



# ARCOVER

The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League  
Since 1924

Our 90th Year in Amateur Radio!



November 2014



Proud to be an ARRL  
Special Services Club

## 2015 Membership Dues

You can now renew your membership for 2015 at the next three membership meetings. Dues will be taken until the January 2015 membership meeting. Below is the new, member dues schedule as passed by the members at the September club meeting.

Individual Membership (under 65)	\$25.00
Family Membership	\$35.00
Senior Citizen (65 & Over)	\$15.00
Senior Family (Both Spouses)	\$20.00
Student (Full Time, under 22)	\$15.00

A donation to the Repeater fund has not changed and remains at \$10.00 per year.

Checks should be made out to FRRL and is the preferred method of payment in order to prevent a missing name on a cash only list. Please be kind to your Treasurer and not gang up on him all at once at the meetings! You can also mail your dues to the club PO Box address.

Sincerely,  
Dean, KC9EOQ

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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 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 member to the club!

CALL	NAME	LICENSE CLASS
Not Yet!	Bart Lautz	Soon!

## 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: [arcover@frrl.org](mailto: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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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 quarter.

Regular dues are \$20.00 a year, Senior Citizen dues are \$12.00. Family dues are \$30.00. Members can help support the FRRL Repeaters by making an annual \$10.00 donation.

## Bill Erikson HF Challenge

By Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

The year is drawing to a close, and participants are working hard to capture rare DX, improve their scores, and most importantly, have as much fun as possible for the duration of this year's Challenge!

Dick AH6EZ, now participating as /W7 in keeping with his new QTH, reports that his Hex Beam is now up. "I finally have been able to break through to Europe and Africa," he said. "I do not have a rotator on the mast which means a lot of mad dashes out of the ham shack to turn the antenna (sometimes in the rain)."

Joe NA9A reported after working Christmas Island, he only needs one more CW country to get on the CW-only Honor Roll. "I have it on Mixed and Phone," he said, "so it'll be nice to round out the complete set. And if I ever get Juan De Nova, Europa, I'll have them all with a #1 Honor Roll." Other QSOs of interest included Singapore, Dodecanese and Micronesia.

Larry K9ARZ worked a number of new entities, including Mauritania, Palau, Mayotte, Lord Howe, Tokelau, Mongolia, Marquesas, Easter Island, Austral, Tristan da Cunha, and Christmas Island. "I had been using a makeshift vertical while waiting for the new beam and tower to go up," he said. "Now thanks to Dawn, Jeff, and Eddie, the new system is up and running!"

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Paul KC9UZV	91	13	70	174
Eric K9LGE	25	5	4	34
John AG9D	45	5	20	70
Paul KC9SEB	66	10	42	118

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Jack K9JE	47	10	122	179
Dean KC9EOQ	58	7	98	163
Jason KB9MEL	52	4	50	106
Bill NF9D	12	1	13	26
Ron KC9SNI	9	1	16	26
Roger W9YU	72	1	97	180
Dan W9STS	43	1	6	50
Herb W9DTR	82	15	71	168
Dawn KC9LQS	1	0	2	3

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Larry K9ARZ	100	25	431	556
Dick AH6EZ/W9	91	13	133	237
Dick AH6EZ/W7	45	12	140	197
Alan W9AN	44	6	91	141
Jim N9XP	19	0	91	110
Joe NA9A	74	7	352	433
Robert K9EUI	42	2	49	93

Rag Chewer Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Paul KC9UZV	13	0	2	15
Dick AH6EZ/W9	6	0	1	7
Dick AH6EZ/W7				5
Joe NA9A	7	0	4	11
Herb W9DTR	24	2	3	29
Dan W9STS	3	0	1	4

**STUDY QUESTIONS  
OF THE MONTH**

**FROM THE TECHNICIAN POOL**

**Q:** T6D08

Which of the following is used together with an inductor to make a tuned circuit?

- A. Resistor
- B. Zener diode
- C. Potentiometer
- D. Capacitor

**FROM THE GENERAL POOL**

**Q:** G0B07

Which of the following should be observed for safety when climbing on a tower using a safety belt or harness?

