



# ARC OVER



The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League  
Since 1924

Our 90th Year in Amateur Radio!

March 2015



Proud to be an ARRL  
Special Services Club

## City of Lights to Celebrate 2000th Net

See Page 4 to read about this milestone!

City of Lights is a chapter of 10-10 International. Go to [www.10-10.org](http://www.10-10.org) for more information about this world wide organization.

### What's Inside

- About FRRL..... Page 2
- HF Challenge 2014.....Page 3
- Study Questions.....Page 4
- 10-10 Net Information...Page 4
- President's Traffic.....Page 5
- March Contests .....Page 6
- February Minutes-Pages 7 and 8
- Important Links, Repeaters and  
Net Info.....Page 9



## 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 members to the club!

Call	Name	License Class
KD9AHK	Kris Krohn	Technician
KB9FWF	Allen Zagel	General
Not Yet	David Fairgrieve	
KC9YS	Alan Phillips	Amateur 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: [arccover@frrl.org](mailto: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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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 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

Welcome to the numerous new participants who submitted mid-February reports! Participation in the Challenge *doubled* since the last update – but don't worry, there's always room for more, so don't hesitate to get in on the fun!

Challenge Administrator Joe NA9A commented on a recent DXpedition that many participants were able to claim. "Navassa was the second most wanted DX country in the world, only trailing North Korea," Joe explained. "Now that the K1N frenzy has settled down, as many of us wait for our QSL cards, we can get back to the more casual and fun pace of working new countries, states and provinces for the Bill Erickson FRRL HF Challenge. Remember: The purpose of the FRRL Challenge is to give us a continuous goal in ham radio; to stay active!"

The DX calendars show 34 of the uncommon countries will be active through March, Joe explained, and only two (7Q7GIA and HV0A) are asterisked as more difficult on our Challenge worksheets. That means lots of opportunities to add rare contacts to our logs in the coming month, hopefully with fewer pileups than those who worked K1N experienced.

Larry K9ARZ netted some interesting QSOs last month, including Madagascar, Western Sahara, American Samoa, Mozambique, Easter Island, Mali, Taiwan, Korea, So. Sudan, Antarctica, Iran, The Gambia, Eastern Kiribati, New Caledonia, Laos, Zambia, Rodrigues Island, Navassa Island, Svalbard, Saudi Arabia, Philippines, Gabon, and Namibia.

"The band conditions have not been strong," Larry said of the early weeks of the year, "but 10 meters has been one of the better bands for DX."

Those of you who are looking for more of a challenge might be inspired by Jason KB9MEL, who said his 9 contacts so far this year represent a slower start than he otherwise might have gotten. Why? Because he is determined to use mainly CW.

"I had to relearn, but it came back quickly!" he said. He added encouragement for others who, like him, are working with a modest station. "I managed to break a huge pileup on 10 meters SSB on Valentine's Day to get K1N. All with 100 watts and an attic mounted dipole! All it took was a bit of patience!"

With the ARRL International DX (phone) contest coming up the weekend of March 7 and 8, it's a great time to join the Challenge! Questions about the Challenge can be emailed to Challenge [at] frl.org or addressed to Joe in person at the monthly meeting.

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Cedric WT2W	46	6	35	87
Paul KC9UZV	28	6	15	49
Paul KC9SEB	24	2	4	30
Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Dan WA9YKK	19	1	47	67
Roger W9YU	42	6	22	70
Bill NF9D	27	1	2	30
Jeff N9JZN	3	0	47	50
Jason KB9MEL	7	0	2	9
QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Larry K9ARZ	46	10	147	203
Joe NA9A	38	6	46	90
Dick AH6EZ/W7	50	10	102	162
Alan W9AN	19	0	16	35
Cedric WT2W	26	2	12	40
Dean KC9EOQ	28	5	8	41
Marty N9NTM	2	0	19	21
Rag Chewer Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Paul KC9UZV	1	0	1	2
Dick AH6EZ/W7	26	1	3	30
Joe NA9A	4	0	1	5

## STUDY QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

### FROM THE TECHNICIAN POOL

**Q:** T2C11

What is meant by the term "check" in reference to a formal traffic message?

- A. The check is a count of the number of words or word equivalents in the text portion of the message
- B. The check is the value of a money order attached to the message
- C. The check is a list of stations that have relayed the message
- D. The check is a box on the message form that tells you the message was received

### FROM THE GENERAL POOL

**Q:** G1E04 [97.13(b), 97.311(b), 97.303]

Which of the following conditions require an Amateur Radio station licensee to take specific steps to avoid harmful interference to other users or facilities?

