



ARC OVER



The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League
Since 1924

Our 93rd Year in Amateur Radio!

August 2017



Proud to be an ARRL
Special Service Club

Board of Director's Meeting

September, 5th @7:00pm
Colonial Café—Aurora, IL.

Membership Meeting

Sept. 12th, 2017 @ 7:30pm
Bethany Lutheran Church

VE Session

September 19th, 2017
Messenger Library in North
Aurora 7:00pm

New Mode, New FUN!

Joe Taylor has come up with an exciting mode. If you like the Digi modes JT-65 and JT-9, this will have a big effect on you. Imagine working 50 contacts in an evening on either JT-65 or JT-9. It would be about impossible, but FT-8 will do it. Instead of the 1 minute turn around per side, it happens in 15 seconds! That is the biggest change. The bandwidth is larger than JT-9 but narrower than JT-65.

The other fairly large change is the once you initiate the QSO, the WSJT-X program can finish it for you. This shocked me when I started a CQ and selected someone answering, then got a phone call. I was not paying attention to the QSO. When I looked back it was done, just waiting for me to accept the log entry.

Everything has a drawback. The best part of the JT-65 and JT-9 modes is the sensitivity and ability to copy really weak signals. In FT-8 you don't have as much sensitivity. Still, on 20 I had all the people calling CQ in green (meaning I had worked them!) I did the same on 40 and 80 and you can too. The settings are the same as the JT modes so if you can do those using WSJT-X, you can do FT-8. The new beta release 1.8 of WSJT-X that includes the mode is on Joe's Stanford site just waiting for you to download it.

73 and see you on the bands! De K9FE Mike

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Editor's Note:

Make sure you attend the August FRRL meeting. Kermit Carlson, W9XA will be the featured speaker at the meeting and will tell us all about FT8!

Come and learn something new!!

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 | 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 news letter. Articles can be sent by email to: 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

While participants reported slow gains again this past month, Larry K9ARZ reports that “Despite the broken bands, there are still some openings on 20 and 40 meters.” We applaud participants who continue to work the bands and who have reported new contacts this month!

The second half of this year’s Challenge began July 1st and continues through the end of the year. This allows participants to work all 50 states again, as well as a second contact with DX entities they reported during the first half of the Challenge. If you sent an update during the first half of the Challenge, you automatically receive the worksheet for the second half. If you need a worksheet or have any questions, see Challenge Administrator Joe NA9A at the next club meeting, or send an email to Challenge [at] frrl.org.

Reports for the next ArcOver are due by Aug. 20th. Please include all QSOs from Jan. 1st through Aug. 15th, broken down by states, provinces, and DX entities.

de KC9LQS

| Limited Class | States | Provinces | DX Countries | Total |
|------------------|--------|-----------|--------------|-------|
| Jim W9NJP | 59 | 10 | 93 | 162 |
| Eric K9LGE | 34 | 4 | 5 | 43 |
| Operator Class | States | Provinces | DX Countries | Total |
| Alan W9AN | 12 | 8 | 57 | 77 |
| Jason NX9Y | 42 | 8 | 46 | 96 |
| Ron KC9SNI | 25 | 2 | 24 | 51 |
| QRO Class | States | Provinces | DX Countries | Total |
| Cedric WT2P | 50 | 11 | 131 | 192 |
| Dick AH6EZ/W7 | 50 | 12 | 116 | 178 |
| Joe NA9A | 19 | 2 | 84 | 105 |
| Roger W9YU | 38 | 9 | 64 | 111 |
| Larry K9ARZ | 87 | 23 | 225 | 335 |
| Herb W9DTR | 66 | 10 | 14 | 90 |
| Rag Chewer Class | States | Provinces | DX Countries | π |
| Dick AH6EZ/W7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27 |
| Jim W9NJP | 14 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| Herb W9DTR | 8 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Joe NA9A | 4 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Roger W9YU | 8 | 0 | 1 | 9 |
| Eric K9LGE | | | | 2 |

President's Traffic

Dennis Barfuss, W9HI

Yet another month has passed. All of our Field Day material has been submitted and now we wait for the results in December for our final Ranking. Everyone I have spoken too liked the site and had a good time. We have also completed this year's hamfest. The weather was great as well as the talks. At our July meeting many of you provided feedback regarding hamfest and at our August board meeting we will be discussing our findings and your comments. As for August, we have the Solar Eclipse coming up on August 21st. Yes this is exciting, but is also dangerous if not observed properly. This is a solar eclipse and you should not look at the sun without the proper eye protection. Sun glasses will not work. So the best thing to do is to have the right filter and never look at the sun directly. I have included a picture of the path of the sun that day and a link to NASA who has all the solar Eclipse information you will ever want to read. It is a great site. NASA has also provided safety guidance and ideas for how to actually see the eclipse. Check out NASA..

<https://eclipse2017.nasa.gov/>

The path of the solar Eclipse.



