



ARC OVER



The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League
Since 1924

Our 92nd Year in Amateur Radio!

May 2016

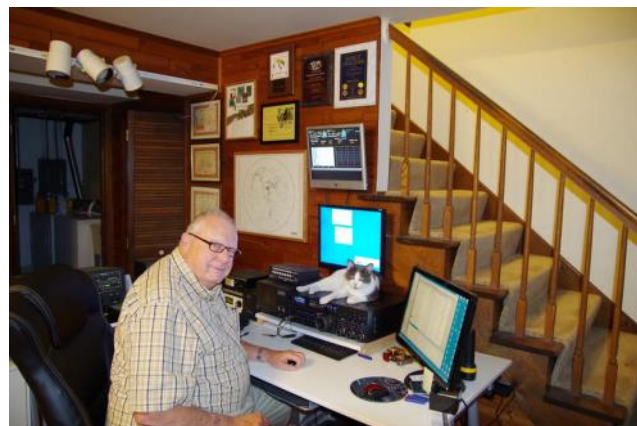
May Meeting Program features:

Jack Hudson, W9MU

DXing



Proud to be an ARRL
Special Service Club



I got my ticket in 1955 in Oak Park Illinois when I was going to Oak Park River Forest high school and have been licensed ever since. I have held several calls including my original KN9BWO, K9BWO, W7CBL, W9KDX and KR6JN. I came from a military family so we moved around a lot and my early interest in radio started in 1951 as a young SWL'er in Germany.

The KR6JN call is from Okinawa in 1957 (senior in Kubasaki High School on Okinawa.) I left Okinawa for the U of I and then entered the Army where I operated K9BWO/9 from FT Huachuca Arizona until I took a job in Seattle and operated as W7CBL for a few years.

Back to Illinois and W9KDX and finally W9MU as a vanity call. (always wanted a 1X2 starting with W) I ended up working at the College of Lake County for 30 years and retiring in 2003. My wife of 53 years, Carol, and our two kids are not hams but do encourage me. I have always been interested in DXing and some contesting and never tire of a DX QSO. I am fortunate to be on honor rolls for SSB, CW and Digital modes and on the top for SSB and Mixed. I still chase band countries and enjoy operating as much as I can.

What's Inside

About FRRL.....	Page 2
HF Challenge	Page 3
President's Traffic.....	Page 4
April Minutes.....	Page 5
Future Events.....	Page 6
Important Links, Repeaters and Net Info.....	Page 7

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
KD9EEV	David Brian	General
KC9KRD	Alexander Jovanovich	Amateur Extra
N9NYX	Donald Motz, Jr.	Amateur Extra

ArcOver FRRL Newsletter

Copyright 2016, 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: 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.

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
Mike Urso, K9FE

Secretary
Dan Harmon, WA9YKK

Treasurer
Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

Directors:
Roger Bara W9YU
Dave Bulkley, K9WDB
Jason Burzynski, NX9Y
Jim Nevitt, Jr., N9XP

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 are in order this month, following an update received from Challenge participant and administrator Joe NA9A. During the reporting period ending April 15th, Joe has logged contacts with every recognized DX entity!

“My contacts with FT4JA were the most satisfying,” he wrote, “because that was the last current country I needed to have worked them all.” Additional contacts included Equatorial Guinea, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Mayotte, Western Sahara, Herad Island, Rwanda and Timor-Leste.

Larry K9ARZ also reported some interesting QSOs with Palestine, Papua New Guinea, South Cook Islands, Equatorial Guinea, Timor Leste, Maudives, Sov. Mil. Order of Malta, Juan de Nova, Spratly, Sao Tome, San Andres Isl., Mayotte, and Cocos Keeling.

On a final note, welcome to Jack K9JE in the Operator Class, and Jim W9NJP in the Limited Class, who both officially joined this year’s Challenge with their first updates this month.

The next score reports will include contacts made between Jan. 1 and May 15. If you need a Challenge worksheet, see Joe at the next meeting. Questions and your mid-month report can be sent to Challenge [at] [frrl.org](mailto:fri@frrl.org). Please mark your calendar with a reminder to send in your update. Ideally, I’d like to receive them by the 20th of the month.

73 de KC9LQS

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Eric K9LGE	36	4	9	49
Jim W9NJP	24	5	17	46
Chris KC9BKS	3	0	0	3
Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Jack K9JE	24	5	86	115
Jason NX9Y	28	2	72	102
Roger W9YU	31	5	20	56
Jeff N9JZN	2	0	44	46
QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Larry K9ARZ	50	12	264	326
Joe NA9A	38	3	155	196
Dick AH6EZ/W7	50	11	83	144
Dean KC9EOQ	33	5	86	124
Rag Chewer Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Dick AH6EZ/W7	23	0	2	25
Joe NA9A	10	1	1	12
Jason NX9Y	6	0	0	6
Roger W9YU	1	0	0	1
Eric K9LGE	1	0	0	1
Dean KC9EOQ	1	0	0	1

President's Traffic

Dennis Barfuss, W9HI

Well the weather has seemed to have turned the corner so it is probably time for all of us to get outside and start checking out our antenna systems and feed lines. You might want to investigate building a new HF or VHF antenna. How long has it been since you checked your coax for deterioration? We all value good QSO's but they wouldn't be possible with a faulty antenna and feed system. In fact, you might inadvertently destroy your gear if you are transmitting into a bad load. I have had to repair my mobile antenna once when the SWR readings didn't look correct. I do check the system once a year usually just before vacation so I know the radio is going to work, especially if I am out in the boonies somewhere.

