



# Arc Over

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

February, 2009

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## President's Traffic

By Mike Urso, K9FE

Thank You! I guess that says it all. Being elected president of the FRRL is really a special event for me. Our club has changed the mold of the previous style clubs. Activity all over, involvement everywhere you turn and the big smile and handshake to welcome you to the club. To top it off, I have the pleasure or dread of following one of the best boards I can ever remember in my time in the FRRL. It is an honor to follow Greg, N9CHA as president and it is also the dread I spoke of. How do you follow his 2 terms? (What is it they say... never follow kid or dog acts because you can never be as endearing.) I had never experienced the level of club activity or excitement in this club. Luckily Greg said he isn't going anywhere for a while, so I am sure his experiences and drive will be called on in the next year.

Along with Greg we had Charles, KC9DAO, as VP. Another hard act to follow. Charles had skills and abilities in areas that many of us wish we had, especially on antenna work days. He always had a solution and they always seemed to work. He hosted some of the premier field day events. The planning involved was close to a docking maneuver mating our clubs activity to the site. I remember dodging Frisbees on 40 phone when we were at the lake. (Did Charles plan that Frisbee golf hole to be in line with our camper?) Who can say they did not enjoy eating indoors in an air conditioned building with an industrial kitchen?

Then there is our treasurer supreme. Larry, W9OKI, was one of the first treasurers to worry about that missing penny. He did not worry for just for a short time but he worried for weeks! Then on top of it he found the penny! Now that is a truly professional treasurer. He has moved to a position on the board for the coming 2 years.

Bill, W9WRS, our Secretary has been re-elected. The Secretary is one of the unsung heroes. Sure he takes notes and presents them to the club as minutes for member approval, but that is only the part you see. Ever wonder how all those forms and paperwork get filed? This year he is the leader of the Linux Special Interest Group also. Ask him how he got appointed to that spot!

The officers this year are pretty top notch. Harry, K9DXA, will be my co-pilot as Vice President. Harry is mild mannered and carries a mean key (cw key that is). He loves CW-QRP sitting in a park with a wire in a tree on battery power. Always willing to help and eager to learn. The Treasurer spot will be filled by Dean, KC9EOQ. He is experienced and very serious about the job. I believe he has been treasurer for a few other organizations. Thanks for coming on Dean.

The committees are the meat and potatoes of a club like ours. They arrange activities, produce newsletters, keep track of membership info, keep our repeaters up and running, get youth involved, get us to go to ball games, help with technical problems, organize communications for non-profit walks/runs/canoes and a myriad of other functions. Our group is not a bunch of nerdy (and I use that with respect) engineering types. We are all just different types of people. In this club we get the opportunity, no, the privilege, of working together with a common interest. I may come to you and ask that you set up a program in your specialty, or assist another member working on an event. This club needs every one of you. I need every one of you. Again, Thank You!

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

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Meeting Minutes January 13, 2009.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Greg Braun – President with 51 members and 2 1<sup>st</sup> time visitors present.

**Question:** Have you or do you currently use EchoLink?

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

**Treasurers Report:** Larry W9OKI - Total Assets: \$26374 (Cash/Savings = \$9600 Certificates of Deposit = \$16,774)

### Committee Reports

**Newsletter:** Bill NF9D – January was the last issue of the Arc Over for Bill. Special Thanks to Bill for his hard work! Going forward, the editor will be Tobi K9TCD. Thanks to her for volunteering for the position.

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

**Database:** Chris KC9BKS – Reports 83 members. Renewals for 2009 will be accepted tonight.

**Education:** Eric KB9IDT – New classes are planned for the new year but no time frame has been announced.

**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.

**Nets :** Adam KC9ITG – No report.

**Membership:** Kermit W9XA – No report

**Hamfest:** Dean KC9EOQ – July 12, 2009. Celebrating 80 years! 1929 – 2009. The Indianapolis Hamfest is the day before.

**Public Relations:** TBA

**Emergency Coordinator:** Bart KC9FQA – No report

**Special Events:** Bart KC9FQA – The Mid America Canoe Race in June is in the preliminary planning stage. There will possibly be 2 races this year, 1 long and 1 short.

**FRRL January Banquet:** Dick AH6EZ – Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> at Walter Payton's Roundhouse. Roasted Prime Rib \$37, Free Range Chicken Wellington \$31, Vegetarian Plate \$28, Cash Bar, Brewery Tour by Michael KC9JBX, the comedian is confirmed, and the magician will be going table to table. There are still plenty of seats left and tickets are on sale tonight. Eric AB9OS has donated the MFJ 259 that he won at the December drawing as a door prize with 1 condition: If the winner already has an antenna tuner, he has to donate that one back to the club to be raffled at a later date.

