



Arc Over

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

March, 2008

President's Traffic

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

There is no doubt that the introduction of the personal computer has greatly enhanced the experimentation element of our hobby. Many years ago when the Amiga computers first came out, I remember my father and brothers and I adopting it into the ham shack for RTTY and SSTV use. Since then, look at all of the many ways we have figured out how to make our hobby more enjoyable by using the PC. From keeping QSOs in a organized logbook to the various sound card digital modes, and worldly search engines at our fingertips with data on components and new and old rigs to buy and fix, certainly the PC has enabled us to broaden our ham radio experience.

The FRRL has continued to promote the use of the PC in the ham shack by developing programs which introduce many of the new operating modes to the membership. I am very proud to announce the PC enthusiasm has continued to expand its horizons. Our 2008 Technical Committee Chairman, Mike K9FE, hosted the first, of what surely will be many, Linux Workshops on Saturday, Feb. 23. Mike, along with several FRRL members reviewed the various flavors of Linux and how it applies to ham radio. Bill NF9D has established a new FRRL Yahoo user group as well. Way to go guys!

It's been a year already since the ARISS contact between the ISS and Boulder Hill Elementary School in Montgomery. (3-6-07) Astronaut Sunita Williams, KD5PLB flying 200 plus miles high above the earth talked directly with members of the W9BHB club. The parents and school administration still talk about the event. The ham club still remains, and is as active as ever with 4th and 5th grade students meeting twice a month to share their enthusiasm for ham radio. The club members have built small electronic projects, learned about

ATV, have fun with Morse Code, and talk to other hams via the FRRL clubs' IRLP node. FRRL club member, and ARISS Mentor, John AG9D, has continued to dedicate his time and energy to this wonderful project. He continues to come up with new and exciting ways to present our hobby to the young ham club members.

We are going to have another Transmitter Hunt. Mark your calendars for Sunday afternoon, March 30th. The official time and location will be announced on our web site, Yahoo Groups, and over our repeaters. Our Program Committee Chairperson, Dick AH6EZ has prepared an excellent preparatory program on Transmitter Hunting and the use of DF equipment. You won't want to miss this presentation at our March club meeting.

Last year we held a Leadership Roundtable which has provided the catalyst for many of the clubs activities already this year. I am currently developing a new meeting strategy which falls in line with the suggestions many club members commented on. The plan is to make more efficient use of the two hours we have during a monthly meeting.

Both social time and time spent during the technical programs were high on your list. The sharing of information between members and the ability to ask questions of those in our club with vast experience was also sought after. So, with that in mind, the FRRL Board will review a plan I have developed which will introduce an open forum during the business portion of the meetings. A schedule of topics will be presented so that members can have advanced knowledge of the open forum before they attend. As an example of this, I will propose that the May meeting be largely dedicated to our Field Day activities; and the September meetings' forum be on special events and how to set up a "public friendly" ham radio display. The goal? To

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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 the Prisco Center in Aurora, IL
Meeting Minutes February 12, 2008**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Greg Braun, N9CHA – President with 41 members present, 4 first time visitors.
Question of the Month: What other hobbies besides ham radio do you enjoy?

Minutes of the previous meeting were available for review.

Treasures Report: Total Assets: \$25,895 (Cash/Savings = \$9602 Certificates of Deposit = \$16,293)

Committee Reports

Newsletter: Bill, NF9D, is always looking for contributions for the ArcOver and the Yahoo group.

Database: 181 paid members

Volunteer Examiners: Testing conducted the 3rd Tuesday of odd numbered months. \$14 and photo ID, if upgrading bring any CSCE's and copy of current license. Next session will be on 3/18/2008, 7:30 PM, at Prisco Center, room to be determined.

Education: An Extra Class exam prep class should be starting in March. It could be as many as 12 to 14 sessions in length. In addition a Technician class is planned for spring.

Nets: Averaging 30 checkins per week. Anyone that wishes to be a net control operator should contact Adam, KC9ITG.

