

Volume 2, Issue 10  
OVARC E-Mail

October  
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*



**Emergency Com-  
munications  
KC9ITK Style! >>**



## ARES-Are you Prepared ?

Mike Huff KC9RPF and Larry Shenkel KC9ITK will be speaking on the topic of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and their plans for implementation of a Bond County Chapter. Larry KC9ITK is planning to show off his Emergency Communications Trailer that he is making available for use in Emergencies within Bond County and surrounding Counties. You will want to see this trailer as it is a work of art and very functional.

## From the ARRL: "Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES)

"The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. Print out [this form](#) and mail it to your Section Emergency Coordinator.

Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization, is eligible to apply for membership in ARES. Training may be required or desired to participate fully in ARES. Please inquire at the local level for specific information. Because ARES is an Amateur Radio service, only licensed radio amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership."

**Mark October 7, 2010 on your calendar now**  
**7:30 PM**

## MEETINGS TO PLAN FOR

**November 4, 2010**

**This space needs to be filled with a program announcement for November. If you have a program idea, please contact the Editor.**

**John**

**W9KXQ@ovarc.net**

**December 2, 2010 (Tentative Date)**

**Annual Meeting and Christmas Party**



**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?issue=2010-09-30>)  
 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**



**All systems are working. Let's use our repeaters!**  
 A 2 Meter repeater, hosted by WS9V in Athens, IL on 147.045+ with 210.7 tone.

## Location for October 7, 2010 7:30 PM Meeting

The Oct. 7th meeting will be in the 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:**

**Oct. 7, 2010—Room to be announced  
Nov. 4, 2010—Room to be announced**

### **444.250 Carlinville Repeater takes a Hit!**

**Skip WS9V reports the following concerning his repeater:**

**The antenna took a direct lightening hit and blew out the antenna and coax all the way down the 400 ft tower.**

**Estimated cost to repair. \$4000.00**

As most of you know the 444.250 machine took a big hit of lightening that has taken it off the air. As repeater operators/owners I have a real respect for what you all do and what it cost to keep a system up and running. When I heard it would take around 4 grand to put 250 back together again, I thought I could help by raising money thru contributions so Skip did not bear all of the cost. As I talked to Skip I learned of the dilemma to the repeater owners with regards to taking financial assistance to keep the systems up and running. If you take the money there will be a unintended pressure on the owners to maintain and keep the system up and running or another way to say it would be you become behold-ing to the people that helped. Many of us want to see the wide area system kept up and running and know you folks will do what it takes to make that happen. When talking to Skip about this issue he suggested that a better solution to the issue may simply be to put the money in and escrow account and have it available to anyone that truly needs it in the future. We did agree that I would raise funds for the \$1000.00 antenna to replace the one that was hit. But want to take any additional funds and put them into a bucket for future use. There would need to be some organization and structure to support the effort say a 5 person repeater committee to except request and distribute funds making decisions on payout based on critical need and priority. With Decatur, Carlinville, Greenville, and Centralia clubs all taking part in the system maybe one person from each of the areas would be a starting point. My goal in the short term is to collect the \$1000.00 for the antenna to go back up on 444.250 my second goal is to have a conference call with those of you interested in this project prior to the end of the year so we can set something up, or dismiss the idea outright. One idea tossed around was to add some amount to each of our club members dues to go direct into the fund. If we added say \$5.00 per mem-ber as a repeater use fee, our club alone would raise around \$300 annually. Add that up over the 4 or 5 clubs that support the system and a substantial amount of money could be collected over a few years. Again the thought here is catastrophic system failure. If a repeater is just getting a new con-troller as a cosmetic improvement then the funds might not be as available as they would for a system that gets blown away by a storm or lightening.

**Jim N9LQF**

## Minutes Highlights for September 2, 2010

Vice-President Hope KA9NRW called the September 2, 2010 meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Kaskaskia Center in Greenville. Thirteen were present. The minutes of the August 5 meeting were approved. There was no treasurer's report.

Jim KF4NGB reported that because of Labor Day testing in September will be one week later than usual. At the August testing three passed their Technician exam and two of those then passed their General.

Ken KK9N's trivia question for tonight was When were Q codes officially adopted in amateur radio use? Jim KF4NGB knew the answer, 1912. Ken distributed copies of commonly used Q codes.

