



Arc Over

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

January, 2007

President's Traffic

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

Hopefully by the time you are reading this message, you have found a way to celebrate the holiday season with friends and family. We were able to spread some holiday cheer at the December meeting which is our annual Christmas Party. The grand prize raffle was a Yaesu FT7800 mobile radio won by Lenny AB9JV. We completed the election of new officers for next year who will be inducted at the January 27 Banquet at the Fisherman's Inn. See Kermit for tickets. Here are the FRRL Officers for 2007. Many thanks to all of them for supporting our growing and enthusiastic club.

President – Greg N9CHA
Vice President – Denny W9HI
Secretary – John K9COE
Treasurer – Larry W9OKI
New Director – Tobi KC9CDL (2 year term)
New Director – Dean KC9EOQ (2 year term)
Returning Director – Charles KC9DAO (1 year term left)
Returning Director – Mike K9FBI (1 year term left)
Past President Director – Dick AH6EZ

Thanks to our outgoing Director Dick W9YBH who was the Chairman of the Nominating Committee as well as Charles KC9DAO and Mike K9FBI who helped out on the committee. Thanks also to Greg N9CHA as our VP this year who did a tremendous job chairing our Education Committee. Thanks to Denny W9HI as a Director who has been supporting publicity, Field Day, and just recently our Tuesday Nets. Thanks to John K9COE for continuing to do a stellar job as Secretary. Thanks to Larry W9OKI for continuing to keep our finances in good health as Treasurer. Thanks to Charles KC9DAO and Mike K9FBI as Directors for providing their input and perspective during the board meetings. We welcome Tobi KC9GDL and Dean KC9EOQ to the Board with their NextGen and Hamfest projects.

I know that Greg has a lot of exciting and educational activities planned for 2007. I urge you to support any requests to help out. With the recent phone band expansions on HF and the elimination of CW testing, there are lots of opportunities for each of you to learn new aspects of ham radio.

73,
Dick, AH6EZ

IRA Approves Coordination of FRRL's D-STAR Repeater

By Kermit Carlson, W9XA

On December 20, 2006, the Illinois Repeater Association approved the frequency coordination request for the FRRL's D-STAR repeater on 442.100 Mhz. A letter from IRA Frequency Coordinator Aaron Collins, N9OZB, has granted the coordination with all usual conditions and no special restrictions. The specifications call for an omnidirectional pattern with the antenna at a HAAT (Height Above Average Terrain) of 448 feet and an EIRP (Effective Isotropic Radiated Power) of 359 watts.

This makes W9CEQ the first operational and coordinated D-STAR repeater in Illinois.

Banquet Tickets Still Available

By Kermit Carlson, W9XA

The 2007 FRRL Winter Banquet is scheduled for Saturday, January 27, 2007 at the Fishermen's Inn at the corner of Rte 47 and Main Street in Elburn, Illinois. The festivities will start at 5:30 PM (note the earlier start time).

Menu choices will be:

Prime Rib	\$38
Chicken Kiev	\$36
Trout Almondine	\$34
Vegetarian Lasagna	\$32

Prices include gratuity and tax. There will be a Cash Bar.

The evening's entertainment will feature the music of Dick Gulbransen's highly acclaimed 16-piece Orchestra, along with the usual awards and installation of officers.

To listen to music from the Orchestra's CD's, please visit:

<http://www.frml.org/activities/banquet.html>

For tickets, call Kermit Carlson at (630) 879-0983. FRRL members, along with their family and guests are all welcome.

FCC Drops Morse Code Requirement

From the ARRL

On December 19, 2006, the FCC issued the complete *Report and Order (R&O)* in the "Morse code" proceeding, WT Docket 05-235. The *R&O* follows fast on the heels of the Commission's December 15 public notice announcing the elimination of the Morse code exam requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes. The *R&O* also addresses the ARRL's request to eliminate the disparity between "Tech Plus" licensees (Technicians with Element 1 Morse credit) and Technician licensees -- present and future -- who have not passed a Morse code test.

Typically, the effective date of a FCC order comes 30 days after its publication in the Federal Register. If that's the case, the new exam requirement and the revised 80-meter segment for automatically controlled digital stations would likely go into effect sometime in February 2007. When the rule changes adopted in the *R&O* are published in the Federal Register, the effective date will be included in the Federal Register summary. In any event, the new rules will not go into effect anytime before they show up in the Federal Register.

Once the changes are in effect, all Technician licensees -- whether or not they have passed a Morse code examination -- will have "Tech Plus" operating privileges. This means you will have all of your current VHF/UHF and above frequencies and also will have access to the Novice/Technician Plus frequencies on HF. These include: 3525-3600 kHz CW only; 7025-7125 kHz CW only; 21,025-21,200 kHz CW only; 28,000-28,300 kHz CW, RTTY and Data; 28,300-28,500 kHz CW & SSB. The power limit is 200 W PEP output for Technician operators. You don't need to pass a Morse Code test to use CW on the air—any Amateur Radio licensee who wishes may use Morse code on the amateur frequencies they are authorized to use -- except the five USB-only channels at 5 MHz.

