

Volume 4, Issue 10  
OVARC E-Mail

October  
2012

# 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  
(PL 103.5)  
442.925+

*The Monthly Publication of the Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club*

# “HOW TO HUNT THE FOX”

**Ken KK9N & John W9KXQ**

## The do's and don't s of Foxhunting



You get to see first hand what the Fox looks like and how to find him the next time you see him! Ken will provide an overview of the micro-controllers used for the Fox.

**The Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club will be hosting a Fox Hunt on Sunday October 14, 2012 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 3:00 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)**

**Hamburgers, Hot Dogs & Potato Salad provided-N9LIS our resident chef will have them cooked to perfection!**

**PLAN NOW FOR OUR NEXT MEETING**

**October 4, 2012**

**7:30 PM**



## October 4, 2012

### How to Fox Hunt & Win!



## November 1, 2012

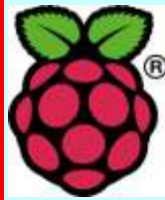
### Raspberry Pi

Presented by

Roman Griego

KD8KLB

(tentative)




**ARRL** The national association for AMATEUR RADIO™  
**The ARRL Letter**

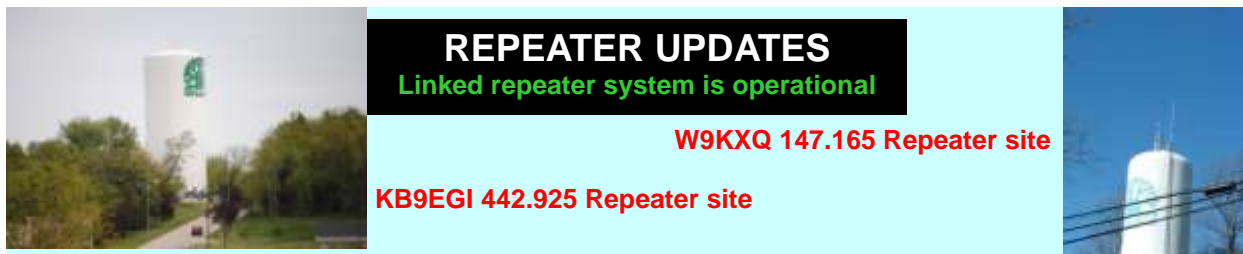
- Public Service
- Advocacy
- Education
- Technology
- Membership

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=2012-09-27>)

If you are a member of ARRL, why not sign up for your weekly email copy?



### REPEATER UPDATES

Linked repeater system is operational

W9KXQ 147.165 Repeater site

KB9EGI 442.925 Repeater site

The KB9EGI UHF Repeater is back in service as of 09-06-12. The Controller is a borrowed CAT200. The repeater still needs to be installed in its refurbished cabinet. When our ACC controller is repaired, it will be mounted in this cabinet. No cost estimate on repairs available yet.

## Location for October 4, 2012 7:30 PM Meeting

### **Kaskaskia College Center in Greenville** (just south of the Dairy Queen on Third St.)



Regular Meeting location Kaskaskia College  
Greenville Education Center 209 N. Third St.  
Greenville, IL 62246  
rear entrance  
Future Dates this Location:

November 1, 2012  
**December 6, 2012-ANNUAL MEETING &  
CHRISTMAS DINNER**



## **“I Hear What You See”**

**Kris Hickerson WB9SLM**

**“From Louis Braille to Refreshable Braille”**

**“The Road From France to Greenville”**



Kris provided an informative history lesson on how Braille made it from France to Greenville. She shared some stories of her learning experiences with Braille and sound. Kris demonstrated some of the “gadgets” she uses to function in a “sighted” world. These “gadgets” give her the ability to not only to function in her day to day life, but to operate her Ham Radio Station, her computer and communicated with the world over the Internet. One of the “gadgets” that everyone in attendance found interesting was her “color reader” If you have questions regarding her presentation, feel free to contact her at [WB9SLM@arrl.net](mailto:WB9SLM@arrl.net)



## Minutes Highlights for August 2 , 2012

President Ken Norris KK9N called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM on Thursday September 6, 2012 in room 107 Of the Kaskaskia College Greenville Center. Those in attendance signed the sign-in sheet. There were 28 licensed amateurs and guests present—standing room only.

