

OVARC NEWSLETTER

The Monthly Publication of the Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club

Volume 9 Issue 04
April 2017

Club Meetings

First Thursday of each month
at 7:00 PM

Bradford Bank Community
Room

100 E. College Ave.

Greenville, IL 62246

Next Meeting

May 4 2017

In This Issue

2 - Next Months Program

3 - Meeting Minutes

5 - News & Information

8 - Accessible Digipan

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)

Amateur Radio - The Barrier Breaker

Today's social settings are very different from what it was just a few years ago; my teenage daughter's world is much different than mine. When I was her age and wanted to do something with friends it was planned days in advance, now plans are made near real time using SnapChat or iMessage. When we were out with friends piled into one car it was pure luck if we met up with another group of friends, now they can see where all their friends are using FindFriends or one of many other location services. Many times their "friends" aren't even local or for that matter may have never met in person; it truly is becoming a global world. My pre-teen son for years has met "friends" in countries all over the world playing his Xbox and they actually keep in touch and learn from each other. Differences in culture, skin color, social-economic status and "abilities" mean little to the younger generation. I've always used new technologies as they've come out (pagers, cell phones, email), but until HAM radio I never really knew how to see through someone's differences and see them for who they really are. HAM radio has taught me to look at people differently, or rather not look at them differently at all. That change came after listening to our local OVARC repeater when I was first licensed. Back then I was shy and just wanted to listen. For weeks I listened to conversations between this wonderfully pleasant lady and many others and one night I came in during the middle of a conversation and a gentleman was asking her how she would get to her car after work and she explained how others would help her. At first I didn't understand, she had always talked about enjoying the beautiful weather and sunshine and going to see this and that. It finally dawned on me, she was blind. I listened differently after that; not just to her but everyone on the radio, I no longer had predetermined views on who someone was. That's part of the magic of Amateur Radio, it truly doesn't matter where we live, how much we make, what our skin color is or what's special about us; we are all the same. We are HAM's.

Thanks Kris (WB9SLM) for getting me to see how you see.

Tim
KT9TR

May Program

Learning and Loving CW

Chris Barber WX5CW will be our guest. His program topic "Learning and Loving CW" Chris has a B.S. in Physics and a M.E. in Electrical Engineering from Louisiana Tech University. He is the Trustee for the St. Louis and Surburan Amateur Radio Club (SLSRC)



Reminder: New Meeting Location

See Note on Page 5 for May meeting location

Due to new policies at Kaskaskia Collage, we have moved the monthly meetings to the Bradford Bank Community Room (across the street from the back of the Bradford National Bank Main building. 100 E. College Ave. Greenville) The meeting time is still 7:00 PM and the traditional post-meeting trip to Dairy Queen is still in order.



Jim's 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

April 6, 2017

President Ken Norris KK9N called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM on Thursday, April 6, 2017 in the Bradford Room. Those in attendance signed the sign-in sheet. There were 20 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 March 2, 2017 meeting were displayed on the screen as printed in this month's OVARC newsletter. ***Kris WB9SLM moved to accept the minutes as distributed. Seconded. Motion passed.***

Treasurer's Report

Howard N9GEQ reported that our balance this month is \$ _____. ***On motion, the treasurer's report was accepted.***

Repeater Report

John W9KXQ reported that our repeater is working fine. He had no other report.

Volunteer Examiner (VE) Report

Dennis W9DAW reported that no one has been tested since last month's OVARC meeting.

Old Business

Dan K9DNO reported that we have programs lined up for all OVARC meetings through August. Next month Chris Barber WX5CW will present our program on CW.

John W9KXQ reported for our Special Events Committee. OVARC will have a presence at the Self-reliant and Sustainability Home Show 9:00-4:00 this coming Saturday (April 8, 2017) at the American Farm Heritage Museum. This morning John and Cary W4GRN took our Communications Trailer out to the AFHM. A Rural Comm technician Morgan Thomas KC9CZA met us there and set up Internet access for us to use for the show. We will finish set up at 5:00 pm Friday April 7, 2017. If you come to operate the ham radio station you can get in to the Home Show free. Ken asked if anyone had an old tube radio. Jim said that he has a tube receiver. Ken suggested setting up a display of the past present and future of amateur radios.

Scouting for a Cause will be held April 22 at Patriots' Park. Mark KD9EAJ is our liaison. We are loaning Mark the club's fox hunting equipment for the event.

Ken reviewed upcoming Hamfests. The Lewis & Clark Hamfest is April 22 at Lewis & Clark College. The Egyptian hamfest is June 11 in Granite City. Their club is having a class for the Extra Class exam. Their Facebook site has more information about that class. The West Central Illinois hamfest is August 5 at the Macoupin County Fairgrounds north of Carlinville. The Suburban St. Louis ARC will be holding a hamfest on August 13. There is a hamfest in Belvidere, Illinois the following weekend. The Peoria hamfest is September 16.

