



Arc Over

Fox River Radio
League
PO Box 673
Batavia, IL
60510-0673

December, 2011

Nominating Committee Announces Slate for 2012-2013 Elections

On November 9, 2011, the FRRL 2011 Nominating Committee presented the names of club members who have agreed to be candidates for election to club offices.

The candidates are:

President:	Harry Jones K9DXA
Vice-President:	Dawn Williams KC9LQS
Secretary:	Randy Ligocki KC9KAX
Treasurer:	Dean Holste KC9EOQ
Directors: *	Neil Potter KB9RFX Denny Barfus W9HI Jack Ekstrom K9JE Debra Gray WX9VOR (formerly KC9SUT) Chris Farley KC9IEQ

* Voting is for two open Director seats, plus one extra, if Dawn is elected Vice President. Absentee voters, please choose 2 Directors and one additional. The additional Director's term will be for one year.

Members of the Nominating Committee were Victoria Pozzie KC9PWM, William Capper WB9LPW and Chairman Kermit Carlson W9XA. We thank them for their service.

If you will not be attending the meeting to vote in person, please mail your ballot to the club P.O. box. you must ensure it is delivered prior to 12 noon Tuesday, December 13, 2011, at which time the P.O. box will be checked for any mail-in absentee ballots. Please place your ballot inside an envelope and then place the envelope in another to mail. Late ballots will not be considered.

Election rules as provided by the Fox River Radio League By-Laws, as amended May 9 2006:

Section 1. Nominations: The Nominating Committee shall present, at the November meeting, a slate of candidates consisting of a minimum of one (1) name per office. Nominations shall also be accepted from the floor at only the November meeting. All nominations shall be published in the next issue of the FRRL Newsletter, or failing said publication, a list of same shall be sent to all members via First Class U.S. mail, a minimum of one week ahead of the December meeting.

Section 2. Election: The annual election of all officers and the directors shall take place at the December meeting. The balloting shall allow for write-in names. A candidate shall be declared elected if that candidate receives the most votes cast by the members.

Section 3. Absentee Ballots: Absentee ballots are allowed only for the election of officers and directors. The absentee ballots shall be prepared by the voter and delivered to any officer prior to the start of the meeting at which the annual election of officers and directors is held. All absentee ballots shall be drafted in ink. The office being voted on with the first and last name and the Callsign of each candidate shall be listed on this ballot. The completed ballot shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope that is both printed and signed in ink using first and last name of the voter. The ballots shall be opened and tallied at the election.

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the General Membership of the
Fox River Radio League (FRRL) an Illinois not-for-profit Corporation
Held at St. Rita of Cascia, Aurora, IL**

Meeting Minutes November 8, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Dick Illman AH6EZ – Director.

- **Secretary's Report** – Dick AH6EZ announced that copies of the meeting minutes for the October 11, 2011 Regular General Membership Meeting are available from FRRL Secretary, Ron KC9SNI and in *ArcOver*. A motion was made to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Denny W9HI. The motion carried.

- **Committee Reports:**
 - Repeaters** - Dick AH6EZ reported that the 2m repeater is experiencing intermittent controller problems including a non-functioning courtesy tone and the time-out timer was not working during net operation.

 - Program** - Dick AH6EZ reported that he will present an antenna selection guide, which will include a matrix of antenna attributes. He will also discuss Internet resources for amateur radio including DX spotters and web-accessible SDR receivers. The December program will be the Holiday Party.

 - VE Session** – Doug W9RD stated that the next Volunteer Examination session is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15 at 7:30 PM.

 - Education** – Eric AB9OS reported that a General license class is planned for the first quarter of next year. Information is available on the FRRL website.

 - Banquet** – Mike K9FE reported that the FRRL Banquet will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in St. Charles on Saturday, January 21, 2012. The opening time is 5 PM with dinner at 6 PM. The cost is \$30 per couple and will feature an Italian gourmet buffet.

