



# Arc Over

April, 2012

Fox River Radio  
League  
PO Box 673  
Batavia, IL  
60510-0673

---

## President's Traffic

By Harry Jones K9DXA

The weather has turned, and Hams have set their sights on antennas. What antennas have you put up, fixed, removed (???), or just plain "fine-tuned"?

How about DXing with low power (SSB & CW)? On 10 watts (yes – 10 watts) you can work all over Europe with CW and to some interesting DX locations with SSB.

Mike K9FE and Chris KC9IEQ announced that Field Day 2012 will be handled at Jericho Lake in Aurora. Everyone says "Got to dodge the Frisbees!" Please help the band captains with this event. They need operators. There will be catered food for the Saturday evening meal. Be sure you come out on Field Day and check out the site. If you do not care to operate, you can still have dinner and a nice chat with the others. We will not tell if you should happen to find a chair at one of the rigs! Mike and Chris will have more details soon.

It was a treat last month to see a number of Eric's AB9OS General upgrade class finish and pass their test. Our meeting host's leader, Fr. Cesar N9CCP became a General too! I believe Eric is planning an Extra upgrade class later this year. Are there any takers?

Dawn KC9LQS is getting ready to organize more short term special interest groups, including topics that will interest new Hams. If you are not active, it is time to tune in and make plans to participate. And if you are active, come ahead and have a great time, too.

It's also not too early to approach Dawn KC9LQS about helping her with the FRRL Hamfest in July. We have a nice group of commercial suppliers scheduled to be with us again this year. Hamfests bring us together, and the FRRL Treasury could use the benefit.

Now that we have a station at our host, St. Rita Church, we need to keep in mind the church policy about using their facilities. Please do not visit the church to operate without getting me or the designated person from the club to request and get approval from St. Rita Church first. There are about 90 organizations that regularly seek meeting space on the church campus, and only three of the groups are not directly affiliated with the church. For the time being, please make your request to me. Also, please be sure that Dick AH6EZ has checked you out on operating procedures at the church. See Dick about any new ideas you have to utilize our new resources.

Dave N9XU is running his own digital modes net every Wednesday night on 2M. Get the details from Dave and jump in.

I just returned from a visit to Superfest. Another fine program. Saw some from FRRL and a few old friends. Had a nice chat with a couple from the Milwaukee area. Joel Hallas W1ZR from ARRL staff gave a great program on "The Doctor Is In." Most of the questions were about antennas, transmission lines, and tuners. I'll bet the nice weather has motivated the hams to cultivate their antenna farms. Bob Heil K9EID and

*(Continued on page 3)*

# D R A E T

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the General Membership of the  
Fox River Radio League (FRRL) an Illinois not-for-profit Corporation  
Held at St. Rita of Cascia, Aurora, IL

---

Meeting Minutes March 13, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Harry Jones K9DXA – President with 51 attending.

- Harry K9DXA welcomed all, and asked that each attendee introduce him/herself as Name/Call/QTH.
- **Reports:**
  - **Secretary's Report:** Harry K9DXA reported that there were no suggested modifications to the minutes. Mike K9FE moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Debby WX9VOR. The motion carried.
  - **Treasurers Report:** Dean KC9EOQ provided the treasurer's report.  
Checking \$ 664.66  
Savings \$6004.51  
Petty \$ 70.00
  - **Program:** Dick AH6EZ will assemble a hex beam antenna for the VY0 DXpedition maybe do a QSO. Compare spider beam & other designs with this.
  - **FRRL/St.Rita Projects:** Dick AH6EZ reported the cabinet is complete, 10+ people helped bring it in. Introduced the initial rules, still waiting to check the Echo Link, waiting for the cell phone amplifier. Mast has been repaired.
  - **Small Group Program** – Dawn KC9LQS talked about signup, organization, and kickoff. Six major topics were identified. Antenna building, DStar, Kit Building, Morse Code, New Operator, Antenna diagnostics and repair.
  - **Website Research** – Dawn KC9LQS. Website needs to be streamlined. Ideally without HTML. There will be a couple of different sites as examples. Hope to finalize in the near future.
  - **ARES** – Debby WX9VOR for Bill NF9D announced Kane County and DuPage ARES just had a big training session Saturday at Tellabs. Everyone needs to have a Weather Radio!! Weather could get worse this year.
  - Chris KC9BKS announced Kendall County www.KC-ARES.org will be supporting the Kendall Plano High School in April. Check KC-ARES.org for updates.
  - April 14 Saturday Tom Skilling will present a weather intro.
  - **Wireless Mike** – Mike K9FE many choices, ~\$450. Still getting other options.
  - **Newsletter** - Tobi K9TCD said not much news, send articles!
  - **Hamfest** – Dawn KC9LQS reported that several vendors have already signed up for the FRRL Hamfest to date. Things are going well.
  - **Repeaters:** Dick AH6EZ talked about IRLP. The node remained connected for days. The reflectors had no time outs. Now with 15 min timeout there have been no further problems.
  - **Net Control** - No report.
  - **PSKNet** Dave W9XU 144.9 Wed after 9 pm Check in on voice. Showed two project boxes, soon to be in QST!
  - **Cougars Night** – No report.
  - **Public Relations** – No Report.

