



# ARC OVER

The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League  
Since 1924

Our 92nd Year in Amateur Radio!



March 2016

It's not too late to think about  
Field Day!



Proud to be an ARRL  
Special Services Club



Part of the crew from Field Day 2015.

To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries. Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and running through 2059 UTC Sunday. Field Day 2016 is June 25-26.

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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
	None for	
	February	

## 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 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

The 2016 HF Challenge is off to a great start! Nine participants submitted their first reports for the year in the three main categories, and 66% of them have also entered the Rag Chewer Class.

"I got on the air and called CQ on CW and had a nice rag chew with a ham in south Indianapolis," said Joe NA9A. "What made it special was that I was running 4.0 watts with my KX3 on a battery." Joe also reported QSOs with rare DX entities Palmyra and Jarvis Is., South Sandwich Is., and South Georgis Is.

Chris KC9BKS is also working QRP in the Limited Class, reporting contacts he made from his backyard during Winter Field Day. "I'm also planning on going to a few national parks later this year for NPOTA, Chris wrote. "The radio and antenna all fit into a small backpack. Plans right now are to go to Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota then to Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. Could be lots of talking and hiking. I'm not sure I can do both at the same time though." We'll be looking forward to his Challenge updates as hiking season approaches!

The next score reports will include contacts made between Jan. 1 and March 15. If you need a Challenge worksheet, see Joe at the next meeting. Questions and your mid-month report can be sent to Challenge [at] frri.org.

73 de KC9LQS

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Chris KC9BKS	3	0	0	3
Eric K9LGE	36	4	9	49
Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Roger W9YU	19	3	8	30
Jason NX9Y	22	2	7	31
Jeff N9JZN	2	0	44	46
QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Larry K9ARZ	30	4	102	136
Dick AH6EZ/W7	50	11	83	144
Joe NA9A	38	3	35	76
Dean KC9EOQ	27	2	12	41
Rag Chewer Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Dick AH6EZ/W7	23	0	2	25
Jason NX9Y	5	0	0	5
Joe NA9A	8	0	1	9
Eric K9LGE	1	0	0	1
Roger W9YU	1	0	0	1
Dean KC9EOQ	1	0	0	1

## STUDY QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

### FROM THE TECHNICIAN POOL

**Q:** T6D06

What component is commonly used to change 120V AC house current to a lower AC voltage for other uses?

- A. Variable capacitor
- B. Transformer
- C. Transistor
- D. Diode

### FROM THE GENERAL POOL

**Q:** G1E01 [97.115(b)(2)]

Which of the following would disqualify a third party from participating in stating a message over an amateur station?

- A. The third party's amateur license had ever been revoked
- B. The third party is not a U.S. citizen
- C. The third party is a licensed amateur
- D. The third party is speaking in a language other than English, French, or Spanish

### FROM THE EXTRA POOL

**Q:** E2A07

Which of the following types of signals can be relayed through a linear transponder?

- A. FM and CW
- B. SSB and SSTV
- C. PSK and Packet
- D. All of these choices are correct

### [ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology Announces 2016 Schedule](#)

The deadline is May 1 for educators to apply for a spot in this summer's ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology sessions. [Learn More](#)

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### [ARRISS Celebrates its 1000th Educational Amateur Radio Contact with Video](#)

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARRISS), the first-ever ISS payload activated by the crew, is gearing up for its 1000th educational ham radio contact in March. [Learn More](#)

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### [The K7RA Solar Update](#)

