



# ARC OVER



The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League  
Since 1924

April 2018

Our 94rd Year in Amateur Radio!



Proud to be an ARRL  
Special Service Club

**Membership Meeting:**

Tue - April 10, 2018 @ 7:30 pm  
Bethany Lutheran Church in  
Batavia, IL

**Board of Director's Meeting:**

Tue - May 1, 2018 @ 7:00 pm  
Colonial Café, in Aurora, IL

**Next — VE Sessions:**

Tue - May 15, 2018 @ 7:00 pm  
Messenger Library, in  
North Aurora, IL

Sat - June 9th, 2018 @ 9:00 am  
Golden Corral, in Aurora, IL

**TELL YOUR 'wanna be' a HAM FRIENDS!**

**Technician Class Course *just* Started!**

The **FRRL** club and the **Bolingbrook Amateur Radio Society (BARS)** club are working together to co-present a **Technician Class License course** this spring. The Technician Class is a **FREE** - 10 week course, held every Saturday Morning. At the first class we had 10 people attend and have room for more! Tell your friends! It's not too late to join and get licensed.

Dates: **April 7, 2018 to June 9, 2018**

When: **Saturday — 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon**

Where: **Golden Corral**  
4270 East New York Street, Aurora, IL

For more info visit our website: <http://www.fril.org/education.php>

To Register for Class: <http://www.fril.org/education-registration.php>

**Dues — Reminder!**

**Membership Renewals were due in January!**

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**Amateur Extra Class:**

**CONGRATUALATIONS**

**To all those who passed the Extra Exam !!**

The Amateur Extra Class which ran Jan. to Mar. 2018. All the attendees who have taken the Extra Exam, have **PASSED** and earned their Extra Class License.

**Great Job Everyone!!**

Kudos also go out to all the Extra Class Instructors too!

**Great Job Teaching !!**

## About the FRRL

The Fox River Radio League, Inc., is a general interest Amateur Radio club serving the central Fox River Valley area in Illinois. Club Records indicate the club has been in existence since at least 1924, and it 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.

FRRL sponsors: Training Classes for new Ham Radio Operators, License Examination Sessions, and participate in other various local Public Service Events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you 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**, located at: 8 S. Lincoln St. Batavia, IL. The meeting begins at **7:30 PM** and includes a short business portion, social time and a program of interest.

Meetings are Open to the Public. Anyone interested in the amateur radio hobby are invited to attend. Family members are welcome.

Please welcome our newest members to the club!

CALL	NAME	LICENSE CLASS
AB9UE	Russell Razaian	Amateur Extra
KD9HUI	Kevin Rick	Technician
K9MEV	Mark Van Daele	Amateur Extra
KD9WTF	Stephen Lange	General

## ArcOver FRRL Newsletter

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The FRRL ArcOver Newsletter is published Monthly by the Fox River Radio League, Inc. Any and all Amateur Radio Articles, Information and Letters are *always* welcome! Deadline for articles, materials and information is the **25th day of each Month** in order to be included in the next month's ArcOver newsletter. News Articles and Information can be sent - by email to: [newsletter@frrl.org](mailto:newsletter@frrl.org) or via the U.S. Postal Service Mail to: FRRL Newsletter PO Box 673 Batavia, IL 60510.

Contact the Newsletter Editor for details and submission guidelines.

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***The opinions expressed within the ArcOver newsletter are strictly those of the article authors and do not necessarily represent the opinions 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](mailto:info@frrl.org)

Web Site: <http://www.frrl.org>

### President:

Daniel Taddei, W9STS

### Vice President:

Roger Bara, W9YU

### Secretary:

David Booher, W9BOO

### Treasurer:

Dan Harmon, WA9YKK

### Directors:

Jason Burzynski, NX9Y  
Allen Nelson, KB9VO  
Jim Nevitt, Jr., N9XP  
Lance Clarke, W9QB

### Past President:

Dennis Barfuss, W9HI

### License Trustee:

Kermit Carlson, W9XA

### Newsletter Editor:

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### Webmaster:

Chris Kennell, KC9BKS  
[webmaster@frrl.org](mailto:webmaster@frrl.org)

FRRL 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 - Family-\$35.00  
Senior Citizen \$15.00 - Sr. Family \$20.00  
Student (full time under 22) \$15.00 a year.

