



# Arc Over

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

**February, 2007**

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## **President's Traffic**

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

Welcome to a new year and to a new leadership team now in place for the FRRL. I am looking forward to the exciting opportunities our club will be participating in during 2007.

The next club meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February. I will be introducing the newest members of the FRRL Board. I am very proud to say that I have gotten to know each of our board members over the past years and have enjoyed the working and socializing time we've spent together. Our board is very visible to the membership. All of them have continued to volunteer for annual activities we host, plus they have supported our on-going educational programs with their time and resources.

Our meeting format is going to change starting with the February meeting. As you enter the basement of the Prisco Community Center you will find a different table and chair arrangement. Each meeting I will be asking various Committee Chairs and Event Coordinators to make information available to club members. They will sit at the various tables set up around the room starting at 7pm. This will provide improved access to the various resources and activity information. For instance, in February I have asked Kermit W9XA to provide guidance and support information about our new FRRL Digital D-Star repeater systems. There will also be a technical expertise table hosted by Dick, AH6EZ, Chris, KC9IEQ, and Mike, K9FE. Other departments will also be represented.

This year I plan to shorten the business portion of our meeting to a half-hour. We will continue to start the business meeting at 7:30pm. This is an effort to allow our members more time for interaction with the various club departments and each other. Our evening program will start at 8:30. Benny, W9CZA, will continue to provide refreshments at each meeting. Donations are accepted for the coffee and pastry items provided.

As a member of the FRRL, you are entitled to attend our Board Meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month. I would like to invite and encourage you to attend. The planning of events, discussions about current and future activities and general discussions regarding our repeaters is of interest to all our members. You will have an opportunity to present your ideas and comments to the board in a relaxed and less formal setting than a regular meeting. I hope to see you there.

Education and club communication has been, and will continue to be my focus. During the past years I have volunteered to assist many club members with their projects, provide educational opportunities to new and current hams, and to support and improve our web site and on-line forums. My efforts as your president will be to continue supporting educational opportunities for our members. I believe the foremost importance of our club, especially due to its size, is to share and make available the vast resources of the membership.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## President's Traffic

*(Continued from page 1)*

Next month I will introduce you to some of our newest Committee Chairpersons. Several members have approached me wanting to volunteer and help out in any way they can. I will also announce the members who make up our Repeater Committee. In 2007, we will be adopting new repeater control technology to better serve our repeater users. This includes the ability to make announcements, play digital audio files, and give our control operators better access to the various functions of the IRLP and other tools.

I'm looking forward to all the fun and exciting operating activities and social events our club participates in. The membership is growing each month. I encourage you to welcome our new members, provide them with encouragement, and spread the good will of our challenging and rewarding hobby.

73,  
Greg Braun, N9CHA

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## Morse code requirement ends Friday, February 23.

From the ARRL

Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules. On or after that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination. Federal Register publication January 24 of the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, starts a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective. Deletion of the Morse requirement - still a matter of controversy within the amateur community - is a landmark in Amateur Radio history.

Until 1991, when a Morse code examination was dropped from the requirements to obtain a Technician ticket, all prospective radio amateurs had to pass a Morse code test. With the change the US will join a growing list of countries that have dropped the need to demonstrate some level of Morse code proficiency to earn access to frequencies below 30 MHz. The new rules also put all Technician licensees on an equal footing, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination. Starting February 23, Technicians will gain CW privileges on 80, 40, 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters.

Once the revised rules are in place, an applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) may redeem it for an upgrade. A CSCE is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, no exceptions. For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid CSCE for Element 3 may apply at a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) test session, pay the application fee, which most VECs charge, and receive an instant upgrade.

The FCC R&O includes an Order on Reconsideration in WT Docket 04-140- the so-called "omnibus" proceeding. It will modify Part 97 in response to ARRL's request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of other rule changes that became effective last December 15. The Commission designated 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, although that segment will remain available for CW, RTTY and data. The ARRL had requested that the upper limit of the CW/RTTY/data sub-band be set at 3635 kHz, so that there would be no change in the existing 3620 to 3635 kHz sub-band.

