

Volume 5, Issue 3  
OVARC E-Mail

March  
2013

# 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**  
**(PL 103.5)**  
**442.925+**

## Building a Portable Repeater For "Public Service"

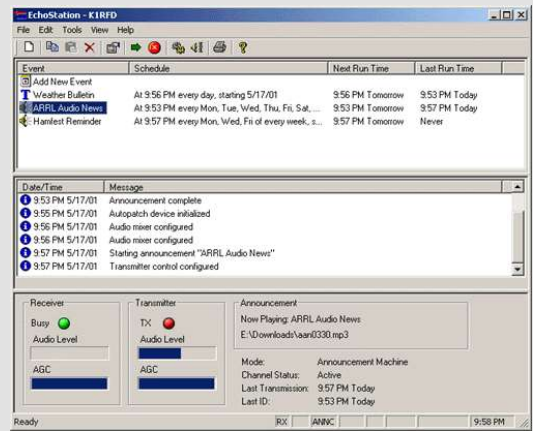
Do you know what is involved in putting an Amateur Radio Repeater on the air and how much it might cost you in time and money? If



you don't know the answer, then you will want to hear Tim's presentation on how the Clinton County Repeater (photo to left) came to be on the air "cheap". Tim K9XWX will be demonstrating

this repeater along with EchoStation Repeater Controller software.

Tim will outline the value of a portable repeater for Public Service Use.



**PLAN NOW FOR OUR NEXT MEETING**  
**March 7, 2013**

**7:30 PM**

**MEETINGS TO PLAN FOR**

**March 7, 2013  
Building a Portable Repeater for Public Service**

[George Aratani](#) , the cofounder and first president of Kenwood, died February 21, 2013, according to an obituary [published in the Los Angeles Times.](#)

[Aratani](#) , who was 95, was an entrepreneur and philanthropist and leader in the Japanese-American community.

Born in 1917, Aratani was a survivor of the internment camps of the 1940s. He cofounded Kenwood in 1986.



Bob KC9BOZ in "the temporary housing" This is where the Repeater has lived for the past 5 months. Bob is removing the equipment for reinstall in newly update cabinet.

Les N9MFA upgrades AC circuits. The repeater is on its own circuit and the RF Amp is on a separate circuit. A delay timer was installed to keep the repeater controller from immediately restarting after a power outage.



**REPEATER UPDATES**  
**Linked repeater system is operational**

**W9KXQ 147.165 Repeater site**

**KB9EGI 442.925 Repeater site**



The KB9EGI UHF Repeater has been dropping off line due to a power issue that the Repeater Technicians have not been able to figure out. As of February 1, 2013 the RF Power Amp was removed from service by Marc N9LIS and is being checked out by Don KB9EGI.