Hamfest: It will be held Sunday, 7/13/2008, at Aurora Central Catholic. Again this year, each member will receive 5 tickets at \$6 each to sell.

Repeater: The 2 meter repeater is having intermittent failures. Dick, AH6EZ, is trying to resolve. The repeater move scheduled for 4/1/2008 was discussed. The site manager needs to cut holes for cables and we are responsible for repairing the site ac system, which appears to be a broken wire, in return for our space,.

Program: Tonight's program will be presented by Dick, AH6EZ, on troubleshooting in the ham shack.

Banquet: Dick, AH6EZ, said a verbal reservation has been made for the Walter Payton Roundhouse again for 2009.

D-Star: New process for D-STAR registration is being rolled out system wide. It should make registration much simpler. Batavia and Atlanta now have reflectors that operate similarly to IRLP.

Membership: Kermit, W9XA, is working on information packets for new members.

Public Relations: Catherine, KC9KJU, will have samples of club logo jackets at the next meeting in different sizes for trial. We can get free shipping and logo setup if 30 items or more are ordered. Logo items are also available from Embroid Me.

Technical Committee: Mike, K9FE, has a meeting planned at his qth on the 4th Saturday of this month, 2/23/2008, 9 AM – 1 PM. This will be a workshop on Linux. Information will be available on frrl.org and the Yahoo group.

Greg noted that the Darlene, wife of Benny, W9CZA, will be convalescing for several weeks in a care facility after falling and breaking her leg.

Dick, AH6EZ, was thanked for his work on the banquet this year.

Kermit was congratulated on receiving the Ham of the Year award.

Cyd, N9CV, is the new HF Coordinator. John, AG9D, was thanked for his past performance in this role.

Bart, KC9FQA, was announced as the new Emergency Coordinator. He will be the club's liaison for possible future joint projects with emergency groups and will be making emergency group related announcements during meetings.

Tobi, K9TCD, hosted a YL group at her QTH in conjunction with the YLOM contest. 3 YL's made their 1st HF contacts during the gathering.

Kermit, W9XA, received an award on 1/19/2008 from the North Shore Radio Club in recognition for his work on their D-STAR system.

Ken, N9WCX, announced the club outing to the Cougar game will be on July 18, 2008, and he has tickets for sale.

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President's Letter

(Continued from page 1)

give everyone who comes to the meetings an opportunity to contribute, participate, and have fun!

I'm sure by now you've seen articles in QST and other publications regarding the new sunspot Cycle 24. Certainly the emergence of sunspots will greatly enhance HF propagation. Predictions are that "Cycle 24 is going to be one of the most intense since record-keeping began almost 400 years ago."¹

As you get on the air and make contacts, share your experiences with each other. Your exciting conversations on our repeaters and letters to the editor here in the Arc Over will create a sustaining

enthusiasm for our hobby. In the months and years to come I encourage you to help the new hams who are just now experiencing HF with their antenna projects, their shack layouts, and on-air operation so we can develop the skills, the experience and the knowledge it takes to take full advantage of improved propagation.

73, Greg N9CHA
FRRL President, 2008

¹ QST, March 2008, pg. 59., "NASA, NOAA Say Solar Cycle 24 Has Arrived." S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, ARRL News Editor

January Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 2)

Kent, W9NDW, announced the 1st quarterly Dupage County Ares meeting. For information, visit <http://dupageares.org> .

Eric, KC9FQV, announced a basic Severe Weather Spotting program on 2/22/2008 at 7 PM at the Kane County Government Center. For information, visit <http://www.kanecountyares.org/> .

A recap of the January club activities was presented. It was a very busy month:
The Next Gen Hams participated in Kids' Day 2008 on Sunday, January 6.
A sound card interface building workshop on Saturday, January 12.
A foxhunt on Saturday, January 19.
The annual club banquet on Saturday, January 26.

Bart, KC9FQA and Phil, W9XAN, are looking for volunteers to provide communications for an event on Saturday, 4/12/2008. Please contact either of them if interested.

