



Arc Over

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

January, 2009

President's Traffic

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

I have had a wonderful time! Like a nice long rag-chew with a fellow ham, a first contact with someone that just got their license, or the satisfaction of a construction project that worked the first time... being the FRRL President for these past two years was wonderful. I hope that my enthusiasm showed you how much I enjoy and respect this club. Joining the FRRL was probably the best thing that has ever happened to me in support of this fine hobby. It has given me great joy, I have met many wonderful people, and have participated in projects that I otherwise would never have had the opportunity to do.

My fellow Board members who have served with me these past two years were very supportive, allowed me to make mistakes and learn from them, provided guidance when necessary and patience as needed. Our monthly meetings were always something that I looked forward to. After concluding club business we would sit around and chat with each other and share our experiences. We are great friends!

Congratulations to the incoming Board. Here is the line up:

- President, Mike Urso K9FE
- Vice President, Harry Jones K9DXA
- Secretary, Bill Stamps W9WRS
- Treasurer, Dean Holste KC9EOQ
- Director, Bart Bartkowiak KC9FQA
- Director, Chris Farley KC9IEQ
- Director, Dick Illman AH6EZ
- Director, Larry Shaw W9OKI
- Past President, Greg Braun N9CHA

Thank you to Adam KC9ITG and Craig AB9IV for volunteering to run for office. I encourage you to

continue your efforts by volunteering for committee positions and special projects.

I'd like to thank our Vice President Charles Penninger KC9DAO for serving this past year. On many occasions I relied on Charles for his opinion regarding club projects, operational issues and advice regarding club assets. Charles is an excellent support person, always there to lend a hand and do the work that is requested of him.

My personal regards to Tobi Davis K9TCD for her contributions as a Director. We all enjoyed Tobi's point of view on subjects relating to club involvement with its members and the community. She is a very valuable asset to our club, and will be making another huge contribution by becoming our newsletter editor in 2009.

Bill Muhr NF9D. My friend, what can I say? You have done an excellent job of publishing the Arc Over. Bill has taken on many roles in the club, participated in public service events, various operating events, field day... you name it, Bill has been there. He is a very remarkable person and has provided me much guidance. When I was first elected president in 2006, I turned to Bill and asked him for his wisdom and constant evaluation of my behavior as a leader. Bill, you are a very solid friend and confidant and you expressed great patience with me. Thank you.

I will probably gush all over the other club members who have helped to lead our organization at the Winter Banquet later this month. I have a lot to be thankful for, and will have a little something to say about everyone on the leadership team.

Looking forward... the Board approved two special projects for 2009. One is to have members build a Spark Gap Transmitter and Coherer. This

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Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the General Membership of the
Fox River Radio League (FRRL) an Illinois not-for-profit Corporation
Held at Rasmussen College, Aurora, IL

Meeting Minutes December 9, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Greg Braun – President with 49 members present.

Note: This was an abbreviated meeting and no program due to elections and the Christmas Party.

Secretary Report: Bill W9WRS – meeting minutes available on Web and Arc Over.

Treasurers Report: Larry W9OKI - Total Assets: \$25,200 (Cash/Savings = \$8426 Certificates of Deposit = \$16,774)

Committee Reports

Newsletter: Bill N9FD – Looking for a new Arc Over editor. Printed copies sent, electronic version on web.

VE: Doug, W9RD, Next VE session January 20, 2009, at Rasmussen College.

Database: Chris KC9BKS – Reports 219 members, 139 repeater contributors. Renewals for 2009 will be accepted starting tonight.

Webmaster: Tom WB9CHY – Tom has done a fantastic job over the last few years, now he is looking for someone to take the position over.

Announcements:

- Illinois D-STAR net on Wednesdays at 8 PM.

Current Business:

FRRL January Banquet: Dick AH6EZ – Jan. 24th at Walter Payton's Roundhouse. Roasted Prime Rib, Free Range Chicken Wellington, Vegetarian Plate, Cash Bar, Brewery Tour by Michael KC9JBX

Nominating Committee: 2009 election: Jason KC9MED CHAIRPERSON, Kermit W9XA, Phil W9XAN presented the candidates.

President: Mike K9FE

Vice-president: Harry K9DXA

Secretary- Bill W9WRS

Treasurer: Dean KC9EOQ

Director: Adam KC9ITG, Craig AB9IV, Dick AH6EZ, and Larry W9OKI.

The winners were :

President: Mike K9FE

Vice-president: Harry K9DXA

Secretary- Bill W9WRS

Treasurer: Dean KC9EOQ

Director: Dick AH6EZ

Larry W9OKI

Many Thanks to all of the candidates.

FRRL Ham of the YEAR: Ballots were cast for Ham of the Year, results to be announced at the Banquet in January.

FRRL year in review: N9CHA presented a slide show highlighting club activities during 2008.

