



# ARC OVER



The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League  
Since 1924

Our 93rd Year in Amateur Radio!

January 2017



Proud to be an ARRL  
Special Service Club

## Join the HF Challenge!

Warm up that HF rig!

CW, SSB, and Digital

contacts all count!

For more info, read below!

The 2017 Bill Erickson HF Challenge is now underway! Since we don't release final results of the 2016 event until our awards banquet this month, we're instead offering you an overview of how the Challenge works. (Watch for next month's ArcOver for a complete review of 2016 results.)

As Challenge Administrator Joe Dubeck NA9A explained, there are two ways to work the Challenge. You can opt to spread it out over the entire year, with the goal of working as many different states, provinces and DX entities as possible. This option works well for those with limited radio time. Those with more time can work the Challenge twice, giving them an opportunity to work each state, province and DX entity twice – once between January and June, and a second time from July through December.

Joe mailed this year's Challenge worksheets last month to all current FRRL members. If you didn't receive it, be sure to see Joe at the upcoming meeting to request a copy.

Those who worked the Challenge in 2016 should turn their worksheets in to Joe at the January meeting. You may also mail them to him at P.O. Box 1383, St. Charles, IL 60174-7383. However, be sure to let Joe know your worksheet is on the way. Deadline is Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>. As always, results of last year's Challenge will be announced at our annual awards banquet later this month.

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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
KD9HLV	Terry Todd	Technician
KD9HLX	Deanne Sereno	Technician
KI6FGT	Richard Madden	Technician
N7DES	Wil Despe	General
KB5TZX	John Lansing	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](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

Following is a summary of how the Challenge works, for the benefit of those who are new to the event. If you haven't worked the Challenge lately, or if you're new to the club or HF operation, you are strongly encouraged to get involved!

**The Goal:** To contact as many of the states, provinces and DX entities as possible from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2017. If you work the Challenge straight through the year, you can report one contact for each state, province and DX entity. If you work the Challenge as two parts (January through June and July through December), you can record two contacts with the same station or with two different stations in each state, province or country.

**The Categories:** Participants may enter the challenge in the following classes.

LIMITED CLASS is a niche for those who choose to operate within selected limitations, including CW only, QRP (5 watts or less), digital mode, or single band.

OPERATOR CLASS is for those making contacts with 250 watts of power or less, in any mode.

QRO CLASS is for those using any mode with any legal power output.

RAG CHEWER CLASS only counts contacts that last at least 10 minutes, in any mode.

**The Operation:** The purpose of the Bill Erickson HF Challenge is to stimulate operating activity. The main requirement, of course, is that you get on the air. Joe has made a point of keeping tabs on upcoming DXpeditions to help you contact some of the rare entities, so be sure to read each issue of the ArcOver for tips!

**The Reporting:** Part of the fun is seeing how other participants are doing throughout the year, so operators are encouraged to submit their total scores via email to challenge [at] frrl.org by the 15th of each month. Be sure your email includes your name and call sign, the class in which you are operating, and the total number each of states, provinces, and DX entities contacted. If you are also working the Rag Chewer Class, the total number of state, province, and DX rag chews should be reported. At the end of the year, your paper worksheet should be turned in to Joe NA9A.

**The Results:** More on-air activity! Joe emphasizes that the Challenge isn't a contest in the usual sense. Although a little friendly competition makes it more fun, the real purpose of this activity is to provide a framework within which to operate, so that more of us will get on the air more often and exercise the operating privileges we worked so hard to earn!

"In any class, just one contact on any HF band, in any mode, means you met the challenge," Joe wrote in the worksheet, "and you'll receive a beautiful certificate documenting your achievement."

Everyone who participates in the HF Challenge will be acknowledged and receive their certificates during the FRRL annual awards banquet in January.

Direct your questions and comments to Joe during our monthly meetings, or via email to challenge [at] frrl.org. Happy DXing!

73 de KC9LQS

## President's Traffic

Dennis Barfuss, W9HI

Welcome to the New Year. Yes, 2017 is upon us with all the new possibilities and excitement that a new year brings. I hope that your 2016 was awesome, but we also look to the future with excitement of what is to come in this New Year. In a couple of weeks we will have our first member meeting of 2017 where I will introduce the new officers of your club. Thanks to all that attended the December meeting and elected the new officers.

January's meeting will also kick off our 2017 presentation season with Mr. David Turner of Commonwealth Edison speaking about the Utility of the Future. David's career is vast but started in the Nuclear Power industry at the United States Enrichment Corporation in Paducah, Kentucky. His Plant enriched Uranium for other plants in the Nuclear Industry. He held multiple positions and gained a great deal of insight into the operation and maintenance of nuclear power plants. In addition to being in the Nuclear power industry, he also ran a farm and worked extensively with NASCAR. David's actual passion is racing. He has extensive experience building 900 horsepower engines and has many excellent stories about racing. He is currently working in Oak Brook Illinois at Commonwealth Edison's Commercial Center.

