



ARCOVER



The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League
Since 1924

Our 90th Year in Amateur Radio!

March 2014



Proud to be an ARRL
Special Services Club

Join us on March 11th for our
first membership meeting at our
new location!



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We'll see you at
Bethany Lutheran Church
8 S. Lincoln St in Batavia, IL
(Corner of W. Wilson and S. Lincoln)
Plenty of Parking, No Stairs!
7:30pm
Come Early!
See Map on Page 11

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 new members to the club!

CALL	Name	License Class
KB9MEL	Jason Burzynski	Technician
WT2P	Cedrick Johnson	Amateur Extra
KG6ITP	Mary Welsh	Technician

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: arccover@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 \$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

Mid-February Report

And.....they're off! This year's HF Challenge is officially underway, with nine contenders so far reporting scores as of Feb. 15th. Larry K9ARZ takes the lead with 237 contacts in the QRO Class. Paul KC9UZV leads the Limited Class with 80 QSOs. Alan W9AN is ahead in the Operator Class with 62 points.

Contestants are reporting contacts with stations in exciting places. Larry cited Qs with Marion Island, Vatican, Juan Fernandez, Vanuatu, Western Sahara, Wallis Island, Amsterdam Island, Hong Kong, and Maldives Isles, for example, and Joe reported Amsterdam/St. Paul Is. as one of his more interesting contacts.

The Challenge is just beginning, and this is the perfect time for new participants to get in the game. See the Challenge page on the website at www.frrl.org for details on how it works. Then, see Joe during one of our monthly meetings to request a Challenge worksheet, or do so via email to [challenge \[at\] frrl.org](mailto:challenge@frrl.org).

Good DXing!

de KC9LQS

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Paul KC9UZV	44	9	27	80
Eric K9LGE	25	5	4	34
John AG9D	17	4	9	30
Paul KC9SEB	22	6	3	31

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Alan W9AN	17	2	43	62
Ron KC9SNI	7	1	3	11

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Joe NA9A	4	0	10	14
Dick AH6EZ	49	11	32	92
Larry K9ARZ	48	13	176	237

Rag Chewer Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Paul KC9UZV	12	0	1	13
Joe NA9A	2	0	1	3
Dick AH6EZ				5

President's Traffic

Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

Spring is a time of new beginnings, once we break free from the stagnation of winter. Even though the view beyond your window seems to tell a different story right now, the new season is upon us. Along with it, FRRL has already begun to embrace many new opportunities.

Most prominent among the changes to come is our move to Bethany Lutheran Church in Batavia for our monthly meetings. The membership in attendance last month approved the transition from St. Rita's, and those who have toured our new space are excited about what it has to offer. Beginning with our March 11th meeting, we'll enjoy a large, carpeted room on the first floor of the church, complete with table and chairs, and a built-in AV system. We'll also have full use of a commercial-grade kitchen and more than adequate parking. Bethany is centrally located, less than 10 minutes north of I-88, near the intersection of Route 31 and Wilson. (See the website for a map and driving directions.)

I hope to see many of you in attendance for our inaugural meeting in our new location. While you're there, be sure to extend a word of thanks to Tobi K9TCD, who volunteered to pre-screen the numerous suggestions we received from all of you when this search began. Thanks also are due to Kermit W9XA, who suggested this venue. And finally, thanks to everyone who mentioned possible locations for us to explore during our search.

Another new project in the works is the FRRL FXpedition. Those who attended the February meeting learned that the club is on a yearlong "fishing" expedition. We're fishing for ideas, and each month, members will have the opportunity to share their thoughts about new avenues that we as a group might explore. Forms will be distributed at each meeting and collected in the fish bowl that will be passed around. The information that is gathered will be compiled and discussed at the following month's board meeting. After a few of these "fishing trips," I expect that we'll have a clear picture of the kinds of activities and projects members would like to see. Be sure to "take the bait" so we can reel in your ideas!

While we collectively begin to move in new directions this spring, what about you as an individual? The first few years in the hobby, *everything* presents something new to learn. In truth, there is always something new to learn and experience, no matter how long you've been involved in amateur radio. Program Director Dick AH6EZ communicates that fact fluently each month. At our March meeting, for example, he will discuss what he calls Amateur Radio Intranet, a unique wireless data network using amateur radio frequencies. A few of our members have begun to explore this new use of technology. Perhaps you will be intrigued enough to do so, too.

