



ARC OVER

The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League
Since 1924



March 2013



Proud to be an ARRL
Special Services Club

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Ham Radio Deluxe Demonstrated

Richard Illman, AH6EZ

As I mentioned during the February program, when we get on the air, there are several ways to make our hobby more fun or rewarding. Although not required by FCC rules, it is fun to keep a log of our contacts. If we submit our logs to the ARRL Logbook Of The World (LOTW) we can confirm contacts without the cost and delays of postage. If we are trying to Work All States or DX countries, monitoring a DX cluster can help. Maybe we operate digital modes. Maybe we operate contests or want to track satellites. Ham Radio Deluxe (HRD) is commercial (not free) software that has become feature rich over the years that helps with all of these activities. It is so feature rich, I could not even demonstrate all of them during the February program. By a unanimous show of hands, there was a great desire for me to demonstrate the DM780 module of HRD for the March meeting. DM780 integrates with the logbook module of HRD to automate identification and logging of digital mode contacts. DM780 can decode and encode many digital modes including CW, RTTY, PSK, Hell, MFSK, MT63, Olivia, and Throb. You can focus on a single QSO or you can monitor multiple simultaneous QSOs and pick out the one you may want to join. Personally, I do not like DM780 as much as Digipan for PSK or MMTTY for RTTY so I plan to include demonstrations of those free software so that you can compare for your own uses. Our FRRRL program time slot is from about 8:30 to 9:30 pm and I can't predict what the band conditions will be. Just in case, I hope to be able to locally generate signals on these modes so that you can hear them and we can simulate QSOs.

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 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 these new members to the club!

Call	Name	License Class
KC9WSW	Bert Taddei	General
WA9YKK	Dan Harmon	Amateur Extra
No Call Yet!	Brian Noonan	

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 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 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.

Bill Erikson HF Challenge
Year End Results and What's New for 2013
By Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

The first half of this year's HF Challenge is off to a great start! Taking the lead in each category so far: Larry K9ARZ in the QRO Class with 245 QSOs; Jack K9JE at 85 in the Operator Class; and Paul KC9UZV leading in both the Limited and Ragchew categories, with 56 and 25 respectively.

It's not too late to join the Challenge. Contact Joe NA9A if you need a copy of the rules and log or if you have any questions, or see him at the next meeting.

When reporting your scores each month, please be sure to include the following information: your name and call sign, the number of states, provinces and DX countries worked (separate numbers for each category), and if you are also working in the Ragchew Class, the number of states, provinces and countries worked that were ragchews. Send your update by the 15th of each month to hfchallenge [at] frrl [dot] org.

2013 Challenge Scores

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Paul KC9UZV	46		10	56
Jim W9NJP	15		8	23
Paul KC9SEB	12	2	9	23

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
John W8ACI	18		18	36
Tobi K9TCD	25	4	2	31
Tom WB9CHY	4	1	42	47
Jack K9JE	44	6	35	85

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Joe NA9A	44	5	38	87
Gary K9MMS	50	8	155	213
Dick AH6EZ	50	12	170	232
Larry K9ARZ	48	12	185	245

Ragchew Class	States/Provinces	DX	Total
Dick AH6EZ/W9	17	7	24
Jim W9NJP			11
John W8ACI			9
Paul KC9UZV	23	2	25

Safety First!

Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

Hams are the ultimate do-it-yourselfers, an ethic that runs strong through us and serves us well. We learn, we explore, we experiment; and we ultimately create a station that is unique to our interests and operating habits. Often we learn more from what doesn't work than from what does.

Experience is an excellent teacher, but there is one area in which a mistake can cost you far more than any of us are willing to pay. Putting safety first should be the guiding principle, according to Don Dazo K4ZA, author of *Antenna Towers for Radio Amateurs*, published by ARRL.

"Tower work is dangerous," he writes in his introduction. "In planning and performing tower work, you cannot stress safety enough!" Dazo, who based the book on his years of experience designing, building and climbing towers, says doing your own tower work can be exhilarating and satisfying, provided that you take appropriate precautions before undertaking the work.