 - Kane County ARES** – Bill NF9D reported that the Kane Co. ARES is working toward assisting public service agencies with back-up communications capabilities. This plan is in an early discussion phase. The group is seeking interested individuals, particularly those with experience in commercial radio communications.

Old Business

Nominations and Slate of Candidates – Dick AH6EZ discussed the FRRL leadership positions, which will be filled by election at the December General Membership meeting. These positions include President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past-President, and Director. These offices have one-year terms except Directors, which have two-year terms. After reviewing the responsibilities, activities, and estimated time demands of each office, Dick asked for any nominations from the floor. With none received, Dick turned the proceedings over to the Nominating Committee Chair, Kermit W9XA.

Kermit thanked the other members of the Nominating Committee for their service: Vicki KC9PWM and BillWB9LPW. He then announced the slate of candidates for the 2012 FRRL Board of Directors:

President	Harry Jones K9DXA
Vice-President	Dawn KC9LQS
Secretary	Randy Ligaocki KC9KAX
Treasurer	Dean Holste KC9EOQ
Director	Neil Potter KB9RFX
	Denny Barfus W9HI
	Jack Ekstrom K9JE
	Debra Gray WX9VOR
	Chris Farley KC9IEQ

New Business

Committee Appointments – Dick AH6EZ announced that Dawn KC9LQS has been appointed Chair of the 2012 FRRL Hamfest and Bill NF9D has been appointed Interim Webmaster.

Tutorial Groups - Dawn KC9LQS proposed the formation of small groups of members interested in a quick introduction to

some aspect of amateur radio unfamiliar to them. These condensed one or two hour sessions would provide attendees with the information needed for them to get started.

Recent Club Projects – Dick AH6EZ reviewed the status of recent club projects at St. Rita:

- 1) *VHF station in Pastor’s office.* A 2m vertical has been installed on an existing tower behind the Parish Center building. The next step is routing the coax into the office.
- 2) *Internet access in the members meeting area.* A Wi-Fi link has been implemented between an existing high-speed Internet connection point in the Parish Center and the club meeting room.
- 3) *Assistance with the installation of a cellular amplifier for the basement area.* This is a future club project.
- 4) *Ham shack in the members meeting area.* This project involves the installation of a rooftop, non-radial, multi-band vertical antenna at St. Rita. Dick described this project in detail and sought approval from the membership to proceed. The components for this project include: MFJ-1798 80-2m 20’ vertical antenna, heavy-duty tripod and mast, plywood base for the above, concrete block ballast, coaxial cable, 200’, RF connectors and feed-thrus, member-built wooden equipment cabinet (cabinet will be lockable and mobile). The cost estimate for this project is \$1500 or less, which includes the equipment, taxes, and shipping. Dick requested a motion to approve this project and expenditure. Bill KC9UTT motioned to approve and Bob N9BTF seconded. Discussion of the project proceeded: Dick W9GIG and Eric K9LGE suggested that the club, as a not-for-profit organization, obtain a state sales tax exemption. It was generally agreed that, while this may be something to investigate, the tax costs for this project are deminimis. Bill NF9D noted that the days and hours of operation for the station may be an issue and an agreeable schedule should be reached with St. Rita’s. Other discussion involved insurance and liability concerns. It was noted that the club does have certain coverage provided through the ARRL’s insurance program. The specifics regarding this issue and this project require further investigation. With the discussion concluded, Dick AH6EZ called for a voice vote on the motion, which carried.

• **Announcements**

Halloween Special Event Station – Dawn KC9LQS reviewed the happenings at a weeklong operating event held from Tuesday, October 25th through Halloween night. Dawn and Jeff N9JZN hosted the event at their QTH using the special event call sign W9H. Over 500 contacts were made during the week. Dawn already has the call sign for next year. Check out the website at www.foxvalleyhamhalloweenfest.com.

