



# ARC OVER



The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League  
Since 1924

**Our 90th Year in Amateur Radio!**

April 2014



Proud to be an ARRL  
Special Services Club

## OSCAR-11 Celebrates 30 Years in Orbit:

[OSCAR-11](#) has been in orbit for 30 years, and at least one beacon continues to transmit, albeit with a signal that grows ever weaker. Also known as UOSAT-2, OSCAR-11 was designed and built by a team at the University of Surrey in England. It was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California on March 1, 1984. OSCAR-11 was the first amateur satellite to carry a digital communication package into Earth orbit. The satellite had beacons in three Amateur Radio bands -- 145 MHz, 435 MHz, and 2.4 GHz. Only the 145.826 MHz FM AFSK 1200 bps ASCII telemetry beacon remains in operation.

## ARRL Seeks Candidates for Contest Branch Manager:

The ARRL is seeking candidates for the position of Contest Branch Manager. This individual will be responsible for all aspects of ARRL's contest program. Applicants should have at least 5 years of experience in personnel, software, and process management in a non-profit environment and as an active Amateur Radio contesting participant. A bachelor's degree is preferred. Details are on the ARRL website, [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

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## TN2MS Operation Approved for DXCC Credit

The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved the October 12-24, 2013, operation of TN2MS -- Republic Of The Congo -- for DX Century Club credit. If a request for DXCC credit for this operation has been rejected in a prior application, contact ARRL Awards Branch Manager [Bill Moore](#), NC1L, to be placed on the list for an update to your record. Please note the submission date and/or reference number of your application in order to expedite the search for any rejected contacts. DXCC is Amateur Radio's premier award that hams can earn by confirming on-the-air contacts with 100 DXCC "[entities](#)," most of which are countries in the traditional sense. You can begin with the basic DXCC award and work your way up to the DXCC Honor Roll. Learn [more](#). -- ARRL Awards Branch Manager *Bill Moore, NC1L*

## About the FRRL

The Fox River Radio League, Inc., is a general interest amateur radio club serving the central Fox River Valley area. Records indicate the club has been in existence since at least 1924, and 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 IRS Statutes. We sponsor training classes for new hams, license examination sessions, an annual hamfest, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members.

The Fox River Radio League meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at Bethany Lutheran Church at 8 S. Lincoln St in Batavia.. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM and includes a business portion, social time and a program of interest.

All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome.

Please welcome our new members to the club!

CALL	Name	License Class
	No New Members	
	this month!	

## ArcOver FRRL Newsletter

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The ArcOver is published monthly by the Fox River Radio League, Inc. Articles and letters are always welcome. The normal deadline for material is the 25th day of each month for the next month's news letter. Articles can be sent by email to: [arcover@frrl.org](mailto:arcover@frrl.org) or via U.S.

Mail to: FRRL Newsletter PO Box 673 Batavia, IL 60510.

Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.

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**Fox River Radio League**  
Founded 1924

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Annual dues 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 year quarter.

Regular dues are \$20.00 a year, Senior Citizen dues are \$12.00. Family dues are \$30.00. Members can help support the FRRL Repeaters by making an annual \$10.00 donation.

## Bill Erikson HF Challenge

By Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

The number of participants is growing as the 2014 HF Challenge continues. Scores in all classes range from as few as 3 points to 271 at the top, demonstrating that no matter how great or how limited your time and motivation, there's room for everyone in this activity.

Leaders as of March 15<sup>th</sup> are Larry K9ARZ in the QRO Class, Dean KC9EOQ in the Operator Class; and Paul KC9UZV in both the Limited and Rag Chewer classes.

According to Larry, "Ten meters has been the band to watch!" Recent catches include East and West Malaysia, Sri Lanka, , Christmas Island (VK9X-), Indonesia, Philippines, Togo, Brunei, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Rodrigues Island.