- A. When operating within one mile of an FCC Monitoring Station
- B. When using a band where the Amateur Service is secondary
- C. When a station is transmitting spread spectrum emissions
- D. All of these choices are correct

### FROM THE EXTRA POOL

**Q:** E1E08 [97.509]

To which of the following examinees may a VE not administer an examination?

- A. Employees of the VE
- B. Friends of the VE
- C. Relatives of the VE as listed in the FCC rules
- D. All of these choices are correct

## Please join us for our big anniversary net!

An important milestone is coming for our local City of Lights chapter of Ten-Ten International. On Monday evening, March 10, 2015, the City of Lights (COL) will celebrate its 2,000th unbroken string of weekly nets.

The City of Lights Net started on November 8, 1976 by a dozen members of the FRRL, taking its name from the motto of Aurora Illinois which claims to be the first US city to have electric street lights.

After the FCC gave the amateur radio 11 meter band to CB radio, Ten-Ten International was formed to promote the use of the whole ten meter amateur band to alleviate concerns that the FCC would go after 10 meters next. Soon after, the COL SSB net was started at 28.700 MHz and later moved to 28.720 MHz, where it remains today.

The first Net Control was FRRL member Jerry Frieders, W9ZGP (SK). In mid-1995, and in ill health, Jerry turned the Net over to FRRL member Joe Dubeck, NA9A, who remains and Net Control for the SSB nets.

Other nets were added at different times. In the 90s, an SSB "Early Net" ran for quite a while at 28.430 MHz in the Novice/Technician SSB portion of ten meters, headed up by then FRRL member Ron Kennedy N9KBJ. That net went QRT when Ron moved to California. Also in the 90s, the City of Lights CW Net was started at 28.280 MHz by FRRL member Lee Fenton, WS9F. When Lee suddenly passed away, the CW net was taken over by FRRL member and then President Bill Schaben, WA9AUW (now W9AX). When Bill's time was restricted by evening work commitments, FRRL member Robert "Benny" Benson, W9CZA, stepped up to his straight-key and moved the CW Net to 28.150 MHz-where it remains today. Benny became an SK on 2010, and his Net Control duties were taken over and run ever since by FRRL member Kermit Carlson.

The COL would like to see your call on our list of frequent check-ins (see <http://www.colpage.org/2.html>), especially on this special anniversary night. Try both the CW and SSB portions if you can, but if you are concerned that your CW skills are a little too rusty, try anyway and when Kermit acknowledges the first letter of your callsign suffix, just send your full call and (dit) (dit). That's a signal that you don't feel comfortable going further but you can still feel good that you participated in a CW net.

Remember:

CW 28.150 MHz, 8:00 PM local every Monday night  
SSB 28.720 MHz, 8:30 PM local every Monday night

73' Joe NA9A

## President's Traffic

Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

For as long as I've served on the FRRL board of directors, I've enjoyed the fact that officers step into their roles beginning with the February meeting. We spend that first month getting acclimated to our positions and to each other, talking about obligations, activities and budgets for the year. Then comes March, and like the rest of the northern hemisphere, we start spring cleaning.

This isn't an official activity or even one named on the agenda, but we do it just the same. New faces among the leadership of the group mean new ideas. New ways of doing things. This change in the dynamics among your leadership, in turn, changes the nature of the way FRRL works and the things on which we focus. This is good, and as it should be; just as a house begins to feel stuffy and stale after being closed up for the long months of winter, an organization can become stale over time, too. One statement I've continually challenged is that we should do a thing "because that's the way we've always done it."

Let me clarify, though. Change for its own sake is chaos at best. Change that truly benefits the members of FRRL and the future of the club is dynamic and responsive. It is action taken on behalf of, and in response to, the needs and interests of the organization, as well as the amateur radio community at large. Members have spoken clearly and consistently about those needs and interests, and last year's board began moving in a direction intended to meet those needs. We built a foundation and created momentum. This year, we're poised to take advantage of the foundation that was laid to affect lasting, positive change.

The energy and enthusiasm of this year's board bodes well for the future of the club. The ideas and suggestions shared by members during the last few meetings were fuel for your board, helping us see not only what has always been, but more importantly, what might yet be. Your ideas, and the board's focus, are subtly reshaping FRRL in a way that enhances the parts of the club that have always been in place, while making room for new additions. Change, when it reflects the needs of the many, is a powerful thing.

