



Arc Over

Fox River Radio
League
PO Box 673
Batavia, IL
60150-0673

January, 2010

President's Traffic

By Mike Urso, K9FE

What a year it has been. The FRRL is not your usual club. We have had a year of great activity. I am honored to pass the torch to John, AG9D, for the presidency of this great club. There are some members that I really want to thank for their help and support this past year. Harry K9DXA has to be the vice president to remember. Dean KC9EOQ kept us on track in the money matters. Bill W9WRS did a great job of the minutes and knowing the proper content and kept the junk out. Chris KC9IEQ, Bart KC9FQA, Dick AH6EZ, and Larry W9OKI together made a great board of directors keeping us on task and on time. Eric AB9OS has to be one of the best organized people I have worked with in years. Not only did he organize a great field day, but he jumped in and took over the education and did a bang up job. Tobi took over the newsletter and was a great editor. She was always gentle in reminding me to write the article for the front page of the Arc Over. In today's time a company or club is often judged by their website and in our case we must be a great club. I thank Tom WB9CHY for his work as webmaster over the last few years. We have gone through a major catastrophe with our repeaters, but thanks to our repeater committee we came back up in short time. Dick AH6EZ, Kermit W9XA, and Paul W9DWP have put a lot of time, and sometimes personal expense, to maintain our systems. Denny W9HI took care of our coffee and donut needs at every meeting. I must mention Dick AH6EZ again for his great programs. Some of Dick's programs were very inspiring and made me want to try something new. Jack K9JE was our raffle chair for several years and Chris KC9IEQ recently took over raffle from Jack and did a great job at Christmas. This brings me to our Past President, Greg N9CHA, whose shoes were almost impossible to fill.

Then there are 2 hams that were a special force in the last year. During field day they stood out as always being ready to lend a hand, light or dark, rain, wind, and sun. Bill WB9LPW and Neil KB9RFX were there at field day and when we had to move the club's gear from its past location to the new location. I am sure they will remember carrying all that stuff down a flight of steps and then back up another. Thanks a whole bunch to both of you.

There are countless others to thank but I only have 10 column inches so a big thank you to all those who were part of my life and the FRRL.

Next important news...Rasmussen is a growing college. Their numbers have been increasing at a high rate. When we started having meetings at the college there were only some 60 students. As of last month we were told they have enrollment of over 400. I am sure you have noticed the parking lot on Tuesday is quite full. What this means is that we have to be flexible with our meetings. We do not always have enough chairs since they are now in use. The search is on for an alternate meeting site. John AG9D will keep you up to date on the changes.

RENEW!!!! Renew your membership in January to be listed in the printed roster for 2010. If you renew after January you will be listed in the web version of the roster (PDF formatted). This is only available to active members of the FRRL who are members of the FRRL Yahoo Group. Banquet tickets are also going fast. The banquet is the last Saturday of January. This year the Wheaton Winterfest is the 24th of January which is the week before the banquet this year.

See you at the meeting!

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

Meeting Minutes December 8, 2009.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Mike Urso K9FE – President with 59 members present.

Secretary Report: Bill W9WRS– meeting minutes available on Web and Arc Over! Motion to accept Justin KC9FQA, 2nd W9HI. Minutes accepted.

Treasurers Report: Dean KC9EOQ - Checking: \$3,100.43, Savings: \$5,265.18, Petty cash: \$69.74, Total Investments: \$16,773.55, Total Assets: \$25,208.90, Repeater fund: \$4442.20

Committee Reports

Hamfest: Dean KC9EOQ – Jere KA0KPO will assist Dean with this activity. Next Hamfest July 11, 2010.

Membership: Justin KC9NYY – No report.

Newsletter: Tobi K9TCD – No report.

Repeater Committee: Dick AH6EZ – UHF is working in his basement with Echolink and IRLP.

Yahoo Group: Bill NF9D – Everything is going smoothly with all club Yahoo groups. All members are welcome to join if they have not done so already.

Linux SIG: Next meeting is January 16, 2010, 9:00 – 12:00 – Rasmussen. Shackbox will be presented.

Software Defined Radio SIG: Harry K9DXA Next meeting is January 9, 2010, 9:00 – 12:00 at Rasmussen College.

Net Control: Adam KC9ITG – He is ok for the rest of the year for net controls.

Website: Please volunteer to help Tom WB9CHY handle the webmaster duties.

Field Day: Eric AB9OS – Will be on the 4th weekend in June, 2010 at the F. O. P. Lodge in Sugar Grove.

Raffle: Chris KC9IEQ – Tonight is the December raffle.

Education: Eric AB9OS – Tech and General classes are scheduled for 2010.

Program: No program tonight due to the holiday party and voting.

Member Announcements

Kermit - Batavia is trying to change their antenna ordinance. Formal objections have been filed. \$2500.00 has been collected for legal fees. W9WU Jim O'Connell is the attorney that has been retained. Some of the changes they are trying to pass are: 35 foot height limit, only 1 antenna allowed, has to be located 20 feet from the lot line and has to be ground mounted.