# Location for March 7, 2013 Meeting



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



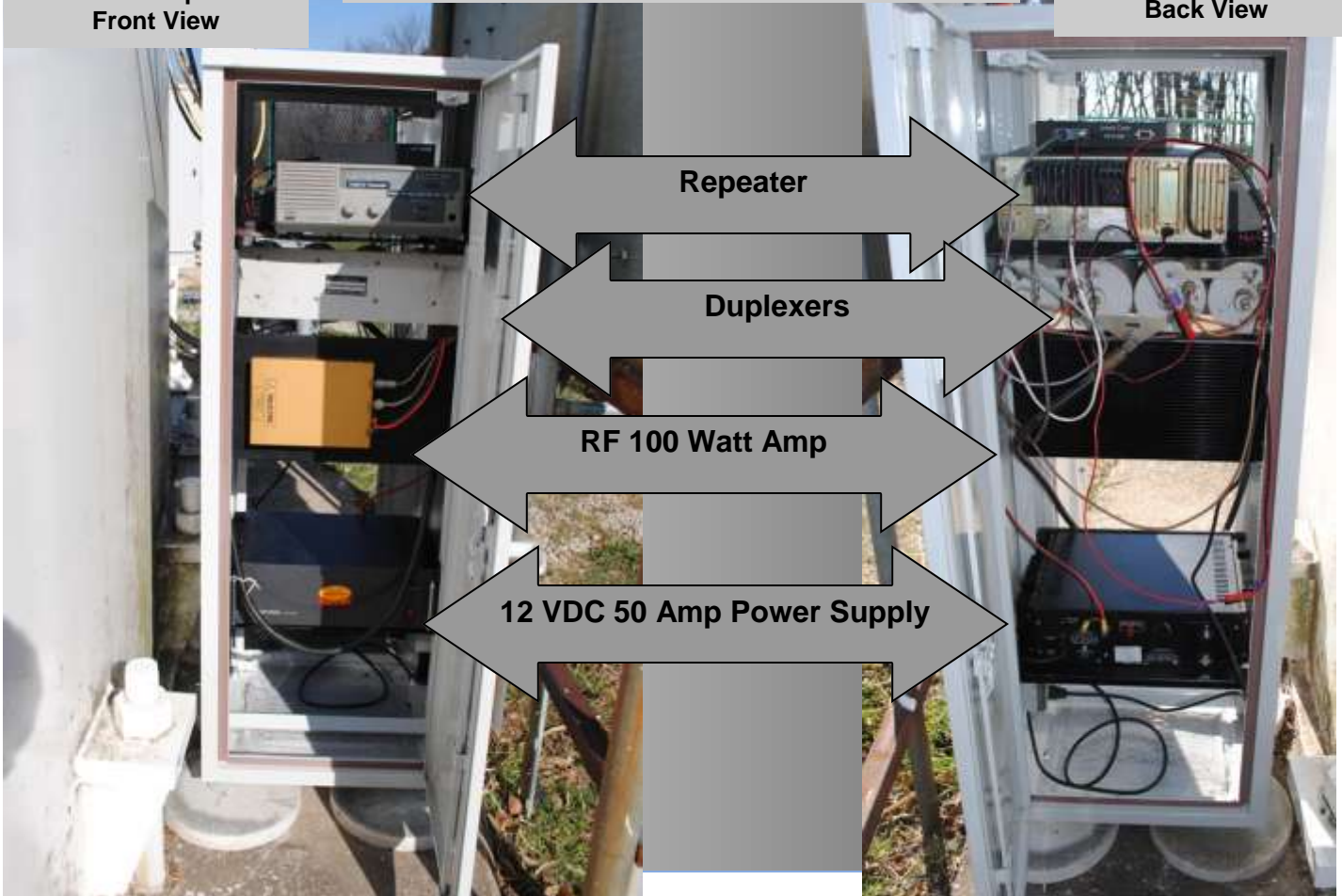
### Future Dates:

- April 4, 2013
- May 2, 2013
- June 6, 2013

## “KB9EGI UHF Repeater”

KB9EGI Repeater  
Front View

KB9EGI Repeater  
Back View



## Minutes Highlights for February 7 , 2013



President Ken Norris KK9N called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday February 7, 2013 in Room 106 of the Kaskaskia College Education Center on Third Street in Greenville. There were 15 people present.

No minutes were taken at the January meeting as Cary Holman W4GRN was not in attendance. Cary did review what we did at the meeting in December before our Christmas party.

Howard Wise N9GEQ reported a balance of \$2450.14.

Les N9MFA reported that the KB9EGI repeater has been blowing fuses. There was discussion as to how to deal with that problem.

Jim Thibeault KF4NBN reported that at the VE testing last Saturday there were two who passed their Technician exam and one passed their Extra exam. In addition to testing the first Saturday of March, there is a possibility that there will be testing on March 28 for LDS. If so, Jim will need more VEs to help.

Ken reminded us that 2013 dues are due. We still have gear for sale. Jim KF4NBN thought that we might be able to sell some of the gear at the Egyptian ARC auction in March.

Tim K9XWX will chair the March meeting.

Field Day packets are now available. The date will be June 22 & 23. We have the large pavilion at Patriot's Park this year. Ken asked if we want to make use of the additional space to go 3A this year. The members discussed that option, and there was support for running three radios instead of two (plus GOTA).

