



# ARCOVER



MARCH 2021

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

1924  2021

## 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:  
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:  
Mark Van Daele K9MEV

Membership Database:  
Chris Kennell, 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.

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Hi All,:

As we head into March we hopefully are getting out of the bitter cold weather. As it gets warmer my mind shifts to my two favorite activities. Operating portable and fishing. It can be a tie as the better of the two, depending on the conditions for both.

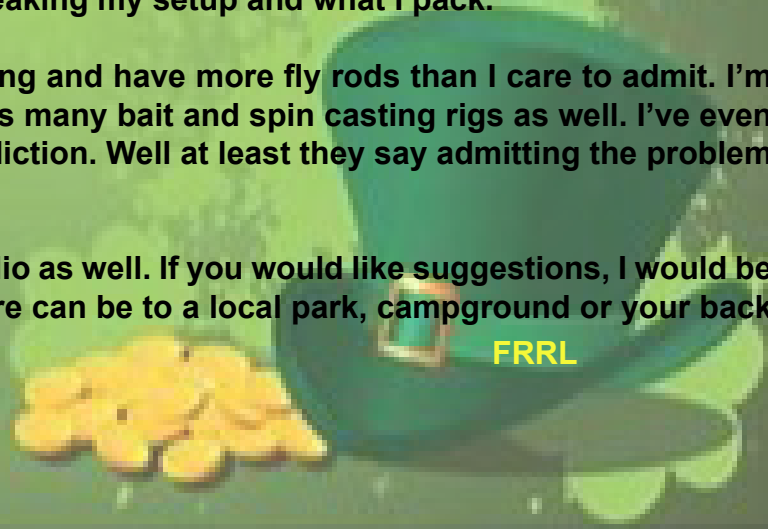
When operating portable I'm typically QRP with my KX2 or QCX single band in 20m or 40m. Palm Pico Paddle. Someday I will have that Bigali Adventure - Mono. I look at that paddle like I look at guitar that I dream of owning. Hi. Hi. My HT with APRS for safety. Even though I always inform someone of where I will be going. Just in case. I like to have "backup". If you go out on an adventure, you should as well. My antennas of choice are SOTAbears linked dipole 20m - 40m and/or linked dipole 20m - 80m with 30ft. fiberglass expandable mast. When backpacking I typically use endfed wire. I'm always tweaking my setup and what I pack.

As to my fishing load out. I prefer fly fishing and have more fly rods than I care to admit. I'm also one of those guys that have almost as many bait and spin casting rigs as well. I've even used a cane pole and line..... I have an addiction. Well at least they say admitting the problem is the first step.

I hope you take an adventure with your radio as well. If you would like suggestions, I would be happy to discuss. By the way, an adventure can be to a local park, campground or your backyard.

Till next month, be radioactive,

73. de Gordie KW0E



Call Sign	Name	License Class
NF9D	William Muhr	Amateur Extra
W9BOI	David Spensley Sr	General
N9HFL	James Lambert	General
KD9NWA	Rick Stevens	General



# MEETING MINUTES



## FEBRUARY 9, 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 February 9, 2021-**

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

There were 31 members present via video conference.

The meeting was called to order at 1930 CST by Vice President Roger Bara, W9YU  
All Board members were present except, President Dailey, KW0E and CJ, WT2P

Acceptance of the January 2021 Membership Meeting minutes as printed in the ArcOver. It was moved, by K9GPH second, by W9MZ and approved by the membership.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dan WA9YKK, reported the account bank balances as of 02-01-2021.  
Motion to accept the Treasurer's report, K9WDB, second, W9MZ and approved.

**Director:** Terry W9AUV, nothing to report.

**Director:** Robert W9DSR, ARES SET will be on May 1<sup>st</sup>. More info to come. 60-meter MARS event coming in May. Several ARES activities have been cancelled due to COVID 19.

**Director:** Dave W9WDB, is getting up to speed on his duties.

**Director:** CJ WT2P, not present

**Education:** Denny, W9HI, a Technicians class is being set up for Tuesday evenings and a General class is being worked on for Thursday evenings via Zoom. There will be a VE test session on Thursday February 25<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at the St. Charles Moose Lodge. The regular VE session will occur on Tuesday March 16<sup>th</sup> at the Geneva Lutheran Church. See the website for details. The program for the March meeting, will be learning CW with the CWOPS program.

Membership: Chris, KC9BKS reported that we have **107**, members as of this month.



Meeting Minutes February 9, 2021 continued:

### **Old Business:**

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

By-Laws Committee: If interested please contact Gordie, KW0E of your interest. We would like a few more members to serve on this important group.

