

Volume 5, Issue 6
OVARC E-Mail

June
2013

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

Inside this Issue

June Meeting	1
Future Meetings	2
May Mtg. Highlights	3
May Mtg. Minutes	4
'13 Officers & Mandy	5
Website checkout ✓	6
Net Control Schedule	7
My View From Here!	8
Amateurs for Signal	10
Who's Tower is This?	11
State Wide WinkLink	12

Club Repeaters

W9KXQ/R
(PL 103.5)

147.165+
224.440-

KB9EGI
(PL 103.5)
442.925+

The Monthly Publication of the Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club

FIELD DAY PREPARATIONS FOR 2013



June 16-23, 2013 has been Proclaimed Amateur Radio Week by
Governor Pat Quinn and further recognized Field Day.
Copy of Proclamation can be downloaded [here](#).



PLAN NOW FOR OUR NEXT MEETING

**NOTE!!
DATE
CHANGE**

June 13, 2013

7:30 PM

MEETINGS TO PLAN FOR

June 13, 2013
Field Day Prep
(DATE CHANGED)

NO
JULY
MEETING

May Meeting Photos, do you see yourself?



The May meeting was well attended thanks to Jim N9LQF and several from the Macoupin County Amateur Radio Club



REPEATER UPDATES
Linked repeater system is operational

W9KXQ 147.165 Repeater site

KB9EGI 442.925 Repeater site



The 100 Watt Amp on the UHF (KB9EGI Repeater) has failed and had to be taken off line. It will be serviced and reinstalled as soon as possible. The sub-audible tone board and our repaired RC-96 controller should be installed at the same time.

Location for June 13, 2013 Meeting



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



Future Dates:
NO JULY MEETING

August 1, 2013
September 5, 2013
October 3, 2013

Statewide RMS Packet Station Network Progress Report



Jim Pitchford



N9LQF, Macoupin County Emergency Management Agency's manager provided details of the Statewide Winlink 2000 VHF Packet System. The project includes all counties in the state and when completed will provide backup communications among all Illinois Counties. See [page 12](#) of this issue for more details. Jim, a Certified Emergency Manager with extensive background in Incident Management, explained how this statewide system came into being and how it will work once it is implemented. With the help of Alan Davis WB9YVE (Bond County's ESDA Director) the Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club will help to implement this program in the Illinois counties that we cover. Thanks to Jim for his energetic presentation.

Minutes Highlights for May 2 , 2013



President Ken Norris KK9N called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday May 2, 2013 in Room 106 of the Kaskaskia College Education Center on Third Street in Greenville. There were 23 people present—eight of whom were guests. A quorum was found to be present.

The minutes of the April 18, 2013 meeting were approved. Howard Wise N9GEQ reported a balance of \$5,097.86. Three checks are outstanding—one to Betty Shenkel (\$2,124), one to Betty Johnson (\$255), and one to Krail Lattig (\$50), leaving a balance of \$2,666.44. The treasurer's report was approved.

John W9KXQ reported that problems with our 440 repeater continue. Since the last meeting we have purchased a new 30 amp switching power supply and a UPS (uninterruptible power supply) which are not yet installed. This should resolve the power problem in the moment when the backup generator is tested each week.

Jim Thibeault KF4NGB reported that the next VE testing will be this coming Saturday in Highland. Two have pre-registered to take their test—one for General and one for Technician. At the April testing no one showed up. There are enough VEs for this Saturday's testing.

The June meeting has been moved to the second Thursday in June. The Hamvention in Dayton is later this month. Field Day is the 22 & 23 of June—the fourth full weekend. Members who plan to attend Field Day raised their hands. Ken distributed a list of those who volunteered in 2012 to bring items. Everyone agreed to bring this year what they brought last year. Cary W4GRN will bring his Kenwood TS-570 for our third station.

John reported that our attorney has recommended some changes in the OVARC constitution and bylaws that were presented at last month's meeting. Among those changes, the attorney will file to make OVARC a not-for-profit corporation. This would make a tax advantage to anyone who donated to OVARC. The attorney has been working pro bono. We plan to vote on the documents at the June meeting.

Ron, KOØZ distributed fliers for the West Central Illinois Old Fashioned hamfest on Saturday, August 3 in Carlinville. He also showed awards forms. Jim N9LQF mentioned the TryGrid Award that they use in the Macoupin County ARC.

The antenna in this month's newsletter belongs to KK9N. It is a Type N vertical dipole. It has a very low takeoff angle and is designed for DX.

Ken Norris KK9N asked the trivia corner question: What is Team Vertical and what is their ultimate goal? Jim KF4NGB said it is a team that operates in the Bahamas. Ken said that the team uses vertical antennas only. Their goal is to break all records with vertical antennas. More information is available at K2KW.com

Jim Pitchford N9LQF presented our program on the statewide packet information network. Jim has worked in emergency management since 1986 and has been an amateur radio operator since 1989. RACES and ARES are two of the organizations that provide communication through amateur radio during emergencies. The narrow banding that has occurred recently with State Police radios has meant that the radios they had used became obsolete. Jim explored ways to modify those radios to operate on 145.610 for a statewide packet communication system. There are about 900 radios available for use throughout the state of Illinois. To set up a station, in addition to one of these radios one would need coax, an antenna, and a TNC. The RMS packet system is working in Springfield. EchoLink can also be useful. Jim answered questions.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40.

