



ARCOVER



FEBRUARY 2021

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

1924  2021

Who We Are

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President:
Gordon Dailey, KW0E

Vice President:
Roger Bara, W9YU

Secretary:
Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

Treasurer:
Dan Harmon, WA9YKK

Directors:
Cedrick Johnson WT2P
Denny Barfuss W9HI
Dave Bulkley K9WDB
Robert Littler W9DSR

Past President:
Mike Urso K9FE

License Trustee (W9CEQ):
Kermit Carlson, W9XA

License Trustee (W9NE):
Denny Barfuss W9HI

Newsletter Editor:
Jerry Chapman N9JLC

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.

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Hi All, It seems that winter has finally caught up with us. I'm not complaining as we've been fortunate so far this year as it's not been to bad at all.

I would like to remind all that the invite to the Zoom membership meeting is emailed to all active members. The invitation may arrive in your email between the Saturday and Tuesday, day of the meeting. It is sent only once. It may be in your inbox or your spam folder. It will either be sent from Denny W9HI or if he is not available by myself. If you would, please go to the roster and enter Denny's and my emails listed along with gdailey@mooseintl.org as I may have to send from my work email. This will make our email address' a known email and it will be less likely to go in your spam folder.

In these trying times we want everyone to be in the meeting that wants to be at the meeting. We do use the email listed on the club roster to send out the invite so please check it to see if yours is correct.

I look forward to when we can meet in person.as I personally miss the eyeball QSO with all.

Be radio active,

73. Gordie K2UOE



Call Sign	Name	License Class
WA9MRU	Robert Brown	EXTRA
	Jonathan Kerch	
W9DSR	Robert Littler	EXTRA
KD9RDH	Michael Wareman	TECH
KD9PWL	Fuad Saba	TECH
N9BTF	Robert McKnight	ADVANCED
W9IKY	Katerina Schneider	TECH
W9EVE	Evelyn Schneider	TECH
W9TPR	David Schneider	TECH





MEETING MINUTES



JANUARY 12, 2021

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

Meeting Minutes January 12, 2021-

The December meeting of the Fox River Radio League was conducted via Zoom.

There were 38 members present via video conference.

The meeting was called to order at 1930 CST by President Gordon Dailey, KW0E.

Acceptance of the December 2020 Membership Meeting minutes as printed in the ArcOver. It was moved, by Mike K9FE second, by Harry K9DXA and approved by the membership.

Treasurer's Report: Dan WA9YKK, reported the account bank balances as of 01-05-2021.

Director Report: Repeater, Terry, W9AUV, nothing to report. Yaesu repeater continues to work well in its temp location.

Director: Denny, W9HI, reported that the January 19, 2021 VE session has been cancelled. The Technician class has successfully concluded. We have been approached by the CAP (Civil Air Patrol) to hold another Technician class.

Upcoming programs: February 2021, Antenna modelling software; March, 2021, CWOPS.

ARES: Marty N9NTM not present.

Repeater Report: See Director report from Terry, W9AVU.

Membership: Chris, KC9BKS reported that we are at 138 members as of this month.



Meeting Minutes January 12, 2021 continued:

Old Business:

Meetings: All meetings will be conducted using Zoom until further notice.

Winter Dinner: The winter club dinner planned for January 2021 has been cancelled. Dine in restrictions will still be in place during that time due to COVID19.

New Business:

Kit Building: Denny, W9HI is proposing to have a kit building session after a meeting sometime in the future. It would require some soldering to put together. This would be conducted over Zoom. More info to come!

Club Dues: Club dues are supposed to be paid by this month's meeting. If you have not renewed, please go to the FRRL website and renew on line ASAP!

By-Laws Committee: A committee is being formed to make a few changes to the club by-laws. Contact President Daily, KW0E to participate. **New Officer Welcome:** Our new Directors were introduced to the members present. They are:

Dave Bulkley, K9WDB
CJ Johnson, WT2P
Robert Littler, W9DSR

Announcements:

It was noted that Hamvention for 2021 has been cancelled due to the continuation of the COVID19 virus.