- A. Never lean back and rely on the belt alone to support your weight
- B. Always attach the belt safety hook to the belt D-ring with the hook opening away from the tower
- C. Ensure that all heavy tools are securely fastened to the belt D-ring
- D. Make sure that your belt is grounded at all times

**FROM THE EXTRA POOL**

**Q:** E9G01

Which of the following can be calculated using a Smith chart?

- A. Impedance along transmission lines
- B. Radiation resistance
- C. Antenna radiation pattern
- D. Radio propagation

**ARRL Radiosport**

Ward Silver, N0AX

ARRL Contest Editor

**What's Next?**

As the ARRL's Centennial year comes to a close, so does the steady stream of "W1AW Portable" operations that have brought so many to the HF bands in 2014. Folks who probably didn't see themselves doing a lot of HF operating have found themselves watching propagation, building antennas, jumping into pileups and generally having a great time! This series of events, shining a spotlight around the continent and out into the Pacific and Caribbean, has been one of the most popular ARRL programs ever.

So what happens on January 1<sup>st</sup> when W1AW/something disappears from the airwaves and returns to its little brick building at 225 Main Street in Newington, Connecticut under the watchful portrait of The Old Man? We'll all have pileup withdrawal, that's what! I haven't heard of any follow-up program and I think the several million contacts will take some time to confirm, but still, mike-button thumbs, keyboard fingertips, and key-tapping digits will be eager for activity in 2015.

This is your opportunity to guide new HF operators in building on their success through award programs and contests. These are always available and with a year's worth of experience chasing W1AW, our new operators will find easy success as they fill their logs with DX, rare counties, and hours of contacts. Now is the time to schedule a late-December or January club program about operating in contests or chasing awards like DXCC or CQ's WPX.

Show them how to keep an envelope on file at the QSL bureau - and maybe even volunteer to sort a letter or two. If they're not on Logbook Of the World, why not explain how that works. Present a survey of some of the awards within their reach. The [K1BV Awards Directory](#) is free and lists more the 3,300 awards for accomplishments small, large, and...strange!

Those of us who have been around for a while tend to forget how thrilling it was to complete Worked All Continents. Or maybe that first time you experienced a solid over-the-pole or long-path opening during a contest, filling the log with call signs you never expected to hear, much less log. Hey, pass it on! Be a radiosport Elmer and have a ready answer when asked, "What is there to do now?"

73, Ward NØAX

## President's Traffic

Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

November brings damp, chilly days, longer nights, and fewer outdoor activities vying for our limited free time. It's an ideal opportunity, as individual hams and as a club, both to catch up and plan ahead.

Catching up covers a wide spectrum. It can mean tackling administrative and organizational tasks like confirming QSOs, updating logs, giving the shack a good fall cleaning, or reorganizing tools, equipment and spare parts that accumulated during the hectic summer months.

Fall is a good time to catch up on maintenance, too. If you haven't done so already, make sure your antennas and tower, if you have one, are in optimal condition and ready to face another season of above-average snowfall and below-average temperatures. Check your manufacturer's recommendations, but in general, this is the time to make sure your connectors are adequately weather sealed, nuts and bolts are tight, brackets are secure, and cables and thrust bearing are lubricated. If you have a wire antenna like I do, it's a good idea to lower it and give it the same once-over, ensure your ropes are still in good shape, then raise and re-secure it. Preventative maintenance now will help improve the odds that we all stay on the air throughout the winter, and it's much more pleasant to freshen things up now rather than face repairs in the snow!

As winter approaches, it's also a good time to explore new technologies and operating modes that interest you. Several members of the club have expressed an interest in learning or improving CW, for example, while others might want to delve deeper into an aspect of radio in which they already have a base of knowledge. Why not pick up a few books, find online resources, and get together with other club members who share your interest? By spring, you'll be proficient enough to present a program on the topic – and you'll have fun along the way.

The slower months of the year also give us an opportunity to look ahead and begin laying the groundwork for new challenges. Internal improvements to the shack can be done regardless of the weather, and you can certainly develop plans for antenna improvements any time of year – and possibly act on them as weather permits. (A word of warning, though: be absolutely sure your tower is free of ice if you decide to do antenna work; the presence of ice can decrease the wind load rating substantially, putting undue stress on the structure and making it unsafe to climb.)

