



# ARC OVER



The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League  
Since 1924

Our 92nd Year in Amateur Radio!

November 2016

## FRRL Well Represented at W9DXCC!



Proud to be an ARRL  
Special Service Club

City of Lights Nets: Every Monday

CW Net: 28.150MHz at 8:00pm

SSB Net: 28.720MHz at 8:30pm

Join the fun!



Pictured left to right in the Back Row is: CJ WT2P, Harry K9DXA, Joe NA9A and Tom NY2RF.

Front Row: Dean KC9EOQ, Kermit W9XA, Harry WB9EDP, Michaline KC9ARP, and Dick W9GIG.

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The Fox River Radio League was well represented at the 2016 W9DXCC in September. Several great presentations were made during the weekend which culminated with a dinner on Saturday night. The new ARRL President Tom Gallagher, NY2RF was the key-note speaker. Kermit Carlson, W9XA was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. The food was great and Tom gave a very interesting speech on the future of the ARRL. The next W9DXCC convention will be held on September 15 and 16 2017. Check [www.w9dxcc.com](http://www.w9dxcc.com) for more information.

## 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
No Call Yet	John Schroeder	TBD
N9VDQ	Mark Spoo	General
WX9SPL	Michael Bingham	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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**Treasurer**  
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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

As this year's HF Challenge draws to a close, Challenge Administrator Joe NA9A offers a suggestion for adding QSOs to your log. "Maldives, 8Q7SP, an FRRL Challenge asterisked country, will on the air later in November including during our Thanksgiving holiday, he said. "The 'SP' suffix in their call undoubtedly came from the 8 multi-team operators, all from SP land (Poland)."

Another tip for those of you who aren't seeing the progress you'd like to, Larry K9ARZ shared that he's having the most success in his DX pursuits by following gray line propagation.

If you'd like to join the Challenge for the remainder of the year, please see Joe at the next club meet or send an email to Challenge [at] [frrl.org](http://frrl.org). All updates as of Nov. 15th should be reported by the 20th so we can share them in the December ArcOver.

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Eric K9LGE	53	4	11	69
Jim W9NJP	68	11	49	128
Herb W9DTR	45	7	13	65
Chris KC9BKS	6	0	0	3
Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Jeff N9JZN	2	0	44	46
Jack K9JE	24	5	86	115
Herb W9DTR	81	11	15	107
Roger W9YU	55	8	43	106
Jason NX9Y	53	9	80	142
QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Larry K9ARZ	100	24	358	482
Joe NA9A	100	7	262	369
Cedric WT2P	99	18	195	220
Dick AH6EZ/W7	100	23	293	416
Dean KC9EOQ	33	5	86	124
Rag Chewer Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Roger W9YU	4	0	0	4
Joe NA9A	13	1	3	17
Jason NX9Y	9	2	0	11
Herb W9DTR	0	0	0	10
Eric K9LGE	1	0	0	1
Dick AH6EZ/W7	0	0	0	75
Jim W9NJP	25	0	2	27
Dean KC9EOQ	1	0	0	1

# President's Traffic

Dennis Barfuss, W9HI

Another month has passed and we all move closer to the shortening of daylight and the possibility of colder weather. But we have had another great month of Amateur Radio. October was full of contests as well as the Illinois QSO party. Many of our members participated in the contest as well as some members that setup a portable operation at the Spring Brook Prairie Pavilion. Operating as W9CEQ was fun and a great opportunity for members to come out and operate. The weather cooperated and we had a wonderful warm day. In the morning before the contest Roger W9YU and I setup a tipper, one of the famous mounting bases designed by Charles KC9DAO and the Penninger Radio Company. We didn't use any mast sections, we just mounted a Cushcraft R7 directly to the tipper mast. The base was so stable that we didn't even have to guy the antenna. The R7 gave us 10 through 40 meters which we figured was ok as we had to leave the pavilion by dusk so 80 meters wasn't utilized. One nice feature about the R7 is that no radials are required so antenna setup is a snap. As it turns out, the tipper is a great solution as there are only small trees where we were located and the county we operated from will not allow any ropes or wires placed in forest preserve trees. Sounds like covenants doesn't it.

At that point one of the ops treated everyone by bringing his Flex radio. Many of the guys had never operated a Flex so this was an opportunity of a life time to get into a contest with the Flex. The Radio was interfaced to a computer with the Flex software and we were on the air. We had a second computer that we utilized as our logging machine with N3FJP QSO party software. During the operation as we had hoped, the antenna tuner was not needed as the R7 performed so well.

