



Arc Over

June, 2012

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

President's Traffic

By Harry Jones K9DXA

A strong showing of hands at the last meeting indicated that many members are interested in planning and participating in an FRRL sponsored emergency simulation exercise. We have close ties with nearby county ARES people and the Red Cross. We are working on ideas and organizing leadership to move this ahead.

Chuck Krezwick WV9C and our ARRL Section Manager have been busy moving the HB1390 (mirroring PRB-1) bill out of the Illinois House and into the Senate. Last week, the Senate voted to pass the bill as approved by the House. So now it goes to the Governor for signing. Stay tuned! When the bill is signed the new law will give us a state-level preemption of local antenna ordinances and mandate 'reasonable accommodation' of our antennas. The larger message here is that more bills, both favorable and unfavorable to Ham Radio, will show up from time to time at State and Federal levels. It is extremely important to follow the lead from our ARRL representatives, and communicate your wishes to legislators when urged to do so. HB1390 was a rather easy chore because our Section Manager had such a very good lobbyist and responsive hams to write their legislators. Keep up the good work!

It was that time of the year where 20,000-plus ham operators migrated to the Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH to participate in the many, many activities that local hams organize every year. There were at least ten FRRL members I crossed paths with this year. My own agenda included activities such as DStar, QRP, HRD, exciting dinners, knob-less radios, RTTY, vendors, check out used gear, microcontrollers, and more.

We talked about Ham Nation at the last meeting. It is a weekly show organized by Bob Heil K9EID and Gordy West WB6NOA. A new program is produced every Tuesday night, and later added to their website as a podcast and video for easy download. During the program, they have chat rooms. Later, they get on one or more HF phone bands for rag chews. One of the guys from amateurlogic.tv is a regular who does a segment on "Smoke & Solder." We are considering if it might be nice to set up one of our monthly meetings on a different night of the week and wire ourselves to one of the Ham Nation people. Think about it.

While we are on Ham Nation, the episode right after Dayton was interesting. Check it out. You will see an FRRL member prominently in one of the still shots shown in the video. I'm not saying who....you have to view it to find out. For heaven sakes, maybe the mystery FRRL member does not know it himself! Tour de Cure, Field Day, Hamfest, and the Cougars' game are coming up in June and July.

Eric K9LGE is in charge of the ham communications for Tour de Cure and could use more volunteers. This is the 2012 American Diabetes Association Tour de Cure-Chicago, Sunday, June 10, 2012, Start/Finish-Wheaton/Warrenville South HS with staggered start times for the rides beginning at 6am.

Field Day is likely the biggest operating event of the year. Mike K9FE has put together quite a program at Jericho Park. Big Saturday evening dinner. Maybe operating this year as "6A." Sounds like there will be a "GOTA."

Dawn KC9LQS could use a little more help with Hamfest. Give her a shout! Please, please...sell those tickets. We need a strong turnout again this year.

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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

Membership Meeting Minutes/May 8, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by Harry Jones K9DXA. President. Approximately 50 members were in attendance.

The question of the month was, "Would you be interested in planning and participating in a club-sponsored emergency preparedness exercise?" Of those responding, 30 members said they would; 8 said they wouldn't; and 12 said they might, depending on date, location and other details. Harry said the exercise was proposed during the May Board Meeting by Dick AH6EZ, director. (More discussion on this topic was provided later in the meeting.)

Secretary's Report: Motion to accept the minutes of the April Membership Meeting was made by Larry K9ARZ and seconded by Dave N9XU. The motion carried.

(Note from Secretary Randal KC9KAX: My thanks to VP Dawn KC9LQS for sitting in for me and taking and typing up the minutes for this meeting. Thanks for a great job!)

Treasurer's Report: Dean KC9EOQ reported that as of May 1st, 2012, the club had \$542.79 in checking; \$5,500.62 in savings; and \$70 in petty cash.

Program: Dick AH6EZ reported that May program was a 44-minute video of the South Orkney DXpedition.

Field Day: Mike K9FE reminded members that the event would be held June 23-24 at Jericho Lake Park, at the intersection of Jericho and Orchard. Set-up will be held Friday afternoon, June 22. Those participating are encouraged to bring bug repellent. Due to lack of operators, the club is foregoing a GOTA station and 10-meter station this year. Band captains were introduced: Bill WB9LPW on 40 CW; Larry K9ARZ on 10 CW; Warren K9IH on 15/75 CW; Neil KB9RFX on 15/75 phone; Dawn KC9LQS on 20 phone; and Dean KC9EOQ on 40 phone. All members are welcome to come out and participate, to work their favorite bands, and to enjoy the Saturday evening meal.

Hamfest: Dawn KC9LQS said she will need volunteers to help with set-up, take-down and working the gate at Hamfest July 15. She will be accepting payment for advance tickets, which were distributed to members along with rosters.

Public Relations: Debbie WX9VOR reported meeting with the board May 1 to determine the board's goals. She is in the planning stage and said she will work on developing public awareness of both the club and of amateur radio in general. Members are invited to send her any ideas they have by emailing WX9VOR@arrl.net.

