



ARC OVER



The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League
Since 1924

Our 93rd Year in Amateur Radio!

October 2017



Proud to be an ARRL
Special Service Club

Board of Director's Meeting

November 7th 2017 @7:00pm
Colonial Café—Aurora, Il.

Membership Meeting

November 14th 2017 @ 7:30pm
Bethany Lutheran Church

VE Session

November 21st, 2017
Messenger Library in North
Aurora @ 7:00pm

The Illinois QSO Party

Starting with the 2006 ILQP, the WIARC assumed the responsibility of sponsoring and administering this annual event. The ILQP takes place each October and involves amateur operators in all Illinois counties as well as operators from across the USA and in many foreign countries.

The QSO party provides Illinois operators the opportunity to be the 'rare ones' while providing stations outside of Illinois the opportunity to log many of the rarer Illinois counties. Illinois stations may operate as Fixed, Portable, Mobile or Rover stations.

High and Low power classes are provided for both Illinois Fixed and Non-Illinois stations and QRP competition is also provided.

Complete rules for the next ILQP may be viewed by clicking on the 2017 competition rules tab below.

Date/Time: 1700Z October 22 to 0100Z October 23, 2017

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

Special band activity times: IL stations are encouraged to spend some time on 20 meters in the early afternoon to work DX stations seeking IL counties and to check 15 meters and 10 meters at 1800Z, 1900Z and 2000Z.

<http://www.w9awe.org/ILQP%202017%20Rules.pdf>

What's Inside

- About FRRL.....Page 2
- HF ChallengePage 3 & 4
- President's Traffic.....Page 5
- September Minutes.....Page 6
- Minutes (cont'd).....Page 7
- Important Links, Repeaters and Net Info.....Page 8

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 |
|--------|--------------|---------------|
| KD9JBU | SIMS, JOSEPH | GENERAL |
| | | |

ArcOver FRRL Newsletter

Copyright 2017, FRRL©

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.

Prior permission is required to republish original ArcOver material.

The opinions expressed in the ArcOver are strictly those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the FRRL, Inc. or its sponsors.

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
Roger Bara, W9YU

Secretary
David Booher, W9BOO

Treasurer
Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

Directors
Jason Burzynski, NX9Y
Allen Nelson, KB9VO
Jim Nevitt, Jr., N9XP
Daniel Taddei, W9STS

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

Congratulations to Challenge participant Larry K9ARZ, who reached another operating milestone last month! "The RI1ANO contact (reported in this update) was one of several that, with the help of Logbook of the World, allowed me to complete my DXCC on the 40 mtr band," he said. "The new Butternut vertical antenna was also a contributing factor." Other contacts included VK2 Australia (17M), A31 Tonga (17M), FK8 New Caledonia (17M), HK0 San Andres Isl. (20M), D2 Angola (40M), A25 Botwana (20M), S01 Western Sahara (40M), RI1ANO South Shetland Isl. (40M), JT5 Mongolia (20M), 5T2 Mauritania (40M), 3D2 Fiji (20M), 5W0 Samoa (20M).

"In between the solar flares and broken bands, the conditions have been slowly improving," Larry reported. "There have been several openings on 12 and 17 meters., and 40 meters has also improved somewhat."

Challenge Administrator Joe NA9A shared news of upcoming HF operating opportunities, including contests and DXpeditions. In his words:

"Tis the season to go after DX for the FRRL Challenge. Conditions are improving on 15 through 80 meters. Also with the CQ Worldwide (CQWW) SSB DX Contest coming 0000Z, Oct 28 to 2400Z, Oct 29, 2017, many DX stations are already getting on the air to check out their stations. A lot of the Challenge's asterisked countries are coming on, so go get them! The CQWW exchange is RS and CQ Zone (i.e. for us: 59 04)."

Upcoming DXpeditions Joe wanted to alert us to include:

VK9C* - Cocos-Keeling will be on as VK9CZ with two stations, from October 24th-November 7th. They are taking 350 lbs. of equipment including Dean's and CJ's favorite IC-7300 rigs. They want to emphasize the lower frequency bands including 160.

ZC4* - UK Sovereign Base Areas on Cyprus as G0KOM and his IC-706 will activate his G0KOM/ZC4MK callsign, inactive for 24 years. His low budget station will be active October 27-31, and maybe a few days more. When done, he will load contacts into LoTW and Club Log for quick QSLing.

