

Volume 2, Issue 12
OVARC E-Mail

December
2010

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

Annual Meeting/Christmas Party



Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club elected Officers for 2011 during the annual meeting and Christmas party held at Cunetto's Dec. 2, 2010.

Inside this Issue

Annual Meeting	1
Future Meetings	2
Meeting Location	3
Nov. Minutes synopsis	4
Highlights Nov. Mtg.	5
Website checkout	6
Net Control Schedule	7
KK9N Recognized	8, 9
Ken's Trivia Corner	10
VE Test Date	11
Newsletter Summary	12



Ken KK9N, Cary W4GRN, Howard N9GEQ, John W9KXQ
President | Secretary | Treasurer | Vice President

Club Repeaters

W9KXQ/R
(PL 103.5)

147.165+
224.440-

KB9EGI
442.925+



Hope KA9NRW has served years on the board of Officers will continue to be apart of OVARC!



MEETINGS TO PLAN FOR

January 6 Meeting will consist of a round table discussion about what the members want to see as presentations, talk about their stations, what they want to improve on, what other modes or activities they would like to try, and what other members can do to help them.

Meeting will conclude with a short slideshow to cover all the facets of Amateur Radio to aid in our discussion.

Program needed for February 2011



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=2010-12-02>)
 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



All systems are working. Let's use our repeaters!

Location for January 6, 2011 7:30 PM Meeting

The January 6th meeting will be in the 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:**

**Jan 6, 2011
Feb. 3, 2011**

Okaw Valley ARC Christmas Party attendees Dec. 2, 2010.



Minutes Highlights for November 4, 2010

President John King W9KXQ called the meeting to order at 7:36 PM on Thursday November 4, 2010 in Room 106 of the Kaskaskia College Education Center on Third Street in Greenville. There were 20 people present.

John W9KXQ reported on the status of the 444.250 machine in Carlinville. When lightning struck the tower the polyphaser did its job of protecting the repeater, but the antenna and coax were severely damaged. The estimated costs remaining to repair the Carlinville 444.250 machine is \$1,000. The Macoupin, Montgomery and OVARC clubs each contributed \$400 to the new catastrophic repair fund. The residual will be put into an area catastrophic repair fund.

We were asked to help the local elementary school with its NASA school designation. An amateur from the Chicago area recently contacted the GES teachers about setting up a date for contact with the International Space Station (ISS). January 13-21 is one window for an ISS contact.

The first organizational meeting of the Bond County ARES club was tonight at 6:00 here in this same meeting room. Mike Wilcox reported that officers were appointed. The group does need a treasurer in order to apply for grants.

Ken Norris KK9N asked tonight's trivia corner question: If an in-line VSWR connected to an HF transceiver indicates a 1:1 VSWR when transmitting, does this signify that the antenna is resonant at the transmitted frequency? Several members knew that the answer was no. The prize was given to the newest ham who knew the answer, Andrew Schmitt KC9TDV.

John W9KXQ announced that our Christmas party would be at Cunetto's on December 2. We will gather at 6:00 and eat at 6:30. The cost will be about \$18 per person.

Ken KK9N presented a program on antenna modeling which is done using a computer program to predict and analyze antenna performance. The software can predict antenna performance within 2 or 3 dB. The software allows you to input many variables, including a description of your antenna, your antenna's height, construction materials, ground conditions, impedance, SWR, band width, and to plot directivity. The ground in this area has high conductivity, which makes for more efficient antennas. Ken plugged various values into the modeling software to show how different distances from the ground would affect the performance of given antennas.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.