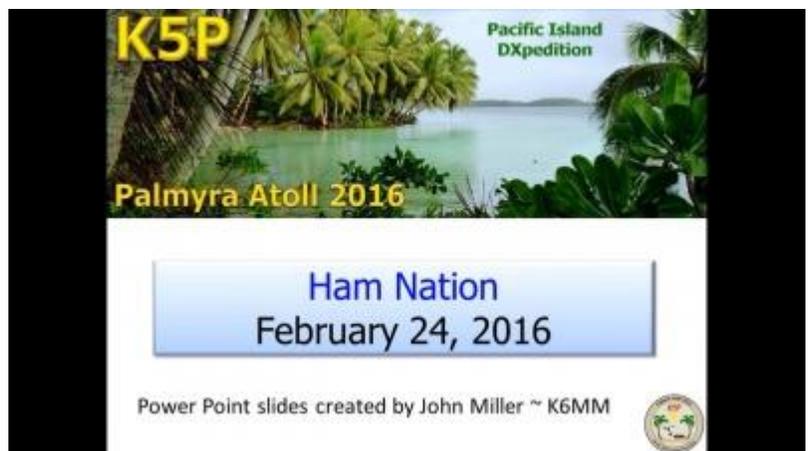
Declining solar flux brings quiet geomagnetic conditions  
[Learn More](#)

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### Entire Popular Science Magazine Archive Now Available

The entire 140-year oeuvre of *Popular Science* magazine has been [archived](#) for free browsing, thanks to a partnership with Google. Popular Science includes some Amateur Radio-related articles, such as "You Can Talk Around the World" in the January 1932 edition, "Thousands of Radio Amateurs Find it Easy to Learn Morse Code" from the March 1932 edition, and "The Hams Join Up" from the November 1941 edition. Many other articles deal with radio and radio repair as well as do-it-yourself electronics projects.

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[Ham Nation](#)  
[Episode 236 - February 24th 2016](#)

## President's Traffic

Dennis Barfuss, W9HI

Each month always starts out with the promise of something new. March is no different. This month I am hoping for warmer weather and no more snow. March is also the time for us to think about any new antennas we would like build, or buy and put up at home or out in the great outdoors. I just returned from Florida where I stayed with a friend Jerry WA9FIY. We worked at getting an elderly TR-4 working and after a little Detox spray on corroded contacts the rig came alive. But without an antenna it is still a boat anchor.. Well Jerry has a couple of trees so he used a wrench much like we used to use at field day to get a rope over one of the highest branches on his backyard tree. As a result of the foliage and thick tree You cannot see an antenna. With the lines all in place and the pulley ready for hoisting he turned to making his antenna. Since Jerry is a DIY person, he cut a short length of pvc that was in a storage cabinet and made the center insulator for the dipole. For connecting the dipole, he has decided to use some existing lamp cord and a small tuner. The story isn't complete, but He believes the antenna is going to get him on the air without having to purchase any parts. I will let you know the outcome in a later forum. I also had the pleasure of visiting N9US, Bill McConnell down in Bradenton, Florida. Bill has a dipole that he uses for all modes, but his favorite is JT65. I have attached a picture of Bills very neat setup. So as you work on your new antenna you can also figure when and where you would like to operate. March has lots of opportunities including the Wisconsin QSO party. I am sure that our northern neighbors would love to count you as a contact.

In addition to antennas we also have plans for our technical programs through June.

Last month, Mike K9FE dazzled everyone with the Arduino. Now we know that everyone has the ability to use one if they choose and we know that a lot on members are willing to help each other with new and crazy uses. This month Harry K9DXA will give us the low down on his adventure in the Illinois QSO party. The club ran a portable station last year so if there is interest we will do it again, maybe multi, multi.

Jason NX9Y has is doing a stellar job lining up great programs for our meetings, so check the web page for all the upcoming presentations. I believe he has them set up as far out as June. So during your idle time start to think about those antennas and get on the air.





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

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

### Meeting Minutes February 9, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Denny W9HI. Audience introductions: call, name, QTH and: are you a new member/first time or newly licensed/recently upgraded attendee?

### Reports

Approval of January, 2016-member meeting minutes. *No motion was made to approve the January minutes.*

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Dean KC9EQQ reported account balances as of the end of January. Dean is accepting 2016 member dues.

### Program

The March 2016 program will be presented by Harry K9DXA: "How I found a portable site for the Illinois QSO Party, how I planned it and how I did it". Planned for February 2016 program by Vice President Mike K9FE is "Arduino is your friend!!"