Last year I discovered some bad readings at my mobile rig and isolated them to the antenna. Feedline was ok. I also check my HF system and watch for any degradation in the SWR which might be a good indicator of failure. If you have coax exposed to the sun, you should consider buying good coax that is designed to withstand UV radiation. In many cases hams might want to buy the cheapest coax they can find, the probability is that that coax will degrade and possibly affect the operation of your station. Some of the new rigs will fold back the power if the transmitter sees a high VSWR, but many will just fail with a puff of smoke.

There are a lot of options for coax depending on your situation. Times Microwave, Anderson and ABR provide a lot of options and ABR has some good information regarding coax cable. Of course there are other vendors providing coax locally like Cable Experts. Again this is a good research topic and in the end helps the performance of your station.

In addition to the feed system, why not try building a new antenna. Last month I attended the SIG K9DXA is running for portable operation. Everyone was shown how to build an antenna and check it out with the antenna analyzer of your choice, or the one you can borrow. Perhaps you want to build a multi band dipole, a new vertical, J pole or an off center fed or end fed antenna. Well with the sunny weather on our door steps we now have that opportunity. In fact, this is a good time to build that new field day antenna with time to check it out. Or perhaps you want to work some new DX so you might try a Rhombic pointed in the direction you want to work contacts.

This month's program is on DX so your antenna work feeds right into working that weak DX. So good luck with your antenna and feed system work and hope to see you at the May meeting.

73 Denny W9HI

President



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 April 12, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Denny W9HI. Audience introductions: call, name, QTH and: are you a new member/first time or newly licensed/recently upgraded attendee? Will you be operating FD with us at Elburn Forest Preserve?

Approval of March, 2016 member meeting minutes. Motion to approve by Larry K9ARZ. Motion seconded by Eric K9LGE. Membership approved the motion.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Dean KC9EOQ reported account balances as of the end of March 2016.

Program, Jason NX9Y

April program topic will be Electro Magnetic Pulse or EMP and an org named INFRAGARD, May quartz and its applications to radio. May Field day presentation. June: Jack Hudson DXCC convention speaker. The FRRL web page shall include upcoming events and any changes to programming.

Education, Mike K9FE / Paul AC9BS

Mike will hold exam review classes for the Elburn SERC group. Paul AC9BS will assist Mike.

Net Dave N9XU

Dave reported that the 2 meter Net meets on every Tuesday at 7:30 pm except of the FRRL club meetings. Dave needs additional net controllers. Technical problems with "net mode" and system timeouts. Seven hams helped out with net control. Repeater difficulties.

VE (Volunteer Examiner) W9RD/Paul AC9BS

Doug W9RD 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. Next session in May

ARES Debbie WX9VOR

Meeting Reminder 4th Thursday the 28th spotter classes completed. Severe weather season coming next week starting April 17.

Old Business

Field Day Co-Chairs Phil W9XAN and Mike K9FE

Mike gave an update

Hamfest Co-Chairs Dave K9WDB and Tom Saballus KC9PHX with Dawn KC9LQS assisting

Tickets are available. Pick up tonight!! Or they will be mailed to each member. Help needed on July 9th, the Saturday before the Hamfest for setup.

The Hamfest co-chairmen need seminar presenters.

New Business:

No new business

Special Announcement:

The passing of Gary Senesac, AL9A on March 15th. A longtime member of the FRRL, past President and great person. Our club made a donation to the Matanuska Amateur Radio Club KL7JFU in Wasilla, Alaska per Gary's wishes. Dean, KC9EOQ placed a great article and links for information about Gary in this month's ArcOver, please check it out.

Announcements

Sandwich Hamfest DeKalb Radio Club on May 1st
MS Walk in St, Charles on Sunday May 1st, and Mike needs volunteers
Stoughton Wisconsin Hamfest April 16th

Upcoming Events

May 17th - VE Test Session
May 3rd - Board of Directors Meeting
May 10th - Membership Meeting, program on Quartz Crystals
June Field Day and Jack Hudson W9MU,
DeKalb Hamfest tickets are available
MS Walk on Sunday May 1st
Always check the FRRL.org web page for the latest information and/or changes

Adjournment

Motioned for adjournment by Mike K9FE and seconded by Jason NX9Y. Membership approved motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Dan Harmon WA9YKK
FRRL Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

Board of Director's Meeting

June 7th, 2016 @7:00pm
Colonial Café—Aurora, Il.

Membership Meeting

June 14th, 2016 @ 7:30pm
Bethany Lutheran Church

VE Testing Session

May 17th, 2016 @ 7:00pm Messenger Public Library in North Aurora

IMPORTANT AMATUER RADIO WEB PAGE LINKS

www.frrl.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