

Volume 5, Issue 4
OVARC E-Mail

April
2013

E-Mail Newsletter



The Monthly Publication of the Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club

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
(PL 103.5)
442.925+

Contesting 101 for Little Pistol

A look at getting started in contesting or improving the station for a better score.

Topics discussed will include the following:

- Improving your Station
- Getting Ready for the Contest
- Studying Propagation
- Improving your score
- Contest Antennas
- Following the Rules
- CW Skimmer
- Reverse Beacon Network
- Feedline maintenance
- Receive Antennas
- Logging Software

**Contest
University**

Thu, May 16, 2013

Crowne Plaza Hotel
Dayton, Ohio USA

PLAN NOW FOR OUR NEXT MEETING

April 4, 2013

7:30 PM

MEETINGS TO PLAN FOR

April 4, 2013
**Contesting 101 for
Little Pistol**

May 2, 2013
**Constitution
& By-laws
Update**

March Meeting Photos, do you see yourself?



Jerry WB9NEY, Lance K2SGS, Kris WB9SLM,
Hope KA9NRW, Cary W4GRN



Makes you wonder doesn't it?



REPEATER UPDATES
Linked repeater system is operational

W9KXQ 147.165 Repeater site

KB9EGI 442.925 Repeater site



The KB9EGI UHF Repeater has been dropping off line due to a power issue that the Repeater Technicians have not been able to figure out. The 100 Watt RF Power Amp was returned to service Friday March 22, along with a different power supply. The circuit breakers are still occasionally being tripped. More research is being to correct the problem.

Location for April 4, 2013 Meeting



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



Future Dates:

April 4, 2013

May 2, 2013

June 6, 2013



**Tim K9XWX presented a program at the March Meeting, "Building a Portable Repeater For Public Service". Tim demonstrated a working repeater that was built from borrowed equipment and also demonstrated the EchoStation Repeater Controller software. He also explained his desire to build both 2 Meter & 70 cm Repeaters for the Clinton County ARES program. The possibility of linking to OVARC's 442.925 Mhz. UHF Repeater was discussed. Tim was encouraged to pursue the linking project. Les N9MFA was a big help supplying equipment and expertise for the program.
(more photos on page 9)**

Minutes Highlights for March 7 , 2013



Vice-President Tim Rapp K9XWX called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday March 7, 2013 in Room 122 of the Kaskaskia College Education Center on Third Street in Greenville. There were 12 people present.

The minutes of the February 7, 2013 meeting were approved. John W9KXQ reported a balance of about \$4,000. We owe Betty about \$2,300 for the gear of her silent key husband, Larry KC9ITK, that we have sold. The report was accepted.

Les N9MFA reported that the KB9EGI 440 repeater is operating on low power (10 watts). We need to find the right fuse for the power supply, or to replace the current power supply. Les had put a 15-second delay on the controller circuit. Marc N9LIS suggested trying another power supply. Les now has a PL tone board for 103.5 for the 440 repeater.

Jim Thibeault KF4NGB was at the Charlotte Hamfest tonight. Cary W4GRN served as one of the VEs at the monthly testing last Saturday at the public library in Highland. Cary reported that at that testing one fellow passed his General exam. He drove all the way from Assumption.

Tim read this month's trivia corner question prepared by KK9N: If the 1964 Presidential election had gone a different way there may have been an amateur radio antenna on the White House. Who was this ham who ran for President? Lance knew that the answer was Senator Barry Goldwater. Hope got to talk to Senator Goldwater in Guam while traveling from Viet Nam to Hawaii.

On ABC's *Last Man Standing* the main character, Ed (played by Tim Allen), is an amateur radio operator. In the episode that will air on March 15 one of the lighted call signs made by our own Jim KF4NGB will be seen on the show. This episode will be the first time that this amateur radio station has actually been used in the storyline, rather than just appearing in the background. The business meeting concluded at 8:02 pm.

Tim K9XWX presented the program on setting up an inexpensive repeater. Tim has been working over a year to get a VHF (145.250- 103.5 tone) and a UHF (443.175+ 103.5 tone) repeater on the air in Clinton County. It is now on the air. Tim showed the surplus radios can be bought for about \$100. He spent \$400 for the controller, and \$70 for the programming software. Duplexers are less than \$100 for UHF, but over \$200 for VHF. Tim found software called EchoStation. It can work with a very basic, old (Pentium I) computer. Tim used a \$110 Signal-Link as an outboard sound card between the radios and which connects via serial port to the computer. Tim demonstrated how this works, avoiding the cost of the controller and duplexer.