A few tips for those who are new to tower maintenance – or for veterans who need a refresher – will keep you safer in the air:

- Never free-climb! Even if your tower is only 20 feet, a fall from that height can cause serious injury or even death. Always use a Personal Fall Arrest System (PFAS), which includes a full body harness, a positioning lanyard, and fall arrest lanyards.
- Never climb when you're under the weather. Climbing is very demanding work, and once you reach the top, you still need the strength and stamina to do the job itself and then descend. If you're ill, tired, or distracted, postpone the work for another day.
- Prepare for environmental stressors. Wear multiple layers of clothing, well-insulated boots, warm gloves with a good grip, and headgear to stay warm when working on cold days. I often feel overdressed initially, when I'm exerting myself during the trip to the top. But an hour or two into the work, when I've been hanging above the tree line and feeling the full effect of the wind and low temperature, those extra layers make it possible to keep going.

While climbing during the warmer months, be sure to protect yourself from the sun, either with long sleeves or plenty of sunblock; eyewear; and lots of water.

- Fuel up before you climb. The work can be physically exhausting and you need the benefit of plenty of healthy carbs before you start. If the job will take some time, it's a good idea to carry a granola bar, fruit or other "portable" food up with you. The energy boost makes a difference.
- Use the buddy system. Train a friend, family member or fellow ham to serve as your ground crew. At the very least, should anything unexpected occur, they can call for help. (But if they have the desire and inclination to learn how to send a nose bucket up to you with the bolt or tool you've dropped, all the better!)
- Take it nice and easy. We don't score extra points for shooting to the top; in fact, pushing hard in the beginning makes it more difficult to sustain your energy throughout the work. Tie off with your positioning lanyard during the ascent, catching your breath and letting your muscles relax for a few minutes. Let your legs, rather than your arms, do the work during the climb. And when facing a challenge such as a guy wire or sidearm to get over, take a few minutes to think through the options. A few minutes of thought can save a lot of energy and time in the long run.

Climbing is exhilarating, exhausting, and incredibly satisfying. It is also extremely dangerous. Minimize the risks by taking the proper precautions. To learn more or to order Dazo's book, visit the Publications section of the ARRL website.

News from the Amateur Radio World!

In June 2011, the FCC issued a Forfeiture Order in the amount of \$24,000 to Kevin W. Bondy of Encino, California for engaging in unlicensed radio operation and intentional interference to licensed radio operations and for refusing to allow an inspection of his radio equipment by FCC personnel. Following a Petition for Reconsideration filed by Bondy, the FCC issued a Memorandum Report & Order on February 15, upholding the \$24,000 fine.

Read the full Order here:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-11-990A1.pdf

ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that three current operations have been approved for DXCC credit: 5X8C in Uganda (commencing in 2012) and the T6TJ (commencing in 2012) and T6BP (commencing in 2011) operations in Afghanistan. "If you have had cards for these operations rejected in a recent application, please send an e-mail to the ARRL DXCC Desk and you will be placed on the list for an update," Moore said. "If your QSOs were only via Logbook of The World (LoTW), they were not imported to DXCC, since the operations were not approved at the time of your submission. LoTW QSOs can be reclaimed via your next LoTW submission. Once updated, results will appear in LoTW accounts, as well as online in the daily listings.

Click Here to Read more: <http://www.arrl.org/dxcc>

The American Red Cross has made the decision to phase out and decommission its Emergency Communication Response Vehicles (ECRVs) due to changes in technology, as well as a new satellite system and other factors regarding the vehicle fleet. "Retrofitting the decade-old vehicles with new equipment is not a good use of donated funds, as the long-term strategy is to move to more portable systems," American Red Cross Disaster Services Technology Manager Keith Robertory, KG4UIR, told the ARRL. "This is consistent with the trends in the telecom and technology industries."

Red the Full Article Here: <http://www.arrl.org/news/american-red-cross-to-phase-out-emergency-communication-response-vehicles>

Proud to be an ARRL Special Service Club!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Board of Director's Meeting
March 5, 2013 @ 7:30pm
St. Rita's Office Annex

Membership Meeting
March 12, 2013 @ 7:30pm
St. Rita's Church

VE Testing
March 19, 2013 @ 7:30pm
St. Rita's Office Annex

Board of Director's Meeting
April 2, 2013 @7:30pm
St. Rita's Office Annex

Membership Meeting
April 7, 2013 @ 7:30pm
St. Rita's Church

Hamfests

THE DEKALB HAMFEST
May 5, 2013 @ 8:00am
Location: Sandwich, IL
Sponsor: Kishwaukee Amateur Radio Club

<http://www.karc-club.org>

THE SIX METER CLUB
June 16, 2013 @ 8:00am
Location: Wheaton, IL
Sponsor: Six Meter Club of Chicago

<http://k9ona.com>

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Harry Jones, K9DXA, President

This is the second edition of the Arc Over handled by Dean KC9EOQ. I caught some feedback at the February FRRL Members' meeting that "Dean's Touch" was very much appreciated. So what do you think? Please send your feedback and future Arc Over articles to Dean. Thanks Dean!