### **New Business:**

Field Day: The site has been confirmed with the Forest Preserve District. There seems to have been a loosening of restrictions as to the amount of people that can be there. Let's hope it is still in place in June! There is a need for a Field Day Chairman. Please contact any Board member of your interest to lead this fun event.

QSO Today is scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. This is a virtual hamfest that was also held last year with very good reviews. Just click the link and you will find information on the event. You must register before the event. A ticket is just \$10.00 dollars. <https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/>

### **Announcements:**

None

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 2000hrs CST.

### **Upcoming Events:**

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, BOD Meeting via Zoom  
March 9<sup>th</sup>, Membership Meeting via Zoom  
March 20<sup>th</sup> Newsletter Deadline

### **Program:**

A presentation on antenna modeling by Dick Illman, AH6EZ.

Respectfully submitted,



**Dean Holste**, KC9EOQ  
FRRL Secretary



# MARCH 2021



*Fox River Radio League*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 1900 FRRL BOD Meeting 1930 FRRL2m Net	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 1930 FRRL Member Meeting (ZOOM)	10	11	12	13
14  Dailight Savings Time	15	16 1930 FRRL 2m Net	17 	18	19	20 
21	22	23 1930 FRRL 2m Net	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 1930 FRRL 2m Net	31			
 <b>WCRA</b> 2m Net 8pm 145.31 -6 107.2	 <b>VARA</b> 2m Net 8pm 146.79 -6 107.2	 <b>FRRL</b> 2m Net 7:30pm 147.21 +6 103.5	 <b>Kane County ARES</b> 2m Net 6:30pm 145.47 -6 103.5	 <b>Northern Illinois ARRL</b> 70cm Net 9pm 444.875 +5MHz, 114.8		



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





## QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo



**Coming to your desktop, laptop, and tablet:  
March 12th, 2021 1800 PST for 48 Hours  
and “on-demand” until April 12, 2021**



**Early Bird Ticket Sales begin January 4, 2021**

Whether you're a ham that doesn't want to travel because of Covid or just live too far from a hamvention, the QSO Today Expo offers the opportunity to learn from many great speakers, meet with exhibitors to see the latest technology, and engage with fellow hams without leaving your home ham shack. And save thousands of dollars since you don't have to worry about travel, food, and lodging! Early Bird Tickets are just \$10 (to help cover the cost of this event, \$12.50 at the “door”) and include entry for the Live 2 day period as well as the 30 day on-demand period).

Attendees have the opportunity to:

Listen to and engage with 60+ internationally recognized ham radio luminaries that have committed to lead Expo sessions.

Take part in Live virtual kit building workshops. Kits will be available for purchase and delivered to you in time for the Expo so you can participate and build from the convenience of your home.

Walk through our virtual exhibit hall filled with popular amateur radio suppliers.

Watch new product demos and interact directly with booth staff.

We'll introduce new video technology to enable a better experience when engaging with exhibitors.

Prior to the Expo, take advantage of our new speaker calendar technology to download speaker times in your local time zones to Google and Outlook calendars. This way you'll have a complete schedule of what sessions you want to participate in.

Return over the next 30 days to listen to speakers you missed during the Live period, explore, and re-engage exhibitor offerings.

<https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/>





The S.R.F.A.R.S. will not be having its hamfest in march when it's been for years. Do to covid we are not finding a location that would reserve that date for us. Plus as of now we'd be restricted to 50 people inside, that's s.r.f.a.r.s. members, vendors and customers. Hopefully things will open back up more and we can hold it later in the year. We'd like to thank everyone for the support of our hamfest over the years!

**CANCELLED**

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## ARRL Board Considers Plan to Cover New \$35 FCC Fee for Some Young Applicants

At its Annual Meeting in January, the ARRL Board of Directors considered a motion to offer a new service that would pay the new but not-yet-implemented \$35 FCC application fee for a limited number of new radio amateurs younger than age 18 who, at the time of testing, belonged to an ARRL-affiliated 501(c)(3) charitable organization and passed their tests through an ARRL VEC-sponsored exam session. The proposal called for reducing the VEC fee for these candidates to \$5.



Consideration of the motion, which was subject to considerable discussion, was deferred to an ad hoc committee composed of the members of the Administration & Finance Committee, two Members of the Programs & Services Committee, and ARRL CEO David Minster, NA2AA (or his designated representative). The Board directed the panel to review and more fully develop the proposal and report back to the Board by the end of March with a recommendation as to whether such a program should be adopted and, if adopted, how it should be implemented.