The Flex worked very well and has exemplary selectivity among all the other features of the radio. Since we were using the mouse to pick out contacts, the operators had to get used to moving frequencies without a tuning knob. I know this sounds easy, but it is a new method for a lot of people. During the contest the Spectrum display proved to be a great aid as our operating mode was hunt and pounce for the majority of the day. I realize more experienced ops might run a frequency, but H&P worked ok. Although the bands were crowded with contest stations, they appeared to be miles apart on the Flex display, just an awesome radio.

Now the issue for all the FRRL contesters is to turn in your logs and remember to identify yourself as an FRRL member station. I am excited to see how the club comes out in scoring this year.

So as October ends we have to look forward to more contests in November and our guest Speaker Gary Johnson at the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Gary will be presenting a fantastic story about Quartz crystals, their history, manufacture, operation and future. Should prove to be interesting. Also mark your calendars as we turn back our clocks on November 6<sup>th</sup>. And last but not least, don't forget to get out and vote.

See you all at the November meeting.



**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 October 11, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM by President Denny W9HI. Audience introductions: call, name, QTH and: Are you a new member/first time or newly licensed/recently upgraded attendee? Question: Are you planning to work the Illinois QSO party?

Approval of September 2016-member meeting minutes. Motion to approve by Mike, K9FE. Motion seconded by Jim K9XP. Membership approved the motion.

### **Treasurer's Report Dean KC9EOQ**

Dean reported the balances as of October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Pay Pal should be ready for member renewal. Thanks to Roger W9YU and Chris, KC9BKS

### **Program, Jason NX9Y**

Planned programs for 2016: October-DIY Software Defined Radio, John KC9OJV, November-Gary Johnson and Applications for Crystals (yes, the crystals we use in Amateur Radio!), December, Christmas Party.

### **Education, Mike K9FE / Paul AC9BS**

Mike is working with other clubs to coordinate general Class Exam reviews. New Technician class FCC exam review will be held from Saturdays October 15 to November 12 at the Messenger library North Aurora from 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Refer to the FRRL.ORG website for more details.

### **Net Dave N9XU**

Interference heard on last three FRRL net sessions. Kermit, W9XA, explained the interference. Dave invited new members and guests to the FRRL 2-meter net. Net meets on every Tuesday at 7:30 pm except for FRRL club meetings. Several hams helped out with net control.

### **VE (Volunteer Examiner) Doug W9RD/Paul AC9BS**

Doug announced the next VE Session is third Tues in November 20<sup>th</sup> at the North Aurora Library. Bring a picture ID and your license (for upgrades). Details are available on the FRRL.org website. FCC license fees due to the VE are \$15.

### **ARES Debbie WX9VOR/Bill NF9D**

Contact Debbie for details of her announcement or check the FRRL.org website. 10/9 Chicago marathon Contact Debbie for details. Atlantic Hurricane season is here. 14.342 MHZ is a HF net frequency for emergencies.

### **Old Business:**

None

PayPal functionality testing is complete by Roger W9YU and should be available for annual membership renewal at the end of the year.

Denny W9HI has updated the president's welcome letter and it will be distributed to all new members

Paul Mandrik AC9BS, Mike Urso K9FE and Harry Jones K9DXA are the FRRL nominating committee. They have had some input from membership. Contact them if you are interested in running for a Board of directors or officer position. Slate will be announced at the November meeting and the election held at the December meeting.

### **Announcements**

Illinois QSO Party is this coming weekend and we will be operating a portable station for you to come out and operate. Spring Brook Prairie pavilion located on 83rd street just east of route 59 in Naperville.

If you operate the contest from home, please identify yourself as an FRRL Member. We came in third in the State as a club, let's go for Number 1.

FRRL Technician Classes start October 15th at the Messenger Library in North Aurora.

The School Club Round up will be October 17th through October 21st check ARRL.ORG for details

November 5<sup>th</sup> at 8am Algonquin Golden Corral big ham breakfast. Contact Paul W9DWP.

Kermit discussed the status of HR 1301. More detail at ARRL.ORG

November 3<sup>rd</sup> Ham Fest in Milwaukee near HRO. Contact Marty, N9NTM.

### **Upcoming Events**

October 11th Member meeting

October 15th First of the Series of Tech Classes

October 16, 2016 Illinois QSO Party

October 17-21st School Club Round UP

November 1st FRRL Board meeting

November 8th FRRL Member Meeting

November 15th VE session

### **Adjournment**

Denny W9HI declared the meeting adjourned at 20:16 CDT PM.

Respectfully submitted

Dan Harmon WA9YKK

FRRL Secretary

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

December 6th, 2016 @7:00pm

Colonial Café—Aurora, IL.

### **Membership Meeting**

December 13th, 2016 @ 7:30pm

Bethany Lutheran Church

### **VE Testing Session**

January 17th, 2017

FRRL VE Testing at Messenger Library in North Aurora at 7pm.

## 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