The plan is to hand out FRRL Roster Books and a small supply of Hamfest tickets at the March Members' meeting to all FRRL members in attendance. That will help save postage, since we do not have a lot of room in our budget. But it will also give Dawn KC9LQS and Dean KC9EOQ an opportunity to explain important points about the tickets and the book. All of you are needed to sell your tickets and turn in the money promptly, since Hamfest ticket sales has a direct bearing on our meeting the budget and funding our yearly program. Please, sell tickets!

If you caught a recent edition of Ham Nation, you saw an interesting presentation of the new Kenwood TS-990 transceiver. I thought I heard \$8K. What a machine! And, oh, look at all those knobs! There is an interesting line up of features, including on board digital modes operation with a few extra screens, including panadapter. You can still download the file from their website and view it at your convenience. Give it a look!

The ARRL DX contests are over by now. I had a chance to work a few hours of the CW contest. I was great fun. The phone contest was just this last weekend. I hope all you new licensees and all who are in the HF Challenge hunt had a chance to try these contests. You can really ramp up your DX counts for the HF Challenge. I had a chance to use the new version of N3FJP software written for this contest. It performed flawlessly, and it was extremely easy to produce files for contest log submittal as well as create a file to add the QSOs to my main logging program.

I know we have a few members who are not licensed yet. Take notice: Ron WA7RBC, our new Education chair, has the next Technician class set to begin March 30. He will give you the details, and it will be posted up at the FRRL and ARRL websites as well. Also, please help get the word out on this. Ron would like to fill this class. Students who attend and do the homework for these classes have an excellent chance of passing the Tech test right away. This is the "hot deal" for anyone wanting to break into amateur radio. The price for the class is amazingly RIGHT. Be there!

Didn't Dick AH6EZ give a great presentation at the last meeting on Ham Radio Deluxe (HRD)? This new software version has quite a few bells and whistles. Don't we like bells and whistles? Dick gave us a nice overview of rig control, logging, and digital mode operation using his Flex 1500 connected to HRD. Yes, HRD now costs several dollars. But if you would like to play around with some of it, you can still download the last "free" version. Give it a try!

Be on the lookout for more announcements about Field Day and Hamfest.

Don't forget, get on the air!!

<dit> <dit>

STUDY QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

FROM THE TECHNICIAN POOL

T1A11 (C) [97.3(a)(7)]

Q: Which of the following stations transmits signals over the air from a remote receive site to a repeater for retransmission?

- A:**
- A. Beacon station
 - B. Relay station
 - C. Auxiliary station
 - D. Message forwarding station

FROM THE GENERAL POOL

Q: G2C03 (C)

What does it mean when a CW operator sends "KN" at the end of a transmission?

- A:**
- A. Listening for novice stations
 - B. Operating full break-in
 - C. Listening only for a specific station or stations
 - D. Closing station now

FROM THE EXTRA POOL

Q: G2C04 (D)

What does it mean when a CW operator sends "CL" at the end of a transmission?

- A:**
- A. Keep frequency clear
 - B. Operating full break-in
 - C. Listening only for a specific station or stations
 - D. Closing station

Getting Started In Emcomm - Before You Begin

By Bill Muhr, Emergency Coordinator, Kane County ARES

Sooner or later every amateur radio operator wonders about becoming involved in Emergency Communications. It makes sense – one of the primary purposes of our Service is to assist the public in the event of an emergency, and hams are known to be concerned about their communities and their fellow citizens. But getting involved is a big step, and there are things that need to be considered before you jump in with both feet.

The first thing you need to consider is your personal situation. Ask yourself if you and your family members are comfortable with your involvement. If anyone in your family has concerns it is probably best for you not to become involved. Running off to play radio when your kids are frightened about approaching severe weather is not good for anyone.

Prospective volunteers should also think about their personal health and if there are any medical conditions that might affect their performance. Emcomm work can create high levels of stress and may require physical exertion and/or long hours in uncomfortable conditions. You don't want to become a victim of the emergency while you are trying to help.

