



ARC OVER



The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League
Since 1924

Our 91st Year in Amateur Radio!

December 2015

2016 Slate of Candidates for Officer and

Director Positions

Election to be held Tuesday, Dec. 9th



Proud to be an ARRL
Special Services Club

Officer nominations are:

Denny Barfuss K9HI President

Mike Urso K9FE Vice President

Dean Holste KC9EOQ Treasurer

Dan Harmon WA9YKK Secretary

BOD nominations are: (vote for 2)

Jim Nevitt N9XP
Doug Totel W9NJM
Roger Bara W9YU

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FOOD DRIVE,

Bring a bag of non-perishable or paper item (TP, Paper towels) for the December meeting. They will be collected in K9FE's vehicle before the meeting. If you arrive late bring them in to the meeting. Cash is always welcome by the Food Bank.

GIFTS,

This year is different for the gift give-away. We are doing a WHITE ELEPHANT. Go through your shack, gather some thing or things (about a \$15-20 value) and bring it to the meeting. If you bring a gift you will get a gift. I have 75 identical paper grocery bags for the gifts. So who knows what treasure you might get? You can trade after the gifts are given out and opened if you get the pink frame with lace for your license! Let's make this a great time for all.

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 Federal 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 members to the club!

Call	Name	License Class
K9SJW	Samantha Walter	Technician
K9PW	Peter Walter	Extra

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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President
Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

Vice President
Mike Urso, K9FE

Secretary
Dan Harmon, WA9YKK

Treasurer
Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

Directors:
Dave Bulkley, K9WDB
Jason Burzynski, NX9Y
Vacant Position
Jim Nevitt, Jr., N9XP

Past President
Harry Jones, K9DXA

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Kermit Carlson, W9XA

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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 \$25.00 a year, Senior Citizen dues are \$15.00. Family dues are \$35.00. Members can help support the FRRL Repeaters by making an annual \$10.00 donation.

Bill Erikson HF Challenge

By Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

The year is drawing to a close, and although this will be the last mid-month update until the 2016 Challenge begins, there are still several weeks for contenders to add to their logs and increase their scores. As of mid-November, participants continue working the airways, reporting contacts with numerous sought-after entities.

Joe NA9A reported contacts with Western Sahara, Palestine and Gabon, all on 10 meters; and with Chad.

We always say it's never too late to get in on the fun, and two new participants joined the Challenge this month as proof of that! Welcome to Chris KC9BKS and Eric K9LGE, who submitted their first reports as of mid-November!

As per tradition, final results for the 2015 HF Challenge will be announced during the FRRL annual awards banquet in January. Those results will be reported in the February ArcOver.

Worksheets for the 2016 HF Challenge will be mailed to all FRRL members, and if you haven't participated in the past (or if you've been away from the Challenge for awhile), this is a great time to get started! The rules will be outlined in the next issue of the ArcOver. If you have questions or need a hand getting started, talk to Joe NA9A during the monthly meeting, or send an email to Challenge [at] frrl.org.

73 de KC9LQS

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Paul W9JML	41	6	24	71
Paul KC9SEB	46	5	14	65
Eric K9LGE	0	1	1	2
Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Roger W9YU	90	15	115	220
Herb W9DTR	48	10	48	106
Jason NX9Y	50	3	40	93
Dan WA9YKK	21	1	65	87
Jeff N9JZN	3	1	64	68
Dawn KC9LQS	0	0	53	53
Bill NF9D	27	1	2	30
Chris KC9BKS	2	0	1	3
QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Larry K9ARZ	96	25	391	512
Dick AH6EZ/W7	99	22	334	455
Joe NA9A	77	15	346	438
Dean KC9EQQ	39	9	193	241
Alan W9AN	69	5	89	163
Cedric WT2P	50	5	90	145
Marty N9NTM	2	0	38	40
Rag Chewer Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Dick AH6EZ/W7				73
Jason NX9Y	31	0	3	34
Herb W9DTR	13	3	6	22
Joe NA9A	12	0	2	14
Paul W9JML	2	0	1	3

STUDY QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

FROM THE TECHNICIAN POOL

Q: T2C08

What is usually considered to be the most important job of an amateur operator when handling emergency traffic messages?

- A. Passing messages exactly as written, spoken or as received
- B. Estimating the number of people affected by the disaster
- C. Communicating messages to the news media for broadcast outside the disaster area
- D. Broadcasting emergency information to the general public

FROM THE GENERAL POOL

Q: G4A09

Why is a time delay sometimes included in a transmitter keying circuit?

- A. To prevent stations from talking over each other
- B. To allow the transmitter power regulators to charge properly
- C. To allow time for transmit-receive changeover operations to complete properly before RF output is allowed
- D. To allow time for a warning signal to be sent to other stations

FROM THE EXTRA POOL

Q: E6C02

What logic state do the inputs of a TTL device assume if they are left open?

