

OVARC NEWSLETTER

The Monthly Publication of the Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club

Volume 10 Issue 3

March 2018

Club Meetings

First Thursday of each
month at 7:00 PM
Bradford Bank Community
Room
100 E. College Ave.
Greenville, IL 62246

Next Meeting

April 5, 2018

In This Issue

- 2 - Next Month's Program
- 3 - Meeting Minutes
- 5 - News & Information
- 10 - Upcoming Events

Club Net

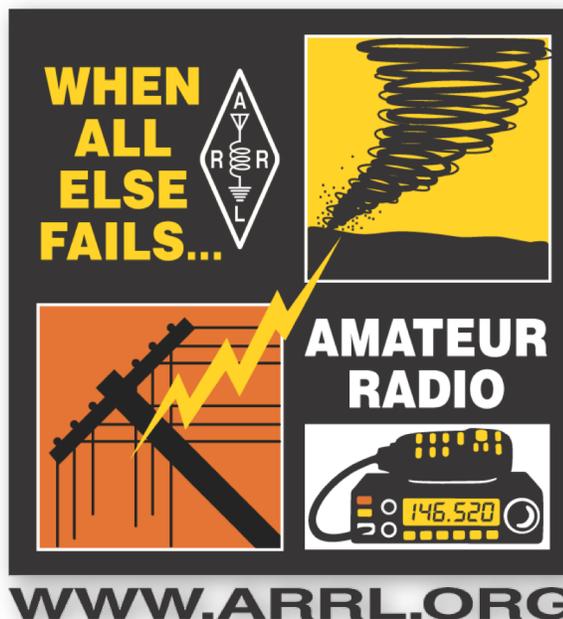
Each Sunday at 9:00 PM
on 147.165 PL 103.5
Also on Linked Repeater
System

Club Repeaters

AD9OV/R

As We Welcome Spring We Welcome Storm Season

It's that time of the year again when we think about storms, the damage they can cause and how Amateurs Radio Operators can use our skills to help out. The April meeting topics are very timely with a discussion on how OVARC and its members and friends can help the city of Highland in the event of a disaster leaving their communications system unusable. It still amazes me how the toys we play with can provide the tools necessary to keep a community going "When All Else Fails".



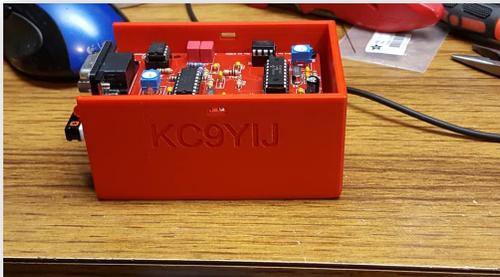
As the weather changes and we enter the roller coaster that is weather in the mid-west, keep those toys working and ready to help.

Play to build the skills and Pray we never need to use them.

April Program

Highland Emergency Operations Plan Request & The PiGate

The April 5 meeting will be discussing how OVARC will respond to the City of Highland's request from their EMS Chief on how OVARC can help provide radio communications in the event when their communications systems become damaged or destroyed beyond use. This discussion will help put together a response that will include what our club can provide in manpower, equipment, and the capabilities of the Illinois repeater network.



John King (W9KXQ) will be demonstrating the PiGate and how it will fit into an Emergency Go-Box, and how easily it can be deployed.



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MEETING MINUTES

March 1, 2017

President Ken Norris KK9N called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM on Thursday, March 1, 2018 in the Bradford Room. Those in attendance signed the sign-in sheet. There were 16 people present. A quorum was found to be present.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the February 1, 2018 meeting were displayed on the screen as printed in this month's OVARC newsletter. Cary W4GRN thanked John W9KXQ for taking the minutes of that meeting in his absence. *John KD9DXF moved to accept the minutes as distributed. Seconded. Motion passed.*

Treasurer's Report

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

Repeater Report

John W9KXQ reported that our repeaters are working fine. Tim K9TJR has decided not to try to get a 2 meter repeater on the air in Clinton county. The gear he has accumulated toward that purpose is for sale. *John W9KXQ moved to purchase Tim's duplexers as backups for our 2 meter repeater for \$xxxx. New duplexers cost \$xxxx to \$xxxx. Seconded. Motion passed.*

Volunteer Examiner (VE) Report

Dennis W9DAW was not present for a volunteer examiner report.

