



# ARC OVER

The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League  
Since 1924

Our 91st Year in Amateur Radio!



November 2015



Proud to be an ARRL  
Special Services Club

## 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.

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## 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.

## 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 member to the club!

| Call   | Name            | License Class |
|--------|-----------------|---------------|
| KD9ESE | Richard Mueller | 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 news letter. 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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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

HF Challenge participants enjoyed periods of greater activity and improved propagation during the reporting period through mid-October. Joe NA9A reporting connecting with Chesterfield Island, which according to Wikipedia is located in the Coral Sea, 550 km *northwest* of Grande Terre, the main island of New Caledonia. (This hobby can easily turn anyone into a geography expert if you chase DX long enough!)

Larry K9ARZ reported QSOs with Guantanamo Bay, Seychelles, Rodrigues, Marshall Islands, Madagascar, North Cook Islands, Fiji, Chesterfield Island, Niue Island, Egypt, Mozambique, Tuvalu Island, Tanzania and The Gambia.

“The bands are picking up again with occasional openings on 24 and 28 MHz,” Larry said. “17 meters stands out as the most productive DX band during daylight hours and during ‘gray-line propagation.’”

Next month’s ArcOver will carry the last HF Challenge update until February, when this year’s results are published. ALL Challenge participants will receive an impressive certificate validating their accomplishment. And make no mistake – it’s NEVER too late to get in on the fun. Yours truly once submitted a worksheet showing a single rag chew, and that’s all it took to receive recognition. Since that rag chew was my first substantial CW contact, it remains one of the more meaningful awards I’ve ever earned. There’s still time for you to do it, too! The Challenge runs through the end of the calendar year.

Questions? Comments? Email them to Challenge [at] frri.org, or talk to Challenge Administrator Joe NA9A at the next club meeting for more info.

Happy DXing de KC9LQS

| Limited Class    | States | Provinces | DX Countries | Total |
|------------------|--------|-----------|--------------|-------|
| Paul W9JML       | 41     | 6         | 24           | 71    |
| Paul KC9SEB      | 46     | 5         | 14           | 65    |
| Operator Class   | States | Provinces | DX Countries | Total |
| Roger W9YU       | 85     | 15        | 107          | 207   |
| Herb W9DTR       | 48     | 10        | 48           | 106   |
| Dan WA9YKK       | 21     | 1         | 65           | 87    |
| Jeff N9JZN       | 3      | 1         | 64           | 68    |
| Jason NX9Y       | 50     | 3         | 40           | 93    |
| Dawn KC9LQS      | 0      | 0         | 53           | 53    |
| Bill NF9D        | 27     | 1         | 2            | 30    |
| QRO Class        | States | Provinces | DX Countries | Total |
| Larry K9ARZ      | 96     | 25        | 391          | 512   |
| Joe NA9A         | 65     | 15        | 294          | 374   |
| Dick AH6EZ/W7    | 98     | 20        | 285          | 403   |
| Cedric WT2P      | 50     | 5         | 90           | 145   |
| Alan W9AN        | 69     | 5         | 89           | 163   |
| Dean KC9EOQ      | 39     | 9         | 193          | 241   |
| Marty N9NTM      | 2      | 0         | 38           | 40    |
| Rag Chewer Class | States | Provinces | DX Countries | Total |
| Dick AH6EZ/W7    |        |           |              | 65    |
| Herb W9DTR       | 13     | 3         | 6            | 22    |
| Jason NX9Y       | 31     | 0         | 3            | 34    |
| Joe NA9A         | 12     | 0         | 2            | 14    |
| Paul W9JML       | 2      | 0         | 1            | 3     |

## STUDY QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

### FROM THE TECHNICIAN POOL

**Q:** E1B07 [97.15]

Where must the carrier frequency of a CW signal be set to comply with FCC rules for 60 meter operation?

- A. At the lowest frequency of the channel
- B. At the center frequency of the channel
- C. At the highest frequency of the channel
- D. On any frequency where the signal's sidebands are within the channel

### FROM THE GENERAL POOL

**Q:** G4A07

What condition can lead to permanent damage when using a solid-state RF power amplifier?

