



ARC OVER

The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League
Since 1924



August 2013



Proud to be an ARRL
Special Services Club

Member Support Made Hamfest a Fun, Successful Event

This year's Hamfest is successfully behind us. As always, the event offered fun, food, and plenty of bargains on radio equipment and accessories. The generous support of our loyal volunteers and the participation of some of our favorite vendors combined to create a festive and productive day for those who attended.

Our main vendor area featured almost 50 tables with offers from some of our favorite vendors, including Amateur Accessories, Gold Medal Ideas, Dits and Dahs, the RF Adaptor Guy, newcomer American Science and Surplus, and numerous private vendors. Information and education booths were offered by ARRL, AMSAT, ARES, and the National Weather Service. FRRL staffed its own information table, a club sales table, and our Ask The Elmers booth.

What's Inside

- About FRRL.....Page 2
- HF Challenge.....Page 3
- Hamfest Photos.....Page 4
- More Photos.....Page 5
- President's Traffic.....Page 6
- Event Information.....Page 7
- Contests.....Page 8
- ARES Information.....Page 9
- Meeting Minutes.....Page 10
- Important Links, Repeaters and
Net Info.....Page 11

As always, an event like this takes the proverbial village to make it happen. Many thanks to the hard-working volunteers who showed up Saturday night to set up, who came early Sunday morning to help, and to those who stayed at the end of the long, hot morning to clean up the facility and parking lot, help vendors load up, and return club equipment to storage.

Our volunteer presenters offered Hamfest attendees information on a diverse range of topics. Seminars were offered by Jack Eckstrom K9JE (Working with the QSL Bureau), John Spasojevich AG9D (AMSAT/ARISS Update), Debby Gray WX9VOR (Smart Spotter Practices), Harry Jones K9DXA (Introduction to QRP), Jeff Bussie N9JZN (Tower Tips and Safety), John Greusel KC9OJV (Building and Using Softrock SDR Kits), and Ron Hobson WA7RBC (A Survey of License Preparation Books and Software). Thanks also to Michael Cicchetti KC9OPV who organized a youth lounge and radio-related activities for the morning.

Vendors were again very positive in their feedback about sales as well as the event in general. Several commented on how much they enjoy the FRRL event compared with some other Hamfests, citing the courtesy and friendliness of members and the generous assistance they receive from volunteers before and after the event. Kudos to all of you for creating such a good experience for our vendors!

Congratulations to Joe NA9A on winning the Grand Prize in this year's raffle!

Each of you has my gratitude, both personally and on behalf of the club, for your hard work and support of Hamfest. Thank you!

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 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 new members to the club!

Call	Name	License Class
K9UEZ	Robert DiCanio	Amateur Extra
NR9X	James Sadowski	Amateur Extra
KA7YHA	Eric Baloun	Technician

ArcOver FRRL Newsletter

Copyright 2013, 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 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.

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
Harry Jones, K9DXA

Vice President
Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

Secretary
Mike Urso, K9FE

Treasurer
Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

Directors:
Denny Barfuss W9HI
Jack Ekstrom K9JE
Michael Cicchetti, KC9OPV
John Corcoran, N9STK

Past President
Richard Illman, AH6EZ

License Trustees:
Kermit Carlson, W9XA
Bob Dillon, WB9LTN

Newsletter Editor
Dean Holste, KC9EOQ
newsletter@frrl.org

Webmasters
Chris Kennell, KC9BKS
Neil Potter, KB9RFX
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 \$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

HF Challenge Update for Mid-July

Only a few updates were reported as the second half of this year's HF Challenge got underway. Larry K9ARZ is clearly in the lead in the QRO class with 517 points for the year, including resent contacts with stations in Iran and Afghanistan. But there's still plenty of time for other participants to catch up!

To clarify any confusion about the new format of the Challenge, please note that there is really only one basic difference now. Participants can work each country, state and province twice this year, once between January 1st and June 30th, and a second time between July 1st and December 31st. Participants should report total QSOs for the year as of the 15th of each month.

