



ARC OVER



The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League
Since 1924

Our 93rd Year in Amateur Radio!

June 2017



Proud to be an ARRL
Special Service Club

Board of Director's Meeting

July 6th @ 7:00pm
Colonial Café—Aurora, IL.

Membership Meeting

July 11th, 2017 @ 7:30pm
Bethany Lutheran Church

VE Session

July 8th, 2017
FRRL Hamfest @ 10:00am

The MS-WALK and the FRRL by Mike K9FE

May 7, 2017, MS-WALK Route Communications Support Crew or as the current leader of this event calls us "Her Angels". Those of you that do not know, members of the FRRL have supported the MS-WALK in St. Charles, along the river going south. In 1995, N9III, Don, organized the support of the walk. The club dropped it as an event in 1996, but I picked up the event for the Boy Scout Explorer post 272 that the FRRL sponsored. As the post advisor I was able to get my 10 Explorers to man (and woman) the event. In the beginning we set up a 30 foot extendable mast with an AR-270 (Cushcraft) antenna on the top. The mode was FM simplex on 2 meters using 146.400. The scouts up and down the river were freezing (the walk used to be in mid-April.) There was little else in the park there. No tall structure, no shelter, just the refreshment and mini-golf building. The walk originally was 10+ miles and went to a crossover in Batavia. Then it was shortened to Fabyan Park (by the windmill) for several years. The date moved to the 1st Sunday in May mainly because of the weather. That 2 weeks difference from the mid-April date was helpful as far as the weather conditions. My Explorers got older and found other interests than radio by 2001. (You know cars, friends, sleeping, and college for some) I still managed to get some FRRL members to support the event as well as many friends who would drive up to 60 miles each way to work the walk and they were always there. (Turn to Page 7)

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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 member to the club!

CALL	NAME	LICENSE CLASS
KD9AHL	Nicholas Duda	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: 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 \$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

Bill Erikson HF Challenge Update for Mid-May

It's not too late to be part of this year's HF Challenge, and in fact, as we approach the end of the first half of the year, you're in an excellent position to join in. The Challenge can be worked by each participant as a continuous, yearlong activity, or in two parts, January through June, and July through December.

If you have questions about the Challenge or need a worksheet, please see Administrator Joe NA9A at the next club meeting, or send an email to Challenge [at] frrl.org.

Updates for the next issue of the ArcOver are due by June 20th and should cover year-to-date scores from Jan. 1st through June 15th. Send us your update with contacts broken down by number of states, number of provinces, and number of DX entities. Please submit rag chew reports in the same manner, with state, province and DX entities specified. All updates, along with questions on the Challenge, requests for worksheets, or other concerns, can be sent via email to Challenge [at] FRRL.org.

de KC9LQS

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Jim W9NJP	32	5	69	106
Eric K9LGE	34	4	5	43
Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Alan W9AN	12	8	57	77
Jason NX9Y	16	2	32	50
Ron KC9SNI	24	2	24	50
QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Cedric WT2P	50	11	95	156
Dick AH6EZ/W7	50	9	86	145
Joe NA9A	11	2	75	88
Roger W9YU	30	5	28	63
Herb W9DTR	35	8	9	52
Rag Chewer Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Dick AH6EZ/W7	0	0	0	16
Jim W9NJP	9	0	0	9
Herb W9DTR	8	0	0	8
Joe NA9A	4	0	1	5
Roger W9YU				4
Eric K9LGE				2

