



Arc Over

Fox River Radio
League
PO Box 673
Batavia, IL
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March, 2012

President's Traffic

By Harry Jones K9DXA

How was your month in Ham Radio? Any new countries? New rigs? New antennas? I am building, operating, installing, and working on various plans aside from my job at FRRL. Yep, I have a family, a day job, and all the usual ham-competitive tasks you do. It's been a great month in Ham Radio for me!

I have to apologize to Greg N9CHA for failing to recognize him last month. Greg was our last Webmaster, stepping down at the end of 2011. He did a commendable service keeping frrl dot org up to date. He also made some major changes to the site last year. He did such a great job for the club, not to mention his past contributions as President. He deserves many thanks.

The new board is getting their feet wet. A number of familiar faces. Dawn KC9LQS has Vice President duties, so she stepped down as a director without skipping a beat. Dean KC9EOQ remains our able bodied Treasurer and is doing a fantastic job. Dick AH6EZ remains as a Director and is most helpful in solving issues that come up from time to time. Same as Mike K9FE, who remains as our Past President Director. Two former Presidents on the Board, not bad! Longtime members Denny W9HI and Jack K9JE are appreciated as they step up as Directors, lending more long term experience to FRRL. I am very happy with our new Board members, Randal KC9KAX as Secretary and Neil KB9RFX as Director. It's good to see more first time members on the Board.

Chris KC9IEQ and Mike K9FE take over as Field Day co-Chairs. They are already putting the plans together. What would our meeting program be without Dick AH6EZ handling the chores there? Dawn KC9LQS takes over as the new Hamfest Chair, and she has hit the ground running! Eric AB9OS has a General License upgrade class going right now, and I expect there will be more hams with greater bandwidth in a few weeks. Chris KC9BKS keeps right on generating database reports. Tobi K9TCD and Kermit W9XA keep right on issuing Arc Overs, and maintaining our club call. Ken N9WCX already has a handful of Cougar's tickets ready. Go see him! Dick AH6EZ has taken on a new task of managing various projects we have going with our meeting host, St. Rita Church. Denny W9HI is still your go-to guy for technical issues. Deborah Gray is the new leader in the FRRL PR effort, and I know she will do a great job communicating FRRL news to others. A new face at Net Controls is Eric K9LGE, and I have to say thank you to Eric for stepping up to help out there. You might find Eric hanging out at the Tuesday night net. Roger KD1FY also stepped up to handle refreshments at our meetings. Chris KC9IEQ keeps the meeting raffle going. He does a really great job. Doug W9RD continues to lead the VE sessions where many new hams have joined the ranks. Bill NF9D keeps the Yahoo Groups program in good shape as well as serves as acting Webmaster for the time being. Mike K9FE has already started making plans to lead the St. Charles MS Walk in a few months. Right now, Kermit W9XA and Dick W9GIG are putting together plans for another great annual banquet. Dick AH6EZ, Kermit W9XA, Bill NF9D, Paul W9DWP, and Jim N9XP continue to keep the repeaters in good shape. Thanks to all!

You will hear more about the St. Rita projects work underway and handled by Dick AH6EZ. Dick is getting lots of help from the members. We are about at the point where we literally have a station in the Church basement available for our use. Ask Dick about it. This will enhance our ability to provide more programs for members. I'd like you to tell me what preferences you have, now that we can operate from Aurora. We moved our various pieces of equipment into new storage in Aurora. See Dean KC9IEQ about that.

(Continued on page 3)

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

Editor's Note: Minutes unavailable at time of newsletter publication

Thanks to Dean for taking charge of the activity. He is truly the "Ward Bond" of the equipment move! I wanted you to know that Dawn KC9LQS is working on a special project to simplify the creation and update of our website. There is some difficulty finding members to take over the webmaster job because of the technical complications of the likes of web creation and "html" that require some extra level of training. So Dawn is working out a way to simplify it. More on this later.

From time to time I hear about new hams, and hams that want to spend more time in the hobby, but do not know where to start. Some may have antenna CCR issues. Some newly licensed people may not know where to put that first foot forward. Some may have limited experience, but want to try a new mode of operation. Some may have purchased their first HT, but have difficulty setting up the controls to use it. Whatever the issue may be, I want to hear from you. I would like to see one or more FRRL projects set up to help you move forward. Can you identify where the needs are?

Have a great month with your hobby!
<dit> <dit>

Kudos

Congratulations to Bob Roehrig, K9EUI, for his contributions to the hobby as part of the 500 Khz experimental license group WD2XHS, who have operated on the 600 meter band since 2006. Bob has operated WD2XHS/19 as part of that experiment. This in part has led to the possibility for the recent announcement for an International 472-479 kHz band that was part of the WRC-12 International Telecommunications Conference. Mention of the work by Bob and the other operators of the WD2XHS experimental license can be found at www.arrl.org/news/arrl-500-khz-experimental-group-sparked-interest-in-mf-operation.

New Members

Welcome to the following new member:

CALL	NAME
KC9VGI	William Gifford

Program Notes

The March program will be a technical comparison of the various wire beams including the Spiderbeam, the Hex Beam (3 manufacturers versions), and the Moxon. While this comparison is presented, Dick AH6EZ will assemble (perhaps assisted by Harry K9DXA to practice for the VY0 DXpedition) a full sized Hex Beam in the basement to show how easy it is to assemble.

