



# ARC OVER



The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League  
Since 1924

Our 90th Year in Amateur Radio!

January 2015



Proud to be an ARRL  
Special Services Club

## 2015 Membership Dues

Last chance for you to renew your membership for 2015. Dues will be taken until the January 2015 membership meeting. Below is the new member dues schedule as passed by the membership at the September club meeting.

Individual Membership (under 65)	\$25.00
Family Membership	\$35.00
Senior Citizen (65 & Over)	\$15.00
Senior Family (Both Spouses)	\$20.00
Student (Full Time, under 22)	\$15.00

A donation to the Repeater fund has not changed and remains at \$10.00 per year.

Checks should be made out to FRRL and is the preferred method of payment in order to prevent a missing name on a cash only list. Please be kind to your Treasurer and not gang up on him all at once at the meetings! You can also mail your dues to the club PO Box address.

Sincerely,  
Dean, KC9EOQ

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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
KB9VRW	C. Scott DeSantis	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

Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

#### Vice President

William Springer, AB9TA

#### Secretary

Open

#### Treasurer

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

#### Directors:

Michael Cicchetti, KC9OPV  
Dan Harmon, WA9YKK

#### Past President

Harry Jones, K9DXA

#### 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 \$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

I always say it's never too late to get in on the fun of the HF Challenge, and that is true, but getting started in January gives you more opportunities to enjoy the camaraderie for as long as possible! The 2015 Bill Erickson HF Challenge is now underway!

"There are two ways to work the Challenge, depending on how much time you can allot to amateur radio," wrote Challenge Administrator Joe Dubeck NA9A. Those with limited time can opt to spread it out over the entire year, with the goal of working as many different states, provinces and DX entities as possible. Those with more time can work the Challenge twice, giving them an opportunity to work each state, province and DX entity twice – once between January and June, and a second time from July through December.

"The Challenge's purpose is to be an incentive to get us the air more often," Joe wrote.

You should have received a copy of the 2015 Challenge worksheet by now. If you didn't, be sure to see Joe at the upcoming meeting to request a copy.

Those who worked the Challenge in 2014 should turn their worksheets in to Joe at the January meeting. You may also mail them to him at P.O. Box 1383, St. Charles, IL 60174-7383. However, be sure to let Joe know your worksheet is on the way. Deadline is Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>. As always, results of last year's Challenge will be announced at our annual awards banquet later this month.

Following is a summary of how the Challenge works, for the benefit of those who are new to the event. 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, 2015. If you work the Challenge straight through the year, you can report one contact for each state, province and DX entity. If you work the Challenge as two parts (January through June and July through December), you can record two contacts with the same station or with two different stations in each state, province or country.

**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.

**STUDY QUESTIONS  
OF THE MONTH**

**FROM THE TECHNICIAN POOL**

**Q:** T8B05

What is a satellite beacon?

- A. The primary transmit antenna on the satellite
- B. An indicator light that shows where to point your antenna
- C. A reflective surface on the satellite
- D. A transmission from a space station that contains information about a satellite

**FROM THE GENERAL POOL**

**Q:** G4D10

How close to the lower edge of the 40 meter General Class phone segment should your displayed carrier frequency be when using 3 kHz wide LSB?

- A. 3 kHz above the edge of the segment
- B. 3 kHz below the edge of the segment
- C. Your displayed carrier frequency may be set at the edge of the segment
- D. Center your signal on the edge of the segment

**FROM THE EXTRA POOL**

**Q:** E8A15

What would the waveform of a stream of digital data bits look like on a conventional oscilloscope?

- A. A series of sine waves with evenly spaced gaps
- B. A series of pulses with varying patterns
- C. A running display of alphanumeric characters
- D. None of the above; this type of signal cannot be seen on a conventional oscilloscope

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**Bill Erikson HF Challenge** (cont'd)

By Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

**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. 1st!)

**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.org by the 15th of each month.

Be sure your email includes your name and call, the class in which you are operating, and the total number each of states, provinces, and DX entities contacted. If you are also working the Rag Chewer Class, the total number of state, province, and DX rag chews should be reported.

**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.org. Happy DXing!

73 de KC9LQS

# President's Traffic

Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

The allure of the New Year boils down to one thing, from my perspective: another chance. Each New Year gives us a clean slate on which to write our destiny. Rather grandiose thoughts, admittedly, but as I sit here contemplating the shape I'd like 2015 to take, both personally and on behalf of FRRL, I can't help but see how inviting the prospect of a whole new year might be to us as amateur radio operators and as a club.

