



ARCOVER

MARCH 2024



The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League
100 Years of continuous service to our communities

1924  2024

Who We Are

President:
Kermit Carlson W9XA

Vice President:
Dan Nolan WA9FRY

Secretary:
Art Shuter NN9I

Treasurer:
Dan Harmon WA9YKK

Director :1
Pat Brod K9ANL

Director: 2
Will Sperling W9WSS

Director 3
Paul Mitchell KC9SEB

Director 4
John Greusel KC9OJV

Past President:
Terry Todd W9AUV

Programs:
Paul Mitchell KC9SEB

Education / VE:

License Trustee (W9CEQ):
Kermit Carlson, W9XA

License Trustee (W9NE):
Denny Barfuss W9HI

Newsletter Editor / PR:
Jerry Chapman N9JLC

Webmaster:
Mark Van Daele K9MEV

Membership Database:
Chris Kennel, KC9BKS

Net Coordinator:
Curt Sauer, W9YNP

About Us

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.

We sponsor training classes for those seeking a new or upgraded Amateur Radio license, license examination sessions, and participation in various local Public Service events. Our membership covers a broad variety of interests - if you have a specialized amateur radio interest, you will likely find camaraderie with one or more of our club members.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at Bethany Lutheran Church, located at 8 S. Lincoln St. in Batavia, Ill. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM and includes a short business portion, social time and a program presentation of interest.

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



Fox River Radio League

Mailing Address:
P. O Box 673
Batavia, IL 60510-0673
Email: info@frrl.org
Website: <http://www.frrl.org>





From
the desk
of....

FRRL President



Kermit Carlson

Greetings !

I would like to begin by thanking our immediate Past President, Terry Todd W9AUV for his stewardship at the helm of the FRRL for the past two years. There is a lot of good momentum in the FRRL thanks to his leadership and the comradery that he promoted. Thank You Terry !

As you all know there are a number of opportunities to help with the FRRL. Patrick Brod, K9ANL, and Danny Nichols, KD9DWD are looking for volunteers for Field Day. Please reach out to them if you are interested in helping as an operator (CW, Phone and Digital), band captain, promotions and communications, safety, food coordinator, or as a volunteer with any of the various parts of Field Day. Field Day is only 15 weeks away. While the one-air operation is Saturday June 22nd and Sunday the 23rd, our efforts are already well underway. Please check with Patrick and Danny for details of how to volunteer.

I would also like to thank Chris Kennell, KC9BKS, for his many years of Database and Roster management for the FRRL. Chris has tirelessly updated the Membership list several times a month for the past eighteen years. Chris is a great contributor to the FRRL cause and I do want to thank him for a job very well done. Thank You Chris !

This month Chris will begin transitioning the responsibility of the Database and Roster to Curt Sauer, W9YNP.

With the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Fox River Radio League just over 6 months away there is much anticipation for the Anniversary celebratory activities, especially the Century Banquet. Remember to mark your calendar for the Century Anniversary Banquet which will be held on Tuesday September 10th, 2024.



Presidents letter continued:

With the high solar flux and the sunspot numbers climbing above 150 , there is no better time to get on the air. I have recently noted a few club members venturing onto six meters and have heard conversations in hushed tones the mention of the possibility for a new six meter net and for a new local ten meter phone net in the lower phone portion of the ten meter band. Six and ten meter activity will be increasing as we approach our summer E's propagation season and with the possibility of some F2 propagation this solar cycle the real fireworks could be close at hand. I do want to relate that a good friend of mine, Joe Schroeder, W9JUV, was one of the first in the Chicago area to work 100 countries on six meters, he used a roof-top mounted three element beam and 100 watts on CW and Phone. Getting the antenna in the air is the first step.

I look forward to seeing you at our next Club Meeting on Tuesday, March 13th.

Good DX es 73, *Kermit W9XA*



W
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President
Carlson
Welcomes



Our
Newest
Members

| Call Sign | Name | License |
|-----------|-------------------|---------------|
| K9LEA | Kenneth Lea | Amateur Extra |
| N9MCC | Ronald McCafferty | General |
| K9GHP | Kenneth Jakle | General |
| | | |
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ARC OVER

FOX RIVER RADIO LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES February 13, 2023

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

The February 13, 2024 meeting of the Fox River Radio League was conducted at Bethany Lutheran Church in Batavia, IL. There were 42 members in attendance and 3 on Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 1930 CST by the president Kermit Carlson W9XA.

Board Members and Directors Present

President: Kermit Carlson W9XA

Vice-President: Dan Nolan

Secretary, Art Shuter NN9I

Treasurer, Dan Harmon WA9YKK (Absent)

Director 1, Will Sperling W9WSS

Director 2, Pat Brod K9ANL

Director 3, Paul Mitchell KC9SEB

Director 4, John Greusel KC9OJV

Past President, Terry Todd W9AUV

Minutes: Acceptance of the January 2024 membership meeting minutes as printed in the ArcOver were approved by the membership. Motion: Dean KC9EOQ, 2nd: Jim N9WP

Treasurer's Report: Kermit W9XA reported for Dan WA9YKK the bank account balances as of 2/13/24.

Reports:

100th Anniversary Eve W9EVE: Zoom meetings are continuing for the 100th Celebration. Thank you to the many that are working on this project.

Public Information officer- Jerry N9JLC – Jerry is sending post cards to city officials about field day.

Repeaters: Ruben K9ARN, Will W9WSS, Kermit W9XA: 220 repeater system is in progress.

Education: Denny W9HI: Dates are on the calendar for the next classes.



Database Managers Jim W9JB, Mike K9FE, Chris KC9BKS: We now have 163 members.

Technical: John KC9OJV, Mark K9MEV: Working on bandpass filters for field day.

Old Business: 2024 Budget has been created.

New Business: Kermit W9XA reported we are going to create an Ad-hoc Committee on Logo wear.

Also, we have created an ad-hoc committee for surplus equipment.

Proposed changes to by-laws by Dan Nolan WA9FRY.

ByLaw Change #1;

Amendment to Article 4 – Officers, Section 3.

Motion change to read as follows:

“The term of all officers shall be for one (1) year starting with the regular February membership meeting on February 1st and shall expire at the start of the following year’s February meeting on January 31st of the following year.”

Motion moved by Dan Nolan WA9FRY, 2nd by Robert Littler K9DSR.

Dean KC9EOQ moved a motion to table the proposed amendment until published in the ArcOver. 2nd by Harry K9DXA: motion passed.

