

Volume 4, Issue 9  
OVARC E-Mail

September  
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*

## Inside this Issue

September Meeting	1
Future Meetings	2
Meeting Location	3
August Mtg. Minutes	4
Estate Equipment	3,5
Website checkout ✓	6
Net Control Schedule	7
For Sale-Equipment	9
Route 66 Special	10
Repeater Controller	11
Dennis W9RXX	12

## 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*

## "I Hear What You See"

**Kris Hickerson WB9SLM**  
**"From Louis Braille to Refreshable Braille"**

### "The Road From France to Greenville"

**This journey began a long time ago with a young man in France who developed the Braille code which today still bears his name. However, braille is just the beginning and there are many other tools and techniques which make it possible for Kris to function in the sighted world today. She will share just a few of them at the September 6, 2012 Meeting.**



**PLAN NOW FOR OUR NEXT MEETING**  
**September 6, 2012**

**7:30 PM**



**September 6, 2012**

**“I Hear What You See”  
By Kris WB9SLM**

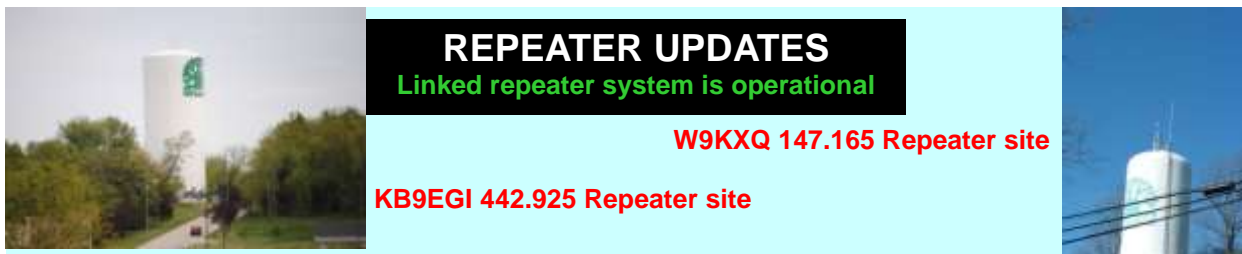
**October 4, 2012**

**Foxhunt Anyone?**



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=2012-08-23>)  
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**

Friday August 17, the UHF Repeater decided that it needed some attention. After being keyed up for an extended period of time it dropped off the air and would no longer work. Les N9MFA John W9KXQ removed it from the site for repairs. The controller was checked out by Marc N9LIS and determined it needed some serious attention. Don KB9EGI has the RF unit back in service and a backup controller will be installed until the RC-96 is repaired. KB9EGI will be on the air soon!

## Location for September 6, 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:

September 6, 2012

October 4, 2012

November 1, 2012

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



**Tower & Antenna Donated by  
Paul Mejia KC9USQ in memory of  
his father Dennis Mejia W9RXX to  
OVARC.**

**The Tower has been removed and is  
now in the hands of its new owner.**



Also donated  
was a **Kenwood  
TS-570** and  
**Drake L4B Lin-  
ear Amp**, both  
of which are  
working at full  
power. This  
station has al-  
ready been pur-  
chased and is  
currently being  
used.



## Minutes Highlights for August 2 , 2012

President Ken Norris KK9NKK9N called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM on Thursday August 2, 2012 in Room 104 of the Kaskaskia College Education Center on Third Street in Greenville. There were 10 people present. Ramon Griego KD8KLB was welcomed to his first meeting with us.

The minutes of the June 7, 2012 meeting were approved. Howard Wise N9GEQ was not present for a treasurer's report.

John W9KXQ reported that the 440 cabinet has been sand blasted and powder coated. The cabinet was originally donated to the club by Southwestern Electric. A couple of modifications have been made to hold our gear by John KB9QXS and Rex N9DAN, who customized a shelf. We expect will be ready to put the gear in the newly painted cabinet in the next couple of weeks.

