



The Monthly Publication of the Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club

## GMSK MicroNode Hotspot for D-STAR

### 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-**

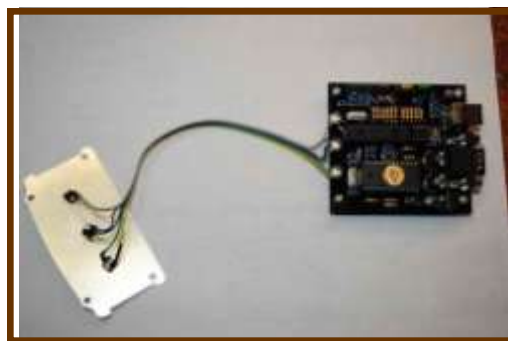
**KB9EGI**  
**442.925+**

**John, W9KXQ will be demonstrating the technology available for using D-Star (Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio) in areas where there is no D-STAR repeaters using a spare analog radio and a D-STAR handheld. The price will be the icing on the cake. It is just another “\$25 Radio”!! John will have a working GMSK Micronode “Hot-Spot” available for use at the meeting. Bring your D-STAR handheld and join in the fun.**

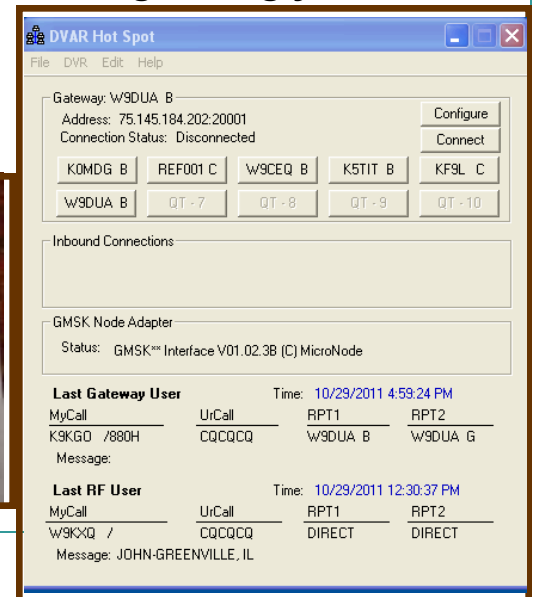


**W9KXQ Hotspot**

**Software for Free>>**



**Inside the Hotspot**



**PLAN NOW FOR NEXT MEETING**

**November 3, 2011 7:30 PM**

**MEETINGS TO PLAN FOR****December 1, 2011****Annual Meeting & Christmas  
Celebration Dinner****January 5, 2012**

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=2011-10-27>)  
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****Linked repeater system is operational**

## Location for November 3, 2011 7:30 PM Meeting

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:**

**November 3, 2011**

**December 1, 2011**

**(Annual Mtg. Christmas Dinner @ Cunetto's)**

**January 5, 2012**

**February 2, 2012**

**March 1, 2012**

## 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 October 6, 2011

President Ken Norris KK9N called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM on Thursday October 6, 2011 in Room 106 of the Kaskaskia College Education Center on Third Street in Greenville. There were 18 people present.

On motion, the minutes of the September 1, 2011 meeting were approved. Howard N9GEQ reported a balance of \$658.42. Another \$87 in checks and cash need to be deposited.

Les N9MFA reported that since the last meeting they replaced the circuit breaker on the 440 repeater. While they were preparing to make the replacement the circuit breaker tripped. They found loose screws. The controller is operating off the Astron power supply. There is no common connection between the two power supplies. Les suggested that we run both the repeater and amplifier off the same large amperage power supply. Then when the unit powers up only one amplifier has to power up.

Jim KF4NBG reported that the next VE testing will be this coming Saturday in Highland. At the September testing no one showed up to be tested in Highland. Jim did travel to Lake St. Louis that afternoon for testing. At that session 19 people took exams, 18 passed the Technician Class test, one upgraded to General. On October 1 one passed the Technician Class test. The next testing will be November 5.