### ARES Debbie WX9VOR

Winter field day was held January 30 & 31. Bill and Zak participated almost 24 hours. Lots of fun. Different operating in the winter. Spring spotter classes offered by Kane county OEM. NWS Chicago Web site spotter classes available. DuPage County OXSEM spotter class will be held on March 12, good training. Contact Debbie for more information.

### Education

Vice President Mike K9FE announced Amateur Radio license exam review sessions. Six General Class exam reviews will start January 30<sup>th</sup> and Extra Class reviews tentatively in February. All review sessions will meet on Saturday mornings 9 am at the North Aurora Library.

### Net

Dave N9XU reported that the 2-meter Net meets on every Tuesday at 7:30 pm except of the FRRL club meetings. Dave needs additional net controllers. 20 checked in on the last net.

### VE (Volunteer Examiner) Testing update and info

Doug W9RD-Bring a picture ID and your license (for upgrades). Details are available on the FRRL.org website. FCC license fees due to the VE are \$15. Next exam is scheduled for Wednesday March 16.

### Old Business

FRRL Banquet: Harry K9DXA

Post banquet report: Nice meals. Some reports of overdone steak. DJs played music and Denny W9HI was chosen as Ham of the year.

Dawn KC9LQS was recognized for sponsoring banquet tickets for Samantha K9SJW and her uncle.

Denny W9HI and Dawn KC9LQS recognized many for participation in 2015.

Joe NA9A handed out HF Challenge participation awards and top honors.

2016 membership renewals are due. Please renew!

## **New Business**

Field Day Location Reserved:

Elburn Forest Preserve, Hwy. 38, half mile west of Rt. 47, June 24-26

Phil W9XAN, and Mike K9FE are Field Day Co Chairs

Hamfest confirmed at Aurora Central Catholic High School, July 10th

Dave K9WDB and Tom KC9PHX are Hamfest Co-Chair

## **Announcements**

Joe NA9A encouraged members to participate in the HF CHALLENGE.

Kermit W9XA gave an update on the **Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 -- H.R.1301 in the US House of Representative and S 1685 in the US Senate. Details available on ARRL.org web site.**

## **Upcoming Events**

Wednesday March 16, 2016- VE Test Session (Note: This is the third WEDNESDAY)

March 1st - Board of Directors Meeting

March 8th - Membership Meeting

March 19 Ham Radio Breakfast at the Golden Corral in Algonquin.

March 6 Hamfest in Sterling Illinois Info on the Web.

Promotion of City of Lights Net 10-10 CW Net by Eric K9LGE

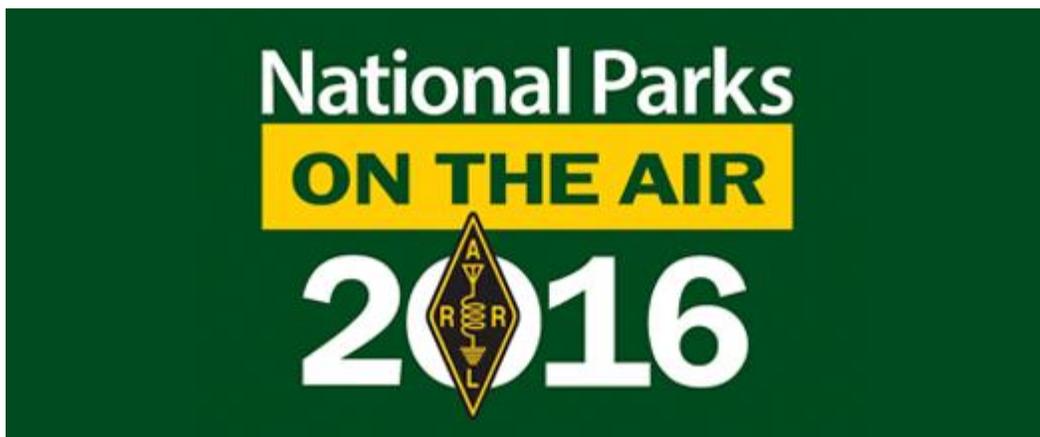
## **Adjournment**

Motion for adjournment by Mike K9FE and seconded by Joe NA9A. Membership approved motion and the meeting adjourned at 8: PM.

