





The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League Since 1924

## Our 90th Year in Amateur Radio!

January 2014



Proud to be an ARRL Special Services Club

## What's Inside

About FRRL	Page 2
HF Challenge	Page 3
2013 Winter Banquet	Page 5
President's Traffic	Page 6
ARRL News	Page 7
Meeting Minutes	Page 8
ARES Information	Page 10
Important Links, Repea	iters and
Net Info	Page 11

Hi All,

I trust that everyone has had a great and relaxing Holiday Season. At the December meeting we announced an FRRL Membership QSO Party – pleased find attached the excel spreadsheet for keeping track of your progress. Please print out a copy, if you need a copy printed or know of someone who needs a copy – please let me know and I will mail a copy.

The contest is simple, with the goal being to make as many radio contacts between as many of the other FRRL members as possible in 2014, each month and to keep track of the contacts made by checking off the callsign on the attached sheet. (See the PDF attached to this newsletter e-mail notice.) (A simple checkmark is sufficient – but you could pencil in the band if you are so inclined.)

This QSO Party will last he entire year, with the challenge of working as many of the other FRRL members as possible restarting anew with the beginning of each month.

Please note that any mode, repeater or not, counts as a contact as long as it is a radio contact (phone calls and Skype will not count). Any kind of "assistance" for the arranging or scheduling the contact is appropriate, as long as an exchange of Callsign is completed by amateur radio.

At the end of the year, I will be asking that the spreadsheets' be turned in by the week before the Winter banquet so that I can tally the results. If every member works everyone else on the list, then each month we could have 18,496 contacts – and in one year the total possible number would be 221,952 contacts. So get your radios warmed up, the FRRL QSO Party started with the first moment of January 1, 2014.

I hope for you, all the best in the New Year – and great fun in the FRRL QSO Party. See you on the air!

HNY, GL es 73,

Kermit, W9XA

## 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 our new members to the club!

CALL	Name	License Class
KC9ZZU	Len Matulewicz	General
W0COP	David L. Laveck	General

## 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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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.

## Fox River Radio League Founded 1924

## **Mailing Address:**

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http://www.frrl.org

## President

Harry Jones, K9DXA

## **Vice President**

Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

## Secretary

Mike Urso. K9FE

## **Treasurer**

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

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## **Past President**

Richard Illman, AH6EZ

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## **Newsletter Editor**

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ newsletter@frrl.org

## Webmasters

Chris Kennell, KC9BKS Neil Potter, KB9RFX 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

As we anxiously await the results of last year's HF Challenge, let's put some of that nervous energy into getting a jump on 2014! Last month, Joe NA9A emailed participants about the format for this year's event. Following is a summary of how the Challenge works for those who are new to the event, along with a recap of highlights for this year. If you haven't worked the Challenge lately, or if you're new to the club or HF operation, you are strongly encouraged to get involved!

**The Goal:** To contact as many of the states, provinces and DX entities as possible from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2014. You may record two contacts with each state, province and DX entity. New for 2014, you can report two contacts with the same station in a state, province or country. (For current participants, please note that this is the only change for 2014. Last year, the rules of the Challenge specified that two *different* stations had to be contacted.)

**The Categories:** Participants may enter the challenge in the following classes.

**LIMITED CLASS** is a niche for those who choose to operate within selected limitations, including CW only, QRP (5 watts or less), digital mode, or single band.

**OPERATOR CLASS** is for those making contacts with 250 watts of power or less, in any mode.

QRO CLASS is for those using any mode with any legal power output.

**RAG CHEWER CLASS** only counts contacts that last at least 10 minutes, in any mode.

**The Operation:** The purpose of the Bill Erickson HF Challenge is to stimulate operating activity. The main requirement, of course, is that you get on the air. Resources are in the works to help those who need a hand in order to do that. If you need help configuring your station or aren't yet sure how to go about calling CQ or working a pile-up, watch for articles, operating events and mentoring opportunities to help you get started.