It was noted that the FRRL finished 7th in the state of Illinois for Field Day 2020.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Dan, WA9YKK, Second: Mike, K9FE

The meeting was adjourned at 2000hrs CST.

Upcoming Events:

February 2nd, BOD Meeting via Zoom
February 9th, Membership Meeting via Zoom
February 20th Newsletter Deadline

March, Our march program will be discussing the CWops operation and ways to attain or enhance your morse code skills.

Program:

A presentation on how to activate SOTA (Summits on the Air) by Paula Uscian, K9IR. Paula is an experienced SOTA activator and presents a very interesting talk.

Respectfully submitted,

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ
FRRL Secretary



February 2021



Fox River Radio League

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 BOD Meeting 1930 FRRL 2m Net	3	4	5	6 AM Rally →
7 AM Rally	8 →	9 1930 FRRL Member Meeting (ZOOM)	10	11	12	13
14 	15 	16 1930 FRRL 2m Net	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 1930 FRRL 2m Net	24	25	26	27
28						
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 9pm 444.875 +5MHz, 114.8		



For ARRL events please go to <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>



February, Dick Illman AH6EZ will provide a discussion on the MMANA antenna modeling software. The package is free and uses a graphic interface to allow you to model your own antenna designs.



FCC Reduces Proposed Amateur Radio Application Fee to \$35

12/30/2020

The FCC has agreed with ARRL and other commenters that its proposed \$50 fee for certain amateur radio applications was “too high to account for the minimal staff involvement in these applications.” In a Report and Order (R&O), released on December 29, the FCC scaled back to \$35 the fee for a new license application, a special temporary authority (STA) request, a rule waiver request, a license renewal application, and a vanity call sign application. All fees are per application. There will be no fee for administrative updates, such as a change of mailing or email address.

This fall, ARRL filed comments in firm opposition to the FCC proposal to impose a \$50 fee on amateur radio license and application fees and urged its members to follow suit.

As the FCC noted in its R&O, although some commenters supported the proposed \$50 fee as reasonable and fair, “ARRL and many individual commenters argued that there was no cost-based justification for application fees in the Amateur Radio Service.” The fee proposal was contained in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in MD Docket 20-270, which was adopted to implement portions of the “Repack Airwaves Yielding Better Access for Users of Modern Services Act” of 2018 — the so-called “Ray Baum’s Act.”

“After reviewing the record, including the extensive comments filed by amateur radio licensees and based on our revised analysis of the cost of processing mostly automated processes discussed in our methodology section, we adopt a \$35 application fee, a lower application fee than the Commission proposed in the NPRM for personal licenses, in recognition of the fact that the application process is mostly automated,” the FCC said in the R&O. “We adopt the proposal from the NPRM to assess no additional application fee for minor modifications or administrative updates, which also are highly automated.”

The FCC said it received more than 197,000 personal license applications in 2019, which includes not only ham radio license applications but commercial radio operator licenses and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) licenses.

The FCC turned away the arguments of some commenters that the FCC should exempt amateur radio licensees. The FCC stated that it has no authority to create an exemption “where none presently exists.”

The FCC also disagreed with those who argued that amateur radio licensees should be exempt from fees because of their public service contribution during emergencies and disasters.

“[W]e are very much aware of these laudable and important services amateur radio licensees provide to the American public,” the FCC said, but noted that specific exemptions provided under Section 8 of the so-called “Ray Baum’s Act” requiring the FCC to assess the fees do not apply to amateur radio personal licenses. “Emergency communications, for example, are voluntary and are not required by our rules,” the FCC noted. “As we have noted previously, [w]hile the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communications service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications, is one of the underlying principles of the amateur service, the amateur service is not an emergency radio service.”