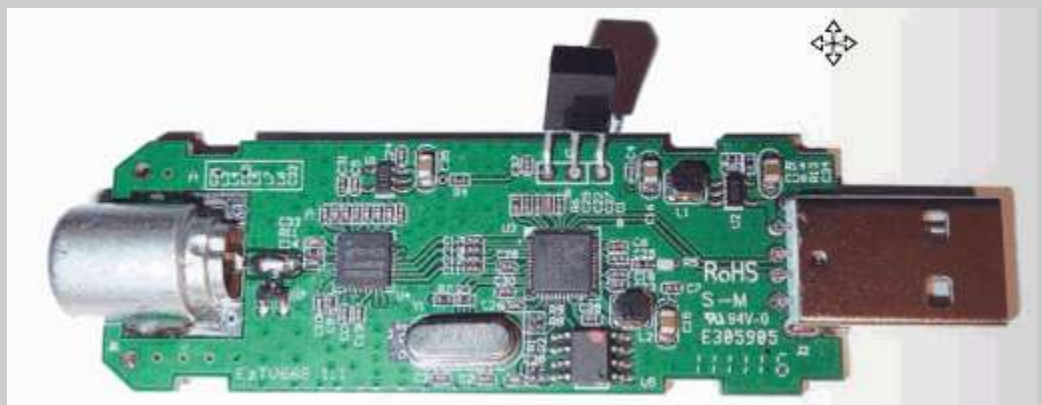
The Lewis & Clark Radio Club indoor Hamfest is Saturday, April 20 at the River Bend Arena at Lewis & Clark Community College in Godfrey. 7:00—noon.

Ken Norris KK9N asked the trivia corner question: What is the DVB-T dongle, and what was it developed for? No one knew the answer. Digital Video Broadcast-Television. It was designed in Europe for people to receive digital TV in their homes.

The business meeting concluded at 7:51 pm. Ken presented the program on SDR—software defined radios. In software defined radio a computer manipulates much of the signal of the radio. Ken demonstrated (as best he could inside the steel building) how an inexpensive (\$35 to \$100) SDR can be used as a spectrum analyzer. The software can be downloaded for free.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

**Cary Holman W4GRN**  
**Secretary**





## OVARC Information

### Repeaters

147.165, 224.440, 442.925

### 2013 Officers

#### President

Ken Norris KK9N

[KK9N@ovarc.net](mailto:KK9N@ovarc.net)

#### Vice-President

Tim Rapp K9XWX

[K9XWX@ovarc.net](mailto:K9XWX@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>

# 2013 OVARC Officers



**Ken KK9N, President**



**Tim K9XWX, VP**



**Cary W4GRN, Sec.**



**Howard N9GEQ, Tres.**

## CONTEST CORNER

**CWops Mini-CWT Test: Feb 27 to Feb 28 (3 one hour periods)**

Mode: CW only

Band: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m

Rules: <http://www.cwops.org/onair.html>

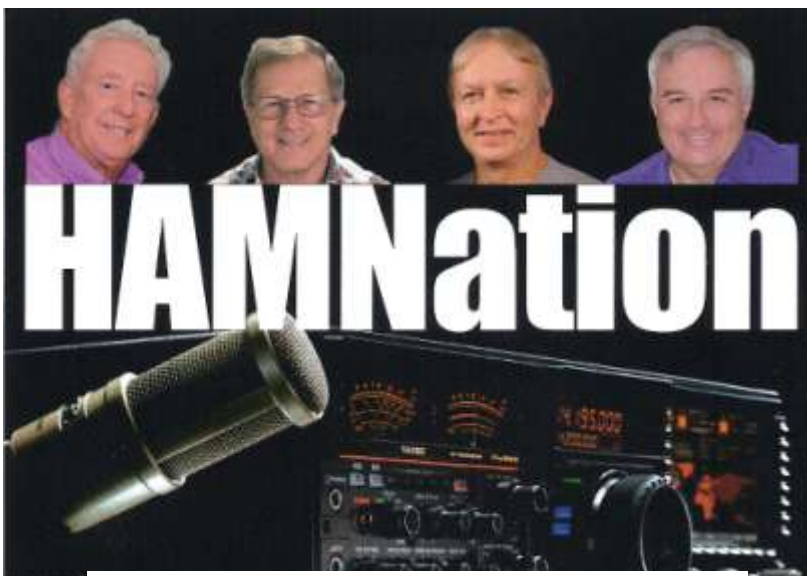
## Website to checkout—Florida SEDAN



**Florida SEDAN**  
*"Saving Lives and Protecting Property through Amateur Radio Digital Communications."*  
 Statewide Frequency: 145.770 MHz