It's not too late to get in on the fun! If you'd like to participate, see Joe NA9A at the next club meeting, or email Challenge@frrl.org to request a worksheet. And for those already participating, please remember to send in your total scores for the year-to-date as of August 15th. Questions? Email or talk to Joe or me at the next meeting.

73 de KC9LQS

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Paul KC9UZV	48	7	25	80
Jim W9NJP	25	3	17	45
Paul KC9SEB	51	5	51	107
Warren K9IH	24	3	36	63

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
John W8ACI	17	3	31	51
Tobi K9TCD	25	4	50	79
Tom WB9CHY	7	1	55	63
Jack K9JE	46	8	127	181
Dean KC9EOQ	29	3	52	84
Herb W9DTR	50	10	93	153
Dean KC9EOQ	31	3	55	89
Bill Nf9D	21	0	11	32

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Joe NA9A	50	7	219	276
Gary K9MMS	50	10	176	236
Dick AH6EZ	50	13	188	251
Larry K9ARZ	99	23	395	517

Ragchew Class	States/Provinces	DX	Total
Dick AH6EZ/W9	17	7	24
Jim W9NJP	17	1	18
John W8ACI	9	1	10
Paul KC9UZV	34	3	37
Herb W9DTR			18
Joe NA9A	5	3	8
Warren K9IH	19	5	24



Nearly 50 vendor and public service tables were available this year, including information booths hosted by amateur radio and public service organizations, as well as commercial and private sellers.

Joe Dubeck NA9A was the lucky winner of the grand prize drawing this year. Congrats, Joe!





Our Hamfest featured a VE session as in previous years. Thanks to Volunteer Examiners (from left) Scott KC9RGF, Paul AC9BS, Jack K9JE, Jim K9XP, and Joe NA9A, who filled in as the VE Team Leader for Doug W9RD.



Hamfest is a great time to catch up with old friends, and to make new ones, too! Mike Malloy W9MJM of Naperville (left) heard there was a ham at the event with a call sign very similar to his own. After diligent searching, he caught up with Doug Totel W9NJM of Glen Ellyn (right). The two enjoyed meeting each other, and planned to QSO in the future.

STUDY QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

FROM THE TECHNICIAN POOL

Q: T1B09 (D) [97.101(a)]

Why should you not set your transmit frequency to be exactly at the edge of an amateur band or sub-band?

A: A. To allow for calibration error in the transmitter frequency display

B. So that modulation sidebands do not extend beyond the band edge

C. To allow for transmitter frequency drift

D. All of these choices are correct

FROM THE GENERAL POOL

Q: G3C12 (D)

Which ionospheric layer is the most absorbent of long skip signals during daylight hours on frequencies below 10 MHz?

A: A. The F2 layer

B. The F1 layer

C. The E layer

D. The D layer

FROM THE EXTRA POOL

Q: E2D08 (A)

Which of the following types of packet frames is used to transmit APRS beacon data?

A: A. Unnumbered Information

B. Disconnect

C. Acknowledgement

D. Connect

President's Traffic

Harry Jones, K9DXA

I need to pitch a book I just picked up. It's the Heil Ham Radio Handbook, Second Edition, by Bob Heil, K9EID. I might describe it as a well-rounded introduction to ham radio. There are some ideas and tips that may be new even to the seasoned veteran. He covers quite a bit about what you need to know to get started without drilling too far down into detail. He includes band characteristics, rigs, antennas, building, troubleshooting, and many other ideas. I especially liked the many antenna ideas presented.

Our Hamfest for 2013 is history. I have not seen the numbers yet, but we had another strong showing. We'll give you the details shortly.

Ron WA7RBC is putting together a General Class starting in September. He does a great job with these classes. The details are at the website. Give him a hand putting it on.

We are looking for operating ideas for the club station residing at the Church basement. There are a lot of activities on every weekend, whether it is contesting, DXing, or working special event stations. Got any ideas for a get together to fire up the equipment? Dean KC9EOQ put a nice contest summary in this Arc Over issue. Check it out.

Later, on a Sunday in October, the annual Illinois QSO Party is back again. In the past, groups of FRRL members got together for portable operation in a sort of "mini-Field Day" operation to work the event. I was thinking about putting some HF gear in the car and traveling downstate to set up at a couple rare county lines for the afternoon.

