

Volume 2, Issue 3  
OVARC E-Mail

March  
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*



**A Communications Tool For D-STAR**

**A Demonstration by Ken KK9N & John W9KXQ**  
**March 4, 2010 7:30 PM**  
**KC Greenville Learning Center**  
**Greenville, IL**

D-RATS is a multi-platform integrated tool for communication using D-STAR radios. With only a pair of radios a variety of data transmission methods are supported, including:

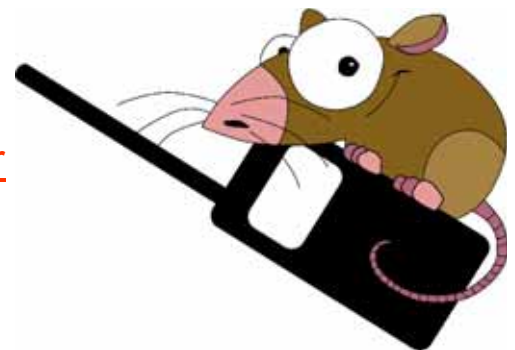
- Instant-message chat
- Automatic beacon messages
- File transfers with error detection
- Structured forms
- GPS position reports

D-RATS provides quick instant-message operation among operators, multicast so everyone sees everything; good for broadcasting updates and instructions. Additionally it provides quiet operation and can operate in a very noisy environment. With the many pre-designed forms it makes it easier to convey message and ensure correctness of names, numbers and locations.

D-RATS, written by Dan Smith KK7DS is available free of charge.

Plan now to see the latest use of digital radio and how it can be used in emergencies.

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



## MEETINGS TO PLAN FOR

**April 1, 2010** Russ Kruse KD0EIA from St. Charles, MO will be our guest speaker. Russ' topic will be "Solar Power For The Ham Station". Russ has an interesting demonstration for us. In August, 2009 he transferred his entire Ham Station to SOLAR.



**May 6, 2010** Allan Davis WB9YVE, Bond County's 911 Coordinator and ESDA Director will be our guest. He will provide an up-to-the-minute look at the New StarCom Digital radio system currently in use in Bond County. Bob Lewis KC9BOZ will be on hand to acquaint us with the new "Digital Scanners" now available to listen to the StarCom system. A tour of the 911 PSAP will round out the program for May.





**ARRL** The national association for AMATEUR RADIO™

# The ARRL Letter

- Public Service
- Advocacy
- Education
- Technology
- Membership

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/index.html?issue=2010-02-25>)

If you are a member of ARRL, why not sign up for your weekly email copy?

## REPEATER UPDATES

442.925 Repeater is back on the air as of Feb. 12. When you talk to Bob, KC9BOZ or Don KB9EGI please thank them for their efforts to restore our repeater. The new power supply was installed and all is well. PL decoder not added as this time.

## Meeting Location for March 4, 2010 Meeting

The March 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 February 4, 2009

John W9KXQ reported that since the last meeting we bought a power supply for the 442.925 repeater which is not operating very well. John also showed us the features on our new OVARC web page.

Jim KF4NBG reported that in the January testing two passed their Tech exam and one upgrade to General.

It was announced that there would be a weather spotter training by Jim Cramper of the National Weather Service Tuesday, February 23 at 6:30 at the Greenville Fire House.

Ken KK9N presented our program on **"Why Too Low a VSWR Can Kill Your Signal"**

. Cary W4GRN videotaped the program for several who were not able to attend.



On Tuesday, February 26, 2010 Jim Kramper from the National Weather Service Office presented Storm Spotter Training to more than 40 attendees. Amateur Radio Operators were well represented from Bond County and surrounding counties.



Jim Kramper



Kris WB9SLM, Margaret & Lance K2SGS



Dennis WA9YTV





## OVARC Information

### Repeaters

147.165, 224.440, 442.925

### 2010 Officers

#### President

John King W9KXQ  
[W9KXQ@ovarc.net](mailto:W9KXQ@ovarc.net)

#### Vice-President

Hope Walker KA9NRW  
[KA9NRW@ovarc.net](mailto:KA9NRW@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)

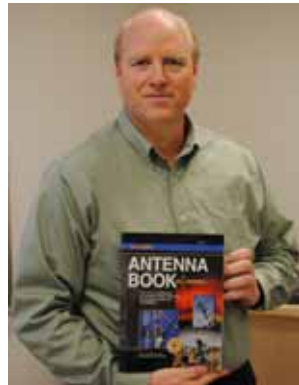
#### Webmaster

John King W9KXQ  
[webmaster@ovarc.net](mailto:webmaster@ovarc.net)

#### Website

<http://ovarc.net>

## "Why Too Low a VSWR Can Kill Your Signal" By Ken Norris was the program topic for February 4, 2010



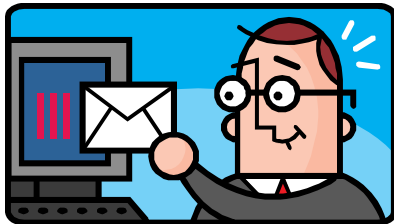
Ken, who has studied antenna and feed line theories for several years made a convincing argument toward his hypothesis "*Low VSWR can Kill Your Signal.*" His presentation was complete with thorough documentation, charts and graphs. Below is listed some of the specific topics that he covered

1. When is Ladder Line a better fit then 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?

*A DVD of Ken's presentation will be available soon. Send a request to the Editor.*



Ken KK9N



E-Mail addresses: Would you like one?