Jim Thibeault KF4NGB reported that there have been several testing sessions since our last meeting. On June 10 at the Egyptian Hamfest 1 passed their Technician exam and 1 passed the Extra exams. On June 12 at Granite City 1 passed the Technician exam. On June 23 at our Field Day 1 passed the Technician and 1 passed the General exam. On July 8 at Anderson Hospital in Maryville 2 passed their Technician exam. The next VE testing will be this coming Saturday in Highland.

Dennis KA9YTV has completed a PowerPoint of 522 study slides of the pool of the General class questions with just the correct answers. John is cleaning up that PowerPoint and creating a hyperlink in the opening slides to each section if you want to study particular sections. Within another week or so it will be available for anyone to use.

Ken showed red polo shirts that are available through John for \$25. The embroidery work is done by Chrystal Unterbrink (*Sew Unique*) the mother of one of our young hams, Emily KC9UBI.

This coming Tuesday evening we will help line up floats and other participants for the Bond County Fair parade.

The Carlinville Hamfest is this coming Saturday, August 4. John W9KXQ, Jim AB9NH, and Ken KK9N plan to attend.

Ken asked if there is interest in having a fox hunt in October. Several members present expressed interest.

Ken KK9N asked the trivia corner question: Who among those who were at Field Day 2012 was the newest and the longest licensed amateur? Jim Thibeault KF4NGB answered Mark Hardy KC9WGB was the newest (passed his exam that day) and John W9KXQ was the longest licensed ham (August 1961).

Jerry WB9NEY pointed out that in the August issue of QST there is an article by a friend of his, David Spearing KB9CSW.

Ramon KD8KLB has ordered a new credit-card sized computer called Raspberry Pi that costs \$35. He expects it may take more than a month to receive it. Several asked Ramon to present a program on it in the future.

**Meeting minutes continued on Page 10**



## 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.

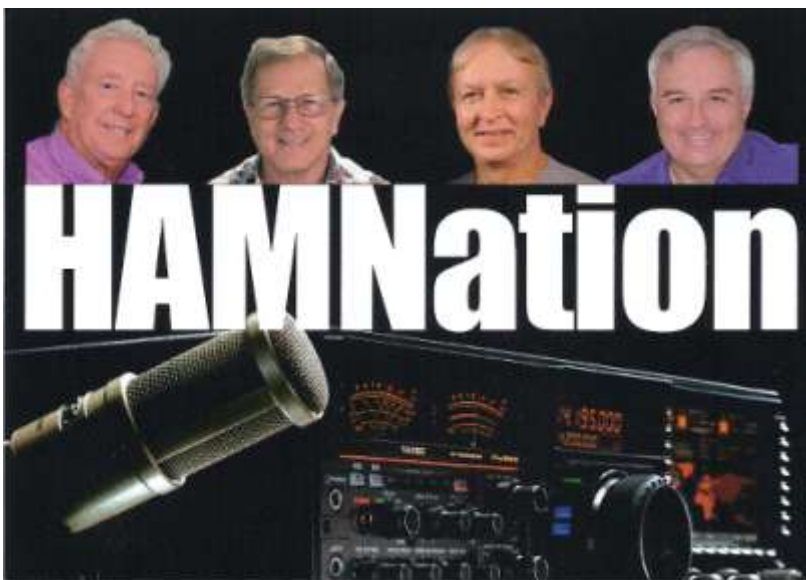
## Website to checkout



An interesting website discovered by one of our readers!

Check this out

<http://www.dxcoffee.com/eng/>



“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



[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**



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.

- Sept. 2 >> NO NET <> LABOR DAY**
- Sept. 9—Kris WB9SLM**
- Sept. 16—Howard N9GEQ**
- Sept. 23—John W9KXQ**
- Sept. 30—Claren KB9BEB**
- Oct. 7 >> NO NET <> COLUMBUS <<**
- Oct. 14—Tim K9XWX**
- Oct. 21—Kris WB9SLM**
- Oct. 28—Howard N9GEQ**
- Nov. 4—John W9KXQ**

