



ARC OVER



The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League
Since 1924

Our 93rd Year in Amateur Radio!

September 2017



Proud to be an ARRL
Special Service Club



Board of Director's Meeting

October 3rd 2017 @7:00pm
Colonial Café—Aurora, Il.

Membership Meeting

October 10th 2017 @ 7:30pm
Bethany Lutheran Church

VE Session

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

For 2017, W9DXCC will host separate Contest University and DX University programs all day (8:30a - 4:30p) Friday September 15. You will have your choice of which classes to attend in either track.

An opportunity to learn from some of the premier contest and DX operators in the Midwest!

www.w9dxcc.com/registration.html

Click the above link for more information
Walk-ins are welcome.

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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
WX9SAB	Scott Burgholzer	General
KD9IXM	Ken Miller	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: 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

Persistent HF Challenge participants continued fighting difficult band conditions. While few updates were received, even modest gains are encouraging. Kudos to those who continue investing the effort!

“Daytime conditions have been awful to non-existent on most bands,” said Larry K9ARZ. “I put up a ground-plain vertical (Butternut) for 80-40 and 30 meters, but even the low bands have been lousy lately. I am looking forward to some improvement with the coming of autumn.”

Dick AH6EX/W7 has been tied up with other activities, but still made time for radio. “I seem to be too busy for much DX,” he said, “but did have a run on states trying out the new FT8 mode.” Dick reported contact with stations in 43 states just six weeks into the second half of the Challenge.

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] frl.org.

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

de KC9LQS

August 15, 2017				
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	93	20	145	258
Joe NA9A	19	2	84	105
Roger W9YU	56	14	80	150
Larry K9ARZ	95	23	242	360
Herb W9DTR	66	10	14	90
Rag Chewer Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	π
Dick AH6EZ/W7	0	0	0	31
Jim W9NJP	14	0	0	14
Herb W9DTR	8	0	0	8
Joe NA9A	4	0	1	5
Roger W9YU	12	0	1	13
Eric K9LGE				2

President's Traffic

Dennis Barfuss, W9HI

Well I am always impressed as how fast time flies and August has been amazing. Our August meeting provided a great discussion on the new digital mode FT8 by Kermit Carlson, W9XA. Almost immediately after Kermit's presentation, several of our club members started using FT8 and as of today have hundreds of contacts logged. What a great way to get new technology going. Also mentioned at the meeting is our outreach program spearheaded by Allen Nelson KB9VO.

In fact Allen has already coordinated two farmers' market outings, one on Aug 16th and the next was on August 20th. A big thanks goes out to Allen KB9VO, Pricilla KD9ICS, Dave W9BOO, Dan WA9YKK, Jim N9XP for their efforts at running the farmers markets radio stations. Our next farmers market is scheduled for September 6th in Aurora. Please check with Allen via email as additional operators are always needed. The more outreach we do the more members we gain and expand possibilities for the club and amateur radio.

August also saw the first solar eclipse in many years. We did indeed set up a portable station at the Spring Brook Prairie Pavilion in Naperville for the event. We used a small Honda generator for power, a Cushcraft R7 on a tipper for our antenna and an ICOM 7300 for the rig. 20 meters seemed to be the best band with low noise and strong signals. Our furthest contact was Mexico City. It was interesting as the eclipse became as full as it could at our latitude, the wind stopped blowing, all of a sudden there were no birds flying, and the band went dead. As we watched the sun through the clouds we also watched the spectrum display lose all the signals we had previously seen and the noise floor went almost to S1. Strangest thing I had ever seen. As the eclipse waned the noise and signals can back up. This was an event that we will not forget for a long time and are looking forward to the next full solar eclipse in 2024. By Tuesday we had submitted our log files both to LOTW and the Solar Eclipse QSO party. I believe that the logs will be sent on to universities that will utilize data reduction techniques to determine propagation changes during to the eclipse. We also received the following certificate for the club's participation.



