



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+

The Monthly Publication of the Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club

Statewide RMS Packet Station Network Network Progress Report



Jim Pitchford N9LQF, Macoupin County's Emergency Management Agency's manager will be on hand to provide details of this exciting statewide project. The project includes all counties in the state and when completed will provide backup communications among all Illinois Counties. Jim is a Certified Emergency Manager with extensive background in Incident Management.

Live RMS Packet Station Positions

Positions of RMS Packet gateway stations are calculated by the WJ2K servers and plotted randomly within the 6-character grid square configured in the RMS station's packet channel. The RMS maps are intended as tools to find on-air stations, not as an exact, actual location of gateway stations.



The Live RMS Stations are few in number but with the aid of this project, all counties will be represented on this map.

PLAN NOW FOR OUR NEXT MEETING

A constitution & By Laws update will be discussed at this meeting.

May 2, 2013

7:30 PM

MEETINGS TO PLAN FOR

May 2, 2013
**Constitution
& By-laws
Update**

June 13, 2013
Field Day Prep
**(NOTE DATE
CHANGE)**

April Meeting Photos, do you see yourself?



Jim KF4NGB, Jeremy, and Les N9MFA



Marc N9LIS, Dave K9UK, Les N9MFA,
Tim K9XWX



REPEATER UPDATES
Linked repeater system is operational

W9KXQ 147.165 Repeater site

KB9EGI 442.925 Repeater site



Following the April Club meeting, a new 30 Amp switching power supply and 2 UPS units were ordered for the KB9EGI UHF Repeater. The power supply was installed on the 100 watt UHF Amplifier followed by a UPS. The second UPS was added to the UHF Repeater. Please keep an ear on this repeater and let Marc N9LIS or John W9KXQ know if it drops off line. The sub-audible tone board and our repaired RC-96 controller are to be installed soon.

Location for May 2, 2013 Meeting



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



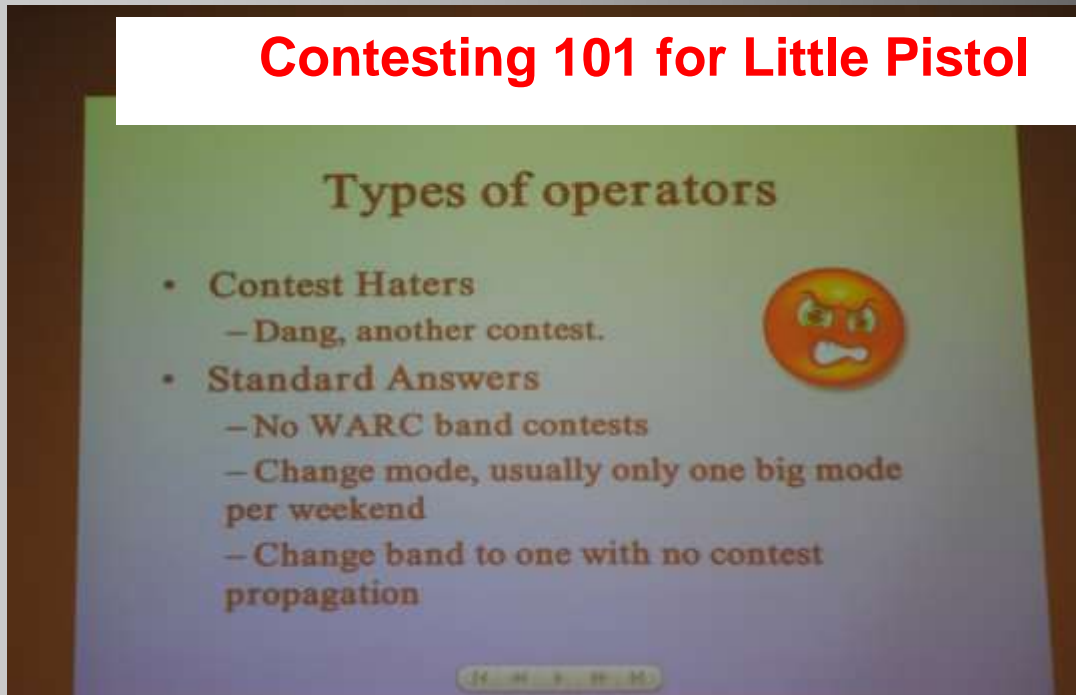
Future Dates:

