

Volume 3, Issue 2  
OVARC E-Mail

February  
2011

# 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**  
**442.925+**

## February Meeting – Balloon Launching



**John Alber of Highland, IL will be giving a presentation on balloon launching.**

**His presentation will include designing, building, launching, and tracking balloons. John is an experienced pilot and has been involved in Greenville Airport activities for many years. You will find his presentation most informative and entertaining.**

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

Photos for this issue  
provided by Larry KC9ITK

A No-Nonsense Amateur Radio Study Guide

### Technician Class



License Study Guide

Technician Class License for your  
Kindle available at Amazon for  
\$9.99 by Dan Romanchik KB6NU

[Click Here](#)

Don Romanchik, KB6NU

kindle edition



**MEETINGS TO PLAN FOR**

**March 2011**

**FOX HUNTING HAM RADIO STYLE  
Radio Direction Finding (AKA Fox  
Hunting). Plans for a OVARC  
sponsored Fox Hunt later this  
year.**

**Program needed for April 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=2011-01-27>)  
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 February 3, 2011 7:30 PM Meeting

The January 6th meeting was 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:**

**March 3, 2011  
April 7, 2011  
May 5, 2011  
June 2, 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 January 6, 2011

President Ken Norris KK9N called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM on Thursday January 6, 2011 in Room 106 of the Kaskaskia College Education Center on Third Street in Greenville. There were 15 people present.

The minutes of the November 4 and December 2, 2010 meetings were read and approved.

Howard Wise N9GEQ reported a balance of \$603.15. He was glad that John W9KXQ was not present to hear the report and find places to spend the funds.

Jim Thibeault KF4NBN reported that the next VE testing will be this coming Saturday in Highland. At the November testing two new hams passed their Technicians Class exam and one upgraded to General. One of those taking an exam drove from Decatur.

Announcements included that Winterfest is coming up January 29, that 2011 dues are due (\$25 to Howard, N9GEQ), that the ARISS contact for GES is now planned for May 2-8, and that an informational club database may be developed.

Ken KK9N asked the trivia corner question: If you answer a CQ from AO1F where would he likely be calling from? Several knew that Spain was the answer. AC6V has a large data base of locations of calls worldwide. Kris WB9SLM won the prize.

Ken KK9N presented a PowerPoint presentation overview of amateur radio—definition, amateur television, antenna building, automatic packet reporting system (APRS), amateur radio on the International Space Station (ARISS), certificates, balloon launches, contesting, digital modes (CW, PSK-31, RTTY, slow scan TV, EchoLink, Internet Radio Linking Project IRLP), DXpeditions, chasing DX, emergency response services (RACES, ARES), earth moon earth EME, meteor showers, fox hunting/ amateur radio direction finding, home brewing, mobile/ portable, nets, collecting QSL cards, QRP, satellites, severe weather spotting, vintage amateur radios, VHF/ UHF/ microwave, and socializing club activities. Members expressed interest in a program on fox hunting. Hope knows a fellow in Highland who recently launched a balloon and would probably present a program.

Mike NF9M announced that there will be an ARES training session on January 22 at a location to be determined.



## 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 KF4NBG  
[KF4NBG@ovarc.net](mailto:KF4NBG@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>

## Photos from January 2011 meeting!





**Website to checkout**

**[QRZ.Com/Leo Meyerson W0GFQ](http://QRZ.Com/Leo_Meyerson_W0GFQ)**

**Leo Meyerson W0GFQ celebrates 100th Birthday in February, 2011**

**Check out QRZ.com information on the Amateur Radio Pioneer.**



## **New General Class Question Pool Released**

**December 7, 2010**

**ARLX008 NCVEC Releases New General Class Question Pool**

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) released the new General class (Element 3) question pool on Tuesday, December 7. This new question pool -- including graphics and diagrams -- will become effective for all General class examinations administered on or after July 1, 2011; it will remain valid until June 30, 2015. The current General question pool that became effective July 1, 2007 will expire June 30, 2011. The new General pool contains 457 questions, from which 35 are selected for an Element 3 examination. The current Technician class question pool that was effective July 1, 2010 is valid through June 30, 2014. The current Amateur Extra class pool that was effective July 1, 2008 is valid until June 30, 2012.