2nd ByLaw change will be reviewed for future action

Upcoming Events: Newsletter deadline February 20th

Board Meeting March 6th

March 13th membership meeting

VE testing march 21st

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Eric K9LGE, 2nd Marty N9NTM.

Meeting adjourned at 20:17 CST.

Respectfully submitted,

Art Shuter – NN9I

FRRL Secretary

At the meeting an amendment proposal was made by VP Nolan:

The proposed amendment:

The following is a requested amendment to Article 5 – Officers, Section 3. Changes to be made as per

Article 14 – Amendments, Sections 1 – 3.









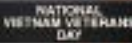







“The term of all officers shall be for one (1) year starting on February 1st and shall expire on January 31st of the following year.”



2024

MARCH

FOX RIVER RADIO LEAGUE

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|----------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 INFORMAL ALL OPR NET 1900 | 4 Casimir Pulaski Day | 5 1900 FRRL BOD Meeting 1930 FRRL 2m Net | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10  | 11 CW NET 28.150 2000  SSB NET 28.720 2030 | 12 1930 FRRL Membership Meeting No Net | 13 | 14  | 15 | 16 |
| 17  | 18 CW NET 28.150 2000  SSB NET 28.720 2030 | 19 1930 FRRL 2m Net | 20 Spring Equinox Newsletter Deadline | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24  | 25 CW NET 28.150 2000  SSB NET 28.720 2030 | 26 1930 FRRL 2m Net | 27 | 28 | 29   | 30 |
| 31  | | | | MEMBER MEETING BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH 8 SOUTH LINCOLN ST. BATAVIA IL | | |
|  WCRA 2m Net 8pm 145.31 -6 107.2 |  VARA 2m Net 8pm 146.79 -6 107.2 |  FRRL 2m Net 7:30pm 147.21 +6 103.5 |  Kane County ARES 2m Net 6:30pm 145.47 -6 103.5 |  Northern Illinois ARRL 70cm Net 7:30pm 444.875 +5MHz, 114.8 |  CW Net 28.150, Monday 8PM SSB Net 28.720, Monday 8:30PM | |

ARC OVER

NEWS AND INFORMATION CENTER

Local - National - International

Long-time Fox River Radio League member Thomas W. Churchill of Warrenville, Illinois passed away February 25th, 2024.

Tom, WD9DAU, has been an active member of the FRRL since the 1970's and was a constant presence at club meetings,

a past Field Day Band Captain, and a participant of many of the FRRL activities. Tom was also very active with the Aurora FM

Amateur Repeater in the days prior to when the repeaters became part of the FRRL. According to Tom's brother, Steve Churchill, N9USZ, a Celebration of Life is tentatively planned for this Summer.

Kermit Carlson W9XA
President FRRL



To all FRRL members,

I'd like to announce that FRRL has begun planning 2024 Field Day and Danny and I will be scheduling regular meetings (regularity TBD).

We are looking for people to volunteer full-time or part time for 2024 Field Day. FRRL Field Day is June 22nd and 23rd held at LeRoy Oaks Forest Preserve in Saint Charles, IL. Follow up emails with location maps and times to be provided in May and June.

If you are interested in any of the positions listed below please contact me and Danny Nichols via email:

* Patrick Brod (K9ANL) – email: kb9anl@yahoo.com, Phone: 630-853-5190

* Danny Nichols (KD9WDW) – email: tdjack97@outlook.com



The following positions available are:

* **Band Captains** - CW & SSB operators. There will be seven (7) different band stations available to each have a captain to lead and organize their station. Note, only have three or four band stations of the seven available. A Band Captain is a dedicated leader to contribute most of the communications equipment and maintain their assigned station operations for the duration of Field Day (e.g., Saturday and Sunday).

* **GOTA Captain & Public Information Table** – Get On The Air (GOTA) station is where you'll meet visitors and explain Amateur Radio and Field Day with hands-on radio communications.

* **W1AW Bulletin** - Assign a CW resource to copy W1AW bulletin for extra points. Same resource for Message Handling?

* **Food Coordinator** – Oversee all full-time & part-time Field Day participants have water, pop, and snacks as well as organize main meals. FRRL has already purchased catering for main meals (e.g., Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast). Person(s) should ensure other food (e.g., Friday night staging and Saturday lunch) or drinks have been arranged.

* **Safety Officer** – Ensure overall safety of Field Day attendees full-time, part-time, or visitors.

* **Promotions & Communicator Director** – Work with FRRL Public Relations to promote FRRL Field Day activation to the general public via active, recognized social media platforms (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.). Additionally, proactively seek out elected government officials to visit FRRL's Field Day event.

* **Educational Officer** - Provides an Amateur radio education activity for visitors. This person would also be responsible for youth participation at the GOTA station if we happen to have some visit. Last year we had a whole Boy Scout troop earn their Radio Merit Badges.

* **Event Volunteers** - Part time members to help perform miscellaneous tasks and participate at various radio stations if desired. We always need help setting up and tearing down antennas, tents, cabling, etc.

Thank you,

Patrick - K9ANL, 2024 Field Day Chairman

Danny Nichols - KD9WDW, 2024 Field Day Chairman





Errata to the 2024 - 2028 Amateur Extra-Class Question Pool Released



The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has released errata for the new 2024 - 2028 Element 4 Extra Class Question Pool, which goes into effect on July 1. The errata includes minor question changes, the removal of one question, and one modified graphic. These updates are reflected in the new [downloadable files](#), dated January 31, 2024. The ARRL VEC advises the community to regularly check the NCVEC website at <https://www.ncvec.org/> for updates to the question pools. Submit feedback or questions to the Question Pool Committee.

S.3690 to Eliminate Private Land Use Restrictions on Amateur Radio



On January 30, 2024, US Senators Roger Wicker (MS) and Richard Blumenthal (CT) introduced S.3690, the Senate companion bill to H.R.4006, introduced last June. Both bills reflect the Congressional campaign efforts by ARRL to eliminate homeowner association land use restrictions that prohibit, restrict, or impair the ability of an Amateur Radio Operator to install and operate amateur station antennas on residential properties they own.

Membership rates are as follows:

REG: Regular dues are \$30.00 per year,

FAM: Family dues are \$40.00 per year (family members at the same address)

SRC: Senior Citizen dues (65 and older) are \$25.00 per year,

STU: Student (Full time, under 22) dues are \$25.00 per year.

