

Volume 3, Issue 4  
OVARC E-Mail

April  
2011

# 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**

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## Club Repeaters

**W9KXQ/R**  
**(PL 103.5)**

**147.165+**  
**224.440-**

**KB9EGI**  
**442.925+**

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

## April Meeting - Fox Hunting 101

Do you want to learn a little about Radio Direction Finding so you can get involved in Amateur Radio "Foxhunting". Then the April OVARC meeting is where you need to be.



Whether you call it "Foxhunting", "Bunny Hunting", "T-Hunting", or just Hidden Transmitter **Hunting it is all about finding the "fox"**. You don't need to have an Amateur Radio license to participate because as the hunter, you just need to listen. The fun is in setting up your equipment and finding where a hidden transmitter is located.

Come learn what it is all about and when and **where the next "fox hunt" will take place.**

**See Page 11 for more on "Fox Hunting".**

**PLAN NOW FOR March 3, 2011 7:30 PM**

**MEETINGS TO PLAN FOR**

**Program needed for May 2011**

**June 2, 2011 Meeting  
Program- Annual Field Day review**



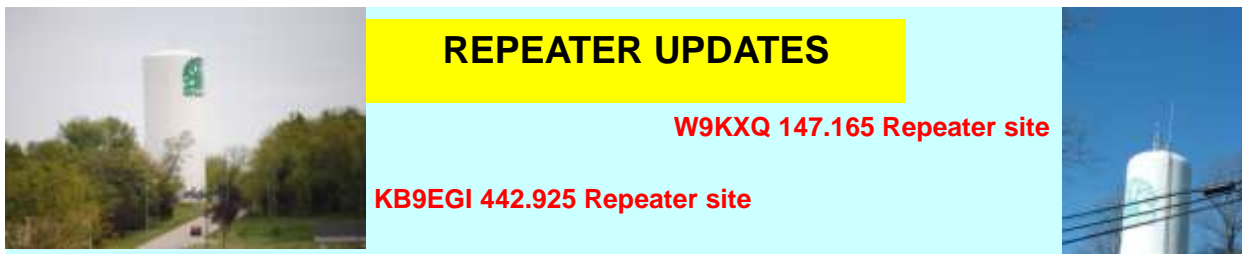
The ARRL Letter is published Thursdays, 50 times each year. ARRL members may subscribe at no cost or unsubscribe by editing their Member Data Page as described at <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>.

To see the most current copy go to the following website:  
The ARRL Letter (<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?issue=2011-03-31>)  
If you are a member of ARRL, why not sign up for your weekly email copy?

**REPEATER UPDATES**

**W9KXQ 147.165 Repeater site**

**KB9EGI 442.925 Repeater site**



Linked repeater system is back on the air after the 444.250 repeater antenna and hard-line were replaced on Saturday March 19, 2011 ( Thanks to Skip WS9V and his crew for a fantastic job)

## Location for April 7, 2011 7:30 PM Meeting

Kaskaskia College Center in Greenville (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 7, 2011**

**May 5, 2011**

**June 2, 2011**

**July—No Meeting**

**August 4, 2011**

## OKAW VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2011 OFFICERS



**Ken KK9N, Cary W4GRN, Howard N9GEQ, John W9KXQ**  
**President | Secretary | Treasurer | Vice President**  
**(Photo by Charley KA9NQL)**

## Minutes Highlights for March 3, 2011

President Ken Norris KK9N called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM on Thursday March 3, 2011 in Room 104 of the Kaskaskia College Education Center on Third Street in Greenville. Those in attendance signed the sign-in sheet. There were 26 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

Mike, NF9M, read the minutes of the January 6 meeting. Jim KF4NBN *moved to accept the minutes. Lance K2SGS seconded. Motion passed.*

### Treasurer's Report

Howard N9GEQ reported a balance of \$653.15. Jim KF4NBN *moved and Hope seconded to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.*

### Volunteer Examiner (VE) Report

Jim KF4NBN reported that the next VE testing will be this coming Saturday in Highland. On the 19<sup>th</sup> in O'Fallon 19 are signed up to take the test. In the January testing 3 passed. In the early February testing, 2 new and 1 upgrade to general. Jim conducted testing again Feb 12, with 14 new hams.

