



Arc Over

Fox River Radio League
PO Box 673
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November, 2005

President's Traffic

by Dick Illman, AH6EZ

This has been a very busy month for ham radio and the FRRL. Big congratulations go to N9TLK and N9TLJ for organizing and running the Tour de Fox Bike Ride. They displayed good preparation followed through with good communicating.

Speaking of communicating, today was for first meeting of the Boulder Hill Ham Club for their elementary kids. K9COE and N9CHA and the local teachers and administration set up a ham station and launched the first of several club meetings with lots of fun and educational activities to follow. If you have time in the late afternoons, get with John and Greg to see if they need help.

Yours truly was featured in a QST article about Motorola's Powerline LV. I learned today that the ARRL has requested the FCC to change BPL rules and used Motorola as an example of how things can be done right.

I know that there were at least 13 club members who worked portions of the Illinois QSO Party; AH6EZ, N9CHA, KB9YSI, KC9EIF, N9YA, K9LU, KC9FQV, W9HI, K9IH, K9COE, AL9A, and W4CEO. I know I had fun working a personal best number of both phone and cw contacts from 160m to 2m. Please make sure you submit your summary sheet, log sheet, and dupe sheet (only if you had more than 100 QSOs). It would be fun to win back the club plaque.

If you are interested in giving back to your ham club, please consider nominating yourself or someone else for any of the offices. Contact the nominating committee (W9XA, K9EUI, K9JE) before or during the November meeting. That is when they will present their slate for the December election. At the December election new nominations are not accepted per our bylaws but write-ins are allowed.

I hope that you enjoyed my presentation at the October meeting about my visit to W1AW and ARRL HQ. I still have a few QSL cards to hand out or mail for those of you who were not at the October meeting. There is a chance that I will be at W1AW again later in November. I would hope to be able to work anybody who was not able to work me during the first trip.

Dick Illman, AH6EZ
FRRL President

Erickson HF Challenge Update

By John Spasojevich, K9COE

Another month has come and gone which means it's time to update the scores for the HF Challenge once again. There wasn't much movement in the classes, which could be because I didn't get updates from everyone. Please try and get those in to me by the 15th of the month.

Be that as it may, Dick is still out in front in the QRO class, that 1000 watts must really do the trick! Gary, AL9A and Joe NA9A are battling for second place and any one of those three could walk away the winner. In the limited class Bill, KB9YSI is still way ahead of me. The Operator Class is still a close race. This is where the guys without amps work their skills. K9JE is still leading with 171 with Maurice, W4CEO close behind with 168. K9MMS and W9DTR are still tied for third place. This month we had a new entry with Greg, N9CHA joining the battle.

The real changes took place up in the Ragchew Class, where you have to hold the contact for at least 10 minutes. Gary, AL9A is in the lead with 45, Dick, AH6EZ is close on his heels with 33 and I'm nipping at Dick with 26 it's too close to call!

There was some good DX worked this month with AH6EZ reporting 4U1, OX – Greenland, 7P8 - Lesotho (15m RTTY), and K7C - Kure Island (80 CW). Those last two are all time new entities for him.

I worked 5Z – Kenya (20 RTTY 50 watts), an all time new one for me, CT1 – Portugal and FM – Martinique.

Gary, AI9A in Alaska sent me the following comments that I'll pass along: "The bands are starting to pick up a bit here with 15M finally showing some activity. I even managed a QSO with a VK on 12M the other day! The biggest news from here is I added a Force 12 EF240S "shorty forty" 2 element monoband yagi for 40M last week. Hopefully that will help me punch out a better signal in SS and the CQWW contests coming up! Also finally got around to making the mod to my IC-756PRO this weekend so I can now get on 60M. The only antennas that I can load up on 60M are my G5RV and Carolina Windom 160, so with the 50 watt ERP restriction I won't have a booming signal, but if someone back there would like to try getting Alaska on 60M have them send me an email and we can try to set up a sched."

That's it for this month. There is still time to get active!

Scores are on Page 5.