## Old Business

None.

## New Business

BOD nomination for new FRRL life member, Knute Dresden, WB9NJL. Moved by Bob N9BTF, seconded by Randolph W9HE. Motion carried. Knute was recognized and presented with a Life Member certificate.

## Announcements –

**QSL Bureau** Jack K9JE anyone with bureau cards, give them to him and he'll mail them in!

**Raffle** Chris KC9IEQ will take over after the meeting

**FRRL** moved successfully to rented facility, Dean KC9EOQ At Easy Storage 31 and Sullivan in North Aurora.

- **Education** – Harry K9DXA thanked Eric AB9OS for doing such a good job. Eric reported that the General Class Upgrade Sessions are going along great.
- **VE Team** – Doug W9RD reported the next session 1 week from tonight. Will need \$15, original license and copy, and photo id.
- **FRRL use of St. Rita Facilities** - Harry K9DXA announced St. Rita has restrictions for facility use. If you want

Gordon West WB6NOA (you know Gordy!) talked up Ham Nation. Bob gave some great pointers on improving the challenge of QRM by paying more attention to your audio. Yes, both receive and transmit audio. The brats provided by the Boy Scouts were good, too.

I'm sure most of you have recent experiences you could share with us. Write it down and send it to Tobi K9TCD. She will do a great job giving your note prime space in an upcoming Arc Over.

Until next month, have a great time with your hobby! <dit> <dit>

to use their facility, you need to get qualified with Dick AH6EZ and then we need to reserve the time with the Church. The Board is open to ideas for use.

**Chatter During Program** - Harry K9DXA asked for better attention and respect for program givers and watchers.

**HF Challenge** Harry K9DXA recognized 2011 award winners that had not yet gotten their certificates.

- o **Field Day** – Mike K9FE and Chris KC9IEQ shared that Field Day is emergency preparedness, food, etc. Site is at Jericho Lake in May 22, 23, 24. Mike checked it out and found it is electrically quiet. Band Captains are being selected. Setting up antennas on Friday after 1pm. 4<sup>th</sup> full weekend of Rain in May.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Randolph W9HE and seconded by Eric K9LGE. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Randal Ligocki KC9KAX  
FRRL Secretary

**New Members**

Welcome to the following new member:

CALL	NAME
KC9UZV	Paul Fotre

**Program Notes**

The April program will be training and guidance on the radio cabinet, the TS430 and K1 radios, antenna tuning, and provide time for new operators to get on the air. Dick AH6EZ will be able to project a video camera image of the radio front panels so that the whole group can watch and participate.

**Club Operating Event**

FRRL will be sponsoring a multi-operator event during the ARRL Rookie Roundup at the shack at St, Rita Church basement cafeteria from 11:00 am - 4:30 pm on Sunday, April 15, 2012. We are especially looking for "Rookies" (licensed after Dec. 31, 2009) to operate the club station during the ARRL Rookie Roundup on SSB. There will be a control operator available and we anticipate using W9CEQ. The actual operating time will be 1:00pm - 4:30pm. Rookies will be invited to come a little early to get some suggestions from experienced operators.

## Bill Erikson HF Challenge Update — Mid-March 2012

By Eric Needles AB9OS

AAAARGH...there be pirates! Just ask Larry K9ARZ who found one in Nepal! They are out there, so be on the watch. By the way, the best way to find out if you've run into a pirate is to get on the City of Lights 10-10 net, Monday nights at 8:30pm on 28.720 USB and listen for any discussion of pirates.

Welcome to new additions this month; Jeff K9BQL is back in under limited CW, Jerry KA9VMD is back under Limited PSK31 and Herb W9DTR is back in with entries in the Operator Class and Ragchew.

This month, Larry K9ARZ added Equatorial Guinea, Annobon, Egypt, Tonga, Chad, Futuna, Timor Leste, Somalia, Malaysia and Thailand while Joe NA9A added several asterisk countries including 3B9/OE4AAC Rodriguez Island, 3C6A Equatorial Guinea, 3C0E Annobon, 6O3A Somalia, 7P8GF Lesotho and ZL7/VO1AU Chatham Island.

