

# OVARC NEWSLETTER

The Monthly Publication of the Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club

Volume 9 Issue 10  
October 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

November 2 2017

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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)

## Having Your House In Order

This may not be the most uplifting of subjects but it is an important one for us all; important enough that many bible verses are written about it.

We may not have control over when we leave our earthly home, but we do have at least a little say in how we leave things for others to deal with. I lost my grandmother (mom's mother) in February and then my mother in May and neither of them had a will or at least anything current. Luckily my Grandmothers estate went fairly smooth, mom's not so much. After this experience I see why families become distant; disagreements of what to do with mementos, not honoring promises like passing Great Grandmas wedding ring to a Grand Daughter (that ones personal), and the overall greed over sentiment. Luckily, we got both houses sold and everything either donated or dispersed between the family members (except that ring, that ones still lingering). But now I not only have all my household goods, I now have some of Grandmas and a lot of mother's filling my garage and basement. So now it's time to think about what "I" should do; how do I put my house in order so my wife or kids have an easier time dealing with the loss. With everything we had to deal with it took over 5 months before I felt any emotion to the loss of two beloved matriarchs; It wasn't until I left my family home for the last time I finally felt the emotions I should have felt months earlier and all because leading up to that day it was just another day at work; cleaning, fixing, or throwing out everything that didn't mean enough to keep or have any "value". One of the great things I see OVARC do is help our fellow HAMS families deal with all the "stuff" they leave behind when they move on. I can truly see how great of a service this is and how valuable it is for our members and their families. The club members that help these families rummage through their loved ones belongings and spend their own time inventorying, testing, selling and taking care of everything deserve a big thank you from all of us; they are are big reason why this club has such a good reputation among fellow HAMS.

Something this years events taught me is make sure others know your intentions, preferable in writing so your family can mourn together instead of work together to clean up after you.

73, Tim Rapp - K9TJR

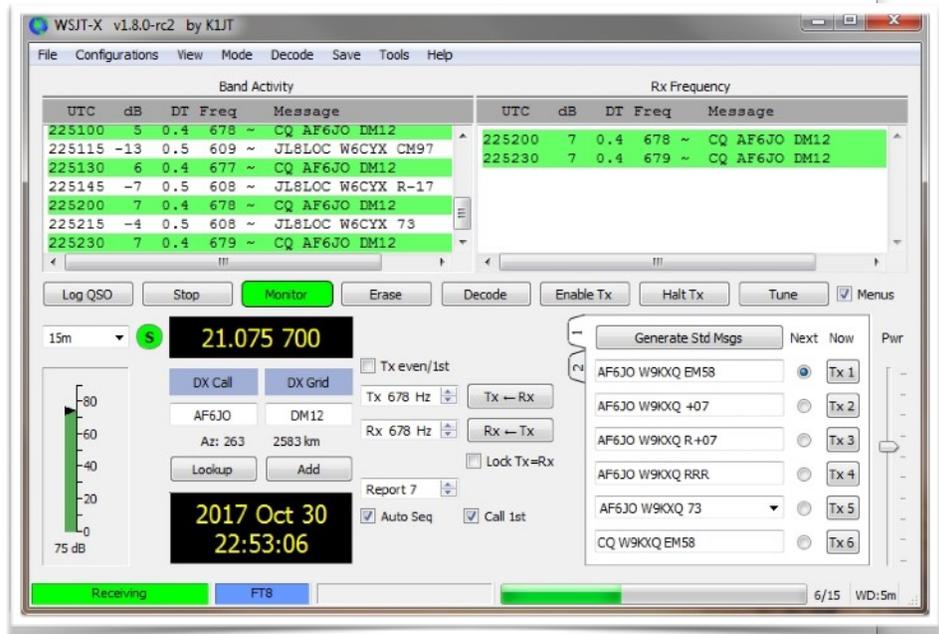
# November Program

## Digital Mode FT8

**Ken KK9N will introduce us to the new digital mode FT8.**

This mode, released this summer is named after its developers, Steven Franke, K9AN, and Joe Taylor, K1JT. The numeral designates the mode's 8-frequency shift keying format. Tones are spaced at 6.25 Hz, and an FT8 signal occupies just 50 Hz. Transmit and receive cycles in FT8 each last about 15 seconds. FT8 does require accurate time synchronization. The software includes an auto-sequencing feature that offers the option to respond automatically to the first decoded reply to your CQ.

FT8 is proving to be an excellent mode for multi-hop Es on 6 meters, where deep QSB may make fast and reliable completion of QSOs desirable as well as HF DXing.



