



Arc Over

Fox River Radio League
PO Box 673
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February, 2005

FRRL Awards Banquet *by Bill Muhr, KB9YSI*

The annual Fox River Radio League Awards Banquet and Installation of Officers was held January 29, 2005. The Officers and Board Members installed were President Dick Illman, AH6EZ, Vice-President Kermit Carlson, W9XA, Secretary: John Spasojevich, K9COE, Treasurer Larry Shaw, W9OKI, and new Directors Denny Barfuss, W9HI and Greg Braun, N9CHA. Dick Illman, AH6EZ, was selected as the FRRL Ham of the Year.



Dick Illman, AH6EZ, (r) receives the Ham of the Year Certificate from outgoing President Bill Schaben, W9AX.

President's Traffic *by Dick Illman, AH6EZ*

Welcome to a new year at the Fox River Radio League. Our club is now about 81 years young. We have new and enthusiastic leadership and we look forward to your support and participation in club activities throughout the year. We have revitalized the Membership Chairman with Mike, K9FE, who has several plans to attract new members, invigorate existing members, and regain past members. Our web site will be undergoing several changes by our new webmaster, Eric, KC9FQV. Kermit, W9XA, has taken over the leadership for our July ham-fest from Maurice, W4CEO, who moved to Florida.

I will still be the primary Program Chairman this year but will look forward to other program formats where I am not creating all of the content, even though I enjoy it. We can all look forward to receiving our excellent ArcOver Newsletter compiled by KB9YSI. Bill looks forward to receiving your articles and equipment reviews. W9RD and his crew are continuing to add to our ham fraternity with their Volunteer Examiner effort. Greg, N9CHA, has our Cougar's Baseball Night well underway.

(Continued on page 3)

Bill Erickson HF Challenge by Mike Urso, K9FE

HF challenge for February

Another year of the Challenge is under way. Contests have really started out some scores with a bang, with AH6EZ and W0HED turning in an ALL STATES WORKED SCORE! Not bad at all! Bill, KB9YSI has started out in QRP class this year. Gary, AL9A, from Alaska has started out with 44 states and is going to be competitive this year. Thanks for joining the fray Gary.

W4CEO, Maurice "Scaredycatty", ;-) has also started out with 43 states and 5 provinces. He did ask where we all were during the NAQP. Maurice, we were shoveling snow! Maurice gave that part of the hobby up to put up with hurricanes.

Gary, K9MMS, has started out in operator class this year. Gary has always run in the limited class. Maybe he can show us a few things this year.

John, W9DNJ, has also started out in the beginning of the year with a showing of 2 states and 1 country. Similarly, Mike, K9FE, turned in a score of 2 states, but no DX yet. He is going to do the whole year mobile however. Should be fun.

Just to change things a bit, the tables below will be sorted by class or competition, but not by score. I found it more fun to have to read the entire listing to find the scores.

DX this year... EM1, 3G0, S9, SV9, V51, M10, VE(qrp), XE and ZF2NT, and CM2. Great start gang, let's keep on the charge!

2005 FRRL HF Challenge Scores

Ragchew Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	-	-	7
AL9A	-	-	7
K9FE	-	-	1

Operator Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
W4CEO	43/5	8	56
K9MMS	46/8	6	60
W9DNJ	2/0	1	3

Limited Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
KB9YSI	27/2	4	33

(Continued on page 5)

FRRL Morse Code Tutor is On the Air

by Greg Braun, N9CHA

The FRRL Morse Code Tutor project is on the air! Starting on Wednesday, January 12th our net control operator John, K9COE took check-ins and began the 9 week project. The net begins promptly at 7:30 PM on the FRRL Fox 2 meter repeater 147.210 (+600 kHz 103.5 Hz pl). The second week of operation was handled by our alternate net control operator Tom, AB9IN. Both net control operators do a great job of keeping a moderate pace and encourage those who check in to participate.

Please check our web site (<http://www.frri.org/>) to download practice files and schedules.