Members can help support FRRL Repeaters by making an annual \$10. donation.

For more information visit our website:  
<http://www.frrl.org/membership.php>



## President's QST

Dan Taddei, W9STS

I am just back from the April FRRL Board meeting and I am really excited about what is in store. April's meeting presentation will be a remote program about Flex SDR radios and all that they bring to Ham radio. SDR radios really expand our operating capabilities. I contrast my ICOM 7300 with the pine board AM QRP transmitter that Bob Heil has featured on **Ham Nation** and on the Front page of the January 2018 **QST**. The difference is striking. And it shows the span of opportunities to explore in Ham radio. On the one hand the building of a transmitter that hails from the days of AM and tubes, on the other hand an out of the box radio with built in computers that does digital signal processing. WOW!

May is just around the corner and May brings the annual MS Walk. If you would like to help out with this event contact Priscilla KD9ICS. Also in May is Hamvention , May 18 through 20 are the days to mark on your calendar. This will be my first attempt at attending, and my hope is the rain will stay away this year. I have not predetermined what I will buy there. I am looking forward to seeing the new releases that will be displayed at the show. If you can attend, there will be a number of podcasters live streaming from the floor and maybe from some of the education sessions.

73,

Dan Taddei, W9STS

President, Fox River Radio League

Email: [President@frrl.org](mailto:President@frrl.org)

# FCC Test Pool Questions:

The ArcOver is going to test your knowledge...

Here are 3 test questions. One question from each License Class.

Keep a look out while reading the ArcOver, to find the corresponding Answers.

# ARC OVER

Good Luck!

## Technician Class

T1A10

What is the FCC Part 97 definition of an amateur station?

- A. A building where Amateur Radio receivers, transmitters, and RF power amplifiers are installed
- B. Any radio station operated by a non-professional
- C. A station in the Amateur Radio Service consisting of the apparatus necessary for carrying on radio communications
- D. Any radio station for hobby use



## General Class

G6B06

What kind of device is an integrated circuit operational amplifier?

- A. Programmable Logic
- B. Digital
- C. Analog
- D. MMIC

## Extra Class

E8B02

How does the modulation index of a phase-modulated emission vary with RF carrier frequency (the modulated frequency)?

- A. It varies with the square root of the RF carrier frequency
- B. It decreases as the RF carrier frequency increases
- C. It increases as the RF carrier frequency increases
- D. It does not depend on the RF carrier frequency

Share your thoughts & ideas....

Is there something that you'd like to see added to the ArcOver Newsletter?

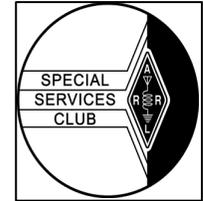
Share your ideas with the editor:

Send email to: [newsletter@frrl.org](mailto:newsletter@frrl.org)

The ArcOver Editor - Cyndi, K9NAX



**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

Held at Bethany Lutheran Church, Batavia, IL

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## Meeting Minutes March 13, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 19:31 CDT by President Dan Taddei W9STS. Audience introductions: Name, Call, QTH and: "What are your Spring Ham Radio plans"?

Approval of February 2018 Member Meeting minutes: Motion was moved, seconded and accepted.

There were 49 members present at this meeting.

### Treasurer's Report, Dan WA9YKK

Dan reported the financial balances as of 3/6/2018

### Program, Jason NX9Y

Tonight: John Greusel KC9OJV on Portable Loop Antenna. April: Flex Radio Webinar, Michael Walker VA3MW. May: Debbie WX9VOR, Amateur Radio Teams who support the National Weather Service. June is reserved for Field Day. If you have any ideas for future programs, please see Jason.