Bill Erikson HF Challenge Update — Mid-February 2012

By Eric Needles AB9OS

Now that everyone has settled in for the year, a few members have gotten off to a very good start. As you can tell from the scores below, two people have already worked all 50 states! Way to go Gary K9MMS and Larry K9ARZ! I'm sure that Dick AH6EZ and Maurice N4LZ probably will have worked all 50 as well by the time you read this (Dick's scores are actually from January 25 so that's more than a month ago).

What is also interesting about Gary's score is he worked all 50 states, 8 out of 9 provinces, and 29 DX all on 160 meters CW. Next he'll tell us he worked them all long path, hi hi! Gary also mentioned that so far his DX contacts include V85, BV7, HL2, 9X0, 3D2, 5N, JD, 9M2, XW0, JT1, DP1POL, BD6, 4L1, TY2, T88, EK7, OD5, CN8, A6, KH2, 5W1, C21, HK0NA, VP6T, T32, Z21, TN2T, KH0, 4W0VB, ZK2C, VK2, VK6, ZD8Z, and E51. That's really great Gary and we're excited to have you in the Challenge again.

Working away on the asterisk contacts is Joe NA9A who scored C21HA Nauru. Nauru, once known as Pleasant Island, is an island country in Micronesia in the South Pacific. It is the world's smallest republic, covering just 21 square kilometers. With just over 9,265 residents, it is the second least-populated country after Vatican City. No wonder it has an asterisk!

Let's give a big welcome to Jim N9XP who gets into the HF Challenge for the first time in a while. He is off to a good start in the Operator category.

If you want to get into the HF Challenge, just e-mail your score to challenge "at" fr1.org by the 15th of each month. Remember, no sand bagging! Let us know how you are doing throughout the year and we'll all have a great time. Now for the numbers...

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Gary K9MMS-CW	50	9	114	173
Steve N5EP-CW	41	6	25	72
Eric AB9OS-CW	3	0	0	3
Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Jim N9XP	20		52	72
Tom WB9CHY	38	4	3	45
Tobi K9TCD	27	4	3	34
QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Larry K9ARZ	50	12	161	223
Dick AH6EZ	49	11	125	185
Maurice N4LZ	40	7	82	129
Joe NA9A	26	4	69	99
Ragchew Class	States/Provinces	DX	Total	
Steve N5EP	7	7	14	
Dick AH6EZ	11/2	2	14	
Joe NA9A	3	1	4	
Eric AB9OS	1	0	1	

Bill Erikson HF Challenge 2011 Final Scores

Limited Class						
	Callsign	Name on Application	States	Provinces	DXCC	Total
CW	K9MMS	Gary Hombuckle	50	11	216	277
CW	K9BQL	Jeff Ekstrom	40	8	187	235
CW	N5EP	Steve Westfall	50	10	111	171
QRP	NF9D	Bill Muhr	41	7	76	124
QRP	W9IV	Dick Tosby	29	5	57	91
CW	AB9OS	Eric Needles	35	2	14	51
DIGITAL	K9LGE	Eric Lorenz	10	1	4	15
Operator Class						
	Callsign	Name on Application	States	Provinces	DXCC	Total
	K9JE	Jack Ekstrom	49	12	185	246
	W9DTR	Herb Pasteur	50	11	159	220
	KC9LQS	Dawn Williams	49	10	79	138
	K9TCD	Tobi Davis	43	9	75	127
	K9DXA	Harry Jones	24	11	82	117
	N9XP	Jim Nevitt	49	8	56	113
	K9IH	Warren Geary	43	5	60	108
	KC9RGF	Scott Martin	17	1	60	78
	KC9RVP	James Martin	24	2	44	70
	WB9CHY	Tom Davis	36	7	25	68
	K9WDB	W. David Bulkley	13	1	5	19
QRO Class						
	Callsign	Name on Application	States	Provinces	DXCC	Total
	AH6EZ/W9	Dick Illman	50	13	264	327
	K9ARZ	Lawrence Stark	50	12	262	324
	N4LZ	Maurice Schietecatte	50	12	146	208
	KC9DAO	Charles Penninger	47	8	94	149
	N9JZN	Jeffrey Bussie	50	11	86	147
	NA9A	Joe Dubeck	34	4	104	142
	KC9EOQ	Dean Holste	34	6	64	104
Rag Chewer Class						
	Callsign	Name on Application	States	Provinces	DXCC	Total
	AH6EZ/W9	Dick Illman	37	4	15	56
	N5EP	Steve Westfall	39	1	10	50
	K9IH	Warren Geary	29	3	9	41
	W9DTR	Herb Pasteur	24	5	6	35
	KC9RGF	Scott Martin	14	0	6	20
	K9LGE	Eric Lorenz	10	1	2	13
	KC9RVP	James Martin	8	0	3	11
	NA9A	Joe Dubeck	8	0	1	9
	AB9OS	Eric Needles	1	0	2	3

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 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

Web Site:

<http://www.frrl.org>

President

Harry Jones, K9DXA

Vice President

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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.frrl.org>

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

FRRL Event Calendar

February, 2012

FRRL Board Meeting 6
FRRL Meeting 13
VE Session 20

April, 2012

FRRL Board Meeting 3
FRRL Meeting 10

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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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.