



Arc Over

March, 2006

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

President's Traffic

by Dick Illman, AH6EZ

First and foremost in my mind is that we must find a Canoe Race Chairman soon or we may need to pull our organized support for this event. Please let any Board member know if you can contribute to this June 4 event. Usually this effort involves attending a couple of evening planning meetings, finding members to man the specific river locations, arranging for a control station and control operator, and facilitating the activities on the day of the event. The Walter Peyton Run is being postponed until October or perhaps being changed to a different running event for this year due to road construction planned for downtown Aurora. If this event happens, we will be looking for a chairman for this event also.

Because of a change in work assignments for Tom Davis, Kermit is looking for some help for our July Hamfest. This is an important fund raising activity for our club. We have been having difficulty attracting and retaining major venders to our hamfest because their costs are rising and their profits are falling. The help that Kermit is looking for involves being a contact point for new or returning venders and indoor table rentals. Please contact Kermit if you can offer these services.

I know that the 50 or so members who found alternate ways to appease their spouses on Valentine's day and attend our February meeting were well entertained and educated. We had wonderful video clips from N9CHA for the club's introduction that we had tried to play at the banquet, a clip for the Klondike Derby Boy Scout event, the Kid's Quiz Night, and an update on Suit Sat which lasted 2 weeks instead of it's planned 2 days because it was perhaps only transmitting 1-10mw instead of 500mw. I gave a presentation all about DX and the techniques I have learned over the years. I just passed 110 countries worked for the year so far. Exactly how many I had last year at this time. The DX presentation has been placed on the FRRRL Yahoo group file section as a relatively small Adobe PDF file for your enjoyment.

March Program Notes

The March meeting will have a program about the Red Cross efforts to assess the damage resulting from hurricane Rita. This will include a 30 minute discussion with Power Point projected pictures, followed by some Q&A by Jay, KC9IPH. We will then have some discussion by James, N9UZC, our FRRRL Emergency Communication Coordinator and Eric, KC9FQV, regarding what is going on in Kane County for emergency preparedness.

Dick Illman, AH6EZ
FRRRL President

Erickson HF Challenge Update

By John Spasojevich, K9COE

The 2006 HF Challenge is off and running. So far nine operators are getting into the action. Five are battling in the Operator Class with Herb, W9DTR in the lead followed very closely by Greg, N9CHA. Remember that in the operator class you can use any mode: CW, PSK, RTTY, Phone, SSTV just as long as your power output does not exceed 250 watts.

The QRO Class is where the "big boys, with big toys" play. Here you can run full legal limit. This year so far we have Dick AH6EZ with his 1000 watt Heathkit SB-1000 battling with Gary, AL9A and his Icom PW-1. Maurice, W4CEO moved to QRO from Operator with the purchase of a new Ameritron ALS-600S and we're not sure what Joe, NA9A has , but it's got to be good! It will be interesting to see how 600 watts shakes out against 1000 watts, no doubt it will come down to the skill of the operators.

I'm all alone so far in the Limited Class. So far I have run only RTTY in hopes of a personal goal of RTTY WAS (only two states left: Delaware and Kentucky). The limitation of the Limited Class is mode of operation such as digital, CW or QRP.

Ragchew is an additional class, you must be in one of the other classes to compete in this one where each contact must be at least 10 minutes long. It's a good way to develop your ability to converse with another ham over and above the "your 59 IL" contact. Herb is master of the ragchew so far but it's to early to tell if he'll win.

You can move between classes with some restrictions. If you are currently in Operator, you can move to QRO and keep all of your points BUT if your are in QRO, a move to Operator means you can only carry forward the points that were made with 250 watts or less. If you are in Limited you can move anywhere. To move into limited you need to see what you did best at in your current class and carry only those points with you.

As usual there was some interesting news from the field. Gary's PW-1 amplifier went out on him in early January. According to Gary, "One 80 lb. amplifier to Icom's service center in Bellevue, WA via UPS 2nd Day Air (ground would take 10 - 15 days with NO insurance due to all the handling at various terminals along the way!) \$420. Service and parts to replace defective relay on circuit board and blown finals, \$390. Return shipping to AK via Fed-Ex Ground (which is really air) \$147. The joy of having my XYL grouse for weeks about my expensive hobby, priceless!" Maurice is still working with the new Comet HF antenna and reported, "The Comet antenna worked great in the NAQP, especially on 40 and 80 meters. I made 31 QSOs on 40 and 35 QSOs on 80.