I challenge you to think about the way you practice the hobby, and consider ways you might expand your practice and knowledge. The satisfaction and enjoyment we derive from radio is in part the result of our skill and competence. Following that train of thought, the more you know, the more you enjoy the experience; the more you can do, the more satisfying radio time will be.

One of the benefits of being part of an organization like ours is that you have a ready resource at your disposal, no matter what direction you might choose to explore. Last year, the board made an effort to gather information on the interests of our members. We learned that, as expected, member interests span a wide range of topics. We also discovered that many members are willing to share the knowledge they've acquired in these diverse areas. In the coming year, we'll be looking for opportunities to facilitate a variety of learning and experimentation based on those results. If you've acquired new skills that you'd like to share, or found new areas of radio that you'd like to explore, don't hesitate to let us know. (You'll have an opportunity to do so during the January meeting!)

As you think about the horizons you might like to broaden, I encourage you to recall what brought you to radio in the first place. Because the world of radio has evolved so rapidly, the way you invest yourself in the hobby probably looks a lot different than it did when you received your first ticket. Reexamining the practices that first attracted you to amateur radio could provide a great deal of enjoyment. I, for example, was initially intrigued with contesting – the chatter of voices from around the world, the challenge of zeroing in on a single station in what sounded to me like a bee hive, the fast pace and excitement, were the impetus that led me to begin this journey and earn my first license. Jeff and I used to build our schedules and manage our lives around the contests we wanted to work! While current obligations make it difficult to be quite as immersed as I once was, I do believe it would be worth the effort to reclaim a small part of that piece of the past in the coming year.

What about you? What part of the hobby once made your heart sing, and pulled you so strongly that you couldn't wait to get back to it? Sometimes, brand new possibilities capture our interest; other times, we regain our spark when the old becomes new. That's the beauty of the New Year – and of amateur radio: anything is possible.

73 de KC9LQS



# January Contest Dates

## January 2015

<b>+ North American QSO Party, CW</b>	<b>1800Z, Jan 10 to 0559Z, Jan 11</b>
+ NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	0630Z-0830Z, Jan 11
+ NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	0900Z-1100Z, Jan 11
+ DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z-1059Z, Jan 11
+ Midwinter Contest	1000Z-1400Z, Jan 11
+ YL-ISSB QSO Party, SSB	0000Z, Jan 17 to 2359Z, Jan 18
+ LZ Open Contest	0000Z-0400Z, Jan 17
+ Hungarian DX Contest	1200Z, Jan 17 to 1159Z, Jan 18
<b>+ North American QSO Party, SSB</b>	<b>1800Z, Jan 17 to 0559Z, Jan 18</b>
+ Feld Hell Sprint	2000Z-2359Z, Jan 17
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Jan 19
+ CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	2200Z, Jan 23 to 2159Z, Jan 25
+ REF Contest, CW	0600Z, Jan 24 to 1800Z, Jan 25
+ BARTG RTTY Sprint	1200Z, Jan 24 to 1200Z, Jan 25
+ ARRL January VHF Contest	1900Z, Jan 24 to 0359Z, Jan 26
+ UBA DX Contest, SSB	1300Z, Jan 31 to 1300Z, Feb 1

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

January 6, 2015 @7:30pm  
Colonial Café—Aurora, IL

### **Membership Meeting**

January 13, 2015 @7:30pm  
Bethany Lutheran Church

### **VE Testing Session**

Jan. 20, 2015 @ 7:30pm  
Messenger Public Library  
North Aurora, IL

Technician Pool- D. A transmission from a space station that contains information about a satellite

General Pool- A. 3 kHz above the edge of the segment

Extra Pool- B. A series of pulses with varying patterns



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

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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

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## **Meeting Minutes December 9, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

**Question of the Month – In a world where all things are possible, what would Santa be leaving under your tree this year?**

### **Reports**

#### **Minutes of December 9, 2014 Regular Meeting**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as published. Motion carried

**Treasurer** – Dean KC9EOQ reported the status of the account balances as of the end last month: A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Doug, W9RD and seconded by Kermit, W9XA. Motion carried.

**Program** – No program. Raffle instead.

**Education:** Mike, K9FE mentioned that classes are now being held in the North Aurora library on Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. until 12 noon. New students and those wishing to refresh their knowledge are all welcome. The last class of the year will be held Dec. 20. Classes will start again in February, 2015 working towards Extra class.