**Cougars Night:** Ken N9WCX – No report.

**Technical Committee:** Mike K9FE – Bill W9WRS will be the Linux SIG chairperson for 2009.

**Next Gen Hams:** Tobi K9TCD – on hiatus.

**Repeater Committee:** Dick AH6EZ – The 2 meter and 440 repeaters are both functioning but better locations for them are being investigated.

### Current Business

#### **Announcements:**

Catherine KC9KJU - has club logo items for sale. Please see her for details.

Larry W9OKI – Made announcements concerning the Worked All Counties award that the club is sponsoring and he will be coordinating. More information is available on the club website.

**Program:** Dick AH6EZ – EchoLink, IRLP, QSO.NET, and Other Ham Radio Modes.

**Raffle:** Jack K9JE

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

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

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

The March 10, 2009 General meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

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

Motion to adjourn by Marty N9NTM, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Craig AB9IV. General meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Stamps, W9WRS – FRRL Secretary

## Illinois QSO Party Results

The 2008 Illinois QSO Party Scores were released on January 18, 2009. Here is how our 14 FRRL members did in the contest.

AG9D	14,162
KC9EOQ	12,390
W9GIG	10,787
K9DXA	9,570
NF9D	9,184
K9JE	8,460
KC9FQV & KC9HRH	7,956
K9TCD	7,680
WB9LPW	3,549
N9CHA	2,080
N9XU	1,344
AB9OS	72
WB9CHY	48
K9FBI	3

Plus, we had Dick AH6EZ running mobile from Alabama with 4,725 points. Club aggregate score = 94,237, 2nd in club participant, 6th in overall points.

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## February Program Notes

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

In preparation for some future construction projects, I will be presenting an overview of Software Defined Radios and the variety of gradually more software intensive approaches to improving the performance of our radios. We may have a demonstration of the TAPR and WinRadio radios. It is uncertain how well we will be able to receive HF signals in our new meeting room.

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## New Members

### Welcome to the Following New Members for 2009

CALL	Name	Member Since	Paid to	Date Paid	New Member	Month Published	Membership
N9LH	Larry Hageman	2009	2009	1/13/2009	Yes		REG
KC9NZW	Clifford A. Speare	2009	2009	12/9/2008	Yes		REG
KB9TKV	Kathleen Whipple	2009	2009	12/5/2008	Yes		FAM*
KB9KYV	Aaron Whipple	2009	2009	12/5/2008	Yes		FAM

## Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – Year-end 2008

By Cyd Runde, N9CV and Tobi Davis, K9TCD

And the winners are... If you attended the banquet, you already know the winners. For the rest of you who don't know by now, here are your 2008 Challenge final scores. Congratulations to the winners in each category and a job well done to all of you who got on the HF bands in 2008. Radio wouldn't be the same without you! For all of you who have not participated in the Challenge, we encourage you to give it a try. You might be surprised by how much fun it is to set new goals for your radio time. Even one or two contacts and you are on your way to more good times with radio.

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9ARZ	50	8	103	161
AB90S	30	7	55	92
KC9FQV	40	7	22	69
KC9DAO	8	0	14	22

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9JE	49	11	147	207
W9DTR	50	11	100	161
K9BQL	40	8	103	151
NF9D	48	8	71	127
K9DXA	44	7	45	96
N9YA	47	8	38	93
K9IH	35	7	45	87
K9TCD	46	6	25	77
K9FE	41	6	29	76
WB9CHY	36	7	8	51
KC9ITG	29	3	3	35

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ/W9	50	11	165	226
NA9A	50	7	146	203
W9GIG	50	11	130	191
N4LZ	46	10	108	164
KC9EQQ	50	5	33	88

## Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update (Continued)

Ragchewer Class	States/Prov.	DX Countries	Total
K9FE	39	18	57
KC9FQV	36	4	40
W9DTR	26	13	39
AH6EZ/W9	24	6	30
K9IH	24	4	28
NA9A	17	3	20
N9YA	14	4	18
K9DXA	11	1	12
KC9EOQ	7	3	10
AB90S	6	2	8
WB9CHY	5	1	6
KC9DAO	3	1	4

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## Kudos

### Kermit Carlson

The ARRL announced today that Kermit Carlson, W9XA as been announced as the new Chairman of the VHF/UHF Advisory Committee (VUAC). Kermit has been a long time member of the Fox River Radio League and has fulfilled many of the leadership positions. ARRL Central Division Director, Dick Isely, W9GIG, reported the announcement during a break in the ARRL Board of Directors meeting held in Newington, CT. Dick, also a member of the FRRL had appointed Kermit to serve as the Central Division VUAC committee member in 2005. The committee was formed in 2005 to "create contest environments, which will invite additional participation in ARRL VHF.UHF contests." The VUAC sponsors a special award certificate for those who complete QSO's above 50 MHz. Another prestigious award sponsored by the VUAC is the Fred Fish Memorial Award recognizing amateurs who have worked all 488 grid squares on 6 meters. The next time you see Kermit, please pass along your congratulations for his appointment as the Chairman of the VUAC.