One of my annual QRP contests was just this past weekend. I worked 47 stations in 27 states over four hours on 20M and 40M. My vertical antenna was a non-resonant, 55' piece of hookup wire, and the rig operated at no more than 5 watts. Was that fun?

The Central States VHF conference was also this past weekend. Kermit W9XA their President organized a great combination of presentations for hands-on, technical ideas, and weak signal operating. Quite a few people are operating regularly on 10 GHz (that's giga-hertz). And WSJT software makes it possible to work others via moon bounce!

Whether you are in the shack, the mobile, or in the field, fire up that RF andGet on the air!

<dit> <dit>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Board of Director's Meeting

August 6, 2013 @7:30pm

St. Rita's Office Annex

Membership Meeting

August 13, 2013 @ 7:30pm

St. Rita's Church

Hamfests

- 08/04/2013 | [Hamfesters Radio Club HAMFEST](#)

Location: Peotone, IL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Hamfesters Radio Club

Website: <http://hamfesters.org>



It's not too late!

We are ready to take reservations!

The W9DXCC website, www.w9dxcc.com has been updated with all info currently known for W9DXCC 2013 - Sept 20-21.

Please take a look at:

- Program loaded with SMC: (K9CT for NH8S and 3D2C, WB9Z for a preview of FT5ZM, and Eric K9GY/T6MO)
- SMC Reception on Friday evening
- Banquet speaker Nobel Prize winner Joe Taylor K1JT, of WSJT fame
- Class schedule for DX University Part 2
- Grand prize FT DX 3000 courtesy of Yaesu
- Registration for the convention and banquet
- Reserving a room at the Holiday Inn

The [W9DXCC convention](#) committee has announced it will offer a six session class on Friday, September 20th, 2013, to help inform all hams interested in DX'ing" about general topics of interest to the DX community. The class will be held the day before the W9DXCC convention and has been designed for both new and experienced DX'ers. Each session will cover a different aspect of DX'ing and features speakers NN1N, K9LA, K9AJ, K9EL, K9NU and W9MU. Please contact [W9MU](#) for additional details and information.

UPCOMING CONTESTS

August & September 2013

Date	Contest	Web Page
08/10/13	Maryland-DC QSO Party	http://mdcqsoparty.w3vpr.org/Documents/MarylandQSOPartyRules2013.pdf
08/10/13	50 MHz Fall Sprint	http://www.svhfs.org/2013fallsprintrulesv1.pdf
08/14/13	NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	http://naqcc.info/sprint201312mw.html
08/17/13	ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest	http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up
08/17/13	North American QSO Party, SSB	http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php
08/17/13	Feld Hell Sprint	https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests/sprint-rules
08/18/13	SARL HF Digital Contest	http://www.sarl.org.za/Documents/SARL_Contest_Manual_2013_Issue_11.pdf
08/18/13	ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY	http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup
08/24/13	Hawaii QSO Party	http://hawaiiqsoparty.org/HIQSOPartyRules-2012.html
08/24/13	Ohio QSO Party	http://www.ohqp.org/adminRules.htm
08/31/13	Colorado QSO Party	http://ppraa.org/coqp

Date	Contest	Web Page
09/02/13	MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint	http://www.qsl.net/miqrclub/contest.html
09/07/13	All Asian DX Contest, Phone	http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/4_Library/A-4-3_Contests/2013AA_rule.htm
09/07/13	QCWA Fall QSO Party	http://www.qcwa.org/2013qso-party.htm
09/08/13	North American Sprint, CW	http://www.ncjweb.com/sprintrules.php



Kane County ARES®

Kane County ARES News

Bill Muhr, NF9D Kane County ARES Emergency Coordinator

Kane County ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service), is a group of amateur radio operator volunteers who provide emergency communication for the communities of Kane County, IL and surrounding counties when called upon. All licensed amateurs are welcome to join.

We hold monthly meetings at 7 pm on the fourth Thursday of the month at the St. Charles EOC conference room at 112 North Riverside, St. Charles, IL. Our schedule at these meetings includes training on various aspects of emergency communications, weather spotting and reporting, and general amateur radio topics.

