



# Arc Over

Fox River Radio  
League  
PO Box 673  
Batavia, IL  
60510-0673

September, 2012

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## President's Traffic

By Harry Jones K9DXA

I came across a weekly Internet activity for Hams called CWTD - "Chat With The Designers." Check this URL: <http://dl.dropbox.com/u/43021514/CWTD/TeamspeakChat.html>. If you like live program chats about various technical ham radio issues, this is for you. You can even participate with questions and comments. And you can retrieve past podcasts of sessions you missed. There is quite a list of past programs that may interest you. I tuned in to hear Part 1 of a "troubleshooting" program. Check it out.

We are expecting any day now to transition over to a new Website host provider that will greatly ease the skills required to update our Website. We chose to do this because of the lack of volunteers who have skills dealing with html code required of our previous Website. I expect to announce a new Webmaster shortly. Those of you who like setting up for Field Day, playing Radio in the Park, and enjoying a day of camaraderie with other members while using multiple portable radio stations, will enjoy the activity planned by John KC9OJV on Sept. 8, starting at 9:00 AM at Blackwell Forest Preserve (Warrenville) – East shelter. John calls it "Rockin' in the Park, because his primary rig will be a Softrock SDR radio operated QRP with batteries and maybe even a few solar cells. Come if you just want to investigate, or if you want to bring your QRP gear out and operate a few feet away.

If you have a laptop or desktop computer that is giving you all sorts of problems, and you do not want restore it to its original state when new, why not convert it to a Linux machine rather than send it off to the recycling center? Linux operating systems work more efficiently than Windows based systems on consumer PCs, and you do not have to deal with nearly the extent of Internet threats that Windows machines deal. You need a good PC with DVD drive to download free Linux software and burn an image of the package. That DVD can then be inserted into the "old" PC and it will install itself. You can elect to install Linux adjacent to Windows on your hard drive, or completely remove Windows during the Linux installation. My daughter had an unrecoverable hard drive crash on a three year old Windows laptop. The operating system could not be recovered either. So I saved it from the "junk" man, replaced the hard drive, and installed a current version of Linux Mint. I now have a nice backup PC, although it does not run on Windows. But other free programs such as "Wine" or "Virtual Box" can be installed to run Windows applications. There are some interesting software applications that run on Linux, such as several "free" logging and digital programs. Total cost to me was \$65 for a replacement 250 GB hard drive! Mike K9FE and others can help you if you have such an opportunity.

A few weeks ago a former FRRL member Frank Christensen WA9TRG contacted me to take over a couple boxes of old FRRL memorabilia including photos, newspaper articles, and other assorted items. I met him and gladly accepted the material. That brings up the issue of what do I do with this stuff? Are there other old boxes of FRRL "stuff" around that could be added to the pile? Is anyone willing to work with a few others to review everything and recommend what we do with it? Some say the old pictures and slides could be scanned and converted to digital media and put on DVD for longer life enjoyment and storage. I'm inclined to appoint an adhoc committee of those interested in reviewing this material. What say? Anyone out there interested in looking over this old material? Let me know.

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# DRAFT

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the General Membership of the  
Fox River Radio League (FRRL) an Illinois not-for-profit Corporation  
Held at St. Rita of Cascia, Aurora, IL

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Meeting Minutes August 14, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by President Harry K9DXA.

- Question of the month was: What ham radio activities would you be interested in leading or participating in? Answers included working the higher bands, working digital modes, SDR, FSTV, contesting, Scout-o-Rama, HF digital voice, getting on the air again, tower activities, UHF-ATV, license upgrades, on-air activities, helping other hams, fox hunts, homebrew and restoration, antenna work, PSK, QRP, stealth antennas and emergency communications.

## Reports:

- **Secretary's Report:** Randal KC9KAX presented minutes from the June and July membership meetings. It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes. The motion carried.
- **Treasurers Report:** Dean KC9EOQ provided the treasurer's report. He also informed members that our storage space cost was increased, from \$85 to \$92 per month.
- **Program:** Dick AH6EZ previewed the evening's program, which was a video he created discussing DX skills, how to prepare for a DXpedition, and what to expect, based on his and Harry's recent VY0 experience.
- **Hamfest:** Dawn KC9LQS reported that this year's event was a success, due to the many members who contributed their time, expertise and hard work, and thanked everyone for their participation.
- **Education** – Eric AB9OS reported that the Extra upgrade class has been confirmed beginning in September, and that individual help will be available to students who need it.
- **ARES** – No report from Kendall County. DuPage ARES reported that they will be participating in the MS Ride on Sept. 8 and the Chicago Marathon on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>. Kane County ARES reported that they meet on the last Thursday of each month at the St. Charles EOC conference room.

