



# ARC OVER

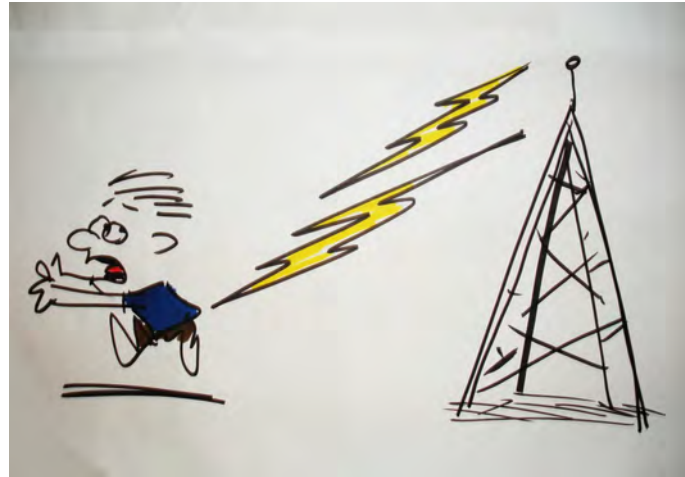
The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League  
Since 1924



May 2013



Proud to be an ARRL  
Special Services Club



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The May member meeting program will feature a talk by Dick Illman, AH6EZ concerning RF exposure.

Amateur Radio is basically a safe activity. In recent years, however, there has been considerable discussion and concern about the possible hazards of electromagnetic radiation, including both RF energy and power-frequency (50-60 Hz) electromagnetic fields.

In 1996, the FCC announced new rules governing exposure to transmitted radio frequency signals. The new rules set new limits on the amount of RF energy people can be exposed to. They also require that some stations be evaluated to see if they are in compliance with the rules.

Try this RF Exposure Calculator:

[http://hintlink.com/power\\_density.htm](http://hintlink.com/power_density.htm)

## 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
AC9CN	Steve Hill	Amateur Extra
KC9YEB	Matthew Small	Technician

## 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 newsletter. 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

**Mailing Address:**  
P. O. Box 673  
Batavia, Illinois 60510-0673

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

**Web Site:**  
<http://www.frrl.org>

**President**  
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**Vice President**  
Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

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**License Trustees:**  
Kermit Carlson, W9XA  
Bob Dillon, WB9LTN

**Newsletter Editor**  
Dean Holste, KC9EOQ  
[newsletter@frrl.org](mailto:newsletter@frrl.org)

**Webmasters**  
Chris Kennell, KC9BKS  
Neil Potter, KB9RFX  
[webmaster@frrl.org](mailto:webmaster@frrl.org)

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

By Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

## HF Challenge Update as Of Mid-April

There were no upsets on the HF Challenge leader board as of mid-April. Larry K9ARZ maintained his lead in the QRO Class last month with 294 contacts. Jack K9JE continues to lead the Operator Class with 181 QSOs. Paul KC9UZV holds the lead with 75 contacts in the Limited Class.

Of particular interest, Larry, Jack, and Joe NA9A all reported working VK9CZ, a DXpedition operating from the Cocos Keeling Islands March 30 through April 13. Cocos is located in the Pacific Ocean, midway between Australia and Thailand.

Other contacts of interest included Mozambique, Tanzania, Mayotte, Azerbaijan, Hong Kong, Ghana, Singapore, W. Malaysia, Red China, India, and Korea from Larry; and from Joe, the Republic of Southern Sudan, Laos, Bahrain and Mayotte Island. And best wishes go out to Jack, who said working the VK9 DXpedition put him one contact away from the DXCC Honor Roll! (Although he's confirmed QSOs with 338 countries, that total contains eight deleted entities.)

A number of participants didn't report last month. Be sure to email your status as of the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to be included in the ArcOver recap next month. An Excel spreadsheet has been uploaded to the FRRL Yahoo group's page for your use in reporting, to make sure the data we need is included. Questions? Talk to Joe NA9A at the next membership meeting, or send an email to challenge [at] frrl [dot] org.

