



Arc Over

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

February, 2012

President's Traffic

By Harry Jones K9DXA

Greetings – I hope you all are doing well, working lots of DX, improving your public service skills, or whatever your ham endeavors are. This is my first effort to say a few words to you using this means. Keep doing what you do to make FRRL the outstanding organization it is.

Changes – We are passing that time of year when the new Board of Directors takes over and starts putting the new program together. Thank you for electing the other Board of Directors and me to handle FRRL affairs for the 2012/2013 term of office. We are looking forward to a great program. Our goal is to provide you with resources to enhance your experience in the hobby. This of course includes having fun!

Board of Directors – It's time to say "Thank You" to the 2011/2012 FRRL Board members. Some of them are "outgoing." The previous year's Board of Directors taking a break are John AG9D - President, Larry K9ARZ - Director, Chris KC9IEQ - Director, and Ron KC9SNI – Secretary. We'll miss you all, and your service is certainly appreciated. I'll see you all at the next meeting or an event soon! John was very successful at revising the business end of the meeting format to reduce the time for that portion. John set the example for keeping a close eye on FRRL bylaws. He was a true leader during his tenure. Larry kept our board meetings in perspective to make sure all aspects of an issue were on the table. Very nice job, Larry! Chris handled board meeting discussions pretty much the same way as Larry. Ron spoiled the board with his excellent wrap up of meetings through his well crafted meeting reports. He was also very helpful in handling other board tasks that came up. Dean KC9EOQ is tireless in his efforts as treasurer in going above and beyond the call of duty. Dean does a great job handling the funds. After a year as director, Dawn KC9LQS turns in her director's hat and takes over as Vice President this year. As director, Dawn always took on necessary and unusual projects for the board. The director remaining for his second year is Dick AH6EZ. I always listen carefully to Dick's board meeting comments as he previously served as President and on other board positions, and has loads of problem solving experience.

Committee Chairs - The 2011-2012 FRRL Committee Chairs were equally responsible for a great year, and we would not have it without them. Chris KC9BKS handled database issues. I am amazed at how he sorts the FRRL data every which way to provide valuable board reports. Didn't Mike K9FE do a great job handling Field Day leadership chores? He always seems to find a way to bring out the best in everyone. While some ham fests may be struggling in the past years, the 2011 FRRL Ham fest orchestrated by Dean KC9EOQ and Jere KA0KPO was a complete success. The license trustee seldom gets attention, but I'll tell you, Kermit W9XA remains a top notch resource in keeping W9CEQ signals clean and strong. When Tobi K9TCD is not working DX, she puts together the Arc Over every month and does a great job. You need to approach her at a meeting and thank her for all she quietly does to get the news out. Dick AH6EZ presents the Program to us at every meeting. There are lots of learning activities and interesting bits of knowledge. We do not know what he will present next, but we do know it will be very interesting! Go up there at the next meeting and thank Dick. Dawn KC9LQS keeps the outside world up to date with "PR." Getting newspaper articles printed and city mayors proclaiming something great about Ham Radio is what she does. Terrific job, Dawn! Denny W9HI is your "go-to" guy with technical issues. You can always spot him at a meeting helping someone. Thanks to Denny for helping people solve their tech problems. We take our hats off to Eric AB9OS. He handles the education program. He and his helpers see to it that their well-prepared gradu-

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D R A F T

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

Meeting Minutes January 10, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 PM by Dawn Williams KC9LQS– Director with 62 attendees.

- Dawn KC9LQS welcomed all to the first meeting of 2012, and asked that each attendee introduce him/herself and say what they most wanted to accomplish this year. Dawn circulated a sheet for everyone to fill out so that this information could be captured and used to help select project committees this year. The list of goals included: Attempt a Challenge, Build a tower, Setup a Base Station, Get started again in Ham Radio, Achieve their DXCC, Get into HF, Get into DSTAR, Get into PSK31, Learn Morse Code, Join the club, Put up an antenna, Get into Digital (and video), get into QRP, Get involved with 10-10-NET, Build a Kit, Upgrade their license, and others.
- **Secretary's Report:** John AG9D previously reported to the BOD that the meeting minutes for the December 8, 2011 Regular Meeting reported that one or more election ballots were transmitted via email. The correct statement should have said by regular US "mail." Dean KC9EOQ moved to accept the minutes with the change, which was seconded by Denny W9HI. The motion carried.
- **Treasurers Report:** Dean KC9EOQ provided the treasurer's report. Dawn reminded everyone that the particulars of the Treasurer's Report were available directly from Dean KC9EOQ on request from any FRRL member.

