



ARC OVER



The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League
Since 1924

Our 93rd Year in Amateur Radio!

February 2017



Proud to be an ARRL
Special Service Club



Dan Harmon, WA9YKK FRRL 2016 Ham of the Year presented by FRRL President Denny Barfuss, W9HI

Joe Dubeck, NA9A received a Lifetime Achievement award for twenty consecutive years of coordinating the Bill Erickson HF Challenge and for conducting the FRRL City of Lights 10 meter Monday night net. Now at 2100 consecutive Mondays night nets as of January 31st.



Doug Reneker, W9RD received a Life Time Achievement Award for his efforts as the FRRL – ARRL VE Team Liaison for 17 years. (Photos courtesy of Chris Kennell, KC9BKS)

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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 members to the club!

CALL	NAME	LICENSE CLASS
N9BTF	Robert McKnight	Advanced
KD9HUJ	Steven Solfisburg	General
KA9FET	Michael Staniszewski	Advanced
N5EP	Stephen Westfall	Amateur Extra

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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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

First, congratulations to all participants in the 2016 HF Challenge. Those who attended FRRL's winter banquet last month were presented with certificates commemorating their participation. Kudos to those who remained most active throughout the year in each category: Larry K9ARZ in the QRO Class, Roger W9YU in the Operator Class, Jim W9NJP in the Limited Class, and Dick AH6EZ/W7 in the Ragchew Class.

Updates from 2017 participants just began to trickle in. If you plan to get in on the fun and haven't received this year's worksheet, please see Challenge Administrator Joe NA9A at the next club meeting, or email Challenge [at] frrl.org to request a worksheet.

To get you started, following are tips on upcoming DXpeditions of interest to Challenge participants. Happy DXing de KC9LQS

Joe's DX Tips of the Month

Perhaps it's the "pause" in high-quantity sun spots that has lowered DX expectations for the rarer countries this year because gossip about activating P5-North Korea has disappeared and a 2017 DXpedition to Bouvet, the third most wanted country, was cancelled and replaced by another team scheduled for early 2018. That will be 3Y0Z with a team including several members of our local NIDXA.

There are a few Countries in the top 100-needed coming up soon. Number 58 on the most recent wanted list, *4S Sri Lanka 4S7KKG is active now through April 1st. They are heavy into CW and the digital modes.

In spot #95 and active through March 11 is *9X Rwanda. The callsign is 9X2AW and like the 4S, will be heavily into the digital modes PSK31, JT65 and RTTY. This should be an easy catch for the "little pistols" with patience, using JT65.

Finally #96 *3D2/R Rotuma Island is expected to be active in late February or early March as 3D2AG/p. "Antoine" says he'll work all bands from 160 to 2 meters. Before Rotuma, he'll be on from Fiji with the same call so make sure you know where he is before you log the call into your FRRL Challenge worksheet.

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Roger W9YU	6	0	1	7
QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Joe NA9A	2	1	9	12
Dick AH6EZ/W7	48	7	39	94
Rag Chewer Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Joe NA9A	1	0	1	2
Dick AH6EZ/W7	0	0	0	13

President's Traffic

Dennis Barfuss, W9HI

January was a great month and lots of wonderful things happened. Our January meeting had Mr. David Turner of Commonwealth Edison give a presentation on the Utility of the Future. We also had The FRRL banquet and for those of you who couldn't attend you missed a great dinner, wonderful social time and some super awards. A big thanks to Dawn KC9LQS for planning, setting up and being our MC at the Banquet. Joe Dubeck NA9A presented First Place HF Challenge awards to club members. If the first-place winners could not make the banquet you will be receiving your award plaques at the March meeting or by mail. All club members are eligible to participate in the Bill Erickson FRRL HF Challenge and participation really provides a lot of personal satisfaction.

Larry Stark, K9ARZ won first place in the QRO class with 515 points, Roger Bara W9RU won first place in the Operator class with 136 points, Jim Griffin W9NJP won first place in the Limited class with 158 CW contacts and Dick Illman won first place in the Ragchew class with 89 total points. Congratulations to all the members that participated in the Challenge and a special congrats to the First-Place winners.

In addition to the aforementioned awards several members achieved special distinction.

Joe Dubeck NA9A was awarded a Life Time Achievement Award for his continued efforts over 20 years with the Bill Erickson HF Challenge and his coordination and continued operation of the weekly 10-10 City of Lights 10-meter HF net.

Doug Reneker W9RD was awarded a Life Time Achievement Award for his efforts as the FRRL – ARRL VE Team Liaison for 17 years. Doug's efforts has allowed the FRRL to provide VE sessions every other month and on special occasions for 17 years.