MIL: Active Military dues are \$25.00 per year.

You can also help support the FRRL Repeaters by making a \$10.00 (or more!) annual contribution.

**PAY OR RENEW
MEMBERSHIP DUES
OR
REPEATER DONATION
[ON LINE HERE](#)**

February 2024 Membership Meeting



**K9FE
Manning
The Zoom
Controls**

**Terry
W9AUV
Passing The
"Football"
To Kermit
W9XA**



**Eve W9EVE
Giving A
Presentation
About The
100 Year
Celebration**



**Pat K9ANL
Giving A
Presentation
About DMR
Radio**



**A Well Attended
Meeting**



If you have any memorabilia about the club please contact:

Chair [Eve Schneider W9EVE](#)



FRRL 100 Years – Glimpses of Club History

by Gary Hornbuckle K9MMS

The various glimpses of FRRL history for this month may be sort of a potpourri selection. I have printed issues of the ArcOver from July 1960, June 1967, full-year sets for 1987-1992, 2000, and single issues of some of the 1990s. (Being a typical ham radio “packrat,” I have been surprised that I did not find more past, print-issues of the ArcOver in my “collection.”) I went through them, and noted some of the more-noteworthy news items. Also, I want to revisit some of the subjects from last month and add a little more information. Some of the information is sourced from my memories, ArcOver Newsletters, and detailed history via N9CHA Greg.

N9CHA Greg Braun and N9DEE Kathy Braun have been doing a very outstanding job of digging through various information sources to work on documenting the full 100 years of FRRL history as much as possible. They have created an electronic document (44 pages as of late February) that covers a significant portion of the FRRL 100 years history. This document also includes a lot of detail on the formative and early years of the FRRL. This is a work in progress and more information is frequently being added.

Club Special Events:

1982 – W9CEQ from the Sears Tower

The FRRL planned a two-station operation on 10-80 meters CW and SSB as W9CEQ. Antennas were to be at the 1454-foot level (110th floor) with stations operating from the 103rd floor Observation Deck. Operation was on the weekend of October 16-17.

1984 – W9CEQ FRRL 60th Anniversary On-Air Operation

The FRRL was to operate from the Kane County Fairgrounds in St Charles on August 26. Certificates and QSL cards were offered.

1999 – W9CEQ FRRL 75th Anniversary On-Air Operation

This operation took place in October. Per the November 1999 issue of the ArcOver, twenty FRRL members operated from their home stations, at reserved time slots, using W9CEQ. I did not find the dates of the full event, but my log shows QSOs I made on October 16 & 17. Certificates and QSL cards were offered. This event was primarily planned and managed by W9XA Bill Schaben (then FRRL president).

2000 & 2002 W9CEQ FRRL Fabyan Lighthouse On-Air Operation

Certificate QSLs were offered.

2000, August 19-20 during Lighthouse/Lightship weekend on Fabyan Island near the lighthouse on the Fox River in Batavia. The September 2000 ArcOver had a nice write-up including several photos. Twenty FRRL members were listed as participating. Contacts were made with 42 states and several Canadian and DX stations as well.

2002, August – a write-up was in the September 2002 ArcOver. The Saturday results were hampered by a one-day, radio contest on the HF bands, but many QSOs were made on Sunday when the bands were less active.

FRRL History by K9MMS

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2014 – W9O FRRL 90th Anniversary On-Air Operation

Operation took place for two weeks – from July 13 through 27. Club members signed up to put W9O on the air during various time slots and operate from their home stations.

QSL cards were offered. This event was primarily planned and managed by K9TCD Tobi Davis with assistance from KC9LQS Dawn Williams (then FRRL president).

An ArcOver summary of the event is given at this link:

<https://www.frrl.org/w9o-event.php>

2024 – W9CEQ FRRL 100th Anniversary On-Air Operation

Planning for this event is in progress. Preliminarily, the operation is for July 1 through 15.

More details will be shared when plans are finalized within the next few weeks.

2007 and 2008 -- W9H Huntley Fall Festival - September

2008 – W9CEQ St Charles Scarecrow Festival

2011 – W9H FRRL Fox Valley Ham Halloweenfest

W1LD G0OSE Chase Road Rally

This event was held several times. The December 1990 ArcOver stated that this year was the 4th consecutive run of the road rally. At that time, the rally masters were K9LUW Lou Petkus and WA9TRG Frank Christensen. This event was also done in 1991, 1992, and 1993.

In 1993, the rally was administered by N9AKE Rod Peterson. He also managed communications with the participants via 2-meters. Drivers followed road-route clues from written instructions as well as clues from Rod over the air. The route was designed to go by the home QTH of various FRRL members. When the group would near a given member's house, Rod would announce over the air "say hi to (club member call)." That year, K9LUW and K9MMS participated in the rally, and our XYLs accompanied us in the vehicle. We won the rally that year, and (if recall correctly) we were awarded gift certificates for Colonial Ice Cream.

So far, I found no further mention of running the W1LD G0OSE Chase road rally, but it may have been done in other later years.

Special Service Events:

For decades, many FRRL club members provided communications for various special events such as the annual Mid America Canoe Race, Horse Trials (mostly in Wayne), MS Walks, and Special Olympics.

If I recall correctly, the first running of the Canoe Race was in 1960, and K9LUW Lou Petkus organized the club communications plan. This continued for several decades until the Canoe Races were discontinued in more recent years.

For many years, WB9MRL John Ingram organized the club's participation for the Horse Trials. Most of these took place in Pratt's Wayne Woods. Later on, N9III Don Rasmussen managed the participation. After cell phones became in common use, the FRRL coverage of similar events seemed to be no longer needed.



Special Recognitions of FRRL Members:

Ham of the Year

For many years, the club elected and honored an FRRL Ham of the Year. A list of awardees used to be kept on a large wooden plaque with nameplates denoting each past recipient. As I recall, each year at the December club meeting, members were asked to vote (written secret ballot) for their choice of Ham of the Year. Per an announcement in the November 1987 ArcOver: "There are no nominations for this vote and there are no binding rules or definitions for this award. You draw up you own list of candidates, you define the guidelines, and you cast your own vote, for who you think has contributed to the benefit of amateur radio and to the FRRL. Think about it and be prepared to vote at the December meeting."