If you decide that the above situations don't affect you, then the next step is to evaluate your personal preparedness. Ask yourself if you have the skills and equipment that you need to be effective. You can find out what the requirements are by talking to your local ARES leadership. If you have shortcomings in certain areas you can do some work on your own before joining. It might also be possible for the ARES group to focus on providing you with the training you need, depending on the situation.

Finally, you need to make sure that you and your family are prepared for an emergency situation. The standard rule is that everyone should be able to survive on their own for a minimum of 72 hours in the event of a major emergency. You will need to have an emergency plan, the supplies necessary to survive, and the knowledge to use them. If you are not prepared your family could be at risk.

There are a number of valuable resources available to help you get prepared. Web sites run by the Government (<http://www.ready.gov/>) and the American Red Cross (<http://www.redcross.org/prepare>) have excellent information on how to plan and prepare for various emergencies. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has an excellent online course on citizen preparedness (<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is22.asp>).

Once you have considered these issues, and perhaps taken some steps to address them, you might be ready to start participating in one of the most rewarding aspects of amateur radio. If you do decide to participate, thank you.

Bill, NF9D

Emergency Coordinator, Kane County ARES

UPCOMING CONTESTS

March and April 2013

Date	Contest	Web Page
Mar 2 0000Z	ARRL Int'l Phone DX Contest	www.arrl.org
Mar 5 1900Z	YL CW Party	www.agcw.de
Mar 9 1900Z	Idaho QSO Party	www.idahoarrl.info/qso party
Mar 10 0000Z	North American Sprint	http://www.ncjweb.com/sprintrules.php
Mar 10 1800Z	Wisconsin QSO Party	www.warac.org
Mar 16 1300Z	Oklahoma QSO Party	www.k5cm.com/okqp.htm
Mar 16 1400Z	Virginia QSO Party	www.qsl.net/sterling
Mar 16 1800Z	North Dakota QSO Party	www.w0nd.com
Mar 17 0000Z	North American Sprint	www.ncjweb.com
Mar 23 0000Z	Lighthouse Spring Lites QSO party	www.arlhs.com
Mar 30 0000Z	CQ WPX SSB Contest	www.cqwpx.com

Date	Contest	Web Page
Apr 2 1300Z	YLRL DX-YL to NA-YL Contest, CW	None Listed
Apr 4 1700Z	SARL 80M QSO Party	http://www.sarl.org.za
Apr 13 1800Z	Georgia QSO Party	http://www.georgiaqso party.org/
Apr 13 1400Z	New Mexico QSO Party	http://pages.swcp.com/~n5zgt/nmqso party/
Apr 19 2100Z	Holyland DX Contest	http://www.iarc.org/
Apr 20 1600Z	Michigan QSO Party	http://www.miqp.org/Rules.htm
Apr 20 1800Z	Ontario QSO Party	http://www.va3cco.com/
Apr 21 1800Z	ARRL Rookie Round Up- SSB	http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup
Apr 27 0001Z	10-10 Int Spring Contest- Digital	http://www.ten-ten.org/
Apr 27 1600Z	Florida QSO Party	http://www.floridaqso party.org/rules.html
Apr 28 1100Z	Nebraska QSO Party	No Sponsor Listed



Kane County ARES®

Kane County ARES News

Bill Muhr, NF9D Kane County ARES Emergency Coordinator

Kane County ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service), is a group of amateur radio operator volunteers who provide emergency communication for the communities of Kane County, IL and surrounding counties when called upon. All licensed amateurs are welcome to join.

We hold monthly meetings at 7 pm on the fourth Thursday of the month at the St. Charles EOC conference room at 112 North Riverside, St. Charles, IL. Our schedule at these meetings includes training on various aspects of emergency communications, weather spotting and reporting, and general amateur radio topics.

Anyone interested in joining Kane County ARES should contact Bill Muhr, NF9D, the ARES Emergency Coordinator for Kane County. He can be reached by email at nf9d@arrl.net.

ARES units are also active in other northern Illinois counties. You can find more information about ARES and public service opportunities on the ARRL website, arrl.org.



Kendall County ARES® is a part of the structure of the [American Radio Relay League's](#) emergency communications organization called the [Amateur Radio Emergency Service®](#).

