



ARCOVER

The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League
Since 1924

Our 90th Year in Amateur Radio!



October 2014



Proud to be an ARRL
Special Services Club

The Illinois QSO Party

Starting with the 2006 ILQP, the WIARC has assumed the responsibility of sponsoring and administering the annual event. The ILQP takes place each October and involves amateur operators in all Illinois counties as well as operators from across the USA and in many foreign countries as well.

The WIARC would like to recognize the Radio Amateur Megacycle Society's many years of dedicated service to the Amateur community both in Illinois and the entire USA and the World. RAMS members have faithfully administered the event for nearly 4 decades. Their unflinching leadership in this role will serve as a model for the WIARC in the years to come. Well done, RAMS.

A detailed history of the ILQP can be found by following the link to the left..

Future Dates for the ILQP

The Illinois QSO party is held on Sunday of the third full weekend in October (local times). The 2014 date is: October 19, 2014

Link for ILQP Information

<http://www.w9awe.org/ILQP2014.html>

This link will tell you all you need to know about the contest and it's rules.

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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 Bethany Lutheran Church at 8 S. Lincoln St in Batavia.. 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 newest member to the club!

CALL	NAME	LICENSE CLASS
N9VVR	Stephan Groshek	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: arccover@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 year 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 for Mid-September

The last quarter of this year's Challenge started off on a high note for some participants. Paul KC9UZV reported it was a good month for him on HF digital, bringing his score in the Limited Class into three digits.

Larry K9ARZ reported contacts with Senegal, Marshall Is., Tonga, Thailand, Phillipines, Djibouti, Western Sahara, Timor Leste, and Indonesia.

"There was also a smattering of activity from the Caribbean Islands, some of which I needed," he said.

Joe NA9A also worked Timor Leste, as well as Armenia, Rotuma Island, Bahrain, Vatican City, Macau, and Tristan da Cunha.

Last month also brought the return of participant Dick AH6EZ, operating from his new QTH in the Pacific Northwest. Dick reported tougher conditions on the west coast than he had expected, but attributes part of those conditions to the R9 vertical he is presently using. Welcome back, Dick!

Ready to join the fun? See Joe or email Challenge [at] frl.org for help with any questions you may have or to obtain a reporting worksheet. But most importantly, simply get on the air!

73 de KC9LQS

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Paul KC9UZV	91	13	68	172
Eric K9LGE	25	5	4	34
John AG9D	45	5	20	70
Paul KC9SEB	55	9	39	103

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Jack K9JE	47	10	122	179
Dean KC9EOQ	58	7	98	163
Jason KB9MEL	52	4	50	106
Bill NF9D	12	1	13	26
Ron KC9SNI	9	1	16	26
Roger W9YU	64	10	94	168
Dan W9STS	28	1	5	34
Herb W9DTR	47	8	55	110
Dawn KC9LQS	1	0	2	3

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Larry K9ARZ	100	24	400	524
Dick AH6EZ	91	13	133	237
Alan W9AN	44	6	91	141
Jim N9XP	19	0	91	110
Joe NA9A	73	7	335	415
Robert K9EUI	42	2	49	93

Rag Chewer Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Paul KC9UZV	13	0	2	15
Dick AH6EZ	6	0	1	7
Joe NA9A	7	0	4	11
Herb W9DTR	5		2	7
Dan W9STS	3	0	1	4

**STUDY QUESTIONS
OF THE MONTH**

FROM THE TECHNICIAN POOL

Q: T1C05 [97.303(h)]

What must you do if you are operating on the 23 cm band and learn that you are interfering with a radiolocation station outside the United States?

- A. Stop operating or take steps to eliminate the harmful interference
- B. Nothing, because this band is allocated exclusively to the amateur service
- C. Establish contact with the radiolocation station and ask them to change frequency
- D. Change to CW mode, because this would not likely cause interference

FROM THE GENERAL POOL

Q: G2A09

Why do most amateur stations use lower sideband on the 160, 75 and 40 meter bands?