Program Committee Report

Dan K9DNO reported that we have no program lined up for April but do have a program for May.

Special Events Report

We have a table reserved for the April 14 Owl Creek Self-reliance and Sustainability Faire which runs from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the American Farm Heritage Museum. John had planned to be there, but he may have a scheduling conflict. We need hams to staff our booth part of those hours. Dan K9DNO, Cary W4GRN, Ken KK9N, and Randy KD9BQK all said that they can help.

April 21 is the Lewis & Clark Hamfest. We have two tables reserved already. The club agreed to reserve a third table.

June 10 is the Egyptian Hamfest, and June 23-24 is Field Day.

The Western Ill ARC is hosting an event to celebrate 200 years of Illinois statehood August through December. They are looking for hams in each county to agree to be on the air particular dates.

Old Business

We need a liaison with the West Central Ill Hamfest. John W9KXQ said that the meeting this past weekend was on EchoLink.

New Business

April 28 there is a 5-hour class at Barnes Jewish West County hospital on WinLink sponsored by the Missouri ARES group. John read some information about the class. John has registered to go and would like to have another ham from our club attend.

Continued Next Page

MEETING MINUTES

March 1, 2017

Field Day

Ken reported that Marc N9LIS has suggested running two stations on FT8 at our Field Day competition this year and one voice station (plus GOTA). Each FT8 contact takes less than two minutes, which would mean we could make more contacts per hour. Since FT8 is a digital mode, we would also get two points per contact. John KD9DXF said that he is three states away from working all states on FT8 all under 100 watts. Jerry WB9NEY asked if transmitters, amplifiers or power supplies overheat using FT8. Several members present reported working FT8 without any overheating problems. If we found little activity on FT8 we could switch the station to another mode. There was general agreement to give it a try.

Ken asked which logging software we want to use at Field Day. We have used N3FJP (Field Day logging Program). Ken is familiar with another logging program that we could use instead. John W9KXQ explained that AC log can log FT8 automatically. It was agreed to continue using AC log.

This year we may not have a crane to support our antennas, so we need to think about alternatives.

Trivia Corner

Ken Norris KK9N asked the trivia corner question: What are the two main frequencies used by APRS in the U.S.? Answer: 144.39 and 10.151 MHz

Cary W4GRN moved to conclude the business meeting at 7:47 pm. Seconded. Passed.

Program:

Prior to presenting our program Dan K9DNO distributed note pad sheets and asked those present to write down ideas for programs they would like to hear.

Dan presented a program on APRS. What is APRS about in an Internet world? Dan got interested when his daughter in high school asked if APRS could be used to track a weather balloon their school planned to release. WB4APR created the predecessor to APRS in 1982. In the early 1990s APRS Automatic Packet Reporting System was adopted. Digital repeaters (Digipeaters) are used to relay position reports and Digipeaters with a Internet connection are called IGates. Digital packets are converted to audio Packets by the TNC and are then broadcast for all stations within range of the Digipeater hear. The basic equipment needed is a VHF radio, a TNC (terminal node controller), power supple and an antenna. The main frequency used for APRS is 144.39 MHz. Dan passed around a couple of models of TNCs (Kantronics, Rig Blaster, and even TNC-X on a Raspberry Pi). There are also several software-based methods to use APRS. APRSdroid has been developed for mobile phones. Typical mobile APRS stations involve a GPS device, a TNC and a transceiver. Now self-contained devices are available. They can be used to track the location of a vehicle or themselves. APRS can also be used to send short text messages. Dan listed several radios that have APRS built in.

John showed that on his website W9KXQ.com is a link to APRS.fi where you can track the location of John's Chevy Traverse. The AD9OV-8 Digipeater is located at one of John's towers off Woburn Road which connects by radio to the IGate in Edwardsville. The AD9OV-8 Digipeater hears Amateur Radio stations as far as 100 miles away.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Cary Holman W4GRN
Secretary

News & Information

ARES - Illinois Digital Emergency Network (IDEN) Project

03/23/2018

(Credit - Carlos Arzuagas W9FE)

FYI - Area Club Members;

We now have active ARES VHF Packet Winlink nodes up and running full time for emergency digital communications in Macoupin and Madison County.....AND as of last night, I've also successfully tied my spare HF station to link as a HF Gateway to the HF Packet Winmor system. We are now linked to the other VHF nodes located in Greenville and Shelby Counties through our new nodes, KC9YIJ-1 in Alton, K9JDN-1 in Alton, and W9FE-1 in Bunker Hill. This gives us a much wider coverage on VHF for emergency digital communications.