The Act requires that the FCC switch from a Congressionally-mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. The FCC proposed application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC’s Universal Licensing System (ULS), including the Amateur Radio Service, which had been excluded previously. The 2018 statute excludes the Amateur Service from annual regulatory fees, but not from application fees.

“While the Ray Baum’s Act amended Section 9 and retained the regulatory fee exemption for amateur radio station licensees, Congress did not include a comparable exemption among the amendments it made to Section 8 of the Act,” the FCC R&O explained.

The effective date of the fee schedule has not been established, but it will be announced at least 30 days in advance. The FCC has directed the Office of Managing Director, in consultation with relevant offices and bureaus, to draft a notice for publication in the Federal Register announcing when rule change(s) will become effective, “once the relevant databases, guides, and internal procedures have been updated.”





Dayton Hamvention 2021



Unfortunately, several setbacks in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic make necessary the difficult decision to cancel Hamvention 2021. Hundreds of volunteers have been working to do everything necessary to bring this Hamvention to the many amateur radio enthusiasts and vendors who support the Dayton Hamvention.

Vaccine distribution both in the United States and around the world is lagging behind what was planned. In addition, the emergence of a more communicable form of the COVID-19 virus increases the potential for further public health problems in the next few months. We make this difficult decision for the safety of our guests and vendors.

Those who had their tickets, inside booths or flea market spaces deferred last year will be deferred again. Those who purchased 2021 tickets, inside booths or flea market spaces will also be deferred. If you desire a refund instead please email tickets@hamvention.org and we will contact you. Stay tuned for information about a QSO party for the 2021 Hamvention weekend. We are looking forward to the 2022 Hamvention!!!

Executive Committee, Dayton Hamvention 2021



2021 AM Rally Set for First Weekend in February

01/07/2021

The 2021 running of the AM Rally will take place from 0000 UTC on Saturday, February 6 to 0700 UTC on Monday, February 8. The annual AM Rally operating event encourages all operators to explore amateur radio's original voice mode by showcasing the various types of amplitude modulation equipment in use today, ranging from early vacuum-tube radios to the latest SDR-based transceivers.

"Participation in the AM Rally has continued to grow over the past 5 years, as more operators explore the mode," said Clark Burgard, N1BCG. "The AM Rally is a great way to beat the winter and COVID-19 blues."

The AM Rally is open to all radio amateurs capable of operating on AM using any type of radio equipment from vintage to modern, vacuum tube to solid state. The AM Rally will use the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15-, 10-, and 6-meter bands.

"Those who have never tried AM mode will find plenty of help, if needed," Burgard assured. An AM Rally 2021 promotional video is available. Contact Burgard for more information.



FCC ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY

DA 21-73

Released: January 17, 2021



WARNING: AMATEUR AND PERSONAL RADIO SERVICES LICENSEES AND OPERATORS MAY NOT USE RADIO EQUIPMENT TO COMMIT OR FACILITATE CRIMINAL ACTS

The Enforcement Bureau (Bureau) of the Federal Communications Commission issues this Enforcement Advisory to remind licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, as well as licensees and operators in the Personal Radio Services, that the Commission prohibits the use of radios in those services to commit or facilitate criminal acts.

The Bureau has become aware of discussions on social media platforms suggesting that certain radio services regulated by the Commission may be an alternative to social media platforms for groups to communicate and coordinate future activities. The Bureau recognizes that these services can be used for a wide range of permitted purposes, including speech that is protected under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Amateur and Personal Radio Services, however, may not be used to commit or facilitate crimes.

Specifically, the Bureau reminds amateur licensees that they are prohibited from transmitting “communications intended to facilitate a criminal act” or “messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning.” 47 CFR § 97.113(a)(4).