May 2, 2013

June 13, 2013 (date change)

NO JULY MEETING

Contesting 101 for Little Pistol



Ken KK9N provided a look at getting started in contesting which included a look at ways to improve our Ham Stations. Topics covered included “Getting Ready for the Contest, Studying Propagation, Improving your Score, following the Rules and logging”. The discussion included samples of logging software and how to make it work for you.

Minutes Highlights for April 4 , 2013



President Ken Norris KK9N called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM on Thursday April 4, 2013 in Room 118 of the Kaskaskia College Education Center on Third Street in Greenville. There were 11 people present.

The minutes of the March 7, 2013 meeting were approved. There was no treasurer's report.

Jim Thibeault KF4NGB reported that the next VE testing will be this coming Saturday in Highland. At the second testing in March at O'Fallon 4 new Techs earned their licenses.

John W9KXQ reported we are back to 100 watts output on our 440 repeater. He changed the power supply. The problem may be in the switching moment when the generator is tested.

Ken reminded us that Field Day is coming up. Ken will be out of town the first Thursday in June. There was consensus to move the June meeting to the second Thursday.

The Lewis & Clark Hamfest is April 20. Ken has reserved tables. The Dayton Hamvention is May 17-19. Jim has a booth. Ken will go early for Contest University.

Bob Heil will be at the Lebanon, MO Hamfest November 8 & 9. Bob will have special events.

The Executive Committee met this past week and made edits to a copy of the circa 1975 OVARC Constitution and By-Laws. Allan David WB9YVE had a copy of the 1975 documents. Cary distributed copies of the proposed Constitution and By-Laws. The By-Laws requires that no vote be taken until the next meeting. Ken encouraged everyone to read the draft and come to the June meeting ready to vote on whether to adopt the documents.

Ken Norris KK9N asked the trivia corner question: Which of the following musicians have NOT held an Amateur Radio License: Alice Cooper, Ronnie Milsap, Joe Walsh, or Jim Croce? Jerry Jones knew the answer was Alice Cooper. The antennas pictured in the April newsletter belong to KK9N.

Ken presented a program on Contesting 101. Ken based his program on materials prepared by Dave Robbins.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12.

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.

CONTEST CORNER

10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital: 0001Z, Apr 27 to 2359Z, Apr 28

Exchange is 10-10 Member: Name + 10-10 number + (state/province/country)
Non-Member: Name + 0 + (state/province/country)

Rules can be found here: [RULES](#)

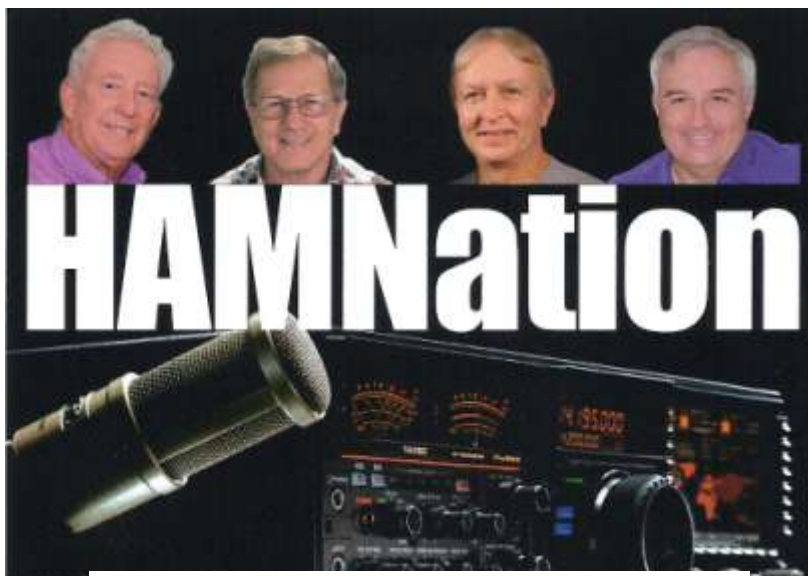
**THIS CONTEST STARTS THIS WEEKEND!
(April 27th)**