## Old Business

- **Emergency simulation:** Bill NF9D discussed the upcoming emergency simulation planned by FRRL. The event will include training, followed by the exercise, and will take about 2 to 2-1/2 hours. More than 25 members signed up to participate.
- **Social Media:** Harry reiterated the board's discussion on the usefulness of the club's various communications tools. He suggested phasing out the Arc Over in its current form, and substituting a page on the club's website to fulfill the requirement for a newsletter as per the bylaws. He suggested keeping the website and the Yahoo Groups list, making Facebook a static fan page, and dropping Twitter. Member comments were strongly against this strategy, suggesting that members value the Arc Over and would welcome its expansion. Younger members of the club pointed out that social media was not only useful, but perhaps necessary to reach the new generation of hams, and that even though social media is not used as heavily (if at all) by all hams, it is a way of life for younger hams. PR Chair Debbie WX9VOR added that there seems to be a great deal of misunderstanding about the role and necessity of digital media in the club's PR efforts. The discussion was tabled pending further research.

## Announcements

Dick W9GIG announced that this year's winter banquet would be held Jan. 29 at St. Charles Place, with ticket prices ranging from \$28 to \$43 depending on the entrée selected. Price includes tip and gratuity. Entertainment will be provided by Ward Silver N0AX, and a cash bar will be available.

## Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at (9:15 PM?)

Respectfully Submitted:  
Dawn Williams KC9LQS  
FRRL Vice President

## Bill Erikson HF Challenge Update — Mid-August 2012

By Eric Needles AB9OS

With Fall approaching, club members are getting into the swing of things. There are a few good updates for the HF Challenge this time, including your humble author who found a few hours of radio time this month. I was fortunate enough to catch D64K, as many other HF Challenge participants have.

D64K was a DXpedition to Comoros Islands (IOTA AF-007). The Comoro Islands or Comoros are an archipelago of volcanic islands situated off the south-east coast of Africa, to the east of Mozambique and north-west of Madagascar. First colonized by the French in the early 1800's, this group of islands has struggled for clarity in both independence and international recognition. As such, there is plenty of red tape involved with any DXpedition, giving this contact its asterisk status.

NA9A shares some fun news with us this month. Along with working asterisk entities JX9JKA Jan Mayen, D64K Comoros, EZ1A Turkmenistan, he also received a QSL card from II2POPE! Very cool stuff Joe. Larry K9ARZ also updates us with "new ones worked include D64K, Comoros; T6MO Afghanistan, and CY9M, St. Paul Island. Others worked recently include VU2PAI, 5W1SA, 3W1LI, V73AX, and many Persian Gulf states especially UAE. My wire for 12/17/ and 40 came down in the last storm, so I am temporarily off those bands."

Remember, it is never too late to get into the HF Challenge. More details are on the FRRL website, just click on Activities, then HF Challenge. And now for the numbers...

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Gary K9MMS-CW	50	12	191	253
Steve N5EP-CW	43	6	89	138
Jeff K9BQL-CW	3	1	124	128
Eric K9LGE-Digital	27	3	14	44
Eric AB9OS-CW	27	5	11	43
Dave KB9MNM-Digital	13	1	9	23
Jerry KA9VMD-PSK31	5	1	5	11

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Jack K9JE	36	9	145	190
Herb W9DTR	50	11	110	171
Jim N9XP	32		104	136
Tobi K9TCD	35	5	73	113
Tom WB9CHY	42	4	38	84
Warren K9IH	25	5	37	67

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Larry K9ARZ	50	13	248	311
Joe NA9A	43	11	238	292
Dick AH6EZ	50	12	202	264
Maurice N4LZ	40	3	7	82

<b>Ragchew Class</b>	<b>States/Provinces</b>	<b>DX</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Dick AH6EZ</b>			<b>52</b>
<b>Herb W9DTR</b>			<b>21</b>
<b>Steve N5EP</b>	<b>12/1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Warren K9IH</b>	<b>12/2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Eric K9LGE</b>			<b>7</b>
<b>Joe NA9A</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Eric AB9OS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Jerry KA9VMD</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

## **New Members**

**Welcome to the following new member:**

<b>CALL</b>	<b>NAME</b>
AB9TA	Bill Springer

## **Program Notes**

The September program will be a 30 minute video about IOTA and an expedition to the tiny Rockfall island far off the coast of Ireland.