OVARC Information

Repeaters

147.165, 224.440, 442.925

2011 Officers

President

Ken Norris KK9N
KK9N@ovarc.net

Vice-President

John King W9KXQ
W9KXQ@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 KF4NGB
KF4NGB@ovarc.net

Net Manager

Clareen Dunn KB9BEB
KB9BEB@ovarc.net

Webmaster

John King W9KXQ
webmaster@ovarc.net

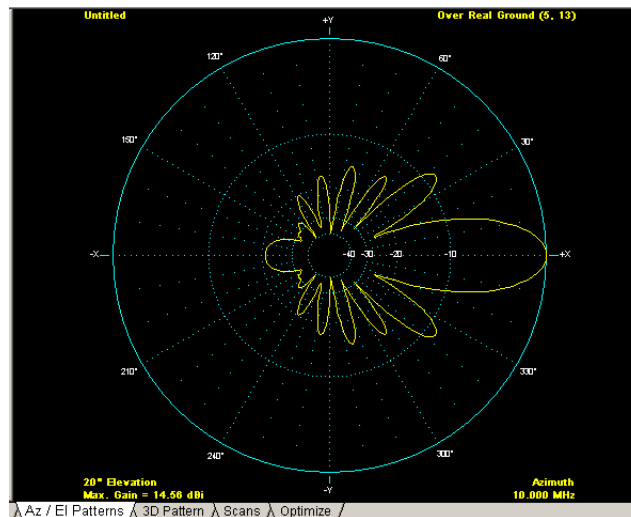
Website

<http://ovarc.net>

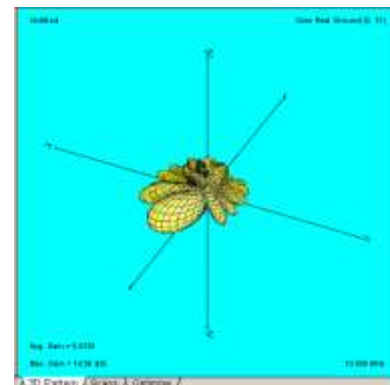
ANTENNA MODELING—What is it?

ANTENNA MODELING software is a wonderful tool for evaluating the pattern of Electro-Magnetic energy radiating from an antenna and the effects of objects surrounding the antenna. This presentation will demonstrate the setup and use of one of the latest antenna modeling software, surprising patterns of different antennas, and how their patterns and performance will be affected.

A what is it and how to use it approach was presented by Ken Norris KK9N at the November 4th Meeting. Photos were not available at press time. (sorry Ken)



Graphical Displays taken from the
Antenna Modeling software demon-
strated by ken.



Website to checkout**[Mammoth Antenna](#)**

This link takes you to the page of a club station from Finland.

They talk about their station, the highlight of which, is a 100 meter tower, with rotatable 160 and 80 meter beams. The booms are so big, that a man can walk inside them. Imagine!!! (Thanks Kris WB9SLM)



Justin KC9SIK, Cameryn KC9SHF, Clayton, John W9KXQ, Tyler

Justin and Cameryn brought the brothers (Hams 2 Be of course) to the Christmas Party. Each of the kids were presented with a small gift compliments of OVARC. (Photos by Cameryn KC9SHF)

Clayten & Tyler (Hams 2 Be)

WorldRadio ONLINE

<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.

Dec. 5 W9KXQ—John
Dec. 12 KB9BEB—Clareen
Dec. 19 WB9SLM—Kris
Dec. 26 NO NET—Christmas
Jan. 2 NO NET—New Year's

Net Control Schedule can be
found at 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

*Articles, New Items,
Corrections, etc.*



The Club honored Ken KK9N for his contributions during 2010 with a one year subscription to CQ Magazine. Presented by John W9KXQ. (Photo by Cameryn KC9SHF)



My View from Here! John W9KXQ

2010 has been a busy year for the Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club (OVARC). We have had great participation and a willingness to step to the challenges of bringing new ham radio operators on board. Our Club managed to help 17 kids in 2009 and 11 in 2010 obtain their ham license and then went above and beyond by providing new radios to many of these young amateur radio operators.

The Greenville Elementary School's NASA program is to be commended for getting OVARC involved in this project. GES is on target to be one of the schools in March, 2011 that will actually be able to talk to the ISS via ham radio. Look forward to the announcement. You will want to be a part of the historic event.

As 2010 comes to a close, I welcome Ken KK9N on board as your president for 2011. Ken is a very capable leader and although very busy agreed to help lead us through next year. I look forward to working with him as your V.P. I plan to retire as Bond County Circuit Clerk in early 2011 and hope to have more time to devote to our hobby and the continued growth of OVARC. A very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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**

This scanner was featured in the Digital Presentation by Bob Lewis KC9BOZ at our May 6, 2010 meeting.

