

Volume 2, Issue 4  
OVARC E-Mail

April  
2010

# E-mail Newsletter



## Just a Reminder...

### CLUB MEETINGS

First Thursday each month  
at 7:30 PM

KC Greenville Learning  
Center

(Kaskaskia College)

209 N. Third St.

Greenville, IL 62246

### CLUB NET

Sun. 9:00 PM - 147.165

*Linked Repeater System*

*The Monthly Publication of the Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club*

## “Solar Power For The Ham Station”

by

**Russ Kruse KD0EIA**

**April 1, 2010 7:30 PM**

**KC Greenville Learning Center  
Greenville, IL**

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## Club Repeaters

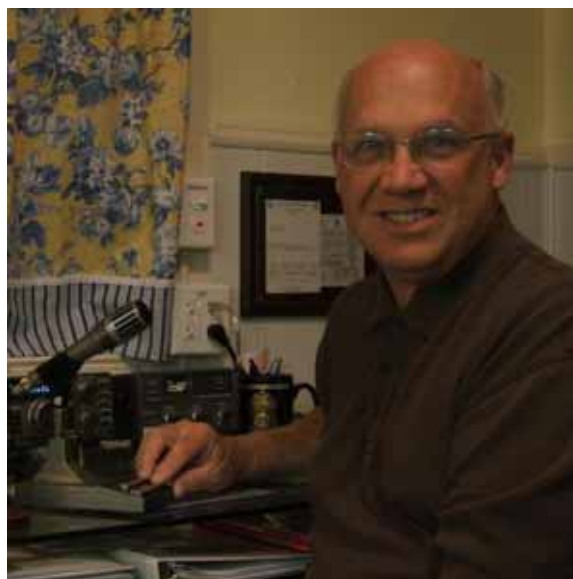
**W9KXQ/R  
(PL 103.5)**

**147.165+  
224.440-**

**KB9EGI**

**442.925+**

Russ Kruse KD0EIA from St. Charles, MO will be our guest speaker. Russ' topic “Solar Power For The Ham Station”.



Russ has an interesting Power Point Presentation and will be bringing his “Power Wagon” with solar panel for us to see.

In August, 2009 he transferred his entire Ham Station to solar.

Russ Kruse founded Kruse Properties Group, LLC in 2000.

Kruse Properties Group is the Intellectual Properties Division that was created to fill a void in a global market. New and innovative ideas are the central focus of his company. These new ideas are built on a solid and comprehensive knowledge of new and current technology.

Russ is the founder of and has over 30 years business experience in several diverse areas, including: construction, high technology product development, marketing, manufacturing production and business process improvement.

Russ became a ham just a couple years ago in 2008 and received his General license February 27<sup>th</sup> 2009. He has kept his station pretty simple. His radio is a Kenwood TS-140S with a Kenwood tuner. His antenna is a Mosley RV-4C. You can see more about Russ and his solar station on QRZ.com.

[Mark April 1, 2010 on your calendar now](#)

## MEETINGS TO PLAN FOR

**May 6, 2010** Allan Davis WB9YVE, Bond County's 911 Coordinator and ESDA Director will be our guest. He will provide an up-to-the-minute look at the New StarCom Digital radio system currently in use in Bond County. Bob Lewis KC9BOZ will be on hand to acquaint us with the new "Digital Scanners" now available to listen to the StarCom system. A tour of the 911 PSAP will round out the program for May.



**June 3, 2010** Field Day Organizational & Planning meeting.

The June meeting will be used to finalize our plans for Field Day 2010 at Patriot's Park west of Greenville. Come prepared to participate.





**ARRL** The national association for AMATEUR RADIO™

# The ARRL Letter

- Public Service
- Advocacy
- Education
- Technology
- Membership

The ARRL Letter is published Thursdays, 50 times each year. ARRL members may subscribe at no cost or unsubscribe by editing their Member Data Page as described at <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>.

To see the most current copy go to the following website:  
The ARRL Letter (<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/index.html?issue=2010-02-25>)

If you are a member of ARRL, why not sign up for your weekly email copy?

## REPEATER UPDATES

We are still fighting the intermittent noise that appears on the 442.925 KB9EGI Repeater. When the weather warms some more we will remove this repeater from service and give it a good cleaning and retuning. Stay tuned for updates.

