



Arc Over

August, 2010

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

President's Traffic

By John Spasojevich AG9D

Follow Through and Support

When I was a kid I remember my mom always seemed to say something like "Time is short", "Life is short" and things to that effect. She seemed to be fixated on the passage of time. I of course, in the infinite genius of youth didn't get it. What the heck did she mean? The last ten days before Christmas seemed like ten years for gosh sakes, how could time fly? Now some thirty years since her passing, I understand. As a kid I had years in place of days, or so I thought, and now I have days in place of years. The genius of youth has been replaced by some of the wisdom of age. Here we are in August 2010 heading into another fall and eventually holiday season. Time is short, we have much to accomplish in the few short months left to 2010. What do I mean?

We have been very fortunate to have several new hams in our club. Our education program brought some of them successfully into our hobby. Is that the end of our responsibility? Is that all we need to do, get them licensed and then push them on their way? Is that all we as a club can do for them? I don't think so. Ideally what I would like to see happen is to plan and hold several operating events which we can all participate in, but which would be intended to give our new hams an opportunity to learn more about operating and to hone their operating skills. Oh boy, more work. Geeze, someone has to set up a station, someone has to do this, and someone has to do that. I can't this weekend, I can't that weekend. I know. Believe me I know. Remember what my mom said, "Time is short". Time IS short. It doesn't mean our effort and our commitment need to be short.

There are several operating events coming up which could provide excellent opportunities for us as a club to engage in fun, exciting, educational elmering of our new hams.

First is the ARRL August Rookie Round Up on Sunday August 15th. The purpose is specifically for hams licensed three years or less to gain experience in the contest world. We know from Eric K9LGE's Chicago Marathon presentation last month that contesting skills apply to more than contests. Second is the ARRL VHF QSO Party September 11th and 12th. Nothing more than a technician license required! Smaller antennas. Easier set up. A great opportunity to get outside and have some fun. Third is the Scarecrow Festival. Last year the club did not set up a station for this, as we did not have someone to take charge. This year's Festival is October 8-10. If anyone wants to set up a station in a park, we did Campton Hills last time out, let us know. I'm sure you won't be alone very long. The Illinois QSO Party takes place October 17th. This is a one day contest and it's a lot of fun. It can be a little chilly this time of year so I am working on a possible indoor location and perhaps a little BBQ action. More details on this as we get closer. Also, the same weekend is JOTA, Jamboree On The Air, celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Scouting in America. All of these opportunities, while contests (except Scarecrow), are low pressure and a lot of fun.

We know from Field Day that all of you newly licensed folks enjoyed operating; some of you don't have HF privileges yet or have a station ready. These opportunities can provide you with more experience. What will it take to pull any or all of these events off? Commitment from our members to take the bull by the horns. There are nine people leading the club and another 177 of you. We are outnumbered. We can't do it all. We

(Continued on page 3)

**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 July 13, 2010.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by John Spasojevich – President with 63 members present.

Chris KC9IEQ – there will be a raffle.

- John AG9D gave a reminder about washroom locations and donations to the coffee fund.
- **Secretary Report:** Bill W9WRS– meeting minutes available on Web and Arc Over. Motion to accept Bart KC9FQA, 2nd by Marty N9NTM. Minutes accepted.
- **Treasurers Report:** KC9EOQ
 - Checking: \$ 2209.39
 - Savings: \$ 6268.44
 - Petty cash: \$90.00
 - Total Investments \$16,773.55
 - Total Assets: \$25,341.38
 - Repeater fund: \$3892.20
- **Announcements – John AG9D**
 - Cougars Night July 16, 2010. Tickets are \$10.00. Final 3 sold at the meeting tonight.
 - Chicago Marathon Eric K9LGE is on the leadership Council. Will give a presentation this evening.
 - AMSAT Symposium October 8, 9, and 10 in Chicago.
 - PR Chair Vacancy Dawn has volunteered to be PR Chair permanently.

Committee Reports

Program: Midway Island Dxpedition DVD.

Repeaters: Kermit W9XA – Gave a brief history of the club's repeaters and announced that the WBIG tower will be demolished and not rebuilt. We are currently running at the new site and it seems to be working well.

VE Session: Doug W9RD – 4 passed at Hamfest. Next session at 3rd Tuesday in September.

Membership: Chris KC9BKS we currently have 185 members.

ARES – Kent W9NDW – On October 3rd there will be a simulated emergency test. www.dupageares.org for information.

Net Control: Dawn KC9LQS – Nets are going well. Needs net ops for 2010.

Hamfest: Dean KC9EOQ – Hamfest earnings were \$700.00 down from last year.

Field Day: Eric AB9OS – Gave a Field Day overview. We scored 8338 total points this year.

Education: Eric AB9OS – There are General and Extra classes scheduled for this fall. See www.frll.org for details.

Member Announcements

Chris KC9IEQ - Antique Radio Club show August 5-7 <http://www.antique-radios.org>

Kermit W9XA – Gave a history of the

Dean KC9EOQ – Needs Hamfest volunteers.

Harry K9DXA – Will be taking QRP gear to Geneva, Switzerland with him next week.