The fox hunt will be this coming Sunday. At 1:00 pm the VHF transmitter will begin transmitting. We have permission to be on that public property somewhere in Bond County. The transmitter for the junior fox hunt will begin transmitting at 2:00 pm, and will be in Patriot's Park, also on VHF. You can search alone or in teams. The afternoon will end with a meal at the park. The club is buying the meat. The rest is pot luck.

Kris WB9SLM recalled talking last spring about getting shirts with our names and call signs on them. Ken said we will look into that some more.

Ken KK9N asked the trivia corner question: The transistor is the basis of all modern electronics. When was the transistor developed and by what well known company? Hope KA9NRW had the answer: at Bell labs in 1947 by William Shockley, John Bardeen and Walter Brattain. The prize was a pair of 5 x 30 Vivitar binoculars.

The business meeting concluded at 8:04 pm.

Ken presented the program on microcontrollers, often referred to as microprocessors. These devices are in many, many products that we use every day. Ken focused on the most common microcontrollers: the BASIC Stamp 1 & 2, the Arduino Uno USB Microcontroller, and the Dotter board that can stack on top of the Arduino. Ken used these devices to set up the fox for this weekend's fox hunt.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26.

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



## 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>

## Micro Controllers in Amateur Radio & How they would be used for Oct. 9 FOXHUNT



*Ken, KK9N presented an interesting and informative program on Mico Controllers and how he would be using them to control the transmitters for the upcoming Fox Hunt. Using a PIC controller, both Morse Code and Audio ID's were sent over the Fox Transmitters. If you missed the program you can contact Ken via E-Mail and he will give you some programming tips.*



Micro Controller PC Board



OVARC October 6, 2011 meeting

Photos courtesy of Charley KA9NQL

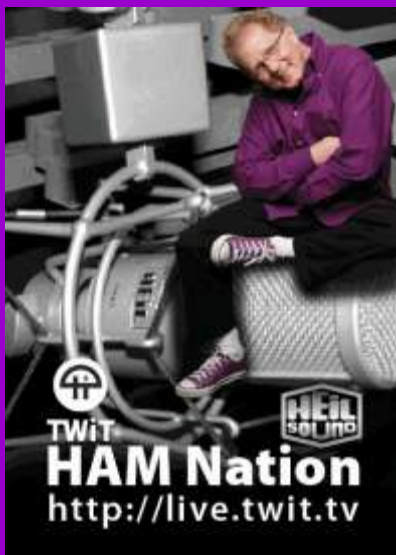
## Website to checkout



The State of Illinois has a website with the focus of “being ready” for an emergency. This site is easy to navigate and you will find some very helpful information.

Check it out here:

<http://ready.illinois.gov/>



“HAM Nation” is a weekly HD video webcast about Ham Radio.

It is hosted by

Bob Heil K9EID, Leo Laporte W6TWT  
& Gordon West WB6NOA

Tuesday Evenings 8:00 PM CDT

twit network

Tentative Schedule—GES & OVARC ISS Contact along with KK9N & W9KXQ being planned for November 15, 2011



[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.



### ARES HF Digital Net November 13, 2011

The Illinois ARES HF Digital Net meets on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 5:00pm local time. The mode used is **Olivia 16/500** and the frequency is **3.590 (dial) USB**

**Regular Net Control:**  
**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.  
 Greenville, IL 62246

If the Weather Net is  
Active

Regular Net will not be held!

### 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.

Nov. 6—John W9KXQ  
 Nov. 13—Clareen KB9BEB  
 Nov. 20—Hope KA9NRW  
 Nov. 27—NO NET  
**THANKSGIVING**  
 Dec. 4—Kris WB9SLM  
 Dec. 11—Howard N9GEQ  
 Dec. 18—John W9KXQ  
 Dec. 25—NO NET CHRISTMAS  
 Jan. 1—NO NET NEW YEARS

Visit Us on the  
 Web!!!