### Education, Allen KB9VO

Allen is pleased with the Extra class turnout as well as the instructors. The upcoming Technician class was discussed. It will be a combined effort between FRRL and BARS Radio Club in Bolingbrook. An instructor signup sheet was made available.

### Net, Dave N9XU

2m Net is every Tuesday at 7:30pm on the Club Repeater. More control operators are always needed, contact Dave N9XU for details.

### VE (Volunteer Examiner) Testing, Paul AC9BS

Extra VEs are needed to help with testing on March 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The next VE session will be March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Messenger Library, North Aurora from 7PM to 9PM. Another VE Session will be held on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 9AM at the Messenger Library. The testing fee is \$15.00. Bring a copy of your current license if upgrading.

### Membership, Chris KC9BKS

Chris KC9BKS reported a total of 122 active members.

### ARES, Debby WX9VOR

Debby reported that ARES is back on their normal schedule. There are a few spotter classes available. ARES continues to work with WinLink packet. SkyWarn season is starting soon. Visit the website at <http://kanecountyares.org> or see Debby for further details on any event happening with ARES.

### Old Business:

### Field Day Update. Dan WA9YKK

Dan is currently looking for Band Captains. LeRoy Oakes has been reserved.

### Tech and General Classes

Allen covered the material previously (under Education).

## **New Business:**

### **IL QSO Party and IL Bicentennial Special Event**

Dan W9STS encourages members to participate in these activities. Website information is available for both of these events.

### **MS Walk Support May 6th**

A signup sheet was sent around with the sign-in book. Members are encouraged to participate. Please see Priscilla KD9ICS for further details.

### **Farmers' Market Outreach Schedule**

Allen KB9VO wants to increase the Club's visibility. The Farmers' Markets are going to be scheduled for Saturday and Sundays this year. More information will be published on the website when the venues and dates become available.

## **Announcements**

Harry K9DXA took down the SDR Yahoo Group.

Will there be a virtual roster? Yes, soon. (According to Lance W9QB).

Paul W9DWP reported some work still being done on the repeaters and continues on the repeater "receive sites".

Dan W9STS asked for a show of hands for a possible Fox Hunt. There is some interest.

Marty N9NTM and Paul W9DWP reported on more Hamfests in the area.

Paul W9DWP will have tickets for the upcoming Sandwich Hamfest at the next meeting.

## **Upcoming Events**

March 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Extra Classes

March 20<sup>th</sup> VE Session

March 24<sup>th</sup> Extra VE Session

April 3<sup>rd</sup> FRRL Board Meeting

April 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Tech Classes

April 10<sup>th</sup> FRRL Membership Meeting

## **Adjournment**

A motion was received, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting.

The member meeting was adjourned at 20:22 CDT.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Booher W9BOO  
FRRL Secretary

**Technician Class**

T1A10

Answer - C

## FRRL — Upcoming Events Calendar:

### — April —

- ✓ **Tue Apr 3** — **Board of Director's Meeting** — 7:00 pm @ Colonial Café in Aurora, IL
- ✓ **Sat Apr 7** — **Technician Class** — 9:00 am-12 pm @ Golden Corral in Aurora, IL (Start Date) \*
- Tue Apr 10** — **General Membership Meeting** — 7:30 pm @ Bethany Luther Church in Batavia, IL
- Sat Apr 14** — **Technician Class** — 9:00 am-12 pm @ Golden Corral in Aurora, IL
- Sat Apr 21** — **Technician Class** — 9:00 am-12 pm @ Golden Corral in Aurora, IL
- Sat Apr 28** — **Technician Class** — 9:00 am-12 pm @ Golden Corral in Aurora, IL