What this means is that digital email messages can now be sent via radio when all other normal cellphone and internet communications in the area are down due to a major disaster. And with the HF Packet Winmor Gateway station tied into the system, these messages can now also be sent and received from VHF to HF and vice versa to be available for retrieval anywhere in the country.

This is part of the Illinois Digital Emergency Network (IDEN) project utilizing old modified State Police Radios operating on 145.610 Mhz. As we begin to get more stations on the air on a full-time basis, we hope to have a digital network available throughout the State of Illinois.

I wish to thank Club members Mark Lanham -KC9YIJ and John Nell-K9JDN for their tireless nights of staying up with me as we worked through the glitches trying to ensure that each of our stations are up and running to see this project through. It's been a fun project to be involved with and I would encourage everyone who would like to help participate with the IDEN project to contact us anytime.

Carlos Arzuagas - W9FE
President
Lewis & Clark Radio Club, Inc.

(Continued on next page)

News & Information

Winlink Express – It's Working!!!

Well, after almost a month of trial and error and experimentation with the hardware and software to get Winlink Express working, I'm here to report we are finally there!!!

Mark (KC9YIJ), Carlos (W9FE), and I (K9JDN), with advice and direction from Bob (AA9FQ), embarked on the challenge to get Winlink Express up and running on VHF/UHF and to understand how it worked. If you need a refresher course on what Winlink Express is, follow this link: <https://www.winlink.org/WinlinkExpress>.

After many hours of testing, with support from folks like John King (W9KXQ) and Jim Hudson (WB9QPM), I can honestly report that IT IS WORKING! Mark and Carlos took the lead to implement the necessary hardware/software to support the gateway stations necessary to transfer electronic emails between people like you and me (end users) to the Internet when there is NO Internet access in the local area. Essentially, we have put together an alternative way to email your family and friends, whenever Internet access is unavailable from your computer, cell phone or tablet. I suppose you could call it, "wireless email transportation for the last mile." In general, it is accomplished with radios, TNCs, and laptop computers! Of course, there are multitude different solutions you can implement, based upon a combination of hardware/software and how much you want to spend.

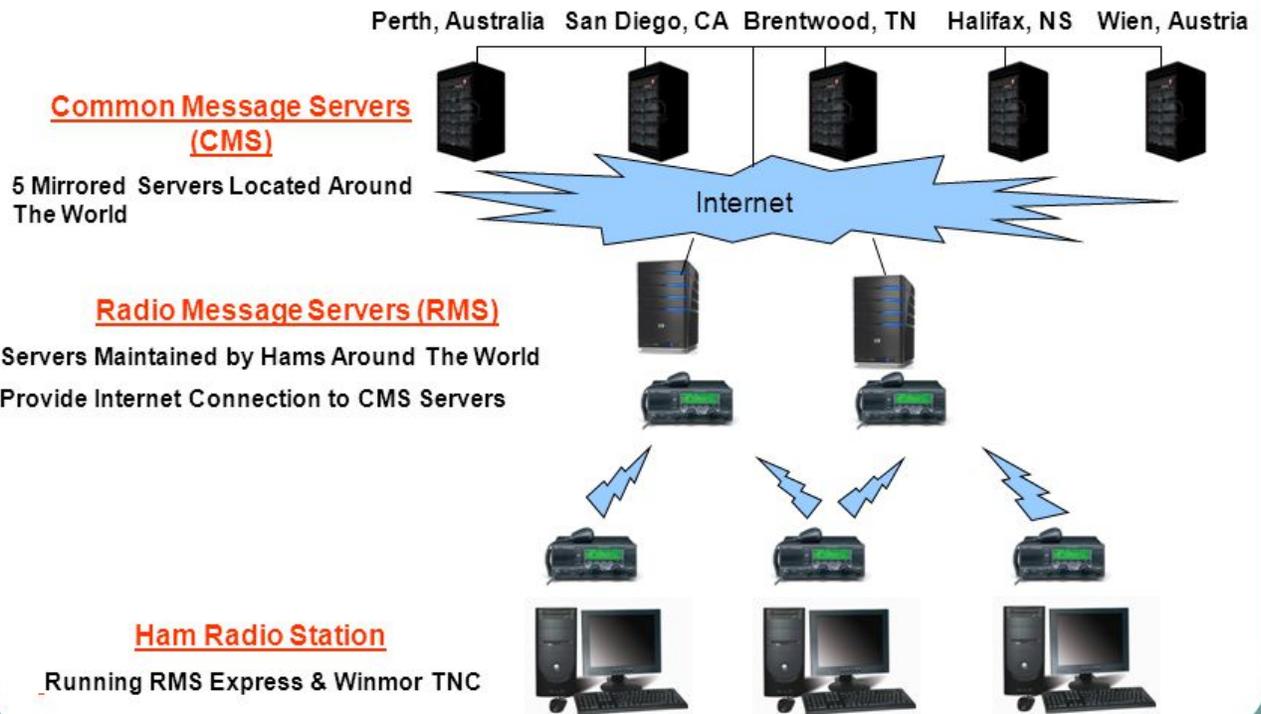
We took the challenge of getting this working, because in the State of Illinois there is currently an effort underway to get Winlink Nodes/Gateways in all 102 counties of the state to support a statewide emergency digital communications network for disasters. This effort has been dubbed, IDEN (Illinois Digital Emergency Network), and is being supported with the donation of old State Police radios that have been taken out of service. A group of amateurs are modifying these radios for the amateur VHF band and distributing them to individuals for implementing Nodes/Gateways in their respective county.

