



ARCOVER



July 2020

The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League
96 Years of continuous service to our communities

1924  2020

Who We Are

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David Booher, W9BOO

Past President:
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Kermit Carlson, W9XA

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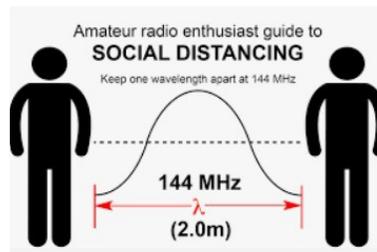
About Us

The Fox River Radio League, Inc. is a general interest Amateur Radio club serving the central Fox River Valley area in Illinois. Club records indicate the club has been in existence since at least 1924, and it 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 those seeking a new or upgraded Amateur Radio license, license examination sessions, and participation in various local Public Service events. Our membership covers a broad variety of interests - if you have a specialized amateur radio interest, you will likely find camaraderie with one or more of our club members.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at Bethany Lutheran Church, located at 8 S. Lincoln St. in Batavia, Ill. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM and includes a short business portion, social time and a program presentation of interest.

Meetings are open to the public. Anyone interested in the amateur radio hobby are invited to attend. Family members are welcome.



President Traffic

From the Presidents desk

Hello, to all. I hope that you had a fun Field Day if you worked the weekend. Even though I'm writing this in advance of the Field Day weekend I can hear the "issues". Bands just terrible. Lid was working CW and had no spacing, everything was one long word. You know it's a lot cooler this year and the food is pretty good. Mosquitos not so bad this year.



It's funny, I've said it a couple of times myself. I'm not going to work Field Day next year. I end up operating or helping with set-up. For me it is not the operating it is spending time with fellow hams and having a good time even though it might be miserable. It always seems worth it in the end. However, I'm not going to work Field Day again..... Yes, I probably will and I will probably enjoy it.

Our upcoming meeting will be via Zoom and our program will be on making crystals. I'm sure that we will also rehash some of our Field Day opportunities.

Until next time, stay radio active.

73 de Gordie KW0E



CALL	Name	License Class
W9RVN	Georgiann Arbetman	Technician
WB9NIR	Robert Arbetman	Advanced
W9DNJ	John Lobner	General
No Call	Mark Swistek	

Member Traffic

Securing PowerPole connectors

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In preparation for this year's Field Day, I made a bunch of cables with PowerPole connectors to connect the solar panel, charge controller and batteries that I used. If you're not familiar with PowerPoles, you might want to check out this YouTube video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o31iuOcQ-jo>). They're really great connectors, and have become the DC connector of choice for many hams.

When I make up PowerPole cables, I normally don't bother trying to secure the two halves together, especially if you're using some decently heavy gauge wire. They fit together pretty tightly, and don't come apart easily. Even so, I think securing them together is a good idea. You can buy a little roll pin to insert between the red and black housings that is supposed to prevent them from coming apart, but many folks complain that the pin has a tendency to fall out. This not only defeats the purpose, but could also damage your equipment.

Securing them is the right thing to do, though, and I recently came across some great suggestions on how to do this in the daily digest that I receive from the Elecraft-KX mailing list (<https://groups.io/g/Elecraft-KX>). Here are the best tips from the thread, Securing Anderson Power Poles (<https://groups.io/g/Elecraft-KX/topic/75060413>):

- Rudy K8SWD: You can thermally bond the red and black housings with a soldering iron like you are making little welds on both sides. Permanent (mostly) but it works better than the roll pins. Just clean the tip really good before soldering!
- Dave K0CDA: [Anderson] also make connectors that are thermally bonded together in pairs. They do NOT come apart.
- Don W3FPR: I use a drop of Super Glue on the junction of the plastic pieces. Warning – that glue grabs quickly, so slide the 2 pieces only enough to start the assembly, then apply the drop of glue and quickly finish sliding them together. I have never had ones prepared like that come apart, and I don't use roll pins. I will say one more thing – use only the genuine APPs. I have seen some knockoffs that do not mate well.
- Greg KC9NRO: Take a hot soldering iron. Wipe the tip with sponge. Run the tip down both side of APP bonding the black and red sides together. Clean soldering iron tip and apply some solder to tip. That's how I roll. Never comes apart
- Mike AI4NS: PVC cement will soften the plastic enough to bond them together. You can also get plastic welding rods, such as Daindy Plastic Welding Rods (https://www.amazon.com/dp/B086HNQXM3/ref=cm_sw_r_cp_api_i_poR8Eb88N54P4). Chuck a rod in a Dremel and weld them together. I have made plastic boxes and panels using this method.