<http://www.fla-sedan.com/index.html>



**“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  
twit network



Jim KF4NBG's newest Call Letter display is on the set of TV Show

**“Last Man Standing”**

Check Jim's website here:

[Ham Shack Essentials](http://www.jimsengraving.com)

[www.jimsengraving.com](http://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](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/](http://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.

- March 3—Clareen KB9BEB
- March 10—John W9KXQ
- March 17—Ken KK9N
- March 24—Clareen KB9BEB
- March 31—NO NET- Easter
- April 7—Tim K9XWX
- April 14—Kris WB9SLM
- April 28—John W9KXQ
- May 5—Ken KK9N
- May 12—Clareen KB9BEB

### 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](mailto:W9KXQ@ovarc.net)  
Articles, New Items,  
Corrections, etc.



## GES Ham Radio Club Activities

**None to Report!**



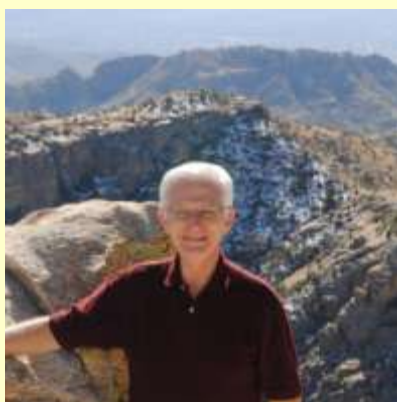
Snow & Ice is a good time to start planning for this year's Field Day event. 3 HF stations are being planned along with the GOTA station. We have secured the large main pavilion at Patriot's Park for this year's Field Day. Mark your Calendars now and plan to participate



Thunderbird  
Amateur Radio  
Club Hamfest in  
January, 2013

<<KA9NQL

W9KXQ>>



## My View from Here! John W9KXQ

No, I didn't get stuck on Mt. Lemmon, but I am still in Arizona for the rest of February. On Feb. 28th Kim KA9NQK & I plan to leave "sunny warm Arizona" for home. We will be beaconing [W9KXQ-1](#) on APRS. The HF radio will be there for noise and distraction! I have had an interesting stay this year, the weather has not been as great as last year, but still warmer than home. I have had the opportunity to take in a couple of local Hamfests and found them to be much like Hamfests in our area. Charley KA9NQL & I attended one in January, notice the attire in the photo above and in contrast I attended one in February and "shorts" were in order. (sorry no photo) I had the opportunity to visit with an

"old" friend of mine W9NJM who visited from Glen Ellyn, IL. We spent part of an afternoon playing with Ham Radio and a trip to our favorite Starbucks where KA9NQL was found. Hmm, wonder if he has stock in Starbucks?

Our hobby never seems to get boring, there are always bright minds coming up with new ideas. The SDR that Ken presented last month is just the tip of the iceberg. I have been following the developments with the Raspberry Pi \$35 computer that Román KD8KLB demonstrated at a recent club meeting. It's popularity continues to grow and challenge some of the bright minds. Stay tuned as the SDR & Raspberry Pi continue to develop.

On a final note, I have enjoyed being able to listen often to our Linked Repeater System via EchoLink and believe that this technology provides a window into our system that only enhances it far reaching linked service area. The next issue of this newsletter will come to you direct from home (Illinois).

Don't forget the March 7th Meeting mark your Calendars.  
See you all there. **For Now— from up here! 73!**



# NASA

## What effect this will have on communications if large flares erupt?

“A colossal sunspot on the surface of the sun is large enough to swallow six Earths whole, and could trigger solar flares this week, NASA scientists say.