### — May —

- Tue May 1** — **Board of Director's Meeting** — 7:00 pm @ Colonial Café in Aurora, IL
- Sat May 5** — **Technician Class** — 9:00 am-12 pm @ Golden Corral in Aurora, IL
- Sun May 6** — **MS Walk** — 7:00 am @ Pottawatomie Park in St. Charles, IL
- Tue May 8** — **General Membership Meeting** — 7:30 pm @ Bethany Luther Church in Batavia, IL
- Sat May 12** — **Technician Class** — 9:00 am-12 pm @ Golden Corral in Aurora, IL
- Sat May 19** — **Technician Class** — 9:00 am-12 pm @ Golden Corral in Aurora, IL
- Tue May 23** — **VE Test Session** — 7:00 pm @ Messenger Library in North Aurora, IL
- Sat May 26** — **Technician Class** — 9:00 am-12 pm @ Golden Corral in Aurora, IL

### — June —

- Sat Jun 2** — **Technician Class** — 9:00 am-12 pm @ Golden Corral in Aurora, IL
- Sat Jun 9** — **Technician Class** — **VE Test Session** — 9:00 am — @ Golden Corral in Aurora, IL
- Sat & Sun Jun 23 - 24** — **2018 - Field Day!** — @ LeRoy Oaks Forest Preserve, St. Charles, IL

### Mark Your Calendar — Future Events:

**Sun Aug 26 — thru — Mon Dec 3 — 2018 - IL Bicentennial QSO Party**

For more info on the *Technician Class schedule* visit our web site: <http://www.fril.org/education.php>

For more info on the *2018 Field Day schedule* visit our web site: <http://www.fril.org/field-day.php>

# FRRL - Upcoming Meeting Presentations



## General Class

G6B06

Answer - C

### April Meeting - Tue April 10, 2018

Flex SDR Radio Online Presentation

Presented by: Michael Walker - VA3MW

### May Meeting - Tue May 8, 2018

Amateur Radio Teams that support the National Weather Service

Presented by: Debby Gray - WX9VOR

### June Meeting - Tue June 12, 2018

TBD

Interested in presenting, or have ideas for a presentation - contact: Jason, KB9MEL - [program@frrl.org](mailto:program@frrl.org)

## FRRL & BARS - 2018 Technician Class

The **FRRL** club and the **Bolingbrook Amateur Radio Society (BARS)** club are working together to co-present a Technician Class License course this spring. The Technician Class is a **FREE** - 10 week course, held every Saturday Morning at the Golden Corral in Aurora.



**FRRL**  
Fox River Radio League

*Amateur Radio  
Technician Class*

Course is co-presented by FRRL & BARS:



**BARS**  
Bolingbrook  
Amateur Radio Society

Dates: **April 7, 2018 thru June 9, 2018**

When: **Saturday — 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon**

Where: **Golden Corral  
4270 East New York Street, Aurora, IL**

Class Dates	Technician Class	Class Location
April 7 - June 9, 2018	<b>COURSE SCHEDULE</b>	Golden Corral
Schedule: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Free (includes breakfast)	4270 East New York Street, Aurora, IL 60005
April 7	What is Amateur Radio? Safety, Emergency, and Public Service Getting Started with Your Radio License Radio Fundamentals	Instructor: BARS Collaps: ARRL
April 14	Radio and Electrical Fundamentals Radio Fundamentals	Instructor: Collaps Collaps: BARS
April 21	Electronics, Components, and Circuits Circuit Symbols Types of Radio and Radio Circuits	Instructor: BARS Collaps: ARRL
April 28	Propagation, Antennas, and Feed Lines Propagation Antennas Antenna Systems	Instructor: BARS Collaps: ARRL
May 5	Amateur Radio Equipment Radio Fundamentals Radio Fundamentals	Instructor: BARS Collaps: ARRL
May 12	Classroom with Other Radio Radio Fundamentals Radio Fundamentals	Instructor: BARS Collaps: ARRL
May 19	Operating Procedures Operating Procedures Operating Procedures	Instructor: BARS Collaps: ARRL
May 26	Operating Procedures Operating Procedures Operating Procedures	Instructor: BARS Collaps: ARRL
June 2	Operating Procedures Operating Procedures Operating Procedures	Instructor: BARS Collaps: ARRL
June 9	Operating Procedures Operating Procedures Operating Procedures	Instructor: BARS Collaps: ARRL

Come and support the Tech Class — Come early and eat breakfast with us!