**The Reporting**: Presumably, everyone has a logging program with which they are comfortable; from your log, record your HF contacts on the Challenge reporting sheet on a regular basis. The worksheet will be mailed to Joe next January. (From personal experience, I can assure you it is far easier to update your worksheet each week or month than to do so all at once on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>!) **Please note** that if you haven't returned your 2013 worksheets to Challenge Administrator Joe Dubeck, please do so by Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>. You can mail them to P.O. Box 1383, St. Charles, IL 60174; or deliver them physically at the Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**The ArcOver:** Part of the fun is seeing how other participants are doing throughout the year, so operators are encouraged to submit their total scores via email to challenge [at] frrl [dot] org by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Joe has shared an Excel form he's been using for this purpose. If you choose to use it, you can easily report your updates last month and be assured that all the necessary information will be included.

Enter here and SAVE: Your NAME, Your CALL & Your Class: QRO, OPERATOR or LIMITED								
Contacts				Ragchew Contacts				
States	Provinces	Countries	Total	States	Provinces	Countries	Total	
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Asterisked Entities (If any, list call and entities below-preceded by one or two asterisks)

The Results: More on-air activity! Joe emphasizes that the Challenge isn't a contest in the usual sense. Although a little friendly competition makes it more fun, the real purpose of this activity is to provide a framework within which to operate, so that more of us will get on the air more often and exercise the operating privileges we worked so hard to earn!

"In any class, just one contact on any HF band, in any mode, means you met the challenge," Joe wrote in the worksheet, "and you'll receive a beautiful certificate documenting your achievement."

Everyone who participates in the HF Challenge will be acknowledged and receive their certificates during the FRRL annual awards banquet in January.

Direct your questions and comments to Joe during our monthly meetings, or via email to challenge [at] frrl [dot] org. Happy DXing!

de KC9LQS

## What is the ARRL Centennial QSO Party?

The ARRL Centennial QSO Party is a year-long operating event that celebrates hams making contacts. In the end you will have accumulated points, worked new stations and made new friends all over the world.

The Centennial QSO Party is made-up of two main activities: (1) W1AW operating portable in each state and most territories; and (2) The Centennial Points Challenge which is the accumulation of points from qualifying contacts made throughout 2014. To have a score listed online in the Points Challenge competition, logs must be submitted through the <u>Logbook of the World (LoTW)</u> system.

W1AW will be on the air from every state and most territories, and it will be easy to work WAS working only W1AW portable operations. This is the first ARRL-sponsored operating event where every member is worth at least one point, so work as many points as you can during 2014! Earn awards based upon points, working all states or working W1AW portable in every state and territory. This is an on-the-air event like no other.

CQ Communications Inc. has announced plans to realign its publications lineup and to launch a new online supplement to its flagship magazine, CQ Amateur Radio .

"The hobby radio market is changing," said CQ Communications President and Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, "and we are changing what we do and how we do it in order to continue providing leadership to all segments of the radio hobby." Effective with the February 2014 issue of CQ, said Ross, content from the magazine's three sister publications — Popular Communications, CQ VHF and WorldRadio Online — will be incorporated into CQ 's digital edition as a supplement to be called CQ Plus. The print editions of Popular Communications and CQ VHF will be phased out, and WorldRadio Online will no longer exist as a separate online publication. Current Popular Communications, CQ VHF and WorldRadio Online subscribers will be converted to CQ subscribers and receive CQ Plus at no additional charge. Details will be posted on each magazine's website.