We have also been busy sending out QSL cards for W9CEQ/W9NE contacts that did request a card. We have also created for the first time in club history QSL cards for our W9NE call sign that we utilize for contests like field day. I have included a copy of that card.

FOX RIVER RADIO LEAGUE W9NE



Fox River Radio League
PO Box 673
Batavia, Illinois 60510-0673

www.frrl.org



Grid Locator: EN51

PSE QSL TNX QSL

CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DAY	MONTH	YEAR	UTC	MHZ	RST		MODE
						Sent	Rec'd	

www.cheapqsl.com

So, all in all a very exciting month. See you at the September meeting.

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 August 8, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 19:32 CDT by Vice-President Roger W9YU. Audience introductions: Name, Call, QTH and: "Will you be able to operate you HF station for the Solar Eclipse special event stations and propagation tests?"

Approval of July 2017 Member Meeting minutes: Motion to approve by Larry K9ARZ seconded by Jason NX9Y. Members approved the motion.

There were 49 people present at this meeting.

Treasurer's Report, Dean KC9EOQ

Dean reported the account balances as of 8/1/2017

Program, Jason NX9Y

Tonight's program: Kermit W9XA New Digital Mode: FT8. Jason asked for members doing the 2017 Solar Eclipse to keep good stats for a brief talk at the next meeting.

Education, Allen KB9VO

Allen KB9VO has a list of instructors and schedule for the fall session. Allen also presented a signup sheet for the class. The first class is scheduled for September 16.

Net, Dave N9XU

2m Net is every Tuesday at 7:30. Dave N9XU needs operators (2 Net Control operators are needed immediately). Dave requested Kermit W9XA to lengthen the timeout value on the repeater.

VE (Volunteer Examiner) Testing, Paul AC9BS

The next VE session will be Sept 19th at Messenger Library, North Aurora. Paul is looking for a commitment for additional VEs. 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.

Membership, Chris KC9BKS

Chris reported a total of 150 active members.

ARES, Debby WX9VOR

The training and regular meetings are on Thursdays (please see website for schedule). The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation event is on August 19th, volunteers are needed. October 8th is the Chicago Marathon. DuPage OHSEM (Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management) has invited the ARES group to participate in their event on October 28th.

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

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

Hamfest Chair, Dan Taddei W9STS (Tom Churchill WD9DAU)

Dan W9STS thanks all members who helped with the Hamfest. \$1824 was the net proceeds to the club. 187 tickets were sold at the gate. 18 vendor tables were sold.

Farmers' Markets, Allen KB9VO

Allen KB9VO presented a schedule of the current events planned. He asked members to volunteer to sign up to assist the other members in operation at the Farmers' Market. Current schedule: Aug 16 Winfield – Aug 20 Oswego – September 6 Aurora West Galena. This is a great opportunity for the club to spread the word about Amateur Radio.

Solar Eclipse Station, Dan WA9YKK

Dan WA9YKK gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the upcoming solar eclipse. Dan will also place the presentation on the Club's Website (<http://fril.org>).

Parks on the Air (POTA), Harry K9DXA

Harry K9DXA gave a brief presentation explaining Parks on the Air, associated with the World Wide Flora and Fauna. Google POTA for the website for further details or to register. A special logging program is available for free download. Please see Harry if you have any further questions or need more information.

Announcements

Kermit W9XA gave a brief talk on the Amateur Radio Parity Act and urged ARRL members to get involved with the Senate Bill (SB 1534). The ARRL website has more information and a FAQ.

Harry W9DXA asked first time licensees to review his presentation ("I got my license, now what do I do?").

The BARS repeater in Bolingbrook has not been operational.

Upcoming Events

August 21st Solar Eclipse

September 5th Board Meeting

September 12th Member Meeting

September 19th VE Session

Adjournment

Denny W9HI declared the meeting adjourned at 20:44 CDT. Marty N9MTM motioned and Paul AC9BS seconded. The motion to adjourn passed. Program by Kermit W9XA 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