We also know that there are several special event stations being set up in southern Illinois thanks to John D Nell, K9JDN. There is also a solar eclipse QSO Party that is hoping to have hams make contacts with varying types of antennas to determine the effects of the eclipse on HF propagation.

BTW, I am not suggesting anyone goes to southern Illinois as there are predictions that you will be visiting with a million of your closest friends; If that is your desire, have fun..

Lewis & Clark Radio Club, Inc. is sponsoring a Solar Eclipse – Special Event Station (K9S) to celebrate the August 21, 2017 Solar Eclipse event in the southwestern part of Illinois. They will be establishing an HF operating station in Riverview Park (public park) in Alton, Illinois on Monday, August 21, 2017 from approx. 9 AM – 3 PM (CDT). Club members are planning and gearing up for this once-in-a-lifetime event in our area and I already have several volunteers willing to help during the activities.

I would like to invite you and others to join us in the park to view the solar eclipse event. We are planning to contact other amateur radio operators across the nation during the eclipse timeframe as it transverses the United States from Oregon to South Carolina. Of interest to us is whether (or how) the solar eclipse will affect HF signal propagation. There is also talk of establishing a VHF/UHF station, in addition to our HF station, to be operated during the event.

I am aware there is another SE station (W9E) being setup in the Carbondale, IL area for the event, but I don't have any particulars on their operation, as of yet. I hope to coordinate a contact with them, during the event.

This will be another opportunity to showcase amateur radio to the public in our area. It is my hope to issue a press release and secure a "talking segment" on our local AM station (WBGZ) to promote our event in the upcoming weeks.

If you would like more information or have any questions, please feel free to contact me at jdneil@charter.net.

Solar Eclipse QSO Party (SEQP) Rules

I am including some information about the QSO party FYI, but the best way to get all the information is by going to the following web site.

<http://hamsci.org/seqp-rules>

Date and Time

21 Aug 2017 1400 – 2200 UTC (Partial eclipse begins at about 1600 UTC in Oregon ends at about 2015 UTC in South Carolina)

Objective

To generate observations of propagation by the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN(www.reversebeacon.net/), PSKReporter(<https://pskreporter.info/>), WSPRNet (<http://www.wsprnet.org>), and event logs before, during, and after the eclipse on the amateur bands for the purpose of ionospheric sounding.

Have a great and safe August Solar Eclipse.

73, Denny W9HI

President Fox Radio Relay League (FRRL)



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 July 11, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 19:33 CDT by President Denny W9HI. Audience introductions: Call, Name, QTH and: "What did you do over Field Day weekend, and what are your thoughts about Ham-fests?"

Approval of June 2017 Member Meeting minutes: Motion to approve by CJ WT2P seconded by Jim W9NJP. Members approved the motion.

There were 48 people present at this meeting.

Treasurer's Report, Dean KC9EOQ

Dean reported the balances as of 7/6/2017

Program, Jason NX9Y

Tonight's program: Mark Thompson WB9QZB on VHF/UHF Digital Voice Mode and Fusion.

Education, Allen KB9VO

Allen KB9VO has a list of instructors and schedule.

Net, Dave N9XU

2m Net is every Tuesday at 7:30. Dave N9XU needs operators (2 Net Control operators are needed immediately).

VE (Volunteer Examiner) Testing, Paul AC9BS

There was VE testing at Hamfest. Next session: Sept 19th at Messenger Library, North Aurora.

Membership, Chris KC9BKS

Chris reported a total of 150 active members.

ARES, Debby WX9VOR

Thanks for the folks who helped with the Swedish Days Ride. There will be a training meeting this Thursday (July 13th). Regular meeting is the 4th Thursday of the month (July 27th). The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation event is on August 19th, volunteers are needed. On the same day there is another event for in DeKalb called "Ride Like an Egyptian", contact Bob Yurs if you wish to help out.

Visit the website at <http://kanecountyares.org> or see Debby WX9VOR for further details on any event.

Old Business:

Hamfest Chair, Dan Taddei W9STS (Tom Churchill WD9DAU)

Dan W9STS was absent this meeting but will give a run down in August. A net gain was reported.

Field Day

Field Day was a great success and all paperwork has been submitted. Thanks to everyone for their participation. Dan WA9YKK gave a short recap presentation on Field Day. Denny W9HI also went over the ARRL submission forms and numbers.

New Business:

2017 FRRL Outreach: Farmers' Markets, Denny W9HI

Signup sheets are available. The Board is considering buying a Honda generator for extra power to use for events such as this.

Announcements

Marty N9NTM mentioned the upcoming Karsfest in Peotone.

Upcoming Events

August 1st Board Meeting

August 8th Member Meeting

September 5th Board Meeting

September 12th Member Meeting

Adjournment

Denny W9HI declared the meeting adjourned at 20:35 CDT. Mike K9FE motioned and CJ WT2P seconded. The motion to adjourn passed. Program by Mark WB9QZB follows.

Respectfully submitted,

David Booher W9BOO

FRRL Secretary

IMPORTANT AMATEUR RADIO WEB PAGE LINKS

www.frll.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