President's Traffic

Dennis Barfuss, W9HI

Time has been flying by for everyone and Field Day is upon us. Dan Harmon WA9YKK and Roger Bara W9YU have been doing a great job along with all the band captains and the many other people supporting our Field day event. As you may know, our field day is at Leroy Oaks in St Charles, Illinois. Jackie Urso N9ASL and her team are again working on culinary delights that will more than sustain all the operators and guests. We will be starting setup on Friday June 23rd at about 12:00. We will continue setup on Saturday morning June 24th and start operating for 24 hours starting at 1300 local. Tear down will start on Sunday June 25th at 1300 so please plan on sticking around as your help is necessary and appreciated. We will have six high frequency stations, 3 CW and 3 phone stations along with a VHF/UHF trailer and our GOTA, Get On The Air station. Everyone is needed to push the FRRL to the top of the charts during our Field Day experience. Don't forget that you are allowed to camp out with us for this special weekend. I am attaching a picture of our setup. If you have questions, please look at our web page at www.FRRL.org or contact our field day chairmen.



These past weeks have also seen another Hamvention in Ohio. This time the location changed to Xenia at the fairgrounds. Although I couldn't attend this year, I have heard many great things and a lot of pleased hams. Good deals were to be had and everyone came home with new stories and greater expectations for next year. I have next year's Hamvention already on my calendar as I don't want to miss the excitement and the opportunity of seeing all those gadgets all in the same place.

And close after field day we are having our annual FRRL Hamfest in Aurora on Sunday July 9th.

The location is the Aurora Central Catholic High School, 1255 N. Edgelawn Dr. in Aurora.

Dan Taddei W9STS and Tom Churchill WD9DAU are the Hamfest Chairmen. Tickets can be purchased on line via paypal or at the gate the morning of the hamfest. Again please mark your calendar for an exciting event. Check www.FRRL.org for more information. Members please check with the chairmen to assist with any hamfest tasks.



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 May 9, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 19:33 CDT by President Denny W9HI. Audience introductions: Call, Name, QTH and: "Which Band are you planning on working at Field Day?"

Approval of April 2017 Member Meeting minutes: Motion to approve by Larry K9ARZ, seconded by Dan W9STS. Members approved the motion.

There were 47 people present at this meeting.

Treasurer's Report, Dean KC9EOQ

Dean reported the balances as of 5/2/2017

Program, Jason NX9Y

Tonight's program: Cedrick WT2P will do Single Operation Two Radios (SO2R) setup. Mark Thompson WB9QZB will do the July program on VHF/UHF Digital Voice Mode and Fusion. June will be reserved for Field Day activities.

Education, Alan KB9VO

No update.

Net, Dave N9XU

2m Net is every Tuesday at 7:30. The last net did well with 25 check ins. Dave needs more people to volunteer for Net Control.

VE (Volunteer Examiner) Testing, Paul AC9BS

The VE Testing is on May 16th, 7PM at the Messenger Library in North Aurora. A Driver's License is needed along with a copy of your current ham license. Paul needs more VE certified volunteers.

Membership, Chris KC9BKS

Chris reported a total of 143 active members.

ARES, Debby WX9VOR

Training sessions are on Thursdays. Training on Skywarn continues. The 4th Thursday is the regular meeting. Debby talked about weather spotting and Ham Radio. Also, the Swedish Days needs volunteers.

Old Business:

Field Day Chair, Dan Harmon WA9YKK (Co-chair Roger W9YU)

Denny presented a slideshow presentation giving more details for Field Day. Our designation will be 6A. A UHF/VHF station has been added. We continue to need volunteers.

Hamfest Chair, Dan Taddei W9STS (Tom Churchill WD9DAU)

Dan W9STS gave a slideshow presentation on Hamfest. The presentation detailed the location, times, VE sessions, seminars and flea market. Dan still needs volunteers for setup, gate help, speakers, front table help and clean up. Tom WD9DAU volunteered to run talk-in. Questions, see Dan W9STS or Tom WD9DAU.

MS-Walk

Denny W9HI thanks K9FE, K9WDB, N9YA, KD9DAU and KD9ICS (see presentation). The walk ended slightly early due to flooding.

New Business: NONE

Announcements

Dick W9GIG announced there are flyers for the W9DXCC on September 15-16.

Tom WD9DAU - 40 years ago was licensed.