**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!  
Awards at Sept. 6th Meeting**



**Kaitlynn KC9SHZ**



**Adam**



**Emily KC9UBI**



**Alexis KC9VAK**



## My View from Here! John W9KXQ

Tropical Storm (Hurricane) Isaac is fast approaching land as I finish this issue. Amateur Radio will once again play a part in the overall communications effort during this intense storm. Many Amateur systems have been upgraded since Katrina 7 years ago and hopefully there will be no loss of life with the storm. Amateur Radio continues to play a strong role in emergency communications as Ham Radio Operators are being recognized for their ability to provide communications

in situations where established lines of communication are either down or not robust enough to provide the details of an event in real time. Amateur Radio, a Hobby I have enjoyed for over 51 years continues to intrigue me. I am encouraged as I watch fellow hams you get excited about a “real tube radio” ( I was corrected—Only a radio with tubes is a “real radio”!) and others who have the thrill of hanging a piece of wire from a tree and get it to work on “all bands”. Some of us are guilty of getting excited over a new “little” hand-held radio and others over the prospect of erecting a newly acquired “crank-up” tower. These are all part of this great hobby that we enjoy. I guarantee you that this is not ham radio of 50 years ago when I as a 15 year old was entering an “old man’s” hobby. Today’s Ham Radio operators embrace the vast age span as well as the vast numbers in our ranks.

If you have not been energized lately about your hobby, let me encourage you to make the September 6th meeting a priority. Kris, WB9SLM who is excited about our hobby will be sharing with us all how she hears what we see! Additionally, we will be recognizing 4 of our young Hams who participated in our Field Day event and were the top scorers. These 4 were not the only young Hams to participate but represent the up and coming Ham Radio Operators. I have had the privilege of working this summer with two very special young “Hams 2 Be” as we have been studying for their Technician exam. Both of these kids one 9 years old and one 8 years old have taught me that electronics can be fun. I have learned from them and I look forward to introducing you to them as new Hams before the end of 2012. I will see you all at the September 6th meeting. **For Now— from up here! 73!**



# FOR SALE!

## Jim Trible AB9NH has the following for sale:

**ROHN BX64 TOWER** 64 Foot, tapered, free standing, with hardware (nuts & bolts). The legs that go into the concrete will have to be obtained. Has been stored, out of the weather for a number of years. No Rust. Can be hauled in a pick up. \$650

**TITAN DX 80 thru 6 vertical.** About 6 years old, like new, fully assembled, ready for inspection and guaranteed to work DX. (Manual) \$325

**TITAN DX 80 thru 6 vertical.** About 6 years old, partially disassembled, (for transporting) but complete. With Manual and help to assemble. \$300  
Contact Jim at [jetab9nh@gmail.com](mailto:jetab9nh@gmail.com)



## HP Pavilion p7-1157cb PC Bundle

### 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 Seale N9LIS has the following for sale:

**Yaesu FL-2100E** 80-10 meters 1 Kilowatt Linear Amp. New finals installed spring 2012. Amp is working but needs a new home.

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

**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 two 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

## OVARC Minutes Continued from Page 4

Vince KC9TUM reported that Clinton Co. staged an emergency event in Breese and Beckemeyer recently. Curtis W5DTR and Les N9MFA also participated.

For our program Ken reviewed our very successful Field Day 2012. We made 139 CW contacts, 12 digital contacts, and 590 phone contacts. We had 8 operators on the regular stations and 9 on the GOTA station. The contact points were doubled because we used emergency power. Our point total was 2,934 points. The December issue of QST will publish all the results from Field Day.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Cary Holman W4GRN



The [Macoupin County Amateur Radio Club](#) will man up a contest station to assist with Route 66 Special Event. The station will be in Staunton Illinois and will run Saturday morning thru Sunday evening. Everyone is invited to help. Ron KO0Z and Jim N9LQF are putting the details together for everyone. No equipment is needed by the operators. They will get the stations all up and running. [This looks like a lot of fun.](#) We will have some food, and some drinks but if you plan on coming for the long haul get with us and let us know. If you just want to come look us over and maybe operate for a few hours that is great as well. Just let us know how you can help.