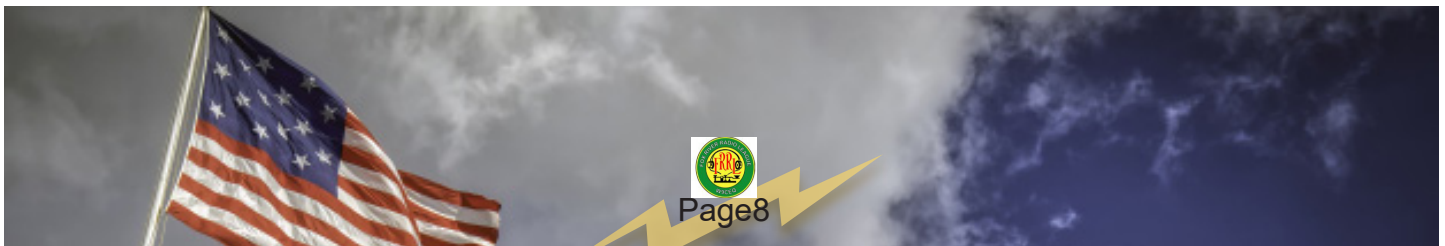
Likewise, individuals operating radios in the Personal Radio Services, a category that includes Citizens Band radios, Family Radio Service walkie-talkies, and General Mobile Radio Service, are prohibited from using those radios “in connection with any activity which is against Federal, State or local law.” 47 CFR § 95.333(a).

Individuals using radios in the Amateur or Personal Radio Services in this manner may be subject to severe penalties, including significant fines, seizure of the offending equipment, and, in some cases, criminal prosecution. 47 U.S.C. §§ 401, 501, 503, 510.

Media inquiries should be directed to 202-418-0500 or MediaRelations@fcc.gov.

To file a complaint with the FCC, visit <https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov> or call 1-888-CALL-FCC. To report a crime, contact your local law enforcement office or the FBI.

To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (202) 418-0432 (TTY).





Jessica Rosenworcel to run the Federal Communications Commission as its Acting Chair



President Joe Biden has picked Jessica Rosenworcel to run the Federal Communications Commission as its acting chair, making the 49-year-old lawyer and podcast host from West Hartford, Connecticut, the second woman to be appointed to that role in the commission's 96-year history. The job involves such daunting tasks as helping millions of Americans get reliable access to the internet.

Rosenworcel, already a member of the commission, is not only the second woman to lead the FCC (the first, Mignon Clyburn, served for nearly 6 months as interim chair, in 2013), she is also the first mother to lead the agency. She has two school-aged children, and when she's not crafting the nation's tech and media laws, she's trying to ensure that her kids are doing their school work remotely during the pandemic.



Virtual HamCation Set

The Orlando HamCation Special Edition online event over the February 13 - 14 weekend will take the place of what would have been the HamCation 2021 in-person show. The online event will include youth, technology, contesting, and vendor webinar tracks. ARRL will also present two webinars on Saturday, February 13. They are:

1. ARRL Member Forum at 1 PM EST, moderated by ARRL Southeastern Division Director Mickey Baker, N4MB.
2. Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) presentation at 3 PM EST, moderated by ARRL Director of Emergency Management Paul Gilbert, KE5ZW.

The ARES presentation will include panelists from ARRL Section Emergency Coordinators in Florida.

Live, online prize drawings are also scheduled during the HamCation Special Edition online event.

Eastern Iowans Rely On Ham Radio When Severe Weather Strikes

A derecho with winds of 80 to 100 MPH struck eastern Iowa last August, disrupting power and telecommunications for some 400,000 residents. But, as ARRL member and Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) volunteer Scott Haney, N0GUD, recently explained to The Gazette in Cedar Rapids, that's when amateur radio shines.

"For some people, [amateur radio is] merely a hobby, but for a lot of us, it's much more than that," Haney said. "Ham radio operators are involved in emergency management, in large event management, in a large variety of things. A lot of times people don't know we're there, but we're actually a large part of planning and carrying out many events and gatherings," he said. "People don't realize, especially in weather events like hurricanes, [that] amateur radio is a huge part of getting people in and out of dangerous areas. We've been doing that for decades."