(See Page 5)



**STUDY QUESTIONS
OF THE MONTH**

FROM THE TECHNICIAN POOL

Q: T1A09 [97.3(a)(22)]

Who selects a Frequency Coordinator?

- A. The FCC Office of Spectrum Management and Coordination Policy
- B. The local chapter of the Office of National Council of Independent Frequency Coordinators
- C. Amateur operators in a local or regional area whose stations are eligible to be auxiliary or repeater stations
- D. FCC Regional Field Office

FROM THE GENERAL POOL

Q: G1C02 [97.313(a), (b)]

What is the maximum transmitting power an amateur station may use on the 12 meter band?

- A. 1500 PEP output, except for 200 watts PEP output in the Novice portion
- B. 200 watts PEP output
- C. 1500 watts PEP output
- D. An effective radiated power equivalent to 50 watts from a half-wave dipole

FROM THE EXTRA POOL

Q: E5A12

What is the half-power bandwidth of a parallel resonant circuit that has a resonant frequency of 3.7 MHz and a Q of 118?

- A. 436.6 kHz
- B. 218.3 kHz
- C. 31.4 kHz
- D. 15.7 kHz

President's Traffic (cont'd)

Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

Sometimes embracing new possibilities simply means doing what you love in a slightly different way. For instance, I'd temporarily given up contesting and DXing when additional work and family responsibilities in the past year left little time for radio. Last weekend, I tried something different. I had a few spare minutes, so I turned on the rig and managed to work a station in the Bahamas. Now, a single QSO doesn't seem like much, compared to the Friday through Sunday night contesting weekends I used to enjoy. But it was enough to open a new possibility for operating even when time is limited, and I'm looking forward to more mini-sessions in the future.

What about you? What new interest or new way of doing radio might you explore? As spring unfolds and we shake off our winter lethargy, think about the possibilities, and make it happen. And when you do, consider sharing it during the monthly FXpedition. We'd love to hear from you.





March Contest Dates

NCCC RTTY Sprint	0200Z-0220Z, Mar 7
+ NCCC Sprint	0230Z-0300Z, Mar 7
+ TESLA Memorial HF CW Contest	1800Z, Mar 8 to 0759Z, Mar 9
+ Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar 8 to 1900Z, Mar 9
+ North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 9
+ UBA Spring Contest, 6m	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 9
+ NSARA Contest	1100Z-1500Z, Mar 9 and 1700Z-2100Z, Mar 9
+ Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 9 to 0100Z, Mar 10
+ QRP Fox Hunt	0100Z-0230Z, Mar 12
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 12 and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 12 and 0300Z-0400Z, Mar 13
+ Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 15 to 1200Z, Mar 16
+ Virginia QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 15 to 0200Z, Mar 16 and 1200Z-2400Z, Mar 16
+ North American Sprint, SSB	0000Z-0400Z, Mar 16
+ Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0100Z-0300Z, Mar 17
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 19 and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 19 and 0300Z-0400Z, Mar 20
+ NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint	0030Z-0230Z, Mar 20
+ Oklahoma QSO Party	1300Z, Mar 22 to 0100Z, Mar 23 and 1300Z-1900Z, Mar 23
+ Louisiana QSO Party	1500Z, Mar 22 to 0300Z, Mar 23
+ QCWA Spring QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 22 to 1800Z, Mar 23
+ UBA Spring Contest, SSB	0700Z-1100Z, Mar 23
+ SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Mar 26
+ CWops Mini-CWT Test	1300Z-1400Z, Mar 26 and 1900Z-2000Z, Mar 26 and 0300Z-0400Z, Mar 27
+ CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 29 to 2359Z, Mar 30

UPCOMING EVENTS

Board of Director's Meeting

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

Membership Meeting

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

Technician Pool- C. Amateur operators in a local or regional area whose stations are eligible to be auxiliary or repeater stations

General Pool- C. 1500 watts PEP output

Extra Pool- C. 31.4 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 St. Rita of Cascia, Aurora, IL

Meeting Minutes February 11, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:42 PM by President Dawn Williams KC9LQS

Question of the Month – Where do invest your radio time during late winter?