Resignation – It is with regret that on November 1, 2011, the FRRL Board of Directors voted to accept John Spasojevich’s October 11, 2011 resignation as President of the FRRL. The Board of Directors wants to thank John for his years of service to the club as President and leadership of the Board of Directors.

AH6EZ Open House

Dick AH6EZ announced that he will be hosting an open house at his shack on Saturday, November 12, from 9 AM until noon. He asked that those interested in visiting to RSVP via E-mail to AH6EZ@comcast.net or by telephone at 630-584-4388.

Adjournment

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Jim K9XP and seconded by several. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:
Ron Jahr KC9SNI
FRRL Secretary

New Members

Welcome to the following new members:

CALL	NAME
WA7RBC	Ronald Hobson
WA9UIP	Roger Bara

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – Mid-November 2011

By Eric Needles AB9OS

Thanks to the following for their updates this month, Charles KC9DAO, Dave K9WDB, Joe NA9A, Gary K9MMS, Steve N5EP, Dick AH6EZ, Jack K9JE, Warren K9IH, Dean KC9EOQ and Dick W9IV. Also, welcome to Scott KC9RGF and James KC9RVP. All of this activity shows how much the bands have been open. There are numerous reports of activity everywhere, including round-the-world propagation on 10 meters many times per week. After several years of low sun spot activity, this is a ton of fun!

As you look at the scores, you'll notice that just because the bands are open, it still isn't an easy thing to work all states, provinces or countries. You must still deal with pileups on rare DX (some that are even bigger with propagation improving). There are still the tough states to reach, like Alaska and Hawaii. And the states that seem to elude us by being too far for short hops and too close for long hops (hello South Dakota). Plus the usual interruptions of life that keep us off the air, like family and work.

Nothing beats careful planning, propagation knowledge and good operating. In short, congratulations to everyone in the HF Challenge this year on a job well done. This is the last update for the year. The final results will be announced at the FRRL Banquet in January. The Banquet is always a fun time, and Mike K9FE has a great new place for us this year! So plan to bring your spouse or significant other and have a great evening with good friends. And now for the numbers...

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9MMS-CW	50	11	202	263
K9BQL-CW	36	8	159	203
N5EP-CW	47	9	97	153
WI9V-QRP	29	5	56	90
NF9D-QRP	39	4	46	89
KC9SNI-10m	6		16	22
K9WDB-10m	14	1	5	20
K9LGE-Digital	9		2	11
AB9OS-CW	2			2

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	50	12	261	323
K9ARZ	50	12	247	309
KC9DAO	49	9	95	153
N4LZ	30	1	101	132
NA9A	27	3	99	129
N9JZN	26	5	76	107
KC9EOQ	31	6	464	101

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9JE	47	10	173	230
W9DTR	50	11	140	201
K9TCD	42	5	68	115
KC9LQS	30	8	76	114
K9FBI	35	6	54	95
K9IH	35	3	53	91
KC9RGF	16		59	75
KC9RVP	22		42	64
WB9CHY	32	3	4	39

Ragchewer Class	States/Prov.	DX Countries	Total
N5EP	36/2	6	44
AH6EZ			43
K9IH	29	8	37
W9DTR	23/5	6	34
KC9RGF			16
KC9RVP			9
K9LGE			9
NA9A	8	1	9
AB9OS	2		2

December Program Notes

The December meeting is the club's annual election and a holiday gathering. There may or may not be a program, depending on the time needed for the election. As in past years, the FRRL will be making a food donation to a local charity. If you are going to attend the meeting, please bring a non-perishable food item as a donation.

Fox Valley Ham Halloweenfest Wrap-Up

By Dawn Williams KC9LQS

The first annual Fox Valley Ham Halloweenfest operated under the call sign W9H from Oct. 25 to 31. The purpose of the event was twofold: to create a venue for group operating to promote on-air activity, and to provide an opportunity for newer hams to work alongside more experienced operators in a friendly, no-pressure environment.