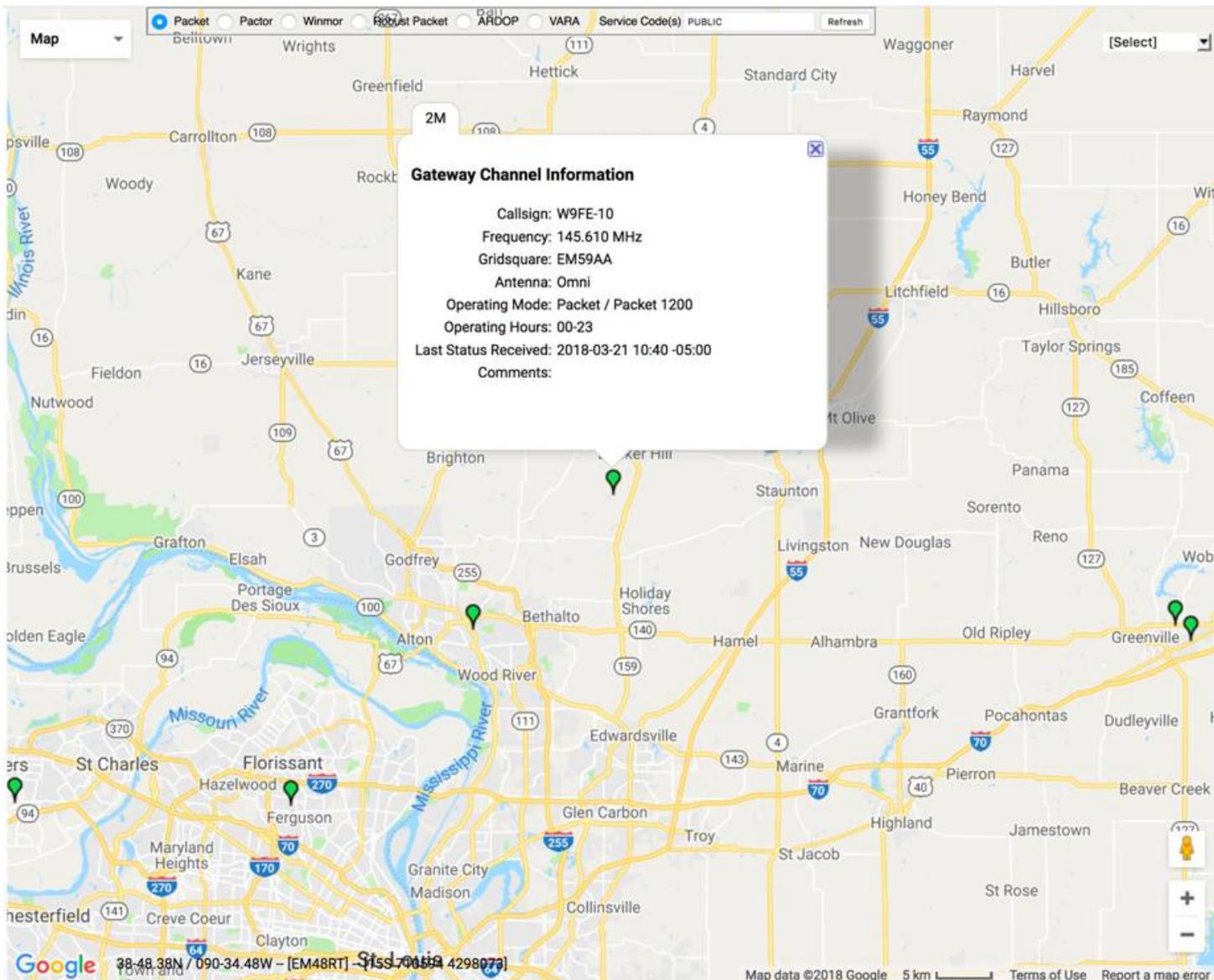
Within the next month or so, I hope to get a slideshow presentation put together documenting our journey. In addition, we want to have a demonstration of how all of this works and how you can get involved in supporting your local ARES and EMA organizations with "Winlink Express" expertise. If we get it together before the Hamfest, maybe we can demo it there for folks! Stay tuned....