- **Announcements:** The following announcements and presentations were made:
 - o Dawn KC9LQS reported on Net Control.
 - o Dave N9XU talked about PSKNet on 2m Wed 7:30pm.
 - o Dawn KC9LQS talked about the Hamfest to be held Jan 22 at the Kane County fairgrounds. She has reserved a table.
 - o Bill NF9D announced Kane County ARES.org meetings on 4th Tuesday.
 - o Chris KC9BKS announced Kendall County www.KC-ARES.org 4th Wed at 7:30pm.
 - o Mike K9FE talked about the banquet details on Jan 21.
 - o Dick AH6EZ talked about the Antenna project at St. Rita.
 - o Announced a New Life Member nomination– Dave Holdeman N9XU – voted & passed.

- **Committee Reports**
 - o **Cougars Night** – Ken N9WCX announced a Cougar outing for 7/27/2012. There will be 30 tickets available. Dawn noted that FRRL Life Members receive one free ticket.
 - o **Education** – Eric AB9OS reported that the General Class Upgrade Sessions will be held beginning Saturday, Feb 11 and continuing on subsequent Saturdays through March 17.
 - o **Field Day** – No report.
 - o **Hamfest** – Dawn KC9LQS reported on the preparations for the FRRL Hamfest to date.
 - o **Newsletter** - Tobi K9TCD asked that articles for the newsletter be sent to her by the 20th of each month.
 - o **Public Relations** – Dawn asked to be informed if any member observes a FRRL announcement in the media.
 - o **VE Team** – Doug W9RD reported that a license examination session will be conducted next Tuesday evening at the Parish Hall.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None

Member Announcements –

Vicki KC9PWM regretfully announced her resignation as the Refreshment Chair - everyone thanked her for her service.

Joe NA9A announced the HF challenge

There was a thank you from Hessed House. We collected over 130# of food in December which went towards 1290 meals.

Roberto WA9A announced he had tickets for the Wheaton hamfest @ \$2 off the door price.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Eric K9LGE and seconded by several. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:
Randal Ligocki KC9KAX
FRRL Acting Secretary

ates have almost a lock on passing their license exam. By the way, Doug W9RD and his crew put on the best license exam program, period. We need to shout about his tireless efforts to showcase a top notch testing program. Ken N9WCX provides a very nice midsummer diversion giving us all a chance to get together for a Cougars game. Great job, Ken. Dawn's name keeps coming up. She has done a terrific job organizing and running the Tuesday night net on 2M. Must be going good, because I always hear lots of check-ins. Thanks Dawn! Chris KC9IEQ keeps bringing more excitement to the meetings running the raffle month in and month out. He's so good at it; I think he grew up running raffles! Vicki KC9PWM just keeps the coffee and donuts moving at our meetings. She is another unsung hero. Thank you, Vicki. I'll bet you did not know that Bill NF9D is our administrator for all things "Yahoo Groups." Yes, he keeps an eye on those resources for FRRL. Bill, you do a fantastic job keeping the sites in shape. Thank you. I bet you also did not know that Mike K9FE has kept a pretty good annual string of MS Walk projects going. Stuff like this keep the FRRL on organization radar screens and in a good light. Mike, like others, you are a great ambassador for FRRL....We thank you! Dick AH6EZ chairs the Repeater Committee. This group keeps the D-Star, VHF and UHF analog repeaters going. We always receive a high degree of reliability from those machines. Thanks to Dick and his committee for keeping the wheels well oiled!

Banquet Highlights – Mike K9FE did a great job setting up and conducting our recent annual Banquet with over 70 in attendance, didn't he? The food and venue was great and the program was superb. Mike handled the board job of Past President admirably! Many members received well deserved certificates of thanks at the Banquet for their contribution to the club this past year. Joe NA9A was particularly cited for his amazing run of consecutive weeks as Net Control for the City of Lights 10-10 Net. Ask Joe what the current number is. Of course the highlight of the evening was the presentation of the FRRL Ham of the Year Award to a most deserving Kermit W9XA.