For more info visit our website: <http://www.frrl.org/education.php>

To Register for Class: <http://www.frrl.org/education-registration.php>

# Time to Spring into Action....

## MS WALK

*Looking for Volunteers!*



- When: **Sunday May 6, 2018** (*same day Sandwich Hamfest*)
- Time: **7:00 am** until approx. **11:00 am-12:00 noon**
- Where: **Pottawatomie Park, 8 North Ave, St. Charles, IL**
- Length of walk: around 4 miles – 4 stations
- Equipment: **HT Radio** with decent antenna & spare battery.
- Other: Chair, dress in layers for weather.
- To Sign up Contact: Priscilla Miller, KD9ICS  
email: [priscill@comcast.net](mailto:priscill@comcast.net)

Please check your calendars and consider signing up to work EMCOMM for this worthwhile cause. Note: you don't walk the 4 miles; you drive your car to your assigned station.

### Extra Class

E8B02

Answer - D

## ARRL— Hamfests and Conventions



### Conventions

**May 18-20, 2018** ■ Great Lakes Division—Hamvention® ■ **Xenia, Ohio**  
*and featuring ARRL EXPO*

**June 1-3, 2018** ■ Northwestern Division (SeaPac) ■ **Seaside, Oregon**

**June 8-10, 2018** ■ West Gulf Division (Ham-Com) ■ **Plano, Texas**

For more info visit the ARRL website at: <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>



# FRRL Featured News

## HF Challenge



March 15, 2018				
Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Gary K9MMS	50	10	119	179
Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Roger W9YU	20	1	5	26
Alan W9AN	14	2	57	73
Jason NX9Y	20	3	13	36
QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Joe NA9A	11	2	27	40
Larry K9ARZ	50	12	150	212
Dean KC9EOQ	23	3	28	54
Dick AH6EZ/W7	50	13	109	172
Rag Chewer Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Joe NA9A	3	1	1	5
Gary K9MMS	1	0	0	1
Dick AH6EZ/W7				37

### HF Challenge for April ArcOver

Challenge participants are reporting improvements in band conditions during this reporting period. Larry K9ARZ worked Rep of Congo, Rwanda, Cameroon, Thailand, Jordan, Mauritius (80 meters), Burkina Faso, Annobon Isl., Congo Republic, Kaliningradsk, Angola, Benin, Easter Island, Kosovo, Revillagigedo Isl., Temotu Prov., and Equatorial Guinea.

“Despite the propagation reports, there have been some really good DX openings during the past month,” he said. “Even the 15 meter band has been opening up during the daylight hours; 40-80 have been productive during the dusk to evening hours. Things are looking up!”

Joe NA9A, Challenge Administrator, made contact with Kosovo, Annoban Is., and Malawi. “Sunspot numbers and the Solar Flux remain low and are expected to be worse for another year,” he said. “Despite those predictions, there’s a lot of semi-rare DX out there, although the rarest probably held back while Bouvet Island, 3Y/b\*\* was supposed to be on. As written here last month, the DXpedition to Bouvet had to be cancelled due to dangerous seas at the landing site.”

## FRRL— HF Challenge News — *continued....*

Joe NA9A, Challenge Administrator, made contact with Kosovo, Annoban Is., and Malawi. “Sunspot numbers and the Solar Flux remain low and are expected to be worse for another year,” he said. “Despite those predictions, there’s a lot of semi-rare DX out there, although the rarest probably held back while Bouvet Island, 3Y/b\*\* was supposed to be on. As written here last month, the DXpedition to Bouvet had to be cancelled due to dangerous seas at the landing site.”

Joe provided a list of good opportunities for DX in the top 100 of the most wanted countries. The asterisks follow the FRRL Challenge level of rarity:

3W9DLE\* Vietnam until 4/30.

T31T\* Central Kiribati until 5/31 by “Rebel” DX Group.

