



ARC OVER



The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League
Since 1924

Our 94th Year in Amateur Radio!

January 2018



Proud to be an ARRL
Special Service Club

Board of Director's Meeting

February 6th, 2018 @7:00pm
Colonial Café—Aurora, Il.

Membership Meeting

January 9th, 2018 @ 7:30pm
Bethany Lutheran Church

VE Session

January 16th, 2018
Messenger Library in North
Aurora @ 7:00pm

CONGRATULATIONS!
2018
Officers and Directors Elected on December 12, 2017

President W9STS, Dan Taddei
Vice President W9YU, Roger Bara
Secretary W9BOO, Dave Booher
Treasurer WA9YKK, Dan Harmon
Director N9XP, Jim Nevitt
Director W9QB, Lance Clarke

The new Officers and Directors will be sworn in at the
January meeting.

Have you renewed your membership?

The last opportunity to pay your dues in person will be the January monthly meeting. After that you will need to mail a check or use PayPal to renew. Thank-You to those of you who have already renewed! We look forward to many activities in the coming year.

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Fox River Radio League Hamfest Suspended

At the November 2017 membership meeting, the President announced that the Board after much consideration and after the special Board session conducted in October, voted to suspend our hamfest, and hold it in abeyance until further notice. The primary considerations for the decision is the lack of vendors due to competing hamfests and declining ticket sales.

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
AA5TN	Gordon Dailey	Amateur Extra
KD9JKL	Priscilla Dobbin	Amateur Extra
KD9JUS	Steven Krave	General
W0LEN	Lynton Norstad	Amateur Extra
KD9JUQ	Elber Tejada	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 newsletter. 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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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
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License Trustee
Kermit Carlson, W9XA

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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

The 2018 Bill Erikson HF Challenge is now underway! Challenge Administrator Joe Dubeck NA9A has mailed 2018 worksheets to all FRRL members, and announced that this year's event remains unchanged from last year's structure. Following is an overview of how the Challenge operates. Feel free to bring your questions to Joe at the monthly meeting, or via email to Challenge [at] frri.org.

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.

The Goal: To contact as many of the states, provinces and DX entities as possible from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2018. 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 Erikson 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] frri.org by the 20th 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 2018 HF Challenge will be acknowledged and receive their certificates in January 2019.

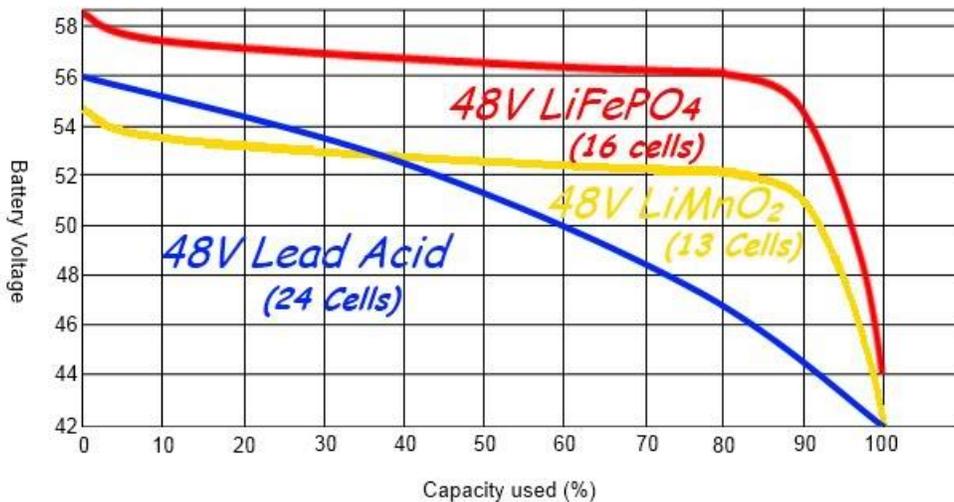
73 de KC9LQS

President's Traffic

Dennis Barfuss, W9HI

I hope you all had a very happy New Year. I know that the temperature for most of us hasn't been the best, but now is the time to settle into a winter regime and start to make plans for the spring thaw. As I mentioned earlier, I am still searching for a good portable antenna that will give me the flexibility to work 80 through 10 meters in remote locations not conducive to ground radials. I have contacted Tom, N6BT who was the founder of FORCE 12 Antennas. He has started a new company featuring new antenna technology. I will let you all know what thoughts and products he might have. This past August I met some hams in DC, and several of them know Tom and speak highly about his antenna success. You can google N6BT and read about Tom. On another note, John KC9OJV sent out an email regarding a new battery technology called Lithium Iron Phosphate, or *LiFePO₄*. This is interesting technology in that it is safer than the Lithium Ion batteries that we have been using and the weight is significantly less than our standard sealed lead acid batteries. Like many of you, I have a battery pack that I use for portable operation. The unit is great, but it was so heavy with the Lead acid batteries. This past summer I replaced the batteries with LiFePO₄ and the weight reduction is significant. Due to their interesting discharge curve you can get away with batteries that have a smaller amp hour rating but they actually last longer at their specified output voltage according to the literature. I am including a 48 volt discharge curve just for your information. The experts indicate that the discharge curve looks like a hockey stick vs the normal sla battery curve.