XW* - Laos will be on the air October 27-31 as XW4XR, primarily with our new mode FT8! Bruce Ault will be active from 60 through 6 meters, some impossible bands-except will they work with FT8. QSL by LoTW and watch for his spots.

E4* - Palestine E44WE. Janusz (SP9FIH) says he will "probably" be on from (O Little Town of) Bethlehem between October 18 to 29. During CQWW, he'll stick to 15 meters, but outside of the contest, he will give us opportunities to get E4 on 30, 12 and 10 meters. Look for him on SSB, PSK and RTTY. Sorry, no LoTW, but OK Club Log for QSLs.

A5* - Bhutan will be on as A52SJ October 12-19 and again October 26. Unfortunately for us, the operator Steve, N6SJ from Woodside CA will favor the west coast on 160 but maybe we'll have a shot on 20, 17 and 15. Not important to hams, it's still interesting that tiny South Asian Bhutan is notable for pioneering the concept of [gross national happiness](#). What a concept!

9X* - Rwanda will be a challenge because Peter G4ENL is using a KX3 into an HLA300 amp and a Buddipole as 9XPJ/p. Soon he is moving to another location in Rwanda where he intends to add more antennas and work there until September 2018. Look for him on SSB 40-10 Meters.

As always, it's never too late to get in on the fun, and the fall season leaves many of us with more time for radio, so don't hesitate to send your questions or request a worksheet by emailing Challenge [at] frrl.org.

de KC9LQS

| Limited Class | States | Provinces | DX Countries | Total |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Jim W9NJP | 59 | 10 | 101 | 170 |
| 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 | 93 | 20 | 145 | 258 |
| Joe NA9A | 41 | 5 | 86 | 132 |
| Roger W9YU | 56 | 14 | 80 | 150 |
| Larry K9ARZ | 100 | 25 | 268 | 393 |
| Herb W9DTR | 66 | 10 | 14 | 90 |
| Rag Chewer Class | States | Provinces | DX Countries | Total |
| Dick AH6EZ/W7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31 |
| Jim W9NJP | 14 | 0 | 1 | 15 |
| Herb W9DTR | 8 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Joe NA9A | 7 | 0 | 1 | 8 |
| Roger W9YU | 12 | 0 | 1 | 13 |
| Eric K9LGE | | | | 2 |

President's Traffic

Dennis Barfuss, W9HI

Well, hello fall. I hope that all of you have decided on your last minute antenna work before the weather changes in the next few weeks.

And thanks to this great weather we had an awesome time last weekend at the Scouting event called STEM O RAMA held at the Sandwich fair grounds. The Three Fires Council had asked our club to participate again this year and it was a lot of fun. We know there were about 3000 scouts there and we had a good number come out to see our operation. Dan WA9YKK, Dave W9BOO and myself along with Robert N9EF, Jack KC9RGW, Jon WA9JON and Bill Hollister K9WH put on an awesome showing of Amateur Radio.

Dave used his rig running FT-8. His vertical antenna was about 50 feet away from Dan's Hex beam up at approximately 35 feet. Although the station antennas were close, we managed to work a number of cool contacts. Among the farthest was British Columbia, the Island of the Azores and Spain. Dave worked on my computer hoping to get some of the digital programs working, but we just didn't get the settings right for total success. My machine also had a problem syncing the clock with the D4 timing program which still has to be solved. So we used Dave's rig on digital and my 7300 on phone and all worked well. We had a great opportunity to meet new people, many who might become hams.

One of the great highlights was watching the kids learning to send their names in Morse code. The look of success on their faces was priceless. As a reward for their efforts, we gave each person sending their name a sticker that says, "I sent my Name with Morse Code". The stickers were loved by all. A big thanks goes out to Dan's wife Sally who performed the magic of making the stickers that we used. We will have to see if we get some new club members as a result of our STEM efforts.

We had several young adults hang around that wanted to operate and make contacts. All good things.

We also learned a great deal about setup and adjacent transmitter operation running digital. I think we will have to retry digital this coming field day. Dave was only running 15 watts and didn't really cause any splatter so time will tell. So for W9CEQ, the event was a big success and we look forward to the next time we are asked to participate. I have included a picture of the hex beam we used for the operation.