### New FRRL Member "Goes all the Way!"

by Greg Braun, N9CHA

There have been very few times when I have heard of an individual sitting down at a VE session and taking all the test elements during one test session, and becoming an Extra! New FRRL member Walt Jaskierny accomplished this rare feat during the January 20th session.

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I asked our club's VE Chairman, Doug W9RD whether he had ever had a person test all the way through before, and he too believes it is a very rare occurrence. Doug cannot comment on any of those who tested, but did let me know that for a ham to take the Tech, General and Extra Class tests in one sitting is quite extraordinary.

Walt will now have to wait for his ticket. I'm sure he is quite pleased with his efforts. In order to learn a bit more about Walt, I asked him about his job and introduction to ham radio. Here is his response:

"My background: I am a power systems engineer at Fermilab specializing in high current DC systems. I worked as a technician for the first 25 years at Fermilab and have been an engineer for the last 15 years. I became interested in amateur radio in high school, I knew someone with a General license. At that time he and I understood that a General could administer the code and written test. I took and passed the Novice code test in 1963 or 64 and when he filed the paperwork with the FCC and requested the written test he was informed that there had been a recent change in FCC rules that Generals would no longer be allowed to administer the tests. I would have to go to the FCC office and start over. With that information I lost interest at that time to get a license.

On my study techniques: I studied a total ten days one or two hours a day. I had obtained copies of the "ARRL Ham Radio License Manual level 1" and Gordon West's "Technician Class" and read each book once cover to cover. I then got a copy of "ARRL General Q & A" and read that twice. I did the online practice test for Technician and General about 6 or 8 times each, usually getting none to two wrong. I had no study materials available for the Extra class license test so I did the online test 4 or 5 times and found I passed about half of the times I took it. (I have not worked with or studied RF since I was in college and was quite amazed how much I could still remember after 40 years.) Then I took the test last Tuesday. Right now I still have not decided what area of amateur radio I am most interest in. I do plan on starting to study code again starting this week."

Congratulations Walt! And, welcome to the FRRL.

## **Dick Isely Elected to ARRL Foundation**

On January 22nd, 2009 Dick Isely, W9GIG, was elected to the ARRL Foundation as Vice President. Dick is a member of the FRRL and serves the ARRL as Central Division Director. Dick served the Foundation as VP in 2008. In an announcement released by the League, "These officers have demonstrated the leadership and commitment to the goals of the ARRL Foundation and received a vote of confidence from the Board for another term," Frenaye said. "In re-electing the slate of officers for another year, the Foundation recognizes the importance of leadership continuity in the organization's commitment to Amateur Radio." Tom Frenaye, K1KI is the President of the ARRL Foundation. Established in 1973 by the American Radio Relay League, Inc. (ARRL) as an independent and separate 501(c)(3) organization, the ARRL Foundation administers programs to support the Amateur Radio community.

Funded entirely by the generous contributions of radio amateurs and friends, ARRL Foundation programs for Amateur Radio award scholarships for higher education, award grants for Amateur Radio projects, and award special Amateur Radio program grants for the The Victor C. Clark Youth Incentive Program and The Jesse A. Bieberman Meritorious Membership Program.

Governed by a nine member volunteer Board of Directors, the ARRL Foundation is devoted to providing valuable programs to serve the Amateur Radio community. The Board of Directors are nominated and elected by the ARRL Board of Directors, five of whom serve on the ARRL Board of Directors. The ARRL Foundation Officers are elected by the ARRL Foundation Board, and include a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.



## 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 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, September 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 March 17, 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

Mike Urso, K9FE

#### Vice President

Harry Jones, K9DXA

#### Secretary

Bill Stamps, W9WRS

#### Treasurer

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

#### Directors:

Bart Bartkowiak, KC9FQA

Chris Farley, KC9IEQ

Dick Illman, AH6EZ

Larry Shaw, W9OKI

#### Past President

Greg Braun, N9CHA

#### License Trustees:

Kermit Carlson, W9XA  
Bob Dillon, WB9LTN

#### Newsletter Editor

Tobi Davis, K9TCD  
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.  
3023 Scenicwood Ln.  
Woodridge, IL 60517

### FRRL Event Calendar

#### February, 2009

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 3  
FRRL Meeting ..... 10

#### March, 2009

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 3  
FRRL Meeting ..... 10  
VE Session ..... 17

### 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](mailto: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. at 8:00 pm local time on the DStar 440 repeater.