- A. Lower sideband is more efficient than upper sideband at these frequencies
- B. Lower sideband is the only sideband legal on these frequency bands
- C. Because it is fully compatible with an AM detector
- D. Current amateur practice is to use lower sideband on these frequency bands

FROM THE EXTRA POOL

Q: E1B03 [97.13]

Within what distance must an amateur station protect an FCC monitoring facility from harmful interference?

- A. 1 mile
- B. 3 miles
- C. 10 miles
- D. 30 miles

Recent ARRL News



ARRL Central Division Director Dick Isely, W9GIG (right), with US Rep Danny Davis (IL-7), an H.R. 4969 co-sponsor.

Late last month, a security breach occurred, involving a web server at ARRL Headquarters. ARRL IT Manager Mike Keane, K1MK, said that League members have no reason to be concerned about sensitive personal information being leaked.

Keane said that servers were taken offline and isolated from the Internet when the hack was discovered. Certain ARRL web functions - online DXCC in particular -- were temporarily disabled.

"Legacy" URLs (ones containing "p1k.arrl.org") have been restored, as has access to the ARRL Periodicals Archive.

Keane stressed that it is highly unlikely that any sensitive information was compromised. Any information the hacker might have been able to glean from the ARRL server, he said, is already publicly available -- data such as names, addresses, and call signs that appear in the FCC database.

The hacker may have been able to obtain site usernames and passwords that were established prior to April 2010, and that have not been changed since then. Members who have not changed their ARRL website passwords since early 2010 should do so at this time.

Keane confirmed that it's always prudent to change passwords on a routine basis. "That's the best practice," he said.

Keane said that his department is still looking into what types of information may have been vulnerable to the hack.

"They were poking around, trying all the doors," he explained. "We don't keep anything of value [to a hacker] there. Hackers don't care about DXCC totals or want to read the online issue of QST. There's nothing of financial value there."

Keane said that in addition to reporting the security breach to federal law enforcement authorities, his department is working to increase the League's Internet security posture.

President's Traffic

Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

Some time ago, I ran across an article by Scott Herrick, K9JY, in which he emphasized the important task radio clubs face in offering a resource that will benefit those who choose to become members. Most ham operators, he wrote, don't visit a club for the first time and wonder how they might contribute. What they're looking for before the decision to join is made, and each time the decision to renew is presented, is whether their investment is worthwhile.

This was certainly true of my initiation to the club. As a later-life licensee, I knew I would need the help of more experienced hams in order to increase my knowledge and build my skill rapidly. FRRL offered all the support and resources I could hope for. Becoming a member was one of the most beneficial decisions I made as a new operator.

Your Board of Directors and I have put a lot of effort this year into keeping FRRL the kind of club that newcomers will see as an invaluable resource, and more so, the kind of organization that you, our existing members, will see as worthy of the time and financial support you contribute. Your feedback on surveys and input during our FXpeditions are an ongoing guidepost that we have been using to measure our progress and develop plans and programs for the future.

But there's more to it than that. Herrick's article pointed out the reciprocal nature of the relationship that occurs between the member as an individual and the club as a whole. As the club continues to prove itself by consistently providing useful, applicable support, ongoing resources, and growing camaraderie, only then do members begin to think about what they can contribute and how they can be instrumental in making things better.

That statement also rang true as I reflected on my own experience with FRRL, as I'm sure it does with your own experience. We look forward to monthly meetings, both for the opportunity to catch up with friends and fellow hams, for the applicable tips and helpful information we receive each month, and for the continuity and support that belonging to an organization can provide. Some members come to us with years of experience and expertise to offer fellow operators; some join our ranks as I did, eager for the knowledge and support that are offered. And eventually, most of us find a way to contribute to the enhancement of the group, making the club that much better for all of us.

The truth, as I have seen it from those early days, is that every one of us has something to offer. It might be your technical prowess; it might be your teaching ability; it might be a contribution of your time and effort for specific activities; or it might be your willingness to lend your voice or your ideas at a meeting, or your advice and encouragement to a fellow member. Whatever that contribution is, large or small, it is vital to the success of this organization and to the well being of the group.