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Paul KC9UZV	47	7	21	75
Jim W9NJP	25	3	17	45
Paul KC9SEB	39	3	22	64

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
John W8ACI	17	3	31	51
Tobi K9TCD	25	4	50	79
Tom WB9CHY	7	1	55	63
Jack K9JE	46	8	127	181
Dean KC9EOQ	31	3	54	88
Herb W9DTR	42	10	72	124
QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Joe NA9A	46	6	189	241
Gary K9MMS	50	10	176	236
Dick AH6EZ	50	13	179	242
Larry K9ARZ	50	13	231	294

Ragchew Class	States/Provinces	DX	Total
Dick AH6EZ/W9	17	7	24
Jim W9NJP	17	1	18
John W8ACI	9	1	10
Paul KC9UZV	34	2	36
Herb W9DTR			18
Joe NA9A	5	3	8

## News from the Amateur Radio World!

### NEW HF OPERATORS - THINGS TO DO

Here's a thought - did you know that the ARRL offers a [Code Proficiency Certificate](#)? True! Copy some text at gradually-increasing speeds to get a series of endorsement stickers to the basic award. They go as high as 40 wpm! The next [W1AW Qualifying Run](#) is on May 7<sup>th</sup> and a West Coast run is on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Do a few CW contests, sharpen up that #2 pencil, and - are you QRV?

The article "Revitalize Your Club Meetings" by Tom Field in the March issue of [Sky and Telescope](#) suggests planning a meeting around an online webinar. That sounds familiar - we have been enjoying the webinars hosted by the [Potomac Valley Radio Club](#) and archived by the [World Wide Radio Operators Foundation](#). Why not re-schedule a meeting to occur on webinar night? All it takes is one person to register and a PC projector - voila! - instant meeting speaker!

NASA has compiled three years of images from the Solar Dynamics Observatory (SODO) satellite in a [four-minute time-lapse video](#) on the [space.com](#) website. Following a short ad, the view at the 171 angstrom wavelength is shown, taking up about half the video. Then a faster series of images is presented that include the more familiar visible-light wavelength of 4500 angstroms and two others. The image can be enlarged to full-screen for a better view. (Thanks, Bob N6TV)

Just outside the ham bands this weekend, listen for the military stations calling CQ and listening somewhere inside the ham bands. This might be a real good time to learn how to operate split since QRMing a station with a call sign like WAR - outside the ham bands, to boot - doesn't sound like a really great idea. However, all of those stations will QSL automatically -don't worry, of course they know where you live!

<http://www.usarmymars.org/home/announcements>

The May issue of CQ magazine is hitting mailboxes with the results from [CQ WW CW 2012](#). This is considerably earlier than in past years - thanks, CQ! Updated WRTC-2014 Event Scores are now posted and in addition, a handful of other corrections/updates were posted for 4Z4DX, 9A3A and the ops at KH7X. Official results for 48 of the 55 qualifying events are now included, awaiting only the official results from Oceania DX, January's NAQP January, the February NA Sprint (Feb), and both modes of ARRL DX. (Thanks, WRTC-2014 Team Selection Director, Dan K1TO)

Do you need the up-to-date information on Dayton contest events? Try the [K3LR web page](#) ([www.k3lr.com](http://www.k3lr.com)) for information on Contest University, Topband Dinner, Contest Dinner, and the four-night Contest SuperSuite. Links are at the bottom of the page. A [free webinar](#) on Dayton contest activities is available, too!

Proud to be an ARRL Special Service Club!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Board of Director's Meeting

May 7, 2013 @7:30pm  
St. Rita's Office Annex

### Membership Meeting

May 14, 2013 @ 7:30pm  
St. Rita's Church

## Hamfests

### DAYTON-HAMVENTION

May 17th -19th

**Location:** Dayton, OH

**Sponsor:** Dayton Amateur  
Radio Club

[www.hamvention.com](http://www.hamvention.com)

### THE SIX METER CLUB

June 16, 2013 @ 8:00am

**Location:** Wheaton, IL

**Sponsor:** Six Meter Club of  
Chicago

<http://k9ona.com>

Online registration for the 2013 [Central States VHF Society Conference](#) is now open. The 2013 Conference will be held near Chicago at the Elk Grove Village, IL, Holiday Inn from Thursday July 25th until Sunday July 28. There will be Antenna Range (144 MHz-24 GHz) measurements, Rover Row, Dish Display, and a Noise Figure Measurement Contest. This year will see the return of the free-admission "VHF-101" introductory session on Saturday morning. The banquet speaker will be ARRL CEO, Dave Sumner K1ZZ. (Thanks, Kermit W9XA)

The [W9DXCC convention](#) committee has announced it will offer a six session class on Friday, September 20th, 2013, to help inform all hams interested in DX'ing" about general topics of interest to the DX community. The class will be held the day before the W9DXCC convention and has been designed for both new and experienced DX'ers. Each session will cover a different aspect of DX'ing and features speakers NN1N, K9LA, K9AJ, K9EL, K9NU and W9MU. Please contact [W9MU](#) for additional details and information.