Eric K9LGE – Gave a PowerPoint presentation about the Chicago Marathon and a general explanation about the support needed, mainly health and Welfare radio support. This activity conforms to FCC volunteering rules. The Marathon will be on 10-10-10.

Check www.chicagomarathon.com or email leads@hamradiochicago.org if interested.

Marty N9NTM – KARSFest in Peotone this weekend, Hamfesters in Peotone on August 8.

Kermit – Batavia has a new antenna ordinance , can have 2- 75 foot towers on a city lot, 3 if you have over 1 acre.

New Business

The August 3 , 2010 board meeting will be at St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora, IL.

The August 10, 2010 General meeting will be at St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora, IL.

The September 7, 2010 board meeting will be at St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora, IL.

The September 14, 2010 General meeting will be at St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora, IL.

Motion to adjourn by Marty N9NTM, 2nd Bart KC9FQA

General meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Stamps W9WRS
FRRL Secretary

August Program Notes

The August program will be a demo of Dick AH6EZ's new Italian HF and 6m amplifier and Flex 1500 and RF clipper microphone processor. Prior to the program will be a visit by a special VIP guest, a non-ham who is in a position to support the hobby on the national level. He will join us to learn about the relevance of amateur radio service.

New Members

Welcome to the following new members:

CALL	NAME
KC9SEB	Paul Mitchell
KC9SUT	Deborah Gray
W9ELG	Stephen Jessup
KC9SNI	Ronald Jahr

President's Traffic (Continued from page 1)

need you. Must our new hams wait until Christmas (Field Day)? Or can we have several Christmases throughout the year? Time is short. Let's not let it run out.

Last year I attended several educational events. The Central States VHF Society meeting, the TAPR meeting and the AMSAT Symposium. These events are also excellent ways to learn more and meet people active in experimentation and operation. This year you have two excellent opportunities along these lines. First is the W9DXCC Convention September 10-11. You don't need to be a world class DX'er to attend. If you are interested in how those DXpeditions get put together, want to learn about antenna tuners, amplifiers, propagation and more, this is the place to go. Second is the AMSAT Symposium October 8-10. If you are curious about amateur radio satellites, want to meet some of the people who put them together and a whole lot more, this is the event for you.

Let's support the new hams we've worked hard to get to this point and let's follow through on our commitment and responsibility as a club to help them become the hams they want to be. Life is short, the time is now.

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – Mid-July 2010

By Eric Needles, AB9OS

Not much new this month. Remember to use the HF Challenge as your personal motivator to carve out some radio time for yourself. Also, it's never too late to get into the HF Challenge. Look for more information on the FRRL website and the new HF Challenge Display board at the regular monthly meetings. And now for the numbers...

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9BQL-CW	42	11	158	211
K9MMS-CW	50	11	114	175
K9ARZ-Digital	50	9	103	162
AB9OS-CW	38	3	57	98
NF9D-QRP	21	2	41	64
K9LGE-Digital	12	1	8	21

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR	50	10	103	163
N9YA	29	8	70	107
W9IV	31	6	63	100
KC9LQS	42	5	54	101
K9TCD	42	6	51	99
WB9CHY	36	4	52	92
KC9EOQ	35	5	47	87
N5EP	25	5	41	71
K9IH	24	6	37	67

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	50	13	203	266
K9JE	41	11	157	209
KC9DAO	46	5	95	146
N9JZN	32	4	65	101
NA9A	8	1	33	42

Ragchewer Class	States/Prov.	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR	28/5	13	46
N5EP	22/3	10	35
AH6EZ			33
K9IH	6	6	12
N9YA	10/1	1	11
K9LGE			11
AB9OS	8	0	8
NA9A	5	2	7
K9JE	1	1	2

Color Coding of Cable Jacks and Plugs

By Dave Holdeman N9XU

Background

I have a Ten-Tec Argonaut V QRP transceiver which feeds a Tokyo Hy Power 45 watt linear as a backup to my primary radio, an ICOM 718. While designing a PSK interface for the Ten-Tec arrangement, I began to realize that a lot of interconnections between the various components in the shack and my interface were required. I had to key both the linear and the Ten-Tec at the same time and my keyer was involved, along with two feeds from Com 1 of the computer and power for the interface itself. I was able to squeeze my interface into a 5 X 4 X 3 inch enclosure, but the enclosure also needed ten jacks for inputs and outputs on the rear panel.

Related Conditions

I like to make an application schematic for my shack after a project is completed, which shows all the interconnections and designations involved. I am constantly making changes to the shack, and a decent station application drawing makes it easy to make changes or put things back the way they were if something doesn't work. I have two application drawings, one for VHF and one for HF. I am up to issue seven of my VHF drawing and issue fifteen of my HF drawing. This indicates that I have had at least twenty-two major changes to my shack since its inception. At any rate, since the rear panel of my device was so crowded, I had to come up with a new way of labeling so I knew what every jack was for.

Solution

I began to think that some sort of color coding arrangement might work. A walk through the stationery and electronics departments of the local Wal Mart store provided the solution.