**Food drive:** Members were encouraged to bring canned food for the local food pantry.

### **Old Business**

**INTERIM SECRETARY:** A motion was made by Mike, K9FE and seconded by Larry, K9ARZ to elect Jack Tofari KD9CPN as interim secretary to fill in for the rest of the year.

### **New Business**

**ARRL RED DAY** ARRL is going to have a RED DAY Dec. 31. The club will operate as W1AW/9

**FIELD DAY CHAIRMAN** Dawn KC9LQS mentioned that we need a field day chairperson. The event location has already been determined and will be secured next month. The chairperson will be given as much guidance as needed. Volunteers are asked to contact Dawn or another member of the board if interested.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the General Membership of the  
Fox River Radio League (FRRL) an Illinois not-for-profit Corporation (**cont'd**)

**ELECTION** The election for club officers and directors was held. A request was made to elect all nominees/candidates by a voice vote. Harry, K9DXA brought up the fact that the club by-laws do not allow for that. Voting was done by ballot. Tobi, K9TCD presented a slate of candidates and informed members that a write-in candidate for secretary, Jack Tofari KD9CPN, has come forward. She instructed members on how to vote for the write-in candidate if they so desired.

Officers elected for 2015 are: President: Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

Vice President: Mike Urso, K9SE

Secretary: Jack Tofari KD9CPN

Treasurer: Dean Hostle, KC9EOQ

Directors: Dave Bulkley K9WDB and Jason Burzynski, KB9MEL

**HAM OF THE YEAR** A vote was taken for Ham of the Year. The results will be announced at the annual awards banquet in January.

### Announcements

**FRRL Awards Banquet:** January 24, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

St. Charles Place, 2550 E. Main St., St. Charles.

Tickets: Prime Rib \$49; Salmon \$37; Chicken \$34

Speaker: Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA

See Harry, K9DXA to purchase tickets!

**Membership renewal** - in progress. See Dean KC9EOQ

**Christmas Raffle:** Tonight there will be a Christmas raffle instead of a program followed by a party.

**Upcoming events:** Jan. 6 – Board of Directors Meeting.

Jan. 13 – Membership Meeting

Jan. 20 – VE Session

Jan. 24 – Annual Awards Banquet

### Adjournment

The motion was made by Marty, N9NTM and seconded by Geoff, KB9QFD to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Tofari KD9CPN

# FRRL Winter Banquet - Saturday Jan 24, 2015

The 2014 FRRL Winter Banquet will again be held at St. Charles Place. Tickets go on sale at the November meeting, and will be available at the December, and January FRRL meetings. Contact Harry Jones K9DXA (k9dxa@arrl.net).

## **Date & Location**

The festivities will start at 5:00 PM, Saturday, January 24, 2015 at the St. Charles Place located at 2550 East Main Street (State Route 64) in St. Charles, IL.

## **Menu Entrees & Prices**

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

Prime Rib of Beef \$49.00 (red ticket)

Norwegian Salmon \$37.00 (blue ticket)

Chicken Marsala \$34.00 (yellow ticket)

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

**\*\* Put name or call sign 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

Awards - 7:30 PM

Program Speaker - 8:30 PM

## **Rules of Engagement**

1. Tickets must be purchased in advance - no payment at the door.
2. No complimentary tickets except for Speaker.
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.

## **Program Speaker**

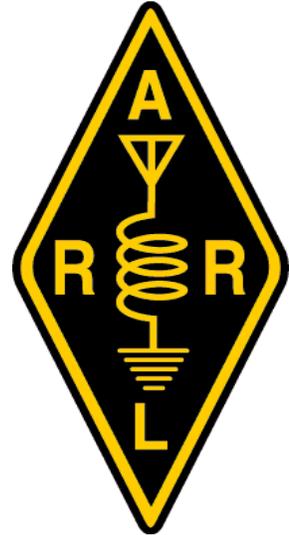
Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA was licensed in 1961 (WN9AVT), and enjoys propagation, DXing, contesting, playing with antennas, and working on and using vintage equipment. Carl is a graduate of Purdue University, and retired in October 2013. He was an RF design engineer for Motorola and Raytheon (formerly Magnavox).

Carl's presentation is two-fold. First, he will give an update on Solar Cycle 24 and he will review the early predictions for Cycle 25, including a discussion of the possibility of entering another Maunder Minimum.

Second, he will review the historical contributions by Amateur Radio operators to the science of radio. He will then tie this into ways to bring youth into Amateur Radio to turn around the ever-increasing average age of those in our hobby and to invigorate clubs.

## 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)

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

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