FRRL Members

ON AIR



I'm sure many of you have noticed unlawful activities on our local repeaters in recent months. I recall the last spotter activation on the KC9OEM repeater having lots of jamming. I heard kids on the FRRL UHF repeater today. I gave out my call and asked for help triangulating, at which point the malicious activity stopped.

I proposed in tonight's meeting that anyone who observes this kind of activity and is able to listen on the input respond to this thread with your findings. If you have a beam (maybe a handheld Arrow, etc.) and can get a bearing, please include that as well as your location. Between signal strength and azimuth, we should be able to narrow the focus pretty quickly.

I'd like to find the offender (or offenders). Whether we refer him or her for enforcement or recruit them for club membership is up for debate. They are obviously radio-curious.

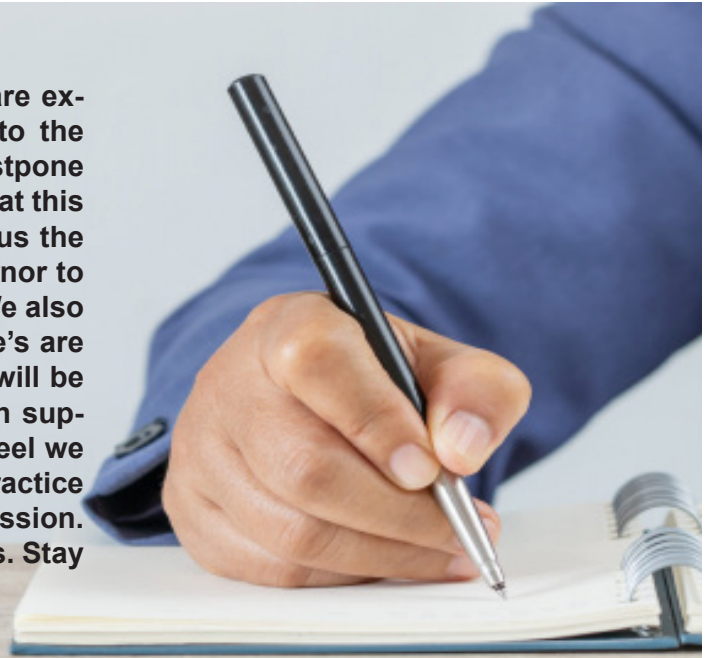
Thanks!

Steve, K9NUD

Hi All,

Thanks for the email requesting a testing slot. We are excited to receive your requests. Unfortunately due to the current Covid situation the club has decided to postpone our testing until March. We utilize a local church and at this time their rules and the states rules do not provide us the ability for testing. We waited anxiously for the Governor to open up the restrictions, but that hasn't happened. We also want to ensure that none of our test takers or our ve's are exposed to the virus. We believe that by March we will be out of this situation. We have already stocked up on supplies to handle a large number of test takers so we feel we are ready for March. Keep safe and keep taking practice tests to insure a positive outcome at your next test session. Please check our website (frrl.org) for testing updates. Stay safe and be well.

Fox River RadioLeague VE Team.
73, Denny W9HI



Easy Helical Copper Tape and PVC 2-Meter Vertical Antenna -- John Portune, W6NBC



Learn how to quickly build a tiny, 18-inch continuously loaded lightweight portable or base station 2-meter omnidirectional vertical with performance and efficiency comparable to a 5-foot J-pole. All you need is copper tape and PVC pipe from the hardware store, and the cost is roughly \$10. It's an easy afternoon's homebrew project, ideal for the new ham but equal to the experienced ham's needs. It is great for events like bike-a-thons. It also makes an excellent ham radio club hands-on building project, and the design is adaptable to other bands.