FRRL Assists With First Tour de Fox Bike Rally

By Bob Niels, N9TLJ

The Fox River Radio League was privileged to lend a hand during the first annual le Tour de Fox Bike Rally. The rally, organized by Lorraine Beasley (Premiere Event Planner) of the Fox Valley Park District, was held on Sunday, 16 October. This event was an idea from Fox Valley Park District board member Bill Thompson. Aurora University interns assisted on the planning committee, including Raphael Martinez who assisted at the event.

The team chose that day so the cyclists would be able to enjoy the Fall colors along the beautiful bike trail. Lorraine's challenging 17-mile course began at the Prisco Center and included sections of the Fox River Trail, the Illinois Prairie Path (Batavia Spur), and the Illinois Prairie Path (Aurora Branch). Terrain included paved paths, gravel lanes, rail road track crossings, and a last-minute addition - - - a dirt section recently torn up by a pipe-laying crew! Street crossings, hills and bridges gave the cyclists additional concerns.

As a rally, the cyclists had to maintain time during the race. Park District observers tracked the contestant's time at two check points (one at the 5-mile mark, and one at the 10-mile mark) and at the Finish Line. Crossing any of the three marks ahead or behind time cost the cyclists points. Two timed events were run: The Masters Course required cyclists to maintain a 15 mph speed, and a Sports Course, required "only" 10 mph.

To get a feel (literally) of potential trouble spots along the course, Mary Jo and I rode it on our tandem bike a week before the rally. We haven't been on the bike for about 5 years, and we sure did get a feel for the course! And, no, we didn't maintain 15 or 10 mph. Lorraine also covered the course a second time with us using the District's motorized cart, which gave us a chance to check on radio coverage and talk to Lorraine about any concerns. The W9CEQ 2M repeater was our primary communications link to everyone, and it performed flawlessly.

Unlike events like the Walter Peyton Run, this was not a closed course. Cyclists had to be aware of non-participants using the bike path, and of road conditions when crossing several major streets. The FRRL was able to provide very capable personnel as part of the safety net operations. John (N9JI) shadowed Lorraine, and was ready to relay rally-related questions or emergency traffic to her. Bill (W9AX) covered the Finish Line. Keith (N9YA), Dick (KB9UJV), Bill (WB9LPW), Tom (WB9CHY), Dean (KC9EOQ), Roberto (WA9E), Bart (KC9FOA), and Mike (K9FBI) covered street crossings and the two check points. These skilled operators also were flexible enough to handle the last-minute changes that a first-time event like this invariably have.

Much thanks to everyone who handled themselves professionally for this rally. Lorraine's planning and attention to detail paid off handsomely, as the rally (which attracted 14 participants) came off without a major hitch. Contestants were generally pleased, and I think that the rally should attract a larger crowd next year. Lorraine will share with the club a copy of all the evaluation sheets when she receives them.

In addition to their primary concern for contestant safety, two of our radio operators (WB9LPW and WA9E) also were willing to pass out water to the cyclists as they passed their positions. A big thanks, guys. I know that's not a "normal function" for us, but then,

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Tour de Fox Bike Rally

(Continued from page 3)

what's normal for hams anyway? KB9UJV and WB9CHY did a wonderful job of tracking the contestants through their respective checkpoints. N9YA made sure that cyclists made the first "up and over" maneuver to get from the west side to the east side of the river at Butterfield.

Bob and Mary Jo (N9TLJ and N9TLK) were the safety event co-chairs. In addition, Bob watched over the construction area section of the path, and Mary Jo was the "go-to" girl, troubleshooting positions and making sure everyone got to their assigned spots.

Lorraine Beasley also sent a very nice "Thank You" letter to the FRRL for providing assistance for this event, and is hoping that she can again count on us next year.

Great job, FRRL !!!!

Bob N9TLJ

FRRL Winter Banquet Scheduled

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW !

FRRL WINTER BANQUET 2006

SATURDAY 21 JANUARY, 2006 featuring music with the 16-piece Wayne Cook Orchestra

FISHERMAN'S INN RESTURANT

Route 47 and Main Street Elburn, Illinois

Cocktails and Conversation 5:30 PM

Dinner Served at 7:00 PM

Music from 8:00 – 11:30 PM

There are four selections for the dinner with prices that includes the service gratuity and tax.