A5A\* Bhutan until 4/11, all bands and modes including FT8.

3B7A\* St. Brandon Island until 4/17.

RI1FJ\* Franz Josef Land, through 9/1 40 & 30 meters, CW

H44MS\* Solomon Islands on now through 5/31 all bands, SSB & Digital.

9N7WA\* Nepal 4/20 through 4/27, all bands and modes.

H44R\* Solomon Islands 4/22 through 4/25.

H40D\* Temotu Province 4/25 through 5/3.

H44R/p\* Solomon Island 4/26 & 4/27.

JD1BLY\* Ogasawara 5/2 through 5/4, all bands, all modes.

JG8NQJ/JD1\*\* Minami Torishima 5/15 to 8/15

HS0ZIB/G6JFY \\* Myanmar (Burma) tentatively “soon.”

KH0/N7NVK\* Wake Island 4/1 through indefinite period. Likes PSK31.

As always, it’s never too late to join the Challenge. Talk to Joe at the next club meeting, or send an email to Challenge [at] frrl.org.

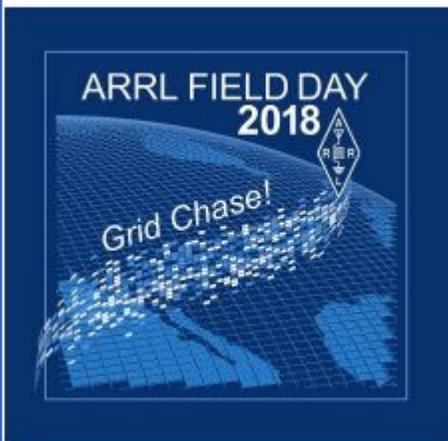
73 de KC9LQS

# ARRL FIELD DAY—2018

What is ARRL Field Day?

If you're a NEW HAM Operator, you probably are wondering what is all this excitement and hub-bub about Field Day...

**Field Day is Amateur Radio's Open House.** Every 4th weekend in June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate amateur radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. Field Day combines public service, emergency preparedness, local community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in ham radio. ARRL Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN! Come join us at Field Day, to work your favorite bands or new bands you might not normally work.



*Mark your Calendar — NOW!*

**2018 - FIELD DAY Dates:**

**Saturday June 23, 2018** - 1800 UTC ( 1300 / 1:00 pm CDT ) -through-

**Sunday June 24, 2018** - 2059 UTC ( 1559 / 3:59 pm CDT )

Location: **LeRoy Oaks Forest Preserve, in St. Charles, IL**

FRRL needs people to help on our 2018 Field Day event. If you're interested, even for a brief time, let us know. Please contact FD Chairman: Dan, WA9YKK Come out, work some new bands, have lots of FUN!

For more information visit ARRL FIELD DAY 2018 website at: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

For more information on FRRL FIELD DAY 2018 - visit our website at: <http://www.frrl.org/field-day.php>

## **FRRL & BARS - 2018 General Class**

The **FRRL** club and the **Bolingbrook Amateur Radio Society (BARS)** club will continue to work together to co-present a **General Class License** course this fall. The General Class is a **FREE** - 10 week course, to be held every Saturday Morning at the **Golden Corral** in Aurora.

**Tentative** Dates: **Sept 29, 2018 to Nov 13, 2018**

When: **Saturday — 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon**

Where: **Golden Corral — 4270 East New York Street, Aurora, IL**

We're looking for people interested in assisting as a General Class Instructor for the fall class. If you think you'd like to help out with the General Class, as an Instructor, or in any other way — Please contact: Allen, KB9VO - education [at] frrl.org -or- Cyndi, K9NAX - pr [at] frrl.org

# ARRL NEWS



## The ARRL Letter

More than 30,000 New Ham Licensees and 7,000 Amateur Radio Exam Session in 2017

For the fourth year in a row, more than 30,000 new licensees joined the Amateur Radio ranks, and ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VEC) conducted more than 7,000 Amateur Radio exam sessions, serving some 35,350 candidates for a new or upgraded license. At the end of December 2017, the US Amateur Radio population stood at 748,136. At nearly 378,000, Technician licensees represented the largest segment, with General (174,206), Amateur Extra (145,034), Advanced (41,938), and Novice (9,056) trailing. Licensee numbers showed continued growth across all classes except Advanced and Novice, which the FCC no longer issues; those numbers continue to drop.