DX worked this past reporting period: 9H – Malta, JW9 – Svalbard, Z2 – Zimbabwe, of course 3Y0X – Peter Island AND from the ARRL DXCC Most Needed Entities List – 6OON according to the list 6O is also T5 – Somalia, congratulation to both Jack, K9JE and Joe NA9A on that one!

If your score wasn't updated, it's because I didn't get your information by the 15th. I'm guessing that you're all waiting for the conclusion of the ARRL CW DX Contest. GL ES GUD DX – de K9COE Scores are on Page 7.

Upgrade Classes to Begin Soon

Have you been thinking about upgrading your Technician ticket to General? The FRRL is offering a General theory course which will help you pass your Element 3 FCC Exam. You will need your own copy of the ARRL General Class License Manual which you can pick up at the "Toy Store" in Wheaton, or on-line at <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/lm/> You may also wish to have the ARRL's General Q&A manual as well.



Schedule: 9 am to Noon at the Prisco Community Center. 150 West Illinois, Aurora, IL. Six sessions: March 25, April 1, April 8, April 22, April 29, March 6. Please email me if you have any questions or would like to sign up. Greg N9CHA Education@frrl.org

FRRL Cougars Night Announcement

Let's have a ball (game)! The FRRL is going to the ball park to cheer on the Kane County Cougars and hopefully come home with a victory again this year. Mark your calendars. July 28th is game night. First pitch is at 6:30 pm at Elfstrom Stadium in Geneva. Tickets are only \$9! There is a spectacular fireworks show scheduled for after the game.

For tickets, please see Greg N9CHA Cougars@frrl.org

N9XU Gets Published

Dave Holdeman, N9XU, has announced that his article, "A Tale of 2 Meters", originally published in the November, 2004 ArcOver, has been published in the Winter, 2006 issue of *CQ-VHF Magazine*. Dave originally sent it in to *QST*, but it was rejected. He resubmitted it to *CQ* and then forgot about it until he received a copy of the magazine with his article in it. Dave notes there were a few minor editing changes, but that the article is essentially the same as his original.

Congratulations to Dave!

The Next Gen Hams Quiz Show

By: Tobi Davis, KC9GDL

The Next Gen Hams Quiz Show, held on January 29, 2006 at the Prisco Center in Aurora, was an entertaining and educational event for all the kids and adults who participated. In the format of a game show, it was a fast-paced, buzzer-filled frenzy. Questions from the license tests were easy to some and challenging to others and created some laughs as contestants debated the answers.

I, KC9GDL, moderated, Carol, WD9CNW kept score, Tom, WB9CHY was referee and pizza runner, while Greg, N9CHA videotaped the proceedings. The kids' team included Chris, KC9DLL, age 16, Connor, age 12, Brenden, age 11 and Emma, age 13. The adults were Chris's dad, Tim, N9TO, Brenden's dad, Dean, KC9EOQ, Emma's dad, Barrett, KC9CHG, and Dick, AH6EZ, sponsoring Connor.

Denny, W9HI, provided the buzzer system, which turned out to be the best toy for everyone. It took a while for the contestants to finish "testing" the system. It wasn't just the Next Gen kids that couldn't stop buzzing just for fun. The biggest "kid," Dick, got everyone laughing as I kept trying to reset the system each time he pushed his buzzer. Finally things calmed down and the show went on.

The Next Gen kids proved that playing a lot of video games can pay off, as most of the time they were fastest at the buzzer. Due to their hard work studying for the occasion, the kids' team won the team competition. Connor was the highest individual scorer.

When later asked what they liked best about Quiz Show, Brenden said "the pizza!" Connor said he thought the questions were so easy. He couldn't believe he beat Dick, an Extra Class! I think Quiz Show has given him confidence as he rushes along the road to getting his first license.

Quiz Show was certainly an enjoyable way to show off what everyone knew about ham radio and achieved its purpose of encouraging kids to study for their licenses.



The participants in the FRRL Next Gen Hams Quiz Show program pose for photos.