Contests and QSO Parties, DXing, Cleaning the shack or upgrading the station, All of the above, or Other

Reports

Minutes of January 14, 2014 Regular Meeting

Kermit W9XA motioned to approve the minutes. Mike K9FE seconded. The motion carried.

Treasurer – Dean KC9EQ reported on the status of the treasury.

Program – Dick AH6EZ, will present a 45-minute video discussing proper DXpedition operator pile-up handling procedures and the DX Code of Conduct.

ARES

Kane – Bill NF9D reported that National Weather Service spotter training will held Wednesday, February 26, 6 PM, at 10 S. Batavia Avenue, Batavia. He further reported that the next meeting of the Kane County ARES will be Thursday, February 27th, 7 PM, in the St. Charles Fire Department Building, 112 North Riverside in St. Charles.

Kendall – Chris KC9BKS reported that the Kendall County ARES meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Panera Bread Cafe in Yorkville. The next meeting is February 26th.

DuPage – No report.

Field Day

Denny W9HI reported that Jericho Park will be closed all summer and is thus unavailable. Johnson's Mound has been ruled out. Phillips Park is under consideration, and the Oswego high school has offered their site, which includes a generator. Orv Erickson has offered the use of a 25 kW generator. Denny emphasized that additional site suggestions are needed. Band Captains, especially for 80/15 and 40m phone and CW, are also needed. Please contact him with your site suggestions and offers to volunteer.

Old Business

New Meeting Venue – Dawn KC9LQS reported that Tobi K9TCD had invested much time and effort researching twenty-eight potential new meeting locations. Dawn thanked Tobi for her work on this project. The following criteria were applied in the selection process:

- Adequate space for 50-75 people
- Available consistently (same night each month, beginning in March)
- Central location/near expressway

(See page 8)

- Wi-Fi, projector system, sound system
- Free or reasonably priced
- Refreshments permitted

The candidate locations were winnowed to one best-choice option: Bethany Lutheran Church located at 8 South Lincoln in Batavia. Dawn reported that the church is available to the FRRL at a cost of \$70 per two-hour meeting pending final approval by the FRRL membership.

New Business

Approval of new FRRL meeting place –

Dawn KC9LQS requested a motion to accept the proposed new meeting location. Kermit W9XA motioned that the FRRL move its meeting location to the Bethany Lutheran Church in Batavia and that the FRRL Board of Directors budget \$70 per month to cover the cost of use. Dick W9GIG seconded this motion. The motion was approved by the membership in attendance.

Budget - Dawn KC9LQS reported that the FRRL Budget for 2014 will be presented at the March meeting.

Announcements

VE Sessions – The next two VE Sessions will be held at the Messenger Library, 113 Oak St. (Rt. 31 & Oak), North Aurora, on Tuesday, March 25th and Tuesday, May 20th. Both begin at 7:30 PM.

Education – The FRRL has received approval from Rasmussen College, 2363 Sequoia Drive, North Aurora, that the club may continue to use their facility for conducting education classes.

Board Meeting – Dawn KC9LQS announced that the upcoming March 4th FRRL Board of Directors meeting will be held at the Colonial Café Restaurant, 1961 W. Galena Boulevard, Aurora, commencing at 7:00 PM. Those attending may order dinner before the meeting begins, but please arrive early if you plan to do so.

Membership Renewal – Members must renew their membership by the end of February to be included in the club roster.

2014 Roster – The hard-copy version of the roster will be replaced by an “electronic” (e.g. on-line PDF, etc) version. This will result in significant savings for the club. Those who are unable to access the roster on-line are asked to contact Ron KC9SNI or Dan WA9YKK who have offered to provide printed copies.

Upcoming Events

ARRL School Club Roundup, February 10-14

ARRL DX Contests (CW) February 15-16 (PH) March 1-2

Recognition – Dick W9GIG was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation recognizing his efforts in arranging the 2014 FRRL Banquet.