The March 1992 ArcOver has a photo of the presentation of the award, and the large plaque with the previous winner plates. The February 2000 ArcOver has a photo of the 1999 winner K9LU (previously K9LUW). Lou won this award more that once. So far, I have not seen a listing of all of the winners of FRRL Ham of the Year, but hopefully it exists somewhere in the vast archives of club history.

Broken Paddle Award

Per the February 1992 edition of the ArcOver:

"The Broken Paddle Award was established in 1984, partly resulting from Dick-WD9GIG (later W9GIG) commenting on seeing a broken paddle at the St. Charles portage at the canoe race. 'There ought to be a good use for that thing.' Since then, the Broken Paddle has come to symbolize recognition of distinguished service in the public service activities of the FRRL.

The 1992 award went, for the second year, to Don N9III."

Per the April 2000 edition of the ArcOver – Headline "Broken Paddle Award Changed"

New criteria were established for the award after review by the club board. "They decided that the basis for future awards would be the accumulation of points accrued through membership participation in both public service events and other FRRL activities." This announcement article went on to present a detailed list of criteria and associated points.

Club Projects:

The 2-meter "Club Saver" transceiver project of 1957, and the 2-meter "halo" mobile antenna project of 1959 were mentioned in the history article included with last month's ArcOver.

Another club project was the "Chip Talker" as featured in the December 1991 edition of QST. At that time, the FRRL was still meeting in the basement of the bank building on North Lake Street, and Bud Tweed, N9FWM handled this for the club. He assembled kits of parts to build the project, along with instructions, and made them available for club members to purchase.

FRRL History by K9MMS Page 4 of 5

Yet another club project was a CW contest keyer called the UFO Keyer. This was designed, documented, and placed in kit form by FRRL club member K9UFO (Jim Snow). Members could purchase and build these project kits. This also was done in the era when the club met in the bank building.

Former FRRL member, and past president Bill Erickson, WA9TPQ (SK) passed away in December of 2002. Among the ham radio items left by Bill was an unassembled Elecraft K2 transceiver. The club decided to ask for volunteers to get together and help build this radio kit. I think this project may have been originated and coordinated by Dick Illman, AH6EZ. Assembly work was done by groups of people at some of the club meetings.

Past locations for club meetings, field days, and hamfests:

At this time, I do not have a complete list of these locations. Drawing upon my memory, I mentioned a few of the locations in my club history article included in last month's ArcOver. With the help of extensive historical investigations and documentation of FRRL history, in progress by N9CHA and N9DEE, I hope to have more complete chronological and location summaries to share in the future.

More Field Day Memories of Mine:

During one of the many years that the FRRL held Field Day at the west end of Mooseheart property, W9XA Kermit had an idea to hopefully enhance the performance of an antenna. I recall that he waded across a pond to string a long "counterpoise" wire near the surface of the water. If memory serves me correctly, Kermit concluded that the result was not worth the effort. (Kermit, please correct me if my memory of this "event" is incorrect, HI.)

Several years ago (I guess perhaps around 2015), there was a meeting of a few of the FRRL old timers at K9EUI's house, and they shared old memories of FRRL events. The attendees at that meeting were K9EUI Bob Roehrig, K9LU Lou Petkus, K9KBH Gerald (Jerry) Roehrig, and K9MMS Gary Hornbuckle.

K9KBH is a cousin of K9EUI, and he lived in Aurora and was an FRRL member many years ago. He now lives in OK, and I talk with him every Monday afternoon during SKEDs (scheduled QSOs) on 40 SSB. The weekly SKEDs were originated some years ago by K9EUI, K9LUW (K9LU), and K9KBH.

During that meeting, we discussed a number of things, including several of the old FRRL Field Days. Bob and Lou commented they remembered one FD when Kermit W9XA arrived in a helicopter. (Kermit, perhaps you can elaborate on that some time.) Some of the older FD locations mentioned were Carthisers Woods, Bliss Woods, and perhaps Johnson's Mound. Unfortunately, I did not take detailed notes at that meeting, but I did jot down a few notes later.

In more recent times, I recall K9FE Mike Urso stating at more than one Field Day that "Field Day is the last full rainy weekend in June." Mike has often been correct on that statement.

During the many years that the FRRL held FD at Mooseheart, sometimes W9CZA (SK) Benny Benson would inspect the grounds and post signs at trees that had poison ivy nearby. Unfortunately, one year that did not help me.

FRRL History by K9MMS
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For several years at Mooseheart FD, Becky the XYL of Dick AH6EZ (then /W9) would do the majority of the on-site food preparation.

For many years, the consumption of "chili" during Saturday night was a tradition at FRRL FD.

K9LU Lou was always very skilled at installing wire antennas at FD. He used a homebrew throwing weight (steel rod section) attached to twine, and he was very accurate and made it look easy when he launched the weight over high tree branches.

Club Celebrities:

The FRRL has a very significant honor of having two, long-time members becoming ARRL Central Division Directors: W9GIG Dick Isely and W9XA Kermit Carlson. The October 2000 issue of the ArcOver had a front-page article, with photo, announcing Dick initially running for the director position. At that time, Dick passed out large, yellow, button-pins which read QSY to W9GIG. I have one of those pins.

In Conclusion:

In future monthly glimpses of FRRL history, I hope to share more of my memories of FRRL events and happenings. In addition, I hope to draw from some of the extensive club historical information that has been collected and documented by Greg (N9CHA) and Kathy (N9DEE) Braun. Tentatively, I hope to progressively cover some of the club's 100 year history in several, multiple-decade groupings (approximately a quarter-century of club history) in separate, future issues of the ArcOver.

There is so much more information and many memories to share, but this will need to be sufficient for now. Have fun on the bands. **73 DE K9MMS**



W9EVE
Calling CQ while
waiting for a
phone call from
N9NX.
Just one more
QSO
Because she is



53rd Annual

Madison Hamfest

Sponsored by MARA, the Madison Area Repeater Association
A Non-Profit Organization

Saturday April 13, 2024
8:00 AM until 12:00 PM

The MARA Hamfest features vendors of new and used equipment for Amateur Radio, Electronics, Computers, computer parts and software. Come see our huge Flea Market in the Mandt Community Center's spacious 26,000 sq ft main hall.

VE testing starts at 10:00 AM.