### Announcements

Field Day

Club database is in progress.

ARISS Meeting

Mike Huff, KC9RPF reported that the ARES group will be moving their meeting to another location to be determined.

### New Bill in Congress, HR607

700Mhz will change to digital immediately. To help pay for that, the FCC is taking 420-440 MHz, which is secondary for first responders. Within 5 years, they will auction off these frequencies. Go to ARRL Web site, download letter, send to ARRL coordinator in Washington.

### Fox Hunt

Ken, KK9N discussed having a fox hunt in September tentatively.

Ken suggested getting a club T-Shirt. There was a vote, some ayes no nays. Ken will look into prices for next meeting.

Ken will do presentation on fox hunting next meeting.

### Trivia Corner

Ken KK9N asked the trivia corner question:

What type of transmission is indicated by NTSC?

Jessie, KZ9G won the prize, a A.R.E.S. pamphlet.

*On motion by Mike KC9RPF and second by Howard N9GEQ the business meeting concluded at 7:54 pm.*

### Program: A Stratospheric Balloon Flight

John Alber presented a PowerPoint presentation overview of amateur balloon launching

Mike NF9M *moved to adjourn. Claren KB9BEB Seconded by. Motion passed at 8:45 pm.*

Howard N9GEQ sold 50/50 tickets. John King, W9KXQ won \$6.

Mike Wilcox, NF9M



## OVARC Information

### Repeaters

147.165, 224.440, 442.925

### 2011 Officers

#### President

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

#### Vice-President

John King W9KXQ  
[W9KXQ@ovarc.net](mailto:W9KXQ@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 KF4NGB  
[KF4NGB@ovarc.net](mailto:KF4NGB@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>

# Chronology of Stratospheric Flight Presented by John Alber



*John presented a very interesting program on a balloon launch that he and his son Colin did in October, 2010. John presentation included many photos and explanations of what was involved in making a successful launch and retrieval.*

You can view John's Blog at:

<http://avianblue.blogspot.com>

Thanks John for your efforts. We are hopeful that John's next balloon will be carrying Amateur Radio.



### Track the balloon took!



Ken, KK9N presented John with a personalized OVARC coffee cup.



Photos for this issue provided by Larry KC9ITK



## Website to checkout



<http://www.arrl.org/home>



### **Actions before the FCC (from ARRL website)**

[Revised Spread Spectrum Rules to Go Into Effect April 29, 2011](#)

[ARRL Files \*Petition, Request for Temporary Waiver\* with FCC Regarding VHF Voice and Data Emissions](#)

[FCC Seeking Comments on ARRL Petition Regarding TDMA](#)

[NPSTC Says HR 607 “Needs to Be Amended”](#)

# WorldRadio ONLINE

<http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/>

## ARES HF Digital Net April 10, 2011

The Illinois ARES HF Digital Net meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 5:00pm local time. The mode used is **Olivia 16/500** and the frequency is **3.590 (dial) USB**

**Regular Net Control:**  
**Tim McDonough, N9PUZ**  
**IL ARES Assistant SEC - Digital Operations**  
**Sangamon County, Springfield, IL**

**Net Control for Sunday April 10, 2011**

**Dwayne KA9KQH**



## 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 evenings. The net control stations are on a rotating schedule.

**April 10 N9GEQ—Howard**  
**April 17 KB9BEB—Clareen**  
**April 24 NO NET—EASTER**  
**May 1 KA9NRW—Hope**  
**May 8 WB9SLM—Kris**  
**May 15 N9GEQ—Howard**  
**May 22 W9KXQ—John**  
**May 29 NO NET MEMORIAL DAY**

## 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



**Greenville Elementary to have a ARISS contact sometime during the week of May 2 to 8, 2011.**

Charlie Sufana AJ9N, ARISS mentor for Greenville has contacted our group and we are planning for the long awaited ARISS contact. OVARC has been involved from the beginning with this project. We will keep everyone up-to-date as to the actual date and time. It will be during the school day and we will want as many members there as can make it.