It was a crazy idea, turning my home into a special event station for a full week, but thanks to the enthusiasm, expertise and hard work of those involved, it worked. From the day the ARRL VEC granted us the W9H call sign until the start of the event, we had about four days to put it together.

The set-up crew included Mike K9FE, Harry K9DXA, Dave K9WDB, Bill NF9D, Jeff N9JZN and me. We set up two stations in addition to the two in our shack. Team members loaned equipment and spent generous amounts of time helping with set-up, antenna raising, and trouble-shooting. As each piece fell into place, our excitement grew.

In the days leading up to the event, I received dozens of emails from the team, full of technical advice, organizational suggestions, enthusiastic comments and additional offers of assistance. By Oct. 25, we had four stations set up. My Yaesu 840 with a multiband wire dipole and Jeff's Yaesu 847 with his Hustler B5TV ran in the shack. In the kitchen, we ran an Icom 746 on loan from Mike K9FE, connected to a G5RV that I'd made for Field Day a few years ago. In the living room, we had another Icom 746 on loan from Bill NF9D, with his 20 meter dipole on a buddy pole. All stations were capable of SSB and CW operation. We ran barefoot throughout the event.

The team expanded during the week of operation: Dick AH6EZ, Dean KC9EOQ, Warren K9IH, Eric AB9OS, Chris KC9IEQ and Denny W9HI all took operating shifts along with Mike, Harry, Dave and Bill. I took early morning shifts before work and Jeff operated as much as possible throughout the day.

Evenings were set up as open house hours to provide an opportunity for newer hams to get on the air alongside an experienced operator. James KC9RVP showed up the first night and, in spite of difficult band conditions, did his usual terrific job making Qs. During the last open house night, Stuart KC9GIJ attended and really impressed the "elmers" with his excellent operating skills, learned long ago when he worked Field Day events with his uncle.

Word got out. We invited club members via email to the FRRL YahooGroups list, and posted teasers and updates on Facebook and Twitter. I built a small website to post information on who was operating and on what frequency. Through the course of the event, the website had 2,061 page views and our QRZ page showed over 1,300 look ups. During one of his shifts on 10 meters, Dave K9WDB talked to a ham who said he was strictly a CW man, but he heard about W9H and just had to dust off his mike so he could work us on sideband!

Over the course of the event, 15 operators logged more than 500 QSOs, enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow hams, and proved just how much a small group of people can accomplish. Was it perfect? Far from it! I have a fairly extensive list of improvements to be made next time around. But that doesn't diminish the fact that the event was a surprising success!

Thanks are due to everyone who worked W9H, supported the event with their time, equipment and ideas, and to the dedicated operating team: Mike K9FE, Harry K9DXA, Dick AH6EZ, Dave K9WDB, Bill NF9D, Dean KC9EOQ, Chris KC9IEQ, Warren K9IH, Eric AB9OS, Denny W9HI, and especially to Jeff N9JZN who not only put in many hours operating, but put up with me turning our home into a mini Field Day for the week.

Fox Valley Ham Halloweenfest will again operate in October 2012, and the W9H call sign has already been secured. You can find updates at www.FoxValleyHamHalloweenfest.com. Meanwhile, the lesson to take away from the experience is this: There are no limits to what a small group of hams might accomplish when we work together.

About the FRRL

The Fox River Radio League, Inc., is a general interest amateur radio club serving the central Fox River Valley area. Records indicate the club has been in existence since at least 1924, and has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, and a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization as specified in IRS Statutes.

We sponsor training classes for new hams, license examination sessions, an annual hamfest, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members.

The Fox River Radio League meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at St. Rita of Cascia Church in Aurora. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM and includes social time,

a business portion and a program of interest.

All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome.

We hope to see you there!