Wireless Microphone: Mike K9FE reported that the wireless mike being used during the meeting had been donated by Eric K9LGE. Additional microphones may be rented or purchased if the need arises.

Newsletter: Editor Tobi K9TCD, reported by Harry, is always interested in receiving articles and other information for the newsletter from members. Send email to newsletter@frrl.org.

ARES Reports: Dick AH6EZ expanded on the possibility of a club-sponsored emergency simulation exercise. Our frequency privileges exist because of our ability to provide communications services in the event of an emergency. Dick and Harry attended a Kane County ARES meeting last month and later discussed ways FRRL could work more closely with those groups, both to continue justifying our band privileges as well as to help members develop the ability to respond in an emergency situation. They envision individuals, small groups and teams operating during a simulated emergency, with ARES members acting as mentors. The exercise would be less complicated and more spontaneous than Field Day, according to Dick.

Kane County ARES: meetings are held at 7pm on the fourth Thursday of the month in the St. Charles Fire Dept. Building at 112 North Riverside. Bill NF9D is the Emergency Coordinator of the Kane County group.

DuPage County ARES: Kent W9NDW reported the group is working the Swedish Days bike ride on June 24; a parade in Wheaton on July 4; the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Cycle for Life on Sept. 8; and the Chicago Marathon on Oct. 7. Additional operators are always welcome to participate. The group's next regular meeting will be held at 7pm May 24 at the Wheaton Park District Community Center, 1777 S. Blanchard Rd. More information is available at www.dupageares.org.

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Kendall County ARES: Chris Kennell KC9BKS, Assistant Emergency Coordinator for the group, reported that no events are scheduled, but offered the participation of his group for the FRRL simulation. The group meets at 7:30pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Panera Bread Café on Highway 47 in Yorkville. The group's website can be found at www.kendalllaires.home.comcast.net

Small Groups: Dawn KC9LQS reported that each of the proposed small groups (except antennas) has one or two people who indicated interest, and that names are still being taken. When enough people have indicated interest in a group, an activity will be organized. Harry K9DXA volunteered to head a two- or three-part antenna class, which is now being organized. Participants will build a simple dipole and a 10-meter vertical antenna.

OLD BUSINESS

MS Walk Mike K9FE reported that FRRL members assisted in the annual MS Walk May 6th. Severe weather interfered with the event, but the volunteers stuck it out to the end. Those participating were Dave K9WDB, Neil KB9RFX, Eric AB9OS, Matt Urso, Harry K9DXA and Keith N9YA.

NEW BUSINESS

Ham Nation: Harry K9DXA proposed the possibility of a club meeting featuring a Skype-like interactive connection with the hosts of Ham Nation. He has been in contact with Bob Heil, one of the hosts, and learned the only hitch is that Tuesday nights are not a time when Bob is available to provide this opportunity. Members would have to approve moving one meeting to a different night of the week if FRRL is to pursue this. The item was tabled until the next meeting so members who are not familiar with Ham Nation can have time to research. Information is available at www.twit.tv/hn.

Social Media: Harry K9DXA reported he is in discussions with our public relations chairperson to determine whether we are doing enough, or if we are duplicating our efforts, by having multiple communications vehicles in place. Under study are the newsletter, website, Yahoo Groups email list, Facebook and Twitter accounts. Ideas are welcome from the membership.

More on the emergency simulation: Harry added that the FCC is under pressure to sell off amateur radio frequencies, and the proposed exercise is intended to help justify what we do. Eric K9LGE added that as a representative of the Chicago Region American Red Cross, he would like to offer his group's assistance, stating that ARC has been making efforts to work more closely with the ham community.

QSL Bureau: Reminder that members can give their QSL cards to Jack K9JE and they will be sent to the ARRL QSL Bureau on your behalf.

IL HB1390 (PRB-1) passed the House last week with a vote of 109-10, according to Kermit W9XA, Central Division Vice Director. Local ARRL representatives are looking for a state senator who is also a ham. Members who know anyone with these qualifications were encouraged to provide contact information to himself; Tom Ciciora KA9QPN, Illinois Section Manager; or Dick Isely W9GIG, Central Division Director. Kermit said the support of the ham community in the form of letters to state senators may be requested again when this issue goes to the senate.

Tour de Cure: Eric K9LGE reported that the event is almost fully staffed, but there is still room for those who would like to participate in this public service event. Opportunities exist for those who have never worked an event and would like to be paired with an experienced operator for the learning experience. Contact Eric for more information.

Award Presentation: Harry presented a certificate of appreciate to Larry Shaw W9OKI for his participation as band captain during the club's Field Day event last year.

DXpedition: Dick AH6EZ reported that his upcoming VY0 DXpedition to Canada has secured a location for antenna installation with a clear view to the south. Many members expressed an interest in working him.

VE Testing will be held at 7:30 pm May 15th, according to Eric AB9OS

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm, following a motion by Denny W9HI and seconded by Marty N9NTM.

Submitted by Dawn KC9LQS, vice president, filling in for Randal KC9KAX.

Ken N9WCX is handling ticket sales to members for the Cougars' game July 27. He has quite a few tickets left. Buy them at our monthly meetings. You have only two meetings left. Let's sell them out this month! As always, please continue to tell me what new activities you want FRRL to sponsor.