Hope thanked Mike NF9M for picking up the memorial radio for Josh Brannon KC9SIA. John W9KXQ explained some more about the presentation ceremony at the Bond County Courthouse. An article appeared in the Greenville Advocate with photo.

Ken KK9N presented the program on Midway Island DXpedition 2009. He showed a well produced DVD shot by members of the DXpedition. The DVD was informative about the Midway Atoll.

The program next October may be on ARES, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service. We need a program for November. As has been our custom, our December meeting will be in conjunction with our annual Christmas party.



**If you can't find yourself in this photo, you missed a great meeting!**



## 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>

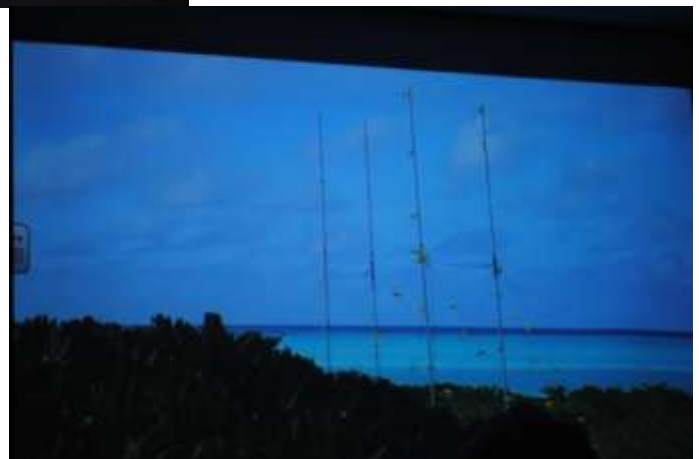


**Ken KK9N presented a very interesting video on Midway Island 2009 DX-Pedition. If you missed it you can contact Ken directly to see if his copy is available. The video was professionally done and was very informative about Midway Island today**



One of the operating positions

Some of the Vertical antennas used



Website to checkout  
http://



[www.halloweenhamfest.org/](http://www.halloweenhamfest.org/)

## Welcome to the Saint Louis Halloween Hamfest



Sponsored by Saint Louis Amateur Radio Club

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### 19th Annual HALLOWEEN HAMFEST

Saturday October 30, 2010  
Kirkwood Community Center  
111 S Geyer Road Kirkwood, Missouri  
7:30 A.M. to Main prize  
drawing at 12:00 P.M.

Talk in 147.75/147.15

Thanks to the Southwestern Bell Radio Club

GPS Coordinates are 38.34.848N by 090.25.004W

 **Plenty of FREE Parking**   
 **2 Rooms FULL of Swap Tables and Vendors**   
 **Hourly Door Prizes**   
 **VE Exams** 

# WorldRadio ONLINE

<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.

Oct. 3 W9KXQ—John  
Oct. 10 No Net-Columbus Day  
Oct. 17 N9GEQ—Howard  
Oct. 24 W9KXQ—John  
Oct. 31 KB9BEB—Clareen

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.*

## High Altitude Balloon Launch

Posted by: "KB9BVN" [kb9bvn@gmail.com](mailto:kb9bvn@gmail.com) kb9bvn

Date: Tue Sep 14, 2010 5:50 pm ((PDT))

QRP ARCI is pleased to announce their sponsorship of the Iowa High Altitude Balloon (iHAB) project. This sponsorship is for the second launch by iHAB. This launch will provide improvements over their first launch to include better APRS tracking, an improved 20 meter beacon and better camera clarity.

**The launch is scheduled for October 2, 2010 at 14:00Z (9AM CDT)** from the Ottumwa Industrial Airport (OTM) IHCC North Campus Aviation Building. Preflight will begin at 13:00Z (8AM CDT). Should weather prevent the launch, the fall back date will be Saturday, October 9, 2010 at the same times.

The QRP Beacon (1.6 watts) will be on 14.059.0 MHz signing (the QRP ARCI Club call sign) "K6JSS iHAB 2"

Please go to <http://www.qrparci.org/> for more information on the flight and special recognition for reception reports.