Typical Discharge Curve Comparison



I am anxious to hear from John on what he discovers about LiFePO batteries so we can all learn about their safety, charging, discharging, use and longevity.

On a final note, I would encourage all of you to come to our banquet dinner on January 9th. You can find the menu in your email and online. Tickets are via PayPal on our FRRL.org web page.

Blessings to you all for the New Year!!

73, Denny Barfuss W9HI

President Fox River Radio League



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 December 12, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 19:38 CST by President Denny W9HI. Audience introductions: Name, Call, QTH and: "Since Christmas is around the corner, have you written to Santa for any special Ham related items you are hoping to find under the Christmas tree?"

Approval of November 2017 Member Meeting minutes: Motion to approve by Larry K9ARZ seconded by Doug W9RD. Members approved the motion.

There were 49 people present at this meeting.

Treasurer's Report, Dean KC9EOQ

Dean reported on the account balances.

Program, Jason NX9Y

There will be no programs for December and January (Christmas Party and Banquet). The Christmas Party will have a grab bag event and treats for all. A presentation from Flex Radio for February is tentative.

Education, Allen KB9VO

Allen encouraged Club Members to seriously consider attending the upcoming Extra Class. Allen still needs an instructor for the class on February 10th (Radio Circuits and Systems). A signup sheet for the class was made available. Allen will also use this list to follow-up with informational emails and feedback.

Net, Dave N9XU

2m Net is every Tuesday at 7:30. More control operators are always needed, contact Dave for details.

VE (Volunteer Examiner) Testing, Paul AC9BS

The VE Testing completed on November 21st went well. Several people upgraded their licenses.

The next VE session will be Tuesday, January 16th at Messenger Library, North Aurora from 7PM to 9PM. The testing fee is \$15.00. Bring a copy of your current license if upgrading.

Membership, Chris KC9BKS

Chris reported a total of 155 active members. Chris also mentioned three recent new members to be added.

ARES, Debby WX9VOR

Debby was not present for this meeting. Visit the website at <http://kanecountyares.org> or see Debby for further details on any event happening with ARES.

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

Nominating Committee, Priscilla KD9ICS

Priscilla is leading the voting at the annual election for the Club.

Slate of Candidates for Officer and Director Positions. Election to be held during this meeting: Dan Taddei W9STS, President; Roger Bara W9YU, Vice President; Dave Booher W9BOO, Secretary; Dan Harmon WA9YKK, Treasurer; Jim Nevitt N9XP, Returning Director. Lance Clarke W9QB will seek the open Director position. The ballot also includes an amendment to raise certain member dues.

Voting Results:

President: Dan W9STS, 43 votes; Vice-President: Roger W9YU, 43 votes; Secretary: David W9BOO, 43 votes; Treasurer: Dan WA9YKK, 43 votes; Board Member: Jim N9XP, 43 votes and Board Member: Lance W9QB, 42 votes.

The amendment vote count was 35 for APPROVE with 9 DISAPPROVALS.

A total of 44 ballots were cast. Tom WD9DAU motioned for voting to be closed, seconded by Marty N9NTM. The voting was concluded.

ArcOver Editor

Since Dean KC9EOQ is retiring as Club Treasurer, Cyndi K9NAX has volunteered to be the new ArcOver editor.

Facebook Monitor

Facebook pages were created in 2013. They will now be managed by Cyndi K9NAX.

Public Relations

Cyndi K9NAX has also volunteered to step in to Public Relations role.

Roster Editor

Lance W9QB has volunteered to work with Chris KC9BKS to be the Editor for the Club Roster.

Banquet

The Club Banquet will be a catered event on January 9th. Tickets are \$10, payable via PayPal or available at the member meeting. Children under 12 are free, but please inform someone so they will be added to the head count for the caterer. Denny W9HI also previewed the menu.

Upcoming Events

January 2nd Board Meeting

January 9th Member Meeting and Banquet

January 16th VE Session

January 21st WCRA Hamfest – Kane County Fairgrounds

Announcements

A club member mentioned that the club needs a handout or instructions on how to join the Yahoo Group.

Adjournment

Eric K9LGE motioned the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Kermit W9XA. Denny W9HI declared the meeting adjourned at 22:52 CST. The Christmas Party 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