



# ARC OVER

February 2020 Edition



The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League, Est. 1924  
Our 96th Year in Amateur Radio!

## Who We Are

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Kermit Carlson, W9XA

License Trustee (W9NE):  
David Booher, W9BOO

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Membership Database:  
Chris Kennell, KC9BKS



## About Us

The Fox River Radio League, Inc. is a general interest Amateur Radio club serving the central Fox River Valley area in Illinois. Club records indicate the club has been in existence since at least 1924, and it has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, and a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization as specified in Federal IRS Statutes.

We sponsor training classes for those seeking a new or upgraded Amateur Radio license, license examination sessions, and participation in various local Public Service events. Our membership covers a broad variety of interests - if you have a specialized amateur radio interest, you will likely find camaraderie with one or more of our club members.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at Bethany Lutheran Church, located at 8 S. Lincoln St. in Batavia, Ill. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM and includes a short business portion, social time and a program presentation of interest.

Meetings are open to the public. Anyone interested in the amateur radio hobby are invited to attend. Family members are welcome.

## What's Inside

- P. 2 President's Traffic
- P. 3 Member Traffic
- P. 4 Calendar of Upcoming Events
- P. 5 Event Information
- P. 6-7 May Mtg. Minutes
- P. 8 ARRL News

The FRRL ArcOver Newsletter is published monthly by the Fox River Radio League, Inc. Submission deadline for all news articles, items, and information is the 3rd Tuesday of each month for inclusion by the next publishing date. Please submit any such requests to [newsletter@frrl.org](mailto:newsletter@frrl.org).

## 2020 Membership Dues

Regular Dues: \$30 | Family Dues: \$40 | Sr. Citizen / Active Military / Student (full time under 22): \$25  
Repeater Support: \$10 donation

FRRL Dues and Repeater Support are payable no later than the January club meeting each year. New members joining during the year will have their first year's dues prorated to the nearest yearly quarter. Copyright © 2020, FRRL. Prior written permission is required to republish material present in the ArcOver.

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# President's Traffic

*From the President's Desk*

Hello all, I hope that you are staying warm as this cold spell hits us. I stopped for a brief minute at the Wheaton hamfest and saw several of our members as well as noticing the nice turnout for the hamfest. The other item I noticed while attending was the fellowship that was happening all around the building. Too bad we don't have anything to talk about. I'll come back to this later.

I want to ask you to do something for me over the next month. If you would, drop an email to me at [president@frrl.org](mailto:president@frrl.org) on what you would like for our club to do over the next year and possibly into the future. Yes, this has been asked before but I think it should be asked at least yearly. Your responses will remain anonymous and only the event or item will be collected and your officers will discuss. Please don't think that you're the only one with this idea, whatever that idea

is, because we will discuss all items submitted. It may just be that one item that you suggest that we try to implement and it turns out to be a huge success for all of us. Now the other favor that I ask is that if your suggestion is something that may not be commonly known, to please add some explanation along with your suggestion.

Now to get back to having nothing to talk about. Yes, we know that bands are a struggle at times right now with conditions being not ideal. However, we have or most of us have a single or dual band HT or mobile radio around. When is the last time you used our repeaters? When we ask ourselves what happened to "Bill"? He got his license and I heard him give out his call on the repeater, I didn't answer him neither did anyone else. I'll tell you what happened to "Bill". He got discouraged and said, "well, nobody is using ham radio. Why did I get



my license?" We need to use what is available to us to help our hobby. We have things to talk about. Even if it is as simple as how are you doing? Let's be proactive. Realize that not everyone has HF, DMR, Fusion, Dstar or whatever. But they do have a new ticket or in some cases an old ticket and got frustrated. Get on the radio. Be radioactive. Above all, HAVE FUN!

Before I go I want to thank and congratulate Dan Taddei, W9STS, Jim Nevitt, N9XP and Mike Bingham WX9SPL for serving as officers/directors for the club.

