



# ARC OVER

The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League  
Since 1924

Our 91st Year in Amateur Radio!



May 2015



Proud to be an ARRL  
Special Services Club

## Some ARRL DX News this Month!

Do you ever wonder what happens just outside our ham bands? The annual Armed Forces Communications Test gives you an opportunity to find out! Listen outside the bands for military stations calling CQ, announcing a listening frequency somewhere in our bands. You'll get a nice QSL in the mail if you make contact! Get your radio set for "split" operation and check that VFO A/B indicator before making a transmission - maybe it's just me but accidentally QRMing a station with the call letters WAR doesn't seem like such a terrific idea...

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The [W9DXCC DX Convention and Banquet](#) will be held September 11-12 in Schaumburg, Illinois. One new addition this year is a Contest University program that will join the DX University on Friday. One more - if you've a mind to visit the British Isles this fall, the RSGB Convention is October 9-11, as well. (Thanks, [Daily DX](#))

If you enjoy state QSO parties, you might want to join the [QSO Party Connection](#) on Yahoo! Groups. One more resource for the contesting amateur. (Thanks, Dave WN4AFP)



## 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
	No	
	New	
	Members	
	This Month	

## 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

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**President**  
Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

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**Secretary**  
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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

With this year's Challenge well underway, we welcome Herb W9DTR to the Operator Class, with his first report of 2015. Other participants are showing modest-to-impressive gains. Variations in propagation conditions are presenting a challenge, but in spite of it, some good catches have been reported.

Larry K9ARZ contact Samoa, Thailand, Micronesia, Chatham Is., Maldives, Togo, San Andreas, Monaco, Nauru, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Malawi, Nepal, DR Congo, Solomon Is., Tanzania, South Cook Is. And East Malaysia.

"Most of the activity has been on 10, 12, 15 and 17 meters," Larry said. "Propagation has been hot and cold, but there has been a lot of activity."

Joe NA9A made contact with Qatar, Laos, Trinidad & Martin Vs Is., Afghanistan, Pakistan, Armenia and South Sudan. He also worked an Iranian station, but after investigation, determined that the station may not have been legitimate.

"The callsign was clear, but there's no record of the call in any legitimate database," he said. Although Joe was among those who worked this station on March 23rd, unless there is some confirmation from a legitimate source, the contact won't count, he said. The station was also active Jan. 21 and 23.

Joe cautions anyone who might have worked EP7T that this station may have been a bootlegger, and as such, the contact won't count.

It's never too late to get involved in this fun and ongoing activity, and newcomers are always welcome. Visit the Challenge page on the club website at [frrl.org](http://frrl.org) for details, talk to Joe NA9A at the upcoming membership meeting, or email challenge [at] frrl.org.

de KC9LQS

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DC Countries	Total
Paul W9JML	41	6	23	70
Paul KC9SEB	37	4	11	52
Operator Class	States	Provinces	DC Countries	Total
Roger W9YU	46	8	54	108
Dan WA9YKK	21	1	65	87
Jeff N9JZN	3	1	64	68
Dawn KC9LQS	0	0	53	53
Bill NF9D	27	1	2	30
Herb W9DTR	48	10	35	93
Jason NX9Y	21	2	21	44
QRO Class	States	Provinces	DC Countries	Total
Larry K9ARZ	50	12	213	275
Dick AH6EZ/W7	50	11	168	229
Joe NA9A	38	6	167	211
Dean KC9EOQ	28	5	46	79
Cedric WT2P	40	4	83	127
Alan W9AN	22	3	78	103
Marty N9NTM	2	0	38	40
Rag Chewer Class	States	Provinces	DC Countries	Total
Dick AH6EZ/W7	32	1	6	39
Joe NA9A	4	0	1	5
Jason NX9Y	14	0	0	14
Paul W9JML	2	0	1	3

## 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

## ARRL Rookie Roundup SSB a Big Success

ARRL Contest Branch Manager, [Matt Wilhelm, W1MSW](#), reports that the [April SSB Rookie Roundup](#) was a big success! The [results](#) and soapbox have been posted.