Vendor space is sold on a "first come, first served bases"

- Location:** Mandt Community Center (Same location since 2000)
- GPS:** North 42.91157 West 89.21647
- Address:** 400 Mandt Parkway, Stoughton, Wisconsin
- Directions:** Take US Hwy 51 South from Madison to downtown Stoughton, WI.
Turn South on 4th Street and the Mandt Center is 3 blocks ahead on the left
- Talk in:** MARA's Wide Area Repeater 147.150 MHz (+600) pl 123.0
- Parking:** Free
- Seller Setup:** Friday night 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and Saturday morning, 6:00 AM

Ticket, Table and Chair Prices

Tables are limited to availability!

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Hamfest general admission tickets: | Purchased on website | \$8.00 per person |
| Ages 12 and younger: FREE | At the door CASH ONLY! | \$10.00 per person |
| Eight-foot vendor table fees | Purchased by March 25 | \$20.00 |
| Admission tickets are NOT included | After March 25 | \$25.00 |
| In the price of tables | | |
| Chairs | | \$5.00 |
| AC Service | | \$30.00 |
| Admission ticket along with table rental is Required | | At the door is CASH ONLY |

MARA is not responsible for theft or damage. All orders are final – No refunds.

Hamfest tickets, and vendor table space can be purchased at the MARA website: www.w9hsy.org If you have questions about purchasing tickets, chairs, table space. Please check the web page or contact us by e-mail at hamfest@w9hsy.org





NWS Chicago Storm Spotting Schedule

[Click here for complete Schedule](#)



Storm Spotter - Rockford, IL

Tue, March 5, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Join NWS Chicago Staff to learn about how to be a severe weather storm spotter!

Registration Information: Please register using the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/national-weather-service-weather-spotting-class-tickets-780995487527?aff=oddtcreator>

The location will be at: Cherry Valley Fire Department 4919 Blackhawk Road Rockford, IL 61109

[more details»](#)

Spotter Training - Virtual Session

Wed, March 13, 6pm – 8pm

Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4093878051663568476>

[more details»](#)

Storm Spotter - Chicago, IL

Wed, March 20, 6pm – 8pm

Join NWS Chicago Staff to learn about how to be a severe weather storm spotter!

There is no registration required.

The location will be at: Northeastern University, El Centro Campus 3390 N. Avondale Chicago, IL 60618

Parking Information: Free parking will be available in the attached parking lot. Signs will say "Permit Only," though spots will NOT be enforced and no payment will be necessary.

Transportation is also available via CTA's Blue Line (Addison).

[more details»](#)

Storm Spotter - Kankakee, IL

Thu, March 21, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Join NWS Chicago Staff to learn about how to be a severe weather storm spotter!

There is no registration required.

The location will be at: Kankakee Community College 100 College Drive, Kankakee, IL 60901

[more details»](#)





Technician Class

Wednesday Evenings
6:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.

Start: TBD
End:



Tech & General classes are done on **Zoom**. The Meeting Link to be distributed prior to the class.



General Class

Thursday Evenings
6:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.

Start: TBD
End:

EXTRA classes are held in person at:

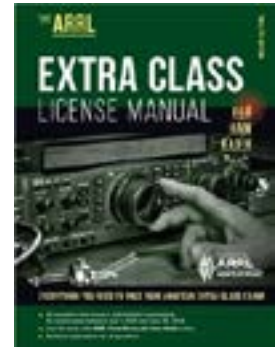


113 Oak St, North Aurora, IL 60542

Extra Class

Saturday Mornings
9:00.AM. to 12:30 P.M.

Start: TBD
End:



The Fox River Radio League (FRRL) presents regular training classes focused toward new Amateurs interested in gaining their Technician class license or upgrading to the General and Extra class licenses.

These are free courses where you will learn everything you need to receive or upgrade to the appropriate FCC radio license.

The textbook for the class will be the official ARRL License Manual. Books are available for purchase via the club at a discounted rate by emailing [education \[at\] frrl.org](mailto:education[at]frrl.org).

Classes are instructor-led, and you can expect engaging conversations to ensue around the topics of discussion.

In addition to our regularly scheduled bi-monthly testing we will be scheduling a dedicated VE session after discussing best availability with the class participants. For more information on VE sessions, please see [VE Test Sessions](#).

We are in need of

Instructors

If you are willing to teach a section or two contact education@frrl.org

Please Note that Tech & General classes are 9 weeks long..

Extra classes are 12 weeks long.
You can contact Dennis Barfuss at:
W9HI@arrl.net

if you have any questions

Students should read the material in advance of the class. Also bring an inexpensive calculator like a TI-30 x and a notebook and pencil or pen.



VE Testing

The FRRL, in conjunction with the ARRL VEC, sponsors regular amateur examinations the third Thursday of every March, April, May and June. Ad-hoc sessions are planned during major events and will be added to the schedule here as well.

Upcoming Testing Schedule:

March 21, 2024
May 16, 2024
July 18, 2024

Testing Location:
Geneva Lutheran Church
301 S 3rd St,
Geneva, IL 60134



Please also be sure to bring:

- Photo identification
- Your FCC generated FCC Registration Number (FRN).
- The fee of \$15.00. (The FRRL receives no portion of this fee.)



- If upgrading bring your original FCC HAM Radio License (or the documentation you received) and a photocopy of your license.

If you have questions about the testing program, please email the Chairman at: ve@frrl.org

Illinois Traffic Net



You can also participate in one (or all) of the Illinois Traffic Nets. Everyone is welcome with or without traffic. The nets are the North Central Phone Net, Daily (M-F) at 7 a.m. local time, on 3912 kHz LSB; the Illinois Phone Net, Monday – Friday at 4:45 p.m. local time, on 3857 kHz LSB and on Sunday at 8 a.m. on 3940 kHz; and the Illinois Sideband Net, Daily at 6 p.m. local time, on 3905 kHz LSB.