We are no longer allowed to meet in the basement and now have to pay for a meeting space upstairs at the Prisco Center. Greg will be convening an ad hoc committee to define criteria for our meeting spaces and to research different meeting venues.

Transmitter Hunt: Since there was such interest in the 1st transmitter hunt in January, another one is being planned for March or April. There will be a direction finding workshop held a week or 2 prior to the hunt.

General meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Break, raffle, and program to follow.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Stamps, W9WRS – FRRL Secretary

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update –Feb., 2008

By Cyd Runde, N9CV

Quite a few of our members are warming up the chilly winter and their HF Challenge scores by pointing their antennas towards warmer climates. Jack (K9JE), Joe (NA9A) and Eric (KC9FQV) all reported working J5C, Guinea-Bissau (a tiny nation in Africa). Jack also worked several island groups, T19KK (Cocos Island), VP6DX (Pitcairn Islands) and V73NS (Marshall Islands). Jack also scored with a contact with C56YK in Gambia! Joe also logged Pitcairn Islands and the Cocos Islands, along with a contact in Montenegro. I also made a contact with Montenegro and Pitcairn and had an unusual QSO with a marine mobile from Asiatic Russia, I also logged (and received a nice card) from Christmas Island, East Kiribati!!! Bill, NF9D also reports working Ducie (one of the Pitcairn Islands, as well as Japan and Euro-Russia. Dick, AH6EZ worked the Ducie/Pitcairn Islands on all bands from 160 to 12!

Did you know?

The Pitcairn islands are a British Territory in the Pacific. Only 17 sq miles, only one of the 4 islands is inhabited. Ducie, one of the islands, is not inhabited. There are no TV stations, programs are watched via VCR or DVD. Communication with those outside the island is by satellite phone or radio, while shortwave radio is the method of communication within the inhabitants of the island, all 45 of them!

Ragchew Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
N9CTO	-	-	42
AH6EZ	-	-	10
KC0FQV	-	-	8
NA9A	-	-	6
N9YA	-	-	3
WB9CHY	-	-	2

Operator Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
NF9D	46/7	67	120
N9CV	45/7	35	87
K9JE	38/5	33	76
K9TDC	35/2	2	39
N9YA	25/3	5	33
WB9CHY	9/0	1	10

Limited Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
N9CTO (Digital)	37/4	3	44
KC0FQV (PSK)	14/1	3	17

QRO Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	50/10	114	174
NA9A	12	23	35

New Members

By Bill Muhr, NF9D

Here is a list of new members that have joined since the last newsletter. Please extend a friendly welcome to all of these hams when you hear them on the air or see them at a club meeting.

CALL	Name
KC9MMT	Michael Carpenter
NN9L	Dragan Dragojevic
KC9MWT	Loy Fulfer
K9LEA	Ken Lea
KC9LGT	Mary Fran Nordstrom
KC9MOS	Ben Pfromm

Ad Hoc Committee Appointed To Determine Meeting Site Criteria

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

The monthly FRRL membership meetings will continue to be held at the Prisco Community Center in Aurora. However, as you know from the announcements I've made here in the Arc Over, and during the February membership meeting, the Fox Valley Park District has changed its leadership team at the Prisco Center. The new mission of their leadership is to be more responsive to the communities they serve, and to try and get each of their facilities in better economic condition.

For several years, an agreement between the Prisco Facility Manager and the FRRL allowed our club to hold its monthly meetings, the board of directors meetings and the VE sessions at the Center for no charge. During those years our club provided a valuable communication service for events such as the Walter Payton Sweetness Run, and the Mid-American Canoe Race. The Park District Board was pleased to accommodate us due to our service to the community.

As many of you know, the basement of the Prisco Center allowed us to host our meetings quite well. We helped move nearly 60 additional chairs from storage into the basement as well as surplus tables. Our three steel storage cabinets are also kept in the basement.

Two significant issues about the basement area that was not a benefit to us was access due to the stairs, and poor sound conditions due to the hard surfaced walls and ceiling (concrete). The stairs were difficult for many of our members to negotiate, and the sound issues plagued us constantly. But, it was free!