“I’m hopeful that the number of new licensees will be more than 30,000 at the end of this year,” ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said. “I would love to see this trend continue!” Somma said topping the 7,000 mark in ARRL VEC-sponsored exam sessions since 2014 was “an important milestone for us.” In 2017, the ARRL VEC administered 7,075 sessions.

### **New Licenses 2008 - 2017**

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
28,066	30,144	27,528	24,072	27,082	28,886	33,241	32,077	32,552	32,196

### **Upgraded Licenses 2008 - 2017**

2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
15,501	10,796	10,726	10,337	10,283	9,325	10,556	11,224	10,617	9,576

Despite the optimistic influx of 32,196 newcomers last year, the net growth of 5,349 — about 0.72% over December 2016 — reflects some 27,000 expired or cancelled licenses in the FCC database over the past year. In making the case for changes to the entry-level license, the ARRL Board’s Entry-Level License Committee referred to “the large number of Baby Boomers (roughly born 1945 – 65) [who] will soon be aging off the licensee rolls.” The committee predicted the likelihood of “a significant decline in the number of hams, unless we take steps to reverse it.”

Somma said that, in addition to exam session administration, ARRL VEC also processed and electronically transmitted 8,765 address changes and license renewals to the FCC for ARRL members in 2017. “This free service to members continues to be a strong draw,” she said. She further pointed out that, as one of three FCC-authorized Club Station Call Sign Administrators (CSCSA), ARRL VEC processed and transmitted 1,761 club license applications for the FCC in 2017, of which 338 were for new club licenses.

The number of Amateur Radio license upgrades was 9,576 in 2017, continuing a slight downward trend over the past 10 years.

—end—

# ARRL NEWS



## New ISS Crew Member's Ham Radio Contact to Highlight a Wider Educational Effort

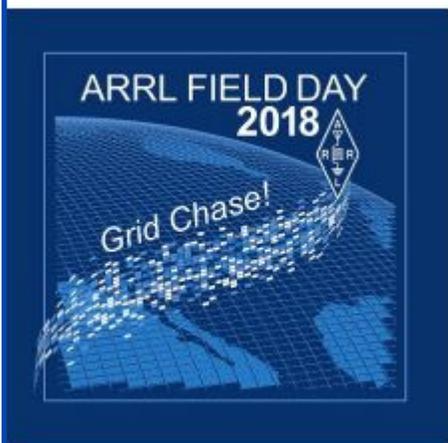
Recent International Space Station (ISS) arrival Ricky Arnold, KE5DAU, will take the mic of the station's NA1SS on April 10 to answer questions posed by students at Pinson Valley High School in Alabama, where ham radio already has a foothold. Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) will sponsor the ham radio event with Arnold, who arrived on station on March 23 with Drew Feustel and Oleg Artemyev. Pinson Valley HS already has its own Amateur Radio club, and students there recently took part in ARRL's School Club Roundup ([SCR](#)), in the process learning about setting up antennas, propagation, and the basics of making a ham radio contact. The April 10 contact will highlight a wider educational effort at Pinson HS.

Students in earth and space science classes will learn how satellites are used in Amateur Radio, and an AMSAT member will demonstrate their use. Industrial maintenance classes will build antennas and a transmitter to participate in a transmitter hunt. The Birmingham Amateur Radio Club ([BARC](#)) and its Amateur Radio Advancement Group has pledged their support and equipment. The Blount County Amateur Radio Club has offered to follow up by offering Pinson HS students and faculty with Amateur Radio license testing on the school's campus.

