

Volume 3, Issue 10  
OVARC E-Mail

October  
2011

# 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*

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

**Ken KK9N will be providing a program how Micro controllers are used in Amateur radio and every-day applications. He will be showing the controllers that will be used to control the transceivers for the Club Foxhunt at Patriot's Park October 9, 2011 at 1:00 PM.**



**EAST SHELTER**

**The Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club will be hosting a Fox Hunt on Sunday October 9, 2011 at 1:00 PM at Patriot's Park 1 mile West of Greenville on IL RT 140. There will be a "Kids Fox Hunt at 2:00 PM & Pot Luck supper around 5:00 PM. All are invited to all of the events. If you have questions direct them to**

**[FOXHUNT@ovarc.net](mailto:FOXHUNT@ovarc.net)**

**PLAN NOW FOR NEXT MEETING**

**October 6, 2011 7:30 PM**



**November, 2011**

**D-Star Hot Spot made simple  
John W9KXQ**

**December, 2011**

**Annual Meeting & Christmas  
Dinner Celebration**



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=2011-09-29>)  
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

Thanks to Les N9MFA the KB9EGI UHF Repeater has a new AC Circuit Breaker installed at the site and a loose DC connection secured.

## Location for October 6, 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:**

**October 6, 2011**

**November 3, 2011**

**December 1, 2011**

**(Annual Mtg. Christmas Dinner)**

## 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 September 1, 2011

President Ken Norris KK9N called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM on Thursday September 1, 2011 in Room 104 of the Kaskaskia College Education Center on Third Street in Greenville. There were 13 people present.

The minutes of the August 4 meeting were approved. There was no treasurer's report.

We are still having issues with 442.925 repeater. It needs a new breaker switch.

Jim Thibeault KF4NBG reported that the next VE testing will be September 10 rather than September 3 due to the Labor Day weekend. In the afternoon there will be a second testing session in Lake St. Louis for 25-30 people. At the August testing 3 took exams. One passed the Technician exam, and one passed both the Technician and General exams.

Bond County Fair parade lineup went well. We used the UHF repeater, which did not interfere with the linked system.

John W9KXQ reported that the original OVARC constitution and by-laws appear to have vanished. The officers are examining constitutions of other AR clubs to develop a draft of a constitution and bylaws. John hopes to have a draft of those ready for our November meeting so we can vote on them at our annual meeting in December.

John's presentation at the Macoupin County hamfest went well. Marc is working on the rough video Cary shot to forward to Ham Nation.

John was able to get a pavilion reserved at Patriot's Park. Sunday, Oct 9. Ken proposed a two-part fox hunt—one at 1:00 pm for adults, and one at 2:00 pm for children. Ken will post the rules in the next newsletter.

John W9KXQ passed around copies of sheets to help net control stations. The sheets were three-column Excel files of area amateurs who often check in to our Sunday night net. Hopefully this would help the net control operator get names, calls, and locations correct, and to get the rest of the information if the net control heard only part of the report.

Ken KK9N asked the trivia corner question: In radio direction finding (fox hunting) what is the most basic non-metallic object you can use to determine signal direction? Les knew the answer was the human body.

For tonight's program Dave KK9N summarized his DXpedition to Antigua as V25DD in June. They had an Icom 706, and a G5RV antenna. They brought a set of army surplus interconnecting fiberglass poles which served as the support for a 6-element 6m beam up about 20 ft. They were in great location for 6m on a bluff on the NW edge of the island. Another rig they used was an Icom 7000, an auto tuner, and a Tokyo solid state 600w amplifier. Dave said that it was very difficult to hear any individual station through the pileup. 17m was very good. 6m was also great. Dave made 1,300 contacts in 4 days. Ken KK9N showed photos of the DXpedition.

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>

## DX-PEDITION TO ANTIGUA BY DAVE DAVIS K9UK (V25DD)

Our own Dave Davis K9UK shared with us some of his interesting experiences of this amazing opportunity to operate from Antigua. Dave had QSL cards to hand out to Club members. Dave made 1300 HF contacts in 4 days. This DX-Pedition took place June 14-28, 2011 and some of his photos can be found on the OVARC webpage ([www.ovarc.net/v25dd.html](http://www.ovarc.net/v25dd.html)).