In 2008, we were notified by the Prisco Center that we would need to make new arrangements. The Facility Manager no longer wanted us, or anyone, to hold their meetings in the basement due to the stairs and lack of proper access. Plus, they need to generate revenue from those using the facility. Since the Payton Run has been is being organized by a different group not associated with the Park District, and the Canoe Race being cancelled for various reasons, our club has not been able to reciprocate and use our services as barter for meeting room space.

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Ad Hoc Committee—Meeting Site

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I have communicated with the Prisco Center management since early January and several times over the past weeks, and have negotiated very reasonable rates for our club.. Each of our club meetings will cost us \$100 for two hours, 7:30 to 9:30. Our VE sessions will cost the club \$50 for two hours, 7:30 to 9:30. The FRRL Board has decided to hold the regular monthly membership meetings for 2008, its March board of directors meeting (\$50), and the remaining VE sessions at the Center. The remaining monthly board of directors meetings will be held at a location of our choosing. Per our bylaws, we will publish the location in the Arc Over one month in advance. These meetings are open to our members and we'd like you to participate.

In light of these changes, I have appointed an Ad Hoc committee which will review our clubs meeting requirements. Denny W9HI, Eric AB9OS and Harry K9DXA have accepted the appointment and have already met once to organize their efforts. They will be creating a list of meeting criteria and submitting that list to the Board. Once the criteria has been approved, the committee will search our local communities for alternative meeting sites and then formulate their recommendations.

73, Greg N9CHA
FRRL President, 2008

FRRL Linux SIG Meets

By Bill Muhr, NF9D

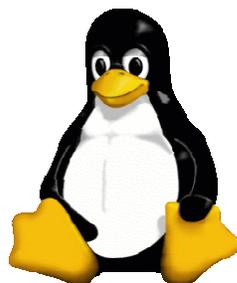
On Saturday, February 26, 2008, Mike, K9FE, hosted the first meeting of the FRRL Linux SIG (Special Interest Group). Linux is a computer operating system related to UNIX, and it has become a popular alternative to the Microsoft Windows™ family of systems. Linux has been receiving special attention from amateur radio operators and there are several ham radio programs available.

The meeting had a total of nine FRRL members present. Mike did a fine job of displaying a variety of Linux systems, demonstrating the installation process, and answering questions from the group. Jackie, KB9BKN, kept the hungry horde well supplied with coffee, donuts and home-made muffins.

The Linux SIG has started a new membership group on Yahoo (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/frri-linux>) where we will exchange information, tips, files and news. Everyone is welcome, so if you have an interest in Linux please apply to join.

The schedule for SIG meetings is still being planned, so watch for announcements. A photo of some of the attendees is on the front page of our club website at <http://www.frri.org/>.

The “Linux Mascot” is a penguin named “Tux”. Cute ‘lil guy, isn’t he?



April Board Meeting Site Changed

The April, 2008 meeting of the FRRL Board of Directors will be held at the home of Greg Braun, N9CHA, FRRL President. Contact Greg for details.

This announcement is being published to meet the requirements of the Club Bylaws.

March Program Notes

The March program will feature transmitter hunting and the use of DF equipment. There will be a demonstration of how to build and use a small DF yagi antenna with elements made from a standard workshop measuring tape. There will also be information on how to use an attenuator to improve your chances of finding a nearby transmitter, and a Q & A session.

FRRL Website and Yahoo Groups

By Bill Muhr, NF9D

Your club has several ways of communicating with the membership. One of them you are holding in your hand or reading on your computer screen right now. Yes, it's the famous(?) FRRL newsletter, the ArcOver. And, since we are an amateur radio club, there are also weekly repeater nets which provide a means of announcing club news and responding to questions about events in a real time environment.

In addition to those two options, we also offer our members access to the club website and a pair of internet community groups on the Yahoo system.