This is the time of year when we encourage you to consider where your particular interests and talents might be applied. There are numerous plans in the works for the coming year, all of which will require the help of many individuals in order to be successful. A more immediate opportunity exists for those who have considered serving the club in a more formal capacity. Our nominating committee is talking with candidates for open positions on the board. Those who are interested should contact Tobi K9TCD, Jeff N9JZN or Chris KC9IEQ during the October meeting or soon thereafter to learn more.

Early in the New Year, before preparations for our major events get underway, we'll be looking for your input and vision on what FRRL might offer, and how you see the club evolving in order to remain a valuable resource to the amateur radio community. Start thinking about where you'd like to see us travel. And just as importantly, consider the unique and valuable ways that your individual contributions might help us get there. Each of you makes a difference; and each of you is an important part of our future.

73 de KC9LQS



October Contest Dates

October 2014

+ 10-10 Int. 10-10 Day Sprint	0001Z-2359Z, Oct 10
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder	0145Z-0215Z, Oct 10
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 10
+ ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Oct 11 to 2359Z, Oct 12
+ Oceania DX Contest, CW	0800Z, Oct 11 to 0800Z, Oct 12
+ EU Autumn Sprint, CW	1600Z-1959Z, Oct 11
+ Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 11 to 0500Z, Oct 12 and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 12
+ Arizona QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 11 to 0600Z, Oct 12 and 1400Z-2359Z, Oct 12
+ JARTS WW RTTY Contest	0000Z, Oct 18 to 2400Z, Oct 19
+ 10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW	0001Z, Oct 18 to 2359Z, Oct 19
+ New York QSO Party	1400Z, Oct 18 to 0200Z, Oct 19
+ Iowa QSO Party	1400Z-2300Z, Oct 18
+ Worked All Germany Contest	1500Z, Oct 18 to 1459Z, Oct 19
+ Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Oct 18 to 1500Z, Oct 19
+ W/VE Islands QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 18 to 2359Z, Oct 19
+ South Dakota QSO Party	1800Z, Oct 18 to 1800Z, Oct 19
+ Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 19
+ UBA ON Contest, 2m	0600Z-1000Z, Oct 19
+ Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 19 to 0100Z, Oct 20
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Oct 20
+ ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Oct 20 to 2359Z, Oct 24
+ RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB	1900Z-2000Z, Oct 23
+ CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 25 to 2400Z, Oct 26

UPCOMING EVENTS

Board of Director's Meeting

October 7, 2014 @7:30pm

Colonial Café—Aurora, IL

Membership Meeting

October 14, 2014 @7:30pm

Bethany Lutheran Church

VE Testing Session

Nov. 18, 2014 @ 7:30pm

Messenger Public Library

North Aurora, IL

Technician Pool- A. Stop operating or take steps to eliminate the harmful interference

General Pool- D. Current amateur practice is to use lower sideband on these frequency bands

Extra Pool- A. 1 mile



Fox River Radio League
"Established 1924"
An ARRL Special Service Club
W9CEQ PO Box 673 Batavia, IL 60510



FRRL Membership Meeting September 9 2014

Meeting started at 7:30 p.m. with introductions from the attendees.

Approval of Minutes, Motion from Doug W9RD, second from Joe NA9A, motion carried by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report:

Dean, KC9EOQ gave a report of the status of the club finances.

Programs: Bill AB9TA, September is Mike K9FE with a program on operating digital modes. October will be Denny W9HI with a presentation on How to Organize and Run Field Day.

ARES Report: Debbie WX9VOR gave a quick report on Kane County ARES.

Tour de Cure Report from Eric K9LGE and Mike KC9LQT: The event had 39 volunteers to support 1200 participants. Hams provided many volunteer services including communications support. Tour de Cure awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to FRRL for the club's support.

Dawn KC9LQS talked about the FRRL's outreach program at local farmer's markets and the need for volunteers to help. Volunteers need to be lined up in order to reserve space at the markets.