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.

www.will-o-th-wind.com



Marc N9LIS

Engraved Memories

www.JimsEngraving.com



Irene KC9SPA Holding one of Jim's Cups



Cary W4GRN gives instructions for the tabletop Scavenger Hunt!

Photos by Cameryn KC9SHF

Justin KC9SIK and his family along with Marc N9LIS collect items for the Scavenger Hunt!



Ken's Trivial Corner

If you answered a CQ from a station with the call sign of AO1F, where would this station most likely be calling from?

The answer and a prize for the winner will be given at the January 6, 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

If you really want to make a statement with your ham callsign, WB6NOA suggests checking out the etched and lighted callsign plaque from KF4NBG.

CQ Mini-Review:

Etched Lighted Callsign Plaque

BY GORDON WEST,* WB6NOA

I really enjoy attending regional ham-fests. That's where we find local ham radio talent, with products they build in their garages, or maybe a work station at the hamshack!

What I found at one recent show was a great way to display your callsign and name, etched in glass, illuminated by 12 white LEDs within the custom-made wood holder. You can dream up almost any font for name and call letters and have it etched into clear glass, frosted glass, or, the one I chose, the etched mirror. At the Dayton Hamvention® this past May, hams stopped in their tracks and wanted to know the source. Here it is: Jim Thibeault, KF4NBG, Custom Engraving on Ceramics, Glass, Mirrors, and Stone, <www.jimseengraving.com>, phone: 618-409-8284.

"My computerized equipment and state-of-the-art, glass-engraving system can easily do graphics, too—ARRL logo, ARES and RACES images, an antenna tower, and just about anything that a ham might want, in addition to name and call," commented Thibeault, showing off a variety of glass engravings.

"The wood stands are also custom, and I have a variety of colors and clear LEDs to illuminate the etched call letters," added Thibeault, even showing some blinking configurations of color LEDs.

For me, however, the clear LEDs and the mirror finish looked elegant and eye-catching, and as you can see in the photos, it shows up quite nicely, with lots of room lighting or almost no room lighting at all.

Prices vary from \$100 to \$200 depending on the items you want etched on the glass. Contact Jim for more information.

*Contributing Editor, CQ, 2414 College Dr., Costa Mesa, CA 92626
e-mail: <wb6noa@cq-amateur-radio.com>

www.cq-amateur-radio.com



Gordo's etched and lighted call and name sign made by Jim Thibeault, KF4NBG. (See text for details.)



The KF4NBG callsign plaque comes securely wrapped and packaged for safe transit through the mail.



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

Technician Class Questions Change
July 1, 2010

Saturday
January 8, 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

KC9RPF	Mike Huff
KC9SHF	Cameryn Gan
KC9SHG	Travis Neer
KC9SHW	Cody Finley
KC9SHX	Logan Hilmes
KC9SHZ	Kaitlynn Smith
KC9SIA	Josh Brannon
KC9SIB	Tyler Bryant
KC9SIC	Maddy Balducci
KC9SID	Allison confer
KC9SIJ	Alex Moeller
KC9SIK	Justin Rieke
KC9SHY	Lawton File
KC9SPA	Irene Seale

HamFests

Winterfest 2011
January 29, 2011—Collinsville, IL



IL Section Manager

Thomas Ciciora, KA9QPN@ARRL.org

Central Division Director

George "Dick" Isely,
W9GIG@ARRL.org

Central Div. Vice Director

Howard Huntington, 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.


You can park your browser on www.ovarc.net as you can access QRZ.com from the main page.

QRZ callsign lookup:
Callsign lookups provided by qrz.com




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



<p style="text-align: center;">December 2010 Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club</p>	<p>Inside This Issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Officers 2011 • Christmas Party Highlights • Digital Scanner special price • Engraved Memories • And Much More... 	
<p>Want to become a Ham Radio Operator??? Contact us at http://ovarc.net P.O. Box 3 Greenville, IL 62246</p>	<p>Amateur Radio Is...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Community Service</i> • <i>Emergency Communications</i> • <i>Learn new technologies for fun</i> • <i>Worldwide Friendships</i> • <i>A Fun Hobby!</i> 	