Website to checkout

NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory has captured almost unbroken coverage of the sun's rise toward solar maximum. This is the peak of the 11 year cycle. The video shows 2 images per day for the 3 years. [Watch here](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/sdo/news/first-light-3rd.html)



http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/sdo/news/first-light-3rd.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



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



Claren, 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.

- April 28—John W9KXQ
- May 5—Ken KK9N
- May 12—Claren KB9BEB
- May 19—Tim K9XWX
- May 26—NO NET-Memorial Day
- June 2—Kris WB9SLM
- June 9—Kris WB9SLM
- June 16—John W9KXQ
- June 23—Ken KK9N

[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.



GES Ham Radio Club Activities

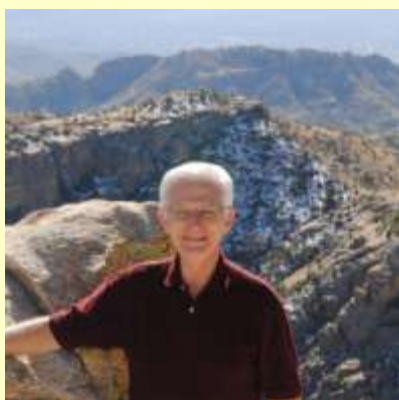


At the June 13th meeting we will finalize the planning for this year's Field Day event.

3 HF stations are being considered 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.

Pres. Ken KK9N & Circuit Clerk Rex Catron N9DAN

2
0
1
2



My View from Here! John W9KXQ

Looking back at my comments from the April issue, I was hopeful that April weather would not be so severe. That didn't happen, and we still have more rain in the forecast. The rain and threat of severe weather is a great reminder of things to come. Ron Ochu KOØZ wrote an article for the Macoupin County ARC newsletter. With his permission, I have reprinted it on page 12 of this issue. On page 9, you will find the form that Ron had suggested in his article with a link to both a PDF and Word file of his form that I modified to address our Club's needs. Feel free to share or change to suite your needs.

May's meeting with Jim N9LQF sharing a new statewide program with us will include some guests from the Macoupin County Club. The meeting should be very informative. Just prior to Jim's presentation, we will discuss the update on the Constitution & By-laws change. Originally, the Board of Officers had planned to present this update for a vote, however, our attorney has asked that we wait until the June meeting to give him more time to put the "legal" language in the document to meet state requirements for "Not For Profit" status.

The Dayton Hamvention is approaching and the usual group of club members are planning to converge on Dayton. Obviously, our President, will need to be there to celebrate his birthday with N9LIS, I can taste the Buckhorn Steak already, and then of course, there is the trip to Cold Stone Ice Cream to feed the chocoholics of the group! You may want to inquire of KK9N & N9LIS how many years they will be celebrating! Hmm you may need a calculator.

I am planning to report on some of the new products to we see at Dayton. That is my reason for going!! (no weddings this year!) Don't forget the May 2nd Meeting mark your Calendars.

See you all there.

For Now— from up here! 73!

Severe Weather Reporting Form

By Ron Ochu KOØZ

Page 12 has a reprint from Ron KOØZ' column in the *K9MCE QSN*, April issue. In his article he refers to a Severe Weather Reporting Form which I have replicated here and provided a hype-link so that you can download and print it.

Ron refers to Skip WS9V's Repeater the 442.250 MHz repeater. As a side note to his column, the WS9V repeater also 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

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 PDF Format](#)

[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](#)



Shirley Hall

Shirley Hall XYL of Fred Hall K9YER

Shirley Verlee Peters Hall was born March 25, 1921 and went to Heaven on April 20, 2013 at the age of 92. Shirley was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years Fred Lewis Hall K9YER. Fred was a Charter Member of OVARC and served as President for several years. Shirley is survived by her three sons, William (Susie), Nick and Mike (Joni) Hall.