- A. A logic-high state
- B. A logic-low state
- C. The device becomes randomized and will not provide consistent high or low-logic states
- D. Open inputs on a TTL device are ignored

2016 Membership Dues

2016 Membership Dues will be collected between the November 2015 meeting and the February 2016 Meeting. **Please bring exact cash or a check made out to FRRL.** I do not have much cash available to make change. Once you get your renewal form, please review the information and make any changes needed. Again exact change will be greatly appreciated.

2015 Dinner & Awards Banquet

Harry, K9DXA will begin selling tickets to the 2015 award banquet to be held on January 23, 2016 at Prairie Landing Golf Club in West Chicago. This year you must pay for your banquet tickets separate from your membership renewal. Mixing the banquet and renewals into one check caused numerous problems in keeping track of who paid what, to who and when. Please help us to keep everything straight.



South Sandwich/South Georgia DXpedition Dates Announced: [The Intrepid DX Group](#) has announced its itinerary and operating schedule for its January 2016 South Sandwich/South Georgia VP8SGI/VP8STI DXpedition. South Sandwich Islands is No.3 on ClubLog's [Most Wanted DXCC List](#); South Georgia is No 8. The Intrepid DX Group's Paul Ewing, N6PSE, said the team expects to arrive at South Sandwich on January 17, depending on weather and sea conditions. The team will spend 10 days on South Sandwich, operating as VP8STI before sailing to South Georgia Island to start operations as VP8SGI about February 1. "Our main priority is to make a great impact to the need for South Sandwich contacts, and we will sacrifice our time at South Georgia to ensure that we make that impact from South Sandwich," Ewing said. -- *Thanks to the Intrepid DX Group*

President's Traffic

Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

A fellow writer submitted an article to me for the publication I manage. It was titled "Gifts from the Heart." The gist of the article is that we all know how a great gift makes us feel. It isn't about the price -- even the most expensive gifts can fall flat if they aren't well suited to the recipient. The gifts we most cherish and remember feel like they were made just for you, reflecting your true interests, dreams and passions. Right about now, we're all thinking about those special people on our gift lists, thinking hard about what they enjoy and what really matters to them, so we can choose just the right thing to make their eyes light up and put a smile on their faces on Christmas morning.

I can't guarantee the gift you take home from our White Elephant grab bag will be something you've long dreamed of, but one thing is certain. This gift exchange will definitely feature items of interest to hams, and it's sure to be a lot of fun. The activity is being coordinated by Mike K9FE, who says we all have items living in our shacks that we no longer use, or that we picked up at a Hamfest because they were a great deal but were never put into service, or parts and supplies left over from one of our many homebrew projects. Choose one that no longer is useful to you but may be to someone else, and bring it to the December meeting in a brown paper bag. When you drop off your item at the gift table, you'll receive a ticket that will be redeemable for one of the other donated gifts. Contact Mike for more details!

Gifts don't always come wrapped up in festive paper and shiny bows. Sometimes the most valuable gifts are the time and knowledge we share with fellow hams, and with the community. I hear snippets of conversation during the breaks at each month's meeting, where one of you is talking about a project gone awry or a problem with your station that you can't figure out. Inevitably, another of you is offering suggestions on what might have been overlooked or what might overcome the problem. I love listening to the give and take, the "eureka" moment when you know you've hit on the answer and can't wait to get home to implement it, and the satisfaction members seem to get from contributing to these conversations.

FRRL as a group had the opportunity to brainstorm solutions to a problem that a Yorkville resident contacted us about. He isn't a ham, just an average citizen who was experiencing very cyclical problems with his ability to receive transmissions from WNBC. A friend suggested that he contact an amateur radio group to ask if his problem could be related to ham activity. I didn't think this was the case, and promised to put the problem before our group to see if we might generate some answers.

Several of you did contribute, and the consensus was that the gentlemen's antenna was not adequate for a number of reasons. I passed the information on to our friend in Yorkville, and followed up last week to see how things were going. He said he bought a better antenna as was recommended and hasn't experienced any problems since -- and he sends his sincere thanks to those who offered their help in resolving his problem.

Gifts come in all shapes and sizes, and sometimes the truest gifts aren't even intended as such. They're just a natural consequence of pursuing something you love, acquiring knowledge and developing skill, and then being willing to share a little bit of your passion with someone who needs it. It's something to consider as we move into the new year, full of good intentions with which to fill this clean slate we'll receive on Jan. 1st.

My deepest wishes to all of you and your families for a wonderful holiday and a very happy, healthy new year.

73 de KC9LQS



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 Bethany Lutheran Church, Batavia, IL

Meeting Minutes November 10, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by President Dawn Williams KC9LQS. Audience introductions: call, name, QTH and: are you a new member/first time attendee?

Reports

Approval of October 13, 2015-member meeting minutes:

Marty N9NTM motioned to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2016 membership meeting, which was seconded by Jason NX9Y. Five minutes was allotted to review the October meeting minutes. The motion to approve the Oct 2015 carried.

Treasurer's Report

Dean KC9EOQ reported on the account balances for checking, and savings. Dean is accepting 2016 member dues. Harry, K9DXA is accepting ticket money for the 2016 Annual FRRL awards banquet.