"We received a record number of entries," said Wilhelm, who tallied 180 entries -- 149 of them from Rookies and 31 from non-Rookies. "Thank you to all the Rookies who participated, the Elmers who were there to mentor, and the non-Rookies who gave out contacts during the event."



**These rookies took part in the 2013 edition of the ARRL Rookie Roundup from W6YX, the Stanford University club station.**

Wilhelm noted that some logs received represented multioperator entries, so 173 rookie operators participated in all.

ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager (and former Contest Branch Manager) Sean Kutzko, KX9X, contacted Rookies from ARRL Headquarters station W1HQ, while Wilhelm operated from home.

"What a fun time, contacting Rookies during Rookie Roundup," he said afterward. "Everyone sounded great and did an excellent job handling the exchange."

Electronic certificates will go out to participants in the near future. Wilhelm said he's already looking forward to the ARRL Rookie Roundup RTTY in August.

# President's Traffic

Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

The view out my window in the shack has changed quite a bit since last month. Suddenly, life is in full bloom again, and the sounds of people at work and at play are abundant. And as is perennially the case, club life is in full bloom, too.

I left this month's board meeting feeling very good about the season ahead! Although we've been working on ideas for the year since the new board took office, it seems we've shifted into overdrive and are moving ahead with plans, no holds barred.

Last Sunday, I was accompanied by Dean KC9EOQ and Jeff N9JZN to kick off promotion of this year's Hamfest. We sold a dozen tickets (yes, that's a lot for this event!), two vendor tables, and received confirmation from another vendor, one of our major sellers. Thanks to Dean and Jeff for their help.

At the same time, Mike K9FE led a group of FRRL members in providing radio communications for the annual MS Walk. Mike's photo of volunteers Geoff KB9QFP, Harry K9DXA, Dan W9STS, Doug KC9DED, Bill NF9D, and Dave K9WDB was on the club website before the event was over!

Mike also shared a follow-up of the event on Facebook. "According to the MS committee member in charge of the event," Mike wrote, "she has named the radio group that has helped for 20 years 'the hidden angels'.....we just show up every year, even when not contacted. I was in charge of the comm group 20 years ago. Other than 2 years when I passed it to a ham whose mom had MS, I have been there every year. The guys and gals that come forward to volunteer are really great. A big thank you!" I'd like to add my thanks to Mike and the rest of the team for their time and effort of this worthwhile event.

It was a strong start to the active part of the year, but as the song says, we've only just begun! Field Day Chair Phil W9XAN updated me on progress for our June event. Along with help from last year's chairman, Denny W9IH, Phil is moving ahead and during this month's meeting, he will be looking for a few more volunteers to fill specific jobs, all quite necessary to the success of the event. And stay tuned, because at the June meeting, our program will be on all things Field Day, with final plans being presented.

Your board also discussed the club's Outreach activity for the year. Quite a few members expressed an interest in participating in our Farmers' Market visits this year, and I expect confirmation on specific dates for the targeted locations in the next week. If you signed up previously, you'll be contacted by email; if you haven't signed up but would like to be involved, please contact me at president [at] frrl.org so I can add you to the list.

This year's Hamfest is set for July 12th, and the tickets did come in right after the last meeting. Each member (or family, if you have a family membership) can pick up their tickets at our May 12th meeting. If you won't be able to attend, your tickets will be mailed to you next week.

We have no formal activities on the calendar in August or September. A number of members expressed an interest in possibly holding a radio in the park event, and late summer would be an ideal time. Thanks to the special interest group being led by Harry K9DXA, close to a dozen members will have acquired the knowledge and hands-on experience necessary to operate portable. We'll need a coordinator to put such an event together, so please contact me, or any member of the board, if you're interested in taking the reins.