**Web Site of the Week** - From the "Well Now You Know Department" - you have surely wondered where you would emerge having dug completely through the Earth below your feet. Now there is no question - find out using the [Tunnel to the Other Side of the Earth](#) web tool! (Thanks, Sean KX9X)

CQ World Wide Contest Director, Randy K5ZD gave this presentation on "[How Can You Improve As a Single Operator?](#)" at the recent Norsk Hammeeting. (Thanks, Bob K8IA)

You may have read the DX Code of Conduct that is directed at DXers, presenting guidelines for operating in a way that could bring order and make pileups more civil. Less widely known is that "The DX Code of Conduct" Web pages also contain a set of guidelines for DXpeditioners or DXpeditioner's Code. To clarify this situation, [DX University](#) offers clearly delineated guidelines for both DXpeditioners and DXers. They are referred to separately as "Best Practices for DXpedition Operating" and "Best Practices for Courteous and Efficient DXing" on the DX University web site. This might be a real good time to read both!

## STUDY QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

### FROM THE TECHNICIAN POOL

**Q:** T1A07 (C) [97.3(a)(45)]

What is the FCC Part 97 definition of telemetry?

**A:** A. An information bulletin issued by the FCC

B. A one-way transmission to initiate, modify or terminate functions of a device at a distance

C. A one-way transmission of measurements at a distance from the measuring instrument

D. An information bulletin from a VEC

### FROM THE GENERAL POOL

**Q:** G1A12 (B) [97.301]

When General Class licensees are not permitted to use the entire voice portion of a particular band, which portion of the voice segment is generally available to them?

**A:** A. The lower frequency end

B. The upper frequency end

C. The lower frequency end on frequencies below 7.3 MHz and the upper end on frequencies above 14.150 MHz

D. The upper frequency end on frequencies below 7.3 MHz and the lower end on frequencies above 14.150 MHz

### FROM THE EXTRA POOL

**Q:** E1F10 (C) [97.313]

What is the maximum transmitter power for an amateur station transmitting spread spectrum communications?

**A:** A. 1 W

B. 1.5 W

C. 10 W

D. 1.5 kW

## President's Traffic

Harry Jones, K9DXA

The recent edition of QST included a letter from a Ham who was quite frustrated with the lack of good operating procedures demonstrated by "new" Hams he has heard on the air. His frustration reached the point that he said he is seriously considering leaving the hobby since he charges that new Hams do not have the prerequisite skills to get on the air properly. Perhaps he does not believe that preparation for the FCC test results in sufficient learning for on the air performance. He does not mention an age old process involving mentoring from an Elmer.

Let's take a look at the manner in which a prospective new Ham demonstrates minimum knowledge before the FCC assigns a license. The procedure is for the prospective new Ham to demonstrate via an official test that appropriate minimum operating and technical skills have been learned. FCC uses volunteers to devise multiple choice test questions acceptable to FCC, and to further use volunteers Hams to administer the test in a way that is also acceptable to FCC. This testing consists of multiple choice questions.

When I was first licensed quite a few years ago, a "Novice" multiple choice test written by FCC and a Morse code test were both administered by a General Class Ham of some minimum age. After the test, the statement that I passed the Morse code test and the ungraded written test were mailed back to FCC. FCC graded the test and processed my new call sign. Later, I traveled to the FCC building in downtown Chicago to take and pass the test for Technician and later, General Class licenses. I recall multiple choice questions, but other question types also appeared on the test. I might have had to draw a simple circuit or two. These tests were obviously not machine graded. I imagine over the years that the FCC budget for maintaining the Amateur license testing program diminished, and that led to the volunteer third party program we know today.

After first becoming licensed, I found a few Elmers, and they were extremely valuable and became good friends.

Regardless of the test difficulty, one key element goes a long way to helping a new hobbyist get off to a good start. A new Ham can be helped along early by getting help from an Elmer. An Elmer provides just enough "coaching" to help the new Ham.

All of you Elmers, keep doing the good job. And all of you new Hams, seek out an Elmer and use that person wisely. Of course, what a better place to find an Elmer is the local Ham Club. The FRRL has plenty of Elmers. You new Hams, find one and get on the air.