The minutes of the August 6, 2012 meeting were approved. John W9KXQ presented a treasurer's report for Howard N9GEQ of a current balance of \$849.84 in our account.

The report was accepted.

Charley KA9NQL and John W9KXQ took the 440 repeater back to its home at the new water tower off Idler Lane with a different controller. John will ship off the old controller, and will be gone for two weeks' vacation. The repeater is still in the temporary housing. John and Charley tried to waterproof it.

Jim Thibeault KF4NGB announced that at the last testing on Sep 1, two people upgraded to General. At the next VE testing at least two plan to upgrade to General. A couple of members have had paperwork returned by the post office that was sent to W5YI for VE certification. The mailing address has been updated and the materials have been resent.

Ken drew our attention to one of the articles in this month's newsletter about an event sponsored by the Carlinville ARC at Henrys Rabbit Ranch.

Sunday, October 14 has been suggested as a date for the fox hunt. The adult fox hunt would start at 1:00, and the kids' fox hunt at 3:00. We would end the day with a potluck at Patriot's Park.

The newsletter notes a number of pieces of ham equipment that are ready for sale. Jim Triple, Dennis Mejia, and Marc Seale all have equipment to sell. John explained that the Mejia equipment has been donated to the club to sell. Several of the pieces have been sold, but there are a number of pieces left. Contact John if you are interested in purchasing any of that gear. We have at least one table reserved for the Halloween Hamfest in Kirkwood, MO where we will try to sell gear that no one in our club has expressed interest in wanting to buy.

At Field Day this year we had a youth scavenger hunt. Some of the questions included identifying antennas, practicing Morse code, and more. Awards went to Emily with 83 points, tied for second with 80 points Alexis and Adam. Alexis had the furthest contact for second place. Adam placed third, and Kaitlynn was fourth with 70 points.

Tim K9XWX reported that Saturday morning there will be an ARES meeting in Clinton Co. at 10:00.

There was a signup sheet available if you want one of the new red OVARC shirts.

Ken asked the trivia question: What is EME and what is the popular mode used for it today? The answer is earth moon earth—bouncing a signal off the moon to be received back on earth. WSJT is the mode.

The program tonight was presented by Kris Hickerson WB9SLM. Kris has been blind since birth. Braille has been very helpful to her. Kris explained how Louis Braille developed his system in France in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. She distributed braille alphabet cards, and demonstrated writing a note using Braille. Today anything she can Google she can hear. Kris showed us a device that looked like a laptop computer without a screen. The device serves as a music player, a book reader, and more. A handheld portion is removable and is handheld size. Another device is refreshable braille which can be connected via Bluetooth. The refreshable braille device has a 16-character display. Kris' cell phone also has speech. A couple of guys in California Rob and Mike W6KUV are creating speech boards for various amateur radios. These devices are called ham pods. A ham pod is available for the K3 Elecraft. Their goal is to adapt speech boards for any device, including test instruments. All of Kris' radios have some speech.

The brain port is being developed. The current model runs a signal from glasses to a sensor that rests on the user's tongue. The user can retrain their brain to interpret those signals as vision. The device will go on sale this fall in Europe for about \$6,000. The meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM

**Cary Holman W4GRN Secretary**



## OVARC Information

### Repeaters

147.165, 224.440, 442.925

### 2012 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>

## Dennis Mejia W9RXX-Estate Equipment Donation

Drake MN-2000 Matchbox



Ameritron ALS-600 Solid State Linear Amp



Drake L-4B 2K Linear Amp



Drake L4B Power Supply



Drake TR-4 Transceiver



Drake 2-B Receiver



Drake T-4XB w/ MS-4 Power Supply/Speaker



Drake R-4B Receiver



Kenwood TS-570 & Drake L4B

If you are interested in any of this equipment, please contact [W9KXQ@arrl.net](mailto:W9KXQ@arrl.net). All equipment is in working order. All proceeds go directly to Okaw Valley Amateur Radio Club thanks to Paul Mejia KA9USQ.

