

Volume 3, Issue 12
OVARC E-Mail

December
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

ANNUAL MEETING & CHRISTMAS DINNER



At the annual meeting Club Officers were re-elected for 2012 (see page 3). There were 37 in attendance with 23 of them being licensed Ham Radio Operators. Following dinner, Emily KC9UBI shared her experiences watching the Mars rocket launched (page 10). Cary W4GRN provide a Christmas Trivia game with one table the "declared winner". Ken KK9N was recognized for his year of service with a gift (from himself page 12)

PLAN NOW FOR NEXT MEETING

January 5, 2012 7:30 PM

A blue rectangular box with a white border and a folded top-right corner, containing the text "MEETINGS TO PLAN FOR" in bold black capital letters.

January 5, 2012

February 2, 2012



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=2011-12-01>)
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 operational

Location for January 5, 2012 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:

**January 5, 2012
February 2, 2012
March 1, 2012
April 5, 2012
May 3, 2012
June 7, 2012**

OKAW VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 2012 OFFICERS



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

Minutes Highlights for November 3, 2011

President Ken Norris KK9N called to order the meeting of the Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club at 7:37 PM on Thursday November 3, 2011 in Room 103 of the Kaskaskia College Education Center on Third Street in Greenville. Those in attendance signed the sign-in sheet. There were 12 people present.

On motion, the minutes of the October 6, 2011 meeting were approved as read. There was no treasurer's report.

John W9KXQ reported the repeater seems to work well.

Jim KF4NBG reported that the next VE testing will be this coming Saturday in Highland at 10:00 at the public library. At least one amateur is expected to upgrade to General.

Ken reported on the fox hunt that was held last month. Three teams competed. John and Melissa found the fox which was on a military tank support vehicle at the grounds of the American Farm Heritage Museum. Jim and Jeremy found the fox in Patriot's Park. A good time was had by all. Ken presented a first-place certificate to John certifying he found the fox. Ken had "Found the Fox" awards for the juniors, Clayton Gan and Adam.

The Christmas party will be December 1 at Cunetto's. We expect the price will be about \$20. That will be our annual meeting. We will need to have reservations. Let John know whether you plan to attend. We will meet at 6:00 and eat at 6:30.

Cary W4GRN announced that next Thursday night at 6:00 the Illinois chapter of the Society of Broadcast Engineers will meet here in Greenville at the WGRN studios on the Greenville College campus. All are welcome to attend.

Ken Norris KK9N asked the trivia corner question: Why is FSK (frequency shift keying) better to use with RTTY than AFSK (audio frequency shift keying)? John knew that the answer was that FSK generates a purer tone that is easier for the receiver to decode. The default mode for RTTY is USB. The prize was a flashlight.

John W9KXQ presented the program on GMSK Micronode interface for a hotspot for D-STAR. The D-STAR acronym stands for Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio. Currently Icom is the only manufacturer of D-STAR radios. A D-STAR repeater connects to the internet to connect to another D-STAR repeater, so an amateur contact can be thousands of miles away. K0MDG has a D-STAR repeater at Monsanto in St. Louis. A DV Dongle or a DVAP (DV access point) can be used to turn your computer into a D-STAR communication device. A D-STAR hotspot creates RF access to the D-STAR network without a D-STAR repeater. DVAR (Digital Voice for Amateur Radio) The software is free. John tried to demonstrate the capability in a QSO with Tim, N9PUZ.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Cary Holman W4GRN
Secretary



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 KF4NBG
KF4NBG@ovarc.net

Net Manager

Clareen Dunn KB9BEB
KB9BEB@ovarc.net

Webmaster

John King W9KXQ
webmaster@ovarc.net

Website

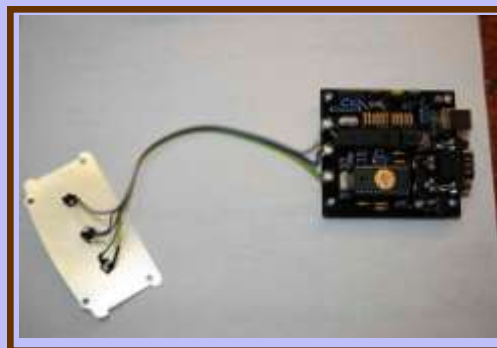
<http://ovarc.net>

GMSK MicroNode Hotspot for D-STAR & FIELD DAY 2011 WRAP-UP

John, W9KXQ demonstrated the technology available for using D-Star (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio) in areas where there is no D-STAR repeaters using a spare analog radio and a D-STAR handheld. The demonstration included a working GMSK Micronode "Hot-Spot".



John W9KXQ



Inside the Micronode box



Micronode Hotspot

A D-STAR hotspot creates RF access to the D-STAR network without a D-STAR repeater.