Out N About



March 1 - 2 | [Greater Houston HamFest](#), sponsoring the ARRL West Gulf Division Convention, Rosenberg,



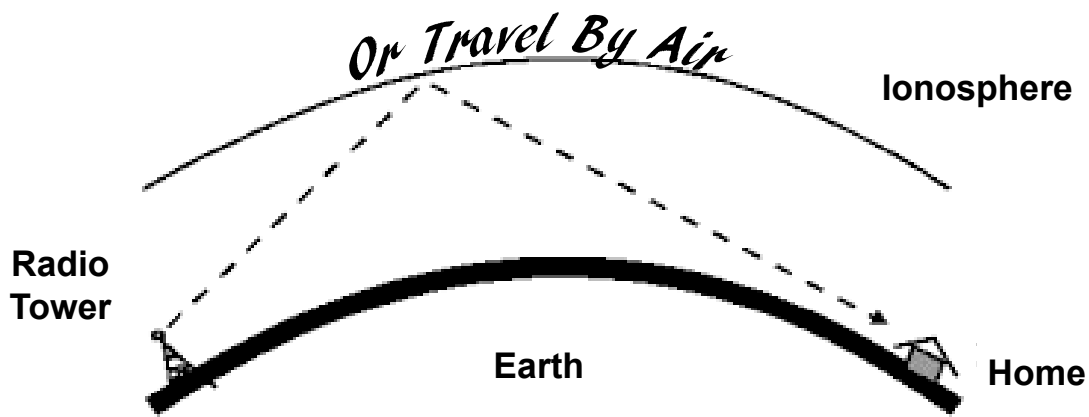
March 8 - 9 | Acadiana DX Association [Hamfest & Swapmeet](#), hosting the ARRL Louisiana State Convention, Rayne, Louisiana



March 16 | 49th Annual [Stuart Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL Southern Florida Section Convention, Stuart, Florida



March 16 | [St. Patrick's Day Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL West Texas Section Convention, Midland,





Ham Fests

03/17/2024 - Sterling Rock Falls Amateur Radio Society Hamfest

Location: Dixon, IL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Sterling Rock Falls Amateur Radio Society

Lewis and Clark Community College

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/sterling-rock-falls-amateur-radio-society-hamfest-1>

03/23/2024 - Lewis and Clark Radio Club Hamfest

Location: Godfrey, IL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Lewis and Clark Radio Club

Website: <https://k9ham.org/hamfest/>

Mendota Tri-County Fairgrounds

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

06/02/2024 - Starved Rock Radio Club Hamfest

Location: Mendota, IL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Starved Rock Radio Club

Learn More

Three Sisters Park

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/starved-rock-radio-club-hamfest-5>

09/21/2024 - 09/22/2024

Midwest Superfest, ARRL Illinois Section Convention

Location: Chillicothe, IL

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.w9uvi.org/midwest-superfest>



All Operators Net



“EVERY” Sunday for “EVERY” Operator

New or experienced...ALL are Welcome

1900 hrs (7pm) local time

147.21 103.5PL +600

On the FOX VHF Repeater



Feel free to share your thoughts, experiences, recipes and hobbies etc.

“It does not have to be about radio to talk on the radio!”

For more info about the NET contact:

Mike K9FE 630-327-5164 K9FE@yahoo.com

Calling all newly licensed hams.

Remember the old Radio Shack slogan “You’ve got questions, We’ve got answers”?

Well, I know new hams have a lot of questions and those of us that have been hams for a while have the answers.

I will be adding a new segment to our Tuesday Night Net called “ask Elmer” If you have a question about ham radio, ask it on the air and someone will give you the answer over the air.

Now, for this to work properly we need lots of questions and lots of people who know the answers.

Don’t be afraid to ask a simple or “stupid” question, we all had them when we started. Would you like to be an “Elmer” without getting out of your chair? Well, this is the opportunity you have been waiting for.

I want to invite all the club members to check-in to the net and either ask a question or provide an answer.

You never know what you might learn or what fun you will have if you don’t join the net. For those who may need a reminder, The net meets on our club 2-meter repeater (147.21 MHz, 103.5 Hz PL tone) Every Tuesday at 7:30PM except on our meeting nights.

Hope to hear you on the net soon.

73, Curt W9YNP



The Radio Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is...

CONSIDERATE... He never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...He offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, the IARU Radio Society in his country through which Amateur Radio in his country is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE... He keeps his station up to date. It is well build and efficient. His operating practice is above reproach.

FRIENDLY... He operates slowly and patiently when requested; offers friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kind assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the marks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED... Radio is a hobby, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC... His station and skills are always ready for service to country and community

...adapted from the original Amateur's Code, Written by Paul M Segal, W9EEA, in 1928

© John Devoldere 0N4UN and Mark Demeuleneere 0N4WW

Taken from: [Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur.](#)

BRING BACK "RADIO IN THE PARK"

Harry Jones K9DXA" started "Radio in the Park" years ago. His idea was take your radio out to a local park and set it up and operate. Since we can't have any thing big, just take your rig, wear your mask, set up an antenna, radio and have fun.



The idea of this is bring ham radio to the public. Make a small sign with your name, call sign, and please add FRRL also. Would like some photo of your operation. May get someone to take a picture of you operating. Will try to get your picture into the news letter. Please send a short report to me at my FRRL address. Director3@frrl.org



There are plenty of volunteer organizations that could use your radio skills.



Consider volunteering
you can make
the difference !!



American Red Cross



The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes. Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization is eligible to apply for membership in ARES. Training may be required or desired to participate fully in ARES. Please inquire at the local level for specific information. Because ARES is an amateur radio program, only licensed radio amateurs are eligible for membership. The possession of emergency-powered equipment is desirable, but is not a requirement for membership.

ARES

Every licensed amateur, regardless of membership in ARRL or any other local or national organization is eligible to apply for membership in ARES.

ARES Resources

- [Download the ARES Manual \[PDF\]](#)
- [ARES Field Resources Manual \[PDF\]](#)
- [ARES Standardized Training Plan Task Book \[Fillable PDF\]](#)
- [Emergency Communications Training](#)

