



ARC OVER



The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League
Since 1924

Our 91st Year in Amateur Radio!

October 2015



Proud to be an ARRL
Special Services Club

Jamborall Photos

Thanks to those who helped make it a success! There were lots of Scouts stopping by our table to learn about Morse Code.



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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 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
ND8G	Bernard Hightower	Amateur Extra
KD9AHT	Douglas Hutchison	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 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.

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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 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

Participation seemed to have picked up just a bit since last month's HF Challenge update, possibly in response to slightly improved propagation conditions. Joe NA9A was able to snag a contact with the Republic of Southern Sudan. Larry K9ARZ reported that new entities on the air were scarce during late August and early September, but he did make contact with Armenia, St. Vincent, Fernando de Naronha, Australia, Benin, Bermuda, Belize, Andorra, Bonaire, Aruba, Peru, Zambia, and Turks and Caicos.

Dick AH6EZ/W7 reports putting his Hex Bean back up (at 16' instead of 12') in preparation for the Illinois QSO Party. This, as well as the addition of a rotator, has given him better a somewhat better ability to communicate with Europe and Africa, he said. He's currently on the lookout for West Virginia and South Dakota; those QSOs will give him all 50 states for the second time this year.

If you'd like to jump in for the last quarter of this year's Challenge, or if you have questions, see Challenge Administrator Joe NA9A at the next club meeting, or send an email to Challenge [at] fril.org.

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Paul W9JML	41	6	24	71
Paul KC9SEB	38	4	11	53
Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Roger W9YU	84	15	102	201
Herb W9DTR	48	10	48	106
Dan WA9YKK	21	1	65	87
Jeff N9JZN	3	1	64	68
Jason NX9Y	48	3	39	90
Dawn KC9LQS	0	0	53	53
Bill NF9D	27	1	2	30
QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Larry K9ARZ	92	25	367	484
Joe NA9A	64	15	277	356
Dick AH6EZ/W7	98	20	285	403
Cedric WT2P	50	5	90	145
Alan W9AN	69	5	80	154
Dean KC9EOQ	28	5	46	79
Marty N9NTM	2	0	38	40
Rag Chewer Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Dick AH6EZ/W7				65
Herb W9DTR	13	3	6	22
Jason NX9Y	28	0	1	29
Joe NA9A	10	0	2	12
Paul W9JML	2	0	1	3

STUDY QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

FROM THE TECHNICIAN POOL

Q: T1A04 [97.3(a)(23)]

Which of the following meets the FCC definition of harmful interference?

- A. Radio transmissions that annoy users of a repeater
- B. Unwanted radio transmissions that cause costly harm to radio station apparatus
- C. That which seriously degrades, obstructs, or repeatedly interrupts a radio communication service operating in accordance with the Radio Regulations
- D. Static from lightning storms

FROM THE GENERAL POOL

Q: G1A14 [97.303]

Which of the following applies when the FCC rules designate the Amateur Service as a secondary user on a band?

- A. Amateur stations must record the call sign of the primary service station before operating on a frequency assigned to that station
- B. Amateur stations are allowed to use the band only during emergencies
- C. Amateur stations are allowed to use the band only if they do not cause harmful interference to primary users
- D. Amateur stations may only operate during specific hours of the day, while primary users are permitted 24 hour use of the band

FROM THE EXTRA POOL

Q: E1B05 [97.303]

What is the maximum bandwidth for a data emission on 60 meters?

- A. 60 Hz
- B. 170 Hz
- C. 1.5 kHz
- D. 2.8 kHz

Nobel Laureate Joe Taylor, K1JT, the developer of the popular *WSJT* "weak-signal communication" software suite is advising users to avoid what he called "unauthorized" versions of his software. He said problems could result by using these builds on the air, and any results that might be shared with the broader user community would be unhelpful. "Third-party individuals -- ie, others not part of the *WSJT* development team -- have been compiling *WSJT-X* from the open-source code and making unauthorized 'releases' of their builds," Taylor said September 8 in a [discussion](#) of *WSJT-X* "fast modes" on his website. "I do *not* recommend use of these builds on the air. If you operate with one of these unauthorized 'rXXXX' code revisions in our experimental code branch, you have no idea what you've got." Subsequent observations regarding what does or does not work, he said, then become "worse than useless. They waste your time and ours."