Les asked how the club members felt about linking the Clinton County VHF repeater (145.250) to the KB9EGI UHF repeater. Several thought that would be a good idea. Les said that he would need to set up the tone board on the KB9EGI repeater.

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 PM.

Cary Holman W4GRN
Secretary



OVARC Information

Repeaters

147.165, 224.440, 442.925

2013 Officers

President

Ken Norris KK9N
KK9N@ovarc.net

Vice-President

Tim Rapp K9XWX
K9XWX@ovarc.net

Secretary

Cary Holman W4GRN
W4GRN@ovarc.net

Treasurer

Howard Wise N9GEQ
N9GEQ@ovarc.net

Repeater Trustees

John King W9KXQ
 Don Stover KB9EGI
KB9EGI@ovarc.net

V.E. Team Coordinator

Jim KF4NBG
KF4NBG@ovarc.net

Net Manager

Clareen Dunn KB9BEB
KB9BEB@ovarc.net

Webmaster

John King W9KXQ
webmaster@ovarc.net

Website

<http://ovarc.net>

2013 OVARC Officers



Ken KK9N, President



Tim K9XWX, VP



Cary W4GRN, Sec.



Howard N9GEQ, Tres.

CONTEST CORNER

CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB: 1900 hrs CDT, Mar 29 to 1859 hrs CDT, Mar 31

Exchange is Signal Report (RS) + Serial No.

Rules can be found here:

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

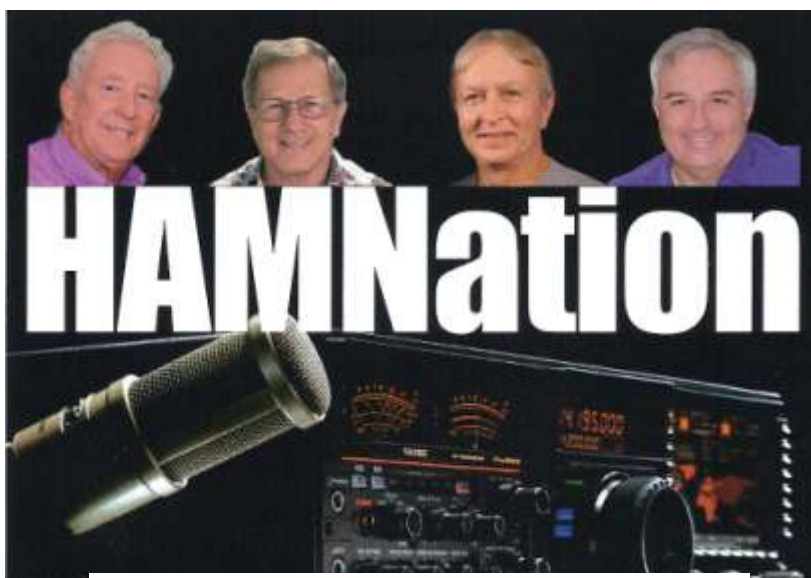
**THIS CONTEST STARTS THIS WEEKEND!
 (March 29th)**

CQ World Wide WPX Contest

Website to checkout—WB8ODF Dave Parks



<http://wb8odf.com/index2.html>



“HAM Nation” a weekly HD video webcast about Ham Radio.

Hosts: Gordo WB6NOA, Bob K9EID, George W5JDX, Leo W6TWT

Wednesday Evenings 8:00 PM CDT
twit network



Jim KF4NBG's newest Call Letter display is on the set of TV Show

“Last Man Standing”

Check Jim's website here:

[Ham Shack Essentials](#)



www.jimsengraving.com

ILLINOIS ARES SSB HF NET 3.905 MHZ LSB

W9FX calls a net at 1630 local time on the first and third Sunday of every month. They are called by Sections and Bond County is in Section or Region 8

Bond County will be called and someone who is an ARES member, or ARES volunteer can check into the net. Every HF station in Bond County is invited if they would like to come on-board. Multiple pathways into your county with information is the goal.