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.

Do You Know Her?
See Ken's Trivial Corner
[Page 10](#) for more



Website to checkout-Contest University just completed its 7th year providing instructions to hundreds of ham radio operators. The courses offered are not just for contesters, but other areas of amateur radio use including software, new technologies and antenna principles.



http://www.contestuniversity.com/main/page_home.html



Ham Nation broadcast live from Dayton Hamvention (George, Gordo, Bob) May 17, 2013

“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



Jim KF4NBG
at Dayton Hamvention
May, 2013

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.



If the Weather Net is
Active

Regular Net will not be held!

Visit Us on the Web!!!

<http://ovarc.net>

fieldday.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.

May 26—NO NET-Memorial Day
June 2—Kris WB9SLM
June 9—Kris WB9SLM
June 16—John W9KXQ
June 23—Ken KK9N
June 30—Clareen KB9BEB
July 7—Tim K9XWX
July 14—Kris WB9SLM
July 21—Clareen KB9BEB

[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.



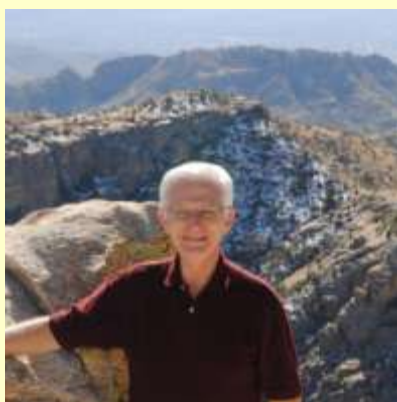
FIELD DAY 2013 Activities



At the June 13th meeting we will finalize the 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.

Alexis KC9VAK & her brother Matt @ Field Day 2012

2
0
1
2



My View from Here! John W9KXQ

Dayton Hamvention 2013 is in the history books. There were over 24,000 like minded individuals that made it to Dayton this past weekend. There were many new gadgets, radios and "toys" that I will postpone covering until a later date, if I remember! The Hamvention ended on Sunday May 19th and just before 3:00 PM the next day (May 20th) a tornado of historical proportions hit Moore, OK followed by a tornado that hit Mt. Olive, IL. It can happen to us! Often we take weather spotting and reporting for granted, but without our eyes and ears, the National Weather Service (NWS) works with a handicap. This handicap is lessened with our participation in severe weather spotting and reporting. As I listened to the storms in our area unfold on our 2 meter repeater, I heard WXØSTL request reports from Bond County. I was not alone in making a report as others reported for Bond County as well. The storm passed Bond County and then Jim N9LQF reported that he had just been called out to a reported tornado strike in Mt. Olive. Again, Amateur Radio was being used to talk directly to the NWS (WXØSTL). I have mentioned before here the importance in keeping your handheld radios charged and ready for service. During these storms is not a time to chit chat on the repeater system, but some necessary conversations must occur. Our club also has the KB9EGI UHF repeater available for communications during this time which keeps the Linked Repeater System available for communication with NWS. Being prepared cannot be stressed enough and I urge each of you to keep an eye to the sky and turn your radios on when there are storms in the area. If there are storms moving in then it is a time to be listening and not talking. The Linked Repeater System that our club participates with can be rendered useless by just one of us keying up and making a call without first listening. Being aware of what is happening in other areas of this system will help keep our system operational. **As a final note, when using the system, key-up for 3 seconds before talking will insure that everyone on the system will hear you.** Don't forget the June 13th Meeting mark your Calendars. See you all there.

For Now— from up here! 73!

Severe Weather Reporting Form

By Ron Ochu KOØZ

Ron KOØZ designed a Severe Weather Reporting Form which is replicated here and with a hyper-link to download and print it.

The WS9V repeater acts as a hub for several other repeaters including repeaters in Greenville (147.165 MHz) Centralia (442.200 MHz) Springfield (444.600 MHz) Decatur (443.800 MHz 123.0 Hz PL) and Carlinville's (146.865 MHz). All of these repeaters are 103.5 Hz PL except Decatur and are maintained by the various Amateur Radio Clubs.

[Severe Weather Report PDF Format](#)

SEVERE WEATHER REPORT

When checking into the 444.250 (103.5 pl) net use this guide when offering any information to the NWS Severe WX Net Control Operator.

Call sign: _____ Location: _____ County: _____ Time of report: _____

TYPE OF SEVERE WEATHER REPORTED: _____ High winds _____ Flooding _____ Hail size

_____ Wall Cloud _____ Funnel Cloud _____ Tornado

_____ Damage reports, such as crop damage, shed blown down, broken branches, trees blown over, power lines down, rising creeks, impassable roads due to flooding, etc.