<http://ovarc.net>

### 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



On October 17, 2011 at the invitation of Mike Heitman N0SO, President of BEARS and with the help of Irene KC9SPA, John W9KXQ & Ken KK9N presented our ISS video and “How OVARC became part of the GES NASA Explorer School Program”. With the help of Marc N9LIS our Club now has a video presentation of the program available to share our success with other clubs. The program was originally presented at the West Central Illinois Hamfest with the Help of Emily KC9UBI, Kaitlynn KC9SHZ & Cameryn KC9SHF.



### My View from Here! John W9KXQ

What, you didn't make it to the Fox Hunt?! It was a good opportunity for all of us to get outdoors and enjoy some beautiful fall sunny weather and learn more about our hobby. Everybody had a good time including the kids. Adam Rapp's Dad, Tim K9XWX sent me a note of thanks on Adam's behalf. Adam just knew that the Fox Hunt would be boring. Now he can hardly wait for the next one. This is the kind of enthusiasm that will help our hobby to compete with Smartphones and the Internet. If you miss an opportunity to mentor

kids too many times, our hobby will not survive. Kids are our future. Ken & I attended the Halloween Hamfest Saturday (Oct. 29th) and where were the young hams? Few were present. Yet, we were guilty too as we didn't invite any to go with us. I am not sure that a Hamfest of today would be exciting to a young ham, but neither was I sure that a Fox Hunt would be and we were all surprised!

I must apologize to Ken for missing the October meeting, but in my defense, I was on a “Ham Radio Adventure”. Bob WB9YVG and I headed for Kansas to pick up my new 55 foot crank-up tower from US towers in Lincoln, KS. It was a 1000 mile round-trip adventure. Thanks to Bob and many of you I now have my tower in the vertical position. I am busy building my 3 element SteppIR yagi to install on the top of the tower and hope to have this project completed before “snow flies”. This project has been a fun project and I had forgotten just how much work goes into a new antenna system. My last tower install was in 1977. Many things have changed including the price of concrete. If you have missed out on my “Picture Blog” it is not too late. I have photos posted here and more to come. [Tower Blog](http://www.w9kxq.com/tower) (www.w9kxq.com/tower)

Don't forget, I am still looking for some “how did you get interested in Amateur Radio” notes from you. Send them to me ([W9KXQ@ovarc.net](mailto:W9KXQ@ovarc.net)) **73 from up here!**

## GES Ham Radio Club Activities

November 2011

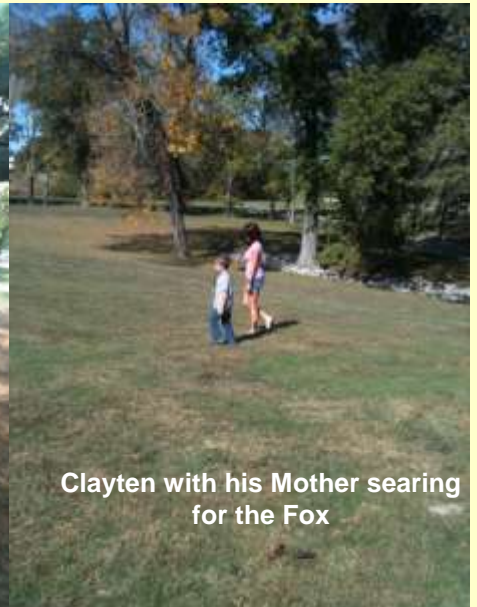
The first Kids' Fox Hunt was a success if you ask both of the boys that participated and actually found the Fox. Adam Rapp and Clayten Gan, our winners learned from Ken KK9N how to find the hidden transmitter using just a radio. Each boy was provided a radio with which to hunt and were taught how to use it. As you can see by the photos, they both found the Fox. Plans are to repeat the kids Fox Hunt next spring and see if we can get more young people interested. You don't need a Ham License to participate in the Kid's Fox Hunt.