"This level of involvement helps to dispel the myth that ARISS contacts are only a one-shot event," ARRL ARISS Representative Rosalie White, K1STO, said. "Teachers, clubs, and ARRL members work hard, sometimes out of their comfort zones, to ensure that Amateur Radio is included in scheduled schools in a broader context." —end—



## 2018 ARRL Field Day -- Gear is Here!



[ARRL Field Day](#) -- the most popular on-the-air operating event in Amateur Radio - is June 23-24, and official gear and supplies are now available from ARRL. There are [Shirts](#), [pins](#), [patches](#), [stickers](#), and -- of course -- there are coffee [mugs](#), a great way to acknowledge and commemorate your participation in this annual event. There are two T-shirt color options -- [navy blue](#) and [white](#). Order one, or one of each! Pair it with an ARRL hat of your choice, in [black](#), [khaki](#), or [red and white](#).

For more info visit ARRL FD shop at: <http://www.arrl.org/shop/field-day/>



## THE ILLINOIS BICENTENNIAL CHALLENGE AWARD

When: Sun Aug 26, — Mon Dec. 03, 2018

Time: 12:01 AM — 11:59 PM

In celebration of the Illinois Bicentennial, the Wester Illinois Amateur Radio Club will sponsor an On-Air operating event to encourage amateur (ham) radio operators all over the world to contact hams in Illinois. The goal for each operator will be to make contact on the air with at least one participating station in each of the 102 Illinois counties. Operators who provide evidence of making contact with at least one station in each county will be awarded a certificate acknowledging the accomplishment. The WIARC will coordinate the activities of amateur stations in each Illinois county. Publishing online the operating schedule for each station.

For more information visit the IL website at:

<https://illinois200.com/events/the-illinois-bicentennial-challenge-award/>

### *International Grid Chase—2018*

### *Get in the Chase!*

**The ARRL International Grid Chase is underway! Join in on the newest year-long operating event!**

Get in on the Chase!

The objective of the ARRL International Grid Chase is to work stations on any band (except 60 meters) in as many different Maidenhead grid squares as possible, and then upload your log data to the ARRL's Logbook of the World (LoTW).

For more information visit ARRL website:

<http://www.arrl.org/international-grid-chase-2018>



## IMPORTANT AMATUER RADIO WEB PAGE LINKS

Visit our website – FRRL Website: [www.frrl.org](http://www.frrl.org)

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

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

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

[www.twit.tv/hn](http://www.twit.tv/hn)

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

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

### Follow FRRL on Facebook:

FRRL Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/foxriverradio/>

FRRL Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/foxriverradio/>



### FRRL Repeaters:

W9CEQ – 147.210 MHz +600KHz Offset, 103.5 PL

W9CEQ – 444.300 MHz +5 MHz Offset, 114.8 PL

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:

#### Kane Co. Repeaters:

##### KC90EM – Owned by Kane County OEM:

KC90EM – 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)

W9DWP – 145.270 -600 KHz 107.2 PL

W9DWP – 443.025 +5 MHz 114.8 PL

##### K9BAR – BARS – Bolingbrook Amateur Radio Society Repeaters:

K9BAR – 147.330 +600 KHz, 107.2 PL - (EchoLink: K9BAR-R Node # 261875)

K9BAR – 443.525 +5.0 MHz, 114.8 PL & NAC-293 - P25/Mixed-Mode Analog

K9BAR – 443.700 +, Color Code 1 TS1 & 2 - DMR Repeater

##### W9XA – 6 meter:

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

##### W9ZGP – NIARC:

W9ZGP – 147.060 +600 KHz, 103.5 PL

##### Weekly Nets:

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

Monday at 8:30 pm 28.720 MHz SSB

FRRL 2 Meter Net: Tuesday at 7:30 pm on W9CEQ (except Tue meeting nights)

ARES & Skywarn Net: Wednesday at 6:30 pm on KC90EM 2 meter repeater

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

BARS Info & Traffic Net: Thursday at 8:00 pm on the K9BAR 2 meter/440 repeater