The giant sunspot was captured on camera by NASA's [Solar Dynamics Observatory](#) as it swelled to enormous proportions over the 48 hours spanning

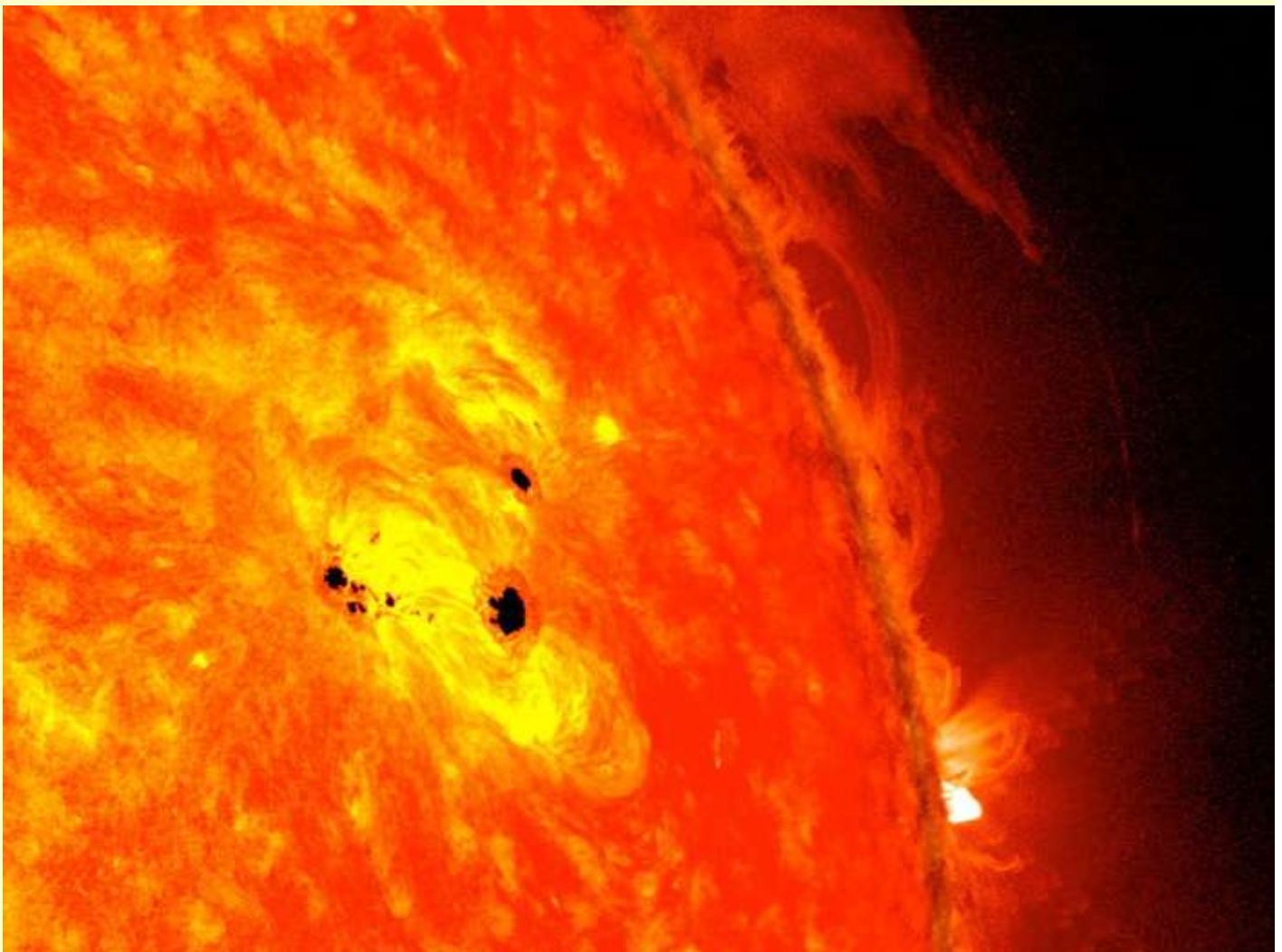
Tuesday and Wednesday (Feb. 19 and 20). SDO is one of several spacecraft that constantly monitor the sun's space weather environment.