<https://w6nbc.com/articles/20xx-QSTcopperhelixantenna.pdf>



Technician Class

T8B05

What is a satellite beacon?

- () A. An indicator light that shows where to point your antenna
- () B. The primary transmit antenna on the satellite
- () C. A reflective surface on the satellite
- () D. A transmission from a satellite that contains status information



Last Months Answers

T5B04

() B. Only the astronaut's family members who are hams

T1B02

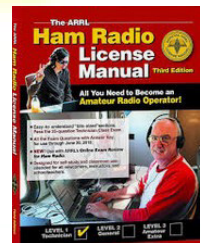
() A. An indicator light that shows where to point your antenna

Technician Class

T9A06

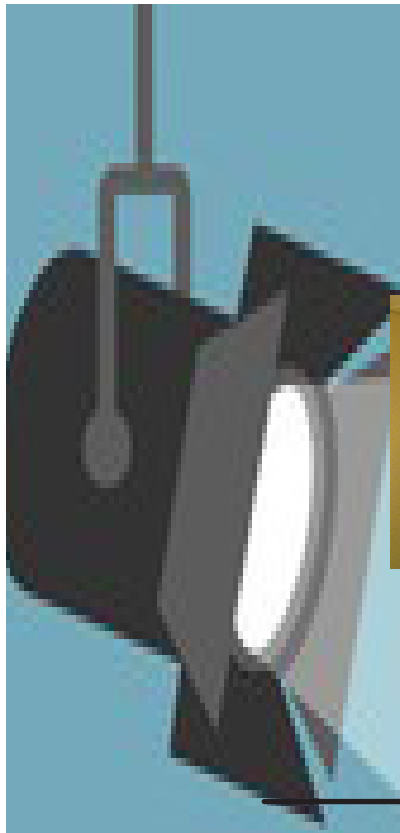
What type of antennas are the quad, Yagi, and dish?

- () A. Directional antennas
- () B. Isotropic antennas
- () C. Non-resonant antennas
- () D. Log periodic antennas



New Members

FRRL Spot Light



Well short deal is I'm Bob Neff - We live between Minooka and Oswego, married to Tammy, have two grown daughters and two grandchildren. Worked on a hog farm and started filing taxes at age 12, was Assist Manager of an A & W Restaurant five years and then worked for a steel fabricator 30 years and for last eleven years have worked for Moose International out of Mooseheart, IL, a fraternal organization where I volunteered for over 30 years previously. I am new to amateur radio even though I have had friends who are hams. I enjoy listening to the nets, etc. and I'm looking forward to getting my license and getting on the air soon?

Rick Jakle—K9GHP

I'm excited to be part of FRRL and look forward to meeting everyone at meetings when the pandemic subsides.

First licensed in 1957 I received my General Class ticket in 1958 and still have my original call: K9GHP. Amateur radio helped lead me into my profession: commercial radio broadcasting. I went to Journalism/Radio-TV School at the University of Illinois and worked actively in radio station management and ownership for over fifty years. Four years ago, this February, I sold the three remaining radio stations in Elgin, Aurora and Las Vegas and retired. In 2012 I sold WJKL-FM to K-LOVE—the large Christian music broadcasting outfit.