The Challenge is still in the early stages of 2014, so if you've wanted to get in on the fun, this is still a great time for new participants to join. See the Challenge page on the website at [www.frrl.org](http://www.frrl.org) for details on how it works. Then, see Joe during one of our monthly meetings to request a Challenge worksheet, or do so via email to challenge [at] frrl.org.

Good DXing!

de KC9LQS

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Paul KC9UZV	49	9	40	98
Eric K9LGE	25	5	4	34
John AG9D	45	5	20	70
Paul KC9SEB	31	5	16	52

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Dean KC9EOQ	2	0	64	66
Bill NF9D	12	1	13	26
Dan W9STS	12	1	3	16
Ron KC9SNI	9	1	16	26
Dawn KC9LQS	1	0	2	3
QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Joe NA9A	4	0	11	15
Dick AH6EZ	49	11	69	129
Larry K9ARZ	50	12	209	271
Alan W9AN	26	3	84	113
Jim N9XP	5	0	15	20
Rag Chewer Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Paul KC9UZV	12	0	1	13
Joe NA9A	2	0	1	3
Dick AH6EZ	6	0	1	7

# President's Traffic

Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

Your board hit the ground running this year, with a number of new initiatives underway and others in the works. Only two months into my term, I am already overwhelmed by the support and enthusiasm so many of you have demonstrated. FRRL is a group of amazing and talented individuals. The fact that you are willing to share your unique perspective and experience is a tremendous asset to the club. Together, we are evolving into a resource beyond what any single person could create. Kudos to each of you for helping steer the club toward this goal.

As I watch the energy each of you is pouring into this year's activities, I recall a question I pondered frequently after I earned my first license and during my early days as a new member of FRRL. What does it mean to be a good ham? Passing that very first exam, I felt the new privileges I'd been granted required an appropriate response. The only way to honor it, I believed, was to become the best ham I possibly could. Learning what it meant to be a good ham was one of the reasons I joined FRRL. Here's what you've taught me.

Being a good ham doesn't require having encyclopedic knowledge of electronics and radio theory, or putting out the most power permitted by law, having the highest towers or getting the rarest DX...as desirable as those things are! Rather, it means using the knowledge and skills you have, whether newly acquired or deeply entrenched, to the best of your ability. It means always striving to learn more and do more, exploring new technology and acquiring new skills, finding your niche and then sharing your passion for it with others.

Being a good ham means honoring the people and traditions that came before us and made radio what it is today, and then paying it forward by embracing new hams, the way FRRL did with me. And it means mentoring our young operators, eventually turning over our mikes and straight keys to those who will inherit the hobby as we have shaped it.

FRRL also taught me that being a good ham is about service, to the community and to each other, for our own benefit and for the common good, keeping amateur radio alive and making it as accessible as possible to those who want to join our ranks.

And it's about community, working side by side to make good things happen, building memories, bonding over our shared interest and forming friendships that often extend beyond the hobby and sometimes last a lifetime.

Being a good ham is a journey that begins the moment you earn your first ticket and continues until you become a silent key. At every point in the journey, we all have something of value to offer.

This month, I want to encourage you to consider the question: What makes a good ham? And more importantly, what can each of us do to become even better, and help our fellow members do the same?

73 de KC9LQS

## STUDY QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

### FROM THE TECHNICIAN POOL

**Q:** T1C01 [97.3(a)(11)(iii)]

Which type of call sign has a single letter in both the prefix and suffix?

- A. Vanity
- B. Sequential
- C. Special event
- D. In-memoriam

### FROM THE GENERAL POOL

**Q:** G3A02

What effect does a Sudden Ionospheric Disturbance have on the daytime ionospheric propagation of HF radio waves?

- A. It enhances propagation on all HF frequencies
- B. It disrupts signals on lower frequencies more than those on higher frequencies
- C. It disrupts communications via satellite more than direct communications
- D. None, because only areas on the night side of the Earth are affected

### FROM THE EXTRA POOL

**Q:** E2A04

What is meant by the term mode as applied to an amateur radio satellite?