New Business

Nominating Committee: Craig AB9IV, Justin KC9NYY, Larry W9OKI – The 2010 board of Directors was elected as follows: John AG9D - President, Harry K9DXA – Vice-President, Bill W9WRS – Secretary, Dean KC9EOQ – Treasurer, Directors – Larry K9ARZ and Chris KC9IEQ.

Vote was held for Ham of the Year.

The January 5, 2010 Board meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

The January 12, 2010 General meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

The February 2, 2010 Board meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

The February 9, 2010 General meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

Motion to adjourn by Bart KC9FQA , 2nd by Harry K9DXA.

General meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Stamps W9WRS
FRRL Secretary

January Program Notes

January's meeting program will be either by Dick AH6EZ, if he is in town, or a DVD. If Dick is available his topic will be radio astronomy, focusing on a method and signals that anyone should be able to hear with equipment they already have. If Dick cannot be there, then we will watch an AmateurLogicTV DVD.

New Members

Welcome to the Following New Members:

CALL	NAME
KB9VO	Allen Nelson
KC9TVS	Michael Landelius
KC9KJV	Marilyn Lorenz
KC9CLR	Zachary Dempsey
N1NSA	Samuel Pagan, Jr.
K9VYH	John Ceinski

FRRL Education

By Eric Needles, AB9OS

The new year is here and with it come new goals. If you have been thinking about upgrading your license, or know someone who would like to become a ham, then 2010 is the year. Following is a list of class dates and times for a Technician class and an upgrade class for General. We are also planning to have an upgrade class for Extra sometime this year so stay tuned.

All classes are free and will be held at Rasmussen College, 2363 Sequoia Drive, in Aurora. You just need to get your own book to study with. To register, send an e-mail to education@frrl.org or call me directly on my cell at (312) 401-3742.

Technician Class

Sat. Feb. 13 9am-12:30pm
Sat. Feb. 20 9am-12:30pm
Sat. Feb. 27 9am-12:30pm
Sat. Mar. 6 9am-12:30pm
Sat. Mar. 13 9am-12:30pm

General Class

Sat. Oct. 9 9am-12:30pm
Sat. Oct. 16 9am-12:30pm
Sat. Oct. 23 9am-12:30pm
Sat. Oct. 30 9am-12:30pm
Sat. Nov. 6 9am-12:30pm
Sat. Nov. 13 9am-12:30pm

Spiderbeam in Winter

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

I have had the Spiderbeam up in the air for over 6 months so far and it has been a wonderful antenna, helping me work over 215 countries in the HF challenge. It has survived lightning and wind storms. During the recent ice storm, I was dismayed to see that it had accumulated 1/4" of ice and had bent down at a 30 degree angle. Having never had an antenna affected by ice, I was not sure if I should try shaking the support mast, or just leave it alone and pray. Apparently prayer worked because Christmas morning I woke up and looked out the window to a fully restored antenna. The Heavy-Duty Spiderbeam materials and survived and were ready to do battle in the pileups again. What a nice Christmas present...



Building a 1950's Style Novice 10 Watt CW Transmitter

By Larry Stark, K9ARZ

If any of you are nostalgia buffs like myself, you might enjoy this relatively simple homebrew project. I can take no credit for the design, as it came from an article by the late Lew McCoy, W1ICP, that first appeared in a 1952 issue of QST Magazine and later was printed in several issues of the ARRL Radio Amateur's Handbook as late as 1956. The circuit is a simple, grid-plate type oscillator circuit that has been repeated over and over in many transmitter designs including the Heath-kit DX-20. It uses a wide range pi-network tuned circuit to match the oscillator's plate to a typical antenna.

The circuit is pretty much self-explanatory if you can follow a schematic diagram. The coils are wound on old prescription medicine containers or you could also use plastic film containers. Another possibility is to use pieces of PVC tubing as coil forms. I used pill containers and cut off the top end, and after the coils were wound, I "epoxy-d" the coil/form to an old octal tube base so I could have plug-in coils for quick band changing. You could tap the 80-meter coil and use a slide or rotary switch to select the 40-meter segment if you wish. In the original McCoy design, he used B&W #3013 inductor stock to make the coil, but it is no longer available that I am aware of.

Unlike most modern transmitters/transceivers, this one contains voltages that are lethal. The B+ could be anywhere from 300-500 volts DC and that is enough to kill you, so take all necessary precautions when working on the transmitter and using it. The power transformer may be difficult to locate, mine, was designed to be used as an old TV replacement transformer. Old console AM radios might also supply parts if the radio is beyond restoration.

Figure #1 is a photograph of the finished transmitter alongside a converted Military Receiver (BC-454 Command Set) that covers the 80 meter band and makes for a nice "old-time" station. Figure #2 (on the next page) is the schematic diagram with parts values shown.

If you have any questions about the transmitter, drop me an email at k9arz@yahoo.com or see me at one of the club meetings. Be careful, good luck, and have fun. BTW, this is a replica of my first transmitter!