Repeater Update

by Dick Illman, AH6EZ

The two meter repeater is now putting out a full 100 watts into it's transmission line. The old Motorola Micor power amplifier was slumping down to 60 watts. While we were out at the repeater shack, we found and temporarily fixed a leak in the roof of the building. That should be a Spring project to fix right.

The scratchy noise on the two meter repeater is suspected to be caused by the steel hoisting cables running up the tower right next to our antenna. We may need to wait until Spring for their removal.

February Program Notes

by Dick Illman, AH6EZ

During the January Program, I was using a computer controlled receiver for demonstrating the S meter null when using the RF Noise Bridge. I plan to use this receiver in the near future to be able to measure HF noise floors and peak signals at different times of the day to have proof of the effect of BPL. Although it might be difficult to pick up many signals in the basement of the Prisco Center, I can actually record 15 KHz chunks of spectrum using my home antennas and play them back to you during the program.

Another nifty product I will demonstrate is called RFSpace which can record 100 KHz of spectrum for later analysis. Although I do not own that product, I have demonstration software and recordings of a 6 meter opening, a 10m contest, and an AO40 satellite pass.

President's Traffic

(Continued from page 1)

We are looking for a volunteer to take up the important position of Public Relations Chairman. Jere had to resign because of family and work obligations. K9FE and W9HI will coordinate our Field Day which will be even better than last year, if that is possible. W9CZA, K9DHK, KC9CBY, and N9XU are all providing net control services for our Tuesday night repeater nets. They may be adding a swap net aspect if you are interested. N9CHA, K9COW, and AB9IN are putting on a CW net on the 2m repeater for the next several weeks, a good way to brush up on your CW skills and upgrade your license.

Bill, W9AX, will be conducting our June Canoe Race, if the Fox River allows it this year. K9LU will be running the Sweetness Run. The Kane County OEM is recruiting SkyWarn and weather spotters. As you can tell, we have a lot to offer our membership this year and we look forward to your active participation.

Contest Calendar for February

Here are *some* of the contests coming up this month. There are a lot of state QSO parties on the calendar — these are great for snagging new states for awards or the HF Challenge.

School Club Roundup — CW-Digital/SSB - sponsored by the Council for the Advancement of Amateur Radio in the New York City Schools (CAAR/NYCS), the ARRL and its Hudson Division Education Task Force, from 1300Z Feb 7 - 0100Z Feb 12. Operate for 24 hours maximum during that period, work stations once per mode, data and RTTY count as CW. Frequencies: all amateur bands, no repeater contacts, use recognized simplex frequencies on VHF and UHF. For more information: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/scr.html>.

Minnesota QSO Party -- CW/Phone--sponsored by the Minnesota Wireless Association, 1400 - 2359Z Feb 5. Frequencies (MHz): CW-- 1.810, 3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050, SSB--1.870, 3.890, 7.230, 14.290, 21.390, 28.420. Categories: QRP, SOLP, SOHP, VHF, MN Mobile/Portable and MN MS. Exchange: Name and MN county or S/P/C. QSO Points: SSB--1 pt, CW--2 pts. Score: QSO points x MN counties (87 max, MN stns add States and Provinces), each counted only once. For more information and MN QSO Party software: <http://www.w0aa.org>.

Northern New York (NNY) QSO Party -- all modes, sponsored by the Ogdensburg ARC from 0000Z - 2359Z Feb 5. Categories: SOAB only. Frequencies: 80 meters - 70 cm, CW - 40 kHz from bottom of the band (20 kHz from Novice band edge), SSB - lower 25 kHz of General allocation, entire Novice 10-meter band, VHF - 50.200, 144.200, 146.49. Exchange: RST and NNY county and appointment or S/P/C. Total Score: QSOs x NNY counties or S/P/C counted once only. For more information and bonus points: <http://www.oarc.us>.