Member Traffic cont'd.

- Jack WD4E: Snip the cotton end off a Q-tip, cutting at an angle. Insert into hole made for roll pin, cut off excess, save remainder of Q-tip for next requirement.

- Troy K4JDA: 2.5mm screws work well, stay in, and are easily removable.

I posted these suggestions to my blog (<https://KB6NU.com>) and got a few more great suggestions:

- Tom KB8UUZ: Fat tooth picks also work great. Jam it in, break it off.

- Bruce N0NHP: I use MEK (Methyl Ethyl Ketone) replacement to clean my circuit boards after soldering. A single drop of MEK on the junction between the two halves of the PowerPole shell will fuse them. It can be broken with a sharp tap but not accidentally. It will set and dry in seconds and should be applied after the shell pieces are put together.

I think these are all great suggestions. I think that I'm going to try the cotton swab method. While reading them, another thought occurred to me. I haven't tried this yet, but I'm thinking a little drop of hot glue on the roll-pin hole might work, too.

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and often appears on the ICQPodcast (icqpodcast.com). When he's not thinking up new ways to keep his PowerPoles together, he likes to teach ham radio classes and operate CW on the HF bands.

Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2020



The June meeting of the Fox River Radio League was conducted via group video using a product from Zoom, Inc.

There were 32 members present via video conference for this meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 1930 CST by President Gordon Dailey, KW0E.

Acceptance of the May 2020 Membership Meeting minutes: It was moved, seconded and approved.

Meeting minutes contd:

Treasurer's Report: Dan WA9YKK, reported the account bank account balances as of 06-02-2020. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded, and passed.

Director Report: Repeater, Terry, W9AUV, reported on the status of the repeater.

Director Report: Dave, W9BOO, No Report.

Director Report: Don, N9NLE, reported that the Arcover editor position is still open. President Dailey reported there may be a member interested in the position.

Director: Denny, W9HI, reported in the upcoming Technician class. The class will be conducted via Zoom, due to the social distancing rules in place at this time. The class begins on July 8th. More information will be forthcoming.

ARES, Marty, N9NTM, reminded the members of the ARES monthly meetings.

Repeater Report, Kermit W9XA: Not present.

Old Business:

Until further notice all future Board of Director and Membership meetings will be conducted using ZOOM.

New Business:

Terry, W9AUV updated the membership on the status of Field Day for this year. We will not be at the Forest Preserve due to their social distancing requirement. Information will be forthcoming on how the club will handle it this year.

On June 17th at 1900hrs. there will be a Field Day operator meeting via Zoom. If you need help or advice with antennas, radio, a place to operate or software please let us know. We will be continuing to use the Field Day software from www.N3FJP.com/fieldday.

Announcements: None

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 2015 CST.



June 27 & 28, Field Day

July, 7 BOD Meeting

July 14, Membership Meeting

Program:

Field Day Chairman Terry, W9AUV, there was extended discussion about the upcoming ARRL Field Day event and how the club was going to participate this year. All club members are encouraged to participate in FD and report their scores to the ARRL using the club name of Fox River Radio League. The words must be spelled out, FRRL will NOT give credit to the club for scoring. There will be an email sent out to all members very soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ
FRRL Secretary



I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself... I am the new editor of the ARCOVER...

I started listening to radio as a kid and at night trying to find the furthest AM radio station that I could...I then graduated to CB radio (KCV0884) as a teenager... I knew I liked radio so after high school I enlisted in the Navy and for six years , you guessed it, I was a radioman.. Two ships and shore duty in Annapolis Maryland...

In 1976 I started working at Dupage Public Safety Communications (DUCOMM).. I retired from there in 2016 and during those years I wore many hats,, From dispatcher to department supervisor..

I have an interest in Emergency Management as a member of the South Elgin EMA...

I live with my wife Nancy, two dogs and one cat in South Elgin... We have three kids (now young adults) and six grandchildren ranging in age from 2yrs to 21yrs.. quite a spread !!

My ham radio started sometime in the 80's with the call sign KA9VGE.. Then tech + and general as N9GUZ and now to my vanity call sign N9JLC..

I joined FRRL just before the COVID stuff started so I really haven't had much of a chance to meet/know everyone..

I'll keep plugging away at the newsletter and hopefully it'll get better and better...

Jerry Chapman
Editor