Visit the ARRL Website (<http://www.arrl.org/>) for more information.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

As the incoming FRRL President for 1980, I was one of the organizers of the first FRRL Winter Banquet. On Saturday, January 19, 1980 the banquet was held at the Tollgate Inn at 149 South Lincolnway (Rt. 31) in North Aurora. I don't remember the exact number of attendees, but I believe it was around 60 people. It couldn't have been much more than that because the small lower level dining room was jammed.. It was an all-you-can-eat buffet for \$8.00 per person and a magic act was the after dinner entertainment.

Since that time, Judy and I attended all the FRRL winter banquets until I was elected ARRL Central Division Director starting January 1, 2001. Date conflicts with the January ARRL board meeting have caused us to miss a few of the FRRL's winter banquets since then.

However, we were able to attend our 2007 Winter Banquet and we consider it to be the best one to date. Kermit Carlson, W9XA has done an outstanding job this year and I understand also last year. (ARRL board meeting kept us from attending that one.) Perhaps the volume of the orchestra may have been a bit too loud a couple of times, but the music and the singer were very good.

At the WCRA (Wheaton) Hamfest the next morning, several people who knew I was going to the FRRL Winter Banquet this year, asked me what it was like. They had a hard time believing the FRRL had 93 attendees who enjoyed nice sit-down dinner, a well organized A/V presentation of the club's 2006 activities, and a very good 16 piece orchestra that played danceable music.

I don't know how Kermit was able to pull this off without breaking the club treasury, but I'm now spoiled and want more of this type of a banquet. Those of you who did not make it this year, missed a really nice evening with your fellow club members.

- Dick Isely, W9GIG

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The following was received from Marilyn Ingram. John Ingram, N9JI, passed away on December 18, 2006.

To all of you in the FRRL:

Your thoughtfulness in the floral arrangement in memory of John meant more to us than words can express.

- Marilyn Ingram and family

## February Program Notes

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

The February program will be a team effort done by K9FE and AH6EZ, all about RF connectors. We plan to have a presentation on the purpose, benefits, power handling, and frequency recommendations for several common connectors. We plan to cover both soldered and crimped connectors. We have a short video by Times Microwave on their LMR400 connectors and will have connector assembly demonstrated with a video camera to project what is going on to the audience. We will encourage comments and questions from the audience.

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## The 2007 Bill Erickson HF Challenge Kicks Off

By John Spasojevich, K9COE

Ok all you technicians who have been waiting for the end of the CW requirement to get on HF. This is the year to show what you're made of. What better way to learn how to operate on the HF bands than to get into the FRRL Challenge.

It works like this: It's a contest. Don't like contests you say? Don't know what a contest is? That's ok. This contest runs all year. Work at it as your time allows. You are trying to work as many states, Canadian provinces and DX entities as you can. A DX entity is a country or such place "overseas" that has its own unique callsign prefix. For purposes of the Challenge you can work each one only once. You can use any HF band. There are three entry classifications – Operator, where you can run no more than 250 watts. Limited – where you confine yourself to all CW, Digital, QRP or a single band. QRO – you can use any power level up to legal limit. Have an amp? This is where you want to play. There is also a Ragchew Class – each contact must last a minimum of 10 minutes. The catch to this class is that you must enter in one of the other classes too.

See Joe, NA9A for score sheets. He is the Administrator for the event; any questions on entities, what counts etc should be directed at him for a final determination.

By the 15th of each month tally up your scores and send them to [challenge@frri.org](mailto:challenge@frri.org) I'll keep them on the chart and they'll appear in the Arc Over and on the club website. Be sure to put FRRL in the subject line otherwise the spam filter will get you and I won't see the e-mail.

Dick reported some interesting DX worked this period, it makes for a fine trivia question! He worked 1A – Sovereign Military Order of Malta, and XT – Burkina Faso. I know where the first one is...but where the heck is the second? If you find out...let me know!

The final standings for the 2006 contest are on page 5. We'll start updating the 2007 scores next issue.

John, K9COE

## Bill Erickson HF Challenge Scores—2006

Here are the FINAL standings for the 2006 HF Challenge. Congratulations to all the winners and participants!