Ham of the Year – The Ham of the Year is selected by secret ballot at the December meeting. Kermit W9XA is the deserving Ham of the Year. I cannot speak for the voters, but my reasoning for the selection is this: Kermit demonstrates continued sharing of his many resources with other Hams, and always seems to be participating and contributing to Ham organization committees of one sort or another. He has further committed to serving Hams by participating in ARRL business as the Central Division Vice Director. He is a regular resource at area Hamfests, and travels to Newington, CT as necessary to conduct ARRL business. Every time I turn around some Ham is telling me how Kermit is helping with some sort of radio experiment. You should approach him at our meeting, congratulate him, and thank him for all he does for amateur radio. If you benchmark Kermit, you will likely win next year.

St. Rita Church Projects – Dick, AH6EZ and others have been doing a nice job planning and delivering value for FRRL and our meeting place host, St. Rita Parish. The Pastor has completed a 2M base station. He takes pride in being able to work into a Milwaukee repeater from his office. We just installed two antennas on the church roof with good signals into the west coast. Next, we construct the station in the meeting area. Want to help?

Have a great month with your hobby! I'll talk about the new Board of Directors and Chairs next time.

73, Harry K9DXA

February Program Notes

The February program will be about the construction of the WinKeyer kit and a live demonstration of the WinKeyer by Jeff N9JZN. He may use the new roof top antenna system to show the on the air benefits of the WinKeyer versus CW that is just sent using serial port keying.

Bill Erikson HF Challenge Update — Mid-February 2012

By Eric Needles AB9OS

Congratulations to all who participated in the HF Challenge in 2011. We had a larger than usual number of participants and hope that participation will continue to grow in 2012. With the sunspot cycle picking up, the bands will be hot. Be sure you take advantage of the good conditions this year. Looking for some tips? I would recommend you contact Dick AH6EZ. He earned the most points in the QRO class in 2011, and as Joe NA9A says, "Dick cheats by using skill rather than power."

We all know the Challenge is just that, a way for you to get inspired and get on the air...a way to challenge yourself. So have some fun this year. Carve out some time for yourself and get on the air! By now everyone should have received their yellow copy of the 2012 HF Challenge worksheet in the mail. Start filling up those sheets and remember to e-mail your updated score to challenge@frrl.org by the 15th of each month.

We haven't had enough reports yet to publish scores, but I expect that will change by next month. Hope to hear you soon on HF! 73

New Members

Welcome to the following new members:

CALL	NAME
KC9VGH	Paul Mandrik
N9DYI	Heinz Janssen
W9JFA	John Ashburn
N9HKH	David Morrison
KB9SVR	Jerome Schwartz

FRRL 2012-2013 Past President Director, Chairs, Repeater Board

Past President Director: Mike Urso K9FE

Standing Committee Chairs:

Database: Chris Kennell KC9BKS
Field Day: Co-Chairs – Chris Farley KC9IEQ, Mike Urso K9FE
Hamfest: Dawn Williams KC9LQS
Trustee: Kermit Carlson W9XA
Arc Over: Tobi Davis K9TCD
Program: Dick Illman AH6EZ
PR: Deborah Gray WX9VOR
Technical: Denny Barfuss W9HI
Webmaster: TBD - Interim – Bill Muhr NF9D

AdHoc & Event Chairs:

Banquet: Co-Chairs – Kermit Carlson W9XA, Dick Isely W9GIG
Education: Eric Needles AB9OS
Cougars: Ken Nelson N9WCX
Net Control: Eric Lorenz K9LGE
Raffle: Chris Farley KC9IEQ
Refreshments: Roger Hancock KD1FY
VE: Doug Reneker W9RD
Yahoo Groups: Bill Muhr NF9D
St. Rita Church
Projects: Dick Illman AH6EZ
MS Walk: Mike Urso K9FE

Repeater Board:

Chair: Dick Illman AH6EZ
Trustee: Kermit Carlson W9XA
Secretary: Bill Muhr NF9D
Member: Paul Dumdie W9DWP
Member: Jim Nevitt N9XP

St. Rita Antennas—On the Road to a Club Shack

By Dick Illman AH6EZ

Now that we have successfully installed HF and VHF/UHF vertical antennas up on the roof of the church, it is interesting to think back over the journey that started over four months ago when the idea of placing antennas up on the roof of the church for our use in the basement was re-initiated by AH6EZ. Since he had a Motorola Canopy wireless link on hand and Dean had a spare WiFi Access Point on hand, it was a relatively straight forward task to get that part of the project installed and working. To our amusement, Fr. Cesar has enjoyed WiFi coverage directly upstairs, while waiting between Parish appointments.