CQ Communications says the change will offer hobby radio enthusiasts a single source for articles from shortwave listening and scanner monitoring to personal two-way services and Internet radio, as well as Amateur Radio. Richard Fisher, KI6SN, currently editor of both Popular Communications and WorldRadio Online, will be editor of CQ Plus. "Our primary audience is ham radio operators, but very few hams began their radio involvement as amateurs," Ross said. "Most of us started out as shortwave listeners, broadcast band DXers, CBers or scanning enthusiasts. Many continue to be involved in many different aspects of the radio hobby in addition to Amateur Radio." Ross said consolidating four specialized publications into one will keep "multidimensional readers" informed on all aspects of the radio hobby, at the same time exposing non-hams "to all the excitement and opportunities that Amateur Radio has to offer."

The expanded material will be an integral part of the digital edition of CQ and will be included as part of a standard digital subscription. Each month's digital edition will continue beyond where the print edition ends, offering supplemental material on all aspects of hobby radio communication and selected columns carried over from the other magazines. The added digital content will make full use of the multimedia opportunities presented by digital publications. A preview of the February issue's table of contents is available on the CQ website.

## FRRL Winter Banquet - Saturday Jan 25, 2014

The 2014 FRRL Winter Banquet will again be held at St. Charles Place. Tickets went on sale at the November, and will available at the December, and January FRRL meetings - or by contacting Kermit Carlson, W9XA (w9xa@yahoo.com).

## **Date & Location**

The festivities will start at 5:00 PM, Saturday, **January 25, 2014** at the St. Charles Steak House located at 2550 East Main Street (State Route 64) in St. Charles, IL The two year reconstruction of Route 64 is finished. The smooth new pavement with left turn bays and new street lighting will make your drive much easier than last year.

## **Menu Entrees & Prices**

There will be a choice of three entrees at our banquet. Prices include tax and gratuity.

Prime Rib of Beef ..... \$46.00 (red ticket)

Norwegian Salmon ... \$34.00 (blue ticket)

Chicken Marsala ..... \$32.00 (yellow ticket)

Caesar Salad, Traditional Baked Potato with butter and sour cream, and Ice Cream Dessert is included.

\*\* Put name or callsign on your ticket and lay on dinner table \*\*

This reserves your place and tells server which entree to put down.

## **Schedule**

Cash Bar - 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Dinner Served - 6:15 PM

Entertainment - 7:30 PM

Awards - 8:30 PM

### **Entertainment**

Kent Britain, WA5VJB, from Grand Prairie, TX is an entertaining speaker as he describes his adventures designing academic research, commercial, and government antennas, and running his RF consulting business. Kent is also the author of the *Antennas* column in CQ Magazine.

## **Rules of Engagement**

- 1. Tickets must be purchased in advance no payment at the door.
- 2. No complimentary tickets except for entertainer(s).
- 3. Outside food or beverages not allowed in restaurant.
- 4. Blue jeans and camouflage clothing not allowed.
- 5. Dress code is business casual.

Men - conservative sport coat, tie, and slacks.

Women - slacks or skirt with blouse and/or sweater.

## STUDY QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

## FROM THE TECHNICIAN POOL

**Q:** T5A05

What is the electrical term for the electromotive force (EMF) that causes electron flow?

- A. Voltage
- B. Ampere-hours
- C. Capacitance
- D. Inductance

## FROM THE GENERAL POOL

**Q**: G8A02

What is the name of the process that changes the phase angle of an RF wave to convey information?

- A. Phase convolution
- B. Phase modulation
- C. Angle convolution
- D. Radian inversion

## FROM THE EXTRA POOL

**Q:** E2E04

What is indicated when one of the ellipses in an FSK crossed -ellipse display suddenly disappears?

- A. Selective fading has occurred
- B. One of the signal filters has saturated
- C. The receiver has drifted 5 kHz from the desired receive frequency
- D. The mark and space signal have been inverted

## President's Traffic

Harry Jones, K9DXA

It is almost that time on the calendar to turn things over to the new President-elect and Board at the annual Banquet. It has been quite a run for me as I step down. The last two years have been rewarding. It is time to bring in new blood and refresh the organization. Thank you all for my time as President.