# WorldRadio ONLINE

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

## “No Host” Ham Radio Breakfast

**Saturday, February 26, 2011 @ 9:00 AM**

**Golden Corral Restaurant  
I-55/I-72 South Sixth Street Exit by Wal-Mart  
Springfield, IL**

**An opportunity to get together, renew old friendships, make new ones, and share a bit of amateur radio camaraderie. Oh yeah, we'll probably eat a lot too!**

**Tim, N9PUZ  
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!

**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-**

- Jan. 30 W9KXQ—John**
- Feb. 6 KB9BEB—Clareen**
- Feb. 13 KA9NRW—Hope**
- Feb. 20 WB9SLM—Kris**

**nings. The net control stations  
are on a rotating schedule.**

**Net Control Schedule can be  
found at [www.ovarc.net/calendar](http://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](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

On January 31, 2011 I will be retiring from my elected position as Bond County Circuit Clerk. During my 14 years, I have been given a wonderful opportunity to serve the citizens of Bond County. I have also had a great opportunity to learn about and be involved in new communications technologies including the upgrading of Bond County's 911 system, and the installation of the Starcom digital communications system. During these 14 years, the Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club has enjoyed some positive growth. We have seen

our repeater systems expand to a wide-area repeater that encompasses hundreds of square miles. Over 25 new ham radio operators have joined our ranks through the efforts of this Club. We have been exposed to many facets of Amateur Radio brought to us by many of you. I am aware that each member of OVARC has many interests and much expertise. I want to encourage each of you to consider putting together a program or a project that you can share with our group. Many of us are always willing to help put a presentation together, but a few can't do as good as many.

During 2011 as Ken KK9N leads us please consider contacting him about helping with a meeting program or project. Share the fun that you are having with this wonderful hobby. (kk9n@ovarc.net)

As I contemplate retirement, I look forward to spending more time learning about this wonderful hobby that I have enjoyed for almost 50 years. I hope that each of you will be challenged by the new technologies that we will see during this year and that you just jump in with both feet and enjoy our hobby.



# 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.

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



Marc N9LIS

*Engraved Memories*

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



Irene KC9SPA Holding one of Jim's Cups

On Feb 24th QCWA Chapter 154 in West Palm Springs is celebrating Leo's 100th birthday. For those that don't remember Leo owned and operated World Radio Laboratories in Council Bluffs, IA for many years.

So here's the plan, take a QSL card, write 'Happy 100th Birthday Leo' on it and send it to:

Leo Meyerson, WØGFQ  
19 Park Lane  
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

Gene Pentecost, President of Chapter 154 will make sure they get to the party so everyone that attends can enjoy them.

One last thing, tell every ham you know to do the same thing, QCWA member or not. Spread the word, at every radio club meeting you attend, at every net you check into.

I want Leo to get hundreds, maybe even thousands of cards.

tnx es 73,  
Bob Roske, NØUF



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

What type of transmission is indicated by the term NTSC? Is it in use today in the USA?

The answer and a prize for the winner will be given at the February 6, 2011 meeting.

By Ken Norris KK9N



**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

The St. Louis and Suburban Radio Club, Inc. PRESENTS



The largest Hamfest in the area!

*Winterfest ~ 1/29/2011*

The up-coming Winterfest will be on Saturday, January 29, 2011 with doors opening at 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM for the general public.

OVARC has reserved two (2) tables for use by club members. Contact Ken KK9N, Cary W4GRN or John W9KXQ if you have items you want taken in early. We will be admitted at 7:00 AM to set up. (If you use the table, don't forget to kick in a few \$\$ for the cost)

We will see you all there!

<http://www.slsrc.org/winterfest.html>



**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  
February 5, 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](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 website. 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



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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>	