WSJT-X implements *JT9*, which Taylor has described as "a new mode optimized for weak-signal communication on the LF, MF, and HF bands." Taylor said *JT9* is about 2 dB more sensitive than *JT65* while using less than 10 percent of the bandwidth. *WSJT-X* is an "experimental" or "extended" package. Plans call for the eventual inclusion of other popular modes now supported in *WSJT*.

A new [alpha release](#) of experimental *WSJT-X* v1.6.1, r5910 was posted for download on September 18.

[More information](#) on the *WSJT* software suite is available on Taylor's website.



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

Jeff and I spent an unscheduled day off last weekend getting the house ready for fall and winter. He mowed the grass down low to make raking easier, and brought in the late harvest of tomatoes from our garden. I pruned the tropical plants populating our patio and cleaned them up so we could bring them indoors until warm weather returns. I found myself sinking happily into nesting mode, thinking about the little tweaks and finishing touches that will make indoor life more comfortable as the season progresses.

I think I'm nesting where the club is concerned, too. As my second term as president draws to a close, my thoughts have turned to making the reins a little easier to grasp for your next leader. It seems that a good deal of the president's focus during the first year in office is spent learning the ropes and keeping things running smoothly. We can't send candidates to school for training, but surely there are ways we can free some of their energy for work of substance in addition to the administration of the club.

To this end, the board has begun work on what I introduced at the October board meeting as my last major goal as president. We are working together to create a Board of Directors Handbook, which I expect to have completed by the January board meeting. The handbook will include job descriptions for each office, as well as for committee heads and ad hoc positions. We'll include schedules for ongoing tasks, check lists for major events, guidelines for specific activities, and reminders for each month. I'm considering other useful information that might further assist future board members in their roles as well.

The seed for this idea was planted several years ago, when I first took office. Past President Harry K9DXA presented me with a page of tasks the president must attend to, organized by month, which helped a great deal when I stepped into the office. Since then, I've added to and expanded the list, so that it grew from a single page to half a dozen. Although I will certainly edit down my copious notes, I believe what remains will help next year's president make quicker work of the learning curve.

The process of running this very active club, even though the responsibility is shared by the entire board, consists of more than just checking items off a list of things to do, though. At our best, as each officer does his or her part, the result is something akin to an intricately choreographed dance, the movements both seamless and purposeful, the outcome sometimes surpassing our expectations. My hope is that the handbook will help future boards surpass their expectations, too.

Over the past two years, I've collected your ideas and opinions about topics that affect the club and the way it functions. These, too, will make their way into the handbook. While the needs and preferences of the membership will undoubtedly change in years to come, including your present thoughts in the handbook will give future FRRL leaders a starting point as they consider goals for their time in office and for the club as a whole. The interests of the membership, in my opinion, are a large part of what should drive the actions of the board.

Toward that end, and in the interest of leaving a positive and useful legacy to next year's board, I'm initiating one final survey of your interests and opinions. It will be distributed during our October meeting, and will be available on the website after that so members who aren't able to attend next week will still have an opportunity to share their thoughts. The results will be included in the handbook for consideration by next year's leaders.

So start nesting, and let yourself think about all that we've harvested together in the last two years, and what tweaks and finishing touches would continue to make the club useful, comfortable and welcoming to its members, both new and long-standing. I look forward to your responses to the survey and working with the board to lay a strong foundation for next year's work.