## Meeting Location for April 1, 2010 Meeting

The March 4th meeting will be in the Kaskaskia College Center in Greenville (the building that used to be the location of the hospital thrift store just south of the Dairy Queen on Third Street).



Meeting location Kaskaskia College Greenville  
Education Center 209 N. Third St. Greenville,  
IL 62246

rear entrance

Future Dates this Location:

April 1, 2010—Room 118 Science Lab

May 6, 2010—Room 118 Science Lab

June 3, 2010—To be announced



**Lance K2SGS, Dave K9UK and Kris WB9SLM watch events going on at the back of the room!  
You will have to come to the April meeting to find out what was happening, but it brought Lance to  
his feet!**

## Minutes Highlights for March 4, 2010

March 4, 2010 the Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club met in Room 118 of the Kaskaskia College Education Center on Third Street in Greenville.

Jim KF4NBS reported that VE testing continues the first Saturday of the month at the public library in Highland.

John W9KXQ thanked Bob KC9BOZ for his help getting the 442.925 repeater back on the air. Lance K2SGS reported that the Highland site appears to be back on the air.

Members voted to reserve the pavilion near the lake at Patriot's Park for Field Day June 26 and 27.

April 1 Russ Kruse will provide our program on Solar Power for the Ham Station. For our May meeting Alan Davis will present our program the New StarCom Digital radio system currently in use in Bond County.

Ken KK9N and John W9KXQ presented a program on DRATS, a system that uses the DSTAR digital system to transmit and received text, images and other digital non-voice information.



**Bob, KC9BOZ looks on at March Club meeting as Howard N9GEQ-Treasurer  
and Cary W4GRN-Secretary keep busy!**





## OVARC Information

### Repeaters

147.165, 224.440, 442.925

### 2010 Officers

#### President

John King W9KXQ  
[W9KXQ@ovarc.net](mailto:W9KXQ@ovarc.net)

#### Vice-President

Hope Walker KA9NRW  
[KA9NRW@ovarc.net](mailto:KA9NRW@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

John King W9KXQ  
Don Stover KB9EGI  
[KB9EGI@ovarc.net](mailto:KB9EGI@ovarc.net)

#### V.E. Team Coordinator

Jim KF4NBG  
[KF4NBG@ovarc.net](mailto:KF4NBG@ovarc.net)

#### Net Manager

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

#### Webmaster

John King W9KXQ  
[webmaster@ovarc.net](mailto:webmaster@ovarc.net)

#### Website

<http://ovarc.net>

## D-RATS for Emergency Communication



Ken Norris, KK9N  
John King, W9KXQ

D-RATS is a multi-platform integrated tool for communication using D-STAR radios. With only a pair of radios a variety of data transmission methods are supported, including:

- Instant-message chat
- Automatic beacon messages
- File transfers with error detection
- Structured forms
- GPS position reports

D-RATS provides quick instant-message operation among operators, multicast so everyone sees everything; good for broadcasting updates and instructions. Additionally it provides quiet operation and can operate in a very noisy environment. With the many pre-designed forms it makes it easier to convey message and ensure correctness of names, numbers and locations.

D-RATS, written by Dan Smith  
KK7DS is available free of charge.



Ken KK9N with D-RATS Station



John W9KXQ D-RATS Demo



**A Communications Tool For D-STAR**



## CQ World-Wide WPX Contest

### The 2010 CQ World-Wide WPX Contest

SSB: March 27-28, 2010 CW: May 29-30, 2010

Starts: 0000 GMT Saturday Ends: 2359 GMT Sunday

**I. Objective:** For amateurs world wide to contact as many amateurs and prefixes as possible during the contest period.

**II. Period of Operation:** 48 hours. Single Operator stations may operate 36 of the 48 hours – **off times must be a minimum of 60 minutes during which no QSO is logged.** Multi-operator stations may operate the full 48 hours.

**III. Bands:** Only the 1.8, 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz bands may be used. **Observance of established band plans is strongly encouraged.**

#### **IV. Terms of Competition for All Categories:**

**(a)** All entrants must operate within the limits of their chosen category when performing any activity that could affect their submitted score. Only the entrant's call sign may be used to aid the entrant's score.

**(b)** A different call sign must be used for each entry.

**VI. Exchange:** RS(T) report plus a progressive contact serial number starting with 001 for the first contact. Note: Multi-Two and Multi-Multi entrants use separate serial number sequences on each band starting with serial number 001.

