



ARC OVER



The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League
Since 1924

Our 93rd Year in Amateur Radio!

November 2017



Proud to be an ARRL
Special Service Club

Board of Director's Meeting

December 5th, 2017 @7:00pm
Colonial Café—Aurora, IL.

Membership Meeting

November 14th 2017 @ 7:30pm
Bethany Lutheran Church

VE Session

November 21st, 2017
Messenger Library in North
Aurora @ 7:00pm

Announcing: The ARRL International Grid Chase

A new and exciting operating event will kick off on January 1, 2018, at 0000 UTC (New Year's Eve in US time zones), when the [ARRL International Grid Chase](#) gets under way. The year-long event hopes to build on the success of the highly successful 2016 National Parks on the Air (NPOTA). The objective 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 ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW). [Registration](#) in LoTW is free, and it costs nothing to participate

Many hams are familiar with grid squares from the VHF/UHF and satellite realms, and everyone lives in one. ARRL's VUCC is based on grid squares, and some contests on HF, VHF, and UHF also use them as a scoring factor.

The Maidenhead grid square system divvies up the entire globe into 324 fields, each containing 100 grid squares 1° latitude × 2° longitude in size. With 32,400 potential grid squares, it's not likely that anyone will run out of challenges, even though some grid squares are surrounded entirely by water or are in areas that are uninhabited or difficult to access.

If you don't know your grid square, David Levine, K2DSL, has an [online calculator](#). Just enter a postal address, ZIP code, or even a call sign, and his site will tell you the grid square for that location. For example, enter "W1AW" and the site will return "FN31pr." For the purposes of the ARRL International Grid Chase, though, just the two initial letters and the two numbers that follow (e.g., FN31) are all you'll need to know.

Once you get active in the chase and start uploading your log data, each new grid square contact confirmed through LoTW will count toward your [monthly total](#). Getting started is simple. Turn on the radio and just call CQ or "CQ Grid Chase" or listen for others doing the same. Make a contact, exchange grid squares, log it, and move on to another. At the end of each month, your totals on the Grid Chase leader board will reset to zero, although the system retains these to determine top finishers in various categories at the end of the year.

Any contact you make in 2018 can count toward your Chase score; it doesn't have to involve an exchange of grid squares. As long as the other operators also participate in LoTW, you'll get credit automatically when they upload their logs. This means that contest contacts also count, as will contacts with special event stations or other on-air activity that uses LoTW to confirm contacts.

There are no restrictions on modes or bands, as long as they are legal. Satellite contacts are valid for the Chase. The event is open to all radio amateurs. Full details of the ARRL International Grid Chase will appear in the December 2017 issue of QST.

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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
KB9BL	Dean Gearhart	Extra
N9WCX	Kenneth Nelson	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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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

Participation is gaining momentum now that shorter days and cooler nights are keeping us indoors more often, and it's paying off in increasing scores and milestones reached. In the latter regard, congrats to Mike K9FE who reached two milestones. The first is DXCC for digital, which Mike notes can be quite a challenge. "I was hung up at 98 countries for a year," he said, "until the new FT-8 mode exploded. It's faster than JT-65. Not as sensitive, but a lot of fun!" Mike also received his Worked All States on 20, 40 and 80 meters, using JT-65 and FT-8.

It's been a good month for many HF Challenge participants. "Propagation has improved markedly, activity has increased on the higher bands during the daytime, and during grey-line hours," noted participant Larry K9ARZ. "Evening activity has also improved on 40 meters. Activity since last month included: 3C1 Equatorial Guinea, 3C0 Annobon, ZD7 St. Helena Island, 7Z1 Saudi Arabia, S9 Sao Tome, 9J2 Zambia, 9m6 Eastern Malaysia, E51 South Cook Isl., FK8 New Caledonia, A5 Bhutan, DU Philippines, XT2 Burkina Faso, 5T Mauritania, H40 Temotu Province, V51 Namibia, R11 Franz Josef Land, and Others. My best band has been 17 meters."

Challenge Administrator Joe NA9A also cited improved propagation since the previous reporting period. "Thanks to great propagation on 15 and 20 meters during the CQWW-SSB contest, it was easier to work lots of countries," he said. Among those countries was a contact with 3COL Annobon Is.

Joe also shared some upcoming DX news:

9U* Burundi: The Mediterraneo DX Club is sending a DXpedition to this tiny African country for an operation running from November 6-17 as 9U4M. In addition to other modes, they will be operating with the new FT8 mode; even on 160M.