<b>Ragchew Class</b>	<b>States/Provinces</b>	<b>DX Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>
W9DTR	42	26	67
K9COE	18	15	33
AH6EZ	22	11	33
K9FBI	28	1	29
AL9A	16	7	23
N9CHA	17	4	21
NA9A	9	2	11

<b>Operator Class</b>	<b>States/ Provinces</b>	<b>DX Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>
K9JE	63	152	215
W9DTR	69	121	180
K9FBI	61	96	157
N9YA	61	82	143
KB9YSI	53	50	103
N9CHA	53	45	98
W9YBH	33	25	58

<b>Limited Class</b>	<b>States/ Provinces</b>	<b>DX Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>
K9ARZ— PSK	58	104	162
K9COE— RTTY	60	61	121
KA9VMD— PSK	10	3	13

<b>QRO Class</b>	<b>States/ Provinces</b>	<b>DX Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>
NA9A	59	195	254
AH6EZ	62	176	238
W9GIG	59	125	184
AL9A	62	117	179
W4CEO	60	118	178
W9AN	52	105	157
J68AR	53	71	124
J68MS	42	34	77

## New Members For January

By Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

The following new members joined at the January 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
Jeffrey Ekstrom	K9BQL	G
Gus Fiebig	N9GF	E
Elmir Husetovic	N9HU	E
John Lansing	KB9TZX	T
Joe Mendza	W9AJJ	T
Neil Potter	KB9RFX	T
Cristine Trolia *	KC9KJT	T

\* Family membership.

## More Letters to the Editor

Hello, (from a former FRRL newsletter editor)

Regarding Pat Devilbiss, WB9YIN (formerly N9FWU) SK, I looked through the newsletters through February and didn't see anything about her. Back in the '80s I made a concerted effort to get XYLs (mine included) interested in ham radio and the FRRL. There was already one active YL in the area, Doris, WB9MWM (now SK), and it seemed to me there might be some interest in others. We contacted the local cable company and got trained on their equipment and wound up running a Novice class and recording it for broadcast on the local access channel. Several YLs got their licenses around the same time: Pat, N9FWU; Sue, N9FWW; Jean, N9GWU (now N9HED). They and my XYL, WD9ENF (now K4ENF) and others did participate in FRRL and some of their own activities, thus fulfilling my vision of more YL participation.

In any event, as W9GIG reported a few months ago, Don Devilbiss, WB9YIN, became SK a half dozen years ago or so and Pat took his call. We had moved away from the area before Don passed away, so I don't know how radio active Pat was, although we kept in regular touch with her via other media.

In any event, Pat learned in May that she had a virulent cancer with a poor prospect of longevity associated with it, and as Dick reported, had moved to Ohio to spend her final months with her daughter. Pat did in fact succumb on 26 October 2006. She was a dear friend to all who knew her, and we and ham radio are the poorer as a result of her loss.

You needn't use all of this material, but I would like to see at least a brief sentiment regarding her passing in the Arc-Over.

Thank you.

73, Rod K4QG

## QSO Net – Close to Ham Radio

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

As I was thumbing through the pages of the November CQ magazine while I was in Ohio visiting Becky's family, I ran across a little ad for QsoNet that said it was "the virtual ionosphere". This got me curious and thinking that this might be an internet remote controlled radio. I learned from the [www.qsonet.com](http://www.qsonet.com) web site that there was software to be downloaded after I send them a picture of my ham license. I was sent a link to the software download link within a few minutes and without reading the manual (my style) I had the CQ100 transceiver up and running.

I noticed that I had six "bands" to choose from. I picked 14 MHz because I figured there would be the most DX at that time of day. The first station I heard was in California talking to a New Zealand station. The CA station was strong with no noise and I since I was still thinking of this as a remote controlled radio from Canada, I wondered how weak the New Zealand station would be. To my surprise, he was strong and completely readable as well. No noise, no QRM, no fading. I soon realized that the CQ100 transceiver interface was just a user interface to Voice Over IP communication links.

I was soon having a ball listening in on QSOs from all over the World, and I did not need to feel obligated to join in on the conversations if I did not want to. This was just like HF radio, as opposed to Echolink where your presence is indicated when you connect. I also soon learned that I could send perfect CW by using the keyboard and that there were CW practice stations "on the air" almost every evening. When I got home, I set up an old CW keyer to send audio CW into the mic jack on the laptop and was having DX ragchews on CW.