Figure 1

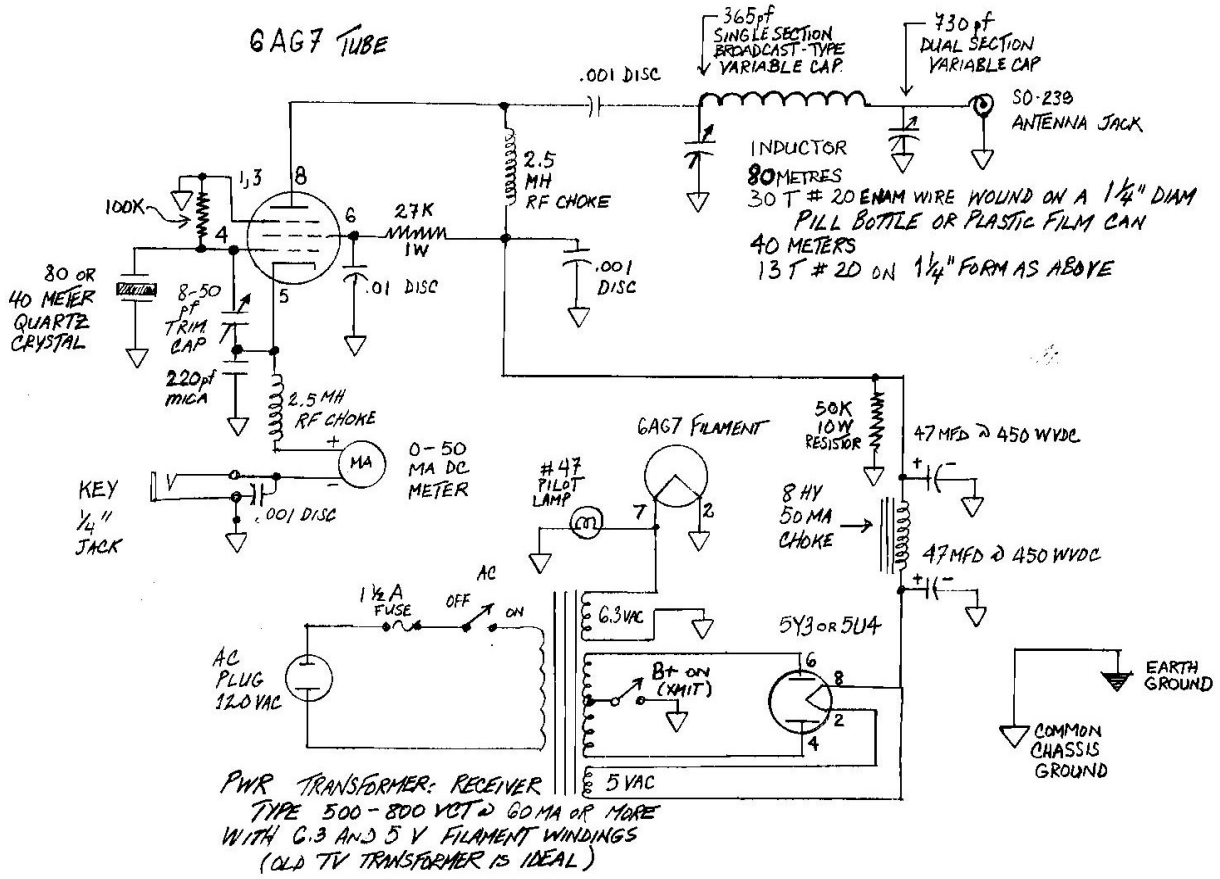


Figure 2

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 Rasmussen College in Aurora, Illinois. Information tables are open at 7:00 PM, and the meeting begins at 7:30 PM.

After conducting business, coffee and snacks are served while we socialize. Following the break, a program of interest will be presented.

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 Rasmussen College, 2363 Sequoia Drive, Aurora, IL, at 7:30 PM. 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 19, 2010 Rasmussen College.

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.

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

Check with the Treasurer for details and additional dues rates.

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

Mike Urso, K9FE

Vice President

Harry Jones, K9DXA

Secretary

Bill Stamps, W9WRS

Treasurer

Dean Holste, KC9EQO

Directors:

Bart Bartkowiak, KC9FQA

Chris Farley, KC9IEQ

Dick Illman, AH6EZ

Larry Shaw, W9OKI

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Greg Braun, N9CHA

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Bob Dillon, WB9LTN

Newsletter Editor

Tobi Davis, K9TCD
newsletter@frrl.org

Webmaster

Tom Davis, WB9CHY
webmaster@frrl.org



FRRL CLUB MEETINGS ARE HELD AT RASMUSSEN COLLEGE, 2363 SEQUOIA DRIVE IN AURORA.
PLEASE CHECK THE FRRL WEB SITE FOR 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

January, 2010

FRRL Board Meeting 5
SDR SIG..... 9
FRRL Meeting 12
Linux SIG..... 16
VE Test..... 19
FRRL Banquet..... 30

February, 2010

FRRL Board Meeting 1
FRRL Meeting 8

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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The opinions expressed in the ArcOver are strictly those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the FRRL, Inc. or its sponsors.

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—145.270 Mhz (-0.600 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.
- Illinois DStar Net - Wed. Eve. at 8:00 pm local time on the DStar 440 repeater.