Prime Rib Dinner \$35.00

Chicken Kiev \$33.00

Vegetarian Lasagna and Salad \$32.00

Fisherman's Inn Rainbow Trout \$31.00

Please feel free to invite your friends and neighbors for an enjoyable evening of FRRL camaraderie and music !

Tickets are available by contacting Kermit Carlson W9XA at (630) 879-0983 or from Kermit at any of the up-coming FRRL meetings.

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Scores—October

Here are the latest standings received for the HF Challenge, as of October 15. Remember to email your updates to challenge@fril.org by the 15th of each month.

Ragchew Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AL9A	-	-	45
AH6EZ	-	-	33
K9COE	-	-	26
NA9A	-	-	17
N9CHA	-	-	8
W9DTR			7
K9FE	-	-	1

Operator Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
W4CEO	48/8	119	175
K9JE	46/10	115	171
K9MMS	50/10	79	139
W9DTR	40/8	91	139
K9FBI	43/5	42	90
N9CHA	15/3	8	26

Limited Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
KB9YSI	41/3	32	76
K9COE	14/1	6	21

QRO Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	50/12	159	221
AL9A	50/12	147	209
NA9A	33/3	168	204
WOHED	50/7	77	134
K9FE	15/0	4	19

FRRL Club Nets

The regular weekly FRRL 2 Meter Net takes place every Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm local time, except on meeting nights, on the W9CEQ repeater, 147.210 MHz. +600 KHz, 103.5 access tone. The Next Gen Hams Nets take place on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evenings of each month at 8:00 pm local time on the NIARC repeater, W9ZGP—146.580 MHz., +1.08 MHz. (147.660).

The Illinois QSO Party—2005

By Mike Urso, K9FE

What great fun I had during this event! I had a short time to make contacts, and drive at the same time. Logging was a challenge, jotting down almost legible notes on the paper log and then quickly at the next traffic light trying to decipher them. I started out on 20m, but there just wasn't enough activity that I could hear with my mobile antenna. The first and only QSO Party contact on 20m was AH6EZ/P in KANE. The next contact was 9A1AYZ in Croatia. He was not playing in the QSO party. I was then at my destination so I went QRT for lunch.

After coming back up this time on 40m, I found the real fun. Having a pretty good mobile signal on 40 is nice, and most calls were only made once. A few needed repeats, but very few. As search and pounce somehow giving your call with that magic MOBILE on the end gets attention. I did stop straddling the border for DuPage and Cook counties for a bit, working AH6EZ/P again. As a two county mobile I handed out a few points. I had a mini-pileup for about 3 minutes. Not that either county is a "rare one", but it seemed the double, triple, or quad county stations were very busy. I worked several dual and triples but no quads.

In the end I scored over 1100 points in just under 2 ½ hours. Could I have scored better, could I have had more fun? Maybe I could have scored better if I had parked for a bit longer, but I don't think I could have had more fun. If you did not get a chance to play in this years Illinois QSO party, you missed out on a good time.

Mike, K9FE

HTX-252 Transceiver Manual Available

For those of you who own a Radio Shack HTX-252 2 Meter Transceiver, I have a service manual that is very comprehensive. It is on a CD and is in PDF format. I will be glad to make a copy of the CD for any one who requests one.

Dave, N9XU

Illinois QSO Party Antenna Setup



Dick, AH6EZ, adjusts the 160 Meter EH Missile—uh, antenna prior to the start of the Illinois QSO Party. Dick and Greg, N9CHA, both made 160 meter contacts with this low profile, stealth antenna.



Dick checks the SWR on the Buddipole dipole prior to the start of the IL QSO Party.

Toilets and K7C (Kure Island DX Pileup)

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ/W9

OK, so what do toilets and a DX pileup have in common? Read on and you will learn a new secret about working DX.

The KH7 DXCC country was an empty place on my wall having never worked it from my present St. Charles QTH. I was very much looking forward to working them during the K7C Dxpedition late in September and early October. I fired up my trusty Heathkit SB1000 amplifier and walled them every which way except standing on my head. I got up early in the morning. I stayed up late at night. I tried during the day. I tried at night. I tried CW, RTTY, and SSB. I tried 160m, 80m, 40m, 30m, 20m, and 17m. Most of the time I could not hear them at all while they were working Jas. When I could hear them, they were calling for EU only. I listened to the whole pileup with my Icom 756 Pro using dual watch and tried to tail gate. I saturation called. I called high. I called low. The best I had heard was about 0700 hours on 30m. I spent about 10 hours total with NOTHING to show for it.