Memorial Services will be held at the
Donnell-Wiegand Funeral Home
203 W. Oak St.
Greenville, IL

Monday April 29, 2013
Callers: 10:00 AM, Service 11:00AM
Online Condolences [here](#)



Fred Hall K9YER



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

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Ken's Trivia Corner (KK9N)

Who is "Team Vertical" and what is their ultimate goal?

The answer and a prize for the winner will be given at the May 2, 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

What kind of Antenna is this?



Send your guess to:
OVARC@ovarc.net

Winner will be announced



Testing Opportunities

**Jim Thibeault KF4NBG
OVARC VE Team**

Contact Jim KF4NBG
(618)-409-8284

BecomeAHam@yahoo.com

Saturday May 4, 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

None to Report

UP GRADES

Hamfests

**Dayton Hamvention (May 17-19)
Egyptian Hamfest (June 13)**



IL Section Manager

Thomas Ciciora, KA9QPN@arrl.org

Central Division Director

George "Dick" Isely, W9GIG@arrl.org

Central Div. Vice Director

Kermit Carlson, W9XA@arrl.org



Severe Weather Reporting

Ron Ochu KOØZ (from K9MCE QSN)

Macoupin and Montgomery counties are within the watch area of the National Weather Service Office in St. Louis (NWS STL). These two counties help form part of the northern boundary of the NWS STL watch area. Fortunately for us living in these counties Skip Reba's, WS9V, repeater on 444.250 (103.5 pl) is linked with extremely wide coverage. Best of all Skip's repeater is directly linked to the St. Louis Office during weather nets. Having this repeater is very beneficial not only because of its range but it allows meteorologists to directly communicate with us in the field.

This is important to the NWS meteorologists because due to the curvature of the Earth the WSR-88D (Doppler WX Radar) mostly picks up the high tops of severe thunderstorms from sixty miles on out from the radar site. This means that in effect the radar is partially "blind" to mesocyclonic activity at lower altitudes. This is the part of the thunderstorm where tornadic winds will form.

Consequently, NWS forecasters rely on trained storm spotters now so more than ever.

If severe weather is imminent listen to NOAA WX radio. For Sangamon and Macoupin counties WXJ75, 162.400 in Springfield, IL; for Montgomery county KXI79, 162.425 in Hillsboro and for Jersey county KXI70, 162.450 in Jerseyville. Program these frequencies into your HT or mobile radio.

When the WX net is activated listen to the reports from other operators. Listen to the NWS net control operator. He will be asking for information directly from the most violent part of the storm's path. This is a good indicator of where the brunt of the storm's force happens to be located with this particular storm. However, new storms will pop up so be alert.

During the net cast your eye to the sky. Become observant of localized flooding, wind strength and direction, hail size, wall clouds and funnel clouds. Don't hesitate to check into the net and to offer pertinent weather observations.

What is meant by pertinent is that the NWS office does not need to know that it has just started raining in your area. However if the rain is coming down hard and it is causing localized street flooding, ponding, water running over curbsides then they'd like to know that pertinent news.

When the gust front passes by your area report if there are any tree branches being blown down or shingles from roofs being ripped off. Has hail started to fall? NWS meteorologists need to know that as well as the size of the hail.

Of course wall clouds and funnel clouds should always be reported. If a wall cloud is spotted take a few minutes and see if it is rotating on axis. Either way report back to the NWS if it is rotating or not. Be factual and brief with a report.

For example, " St. Louis this is KOØZ located one mile south of Girard, IL in Macoupin County, it is 4:09 pm and I am experiencing strong winds bringing down two inch tree branches and marble size hair is beginning to fall over." A handy report form can be found on the next page. (see [page 9](#) of this newsletter)

**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!*

May 2013
**Okaw Valley Amateur
Radio Club**