And yes 2017 is starting off fast with lots of things going on. Our hamfest is right around the corner in July and the Tickets and brochures are already printed. Our hamfest chairs will be working diligently to get everything planned for July. Yes, mark your calendars for July 9<sup>th</sup> and don't forget to sign up to help out with tickets and running the hamfest. Perhaps you would like to make a presentation so check with the chairman and sign up. We again will be at Aurora Central Catholic High School 1255 N. Edgelawn Dr. Aurora, IL.

In addition to the hamfest we have Field Day on June 23, 24 and 25<sup>th</sup>. As a result of input from many of the members the Field Day team has secured a new location for this year's field Day. We have gotten approval from the Kane Country Forest Preserve District to be located at LeRoy Oaks just west of St. Charles. This location is about 10 miles closer than Elburn and also provides a stellar location for Field Day! We will be on the North end of the Preserve utilizing the large pavilion (Shelter #1) and the surrounding grounds. Our field day chairs' will be needing band captains, setup & takedown people and a GOTA coach.

The most important thing today is marking your calendar so you don't miss this exciting opportunity to be in a new location for field Day. Make sure you come out to operate. I have included a map of the preserve for your information. Google earth also provides a great look at the site.

And don't forget that the Banquet is this month on the 21<sup>st</sup>. If you haven't signed up to come you should and you can purchase your tickets using PayPal via our web page at FRRL.org. Dawn has worked very hard to make sure our banquet will be fun and we hope that many of you can attend.

Joe NA9A will be presenting the winners of Bill Erickson HF Challenge the extremely coveted awards for our own operating competition.

Hope to see you there. Happy New Year...

73, Denny W9HI  
President FRRL



**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 December 13, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 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? What topics would you like included in 2017 programs? Dan WA9YKK will take notes and attach the list with December minutes.

Approval of September 2016-member meeting minutes. Motion to approve by Paul AC9BS. Motion seconded by Larry K9ARZ. Membership approved the motion.

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

Dean reported the balances as of 12/6/16. Annual FRRL membership dues are due.

**Program, Jason NX9Y**, December, Christmas Party. January, a talk on smart grids David Turner talks about the Future of the Electric Utility

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

Paul is working with other clubs to coordinate general Class Exam reviews. Refer to the FRRL.ORG website for more details. 2 students passed the license exam

### **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. Several hams helped out with net control.

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

January 17<sup>th</sup> 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** Denny W9HI introduced Chris KC9BKS and acknowledged Chris's FRRL database and web work. Chris reported a total of 164 active members.

### **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. 14.342 MHZ is a HF net frequency for emergencies. ARES meeting this Thursday evening. Aux Com class coming up. Contact Debbie.

### **Old Business:**

None

(Continues on Page 6)

### **Repeater Update – Kermit W9XA**

Kermit gave a detailed update of changes and capacity added to FRRL owned 2 meter and 440 MHZ systems. The slide presentation is attached.

### **2017 FRRL Officer and Director Election**

The Nominating Committee is Paul Mandrik AC9BS, Mike Urso K9FE, and Harry Jones K9DXA. Harry and Paul distributed and then collected Ballots. Votes were tabulated and Harry announced the results.

### **2017 elected FRRL Officers and Directors**

#### **Officers:**

President W9HI, Denny Barfuss

Vice President W9YU, Roger Bara

Secretary W9BOO, Dave Booher

Treasurer KC9EOQ Dean Holste

#### **Directors:**

KB9VO, Allen Nelson

NX9Y, Jason Burzynski

W9STS, Dan Taddei

Membership voted to destroy all ballots.

### **December Christmas Party Meeting – Dave W9BOO and Dan WA9YKK.**

Christmas treats are ready to eat. And Northern Illinois Food Bank collections will be received by Dave W9BOO.

White Elephant gifts are ready to be placed in a paper bag, randomized and distributed.

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

### **Announcements**

From Denny W9HI, we need Chair Persons for the Field Day and the FRRL Hamfest. We like to start early to help insure the planning and plan execution goes well.

### **Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted **with 2 attachments**,

Dan Harmon WA9YKK FRRL Secretary

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

February 7, 2017 @7:00pm

Colonial Café—Aurora, Il.

### **Membership Meeting**

February 14, 2017 @ 7:30pm

Bethany Lutheran Church

### **VE Testing Session**

January 17, 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