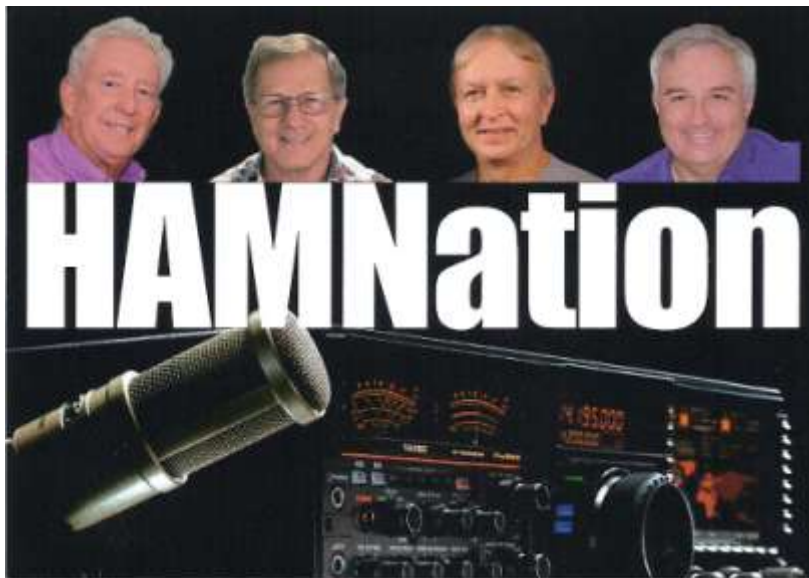
### Website to checkout



An interesting website !

Check this out

<http://hint.fm/wind/>



“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



Episode 57



Ham Nation Episode 57

[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)

**REMINDER!**  
**The Extra Class  
Question Pool is  
EFFECTIVE  
JULY 1, 2012**

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.

- Sept. 30—Clareen KB9BEB
- Oct. 7—>>NO NET<<COLUMBUS<<
- Oct. 14—Tim K9XWX
- Oct. 21—Kris WB9SLM
- Oct. 28—Howard N9GEQ
- Nov. 4—John W9KXQ
- Nov. 11—NO NET VETERANS DAY
- Nov. 18—Clareen KB9BEB
- Dec. 2—Tim K9XWX
- Dec.. 9—Kris WB9SLM

**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

### Field Day Winners!

Photo by Charley KA9NQL



<<Emily  
KC9UBI 1st

Alexis >>>  
KC9VAK 2nd



<<Adam  
Rapp 3rd

Kaitlynn>>>  
KC9SHZ 4th



## My View from Here! John W9KXQ

Vacation is over! Even retired folks need a vacation as I am finding out. This vacation was on the Tuscan Vista Houseboat that several of us own a time share on. ([www.w9kxq.com/tuscanvista](http://www.w9kxq.com/tuscanvista)) Marc N9LIS & Irene KC9SPA were 2 of the 11 that were on this trip. 6 of the 11 are Hams and we made several HF contacts one with WB9SLM. It was a nice get-away. While on this trip, we use a local 2 meter repeater located on Navajo Mountain, Utah. This mountain is 10,000 ft. up and