WINLINK 2000



OFFICIAL DIGITAL MODE OF ILLINOIS ARES

Sometime during the week prior to the weekend of the 2nd Sunday Tim will post a message to the Illinois ARES Digital Working Group list with information specific to that month's test. subscribe here:

Illinois ARES Digital Mailing List

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IL_ARES_DWG

Tim McDonough, N9PUZ

IL ARES Assistant SEC - Digital Operations
Sangamon County, Springfield, IL



Regular Events

Club Meetings

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



Visit Us on the Web!!!

<http://ovarc.net>

fieldday.ovarc.net/

If the Weather Net is
Active

Regular Net will not be held!

Net Control Schedule



Claren, 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.

March 31—NO NET- Easter

April 7—Tim K9XWX

April 14—Kris WB9SLM

April 21—Tim K9XWX

April 28—John W9KXQ

May 5—Ken KK9N

May 12—Claren KB9BEB

May 19—Tim K9XWX

May 26—NO NET-Memorial Day

[Download 2013 Schedule here](#)

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@ovarc.net

Articles, New Items,
Corrections, etc.



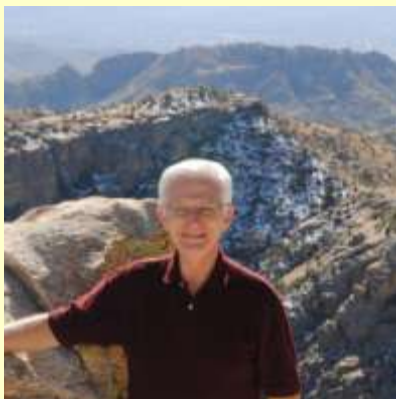
GES Ham Radio Club Activities

None to Report!



Snow & Ice is a good time to start planning for this year's Field Day event. 3 HF stations are being planned along with the GOTA station. We have secured the large main pavilion at Patriot's Park for this year's Field Day. Mark your Calendars now and plan to participate

Lawton KC9SHY & Bob KC9BOZ Field Day 2012



My View from Here! John W9KXQ

It seems that the older I get, the faster the Newsletter deadline comes around. A few short weeks ago, I was basking in the Arizona sun while writing this column. March is over by the time most of you read this. April will have to be an improvement in the weather department over March. I measured 5 inches of snow on my driveway Sunday night March 24, and the official amount for the northeast part of Greenville was 8 inches. Whichever yard stick is correct, it is still a lot of snow. More time to spend in the ham shack. I have been buried in the shack for the past almost 2 weeks. Thanks to Marc N9LIS who sells office furniture, I have replaced my old station desks with new. My desk, that I have had for over 40 years has been given a new home. Clayton KC9WZL has inherited it and is anxious for Grandpa to help him set up his ham station on it. The tradition that I started over 52 years ago will be carried on, and that "old desk" with it. Traditions in Amateur Radio probably explain why we still do some things a certain way. I am confident, that if you take the time to make it to the April meeting you won't be disappointed. Ken, KK9N has a great deal of information about contesting. You say that contesting is not your thing, don't let that keep you away. I am certain you will learn tips for operating your station, or even setting it up in a way to make it more efficient, and no contest is required to do this.

Our May meeting will deal with the adoption of a new constitution and by-laws for the OVARC. Our original constitution has been lost and to own the trailer that was donated to the club by Betty, wife of Silent Key Larry Shenkel KC9ITK, and new constitution will need to be adopted. Plan to make the May meeting as well.

If you have a program you would like to share, please contact Ken KK9N, Tim K9XWX or myself.

Don't forget the April 4th Meeting mark your Calendars.
See you all there. **For Now— from up here! 73!**

Cheap Repeater

What Below are more photos of the portable emergency repeaters that Tim K9XWX & Les N9MFA put together for the March, 2013 meeting.



Seen here are the duplexers, radios, sound interfaces and laptop computer operating the controller software





FCC grants temporary waiver for TDMA

The ARRL reports the FCC issued an Order (WT Docket No, 12-283) on March 25, granting a temporary waiver to transmit communications on amateur service channels above 30 MHz using single time-slot **Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA)** systems. The temporary waiver was granted pending the resolution of a related rulemaking proceeding ([RM-11625](#)).

More information at

<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-grants-arrl-s-request-for-temporary-waiver-for-tdma-systems>



You can order your shirts from Chrystal using this online form: [Order Shirt](#)
Specify "Red Polo for Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club"

SEW UNIQUE (618) 664-2127
Screen Printing
Rhinestones Laser Engraving
Embroidery
The Place To Go For All Your Customized Needs!