Kendall Co. ARES® members are trained in emergency communication and weather-spotting. We are an integral part of the [SKYWARN](#) weather spotting program of the [National Weather Service](#). The Kendall Co. ARES® runs a local net and relays reportable information to the National Weather Service through a leason station.

Kendall County ARES® Staff:

Emergency Coordinator: Dirk Wolgast, W9QA (w9qa@arrl.net)

Assistant Emergency Coordinator: Chris Kennell, KC9BKS (kC9BKS@arrl.net)

NETS: Nets are held weekly at 8:00 PM on Wednesday nights on the Yorkville, IL ARES Repeater (complements of N9FNS). There are no NETS on meeting nights.

The frequency is 147.375 MHz FM, +60Khz with a 103.5 Hz PL.

MEETINGS: Kendall County ARES® meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM. Meetings are held at the Panera Bread Cafe in Yorkville. The location is about one block South of Hwy 34 on Hwy 47 on the East side of Hwy 47.



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 (FRRRL) an Illinois not-for-profit Corporation

Meeting Minutes February 12, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by President Harry K9DXA.

Reports:

Minutes, from the January Membership Meeting were presented by Secretary Mike K9FE. Bob N9BTF moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Marty N9NTM. Motion carried.

Treasurer, Dean KC9EOQ presented the Treasurer's report to the membership.

Program, Dick AH6EZ reported that the evening's program would be on HRD 6.0 with his Flex 1500 **ARES**, Kendall DuPage, and Kane Counties ARES; Kane Area rep Bill NF9D announced a Tri-County SET on Saturday May 4, 2013. He is also looking for D-Star assistance for an ARES test.

Field Day, Denny W9HI Chair, FD is June 21-22-23 (setup can actually start on the 20, but we will not use that date). Had band captains' stand and announce the band they will run. We have Jericho Lake Park and the Pavilion. Introduced Orv Erickson as the generator man. We will be using the 25kw, 9kw, and lighting tower from City of Aurora.

OLD BUSINESS - NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

D-Star, Harry K9DXA announced that Mark Thompson approached him to try and use one of our meeting locations for his D-Star seminar. First question was who was interested in attending the seminar. 5 people. Who would be willing to work it, 0 people, idea was dismissed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

New Chairs Announced, Past President Dick AH6EZ, Hamfest Dawn KC9LQS, License Trustee Kermit W9XA, Arc Over Dean KC9EOQ, Program Dick AH6EZ, PR Debby WX9VOR, Technical Denny W9HI, Web-masters Neil KB9FRX & Chris KC9BKS, Banquet Kermit W9XA & Dick W9GIG, Education Ron WA7RBC, Cougars Ken N9WCX, Net Mike KK4GGG, Raffle Chris KC9IEQ, Refreshments Roger KD1FY, VE Doug W9RD, Yahoo Group. Bill NF9D, St. Rita Project Dick AH6EZ, Repeater: Chair Paul W9DWP, Trustee Kermit W9XA, Sec Bill NF9D, Member Jim N9XP, Mike KK4GGG

QSL Bureau, Jack K9JE, explained QST label or copy of Life Membership to ARRL - DX ONLY CARDS **HF Challenge**, Dawn KC9LQS, now a 2 part (6 month) challenge. Joe NA9A has extra Challenge sheets.

Youth Lounge, Michael KC9OPV will organize and coordinate Field day 1 hour 3pm-4pm, Hamfest 1 hour TBD. He asked for assistance in both events and encouraged all to bring children & grandkids

Cougars, Ken N9WCX has 25 tickets. Can get more if needed. Now a Cubs Affiliate.

Certificates, handed out by Harry K9DXA

Banquet, Sat Jan 25th 2014 at St. Charles Place, searching for entertainment

Weather Spotter Training, will be at the Aurora Police Station, Debby WX9VOR

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Kermit W9XA and seconded by Randolph W9HE. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Mike Urso K9FE, FRRRL Secretary

IMPORTANT AMATUER RADIO WEB PAGE LINKS

www.frrl.org
www.arrl.org
www.colpage.org
www.qrz.com
www.eham.net
www.twit.tv/hn
www.dxspots.com



FRRRL Repeaters:

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

FRRRL 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)

KC9OEM—444.525 MHz +5 MHz, 114.8 PL

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

W9ZGP—NIARC:
147.060 +600 KHz, 103.5 PL

Weekly Nets:

FRRRL 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

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