73 de AA5TN Gordie

## Test Your Knowledge!

*Each month the ArcOver will post 3 Exam Test Pool Questions to challenge you - one from each of the Technician, General, and Extra Class License Exams. Answers will be hidden throughout the ArcOver.*

### Technician - T1E03

**Who must designate the station control operator?**

- A. The station licensee
- B. The FCC
- C. The frequency coordinator
- D. The ITU

### General - G1E06

**The frequency allocations of which ITU region apply to radio amateurs operating in North and South America?**

- A. Region 4
- B. Region 3
- C. Region 2
- D. Region 1

### Extra - E1F01

**On what frequencies are spread spectrum transmissions permitted?**

- A. Only on amateur frequencies above 50 MHz
- B. Only on amateur frequencies above 222 MHz
- C. Only on amateur frequencies above 420 MHz
- D. Only on amateur frequencies above 144 MHz



# Member Traffic

*A place for you, our FRRL members, to come share your thoughts, voice your opinions, and talk about any topics that may be of general interest to the FRRL club or Amateur Radio in general.*

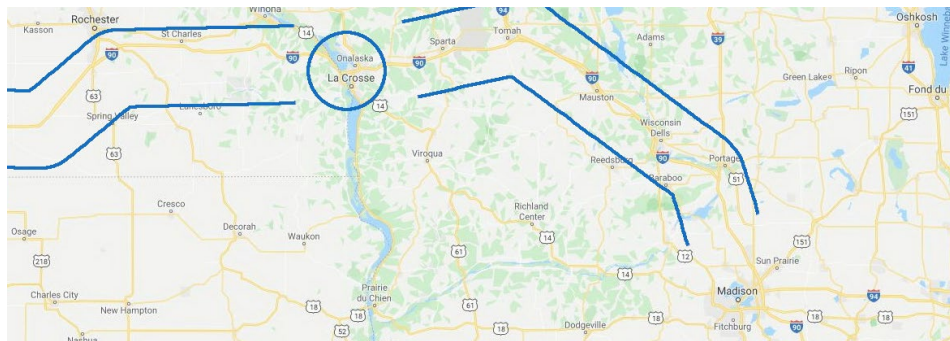
Greetings VHF+ Operators,

As this year's Conference President, I, along with the Conference's host team, cordially invite you to attend the 54th annual Central States VHF Society Conference, which is being held at the Radisson Hotel located on the beautiful riverfront of the Mississippi River in La Crosse, Wisconsin on July 24th and 25th, 2020.

This year's event will have all the great activities you've come to expect from a CSVHFS Conference: technical presentations, antenna range, noise figure lab, rover row and dish bowl, Thursday evening social activity, Friday evening trade-fest, dealer room, hospitality suite for evening socializing, fun family activities, and a closing banquet with a guest speaker and a prize table.

If you have never been to a CSVHFS conference before, you will find it a great event where you will learn many new things, meet new people, and connect with others you have talked to on-the-air. If you are new to VHF-and-above operating, you will want to be sure to attend the perennial favorite, VHF 101, an alternate track talk designed to get new VHFers successfully on the air. One thing we are certain of: if you attend the CSVHFS conference, you will go home reinvigorated about operating and experimenting on the bands above 50 MHz!

We are sending this letter out early



in the new year so that you can make time in your busy summer schedule to attend. From past experience, most attendees arrive on Thursday (July 23rd) and depart on Sunday (July 26th). Hotel accommodations at the special conference rate will be available beginning around February 1st. Registration for the conference will open around May 1st. Be sure to visit the conference website at <http://2020.csvhfs.org/> for ongoing updates and further information.

We look forward to seeing you in La Crosse in late July!

73, Bruce Richardson W9FZ  
CSVHFS President

Hello All,

It is strongly recommended that if you have WiRES-X questions please view the two new webinars that have been posted on our YouTube channel. These are the Yaesu WiRES-X: Everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask - Part 2 & Part 3.

They can be found at the following links:

- Part 2 - <https://youtu.be/B9H-3FU-m4Ik>
- Part 3 - <https://youtu.be/kX-jRc0DDigY>

We hope that this can clear up some questions that have been sent to us or misinformation forwarded from other groups. Please feel free to share these links or posts to those it can help.

73, John Kruk N9UPC

New Members		
Please welcome our newest members to the club!		
Call	Name	License Class
In Memoriam (Silent Keys)		
Call	Name	Location



# Upcoming Events

Come join us at an event - some are on the airwaves, and some are in person.