Below you will find images showing details of the Winlink system and locations of the two Gateways that are operational in our area.

(Source LCRC Facebook page)

Winlink Messaging System





Map

Woody Rockbridge Chesterfield Honey Bend

2M

Gateway Channel Information

Callsign: KC9YIJ-10
Frequency: 145.610 MHz
Gridsquare: EM48WV
Antenna: Omni
Operating Mode: Packet / Packet 1200
Operating Hours: 00-23
Last Status Received: 2018-03-21 10:45 -05:00
Comments:

Hamburg Hardin Nutwood Fieldon Je

Batchtown Meppen Grafton Elsa

Golden Eagle Portage Des Sioux Alton Bethalto Holiday Shores

O'Fallon St Peters St Charles Florissant Hazelwood Ferguson Glen Carbon Troy St Jacob

Weldon Spring Cottleville Maryland Heights Granite City Madison Collinsville

Chesterfield Creve Coeur Clayton St. Louis

Wildwood Ballwin Town and Country Fairview Heights O'Fallon Lebanon Trenton Aviston Br

Belleville Shiloh Shiloh

St. Louis

39-01.71N / 090-44.78W - [EM48WV] - [15S 695074 4322347]

Map data ©2018 Google 5 km Terms of Use Report a map error

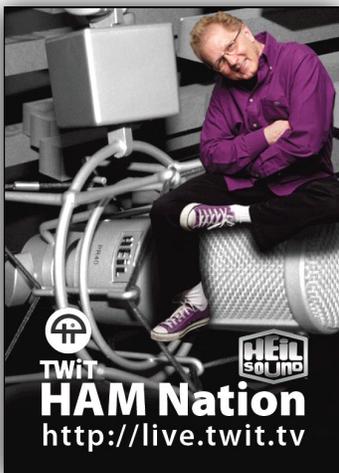
Upcoming Events

See the website www.ovarc.net for complete events list

- April 14 - Owl Creek Gazette Fair
- April 21 - Lewis & Clark Radio Club Hamfest
- June 10 - Egyptianfest Hamfest
- June 23-24 OVARC Sponsored ARRL Field Day AD9OV

Reminder: Meeting Location

Monthly meetings are held at 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 follows.



Ham Nation

Wednesday Evenings

8:00 PM CDT

twit network <http://twit.tv>



OVARC Information

Repeaters

147.165, 224.440, 442.925

2018 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

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John King W9KXQ
Don Stover KB9EGI
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VEteam@ovarc.net

Net Manager

Clareen Dunn KB9BEB
KB9BEB@ovarc.net

Webmaster

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

Net Information

Okay 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
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 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

Apr. 1 – NO NET – Easter
Apr. 8 – KB9BEB – Clareen
Apr. 15 – WB9SLM – Kris
Apr. 22 – W9KXQ – John
Apr. 29 - KK9N - Ken

Ken's Trivia Corner (KK9N)

Which antenna is better at receiving 80-meter signals?
Dipole at 100ft or long wire laying on the ground

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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



Amateur Radio Is...

- Community Service
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- Learning New Technologies
- Worldwide Friendships
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Want to become a Ham Radio Operator

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