

Volume 2, Issue 2
OVARC E-Mail

February
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

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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

PRESENTATION RESCHEDULED FROM JAN. 2010



"Why Too Low a VSWR Can Kill Your Signal"

Presented by Ken Norris KK9N
February 4, 2010 7:30 PM
KC Greenville Learning Center
Greenville, IL

A look into the Myths and Misconceptions of Antennas and Transmission Lines. Based on the teachings of Walter Maxwell, W2DU and Lew Gordon, K4VX.

Walter still holds his original call, W8KHK, and in addition, he is the trustee of K2BSA, the station of the National Headquarters Radio Club, Boy Scouts of America.

Lew now lives in Missouri and began construction on his current contest station. Lew's School of Contesting reopened in 1981 where KR0Y, KM9P, AG9A, W9WI, WX3N, WX9E and others have polished their contesting skills over the years. Lew says future plans are for "more towers and more antennas."

You won't want to miss Ken's Program on VSWR myths. (more details on page 5)

[Mark Feb. 4, 2010 on your calendar now](#)

E-Mail Newsletter Style Change

For the past several years, our monthly newsletter has changed very little. This new format should not only be easier to read but should hopefully be easier to edit and for those of you who wish to print it, it should be easier on the eyes. Photos will be an additional part of the newsletter with a copy available from our website as we roll into 2010.

Your comments and criticism will be greatly appreciated. E-mail me at:
W9KXQ@ovarc.net



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=2010-01-21>)
If you are a member of ARRL, why not sign up for your weekly email copy?

REPEATER UPDATES

442.925 Repeater is down for repairs due to failed power supply. Some planned changes includes new power supply and Sub-audible tone encoder/decoder.

Meeting Location for Feb. 4, 2010 Meeting

The February 4th meeting will be in a new location—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:

March 4, 2010—Room 118 Science Lab

April 1, 2010—Room 118 Science Lab

May 6, 2010—Room 118 Science Lab

June 3, 2010—To be announced

YAHOO! GROUPS

Welcome to the Yahoo site of Fox Amateur Radio News (F.A.R.N.). We will provide a meeting place and forum where those with similar interests share their experiences about the Amateur Radio Hobby.

We will cover, but not limited to: Technical Subjects, Amateur Contesting, Local Radio Club Activity's, other amateur radio news such as F.C.C. rule changes.

Membership approval by the moderator is required. When asking for membership be sure to include your call sign.

This Yahoo Group is for all of you...not just me.

Its to promote the greater St. Louis area & its Amateur Radio Club's activity.

For Amateur Radio Club Officers or Repeater Owners...contact me if you need anything posted. My goal is to allow a member of a each club the ability to have access to this site without me reviewing it. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Foxamateurradionews/>



Thanks Brent Lee Cameron / N9NJS

Moderator / Owner

n9njs1@charter.net

Minutes Highlights for Jan. 7, 2009

The January 7th meeting was cancelled due to a snow storm that yielded over 3 inches of snow.



National Weather Service St. Louis Spotter Training Schedule

Winter/Spring 2010

Keep checking the schedule. More classes will be added in the coming months.

Classes are open to everyone! Classes already held are colored in blue.

- Feb 3, 2010 Clinton Co. IL
6:30PM Trenton Police Dept.
Meeting Room
25 W. Indiana St.
Contact Cindy Dawson 618-910-9293
- Feb 18, 2010 Montgomery Co. IL Hillsboro
6:30pm Moose Lodge 411 S. Main
Contact Diana Holmes 217-532-9560
- Feb 23, 2010 Bond Co. IL
6:30 PM Greenville Fire Protection Dist. Fire Station
Rt. 127 (Harris Ave.)
Greenville, IL 62246
Contact Allan Davis WB9YVE 618-664-1911
- Feb 24, 2010 St. Clair Co. IL O'Fallon, IL
6:30pm O'Fallon City Hall
255 S. Lincoln Ave