- A. Exceeding the Maximum Usable Frequency
- B. Low input SWR
- C. Shorting the input signal to ground
- D. Excessive drive power

### FROM THE EXTRA POOL

**Q:** E6B09

What is a common use for point contact diodes?

- A. As a constant current source
- B. As a constant voltage source
- C. As an RF detector
- D. As a high voltage rectifier

PJ5/6 - St. Eustatius & Saba - Finns OH1VR, Seppo, and OH3JR, Henri; are heading to Saba Island where they will be operating as PJ6/OH1VR and PJ6/OH3JR starting late on November 23rd through the morning (local) of December 3rd. Both ops plan to participate in the CQ World Wide DX CW Contest. Activity before and after will be on CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via their home calls.

3W - Vietnam -

SM6LRR (RM2D), Mats, plans to be QRV for a holiday style operation from Mui Ne, Vietnam as XV2D from November 23 to December 5, including a serious effort in the CQ World Wide DX CW Contest. As of press time he was not sure what category. He'll have verticals on 7 through 28 MHz and not sure yet about antennas on 80 and 160 meters due to space. QSL via LoTW and SM6LRR.

6W - Senegal -

Members of the Association of Radio Amateurs of Senegal (ARAS) plan to operate 6V1A from Goree Island (AF-045) on November 27, 28 and 29. Team members include 6W7JX, John; 6W1KI, Tafa; 6W1PZ, Ouzin; and 6W1QL, Jul. They will be running 150 watts from an FT-1000 in to a dipole, G5RV or Kelemen DP201510. Activity will be on SSB and CW on all bands. QSL direct to 6W7JX, P. O. Box 1958, Mbour, SENEGAL.

T8 - Palau -

Once again JH1BGH and 7K1HLJ are heading to Koror Island (OC-009) where they will repeat operations as T88WI and T88WH respectively from November 10-15. QSL via their home calls.

4K - Azerbaijan -

During the CQ World Wide DX CW Contest 4K6FO plans an SOAB effort. QSL via DC9RI and eQSL.



**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

This time of year is bittersweet. It's the harbinger of the harsh winter yet to come, and it's easy to focus on preparations to survive the long, cold months at the expense of reveling in the beauty of the season. Yes, the trees are shedding their lush foliage, food crops have all but shriveled in our vegetable gardens, and the days of hopping in the car in shorts and flip flops are behind us. But at the same time, the air is crisp and free of suffocating humidity; the sky is clear and the comfortably warm sun seems to spotlight the last of the autumn colors, and the music of geese making their semi-annual trek to warmer climes is a calming lullaby. Even as these signs herald the end of the easier part of the year, they bring unique and irreplaceable gifts.

What does that have to do with amateur radio? In a world where, on a grander scale, technology changes almost faster than we can grasp (and afford) it, and on a smaller scale, where the routines and practices within local clubs like ours face a regular cycle of change, I think the analogy is actually quite fitting. As the year ends, we prepare to release many of our officers and directors from service as their terms end, and welcome in a sea of new faces whose unique skills, gifts and interests will help shape the year to come.

It is a time to appreciate the contributions of those who will be leaving service, and to evaluate which accomplishments in the past year have benefited the club most and are worth perpetuating. We started that process last month with our Final Membership Survey of 2015. The survey was posted on the FRRL website for the convenience of those who were not able to attend the October meeting. If you have not yet completed the survey and would like to have your voice heard, you may do so throughout the month of November. All responses received by that time will be factored into recommendations that the present board is including in the Board of Directors Handbook that we're preparing for next year's leaders. Do take a few minutes to download and complete the survey. You can bring it to the November meeting on the 8th, or email it to President [at] frrl.org.

Although some of us dread the onset of winter and its cold, wet, gloomy months, the changing of the guard is something to celebrate. In letting go of the old, we make room for something new. Transitions are sometimes difficult, but in the case of bringing in a new board, we're hard at work to make it as easy as possible for your new leaders to hit the ground running. The handbook is one means of accomplishing that. Access to quite a few experienced board members who will be available to guide and assist is another means, providing new officers with a slew of built-in mentors.