Adjournment

Marty N9NTM motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM, and Mike K9FE seconded. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Jahr, KC9SNI

FRRL Secretary



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)

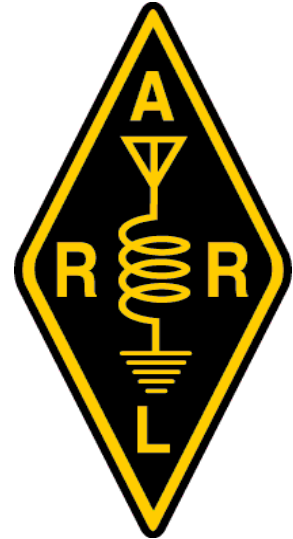
NETS: Nets are held weekly at 8:00 PM on Wednesday nights on the Yorkville, IL ARES Repeater (complements of N9FNS). There are no NETS on meeting nights.

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.

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)

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:

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

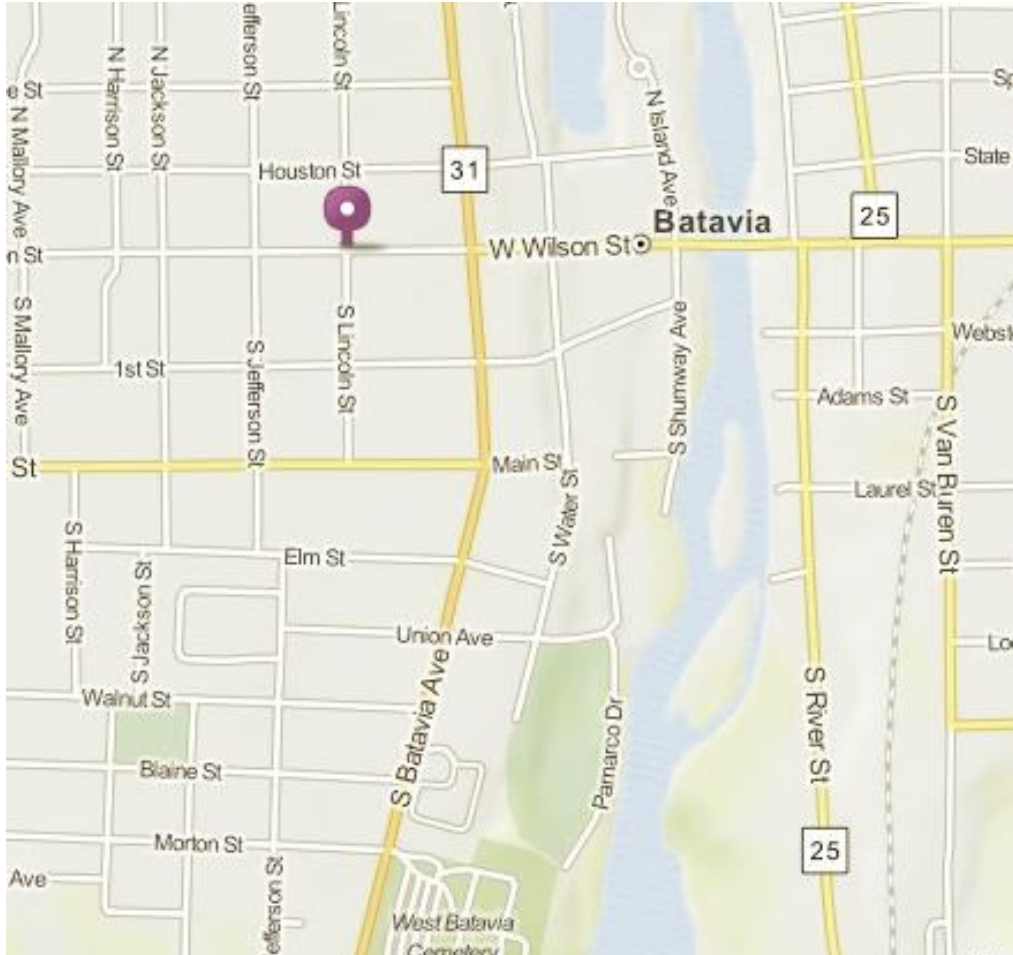
Illinois DStar Net - Wednesday Eve. at 8:00 pm on the DStar 2 meter repeater

Bethany Lutheran Church 8 S. Lincoln St. Batavia, IL 60510

1/2 block South of Wilson St.

Rt. 31 From Geneva / St. Charles

West Wilson St.
From Randall
Road



East Wilson St.
From Kirk Rd.

Rt. 31 From Aurora / I-88

Rt. 25 From Aurora