OVARC Information

Repeaters

147.165, 224.440, 442.925

2010 Officers

President

John King W9KXQ
W9KXQ@ovarc.net

Vice-President

Hope Walker KA9NRW
KA9NRW@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>



Additional Notes on Ken KK9N's Presentation for February 4, 2010

Some of the topics Ken will be discussing in the presentation include:

1. When is Ladder Line a better fit than Coaxial Cable?
2. Where does the reflected RF power go, and what is re-reflection?
3. What happens to the RF current that is not converted to electro-magnetic waves at the antenna?
4. What is the difference between a Voltage Balun and a Current Balun?
5. Who developed and first used Coaxial Cable?
6. What is a Trans Match?
7. What is Common Mode Currents, and what do you use to minimize them?
8. What is Antenna Efficiency and why do the manufactures not want you to know about it?
9. What is a compromise antenna?
10. How efficient is an 80 Meter mobile antenna?



Remotely tunable HF mobile antenna





E-Mail addresses: Would you like one?

OVARC@ovarc.net

Not a member of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), but still would like to have your call letters as part of your email address? Easy to remember, and easy to manage, your call letters @ovarc.net forwarded to your current email address.

The ARRL provides this E-Mail forwarding service to its members. As we use the Internet more and more, we find that being an active Ham Radio Operator in this day requires us to have an E-Mail address. Often, we don't want to provide our main E-Mail address. We have the solution for 2010. The Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club will begin providing "E-Mail Forwarding" to its members. There is no cost for this service as it is part of the hosting package for our domain name (ovarc.net).

New for 2010 each club member will be entitled to have this service setup for their call letters when you pay your dues for 2010. Howard N9GEQ will be happy to collect your dues at the february meeting on Thursday Jan. 7th, or you can mail them to Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 3, Greenville, IL 62246. Please include your current E-Mail address. The E-Mail Forwarding service will be setup within a couple of days for your use. You can test it by sending your self an email at the newly created address.

For example, W9KXQ@ovarc.net is an active E-Mail address that has been forwarded to my regular E-Mail address. You may use Capital letters as in the example above or lower case letters when typing it or giving it to someone. Capital letters are easier to read, however the E-Mail server does not care which case you use. It is not case sensitivity.

Since this a free service of OVARC for its members, I encourage each of you to pay your 2010 dues and sign up for the E-Mail Forwarding service.

I have already set up this service for the Club Officers and you can email them using this new service.

John

W9KXQ

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 January 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

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

Jan. 31 KB9BEB—Clareen
Feb. 7 KA9NRW—Hope
Feb. 14 WB9SLM—KRis
Feb. 21 N9GEQ—Howard
Feb. 28 W9KXQ—John

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.

Greenville Elementary School Hams

July 27, 2009

As exciting as it is to see someone get their first amateur radio license, it's even more exciting to see a roomful do so. But what if that roomful were fourth graders? Yes, fourth graders. That's what happened in Greenville, Illinois recently. In four testing sessions spanning three months 17 students at Greenville Elementary School (GES) earned their technician licenses. But that was after three of their teachers earned their tickets.

It all started two years earlier when members of the Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club (OVARC) were contacted by teachers at the local elementary school asking for help with their application to be designated a NASA school. OVARC, chartered in 1974, has members from seven counties in southwestern Illinois (www.ovarc.net). Fourth grade teacher Donna Carlson read in the application that the school's chances of getting the NASA school designation would be improved by working cooperatively with a local amateur radio club. Their goal was not only to get the NASA school designation, but also to have a QSO with the International Space Station. The amateurs were glad to help.

In March 2007 three GES fourth grade teachers passed the test for their Technician class license: Donna KC9LEG, Jackie KC9LEH and Karen KC9LEI. Then Kim KA9NQG got involved. She created a PowerPoint for the students to study for their exam. CD copies were made for each of the 20+ fourth grade students. Club members met students after school to help them get started. The students took their CDs home and got to work. And the teachers conducted study sessions after school.