The 2016 Slate of Candidates will be presented during next week's meeting. I'd like to extend our thanks to Nominating Committee Chair Kermit W9XA and members Jeff N9JZN and Phil W9XAN for their service. Thanks also go out to the candidates who will be presented for their willingness to step up and serve for the coming year.

Once the slate is announced next week, the only way for a member to get on the ballot is by way of a write-in campaign. According to our bylaws, interested individuals must contact a member of the Nominating Committee prior to the announcement in order to be included in the slate of candidates. There are only a few days left to do so, therefore I encourage you to call or email Kermit, Jeff or Phil if you are interested in serving.

I look forward to seeing all of you next week and beginning the process of the changing of the guard!

Until then, 73 de KC9LQS



# November Contest Dates

|   |   |
|---|---|
| + Ukrainian DX Contest                    | 1200Z, Nov 7 to 1200Z, Nov 8  |
| + NA Collegiate ARC Championship, CW      | 2100Z, Nov 7 to 0300Z, Nov 9  |
| + <b>ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW</b>     | <b>2100Z, Nov 7 to 0300Z, Nov 9</b>                                 |
| + IPARC Contest, SSB                      | 0600Z-1000Z, Nov 8 and 1400Z-1800Z, Nov 8                           |
| + Phone Fray                              | 0230Z-0300Z, Nov 11   |
| + CWops Mini-CWT Test                     | 1300Z-1400Z, Nov 11 and 1900Z-2000Z, Nov 11 and 0300Z-0400Z, Nov 12 |
| + NCCC RTTY Sprint                        | 0145Z-0215Z, Nov 13   |
| + NCCC Sprint                             | 0230Z-0300Z, Nov 13   |
| + WAE DX Contest, RTTY                    | 0000Z, Nov 14 to 2359Z, Nov 15                                      |
| + <b>10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital</b> | <b>0001Z, Nov 14 to 2359Z, Nov 15</b>                               |
| + JIDX Phone Contest                      | 0700Z, Nov 14 to 1300Z, Nov 15                                      |
| + OK/OM DX Contest, CW                    | 1200Z, Nov 14 to 1200Z, Nov 15                                      |
| + Kentucky QSO Party                      | 1400Z, Nov 14 to 0200Z, Nov 15                                      |
| + Homebrew and Oldtime Equipment Party    | 1300-1500Z, Nov 15 (40m) and 1500-1700Z, Nov 15 (80m)               |
| + Run for the Bacon QRP Contest           | 0200Z-0400Z, Nov 16   |
| + Phone Fray                              | 0230Z-0300Z, Nov 18   |
| + LZ DX Contest                           | 1200Z, Nov 21 to 1200Z, Nov 22                                      |
| + All Austrian 160-Meter Contest          | 1600Z, Nov 21 to 0700Z, Nov 22                                      |
| + Feld Hell Sprint                        | 1700Z-1859Z, Nov 21   |
| + NA Collegiate ARC Championship, SSB     | 2100Z, Nov 21 to 0300Z, Nov 23                                      |
| + <b>ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB</b>    | <b>2100Z, Nov 21 to 0300Z, Nov 23</b>                               |
| + Phone Fray                              | 0230Z-0300Z, Nov 25   |
| + <b>ARRL EME Contest</b>                 | <b>0000Z, Nov 28 to 2359Z, Nov 29</b>                               |
| + <b>CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW</b>      | <b>0000Z, Nov 28 to 2400Z, Nov 29</b>                               |

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Board of Director's Meeting

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

### Membership Meeting

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

### VE Testing Session

Nov. 17th, 2015 @ 6:45pm  
Messenger Public Library in  
North Aurora

Technician Pool- B. At the center frequency of the channel

General Pool- D. Excessive drive power

Extra Pool- C. As an RF detector

## IMPORTANT AMATEUR RADIO WEB PAGE LINKS

[www.frll.org](http://www.frll.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