Quoted in part from ARRL Newsletter

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### ARRL reject additional VEC's

ARRL has told the FCC that no additional Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VEC) are needed to oversee the administration of amateur radio exams by Volunteer Examiners (VEs).

Examination opportunities have continued to be widely available throughout the US — except for a couple of months during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic — and adding VECs to the 14 now in place would “have no effect” on the number of available exams, ARRL said. ARRL's comments on February 4 were in response to a January 5 FCC Public Notice in WT Docket 21-2 seeking input on possible expansion of the VEC pool.

Multiple web-based exam opportunities are available across the US, even on short notice, and in-person examinations are available in many areas where local regulation and special safety requirements allow.

“It has never been easier,” ARRL asserted, noting that exam sessions often are available within 2 days but rarely more than 7, if taking advantage of a remote, web-based exam opportunity.

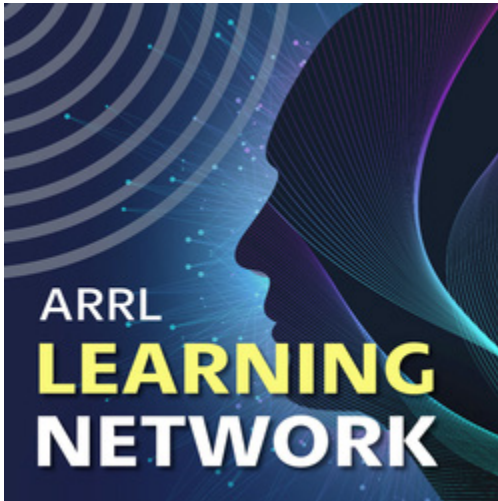
Read the full ARRL story at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-to-fcc-additional-volunteer-examiner-coordinators-not-needed>

Quoted in part ARRL Newsletter



## ARRL Learning Network



Overview: ARRL's Learning Network is a webinar series to help introduce members to the variety of activities and opportunities enjoyed by radio amateurs. These live presentations will be given by member-volunteers, for all members. Like hamfest forums and radio club presentations, the webinars are intended to help participants get more active, involved, and engaged in amateur radio. Presentations are 30-minutes each to accommodate attendee's busy schedules, followed by a 15-minute period for questions-and-answers. For additional information contact ARRL's Life-long Learning department.

ARRL members may register for an upcoming presentation and view previously recorded webinars by going to:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-learning-network>



### Technicians, Life Beyond Repeaters

*Presented by Anthony Luscre, K8ZT*

Maybe you just received your Technician license, or perhaps you have had it for a while and burnt out on sparse FM Repeater contacts. Take a new look at the possibilities available to you beyond repeaters. Explore Tech HF and 6 Meter privileges for SSB, CW and Digital Modes (FT8/FT4/RTTY) to expand your operating modes and the distance covered in contacts. Explore other VHF/UHF uses, including SSB, Satellite Operation, FM Simplex, Digital Modes, Contesting, and more.

**Tuesday, March 9, 2021 @ 1 pm EST (1800 UTC)**



### The Art and Science of Operating Ultra-Portable

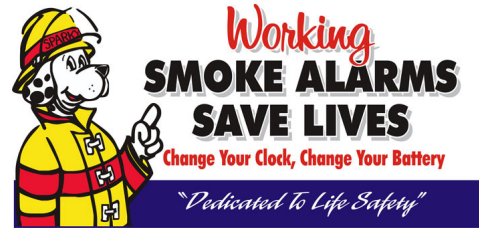
*Presented by Mike Molina, KN6EZE*

Ultra-portable operation or being able to carry your radio over distances e.g., in a backpack, is quickly growing in popularity. Whether for SOTA, POTA, backcountry survival, or just spending time in nature, learning how to operate ultra-portable is a fun and rewarding experience. In this presentation, Mike KN6EZE, will cover the basics of ultra-portable operating for both the new and experienced ham operator.

**Tuesday, April 6, 2021 @ 8 pm EST (0100 UTC on Friday, April 7)**







**Technician Class**

**T7D05**

What instrument is used to measure resistance?

- A. An oscilloscope
- B. A noise bridge
- C. An ohmmeter
- D. A spectrum analyzer

**Last Months Answers**

T8B05

D. A transmission from a satellite that contains status information

T9A06

A. Directional antennas

**Technician Class**

**T6C04**

What is component 3 in figure T1?