Program

Board Member and Program Coordinator, Jason NX9Y announced the November 2015 ARRL presentation by Kermit Carlson W9XA and Dick Isely W9GIG. Jason is looking for presentations and ideas for presentation from the membership.

ARES

Debby WX9VOR was appointed EC at the Kane County EOC. Thanks to Bill Muhr NF9D for his service as Kane County EC. DuPage County ARES served at a 5k run at Cantigny last weekend.

Education

Mike K9FE gave status of General Class license exam review held at the Batavia library ending before 2015, Extra Class exam license classes will be held in January 2016.

Operations

2-meter NET operation is going well. Another operator is needed for the net. The 2-meter net broadcasts ARRL news and Newline.

Old Business

A re-cap of the Illinois QSO Party held on Sunday, October 18 was given by Dan WA9YKK and Denny W9HI.

2016 Hamfest co-chairs are approved by the FRRL BOD. They are David Bulkley K9WDB and Tom Saballus KC9PHX

2016 Field day co-chairs are approved by the FRRL BOD. They are Phil W9XAN and Mike K9FE.

2015 field day results announced by Phil K9XAN. Field Day 2015 results are published in the December 2015 QST. FRRL scored 8014 points. FRRL ranked #1 locally and ranked #8 nationally for a 6A size Field Day operation.

2016 Awards Banquet- Harry K9DXA, Explained details. Banquet will be held on Saturday January 23, 2016 at the Prairie Landing Golf Club just south of the DuPage Airport. Tickets are available from Harry. Details can be found at the FRRL website FRRL.org.

New Business

Mike K9FE is collecting food and money for Northern Illinois Food Bank at the December 8, 2015 meeting.

Mike explained White Elephant gifts. Bring something you wish to give that sat around the ham shack. Wrap in a bag. Examples are that odd length of 75-ohm coax or that pile of 500 resistors of the same value you bought at the Hamfest.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Nominating committee members are:

Phil Van Heurck W9XAN, Jeff Bussie N9JZN, Kermit Carlson W9XA

Officer nominations for 2016 are:

Denny Barfuss W9HI President

Mike Urso K9FE Vice President

Dean Holste KC9EOQ Treasurer

Dan Harmon WA9YKK Secretary

BOD nominations are: (vote for 2)

Jim Nevitt N9XP

Doug Totel W9NJM

Roger Bara W9YU

Motion to accept slate as presented by Jeff, N9JZN, and Paul W9DWP seconded. Motion carried

Harry K9DXA motioned to close nominations. Motion seconded and carried.

Announcements

VE test session will be held on November 17th at 7PM at the North Aurora Public Library

Paul W9DWP announced Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo on November 14 - 15, 2015

Cedrick Johnson, WT2P offered thanks for the flowers at his mom's funeral

A member announced the ARRL Sweepstakes. CW: First full weekend in November (November 7-9 2015).

Phone: Third full weekend in November (November 21-23, 2015). Contest Period: Begins 2100 UTC Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC Monday.

Debbie WX9VOR announced that SkyWarn recognition day will be held on the evening of 12-4-2015.

Adjournment

Jason NX9Y motioned to adjourn, Jim Nevitt N9XP seconded. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:23PM.

Respectfully submitted

Dan Harmon WA9YKK

FRRL Secretary



December Contest Dates

+ NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Dec 9
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Dec 9
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Dec 11
+ ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 12 to 2400Z, Dec 13
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Dec 12 to 2400Z, Dec 13
+ International Naval Contest	1600Z, Dec 12 to 1559Z, Dec 13
+ Russian 160-Meter Contest	2000Z-2400Z, Dec 18
+ AGB-Party Contest	2100Z-2400Z, Dec 18
+ OK DX RTTY Contest	0000Z-2400Z, Dec 19
+ RAC Winter Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 19
+ Feld Hell Sprint	0000Z-2359Z, Dec 19
+ Croatian CW Contest	1400Z, Dec 19 to 1400Z, Dec 20
+ ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW	1800Z-2359Z, Dec 20
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Dec 21
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Dec 25
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Dec 25
+ DARC Christmas Contest	0830Z-1059Z, Dec 26
+ World Wide Iron Ham Contest	1200Z, Dec 26 to 1159Z, Dec 27
+ Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Dec 26 to 1500Z, Dec 27
+ RAEM Contest	0000Z-1159Z, Dec 27

UPCOMING EVENTS

Board of Director's Meeting

December 1, 2015 @7:30pm
Colonial Café—Aurora, IL.

Membership Meeting

December 10, 2015 @ 7:30pm
Bethany Lutheran Church

VE Testing Session

Jan. 19th, 2016 @ 6:45pm
Messenger Public Library in
North Aurora

Technician Pool- A. Passing messages exactly as written,
spoken or as received

General Pool- C. To allow time for transmit-receive changeover
operations to complete properly before RF output is allowed

Extra Pool- A. A logic-high state

IMPORTANT AMATEUR RADIO WEB PAGE LINKS

www.frll.org

www.arrl.org

www.colpage.org

www.qrz.com

www.dailydx.com

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