<<<<ISS024-E-013398 (5 Sept. 2010) --- NASA astronaut Col. Doug Wheelock KF5BOC, Expedition 24 flight engineer, uses a ham radio system in the Zvezda Service Module of the International Space Station.



## My View from Here! John W9KXQ

What happened to March? I guess it just blew by! April brings with it the threat of spring storms and time for us to review our "storm spotter notes". After a long day of work on the WS9V 444.250 Repeater near Carlinsville about 5:00 PM on Saturday March 19 the "Mighty 250" was alive and well. Skip WS9V & Jim N9LQF and crew managed to replace 500 ft. of hard line and install a new UHF antenna on top of the tower. The following week, the Decatur 443.800 Mhz. Repeater was once again linked into the system. With a lot of

critical ears present, the Decatur System was adjusted to the point of perfection whose audio matches the entire system. I had the opportunity to be in the Salem area and used the 442.200 Mhz. Centralia repeater to talk to Skip WS9V who was using the Decatur system. The audio throughput was second to none and now provides us with an full time linked system ready for everyday use and the spring storm season. Stay tuned for storms in your area!

As I write this, I am in awe of the honor many of this club gave me as they made it to my Retirement Reception hosted by my daughter Kim KA9NQG on Friday april1st. She did an awesome job and there were well over 100 people in attendance. There was a great representation of Ham Radio Operators present, more than you could count on 2 hands. Thanks to each one of you who either in person, by card, phone call or email conveyed your best wishes. It was a humbling experience for Kim, Amy and I.

Please keep the week of May 2-8, 2011 open for our NASA Explorer School ISS contact. We have submitted our priority list of days and times for the contact. I have posted that list elsewhere in this newsletter.



# PRO-197 39,000-Channel Digital Desktop Scanner



Has your scanner suddenly grown silent? Would you like to be in the loop again and know what's going on in the area? Scanners are back, at the Shack. New, pre-programmed digital scanners are now in stock. And now get \$50.00 off the suggested retail price while supplies last.

*Will-o'-th'-Wind*

**603 East Harris Ave  
Greenville, IL 62246  
(618)664-3353**

Visit Marc N9LIS to get this special price.

You can also check out Marc's website for Office Supplies and special prices on printer inks and printers.



**Marc N9LIS**

[www.will-o-th-wind.com](http://www.will-o-th-wind.com)

## ISS CONTACT PRIORITY DATES

DAY/DATE	TIME
1. Wed May 4	14:06:27 14:16:19
2. Fri May 6	13:19:30 13:29:22
3. Thu May 5	14:30:44 14:40:23

Gordon West WB6NOA with one of Jim's (KF4NBG) call sign offerings these etched & lighted glass call sign plaques with your name and call included. It also offers many other items including cups and personalized keepsakes. Check out Jim's website for more details.

[www.jimsengraving.com](http://www.jimsengraving.com)



MIDWEST 4 METER DX GROUP

**ANTIGUA DXPEDITION**

W9DB, K9UK and W9AEB will operate holiday style from Antigua, St. John, and Square BOTTED June 14 to June 25.



W9DB - V25DB

W9DB as V25DB will concentrate on 8 meters 800CW on 30.115 MHz.



K9UK - V25DB

K9UK as V25DB and W9AEB as V25TF will operate 80-10 meters 300CW 736.11.

