



Arc Over

October, 2012

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

President's Traffic

By Harry Jones K9DXA

Kudos to long time FRRL members and ARRL Central Division Director Dick W9GIG and ARRL Central Division Vice Director Kermit W9XA for their re-election to those posts. They do a fine job representing our division and they deserve to continue. Be sure you congratulate them when you see them again.

The October issue of QST had an article "It Seems to Us" by David Sumner K1ZZ that grabbed my attention. First, my condolences to the family and to ARRL on the loss of the fine QST Managing Editor, Joel Kleinman N1BKE, due to a fire at his home. Apparently the cause of the fire has not yet been determined. The article went on to identify another loss in Germany due to a fire, Dr. Lothar Wilke DL3TD. Dr. Wilke was apparently involved in a fire that was started by the power supply in his personal computer. No further details were mentioned, but Mr. Sumner went on to say that due to the large number of electrical devices connected to the grid nowadays, there are more opportunities for consumer product failure that might result in fires. Some of you know that I have spent many years helping to affect product safety in at least a small way by working with manufacturers and others to investigate individual product designs and to develop safety codes and standards. Mr. Sumner's advice about having and using smoke alarms and fire extinguishers is very appropriate. It would also be very good to install carbon monoxide alarms if you use gas fired combustion appliances in your home. As a safety engineer, consumer, and an amateur radio operator, I remind you that safety around the home involves certain risks, including fire, electrical shock, radio frequency radiation, and exposure to dangerous moving parts and toxic substances. Learn all you can about the safe use of products and be an Elmer to others.

We will announce the date for the FRRL Emergency Simulation Event very shortly. There are just a few logistics issues to resolve. I know quite a few of you want to be involved.

There are several operating events coming up soon. If you like to support them, please get your stations ready now. The first up is the ARRL School Club Roundup (Oct. 15-19). Then we have Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air (JOTA – Oct. 17-18). Then we have our very own Illinois QSO Party (Oct. 21). November has ARRL Sweepstakes, CW (Nov. 3-5) and phone (Nov. 17-19). It's nice to get on for the School Club Roundup and JOTA to give the young people QSO points for their event.

The Illinois QSO Party can be very interesting since there are opportunities to operate from home, portable, and mobile – check the rules. A few years ago, several of us set up a multi-station "Field Day" sort of portable activity for the Illinois QSO Party with about three stations. Some like to take their mobile stations out to the intersection of a few counties and provide extra "multipliers." Others just fire up the rig at home and have a blast. I believe this event can be particularly fun for a small group to get together and work the Illinois QSO Party together. How about it?

<dit> <dit>

DRAFT

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 September 11, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Harry K9DXA.

Reports

- Minutes from the August Membership Meeting were presented by Dawn KC9LQS. Mike K9FE moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Bill KC9UTT. Motion carried.
- Treasurer Dean KC9EOQ reported that the club has \$2,251.79 in checking; \$4027.06 in savings and \$53 in petty cash.
- Program Chairman Dick AH6EZ reported that the evening's program would be a 30-minute video he created on IOTA, plus a segment of the Rockall DXpedition. The October program will focus on receiver selectivity.
- Dawn KC9LQS reported that the club's transition to the new website is complete and that the board approved the appointment of Chris KC9BKS and Neil KB9RFX as co-webmasters.
- Debby WX9VOR reported that the club's new public relations plan was underway, making use of both traditional media and online venues. The FRRL Twitter account and Facebook page are again in use. Ideas, feedback and suggestions from members are encouraged.
- Kendall, DuPage and Kane ARES representatives gave updates on their respective organizations.

Old Business

Bill NF9D informed members that the FRRL Emergency Simulation Exercise would be slightly delayed, pending completion of the Illinois Simulated Emergency Test in which his ARES group is participating.

New Business

- Harry K9DXA announced that the board accepted the resignation of Secretary Randal Ligocki KC9KAX and that a candidate is being sought to fill the remainder of his term. Interested individuals should contact Harry. The nominee(s) will be presented at the October membership meeting prior to a show-of-hands vote. The new secretary will serve at the November, December and January meetings.
- Harry K9DXA presented the Nominating Committee which was approved by the board. Jack K9JE will serve as chair, along with members Eric AB9OS and Denny W9HI. The committee will present nominees for office at the November meeting. Open seats include president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and two director positions. The election will be held during the December membership meeting and new officers will be installed at the club banquet in January.
- John KC9OJV presented a recap of the Rockin in the Park event he organized. The event was attended by nine QRP enthusiasts.
- Eric AB9OS reported that the Extra upgrade class will begin Sept. 29th, a week later than originally stated.
- Harry K9DXA asked for candidates to serve as Field Day chair for 2013. Those interested should contact him.
- FRRL memorabilia was donated to the club from former member Frank WA9TRG
- Doug W9RD announced the club's bi-monthly test session would be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 18.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Dawn Williams KC9LQS
FRRL Vice-President

Bill Erikson HF Challenge Update — Mid-September 2012

By Eric Needles AB9OS

There are just a few updates for the HF Challenge this time. It was fun working outdoors earlier this month with the club's radio-in-the-park event. I'm not sure how much DX was worked, but there was definitely lots of HF activity.