Antenna Adventures with KC9EOQ

By: Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

Having been a ham for almost three years, until recently my only antenna set-up was a Ringo two meter on a twenty-five foot pole. My only rig for home use at the time was an Icom IC-2000 two meter loaned to me by my Elmer, Bill Hiltenbrand, N9JLP. About a year later I acquired a Yaesu FT-726R when Betty Erickson, N9YFC decided to sell her late husband's radio equipment. But still I was limited to only two meter operation at home. In spring of 2005 my friend Bill announced that he was moving to North Carolina. Bill had a forty foot Rohn 25G tower in his backyard and since the new home owner didn't want it Bill deeded the tower to me. Thus begins the adventure of putting up a tower in my backyard. For antenna advice I knew the person to go to was Greg, N9CHA. It was mid November, and after several conversations with Greg he came out to the house for a look around the backyard. Greg got out his measuring tape and measured everywhere! That Saturday (11/12) I rented a Toro Dingo posthole digger with a 36" auger shown at the right.



A former co-worker and long time ham, Charles, KA9OPR came over to help as did Mike, K9FBI. The hole digging took longer than I thought due to what appeared to be construction debris (rocks) on the site, but finally we were at the depth needed to plant the base section. I under estimated the number of 80# cement bags needed so the hole was only half way full. But it was a good time to stop as it was getting dark. So we braced the base to make sure it stayed level while the cement cured. After mixing cement by hand I decided that to do the rest of the job a power mixer was in order for the next weekend. Through miscommunication, Mike and Greg headed to the Ft. Wayne hamfest the next Saturday, (11/19). The power mixer came early that morning. After hearing what happened my wife Tamie said "Well, we'd better get started!" I mixed and poured while Tamie moved the cement around the base to make sure it was even and level. It took the two of us ninety minutes to mix and pour ten bags of cement. Thank goodness for the power mixer! Since the weather had now turned colder, I wanted to let the concrete cure as much as possible.



We got our first good snow in early December. On Saturday December 10th, four brave souls, Greg, N9CHA, John, K9COE, Mike, K9FBI and I gathered for breakfast at the Colonial restaurant near my home. The day was sunny and 30 degrees. We got right to work as the photos show.

At the top is a Ham Pro Tech fiberglass dual band vertical. On the cross arm just below are two inverted Vs', one Unadilla HF 40-80 trapped dipole and one homebrew for 6 meter. It became apparent once we got the top mast and dual band antenna mounted that they would hit some of the lower branches of the large pine tree along the back fence, an unexpected glitch. Greg suggested that we angle the tower to the north a bit to clear the

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Antenna Adventures with KC9EOQ

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branches. This caused us to consider having to bring the tower up at an angle and having to unbolt the bottom section from the base. A few hours later and some last minute strategy we were ready to bring the tower upright. Indeed, the plan was to straddle the base section and stand the tower up on its legs. We would then have to lift the tower straight up for placement on the base footings. While I tried to keep the bottom tower section from slipping, Greg, John and Mike started walking the tower into an upright position. Once upright it was all we could do to hold the tower in place, thankfully it was not a windy day! John was at the ready with the bolts as the three of us lifted the tower and rotated it to place it on the base supports.



There were a few seconds where I felt the tower started to lean and thought we would lose it. Once all three bolts were in place we let go, stood back and wondered how we ever did it. Luckily, once the tower was up it started getting windier and colder. We sought refuge in the house where Tamie greeted us with sandwiches from Subway. After lunch, Greg used his antenna analyzer to check the SWR on each antenna cable and after some adjustment by John to the dipoles we were ready to get on the air! Greg hooked up his CW paddles to my new Yaesu FT-897D and soon made contact with his brother Dale, WD9GWH in northern Wisconsin! Cool! Greg then dialed up 40 meters and then made a SSB voice contact with Dale again like he was right next door.

I can't thank enough the help I received from Greg, John and Mike in getting this antenna tower up. And I would especially thank my wife Tamie for her patience and her support of another one of my hobbies. This was an adventure that I'll never forget!



Bill Erickson HF Challenge — February, 2006 Standings

Here are the standings for the 2006 HF Challenge as of Feb 15, 2006. If you did not submit a score sheet your score is not listed here. Remember to email your 2006 updates to challenge@frrl.org by the 15th of each month.

