



# ARC OVER

April 2020 Edition



The Official Newsletter of the Fox River Radio League, Est. 1924  
Our 96th Year in Amateur Radio!

## Who We Are

Mailing Address:  
P. O Box 673  
Batavia, IL 60510-0673

Email: [info@frrl.org](mailto:info@frrl.org)  
Website: <http://www.frrl.org>

President:  
Gordon Dailey, KW0E

Vice President:  
Roger Bara, W9YU

Secretary:  
Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

Treasurer:  
Dan Harmon, WA9YKK

Directors:  
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Vacant  
Vacant  
David Booher, W9BOO

Past President:  
Dan Taddei, W9STS

License Trustee (W9CEQ):  
Kermit Carlson, W9XA

License Trustee (W9NE):  
David Booher, W9BOO

Newsletter Editor:  
John Miller, W9JDM

Webmaster:  
Curt Sauer, W9YNP

Membership Database:  
Chris Kennell, KC9BKS



## 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.

## What's Inside

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- (no March minutes due to the FRRL Dinner taking the place of the regular meeting)*

The FRRL ArcOver Newsletter is published monthly by the Fox River Radio League, Inc. Submission deadline for all news articles, items, and information is the 3rd Tuesday of each month for inclusion by the next publishing date. Please submit any such requests to [newsletter@frrl.org](mailto:newsletter@frrl.org).

## 2020 Membership Dues

Regular Dues: \$30 | Family Dues: \$40 | Sr. Citizen / Active Military / Student (full time under 22): \$25  
Repeater Support: \$10 donation

FRRL Dues and Repeater Support 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. Copyright © 2020, FRRL. Prior written permission is required to republish material present in the ArcOver.

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# President's Traffic

*From the President's Desk*

Does anybody else think they are living in an episode of the Twilight Zone? We are definitely are living differently than we were a month ago. I hope all of you are being safe and not taking undue risk. Yes, I still go to the store and shake my head at those hoarding with their purchases. Yes, for now I still go to work. For me that used to mean traveling more often than being in the office. I'm in the office everyday and not sure if that is a good thing or not.

As to club business. We will not be having in person meetings in April. We will be having our board of officers meeting via Zoom. When we get closer to that meeting, we will put out the information for any and all that would like to join us just as we invite all to come to our face to face meeting. Our April membership meeting will also be via Zoom and that information will be given out as we get closer to the meeting day. Strange times call for strange measures.



Since there isn't a whole lot for us to do other than catch on honey do's around the house and maybe get on the air and operate: Get radioactive and HAVE FUN!

73, Gordie KW0E

## Test Your Knowledge!

*Each month the ArcOver will post 3 Exam Test Pool Questions to challenge you - one from each of the Technician, General, and Extra Class License Exams. Answers will be hidden throughout the ArcOver.*

### Technician - T3B01

**What is the name for the distance a radio wave travels during one complete cycle?**

- A. Wave speed
- B. Waveform
- C. Wavelength
- D. Wave spread

### General - G3B01

**What is a characteristic of skywave signals arriving at your location by both short-path and long-path propagation?**

- A. Periodic fading approximately every 10 seconds
- B. Signal strength increased by 3dB
- C. The signal might be cancelled causing severe attenuation
- D. A slightly delayed echo might be heard

### Extra - E3B01

**What is transequatorial propagation?**

- A. Propagation between two mid-latitude points at approximately the same distance north and south of the magnetic equator
- B. Propagation between any two points located on the magnetic equator
- C. Propagation between two continents by way of ducts along the magnetic equator
- D. Propagation between two stations at the same latitude



# Member Traffic

*A place for you, our FRRL members, to come share your thoughts, voice your opinions, and talk about any topics that may be of general interest to the FRRL club or Amateur Radio in general.*