**Dave K9UK**



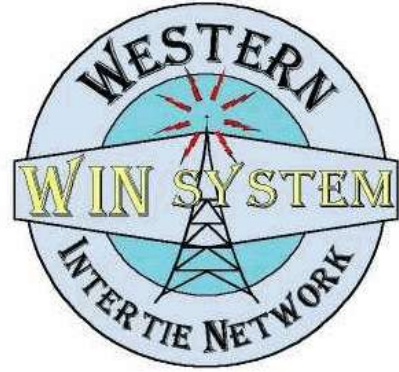
### Website to checkout



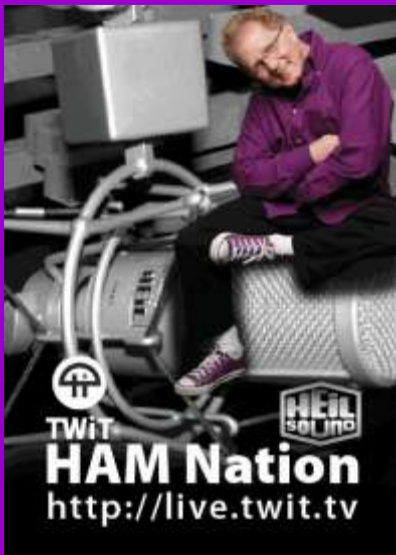
The WIN System was designed and built by Shorty K6JSI. It has something for everyone!

Check it out here:

<http://www.winsystem.org/>



**WIN SYSTEM**



“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



[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 October 9, 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!

**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 evenings. The net control stations are on a rotating schedule.

- Oct. 2—Clareen KB9BEB**
- Oct. 9—NO NET COLUMBUS**
- Oct. 16—Hope KA9NRW**
- Oct. 23—Kris WB9SLM**
- Oct. 30—Howard N9GEQ**
- Nov. 6—John W9KXQ**
- Nov. 13—Clareen KB9BEB**
- Nov. 20—Hope KA9NRW**
- Nov. 27—NO NET**
- THANKSGIVING**

**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



**Kid's Fox Hunt Sunday October 9, 2011  
Patriot's Park 1 mile West of Greenville on  
IL RT 140. Bring your handheld radios!**

**2:00 PM @ East Shelter**



## My View from Here! John W9KXQ

What was your reason for getting involved in Amateur Radio? Was it just because you were interested in picking up a new hobby, or was there something else that drove you to study, test and then purchase a radio and get on the air? I suspect that if each of you took a few moments to reflect on your reason, we would learn that we didn't all do it for the same reasons. Personally, I was looking for a "hobby I could sink my teeth in". Today, however, I could find a number of reasons to get my Ham Radio License. Not that the hobby

reason isn't a good one, but in this day and age, there are many other activities that take our time and could also be classed as "a hobby". I have had conversations with several new hams over the past couple of months, and I am always surprised to learn what "their reason was". Not just the grade school Hams, but young hams (people who have recently obtained their license.) In an editorial I read recently, the author agreed with me that people today get their license for a variety of reason, "hobby" just being one of them. We have more licensed Hams today than ever before. Are we all doing our part to make sure that the new hams are being mentored? When was the last time you sat down with a new ham and explained how our "Linked Repeater System" works? I can tell you that for me, it was just this past week. For me it helps keep Amateur Radio interesting. If you don't reach out to new hams, new visitors to our club meeting or new members, nobody will win! Today's Amateur Radio is not what it was 50 years ago.

On October 9th, we have a Fox Hunt including a special one for our young hams. This will be a fun opportunity to learn with these young hams about another area of our hobby. Plan to join us, Ken has some surprises in store for us.

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

October 2011



Greenville College published its Fall edition of the *RECORD* both in print and electronic media. The entire publication presents the power of the “Social Media” in today’s society. An article entitled “*Social Media Goes to School!*” highlights our ISS contact and the fact that it was visible on the internet, Facebook and now our webpage. There will be a printed copy available to look through at the October 6th meeting or you can view it at this web link.