Ragchew Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR	-	-	45
N9CHA	-	-	17
K9COE	-	-	12
AH6EZ	-	-	6
AL9A	-	-	2
NA9A	-	-	1

Operator Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR	36/6	61	106
N9CHA	44/7	40	91
N9YA	28/5	33	66
K9FBI	44/0	20	64
K9JE	38	19	57

Limited Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9COE (Digital)	48/8	44	100

QRO Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	49/7	53	109
AL9A	48/6	12	66
W4CEO	37/3	25	65
NA9A	3/0	11	14

FRRL Club Nets

The regular weekly FRRL 2 Meter Net takes place every Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm local time, except on meeting nights, on the W9CEQ repeater, 147.210 MHz. +600 KHz, 103.5 access tone. The Next Gen Hams Nets take place on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evenings of each month at 7:00 pm local time on the FRRL repeater, W9CEQ—147.210 MHz. +600 KHz, 103.5 access tone.

Product Review: HT Stand

By DJ, KF9OW

This is a very helpful device for using a HT with a speaker Mic at a desk or counter-top.

It deals with the problem of pulling the HT over when you stretch the cord on the speaker Mic a little too much, or just enough to reach where you want it. It is simple and rugged, consisting of a heavy plate pedestal with a sheet metal "shelf" on which to rest the HT. There is an adjustable "ledge" to compensate for the height of various HTs in the market place.

The bottom line is that it does what it is intended to do and does it well. Below is a picture of the stand from the supplier's web site.

Also below is a picture of an adaptation of the stand to hold Base/ Mobil rigs. In this case, you will need to drill a couple of holes and probably use the mobile mounting bracket that came with the Rig. You will also need to rest the Rig in the opposite orientation from what you would use for an HT in order to make it work. As you will see, there are two different rigs of different physical size and the same stand can be adapted to accommodate them. The second picture is of the "Kitchen Station" at our QTH.

I bet you can make it work for you!

The supplier is:

Nifty! Accessories
1601 Donalor Drive
Escondido, CA 92027
760-781-5522

<http://www.niftyaccessories.com/>



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 21, 2006, at the Prisco Community Center in Aurora, IL. At 7:30 pm

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 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 an additional \$10.00.

Check with the Treasurer for details and additional dues rates.

Fox River Radio League
Founded 1924

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Web Site:
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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>

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

FRRL Event Calendar

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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

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 on the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- Next Gen Youth Ham Net— 7:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. On the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- KC OEM Amateur Net— Wed. Eves, 7:00 pm on the KCOEM repeater.

New FRRL Members for 2006

The following hams have joined the FRRL as new members for 2006:

Name	Call	License Class	City/State	Month Listed
Donald Bryant	N9NLE	Tech	West Dundee	February
Joe Buan	N9JAB	Tech	Oswego	February
Matthew Cox	KC9HRH	Tech	Geneva	February
Craig Crozier	AB9IV	Extra	Bolingbrook	February
Paul Matovich	AB9LI	Extra	Aurora	February
Michael Miller	AB9RU	Extra	Naperville	February
Barrett Milliken	KC9CHG	Extra	Evanston	February
Larry Stark	K9ARZ	Extra	St. Charles	February
Jim Resser	N9IPW	General	St. Charles	March
Douglas Totel	W9NJM	Extra	Glen Ellyn	March
Jay VonOsinski	KC9IPH	Tech	Plainfield	March

Please welcome these new members when you see them at a meeting or hear them on the air.

Yahoo Group Update

The FRRL internet group on Yahoo is growing; we are seeing more members and messages being added every day. If you are a paid-up member of the FRRL you can join the group and share in the information passing. For complete directions on how to join the group, please visit our FRRL club internet web page at <http://www.frrl.org/membership/YahooGroup.html> and follow the instructions there.

Remember, you will need a Yahoo ID to join and you must be a paid up member of the FRRL. Please put your name and call in the letter you send asking for membership approval so that I can quickly verify your membership and grant you access to the group. If you have problems joining, please email me at kb9ysi@yahoo.com and I'll be happy to assist.

Bill
KB9YSI
FRRL Yahoo Group Moderator