We elected the 2014 FRRL Board of Directors at the December, 2013 meeting. They are President Dawn KC9LQS, Vice President Bill AB9TA, Secretary Ron KC9SNI, Treasurer Dean KC9EOQ, returning Director John N9STK, returning Director Michael KC9OPV, new Director Brian KC9USB, and new Director Dan WA9YKK. Congratulations to the new and returning board members. The current Board is filled with lots of talent and experience, and we have accomplished a lot over the year. Thank you very much to the 2013 Board for their service to FRRL. I also want to thank the new members of the 2014 Board for coming forward and taking a turn at keeping things running. You will be rewarded for your efforts, and your Ham Radio career and mine will be better for it.

I cannot say enough about the Standing Committee Chairs and Ad Hoc Committee Chairs that handled their chores for the 2013 season. Thank you very much, and we will also recognize you at the Banquet.

Following elections, we voted for Ham of the Year, and the award will be announced and presented at the January Banquet. Get your tickets! You need an advance ticket in order to attend! See Dick W9GIG or Kermit W9XA at the meeting for tickets.

After the December elections, we had a great party with lots of goodies. Chris KC9IEQ ran a terrific raffle....He always does! I think everyone went home with something. Mike K9FE took our food and cash donations to our favorite charity.

Don't forget to renew your FRRL membership at the January meeting. See Dean KC9EOQ .

Most of you know by now that Kermit W9XA developed and will administer the new 2014 FRRL QSO Party. You should all have your spreadsheet. Work as many FRRL members as you can every month during 2014. Put a checkmark for each QSO in the spreadsheet, and turn it in to Kermit at the end of the year. You can use any band, any mode, even via repeater! I'm hoping someone will come up with an idea for some sort of monthly net for the purpose of checking in just to work everyone. What do you think? Can we do that? Regardless, the whole idea is to work your fellow FRRL members and keep the RF moving. Yes, all I'm asking you to do is fire up the rig, and....Get On The Air! Happy New Year and have a great 2014.

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# R S R

## **ARRL Contest News**

The CQ World Wide Contest's online database "search by call" feature is a lot of fun. After you get done admiring your personal accomplishments, enter some other calls to see how they've done and where they've been.

For tips on how to get spotted more easily by the <u>Reverse Beacon Network</u>, see some of the presentations linked from Bob N6TV's page on <u>QRZ.com</u>. Similarly, this can also help you *avoid* getting spotted if that suits your strategy a bit better.

From Lou Frenzel, W5LEF in *Electronic Design* magazine comes a pair of interesting technical articles that address both the latest wireless technology and the earliest.

<u>Understanding Error Vector Magnitude</u> - 7 Nov 2013 issue <u>John Renshaw Carson: Modulation's Earliest Innovator</u> - 5 Dec 2013 issue (inventor of SSB and Carson's Rule for FM bandwidth)

Technologists will be surprised at the content of the Instructables item, "Wirewrapping Basics."

Here's a bright young lad being <u>interviewed</u> by Jimmy Kimmel about his knowledge of geography. I'd say this fellow has a bright future ahead of him as a DXer! (Thanks, Dick K6KR)

If you'd like to know "what's that?" in the world around you, the website <u>Hey, What's That?</u> creates 360-degree panoramic views and terrain profiles from a given geographical location...like maybe yours! (Thanks, Zoli HA1AG)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

## **Board of Director's Meeting**

Jan 7th, 2014 @7:30pm St. Rita's Office Annex

## **Membership Meeting**

Jan 14th, 2014 @7:30pm St. Rita's Church Technician Pool- A. Voltage

General Pool-B. Phase modulation

Extra Pool- A. Selective fading has occurred



## 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 December 10, 2013

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

Question of the Month: What is planned for your holiday? -- Dispensed for time

## Reports:

Minutes: November meeting minutes approved as printed, Moved Randolph W9HE, Seconded Larry W9O-KI, Motion carried

Treasurer: Presented by Treasurer Holste, KC9EOQ

Program: Christmas party tonight, the January 2014 program will be given by Dick AH6EZ, featuring using the Raspberry Pi with IRLP/Echolink.