Next month's meeting will be at the Lutheran Church on Illinois Rt. 140 west of Idler Lane. The Bradford room was already reserved for May 4 when we arranged to start having our monthly meetings here.

New Business

The Sangamon State ARC has joined with Macoupin County ARC to co-sponsor the West Central Illinois hamfest. The Macoupin County ARC has asked if we wanted to add our name to the sponsorship. Kris WB9SLM said that we often have several of our members attend anyway. No one objected to our involvement. Ken will inquire what they need from us. Ken will offer to set up his remote HF station at the event.

Continued Next Page

MEETING MINUTES
April 6, 2017

Ken asked Kris if she would like to operate PSK. A text to speech plugin is available, Accessible DigiPan. She offered to give it a try. A SignalLink external sound card would be required. This allows the radio and computer to be connected for PSK to work.

Ken reviewed ideas to improve our antennas for Field Day. The Carolina Windoms did not perform well last year. Ken proposed putting a triband beam at the peak of the hoist for the GOTA station. KC9L donated a DXCC antenna we could use for sideband. Ken has a DXEE antenna we could use. Ken suggested that the club buy several new antennas which he listed (a 40m, a 75m and an 80m double bazooka, and a new DXCC). Jerry WB9NEY thought we should buy a DXCC to use for each band so each radio can switch bands without having to switch antennas. We would still have to change filters. Steve KB9MKT asked how much efficiency is lost in the DXCC over a mono-band antenna. Ken said the DXCC is only about half as efficient as the mono band antennas. Dave K9UK likes the efficiency of the monoband antennas. ***John moved that we buy the three double bazookas and one new DXCC for use at Field Day 2017. Seconded. Motion passed.***

Ken noted that the double bazookas are designed to be supported by their own rope. One suggestion was to buy 1,000 ft. of .094" plus 500 ft. of EMR-400 coax. ***John so moved. Seconded. Motion passed.*** Some of these items might be discounted at the Dayton Hamvention.

Trivia Corner

Ken Norris KK9N asked the trivia corner question: Name all the digital modes available for amateur radio. The list was VERY long – over 30 modes.

The business meeting concluded at 7:43 pm.

Program:

John W9KXQ presented tonight's program on DMR radio – a growing technology for amateur radio. Digital Mobile Radio was developed by ETSI (*European Telecommunications Standards Institute*). Several companies manufacture DMR radios most of which currently only operate on UHF. Its audio is better than other popular digital modes and the radios have longer battery life. It uses half the channel spacing as traditional analog and in that space can repeat two different QSOs at once. John played a recording of a DMR QSO. Before you use a DMR radio you need to register at dmr-marc.net to get your unique digital number. The number of users (over 50,000) and repeaters (over 700 in the USA) continues to increase. The price of DMR HT radios continues to drop (under \$100) and they work on both digital and analog. The DVMega is a radio module that is attached to a Raspberry Pi which can be used if you are not within range of a DMR repeater. The DV4Mini is another alternative. A Shark OpenSPOT hotspot allows you to go in on any of several digital modes and come out on any of several digital modes. Brandmeister is one of the managers of the DMR talk groups. There is free software to program the radios with an RF channel, a talk group, and #3.

Following this overview of DMR, John W9KXQ & Dave K9UK provided a demonstration. Dave called Stu W4MO in Venice, FL on his DMR radio via a OpenSPOT. The audio was very clear. Dave also talked with Tom W9AEB in Punta Gorda, FL, and to Frank W2XYZ who was in Venice, FL using an HT about 10 miles from his repeater. Then John worked several stations through the St. Louis repeater. George WB0IIS at his home in West St. L County was working a repeater in St. Louis. John showed a website that tracked activity on DMR talk groups on the DMR worldwide network using the website, hose.brandmeister.network (<https://hose.brandmeister.network/>).

John responded to questions regarding DMR.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Cary W4GRN sold 50/50 tickets. John W9KXQ won

Cary Holman W4GRN
Secretary

News & Information

Meeting Information for May Meeting (Only)

The Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club will hold its regular monthly meeting on Thursday May 4, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

NOTICE: New Location: (This Meeting Only)

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1540 E. St. Rt. 140 (East of Idler Lane & Rt 140) Greenville.



Church Website:

<http://www.ourredeemergreenville.org>

Post-meeting trip to Greenville Dairy Queen follows



News & Information

Lewis and Clark Hamfest

The Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club participated in the Lewis & Clark Hamfest held in Godfrey, IL on Saturday April 22, 2017. Members were involved in offering for sale our Motorola Equipment from the Surplus Program and equipment from Charlie Presnell AC9P (SK) Estate.