provides coverage for most of Lake Powell in both Arizona and Utah. It has linking capability and we use a 2 meter/ 70 CM solar powered remote base unit to extend our handheld range. Wayne W7WAC and his wife Donna KE7OZE own and maintain the repeater. Over the past couple of years we have had QSO's with Wayne. Our group decided that it was time to extend an invitation to meet Wayne and Donna for lunch as we concluded our trip. Wayne & Donna graciously accepted. We met in Page, AZ for lunch on Tuesday 9/18. It was an enjoyable meeting and we all came away with a new appreciation of the friendships made through Amateur Radio. The W7WAC repeater, like our own linked repeater system is quiet a great deal of the time, but the occasional QSO confirms that our systems are still operational. I share this story as I find that I am often too busy to just pick up the microphone and answer someone travelling through our repeater coverage area. If Wayne & Donna had been too busy, we would have missed out on making new friends. Amateur Radio is about "connections" far and wide and "eyeball" contacts are an essential part of our hobby. I would encourage each of you to take a couple of minutes to answer that Ham you hear on the repeater that you don't know. You might be surprised at the friendship that may develop. On page 11 of this issue you will find a photo of Wayne & Donna. I feel that they represent another aspect of Amateur Radio that is often forgotten.

**Fox Hunting Oct. 14** will be a fun adventure. Plan to come out. If you have yet to participate in a Fox Hunt, come out and learn with the rest of us, or come at 3PM and help us with the Kids that have been invited to learn how to find their own Fox. We will have a family cookout following the hunt. I will see you all at the October 4th meeting. **For Now— from up here! 73!**



# FOR SALE!

## Jim AB9NH has the following for sale:

**ROHN BX64 TOWER** 64 Foot, tapered, free standing, \$650

**TITAN DX 80 thru 6 vertical.** About 6 years old, like new, fully assembled \$325

**TITAN DX 80 thru 6 vertical.** About 6 years old, partially disassembled \$300

Contact Jim at [jetab9nh@gmail.com](mailto:jetab9nh@gmail.com)

## Ken KK9N has the following for sale:

**Yaesu FT-897 HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver** - \$750

**Signal Hound USB Spectrum Analyzer**, 500kHz-4.4GHz, Software included \$750

**Vibroplex Deluxe Keyer**, \$125

**DX Doubler So2R Controller**, \$150 Contact Ken at [Ken@kk9n.com](mailto:Ken@kk9n.com)



HP Pavilion p7-1157cb PC Bundle

**ONE LEFT!**

### Highlights:

- VISION A6 Technology with AMD Quad-Core A6-3600 Accelerated Processor<sup>(2)</sup>
- Genuine Windows<sup>®</sup> 7 Home Premium 64-bit<sup>(1)</sup>
- Get powerful 64-bit performance with 8GB DDR3 system memory<sup>(3)</sup>
- 1TB (Terabyte) hard drive<sup>(4)</sup> stores up to 220,000 songs or 176,000 photos<sup>(5)</sup>
- SuperMulti DVD burner<sup>(6)</sup>
- AMD Radeon™ HD 6530 integrated graphics<sup>(14)</sup>
- Wireless LAN 802.11b/g/n<sup>(19)</sup>
- Front-panel 15-in-1 memory card reader
- HP 2311x 23-Inch LED Monitor<sup>(20)</sup>
- 24 x 7 toll-free phone support, one-year HP limited warranty, lifetime use of HP Support Assistant provide priceless peace of mind
- 1 year limited monitor warranty



## Marc N9LIS has the following for sale:

**Yaesu FL-2100E** 80-10 meters 1 Kilowatt Linear Amp.  
New finals installed spring 2012.

**Icom IC-706MKIIG** 160 meters—70 CM Transceiver with  
hand Mic complete.

**Xenyx 802** Mic Mixer with RadioShack Mic. (Mixer recommended by K9EID)

Prices available directly from Marc at [N9LIS@marcseale.com](mailto:N9LIS@marcseale.com)