After the 2008 Christmas holidays a date was set for the first testing session. Only two students passed during the first testing session, but three more passed a couple of weeks later. Then in the third testing session nine more students got their ticket and in the fourth testing session three more. All told 17 youngsters were licensed. It was hard to tell who was more excited, the students or their teachers and the VEs—Jiim Thibeault KF4NBG,

John King W9KXQ, Hope Walker KA9NRW, and Cary Holman W4GRN. In May the students participated in a mini Field Day through a cooperative effort between the local school and the Okaw Valley ARC. Students and their parents were also invited to attend Field Day 2009. The teachers now await word on their application for a QSO with the International Space Station. The sky is the limit for these new young hams.

By Cary Holman W4GRN
521 N. Locust
Greenville, IL 62246
W4GRN@arrl.net

This article was submitted to ARRL for publication. It will appear in a future *ARRL*



12 of the 17 new Ham Radio Operators referenced in the article. This is a March, 2009 photo.

**St. Louis KØMDG D-Star Repeater
2 Meters (Module C) Frequency Change
147.015 Mhz. +600 Khz**
www.modigitalgroup.org

Important Information Regarding Frequency Change

The 2 meter module, module C, frequency was changed in December. This is to eliminate frequency interference to an adjacent analog repeater system.

The St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club, Inc.

PRESENTS



The largest Hamfest in the area!

January 30, 2009 (See Page 9)

OVARC has 2 tables reserved for this event. Contact John W9KXQ if you want to share the space.

W9KXQ@ovarc.net



www.slrc.org

A Google Calendar has been added to our website. Click on **Calendar of Events** from our main webpage www.ovarc.net.

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

Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club						
Today: Jan 27, 2010						
Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8
	NET 7:00 PM Local Net NC: K4R99W					How V.E. Testing
	10	11	12	13	14	15
	NET 7:00 PM Local Net NC: W8YSLR					
	17	18	19	20	21	22
	NET 7:00 PM Local Net NC: N8GEC					
	24	25	26	27	28	29
	NET 7:00 PM Local Net NC: W9KXQ					Winterfest 2010
	31	Feb 1	2	3	4	5
	NET 7:00 PM Local Net NC: K8HDEB					How V.E. Testing



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

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

**You can pay Howard at club meet-
ings or send a check made payable
to Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 3 Greenville, IL 62246**



Weather Stations Online

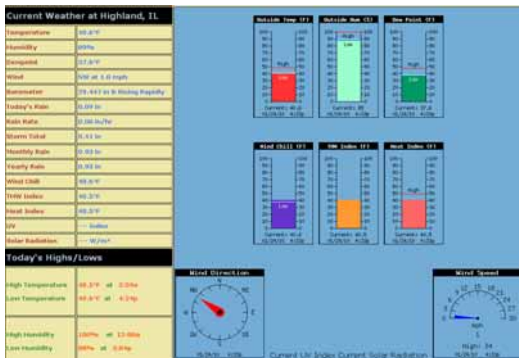
There are hundreds if not thousands of Ham Radio Operators that have their weather stations on line.

Just one of them has come to light.



Jon Sugg K9WDL has his weather station in Highland, IL online. Jon is a charter member of Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club and was very involved in the early days of

the installation, care and maintenance of our 2 meter repeater. Jon and his wife Grace reside in Highland where he operates a State Farm Insurance Agency. He graduated from Greenville High School and was responsible for electronic confusion on the high school campus during his 4 years.



Website: www.sugg.cc



**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

**Saturday Feb. 6, 2010 10:00 AM
Saturday March 6, 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.

Hamfests

Winterfest 2010

**January 30, 2010
Gateway Center**

One Gateway Drive

Collinsville, IL 52234

2 tables reserved for OVARC

New Members to the Club

**Please Welcome:
Joe Niederhofer K9RJN
Centralia, IL (K9RJN@ovarc.net)**



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 website. 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

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					

<p>January 2010 Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club</p>	<p>Inside This Issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New E-mail addresses • Google Calendar on website • 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>Electronics and Communications Training</i> • <i>Local and International Friendships</i> • <i>A National Resource!</i>