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## MEETING MINUTES

### October 5, 2017

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Vice President Dan Frey K9DNO called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM on Thursday, October 5, 2017 in the Bradford Room. Those in attendance signed the sign-in sheet. There were 14 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 September 7, 2017 meeting were displayed on the screen as printed in this September's OVARC newsletter. *Jim KF4NBG moved to accept the minutes as edited. Seconded. Motion passed.*

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

Howard N9GEQ presented a treasurer's report that our balance this month is \$4,937.66. Since the last meeting another piece from Charley Presnell's gear which added to our balance. *Tim K9JTR moved to accept the treasurer's report. Seconded. Motion passed.*

#### **Repeater Report**

John W9KXQ Reported that our repeater systems are working. Some work is required to get the 224.44 Repeater transmitter back on the air as well as the IRLP Node. The EchoLink Node continues to provide EchoLink access to the entire linked repeater system. Additionally, John reported that he has installed a 30-watt Motorola DMR Repeater at his tower Northeast of Greenville. The antenna is a 24ft tall 10dB gain UHF antenna that was installed on the top of the tower on September 27, 2017 along with 203 Ft. of LDF 7/8" Hardline. Early reports are the repeater coverage is as expected.

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

Dennis W9DAW was not present for a VE report.

#### **Program Committee**

Dan K9DNO reported that the committee is working on ideas for future programs. Ken KK9N will be giving a presentation on FT8 a new digital mode and part of the WSJT-X suite of digital protocols for the November meeting.

#### **Special Events Committee**

John W9KXQ reported that Vine to Wine event on Saturday Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> was a success. He handed out commemorative wine glasses to the members in attendance that helped with the event. There were 444 participants in this year's event and the event raised more than \$6K.

OVARC's annual Fox Hunt will be held Sunday October 15, 2017 beginning at 2:30 PM at the American Farm Heritage Museum grounds. A Potluck dinner is planned for around 5 PM, with meat being provided by the club. Mark Corbus KD9EAJ is the Fox Hunt Master.

#### **Announcements**

The Halloween hamfest will be held Saturday October 28 in Kirkwood, MO. We will have three tables with plenty of gear to sell, so help is appreciated.

#### **Old Business**

Jim KF4NBG contacted a Dealer in Breese has the same price as Vista Print regarding banner to be ordered. Tim K9TJR offered to take over this project with Jim KF4NBG providing the information he has learned so far. The price for 6ft is \$56.

John W9KXQ reported that the shelving project for the surplus equipment was kicked off this week, with 88 boards being delivered to his Tower #2 site. The lumber is being allowed to dry out before the actual building begins in about 3 weeks.

#### **New Business**

Jim KF4NBG & Jerry WB9NEY reported on Peoria Area Hamfest

John Skain reported on the TAPR Conference

John Skain suggested that we donate to the ARRL Ham Aid. The Ham Aid Fund was created in 2005 in response to the need for equipment and resources to support the Amateur Radio response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. Ham Aid equipment is available on loan to Amateur Radio organizations during disaster response when communications equipment is unavailable.

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MEETING MINUTES  
October 5, 2017

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Motion by Jim KF4NBS seconded by Lance K2SGS to donate \$100 to ARRL Ham Aid. Motion carried

JOTA was talked about and Mark KD9EAJ was asked to check into getting involved.

Illinois QSO party was discussed. Illinois QSO Party is Sunday Oct. 22, 2017

**Trivia Corner**

Dan K9DNO asked the trivia corner question: What software program is required on your computer for you to upload logs to LoTW? No one knew the complete answer. **Answer:** "TQSL-This software manages your call sign certificate issued by ARRL and uploads it with your log files to LoTW to authenticate your logs."

The business meeting concluded at 7:35 pm.

Motion by Lance K2SGS, second by Jim KF4NBS

**Program: Amateur Radio Support for Healthcare Organizations**

Lee French N9YHQ HOPE Coalition was our guest speaker and covered the updated effort to gather a list of predetermined volunteers throughout our region that can support the area hospitals in time of emergency or during special events that over tax existing communications infrastructures. See notes

Comprised of a large group of Health Care Organizations. They get Federal dollar to help support their program.

The HOPE Coalition is comprised of regional healthcare partners such as hospitals, public health, emergency medical services, emergency management and other healthcare organizations throughout 11 counties in Southwestern Illinois. Our purpose is to enhance the ability of the region to be more resilient during any situation. The coalition provides a forum for all partners who are involved with emergency planning, response or mitigation to plan together and facilitate a safer healthier community.

**Membership consists of:**

- Hospitals
- EMS
- Public Health
- Long term care
- Dialysis
- Behavioral Health
- Dentists
- VOAD (Volunteers Active in Disasters)

**The HOPE Coalition offers opportunities to serve community during times of need; whether that's during exercises or incidents you will serve a crucial role.**

**We currently have need for volunteers to support coalition members including:**

- Hospitals
- EMA's & LHD's
- RMERT (additional training required)
- EMS & Fire
- Shelter operations

**Throughout the year the coalition will offer opportunities to train and participate in exercises directly supporting healthcare preparedness.**

**We also offer training for volunteers on:**

- ICS 300 & 400
- AUXCOMM
- CPR/AED (minimal fee associated)
- Additional opportunities available through our RMERT team