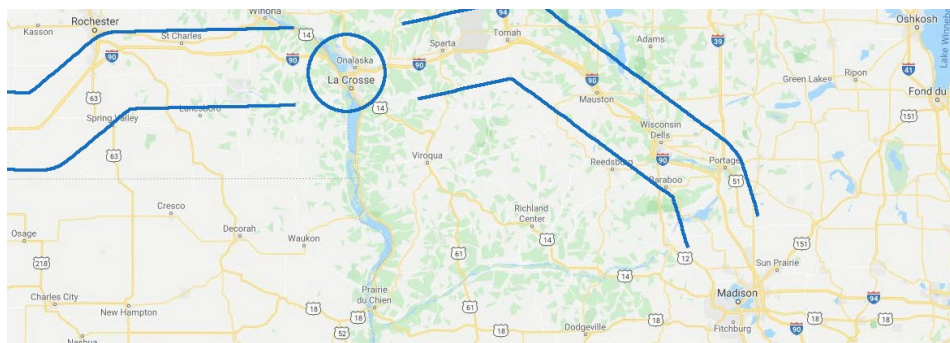
Greetings VHF+ Operators,

As this year's Conference President, I, along with the Conference's host team, cordially invite you to attend the 54th annual Central States VHF Society Conference, which is being held at the Radisson Hotel located on the beautiful riverfront of the Mississippi River in La Crosse, Wisconsin on July 24th and 25th, 2020.

This year's event will have all the great activities you've come to expect from a CSVHFS Conference: technical presentations, antenna range, noise figure lab, rover row and dish bowl, Thursday evening social activity, Friday evening trade-fest, dealer room, hospitality suite for evening socializing, fun family activities, and a closing banquet with a guest speaker and a prize table.

If you have never been to a CSVHFS conference before, you will find it a great event where you will learn many new things, meet new people, and connect with others you have talked to on-the-air. If you are new to VHF-and-above operating, you will want to be sure to attend the perennial favorite, VHF 101, an alternate track talk designed to get new VHFers successfully on the air. One thing we are certain of: if you attend the CSVHFS conference, you will go home reinvigorated about operating and experimenting on the bands above 50 MHz!

We are sending this letter out early



in the new year so that you can make time in your busy summer schedule to attend. From past experience, most attendees arrive on Thursday (July 23rd) and depart on Sunday (July 26th). Hotel accommodations at the special conference rate will be available beginning around February 1st. Registration for the conference will open around May 1st. Be sure to visit the conference website at <http://2020.csvhfs.org/> for ongoing updates and further information.

We look forward to seeing you in La Crosse in late July!

73, Bruce Richardson W9FZ  
CSVHFS President

Dear Editor,

Please allow me to publicly thank the instructors and VEs for the FRRL's latest Extra Class 8-week course! These folks gave up their Saturdays to help those of us in the class enhance our knowledge of the hobby. It certainly was in keeping with the spirit of ham radio, and the traditions of the FRRL. *(ed. note: Ken scored a perfect 50/50 on his Extra test! Congratulations on that impressive accomplishment!)*  
73, Ken WB9FRV/AE

## New Members

Please welcome our newest members to the club!

Call	Name	License Class

## In Memoriam (Silent Keys)

Call	Name	Location



# Upcoming Events

Come join us at an event - some are on the airwaves, and some are in person.

This format is designed to be easy to print and hang on your fridge.

APRIL 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	<b>B</b> <b>N</b>	8	9	10	11
12	13	<b>M</b>	15	16	17	18
19	20	<b>N</b>	22	23	24	25
26	27	<b>N</b>	29	30		

MAY 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	<b>B</b> <b>N</b>	6	7	8	9
10	11	<b>M</b>	13	14	15	16
17	18	<b>N</b>	20	21	22	23
24	25	<b>N</b>	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	<b>B</b> <b>N</b>	3	4	5	6
7	8	<b>M</b>	10	11	12	13
14	15	<b>N</b>	17	18	19	20
21	22	<b>N</b>	24	25	<b>E</b> 26	<b>E</b> 27
<b>E</b> 28	29	<b>N</b> 30				

**B**Apr. 7: Board Meeting

- 7:00PM
- Zoom Video Conference

**N**Apr. 7, 21, 28: Regular FRRL Net

- 7:30PM
- W9CEQ 2M Repeater

**M**Apr. 14: Member Meeting

- 7:30PM
- Zoom Video Conference
- Program: ARRL Update, Kermit W9XA

**B**May 5: Board Meeting

- 7:00PM
- Colonial Cafe in Aurora

**N**May 5, 19, 26: Regular FRRL Net

- 7:30PM
- W9CEQ 2M Repeater

**M**May 12: Member Meeting

- 7:30PM
- Bethany Lutheran Church in Batavia, Ill.
- Program: Distracted Driving Laws and Amateur Radio, Ron KD9IPO and Jim W9JGH

**B**Jun. 2: Board Meeting

- 7:00PM
- Colonial Cafe in Aurora, Ill.