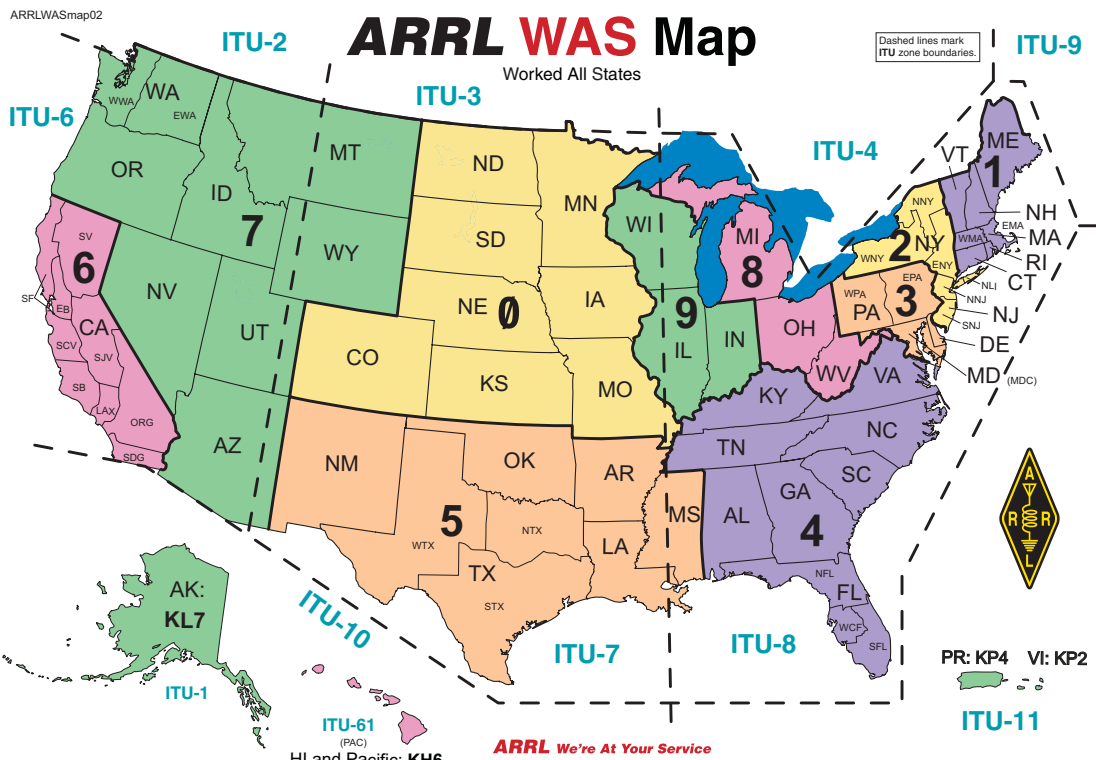
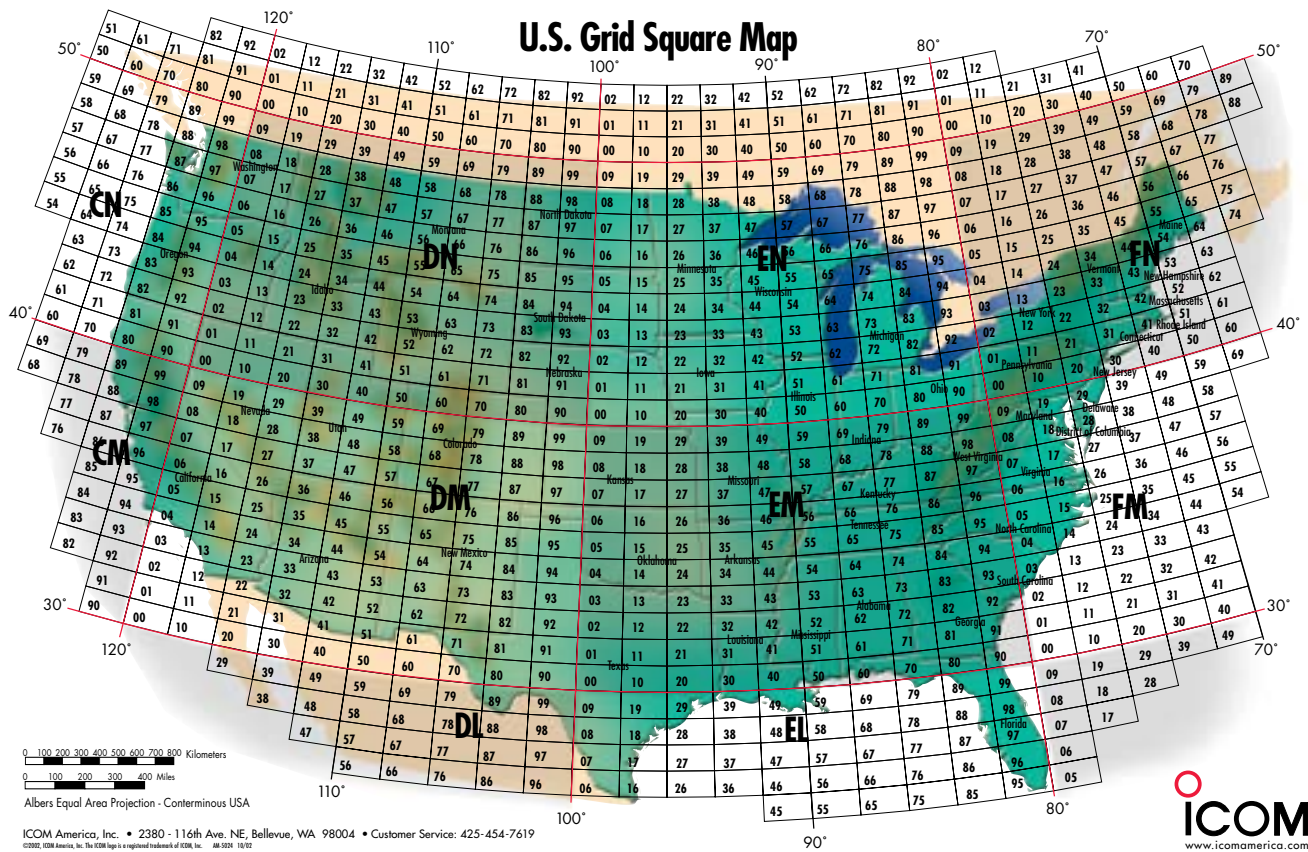


Kane County ARES

Information

[Click Here](#)





ARRL The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO

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ARRL We're At Your Service

ARRL Headquarters
Publication Orders
Membership/Circulation Desk
Getting Started in Amateur Radio
Exams
ARRL on the World Wide Web

860-594-0200 (Fax 860-594-0259)
Toll-Free 1-888-277-5289 (860-594-0355)
Toll-Free 1-888-277-5289 (860-594-0338)
Toll-Free 1-800-326-3942 (860-594-0355)
860-594-0300
www.arrl.org/

hq@arrl.org
orders@arrl.org
membership@arrl.org
newham@arrl.org
vec@arrl.org





US Amateur Radio Bands

Operator license classes: E = Amateur Extra A = Advanced G = General T = Technician N = Novice
 CW operation is permitted throughout all amateur bands. Except as noted, all frequencies are in megahertz (MHz).