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

**John King**  
**Secretary Pro Tem**

# FOX HUNT WRAP-UP 2017

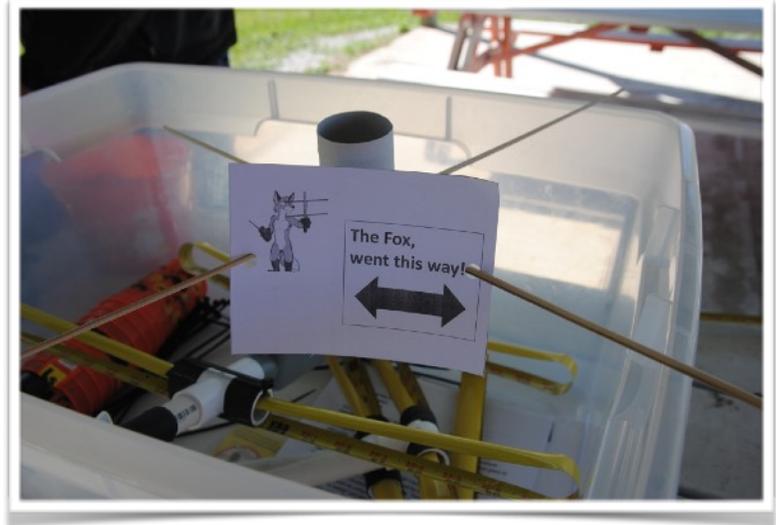
## John King W9KXQ

The Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club sponsored its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Fox Hunt on Sunday October 15, 2017 at The American Farm Heritage Museum, located south of Greenville. Mark Corbus KD9EAJ was the Fox Master for this event. The new venue and his new twists gave the Fox Hunters more of a challenge in locating the Fox Transmitters. Mark had the Transmitters in one location and the treats and pens in another location. He also had some very real looking "dummy Fox Transmitters" located around the Museum grounds. (See Dummy Photo)

We had 4 Teams looking for the 5 Fox Transmitters. The winning team found all 5 Fox Transmitters in less than 1 hour. The Winning team consisted of Izaria Valencia, Katya Akshatina, Alexis James KC9VAK, and Ken Norris KK9N. The photo shows this team (Names Left to Right-Winners) with Mark KD9EAJ handing the winners a radio and Dairy Queen gift cards. The team chose Katya as the recipient of the Baofeng dual band hand held transceiver. The hunt was concluded with a pizza party and desert treats brought by members.



Izaria Valencia, Katya Akshatina, Alexis James KC9VAK, and Ken Norris KK9N with Fox Master Mark Corbus KD9EAJ



Dummy Fox

# News & Information



Vice President Dan KD9DNO presenting Lee French N9YHQ with a custom callsign Mug from the club supplied by Jim's Engraving for being our guest speaker at the October meeting. The program was "Amateur Radio Support for Healthcare Organizations". See a recap of the presentation in the meeting minutes on page 4.

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# Upcoming Events

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See the website [www.ovarc.net](http://www.ovarc.net) for complete events list

**Annual Meeting and Christmas Dinner: Thursday Nov. 30, 2017**

**Meet at 6:00 PM**

**Dinner at 6:30 PM**

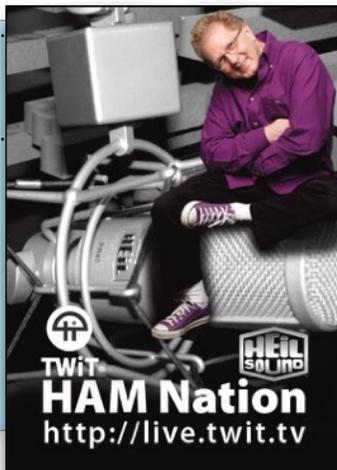
**Greenville Country County Club--Details to follow**

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## Reminder: New Meeting Location

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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.



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## Ham Nation

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Wednesday Evenings

8:00 PM CDT



## OVARC Information

*Repeaters*  
147.165, 224.440,  
442.925

### 2017 Officers

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

Vice-President  
Dan Frey K9DNO  
[K9DNO@ovarc.net](mailto:K9DNO@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  
Ken Norris KK9N  
John King W9KXQ  
Don Stover KB9EGI  
[KB9EGI@ovarc.net](mailto:KB9EGI@ovarc.net)

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

Net Manager  
Clareen Dunn KB9BEB  
[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 K9TJR  
Editor Email: [K9TJR@arrl.net](mailto:K9TJR@arrl.net)  
Please send emails regarding articles, new items, corrections, etc

### Okaw Valley ARC Website

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

### Testing Opportunities

Dennis Warren W9DAW - OVARC VE Team Manager

Contact Dennis W9DAW (618)-292-9638 [VETeam@ovarc.net](mailto: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 2018 due January 1, 2018

Dues for 2018 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

Nov. 5 - K9TJR - Tim

Nov. 12 - KK9N - Ken

Nov. 19 - KB9BEB - Clareen

Nov. 26 - Thanksgiving - No Net

## Ken's Trivia Corner (KK9N)

**The new digital mode FT8 name comes from where, and what is the length of time its transmissions last verses JT65?**

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# Friends of OVARC

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## Owl Creek Gazette

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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)

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