Like spring cleaning in your home, every new board undertakes a similar process of sweeping out and sprucing up. We're just getting started, and there will continue to be many opportunities for you to share your input. Those ideas are helping the board reshape FRRL into a more active, more open organization, one whose influence and resources can benefit a wider audience and contribute more fully to the future of amateur radio.

So keep those suggestions coming, and let your imagination soar. The way we've always done things doesn't have to limit our vision of what we might do in the future.

de KC9LQS



# March Contest Dates

+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 11 and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 11 and 0300Z-0400Z, Mar 12
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 11
+ RSGB Commonwealth Contest	1000Z, Mar 14 to 1000Z, Mar 15
+ TESLA Memorial HF CW Contest	1800Z, Mar 14 to 0759Z, Mar 15
+ Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar 14 to 1900Z, Mar 15
+ North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 15
+ Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 15 to 0100Z, Mar 16
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Mar 16
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 18 and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 18 and 0300Z-0400Z, Mar 19
+ RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Mar 19
+ BARTG HF RTTY Contest	0200Z, Mar 21 to 0200Z, Mar 23
+ SARL VHF/UHF Analogue/Digital Contest	1000Z, Mar 21 to 1000Z, Mar 22
+ Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 21 to 1200Z, Mar 22
+ Feld Hell Sprint	1700Z-1859Z, Mar 21
+ UBA Spring Contest, SSB	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 22
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Mar 25
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 25 and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 25 and 0300Z-0400Z, Mar 26
+ CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 28 to 2359Z, Mar 29

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Board of Director's Meeting

March 3, 2015 @7:30pm  
Colonial Café—Aurora, IL

### Membership Meeting

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

### VE Testing Session

March 17, 2015 @ 7:30pm  
Messenger Public Library  
North Aurora, IL

Technician Pool- A. The check is a count of the number of words or word equivalents in the text portion of the message

General Pool- D. All of these choices are correct

Extra Pool- C. Relatives of the VE as listed in the FCC rules



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 February 10, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 19:33 by Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

**Question of the Month – “Ham radio? I’ve heard of it, but...why do you use radio when you have a cell phone?”**

#### Reports

##### **Minutes of January 13, 2015 Regular Meeting**

A motion was made by W9HD and seconded by Mike, K9FE to approve the minutes as published. Motion carried

**Treasurer** – Dean KC9EOQ reported the account balances as of the end last month.

**Program** –The Program Committee now has a new chair, Jason KB9MEL. Tonight’s program is on Log-book of the World.

**Education** – Mike, K9FE reported that classes will start, probably the end of February, for candidates leading toward an upgrade to Extra Class. Check with the FRRL website for start date. The location is expected to be the library in North Aurora.

**ARES** –Bill NF9D reported that the next ARES meeting would be held February 26. Debby, WX9VOR announced that she had a list of weather spotter classes. Advanced classes are also available.

#### Old Business

**Election of vacant director seat** – Jim N9XP was elected to fill the vacant director’s seat by voice vote.

**Winter Banquet II** – Many award recipients did not attend the January awards banquet. Dawn KC9LQS announced the meeting would serve as Winter Banquet Part Two, and awards were handed out to those who were not at the banquet.

**HF challenge results part II** – Joe, NA9A awarded certificates to HF Challenge participants who were not in attendance at the banquet.

#### New Business

**Tuesday night net** – Dave, N9XU, has accepted the position of Net Coordinator and encouraged members to operate the Tuesday night net. He asked members to sign up for control operator.

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

**Announcements**

See Dean, KC9EOQ, for membership renewal. This is the last night to renew and get included in the membership directory.

It was announced that Phil, W9XAN, will be field day chair.

Upcoming events:

March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Board of directors meeting

March 10<sup>th</sup> – Membership meeting

March 16<sup>th</sup> – VE session

Dan, WA9YKK, and Mike, K9FE, gave an interesting presentation on the use of the Log Of The World.

**Adjournment**

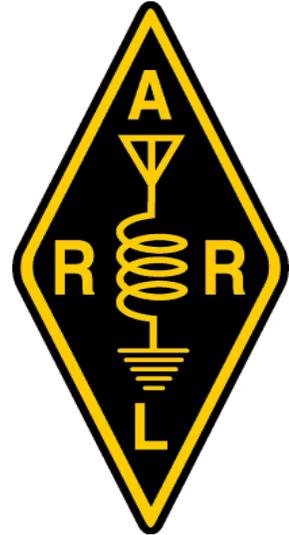
The motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 20:12. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Tofari KD9CPN

## IMPORTANT AMATUER RADIOWEB 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