[OVARC@ovarc.net](mailto: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](mailto: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 March 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 eve-

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

Feb. 28 W9KXQ—John  
March 7 KB9BEB—Clareen  
March 14 KA9NRW—Hope  
March 21 WB9SLM—Kris  
March 28 N9GEQ—Howard

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.

## Overview of Ham Radio with GES Fourth Graders

On February 11, 2010 members of OVARC presented an overview of ham radio with



fourth graders at Greenville Elementary School. Hope KA9NRW explained some of the history of amateur radio from the development of Morse code to modern modes used by amateur radio operators. John W9KXQ showed a video from *The Tonight Show* of a compe-

tition between champion texters and hams using Morse code to get a message through. The amateurs using code got the message through faster than the fellows who were texting.

John also reviewed licensing. Cary W4GRN discussed HF radio. He showed the kids some



of the QSL cards he has received from around the world and showed them an atlas where he had marked the locations of amateurs he has worked.





Kris WB9SLM impressed the kids with a demonstration of IRLP using a handheld radio. John closed the session with a short demonstration of Morse code. A number of the children stuck around to ask questions.

By Cary Holman W4GRN  
521 N. Locust  
Greenville, IL 62246  
[W4GRN@arrl.net](mailto:W4GRN@arrl.net)

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

**ARRL Field Day : 2010 Field Day Packets Now Available**

It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for ARRL Field Day, June 26-27, 2010! ARRL's flagship operating event -- always held the fourth full weekend in June -- brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun. Field Day packets are now [available for download](#) and include the complete rules (including changes for 2010), as well as other reference items such as forms, ARRL Section abbreviation list, entry submission instructions, a Frequently Asked Questions section, guidelines for getting bonus points, instructions for GOTA stations, a kit to publicize your event with the local press and more.

(Courtesy ARRL Letter)

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).






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

Oxaw Valley Amateur Radio Club						
Today: <span style="color: red;">Jan 1</span> January 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NET 7:00 PM Local</div> <small>Net: NC 4439940</small>					<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">How V.E. Testing</div>
	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NET 7:00 PM Local</div> <small>Net: NC W8YSLR</small>	11	12	13	14	15
	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NET 7:00 PM Local</div> <small>Net: NC N8GEC</small>	18	19	20	21	22
	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NET 7:00 PM Local</div> <small>Net: NC W8XQ</small>	25	26	27	28	29
	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">NET 7:00 PM Local</div> <small>Net: NC K8DEB</small>	Feb 1	2	3	4	5
						<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">How V.E. Testing</div>



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

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

**You can pay Howard N9GEQ at club  
meetings or send a check made pay-  
able to Okaw Valley Amateur Radio  
Club P.O. Box 3 Greenville, IL 62246**

### Launch of New ARRL Web Site Delayed to "Get it Right"

After meeting with ARRL staff on February 23 -- two days before the new ARRL Web site was to launch -- ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, made the decision to delay the unveiling of the Web site until late March. "Work on the new ARRL Web site has progressed at a frantic pace but there are still some potential 'bugs' that could affect members. We need to be sure we get it right," Kramer said. "Our members' security, information and ability to actually use of all the options on the new site outweigh any rush to meet an artificial deadline. It's just good customer service."

The new Web site -- which will contain the online store, class registrations, audio, video, DXCC information, contest data, individualized member options and other 21st century opportunities for members -- is one of the largest technology upgrade activities that ARRL and Fathom, the company programming the site, have ever undertaken. "Reviewers have been unanimously impressed and are helping make sure we create the easiest, most enjoyable online experience possible," Kramer explained.

According to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, the current ARRL Web site is not only used by ARRL members, but is a prime reference source for engineers, hams and wireless technicians around the world, making it the premier place to find information about Amateur Radio, its activities and the sciences behind it. "The Web is our main face to the world, and the new Web site will be fantastic," he said. "Although we all regret the delay, I believe our members will appreciate our diligence about the ease of use, security and navigation for the new site." (from ARRL Letter)



### 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)

**Saturday March 6, 2010 10:00 AM  
Saturday April 3, 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.

### Contests

**North American QSO Party, RTTY begins  
1800 Hrs GMT Feb. 27—0600 Hrs GMT  
Feb. 28.**

**Exchange is Name + (state/province/  
country)**

**80, 40, 20, 15, 10 meters**

**Rules:**

**<http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php>**

### New Members to the Club

**Please Welcome:  
No New Members for February**



### 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 web-site. 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

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				


**March 2010**  
Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club

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**Want to become a Ham Radio Operator???**  
Contact us at <http://ovarc.net>  
P.O. Box 3  
Greenville, IL  
62246

**Inside This Issue:**

- What is D-RATS
- Weather Spotter Class
- Contests
- And Much More...




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**Amateur Radio Is...**

- *Community Service*
- *Emergency Communications*
- *Electronics and Communications Training*
- *Local and International Friendships*
- *A National Resource!*