[http://issuu.com/greenvillecollege/docs/record\\_fall2011/1](http://issuu.com/greenvillecollege/docs/record_fall2011/1)



**Bobbi KC9KFD & Mark Hardy displaying their Field Day 2011 cups. This was Mark's first Field Day and he made enough contacts on the GOTTA station to earn his cup. Hopefully Mr. & Mrs. Hardy will be back next June.**

*Bobbi and Mark became engaged on June 19th, 2011 and will be married on May 19th, 2012.*

**ARRL SET: This Weekend October 1 and 2  
(from The ARES E-Letter for September 28, 2011)**

**“This nationwide exercise is the chance to test your emergency operating skills and the readiness of your communications equipment and accessories in an emergency-like deployment. ARRL Field Organization Leaders at the Section and local levels -- along with many other volunteers who are active in public service and emergency communications - - are developing emergency-like scenarios in consultation with a variety of agencies for whom radio amateurs are known to provide service during emergencies. To find out how you can step up and be a part of the local or Section-level activities, contact your Section Manager. You can find contact information for all 71 ARRL Section Managers on page 16 of any issue of *QST*. Additional contact information may also be found on the ARRL Web site. ARES®, the National Traffic System (NTS), the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and members of the ARRL Field Organization will participate and practice emergency operation plans, nets and procedures.”**



***Ken's Trivial Corner***

The Transistor is the basis of all modern electronics. When was the first Transistor developed and by what well known company??

By Ken Norris KK9N

The answer and a prize for the winner will be given at the October 6, 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

## CQ Magazine to add digital editions to all magazine titles

According to Southgate Amateur Radio News "CQ Communications, Inc., will launch multi-platform digital editions of all of its magazine titles before the end of 2011, Publisher Richard Ross, K2MGA, announced today.

Those titles include *CQ Amateur Radio* (CQ magazine), *CQ VHF*, *Popular Communications* and *WorldRadio Online*. Many CQ book titles are already available in digital form on CD.

"The digital editions will supplement, not replace, current print editions, and will feature enhancements not possible in the print medium," said Editorial Director Rich Moseson, W2VU."



The entire post can be read at this [LINK](#)

### Vanity Call Sign Fee Increased

The Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Program fees were increased by \$.90 (from \$13.30 to \$14.20) effective September 9, 2011



## 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

**20th Annual Halloween Hamfest**  
**Kirkwood, MO—Oct. 29, 2011**



### 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

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

# Ham Radio Deluxe

[Home](#)[News](#)[Programs](#)[Downloads](#)[HRD v4](#)[HRD v5](#)

From Simon, HB9DRV

As many HRD users will have noticed, I have not been able to dedicate enough time to the project since August of 2009. HRD has evolved from initial support for the IC-703 in June 2003 to a program supporting almost 70 different radios from a variety of manufacturers with over a million lines of original code.

As the program has evolved so has the support effort, indeed were it not for the help of people such as Peter (SK) PH1PH and Terry G4POP it would not have been possible to even start this project. And then there's the forums managed by Greg with lots of help from Bernie and a DX cluster maintained by Ian in Morecombe.

Somehow I have to earn a living; in 2009 I sold my share of a system management company [Sysgem AG](#) and moved into writing Software Defined Radio (SDR) programs with [SDR-RADIO.com GmbH](#). Despite being single and living alone there simply is not enough time to get a new company up and running and at the same time move HRD forward.

A few months ago Michael Carper approached me with a view to purchasing HRD 'as-is'. Two weeks ago I realized that I would not have any time at all in either 2012 or 2013 for HRD, so in order to keep HRD alive I agreed to sell to Michael and his partners.

### Moving

I plan to move to Cornwall (England) in 2012 or 2013 at the latest and get back on the air after a break of almost 30 years. When I do this I may actually get a chance to use HRD myself for something other than a few digital QSO's each year.

### Not Goodbye

I will work closely with Michael's team as they take over the coding and make version 5.1 available. Any future Ham software (non-SDR) will be designed to compliment HRD and be available via Michael and his team. Don't expect anything too soon though - I have too much SDR code to write.  
Thank-You

Finally a very big thank-you to everyone who has helped HRD become what it is today either by donating, helping other users or helping me with support for hardware which I don't own.

**October 2011**

**Okaw Valley Amateur  
Radio Club**

### Inside This Issue:

- Fox Hunt October 9, 2011
- September Meeting Highlights
- More Field Day "Cup Holders"
- ARES Nets
- CQ Magazine digital editions



***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!*