Gary K9MMS has been very busy at the bottom of HF with all 50 states worked on 160 meters, as well as 8 of 9 provinces and 29 DX entities. And speaking of working all 50 states, 4 people have already done it for the year. Way to go Gary, Herb, Larry and Dick!

Before we get to the scores, here is an FRRL HF CHALLENGE Countries Update. The Republic of South Sudan, The 193rd member of the UN has finally been assigned a callsign prefix block: Z8A through Z8Z. So the new prefix for this 7/14/2011 created entity is Z8. It's also CQ Zone 34 and ITU Zone 48. For your logging software, it's DXCC Entity #521. On your 2012 Bill Erikson FRRL HF Challenge worksheets, please enter any 2012 contacts with this entity in the space provided now as ST0 South Sudan. We suggest you also add Z8A-Z8Z=ST0 on your DX Prefix Cross-Reference List.

Still on the subject of prefixes, Dick Illman, AH6EZ, who has been doing a lot of studying about Canadian callsigns lately, pointed out a longstanding error on page one of the worksheet. Please cross out the VE1 prefix shown for New Brunswick. VE1 is only Nova Scotia. VE9 is correct for New Brunswick.

Now for the numbers...

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX	Total
Gary K9MMS-CW	50	9	160	<b>219</b>
Jeff K9BQL-CW	3	1	124	<b>128</b>
Steve N5EP-CW	43	6	69	<b>118</b>
Jerry KA9VMD-PSK31	4	0	1	<b>5</b>
Eric AB9OS-CW	3	0	0	<b>3</b>

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX	Total
Herb W9DTR	50	11	87	<b>148</b>
Jim N9XP	20		52	<b>72</b>
Tobi K9TCD	31	4	56	<b>91</b>
Tom WB9CHY	40	4	38	<b>82</b>

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX	Total
Larry K9ARZ	50	12	190	<b>252</b>
Dick AH6EZ	50	12	169	<b>231</b>
Maurice N4LZ	40	7	82	<b>129</b>
Joe NA9A	32	5	152	<b>189</b>

Ragchew Class	States/Provinces	DX	Total
Dick AH6EZ			41
Herb W9DTR			21
Steve N5EP	12/1	1	14
Joe NA9A	4	1	5
Eric AB9OS	1	0	1

## Radio Education

By Jere Yanek KA0KPO

I plan to attend the Extra Class License course that Eric will orchestrate in the fall. However, it is almost 30 years since I studied for and passed my Advanced License test. Our club's General License class, I thought, would be perfect to help me prepare for the Extra studies. So, I am attending. My experiences might be of interest to some members who have been reluctant to attend.

The course is being presented by Eric Needles, AB9OS. It is being held on Saturdays at the facility where we have our monthly meetings from 9:15 AM to 12:15 PM. About 11 members are participating.

It was obvious to me in the first few moments of the first class that I was going to enjoy his efforts and this class. Eric is organized and is an interesting speaker. It also helps that he is extremely knowledgeable about the subject of Amateur Radio. He is making sense out of the ARRL's License Manual. Each day he brought in various pieces of equipment or electronic components to show us the actual items we would cover in that day's lesson. For certain subjects he asked other special members to be the presenters. I am seeing much of what I have forgotten over the past 30 years.

For me the most important thing I am learning is how to study for my Extra Class license. Eric has followed a method I like and it will make the fall sessions easier.

Nice job, Eric.

## DX Code of Conduct

thanks to Jack Ekstrom K9JE for providing the following:

- I will listen, and listen, and then listen some more
- I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly
- I will not trust the cluster and will be sure of the DX station's callsign before calling
- I will not interfere with the DX station nor anyone calling him and will never tune up on the DX frequency or in the QSY slot
- I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call him
- I will always send my full callsign
- I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval; I will not call continuously
- I will not transmit when the DX Operator calls another callsign, not mine
- I will not transmit when the DX Operator queries a callsign not like mine
- I will not transmit when the DX station calls other geographic areas than mine
- When the DX Operator calls me, I will not repeat my callsign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly
- I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact
- I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect

## Community Activity to Encourage Youth Participation

On February 28, 2012 Mike K9FE and Harry, K9DXA (with the assistance of Dave KF9IO) demonstrated Ham radio to a group of students from the Pingree Grove, IL area. This was the first step towards the formation of a Cambridge Lakes Charter School radio club. Later on this spring Mike K9FE is teaching a soldering skills class for interested middle school students.