**N**Jun. 2, 16, 23, 30: Regular FRRL Net

- 7:30PM
- W9CEQ 2M Repeater

**M**Jun. 9: Member Meeting

- 7:30PM
- Bethany Lutheran Church in Batavia, Ill.
- Program: Field Day Planning, Terry W9AUV

**E**Jun. 26-28: Field Day

- Start time TBD
- Leroy Oakes Forest Preserve, St. Charles

## Technician - T3B01

What is the name for the distance a radio wave travels during one complete cycle?

C. Wavelength





# Event Information

If you have an idea for an event, or would like to share details on an upcoming event, please reach out to [frllboard@frll.org](mailto:frllboard@frll.org).

## MS Walk 2020

The 2020 MS Walk has been cancelled per the National MS Society.

## Local Area Nets

Bored at home due to COVID-19? Keep in touch with your local hams! Repeater information is listed in the right column. Take a look at some of the nets in the local area (sorted by band and then alphabetical after that):

- (10M) Central IL Radio Club Net. Tuesdays at 8:30PM on 28.450 USB.
- (10M) Motorola ARC Net. Tuesdays at 9PM on 28.460 USB.
- (10M) Ten-Ten City of Lights Net. Mondays at 8PM (CW net) on 28.150 and 8:30PM (phone net) on 28.720.
- (6M) Plainfield Radio League 6M Net. 1st, 2nd, 3rd Wednesdays at 7:30PM on 50.200 USB.
- (6M) SMCC Weekly Roundtable. M-F at 8PM on 50.130 MHz USB.
- (2M) BARS Roundtable. Daily at 7:30PM on K9BAR repeater.
- (2M) BARS Weekly Net. Thursdays at 8PM on K9BAR repeater.
- (2M) CSRA Weekly Net. Mondays at 7:30PM on CFMC repeater.
- (2M) D-Star Weekly Net. Wednesdays at 8:00PM on W9CEQ\_C.
- (2M) DARC Lunch Net. M-F at noon on DARC 2M repeater.

- (2M) DARC Weekly Net. Sundays at 9PM on DARC 2M repeater.
- (2M) FRRL Weekly Net. Tuesdays at 7:30PM (except member meetings) on W9CEQ repeater.
- (2M) Kane County OEM Net. Wednesdays at 6:30PM on KC9OEM repeater.
- (2M) KARC Weekly Net. Mondays at 8:30PM on WA9CJN repeater.
- (2M) SARC Weekly Net. Thursdays at 8PM on K9IIK repeater.
- (2M) SW Astronomy Observers Group Net. Thursdays at 8:30PM on DARC 2M repeater.
- (2M) VARA Weekly Net. Mondays at 8PM on WA9RBQ repeater.
- (2M) WCRA Weekly Net. Sundays at 8PM on WCRA repeater.
- (70CM) DARC SSTV Net. Sundays at 8PM on DARC 70CM repeater.

For more net information, please visit <http://www.arrl.org/resources/nets/>. This page can be searched by state, day of the week, and band (including HF).