Dan Harmon WA9YKK was recognized and awarded Ham of the Year for all of his efforts for the club and Amateur Radio.

Please congratulate these people when you see them at the next meeting.

So January ended and February has started with the ground hog seeing his shadow, so as the story goes we are going to have 6 more weeks of winter. I don't know about you, but I don't put much faith in the groundhog and I am hopping for sun and spring. I don't want any cloudier days. Had enough!! Fortunately more exciting things are happening. At our February meeting Mr. Greg Sperling KB9E will discuss DMR which should prove to be interesting.

And it is time to mark your calendars for a special meeting that is planned for April 19th at FERMI Lab. The meeting is a joint meeting between the IEEE Chicago EMC society and Amateur Radio operators. The meeting starts at 6:30 in the Big Room located in building #327. There will only be 250 seats so be early. Speaking at this session will be Ed Hare W1RFI of the ARRL Laboratory and IEEE VP of Standards and Dr. Greg Lapin Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). They will be discussing the changing EMC environment relative to Radio, Noise and Electro-magnetic Interference. This should be an informative and interesting pair of presentations. So mark your calendars. Watch our web site for meeting updates.



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 January 10, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 PM CST by President Denny W9HI. Audience introductions: call, name, QTH and: Are you a new member/first time or newly licensed/recently upgraded attendee? Are you planning to go to the Banquet on the 21st and WCRA Hamfest on the 22nd??

Approval of December 2016-member meeting minutes. Motion to approve by Gregg KB9E Motion was seconded by Jason NX9Y.

Membership approved the motion.

Treasurer's Report Dean KC9EOQ

Dean reported the following balances as of 1/10/2017

Annual FRRL membership dues are due. Banquet tickets will be waiting at the door if ordered after tonight

Program, Jason NX9Y, January, a talk on smart grids David Turner talks about the Future of the Electric Utility. Jason needs more options for future programs.

Education, Alan KB9VO General Class exam review coming up for the next 6 weeks. Tentative schedule to be announced in the ARC-OVER.

Net Dave N9XU

11 participants last week. A good turnout. 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) Testing Paul AC9BS

January 17th at 7PM. next session. 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.

Membership Chris KC9BKS. Chris reported a total of 171 active members. New/renew memberships are also available via PayPal.

ARES Debbie WX9VOR/Bill NF9D

Contact Debbie for details of her announcement or check the FRRL.org website. SkyWarn day last weekend. Atlantic Hurricane season is here. ARES meeting this Thursday evening. Aux Com class coming up. Contact Debbie.

Group is growing. Second training date is coming on line.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Repeater Update – Kermit W9XA

Kermit gave a detailed update of changes and capacity added to FRRL owned 2 meter and 440 MHz systems.

January Banquet Update –Dawn KC9LQS

January Banquet Update –Dawn KC9LQS Dawn Explained the banquet details Cash bar. Details at FRRL.org. Cost will be within a few dollars of the 2016 Banquet.

Field Day Chair Dan Harmon W9YKK

LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve in Kane County is chosen for our Field Day site. Looking for Band Captains, and setup, tear down and meal support people. I also need a co-chairman and can be contacted at 630-272-1768 or email at fieldday@frrl.org.

Hamfest Chair Dan Taddei W9STS. Dan will be promoting the 2017 FRRL hamfest at other local ham fests. He also needs volunteers for setup, teardown, and hamfest operation. Dan will be at the WCRA on January 21st at Kane County Fairgrounds. Dan is searching for a hamfest co-chairman.

Meeting Topics from Members

Announcements

Upcoming Events

Jan 17th VE Session

Jan 21st FRRL banquet

Jan 22nd WCRA Hamfest

Jan 30th-31st Winter Field Day

Feb 7th FRRL Board Meeting

Feb 14th FRRL Member Meeting

March 21st VE Session

Adjournment

Denny W9HI declared the meeting adjourned at 20:19 CDT PM.

Respectfully submitted

Dan Harmon WA9YKK

FRRL Secretary

Postscript from the Secretary

It was fun and an honor to serve as your secretary for the last 14 months. I know Dave W9BOO will do an excellent job as your next secretary.

Best 73

Dan

UPCOMING EVENTS

Board of Director's Meeting

March 7, 2017 @7:00pm

Colonial Café—Aurora, IL.

Membership Meeting

March 14, 2017 @ 7:30pm

Bethany Lutheran Church

VE Testing Session

March 21, 2017

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

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