I heard that the fuel for their generator was going to run out on Wednesday morning Oct 5. Their nifty DXA web site said that they had 9 hours left before going QRT. They were also instituting a new policy where they would not talk to anyone who was already in the log. They were listening for new calls. This had to be my chance. I was getting desperate, just like everyone else was. The pileups were continuing to be wide and nasty.

I did mention toilets didn't I? The evening of Oct 4, the handle broke off of one of our toilets in the house. OK, so what? Well there is apparently an important connection. On the morning of Oct 5, I got up early and was on the rig at 0630 hours CDT. This was the first time I had heard K7C on 160m. The static crashes were tremendous, even with my 40m loop. After 30 minutes of futility, I gave up and turned off the amplifier. I had a bunch of things to do that day, including getting my old motorcycle ready for N9CHA to buy and take his first ride on it. I also needed to get the toilet fixed. Once that was done, I felt refreshed and when I returned the tools to the basement, I went into the shack for one last try.

They were on 80m CW at the bottom of the band where my SWR is over 4:1. However they were S9 on the inverted V and I really felt I had a chance. I tuned up the 3KW MFJ antenna tuner and fired up the amplifier again. I tuned around the pileup and quite easily found who K7C was talking with. I called about 3 times and to my amazement, he came back to me. There I was on the DXA web site for all to see. I was the 47,281st QSO that K7C made.

I need to go find more toilets to fix...

Dick, AH6EZ/W9

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©(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 the Prisco Community Center in Aurora, Illinois. 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 in the basement of the Prisco Community Center, 150 W. Illinois Street, (South East corner of Lake and Illinois) in 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, original CSCES and a photocopy (if needed), some form of photo identification, and the fee of \$14.00. (The FRRL receives no portion of this fee.)

The next exam session is scheduled for November 15, 2005, at the Prisco Community Center in Aurora, IL. At 7:30 pm

FRRL Dues

Annual dues are payable no later than the January Club Meeting each year. Persons 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. You can also help support the FRRL Repeaters by joining as a combined Club/ Repeater member for \$30.00. Repeater dues are \$20.00.

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

FRRL CLUB MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE PRISCO COMMUNITY CENTER AT 150 WEST ILLINOIS STREET IN AURORA. PLEASE CHECK THE FRRL WEB SITE FOR A MAP TO THE MEETING LOCATION .
<http://www.frri.org>

Fox River Radio League

Founded 1924

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FRRL Event Calendar

November, 2005

FRRL Board Meeting 1
 FRRL Meeting 8
 VE Testing 15

December, 2005

Skywarn Recognition Day ... 2/3
 FRRL Board Meeting 6
 FRRL Holiday Party 13
 Christmas 25
 New Years Eve 31

Handy Web Links

FRRL Web Site	http://www.frri.org/
ARRL Main Site	http://www.arrl.org/
ARRL Central Div. Site	http://www.central.arrl.org/
ARRL IL Section Site	http://www.central.arrl.org/illinois.html
ARRL IL Section News	http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=IL
ARRL Contest Page	http://www.arrl.org/contests/
Contest Calendar	http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/
Callsign Lookup (QRZ)	http://www.qrz.com/
Vanity Callsign Info	http://www.vanityhq.com/
IRLP Main Page	http://www.irlp.net/
AMSAT	http://www.amsat.org/
FCC Services	http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur
SMC Contest Club	http://www.w9smc.com/

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 of the previous month. Articles can be sent by email to arccover@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

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

W9ZGP—146.580 Mhz. **
 +1.08 Mhz (147.660)
 Owned by NIARC

KC9OEM—145.470 Mhz.
 -600 KHz, 103.5 access tone
 Owned by Kane County OEM

W9XA — 224.40 Mhz, +5 Mhz, IRLP Node #4846
 — **443.65 Mhz, +5 Mhz**
 — **1292.00 Mhz, -20 Mhz (1272.00)**

- Weekly FRRL Net—Tues. Eve. at 7:30 pm local time.
- Next Gen Youth Ham Net—2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.