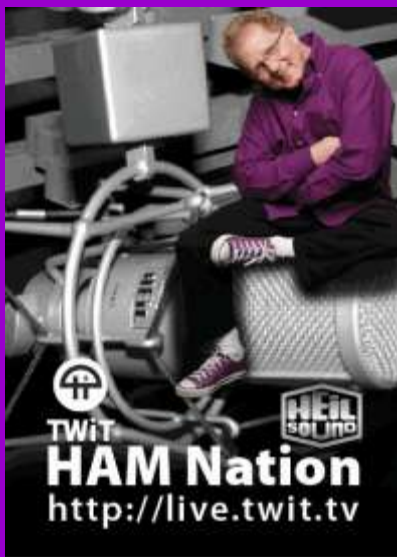
Website to checkout



Santa Claus Land maintained in Finnish Lappand in the Arctic Circle.

Check it out here:

<http://www.oh9ab.com/oh9scl>



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

It is hosted by

Bob Heil K9EID, Leo Laporte W6TWT & Gordon West WB6NOA

Tuesday Evenings 8:00 PM CDT

twit network

<http://twit.tv>



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.



ARES HF Digital Net December 11, 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



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!

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.

- Dec. 11—Howard N9GEQ**
- Dec. 18—John W9KXQ**
- Dec. 25—NO NET CHRISTMAS**
- Jan. 1—NO NET NEW YEARS**
- Jan. 8—Claren KB9BEB**
- Jan. 15—Hope KA9NRW**
- Jan. 22—Kris WB9SLM**
- Jan. 29—Howard N9GEQ**
- Feb. 5—John W9KXQ**

Visit Us on the Web!!!

<http://ovarc.net>

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

10 Students at the Annual Meeting Dec. 1



For OVARC's Annual Meeting and Christmas Dinner 10 students were in attendance. Of the 10, 6 were licensed amateurs, 2 are "Hams in Waiting" and 1 is a "Wait and see if I really want to get my license" (oops I left Grace out of the photo-sorry)



My View from Here! John W9KXQ

I want to thank each of you that attended the Annual Meeting and Christmas Party on December 1. We had a record number of members and guests attend. 37 were there for dinner which included 10 Elementary and Jr. High students. A total of 23 were licensed Ham Radio Operators. Given the economic downturn, this is a great showing. I know there were several who wanted to attend but were unable due to jobs, sickness and money being short this Christmas time. I appreciate all of you that were able to attend. It was a fun evening with a couple of surprises. Emily's (KC9UBI) presentation was a hit. At only 11 years of age, she had an interesting experience to share. I want to take this opportunity to thank Emily for a fantastic job and for the very special ornament she presented to me. I failed to get a photo of the presentation but as you can see by the photo above it is very special. I am just finishing my 11th month of retirement and have had a great time being more involved with my hobby (Ham Radio). I have met many wonderful kids who now have their Ham license and was able to help with the ISS contact in May. I was able to take in the Dayton Hamvention with a good group from our club. This group saw to it that I didn't come away from the Hamvention without a new HF antenna. My new SteppIR 3 element beam arrived in early September and I have had a lot of great help to get my tower and antenna up and operating. It has been a labor of love and already I have been able to share my station with some of our young Hams. With 10 Meters coming to life, and Technicians having 10 Meter privileges some were able to operate using their own call and talk to DX stations. I hope to be able to open my station to more kids in 2012. I would encourage each of you to do the same. The thrill of working a DX station for the first time only gets better when you are able to see one of our young Hams make that DX contact. Send me a note if you want to adopt a young Ham for an hour or two and I will try to make it happen. I want to take this opportunity to wish each of you a Merry Christmas. **73 from up here!**

GES Ham Radio Club Activities

December 2011



Emily KC9UBI

Emily KC9UBI made a presentation at the Annual meeting. She and her family took a trip over Thanksgiving break to Merritt Island, Florida (Brevard County) where they watched the launch of Curiosity. The Mars Science Laboratory was launched from Cape Canaveral. The one-ton, car size exploration vehicle was sent to Mars using an Atlas Five Rocket. Following the launch, Emily and her family met Roy W6QCM who gave them a tour of the emergency communications unit pictured below.



For those of you that missed the Christmas Party, you missed out on some crazy fun! And yes, these are all licensed Ham Radio Operators!

Emily KC9UBI, Cameryn KC9SHF holding Alexis KC9VAK, Anne KC9UBE, Kimberly KC9PBA

At the November 3, 2011 meeting President Ken KK9N presented certificates to all of the Fox Hunt winners. On hand to receive their certificates were Jeremy Adams (Jim KF4NBG's grandson) and John W9KXQ.



Jeremy & Ken KK9N

Ken KK9N & John W9KXQ



Ken's Trivial Corner (KK9N)

During WWII several amateurs were recruited to work at a secret wireless listening and decoding station in England that intercepted communications from the Germans and contributed a great deal towards shortening the war. What is the name given this post and of what branch of the government did they work under?

The answer and a prize for the winner will be given at the January 5, 2012 meeting



Dues for 2012 due January 1, 2012

Dues for 2012 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

QR Code

From Wikipedia—"A QR code (abbreviated from Quick Response code) is a type of [matrix barcode](#) (or two-dimensional code) first designed for the automotive industry. More recently, the system has become popular outside of the industry due to its fast readability and comparatively large storage capacity. The code consists of black modules arranged in a square pattern on a white background. The information encoded can be made up of any kind of data (e.g., binary, alphanumeric, or Kanji symbols) "

Try it out with your Smartphone App.