A complete listing of the contest rules can be found online at:

<http://www.cqwp.com/rules.htm>

# WorldRadio Online

***WorldRadio*** is now on-line including back issues to its February 2009 debut. The online monthly publication takes the place of its predecessor the newsprint version. Check out the April 2010 issue for up to date articles. These are downloadable. Stop by and give it a try. (<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/WorldRadio.html>)



## Regular Events

### Club Meetings

First Thursday of the month  
at 7:30 PM,  
KC Greenville Learning Center  
(Kaskaskia College)  
209 N. Third St.  
Greenville, IL 62246

If the Weather Net is  
Active

Regular Net will not be held!

Visit Us on the  
Web!!!

<http://ovarc.net>

## Net Control Schedule



Clareen, KB9BEB  
is our Net Manager.  
The Okaw Valley  
ARC holds a  
weekly net at 9:00  
PM on Sunday eve-

nings. The net control stations  
are on a rotating schedule.

March 28 N9GEQ—Howard  
April 4—NO NET—EASTER  
April 11 W9KXQ—John  
April 18 KB9BEB—Clareen  
April 25 KA9NRW—Hope  
May 2 WB9SLM—Kris

Net Control Schedule can be  
found at [www.ovarc.net/calendar](http://www.ovarc.net/calendar)

## OVARC

P.O. Box 3  
Greenville, IL 62246  
Club Information, Dues,  
Event Notices,  
Ideas for Programs, etc.

### E-Mail Newsletter

John King W9KXQ, Editor  
Email: [W9KXQ@arrl.net](mailto:W9KXQ@arrl.net)

Articles, New Items,  
Corrections, etc.



## Ham Radio with GES Fourth Graders

On March 19, 2010 Donna, KC9LEG sent home a information sheet with the 4th graders inviting them to participate in the after school “GES Radio Club”. We anticipate a great response from the kids and their parents. Many of the kids have been anxious to learn more about ham radio and get their licenses. Last year we had a total of 17 kids get their license. A team of club “Elmer's” have been assembled to assist in teaching this group of unknown numbers.

Last year, thanks to several members we were able to purchase seven 2 meter hand held radios to give to the kids that passed their test. I already have 1 donation offer this year. If you missed out on helping last year, we will still take you financial or donation help for this year's group. The radios were about \$99 each and we may have a line on a few used hand-helds.

This is an after school project, and will require 1 or 2 hours per week (3PM—4PM) Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Page 8 & 9 of the newsletter will be reserved for the progress.

### Some of the Class of 2009



First Row (L-R) Helen KC9PPG, Kayla KC9PPF, Taiylor KC9PPE  
Back Row Donna KC9LEG (Teacher)





Kris WB9SLM impressed the kids with a demonstration of IRLP using a handheld radio Feb. 11, 2010



### **FCC News: FCC Proposes to Eliminate Spread Spectrum APC Requirement, Reduce Spread Spectrum Power Limit; Cleans Up Portions of Part 97**

In response to a 2006 ARRL *Petition* regarding spread spectrum issues, the FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* on March 16 (WT Docket No 10-62), proposing to amend Part 97 to facilitate the use of spread spectrum communications technologies by eliminating the requirement that amateur stations use automatic power control (APC) to reduce transmitter power when the station transmits a spread spectrum (SS) emission and reducing the maximum transmitter power output when transmitting a SS emission. Through an *Order* attached to the *NPRM*, the Commission also made "certain non-substantive revisions" to the Amateur Service rules. (The ARRL Letter)

### **ARRL Field Day : 2010 Field Day Packets Now Available**

It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for ARRL Field Day, June 26-27, 2010! ARRL's flagship operating event -- always held the fourth full weekend in June -- brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun. Field Day packets are now [available for download](#) and include the complete rules (including changes for 2010), as well as other reference items such as forms, ARRL Section abbreviation list, entry submission instructions, a Frequently Asked Questions section, guidelines for getting bonus points, instructions for GOTA stations, a kit to publicize your event with the local press and more.