### My View from Here! John W9KXQ

The 444.250 Repeater is completely financed by Skip and has been a major hub in providing much needed emergency linking from the National Weather Service. All of us have enjoyed the wide area coverage of the 444.250 Repeater and so each of us need to consider how we can help put the repeater back on the air. Skip is a very benevolent person and the 444.250 Repeater

has been a labor of love. That being said, and considering the estimated cost to repair we need to help our neighbor out. This help, must be without strings. The repeaters owned by OVARC are ours to do with as we see fit, to use them, link them, improve them without interference from other clubs. I believe that we need to consider a no strings attached approach to the financial help. To that end, see page 3 for a suggestion from Jim N9LQF. **Please come prepared to discuss this situation on Thursday Oct. 7, 2010 and bring your checkbook.** If 80 amateurs each donated \$50 this expense would be easy to deal with. There have already been a few pledges and I believe that our Club needs to do the same.



# PRO-197 39,000-Channel Digital Desktop Scanner



Has your scanner suddenly grown silent? Would you like to be in the loop again and know what's going on in the area? Scanners are back, at the Shack. New, pre-programmed digital scanners are now in stock. And now get \$50.00 off the suggested retail price while supplies last.

## *Will-o'-th'-Wind*

**603 East Harris Ave  
Greenville, IL 62246  
(618)664-3353**

This scanner was featured in the Digital Presentation by Bob Lewis KC9BOZ at our May 6, 2010 meeting.

Visit Marc N9LIS to get this special price.

You can also check out Marc's website for Office Supplies and special prices on printer inks and printers.

[www.will-o-th-wind.com](http://www.will-o-th-wind.com)



**Marc N9LIS**



**Irene KC9SPA**



**Inside View of Larry KC9ITK's Emergency Communications Trailer**



### EB - Amateur Radio Service Enforcement Actions

**The FCC has a website listing for enforcement actions for and against amateur radio operators can be found. You might find this one very interesting, unless of course your name is listed!**

<http://www.fcc.gov/eb/AmateurActions/>



### ***Ken's Trivial Corner***

*What does SDR stand for and what does it have to do with Amateur Radio?*

The answer and a prize for the winner will be given at the October 7, 2010 meeting.

By Ken Norris KK9N



**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**

This spot is blank

What would you like to see  
here? Let us know.



## 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)

**Technician Class Questions Change  
July 1, 2010**

**End of Summer Session-Saturday  
October 2, 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.

## New Hams

KC9RPF	Mike Huff
KC9SHF	Cameryn Gan
KC9SHG	Travis Neer
KC9SHW	Cody Finley
KC9SHX	Logan Hilmes
KC9SHZ	Kaitlynn Smith
KC9SIA	Josh Brannon
KC9SIB	Tyler Bryant
KC9SIC	Maddy Balducci
KC9SID	Allison confer
KC9SIJ	Alex Moeller
KC9SIK	Justin Rieke
KC9SHY	Lawton File
KC9SPA	Irene Seale

## HamFests

**Halloween Hamfest Oct. 30, 2010  
See Page 6 for details**



### 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 website. 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  
Today: January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3	4

Events listed in the calendar include:  
 NET 8:00 PM Local (type NC #A9NRW) (Jan 8)  
 NET 8:00 PM Local (type NC #B5GLH) (Jan 11)  
 NET 9:00 PM Local (type NC #F6GQ) (Jan 17)  
 NET 8:00 PM Local (type NC #9CKQ) (Jan 24)  
 NET 8:00 PM Local (type NC #29BEB) (Jan 31)  
 Itam V.E. Testing (Jan 8, 15, 22, 29, Feb 5)

<p><b>October 2010</b> Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club</p>	<p><b>Inside This Issue:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amateur Radio Emergency Service</li> <li>• Halloween Hamfest</li> <li>• Digital Scanner special price</li> <li>• And Much More...</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Want to become a Ham Radio Operator???</b> Contact us at <a href="http://ovarc.net">http://ovarc.net</a> P.O. Box 3 Greenville, IL 62246</p>	<p><b>Amateur Radio Is...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Community Service</i></li> <li>• <i>Emergency Communications</i></li> <li>• <i>Learn new technologies for fun</i></li> <li>• <i>Worldwide Friendships</i></li> <li>• <i>A Fun Hobby!</i></li> </ul>	