The roof top antenna part of the project required considerable thought and weighing the aspects of personal safety, protecting the rubber membrane roof, church and club liability, RF performance, radials or not, bands of operation, and cost. AH6EZ made a side by side list of many commercial vertical HF antennas, initially focusing on verticals that did not require radials. The costs were relatively high and the height or weight were troubling with the potential of roof damage if the antenna blew over. Several different mounting platforms and tripods were investigated. Unfortunately there is no place on the roof to attach any

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guys. We looked at Hustler 6BTV, Cushcraft R8, Hygain DX88, Butternut HF9V, MFJ1798, Hygain AV640, Hygain AV6160, Steppir Biggir, Gap Titan, Comet CHA250B, Diamond CP6AR, DX Engineering DXE-MBVE-1-4UPR, and MFJ2990. We looked at sourcing from Universal Radio, Gigaparts, AES, Ham City, Ham Radio Outlet, Texas Tower, and DX Engineering. The cost proposal of \$1500 that was approved by a membership vote at the November meeting included an MFJ1798, but after further thought it was judged to be too complex to construct and too flimsy to withstand wind and snow storms. The cost proposal also included an estimate for a lockable radio cabinet that could be rolled out of storage for use by the FRRL and properly trained and licensed Parish members (most likely just Fr. Cesar).

We worked with Fr. Cesar to write up and get signatures on a simple Memorandum of Understanding which described ownership, maintenance, insurance, usage, and removal considerations.

The final design for the antenna, which is now installed on the roof, includes an MFJ 33 foot high fiberglass telescopic mast with an internal wire for a radiating element. Dick found a source of small gauge teflon coated red wire at American Scientific which was inexpensive. There is a 200 watt MFJ waterproof automatic antenna tuner that can tune the vertical from 80-10 meters (eventually 160m with a tweak in the Spring).

An MFJ heavy duty tripod is used at the base and is weighed down by 6 large concrete blocks which are tied together. There are twelve 20 foot long radials tied to bricks. This configuration saved enough money to be able to afford a Diamond V2000 tri-band vertical antenna for 6m, 2m, and 440. We did not want to exclude our Technician Class licensed members.

The V2000 is presently clamped to one of the legs of the tripod. It may be eventually moved to a higher location to allow better resonance on 6m and better coverage. Each antenna has a 100 foot length of 9913 low loss and 100% shielded cable to minimize the potential noise pickup from the nearby Canopy Ethernet cables. There are labeled feedthru connectors at a window frame at the rear of the meeting room. There will be one or both 100 foot runs of RG213 run near the center aisle to reach the front of the meeting room. The number of longer term and especially newer members who joined the work party to get the equipment up onto the roof in near 30 degree weather, as well as getting the RF cables off the roof, down the wall, and through the window frames was gratifying. This included AH6EZ, K9DXA, KC9EOQ, K9LGE, K9WDB, KB9KP, KC9VGH, KC9UTT, KB9RFX, and KC9OJV.

A radio cabinet with large locking castor wheels is being built which will be 2 feet deep, ventilated for possible remote operation while closed and locked, 4 foot wide for several radios and computers, 4 foot high for a main radio shelf, auxiliary equipment above, power supplies and cable storage below, and a slide out writing surface.

I know that we are all looking forward to being able to see radios and other on the air technology being demonstrated and be able to allow hands on operation by club members before, during (as a program), and after the meetings. We hope to be able to initiate a "Radio of the Month" activity which will allow members to bring in a wide variety of radios for demonstration and operating training. Eventually we hope to be able to offer password protected Internet remote station operation (HF and VHF), especially for those licensed members who do not have the ability to put up their own station or antenna.

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 March 20 at St. Rita of Cascia church. Please see the frri.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:

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Batavia, Illinois
60510-0673

Email:

info@frri.org

Web Site:

<http://www.frri.org>

President

Harry Jones, K9DXA

Vice President

Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

Secretary

Randal Ligocki KC9KAX

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Dick Illman AH6EZ
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Bob Dillon, WB9LTN

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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.frri.org>

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

FRRL Event Calendar

February, 2012

FRRL Board Meeting 7
FRRL Meeting 14

March, 2012

FRRL Board Meeting 6
FRRL Meeting 13
VE Session 20

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 or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.

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The opinions expressed in the ArcOver are strictly those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the FRRL, Inc. or its sponsors.

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.