reported that the intertie is not shutting down. W0ECA comes up.

Volunteer Examiner (VE) Report

Dennis W9DAW reported that no one has been tested since last month's VE testing. Carlos Hill was able to upgrade to General.

Ken has Contest University tickets at Dayton, but a work conflict is going to prevent him from attending. Other work conflicts may prevent him from attending the Hamvention in Dayton at all this year. Contact him if you are interested in either tickets.

Steve KB9MKT thanked those who have submitted program surveys last month. We've had 12-15 people respond. Letters have been sent to ten area clubs asking for memorable programs. Steve thanked Marc N9LIS for creating a database of all amateurs in Bond County and the five counties surrounding Bond. There are over 1,300 licensed amateurs in those six counties. Ken and Tim asked to be notified in advance of the program for each monthly meeting. Ken will pick a Trivia Question related to the next program, and Tim will include information about the upcoming program in the newsletter. Steve said that we are trying to have programs scheduled 2-3 months ahead.

April 23 is the Lewis & Clark hamfest. Do we want to have tables? Most of the estate items have been sold, but the hold time is about up on the gear we got from Scott Air Force Base. It may be available for us to sell by then. Since the tables are not expensive, Ken will reserve two tables at the event.

(continued)

MEETING MINUTES - (continued)

Troy KZ9EMY asked about the status of Skywarn. That system is still in operation. The relationship between amateur radio and the National Weather Service in Missouri is not clear. The letter from Jim Pitchford was displayed on the screen, but several interpretations were possible. Members concluded that the change is that rather than amateurs here in Illinois bringing up the intertie with NWS, someone at NWS will determine when they will connect to our linked repeater system. Ken asked Tim to research that interpretation and publish a clear statement in the next newsletter. Dennis W9DAW reported that STAR com here in Bond County is working to connect with amateur radio. They need to get antennas up.

Ken showed some software he found this week to automatically rotate an antenna to a particular direction. The PstRotatorAz program (\$22) is available and works with most rotors. The interface costs \$80.

Trivia Corner

Ken KK9N asked the trivia corner question: What is DXCC and what is the minimum number of contacts to get that award? The answer is the DX Century Club. An amateur needs to log contacts with 100 different countries (entities) to be eligible to apply for the award.

The business meeting concluded at 7:30 pm.

Program:

Cary W4GRN presented a program on DXing. He collects cards from the amateurs he contacts in other countries. Cary has also marked in an atlas the locations of stations he has worked. Although there are less expensive ways to confirm contacts, Cary enjoys receiving the cards. The cards vary by simplicity, color, and content. Making contacts in some parts of the world is much easier than doing so elsewhere. He showed about 90 of the cards he has collected.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Cary Holman W4GRN
Secretary

How Siri Works - Voice Recognition on a Smartphone

Article posted on [JAMECO Electronics Website](#) written by Michael Lagapa.

Understanding How Siri Works.

If you have an iPhone you know that it comes locked and loaded with your own personal sidekick Siri. Siri is the personal virtual assistant that has come included on Apple iPhones 4S and later models. Siri is there to automate tasks and provide information, and Siri becomes more familiar with your tendencies the more you use it. It can inform you of the weather, remind you of an appointment, open an application, and even save your fingers from fatigue by replying to all of your text messages. As you go on asking Siri about the traffic clogging up your commute or what eateries might be lurking about nearby, one question that might come to mind might be; "How can Siri do all of this?"

Brief History of Siri

Apple did not entirely develop Siri by themselves. It started from an AI initiative in 2003 funded by DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) and run by a Stanford University affiliate, SRI International. Their goal was to make a program that helps military personal with office work and making decisions, resulting in CALO (Cognitive Assistant that Learns and Organizes) that learns from its users and the vast amounts of available data. It was used for organizing and scheduling meetings as well as providing the necessary documents for the participants. CALO even made decisions in situations when someone important was unable to make the meeting, they can cancel the meeting and reschedule or continue the meeting as planned if their presence is not needed. Vanguard was another project developed by SRI International that was a prototype that worked very well for smartphones, but did not have the capabilities of CALO.