This format is designed to be easy to print and hang on your fridge.

FEBRUARY 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						<b>C</b> 1
2	3	<b>B</b> <b>N</b>	4	5	6	7
						<b>C</b> 8
9	10	<b>M</b>	11	12	13	14
						<b>C</b> 15
16	17	<b>N</b>	18	19	20	21
						<b>C</b> 22
23	24	<b>N</b>	25	26	27	28
						<b>C</b> 29

MARCH 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	<b>B</b> <b>N</b>	3	4	5	6
8	9	<b>M</b>	10	11	12	13
15	16	<b>N</b> <b>T</b>	17	18	19	20
22	23	<b>N</b>	24	25	26	27
29	30	<b>N</b>	31			

APRIL 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	<b>B</b> <b>N</b>	7	8	9	10
12	13	<b>M</b>	14	15	16	17
19	20	<b>N</b> <b>T</b>	21	22	23	24
26	27	<b>N</b>	28	29	30	

**C**Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Extra Class

- 9:00AM
- Messenger Library, N. Aurora

**B**Feb. 4: Board Meeting

- 7:00PM
- Colonial Cafe in Aurora

**N**Feb. 4, 18, 25: Regular FRRL Net

- 7:30PM
- W9CEQ 2M Repeater

**M**Feb. 11: Member Meeting

- 7:30PM
- Bethany Lutheran Church in Batavia, Ill.
- Program: Terry W9AUV APRS

**B**Mar. 3: Board Meeting

- 7:00PM
- Colonial Cafe in Aurora, Ill.

**N**Mar. 3, 17, 24, 31: Regular FRRL Net

- 7:30PM
- W9CEQ 2M Repeater

**M**Mar. 10: Member Meeting/Dinner

- 6:30PM
- Moose Lodge #1368, 2250 Lincoln Highway, St. Charles, Ill.

**T**Mar. 17: VE Testing

- 7:00PM
- Messenger Library, N. Aurora

**B**Apr. 7: Board Meeting

- 7:00PM
- Colonial Cafe in Aurora, Ill.

**N**Apr. 7, 21, 28: Regular FRRL Net

- 7:30PM
- W9CEQ 2M Repeater

**M**Apr. 14: Member Meeting

- 7:30PM
- Bethany Lutheran Church in Batavia, Ill.
- Program: TBD



# Event Information

If you have an idea for an event, or would like to share details on an upcoming event, please reach out to John W9JDM at [director2@frrl.org](mailto:director2@frrl.org) or Priscilla AE9PM at [director3@frrl.org](mailto:director3@frrl.org).

## Extra Class

The FRRL is proud to present the 2020 Extra Class. If you are interested in upgrading your license to Amateur Extra, please come join us! The class will run Saturdays through February 29, 2020 from 9:00am-noon at the Messenger Public Library in North Aurora.

We are using the green ARRL Extra Class License Manual.

Week 4: Feb 1	Radio Circuits and Systems; Safety
Week 5: Feb 8	Radio Propagation; Rules & Regulations
Week 6: Feb 15	Antenna and Feed Lines
Week 7: Feb 22	Antenna and Feed Lines; Modulation, Protocols, and Modes
Week 8: Feb 29	Operating Practices; Q & A

To sign up for the class, please contact John W9JDM at [education@frrl.org](mailto:education@frrl.org).

## 2020 FRRL Dinner

The 2020 FRRL Dinner will be in March 2020. This is a members only event and not open to the general public. Members are welcome and encouraged to bring their families and sponsored guests.

Date	March 10, 2020
Time	Arrive 6:30 pm Dinner 7:00pm Close 10:00pm
QTH	Moose Lodge #1368 2250 Lincoln Hwy St. Charles, IL

Cost	\$25 - Members/guests \$15 - Children under 12 \$35 - price at door
Tickets	Payment due March 3, 2020 via PayPal or check/cash to Dan Harmon - Treasurer
Dress Code	Business casual. No cut-offs, t-shirts, hats.
Menu	Roast Beef AuJus or Baked Chicken (choose one) Salad and a Vegetable Whipped Potatoes with Gravy and Buns Cookies
Drinks	Water provided All other drinks (soda, coffee, liquor): cash bar
Dinner will be served - such great service!	