- A. The type of signals that can be relayed through the satellite
- B. The satellite's uplink and downlink frequency bands
- C. The satellite's orientation with respect to the Earth
- D. Whether the satellite is in a polar or equatorial orbit

### Regulatory: Radio Amateur Facing Substantial Fine for CB Violation

An Oklahoma Amateur Extra class licensee is facing a \$12,000 fine for operating his Citizens Band radio to "interfere with the communications of other CB stations," the FCC said in a *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture* ([NAL](#)) released March 21. In May 2013 an FCC agent used mobile direction-finding techniques to positively identify the source of a continuous carrier of CB channel 19 (27.1850 MHz) to the residence of Orloff Haines, KF5IXX, in Enid, Oklahoma. Haines was not at home, but his wife showed the agent her husband's CB station, which was transmitting on channel 19. "Mrs. Haines stated that Mr. Haines was 'keyed on,' or continuously transmitting on channel 19, because other CB operators in the area were harassing her," the FCC reported in the *NAL*. The agent telephoned Orloff Haines during the station inspection, and, the FCC said, he admitted that he was transmitting a continuous carrier on channel 19. Mrs. Haines "voluntarily turned off" the CB transmitter at the end of the inspection. The FCC said the carrier was interfering with CB communication within an approximately 2 mile radius. Prior to last May, Haines had received two written warnings from the Dallas FCC office, advising him of the consequences of intentionally interfering with other CB communications. "The fact that Mr. Haines interfered with other CB communications despite being twice warned in writing that such actions violated [the Communications Act] and FCC rules demonstrates a deliberate disregard for the Commission's requirements and authority," the FCC said, in justifying an upward adjustment of \$5000 in the proposed forfeiture. The FCC gave Haines 30 days to pay the fine or file in writing for reduction or cancellation of the proposed fine.





## April Contest Dates

+ QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party	1200Z, Apr 5 to 2359Z, Apr 6
+ Texas State Parks on the Air	1400Z, Apr 5 to 0159Z, Apr 6
+ Missouri QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 5 to 0200Z, Apr 6 and 1400Z-2000Z, Apr 6
+ Mississippi QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 5 to 0200Z, Apr 6
+ SP DX Contest	1500Z, Apr 5 to 1500Z, Apr 6
+ RSGB RoPoCo SSB	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 6
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 7
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 8
+ NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Apr 9
+ JIDX CW Contest	0700Z, Apr 12 to 1300Z, Apr 13
+ OK/OM DX Contest, SSB	1200Z, Apr 12 to 1200Z, Apr 13
+ New Mexico QSO Party	1400Z, Apr 12 to 0200Z, Apr 13
+ Georgia QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 12 to 2359Z, Apr 13
+ Holyland DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 18 to 2100Z, Apr 19
+ CQ Manchester Mineira DX Contest	1200Z, Apr 19 to 2359Z, Apr 20
+ Michigan QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 19 to 0400Z, Apr 20
+ Ontario QSO Party	1800Z, Apr 19 to 1800Z, Apr 20
+ YU DX Contest	2100Z, Apr 19 to 1700Z, Apr 20
+ 10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital	0001Z, Apr 26 to 2359Z, Apr 27
+ Florida QSO Party	1600Z, Apr 26 to 2159Z, Apr 27

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **Board of Director's Meeting**

April 1st, 2014 @7:30pm  
Colonial Café—Aurora, IL.

#### **Membership Meeting**

April 8th, 2014 @7:30pm  
Bethany Lutheran Church

Technician Pool- C. Special event

General Pool- B. It disrupts signals on lower frequencies more than those on higher frequencies

Extra Pool- B. The satellite's uplink and downlink frequency bands





**Fox River Radio League**  
"Established 1924"  
**An ARRL Special Service Club**  
**W9CEQ PO Box 673 Batavia, IL 60510**



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, IL

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### **Meeting Minutes March 11, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Dawn Williams KC9LQS

**Recognition** – Dawn KC9LQS welcomed everyone to Bethany Lutheran Church, the club's new meeting location, and thanked Tobi K9TCD for her considerable efforts in researching potential new meeting locations.