Ron and Jim can not do this by their selves without burning out after 20 hours. Please plan on coming over to help. Lets make a big deal out of this. [We will be on Historic 66 at Henry's Rabbit Ranch in Staunton Illinois.](#) Really neat place lots of history here. We will be operating 3 transmitters and need help. Please response to this call for help.

[The event is Saturday September 8 and Sunday September 9, 2012](#)

[ronochu.sky@gmail.com](mailto:ronochu.sky@gmail.com) or [N9LQF@arrl.net](mailto:N9LQF@arrl.net) please sign up to help.



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

What communications technique is referred to as EME and what is the popular mode used for it today?

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

**KB9EGI Repeater Controller**

Inside the ACC RC-96 controller after 15 years at the repeater site.



**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 September 8, 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**

**None to Report**

**UP GRADES**

**Andrew Schadt KC9VZQ  
Douglas Davis KB9IMF  
(Upgraded to General 8/4/12)**

**Hamfests**

**Peoria Superfest 2012  
September 22-23, 2012**



**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)

**Dennis Mejia W9RXX Profile (by Kris WB9SLM & Paul KC9USO)**

Dennis Mejia was born in Franklin County Ohio on August 26, 1933. When he was still an infant, Dennis' father having passed away shortly before his birth, his mother moved the family to Chicago. Dennis had one older brother James who passed in 1998. His mother Gertrude passed in 1988.

At approximately 18 months of age Dennis was injured in a fall and lost the sight in both eyes. I am just guessing, but I presume he detached both retinas and back in the 30's they had no idea of how to repair that. He went through grade school and high school in the Chicago public school system. After high school, Dennis continued to self educate himself via talking books, recordings, constant reading and life experiences.

After finishing high school Dennis married his first wife and they had a son, Paul. It is this son who has elected to befriend OVARC with the gift of his father's amateur radio equipment. Following his father's footsteps, Paul recently earned his technicians class license KC9USQ.

Dennis worked as an assembler for Portable Electric Tools from 1952 to 1975 in Chicago and later Geneva, IL. When the company moved its manufacturing operations to Missouri, he decided to enroll in the Visually Handicapped Managers of Illinois program made possible through the Randolph Shepherd Act, which was a Federal law passed in the late 1930's establishing vending locations and cafeterias in Federal, State, County and municipal government building to employ visually impaired individuals. During his early years with the program, he operated and managed locations at the Du Page, County courthouse, Chicago Social Security building, Webber Marking, Chicago Main Post office and O'Hare mail distribution facility.

From 1969 through the mid 1980's, Dennis also produced and hosted two one hour radio programs devoted to Big Band era music under the pseudonym "Tom Dennis". First, "Among My Souvenirs" at WONC-FM North Central Collage Naperville, later "Night Sounds" at WGSB-AM in Geneva - St. Charles, IL.

In March of 1990, Dennis and his second wife, Marie, moved down to Highland so Dennis could accept the position of Vending Service Manager at both the East-bound and West-bound rest areas along I-70 just north of Highland. Marie passed away in 1994. He managed this location for seventeen years until his retirement in January of 2007.

Dennis and Marie purchased five acres just south of Highland so he could have plenty of room for his amateur radio tower and antennas. He was licensed as W9AJI on May 30 1947 at the age of 14. He held that call until 1997 when he changed his call to W9RRX. A very dear friend and mentor in the Chicago area held this call until his death in the 1960's or 1970's and Dennis admired and respected him as an excellent example of what a good ham radio operator should be, so he decided he would like to apply for that call. He often boasted how classy the "Radio Radio X-Ray" phonetics sounded.

Dennis was a strong financial supporter and life member of ARRL, Handi hams and OVARC up until the past 4 years prior to his death. He was an inactive member of the Greenville club for around 20 years and this is why his son, Paul, wanted the club to have all Dennis' gear.

Dennis passed away on May 30, 2012 at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Belleville. Honoring wishes, his remains were cremated and no service was held. He is survived by his son Paul (Cathy) of Kalamazoo, MI and granddaughter Michelle Mejia of West Chicago, IL.

**September 2012**

**Okaw Valley Amateur  
Radio Club**

***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!*