## MS Walk 2020

Please check your calendars and consider signing up to work EM-COMM for this worthwhile cause.

When: May 3, 2020 7:30AM

**Technician - T1E03**

**Who must designate the station control operator?**

A. The station licensee

Where: Pottawatomie Park  
8 North Avenue  
St Charles, IL 60174

Contact: Priscilla Miller, AE9PM  
([director3@frrl.org](mailto:director3@frrl.org)) to register.

What you will need:

- Food and a drink. Water is provided.
- A 2 meter/70 centimeter HT.
- A spare battery for your HT.
- Dress for anything from snow to rain to sun. Layers work well so you can be comfortable.
- An attitude of service. We volunteer to do this because it IS what we do as HAMS.

## Repeater Information

Club sponsored or club affiliated local repeaters are listed below.

KC9OEM 2M

- 145.470 MHz, -600 KHz offset
- 103.5 Hz tone
- Net: Wed. 6:30PM
- Owned by Kane Co. OEM

W9CEQ 2M

- 147.210 MHz, +600 KHz offset
- 103.5 Hz tone
- Net: Tues. 7:30PM (except second Tues. of month)
- Owned by FRRL

W9CEQ 70CM

- 444.300 MHz, +5 MHz offset
- 114.8 Hz tone
- IRLP #4850, Echolink #230933
- Owned by FRRL

W9CEQ\_B D-Star 70CM

- 442.10625 MHz, +5 MHz offset
- Contact W9XA for information

W9CEQ\_C D-Star 2M

- 147.225 MHz, +600 KHz offset
- Net: 8:00PM Wed.
- Contact W9XA for information

More repeater information can be found at [frrl.org/repeaters](http://frrl.org/repeaters).



# Meeting Minutes January 14, 2020

*Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the General Membership of the Fox River Radio League (FRRL), an Illinois not-for-profit Corporation. Held at Bethany Lutheran Church, Batavia, Ill.*

The meeting was called to order at 19:31 CST by President Dan W9STS. Audience introductions: Name, Call, QTH and question: What is your Ham-related resolution for the year?

Approval of December 2019 Member Meeting minutes: Motion was moved, seconded and accepted. There were 38 people present at this meeting.



## Reports

### Treasurer's Report

#### Dan WA9YKK

Dan reported the balances as of 1/5/2020.

### Repeater

#### Jim N9XP

Kermit W9XA has been working on D-Star. Echolink is planned for install on the UHF repeater.

### Classes/Programs/VE

#### John W9JDM

The first Extra Class was held last Saturday. Ten students have registered for this class. John needs suggestions for the February program. A VE session for this month is scheduled (see below).

### Outreach/Newsletter/PR

#### Priscilla AE9PM

The FRRL Dinner is scheduled for

March 10th at the Moose in St. Charles. Ticket cut-off is March 3rd. Priscilla went over the prices and menu. See the FRRL website for future details on this event. Roger W9YU is working on putting the PayPal registration on the website. Flyers were made available to anyone who would like them. Priscilla currently has five volunteers for the MS Walk in May. A signup sheet was attached to the Club Attendance Book.

### Tech/Membership/Groups.io

#### Mike WX9SPL

Chris KC9BKS reported 136 paying members.

### ARES

#### Terry W9AUV

Terry brought the Club up-to-date on ARES events. Members are encouraged to check them out on the web: <http://kanecountyares.com>

### Repeater Report

#### Kermit W9XA

No report.

### Old Business

#### Field Day 2020

Terry W9AUV is the coordinator. If you're interested in being a band-captain or participating, please see Terry. Also, please see the FRRL Website for further information on Field Day, as it becomes available.

### General - G1E06

**The frequency allocations of which ITU region apply to radio amateurs operating in North and South America?**

C. Region 2





*Come join the camaraderie at one of our monthly meetings! The social hour following the business portion is a great opportunity to meet your fellow hams.*

**Illinois QSO Party Score**

Denny W9HI reported that the Club ranked 13th in the state for the IL QSO Party.