**Question of the Month** – What bands are you most active on lately?

**FXpedition** – Dawn KC9LQS reviewed the recently initiated member idea-seeking questionnaire dubbed "FXpedition." The questions posed by this meeting's questionnaire were: (1) Name your top three suggestions for reducing club expenses over the course of the year, and (2) What are some ways we can generate revenue for the club in ways that will benefit those who help with the effort? The questionnaires were distributed and later collected after completion by attendees.

### **Reports**

**Program** – Dick AH6EZ announced that the program for this meeting would present High-Speed Multimedia radio (*HSMM*).

### **Minutes of February 11, 2014 Regular Meeting**

Joe NA9A motioned to approve the minutes. Mike K9FE seconded. The motion carried.

### **ARES**

**Kane** – Bill NF9D reported that the next meeting of the Kane County ARES will be Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM, in the St. Charles Fire Department Building, 112 North Riverside in St. Charles.

**Kendall** – Chris KC9BKS reported that the Kendall County ARES meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Panera Bread Cafe in Yorkville. More information can be found at the organization's website [www.kc-ares.org](http://www.kc-ares.org)

**DuPage** – No report.

### **Field Day**

Denny W9HI reported that Jericho Park will be closed all year and is thus unavailable. He also reviewed the purpose and objectives for Field Day and encouraged all members to be involved. He thanked Ron KC9SNI for his help in locating the Elburn Forest Preserve as an available site for this year's Field Day activities. CW operations and phone operations will be grouped respectively. Band Captains are needed for 20m, 40m, 80/15m CW and Phone operations as well as a GOTA station. The GOTA station will use the W9CEQ call-sign. Band Captains need an appropriate rig and an easy to operate logging program, e.g. N3FJP. Please contact him with your offers to volunteer.

## **MS Walk**

Mike K9FE reported that the MS Walk this year occurs on the same day as the Sandwich Hamfest, May 4. Due to the winter weather, the course will be shorter this year. Volunteers are needed for this event. The time commitment lasts from 7 AM to 2 PM. Volunteers will need to bring an HT, will be assigned to a group, and often are able to work from a car. Mike will have sign-up forms available at next month's meeting.

## **Old Business**

### **Committee Appointments**

Dawn KC9LQS reported that all committee positions are filled except Education Chair. A chairperson for this position continues to be sought. Recognizing the demands of this position, an assistant (Co-Chair) may be solicited.

## **New Business**

### **Cougars Night**

Due to reduced attendance, the board decided to eliminate this club event. Instead, members who would like to attend a game together can obtain tickets for the Friday, July 11<sup>th</sup> game (Cougars vs Beloit Snappers) from Ken N9WCX. The tickets cost \$10.50 and must be purchased from Ken by May 1. Game time is 6:30 PM and will feature fireworks.

**Budget** - Dawn KC9LQS summarized the club budget noting that the projected income for 2014 is estimated at \$8470 with expenses estimated at \$9810 leaving a potential deficit of approximately \$1300. While a balanced budget was unattainable for this year, she also noted that last year's actual expenses were below the 2013 budgeted figure by about \$1200. This result was achieved by the board maintaining close tabs on expenses. The board will review the budget status quarterly, and as the year progresses, a one-time transfer of funds from savings may be required. Dawn emphasized that the budget is characterized by conservative allocations while the board continues to investigate methods of reducing expenses and ways to increase revenues.

Along this line, an idea for a monthly indoor "Swap & Shop" for member-owned amateur radio-related material was under consideration. This event would precede each meeting. A percentage (perhaps ten-percent) of any sales transaction would be contributed to the club. Items to be offered for sale might be listed in advance on the club Yahoo Group, etc. Outright donations of amateur radio-related items to the club for sale by the club might also be accepted.