The January 6, 2009 Board meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

The February 3, 2009 Board meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

The January 13, 2009 Board meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

The February 10, 2009 Board meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

The January 20, 2009, VE Session will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora.

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Meeting Minutes

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Motion to adjourn by Bart KC9FQA, 2nd by Adam KC9ITG.

General meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Year end raffle was held.

Grand prize of the MFJ Antenna analyzer was Eric AB9OS.

2nd prize of an Amateur Radio book was Phil W9XAN.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Stamps, W9WRS – FRRL Secretary

President's Traffic

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

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project will be lead by Dick AH6EZ. He has already started to gather parts and information. So, since we will have a project that signifies the very beginning of radio, I thought we should also complete a project of the modern era. We will be building Software Defined Radios... and take our efforts to the DCC meeting in 2009. I have volunteered to lead that project.

The new leadership team has lots of experience, enthusiasm for the hobby and a desire to serve the FRRL. In order to show your support, I encourage you to participate in as many events as you can this year. Please consider the amount of effort that goes into the organization and preparation and show your support by contacting event chairpersons and getting involved. I guarantee you are going to have a great time....

73, Greg Braun N9CHA
President 2007, 2008

Odds & Ends 10 Meter Net

By Craig Crozier, AB9IV

The Dupage Radio Club sponsors an Odds & Ends net on Thursday nites at 8:00 PM. This net will move around to different frequencies and modes. For the next several weeks it will be meeting on 10 Meters 28.400 Mhz USB. This frequency was selected to encourage the Technician class licencees thathave HF gear and an antenna that will tune to 10 meters to get on HF.

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – December, 2008

By Cyd Runde, N9CV

Well, these will be the final scores published before the final totals are revealed at the banquet. There are some really close races, but hopefully everyone had fun. For those who want to try it next year, just jump in! If you have any questions, just send me an email. Have a Happy Holiday, and see you at the Banquet

Ragchew Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
N9CTO	-	-	58
K9FE	-	-	52
W9DTR			32
KC9FQV	-	-	31
K9IH	-	-	27
NA9A	-	-	20
AH6EZ	-	-	16
WB9CHY	-	-	5
N9YA	-	-	3
AB9OS	-	-	3
KC9DAO	-	-	2
K9JE	-	-	2

Operator Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9JE	43/7	115	165
W9DTR	50/11	103	164
NF9D	48/8	70	126
K9BQL	7/6	86	99
N9CV	45/7	35	87
K9TCD	46/6	25	77
K9IH	34/5	29	68
K9FE	35/5	23	63
N9YA	27/5	27	59
WB9CHY	35/7	8	50
KC9ITG	25	2	27

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update (Continued)

Limited Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9ARZ (Digital)	50/8	100	158
N9CTO (Digital)	44/5	8	57
KC9FQV (Digital)	31/8	18	57
AB9OS (CW)	3/1	33	37
KC9DAO (15 Meters)	2	13	15

QRO Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	50/10	152	212
NA9A	57	146	203
N4LZ	44/9	108	161

Silent Keys

By Bill Muhr, NF9D

Monika Nelson, XYL of Ken Nelson, N9WCX, passed away on December 21 after a long fight with cancer. We offer our sincere sympathies to Ken and the rest of Monika's family and friends.

January Program Notes

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

Are you one of the many hams who wants something for nothing? The January program will hopefully let you use stuff you already have and put it to a new use. As you will see, this might be a good way to augment the coverage of our repeaters.

Here is a checklist of things you need, but already have:

1. Non-dial up Internet with a home router for allowing multiple computers.
2. An old or spare computer that can be left turned on with an Ethernet interface.
3. A Sound card interface (you may have built a Rascal in 2008)
4. Almost any UHF or VHF mobile or portable radio (you will need two)
5. An optional microphone/speaker/headset.
6. A copy of your ham license (in jpeg format)

January Program Notes

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In case you have not figured things out yet, the program will be about Echolink. There may be an update of QSONet with their QSO-TV application as well.

This program will be affected by the availability of public Internet at the meeting room. If things do not work out with the Internet, I will have the Spark Gap transmitter assembly video available to show.

Annual Club Banquet Date and Information

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

The Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2009 We will be at the Round House in Aurora again this year. The menu with your choice of \$37 Beef, \$31 Chicken, or \$28 Vegetarian entrees have the same prices as last year. We expect to distribute a club CD again.

We are making arrangements for the brewery tour and some other entertainment. Similar to last year, we will have a cash bar. Remember that there is easy access to the second floor banquet room via an elevator.

Time is running short, so please contact me ASAP via email or telephone to make a reservation.

73, and I hope that you are all looking forward to great social time with our spouses, being able to remember all of the wonderful things the club has been doing this year, and to recognize all of the supporting cast that makes the FRRL what it is.

New Members

The following gentlemen have joined the club since our last new membership announcement. Please be sure to give them a warm welcome the next time you see them or hear them on the air.

