



ARC OVER



The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League
Since 1924

Our 92nd Year in Amateur Radio!

January 2016



Proud to be an ARRL
Special Services Club

Congratulations!

2016 FRRL Executive Board

- Denny Barfuss K9HI, President
- Mike Urso K9FE, Vice President
- Dean Holste KC9EOQ, Treasurer
- Dan Harmon WA9YKK, Secretary

Board of Directors

- Roger Bara, W9YU
- William Bulkley, K9DWB
- Jason Burzynski, NX9Y
- Jim Nevitt N9XP

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LAST CALL for TICKETS!!

2015 Dinner & Awards Banquet

Harry, K9DXA will begin selling tickets to the 2015 Award banquet to be held on January 23, 2016 at Prairie Landing Golf Club in West Chicago. This year you must pay for your banquet tickets separate from your membership renewal. Mixing the banquet and renewals into one check caused numerous problems in keeping track of who paid what, to who and when. Please help us to keep everything straight.

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
WB9LTN	Robert Dillon	Amateur Extra
KC9EJT	Michael Fogie	Technician
KC9KAX	Randal Ligocki	General
W9DNJ	John Lobner	General
No Call Yet	Gerard Novy	
KD9FBR	Tommy Thompson	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: 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.

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Fox River Radio League
Founded 1924

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Directors:
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Jason Burzynski, NX9Y
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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 Erickson HF Challenge

By Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

I always say it's never too late to get in on the fun of the HF Challenge, and that is true, but getting started in January gives you more opportunities to enjoy the camaraderie for as long as possible! The 2016 Bill Erickson HF Challenge is now underway!

As Challenge Administrator Joe Dubeck NA9A explained, 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.

Joe mailed this year's Challenge worksheet on Dec. 29th. If you didn't receive one, be sure to see Joe at the upcoming meeting to request a copy.

Those who worked the Challenge in 2015 should turn their worksheets in to Joe at the January meeting. You may also mail them to him at P.O. Box 1383, St. Charles, IL 60174-7383. However, be sure to let Joe know your worksheet is on the way. Deadline is Jan. 12th. As always, results of last year's Challenge will be announced at our annual awards banquet later this month.

Following is a summary of how the Challenge works, for the benefit of those who are new to the event. According to Joe, there are no changes to the rules for this year; the following summary is simply a recap of how it works. If you haven't worked the Challenge lately, or if you're new to the club or HF operation, you are strongly encouraged to get involved!

The Goal: To contact as many of the states, provinces and DX entities as possible from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2016. 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 Erickson HF Challenge is to stimulate operating activity. The main requirement, of course, is that you get on the air. Resources are in the works to help those who need a hand in order to do that. If you need help configuring your station or aren't yet sure how to go about calling CQ or working a pile-up, watch for articles, operating events and mentoring opportunities to help you get started.

The Reporting: Presumably, everyone has a logging program with which they are comfortable; from your log, record your HF contacts on the Challenge reporting sheet on a regular basis. The worksheet will be mailed to Joe next January. (From personal experience, I can assure you it is far easier to update your worksheet each week or month than to do so all at once on Jan. 1st!)

The ArcOver: 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] frrl.org by the 15th of each month.

Be sure your email includes your name and call, 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.

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 HF Challenge will be acknowledged and receive their certificates during the FRRL annual awards banquet in January.

Direct your questions and comments to Joe during our monthly meetings, or via email to challenge [at] frrl.org. Happy DXing! 73 de KC9LQS

STUDY QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

FROM THE TECHNICIAN POOL

Q: T2C08

What is usually considered to be the most important job of an amateur operator when handling emergency traffic messages?

- A. Passing messages exactly as written, spoken or as received
- B. Estimating the number of people affected by the disaster
- C. Communicating messages to the news media for broadcast outside the disaster area
- D. Broadcasting emergency information to the general public

FROM THE GENERAL POOL

Q: G4A09

Why is a time delay sometimes included in a transmitter keying circuit?

- A. To prevent stations from talking over each other
- B. To allow the transmitter power regulators to charge properly
- C. To allow time for transmit-receive changeover operations to complete properly before RF output is allowed
- D. To allow time for a warning signal to be sent to other stations

FROM THE EXTRA POOL

Q: E6C02

What logic state do the inputs of a TTL device assume if they are left open?

- A. A logic-high state
- B. A logic-low state
- C. The device becomes randomized and will not provide consistent high or low-logic states
- D. Open inputs on a TTL device are ignored

2016 Membership Dues

2016 Membership Dues will be collected between the November 2015 meeting and the February 2016 Meeting. **Please bring exact cash or a check made out to FRRL.** I do not have much cash available to make change. Once you get your renewal form, please review the information and make any changes needed. Again exact change will be greatly appreciated.