New Hampshire QSO Party -- Phone/CW/Digital, sponsored by the Great Bay Radio Association, from 0000Z Feb 5 - 2400Z Feb 6, 24 hour time limit except for bonus stations. Categories: SOAB, MO (QRP <5W, LP, HP >150W). Frequencies (MHz): CW 1.810, 3.535, 7.035, 14.035, 21.035, 28.035; Phone 1.875, 3.935, 3.950, 7.235, 14.280, 21.380, 28.390, VHF 50.115, 144.205, 29.610, 52.540, 146.55, 223.50, 446.000, 902.100, 1296.100. Exchange: RST and NH county or S/P/C. QSO Points: Phone - 1 pt, CW/Digital - 2 pts. Total Score: QSO Points x NH counties (NH stations add states and provinces plus 1 DXCC entity). For more information: http://www.wz1f.net/2005_NH_QSO_Party_Rules.doc.

Delaware QSO Party -- CW/Phone/Digital/RTTY--sponsored by the First State ARC (FSARC) from 1700Z Feb 5 to 0500Z Feb 6 and 1300Z Feb 6 to 0100Z Feb 8. Frequencies (MHz): CW--1.825, 3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050, Phone--1.860, 3.960, 7.260, 14.260, 21.360, 28.360, Novice & Technician--25 kHz above the sub-band edge. One class for all entries, no time limit. CW/Digital/RTTY count as separate modes. Exchange: RST and DE county or S/P/C. QSO Points: CW/RTTY/digital--2 points, phone--1 pt, work each station once per band and mode(CW/RTTY/digital are separate modes). Score: total of QSO points (no multiplier). For more information: <http://www.fsarc.org>.

Vermont QSO Party -- CW/Phone/Digital--sponsored by the Central Vermont Amateur Radio Club from 0000Z Feb 5 - 2400Z Feb 6. Frequencies (MHz): 160-10 meters and VHF/UHF; CW--40 kHz up from band edge (20 kHz Novice/Tech bands), Phone--lowest 25 kHz of the General privileges and entire Novice/Tech 10-meter band, VHF SSB--50.200 and 144.200, FM--146.49 and 146.55. Categories: SOAB, MO, Club, and Rover. Exchange: RST and VT county or S/P/C. QSO Points: Phone--1 pt, CW or digital--2 pts. Work stations once per mode up, up to 4 QSOs per band. Score: QSO points x VT/NH/ME counties + Vermont club stations + S/P/C (VT only), each counted only once. For more information and list of club stations: Davidca@wpgate1.ahs.state.vt.us.

YL International QSO Party -- CW/SSB--sponsored by YL International SSB System, 1100Z Feb 5 - 1700Z Feb 6, two 6-hr off times required. Frequencies: 160 -- 10, no US-US contacts on 14.332 MHz except handicapped. Categories: SOAB. Exchange: Callsign, RST, State, County, YLISSB member number. Score: Number of QSOs. For more information: <http://www.qsl.net/yl-issb/>.

You can find the ARRL contest page on the web at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>. There is a contest calendar listing all of the contests for the coming week on the web at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>.

Erickson Challenge Standings

(Continued from page 2)

QRO Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	50/7	48	115
WOHED	50/7	77	134
A9LA	44/6	14	64
K9FE	2/0	0	2

Just because you started in one class doesn't mean you are tied to that class all year. You can go from **Limited** to **Operator** to **QRO** easily. Going backwards poses a problem since you cannot use your **QRO** contacts for other classes **IF** they were gotten with higher power than the class you want to be eligible to be in. Remember the 250-watt output power limit on the **Operator** category.

Remember to get your updated **totals** to me by the 15th of each month to have them included in the **ArcOver**. If you are a day late of so, don't worry, I'll still get them in. Send them to challenge@frri.org. Also include a list of rare and not so rare entities you have worked so we can all be a part of the HF hunting. The bands may seem dead, but make sure you try...you never know how the propagation can change.

Good Hunting!
73 de K9FE Mike Urso

Solar Flux

by Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

Amazing as it may seem, the month of January, 2005, has come and gone, and so has the annual FRRL Banquet. Our new officers and board members are now officially in office and are already working hard. Congratulations to all of the new leadership, and thanks to those who served over the past few years.