Technicians can upgrade to General by passing the Element 3 written exam and to Amateur Extra by also passing the Element 4 written exam. No Morse code test will be required.

There are no additional new privileges available to Technician/Tech Plus licensees as a result of WT 05-235. The *R&O* does not change the operating privileges of Novice, General, Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees either.

One the ruling takes effect, amateurs who hold a non-expired CSCE for Element 3 (General Class Written Test) credit, will need to go to take the CSCE to a VE test session, pay the test session fee, if any, and have the examination team prepare and submit the paperwork for your license upgrade.

If your CSCE for Element 3 credit has expired or expires before you attend a test session to process your upgrade, you will have to retake the examination element in order to receive the credit toward your upgrade. The test session fee will apply.

The *R&O* does not change operating privileges for Novice, General, Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees.

Complete information, including a FAQ list and the text of the order can be found on the ARRL web site (<http://www.arrl.org/>)

January Program Notes

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

Motorola has not yet made a decision if I will be spending two weeks in January in South Carolina. Although my primary plan is to follow through with the SSB tuning demonstration and training program, in case I am not able to attend the meeting, I have created a very entertaining and educational 27 minute DVD of the 3Y0X DXpedition that I condensed down from the original 65 minute saga.

If you have any ideas for programs please contact me with your suggestions. Recent FCC rulemaking has made it possible for all of us to expand our activity on HF, and I am sure there will be lots of questions about operating practices and equipment choices. If there are specific areas of HF operating that you think would make an interesting program I'd like to hear them.

2006 Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update

By John Spasojevich, K9COE

The 2006 Bill Erickson FRRL HF Challenge ended on December 31st. All participants need to add up their scores and get the score sheets in to Joe, NA9A for verification. Winners will be announced at the FRRL Banquet on January 27th, 2007.

The faster you can get your score sheets to Joe the less last-minute scoring he will have to do. Please be sure to check your sheet carefully before sending it in. You can either mail it to Joe at his call book address, or bring it to the January meeting.

The final standings will be published in the February ArcOver and on the club web site.

While we wait for the final results, remember that January 1st kicks off the 2007 version of the Challenge. Set your counters back to zero, start working "new ones" and get your scores in to me so I can start a new chart.

That's it for 2006. Good luck in the 2007 Challenge!

John
K9COE

Da Bands, Da Bands!

By Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

If you've read the article on page 3 you know that beginning some time in the next few months Technician class licensees will be able to operate on HF frequencies and that the Morse Code is no longer required for an upgrade to a General class license. What all that means is that YOU will have access to HF, no matter what class license you hold.

In order to ease your entry to the world of HF, I've put together a brief summary of what to expect on the various HF bands (frequency ranges). This is a very general introduction so I won't go too far into propagation, sunspots and all of the other variables that can affect communications. However, if you listen to the bands this list should help you understand what you are hearing. I'll limit this to the most popular bands, 80 through 10 meters, plus a short summary of the "WARC" bands.

80 Meters (3.500—4.000 Mhz): During the daytime, 80 meters is affected by D layer absorption, so communications are limited to around 250 miles. Mornings through the early evening you will find mostly state and local traffic and emergency nets here. Later in the evening 80 meters turns into a DX band, with signals spreading halfway around the world. However, noise and lightning crashes are problems here so it is better in the winter. If you want to listen to amateurs passing traffic on the National Traffic System, this is the place.

40 Meters (7.000—7.300 Mhz): During the daytime, 40 meters provides reliable communications out to about 500 miles. There are many daytime nets to monitor, including the regional service nets like the "MidCARS" net on 7.258 MHz. "MidCARS" is an mid-America service net which passes traffic along to any stations checking into that net. You may also hear "EastCARS" on 7.255 Mhz. In the evenings, the band can provide openings worldwide. Atmospheric noise is less of a distraction on 40 meters than it is on the lower frequency bands (80 and 160), which means you can work DX year round.

20 Meters (14.000—14.350 Mhz): This band almost always provides daytime DX and long distance stateside communications. Even during low points in the solar cycle (like right now) you can work daytime DX on 20. For a good introduction to what the band is doing listen to the Maritime Mobile Service SSB Net on 14.300 Mhz. (Website at <http://www.mmsn.org/>). You will usually be able to hear maritime mobile stations checking in from the Florida and the Bahamas to California and Mexico. Right now 20 meters normally goes quiet in the evenings, but during solar cycle peaks it can stay open all night. Atmospheric noise is usually not a problem on 20, but it can get very crowded during daytime hours.