## 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 St. Rita of Cascia Church in Aurora. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM and includes social time,

a business portion and a program of interest.

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

*We hope to see you there!*

## License Exams

The Fox River Radio League, Inc., in conjunction with the ARRL VEC, conducts amateur examinations on the 3rd Tuesday of January, March, May, September and November at St. Rita of Cascia Church in Aurora at 7:30 PM. A special session is held at the club's hamfest, usually in July each year. No advance registration is required, but please be sure to bring your license (if you have one) and a photocopy

of it, some form of photo identification and the fee of \$15.00. (The FRRL receives no portion of this fee.)

**The next exam session is scheduled for September 18 at St. Rita of Cascia Church in Aurora. Please see the [frrl.org](http://frrl.org) website for details.**

## FRRL Dues

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 yearly 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.

Check with the Treasurer for details and additional dues rates.

## Nets

Net Name	Freq.	Day	Time
FRRL	147.210	Tuesday	7:30 PM Local
10-10 CW	28.150	Monday	8:00 PM Local
10-10 SSB	28.720	Monday	8:30 PM Local

## Fox River Radio League

Founded 1924

### Mailing Address:

Box 673  
Batavia, Illinois  
60510-0673

### Email:

[info@frrl.org](mailto:info@frrl.org)

### Web Site:

<http://www.frrl.org>

### President

Harry Jones, K9DXA

### Vice President

Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

### Secretary

Randal Ligocki KC9KAX

### Treasurer

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

### Directors:

Denny Barfus W9HI  
Jack Ekstrom K9JE  
Dick Illman AH6EZ  
Neil Potter KB9RFX

### Past President

Mike Urso, K9FE

### License Trustees:

Kermit Carlson, W9XA  
Bob Dillon, WB9LTN

### Newsletter Editor

Tobi Davis, K9TCD  
[newsletter@frrl.org](mailto:newsletter@frrl.org)

### Webmaster

Bill Muhr, NF9D  
[webmaster@frrl.org](mailto:webmaster@frrl.org)



**FRRL CLUB MEETINGS ARE HELD AT ST. RITA OF CASCIA IN AURORA, IL, BUT LOCATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK THE FRRL WEB SITE FOR THE ADDRESS AND A MAP TO THE MEETING LOCATION.**

<http://www.frrl.org>

Send Address Corrections to:  
Fox River Radio League, Inc.  
3023 Scenicwood Lane.  
Woodridge, IL 60517

### FRRL Event Calendar

#### September, 2012

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 4  
FRRL Meeting ..... 11  
VE Session ..... 18

#### October, 2012

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 2  
FRRL Meeting ..... 9

### 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 20th day of each month for the next month's newsletter. Articles can be sent by email to [arc-over@frri.org](mailto:arc-over@frri.org) or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.

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### Local Area Repeaters/Nets

#### W9CEQ—147.210 Mhz.

+600 KHz, 103.5 access tone  
Owned by FRRL

#### W9CEQ—444.300 Mhz. IRLP Node # 4850

+5 Mhz, 114.8 access tone  
Owned by FRRL

#### W9CEQ\_B D-Star—442.10625 Mhz (+ 5.0 Mhz offset)

#### W9CEQ\_C D-Star—147.225 Mhz (-6.0 Mhz offset)

FRRL Digital Voice/Data Repeaters  
Contact W9XA for information

#### KC9OEM—145.470 Mhz. -600 KHz, 103.5 access tone

#### KC9OEM—444.525 Mhz + 5 Mhz, 114.8 access tone

(2 meter is primary Kane Co. SKYWARN /ARES freq)

Owned by Kane County OEM

#### W9DWP—Kane Co. Amateur Public Svc. Rptrs.

145.270 -600 KHz, 107.2 access tone

443.025 +5 Mhz 114.8 access tone

Both repeaters are dual mode APCO-25 NAC-293

#### W9ZGP—NIARC

147.060 +600 KHz, 103.5 access tone

- Weekly ARES/Skywarn Net—Wed. Eve. at 6:30 pm local time on the KC9OEM 2 meter repeater
- Weekly FRRL Net—Tues. Eve. at 7:30 pm local time on the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- Monthly Simplex Net—4th Tues following weekly FRRL Net on the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- Illinois DStar Net - Wed. Eve. at 8:00 pm local time on the DStar 440 repeater.