## **Announcements**

**Bill Erickson HF Challenge** – Joe NA9A reminded members that Challenge worksheets are available from him. Contacts must be made on 160 through 10 meters. The Challenge retains the popular split-year format allowing participants to work the same call-sign in both halves of the year.

**FRRL Club QSO Party** – Kermit W9XA reminded members of the year-long club QSO party, which challenges members to work each other at least once every month. Excel and PDF forms for recording contacts are available under "Attachments" on the FRRL Yahoo Group. Only a call-sign is necessary to record a contact by placing a check-mark on your copy of the form.

**FRRL Weekly Net** – Bill AB9TA will be acting Net Coordinator for the Tuesday evening 2m net. He is seeking Net Control operators for any net session, but especially for times he is not available. Please contact Bill to volunteer.



**Membership Renewal** – The club Treasurer, Dean KC9EOQ, has extended the deadline for members to renew their membership for inclusion in the club roster until the end of March.

**ARRL Rookie Roundup** – The ARRL Rookie Roundup is scheduled for Sunday, April 20. Mike K9FE suggested that members volunteer to open their shacks to Rookies. Members willing to participate are asked to inform Dawn KC9LQS who will compile a list.

**VE Sessions** – Doug W9RD announced that the next VE Session will be held at the Messenger Library, 113 Oak St. (Rt. 31 & Oak), North Aurora, on Tuesday, March 25th at 7:00 PM. Due to library hours, the session is beginning a half-hour earlier than past sessions and must end at 9:00 PM.

**Weather Seminars** – Marty N9NTM reminded members that the 2014 Fermilab/WGN-TV Tornado and Severe Weather Seminar will take place Saturday, April 5, at noon and repeats in its entirety at 6 PM. He noted that the AES Superfest is also scheduled for this date.

### **Adjournment**

Harry K9DXA motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM, and Mike K9FE seconded. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Jahr KC9SNI

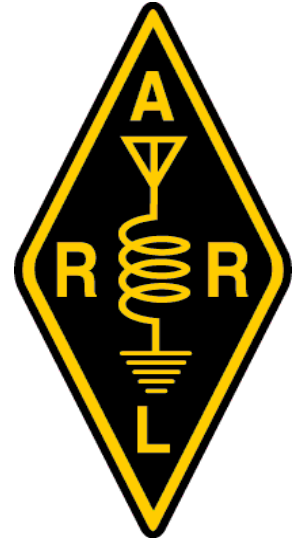
FRRL Secretary



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

## IMPORTANT AMATUER RADIO WEB PAGE LINKS

[www.frrl.org](http://www.frrl.org)  
[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)  
[www.colpage.org](http://www.colpage.org)  
[www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com)  
[www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net)  
[www.twit.tv/hn](http://www.twit.tv/hn)  
[www.dxspots.com](http://www.dxspots.com)



### FRRL Repeaters:

W9CEQ—147.210 MHz +600KHz Offset, 103.5 PL  
W9CEQ—444.300 MHz +5 MHz Offset, 114.8 PL (IRLP Node # 4850) (Echolink # 230933)

**FRRL Digital Voice/Data Repeaters:** (Contact Kermit, W9XA for information)

W9CEQ\_\_B D-Star—442.10625 MHz (+ 5.0 MHz offset)  
W9CEQ\_\_C D-Star—147.225 MHz (+ 0.6 MHz offset)

### Other Local Area Repeaters:

Owned by Kane County OEM:

KC9OEM—145.470 MHz -600 KHz, 103.5 PL  
(2 meter is primary Kane Co. SKYWARN/ARES Frequency)

W9DWP—Kane Co. Amateur Public Svc. Repeaters:  
(Both repeaters are dual mode APCO-25 NAC-293)

145.270 -600 KHz 107.2 PL  
443.025 +5 MHz 114.8 PL

Input: 52.210 Output: 53.910 Carrier Access FM (W9XA 6-meter repeater)