QSL's Can Be sent to home operator call signs



K9UK - V25DB

Further information will be updated

W9AEB V25TF K9UK V25DB W9DB V25DB

**Our own David Davis K9UK is a part of this DXPEDITION.**

[http://www.6meterdxgroup.com/Antigua\\_DXpedition.html](http://www.6meterdxgroup.com/Antigua_DXpedition.html)

## New Technician Study Guide Now Available for download



On March 25, 2011 Cary W4GRN, Kim KA9NQL & John W9KXQ were on hand at the Greenville Elementary School to introduce Ham Radio. This was followed up by 13 kids signing up for our study course after school at GES. The first session was held March 31 with Charley KA9NQL, Cameryn KC9SHF & John W9KXQ on hand to introduce the new Technician Study Guide in the PowerPoint format. The Study Guide was edited by Melissa Bohannon with help

from Cary, Charley and John. It is now available here. ([download](http://www.w9kxq.com/study.htm))[<http://www.w9kxq.com/study.htm>]



### ***Ken's Trivial Corner***

A General Class Amateur Radio operator is tuning his amplifier up for the 20 Meter band using a normal average reading watt meter into a dummy load. What is the maximum RF power (in watts) he should see on the watt meter to meet and not exceed the Full Legal Limit?

The answer and a prize for the winner will be given at the April 7, 2011 meeting.



## Dues for 2011 due January 1, 2011

Dues for 2011 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 P.O. Box 3 Greenville, IL 62246

## Ham Radio Direction Finding (Fox Hunting)

Radio direction finding (RDF) is used to find sources of interference to any form of wireless electronic communications, including broadcast and two-way radio, television, and telephones. It is also used to track missing or stolen cars and other property. Search and rescue workers use it to find persons in distress. Emergency Locator Transmitters in downed aircraft are tracked with RDF techniques.

Hams use RDF to track jamming stations and stolen equipment, but more often, they use it just for fun. Hidden transmitter hunting has been done by hams for about fifty years and it is a growing activity. **T-hunting** refers specifically to hunts involving hams driving in RDF-equipped vehicles. A mobile T-hunt is best described as hide-and-seek for all ages with radio gear. When you set out on a T-hunt, you never know where you'll end up, and you have no idea what you're going to find. No form of ham radio contesting is more fun! Mobile T-hunting is done in cities and towns all over the world.

Mobile T-hunting is called **foxhunting** in some parts of the USA, but everywhere else in the world, the terms "foxhunting" and **ARDF** refer to another kind of RDF contest, done completely on foot in large woods and parks. It's a map-and-compass sport similar to orienteering, with about a half-dozen "fox" transmitters to find in a period of two hours or so. Someday this sport, which is also called foxtailing, fox-teering and radio-orienteering, may become an Olympic event. Meanwhile, it's a fun-filled activity for your ham-fests and Scout Jamborees.



## 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)

**General Class Questions Changes**  
July 1, 2011

**Saturday**  
**May 7, 2011 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.

## New Hams

KC9TUM  
KC9TUN  
KC9TUL

Vince Huelsmann  
Alma Quick  
Josh Shubert

## HamFests

**Dayton Hamvention-May 20-22, 2011**

[www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org)



## 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						
Today: January 2011						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
NET 3:00 PM Local Type NC #A9NRW						10am V.E. Testing
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
NET 3:00 PM Local Type NC #B5GLH						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
NET 3:00 PM Local Type NC #F6GQ						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
NET 3:00 PM Local Type NC #9CKQ						Winterfest 2010
31	Feb 1	2	3	4	5	6
NET 3:00 PM Local Type NC #29BEB						10am V.E. Testing

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<p><b>Want to become a Ham Radio Operator???</b> Contact us at <a href="http://ovarc.net">http://ovarc.net</a> P.O. Box 3 Greenville, IL 62246</p>	<p><b>Amateur Radio Is...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Community Service</i></li> <li>• <i>Emergency Communications</i></li> <li>• <i>Learn new technologies for fun</i></li> <li>• <i>Worldwide Friendships</i></li> <li>• <i>A Fun Hobby!</i></li> </ul>	