3W* - Vietnam: Tom Callas, KC0W is off again with his frequent DXpeditions. This time he's off to Vietnam as 3W9CW from November 17th to the 30th. He'll be operating both CW and FT8. Tom requires QSLing direct only. He says he has five more countries on his list for future DX operations. Be careful if you try to make repeated insurance contacts on the same bands because if there are too many dupes, he's been known to refuse to QSL any.

V8* Brunei is the next stop after Vietnam for KC0W. From December 3rd – 18th, he'll be V85/KC0W. Again, he'll be operating both CW and FT8. His activity will include 6 meters which could be an interesting test of the weak signal FT8 mode.

4S* - Sri Lanka is being activated by Peter Vossen, DC0KK through November all the way through March next year. Watch for 4S7KKG. You'll have to wait until next April for QSLs when Peter returns to Germany.

XW* - Laos: Ken Claerbout K4ZW will be in Laos December 3-8 with the callsign XW4ZW. Ken will be mostly active on the lower frequency bands so propagation will be a big factor in successful contacts.

XU* - Cambodia - NOT!: XU7XRO was recently spotted on the DX Cluster. That callsign is held by John Plenderleith, 9M6XRO. John says he hasn't been to Cambodia since 2010 so that spot was for a Pirate and doesn't count for anything.

H4* - Solomon Islands: H44MS will be active through November. The operator Bernard Stefan, DL2GAC runs only SSB and is known to like hunting US counties, so maybe Kane County is on his wish list.

The December ArcOver will bring the final HF Challenge update for the year, which includes scores from Jan. 1st through Nov. 15th. Be sure to send your updates by Nov. 20th to be included. Final scores for 2017 will be announced in January.

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Jim W9NJP	69	10	104	183
Eric K9LGE	34	4	5	43
Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Alan W9AN	12	8	57	77
Jason NX9Y	42	8	46	96
Herb W9DTR	79	13	36	128
Ron KC9SNI	25	2	24	51
QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Cedric WT2P	50	11	131	192
Dick AH6EZ/W7	93	22	163	277
Joe NA9A	39	5	171	215
Roger W9YU	66	14	84	164
Larry K9ARZ	100	26	305	431
Rag Chewer Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Dick AH6EZ/W7	0	0	0	31
Jim W9NJP	19	0	1	20
Herb W9DTR	8	0	3	11
Joe NA9A	7	0	2	9
Roger W9YU	13	0	2	15
Eric K9LGE				2

Get on the Air and Call CQ!

You never know who may come back to you!

President's Traffic

Dennis Barfuss, W9HI

I hope that you have at least started your fall antenna work or have already finished before the weather really gets cold or before snow.

This past October was no different in that it was as busy as ever. The General classes went well and we are just finishing up with the VE session scheduled for November 21st. Allen, W9VO will announce the dates for the new Extra classes that will start in January of next year.

On October 17th the board of directors held a special meeting discussing our hamfest and the pros and cons about having or not having our hamfest. We will discuss the outcomes and conclusions at the November Member meeting.

In addition, as we have been advertising for the past several months, we as a club operated a portable station for the Illinois QSO Party on October 22nd. The location was at the Pavilion located in the Spring Brook Prairie forest preserve located off 83rd street just east of Rt. 59 in Naperville. A great time was had by all.

This year we had two stations one running PSK31 and the other running phone. The coolest part not speaking about the cold misty, rainy weather was the fact that Dan WA9YKK provided his HEX beam for the phone station. Dave W9BOO utilized a vertical antenna for many of his contacts. Propagation was interesting in that all of Dave's PSK contacts were out of state. The hex beam worked well and we switched antennas to see how it might change Dave's PSK contacts. We also have to thank Jim, N9XP for supplying the Honda generator that ran both stations, computers and monitors. The rain was getting a lot of things wet including the generator, so we moved it closer to the stations out of harm's way and even with it running, it didn't create enough noise to be a problem. Batteries would have been the only thing quieter, but would not have supported all the computers and monitors. Jim also provided an Eagle vertical that worked wonders on 40 meters. The SWR was close to 1.5 to one so we were very happy. We utilized N3FJP's latest IL QSO party software and it worked well. After the contest we submitted our logs to LOTW and to the ILQP team. According to Dave, we immediately got conformations on LOTW. We will have to wait for some time to see how the club fared in the scoring of the contest.