■ = RTTY, data, phone, image
 ■ = USB phone, RTTY, data and CW
 ■ = RTTY and data
 ■ = phone and image
■ = SSB phone
 [CW symbol] = CW only

LF – Low Frequency band

2200 Meters (135 kHz) E,A,G
 1 W EIRP maximum

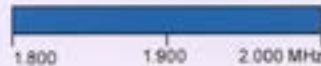


MF – Medium Frequency bands

630 Meters (472 kHz) E,A,G
 5 W EIRP max, except in Alaska within 498 miles of Russia where the limit is 1 W EIRP



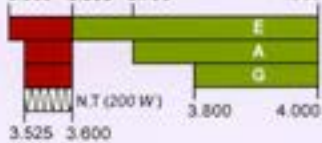
160 Meters (1.8 MHz) E,A,G



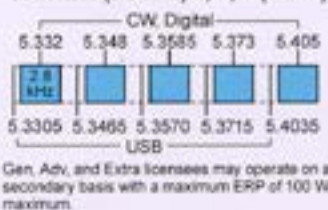
Amateurs wishing to operate on 2200 or 630 meters must first register with the Utilities Technology Council online at <https://utc.org/plc-database-amateur-notification-process/>. You need only register once for each band.

HF – High Frequency bands

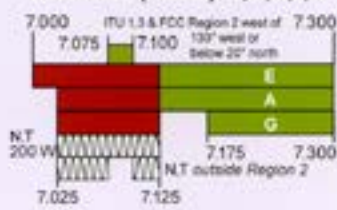
80 Meters (3.5 MHz) E,A,G,T,N



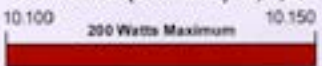
60 Meters (5.3 MHz) E, A, G (100 W)



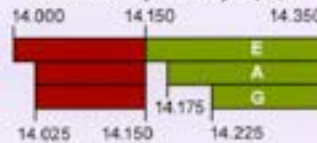
40 Meters (7 MHz) E,A,G,T,N



30 Meters (10.1 MHz) E,A,G



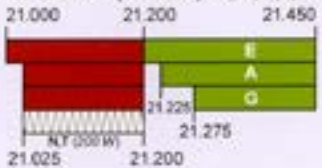
20 Meters (14 MHz) E,A,G



17 Meters (18 MHz) E,A,G



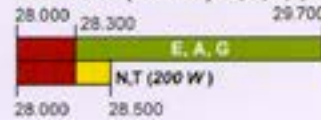
15 Meters (21 MHz) E,A,G,T,N



12 Meters (24 MHz) E,A,G



10 Meters (28 MHz) E,A,G,T,N



VHF – Very High Frequency bands

6 Meters (50 MHz) E,A,G,T



2 Meters (144 MHz) E,A,G,T



1.25 Meters (222 MHz) E,A,G,T,N



UHF – Ultra High Frequency bands

70 cm (420 MHz) E,A,G,T



33 cm (902 MHz) E,A,G,T



23 cm (1240 MHz) E,A,G,T,N



SHF&EHF – Super and Extremely High Frequency bands

All licensees except Novices are authorized all modes on the following frequencies:

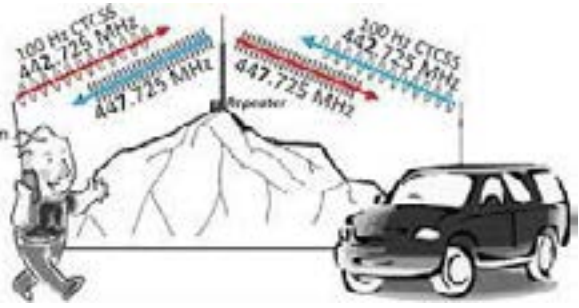
| | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 2300-2310 MHz | 3300-3500 MHz | 30.0-30.5 GHz | 47.0-47.2 GHz | 122.25-123.0 GHz | 241-250 GHz |
| 2390-2450 MHz | 5650-5925 MHz | 24.0-24.25 GHz | 76.0-81.0 GHz | 134-141 GHz | All above 275 GHz |

See www.arrl.org/band-plan for detailed band plans.
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 OTAbands rev. 1-22-20

FRRL

70 cm Band
5 MHz Negative
Offset Example

447.725 MHz: Your Listen
(Repeater Transmit)
442.725 MHz: Your Talk
(Repeater Receive)



**AND OTHER
LOCAL REPEATERS**

FRRL Repeaters- W9CEQ

147.225 MHz - Plano
Mode: **Auto C4FM / Fusion, FM, Wires X**
+600 KHz Offset, 100.0 Access Tone

147.21 MHz - Elburn
Mode: FM (Echolink Available)W
+600 KHz Offset, 103.5 Access Tone

444.300 MHz - Elburn
Mode: FM
+5 MHz Offset, 114.8 Access Tone

223.86 Mhz - Aurora
Mode FM
-1.6 Mhz Offset, 110.9 access Tone

442.10625 MHz (B) - Elburn
Mode: D-Star
+5 MHz Offset



**Other Area Repeaters
W9XA**

53.910 - Batavia
-1.0 MHz offset PL 114.8 Hz

224.4 MHz - Batavia
-1.6 MHz offset PL 103.5 Hz

443.64375 MHz - Elburn
+5 MHz offset DMR 311759

443.65625 MHz - Plano
+5 MHz offset DMR 311760

1292.00 MHz - Batavia
-20 KHz 114.8 Access Tone

927.625 - Batavia
+25 MHz offset PL 114.8 Hz

W9DWP

145.270 MHz - Elburn
-600 KHz offset PL 107.2
ARES APCO P25 NAC 293

NIARC W9ZGP

147.06 MHz - Batavia
Mode FM +600 kHz offset PL 103.5.

Auto C4FM / Fusion, FM, Wires X Repeaters

K9IIK/R

442.275 MHz - Schaumburg
Mode: **Auto C4FM / Fusion, FM, Wires X**
+5 MHz, 114.8 Access Tone

W9CHI

444.600 MHz - Channahon
Mode: **Auto C4FM / Fusion, FM, Wires X 30024**
+5 MHz, 136.5 Access Tone

KD9FA

443.600 MHz - Oswego
Mode: **Auto C4FM / Fusion, FM, Wires X**
+5 MHz, 107.2 Access Tone

KC9OEM

Primary Kane County SKYWARN / ARES

145.470 MHz -St Charles
Mode: FM
-600 Offset, 103.5 KHz Access Tone



444.525 MHz -St Charles
Mode: **Auto C4FM / Fusion, FM, Wires X**
+5 MHz Offset, Access WWTone114.8