As a club, we're doing much of the same kind of catching up and planning ahead. Soon, we will elect the officers who will guide FRRL through the coming year. Right now, the current board is evaluating the club's efforts and activities, deciding where resources were well spent and considering where to allocate them in the coming year (subject to the decisions of next year's board, of course). We've also been exploring alternative ways to make our internal processes more efficient, and looking at what has worked, what hasn't, and how we as a club might continue to grow in the future.

I hope you are planning to take advantage of the lull over the next few months by investing in the development of your skills and knowledge, and your enjoyment of the hobby. And if you are so inclined, perhaps you might share your growing expertise with fellow club members in the months ahead.

Best regards to all of you and to your families for the Thanksgiving holiday.

73 de KC9LQS



# November Contest Dates

+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Nov 7
+ ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Nov 8 to 2359Z, Nov 9
+ WAE DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Nov 8 to 2359Z, Nov 9
+ 10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital	0001Z, Nov 8 to 2359Z, Nov 9
+ JIDX Phone Contest	0700Z, Nov 8 to 1300Z, Nov 9
+ SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Nov 8 to 2400Z, Nov 9
+ OK/OM DX Contest, CW	1200Z, Nov 8 to 1200Z, Nov 9
+ Kentucky QSO Party	1400Z, Nov 8 to 0200Z, Nov 9
+ RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB	2000Z-2100Z, Nov 12
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Nov 14
+ SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Nov 15 to 1000Z, Nov 16
+ All Austrian 160-Meter Contest	1600Z, Nov 15 to 0700Z, Nov 16
+ NA Collegiate ARC Championship, SSB	2100Z, Nov 15 to 0300Z, Nov 17
+ ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	2100Z, Nov 15 to 0300Z, Nov 17
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Nov 17
+ NAQCC CW Sprint	0130Z-0330Z, Nov 20
+ YO International PSK31 Contest	1600Z-2200Z, Nov 21
+ LZ DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 22 to 1200Z, Nov 23
+ RSGB 80m Club Sprint, CW	2000Z-2100Z, Nov 27
+ CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 29 to 2400Z, Nov 30

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Board of Director's Meeting

November 4, 2014 @7:30pm  
Colonial Café—Aurora, IL.

### Membership Meeting

November 11, 2014  
@7:30pm  
Bethany Lutheran Church

### VE Testing Session

Nov. 18, 2014 @ 7:30pm  
Messenger Public Library  
North Aurora, IL

Technician Pool- D. Capacitor

General Pool- B. Always attach the belt safety hook to the belt D-ring with the hook opening away from the tower

Extra Pool- A. Impedance along transmission lines



Fox River Radio League  
"Established 1924"  
An ARRL Special Service Club  
W9CEQ PO Box 673 Batavia, IL 60510

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## FRRL Membership Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2014

Meeting was called to order by Dawn KC9LQS at 7:33 p.m.

After the intros, Dawn presented the next Expedition question: What would you like to see as our activity during this year's holiday party in December?

### Reports:

Minutes from prior meeting were presented. Mike K9FE made the motion to accept them and Denny W9HI seconded. The minutes were approved by the membership in attendance.

Treasurer's Report : Dean, KC9EOQ presented the current balances.

Program: Denny W9HI will be presenting the program on how to put on a Field Day

Education: Mike K9FE explained that the next General upgrade class will begin on Oct 25. He has flyers and information can be found on the club website, including the topics to be covered each week. Mike also recognized the past and current club members teaching the Technician and General courses.

ARES: Debby shared information on the next Kane County ARES meeting plus the recent statewide simulated emergency test and the annual Chicago marathon, both just concluded. She asked for volunteers for a walk/run in Cantigny November 1, to help the DuPage ARES group who is working at the event.

### Old Business:

Outreach: Dawn explained to the group that the club will have a station at the St. Charles farmers market October 23. Dan WA9YKK, Tobi K9TCD and Harry K9DXA will be there.

Nomination Committee: Tobi presented an update on the nominations committee activities so far. One person has agreed to run for one of the open Director positions. Another Director position and the Secretary slot still need to be filled. Dawn added that we still need to fill the secretary position for the duration of the 2014 term.