15 Meters (21.000—21.450 Mhz): During peak periods in the solar cycle this band acts very much like 20 meters. However, during low points it is seldom open. Right now you can occasionally work South American stations, and if you get lucky you can make it to Hawaii, but the solar cycle will need to pick up before this band becomes very useful for the average station.

10 Meters (28.000—29.700 Mhz): If you have any experience on the 6 meter band you will be at home here on 10 meters as well. During peaks in the solar cycle this is a fantastic DX band, even if you run low power to very modest antennas. During low periods the band goes dead for DX, but sporadic E layer propagation can appear almost any time, allowing you to work stations between 200 and 1,400 miles away. If you ever worked "skip" on CB, you have experienced "Sporadic E".

(Continued on page 7)

New Members For December

By Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

The following new members joined at the December meeting or by mail during the month. Please welcome them if you see them at a meeting or hear them on the air.

Name	Call	License Class
Brenden Holste *	KC9KJW	T
Dan Kyburz	KE4OSK	E
Marilyn Lorenz *	KC9KJV	T
Roy Richardson	KC9KHB	G

* Family membership.

John Ingram, N9JI, Silent Key

FRRL member John Ingram, N9JI, passed away on December 18, 2006. John was born on November 30, 1931 in Mt. Sterling, Illinois. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Marilyn, four daughters, a brother, and several grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

John retired from Caterpillar after 43 years, where he served in several supervisory and management positions and as an Industrial Engineering Supervisor.

During his retirement John did volunteer work for Waubensee's Literacy project, was the District Coordinator and an instructor of the AARP Safe Driving Course, assisted the Office of Emergency Management of Kane County through "Storm Watch" and Accident and Special Events Traffic Control, and was a Ham Radio operator in the Fox River Valley Ham Radio Club, where he participated in monitoring horse trials and canoe races. He was often recognized for his volunteer efforts from these organizations and was most proud that his name was on the Fox River Valley Ham Radio Club's "Broken Paddle" several years in a row.

The members of the FRRL extend their sincere sympathies to all of John's family and friends.

FRRL Yahoo Group

By Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

It's time for a reminder about the FRRL's Yahoo Group, a membership group designed to keep members informed about club activities and to allow more timely information sharing between members.

If you are a paid member of the FRRL you can join the Group by visiting the website located at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/frrl/>. Follow the instructions to apply for membership. Please include your Call and Name in your application so we can quickly approve your application.

Right now we have 62 members in the group, over 525 messages, and several useful files and information.

Da Bands, Da Bands

(Continued from page 5)

The *WARC bands* are 3 frequency ranges allocated to amateurs during the World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC) in 1979. They consist of the 30 meter band, (10.100-10.150 MHz), the 17 meter band, (18.068-18.168 MHz), and the 12 meter band (24.890—24.990 Mhz). These bands are open to only General class and higher licensees, and are subject to a gentleman's agreement that keeps them free from contest activity. The entire 30 meter band is restricted to CW, RTTY and data emissions only, while the other two others are available for CW, RTTY, data, phone and image emissions.

Each of these bands seems to take on the combined characteristics of the bands to either side of it. For example, 30 meters provides both the regional communications of 40 meters and the DX capabilities of 20 meters. The 17 meter band is midway in capabilities between 20 and 15, and the 12 meter band acts like a combination of 15 and 10. This situation gives you a place to go if you find that a particular band isn't working for communicating over a specific distance. You can always drop down a band or move up one and see if you can make contacts there.

The WARC bands also provide a somewhat quieter alternative on those weekends where the "standard" bands are filled with wall-to-wall contest stations. They are more relaxed and you can usually find some good opportunities to ragchew with DX stations.

So, there you have it. I hope this information has been helpful. If you have any questions, please contact me. The information in the article comes from various sources, including the ARRL Handbook, the ARRL Operating Manual, Wikipedia, and my own personal experience. All errors are my responsibility.

73, and I hope to work you all on HF soon.

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 January 18, 2007, at the Prisco Center.

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. You can also help support the FRRL Repeaters by joining as a combined Club/ Repeater member for an additional \$10.00.

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

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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 six days prior to the end 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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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 D-Star—442.100 Mhz.

FRRL Digital Voice/Data Repeater
 Contact W9XA for information

W9ZGP—147.060 Mhz. (New Freq.)

+600 KHz, 103.5 access tone
 Owned by NIARC

KC9OEM—145.470 Mhz. (Kane Co. SKYWARN)

-600 KHz, 103.5 access tone
 Owned by Kane County OEM

- Weekly FRRL Net—Tues. Eve. at 7:30 pm local time on the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- KC OEM Amateur Net— Wed. Eves, 7:00 pm on the KC9OEM repeater.