Mike K9FE talked about the Education program, the current Technician classes are ongoing, but attendance is an issue in the early stages of this current cycle of classes.

Dawn KC9LQS also covered:

The fundraiser for N9XP to recover from his house fire is still ongoing, donations can be made at tonight's meeting.

The club still needs a raffle chairperson, see Chris KC9IEQ to get started.

Budget Status: The club has not spent as much as anticipated in the 2014 budget, plus, the club has brought in more revenue than anticipated. The net result is that the club budget is in the black at this point. Dawn explained that since delivering budget updates is not mandated in the bylaws, going forward she will alert the membership to any significant income, expenses or other changes, but will not provide budget discussions on a regular basis. She invited members to contact her or Treasurer Dean KC9EOQ any time they have questions or concerns regarding the club's financial status."

The 2014 Nominating Committee for FRRL officers and board members will be Tobi K9TCD (Chair), Chris KC9IEQ, Jeff N9JZN.

A vote was held on the proposed change to the FRRL by-laws to increase the club dues. Motion from Randolph W9HE, second from Geoff KB9QFP, motion carried by unanimous show of hands.

Doug W9RD, Next VE session will be next week at the North Aurora Public Library.

Harry K9DXA asked when the club will start membership renewals. Dean KC9EOQ indicated it will most likely be in October.

Marty N9MTM, the Belvedere Radio Expo will be held at the Boone County Fairgrounds.

Motion to Adjourn from Randolph W9HE, second from Marty N9MTM, carried on voice vote.

Twitter: another tool in the ham radio toolbox

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

It all starts innocently enough. You get a computer to do your logging, and before you know it, you're working digital modes. Then, you snake an Ethernet cable down to the shack or connect to your wireless router. Pretty soon, you can't do without having a browser window open to one of the DX clusters or ReverseBeacon.Net or QRZ.Com or all three simultaneously.

Well, now's there another Internet service that I can't do without down in the shack: Twitter! I get on Twitter all the time now when I'm in the shack, and I love it. It's truly enhanced my amateur radio experience.

One of the ways it's done this is by bringing me all kinds of interesting technical information. I not only follow @hackaday and @DIYEngineering, and @EDN.Com, but a bunch of hams who are doing fun things. I hate to list some, for fear of leaving some out, but I will give a shout out to @NT7S, @AA7EE, @mightyohm, @caulktel, @LA3ZA. There's even @HiramPMaxim (the P stands for "parody"). If you go to my blog at KB6NU.Com and search for "From my Twitter feed," you'll find links to some of the most interesting Tweets that have found their way to me.

I'm also following a couple of amateur radio retailers. Today, for example, @DXEngineering is offering \$55 off the RigExpert AA-54 Antenna Analyzer.

I also use it to get information about weather conditions and band conditions. For example, I follow @edvielmetti, who is KD8OQG. He's always tweeting about local severe weather. A Tweet from him gets me to turn on my 2m radio to monitor the local SkyWarn net.

As far as band conditions go, I throw out a Tweet, asking about band conditions, and in seconds, I'll get reports from my followers here in the U.S. and around the world. I try to do my part as well. When I fire up the rig, I'll Tweet out a report of how the bands seem to me.

While all of this is great, it's really all about the people. I currently have more 2,200 followers and I follow more than 900. I would never have met some of these hams if it wasn't for Twitter, and I have since worked several of them on the air after first meeting them on Twitter. Last May, we had a "Tweetup" at the Dayton Hamvention. There were at least 20 of us there. How cool is that?

Twitter isn't for everyone, but I'd encourage you to give it a try. I'm having a lot of fun on Twitter, and I think you will, too. If you do set up a Twitter account, please follow me, @kb6nu. If you mention that you read this column, I'll be sure to follow you back.

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When not Tweeting about his latest amateur radio exploits, you'll find KB6NU working 30m CW or teaching ham radio classes. If Twitter isn't your thing, you can still follow him by reading his blog at www.kb6nu.com.

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

Local 6 meter: 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