<dit> <dit>

# UPCOMING CONTESTS

May & June 2013

Date	Contest	Web Page
May 4 0001Z	10-10 Int Spring Contest- CW	<a href="http://www.ten-ten.org/">http://www.ten-ten.org/</a>
May 4 1300Z	7th Call Area QSO Party	<a href="http://ws7n.net/7QP/new/page.asp?content=start">http://ws7n.net/7QP/new/page.asp?content=start</a>
May 4 1600Z	Indiana QSO Party	<a href="http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/">http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/</a>
May 4 2000Z	New England QSO Party	<a href="http://www.negp.org/">http://www.negp.org/</a>
May 5 1000Z	Worked All Britain-LF Phone	<a href="http://www.worked-all-britain.co.uk">www.worked-all-britain.co.uk</a>
May 8 1300Z	CWops Monthly Mini-CWT Test	<a href="http://www.cwops.org/onair.html">www.cwops.org/onair.html</a>
May 9 0030Z	NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint	<a href="http://www.naqcc.info">www.naqcc.info</a>
May 11 1200Z	Armed Forces Comm'ns Test	<a href="http://www.netcom.army.mil/mars">www.netcom.army.mil/mars</a>
May 11 1700Z	Nevada Mustang Roundup	<a href="http://www.nvqsoparty.info">www.nvqsoparty.info</a>
May 11 1700Z	FISTS Spring Sprint	<a href="http://www.fists.org/operating.html#sprints">www.fists.org/operating.html#sprints</a>
May 18 1200Z	His Majesty King of Spain Contest	<a href="http://www.ure.es">www.ure.es</a>
May 18 1500Z	Feld-Hell Hamvention Sprint	<a href="http://www.feldhellclub.org">www.feldhellclub.org</a>
May 20 0200Z	Run for the Bacon	<a href="http://www.fpgrp.org">www.fpgrp.org</a>
May 25 0000Z	CQ WW WPX Contest	<a href="http://www.cqwp.com">www.cqwp.com</a>
May 27 2300Z	MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint	<a href="http://www.miqrp.org">www.miqrp.org</a>

Date	Contest	Web Page
Jun 1 0000Z	10-10 Int. Open Season PSK Contest	<a href="http://www.ten-ten.org/oseason/oseason.html">http://www.ten-ten.org/oseason/oseason.html</a>
Jun 1 1200Z- 2400Z	Maritimes QSO Party	<a href="http://www.maritimecontestclub.com/images/2013_MQP_Rules.pdf">http://www.maritimecontestclub.com/ images/2013_MQP_Rules.pdf</a>
Jun 1 1600Z	Alabama QSO Party	<a href="http://www.alabamagsoparty.org/2013/2013Rules.pdf">http://www.alabamagsoparty.org/2013/2013Rules.pdf</a>



*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](mailto: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](http://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.

### **Kendall County ARES® Staff:**

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

Assistant Emergency Coordinator: Chris Kennell, KC9BKS ([kc9bks@arrl.net](mailto: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 (FRRL) an Illinois not-for-profit Corporation  
Held at St. Rita of Cascia, Aurora, IL

**Meeting Minutes Apr 9, 2013**

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

**Reports:**

**Minutes**, from the February Membership Meeting were presented by Secretary Mike K9FE. Randolph W9HE moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Larry W9ARZ. Motion carried.

**Treasurer**, Dean KC9EOQ reported that the club has \$2262.62 in checking; \$4027.27 in savings and \$53 in petty cash

**Program**, Dick AH6EZ reported that the evening's program would be on Synthesized Voice Vocoder, FreeDV Demo

**Field Day**, Denny W9HI, Field Day June 22, 23 with setup starting on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Site is Jericho Park. Use of N3FJP Field Day Logging Software. We will run 6A as W9NE, GOTA will be using W9CEQ. Band captains introduced.

Youth Program for field day introduced by Michael KC9OPV. 3pm and 1 hour long, looking for volunteers.

**ARES**, Kane County Area rep Bill NF9D announced a Tri-County SET on Saturday May 4, 2013. Next meeting for Ares April 25. Weather Nets on KC9OEM repeater.

**Roster / Hamfest**, Dawn KC9LQS, Roster and Hamfest tickets distributed tonight. Please pick them up by Dean, unless picked up they will have to be mailed- meaning more \$\$\$  
Dayton Trailer Project, Dick AH6EZ, If you have items going to Dayton for sale, they need to be tagged, Description, and Price. He will need help for Thursday setup. Deliver Items to Dick or bring to the next meeting. If you are going to Dayton, work with Dick on your working the tables.