CALL	First Name
WA9MRU	Robert Brown
KA9QPN	Thomas Ciciora

75 meter phone GERITOL Net

By Mike Urso, K9FE

Recently I was wandering around the bands. 10 was dead, 12 was dead, 15 was dead, 17 was dead, 20 was real noisy and very low signals, 40 was terribly noisy also. I only had one band left, 75/80 phone or digi. There was a RTTY contest on 80 around 3.590 and I really did not feel like keeping up with the fast pace RTTY contesters. So I switched to phone above 3.6 MHz. This is the extra class portion of 75. The noise level was a very high S9. Since I run a ground mounted vertical I am used to higher noise on the bands. Add to it that a 26 foot vertical on 75m is pretty small and not very efficient.

As I tuned up the band I heard some faint signals. Stopping I listened a little closer. Then a voice at 30 over S9 boomed in taking check-ins for a net I had heard of but never found. It was the 75 Meter GERITOL Net. I thought a geritol net was just for older hams than I was. What it stands for is "Greetings Extra Radio Amateurs Tired of Operating Lately". What!? So I threw out my call, and was greeted by a booming voice with a big welcome and a request for more about me. He knew I was new since I used my full call. Check-ins initially call with the last 2 characters only.

The operator asked for my e-mail address so he could send me an info packet of the net operating standards and goals. Well it turned out to be a very nice evening. The net is always looking for 1x2 and 2x1 calls for their award structure. What surprised me is that they actually QSL to enable earning WAS (Worked All States). In the 2 hours I spent on the net, which I was told could last 6 hours, I was called by 12 stations to confirm the contact, signal report and tell me to expect their QSL cards. I believe I worked 6 new states for the year in a short time. Such a friendly group I had come across.

If you are an Extra and looking to actually make contacts all over the country in a short time give this net a chance. The net meets at 0100z from October 1 through April 30th. Their frequency is in the Extra portion of the 75m band at 3.668 MHz. Listen closely to get the hang of how the net runs. If you have a 1x2, 2x1, 2x2A, or a 2x2 from Hawaii or Alaska you will be in demand. Be prepared to copy calls and locations down. When you check-in the first time do it with only the last 2 characters of your call using standard phonetics and only during a check-in call. They assemble Work lists to go down and give members a chance to make a call. Also be prepared to paper QSL by mail. That is the mission of this net. If you do not send QSLs then please don't bother with this net.

Have fun! De K9FE Mike

Solar Flux

By Bill Muhr, NF9D

This will be my last issue as editor of the ArcOver. I've been doing this for seven years. That's a long time. It's time to turn this over to someone else with more energy and fresh ideas, and that person has come forward. Tobi Davis, K9TCD, has volunteered to be the new editor. I know she will do a fantastic job. Please give her your congratulations and your cooperation in the years to come.

The Editor's job is one that can not be done as an individual effort. It takes a team of contributors, information sources, readers and critics. I'd like to thank everyone who has helped me out over the past 84 issues. Your contributions, comments and suggestions have been invaluable. It's a cliché, but I could not have done this without you. It's been tremendous fun.

Thanks very much, 73, and good DX.

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 Rasmussen College in Aurora, Illinois. Information tables are open at 7:00 PM, and 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, July and November at Rasmussen College, 2363 Sequoia Drive, 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, 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 20, 2009, at Rasmussen College

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.

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

Check with the Treasurer for details and additional dues rates.

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

Greg Braun, N9CHA

Vice President

Charles Penninger,
KC9DAO

Secretary

Bill Stamps, W9WRS

Treasurer

Larry Shaw, W9OKI

Directors:

Bart Bartkowiak, KC9FQA

Tobi Davis, K9TCD

Chris Farley, KC9IEQ

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

Past President

Dick Illman, AH6EZ

License Trustees:

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Bob Dillon, WB9LTN

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Bill Muhr, NF9D
newsletter@frrl.org

Webmaster

Tom Davis, WB9CHY
webmaster@frrl.org



FRRL CLUB MEETINGS ARE HELD AT RASMUSSEN COLLEGE, 2363 SEQUOIA DRIVE IN AURORA. PLEASE CHECK THE FRRL WEB SITE FOR A MAP TO THE MEETING LOCATION .

<http://www.frrl.org>

Send Address Corrections to:
 Fox River Radio League, Inc.
 40W981 Bridle Creek Drive
 St Charles, Illinois
 60175

FRRL Event Calendar

January, 2009

FRRL Board Meeting 6
 FRRL Meeting 13
 VE Session.....20
 Banquet.....24
 Wheaton Hamfest 25

February, 2009

FRRL Board Meeting 3
 FRRL Meeting/Party..... 10

Handy Web Links

FRRL Web Site	http://www.frrl.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 arcover@frrl.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/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—145.270 Mhz (-0.600 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 7:00 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.
- Illinois DStar Net - Wed. Eve. @ 8:00 pm local time on the DStar 440 repeater.