2015 Dinner & Awards Banquet

Harry, K9DXA will begin selling tickets to the 2015 award banquet to be held on January 23, 2016 at Prairie Landing Golf Club in West Chicago. This year you must pay for your banquet tickets separate from your membership renewal. Mixing the banquet and renewals into one check caused numerous problems in keeping track of who paid what, to who and when. Please help us to keep everything straight.



South Sandwich/South Georgia DXpedition Dates Announced: [The Intrepid DX Group](#) has announced its itinerary and operating schedule for its January 2016 South Sandwich/South Georgia VP8SGI/VP8STI DXpedition. South Sandwich Islands is No.3 on ClubLog's [Most Wanted DXCC List](#); South Georgia is No 8. The Intrepid DX Group's Paul Ewing, N6PSE, said the team expects to arrive at South Sandwich on January 17, depending on weather and sea conditions. The team will spend 10 days on South Sandwich, operating as VP8STI before sailing to South Georgia Island to start operations as VP8SGI about February 1. "Our main priority is to make a great impact to the need for South Sandwich contacts, and we will sacrifice our time at South Georgia to ensure that we make that impact from South Sandwich," Ewing said. -- *Thanks to the Intrepid DX Group*

President's Traffic

Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

The start of the new year is always a big deal to me. Both personally and professionally, I give myself time as January approaches to think about what I'd like to write upon this clean slate during the coming 12 months. In equal measure, I recognize what I've accomplished and consider how I might build on those milestones; and I evaluate the efforts that fell short of the mark, deciding what improvements might net better results.

This year, I'll be stepping down as FRRL president after two terms, and turning the reins over to your new president, Denny W9HI. In addition to thinking about the ways I will be offering my support to Denny, I'm also reflecting on what we all accomplished together in the last two years. Care to join me for a stroll down memory lane?

- We conducted our two major events each year, Field Day and Hamfest, as well as a number of operating activities and special interest groups, with members turning out in strong numbers and reporting afterward that they felt the events were successful.
- We continued our ongoing Education efforts and VE test sessions, making it possible for local radio enthusiasts to earn their first ticket or upgrade to greater operating privileges.
- We continued offering monthly programs on a wide range of topics, striving to provide information that appeals to new hams as well as those with a lifetime of experience.
- We secured a new home base for our monthly meetings, one that is not only appropriate for our needs but also easily accessible to members with mobility issues.
- We opened channels of communication through periodic FXpeditions and member surveys, and the results of these efforts were discussed by the board and used to direct the club's activities and offerings.
- We launched our new Outreach effort, letting the community know more about amateur radio in general, and FRRL in particular.
- We received a bit of publicity through the local newspapers, two mayoral proclamations, the use of the Batavia Library's front lobby display area, and a fortuitous opportunity to be featured on a half-hour cable television show.

The last two years have been quite full, mostly satisfying, and frequently amazing, and what I will take away from this experience is the way we worked *together* to make it all happen. In my two years serving this active, intelligent group, there was rarely a time when a task went undone or a volunteer didn't step forward to fill a need and keep things running smoothly. I applaud the tireless spirit and the enthusiasm of those who took on headed committees, taught classes, led SIGs, organized projects or activities, saw to details big and small, long-term jobs, and generally, did whatever was needed to keep our club vibrant, active and engaged. Working with you has been gratifying, and I want each of you to know that you made my job and that of the Board a great deal easier than it otherwise would have been.

I stepped into this leadership role with two main objectives in mind. First, it seemed important to ensure that we were offering what members most wanted. Based on the feedback you provided in the Final Membership Survey, we've done a pretty good job of that. Secondly, I wanted to increase awareness of amateur radio and make FRRL more accessible to those in the community who might enjoy and benefit from the resources and camaraderie we offer. I think we've made a good start in that direction, and I intend to continue working on that goal through various channels in the future.

While this may be my last offering via the President's Traffic column, it certainly isn't a farewell message. Rather, I want to leave you with my gratitude for an experience that was as demanding, meaningful, and irreplaceable as anything I've done before. Thank you for working with me to keep FRRL strong and move us in new directions. Together, we accomplished a great deal, but there is so much more for us to do. I can't wait to see where the journey takes us next.



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 8, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM by President Dawn Williams KC9LQS. Audience introductions: call, name, QTH and: are you a new member/first time or newly licensed/recently upgraded attendee?

Reports

Approval of November, 2015 member meeting minutes with revisions to ARES section and call sign typos:

Eric K9LGE made a motion to approve November 2015 member meeting minutes, Seconded by Marty N9NTM, and approved by the membership in attendance.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Dean KC9EQ reported the account balances as of November 30th. Dean is accepting 2016 member dues. Harry, K9DXA is accepting ticket money for the 2016 Annual FRRL awards banquet.

Program

Director Jason NX9Y. The January 2016 program will be presented by Harry K9DXA: "How I found a portable site for the Illinois QSO Party, how I planned it and how I did it". Planned for February 2016 program by Vice President Mike K9FE is "Arduino is your friend!!"