W9ZGP—NIARC:  
147.060 +600 KHz, 103.5 PL

### Weekly Nets:

Ten Meter Net: Monday at 8:00pm 28.150 MHz CW  
Monday at 8:30pm 28.720 MHz SSB

FRRL 2 Meter Net: Tuesday Evening at 7:30 pm

ARES & Skywarn Net: Wednesday Evening at 6:30 pm on the KC9OEM 2 meter repeater

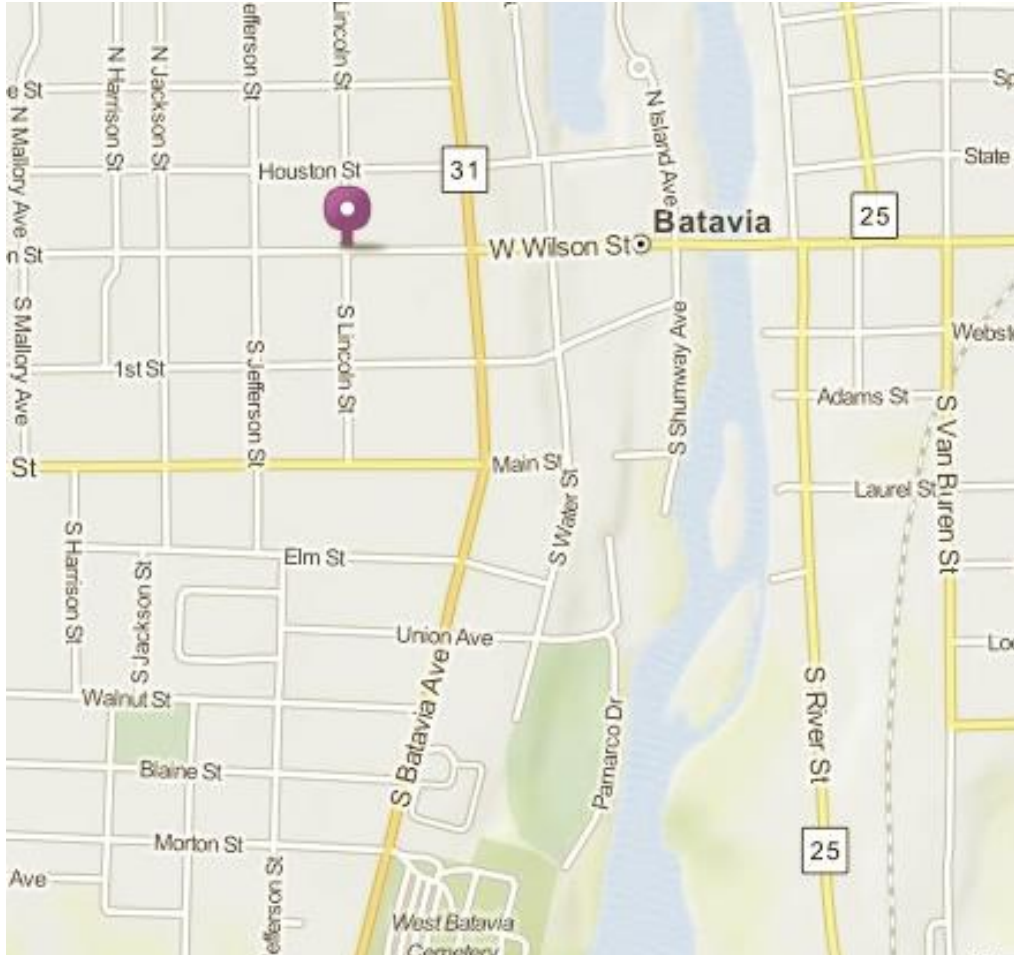
Illinois DStar Net - Wednesday Eve. at 8:00 pm on the DStar 2 meter repeater

Bethany Lutheran Church 8 S. Lincoln St. Batavia, IL 60510

1/2 block South of Wilson St.

Rt. 31 From Geneva / St. Charles

West Wilson St.  
From Randall  
Road



East Wilson St.  
From Kirk Rd.

Rt. 31 From Aurora / I-88

Rt. 25 From Aurora