[Severe Weather Report Word 2007 Format](#)

[Severe Weather Report Word 2003 Format](#)

These links can also be found on the OVARC.net website under [Linked Repeater System](#)

BUCKHORN TAVERN



Dayton Hamvention Buckhorn Steak Eaters! May 17, 2013

→ Jim KF4NBG, Ken KK9N, Doug W9NJM, Marc N9LIS, Jay W9JF, Glen (KF4NBG's Grandson), Jon Greve, John W9KXQ, Lance K2SGS, Jerry WB9NEY,



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



(618) 664-2127

Screen Printing
Laser Engraving
Rhinstones
Embroidery

The Place To Go For All Your Customized Needs!



Ken's Trivia Corner (KK9N)

Referring to [Page 5](#) (this issue) did Mandy Baxter operate the ham radio station illegally? Does she have her ham radio license?

If you missed this episode of "Last Man Standing" starring Tim Allen, you can watch it [here](#).

The answer and a prize for the winner will be given at the June 13, 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

Amateurs for Signal Strength



Marc N9LIS had his own kind of fun at the Dayton Hamvention this year. Yes, he has cups (courtesy of Jim KF4NBG) and buttons (courtesy of Will-o-th-Wind) and a webpage (courtesy of John W9KXQ) What is next? T-shirts? You will want to join in the fun, unless you are a serious QRPer, then, you can just laugh at all those involved.

[website](#)



Testing Opportunities

**Jim Thibeault KF4NBG
OVARC VE Team**

Contact Jim KF4NBG
(618)-409-8284
BecomeAHam@yahoo.com

**Saturday June 22, 2013 3:00 PM
(At Field Day Site)**

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

Thomas Lang KC9YYH
Richard Bigler KC9YYG

UP GRADES

Dennis Warren KA9YTV Now **W9DAW**
(General)
Buddy Carroll KC9YYI (General)

Hamfests

Egyptian Hamfest (June 9, 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

SYNTOR-X State wide Winlink 2000 Packet Program

Brad Pioveson, W9FX

Illinois Emergency Management Agency State RACES Officer

As many of you who have connections in or with the public service communications world know, the FCC mandated that all the FM rigs on VHF and UHF channels in the U.S. had to comply with narrowband emission requirements on 01 JAN of this year. Some of the newer radios were capable of being reprogrammed to meet the new deviation and frequency standards. Others, including the Illinois State Police fleet of VHF Motorola Syntor-X transceivers were not, and, they became surplus to the State of Illinois. All of these radios, about 925 of them, were headed for recyclers. I heard about this and started an initiative to get them repurposed for ARES and RACES use. With the help of others, including Jim Pitchford, N9LQF, and Charlie Richey, K9DUE, we have successfully managed to stay the virtual execution of these fine, 110 watt transceivers. There are currently 15 pallets of them at the Illinois' Central Management System's warehouse in Springfield.

What we're going to do with these transceivers is to have a team of ISP radio techs – hams, volunteering their expertise and time – modify these rigs to become single channel transceivers. This single channel will be 145.610 MHz, our Illinois Packet Network frequency. The radios will have connections for audio in, audio out, push-to-talk (PTT) and DC power connections. We plan, thru the auspices of the Illinois Emergency Services Management Association (IESMA), to offer two, each, of these transceivers to every emergency management agency in the State of Illinois. That's all the county EMA's, and all the home rule community EMA's. What we will ask in return for the transceivers is an agreement from these EMA's that they will provide a packet radio 1200 baud TNC, power supply, antenna, feedline, PC and, hopefully, a 24/7 Internet connection, so that these transceivers can become part of a statewide Winlink 2000 VHF packet system. The Illinois RACES program (state level) will oversee management of the network. Obviously, each EMA will have to establish a working relationship with local hams in order to legally bring these systems up on amateur radio frequencies. That's where ARES comes in. Y'all will have an opportunity to have a hand in the building, operation, and, maintenance of this network, and, you will have a ready resource for your ARES (or, RACES) group's digital communications needs. Running the Winlink Development Teams' RMS Relay program will allow traffic to continue to flow across the network even when the Internet is not available.

I am also going to be contacting the Illinois Dept of Public Health in an effort to initiate a similar Syntor-X radio program for EVERY hospital in Illinois. That is, at this point, however, not something that has been accomplished.

More on the Syntor-X Packet radio program as it develops and we get the kinks worked out. Trying to find storage space for 925 radios, plus arranging for transportation and a production line of techs to work on them requires more than a little time and finesse. Stay tuned for more!

**Want to become a
Ham Radio
Operator???**

Contact us at
OVARC@ovarc.net

P.O. Box 3
Greenville, IL
62246

Amateur Radio Is...

- *Community Service*
- *Emergency Communications*
- *Learn new technologies for fun*
- *Worldwide Friendships*
- *A rewarding Hobby!*

June 2013

**Okaw Valley Amateur
Radio Club**