Adam with his Dad & sister searching for the Fox



Clayten & Adam with Fox in the tree



Clayten with his Mother searing for the Fox



Clayten & Adam (left) with their winning tags. They are seen (right) posing next to the Fox hanging in the tree.



**October 9, 2011 Fox Hunt Photos**  
OVARC's first Fox Hunt in many years was a success even with only 3 teams. It was a good learning experience and with Ken KK9N's help the Foxes were hard to find. The "adult" hunt begin at 1:00 PM and the "Kids" begin at 2:00 PM. (see page 9). Following the hunt Marc N9LIS was on the job and fixed the hamburgers and hotdogs for the potluck supper. If you weren't there, you just missed a fun time and a beautiful fall after noon.



**Team 1 Jim KF4NBG & Jeremy**



**Team 2 Joe K9RJN & Cary W4GRN**



**Potluck supper crew**

**First to find the Fox John**



**Team 3 John W9KXQ & Melissa**



***Ken's Trivial Corner***

Why is FSK better to use with RTTY than AFSK?

By Ken Norris KK9N

The answer and a prize for the winner will be given at the Novmeber 3, 2011 meeting



## Dues for 2012 due January 1, 2012

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

## QR Code

**From Wikipedia**—"A QR code (abbreviated from Quick Response code) is a type of [matrix barcode](#) (or two-dimensional code) first designed for the automotive industry. More recently, the system has become popular outside of the industry due to its fast readability and comparatively large storage capacity. The code consists of black modules arranged in a square pattern on a white background. The information encoded can be made up of any kind of data (e.g., binary, alphanumeric, or Kanji symbols) "

Try it out with your Smartphone App.



### Amateur License Current?

Don't be caught with an expired Amateur Radio License. Find your license now and make sure of its expiration date!



## 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 November 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

KC9UBC	David Bare
KC9UBD	Anne Ennen
KC9UBE	Harley Feaster
KC9UBF	Jackie Forys
KC9UBG	George Timmermann
KC9UBH	Katelyn Thomason
KC9UBI	Emily Unterbrink
KC9UDN	Chloe Matute
KC9UDO	Brandon Reeves

**David KC9UBC joins sister Helen KC9PPG &  
George KC9UBG joins brother Matt KC9PBD**

## HamFests



### IL Section Manager

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

### Central Division Director

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

### Central Div. Vice Director

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

To viewers of [W5KUB.COM](http://W5KUB.COM)  
Broadcast of Hamfests

We have set up a Facebook group called [W5KUB.COM](http://W5KUB.COM) for our viewers. you can do a search on Facebook for it and join or you can go to this link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/279273778772594/>

The purpose of this group is to keep you updated on future broadcasts, hear your comments, receive suggestions, and to just share ham radio related things.

Feel free to add any pictures, videos, or comments you may have and participate in discussions with other hams. Share pictures of any HamFests, field days, pictures of your shack, etc.

We have already started working on the planning for our next live event and have added some new prize donors. Additionally, I am already in contact with Astronaut Col. Doug Wheelock trying to arrange time for him to visit our next Dayton Broadcast. Doug enjoyed our broadcast so much in May, he came back for two visits.

We are now in our 10th year to broadcast these events. Our audience has grown to almost 50,000 hams around the world in about 150 countries. We gave away over \$10,000 in prizes to lucky viewers last year.

This group is new therefore there is not a lot of activity on it today. Please help us to build it up by entering comments, pictures, videos, etc.

Remember that our Ham radio video/chat room is up and running 365 days a year at <http://w5kub.com>

73, Tom W5KUB



## November 2011

Okaw Valley Amateur  
Radio Club

### Inside This Issue:

- D-STAR Micronode
- October Meeting Highlights
- Fox Hunt Highlights
- ARES Nets
- QR Codes
- Ham Nation November 15, 2011



**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 Fun Hobby!*