License Exams

The Fox River Radio League, Inc., in conjunction with the ARRL VEC, conducts amateur examinations on the 3rd Tuesday of January, March, May, September and November at St. Rita of Cascia Church in Aurora at 7:30 PM. A special session is held at the club's hamfest, usually in July each year. No advance registration is required, but please be sure to bring your license (if you have one) and a photocopy

of it, some form of photo identification and the fee of \$15.00. (The FRRL receives no portion of this fee.)

The next exam session is scheduled for January 17 at St. Rita of Cascia church. Please see the frrl.org website for details.

FRRL Dues

Annual dues are payable no later than the January Club Meeting each year. New members joining during the year will have their first year's dues prorated to the nearest yearly quarter.

Regular dues are \$20.00 a year, Senior Citizen dues are \$12.00. Family dues are \$30.00. Members can help support the FRRL Repeaters by making an annual \$10.00 donation.

Check with the Treasurer for details and additional dues rates.

Nets

Net Name	Freq.	Day	Time
FRRL	147.210	Tuesday	7:30 PM Local
10-10 CW	28.150	Monday	8:00 PM Local
10-10 SSB	28.720	Monday	8:30 PM Local

Fox River Radio League

Founded 1924

Mailing Address:

Box 673
Batavia, Illinois
60510-0673

Email:

info@frrl.org

Web Site:

<http://www.frrl.org>

President

Harry Jones, K9DXA, acting

Vice President

Harry Jones, K9DXA

Secretary

Ron Jahr, KC9SNI

Treasurer

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

Directors:

Chris Farley, KC9IEQ

Dick Illman, AH6EZ

Larry Stark, K9ARZ

Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

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FRRL CLUB MEETINGS ARE HELD AT ST. RITA OF CASCIA IN AURORA, IL, BUT LOCATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK THE FRRL WEB SITE FOR THE ADDRESS AND A MAP TO THE MEETING LOCATION.
<http://www.frrl.org>

Send Address Corrections to:
Fox River Radio League, Inc.
3023 Scenicwood Lane.
Woodridge, IL 60517

FRRL Event Calendar

December, 2011

FRRL Board Meeting 6
SDR SIG 10
FRRL Meeting 13

January, 2012

FRRL Board Meeting 3
FRRL Meeting 10
VE Session 17

ArcOver FRRL Newsletter

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The ArcOver is published monthly by the Fox River Radio League, Inc. Articles and letters are always welcome. The normal deadline for material is the 20th day of each month for the next month's newsletter. Articles can be sent by email to arc-over@frri.org or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.

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Local Area Repeaters/Nets

W9CEQ—147.210 Mhz.
+600 KHz, 103.5 access tone
Owned by FRRL

W9CEQ—444.300 Mhz. IRLP Node # 4850
+5 Mhz, 114.8 access tone
Owned by FRRL

W9CEQ__B D-Star—442.10625 Mhz (+ 5.0 Mhz offset)
W9CEQ__C D-Star—147.225 Mhz (-6.0 Mhz offset)
FRRL Digital Voice/Data Repeaters
Contact W9XA for information

KC9OEM—145.470 Mhz. -600 KHz, 103.5 access tone
KC9OEM—444.525 Mhz + 5 Mhz, 114.8 access tone
(2 meter is primary Kane Co. SKYWARN /ARES freq)
Owned by Kane County OEM

W9DWP—Kane Co. Amateur Public Svc. Rptrs.
145.270 -600 KHz, 107.2 access tone
443.025 +5 Mhz 114.8 access tone

W9ZGP—NIARC
147.060 +600 KHz, 103.5 access tone

- Weekly ARES/Skywarn Net—Wed. Eve. at 6:30 pm local time on the KC9OEM 2 meter repeater
- Weekly FRRL Net—Tues. Eve. at 7:30 pm local time on the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- Monthly Simplex Net—4th Tues following weekly FRRL Net on the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- Illinois DStar Net - Wed. Eve. at 8:00 pm local time on the DStar 440 repeater.