The electronics department had numerous cables with colored RCA plugs at both ends. The stationery department had colored reinforcements that are used to reinforce notebook pages and prevent elongation of holes. A comparison of the reinforcements and the cable plugs showed that the colors were practically an exact match. With these facts in mind, I decided to use RCA plugs and jacks for my project as much as possible. The reinforcements are stuck to the panel over the holes after the holes are drilled and deburred. The

(Continued on page 6)

jacks are then inserted through the reinforcements and mounted. In some cases I had to modify some existing cables to change their plug colors. Radio Shack has colored RCA plugs, which work just fine.

Summary

Photo one shows the front of this project and photo two shows the rear, with all the color-coded jacks. This has been a fun project, which has changed my thinking about how equipment might be best labeled or designated.

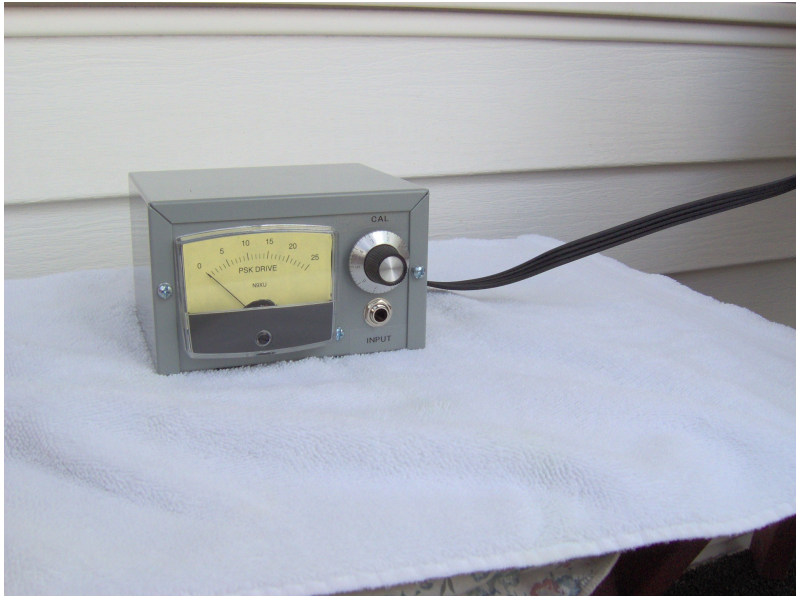


Photo 1

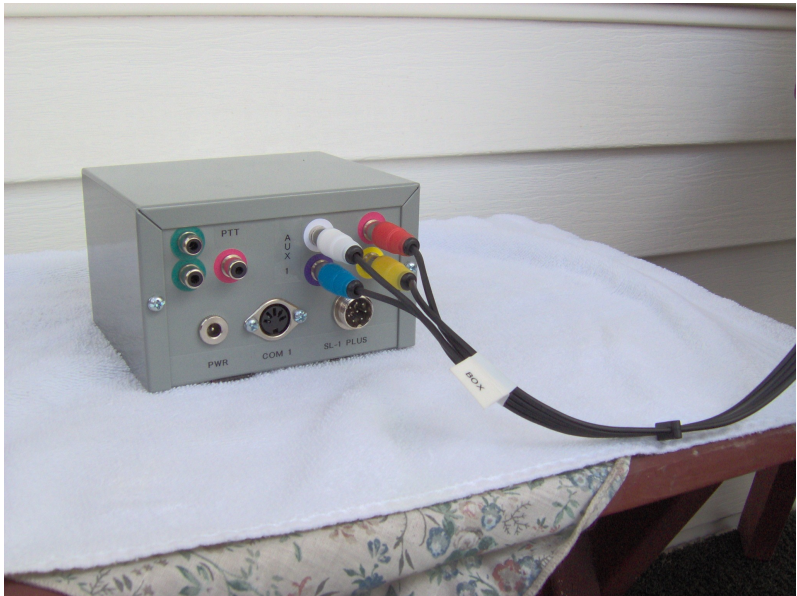


Photo 2

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 St. Rita of Cascia Church in Aurora. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM. After conducting busi-

ness, 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. 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 September, 21, 2010 at St. Rita of Cascia church. Please see the [frri.org](http://www.frri.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@frri.org

Web Site:

<http://www.frri.org>

President

John Spasojevich AG9D

Vice President

Harry Jones, K9DXA

Secretary

Bill Stamps, W9WRS

Treasurer

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

Directors:

Chris Farley, KC9IEQ

Dick Illman, AH6EZ

Larry Shaw, W9OKI

Larry Stark, K9ARZ

Past President

Mike Urso, K9FE

License Trustees:

Kermit Carlson, W9XA
Bob Dillon, WB9LTN

Newsletter Editor

Tobi Davis, K9TCD
newsletter@frri.org

Webmaster

Greg Braun, N9CHA
webmaster@frri.org



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.frri.org>

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

FRRL Event Calendar

August, 2010

FRRL Board Meeting 3
FRRL Meeting 10

September, 2010

FRRL Board Meeting 7
FRRL Meeting 14

ArcOver FRRL Newsletter

Copyright 2010, FRRL

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.

Prior permission is required to republish original ArcOver material.

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—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.