Next Week we have our October meeting and we will have Kurt Eversole KE9N discussing tuned HF magnetic loop antennas. Kurt has been very successful with his antennas and the talk should be great, so see you all there.

73, Denny W9HI, President 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 September 12, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 19:36 CDT by President Denny W9HI. Audience introductions: Name, Call, QTH and: "Will you be able to operate your HF/VHF/UHF station if you lose house power?"

Approval of August 2017 Member Meeting minutes: Motion to approve by Dan W9STS seconded by Doug W9RD. Members approved the motion.

There were 42 people present at this meeting.

Treasurer's Report, Dean KC9EOQ

Dean reported the status of the club treasury.

Program, Jason NX9Y

Tonight's program: CJ WT2P, Remote contesting: Tips and Avoiding Mistakes.

Education, Allen KB9VO

The first class is scheduled for September 16 at the North Aurora Messenger Library. Allen is sending email to everyone who registered with him. The schedule will post to the web.

Net, Dave N9XU

2m Net is every Tuesday at 7:30. Dave said a new person is doing the audio program and is more cognizant of the timing, so the repeater timeout is no longer that much of a problem as it was in the past.

VE (Volunteer Examiner) Testing, Paul AC9BS

The next VE session will be Sept 19th at Messenger Library, North Aurora. The testing fee is \$15.00. Bring a copy of your current license if upgrading. There will be a VE session after the classes on Nov 21st. A new form (610) must be answered regarding anyone convicted of a felony. Paul needs a minimum of three VEs for the next testing session.

Membership, Chris KC9BKS

Chris reported a total of 152 active members.

ARES, Debby WX9VOR

Debby was absent this meeting but the following information is still valid. The training and regular meetings are on Thursdays (please see website for schedule). October 8th is the Chicago Marathon. Visit the website at www.kanecountyares.org or see Debby, WX9VOR for further details on any event.

Old Business: None

New Business:

QSL Card and LOTW Update, Dave W9BOO

If anyone knows of any old logs/ADIF files, please contact Dave. LOTW Stats: WN9E has 5289 QSOs uploaded with 1082 QSLs, W9CEQ 291 QSOs uploaded with 83 QSLs.

Farmers' Markets, Allen KB9VO

Dan W9STS is working on a tri-fold for the Farmers' Markets. Allen said it was a conditional success because we made many contacts (Boy Scouts, inactive Hams, etc). Allen also acknowledged and thanked everyone involved. Allen agreed that there are some improvements to be made to the process.

Solar Eclipse Station Report, Denny W9HI

Denny reported that we setup at Springbrook Prairie in Naperville but there was no power. A Honda 2000w generator was rented from Home Depot. The R7 Antenna was used with the Icom-7300. All the signals dropped out during the partial eclipse. The club received a certificate for participation from Ham-SCI.

Field Day Chair, Dan WA9YKK

Dan WA9YKK has been nominated and has accepted the position of Field Day Chair for next year.

Nominating Committee, Denny W9HI

Denny has asked Priscilla KD9ICS to the Chair for the Nominating Committee. We need two more people to be on the committee.

Locker Cleanout

The locker cleanout is scheduled for September 24th from 12:00 – 15:00.

Announcements

CJ also talked about some contests.

Eric K9LGE spoke of the Sept 23rd CFMC Hamfest in Belvidere. The Red Cross response trailer will be there. There will be a disaster services presentation on the Northern Illinois Floods. The Red Cross has been dealing with disasters of unprecedented magnitude. Eric gave the club an update of the current situations. Volunteer at <http://redcross.org>

Denny spoke of members with some special health concerns. Members of the club wish them all the best in their recovery.

Dean KC9EOQ reported that a CW Operator is needed for next week's 10-10 Net.

Marty N9NTM mentioned a list upcoming events in the area.

Lance W9QB reported the BARS repeaters are back on the air.

Upcoming Events

September 15-16th NIDXA

September 19th VE Session

September 24th Locker cleanout

September 30th STEM-O-RAMA with Scouts, Sandwich IL

October 3rd FRRL Board Meeting

October 10th FRRL Member Meeting

October 22nd Illinois QSO Party

Adjournment

Denny W9HI declared the meeting adjourned at 20:44 CDT. Motions received and accepted, the meeting was adjourned. Program by CJ WT2P followed.

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