Our website is maintained by Tom Davis, WB9CHY, and it can be found at <http://www.frrl.org/>. Tom does an excellent job of publishing current news, photos, feature articles, and a calendar of events. If you are looking for general information about the club or specific information about a particular event or activity the website is the place to go.

We also operate two community information sites using Yahoo Groups. The main FRRL group, found at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/frrl/>, contains a community message board, files, photos and a calendar, and it provides a means to conduct polls of the membership on various issues. The second group, our special interest group for Linux and Ham Radio, is detailed in the article on page 6 of this issue.

Membership in our groups is limited to current FRRL members. If you are not a member, you will need to visit the main Yahoo site and obtain a Yahoo Email address. Then use your web browser to go to the address listed in the previous paragraph. You will be asked to click on a "Join This Group" link. Fill in the information there and submit the application. Please include your call in the request area so we can verify that you are an FRRL member. Your application will be sent to the moderators and your membership will be approved as quickly as possible.

Once you are approved, please feel free to post your questions about amateur radio, your interesting experiences on or off the air, and any other radio related information. Everyone in a community benefits when its members share their knowledge and experience.

FRRL YLs On the Air

By Cyd Runde, N9CV

Fighting through a sprint, the NH QSO party and various QRM factories from the Orient, the YL's of the FRRL joined forces to enter the YL-OM contest on February 9, 2008. The Young Ladies Radio League sponsors the contest. Carol, WD9CNW, came up with the idea, and Tobi, K9TCD, graciously hosted the YLs at her home. Catherine, KC9KJU, Cyd, N9CV, Michelle, KC9HDB and Tamie, KC9LWX joined them.

For some of the ladies new to HF operations, there were a few new concepts. A pileup was demonstrated by tuning to a station from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Cyd had been trying to work Guantanamo before leaving her house. Tobi tuned to the frequency, and sure enough, the guy was loud and clear. Unfortunately, with the pileup and band conditions, he couldn't hear Tobi, who immediately tried calling. I tried for a while, then we switched to "our" contest. Picking a spot on 40, we found ourselves in the middle of a sprint! Another new concept!! The rules for a sprint were explained, and we grabbed contacts as they raced up and down the band. Each lady took a turn and contacts were made. But more importantly, it was the camaraderie that made the evening so much fun. Being a YL in a predominantly OM hobby can be a little intimidating at times.

A long period of silence on 80m was broken suddenly by AH6EZ, Dick. Perhaps a little bird had emailed him the frequency, but nonetheless, there he was-booming over the noise, but he only gave us a 4/4! Later N9QPE, Ken, patiently tried two bands before finally making a contact with Tamie.

Overall, it was a good night. Despite poor band conditions, or perhaps because of the band conditions, several new friendships were formed as the YLs united!

Announcing the next YL gathering:

The Feb. 9 YL contest party was so much fun, we are going to do it again! We hope to have more women join in this time. On Saturday, April 12, 2008, the YLs will participate in the next YLRL event, the YL-DX contest, to meet other women around the world on the air.

Where: Tobi's house, address in the roster

When: Sat, April 12 from noon (so we can be on the 20m band) until whenever. Ladies, please come when you wish, you don't have to come at noon if it isn't convenient.

Bring: something yummy to eat

Tobi will supply drinks

RSVP to Tobi (K9TCD) 630-985-1904 so that she can coordinate the food and provide directions to the house

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. 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 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, 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 18, 2008, 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. Members can help support the FRRL Repeaters by making an annual \$10.00 donation.

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

Fox River Radio League

Founded 1924

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info@frrl.org

Web Site:

<http://www.frrl.org>

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Vice President

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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

March, 2008

FRRL Board Meeting 4
 Sterling Hamfest 9
 FRRL Meeting..... 11
 VE Testing 18
 AES Superfest 28/29

April, 2008

FRRL Board Meeting 1
 FRRL Meeting..... 8
 YL Group Meeting..... 11

Remember the time change on the 2nd
 Sunday in March (2 am on 3/9/08)

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 arcover@frri.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
 146.060 +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.