Speaking of activity, Larry K9ARZ mentioned his new entities worked, including V63PR, Micronesia, and NH8S Swains Island. He also worked T8XX Palau, VU2BGS, VU2PAI, India, HS0ZKS, Thailand. Larry also reports "SouthEast Asia finally starting to reappear on a regular basis on 15 meters. ZS6BKW wire antenna still down, so 40 meters is not an option."

Joe NA9A has worked the following asterisked stations, H44RK Solomon Islands, T65M Afganistan, NH8S Swains Island, SO2R Western Sahara since his last update.

Remember, it is never too late to get into the HF Challenge. More details are on the FRRL website, just click on Activities, then HF Challenge. And now for the numbers...

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Gary K9MMS-CW	50	12	205	267
Steve N5EP-CW	43	6	89	138
Jeff K9BQL-CW	3	1	124	128
Eric K9LGE-Digital	27	3	14	44
Eric AB9OS-CW	27	5	11	43
Dave KB9MNM-Digital	13	1	9	23
Jerry KA9VMD-PSK31	5	1	5	11

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Jack K9JE	36	9	145	190
Herb W9DTR	50	12	118	180
Jim N9XP	32		104	136
Tobi K9TCD	35	5	73	113
Tom WB9CHY	42	4	38	84
Warren K9IH	25	5	37	67

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Larry K9ARZ	50	13	250	313
Joe NA9A	43	11	244	298
Dick AH6EZ	50	12	209	271
Maurice N4LZ	40	7	82	129

Ragchew Class	States/Provinces	DX	Total
Dick AH6EZ			55
Herb W9DTR			25
Steve N5EP	12/1	1	14
Warren K9IH	12/2	0	14
Eric K9LGE			7
Joe NA9A	6	1	7
Eric AB9OS	1	0	1
Jerry KA9VMD	1	0	1

New Members

Welcome to the following new members:

CALL	NAME
none	Jack Tofari
N9HDU	Effie Barnett
KC9VYE	Eliana Barnett
KB9LAL	Stephen Bielski

Program Notes

The October program will be presentation on battery safety by Harry K9DXA.

Another Magical Moment in Ham Radio

By Dick Illman AH6EZ, mobile 9 in this case

On September 24, Becky and I were returning from a long fabulous day of motorcycle racing near Grand Rapids, MI (together on the track at the same time for the first time). We were happy to have finally taken delivery of a brand new rebuilt for racing 1968 Honda CB175. We were also physically tired after getting up at 5am Chicago time and spending about 75 overall minutes on the track. Becky was snoozing and I was listening to 20 meters with an earbud to stay awake. My mobile rig consists of an Icom IC-706mkIIg with a Turbo Tuner and a Little Tarheel II screwdriver antenna mounted on the box of our pickup truck. It is nice to have a Diesel because there is no ignition noise.

At about 8pm when we were on Highway 80, just entering Illinois, I tuned past 14.285 and noticed an AM QSO underway. I listened for several minutes, zero beated in the USB mode, and then switched to AM. I could still hear them very well. I was surprised when one of the stations identified himself as Brian, W1LYD/VY1 in Carcross, Yukon Territory. I needed VY1 for the HF Challenge! But I thought, what chance did I have of being heard with the puny 40 watts of low level modulated AM that the IC-706 was capable of, and a mobile antenna. There was a break in the QSO and Brian made a call for one of his Vermont buddies, with no response that I could hear. I put my call out there, and to my great surprise Brian came back to me and we had a short chat before his Vermont buddy showed up. Brian told me that he was going to Skagway the next morning so I realized that I had just barely caught him. I figured that he was just a visitor operating portable. I easily stayed awake for the last hour of the drive home, very pleased with myself and the miracle of ham radio.

When I got home, I looked up Brian on QRZ to verify that I made a QSO with Yukon Territories. What I discovered was a further thrill. It turns out that Brian is a long term resident and only operates AM with an SP600 receiver and a Johnson Valiant II transmitter with a 45 foot tower and a Cushcraft X-7 yagi. That by itself is not very unique, but then I learned what Brian does for a living. He alternates being the locomotive engineer and conductor for the White Pass and Yukon Railroad. He has been doing that since 1997. Another part of the ham radio miracle is that the main picture on Brian's QRZ page shows him at the controls of a steam locomotive numbered "73" which was delivered to the railroad in 2003 (after Brian arrived; did he have input on the number?) I do not think that I am in the market for one, but you can buy an LGB G-scale model of the engine and tender for \$3,999.99. Check out the following web sites for more pictures and details.

www.yukonalaska.com/W1LYD

www.wpyr.com

www.explorenorth.com/yukon/carcross.html

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 November 20 at St. Rita of Cascia Church in Aurora. 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

Vice President

Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

Secretary

Randal Ligocki KC9KAX

Treasurer

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

Directors:

Denny Barfus W9HI
Jack Ekstrom K9JE
Dick Illman AH6EZ
Neil Potter KB9RFX

Past President

Mike Urso, K9FE

License Trustees:

Kermit Carlson, W9XA
Bob Dillon, WB9LTN

Newsletter Editor

Tobi Davis, K9TCD
newsletter@frrl.org

Webmaster

Bill Muhr, NF9D
webmaster@frrl.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.frrl.org>

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

FRRL Event Calendar

October, 2012

FRRL Board Meeting 2
FRRL Meeting 9

November, 2012

FRRL Board Meeting 6
FRRL Meeting 13
VE Session 20

ArcOver FRRL Newsletter

Copyright 2012, 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

Both repeaters are dual mode APCO-25 NAC-293

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.