IRLP only allows radio to radio connections. Echolink allows radio and computer only connections. QsoNet is mostly focused on PC to PC connections but up in the top end of the 29 MHz "band". As long as these radio connections use VHF and UHF where all licensed amateur radio operators are allowed, this remains legal. Each band is really just a different VoIP server. Each 1 KHz "frequency" is a completely different QSO. Just like sending audible CW, there are SSTV and PSK31 QSOs in the traditional frequencies of 14.230 and 14.070. Although not a legal requirement, they are trying to separate the "bands" into voice and CW segments.

You can use QsoNet with just a dial up connection although I have heard some packet drops (holes in the audio) from those stations. Similar to IRLP and Echolink, I am finding QsoNet enables me to have nice ragchews with distant hams without needing to get through a pileup or be affected by noise, fading, or the depths of the sunspot cycle. I know that using QsoNet is not occupying our valuable HF spectrum and is not ham radio but for a new ham without HF privileges, this may be a useful training ground. I encourage you to at least try QsoNet. It is free for the first 90 days and then costs \$32 per year thereafter.

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## RufzXP – CW logging practice

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

Although this software has been around for awhile in DOS format, it is now released in Windows. You can read more about it in the January QST page 83. It plays random callsigns to you that you type into the keyboard, just as if you were operating in a contest or DXpedition. The speed gradually increases from 8 wpm to an incredible 200 wpm (although they use characters per minute) if you copy correctly or slows down if you make mistakes. You are awarded points for copying correctly and quickly.

"Rufz" is the abbreviation of the German word "Rufzeichen-Hören", which means "Listening to Callsigns". RufzXP is an excellent training software for improving code speed and CW practice, particularly (ultra) high speed memory copying of true amateur radio calls. Focusing on improvement of CW proficiency, it is not a contest simulator and does not provide for QRM. It provides additional tools for keeping track of training progress and comparing with other operators via International RufzXP Toplist.

RufzXP is a "must" for every serious high speed telegraphy operator and is an official competition of IARU High Speed Telegraphy Championships. The software is free and available at [www.rufzxp.net](http://www.rufzxp.net).

## 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 March 20, 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.frrl.org>

## Fox River Radio League

Founded 1924

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60510-0673

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### Web Site:

<http://www.frrl.org>

### President

Greg Braun, N9CHA

### Vice President

Denny Barfuss, W9HI

### Secretary

John Spasojevich, K9COE

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Tobi Davis, KC9CDL

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Charles Penninger,  
KC9DAO

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## FRRL Event Calendar

### February, 2007

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 6  
 FRRL Meeting .....13

### March, 2007

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 6  
 FRRL Meeting .....13  
 VE Testing.....20

## Handy Web Links

<b>FRRL Web Site</b>	<b><a href="http://www.frri.org/">http://www.frri.org/</a></b>
ARRL Main Site	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/">http://www.arrl.org/</a>
ARRL Central Div. Site	<a href="http://www.central.arrl.org/">http://www.central.arrl.org/</a>
ARRL IL Section Site	<a href="http://www.central.arrl.org/illinois.html">http://www.central.arrl.org/illinois.html</a>
ARRL IL Section News	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=IL">http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=IL</a>
ARRL Contest Page	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/contests/">http://www.arrl.org/contests/</a>
Contest Calendar	<a href="http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/">http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/</a>
Callsign Lookup (QRZ)	<a href="http://www.qrz.com/">http://www.qrz.com/</a>
Vanity Callsign Info	<a href="http://www.vanityhq.com/">http://www.vanityhq.com/</a>
IRLP Main Page	<a href="http://www.irlp.net/">http://www.irlp.net/</a>
AMSAT	<a href="http://www.amsat.org/">http://www.amsat.org/</a>
FCC Services	<a href="http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur">http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur</a>
SMC Contest Club	<a href="http://www.w9smc.com/">http://www.w9smc.com/</a>

## 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](mailto: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

### **KC9OEM—145.470 Mhz. (Kane Co. SKYWARN)**

-600 KHz, 103.5 access tone  
 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  
 Linked Repeater System

- Weekly ARES Net—Mon. Eve. At 9:00 pm local time on the W9DWP Linked repeaters
- Weekly FRRL Net—Tues. Eve. at 7:30 pm local time on the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- KC OEM Skywarn Net— Wed. Eves, 7:00 pm on the KC9OEM repeater.