(*Courtesy ARRL Letter*)



### *Ken's Trivial Corner*

*What is the number and name of the bill that concerns Amateur Radio that just passed the U.S. Senate and is sitting in the U.S. House? (hint—very important to all Amateur Radio Operators) **The answer and a prize for the winner will be given at the April 1, 2010 meeting.***

By Ken Norris KK9N



**Dues for 2010 due  
January 1, 2010**

**Dues for 2010 are \$15.00  
per member per year.**

**You can pay Howard N9GEQ at club  
meetings or send a check made pay-  
able to Okaw Valley Amateur Radio**

## R1ANF beacon operational

"The Deutscher Amateur Radio Club reports that, after a long odyssey from Germany to the Vostok base (R1ANC) in Antarctica, including a failed start connected with huge logistic problems, the beacon finally was put into operation at the Russian Antarctic base Bellinghausen, **R1ANF**, on King George Island (belonging to the South Shetlands) on March 8.

**Oleg, ZS1ANF** (UA1PBA, ex-R1ANF), picked up the beacon during a trip to the Antarctic Logistic Center International (ALCI) on Novo Runway and installed it right away at R1ANF after his return to King George Island.

The beacon consists of an IC-706, AT-180 antenna tuner, a switching power supply, a PROCOM HF-5000 vertical antenna and a GPS synchronized controller.

The beacon is working on 14101.0 kHz and transmits the following text every full minute "VVV R1ANF ANTBEAP (carrier signal reduced similar to the NCDXF beacons, starting with 100 watts) R1ANF AR".

Another beacon is ready to be installed at the Novolazarevskaya base and shall be active on the same frequency using the callsign R1AND.

A few more beacons will be set up with the Antarctic Beacon Project (ANTBEAP) to explore the wave propagation in the Antarctic region.

Any SWL reports are very welcome and should be sent to Dominik, DL5EBE." (Southgate ARC)



## Testing Opportunities

**Jim Thibeault KF4NBG  
OVARC VE Team**

Louis Latzer Memorial Library  
1001 9th St.  
Highland, IL 62249  
Contact Jim KF4NBG  
(618)-488-6411  
[BecomeAHam@yahoo.com](mailto:BecomeAHam@yahoo.com)

**Saturday April 3, 2010 10:00 AM**

**Saturday May 1, 2010 10:00 AM**

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.

## Contests

### The 2010 CQ World-Wide WPX Contest

SSB: March 27-28, 2010 CW: May 29-30, 2010

Starts: 0000 GMT Saturday Ends: 2359 GMT Sunday

**[See Page 6 of this issue for details](#)**

## New Members to the Club

**Please Welcome:  
No New Members for March**



### IL Section Manager

Thomas Ciciora, [KA9QPN@ARRL.org](mailto:KA9QPN@ARRL.org)

### Central Division Director

George "Dick" Isely,  
[W9GIG@ARRL.org](mailto:W9GIG@ARRL.org)

### Central Div. Vice Director

Howard Huntington, [K9KM@ARRL.org](mailto:K9KM@ARRL.org)



A Google Calendar has been added to our web-site. Click on **Calendar of Events** from our main webpage [www.ovarc.net](http://www.ovarc.net).

You can park your browser on [www.ovarc.net](http://www.ovarc.net) as you can access QRZ.com from the main page.

QRZ callsign lookup:

Callsign lookups provided by [qrz.com](http://qrz.com)



**Club Events Calendar**  
Includes Net Controls & V.E. Testing

Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club							Print	Week	Month	Agenda
Today	January 2010									
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat				
27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1	2				
3	4	5	6	7	8	9				
NET 9:00 PM Local Spm NC KA9NRW						10am V.E. Testing				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
NET 9:00 PM Local Spm NC WB9SLM										
17	18	19	20	21	22	23				
NET 9:00 PM Local Spm NC N9GEQ										
24	25	26	27	28	29	30				
NET 9:00 PM Local Spm NC W9KXQ						Winterfest 2010				
31	Feb 1	2	3	4	5	6				
NET 9:00 PM Local Spm NC KB9BEB						10am V.E. Testing				

**April 2010**  
Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club

**Inside This Issue:**

- SOLAR Power
- What is D-RATS
- GES Ham Radio Operators
- And Much More...



**Want to become a Ham Radio Operator???**

Contact us at <http://ovarc.net>

P.O. Box 3  
Greenville, IL  
62246

**Amateur Radio Is...**

- *Community Service*
- *Emergency Communications*
- *Electronics and Communications Training*
- *Local and International Friendships*
- *A National Resource!*