Congratulations are also due Ken, N9QPE, who passed his code test and now has his General Class License. Way to go, Ken!

Hopefully we will be seeing more club members upgrading soon, thanks to the Morse Code tutoring sessions the club is running on Wednesday nights. I've listened to a couple of them, and everyone seems to be catching on. The net control operators have been doing an excellent job. If you have a chance, fire up your 2 meter rigs on Wednesday nights and give a listen.

That's it for this month. Remember, I'm always looking for content for the *ArcOver*, so if you have something to contribute, please send it to me.

73,
Bill, KB9YSI

FCC CHAIRMAN POWELL ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION

From the ARRL Letter

January 21, 2005 — FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell announced today that he'll step down, effective "sometime in March." Powell's resignation comes just one day after President George W. Bush's inauguration for a second term in the White House. Nominated by former President Bill Clinton, Powell--whose father is Secretary of State Colin Powell--joined the FCC in 1997. He became its chairman two days after President Bush was sworn in for his first term in 2001. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, called Powell's performance "a deep disappointment" after some initial optimism. While the League is not unhappy about Powell's departure--especially given his unabashed cheerleading on behalf of the FCC's broadband over power line (BPL) initiative--there's also concern about whom President Bush might call upon to replace him.

"It's no secret that we thought Chairman Powell was going entirely in the wrong direction on BPL and dragging the other commissioners and FCC staff along--willing or not--because he was, after all, the chairman," Sumner said. "A new chairman might be a chance for a fresh start."

Last October when the FCC adopted new Part 15 rules for BPL, Powell called it "a banner day." While conceding that BPL will affect some spectrum users, including "all those wonderful Amateur Radio operators out there," the chairman implied that the FCC must balance the benefits of BPL against the relative value of other licensed services.

Powell listed the Commission's adoption of BPL rules among the "policy highlights" of his tenure. "Broadband to power plugs would lower prices, expand deployment," the chairman's list of accomplishments asserts.

Possibilities to replace Powell include the other Republican members of the five-member FCC--Kathleen Q. Abernathy, a staunch BPL supporter, and Kevin J. Martin. Speculation also has been raised about various candidates outside the commissioners. "We look forward to the opportunity to work with the new chairman, whoever that may be," Sumner said.

Powell, in his announcement, said it was "with a mixture of pride and regret" that he informed the president of his decision to step down.

"Having completed a bold and aggressive agenda, it is time for me to pursue other opportunities and let someone else take the reins of the agency," he said. "During my tenure, we worked to get the law right in order to stimulate innovative technology that puts more power in the hands of the American people, giving them greater choices that enrich their lives."

The chairman said the seeds of the Commission's policies under his leadership "are taking firm root in the marketplace and are starting to blossom." He cited the increased use of cell phones, digital TV and other digital technology "increasingly connected anytime, anywhere by a wide variety of broadband networks."

"Our children will inherit this exciting future," Powell proclaimed, adding that he looks forward to spending some time with his wife and two sons "before taking up my next challenge."

As FCC chairman, Powell also has been in the forefront of enforcing the Commission's rules on indecency, largely through imposing huge fines on violators. He also supported changes in media ownership rules that permitted even greater concentration in the ownership of broadcasting outlets.

Powell's formal resignation announcement followed widespread reports in the media that he would be leaving. Communications Daily said the chairman's last day would be March 10.

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, Marcy, 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 Tuesday, March 15, 2005, at 7:30 pm at the Prisco Center.

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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President

Dick Illman, AH6EZ

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John Spasojevich, K9COE

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Larry Shaw, W9OKI

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FRRL Event Calendar

February, 2005

FRRL Board Meeting 1
FRRL Meeting..... 8

March, 2005

FRRL Board Meeting 1
FRRL Meeting..... 8
 VE Testing 15

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 kb9ysi@arrl.net 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.