**New Business**

**Net Control**

Dan W9STS discussed the need for a new net control operator to replace Dave N9XU. Please volunteer if you can assist.

**Officers/Directors Induction**

Dan W9STS thanked all the previous members serving the Board. Dan also welcomed the newly elected Board Members.

**Announcements**

Harry K9DXA mentioned a new QRP Kit to work digital modes. See: <https://midnightdesignsolutions.com/phaser/index.html>.

Marty N9NTM brought the Club up to date on future events in the area.

January 21st VE Session

February 1st, 9th, 15th, 22nd and 29th Extra Class

February 4th Board Meeting

February 11th Membership Meeting

**Program**

Jaye W9CY – Setting up your HF station

**Adjournment**

The member meeting was adjourned at 20:03 CST.

**Upcoming Events**

January 8th and 25th Extra Class  
 January 19th WCRA Mid-Winter Hamfest

Respectfully submitted,  
 David Booher W9BOO  
 FRRL Secretary

**Extra - E1F01**

**On what frequencies are spread spectrum transmissions permitted?**  
 B. Only on amateur frequencies above 222 MHz





# ARRL News

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## Barry Shelley, N1VXY, is ARRL Interim CEO

At its January 17 - 18 meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors did not elect Howard Michel, WB2ITX, as the ARRL Chief Executive Officer.

As of January 20, Barry Shelley, N1VXY, became interim CEO. Mr. Shelley was ARRL's Chief Financial Officer for 28 years and CEO during 2018 before his retirement.

The Board has created a search committee to select the next CEO. More details on this and other matters that took place at the Board meeting will be released shortly.



## ARES Volunteers Establish "Plan B" Communication Network in Puerto Rico

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) volunteers in Puerto Rico continued over the weekend to report for daily duty at an American Red Cross (ARC) distribution center in Mayagüez and at ARC Headquarters in San Juan. The two sites are ready to provide a "Plan B" communication backbone in the event the seismic situation worsens. A magnitude 6.4 earthquake struck southwestern Puerto Rico on January 7, fast on the heels of



a magnitude 5.8 tremor the day before, damaging homes in Guayanilla, Peñuelas, Yauco, and Guánica. ARRL Puerto Rico Section Manager Oscar Resto, KP4RF, told ARRL this week that the situation is relatively "calm and quiet" for now and starting on January 22, volunteers began monitoring from their homes or vehicles, permitting most, including Resto himself, to get back to their jobs and homes.

ARES volunteers had been deployed to an ARC distribution center in Yauco, but that part of the operation was shifted to Mayagüez over the weekend, because it was considered safer there. An ARRL-provided VHF/UHF radio and antenna have been set up at the Mayagüez facility. Resto said a second operating position is being added at the San Juan ARC Headquarters site.

Resto said Red Cross officials know that they can rely on amateur radio, if the situation calls for it, but for now commercial communications are fully operational, although aftershocks from the January 7 quake persist. "In case the situation escalates, the ARES team will immediately mobilize at the ARC

sites and establish communication (VHF/UHF or HF) as required," Resto said.

## Massachusetts Club Offers Support to Arecibo Observatory Following Earthquakes

Although not in the hardest-hit earthquake zone, Puerto Rico's Arecibo Observatory nonetheless has been affected by the recent spate of earthquakes and aftershocks. The landmark Arecibo radio telescope and ionospheric radar facility was a victim of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Maria in 2017.

Members of the Nashoba Valley Amateur Radio Club (NVARC) have stepped up to assist in support and recovery efforts for the Arecibo Observatory radio telescope and ionospheric radar facility. NVARC members Phil Erickson, W1PJE; Rod Hersh, WA1TAC, and Jim Wilber, AB1WQ, participated in daily scheduled radio contacts with Arecibo's lead telescope operator and spectrum manager, Angel Vazquez, WP3R. Other NVARC members volunteered to serve as back-up stations.

"All AO staff members are safe, and our technical teams have completed preliminary visual analysis of the primary structure and have found no immediate damage/issues, however a more detailed inspection needs to be completed once the aftershocks subside," said Francisco Córdova, Arecibo Observatory's director, at the University of Central Florida.