- A. Ground symbol
- B. Resistor
- C. Lamp
- D. Transistor

(You'll need the book for this one)

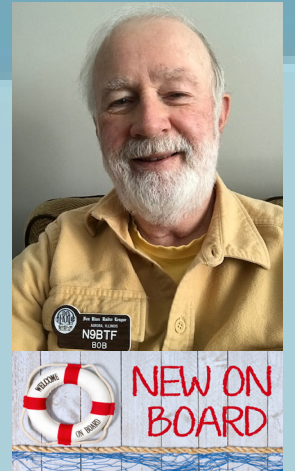


*Member*

## FRRL Spot Light

**Bob McKnight**  
**N9BTF**

(ex KA9EBE) I was first licensed in 1979 thanks to the FRRL novice class. Now holds Advanced Class license. Has held a number of offices in the club, but has been relatively inactive lately. ARRL life member.



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**K9FE Mike Urso**  
**Past President**



Growing up in Elmhurst Illinois in the 60's I was always fascinated by this HUGE antenna tower in the neighborhood just east of ours. I was 12 years old. I would walk past the house looking up at all this aluminum in the air. One day I was walking past the house and stopped staring up at this antenna. As I stood there in awe I noticed an older man coming out of the house walking toward me. He approached with a big smile and asked my name. He offered to show me around. I was handed a glass of lemonade and we went into the backyard. Standing at the base of the tower he explained what I was seeing. There was a 7element tribander up on a 65 foot Roan 25G tower.

From there we went into the house and into his shack. The table was covered with Collins equipment. Not knowing anything about the radios gave my new friend the opportunity to describe everything in detail. The words and numbers were a blur in my head. On to the demonstration.

As he turned on the equipment I watched the warm glow of hollow state radios. We tuned around 40 meters slowly and I could start making out voices. This was the first time I had heard sideband audio. It was truly an experience. Then we went to the bottom of the 40 meter CW band. Calling CQ was quick to flush a contact up. As the conversation in CW went on my mouth hung open. As he was working CW on his bug but the description of how radio works was continuous. Doing head copy and talking to me at the same time was a bit amazing. I received an apology that he could not do a real phone demonstration since he did not own a microphone! As I left the house I was in a daze. Radio had bit into me.



## Mike Urso Continued

As time went on I eventually got licensed sophomore year in high school. As a novice I never worked a contact! I studied and went to downtown Chicago and took me test for General and Advanced Class license. I barely and I mean barely passed the code test. As a new ham I built a Heathkit HW-101. We used it in our club station at school. The next year the club folded as our sponsor left the school. The new electronics teacher had no interest in becoming the new sponsor. In fact his interest was CB and we found out that our club members were way above him in electronics knowledge.

Bringing the date from the 70's to the 90's was a period of non-activity to the point I had let my license lapse for 2 years. In April 1995 I was invited to an FRRL meeting by a fellow computer users group member, Bill Swiss W9HVY (sk) (the donut and coffee man!) and found a great bunch of hams. I was involved in Explorer Scouts as an advisor and found a home starting a new Post 173 Radio Explorers. I was getting very involved now, both in radio operating and scouting. In summer 1995 I went to the Boy Scout World Jamboree in Dronten, Netherlands. This trip was sponsored by Fermilab. I was there representing my other 2 posts which were computer posts at Fermilab. 3 weeks of daily working on web pages so they would work on our closed intranet and then each evening until midnight working on 20 meters PA6WSJ. It was totally a head trip. I had never been at the other end of a pile up before. The bands were not all that good, but it was still amazing. I had never seen a 60db over S9 signal from Italy before.

In the FRRL I have held every office except treasurer. Serving 3 years as President, a couple as VP, 2 as Secretary, Board member for years, Webmaster, Membership Chair, Database, and 7 years as Past President. I also ran the Linux Special Interest group for 6 years. I was honored to be awarded Ham of the Year 3 times. The FRRL is a great group with such a diversity of interests that you can always find someone to be your elmer in any area of interest.

My radios have come from the Heathkit HW-101 to a Flex 6400 with a lot of equipment in between. I run a Hustler 6BTV (band trapped vertical) with added homebrew 12m and 17m radiators. I have WAS on 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30, 40, and 80m. DXCC on 17, 20, 30, and 40m. I only have 169 countries total, but I am having fun. Usually I am on FT-8/FT-4 and other digi modes. I am active on some of the 20m and 40 Nets on phone however. I can be your elmer in many areas, just ask!

Thanks for copying my tale,

**73 de K9FE Mike Urso**



**My intentions with the Member spotlight is to introduce new members to the group and also to introduce club members to the new people and other members of the club.. I myself have been in the club for a year and only know a few members by face..**

**For current members, if you're willing, please send me a selfie picture and a bio about yourself and I will post a couple each month.. I will continue to ask new members for their info... Thanks**

**de N9JLC Jerry your Editor and Chief Correspondent  
Newsletter@frrl.org**

