



ARC OVER



The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League
Since 1924

Our 92nd Year in Amateur Radio!

October 2016



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!

Announcing the 2016 Illinois QSO Party...

Sponsored by The Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Date/Time: 1700Z October 16 until 0100Z October
17, 2016

Bands: 160 through 2 meters, *excluding 60, 30, 17,
and 12 meters.*

**For more information and rules for the contest see
the official IL QSO party rules website at:**

<http://www.w9awe.org/ILQP%202016%20Rules.pdf>

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General information can be found at:

<http://www.w9awe.org/ILQP2016.html>

**Let's have a good showing from the
FRRL this year!!**

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
N9LTW	Louis Childers	General

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 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

Web Site:
<http://www.frrl.org>

President
Dennis Barfuss, W9HI

Vice President
Mike Urso, K9FE

Secretary
Dan Harmon, WA9YKK

Treasurer
Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

Directors:
Roger Bara W9YU
Dave Bulkley, K9WDB
Jason Burzynski, NX9Y
Jim Nevitt, Jr., N9XP

Past President
Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

License Trustee:
Kermit Carlson, W9XA

Newsletter Editor
Dean Holste, KC9EOQ
newsletter@frrl.org

Webmaster
Chris Kennell, KC9BKS
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

Participation continues to increase among those involved in this year's HF Challenge. Last month, Larry K9ARZ reported beginning to see some openings despite difficult band conditions, and this month he added contacts with Albania, Belize, Pitcairn Isl., St. Helena Isl., Ascension Isl., Egypt, Guantanamo Bay, Saudi Arabia, Liechtenstein, St. Paul Isl., South Cook Isl., Kuwait, Zambia, Mauritania, Montenegro, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Benin, and Mali.

"The propagation conditions have been poor but much better than during this past summer," Larry reported. "The Saudi Arabia contact was made on 40 Meter SSB in the early evening hours on a ZS6BKW wire at about 25 feet off the ground at the apex; credit the fine receiver section in the TS-590S."

Dick AH6EZ/W7 reported that, in addition to his personal QSOs, the Washington Salmon Run (QSO Party) was very productive, netting 510 contacts.

Finally, Challenge Administrator Joe NA9A checked in new catches including Saint Paul Island, Aves Island, Western Sahara and Bhutan. He added that if you're interested in rarer DX (one asterisk or more), several opportunities are coming up.

Starting in mid-October 3W2DK* will be active from Vietnam. Mike does mostly phone, Joe says, and will also be active in CQWW SSB on October 29-30Z.

"A double header is coming to us in early to mid-October," he added. "A team will be active as H44GC* at Solomon Island and then move over to H40GC* at Temotu Province. These stations will be active on CW, SSB and RTTY."

Joe added: "If you need rarer countries on 30 meters, look for 4S7AB* in Sri Lanka. 'Mike' has been on in the morning just before our local sunrise."

de KC9LQS

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Eric K9LGE	53	4	11	69
Jim W9NJP	62	8	38	108
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	49	7	39	95
Jason NX9Y	53	9	80	142
QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Larry K9ARZ	98	24	338	460
Joe NA9A	62	6	226	294
Cedric WT2P	99	18	195	220
Dick AH6EZ/W7	100	22	241	363
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	100
Jim W9NJP	0	0	0	27
Dean KC9EOQ	1	0	0	1

President's Traffic

Dennis Barfuss, W9HI

Although we haven't seen any fall colors yet, we are feeling cooler temperatures and along with the cooler temps we have completed this year's farmers' market outreach program. Our last farmers market was a success in St. Charles. Dan WA9YKK along with Roger W9YU and Dave W9BOO came out and operated Rogers Flex radio in a portable setting. The rig worked well and there was a lot of discussion about all the features that the Software Defined Radio brings to the amateur community. The farmers' market outreach program was conceived by Dawn, KC9LQS and has been continued through the dedication of Dan W9YKK. Please congratulate all the outreach folks when you see them. It is our desire to expand the outreach next summer. Now that we have an idea on the logistics, we are planning on starting earlier in the summer and continuing through the fall. So think ahead to next June when you can come out and help the club spread the wonders of our hobby and Amateur Radio.