Additionally during October, Dan WA9YKK put together a list of things that we hope will support a club Go Kit to be used for things like outreach. We had a successful year, but want to make it more efficient for next year so we can attend even more outings with more coordination. We will discuss the Go list at the November meeting.

We are also planning the December Christmas meeting and the January Banquet meeting.

We will also present the list of members that have accepted the responsibility for running for officer and director positions. Priscilla will present the list of candidates at the meeting to be voted on at the December meeting.

Lots of exciting things happening in the coming months and next year. Please plan on attending all our meetings.

73, Denny W9HI
President FRR.



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 October 10, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 19:35 CDT by President Denny W9HI. Audience introductions: Name, Call, QTH and: "Will you operate phone/cw/digital modes during the Illinois QSO Party?"

Approval of September 2017 Member Meeting minutes: Motion to approve by Tom WD9DAU seconded by Larry K9ARZ. Members approved the motion.

There were 50 people present at this meeting.

Treasurer's Report, Dean KC9EOQ

Dean reported on the status of our treasury

Program, Jason NX9Y

Tonight's program: Kurt Eversole KE9N Controlled/Tuned HF Magnetic Loop Antennas.

Education, Allen KB9VO

The attendance at the General Class is not as good as expected. An extra class will be presented in the Spring.

Net, Dave N9XU

2m Net is every Tuesday at 7:30. Lately, there has been good participation. Telephone Pioneers will be on the 16th.

VE (Volunteer Examiner) Testing, Paul AC9BS

The last testing session went well with one person testing up to General. The next VE session will be November 21st at Messenger Library, North Aurora. The testing fee is \$15.00. Bring a copy of your current license if upgrading.

Membership, Chris KC9BKS

Chris reported a total of 154 active members.

ARES, Debby WX9VOR

ARES has been very active. Training session on simplex this Thursday. Regular meeting on October 26th.

Debby reports ARES has been busy with four recent hurricanes. Credit goes out to other hams in Illinois (Lake County and surrounding area), that section being thanked for their extra help. There are some exercises coming up at the end of the month, thus the extra work on simplex. The Facebook site is being updated, but an effort will be made to get information out on the kanecountyares.org website.

The training and regular meetings are on Thursdays (please see website for schedule). Visit the website at <http://kanecountyares.org> or see Debby WX9VOR for further details on any event happening with ARES.

Old Business: NONE

New Business:

STEM-O-RAMA, Denny W9HI, Dan WA9YKK and Dave W9BOO

Other hams in the area participated: Robert Mitilieri N9EF, Jon Sheley W9JON, Jack Girard KC9RGW and Bill Hollister K9WH. The club set up two stations: one phone, one digital. Several young Scouts learned how to send their name with Morse Code. Some new people may be coming to the IL QSO Party as a result.

Nominating Committee, Priscilla KD9ICS

Priscilla asked for nominations. CJ WT2P and Lance W9QB volunteered to help Priscilla.

Locker Cleanout Status, Denny W9HI

The locker cleanout was September 24th. There are boxes of records that need to be gone through to decide what to keep and what to trash. Extra equipment was brought to the meeting.

Special Board Meeting, Denny W9HI

A special Board Meeting will be held October 17th at the Colonial Café in Aurora to discuss Hamfest.

Illinois QSO Party, Denny W9HI

The IL QSO Party will be held October 22nd and the Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve in Naperville.

Banquet, Denny W9HI

This year the banquet will be a catered event on January 9, 2018. It will be held at the Bethany Lutheran Church in lieu of a regular Member Meeting.

Announcements

Dean KC9EOQ paged a member who signed up for the website, but he wasn't present.

Kermit W9XA has renewed the W9CEQ license.

Bill Muhr NF9D might have old log records.

Dave K9WDB talked of upcoming Hamfests.

Upcoming Events

October 17th FRRL Special Board Meeting to discuss Hamfest

October 22nd IL QSO Party at Springbrook Prairie, Naperville

November 7th FRRL Board Meeting

November 14th FRRL Member Meeting

November 21st VE Session

Adjournment

Kermit W9XA motioned the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Doug W9RD. Denny W9HI declared the meeting adjourned at 20:16 CDT. Program by Kurt Eversole KE9N followed.

Respectfully submitted,

David Booher W9BOO

FRRL Secretary

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