Roberto WA9e has some flyers for Hamfest.

General Class Dates announced. Dates on Saturday: Sept 16, 23, Oct 7, 14, 21,28 and Nov 4. VE test will be on Nov 21st. Contact Allen KB9VO with questions. An extra class is also being scheduled to follow the General Class.

Upcoming Events

May 16th FRRL VE Session

June 6th Board Meeting

June 13th Member Meeting

June 23-25th Field Day

July 9th Hamfest

July 11th Member meeting

Adjournment

Denny W9HI declared the meeting adjourned at 20:23 CDT. Program by Cedrick, WT2P follows.

Respectfully submitted,

David Booher W9BOO

FRRL Secretary

Fox River Radio League Hamfest

July 9, 2017 8:00am to 1:00pm

By now all FRRL members should have received their tickets. You may pay for them at the May Membership Meeting - See Dan Taddei, W9STS or you may pay online at <http://www.frri.org/hamfest.php> by credit card or PayPal.

The hamfest is a great opportunity to walk the flea market for that perfect addition to your shack or maybe unload some of your equipment to make room for that new radio.

You can also attend the varied presentations that will be conducted like the ins and outs of building the Bitx-40.

We still need volunteers for set up or cleanup. See Dan W9STS or Tom WD9DAU If you would like to help or do a presentation. You can also email hamfest@frri.org.

See you at Aurora Central Catholic High School, 1255 N Edgelawn Dr, Aurora, IL.



MS Walk (cont'd)

Time went on and every year or two the MS Society site leader would change. So I would have to break in a new leader every year or two. One year the MS-Society said we really do not need your group anymore, we have equipped our staff with their own communications. They provided them with Nextel cell phones with Quick-Connect. I decided to keep the event as it was being done, even if it was a back-up. The new leader kept telling me we did not have to be there. In the first 30 minutes their system broke down. The connections were spotty, the direct connects rarely worked since they could not get enough signal at the river altitude. The hams however never had a glitch. We had switched to using NIARC's repeater (147.060, +600, 103.5 owned by Bob Roehrig K9EUI) and it was flawless. Bob has supported us with the use of his repeater for years. We did transition to the FOX repeater mid 2000's. That worked great, but alas it was short lived. The helicopter crash into the tower forced us off that 715 foot tower as they investigated the cause of the accident. (We were only at 415 feet, but they shut down the tower use) The FOX repeater moved to Geneva and that year was the last good use of the Fox system for the walk support. We struggled using the Fox in Elburn, but a 5 watt HT with a duck on the river was not reliable. A call to Bob, K9EUI, and the problem was solved. Graciously he welcomed us to again use the NIARC repeater for the event. Sometime around 2010 the walk was also officially supported by the FRRL again.

That pretty well brings us up to recent years. The MS staff have simplex Motorola radios for onsite comms. We however are the eyes and ears for the rest of the route. The walk was shortened to turn-around at Island Park in Geneva (6 miles) a few years ago. Then this year it was shortened by another 1.9 miles (4.1 miles) by moving the turn-around to Bennett Park in Geneva (because the southern end of the route to Island Park was under water). This now leaves the start/finish, Lathum Park and Bennett Park (both on Rt. 25) for the turn-around. Officially it is now the permanent route.

This year the volunteer count from the FRRL was way down. Start/Finish was Mike K9FE, Lathum Park was Dave K9WDB & Keith N9YA, and Bennett Park was Tom WD9DAU and his grandson, Priscilla KD9ICS. The walk weather was perfect, cool, light breeze and sunny. The walk was over before noon. (In the earlier year with the long routes it could be 4pm!) A big THANK YOU to the volunteer communicators for their skill and their time and to Bob Roehrig K9EUI for the NIARC repeater use.

I hope to see more of the FRRL next year! 73 de K9FE Mike

IMPORTANT AMATEUR RADIO WEB PAGE LINKS

www.frll.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