"It has grown to over six Earth diameters across, but its full extent is hard to judge since the spot lies on a sphere, not a flat disk,"

wrote NASA spokeswoman Karen Fox, of the agency's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., in an image description.”

**The bottom two black spots on the sun, known as sunspots, appeared quickly over the course of Feb. 19-20, 2013. These two sunspots are part of the**

**same system and are over six Earths across.  
CREDIT: NASA/SDO/AIA/HMI/Goddard Space Flight Center**



Thanks to Marc N9LIS for providing this information

# K9MCE QSN

**K9MCE Editors: Mark Kerhlikar WD9HBF & Ron Ochu KOØZ have put together another great newsletter. Click the link to download and read the February, 2013 edition. You will find photos and write ups of some of the familiar voices heard on our linked repeater system. ( [K9MCE QSN February](#) )**



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



## ***Ken's Trivia Corner (KK9N)***

If the 1964 Presidential election had gone in a different direction, this long time amateur radio operator would have probably had a amateur antenna on the roof of the White House. Who is he?

[The answer and a prize for the winner will be given at the March 7, 2012 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

**Who's Antenna is this?**



Send your guess to:  
[OVARC@ovarc.net](mailto:OVARC@ovarc.net)

Winner will be announced



**Testing Opportunities**

**Jim Thibeault KF4NBG  
OVARC VE Team**

Contact Jim KF4NBG  
(618)-409-8284

[BecomeAHam@yahoo.com](mailto:BecomeAHam@yahoo.com)

**Saturday March 2, 2013**

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**

**Joseph Vulliet, KC9YGQ  
Travis Few, KC9YGR**

**UP GRADES**

**Andrew Schadt, KC9VZQ (Extra)**

**Hamfests**

**Lewis & Clark Amateur Radio Club**

**April 20, 2013**



**IL Section Manager**

Thomas Ciciora, [KA9QPN@arrrl.org](mailto:KA9QPN@arrrl.org)

**Central Division Director**

George "Dick" Isely, [W9GIG@arrrl.org](mailto:W9GIG@arrrl.org)

**Central Div. Vice Director**

Kermit Carlson, [W9XA@arrrl.org](mailto:W9XA@arrrl.org)

# Midway photos by Pat Burkiri W9PJB

A 485 ft tall tank containing 20 million cubic feet of natural gas was ignited when a B-24 attempting to land at Midway Airport crashed into it 2 miles from the airport in 1943 —Pat W9PJB, has an excellent collection of Midway photos with a few if this incident and hundreds more of historic Midway Airport.



L-R Dave K9UK, Tom W9AEB, Pat W9PJB and Jake KC9FJN

## Midway Airport (Wikipedia)

“Originally named **Chicago Air Park**, Midway Airport was built on a 320-acre plot in 1923 with one cinder runway that primarily served airmail services. In 1926 the city leased the airport for commercial purposes. The airport was designated as **Chicago Municipal Airport** on December 12, 1927. By 1928 the airfield had twelve hangars and four runways, lit for night operations

In 1931 a new passenger terminal opened at 62nd St; the following year Midway Airport claimed to be the "World's Busiest" with over 100,846 passengers on 60,947 flights. The March 1939 OAG [Official Aviation Guide, Chicago IL: Official Aviation Guide Company, 1939] shows 47 weekday departures: 13 on United, 13 American, 9 TWA, 4 Northwest and two each on Eastern, Braniff, Pennsylvania Central and C&S. New York's airport (Newark, then LaGuardia by the end of 1939) was then the busiest airline airport in the United States, but Midway passed LaGuardia around 1948 and retained the title until O'Hare claimed it in 1961.”

*view Pat W9PJB's fantastic collection of Midway Airport photos at:* <http://www.flickr.com/photos/twa1049g/>

Thanks to Jake KC9FJN for this article and Photo

**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 Great Hobby!*

**March 2013**  
**Okaw Valley Amateur  
Radio Club**