Anyone interested in joining Kane County ARES should contact Bill Muhr, NF9D, the ARES Emergency Coordinator for Kane County. He can be reached by email at nf9d@arrl.net.

ARES units are also active in other northern Illinois counties. You can find more information about ARES and public service opportunities on the ARRL website, arrl.org.



Kendall County ARES® is a part of the structure of the [American Radio Relay League's](#) emergency communications organization called the [Amateur Radio Emergency Service](#)®.

Kendall Co. ARES® members are trained in emergency communication and weather-spotting. We are an integral part of the [SKYWARN](#) weather spotting program of the [National Weather Service](#). The Kendall Co. ARES® runs a local net and relays reportable information to the National Weather Service.

Kendall County ARES® Staff:

Emergency Coordinator: Dirk Wolgast, W9QA (w9qa@arrl.net)

Assistant Emergency Coordinator: Chris Kennell, KC9BKS (kc9bks@arrl.net)

NETS: Nets are held weekly at 8:00 PM on Wednesday nights on the Yorkville, IL ARES Repeater (complements of N9FNS). There are no NETS on meeting nights.

The frequency is 147.375 MHz FM, +60Khz with a 103.5 Hz PL.

MEETINGS: Kendall County ARES® meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM. Meetings are held at the Panera Bread Cafe in Yorkville. The location is about one block South of Hwy 34 on Hwy 47 on the East side of Hwy 47.



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 St. Rita of Cascia, Aurora, IL

Membership Meeting Minutes July 09, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM by President Harry K9DXA.

Question of the Month What operating events should the FRRL this summer/fall ?

Radio in the park	10	Church Event	3	Lighthouse	12
Repeater Contest	3	Road Rally	4	Illinois QSO Party	1
Jamb. On the Air	3	Digital	1	Fox Hunt	2
IOTA	1	Public Service	1		

“Road Rally – End at the Lighthouse – Using HTs – Work each other while talking to scouts”

Reports:

Minutes, June Meeting Minutes approved- Moved AB9TA, Seconded K9IH, Motion carried

Treasurer, Report given by Treasurer Holste, KC9EOQ

Program, KC9EOQ for AH6EZ, Episode 104 FD wrap up or Amateur Logic (Videos) or Harry K9DXA Hamfest talk preview on QRP. Harry gave his talk!

Field Day, Denny W9HI, Field Day June 22&23 – Thanked Jackie N9ASL, Providing food. Summary sheet showing Gary K9MMS with 581 contacts! 3957 QSOs total, preliminary bonus 1700. A lessons Learned document should be done. ALL HAD FUN!

Hamfest, Dawn KC9LQS, Saturday Prep. Volunteers needed. 32 Vendor Tables, 5 group tables. Effie 1 table for her FRRL fund raising (Tupperware 40% goes to FRRL) A plea for setup help, bribery...Pizza & Pop

ARES, Bill NF9D, Next meeting Thursday July 25 at St Charles Fire Dept.

Old Business: NONE

New Business: NONE

2nd half of the HF Challenge in progress, Dawn KC9LQS

Raffle – Chris KC9IEQ

DX QSL Service, Jack K9JE

Cougars, many tickets still available, see Ken W9WCX

New Parochial Admin Rev. Oscar Cortez

Central States VHF July 25-27, Many excellent speakers, Free VHF101 Sem.

FRRL Pins, See Larry W9OKI

Adjourn 8:15 PM; Moved- Randolph W9HE, Seconded- Ken W9WCX

IMPORTANT AMATUER RADIO WEB PAGE LINKS

www.frrl.org

www.arrl.org

www.colpage.org

www.qrz.com

www.eham.net

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)

KC9OEM—444.525 MHz +5 MHz, 114.8 PL

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

Input: 52.210 Output: 53.910 Carrier Access FM (W9XA 6-meter repeater)

W9ZGP—NIARC:

147.060 +600 KHz, 103.5 PL

Weekly Nets:

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

Ten Meter Net: Monday at 8:00pm 28.150 MHz CW

Monday at 8:30pm 28.720 MHz SSB