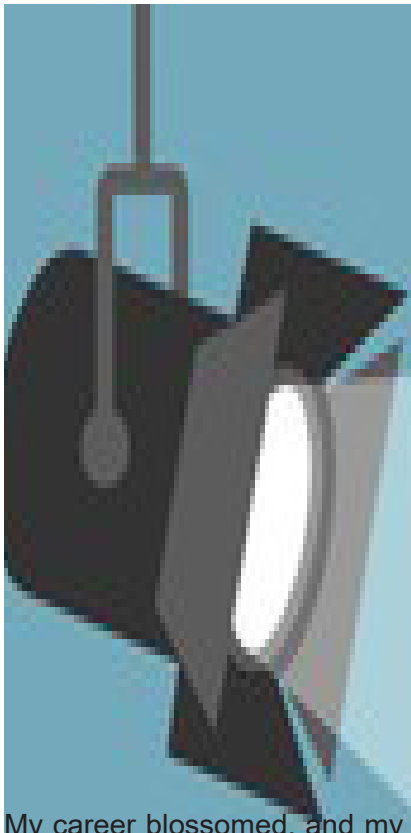
In 1984 when we moved from Elgin to unincorporated Kane County I boxed everything up—and didn't get back to our wonderful avocation until late this past September. I enjoy ham radio now even more than I did when I was younger. My Heath SB-200 and Kenwood 830-S fired right up when I unboxed them. I added a HyGain 12AVQ vertical with forty-some radials under it and was back on the air (feeling a little bit like Rip Van Winkle). What amazing changes have taken place during the 36 years I was absent from ham radio.

I added an Icom 7300 in October and absolutely love it. It's a great piece of gear. Last week I received a KIO Hex Beam—but, of course, won't be able to put it up until the weather breaks. I'm planning on mounting it on a mini tower on my garage. Unfortunately, Glen Martin no longer makes roof mount towers and the only other manufacturer I know of, W8IO LLC, has closed their plant until April. If anyone has a used one they would sell or knows of an alternative source I would really appreciate hearing from them!!



New Members

FRRL Spot Light



I grew up in Wisconsin, the middle child of seven. For as long as I can remember, electronics were a source of endless fascination. I was drawn to shortwave, scanners, and CB radio. I was always tearing things apart and poring over library books on electronics and circuits. Sadly, our high school curriculum was divided between the college-bound and the blue-collar crowd, and my family demographics put me squarely in the latter. We had excellent shop classes (machining, sheet metal, woodworking, foundry, and automotive) but zero electronics. My father was a self-employed forklift mechanic, so that's the direction I took. Incidentally, one of his employees was a ham (WB9OAI, SK) who piqued my interest by installing a two-meter rig in the company truck.



Steve Thom

My career blossomed, and my understanding of electronics helped me succeed beyond my peers. Hydraulics came easy, as the logic is essentially the same. I was promoted and relocated to the Chicago area, settling in St. Charles, where I met my future wife and started a family. It was during my field mechanic work that my police scanner landed upon two-meter ham bands, which planted the seeds that culminated in me obtaining my Tech Plus (N9JVH), General, and then Advanced (KG9JV) licenses in 1990 (through the FRRL). I joined FRRL at that time. As often happens, job and family obligations quickly crowded out the social aspect of the hobby. Sadly, I allowed my club membership to lapse.

I had an okay station back then. I started out with a Hallicrafters SR-160, operating from home and from my company truck. I can still hear that power supply whining. I wish I remembered who gave or sold me the rig, and who subsequently took it off my hands. I do remember Bob, K9EUI aligning it for me, which I truly appreciate. I moved on to solid-state rigs after that but eventually became a mostly-dormant ham.

Nevertheless, I maintained my license and did occasional storm spotting. Digital modes drew me back into HF from time to time but were never satisfying enough to keep me interested. Lately, however, I have dived back in headfirst. My passions are now CW (which I only learned out of necessity but am relearning out of love of the challenge) and satellites (currently FM, with linear sats in my future). You will hear me on 80M CW and on ISS and SO-50 passes most days. I am also planning to get into POTA and SOTA when the weather improves.

When I am not on the radio I run a managed I.T service business, play golf, practice yoga, and wait around for my three sons to generate some grandchildren, hi.

My name is Fuad Saba, KD9PWL. I'm a new ham and new to the FRRL. Al Bukowski, N9ZD, is my Elmer and is getting me started on the hobby. I'm retired and live in Naperville with my wife Mary of 43 years and our cats, Bear and Tigger. My rig is an Icom 7100 and I hold a Technician license. I'm looking forward to getting to know you and participating in league activities.