My thanks to everyone for their support of these activities. It's going to be a great year!

de KC9LQS



# May Contest Dates

± HPC World Wide DX Contest	1200Z, May 9 to 1159Z, May 10
± VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	1200Z, May 9 to 1200Z, May 10
± F9AA Cup, PSK	1200Z, May 9 to 1200Z, May 10
± CQ-M International DX Contest	1200Z, May 9 to 1159Z, May 10
± Portuguese Navy Day Contest	1500Z, May 9 to 1500Z, May 10
± Nevada Mustang Roundup	1700Z, May 9 to 1700Z, May 10
± 50 MHz Spring Sprint	2300Z, May 9 to 0300Z, May 10
± RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	1900Z-2030Z, May 13
± His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	1200Z, May 16 to 1200Z, May 17
± Feld Hell Sprint	1600Z-1759Z, May 16 and 2000Z-2159Z, May 16
± WAB 7 MHz Phone	1000Z-1400Z, May 17
± UA2 QSO Party	1300Z-1659Z, May 17
± Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, May 18
± NAQCC CW Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, May 21
± RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW	1900Z-2030Z, May 21
± Portuguese Navy Day Contest, Digital	0800Z-2359Z, May 23
± EU PSK DX Contest	1200Z, May 23 to 1200Z, May 24
± Baltic Contest	2100Z, May 23 to 0200Z, May 24
± UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, May 27
± CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	0000Z, May 30 to 2359Z, May 31
± SARL Digital Contest	1300Z-1600Z, May 31

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Board of Director's Meeting

May 5, 2015 @7:30pm  
Colonial Café—Aurora, IL.

### Membership Meeting

May 12, 2015 @7:30pm  
Bethany Lutheran Church

### VE Testing Session

May 19, 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 April 14, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 1930 by President Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

#### Repeater Board Update

The meeting was opened up with a report from Kermit, W9XA on the status of the FRRL repeaters. He states that signals are stable. He went on to mention the repeater board's discussion on how to increase service coverage in the Fox River area. There is a bad area along the Fox River. A new site is possible in Aurora, It will use a client module. Other hopeful sites include a tower in Plano at the 500 foot level and in Dundee at a 75 foot level. Additions to 147.201 will soon be underway.

**Question of the Month-** Do you use the club 2 meter repeater? Choices suggested were:

For nets

For conversation

Not at all, because \_\_\_\_\_

#### Reports:

Accepting the minutes of the March meeting as printed in the ArcOver. Motion by Marty, N9NTM with a second by Doug, W9RD. Motion carried.

**Treasurer:** Dean, KC9EOQ reported on the fund balances as of March 31, 2015.

**Program:** Jason, NX9Y announced the program would be the subject of HF antennas in small spaces.

**Education:** Mike, K9FE reported that 7 students were doing well. Classes are held at the North Aurora Library.

**MS Walk:** Mike, K9FE reminded us that the walk is scheduled for Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup> at Pottawatomie Park in St. Charles.

**ARES:** Bill, NF9D told us the interface had been tweaked. He gave a report on the tornado that went through Rochelle and Fairdale. It was a BIG one. Several hams helped. We were admonished to get some training for future events.

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

**Old Business:**

**Portable Antenna SIG:** Harry, K9DXA told us about some of the subjects pursued for the SIG program; portable operation, mobile, emergency SOTA, IOTA, lighthouse and hotel room. He has planned three meetings on Saturday's. The first meeting would include antennas, frequencies, and analyzers. The second would require us to bring a rig, PC, key, etc. the third meeting would be outdoors and put it all together.

**Field Day:** Phil, W9XAN has something for everyone! Band captains stop by and see him. Save the date: June 26<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Hamfest:** Dawn, KC9LQS asked that everyone talk with her. Sunday July12, 8am-1pm.

**New Business:**

**Budget:** Dawn, KC9LQS informed us that there was a \$500 dollar deficit last year. The 2015 budget could have a deficit of \$1100.00.

**Announcements:**

**Hamfest Tickets:** Dawn KC9LQS told us that tickets were delayed.

**Tour de Cure Volunteers:** Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup>. If interested, contact Michael Johnson, KC9LQT, at 224-500-0376, e-mail: [cellsell2005@yahoo.com](mailto:cellsell2005@yahoo.com)

**Announcements from the Floor:**

Jerry, KA9VMD brought some free stuff for the members.

Dave, W9WDB has an old Motorola item for anyone who wants it.

**Upcoming Events:**

May 5<sup>th</sup>-Board of Director's Meeting

May 12<sup>th</sup>-General Membership Meeting

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn made by Mike, K9FE and seconded by Harry, K9DXA at 2040hrs. 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.dailydx.com](http://www.dailydx.com)  
[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