Amateur License Current?

Don't be caught with an expired Amateur Radio License. Find your license now and make sure of its expiration date!



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

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

**Saturday January 7, 2012
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

KC9VAK

Alexis James

UP GRADES

K9WDL

Jon Sugg **EXTRA**

KC9UZQ

Rick Burgess **EXTRA**

KC9KBB

Don Clements **EXTRA**

HamFests Winterfest

Saturday, January 28, 2012 8:00A -1P



IL Section Manager

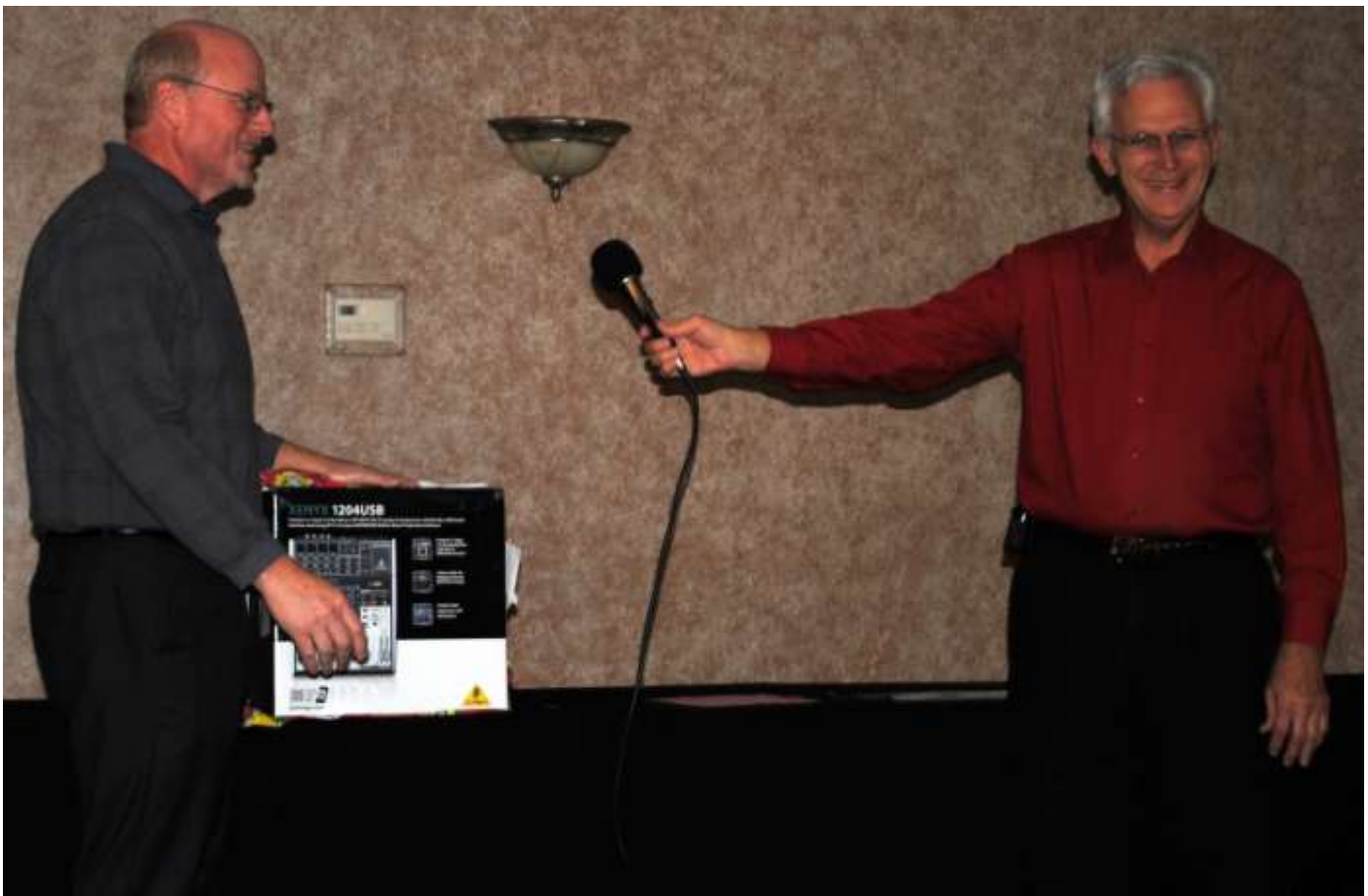
Thomas Ciciora, KA9QPN@arrl.org

Central Division Director

George "Dick" Isely, W9GIG@arrl.org

Central Div. Vice Director

Kermit Carlson, W9XA@arrl.org



President Ken KK9N is presented with a new Mic Mixer for his Ham Shack of course, you understand he picked it out, paid for it and had it shipped to a trusted friend! Enjoy your new toy Mr. President!

December 2011
Okaw Valley Amateur
Radio Club

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- November Meeting Highlights
- Santa Claus is a Ham Radio Operator
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- QR Codes
- KC9UBI and the Mars Science Laboratory



***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 Fun Hobby!*