May has been an interesting time in the shack at K9DXA. I hope your shack has been most active as well!

Dick AH6EZ and I will be QRV (as VY0/AH6EZ and VY0/K9DXA) in Nunavut Territory, Canada, on the shore of Hudson Bay for Field Day, Canada Day contest (both as VY0RAC), and the week in between trying to give anyone interested a "VY0" QSO. We'll be active on phone, CW, and some on RTTY. We hope to work as many of you as we can. We should have decent internet access up there. Check out Dick's page, <http://ah6ez.yolasite.com/>.

Dayton Hamvention 2012

FRRL members were well represented at the Annual ARRL Donors Reception at Dayton on May 17, 2012. Pictured are: back row (L to R) Dick, W9GIG - Buzz, W9AYJ - Dick AH6EZ - Greg, N9CHA - Harry, K9DXA - Dean KC9EOQ - front row (L to R) Jack, K9JE - Maurice, N4LZ - Joe, NA9A - Kermit, W9XA. It was an enjoyable evening with good friends and good food and drink along with energizing speeches by Kay Craigie, N3KN, ARRL President and Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, ARRL CEO.



Bill Erikson HF Challenge Update — Mid-May 2012

By Eric Needles AB9OS

BANG...POP...SMOKE! Just a reminder to all, you're not really a Ham Operator until you blow something up, burn something out or at least smell something burning in the shack!

And so goes our update from Larry K9ARZ who is entered in the popular QRO class. Larry tells us that "in the midst of chasing DX this month, one of my 3-500Z tubes failed with a big bang! Fuses and tube changed out and now we're back in buisness." Now that's how you chase DX! Along the way this month Larry picked up 9M0L Spratly Islands, 7Q7PRO Malawi, YJ0VK Vanuatu, HB0/DL2SBY Liechtenstein, 706T Socotra Island(Yemen), A92GR Bahrain, JX9JKA Jan Mayen Land, V73NS Marshall Islands, 6O0CW Somalia, PJ5/G4MFW Saba Island, PY0FM Fernando de Naronha Island, 5X5RO Uganda, 8Q7TE Maldives.

Another cool achievement as a result of the HF Challenge came by way of Tom WB9CHY who says "wanted to let you know that thanks in large part to the HF Challenge, I finally have my WAS (Worked All States award). Only took 44 years to get it!" Congratulations Tom!

Joe NA9A contacted three more asterisked countries this month, including YJ0VU-Vanatu, JD1BMH-Ogasawara and 7O6T-Yemen. Good work Joe!

Jack K9FE has turned in his first entry for the year and jumped to the top of the Operator Class. Some of his interesting contacts include 3C0E Annobon, 7Q7PRO Malawi, 9K2OD Kuwait, 9M2 West Malaysia, A25, A35, A61, C21, C31, H40, HK0NA Malpelo Island, T8, TN, VP6 Pitcairn, XW Laos, YB1, YI1 Iraq, and ZK2.

Looks like everyone is having fun on HF. If you are not in the Challenge yet, it's never too late to start. Just ask Jack K9JE!

Now for the numbers...

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Gary K9MMS-CW	50	10	175	235
Steve N5EP-CW	43	6	89	138
Jeff K9BQL-CW	3	1	124	128
Eric K9LGE-Digital	27	3	14	44
Jerry KA9VMD-PSK31	5	1	5	11
Eric AB9OS-CW	3	0	0	3

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
Jack K9JE	36	9	145	190
Herb W9DTR	50	11	110	171
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	234	297
Dick AH6EZ	50	12	202	264
Joe NA9A	36	8	219	263
Maurice N4LZ	40	7	82	129

Ragchew Class	States/Provinces	DX	Total
Dick AH6EZ			52
Herb W9DTR			21
Steve N5EP	12/1	1	14
Warren K9IH	12/2	0	14
Eric K9LGE			7
Joe NA9A	4	1	5
Eric AB9OS	1	0	1
Jerry KA9VMD	1	0	1

MS Walk 2012

By Mike Urso K9FE

Thanks to AB9OS Eric, K9DWP Dave, KB9FRX Neil, K9DXA Harry, Matt Urso and N9YA Keith for coming out to work the MS-WALK on May 6. The event was not without it problems. This year the course was closed for outgoing walkers at 10:30 due to a line of storms that crossed the area. The FRRL staff held out until most all had cleared the course. The walk coordinator told me to convey her thanks to the members who held out and did not give up until told to shutdown.

New Members

Welcome to the following new member:

CALL	NAME
KB9MNM	David Wright

Program Notes

Considering that the largest FRRL operating event of the year is at the end of this month, a fair amount of time during the meeting will be spent on Field Day. Dick AH6EZ will be preparing a shorter program that will review both new and old things seen or learned about during Dayton.

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 July 15 at the club hamfest at Aurora Central Catholic High School. 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

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Dick Illman AH6EZ
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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

June, 2012

FRRL Board Meeting 5
FRRL Meeting 12

July, 2012

FRRL Board Meeting 3
FRRL Meeting 10
VE Session 15

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
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.