Harry worked with the students to communicate on 15 meters with Larry KF7DED, from Phoenix, Arizona. The questions that the youth asked were mostly sports based. Larry lived in this area and worked in Saint Charles, IL before moving to Arizona. The questions were about Chicago teams which Larry enjoyed talking about.



## 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 St. Rita of Cascia Church in Aurora. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM and includes social time,

a business portion and a program of interest.

All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome.

*We hope to see you there!*

## License Exams

The Fox River Radio League, Inc., in conjunction with the ARRL VEC, conducts amateur examinations on the 3rd Tuesday of January, March, May, September and November at St. Rita of Cascia Church in Aurora at 7:30 PM. A special session is held at the club's hamfest, usually in July each year. No advance registration is required, but please be sure to bring your license (if you have one) and a photocopy

of it, some form of photo identification and the fee of \$15.00. (The FRRL receives no portion of this fee.)

**The next exam session is scheduled for May 15 at St. Rita of Cascia church. Please see the [frrl.org](http://frrl.org) website for details.**

## FRRL Dues

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 \$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.

Check with the Treasurer for details and additional dues rates.

## Nets

Net Name	Freq.	Day	Time
FRRL	147.210	Tuesday	7:30 PM Local
10-10 CW	28.150	Monday	8:00 PM Local
10-10 SSB	28.720	Monday	8:30 PM Local

## Fox River Radio League

Founded 1924

### Mailing Address:

Box 673  
Batavia, Illinois  
60510-0673

### Email:

[info@frrl.org](mailto:info@frrl.org)

### Web Site:

<http://www.frrl.org>

### President

Harry Jones, K9DXA

### Vice President

Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

### Secretary

Randal Ligocki KC9KAX

### Treasurer

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

### Directors:

Denny Barfus W9HI  
Jack Ekstrom K9JE  
Dick Illman AH6EZ  
Neil Potter KB9RFX

### Past President

Mike Urso, K9FE

### License Trustees:

Kermit Carlson, W9XA  
Bob Dillon, WB9LTN

### Newsletter Editor

Tobi Davis, K9TCD  
[newsletter@frrl.org](mailto:newsletter@frrl.org)

### Webmaster

Bill Muhr, NF9D  
[webmaster@frrl.org](mailto:webmaster@frrl.org)



**FRRL CLUB MEETINGS ARE HELD AT ST. RITA OF CASCIA IN AURORA, IL, BUT LOCATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK THE FRRL WEB SITE FOR THE ADDRESS AND A MAP TO THE MEETING LOCATION.**

<http://www.frrl.org>

Send Address Corrections to:  
Fox River Radio League, Inc.  
3023 Scenicwood Lane.  
Woodridge, IL 60517

### FRRL Event Calendar

#### April, 2012

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 3  
FRRL Meeting ..... 10

#### May, 2012

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 1  
FRRL Meeting ..... 8  
VE Session ..... 15

### ArcOver FRRL Newsletter

Copyright 2012, 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 20th day of each month for the next month's newsletter. Articles can be sent by email to [arc-over@frri.org](mailto:arc-over@frri.org) or via U.S. Mail. 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.

### Local Area Repeaters/Nets

**W9CEQ—147.210 Mhz.**  
+600 KHz, 103.5 access tone  
Owned by FRRL

**W9CEQ—444.300 Mhz. IRLP Node # 4850**  
+5 Mhz, 114.8 access tone  
Owned by FRRL

**W9CEQ\_B D-Star—442.10625 Mhz (+ 5.0 Mhz offset)**  
**W9CEQ\_C D-Star—147.225 Mhz (-6.0 Mhz offset)**  
FRRL Digital Voice/Data Repeaters  
Contact W9XA for information

**KC9OEM—145.470 Mhz.** -600 KHz, 103.5 access tone  
**KC9OEM—444.525 Mhz + 5 Mhz,** 114.8 access tone  
**(2 meter is primary Kane Co. SKYWARN /ARES freq)**  
Owned by Kane County OEM

**W9DWP—Kane Co. Amateur Public Svc. Rptrs.**  
145.270 -600 KHz, 107.2 access tone  
443.025 +5 Mhz 114.8 access tone  
Both repeaters are dual mode APCO-25 NAC-293

**W9ZGP—NIARC**  
147.060 +600 KHz, 103.5 access tone

- Weekly ARES/Skywarn Net—Wed. Eve. at 6:30 pm local time on the KC9OEM 2 meter repeater
- Weekly FRRL Net—Tues. Eve. at 7:30 pm local time on the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- Monthly Simplex Net—4th Tues following weekly FRRL Net on the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- Illinois DStar Net - Wed. Eve. at 8:00 pm local time on the DStar 440 repeater.