73 de KC9LQS



October Contest Dates

+ California QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 3 to 2200Z, Oct 4
+ 10-10 Int. 10-10 Day Sprint	0001Z-2359Z, Oct 10
+ Oceania DX Contest, CW	0800Z, Oct 10 to 0800Z, Oct 11
+ Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	1200Z, Oct 10 to 1200Z, Oct 11
+ Arizona QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 10 to 0600Z, Oct 11 and 1400Z-2359Z, Oct 11
+ Pennsylvania QSO Party	1600Z, Oct 10 to 0500Z, Oct 11 and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 11
+ FISTS Fall Unlimited Sprint	1700Z-2100Z, Oct 10
+ 10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW	0001Z, Oct 17 to 2359Z, Oct 18
+ Iowa QSO Party	1400Z-2300Z, Oct 17
+ New York QSO Party	1400Z, Oct 17 to 0200Z, Oct 18
+ Worked All Germany Contest	1500Z, Oct 17 to 1459Z, Oct 18
+ Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Oct 17 to 1500Z, Oct 18
+ South Dakota QSO Party	1800Z, Oct 17 to 1800Z, Oct 18
+ Asia-Pacific Fall Sprint, CW	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 18
+ Illinois QSO Party	1700Z, Oct 18 to 0100Z, Oct 19
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Oct 19
+ ARRL School Club Roundup	1300Z, Oct 19 to 2359Z, Oct 23
+ CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Oct 24 to 2400Z, Oct 25
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Oct 28
+ Phone Fray	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 28
+ UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Oct 28
+ RSGB 80m Club Sprint, SSB	1900Z-2000Z, Oct 29
+ NCCC RTTY Sprint	0145Z-0215Z, Oct 30
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Oct 30
+ Feld Hell Sprint	0000Z-2359Z, Oct 31
+ ARRL EME Contest	0000Z, Oct 31 to 2359Z, Nov 1
+ Russian WW MultiMode Contest	1200Z, Oct 31 to 1159Z, Nov 1

UPCOMING EVENTS

Board of Director's Meeting

October 6, 2015 @7:30pm
Colonial Café—Aurora, IL.

Membership Meeting

October 13th, 2015 @7:30pm
Bethany Lutheran Church

VE Testing Session

Nov. 17th, 2015 @ 6:45pm
Messenger Public Library in
North Aurora

Technician Pool- C. That which seriously degrades, obstructs, or repeatedly interrupts a radio communication service operating in accordance with the Radio Regulations

General Pool- C. Amateur stations are allowed to use the band only if they do not cause harmful interference to primary users

Extra Pool- D. 2.8 kHz



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 September 8, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 19:35 by Dawn Williams, KC9LQS. We had 50 people signed in.

Name, Call, QTH, First time visitor? Newly licensed? Recently upgraded? Let us know

Reports

Minutes of August 11, 2015 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Jason, NX9Y and seconded by Dan, WA9YKK to approve the minutes as published. Motion carried

Treasurer – Dean KC9EOQ reported the account balances as of the end last month:

Program – Due to a cancelation Harry, K9DXA filled in and gave us a presentation on special interest groups. He also asked us for ideas concerning special interests.

Education – Mike, K9FE told us our next classes would be five sessions and students would be required to do more work. Tentative start date is September 26.

Net – Dave, N9XU asked for more operators again.

ARES – Debby, WX9VOR, reminded us that the next meeting would be September 24. She noticed a good article in QST. She also mentioned an October marathon.

Old Business

Boy Scout Jamberall – Dan, WA9YKK is spearheading this. It is a two or three day event in Sandwich, Ill. and will take place in October. In the past 1,200 hams have shown up in uniform. It will be held on an October weekend.

Final Outreach cancellation – The final outreach in Aurora was cancelled due to a work conflict. Next year we may have an outreach in Naperville.

New Business

Presentation of Nominating Committee – The nominating committee consists of the following members:

Kermit, W9XA

Phil, W9XAN

Jeff, N9JZN

Current Secretary’s Position – Dawn brought up the fact that the current secretary, Jack, KD9CPN, now has a new commitment fixing up a house that is a two hour drive away from our FRRL meetings.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the General Membership of the
Fox River Radio League (FRRL) an Illinois not-for-profit Corporation (**cont'd**)

For that reason he has to pass the baton to someone else. Dan, WA9YKK has volunteered to fill in until the next election. He in turn will have to be elected by vote next month.

Announcements

CB Equipment Available (radios & antennas) Contact Vic (815) 505-7400.

Announcements from the floor – The subject of D-star was brought up. Would some of the people who use D-star want to be elmers? Are you interested in D-star? Can we meet and discuss the subject?

Upcoming Events

September 22nd – VE Test Session. At 7:00. Bring documents and fee.

October 6th – Board meeting

October 13th – Membership meeting

Adjournment

The motion was made by Dean, KC9EOQ and seconded by Mike, K9FE to adjourn the meeting at 20:10.
The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Tofari KD9CPN

IMPORTANT AMATEUR RADIO WEB PAGE LINKS

www.frri.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