Respectfully submitted

Dan Harmon WA9YKK

FRRL Secretary





# March Contest Dates

+ <a href="#">Mississippi QSO Party</a>	1400Z, Apr 2 to 0200Z, Apr 3
+ <a href="#">Missouri QSO Party</a>	1400Z, Apr 2 to 0400Z, Apr 3 and 1400Z-2000Z, Apr 3
+ <a href="#">North American SSB Sprint Contest</a>	0000Z-0400Z, Apr 3
+ <a href="#">UKEICC 80m Contest</a>	2000Z-2100Z, Apr 6
+ <a href="#">SARL 80m QSO Party</a>	1700Z-2000Z, Apr 7
+ <a href="#">OK/OM DX Contest, SSB</a>	1200Z, Apr 9 to 1200Z, Apr 10
+ <a href="#">New Mexico QSO Party</a>	1400Z, Apr 9 to 0200Z, Apr 10
+ <a href="#">Georgia QSO Party</a>	1800Z, Apr 9 to 0359Z, Apr 10 and 1400Z-2359Z, Apr 10
+ <a href="#">Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest</a>	2100Z, Apr 9 to 2100Z, Apr 10
+ <a href="#">International Vintage Contest HF</a>	1200Z-1800Z, Apr 10
+ <a href="#">NAQCC CW Sprint</a>	0030Z-0230Z, Apr 13
+ <a href="#">Holyland DX Contest</a>	2100Z, Apr 15 to 2100Z, Apr 16
+ <a href="#">Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest</a>	0600Z, Apr 16 to 0559Z, Apr 17
+ <a href="#">Nebraska QSO Party</a>	1400Z, Apr 16 to 0200Z, Apr 17 and 1400Z-2300Z, Apr 17
+ <a href="#">Michigan QSO Party</a>	1600Z, Apr 16 to 0400Z, Apr 17
+ <a href="#">Ontario QSO Party</a>	1800Z, Apr 16 to 0500Z, Apr 17 and 1200Z-1800Z, Apr 17
+ <a href="#">North Dakota QSO Party</a>	1800Z, Apr 16 to 1800Z, Apr 17
+ <a href="#">YU DX Contest</a>	2100Z, Apr 16 to 0500Z, Apr 17 and 0900Z - 1700Z, Apr 17
+ <a href="#">ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB</a>	1800Z-2359Z, Apr 17
+ <a href="#">Run for the Bacon QRP Contest</a>	0100Z-0300Z, Apr 18
+ <a href="#">RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data</a>	1900Z-2030Z, Apr 21
+ <a href="#">10-10 Int. Spring Contest, Digital</a>	0001Z, Apr 23 to 2359Z, Apr 24
+ <a href="#">Russian WW MultiMode Contest</a>	1200Z, Apr 30 to 1159Z, May 1
+ <a href="#">Florida QSO Party</a>	1600Z, Apr 30 to 0159Z, May 1 and 1200Z-2159Z, May 1

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Board of Director's Meeting

April 5, 2016 @7:00pm  
Colonial Café—Aurora, IL

### Membership Meeting

April 12, 2016 @ 7:30pm  
Bethany Lutheran Church

### VE Testing Session

March 16th, 2016 @ 6:45pm  
Messenger Public Library in  
North Aurora

Technician Pool - B. Transformer

General Pool- A. The third party's amateur license had ever been revoked

Extra Pool- D. All of these choices are correct

## IMPORTANT AMATEUR RADIO WEB PAGE LINKS

[www.frll.org](http://www.frll.org)

[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

[www.colpage.org](http://www.colpage.org)

[www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com)

[www.dailydx.com](http://www.dailydx.com)

[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