Fall/Winter Activities: Dawn noted that no volunteers came forward to spearhead any events this fall or winter. This topic will be tabled until 2015. Dawn urged other club members to become active in helping put on activities. She said that Board members have done so much to date that they need a break.

N9XP Fundraiser: The fundraiser closes tonight. Anyone wishing to make a donation before the end of the night should see Dean.

### New Business:

Dick Iseley W9GIG presented the latest information on the bill HR4969, which urges the FCC, already empowered, to take action to allow amateur radio operators to work with homeowner associations to resolve disputes. Dick lobbied in Washington, D.C. and helped to get more than 60 cosponsors of the bill.

### Announcements:

Dawn congratulated Mike K9FE on working all 50 states on 40 meters.

Bart (no call), who just joined the club, informed the group that he was President of the Men's Auxillary of the Batavia VFW. The VFW puts on a Thanksgiving dinner each year for the community. He is looking for donations to help fund the meal for over 100 people. Upcoming Events were noted including upcoming contests and the Board and Membership meetings in November, as well as the next VE session. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

# FRRL Winter Banquet - Saturday Jan 24, 2015

The 2014 FRRL Winter Banquet will again be held at St. Charles Place. Tickets go on sale at the November meeting, and will be available at the December, and January FRRL meetings. Contact Harry Jones K9DXA (k9dxa@arrl.net).

## Date & Location

The festivities will start at 5:00 PM, Saturday, January 24, 2015 at the St. Charles Place located at 2550 East Main Street (State Route 64) in St. Charles, IL.

## Menu Entrees & Prices

There will be a choice of three entrees at our banquet. Prices include tax and gratuity.

Prime Rib of Beef \$49.00 (red ticket)

Norwegian Salmon \$37.00 (blue ticket)

Chicken Marsala \$34.00 (yellow ticket)

Caesar Salad, Traditional Baked Potato with butter and sour cream, Green Beans, and Ice Cream Dessert is included with each.

\*\* Put name or call sign on your ticket and lay on dinner table \*\*

This reserves your place and tells server which entree to put down.

## Schedule

Cash bar 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Dinner Served - 6:15 PM

Awards - 7:30 PM

Program Speaker - 8:30 PM

## Rules of Engagement

1. Tickets must be purchased in advance - no payment at the door.
2. No complimentary tickets except for Speaker.
3. Outside food or beverages not allowed in restaurant.
4. Blue jeans and camouflage clothing not allowed.
5. Dress code is business casual. Men - conservative sport coat, tie, and slacks.  
Women - slacks or skirt with blouse and/or sweater.

## Program Speaker

Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA was licensed in 1961 (WN9AVT), and enjoys propagation, DXing, contesting, playing with antennas, and working on and using vintage equipment. Carl is a graduate of Purdue University, and retired in October 2013. He was an RF design engineer for Motorola and Raytheon (formerly Magnavox).

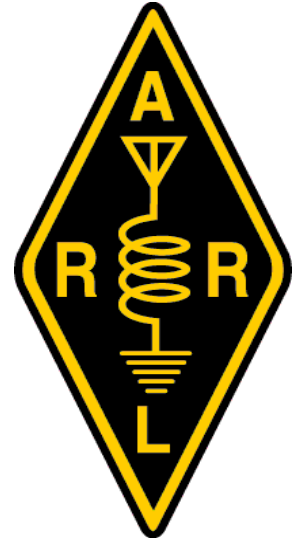
Carl's presentation is two-fold. First, he will give an update on Solar Cycle 24 and he will review the early predictions for Cycle 25, including a discussion of the possibility of entering another Maunder Minimum.

Second, he will review the historical contributions by Amateur Radio operators to the science of radio. He will then tie this into ways to bring youth into Amateur Radio to turn around the ever-increasing average age of those in our hobby and to invigorate clubs.



## IMPORTANT AMATUER RADIO WEB PAGE LINKS

[www.frrl.org](http://www.frrl.org)  
[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)  
[www.colpage.org](http://www.colpage.org)  
[www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com)  
[www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net)  
[www.twit.tv/hn](http://www.twit.tv/hn)  
[www.dxspots.com](http://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