A startup company that had alumni employees from NASA and Google was formed to combine both the Vanguard and CALO. This company was named Siri and the application they created was called the Siri Assistant. This version would take questions from users via voice or keystrokes, send that data to a remote server to translate, then search various websites. Siri Assistant had a unique kind of humor and a penchant for potty mouth responses. When Apple acquired the Siri company, it stripped down some of its features such as its humor and bad language, and the access to competing websites to prioritize its own services, but it gained multilingual capabilities, iPhone specific features, and gave it the voice we are familiar with today.



To see what Siri can do, how it works and the future of Siri check out the full article on the JAMECO website.

<http://www.jameco.com/Jameco/workshop/howitworks/how-siri-works.html>

Flashback

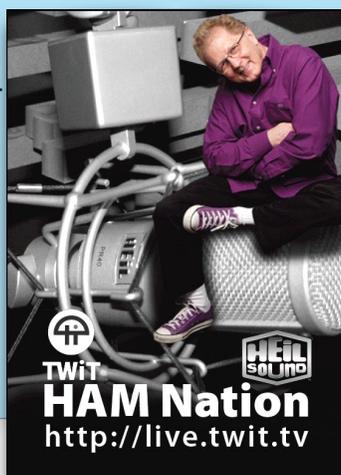


A Flashback from the Greenville Advocate

Weather Is Always A Topic

Weather is always a topic no matter what the conditions may be in and around Greenville and Bond County . . . cold, warm, dry, wet, windy, and very windy. In April of 1988, television weatherman John Fuller, with KSDK in St Louis at that time, presented a “refreshing weather seminar at the Greenville Municipal Building. Approximately 40 persons attended the seminar which emphasized tornados. The seminar was sponsored by the Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club and Greenville Police Department.” Severe Weather Preparedness Week was observed last week in this area. Fuller, now of News 11 in St. Louis, is that channel’s chief meteorologist and had taught meteorology at University College (Washington University night school) and currently at St. Louis Community College in Wildwood.

(Article and Photo from the Greenville Advocate)



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

Vice-President
Tim Rapp KT9TR
KT9TR@ovarc.net

Secretary
Cary Holman W4GRN
W4GRN@ovarc.net

Treasurer
Howard Wise N9GEQ
N9GEQ@ovarc.net

Repeater Trustees
Ken Norris KK9N
John King W9KXQ
Don Stover KB9EGI
KB9EGI@ovarc.net

V.E. Team Coordinator
Dennis W9DAW
VEteam@ovarc.net

Net Manager
Clareen Dunn KB9BEB
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
Please send emails regarding articles, new items, corrections, etc

Okaw Valley ARC Website

www.ovarc.net

Testing Opportunities

Dennis Warren W9DAW - OVARC VE Team Manager

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.

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

April 3 - KT9TR - Tim

April 10 - KZ9EMT - Troy

April 17 - KD8KLB - Roman

April 24 - W9KXQ - John

May 1 - KT9TR - Tim

Ken's Trivia Corner (KK9N)

In what decade did Winlink and it's early development evolve and who was the brainchild?

Will-o'-th'-Wind
Electronics

Office Supplies
Custom
FRAMING

603 E. Harris Ave. Greenville, IL 62246 618-664-3353 will-o-th-wind.com

Friends of OVARC

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



Owl Creek Gazette

“Serving The Self-Reliant And Do-It-Yourself Community of South Central Illinois”
<http://www.owlcreekgazette.com/>



(618) 664-2127

Screen Printing
Rhinestones
Laser Engraving
Embroidery

The Place To Go For All Your Customized Needs!



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

P.O. Box 3 Greenville, IL 62246