At this month's meeting John **KC9OJV** will present a talk on the SDR radio that he has recently constructed. The SDR radios are very feature rich, but affordable to a large number of potential ham users. The software defined radio market is growing at a great rate and I suspect that there will be a lot of different radios and price points to meet the needs of most hams in the market place. I had an opportunity to use a new IC-7300 SDR radio from a cabin in northern Wisconsin. Although I used commercial power, I did use a small off-center fed vertical with some great success. And as luck would have it, I was located very close to a lodge with variable speed motor controls. Just can't get away from the noise. Only with the SDR radio, I could see the signals and the interference on the real time spectrum display, which was very helpful. On the occasions I used the radio, the noise didn't seem to harm its operation. I was able to work AI4N in Spain and a number of contacts in Texas and Maine. Overall the radio performed flawlessly and using the new digital filters eliminated almost all the interfering signals. I won't say that I am an expert because each time you turn on these new radios, you learn something new. I can say that I can hear signals that I can't hear on my IC-7000. The rig is small and light enough to take out on a camping trip our use at home for your primary station. Since it is a touch screen display, all of the settings and features are very easy to find. The weekend was interesting as there was a WW RTTY contest that had the effect of using a lot of bandwidth on every band. I can say that for the first time I could see the entire bandwidth of the RTTY stations and by using the decode feature I could copy all their signals. The radio comes with the appropriate remote control software, but I have not taken the time to set that interface up as of this writing. And yes, the 7300 has knobs, no computer required. So stay tuned for all the advances, features and varying price points as SDR spreads throughout the technology we utilize for ham radio.

Before I end these thoughts, I want to let you all know that the Club using the call W9CEQ will again be operating a portable station for the **Illinois QSO party** next weekend on October 16th. We will be at the Springbrook Prairie Shelter on 83rd street just east of route 59 in Naperville. Roger, W9YU is the primary person and he needs operators and helpers to setup, tear down and operate. Specifics will be discussed at the meeting on Tuesday and placed on the web site.

73, Denny W9HI



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



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

Meeting Minutes September 13, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 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: Have you heard about the progress of HR. 1301?

Approval of August 2016-member meeting minutes. Motion to approve by Larry K9ARZ. Motion seconded by Dave K9WDB. Membership approved the motion.

Treasurer's Report Dean KC9EOQ

Dean reported the balances as of September 6th, 2016.

Program, Jason NX9Y

Planned programs for 2016: September-Lightning and Power Protection, Dan WA9YKK, October-DIY software Defined radio, John KC9OJV, November-Applications for Crystals (yes, the crystals we use in Amateur Radio!)

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 9am to 1pm.

Net Dave N9XU

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. Seven hams helped out with net control.

VE (Volunteer Examiner) Doug W9RD/Paul AC9BS

Doug announced the next VE Session is third Tues in Sept 20 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 net for emergencies.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

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

Denny W9HI and the BOD is working to update and republish a Trifold document to pass out at meetings and events

Denny W9HI has received older versions of the Welcome letter from the FRRL President. He will update and republish.

A nominating committee was appointed. They are Paul Mandrik AC9BS, Mike Urso K9FE and Harry Jones K9DXA. Contact them if you are interested in running for a Board of directors or officer position.

Announcements

The W9DXCC DX Convention and Banquet is held September 16/17. Info on W9DXCC web site. Short explanation talk given by George W9GIG.

Outreach at Farmers markets in St, Charles on Friday September 23rd. Contact Dan WA9YKK

Chicago Marathon needs amateur radio support. Contact Rob Orr K9RSC

Upcoming Events

September 13th Membership Meeting

September 20th VE Session

September 23rd Farmer's Market Outreach – St. Charles

October 4th FRRL Board meeting

October 11th Member meeting

October 16th Illinois QSO Party

Adjournment

Denny W9HI declared the meeting adjourned at 20:10 CDT PM.

Respectfully submitted

Dan Harmon WA9YKK

FRRL Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

Board of Director's Meeting

November 1st, 2016 @7:00pm

Colonial Café—Aurora, Il.

Membership Meeting

November 8th, 2016 @ 7:30pm

Bethany Lutheran Church

VE Testing Session

November 15th, 2016

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

IMPORTANT AMATEUR RADIO WEB PAGE LINKS

www.frri.org

www.arrl.org

www.colpage.org

www.qrz.com

www.dailydx.com

www.twit.tv/hn

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