ARES

Report by Debbie WX9VOR: SKWARN recognition day. Lots of fun at the National Weather Service (NWS). 508 QSO'S and about 2 dozen guests. Found bad cable and bad Poly Phasor when relocating antenna feed to radios. Next meeting of the Kane County ARES will be January 28 at Kane County Government Center EOC training room. Experimenting with Echo Link on HF.

Education

Vice President Mike K9FE announced Amateur Radio license exam review sessions. General Class exam reviews will be scheduled for the middle and end of January and Extra Class reviews tentatively in February. All review sessions will meet on Saturday mornings at the North Aurora Library.

Net

Dave N9XU 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.

VE (Volunteer Examiner) Testing update and info

An FCC Amateur Licensing session will be conducted on Tuesday January 19, 2016. 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.

Old Business

Banquet tickets, Harry K9DXA reported

Date: January 23 Saturday from 5pm to 9pm at the Prairie Landing Golf Course Club House. DJ with music and cash bar. GOOD ROOM. The program will not include a HAM guest speaker. Dress is business casual. Please refer to the FRRL.org website for details. Harry is selling tickets tonight and at the January 12 meeting.

New Business

Election of 2016 Officers/Board of Directors

Nominating committee conducts Officer and Board of Director election

Results:

Denny Barfuss W9HI President

Mike Urso K9FE Vice President

Dean Holste KC9EOQ Treasurer

Dan Harmon WA9YKK Secretary

Jim Nevitt N9XP Director (2 years)

Roger Bara W9YU (2years)

Dawn Williams KC9LQS is appointed as Past President.

(Secretary Note: Per the FRRL Constitution, the immediate past president retains voting membership on the BOD)

Motion made by Doug W9RD to destroy all Ballots. Motion seconded by Paul W9DWP. Motion carried by membership

President Dawn KC9LQS distributed paper ballots for 2015 Ham of the Year. She requested that a name and some support explanation be included on the ballot and that it be turned in by the end of the meeting.

Announcements

Various hamfest dates and locations announced by Paul W9DWP

TAPR recognized Kermit K9XA for hosting the 34th ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference in Schaumburg with a plaque expressing thanks. The conference was held October 9-11, 2015.

Upcoming Events

Jan 5th BOD Meeting

Jan 12th Membership Meeting

Jan 19th VE Test session

Jan 23rd Awards Banquet

Adjournment

Jim N9XP motioned to adjourn and Kermit W9XA seconded the motion. Motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:23PM.

Respectfully submitted

Dan Harmon WA9YKK

FRRL Secretary



January Contest Dates

+ Kid's Day Contest	1800Z-2359Z, Jan 3
+ ARS Spartan Sprint	0200Z-0400Z, Jan 5
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Jan 6
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 6
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Jan 6
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jan 8
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 8
+ North American QSO Party, CW	1800Z, Jan 9 to 0559Z, Jan 10
+ NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB	0630Z-0830Z, Jan 10
+ NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW	0900Z-1100Z, Jan 10
+ DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z-1059Z, Jan 10
+ Midwinter Contest	1000Z-1400Z, Jan 10
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jan 15
+ Hungarian DX Contest	1200Z, Jan 16 to 1159Z, Jan 17
+ North American QSO Party, SSB	1800Z, Jan 16 to 0559Z, Jan 17
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Jan 18
+ NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Jan 21
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Jan 22
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0200Z-0330Z, Jan 22
+ NCCC Sprint Ladder	0230Z-0300Z, Jan 22
+ YL-ISSB QSO Party, CW/SSB	0000Z, Jan 23 to 2359Z, Jan 24
+ Montana QSO Party	0000Z-2400Z, Jan 23
+ UK/EI DX Contest, CW	1200Z, Jan 23 to 1200Z, Jan 24
+ WAB 1.8 MHz Phone	1900Z-2300Z, Jan 23
+ QRP ARCI Fireside SSB Sprint	2000Z-2359Z, Jan 24
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Jan 27
+ CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	2200Z, Jan 29 to 2200Z, Jan 31
+ Feld Hell Sprint	0000Z-2359Z, Jan 30
+ REF Contest, CW	0600Z, Jan 30 to 1800Z, Jan 31
+ UBA DX Contest, SSB	1300Z, Jan 30 to 1300Z, Jan 31
+ Winter Field Day	1700Z, Jan 30 to 1700Z, Jan 31
+ ARRL January VHF Contest	1900Z, Jan 30 to 0359Z, Feb 1

UPCOMING EVENTS

Board of Director's Meeting

January 5, 2016 @7:00pm

Colonial Café—Aurora, IL

Membership Meeting

January 12, 2016 @ 7:30pm

Bethany Lutheran Church

VE Testing Session

Jan. 19th, 2016 @ 6:45pm
Messenger Public Library in
North Aurora

Technician Pool- A. Passing messages exactly as written, spoken or as received

General Pool- C. To allow time for transmit-receive changeover operations to complete properly before RF output is allowed

Extra Pool- A. A logic-high state

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