Marc has one of these for sale. **Special price to Club members of \$599.** These are brand new, still in the box. Contact Marc directly for further details. At this price they won't last long Marc N9LIS ([wow@marcseale.com](mailto:wow@marcseale.com)) or 618-664-3353

## KIDS'S FOX HUNT OCTOBER 14, 2012

**Patriot's Park 1 mile West of Greenville on IL RT 140.  
Bring your handheld radios!**



**3:00 PM @ East Shelter**



The Macoupin County Amateur Radio Club set and operated contest station to assist with Route 66 Special Event Sept. 8th and 9th.. The station was located in Staunton Illinois. Ron KO0Z and Jim N9LQF set this station up and took care of the details. Our own Jim AB9NH went on behalf of the Okaw Valley ARC and operated the event. Thanks to Jim N9LQF and Ron KO0Z for their hard work and successful event.. (Photos by Jim AB9NH)

Special Event Station



L-R Jim N9LQF, Bill W9FJ, Jim AB9NH



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

What country hosted the 2012 World Championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding and how many Foxes were used on the course?

The answer and a prize for the winner will be given at the October 4, 2012 meeting



**Dues for 2012 due  
January 1, 2012**

Dues for 2012 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

**Kris WB9SLM presented  
with Guest Speaker Cup**

By President Ken KK9N & Vice-President John W9KXQ



Photo by Charley KA9NQL

**OVARC Club members meet owners  
of Navajo Mountain Repeater**



(l-r) John W9KXQ, Donna KE7OZE, Wayne W7WAC, Marc N9LIS, Irene KC9SPA, Charlie K0CWF (see page 8 "My View from Up Here!" for details)

**Testing Opportunities**

**Jim Thibeault KF4NBG  
OVARC VE Team**



Contact Jim KF4NBG  
(618)-409-8284  
[BecomeAHam@yahoo.com](mailto:BecomeAHam@yahoo.com)

**Extra Class Questions Changed  
July 1, 2012**

**Saturday October 6, 2012**

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**

**John Haas KC9WOD  
Robert Nelson KC9WOE  
Jeremiah Robillard KC9WOF**

**UP GRADES**

**None to Report**

**Hamfests**

**Halloween Hamfest-Kirkwood, MO**  
**October 27, 2012**



**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)

## U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) set to scrap 41 portable towers!

Sept. 27, 2012,

Information have been provided to me that there are 41 of these towers set to be scrapped. They cost the taxpayers around \$50,000 each. Below is what I sent today to Congressman Shimkus. If you are not in his District, please contact your Congressman. You may use my letter. My letter was sent to : Dora Rohan ( [dora.rohan@mail.house.gov](mailto:dora.rohan@mail.house.gov))

Dear Congressmen Shimkus,

As you are aware, I have learned that there are over 40 tower trailer units, owned by DOD and are set to be cut up as scrap metal. The cost of these units to the U.S. Taxpayers was around \$50,000 per unit. There are many counties and law enforcement agencies in your district that could benefit from having one of these deployed/stored in their county for that communications disaster that we all hope will never happen. I have included a link to the actual assets and ask the following:

[http://www.govliquidation.com/auction/view?auctionId=5649967&convertTo%20=USD#ItemManifest.](http://www.govliquidation.com/auction/view?auctionId=5649967&convertTo%20=USD#ItemManifest)

- That you contact the DLA in Battle Creek, Michigan and specifically ask them to reclassify the Demil Code on these items and to hold up the sale until they can be properly inspected by experts. Following this inspection, **“need” can be determined for our Emergency Communications and Services community.**
- Here is the point of contact: Ms. K-Marie Logan, Phone 269-961-5062, or email to : [k-marie.logan@dla.mil](mailto:k-marie.logan@dla.mil)
- **As with everything in Government, time is short and we only have until October 10, 2012 to get these units “reclassified” before it is too late to save these valuable assets.**

Sincerely,

John King



**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!*

**October 2012  
Okaw Valley Amateur  
Radio Club**