Ken's Trivia Corner (KK9N)

Which of the following musicians have NOT held an Amateur Radio License?

Alice Cooper, Ronnie Milsap, Joe Walsh, Jim Croce

The answer and a prize for the winner will be given at the April 4, 2013 meeting



Dues for 2013 due January 1, 2013

Dues for 2013 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

Who's Antenna is this?



Send your guess to:
OVARC@ovarc.net

Winner will be announced



Testing Opportunities

Jim Thibeault KF4NBG
OVARC VE Team

Contact Jim KF4NBG
(618)-409-8284

BecomeAHam@yahoo.com

Saturday April 6, 2013

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

UP GRADES

Dale Brix KC9WXG(General)

Hamfests

Lewis & Clark Amateur Radio Club

April 20, 2013



IL Section Manager

Thomas Ciciora, KA9QPN@arri.org

Central Division Director

George "Dick" Isely, W9GIG@arri.org

Central Div. Vice Director

Kermit Carlson, W9XA@arri.org



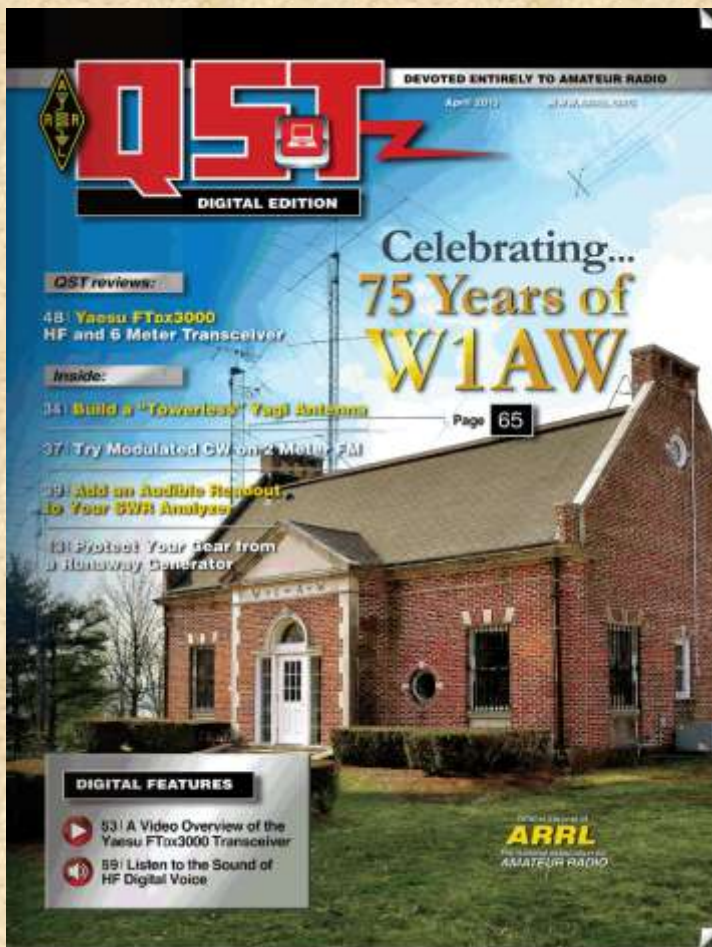
It Seems to Us

David Sumner, K1ZZ – dsumner@arrrl.org
ARRL Chief Executive Officer

Techs on Ten

“Many Technician and Novice amateur licensees overlook the fact that they possess highly desirable operating privileges in the 10 meter band”

If you are an ARRL member or you subscribe to QST, it is worth reading David Sumner's (K1ZZ) view in the April, 2013 issue. Copyright laws keep me from reproducing the entire article, case for the Technician Class Amateur Radio License and privileges that are available to those of us who had to demonstrate our ability to send and receive Morse code. If you are not a member, please consider joining the ARRL.



however he makes the case for the Technician Class Amateur Radio License and privileges that are available. The history of Amateur Radio is of great interest to those of us who had to demonstrate our ability to send and receive Morse code. If you are not a member, please consider joining the ARRL.

www.arrrl.org

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*
- *Learn new technologies for fun*
- *Worldwide Friendships*
- *A Great Hobby!*

April 2013

Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club