ARES, Kane & Kendall – No meetings for the rest of the year. Next meeting 4th Wed/4th Thurs Jan (Bill NF9D / Chris KC9BKS)

## Old Business:

Status of move – Nov 13, 2013, Volunteers moved radio gear and cabinets to the storage place Church Extension – Fr. Cortes agreed to allow us to stay through Feb 2014.

Status of Meeting Location Search – Possibilities being checked-

Aurora Library – Eola Road - \$50/2 hrs Large room

Oswego FD #1 – Not visited, more travel involved

Aurora Police – Indian Trail and Farnsworth

Schools - Churches - Hospitals --- Nothing Yet

Since any permanent change requires Vote and change of Bylaws, temp change will be considered.

Aurora Police, Kitchenette, but no food/drink in meeting room

Cannot reserve 1st and 2nd Tuesdays.

With prior notice could get date bumped

This would require a better mass communication system

We had reserved 3 months and already bumped 2 dates.

2 rooms expandable to 1 larger room

Note: Club used to meet at a restaurant for Christmas

Could meet at alternative location – Prisco etc.

Oswego Fire Station #1 considered by many members.

Sites to consider – St. Charles, Anderson Center

Flavors of North America, Geneva

Fixed Night most important.

Members willing to drive farther to have a fixed meeting night.

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 December 10, 2013 (Cont'd)

Batavia VFW on Rt. 25 St. Charles Moose lodge Batavia Moose Lodge

## **Election Results:**

President Dawn KC9LQS
Vice Pres Bill AB9TA
Secretary Ron KC9SNI
Treasurer Dean KC9EOQ
Board Members 2yr term, Brian KC9USB & Dan WA9YKK

Banquet Talk – History of Banquet, 1<sup>st</sup> at Tollgate Inn Entertainment: an Antenna Program on VHF/UHF/Microwave Cutoff 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in January. JUNO – Univ of Iowa – 1/3 WPM Morse test. Field Day – Denny, Looking for band captains, running 6A this year Dave W9DWP – reports Tom W9ZS SK

New Business - None

Program - PARTY

Adjourn Marty N9NTM, Move, Second Randolph W9HE

## 01/01/2014

At the stroke of midnight (Eastern time) on January 1, 2014, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial station W1AW at ARRL Headquarters in Newington, CT, took to the airwaves with the special ARRL Centennial call sign W100AW.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer Dave Sumner, K1ZZ and Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, were at the helm through the wee hours of the New Year's Day morning. Daylight hours saw Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q; Chief Operations Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B; Membership and Volunteer Programs Assistant Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ; Public Relations Manager Sean Kutzko; KX9X and *QST* Editor in Chief Steve Ford, WB8IMY, taking their turns at the operating positions. By mid-afternoon there were several thousand contacts in the log on SSB, CW and RTTY.

"This is just the beginning," said Sean Kutzko, KX9X. "Hams will hear W100AW throughout 2014 on every mode possible. When you hear us, spot us on the cluster!"

W100AW contacts will be uploaded to Logbook of The World. Postal QSLs will be acknowledged as well.



## 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 <a href="mailto:nf9d@arrl.net">nf9d@arrl.net</a>.

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, <u>arrl.org</u>.



Kendall County ARES® is a part of the structure of the <u>American Radio Relay</u> <u>League's</u> emergency communications organization called the <u>Amateur Radio Emergency Service®</u>.

Kendall Co. ARES® members are trained in emergency communication and weather-spotting. We are an integral part of the <a href="SKYWARN">SKYWARN</a> weather spotting program of the <a href="National Weather Service">National Weather Service</a>. 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)

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.

## 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



## **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)

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:

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

Monday at 8:30pm 28.720 MHz SSB

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