### General - G3B01

**What is a characteristic of skywave signals arriving at your location by both short-path and long-path propagation?**  
B. Signal strength increased by 3dB

## Repeater Information

- W9CEQ 2M
- 147.210 MHz, +600 KHz offset
  - 103.5 Hz tone
- W9CEQ 70CM
- 444.300 MHz, +5 MHz offset
  - 114.8 Hz tone
  - IRLP #4850, Echolink #230933
- W9CEQ\_B D-Star 70CM
- 442.10625 MHz, +5 MHz offset
  - Contact W9XA for information
- W9CEQ\_C D-Star 2M
- 147.225 MHz, +600 KHz offset
  - Contact W9XA for information
- CFMC 2M
- 146.760 MHz, +600 KHz offset
  - 107.2 Hz tone
- DARC 2M
- 145.430 MHz, -600 KHz offset
  - 107.2 Hz tone
- DARC 70CM
- 442.550 MHz, +5.0 MHz offset
  - 114.8 Hz tone
- K9BAR 2M (linked to 70CM)
- 147.330 MHz, +600 KHz offset
  - 107.2 Hz tone
- K9BAR 70CM (linked to 2M)
- 443.525 MHz, +5 MHz offset
  - 114.8 Hz tone
- KC9OEM 2M
- 145.470 MHz, -600 KHz offset
  - 103.5 Hz tone
- SARC 2M
- 145.23 MHz, -600 KHz offset
  - 107.2 Hz tone
- WA9CJN 2M
- 146.730 MHz, -600 KHz offset
  - 100 Hz tone
- WA9RBQ 2M
- 146.790 MHz, -600 KHz offset
  - 107.2 Hz tone
- WCRA 2M
- 145.310 MHz, -600 KHz offset
  - 107.2 Hz tone





# ARRL News

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## Dayton Hamvention Cancels 2020 Show

For the first time in its 68-year history, Dayton Hamvention® will not take place this year, due to concerns about the coronavirus outbreak. The glum news was not entirely unexpected, given widespread cancellations of public gatherings and a national state of emergency.

“The Hamvention Executive Committee has been monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic. We have worked very closely with our local and state health departments. It is with a very heavy heart the Hamvention Executive Committee has decided to cancel Hamvention for this year,” Hamvention General Chair Jack Gerbs, WB8SCT, said in announcing the cancellation on March 15. “This decision is extremely difficult for us, but with around 2 months until the Great Gathering we felt this action necessary. More specific details regarding the closure will soon be posted. Thank you for your understanding in this time of international crisis.”

The Dayton Hamvention cancellation comes less than a week after the International DX Convention in Visalia, California, called off this year’s show. The Dayton Amateur

Radio Association (DARA) sponsors Hamvention.

Since 2017, Hamvention has been held each May at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio. The international gathering attracted more than 32,000 visitors in 2019.

Hamvention’s announcement has caused the cancellation of other associated events. These include Contest University, the Contest Dinner, and the Top Band Dinner. The QRP Amateur Radio Club International’s “Four Days in May” event has also been cancelled. Presumably, the DX Dinner, sponsored by the SouthWest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA) and AMSAT Academy have also been called off, although no formal announcements have been made.

## ARRL Suspending Tours and Guest Visits to Headquarters, W1AW

As part of efforts under way to help protect the health and safety of ARRL Headquarters employees and volunteers from the impacts of the coronavirus, ARRL suspended all tours and guest visits to Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station W1AW and ARRL Headquarters, effective Monday, March 16.

Out of an abundance of caution, this suspension will be in effect until further notice. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause to our members and their guests who had been planning to visit us in Newington, Connecticut. We

feel, however, that this is a necessary precaution and is in keeping with the guidance being provided by federal and local health professionals. We appreciate everyone’s patience and understanding as we all endeavor to deal with this difficult public health situation.

## ARRL Podcasts Schedule

The latest (March 12) episode of the On the Air podcast focuses on how to calculate feed line loss, real-world examples of how digital and analog FM transceivers handle weak signals, and an interview with Rob Macedo, KD1CY, Eastern Massachusetts ARES Section Emergency Coordinator and SKYWARN Coordinator for the National Weather Service Boston/Norton office. In the interview, Rob offers information about how hams can get involved with SKYWARN.

The latest episode of the Eclectic Tech podcast (Episode 3) includes an interview with JS8Call creator Jordan Sherer, KN4CRD, revisiting SSTV, and a discussion of arc-fault circuit breakers with Bob Allison, WB1GCM.

Both podcasts are available on iTunes (iOS) and Stitcher (Android) as well as on Blubrry.