The club presented a check to Karen N9QCG, Charlie's XYL for some of his equipment that sold at this Hamfest. Contact John W9KXQ for a complete list of equipment still for sale.



Dan K9DNO & our photographer Madison



Dan K9DNO and Ken KK9N trying to figure out what Josh KD9EZH found in the flea market. It must be valuable? The price was right.



Hamfest Crew-Left to Right—Jeremy & Jim KF4NBG in background, Dan K9DNO, Josh KD9EZH, John W9KXQ & Ken KK9N



Josh KD9EZH trying to learn a "Magic Trick" from Jim KF4NBG



Dan K9DNO's new toy!

News & Information

Self-Reliant & Sustainability Home Show

The Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club participated in the “Self-Reliant & Sustainability Home Show” on April 8, 2017. The club’s display included our Communications trailer, which was monitored by a remote control camera, placed in the trailer and connected by Wi-Fi via a HAMNET MESH system that included a phone system between the displays inside the American Farm Heritage Museum and the trailer. The display included a Special Events Station N9T and a presentation by John King W9KXQ “**Ham Radio, What is it?**”

The event was very successful and was sponsored by **The Owl Creek Gazette**, owned by Don (KB9EGI) and Jan Stover. John Rezabek KB9QXS had a display and presentation on “**Knife Sharpening**”. This is the second time that OVARC has been involved at this annual event.



Special Event’s Station with Randy, Ken,



Special Events Station N9T



John W9KXQ is demonstrating P25 Digital Mode using radios from our Surplus Equipment Project.



Our Display of the Motorola Surplus Equipment

Accessible DigiPan Helps Blind Enjoy PSK31

At last months club meeting Ken (KK9N) had mentioned an accessibility app allowing blind HAMS to enjoy PSK31 through screen readers many blind HAMS are already familiar with. John (W9KXQ) provided the Facebook post below. At the bottom of the Facebook post are couple of links to find additional information.

Sharon Robson: "I got what appeared to be initially just another spam email...but upon closer look I learned a great deal more. In early April the the ARRL.ORG site had a story about it (I have copied it below)"

Free App Allows Blind Hams to Work PSK31

04/05/2017

A free, new app — Accessible DigiPan — has been released that allows blind hams to operate PSK31. The download includes the app, audio tutorials, detailed written guides, and additional helpful resources, plus DigiPan PSK31 and PSK63 software.

ARRL member Richard McDonald, KK6MRH, and Jim Snowbarger, WA0PSS — both blind — developed the program. "Until now, blind hams worldwide have not had any accessible program to work PSK31," McDonald said. "Now they do."

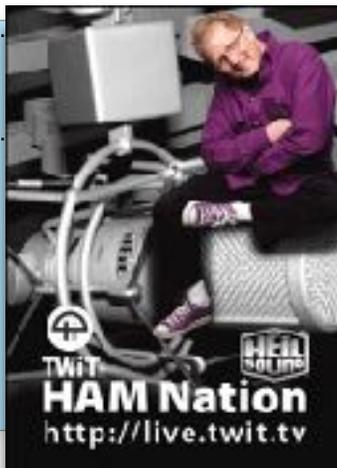
Accessible DigiPan brings together the most popular screen reader, JAWS, and DigiPan, McDonald said, and the app will work with many different kinds of rigs, interfaces, and Windows versions.

As it turns out, they have a go-fund-me page where they are are trying to raise some needed capital.

To learn more about this visit the following websites:

<http://www.accessibledigipan.org/>

<http://www.arrl.org/news/free-app-allows-blind-hams-to-work-psk31amateur-bands/>



Ham Nation

Wednesday Evenings

8:00 PM CDT

twit network <http://twit.tv>



OVARC Information

Repeaters
147.165, 224.440,
442.925

2017 Officers

President
Ken Norris KK9N
KK9N@ovarc.net

Vice-President
Dan Frey K9DNO
K9DNO@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

Bradford Bank Community Room (West across the street from the back of the Bradford National Bank Main building. 100 E. College Ave. Greenville)

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 2017 due January 1, 2017

Dues for 2017 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

May 7 – KT9TR-Tim

May 14 - WB9SLM-Chris

May 21 – KB9BEB-Clareen

My 28 - No Net - Memorial Day

Ken's Trivia Corner (KK9N)

In CW, what are "Cut Numbers"?

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



Owl Creek Gazette

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

**SEW
UNIQUE**

(618) 664-2127

Screen Printing
Laser Engraving
Rhinstones
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