**Budget, Harry K9DXA** – Harry explained the Zero Based Budget. Currently if all budget item go to their limit, we will be (\$1490.00). Harry showed previous years resulting balances. Hamfest is a major income producer but very hard to budget. Member increase would help the situation. Harry put up a PPT showing large budgeted items. The Storage Facility rent is now \$1200/year and is the major cause of the problem. However no solution to that problem. Talk of elimination possibilities (FD, Roster, Banquet, Storage) The conversion to Electronic Roster would save \$400. Much discussion.

Auction, Eliminate Christmas Party, Eliminate Banquet, Cheaper roster, Rent Items for FD rather than store.

Straw vote / non-binding to accept budget analysis Moved by Denny W9HI, 3 opposed, motion carried.

Motion to eliminate ALL ACTIVITIES by Jim W9NJP, Second Marty N9NTM,

Motion to table Jim W9NJP Second Denny W9HI Motion carried, Mentioned is Hamfesters Dues are \$40/year.

(Continued on Page 12)

## FRRL April 2013 General Membership Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### KC9IEQ Raffle

**DX-QSL Bureau**, Jack K9JE, explained QST label or copy of Life Membership to ARRL

**Cougars**, Ken N9WCX has 25 tickets. Can get more if needed. Now a Cubs Affiliate. Friday July 19, \$10

**MSWALK**, Mike K9FE, Walk is May 5<sup>th</sup>. Need volunteers. Went through basics of signing up. Has contacted the MS-Society to find an easier way since their site is horrible. (Update – They sent the PDFs for application and route map and are on the Yahoo site)

**Motion to Adjourn**, Bill NF9D, Seconded Marty N9NTM

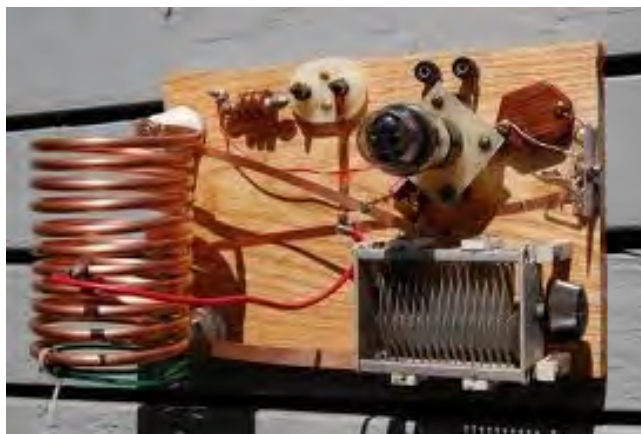
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QRP the hard way...

I have begun plans for building a really dynamite transmitter. Actually it will be a 1920's style TNT (Tuned Not Tuned) single tube transmitter with a 210 triode (still need to find one) and a single tuned plate circuit resonating on 40 meters. I have a plate coil which is 1/4" copper tubing on large standoff insulators. I have a 4 pin tube socket. I will probably be building a roughly 425vdc power supply (at about 50ma) and a 7.5vdc (at about 1.25a) filament supply. I may eventually try winding my own transformer. I am practically guaranteed to have a pretty chirpy signal with a robust 5 watts output. I hope to "compete" in the Antique Wireless Association events. I will probably built it out of more modern components to get it working and then gradually make it look more elegant and authentic using ancient parts and construction techniques as I learn more about them.

73, Dick-AH6EZ

Editor's Note: this is a sample of a single tube transmitter. This may not be the same as what Dick has put together.



## IMPORTANT AMATUER RADIO WEB PAGE LINKS

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

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

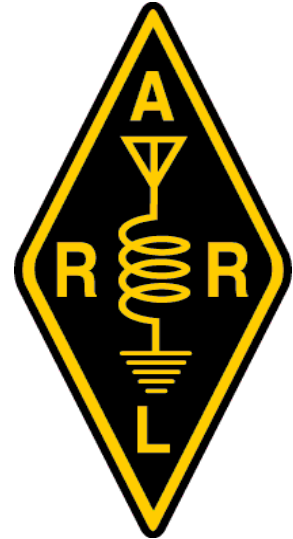
[www.colpage.org](http://www.colpage.org)

[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)

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

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

W9ZGP—NIARC:

147.060 +600 KHz, 103.5 PL

### Weekly Nets:

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

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

Monday at 8:30pm 28.720 MHz SSB